

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — Rare and inexplicably late was a Tundra Swan at Bucksport, Me., June 17 (*fide* WCT), perhaps the same individual reported at Lincolnville in late May (see spring report). A ♀ Blue-winged Teal with five young at Little Compton, R.I. established the first known nesting in that state in several years (*fide* DE). Summering waterfowl counted at Monomoy Island June 27 included 15 Green-winged Teal, 205+ Am. Black Ducks, 32 Mallards, eight N. Pintails, seven Blue-winged Teal, eight N. Shovelers, 29 Gadwalls and four Am. Wigeons (JL, *fide* BN). Other interesting reports from Monomoy included a Brant June 30 (BN), a ♂ Eur. Wigeon June 27 (DH *et al.*, *fide* BN), and a maximum of 13 Ruddy Ducks through June (RP *et al.*, *fide* BN). The only other Ruddy Ducks reported during the period were the usual few nesting birds at Amherst Pt., N.S., and a summering drake at a sewage pond in Sackville, N.B. (C.W.S.). No King Eiders were reported anywhere in the Region this summer. An apparently summering Bufflehead was noted at Cards Pond, R.I., July 23 (*fide* DE).

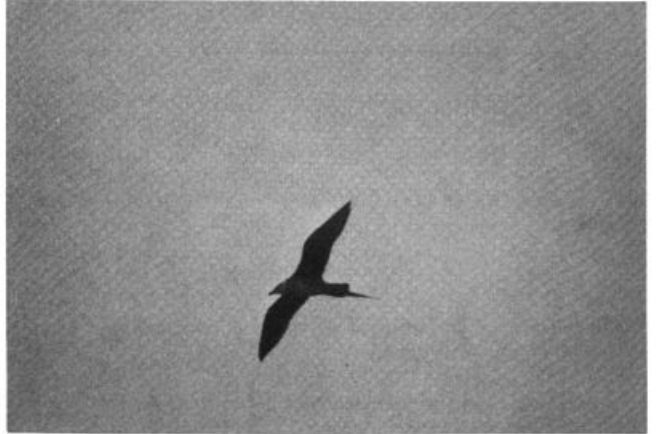
Ospreys elicited only positive comments from several contributors and indeed they do seem to be continuing to do well in the Region. A ♀ Cooper's Hawk near Black Brook in n.w. New Brunswick May 23 was a good find (ME, DK). There exists but one definite nesting record for the province, that being almost a century ago, though the frequent observation of an adult and two immatures in Queen's County in late summer, 1973, was highly suggestive of local nesting. At Newburyport, Mass., a pair of Cooper's Hawks with at least one just-fledged young July 9 furnished the first recent breeding record for e. Massachusetts (RSH). *Accipiters* in W. Massachusetts during the period included two Sharpshinned, one Cooper's, and two N. Goshawks (*fide* SK). All 3 species are very local or rare as breeders in that part of the state. Rough-legged Hawks were confirmed as nesters for the first time on S.P.M. this summer, where 4 nests were found on St. Pierre's 28 square km (*fide* REt). In Newfoundland, BMy reported unusually high numbers of Rough-leggeds this summer along the coastal plain of the N. Peninsula, as many as eight birds noted June 17, and suggested that low prey density in their usual breeding areas in the mountains drove them to lower elevations.

No word was received on Golden Eagles in Maine this summer, but unconfirmed reports of a pair at Miramichi L., N.B., June 12 (*fide* DSC) and of sightings throughout the summer at Martinique Beach, N.S. (*fide* FL) were of interest. Peregrine Falcon release programs continued in the Region this summer with seven birds being released at Acadia N.P., Me. (*fide* WCT) and 16 at 2 sites in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (*fide* MCB). Away from these sites, summer records of this species included 2 sightings in Newfoundland—an adult at L'Anse-aux-Meadows June 17 (JW, BMC) and an immature at Baccalieu I. in late June (PL, REI)—and singles in Nova Scotia near Aylesford, King's Co., June 23 (ELM *et al.*) and in Rhode Island at Quicksand Pond July 25 (*fide* DE).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Nova Scotia's introduced population of Willow Ptarmigan on Scatarie Island appears to be holding on. Five adults and six juveniles were seen there July 26 (ELM *et al.*). Most interesting in Rhode Island was the discovery of an apparent mixed nesting of King and Clapper rails. The nest, containing 7 eggs, was discovered at Quonochontaug July 7 and on the 19th one chick and one pipping egg were found (REn, *fide* DE).

A Wilson's Plover at Conrad's Beach, Halifax Co., N.S. in mid-July was the 2nd in that province this year (FL *et al.*). In Newfoundland, Piping Plovers were once again found in the Lumsden-Cape Freels area, and singles were also noted at Stephenville Crossing (where they formerly nested) June 13 (WAM *et al.*) and at a new location, Sandbanks P.P. on the s. coast June 14 (BMc, JW). Twenty-two Am. Oystercatchers in Rhode Island in June was high (*fide* DE), and a maximum of 40 on Monomoy July 26 suggested a successful nesting season there (BN *et al.*). A breeding-plumaged American Avocet at Fredericton, N.B., June 10-11 and at nearby Sheffield June 12 furnished a first spring record for the Maritimes (OW *et al.*). An impressive count of 95 Willets at Monomoy July 28 included 15 individuals of the w. race, *inornatus* (BN *et al.*). Rare was a Willet at Sandbanks P.P., Nfld., June 14 (BMc, JW). A count of 36 Upland Sandpipers at Chicopee, Mass., July 11 was exceptional (AM, *fide* SK). High counts of Whimbrels reported included a maximum of 195 flying to roost at Monomoy July 30 (BN) and 180 at Scatarie I., N.S., July 25-26 (ELM). Very exciting large waders in e.

Massachusetts in June included a Long-billed Curlew at Monomoy June 6-10 (BN, HS, m.ob.) and a Bar-tailed Godwit at Chatham on 4 dates between June 13 & 25 (JL *et al.*). A Red Knot at the Codroy R., Nfld., June 12 provided a first spring record for that province (BMc, JW). An ad. Baird's Sandpiper at Grande Anse, West Co., N.B., July 16-17 was very early (ST). Curlew Sandpipers numbered three during the reporting period, spring birds at Phippsburg, Me., June 2 (PDV, BV *et al.*) and Monomoy June 13-14 (BN *et al.*), and a fall bird on Monomoy July 22 (BN *et al.*), while the only Ruff reported was a black individual on Monomoy June 20-29 (RSt *et al.*). A scattering of Wilson's Phalaropes included a female photographed at Kilbride, Nfld., June 3 providing only a 5th provincial record (BMc, DM).



Long-tailed Jaeger, evidently in 2nd- or 3rd-summer plumage, at Grand Beach, Burin Peninsula, Nfld., July 2, 1984. Photo/Bruce Mactavish.

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A convincing report of an ad. Franklin's Gull in breeding plumage at Newman Sound, Terra Nova N.P., Nfld., June 24 provided a 3rd provincial record (RB *et al.*). Also in that province, a first-summer Little Gull photographed at Grand Beach, Burin Pen., July 2 (BMc, JW) was the only one reported to this editor though a few probably occurred in e. Massachusetts (?). The nesting of Com. Black-headed Gulls at Monomoy Island as detailed in the spring report was unsuccessful; the

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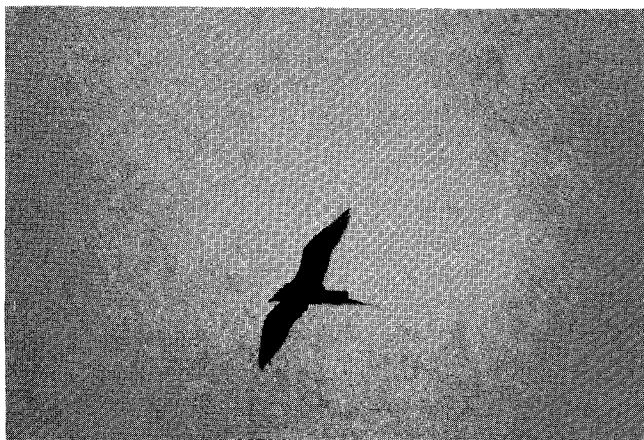
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eggs were destroyed by heavy rains just as the young were pipping (DH *et al.*). Although details are sketchy, a colony of several pairs of Com. Black-headed Gulls was apparently discovered in July near Ladle Cove, n.e. Nfld. (*vide* BMC). A breeding-plumaged adult of this species at Biddeford Pool, Me., July 31 was unusual (KG) as were an adult and an imm. Bonaparte's Gull at Humber Arm, Nfld., June 10 (AB) and an immature in Rocky Harbour, Nfld., June 15 (BMY *et al.*). Very rare in summer was a first-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull at Stephenville, Nfld., June 15 (WAM *et al.*). A count of 1100 "imm." Black-legged Kittiwakes chasing capelin at Gros Morne N.P., Nfld., June 16 was unprecedented for the park (BMY).

A **Gull-billed Tern** at Cow Bay, N.S., July 17 (IAM *et al.*) was unique in the Region. Royal Terns numbered two in Rhode Island in June (*vide* DE) and four+ in Massachusetts in June and July (*vide* DE, BN). Single **Sandwich Terns** were reported in Massachusetts, a "non-breeding-plumaged" bird at Plum I., July 6 (RSH) and a basic-plumaged bird at Monomoy July 11 (BN, ph.). Two ad. Forster's Terns scolding in the tern colony on Monomoy June 28 was suggestive (DH, RH). Least Terns were reported to have a "pathetic" nesting season in Rhode Island, with probably fewer than 20 young produced (CR, *vide* RE). In Massachusetts, a pair of Black Skimmers nesting in the tern colony on Monomoy produced three chicks in July (DH *et al.*). The northernmost skimmer reported was one at Newburyport, Mass., June 16 (RSH).

Razorbills and Atlantic Puffins were noted scouting several new locations in coastal Maine this summer for possible future colonization (*vide* WCT).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Several contributors remarked on the scarcity of both Yellow-billed and Black-billed cuckoos this summer. In w. Massachusetts, Kellogg attributed this decrease to the disappearance of gypsy moths. Owl reports of interest included 2 pairs of Com. Barn-Owls nesting on Block Island (HC, *vide* DE) and a Boreal Owl heard calling July 6 at Terra Nova N.P., Nfld. (RSW *et al.*, *vide* HD) where they are probably rare but regular breeders. Rhode Island's 5th **Chuck-will's-widow** was calling for 50 minutes in Robert A. Conway's backyard in Wakefield the evening of June 19. Realizing the need to have the record confirmed by others, RAC took his telephone (which has a long cord) into the backyard and called Robert Bushnell, who concurred with the identification by phone! What I'd love to know is whether or not RB can count it on his state list. . . .

Well n. of its breeding range was a Red-bellied Woodpecker at Deer Isle, Me., June 3 (MH, *vide* WCT). The same comment applies to an E. Wood-Pewee in Newfoundland's Codroy Valley June 12 (BMc, JW). Acadian Flycatchers continue to increase slowly in the s. part of the Region. Northernmost was one banded at Monhegan I., Me., June 1 (MP, *vide* WCT). **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** caused excitement at several locations in the Region this summer. In New Brunswick, one was photographed at Machias Seal Island June 9-10 (SD, NF) and the same or another bird was seen at The Whistle, Grand Manan Island June 20 (A Naves, *vide* DSC). In Massachusetts, single birds were photographed at Plum Island July 6-8 (RSH *et al.*) and near Chatham July 14-15 (*vide* BN). Displaced hirundines included a Purple Martin in St. John's, Nfld., June 10 (BMc, DM) and a Cliff Swallow well offshore at Cox's Ledge, R.I., July 20 (*vide* DE).

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS — A mystifying movement of Blue Jays was noted over Morris I., Chatham, Mass., July 23-25 as several migrating(?) flocks of 12-15 birds were noted (DH, *vide* BN). Two territorial pairs of Fish Crows were in Forest Park, w. Mass., for the first time that breeding has even been suspected (*vide* SK). A Fish Crow was reportedly seen and heard through June near Portland, Me. (*vide* WCT). The only development in the continuing saga of Jackdaws in North America was a 2nd-hand report of *two* birds on Nantucket Island, Mass., in late July (*vide* BN). No Sedge Wrens were reported during the period. Unusual in Rhode Island were single Golden-crowned Kinglets at Scituate June 19 and at Clausen Farm July 11 (*vide* DE). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers n. of their known breeding range were singles in Maine at Deer Isle and Great Cranberry Island in late June (*vide* WCT). A successful nesting of E. Bluebirds on White Head I., N.B., provided a first breeding record for the Grand Manan archipelago (*vide* DSC). Several nests of N. Mockingbirds were reported from New Brunswick this summer

where the species is well established but still uncommon. A Brown Thrasher nest with four young near Woodstock, N.B., June 9 established one of very few nesting records for that province (*vide* DSC). A shrike sp., reported as probably Loggerhead, near S. Hope, Me., June 21 was the only shrike reported (*vide* WCT).

Up to 6 sightings of White-eyed Vireos in w. Massachusetts in June and early July was exceptional, though apparently none remained to nest (*vide* SK). In Nova Scotia, single Warbling Vireos at Second Pen, Lunenburg County June 4 and at Yarmouth July 14 were unusual (*vide* PRD). This species is not known to nest in that province despite its widespread occurrence as a breeding bird in New Brunswick. In S.P.M., 5 pairs and 3 nests of Philadelphia Vireos were discovered this summer, establishing the first nesting records for the islands (REt). Also unusual there during June and July were a territorial pair of Blackburnian Warblers and three singing ♂ Bay-breasted Warblers. Neither species is known to have nested in the archipelago. A singing ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler at St. John's, Nfld., July 4 (R.F. MacLachlan, *vide* BMC) provided only the 4th provincial record. More appropriately included in the next season's report were two Prairie Warblers at Scatarie I., N.S., July 26 (ELM) for the province's earliest record and perhaps the first record from Cape Breton. Unique in the Region this season were a single Prothonotary Warbler at Wallum L., R.I., June 16-28, and a Hooded Warbler at Worden's Pond, R.I., June 11 (*vide* DE).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ Summer Tanager at Yarmouth, N.S., June 4 and ♀ Blue Grosbeaks in New Brunswick at Woodman's Pt., June 4 and at Stoney Cr., June 10 provided the only reports of those species in the Region (*vide* PRD, HD, DSC). Startling was the discovery of a singing ♂ Dickcissel on a fence post in a pasture near Biscay Bay, Avalon Pen., Nfld., June 17 (JP, *vide* BMC). Male Rufous-sided Towhees were noted in June at 2 localities in Nova Scotia where the species is not known to have nested (*vide* PRD). More surprising were one or two territorial ♂ Clay-colored Sparrows near Black Brook, n.w. N.B., June 3-10 (ME, DK). Grasshopper Sparrows were reportedly doing well in w. Massachusetts (SK), while 4+ pairs were present through June at Falmouth (*vide* BN). In New Brunswick, a Fox Sparrow nest with 3 eggs near Black Brook June 4 established the long-overdue first provincial nesting record (DK).

A W. Meadowlark was discovered at Kennebunk, Me., July 3 (PDV *et al.*, *vide* WCT). White-winged Crossbills appeared in large numbers throughout the n. part of the Region in June and began nesting almost immediately, apparently in response to what is being described as the largest cone crop in over a decade. Much smaller and near normal numbers of Red Crossbills were noted, and there was a very interesting report of 2 pairs of juvenile (= birds hatched this year) Red Crossbills nesting at Acadia N.P., Me. Still in juv. plumage they were singing, incubating, and could be seen turning eggs in the nest (WCT)! Finally, there was a convincing report of five lingering Hoary Redpolls at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., June 2 (MM, *vide* BMY).

CORRIGENDUM — In AB 38(3):295, delete the comment that Golden-crowned Kinglets were "scarce due to an absence of conifer seeds." The observer, DSC, was in fact referring to Red-breasted Nuthatches and not to the insectivorous kinglets.

SUBREGIONAL EDITORS (boldfaced italics), **CONTRIBUTORS** (italics), and **OBSERVERS** — Ford Alward, H.P. Barkhouse, Myrtle C. Bateman, Alan Burger, Roger Burrows, Hob Calhoun, Canadian Wildlife Service (C.W.S.), **David S. Christie**, Steve Daniel, **Hank Deichmann**, **Phyllis R. Dobson**, Mark Elderkin, Richard Elliot (REI), **David Emerson**, Rick Enser (REn), **Roger Etcheberry** (REt), Norm Famous, **Richard A. Forster**, Roger Foxall, Kimball Garrett, **Richard S. Heil**, D. Holt, R. Humphrey, Margaret Hundley, **Seth Kellogg**, Don Kimball, Fulton Lavender, Paul Linegar, J. Lortie, **Bruce Mactavish** (BMc), A. Magee, Michel Masse, **Blake Maybank** (BMY), **Ian A. McLaren**, Donna Milley, **Eric L. Mills**, William A. Montevecchi, **Blair Nikula**, Peter Pearce, Margary Plymire, John Pratt, R. Prescott, Chris Rathiel, Ray Schwartz (RSw), R. Scott (RSt), Peter C. Smith, Edgar P. Spalding, H. Stabins, **William C. Townsend**, P. Trull, Barbara Vickery, **Peter D. Vickery**, Owen Washburn, John Wells.—**STUART I. TINGLEY**, P.O. Box 1185, Sackville, N.B., Canada E0A 3C0.

QUEBEC REGION

/Richard Yank and Yves Aubry

Normal temperatures and below average precipitation prevailed throughout most of western Quebec during the period. In the eastern part of the province, temperatures were cool in June and returned to normal in July; precipitation, however, was generally above the mean both months. This was the first year of Quebec's Breeding Bird Atlas. Many sightings were the result of work associated with this project, which is being sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Further information may be obtained by contacting Yves Aubry.

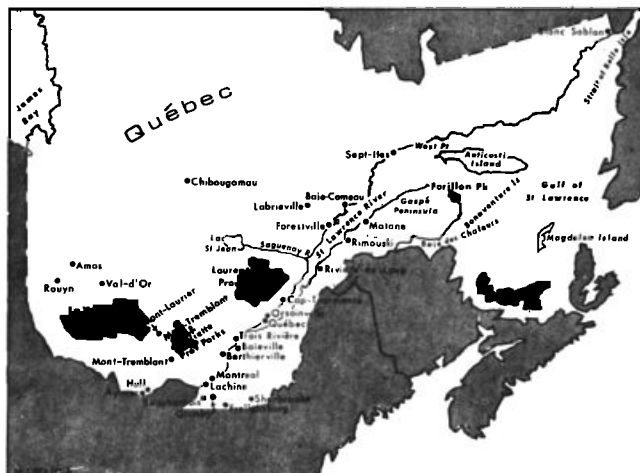
ABBREVIATIONS — L.S.J. = Lac Saint-Jean area; N.S. = north shore of the St. Lawrence R. estuary; Q.B.B.A. = Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas project.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A well-described Manx Shearwater spotted off Saint-Nicolas, near Quebec City, July 31 (LM) was surprising to say the least. The bird was flying E along the St. Lawrence R. A Great Blue Heron at Petite Trinité R., July 9-10 (KB *et al.*) extended the e. limit of sightings along the N.S. This Region's first Great Egret nests were found at Dickerson I. on L. Saint-François, near the Ontario border. Three nests were discovered in a mixed heronry during an aerial survey conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources June 17 (*fide* BM). Breeding had been strongly suspected in recent years, on the basis of regular summer sightings from the nearby Dundee marshes (see AB 38:179). The only other egrets reported were a Great Egret at Thurso (GL), the 2nd Snowy for the Madeleine Is. at Pointe de l'Est (SD), two Cattle Egrets at Saint-Lambert (*fide* PB) and another at Barachois (PPO, RBi). Single Green-backed Herons at Larouche June 22 (NB) and Mistassini July 20 (NB, CC) were rare visitors to L.S.J.

Wood Ducks reached the N.S. in unprecedented numbers with up to 14 (11 males, three females) at Bergeronnes July 5-16 (AB *et al.*). Three broods of Buffleheads adorned ponds n. of the Opinaca R., near the James Bay Rd., July 3-6 (DBO, LR), consolidating our knowledge of this duck's breeding range e. of James Bay. Other unusual summer reports involved a pair of Gadwalls at Pointe-Lebel June 30 (GB), a ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Saint-Gédéon until June 17 (*fide* CC, see Spring Report), a ♂ Canvasback on the Jacques-Cartier R., June 2 (SMa), a ♂ Greater Scaup at Dundee July 12 (DG *et al.*) and single ♂ Ruddy Ducks at Saint-Gédéon June 9-11 (CV, DB, FG) and Saint-Pascal June 30 & July 19 (CA, JPO).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Worthy of mention were single Turkey Vultures at La Pocatière (PBe), Mont-Carmel (JLa), Matane (GB) and Saint-Tite-des-Caps (GF) in June. Rare in summer, several Rough-legged Hawks were noted along the St. Lawrence Valley, e. of Quebec City. A ♀ Am. Kestrel was evidently exhibiting territorial behavior near a suitable nest hole at Sheldrake July 9 (KB); the same observer reported that a male was found dead at Harrington-Harbour May 14. In addition to the regular sightings of Peregrine Falcons in the Montreal area, one was seen at Notre-Dame-des-Bois July 6 (AD).

An ad. Sharp-tailed Grouse with ten young at Saint-Laurent July 17 (YA, DB) substantiated the nesting of this species in Abitibi; however, up to three N. Bobwhites which showed up on I. des Soeurs July 1 + (ND *et al.*) were thought to be of captive origin. The only Yellow Rails to be detected were at Dundee May 20 (AD *et al.*) and along the Antoine R., near Roquemaure, July 13-17 (YA, DB). Extralimital Virginia Rails were located along the N.S.: single birds were at Hauterive May 16-17 (CD, GC), Pointe-aux-Outardes July 18 & 25 (AB) and Saint-Paul-du-Nord July 19 & Aug. 4 (RG, AP). Common Moorhens also ventured far N of their normal range: one appeared at Sainte-Blandine June 4 (DR, RS) and the first two to reach L.S.J. were at Saint-Gédéon June 9-17 (CV, DB, FG) and Saint-Méthode June 15 (SL, MAB). A family group of Am. Coots sighted on the Ticouapé R., Aug. 8 (MAB) constituted the first confirmed nesting for L.S.J. A Sandhill Crane was at Villemontel June 1 and again in July (DBD). The species was again seen at the mouth of the Eastmain R. this summer (DBO).



SHOREBIRDS — A Solitary Sandpiper displayed as if on territory at Taureau Res., July 3 (FH), well s. of its breeding range. Considering the numerous reports from s. Quebec, however, an unusually early migration seems more probable: singles were at Aylmer June 17 (*fide* RB), Tewkesbury June 19 (AL), and Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois June 30 (FH), two were at Dundee July 6 (DG *et al.*), and six others were s. of latitude 49°N July 10-18. Single Willets were tallied at I. aux Fermiers June 20 (GD) and Pointe-Saint-Pierre June 22 (FH). The Upland Sandpiper was finally confirmed as a breeder in the Saguenay: an adult with two young was observed in Jonquière July 8 (NB, JLD) and single birds were found at Saint-Ambroise and Latterrière (YB). In addition, a possible range extension was signaled by up to six individuals at Cap-d'Espoir June 5 & 30 (PPO), where the species was seen in 1982. Quebec's 3rd **Black-tailed Godwit** was a breeding-plumaged bird at Baieville June 6-7 (DJ, AG, m.ob.). A Com. Snipe, not yet known to breed in the Ungava region, was at Tasiujak June 2 (RSi). Saint-André, Kamouraska Co., was added to the nesting localities of Wilson's Phalarope (DL, JPO), while a female at L. Beauchamp, Abitibi Co., May 5 (AGB) provided a 2nd local sighting.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — Vagrant larids included Laughing Gulls at LaSalle (FH) and Sainte-Marguerite-Marie (CC, NB), as well as Com. Black-headed Gulls at the latter site (GLU, RT) and at Godbout (MB). Also outside their summer range were a Glaucous Gull at Quebec City (PP) and a Great Black-backed Gull at L. Opasatica (AG, MBe). For the 3rd consecutive year, a pair of Little Gulls was unsuccessful in its attempt to nest in the Lachine Rapids (PB, see AB 37:838-839). An impressive flock of 500 Arctic Terns at Saint-Méthode June 15 (MAB, SL) almost duplicated the sighting of 700 at Saint-Fulgence June 11, 1961 (see Browne 1967, *Can. Field-Nat.* 81:50-62). A Dovekie viewed from the Matane ferry June 14 (GB) furnished an exceptional summer report, while two Thick-billed Murres in the Sainte-Marie Is., July 3 (KB *et al.*), may have bred locally. Rock and Mourning doves were both encountered at LG-2 Dam in late June (DBO). Black-billed Cuckoos were found along the N.S. in July, at Colombier (FL), Bergeronnes (EL, AB) and Hauterive (GC, AB), slightly n. of the species' established breeding range. A young Boreal Owl was discovered in a nest cavity on Mt. Albert July 2 (PD, ADe), confirming previously suspected breeding on the Gaspé Pen.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRASHERS — The only notable Red-headed Woodpecker report was from Saint-Stanislas, Champlain Co., June 1 (MJH). An **Acadian Flycatcher** singing in prime Alder Flycatcher habitat at L. Sergent, Portneuf Co., July 22-Aug. 4 (CV, m.ob.) was carefully identified by several competent observers—a specimen collected at Natashquan June 12, 1928 represents the only previous record for the province. The Willow Flycatcher at Pointe-au-Père June 28 (YG) represents by far the most northerly sighting in the Region and one at L. à la Truite, Frontenac Co., June 10-27 (AC) was also of interest. A Great Crested Flycatcher near Larouche June 6-July 2 (YB, m.ob.) provided one of very few Saguenay records, and a W.

Kingbird strayed to Rimouski June 5 (DR). The E. Bluebird appears to be gradually recolonizing the n. portion of its former range along the N.S. and in the Saguenay-L.S.J. area, with a male at Chambord June 9 (YB, NB), a female at Saint-Fulgence June 18 (CG, YB), a pair at Larouche which nested twice from June 19-July 21+ (CC, NB) and at least 2 successful nests at Forestville (AP, FL). Yet another rarity in the Saguenay was a Wood Thrush at Larouche June 8-12 (CC, NB, MB); one at La Tuque July 19 (MJH) was also unusually far n. Two broods of N. Mockingbirds were found at Pointe-Label (CT) and a Brown Thrasher was seen at Saint-Paul-du-Nord July 21 (RG), both good finds for the N.S.

WARBLERS — This was a remarkable season for warblers. A **Blue-winged Warbler** seen at Cantley June 7 (SB) could not be relocated subsequently, but Quebec's first **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid was there June 6-9 (RB, SB). Golden-winged Warblers were reported in amazing numbers; although due in part to increased coverage resulting from the Q.B.A., there is no doubt the bird is colonizing new sites in the Region. A male may have been on territory at Stoke May 26-June 26 (YBa, m.ob.) and others were found at 5 locations in the Outaouais June 8-21: two at the traditional L. Philippe site (DT, DD), four at Masham and one at Wakefield (RB), two at Farrelton and five at L. de l'Argile, Papineau Co. (SB). A 3 km² area near Huntingdon—where the species was first uncovered last year (see *AB* 37:970)—produced 21 males and six females, as well as the 2nd and 3rd provincial breeding records. Also at this site was another "Brewster's" feeding a recent fledgling June 25, and three or four singing Cerulean Warblers June 4-27, a new locality for the latter (PB). A Pine Warbler at Saint-Paul-de-la-Croix July 19 (JL) was e. of its known breeding range. A ♂ **Prairie Warbler** turned up at Rimouski July 2 (GG). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard only once at Kingsmere July 14 (DSH), where it summered in 1982 (see *AB* 36:958). Jack Pine forests yielded L.S.J.'s first Connecticut Warblers: two at Notre-Dame-de-la-Doré June 6-July 3, four at the s. end of Chibougamau P.P., June 7+ and two more at Normandin June 29 (SL, MAB). This may prove to be an e. extension of its Abitibi range, where one was observed July 13 (YA) near Villemontel.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ Scarlet Tanager at Bergeronnes June 5-July 5 (AB, SBr) was beyond its usual breeding range, as were a pair of N. Cardinals at Saint-André, Kamouraska Co., in July (*fide* JPO), a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Saint-Laurent, Abitibi Co., July 16 (YA) and single Indigo Buntings at Hauterive June 12 (SM) and near Rouyn June 16 (AA). A pair of the latter with young was at Sainte-Rose-du-Déglis July 11 (JLa), to establish the Region's most easterly breeding record. Field Sparrows discovered in Champlain County were not unexpected and included a male at Saint-Stanislas June 13 (MJH) and a nest at Saint-Prosper July 31 (LM). The Vesper Sparrow established another first for the N.S. by breeding at Pointe-Label in June (GB). A pair of LeConte's Sparrows was studied at Saint-Méthode June 12-July 19 (SL, NB, GSa) and another was observed transporting food at Saint-Fulgence July 30 (AM), where a nest was found in 1963. In the species' Abitibi stronghold, 20± birds were counted at Saint-Laurent

and Roquemaure July 14-17 (YA, DB).

An extralimital E. Meadowlark was at Cap-d'Espoir June 16 (PPo), while a W. Meadowlark reached Rimouski June 28 (GG) and a Yellow-headed Blackbird showed up at a feeder near Granby July 9-13 (FD, FC). Lucky observers found single first-year ♂ Orchard Orioles at Taureau Res., June 10 (FH) and in the Batiscan-Nelson conservation area, Portneuf Co., June 27 (FL). Following last spring's influx of House Finches into Montreal, one feeder was visited 3 times by young birds at 4-week intervals, with a high count of 17 birds July 22 (GS). Indications are that the species is capable of raising 4 broods per season in this Region. Plessisville was added to the species' nesting localities (AC). Contributors commented on the abundance of White-winged Crossbills in many areas of the province. Pine Siskins remained to nest around Montreal, a rare event, as adults attended fledged young in Roxboro (SDy, *fide* PS), Cartierville (ND), and Saint-Lambert (GD). Problematical was a Eur. Goldfinch among a flock of siskins in the Bas-Saint-Laurent conservation area in mid-June (YG). The belated report of an Evening Grosbeak nest found at Saint-Sulpice in May (*fide* DC) was apparently a first for the Montreal area.

EXOTICS — Pet shop clearance sales led to the release of seven Ringed Turtle-Doves in Dorval (*fide* MM) and six Monk Parakeets in Dollard-des-Ormeaux (*fide* DBi). Both species apparently attempted to nest, without success. A Cockatiel was seen near Low June 29 (RB) and a Red Avadavat was in Hull June 11 (CB).

CORRECTION — A White-crowned Sparrow was at Deception Bay in July and August 1983, not a White-throated Sparrow as published in *AB* 38:181.

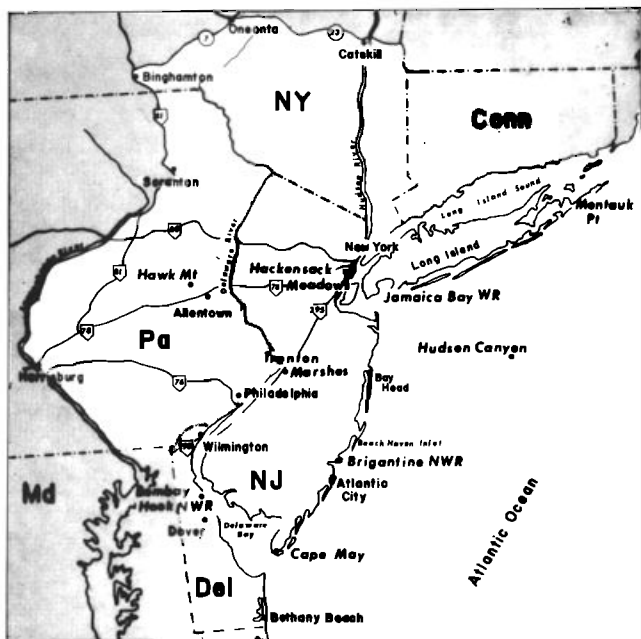
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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/Robert O. Paxton, William J. Boyle, Jr., and David A. Cutler

Searing hot weather in early June helped dry out this saturated Region, but July was once again cool and rainy. July rainfall was about twice normal in New York City, and average temperature about 2° F below normal. Wet weather may have reduced fledging success for some species (Osprey, Least Tern, Eastern Bluebird), but most observers reported an excellent breeding season for many species. Among southerly species spreading north, only Yellow-throated Warbler and Blue Grosbeak marked major advances. Several northerly species flourished at their southern limits (see warblers, kinglets, thrushes, sparrows).

There was migration as well as nesting in June and July. Spring migration carried over even later than usual after the cool May, inflating June Counts with non-breeders and producing such exceptional lingerers as a Wilson's Warbler June 17 at Hellertown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania (D. & E. Mease). On the other hand, returning shorebirds built up quite early. Already by July 8 there were 50 Stilt Sandpipers, 500 assorted yellowlegs, and 500 Short-billed Dowitchers at Port Mahon, Delaware (EF). Greater Yellowlegs were present June 23 and 31 in a flooded field near Trexlertown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania (SS), and two Least Sandpipers were at a rain pool near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, July 3 (WR). But in the absence of the age and molt data that Don Roberson urged upon wader-watchers two years ago in these columns (*AB* 36: 951-952) we have no way of knowing whether they were coming, going, or neither.



ABBREVIATIONS — Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig = Brigantine Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co., N.J.; D.E.C. = Dept. of Environmental Conservation, New York State; G.G.I. = Great Gull I., off e. Long Island; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City; Little Creek = Little Creek Wildlife Area, Kent Co., Del.; L.I. = Long Island, N.Y.; N.J.D.F.G.W. = New Jersey Dept. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife; N.Y.C. = New York City. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A summering Red-throated Loon at Assawoman, Del. (WWF, M. Atchinson) was the only one reported. Among the usual scattered Com. Loons two were inland: Wild Creek Res., Carbon, Pa. (L. Rymon), and Rondout Res., s. Ulster, N.Y. (FM). The report of a Catskills nesting of Com. Loon in 1981 (AB 36:959) appears, on closer investigation, to have referred only to summering individuals in basic plumage.

Pied-billed Grebes bred at Hardwick, Warren, N.J. (F. Wolfarth) for the first time in several years, adding a site to the Regional round-up we published last summer.

A N. Fulmar off Fire I. Inlet, L.I., July 3 (CSa, R. Halbeisen) was our only report, now that foreign fishing fleets no longer concentrate them. More Manx Shearwaters than usual were reported. All pelagic trips found one or two, and Safina reported up to 10-12 off Fire I. Inlet in July.

The "2nd annual" Brown Pelican invasion, already noted in the spring report, reached smaller dimensions than last summer. The maximum known to us was 26 off Bethany Beach, Del., June 14 (CHG), and their n. limit seems to have been Loveladies, Ocean, N.J., June 6 (*vide* PD). Their presence along the coast lends plausibility to an otherwise preposterous report of a Brown Pelican at a farm pond near Wind Gap, Northampton, Pa., July 23, by a casual but credible observer (*vide* BLM).

A new Double-crested Cormorant colony of about 70 pairs on South Brother I., in the East R., N.Y.C., about 100 mi w. of last summer's new colony on Gardiner's I., L.I., marked another giant step SW in this species' Regional breeding range. Further information on these new colonies will appear in *The Kingbird* 34 (4), Sept. 1984 (PAB).

Kane located only one pair each of Am. Bittern and Least Bittern June 19-22 at Troy Meadows, Morris, N.J., compared with 13 Am. Bitterns and 10 Least Bitterns counted there by the Umer Club June 1, 1947. This year's census may have been too late to detect all calling birds, but decline is all too evident. Elsewhere Least Bitterns were reported rather widely, but in ones and twos (CMcK, BSp, APE).

Two new Great Blue Heronries in Dutchess, N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.), continued this species' trend up-country and away from the coast. Elev-

en colonies are known in New Jersey, including new ones upland at Walkill Valley (30+ nests) and Kittatinny L. (5) and, near Delaware Bay, in Salem (20). The largest colonies in New Jersey are Great Meadows, Warren (200+), Lafayette, Sussex (125+), and Great Swamp, Morris (25+). The Wyalusing, Pa., colony continued with 7 nests (WR). The great Delaware colony at Taylor's Bridge, New Castle, has been acquired by Delaware Wild Lands, Inc., and, under protection, has grown to 200+ active nests with 80-90% breeding success. The only other Delaware colony is a small group among the egrets on Pea Patch I.

Belatedly, we have received the photograph of a **White-faced Ibis** at Brig June 19, 1981 (R. Schwartz), which raises New Jersey records to 4 since 1977 and provides the first photographic documentation for the state.

WATERFOWL — Over 200 boxes at the Bashkill, Orange, N.Y., produced an estimated 1000 young Wood Ducks, making that area second only to Great Swamp, N.J., as a Wood Duck nursery (JPT). A determined Gadwall nested for the 3rd summer on G.G.I., where there is no fresh water. The young apparently disappear in the sea. Among the less usual non-breeding diving ducks was an imm. ♂ Lesser Scaup all summer on a farm pond near Bethlehem, Pa. (BS).

The most astonishing waterfowl record in many decades was of an ad. ♂ **Masked Duck** near L. Ontelaunee, Berks, Pa., June 12-14 (ph. R. Cook). The bird was unbanded and although a small flock of pinioned, non-breeding birds was kept in Vermont 20 years ago (*vide* R. Ryan), we are assured that no zoos or aviculturists keep this species now in North America.



Male Masked Duck in breeding plumage near Lake Ontelaunee, Berks Co., Pa., June 14, 1984. Photo/R. Cook.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Osprey breeding populations seem to be levelling off after recent rapid climbs. Long Island had about 111 nests, the same as last year, although 108 fledglings were below last year's 127 (MJS, D.E.C.). New Jersey increased to 98-100 nests (LN, N.J.D.F.G.W.), and 120 young, well above last year's 110, were expected to fledge. Delaware was a little down with 50 nests and 45 young (L. Alexander). A plentiful supply of wandering subadults, reported from many inland lakes this summer, are ready to fill in remaining gaps in the breeding range. Inland nesting may be restored soon in Pennsylvania, where two birds hatched as fledglings in 1982 returned this summer (L. Rymon).

Three Mississippi Kites at Cape May Pt., N.J., June 1 (A. Nicholson) closed out the annual spring procession there, and there were no summer reports.

This region has 5 active Bald Eagle eyries. The Bear Swamp, Cumberland, N.J., pair fledged one eaglet, with a little help from the N.J.D.F.G.W. which hatched the egg (17% below normal shell thickness) in an incubator, and added a 2nd chick. The Bear Swamp site gained protection this year when its former owners, a sand excavation company, lost legal action against state acquisition. The N.J.D.F.G.W. also hatched 10 young Bald Eagles in the state (LN). Two of the 4 Delaware pairs fledged young (JMA). Two adults summered in Sullivan, N.Y., the Region's prime Bald Eagle wintering area, without evidence of breeding (FM). About a dozen wandering immatures were reported in the Region.

There was optimism about Red-shouldered Hawks from opposite ends of the Region. Three or 4 pairs were known in Sussex, Del. (APE), 2 in Putnam, N.Y., and "several" in Ulster, N.Y. (BW). Deed believes

that they equal Red-tailed Hawks as breeders in *Rockland*, N.Y., though far less often detected because of their discreet behavior around the nest.

Of 16 pairs of Peregrine Falcons known to have attempted breeding in the North America, from Virginia to Montreal, 10 were in this Region. Five pairs in New Jersey and one in N.Y.C. fledged 11 natural young; 4 other pairs were unsuccessful. Still others hung around without attempting to breed, perhaps because they were too young. The hacking towers and bridges were favorite sites. The successful N.Y.C. pair used the Throgs Neck Bridge again, while 3 major Delaware R. bridges were occupied, 2 by non-breeding pairs, and one by a pair whose eggs may have been damaged by excessive heat around the metal structure. All were believed to have been hacked birds or their descendants, and some chose an urban environment even though hacked in wild areas (J. Barclay, *The Peregrine Fund*).

We had numerous reports of breeding Wild Turkeys, particularly upland. This year 22 turkeys were successfully introduced in Delaware portions of the Pocomoke Swamp, after repeated failures, and enjoyed 75% breeding success (H. Harvey).

Though Soras breed in suitable habitat throughout this Region, records are so sparing that it is worth recording five young just w. of Allentown, Pa., for the first known *Lehigh* breeding record (J. McDonald). An ad. **Sandhill Crane** was photographed on the lawn of the *Reader's Digest* headquarters at Pleasantville, *Westchester*, N.Y., June 6 (D. Minter *et al.*). Another, possibly the same, was reported near Orient, L.I., July 14-27 (PBe).

SHOREBIRDS — Rain pools provided the best inland shorebirding, since high water wiped out the standard sites (*e.g.*, Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, Pa.). A flooded cow pasture near Trexlertown, *Lehigh*, Pa., known locally as Spring Creek, held "an amazing number of waders and shorebirds in late July" (BLM). Curiously, but perhaps normally, arrival dates were later inland than at the great coastal concentration points (J.B.W.R., Brig, Bombay Hook, Little Creek). Do migrating adults head straight for favored coastal lagoons while inexperienced immatures straggle to inland pools, in a way opposite to passerine migration? These and other basic questions about shorebird migration can only be answered with the aid of age data.

A Lesser Golden-Plover was an early arrival at Henlopen S.P., Del., July 20 (WWF), followed by four there July 30 (S. Fintel). Struggling breeding populations of Piping Plovers slipped to about 85 pairs in New Jersey, down from the 1980 estimate of 99-108 pairs, although they increased in some localities (AG). Long Island's 99 pairs was slightly better than last year (DP).

American Oystercatchers are still increasing where they can substitute estuary sand islands for beach, as shown by 60 pairs in about 10 mi of Great South Bay, L.I., from the Wantagh Causeway to Robert Moses Bridge (B. Lauro). Willets are thriving: 250 gathered at high tide at Stone Harbor Pt., N.J., July 11 (C&PS). An albino Willet was at several places in Delaware (BMo, H. Cutler, B. Rufe). A Whimbrel was early (or late?) June 29 at Great Sound, *Cape May*, N.J. (C&PS).

An ad. **Rufous-necked Stint**, in breeding plumage just beginning to fade, remained obligingly for close study at the Port Mahon impoundment, Little Creek, Del., July 22-29. It provided the first Delaware and Regional record, and the first in the northeast since two in Massachusetts in summer 1980 (*AB* 34: 876). Although it proved impossible to obtain a diagnostic photograph, the rufous-chestnut head and throat and lack of reddish tertial edgings, combined with other characters carefully described (†B. Cooper, PGD, J. P., & M. O'Brien, m.ob.), put this record beyond question. Buckley submitted an impeccable report of an ad. **Little Stint** June 5 at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., N.Y., similar in plumage to last July's bird there, but it did not remain. Palearctic "peep" are proving regular here in very small numbers, but these extremely subtle identifications cannot be made without full knowledge of the bird's age and stage of molt, the best key to which is A.J. Prater *et al.*, *Guide to the Identification and Ageing of Holarctic Waders*, BTO Guide #17 (1977).

Single Curlew Sandpipers were at J.B.W.R., as usual, June 3 & 5 (R. Zaneldeen, TWB) and after July 19 (TWB), and at Pickering Beach, Del., July 27-28 (B. Augustine, RFR). Only two or three Ruffs were reported, all in July in Delaware (DHe, EF, APE, J. Swertinski, RFR, W. Wayne), but we are sure there were more.

Wilson's Phalaropes were widespread on the coast by mid-July, and

one was inland at Spring Creek July 29-31, record early for the Pennsylvania (BLM, m.ob.). Particularly suggestive, since Wilson's Phalaropes bred recently on the Massachusetts coast, were three at J.B.W.R., June 23-24 (TWB).

GULLS TO SKIMMER — The recently-established Laughing Gull colony near JFK Airport, N.Y.C., has levelled off at 2800 ± pairs, but there is no evidence they breed anywhere else in New York State (PAB). Further information on this colony will appear in *The Kingbird* 34 (4), Sept. 1984.

About four Little Gulls, three of them adult, were at Little Creek in July—a bit more than normal (DAC, BMo, DHe)—but Com. Black-headed Gull went unreported. An imm. Bonaparte's Gull at Henlopen S.P., June 2 (WWF) and an adult in basic (winter) plumage at Pickering Beach July 30 (APE), following unusually late spring holdovers, were unprecedented in Delaware and among the very few mid-summer records in the Region. Groups of Ring-billed Gulls, apparently adults, continued to appear in mid-summer along the Upper Susquehanna R. (WR). A Glaucous Gull at Gardiner's I., off e. L.I., June 13 (PAB) was exceptional for mid-summer. Great Black-backed Gulls bred at Rye, *Westchester*, N.Y. (BW), the Region's first breeding site away from the ocean front known to us.

About 3 pairs of Gull-billed Terns, 2 of which attempted unsuccessfully to breed, were on the s. shore of L.I., their n. limit (JZ, CSA, MG). A pair of **Caspian Terns** fledged a chick on salt marsh wrack 2 mi s.e. of Barnegat Light, N.J., about July 8 (J. Burger), for the first proven state and Regional nesting record. Details and a photograph will be published elsewhere. The nearest breeding area is the Virginia E. Shore, where several pairs have nested each summer since 1974. Royal Terns once again only straggled to Long Island (PAB), but two were in courtship display at Stone Harbor Pt., N.J., July 11 (C&PS). Sandwich Terns wandered N, too, as has become usual. One was at G.G.I., May 25 (M & T. King), two at Cape May June 4 (C&PS), and one at Holgate, *Ocean*, N.J. in July (refuge pers.). The nearest breeding area is Maryland.

As in recent summers, a few Roseate Terns were found in coastal New Jersey (PBa, BMu, PD), but they are still known to breed in this Region only on Long Island, principally in 2 great colonies. The 700-800 pairs at G.G.I. were a slight improvement over recent summers while well below levels of 10 years ago (JDiC); the 80-100 pairs at Cedar Beach were about par (MG). Common Terns did very well on L.I., but perhaps less so in New Jersey where a larger proportion of nests are in salt marsh. Cedar Beach, L.I., with nearly 6000 pairs this year, and G.G.I. with 4700-4800 pairs, where 7000 young were banded (JDiC), may well be the largest Com. Tern colonies in the world in this century (MG). "Portlandica" Arctic Terns were present again on L.I. one near Captree S.P., June 7-9, and five at Shinnecock June 13 (PAB). Forster's Terns did not attempt to nest again on L.I., but one was far out of place at L. Marburg, *York*, Pa., July 8 (DHe).

Although several Least Tern colonies were wiped out by gulls, crows, dune buggies and nudists, populations somehow sustain themselves by rapid shifts to new sites (and longevity: some banded Least Terns have been recaptured up to 20 years of age, according to Gochfeld). A thorough Delaware census on June 18 revealed 1443 adults and 723 nests, the best count since 1979 (J. Frink), while L.I.'s population was censused at 4490 adults, a bit above last year (DP, Seatuck Research Program).

An ad. **Sooty Tern**, resting on flotsam 14 mi s.e. of Montauk Pt., L.I., June 26 (M. Male) provided one of very few Regional reports unassociated with a major tropical storm.

Black Skimmers did well on L.I., where the 2 principal colonies, Jones Beach S.P. and Cedar Beach, totalled about 323 pairs (CSa). They were about normal in New Jersey, and remained in a borderline situation of eight to 10 birds in Delaware. Overflow adults tried unsuccessfully to nest in beach buggy country at Henlopen S.P., Del. (WWF) and at G.G.I. (JDiC).

CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Cuckoos were universally deemed scarce, and not only in areas where gypsy moths have collapsed.

While all the news about Chuck-will's-widows suggested expansion, such as a vagrant calling in pine woods near Hamburg, *Berks*, Pa

(KAG), the news about Whip-poor-wills seemed mostly bad. Chuck-will's-widows have replaced them on the New Jersey coast, where they were formerly common, n. to Manahawkin, and at Montauk Pt., L.I. (ES), although they remain common in the Jersey Pine Barrens and at the Bashakill, *Orange*, N.Y. (JPT). Three at Catfish Fire Tower, *Warren*, N.J., June 5 (M. Wilson) furnished a noteworthy record from Kittatinny Mt. where they were once common but are now rare.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported throughout the Region as having the most successful breeding season in years (RJB, RMS, JB, FM, R.T.W.B.C.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Acadian Flycatchers, still expanding in s.e. New York (though not on Long Island), are colonizing hemlock ravines there (BW) as in n.w. New Jersey. Many observers commented on the increase of Willow Flycatchers. The Lancaster, Pa., June Count had 16 and 27 in the past 2 years, compared with an average eight in the previous 6 years (RMS). Least Flycatcher was absent in the s., and apparently declining in the n.

A very unusual late spring holdover W. Kingbird was at Holgate, N.J., June 13 (BMu). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Cape May the same day (A. Kirkby, M. Dowd), one remaining until June 15 (ph. BMo).

Ginaven drew a few prospectors but no permanent residents, as yet, by placing carved Purple Martin models around new martin houses at Tyler Arboretum, Philadelphia. Frech observed a curious Bank Swallow movement July 17 when 300/hr passed Cape Henlopen, Del., going S. Cliff Swallows continued their population boom on bridges. The N.J.D.F.G.W. estimates that the state's breeding population increased 10%, and the great Lambertville colony swelled to 210 (LN). We learned of a new colony of 6 pairs at Johnsonburg, *Warren* (PBA) and, far to the s., a pair under a bridge at Dividing Creek, *Cumberland* (PD, M. Gustafson). In Pennsylvania, several colonies are established on Susquehanna R. bridges (JRG, DHe), and 77 active nests (type of site unreported) were at Beltzville L., *Carbon* (BS).

Common Raven was confirmed at a nest by atlasers in *Ulster*, N.Y., after years of expectation (BW). Ravens were also about Hawk Mt., Pa., all summer (JB).

Red-breasted Nuthatches staked out another breeding outpost in the Tumbling Run Dam area, Pottsville, *Schuylkill*, Pa. (TC). Another species profiting by ornamental spruce plantations is Golden-crowned Kinglet. New breeding areas this season were Pottsville, Pa. (TC), Impounding Dam Res., *York*, Pa. (DHe), the N.J. School of Conservation, Stokes State Forest, *Sussex*, N.J., and Old Mine Rd., Worthington State Forest, *Warren*, N.J. (WJB). This year they were nesting in native spruce at only 600' at Ashokan Res., *Ulster*, N.Y. (FM).

A Hermit Thrush population continues in the Jersey Pine Barrens, and the species bred this summer in coastal plain pine barrens at Quogue W.R., L.I. (ES). Hermit Thrushes established new s. breeding territories in the Monroe Highlands, *Orange*, N.Y. (L. & L. Dumont), and at Penn Forest Res., probably their s. limit in s.e. Pennsylvania (RW, SB, BS). They were newly established in a hemlock ravine in Stokes State Forest, N.J. (WW, TP) and on a dry ridge top at Jenny Jump S.P., *Warren*, N.J. (IHB, PBA).

Cedar Waxwings were in large numbers from Delaware to s.e. New York, where they were "super successful" (JPT). A rare summer Loggerhead Shrike was at Muddy Run, Drumore, *Lancaster*, Pa., July 2-3 (RMS), but without sign of breeding.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Solitary Vireos were widespread in n.w. New Jersey, and a singing male in planted spruce near Sheppard-Meyers Res., *York*, Pa., July 1 (RFR) recalled the North Carolina Piedmont records of recent years.

Nashville Warblers had their first good year since 1972 in n.w. New Jersey, were "most improved species" in *Ulster*, N.Y. (FM), and were conspicuously successful elsewhere in s.e. New York (BW). Southerly outposts in Pennsylvania were Penn State Res., June 26 (RW) and 2 pairs with young at Hamburg (KAG), although the species does nest farther s. in the high Appalachians. Northern Parula seemed in trouble in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR), but was recovering a bit from total absence along the upper Delaware R. in New Jersey.

Two singing Magnolia Warblers at Wild Creek Res., *Carbon*, Pa., June 26 (RW, SB, BS) were new for the area and near their s. limit in this Region. Populations were up in the Catskills, too (JPT, FM). The first breeding record for Yellow-throated Warbler in New York State

was established near Catskill, *Greene* (*vide* BW), a long jump from known breeding areas along the Delaware R. (*albilora*) or in extreme s. New Jersey (*dominica*). Race was not determined. Prairie Warbler was "exploding" in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR) and common in proper habitat in s.e. New York (JPT), but we received only fragmentary information from elsewhere. Two singing ♂ Kentucky Warblers at Wapwallopen, *Luzerne*, Pa. (DG) still marked the n. limit for this species.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH ICTERIDS — A pair of Blue Grosbeaks carrying food confirmed breeding near Port Jervis, s.w. *Orange*, N.Y., in Delaware R. drainage. This was the 2nd New York State breeding record, and a long jump from the first, on Staten Island. The species seems to be expanding N more rapidly in the interior than along the coast, for it occurs only as a post-breeding straggler on L.I.

Those who follow the declining fortunes of grassland species frequently comment on the effects of June mowing. The 2 pairs of Dickcissels mowed out in May in *Gloucester*, N.J., apparently resettled a few miles away at Woodstown, *Salem*, around June 5, but departed shortly after mowing there June 21. Another pair was reported undergoing the same fate near Sicklerville, *Camden*, N.J. (JKM). We knew of only 3 Henslow's Sparrow locations this summer: the usual population at Galesville Airport, *Ulster*, N.Y., a new location near Liberty, *Sullivan*, N.Y. (BW), and a single bird, apparently unmated, near Dallas, *Luzerne*, Pa., other spots near there now being unoccupied (WR).

A White-throated Sparrow singing at Franklin Lakes, *Bergen*, N.J., several days around July 12 (K. Prytherch), was remarkably far out in the Piedmont for a species found less than annually in summer in the New Jersey mountains.

Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported: Jones Beach S.P., L.I., June 6-Aug. 5 (A. Wollin), and a female at Troy Meadows, N.J., June 21 (RKA), following a series of apparently unmated females in New Jersey in recent summers without any indication so far of breeding. A ♀ Boat-tailed Grackle with young at J.B.W.R., July 29 (TWB) along with other scattered individuals on L.I. (JZ) showed that this n. outpost population is still breeding.

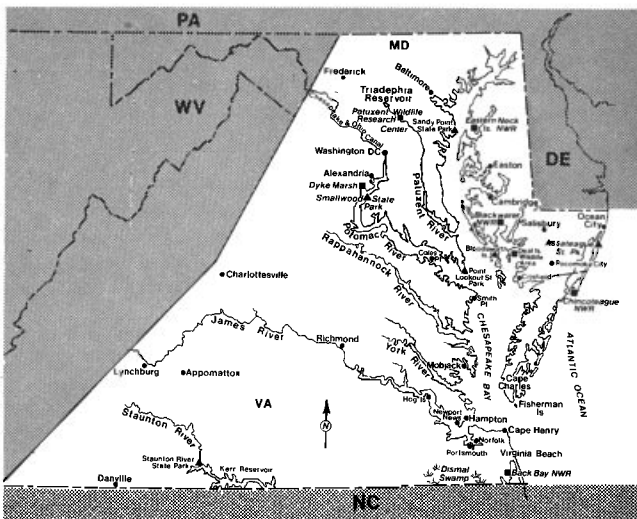
EXOTICS — A few Monk Parakeets still persist in *Rockland*, N.Y., where one was eating mulberries at Piermont Pier July 28 (B. Coullon). A Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) was attracted to the same mulberries there July 10 (P. Derven).

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION
/Henry T. Armistead

Following a cool, rainy spring more migrants than usual spilled over into early June, especially certain shorebirds, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers and Bobolinks. June was hot but not very rainy. July was cool, for July, and rainier than usual. As is the rule here for summer, reporting was good for colonial and beach nesting waterbirds, not so good for common widespread song birds. We must rely on the Breeding Bird Survey and long term atlas work for meaningful analysis of changes common birds are undergoing from the massive effects of forest fractionalization, no-till agriculture, federal farm policies such as the PIK program and tropical deforestation. Weather statistics: deviation from normal of temperature in May (received too late to be included in the spring report) -0.72°F, June +2.45°, July -1.97°; precipitation in May +1.05 in., June -1.70 in., July +1.19 in.

ABBREVIATIONS — Assat. = Assateague Island (Maryland part only); Balt. = Baltimore; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Fish. I. = Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Hart = Hart and Miller Is., e. of Baltimore; H.M.P. = Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co., Va.; S.P.S.P. = Sandy Point State Park near Annapolis, Md. Place names in *italics* are counties.



LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Single Com. Loons were at 3 spots in the c. Bay in summer but ones at Balt., June 9 (RFR), Hog. I., *Northampton*, Va., June 11 (BW, JV) and Port Deposit, Md., June 12 (RMS) may have been late migrants. Two pairs of Pied-billed Grebes bred at H.M.P. s. of D.C., the first breeding records for *Fairfax*, Va. A pair with three young was there July 12-14 (EMW, RH *et al.*) and an adult with five tiny chicks was present July 29 (EW, RAA). An adult with young was also at Jug Bay, Patuxent R., Md. (JAG—date?). The sole Horned Grebe was a straggler in *Calvert*, Md., June 11 (RAA). A pelagic trip out of Ocean City recorded seven Cory's, 17 Greater, two Sooty and two Manx shearwaters plus 160 Wilson's and three Leach's storm-petrels June 16 (HLW, EMW *et al.*). Dead singles were a Sooty on Smith I., Va., June 10 (BT) and Greaters on Fisherman I., June 29 (RLA) and Wallops I., Va., June 30 (CRV).

The Metomkin I., Va., Am. White Pelican returned again this summer June 29 into July (JSW, BW). Brown Pelicans outdid themselves again. Still no nests, but a record Virginia total of 500+ birds was at Fisherman I., July 1 (CRV) having built up from 215 there June 14 (JV, BA, RAB). Notable also were 65 at Wallops I., June 30 (CRV), 40 at Cape Henry June 13 (GMW), 27 at Chinc., July 11-12 (CPW) and 13 at Hampton Roads on the James R., June 30 (BP, ph.). By late July the Fisherman Island birds had toned down to 300 (JSW). In Maryland 12 were at Ocean City June 17 (PO, MO), four were there June 21 (ph., V. Donovan) and two July 19 (*vide* BD), five were at Assat., June 18

(CHG) and one there July 2 (BD, DH). This was the 3rd consecutive summer when unprecedented numbers have invaded the Region. Unique was an imm. Great Cormorant reported from both Hunting Cr., Va. and nearby D.C., July 19 (DFA). For only the 2nd time Double-crested Cormorant bred in this Region and it was again near Hopewell, Va., where they bred also in 1978. Adults were on 3 nests June 16 (MAB), on 2 nests July 15, a nest with young was seen July 20 and 2 nests had young Aug. 3, when 85 of this species were seen in the area (FRS, JWD). Other notable counts were 75 at Bloodsworth I., June 16 (HTA, AH, PRS) and 300 near Shanks I., Va. on the Bay June 20 (PRS, AH).

A Least Bittern was seen feeding young at H.M.P., July 7 (EW, *vide* RAA) and a nest with eggs was found at Tarr I., *Talbot*, Md., June 4 (JKE). In Virginia a thorough survey of Great Blue Heron colonies was conducted revealing 31 colonies totalling 3593 pairs (*cf.* 1983 with 28 colonies and 3255 pairs), all but one colony on the coastal plain. Biggest colonies were 300 pairs in White Oak Swamp, *New Kent*, 335 in Newport News P., 410 at Burnt Mill Cr., *King and Queen* and 410 at Potomac Cr., *Stafford* (RAB, *vide* MAB). At Mason Neck N.W.R., Va., 288 nests held 461 young (DCe, *vide* JMA). On Bloodsworth I., 156 active nests were found June 16, 33 of these on phone-pole type structures erected for them by the state of Maryland (HTA, AH, PRS), each of these structures holding several successful nests. This is in an area where the Navy wants to conduct electromagnetic pulse testing simulating a nuclear explosion. On the lower Susquehanna R., Md., below Conowingo Dam Schutsky counted 112 Great Blue Herons and 113 Black-crowned Night-Herons July 18.

For the 10th straight year Williams *et al.* surveyed colonial waterbirds from Assawoman I. s. to Fisherman I. on the Virginia E. Shore in June with these results (number of adults seen, not pairs): Great Egret 659 (most ever), Snowy Egret 731, Little Blue Heron 115 (low), Tricolored Heron 415 (low), Cattle Egret 87 (low), Green-backed Heron 60, Black-crowned Night-Heron 973 (low), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 93, White Ibis 0 (seen 5 of other 9 years), Glossy Ibis 637. Big mixed heronries were on Metomkin, Hog, Cobb, Wreck and Fisherman islands, the latter with the highest count of all these species save Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron and Green-backed Heron. Stable weather made for good production (BW). Heronries in *Dorchester*, Md. on the central Bay had the lowest number of nests of species smaller than Great Egret in 15 years (HTA). White Ibises staged a small incursion with two at S.P.S.P., July 12 (DFA, PO, MO *et al.*), one at Lilypons, *Frederick* July 26-29 (DHW *et al.*) and one at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., *Montgomery* July 29 (FR), these all immatures in Maryland. High counts at Chinc., included 214 Glossy Ibises July 19-20 and 234 Great Egrets, 324 Snowy Egrets and 152 Little Blue Herons, all July 26-27 (CPW).

WATERFOWL — Unique were eight Brant at Cobb I., June 11 (BT, *vide* BW), although a few summer every year on the Virginia E. Shore. Single Green-winged Teal were at Curles Neck in s.e. *Henrico*, Va., June 20 (FRS, BR) and Hurlock, *Dorchester*, Md., July 27 & Aug. 3 (JKE *et al.*), this species being almost unknown as a breeder in the Region. Summer highs were 150 Am. Black Ducks and 400 Mallards at Curles Neck July 15 (FRS, JWD). For the 2nd straight summer Gadwall numbers were well below par in the central Bay area (HTA). Several each of Canvasback, Redhead, Oldsquaw and Com. Goldeneye were reported (v.ob.), these species being among the more unusual of divers in any given summer for this Region. The best duck records were of an ad. ♂ King Eider at Poplar I., Md., July 29 (PRS), a Com. Merganser on the Susquehanna R., June 12-July 3 (RMS), and four male and seven ♀ Ruddy Ducks at Hurlock July 6 & 9 (RFR, EB). Red-breasted Mergansers, among the most frequent divers in summer here, were seen at 6 spots with five at Chinc., July 10 (KHW, DP). Four Lesser Scaup were at Balt., June 9 (RFR).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — Excellent Black Vulture counts included 80 along the Susquehanna R., July 18 (RMS), 150 near Smithfield, *Isle of Wight*, Va., July 3 (GMW) and 65 at Carrolton, Va., July 7 (TK). In Virginia Byrd reported spring wind damage to Osprey nests. "Of 450 nests monitored regularly on the w. side of Chesapeake Bay, the failure rate was 52%. Production was 0.80 young per active nest compared with 1.28 young per active nest . . . in 1983" (MAB). Unusual was an Osprey nest in mid-June above Great Falls in the Virginia

Piedmont (EW, *vide* RAA). Bald Eagle averages in Virginia were 0.97 fledglings per active nest (0.98 in 1983, 0.93 in 1982) and the number of fledglings per successful nest was 1.68, the same as in 1983 (MAB). A storm May 8 when winds in some areas reached 85 m.p.h. destroyed several nests (MAB). Unique was a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Jamestown, Va., June 4 (BW) and a Cooper's Hawk was at Whalesville, Md., in Pocomoke Swamp June 17 (RFR, MH) while another, a juvenile, was seen begging at Taneytown, Carroll, Md., July 14 (RFR), both these species rare Regional breeders. Peregrine Falcons bred with some success at several sites, such as Chinc. and Balt., with small broods augmented in some cases by captive hatched young (*v.ob.*).

The lone Black Rail report was of two at Elliott I., Md., June 17 (EMW). At Chinc., Meanley found 39 Clapper Rail nests June 4-7 and saw 9 broods there July 15-17 averaging 3.8 young per brood. Several King Rails attracted much attention at H.M.P., and Com. Moorhens were seen nest-building there through the period (*v.ob.*). At Chinc., two ad. Virginia Rails, each with two young, were seen July 11 (KHW, DP). The only Am. Coot was at Berlin, Md., June 17 (RFR, MH).

SHOREBIRDS — On the Virginia E. Shore islands Williams *et al.* surveyed the following shorebirds (no. of adults seen) in early June: Wilson's Plover 46 (on 8 islands), Piping Plover 101 (on 10 islands) and 1274 Am. Oystercatchers on 14 islands (a new high but not by much), numbers of the plovers about average in the context of the 7 other years they have been counted. Wilds conducted 5 shorebird censuses and Wierenga one at Chinc., each a 2-day effort as usual. Their maxima for selected species included: June 7-8, Semipalmated Sandpiper 1800, White-rumped Sandpiper 18, Red Knot 111; July 11-12, Black-bellied Plover 49, Willet 248; July 19-20, Semipalmated Plover 63, Piping Plover 44, Lesser Yellowlegs 163, Spotted Sandpiper 37, Whimbrel 120, Sanderling 3749, W. Sandpiper 365, Least Sandpiper 364, Pectoral Sandpiper 36, Short-billed Dowitcher 810, Wilson's Phalarope four; July 26-27, Greater Yellowlegs 52, Hudsonian Godwit nine, Ruddy Turnstone 255, Stilt Sandpiper 57. Other species of interest were five Am. Avocets July 18, a Marbled Godwit June 7-July 12, and a Red-necked Phalarope June 13-14 & July 19-20 (CPW, HLW). The Killdeer high was a mere three on July 26-27 when the sole Solitary Sandpiper was also seen. Early migrants are always fascinating and by July 4-5 these were already on hand: one Semipalmated Plover, six Greater Yellowlegs, four Lesser Yellowlegs, 20 Least Sandpipers, 206 Short-billed Dowitchers and two Wilson's Phalaropes. On June 7-8, 10 Greater Yellowlegs, 229 Ruddy Turnstones, 111 Red Knots, 247 Sanderlings and 1800 Semipalmated Sandpipers marked the beginning of the end of the spring migration. A flooded field near Hurlock provided a fine concentration of shorebirds for the interior of the Delmarva Pen. with these counts July 27: Greater Yellowlegs 125, Lesser Yellowlegs 12, Least Sandpiper 50, Pectoral Sandpiper 18, Stilt Sandpiper four, Short-billed Dowitcher 25, an extremely early Com. Snipe and a Wilson's Phalarope (JKE *et al.*).

On Assat. a Lesser Golden-Plover, three Wilson's Plovers and 20 Piping Plovers were seen July 2 (BD, DH). Vaughn found a Wilson's Plover nest with 3 eggs at Wallops I., Va., June 30. An excellent count for up the Bay was 18 Piping Plovers at Grand View in Hampton, Va., July 4 (LW, *vide* TK). Although Am. Oystercatchers breed commonly up the Bay at Tangier and Watts islands close to the Maryland border, nesting evidence on the Bay s. of these islands in Virginia had not been obtained previously (FRS). Therefore of interest were 2 nests found at Poquoson, York (BP) and one at Grand View (BA, *vide* FRS) in 1983 and heretofore unreported. In 1984 Portlock found 4 pairs at Poquoson May 24 and 3 pairs at Gwynn's I., Mathews July 5 & 6 and a nest was seen at Grand View June 9 (TK), thus filling in a lacuna between their seaside and upper Bay populations. At Chinc., 20 Am. Avocets were seen July 28 (DFA), and a female was on Assat., July 8 (RFR, EB), providing a rare Maryland record. Also on Assat., July 7 were 30 Greater and 100 Lesser yellowlegs (RFR). Reiger saw 200 Willets n. of Ship Shoal I., July 19-20. Spotted Sandpipers were found breeding at Hart (20, including downy young July 4—RFR) and in D.C. (DC—date?) and elsewhere the first post-breeders were widespread July 8+ (*v.ob.*). The only Upland Sandpiper reports were of four at Lucketts, Loudoun, Va., June 23 (VK, *vide* RAA; EMW) and five at New Design Rd., Frederick, Md., July 4 (RM, *vide* DHW), all presumably breeders. As usual the first southbound Whimbrels showed up by the first days of

July and Truitt saw 30 at Fowling Pt. Marsh July 6 plus one apparently of the European race "across the creek from where I first observed one in 1983 in June" in Hog I. marsh—these on the Virginia E. Shore. At Godwin I., Va., seven Marbled Godwits were found July 21 (BT). Early were 10 W. Sandpipers at Big Bay Marsh, Worcester, Md., July 7 (RFR, EB *et al.*) and the first Least Sandpipers were three on Assat., July 2 (BD, DH). Three Dunlins at Big Bay Marsh July 7 must have represented summering birds, certainly not early migrants (RFR). A ♂ Wilson's Phalarope was at Assat., July 7 (EB, RFR *et al.*).

SKUAS THROUGH SKIMMER — A skua (*sp.*) was seen 26 mi e. of Wachapreague, Va., July 27 (HG). In early June the Virginia E. Shore islands survey revealed these numbers of breeding birds (BW, JV, BA, RAB *et al.*): Laughing Gull 16,383 (3rd highest in the 10 years of the survey; c. 15,600 of these on Wreck I.), Herring Gull 1985 (6 islands; lowest since 1979), Great Black-backed Gull 109 (2nd highest; 5 islands), Gull-billed Tern 578 (lowest ever; 7 islands), Caspian Tern six (a pair each on Metomkin, Cobb & Ship Shoal islands; 11th consecutive year of breeding on the Virginia E. Shore), Royal Tern 5772 (Metomkin & Fisherman islands), Sandwich Tern 24 (Metomkin & Fisherman), Com. Tern 5135 (10 islands), Forster's Tern 484 (new high; 2 islands), Least Tern 1217 (3rd highest; 7 islands), Black Skimmer 5233 (2nd lowest; 7 islands). Islands with the most of some species were Metomkin (Gull-billed Tern 254, Least Tern 486), Chimney Pole Marsh (Herring Gull 910, Great Black-backed Gull 52), Ship Shoal (Com. Tern 2662, Black Skimmer 1527), Smith (Forster's Tern 300), and Fisherman (Royal Tern 3300, Sandwich Tern 16). Of the 24 waterbird species which Williams *et al.* survey, Metomkin and Cobb islands, as in 1983, had the greatest variety with 21 and 17 species respectively and each had good representations of herons, gulls, terns, skimmers, and plovers. Metomkin boasted 7 species of breeding terns as well as the most Wilson's Plovers and oystercatchers. This survey concentrates on the barrier islands and does not attempt a complete count of marsh areas. Consequently certain species such as Forster's Terns and oystercatchers are undoubtedly present in higher numbers than these totals indicate. It should be noted that Wallops and Assat. islands are both n. of this survey area.

Weske, Buckalew and Vaughn banded 5389 Royal Terns (3106 at Fisherman, 2271 at Metomkin and 12 s. of Shanks I.) and 68 Sandwich Terns (61 on Fisherman and 7 on Metomkin I.). The Royals near Shanks Island represented only the 4th breeding record for the Bay, all of which have been there. At this site 21 Royal nests (20 with one egg; one with 2 eggs) plus about 40 Black Skimmer nests were found June 20 (PRS,



Two views of the ad. Black-tailed Gull at Sandy Point S.P., Md., July 7, 1984. This would establish a first record for eastern North America, if accepted; see text for a discussion of its origins. Photos/Claudia Wilds.

AH) This is n of Tangier I near the Maryland/Virginia line An additional Royal colony was on Cobb I. where Truitt found 12 nests July 6 (*fide* JSW). In *Dorchester*, Md., the Barren I. skimmer colony held 25 nests June 15 including some small young (HTA, MEA) and at Spring I. a tern colony with c. 185 nests consisted of about ¾ Forster's and ¼ Com Terns June 16 (PRS, HTA, AH).

On the w. side of the Bay Least Tern colonies of 111 pairs were at Craney I., in Portsmouth and 300 pairs at Grand View while the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel boasted 450 pairs of Com. Terns and 61 of Black Skimmers (MAB, RAB), these all in Virginia. In Maryland at Big Bay Marsh active nests of Gull-billed, Forster's, and Least terns as well as Black Skimmers were seen July 7 (RFR). Although up to 100 Least Terns were at a colony on Hart June 9 (RFR), production there was very poor in contrast to most colonies of colonial waterbirds along the sea-coast which fared well (BW).

S.A.

Rich as the Region is in colonial waterbirds these were overshadowed by the presence of rare gulls; the highlight of the season occurred at S.P.S.P., Md., where Franklin's Gulls were present June 20-July 30 with four July 25 (HLW *et al.*), a subad. **California Gull** was seen July 11 and later (HLW *et al.*) and an ad. **Black-tailed Gull** was scrutinized July 4-9 (JO, MO, PO, CPW, HM, HLW, BBm, ph.). The latter, *Larus crassirostris*, had previously occurred in North America only in the Aleutians and once in San Diego Bay, this last believed to have been a "man-assisted vagrant." This summer's bird, which was unbanded and showed no signs whatsoever of feather wear, was assumed by many to be man-assisted but if so why did it not jump ship on the w. coast or Panama? The possibility has been raised that it may have been a leftover from the "Siberian Express" of last winter wandering S with similarly-sized gulls from farther n. such as the Franklin's and Ring-billed gulls with which it was in company. Black-tailed Gulls normally occur as breeders in s.e. Siberia ("Sakhalin, Ussuriland and Kurile Is. south through Japan to eastern China and Korea" according to the 6th edition of the A.O.U. Check-list) and winter in most of these areas s. to Taiwan and the Ryukyu Is. This individual appeared at least as wary as the other gulls it accompanied, more so to some of the observers. It is probably impossible to determine whether or not it was a truly wild bird but there is nothing to suggest that it was not.

The only other notable gull was a Glaucous at Cape Charles, Va., July 1 (JSW, CRV, JHB). At Hart, Maryland's best location for them, highs of Caspian Terns were 15 June 9, 70 July 4 and 45 July 15, excellent summer counts (RFR). A Royal Tern was at sea 60 mi off Wachapreague, Va., July 14 (BT). At Chinc. an apparent imm. Sandwich Tern with a bill "entirely dull yellow" was studied July 19 at Fishing Pt., possibly a Cayenne Tern, a tern considered by most to be a race of the Sandwich Tern and found on the central e. coast of South America (WK, HLW). At Hunting Cr., s. of D.C. in Virginia, 210 Forster's Terns July 19 provided a good local count (DFA). At Gwynn's I., Va., 100 Least Terns were seen July 5-6 where the observer had found none in 1982 (BP) and one in D.C., June 27 provided only the 4th record from there (DC) A late Black Tern was at Parramore I., Va., June 3 (BG), one was at Mills I., Md., July 7 (RFR, DH *et al.*) and 42 were at Chinc., July 26-27 (CPW). Always notable on the upper Bay, a Black Skimmer was at S P S P., July 18 (WK, HLW).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — After an extremely late arrival in spring, Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued to arrive well into June, following a May when tent caterpillars were practically absent (v.ob.). Their scarcity was indicated by a total of only 12 plus only two Black-billed Cuckoos seen on a Regionwide cooperative bird count May 12 by 69 observers in 29 parties (*fide* JMA). A Black-billed at Irish Grove Sanctuary s. of Crisfield, Md., July 9 was very unusual for the lower E. Shore (RFR, DH). On the Susquehanna R., Md., Schutsky observed a Barred Owl which had captured a yellow perch in July. On the Virginia islands Com. Nighthawk continued an apparent decline and was found only on Myrtle I. (BW). In the Virginia Piedmont, Bass counted 27

Whip-poor-wills at Nokesville June 4, one of the state's higher all-time counts, and saw a late Olive-sided Flycatcher there June 7. A singing Willow Flycatcher was at Jamestown, Va., June 3 (BW), possibly a late migrant, and one was in D.C., June 21 & 28 indicating a probable first breeding for there. Most unusual were well-documented sightings of single **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** at Oak Grove, Va., s.e. of Fredericksburg on the Potomac R., July 9-12 (WT, LL, JEJ, SJ, ph.) and a Maryland bird n. of D.C. at River and Sycamore Landing Roads July 1 (F & JR). In this context a W. Kingbird report from H.M.P., June 16 seems possible but no description was received (EW, VK, *fide* RAA)

The coastal breeding population of Horned Larks was represented by small numbers seen June 10-14 on Metomkin, Cedar, Hog, Cobb and Myrtle islands (BW *et al.*) and 2 pairs were on the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel June 15 (TK). Purple Martins nested a week to 10 days late in most areas with good success along the coast, fair success farther inland although they were plagued by snake predation in many places (MKK). The big roost in Salisbury built up from 125 as early as June 11 to 350 by June 25, 1200 by July 8, 5000 by July 31 and 10,000 Aug 4 (CRV). The one in Hampton, which had an estimated 80,000 birds Aug 11, 1983 (TK, RAB) had several thousand by July 12 (TK). Among the first signs of fall are the post-breeding swallows which appear in areas where they do not nest as early as the start of July. Among this year's first were a Tree at Balt., July 4 (RFR, HLW), 15 N. Rough-wingeds near Easton, Md., July 6 (RFR, EB) and 50 Banks at Hurlock July 6 (EB, RFR). An extremely late Bank Swallow was at Bloodsworth I., June 16 (HTA).

Brown Creepers were found breeding at Dranesville District P., Apr 29 (MTS, *fide* FRS) and at H.M.P., June 12 (EW, *fide* RAA, CH *et al.*), the first such records for *Fairfax*, Va., and breeding was suspected at Rock Creek P. in D.C. (DC). Gregoire noted high E. Bluebird mortality due to spraying with paraquat in connection with no-till agriculture and indicated that the low rodent populations caused worse than usual snake predation on low nesting birds. Late spring migrants included a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Rockville, Md., June 1 (MO) and a Swainson's Thrush in D.C., June 10 (DC). One of the outstanding phenomena of the summer was the widespread presence of Cedar Waxwings in a multitude of places where they are usually not seen past early May. This presence included many instances of confirmed breeding, especially on the E. Shore at places such as Salisbury (*fide* CRV), *Dorchester* and *Wicomico* (SHD) and even in *Accomack*, Va. (*fide* BS) plus such anomalous sightings as 20 at Elliott I., Md., June 23 (HLW). This waxwing summer invasion was unprecedented for this Region. The only Loggerhead Shrike was on the Lynchburg, Va. "C.B.C. in June" on June 2 (*fide* MPM).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Lynchburg also produced the only report of a Solitary Vireo plus 15 Warbling Vireos June 2 (MPM *et al.*). A singing Blue-winged Warbler was at Nassawango Cr. near the lower Pocomoke Swamp, Md., June 3 as in the past 2 years, far from the nearest known breeding area (SHD). Presumed as very early post-breeding wanderers were an ad. ♂ Tennessee Warbler at Jarrettsville, *Harford* July 26 (JO) and three ad. ♂ Am. Redstarts at Tilghman I., July 12 (JKE) in Maryland. The latest spring migrants included a Tennessee Warbler at Rockville, Md., June 1 (MO), a Magnolia in D.C., June 3 (DC), a Magnolia and a Canada Warbler in Chinguapin Park, Va., June 3 (RH), a Magnolia, a Canada and a Blackburnian at H.M.P., June 4 (KHW, KS), a Black-throated Green Warbler at Deale, Md., June 3 (WK), a Blackburnian Warbler at Chinc., June 1 (RY), single Mourning Warblers at Nokesville June 4 (KHB) and D.C., June 3 (DC), a Wilson's Warbler at Arlington, Va., June 3 (RAA), plus more than the usual number of Blackpoll Warblers through the first week in June (v.ob.). These all added up to one of the best tallies of migrant warblers in June ever witnessed here.

The Lynchburg June 2 census recorded 303 Indigo Buntings (MPM *et al.*). Dickcissels continued to be seen at widely separated spots and in perilously low numbers such as three at Curles Neck, Va., June 10 (FRS, JWD, BR), one at Nokesville June 10 (KHB), five at Middleton, Md., July 1-3 (JO, MO), a pair at Pollesville, Md., July 8 (PO), and three at Walkersville, Md. in July (LF, DF, *fide* DHW). How they persist in the face of regular mowing of most of these areas is a mystery Seldom reported in the capacity of a breeder, an ad. Savannah Sparrow with a juvenile was at Fourpoints in n.e. *Frederick*, Md., July 21 (RFR)

A range extension for Seaside Sparrow as a breeder was made when four were found on Newport Marsh up the Wicomico R. in *Charles*, Md., June 23 (RFR, EB) off the lower Potomac R. Ringler *et al.* added to knowledge of the Swamp Sparrow's very spotty breeding distribution by finding three on Kent I., June 17, one at Allens Fresh June 23 (first evidence of breeding in *Charles*), one at Muddy Hole Rd., *Wicomico* July 9, five at Hart July 15 and one at Bachman Mills in *Carroll* July 1, all but the last in areas along the Bay in Maryland.

Remarkably late White-throated Sparrow singles were in D.C., June 2 (DC), at Chinquapin P., June 3 (RH) and at Newport News June 7 (BF, *fide* TK), still another sign of the remarkably late spring as were these Bobolink records: 50 at Rockville, Md., June 1 (MO) and two extremely late birds in strong N flight at Bloodsworth I., June 16 (HTA, AH, PRS). Anomalous were six at the Susquehanna R., July 18 (RMS). Far s. and e. of their usual Virginia breeding range were two N. Orioles at Newport News through the period (TK, D & MM). The House Finch continued to consolidate its recent range expansions in places such as Newport News (D & MM) and Lynchburg where 11 were seen on the June 2 census and where they have been seen each summer since 1978 (MPM).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

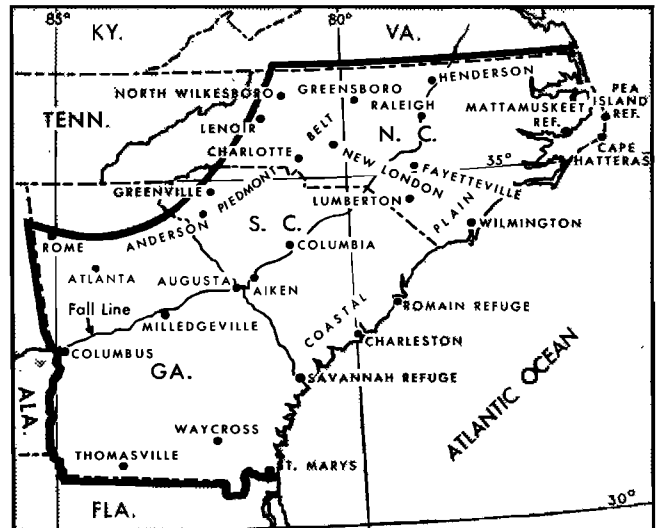
/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

Summer 1984 was characterized by unseasonably mild temperatures and heavy rainfall, with July being exceptionally wet. Most species seemed to have successful nesting seasons, and no major storms disrupted the colonies of waterbirds along the coast. A number of breeding range extensions of finches were detected, especially of sparrows in the Coastal Plain. And several birders continued their excellent pelagic coverage off the coasts of all three states, clarifying the status of a number of rare species.

In the following text, place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH ANHINGA — Unusual for the Piedmont was a Pied-billed Grebe that summered near Fairburn, Ga. (D & PMcC). This was probably the most exciting summer ever for pelagic birding; thanks to the continued coverage by Lee, Haney, and Forsythe a number of excellent finds were reported (see Table 1). Greater Shearwaters, not at all numerous in recent years, were quite common this summer; besides those on Table 1, Forsythe had them on 8 of 9 trips off Charleston, S.C., in June-July with a peak of 150+ June 24. Yet no one reported a Sooty Shearwater, which peaks in late May and early June. Black-capped Petrels were seen in good numbers, but more notable were the remarkable numbers of Leach's and **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels**, particularly the 47 Leach's reported by Lee June 26. The Band-rumped, considered an accidental only 5 years ago, is now regular in mid-summer; were they simply being overlooked, or is there a population boom (*a la* N. Fulmar and Black-capped Petrel)? Unusual from shore were 20 Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Bodie I., N.C., June 26 (K & KV). About par were the 3 reports of White-tailed Tropicbirds; in addition to those on Table 1, an adult was noted 70 mi off Charleston June 8 (RSc, BK). The first **Red-billed Tropicbird** for Georgia was an immature photographed June 7 by Haney, 90 mi e. of St. Catherines Island. Also considered casual or accidental in the Region a few years ago was the **Masked Booby**; the sightings on Table 1 now give both North Carolina and Georgia a handful of records. (The Brown Booby, however, is still extremely rare, despite the great increase in pelagic observation off all 3 states.)

Single Am. White Pelicans were noteworthy July 5 near Ocracoke, N.C. (LD) and July 9 near Charleston (CB *et al.*). Because the Brown Pelican population in the Region has escalated in the 1980s, a range expansion was bound to happen. Pelicans are now nesting in North Carolina at 7 colonies at 5 sites (JSW *et al.*); just 2 years ago they bred



only in Ocracoke Inlet and the lower Cape Fear R. At long last they were nesting in *Carteret* (15 pairs near Cape Lookout—JSW, HHa); and most significantly they have expanded their range N and for the 2nd straight year were nesting at Oregon Inlet, increasing from 3 nests in 1983 to 65 pairs this summer (JSW). A few Anhingas continued to occur near the coast at Calabash R. in Sunset Beach, N.C. (PJC, HL, RD) and were probably breeding. The species was again present all summer at Jessup's Mill Pond s. of Fayetteville, N.C. (PJC), but its breeding status there is still undetermined.

WADERS — Six+ Am. Bitterns seen and heard in n. *Pamlico*, N.C., July 15 suggested a good breeding population (PJC) for a species whose range is very poorly known in the Region. As usual, no data were received on the fate of coastal heronries. The post-breeding flight of herons and egrets to inland lakes was average, at best, with above-normal numbers of Great Egrets and another lean flight of imm. White Ibises. An excellent inland count of one adult and 45 imm. Little Blue Herons was at *Clayton*, Ga., in late July (TM *et al.*), and an imm. Reddish Egret was a noteworthy find at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., July 24-Aug. 1 (ph., D & MFi *et al.*). For the 2nd consecutive summer, ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen at a pond at Winthrop

Table 1. Pelagic observations in the Southern Atlantic Coast Region

Species	June 26 Oregon Inlet, N.C. (DL)	June 27 Oregon Inlet, N.C. (DL)	July 29 Hatteras Inlet, N.C. (RA,PD)	July 31 Oregon Inlet, N.C. (DL)	June 4-14 ¹ S.C. & Ga. (CH)	July 10-12 ¹ Ga. (CH)
Black-capped Petrel	9	22	60	12	116	8
Cory's Shearwater	251	124	76	47	68	315
Greater Shearwater	420	110	4	52	11	150
Audubon's Shearwater	390	264	16	11	750	20
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	100	98	83	210	166	20
Leach's Storm-Petrel	47	16	1	5	26	—
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	22 +	7	—	4	3 ^{2,3}	1
White-tailed Tropicbird	—	—	1	—	1 ²	—
Red-billed Tropicbird	—	—	—	—	1 ³	—
Masked Booby	—	—	1	—	1 ³	—
Red-necked Phalarope	—	—	—	2	—	—
Pomarine Jaeger	—	—	—	3	7	1
Parasitic Jaeger	—	—	1	—	—	—
Long-tailed Jaeger	1	—	—	—	1 ³	—
South Polar Skua	—	—	—	1	1 ²	—
Arctic Tern	—	—	—	—	1 ²	—
Bridled Tern	4	9 +	—	4	18	1
Sooty Tern	—	—	—	—	7	10

¹Combined totals for the period.

²Seen in South Carolina waters.

³Seen in Georgia waters.

College in Rock Hill, S.C. (*vide* AEC), and might well have been breeding. Quite a surprise away from the coast were 10 ad. White Ibises at L. Townsend near Greensboro, N.C., July 20 (SM, BP, RS); whereas the better totals of immatures were 22 at Durham, N.C., July 13 (JC) and six in Clayton, Ga., July 8 (PM, TM). The only inland sighting of Glossy Ibises was of three at Jordan L., N.C., July 31 (BW, MW). Now regular in small numbers in coastal Georgia, Roseate Spoonbills were reported near Brunswick in June and July with a peak of three July 8 (CH) Post-breeding Wood Storks at the n. end of their range were 15 in late July at Dublin, Ga. (TKP) and 12 at Sunset Beach, N.C., July 28 (RD, HL).

WATERFOWL — A Tundra Swan at Pea I., N.C., was out of season July 27 (AB). Hopefully it was resting, so that it will be able to dodge hunters' shots later on; that state initiates a controversial open season on swans this winter. Also unusual for the summer season were a ♂ Blue-winged Teal at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston June 5 (DBM) and an Am Wigeon at Falls L. near Durham July 21 (SC *et al.*). More than any other diver, Ring-necked Ducks have a penchant for lingering inland at this season; one was near Townville, S.C., May 27 & July 22 (CW), and four again summered in the Atlanta, Ga., area at Peachtree City L. (PB). A year ago in August, a ♀ Com. Merganser was surprisingly found on Roanoke Rapids L., N.C.; a female there this season, Aug. 4 (ML), might well have been the same bird.

HAWKS THROUGH COOTS — The 2nd Piedmont nest record for **Osprey** in North Carolina was reported at L. Townsend near Greensboro, with the nest being built on a power line transformer (HH, D & SD) In fact, it was rumored that the species had nested there for about 8 years! I hope this is not the case; if so, Greensboro birders, who have submitted practically no field reports for years, should be ashamed of themselves. Other Ospreys were noted in June inland at Falls L., N.C. (TH), near Dublin, Ga. (TKP), and 20 mi s.w. of Atlanta (D & PMcC), but the birds were presumably non-breeders. Probable breeders were four Am. Swallow-tailed Kites July 1 along the Satilla R., Ga., at the GA 252 bridge (CH); whereas one June 4 near Yauhannah, S.C., was somewhat n. of its usual range (DBM).

Non-breeding Bald Eagles were widely reported during the summer from c. North Carolina, with at least three at Jordan L. in July (BW *et al.*) Only one report of Sharp-shinned Hawk, near Lesslie, S.C., July 1 (AEC) was a major disappointment; however, there were 6 reports of Cooper's Hawks in late May and June, with the most unusual being near Charleston June 2 (PN, CWA). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk at Sunset

Beach, N.C., June 2 (PJC *et al.*) was probably a late migrant, as the species is not known to breed near the coast of the Region.

Perhaps nesting were eight Com. Moorhens on ponds near Aurora, N.C., Aug. 13 (SP); but further observations will be necessary to determine if Am. Coots are breeding at South I., S.C., where 40 were present May 13, including one bird acting disturbed (DBM).

SHOREBIRDS — Seldom seen in June, a Lesser Golden-Plover in breeding plumage June 21 at Portsmouth I., N.C., was unusual (PBu) Piping Plovers again bred at their s. limits—a pair with two chicks was noted June 1 at Sunset Beach, N.C. (PJC *et al.*). Likely breeding rather far inland, though still within the tidewater zone, were 10-12 Black-necked Stilts a few miles e. of Aurora, N.C., July 11-31+ (SP, JB) The first Upland Sandpipers of the fall were seen in late July near Raleigh (WI) and Pineville, N.C. (CJW), and Dublin (TKP); whereas another *June 21* at Beaufort, N.C. (PBu) was completely out of season, though probably an early migrant. Very rare inland was a Whimbrel in a plowed field near Concord, N.C., July 31 (RR, *vide* BH); two Long-billed Curlews June 21 were at Portsmouth I., N.C. (PBu), where they are possibly year-round residents. Inland shorebirding was rather slow because of high water, though notable were two Sanderlings near Dublin July 17 (TKP); a Baird's Sandpiper near Townville, S.C., July 22 (CW); Stilt Sandpipers near Whispering Pines, N.C., July 18 (JHC *et al.*), Dublin July 17 (TKP), and Clayton July 28 (PB); and Short-billed Dowitchers at Whispering Pines July 18 (JHC) and Dublin July 21 (TKP). A rather late spring migrant was a Red-necked Phalarope off Cape Lookout, N.C., June 5 (JF, HHa).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS—One of the highlights of the season was the Region's first inland record of **Pomarine Jaeger**—not just a single bird for a single day. Remarkably, as many as *three* inhabited L. Townsend near Greensboro, N.C., on the surprisingly early dates of July 14-Aug. 1 (HH *et al.*). In addition to those Pomarines reported in Table 1, others offshore were one off Charleston June 9 (DF) and four off Cape Lookout June 5 (JF, HHa). Haney observed one of Georgia's very few **Long-tailed Jaegers**—an adult 85 mi e. of Cumberland I., June 6. Likewise, the **South Polar Skua**, practically unknown in South Carolina waters, was detected there twice—95 mi off Charleston June 10 (ph., CH) and 30 mi off Charleston June 24 (DF). Seldom seen inland in mid-summer was a Laughing Gull at Clark Hill Res., Ga., June 17 (CH); and single Bonaparte's Gulls were unseasonable June 2 at Sunset Beach (PJC) and July 27 at Little St. Simons I., Ga. (LR).

Weske and party banded Royal and Sandwich tern chicks along the

entire coast of North Carolina. They banded 17,629 Royals and 2839 Sandwiches, a notable increase in the latter over 1983 (2114 birds) but essentially the same total as in 1983 for the Royal. In that state, Weske also noted a nest of Caspian Tern at Ocracoke, another nest near Frisco, and a pair of birds at Oregon Inlet that possibly nested. This species has bred in the state for about a decade, always only a few pairs per year. Inland Caspians, migrants of course, were four at Roanoke Rapids L., N.C., June 16 (ML, KL) and two at L. Townsend July 21-31+ (HH). Also at this latter lake were three Com. Terns July 28 (HH) and up to three Forster's Terns July 18-31+ (HH, AB). Other inland Forster's, seldom seen there so early in fall migration, were singles at nearby L. Brandt July 18 (HH) and Sweetwater Creek S.P., Ga., July 28 (D & PMcC).

An Arctic Tern 100 mi e. of Hilton Head I., S.C., June 13 (CH) was not only a late spring migrant but also provided only the 3rd or 4th record for the state. Numbers of Bridled Terns seem to vary from year to year more than do those of most other pelagic species. This was a rather lackluster summer for them, with the best one-day count being only 9+ (see Table 1); quite notable were two seen within 15 mi of Cape Lookout June 5 (JF, HHa). Haney had the only Sooty Terns of the season (Table 1). Very rare inland were single Black Skimmers at Jordan L., June 23 (MegL *et al.*, *vide* TH) and in July at L. Moultrie near Moncks Corner, S.C. (C & EP).

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — McNair had large numbers of calling Whip-poor-wills in areas to the s.e. of the nesting range—nine on May 9 in Calhoun, S.C., and eight on May 10 in the e. portion of Francis Marion Nat'l Forest, S.C. These dates seem too late for all the birds to have been migrants, and more field work, especially in late May or June, is warranted for e. South Carolina because of these results. An active nest of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers was found in the e. Piedmont near New Hill, N.C., this spring (RB, JW); the two nestlings were banded by wildlife biologists.

Willow Flycatchers continued to breed at Winston-Salem, N.C. (RS), and a new Piedmont locale was noted along the Dan R., N.C., e. of Eden (!), where one was singing June 16 (HL). A singing Willow June 3 at Cape Lookout was obviously a late migrant (JF, HHa). Gray Kingbirds continued to breed in coastal Georgia: a pair with young was seen June 18 at Sea I. (D & PMcC), where regular, and one in downtown Brunswick in May was still there July 1 & 8 (CH). It may have been asking too much for the extremely out-of-range pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers to nest for a 3rd year in the South Carolina Piedmont; no birds appeared this summer (*vide* AB). However, a migrant certainly provided fireworks July 4 near Merrimon, Carteret, N.C. (K & ABro). Whether Horned Larks are actually expanding their range SE in the Coastal Plain is uncertain, but observers continue to detect birds farther outside the known range each summer. In this category were 10 (3 family groups) at Greenville, N.C., June 10 (HL, ML, KL), singles at two sites in Calhoun, S.C., May 10 & 17 (DBM), and six near Vienna, Ga., June 24 (CH).

An intriguing report was received concerning the possible breeding of Bank Swallows far out of range at Savannah N.W.R., Ga. On July 7, six to eight were flying around 4 holes in a bank of a borrow pit, but apparently none was seen to enter a hole (PN *et al.*). As the species nests in the Region only at one site in n.w. North Carolina, proof of breeding at the refuge needs to be more conclusive, and observers should check the site next summer in May and June. Cliff Swallows were known to breed in Georgia only at several lakes in the n. Piedmont; thus, six seen June 17 at the U.S. 378 bridge over Clark Hill Res. (CH) were presumably breeding along the s. edge of the Piedmont. Within the known range, nesting was reported for the first time at L. Townsend (HH), and there are now at least 2 small colonies at Jordan L. (HL *et al.*).

CROWS THROUGH VIREOS — Fish Crows are seldom seen in Georgia's c. Piedmont; thus, notable were singles near Washington June 17 (CH) and at Athens June 19 (*vide* RTD). A pair of House Wrens again bred at Fayetteville (HR) at the edge of the range; and Sedge Wrens may have nested in n.e. Pamlico, N.C., where numbers of singing birds have been found in late July and August in previous years. Crutchfield and party reported five July 15, including a "noisy family group." This is one step closer to the Region's first conclusive nesting of Sedge Wren; for most other species, such evidence *would* be conclusive, but the

unpredictable and erratic Sedge Wren requires further proof of nesting.

The equally unpredictable Cedar Waxwing made news throughout North Carolina, outside the usual range. The first nesting for the Sandhills was provided by a flightless young in Whispering Pines July 15 (P & TV), and another nest was seen being built July 2 near Bunn (JC), in the e. Piedmont. Farther to the e., an agitated pair was of interest June 10 in Chowan (BWi). In addition, there were at least a half-dozen other reports of the species in June and July throughout that state and n. South Carolina; some may also have nested. The reasons for this unprecedented outbreak of waxwings are unknown.

A Solitary Vireo nest was discovered July 8 s. of Durham (GM), and there were sightings in June and July, also in North Carolina, at Crowders Mountain S.P. (PH), Duke Power S.P. (PH), s.w. Granville (HL) and e. Warren (ML). Another Solitary must have been on a summer vacation at Jekyll I., Ga., June 18 (D & PMcC).

WARBLERS — A Blue-winged Warbler was apparently on territory May 16 near L. Jocassee, S.C., but it could not be found May 27 (DBM). Yellow Warblers have become quite rare as breeders in the e. Piedmont, so an adult and an immature during the summer at Zebulon, N.C. (RD) furnished a notable record. A range extension of the Prothonotary Warbler to the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains was evidenced by a small colony found June 8 where the Linville R. enters L. James, N.C. (DC). Birders have made great strides in expanding the known breeding range of the Worm-eating Warbler in the North Carolina Coastal Plain, and possibly breeding were two singing in Cumberland in late May (PJC). One June 16 near Charleston was seemingly out of range (PN, CWa), and unusual for the e. Piedmont was one on territory May 14-27 near Cary, N.C. (HL). Seldom reported, a nest of the Swainson's Warbler was found during the season at South Mountains S.P., N.C. (JSo, *vide* PH). A range extension of the Ovenbird was noted by McNair, who found a singing bird June 4 near the Horry, S.C., airport, just a few miles from the coast.

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELLINES — Somewhat e. of the previously known breeding range were Scarlet Tanagers in w. Lenoir, N.C., June 1 (HL) and near Fayetteville June 2 (JH, DCh). Patterson had a male and ♀ Painted Bunting near Dublin this summer; the species is very sporadic there and has not nested in recent years. This was a noteworthy summer for the Dickcissel in the Coastal Plain of Georgia and South Carolina, where it is extremely rare as a breeder. Colonies mentioned in the Spring Season *Am. Birds* report were followed into June; 2 family groups were seen near Dublin (TKP), 2 family groups were also noted near Cayce, S.C. (J & LS), and four ad. males and two females were near St. Matthews, S.C., June 6 (DBM). Another Dickcissel was seen in Georgia's Coastal Plain near Vienna June 24 (CH). Disappointingly, none was found anywhere in June-July in North Carolina, nor anywhere in the Piedmont. Bachman's Sparrow was formerly widespread as a breeder in the Piedmont but is now nearly extirpated, as old-field habitat has matured into pine forests. A handful still occur there—one was 25 mi s. of Atlanta June 2 (PM, TM), Wooten had four on 3 Breeding Bird Survey routes in June in n. and n.e. South Carolina, one was in s.w. Halifax, N.C., in mid-June (ML), and a remarkable eight singing birds were in s.e. Chatham, N.C., June 30 (HL).

S.A.

A highlight of the summer was the discovery of another population of Lark Sparrows in the North Carolina Sandhills. Carter *et al.* followed a group at Nijmegen Drop Zone in w. Ft. Bragg, N.C., noting three or four adults June 26 and a juvenile July 5. An adult and two juveniles were in a different part of the drop zone July 10. A few were again seen near Derby in nearby Richmond (HL, KK). Thus, a viable breeding population is established in a suitable yet highly restricted habitat—sandy and rather sterile fields or pastures with a combination of bare ground, herbaceous plants, and scattered saplings. Lark Sparrows might well be occurring in the Sandhills province of South Carolina and Georgia.

Despite the apparent termination of the Payment-in-Kind farm program, Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from many areas in the Coastal Plain, outside the known range. In Georgia, they were observed

at 3 sites near Dublin (TKP), near Americus June 20 (MO), and near Vienna June 24 (CH); in South Carolina, four were singing May 9-10 in Calhoun (DBM); and in North Carolina, one was near Fayetteville June 2 (JH, DCh) and four were at the Greenville airport June 10 (HL, ML).

S.A.

Two years ago, Henslow's Sparrows had not been reported in the breeding season in the Region since the 1950s. After finding a few colonies in the North Carolina Coastal Plain in 1983, Merrill Lynch and LeGrand stepped up their search for additional colonies in other clear-cut pocosins this summer. They found Henslow's seemingly everywhere they looked, and up to 10 sites contained singing males in Pitt, Beaufort, and Martin. Large numbers were located at three Voice of America antenna fields, including 20 at one in s.e. Pitt June 23 (HL, EPo). LeGrand also extended the range far to the s., finding four singing in a savannah near Maple Hill Aug. 18, and most amazingly, at least four singing in the Green Swamp in Brunswick June 3 & July 28, in a clear-cut pocosin planted in pine saplings. Further search in upcoming summers will certainly uncover more Henslow's, as many counties with suitable habitat have yet to be surveyed.

A Ø Purple Finch at a feeder in Douglasville, Ga., all summer (TD; ph. examined by TM) was remarkable. The House Finch is not yet

known to breed anywhere near the North Carolina coast, and observers who saw males at Cape Lookout June 3 (JF, HHa) and Shallotte June 9 (RD) considered them to have been non-breeders.

CORRIGENDUM — Georgia's first specimen of Manx Shearwater (AB 38:189) was collected by Peter W. Stangel, not by Chris Haney

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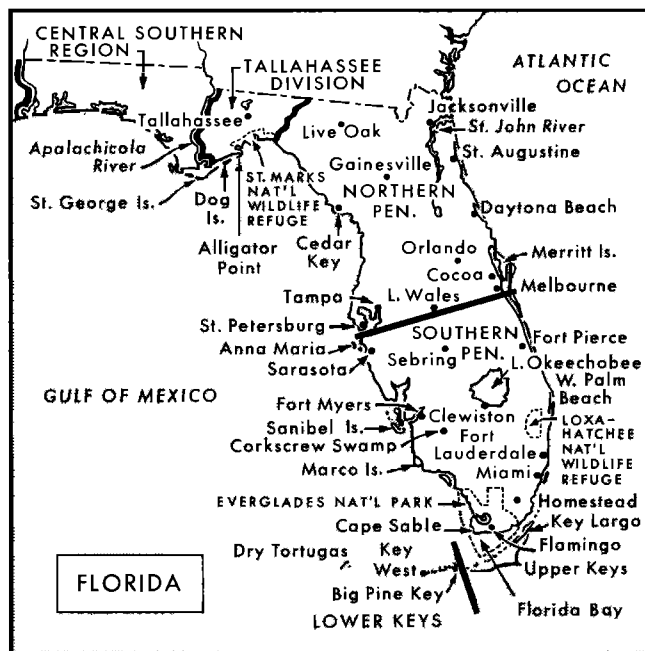
FLORIDA REGION

/Richard T. Paul

The best description for the weather in the Florida Peninsula this season is that it was "moderate." It wasn't too hot, wasn't too rainy, wasn't too memorable. June 1 and 2 were notable for sparkling days with record-breaking cool temperatures that plunged to 47° F at Jacksonville, 53° at Tampa and Orlando, and 66° at Miami Beach. Otherwise, nothing happened out of the ordinary. There were no tropical storms, and just one depression that grazed the northeastern corner of the state in mid-June. Rainfall, though slightly below average (in Tampa, at least), was enough to maintain water tables at their normal high levels throughout the state. If this hampered inland shorebirding near Tallahassee, as Henry Stevenson suggested, it certainly didn't hurt near Belle Glade where observers reported large numbers of shorebirds in late July (see below).

From Tampa Bay north, mangroves and other coastal vegetation were devastated by the 1983 "Christmas freeze." At Alafia Bank there was a nearly complete kill of the mangrove canopy used by nesting Brown Pelicans and other species. Other vegetation, primarily Brazilian pepper, *Iva* and *Lantana*, was less affected. Impacts on bird populations were not immediately obvious, although White Ibis appeared to compete for the remaining "green" sites for nesting (J. Urquhart). I had expected the pelicans in particular to be affected by the lack of cover, but found no change in nesting distribution. Instead numbers increased suddenly in May to over 1000 nests, 50% above the previous high count, and nesting success was excellent. It may be that effects will become more pronounced as the dead canopy deteriorates: nesting birds may have to use other substrates or even other islands until the canopy regenerates five to ten years from now. Possibly passerines suffered more immediate damage than the colonial birds; Herb Kale was unable to find any Black-whiskered Vireos along the Courtney Campbell Causeway west of Tampa, where they have nested in the past, and I found them nearly absent along the east shore of Tampa Bay.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Every year at least one summering Com. Loon is reported. This year was no exception, with one at Pepperfish Key, Dixie Co., July 8 (AW). The White-tailed Tropicbirds at Ft. Jefferson, present since April, may have attempted to



nest. One bird was seen in incubating position for at least a month (until June 25), but no egg or young was seen (WR, m.ob.). Masked Boobies, reported breeding at the Tortugas in the Spring 1984 report, remained into the summer with seven seen at roost on Middle Key June 5 (BB, JB). The same observers also saw one Brown Booby at the Tortugas June 5 & 6. Another, an immature, was seen at Molasses Light off Key Largo June 3 (SS). American White Pelicans may have summered at Pepperfish Key, where 100-150 were found July 8 (AW). Brown Pelicans increased by one-third in Tampa Bay, to about 3000 pairs at the 3 colonies, despite the severe freeze damage noted above at Alafia Bank (RP, SS, BZ). It is not clear whether this increase resulted from immigration or real population growth, since there was no statewide survey this year. The few available reports on other colonies, however, do not

suggest a marked decline at those sites. Cortez (Sarasota Bay) was down slightly at 270 pairs (RP), ABC Islands were down somewhat at 560 while Estero Bay was up 50% at 285 (THB), and Florida Bay was up at 450+ (OB). There were no reports on Seahorse Key, the only large colony n. of Tampa Bay, the big Charlotte Harbor colonies, or the e. coast.

Five hundred pairs of Double-crested Cormorants were nesting at the White Springs Phosphate Mine Mar. 6 (J. M. Lynch); I believe this is the largest inland cormorant colony in the state.

WADERS, WATERFOWL — An Am. Bittern at Duda Farms, Belle Glade, July 29 was very early (PS, BF). Two high counts of Least Bitterns were 13 at Teneroc State Preserve July 15 (TP) and 34 at Duda July 29 (PS, BF). "Great White" Herons were widespread this season, with seven reported from the Big Cypress and Delray Beach n. to the DeSoto Prairie. Six were at inland localities (m.ob.). In the Everglades, water levels were somewhat lower than in 1983, and as a result Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets nested in greater numbers than a year ago. However, conditions were still too wet for most heron species to enjoy a good nesting season (OB *et al.*). At Duda Farms July 22, nearly 4000 waders were counted. Highlights were 770 Great Egrets, 885 Snowy Egrets and 1075 Wood Storks (PS, BF).

Glossy Ibises continued to increase at Alafia Bank, with 285 pairs estimated this year (RP). A high count of 830 Glossies was made at Duda Farms June 24 (PS, BF). Since Roseate Spoonbills normally nest from November to February in Florida Bay, the 6 nests found on West Buchanan Key May 16 were quite unusual (GP). Wood Storks managed a moderately successful season in 1984. At least 4750 pairs were found in 26 colonies, and were estimated to have produced about 1.5 young/nest (BP). Four new colonies were found. About 1000 nests were active at Corkscrew Swamp in March but numbers declined 40% by mid-April. At the 3 Everglades N.P. colonies, 850 pairs nested but most failed because of heavy rains in February and March (BP, OB). Large numbers of feeding storks were found at Duda Farms in July, with 1100 the high count (PS, BF). Twenty Greater Flamingos were photographed sometime in June at Key Biscayne (*fide* OB). As usual, their origin is uncertain.

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were abundant at Duda Farms this year, where 5300 were counted July 29 (PS, BF). Mottled Ducks were almost as abundant, with 3500 seen on the same date (PS, BF). Blue-winged Teal were reported from 2 localities: Clear Springs Phosphate Mine (three June 16, PT), and Duda Farms (several dates, with numbers "peaking" at six June 24—PS, BF). One N. Shoveler was also seen at Duda on the latter date (PS, BF). As last year, three Lesser Scaup summered in Hillsborough Bay (RP). Just one Hooded Merganser was reported, a female at L. Arbuckle July 24 (FL). Three Ruddy Ducks were at the Clear Springs Mine June 11 (BC, LG) but no nesting was reported. (If I may add parenthetically, a brood was found in Tampa in 1983 for the 4th Florida nesting record, *fide* GW. Observers should be alert for signs of breeding in the few areas where Ruddies regularly summer in small numbers.)

HAWKS THROUGH GALLINULES — Eleven Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were seen along S.R. 29 n. of the Tamiami Trail June 28 (JR). Another nine near Hickory Mound in the Tallahassee Division July 24 furnished a high local count (JC, J & VLY). Snail Kites continued to show signs of population recovery after the 1980-1981 drought, with 437 found in the midwinter survey. Most were in Conservation Area 3A. Few have returned to w. L. Okeechobee, which was an important population center before the drought (J. Rodgers). The statewide Bald Eagle survey revealed 378 active territories, about the same as last year. They produced 351 young, or .93/active territory (SN). Near the w. limit of their range in Florida, one immature and one ad. eagle were seen near Bristol, on the Apalachicola R., June 20 & 25 respectively (WB). One N. Harrier was seen at Rookery Bay near Naples on the very early date of July 14 (THB). On the other hand, a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Duda Farms June 24 was very late (PS, BF). One Short-tailed Hawk was reported, at Fisheating Cr., June 3 (BB, JB). Single Am. Kestrels were seen s. of Gibsonton June 18 (WH), and near Avon Park (HS) and Lake Wales (FL), both June 19. One or two kestrels were seen 3 mi n. of Gibsonton throughout the period but the power pole nest site used in the last 3 years was no longer available and whether they nested elsewhere was unknown (RP).

While fishing at Hickory Mound Impoundment, Taylor Co., June 15, J. Cavanaugh was approached by a Virginia Rail with two large downy young. He observed them carefully from close range for an hour, and compared written descriptions and photographs to field guide descriptions and study skins to verify the identification. This furnished the first breeding record for the state. Not nearly so rare was the Clapper Rail brood found in the Lower Keys July 31, but it was unusually late in the season (PS, JS). Purple Gallinules and Common Moorhens were common at Duda Farms this summer, with 91 gallinules and 915 moorhens the high counts July 29 & 22, respectively (PS, BF).

SHOREBIRDS — Single pairs of Snowy Plovers nested at Longboat Key (M & BS) and Ft. DeSoto (LA) this year, but there were no other reports during the period. Three Semipalmated Plovers and one Piping Plover at Alligator Pt., July 20 were thought to be early fall migrants (HS). One hundred Am. Oystercatchers were found on a shell reef off the Suwannee R. mouth, with 9 nests May 19 (LW). Hopefully this reflects a growing local population of these delightful birds. A count of Black-necked Stilts at the Clear Springs Phosphate Mine totaled 78 birds, including downy young, June 11 (BC, LG). Stilts were abundant at Duda, where Sykes and Flores found nests, broods, and 680 birds May 27, and where summer counts peaked at 1500 June 24. Other shorebirds were found in large numbers at Duda, with the following highlights from the July 29 count: Lesser Yellowlegs 15,000; Semipalmated Sandpiper 1150; W. Sandpiper 250; Least Sandpiper 5670; Pectoral Sandpiper 790; Stilt Sandpiper 6800 (PS, BF). At the same location a single White-rumped Sandpiper July 22 was thought very early (PS, BF), but two reported last year from w.c. Florida were a month earlier. Unusual too were two Red Knots in the Lower Keys June 22 (PS), a date that does not encourage classification as "late spring" or "early fall."

It has always seemed to me likely that a few Whimbrels and Marbled Godwits must stay in Florida throughout the summer. This season single Whimbrels at Little Carlos Pass June 22 and at Ft. DeSoto June 25, and two godwits each at Alafia Bank June 9 (RP) and Ft. DeSoto June 19 (JR), may have been "summering." More likely to have been returning migrants were a Whimbrel at Virginia Key July 14 (BN), and godwits at Honeymoon I. (five, July 14—BP; one, July 21—PT) and Virginia Key (two, July 14—BN). The best godwit count, however, was at St. James in the Tallahassee Division where 17 were seen July 20 (HS). Long-billed Curlews at Honeymoon I., July 21 (one—PT) and Alafia Bank July 28 (two—RP) were also considered southbound birds.

LARIDS — Two jaegers were reported this season. A Pomarine was seen at the Gulf Stream off Islamorada July 5 (W. Biggs). The other, seen chasing Royal Terns near Naples June 1, was thought to be a Parasitic (R. W. Wilson; details to Fla. Records Committee). Nesting Laughing Gulls have increased greatly in Hillsborough Bay—see last summer's report—and numbered 20,000+ pairs at island "2D" in June (SP, LH). Farther n., the colony offshore from the Crystal R. power plant decreased 50% to 350 birds due to increasing island erosion (P. Bernstein). Twenty pairs of Laughers nested at Hemp Key in Pine I. Sound this year, an interesting site since they were on a small knoll under some gumbo limbo trees (O. Hewitt)! And one pair nested at Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, for the first nesting record there (OB). Florida's 3rd summer Franklin's Gull (and 2nd in 2 years) was a road kill found near Crawfordville July 20 (HS; details to be published elsewhere).

Eight pairs of Gull-billed Terns nested on a spoil island in Hillsborough Bay this season (SP). Twenty Gull-billeds were at Duda June 24 (PS, BF), where they have nested in the past. Caspian Terns abandoned their Alafia Bank colony site in April when a nighttime boater ran aground—did he ever—but regrouped on a nearby spoil island and peaked at about 45 pairs (RP, SP). Royals nested successfully at Passage Key, with as many as 1200 pairs counted in early June (SP). Roseate Terns again nested on the flat-roofed buildings of the Key West Naval Air Station's Truman Annex, where July 19 Sykes and C. Faanes counted 100+ including 25-30% flying young. Some adults were still feeding unfluffed young. Least Terns nested in small numbers on rooftops in Bradenton (3 sites), Tampa (2), Clearwater, s. Jacksonville, and Key West (m.ob.), but the best news was from the Marco area where 500 pairs at 2 natural sites were successful despite considerable human disturbance (THB). At Caxambas Pass 200 ± pairs of Black Skimmers

also were successful, with at least 100 young produced (TB). At Duda 175 skimmers seen June 24 was a high number for an inland site, and the highest ever for that locality (PS, BF).

PIGEONS THROUGH WRENS — One White-winged Dove was seen June 5-6 in the Tortugas, an unusual locality (BB, JB). In Tampa's Swann Circle P., four parrots are reported to reside. On June 3, two were seen at a hole in a tall pine: a Violet-crowned and a Blue-fronted (A & LS, RP). On No Name Key July 20, Sykes and Faanes enjoyed a leisurely look at a pair of Mangrove Cuckoos feeding two fledged young. Four Burrowing Owls were reported from as many burrows at Marco I., but there was no evidence of successful nesting (THB, TB). Burrowing Owls at Imeson P. in n. Jacksonville fared better, with half the 15 birds seen in early August being young of the year. Antillean Nighthawks were still vocal in the Lower Keys July 19, when PS and CF found five.

Summer records of hummingbirds are scarce but this year there were three: two (possibly the same bird?) at Casey Key June 27 and July 21, 24 & 29 (S & AS), and one July 12 at Naples (THB). The Belted Kingfisher remaining at Tierra Verde until early June was intriguing: perhaps nesting? A few years ago extensive surveys in the Big Cypress Preserve revealed scattered clans of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in "islands" of uncut slash pines; welcome news indeed. This year 23 clans were reported, with nesting activity observed in 12 (D. Jansen).

Several observers reported early southbound movements of Purple Martins, the earliest being June 24 when 16 were at Duda (PS, BF). One Cliff Swallow was reported, at Everglades N.P. headquarters June 20 (C. Miles). In late May, 5-10 pairs of Barn Swallows nested in Franklin County under the Panacea Bridge, a new site (HS), and the same species was reported to be nesting in "3 or 4" locations around Duval County (SG). A single Barn, northbound near S. Boynton Beach June 21, was very late (PS). A Marsh Wren sang in a Hillsborough Bay *Spartina* marsh until mid-April, but could not be found thereafter (RP, LH). We still lack information about the sedentary race *marianae*.

MYNAS THROUGH WEAVERS — Mynas were found in 2 s. Florida localities. A Common Myna was seen at Duda Farm July 29 (PS, BF), while four Hill Mynas were detected at Dinner Key, Miami, June 28 (JR).

Reports of warblers were few, and mostly indicated that they began to move S during the latter half of July. A couple of records stood out, however. A Palm Warbler and an Am. Redstart at Ft. Jefferson June 5-6

were late (BB, JB). A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler singing at Highlands Hammock S.P., June 22 was intriguing, since there is no nesting record for the county (JH). A Hooded Warbler in O'leno S.P., n. of Gainesville, June 19 (JR) was near the s. breeding range limit for that species. A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was found at Zellwood July 9 (BC, LG) at the same spot where one was found last year, and a singing male at Rock Springs Run S.P., June 23 suggested nesting there (HK, GB). Single Indigo and Painted buntings at Ft. Jefferson June 5 were unusual; the Indigo attracted the attention of a Cattle Egret, which ate it (BB, JB). Another Painted Bunting was singing June 7 at Eastpoint, a new locality (HS, Mrs. F. Stoutamire).

Bachman's Sparrows are rarely reported, so word of one singing near Devil's Garden June 14 was welcome—and unusually far s. for a summer record (HS). Brown-headed Cowbirds offered additional signs of population increase: a pair copulating at Ft. DeSoto in May (LA), a large fledgling being fed by a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in s. Jacksonville July 6 (JPC), and a flock of 100 in Gainesville July 30 (B. Mush-litz). A pair of Orchard Orioles nested successfully in Ocala, fledging two young in late May (LG). This was at the s. edge of their range. By contrast, an Am. Goldfinch at Birch Park, Ft. Lauderdale June 2 was several hundred miles s. of its normal summer range (WG, FJ), and a real summer rarity for s. Florida. And last but by no means least, a ploceid first seen n.w. of Tampa about July 19 turned out to be a Vitelline Masked Weaver (*Ploceus velatus*). It wove an elegant onion-shaped nest but attracted no mate, and disappeared in early August (RP; further details to be published).

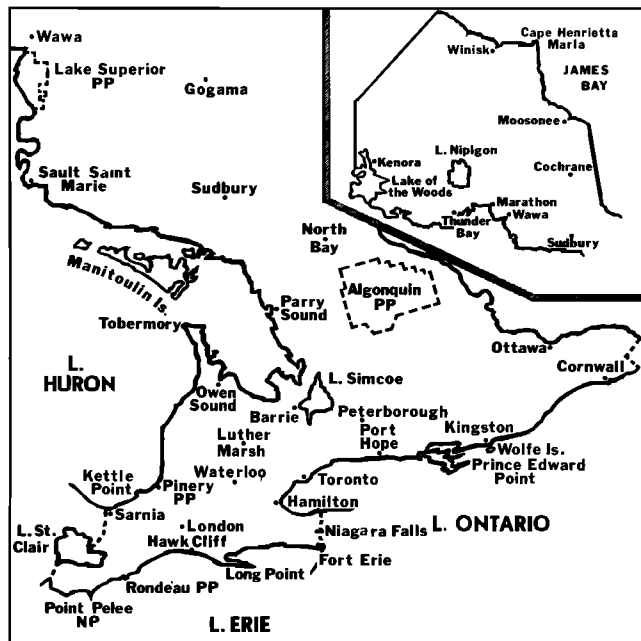
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ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

Cold weather during May caused an unusually long delay in the northward migration through Ontario. When the warm weather finally arrived by early June, heavier than usual passage was evident in the south even into the second week of the month. Several species that reach their northerly limit in the southwest of the province, and which usually arrive by mid-May, did not return in numbers until mid-June. South of Sudbury, warm dry conditions prevailed throughout June to be followed by more unstable wet weather during July, all of which appeared conducive to successful nesting. The northerly parts of Ontario remained wet and cool all summer which, when taken with the early spring thaw, provided ideal conditions for waterfowl.

In this fourth year of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project, several groups explored the remote north coasts and their waterways. Devotees searched along James Bay concentrating in the areas of Moosonee, Shipsands Island, North Point, Attawapiskat and its offshore Akimiski Island. They continued their surveys along Hudson Bay at Cape Henrietta Maria, the Sutton River mouth continuing west to Winisk and Fort Severn. Parties canoed the lengthy Sachigo-Severn Rivers from the interior to Fort Severn on the coast, investigating offshore Partridge Island, as well as the Winisk River through the Hudson Bay lowlands. Their findings are stimulating, exciting and tremendously valuable, reading like accounts of the early travelers to Canada's remote north. It should be noted that Akimiski Island, along with most other islands in



Hudson and James bays, is within the political jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories, which are located some 1500 km to the north and which are not represented in *American Birds*. Political boundaries are ignored and the main findings of the atlasers on Akimiski Island are included below.

ABBREVIATIONS — P.E. Pt. = Prince Edward Point; Pt. Pelee is a National Park and Rondeau is a Provincial Park. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A pair of Red-throated Loons and young were at Hook Pt., Cape Henrietta Maria in June where a nest was also located, only the 3rd ever for Ontario (RDJ). Lingerers in the s. included six at Burlington June 2-3 (DG, KMCL) and one at Bowmanville (MJB). The Arctic Loon in Whitby harbour June 1 was in breeding plumage and was probably one of those seen in the area this past spring (R&JK). Also in breeding plumage was one of the two at Akimiski I., July 11-12 (AGC, PB, KFA). Six Commons were at Akimiski I., July 28 (SRK *et al.*); 90 adults were in Bayley Bay, Atikokan, June 19, an unusual concentration for the time of year (MMO). The only Horned Grebe reported was at Bronte June 3 (DG, PW), the same day 15 Red-neckeds were at Burlington (DG, KMCL). Up to 10 Red-neckeds were seen in courtship display near Cochrane, but neither nest nor young was found (ERA, JHA). A single was seen along the Severn R., July 28 (SRK *et al.*). Two Double-crested Cormorants were well n. at Shipsands I., July 8 (AGC, PB, DS).

HERONS — The Am. Bittern nest found at Cape Henrietta Maria in June provided the first confirmed breeding for the area (RDJ) and several birds were noted along the coast from Moosonee to the Sutton R. mouth July 8-21 (AGC, GM). Least Bitterns were reported from Rock Point P.P., Ingersoll, Matchedash Bay, Georgian Bay Islands N.P., Peterborough, Kaladar and Kingston. A lone Great Blue Heron wandered to 60 km n. of Moosonee July 10 (PB). Post-breeding movement of the white herons in the province was weak. Single Great Egrets were at Algonquin P.P., June 16 (RGT), Cobourg June 22-23 (ERM), Oliphant June 23 (JWJ), Pembroke July 9 for their first ever (PVB), Cranberry marsh and Oshawa Second Marsh July 12 (MJB *et al.*), Munster (ph. LS. BMD) and Collingwood (DB), both July 15. The only Little Blue Heron noted was an adult at Calabogie, *Renfrew* June 4 (BL, RB, JK). Single Cattle Egrets were at Ottawa, nearby Munster and at Winchester, all June 2 (BMD, RJ), and along Humber Bay June 8 (MPW). The Green-backed Heron was reported as scarce in *Middlesex*, *Elgin* and s. *Huron* (*vide* WRJ). A long-standing active breeding site for Black-crowned Night-Herons in London has been ripped out to make way for an apartment complex, underscoring the problem of habitat destruction as a prime cause of declining bird populations. The single Black-crowned at Hearst July 1 was n. of its usual range (NH). The only Glossy Ibis reported was near Aurora June 11 (P. von Stam).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Two broods of Tundra Swans were at Cape Henrietta Maria in July (RDJ) and 11 more broods were w. along the Hudson Bay coast (HL, KFA). About 100 at the Sutton R. mouth in early July were thought to be non-breeders (KFA). In the s., two were at Comber June 3 (TH, MR, PP) and another remained at Mitchell to July 18 (JBM, MPD). An ad. Snow Goose visited Atikokan July 10 (DHE) and 150 were banded on Akimiski I., July 13 (AGC, PB, KFA). An ad. ♂ Ross' Goose was also caught and banded there July 13 (ph. AGC, KFA, PB). The two goslings with it were either progeny from pure Ross' or hybrid Ross' x Snow parents (AGC, RDJ). The only other confirmed breeding of Ross' in Ontario was w. of Cape Henrietta Maria near the Shagamu R. mouth in 1975. The last spring Brant were 50 over Kingston June 10 (K.F.N.) and two at Ottawa June 13 (BMD, AT).

Lambton's first confirmed breeding of N. Pintail was discovered near Sarnia June 25-July 6 when a brood was photographed (AHR). Two Blue-winged Teal were 100 km n. of Attawapiskat July 15 (AGC, KFA). The mated pair of **Cinnamon Teal** at Townsend June 23-July 2 was struck by tragedy when the female was found dead July 9 (RC). The male was present to at least July 21. A pair of N. Shovelers at Attawapiskat July 10 may have been the successful breeders there during 1983 and another pair was 100 km farther n., July 18 (AGC). The only Eur.



Adult male Ross' Goose on Akimiski I., N.W.T., July 13, 1984. Two goslings with this bird established the first local breeding record, second for the Ontario Region. Photo/A. G. Carpentier.

Wigeon reported was the male in Cranberry marsh June 23 (J&NL). The ♀ Am. Wigeon with her brood at a North Bay sewage lagoon July 24 established the species' first confirmed breeding there (GFC).

Unusual were a single ♀ Canvasback off Amherst I., June 3 (PG), a male at Port Severn June 14 (RLB) and a male in Cranberry marsh July 12-16 (MJB *et al.*). The 4 nests of Greater Scaup found at Cape Henrietta Maria in June and July were the first for the province, although broods have been found previously (RDJ). A lone Oldsquaw summered in the Petrolia sewage lagoon (HGC). The last of several reports of White-winged Scoters in the s. was of two near Main Duck I., e. Lake Ontario, July 2 (JHE). The ♀ White-winged with her brood near Winisk July 19 furnished one of the few confirmed breeding records for Ontario (PB). Several ♀ Com. Goldeneyes were along the Sachigo R. in early July (SRK) and two summered in the Cranberry marsh (MJB). Also found along the Sachigo R. were a pair July 14 and a single agitated ♀ Bufflehead July 17 (SRK). In addition to the 14 sightings of Ruddy Ducks at sewage ponds, a female and six young were at Blenheim lagoons July 5 (PAW) and a brood at Englehart lagoons July 6 (AGC, PB).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Nests of Turkey Vultures were found at Calabogie, Kingston, Manitoulin Island and Ayr, the last site in a broken limb of a basswood tree (PE). For the 2nd consecutive summer, one was at Winisk July 28 (GF, PS, J&PW). One pair of Ospreys built their nest atop a 50m hydro tower near Burwash (JGL) and the canoe trips down the Winisk R. and Severn R. yielded 11 and 2 pairs respectively (GF *et al.*, SRK *et al.*). The pair of Bald Eagles in Rondeau raised three young (KJB). An ad. Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen carrying food along the Sachigo R., July 10, and two others were found downstream (SRK *et al.*). In the s., 2 nests of Cooper's Hawks were reported along with probable nesting of several others. The ad. N. Goshawk at Moosonee July 22 was rare for the location (AGC, DS, PB). A Broad-winged Hawk summered in Short Hills P.P. (RWK) as did a pair near Kettle Pt. (SL). Another pair nested at Komoka for the area's first in decades (PRR, WRM). A Red-tailed was at Winisk around July 21 (AGC, PB). The last of several sightings of Rough-legged Hawks in the s. was at Burlington June 18 (RC). In the n., one was along the Severn R. 150 km s. of Hudson Bay July 9 and two others were at Partridge I. and Winisk later in the month (SRK *et al.*).

GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES — The lone Spruce Grouse summering in Bon Echo P.P., *Lennox & Addington* was of interest as it was well s. of its current range, but in an area formerly occupied by the species (HGC). Some broods of Willow Ptarmigan were located in the Cape Henrietta Maria area during June and July, but the species was judged to be at a low point in its natural cycle (RDJ). The ad. Sharp-tailed Grouse with six chicks at Winisk in July may have established the first confirmed breeding from the n. coast (GF, PS, J&PW). Another bird was found near the Sutton R. mouth July 17 (AGC). Yellow Rails

were common enough on Partridge I., July 26-29, to be seen easily (SRK *et al.*)! The spring King Rail in Carr's marsh between Port Hope and Cobourg was present to June 5 (BO). At least one Sora summered in suitable habitat at Cape Henrietta Maria (RDJ) and the Purple Gallinule at Stoney Pt. was last seen June 27 (PP).

SHOREBIRDS — Outstanding records have been confirmed from the n. coasts, areas usually inaccessible to observers. At Cape Henrietta Maria, 4 nests of Lesser Golden-Plovers were found, and first substantiated breeding in the area was established for Spotted Sandpiper and Common Snipe on the basis of downy young (RDJ). Farther w. at the Sutton R. mouth, breeding was verified for Whimbrel and Dunlin (AGC, PB, GM) On Akimiski I., July 10-14, Solitary Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit and Short-billed Dowitcher were proven as breeders (AGC, PB). In the s., nests of Wilson's Phalarope were located during June at sewage ponds near Russell for Ottawa's first (BMD *et al.*) and at Blenheim (PAW) as the species' numbers continued to rise steadily. Sightings of Ruff continued to set records after the 11 of last spring. A male in black breeding plumage was at Mitchell July 9 (AW, MR), another male at Ft. Erie July 18-19 (HHA, RWK, B.O.S.) and a female at Havelock July 30-Aug. 4 (AGC). None was reported by atlasers working along the n. coasts.

Late spring migrants included single Marbled Godwits at Rainy R., June 6 (GY) and Milverton June 15-16, only the 2nd known for Perth (MPD, JKO, MRO), Ruddy Turnstones at Kettle Pt., Amherst I. and North Bay all June 3 (m.ob.), Dunlin at Ottawa June 20 (FM) and five Red-necked Phalaropes also at Ottawa May 27 (BMD). On Pelee's onion fields, single Lesser Golden-Plover and Semipalmated Plover appeared June 3 & 14 respectively in first-summer plumage (AW). The lone Semipalmated Plover at Bright's Grove June 25 was likely a non-breeder (AHR), but the Pectoral Sandpiper summering at Harrow since June 4 was injured (AW *et al.*).

Observers in the s. noted the extraordinarily early return of waders which conformed with the appearance of staging flocks along the Hudson and James Bay coasts. First sightings were single Lesser Golden-Plover at Hamilton Bay July 15 (PW), Greater Yellowlegs at Oshawa June 30 (DVR), Lesser Yellowlegs at Bright's Grove June 25 (DFR) and Sudbury June 28 (JCN), Solitary Sandpiper at North Bay July 7 (GFC), Willet at Oshawa July 7-12 (LR *et al.*), Upland Sandpiper at Pelee June 14 (AW), Whimbrel at N. Bay July 13 (GFC) and Kettle Pt., July 15 (AHR). Others included Red Knot at Blenheim July 19 (PAW), Least Sandpiper at Wiarton July 2 (JWJ) and N. Bay July 7 (GFC), White-rumped at Oshawa July 19 (MJB), Baird's at Smithville July 22 (KMCL) and Melbourne July 24 (DM), Pectoral at Kingston July 15 (RDW) and Melbourne July 16 (WRJ), Dunlin at Amherst I., July 24 (JHE, PG), 33 Stilt Sandpipers at Amherstburg July 14 (AW, MR), two Buff-breasteds near Samia July 29 (DFR), Short-billed Dowitcher at Cranberry marsh July 11 (MJB), Long-billed Dowitcher at Oshawa July 18 (JMS) and Havelock July 30 (AGC), and Red-necked Phalarope at Casselman July 27 (BMD). Staging was underway along the James Bay coast at Akimiski July 10-14 where 220 Greater Yellowlegs, 565 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 51 Marbled Godwits were tallied (AGC, PB). On the Partridge Island tidal flats, 400+ Hudsonian Godwits were preparing for their S migration July 26-29 and a Red Phalarope in juv. plumage was also present July 28 (SRK *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH GUILLEMOTS — Five ad. Long-tailed Jaegers were migrating SE past the Sutton R. mouth July 18-21 (AGC). An ad. Franklin's Gull appeared at Sudbury June 27 (CJW). A Little Gull nest was again located on N. Limestone I., in Georgian Bay (DB, DVW) but on the n. coast, nesting was confirmed for the first time. Near Attawapiskat, a nest contained an egg and two chicks July 15 (AGC, PB), and farther n. at Winisk, adults were with their four young July 24 (GF, PS, J&PW). Up to 21 flying imm. Little Gulls were seen at Kettle Pt., Oshawa and Cobourg July 14-29, but without a clue as to where they had bred (AHR, MJB, ERM). The flying juvenile at Charing Cross with 19 adults July 23 was a very early arrival for s. Ontario (AW). Out-of-place gulls that exhibited no pattern in distribution were the summering Lesser Black-backed at Oliphant (JWJ), the Glaucous at Goderich June 23 (JBM) and at Maple to June 30 (G. Bennett), single Great Black-backed at Cochrane June 15 (JHA) and Moosonee July 9 & 15 (AGC) and a pair at the Mattawa power dam June 24 that showed no evidence of nesting (GFC).

Two early Caspian Terns were migrating down the St. Clair R., July 20 (DFR) and their numbers reached 55 in Hamilton Bay by July 29 (KMCL). Breeding of Arctic Terns was substantiated at the Sutton R. mouth July 18-21 (GM) where first noted in 1962, and also farther s. at Akimiski I., July 10-14 (AGC, PB) where first reported in 1978, but apparently without confirmation of actual nesting at that time. Still awaited is first nesting evidence of Black Tern along the n. coast where 28 were near Moosonee July 15-18 (AGC, KFA, PB). Some 1100 migrants gathered at Leamington July 27 (AW, TH). Two **Black Guillemots** were feeding offshore at Houston Pt., Akimiski I., July 12 (AGC, PB, KFA), which is farther s. from the Cape Henrietta Maria breeding site of 1957.

PARAKEETS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Pelee's Monk Parakeet was still present June 21 (AW). True to form, Black-billed Cuckoos were reported very scarce in many areas and common in others, especially *Frontenac*, *Lennox* & *Addington*, counties heavily infested with tent caterpillars (RDW). Fifteen of the 17 E. Screech-Owls brought to the Owl Research & Rehabilitation Foundation in Vineland Station were juveniles, of which 13 were releasable (KMCK). The lone Boreal Owl admitted was also a releasable juvenile that came from Ignace. Great Grays were found at 2 sites in Cochrane June 11 (RS, MK) and at 2 sites along the Sachigo R. in early July (SRK *et al.*). Since no nesting record of Long-eared Owls is known for *Lambton*, the pair near Wyoming was of interest and was thought to have nested (DFR). At least three Chuck-will's-widows summered at Rondeau (PAW) and another was calling near Wheatley June 25 (SW). The credible Whip-poor-will call heard midday at N. Bay in June turned out to be a versatile Gray Catbird (GFC), which hopefully confined its mimic skills to daylight hours. This summer's record of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird along the Hudson-James Bay coasts came from Moosonee July 6 (PB). The nearest known nesting location is at Sudbury some 500 km to the s., but nesting farther n. is not unlikely given the few observers in these remote areas.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported in increasing numbers from the s.w. with summering individuals n. to Wingham (JBM), Peterborough (BM) and Richmond, only Ottawa's 2nd summer record (EP, BMD). *Lambton's* first confirmed nesting of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker occurred at Kettle Pt. (AHR) and *Peterborough's* first of Black-backed Woodpecker came from Mount Irwin June 28 when adults and young were found (TB, DCS). A ♀ Three-toed Woodpecker summered s. of its normal range at Bon Echo P.P. (HGC). Details are awaited on the Western Wood-Pewee collected in summer at North Pt., n.e. of Moosonee (CR, MF). The specimen has yet to be examined in a museum, but North Pt. has been the site of some outstanding rarities in the past few years. Ontario is without a confirmed record of *Contopus sordidulus*. Summering Acadian Flycatchers were noted at Pelee, Wheatley, Rondeau, and Niagara, but the individual banded June 10 near Wingham was n. of its usual haunts (JBM).

Two W. Kingbirds were found on Manitoulin I., at Silverwater June 9 (CJW) and on Great Duck I., June 9-10 (CGB, JGL, RRT). Another was near N. Keppel, *Grey* June 10 (T. Hilditch, MPW). Observers at Cape Henrietta Maria located a nest containing eggs of E. Kingbird, which were the only kingbirds seen along the entire n. coast (RDJ). This proven breeding is a substantial n. extension of their breeding range. The swallow roost in downtown Pembroke held 5000 birds July 4, which increased to 100,000 by Aug. 2. A census Aug. 2 by staff from Canadian Wildlife Service showed the following composition: 15,000 Purple Martins, 45,000 Tree, 5000 Bank, and 35,000 Barn swallows (KR, JB). Twelve pairs of Barn Swallows summered in a colony at Cape Henrietta Maria (RDJ) and 12 nested at Ft. Severn (SRK *et al.*), where the species is considered rare.

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES — The Gray Jays feeding young at Coe Hill, *Hastings* June 20 were s. of their normal range (TB, DCS). Numbers of Carolina Wrens in the s.w. have dropped sharply and some observers have attributed this to last winter's severe conditions. However, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continued to expand their range and confirmed nestings were at Port Severn, Miller Cr. in *Peterborough*, and P.E. Pt. (4+ nestings) (RLB, DCS, RDW). One bird was in Ottawa



The adaptable shall inherit the earth: American Robins nesting in a hanging planter in a greenhouse at London, Ont., July 8, 1984. Photo/ Marvin S. Smout.



Albino nestling Prairie Warbler at Pinery P.P., Ont., July 1984. Photo/ A. H. Rider.

June 16 (*vide* BMD). Significant range expansion for several species has been documented by atlasers working in the n. Found summering on Akimiski I. were Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's and Hermit thrushes (AGC, PB). Winter Wrens were common along the Winisk and Severn rivers (SRK *et al.*) and Swainson's Thrushes were as far n. as the Sutton R. mouth (AGC). A ♂ Gray Catbird sang for 2 weeks during June at the Winisk airport, apparently without finding a mate (JD), and a stray Brown Thrasher was singing along the Shagamu R. in early July, but its fortunes were not followed up (JPP, CM).

WAXWINGS THROUGH VIREOS — Bohemian Waxwings have been proven as breeders in Ontario from along the Winisk R., where young were being fed in July, and 30-40 were seen by atlasers along the Sachigo-Severn R. (*vide* SRK). This represented a range extension s.e. from Manitoba. The 10,000 Cedar Waxwings at Pelee June 2 were migrants probably delayed by the cold in May (MR, PP, TH). Northern Shrikes were found at 3 sites along the Sachigo-Severn R. during July and one bird was a juvenile (SRK). The species is a scarce but known breeder in the province. In response to my specific request about Loggerhead Shrikes, data were submitted on their nest sites at Appleton, Crysler, Munster, Packenham and Kingston. One pair was near Port Hope and singles were seen at Colbourne, Lindsay, Kirkfield, Cornwall and Winchester. A pair of White-eyed Vireos summered in the Niagara area and nesting was suggested (*vide* RWK), while in the s.w. their numbers were down. Well n. of their usual range were single ♂ Solitary Vireos along the Sachigo R., July 14 (SRK *et al.*) and at Moosonee July 17 (AGC, PB).

WARBLERS — A Blue-winged Warbler nest in n.w. *Middlesex* with 4 eggs during June was the only one reported (D. Martin). Tennessee Warbler numbers were up dramatically in Quetico P.P. and Atikokan areas, presumably in response to a major infestation of spruce budworm (SFP). Unusual for late June were single N. Parulas at Newbury, Rondeau and Pelee (WRJ, RWK, AW, MR) and very rare in any season was the **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Calabogie July 8, perhaps the first for *Renfrew* (B. Penney, J. Budd). The Pine Warbler at Pelee July 28 was probably a premature migrant (TH) and a pair of Prairies in Pinery P.P. produced one albino young that was forced to leave the nest early by young cowbirds (ph. TC, AHR). Ten Prothonotary nests were found in Rondeau (PAW) and another in Pinery P.P. (TC). Northern Waterthrush was confirmed as a breeder in *Lambton*, a county first (HGC, DFR), and three Kentucky Warblers spent June in Rondeau (PAW). Another was killed at a window in Scarborough June 3 (*vide* BDP). Well n. of the known breeding range were a Chestnut-sided, a Mourning and four ♂ Connecticut warblers at Moosonee July 17-18 (AGC, PB). The Connecticut were in a tamarack bog which is typical nesting habitat. Five sites in *Lambton* are now known for summering Hoodeds (DFR). Nesting Wilson's Warblers were confirmed for the first time at Cape Henrietta

ta Maria (RDJ). Numbers of Yellow-breasted Chats were lower in the s.w. and the only nest reported was in *Niagara* (*vide* RWK).

TOWHEES THROUGH LONGSPURS — The ♂ Rufous-sided Towhee at Cochrane was at the n. edge of its range (AGC). Clay-colored Sparrows were found at new sites near Port Hope, Kingston and Moose Cr., with 10 males at the last location (ERM, PG, RDW, HGC). In the far n., 2 pairs were at Moosonee, where nesting was confirmed July 8 (AGC) and singles were at Attawapiskat and along the Sachigo R., July 13-14 (AGC, SRK). Ottawa's first Lark Sparrow appeared at Dunrobin June 13 (JW, RMP, BMD). Most subregional editors reported an absence of Henslow's Sparrows, but one pair summered near Sarnia and a single and 10 males were at 3 sites in *Grey* (*vide* RWK). Four new sites were found in the Kingston area and 3 sites were active in *Prince Edward*, one of which held eight males (K.F.N.). Lincoln's Sparrows nested again in Mer Bleue, summered in the Alfred bog (O.F.N.) and were confirmed for the first time as nesters in *Frontenac* s. of Parham July 21 (RDW). At P.E. Pt., a late White-crowned Sparrow was present June 10 and a Dark-eyed Junco June 3 (DJM). Smith's Longspurs were much more common than Laplands at Cape Henrietta Maria throughout June and July (RDJ).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SISKIN — Several ♂ Red-winged Blackbirds summered at Cape Henrietta Maria, but no female joined them this far n. of the normal range (RDJ). Only three W. Meadowlarks were reported as the species' surge into Ontario during the 1960s and 1970s has waned. Single males were in Essex June 26 (TH), Warsaw



Young House Finch at Ottawa, Ont., June 20, 1984. First confirmed local nesting. Photo/B. M. DiLabio.

July 3 & 6 (R. Smith) and W. Lorne all summer (RP). Nearby at Iona, a ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen in early June (RJK). A pair of Rusty Blackbirds raised young at Cape Henrietta Maria providing the first substantiated nesting evidence for the area (RDJ). That Brown-headed Cowbirds have reached the James Bay coast was evidenced by parent Com. Yellowthroats feeding one cowbird young at Moosonee (AGC).

Only one Purple Finch was reported by atlasers from the Hudson Bay lowlands, that a male along the Sachigo R., July 8 (SRK). Confirmed this summer were first nestings of House Finch in *Simcoe* and *Ottawa-Carleton* (WEZ, BMD), and birds were reported for the first time from Belleville and Napanee (J. Blaney, RDW). Red Crossbills appeared in small numbers in Quetico P.P., Atikokan, Killarney, Sudbury and Algonquin P.P., June 29-July 22. Some 30+ were together along the Severn R. in the Hudson Bay lowlands July 14 (SRK *et al.*). White-wings were more common and aside from Moosonee were confined mainly to the areas from *Temiskaming*, s.e. *Sudbury*, Algonquin P.P. to Pembroke and Ottawa. Largest numbers were around Matchewan with one flock of 100+ and a site where 30+ were killed on the highway, presumably as they gathered grit (LT). Pine Siskins were breeding in Moosonee (AGC) and some 22 were on Akimiski I., July 10-14 (AGC, PB).

CORRIGENDA — AB 38:196 line 39, delete 'or Yellow-crowned'; line 48, insert after North Pt. 'Aug 17'; p. 197 line 45, insert 'Franklin's' in lieu of Laughing; p. 198 line 57, insert 'Parry' in lieu of Perry.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION /Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

Although spring migration had given every indication of being late, few tardy migrants were recorded in June. The majority of nesting, however, appeared to be well behind schedule and nest success seemed far below normal. A series of late-season downpours doubtless contributed to mortality among nestlings and fledglings, and renesting efforts continued through the end of the period. Some of the nesting tragedy reported herein was man-induced, indicating we still have much educating of the general public to do.

On the brighter side, there were several remarkable nesting records, at least one one of which we had predicted earlier; and Vivian Pitzrick and Elizabeth Brooks again found, and most importantly thoroughly documented for the Cornell Nest Record Card Program, nearly 900 nests!

In the following text, place names in *italics> are counties.*

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Although Com. Loons have been noted at over 150 nesting sites in the Adirondacks in recent years, a scant dozen pairs were found in Vermont's Green Mts. this summer. New York birds owe much of the success to the protection afforded their breeding areas under the "forever wild" clause establishing the Adirondacks Park. In Vermont only six young were known to have been

produced this summer as predation and recreational disturbance continued to take their toll. Pied-billed Grebes appear in deep trouble in the Region's shallow water breeding sites as their precipitous decline continues. At Montezuma N.W.R., some of the Region's finest breeding habitat, no broods were seen (VD, *vide* WB).

S.A.

Good news of continued growth of Vermont's Double-crested Cormorant colony on Young I. (now 92 pairs) and establishment of 22 active nests on New York's Four Brothers Is. was overshadowed by word that the Little Galloo colony of 736 nests in e. Lake Ontario was decimated by intruders who bludgeoned over 600 young to death. By far the greatest atrocity to be perpetrated upon the Region's wildlife in recent years, the act demonstrates the need for greater enlightenment of the general public and highlights the vulnerability of colonial, island-nesting species to all types of perturbation, human or otherwise. Although a reward has been offered there seems to be little chance of apprehending those responsible. The recent growth of the Double-crested Cormorant population within the Region places the birds in the unenviable position of being increasingly viewed as potential competitors by local anglers, the presumed culprits in this and other recent incidents.

Least Bitterns were actually better reported than Americans, presumably because their reputed scarcity increases the former's likelihood of being reported. A Regional investigation of ecological factors limiting both species is overdue. Although herons are noted for synchronized breeding, at least within species, the growing Great Blue Heron colony at Montezuma N.W.R. grew throughout the summer, the last young not fledging until the end of August (WB). Monitoring of the Marengo Swamp colony, the largest in the Region, is desirable since nearby logging may be disturbing the birds. Scattered reports of Great Egrets were received from c. and w. New York where the species continues to be a rare but regular non-breeding summer resident. Why this species steadfastly maintains its non-breeding status is a small mystery. Snowy Egrets lost this status when discovered nesting on Young I., L. Champlain this summer (SL *et al.*). Not only was this Vermont's first breeding



record but also, to our knowledge, the first instance of noncoastal nesting by this species anywhere in the Northeast, although inland colonies are widespread in the West. Young Island also hosted the only reported nesting Cattle Egrets although nesting was suspected near Rochester and the Little Galloo Island colony was presumably still active.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS — Mute Swans have been remarkably reluctant to colonize our Region despite their success in coastal areas. A pair at Montezuma N.W.R. throughout June apparently never nested. The pair at Perch River W.M.A., however, was again successful, producing five cygnets. Brant were noted through June 2 in New York, while in Vermont, migrant flocks of Canada Geese were seen at Springfield June 12 and St. Johnsbury June 17, long after Regional breeders had commenced nesting. These flocks of Canadas were more likely to have been comprised of wandering nonbreeders from s. areas than laggardly birds from Arctic breeding areas. Watch for increases in nesting Gadwalls in the Champlain valley in the near future. Ring-necked Ducks were found in *Greene* and *Herkimer* s. of their expected Adirondack breeding areas, and Red-breasted Mergansers in *Warren* were considered possible breeders.

Despite their apparent propensity to proliferate (judging from their current numbers) and prolonged nesting period, Turkey Vultures remain among the most difficult species to confirm nesting. Summering Osprey numbers outside known breeding areas have swelled thanks to hacking program successes. All these birds should be closely watched for evidence of breeding. The same comments apply, obviously, to Bald Eagles, which were also widely reported this summer. Northern Harriers, rare nesters in Vermont despite a plethora of habitat in the Champlain valley, apparently bred at N. Hero this year (DD *et al.*). A dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk reported w. of Rochester July 4 (MD, *vide* G.O.S.) would be unprecedented for summer, if correct.

RAILS THROUGH GULLS — King Rails, almost certainly very rare but regular breeders in the Region, were found at Tonawanda W.M.A. (*vide* B.O.S.), Black Cr. Marsh (KA *et al.*), and, possibly, near Dryden (C.B.C.). Common Moorhens were anything but at Montezuma N.W.R., where they normally breed in numbers. No moorhen or coot broods were found there this year (VD, *vide* WB). The shorebird migrations (northward) continued into early June, ebbed, then reversed directions in mid-July. A Lesser Golden-Plover at Jamestown in mid-June (DCD, RS) was unusually late/early. News that Piping Plovers nested at Sandy Pond in the e. shore of L. Ontario (JB) for the first time since 1959 was heartening, although at least one young was found dead. Only 54 days separated the last departing Whimbrel June 2 and the first southbound arrivals July 26. Smaller shorebirds may spend even less time in the n. breeding areas. June 4 saw a massive grounding of Ruddy Turnstones with 40 on Bixby I., L. Champlain (SL *et al.*) and 100 near Rochester (RGS). Spring peaks in shorebirds (and many other species for that matter) are relatively difficult to document since most overfly the Region unless temporarily grounded by inclement weather. Many years may go by before a sufficient number of such happenstance observations can be accumulated to permit valid assessments of the passage. Although Wilson's Phalaropes were found near Rochester in both June and July, we still await the first nesting record.

Lake Champlain, by virtue of its size, location, orientation, and ease of access, has always struck us as an ideal spot for gull viewing. Despite these virtues the lake has yielded relatively few unusual larids compared to the Niagara R., or various inlets and harbors on lakes Erie and Ontario. Whether the apparent scarcity is real remains to be seen; hopefully the appearance of a Lesser Black-backed Gull June 7 at Port Henry (GC *et al.*) and an imm. **Franklin's Gull** July 11 at Westport, N.Y. (GC, EJ) will stimulate better coverage of this neglected waterway, which effectively links the St. Lawrence and Hudson rivers and forms a corridor for waterbirds between the Adirondack and Green mountains. A Caspian Tern June 13 at Port Henry (GC, JH) was weeks early, or late. Vermont's Com. Terns experienced poor nesting success. Only 14 young were produced from at least 86 nests (SL). Black Terns, once common breeders at Montezuma N.W.R., were virtually absent this summer (WB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH CORVIDS — Both cuckoos remained scarce in the absence of significant caterpillar outbreaks. Owls were, as

usual, poorly reported. A Long-eared at Winhall (WN), Short-eareds at Lockport (B O S) and N. Hero (the latter fledging four young), and a report of N. Saw-whets breeding at a c. New York convent were the only items of even cursory interest. Although Com. Nighthawks appeared on record early dates this spring, the main body of migrants apparently didn't arrive until early June, since it wasn't until June 4 that 150 were recorded w. of Rochester (WS). Nests discovered in S. Hamilton (RG) and in *Herkimer* extended the known ranges of Black-backed and Three-toed woodpeckers, respectively, but, given our rudimentary prior knowledge of these areas, it is unlikely that either finding reflects an actual population increase.

As usual Olive-sided Flycatchers continued to migrate during the first week of June and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Rochester (DS, TT) June 10 was only slightly tardy. A host of new Acadian Flycatcher localities were discovered in New York, including sites in *Tompkins* and *Greene*, and the species now appears to enjoy a greater distribution than at any time since 1900 when it was virtually extirpated from New York for unknown reasons. Swallows are well known for choosing bizarre nest sites, but the N. Rough-winged which chose a scupper of an ocean freighter on the Hudson R. went a little overboard. Fish Crows, known to nest only at Ithaca, were found at a half-dozen sites this summer, including Hamlin Beach S.P. on L. Ontario and several Hudson R. stations near Albany. Common Ravens continued to appear far from known breeding areas and we anticipate further breeding range expansion. Latest sightings were in Ithaca.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WARBLERS — Nesting of Red-breasted Nuthatches was widespread but sparse. Conflicting reports of the status of Carolina Wrens were received but all agreed Sedge Wrens remain extremely scarce. Both Gray-checked and Swainson's thrushes continued to migrate in early June. Two White-eyed Vireos were identified, but the species remains to be confirmed breeding in the Region. In *Osego* we observed more "Lawrence's" Warblers (three) than Golden-winged all summer, but only 50 mi n., Golden-winged Warblers continued to outnumber Blue-winged by better than 2:1 (FS). Although widely distributed and a fairly common migrant, the N. Parula is a relatively rare breeder in the Region. Consequently 7 pairs/mile along the Sacandaga East Branch in *Warren* (RG) was noteworthy. A first state breeding record was established by a pair of Yellow-throated Warblers nesting along Catskill Cr., in e. New York (*vide* RG). Although the pair apparently selected a white pine as a nest site, extensive stands of cottonwood and sycamore were also present as is typical of this species' preferred habitat. Observers should check similar riparian habitats along other major southflowing streams in the Region to establish whether this is our only nesting site, a possibility we consider unlikely. An inobtrusive canopy singer along noisy streamsides, the Yellow-throated Warbler is easily overlooked, but responds strongly to tapes if present.

A full-plumaged ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler in coniferous habitat on S Hill near Maryland, N.Y. in late July (DK, CB) may have been a vagrant or early migrant, but considering recent breeding in West Virginia anything is possible. Reports of Cerulean Warblers were up throughout New York and Prothonotary Warblers were found at several locations in *Greene* and *Albany* (RG). A Kentucky Warbler at Camillus in mid-June (FS) was unusual but a singing ♂ Connecticut Warbler at Winhall June 6-13 (WN) was even farther afield.

TANAGERS AND GROSBEAKS — A W. Tanager reportedly was seen briefly May 16 near Ithaca (HT, *vide* C.B.C.). Clay-colored Sparrows appear to be expanding E. They were found in at least 4 locations in s.w. New York, and a male at Hildale in *Columbia*, e. New York, paired with a Chipping Sparrow and successfully produced two young which were banded before fledging (GW *et al.*, *vide* RG). We wonder how often pairings between ♀ Clay-colored and ♂ Chipping sparrows might occur, and what their chances of being noticed would be. The Region's only recorded W. Meadowlark was, as usual, at Pt. Breeze Field work at Puffer Pond also uncovered breeding Rusty Blackbirds, s. of their usual haunts, but there was no word of any resurgence in Vermont's declining population. At least one Red and several White-winged crossbills were reported from suitable habitat but without confirmation of breeding. Evening Grosbeaks were found breeding in several new New York areas and we anticipate that the species will eventually become a widespread breeder throughout the Region.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a very interesting summer, with perhaps more new information about the breeding birds of the Region obtained than in any past summer. June was very dry and slightly cooler than normal while July was much cooler than normal but had near normal rainfall, most of which came in a few hard storms.

There were three important area studies made this summer. The Brooks Bird Club Foray made a week-long study in Wyoming County, West Virginia, a previously unstudied area in the southern part of the state; the Virginia Society of Ornithology held a foray in the southwestern corner of that state near the Kentucky border at the Breaks Interstate Park; and a group from the North Carolina State Museum investigated the birdlife on Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina. All three of these studies produced some interesting records, particularly of northern species apparently nesting at new southern locations. The following account contains many references to thrushes and warblers at new southern stations.

Another productive development has been the beginning of Breeding Bird Atlas projects in several of the states. Atlas workers, who get into heretofore neglected areas, have been turning up many interesting species, particularly of southern birds nesting northwards, but also of some high elevation species nesting at low elevations. Of particular interest was the discovery of many new stations and higher populations for some of the grassland sparrows.

Since most of these new breeding stations are in previously uninvestigated areas it is not possible to tell which of them represent recent changes. Despite these apparent range extensions, the populations of many of the Neotropical migrants in areas which have been studied over a period of time continue to show declines. To this situation has now been added a new factor. Throughout the Appalachian highlands mature spruce trees are dying, probably due to acid rain. More changes, some of them drastic, will no doubt occur in the future.

The wet cool May seemed to have caused some species to remain well past their usual dates, and a number of normal migrants remained in the

Region in early June. Some of these may have even nested. On the other hand there was rather little sign of the fall migration by the end of July but a few shorebirds had arrived.

ABBREVIATIONS — P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Pa.; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. In the following account, place names in *italics* are counties.

CORMORANTS, HERONS AND IBISES — There was an unusual number of records for the Double-crested Cormorant. The reports from *Butler, Pa.*, June 2 (T & NM), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., June 3 (*fide* KJ), and State College, Pa., to June 7 (MW) may have represented late migrants, but harder to categorize were birds at *Meigs, Tenn.*, June 13 (WJ); *Pymatuning L., Pa.*, June 21 (RFL); *Mosquito L., Ohio*, June 29 & July 19 (CB), and two immatures at P.I.S.P., July 1 (JM).

There were many more Great Blue Herons around in July than observers expected, and the presence of a juvenile at Princeton, W. Va., July 28 (JP) was puzzling since no heronries are known to be near. Reports of Great Egrets were too numerous to list individually. Two Snowy Egrets were seen in *Bath, Va.*, July 20-24 (YL) and Little Blue Herons were seen in *Murray, Ga.*, July 15 (HD) and Staunton, Va., July 14-19 & July 21-24 (RSB, YL). Quite unusual for the Region was a Tricolored Heron in *Murray, Ga.*, July 15 (HD). A Black-crowned Night-Heron in *Butler, Pa.*, June 16 was unusual for that area (DF). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported in July from *Murray, Ga.* (HD), *Elizabethton, Tenn.*, (GW, GE), and *Radford, Va.* (CR). The small nesting colony of Yellow-crowneds near *Salem, Va.*, may be in trouble as only one adult was seen this year (BK).

White Ibises were unusually numerous: the North Carolina side of Great Smoky Mountains N.P., July 23 (RW); a total of 18 birds in 3 sightings near Dalton, Ga. (HD, AH), all in July; Clinton, Tenn., July 15-31 (CN); and *Botetourt, Va.*, July 27 (MWo, BP). A Glossy Ibis at Pittsburgh June 1 (DF) furnished the first definite record for that area. A Wood Stork was reported from near Wartburg, Tenn., July 8 (RG).

WATERFOWL — There were several reports of ducks remaining through the summer well s. of the normal range. A Tundra Swan remained near State College, Pa., all summer. There were mixed reports on Wood Duck reproduction. Some areas reported good numbers of broods, but at P.N.R. no broods were seen (RCL). A N. Pintail remained at Conneaut L., Pa., until June 23 (RFL). A single Greater Scaup, two Lesser Scaup, and a pair of Com. Mergansers were at P.I.S.P. until mid-June (JM); three Red-breasted Mergansers were there June 30 (RFL), and one was at Pittsburgh June 25 (DF). Hooded Mergansers nested at *Erie, Pa.*, for the 3rd consecutive year (JM) and at *Warren, Pa.*, a Hooded Merganser nest (eggs failed to hatch) was found in a kestrel box (WH). Hooded Mergansers were also found at Conneaut L., Pa., June 29 (RFL). A Com. Merganser was at the McClintic Wildlife Station, W. Va., July 27-31 (GP). At *Montoursville, Pa.*, Aug. 5, a brood of 28 young Com. Mergansers with one female was seen (SS).

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND FALCONS — At *Pymatuning L., Pa.*, four Bald Eagles were hatched this year, but the nesting at nearby Conneaut L. was probably not successful (RFL). Other Bald Eagle reports came from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., July 23, one adult and one immature (MW); *Mosquito L., Ohio*, July 29 (two) & July 19 (one) (CB); *Washington, Pa.*, June 4 (DF); *L. Arthur, Pa.*, July 27 (JH, WF); and *Scott, Va.*, in early June (ES). Northern Harriers apparently nested at *Mosquito L., Ohio* (BC), and one was found on the V.S.O.F. in s.w. Virginia June 13 (m.ob.).

In w. Pennsylvania there were few reports of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks (PH), but Atlas workers found about half a dozen



Sharp-shinned Hawk nests in the State College, Pa., area (KJ). A nest of N. Goshawks was found near Warren, Pa., June 10 (DO) and another adult was seen in that area July 9 (NT); one was seen in *Butler*, Pa., June 17 (DF). Red-shouldered Hawks were in good numbers. At Warren, Pa., 4 nests were located compared with 2 last year (WH), and in the *Cabell-Wayne*, W. Va., area, 10 nests were found (TI). Red-shouldered Hawks nested successfully on a busy street in Warren, Ohio (CB).

A Peregrine Falcon was seen in *Allegheny*, Pa., July 4 (HM).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — The N. Bobwhite still remains in small numbers in n. West Virginia (GAH) but there were several reports in s.w. Pennsylvania (PH). However, they were doing well at Waynesboro, Va. (RS) and at the McClintic Wildlife Station, W. Va. (GP). No bobwhites or Ring-necked Pheasants were on the game area under study at Mosquito L., Ohio (CB).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — There were still a few northbound shorebirds present in the Region in early June, and the S migration started July 13-15 with the appearance at several places of Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers, but by the end of the period no large numbers had appeared. Was the Black-bellied Plover at P.I.S.P., June 22 (DF) northbound or southbound? Even more puzzling was the Sanderling at Pittsburgh (very rare at that location anytime), June 21 (DF). More conventional in time but still unusual as to place were the Sanderlings at Union City, Pa., July 27 (JM). Noteworthy records at P.I.S.P. were: Piping Plover July 14 (RHu); Willet, three July 15 (JM); Red Knot July 29 (JM); and Stilt Sandpiper July 22 (SS). A Stilt Sandpiper was also reported from Roanoke July 31 (NMi, MP). There were eight Upland Sandpipers at 3 locations in *Westmoreland*, Pa. (TV). Two Upland Sandpipers were seen at Buchanan, Va., July 28 (MM) and may have nested there. This species did nest at Blacksburg, Va. (SB).

Two imm. **Franklin's Gulls** were seen at Pymatuning L., Pa., July 6 in the company of Ring-billed Gulls and a few Bonaparte's (RFL, ML). Herring Gulls on the Ohio R. at Huntington, W. Va., July 11 were unusual (TI). Caspian Terns were reported from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., five June 19 (first local summer record—MW), from P.I.S.P., June 23 (TS), and from L. Moomaw, *Bath*, Va. (YL). A Least Tern, presumably the one reported there in May, appeared at P.I.S.P., July 15 (EH, NH) & late July (JM, TS).



Adult Least Tern at *Presque Isle S.P.*, Pa., July 15, 1984. Photo/Eric Hall.

CUCKOOS, OWLS AND GOATSUCKERS — In the Pittsburgh area both cuckoos were at the highest populations in memory (PH) and at P.N.R. both had the best nesting seasons in recent years (RCL, RM). However, these 2 localities were alone in this respect and almost all other areas reported both species in very low numbers.

As usual the only records for Com. Barn-Owls came from Lyndhurst, Va. (RS) and from Elizabethton, Tenn., where 2 pairs successfully fledged young (GE). A Long-eared Owl all summer at Grandfather Mt., N.C., provided the first breeding-season record for that state (DL). On July 15 three N. Saw-whet Owls were heard along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Richland Balsam, N.C. (RW). Saw-whets were found at 2 sites on Grandfather Mt., a new breeding-season locality (DL). Most intriguing were freshly molted feathers of a N. Saw-whet Owl found in early August on Laurel Mt. near Ligonier, Pa., where the species had been suspected but never proven to nest (RCL, RM).

Chuck-will's-widows were reported from Lyndhurst, Va. (RS) and from the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., in June and July (HD).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Red-headed Woodpeckers nested in *Washington*, Ohio (LR), near Seymour, Tenn. (PHA), and near Staunton, Va. (YL). The only other reports came from State College, Pa. (KJ), and Jonesboro, Tenn. (RK). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Erie N.W.R., Pa., June 30 (RFL) and this species was more numerous than usual on a Breeding Bird Survey Route near Lock Haven, Pa. (PS).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen June 7 near Newfound Gap, Great Smoky Mountains N.P. (CN), and may have been nesting there. Another was seen at Breaks Interstate P., Va./Ky., June 12 (V.S.O.F.) and a most unusual one was in *Washington*, Pa., July 21 (AB). There was only one singing ♂ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on Mt. Rogers, Va., the southernmost station for this species (PSh). The rest of the genus *Empidonax* appears to be booming. Acadian Flycatchers were numerous everywhere, appearing in well-shaded ravines well n. and at higher elevations than in the past. The Alder Flycatcher is doing very well to the s. A nest was found near milepost 420.2 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., the first nesting for that state (JY). Alder Flycatchers were also present on Mt. Rogers, Va. (*vide* RP) and seven males were found above 5000 ft on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE). Lower elevation records came from *Bath*, Va., July 20-24 (CM), *Butler*, Pa. (DF) and *Allegheny*, Pa. (N & EH) in June. Willow Flycatchers are increasing in the Fairview, N.C. area (RY) and 6-8 pairs nested near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), both of these locations being near the s. limit. On the other hand, none was found at a station in *Buchanan* and *Wise*, Va. (RP). Least Flycatchers nested at State College, Pa. (KJ). This species was also found at about 1700 ft on Shenandoah Mt., Va., in early July (LT) and on the summit of Big Black Mt., Ky., June 14 (BPa, RC).

Tree Swallows continue to move S. For the 5th year they nested at Hiawasee, Ga. (AG). Nestings were also observed at Swannanoa, N.C. (RY), Blacksburg, Va. (CR), in *Hawkins*, Tenn., a new location (WJ), Glenwood Swamp and Beech Fork S.P., W. Va. (TI). The Bank Swallow has seldom been reported as nesting in this Region, but a colony of 50 pairs was at Boaz, W. Va., June 30 (CBe), 10 nests were found near Waynesboro, Va. (RS), and a colony of 250 nests in a mound of zinc-mine tailings in *Knox*, Tenn. (PHA). A colony of 50 nests of Cliff Swallow was found in *Erie*, Pa. (JM), 4 nests were found in *Butler*, Pa. (T & NM) and a pair in *Allegheny*, Pa., June 28 (DF), and a former colony was reestablished at Donegal L., Pa. (RCL). At least 3 new locations near Elizabethton, Tenn., produced young birds (GE).

CORVIDS THROUGH CREEPER — A Com. Raven nest with six young in *Letcher*, Ky. (JMc) was noteworthy as were the two young ravens seen along the Bluestone R. in s. West Virginia (JP). Ravens were present all summer in the Breaks Interstate P., Va., but no nest was found (RP). Two ravens were seen flying over Clarksville, Pa., well away from the usual range July 2 (RB).

The population of Black-capped Chickadees on Mt. Mitchell, N.C., has been extirpated but the species was located at several sites on Grandfather Mt., N.C., all above 5000 ft. This is some distance from any other known population in the s. highlands (DL).

A n. species that nested well s. of its normal range was the Red-breasted Nuthatch. A pair feeding young was seen at Warren, Pa., June 28 (HJ); a pair feeding young at Shelocta, *Indiana*, Pa., June 7 (R & MH); and nesting was observed at Colyer, Pa. (KJ). Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in *Dickenson*, Va., June 15 (RP). A Brown Creeper was seen in *Washington*, Pa., June 25 (AB), a date that indicated probable nesting for this species.

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES — Carolina Wren populations had again been hit hard by the cold winter in a few localities, but at most places they had come through in good shape and recovery from the decimation of the late 1970s continued. The only report of Bewick's Wren came from the North Carolina side of Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Aug. 10 (RW). Winter Wren populations in the usual mountain range were good, and the species occurred well away from the usual range. Adults feeding young were seen on Shenandoah Mt., Va. (LT, MC), and a male with established territory was found in *Erie*, Pa. (JM). Three or more single males were present on the Skyline Drive, Va., in July (DC).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were in below-normal numbers in the Cheat Mts., W. Va. (GAH), possibly the result of the December freeze

in the South, but in the area around P N R on the periphery of the breeding range numbers were above last year's (RCL). This species was found nesting at Shelocta, Pa. (MH).

The Swainson's Thrush is apparently a species to be watched. It had previously been known to nest in a few of the northernmost Pennsylvania counties. This year one was heard on a Breeding Bird Survey Route near Lock Haven, Pa., June 12 (PS); a male sang in *Allegheny*, Pa., through June to July 18 (DF). At P.N.R. the first fall migrants were netted on July 14 & 29, remarkably early (RCL). One was heard in *Sullivan*, Pa., in June (SS), where there had been previous summer records. Populations of Swainson's were normal on Mt. Rogers, Va. (RP), presumably the southernmost point in the range. Hermit Thrushes were also in normal numbers on Mt. Rogers (RP) and one bird was found July 25 on Grandfather Mt., N.C., the 3rd breeding-season station s. of Virginia (DL). This species was unusually numerous in the high mountains of West Virginia (GAH) and was found as far s. as *Wyoming*, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.). Several Hermit Thrushes were singing all through June in *Erie*, Pa., the first intimation of breeding there (JM). A Veery was found in *Dickenson*, Va. (V.S.O.F.).

WAXWINGS THROUGH VIREOS — Cedar Waxwings were somewhat more numerous than normal in summer, but as usual their distribution was spotty. Eight Loggerhead Shrikes, including a pair feeding young, were reported from *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.); 2 pairs near Staunton, Va. (RS, YL), and 2 pairs in the Knoxville, Tenn., area (CN). Except for a lone bird in *Murray*, Ga., July 26 (HD), the above are all the reports of this species received.

White-eyed Vireos nested at Mosquito L., Ohio (CB), were unusually numerous at Wheeling, W. Va. (PT) and were above last year but still below the recent peak at P.N.R. (RM, RCL). Solitary Vireos were above normal in the West Virginia spruce belt (GAH) and a nest was found at low elevation near Waynesboro, Va. (RS). At P.N.R. they were considered to be in low numbers (RCL). Yellow-throated Vireos have been in very low numbers for several years so it was encouraging to get reports from all over the Region indicating above-normal numbers this year. However, in the Pittsburgh area they were still considered to be low.

WARBLERS — The Yellow-throated Warbler continues to increase N, and there was a belated report of one at P.I.S.P., May 12 (ESw). Cerulean Warblers were felt to be low at Pittsburgh (PH). Swainson's Warblers were found in *Wyoming*, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.) and in the Breaks area of Virginia the V.S.O. Foray found the highest populations for the state w. of the Coastal Plain. Yellow-breasted Chats had been in low numbers but Breeding Bird Survey data in w. Pennsylvania indicated some improvement (PH).

The real warbler news came from the large number of reports of n. species summering (nesting in some cases) s. of the normal range (or at lower elevations). A Nashville Warbler was at P.N.R., July 17 (RCL). Magnolia Warblers nested at State College, Pa. (KJ), at low localities in *Erie*, Pa. (RSw, JHw), and one was heard in Pittsburgh, June 15 (VD). Black-throated Blue Warblers were in *Erie* (JM) and *Leslie*, Ky. (BPa, RC, JMc). A Yellow-rumped Warbler was found on Allegheny Front Mt., W. Va. (GAH), the 3rd location in the spruce belt for this species. There must be other stations. Territorial Blackburnian Warblers were found very low in *Butler*, Pa. (PH) and at 1700-1900 ft in *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.). In early June a Bay-breasted Warbler was heard at the West Virginia site where it occurred the last 2 years (GAH) but in late June a concerted effort failed to locate this bird (GH). A most remarkable record was of the nesting of N. Waterthrush at Beaver Falls, Pa. (DF). A pair of Mourning Warblers, carrying food, was seen at milepost 406 2 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C. (m.ob.). This was the location at which the bird was seen in 1983. Another ♂ Mourning Warbler apparently holding a territory was observed in Great Smoky Mountains N P through June (R & AHo). Also found out of the normal range were Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, and Canada warblers.

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — Summer Tanagers nested again at Clarksville, Pa. (RB), and what may have been the northernmost nesting record came from Beaver Falls, Pa. (DF). Apparently there are many more Blue Grosbeaks in the s. part of this Region than had been previously thought. Atlas workers in the s.w. West Virginia area

found them on 7 blocks (TI, GP) At Elizabethton, Tenn., 6-8 nesting pairs were located (GE). One was located near Fairview, N.C. (RY) A Dickcissel was heard near Waynesboro, Va., June 5 (MHe, IO) and another was found on the *Augusta/Rockingham* line, June 20-24 (LT)

There were two reports of ♂ **Clay-colored Sparrows**: one was singing at Zelienople, Pa., June 3 (DF), and at *Erie*, Pa., a male defended a territory in early July, but no mate was ever seen (JS). Most encouraging was the upswing of Grasshopper Sparrows, which had been Blue List candidates from this Region. Once again it was Atlas workers that turned up populations that not only were unsuspected but were also quite high. Typical was the density of 62 males on a 50-acre field in *Rockingham*, Va. (CT), and the high densities in a recovered strip mine area in *Clairon*, Pa. (RWh). Henslow's Sparrows also have shown improvement, but still remain low at Warren (WH) and in the Pittsburgh region (PH). A White-throated Sparrow nested at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., where it had been found in the summer of 1983 (KJ).

FINCHES — House Finches continued to increase in the Knoxville area (CN), the last part of this Region where they have not been numerous. Fifteen Red Crossbills were found at Newfound Gap, Great Smoky Mountains N.P., June 7 (CN) and a small flock was seen at Devil's Courthouse on the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., June 16 (RW). Pine Siskins remained at Norris, Tenn. until June 8 (LF). Two unusually late records of Evening Grosbeaks came from *Fayette*, Pa., June 1 (RS) and *Pike*, Ky., June 18 (*vide* RP).

CORRIGENDA — In the Autumn 1983 account (AB 38:200-204) the following corrections should be made; p. 201: the Wood Stork at Knoxville furnished the 3rd record for e. Tennessee; p. 202: in Table 1 the source of information for Bear Rocks should read (*vide* GP); p. 202: the Franklin's Gull July 23 was seen at *Erie*, Pa.; p. 203: a Western Kingbird (not W. Flycatcher) was seen at Elizabethton.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

June had its characteristic variable weather. In both Wisconsin and Minnesota periods of cool, wet, and stormy weather, including tornadoes, occurred during the first three weeks. Calmer, more typical summer conditions ushered in July in all three states. July saw very warm, dry periods alternating with brief and relatively dry cool fronts. This was a pleasant change from the previous summer. The dry conditions that were developing at the conclusion of the period in no way rivaled last year's.

While meteorologically this summer was a pleasant contrast, ornithologically it was a carbon copy of 1983. The season was exceptionally quiet, actually dull. The exciting rarity was almost nonexistent, and there were few variations from the norm. The spring migration continued into June, which is usual; however the number, variety and length of the migration were considerably above standard. Undoubtedly the overall tardiness of the entire spring—meteorologically and ornithologically—was the prime contributing factor. However once the migrants had departed there was little excitement for the duration of the period. For the Region this was the fifth consecutive season that has been an ornithological disappointment.

In the following text, place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Red-throated Loons are seldom recorded in the Region in summer, so the L. Superior sightings were unexpected. Two birds lingered at Duluth June 7-17 (m. ob.) with one at Grand Marais June 18 (KE *et al.*). Less unusual were summering Com. Loons in s. Wisconsin. Three birds (two adults, one immature) spent the entire period at Devil's Lake S.P. (KLa *et al.*) with another in Madison July 29 (ST). A Horned Grebe was at Manitowoc July 3-5 (CS). Wisconsin's Red-necked Grebes had good nesting success at the Rush L. colony plus the few pairs at Oakridge and Grassy Lakes. Also at Rush L. was a pair of Eared Grebes June 1-20 (TZ). In Michigan single birds were found at the Fremont sewage ponds June 13 (ES, GW) and the Muskegon Wastewater System June 12 (PC, JP, GW). The W. Grebe found on Minnesota's St. Croix R., *Washington*, commencing June 12 was e. of its normal range (*fide* JD).

American White Pelicans were found in all 3 states. While the species nests in Minnesota it is uncommon in the other 2 states. For Michigan one was found in *Monroe* June 30-July 1 (TW, KN, TWi). Wisconsin had one at Rush L., July 13-24 (TZ *et al.*) with four at Ashland July 28+ (*fide* DV). Double-crested Cormorants continued their phenomenal nesting success, with expansion noted in several locales. American Bitterns continued to be reported in below normal numbers. In contrast, observers commented on increased sightings of Least Bitterns.

The s. heron picture remained similar to that of the previous few years. Species within this group continue to be scarce with fewer sightings for most with each succeeding summer. There were only 3 Snowy Egret reports Regionwide, 2 from Minnesota and one from from Wisconsin, the latter a probable nesting. The only Little Blue Heron reports came from Minnesota, with 2 sightings. Cattle Egret sightings decreased sharply in Wisconsin with only one seen at Horicon N.W.R. where they have nested in previous years, one at Manitowoc and 20± at Green Bay where they again nested. Michigan had only one sighting, that at Berrien Springs. Minnesota had a more encouraging note with sightings from 6 locales, an increase over previous years. These included 4 nests at L. Johanna and a maximum of 24 birds tallied at the Pelican L. colony (S & DM). There were only 2 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron sightings Regionwide, with a nest in *Ramsey*, Minn. (SS) and an immature along Michigan's Kalamazoo R., July 3 (BM).

WATERFOWL — Very late Tundra Swans were found June 8 at Duluth (JM), June 20 at Grand Marais (*fide* KE), and in Wisconsin three were seen at Crex Meadows W. A. on June 25 (JH). Again this summer Snow and Canada geese migrated along e. Wisconsin during early June. At Manitowoc several flocks of Canadas, containing a few Snows, moved N along L. Michigan June 1-2 (*fide* CS). Small flocks of Canadas were also seen moving n. of Milwaukee. Inland a flock of 39 Canadas containing one adult Snow (white phase) was seen flying NW over Winneconne June 12 (DT). One Snow lingered at Crex Meadows W. A.



through June 11 (JH). Wisconsin had several out-of-range ducks. Canvasbacks were seen during early June in *Monroe* and *Ashland*, one was present July 15 at Horicon N.W.R., and three summered at Rush L. (TZ). Ring-necked s. of their usual range included six until July 13 at Rush L. and summering birds in *Columbia*. Tardy Greater Scaup were seen at Manitowoc June 2 (DT) and in *Winnebago* June 11 (TZ). Lesser Scaup summered at 4 sites, and individuals were seen intermittently at 4 additional locales. Three Buffleheads lingered on Rush L. until June 16 (TZ). In Michigan a Lesser Scaup was found at the Fremont sewage ponds June 13-July 3. A tardy Bufflehead was in *Leelanau* June 7 (DR)

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — Ospreys seen in Wisconsin's *Crawford* June 17 (MM) and *Dane* July 16 (FF) were s. of their normal range. The Rough-legged Hawk found June 23 in *Aitkin* (KE) represented only the 3rd summer record for Minnesota. The first Minnesota summer record for a Golden Eagle was established by one June 6 at the Felton prairie (DB, OJ). Equally unusual for summer was the sighting of a Prairie Falcon June 23 on the Felton prairie (BE).

Spruce Grouse sightings came from n. Wisconsin and n. Michigan. Yellow Rails were reported from all 3 states. For Michigan they were at Seney N.W.R. (DP *et al.*), with decreased numbers found; Wisconsin's was at Powell Marsh (RH). Besides the usual n. Minnesota spots, one was found July 22 in *Olmsted* (BE), unusually far s. King Rails were heard at 3 Wisconsin sites including Collins Marsh (RSu, MD), Mud Lake W. A. (K & DL) and *Green Lake* (MM). Duluth had one June 9-15 (KE *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — The spring migration continued for at least 21 species into June. Many of these were last recorded around the 10th-15th but a few lingered until late June. Most interesting sightings for Minnesota were Semipalmated Plover—June 20, Lesser Yellowlegs—June 21, Willet—June 12-18, Whimbrel—June 17 (TS), Semipalmated Sandpiper—June 27, Least Sandpiper—June 18 and Dunlin—June 21, all at Duluth, and White-rumped Sandpiper—June 22 at L. of the Woods. Wisconsin's observations included Ruddy Turnstones until June 18 at Madison (ST) and summering at Manitowoc (CS), Semipalmated Sandpiper until June 28 at Manitowoc (CS), a W. Sandpiper June 2 in *Dodge* (DT), White-rumped Sandpipers until June 17 at Madison and Manitowoc (ST, CS), Dunlin until June 15 at Manitowoc and a Short-billed Dowitcher June 6 at Madison (ST). Michigan had five Piping Plovers at Grand Marais June 13 (LW), a Whimbrel June 14 and a Hudsonian Godwit June 8 in *Houghton* (WR), Marbled Godwit at St Joseph June 3 (RS), and a W. Sandpiper at Whitefish Pt., June 8 (RW).

Piping Plovers had a poor nesting season in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Duluth had 6 unsuccessful and only 2 successful nests (LH) while the Pine-Curry Is. in Lake of the Woods had 27 nests but only 12 young successfully fledged (TWie). Wisconsin had no confirmed nests but three birds were found July 31 at Long I., the most consistent nesting site in past years (*fide* DV).

The fall migration had its customary early start. Migrants commenced appearing in late June including Semipalmated Plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers. Other significant sightings included two Lesser Golden-Plovers in *Monroe*, Mich., during July (PY). At St Joseph Am. Avocets were observed July 6 & 15 with eight and one respectively (WB). A Willet was found in Wisconsin at Manitowoc July

9, accompanied by a Marbled Godwit (CS). There was an unusual number of Willets seen in Michigan with a total of 14 birds reported from 4 different locales. A Whimbrel was found at the Muskegon Wastewater System July 24-27 (CK, ES, GW). Hudsonian Godwits are uncommon during the fall, so the single bird in *Mower* July 4 (R & RK) and eight in *Watowan* July 14 (RJ), both Minnesota, were unusual. Very early was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Minnesota's Carlos Avery W.A., July 12 (KL). A ♀ **Ruff** was photographed by A. Bolduc July 23 at Crookston, Minn. A Red-necked Phalarope was seen July 27 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (ES, GW).

LARIDS — A **Long-tailed Jaeger** seen June 7 at Whitefish Pt. represented Michigan's first spring/summer record (RSa, PCh, DPI). The Laughing Gull seen at Manitowoc during mid-May returned at the beginning of June, remaining until July 2 (CS *et al.*). One was seen at New Buffalo June 17 (WB). Franklin's Gulls appeared at 4 different L. Michigan sites in Wisconsin during June with a maximum of four birds (m.ob.). Inland sightings included Waukesha July 14 (WW) and three June 14+ on the Mississippi R. at La Crosse (FL). Michigan had one June 5 in *Houghton* (WR). The customary complement of Little Gulls summered at Manitowoc-Two Rivers. A combination of breeding adults and immatures, totaling nine, was present, but no nesting was attempted due to high water levels on the marsh. One was seen in St. Joseph July 29. Wisconsin had one of its very few sightings for **Least Tern** when Leshler discovered and photographed one sitting with other terns and gulls on a sand bar along the Mississippi R. at La Crosse June 14.



Adult Least Tern on the Mississippi R. near La Crosse, Wis., June 14, 1984. Photo/F.Z. Leshler.

CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Both cuckoo species arrived unusually late this spring (early June), with reduced numbers present for both. There was more than the usual number of Great Gray Owl sightings in Minnesota this summer after the winter invasion. Two nests were again located in n. *Aitkin* (WN). The species was present all summer on Michigan's Bois Blanc I. (StA). Two N. Saw-whet Owls present during the 2nd week of June at Fenton, Mich., were s. of their normal range (m.ob.). The **Chuck-will's-widow** returned for the 4th consecutive summer to Minnesota's *Sherburne*. This time two singing males were heard. It was also found at Nicollet June 9 by Sullivan.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Three-toed Woodpeckers successfully nested at Scenic S.P., Minn., where park staff indicated the species had nested for the past several years. However, there is only one other confirmed nesting record for the state. Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in all 3 states with 2 confirmed nestings in both Wisconsin and Michigan. Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied and Alder flycatchers, notoriously late spring migrants, were still migrating in mid-June. Acadian Flycatchers were found beyond their normal range in Michigan in *Tuscola* July 5 (MW *et al.*) and Minnesota at Forestville S.P., June 7 (BL). Western Kingbirds were recorded in Michigan with single birds June 1 in *Ottawa* (JC) and June 19 in *Kalamazoo* (C & LW).

South of their normal range were Red-breasted Nuthatches in Wauke-

sha and Milwaukee. There were only two Carolina Wrens reported. One was still at Wisconsin's Wyalusing S.P., June 15 (FL) and one was in Michigan's *Kalamazoo* July 27 (RA). The pair of **Rock Wrens** that appeared in Bemidji, Minn., during late May mated and built a nest. Unfortunately it was in a pile of bricks in a railroad yard. Workers disturbed the nest, resulting in its abandonment before eggs were laid. The wrens were last seen June 17 (AS *et al.*). Swainson's Thrushes were migrating through Milwaukee until June 11 (WW).

Northern Mockingbirds were found at 7 Michigan sites including the first Upper Pen. nesting record near Harvey (NI). They were found at 4 Wisconsin sites, including a nesting in *Door* (R & CL). The elusive Sprague's Pipit was seen at Felton prairie June 4 (DB, OJ), one of the few places it is occasionally found in the Region. The Loggerhead Shrike picture showed signs of a reversal of the past 2 summers. None was seen in Michigan and only 4 pairs were in Wisconsin with 2, possibly 3, nesting. In Minnesota the picture was slightly brighter with sightings at 7 locations, including 4 nests.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — Michigan had two White-eyed Vireos during late June in *Berrien* (RS), two singing males in *Hillsdale* (JR), and one until June 16 in *Livingston* (RP). In Wisconsin single birds were located in *Waukesha* June 13 (FB), *Green* June 14 (K & DL) and in Madison during June (m.ob.). Bell's Vireos were found in all 3 states including 10 in Wisconsin, three in Minnesota and two in Michigan. Unusually far s. were two Solitary Vireos in *Waukesha*, Wisconsin on June 24 (JB).

Many warblers were migrating in early June. As many as 13 species were tallied in various locales within the Region, including several s. spots. This was considerably more than is normally expected. Minnesota had several species n. of their normal ranges. They included a Blue-winged June 3 in *Otter Tail* (S & DM), a Golden-winged June 14 in *Cook* (K & MH) and two Louisiana Waterthrushes June 9 in *Pine* (RJ). South of its usual range was a N. Parula along the Galien R., Mich., June 9 (DP, MA). Wisconsin had its first record for the **Audubon's form of Yellow-rumped Warbler** when the Minkebiges leisurely studied a male in their backyard at Kaukauna June 12-13. Four Yellow-throated Warblers were found in Michigan's *Berrien* during early June with at least one present at the end of the period (m.ob.). Also in Michigan three Prairie Warblers were located in *Newaygo* June 10 (SM).

At least three Worm-eating Warblers were found in Wisconsin with only one in Michigan. Kentucky Warblers were found in all 3 states with five in Wisconsin, two in Michigan, and one in Minnesota, where very rare. The Mourning Warblers found at New Ulm and *Washington* during mid-June were s. of their normal Minnesota range. Wisconsin had its usual summer sightings of Hooded Warblers, with five to six this year. Minnesota had its first nesting record at the Murphy-Hanrahan P., with the young successfully fledged (m.ob.). Yellow-breasted Chats were less common than in some years with only four in Wisconsin and two in Minnesota.

TANAGERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS — Summer Tanagers appeared at the Carlos Avery W.A., June 1 (KL) and Holland June 27 (K & BK), both in Michigan. The N. Cardinal continues to extend its range northward in all 3 states. The summer picture for the Dickcissel was varied. Michigan had more observations than in the previous 5 years combined. However Wisconsin had another poor summer representation, despite the fact that a few were found in areas normally associated with an invasion year. The species was tallied in 15 counties, but few birds were noted. Out-of-range Lark Sparrows were found in Minnesota's *Cook* June 1 & July 6 (K & MH) and at Michigan's Whitefish Pt., June 9-12 (TA, RS). The LeConte's Sparrow in Wisconsin's *Marquette* June 6 was unusually far s., unless it was a very late migrant (MM). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at 2 Wisconsin sites, Powell Marsh in early July (RH) and Fish Lake W.A., where 10 were present at least until mid-June (JPK).

Orchard Orioles were present at 2 Michigan sites, including the first nesting record for *Ottawa*. The species was found in 10 Wisconsin counties, with nesting occurring at several sites. The one seen at Pone-mah, Minn., June 2 (AB) was unusually far n. As usual House Finches nested in Michigan with 2 confirmed nests (*Ottawa* and *Kalamazoo*) plus many additional sightings from *Oakland* and *Wayne*. Minnesota

had its 4th record in the last 6 months with a male coming to an Aitkin feeder until June 15 (m.ob.). Only Wisconsin continued devoid of sightings. A few Red Crossbills were seen in the n. part of the Region. The only White-winged Crossbill sighting was of five in late July on Bois Blanc I., Mich. (*fide* RA). There were scattered sightings of Pine Siskins in the s. one-half of Wisconsin.

ADDENDUM — A **Lazuli Bunting** came to Kay Ogren's feeder at Spooner, Wis., May 6-16. It was photographed. This was only about the 4th state record.

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MIDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

June weather conditions varied considerably over the Region. From Illinois eastward, temperatures averaged well above normal while precipitation was below normal, totalling less than one inch in portions of Kentucky and Ohio. In contrast, Iowa and Missouri experienced near-normal temperatures and excessive rainfall which resulted in severe flooding in portions of both states. Weather patterns returned to normal during July. Precipitation totals and average temperatures were near expected readings in all states.

For the most part, it was a largely uneventful breeding season. June's excessive precipitation reduced nesting success of some birds in Iowa and Missouri but such losses were not reported elsewhere. A few first state nesting records created local interest as did scattered vagrants such as Black-necked Stilt in Iowa, Curlew Sandpiper in Ohio and Cassin's Sparrow in Indiana.

As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†). Italicized place names are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — The four nonbreeding Com. Loon reports were normal but distinctly fewer than last year's 12 sightings. Nesting Pied-billed Grebes were widespread in Illinois with a maximum of 60 adults and young at Horseshoe L. (CPa), but numbers were reduced in Ohio. They nested at 4 Missouri locations s. to Springfield. Eared Grebes did not nest but lingered into June at one n. Iowa and 2 n.e. Illinois sites; an adult at Ft. Wayne June 3-6 provided an unexpected late migration record for Indiana (†TH). As many as four dark-phase W. Grebes summered at Rush L., Ia., where a pair accompanied by a downy young July 15-23 provided the state's 2nd breeding record (JD *et al.*). A maximum of 60 nonbreeding Am. White Pelicans was noted at 3 Iowa locations. Farther e. where they are casual in summer, five appeared in *Hancock*, Ill., June 29 (*fide* RC), plus singles at Palos, Ill., June 24+ (PW, m.ob.) and intermittently along w. Lake Erie. Double-crested Cormorants nested in Iowa for the first time since 1966 with 6 nests along the Mississippi R., near Sabula (P) and 11 nests at Coralville Res. (TT). A nearly full-grown young in *Ray*, Mo., July 21 was indicative of possible nesting in that area (NJ, TS). Additionally, as many as 35 nonbreeders were encountered at 20 locations in all states except Kentucky.

HERONS, IBISES — American Bitterns remained distressingly scarce with a total of 10 reports, including 5 sightings in Ohio and nests near Syracuse and near Dixon, Mo. (JW). Breeding Least Bitterns were more widely distributed with local populations scattered across all states except Kentucky. The 35+ nests at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo., comprised an excellent total for this Region while two in *Williamson*, Ill., June 9 (JR) and one in *Iron*, Mo., during June (TW) were s. of their normal range. Great Blue Herons remained stable with 109 colonies reported from Missouri and 29 from Illinois. Great Egrets received mixed reports. They are slowly expanding around w. Lake Erie but



remain stable in Illinois, where 11 colonies were noted, and have declined to only 4 colonies in Missouri. Postbreeding concentrations peaked with 210 at L. Chautauqua N.W.R., Ill., July 23 (KR). Snowy Egrets were scarce near their w. Lake Erie and E. St. Louis, Ill., nesting sites while the s.e. Missouri heronries supported 6 nests near Caruthersville (PS) and 16 nests near Sikeston (JW). Postbreeders appeared at a total of 8 locations in Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio.

Iowa's first nesting Little Blue Herons were discovered at Folsom L., where as many as 36 adults were noted (RS). Their traditional Mississippi R. colonies supported 220 nests in *Madison*, Ill., 1160 nests near Caruthersville, Mo., and 750 near Sikeston, Mo. Nonbreeders were widespread in Illinois while exceptional concentrations consisted of 82 in *Fremont*, Ia., July 10 (BPa, BW) and 250+ in *Ray*, Mo., July 29 (CH *et al.*). The L. Calumet, Ill., Tricolored Heron remained through June 24 (JL) and one appeared at Cleveland July 2 (†M—ph.). Cattle Egrets continued to spread. Iowa's first nesting record was provided by 100+ pairs at Folsom L. (RS). Additional new colonies were discovered in *Erie*, O. (JP) and 55 nests in *Fulton*, Ky. (SE *et al.*). They abandoned their traditional *Madison*, Ill., heronry although 1000+ were noted at E. St. Louis in early June (BR). Other regular nesting sites supported 14 nests at L. Renwick, Ill. (JM), 820 nests near Caruthersville, Mo. (PS) and 900 near Sikeston, Mo. (JW). The largest postbreeding concentration peaked with 300 in *Ray*, Mo., July 29 (CH *et al.*).

Green-backed Herons were thought to be declining at several localities. Black-crowned Night-Herons remained stable including 4 colonies containing 43-394 nests in Illinois and a maximum of 211 birds at Louisville (LRa *et al.*). Summering Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were discovered at 19+ locations n. to the Great Lakes although nesting was confirmed only at single sites in Kentucky, Missouri and Ohio. Three imm. White Ibises were reported near Caruthersville, Mo., June 28 (DJ) while *Plegadis* ibises at one Iowa and 2 Missouri locations lacked sufficient details for specific identification.

WATERFOWL — As a result of this spring's late migration, non-

breeding waterfowl were widely reported from all states except Kentucky. Most noteworthy of these summering records included a Greater White-fronted Goose at the IPL ponds, *Pottawattamie*, Ia., July 27 (BW), a Com. Goldeneye at Cleveland July 28 (D & JH), one Bufflehead in *LaPorte*, Ind., June 23 (RG, KB), a Com. Merganser summering at Magee Marsh W.M.A., O. (m.ob.), and numerous Red-breasted Mergansers along the Great Lakes.

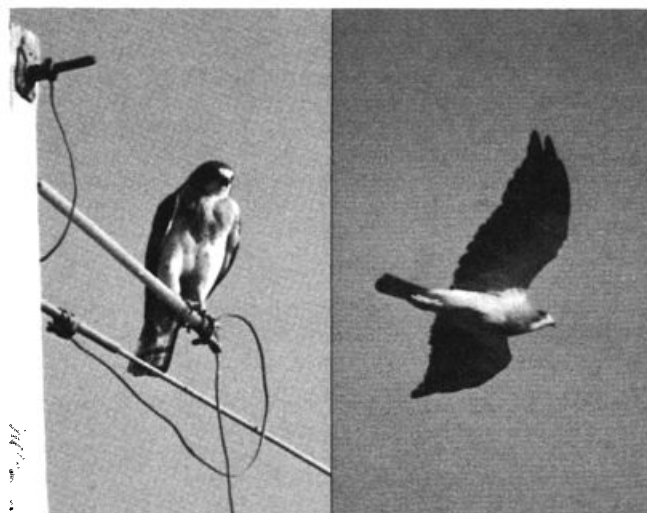
Not surprisingly, the lingering waterfowl also yielded a good variety of nesting records, especially in n. Iowa and along w. Lake Erie where many of these species are casual-to-rare breeders. Two pairs of Green-winged Teal nested at Union Slough N.W.R., Ia. (JF, *fide* JD), while breeding N. Pintail were reported from Magee Marsh W.M.A., O. (JP), *Seneca*, O. (TB), and Decatur, Ind. (LP). Two N. Shoveler nests were also discovered at Union Slough N.W.R., Ia. Small numbers of Gadwalls nested in n. Iowa and along w. Lake Erie where they are probably regular. Redheads nested at 2 locations along L. Erie and also in *Seneca*, O. (TB). Two Ring-necked Duck nests at Anderson L. provided a rare breeding record for Iowa (AT). Hooded Mergansers appear to be increasing. Broods were noted at 8 sites in Iowa, Ohio, Missouri and Illinois, s. to Mingo N.W.R., Mo. (JW), while summering birds were widely reported from the n. states. Ruddy Ducks nested in *Dickinson*, Ia. (HZ), and returned to Horseshoe L., Ill., where six pairs with young were observed July 14 (CPa).

HAWKS — Summering Ospreys appeared at 5 locations this year. A number of young Ospreys have been successfully hacked in Kentucky during the past several summers and may be responsible for some of these records. Mississippi Kites remained stable along the Mississippi R. in Illinois while at least seven territorial birds were discovered in s.e. Missouri. Two recently-fledged kites were noteworthy at Ballard W.M.A. as there are no definite nesting records for Kentucky (SE *et al.*). Extralimital kites appeared at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo., during June (FRe) plus an unexpected adult in n.e. Indiana at Little Cedar L., May 21 (TM, THi—ph.). Bald Eagles successfully nested in n.e. Iowa (*fide* FL) and Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill. (JR), while the Ohio breeding population declined one pair to a total of six.



Juvenile Northern Harrier, from one of three successful nests in one area of Du Page Co., Ill., Aug. 9, 1984. Photo/Joe Milosevich.

were scarce with only 5 sightings and one nest reported. Typical small numbers of Cooper's Hawks were widely reported and 7 nests were located in Missouri during an extensive survey of breeding hawks (JRa). Red-shouldered Hawk populations remained unchanged. Two Swainson's Hawk nests were successful in *Kane*, Ill., this year (JM). Summering Swainson's Hawks were noted at 6 Iowa locations, where the species is a sporadic breeder, while there were 5 sightings in w. Missouri where they are not known to nest.



Adult Swainson's Hawk at Springfield, Mo., July 22, 1984. Photos/Joe Milosevich.



Adult Mississippi Kite at Little Cedar L., Ind., May 21, 1984. Photo/T. Marshall, T. Hicks.

Northern Harriers staged a slight recovery this year. In Missouri, 4 nests were discovered at Prairie S.P. (BT) and one in Bushwacker W.M.A. (JW), while five young fledged from 3 *DuPage*, Ill., nests (JM). Fledglings were also observed at Hayden Prairie, Ia. (JS), and the species probably nested at Grand River W.M.A., O. (J, LR). Summering birds were reported from 6 additional sites. Sharp-shinned Hawks

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — The Missouri Greater Prairie-Chicken populations remained stable at 5000-6000 birds. Last winter's severe weather was responsible for declines in N. Bobwhite populations estimated at nearly 5% in Indiana and 30-50% in Missouri. Rails elicited few comments. Eleven King Rail nests at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo., were encouraging (FRe). However, they remained scarce elsewhere with a total of 7 sightings from the n. states. A Sora nest at Danville, Ill. (SB), and a summering bird in *Iron*, Mo. (TW), were at the s. edge of the species' range. The only extralimital Purple Gallinule was recorded at Little Portage River W.M.A., O., June 16 (†JP). Common Moorhens were generally reported in improved numbers. They were most numerous in n. Illinois and n.w. Indiana with a maximum of 50 in *Lake*, Ind. (TC). A nesting pair in *Ray*, Mo., July 21-22 was unusual for w. Missouri (LM, m.ob.), while summering birds were noted s. to 2 c. Illinois locations and Mingo N.W.R., Mo. Fewer Am. Coots nested in Ohio but normal numbers were reported from their other regular breeding locations. Three pairs of Sandhill Cranes attempted to nest in n.e. Indiana this year, one of which successfully raised young (MW).

SHOREBIRDS — The departure of northbound shorebirds and return of fall migrants conformed to the established patterns of recent years. Numbers were generally low except where suitable habitat was locally plentiful. A Lesser Golden-Plover at Colo, Ia., June 21 provided an unusual summer record (HZ). Piping Plovers nested in Iowa for the 2nd consecutive year with 4 pairs at the IPL ponds, *Pottawattamie*, and 3 pairs along the Missouri R., near Sioux City (BW). The only migrants appeared at 3 L. Erie sites July 24-27. Two **Black-necked Stilts** at Union Slough N.W.R., June 1-2 provided the first record for Iowa (JF, †FM, †RM). American Avocets were scarce with a late spring migrant near Lawrenceburg, Ind., June 5 (TLe *et al.*), while the only fall sightings consisted of one to five from 2 L. Erie locations July 3-5. A late Solitary Sandpiper remained at Springfield, Ill., through June 5 (H). Willets were scarce with only 8 reports of fall migrants; a maximum of 12 appeared along the Great Lakes while one at Louisville July 9 was noteworthy for Kentucky (DN, LRA). Upland Sandpipers have remained fairly stable in most areas and several new breeding sites were discovered in Ohio. Flocks totalling 23-24 in Iowa and Illinois during the last one-half of July probably included some migrants.

Fall Whimbrels were restricted to L. Erie where one or two appeared at 3 sites July 18-29. Spring Hudsonian Godwits remained at 3 Iowa locations through June 3. Fall godwits were restricted to the Great Lakes with single Hudsonians in Ohio July 27 and Marbleds in Indiana and Ohio June 26-July 4. A Ruddy Turnstone at Louisville June 6-7 (LRA, BP) and a Red Knot at Cleveland June 17 (DC) were late spring migrants. Fall knots returned to 2 L. Erie sites July 14-18. Small numbers of W. Sandpipers were scattered across all states during July. Numbers reported continue to increase each year as more observers become confident in their identification of this regular migrant. The only noteworthy shorebird concentrations were reported from L. Chautauqua N.W.R., Ill., July 27, where 500 Least and 800 Pectoral sandpipers were present (KR).

A cooperative ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** remained at Cleveland July 15-18, providing a 2nd record for Ohio (JT, †m.ob.). Stilt Sandpipers were scarce; the largest reported flock was of 42 birds. Two early Buff-breasted Sandpipers returned to *Fremont*, Ia., July 26 (BPa, TBtr). Dowitchers were universally scarce, even along the Great Lakes. Summering Com. Snipe were noted at 2 n.e. Ohio locations where they are probably regular summer residents in small numbers. Two in *Cass*, Mo., June 9 were unexpected, as they are not known to nest in Missouri (JG). Unusual in n.e. Iowa, Wilson's Phalaropes nested at New Albin (DK). Small numbers of fall migrants appeared in most states with a maximum of seven along L. Erie. Spring Red-necked Phalaropes remained in Iowa through June 3 while fall migrants returned to L. Erie during the last one-half of July.

GULLS, TERNS — An unmated ad. Laughing Gull summered in the Ring-billed colony at Oregon, O. (ET *et al.*). It may not be very long before this species begins to nest along the Great Lakes. Elsewhere, two appeared in Louisville June 7 (BP) and Springfield, Ill., June 10-17 (H). Nonbreeding Franklin's Gulls were noted only in Iowa and Indiana. Ring-billed Gulls continued to thrive along the Great Lakes with 3600+ nests at Oregon, O. (ET), another large colony at L. Calumet, Ill. (JL), and possible nesting in n.w. Indiana. Summering gulls have become common even in Kentucky where there were 40 Ring-billeds at Kentucky L. and three Herrings along the Ohio R. (BP). Breeding Herring Gulls remained stable at L. Calumet but the Oregon, O., colony contained only 140 nests. Inland, a pair successfully nested in a goose box at L. Rockwell, O. (LR).

No sizable postbreeding tern concentrations were reported during July. Common Terns continued to decline and apparently did not nest anywhere in the Region. Forster's Terns nested only in n. Iowa, where they are regular; 3 nests were discovered at Ventura Marsh this summer (JH). High water levels hampered Least Tern nesting along the Mississippi R. Nesting did not begin until early June and some colonies still contained nests with eggs as late as early August. Reproductive success apparently was not very good. However, the size of the breeding population was fairly encouraging. A survey of the Mississippi R. in Kentucky produced sightings of 215 Least Terns and discovered 3 definite and 3 suspected nesting colonies (SE *et al.*). The *Pemiscot*, Mo., colony was active for the 2nd consecutive year and contained as many as 49 nests (*vide* JW). They also nested in w. Iowa for the first time in 10

years, with 10 pairs at the IPL ponds (PW). Black Terns were widely reported in Iowa and possibly nested in n.w. Indiana but were scarcely reported from Illinois and Ohio. Several nonbreeders appeared in Missouri where the species is not known to nest.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Mourning Dove populations increased 15% in Indiana but noticeably declined in Missouri. Black-billed Cuckoos were universally scarce although two were s. of their normal range at *Williamson*, Ill., July 8 (TF). In contrast, Yellow-billeds received mixed reports without any apparent Regionwide trends. Fewer Com. Barn-Owls were reported this summer with 7 nests in Missouri plus single birds at Stanley, Ky. (RS) and near State Center, Ia., July 26-28 (BPr *et al.*). The only Long-eared Owl observed was near Republic, O., June 22 (TB), while Short-eareds were observed only in *DuPage*, Ill., where nesting was suspected (JM).

Common Nighthawks were thought to be declining at several localities. Chuck-will's-widows returned to traditional summering locations n. to n.w. Indiana and appeared at Charleston, Ill., for the first time (BH). Few observers commented on Whip-poor-wills although 170 territories in Sand River S.F., Ill., indicated a very healthy population there (RB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird populations remained unchanged in most areas. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted at three n.e. Iowa sites where they are regular and in *Ashtabula*, O., where a small breeding population is expected (J). One at George Wyth S.P., Ia., July 8 was s. of its normal Iowa range (FM, RM). A Pileated Woodpecker at Sand Creek W.M.A., Ia., June 3 had wandered W of its regular range (RHo).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPER — The flycatcher migration was quite evident during the first week of June and migrant Olive-sideds remained through June 11-12 in Illinois and Ohio. Alder Flycatchers remained rare and local summer residents in n. areas with territorial males at regular locations in n.e. Ohio and n.w. Indiana plus singles at L. Calumet, Ill. (JL) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ia. (Jsa). A total of 10 summering Least Flycatcher reports from the n. states was normal for recent years. One male in *Hocking*, O., was the only bird s. of its normal range (J). Good numbers of W. Kingbirds were found in Kansas City but they were scarce in w. Iowa. A pair at Alton, Ill., successfully fledged three young, providing the 4th breeding record for the state (†DB *et al.*). Other extralimital birds appeared in *Adams*, O., June 22 (†D & JH—ph.) and Naperville, Ill., June 28 (†JM). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers wandered to Earlham College, Ind., June 6 (†WM), *Mills*, Ia., June 22 (BW) and Lewis and Clark S.P., Ia., July 21 (†TBtr).

Nesting Purple Martins were locally successful while the largest postbreeding concentrations consisted of 4000 at Louisville July 17 (DN) and 1150 at Keokuk, Ia., July 12 (RC). New Bank Swallow colonies were discovered in w. Kentucky and numbers remained fairly stable elsewhere. An estimated 3600 along w. Lake Erie during late July represented a small fraction of peak concentrations observed there 20 years ago. Cliff Swallows continued to increase with new colonies reported from most states. A total of 50 colonies containing as many as 400 nests was found in Missouri, mostly in the s.w. portion of the state. Following last winter's moderate invasion, Red-breasted Nuthatches nested only at L. Rockwell, O. (LR), while one was noted at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., June 2 (BC). Brown Creepers remain rare but regular summer residents in the n. states where there were 9 sightings s. to Springfield, Ill. (H).

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — Carolina Wrens possibly declined in Missouri as a result of last winter's severe weather. Elsewhere, numbers generally improved in most s. areas but they remained very scarce in n. portions of the Region. Bewick's Wrens remained regular summer residents only in s. Missouri. Populations have drastically declined elsewhere with 4 Kentucky reports including nests at Elizabethtown (GE) and Leitchfield (*vide* KC) plus 3 Illinois nests at Texico (BH) and one at Godfrey (JM). The only Winter Wren reported was in *Clinton*, Ia., June 16 (FL). The unpredictable Sedge Wren arrived in Illinois during the last days of July as evidenced by 24 in *Champaign* and *Vermilion* July 25-29 (RCh); similar movements were not detected elsewhere. They were scarce farther e. although one at Central Kentucky W.M.A., Ky., July 22 was locally unusual (GR).

Eastern Bluebirds had excellent nesting success in most areas. Veeries continued to expand S in the n. states. One at Wallace S.P., Mo.,



Bewick's Wren at nesting tube, Godfrey, Ill., May 27, 1984. Photo/Joe Milosevich.

June 3 (KS) may have been a summer resident or possibly a late migrant as many *Catharus* thrushes lingered into the first week of June. A Swainson's Thrush at Davenport, Ia., July 11-21 (P) was probably an early returning migrant. Hermit Thrushes successfully nested in *Summit*, O., for the 2nd consecutive year (LR). Fewer N. Mockingbirds were observed in Ohio and the species remained quite scarce in the n. portions of the Region. Scattered flocks of Cedar Waxwings were reported from s. areas where they are erratic summer residents. In Kentucky, they nested in *Oldham* (BP) and at Bowling Green (BF) while Missouri reports included nests at L. Jacomo (FSa) and Montauk S.P. (JRa) and flocks s. to Mingo N.W.R. Loggerhead Shrikes remained scarce in n. areas with 8 Iowa sightings, 6 reports from c. and n. Illinois, one s. Indiana observation and 4 Ohio reports including 2 nests in the s.w.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Bell's Vireos nested at Resthaven W.M.A., providing the 3rd breeding record for Ohio (m.ob.). Slightly improved numbers were reported from all other states except Kentucky. The regular small numbers of nesting Solitary Vireos were noted in e. Ohio while one at Salamonie S.F., Ind., July 12 was unexpected (BM, SS). The other resident vireos were generally noted in good numbers.

This spring's delayed migration produced a number of very late warbler sightings. Most noteworthy were a Tennessee Warbler in *St. Louis*, Mo., through June 11 (RK), Magnolia at Euclid, O., June 26 (DC), Bay-breasted in St. Louis through June 23 (RE), N. Waterthrush in *Clinton*, Mo., June 3 (CH), Connecticut in *Hamilton*, O., through June 15 (FR), many Mournings through June 13 and a Canada at Urbana, Ill., June 19 (RC).

Summering Golden-winged Warblers were restricted to Ohio with single males in *Summit* (LR) and *Franklin* (DR). Northern Parulas are increasing in Iowa, where as many as 12 were noted at 8 locations, and in s.w. Ohio where 11+ males were detected. Chestnut-sided Warblers continued to increase in the n. states where they were reported s. to *Vermilion*, Ill. (GW). One in *Oregon*, Mo., June 19 provided a first summer record for Missouri (JRa). The only Magnolia Warblers were reported from their traditional *Geauga*, O., nesting location. Black-throated Green Warblers nested at a 2nd Indiana site with seven males at Brown County S.P. (WZ, *fide* CKe). A singing male at Joliet June 21 was unusual in n. Illinois (PW, JO). A pair of Blackburnian Warblers nested at L. Rockwell, O., providing one of few recent breeding records for Ohio (LR).

Black-and-white Warblers were reported from a total of 7 locations in portions of Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois where they are rare and local summer residents. Two Prothonotary Warblers in *Dickinson* July 26 were unusual in n.w. Iowa (HZ). A Worm-eating Warbler in *Geauga* June 23 was unexpected in n.e. Ohio (J); small numbers returned to traditional locations in Iowa and c. Illinois. Within their normal range, as many as 19 Swainson's Warblers were counted along the Eleven Point R., Mo. (JRa, DJ), while singles were noted in *Alexander*, Ill. (TF) and *Hopkins*, Ky. (JHn). A pair of N. Waterthrushes probably nested at L. Rockwell, O. (LR); they are casual summer residents in n.e. Ohio. Following this spring's late migration, ♂ Mourning Warblers

summered in *LaGrange*, Ind. (LA) and *Clinton*, O., while three males and a nest in *Summit* provided Ohio's first breeding record since 1960 (LR). Canada Warblers returned to most n. locations where they are regular summer residents and appeared at 2 new sites in n.e. Iowa.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — The expanding Rose-breasted Grosbeak was detected s. to c. Indiana and Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill. (BC) this summer. Blue Grosbeaks were fairly well reported from most areas and continued their N expansion, appearing at Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., Ind., June 16 (SJ). A Painted Bunting in *Ray*, Mo., June 23 was well n. of its normal s.w. Missouri range (SP). Dickcissels were unusually abundant in most areas, reaching their highest population levels in a number of years. Maximum concentrations included 100-120 males at 2 s.w. Ohio sites plus a number of reports of 25-50 birds from the other states.

Bachman's Sparrows remain very scarce. The only sightings were of singles in *Henry*, Ky., June 3 (S, FS) and Springfield, Mo., July 19 (AS). Without a doubt, the most surprising sighting this summer was of a singing ♂ Cassin's Sparrow in *Pulaski*, Ind., June 16-July 2 (SP, fm.ob.—ph.). This unmated bird provided Indiana's first record and only the 2nd from the Region. Three Clay-colored Sparrows returned to the Rockton, Ill., nesting location (B & HS) while Iowa singles at Volga W.M.A. through June 24 (FM, RM) and near Estherville July 19-20 (DE) were unexpected as the species is not known to nest in the state.

A Vesper Sparrow in *Ray*, Mo., June 23 was s. of its normal range (SP). Other grassland sparrows received mixed reports. Savannahs continued their S expansion as evidenced by 160 in *Clinton*, O. (FR), and summering birds in *Scott*, Ind. (JC) and *Jefferson*, Ky. (BP *et al.*). An estimated 120 Grasshopper Sparrows in *Clinton*, O., were not representative of its Regionwide abundance. Largest concentrations were of 10-20 birds in the other states. Henslow's Sparrows were scattered across all states except Missouri. The largest colony was composed of 50+ pairs at East Fork Res., O. (CK, RH), while 15 pairs were remarkable at Central Kentucky W.M.A., Ky. (GR). Since Swamp Sparrows are casual summer residents in Missouri, a nesting pair at Smithville L. was unusual and well s. of its normal breeding range (NJ). Nonbreeding White-throated Sparrows appeared in *Cuyahoga*, O., July 8 (TL) and near Estherville, Ia., July 20 (DE), and a nonbreeding Dark-eyed Junco was discovered at Cleveland June 19-26 (TL). Breeding juncos were noted only at their traditional *Geauga*, O., site this year.

Bobolinks were locally scarce in several n. states. A nesting pair of W. Meadowlarks was noteworthy in *Seneca*, O., as there are few confirmed breeding records from Ohio (TB). Yellow-headed Blackbirds experienced poor nesting success in n.w. Missouri, but were fairly numerous along L. Michigan with 3 nesting reports from n.w. Indiana and maximums of 22-24+ in n. Illinois. No extralimital sightings were reported this summer. Great-tailed Grackles continued to expand along the w. edge of the Region. In Iowa, two appeared at the IPL ponds June 21 (†FM, RS) while w. Missouri sightings included one in *Cass* June 9 (*fide* JG) and eight in *Johnson* July 1 (*fide* JW). Orchard Orioles were reported in fairly good numbers from several n. areas.

Small numbers of Purple Finches were scattered across n. Ohio where they are regular summer residents. Three n. Indiana sightings were unexpected, as the species is not known to breed there. House Finches are no longer novelties in Illinois where small numbers were reported from 5 locations w. to Springfield (DH) and Carbondale (JR, TF). They also nested in w. Kentucky at Murray (CP). Pine Siskins were widespread following last winter's mini-invasion. Nesting was confirmed or suspected at Davenport, Ia. (*fide* P), Earlham College, Ind. (BB), Cleveland, Mo. (NJ), Indian Hill, O. (WR), and L. Rockwell, O. (LR). Nonbreeders were reported from several additional locations through June 27. Late migrant Evening Grosbeaks remained at *Grayson*, Ky., through May 29 (KC) and near Dunes S.P., Ind., June 15 (EP).

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Jerome A. Jackson

June and July were dry through much of the Region. Although isolated areas got as much as five inches of rain, most coastal stations reported less than three inches where in excess of ten inches is normal. Inland areas suffered less from the drought. Weatherwise it seemed a relatively good season for birds—no prolonged cold, wet snaps that do in nestlings, and no blistering heat to accompany the dry conditions.

Perhaps it was the weather, perhaps the quality of birding, but this season was blessed with an exceptionally high 108 observers! Quite a contrast with last year. As far as birds go, there was some good news and bad news. No choices, I'll give you the bad news first.

The Army Corps of Engineers has done it again this year—the first Alabama nesting attempt for Laughing Gulls was cut short by a bulldozer. Bewick's Wrens continued to disappear from former reporting stations and are certainly birds to watch. Inland Least Terns, proposed for official listing as endangered or threatened, continued to lose at the hand of man. At Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Mississippi, the Anhingas and concentration of other breeding waterbirds did not nest this year. The dam at Bluff Lake was washed out in a flood a few years ago and had been rebuilt, but the area was closed to fishermen until March 1 this year. Anhingas stayed at Bluff Lake until the lake was opened and subjected to heavy human use with no limits on boat or motor size. Too bad that fishing couldn't have been restricted to shore, or to non-motor boats, or to the open-water areas. But sad to say, no compromises were made for wildlife. Perhaps National Wildlife Refuge is a misnomer. Gull-billed Terns failed to return to Mississippi and Louisiana nesting areas this year. Finally, the Rufous-crowned Sparrow population in Arkansas may be down to a lone female.

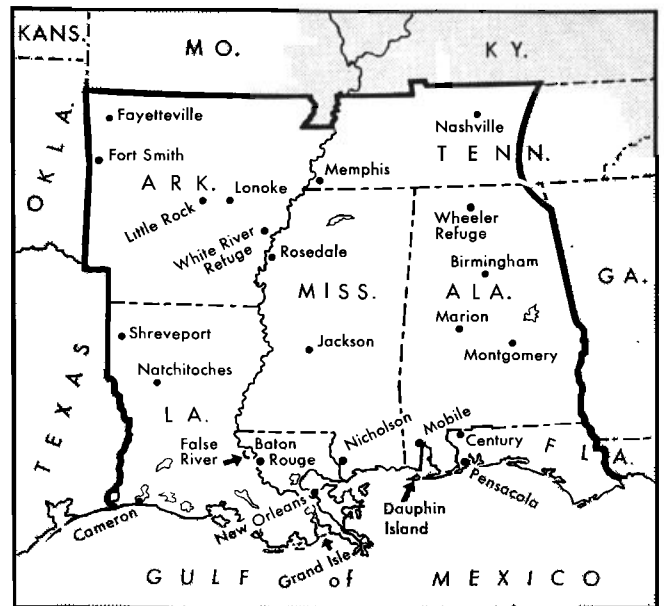
In the good-and-bad category was fledging of a Bald Eagle in Tennessee, but loss of its two siblings who became entangled in wire in the nest. Another quirk was the discovery of what may have been the first mainland Mississippi Laughing Gull breeding record: a downy chick in the hands of a boy who said he found it on a ball diamond, but alas, no nest site discovered.

On the purely good side of the ledger were the enviable eight species of diurnal raptors in Hancock County, Mississippi, in early June, suggesting a healthy environment in the coastal flatwoods there. Stars among these raptors were the Black-shouldered Kites which again nested. Brown Pelicans nested successfully in Alabama and Caspian Terns nested there for the first time.

ABBREVIATIONS — M.s.p. = Monsanto settling ponds, Maury Co., Tenn.; P.R.M. = Pascagoula River marsh, Miss. Place names in *italics* are counties or parishes.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Pied-billed Grebes nested at Radnor L., Davidson, Tenn. (CS). Sighting of two Greater Shearwaters 6 mi s. of Dauphin I., July 26 (DC, LG) made 1984 the 7th year since 1958 that the species has been seen in Alabama waters — all July-September (TI).

Adding to the crowd and excitement were 600+ Am. White Pelicans on a spoil island in s. Mobile Bay (= Theodore or Gaillard I., hereafter Gaillard I.). Up to 150 loafed in the Brown Pelican nesting area (DC, PD). JJ and BJ saw five Am. White Pelicans near Round I., Jackson, Miss., July 19. Brown Pelicans fledged 200+ young on Audubon I.



near Panama City in St. Andrews S.P. (TF, m.ob.), and they nested for the 2nd year in a row on Gaillard I. (DC, DH, SH, TT, PD). Eight nests were found and from 19 eggs, 11 chicks were doing well July 25 (DC). As many as 300 Brown Pelicans were near the nesting colony (DC, m.ob.). At the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I., Miss., 19 imm. Brown Pelicans were loafing July 19 (JJ, BJ) and others had been seen through the summer (TS). Two Anhingas at the Mississippi/Tennessee line near the Mud L. levee s. of Memphis June 3 were the first in the area in 25 years (B & LC). Unfortunately the Anhingas did not nest at Noxubee N.W.R. this year after Bluff L. was reopened to fishing and boats.



Nesting Brown Pelicans on Gaillard I., Mobile Bay, Ala., July 25, 1984. Pelicans nested here for a second consecutive year, continuing their comeback on the Gulf Coast. Photo/C.D. Cooley.

S & BS found a Least Bittern at M s p , *Maury*, Tenn , July 4 & 23 An Am. Bittern was at Lewis Pond, *Sumner*, Tenn., June 24 (DTC, JPC) At least 132 Great Blue Heron nests were at settling ponds of the Arnold Engineering & Development Corp. near Tullahoma, *Coffee*, Tenn ; another 170 nests were found on the Duck River Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., *Humphreys*, Tenn. (BP). An aerial survey of Cat I., Ala., June 18, revealed about 2500 heron and egret nests. The species composition in order of abundance appeared to be: Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (DC). Great Egrets had a banner year in Arkansas, where 250+ gathered for a free lunch at Anderson's Minnow Farm, *Lonoke*, July 21 (H & MP, RC); RC and FM reported five at Faulkner L., *Pulaski*, June 21, and one to four were seen at the Centerton hatchery, *Benton*, June 25-June 15 (JN, MLM). A group of 88 Snowy Egrets joined with other waders in a wet field near Dyersburg, Tenn., July 30 (RS), and 30 were at Anderson's Minnow Farm, *Lonoke*, Ark., July 21 (H & MP). On Lonsome I., at the e. edge of the St. Bernard delta of the Mississippi R., La., only 12 Reddish Egrets were found nesting compared to 200+ when the island was censused in 1976 (RP). About 50 Cattle Egrets in *Hancock*, Miss., June 13 suggested local breeding (JT, JD) The Bordeaux rookery, *Davidson*, Tenn., included an estimated 370 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests (BP). The Metro Center in Nashville, Tenn., was summer home for at least four adult and two or more imm Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (DV).

White Ibises have been increasingly conspicuous in Mississippi and are likely breeding in several heronries in the state; two immatures were at Barnett Res., *Madison*, June 15 (JM). At Lonsome I., La., both Glossy and White-faced ibises nested (RP). Presence of 59 Wood Storks w of Johnson's Bayou, *Cameron*, La., June 24 was unusual for the date (RoS, MWE, MR). Twenty Wood Storks joined a soaring group of Mississippi Kites s. of Natchez, July 17 (LT), and 14 were at Mile 314 on the Mississippi R., near Ft. Adams, *Wilkinson*, Miss., June 28 (DG).

WATERFOWL — At least 15 Mottled Ducks were at the P.R.M., June 16 (JT, GM). Two N. Pintails made an early appearance at the Duck R. Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., *Humphreys*, Tenn., July 19 (CGD). Single Blue-winged Teals were seen in *Sumner* (DTC, JPC) and *Cheatham* (HEP) the last week of June. Any time winter ducks turn up in summer in the South, one has to be suspicious of them being "shot-up" birds, but three scaup sp. at Barnett Res., *Madison*, Miss., July 21 were unusual (JM). A Red-breasted Merganser was at the Old Hickory Dam, *Davidson*, Tenn., June 27 (LK).

RAPTORS — A pair of Black Vultures with one chick was found in urban Percy Warner P., *Davidson*, Tenn., June 21 (DV). As usual in recent years, Ospreys nested along the Escatawpa R., and on Round, Horn, East Ship, and Cat islands, Miss. (JJ, BJ). One was at P.R.M., June 16 (JT, GM). The first successful Osprey nest in Arkansas in 30+ years produced three young at Mallard L., *Washington* (CG, m.ob.). An active hacking program in Tennessee was the likely cause of a flurry of Osprey reports: a red-banded Osprey was at the Gallatin Steam Plant, *Sumner*, July 15-31 (CGD); two were at the A.E.D.C. settling ponds, *Coffee*, all summer (TG) [two Maryland birds were hacked there]; and one was at Long Hunter S.P., July 28 (RVM).

American Swallow-tailed, Black-shouldered, and Mississippi kites were evident through the breeding season in *Hancock*, Miss., and the Black-shouldered had three young out of the nest by June 5 (JJ, BJ, JT, MB) An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was also seen with eight Mississippi Kites in *Santa Rosa*, Fla., July 7 (CK, OF, FW, MiM). Mississippi Kites nested at several localities in *Baldwin*, Ala. (DC, SC, OF), and they were easily the common summer raptor near Dyersburg, Tenn., with 8 locations in *Dyer*, and one pair nesting in the city (RS). The successful fledging of one Bald Eagle chick from the nest on Westvaco land near Cross Creeks N.W.R. was marred only by the loss of its two siblings due to injuries sustained from being tangled in baling wire in the nest (RV). At Land Between the Lakes, *Stewart*, Tenn., one young fledged from a nest where the breeding female was a bird hacked at the site in 1981; four other Bald Eagles were hacked and two rehabilitated adults released in the area. A possible 3rd Tennessee Bald Eagle nest was reported at Reelfoot L. (MT, *vide* SS), and adult eagles were seen there all summer (MW).

An *Accipiter* at L. Sequoyah, *Washington*, June 17 (JN) and two

together at Poison Springs State Forest, *Ouachuta*, July 25 (WS) provided rare Arkansas records whatever species they were. In Tennessee, Sharp-shinned Hawk records came from Thompson, *Madison*, July 3 (DG), Macedonia, *Putnam*, June 11 (RWS), and Speedwell, *Claiborne* (PH). H & MP found an ad. Cooper's Hawk near Columbus, *Hempstead*, Ark., June 23. Two Cooper's Hawks near Pearlinton, *Hancock*, Miss., June 29 suggested local breeding (JT, DK, MB, GM). In *Williamson*, Tenn., four young fledged June 24 at a Cooper's Hawk nest at Basin Spring (KG), and a lone adult was at Nolensville June 6 (SS) Another pair was carrying food near Red Boiling Springs, *Macon*, Tenn., June 9 (CN, TP, RWS). Red-shouldered Hawks were in *Hancock* (JT, MB) and *Jackson* (JT), Miss., in early June, and nested in last year's nest near Noxubee N.W.R. (JJ). Two Broad-winged and two Red-tailed hawks were at Logtown, *Hancock*, Miss., June 7 (JT, MB) A lone Am. Kestrel was at Pearlinton, Miss., June 7 (JT, MB).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — At M.s.p., *Maury*, Tenn., A & BL found Virginia Rails with a chick June 3. A pair of Purple Gallinules was at Port Bienville Industrial Park, *Hancock*, Miss., in June (JT), and seven adults and 18 chicks were at Faulkner L., *Pulaski*, Ark., June 21 (RC, FM). Common Moorhens had a good year: seven adults and 30 immatures were at Clermont Harbor, Miss., in early June, and six adults with four chicks were at Faulkner L., *Pulaski*, Ark., June 21 (RC, FM). Others were seen at Barnett Res., Miss., June 15 (JM), and at M.s.p., Tenn., July 15-Aug. 4 (S & BS, A & BL). American Coots with chicks were at Old Hickory L., *Davidson*, Tenn., July 19 (KV).

Although a pair of Snowy Plovers and one chick were seen at Pensacola Naval Air Station July 14 (OF, PJ), in Mississippi no Snowy Plovers could be found in the Least Tern colony at Gulfport, where in recent years up to three pairs had nested (JJ). Up to eight Wilson's Plovers were on the mud flats of dredge spoil through the summer (JT, GM, JJ, BJ), and older chicks were seen (JJ, BJ). At least 18 late migrant Semipalmated Plovers stopped over at P.R.M., June 16 (JT, GM).

Three Am. Oystercatchers were at Half Moon I., near the mouth of the Pearl R., La., June 10 (RP, LO, NN, DM), and two were on Lonsome I., La., June 12 (RP).

About 50 Black-necked Stilts were at the fresh dredge material at P.R.M. along with 17 Am. Avocets June 16. The stilts nested again with as many as seven young seen on various dates through the summer (JT, GM, JJ, BJ). A lone Solitary Sandpiper checked in early at M.s.p., Tenn., July 15 (SS). A pair of Willets with six volant young were on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I., July 19 (JJ, BJ). At Nashville Metro Center a pair of Spotted Sandpipers had 3 nest attempts with 4 eggs each try, but all were unsuccessful (DV). MLB found an early Upland Sandpiper at the Metro Airport, *Davidson*, Tenn., July 22. A Whimbrel was at Air Products, near Pace, *Santa Rosa*, Fla., June 2 (BM), another at Dauphin I., July 22 (G & DJ), and one at Grand Isle, July 5 (NaN). Two molting Marbled Godwits were seen July 22 on Dauphin I. (G & DJ) Gaillard I. had four Ruddy Turnstones among the masses June 20 (DC, SH, TT, PD), and five were seen May 25 feeding on skimmer or tern eggs on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I., Miss. (TS).

At least 70 Semipalmated, 10 Western, and 20 White-rumped sandpipers took advantage of freshly pumped dredge material at P.R.M., June 16 (JT, GM), and about 50 Westerns were there June 25 (JT). At Grand I., La., 12 Semipalmated Sandpipers were present June 17 (RP, DM). Another 20 White-rumpeds were found at Gaillard I., June 20 (DC, SH, TT, PD). Imhof found four Baird's Sandpipers at L. Porter, *Jefferson*, Ala., July 31. At Memphis, 50+ Pectoral Sandpipers stopped in July 20 (RS). At L. Porter, Ala., two Stilt Sandpipers in alternate plumage arrived July 17 (TI). A group of four Short-billed Dowitchers was at Dauphin I., June 10 (G & DJ), a lone dowitcher was at Belcher's Pond, Pensacola, July 7 (BD), and the spoil at P.R.M. attracted 15 Short-billed Dowitchers July 22. An Am. Woodcock visited Hickory, Miss., July 10 (JM), and one was in Warner P., *Davidson*, Tenn., June 5 (DV, SB). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were at P.R.M., June 16 (JT, GM), and three were there June 25 (JT).

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMER — Laughing Gulls nested for the first time in Alabama this year—on Gaillard I. Unfortunately a bulldozer operator under contract from the Mobile District Corps of Engineers ran his bulldozer through the colony and the number of nests, young, and

breeding adults could not be accurately determined, although DC, PD, DD, and SH estimated 250+ nests with eggs. After the incident a supervisor was put on the island with the operator. [When is the Mobile District of the Corps of Engineers going to become more responsive to wildlife? After catching flak for taking Brown Pelican eggs and dumping spoil on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I., while the birds were nesting last year, one would think activities during the breeding season would be preceded by careful searches of areas to be disturbed. What do Corps biologists do? And why the necessity of dumping spoil and bulldozing on a spoil island during the breeding season?] Laughing Gulls may also have nested near Ocean Springs, Miss., this year, since a young boy turned in a downy Laughing Gull chick to the naturalist at Gulf Islands National Seashore with the comment that he found it on a "ball diamond." A cursory search of ball diamonds revealed no gull colonies and no further information could be obtained. The gull was raised and released on Horn Island (TS, JJ).

A long Ring-billed Gull was early July 15 at Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke, Ark. (H & EH).

Adult Gull-billed Tern at Dauphin I., Ala., April 1984. The species had a poor breeding season on the northern Gulf Coast this year. Photo/Lyle Brownlee.



Gull-billed Terns did not have a successful season in Mississippi (JJ, BJ, JT, DK) or Louisiana (RP) where they have nested in recent years; no nests were found at P.R.M. or at Grassy I., off the mouth of the Pearl R. A few Gull-billed Terns nested on adjacent Half Moon I., La. (RP). About 25 pairs nested on Gaillard I. (DC). It was a strange sight: two imm. Gull-billed Terns begging food from a Sandwich Tern at Gulf Shores, Ala., July 21 (OF, CK, FW). [But were they fed by the Sandwich Tern? The observers didn't say.]

Another new breeding bird for Alabama was the Caspian Tern: 50+ nested on Gaillard I., where many eggs and young were found June 20 (DC, PD, SH, TT). JJ and BJ counted 194 eggs and 129 chicks of Royal Terns and 1844 eggs and 700+ chicks of Sandwich Terns on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I., July 19. On Gaillard I., 300± Royal Tern nests were found (DC). Only two Com. Terns were found at P.R.M., June 25, and though several were seen in *Harrison* and *Jackson* through the summer, no nests were found this year (JJ, BJ). On Gaillard I., five pairs nested. A Forster's Tern was at Cross L., July 16, an unusual date for the Shreveport, La., area (LR, HJ).

On the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Least Terns had a good year: 3000+ nests at the Gulfport colony, another 1500 in scattered colonies along *Harrison* and *Hancock* mainland beaches, 200+ nests on the roof of the Singing River Mall in Gautier, 20+ nests on a K-Mart in Gautier, an undetermined number of nests atop a supply building at Keesler Air Force Base, and 300+ nests on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I. (JJ, BJ). Fewer than 100 nests were found at P.R.M (JJ, BJ, JT), where several hundred nests have been found in recent years. About 500 Least Tern nests were reported from Gaillard I., Ala. (DC). At least 20 Least Terns were seen over the Mississippi R., at Ashport, Tenn., July 5; one nest was found in a soybean field about a mile from the river, but was destroyed by farm equipment a week later (RS). Inland Least Terns also lost out in *Mississippi*, Ark., where PH (*vide* JN) banded 93 chicks on a Mississippi R. sandbar July 3 and the colony was wiped out by 3-wheel cycle riders July 4. At least 5 nests and 20+ adults were found June 9 on the Arkansas R., near Menifee, *Conway*, Ark. (CGr, FM).

Black Terns were common throughout the season on the Mississippi coast (JT); hundreds loafed at the ends of the Mississippi barrier islands (JJ); and thousands were seen along n. Florida beaches (CK). Black Skimmers abandoned their isolated colony at Gulfport and cast their lot with the Least Terns; 120± nests were in the large tern colony. On the

spoil island w. of Petit Bois I., numbers seemed down, with evidence of only 30± nests July 19 (JJ, BJ), although TS had seen 270± adults there May 25. About 450 pairs nested on Gaillard I. (DC).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Black-billed Cuckoos were noted near Camden, *Benton*, Tenn., June 15 (B & LC), at Brookhaven, Miss., June 25 (LT), and a pair was observed copulating at M.s.p., Tenn., July 4 (S & BS). A Greater Roadrunner at Black Oak, *Washington*, Ark., July 31 documented that species' continued presence in the area (JN).

An early concentration of 200+ Com. Nighthawks at Harding Mall, Nashville, Tenn., was noted July 7 (RJM). B & LC continued their valuable surveys of Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills in the mid-South with results as follows: *Alcorn*, Miss., May 30, 20 stops in 7.1 mi, six Chucks, 14 Whips; Hornsby, *Hardeman*, Tenn., June 7, 33 stops in 14.5 mi, 18 Chucks, 24 Whips; e. of Bolivar, *Hardeman*, June 7, 30 stops in 11.1 mi, 16 Chucks, 24 Whips; *Leake*, Miss., June 8, 35 stops in 15.2 mi, 95 Chucks, nine Whips, the first summer Whip-poor-wills for Leake County; *Neshoba*, Miss., June 8-9, 27 stops in 11 mi, 58 Chucks, five Whips; DeQueen Res., *Sevier*, Ark., June 12, 43 stops in 23 mi, 87 Chucks, two Whips; Gilliam Res., *Polk*, June 12, 12 stops in 5.5 mi, 30 Chucks, one Whip.

A lone Red-headed Woodpecker was noted on the White House B.B.S. route, *Sumner*, Tenn., June 23 (BH, MaM). Red-cockaded Woodpeckers suffered another defeat when Georgia Pacific Corporation cut a well-known colony along Mississippi Hwy 14 in *Winston* (RW, JJ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — An Acadian Flycatcher was calling at Logtown, *Hancock*, Miss., June 13 (JT, JD, CD). For the 2nd year in a row, Willow Flycatchers apparently nested near the Monroe Airport, *Ouachita*, La. (PM, TK, WB). JN and MLM also found one calling at L. Sequoyah, *Washington*, Ark., June 1 & 17; in Tennessee reports of the species came from *Cheatham* (MLB, *vide* CGD), *Davidson* (DV), and *Maury* (S & BS). Although Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have nested in Mississippi, they are still exceedingly rare during the breeding season; June 10, DG saw one at Mile 318 on the Mississippi R., n. of Ft. Adams, *Wilkinson*. Scissor-taileds nested at Murphreesboro, Tenn., where they have been found for the past 4 years (TW, AH).

Several pairs of Purple Martins nested in holes in the back of a microwave tower behind the Mississippi Welcome Center at Interstate 10 in *Hancock* (JT, DK, JJ). The S expansion of Tree Swallows continued this summer with increasing reports of the species in central Tennessee; nesting activity was documented s. of Dixon Springs, *Smith*, and at M.s.p. (SS). At least 415 Bank Swallows congregated at Bledsoe Creek S.P., *Sumner*, Tenn., July 25 (DTC, JPC), and five-plus at M.s.p., Tenn., in early June suggested local breeding (S & BS). At a bridge over L. Arbonne, *Union*, La., there were at least 7 Cliff Swallow nests (DK, DHW, WJL), and under the U.S. 90 bridges at the Pearl R., *St. Tammany*, La., there were 147 nests (A & GS, RP). In the Ashland City area, *Cheatham*, Tenn., 2000+ Cliff Swallows nested late, following nest-destroying floods in May (CGD).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — B & LC found Bewick's Wrens near Camden, *Benton*, Tenn., June 15 & July 3, but have found no evidence of the species during recent surveys in n. Mississippi. Other Tennessee Bewick's Wren reports came from w. *Montgomery* (PH), e. *Maury* (NB), near Nolensville, *Williamson* (SS), and at Gallatin, *Sumner* (DTC, JPC).

The S expansion of House Wrens also continued with 7 nesting locations (all urban) reported in Nashville and one in Gallatin, Tenn. (SS), and 10 localities in Fayetteville, Ark. (JN, m.ob.), where no Bewick's Wrens were found. BC found one House Wren singing at the Tennessee/Arkansas border near Ft. Pillow S.P., Tenn., June 25.

Imhof banded a record 270 nestling E. Bluebirds from 160± boxes put out by JF, s. of Birmingham. Late-nesting E. Bluebirds fledged young Aug. 15 at Hickory (JM) and Sept. 7 at Starkville (JMcC)! A Veery at Cameron, *Cameron*, June 23 may have furnished the first summer Louisiana record (MWE, MR, RoS). A July Am. Robin nest in Pensacola was the first in 3 decades (TTo, *vide* BO).

In recent years Cedar Waxwings have shown some evidence of range expansion; of note were a June 15 record of three and a July 3 record of

one at Big Sandy, *Benton*, Tenn (B & LC) Although Loggerhead Shrikes are generally scarce on the Mississippi coast in summer, 10 were at Port Bienville Industrial Park June 13 (JT, JD, CD). TK felt that there were four pairs of Bell's Vireos near the Monroe, *Ouachita*, La., airport; three birds were found June 26 (PM, TK, WB). A Yellow-throated Vireo was singing at Logtown June 29 (JT, DK, MB, GM). Single Warbling Vireos were on the Union Hill B.B.S. route, *Clay*, Tenn (CN), and on the Duck R. Unit of Tennessee N.W.R. (S & BS).

An enigmatic warbler heard at Mt. Olive, *Jefferson*, Ala., June 15 and heard and seen June 16 turned out to look like a Blue-winged, but was clearly singing both Blue-winged and Golden-winged songs (TI, JG) A Blue-winged Warbler singing w. of Corinth, *Alcorn*, May 31 was rare for n. Mississippi (B & LC). Cerulean Warblers were seen in Tennessee through the summer at Basin Spring, *Williamson* (KG), and at Warner P., *Davidson* (DV). Black-and-white Warblers were reported as rare in w. Tennessee and absent from many areas where they had previously been found (B & LC). An Am. Redstart with a fledgling at the Pascagoula W.M.A., *Jackson*, Miss., June 16 documented breeding for the area (JT, GM). A singing Swainson's Warbler at Bayview L., Birmingham, July 17 (TI), and two singing there July 22 (RR), suggested local breeding as in 1983. An Ovenbird w. of Clarksburg, *Carroll*, Tenn, June 14 was unusual for w. Tennessee (B & LC). A high of 40 Yellow-breasted Chats was recorded on the D'Iberville B.B.S. route and they seemed similarly abundant in *Hancock* (JT).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — On June 25, B & LC found a singing Scarlet Tanager at Ft. Pillow S.P., *Lauderdale*, Tenn. Two pairs of Painted Buntings were found July 29 at Lead Hill, *Boone*, Ark. (J & ER) Tennessee Dickcissel records for the summer came from Murphreesboro, *Rutherford* (TW); Cross Creeks N.W.R., *Stewart* (S & BS), Duck R. Unit, Tennessee N.W.R. (S & BS); s.w. of Jhntown, *Trousdale* (CN); Union Hill B.B.S. route, *Macon* (CN); Ashland City marsh, *Cheatham* (CGD); and Centerville, *Hickman* (S & BS). Although Rufous-sided Towhees are uncommon in s.e. Arkansas lowlands, DS found three pairs at L. Chicot S.P. in mid-June. Troups recorded 56 Bachman's Sparrows on the D'Iberville B.B.S. route. Bachman's Sparrows were also reported for *Amite* and *Lincoln*, Miss. (LT) The population of Rufous-crowned Sparrows on Magazine Mountain, *Logan*, Ark., may be down to a single female. Neal found only one silent bird in early May and BS had the same luck June 1. Their best guess was that the cold 1983 winter was too much for the birds.

Lark Sparrows are uncommon in w. Tennessee, but one was singing at Britton Ford N.W.R., May 29 (DB), and another was seen at Cedars of Lebanon S.P., *Wilson*, July 31 (RVM, TW, m.ob.). Grasshopper Sparrows were found at new sites n. of Sonora, *Washington*, Ark., July 1 (JN), and at Baker Prairie, *Boone*, Ark., June 20 (JR, R & KM). In Tennessee the species was reported at the junction of Rt. 96 and Old

Charlotte Pike, *Williamson* (SS), and s.w. of Jhntown, *Trousdale* (CN). The strength of the foothold of Song Sparrows in w. Tennessee was documented by summer records from the Duck R. Unit, Tennessee N.W.R. (S & BS), M.s.p. (A & BL), the Union Hill B.B.S. route, *Clay/Macon* (CN), Belvidere, *Franklin* (AT), Gallatin Steam Plant/Lewis Pond, *Sumner* (DTC, JPC), and metro Nashville (DV, m.ob.).

For the 7th consecutive year, Bronzed Cowbirds were in Louisiana at Reserve and LaPlace, *St. John* (RoS, MWe), a male displaying to a female was at Mereaux, June 10 (NaN), and a displaying male was at Houma, *Terrebonne* July 18 (MS). One of the real curiosities of the season was a completely melanistic Orchard Oriole singing a typical Orchard Oriole song from the top of a large shrub on Fourchon Rd., *Lafourche*, La., July 5 (NaN). Great-tailed Grackles are still on the move: the first nest for the Arkansas Ozarks, June 3 at the Centerton hatchery, *Benton*, was abandoned when next checked June 25 (BSa, JN). House Finches nested successfully and were reported from several localities in Nashville (DV).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/J. Bernard Gollop

June temperatures were above normal and precipitation varied from half normal in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta to twice normal in southeastern Manitoba. Included in the bad weather were hail storms, tornadoes and severe thunderstorms.

July was hot and dry. Maximum temperatures above 30°C were an almost daily occurrence. North Battleford's rainfall was the lowest ever recorded. Moose Jaw had had 35% of normal precipitation since April 1. Lethbridge went 36 consecutive days without measurable rain. Southeastern Manitoba had hail and three tornadoes July 8 (Environment Canada).

Ponds across the Prairie Provinces south of 54° latitude totalled 1,262,000, down 44% from last year and up the same percentage over 1980 and 1981 (Canadian Wildlife Service & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).

PELICANS THROUGH DUCKS — American White Pelicans nested for the first time since 1972 at the n. end of Last Mountain L. However, 16 nests produced only five young (PT, LL). Saskatchewan reported the only egrets. Single Great Egrets were found at the n. end of Last Mountain L., June 8, Middle Quill L., July 5 (WH), and at Valeport July 7-19 (DH, TR). A **Snowy Egret** was seen at Crane L., n. of Piapot, June 12 and at Old Wives L., n. of Mossbank, June 23 & 25 (PB, WH, CA). There were two Cattle Egrets at Middle Quill L., July 5 (WH). Three other Saskatchewan accidentals were also reported: a Green-backed Heron near Regina July 16 (PB, FL), three ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** at Old Wives L., June 23 and a **White-faced Ibis** there June 24 (WH). Manitoba's lack of rare herons and egrets was unusual (RKO).

Three Trumpeter Swans heard in Waterton Lakes N.P., June 2 and one at Ft. McMurray June 23 were far from their normal range at that time of year (RS, JG). A Wood Duck brood near Estevan, Sask., June 11 provided one of the few breeding records for the province (CE). For the s. one-half of the Region, the duck production index, as determined

by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the U S Fish and Wildlife Service, was down 42% from 1983. This figure is made up primarily of broods and pairs seen in July. There were at least 63,000 Canvasbacks ready to moult on Old Wives L., June 23 (WH). A ♂ Harlequin Duck, an accidental in Saskatchewan, was studied July 11 e. of Hafford (MW). A Surf Scoter and 21 ♂ Greater Scaup were unexpected near Wildwood, Alta., June 12 (EJ).

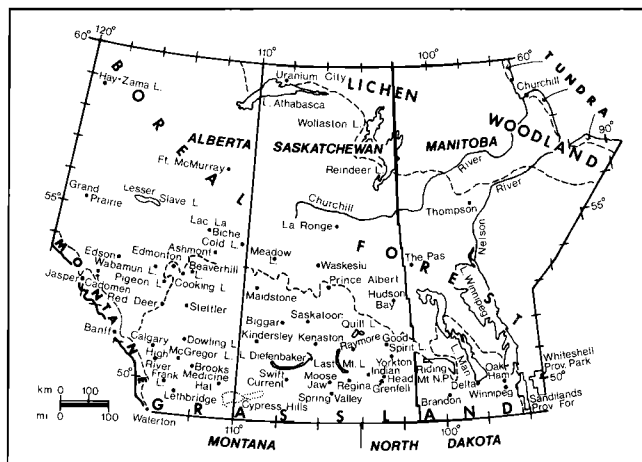
DIURNAL RAPTORS — A concentration of 30 Turkey Vultures July 28 n. of Grenfell was both early and unusually large (EHu). Fifteen of 25 Osprey pairs were successful at Loon L., Sask.; 2 of the successful pairs used manmade platforms (SHou). An ad. N. Goshawk, trying to get into a magpie nest near Borden, was s. of its Saskatchewan breeding range June 10 (BG). Swainson's Hawk productivity was the poorest on record around Kindersley—38 young in 22 nests; 11 others were unsuccessful. In contrast, Ferruginous Hawks had their best year yet in the same area, 70 young being banded in 23 nests. Earlier nesting in a drought year may be the key to Ferruginous success (JH, SHou). On June 24, 23 Swainson's were seen in a freshly ploughed field s. of Regina, suggesting a flock of nonbreeders (TR). After a failed nesting attempt in the spring, a pair of Ferruginous fledged young near Lyleton, for the first successful nesting in Manitoba in more than 50 years (JM). There were at least 20 pairs of Merlins nesting in Saskatoon, 8 territories in Regina and 3 nestings in Medicine Hat (LO, TR, RGA). With Peregrine Falcons being released in city and country for the last few years, the significance of 3 sightings of this species outside cities cannot be adequately interpreted (WH, PB, MCo).

SHOREBIRDS — Again there was behavioral evidence of Greater Yellowlegs breeding $50 \pm$ km w. of Calgary—three birds June 16 & 30 (J & MS). A ♀ Ruff was adequately described at Oak Hammock July 5 (JD, JB) and an Am. Woodcock nest at Bissett was a n. extension of the species' breeding range in Manitoba (WK).

S.A.

Wayne Harris did a survey of Piping Plovers, a species officially designated as threatened in Canada, for the Saskatchewan Government from June 14 through July 14. Fourteen lakes were covered and a total of 353 pairs and 67 other Piping Plovers were found. In the course of the survey, record was kept of the 32 other species of shorebirds seen. One conclusion was that at least a few individuals of each transient species remained in Saskatchewan throughout the summer of 1984. The following totals were based on a survey of parts of Old Wives, Last Mountain, Chaplin, Twelve-mile, Willowbunch, e. end of Diefenbaker, Little Manitou and the Quill lakes. For breeding species the figures were (largest number on one lake in parentheses): Piping Plover 773 (225), Killdeer 865 (214), Am. Avocet 1131 (560), Willet 1021 (373), Spotted Sandpiper 213 (109), Upland Sandpiper 151 (46), Long-billed Curlew five (two), Marbled Godwit 1543 (612), Com. Snipe 28 (18), Wilson's Phalarope 8230 (7100, one concentration, 99% females). Except for avocets and phalaropes, birds were paired or in small groups. For transient species the totals were: Black-bellied Plover 65 (27), Lesser Golden-Plover four and **Snowy Plover** two (Saskatchewan's 2nd record) on Old Wives L., Semipalmated Plover 29 (11), Greater Yellowlegs 93 (35), Lesser Yellowlegs 955 (742), Solitary Sandpiper 12 (four), Whimbrel five (three), Hudsonian Godwit 50 (20), Ruddy Turnstone 56 (40), Red Knot 274 (119), Sanderling 4340 (1466), Semipalmated Sandpiper 530 (375), Least Sandpiper 247 (134), White-rumped Sandpiper 15 (12), Baird's Sandpiper 186 (134), Pectoral Sandpiper 208 (106), Dunlin 36 (28), Stilt Sandpiper 1798 (1169), Buff-breasted Sandpiper 19 (10), Short-billed Dowitcher 1264 (1145), Long-billed Dowitcher 39 (26), and Red-necked Phalarope 74 (46). To top all this, 31 species were seen June 22 on Old Wives L.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Manitoba's 6th record of a **Common Black-headed Gull** was furnished by an adult photographed at Churchill June 18 (Rko, m.ob.). That province's 3rd **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was a 3rd-year bird at the Winnipeg dump June 9-10; the



2nd record had been of an adult a month earlier at the same place (SHol, Rko). The Ross' Gull marsh at Churchill was flooded by Manitoba Hydro with the result that when six of the birds returned, all previous nesting sites were under water. Four birds disappeared and one pair nested elsewhere raising one young, for the 2nd successful nesting in North America (*vide* PW, BC).

In Saskatchewan, 198 Great Horned Owls were banded in 104 successful nests for an average of 1.9 per nest, compared to a range of 1.6-2.6 (SHou). To encourage Burrowing Owls to move off a Moose Jaw golf course, G. Davies of the S. Saskatchewan Wildlife Association installed 7 wooden nestboxes buried below ground adjacent to the course. On July 3, 13 young were banded from 2 of these artificial sites, a 3rd had failed (EK, DH). Great Gray (14 nests) and Short-eared owls had a very good year in s. Manitoba (RN, HC, Rko). Two Rufous Hummingbirds were reported away from the mountains: one in Waske-siu June 27-28 (MA, PS) and one at Lyleton July 17-19 (JM). A Black-backed Woodpecker in Calgary June 12-16 may have suggested local breeding (JP, v.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Willow Flycatchers, whose distribution in the Region is poorly defined, were reported as follows: June 9 & 23 (two) n.e. of Moose Jaw (SSH, BL), June 25 in Regina (PB), July 2 near Avonlea (CA) and July 17 near Midale (RGo). The only Manitoba report was from Melita June 16 (GG). Black-billed Magpies were rare in Regina in 1980; this year young were fledged from a nest in Wascana P. (JT, CA). Regina's first known nesting of Red-breasted Nuthatch—four recently fledged young June 23—established a range extension for this species (CA). What may be the best evidence to date of breeding Golden-crowned Kinglets in the Cypress Hills was furnished by an adult feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird July 14 on the Saskatchewan side (MO).

The **Western Bluebirds** s.w. of Calgary, Alta., mentioned in the spring report produced first broods of four and six young and 2nd broods totalling 12 nestlings (DE). Mountain Bluebirds in nestboxes around Saskatoon produced 43 broods this year compared to 22 last year along the same route, part of the difference being 10 2nd nestings this year compared to none in 1983 (MH). June 7 was an unusual date for a Varied Thrush at Willowbunch (RGo). Manitoba's first **Sage Thrasher** was photographed June 10 at Delta (SSe, DF, GG). Two stragglers to Churchill were a Sprague's Pipit singing July 1 and a Loggerhead Shrike studied for an hour June 30 (JD, m.ob.). Northern Shrikes were reported scarce at Churchill while Loggerhead Shrikes and Sprague's Pipits were reported down significantly in s. Manitoba (Rko).

WARBLERS THROUGH SISKIN — A singing ♂ Golden-winged Warbler 45 km e. of Hudson Bay June 17 was an accidental for Saskatchewan (WH). The best evidence to date of Tennessee Warblers breeding in the Cypress Hills was an adult feeding three fledged young July 14 on the Saskatchewan side (MO). Warblers considered stragglers in Calgary at this season were a ♂ Chestnut-sided July 1 and a singing ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** June 11-July 3, the latter suggesting breeding far from its normal range (J & PT, JP *et al.*). Other rarities in s. Alberta at this time of year included a Black-throated Green Warbler 25

km s.w. of Pincher Cr., July 7, a ♂ Blackpoll 45 km w. of Calgary July 8, and one to four Connecticut Warblers at Water Valley June 1-July 8 (KG, DP, JP, CH). Stragglers in Saskatchewan were a ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler June 10 n. of Whitewood (CE) and a singing male June 19-20 in Regina (RKr, TR). Two singing ♂ Black-and-white Warblers at Trossachs July 2 suggested an isolated s. Saskatchewan breeding area (CA). At least 7 species of n. warblers were down significantly n.e. of Turtleford (MCa).

Indigo Buntings beyond their usual breeding range included single singing males in Alberta in the Cypress Hills June 7-July 1 and at Highwood June 29 and a male near Mozart, Sask., July 6 (LG, RS, EHa, WH). June 2 was an exceptional date for eight Am. Tree Sparrows at 2 locations in Waterton Lakes N.P. (KG, DP). A partial albino Chipping Sparrow with three normal birds was studied and drawn near Carlyle, Sask., May 26; it was "pearly gray" overall except for a "vivid orange" cap (DS). Lark Buntings were down significantly in s.e. Alberta (RGA) and particularly common in s.w. Manitoba, e.g., >100 June 10 (GH, RKo). Grasshopper Sparrows were scarce this year in s. Manitoba (GH, RKo, RT).

Evidence of first breeding for House Finches in Calgary was a male feeding a cowbird July 7 (GS *et al.*). White-winged Crossbills were much more common than usual in Calgary and Lethbridge, and two

adults with three flying young constituted Moose Jaw's first evidence of breeding (DCo, MO, EK). Pine Siskins seem to have invaded Saskatchewan and Alberta. They were reported up significantly at Moose Mountain P.P., Raymore, White Bear and Kindersley (RD, WH, SJ, JH) with 2 flying broods in Regina and one in Saskatoon, far from normal breeding areas (BL, CA, PO). Siskins were also up at Calgary, Sundre and Edmonton (J & MS, FH, DCu).

CONTRIBUTORS (Provincial compilers in boldface; local compilers in italics) — C. Adam, M. Anions, J. Brandt, P. Browne, M. Carlson (MCa), B. Chartier, D. Collister (DCo), M. Colwell (MCo), H. Copland, D. Cuthiell (DCu), R. Dixon, J. Dunn, D. Elphinstone, C. Escott, D. Fast, R. Gardner (RGa), K. Godwin, R. Godwin (RGo), B. Gollop, G. Grief, L. Guillemette, J. Gulley, E. Hall (EHa), J. Harris, W. Harris, F. Haug, D. Hjertaas, S. Holohan (SHo), G. Holland, M. Houston, S. Houston (SHou), E. Hubbard (EHu), C. Hunt, E. Jones, S. Jordheim, E. Kern, R. Koes (RKO), W. Koonz, R. Kreba (RKr), F. Lahman, L. Ludwig, B. Luterbach, J. Murray, R. Nero, L. Oliphant, P. O'Neil, M. O'Shea, D. Paulson, J. Podlubny, T. Riffel, S. Sealy (SSe), S. Shadick (SSh), D. Silcox, G. Simpson, J. & M. Steeves, R. Storms, P. Strutt, P. Taylor, R. Tkachuk, J. & P. Thompson, J. Triffo, P. Whelan, M. Wiercinski.—J. BERNARD GOLLOP, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Craig A. Faanes

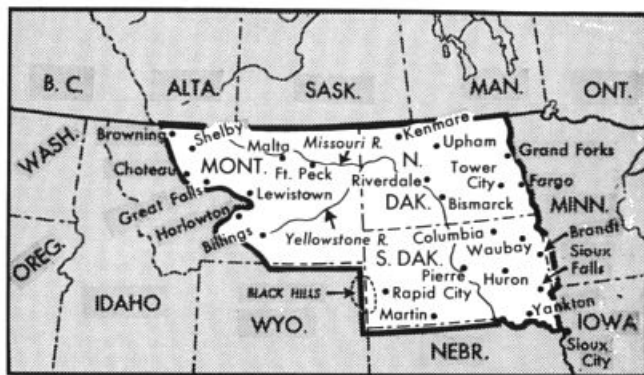
Weather on the Northern Great Plains during the season was normal; some areas flooded while others experienced drought. As an old friend once said about prairie weather, "the only thing normal about our weather is that nothing is normal!" In general, however, the wettest conditions were most prevalent over the Prairie Pothole region which served to provide an abundant wetland resource for waterfowl and marsh-nesting birds.

There were the usual surprises of the sort which occur during any season, including North Dakota's first "Clark's" Grebe, a late and totally out of season Brant in South Dakota, and a Varied Thrush on the Montana prairie in July. Regional observers will note a significant change in my own address. May 8 brought on a personal migration to the southeast. Although I now live in the land of Chuck-will's-widows and Brown-headed Nuthatches, my interests in the breeding season still lie with the prairie. So, I plan to continue being your nesting season editor on into the future.

Throughout this report, county names are given in *italics*.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — One Com. Loon was observed on Elwell Res., Liberty, Mont., through the period; the species is usually found there only on migration (HM). Common Loons were reported in North Dakota only from the Turtle Mts., w. of St. John (DK). A large colony of Eared Grebes, totalling about 500 nests on Pyas L., Marshall, S.D., June 23 was endangered by rising water levels. A "Clark's" Grebe June 9 at Beaver L. Waterfowl Production Area near Lignite, Burke, N.D., provided a first state record of this form, which is either the light morph of Western Grebe or more likely a full species (RM, GB). Western Grebes were recorded as far e. in North Dakota as L. Laretta, Nelson (DL). Two Am. White Pelican colonies in n.e. South Dakota supported 1371 active nests May 28-June 13 (BH *et al.*). Nesting Double-crested Cormorants in 3 South Dakota colonies totalled 772 active nests in the same period. A cormorant colony containing 70 nests was found June 9 in Burke (RM, GB). This follows past observations of increasing numbers of nesting colonies near L. Sakakawea.

The only Am. Bittern reports were from Salyer N.W.R. where 30+ young were found in July (GE). The 2nd record of Least Bittern in e. North Dakota during the last 7 years was of one hit by a car near Arrowwood N.W.R., Stutsman. The bird was later released in good shape. The first confirmed nesting of Great Blue Heron in Ward, N.D., involved one nest June 16 near Sawyer (RM).



S.A.

As has been the norm in recent years, e. South Dakota supported the greatest diversity of "southern" herons this year. The mixed colony at L. Preston included all three egrets, Little Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis, along with Franklin's Gull and Forster's Tern. The area received continued rainfall during May and early June, including a 6" down-pour June 15. Harris believed that all the above species were nesting June 11 when the colony was visited. By July 2, lake levels had increased 8-10" and the only birds observed were terns and Franklin's Gulls which may have attempted to renest. Observations at nearby L. Thompson (9 mi s.w.) suggested that Cattle Egrets maintained active nesting colonies there. The heron colony on Whitewood L., which was used in 1981 and 1982, was also flooded and no nesting cover appeared available. Observers will be checking these areas in 1985 to determine if a population rebound, so frequent in herons after natural disasters, occurs in these colonies.

Elsewhere in the Region, one ad. Snowy Egret was n. Minnewaukan, Benson, N.D., July 6-8 (DK). A single Cattle Egret was in a Cass, N.D., pasture June 17 (AL). One ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was observed June 10 at Wentworth Slough, Lake, S.D. (LA). Fitting the recent pattern of increased observations was the White-faced Ibis at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., June 19 (LM).

WATERFOWL THROUGH BOBWHITE — Tundra Swans were reported at 2 e. North Dakota locations and one was at Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., June 30-July 25. DL makes the pertinent point that some summering swans may actually be Trumpeters, especially because of the well-known dispersal from the La Creek N.W.R. population in South Dakota. Totally out of season was the **Brant** (black form) photographed on the Missouri R., Stanley, S.D. (*vide* RR). Six Am. Black Ducks were found across North Dakota. A Cinnamon Teal pair was near Ryder, Ward, N.D., June 1. Both individuals were compared with nearby Blue-winged Teal. The male was last seen June 15 (RM, GB). Johnson reported excellent hatching success among Mallards, N. Pintails and Gadwalls on an island near Malta, Mont, N.D.; island nesting is generally known to be more successful than upland nesting because the nests are less likely to be destroyed by predators and farmers. Perhaps reflecting a response to predators, Prellwitz reported the 8th Canvasback nest in 3 years on an island near Malta, Mont. The first confirmed nesting of Com. Merganser in South Dakota since 1875 was established by a brood of downy young on Canyon L., Black Hills, June 6 (LB); a female with $\frac{3}{4}$ -grown young on the Missouri R. in 1968 was assumed to be of local origin.

An Osprey pair was still tending a nest on Ft. Peck Res., July 29 (CC, JC). DL missed N. Harrier in *Grand Forks* this summer; the species is usually seen with ease there during the nesting season. The active Broad-winged Hawk nest July 13 at Des Lacs N.W.R., was the first confirmed for the refuge (RM, GB). Three active Prairie Falcon nests were found in the North Dakota Badlands.

The cross-fostering program to reintroduce Greater Prairie-Chickens at Arrowwood N.W.R., met with success this year. At least 34 prairie-chicken eggs were known to hatch under incubating ♀ Sharp-tailed Grouse. CC reported that dry weather conditions were conducive to survival of young Sharp-tailed Grouse because "there are one hell of a lot of grasshoppers [this year] to feed them!" Northern Bobwhite populations were apparently reduced markedly in South Dakota because of the late winter blizzards (BH).

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Yellow Rails were heard at 5 locations in e. North Dakota, including 4 *Grand Forks* sites (DK, DL). Adult Sandhill Cranes were heard near Salyer N.W.R., N.D., during late May; the only recent North Dakota nest record of this species was from near Salyer. Efforts to locate the decreasing Piping Plover met with considerable success. The first *Grand Forks* nest was found June 24 (DL). Fourteen territories were identified on 3 alkali wetlands at Lostwood N.W.R. (Bob Murphy). Dryer found 83 on the free-flowing reach of Missouri R. in North Dakota during early July. Ward records included 27 adults and four young June 24-July 6 (RM, GB). Two Piping Plover nests at Ft. Peck Res., were destroyed by rising water levels (CC), as were 2 nests along the Missouri R. in South Dakota (RR).

Three Black-necked Stilts were observed at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., June 18-19 (HN). Stilts have been showing up with increasing frequency in e. Montana since the invasion year of 1977. The three Hudsonian Godwits in Ward July 29 were unusual for fall migration (GB). Breeding-plumaged W. Sandpipers were on the Milk R., Mont., July 14 and in Ward, N.D., July 3. The 18th Montana record of Short-billed Dowitcher was of two birds in Latilong L40 July 21 (LM). Short-billeds were observed across North Dakota after June 26. Over 30,000 Franklin's Gulls were reported nesting at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D. (SW). Nesting California Gulls were found again at Waubay L., S.D., May 28 (BH, DS), and at L. Laretta, Nelson, N.D. (DL). Caspian Tern nests on Ft. Peck Res. were destroyed by rising water levels in June (CC). Four Least Tern nests below Oahe Dam, S.D., were destroyed by floods. On July 8, 29 Least Terns (including one nest with 2 eggs) were found on the Cheyenne R. in w. South Dakota, and 130 adults were found along the Missouri R., N.D., in early July. The 1983 survey revealed 86 adults in the same area (MD).

A pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was present through the period w. of Minot (*vide* RM). Adult Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found July 4 in McHenry, N.D. (DK). Stewart (1975; *Breeding Birds of North Dakota*) mentions no recent nest records for McHenry. The 3rd South Dakota nest of **Three-toed Woodpecker** was confirmed June 20-22 at Sylvan L., where adults were found feeding young at a nest (NW).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — Two singing ♂ Alder Flycatchers were heard June 17 on the Turtle R. near Larimore, N D (DL). These birds were about 45 mi s. of the only known nesting location in e. North Dakota. A ♂ Rock Wren was observed on the spoil pile of an active strip mine near Hazen, N.D., June 5 (BI). Adults were observed feeding young in Ward June 23-30. Apparently nesting adults were found in 3 Ward townships this summer (GB, RM). A single Wood Thrush was in Fargo June 11-20 (LF). Totally out of place, habitat, and range was the juv. **Varied Thrush** s. of Chester, Mont., July 1. A N Mockingbird was at Fargo June 21 (MB, CS). Six Sprague's Pipits were heard over a *Rolette*, N.D., wet meadow July 29 (DK). Stewart shows only a pre-1950 record for that county. Lambeth found pipits in *Grand Forks* only after early July. Nesting Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from 3 Ward locations June 24-July 19 (GB, RM). Nesting occurred in at least 3 n.e. South Dakota locations where Loggerhead Shrike is still considered rare in the nesting season (BH). A pair of Bell's Vireos was present in the same shelterbelt at Beaver Cr. W.M.A. along L Sakakawea where the species nested last year (RNR).

WARBLERS THROUGH GROSBEEKS — Connecticut Warblers at Fargo June 1, Turtle River S.P., June 11, and two in Minot June 5 were late migrants, as was the Canada Warbler at Grand Forks June 11. No Dickcissels were reported from the entire Region this year. Baird's Sparrow was reported from several native pastures in the heavily farmed regions of e. North Dakota (DK, DL). Martin and Berkey reported 35 singing males in s.w. Ward June 17, and found them still singing vigorously at the end of the period. A **Henslow's Sparrow** was observed on the Nature Conservancy's Ordway Prairie Preserve in n.c. South Dakota June 15 (JW, DE). In response to excellent wetland conditions, Le Conte's Sparrow was considered common to abundant throughout *Grand Forks*, as were Sharp-tailed Sparrows across most of n. North Dakota (DL, DK, RM, GB). Swamp Sparrow was reported from 3 e. North Dakota locations June 17-July 14 (DK, DL). Stewart (1975) does not show a modern, confirmed nest record for Swamp Sparrow in North Dakota.

The ad. ♂ White-throated Sparrow at a Salyer N.W.R. bird bath July 29 was most unusual for that locale. DL reported only two W. Meadowlarks from a B.B.S. route in s. Walsh and n. *Grand Forks*, N D. Lambeth attributed the intensive cultivation of the countryside with a lack of suitable nesting habitat for meadowlarks. On the other hand, RNR estimated that breeding populations in c. North Dakota were down $\frac{1}{3}$ from 1983; the number counted on 2 B.B.S. routes was the lowest in 17 years. These figures may reflect mortality from the late April blizzard which swept through the area. Three juv. Orchard Orioles being fed by adults July 15 provided the first confirmed nesting for Montana's Latilong L10 (CC). A "Bullock's" N. Oriole was at the S. Unit of T R Roosevelt N.P., June 7 (GB). Cassin's Finch apparently nested in Custer, S.D., this year where 11 including food-begging young were seen July 5 (RP). Others were seen June 1, July 7 & 10 in *Fall River* Two Evening Grosbeaks were recorded along the Roubidoux B.B.S. route in Lawrence, S.D. (NW).

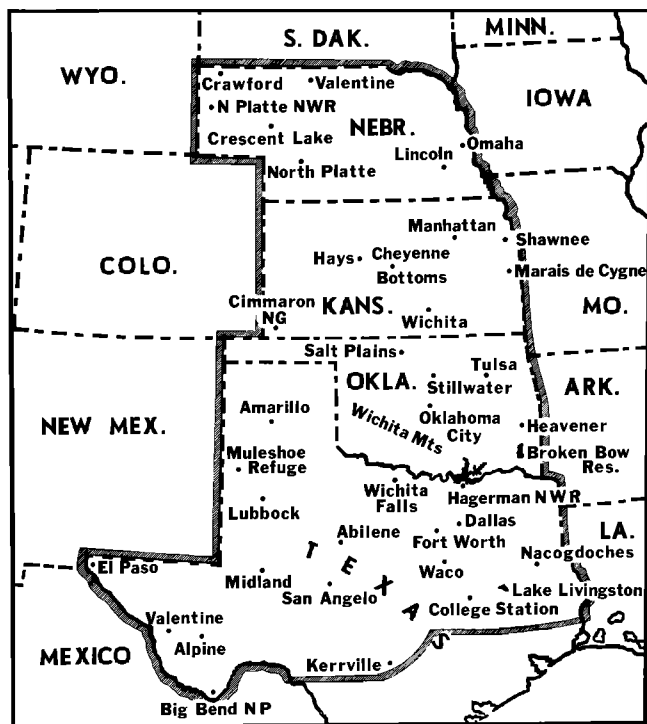
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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances C. Williams

Summer 1984 was one of contrasts: drought in most of Texas and Kansas, floods in Nebraska and Oklahoma. Parched pastureland adversely affected some grassland birds, flooded marshes and fields were unfavorable for other species. But the Region is so large and diverse that a species which suffered in one area was sure to have had outstanding breeding success in another.



GREBES THROUGH HERONS — In the Nebraska sandhills, Eared and Western grebes nested early with great success—"the best nesting season in ten years," wrote R. Rosche. At Valentine N.W.R., Neb., W. Grebes also nested. On Oologah Res., Rogers, Okla., there were three imm. Am. White Pelicans June 27 (DG). A Double-crested Cormorant flying over wheat fields miles from any known water astounded *Lipscomb*, Tex., observers June 6 (KS). One Double-crested Cormorant lingered at L. Evans Chambers, Beaver, Okla., June 18 (JG). Olivaceous Cormorants summered at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., and appeared at Hagerman N.W.R., July 29 and Kerr, Tex., July 25.

In e. Nebraska, Am. Bitterns were exceptionally visible because of high water. Least Bitterns were conspicuous at Cheyenne Bottoms, as many as 10 some days (SS), but were less numerous than last year at Oklahoma City (JN). Four Least Bittern nests were located in Lancaster, Neb. (BG) and a Least Bittern was carrying nesting material in Sarpy, Neb., in early June (TB, BP). Herons of 5 species were present at Cheyenne Bottoms in large numbers and numerous herons from a rookery in Iowa fed in Sarpy fields. Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets were abundant at both localities. One Great Egret and one Snowy Egret visited L. McConaughy, Garden, Neb., July 25 (RCR, DJR). A Little Blue Heron visited Big Bend N.P., where the species is accidental, June 12 (RS). Adult Little Blue Herons remained in Boone and Nance, Neb., April to mid-June (WM). A Tricolored Heron* in Grady, Okla., July 28 provided a first record for s.w. Oklahoma (JDT) and one visited the Fort Worth Nature Center Aug. 2 (BL, JWS). At Valentine N.W.R., 6 Cattle Egret nests were found June 20 scattered among nests of Black-crowned Night-Heron and Double-crested Cormorant, providing a first breeding record of this species in Nebraska (JD, DE).

IBISES THROUGH WATERFOWL — A White Ibis at Oklahoma City July 24-25 was the first there since 1978 (JN *et al.*). Four nests of White-faced Ibis were discovered at Valentine N.W.R., June 21 (JD,

DE). The only other known record of this species nesting in Nebraska was in 1916. The population of White-faced Ibises at Cheyenne Bottoms increased this season, possibly as a result of birds moving from the breeding colony at Quivira N.W.R., which had relatively low water (SS). A single White-faced Ibis visited a pond near Elk City, Okla., June 4 (IB).

In Texas, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks remained in Brazos and Dallas through July, but no evidence of breeding was noted. Geese lingered into early June at several localities, including a mallard-sized Canada Goose which spent most of June on small playa lakes in Hartley, Tex. (JB). A Wood Duck in Big Bend N.P., June 26 was out of habitat and out of range. In Grady, Okla., two Am. Black Ducks were observed July 28 (JDT). [Remarkable date & place; was Mottled Duck ruled out?—K.K.] Two Mottled Ducks were seen July 28 at Cheyenne Bottoms, where the species has nested in the past (SS). Several pairs of Cinnamon Teal were at Cheyenne Bottoms in June and it is probable that the many broods of teal present in July included at least one brood of Cinnamons. At Oklahoma City, a N. Shoveler hatched several young. Surprising sightings of non-breeding ducks included Ring-necked Duck in Garden, Neb., July 24, Bufflehead at Cheyenne Bottoms July 28, and Hooded Mergansers in Garden June 20 and Cheyenne Bottoms June 3.

RAPTORS — Mississippi Kites nested at Hagerman N.W.R. This established one of the easternmost nesting records in n.c. Texas and the first for *Grayson* (KHa). Mississippi Kites are becoming "pest" birds because of their penchant for nesting at golf courses and residential areas and their strong aggressive tendencies when any human passes the vicinity of a nest. A golfer at Midland had to have 4 stitches to mend a scalp wound administered by a kite. At Oklahoma City and elsewhere, young have been removed from nests and the nests taken down to allow people to enter and leave their residences in safety. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was noted July 4 in Dawes and a Cooper's Hawk was seen June 27 in Sheridan, Neb. Neither is known to nest in n.w. Nebraska (RCR). A Cooper's Hawk nest with one young was found at Junction, Tex., in June (NJ). Only one Com. Black-Hawk was seen near Lubbock where a pair had nested the past 2 summers (CS). Nests of Red-shouldered Hawks were found in Cherokee, Kans., June 16 (SS) and Washington, Okla., May 30 (ED *et al.*). In Big Bend N.P., a Zone-tailed Hawk was observed to catch a Bronzed Cowbird. Zone-tailed Hawks were sighted in Guadalupe Mountains N.P., July 29 (JNo) and in Real, Tex., June 14 (E & KM). Golden Eagles nested in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex. (KS). Five pairs of Am. Kestrels were frequently seen in Washington, Okla., in June. A pair at Dallas nested in a metal power line structure. In Guadalupe Mountains N.P., the only known pair of Peregrines produced no young, possibly because the female was an immature (OVO). A Prairie Falcon at Midland June 30 provided a first summer record (AW, BE).

TURKEY THROUGH TERNS — Wild Turkeys are "doing very well" in the Guadalupe Mts., and in Washington, Okla. A Scaled Quail was discovered in Cotton, Okla., where the species is rare, June 22 (JDT). Both Scaled Quail and N. Bobwhites in the Texas Panhandle suffered from the long-extended winter cold and few coveys were seen this summer. In trans-Pecos Texas, Scaled Quail had a stressful season—extreme drought in early spring, then a "prolonged and copious rainy season" washed out many nests (GW). In Crosby, Tex., Scaled Quail raised more young this year than in the past 5 years (KHi). Black Rails have been found at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., 4 years in a row. At Cheyenne Bottoms and at Capitol Marsh in Lincoln, Neb., King Rail chicks were visible by early July. Common Moorhens are actually becoming "common" on the plains; they fledged young at Dallas, Lubbock, L. Meredith, Huchinson, Tex., Cheyenne Bottoms and Lincoln. Two broods of half-grown Am. Coots were found in Grady, Okla. (JDT).

Snowy Plovers nested in small numbers at Cheyenne Bottoms. A Piping Plover was found near Ft. Worth July 31 (CH, JWS). Three Black-necked Stilts remained on a playa near Amarillo to June 12, but no evidence of nesting was found. A flock of 15 Willets arrived at Cheyenne Bottoms July 14. Three Spotted Sandpipers were observed at Black Mesa S.P., Okla., June 17 (JG). Upland Sandpipers frequented pastures in Cotton, Comanche and Jackson, Okla., throughout the season and breeding was suspected (JDT). In Cimarron, Okla., June 18, a

flock of Long-billed Curlews included one 9-inch tall chick (JG) A Red Knot was observed at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., July 8 (KS). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported at Cheyenne Bottoms June 3 (SS) and Hagerman July 10 (KH). At Ft. Worth, a completely unaccountable Am Woodcock probed in a carefully groomed rose bed in late July. All previous records of the species at Ft. Worth had been in fall or winter (BL).

Laughing Gulls visited Cheyenne Bottoms July 7 & 28 (SS). California Gulls are rare vagrants in the Region, so the presence of eight in *Keith*, Neb., July 25 and one July 11 in *Dawes*, Neb., was astonishing (RCR, DJR). Common Terns were seen between Ft. Worth and Dallas July 25 (CH) and at Cheyenne Bottoms June 1-30 (SS). No information was received on the breeding success of the blue-listed Least Tern. The only report noted that two adult and two imm. Least Terns arrived at Oklahoma City July 27 (JN). Black Terns nested at Valentine N.W.R., and were present all summer at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira. Two lingered at L. Evans Chambers, *Beaver*, Okla., June 18 (JG).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS — White-winged Doves continued to spread N. They were present all summer in Guadalupe Mountains N.P., and are now established breeders in *Bandera* and *Medina*, Tex. One in *Crosby*, Tex., July 1 provided only a 3rd county record (ML) but one in *Kimble* June 8 & 10 probably presages an increasing population there (NJ). Yellow-billed Cuckoos registered a large increase in *Washington* and *Osage*, Okla. (ED), *Brewster*, Tex. (BMCK), and Guadalupe Mountains N. P. (OVO). A Groove-billed Ani at Lubbock July 7-10 constituted a 2nd county record (LMK, m.ob.).

One indication of what Great Plains birders do in summer was a report of "one Com. Barn-Owl flying over a Little League baseball field during a night game July 20, *Johnson*, Kans." (M & AC). At Oklahoma City, eight nestling E. Screech-Owls were banded from 2 nests (NG, BC) In Big Bend N.P., a N. Pygmy-Owl was sighted June 29 (JBu). A Burrowing Owl burrow with at least five young was within 30 ft of a heavily used parking lot in Elmer Thomas P., *Comanche*, Okla. All survived in spite of a heavy July 4th "bombardment" (JMM, LEM). Spotted Owls were located in the Guadalupe Mountains N.P. high country several times in July (WR *et al.*).

NIGHTJARS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Three species of nightjars were present in Bohemia Prairie W.M.A., *Knox*, Neb., June 15-17: Com. Nighthawk, Com. Poorwill and Whip-poor-will. This unusual occurrence is just one example of how the varied habitat in the Niobrara Valley contributes to the presence of species from both e. and w. at the same locality (JD). Nesting of the Com. Poorwill was confirmed at Midland June 27 (AW, m.ob.) and *Crosby*, Tex., June 20 (KH). A Chuck-will's-widow nest with 2 eggs was found in *Van Zandt*, Tex., May 31 (RK). Two Chuck-will's-widows mating in a *Stafford*, Kans., road June 9 were near the w. edge of their known breeding range in the state (SS). Whip-poor-wills were present in the Guadalupe Mts. all summer (OVO).

Very little ornithological work has been done in the Glass Mts. of n. *Brewster*, Tex., so a sighting of Blue-throated Hummingbirds there July 30-31 was of interest (BMCK). A Magnificent Hummingbird was seen in the foothills of the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., June 7. This species is rarely recorded below 6000 ft elevation (GW). The Acorn Woodpecker population in w. *Kerr*, Tex., is prospering (E & KM). Golden-fronted Woodpeckers were feeding nestlings in Big Bend N.P., in June (m.ob.). When Wauer's book on the Big Bend was published in 1973, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers were only rare migrants. Downy Woodpeckers were feeding nestlings in *Van Zandt*, Tex., May 6 (RK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Migrant flycatchers of 3 species were still present in the n. Texas Panhandle June 9. Two singing W. Flycatchers, rather than the usual one, were in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux*, Neb., the only known nesting site of the species in the state. The status of many species on the Guadalupe Mountains N.P. check-list is being changed now that there is a resident birder at the park. Black Phoebes, instead of being "rare migrants," have been found to be summer residents, nesting near mountain streams (OVO). A Say's Phoebe nest with eggs was found at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., July 4, providing a first nesting record for the refuge (DS, m.ob.). Great Crested Flycatchers were abundant in shelterbelts in w. Kansas. Two Brown-crested Flycatchers were discovered in *Real*, Tex., June 14 and

one in *Garner S P*, Tex., June 21 (E & KM) Contributors throughout the Region commented that W. Kingbirds were abundant and fledged numerous young. Unheeding the activities of people, W. Kingbirds are conspicuous on busy streets and crowded parks as well as quiet residential areas. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were tallied during a *Jeff Davis*, Tex., B.B.S. (GW).

Twelve Purple Martins graced *Floyd*, Tex., June 19 & Aug. 3. There are no breeding records there (ML). Four Tree Swallows darted over Black Mesa S.P., Okla., June 17 (JG). Hundreds of Violet-green Swallows swirled over the high country in the Guadalupe Mts., July 17. In *Grayson*, Tex., Mar. 21, N. Rough-winged Swallows carried small twigs to nest holes (KH). Both N. Rough-winged and Cave swallows were numerous in the Glass Mts., July 27-31 (BMCK). Five species of swallows hunted all summer over Junction, Tex., sewage ponds: N. Rough-winged, Bank, Cliff, Cave, and Barn (NJ).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES — Blue Jays were formerly only winter residents at Junction and Midland, but now a few summer each year. Bushtits were common in the Glass Mts., July 27-31. Red-breasted Nuthatches may possibly be resident in Guadalupe Mountains N.P., as two were present at a high country campsite July 13 & 18 (WR *et al.*) White-breasted Nuthatches with young were sighted in *Kaufman*, Tex., May 9 (WP, TG) and *Van Zandt* May 30 (RK). In Big Bend N.P., Cactus Wrens tore apart a Barn Swallow nest and killed the chicks (RD) A Canyon Wren sang within a lumber company building in Amarillo July 20 (PA). In 4 days of birding in s.e. Kansas, no Carolina Wrens were found despite the playing of wren and owl tapes. On the 5th day, a single Carolina Wren was discovered in a residential area of Arkansas City (SS). The long spell of severe cold in w. Texas last winter decimated the population of Bewick's Wrens from Amarillo to Midland A House Wren nested in *Hemphill*, Tex. (KS). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest in *Beckham*, Okla., June 3 was the first found there in 22 years (IB) A pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers feeding an imm. Brown-headed Cowbird in Guadalupe Mountains N.P., July 7 represented the first breeding record of this gnatcatcher in the Park (OVO). The juniper-oak habitat was not typical of the species. At Ft. Gibson, Okla., E. Bluebirds had high nesting success, and McMahon reported "about 25 young ones at my place." A Wood Thrush visited *Comanche*, Okla., June 6-7 (JMM) and one summered at Arkansas City (SS).

CATBIRD THROUGH VIREOS — Gray Catbirds provided the most startling news of the season. A pair remained in the Davis Mts., Tex., May-July 28 (PE) and another pair summered at Amarillo (KS). A single bird at Elk City, Okla., July 8 sought relief from 100° heat by bathing in a bird bath (IB). These localities are far w. of the normal breeding range of the species. At Abilene, Tex., a pair of N. Mockingbirds nested in a satellite dish—apparently they did not interfere with reception. Also at Abilene, a pair of Curve-billed Thrashers raised 2 broods in a martin house (KSo). Extraordinary dates for Water Pipits were July 2 in Guadalupe Mountains N.P. (MI) & July 25 in *Kerr*, Tex (E & KM).

Male Phainopeplas only were seen in Guadalupe Mountains N.P., June 16 & July 16 (OVO), but more than 20 of both sexes were in the Glass Mts., July 27-31 (BMCK). In *Rush*, Kans., June 12, Seltman watched a Loggerhead Shrike kill an 8-inch bull snake. The shrike would pick at the snake as it lay in the road, pick it up and fly high into the air, drop the snake to the roadway, and repeat the process again. Bell's Vireos were heard on 2 B.B.S. routes in *Osage* and *Washington*, Okla., for the first time (ED). The species was numerous at Oklahoma City in a willow swamp and there were hundreds in riparian habitat along the Rio Grande in *Brewster*. But the pair that nested in a shrubby strip between a Wal-Mart parking lot and a highway at Bartlesville deserves a medal (whether for bravery or stupidity is debatable).

No Black-capped Vireos have been seen in Kansas in many years, and at their only remaining nesting area in Oklahoma only two pairs were present this summer. In Texas, there are about 12 known localities where the species is not uncommon, but there are thousands of acres of suitable habitat on the Edwards Plateau where no birder ever goes. A Black-capped Vireo nest found near Dallas with 3 vireo eggs and no cowbird eggs gave hope that not every Black-capped Vireo is victimized by this pest.

In *Rush*, Kans., Warbling Vireos were feeding young July 26 (SS) A

singing ♂ Red-eyed Vireo in Black Mesa S.P., June 17 provided a 3rd Oklahoma Panhandle record (JG). A Red-eyed Vireo at Muleshoe N.W.R., July 4 was unusual at that date (DS, m.ob.).

WARBLERS — A Blue-winged Warbler at Lubbock June 23 provided a 3rd county record (CP, EB). Historically, Yellow Warblers nested in the Texas Panhandle, but no nests have been found in many years. A lone singing male was heard in *Lipscomb*, June 6 (KS). A tardy (or lost?) Chestnut-sided Warbler lingered in Guadalupe Mountains N.P., May 29-June 4 (BJ *et al.*). A Blackburnian Warbler near Ft. Worth June 4 was a late migrant (JWS). A Yellow-throated Warbler brightened Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., June 16 (SS). A Blackpoll Warbler was at Muleshoe N.W.R. on the unusual date of July 4 (DS, m.ob.). Although Cerulean Warblers are listed as breeding birds in e. Kansas, few are ever seen, so one at Marais des Cygnes June 2 caused considerable excitement (SS). A pair of Prothonotary Warblers successfully nested in a birdhouse in a Bartlesville backyard about ½ mi from the Caney R. (P & IH). High water at Oklahoma City was responsible for very low nesting success of Prothonotary Warblers there. A ♂ Prothonotary in *Caddo*, Okla., June 1 provided a first county record (JG). A Louisiana Waterthrush was discovered in *Hutchinson*, Tex., July 21 (FC). Kentucky Warblers rarely nest as far w. as Oklahoma City, where a nest was located in a residential area June 16 (JS). A recently-fledged Kentucky Warbler was sighted in *Van Zandt*, Tex., July 22 (RK).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES — An ad. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Lubbock July 4 was unusual for the date (AF). A Lazuli Bunting was found at the unlikely site of *Cherokee*, Kans., June 16 (SS). Indigo Buntings summered in Guadalupe Mountains N.P. Varied Buntings have summered in a canyon near Junction, Tex., for the past 7 years (NJ). Painted Buntings were scarce throughout w. Texas. Dickcissels were absent from the drought areas of c. Texas, and were scarce in w. Kansas, but had a "big year" in w. Nebraska. At Alpine, Tex., Cassin's Sparrows did not follow the usual pattern of arriving with the late summer rains, but instead came in early April and were "bouncing off the bushes" all summer (GW). Two singing ♂ Field Sparrows were found in *Grant*, Neb., a new sandhills summering locality (RCR). Grasshopper Sparrows were missing on 2 B.B.S. routes near Lampasas, Tex. (GL), but increased greatly on routes in *Osage* and *Washington*, Okla. (ED).

The population of E. Meadowlarks was much reduced in the Bartlesville area, possibly as a result of the record cold winter. Numerous E. Meadowlarks summered in the lowland areas of Guadalupe Mountains N.P. A Great-tailed Grackle in Guadalupe Mountains N.P., July 17 elicited no kudos. This species nested in *Washington*, Okla., for the first time since 1979. At College Station, Tex., a large roost of Great-tailed Grackles was maintained throughout the summer. Usually the roost disbands with the onset of breeding and does not reform until early July when females and their young leave the nesting colonies (KA). Orchard Orioles are now rarely found at Oklahoma City and Bartlesville, and cowbirds may be the reason. At Inks Lake S.P., Tex., an Orchard Oriole nest was parasitized by both Brown-headed and Bronzed cowbirds (RBC). Hooded Oriole numbers in *Brewster* are also much reduced. Scott's Orioles are increasing on the Edwards Plateau.

House Finches have become common in Chadron, Neb., where many young were seen (RCR). One Pine Siskin appeared at a thistle feeder in Bartlesville July 18-22 (RP). A Lesser Goldfinch was seen in Lubbock, where there are few summer records, July 3 (GJ). After 3 years' absence, a ♂ Lesser Goldfinch visited Methodist Canyon, *Caddo*, Okla., July 6 (JG).

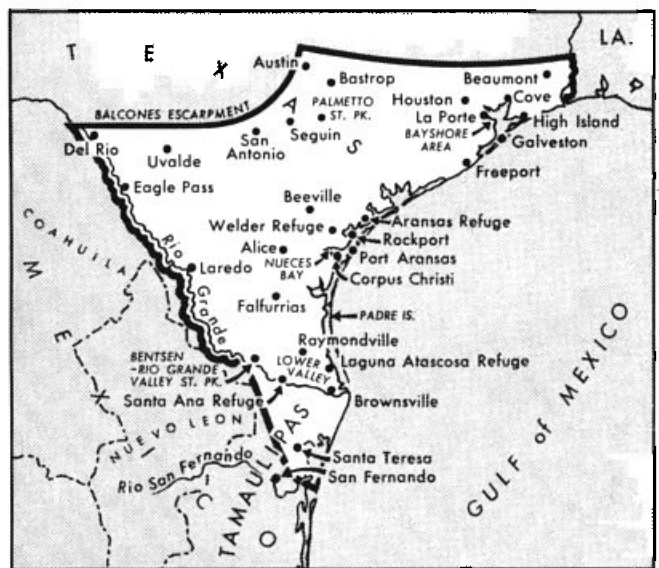
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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

The drought conditions in the interior of the Region and on the central coast continued virtually unabated. Water levels were very low in much of the Region except where scattered, local thunderstorms provided temporary relief. The numerous small playa lakes on the central and lower coast were parched by June. As a result, waterbirds, including Least Grebes, Olivaceous Cormorants, Anhingas, Mottled Ducks and gallinules were sparse to absent in those areas; the only exceptions to this general picture are noted in the account below. In Karnes County, ranchers cut hackberry trees for cattle fodder, thereby locally reducing berry crops for birds in later seasons. Most pastureland in that area was "burnt up or grazed down to bare ground" (WS). Only on the upper coast and parts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley were drought conditions relieved by near-normal summer rainfall. The ecology of Galveston Island, however, remains "vastly different" than it was a year ago (MA). Vegetation on the island that was not killed by salt water incursion from hurricane *Alicia* last August was severely damaged by last winter's freezes. The spring drought lowered freshwater levels, drying valuable ponds and marshes. Ironically, these changes benefitted nearby Pelican Island; fire ants, which had devastated the nesting waterbird colony there in recent years, were not evident this year (RP). Recent deposition of new spoil material in the Rockport area provided additional nesting areas for several colonial waterbird species (CK).

An undocumented report of an accidental Texas species, a Ruddy Ground-Dove in June in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, was recently



received. The belated report of this sighting prompts us to ask all birders in this popular Region to aid the scientific record and the sport of birding by providing *timely, detailed* reports of rarities to appropriate people.

South Texas now has an active, efficient network of rare bird tapes on which any observer can leave a timely message of a rarity. They include Austin (512-451-3308), San Antonio (512-699-3013), Texas Coast (713-821-2846), and the Rio Grande Valley (512-565-6773). Details of any rarity seen in a state park or refuge should also be brought to the attention of park or refuge personnel.

ABBREVIATIONS — Attwater = Attwater Prairie Chicken Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Laguna Atascosa = Laguna Atascosa Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH STORK — An Eared Grebe summering at Mitchell L. near San Antonio (SHan) was unusual. Holt found a single Audubon's Shearwater dead on the beach at Mustang Island July 18 (*to Univ. of Texas Marine Sci. Inst.; *vide* TA). Two unidentified storm-petrels 15 mi off Port Aransas July 30 were probably Wilson's (*vide* TA). A **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** at Mitchell L., over 100 mi inland, was studied at close range June 14 (†WS, TH). An excellent description of the bird was submitted; there appears to be no obvious explanation (meteorological or other) for this occurrence—the 5th Texas record. Single Masked Boobies were seen off Port Aransas in mid and late July (*vide* TA), and a subad. Brown Booby was seen off Galveston July 28 (SW).

Brown Pelicans generally continued their successful nesting trend of recent years. On Pelican I. (Corpus Christi) there were 107-115 nests. At least 220 young had hatched at this colony by the end of the period and 84 young were banded (EP). Brown Pelicans, however, did not nest at their other major colony site in San Antonio Bay where 16 pairs had nested in 1983. The whereabouts of the latter birds were unknown (TS). A Brown Pelican flew over Sekula June 11 near Panna Maria, *Karnes*, about 85 mi inland. A single Olivaceous Cormorant appeared in a Cattle Egret colony near Taylor in early June; this raised the possibility of a first nesting record for the Austin area (HF). A single ♀ Anhinga summered at L. Gonzales (PH). Up to 20 Magnificent Frigatebirds were present over w. Galveston Bay in July (MA).

A pair of Least Bitterns nested for the first time at Attwater (WSh), and up to six/day were seen regularly at a marsh near Port Aransas during June and July (WP). Considering the harsh winter and the extremely dry spring, Payne considered the nesting season for colonial waterbirds to be good on the c. coast. Ten to 20 Little Blue Herons in various plumages summered at L. Gonzales. This may have indicated local nesting, but no colony site was found (PH). Reddish Egrets fared well on Pelican I. (Corpus Christi), with a high of 169 pairs (EP). An imm. Reddish Egret was seen near Panna Maria July 1 & 5 (†WS). Four Wood Storks on Barton Cr., in Austin June 9 were very unusual (MT), and a count of 89 storks in *Matagorda* June 17 was surprising (R & MB).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — At least 19 ducks of 7 species summered at Mitchell L. (SHan). Despite the low water levels in many areas, several observers commented on the continuing upswing in Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Reports of increases and/or good hatches came from Santa Ana, Falfurrias, Kingsville, Laguna Atascosa, Austin, Attwater, and Brazos Bend S.P. Kingsville observers mentioned that the species was "certainly obvious in town where they sat on roofs, chimneys, etc." Numerous nestling Wood Ducks at L. Gonzales by late May indicated a 2nd successful year at that location (PH). A pair of Masked Ducks at Santa Ana July 26 could have been a resighting of the elusive individuals seen in March (TP).

Two ad. Mississippi Kites were seen feeding young at L. Jackson on the U.T.C. (T & SC); a sighting of two birds on Buffalo Bayou near Houston July 13 (RP) may also have indicated nesting at that locale. A couple of sightings of two Bald Eagles near Kingsville in July (BS) were reminiscent of a single bird seen over Cayo del Oso near Corpus Christi 2 years earlier. These may have been post-breeding wanderers from the nesting populations in the *Goliad-Victoria-Calhoun* area. Two Broad-winged Hawks seen in w. Austin June 29-July 13 were either locally summering birds or very early migrants (BB). A small number of Swainson's Hawks around Austin, the U.T.C., and the coastal bend suggested scattered nesting attempts; however, numbers of migrants showed up early in some locations such as Floresville with 16 on June

24, 11 on July 3, and 37 on July 8 (WS). Two ad. White-tailed Hawks were noted through July near Clear L. City, but nesting evidence was lacking. The nearest White-taileds are about 35 mi s.w. in *Brazoria* (MA). An imm. Peregrine Falcon inexplicably showed up at Santa Ana June 9 (JI).

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH TERNS — Helicopter surveys of Attwater's (Greater) Prairie-Chickens at their namesake refuge indicated an excellent poult/adult ratio of 2:1 (WSh). At L. Gonzales, Purple Gallinules, which had been very numerous in May and June, disappeared in July (PH). The birds may still have been present; but the water hyacinths became very difficult to search and the birds stopped vocalizing. Common Moorhens were conspicuously absent at that lake, but 25 young from 5 broods were reported at San Antonio. Gallinules and moorhens nested very successfully at Brazos Bend S.P. and elsewhere.

Four species of late northbound shorebirds were at Mitchell L., June 3, while southbound shorebirds began arriving July 3 (SHan). At Rockport, Wilson's Plovers were very numerous in areas of new spoil deposited in 1983 (CK); the species was also reported to be very common this year in *Kleberg* (N & PP, SBa). Black-necked Stilts nested abundantly at Mitchell L. and were suspected of nesting near Falfurrias. Two nesting pairs of Am. Avocets, uncommon and irregular nesters on the coast, were photographed near Corpus Christi in late May (*vide* KM).



Adult female American Avocet and its nest on an islet in Corpus Christi Bay, Texas, May 1984. Photos/Atlee McCampbell.

Gull-billed Terns, Least Terns, and Black Skimmers were very numerous and successful on the new spoil islands near Rockport. Kaigler counted 300 Least Terns on one beach in late July, one-third of which were immatures. Least Terns were also doing well elsewhere on the c. and lower coast (EP, AO, CS), but Pulich reported that a nesting area near Port Aransas is threatened by off-road vehicle enthusiasts. Small numbers of Sooty Terns, the rarest nesting tern on the Texas coast, were

noted in June and July at Shamrock I. in Corpus Christi Bay and on spoil islands in the lower Laguna Madre, both known to be traditional sites for the species (EP, CS).



Adult Least Tern at nest. Galveston Co., Texas, Apr. 29, 1984. Photo/ Greg Lasley.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Common Ground-Doves were more numerous than usual in Austin, Palmetto S.P., Kingsville, and Laguna Atascosa (PH, PP, CS *et al.*), but were reported to be scarce around Falfurrias (AO). Following last winter's record for *s. Jim Wells*, a single White-tipped Dove was seen in riparian woodland June 30 s. of Benavides in *Duval* (CS). This location is 20 mi w. of the *Jim Wells* record and 80 mi n. of the species' regular range. Parrots of uncertain origin continued to be reported in the Region. A Red-crowned was in Austin June 29 + (FW), the first report of the species outside the L.R.G.V., and two Yellow-headed appeared June 25 at Laguna Atascosa (SR).

A Black-billed Cuckoo near Driftwood June 23 provided a very rare summer record for the Austin area (BB). Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed low in numbers at many locations, or were at least less vocal. Hartigan noted that "there wasn't much rain for the 'rain crows' to sing about." A Yellow-billed with an *Anolis* lizard in its bill near Boerne in June was probably a sign of the drought conditions that had depleted insect food supplies (CS). Lesser Nighthawks were more numerous in the n. part of their range than in previous years (AO, WS). Common Nighthawk numbers were up in the Falfurrias area (AO) but thought to be down in Austin (PH *et al.*). Of more concern was Graber's estimate that Commons continued their serious decline in the Beaumont area, numbering now only 5-10% of their population of 10 years ago. Buff-bellied Hummingbirds recovered quickly from last winter's freezes. The species was present all summer in Kingsville and presumably nested (N & PP, SBa); good hatches were also reported in the Falfurrias area (AO).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — Eastern Wood-Pewees were notably more numerous on the w. edge of their range this summer. Nests and/or fledglings were seen in *Travis*, *Hays*, *Blanco*, and *Comal* in the Hill County. Fall *Empidonax* flycatchers arrived early in the Region this year. Unidentified empids were seen in Austin July 13 (*fide* EK) and near Falcon Dam July 15 (GD). Least Flycatchers seemed common in the Austin area July 18-31, when eight were netted at a banding site and many others observed in the area (CT, BB, GL, DC *et al.*). Vermilion Flycatchers were absent or hard to find at known haunts near Austin and Falfurrias (PH, AO). A nest of Great Kiskadees near Del Rio, *Val Verde*, was 150 mi n.w. of their previously known nesting range. A local observer stated this was the 3rd year in a row for nesting by the species (*fide* KA). Western Kingbirds were found in high numbers in the Victoria area in July (PR) and made news with 15-20 birds and several nests located in the Houston area (GC, RB, MA *et al.*). An E. Kingbird at Mitchell L., July 2 (J & SHan) and 10 at L. Gonzales July 7 (G & BL) were notably far s.w. for summer.

Noteworthy news of swallows came from much of the Region. A Tree Swallow July 3 at Mitchell L. (WS) was probably an exceedingly early migrant; however, this was the site of the only known previous Texas nesting records for the species 60-70 years ago. Over 200 Bank Swal-

lows at Mitchell L. in June and July indicated a large unlocated nesting colony nearby (ph., GL, SHan, m.ob.). Cliff and Barn swallows were abundant nesters in Austin, Kingsville, Falfurrias, and elsewhere (CS, AO *et al.*).

— S.A. —

The nesting range of the Cave Swallow has expanded dramatically to the s.e. They were reported nesting in numerous localities in n. *Jim Hogg*, n. *Brooks*, and s. *Kleberg*, all new county records (AO). The easternmost colony was on Texas Hwy 285 near Riviera, virtually on the Gulf Coast (TP). Six Cave Swallows were also seen s. of Benavides in *Duval* June 30, another new county record (CS). The previous limit of the known nesting range had been in *Atascosa*, *La Salle*, and w. *Zapata*, 60-100 mi to the n. and w. It will be of interest to see if this range expansion persists in future years when the interior brushlands are not under severe drought conditions.

A minor correction: In contrast to a statement in this column last year (Webster, 1983. *AB* 37:1005), the n.e. limit of the nesting range of Green Jays is known to include Kingsville, Alice, Orange Grove, and L. Corpus Christi (KM *et al.*). The species continues to do well in Falfurrias (AO). Fish Crows were exceptionally numerous around Beaumont in early summer, but had all but disappeared by July 1 (WG). Black-crested (Tufted) Titmice had excellent nesting success in Falfurrias, but Bewick's Wrens continued a 5-year decline in that area (AO). O'Neil also reports that Verdins have been absent for several years around Falfurrias as native brush continues to be cleared. A Wood Thrush singing in Austin June 27 was at the w. edge of the species' range but nesting evidence is still lacking (*fide* EK). American Robins nested successfully in Falfurrias for the 2nd year in a row (AO).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — White-eyed Vireos were reportedly down in numbers [Less vocal?] in the Austin area and in *Brazoria* and *Brooks*. A Bell's Vireo in San Antonio June 7 provided the first summer record there in several years (SHan).

— S.A. —

Concern continues for the status of the Black-capped Vireo. In a 0.5-square-mile area encompassing the largest known colony in w. *Travis*, 23 breeding territories were mapped (JO). Of the 10 completed nests that were located, all were parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. Seven of the 10 nests were abandoned, largely due to predators and cowbird harassment. After an observer removed the cowbird eggs, 2 of these nests fledged one young each. From an undisturbed nest, one cowbird was fledged. The 23 territories produced a total of four young vireos. The U.S.F.W.S. is currently researching the status of the species. Detailed information on any and all recent or historical records of Black-capped Vireos throughout the species' nesting range should be sent to the appropriate *Am. Birds* Regional Editors and to: Roger Clapp, U.S.F.W.S., National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560.

Numerous fledgling Golden-cheeked Warblers in June near Austin and elsewhere indicated a successful nesting season in spite of the drought-stressed habitat. However, a real estate land rush in w. *Travis* this year may hasten Golden-cheeked habitat loss faster than previously anticipated. A singing Am. Redstart seemed to be on territory on the Medina R., near San Antonio June 3 (J & SHan), but it may have been a late migrant. Redstarts continued to be seen during summer months at Brazos Bend S.P. but positive nesting evidence is still lacking (WC *et al.*). A Prothonotary Warbler nest with four young along the Medina R. established the first San Antonio area nesting record in many years (J & SHan). Prothonotaries were again reported in moderate numbers around L. Gonzales (PH *et al.*). A rare nest of Louisiana Waterthrushes was found in w. *Travis* June 11 (CS, m.ob.) and a singing male was seen in *Hays* July 29 (GP). A very late Mourning Warbler was in Austin June 8 (BB).

BUNTINGS THROUGH COWBIRDS — Indigo Buntings were

more numerous than usual as nesters in the Austin area (PH, GL). Painted Buntings were in normal numbers early in the season but had low nesting success at a study site near Austin (BB, CT). In Falfurrias, however, this species seemed to recover from a 3-year decline (AO). A Rufous-sided Towhee was found in w. Austin on the unusual date of June 10 (*vide* EK). The White-collared Seedeaters near the Sarita Border Patrol Station, mentioned this spring, were seen again June 1 (SL). A U.S.F. & W.S. survey for Botteri's Sparrows found them doing well in appropriate habitat in their limited Texas range e. of Brownsville and up the coast through *Cameron, Willacy, Kenedy, and Kleberg* (RC). Cassin's Sparrows were more numerous than usual around Austin and Rockport, but sparse to absent in *Wilson and Brooks* (PH, CK, WS, AO). Three singing Cassin's at Attwater May 29 were notably far e. (PH). An ad. Swamp Sparrow observed at Brazos Bend S.P., July 18 was a remarkable find; it established a first summer record for the area and the 3rd summer record for Texas (†MA). The bird flew into a cattail marsh with a food item in its bill but neither a nest nor the bird itself could be located subsequently.

Out-of-season Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported at Mitchell L., July 16+ and off Port Aransas July 20. After a disturbing decline in recent years, Audubon's Orioles seemed to be more widespread and numerous this year. Successful nesting was reported at Santa Ana and

Falfurrias, other birds were seen in *Jim Wells, Kleberg, McMullen, Duval, Starr, and Hidalgo* (m.ob.). An interesting find in Burnet n. of Austin May 29 was an Orchard Oriole nest containing 3 oriole eggs, one Brown-headed Cowbird egg, and one Bronzed Cowbird egg (RC). The latter species was not previously known to occur in the county.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

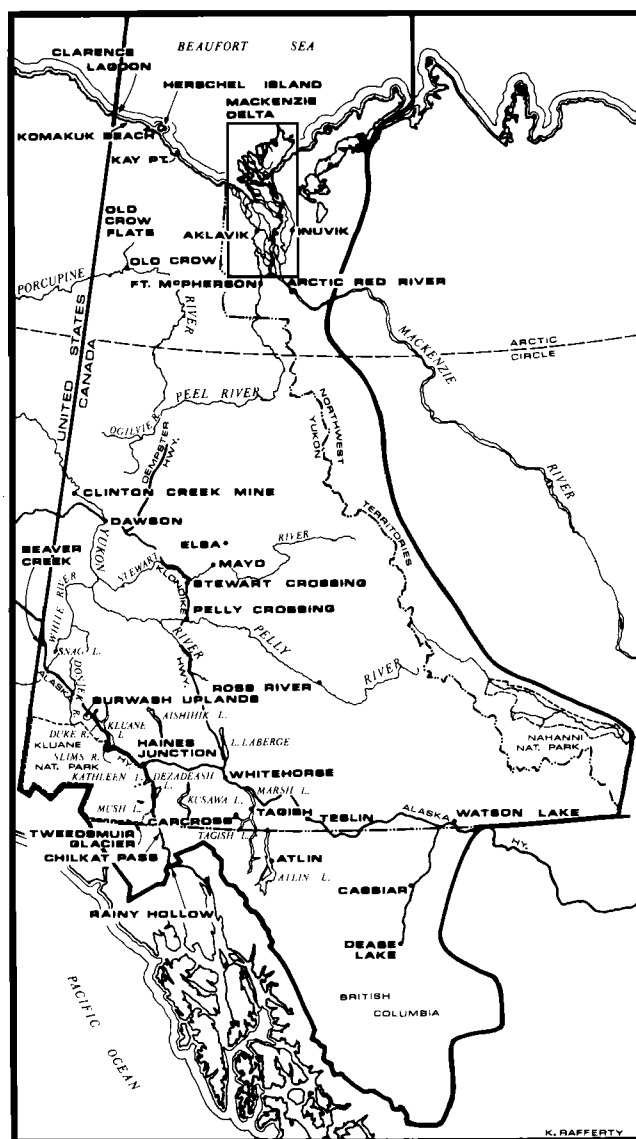
/Helmut Grünberg

Many areas, especially in the Yukon as far south as the southern Yukon, experienced very cool temperatures with several nights of light frost; and even in July there was some frost. This must have had an adverse effect on the breeding birds. Unusually late (or early?) accumulations of non-breeding birds of several species were observed in the extreme southern part of the Region near Fort St. John. Precipitation appeared to have been about normal in most parts of the Region. A total of 216 species was observed this season, a fairly low number for the summer. Among the unreported species were Trumpeter Swan, Swainson's Hawk, Hudsonian Godwit, Surf-bird, Sanderling, Dunlin, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, California Gull, Great Gray Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Hammond's and Dusky flycatchers, Blue Jay, Yellow Wagtail, Townsend's Warbler and Western Meadowlark. All observations reported by J. Hawkings (JH) were part of a Yukon Government program headed by D. Mossop.

ABBREVIATION — F.S.J. = Fort St. John, B.C.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS — A raft of 67 Arctic Loons in breeding plumage was seen near F.S.J. as late as June 6 (CS). Two Am. Bitterns were noted in a field near F.S.J., June 6 (B & WD, *vide* CS). A Great Blue Heron was reported at Graham Inlet, Tagish L., n. B.C. (MBr). Apparently ad. Canada Geese in several flocks of 18-50 birds were "still" in the F.S.J. area around June 10-15 (CS). A lone Snow Goose provided the first summer record for the Peace R. area, B.C., June 24-26 (CS). Twelve Brant were seen in flight at the Upper Deza-deash R., July 8 (GJ, CM *et al.*). The first observation of a Wood Duck in the Peace R. area and in the Region was of one male near F.S.J., June 14-25 (CS, JJ, MF). Two male and one possible ♀ Cinnamon Teals were noted near F.S.J., June 21 (CS), and one male was found at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, June 10 (HG, AM) at the same location where it had been observed throughout May. A pair of Gadwalls was seen near Inuvik June 17-19 (MBen). While Com. Eiders were fairly common on the Yukon n. coast during June and July (JH, SC) with a maximum of 32 birds June 28 (JH), King Eiders were seen only twice: six birds June 27 and three June 28 (JH). Fifty Black Scoters were sighted on the Yukon n. coast July 14-16 (JH). A ♀ Hooded Merganser was seen at the Upper Deza-deash R., June 8 (GJ, CM *et al.*).

The following unusual spring waterfowl sightings were not previously published: Two ♂ Cinnamon Teals at a creek near Tagish R. bridge, Yukon, May 13 (KJ) and one male at the Yukon R., near Marsh L., May 20 (CM); two Eur. Wigeons and a pair of Redheads at M'Clintock Bay, Marsh L., Apr. 18 and one Redhead at Shallow Bay, L. Laberge May 15 (CM).



OSPREY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — An Osprey was observed at the headwaters of the Watson R., Yukon, in early June (JL, PW *et al.*), and one was spotted on Salt R., Wood Buffalo N.P., June 17 (JS, *vide* JT). Adult and imm. Peregrine Falcons were recorded regularly in good numbers at their nesting sites in the c. Yukon in June and July during a Yukon Government program supervised by D. Mossop (TM, DM). A Gyrfalcon was seen in the Ogilvie Mts. near the Dempster Hwy July 7 (TM), and two were observed at Spring R., n. Yukon, July 18-25 (JH). A ♂ Blue Grouse was identified along the Yukon R. near Clear Cr. in late June (JL, PW *et al.*). One pair of White-tailed Ptarmigans was on territory on Montana Mt., s. Yukon, June 17 (HG, CO).

Wandering Tattlers showed territorial behavior at Spring R., n. Yukon, July 21, 22 & 25, and in the same area a flightless young Spotted Sandpiper was found (JH). On Herschel I., n. Yukon, an unusually large number of 43 Whimbrels was counted July 6, and breeding Ruddy Turnstones were observed here June 26-July 16 (JH). A W. Sandpiper sighting in the F.S.J. area was noteworthy (CS). A Stilt Sandpiper was noted at Herschel I., July 12 (JH), and at least four were seen at Clarence Lagoon July 5 (SC), while at least 12 were observed near Inuvik July 15 (MBen). A surprisingly large number of 25 Wilson's Phalaropes was encountered at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, June 10 (HG, AM).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Parasitic Jaegers were seen regularly along the Yukon n. coast (JH, SC) while Pomarines were not recorded this year. Herschel Island had a high count of 120 Black Guillemots July 16 (JH). A Mourning Dove near F.S.J., July 11 furnished an unusual summer record (CS). One to two Snowy Owls were seen regularly on Herschel I., June 27-July 15 (JH). A Short-eared Owl was viewed throughout the summer in the Upper Dezadeash R. area (GJ, CM *et al.*). This species is otherwise fairly common in c. to n. Yukon. An active fledged N. Saw-whet Owl was seen near F.S.J., June

27 (TG, *vide* CS). Rufous Hummingbirds including young were observed regularly at Graham Inlet, Tagish L. (MBr). A ♂ Black-backed Woodpecker was seen in the F.S.J. area June 23 (CS, MF, JJ).

PERCHING BIRDS — An unidentified crow was seen at Bayshore, Kluane L., Yukon, in early June (KP). Crows have been reported a few times from the s.w. Yukon, but hardly ever was the observer sure whether it was an American or a Northwestern crow. Six Mountain Chickadees were reported from the s.w. Yukon in early June (KP). For the 3rd year, three to four Veeries were discovered near F.S.J., June 10 (CS). At least one Warbling Vireo was singing at a known location near Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse June 9 (HG, AM). One of very few British Columbia breeding records of Philadelphia Vireos was obtained when a pair and their nest were discovered in the F.S.J. area June 28 (MF, WW, *vide* CS). Brewer's Sparrows, known from the s.w. Yukon, were reported from the s.c. Yukon for the first time as two singing males were observed on Montana Mt. near Carcross June 17 (HG, CO). Three singing Sharp-tailed Sparrows, rare in British Columbia, were photographed in the F.S.J. area June 28 (MF, *vide* CS). At least five Smith's Longspurs were seen on Sheep Mt., Dempster Hwy July 7 (TM).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

June in the Region continued the weather trend set during the spring period, with cool, wet conditions nearly everywhere. July, on the other hand, was almost invariably very dry and hotter than normal. One exception was Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Burns, Oregon, where lower temperatures and a thunderstorm which dropped 1.22 inches of rain kept water levels very high. The deep snow pack in the mountains of southeastern Idaho was slow to melt but eventually caused some severe flooding. Some observers noted delay of nesting in June and, in northwestern Montana, lack of second broods and/or decreased numbers of young birds. High water helped some species and hindered others, as noted in the species accounts.

Of special interest were actual or potential range extensions, notably of the Black-necked Stilt, Least Flycatcher and Black-throated Sparrow.

Deadline for fall period reports is Dec. 10.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.S. = breeding bird survey; C.G. = campground; P.P. = Provincial Park. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS AND GREBES — An apparent nesting attempt by Com. Loons near Preston, Ida., failed because water drawdown made their island a peninsula (CHT). A pair of the birds had three young, probably capable of flight, at Sidley L., Okanogan, Wash., in July (JK). A pair of Red-necked Grebes again nested at Henrys L., Fremont, Ida., and brought off four young (JS). Thirty adult and small young W. Grebes at Moses L., Wash., included a pair and a single bird of Clark's form (EH).

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS — Eighteen Am. White Pelicans were on Wells Pool of the Columbia R. near Brewster, Wash., June 21 (MH) and 22 appeared on Frenchman Hills Wasteway, Grant, Wash., July 26 (GS). The species was plentiful at American Falls and Minidoka

Dam on the Snake R., Ida. (WHS). The Double-crested Cormorant colony on the N. Potholes, Moses L., is expanding rapidly, with 40-50 nesting pairs and about 40 non-breeders (RF). Their numbers were up on American Falls Res., s. Idaho, with over 450 nests counted (CHT). About 625 pairs were nesting in the Malheur-Harney Lakes Basin, Harney, Ore. All were nesting in flooded areas.



HERONS THROUGH IBISES — Ten pairs of Great Blue Herons established a new nesting colony at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. (RP). In Idaho a nest of the species at the mouth of the Grande Ronde R. was apparently the first for the area; it contained four nearly-grown young July 28 (AM *et al.*). The breeding population of Great Egrets at the N. Potholes remained stable with five pairs producing two to four young each (RF). Two pairs apparently nested at Mud L., Hamer, Ida. (CHT). Snowy Egret numbers crashed at L. Walcott, Rupert, Ida., down from 132 pairs in 1979 to only about 15. Five other colonies in s.e. Idaho were also down but less drastically (CHT). A few Cattle Egrets nested at American Falls Res., Mud L. and L. Walcott (CHT). A Green-backed Heron was sighted on the Salmon R. e. of Stanley, Ida., July 8 (MRC) and one was seen n.w. of Frenchglen, Ore., July 11 (GI). Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers at L. Walcott plunged to only about 7 nests (147 nests in 1979) but some other colonies in s. Idaho were recovering (CHT). Some 400 pairs of White-faced Ibises nested on private land n. of Malheur L.

WATERFOWL — A pair of Snow Geese, one with an injured wing, stayed at Spangler Res., n. of Weiser, Ida. (KBP). Mallards had the lowest nesting population in 64 years' observing in the Fortine, Mont., vicinity, with a total of only 4 broods found on 14 lakes. A brood of N. Pintails in that area was only the 9th in 64 years (WW). A Eur. Wigeon was reported at Bear L., extreme s.e. Idaho about June 5 (*vide* CHT). Common Goldeneye broods in the Fortine vicinity were down with only 8 counted (WW). Two broods of this species were observed in the Libby, Mont., area (D & DH) and a female with one large young was seen near Winthrop, Wash. (EH).

HAWKS — An Osprey at the mouth of the Grande Ronde R., Asotin, Wash., July 28 was apparently the first ever recorded there (PS, CV, MK). A pair at Salmon, Ida. was again nesting on an artificial structure provided them (HBR). Single Black-shouldered Kites were photographed w. of Arco, Ida., June 28 (CW) and at Walters Ferry s. of Nampa, Ida., July 15 (BI, *vide* MRC, JD). A nesting pair of Bald Eagles at Banks L., Grant, Wash., was caring for two young, and a pair was nesting in Yakima, Wash., for the 2nd year (RF). A nesting attempt of the species near Loomis, Wash., failed (VM). The pair at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., fledged its two eaglets (SLT).

Three out of 10 nesting territories of Ferruginous Hawks in n.e. Franklin, Wash., were successful, as were 2 in the Juniper Forest near Connell, Wash. Indications were that successful nests of the species were down by two-thirds from recent years in s.c. Washington, the wet, cold spring being the possible culprit (RF). Of 42 Golden Eagle nesting attempts monitored in c. Washington, 24 were successful, producing 35 young (RF).

A Merlin at Little Camas Res., Elmore, Ida., June 10 apparently made the latilong's first summer record (MRC), as did one in mid-July in the Coeur d'Alene, Ida., area (KS). A ♀-plumaged Merlin was chasing starlings and meadowlarks near Hot L., s. of LaGrande, Ore., June 24 (MR).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Production of Gray Partridges, Chukars and Ring-necked Pheasants in c. Washington appeared very low, presumably because of the cold, wet spring, but California Quail did well (W.D.G.). Slate Peak on the Cascade Crest at 7300 ft in n. Washington yielded an ad. ♂ White-tailed Ptarmigan (EH). The origin of three Scaled Quail near Little Camas Res., June 10 was a mystery as the Idaho Fish and Game Dept. had no knowledge of them (MRC).

RAILS AND CRANES — Yellow Rails were back at their usual haunts near Ft. Klamath, Ore., where 10 were heard and seen at 2 locations June 22 (SS). Greater Sandhill Cranes had a nesting success of only 26% at Malheur N.W.R.; high predation rates were responsible (CDL). Six ad. Whooping Cranes, one a territorial male, were observed at Grays Lake N.W.R., s.e. Idaho, June 25 (KBP).

SHOREBIRDS — Malheur had only a single Snowy Plover for a few days in late June. High water was blamed. The only other report was of two at Summer L., Lake, Ore., July 11 (CDL). A Semipalmated Plover was at Malheur July 15 (CDL) and two appeared at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., July 29 (PS, MK). It was a banner year for Black-necked Stilts

in the N. Potholes-Frenchman Hills-Winchester Wasteway area of s.c. Washington with several broods of young observed and others suspected (JT, RF, JRR, PW, REW). One was sighted at Cormana L., w. of Harrington, Wash., for a latilong first (JH), and at least six summered at Reardan, Wash. (WAH). One appeared near Hot L., Ore., June 24 (MR). Northeastern Douglas, Wash., had extremely high water levels which attracted Am. Avocets, noted there for the first time during nesting season. Both avocets and stilts appear to be attracted by the short vegetation produced by cattle grazing but suffer some losses from trampling.

Ten pairs of Upland Sandpipers were present during the nesting season in Bear Valley e. of Seneca, Ore. Eight were still there July 25 (SH). Three were sighted at the other traditional spot, in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane, Wash., July 3 (RK, THR). Deschutes, Ore., had its first Marbled Godwit record when one was photographed at Tumalo Res., July 22 (TC). Ten Marbleds at the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wash., July 29 made an unusually high number for that locality (WAH, REW). Malheur had five Sanderlings July 22 (CDL). Two Semipalmated Sandpipers at Miller I., July 26 supplied a 2nd record for Klamath, Ore. (SS), and one at Bend, Ore., July 8 was photographed for another 2nd county record (TC). The only Baird's Sandpipers reported were one at Tumalo Res., July 27 (TC, CM) and one at Mann's L., July 29 along with two Short-billed Dowitchers (PS, MK).

GULLS AND TERNS — A Bonaparte's Gull was noted at Malheur July 23 (CDL). The highlight of the season at Malheur N.W.R. was the discovery of a large Caspian Tern colony in Malheur L., about 700 adults producing several hundred young. This was the first time since 1960 that a large number have nested there; a few pairs nested on the refuge in 1983 (CDL). The birds continued to increase at 4 nesting colonies in s.e. Idaho (CHT, WHS) and the species was noted at Cascade Res., Valley, Ida., for supposedly the first record there (MRC). Common Terns were suspected of nesting near American Falls Res. (CHT) and two adults were sighted at Henrys L., June 10 (MRC). A Black Tern near Orofino, Ida., July 15 was unusual (LL).

PIGEONS AND CUCKOOS — Band-tailed Pigeons provided 33 separate observations in the Revelstoke, B.C., area May 6-July 31 (JW). One visited feeders at Ketchum, Ida., for weeks and was photographed (*vide* CHT, WHS). Centerville, Ida., had a Black-billed Cuckoo July 1 (MRC). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo appeared at Rupert, Ida., July 18 and two were heard there July 28 (WHS). Another committed suicide on a picture window at Twin Falls, Ida., June 1 (JR).

OWLS — Fourteen Com. Barn-Owls were counted on cliffs near Asotin, Wash., on an early June evening (C & HV). Flammulated Owls were heard in about 20 locations in the S. Thompson Valley between Savona and Pritchard, B.C., mostly in response to tapes (RH, RR, JB), and three were heard in Bear Cr. Valley n.w. of Kelowna (JB). At least six were heard at Blewett Pass, Chelan, Wash. (EH, GG); one or two at Lost L., n. of Diamond L., Wash. (BW, EH), and three males 10 mi s. of Twisp., Wash. (EH). Another was at Coeur d'Alene (GH). Two sightings came from s. of John Day and two nestlings rescued after their nest tree was cut n. of Burns, Ore., were being raised by Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife personnel. A N. Hawk-Owl was found in Manning P.P., B.C. in July; the species has nested there for about 5 years (BW). Twenty-eight active nests of Burrowing Owls were located in the Ephrata-Frenchman Hills area, Grant, Wash. All but 6 of these were believed successful, with an average brood size of eight. Three of these pairs utilized artificial burrows put out in an experimental project to expand the population and protect the birds from cattle trampling (RF). The species appeared to have good success throughout s.e. Oregon, with an average brood size of about six, but collisions with vehicles took their toll (CDL).

The only Spotted Owl reported was one near Swauk Pass w.s.w. of Wenatchee, Wash. (DS). A Barred Owl was located at Dry L., Fortine, June 1 (D & DH) and a pair was found near Park Rapids, Wash., June 24 (BW). One was calling at Loup Loup C.G., between Twisp and Omak, Wash., July 13 (RHu, CD). One or two Great Gray Owls were sighted near Libby on 2 dates in June (D & DH) and an immature was hunting at Pinatan, B.C., July 15 (RH). Two nests of the species were found at new locations in e. Klamath in June (EF) and a family of two adults and three

young was seen near Ft Klamath in mid-July (SS). An adult and a juvenile were found near LaGrande, Ore. (TC, RVE, m.ob.) and one was sighted at Island Park, Ida. (BS). Three pairs of N. Saw-whet Owls occupied bird houses put out for Flammulated Owls in the Penticton-Naramata area, B.C. (SC). One N. Saw-whet was captured in a mist net s. of Silver L., Ore., July 12 and another was heard 20 mi s.e. of John Day, Ore., July 23 (CDL).

POORWILL THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A Com. Poorwill nest with 2 eggs was discovered at Sagehen Res., Smiths Ferry, Ida., June 30 (MRC, AL, G.E.A.S.). A Black Swift was keeping company with White-throated Swifts at 6100 ft in Spar Canyon 40 mi w. of Stanley, Ida., July 8 (MRC). McGregor L., s.w. Flathead, Mont., had a Black Swift July 27 (D & DH). A few were noted at Swauk Creek C.G., Chelan, Wash., and at Marble Creek C.G., Kootenay N.P., B.C. (BW). Some 75 of the birds fed over the lower Methow Valley, Okanogan, Wash., July 2 (GB). Several White-throated Swifts were about cliffs at Wallula Gap near Wallula, Wash., June 17 (REW). A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird captured last winter at Boise, Ida., was released May 30 at Daggett Cr., n.e. of Boise, and remained at a feeder there to the period's end. A female of the species visited the same feeder July 12 but not with the male (MRC). Anna's were still on the increase at Bend, where the ♂ Costa's Hummingbird that appeared in May was last seen June 27 (TC).

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS — A freshly road-killed Red-headed Woodpecker was picked up near Ovando, Mont., June 12 (* to U. of Mont.) for the latilong's first record (JP, RHa, PLW). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was sighted 10 mi s. of Silver L., July 13 (CDL). A Three-toed Woodpecker in the Big Snowy Mts., s. of Lewistown, Mont., July 7 apparently established a latilong first (LM). An ad. ♂ Black-backed Woodpecker was observed in Gearhart Wilderness, Lake, Ore., July 3 (M & AA) and a pair was videotaped at a nest near Stanley, Ida., July 1-5 (JR, SMu, m.ob.).

Alder Flycatchers, usually considered uncommon in s. British Columbia, numbered 12 on a B.B.S. n. of Revelstoke June 21 (JW, RB) and one was present at Lavington, B.C., June 8-28 (MC). One of the species sang (on territory?) at Malheur June 2 (TC, JG, HN, DI, m.ob.). A total of 51 Willow Flycatchers was recorded on a 10 mi transect at Malheur, up considerably from previous years (CDL). The increase was unexpected since the willows had been damaged by herbicide spraying in 1983. Least Flycatchers were presumed to nest at Clyde Holliday S.P. near John Day, for two to three sang on territory through the period (MSE, M & AA). Two were singing on territory along the Grande Ronde R., 3 mi downstream from Red Bridge S.P., Union, Ore., June 25 (MR). Single birds were found in Hardy Canyon n.w. of Yakima (GG), and s. of Ellensburg, Wash., June 2 (DP). Two were heard and seen at Bridgeport S.P., Wash., June 30 (PM). Idaho's first **Cassin's Kingbird** was found at Mud L., Jefferson, June 10 (CW, CHT) and probably the same bird was seen there July 13 (MRC).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — An out-of-place Scrub Jay was at Summer L., June 6 (MSE). Two were at Poison Cr., e. side of Abert L., Lake, Ore., July 2, and the species was fairly common in juniper country w. of that lake (M & AA). The only Boreal Chickadees reported were five or more at Tiffany Mt., 20 mi w. of Tonasket, Wash. (EH, GG), and near Harts Pass on the Cascade Crest, n. Wash. (SHi, PSt). The only Bushtits reported were 15 near Fields, Ore., July 17 (CDL). A few Pygmy Nuthatches were noted at the w. limit of their range in Washington, at Boise-Cascade C.G. n.w. of Yakima and at Leader L. near Okanogan (EH). A Canyon Wren was reported near Noxon, Mont., June 16 (D & DH). Bewick's Wrens were still increasing in numbers in the Walla Walla, Wash., area (SM). House Wrens were utilizing many of the nest boxes put up for bluebirds in the Walla Walla and Coeur d'Alene vicinities.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS — A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers attempted to nest near Frenchglen, Ore., apparently without success (OLS). The species was again found on Stukel Mt., Klamath, Ore. (SS). Bluebird nest box projects in the Coeur d'Alene and Walla Walla areas had moderate success in attracting both Western and Mountain bluebirds. The latter species had good success at Libby and Eureka, Mont., and Clarkston, Wash., thanks to nest boxes. A N.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher near site of attempted nesting n. of Frenchglen, Ore., May 26, 1984. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

Mockingbird appeared near Cascade, Ida., July 5 (MRC). In Oregon, single mockingbirds were sighted at Hart Mountain Nat'l Antelope Ref., Lake (MSE), at Malheur (DM, BR, RV), and at Ft. Rock (DD). One paid a few days' visit to Twin Falls, Ida., in early June (JR). Two Bohemian Waxwings near Hopkins L., Pasayten Wilderness, n.c. Wash., July 25 acted as if on territory; one bird apparently was carrying an insect (THR).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A singing Red-eyed Vireo near North Fork, Ida., supplied that area's 2nd record (HBR). The Orange-crowned Warbler, normally only a rare migrant in the Helena area, was observed at nearby Grizzly Gulch, a singing male June 16 (LT, PH). A N. Parula was identified at Malheur June 3 (CC, TC, JG, m.ob.). Two male and three juv. Magnolia Warblers were sighted in Wells-Gray P.P., July 28 and a male and a juvenile were seen in Mt. Robson P.P., B.C., July 30 (BW). A Townsend's Warbler in the Big Snowy Mts., July 15, made a latilong first (LM). The Am. Redstart was found on the Centerville and Cascade, Ida., B.B.S. counts (MRC) and one sighted June 11 near Ardenvoir, Wash., was the first for that location (HO). A singing male at Cracker Cr., n. of Sumpter, Ore., June 23 was notable (MR).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH ORIOLES — Malheur had an ad. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak June 3; the species now is usually seen every year there (CDL). A pair of Lazuli Buntings at Hines, Ore., throughout the period was suspected of breeding (M & AA). At least three pairs of Green-tailed Towhees bred in the vicinity of Calamity Butte e. of Trout Cr., Ore. (M & AA).

S.A.

Black-throated Sparrows showed up far n. of their normal range. One appeared near Monse, Wash., June 30 (PM) & July 7 (BM), and up to three were seen and photographed 3 mi n. of Omak, Wash., June 30-July 28 (PM, BM AR, RHu, DL, GG, WAH). Single birds were reported at Kootenai N.W.R. for n. Idaho's 2nd record (SLT) and Kimberley, B.C., had one June 12 (MVW). Somewhat less surprising were one singing on Stukel Mt., June 23 for Klamath's 3rd record (SS) and a sighting at Discovery P., n.w. of Boise, a new locality for the species (MRC).

Grasshopper Sparrows were fairly common in Ada and e. Washington, Ida., in sagebrush and cheatgrass areas opened by fires in recent years (MRC, ECC, A & HL, J & VM). One was heard s.w. of Frenchglen June 30 (WR, GI). The Bull R. s. of Troy, Mont., yielded an ad. White-crowned Sparrow July 15, suggesting breeding in that area (D & DH), and another with much fat (migrating?) was netted near Troy in early July (KB).

Four ♂ Bobolinks near Heron, Mont., in early June were very unusual (D & DH). This species was noted at several places around Pocatello, Ida., and was apparently nesting near the Springfield bottoms along

American Falls Res. (CHT). The City of Rocks s.e. of Oakley, Ida., also had Bobolinks (WHS) and Grandview, Ida., had one June 28 (TCo). Four were seen near Enterprise, Ore., June 2 (CV, WH, LL, PSe). A Bobolink count inaugurated at Malheur this year counted 206 males. A Com. Grackle, extremely uncommon in s. British Columbia, was identified at Revelstoke May 27 (JW). A sighting of the species was obtained at Ashton, Ida., June 13, and two reportedly were near Oxford, Ida., in early July (CHT). A fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird was being fed by Golden-crowned Kinglets at Coeur d'Alene, Ida., June 12 (GH). A Scott's Oriole was sighted near Holbrook, Ida., June 12 (CW).

FINCHES — Both Gray-crowned and Black races of Rosy Finch were sighted in White Cloud Peaks s.e. of Stanley, Ida. (MRC). Pine Grosbeaks were sighted in Pasayten Wilderness in late July (THR) and a singing male was found in the McCuddin Cr. area, n.c. Wallowa, Ore. (MR). Purple Finches were reported in s.w. Idaho on Cascade and Centerville B.B.S.s, at Sagehen Res. (MRC), and at Ketchum (WHS). A singing male was observed near Canyon Cr. Summit s. of John Day (MR). Up to eight White-winged Crossbills were sighted in the Big Snowy Mts. in July (LM) and a vagrant ad. male was photographed at a Walla Walla feeder June 29 (C & SM). The phenomenal numbers of Pine Siskins that wintered in the Columbia Forest around Revelstoke.



Male White-winged Crossbill at Walla Walla, Wash., June 29, 1984. Photo/Corey Muse.

B.C., began to disperse in early June but highway casualties were tremendous; over 200 were killed by a truck driving through a single flock. A road-killed bird in Mt. Revelstoke N.P. had been banded at Whiting, N.J., Feb. 12, 1982 (JW).

ADDENDA — A Cattle Egret that appeared at Edelwaner, B.C., May 9 was the first for the E. Kootenay District (IJ, HBa) and a Black-crowned Night-Heron at Revelstoke Apr. 28 was noteworthy (DC).

OBSERVERS CITED — Merle & Anne Archie, Helen Bavin (HBa), Harold Black (HB), Rick Bonar, Jack Bowling, George Brady, Kay Burk, Steve Cannings, Eddie Chew, E.C. Cleaveland, Mark R. Collie, Mary Collins, Thom Cook (TCo), Craig Corder, Doug Cowal, Tom Crabtree (TC), Dave Danley, John Doremus, Carol Dorsett, Merlin S. Elzroth, Eric Forsman, Ron Friesz, George Gerds, Jeff Gilligan, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), Warren A. Hall, Marc Hallet, Gertie Hanson, Rob Hazelwood (RH), Winnie Hepburn, Steve Herman, Dick & Della Hermsmeyer, Jerry Hickman, Sara Hiebert (SHi), Frank Howe, Rick Howie (RH), Rick Hudson (RHu), Eugene Hunn, Peter Husby, Gary Ivey, Bill Iko, Dave Irons, Ian Jack, Jerry King, Randy Knapp, Merlene Koliner, Al & Hilda Larson, Louise La Voie, Dick Lindstrom, C.D. Littlefield, Larry Malone, Dave MacManiman, Jeff & Vickie Marks (J & VM), Verne Marr (VM), Phil Mattocks, Craig Miller (CM), Bob Morse, Stu Murrel (SMu), Corey & Shirley Muse (C & SM), Alice Montag, Harry Nehls, Howard Oswood, Dennis Paulson, Rod Pharness, John Prange, Kerry B. Provance, William Radke, James R. Rees, Alan Richards, Ralph Ritcey, Mike Robbins, Hadley B. Roberts, Thomas H. Rogers, Bob Ross, Jeff Ruprecht, Owen L. Schmidt, Paul Segren (PSe), W.H. Shillington, John Shipley, Davy Smith, Gretchen Steele, Ken Sterner, Phil Stoddard (PSt), Brian Sturgess, Paul Sullivan (PS), Steve Summers, Jim Tabor, Susan L. Tank, Larry Thompson, Charles H. Trost, Ray Valburg (RV), Carole & Hank Vande Voorde, Rick Vetter (RVe), Washington Dept. of Game (W.D.G.), Cheryl Webb, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Mildred V. White, John Woods, Philip L. Wright, Robert E. & Pat Woodley.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

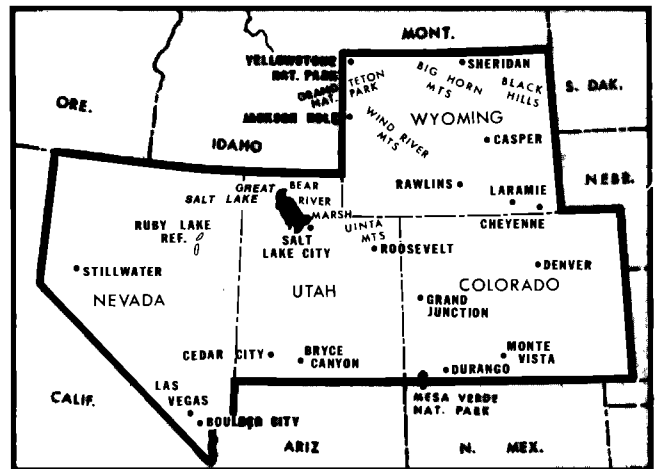
MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

/Hugh E. Kingery

During the summer Mountain West observers generated an impressive array of new data on nesting birds in the Region. They turned in about fifty new Latilong records, most of them new breeding records; principal contributors to this plethora of data were Bunn, Ewing, Findholt, Herold, Merchant, and Ward. (A Latilong is that piece of rectangular geography bounded on each side by the lines marking a full degree of latitude and longitude; Colorado and Wyoming each have 28.) They also found two new state nesting species, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher in Utah and Marbled Godwit in Colorado, as well as Nevada's first (and the Region's first) Chuck-will's-widow and Nevada's second White-winged Crossbill.

The heavy winter snows remained in the mountains later than usual in many parts of the Region; this impacted on breeding birds by delaying or preventing them from moving into normal breeding habitat. At the same time high waters in many refuges (not all as Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado, was an exception) decreased nesting success of some waterfowl and marsh birds.

ABBREVIATIONS — 1st Lat = first Latilong record; †† = written description to Colorado Field Ornithologists for review; # = no written description received by deadline; B.B.S. = Breeding Bird Survey; D.M.N.H. = Denver Mus. of Natural History; L/L/B/L = Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, Colorado.



LOONS TO CORMORANTS — An Arctic Loon in summer plumage, seen by numerous observers, spent July at Granby Res., Colo., for the Region's first summer record (VZ, DJ). A Com. Loon at Wells, Nev., June 16, provided another surprise (RB). Ruby Lake N.W.R. reported 800 nesting Pied-billed Grebes (CE). Cody, Wyo., sported a Red-necked Grebe June 15 (#UK). Eared Grebes fared well at the locations reporting them—600 nests at Ruby L., 250 near Kirch W.M.A., Nev., 300 at a Rock Springs, Wyo., power plant evaporation pond, 200 at Casper. Bear River N.W.R., despite its water surplus problems, reported the only sizeable nesting colony of W. Grebes, 2858 nests (LW).

Colorado's Riverside Res. colony of breeding Am. White Pelicans almost doubled: an aerial survey counted 1031 nests (RAR, D.F.O.). Scores of non-breeding pelicans scattered over n.e. Colorado, with five even summering at Laramie, Wyo. (DM). Double-crested Cormorants increased at a number of locations: Wyoming had 15 active colonies (SF), Bear R. counted 294 nests, up by 100 (LW), Riverside had 100+ nests (RAR), Chatfield P., near Denver had 148 nests, up in a steady progression from 116 last year and 5 in 1979 (this year they outnumbered their confreres in the colony, the Great Blue Herons, for the first time—HEK), and 100+ at Milton Res. near Platteville, Colo., where they have all but replaced the Great Blues (RAR).

HERONS TO IBISES — In Wyoming, Findholt identified 102 colonies of Great Blue Herons, 41 of them new. Many were small—like

those holding 3-5 nests at Casper, Sheridan, and Laramie. Bear River's heronry dropped by two-thirds, to 33 nests, Ruby Lake's held steady, producing 125 young (as last year), and Chatfield's increased from 128 nests to 143. Heronries attract protective environmental measures more than do nesting habitats for smaller birds: the Army Corps of Engineers dictated special measures to protect Chatfield's herons (and saw the population increase from 9 nests in 1971, plus the cormorant bonus). At Steamboat Springs, Colo., a tract sold on condition that the buyer protect an on-site heronry. Due to nearby construction, the herons did not use it last year, we don't know about this year (ME). Imagine saving enough short-grass prairie to provide nesting sites for 150 pairs of McCown's Longspurs!

Great Egrets, rare in our Region, built 2 nests near Lafayette, Colo. (VZ), and appeared for 6 observations in Utah, 13 in Colorado including 6 observations of nine at Grand Jct. (BT), plus a charm of 11 at Kirch W.M.A., Nev., July 2 (CS). Snowy Egrets nested successfully at Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., with 79 nests, up from 48 (JS, JK), 25 pairs at Riverside, and at Ruby L., 250-300 young produced. At Milton Res., near Platteville, they fared poorly; adults abandoned the young, many of them found dead although nearly fledged, and unhatched eggs, collected for testing. Cattle Egrets nested in at least 5 places in Colorado—3 in the San Luis Valley, Riverside, and Milton; none of the colonies had over 4 nests except Riverside with 10 pairs (RAR, JS, JK). Riverton, Wyo., had six Cattle Egrets June 24; Wyoming now has 4 records (SF—*Ist Lat*).

Local populations of Black-crowned Night-Herons both increased and decreased; 100 produced at Ruby L., down from 200; 41 nests at Bear R., down from 66; drops at Milton and Riverside Res.; 75 nests at Denver's City P., about the same; 72 nests at Monte Vista, up from 40. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nested for the 2nd year at City P., but no one saw a mate. Colorado had other Yellow-crowneds, in w. Denver June 1-6 (PE), one at Ordway June 3 (VZ), and two at Crook July 28 (JRe). Bear R. and Ruby L. posted big increases of nesting White-faced Ibis: 2100 nests and 900 young produced at the respective refuges, cf. 906 and 225 last year. The San Luis Valley also reported more nests—42 at 3 locations. They also wandered a bit; Yellowstone N.P. reported its 2nd record in 3 years June 3 (TM, PA).

WATERFOWL — Monte Vista and Alamosa N.W.R.s reported increased duck production, the 20,000 and 8000 representing increases of 56% and 74% from last year; Mallards, Gadwalls, and Redheads made up most of the increase. Ruby L. had a different experience: high water in the spring contributed to increased predation and late nesting; many hens still had eggs when the boating season opened. Consequently very large percentages of nests were abandoned or contained rotten eggs as disturbed hens left the nests frequently during critical incubation periods. Divers suffered less than dabblers; Canvasbacks and Redheads probably produced record low numbers (CE).

Three pairs among Ruby Lake's 21 Trumpeter Swans nested, producing five cygnets (CE). Wood Ducks nested at Grand Jct. and McCoy, Colo. (BT, ME), providing the first w. Colorado breeding records. Pairs of Blue-winged Teal appeared at Ruby L. (CE) and possibly nested at Rocky Mountain N. P., Colo. (JL). The five young Canvasbacks seen Aug. 9 at Sheridan, Wyo., confirmed breeding (HD—*Ist Lat*). Ruby L. had 2 nests of Ring-necked Ducks, one successful; the 1970 checklist of Nevada birds shows the species as only a migrant and winter visitor, but the refuge had 30 nesting pairs last year (CE). Broods were also seen at Buford and Granby, Colo. (DW, DJ). A flock of 50 Lesser Scaups on the White R. plateau n. of Gypsum seemed out of place July 28-Aug. 10 (JM). Barrow's Goldeneyes populated Yellowstone N.P., with 132 seen on 10 days, a peak of 60 June 5 (JZ). Several Buffleheads remained for an unusual June stay at Las Vegas (MJK). Kirch W.M.A. reported a ♀ Red-breasted Merganser through June (CS).

RAPTORS — Reports on Osprey nests were spotty: of 5 nests in the Canyon area of Yellowstone N.P., only one fledged young, but they also nested on Yellowstone's larger lakes without reports on nesting success (JZ). Jackson had average nesting (no numbers provided), the 2 nests at Sheridan, Wyo., failed, and Seedskafee N.W.R. had one (BR, HD, JBR). Colorado had 9 nesting pairs, success not reported (PG). One non-nesting Osprey stayed at Berthoud, Colo., July 6-20 (CCu, AM). Colorado had 3 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles—2 on the W. Slope, one on the e. plains (PG). Sheridan's 2 pairs fledged young, and the

species had good success at Jackson, Wyo., and Grand Teton N.P. (HD, BR). A stray adult foraged high over Rocky Mountain N.P. in early July (JL). Cooper's Hawk reports included a nest at Casper (JH—*Ist Lat*). About July 17 two young N. Goshawks disappeared from a nest at Rocky Mountain N.P.; the Park Service told Ligon that raptor pirates have worked the mountain area. Pahrnagat Ref., Nev., hosted two Red-shouldered Hawks July 23 (C & PG). Late Broad-winged Hawks were at Sheridan June 1 (HD) and Denver June 24 (WWB).

Attracted by grasshoppers, an unusually early flock of 24 Swainson's Hawks collected July 10 near Riverside Res. (RAR). This early gathering may mirror the early and regular observations of Swainson's in the mountains, e.g., in July at Eagle and Glenwood Springs (JM, VZ), but they apparently also nested near Grand L., in a Rocky Mountain N.P. campground (DJ). Red-tailed Hawks nest throughout the Region, but the Seedskafee N.W.R., Wyo., population of 45 adults and 25 young probably tops other Regional sites (JBR). Seedskafee's Red-taileds matched last year's breeding success, but Ferruginous Hawks across s. Wyoming apparently fared poorly; both Rock Springs and Laramie reported more failures than successful nests, due in part to the late spring blizzard (FL, DM). Of the small sample of 18 Golden Eagle nests reported, half fledged young. Two Merlin nests at Rock Springs fledged young (FL). Colorado reported 13 nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons (PG), and Jackson had 2 successful nests (BR). Hackers released nine fledglings around Great Salt L., added to 33 previously released, and three in n.e. Nevada (two survived into August).

GROUSE, COOTS, CRANES — The severe winter apparently tolled on Chukars in e. Nevada—none was seen at Ruby L. (CE) although Sage Grouse did okay there. At Carson City, Nev., California Quail thrived—200 young hatched in clutches of 16-20 in one small subdivision (BP). Differing conditions caused different phenology for opportunistic Am. Coots nesting in the Ruby Valley: at Ruby L., 4500 nested in May, but immediately to the n., at Franklin L., due to submerged bulrush nesting cover, they did not nest until July (CE). Ruby L. had 4 Sandhill Crane nests among 47 birds present; they produced five young. In s.w. Wyoming four Whooping Cranes summered, and two summered at Alamosa N.W.R., Colo. (FL, JR, JK).

SHOREBIRDS — The normal June and July shorebird arrivals included a few unusual records like 11 Black-bellied Plovers at Pueblo July 21 (D.F.O.); three to five Black-necked Stilts at Delta, Colo., July 10+; 80-100 Am. Avocets at Jackson, Wyo., and 40 avocets at Casper during June, both substantial increases from the norm; 50 Willets which stopped briefly near Cheyenne, Wyo.; one to two Sanderlings at Rock Springs, Delta, and Denver; and 400 Long-billed Dowitchers near Bear River N.W.R., July 19.



Marbled Godwit nest, west of Grover, Colo., May 26, 1984. First Colorado nesting record for the species. Photo/Lois Webster.

The loss of short-grass prairie to sod-busters continues apace, among the grassland species declining because of this continuing environmental change are Mountain Plovers. Ryder counted only five on his Breeding Bird Survey at Briggsdale, Colo. Webster found Colorado's first **Marbled Godwit** nest, at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland near Grover. It had 2 eggs May 28, 3 on May 29, 4 by June 10 when an adult was brooding; but by June 24, when the eggs should have been ready to hatch, the nest contained only broken egg shells. From the shape of the pieces the observers think a fox or coyote destroyed the eggs, even though an agitated adult flew in from the n. as they studied the nest. The closest known nesting sites are over 500 mi to the n., near Glasgow and Great Falls, Mont., n.e. South Dakota, and w. North Dakota. Field work in a relatively unknown area produced a *1st Lat* record for Semipalmated Sandpiper at Craig, Colo. (DW). Out-of-season Red-necked Phalaropes were at Saguahe, Colo., June 3 (EV), Greeley June 7, and Delta July 2 (both JCa).

GULLS, TERNS — A Laughing Gull at Ordway, Colo., June 3 resembled the bird seen nearby at Cheraw May 25 (††VZ, DW); this is the 2nd straight summer observers have found one in s.e. Colorado. Bear R. reported 600 nests of Franklin's Gulls, up from 138 last year but way down from the 1541 of 1982 (LW). Healthy numbers had arrived in e Colorado by mid-July; Pueblo had 2000 July 21 (D.F.O.). Four Bonaparte's Gulls visited the Region: June 25 at Kirch W.M.A. (CS), July 22 at Casper (JH), and July 24 at Fontanelle, Wyo. (FL) and Niwot, Colo. (†LH). Findholt discovered 71 nests of Ring-billed Gulls at Casper, the only known nesting colony in the Region for our commonest year-round gull. Casper's 500 California Gull nests, jammed onto the flooded remains of 3 islands, represented a 50% increase from 1983 (JH), Riverside had 200 nests, also an increase (RAR), and Antero Res. near Fairplay, Colo., sported close to 1000 nests (CC). A Herring Gull was at Riverton, Wyo., June 16 (#SF, *1st Lat*).

Wyoming has 4 nesting colonies of Caspian Terns; the one at Alcova had 15-20 nests June 15, but they probably did not nest at Casper (SF, JH). Forster's Terns did well in the Region: Ruby L. had 200 pairs (CE), Bear R. 561 nests (LW), and they bred at Cokeville and Riverton, Wyo. (SF, both *1st Lat*). Ruby L. reported 200 pairs of nesting Black Terns (CE), and two appeared at Big Piney, Wyo., June 12 for a *1st Lat* (JR).

PIGEONS TO CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW — Band-tailed Pigeons occur locally in Colorado. In typical nesting areas like Westcreek, Estes Park, and Eagle they seemed more numerous this summer, while at Kremmling Jasper had his 2nd observation, two on June 9, and Janos watched 7 flocks of two to 28 fly over a July 28 parade in Delta. Utah and Nevada each reported one Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one at Ogden July 30 which struck a window but recovered (MK) and one July 14 near Las Vegas singing in atypical habitat—a Ponderosa Pine/White Fir forest at 7500' (MJK). Colorado and Wyoming reported typical numbers. A Greater Roadrunner was seen at Kirch W.M.A., July 16—a fairly north-erly location.

The U.D.W.R. reports that the winter impacted severely on Com. Barn-Owls, which starved as voles tunneled under the heavy winter snows; the Department collected at least 12 specimens. Kasprzyk found two Flammulated Owls near Las Vegas July 14, and the little owls apparently nested on the Upcompahgre Plateau w. of Delta, Colo. (MJ, VZ). Observers heard N. Pygmy-Owls at Grand L. and Radium, Colo., and Las Vegas (DJ, MJK). Like the Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owls suffer as more land goes into cultivation. Observers found them at Randlett, Utah, Kirch W.M.A., Nev., the Cody airport, at a Denver-area state park which encourages them, and other more regular sites, and even on a coal mine site at Craig, Colo. The prairie owl nevertheless faces serious nesting habitat restrictions. Mowbray commented that people would have viewed a **Chuck-will's-widow** in Nevada with skepticism, were the record not a specimen. He picked up Nevada's first record at 6 a.m., June 12, under a telephone line crossing the Desert Wildlife Range (*Nev. State Mus., Las Vegas).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — Observers found Black Swifts at the usual places like Ouray, Durango, and Rocky Mountain N.P., as well as at some less usual sites: Provo, Utah, July 29, Golden and Niwot, Colo., July 24, the latter feeding with Cliff Swallows, both over the plains close to the foothills. Chimney Swifts have recently, since about 1960,

become regular breeders in e Colorado towns, although the nest sites remain elusive (e.g. in Ft. Morgan—JCR). Utah's Latlong report lists both Chimney and Vaux's swifts for that state; Colorado has no specimens of Vaux's Swifts. Hence the report of a Vaux's Swift near Boulder June 28 (††RS, ††WR) suggested the need for close study—and probably collecting—of *Chaetura* swifts in both states. Certainly the mobile swifts are capable of crossing the mountain barriers from their currently understood ranges. Three Chimney Swifts at Ft. Laramie, Wyo., provided a *1st Lat* (SF).

Durango observers had more hummingbirds than usual at their feeders; they attributed this to the heavy mountain snows, late melting, and consequent late development of food sources. Colorado had two well-observed Magnificent Hummingbirds at feeders—Bailey May 25-July 15 (JCr, VZ) and Aspen July 30-Aug. 20 (VZ, PB—*1st Lat*). Black-chinned mobbed feeders at Zion in typical, though staggering numbers a peak of 400 July 23 at one feeder and 300-400 at a nearby one (JG, JwG, LP). Calliope Hummingbirds nest in n. Wyoming: at Sheridan one nest was found (MC); migrants appeared at Casper and in Colorado in July, with eight birds reported, plus one at Zion July 23-25 (JG). Oddly the Broad-tailed Hummingbird nest at Casper provided a *1st Lat* (JH). At Westcreek, Broad-taileds patronized feeders in quantities rivaling those at Zion; one feeder operator reported using 100 pounds of sugar during July (RWi). At Story, Wyo., one to five Rufous Hummingbirds spent June 14-30 (PO); the first migrants arrived at Zion June 22 (JwG) and Durango July 2 (EF)—both locations in the s. rim of the Region—as well as in c. Colorado at Penrose July 2, Evergreen July 3, Glenwood Springs July 4, and Radium July 5.

WOODPECKERS TO SWALLOWS — Casper observers have not seen Red-headed Woodpeckers for 2 years; apparently they have abandoned nesting attempts there (JH). Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported throughout the Region—Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas, 3 Utah mountain ranges, Yellowstone, Cheyenne, and several c. Colorado mountain sites. The same applied to Three-toed Woodpeckers: reports came from c. Utah, Grand Teton N.P., Yellowstone, and c. Colorado. We worry about Eur. Starlings hectoring N. Flickers, but at McCoy, Colo., the starlings disappeared after early pestering; the flickers pulled off 3 successful families (ME). Flickers seemed commoner at Westcreek, Colo., even as both species of sapsucker decreased (RWi).

Tourists seeking Hammond's Flycatchers could look at the Y.M.C.A. Camp near Estes Park, Rabbit Ears Pass near Steamboat Springs, or Wolf Cr. Pass (W. Fork Campground) near Pagosa Springs, Colorado observers found nests this summer in all 3 places, and Dusky Flycatcher nests in pinyon/juniper near Del Norte and at the Y.M.C.A. camp. A "group" of Black Phoebes found in s.e. Utah where Grand Gulch empties into the San Juan R., filled in a gap in the Utah range (JRG—*1st Lat*). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at McCoy June 4 set a *1st Lat* record (ME). No longer eastern, E. Kingbirds spent a week at Las Vegas June 16-23 (VM, J & MC), one visited Yellowstone June 3 (TM) and 2 pairs inhabited Ogden, Utah in June (JN). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher visited Denver July 8 (D.F.O.).

B.B.S.s at Pawnee and Sheridan reported contrasting trends in Horned Lark populations. King mentions a 2nd hatching in late July at Cheyenne; perhaps the difference in B.B.S. trends comes from the timing of the survey compared with the nesting cycle. Coloradans regard Purple Martins as rare; this summer observers found 11 birds in 7 locations, including the 2nd state specimen from Ridgway (JRG, *D.M.N.H.), two on McClure Pass near Carbondale (JCa), and one at Pueblo May 5 (RB, *1st Lat*); also an adult male and three immatures at Aspen Aug. 18 (PB). Tree Swallows nested in good numbers except at Jackson, Wyo. (BR). Cheyenne's historic Bank Swallow colony contained 100 nest holes (H.P.A.S.) but the assembly of 150 July 7 at Ogden was unusual (JN).

JAYS TO GNATCATCHERS — Blue Jays continued to increase in Wyoming—2 nesting pairs in Laramie, regular in Sheridan, Yellowstone's first June 20 (†JZ). Clark's Nutcrackers seemed more evident at low elevations, away from their traditional timberline haunts; observers in Cody, Yellowstone, and Casper reported them all summer, and in c Colorado as more numerous. Eight imm. White-breasted Nuthatches July 13 confirmed breeding at Casper, surprising only because it had not been confirmed before (JH). A Winter Wren near Glenwood Springs, heard singing July 7 and seen briefly July 29 (JM), kindled hopes that

the species may be found nesting in the Region; previous summer reports have come from Zion and Rocky Mountain N.P. Near Axial, Colo., Marsh Wrens, sometimes singing from sagebrush, have colonized a marsh formerly dominated by Com. Yellowthroats (DW). From the Great Salt L., came reports of high numbers (116-125, June 9-14), perhaps more easily counted because of habitat diminished by the advancing waters of Great Salt L. (JN).

Three Colorado Front Range observers commented on decreased numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets; breeding bird counts in the Indian Peaks of w. Boulder County counted 77/100 hours *cf.* 132 and 157/100 hours the last 2 years. **Black-tailed Gnatcatchers** arrived on the Utah state list in style: with a first nesting record. A too-brief observation Apr. 29 (†RSO) yielded to a pair with nest June 9-26 at Beaver Dam Wash. On June 9 the birds were building, returning to a half-built nest every few minutes for 2 hours; a 3rd gnatcatcher (female or immature) appeared briefly and interacted with the nesting female, and then disappeared (†RBo, RSO, †ES, ph.).



Highway guard rail in which Mountain Bluebirds have nested for three years, near Sheridan, Wyo. Photo/Helen Downing.

THRASHERS TO WARBLERS — Near Fountain, Colo., Sage Thrashers and Curve-billed Thrashers seem to be alternating use of a breeding site; this year the site had 2 pairs of Sages and no Curve-billeds, last year it had only Curve-billeds (EW, BM). At Cheyenne, H.P.A.S. found 10 Sage Thrashers July 23. Reports of Bendire's Thrashers persist after their discovery 2 years ago at Del Norte, Colo., in a pinyon/juniper/shrub habitat (††RB). Cedar Waxwings nested at Lander, Wyo. (SF, *1st Lat*), Cody, and Sheridan; summer birds occurred in Casper and Cheyenne as well as several Colorado locations. Loggerhead Shrikes nested at Rock Springs on a welding cable attached to the side of a mine building; they hatched young June 15 (FL).

New data continues to fill in the breeding range of the Orange-crowned Warbler, which nests sparingly throughout the mountainous portions of the Region; this year an adult feeding recently fledged young confirmed breeding near Cortez, Colo. (RB, *1st Lat*). Virginia's Warblers were more elusive near Rock Springs; Luke followed territorial males without finding a nest June 2 & 16. A N. Parula responded to a screech/pygmy owl imitation at Lida, Nev., June 1 (†JLa). Yellow Warblers decreased at Zion, held even at L/L/B/L, and increased in w. Boulder County and on a Sheridan B.B.S. Chestnut-sided Warblers appeared in Casper June 1 (JH) and Masonville, Colo., July 1 (RS). A Black-throated Blue and a Black-throated Green Warbler occupied the same tree at Pawnee Grassland's Crow Valley campground July 1 (†CHy). A Bay-breasted Warbler stayed in Wild Basin, Rocky Mountain N. P., July 13-15 (DN). A Black-and-white Warbler found itself in Las Vegas June 19 (VM). On the Indian Peaks B.B.S., MacGillivray's Warblers increased and Wilson's decreased—at least in the particular habitats studied (DH). A Canada Warbler sang from an Indian Peaks willow carr June 24-July 11 (†DH).

GROSBEAKS TO CROSSBILLS — Blue Grosbeaks seemed on the increase this year. Observers found more at Kirch, Casper, and Chey-

enne; they nested at Holyoke, Colo. (CH), and one had strayed N to Cody July 22 (†LM). Baca County, Colo., had fair numbers of Cassin's Sparrows in June (VZ) but Pawnee, where they peaked at 15 on a B.B.S. in 1974, has had no reports since 1980 (RAR). A Field Sparrow which wintered at Estes Park was last seen and heard singing May 7 (JL). Although observers found Grasshopper Sparrows all over e. Colorado, including one territorial male s.w. of Denver May 24-June 15+ (HEK, *1st Lat*), they were not nearly as numerous as last year. Fox Sparrow reports increased, with territorial males in the Indian Peaks increasing 50% (DH). Two White-crowned Sparrows which spent July at a Glenwood Springs feeder summered at an unusually low altitude (VZ). A McCown's Longspur strayed out of range to Rock Springs June 16 (FL).

Last year I commented on identification of E. Meadowlarks by call. I should emphasize that song is not enough since apparently Westerns can learn the Eastern song; the "brrrr" call distinguishes Eastern from Western. We had a report of an Eastern based on song from Cheyenne—a logical place for Easterns to appear, but the observer did not pick up on the distinctive call note. B.B.S. surveys at Sheridan, Casper, and Pawnee show steady declines of W. Meadowlarks (HD, JH, RAR); perhaps they, like Mountain Plovers and Burrowing Owls, suffer from habitat problems. Common Grackles established *1st Lat* breeding records at Green R. and Rock Springs, Wyo., Craig, and Grand Junction, and a likely breeding at Delta (FL, DW, BT, MJ). Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen being fed by Solitary and Warbling vireos. Audubon's and Grace's warblers, W. Tanagers, and juncos; and at Yellowstone, reminiscent of the past, flocks fed alongside buffalo herds (JZ).

At Sheridan Cassin's Finches apparently nested at lower elevations due to late April snow deposits; they were common at feeders all summer. At Casper House Finches were more evident; "one of the first things the adults show the young is the Herold's handout tray; change probable breeding to confirmed" (JH, *1st Lat*). Red Crossbills continue to cruise the mountains of the Region in flocks up to 135 (Sheridan July 31—HD). A **White-winged Crossbill** seen drinking from a stream with Reds, in "scarlet alternate plumage" in the Sheep Range 20 mi n. of Las Vegas, gave Nevada its 2nd record (†MJK, RM). A flock of 200 White-wingeds remaining in the Dayton Gulch area near Sheridan July 12-31 was "fantastic" (JB, HD). The Region came up with two other singles—Yellowstone July 6 (†JZ) and Platoro, Colo., July 15 (ML).

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

/Janet Witzeman and David Stejskal

Summer rains started about ten days earlier than usual and by the end of July had dropped more than twice the normal amount of moisture for this period. The result was beneficial not only for the food supply of late summer breeders, but should be for the eventual winter visitors as well.

This summer had its usual interesting finds of new breeding records from seldom-visited places, plus a new nesting record for the state—the confirmation of the long-suspected nesting of Wood Duck.

A surprise, but not completely unexpected, was the state's first Tropical Parula—in a riparian pine-oak woodland, not unlike the habitat where Gale Monson has observed the species in the mountains of northern Sonora.

Thanks again to visiting birders who have taken the time to call and/or write with details of their significant finds; special thanks to those who sent photographs to document the records.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; P.R.D. = Painted Rock Dam.

GREBES THROUGH HERONS — Eight W. Grebes remained at Prescott until June 18, two until July 12 and one until July 20; there had been a few previous summer records in this area, but none of this duration (CT). One hundred Am. White Pelicans (sometimes present in large numbers in summer) were at Picacho Res. the week of June 10 (J. Scalero, *vide* DT); only one spent the summer at P.R.D. (TC, DS). Earlier than usual imm. Brown Pelicans were one at P.R.D. from at least June 11 through the period, joined by second one July 1 (TC, DS), and four at Arlington, w. of Phoenix June 28 (S. Cunningham, *vide* CH).

Double-crested Cormorants had almost ceased nesting in the Yuma area because of loss of habitat and human disturbance; however, this summer, due to improved habitat and food supply that occurred as a result of the flooding on the L.C.R., there were at least 27 dead trees containing 4-15 nests/tree near Yuma (DT). The only report of Magnificent Frigatebird this summer was of an immature seen n. of Ehrenberg July 2 (S. Clark, *vide* CH).

Great Egrets nested near Yuma for the first confirmed breeding in the state in a decade; nesting apparently also occurred there in 1983, but was not reported before this summer (DT). The report of 11 Cattle Egrets flying up Aravaipa Canyon June 14 (CR) was somewhat surprising for the season and place. The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Dudleyville in May remained until at least June 16 (JSa).

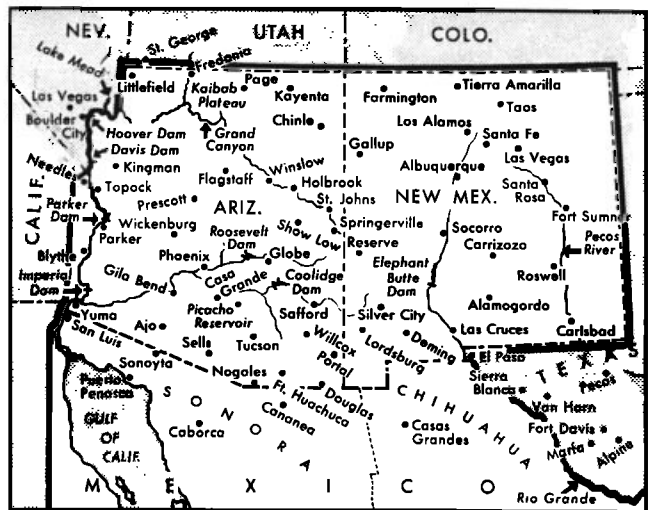
WATERFOWL —

S.A.

The nesting of Wood Ducks in the state was documented by at least 2, probably 3 pairs that successfully fledged young at Granite Cr., Prescott in June (CT). In addition a female with seven young was observed along Oak Cr., n. of Cornville June 3 (M. Gooch, *vide* CT), a female with young at the Clarkdale sewage pond July 17 (CT), plus a pair July 15 and a female with five young flying N along Oak Cr. toward Page Springs July 19 (CT). Nesting of Wood Ducks in the Prescott area has been suspected since June 1975 when a female with two young was photographed at Peck's L. (Dave Brown); also previously unreported was a female with nine young observed on a small pond near Camp Verde May 29, 1981 (TC). The 2 or 3 broods of immatures with adults on Peck's L., Prescott in August 1983 (AB 38:231) probably represented a local breeding record as well. Other mid-summer records of Wood Ducks were a male and subad. male at Dudleyville June 16 through the period (DS, CH *et al.*) and a male at Nelson Res., White Mts., June 26 (TC).

Gadwalls nested for the 2nd year at Willow L. and Watson L., in Prescott where 7 to 8 pairs were counted (CT). A ♀ Gadwall with seven half-grown young July 17-19 at the Clarkdale sewage ponds represented the first nesting at that locale (CT).

Records of 4 other species of ducks were either the first or among only a few in summer for Prescott: 2 pairs of Green-winged Teals and a pair



of Redheads remained until July 17, seven Ring-necked Ducks remained through the period, and a ♀ Bufflehead remained until July 30 (CT). Two Canada Geese were still on Roosevelt L., e. of Phoenix the 3rd week in June (J. Poe). A Canada Goose June 11-July 1 and a Canvasback July 1 at P.R.D. may have been summering there (DS). A Green-winged Teal was still present at Arlington June 5 (DT). A late Red-breasted Merganser was at P.R.D., June 11 (TC).

RAPTORS — There were numerous sightings of Black Vultures this summer in the Patagonia area, where the species was historically rare (KK, m.ob.). One was in Douglas May 30 (TD); there have been very few records that far e. in the state. The Osprey is a sparse nester in the White Mts. of e. Arizona, so of interest were four circling together between Sprucedale and Beaverhead June 26 (TC).

Black-shouldered Kites were "everywhere" in s.e. Arizona with repeated sightings of singles and pairs from Picacho Res. s. to Continental, with most reports from San Xavier and the Snyder Hill ponds in Tucson (*vide* SSu). A nest that fledged a high of five young June 14 was found in an emory oak near Sonoita (S. Franklin, *vide* J. Church, GM), the first nest at this elevation (*i.e.*, above 4000 ft) in Arizona; previous nests here have all been at lower elevations.

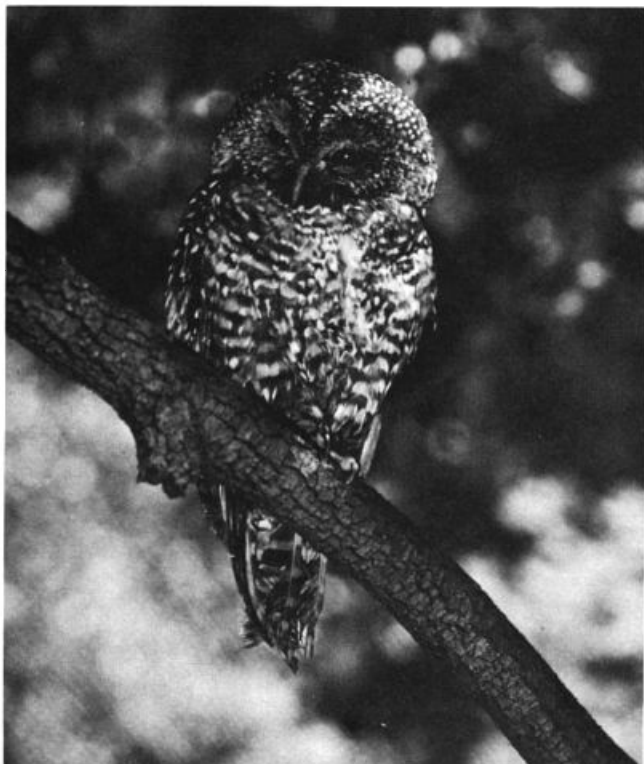
Individual N. Harriers were recorded on the late dates of June 4 in Prescott Valley (RH) and June 25 near Crescent L., White Mts. (TC); although suspected, there has been no confirmed nesting in e. Arizona since 1890. Early returning individual N. Harriers were sighted s. of Tucson July 22 (BD) and near Douglas July 31 (DD, RBa, AM).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS — A pair of Com. Moorhens successfully raised young in Chino Valley, n.w. of Prescott; records from that area are scarce (CT).

Two Semipalmated Plovers were at Prescott June 21-24 (CT); there are few June records for the state. Five late-staying Willets were in Prescott June 20, with one remaining until June 25 (CT). An ad. Short-billed Dowitcher at Tucson July 28 (KK) appeared to be of the race *hendersoni*; the status of this species in the state is still poorly understood.

An ad. California Gull mid-June to June 21 and an immature mid-June to Sept. 10 at Prescott provided the first summer records for Yavapai County (CT); the species is uncommon away from the L.C.R. A Caspian Tern at Prescott June 12 and two there June 24 were unusual for that area, especially at that time (CT). Two early ad. Caspian Terns were at P.R.D. July 1 (DS). An early Black Tern was at Prescott June 24 (CT).

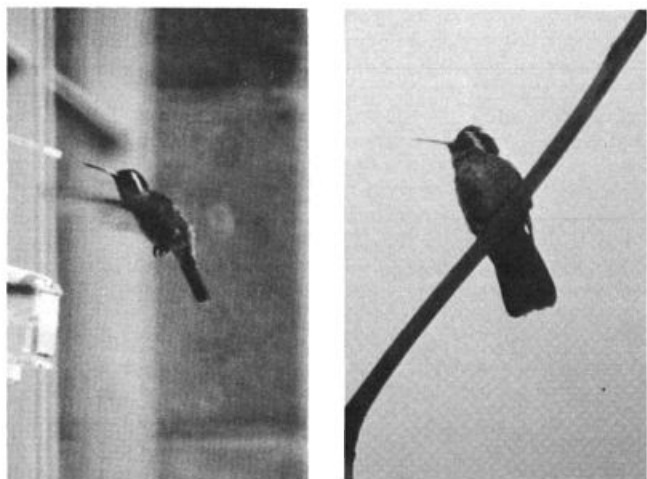
DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS — Rock Doves (a pair with a fledged young) were found nesting in cliffs at Montezuma Castle N.M., July 7, in the manner of their wild ancestors (R. Russell, L. Murray): a habit not reported previously in Arizona, although the species does nest abundantly "in the wild" in towns. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Portal again, where locally rare, July 8-10 (RM).



Adult Spotted Owl in Scheelite Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz., Aug. 3, 1984. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

Chimney Swifts were present in Tucson again—five were recorded on the U. of Arizona campus July 20 through the period (m.ob.). Five to 10 pairs of White-throated Swifts that nested at the U. of Arizona campus were away from their usual nesting locations in the nearby mountains (TH, N. Mays).

HUMMINGBIRDS — For the 4th consecutive year, a ♂ White-eared Hummingbird was recorded at Portal, this summer July 27 through August (S & WS, ph. OS). The ♂ White-eared in Madera Canyon in late May remained at least to June 2 (SK). A Berylline Hummingbird at Portal June 9 (†P.S. Boyd) represented one the earliest records for the state.



Two views of a male White-eared Hummingbird at Portal, Ariz., Aug. 2, 1984. Most reports of White-eareds in Arizona pertain to female or young male Broad-billed Hummingbirds; note the proportionately shorter bill and very prominent white facial stripe on this genuine White-eared. Photos/Owen Schmidt.

The Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Madera Canyon since late April was still present in late July (m.ob.); formerly uncommon there, this is the 3rd consecutive summer one has been recorded in Madera Canyon. Magnificent Hummingbirds at the n. edge of their range were two at the Tonto Fish Hatchery e. of Payson, May to September (*fide* DT); two on Signal Peak in the Pinal Mts., near Globe for the 3rd summer in a row were presumed to be breeding there (R. Heffernon, *fide* BJ).

More Lucifer Hummingbirds were recorded at Portal—at least one female June 5 + (C. Swartz) and regularly July 27 through August (S & WS). The species is probably nesting in that area. Costa's Hummingbirds usually disappear from their breeding range by early July, so of interest were at least three individuals at 2 areas in Phoenix through the period (DS, JW).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Summer records of Belted Kingfishers in the White Mts. of e. Arizona continue to be significant as there have been no confirmed nesting records from there this century; one was seen on the Blue R., June 17 (RBr). Three to four were present along W. Clear Cr., s. of Sedona July 14-15 (CH, AL) not far from where the species was found nesting in 1980 and 1981. A Green Kingfisher at Guevavi Ranch, Nogales June 9 (G. Smith) and one at Kino Springs, Nogales July 27 + (JD *et al.*) may have been the same individual. The species has been scarce in recent years and there are few summer records overall. The individual at Patagonia in March was seen there again May 30 (R. Eakin).

Four Gray Flycatchers were seen near Blue, White Mts., June 17 (RBr)—s. and e. of the normal summer range of this species. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a sparse summer visitor, remained in Patagonia July 11 into August (H. Childs, ph. OS, m.ob.).

Two ad. Tree Swallows tending a nest cavity June 18 at Pinewood, s. of Flagstaff (JSh) established a new locality for this species, which was first found nesting in the state as recently as 1973. Only the ♂ Cave Swallow was seen this summer at Tucson, and not after June 2 when it was believed the bird died (TH *et al.*). At least 4 pairs of Barn Swallows successfully nested in Prescott for the first breeding record in that area (CT). Breeding pairs were in Williams again, where a nest was found a year ago (CT). An adult and an imm. Barn Swallow in w. Phoenix July 3 indicated a possible breeding record (TC).



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (evidently an adult in molt) near Patagonia, Ariz., July 27, 1984. Photo/Owen Schmidt.



Male Black-capped Gnatcatcher in Sycamore Canyon, Ariz.—a new location for the species—June 13, 1984. Photo/Paul Cozens.

DIPPER THROUGH PHAINOPEPLAS — A Dipper was discovered in Wood Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., June 10 (TD); the species is rarely found anywhere in s.e. Arizona in summer. A pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers was found and photographed in a new location, near the Mexican border in Sycamore Canyon, Atascosa Mts., June 13 (CR, ph. P. Cozens).

A high population of Phainopeplas and increased nesting activity was observed in the Prescott area during the summer (CT). The species was also seen more frequently in Portal in late July; in the past it was not recorded there in summer (S & WS, RM).

WARBLERS — **Tropical Parulas**, the first for Arizona, were discovered in Madera Canyon—a male July 14 (†T. & L. Army, ph. T. Zurowski), then a pair July 18 (DS, GM, JW, RBr *et al.*). The male continued to be seen off and on into September and had probably been present since May when, as we learned later, the sighting of a Tropical Parula was reported by a neophyte birder; a parula-type song was heard in that area in June (R. Taylor).

A small population of Orange-crowned Warblers nested again in the Bradshaw Mts., s. of Prescott; as many as seven singing males with females were present in a ½-mile stretch (CT). The species was also found breeding on the Mogollon Rim, e. of the Payson Hwy July 14-15 (CH *et al.*). Evidence of breeding MacGillivray's Warblers away from their well-known "home" in the White Mts. is of interest—ten singing males were recorded near Knolls L., s.w. slope of the Mogollon Rim July 14-15 (T. Martin, CH). Olive Warblers were found nesting again in the Sierra Prieta Mts., w. of Prescott (CT). An Olive Warbler found June 17 on the e. fork of the Black R., White Mts., was in an area where records are scarce (RBr).

A ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler at Kayenta May 22 was noteworthy (†PL); most records of this species in the state have been in fall. A ♀ Townsend's Warbler in Chino Canyon June 27 (†S. Stedman) was in an odd place for that late date.

Individual Black-and-white Warblers are found occasionally in summer—a female was in a yard s. of Phoenix June 23 (PB). This season's records of Am. Redstart were provided by a male e. of Onion Saddle, Chiricahua Mts., June 9 (†E. Morrell) and a singing first-year male June 24 at Watson L., Prescott (CT) where the species has bred once. A ♂ Ovenbird found singing at Prescott June 23-July 1 (CT) was the 3rd in summer for that area and about the 10th in summer for the state, although many of these "summer" records must have involved late spring vagrants. A singing ♂ N. Waterthrush at Granite Cr., Prescott June 24-26 (CT) was of course far s. of that species' summer territory; there were no previous summer records for the state. The ♂ Hooded Warbler at the Page Springs Fish Hatchery near Sedona spent its 2nd summer there and remained into September (AG, m.ob.).

BUNTINGS THROUGH CROSSBILLS — Many Indigo Buntings were reported again this summer as usual (m.ob.). A ♂ Varied Bunting at Boyce Thompson Arboretum June 9 (†J. Burns, B. Hunter) was far n. of its normal range.

A singing ♂ Five-striped Sparrow was seen in late July at the Roadside Rest in Patagonia (JA)—the site where the species was first found breeding in the United States in 1969.

Many Red Crossbills remained through the period around Prescott where nesting occurred earlier in the year (CT); and several broods of recently-fledged young were observed on the North Rim of Grand Canyon in early June (KK). Five Red Crossbills were in Madera Canyon July 23 (TC), and four at Portal July 30+ were at a lower elevation than usual (S & WS).

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New Mexico **/John P. Hubbard**

ABBREVIATIONS — Bosque N.W.R. = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; M.R.G.V. = middle Rio Grande Valley; Zuni = the Zuni Reservation. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS — At Zuni, there were 21 occupied nests and 2 broods of Eared Grebes July 15 (TR). Unusual were two W. Grebes, both dark phase, at L. McMillan July 10 (WH) Up to eight Am. White Pelicans lingered at Bosque N.W.R. to at least July 15 (RT *et al.*). Double-crested Cormorants again bred at Abiquiu L., *Rio Arriba*, with at least one occupied nest observed there in the period (J. Vaught); unusual was a bird in Santa Fe Canyon above Santa Fe June 30 (CJ).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES — A pair of Little Blue Herons was still at a nest near Belen July 19 (WH), while also notable was a Tricolored Heron at Bitter Lake N.W.R., July 13 (KW). Three of 4 Cattle Egret nests were still active near Belen in the period (WH), additional birds included two near San Acacia June 21 (JPH) and up to 25 at Bosque N.W.R., June 2 (RT). Black-crowned Night-Herons reported in areas where infrequent in summer included six near Clayton June 12 (WC, B. Wheatley), plus singles at Cochiti L., July 22 (BE, WH) and at Zuni June 30-July 2 (JT). Lingered White-faced Ibises included up to 10 at Zuni June 2-July 2 (TR, JT), one near Bernardo June 12, and three at Bosque N.W.R., June 7 (WH).

WATERFOWL — Up to 10 Wood Ducks were seen in the Belen-Bernardo area July 27 (WH), while one at Albuquerque June 7 & 11 (W. Stone) was probably an escape from captivity. On June 15 two "Mexican-like" (Mallard) Ducks were at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW), where rarely reported. The breeding record of the season was that of a ♀ **Hooded Merganser** and six to eight downies near Bosque, *Valencia*, June 7 & 9 (WH); this was the only definitive report of this species breeding in the state, the other being an uncertain one from the upper Pecos R. in 1883! Other duck broods of note during the current period included 2 of N. Shovelers near Bernardo June 12 (WH), one of Red-heads at Bosque N.W.R., July 15 (PI *et al.*), and one of Ruddies at Quemado L., July 4 (JPH). The usual summer-lingered species were present, including most notably a Canvasback at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 15-July 27 and a Com. Goldeneye there June 15 (KW); two Ring-neckeds at Zuni July 2 (JT); and two Lesser Scaup at the latter site July 1 (JT) and 20 at Maxwell N.W.R., June 1 (W. Mobley).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Additional colonies of breeding Mississippi Kites were found at Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis and at Roswell. At the former site June 26 there were 26 adult birds, and nesting was confirmed later in the summer; according to a source at the base, the colony has been present there for 3 or 4 summers (W. Robertson). Six kite nests were initially discovered at Roswell, and eventually 3 produced young (S.E. New Mexico Audubon Soc.). Apparent wanderers were single kites at Clayton July 6 (A. Krehbiel) and Bitter Lake N.W.R., July 27 (KW). On July 30, an adult and nine young Gambel's Quail were at Pajarito Acres, *Los Alamos* (ML), at a high elevation (1 e, 7000+ ft) for the species. Extraordinary was a **Sandhill Crane** flying over Isleta June 10 (WH); this was apparently the first recorded in summer for the state, and one might suspect it was a bird that had not migrated because of illness or injury.

SHOREBIRDS — A Mountain Plover near Cerro Chiflo, *Taos* June 19 (JPH) was in a known breeding area, but there are few records from there. A brood of Am. Avocets near Clayton July 10 (B. Freeman) represented only the 2nd breeding record for that area. The earliest reports of presumably southward migrant shorebirds included a Greater Yellowlegs, four Lesser Yellowlegs, a Willet—plus another at nearby Laguna Grande—and two Long-billed Curlews at L. McMillan June 27 (WH); also early were another Greater Yellowlegs at Zuni June 30 (JT) and 120 Wilson's Phalaropes at Laguna Grande June 27 (WH) Stilt Sandpipers again reached w. to the Rio Grande Valley, *e.g.*, four to five July 22-29 at Cochiti L. (BE, WH), where the species now appears to be a regular autumn migrant.

GULLS THROUGH DOVES — A lingering Franklin's Gull was at Bitter Lake N.W.R., June 7 (RT); also notable was a California Gull at L. McMillan June 27 & July 10 (WH). Two Forster's Terns at the latter locality June 27 were early, while an ad. Least Tern there (WH) July 5 appeared to provide a local first summer record. There were 4 nests of the latter species confirmed over the course of the summer at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (S. Marlatt *et al.*). At least 10 pairs of White-winged Doves nested in the Socorro area (P. Basham), where the species has only arrived in recent years. Two birds spent July near Silver City (M & SO), where the species is irregular at best.

OWLS THROUGH SWIFTS — A Spotted Owl was calling near Fence L., Cibola July 31-Aug. 1 (L. Smith), for the first local record in that largely pinyon-juniper woodland area. Very unusual was a possible Lesser Nighthawk reported at Zuni July 1 (JT); the nearest area of regular occurrence for the species is some 125 mi to the s. or e.s.e. Also unusual were three **Black Swifts** near Abiquiu L., June 19 (WH); the periodic summer reports of this species in unlikely breeding areas may reflect late migration or perhaps temporary displacement (*e.g.*, due to weather) from breeding areas. White-throated Swifts were again present in Trujillo Canyon, *e. San Miguel* with 15+ seen June 15 (JPH); no doubt the species is regular and breeds in the area.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH KINGFISHERS — A Magnificent Hummingbird at Silver City July 20 was only the 2nd there in 13 years for the observers (M & SO). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Trujillo Canyon June 15 (JPH) quite likely was indicative that the species breeds there. On the other hand, a male at Bosque June 9 (WH) was probably a migrant or straggler. A ♂ hummingbird fitting the description of Allen's was at Silver City July 16-18 (N. & J. Strickling); this species is unconfirmed in the state, but it is to be expected on occasion here—especially in the s.w. in late summer-early autumn. A Belted Kingfisher near Ribera, *San Miguel* June 9 (BE) may have been a breeding bird, while one at Zuni July 15 (TR) could have been an early migrant.

WOODPECKERS — Notable were two Lewis' Woodpeckers June 24 near Seneca, *Union* (WC *et al.*). Acorn Woodpeckers in areas where local or infrequent included a pair each at Los Alamos through the summer (BL) and at Zuni July 1-3 (JT), plus five birds along Las Animas Cr., near Caballo L., June 1 (KZ). Northerly records of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers included four in the Abiquiu-Medanales area June 19 (WH) and one near Trujillo June 15 (JPH). Infrequently reported breeding at Los Alamos, an ad. Downy Woodpecker was feeding young there July 3-4 (P. Stein); the species again bred in the M.R.G.V., with an adult feeding young near Bernardo June 14 (WH). Hairy Woodpeckers may have declined in the M.R.G.V., so notable were four to five in Bosque-Bernardo area June 4-10 (WH). Also worth noting were two birds of this species along Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* June 1 (KZ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Summer *Empidonax* flycatchers in the Zuni area in the period included two to three Willows, one to two Dusksies, up to eight Grays, and up to 20 Westerns June 30-July 4 (JT). Several Hammond's Flycatchers were singing in the Hyde Park area above Santa Fe June 1 & 19 (BE, WH). The phoebe situation along the Pecos R. between Ribera and Villanueva showed five Blacks and only one Eastern there June 9 (WE), further suggesting the decline of the latter as the former increases. Other peripheral records of Black Phoebes included one near Abiquiu June 19 (WH) and one to two at Zuni June 30-July 2 (JT). North of the usual range was a ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher at Seneca June 18 & 27 (F. Graves *et al.*). A **Rose-throated Becard** was heard calling and seen briefly in Guadalupe Canyon June 10 (KZ); this species is very rare in the state and has not yet been verified there.

Some 15-20 Purple Martins were sitting in one dead pine near Mule Cr., *Grant* July 2 (JPH); martins usually occur in no more than family groups in New Mexico. At least five Tree Swallows were present at Quemado L., July 5, including a pair entering an apparent nest hole (JPH); this species is very rare and local as a breeder in the w. part of the state. The five or more Violet-greens at Trujillo Canyon June 15 (JPH) were probably breeding there. Bank Swallows were again present at the San Juan Pueblo nesting colony, with 35+ June 2 and 20+ June 19 (JPH).

CORVIDS — An easterly record of the Scrub Jay was of one s of Endee, *Quay* June 15 (JPH). Young Pinyon Jays were heard at Santa Fe June 9 and July 8-27 and at Quemado L., July 4 (JPH); a flock of these jays at Mangas Springs, *Grant* June 15 (RF) was s. of the usual range for the season. A pair of Clark's Nutcrackers was in Los Alamos beginning June 27, with two young seen there on July 7 (BL). Southerly records of Black-billed Magpies included two at Cochiti L., July 22 (BE, WH) and one near Villanueva (BE). Peripheral records of Am. Crows included four along the Pecos R. near Ribera June 9 (BE), one or more in Trujillo Canyon June 15, and singles 18 mi n. of Quemado and at Quemado L., July 4 (JPH).

CHICKADEES THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA — In his continuing study of breeding chickadees in the M.R.G.V. (Belen to Bernardo stretch), Howe found 4 pairs each of Black-capped and Mountains, plus 3 that were variously mixed or hybrid—including a Black-capped x Mountain pair that fledged young. Ten Bridled Titmice were present along Las Animas Cr., June 1 (KZ); this area may be the source of birds found along the adjacent reach of the Rio Grande Valley. Two early migrant Red-breasted Nuthatches were near Bernardo July 27 (WH). Notable were a Canyon Wren at L. McMillan July 10 (WH) and a Bewick's Wren near the Cerros de Taos June 19 (JPH). A House Wren was reportedly singing vociferously at Bosque N.W.R., July 14 (JT), which is quite unusual for a lowland locality. An imm. Townsend's Solitaire had already drifted down to Santa Fe by July 30 (LH, PI); one or two solitaires were at Zuni July 4 (JT) & 28 (TR). Two Swainson's Thrushes banded at Cedar Crest in July (JH) were out-of-place, as the species is not known to summer in the Sandia Mts. A Gray Catbird was singing at Zuni June 30 and July 4 (JT). A Phainopepla was seen June 8 at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy* (RT), where infrequent.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — Gray Vireos were reported in the Zuni Mts. area as follows: a pair feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird at Cottonwood Gulch (A. McCallum); and a pair building a nest in Mullen Canyon on the Zuni Reservation July 3, plus three singing birds and another adult at the latter place July 4 (JT). These are the best pieces of evidence to date that the species breeds in this area. Unusual were single Red-eyed Vireos at Cedar Crest July 7 (JH) and near Belen July 19 (JT); although occasional Red-eyeds occur in summer in the state, to date there is no proof of breeding here. Several summer-vagrant warblers were reported in the period, including single Tennessee, Black-and-white, and Hooded warblers at Cedar Crest in July (JH); a ♂ Magnolia Warbler at Los Alamos June 22 (CJ); and an Am. Redstart near Bosque June 7 & 12, plus an Ovenbird there June 7 (WH).

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDINALINE FINCHES — A pair of Hepatic Tanagers was present June 27 in the Los Alamos area (BL), where local; two birds—plus a W. Tanager—in Trujillo Canyon June 15 (JPH) were probably breeding. Two Summer Tanagers were at San Simon Cienega June 20-21 (RH, LS), in which area the riparian woodland is rather drier than is typical breeding habitat for the species in the state. Also present there June 20-22 were two Pyrrhuloxias (RH, LS), a species that appears to be irregular in the area in summer. The only report of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was of a male at Zuni July 2 (JT). Up to four Lazuli Buntings were present at Zuni June 30-July 3, along with one Indigo (JT); an apparent mixed pair of these 2 species was near Belen June 3 (WH). Eight Painted Buntings were singing in the L. McMillan area June 27 (WH).

EMBERIZINE FINCHES — Three Green-tailed Towhees were found July 4 near Quemado L. (JPH), where the species is local in summer. Easterly occurrences of the Brown Towhee included singles s of Endee and San Jon June 15 (JPH). An Abert's Towhee was found at San Simon Cienega June 21-22 (RH, LS), further suggesting that the species may be establishing itself in that area. Cassin's Sparrow was common on the Jornada Experimental Range in the period, with the first nests for *Doña Ana* being found there June 8 & 13 (KZ). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was reported in the Cañada Ancha area in n.w. *Santa Fe* June 6 (BL), for the northwesternmost record for the state; this area lies about 50 mi from the nearest population, that being to the s.s.w. in the Sandia Mts. A probable Field Sparrow was at Cochiti L., July 29 (BE), which would be early for this straggler to the Rio Grande Valley

area. At least three Black-chinned Sparrows were singing at Trujillo Canyon June 15 (JPH); the species was first detected there in 1983, and that population is the northernmost in the state. Black-throated Sparrows were numerous in the Cañada Ancha area June 4 & 6 (BL); other reports in this general area—where the species is very local—were of four birds near Pojoaque June 30 and three at Cochiti L., July 29 (BE). Summer reports of Lark Buntings were limited, with four near Las Vegas June 15 (JPH) and one at the WIPP Site June 25 (WH). A singing Grasshopper Sparrow was s. of Endee June 15 (JPH); this species is extremely localized in New Mexico in summer. Song Sparrows were discovered summering near Los Alamos, where 10 singing birds and one carrying nesting material were seen July 5 (BL).

ICTERIDS — At least eight Red-winged Blackbirds were on territory in wheatfields in n. Curry June 15 (JPH); this is unusual breeding habitat for this species in the state. At Arroyo Seco June 2 & 6, a meadowlark sang a song that was typical of the Eastern species (JPH); however, this locality in n. Santa Fe is well n. of the usual range of that species in the state, and in such an instance song alone is an insufficient basis for its identification. Easterns in peripheral areas where identification by song is more certain included up to five birds June 30-July 3 at Zuni, where up to 80 Westerns were also noted (JT). An Eastern and a Western sang side-by-side near San Acacia June 21 (JPH). Yellow-headed Blackbirds again summered at Zuni (TR, JT), while four birds at Mangas Springs July 8 (RF) were early migrants. Brewer's Blackbirds were apparently breeding at Quemado L., July 4, with several of the 15 birds there carrying food (JPH); likely breeding birds were also at Zuni June 30-July 2 (JT). Great-tailed Grackles were again at Zuni, with up to three being recorded June 2-July 15 (TR, JT). A possible breeding bird was seen near Grants July 4, but another that day at Quemado L. was obviously solitary (JPH). The Bronzed Cowbird is still a local and

generally rare species in s.w. New Mexico north of s. *Hidalgo*, so that singles at Silver City in early July (M & SO) and San Simon Cienega June 20-21 (RH, LS) were notable. Even more notable was a report of a pair June 8 at Rattlesnake Springs (RT), where there is one earlier credible record. Several Scott's Orioles were present at Cañada Ancha June 4 & 6, and a nest at nearby Pajarito Acres fledged young July 8 (ML); this appears to be the northernmost station for the species in the Rio Grande Basin. Up to three were at Zuni July 3-4 (JT), and four were in the Cerro Verde area near Laguna, June 11 (J. Durrie).

CARDUELINE FINCHES — The only summer reports of Cassin's Finches were at La Cueva, where several fledglings were seen in July (MS). Red Crossbills were present in their largest numbers in years in the Los Alamos area, with flocks of up to 30 birds—including juveniles—being seen in July (BL). At least 50 birds were present in the Lake Peak area on July 14-15 (BE, WH), and up to six were at Zuni July 2 & 4 (JT). Submontane records included at least one bird at Santa Fe July 28 (JPH), and another near Belen July 19 (WH). Up to 12 **White-winged Crossbills** were in the Lake Peak area July 14 (BE, WH), for one of the few summer records for the species in the state. Pine Siskins were again widespread in Albuquerque in the period, especially in June (WH). The only report at Santa Fe was of one or more heard July 28 (JPH). Two dependent young Evening Grosbeaks were at La Cueva July 14-16 (MS).

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ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

Summer 1984 was a mixed bag for weather in this Region; in general it was sunny and warm in June and wet and cooler in July. There were many interesting aspects of the season, including a new breeding species for the state.

FRIGATEBIRDS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A less-than-adult frigatebird was observed as it sailed over Chiniak Bay, Kodiak I., June 27 (†JB, DB). No species of *Fregata* has been substantiated by specimen or photo in Alaska, but birds thought to have been Magnificent Frigatebirds were reported in the n. Gulf of Alaska in 1957 and 1969; that species has been photographed as close to us as Langara I., B.C. (see AB 36:209).

A pair of **Ross' Geese** at a nest with 3 eggs, discovered amid Brant on Duck Island, in the Sagavanirktok R. Delta, N Alaska, June 28 (SRJ), provided a first Alaska breeding record. No Ross' Geese were captured in the 1984 Snow Goose banding roundup on the Delta, so the fate of this pair and nest remained unknown (DRH). About 100 pairs of Snow Geese nested on the Delta, on Howe Island, in 1984 (SRJ). Transplanted "Aleutian" Canada Geese were found nesting on Agattu I., w. Aleutians, in June, for the first time since the island was declared fox-free by U.S.F.W.S., in 1969 (*vide* CFZ).

Total breeding population of waterfowl in Alaska in 1984 was "near long-term averages. Overall duck production will probably be about average this year" (Conant and Hodges 1984, "Alaska-Yukon Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey," U.S.F.W.S., Juneau). Conant and Hodges reported that, with the exception of N. Pintail, surface-feeding ducks (*i.e.*, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, N. Shoveler, and Am. Wigeon) increased in 1984 (up 21%, 60%, 26%, and 16%, respectively, from 1983; and up 15%, 64%, 10%, and 23%, respectively, from the 10-year mean). Pintails were up 1% from 1983, but were down 16% from the 10-year mean. Canvasbacks and scaup increased (up 9% and 26%, respectively, from 1983; up 11% and 12%, respectively, from the



10-year mean), but Buffleheads "continued to decline for no apparent reason" (down 14% from 1983, down 34% from the 10-year average). Two ♂ N. Shovelers and a pair of Gadwalls at Webster L., St. Paul I., Pribilofs, June 22 (ST, KK) were out of place.

SHOREBIRDS — Mongolian Plovers were late and scarce this spring (none was seen at Attu in May). Singles were seen at St. Matthew I., June 2 & 7 (GVB, ALS) and at St. Paul June 6 (WER) & 22 (ST, KK), and at least four were seen at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., in late May-early June (JLD). The first record of probable breeding by this species in the Aleutians was provided by a bird in distraction display in South Pass, above and between Temnac and Massacre bays, Attu I., July 1 (RAW, GFW). No nest or young were found, however.

— S.A. —

The Bering Sea breeding distributions of the closely related Com. Ringed Plover and Semipalmated Plover are not well understood and deserve close attention. On the Alaska mainland coast, Semipalmated is a common breeder where appropriate habitat exists, and there is only one record at all of Com. Ringed (at Wales). Semipalmated breeds w. to the e. Aleutians (Unalaska and probably Umnak), but neither species occurs in the Aleutians to the w. except as a casual migrant/visitant. In the Pribilofs, where long suspected to breed, Semipalmated was finally substantiated as a breeder by the discovery of an adult with two downies at St. Paul June 30 (WER, ph.), but Com. Ringed has never been seen. At St. Matthew, Com. Ringed Plover was found nesting in 1982, and there have been sightings of birds thought to have been Semipalmated; one Com. Ringed was seen there June 3-7, 1984 (GVB, ALS). And at St. Lawrence Island, Com. Ringed Plover has bred and might do so annually. Semipalmated has not been found nesting there, but there are numerous records of occurrence. In 1984, two to three Com. Ringed Plovers were observed at Gambell May 30-June 4, and up to three Semipalmated Plovers were seen each of these days as well, the latter including a displaying bird (JLD *et al.*).

A pair of Eur. Dotterels observed near Pt. Storkersen June 10 (BAC, DMT) provided only the 2nd arctic Alaska record e. of Barrow. Although sought at length by numerous observers, the birds were not seen again.

At least one pair of Wood Sandpipers bred at Attu in 1984; although a nest with eggs was discovered (*vide* RAW), the only data available now are that an adult and downies were seen June 30 (GFW, RAW). A Gray-tailed Tattler at St. Paul July 16 (DMT, *vide* WER) was a very early returnee from the breeding grounds. Again a midsummer Terek Sandpiper was found at Anchorage, this year's bird June 27 (DWS *et al.*). A Curlew Sandpiper observed at Deadhorse, just s. of Prudhoe Bay, June 5 (†KDR) furnished the first arctic coast record in several years. A ♂ Ruff at Prudhoe Bay June 11 (WDM, ph.) was not the same individual that had been seen there in June of prior years.

GULLS, TERNS — A count of 37+ Slaty-backed Gulls, most of them first- or 2nd-year birds, in the Nome area July 9 (TGT) was high. Black-legged Kittiwakes underwent widespread breeding failure in the Bering and Chukchi seas in 1984. In Norton Sound they apparently failed to lay many eggs at Egg I. near St. Michael (AMS), at Bluff (ECM, AMS), and at Sledge I. (GVB). At St. Lawrence (AMS) and Cape Lisburne (GVB, AMS) almost no chicks were produced. And they apparently had about 5% nesting success at St. Paul (WER). Apparently-starving Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen inland, some birds well upstream on the Unalakleet R. (*vide* DGR) and one near Grayling, on the Yukon R., July 22 (DGR). It was a late ice year in the Bering Sea, a phenomenon that may have contributed to this species' bad year. Red-legged Kittiwakes at St. Paul had a similarly dismal breeding season (WER). Two records of Red-legged Kittiwakes in the North Pacific, far from the breeding areas, included a first-year bird molting into ad. plumage at 55°N 155°W on July 16 and an adult that flew aboard ship at 52°30'N 155°W, sat on a lifeboat, and rode 30 naut. mi to the next gillnet station at 52°N 155°W, July 18 (RHD, TRW).

In its 4th consecutive year in Alaska, the rare Caspian Tern was widely reported: singles at the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau (RHA), and in Lynn Canal, just s. of Haines (WAL), June 8; a pair at Robe L., Valdez, June 9 (GJT); a pair in Tracy Arm, s.e. of Juneau, June 11 (WAL); and one at Haines July 6-7 (DDG, JJ). A Caspian Tern on the upper Yukon R., 230 ± km e.n.e. of Fairbanks, July 16 (RRM *et al.*, ph) provided the northernmost record to date. No evidence of breeding

has been reported. Aleutian Terns had a very successful breeding season at Adak (CFZ), and the species nested, apparently successfully, at Attu this year (RAW).

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A Rufous Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*) that spent the period June 23-July 18 at Zapadni Beach, St. Paul (ST, KK, WER *et mult. al.*, ph. and †) was likely, based on observed wing and tail wear, an individual that had escaped captivity in the foreign fishing fleet in the s. Bering Sea. The bird was not netted or collected, so the exact nature of its feather wear could not be determined. Unusual in summer were two Mourning Doves at Salmon Cr., Juneau, June 12 (RBW) and one at Eagle, e. C Alaska, July 7-10 (RRM). Three Com. Nighthawks, a species known annually in this Region only as a fall migrant on the SE mainland, were reported one at Auke Bay, Juneau, June 15 (RBW); one at Middleton I., Gulf of Alaska, July 1 (BR); and one at Pt. Storkersen, on the arctic coast, July 4 (CH *et al.*) & 6 (BAC, PDM). At least one Anna's Hummingbird at Auke Bay the first week of June (RBW) added to very few summer records of the species.

SWALLOWS THROUGH MIMIC THRUSHES — A Cliff Swallow at Buldir I., June 15 (ARD, RAW) furnished the 3rd w. Aleutian record, all of them at that location. A Middendorf's Grasshopper-Warbler was observed performing song flights at St. Paul July 11 (†TGT, †WER *et al.*), establishing Alaska's first midsummer record of the species and the first ever on the Pribilofs. Several pairs of Mountain Bluebirds bred on the Rosie Cr. burn, w. of Fairbanks, where the species had been seen in May. A pair and six young were seen June 29, and 12 birds, adults and fledged young, were seen there July 24 (WAL). These birds provided the westernmost breeding record of the species. A Northern Mockingbird present on the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, June 30-July 13 (MWS ph., RHA ph., FAG, RJG *et al.*) provided Alaska's 2nd substantiated record.

WOOD WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ Yellow Warbler observed at North L., St. Matthew I., June 7 (GVB, ALS) was new to the island; the species is a casual visitant anywhere in the Bering Sea beyond the mainland coast. A Harris' Sparrow at Mukluk I., w. of Prudhoe Bay, June 9-21 (†KDR) provided almost a repeat of last summer's arctic coast record (AB 37: 1019). At least 2 nests of McKay's Buntings were found this season at St. Paul (*vide* WER), where this species has bred occasionally in the recent past.

Following widespread abundance and breeding in C Alaska this spring, White-winged Crossbills were on the move again beginning June 1. At least 40 birds arrived at Kasilof June 4, with first juveniles noted there June 11 (MAM); the species arrived, in numbers, in the Anchorage area by June 12, after which flocks of up to 15 were commonly seen (TGT); and 21 birds at Valdez June 13 (GJT) were the only ones the observer had seen there in several years. Red Crossbills "seemingly disappeared" at Juneau after a last big flock was seen June 23 (RJG); one juv. Red Crossbill was found aboard ship in the Gulf of Alaska at 58°N 140°W on July 4, and an ad. male was seen aboard ship 20 mi off Cape Fairweather July 6 (RHD). After being abundant in SE Alaska this spring, Pine Siskins became suddenly scarce after mid-June (RJG).

ADDENDUM — Two extralimital records of note were of single Solander's Petrels observed at 50°N 155°W (TRW, RHD), 155 naut. mi outside Alaska waters, and at 49°32'N 155°W (RHD), both July 21

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Bill Harrington-Tweit and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

June weather in the Northwest was a continuation of that of April and May, and many localities experienced nearly record-breaking amounts of rain. Thereafter most areas had no precipitation at all during July. Several observers commented that passerine nesting was delayed, but that July should have provided excellent foraging conditions.

The ocean circulation pattern off our coast had returned to more normal conditions before this summer. However, several species of alcs and cormorants that nested on the outer coast appeared to have had poor breeding seasons and possibly even reduced populations. Seabirds that nested inside the coastal estuaries, or inside Puget Sound and the various Straits, appeared to have had average or better breeding seasons.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.J.C.R. = South Jetty of the Columbia R., Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Both Arctic and Com. loons were reported migrating N along the Washington and Oregon coasts throughout June (G & WH, HN). A similar large June migration of loons was also reported in 1978 and 1982, but does not appear to be an annual occurrence. Two Com. Loons in breeding plumage with a 3rd in winter plumage on L. Quinault, Wash., July 5 (SS) could have bred there. This species has not been recorded breeding in w. Washington for many years. A pair of Red-necked Grebes with two young on Upper Klamath L., July 8 (MM) were at the only known breeding locale of this species in Oregon.

There were pelagic trips in the Region on a record 6 dates this July, one off Ucluelet, V.I. (MS) and 5 off Grays Harbor, Wash. (DP, BHT, EH, DW). High counts were 268 Black-footed Albatrosses July 14 (DP), 700 N. Fulmars July 24 (MS), 126 Pink-footed Shearwaters July 26 (BHT), two Flesh-footed Shearwaters July 24 (MS), 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters July 10 (EH), 2000 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels July 24 (MS) and nine Leach's Storm-Petrels July 14 (DP). Short-tailed Shearwaters, which are rarely observed alive in summer in our Region, were reported with Sooties at the Columbia R. mouth June 10, and one was found dead on the beach there that day (RW). A probable Wilson's Storm-Petrel seen July 23 approximately 48 km w. n. w. of Grays Harbor (†BHT, †R. Naveen) was the first reported for Washington and only the 2nd for the Region.

A few Brown Pelicans returned N early. The 4+ sightings in Washington during the summer were fewer than in 1983, but more than in any preceding year. Along the Oregon coast they were noted in the usual numbers (HN). Cormorants apparently had a poor breeding season on the Washington outer coast. Double-crested were in low numbers and Brandt's did not attempt to nest (UW, *fide* EC). However, the Double-crested colony inside Grays Harbor, which was formed in 1979 and now has 610 nests, produced good numbers of young (EC). Inside the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Double-crested numbers were up at Protection I., Wash., and a new colony of 11 pairs was formed on nearby Smith I., Wash. (ST). See *The Murrelet* 65:1-9, 1984, for surveys of increasing numbers of Double-crested in the Straits of Georgia, B.C.

EGRETS THROUGH FALCONS — Two Snowy Egrets June 9 at Bowerman Basin on Grays Harbor (B. Morse), with one at nearby Ocean Shores July 29+ (†DW *et al.*, ph.), followed the early May (not April) sighting there, providing the first records for w. Washington. The Coos Bay, Ore., Snowy Egrets returned in mid-July as usual (AM). A subad. Cattle Egret at Forest Grove, Ore., June 27 (VT *et al.*, *fide* HN) established the first summer record for the Region. A ♀ N. Shoveler had a brood of six July 5 at C. Saanich, V.I., where they are uncommon breeders (JT, *fide* VG). Three July surveys of favored Harlequin Duck summering areas found surprisingly large numbers of post-breeders: 250 at Smith I., July 12 (SS), 110 among the islets off Oak Bay, V.I., July 2 (TZ, *fide* VG), and 110 at Protection I., July 9 (EH). An additional 70 were noted in other areas. These numbers may actually be normal, but we have few previous counts in these areas for comparison.

Two Osprey nests that toppled recently (one with three young in it) were being rebuilt this summer, but neither produced young (VG, EC).



A pair of Ospreys seemed to be prospecting a nest site on a piling in Cowichan Bay, V.I. (VG), an odd choice of nest site in an area that would seem to have more than enough snags available. An ad. Black-shouldered Kite at Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., July 23-24 was unusual (ST). There were no reports of kites from Oregon, so breeding success there is unknown. Two nests of N. Harriers were found at Nisqually N.W.R., increasing the small number of documented nests in w. Washington (ST). There were 15 harriers sighted elsewhere in Washington this summer, and four more on s. V.I.

All 8 Sharp-shinned Hawk sightings were from s. V.I. Six successful Cooper's Hawk nests were reported, 5 from s. V.I. (VG), and one from Maury I., near Seattle, Wash. (PM *et al.*). A 6th nest on V.I. was vandalized and a 7th was abandoned (VG). There were 18 additional sightings, virtually all from s. British Columbia. A N. Goshawk nest was found in e. Douglas, Ore., July 11 (DF). Summer sightings of Golden Eagles away from s. V.I. and s. Oregon are unusual. One was in Pacific, Wash., July 8 (A. Richards, A. Musche), and another was in the Washington Cascades near Glacier Peak July 22 (J. Wolf). An Am. Kestrel at Sea I., Vancouver, July 21 (MP) was the only sighting in that area for a now-very-rare breeder there. There was one report each of Merlin (FS, ML) and Prairie Falcon (MM), and 2 of Peregrine Falcon (DK, EC).

CRANES THROUGH SANDPIPERS — A breeding pair of Sandhill Cranes with one flightless young was seen July 15 on Athlone I., w. of Bella Bella, B.C. (†J. Souther, *fide* DK). This may have furnished only the 2nd breeding record for the n. British Columbia mainland coast (see *Am. Birds* spring 1984), although the species nests regularly on the nearby Queen Charlotte Is. No reports were received from the Pitt Meadows, B.C., breeding area.

To the unusual number of spring reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers can be added one more, of two on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., May 31 (RW), as well as 2 June reports, one June 12 at Iona I., Vancouver (J & HM) and an adult June 16 at Ocean Shores (G & WH), and 3 July reports, of two *P. d. fulva* July 11 at Ocean Shores (EH), one July 12 at Delta, B.C. (BK) and six (including one or more *fulva*) July 30 at Ocean Shores (PM). The last good spring flight, in 1979, was also correlated with more June and July reports than usual. Three pairs of Snowy Plovers bred at Ocean Shores (EC, EH), but only 2 were successful. This is more than are usually found at this northernmost breeding locale. On July 24 a color-banded ad. Snowy, of as yet unknown origin, was observed at Ocean Shores (PM). A pair of Semipalmated Plovers on a nest with 4

eggs was seen May 18 & 30 (EC) at Ocean Shores, but the outcome of the nest was unknown. This furnished only the 2nd nesting record for Washington.

The first flocks of the rock shorebirds, Wandering Tattlers, Ruddy and Black turnstones, and Surfbirds, arrived right on schedule throughout the Region July 11-16. Whimbrel numbers, and numbers of sightings, were not particularly impressive. The 100 at Ocean Shores July 11 & 15 was the high count (EH, PM *et al.*). Likewise, two other common migrants, W. Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher, seemed to be in short supply along the coast. Tillamook Bay, Oreg., hosted 1500-2000 Westerns during July; 3000-5000 are normal numbers there at this time (JG, HN). The high count of Short-billeds was 100 at Ocean Shores July 11 (EH). This was lower than the high count of the usually far scarcer Long-billed, which was 220 at Sauvie I., Oreg., July 24 (HN). Sanderlings were little reported, but several flocks of 500 were noted at Ocean Shores July 11 (EH) and Clatsop Beach, Oreg., July 25 (HN). Least Sandpipers were reported in normal numbers from areas regularly surveyed, such as the n. Oregon coast (JG, HN), Victoria (VG) and Vancouver (DK). Thirty-three sightings of Semipalmated Sandpiper, 11 of Baird's and 4 of Pectoral were expected numbers of these scarce fall migrants from the areas reporting this summer. A **Curlew Sandpiper** in breeding plumage July 29 at the mouth of the Dungeness R., Wash. (†M Moon) provided the 3rd record for w. Washington. An imm. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Ocean Shores July 30 (†PM) was the earliest ever reported in the Region. The ♀ **Ruff** at Tillamook, Oreg., June 2 (†VT) furnished the only report of this species.

LARIDAE AND ALCIDAE — The 42 Pomarine Jaegers off Grays Harbor July 26 (BHT) established the high count, and there were 2 other trip counts of 20+. These are very high totals at any time of year. At least two different South Polar Skuas were reported off Grays Harbor July 10-26 (EH, BHT, DP, DW). Bonaparte's Gulls were noted in small numbers along the Oregon coast (HN) and were not reported from the Washington coast. However, several hundred were around Victoria (VG), and up to 600 were at Vancouver, B.C. (MP), normal numbers for there. Heermann's Gulls came N on schedule, and apparently in the usual numbers (HN). The Grays Harbor colony of Ring-billed Gulls, the only one in our Region, has increased to about 100 pairs (EC). California Gulls came W on schedule, and also in the usual numbers (HN, BHT). A first-year **Thayer's Gull** was seen July 22 at Iona I. (†S. Bailey) for the first documented summer record for the Vancouver, B.C., area. The presence of Black-legged Kittiwakes in the Region varies greatly from year to year, with 5 'banner' years since 1972. This was the first summer since then that none was reported.

The Caspian Tern colony in Grays Harbor numbered 2775 nests (EC) and another 1100+ pairs nested on Sand I. in the Columbia R. estuary (K Richter, *vide* EC). However, the large Caspian nesting area in Willapa Bay, Wash., was unused this year (UW, *vide* EC). At least three ad Arctic Terns were at their Jetty I., Wash., breeding outpost in June (EH, G. Gerdt), but the nest which held two young and one egg June 12 had been destroyed by June 18 (PM). Two Arctic Terns were seen at sea off Grays Harbor July 23 (PM, BHT *et al.*). Common Terns were almost unreported until late July, when small groups of 12 appeared at Victoria (VG) and Drayton Harbor, Wash. (BK).

HN noted that the number of Com. Murre chicks fledged from the Oregon colonies was way below that of recent years, but was a lot more than the complete lack of production seen in 1983. Murre chicks began to appear in fair numbers off Grays Harbor in late July (BHT, SS), although production from the Washington colonies was apparently as low as the 1983 levels (UW, *vide* EC). Cassin's Auklets were almost absent at sea off Grays Harbor in July (BHT, DP, EH), an area where they normally are common. The number of Cassin's breeding on Alexander I., Wash., one of their major colonies in the state, was way down (UW, *vide* EC). Tufted Puffins also showed signs of decreased production on the Oregon-Washington coast (HN, G & WH) with few adults attending nest sites. Inland from the outer coast, puffins seemed to have done better, and a Tufted Puffin burrow found on Colville I., Wash., established the 2nd nesting location for the San Juan Is. (ST). Ancient Murrelets appeared in inexplicable numbers in the Region in mid-July. Five were at sea off Grays Harbor July 14 (DP), at least three were off Victoria July 15-30 (R. Satterfield *et al.*), four were at the S.J.C.R., July 15 (B. Toelle, *vide* HN), and one was at Long Beach, Pacific Rim N P, V.I., July 20-21 (S. Fried, *vide* VG).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — An adult and two freshly fledged **Barred Owls** June 11 at Saanich (H Ford, TZ, *vide* VG) represented one of very few nesting records of the species on V.I. There were 2 additional sightings in the Victoria area (MS, K. Gage, *vide* VG), and 2 reports e. of Vancouver (RC). The pair in Discovery Park, Seattle, fledged two young for the 3rd year in a row (DB, D. Hutchinson). There were 2 reports of Spotted Owls from s. Oregon (MM) and one from n. Washington (RC, DK *et al.*). A **Long-eared Owl** nest was found near Estacada, Oreg. in June (B. McCullough, *vide* HN) and an individual was seen in Seattle June 30 (DB). There are very few summer records of Long-eareds in our Region, far fewer of nests. An ad. N. Saw-whet Owl with three young July 15 near Sheridan in the n. Coast Range of Oregon (R. Fergus, *vide* HN) must have provided one of the very few actual breeding records for those mountains.

The only area in the lowlands that reported numerous sightings of Com. Nighthawks was the Victoria area (VG). The species continued to decline in the Vancouver area (DK). HN noted that nighthawks were scarce in Oregon, and GW noted they were less common than in 1983 on the prairies s. of Tacoma, Wash. Many Victoria observers commented on the scarcity of Rufous Hummingbirds this summer (VG), but there were no comments on the species from elsewhere. Six + ♂ Calliope Hummingbirds were displaying June 11 on Thorn Prairie, 15 mi w. of the Cascade Crest in e. Douglas, Oreg. (DF).

Lewis' Woodpeckers were noted in very low numbers in the Ashland-Medford area (MM), and were unreported elsewhere. A ♂ Red-breasted Sapsucker and a ♀ Yellow-bellied (*S. v. nuchalis*) pair were feeding young at Lightning L., Manning P.P., B.C., July 20 (C. Neilson, J. Dunn). An apparent hybrid (*ruber x nuchalis*) was reported July 7 at Garibaldi P.P., B.C. (RC). The nest location where a Red-breasted and Yellow-bellied pair fledged young on s. V.I. last year was inactive this year (VG). A **Williamson's Sapsucker** on the s. side of Mt. St. Helens, Wash., June 23 (PMu) was west of their usual range on the e. slope and crest of the Cascades. Another near Pemberton, B.C. (MP) was n.w. of their range in British Columbia. Hairy Woodpeckers were well reported from s. V.I. (VG) and Douglas and Jackson, s. Oreg. (DF, MM), but virtually no other comments about them were received. The 5th and 6th Vancouver area records of Three-toed Woodpeckers were provided by birds on Mt. Seymour July 20 and on Hollyburn Mt., July 21 (†D. Roberson). The Black-backed Woodpecker pair that DA watches on a mudflow area on the s. side of Mt. St. Helens nested there for the 3rd consecutive year after the eruption.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS — Both Olive-sided Flycatchers and W. Wood-Pewees were noted in very good numbers in the Rogue R. valley (MM). In view of the decline of Willow Flycatchers to the s. of this Region, we note that several observers found the species present here in good numbers (EH, ST, PM, DF). A singing **Alder Flycatcher** was tape-recorded June 17 at Squamish, B.C. (†MF, MD). This was the first record for the Region so documented, and the tape and a spectrogram are on file. A singing Alder Flycatcher was well described from the Vancouver area in 1981 (†MD), but no recording was obtained. Single **Least Flycatchers** appeared near Glide, Oreg., June 26 (†K. Knittle) for the first summer report in w. Oregon, and at Vancouver, B.C., June 5-6 (†J & HM) for the 3rd Vancouver area record. Two or three Dusky Flycatchers were noted on the Mt. Bolivar trail, Coos, Oreg., in mid-July (AM), where they were also noted last year. If breeding were confirmed, this would be the first known nesting locale in the Coast Range. Farther e., Duskiess were found regularly on clearcuts in e. Lane (SH, DR) and e. Douglas (DF). A family group of Black Phoebes was seen June 30 at Oregon's northernmost nesting location, the Hwy 101 bridge at Euchre Cr., Curry (VT, *vide* HN).

Horned Larks breeding in the Puget Sound lowlands (*E. a. strigata*) have become very scarce in recent years. Thus the discovery of six + singing males on a Ft. Lewis prairie, near Roy, Wash. (GW), and a single bird at Sea-Tac Airport, s. of Seattle (T. Benedict), was noteworthy. The population of 35-40 pairs of Purple Martins in the Olympia-Shelton, Wash., area, was believed to be stable (J. Davis). There were still only 2 known nesting pairs in the s. V.I. area (VG). Tree and Cliff swallows seemed to disappear early (HN, GW). GW noted that Barn Swallows in the Roy area had more frequent 2nd nestings than other swallows.

Scrub Jays may be expanding their range N along the Oregon coast

They were noted several times this summer at Newport (D Irons, D Faxon) and two were seen at Tillamook July 7 (PMu). Scrub Jays are regular n. only to Coos. Rock Wrens have for several years been showing signs of a breeding range expansion from their usual haunts on the e. slope of the Cascades. This summer, in addition to several in clearcuts in e. Lane and Douglas, Oreg. (SH, DR, DF), one was singing July 7 on San Juan I., Wash. (FS, ML), and another was seen on the s.e. slope of Mt. St. Helens on a mudflow and pyroclastic blast rubble area (DA).

KINGLETS THROUGH STARLING — In late July, two different Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen feeding juv. Brown-headed Cowbirds in the Victoria area (M. Nyhof, JT). JT noted that a disproportionate number of published reports of cowbird parasitism of kinglets come from s. V.I., with the implication that the use of such a small host species could be regular there. Western Bluebird nesting success was below that of 1983, but still fairly respectable. The Rogue valley nest box trail fledged fewer than one-half the number of young produced in 1982 or 1983, mostly due to raccoon predation and increased competition from swallows (M. Paczolt). GW noted that 40 pairs on Ft. Lewis, Wash., produced 120+ fledglings, despite nesting beginning 2-3 weeks later than in 1983, and a higher incidence of nest failure and a lower number of 2nd broods. Two bluebird families were seen on s. V.I., where a tiny population manages to hang on year after year.

The Townsend's Solitaire breeding population in the Oregon Coast Range has increased rapidly since its discovery in the late 1970s. This summer they were noted regularly n. to the Clatsop line (HN). There were 4 reports of Gray Catbirds from the Vancouver, B.C., area, the only part of the Region where they breed regularly (*vide* DK). The ♂ N. Mockingbird in Medford, Oreg., single since it was first seen in 1981, finally met a female, and the pair commenced nesting (MM). The untimely demise of one of the pair ruined the best attempt yet at the first nesting record for Oregon. Another N. Mockingbird was seen in Seattle June 20-22 (PM, B. Meilleur) & July 14 (DB). About 200 Eur. Starlings were apparently roosting in burrows in beach cliffs at one location on s. V.I. (R. Williams, *vide* VG). Their presence was "making it very tough" for the local Belted Kingfishers and N. Rough-winged Swallows.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — EP saw an increase of Warbling Vireos in her area of s. Oregon, and, unfortunately, an increase in cowbird parasitism on them. After a noteworthy spring passage of Orange-crowned Warblers, there were no indications of an increase in the numbers breeding, at least in areas with *Am. Birds* contributors. It seems reasonable to speculate that the abundant spring flocks were headed for Alaska and the n., under-reported, one-half of our Region. The good numbers of spring migrant Nashville Warblers noted correlated with the reports of thriving populations in the Ashland-Medford area (MM), and of more than usual in the isolated Skagit Valley, Wash., population (TW). The impressive numbers of Black-throated Gray Warblers noted this spring should have given rise to reports of good breeding populations, but such was not the case.

Two N. Waterthrushes June 23 at McDiarmid Meadows, Manning P.P. (RC), and a few present again at Salt Cr. Falls, e. Lane, Oreg. (SH, DR), were w. of the normal breeding range of the species in our area. Yellow-breasted Chats were discovered at a 2nd location along the S. Fork of the Coquille R., Coos (AM), their only known breeding locale on the w. side of the Coast Range. Extralimital individuals were singing in Olympia June 8-July 18 (BHT), and n.e. of Portland June 8 into July (MH). Three ♂ Hermit Warblers were heard and seen June 10 on the Simpson Olympic Timber Farm n.e. of McCleary, Wash. (PM). This location is midway between the disjunct (as presently known) breeding areas in w. Wash. (Chappell and Ringer, *The Murrelet* 65:185-196, 1984). The only documented vagrant reports were of a male and a ♀ **Northern Parula** July 9-11 at Charleston, Coos (†AM), for the 4th and 5th summer reports for the Region, a ♂ **Blackpoll Warbler** in breeding plumage June 3 at Cape Meares, Oreg. (†R. Smith), and a **Black-and-white Warbler** near Skykomish, Wash., June 5, 1983 (†D. & L. McLeod).

CARDINALINES THROUGH CARDUELINES — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak, still a rare bird in our Region, was at Oregon City, Oreg., June 14 (E. Cameron, *vide* HN). Lazuli Buntings were plentiful

in the Ashland-Medford area (MM), and better than normal numbers were noted in both the Skagit R. Valley, Wash. (TW), and the Fraser R. valley of s.w. British Columbia (DK). A ♂ **Indigo Bunting** on San Juan I., July 17 (†T. Heatley *et al.*) provided the 5th record for Washington. Three reports of **Black-throated Sparrows** were added to the 15 seen this spring. One was at Surrey, B.C., June 10 (†W. Weber *et al.*, †MF-ph.), one was on the Alaskan N.W.A., Reifel I., B.C., June 13 (†E. Lofroth *et al.*), and two were on Swift Dam, *Skamania*, Wash., June 23 (†DA, PMu). None of these birds could be found thereafter. Three-plus pairs of White-crowned Sparrows feeding fledglings July 7 & 15 at about 5000' on King Mt., e. of Wolf Cr., Oreg., were thought to be *Z. l. oriantha* (EP, tape-recorded). This would be the westernmost breeding location for this montane form.

As there are almost no summer records for Lapland Longspurs in the Region, a male July 1 & 8 at Tillamook (JG *et al.*) was a surprise. The colony of **Tricolored Blackbirds** in Portland, Oreg., discovered in 1983, was active again this year (MH, *vide* HN). The first observation of a Rosy Finch on Mt. St. Helens since the 1980 eruption was a bird at 4800' (DA). Red Crossbills were conspicuous throughout the Region and throughout the period, but there were almost no reports of breeding Pine Siskins were reported in unusually high numbers in w. Washington (EH, GW, G & WH), and in e. Douglas, Oreg. (DF), and seemed to be in normal numbers on s. V.I. (VG). Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in the lowlands throughout the period (HN, G & WH, VG, MD, D. Smith), although less commented on than crossbills. The species may have bred in Oregon and on V.I.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Kurt F. Campbell and Ron LeValley

Dry and warmer-than-average conditions continued from spring through the summer period. Inland freshwater habitat was in shorter supply than in the last two rather wet years, and wetland species generally nested in lower numbers and at fewer localities. Sea surface temperatures remained cooler than the 20-year average as the normal upwelling occurred but followed the expected seasonal warming trend. June ocean temperatures were 12-13°C while July temperatures were 13-14°C. A large fallout of vagrants and late migrants occurred June 12-15 (with most of the very rare landbirds throughout the Region occurring in or near this period); lesser fallouts were July 6 and 16-20. Many birds this season seemed to linger in migration and/or start early; note the temporally unprecedented appearances of a number of species on Southeast Farallon Island (Hermit Thrush, House Wren, Hutton's Vireo etc), although for many landbird species this is also a normal time for seasonal movement (see Western Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager etc.).

All sightings from Palomarin and Southeast Farallon Island should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. Reports from these locations were provided by Geoff Geupel (Palomarin) and Jay Penniman (F.I.). A dagger (†) indicates that documentation is on file with the Regional Editors or with the California Bird Records Committee.



ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = S.E. Farallon Island; P.R.B.O. = Point Reyes Bird Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; Gray Lodge = Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area, Butte Co.; ph. = photo on file. References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is written by S.F. Bailey. *Italicized* names refer to counties.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS — As usual a few loons of all 3 species lingered into summer coastally. Of special interest was an Arctic Loon at Irongate Res., *Siskiyou* June 26-July 11 (†RE) as there are few summer inland records. Five Com. Loons at Grant L., *Mono* June 12 (DS) and a single at L. Almanor, *Plumas* June 10-18 (DAA) were considered late inland migrants as they were not seen after these dates. An ad. Pied-billed Grebe with three juveniles at June L., *Mono* July 21 (DS, P.R.B.O.) established the first breeding record for the Mono Basin. A Red-necked Grebe at Pt. Reyes June 13 (LCB) & June 14 (KFC), and two there June 18 (KH) were lingering late. A light-phase W. Grebe was among the summering dark birds at Brooks I., *Contra Costa* July 3 (RAE). This form apparently tends to avoid the immediate coastal areas of our Region.

A Flesh-footed Shearwater and two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were the highlights of a June 23 pelagic trip out of Humboldt Bay (JS, KVR).

BOOBIES THROUGH IBISES — A **Brown Booby** at F.I., July 1 (†KFC, JP, †HG) established only the 2nd Regional record, the first having been at the same location last fall. These were the northernmost occurrences of this species along our coast; there are only 3 additional records for s. California. American White Pelicans arrived in the S.F. Bay area somewhat early with one near Burlingame, *San Mateo* July 1 (KH), 55 at Hayward July 4 (CSw), and 150 at the Vallejo marshes, *Solano* July 15 (WT). Brown Pelicans arrived n. of Monterey in early June as usual; 401 provided a notable concentration at Alameda Naval Air Station June 20-22 (SFB) and a July peak of 200 was higher than the usual July numbers on F.I. Double-crested Cormorants were discovered nesting at 2 locations on e. S.F. Bay. Although breeding had been rumored under the e. end of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge for about 15 years, 5+ nests found there July 3 confirmed the first *Contra Costa* nesting record (PK, SFB, RAE). Similarly, 102 nests under the e. end of the S.F. Bay Bridge July 15 (SFB) established the first *Alameda* nesting record.

Two Am. Bitterns calling from a marsh at Dry Lagoon, *Humboldt* May 28 raised hopes for local breeding but later investigation found the marsh dry (KVR). Up to 10 Least Bitterns summered in the S. Wilbur

Flood Area, *Kings* and a juvenile seen Aug 1 confirmed breeding there (GGe). The first Gray Lodge breeding record for Great Egret was established this summer when 15 nests were found with young (BED). This was further indication of this species' continued increase in the C.V. Nine at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* June 4 (NTC) were considered post-breeding dispersers as there are no nearby rookeries. A Snowy Egret at Lava Lakes Nature Center July 19 (RE, MR) was the first w. of the Cascades in *Siskiyou*. White-faced Ibises are scarce visitors to the Mono Basin so one at the n.w. shore of Mono L., May 10 (DS, P.R.B.O.) was of interest. All Mono Basin records have been in spring.

WATERFOWL — A large Greater White-fronted Goose at L. Almanor, *Plumas* June 8-July 8 (†DAA, †HG) was identified as of the "Tule" subspecies. Few records of this rare form are on file and field identification techniques are still being developed so observers are encouraged to try distinguishing them. For some information on this poorly known form, see AB 32:164 [and see comments in "The Changing Seasons"—K.K.].

Many species of our wintering ducks regularly breed in small numbers and this summer was no exception. Some of the more interesting examples included: N. Pintail—one brood at Sulphur Ponds, *Mono* L., July 23 (DS, P.R.B.O.); Gadwall—one female with 20(!) ducklings at *Mono* L., July 25 (DS, P.R.B.O.); Canvasback—broods at N. Tile Evaporation Ponds, *Kings* June 20 (GGe), female with seven young at Madeline Plains, *Lassen* July 19 (BED), and one brood of three young at Stockton sewage ponds (DY); and Com. Merganser—adult with 11 young at Kent L., *Marin* June 25 (JE). More surprising were a ♀ Redhead with five young June 14-23 at L. Earl, *Del Norte* (RAE, DSc) that established the first coastal nesting record n. of S.F., and a ♀ Ring-necked Duck with three young July 19 and 2 broods Aug. 3 near L. Earl (DSc, RAE) that established the first Pacific Coast breeding records for this species. Elsewhere a ♀ Redhead with nine young was at the Woodland Sugar Ponds, *Yolo* June 20 (BED) and 10 broods were in the S. Wilbur and N. Tile Evaporation Pond areas, *Kings* during the summer (GGe). Ring-necked Ducks were found nesting at Willow L., near Chester, *Plumas* where 32 young were seen July 13 (DAA).

A ♀ **King Eider** near Brooks I., June 29-July 15 (PK, †RAE, SFB, †DR) was the first to be found in *Contra Costa*. Even though most records for this species are from winter there are a surprising number of summer records, often of wintering individuals remaining into summer. An Oldsquaw at Richmond Harbor July 5 (JR) was one of two near Brooks I., June 29-July 3 (PK, RAE, SFB). Another was on Humboldt Bay June 22 and July 29 (RLvV).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — An ad. **California Condor** over Olancha Pass in *Sequoia* N.F., *Tulare* July 22 (†MG) was notable, as few Regional reports are received from the Sierra Nevada. Osprey news continued to be good with 17 active nests at Kent L., *Marin* (JE) and 32 occupied nests at L. Almanor, *Plumas* (DAA) being the most notable concentrations. The Almanor birds raised 1.81 young/occupied nest, the highest success rate recorded since surveys began 13 years ago (DAA). The only Bald Eagle report was of an adult and an immature at Irongate Res., *Siskiyou* July 11 (RE). Only 2 Peregrine Falcon reports reached the editors this summer, one at Sacramento N.W.R., July 19 (MRH) and another in the Loleta Bottoms July 25 (*vide* WT). Neither of these locations is near a known nest site; observers are encouraged to continue reporting Peregrine sightings at all seasons.

A Chukar flushed from a nest with one egg on Negit I., *Mono* L., was extending its limited distribution in the Mono Basin to an interesting location (*vide* DS, P.R.B.O.). Sage Grouse apparently experienced low nesting success in the Region this summer and as a result no hunting season was recommended this year (BED). A Sandhill Crane found dead near Ft. Dick June 10 (*vide* RAE, *to Humboldt State Univ.) had been present for at least 4 days and was only the 2nd ever for *Del Norte*. Elsewhere they were found breeding near Fall R., *Shasta* this summer in an area where breeding had not been previously reported (BY).

SHOREBIRDS — Approximately 270 ad. Snowy Plovers were found this summer in s. S.F. Bay, about 80% of the 1978 P.R.B.O. estimate (CSw). Small numbers of Semipalmated Plovers were present throughout the summer in the Crescent City area (RAE) and in s. S.F. Bay (CSw), while at the Arcata Marsh the last spring bird was seen May 28 and the first fall arrivals were June 26 (KVR). After numerous

sightings of Black Oystercatchers in S F Bay during recent years, a pair nested at Brooks I., *Contra Costa* June 29-July 3 (PK, RAE, SFB) This constituted the first confirmed nesting inside S.F. Bay, although the same birds may have nested there last year. Black-necked Stilts were doing distraction displays and exhibiting broody behavior at the s.e. shore of Mono L., July 16 (MG) and Aug. 4 (DS, P.R.B.O.) for the first known Mono Basin breeding attempts.

A Long-billed Curlew near Crescent City June 3-4 was extremely late for *Del Norte* (RAE) but a calling bird flying past the Mendocino Headlands, *Mendocino* June 18 (WT) was less expected. Probably the best of the season's shorebirds was a ♀ **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Pebble Beach near Crescent City June 3-5 (†RAE, ph. KVR, JS *et al.*) which provided the 6th record for California, and first for spring. Two Marbled Godwit migrants were found July 6 at L. Almanor, *Plumas* (HG) while a single was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* July 8 (KVR, JS) and two were at Honey Lake W.A., July 18 (BED). This species is scarce at any season in the mountain and Great Basin districts of the Region. The last Ruddy Turnstone of the spring at Arcata was seen May 28 (KVR) while another lingering bird was at the Hayward Regional Shoreline June 8-9 (CSw). A flock of 17 including two in breeding plumage at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* June 14 (NTC) did not fit neatly into spring or fall migration, so probably consisted of non-breeding birds. The first fall migrant was at Arcata June 29 (KVR) while one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 19 furnished the earliest fall record ever for *Siskiyou* (RE). A single Black Turnstone had returned to F.I., July 15 and three were at Duncan's Landing, *Marin* July 17 (DE) for early arrival dates. Sixteen Surf-birds were also at Duncan's Landing July 17 (DE), at a time when the first arrivals are to be expected.

The last four spring Red Knots at Arcata May 28 were followed by 13 first fall migrants July 25 (KVR). Elsewhere the first arrivals were four at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* July 21 (KFC). Inland Sanderlings were reported from Mono L., July 23 when two adults were sighted (DS, P.R.B.O.) and at the Stockton sewage ponds July 26 when one or two adults were present (DY, RAE). An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* July 15 (†LCB) and another adult was photographed in Eureka, *Humboldt* July 20 (KVR, JS). Despite this species' rarity in the Region, its occurrence follows the pattern set by so many shorebirds: the first fall migrants occur in July and are adult birds while most juvenile records are from August and later. An ad. **Rufous-necked Stint** in Eureka July 22-22 (ph. KVR, JS, ph. RLeV *et al.*) was only the 3rd to be recorded in our Region. The other two were also adults in breeding plumage, a spring migrant May 5, 1969, on Humboldt Bay, and a presumed fall migrant at Crescent City June 18, 1974.

An early Baird's Sandpiper, presumably adult, was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 8 (KVR, JS). The first juveniles were three at Mono L., July 23 (DS, P.R.B.O.) and one at Mad R. estuary, *Humboldt* July 29 (KVR, RLeV). An extremely early Pectoral Sandpiper was at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara* July 8 (DSt). A Dunlin at Eureka July 22 (KVR) was likely a non-breeding bird rather than a post-breeding fall migrant, as this species does not normally arrive in numbers until late September. Two Com. Snipe at Sacramento N.W.R., *Glenn* June 28 (MRH) were well away from known breeding localities. Wilson's Phalaropes are scarce in coastal counties n. of *Sonoma*. An ad. male (?) at the Ukiah sewage ponds July 14 (RAE) may have been *Mendocino's* first, and an adult July 28 and an adult and juvenile July 30 in Eureka (KVR, RAE) were of interest.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — The only Franklin's Gull reported was an adult at Gold Bluff's Beach, *Humboldt* June 24 (GS). This species occurs in small numbers throughout the year but is slightly more likely during migration periods. Western Gulls were found nesting inside S.F. Bay in surprising numbers at at least 6 locations in *Contra Costa*, *Alameda*, and *San Francisco*; the largest colonies were at Alameda Naval Air Station where over 200 fledglings were produced (SFB)! A Sabine's Gull was at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* June 14-15 (†NTC) and two others were 8 mi off Gold Bluff's Beach, *Humboldt* June 15 (RAE). An ad. Com. Tern in breeding plumage at Negit I., Mono L., May 27 (†DS, P.R.B.O.) and two adults at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Aug. 6 (†RO) were surprising for their inland localities. The Mono L. bird may well have represented our first spring record e. of the mountain district. An Arctic Tern well-described near F.I., June 24 (†KFC) was perplexing, as this record fell between the spring and fall

migration periods for this species. Most likely this individual was a summering, non-breeding bird.

Least Terns had a disastrous nesting season in the S.F. Bay region as the only successful traditional colonies were those at Alameda Naval Air Station and the Oakland Airport. These colonies had only about 40 active pairs compared to 70 in most recent years and many of the young were lost to avian and mammalian predators (SFB). Other bay area colonies were inactive this summer except for 6 nests at a newly discovered site at the Pittsburg, *Contra Costa* P. G. and E. power plant that represented the farthest inland nesting for California (RAE, SFB). Away from the breeding colonies, an adult at the Stockton sewage ponds June 23 (†DY) provided the first C.V. record and only the 2nd inland record for the Region. A Black Tern at L. Earl June 18-21 (GS, RAE) was only the 4th to be recorded in *Del Norte*. Two ad. Tufted Puffins off Bodega Head, *Sonoma* July 15 (LCB), one 3 mi off Albion, *Mendocino* July 16 (WT) and one off Bodega Head July 26 (WT) were from areas where nesting numbers are very low.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Com. Barn-Owl was noted one mi n. of Mono L., June 13 (DS); though apparently very rare in the Mono Basin they are fairly common both to the n. (*Lassen*) and s. (Owens Valley, just outside the Region). Much stranger was one heard July 13 at Glacier Pt. (elevation 7000 ± ft), Yosemite N.P. (DY), as there are but a handful of records from above 4000 ft. An imm. N. Saw-whet Owl was at the previously unreported locale of Loma Mar, *San Mateo* July 29 (CSw). Six of 10 Black Swift reports were from within 30 mi of Año Nuevo, *San Mateo*; 2 were from Burney Falls S.P., *Shasta* (including 20+ pairs June 28—JE), and one was of three entering cliffs at Big Sur July 12 (AB *et al.*). The last was of two low over Fairfield, *Solano* June 2 (BDP), well away from known breeding areas. An observation of eight calling Vaux's Swifts near Chester, *Plumas* July 5 (HG) was suggestive of breeding far from confirmed nestings.

In contrast to the spring, only one extralimital Costa's Hummingbird was reported: an ad. male at Greenhorn P., *Siskiyou* June 22 (RE) was felt to be a different individual than was present in April. A juv. Costa's in Bixby Canyon, *Monterey* July 29 (DR) indicated coastal nesting. *Humboldt* still lacks a breeding record for Calliope Hummingbird, but a female in the Lassic Mts., June 8 (†JS, KVR) was a good lead. The fall migration of Belted Kingfishers begins very early in the Region (as early as late June at F.I.), but is not easily separated from post-breeding dispersal; birds appeared away from the vicinity of nesting areas July 5 & 16 at Polomarin and July 21 at Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* (KFC); more summer data will help to clarify this. Single Red-breasted Sapsucker males were at L. Britton and Dead Horse Summit, both *Shasta* June 29 & 30 respectively (JE); their status here is unclear. In a well-established pattern, post-breeding Nuttall's Woodpeckers appeared coastally in *Marin* and *Sonoma* June 27-July 23 (JE, DT, NTC); limited data indicate all age/sex classes are involved.

FLYCATCHERS — An Olive-sided Flycatcher on outer Pt. Reyes June 14 (KFC) tied the Region's records (F.I., 2 years) for latest spring migrants, while P.R.B.O. recorded Palomarin's first W. Wood-Pewee of the spring June 7! Spring migration for Willow Flycatchers continued to be light, the total reaching only 12-18; no indications of nesting were reported. **Least Flycatchers** on the other hand were confirmed nesting for the first time in California, when observation of a singing bird was followed by the discovery of a female on a nest July 5 at Thoms Creek and Hwy 299, *Modoc* (ph., †SC, DD, DDe); a 3rd individual was heard singing nearby. Breeding confirmation had been anticipated by some, full details of this record are to be published elsewhere. Single W. Flycatchers June 5 at Corral Hollow, *San Joaquin* (DY) and June 6 at Reichmuth P., *Sacramento* (TM) were passing through; the protracted spring migration of W. Flycatchers can extend considerably later still (see *Bird-Banding* 44:205-220). Ash-throated Flycatchers are considered quite rare in the Mono Basin, with no nesting, so individuals June 13 near the n. shore of Mono L. and June 18 near Lee Vining (both DS) were probably best assumed migrants; one at F.I., June 15 was not far past the spring peak of records there.

A Cassin's Kingbird just n. of Santa Nella, *Merced* July 9 (JR) was exceptional on the C.V. floor, having most likely wandered down from the inner edge of the Coast Ranges, whence most recent records come. Eight sightings of W. Kingbirds near Mono L., June 7-July 28 (DS *et*

al) were many for there, while one on F.I., July 18 fell midway between latest spring and first fall records there. An E. Kingbird on outer Pt. Reyes June 13-14 (LCB, JM) fit established patterns, as did sightings of four, June 27 to at least July 12 at the traditional locality of Parks Cr., near Gazelle, *Siskiyou* (RE, JS); a nest was also located there (RE) Less expected was a first *Siskiyou* record of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: an adult, probably female, at Butte Valley W.A., June 15-16 (ph †B. Woodbridge, *fide* MR).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS — Purple Martins seemed to be doing well in *Marin*, with 20 near Kent L., July 25 (JE) the largest number reported for that locale, and 9 sightings June 12-July 3 at Palomarin, which constituted “exceptionally good numbers and regularity” Tree Swallows are not known to breed s. of s. *Merced* (and *Madera*?) on the C.V. floor; 15 at Wilbur, *Kings* July 9 (GGe) were evidently dispersants or migrants. The Smith R. estuary’s Bank Swallow colony (*Del Norte*) was doing well, with about 50 pairs in this, its 2nd known year (RAE). Also encouraging were record reports of 100+ at Año Nuevo July 7 (DT) and 300+ total July 18-19 at Honey Lake W.A. and near Termo, *Lassen* (BED). Three Pinyon Jays e. of Chico, *Butte* July 2 (HG) were where considered “accidental;” the few Regional records w. of the Sierran crest are not strongly seasonal in pattern.

Mountain Chickadees continued to be recorded at sites having produced extralimital records this spring, with singles at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* June 2 (JS, KVR) and outer Pt. Reyes to at least June 23 (RS); two were singing on Pt. Reyes June 7 (HG). One at Pt. St. George, *Del Norte* June 3 (RAE) was also out of place. “About 25” Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Big Trees S.P., *Calaveras* June 16 (DY) was apparently the largest number on record from the Sierras. A fancy record for Plain Titmouse was of one on Trinidad Head, *Humboldt* June 10 (K. Irwin, *fide* RAE); they are regular on the immediate coast no farther n. than Tomales Bay, *Marin*. Three Bushtit nests and at least 18 adults were noted in the Mono L. area June 5-13 (DS *et al.*); this was the first nesting evidence in an area where the species has been considered very rare outside October-March. A total of 16 Pygmy Nuthatches on the Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count June 9 (*fide* CB) was encouraging; the species seems to be coming on strong there. A group of three just-fledged Bewick’s Wrens was found June 16 on Negit I., Mono L., for apparently the first breeding confirmation for the Mono Basin (DS). What a House Wren was doing on F.I., July 6 is at this point probably impossible to say. The abundance of Marsh Wrens in the remaining marshes of the San Joaquin Valley was only hinted at by an estimate of 2000± nesting in the vicinity of Wilbur, *Kings* this season (GGe).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers building a nest in oaks on the coastal drainage site of Langley Hill Rd., *San Mateo* June 9 (WB) fits well with other recent sightings for summer in the *San Mateo*/w. *Santa Clara* area. Late spring records of migrant Hermit Thrushes continued into June this year at coastal “vagrant traps.” Singles were at outer Pt. Reyes June 13 (LCB), Palomarin June 19, and F.I., June 3, 12 & 15. The latter records were the first ever for that month for F.I.; hopefully the birds were measured and described, in light of last season’s discovery of one or more eastern-type birds. A singing **Wood Thrush** June 15 at Sunnybrae, *Humboldt* was reported virtually without details (JS, RAE *et al.*); it was said to have been tape-recorded; presumably documentation is forthcoming. This would establish a 3rd Regional record. Varied Thrushes lingered late, with one on outer Pt. Reyes to June 5 (*fide* Gull) and one at F.I., June 13.

A description from a skilled observer was of a thrasher on Sentinel Dome, Yosemite N.P., July 21. Submitted as a Bendire’s, it could as easily have been of a Sage Thrasher; observers are reminded and cautioned that by mid-summer *all* thrashers can be very worn, with “field marks” lost or obscured; several vagrant Sage Thrashers in the Region were first called Bendire’s. A Hutton’s Vireo on F.I., July 18 had no precedents between mid-May and Aug. 4. Five sightings at Reichmuth and Ancil Hoffman parks July 4-26 (TM *et al.*) were assumed to be of post-breeding wanderers. Warbling Vireos are no longer known to breed anywhere in the C.V., but birds of passage were present in the Sacramento area as late as June 14 (one, Reichmuth P.) and as early again as July 21 (one, Ancil Hoffman P.—TM). A singing Red-eyed Vireo in

Pacifica, *San Mateo* July 17-29 (*fide* Gull, ALE *et al.*) was probably territorial.

WARBLERS — A briefly but well-described singing ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** at Bridgeport L., *Mono* June 18 (†RS *et al.*), subject to acceptance by the C.B.R.C., furnished the first or 2nd Regional record. The only other widely accepted record (Sept. 13, 1963, S.F.) has not been reviewed by the C.B.R.C. and no documentation is known to this editor. Amazing was the discovery July 3 of a freshly dead ♂ **Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler** at the Wetwood Sewage Ponds, *Lassen* (†HG; ph., JM; *Mus. Vert. Zool., Berkeley). The inland occurrence, date, and the fact that this bird was of the less likely, genetically recessive “Lawrence’s type” were all the more surprising. A “Brewster’s type” hybrid discovered Oct. 1, 1973, near Fairhaven, *Humboldt* (see *West. Birds* 5:58) and reviewed by the C.B.R.C. is apparently still the only other such hybrid recorded w. of Texas. In light of the current records, it is clear hybrids must be soberly considered in all suspected observations of either parent species in the West. The Region’s 3rd nesting of *N. Parulas* took place this summer near Inverness P., *Marin* only 7 mi n. of where two young fledged in 1977. A singing male and a female fed one fledgling June 9-July 29 (†M. Gross, †JE, m.ob.; *fide* Gull). An additional individual was at F.I., July 6. A singing ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler was along Gazos Creek Rd., *San Mateo* June 16 (*fide* Gull). Magnolia Warblers were one at Patrick’s Pt., *Humboldt* June 18 (R. & M. Chandler, *fide* JS) and a singing male on outer Pt. Reyes June 13-14 (LCB *et al.*).

Single ad. ♀ “Myrtle” Yellow-rumped Warblers on outer Pt. Reyes June 14 (JM) & 23 (RS) may have been one bird. A count of 12 Black-throated Gray Warblers on the Palo Alto Breeding Bird Count June 9 (*fide* CB) probably implied breeding in that area. Straggling Townsend’s Warblers were noted (one each) June 1 at F.I., June 2 at outer Pt. Reyes (WB), and June 13, 3-4 mi s.w. of Lee Vining, *Mono* (DS). The 1974-1983 average for June records is just over one/year. A June 13 Palm Warbler on outer Pt. Reyes was apparently gone the next day, undetained by lack of a tail (LCB). The spring’s only Bay-breasted Warbler was a singing male June 15-16 on outer Pt. Reyes (LCB, KH). Six reports representing four to five Black-and-white Warblers spanned June 8-July 6; all were males. The first of eight to nine Am. Redstarts was a presumably territorial, singing first-year male near Inverness P., May 27-June 11 (thus modifying the comment last season on their March to May absence), and the last were a pair considered “probable breeders” July 15 on the n.w. shore of L. Earl, *Del Norte* (B. & M. McIntosh, *fide* RAE). Ovenbird records were of two on F.I., June 14-15 and one singing in Lee Vining June 31 (MG). Single, one-day-only Com. Yellowthroats occurred on F.I., June 13, 15, 16 & 25, and July 6, precedents there weakly indicate these as “spring” occurrences. Two singing in disturbed coastal scrub June 23-July 24 furnished an “unprecedented occurrence” at Palomarin. A ♂ Hooded Warbler sang by Jewel L., Tilden P., June 9-17 (*fide* Gull; JM). Early fall migrant Wilson’s Warblers were singles July 17-26 at Reichmuth P., Sacramento (TM) and July 29 at F.I., and two July 30 at Durham Ferry P., *San Joaquin* (DY). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Pt. Pinole, *Contra Costa* July 4 (*fide* Gull) was not near breeding areas.

TANAGERS THROUGH BUNTINGS — Western Tanagers are regularly noted as migrants into June; most of the 14 reported from the S.F. Bay area (where they seem to be rare breeders) June 7-13 (none later) were probably passing through. Nine Rose-breasted Grosbeaks for the period June 6-30 was near the previous 10-year average for June of about 12. Of this year’s, seven were in *Marin* and two near Mono L. (males, June 13-19—DS, HG *et al.*). A ♂ Lazuli x Indigo Bunting was at the w. shore of Mono L., June 17-19 (†DS); there are few records of these hybrids for our Region, although they are rather regularly noted in adjacent *Inyo*, s. California. Only seven Indigo Buntings were reported for the period: a F.I. female June 13 and six mainland males, with one of the latter near Manton, July 11 (PD) apparently providing a first *Shasta* record.

SPARROWS THROUGH LONGSPURS — A well-described **Cassin’s Sparrow** was at S. Tufa, Mono L., June 17 to at least June 20 (†HG, †MG, †JM, †KH, ph. MW *et al.*). A 2nd bird was suspected present by at least one observer (RS). This 8th Regional record fell less

than 3 weeks after the 7th (and first non- F.I.) record. Two Rufous-crowned Sparrows singing along Old La Honda Rd., *San Mateo* June 9 (WB) were where an individual had been found in winter; the species has been considered "accidental" in *San Mateo*. A Clay-colored Sparrow reported without details from F.I., June 22 would, if acceptable, furnish the latest spring record for the Farallones (and the Region!) by 6 days. Black-chinned Sparrows continued to make news, with several reports of birds at new sites or "still present" at unusual locales noted this spring. Most significant were confirmation of breeding along Fairfax-Bolinas Rd., *Marin* with a fledgling begging food from a female July 23 (DT—also the latest report), and two birds singing June 13 on the n. side of Lundy L., *Mono* (MG) for only a 2nd Mono Basin record. No reports were received of Vesper Sparrows; presumably they were not noted again at potential breeding sites mentioned this spring. A singing Black-throated Sparrow on Negit I., Mono L., was present June 5-20, with a 2nd bird there June 16, and a pair was copulating e. of Black Pt., Mono L., June 9 (both DS). According to DS, "this species apparently irregularly shows up in the Mono Basin." Sage Sparrows are known to engage in upslope post-breeding dispersal, so six on top of Olancha Peak, *Tulare* (elevation 12,123 ft) July 22 were not too surprising; they were said to be very common at lower elevations (MG). Three Grasshopper Sparrows singing near Goodrich Cr. and McKenzie Meadow, *Lassen* July 5 (†HG) were in the interior; our understanding of their status away from the coast is incomplete.

A singing Song Sparrow at 7000 ft in Peregoy Meadow, Yosemite N.P., June 14 (RS) was probably not a wanderer to that unusual elevation, as territorial birds have been noted at this locale in recent years. Two Lincoln's Sparrows at El Capitan Crossover, Yosemite Valley, July 4 (JL) added to recent records indicating breeding in the valley after many years' absence. One on F.I., June 15 was by 10 days the latest Regional record well away from breeding areas (except one reported apparently without details June 19, 1983 in *Sonoma*) and could well have been an e. bird, by such timing. Single White-throated Sparrows June 2 on outer Pt. Reyes (*fide Gull*) and June 13 on F.I. had very few precedents for that month, as was true of an "adult-plumaged" Golden-crowned Sparrow found on the tip of the Alameda Naval Air Station's breakwater June 16 (SFB, CSW), which appeared to establish the 2nd latest of 7 June 1-July 1 Regional records. At F.I., a June 18 "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco's closest precedent was a June 1-3 bird in 1975. A first-alternate plumaged ♂ Chestnut-collared Longspur on F.I., July 16 (†JP) apparently furnished only our 3rd record between Apr. 30 and Sept. 19 (the others May 18, 1980 and June 26-27, 1975, both also F.I.).

ICTERIDS — Tricolored Blackbirds continued to be seen at Davison Dairy near Orick, *Humboldt* to June 20, when two males were present (JS, RAE *et al.*). Observers are urged to continue reporting records of this potentially vulnerable species. Research is underway to clarify its current status. A carefully observed Com. Grackle at outer Pt. Reyes June 13-16 (†LCB, †JM, †KFC, †MLR *et al.*) should provide the 3rd Regional record, as 2 earlier records have been accepted by the C.B.R.C. (including one Nov. 7, 1980 at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, not previously published here); reports from the C.B.R.C. are published periodically in *Western Birds*. A "Bullock's" N. Oriole at F.I., June 14 had few precedents.

CROSSBILLS THROUGH GROSBEAKS — This was clearly a "Red Crossbill year," as good numbers were reported for a 2nd season, this time the length of the coast (except *Del Norte*) and to a lesser degree at Sierran locales. As SFB noted for the S.F. Bay area, "the irruption of Red Crossbills was detected most strongly in *Marin*, but wherever they were found they were harvesting a good crop of Douglas-fir cones." No indications of breeding were reported. The largest report was of 200 at Mt. Tamalpais, *Marin* July 21-Aug. 4, with numbers increasing thereafter (*fide Gull*). Lawrence's Goldfinches in contrast seemed to wane through the period, returning toward more normal numbers after late May's peak. A total of 50 ± birds was reported, only about three in July. Two at Davison Dairy June 3 provided a 4th *Humboldt* record (KVR, JS), while nesting was documented for a pair at Petrolia, *Humboldt* July 1 (JS, KVR). Breeding was also confirmed for the Sutter Buttes (WA) and strongly suggested in *San Joaquin* (DY). Fascinating was an ad. Eur. Goldfinch which appeared and disappeared with vagrants on outer Pt. Reyes, seen June 13 only (LCB); it can only be assumed an escapee.

Evening Grosbeaks were reported in modest numbers for a 2nd summer, with 4 reports totaling eight birds in usual areas.

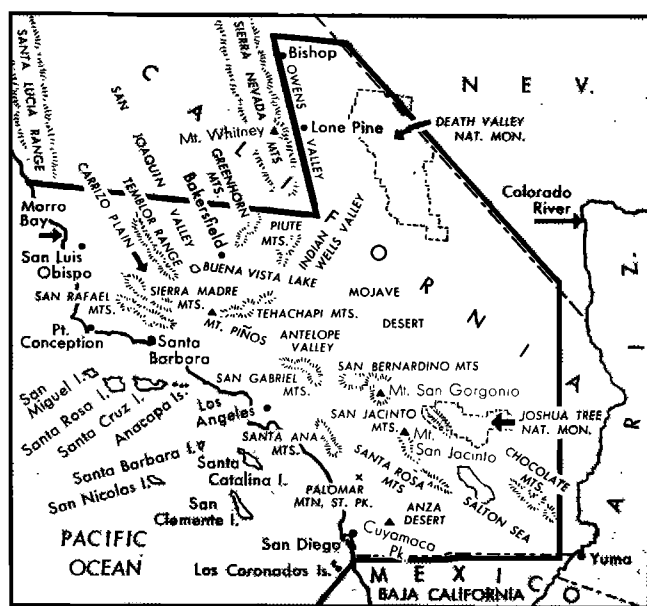
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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

The dry weather continued through June, but moist tropical air pushing northward from Mexico in July brought thunder showers with substantial rainfall to the mountains and deserts, and warm humid weather to the coast.

The most exciting birding was at the Salton Sea where an interesting variety of pelagic birds was found including an apparent Cook's Petrel. What caused these birds to appear on this inland body of water located about 150 miles north of the head of the Gulf of California is not clear, none being associated with local storms. However, a number of tropical storms around the tip of the Baja California Peninsula occurred during this period, and may have forced these northward moving birds into the Gulf of California where they became trapped, ending up on the Salton Sea.



ABBREVIATIONS — F C R = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co., N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co., S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary, Ventura Co.; S.B.C.M. = San Bernardino County Museum; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. As virtually all rarities found in s. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report. In the following text, place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS, GREBES — Summering loons were exceptionally scarce along the coast with only three Red-throated, eight Arctic and 15 Com. loons reported, none being s. of *Ventura*. A breeding-plumaged Com. Loon at N.E.S.S., June 30 (GMcC) was unexpected, there being only 2 previous summer records for the Salton Sea. The Horned Grebe found at N.E.S.S., May 5 was last seen June 10 (HK).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH STORM-PETRELS — The **Laysan Albatross** found at N.E.S.S., May 21 remained on the Salton Sea through at least June 20, with two seen together June 9 (DMacK, ph. S D N.H.M.) suggesting more than one bird may have been present throughout much of the 30-day period.

S.A.

Even more remarkable than the Laysan Albatross was an obvious *Pterodroma* of the *Cookilaria* subgenus seen daily at N.E.S.S., July 24-29 (SWC, DLD—ph. S.D.N.H.M.). The extensively white coloration of the undersides of the wings, and lack of black on the top of the head, limited the possibilities to *P. cooki*, *P. defilippiana* or *P. pycrofti*. Based on our present limited knowledge of the status and distribution of these 3, Cook's Petrel would appear to be the most likely. However, the bird clearly lacked white outer tail feathers, and most closely matched the illustration of Pycroft's Petrel in P. Harrison's *Seabirds, An Identification Guide* (1983). An examination of specimens, however, indicates the white on the outer tail feathers of Cook's Petrels is variable and confined to the *inner* webs of those feathers, thus casting doubt both on Harrison's statement that Cook's Petrel has "noticeable white outer tail feathers" and on the accuracy of his illustration of that species. In addition, current information suggests Masatierra Petrel (*P. defilippiana*), which does nest on the Juan Fernandez Is. (A. W. Johnson, *The Birds of Chile*, 1965), is indistinguishable in the field from *P. cooki*. Cook's Petrel has been found within 100 mi of the central California coast on one occasion (AB 34:200, 1980), and a dying individual was recovered in Santa Cruz Nov. 17, 1983 (*in Cal. Academy of Sciences, San Francisco), but the species is known to occur regularly off Baja California. The Salton Sea bird undoubtedly reached that location by way of the Gulf of California, the same route believed to be taken by most other pelagic species found on this inland body of water.

Thirty Buller's Shearwaters between Anacapa and Santa Barbara islands July 27 (GS) were unexpected, this species being rather rare off s. California during September and October, and previously unrecorded in July. A **Sooty Shearwater** at N.E.S.S., June 16 (CM) was only the 3rd ever found inland in the Southwest, with one found dead near Wellton, Ariz., June 6, 1971 (*Auk* 90:677, 1973) and the other seen on the Salton Sea Aug. 14, 1971 (AB 25:905, 1971). Since Black-vented Shearwaters are not known to occur in s. California waters in summer, one off *Ventura* June 24 (REW) was most unusual. The presence of a white-rumped **Leach's Storm-Petrel** at N.E.S.S., June 30-July 21 (GMcC, RMcK) completed the *Procellariiformes* found on the Salton Sea this summer; it was only the 2nd ever found inland in s. California, the first having been a dark-rumped bird, believed to have been *O. l. chapmani*, on the Salton Sea Sept. 15, 1976 (AB 31:222, 1977) associated with Tropical Storm Kathleen. Thirty-five Least Storm-Petrels off San Diego June 2 (GMcC) were exceptionally early, the previous earliest arrival date being July 19; four were as far n. as *Ventura*, June 24 (GMcC).

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — A dead Red-billed Tropicbird found along the tideline in Imperial Beach, *San Diego* Aug 3 (RP) was the only one reported. Brown Pelican numbers at the Salton Sea peaked on June 13 when 34 were at N.E.S.S. (SWC), and this number remained through the end of the period. The ♀ **Anhinga** was last seen on Lee L. near L. Elsinore, *Riverside* June 9 (SWC), with observers unable to find it on later dates. An exceptionally early imm. Magnificent Frigatebird was at N.E.S.S., June 4 (PEL), followed by two immatures at N.E.S.S., June 21 (AME) and up to four around the Salton Sea July 12-27 (REW, DLD), but an immature over Imperial Beach July 15 (REW) and two off La Jolla, *San Diego* July 23 (CGE) were the only ones reported from along the coast.

HERONS, STORKS — Great Egrets were more numerous along the coast than normal with about a dozen along the *San Diego* coast throughout June and July (GMcC) and up to 25 along the *Orange* coast in July (SJR); a pair seen feeding three young in a nest at a Great Blue Heron rookery at Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo* June 30 (GPS) provided one of very few breeding records away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R. valley. A pair of Little Blue Herons successfully fledged at least one young near Imperial Beach in late July (REW); an adult on the San Joaquin Marsh in Irvine, *Orange* July 8+ (BED) was the only one found away from the San Diego area. A Tricolored Heron near Imperial Beach June 6 (M & DH) was one of very few ever to be found along the coast in summer. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron seen sporadically at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* since October 1981 was again present July 4-22 (GMcC). A Wood Stork in flight over Long Beach, *Los Angeles* July 7 (BED) was the only one found away from the s. end of the Salton Sea.

GEESE, DUCKS — Up to 14 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks around S.E.S.S. during June (DLD, REW) and three pairs accompanied by 18 young at Finney L., July 1 (BWK) were encouraging, considering how scarce this species has become in recent years. An apparently healthy ad. Snow Goose at N.E.S.S., June 1-13 (BWK) was exceptionally late. A flock of 58 Brant at N.E.S.S., June 19 (SWC) was an unusually large number for this time of year, but high temperatures and unsuitable food reduced this flock to three by the end of the period. A ♀ Wood Duck at F.C.R., June 28 (SWC) was unexpected considering the time of year. A Canvasback, casual in summer away from the Salton Sea, was on L. Cachuma, *Santa Barbara* July 21 (PEL). Two Ring-necked Ducks, most unusual in summer, were on L. Cachuma June 21-July 21 (PEL). A ♂ Greater Scaup near Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo* from April through July 19 (TME, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and another at Bolsa Chica, *Orange* July 20+ (DRW) were two of fewer than ½-dozen ever to have been found in s. California in summer. Surf Scoters, like loons, were virtually nonexistent along the coast this summer, and White-winged Scoters went unreported. A Bufflehead in Goleta June 12 (PEL) was the first to have been found in *Santa Barbara* in summer.

KITES, HAWKS, FALCONS — A Black-shouldered Kite at Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. (elevation 6750 ft) July 14 (DRW) was unusually high, and another around N.E.S.S., June 3 (REW) & July 30 (DLD) was outside the species' normal range. A Sharp-shinned Hawk, most unusual in summer along the coast, was at Montana de Oro S.P. adjacent to Morro Bay June 15-20 (KH). Nesting Red-shouldered Hawks in Victorville, *San Bernardino* and nearby Barstow in May (SWC) were on the e. fringe of the species' range in California, but a pair nesting n. of Blythe (SC) established the first breeding record for the Colorado R. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk on Mt. Palomar, *San Diego* July 8 (RH) was most unusual, the only previous summer record being of a pair attempting to nest on Santa Rosa Mt. each year 1978-1982. A subad. Peregrine Falcon at N.E.S.S., May 5-July 6 (GMcC) and an adult at S.E.S.S., July 1-28 (BWK) were probably from the population breeding on islands in the Gulf of California. A Prairie Falcon, casual at the Salton Sea in summer, was at S.E.S.S., July 5 (HK).

RAILS — The endangered California Black Rail population in the Imperial Valley is being threatened by Federal, State and local agencies. Black Rails have now become quite common in marshes formed from water seeping from the All American Canal as indicated by a count of 60+ near Holtville in April and May (MJK); however, proposals to line

this canal to eliminate the loss of water from seepage will put an end to these rich marshes if implemented. Black Rails have been established as breeding birds in the marshes around Finney L., near S.E.S.S., but that lake was drained this spring by the California Dept. of Fish and Game, apparently to improve conditions for wintering ducks!

PLOVERS THROUGH SANDPIPERS — Two Lesser Golden-Plovers at Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara* June 3 (BS) were either very late spring migrants or possibly summering as two were at the same location July 11-12 (JLD). A Solitary Sandpiper at N.E.S.S., July 28 (REW) was the earliest this fall. A pair of Spotted Sandpipers s. of Imperial Beach June 9 (JO) appeared to be defending a territory, and if so, would establish the southernmost nesting locality in California. Seven Surf-birds at Shell Beach, *San Luis Obispo* June 17 (BS) and three at S.C.R.E., June 30-July 8 (LB) were probably summering locally, with one near Cayucos July 16 (GPS) judged to be the first fall migrant. Two ad. Red Knots at S.E.S.S., July 12 (REW) were the first of the fall migrants to be found at this inland locality, and one near Lancaster, *Los Angeles* July 28 (MH) was the only one reported inland away from the Salton Sea. Four ad. Sanderlings near Lancaster July 21 (MH) were a little early. A juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara* July 31 (LRB) was the first to have been found this fall. The first of the fall Baird's Sandpipers was one on the Salton Sea July 27 (HK) followed by one near Morro Bay (GPS), another near Lancaster (MH) and three at N.E.S.S. (DRW) all on July 28. Six Dunlins at S.C.R.E., June 5 (PEL) were thought to be exceptionally late spring migrants, but up to five on s. San Diego Bay June 9-22 (REW) were clearly summering. A flock of 38 ad. Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S., July 18 (BB) was a large number for so early in the fall, and one at Santa Maria July 29 (TME, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was the only one found along the coast. A ♂ Ruff near Imperial Beach July 15-Aug. 11 (M & DH) was thought to be the same bird present here this time last year. Two Long-billed Dowitchers, most unusual in summer, were near Santa Maria June 7-16 (PEL), another was there June 18 (LB), one was on s. San Diego Bay June 9 (REW), and another was at the nearby Tijuana R. mouth the same day (GMcC). A Com. Snipe at Castaic Junction, *Los Angeles* July 15 (KLG) and another in Long Beach July 21 (BED) were both very early.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — The ad. Pomarine Jaeger found on L. Elsinore May 18 was still present July 20 (DLD) and appeared healthy; an adult at N.E.S.S., June 30 (JO), a subadult there July 7 (GMcC) and at least five present there July 11-14 (REW, HK) were the first ever to have been found on the Salton Sea in summer. A Parasitic Jaeger at N.E.S.S., July 30 (DLD) may have summered locally, but could also have been an exceptionally early fall migrant. An ad. Laughing Gull at Bolsa Chica July 2 (BED) was along the coast where most unusual. An ad. Franklin's Gull at S.E.S.S., July 24-27 (SWC) undoubtedly summered locally. An ad. Heermann's Gull, a casual visitor to the Salton Sea, was at N.E.S.S., July 7 (CC). An ad. Mew Gull found at N.E.S.S., June 1 (BWK) was still present Aug. 4, providing one of the very few true summer records for this species in s. California and certainly the first for the Salton Sea. Two Herring Gulls, exceptionally rare anywhere in s. California in summer, remained at N.E.S.S. throughout June and July (GMcC). An imm. Thayer's Gull at N.E.S.S., June 3 (REW) was quite late. The first-summer W. Gull found on L. Elsinore Apr. 11 was last seen June 10 (SWC). As usual, a handful of summering Glaucous-winged Gulls were present along the coast and up to three remained at N.E.S.S. from late May through July (GMcC). A first-summer Sabine's Gull off Ventura June 24 (JM) was undoubtedly summering locally.

The presence of one or two Royal Terns among the nesting Elegant Terns at the s. end of San Diego Bay during June (REW) suggested they were breeding; there are only 2 documented occurrences of attempted nesting by this species in California. Two Least Terns, very rare inland, were at N.E.S.S., June 1-3 (BWK). Black Skimmers are now quite scarce on the Salton Sea, with no more than two or three present at any one time, and no indication of nesting; one at Bolsa Chica July 2 (LRH) was the only one reported along the coast away from *San Diego*.

ALCIDS — Two Marbled Murrelets at Pt. Sal, *Santa Barbara* July 11-21 (JLD) were a little s. of the species' normal range. A breeding-plumaged **Ancient Murrelet** at N.E.S.S., June 16 (CM) was only the

2nd to have been found inland in California, the first being an undated specimen from Palm Springs (Garrett and Dunn, *Birds of Southern California*, 1981); unlike the tube-nosed birds found on the Salton Sea, this bird probably flew overland from the Pacific rather than N out of the Gulf of California. Two Rhinoceros Auklets near Santa Rosa I., June 21 (TW) and another near Anacapa I., July 27 (GS) were probably non-breeders summering locally. A Tufted Puffin off Morro Rock at the entrance to Morro Bay June 3 (KH) was at an unusual locality, this species being rare anywhere in s. California waters.

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A Band-tailed Pigeon in Imperial Beach July 5 (GMcC), two near Del Mar, *San Diego* July 6 (REW) and another in San Diego July 21 (REW) were all away from areas of normal occurrence. A White-winged Dove at Palos Verdes Estates, *Los Angeles* June 20 (EB) was along the coast where rare. A Com. Ground-Dove in Camarillo, *Ventura* June 8 (GG) was in an area where one or two are now somewhat regularly reported, and it is evident a small population is probably permanently established; five in Long Beach July 9+ (BED) and another in nearby Hermosa Beach June 26 (BED) were in an area where few have previously been found. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo on Camp Pendleton July 4-5 (LS) was only the 3rd to have been found in *San Diego* in 35 years, one at F.C.R., June 28 (SWC) was probably a lost migrant, and four to five along the Kern R. near Weldon during June and July (RHe) were the only breeding birds away from the Colorado R. Only one Elf Owl was found n. of Needles at the last breeding locality in California May 10 (SWC). The discovery of three juv. N. Saw-whet Owls at 7000 ft in the San Gabriel Mts. in June (BWK) established the first evidence of breeding not only in this mountain range, but in the whole of *Los Angeles*. A Lesser Nighthawk in Santa Barbara July 14 (TW) and another in nearby Carpinteria July 22-23 (LRB) were in an area where considered rare. Two Whip-poor-wills near L. Fulmar in the San Jacinto Mts., June 15 (SWC) and at least two at Angeles Crest in the San Bernardino Mts., June 9-July 18 (DRW) were at localities where believed to nest. As usual, a small number of Chimney Swifts spent the summer in the Los Angeles area as indicated by up to five near downtown Los Angeles May 29-Aug. 16 (RMcK, KLG), three to five around Burbank throughout the period (KLG), and two over Wilshire during July (JAJ). Two or three Allen's Hummingbirds were again found nesting around Costa Mesa in *Orange* during late May and early June (LRH, DRW); migrant males in Brawley July 12 (REW) & 14 (GMcC) were in area where previously unrecorded.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — With the breeding population of Willow Flycatcher in s. California declining, it is important to keep track of the numbers and localities of territorial birds; this summer 23 were counted along the Kern R. near Weldon (RHe), up to eight were present along the San Luis Rey R. below L. Henshaw (RH), 12 were along the Santa Margarita R. (LS), and five were in the Tijuana R. Valley near Imperial Beach (JO). A pair of Say's Phoebes accompanying a juvenile near Irvine May 12 (DRW) had evidently nested locally, an area unusually close to the coast. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers, a rare and very local breeder in California, nested at Butterfield Ranch in e. *San Diego* (CGE), and lone males were present in Victorville all summer (DLD) and at Jacumba, *San Diego* June 30-July 1 (LB) along with the expected birds at Morongo Valley. A pair of Cassin's Kingbirds that successfully nested about 20 mi n. of Blythe (SC) provided the first record for breeding along the Colorado R. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on the California side of the Colorado R., south of Palo Verde, *Imperial* May 17 (BA) was obviously a spring vagrant. A ♀ Purple Martin at N.E.S.S., June 16 (DV) was at an unexpected locality.

JAYS THROUGH WAXWINGS — A Steller's Jay at El Capitan Res., *San Diego* June 13 (PU) was at an exceptionally low elevation, particularly so for this time of year. Six Com. Crows near N.E.S.S., July 5 (HK) were outside the species' normal range. Most unusual was the presence of 4 pairs of Mountain Chickadees in cottonwoods along the Mojave R. in Victorville, with one pair seen to carry food into a nest hole May 7 (DLD), since this species was previously known to nest only in the higher mountains. A pair of Verdins accompanied by two juveniles at Mesquite Springs at the n. end of Death Valley May 28 (REW) were n. of the species' known breeding range. At least 2 pairs of White-breasted Nuthatches along the Mojave R. in Victorville Apr. 25-June 10

(DLD) were believed to be nesting, and if so, were outside the species' known breeding range.

The presence of an ad. Winter Wren feeding a juvenile near San Marcos Pass above Santa Barbara May 5 (GH) gave us the first concrete evidence of nesting in s. California, and the presence of a territorial male just south of the *Kern* line in the Greenhorn Mts., June 9-July 7 (MOC), suggested nesting at that locality. An Am. Dipper along the San Luis Rey R. immediately downstream from L. Henshaw June 11-23 (RHi) was one of very few ever to be found in *San Diego*. At least five territorial Hermit Thrushes were present at the isolated breeding location at Refugio Pass, *Santa Barbara* July 4 (TW). A minimum of six Water Pipits was present at the summit of Mt. San Gorgonio in the San Bernardino Mts., July 27, including 2 pairs clearly nesting (MG); this is the only locality in s. California where this species is known to nest. Wintering Cedar Waxwings remained late with small numbers still present as far s. as San Diego during the first half of June; single birds in San Luis Obispo July 3 & July 26 (GPS), and another in Santa Ynez July 19 (DB), along with a flock of 40 in Whittier July 18 (RMcK), indicate a few remained through the summer.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — An ad. Red-eyed Vireo, a rare straggler to s. California, at Turtle Rock Nature Center in Irvine July 25-Aug. 6 (DRW) may well have summered locally. A ♂ *Magnolia* Warbler at *Montana de Oro S.P.*, June 12-26 (RH_a) was best considered a very late spring vagrant. A ♀ *Black-throated Blue* Warbler at Ft. Piute, *San Bernardino* June 26 (SWC, *S.B.C.M.) was most unusual as there were only 4 previous records of spring vagrants in s. California. A ♂ *Bay-breasted* Warbler at *Charlton Flats* in the *San Gabriel Mts.*, July 3 (BED), was only the 2nd ever found in s. California in July. A late spring vagrant *Black-and-white* Warbler was near *Imperial Beach* June 17 (GMcC). Single ♂ *Am. Redstarts*, very rare in summer, were at *Mojave* June 15 (JW) and at nearby *California City* the same day (JW), and a female was at Ft. Piute June 26 (DLD). A singing N. Waterthrush near *Imperial Beach* June 17-July 1 (EC) provided our first summer record. At least 8 pairs of *MacGillivray's* Warblers, including birds seen carrying food into dense undergrowth, at *Cerro Alto* throughout the period (GPS) along with a territorial male at nearby *Montana de Oro S.P.*, June 30 (GPS) indicated this species is extending its breeding range along the coast southward into s. California. A *Wilson's* Warbler along the *Santa Margarita R.* on *Camp Pendleton* June 21 (LS) was well s. of this species' present-day breeding range.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — On June 27 three male and one ♀ *Hepatic* Tanagers were found on *Clark Mt.* (SWC) suggesting this species again nested at that location, and on July 14 a pair accompanied by two young along *Arrastre Cr.*, e. of *Baldwin L.* in the *San Bernardino Mts.* (DRW) confirmed nesting at that location. Breeding Summer Tanagers w. of the *Colorado R.* included 2 pairs at Ft. Piute (SWC), 3 pairs in *Victorville* (DLD) and 3 pairs in *Morong Valley*

(SWC), one at *Turtle Rock Nature Center* June 21-27 (DRW) was a vagrant on the coast, and most likely was of the nominate race as are virtually all *Summer Tanager*s found along the coast. Vagrant *Rose-breasted Grosbeak*s included one at *Mesquite Springs* in *Death Valley* June 28 (DLD), another in *Los Osos* June 21 (NS) and a 3rd in *Santa Barbara* June 26 (JEL); a male at *Montana de Oro S.P.*, June 14-July 10 (PP) was defending a territory, and seen to copulate with a female June 16-17 (TME). A ♂ *Indigo Bunting* in *Mill Cr. Canyon* of the *San Bernardino Mts.*, June 12 (SWC) appeared territorial, a male accompanying three young in *San Luis Obispo* July 31+ (JM_{cD}) obviously bred locally, and a male in *Carpinteria* July 29-Aug. 1 (LRB) was probably an early fall vagrant.

Grasshopper Sparrows appeared more numerous and widespread than normal with 30± singing birds around *L. Henshaw* during June and July (RH_i) being an unusual concentration for such a locality; one at the *Mt. Palomar Observatory* May 5 (RH_i) was unusually high in the mountains, and up to six near *S.E.S.S.*, June 17-23 (REW) were in an area where previously unrecorded in summer. *Great-tailed Grackles* continue to expand their range as indicated by 4 pairs nesting near *Lone Pine*, *Inyo* (DLD), 2 pairs at *California City* (MOC) and 2 more pairs in nearby *Mojave* (MH); along the coast 12, including young begging for food, were along the *Santa Ana R.* in *Anaheim* July 9+ (P & JR), and a lone female was near *Imperial Beach* June 6 (M & DH). Three *Bronzed Cowbirds*, including an adult male, in *Brawley*, *Imperial* July 12-18 (REW) were w. of this species' range. A flock of 50 *Red Crossbills* on *Mt. Pinos* July 4 (H & PB), two on *Clark Mt.*, June 27 (SWC) and two more on *Figueroa Mt.* near *Santa Barbara* July 26 (PEL) indicated some of these birds were on the move in s. California.

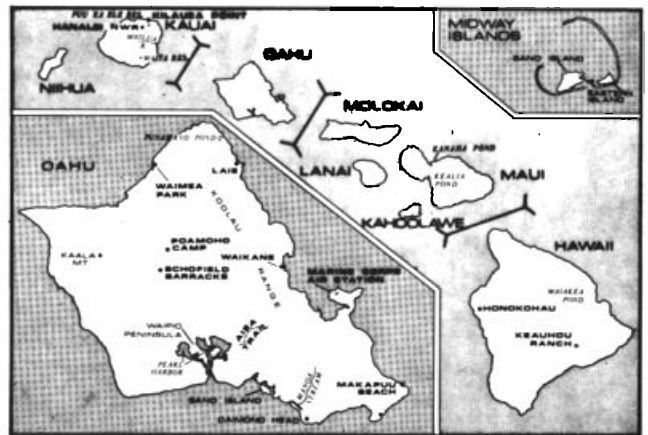
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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle

The drought continued unabated. June/July rainfall reached normal amounts at only two of 36 measurement stations on the six major islands. Median percent of normal rainfall was 66% for the stations on *Hawaii Island*, and near 55% on the northern islands of *Kauai* and *Oahu*. The central islands of *Maui*, *Molokai* and *Lanai* were even drier. Data for the first seven months of 1984 show about the same pattern, except that *Maui* has fared a bit better. *Oahu* has invoked mandatory water use controls for residential and commercial users for the first time in history, following two years of under-50% precipitation at *Honolulu*.

Water levels are artificially maintained at several important waterbird breeding areas in the state, but elsewhere drying wetlands must certainly be taking a toll. For landbirds, the grim, dry appearance of almost all lowland scrub areas attests to the very hard times they must be facing.



Only in the higher mountain forests is the subnormal rainfall still adequate to maintain, at least for now, some reasonable habitat conditions

ABBREVIATIONS — H. = Hawaii I.; K. = Kauai I.; O. = Oahu I., J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on Oahu.

PETRELS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Numerous Bulwer's Petrel nest sites were found on Mokolua I. off e. Oahu in the last week of June (JSw). On nearby Manana I., 9 Bulwer's Petrel nest sites were under regular observation this summer. The first egg hatched July 8, and by the end of the month 4 had single chicks, 4 had failed, and one adult was still on an egg (JSw). A **Christmas Shearwater** was watched closely for a full minute as it flew back and forth over Makapuu Beach, O., Aug. 5 (PP). The species is very rarely reported in the main Hawaiian Is., although it breeds commonly in the N.W. Hawaiian Is. and a few pairs nest on Moku Manu Islet off e. Oahu not far from Makapuu.

Also on Manana I., 10 Red-tailed Tropicbird nests were confirmed this summer, an unprecedented number. Of the early nesters, 4 had successfully fledged young and one still had a large juvenile at the end of July. Of the later nesters, 4 lost the egg or young chick and one adult was still on an egg (JSw). Two Red-taileds were seen in courtship flight at Kii Unit, J.C.N.W.R., July 15 (PP, JSw) and also at nearby Kahuku Pt., July 19 (JB).

Great Frigatebirds were reported in unusually large numbers around Oahu during late July. A flock of at least 30 was circling high over Kahuku Pt. (an unusual locality for a large flock) July 27 (JB). The next morning, an enormous group estimated to be roughly 750 individuals was stretched out offshore of Haleiwa and moving N toward Kahuku Pt. (AE, RLP). Later that afternoon the same observers saw numerous scattered flocks on the e. slopes of the Koolau Mts., headed S on a route from the Haleiwa/Kahuku area back to their roosting site on Moku Manu Islet. During the summer other smaller flocks, presumably from Moku Manu, were reported around Honolulu and s.e. Oahu. Great Frigates roost by the hundreds on Moku Manu, but nowhere else in the main Hawaiian Is. Their nearest nesting site is 450 km distant in the N.W. Hawaiian Is.

WATERFOWL — Outstanding event of the season, and of the year, was the sudden appearance of 16 young ducklings of **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** in late July at Amorient Aquafarm and adjacent Kii Unit, J.C.N.W.R. (PD, JL, m.ob.). See Spring 1984 Report for more background. The group kept together over a period of 10 days and was accompanied by three to five adults, suggesting that more than one brood had merged. This was only the 2nd vagrant or migrant species known to have successfully bred in Hawaii, the first being the Blue-

winged Teal nestings in 1982 and 1983

Three winter-visiting geese, a Canada at Amorient Aquafarm (DW, PD), another (probably Cackling) at the sugar mill pond at Keaau near Hilo, H. (RD), and a Brant at Aimakapa Pond, H. (RD), all remained at least through July.

OSPREY THROUGH NODDIES — The Osprey seen sporadically at Kii Ponds this spring was found there again Aug. 1 (PD). Two very early Black-bellied Plovers were at Waipio July 15 (PP, JSw), and were seen there regularly thereafter. A Least/Little Tern at Kii Ponds June 28 (DW) was also very early even for this normally early migrant. Another was at Waipio July 30 (PD), a more expectable date. Sooty Terns had a good nesting year on Manana Islet. Young were flying by early June and were mostly gone by the end of July (JSw). Brown Noddies also had many large nestlings and recently fledged young in early June, in synchrony with the Sooties. Then in early July great numbers of adult noddies were back on eggs and the 2nd hatching was well underway by month's end (JSw).

PASSERINES — Red-vented Bulbuls have increased dramatically on Oahu in the past 15 years, and now we have a 2nd report of the species on nearby Molokai I. A group of 12 birds, thought surely to be bulbuls, was observed briefly June 5 near Waieli in s.w. Molokai (CS), about 10km from the Hotel Sheraton complex where the first one was reported on Molokai a year ago. Neither observation could be confirmed. A sighting of a N. Mockingbird on rarely-visited Necker I., June 29 (SF, *vide* BE) was interesting in that Necker lies between the main Hawaiians and Tern I. in French Frigate Shoals where vagrant mockingbirds have been reported numerous times at the U.S.F.W.S. station there.

During their annual visit to the Alakai wilderness area on Kauai in late May, U.S.F.W.S. biologists (JJ, JSi, PS) again saw and heard one 'O'o'a (Kauai Oo) at its same nest site. One Kama'o (Hawaiian Thrush) was seen, and Puaiohi (Small Kauai Thrushes) were heard twice along the streambed. All 3 species are Endangered and super-rare

Yellow-billed Cardinals and Saffron Finches are both increasing along the Kona coast of Hawaii I. The finches are now found regularly from Hapuna Beach to Keauhou Bay (RD). In the same area 2 flocks of Java Sparrows, each of 50 or more birds, at Keauhou-Kona Golf Course provided further indication that this species is expanding there too (RD), perhaps even more rapidly than the others.

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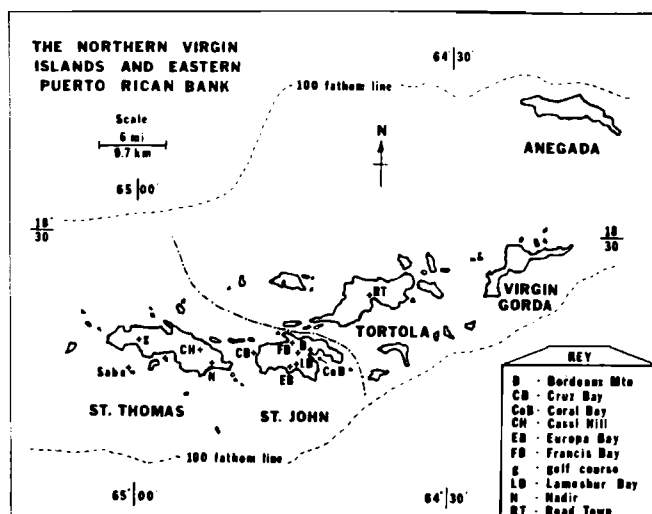
WEST INDIES REGION

/Robert L. Norton

This is rather an anomalous season to report the breeding status of tropical species as most started breeding by April, a few as early as February. It is appropriate, however, to describe the activity of some, particularly summer resident seabirds in the Virgin Islands archipelago. Unfortunately, few contributors are visiting the West Indies during this season which allows the writer to briefly address local nesting species and habits.

Precipitation in the archipelago was above normal in June (+39%) and below normal in July (-66%) with a net 18% below average total for the period based on a 60 year POR from Cruz Bay, St. John. A net decrease in precipitation for dry regime islands such as those of the e. Puerto Rico Bank can have a subtle effect on production of granivores, frugivores, and piscivores.

Major storms have been attributed as dispersal agents for land birds among the West Indies. However, sustained drought or rainy periods can alter local distribution. These trends may have little or barely recognizable significance on the continent. Yet, when species of limited range are reported from neighboring islands or are absent after climatological



events, other factors are operating that require analysis beyond the always available conclusion of greater observer awareness.

Another aspect of summer in the tropics is the fall migration of arctic-breeding shorebirds noted in late June and July. Admittedly, several species will over-summer in the Antilles. When one sees summer plumage on shorebirds in June and July after having last seen it on the same species in late May, one begins to wonder when seasons begin and end for shorebirds at this latitude in relation to the rest of the globe.

ABBREVIATIONS — Ane. = Anegada; D.R. = Dominican Republic; P.R. = Puerto Rico; St. C. = St. Croix; St. J. = St. John; St. T. = St. Thomas, V.I. = Virgin Islands.

BOOBIES THROUGH TERNS — Red-footed Boobies, having (re-) colonized Culebra recently, continued to favor Frenchcap Cay, St. T. during summer months to roost (June 13, DN; July 24, RLN) in numbers (six and nine) and proportions (two white/four brown and one white/eight brown phase) to pose questions as to their possible inclusion of other islands off St. T. for nesting. Magnificent Frigatebirds (24) were noted roosting at Dutchcap Cay, St. T. in June where they once nested prior to military operations several decades ago. A Great Blue Heron was seen at Ane., June 23 (RLN). A breeding-plumaged Black-bellied Plover was also seen on that date at Ane. From mid to late July RR noted migrant Black-bellieds at St. C. Semipalmated Plovers (seven) were noted June 23 (RLN) at Ane., and RR observed one July 18 at St. C. A Whimbrel was present at St. C. (RR) July 18-24. A Least Sandpiper at Ane., June 23 was a bit early (RLN) while Least and Western sandpipers seen at St. C., July 22 (RR) were more or less on schedule as were Short-billed Dowitchers. However, three Short-billeds were noted June 23 at Ane. Gull-billed Terns still nest at Ane. in small numbers, but fewer than RLN has counted in previous years. Does this reflect climate or habitat change? Or something more species-specific than a few annual visits can account for? No Com. Terns were noted this year at Ane. (at least on June 23—RLN). The following table offers numbers of light-backed terns nesting on the e. P.R. Bank and off continental Venezuela (RvH).

Table 1. Numbers of pairs of light-backed terns nesting on the eastern Puerto Rico Bank and Aruba

Species	St.			
	Culebra (JT)	Thomas (RLN)	Anegada (RLN)	Aruba (RvH)
Gull-billed Tern	—	—	3	—
Royal Tern	160	—	13	7
Sandwich Tern (<i>acuflyvida</i>)	170	10	370	—
Sandwich Tern (<i>eurygnatha</i>)	—	—	9*	3450
Roseate Tern	242	1039	2	70
Common Tern	—	—	—	56
Least Tern	—	—	16	100

*individuals

KINGFISHERS THROUGH COWBIRDS — A Belted Kingfisher was seen rather early in the V. I. on July 28 (RLN) at St. T. Solitary Barn Swallows were occasionally seen throughout the summer period with numbers increasing toward late July. Presumably they were non-breeding birds wandering throughout the Region feeding opportunistically over lagoons and insect infested landfills (RLN at St. T.) On July 31, TP observed Red-eyed Vireos near Fort Royal, Guadeloupe, representing one of the few reports from the Lesser Antilles, the other being from Barbados (Bond 1979). At Santo Domingo, D.R., ASD reported a Louisiana Waterthrush seen on July 29. This is one of the earliest passerines to arrive in the West Indies adding further evidence fall migration is witnessed in the tropics perhaps sooner than some locations around the continent.

WK reports that Lesser Antillean Bullfinch nested at GS's property on St. C. on July 28 for the first time, although he first noted it there in 1979! This is an example of a new breeder being overlooked. Raffaele and Roby (1977) discuss the discovery of the bullfinch on St. J. and the

likelihood its presence was due to natural introduction by Hurricane Donna in 1960. St. Croix's population may be due to Hurricane David which passed 120 mi to the s. in 1978. Apart from the tremendously powerful winds that periodically race through this part of the Antilles, numerous 7-day cruises occur simultaneously at this latitude. The last port-of-call before returning to San Juan or St. T. is St. Martin, where *Loxigilla noctis* is resident. Consequently, landbirds at sea have an opportunity to island-hop along this sealane particularly during unstable weather. It seems reasonable that "natural" invasions in this part of the region initiated by natural causes are human-assisted, increasing chances of success. Subspecific determination of the St. C. population is warranted. Wiley informs me that Shiny Cowbirds have now reached Cuba (Garrido 1984) and the likelihood of reaching the Bahamas and s. United States is imminent. RLN observed a ♀ Shiny Cowbird at Ane., June 23, providing the first known record from that island; this portends a serious problem for resident Yellow Warbler and perhaps Black-whiskered Vireo which has been on the increase there in recent years (RLN).

HYPOTHETICAL — A slender-looking cormorant was observed at 2 locations: Cruz Bay and Mary Point, St. J (LC), June 26. At both sites Double-crested Cormorants have been observed at irregular intervals in fall and winter. The description and timing of this sighting strongly suggest a vagrant Olivaceous Cormorant.

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American Kestrel/Drawing by Maria Weisenberg.