

THE NESTING SEASON

June 1–July 31, 1990

ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

Seasonable temperatures returned to most of the Region in early June after the long, cold, wet May. Newfoundland remained cool through June. July weather was generally very pleasant across the Region. Rainfall was close to or a little below normal through the period. The only detectable effects of the late spring cold spell were a serious drop in the number of Purple Martins at nest boxes and late, possibly reduced numbers of nesting Tree Swallows.

The last year of the successful Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas project brought no real surprises but added much invaluable information on breeding ranges, including a few slight range extensions.

Rarities were few but included Prince Edward Island's first American Avocet and Eastern Screech-Owl, New Brunswick's first Louisiana Waterthrush, and St. Pierre et Miquelon's first Roseate Tern.

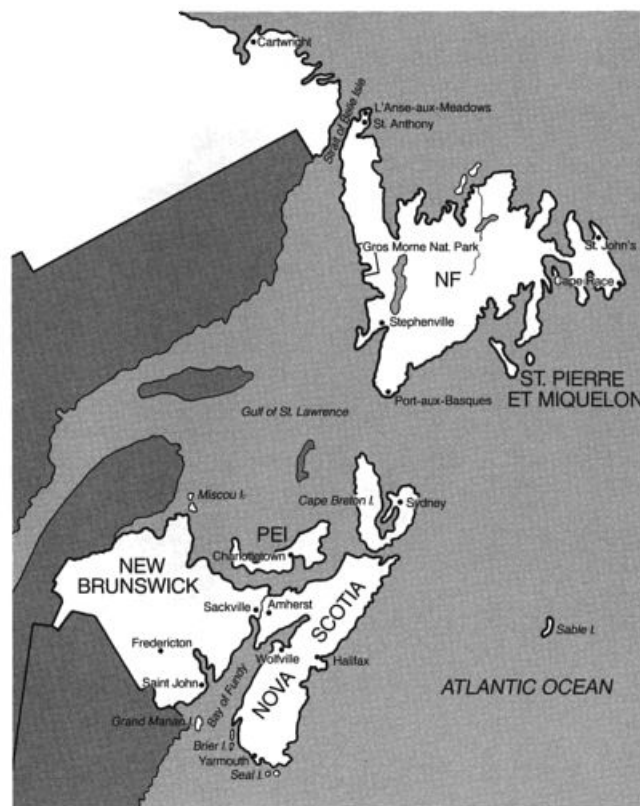
Abbreviations: S.P.M. (*Saint Pierre et Miquelon*).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Common Loon is unknown in recent years as a breeder in Prince Edward Island so a pair at DeRoche Pond and one at O'Keefe's L. were interesting (RC). A Red-necked Grebe at DeRoche Pond, PEI, July 23–30 was a rare mid-summer sighting made more interesting by being at an inland location (TD).

The usual masses of shearwaters, Greater outnumbering Sooties ten to one, assembled off s.e. Newfoundland and St. Pierre et Miquelon to feed on spawning capelin in June and July. All-encompassing counts from any given area were difficult to obtain, leaving ob-

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servers to resort to phrases like "tens of thousands" and "clouds" of shearwaters. A high count of Manx Shearwater was of 80 July 27 off the Burin Pen., NF (BMt). This species is still actively prospecting Colombier I., S.P.M., where a pair was found inside an artificial burrow and many were heard calling on the night of July 30 (AD *et al.*). About 2000 Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen from the North Sydney, NS, to Argentia, NF, ferry, mostly between Cabot Strait and St. Pierre Bank, on July 27 (BMt). Small numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were reported from the same ferry crossing by various observers in late June and July.

A calling Least Bittern in late June at Eddy Marsh near Amherst, NS, indicated that the species is still present at its only known breeding site in the province (FL). No egret reports probably means just that, not a complete absence of egrets. A Green-backed Heron in suitable breeding habitat at Northport, NS, July 5 intrigued local breeding bird atlasers as the species is not known to breed in Nova Scotia (JT). A second breeding colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons in n.e. New Brunswick was found on Lemeque I. (*vide* HC). A vagrant Yellow-crowned Night-Heron June 10 was a rarity at Miquelon, S.P.M. (*vide* RE). A Glossy Ibis June 10-16 at St. Paul's Inlet, NF, furnished the first provincial sighting since 1983 (HD, RB).

Northern Shoveler and Gadwall continued a slow breeding range expansion in Atlantic Canada. Sewage lagoons were responsible for two of the three first breeding records of Gadwall and the first breeding record of N. Shoveler in n.e. New Brunswick (BD). In Newfoundland, where neither species is yet known to breed, there was a pair of N. Shovelers June 2 (JWe *et al.*) and a lone female July 16 (BMt) at a pond in the Codroy Valley, and another male at Deer Lake June 2 (KK). A pair of Gadwall at St. John's, NF, June 2-4 furnished only the 2nd local record (RB *et al.*).

One positive result from the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas has been the purchase of Grassy I. in the Saint John R., NB, which ensures the protection of the 30 pairs of Greater Scaup

first found breeding there by atlasers in 1986 (*vide* JWi). Lesser Scaup south of their known breeding range were a male June 2 at Deer Lake, NF (KK), a pair June 9 at St. John's, NF (CBt), and a female June 23 at Mira, NS (*vide* BD). Significant concentrations of non-breeding scoters were of 12 Surfs July 28 at Grand Manan I., NB (CG), 175 Surfs and 25 White-wingeds July 4 at Pinware R., Labrador (WAM), and 560 White-wingeds June 29 at Biscay Bay, NF (BMt).

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

Turkey Vultures continued to be regular during the summer in southern parts of the Region; this summer one wandered northeast to Inverness, Cape Breton I., NS, in late July (*vide* BD). Atlassing revealed more than 15 active Bald Eagle nests on Prince Edward Island (*vide* BD). A recently fledged Red-shouldered Hawk accompanied by one parent July 3 at Hampstead, NB (RW), furnished the only confirmed breeding record out of the 20 reports of the species during the 5-year Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas project. An unseasonable Rough-legged Hawk June 12 was in n.e. New Brunswick at Culligan (BD). Introduced Peregrine Falcons were breeding at 3 sites along the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick. Interesting was an adult Peregrine of unknown origin July 14 at French Lake, Cape Breton Island N.P. (P & LP).

Virginia Rails were heard in New Brunswick north of known breeding sites at Newcastle and Le Goulet (BD). Wandering Am. Coots were one June 2 at Musgravetown, NF (DP), one June 8-12 at St. John's, NF (CBu), and one July 14 at Black R., NB (BD). This summer's Sandhill Cranes were singles June 2-9 at Burton, NB (JWi *et al.*), and May to July 31 at Miquelon, S.P.M. (RE *et al.*).

A Wilson's Plover June 16 at Pt. Aconi, Cape Breton I., NS, provided about the 10th provincial record as well as the north-easternmost (PM). No news is probably good news when it concerns Piping Plover in the Maritimes. In Newfoundland there were sightings of singles from new areas, Searston June 9

(RB) and Ramea I. June 11 (RN); and seven from the remaining provincial stronghold near Burgeo in mid-June (JB). Noteworthy was a first Piping Plover nesting from Miquelon, S.P.M. A nest with 4 eggs June 21 produced three young by July 6, but three adults and no young were seen July 23 (RE).

Prince Edward Island's first American Avocet was at Brackley Beach July 12 (Raymond Cook *et al.*). A pair of Solitary Sandpipers was again found nesting in New Brunswick, this time at Cains River, 2.5 km from 1988's sensational first nest discovery (DC). Willets east of their breeding range were one June 8-10 at Miquelon, S.P.M., and one July 22-24 at Renew, NF (KK *et al.*). Whimbrels arrive in the Region southbound from breeding grounds starting in the first week of July, but 80 July 6 at Miquelon, S.P.M., seemed high for early in the month (RE). By July 31, numbers reached 200 at Miquelon (RE) and 185 at St. Paul's Inlet, NF (BMt). Exciting was the discovery of "Eurasian" Whimbrel June 13 & 14 on Gull I., Witless Bay, NF (JWe). Eight of the 11 records of this distinctive subspecies known to the writer in this Region have occurred in May or June. An Upland Sandpiper straying to Pt. Aconi, NS, was well east of the known breeding sites in the Region, all in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island (PM).

A very early Baird's Sandpiper July 19 was at Conrad's Beach, NS (BMt). Early Dunlins, both in good breeding plumage indicating they were adults and not first year non-breeding birds that failed to complete the northward migration, were one July 12 at Grand Barachois, S.P.M. (AD), and one July 31 at St. Paul's Inlet, NF (BMt). Five Stilt Sandpipers July 28 at Conrad's Beach, NS, and an exceptional 14 on July 31 at Kouchibouguac N.P., NB, heralded a good fall for this scarce migrant (BMy). Four juv. Wilson's Phalaropes accompanied by an ad. male at the Sackville, NB, sewage lagoon July 31 represented a first local breeding (BMy). A juv. Wilson's Phalarope July 23 at Conrad's Beach, NS, was a migrant (BMt).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

S.A.

A tantalizing glimpse of the jaeger numbers unseen by bird-watchers off s.e. Newfoundland during the June and July capelin spawning season was obtained on a rare clear and absolutely calm July 7 day at Placentia Bay. From various points along the eastern shore of the bay, a total of 2 hours' observation produced 100 jaegers. Identification to species was made difficult by long distances and subadult plumages. Pomarine Jaegers outnumbered Parasitics by at least two to one. No Long-tailed Jaegers were identified. More jaegers—25 Pomarine, eight Parasitic, and 30 unidentified—were seen at the mouth of Placentia Bay from a ferry on July 27 (BMt).

Jaeger numbers of this magnitude are being reported more frequently in June and July as more travelling birders use the N. Sydney, NS, to Argentia, NF, ferry, which travels deep into Placentia Bay, and Newfoundland birders become aware of the good seabird watching available from land on the southern Avalon Pen.

Although no Long-tailed Jaegers were reported in 1990, day totals have reached double digit figures in recent years. Consistent each year is the subadult age class of the vast majority, if not all, of the jaegers. Brown-bellied, heavily barred birds are probably one-year-olds. Most are dark-capped, white-bellied, with barred underwing and uppertail coverts, and short central tail feather projections. These are presumably birds two years old and older. The plumage characteristics of each year class of subadult jaegers, and even the number of years it takes to attain adult plumage, are still (!) poorly understood.

The summer range of subadult jaegers is also poorly known. Some remain on their s. Atlantic wintering grounds. The concentration off s.e. Newfoundland in June and July appears to be larger than any other known from the n. Atlantic. Just another player in the vast predator vs. capelin game played annually in early summer around Newfoundland.

Skua sightings were all from Placentia Bay, NF, with a South Polar and two unidentifieds July 9 off St. Bride's (PL, JWe) and a probable South Polar July 27 from the ferry while off the Burin Pen. (BMt).

As is often the case, Newfoundland had a monopoly on Laughing Gulls this summer, with all four of them: a surprising three June 8 at St. John's (KK, BMt) and one July 1 at Main Brook (HH). Good numbers of first-summer Bonaparte's Gulls in the Bay of Chaleur in n. New Brunswick were 80 June 11 at Beresford and 100 June 18 at Miscou Light (BD). The only Lesser Black-backed Gull was a third-summer bird June 29 at Cape Race, NF (KK, BMt). A bird identified as a first-summer hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull was at St. John's, NF, June 11 (BMt).

A suspected Caspian Tern colony near Howley, NF, was confirmed as a first inland and 4th overall breeding colony for Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Region (*vide* BMt). St. Pierre et Miquelon's first **Roseate Tern** was among a tern colony on Miquelon June 12 & 13 (RE). Its occurrence was not a complete surprise as it breeds, albeit in tiny numbers, as far north and east as the Madeleine Is., PQ, and the eastern shore of Nova Scotia. A stray Black Tern visited Miquelon, S.P.M., on July 12 (AD, BL).

DOVES TO STARLING

A report of a White-winged Dove in s.w. Nova Scotia in early July came with no details. An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard calling in a mature hardwood stand near St. Peter's, PEI, in late May for a first provincial record (SM). Up to four Chimney Swifts present through June and July in downtown St. John's, NF, raised the distinct possibility of a first provincial nesting (JWe *et al.*). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird June 2 at Cheeseman P.P., NE, was an annual wanderer to the province (JP). A **Three-toed Woodpecker** nest at Summerside, PEI, a first provincial breeding record, was unexpected since it is rare in adjacent parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (Barry Martin).

Typical early June E. Wood-

Pewees northeast of their breeding range were one June 2 at St. John's, NF (*vide* RB), one June 9 at Woodville, NF (RB), one June 9 at Ramea I. (RN), and one June 2 on S.P.M. (RE). Bird at-lassing turned up first breeding records for **Willow Flycatcher** and **Great Crested Flycatcher** in Prince Edward Island, both slight range extensions from e. New Brunswick (*vide* BD).

The Maritimes Purple Martin breeding population appears to have suffered a severe setback owing to the prolonged cold, wet weather of late May. Some New Brunswick martin houses lost up to 75 birds. The arrival of first-year birds in mid-June meant that most colonies had a few nesting birds (BD). Tree Swallows also were felt to be in lower numbers and nesting 2 weeks behind schedule (BD *et al.*). Typical dates and locations for extralimnal Cliff Swallows were one June 2 at Codroy Valley, NF (JWe), and one June 10 at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (GB). At-lassers found White-breasted Nuthatches to be common in suitable breeding habitat on Prince Edward Island and discovered a small pocket of them in n.e. Cape Breton I., NS (*vide* BD). Forty singing Marsh Wrens at Eddy Marsh near Amherst, NS, makes this the largest colony in the Region (FL). Another singing June 12 at Savage Harbour, PEI, was a provincial rarity (D. Griffin).

Eastern Bluebirds continue to increase in New Brunswick and s. Nova Scotia without the aid of "nest box trails," which surely would be beneficial at this time (m.ob.). A Gray-cheeked Thrush July 11 at North Cape, PEI, furnished the first provincial summer record (BMy). A highly probable Fieldfare was glimpsed and heard calling several times June 4 at St. Anthony (HD). Northern Mockingbirds are widespread, though scarce, breeders in the three Maritime provinces; but are best classed as regular vagrants to Newfoundland, where there was one June 5 at Rocky Harbour (HD) and one July 11 at Flatrock (WAM). Brown Thrashers away from the s. New Brunswick breeding zone were one July 12 at Le Goulet, n. New Brunswick (M. David), and one singing through June at Dartmouth, NS (*vide* FL)

VIREOS TO FINCHES

The Warbling Vireo breeding population in the Region is gaining strength. It is now a scarce but widespread breeder in New Brunswick. In Nova Scotia, fledged young at Margaree Center (probably representing a first provincial breeding), an agitated adult near Cheticamp, and single birds singing throughout the summer at Wolfville and Yarmouth show that Warbling Vireo now has plans for that province (BD *et al.*). Knowledgeable at-lassers found **Philadelphia Vireo** nesting in Prince Edward Island for the first time (SM, DS), but it is oddly missing as a breeder in Nova Scotia.

The Codroy Valley in s.w. Newfoundland is like a touch of Nova Scotia. A birding blitz here June 2 & 3 produced two N. Parula, seven Cape May, three Blackburnian, eight Bay-breasted, and three Canada warblers, all rarities elsewhere in the province (JWe *et al.*). Over-shooting spring migrant warblers on St. Pierre et Miquelon, all within the first ten days of June, were: two N. Parulas, one Chestnut-sided, one Cape May, and two Blackburnians (RE *et al.*). The breeding range of Pine Warbler was extended north to near Fredericton with the discovery of a nest with young (*vide* BD). A singing ♂ Blackpoll Warbler July 14 at Pt. Prim, PEI, furnished a first breeding-season record from the province (BMy). Absurd if it were not for recent discoveries of territorial birds in Maine, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** singing in suitable breeding habitat July 3 near Hampstead, NB, was a new species for the province (RW).

Scarlet Tanager is thought to be expanding in the Maritimes, with the first singing males recorded in Prince Edward Island at Strathgartney June 30 (DK) and Foxley River July 1 (DS). A ♂ Scarlet Tanager June 3 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., was a stray (RE *et al.*). There was a June influx of Indigo Buntings in New Brunswick with singing birds as far northeast as the mouth of the Miramichi R., where fledged young July 28 constituted a first local breeding record (BD). An unseasonable ad. ♂ Dickcissel sang for one day only, June 14, at Saint Marie, NB (ST) A singing

Rufous-sided Towhee July 2 at Belyea Cove, NB, was a potential breeder (RW), but a male June 3 at Main Brook in n. Newfoundland was a way off course (HH). A report of breeding Am. Tree Sparrows on the Cape Breton Plateau, NS, is to be reviewed by the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas records committee. If accepted this would be a significant southward breeding range extension Rare in the Region anytime, but a potential breeder, a singing Clay-colored Sparrow at Grand Digue, NB, June 25–July 5 seemed to be alone (JT *et al.*) An unmistakable "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow July 6 on Miquelon, S.P.M., provided a first local record and an unseasonable one at that (RE).

There was a scattering of Red Crossbills in the 3 Maritime provinces starting in June. By mid-July a few flocks of up to 25 were seen in e. Newfoundland, where they had been almost absent for a year. White-winged Crossbills were present but very scarce everywhere. Two separate sightings of Com. Redpoll in late July on the Cape Breton Plateau, NS, raised the distinct possibility of breeding at this southern locality (FL). House Finches continued their march through the Maritimes with a first breeding for Prince Edward Island at Charlottetown and new sightings as far north as near Newcastle, NB, and as far east as Antigonish, NS (*vide* BD).

Observers: (subregional editors in boldface)—Gilles Barthe, Joe Brazil, Chris Brown, Roger Burrows, Clarence Burry, Hilaire Chiasson, David Christie, Rosemary Curley, Brian Dalzell, Alain Desbrosse, Tom Duffy, Roger Etcheberry, Clive Goodwin, Holly Hogan, Don Kimball, Ken Knowles, Fulton Lavender, Bruno Letournel, Paul Linegar, Peter MacLeod, Bruce Mactavish (BMt), Scott Makepeace, Blake Maybank, William A. Montevicchi, Richard Northcott, Linda & Peter Payzant, Doug Phelan, John Pratt, Dwayne Sabine, Bev Sarty, Jim Taylor, Stuart Tingley, Ron Weir, John Wells (JWe), Jim Wilson (JWi).—BRUCE MACTAVISH, 37 Waterford Bridge Road, St. John's, NF A1E 1C5

QUEBEC REGION

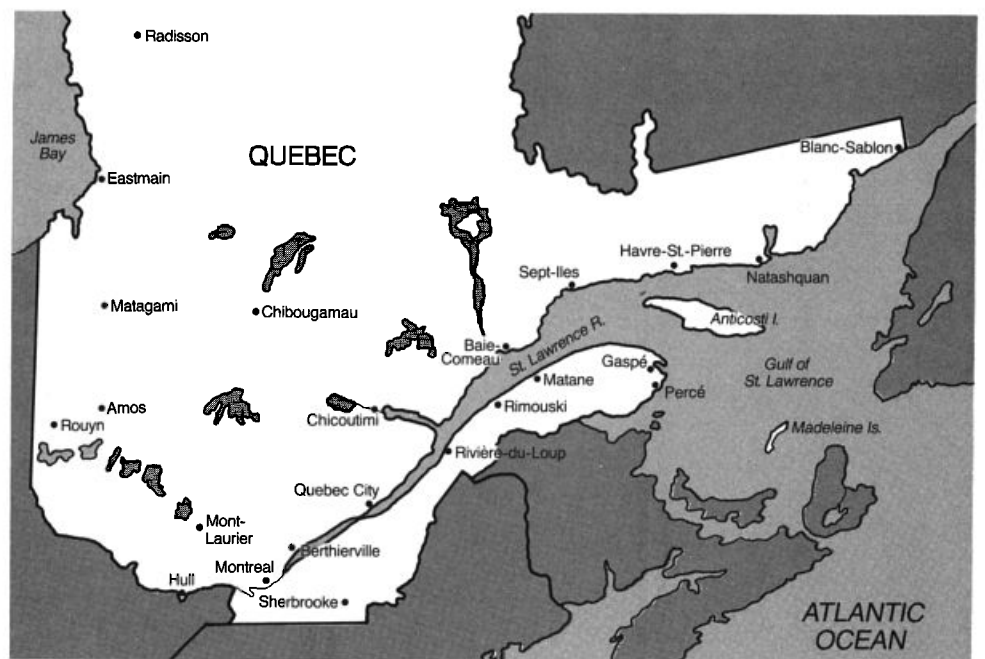
Richard Yank,
Yves Aubry, and
Michel Gosselin

The weather this summer was notable for its lack of extremes. Only modest departures from long-term means were recorded and few severe storms occurred. In June, temperatures and precipitation levels were generally above average in southern Quebec and below average in the north. Milder than normal temperatures were recorded across most of the province in July, except for portions of the Gaspé Peninsula and the North Shore. During that month, rainfall was near or below normal except in the northern one-third of the province and the extreme south, where total precipitation was higher than normal.

S.A.

Fieldwork in central Quebec and along the James Bay coast provided much new information on the distribution of many breeding birds. This information falls into two broad categories: new records from previously unsurveyed areas, and range extensions. The majority of the records fall into the first group, since only a handful of localities outside the southern one-third of the province have ever been adequately surveyed. Northern Quebec comprises a multitude of different wetland and upland microhabitats.

Genuine breeding range extensions offer striking examples of how some new landscape elements have enabled birds to move into what was previously unsuitable habitat. New airports in the muskeg delineate new breeding localities for the Vesper Sparrow. Roadside weeds have apparently helped Mourning Doves invade previously unoccupied territory. American Kestrels, Barn Swallows, and European Starlings find nest sites in newly-built bridges and buildings (see also *AB* 36:958); even helicopters are now assailed on landing by Tree Swallows in search of nest holes.



LOONS TO WATERFOWL

The Red-throated Loon is a local breeder e. of James and Hudson Bays. Several pairs—including one evidently territorial—were noted near Rupert-House July 12 (*AMa et al.*). Unexpected in s. Quebec in summer, single Red-throated Loons appeared at Aylmer June 11 (*JPA*) and Victoriaville July 10–15 (*MGr, RL*). Slightly n. of its usual range was a Red-necked Grebe at L. Soscumica June 30 (*AMa et al.*). Up to seven Manx Shearwaters were present off the Sainte-Marie Is. July 26–Aug. 3 (*CN et al.*), and a period of strong NE winds brought a Leach's Storm-Petrel to Quebec City on June 19 (*PC*), where the species is more typically a fall vagrant. A totally out-of-place ad. N. Gannet was no doubt a surprising sight as it flew over the Katevale marsh June 8 (*PBo*), but no less unexpected was a vagrant **American White Pelican** photographed off Contrecoeur June 28 (*RD*). Slightly n. of its known range was a Green-backed Heron at Mont-Laurier June 3 (*RLD*). Vagrant egrets included a Great Egret at Portneuf June 16 (*FD*) and an ad. Snowy Egret at Cacouna June 6–13 (*JFR, m.ob.*). On July 7, another Snowy graced I. aux Fermiers, where a Cattle Egret could also be seen from July 7 into August (*GZ et al.*).

Two ad. Tundra Swans with five downy young near Kakassi-

tuq Pt. (54°11' N, 79°23' W) Aug. 3–4 (*ARe, YA, RB, GM*) furnished the first breeding record for the e. shore of James Bay. An ad. Canada Goose was discovered sitting on a nest at Rigaud in April (*YG*), while a hybrid Canada x domestic Greylag Goose accompanied a flock of wild Canada and Snow geese at Kamouraska June 9 (*CM, RCa et al.*). A ♀ Wood Duck in broken-wing display on I. de l'Est July 11 (*ARi, YR*) suggested breeding on the Magdalen Is., while another female on the Romaine R. June 29 (*SP*) was also out of range. Extending the n. limit of the species' range was a ♀ Blue-winged Teal with three young at Kakassituq Pt. Aug. 4 (*ARe et al.*). Two ♂ N. Shovelers were 50 km w. of Manic-5 dam in May (*DB*), another male was observed in Rupert Bay (*JLD, date?*), and an adult was present at Kakassituq Pt. Aug. 3 (*ARe et al.*). Two northerly Gadwalls were also at the latter site the same day, and a nest was uncovered on Nue I., in the Mingan Archipelago, June 16–20 (*AG, SP*). Noteworthy was a ♀ Eur. Wigeon accompanied by a ♂ Am. Wigeon at Saint-Pascal July 6 (*CA*). Despite the regular presence of Eur. Wigeon on this continent, relatively few hybrids have been identified of date. Farther north than usual were ♀ Am. Wigeons with broods at Kakassituq Pt. Aug. 2 & 4 (*YA, ARe et al.*). A **White-winged Scoter** nest

was located on an islet s.e. of Kakassituq Pt. June 27 (*ARe et al.*). Single broods were seen on the Rupert R. July 5 (*AMa et al.*) and Cambrian L. Aug. 2 (*FM et al.*); five more were subsequently found on inland lakes e. of Kakassituq Pt. Aug. 4–5 (*AMa et al.*). These represented the first confirmed breeding records for the province. Twenty-three Barrow's Goldeneyes were counted inland between Baie-Comeau and Mingan in late May (*DB*), while 6 pairs were also well s. of their known breeding range at L. Chauvin, n. of Sacré-Coeur, Saguenay, June 12 (*PO*) and a lone male was unexpected on the Rimouski R. July 13 (*JLr*). There is mounting evidence that the species may breed on inland lakes along the North Shore. Two broods of Buffleheads were also discovered at Kakassituq Pt. Aug. 4 (*ARe et al.*), thereby increasing our understanding of this duck's breeding distribution in w. Quebec.

DIURNAL RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

A 2nd-year Bald Eagle studied at Pointe-au-Platon July 2 (*LR, ADs*) carried a yellow patagial band and a transmitter, indicating that the bird originated from one of the U.S. release programs. Also with yellow patagial bands were lone eagles at Dozois Res. May 5 (*YA et al.*) and Baskatong Res. in mid-July (*RM*). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer June

24–25 (DL, PFG *et al.*) indicated possible local breeding. A pair of Am. Kestrels was investigating an abandoned building at LG-4 dam in late July (MSI *et al.*). An ad. ♂ *tundrius* Peregrine was identified at Rimouski July 28 (JLr); Larivée noted that this n. subspecies has typically been encountered at the peak of shorebird migration in the St. Lawrence Estuary. Gyrfalcons were found to be nesting well s. of their known range, along coastal Hudson Bay (JLD), and s. w. of Ungava Bay in c. Quebec (FM). Sandhill Cranes summered near Barraute (SG). East of Rupert Bay, where 25 cranes were reported June 11 (JLD), a downy young was found June 28 (AMA *et al.*). Another downy young was discovered s.e. of James Bay (at 50°45' N, 78°47' W), July 12 (FM *et al.*). Farther north, a juv. Sandhill Crane was photographed July 3 at Kakassituq Pt. (GM), where 16 cranes were tallied June 28 (ARE *et al.*). Single Yellow Rails were discovered at Cap-Tourmente June 28–30 (JLc, LV, ACo), Dundee July 14 (RS), and Pointe-Label July 21–31 (GC), but none was found at their traditional Saint-Fulgence stronghold (*vide* GS). This secretive species had been reported sporadically from Dundee in the past and was present at Cap-Tourmente for several consecutive years during the mid 1970s. An extralimital Com. Moorhen was seen at Evans L. (50°55' N, 77°00' W) June 28 (AMA *et al.*).

In early July, Killdeer were confirmed nesting at Poste-de-la-Baleine (MSI *et al.*). Following an exceptional spring showing, another American Avocet appeared at Bergeronnes June 25–July 14 (AB). A pair of Lesser Yellowlegs at LG-1 dam June 26 (YA) was worthy of mention, as our knowledge of the breeding distribution of this species e. of James Bay is still sketchy. Lone Lesser Yellowlegs were also found at L. Bienville July 1, as well as Grande Baleine R. and Mollet L. July 7 (MSI *et al.*). A Willet seen from May 16 until at least June 9 (CA, m.ob.) at La Pocatière was possibly the same individual returning for the 3rd consecutive year. Marbled Godwits are most likely breeding on the Quebec side of s. James Bay. Up to four birds were reported at Cachechu Pt.

June 9–Aug 7, and on June 26 singles were seen at Harricana R. and Cabbage Willows Bay (FM, SB *et al.*). Two Upland Sandpipers at La Baie June 16 (CC, GS) suggested a new breeding locale at the n. limit of the species' range. The Magdalen Is. hosted several notable shorebirds, including a W. Sandpiper July 18 (PFd, FS) and a moulting ♂ Ruff July 17–28 (LV, JLc). The last observers also saw and heard an ad. Long-billed Dowitcher at Saint-Vallier July 29.

JAEGERS TO OWLS

An inland ad. Parasitic Jaeger was early at Boucherville July 18 (MM, GZ). The most interesting of the Laughing Gull sightings submitted this season was of an adult on I. du Cap-aux-Meules, Magdalen Is., June 10 (PFd). Lone ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported at Aylmer June 23 (*vide* RLD) and Pointe-au-Père July 5 (JLr). The most remarkable breeding record of the season was of a pair of Bonaparte's Gulls found nesting amongst the colony of Com. Black-headed Gulls at Havre-aux-Basques, Magdalen Is.; the nest was located on the ground, which is not typical for this species, and contained one chick June 26–July 1 (PFd *et al.*). This represented by far the most easterly breeding record for North America. A Ring-billed Gull, farther north than usual at LG-4 dam in late June (MSI *et al.*), was likely a vagrant, while Great Black-backed Gulls were found nesting along the coast of James Bay for the first time, with 2 nests and a pair of adults with one chick near Kakassituq Pt. Aug. 3 (ARE, YA *et al.*). The recently established Black-legged Kittiwake colony off Rivière-du-Loup is expanding with a smaller colony of about 50 pairs now present at Bic (JB). Caspian Terns often seem to wander about in pairs, and this summer two adults passed by an observer at La Pocatière July 11 (CA). A Black Tern was exceptional at Havre-aux-Basques July 14 (JC, RCo). A Forster's Tern in non-breeding plumage was observed at Boucherville July 18 (GZ, MM), while the best find of the season was an ad. Least Tern described as it fed along the St. Lawrence R. at the same site

July 17 (FB). Two old reports exist for the Region, at Quebec City pre-1906 and I. aux Pommes Sept. 2, 1935, but both lack supporting details.

A Black-billed Cuckoo heard at Havre-aux-Maisons July 2 (FS) was a rare local occurrence. A gray morph E. Screech-Owl with downy feathers still attached was at Saint-Isidore June 24 (EP, FL); this site is at the edge of the species' breeding range. At the n. edge of their range were two Barred Owls e. of Rupert Bay at Némiscau L. June 1 and Kitchigama R. Aug. 8 (AMa *et al.*), while the Great Gray Owl now seems established as a resident breeder in w.c. Quebec. A pair occupied an old Osprey nest n. of Joutel June 2, and 5 other sites were suspected of harboring nesting pairs (FM). Seldom observed on any of the Magdalen Is., a Long-eared Owl was a first for Brion I. July 2 (FS *et al.*).

WOODPECKERS TO SHRIKES

Extralimital Red-headed Woodpeckers involved one that frequented a Saint-Apollinaire feeder for about one month, until found dead July 4 (DMc), and another at Saint-Isidore July 19 (PLb, FL). On June 17, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was again located in a pinery near Covey-Hill (DD), where first discovered last year, to provide further evidence of possible nesting in the St. Lawrence lowlands. One along the Grande Baleine R. July 5 (MSI *et al.*) was n. of its known range in w. Quebec. The spread of Willow Flycatchers onto the Gaspé Pen. continued with one at Saint-Eusèbe June 10 (MB) and three heard calling at Pointe à Bourdeau June 8 (PBa). Good finds for the North Shore were an E. Kingbird on Quarry I. June 16 (SP) and a Blue Jay visiting a feeder in Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan June 11–17 (CK). No longer unexpected was a Bank Swallow at L. Elizabeth (55°36' N, 75°28' W), July 8 (MSI *et al.*).

Good numbers of Am. Crows were encountered n. of their range at LG-1 dam June 25–July 4 and Kakassituq Pt. June 27–Aug. 6 (YA, v.o.). A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches was feeding three fledged young at Saint-Eusèbe June 30 (MB), providing a first breeding record

for this area. A Carolina Wren that called at Pointe-Claire June 10–July 22 (MM) was apparently an unpaired male. Eastern Bluebirds occurred at no fewer than 5 sites on the Gaspé Pen., with evidence of breeding at Grande-Vallée (JCC) and Port-Daniel (DS). Rare along the North Shore were a N. Mockingbird on the Sainte-Marie Is. July 7 (CN *et al.*) and a Brown Thrasher at Sept-Iles June 8 (SLn). An ad. Brown Thrasher was feeding a fledgling at Alma July 13 (NT, LT) to establish a first L. Saint-Jean breeding record. The first Cedar Waxwing nest to be discovered on the Magdalen Is. contained 5 eggs at Fatima in June (ARI). A subad. N. Shrike was noteworthy on the Sainte-Marie Is. July 17 (CN *et al.*); however, Loggerhead Shrikes have almost disappeared from the Region. An extensive search effort covering approximately 13,000 km² of suitable habitat across s. Quebec this summer produced but a single nesting pair, near Quebec City (ADM, MR). This pair did, however, succeed in raising young.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Sightings of "Brewster's" Warbler are nearly as numerous as those of Blue-winged Warbler in this Region; one was seen at Huntingdon June 2 (PBa) and the bird reported at Argile L. this spring remained all summer (JH). Adding to the few records from the Laurentians, two Golden-winged Warblers sang at Piedmont June 9 (DMu *et al.*), while a ♂ Pine Warbler at Norbertville June 8, and three more at Saint-Louis-de-Blanford 2 days later, added to the few summer sightings from the Appalachians (ACo). A first-year ♂ Summer Tanager reached the Magdalen Is. at Pointe aux Loups June 2 (CH), as did a bright ♂ Scarlet Tanager at Lavernière June 5–7 (RCy, SC).

While the N. Cardinal has become more regular as a winter visitor n. of Quebec City, summer records remain extremely rare; a female at Rimouski July 12 (JM) was therefore noteworthy. Outside their usual range were three Rufous-sided Towhees singing at Saint-Sauveur July 1 (MA), a Clay-col-

ored Sparrow at Bergeronnes June 17 (AB), and a Field Sparrow on territory at Saint-Honoré July 11–31 (CG, MSv *et al.*). Exceptionally far north was a ♂ Vesper Sparrow and nest uncovered at the LG-4 dam airport on the upper La Grande R. June 30 (MSI, PLf, GP). Le Conte's Sparrows have a tendency to turn up at unexpected locales each summer; this year, one appeared at Wotton June 4–July 7 (DL *et al.*). The summer range of Swamp Sparrows evidently extends beyond the 55th parallel, as birds were found at L. Bienville June 30, Manitousuk Strait July 7, and L. Elizabeth July 8 (MSI *et al.*). Well s. of their normal summer range were four White-crowned Sparrows at L. Chauvin June 12 (PO),

while even more unexpected were single birds at Métis July 25 (ADa) and Bécancour July 29 (ACo). A Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared at Lavernière, Magdalen Is., July 7 (LC, SLp), while slightly n. of its usual range was an Am. Goldfinch on the Sainte-Marie Is. June 29 (CN *et al.*).

Exotics: An Egyptian Goose (*Aloochen aegyptiacus*) showed up at Granby May 12 (IF), while an escaped Chukar visited feeders at Cap-aux-Meules July 3–7 (AMi, ACy).

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NEW ENGLAND REGION

Wayne R. Petersen

Weather in New England during the nesting season was undistinguished in character. June was particularly dry and on the cool side, with Massachusetts recording the least precipitation since January 1989, and temperatures averaging 66.6 degrees, only slightly below normal. July followed with fluctuating but near normal temperatures, frequent cloudy skies, and a marginal 1.4 inches of rainfall above the norm. Overall, observers throughout the Region suggested that the season's weather had a negligible impact on nesting activity and early migratory movement.

In spite of any normalcy in the weather, the abundance of anomalies provided by a staggering array of Regional vagrants, the majority of which occurred in Massachusetts, made the period seem anything but lackluster. The following potpourri plainly suggests a multidirectional arrival pattern to this munificence of rarities: Eared Grebe, Magnificent Frigatebird, White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Crane, Black-necked Stilt, Spotted Redshank, Terek Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Sandwich Tern, and Scissor-

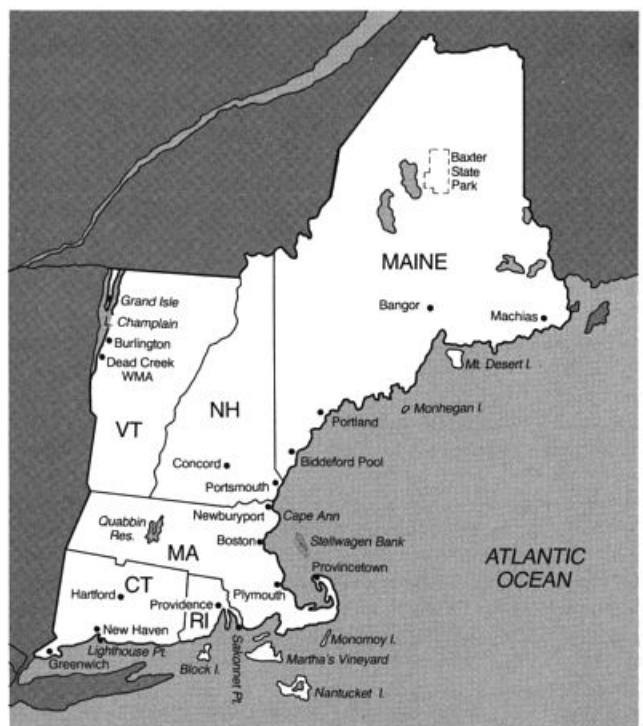
tailed Flycatcher. Regrettably, this editor cannot responsibly provide a plausible explanation for the presence of most of these out-of-range species. Perhaps when the national picture is pulled together, patterns will emerge that may help explain this striking assortment.

As far as breeding activities were concerned, continued successes were noted among colonial ciconiformes, several falconiformes, and sternids, while several passerine species were noted in apparently increased numbers, including a first Regional nesting record for Yellow-throated Warbler.

Abbreviations: B.O. (*Bird Observer*); C.D.E.P. (*Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection*); M.B.O. (*Manomet Bird Observatory*); P.R.N.W.R. (*Parker River Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*); V.I.N.S. (*Vermont Institute of Natural Science*); W.C.B.C. (*Western Connecticut Bird Club*).

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

In typical fashion, a scattering of summering Red-throated Loons occurred in Massachusetts, the latest being one at Mashnee I., Bourne, July 22, (J. Lyons, *vide* B.O.). Figures for nesting Common Loons Regionwide showed reasonable stability, although high water conditions were thought to be slightly disruptive to breeding in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire for the second summer in a row.



In Massachusetts, 6 pairs of loons bred on 4 lakes and fledged seven chicks (*vide* BB), while in Vermont, 14 pairs successfully raised 16 young (CR). Loon census results for New Hampshire produced a minimum total of 72 chicks by July 21 (*vide* DD).

The only confirmed breeding of Pied-billed Grebe in s. New England was at Stratford, CT, July 8 (C. Barnard *et al.*, *vide* BK). This species is almost gone as a s. New England breeder. Notable in mid-summer was a Horned Grebe at Hammonasset

S.P., CT, July 13 (J. Kaplan, *vide* BK), that was far outshined by an Eared Grebe in breeding plumage at Gloucester, MA, June 20–July 31 (C. Leahy *et al.*) which represented only the third summer record for Massachusetts. Slightly less spectacular were six out of season Red-necked Grebes, at Rockport, Knox, ME, June 16 (W. & B. Summer) and another at Scarborough, Cumberland, July 15 (W. Summer, *vide* JD).

Procellariid numbers off Massachusetts built up quickly in late June and early July, but di-

minated rapidly by mid-July, so that observers aboard whale-watching trips to Stellwagen Bank were often frustrated by minimal seabird activity. Perhaps most notable in this early summer flush of tubenose activity were counts of 17 N. Fulmars, 43 Cory's Shearwaters, and 1440 Sooty Shearwaters at Nantucket, MA, July 3 (SAP).

Double-crested Cormorants continue to prosper in New England and new nesting colonies were positively documented in Vermont (CR) and Connecticut (FM), where the species actually displaced a gull colony at Goose I., Guildford. A frigatebird seen soaring over Falkner's I., Guildford, CT, July 18 (J. Spendelow *et al.*, *fide* FM) was thought to be a Magnificent Frigatebird, which would be a fourth state record if accepted by the Connecticut Records Committee.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

Bitterns of both species were reported in modest numbers from widely scattered traditional localities. A nest count of herons and ibises in Narragansett Bay, RI, showed that this season's total 1051 nests compares favorably with the previous maximum of 148 nests in 1979 (R. Ferren, *fide* DE). Shifts in the species ratios in these colonies show that Glossy Ibises (455 nests) have replaced Black-crowned Night-Herons (346 nests) as the dominant species this year. The only other species to increase over the period was Great Egret, with 23 nests in 1977 to 97 nests in 1990. Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, and Black-crowned Night-Heron all showed declines of varying magnitudes. Richard Ferren (*fide* DE) expressed the concern that there may be big trouble ahead on Little Gould I. from cormorant guano killing heron nesting trees.

Two nests of Great Blue Herons at Peabody, MA, June 30 (HW) were the first ever for Essex, as well as possibly the most easterly nesting location in the state. Elsewhere in Massachusetts, a pair count of nesting waders on Kettle I., Magnolia, June 16 (SAP, TM) included: 25 Great Egrets, 200 Snowy Egrets, 12 Little Blue Herons, 250

Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 18 Glossy Ibises. At S. Monomoy I., Cape Cod, 85 pairs of Snowy Egrets were nesting among 250 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons, June 21 (David Houghton, *fide* BN). A count of ten active Cattle Egret nests at Young I., L. Champlain, VT, June 21 (CR) may currently represent the largest colony in New England. Undoubtedly, the most noteworthy long-legged wader of the period was an adult White-faced Ibis that



Adult White-faced Ibis at Topsfield, Massachusetts, on June 24, 1990. Second record for New England. Photograph/Simon Perkins

first appeared at P.R.N.W.R. June 10 (V. Saporito, F. Burrill, I. Lynch, S. Duncan, *fide* B.O.), and later at nearby Topsfield, June 24, where it was identifiably photographed (SAP). Amazingly, another (or the same?) individual was discovered and meticulously described at Holden, MA, July 25–27 (BB). Together, these represent the second and third records for the Region of this highly itinerant *Plegadis* ibis.

A Snow Goose at P.R.N.W.R. June 29–July 30 (RH *et al.*) was without precedent in Massachusetts, as was a lingering Brant inland at Gill, Franklin, June 15 (*fide* SK). A seasonally out of range Ring-necked Duck lingered until at least June 2 at Milford Pt., CT (LB), and at Green I., Boston Harbor, five young Com. Eiders attended by three females June 2 apparently represented the second confirmed Massachusetts nesting record outside Buzzards Bay (JB). At least three tardy King Eiders were found between Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the latest being an adult male at Calf I., Boston Harbor,

July 15 (R. Donovan, *fide* B.O.). An imm. male Harlequin Duck at Tiverton, RI, July 11–31 (DE) furnished only the second summer record for that state, while unusual in summer in s.e. Massachusetts was a Com. Merganser at S. Carver throughout July (KSA), as were three Ruddy Ducks at S. Monomoy I., June 13 (D. Houghton, *fide* B.O.)

RAPTORS

Even allowing for the continued consolidation of the Turkey Vul-

July 3 (K. Collins, *fide* B.O.). In w. Massachusetts, Seth Kellogg noted that reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks from twelve locations were the most in a decade, and an adult with three fledglings at Goshen, CT, July 26 (D. Rosgen, *fide* BK) was noteworthy. Slowly, this elusive little hawk may be reclaiming its former breeding range. The picture may be less optimistic for the Am. Kestrel, as noted by Frank Mantlik, who claims that the species is seriously declining as a breeder statewide in Connecticut, and Seth Kellogg, whose reports from only 16 locations in w. Massachusetts were below average, despite more intensive searching and reporting. Available Peregrine Falcon data showed that New Hampshire's seven nests fledged 11 young (*fide* DD); Vermont's six nests fledged six young (*fide* CR); and Massachusetts' two nests fledged five young (*fide* TF).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A pair of Clapper Rails with 10 chicks at Milford Pt., CT, July 14 (Julio Dela Torre, Jeff Fenger, *fide* FM) is always a noteworthy event in New England, and a calling male King Rail at Pittsfield, MA, June 7–July 31 (Eric Marcum, *fide* SK) was the first Berkshire summer record since 1953. The rapidly declining Com. Moorhen was only reported nesting at S. Egremont, MA (*fide* SK), and Coventry, VT, where seven adults and two or three immatures were seen July 29 (WE, NM). At least three Sandhill Cranes appeared in Massachusetts—two in early June at Nawhawena I. (R. Knott, *fide* JH) and one seen irregularly from June 6–July 31 between Ipswich and P.R.N.W.R. (*fide* B.O.)

The numbers and variety of shorebirds reported during the period suggest that for breeding species and migrants alike, New England was bountifully blessed in 1990. A Lesser Golden-Plover at N. Monomoy I. July 7 (K. Jones, *fide* BN) undoubtedly represented a non-breeding individual, but a maximum of 200 Semipalmated Plovers there July 29 (BN) were clearly southward migrating adults. Piping Plovers continue to hold their own in the face of adversity, as shown by modest increases in breeding

ture's breeding range in New England, the discovery of a nest containing two eggs at Martha's Vineyard, MA, June 3 (Adrian Higgins, *fide* SW) was most surprising for that insular location. Ospreys continue to flourish Regionwide, as suggested by the following figures: New Hampshire, 22 nests fledged 21 young (*fide* DD); Massachusetts, 190 nests fledged 260 young (*fide* BB); Rhode Island, 31 nests fledged 43 young (*fide* DE); Connecticut, 53 nests fledged 92 young (*fide* C.D.E.P.). All of these data reflect increases over 1989 data at both levels. Last season's new Bald Eagle nest at L. Umbagog this year successfully fledged two young (*fide* DD), while in Massachusetts, four eagles were fledged from three nests (*fide* TF), thus giving further promise to the fruition of the eagle hacking program of the past decade.

For the third season in a row a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks nested at S. Wellfleet, MA (John Green, *fide* RP), while elsewhere on Cape Cod, the first Barnstable breeding record for N. Goshawk took place at Centerville

pairs in Massachusetts (139, *fide* SH), Connecticut (43, *fide* C.D.E.P.), and Rhode Island (13, *fide* DE). Ever mindful of fledgling success, plover workers continue to express concern over the plight of juveniles once they abandon the security provided by the widely used enclosure fences being placed around plover nests. An Am. Oystercatcher pair nesting at Boston's Logan Airport June 15–30 (N. Smith, *fide* B.O.) was a first for that location.

At least two, and possibly three, **Black-necked Stilts** occurred in the Region this season. The first appeared at P.R.N.W.R. June 13 & 21 (Bohdan Zaremba, J. Hoye, *fide* B.O.), while concurrently, a bird at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME, June 15–29 (JD, ph. Peter Vickery, *fide* JD) constituted a third state record. Elsewhere in Massachusetts, at Acoaxet and S. Dartmouth, a bird seen July 2 (R. Bowen, *fide* B.O.) and July 8 (M. Boucher *et al.*, *fide* B.O.) may have been the same bird that represented Rhode Island's fourth state record at Briggs Marsh July 3 (Jennifer Lingelbach, *fide* DE). The premiere tringid of the season was a crowd-pleasing alternate plumaged **Spotted Redshank** that



Adult Spotted Redshank (in the remains of alternate plumage) at Wellfleet, Massachusetts, August 12, 1990. Second state record. Photograph/Frank W. Mantlik.

first appeared at S. Wellfleet, MA, July 31 (Michael Smith, Phil Kaufman, ph. m.ob., *fide* B.O.), and which represented only the second state and third Regional record.

Without question, the "Bird of the Season Award" (if not the

year!) goes to the **Terek Sandpiper** that made an all too ephemeral visit to several salt pannes at P.R.N.W.R. June 23 (DS, Jim Moore, Ida Giriunas, Marsha Paine, *fide* DS). Immaculately described by Stemple, who has previous experience with the species in Australia, the bird was apparently in alternate plumage and all diagnostic features were plainly noted by all the observers. Seen both on the ground and in flight, the species' very distinctive two-note call was heard and described as further verification of the report's veracity. There appear to be only two prior unequivocal North American records outside Alaska—July–August, 1987 in British Columbia, and August–September, 1988 in California.

That s. New England Upland Sandpiper strongholds continue to be at airports was further supported this year when 6 pairs with four chicks were discovered at Boston's Logan Airport June 17 (N. Smith, *fide* B.O.).

The nocturnal communal roosting of migrant Whimbrels at N. Monomoy I. has become an increasingly spectacular event in recent years. This season, an all-time maximum count of 750 was made on the evening of July 28 (W. Harrington *et al.*, *fide* B.O.). This aggregation far exceeds any in New England since the pre-market gunning era of the last century. A peak seasonal count of 40 Hudsonian Godwits at N. Monomoy I., July 29 (BN), was overshadowed by a **Bar-tailed Godwit** (*race lapponica*) June 10–July 21 (BN, m.ob.). Most notable among otherwise normal numbers of migrant calidrids were a well-described adult **Little Stint** at Squantum, MA, July 28 (R. Abrams, T. Cameron, *fide* B.O.) and Curlew Sandpipers at Biddeford Pool, ME, June 2 (RH, Helene Balkin), P.R.N.W.R. July 6–22 (S. Spangenberg *et al.*, *fide* B.O.), and N. Monomoy I. July 21 (S. Fried *et al.*, *fide* BN). The Region's only Ruff was at N. Monomoy July 4 (KJ, BN), where the peak Short-billed Dowitcher count was 2500 July 27 (BN). Twelve Wilson's Phalaropes at P.R.N.W.R. June 24 (RH) was above average for the Region, while three Red-necked Phalaropes at Provincetown, MA, June 2 (RH) can best be described as tardy.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Jaegers were practically nonexistent in Massachusetts waters throughout the period, but a total of 1073 Laughing Gull pairs at two colonies in that state was considered stable (*fide* BB). Among five Regional reports of Little Gulls, the maximum was three at Revere, MA, June 3 (J. Quigley, *fide* B.O.), while the New England total for Com. Black-headed Gulls was six separate individuals. The only Lesser Black-backed Gull reported was an immature at Gloucester, MA, July 14 (Jan Smith, *fide* B.O.).

The nearly annual early summer appearance of Gull-billed Terns in the Region was continued this year with one at P.R.N.W.R. June 30 (M. Lynch *et al.*, *fide* B.O.). A scattering of Caspian Tern reports was highlighted by a pair seemingly engaged in "head-bobbing courtship" at Milford Pt., CT, June 24 (*fide* FM). A northward wandering Royal Tern appeared at Scarborough, ME, July 15 (*fide* JD) and the only reported Sandwich Tern was at N. Monomoy I. July 4 (BN, KJ). The total of Roseate Tern pairs breeding in Massachusetts was 1585, with Bird I. in Buzzards Bay continuing to be the single largest colony with 1547 pairs (*fide* SB), followed by 150 pairs at Falkner's I., Guildford, CT (FM). Common Tern pairs in Massachusetts numbered 10,188 (*fide* SH), while New Hampshire had 82 pairs (*fide* DD) and Vermont's Lake Champlain colony had 55–60 pairs (CR). Despite stable or slightly increased numbers for these birds, researchers continue to express concern over setbacks caused by gulls competing for nesting space and predation from a host of sources.

An unnatural mid-summer inland occurrence of Forster's Tern was an adult at Agawam, MA, July 17 (S. Turner, R. Bieda, *fide* SK), but more intriguing was an apparently mated pair of Forster's Terns and possibly a mixed Forster's/Common Tern pair at P.R.N.W.R., June 24 (RH, SAP). This is a species to be closely watched for future breeding in the Region. Despite an increase of 61 pairs over last year, Connecticut's 827 Least Tern pairs had significantly lower productivity, appar-

ently due to human disturbance and night-heron depredation (*fide* C.D.E.P.), while in Massachusetts, a colony of 884 pairs of Least Terns at Nauset Beach, Orleans, may be the largest ever on record in the Region (*fide* SH). New England's only breeding Black Skimmers were 2 pairs at New I., Orleans (*fide* SH), and one pair at N. Monomoy I. (BN). Two Black Guillemots in breeding plumage at Kettle I., Manchester, June 16 (SAP, TM) provided continued optimism for an eventual Massachusetts nesting attempt.

CUCKOOS TO SHRIKES

Cuckoos were Regionally described as being present in average to below average numbers. A record late Massachusetts date was set by a Snowy Owl that tarried at Boston's Logan Airport until July 7 (NS). Remarkably, another (or the same?) Snowy Owl was photographed at Plymouth, NH, July 8 (Susan Fogleman, *fide* DD). A juv. N. Saw-whet Owl at Brookline, MA, July 12–14 (J. Hepburn, *fide* B.O.), was suggestive of possible nesting very close to urban Boston. Continued summer Whip-poor-will censuses in the Myles Standish S.F., Plymouth, MA, produced a seasonal high count of 51 birds June 5 (G. D'Entremont, R. Campbell, *fide* B.O.), while in w. Massachusetts, 27 at Montague June 15 (SK) was notable. Of the Region's scattered Red-headed Woodpecker reports, breeding was confirmed only at Holbrook, MA, July 15 (P. Fitzgerald, *fide* B.O.), while two adults and an immature almost certainly had nested at Ferrisburg, VT, July 26 & 27 (J. Dye, M. Dye, *fide* V.I.N.S.). A breeding pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Woods Hole, MA, June 3 (F. Smith, *fide* BN), was a first confirmed nesting in *Barnstable*.

A hefty total of 11 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was banded at Manomet, MA, June 1 (MBO staff), while in Savoy, a first *Berkshire* breeding record for Acadian Flycatcher was established June 29 (Ron Rancatti, *fide* SK). An impressive tally of 33 Alder Flycatchers was made during a 4-mile walking survey at Littleton, NH, June 8 (B. Bradley, *fide* DD), and 14 at Ipswich, MA, June 16 (RH),

was only slightly less impressive. The season's most noteworthy flycatcher was apparently Connecticut's fourth recorded **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, first seen at Windsor Locks July 7 (Paul Carrier, *fide* FM), and later reported by various observers at Granby and Farmington July 25 (*fide* FM).

Fourteen confirmed Com. Raven nests in w. Massachusetts (*fide* TF) and 7 nests in Connecticut (*fide* BK) provided evidence of the species' range consolidation in s. New England. Similarly, throughout s. New England the Carolina Wren population continues to swell. The only nesting Sedge Wrens in the Region were 3 pairs attending young through July 22 (from May) at Goshen, CT (v.ob., *fide* BK). Other reports included one at Northampton, MA, June 28 (T. Gagnon, *fide* SK) and another at Milford, Penobscot, ME, June 22-30 (G. Shriver *et al.*, *fide* JD).

A canoe census of the Ipswich R. in the Topsfield area, Essex, MA, June 16 (RH) produced a significant concentration of 22 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. The continued resurgence of E. Bluebirds in Connecticut was this year demonstrated by a record count of 126 individuals in the Woodbury area during the thirteenth annual summer census, June 3 (W.C.B.C., *fide* BK). As concern over the plight of neotropical wintering birds gains momentum, the Gray-cheeked Thrush is a candidate whose New England status bears careful monitoring. The Regional breeding race, *bicknelli*, may be quickly slipping away as habitat destruction on its Hispaniolan wintering grounds continues. However, too few reports are available to confirm this. In this spirit, a note that Ron Rancatti and Bob Goodrich found "numerous pairs" on Haystack Mt., VT, July 7 (*fide* SK) is encouraging. The only Loggerhead Shrike of the season was curiously out of place at Machiasport, Washington, ME, June 10 (LB, Fred Purnell).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

Resident pairs of White-eyed Vireos at Southwick and Ludlow, MA, for the second year in a row are still considered a recent de-



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Granby, Connecticut, July 7, 1990. Fourth state record. Photograph/Frank W. Mantlik.

velopment (SK). As "wing" warblers continue to compete with one another, it is worth noting that only three breeding confirmations were submitted Regionwide for Golden-winged Warbler: W. Haven, VT, June 26 (WE, NM); Groveland, MA, June 23 (*fide* B.O.); Kent, CT, July 1 (Jerry Stanley, *fide* FM). A clue as to the final outcome of this competition is suggested by the fact that the Connecticut bird was paired with a "Brewster's" Warbler and that the W.C.B.C. annual census in Woodbury recorded a record 242 Blue-winged Warblers, 43 higher than the previous maximum, and no Golden-winged Warblers. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers at Plymouth June 10 (WRP), and one at Middleboro July 26 (R. Titus, *fide* B.O.), add continued credence to the existence of a regular breeding population in s.e. Massachusetts.

Without question, the warbler event of the season was the first Regional breeding of Yellow-throated Warbler at Kent, CT (Jeff Kirk, M. Szantyr, D. Rosgen *et al.*, *fide* BK). Two birds, originally discovered in May carrying nesting material in the vicinity of large streamside sycamores, were eventually found attending young June 2 & 28, and fledglings were noted July 15 (*fide* BK and FM).

For the second year in a row, Cerulean Warblers were confirmed as breeders in c. Massachusetts at Ware and Petersham (*fide* SK), while in the Housatonic R. Valley, CT, the species is continuing to increase and ex-

pand (*fide* BK). Inexplicable were single male Prothonotary Warblers at Holderness, NH, June 30 (BM) and Wayland, MA, June 2 (RAF), just as were Kentucky Warblers at W. Brattleboro, VT, June 13 (JC) and Worcester, MA, June 11 (N. Lynch, *fide* B.O.). In the hills of n.w. Massachusetts, 53 Mourning Warblers were found in potentially suitable nesting habitat in June and early July (*fide* SK), clearly indicating the existence of a far more significant population than previously thought. Apparently a major flight of migrant Mourning Warblers occurred on June 1, when 11 and 13 were banded at Manomet, MA (M.B.O. staff) and Apple-dore I., Isles of Shoals, ME (DH), respectively.

A Lincoln's Sparrow banded at Lenox, MA, July 2 (Rene Laubach, *fide* SK) was intriguing, while a notably late White-crowned Sparrow at Concord, VT, June 12 (CR), could not be found again on a later visit. Wandering Yellow-headed Blackbirds included single males at Errol, NH, June 1 (S. Bogert, *fide* DD), Morrisville, VT, June 9 (C. Ludington, *fide* V.I.N.S.), and Westford, MA, June 25 (B. Bedell, *fide* B.O.). Two White-winged Crossbills at Washington, MA, in June (*fide* SK) constituted the first June record for *Berkshire*.

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

Robert O. Paxton,
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Following a very wet spring, temperature and rainfall were close to average in June and July. Natural conditions were mostly favorable for nesting, except for some flood tides that damaged beach-nesters. The villain of this season's column is human abuse of nature: oil spills, intensive beach recreation, heedless development, the hypertrophic increase of certain species that thrive on mankind's leavings. For rarities there were two fine shorebirds: Mongolian Plover and Rufous-necked Stint, both satisfyingly documented with photographs.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook Nar'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE*); Braddock Bay (*Braddock Bay W.M.A. and vicinity, Rochester, NY*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Nar'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic, NJ*); Breezy Pt. (*Breezy Pt. unit of Gateway N.R.A., on the New York side of the entrance to New York Harbor*); G.G.I. (*Great Gull I., off the tip of Long Island*); H.M.E.C. (*Hackensack Marshes Environmental Center, Lyndhurst, Bergen, NJ*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City*); Little Creek (*Little Creek Wildlife Area, Kent, near Dover, DE*); Little Galloo (*Little Galloo I., in e. Lake Ontario, off Henderson Harbor, Jefferson, NY*); Port Mahon (*marshes and bay shore east of Little Creek, Kent, DE*); SBC (*Summer Bird Count*); S.C.M.M. (*South Cape May Meadows, Cape May, NJ*). Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

The Red-throated Loon at Merrill Creek Res., Warren, NJ, mentioned in the spring season column remained until July 6 (GHa). Summering Com. Loons in basic plumage on the coast and inland included largish counts of four at Niagara Falls

(WD'A) and at Merrill Creek Res. (GHa), and five at Keuka Lake, Steuben-Yates, NY (RGS). Pelagic trips had uniformly mediocre counts of tubenoses. The most surprising result was the near absence of the usually abundant Wilson's Storm-Petrels on whale-watching trips e. of Montauk Pt., L.I. (RJK *et al.*). Off New Jersey, too, the best of poor counts off Barnegat Light was a mere 50 July 16 (RDI).

The errant American White Pelican reported in spring (or one like it) turned up one day only at Long Pond, Monroe, NY, June 23 (R. Cortis, *vide* RGS), and another was at H.M.E.C. July 26 (*vide* RKA), but there was nothing like last summer's mini-invasion. Fewer Brown Pelicans wandered north again, making the big summer invasions of 1983-1988 look more like a blip than a trend. The main group of 25 to 40 ranged between Barnegat Light and Hereford Inlet, NJ, in early July (DW, PG), while the peak in Delaware was a mere eight at Burton I. July 23 (APE). Farther north, a good 26 were at Sandy Hook NJ, July 26 (m.ob.), but only three made it across the mouth of New York Harbor to Breezy Pt. July 14 (M. Goldin). The northern limit was a single at Jones Beach, L.I., July 8 (S. Walter).

Single Great Cormorants were found as far south as Cape Henlopen, DE (T. White, D. Gardner, WWF). After years of expectancy, Double-crested Cormorants are now breeding in New Jersey. About 30 nests were on abandoned piers on the Jersey side of Shooter's I., off Staten I., after using abandoned barges nearby for the 2 previous years (KP). At the other end of the state, 3 nests were on channel markers in the Delaware R. e. of Slaughter Beach, Sussex, DE—apparently in New Jersey waters (APE). The 7 known colonies in New York continued to swell, especially upstate, possibly as reduced contaminants in the water supply increase fish populations (BMi). The colony on Four Brothers I. in L. Champlain increased 50% to 404 (JMCP), and the great colony at Little Galloo I., in e. L. Ontario, increased 15% to 4027, near the capacity of that 43-acre island. An increasing proportion of the nests are on the ground, as their



droppings progressively kill the vegetation. The Oneida L. colony increased by about a third to 47 (BMi). There is a clamor from fishermen for reducing these colonies, but they destroy fewer nests nowadays (BMi). More cormorants summer away from the colonies, not only on the Great Lakes shore but along river systems like the lower Susquehanna (RMS).

HERONS TO WATERFOWL

A series of oil spills in the waters between Staten I. and New Jersey posed a threat to important heronries that have developed on 3 small abandoned islands there, Prall's I., Shooter's I., and Isle of Meadows, since New York Harbor began to be cleaned up in the mid-1970s. By 1989, these heronries (nearly 1000 pairs of eight species in 1989) accounted for about a third of the total Long Island-NYC heron populations (RDo). On Jan. 2, 1990, the rupture of an Exxon pipeline spilled about 580,000 gallons of No. 2 oil into Arthur Kill. On June 7 the tanker BT Nautilus released 260,000 gallons of No. 6 crude oil into the Kill Van Kull. Combined with other smaller spills, over one million gallons of petrochemical products have been discharged into these waters since the beginning of 1990 (*City Sierran*, summer 1990, p.

4). The Manomet Bird Observatory continued its study of these heronries this summer, but a gag order prohibits release of any data which may be used in lawsuits pending against Exxon by the states of New York and New Jersey. In any event, the full effect of these spills can be judged only several years hence, when the chicks raised this year will reach breeding age (KP).

About 30-40 Least Bitterns, including 12 at one time, were 2-3 times normal in the marshes around Delaware City, Kent, DE (J. Janowski). A breeding pair at the Goethals Bridge Ponds on Staten I. (NYRBA) reconfirmed that breeding area. They also apparently did well in the Hudson R. marshes in Albany and Washington, NY (KA). A new Great Blue Heron colony of 7 nests raised 10 young in the Oley Valley, constituting a first Berks, PA, record (RKe). A dozen Great Egrets summered at Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee-Oreans, NY (RGS), and it is into strange that breeding is still unknown in upstate New York (PDeB). Great Egrets are in danger in Pennsylvania where one of the 3 known sites, Rookery Island, near Washington Boro, Lancaster, continued totally abandoned for the 2nd year. The sudden and mysterious abandonment of Rookery Island last year also means that Cattle Egrets no longer breed in

Pennsylvania, although more prospectors were around this summer than last (RMS).

At least in some localities, Black-crowned Night-Herons had a difficult time. The species was missed for the first time since 1977 on the s. *Lancaster*, PA, SBC (RMS). Nests on Little Galloo I. in Lake Ontario declined from 26 to 23 because of pressure from the burgeoning Double-crested Cormorant colony, whose guano is killing the shrubbery. Some Black-crowned Night-Herons there successfully nested only inches from the cormorants, however (BMi). A **White-faced Ibis** was at Brig July 22–25 (T. Bailey *et al.*).

The first successful Mute Swan nest at Braddock Bay—the second site on the s. shore of L. Ontario, in addition to a long-established group at Buffalo—was not good news to birders there (RGS). Among a very wide selection of summering extralimital waterfowl, we note a subadult ♂ King Eider at Cape May June 9 (A. Keith), a ♂ Oldsquaw in basic plumage at Cape Henlopen, DE, June 25 (NH), and a few of all three scoters in s. New Jersey and Delaware, including one White-winged, commonest in winter and rarest in summer, at Cape Henlopen (WWF). Two recently fledged Hooded Mergansers were at the Walkill area, *Sussex*, NJ, June 9 (PBa). A Red-breasted Merganser with three young July 7 indicated probable breeding in Rehoboth Bay, DE (B. Fintel, WWF).

RAPTORS

The expansion of Black Vulture numbers in n.w. New Jersey was vividly illustrated by a post-breeding roost of 70 Black Vultures and 50 Turkey Vultures at Foul Rift, *Warren*, June 24 (GHa). Two young fledged at French Creek S.P., *Berks*, for the second year (R. Bonnett), near the known northern limit in Pennsylvania. New York breeding remains unproven, although explorers reached Iona I., *Rockland*, June 9 (P. Keim) and, more remarkably, the n. edge of the Catskills at Medusa, *Albany*, June 30 (B. Budlinger *et al.*).

The Osprey population continues to recover. An aerial survey in New Jersey counted 141 nests, a slight increase over the last surveys in 1987 and 1988

(CC). On Long Island, there was a “modest increase” to a documented 190 nests, and a big leap in productivity to 234 young fledged, some 30% better than last year when rains at fledging time were believed to have cut success (MS). The Jamaica Bay pair finally fledged young this year in sight of the towers of Manhattan (DR), in what seems to be an expansion beyond historic range. In the lower bays area of Delaware, where 37 active nests produced 45 young in an incomplete count, the population is stable or increasing slightly (LG-I). Hacking projects are still active inland. In upstate New York, where hacking began in 1985, Ospreys are still increasing, even in the Adirondacks. Fifty-two Adirondack sites were checked, revealing 38 active nests, of which 20 produced 43 young (BL). In e. Pennsylvania, 39 young have been produced by hacked birds since 1986. This year there were 3 nests on the lower Susquehanna, 2 of which produced young (one blew down), and 7 nests farther east produced 11 young (L. Rymon).

Young Bald Eagles were all over the place, as far afield as G.G.I. (HH), and more are on the way. In New York (where the hacking program has ended), there are now 14 breeding pairs (a 40% increase over last year), of which 9 produced 16 young (P. Nye). New Jersey had 3 successful nests, as reported in our spring column, the first year since the crash with more than one productive nest in the state. Five young were produced. Three additional pairs are also established in New Jersey, two of which have reached nest-building stage (LN). Delaware's eagle nests increased from 5 to 6, and seven eaglets were banded (LG-I).

The first year of a raptor survey in *Sussex-Passaic-Morris*, NJ, turned up 2 Cooper's Hawk nests, and no Sharp-shinned Hawk nests (TBo), historically the less common breeder of the two in New Jersey. We know of two more Cooper's Hawk nests elsewhere in n. New Jersey, and of more in *Berks*, PA, one of which (unsuccessful) was in the city of Reading (B. Pounder, R. Bonnett, M. Spence). The New Jersey survey was intended principally to establish a base-line

assessment of Red-shouldered Hawks in the three counties. Thirty-one pairs were present, and 17 active nests were discovered. This population suffered from Great Horned Owl predation, and is under pressure from real estate development and off-road vehicle activity (TBo). Elsewhere we have scattered reports of nests of this declining species from Delaware (two) and *Saratoga* and *Rensselaer*, NY.

The reintroduced Peregrine Falcon population is expanding in New York state, where last year's 15 nests increased to 19. The best news was that 9 of these—an increasing proportion—occupied natural sites in the Adirondacks. These produced five young, and the 10 downstate nests produced four (PN). In New Jersey, however, active pairs slipped for the 3rd consecutive year to 10 (one fewer than last year) including 7 nests that produced 14 young (CC). All the New Jersey nests are on man-made structures, and we have commented before on the poor success rates of the great bridges. All the Delaware R. bridges have pairs, but the only successful nest in e. Pennsylvania was on a Schuylkill R. bridge in N. Philadelphia, where the young were transferred into a box where they would have room to exercise for flight and innoculated against the pigeon-spread tripanosome disease that has caused much mortality (S. Lipschutz, E. Fingerhood, JH).

BOBWHITE TO SHOREBIRDS

In a statewide grasslands survey initiated this year by the Pennsylvania State Game Commission, 46 routes each containing 30 three-minute stops found only 20 N. Bobwhites (including territory west of our Susquehanna R. border). Bobwhites had their third lowest count in the 14 years of the s. *Lancaster* SBC (RMS).

Northbound shorebird migration stretched unusually late into June. The final aerial survey on June 5 of the Delaware Bay concentration revealed 40,000 birds still there, about four times normal for that date (CC). A Semipalmated Plover was record late June 9 at Bath, *Northampton*, PA, and a White-rumped Sandpiper was record late at the same place June 3 (DDeR). An

even later White-rumped was at Bombay Hook June 8 (NH).

Southbound concentrations were poor at the East Pond of Jamaica Bay in July because a drainage problem kept the mud flats covered. Brig continues to be managed exclusively for waterfowl. The hot spots this time, therefore, were Bombay Hook and the nearby Port Mahon flats, the Line Islands in Long Island's Great South Bay, and—for the second year in a row—rainpools at the duneline extending west of Cedar Beach, L.I. The Tonowanda-Iroquois areas in *Genesee-Orleans*, NY, were good, with about 1000 shorebirds July 31 (RGS), and the H.M.E.C. had over 2750 shorebirds July 23 (RKa).

A brief video sequence taken by Harte Rufe of the alternate-plumaged golden-plover at Bombay Hook July 23–27, 1989, which caused much comment last season, has now been widely scrutinized. Kenn Kaufman and Bruce Mactavish have submitted written studies supporting identification as **Greater Golden-Plover**. Kaufman notes the “heavy body, thick neck, and blocky shape of the head...the lack of any black at all on the undertail coverts...the pattern of the white on the flanks,” but notes that this distant and hazy VCR “is not good for seeing details like the precise length of the bill, wingtip, and exposed tibia.” The majority opinion now is

S.A.

The most sensational find in many years was another plover. The first **Mongolian Plover** for the Atlantic coast of North America walked into Seager's binocular field July 13 as he was checking a seldom-visited salt-marsh flat at N. Wildwood, *Cape May*, NJ (ph. K. Seager, PH). It was rediscovered the same evening at the next low tide (CS), but never found again. A regular straggler to w. Alaska, this species has occurred only 11 times before elsewhere in North America. Only four of these occurred away from the Pacific Coast: twice in Louisiana and once each in Ontario and Alberta. All the Pacific Coast records, like this year's New Jersey bird, have been in late summer or early fall, half of them in July.

that this constitutes the first documented United States record for Greater Golden-Plover. Mactavish had fully documented this old world species in the Canadian Maritime Provinces in several recent springs (AB 42:408).

Piping Plovers responded well to active protection measures. In Delaware, where no chicks at all were raised in 1988, an "intensive management strategy" permitted seven to fledge last year and 12 this year. Measures included the closure of parts of Cape Henlopen S.P., fencing, and patrolling (LG-I). About 124-127 pairs of Piping Plovers were censused in New Jersey, close to last year, but production was much lower, despite complete closure of the Holgate section of Brig. Some nests were flooded out, pushing breeding forward into high beach season, and predators—foxes, gulls, grackles, rats, dogs—took many. Only 112-115 were fledged (DJ). Breezy Pt. was closed for the 2nd summer for Piping Plover protection, and though the total number was slightly down from last year, fledging rate was 3 times what it had been before protection (DR; J. Holloway). The overall Long Island population is slightly up to 197 pairs (RDo).

Black-necked Stilts have shifted their one nesting site in the Region for Hudsonian Godwit, which built to 21 there July 21 (NYRBA).

Upland Sandpiper is on the verge of ceasing to breed in New Jersey; the only site where nesting was probable was in *Hunterdon* (GHa). The Pennsylvania grasslands survey found only five in 46 routes of 30 stops each (JH), and the biggest group known to us in upstate New York was of six at Minaville, *Montgomery*, June 26 (B. Brehm, K. Beale). The only bright spot in this dismal picture is JFK airport, where an estimated 20 pairs remain, but no exact count is possible (S. Chevalier). JFK may well contain the biggest Upland Sandpiper breeding population in the northeast.

It was an "incredible year" for Western Sandpipers in Delaware, according to Ednie, who estimated that Westerns composed a quarter of all peep at Bombay Hook on July 1. He found half Westerns and half Semipalmateds by the end of July, a ratio usually reached only in October (APE). One at Dunkirk Harbor July 14 (T. Mahoney) and many at the Cedar Beach, L.I., rain pools July 22 (NYRBA) may reflect the same movement, but since we have no information about whether adults or juveniles were involved, this may mean a poor nesting season. An adult **Rufous-necked Stint** in alternate plumage was on the Port Mahon Road, e. of Little Creek, DE July 29 (B. Cooper, ph. B. Augustine, †MO'B, G. Hess, BL *et al.*). Rufous-necked Stint has been found in 4 of the last 7 Julys in this same area since the first Regional record in 1984; the only other Regional record was also in late July, at Jamaica Bay (1985).

A Dunlin was remarkably early July 1 at Bombay Hook (B & NM, E. Speck, C. Campbell, BL). Following a good spring for Curlew Sandpipers, they were found widely again on the return journey. One or two were at Port Mahon and at the nearby Logan Tract of Ted Harvey W.M.A. from July 18 on (P. Weirich, J.F. Swertinski, MO'B, C. Campbell, E. Short, *et al.*), and one on the Line Is., L.I., July 15 (AJL, ABa). One at Brig June 15 (RDl) was either very early or very late. Most unusual was one in bright alternate plu-

mage at Iroquois NWR, NY, July 30-31 (WD'A, †B. Keelan, †D. Sherony, †M.A. Sunderlin, †Anne Clarridge). This appears to be only the 2nd upstate New York record.

Stilt Sandpipers arrived at the end of June at Bombay Hook and peaked there at an extraordinary 600 July 21, Holgerson's largest count there ever. Only one Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported, at Bombay Hook July 25 (PH). Holgerson estimates at least two ruffs and four reeves at Bombay Hook during the season (NH). Elsewhere, there was at least one Reeve at S.C.M.M., off and on June 29 to July 21 (D. Ward, V. Elia, PH), and a black Ruff at the Cedar Beach pools June 30-July 1 (AJL, ABa). Short-billed Dowitchers peaked on the Line Islands, LI, July 14 at a pre-war level of 1750 (AJL), and at H.M.E.C. on July 23 with 450, the largest count there in some time (RKa, H. Wallum). Wilson's Phalaropes were abundant at Bombay Hook, peaking at about 30 there in late July (APE, NH, MO'B). There was hardly a week without a report somewhere (*e.g.*, two, June 15, Bombay Hook, W.J. Wayne, S. & E. Speck), but these mid-June birds showed no signs of breeding.

GULLS TO SKIMMER

Laughing Gulls reestablished themselves as breeders on Long Island in 1978 after an 80-year absence, and in 1979 a colony began in JoCo Marsh, at the end of runway 4-Left 22-Right at JFK airport. The danger to aircraft from this rapidly expanding colony has alarmed the Port Authority. A study by the National Park Service revealed another leap upward to 7600 pairs (PAB). The Port Authority wishes to force the colony to relocate, and this season many of the eggs were suffocated with mineral oil (*N.Y. Times*, May 1, 1990). A number of adults have been marked on the belly with red or yellow dye. In any event, new colonies farther east on Long Island have been expected for some time, and this summer a couple of pairs nested in Hempstead Twp., L.I., near where the first L.I. nest was found in 1978 (JZ). The only Little Gulls reported to us were

one or two immatures at the Cedar Beach ponds, L.I., June 16 through July 24 (RJK, m.ob.); an adult was also there July 1 (JJR). The great Ring-billed Gull colony at Little Galloo had 84,230 nests (BMi). A second-summer Iceland Gull was a good find July 23 at Dunkirk Harbor (TDM). Great Black-backed Gulls reached six pairs on Little Galloo, where they have nested for several years (BMi).

The Region's only Caspian Tern colony, on Little Galloo I., nearly doubled, from 340 to 640 nests and from 120 to 240 chicks estimated (BMi). Several Royal Terns were copulating in Hereford Inlet, NJ, June 10 (M. Smith, D. Githens), and 2 or 3 pairs were on Long Island in June, but there was no proof of breeding anywhere in the Region. A Sandwich Tern loitered in the Com. Tern colony at Breezy Pt., well north of the usual summering lingerers in New Jersey.

Endangered Roseate Terns inched ahead on Long Island to 1434 pairs, distributed in 5 colonies, plus another pair at Breezy Pt. without firm evidence of breeding (MS, RDo). One colony, however—G.G.I., which increased to an estimated 1300 breeding pairs this summer (HH)—contains almost all of this Region's Roseate Terns G.G.I. and Bird I., in Buzzard's Bay, MA, together account for 92% of the northeastern North American population (MS). Such concentration makes this species vulnerable. It was a generally good year for Com. Terns on Long Island where the population is believed to be steady overall (RDo). The Breezy Pt. colony, under protection, swelled to 500 pairs (DR), and 8000 nests were marked in the G.G.I. colony (JDc). This fully marked population, studied over many years, may well now be the largest Com. Tern colony in the world. The upstate New York population continues to be monitored closely, for although adult numbers remain relatively stable, productivity is low. Most of the terneries have been forced onto man-made structures by Ring-billed Gull pressure, and there they suffer from flooding and predation, especially from Great Horned Owls. This year 550

pairs were found along the St Lawrence R., 468 nests on Oneida L., and 741 on the Niagara R. and in Buffalo Harbor. The experimental monofilament grids to keep Ring-billed Gulls out of the terneries, which we described last summer, worked well on Oneida L., but not on the Niagara frontier where gulls are so numerous that the terns would not approach the cleared areas (BmI).

Least Terns are still holding around the 3000-pair mark on Long Island (RDo), while in New Jersey there were only about 901 nests in 19 colonies. Productivity there was an alarmingly low 388 young, despite fencing and the closure of Holgate, because of predators and flood tides (JB). Some large colonies were present in Delaware, such as 824 adults at 3R's Road, Delaware Seashore S.P., and production was believed good (LG-I). The now annual adult **White-winged Tern** was at Little Creek, DE, July 22-29 (M. Little, S. Dyke). Black Terns continue to "decline catastrophically" as breeders in upstate New York (G. Smith).

Black Skimmers did well on Long Island in 1989, contrary to the information we had at press time then (Skimmers nest later than terns), and in summer 1990 2 additional breeding sites were established, including the now-protected Breezy Point Com. Ternery (RDo). In New Jersey, however, although 1935 individuals were present in 9 colonies, most "just stood around." There were only 382 nests, late, which produced a very poor 144 young. The reasons for this disastrous nesting season are unknown, but in addition to flooding, some kind of food shortage is suspected (JB). Large groups of loafing adults were also present in Delaware, the largest being 150 at Little Creek (APE), but they were not believed to have nested at all in the state (LG-I).

OWLS TO SHRIKES

A nest box project at Jamaica Bay has been producing about 50 Barn Owl fledglings per year (DR). We do not believe that Short-eared Owl nested at all in this Region this year.

Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will continue to be

"nearly extirpated" as breeding birds around Rochester (RGS) and Syracuse (PDeB). DeBenedictis attributes the decline to buildings being reroofed without gravel, and suggests that installation of gravel boxes on flat roofs might provide nesting sites. Encouraging Whip-poor-will reports came from *Carbon*, PA, however, where 13 were calling at Penn Forest, June 2 (DDeR) and 2 new locations were found at Little Gap July 22 (R. Wiltraut). Red-headed Woodpeckers are increasing along the lower Susquehanna R., where they have now been found for five years straight on the s. *Lancaster* SBC (RMS). A pair at Harmony, *Warren*, NJ, fledged at least one young (GHa).

We have no serious figures, but several converging reports indicate that Olive-sided Flycatchers are becoming scarce in upstate New York (RGS, JMCP). A W. Kingbird, ordinary enough along the coast in fall, was astonishing at S.C.M.M. June 12-15 (L. Zamaitis, D. Flood, D. Freiday). More normal in timing were two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, one at S.C.M.M. June 24 (L. Zamaitis, J. Huf), and another July 7 near Forked R. along the Garden State Turnpike, *Ocean*, NJ (*fide* RKa). Tree Swallows may need watching. A nest-box program on the south shore of Long Island, following 3 years of good production cut short by crow and raccoon predation, had almost no customers this year. Only one out of 60 boxes in Gardiner S.P. and adjacent Nature Conservancy property were occupied, and only one in 12 at Bayard Cutting Arboretum, all in *Suffolk*, NY (J. Foehrenbach). We need more information to know whether this is only a local crash, but it is certain that the great coastal flocks have been smaller in recent falls. After taking to major bridges in New Jersey in the 1970s, Cliff Swallows are using new buildings in upstate New York. Examples this season are about 20 nests on a K-Mart Plaza, Hornell, *Steuben* (EB), and about 35 nests on the pump house of Basic Creek Res., *Albany* (KA).

Expanding Com. Ravens had young again in Ward Twp., *Allegheny*, NY, were still present in adjacent Alfred Twp. (EB), and were increasing in *Rensselaer*,

NY (P Connor) Four nestlings June 5 near Lowville, *Lewis*, NY (D. Crumb), established breeding near the edge of Tug Hill. Following last winter's invasion and numerous spring holdovers, Red-breasted Nuthatches were still around in midsummer at such unexpected places as Brookhaven National Laboratory, L.I., June 16 (JJR), *Berks*, PA, June 30 (RKe), and *Somerset*, NJ (S. Sobocinski). Sedge Wrens had a "small explosion" (DAC) in Delaware where they were found at Bombay Hook, Little Creek, and Pickering Beach, mostly in July (P. Vanderhorst, APE). Farther north, one was at Moore's Beach, *Cumberland*, NJ, June 11 (J. Palumbo), one in Oswegatchie, *St. Lawrence*, NY, July 6 (B.Ong), and a good colony of six on Black Creek Rd., *Oswego*, NY, from July 6 into late August (D. Crumb, GHu).

Belatedly we publish a detailed report of **Mountain Bluebird** April 20 at Philipppse Manor, *Westchester*, NY (†B. Lewis). A Gray-cheeked Thrush on July 7 in Delaware would be unbelievable had the window-killed specimen not been brought to the Delaware Museum of Natural History (E. Portafke, *fide* APE). The only Loggerhead Shrike reported was at Geneseo, *Livingston*, NY, June 22 (G. Hartenstein, *fide* RGS). The bird could not be relocated the next day.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

News about Golden-winged Warblers was mostly negative, but a few were at a reclaimed mine site at Nanticoke, PA (M. Blauer). A Lawrence's Warbler was at Tonawanda Indian Res. in June (WD'A, B. Potter, C. Cass). A N. Parula nest in a short-leaved pine was the first in s.w. New Jersey since the 1930s (WD). This species seems to be gradually building up in New Jersey, though populations are still below the levels of the 1930s. Sites are along the Delaware R. (RKa), Jakes Landing, *Cape May*, NJ (H. Thompson, M. McNally), and Allaire S.P. (B. Fetz). Cerulean Warblers are so spottily distributed, mostly in riparian forest, that a count of 13 on June 16 in the Doodle-town section of Bear Mountain S.P., *Rockland*, NY (RJK), was

worth noting. A Kentucky Warbler at Wyalusing, *Bradford*, PA June 8 was very unusual so far north (WR). A Hooded Warbler carrying food at Hibernia Park provided the first *Chester*, PA, breeding record (PH).

A pair of **Summer Tanagers** feeding a juvenile at Brookhaven National Laboratory, *Suffolk*, in June (J. Clinton) gives us at last the long-expected first breeding record for Long Island, and for New York State. Dickcissels were again found singing in June in 2 sites in s.w. New Jersey. One site, near Richwood, *Gloucester*, was mowed; at the other, near Glassboro, the birds could not be found later (JKM). The Pennsylvania grassland survey turned up four Dickcissels in 46 routes (some no doubt west of our border). That survey's sparrow counts are worth recording: 402 Field Sparrows; 116 Vesper Sparrows; 182 Savannah Sparrows, and 249 Grasshopper Sparrows. The survey's 34 Henslow's Sparrows were remarkable (the area surveyed covers more than our part of Pennsylvania). Breeding was proven in Auburn Twp., *Susquehanna*, PA (WR). We have reports from a half dozens sites in c. and w. New York, including "pretty good numbers" at the Saratoga Battlefield and Knox Twp., in *Albany* (KA) and adults with young in Clarence, *Erie* (Watson, Galas). The Galesville Airport, *Ulster*, colony is now inaccessible (JPT), and we do not believe Henslow's Sparrows breed any longer south of that point.

The Pennsylvania grassland survey also found 205 Bobolinks, and a surprisingly good 528 Eastern Meadowlarks. In many areas, however, E. Meadowlarks are in trouble. None were found in thirty stops in good habitat in s. *Montgomery*, PA, June 16 (N. Thorpe). A Yellow-headed Blackbird reported at Bombay Hook in June and July turned out to be a bald Red-winged Blackbird (APE). A female Boat-tailed Grackle feeding young at Cedar Beach marina, L.I. (AJL), suggests that their frontier is still inching northeastward on Long Island.

After the late winter invasion, winter finches hung around Siskins were reported in early June and even into July from the Great Lakes to Delaware, and bred at least in upstate New

York (KA). Both crossbills remained in n.w. New Jersey into early June, without evidence of breeding (GHu, DF, m.ob.). A White-winged Crossbill was in Ward Twp., NY, June 10 (EB), and some around Albany in mid-June may have bred, but, curiously, there were few in the Adirondacks (KA).

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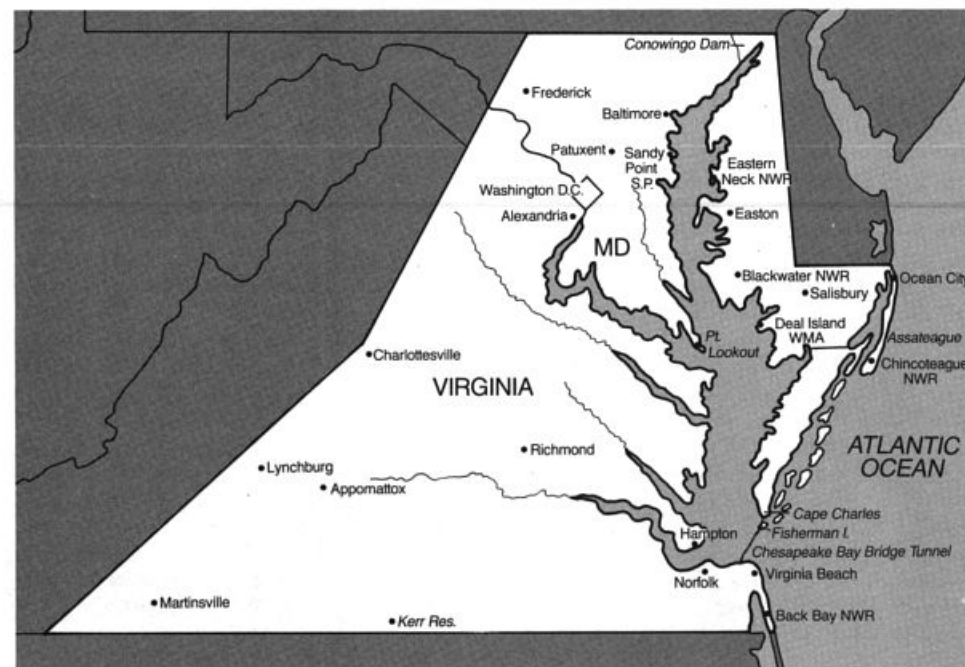
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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead

It was a somewhat warm summer. Rainfall averaged out about normal but was widely variable depending on specific location, as often happens in summer. The success of colonial waterbirds in the Region continued to decline for most species, with low numbers of adults often combined with poor reproductive success as well. Exceptions were Brown Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants. Both bred in both states in record numbers for this Region. Bald Eagles continue to rebound. Reporting of most waterbirds was good, most landbirds poor, as is usual here in the summer. A new nighttime marshbird survey in Maryland revealed several surprises, some good, some bad. Deviation from normal of temperature: June +1.1°F; July +1.8°; of precipitation: June -0.9 inches; July +0.6 inches.



Higher than normal winds plagued many during the Breeding Bird Survey weeks. This summer, as often happens, very high tides and damaging rain storms were very harmful to many beach nesting species.

Abbreviations: Back Bay (*Back Bay Nar'l Wildlife Ref.*, VA); the

Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel*, VA); Chinc. (*Chincoteague Nar'l Wildlife Ref.*, VA); Craney (*Craney Island Disposal Area*, Portsmouth, VA); Deal I. (*Deal Island Wildlife Management Area*, MD); E.S. (*Eastern Shore*, MD or VA); Fish. I. (*Fisherman's Island Nar'l Wildlife Ref.*, VA);

H.M.C.P. (*Huntley Meadows County Park*, Fairfax, VA); Hart (*Hart & Miller Islands in the Bay e. of Baltimore*, MD).

LOONS TO IBISES

As usual, stray Com. Loons were seen in at least 7 localities this summer, and a bird in apparent

migration was at the Severn R. near Annapolis June 10 (MO). An adult and young Pied-billed Grebe were at H.M.C.P. during June (VBK, KH), the only breeding report, although six were at Deal I., the Regional stronghold in summer, July 19 (MO). Pelagic reporting was slight, although Reiger saw an Audubon's and 25 Cory's shearwaters 15–22 mi off Wachapreague, VA, June 29 on a fishing trip. A Sooty Shearwater was seen over the surf at Smith I., VA, June 18 (BM, JV). Wilson's Storm-Petrels again wandered up the Bay as well as close to the Virginia barrier islands. Three were seen from C.B.B.T. July 4 (MO), and 20 e. of Mathews, VA, June 17 (JBB) & 30 (MP), while five were on the York R. June 10 (PB). On the E.S. of Virginia, 23 were found in the Ship Shoal I. area June 11 (BT), one at Hog I. June 12 (SRn), and one on the landward side of Cobb I. June 13 and July 2 (SRn). There was an unprecedented number of sightings of imm. N. Gannets, with singles at Back Bay June 14 (PB), Hog I. June 18 (BW), and Metomkin I. June 19 (BW), these all on the Virginia E.S. A single ad. Am. White Pelican was also at Metomkin I. June 19 (BW).

In Virginia, Brown Pelicans nested for the 3rd time out of the past 4 summers with a record 97 nests, all on private property at Fish. I., where Williams *et al.* recorded this breakdown of nest contents June 17: one egg, 18 nests; 2 eggs, 36 nests; 3 eggs, 22 nests; 6 nests without eggs; 11 nests with two chicks; and 4 nests with three chicks. A followup visit July 21 found 124 chicks and one three-egg nest (BW). In Maryland they nested extremely late with 4 nests s. of Ocean City, the first egg not being laid until July 24, and with young predicted to fledge as late as November! (Dbr). Elsewhere 90 were seen at Cobb I., VA, July 2 (SRn, TO). Double-crested Cormorants nested for the first time in Maryland with 200 at Poplar I. July 20, 55 of these on nests (DM, RFR). Upwards of 100 pairs nested on the James R. near Hopewell in a spot where they have bred since 1978 (MAB, JWD), and farther down the James where the route 17 bridge crosses it, 4 nests were

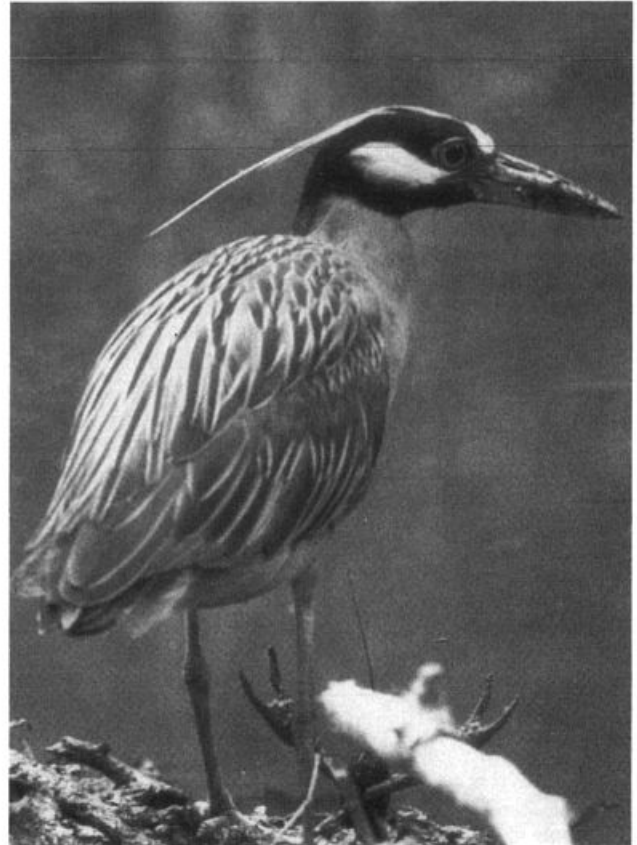
found at a new site in late July (DS), these all in Virginia. At Fish. I. 535 were seen July 16 (SRn, TO).

Hérons did not do so well, especially on the E.S. of Virginia, in spite of the apparently pristine conditions there, with large mixed colonies on the barrier islands only at Chimney Pole (near Hog I.), Wreck and Fish. Is. (BW *et al.*). All time low counts (number of adults seen) were 30 Little Blue, 169 Black-crowned Night-Hérons, and 17 Yellow-crowned Night-Hérons. Four ad. White Ibises were at the Fish. I. colony, which had the highest totals for six of the nine other heron species seen on this June survey, which has been conducted since 1975. All species were in low numbers. In Baltimore a large colony of 300 ± pairs of Black-crowned Night-Hérons was near the n. base of the Key Bridge (Dbr).

The much heralded nest site of Am. Bittern at H.M.C.P. produced three young which fledged in mid-July (KH, VBK, EPW, RAA). Least Bitterns were way down here with no nests being found this summer, *vs.* four in 1988 and five in 1989 (COH, EPW), although five birds were seen there June 24 (JMA, RAA). Interesting was



Downy-headed young American Bitterns at Huntley Meadows County park, Virginia, June 18, 1990. This is one of the few known breeding sites in the middle Atlantic states. Photograph/Ken Howard.



Adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Huntley Meadows County Park, Virginia, June 30, 1990. Up to nine individuals were at this site in June. Photograph/Ken Howard.

one June 12 at Hog I. on the Virginia E.S. (SRn), a barrier island. Near a colony of 450 pairs of Great Blue Herons on Potomac Creek in Stafford, VA, several of these birds were seen to land in deep water 10–15 seconds to maneuver fish into their bills (MAB, JBB). A Cattle Egret near Lucketts June 2 was unusual for this Piedmont location (VBK). Up to nine Yellow-crowned Night-Hérons were at H.M.C.P. in mid-June (KH, EPW). The only stray White Ibis was one at Hog I., Surry, VA, in mid-July (*vide* BTa).

WATERFOWL TO CRANES

Two Brant were present in the Cobb I. area June 28–July 18 (SRn). Two very early Green-winged Teal were at the Easton, MD, sewage lagoons July 16 (JE). At Bloodsworth I. a female and eight downy young Gadwalls were seen June 29 on the central Bay in Maryland, the young being attacked by a hungry Laughing Gull (HTA, GLA). Two pairs of N. Shovelers were at Chinc. June 7, a most unusual summer sight-

ing (SRn, RB). Even more rare was a Harlequin Duck at Portsmouth, VA, July 31 (SRn, TO), although the bird was flightless. Scoters summer in small numbers each year, but to see all three species in one day is perhaps unprecedented. Reese found two White-wingeds, two Surfs, and one Black scoter on the Choptank R. near Cambridge, MD, June 21. Extremely rare as a breeder, two Hooded Mergansers were at McKees-Beshers W.M.A. in Maryland n. of D.C. June 3 (DC). Red-breasted Mergansers were seen at 6 localities this summer.

An Osprey nest above Conowingo Dam, Cecil, on the Susquehanna R. may be the only Piedmont breeding area in Maryland (RMS). Unique was a Mississippi Kite on the E.S. of Virginia at Eastville June 7, seen by Gabler.

Northern Harriers continue to summer widely in most of the Region's larger tidal marshes, with a nest with two young and one egg at Cobb I. June 28 (SRn) and the first nest in 45 years in Mathews under close observation May 26–July 22, at

which point three young had fledged (JBB, TK, MP). Sharp-shinned Hawks are rare here in summer. This year singles were at Denton, MD, July 6 (RBF), Dulles airport, VA, June 28 (DFA), and Williamsburg July 19, an ad. male taking a House Finch at a feeder (BW). Cooper's Hawks are commoner but 5 sightings still made a good total (v.o.). An excellent total of 250 young Am. Kestrels was banded in 50+ boxes in *Prince William*, VA, mostly in the Nokesville area (MC, *vide* KHB). An extremely late Merlin was seen at Winter Harbor, VA, May 26 (JBB). Ring-necked Pheasants bred on Hog I. off the E.S. of Virginia, obviously there owing to past stocking (SRn).

The famous King Rails of H.M.C.P. were not as conspicuous as in the past few years, although perhaps three family

groups were seen (KH, EPW, VBK, JF, RAA, JMA), some theorizing that otter predation may be the cause of their decline. Three young Com. Moorhens were seen at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. near D.C. July 22-29 (JF, RH). The only Am. Coot report was of three June 6 at Deal I., where they occasionally breed (MO). The Sandhill Crane that has been at Poolesville, MD, for over 2 years was still present Aug. 1 (MO).

SHOREBIRDS

A count of 126 Black-bellied Plovers in the Hog-Cobb Is. area June 27-28 was excellent for summer (SRn). On Assateague I., MD/VA, 41 pairs of Piping Plovers were found but with lower production than in some years owing to tides, rains, foxes, Fish Crows, and ghost crabs (*Committee to Preserve As-*

sateague Newsletter, July 1990, p. 3). Good numbers were found on the Virginia E.S. barrier island survey (Assawoman I. south to Fish. I.) by Williams *et al.* during June: 136, plus 57 Wilson's Plovers. As usual Metomkin I. had the best populations of both with 60 Piping and 25 Wilson's plovers. Wilson's were found on 6 islands and Piping on 9 islands. American Oystercatchers were in very poor numbers here, 789 being the second-lowest count since 1979. These barrier survey numbers are all those of adults seen, not pairs or nests.

Somewhat n. of the usual Bay range was an oystercatcher w. of Cambridge, MD, at Castle Haven June 21 (JGR). Three Black-necked Stilts were at Deal I., MD, July 19 (MO), where they sometimes breed of late. At Craney July 20 were 24 Am. Avocets, six Wilson's Phalaropes, and two Wilson's Plovers (SRn, JF). Rottenborn reported very poor Willet production on the Virginia E.S. but did see 190 June 27-28 in the Hog-Cobb Is. area. The best Upland Sandpiper total was of 13 at Oland Rd. and Rt. 85, *Frederick*, MD, July 21 (LMD). Late migrants were three Whimbrels, unusual far inland, at Lynchburg, VA, June 2 (D & CP), and early fall birds were seven at Wachapreague July 1 (GR). The only Marbled Godwit report was one at Cobb I. June 13 (SRn). Late birds included 11 Red Knots and nine Whimbrels at Smith I., VA, June 18 (BA, JB).

Schwab's beach patrol at Back Bay/False Cape S.P., VA, carefully counted 1689 Sanderlings and 293 Ruddy Turnstones June 6, 55 Sanderlings June 13, and 7713 Sanderlings July 31. Some 401 Sanderlings were still at Hog I. on the Virginia E.S. June 12, but only 50 or so overwintered (SRn). A Dunlin at the Easton sewage ponds July 9-24 was an anomaly (JE). Unique was a Curlew Sandpiper along the Chinc. causeway July 14 (DFA, KHB). Also notable was a Ruff at Craney July 7-12 (BA, TO, SRn). Good summer dowitcher counts were of 128 Short-billeds June 13 and 103 on June 28 at Cobb I. (SRn). Via was surprised to find three Am. Woodcock on sandy Fish. I. June 17. The impoundments at Hart on the upper Bay in Maryland held some

good shorebirds July 28: 25 Semipalmated Plovers, 400 Lesser Yellowlegs, a Ruddy Turnstone, seven Sanderlings, 200 Semipalmated, 100 Western, 50 Least, 100 Pectoral, and 16 Stilt sandpipers, plus 50 Short-billed Dowitchers and a Wilson's Phalarope (RFR, EB *et al.*).

JAEGERS TO SKIMMERS

One of the highlights of the summer was a Pomarine Jaeger



Very rare inland, this adult Pomarine Jaeger was over the Potomac River at Seneca, Maryland, on July 8, 1990. Photograph/Dave Czaplak.

at the mouth of Seneca Creek on the Potomac R. north of D.C. July 8-9 (PO, DC, ph.) in *Montgomery*, MD. Also unusual was a Com. Black-headed Gull at Chinc. July 16 into August (SRn, TO). A Lesser Black-backed Gull at Sandy Point S.P., MD, July 15 was the only report of this species (LMD). The summer high report of Great Black-backed Gulls was of 125 at Hart July 28 (RFR). Rains and tides wreaked havoc with nesting gulls, terns, and skimmers this summer. Their numbers were low as was their breeding success. Severe washouts occurred May 22, 23, 29, and 30, and thunderstorms in June were damaging (BW). The Virginia E.S. barrier island survey of June 17-20 recorded these numbers of adult birds: Herring Gull 2545 (seven islands), Laughing Gull 8431 (all on Wreck I.), Great Black-backed Gull 213 (seven islands), Gull-billed Tern 214 (five islands; 91% decline since 1975), Com. Tern 2375 (seven islands), Least Tern 515 (eight islands; lowest since 1979), Royal Tern 4140, Sandwich Tern 32,

S.A.

Bald Eagles continue to have very good breeding success in the Bay area. In Virginia, 99 nests of known outcome produced 142 young, or 1.89 young per nest. This is the best number of active nests since the surveys began in 1977, compared with 92 nests in 1989 and 33 in 1977! 76% of the nests were productive, the third best after 84% in 1987 and 80% in 1988 and contrasted with 39% in 1977. Production was best along the York, Pamunkey, and Mattaponi rivers, and 13 nests were in *Westmoreland* (MAB *et al.*). Maryland also had excellent success with 123 occupied nests, 92 successful, producing 164 young, all record totals since the start of the surveys in 1977 (GDT *et al.*). Production of 1.78 young per nest was a tie for the third best. Compare some of these totals with 27 nests in 1977 producing 45 young (actually a pretty good production total but from a disturbingly low number of nests). As usual *Dorchester* had far and away the most successful nests, with 22 productive nests fledging 49 young. *Charles* was another good eagle county with 12 nests producing 20 young. In view of the alarming demographic projections for the Bay area, as well

as the ecological problems which already exist here, one wonders how much longer the good eagle news will continue to play.

S.A.

An intensive series of regular night surveys of rails in marshes throughout the Bay area of Maryland revealed much of interest (EB, MO, HLW). Black Rails were found to be much more widespread than previously suspected with c. 88 heard in 42 sites, almost all on the lower E.S., with 34 at 11 sites at Elliott I., the classic setting for them. This still leaves 54 birds at 31 other locations! Perhaps even more surprising was the presence of 24 Soras at c. 13 listening sites. Previously little-explored areas of the Choptank R. were found to have very rich marshes with fine numbers of King Rails and Com. Moorhens. That's the good news. The bad news was low numbers of Least Bitterns throughout, as well as a very poor marsh bird presence in the counties north of the Annapolis-Kent I. bridge, some of which have had historically rich marshes documented back into the early part of the century. Of 40 such sites surveyed at least twice, about 20 had *no* railids or bitterns.

Caspian Tern six (three islands), Forster's Tern 54, and Black Skimmer 2594 (six islands; lowest ever).

Weske *et al.* banded terns on the Virginia E.S. as has been done every year since 1972, tagging 4240 Royal and 90 Sandwich tern chicks on Fish. I., most of these on June 25. This was the only Royal colony in Virginia but they nested at 3 places in Maryland, and as often happens with small colonies at the limits of their range here, 2 of these failed. A third, at Ocean City, was successful with 16 banded here Aug. 6, several others escaping capture as they were large enough to fly (DBr, JSW). Elsewhere in Maryland the only Laughing Gull nest for the entire state was the Memorial Day weekend one in the central Bay at Barren I. (HTA, GLA). They did not nest on the coast. The huge Forster's/Common Ternery at Barren I. did not materialize this year but relocated ten miles n. near James I. Herring Gulls did not have much nesting success anywhere in Maryland although there was a colony of 300 ± pairs at Sparrows Pt. near Baltimore. Black Skimmers, which have nested for several years in the Barren I. area, relocated this year a few miles n. to Tar Bay but were washed out. This Maryland information is all courtesy of Brinker.

At Hart 200 Caspian Terns were seen July 28 (RFR) and Schwab found six at Back Bay June 6. At inland Stump Lake in w. Virginia Beach, three Royal Terns were odd on July 8 (PWS). One hundred Com. Terns at Hart July 28, including locally hatched juveniles, represented the first local nesting record (RFR), and 850 Forster's Terns were also in the area. Least Terns continue to nest on school roofs on the central E.S. of Maryland, frequenting rooftops in Cambridge, Easton, and St. Michaels this year (JGR, JE). In Virginia, 450 were found at Winter Harbor July 4 (JBB) but rains were hard on this species also, although 100 were banded at Grandview June 9 (BTa). Black Terns were reported from just six localities, with only 15 at Chinc. July 14-15 (DFA, KHB). A Black Skimmer was seen up the James R. at Hog I., *Surry*, June 17 (JF).

OWLS TO SHRIKES

Bass continues to have great success with a Barn Owl nest box program, expanding from 19 boxes in 1989 to 34 this year and banding 154 young and six adults in the Nokesville, VA, area this summer. He also saw a Short-eared Owl here June 2. Many observers reported low numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers displayed extreme migratory behavior with a very late bird at Tolchester Beach, MD, June 9, and an extremely early one July 31, both banded (J & PG). Willow Flycatchers continue to be more widespread than they were historically, with two (possible late migrants, though) at Patuxent Naval Air Station June 2 (RFR) and one in *Caroline*, MD, July 11 (JGR, WR), as well as various others in the D.C. area. A very early Least Flycatcher was at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Aug. 1 (DBy).

Purple Martins had a generally poor breeding season (MKK). Very out of place was a single Bank Swallow at Cobb I. June 18 and July 18 (BW). An unusual summer stray was a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Denton, MD, July 5 & 16 (MN). Brown Creepers nested again at H.M.C.P. where they were seen carrying nesting material in early June (EPW, KK). The only Sedge Wren record was of two singing at 12:45 a.m. at Deal I., MD, July 20 (MO). At Williamsburg 16 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers June 2 made a good total for the Virginia coastal plain in summer (SRn). Late thrushes included a Gray-cheeked and a Swainson's at Black Hills Res. in *Montgomery*, MD, June 2 (DC) and two Swainson's at Pasadena, MD, May 31 (SR). Cedar Waxwings were more widespread than normal with several coastal plain breeding records (v.o.). The only Loggerhead Shrike reports were of singles at Reston, VA, July 26 (DFA) and in *Greensville*, VA, near the North Carolina line June 22 (RH).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

An extremely early migrant was an imm. Cape May Warbler at Gloucester, VA, July 29 (TK). A little east of the mountains,

since it was probably not a late migrant, was a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Lynchburg, VA, June 2 (*vide* MM). Good maximal counts of breeding warblers were 35 Prairies in *Greensville*, VA, June 4 (SRn, JD), 20 Kentuckys and 25 Hoodeds at Potomac and Accokeke Creeks area of s.e. *Stafford*, VA, June 24 (JBB, JF), plus 14 Louisiana Waterthrushes at Williamsburg June 2 (SRn). A pair of nest-building Summer Tanagers at Nokesville, VA, June 1 was notable for the n. Virginia Piedmont (KHB).

On the Lynchburg, VA, "Christmas Bird Count in June," on June 2, 24 Blue Grosbeaks and 256 Indigo Buntings were tallied, illustrating the relative scarcity of the grosbeaks this far into the Piedmont towards the start of the mountains (MM *et al.*); 76 Indigo Buntings were counted in *Mecklenberg*, VA, June 3 (SRn, JD). Dickcissels were back to their more usual numbers this summer with three at Greensboro, MD, June 30 (MN, DB, JGR), one in *Kent*, MD, June 24 (J & PG) at Airy Hill Rd., one at Maple Dam Rd. near Cambridge through mid-June (MO, HLW), one at Detour June 3 & 16 (RFR), plus two at Massey June 10 (JGR), these all in Maryland. In Virginia up to five singers were in *Campbell*, May 7 into July (TD). Hilton did more extensive work in s.c. Virginia near the North Carolina boundary and located Bachman's Sparrows in 3 counties there during the period, totalling at least seven or eight birds. Because of abuse of some of these individuals by observers in previous years, the locations of these spots will be kept confidential. For shame that this must be done!

A Savannah Sparrow was at Keyville, *Carroll*, MD, June 16 in an area where small numbers of them breed (RFR). Two small populations of Regionally rare (practically gone) Henslow's Sparrows included six singers at Nokesville June 16 (KHB) and up to eight singers in s. Virginia near Jerusalem July 7-15 (RH, TD). Extremely late, one supposes, were three White-throated Sparrows at Lynchburg June 2, plus two Purple Finches (in addition to 218 House Finches) (MM *et al.*). Early Bobolinks included two on the

upper Choptank R., *Dorchester*, MD, July 11 (MO) and 30 at Fair Hill W.M.A., *Cecil*, MD, July 29 (LMD, EB, RFR, HLW). Several were seen at Keyville, *Carroll*, MD, June 16, including a bird carrying variously food and a fecal sack, indicating breeding in this area near the Pennsylvania border (RFR)

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

[SPRING 1990 REPORT]

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

Spring 1990 was somewhat warmer than normal. The warm January and February carried over into spring, and there were a great number of early reports of nesting and migrant species. Some species seldom seen as early as March, such as Common Nighthawk, were found in that month.

Because of the global decline in passerine migrants as a result of habitat loss both in the tropics and on the breeding grounds in North America, the former fair to moderate spring migration through this Region can now be downgraded to poor to fair. Most observers mentioned a lackluster passerine season, especially those in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. As Atlanta has a high concentration of birders and lies closer to the main flight path of the Trans-Gulf migrants than do cities elsewhere in the Region, reports from this area on the spring flight carry great weight. Terry Moore commented on low numbers of warblers and thrushes from that part of the Region. Of course, the farther east one goes, the fewer the migrants in spring, so that birders in the Coastal Plain nowadays are truly starved for migrant songbirds.

South Carolina birders have now had time to survey the remnant forests devastated by Hurricane Hugo last September. Gone are the forest warblers, and in their place are birds such as Orchard Oriole, which was reported to be quite numerous in some of the remnants. Northern Bobwhites have moved into these "woods", and other species such as Indigo Bunting are also assumed to benefit. But for forest-interior species already on the decline, such as Wood Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, and Swainson's Warbler, the partial to near total loss of breeding habitat over a 5- to 10-county area is a devastating blow. The only consolation is that most of these tropical-wintering species



had already departed that area by late September, so that physical loss to the individual birds was minimized. Of course, the permanent residents, particularly the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, had not only a major habitat loss but a direct physical loss in individuals as a result of Hugo. A number of artificial cavities have been drilled, and nest boxes erected (i.e., placed into a cut-out portion of the bole of a pine in order to blend in with the trunk), to help this federally Endangered species. However, the almost complete destruction of habitat at Francis Marion National Forest, which had the largest population of the woodpecker in the country, is the worst of the problems to the natural environment caused by the hurricane.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS

A Common Loon was quite late at L. Spivey, GA, May 27 (PB, TMI). Seldom reported breeding near the Fall Line, an ad. Pied-billed Grebe was with four chicks on May 31 at a pasture pond at Lugoff, SC (LG). The only Eared Grebe for the season was a likely carry-over from the winter — an individual at Cape Hatteras point, NC, Mar. 5 (GJ). There were only a few pelagic trip results for the spring, and apparently just one went to the deep water of the

Gulf Stream. On this May 26 trip out of Oregon Inlet, NC, an impressive diversity of pelagic birds was noted, including eight tubenoses; good tubenose totals included 38 Sooty Shearwaters and six Leach's Storm-Petrels, along with a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel and two Black-capped Petrels with dark napes and rumps (HL *et al.*). One of the earliest ever White-tailed Tropicbirds for that state was an immature or subadult seen on this trip (HL, BP *et al.*). A bird believed to be a Cory's Shearwater was seen from shore at Cape Hatteras on the very early date of Mar. 19 (RB, WF).

Fussell noted a Great Cormorant at Little R. Inlet, SC, a new site for this increasing species, Mar. 2. This cormorant is now found in surprising numbers well into the spring, as Grant noted as many as seven May 1-31+ at New R. Inlet, NC; he found a dead individual there June 1. Double-crested Cormorants have been a continental success story in the last decade, and numbers of migrants inland have zoomed. For example, at inland sites in Georgia were 256 at L. Oconee Apr. 28 (PY, PS, BW), 142 at Augusta Mar. 26 (AW, VW), and 66 in Gilmer Apr. 29 (CR). Rarely reported from the Piedmont, an overshooting migrant Anhinga appeared in n. York, SC, Apr. 22 (KH).

Locally unusual in the Charlotte, NC, area were several Least Bitterns in s. Mecklenburg, May 5 (DW, HW). Continuing the bizarre string of inland reports of white phase Great Blue Herons was one that was studied at Conyers, GA, May 13-27 (FM *et al.*). The Snowy Egret has not yet been reported to nest at the heronry in far inland Boykin, SC; however, eight in a pasture pond near there Apr. 30 (LG) and one seen at the heronry pond May 10 (LG) are strong indicators that the species may well be nesting there this year. Other inland Snowies, presumably migrants, were five in Wayne, NC, Apr. 28 (ED), and singles Mar. 31 in Winnett, GA (JH) and Apr. 28 in Greene, GA (PS, PY, BW). Well inland Tricolored Herons were restricted this season to e.c. North Carolina, with one on Apr. 2 and 25 in Pitt (JW) and one to two Apr. 28 and May 3 in Wayne (ED, GH). A Green-backed Heron Mar. 11 in n. Coweta, GA (D & PM) was surprisingly early. The pre-nesting heron roost at Augusta, GA, contained six species of waders Apr. 13, dominated by the 473 Cattle Egrets; two each of Snowy Egret and Tricolored Heron were notable (AW, VW). Single Glossy Ibises were found well inland in North Carolina near Greenville Apr. 14 (RT, VP), near Morrisville Apr. 17 (RH), and at Goldsboro May

16 (ED). Although a post-breeding Wood Stork in July or August would not be unusual near the Fall Line, an adult May 10 at a heronry at Boykin, SC (LG) was a surprise.

WATERFOWL

A white-phase Snow Goose must have been sick or injured to be found May 25–29 on L. Lanier, GA (JP). After the big winter-season invasion of Brants to the Carolinas, it was not surprising that there were more spring season reports than usual, including six at Mount Pleasant, SC, Mar. 17 (DF). There were a handful of very late puddle duck reports: May 27 records of Green-winged Teal at Pea I., NC (HL) and N. Pintail in Clayton, GA (PB, TMi), and N. Shovelers at Clayton, GA, May 20–21 (CR, PB). Fussell found four pairs of Gadwalls in May at Cedar I., NC, apparently at the terminus of the breeding range. Several inland Greater Scaups were reported from both Augusta (CZ, CB, AW) and Santee N.W.R., SC (LG, RM), whereas a Lesser Scaup was quite late May 30 at Bear I., SC (LG, EDa, MS). A Harlequin Duck was a good find Mar. 19 at Cape Hatteras (RB, WF), as was an inland Oldsquaw present from February to Mar. 15 at L. Murray, SC (LG, RM). Another holdover from the winter was the Surf Scoter at L. Spivey, Clayton, GA; it was seen repeatedly to Apr. 22 (PB, CR *et al.*). Still another holdover, the White-winged Scoter at Sweetwater Cr. S.P., GA, was last noted Mar. 4 (PS). A Common Goldeneye at Pineville, NC, Apr. 4 (HW, HWh) was a late bird, as few reports are received after March. The Hooded Merganser nests sporadically in the Region; thus, of interest was a female with four downy young at Savannah N.W.R., SC, Apr. 28 (PW). There were three reports of Common Merganser, always a good find in the South: four in Dekalb, GA, Mar. 17 (GS), two at Roanoke Rapids L., NC, where regular in winter, Mar. 18 (RD), and one at L. Oconee, GA, Mar. 3 (PY).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES

Black Vultures are decreasing in parts of the Region as a result of better sanitation and disposal of

garbage and dead farm animals; however, a flock of 140 in Greene, GA, May 5 (PY) was impressive. (The reader should not infer that this county has sanitation problems!) Normally, there are several reports of overshooting Am. Swallow-tailed Kites, but only one such report was received this spring — one bird near Sanderling, NC, May 7 (JL). No data were provided on the fate of the large breeding population in Francis Marion N.F., SC, and there is concern of habitat loss as a result of Hurricane Hugo last fall. Out-of-range Mississippi Kites were noted in North Carolina May 5 near Castle Hayne (ED) and May 11 near Swanquarter (SC). Breeding records of Sharpshinned Hawks in the Region have been in short supply lately. Does a report of an immature that built a nest in March and April in Atkins' yard in Decatur, GA, "qualify"? Quite early was a Broad-winged Hawk heard calling near Table Rock S.P., SC, Mar. 9 (LG); another was more respectably early Mar. 21 in Rockdale, GA (PR). A detailed description of a Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk was submitted, apparently the first sight record for this race for Georgia. The bird was observed near Athens Mar. 4 (CH, PG, JS, CL). There were just two inland reports of Merlins, both on the somewhat early date of Mar. 31 — at Lugoff, SC (LG) and in Greene, GA (PY). On the other hand, there were also two inland reports of migrating Peregrine Falcons, each on May 5. Singles were noted near Greenville, NC (RT) and Augusta (PB, HG, TM). Along the coast, a Peregrine was rather late May 20 near the Cedar I., NC, ferry terminal (JF, DS). I always find reports of Yellow Rails of great interest, as most of them involve birds seen by accident, sometimes in out-of-the-way places. People like me, who spend hours in marshes and wet fields specifically looking for the birds, always come up empty. However, one birder who was walking along a boardwalk over the marshy edge of Singleary L., NC, Apr. 20, was lucky enough to see a Yellow Rail flush near her (HT). Hart had a good look at a Clapper Rail, both on the ground and in flight, at Lillington, NC, Apr. 17. Most inland records for this coastal

bird involve nocturnal collisions with towers or skyscrapers; few live birds are reported. The best sighting of Sandhill Crane, regular in migration only in Georgia, was one soaring with gulls over Cape Hatteras point Apr. 9 (AV).

SHOREBIRDS

Again this spring, Lesser Golden-Plovers avoided detection in North Carolina, yet were again found in the other two states. An excellent seven were at Roger's Bridge, GA, Mar. 24 (HG, PB), and one was at Beaufort, SC, Apr. 29 (ST, RC). An early Wilson's Plover was found at Masonboro I., NC, Mar. 5 (JF); and notable Semipalmated Plover reports were one very early inland Mar. 17 at Rum Cr. W.M.A., GA (TJ) and 25+ on May 21 at Goldsboro, NC (ED). One of the rarest shorebirds inland is the Am. Oystercatcher; yet, one was seen in flight at Greenville, NC, May 16 (RT) for one of the few inland records for that state. As the Black-necked Stilt is about as rare inland as the oystercatcher, it might be suggested that single reports of the stilt at two locations near Goldsboro May 3 (GH, ED) and May 23–24 (ED) relate to the same bird. Upland Sandpipers were widely reported, with the most spectacular count being 17 at the Augusta airport Apr. 5 (AW, VW). The only Long-billed Curlew report was of the usual wintering bird at Ft. Fisher, NC, noted Mar. 4 (JF).

Dean's nearly daily coverage of the Goldsboro Water Treatment Plant ponds yielded many notable peep records. He found a Sanderling May 21–24, and excellent counts of 90+ Semipalmated Sandpipers May 23 and 100+ Least Sandpipers May 3. White-rumped Sandpipers were often reported inland, of course all in May. However, Dean's tally of 17 on May 21 at Goldsboro was the only count of more than a single bird away from the coast. Inland Dunlins were noted at Goldsboro Apr. 8 – May 24 (ED) and at L. Crabtree near Morrisville, NC, Apr. 7–11 (RH). Despite their seemingly sterile (and ugly) appearance, dredge spoil ponds often host large numbers of shorebirds. The pond in South Carolina near Savannah is the Region's

most famous site, but Eagle Island near Wilmington, NC, has had its share of rarities, including two this season. Nance and Massey found a breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper there May 9, and Nance *et al.* noted a Ruff, a male in breeding plumage, there May 16–19. The Ruff was joined by another on May 18 (JFP). Unlike in states to the North, such as Delaware and New Jersey, Ruffs do not normally tarry long at sites in this Region, and the 4-day span of dates at Eagle Island was a "long" sojourn. A Long-billed Dowitcher at Bear I., SC, Apr. 28 (LG) was probably not rare, but the species is not often reported in spring, possibly being overlooked. Wilson's Phalaropes sometimes go unreported in spring, but this year there were three sightings: two at the Savannah spoil area, SC, Apr. 28 (HL, RD *et al.*), one at Goldsboro May 18 (ED), and one at Huntington Beach S.P., SC, May 26 (KH). A few Red-necked Phalaropes were seen on the Oregon Inlet pelagic trip May 26, but the best record was one found injured on a road along the coast at Emerald Isle, NC, May 13 (JF). The second Atlanta area record for Red Phalarope was established when one was seen at the Clayton Water Treatment Plant Mar. 3 (CH, PG).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

The best jaeger counts for the season were made on the May 26 pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet, with eight Pomarine and five Parasitic jaegers tallied (HL). Unfortunately, the hoped for Long-tailed Jaeger and S. Polar Skua on this trip were nowhere to be seen; these are two of the most elusive of the regular pelagic species on the Atlantic coast.

A truly remarkable phenomenon occurred on Apr. 28 in the inland portion of the Region, apparently related to a strong storm from the west. Laughing Gulls, and to a lesser extent other gulls, were dumped from the sky onto lakes that day. Of course, this species is primarily coastal, though spring inland reports are not unusual. But seemingly anyone who visited a lake on Apr. 28 commented on the species. On this date, 17 birds, along with a shocking 29 Her-

ring Gulls, were found at L. Oconee, GA (PS, PY, BW). Eight Laughings were seen at Goldsboro that day (ED), as were three in flight over Atlanta (PB) and one near Greenville, NC (JW). One the next day at L. Wylie, York, SC (KH) was also a fallout victim. It was speculated that these were birds from the Gulf Coast rather than the Atlantic. One must wonder if all the Laughings that winter on the Gulf Coast also breed there, or do some of them migrate overland to the northeast to breed on the northern coast of the United States? If the latter is true, then such a fallout might not be completely unexpected. Whatever the case, the fallout was unprecedented for this species in the Region.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull was a good find at Tybee I., GA, Mar. 25–Apr. 1 (PS, JSy). In North Carolina, where hardly an item any longer, Fussell had four sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls from the coast Mar. 1–11 and May 4, the last being at a landfill near Newport. Glaucous Gull, also no longer a rarity in North Carolina in midwinter, was noted three times in that state: at Beaufort Mar. 24 (DW, TP), at Cedar I., May 7 (JF, JK), and at New R. Inlet Apr. 22 – May 31+ (GG *et al.*). One of the better finds of the season was a Sabine's Gull off Oregon Inlet May 26 (HL *et al.*); there are only several previous spring records for the state. Despite the stunning fallout of Laughing Gulls on Apr. 28, there was no fallout of terns on inland lakes, though a few Forster's Terns were seen on that date, as well as a Black Tern at L. Lanier, GA (JP). The rarest terns were Arctic Terns in Georgia and North Carolina. One seen on the beach at Jekyll I., May 5 (PB, HG, TM) was Georgia's second onshore record. One was seen off Beaufort Inlet, NC, May 19 (HL, RD); a flock of six other terns not far away were also believed to have been Arctics. Paget had an excellent inland spring count of 20+ Black Terns at L. Lanier May 21. The vague reference to a dead noddy found in Georgia (AB 44:76) was confirmed as a Brown Noddy; the specimen was seen by Walsh (*vide* BD).

CUCKOOS THROUGH LARKS

The elusive Black-billed Cuckoo was reported only twice, both in Georgia. Several Short-eareds wintered near Athens, GA, and were last noted Mar. 4 (*vide* TM). A Com. Nighthawk seen and heard Mar. 31 at Mount Pleasant, SC (RM) was one of the few reports ever for that month. Also about two weeks early were Whip-poor-wills heard Mar. 12 at both Raven Rock S.P., NC (PH) and in Polk, NC (ST). Belatedly reported was a ♀ *Selasphorus* hummingbird Nov. 16–22 at a feeder in Tryon, NC (ST). Birds of this genus, all Rufous so far, are showing up regularly in the Region, and not a fall or winter passes without one to several reports.

One of the Region's most difficult to find migrants — Olive-sided Flycatcher — eluded all observers in the Carolinas, with the three Georgia reports being of singles Apr. 29 in Gilmer (CR), May 5 along the Chattahoochee R. near Atlanta (PR), and May 26 at Eufaula N.W.R. (JG *et al.*). One of last summer's most exciting discoveries was the colony of Willow Flycatchers in Greene, GA. This spring, one bird had returned to the nesting area by May 5 (PY). A rare nester along the Fall Line of South Carolina and Georgia, E. Phoebes were found nesting under a bridge May 6 in N. Augusta, SC (AW, VW). Glover also found nests in that state May 29 near the Fall Line at Westville and at Little Lynchess R. under the SC 42 bridge. As one or two pairs of Gray Kingbirds breed each year along the Georgia coast, the two seen near the lighthouse at St. Simons I., May 19 (PR) might well have been a mated pair. The warm late winter and early spring allowed for advanced breeding by Horned Larks, as evidenced by a juvenile seen Apr. 4 and several family groups Apr. 6 in the Mayesville, SC, area (EDa, LG).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS

Jordan L., the only non-mountain site in the Carolinas where Tree Swallows are believed to nest, again this spring had suspected nesting birds. A female was noted entering a tree cavity May 28, and several other birds

were in the vicinity (PSa). Saraceni had 25 Bank Swallows May 30 at Jordan L., where banks several feet high are present, but the birds were not found in June and the banks do not seem high enough for nesting by the species. Sad to say, there has not been any reported nesting by Banks in the Region in nearly a decade, but as there are a handful of colonies in Virginia, they ought to be breeding somewhere in North Carolina. The out-of-range Cliff Swallow colony at Oriental, NC, was again active this spring, as four or five birds were noted at the bridge May 16 (JF). One of the big, and perhaps unpleasant, stories of the last two decades has been the inland advance of Fish Crows. This season, one was noted at Tryon, NC, at the foot of the mountains, on Apr. 20 (ST), and several records came from n. Georgia, including a landfill in Hall (*vide* TM). The very heavy snow of December 23–24 along the North Carolina coast devastated populations of small insectivores, and Fussell noted that Marsh Wrens were much scarcer than usual in the early nesting season in the brackish marshes at Cedar I., North R., and Hobucken. A calling Wood Thrush was extremely early Mar. 13 at Mayesville, SC (LG). As has been mentioned frequently in these Regional reports, the global population of *Catharus* thrushes has declined dramatically, and again this spring there were very few notable sightings of these species. Among the late lingering species were an Am. Pipit May 13 in Forsyth, GA (JP, JC) and 20 Cedar Waxwings near Atlantic, NC, May 31 (JF). Waxwings were actually widespread late in May in North Carolina, and next season's report details a number of nestings in that state. Philadelphia Vireos skirt the Region in spring — I'm still looking for my first at that season — but one was seen along the Neuse R. east of Raleigh May 8 (RD).

WARBLERS

Charlotte, NC, is roughly the s.e. limit of the Tennessee Warbler migration route in spring, and Walker had several in her yard there Apr. 23–24. The Orange-crowned Warbler, which winters in moderate

numbers in the Coastal Plain, slips away from the Region quietly in March and April; the peak this spring was Apr. 14, when Brisse had four in Clayton, GA, Hilton banded one at York, SC, and Thompson saw one at Chimney Rock Park, NC. As with Philadelphia Vireo, the Nashville Warbler migrates around the Region in spring, and this season's only report was one in Forsyth, GA, May 11 (JG). A N. Parula was quite early Mar. 23 at Charlotte (HW), and several Black-burnian Warblers in Pitt, NC, May 4–5 (JW) were very rare this far to the east. Certainly the passerine of the spring was a singing ♂ Kirtland's Warbler seen by Glover, as close as three feet (!), May 1 near Lugoff. Surprising as it may seem, South Carolina has nine previous acceptable reports, but this is the first for the state since 1967 (Post and Gauthreaux, 1989, *Status and Distribution of South Carolina Birds*), clearly reflecting the sharp decline in the global population of the Kirtland's in the past several decades. Thompson had three singing ♂ Cerulean Warblers at Tryon, NC, in May, most or all territorial birds. There were four reports of Swainson's Warbler from n. Georgia, some of which were likely breeders. The breeding distribution of this species in the Region's Piedmont is very sketchy and needs much more study. A Louisiana Waterthrush was singing on territory in the Green Swamp, Brunswick, NC, May 17 (JN); this site is somewhat southeast of the usual breeding range, which comes to within 20–25 miles of the North Carolina coast. The narrow spring migration corridor of the Connecticut Warbler takes the birds through Georgia and the w. portion of the Carolinas, with a peak in mid-May. Not surprisingly, the two reports fit this pattern: singing birds in Georgia May 12–13 at Conyers (PR) and May 13 in Dawson (JP, JC). No reports were received of Mourning Warbler, and there were just four of Wilson's Warbler.

FINCHES, ICTERIDS

Painted Buntings, rather poorly known as breeders in the c. part of Georgia, were a major pres-

ence in the Macon area this spring. An imm. male was singing May 12, and another green bird was nearby (JA). Over the next two weeks, Ivey found a pair, including a mature male. If a nest is found, this might be the closest to the Fall Line for the state, except for the well known population along the Savannah R. as far north as Augusta. The only indication of potential Dickcissel nesting this spring was of a male and female 50 miles east of Atlanta [near what town? — R.E.] May 5–6, with a male still there May 20 (RMA, AM). Clay-colored Sparrows are very rare in spring, and the sole report this season was one studied at a feeder near Fuquay-Varina, NC, mid-March–Apr. 20 (J & SB). A Henslow's Sparrow was singing in the Green Swamp, NC, in a brushy field Apr. 28 (GM *et al.*); the species is known to breed (presumably) in this general area. A Le Conte's Sparrow was noted Mar. 3 and 17 in *Greene*, GA (PY); this was perhaps a bird that wintered in the area. A Fox Sparrow last noted in Winston-Salem, NC, May 5 (AP, SM *et al.*) was about a month late.

About par for the season were four reports of Lincoln's Sparrow: banded on Apr. 24 near York, SC (BH); and seen Apr. 29–30 in n. *Mecklenburg*, NC (DW *et al.*), May 6 in *Dawson*, GA (JP), and May 12 in *Gilmer*, GA (CR).

The Townville, SC, area again produced migrant Brewer's Blackbirds, with two there Apr. 10 (LG, KC). A presumed pair of N. Orioles was again present out-of-range at Greenville, NC, during the latter part of May (JW). This species sparingly nests in the Region, mainly in the w. Piedmont of North Carolina. House Finches were reported nesting at Aiken, SC, this spring (PSt); this locale is near the s.e. edge of the breeding range, at least for the time being! Several years ago, there was the shocking report of a Com. Redpoll along the North Carolina coast well into the spring. After a winter of no redpoll reports (with details), it came as another shock that a **Common Redpoll** spent May 5–14 at a feeder on the coast at Core Banks, NC (CF, DC; ph. ML). Pine Siskins were in moderate numbers during the

spring, and three remained at T. Moore's feeder in Woodstock, GA, through the end of May. On the other hand, Evening Grosbeaks were rather scarce, with the last reported at Lugoff, SC, May 9 (LG).

Corrigendum: The second-hand report of Brown Booby specimen (AB 44:74) from Georgia should be deleted. Correspondence from Dunning indicates that the badly decomposed specimen was actually that of a domestic goose, as identified by Fred Sibley at Yale University. Thus, Brown Booby remains Provisional in Georgia, based on an offshore sight record.

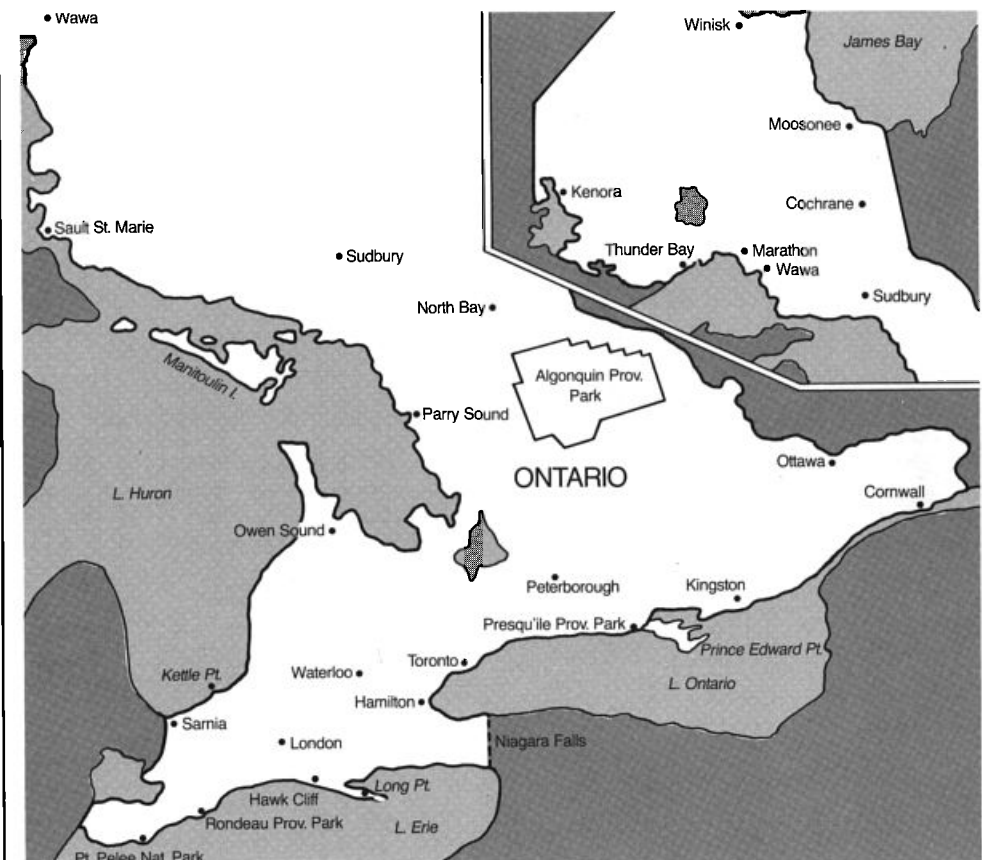
Observers: Jerry Amerson, Anselm Atkins, Clarence Belger, Rich Boyd, Patrick Brisse, John & Susan Bumgarner, Kevin Calhoun, Derb Carter, Robin Carter, Jack Carusos, Sam Cooper, Evelyn Dabbs (EDa), Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Barny Dunning, Dennis Forsythe, Clay Fulcher, Wade Fuller, John Fussell, Peg Gallagher, Hugh Garrett, Lex Glover, Gilbert Grant, Joe Greenberg, Robert Hader, Paul Hart, Kevin Hen-

nings, Bill Hilton Jr., Joel Hitt, Gene Howe, Chuck Hunter, Ty Ivey, Terry Johnson, Greg Justice, Jeannie Kraus, Carol Lambert, Joe Lassiter, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, Robert Manns (RMA), Greg Massey, Dennie & Pam McClure, Roger McNeill, Francis Michael, Terry Miller (TMi), Sue Moore, Terry Moore, Adrienne Myles, Jeremy Nance, John Paget, Veronica Pantelidis, J.F. Parnell, Brian Patteson, Taylor Piephoff, Ann Pollard, Paul Raney, Christopher Rustay, Paul Saraceni (PSa), Georgann Schmalz, Marge Schwenck, Jeff Sewell, Deb Squires, Peter Stangel (PSt), Joan Sykes (JSy), Paul Sykes, Helene Tetrault, Simon Thompson, Russ Tyndall, Allan Vogt, Heathy Walker, Joan Walsh (JWa), Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Bryan Watts, Harriett Whitsett (HWh), Peter Worthington, David Wright, John Wright, Peter Yaukey, Calvin Zippler. — **HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.**, N.C. Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611.

ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

Most of the province experienced unusually wet and cold conditions during June followed by more normal weather throughout July. The adverse effects of the extreme cold during the third week of May were evident on martins and swallows as their numbers were sharply decreased over widespread areas. An assessment of these effects on other insect-eating birds is more difficult to make. In addition, rain affected many weekend days during June, which are the only days when most observers can get into the field, so that caution should be exercised when interpreting an apparent scarcity of one species or another. The results of Breeding Bird Surveys are required in order to make definitive statements, and these results are not available at the time of preparing the following account.



Along the James and Hudson Bay coasts within the Hudson Bay Lowlands, a Wildlife Habitat Assessment Project was carried out by staff from the Moosonee office of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The field stations were at the mouth of the Little Shagamu River (abbreviated L. Shagamu R. below) located northwest of Winisk on Hudson Bay, and at Ekwan Point 250 km northwest of Moosonee on James Bay. The findings are very interesting as we learn more about waterfowl and gull movements along this remote coast as well as range extensions for breeding passerines. One of the exciting finds was the Rock Ptarmigan. Outstanding rarities farther south in the settled parts of the province included Spotted Redshank and Curlew Sandpiper.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Point Pelee Nat'l Park and vicinity*); Algonquin, Presqu'île, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS TO HERONS

The 400 Red-throated Loons at Ekwan Pt. June 14 are an impressive number (AW, DGC, DHY) and the most reported. Out of season Horned Grebes were two at Presqu'île June 10 (J & EC) and one at Bronte July 15 (KAM). Observers of the adult in breeding feather at L. Shagamu R. June 28 were uncertain whether local nesting occurred (AW *et al.*). Non-breeding Red-necked Grebes lingering in L. Ontario were nine and four at Burlington and Oakville June 16 & 24 respectively (KAM), and singles at Whitby June 17 and July 10 (MJB, BH) and Toronto July 8 (RY). Another was inland at the Luther marsh, *Wellington*, June 16 (BKW, VEW), where on the same day an Eared Grebe in breeding plumage furnished only the 3rd county record (MDC, RWE). The eight Am. White Pelicans well e. of their breeding areas were the most of the last decade and were perhaps displaced by drought conditions. Three were near Owen Sound June 10 (*vide* TRM) and singles appeared at Whitby June 9–11 (KN *et al.*), Iroquois, *Dundas*, June 20 (ph. CS), Walpole I. June 26–27 (AHR), London

June 30–July 1 (SVA), and Toronto's e. Headland July 7–9 (*vide* MPW). Noteworthy sightings in the w. were of at least four birds along L. Nipigon June 5–July 17 (NGE) and six in Quetico P.P. June 12 (*vide* SFP).

Single Great Blue Herons were well n. of range at L. Shagamu R. July 11 (RHC, CEP) and Ekwan Pt. July 29 (CEJ *et al.*). Five nests of Great Egrets containing 20 young near Southampton June 28 provided the first breeding for this species in *Bruce* (DVW). The strong spring showing by Cattle Egret, including a previously unreported bird at Youngs Point, *Peterborough*, May 17–20 (DG), spilled over into summer. Three adults lingered at Kingston June 25–July 1 (WAM *et al.*), and lone birds were in Shrewsbury June 9 (TRS *et al.*) and Greensville near Dundas July 10 (NC). The Green-backed Heron in Algonquin July 9 was a good find (GF) and the lone Black-crowned Night-Heron at Wildwood L., *Oxford*, July 7 provided the first mid-summer county record (JMH).

WATERFOWL TO CRANES

Late Tundra Swans were two immatures at Long Pt. June 9 (JMH *et al.*) and three at Hurkett to June 23 (S & MB). The adult along Toronto's lakeshore July 31 had overwintered (EAJ). The unmarked ad. Trumpeter Swan at Long Pt. July 26 may have been the same bird noted there Mar. 10 (JMH). The last of the Ross' Geese to pass L. Shagamu R. on Hudson Bay were three June 5 and one June 8 (AW, NHK). A noteworthy concentration of post-breeding Green-winged Teal were 350 at Long Pt. July 26 (JMH). Further evidence of the genetic invasion of Am. Black Ducks by Mallards was the ad. female Black x Mallard hybrid with six young in Algonquin July 22 (RGT). The Park has traditionally been a barrier to Mallard incursion. Gadwall numbers continue to increase, led by the 100 at the Amherstview sewage ponds June 24 (RDW) and 70 at Presqu'île July 5 (TFMB). The female with 13 young at Tavistock June 12 provided only the 2nd confirmed nesting for *Oxford* (JMH). The ♂ Eur Wigeon at Ekwan Pt

June 12–14 was a first occurrence for the Hudson Bay Lowlands (DGC *et al.*).

The male Canvasback at Cannington June 3 was late (BH, RJP). The female Redhead with nine young at Alfred, *Prescott*, July 8 constituted a first county nesting (BMD). Other oversummering birds were at Presqu'île, where up to seven were found (SML), Wolfe I., Amherstview, Port Perry, Guelph, Damascus, and Mountsberg. A pair of Greater Scaup at Rockland, *Russell*, July 8 showed no evidence of fledged young (BMD). Others out of range were five males in Thunder Bay July 5 (NGE) and a lone male at Beaverton July 29 (BH). Some 14 Oldsquaws lingered in L. Ontario off Whitby June 29–July 31 (BH, KH), part of the small number that over-summer annually along the lower Great Lakes. The 81 Surf Scoters at Ekwan Pt. June 21 (DGC) were noteworthy, as the species is unknown as a breeder along the James Bay coast. Late Buffleheads were single males at Presqu'île June 9 (SML) and Kingston June 15 (RWO). The only confirmed nesting of Ruddy Duck came from Alfred, *Prescott*, where a pair was seen with six young July 1 (BMD).

A 4th-year Bald Eagle was in Algonquin June 1–July 31 where very rare (RGT), and single immatures flew at Pelee June 11 (JNF *et al.*), Presqu'île July 15–23 (TM), and Amherst I. Aug. 4 (JHE, RDW). Nesting by N. Harriers was reported in several locations. One pair raised two young near Ingersoll, the first there in several years (DNB), and another fledged six young at Newmarket June 28 (MF). Ten left two nests at the e. end of Amherst I. in early July (RDW) and pairs were at six sites in *Oxford* (JMH). *Oxford's* 2nd and 3rd confirmed nestings by Sharp-shinned Hawks were at Big Otter Creek June 16 and Last Concession June 24 (JMH, DSG). The lone bird at Ekwan Pt. June 19 (AW) was n. of the established breeding range. The ad. Broad-winged Hawk at Moosonee July 21 was one of a few occurrences at this far northerly site. Red-tailed Hawk breeds only sporadically along the Hudson Bay Lowlands, so the occupied nest at Ekwan Pt. this summer was noteworthy

(AW, DHY *et al.*). The only reports of Golden Eagle were of the lone adult and immature migrating W and E past L. Shagamu R. June 5 and July 10 (DJA *et al.*; AW *et al.*) respectively. In the south, Peregrine Falcons included two adults roosting on a Government building in Ottawa July 1–31 (BMD *et al.*), an adult at Golden Lake, *Renfrew*, June 2 (CM), and an immature at Huntingford, *Oxford*, July 10 (RSK). One gray morph Gyrfalcon was at Ekwan Pt. along James Bay July 31 (DS, JKC).

Farther n., at L. Shagamu R., Willow Ptarmigan were common during the period (AW) However, **Rock Ptarmigan**, known in Ontario only during winter when the species erupts into the far north, surprised observers at L. Shagamu R. Five (three males, two females) were found June 28 on dry coastal ridges (ph. AW, CSc *et al.*) where seven appeared July 15. A minimum of seven birds, but probably 11 different birds, were there. The only Yellow Rails found at L. Shagamu R. were singles June 5 & 27–28, but at Ekwan Pt., the species was common (*vide* AW). Farther south, a lone bird at Roblin June 9 (RDW) was thought to have been a migrant. *Oxford's* 5th King Rail was in the Black Creek swamp July 26 (JMH, JSk). The only Sandhill Crane report in the south was of a single at Pelee June 5 (STP).

SHOREBIRDS

Northward passage continued well into June over areas along the lower Great Lakes all the way north to the Hudson Bay coast. Single Black-bellied Plovers were last seen at Port Perry June 16 (MJB) and Thunder Bay June 17 (NGE, SVP). The only Lesser Goldeneyes noted were 600 at L. Shagamu R. June 4 (AW *et al.*) Three ad. Am. Avocets at Strathroy June 4 (DSG) remained for only a short time but another at Port Perry lingered June 8–10 (M. King *et al.*). Late Whimbrels included two at Presqu'île June 13 (SVP, WSC). The strong spring flight of Marbled Godwits continued with singles at Port Perry June 1–15 (*vide* MJB, DCS) and at Whitby's Cranberry marsh June 9 (MJB). Eight ad. Red Knots at L. Shagamu R. June 25 were very



One of seven or more Rock Ptarmigan at the mouth of the Little Shagamu River on Hudson Bay, Ontario, June 28, 1990. The species was previously known only as a winter visitor in the province. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

late (CSc *et al.*). In the south, the last Sanderlings and Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Presqu'île and Amherstview June 7 (SML) & 13 (RWO) respectively. Tardy White-rumps were 10 at Port Perry June 8 (MJB) and one at Tavistock the same day (JMH). The Baird's Sandpiper in Whitby's Cranberry marsh June 21 (BH, KH) was the only record for the spring passage, during which time the species is extremely rare in Ontario. Five Red-necked Phalaropes tarried in the Port Perry Lagoons June 1-12 (*vide* MJB) and another was at Tavistock June 5 (JMH) as a continuation of that species' strong spring flight.

Southbound littorals were both early and numerous. Five Black-bellied Plovers along Wildwood L. July 24 were *Oxford's* earliest by 10 days (JMH). Semipalmated Plovers appeared at Presqu'île July 13 (SML) and ad. Greater Yellowlegs returned at St. Isadore June 25 (BMD). The 15 Lesser Yellowlegs at Ekwan Pt., James Bay, June 15 were extremely early migrants (*AW et al.*) and the species was widespread in the south after June 25. The littoral of the season was the **Spotted Redshank** in worn breeding plumage at the Casselman sewage lagoon, *Rus-*

sell, July 19-24 (ph. BMD, TS *et al.*). It is regrettable that the name of the birder who discovered this 3rd ever occurrence in Ontario was not supplied with the record. A lone Solitary Sandpiper migrated S over Ekwan Pt. June 18 (AW), a very early date, and by June 25 others were reported in the extreme south. Single Willets, always rare in Ontario, were in e. Hamilton Bay July 15-18 (*vide* KAM) and at Ottawa Beach July 29 (TFMB *et al.*). The first migrant Whimbrel passed Ekwan Pt. June 15 (*AW et al.*), but the species was not noted farther south until July 16 when 11 passed over Algonquin P.P. for the 4th ever Park record (MK). Other groups included 12 in Presqu'île July 20 (DSh) and 22 at Alfred July 22 (JRH *et al.*). Hudsonian Godwits, staging on the Hudson Bay coast, totalled 250 & 400 birds at L. Shagamu R. July 12 & 29 respectively (*AW et al.*).

Three ad. Red Knots reappeared at L. Shagamu R. July 15 on their way S (RHC, CEP), only three weeks after the last northbound migrants were seen there. Single Western Sandpipers were in sewage ponds at Amherstview July 21 (RDW) and Cannington July 28-30

(RJP, BH), typical seasonal numbers for this rare species. Early Least included 50 at Pelee June 30 (KAM, WL) and nine at Tavistock July 2 (JMH). The first of a moderate early flight of Baird's Sandpipers appeared at Port Perry July 15 (MJB). Early Pectorals were singles at Ekwan Pt. June 15 (AW, DGC, DHY), Pelee June 30 (KAM, WL), and Tavistock July 8 (JMH). The 2nd Eurasian wader of this season was the ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** at Whitby's Cranberry marsh July 21-23 (BH *et al.*), Ontario's 5th since 1987. The intense level of birding activity in Ontario since the 1970s, with the high quality of observers, suggests that this increase is real. The 32 Stilt Sandpipers at L. Shagamu R. June 24 were very early and presaged a strong flight farther south (*AW et al.*). Some 47 were in e. Hamilton Bay July 23 (BS), and well east were 10 at St. Isadore, *Prescott*, July 30 (BMD *et al.*), and seven at Amherstview July 21 (RDW). Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers at L. Shagamu R. July 17 were very early migrants (*AW*). Spring 1990 was the first year in 10+ that Ruffs were not reported in Ontario. However, five appeared in e. Hamilton Bay June 23-July 13, two males

and three females (KAM, JP *et al.*). The resplendent black male June 23 was a record early southbound arrival in Ontario. The 17 Short-billed Dowitchers at Ekwan Pt. June 15 (*AW et al.*) were early, and others reached St. Isadore June 25 (BMD) and Hamilton June 26 (RHC). Eight Red-necked Phalaropes in the south were the most of any summer period and portend another strong autumn flight. Three and one were at Amherstview July 21 & July 28-29 (RDW) respectively. Singles were at Port Perry July 13 (MJB, BH), Lakefield July 24 (PB), Richmond July 28 (JRH *et al.*), and Hamilton July 30 (RZD).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Two light morph Parasitic Jaegers were at Hurkett, n.e. of Thunder Bay, July 15 (ERA) and an adult was found dead there July 30 (NGE). Farther n. at L. Shagamu R., ad. Long-taileds were seen June 4, 5 & 27 (DJA *et al.*). Laughing Gull sightings have numbered 10 during the past 8 summers so the three this season represented a three-fold increase. The adult at Port Rowan May 11 and Long Pt. June 5 was thought to have been the same bird (RVT, AB, IR). The others were at Erieau June 9 (TRS *et al.*) and Whitby June 22-23 (JF *et al.*). The only Franklin's Gull was an adult at Fort Erie July 25 (DC). The 17 Little Gulls in the southwest made a normal number, and one adult at L. Shagamu R. July 10 (*AW et al.*) was the only report away from the usual areas. Noteworthy Bonaparte's Gulls were the 2000 in the Beaver-ton ponds June 12 (GMB).

Ring-billed Gull nests totalled 38,000 in e. Hamilton Bay (MG) and an active Herring Gull nest at Pelee was placed 15 m up in a cottonwood tree (DGC), usually a response to disturbance by humans. The four Lesser Black-backed Gulls in *Oxford, Durham*, and Ottawa June 23-July 31 suggest a stabilization of their summer numbers. Immature Great Black-backed were singles well n. at the Moosonee dump July 7 (RHC, AW) and Ekwan Pt. July 28 (DS). Also along the n. coast were the single ad. Sabine's at Moosonee June 10 (DGC, AW *et al.*), a first for that area, and

23 adults migrating past L. Shagamu R. June 7 (AW, NHK). One adult was still there July 12 (RHC, CEP). Three ad. Caspian Terns were near Hurkett July 30, one of which was carrying food (NGE). Nesting is so far unknown from the n. shore of L. Superior. Seven northbound Arctic Terns passed Ottawa June 1–13 (BMD *et al.*).

DOVES TO SHRIKES

Mourning Dove continues its range extension. One was well n. at Ekwan Pt. June 14 (DGC, AW). The finding of a juv. Long-eared Owl in Black Creek swamp July 26 furnished one of few confirmed breeding records for *Oxford* (JMH, JSk). It is difficult to answer the question posed by some reporters with respect to the apparent scarcity of Com. Nighthawks. They were noted to be few in *Oxford* (JMH) and Peterborough city (AGC), common in the Matatchewan (LT) and Kingston regions (RDW), and not reported on in many other areas. Red-bellied Woodpeckers prospered in the southwest. Two nest sites were noted in *Oxford* (JMH) along with 10+ territorial pairs in the Grand Valley forest between Cambridge and Paris (TC). Two pairs with young were on Navy I. in the Niagara R. June 10 (RHC, JO, MEF).

Summering Acadian Flycatchers were at Pelee, Rondeau, and at sites in *Oxford*, *Middlesex*, *Brant*, and *Niagara*. Early southbound Least Flycatchers were two adults at Pelee July 4, which increased to 20 by July 21 (AW, DGC). Single W. Kingbirds were well e. of range at Long Pt. June 4 (AB, SJ) and Marathon June 14 (SVP, WSC). Tree Swallow numbers were reported lower in *Oxford* (DNB) and Atikokan (SFP), probably a result of the cold conditions during late May. At Matatchewan, cold rain during the third week of June affected swallow numbers there. From a nest box programme, 256 fledgling Tree Swallows resulted from 558 eggs (LT). The 8000 Bank Swallows at Long Pt. July 26 were also fewer than usual (JMH). The 51 Cliff Swallow nests under a single bridge at Embro June 19 were noteworthy, as the species is scarce and local in *Oxford* (JMH). The only report of

Tufted Titmouse was of a group of seven on Navy I. in the Niagara R. June 10 (RHC, JO, MEF).

Winter Wren has become a fairly common breeder in hemlock ravines along Big Otter Creek, *Oxford*, where other more northerly nesters have also moved in (JMH). One was at the n. edge of the species' range at Ekwan Pt. July 28–30 (JKC). The male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher farther n. at L. Shagamu R. June 2 (AW, NHK) was probably a spring overshoot and the most northerly occurrence of the species in North America. For the 2nd consecutive year, E. Bluebird nesting was reported to be strong throughout many counties. Two were fledged at Taquanyah, *Haldimand*, June 19 (JBM) for the first nesting there in many years, and four raised in a nest box within Toronto's High Park were the first confirmed for that city since 1929 (RY, LS). From the nest box study in Matatchewan, 157 eggs led to 64 fledgling bluebirds (LT). The Swainson's Thrush at Tavistock June 8 was record late by 6 days (JMH), and two Hermit Thrushes in the Long Sault Conservation Authority, *Durham*, during June were typical of range extensions to the s. when pockets of suitable habitat exist (LM). The ad. Am. Robin seen feeding a juv.

Brown-headed Cowbird in Waterloo May 21 (EM) was a rare occurrence, as female robins normally throw out eggs introduced by this brood parasite. Northern Mockingbird numbers increased again in areas away from the traditional southwest. Nests were reported in Ottawa, where 5 pairs fledged young (BMD *et al.*), Pickering (KH, BH), and Trent River (RH). Birds were also in Beachburg, *Renfrew*, June 1–23 (BW), Peterborough June 8–10 (DG), Whitby and Oshawa July 22–25 (WB, DVR), Thunder Bay June 2 (NGE, SVP), and Marathon to July 31 (SVP). Loggerhead Shrikes nested successfully at Evansville (DEB) and other pairs summered near Westport (NLB), Kingston (PG), and *Durham* (MJB).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

A pair of Solitary Vireos nested during the period at Komoka for the second ever breeding in *Middlesex* (PAR), and an unmated male sang at Sweaburg Station June 11–July 31 (JMH) for the first ever in *Oxford* during summer. A Warbling Vireo on territory in Thunder Bay July 1 was unusual (NGE), and a Philadelphia Vireo at L. Shagamu R. June 5 (DJA) was a spring overshoot well north. Numbers of nesting Blue-

winged Warblers continue to increase in the southwest at the expense of the Golden-winged. Some 15 new sites were found along Big Otter Creek, *Oxford* (JMH). The species occurred in 23 of 81 census plots in the Grand Valley forest in *Waterloo* and *Brant*, where it outnumbered the Golden-winged by two to one (TC). The "Brewster's" hybrid in the Long Sault Conservation Area, *Durham*, July 3 was the 2nd ever for that county (LM). One Orange-crowned Warbler in Presqu'île June 1 (DSH) was late, and a Nashville at L. Shagamu R. June 8 (DJA) was at the n. edge of its range, where breeding was not confirmed during the Atlas period. The male N. Parula in Rondeau June 10 was the Park's first ever in June (TRS, KJB *et al.*), and a Magnolia Warbler in Galt June 9 was late (TC). The Cape May Warbler at L. Shagamu R. June 2 (AW, NHK), like the Mourning there June 5 (DJA), was a spring overshoot n. of the established range.

The only Prothonotary Warbler reported was a male in the Dundas marsh July 3 (MG). Further study along Big Otter Creek has revealed 30+ pairs of Louisiana Waterthrushes nesting, which represent the species' stronghold in *Oxford* (JMH). The nesting pair of Hooded



Conflict between two male House Finches at Forest, Ontario, July, 1990. In Ontario, as in other parts of eastern North America, this species continues to expand its range. Photograph/A.H. Rider.

Warblers also along Big Otter Creek July 21 was *Oxford's* 3rd ever (JMH), and a nest with young was located in the Dundas Valley, *Niagara* (RZD). A late Wilson's Warbler appeared in Presqu'île June 10 (J & EC). Record early southbound migrants were a Tennessee Warbler in London July 9 (JC) and N. Waterthrush in Beachville, *Oxford*, July 25 (JMH).

A territorial Dickcissel was at Ferndale, *Bruce*, June 29–July 15 without evidence of nesting (MJP). Two males and a female summered near Evansville, Manitoulin I., June 5–July 10 (DEB, DEF *et al.*), but a nest could not be located. The Am. Tree Sparrow at Marathon June 20 was late in departing for the north (SVP). A lone Clay-colored Sparrow at L. Shagamu R. June 5 was noteworthy (AW, NHK), as this species is distributed in widely spaced patches through the north. The province's 16th and 17th Lark Buntings were singles at Tilbury during the week of June 12 (*vide* MPW) and near Greenbank June 23 (SW) for *Durham's* 3rd ever. The only Henslow's Sparrow reported was a male near Selby June 9 (RDW). Late White-crowns were singles at a Smiths Falls feeder June 2 (RB) and Thunder Bay June 3 (IM). Also late were a single Lapland Longspur at Ekwan Pt. June 14 (AW) and 13 Snow Buntings at L. Shagamu R. June 8 (AW, NHK).

Away from the extreme w. of the province, W. Meadowlark sightings continue to decline. Singles were reported near Lion's Head, *Bruce*, June 27 (JBM), Kemprville, *Grenville*, July 2–11 (RAB), and Warton, *Grey*, July 23 (PM). A ♀ Brown-headed Cowbird was well n. of range at L. Shagamu R. June 5 (DJA, AW). Two nests of Orchard Orioles in Toronto's High Park resulted in three and two young fledged during early July, in the 7th consecutive summer there (MWD, MPW). Another pair was thought to have nested successfully at Whitby (DB). *Oxford's* first confirmed nesting by Purple Finches occurred at Wildwood Lake during June (JMH). The spread by House Finches from urban centres to rural areas is occurring over most of s. Ontario. The 20 moving towards the tip of Long Pt.



The erratic Red Crossbill was quite scarce in Ontario this season, but this female appeared in Essex County in late June. Photograph/Anne Barbour.

July 26 (JMH) were probably dispersing after nesting. The species' amazing adaptability was responsible for one pair nesting in a factory fan duct in a treeless industrial estate within *Oxford* (JMH). Red Crossbills were extremely scarce, but one female appeared at a feeder in Cottam, *Essex*, June 22–26 (ph. TH, ABa). White-winged Crossbills departed Algonquin by early June (RGT) and the only others were one in Thunder Bay June 4 (NGE) and ten in Matchewan July 29 (LT). Four fledgling Pine Siskins appeared at a St. Catharines feeder June 6 (LG), in a rare nesting from *Niagara*.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It was a normal summer. Most of the Atlas projects in the Region have been completed and many observers took the summer off so rather few reports came in. The Tennessee Atlas is still in progress and so a disproportionate number of records came from there.

At Pittsburgh June was slightly warmer than usual, while July was a little cooler. There were no periods of very hot weather. Both months were much wetter than normal with a total of 10.83 inches of rain. At Erie June was cool and wet and July dry and warm, while in eastern Tennessee rainfall was 0.95 inches below average and temperatures were normal. This all boils down to an uneventful season, but one for which the nesting conditions were good.

The neotropical migrants that have engendered so much discussion recently seemed to be mostly in normal numbers. Normal, that is, for recent years, and in most cases much less than a couple of decades ago. On the other hand, numerous observers reported such things as Gray Catbirds, Rufous-sided Towhees, and other "common" species to be in lower than normal numbers.

The range expansions that have been a feature of recent years continue without letup. White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Blue Grosbeak are still actively moving north. But the real news is the movement of "northern" species southward. If the climate is getting warmer, these major shifts in range are unexplainable (by me at least). Readers should note particularly the swallows, the thrushes, some of the sparrows, as well as the Northern Goshawk, that have joined the movement along with the flycatchers and warblers.

There were fair numbers of late northbound migrants still coming through in early June and in particular a number of waterfowl remained in the Region through June. By the end of the period the shorebird mi-

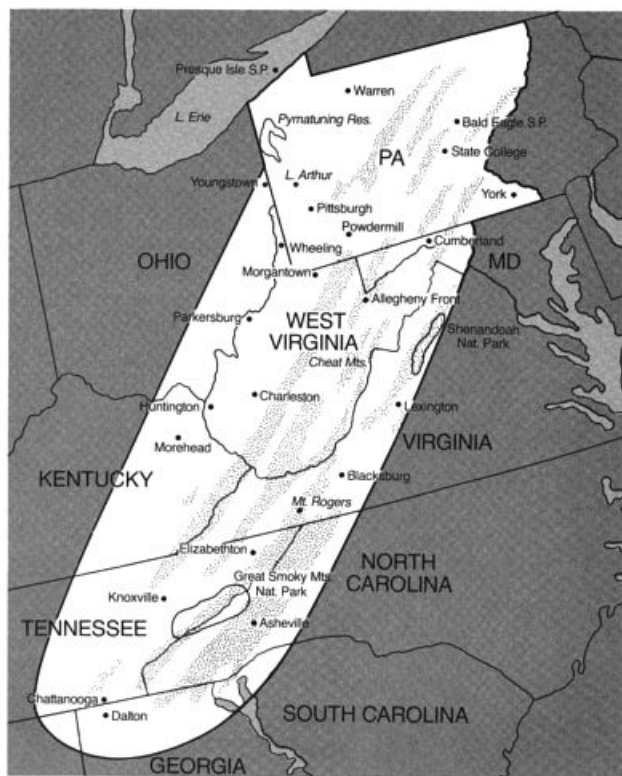
gration had started rather slowly but only a few other early migrants had appeared.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); C.F.H. (*M.E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, KY*); G.W.M.A. (*Greenbottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell County, WV*); G.S.M.N.P. (*Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park, TN*); K.S.P. (*Kingston Steam Plant, Roane County, TN*); K.C.P.P. (*Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia County, OH*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

A Com. Loon apparently summered at Cave Run L., Rowan, KY (FB). Other summer records came from the Allegheny Reservoir, Warren, PA, June 30 (KC), and S. Holston Res., TN, from mid July to end of period (BC). An *Eared Grebe* (ph.) was at K.C.P.P. July 29-30 (WA). The Double-crested Cormorant continues its expansion in our Region. A group of about 50 summered on Meander L., OH, but there was no evidence of nesting (DH, NB). Six were at L. Somerset, PA, June 6 (AM), five were seen flying over Mountain City, GA, June 2 (PR, DW), and two adults and an immature were seen on the Ohio R. near Parkersburg, WV, June 17 (PM). Other records came from P.I.S.P., one on July 24 (JM); Ft. Loudon L., TN, June 4 (BS); Tellico L., TN, July 15 (AH); and K.S.P., TN, July 15 (AH, K & LD).

With the exception of two reports from P.I.S.P., June 2 (BG) and June 30-July 9 (JM, EK), all reports of Great Egrets came from the south. Nine at K.S.P., July 17 (AH, K & LD) was the highest count. Other reports came from Cove Lake S.P., TN, July 9 (RK), *Union*, TN, June 24 (S & RSa), *Montgomery*, VA, July 9-10 (SV), *Pulaski*, VA, July 19-20 (CK), and *Highland*, VA, July 17 (LT). Two ad. Little Blue Herons and one immature were at K.S.P., July 17 & 29 (RK). A Tricolored Heron was reported from Riner, VA, July 10 (SV). Eight or 9 pairs of Cattle Egrets were nesting in a



Black-crowned Night-Heron colony at Watts Bar L., TN, June 22-26 (R & AH, RC). The only other records came from *Union*, TN, June 2 and July 2 (S & RSa). The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nested again at Elizabethton, TN (GW), and an immature was seen at Jonesborough, TN, July 9 (JB).

An unusual number of imm. White Ibises were reported from e. Tennessee: one in *Cocke* July 9 (JBO), three in *Blount* July 17, and two in *Union* July 17 (S & RSa). Two immatures (ph.) were seen at Cave Run L., KY, July 13-19 (SB). Four imm. Wood Storks (ph.) were seen in *Montgomery*, VA, July 9-15 (NW, *fide* CK), and one was seen near *Crawley*, *Greenbrier*, WV, July 17 (*fide* DP). These two localities are only about 50 airline miles apart.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS

Two Tundra Swans lingered near State College, PA, until June 10 (RH, EZ). Canada Goose continues its increase with record numbers reported on Breeding Bird Surveys in *Greene*, PA (RB), and *Preston*, WV (GAH). Numerous complaints and even lawsuits are cropping up about the geese, and in *Somerset*, PA, 117 were live-trapped and deported (*fide*

AW).

There were unusual numbers of straggler waterfowl in the Region. At Pymatuning L., PA, N. Shoveler, Am. Wigeon, and Lesser Scaup were all seen in late June or early July (RFL, RCL). A Green-winged Teal was at P.I.S.P. July 5 (JM) and a Gadwall there July 31 furnished the first summer record for that station (JM). Single Greater Scaup were reported from P.I.S.P. through July 25 (JM) and most remarkably from Cumberland, MD, June 13-July 17 (MT). Hooded Mergansers occasionally nest in the Region so summer records of females at P.N.R. June 6 (RCL), Markleton, PA, June 10 (AM), and Pymatuning L., PA, June 17 (RFL) were not unexpected. A Red-breasted Merganser was at P.I.S.P. from July 14 to the end of period (JM, EK).

Forty or more Turkey Vultures at an *Erie*, PA, landfill June 3 made an "unprecedented" number for that date (JiS). The Osprey seems to be doing well. From e. Tennessee came the report that 19 of 23 active nests at Watts Bar L. fledged young, one of three nests at Melton Hill L. fledged young, and there was an unsuccessful nest at Tellico L. (first attempt there) (*fide* CN). There was a possible nesting in *Somerset*, PA

(AW), and there were several sightings east of Erie where nesting formerly occurred (JM).

The two West Virginia Bald Eagle nests fledged five young (CS) and the *Bath*, VA, nest apparently fledged two (LT). In Ohio the nest at Mosquito L. fledged one (CB, DH), while a new nesting in *Trumbull* fledged one (DH, EB). Other sightings came from Lake City, PA, June 13 (JBa), P.I.S.P. July 21 (LM, DS), and G.W.M.A., June 10 and July 12 (MG). Northern Harriers were at Mosquito L., OH, through the period (CB, DH), and were reported from Pymatuning L., PA, July 14 (RFL) and *Somerset*, PA, July 31 (AM).

Both Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported doing well in most of the Region. Two nestings of Sharp-shinned in the Knoxville, TN, area were noteworthy (*vide* CN). A N. Goshawk nest was found in Canaan Valley, *Tucker*, WV (EM), and another was found in the Cheat Mts., WV (DM). At another Cheat Mts. location two adults and two immatures were seen on Aug. 1 (CS). Are there many more goshawks in the spruce belt than anyone realizes? A careful survey determined that there were a minimum of 40 pairs in the Allegheny N.F. of n. Pennsylvania (*vide* WH). Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks were doing well this summer at most places but Broad-winged Hawks were almost unreported.

In *Warren*, PA, 39 of 40 boxes were occupied by Am. Kestrels, but 41% of the eggs failed to hatch and 110 young were fledged, the lowest production per occupied box since the project started (B & DWa). A wild pair of Peregrines appeared at a hack site in *Pendleton*, WV, and the young birds intended for that site were added to the birds (a total of 11) hacked in the New River Gorge, WV (CS). Another pair was seen on the Virginia-West Virginia border (CS) and a pair engaged in courtship flight in G.S.M.N.P. at the site where nesting last occurred in the 1940s (RK).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

There were a few stray north-bound shorebirds still in the area in early June and the south-



In early 1990, a pair of Peregrine Falcons took up residence in downtown Pittsburgh for the first time in many years. This bird was photographed on the 44th floor of the USX Tower on August 21, 1990. Photograph/Steven T. Branca.

ward migration started as usual about July 10-15. The late stragglers included eight White-rumped Sandpipers June 4 at C.F.H. (FB) and a White-rumped Sandpiper at P.I.S.P. June 2 (JM). Except at P.I.S.P., very few of the more unusual species were reported among the July migrants. A Willet was at P.I.S.P. July 30 (JM). Migrating Upland Sandpipers were at Pymatuning L., PA, July 19 (RCL), at Clarksville, PA, July 23 (RB), and at P.I.S.P. July 26 (JM). Up to seven Whimbrels were at P.I.S.P. July 14 to July 31 (EK, JM, DS). A flock of 70 Sanderlings at P.I.S.P. July 23 (DS) was the most ever recorded there. Sanderlings were also reported from Cumberland, MD, July 15 (MT). A Western Sandpiper was at P.I.S.P. July 23 (DS). Up to four Stilt Sandpipers were at P.I.S.P. July 15-29 (JM) and two were seen at Pymatuning L., PA, July 27 (RCL). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported from Pymatuning L., PA, July 14 & 21 (RFL, RCL) and from Cumberland, MD, July 11-22 (MT, RKi).

A jaeger (sp.?—probably Pomarine) was seen for several days in late July at Deep Creek Lake, *Garrett*, MD (FP). A Laughing Gull was at P.I.S.P. June 3 (JHo),

and what may have been another one was there June 15-17 (JM). A Bonaparte's Gull at B.E.S.P. July 21 was an early arrival (MW). A Ring-billed Gull at Austin Springs, TN, June 3 was a late migrant (RK) and a Herring Gull at Deep Creek Lake, MD, July 29 furnished a noteworthy summer record (RKi).

Four Caspian Terns at B.E.S.P. June 23 (MW) were unusual in summer as was one at Parkersburg, WV, June 19 (JE). More expected Caspians were at K.S.P. July 15 (AH, K & LD) and at Pymatuning L., PA, July 24 (RCL). Six Forster's Terns were seen at P.I.S.P. June 2 (JM) and two were seen there July 23 (DS). One was reported from Cumberland, MD, July 13 (MT). The Least Tern reported in the spring account from P.I.S.P. remained at least until June 4 (Je & JiS). There were more than the usual number of spring reports of Black Terns and a few remained at 2 locations in *Crawford*, PA, until June 19 (RFL). A pair nested successfully at P.I.S.P., the first successful nesting in *Erie* since the early 1960s (JM *et al.*).

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS

At State College, PA, both species of cuckoo were in low numbers despite the gypsy moth outbreak there (JP), and a similar situation prevailed in *Shenandoah*, VA (DD). A Black-billed Cuckoo was found near Baxter, GA, June 9 (JG) and one was found at an elevation of 1650 ft in *Claiborne*, TN (R & AH).

The only nesting report of Barn Owls came from Stuart's Draft, VA (MH), and a previously known nesting site in *Rockingham*, VA, was destroyed in a church renovation (KF). Barn Owl pellets were found in a barn at Lewisburg, WV, but no nesting was known to occur (CH). A N. Saw-whet Owl was heard in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia in early June (DM). Several reporters commented on the scarcity of Com. Night-hawks, and the Whip-poor-will continues to decline. The only report of Chuck-will's-widow came from Lyndhurst, VA, where they were present until mid-July (LP).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from *Knox* (A &

RH) and *Washington*, TN (BC), *Highland*, VA (LT), 2 locations in *Trumbull*, OH (DH), and *Centre*, PA (SG). The once fairly common Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is now seldom reported from the mountain region in summer, so a report of five on Allegheny Mt., *Highland*, VA, July 10 (LT) was noteworthy.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were located at 2 places in the Cheat Mts. in early June (GAH). A late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at P.N.R. June 11 (RCL, RM). Six singing male Alder Flycatchers were on Roan Mt., TN, one of the southernmost stations for the species, and a male was found at 2800 ft in *Johnson*, TN (RK). The Willow Flycatcher continues to increase in the south, with several new locations found by Tennessee Atlas workers, and six birds were found at 5 locations near Mountain City, GA, in June (PR, DW). An interesting behavioral note came from *Radford*, VA, where three adult E. Kingbirds were observed feeding one brood of young birds (CK). Such helping behavior (if that's what it is) is not known for this species. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in *Greene*, TN, June 2 (RK).

LARKS TO THRUSHES

Horned Larks nested in *Knox*, TN, for the first time in many years (A & RH). Other summer records from e. Tennessee, in *Cumberland* (CN) and *Greene* (RK), were noteworthy. Reports of Purple Martin nestings were mixed. They were absent from *Waynesboro*, VA (RS), but there were over 200 nests in the Ona, WV, area (LW). Tree Swallow continues to consolidate its southern advance. For the second year they nested in *Macon*, NC (JS), and there were 4 nesting sites in the Elizabethton, TN, area, all established in the last 5 years (RK). There were also new locations in *Cumberland* (CN) and *Grainger* (CN), TN. There are now two Bank Swallow colonies in zinc-mine tailings in e. Tennessee, the old site with 175 nests and a new one with 200 nests (*vide* CN). Eastern Tennessee is also the scene of rapidly expanding Cliff Swallow populations (RK, CN), and the relatively new population in Beech Fork S.P., WV,

continues to increase (WA). On July 26 an estimated 6000+ Barn Swallows were roosting in the cattails at Conneaut Marsh, PA (RFL, RCL).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch in postjuvinal molt was banded at State College, where the species has not been known to nest, on July 5 (MW). The Carolina Wren continues to do well and there were 2 pairs near Warren, PA (*vide* WH), north of the usual range. A Marsh Wren was present at Mosquito L., OH, from June 11 to July 30 (DH).

In s. *Pocahontas*, WV, Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in the valleys in white pine groves, while they were absent from the high ridges which were covered with hardwoods (TF). At Waynesboro, VA, 36 nests of E. Bluebird produced 226 eggs and fledged 164 young birds (RS). The Swainson's Thrush is thought to be declining in its northern breeding range, but the extreme southern populations in the Cheat Mts., WV, seem to be doing well (GAH). One was heard singing in Linn Run S.P., PA (JW). This station is far removed from the nearest known breeding areas to the north in Pennsylvania and to the south in the Cheat Mts. A singing male Hermit Thrush at 5900 ft in G.S.M.N.P. on June 6 was a Park first (RK). This species has moved steadily south and breeding at this location can be expected soon. Numerous observers commented on reduced numbers of Wood Thrushes, and a quantitative study in Shenandoah N.P. showed a 50-60% decline in two study plots over 4 years (EF, MS).

PIPITS TO FINCHES

An Am. Pipit at P.I.S.P. July 4-10 (JM) was a most unusual straggler. Loggerhead Shrike nests were reported from *Highland*, VA (LT), *Anderson*, TN (RH), and *Loudon*, TN (RC). In the Elizabethton, TN, area the Atlasers turned up 8-10 records in 4 counties (RK). Warbling Vireo is a rare bird in e. Tennessee but it was found at 6 sites near Elizabethton (RK).

Most of the low elevation warblers were in good numbers and, with a few exceptions, the high country warblers also showed no further declines. The

range expansions southward and to lower elevations continue. Eleven Golden-winged Warblers banded at P.N.R. made a high total for recent years (RM, RCL), but the 3 or 4 pairs on Roan Mt., TN, are the only ones in that part of e. Tennessee (RK). Two territorial male Magnolia Warblers at Edinboro, PA, to the end of June (MT) were at an unusually low elevation location, as was the one at P.N.R. throughout the season (RM, RCL). The Yellow-rumped Warbler continues to be found in new places in West Virginia and should be looked for farther south. At the other extreme, the Yellow-throated Warbler continues its rapid expansion northward. Prothonotary Warblers are uncommon in this Region, so the report that they have increased at one of the few nesting sites in *Wood*, WV (GB), is good news. There was a nesting at a new *Wood* site (JE) and a pair was seen in Conneaut Marsh, PA, July 15 (RFL, RCL). A singing male Swainson's Warbler was found for the second year in *Fayette*, PA, well north of its usual range, but no evidence of nesting was obtained (DK). In *Nicholas*, WV, three to four males were found compared with the one or two in recent years (GB), and several new sites were reported from the Knoxville (CN) and Elizabethton (RK), TN, regions. A Mourning Warbler at an elevation of 900 ft in *Anderson*, TN, from June 9-16 (song recorded) (RH) may have represented a pioneering attempt at range expansion. For the first time in many years no Yellow-breasted Chats were to be found on a farm at Lewisburg, WV (CH).

At Ona, WV, N. Cardinals were reported to be at an all-time high (LW). The 17 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks banded at P.N.R. during the period made an unusually high number (RCL, RM). Blue Grosbeak has been extending its range in the lowlands, but one at the parking lot atop Roan Mt., TN, June 9 was most remarkable (BC). The only Dickcissel report came from *Augusta*, VA, July 19 (RS, MH). Vesper Sparrows at 3 sites in *Johnson*, TN, and on the Roan Mt. "balds" (RK) were unusual so far south, as were the Savannah Sparrows at Lyndhurst, VA, July 18 (RS). An



Male Dickcissel from the colony found in Belmont County, Ohio, June 22, 1990. Photograph/Mary Gustafson.

apparent territorial male White-throated Sparrow was found in a bog high in the Cheat Mts., WV, in June (DM), and a singing male was at State College, PA, June 26 (DB). Unexplainable was a singing Dark-eyed Junco in Parkersburg, WV, July 1 (JCI). On Breeding Bird Survey routes in *Jackson*, WV, the Orchard Oriole outnumbered the Northern 46 to 20 (B.B.C.F.).

The male Purple Finch (ph.) at Mountain City, GA, June 2 (PR, DW) was most interesting. The species is not known to nest south of West Virginia. Is it, too, joining the southward parade? Red Crossbill records came from near Blairsville, GA, July 11 (JG, JV), from the Chatahoochee N.F. (HD), Roan Mt., TN (RK), and *Highland* VA (LT). Pine Siskins remained as late as June 20 at Ona, WV, Parkersburg, WV, Union City, PA (JM), and *Trumbull* (DH), but the only evidence of nesting was the banding of several with brood patches at State College during June (DB). A female Evening Grosbeak remained at a

feeder in *Carter*, TN, at least through June (TMC).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

The Region has been waiting for a summer like this for years. The two-three year drought was dramatically broken as all three states received adequate rainfall. In fact it often went to the other extreme, too much rain, but it was generally most welcome. The Region was green for the entire season, a pleasant contrast to the preceding summers. Accompanying this ample moisture was a bountiful insect population! Mosquitoes and deer flies in particular were unbelievable at times. Temperatures were pleasantly cool for the majority of the period with very limited periods of hot, humid weather.

Unfortunately, the addition of this pleasant seasonal weather to the late spring produced a very quiet, even dull, ornithological show. This summer was noted for an absence of rarities plus only limited unusual sightings, numbers, and dates. For example, only twelve shorebird species extended their spring migration into June, half the number of preceding summers. There was *no* fall warbler movement during July which had been so characteristic of the preceding summers. Therefore the following report contains few surprises, few reasons for birders to become upset about missing a particular species. Instead this was a summer to enjoy the weather and the green landscape, and to savor the typical bird fare.

Abbreviations: W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, MI*); place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

The eight Red-throated Loons between June 2–5 at W.P.B.O. (staff) represented late migrants. Out of range Common Loons included one during the period at Fish L., *Dane* (BI), and two July 28 on one of Madison's lakes (PA), both Wisconsin. Unusual were two Horned Grebes in *Door*, WI, through July 2 (R & CL). Late migrating Red-



necked Grebes on L. Superior included one June 3 at Superior (RJ) and one June 7 at W.P.B.O. (staff). Eared Grebes summered in two states. In Michigan two were present until June 25 on the Dow Ponds, *Midland* (RW, MW). For Wisconsin three were discovered by Ziebell on Rush L., *Winnebago*, June 25, remaining for the duration of the period. Ziebell added a state nesting record with the discovery of **Western Grebes** also on Rush L. Ten adults spent the summer with two pairs nesting. A total of five young were raised.

After the fine spring a few Am. White Pelicans were still wandering in the eastern two-thirds of the Region. Wisconsin had a total of four birds at Rush L., Rice L., and Superior/Wisconsin Pt. All occurred during the last half of July. Michigan had a total of two at Shiawasee N.W.R. and Arcadia L., both during June. A **Brown Pelican** was seen intermittently between June 24–July 27 in *Berrien*, MI (RWi, MK, RS). All three states saw a return to the poor southern heron pattern that has typified this Region for years. The only Snowy Egrets included the nesting pair at Green Bay (maximum of three adults), and two July 26–28 at Pt. Mouillee S.G.A. The only Little Blue Herons were also in Wisconsin and Michigan. In the former one was at Rush L. July 26 (DT)

and two were at Pt. Mouillee July 26–28 (m.ob.). Single **Tricolored Herons** were found in Michigan July 22 at Nayanquing Pt. (MW, RW) and in Minnesota during late July in *Carver* (m.ob.). Cattle Egrets were found at single sites in Minnesota—*Carver* with 20+, and Wisconsin—Green Bay with 15+, nesting. Michigan had 2 sightings, with one bird at Niles and three at Pt. Mouillee. The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reported was an immature in Milwaukee July 25 (JB). Three White-faced Ibises were found June 9 in *Martin*, MN (DNR staff), with one June 19–21 at Nayanquing Pt., MI (DY, CF, JL, RWi *et al.*).

SWANS TO RAILS

Wisconsin had five Tundra Swans lingering into June with two remaining until late June in *Bayfield* (DV) and mid-July in *Portage* (MB). A pair of Trumpeter Swans in Wisconsin's reestablishment program hatched five cygnets on Oakridge L., three still surviving at the period's conclusion (JS, BB). A Greater White-fronted Goose was seen in Duluth June 9 (BS). Also representing a tardy migrant was a Snow Goose in *Columbia*, WI, on June 4 (PA). However, a flock of about 12 individuals summered in *Redwood*, MN (m.ob.). A Eurasian Wigeon was

found July 7 at the Erie Gun Club, *Monroe*, MI (KO, PC, TW). Eight Canvasbacks spent part of the summer period at 4 Wisconsin locales and one appeared in late July at Pt. Mouillee S.G.A. Out of range was a Ring-necked Duck in *Dane*, WI, June 24–July 1 (EH). Unusual were single Greater Scaup at Manitowoc June 8 (DT) and for the period in *Door* (R & CL). About 30 Lesser Scaup spent part or all of the summer in Wisconsin. Late were an Oldsquaw June 1, a Surf Scoter June 7, and seven White-winged Scoters June 2–6 at W.P.B.O. A Surf Scoter was found June 10 in *Cook*, MN. Unusual was a Bufflehead in *Dunn*, WI, June 13 (JP). Out of range nesting waterfowl included Ruddy Ducks at Pt. Mouillee S.G.A. (DB).

The Turkey Vulture is expanding its range in parts of the Region as evidenced by breeding in *Rock*, MN. Likewise, range expansion is occurring for Osprey and Bald Eagle as evidenced by breeding south of their normal range. A surprising late hawk migration was watched by Russell June 1 in Wisconsin's Rock Island S.P. when eight species totaling 123 birds were tabulated, including 110 Broad-winged, one Red-shouldered, one Rough-legged, and one Merlin. Other late migrating Rough-leggeds were found in Michigan during early

June (four birds). Hard to explain was a Swainson's Hawk found on the Oconto Falls, WI, Breeding Bird count June 10 (DT). The Peregrine Falcon reestablishment program continues to be successful with breeding occurring in all three states.

Yellow Rails were found in the northern part of all three states. Dozens were heard calling at Michigan's Seney N.W.R. (DE); a nest was discovered in *Aitkin*, MN, with the eight young successfully fledged (WN); the Crex Meadows site, WI, still had birds on June 26 (FL). King Rails were found in several Wisconsin and Michigan sites. Minnesota had two out-of-range Sandhill Cranes, June 7 in *Murray* (DNR) and July 15 in *Redwood* (KE *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS

Only 12 species continued their spring migration into June. Unusually tardy were single Lesser Golden-Plovers June 18 in *Dane* (BR) and until June 20 at *Ashland/Bayfield* (DV, RH), both Wisconsin. Manitowoc had such interesting finds as Whimbrels until June 8, and 650 Ruddy Turnstones June 1 with the last reported July 5 (CS). Late migrating Am. Avocets were found in Michigan with one June 3 at New Buffalo (DP, JG), and three June 15 & 21 at Nayanquing Pt. (RW) and Saginaw Bay (CF), respectively. Also in Michigan were four Whimbrels June 4–6 at W.P.B.O. and a Marbled Godwit June 19–21 at Nayanquing Pt. (RW, CF *et al.*). Unusually far east was an Am. Avocet nest with two young in *Clearwater*, MN (AB).

As last year, the fall migration commenced June 24. However, this year it was not as good as preceding summers, with a number of birders indicating a paucity of shorebirds—numbers and variety. Often this was caused by too much rain. (When was the last time this statement was made?) Interesting fall migrants for Michigan included single Am. Avocets July 1–4 at Dow Ponds (RW, MW, EK), July 13 at Shiawassee N.W.R. (DPe), and July 27 at Grand Mere (WB); an above-average number of Willets during July in *Berrien* (DPe, JG, RS, RSc *et al.*); a Whimbrel July 16 at St. Joseph (KM); and sin-

gle Marbled Godwits July 4 at Grand Mere (RSc, IG) and July 18 at Warren Dunes (RS). For Wisconsin the best sightings included two Am. Avocets at Madison July 9 (EH *et al.*) and one in *Winnebago* July 23 (JB), and five Buff-breasted Sandpipers July 29 in *Eau Claire* (JP).

JAEGERS TO FLYCATCHERS

A Long-tailed Jaeger was watched by the W.P.B.O. staff June 5. A Laughing Gull was observed intermittently June 2–July 10 (RS, JG, PC, VJ, TW) in *Berrien*, MI. Single birds were

found in Wisconsin at Milwaukee intermittently from late June to mid-July (v.o.) and July 15 in *Kenosha* (BR). Wisconsin had a total of 20 Franklin's Gulls reported from four sites while Michigan had two from one site. Wisconsin and Michigan each had four Little Gulls, at Manitowoc and St. Joseph/New Buffalo respectively. Wisconsin's best bird of the season was a Common Black-headed Gull discovered by Sontag at Manitowoc June 21 and 23. A 2nd-year Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Grand Mere, MI, June 21 (KM). An adult Black-legged Kittiwake was watched by the



The Great Gray Owl, found injured in Douglas County, Wisconsin, in late June 1990, was rehabilitated and was photographed on its release July 21. Photograph/Larry Semo.

W.P.B.O. staff June 5. An immature Arctic Tern was carefully studied July 15–28 at Pt. Mouillee S.G.A. (PS, RP, PC, JG).

Most unusual was an apparently healthy Snowy Owl present at the New Holstein airport, WI, June 30–July 8 (PS *et al.*). Minnesota's Burrowing Owl returned to nest in the same *Rock* pasture as last year. Great Gray Owls made news in the Region, especially Wisconsin. An injured male was discovered June 28 along a *Douglas* road. It was rehabilitated and released July 21 (LS). Only the second nesting for the state occurred this summer with the fledging of three young from their Stockton Is. nest (*vide* DV). For Minnesota good numbers were found in the traditional *St. Louis* site, with one s.w. of its normal range at Tamarac N.W.R. (m.ob.). On the negative side, none could be found at the traditional *Aitkin* site. The Chuck-will's-widow in *Polk*, WI, was present for a part of the summer (JH).

Western Kingbirds were found in all three states. The species returned to its usual *Isabella* site in Michigan (CF, JSo). One was seen June 15 in *Winnebago*, WI (DT). In Minnesota, numbers were down, especially in the s.w. corner of the state. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found July 21 in *Rock*, MN (JPa).

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

Minnesota had only its second Violet-green Swallow record (first in 1942) when one was found at Claremont July 9–11 (B & SE *et al.*). Black-billed Magpies continue to breed east of their normal range as evidenced by records from *Aitkin* and *St. Louis*, MN. A Com. Raven nest with four young in *Isanti* was south of its normal Minnesota range (JHo). Also unusually far south were Red-breasted Nuthatches present during the summer in Appleton (DT), Milwaukee (WW), and Madison (EH, PA), with three young fledged from a nest in the latter location. Carolina Wrens were reported in Michigan (four) and Wisconsin (two). A Bewick's Wren June 6–29 in *Sherburne*, MN, was a good find (BB *et al.*). There are only a few

reports Regionally in recent years for this increasingly rare species. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher continues to extend its range into n. and w. Minnesota. Also in Minnesota no fewer than four Mountain Bluebirds were found. The highlight was a breeding pair (both Mountains) near Holt. A hybrid pair (♂ Mountain and ♀ Eastern) bred in *Polk* (DJ) with a single male near Itasca S.P. during June (*vide* DBI). An injured Gray-cheeked Thrush was brought to a Milwaukee rehabilitation center June 5 (SD).

A pair of N. Mockingbirds successfully raised three young in *Marquette*, MI (NI). An individual was briefly seen June 9 in *Door*, WI (R & CL). Late were four Am. Pipits June 1–7 at W.P.B.O. (staff). Two displaying male Sprague's Pipits were watched in a *Roseau*, MN, hayfield July 28 (MO). Loggerhead Shrike nestings in Wisconsin and Michigan have become very localized. In Wisconsin all nests were found in 2 counties, with 3 of 4 nests successful in *St. Croix*, and the one in *Pierce* also successful (JS, BB). In Michigan 2 nests were successful in *Allegan* (TM). In Minnesota, several nests were found in a number of locales, but success was not reported. Non-nesting sightings included Wisconsin (three) and Michigan (one).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

The only White-eyed Vireos found were in Wisconsin at *Wyalusing* S.P. (JR) and in Milwaukee (v.o.). The Bell's Vireo picture was mixed in the Region. Good numbers were reported in Minnesota (mainly in the s.e. section), they were slightly decreased in Wisconsin, while only one was found in Michigan. Late was a Solitary Vireo in *Outagamie*, WI, until June 2 (JA). A nesting pair of Philadelphia Vireos was watched June 27 near Hubbell, MI (LB). Intriguing was a courting pair in Rock Island S.P. watched by Russell on June 3. Wisconsin has no breeding records for this species.

Tardy were Tennessee and Wilson's warblers in *Door* June 3 (R & CL) and a Tennessee in *Dane* June 6 (SR), both Wisconsin. Likewise tardy was a Bay-breasted Warbler June 5 near

Eagle Harbor, MI (LB), and a Blackpoll Warbler June 11 at Port Austin, MI (ME). South of its normal range was a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Stevens Point until July 6 (MB). Yellow-throated Warblers were found at the usual s. Michigan and s. Wisconsin sites. The **Kirtland's Warbler** proved exciting again this summer. Michigan tallied 265 singing males, a 25% increase over 1989 and the highest count since 1961. One male was found in Wisconsin's *Jackson* June 10 by Lesher, Polk, *et al.* It was banded June 11 and seen again June 14, with excellent photographs taken. This was the third straight year the state has recorded Kirtland's, although the numbers have decreased each year: 1988—eight, 1989—two, and now one.

The only Prairie Warbler sightings came from Michigan and included June 24 at Good Hope Bay (RP, JG), July 5–6 at W.P.B.O. (staff), and July 7 at Sangatauk Dunes S.P. (RS, IG). Certainly suggesting the possibility of nesting were the 35 Palm Warblers counted by Hoffman June 24 in *Lincoln* and six by Lauten July 1 in *Sawyer*, both Wisconsin. All three states had abnormally late Bay-breasted Warbler sightings. Wisconsin's occurred in *Bayfield* June 19 (RH) Minnesota's in Anoka June 30 (WL), and Michigan's on Isle Royale July 12 (RA). A Prothonotary Warbler in n.w. *Otter Tail*, MN, during the summer was north of its range (SM). Worm-eating Warblers were nesting at two *Sauk*, WI, sites, while one was found in *Ottawa*, MI. Kentucky Warblers were found in 5 Wisconsin and one Michigan counties. Hooded Warblers were recorded from 6 Wisconsin counties. The only Yellow-breasted Chats were singing males in *Brown* (MWi) and *Rock* (DT), both Wisconsin. In sharp contrast to a few years ago there was no fall warbler migration during the last half of July. Undoubtedly this was owing in part to the late spring, and thus a late nesting season.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

The N. Cardinal continues its northward expansion, as evidenced by one in Bemidji, MN, June 28 (*vide* DJ). A female Blue

Grosbeak June 9 in *Newaygo* (GW, ES, J & KN) would represent Michigan's first record if accepted by their committee. Again this summer a male was found along the Minnesota R. in *Renville* (m.ob.). Dickcissels were present in normal to below normal numbers this summer. Out of range sparrow sightings included a Clay-colored at Port Huron S.G.A. (KO) and a Field at Brockway Mt. (LB), both Michigan. Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were down in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was present June 9 at W.P.B.O. (staff, LD, TL) while birds were still present at Wisconsin's *Crex Meadows* W.A. June 26 (FL) [possible breeding?]. Again this summer White-crowned Sparrows were found in the Region. Two were found in Michigan: June 7–13 and July 2 at W.P.B.O. (staff) and July 12–13 at Presque Isle Harbor (DEw). In Minnesota one was at *Minneopa* S.P. July 3 (LF). Even harder to explain was a Harris' Sparrow found June 3 and July 20 at Minnesota's *Flandrau* S.P. (JSp). The House Finch continues its northward expansion in all three states. Red Crossbills were appearing in moderate numbers in the northern parts of all three states, a suggestion of a possible fall/winter movement. After last winter's White-winged Crossbill invasion, individuals were recorded in scattered northern counties of all three states, e.g., 47 in *Ashland*, WI (DV). However, most reports were of considerably smaller numbers. Pine Siskins lingered in several southern locales, e.g., *Madison*, WI (DC), suggesting possible nesting but none was confirmed. Minnesota recorded a first state record when a **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** appeared during late June at an Eagen feeder (RJa *et al.*).

Addendum: Too late for the spring article was a report of an impressive 1500+ Red-necked Grebes April 27 on Whitefish Bay, *Chippewa*, MI (DF *et al.*). A Mississippi Kite was found at Trout L., *Madeira*, MI, May 4 (DEw).

Corrigendum: Delete the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck seen last July in Minnesota. It proved to be an escaped bird from a

nearby farm.

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MIDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

A wet spring was followed by an even wetter summer. June's deluges erased all memories of the previous drought, producing monthly rainfall totals of 6.1 inches at Louisville, 7.85 inches across Iowa, and 11.8 inches at Kilbourne, Illinois. Flooding was a widespread problem. Precipitation was generally less prodigious during July, although local downpours produced above-normal totals in most states. Temperatures averaged near normal during both months as readings seldom exceeded 90°F for more than a few days.

This cool wet weather apparently impaired the breeding success of many birds during June. July's renesting attempts were somewhat more successful, and many passerines were still raising young as the season ended. Breeding bird atlases continued to provide valuable data on bird distribution patterns, reinforcing trends that have been evident for the past few years.

Last December's extremely cold weather noticeably reduced the numbers of some species with sizable wintering populations in the southeastern United States. For example, decreased numbers of Eastern Phoebes, House Wrens, Brown Thrashers, Chipping Sparrows, and Field Sparrows were evident in many locations. However, not all species were adversely affected by these weather conditions, and the winter of 1989–1990 apparently did not have the lasting effects on bird populations as the severe winters of the late 1970s.

Abbreviations: U.S.W.R. (*Union Slough Nat'l Wildlife Ref., IA*); S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MO*); O.W.R. (*Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., OH*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

Nonbreeding Com. Loons appeared in above normal numbers with 13 records scattered

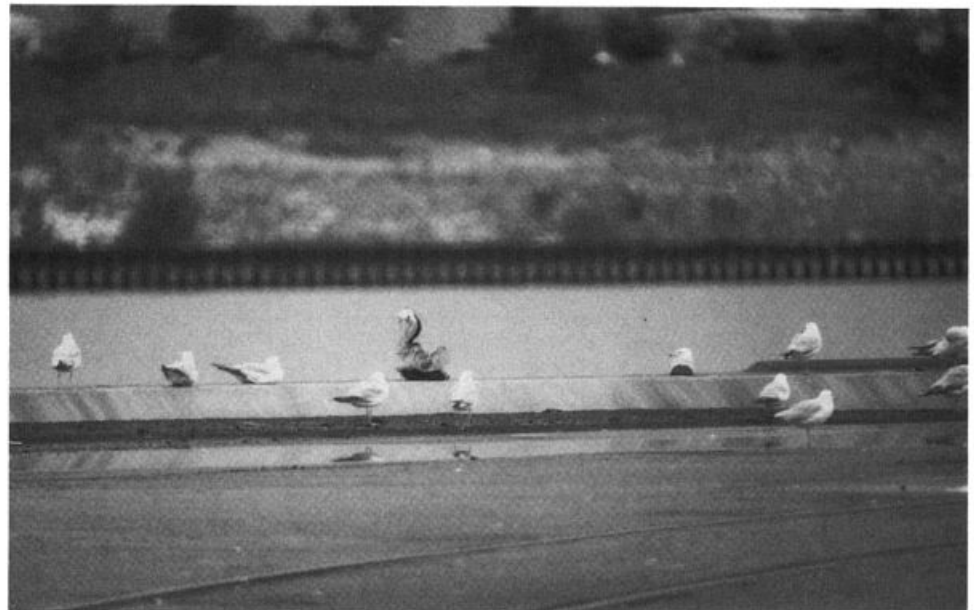


across the n. states and a maximum of five on L. Michigan. Casual summer visitors to Kentucky, two loons on Dale Hollow L. through June 30 (RHa) and one at Tompkinsville July 12 (BP) were noteworthy. Heavy rains produced excellent conditions for nesting marsh birds in n.w. Missouri where a remarkable 65 Pied-billed Grebe nests were counted at S.C.R. (RB *et al.*). Elsewhere in Missouri, where they are rare nesters, these grebes bred at Schell–Osage

W.M.A. (MMH), Ted Shanks W.M.A. (JW), and in *Carroll* (FY). Casual summer visitors to Iowa, two Eared Grebes were detected in *Palo Alto* during early June (*vide* JD), three on Little Wall L. June 6 (BE), and one at U.S.W.R. June 13 (MK). While courting individuals were noted at the first 2 lakes, nesting was not confirmed. Western Grebes are becoming rare but regular summer visitors to Iowa where singles were noted at U.S.W.R. June 13 (MK), Clear

L. July 8 (*vide* JHa), and *Pocahontas* July 12 (BE).

It was another good summer for nonbreeding Am. White Pelicans, although they were reduced from last year's record totals. There were 9 reports from Iowa with a maximum of 77 at Riverton W.M.A. July 25 (SD), while 14–30 summered at 3 Missouri locations. Two pelicans at Beverly Shores, IN, June 3 (PG *et al.*) and one at O.W.R. beginning July 21 (BM, m.ob.) were casual summer visitors to



Brown Pelican at Port of Indiana on June 8, 1990. This bird, which spent the summer on Lake Michigan, provided Indiana's fourth record. Photograph/Kenneth Brock.

those states. This spring's **Brown Pelican** spent the summer on L. Michigan where it was periodically observed at scattered locations between Waukegan, IL, and Michigan City, IN (m.ob., ph.). It furnished Indiana's 4th record. The expanding Double-crested Cormorant established 2 colonies in Iowa with 250+ pairs near Clinton (PP) and 5 nests at Coralville Res. (TKn). In Illinois, the L. Renwick colony increased to 109 nests (JM), while other large colonies are present along the Mississippi R. Small colonies were also reported from *Fulton*, *Mason*, *Cook*, and Carlyle L.

The declining Am. Bittern was represented by reports from 2 Ohio, 3 Iowa, and 3 Missouri locations. Breeding was confirmed only at Ted Shanks W.M.A., MO (PC). Four Least Bitterns in *Carlisle* June 27 (CP) provided one of few recent summer records from Kentucky. The annual survey of Missouri's heronries tallied nearly 200 Great Blue Heron colonies (JW), an indication of their continued expansion. A similar survey in Indiana yielded 56 colonies with the average number of nests per colony increasing nearly 25% since 1987 (*fide* JC). The largest colonies in Illinois totaled 911 nests in *Mason* (RBj) and 321 nests at L. Renwick (JM). Breeding Great Egrets are faring well. Illinois' largest colonies were composed of 244 nests in *Mason* and 233 at L. Renwick. In Missouri, they remained plentiful in the s.e. counties with 50-300 nests in 4 heronries, but only one small colony exists elsewhere. Snowy Egrets increased to 20-33 pairs at the 2 large mixed heronries in s.e. Missouri (*fide* JW), while the small colony on West Sister I., OH, was successful this summer.

The s.e. Missouri heronries at Caruthersville and Charleston supported 500 and 1000 pairs of Little Blue Herons, respectively, normal totals for recent years. Several pairs continued to breed on West Sister I., OH, and produced at least one young. Kentucky's 2nd **Tricolored Heron** paid a brief visit to Louisville June 19 (†LRa). The only other Tricolored noted was in *Erie*, OH, beginning July 29 (BPj, MG, m.ob.); this species usually appears somewhere along w. Lake Erie each summer.

Cattle Egrets have declined in s.e. Missouri with 1000 nests at Charleston and only 120 at Caruthersville. At least one colony remains on w. Lake Erie, while 12 pairs nested at L. Renwick, IL (JM). Increased numbers of nonbreeders were apparent for the first time in several years, producing 24+ reports with maxima of 21 at Coralville Res., IA, July 4 (TKn) and 16 in *Knox*, IN, June 4 (RHR). Black-crowned Night-Herons presented a mixed picture. Their largest colonies on both Great Lakes may be declining, while their numbers elsewhere appear to be stable. A new colony was discovered in *Hamilton*, OH (PW), and other recently discovered colonies in Kentucky, Ohio, and Missouri continued to thrive. A small movement of **White Ibises** developed during July, producing Ohio's 2nd record at Spring Valley W.M.A. July 14 (†JR), n. Illinois' first sighting at L. Calumet July 8 (†FS), and two in *Wabash*, IL, July 24-29 (†LH).

WATERFOWL

The wet weather improved breeding conditions for waterfowl. While the marshes in n.c. Iowa and along w. Lake Erie hosted their usual array of nesting ducks, few pairs took advan-

tage of the suitable habitats elsewhere. Extralimital nesting attempts by N. Pintails were reported from *Holt*, MO (DE), near Smithville, MO (MMH), and Dayton, OH (NG, CB). Breeding Blue-winged Teal were more widespread than normal in n. Missouri and portions of Illinois, and nested south to *Butler*, OH. Nesting Gadwall were discovered at S.C.R. (RB) and in *Wabash*, IL (LH); there are few confirmed breeding records in either state. Hooded Mergansers appeared at new locations as their numbers slowly increase. Broods and/or summering individuals were encountered in every state. Ruddy Ducks nested at 2 locations in *Cook*, IL (WM), where they are casual breeders.

Nonbreeding waterfowl were plentiful for the 3rd consecutive summer, particularly in n.w. Missouri and n. Iowa. A total of 23 species was reported from across the Region. Some individuals remained for the entire season, while others appearing during early June or late July may have been migrants. The most unusual records included two Am. Black Ducks in *Holt*, MO, June 25 (DE), three Ring-necked Ducks in *Muhlenberg*, KY, July 2 (RHe), and a Greater Scaup in *Cook*, IL, through June

24 (WM). An Oldsquaw at Rice L. July 29 (SD) furnished the first summering record for Iowa and the Region. Iowa hosted other lingering ducks with single Com. Goldeneyes at U.S.W.R. through June 13 (MK) and Cardinal Marsh through June 20 (DC, MH), and a Bufflehead at W. Lake Okoboji through June 10 (DK). The only summering Com. Mergansers detected were in the Chicago-Joliet area. Nonbreeding Ruddy Ducks were unusually numerous in Illinois with 11+ reports south to *Washington*.

HAWKS TO CRANES

Summering Ospreys are becoming more plentiful. Nonbreeders were encountered at 21+ locations, while there were 3 successful pairs in w. Kentucky at L. Barkley and *Livingston* (WB, BP) and an unsuccessful nesting attempt at Brookville Res., IN (BB, JCo). The news concerning Bald Eagles continued to be encouraging. Ohio's breeding population currently stands at 16 pairs (all but one along w. Lake Erie). There were 11 occupied territories in Missouri, but only 4 pairs fledged young. Seven pairs in Iowa fledged 13 young, 3 pairs in w. Kentucky were also successful, s. Illinois



Tricolored Heron in Erie County, Ohio, July 29, 1990. Photograph/Mary Gustafson.

hosted 3 nesting pairs, and one or 2 pairs were unsuccessful in Indiana. Northern Harriers have staged a remarkable comeback. Summering harriers were reported from 20+ locations in both Missouri and Illinois. Missouri observers found a total of 13 nests in *Vernon*, *Barton* (GM, KD), *St. Clair* (TT), *Harrison* (MMN), *DeKalb* (KK), and *Cedar* (EJ). In Illinois, 7 pairs nested in *Jasper* and *Marion* (SSi, RW), while breeding was also confirmed in *Saline* (TF), *Vermilion* (MC), and at *Victoria* (MB). Summering harriers were discovered at 4–6 localities in the other states, including nests in *Spencer*, IN (JT), and *Hamilton*, IA (SD), as well as probable breeders in Kentucky at *Hart* (KC) and *McLean* (RHe). For comparison, the summer of 1987 produced 2 confirmed nests, 2 probable nests, and 17 summering reports.

A survey of woodland raptors in s. Indiana produced totals of two Sharp-shinned, 47 Coopers, 86 Red-shouldered, and 78 Broad-winged hawks (*fide* JC), an accurate reflection of their summer status in that area. A Broad-winged Hawk at *Waubonsie S.P.* July 22 was suspected of nesting (TBr *et al.*), an unusual event for s.w. Iowa. It was a good summer for Swainson's Hawks in the w. states. Three nests were located near *Springfield*, MO (BJ, JW), and summering individuals were noted at 5 other locations. In Iowa, they were noted at 10 sites in 7 counties, including 2 nests in *Cerro Gordo* (CN). Two pairs also returned to the traditional breeding location in *Kane*, IL (JM). Numerous Peregrine Falcons were hacked into the Region this year, although the only summering pairs were at *Cleveland*, *Toledo*, OH, and *E. Chicago*, IN.

Last December's harsh weather apparently had little effect on gallinaceous birds. Gray Partridges increased in s.w. Iowa with nests in *Mills* and *Page* (BW). They are poised to invade n. Missouri, where one was reported from *Atchison* June 18 (DE). Ring-necked Pheasants exhibited an 18% increase in Illinois. Unfortunately, their expanding numbers cause serious problems for the remnant flock of Greater Prairie-Chickens, which was reduced to only 37

males (SSi). Missouri's Greater Prairie-Chickens remain stable, bolstered by the discovery of 2 remnant flocks in *Carroll*. Attempts to reestablish them in Iowa achieved some success as measured by a successful nest at *Ringgold W.M.A.* (*fide* JD). Northern Bobwhites experienced a good season, as indicated by increases of 20–29% in s. Indiana.

Breeding rails elicited few comments despite improved conditions within most wetlands. King Rails were limited to 2 nests in *Jasper*, IL (SSi, RW *et al.*), and summering individuals at one Ohio and 2 Illinois locations. Sora nests at *Spring Valley W.M.A.*, OH (SU, LG), and in *Butler*, OH (PW), were near the s. edge of its range. Single Com. Moorhens were reported from *Carlisle*, KY, June 27 (CP), *L. Springfield*, MO (EE), and *S.C.R.* (RB), where they are rare summer residents. Water levels at *S.C.R.* were conducive for breeding Am. Coots, and an impressive 76 nests were tallied (RB). Extralimital summer records included 20+ coots in *Butler*, OH (m.ob.), and one at *Reelfoot N.W.R.*, KY, June 13 (BP). Up to three Sandhill Cranes summered in *Wayne*, OH, but did not successfully breed. A pair of cranes remained into June near *Rittman*, OH (JWe *et al.*), where second-hand reports indicated they may have nested in previous years. Elsewhere, a pair of courting cranes was observed in *Kane*, IL, through June 16 (EW), while single nonbreeders were discovered in Iowa near *Princeton* June 11 and at *Riverton W.M.A.* June 12 (*fide* JD).

SHOREBIRDS

This summer's abundant rainfall and subsequent flooding created substantial habitats for returning migrants. These migrants were apparently widely dispersed among the flooded fields, since their southward passage failed to produce any sizable concentrations. In w. Iowa, a pair of Piping Plovers successfully produced young at the *IPL ponds* (B & LP *et al.*), while the success of 4 territorial pairs in *Sioux* was not determined (BH). Migrant Piping Plovers appeared at single sites in Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio July 17–29, normal numbers for recent



Adult Laughing Gull at Headlands Beach State Park, Ohio, on July 1, 1990. More than the usual number appeared in the upper Midwest this season. Photograph/Larry Rosche.

years. Missouri's first breeding Black-necked Stilts were discovered at 3 widely distributed locations in s. *Stoddard*. Active nests were found on levees bordering rice fields. Two nests apparently produced young (BJ). Given their expanding populations, their appearance in s.e. Missouri was not completely unexpected. An Am. Avocet at *Waukegan*, IL, June 19 (RK) may have been a very early fall migrant. A mediocre flight developed later with 4 other sightings from the n. states and a maximum of 10 at *Red Rock Res.*, IA, July 16–22 (AJ).

Breeding Upland Sandpipers were well reported from Iowa and Missouri and an impressive 70 were tallied near *Joliet*, IL (BG *et al.*). The largest July flock totalled 15 in n.w. Indiana. Migrant Whimbrels were recorded at 3 Great Lakes locations July 14–26. Since they are casual inland, two at *Big Island W.M.A.*, OH, July 14 (MG) were noteworthy. Easily the most unusual shorebird this summer, a Long-billed Curlew at the *IPL ponds* July 4 (†RS, †TBr) furnished Iowa's first record since 1932. Two Dunlin

summered at *O.W.R.*, a fairly regular event along w. Lake Erie. The only Com. Snipe nest discovered was in *Lucas*, OH (GD). Missouri's first summering snipe was noted in *Sullivan* through July 15 (SY); despite observations of courtship behavior, no nest was found. A Com. Snipe at *Burnham*, IL, June 9 (WM) and one in *Hardin*, KY, June 3 (KC, AW) were late or summering. Pairs of Wilson's Phalaropes in Iowa at *Cerro Gordo* (*fide* JD) and *Colo* (HZ) were suggestive of breeding, but no nests were discovered. Small numbers of migrants were scattered across the n. states beginning June 23 at *Chicago*. A late Red-necked Phalarope appeared at *Spfld.* June 7 (DB).

GULLS, TERNS

Laughing Gulls appeared in above-average numbers, producing one L. Erie and 4 L. Michigan reports and inland singles at *Alton*, MO–IL, June 2 (BEs), *Louisville* June 28 (LRa), and *Fulton*, IL, July 22 (RCh). A few Little Gulls were detected along both Great Lakes. Two different individuals were noted at *Headlands S.P.*, OH, July 3 and July

17–22 (TL *et al.*) and two graced the Wilmette–Waukegan, IL, lakefront July 16–17 (EW). As expected, migrant Bonaparte's Gulls accumulated along both Great Lakes during late July and a few strayed inland. Small numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls summered along both Great Lakes with a maximum of seven at Cleveland and one report from L. Michigan. An imm. Great Black-backed Gull summered at L. Barkley, KY (BP, LRa, ph.), furnishing one of very few summer records from the interior of the Region.

Caspian Terns were encountered in small numbers with the largest July flock totalling 33 on L. Michigan. The news on nesting Com. Terns along L. Erie was somewhat encouraging. Approximately 60 pairs in *Erie*, OH, produced 30+ young, while two young were raised at O.W.R. The colony at Waukegan, IL, was also active, but its success was not determined. Summering Forster's Terns were widespread in Iowa, but the only nests discovered were at Hottes L. (SD). July migrants along the Great Lakes peaked at 110–123. High water levels on the Mississippi R. delayed the nesting attempts of Least Terns. Some pairs tried to nest in sandy farm fields, but were not successful. After the floods subsided in late June, 550–600 pairs nested along the river in s.e. Missouri and another 170 pairs in *Fulton*, KY (RR). Three pairs also returned to L. Gibson, IN (JC), producing scattered sightings in adjacent Illinois. They apparently did not nest in w. Iowa this year. Extralimital Leasts were singles at Little Wall L., IA, June 6 (BE), Colo, IA, June 13 (HZ), and *Dearborn*, IN, July 20 (PW), and three at Lizard L., IA, July 12 (BE). At least 3 pairs of Black Terns nested in *LaPorte* (JC), furnishing n.w. Indiana's first confirmed breeding record in several years. There were very few summer reports elsewhere, an ominous sign for this beleaguered species. Migrant Black Terns appeared in late July, peaking at 23–30 in the n. states.

CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS

Both cuckoos were generally scarce, a trend that has been apparent for several years. Sum-

mering Black-billed near Marion, KY (BP), Springfield, KY (RHe), and Charleston, IL (BHu), were noteworthy near the s. edge of their range. Greater Roadrunners persist in s.w. Missouri where there were 6 reports from *Taney* (PM, JHy) and single sightings in *McDonald* (BS) and *Stone* (DBI). Barn Owls remained stable in Ohio at 13–14 pairs (JH, *vide* MG). In Missouri, they were "numerous" in the s.e. counties and there were isolated records from 3 other counties (*vide* JW). Elsewhere, nesting pairs were discovered at 4 counties in Indiana and 2 Illinois sites. The only nesting Long-eared Owls produced young in *Noble*, IN (TH). Breeding Short-eared Owls found habitats to their liking in Illinois and Missouri. Illinois observers discovered an incredible 13 nests in the *Jasper/Marion* area (SSi, RW *et al.*), 2 nests in *Vermilion* (MC), and one nest in *McLean* (RSz). Missouri's first breeding records since 1972 were provided by 2 nests in *Putnam* (CW *et al.*) and single nests at *Taberville Prairie* and *Cedar Creek Natural History Area* (KD). Breeding was also suspected in *Barton* (GM) and *Shelby* (JJ), while there were summer records from 2 other counties. The only other summering Short-eared appeared in *Van Buren*, IA, June 16 (AJ).

Chuck-will's-widows were generally noted at traditional breeding locations, although 2 nests in *Muscatine* (*vide* PP) were unexpected in e. Iowa. An impressive 169 pairs of Whip-poor-wills were tallied at Sand River S.F., IL (RBj). The combination of severe winter weather and high water levels during summer have decimated Belted Kingfishers in Ohio. Red-headed Woodpeckers may be declining along the e. edge of the Region. Rare but regular summer residents in n. Iowa, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested at *Allamakee* (JLH) and *Effigy Mounds* (DC), and summered near Algona (MK). A sapsucker at Chicago June 21 (KH) was probably a nonbreeder.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher near Milan, MO, June 21 (JHi) was a nonbreeder. Acadian Flycatcher nests in *Winnebago* (DW) were noteworthy for n. Illinois. As expected, a few Least Flycatchers were scattered across

the n. edge of the Region. One summering at Spring Valley W.M.A., OH (LG), was s. of its normal range. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers possibly declined in Missouri, and the only extralimital individual wandered to Warren, IN, June 6 (†Haw *et al.*).

Purple Martins received mixed reports, but the cool wet weather caused poor breeding success in most areas. An adaptable pair of N. Rough-winged Swallows nested in the wall of a barn in Russell, KY (MS). July peaks of Bank Swallows totalled 1000–2000 in Indiana and Illinois. Cliff Swallows colonized new locations and expanded at existing colonies, and are no longer rare in most areas. A migrant flock of 500 Cliffs at Brookville Res., IN, June 2 (NK) was locally unusual.

NUTHATCHES TO WARBLERS

The only Red-breasted Nuthatch noted was in Lucas, OH, June 15 (TK). A Brown Creeper in *Orange* June 25 (TLa) was unexpected in s. Indiana. Carolina Wrens quickly recovered from any losses of last winter and were thriving in most states. Improved numbers along the n. edge of the Region included scattered wrens north to Algona, IA (MK). The news was somewhat encouraging for the beleaguered Bewick's Wren, particularly in Kentucky, where small breeding populations were discovered in *Trigg* and *Lyon* (BP) and isolated nests were found in *Pendleton* (LM), *Marshall*, and *Caldwell* (BP). They were also reported from *Owen*, *Marion*, and *Washington*, where nesting was suspected. They exhibited a preference for rural farmlands, especially recently clear-cut hillsides where the deadfalls were placed in numerous piles. In s.w. Missouri, where Bewick's Wrens are still fairly widespread, there were records of 16 wrens in *Dallas* and seven in *Taney* (JHy, PM). A single Bewick's Wren wandered north to *Lee*, IA, June 11–21 (†RC, m.ob.). Breeding Winter Wrens were restricted to ne. Ohio with reports from established sites and a pair in *Summit* June 17 (LR).

A family group of five Golden-crowned Kinglets was found in *Lucas*, OH, beginning July 6 (TK). Since the young

were already flying well, they were not necessarily raised in the area, although the extensive pine plantations certainly seem suitable for them. Ohio does not have a confirmed breeding record for these kinglets. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers increased along the n. edge of the Region with reports north to *Kosuth*, IA (MK). Nesting success of E. Bluebirds was reduced in some localities by the wet weather. Veeries remain widespread along the Region's n. margin, but their numbers have apparently declined in some states. A Gray-checked Thrush in Ft. Wayne June 22 (†Haw) furnished a first mid-summer record for Indiana. Hermit Thrushes are increasing in s.e. Ohio with 14 males counted in *Hocking* this summer (LG). The plight of the Wood Thrush merits attention; this species is declining very rapidly in many areas. Northern Mockingbirds fared well in most states with declines evident only in Iowa. Loggerhead Shrikes remain stable in Kentucky, Missouri, and s. Illinois. Reports from 19 Iowa counties and 19 locations in n. and c. Illinois were encouraging, but only 2 sightings and one nest from Ohio indicated they are on the verge of disappearing from the state.

Bell's Vireos declined in s. Missouri, but similar trends were not evident elsewhere. They were found in 11 Iowa counties north to *O'Brien* and *Butler* (JLH), while other records at the margins of their range included a nest in *Crittenden*, KY (BP), the regular pair at Buck Creek S.P., OH (DO), and one in the Indiana Dunes June 24 (DP). Two Solitary Vireos summering in w. Kentucky at Pennyryle S.F. (BP) were far removed from their normal breeding range.

Two Blue-winged Warblers in *Stone* S.P. (BH) furnished one of few summer records from n.w. Iowa. Single Tennessee Warblers in *Summit*, OH, June 15–20 (LR) and *Lucas*, OH, June 27 (TK) were casual nonbreeding summer visitors. A Chestnut-sided Warbler nest in *Pope* (TF) furnished one of few breeding records from s. Illinois, but was not too surprising given the population breeding in s. Indiana. A Magnolia Warbler at Evanston, IL,

June 27 (EW) was a non-breeder. Black-throated Blue Warblers were represented by a late migrant at McKinneysburg, KY, June 9 (LM) and an early migrant at Waubonsie S.P., IA, July 26 (BW). Other nonbreeding warblers included up to two Yellow-rumped at Chicago through June 30 (KH *et al.*) and single Blackburnians at Canton, OH, June 16 (BBa) and Chicago June 23 (JP). Casual breeders in s.e. Ohio, Blackburnians nested at one *Hocking* location (WR, *fide* LG) and probably nested at another (ES, BPj). Expanding within the n. states, Yellow-throated Warblers were found in *Winnebago*, IL (DW), and *Lake*, OH (BPj), and the first n.e. Illinois nest was confirmed in *Grundy* (JM). Nesting Prairie Warblers in *Vermilion* (MC) were unexpected in c. Illinois. Cerulean Warblers were reported in reduced numbers in several states.

Territorial Black-and-white Warblers were noted at unexpected locations in w. Iowa, c. Illinois, and w. Ohio, but nesting was not established at any of these areas. Prothonotary Warblers near Algona (MK) and in *Mills* (DR) were outside of their normal range in Iowa. Summering Worm-eating Warblers in *Knox*, IL (MB), and *Lake*, OH (BPj), were north of their normal range. Northern Waterthrushes are rare residents in n.e. Ohio, where two were found in *Portage* (LR). Summering Mourning Warblers returned to *Portage*, OH (LR), while one in *Fulton*, OH, June 11 (TK) may have been a late migrant or a summer resident.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Summer Tanagers were reported only from established locations at the n. edge of their range. The rapidly expanding Blue Grosbeak returned to traditional locations at the n. edge of their range including *O'Brien*, IA (JLH), *Will*, IL (JM), 3 sites in n. Indiana, and *Lucas*, OH (TK). Dickcissels were plentiful in Illinois as illustrated by 600+ estimated in *Mason* during June (KR). Fifty Dickcissels summering in *Ohio* furnished a sizable total for Kentucky (KC).

Iowa's 2nd Green-tailed Towhee was belatedly reported from w. Des Moines during the

last week of May and first week of June (†CQ, ph.). The news concerning Bachman's Sparrows was not good. Only a single bird could be found in s.w. Missouri. Rare summer residents in n. Illinois and Iowa, two Clay-colored Sparrows were noted at Rockton, IL, July 1 (DW), one summered in *Will*, IL (EW, JM), and one appeared in *Kossuth*, IA, June 21–24 (MK). The status of breeding Vesper Sparrows in n. Missouri has been recently clarified. They are presently common north of a line extending between *Shelby* and Smithville as exemplified by 50+ sightings from *Harrison* (RF). Rare summer residents in Kentucky, a pair of Lark Sparrows nesting in *Monroe* (BP) furnished that state's first confirmed breeding record in a number of years, while there were also reports from *Muhlenberg*, *Washington* (RHe), and *Calloway* (BP). The grassland sparrows generally fared well. Savannah Sparrows summered south to *Fayette*, KY (J & MFl), and *Livingston*, KY (BP). Henslow's Sparrows were numerous in n. Missouri, but their numbers may have been reduced elsewhere. There were reports from 4 Kentucky counties, 2 sites in n. Illinois, and one s.e. Iowa county, while fewer than normal were detected in Ohio and Indiana. A late White-throated Sparrow lingered at Chicago until June 17 (EW). A nonbreeding individual remained at Headlands S.P., OH, June 24–July 14 (BPj, MG, m.ob.). The latest White-crowned Sparrow appeared in St. Joseph, MO, June 2 (J & PV). Nesting Dark-eyed Juncos were found in *Ashtabula*, OH (WD). One in *Marshall*, IN, June 29 (BL) was probably a nonbreeder.

Single W. Meadowlarks in *Erie* June 19, *Medina* July 8 (TB), and summering in *Portage* (LR) were unusual in n.c. and n.e. Ohio. They were also detected at 4 sites in n.e. Indiana. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were unusually plentiful in Iowa and n. Missouri, reflecting the suitable habitats widely available in both states. Great-tailed Grackles had a good year in Missouri where 100+ nested at S.C.R. (m.ob.) and there were scattered reports east to *Harrison* (MMN) and south to *Barry* and *Jasper* (JS, JK). A nest was reported

from Lakin Slough, IA, during May (JD, SD), but none was found in the state during June and July.

A ♀ Purple Finch with young in *Hocking* (JF) provided the first indication of nesting in s.e. Ohio. Nonbreeding Purple Finches were casual visitors to Chicago June 21 and July 6 (HR) and Iowa City, IA, July 10 (SS). House Finches have conquered the w. states as evidenced by 900+ reports from Missouri (*fide* JW) and an estimated population of 2000 in Davenport, IA (PP). A few Red Crossbills appeared during July, beginning July 1 at Illinois Beach S.P., IL (*fide* EW). Other singles were noted at Rippey, IA, July 16 (SL), Carroll, IA, July 29–31 (SSc), and Salem, MO, July 16–17 (LMC), while three appeared at Algona, IA, July 7–9 (MK). Hopefully, these summer records indicate a larger flight will follow during autumn. After last winter's invasion, Pine Siskins bred at Danville, IL (MC), Ames, IA (JD, SD), and Sioux City, IA (SM), while flying young in *Seneca*, OH (TB), and Louisville (BP) may not have been produced locally. Summering siskins were detected in Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, primarily as nonbreeding singles. These records extended south to Cincinnati (*fide* NK) and Springfield, MO (DD).

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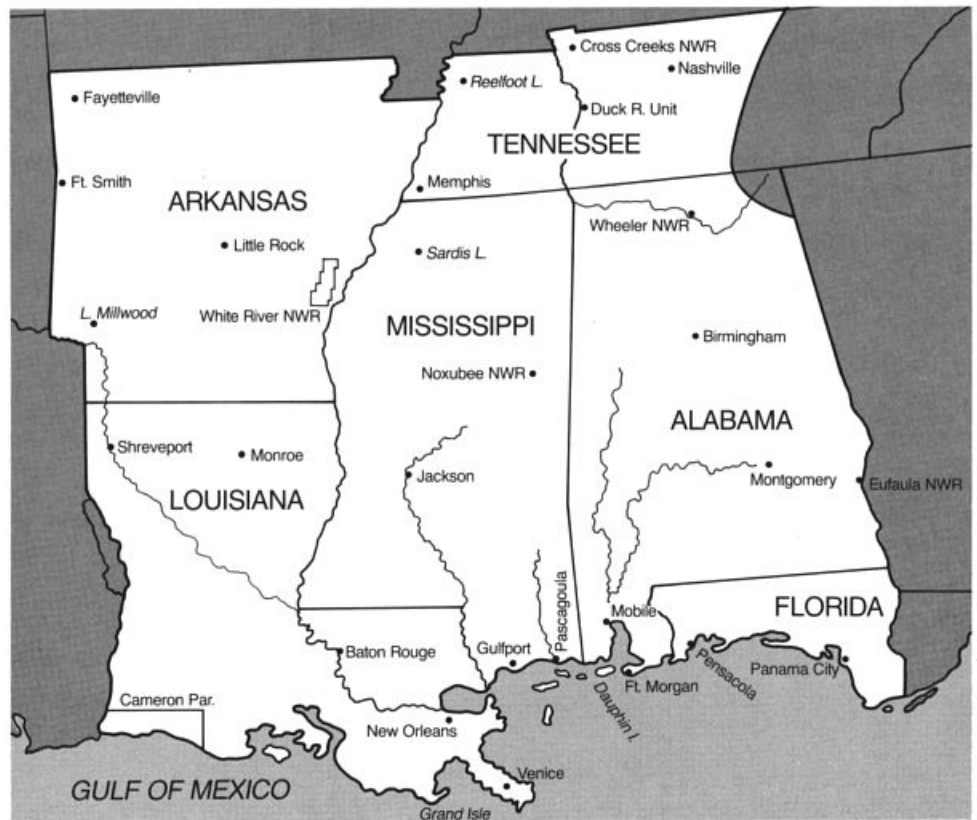
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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Robert D. Purrington

It is with pleasure and anticipation that I begin a summary of the breeding season, after 22 years of editing the fall report. And while I will rarely indulge myself by writing in the first person, I do want to make several comments, and to propose some changes in direction. But I should be remiss if I failed to offer, in the name of birders in the Region, our thanks to Jerry Jackson for his 12 years of service as the Regional Editor for the Breeding Season.

Some have thought me of unsound mind for moving from the most exciting season of all, the fall, to the substantially more predictable breeding season, but I answer them by noting that in addition to the non-breeding pelagics, post-breeding wanderers, early migrants, opportunities for vagrants, and so on, the "breeding season" is biologically the most significant of the seasons, and the one which has the greatest potential for providing information which may shed light on population changes, range expansion, etc. It also offers, at least in principle, the best opportunity for being quantitative in discussing these phenomena by taking advantage of state breeding bird atlas projects, Breeding Bird Survey data, Nest Record Card information, and so on. It will not be trivial to make use of these data in writing this report since the observers involved are not normally used to submitting such data to *American Birds*, unless rarities are involved. Over the next few years I hope to encourage state BBS compilers, bird atlas coordinators, and others with such data, to make at least summaries available in time for the writing of this report. Interpreting these data will be another matter. But I strongly urge those within hearing who are generating or have access to data on the availability of wild food crops, the effects of low or high water levels, including storm tides, to share them with me.



I hope this epistle will be taken as a call to arms, in a sense, to provide more meaningful quantitative breeding data, especially through censuses of several sorts, that will fill gaps in our knowledge of the breeding birds of the Region. Anyone who continues birding through our oppressive summers knows that while the conditions may be far from ideal, there are rewards, and that almost every trip afield yields some interesting data. As much as is known about the breeding birds of the Region, there is that much more to be learned.

Although we do not yet know what form our gradual conversion to use of computers in the accumulation of bird data will finally take, all of us should be thinking about the possibilities for more efficiently accumulating, summarizing, and transmitting bird records. Already many of us are using BASIC programs or spreadsheets or database programs to help organize our observations. More will be heard about this in future reports, but observers should be encouraged to submit records on floppy disk (in ASCII form), and sub-regional editors will be encouraged to do the same. We encourage anyone with creative

ideas on how this all might be implemented to contact one of the Regional Editors. Data in machine-readable form, at least for the present, should supplement, rather than replace, the time-honored 3x5 cards.

Even though identification problems do not play as large a role in the breeding season as in some others, they are most assuredly present, and the efforts to encourage accurate identification and detailed reporting should continue. Anyone who has been involved with this process as long as I knows how much higher are the standards of identification and reportage than they once were. Everyone benefits from this and we should all, expert and neophyte, gladly provide detailed reports on all important records. Extraordinary records without thorough documentation cannot be published.

I thought it might be interesting to separate breeding records from the others which fall into this time period; whether such a division will be well-received, I cannot guess, and I may only attempt it this one time, but it does dramatically illustrate the fact that we need to be devoting more time to the study of the breeding birds of the Region;

breeding records represent fewer than half of those submitted.

As a final comment, or appeal for forbearance, allow me the observation that the distribution of migrants, or, for example, winter residents, Regionwide, is much more uniform than the breeding populations, especially in a Region which includes the Arkansas Ozarks and the coastal barrier islands. This puts a much greater burden on the Regional Editor in his attempts to evaluate breeding season records. The solution is for the observers and the sub-regional editors to supply the needed background information.

As is so often the case in this somewhat sprawling Region, weather conditions varied, especially from north to south. Along the Gulf Coast it was hot and dry, with shorebird localities in the Pascagoula River Marsh totally dry, while in Arkansas it was also hot, but precipitation was above normal.

Richard Martin of the Louisiana Natural Heritage Foundation conducted a census of waterbird colonies in Louisiana, tallying a total of 359,223 nesting pairs; the details are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of 1990 Louisiana waterbird nesting colony survey. Entries are numbers of pairs. Source: Richard Martin, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Brown Pelican	2,196
Olivaceous Cormorant	2,755
Anhinga	245
Great Egret	43,194
Snowy Egret	18,992
Little Blue Heron	23,220
Tricolored Heron	22,907
Reddish Egret (7 colonies)	34
Cattle Egret	30,154
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5,993
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	136
White Ibis	73,775
<i>Plegadis</i> sp.	6,255
Roseate Spoonbill	1,119
Laughing Gull	29,025
Gull-billed Tern	163
Caspian Tern	670
Royal Tern	30,025
Sandwich Tern	46,560
Forster's Tern	3,625
Least Tern	2,230
Sooty Tern	20
Black Skimmer	5,410
Total	359,223 pairs

Nesting Records, or Records Suggesting Nesting

GREBES TO IBISES

The status of Pied-billed Grebe as a breeding bird in the Region points up an interesting issue which arises in the case of somewhat rare and local breeding birds. This summer one juvenile was reported July 15 & 19 from *Lauderdale*, AL (PDK, DEK), evidently the result of local breeding, and a pair was reported from Marion, AL, July 22 (GDJ, DGJ); the species breeds rarely in Alabama. On the other hand, a July 23 report of one in *Putnam*, TN (SJS), was considered an early fall arrival; and no specific reports were received from coastal Louisiana, although I can attest that at least locally (*Orleans* and *Lafourche*) Pied-billed Grebes experienced good breeding success. Do we receive reports only from the marginal areas? Probably so. Brown Pelicans received considerable media attention in Louisiana this season as fishermen destroyed one nesting attempt at the mouth of the Mississippi R. by removing dozens of eggs from the pelican

nests, and an early storm brought high tides which interrupted nesting on the main breeding island, Queen Bess I. Brown Pelicans nested for the first time on Grand Gosier I. in the Chandeleurs, which was one of 3 new colonies, and were nesting on North Is. and on Timbalier I. as well. The 6 Louisiana colonies contained 2196 pairs according to Martin.

At L. Millwood, AR, where Double-crested Cormorants have been recently found breeding, 8 nests with incubating birds were counted June 10 (CM). There were 5 reports of Great Egrets from *Washington* and *Chicot*, AR, between June 7 and July 8, dominated by 60 on 2 stops of a BBS route in *Chicot* (DRS, CS), plus one from *Calhoun*, MS, June 24 (WMD), for the first June record there. Nineteen Snowy Egrets were seen on the same *Chicot*, AR, BBS route mentioned above (DRS, CS). Another at Noxubee N.W.R. July 15 (TS) was considered "early," evidently post-breeding. Two Little Blue Herons were reported as arriving July 15 at Noxubee N.W.R. (TS), in an area where they have previously nested. Of Tricolored Heron there was one inland report, of a "rare summer visitor" at Memphis, TN, July 11 (MGW). A

single adult Black-crowned Night-Heron in *Washington*, AR, July 6 (JCN) raised the possibility of nesting; nesting records of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons included a carefully watched pair in *Panola*, MS, from May 29 to July 14, which fledged three young on the latter date (WMD); and an adult and immature July 22 & 29 in *Putnam*, TN (SJS). Although White Ibises were present during the first 2 weeks of June at L. Millwood, AR (CM, m.ob.), peaking at 102 on June 10, no evidence of nesting was obtained. Helen and Max Parker speculated that nesting apparently occurred, and added that numbers during the nesting season were the greatest ever. There are no confirmed nesting records for Arkansas. The sighting of a single immature in *Lauderdale*, AL, July 25-29 (DCP, PDK, DEK) was unexpected for the Tennessee Valley, and 11 immatures at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, July 26, following breeding elsewhere, were notable because of the species' scarcity this summer. Two Tennessee records, July 2 in *Lake* (WGC) and July 10 in *Putnam* (SJS), were unusual.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS

Up to seven Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Lacassine Pool June 2 & 20 (AWK, KVR, JH) were in an area where they appear to have become established (*vide* SWC, DLD). Perhaps not belonging in the breeding section of this report was a Greater White-fronted Goose in *Benton*, AR, June 4-July 25, which arrived in the spring and "became socialized with the resident flock of domestic geese" there—the first summer record for the state. Nesting reports of ducks included a male Blue-winged Teal possibly paired with a Wood Duck at L. Millwood, AR, July 8 (CM), good Wood Duck nesting success from *Grenada*, MS (WMD), and 40-50 adults and young Wood Ducks associated with 19 nest boxes at the Waveland Lagoon in *Hancock*, MS (JAT). Although only a local indication of breeding success, Mottled Ducks seemed to have done well in freshwater habitat in *Hancock*, MS, based on 30 seen there July 19 (JAT, JRP,

MB, MP). Small numbers of Blue-winged Teal remained to breed in the coastal marsh of s.w. Louisiana; two females with broods of four and eight chicks were seen near Cameron June 24 (SWC, DLD). Three records were received of single Hooded Mergansers which might or might not suggest nesting: a male June 4 & 26 in *Benton*, AR (MML), an immature in *Putnam*, TN, on June 8 & 10 (SJS), and another in *Washington*, AR, July 15-22 (MML).

Although it ultimately failed (apparently), an Osprey nest in *Lafayette*, MS, observed from June 22 to Aug. 3 (WMD), was the first known nesting in that area to have progressed to hatching. There were several breeding season records during precisely the same period on Beaver L. in *Benton*, AR (JCN, MGP). A pair successfully nested at Black L., *Natchitoches*, LA, where they have apparently bred the last several years, fledging one young (CV); one at the Bonnet Carre Spillway on July 28 (RJS) may have been breeding locally. What one was doing on an oil rig in the Gulf about 98 miles south of Morgan City, LA, June 1 (RM) is anyone's guess. Upstaging other records of Am Swallow-tailed Kite, from Louisiana and Mississippi, were 32 near Marengo, AL, July 2 (RRS), including 27 at one time, and 19 in the same area a week later. The previous maximum for the state had been eight.

Reports of Mississippi Kites included one in Arkadelphia, AL, well east of the center of its distribution (TAI, BHJ), and 14 in *Pulaski*, AR, July 15 (WMS, MW). During a 17-day survey in June and July of the Tombigbee River bottoms from *Itawamba* to the Alabama border, only three Mississippi Kites were seen (TS): June 15 and July 18 in *Louises* and June 27 in *Monroe*. Schiefer had one other record, in *Calhoun*, MS. Of a half-dozen reports of accipiters received, 4 were from Arkansas: a Cooper's Hawk in *Washington* July 6, a Sharp-shinned Hawk in *Scott* July 24 (DJ), and unidentified accipiters in *Newton* July 1 and in *Washington* July 5 (JCN, MGP). An adult Cooper's Hawk was seen in *Putnam*, TN, on 5 occasions between June 23 and July 29 (SJS) and a female was

seen 5 times throughout the period at Reserve, *St. John the Baptist* (RJS). Although summer records of Swainson's Hawk have been increasing in n.w. Arkansas, according to Neal, the sightings July 18 in *Washington* (JCN) and July 1 in *Benton* (MMI) were notable.

GALLINULES TO OWLS

The only reports of Purple Gallinule submitted were from Noxubee N.W.R., between June 10 and 23 (TS, GW)—there was apparently only one previous record for n.e. Mississippi; and from near-coastal Kiln, MS, July 19 (JAT, JRP, MP, MB). Common Moorhens were reported from the breeding season from L. Millwood, AR, June 10 (CM, DH) and from *Chicot*, AR, June 24 (DRS, DU); their nesting in eastern New Orleans was apparently quite successful. In spite of human interference, Wilson's Plovers seemed to have had good nesting success along Fourchon Beach, *Lafourche*, LA, as evidenced by over 100 there July 8 (DM, RDP). Two at the Bonnet Carre Spillway on July 15 (RJS, MW) would have been unusual at any season at this inland location, and especially so in the breeding season. Perhaps the result of increased breeding populations of Black-necked Stilts along the coast were inland records which included the first Mississippi nesting away from the coast, in *Bolivar* from June 14 to July 27 (JCH, NH, TM—12, eggs and fledged young), and on July 17 in *Chicot*, AR, where four adults exhibiting territorial behavior were seen (DRS).

Gull-billed Terns nested for the second year on the roof of the UNO lakefront arena in New Orleans (AS, GS), and this year several pairs nested on a shopping center roof-top in nearby Metairie (GS, AS, RDP); these are the first known roof-nestings of Gull-billed Terns. An article in the forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* will describe the 1989 nesting and a concurrent Texas rooftop nesting. Martin found 163 pairs nesting in coastal Louisiana in his censuses of waterbird nesting colonies; at least 20–25 pairs were on Curlew I. Martin recorded 30,025 pairs of Royal Terns and 45,560

pairs of Sandwich Terns in his censuses. O'Mealie estimated about 20–25,000 individuals of each species on Curlew I. Martin found 20 pairs of Sooty Terns on S. Gosier I., and others recorded about 10 nests, including six chicks, and approximately 70 adults on Curlew I. In recent years, free of battering by tropical storms, Curlew Island has grown to over 6 miles in length. A concomitant effect has been the lush growth of woody vegetation (especially *Baccharis*) which provides excellent cover and nesting sites for Laughing Gulls, whose numbers have exploded on Curlew (it should be noted, however, that although there were an estimated 40,000 on Curlew this season, Martin's total of 29,025 pairs is essentially the same as Portnoy's 28,043 pairs obtained in 1976). Perhaps because of Laughing Gull predation, or because of habitat lost to encroaching vegetation, large new colonies have become established on nearby Grand Gosier I. Approximately 6000 pairs of Least Terns nested in the Gulfport, MS, sanctuary (JAT), and by July hundreds of adults and young could be found on Fourchon Beach, LA, having somehow nested in spite of the devastation caused by off-road vehicles; inland, one was seen in *Benton*, AR, June 4 (MMI) and four were in *Chicot*, AR, July 17, at mile 509 in the Mississippi River (DRS). While there is usually a large colony nesting there, according to Simons, the high river level made that impossible.

The Eur. Collared-Doves which have been present at Ft. Pike, *St. Tammany*, LA, since the summer of 1988 continue to thrive, but the LBRC has voted not to add the species to the state list because of doubts about their origin. Ron Stein and Melvin Weber report that Com. Ground-Doves, which had previously bred regularly in small numbers in the Reserve area, LA, are no longer present. It was speculated that the severe Christmas freeze of 1989 might provide an explanation. Two reports of Greater Roadrunner were received from Louisiana: a pair near Oakdale on June 4 (JMB, KVR) and a single bird in *Sabine* June 23 (GO). Three Barn Owl nestlings banded in *Perry*, AR, July 13 (KW) were

the result of the first known nesting for the county.

FLYCATCHERS TO WAXWINGS

Although Willow Flycatcher breeds south to Tennessee, it is a rare breeder in middle Tennessee; one singing in *Dekalb* June 7 was notable. Four adult Scissor-tailed Flycatchers which fledged three or four young near Florence, *Lauderdale*, AL (DCP, DHP, PDK, DEK, GNP, m.ob.) represented the state's first nesting. The Purple Martin roost at the south end of the L. Pontchartrain causeway in Metairie, LA, has become a local tourist attraction, featuring benches and grandstands, and drawing as many as 2000 spectators on a summer evening, complete with picnic paraphernalia. The birds roost on the sides and undersides of the causeway structure, and number between 25,000 and 100,000 individuals during July. By late June, Purple Martins had begun staging in coastal *Cameron*; 300+ were observed heading southwest out over the Gulf near dusk June 23–24 (DLD, SWC). Reports of Tree Swallows included the first nesting record for *Putnam*, TN, June 2–July 19 (SJS, ph.). Approximately 12 juveniles fledged in *Baxter*, AR, July 4 (JG), having been raised in bluebird boxes at Gaston's White River Resort, and at least five juveniles were seen in *Carroll*, AR, July 14 (MMI), suggesting local nesting. The nesting of Cliff Swallows under the Highway 82 bridge over Luxapalila Cr., Columbus, MS (six adults, 8 nests), noted July 18 (TS), represented the first area nesting; migrants to Noxubee N.W.R. seen July 23 (TS) were the earliest ever there by 3 days. Thirty to 40 pairs were nesting at 6 sites in *Natchitoches*, LA (CV), where breeding has been known since 1986, and nesting along US 90 east of New Orleans continued to expand, with at least 600 nests counted July 1 (DM, NN). The actual number of breeding pairs is not known, but must have been at least 200. Although there were several tantalizing "scares," no definitive evidence of Cave Swallows was found.

A single Fish Crow near the Tombigbee R. in *Monroe*, MS, June 27 (TS) represented the first county record and the

northernmost record for north-east Mississippi. The species has apparently spread up the Tombigbee River. While a Bewick's Wren noted (seen and heard) on the Embury BBS route, *Webster*, MS, June 2 (TS, MC) evidently furnished the first summer season record for the state in a number of years, at least 11 House Wrens were noted in Cookeville, TN, between June 16 and July 23 (SJS). The 2 reports of Sedge Wren, July 21 in *Washington*, AR (MMI), and July 22–31 in *Putnam*, TN (SJS) could have been of early fall migrants [although late-summer breeding is known in some regions]. Gray Catbirds again summered, and apparently bred, on Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, LA, for the fifth year; four were seen, including two juveniles that seemed to belong to 2 separate nests, on Aug. 12 (DM, RDP). Although there have been recent nesting season sightings, a catbird seen carrying nesting material on July 7 in *Jackson*, MS (RK), represented the only recent evidence of likely nesting. Ten reports of Cedar Waxwings were received, including the first and second breeding records of Cedar Waxwing for Mississippi, obtained during atlas work from different localities in *Okribbeha* (TS). The evidence included nest building at one site and an adult feeding recently fledged young at the other. A nest with egg in *Henderson*, TN, June 27 during atlas (CHB, DPB) represented the second western Tennessee nesting. Other records suggestive of nesting included two in *Colbert*, AL, June 11 and a total of three in *Lauderdale*, AL, June 14 and July 15 (PDK, DEK), two in *Shelby*, AL, June 19 (TAI), a pair in *Cherokee*, AL, July 5 (BS), and one July 8 in *Washington*, AR (MMI).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

At least three Warbling Vireos, including an adult feeding a fledgling, were seen in *Hardin*, TN, June 15 (TMH, JG). Although there have been tantalizing suggestions of the nesting of Black-whiskered Vireos in s.e. Louisiana during the past 20 years, perhaps the strongest evidence was obtained this season, based on the observation of one July 8 (DM, GC, RDP), one or

two July 15 (NN, RDP) exhibiting behavior that suggested feeding of young or bringing food to an adult on a nest, and two at the same location on Aug. 12 (DM, RDP). A single Chestnut-sided Warbler in *Marion*, AL, June 9 (PDK, WJR) and 3 records of single Cerulean Warblers in *Howard* and *Clark*, AR, between June 2 & 8 (HP, MP) were submitted without comment. This writer does not know whether these were possible nestings, but then quite possibly the observers did not either. Still, a certain amount of explanatory or interpretive detail would be helpful. Two nests of Worm-eating Warbler were reported from *Franklin*, AR: one found May 22 (PFL) fledged four young by the 28th or 29th, and another found May 29 (PFL) fledged five young. Although Swainson's Warblers breed regularly in the coastal plain of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and as far north as the Ozarks of northwest Arkansas, reports from *Garland* in west-central Arkansas June 3 (HP, MP) and from *Carroll* in the n.w. part of the state between June 2 and July 14 (MMI) were notable. One in *Lauderdale* in extreme n.e. Alabama June 10 (PDK, GNP) was the first there in 75 years. Also suggesting nesting was a "pair" of Ovenbirds seen and heard in *Tallapoosa*, AL, June 1 (BS), the second consecutive "summer" record at this locale.

An adult ♂ Scarlet Tanager was seen in *Grenada*, MS, July 28 (RR), perhaps the first summer record for the county. Singing ♂ Painted Buntings in *Loundes* and *Oktibbeha*, MS, in early June (MFH, TS) were in areas where nesting is local and sporadic. Reports of Bachman's Sparrow included 21 on the Lattimer BBS route in *Jackson*, MS, June 9 (JAT, JRP), considered low numbers in what is prime habitat; new breeding sites in *Webster* and *Oktibbeha* in n. Mississippi (TS, MC); and a new site in *Jefferson*, in n. Alabama (TAI), where the species is rare. The 2 reports of Rufous-crowned Sparrow were from the classic Mt. Magazine site in *Logan*, AR, with two reported May 27 (JCN) and a single bird June 25 (KM). Very rare for n. Alabama was a Lark Sparrow at the Seven Mile Island WMA,

Lauderdale, July 25 (PDK).

One does not report with much enthusiasm 3 new records of **Shiny Cowbird** for Louisiana: June 2–July 14 at Reserve (RJS, MW), July 15 in *St. Tammany*, involving a singing adult male and a female (DM, GC), and July 2 (MM) in eastern *Orleans*, also an adult male. There are now 6 Louisiana records. Single adult ♂ N. Orioles seen in *Putnam*, *Williamson*, and *Coffee* between June 2 and July 31 were in areas of middle Tennessee where nesting is rare. The only reports this season of House Finch were of a male near the LSU campus June 20 (DCM, KVR, JMB, TSS, AWK), the third summer record for the state (and suggestive of nesting), and another male at Gulfport July 6 (OP, *vide JAT*), the second nesting season record there without evidence of breeding.

Non-breeding Records

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

There were 2 reports of summering Com. Loons: *Baldwin*, AL, June 10 (GDJ, DGJ) and Ft. Pickens, *Santa Rosa*, FL, July 20–21 (DM). Reports of summering N. Gannets included 27 at Ft. Morgan, AL, June 9 (GDJ, DGJ), mostly second-summer birds, one in *Santa Rosa*, FL, July 21 (DM), and at least nine injured birds brought to the Audubon Zoo bird rehabilitation center in New Orleans, apparently from Mississippi Sound. A live first-summer bird was seen in *Cameron*, LA, July 29 (SWC, DLD). Single imm. Masked Boobies were reported between July 19 & 21 near Ft. Pickens, FL (DM). American White Pelicans were seen in *Garland*, *Pulaski*, and *Chicot*, AR, between June 2 and July 3 (WMS, AP, JB, DRS), and summering numbers in coastal *Lafourche*, LA, during June and July were in the hundreds, exemplified by 600 there July 8 (GC, DM, RDP).

An Am. Bittern in *Little River*, in extreme s.w. Arkansas, June 17 (PL, BL, CM) was evidently only a remarkably late migrant. Also remarkable were seven Cattle Egrets over the Gulf 98 miles south of Morgan City, LA, June 1 (RM), al-

though perhaps we should not forget how they got here! Although they nest commonly only 75 miles to the southwest of *Hancock*, MS, in the Mississippi River delta of Louisiana, a single *Plegadis* ibis there on July 20 (JAT) furnished only the second local summer record. Reports of post-breeding Wood Storks were highlighted by a very early adult in *Hempstead*, AR, June 8 (CM), and 125 (90% juveniles) in *St. Martin*, LA, June 9 (MJM).

A ♀ Black Scoter at Rutherford Beach, *Cameron*, LA, June 23 was probably the bird also seen there July 28–29 (SWC, DLD); this was the first Louisiana record between May and October. A ♀ Surf Scoter at the same location June 23–24 (SWC, DLD) was perhaps the third "summering" for Louisiana, and one near Cat Island, MS, July 8 & 15 (JB) was the 2nd in summer for coastal Mississippi; three Red-breasted Mergansers were in *Santa Rosa* July 20 (DM).

SHOREBIRDS

Basic-plumaged Lesser Golden-Plovers in *Jefferson Davis*, LA, June 19–July 1 (KVR) and in *Cameron* July 28 (DLD, SWC) were far outside their normal migration period and evidently summered locally. While single Semipalmated Plovers were early in *Benton*, AR, and at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, on July 23 (TS), the latter being earliest ever by 7 days, three Piping Plovers in *Garland*, AR, July 21 (BL, PL) joined only a handful of previous records for the Ouachita Mtns. Among "midsummer" coastal Louisiana reports were one at *Cameron* July 15 (KVR), one inland at the Bonnet Carre Spillway July 20–21 (RJS, MW), and 32 on Curlew I. July 31 (RM). Greater Yellowlegs reached middle Tennessee and northern and coastal Mississippi between July 15 & 20; Lesser Yellowlegs were about a week earlier, reaching Starkville, MS, by July 7 (TS), by 3 days earliest ever, and coastal Waveland, MS, July 15 (JAT). In *Washington*, AR, two Solitary Sandpipers were early on July 8 (MMI). Most unusual were approximately 20 Willets in *Benton*, AR, June 21 (JCN); Willets would not be expected inland anywhere in the Region in mid-June, but

especially not in extreme n.w. Arkansas. Nearest breeding is probably in Colorado.

The first southbound Spotted Sandpipers reached the Region by July 4 (*Washington*, AR—MMI), and the coast by July 15 (*Hancock*, MS—JAT). Whimbrels, which are rather rare migrants through the Region in fall, were seen in Memphis, TN, where one was present July 21–31 (BBC, MG, JW), and there were seven in *Cameron*, LA, July 28–29 (SWC, DLD) and five on Curlew I. July 31 (RM). On the same date, and on Curlew, I., were four Long-billed Curlews (RM); they had been seen a month earlier as well. In s.e. Louisiana, this species is only found in summer in the Chandeleur Is., and then only occasionally. A few Sanderlings summered, as usual, on the beaches of coastal Louisiana, with numbers rising to 116 in *Cameron* July 24 (SWC, DLD). All individuals seen by Cardiff and Dittmann on June 23–24 were oil-stained; one near Maurice, *Vermilion*, LA, June 1 (KVR, AWK) was in an unusual inland location. A single Sanderling still in alternate plumage on July 21 (MMI) in *Washington*, AR, was early and notable for n.w. Arkansas.

Records of Semipalmated Sandpipers in *Washington*, AR, July 8 (MMI) and at Starkville, MS, July 17 (TS) were both early, as were sightings of a Least Sandpiper in *Putnam*, TN, July 2 (SJS), in *Washington*, AR, July 4 (MMI), earliest ever for the state, at Starkville on July 9 (TS), the earliest for that area by 8 days; and a W. Sandpiper was there on July 17 (TS). Late spring migrant White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at Starkville June 3 (TS) and in *Benton*, AR, June 14 (MMI). Individuals in *Jefferson Davis*, June 19–July 19 (KVR) provided the first conclusive evidence of summering in Louisiana, although Rosenberg had birds in the same area last year on July 2 & 9, and there were five on Curlew I. on July 8, 1989 (RDP), which did not reach print. By over 2 weeks the earliest in fall for n.w. Arkansas was an adult Baird's Sandpiper in *Washington* on July 29 (MMI); also early was a Pectoral Sandpiper in *Benton* July 11 (MMI), but the species had reached the Gulf Coast in *Han-*

cock, MS, by July 19 (JRP, MP, JAT, MB). Dunlin rarely linger along the coast and so are not seen between June and September; this year up to six were seen in *Jefferson Davis* between June 19 and the end of July (KVR), the first real summering in Louisiana, and six were reported from Curlew I. on July 31 (RM). A Stilt Sandpiper in *Cameron* July 1 (RS, MW) was the earliest fall migrant for Louisiana. An adult ♂ Ruff, molting into basic plumage, was seen at Vincent Refuge, *Jefferson Davis*, LA, July 19 (KVR); a sighting 1½ miles away on July 29 was presumed to be of the same bird.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

A first-summer Pomarine Jaeger found at *Cameron*, LA, July 15 (CAM, KVR, JMB, TSS) was still there July 28 (SWC, DLD). The first summering record of Laughing Gull for the *Lauderdale*, AL, area was established by one there July 15–25 (DCP, PDK, DEK); three Franklin's Gulls were seen in *Pope*, AR, on the late date of June 1 (CM). As many as 11 Ring-billed Gulls "summered" near Sardis Dam, *Panola*, MS, June 5 to July 21 (WMD), the second such occurrence in 25 years. A first-summer Herring Gull at Beaver Lake Dam S.P., AR, June 2 (MML) provided the first summer record for n.w. Arkansas. A subad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen on Fourchon Beach, *Lafourche*, July 8 (GC, DM, RDP), the first July record for s.e. Louisiana and the 3rd or 4th "summer" record for Louisiana. A "mated" pair of black-backed, yellow-footed gulls seen and photographed in coastal Louisiana in 1989 (LO'M, RDP) and this year on June 22–24 (LO'M, JG), may have been Kelp Gulls (*Larus dominicanus*). They had massive bills, red orbital ring, and very black mantles. It should go without saying that the identification is tentative at best and subject to review by experts and the LBRC. It was this writer's opinion that in 1989 there had been three birds, and indeed, this year a similar-looking black-backed gull apparently mated with a Herring Gull and produced a single offspring, which was photographed! It was the first

nesting of Herring Gull in Louisiana, whatever the full parentage may have been.

Caspian Terns were seen in *Pope* and *Hempstead*, AR, in early June (CM), and small numbers in *Benton*, AR, June 21 (JCN) and at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, 2 days later (TS) were considered southbound migrants. Non-breeding Common Terns seem to be summering in coastal Louisiana in increasing numbers; in *Cameron* totals were 116 June 10–11, 369 on June 23–24, and 1014 on July 29 (SWC, DLD). Numbers on Fourchon Beach grew to at least 200 at the end of the period (DM, NN, RDP, DC). Arctic Terns were again recorded in *Cameron*, LA, in early summer, evidently representing late spring migrants "that have become trapped in the Gulf" (SWC, DLD). One immature was found June 10 and two adults were there June 23 (DLD, SWC, ph.), for the 3rd and 4th state and Regional records. An Arctic Tern was also reported from the Mississippi R. in *Lake*, TN, near Tiptonville (WGC). Documentation I managed to see suggested Arctic Tern, but did not include observation of the underwing pattern. The record is presently being considered by the Tennessee rare bird committee. This would be a first Tennessee record. Inland records of migrating Forster's Tern included one in *Pope*, AR, June 1 (CM) and four in *Benton*, AR, June 26 (MML); and there were sightings from *Chicot*, AR (DRS), *Starkville*, MS (TS), and *Putnam*, TN (SJS), between July 17 & 24, all adults, apparently migrants. Black Terns in *Benton* and *Washington*, AR (MML), and *Ok-tibbeha*, MS (TS), July 11 & 12 were early southbound migrants; whether two at L. Millwood, AR, on June 1–2 (CM) were northbound is anyone's guess. Six in *Benton* June 21 (JCN) might have been early fall migrants.

CUCKOOS TO FINCHES

A Black-billed Cuckoo at Ft. Morgan June 2 (EMW) was latest ever for the Gulf Coast of Alabama. Arkansas, improbably enough, now has 3 records of Green Violet-ear! This summer a male was present in *Newton*

July 6 to 23 (SB, DB, DJ, RC, m.ob). Documentation was thorough and diagnostic, ruling out all other species. Latest ever in spring for Louisiana was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in *Cameron* June 4 (DLD, SWC). Early Bank Swallows were seen migrating in *Noxubee*, MS, July 22 (TS) and in *Washington*, AR, July 25 (MML). One of the most remarkable reports was a detailed description of a Yellow-green Vireo seen well at Willow I., *Cameron*, LA, June 3 (DLD). This would be a first state record if accepted by the LRBC. Two Black-and-white Warblers at Grand Isle July 8 (RDP, DM) were the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana.

If anyone needs to be reminded that birds can fly and may turn up *anywhere*, consider the Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco found by Margaret Floyd at her feeder in Crowley, LA, July 3, and seen by her husband Marty the next day! There is one Louisiana specimen, collected by Horace Jeter over 30 years ago, but of course no previous summer record! A Pine Siskin at a feeder in Covington, LA, June 3 & 7 (JFH, JH) was the latest for Louisiana by nearly 3 weeks. There were 2 reports of lingering Am. Goldfinches: A female at Biloxi, MS, June 15 (MB), the latest ever, and a male with a deformed bill at feeders in Lake Chicot S.P., AR, "all summer" (DRS, CFS).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolph F. Koes and Peter Taylor

Extensive rainfall across most of the Region in June replenished soil moisture levels and provided for luxuriant growth, a welcome change from the drought of the last several years. Flooding in Alberta destroyed many waterfowl nests, but there was much re-nesting. Only southeastern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan continued to be dry. As a result of the rains, the number of July ponds across the Prairies was up 39% over 1989, although still 17% below the 1961–1989 average (C.W.S., U.S.F.W.S.). Breeding numbers of Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, and Canvasback showed marked increases over last year, but only Green-winged Teal and Gadwall were above long-term averages. Blue-winged Teal and Lesser Scaup continued to decline (C.W.S., U.S.F.W.S.).

Swainson's Hawks had very low productivity in Saskatchewan, and there is great concern about the Common Nighthawk in the Region. The familiar "peenting" sounds on a summer evening are becoming a thing of the past in many cities. On a more optimistic note, Loggerhead Shrike and Baird's Sparrow appeared to have a reasonably good year, and the Manitoban warbler record-book was rearranged by David Hatch and Martin Siepmann.

Abbreviations: C.W.S. (*Canadian Wildlife Service*); Oak Hammock (*Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area, MB*); P.P. (*Provincial Park*); U.S.F.W.S. (*United States Fish and Wildlife Service*).

GREBES TO RAPTORS

Three pairs of Clark's Grebes, each with small young, at the Valeport Marsh July 29 provided Saskatchewan's first breeding record (BL, BK). Least Bitterns were prominent in s.e. Manitoba, with two birds near



Spruce Siding May 29 (GS, FS), singles at Oak Hammock June 4 (RK) and July 21 (GG), and two at Birds Hill P.P. June 12 (RK). Up to seven Cattle Egrets were at Oak Hammock from July 19 into August (RP, BB, GG *et al.*). While three Green-backed Herons in Manitoba were not unexpected (PH, L & JH, AC, LL), an adult **Green-backed Heron** at Weaselhead Natural Area, Calgary, July 4 provided Alberta's 2nd confirmed record (AS, m.ob.).

Breeding of **Cinnamon Teal** in Saskatchewan was confirmed July 29 when a female with seven young was seen at Nicolle Flats, near Moose Jaw; a pair had been seen there June 7 (BL, BK). Rare ducks included a Eurasian Wigeon at Beaverhill L., AB, June 18 (JT) and a King Eider at Churchill, MB, from June 12 to July 6 (DH, RK, m.ob.). Outside their breeding ranges were 200+ Bufflehead at Cowoki L. near Medicine Hat, AB, June 30 and July 15 (DBa), three Com. Mergansers at Beaverhill L. June 11 (JT), and a Red-breasted Merganser near Lac La Biche, AB, June 9 (JT).

Cooper's Hawks may be increasing in s. Manitoba, with 3 nests in Winnipeg and several other sightings (m.ob.); a nest was also found in Medicine Hat May 27 (M & DS). Swainson's Hawks fared poorly in s.

Saskatchewan, capping the "worst four-year production (1987–1990) in 19 years" according to Stuart Houston (192 young from 113 nests in 1990). Wayne Harris described it as a disastrous year, with only 137 young fledging from 325 nests he checked. Ferruginous Hawks fared better, with Harris and Houston recording 225 young raised at 122 nests, and 157 at 58 nests, respectively. In Manitoba, only 28 of 56 nesting Ferruginous Hawk pairs were successful, with 78 young banded and a few missed (MiC, KDS). Merlins had their poorest success in 5 years in the Saskatoon area (SH), but average success in the Raymore-Cudworth area of Saskatchewan (WH). Merlin productivity was not determined in Winnipeg, but 10 nests indicated a well-established population now (MBo, NG, RK). Two young Peregrine Falcons from a Calgary nest were killed in collision with high-rises, and the third disappeared (*vide* RD). Prairie Falcons gave cause for concern in Saskatchewan, with only one nest along the S. Saskatchewan R. from Saskatchewan Landing to Beechy (SH).

SHOREBIRDS TO SWIFTS

While for the first time since 1986 no Snowy Plovers were

found in Saskatchewan, Alberta's 4th **Snowy Plover** (second confirmed) was at Chappice L. near Medicine Hat June 6 (WS, ph.). Mountain Plovers were found near Wild Horse, AB, from June 19 to July 1 (HM, MaC). Other rarities included six Black-necked Stilts near Fox Valley, SK, June 17 (JE, *vide* TH) and one near Tilley, AB, July 13 (WS), a partial albino Stilt Sandpiper at Dawson L., AB, July 10 (JS, FW), and single Red Phalaropes at Oak Hammock June 7 (Mba *et al.*) and Little Quill L. July 18–22 (TH, BK, BL). The last-named bird was Saskatchewan's sixth.

The only noteworthy gull reports came from Manitoba: four California Gulls at a Winnipeg dump June 22 (PT, DF), a second-year Iceland Gull in Winnipeg June 8 (RK, SC), up to three Iceland Gulls at Churchill in early July (DK, RK, m.ob.), and a Glaucous Gull in Winnipeg June 3 (RP). A Caspian Tern near Hanley, SK, provided the first local June record (BG).

Between May and July a record 585 juv. Great Horned Owls from 233 nests were banded in s. Saskatchewan (SH). After nesting of N. Hawk Owl was first documented in Churchill last year, 3 nests were rumoured this year as well as a Great Gray Owl nest (m.ob.). Unfortunately, no details were received;

lack of documentation on sightings in the area continues to frustrate the Manitoba Bird Record Committee. Burrowing Owls continue to decline; in the Regina, SK, study area 40 pairs, half the number present in 1987, experienced 50% nest failure (PJ). Only 19 nests were found in Manitoba, but productivity was good with 17 successes and 94 juveniles banded (MiC, KDS). Four adults and 48 young from vulnerable nest-sites in Saskatchewan were released near Broomhill, MB.

Long-time birders believe the Com. Nighthawk is in trouble in the Calgary area (*vide* RD); the species was "down somewhat" in Medicine Hat (DBa) and is increasingly rare in Winnipeg (m.ob.). A city survey in Saskatoon turned up 26 territorial males compared with 48 in a smaller area in 1971 (JW, S.N.H.S.). A Whip-poor-will and a Chimney Swift at Tobin L., north of Carrot R., SK, June 9 were both locally rare (SS).

WOODPECKERS TO VIREOS

A Red-headed Woodpecker showed up at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, July 11 (KC *et al.*), and pairs were observed near Govenlock, SK, June 30 (WH) and for the 4th consecutive year near Estuary, SK (BC). "Western" Flycatchers caused confusion in the foothills west of Calgary by producing calls of Pacific-slope Flycatcher rather than the expected Cordilleran Flycatcher calls (DC *et al.*). Good numbers of Violet-green Swallows were reported at Medicine Hat, with several new nesting sites discovered (DBa).

After at least 7 unconfirmed or poorly described sightings of N. Wheatears at Churchill since 1968, a bird was well documented on June 9 (KE *et al.*). Northern Mockingbirds nested at Cavendish, a deserted Alberta oil-town near Bindloss (MO, m.ob.); one fledgling was seen Aug. 4 (MO). Another pair shared the Red-headed Woodpeckers' shelter-belt near Govenlock June 30 (WH). Also near Bindloss, a singing ♂ Sage Thrasher was a good find June 16 & 19 (MO), and the Medicine Hat breeding site was occupied for the 3rd consecutive year (WS, MW). Another Churchill rarity was the area's

3rd Sprague's Pipit July 5 (MA *et al.*).

Loggerhead Shrike surveys were undertaken in all three provinces. Doug Collister banded 29 adults and 277 juveniles at 61 nests n.w. of Medicine Hat (white band on right leg; left leg in 1989). Wayne Harris located 241 nests in s.w. Saskatchewan and the Last Mountain L. area; with 879 young, productivity was above average. In s.w. Manitoba, 542 young were banded at 153 nests; these numbers were down a bit (MiC, KDS).

Yellow-throated Vireos were found feeding at least one young in Moose Mountain Park June 25-26, and a fledgling was seen July 5, providing Saskatchewan's first breeding record (BL, BK). A ♂ Yellow-throated Vireo was noteworthy at Wood Mountain P.P., SK, July 3 (WH), as were Philadelphia Vireo pairs at Dinosaur P.P., AB, June 6 (BM) and Moose Mountain Park June 25 (BL).

WARBLERS TO ORIOLES

S.A.

Southeastern warblers made headlines in Manitoba. On June 20, David Hatch and Martin Siepman found the province's 2nd Yellow-throated Warbler singing in an oak\elm wood at Oak Lake. Noisy mowers and intermittent singing notwithstanding, several more observers saw it up to June 23 (ph. GG). Two weeks later, July 3, David found the Prairie Provinces' first Prairie Warbler (home at last!) at Whirlpool Lake, Riding Mountain N.P. This rather confiding bird occupied a small area of second-growth within a large burn, and was seen by several more observers (ph. PT, GG, RK). On at least two dates it was heard uttering a soft Black-throated Green Warbler song as well as typical Prairie Warbler songs (PT, RK). When last reported July 10, it spent some time in close company with a ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler (RK). The last headliner was Manitoba's 2nd Prothonotary Warbler, which Martin Siepman observed closely at Birch Point, Lake of the Woods, July 31. Less obliging than the others, it was not seen again.



Yellow-throated Warbler at Oak Lake, Manitoba, June 23, 1990. Second provincial record. Photograph/Gordon Grief.

A Golden-winged Warbler at Duck Mountain P.P. June 30 was Saskatchewan's ninth (TH); Tennessee Warblers, normally common in that park, were not found in 3 days of observation in June (TH). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler was found near Tulabi Falls, Nopiming P.P., MB, June 29 (CR) and July 14 (RP); the first Manitoban nesting record is overdue! A nest-building pair of Yellow-rumped Warblers was outside the normal range at Oak Lake, MB, June 20 (DH, MS). Also well outside the breeding range was a ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler singing at Writing-on-Stone P.P., AB, June 29 (MaC). Rarely reported nesting in Alberta, a pair of Canada Warblers fed two recent fledglings at Lesser Slave Lake June 29 (DBe, *vide* SJ). Yellow-breasted Chats were reported from Medicine Hat (DBa) and Moose Jaw (PK), and an amazing six males and one pair were at Nicolle Flats, SK (BL).

An Indigo Bunting found dead at La Pérouse Bay near Churchill in mid-June was 1000 km out of range (*vide* FC). While no Dickcissels were reported, Lark Buntings showed little sign of retreating with the receding drought. Concerted efforts to tally Baird's Sparrows resulted in counts of 50 birds at Manyberries, AB (DBa), 50 in 19 km of shoreline at Luck

Lake, SK, July 31 (MG, BG), and 14 nests as late as August in s.w. Manitoba (MiC, KDS). Wayne Harris has noted no change in 15 years in s. Saskatchewan, while John Steeves reported "a population explosion" on his routes near Calgary. Numerous other reports also indicate that Baird's Sparrow is holding its own.

South of the known breeding range were two Sharp-tailed Sparrows near Strathmore, AB, July 21 (JS, FW). Totally out-of-place was a Fox Sparrow at Buffalo Pound Lake near Moose Jaw July 14 (SW). In the foothills w. of Calgary this species was found at lower elevation than expected July 9 (SW). In the foothills w. of Calgary this species was found at lower elevation than expected July 9 (JS, FW). Saskatchewan's westernmost Orchard Oriole nest was found at Spring Valley July 29 (FB), and a count of 11 birds in the Tyvan-Francis area, June 16, was high (BL).

Observers: (subregional compilers in boldface) Michael Andersen, Brian Ball, Dennis Baresco (DBa), Michael Bastian (MBA), Debra Belmonte (DBe), Flossie Bogdan, Maureen Bouchart (MBo), Dick Cannings, Steve Charlton, Mary Collins (MaC), Mike Conrad (MiC), Kathleen Cook, Fred Cooke, Andy Courcelles, Barry Cox, Ken De Smet (KDS), **Ross Dickson**, Kim Eckert, Jim Elliot, Dennis Fast, Nancy Gehlen, **Bernie Gollop**, Mike Gollop, Gordon Grief, Wayne Harris, David Hatch, Trevor Herriot, George Holland, Len & Joyce Holmes, Phil Horch, Stuart Houston, Paul James, Stefan Jungkind, Pat Kern, Rudolph Koes, Bob Kreba, Lew Layman, Bob Luterbach, Hue MacKenzie, Blake Maybank, Mike O'Shea, Robert Parsons, Craig Roberts, Mark & Dan Schiebelbein, Stan Shadick, Martin Siepman, Andrew Slater, Wayne Smith, Saskatchewan Natural History Society, John Steeves, Fred Swaine, Peter Taylor, Jonathan Thompson, Merril Wershler, Sheena Wait, Frank Walker, Jim Wedgwood. — **RUDOLPH F. KOES**, 135 Rossmere Cres., Winnipeg, MB R2K 0G1, and **PETER TAYLOR**, Box 597, Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0.

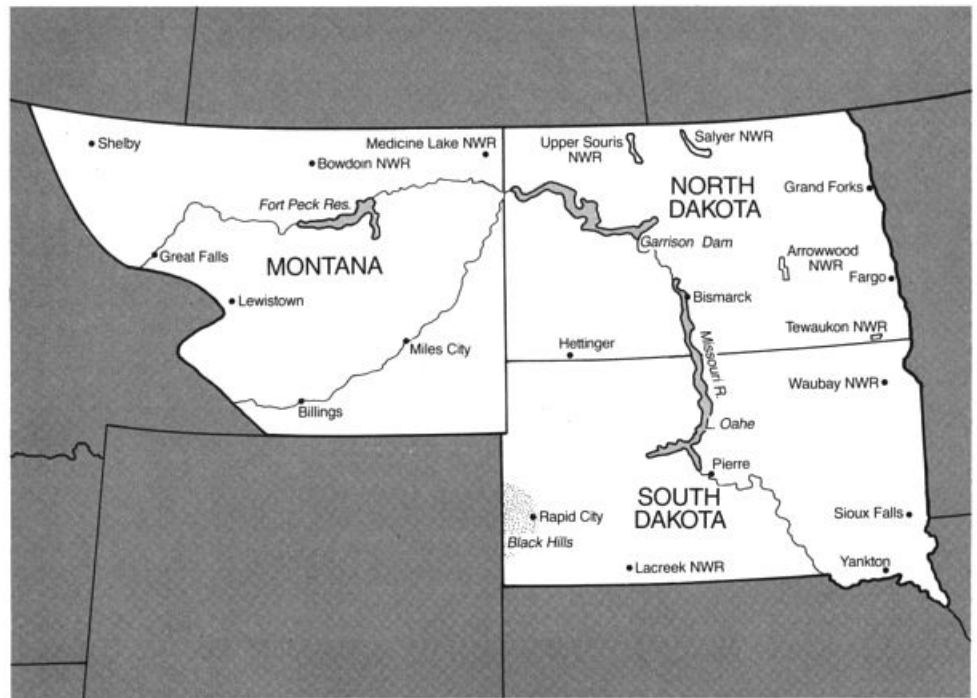
NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon Berkey

Temperatures averaged near normal, a relief from the extreme heat of the past two summers. Precipitation was also improved but spotty. Even though some areas had record small-grain yields, this was owing to good topsoil moisture during the growing season; subsoil moisture, and consequently wetlands, were very low compared to long term averages. Given the very dry spring conditions, many wetland species apparently pushed farther north. There was, however, evidence that certain dabbling ducks and rails waited until water conditions improved, then nested later than normally. An analysis of eight North Dakota breeding bird surveys (GB, RM) stretching from Stanley to Braddock documented a widespread reduction of birds associated with wetlands and moist areas. The following list gives the percentage decline for 1990 compared to the average for the 1980s: grebes 56%, dabbling ducks 37%, diving ducks 81%, coot 89%, Killdeer 47%, snipe 58%, Black Tern 75%, Common Yellowthroat 21%, Savannah Sparrow 24%, and Red-winged Blackbird 23%. In addition to declines, premature flocking and birds out of nesting habitat were noted by several observers. An unusually large assortment of species unexpected in summer included Pomarine Jaeger, Winter Wren, several warblers, Dark-eyed Junco, and Evening Grosbeak. South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas Project workers found the first state confirmation of nesting for Cassin's Kingbird and Eastern Meadowlark.

LOONS TO HAWKS

A North Dakota status survey of Com. Loon turned up at least 43 adults in the Turtle Mts., and two small young were seen June 28. A half-grown loon at Nelson Res., MT (DP), was a first nesting for latilong L9. An albino Red-necked Grebe in Kidder



June 20 was a treat, and 15 nests were found in the Turtle Mts. June 28 (GB). An albino *Aechmophorus* grebe was seen July 7 at L. Bowdoin, MT; the pale yellowish bill would seem to indicate Western (KS). Adult with young Clark's Grebes were seen at Freezeout L., MT (MTS), in L16 and on Rattlesnake L. near Billings (WR).

The Great Blue Heron nest with young found at Larimore Dam June 25 (DV) was only the 2nd for e. North Dakota. Cattle Egret is still rare in Montana, so the two at Bowdoin N.W.R. June 22 through July 6 and the apparent immature at Freezeout L. July 1 were of interest.

Single Greater White-fronted Geese, unusual in summer, were in *Stutsman*, ND, June 24 (RJ) and at Bowdoin July 2 (DP), but the 30 on June 10 in *Kingsbury*, SD (DB), were almost beyond belief. A very late Ross' Goose was at Freezeout L. June 4. Duck reproduction was mixed, with habitat severely reduced in most areas. Large numbers summering at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. produced very few broods, and the Missouri Coteau had little water. On the other hand, Arrowwood N.W.R. recorded above average brood numbers, and parts of e. South Dakota and s.w. North Dakota had fair numbers of late broods after June rains filled potholes. Two Com. Goldeneyes at the Grand Forks, ND, lagoons July

12 (DOL) were very unusual for summer. Interesting South Dakota merganser observations included Hoodeds near Spearfish, at Newell L., and in *Roberts*, and Commons near Spearfish, at Rapid City, and a reported juvenile in *Yankton* (WH).

The six Osprey sightings in the Dakotas June 2-29 again raised hope that nesting will become a reality in the near future. An adult Bald Eagle at Waubay N.W.R. July 29 (DS) was also an encouraging sign. The pair near Stanton, ND, was successful for the 3rd straight year, fledging one young. The kettle of 30 Swainson's Hawks in *Faulk*, SD, June 23 (PS) was quite unusual for summer. A Ferruginous Hawk was e. of the normal range in *Codington*, SD, July 24 (BH), and there were strong indications of an increase in both Montana and North Dakota. A Peregrine Falcon was at Benton Lake N.W.R., MT, June 11 (JP).

RAILS TO TERNS

What do wetland birds do when they arrive in the nesting range in the spring and find conditions too dry? While many species apparently moved on, Sora displayed unusual persistence, becoming territorial at frequently birded *Ward*, ND, sites in early July after June rains raised water levels (RM). Did they remain in the area from

May, when they would normally arrive, or continue searching until a suitable area was located? While there was less hard evidence, it is probable that Yellow Rails displayed the same adaptation to drought. The first year of a statewide status survey of Yellow Rails yielded 25 territories in *Kidder* and nine in *McHenry*, ND (GB). Heavy June precipitation in *Kidder* contributed, while the *McHenry* sites have perhaps the most reliable water supply in the state. Several former Yellow Rails sites were too dry this summer.

Summer rains may have improved water conditions for rails, but they caused problems for Piping Plovers. A bird with a distinctive breastband which had been at Nelson Res., MT, moved to nearby Bowdoin N.W.R. and nested successfully after rising water levels flooded its original nesting territory (DP). Widespread reports from North Dakota observers indicated that Upland Sandpipers had an excellent reproductive year. Willets, Marbled Godwits, Common Snipe, and Wilson's Phalarope did not do so well; the astounding 670 godwits in one flock on June 20 in *Kidder* (GB) and the 2000 Wilson's Phalaropes s. of Westby, MT, June 10 (TN) were indicative of the magnitude of drought-related nesting failures.

As usual, migrating shorebirds provided many of the most

interesting "nesting"-season observations for the Region. Record late northbound (?) migrants for North Dakota were Semipalmated Sandpiper June 26, Least Sandpiper June 15, and Red-necked Phalarope June 18, all in Grand Forks, and Dunlin July 19 at Minnewaukan; record early fall migrants included Stilt Sandpiper June 23 and Semipalmated Sandpiper July 2 in *Grand Forks* and Ruddy Turnstone July 18 at Minnewaukan (EF). A Lesser Yellowlegs in *Ward* June 6 was difficult to categorize. Stilt Sandpipers were particularly abundant in c. North Dakota, and the 3000 in *Wells* and *Kidder* July 30 doubled the previous fall peak. Very early South Dakota fall migrants were Solitary Sandpiper in *Lawrence* June 29 and Stilt Sandpiper in *Clark* July 1 (BR, PV), and Long-billed Dowitcher in *Sully*, June 21 (PS). Two White-rumped Sandpipers at Westby, MT (TN), represented the 11th state observation.

The prized displaced species for this summer was **Pomarine Jaeger**. One at Yankton, SD, June 30 (MS) will establish the 2nd state record if accepted, and one at Halfbreed N.W.R., MT, July 28-31 (DL, VR) would furnish a 3rd state record; both were photographed and in breeding plumage. This unusual coincidence invited speculation that a single bird made its way up the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, passing through North Dakota, which has no records, on the way. Up to 12 California Gulls visited the Fargo, ND, lagoons June 30 through July 15 (D & DW); late June observations in association with Ring-billed Gull colonies in *Day* and *Roberts* (BR) indicated possible breeding in n.e. South Dakota. Caspian Terns included a pair at Bowdoin, MT, five separate sightings in North Dakota, and one at Yankton, SD. Does the absence of June sightings indicate that birds were simply wandering through? Least Terns again attempted nesting on islands in Ft. Peck Res., MT, but the 2 nests were destroyed by 75 mph winds July 7 (CC).

OWLS TO VIREOS

A Barn Owl nest was a rare find

in *Fall River*, SD, and five young were banded July 15 (NW). Although E. Screech-Owl is fairly common in North Dakota, the six nestings reported from Bismarck, Arrowwood N.W.R., and Hettinger were unusually high. Burrowing Owls did well in the Westby and Chester, MT, areas. The 25 Short-eared Owls at Freezout Lake W.M.A., MT, the evening of June 16 (WEH) made an encouraging number; they remained nearly absent over their former range in the Dakotas. The six territorial Com. Poorwills and one nest in the Salyer refuge sandhills (GB) were interesting for two reasons. The location represents a n.e. range extension of 120 miles, and the deciduous habitat is very different from the ponderosa pines and cedars where the species is found in the North Dakota badlands. A calling Whip-poor-will in *McHenry*, ND, June 24 was not heard on later visits. Documentation was submitted for a possible **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in *Pennington*, SD, June 8-13 (VG); the species may be a very rare summer resident in the Black Hills. The 2nd confirmed nesting of **Pileated Woodpecker** for North Dakota and Fargo was of an adult feeding a fledgling July 14 (RO).

At least two singing **Alder Flycatchers** were taped June 20 at Pine Butte Swamp near Choteau, MT (BRi), well south of the known breeding range; this was only the 2nd state record. More June Alders than normal were observed in *Grand Forks*, ND; one July 4 (DOL) seemed much too late for a spring migrant. An adult Say's Phoebe feeding a fledgling in *Cass*, ND, July 21 (GN) provided a first county nesting and the easternmost for the state. A Great Crested Flycatcher at Belle Fourche, SD, June 5 was at the w. limit of the range; this species was more numerous than usual in the Souris R. Valley in n.w. North Dakota this summer. Following the presence of several **Cassin's Kingbirds** June 1, the nest in *Bennett*, SD, June 15 (RP) provided the first nesting confirmation for the state.

Two Clark's Nutcrackers, irregular in the Black Hills, were seen in *Pennington* June 20 (PS). The **Violet-green Swallow** west

in a cottonwood tree in the campground at the N. Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P., ND, June 25 (SD) was the state's second; at least three young were present July 12. The first nest, in 1989, was in a cliff w. of the campground. A singing Winter Wren in *Lawrence*, SD, June 26 indicated possible breeding in the n. Black Hills (RP). Sedge Wrens were down 88% from the 1980s average on the eight North Dakota B.B.S. analyzed, while Marsh Wrens were up 51%. Study of a Sprague's Pipit nest in *Grand Forks* placed the previously unknown time from hatching to fledging at 13 to 14 days (DOL). A Bell's Vireo singing at Lostwood N.W.R., ND, June 25 (DW) provided a first refuge record and one of the most northerly for the state.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

South Dakota had several unusual summer warbler records. The Tennessee Warbler at *Waubay* June 12 was a late spring migrant, while the two banded in *Day* July 21 (DS) were early fall migrants. A singing Nashville Warbler, accidental in summer, was in *Custer* June 29 (BR, PV). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at *Waubay* June 27 was considered the latest spring migrant. A singing Cerulean Warbler apparently on territory was present June 19 through July 2 in *Roberts* (BH); most previous records have been in May. An Ovenbird near Choteau, MT (MTS), was w. of the usual range and the first for L16.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at *Medora* June 3 and *Bowman-Haley* Res. July 1 in North Dakota (D & CG) were unexpected w. of the Missouri. Lark Buntings may have been reduced somewhat in c. Montana, but increased in c. and e. North Dakota. An observation near Hope was the first since the early 1970s (DK). The 2000+ Lark Buntings, including many fledglings, July 30 in *Kidder* showed good reproduction, likely correlated with high grasshopper populations. While the 16 Baird's Sparrows in 2 miles at *Ordway* Prairie in n.e. South Dakota (BR, PV) made a good number, the species may be on a long-term decline in North Dakota; the eight B.B.S. average in 1990 was down 46%

from the 1980s average. Le Conte's Sparrows were absent from many former breeding sites in North Dakota. Two singing Swamp Sparrows at *Stone L.* near Gettysburg, SD (PS), were w. of the known range. A Dark-eyed Junco in *Spink*, SD, July 27 (JS) was very unusual in summer.

House Finches were present throughout the season at *Grand Forks* (DOL, EF) and *Bismarck*, ND (RR), and at *Fargo*, where the species is well established. An **Eastern Meadowlark** nest May 24 in *Shannon*, SD (RP), furnished the first confirmation of nesting for the state. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were often seen out of range of suitable wetland nesting habitat. Are N. Orioles, neotropical migrants, showing the effects of tropical deforestation, or are they being displaced by Orchard Orioles? The eight North Dakota B.B.S. routes analyzed show a steady decline for the Northern to 36% below the 1980s average, while the Orchard was 28% above. Red Crossbills to the east at *Hope*, ND, June 29 (DK), in *Hand*, SD, July 1 (BR, PV), and in *Roberts* and *Deuel*, SD, in mid-July (BH) may indicate an impending invasion. The Evening Grosbeak photographed at a *New Town*, ND, feeder in late June (RS) was completely out of place at that date.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

This season appeared to have average weather, but in a normally unaverage way. June was much hotter than average over much of the Region, and July was cooler. Precipitation patterns were not as consistent, although it was a mostly dryer than average June and a wetter July. It was probably driest in western and central Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma. In Nebraska, the rains started in June, earlier than in the rest of the Region.

With a better water situation, some populations of marsh and water birds showed signs of returning or having returned to "normal." (This turns out to be a trick word, but probably means that some expectations from past observations were met.) Some of this may have been an "oasis" effect concentrating birds in regularly visited areas. Except for the "coot factories" reported by the Rosches, however, no one was overwhelmed by abundances of birds.

Migratory shorebirds generated little excitement this July. Few arrived early, and few impressive numbers were reported, although no one commented about a poor showing.

Mostly good news came on nesting success, although few people make sufficient study to comment. Nonetheless, some key species, such as Pied-billed Grebes, coots, and Upland Sandpipers in Nebraska, Least Terns in Kansas, and Black-capped Vireos in Oklahoma appeared to do well. Some of the more southerly ranging species again appeared in southeastern Nebraska. Marbled Godwit was documented for the first time nesting in the Region.

Concerns were again voiced for a number of passerine species whose populations appear to be declining, at least locally. These include Bell's Vireo and Orchard Oriole in eastern Kansas, Tulsa, and central Oklahoma. Loyd commented that Blue Grosbeak and Painted

Bunting numbers seemed low in the Tulsa area this year. Newell and myself expressed concern for Northern Orioles in central and western Oklahoma, as well as Indigo Buntings, though the Indigos seemed to be more common this year in some areas of east-central Oklahoma.

The icterid problems broaden. A Shiny Cowbird appeared in Oklahoma for the first time, and may sound the invasion of this nest parasite. If it invades, however, its competition with Brown-headed Cowbirds may prove more interesting than the potentially alarming incremental increase in damage to populations of host species. Newell commented on another situation—that the increase in Great-tailed Grackles over the years, and consequent possible increase in nest predation, may be having serious local impacts on some marsh-nesting species such as Least Bitterns.

Abbreviations: Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE*); Salt Plains (*Great Salt Plains Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Alfalfa Co., OK*); Quivira (*Quivira Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Stafford Co., KS*); Wichita Mts. (*Wichita Mountains Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Comanche Co., OK*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Summering Com. Loons were noted in *Lincoln*, NE, June 22 (MB), and *Keith*, NE (RCR, DJR). Two birds found July 20 in *Dawes*, NE, were thought to be very early migrants (RCR, DJR).

Eared Grebes appeared to be recovering somewhat from the population collapse of recent years in n.w. Nebraska. Rosches were aware of 186 nests in *Garden* and *Cherry* during early July. A lingering Eared Grebe at Quivira met an unfortunate fate in early June (RLB).

On the other hand, the Rosches suspect that the unusually high count of 250 W. Grebes on Lake McConaughy, *Keith*, NE, were of non-breeding individuals. Only two downy young were observed, those in *Garden*, NE, July 7 (RCR, DJR). Two W. Grebes at Quivira during June (RLB) were well south of breeding areas. A Clark's Grebe, clearly the rarer



of the 2 former "W. Grebes" in the Region, was identified at close range in *Cherry*, NE, July 12 (RCR).

About 20 active nests of Double-crested Cormorants were noted July 12 in *Coffey*, KS (LM), where the species breeds uncommonly. An Olivaceous Cormorant was observed in *Linn*, KS, June 30 (GP).

Individual opinions on the abundance of Least Bitterns show broad variance in the Region. The bird seems to be a locally abundant to uncommon breeder across most of cen. and e. Kansas and Oklahoma, but is rare in Nebraska. While Boyd indicates that numbers of Least Bitterns were near normal at Quivira, Newell describes their decline and current absence at the Lake Overholser marsh in *Oklahoma*. Newell credits the decline to potential nest predation by the now high numbers of Great-tailed Grackles in the area. A single bird was observed in *Arthur*, NE, on June 15 (RCR, DJR).

A Tricolored Heron, a rare summer wanderer into the Region, was noted July 14 & 29 at the Salt Plains (DV, MG). Snowy Egrets appeared north to *Keith*, NE, July 27 (DJR). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons and Little Blue Herons were observed west to *Beaver*, OK (RLB). An ad. Little Blue Heron was also noted north to Fontenelle Forest June 1 (BP).

Trumpeter Swans occurred

throughout the summer in n.w. Nebraska. However, the only young observed were four in *Grant* (RCR, DJR). Lingering were a Greater White-fronted Goose and one or two Snow Geese July 27 in *Keith*, NE (RCR, DJR), and June 30–July 15 in *Linn*, KS (GP, LM), respectively.

Very few records of breeding Cinnamon Teal exist for the Region. Thus, a brood with four young found in *Morrill*, NE, July 26 (RCR, DJR) was exceptional. Other adults were noted June 9 in *Hitchcock*, NE (RCR, DJR), June 16 in *Garden* and *Sheridan*, NE (BH), and June 16 in *Beaver*, OK (DV, JM, PC), more than are normally reported during the summer.

A Canvasback brood with eight downy young observed July 6 in *Garden*, NE (RCR, DJR) is among only a trickle of breeding records in the past 40 years for the Region. Other extralimital summering ducks included a male Lesser Scaup in *Tulsa* July 8 (JL, PS), and an ad. male Bufflehead June 16 in *Cherry*, NE (RCR).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Unusual was an Osprey observed in *Jefferson*, KS, July 13–14 (RR). Well north for the species, an imm. Mississippi Kite was studied in *Dawes*, NE, July 26 (RCR, DJR). For the second year, Bald Eagles nested at Clinton Res., *Douglas*, KS.

Three young fledged (LM). A second nest in *Hodgeman*, KS, fledged a single young (*vide* LM).

Two ad. Broad-winged Hawks detected together in the Wichita Mts. during late June (VF, EM) were the first ever reported there during the summer. An immature observed there July 17 (JAG) implicates that they may have nested. Most of many Swainson's Hawk nests in n.w. Nebraska fledged two to three young (RCR, DJR). Always noteworthy during summer, a Merlin was observed in *Sioux*, NE, June 18 (BH).

Rails of several species were reported this season in the Region with mixed, but generally poor, comment. King Rails, rare to uncommon, were noted June 16 at the Salt Plains (DV, JM, PC), and *Oklahoma* (MO). Young were observed in *Canadian*, OK (EW). Black Rails were still present at Quivira (LM). However, the populations of Soras, and King and Virginia rails at Quivira (RLB) and in e. Kansas (LM) were believed down in numbers. On the other hand, nesting American Coots did extremely well in n.w. Nebraska, fledging thousands of young (RCR).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Piping Plovers away from breeding sites were documented from *Tulsa* July 21 (PS, JL), and *Woodward*, OK July 23 (RLB). Nesting Piping Plovers endured some heavy OTR vehicular use and rains in *Nance*, NE, to produce a few young (WM).

Early migrants included a Willet June 16 in *Harper*, OK (DV, JM, PC), and a Spotted Sandpiper July 7 in *Adair*, OK (MMI). Also passing through early, and generally rare in the fall, was a Marbled Godwit July 9 in *Oklahoma* (MO).

Upland Sandpipers may be a topic for some time. Rosche reported lower numbers of breeding birds than in previous years in n.w. Nebraska, but better nesting success. Long-billed Curlews also fared well this year. An observation of an ad. **Marbled Godwit** rigorously defending two downy young in *Dawes*, NE, provided the first nesting record for the Region.

A Sanderling July 28 in *Tulsa* (PS, JL) was early. Over 2600 (!)

Baird's Sandpipers were counted at Lake McConaughy, *Keith*, NE, July 27 (RCR). The only late spring migrant worthy of mention, however, was a Stilt Sandpiper June 2 at the Salt Plains (MG, DV). Ten Common Snipe in *Cherry*, NE, June 15 were unusual (RCR, DJR).

California Gulls are likely increasing in the Region. Sixteen were counted in *Keith*, NE, July 28 (RCR, DJR). A Caspian Tern was noted June 9 in *Adair*, OK (MMI), possibly a summer vagrant or late migrant. Another was reported June 29 in *Hall*, NE (GL). One observed July 18 in *Dawes*, NE (RCR) is surprisingly the first for the Nebraska panhandle, though the species is also rare in w. Kansas and less commonly reported in w. Oklahoma. Forster's Terns nested at Quivira (RLB), where the species breeds sporadically. More unusual, two Com. Terns were present at Quivira June 23, but not later (RLB).

While Least Terns generally produce substantially fewer than one young per adult, management efforts at Quivira have raised that to over one young



Marbled Godwit at Lake Hefner, Oklahoma City, on July 9, 1990. Photograph/Mitchell Oliphant.

per adult this season (RLB). At least 35 Least Tern chicks fledged on the Arkansas R. in *Tulsa* (FP).

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

Although formerly more common, a Burrowing Owl at the Salt Plains June 2 (MG, DV) furnished one of few recent records. A rusty brown hummingbird, probably a Rufous, was noted in *Sedgwick*, KS, July 10-17 (*vide* DK).

With the expectation that the Red-cockaded Woodpecker has disappeared from all but the McCurtain County Wilderness Area in s.e. Oklahoma, news of birds nesting in *Pushmataha*, OK (JN, JM), was a little heartening. Only occasional in w. Oklahoma, a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers was observed in the Wichita Mts. June 13-15 (CC, JMa *et al.*).

A W. Wood-Pewee was heard singing in *Hitchcock*, NE, June 9, east of its expected range (RCR, DJR). An Acadian Flycatcher in *Douglas*, NE, was perhaps the first recorded since the 1960s for this area (AW, IW). Work by J.C. Hoffman in extreme n.e. Oklahoma indicates that a significant breeding population of Willow Flycatchers may occur there. Details of his work have been prepared for publication. A Willow Flycatcher was also noted in *Cherokee*, OK, June 24 (DVa).

Ash-throated Flycatchers again nested in *Meade*, KS (RLB), apparently at the northeastern edge of their range in the Region. Tree Swallows appear to have extended their range southward. This season, they were reported nesting in *Linn*, KS (LM, MM).

Carolina Wrens were present north to *Otoe*, NE (BP, LP). Breeding House Wrens fade in abundance as one approaches the southern boundary of the Region. Young out of the nest observed in *Comanche*, OK, June 20 (JMc, LMc) were the first reported from this county and among few for the southern portion of the Region.

A Swainson's Thrush in the Wichita Mts. June 8 (VF) was late. A Wood Thrush in the Wichita Mts. June 6 was the first reported for the Refuge (DE, EM). Cedar Waxwings nested in *Douglas*, NE (BP), one of the

few areas in the Region where breeding occurs.

Bell's Vireo continues to get poor reviews on its status. Newell could locate only three males in *Canadian*, OK, a locality where they were common only five year ago. Hoffman, however, indicates that it can still be readily found in a number of n.e. Oklahoma counties.

Trapping of cowbirds appears to be enhancing the recovery of Black-capped Vireo populations in Oklahoma. Traps operated by the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy protected six pairs of vireos in *Blaine*, OK, which produced almost 20 young (JAG). A segment of the now over 200 adults observed in the Wichita Mts. produced at least 150 young (VF, JAG, EM).

Apparently rare, a Warbling Vireo summered in *Comanche*, OK (JM, LMc). Male Red-eyed Vireos were heard in *Hitchcock* June 9 and *Keith*, NE, July 27, somewhat west in the Region for this species (RCR, DJR).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A male Blue-winged Warbler observed in *Linn*, KS, July 22 may have summered or been a migrant (LM, MM). Yellow-throated Warblers again appeared in Fontenelle Forest (BP). Less frequently reported, a Cerulean Warbler was noted singing July 21 in *Douglas*, NE (BP, LP).

S.A.

J.C. Hoffman reports that the distribution of nesting Worm-eating Warblers in n.e. Oklahoma, from *Ottawa* to *Sequoyah*, appears to be more extensive than previously reported. He located 25 birds during 1989 and 1990. They all occurred in heavily-wooded steep-sided ravines of more extensive oak-hickory forests in the hilly terrain east of the Neosho River. This habitat is widespread, but was only partially sampled.

Singing apparently ends by June 20. Hoffman comments that because four other species regularly occurring here have similar songs, Worm-eating Warblers may easily be overlooked.

Another species fading from some areas in cen. Oklahoma is the Indigo Bunting. Newell reports fewer in the Oklahoma City area, and for the first year in the past five, they were absent from regularly visited sites in *Blaine, OK* (JAG).

A Rufous-sided Towhee was singing in *Adair, OK*, June 9 (MMI). There are almost no other summer records for n.e. Oklahoma. Cassin's Sparrows were noted in *Butte, NE*, June 29 (RCR). Several singing Savannah Sparrows were observed during late June in *Butte* and *Sheridan, NE*, where the species is rare and local (RCR, DJR) during summer.

McCown's Longspurs appeared to have a good nesting season in *Souix, NE*, where an estimated 380 individuals were present on July 19 (RCR). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted June 16 in *Texas, OK*

(DV, JM, PC), where it seldom summers.

S.A.

Surprising and exciting, but distressing, was the first record of Shiny Cowbird for Oklahoma. A first-year male was captured June 12 in the Wichita Mts. in traps protecting Black-capped Vireo populations from cowbird nest parasitism (JAG, VF, DE). Details are being prepared for publication.

The population growth curve for House Finches appears to be on the accelerated upslope in the Region. Among the notes and news for this season comes a first reported nesting in *Sedgwick, KS*, during early June (*hide DK*). For others, particularly in the eastern and western thirds of the Region, the increasing

numbers of House Finches and observations of young are already becoming mundane. Hiatt feels that House Finches are becoming so common in *Woodward, OK*, that they may be outcompeting House Sparrows, perhaps an indication that one prettier species will simply substitute for what some consider "flying rats." At least it is a native.

Red Crossbills appear to have summered in Omaha, NE (RW, MK). Pine Siskins were last reported June 14 in *Cherokee, OK* (DVA), and *Tulsa* (L & JD). A pair of Evening Grosbeaks again summered in *Dawes, NE*. Unlike 1989, no young were observed (RCR, DJR).

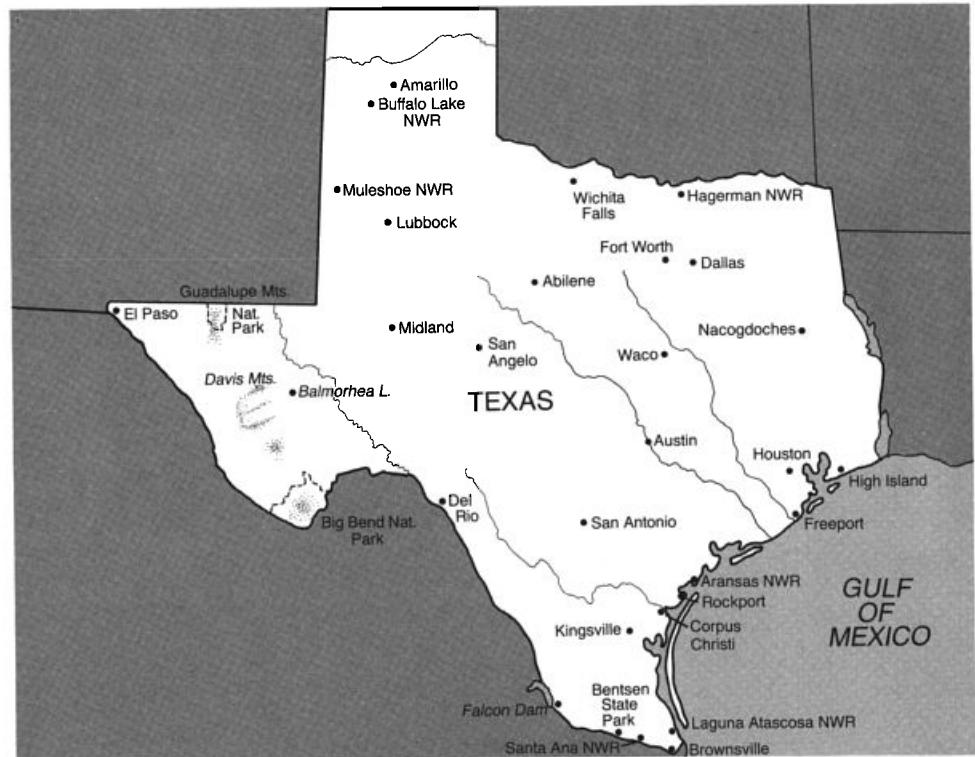
Corrigenda: The Swainson's Thrush reported June 6 from *Delaware, OK* (*Am. Birds* 43:1336) was actually observed in *Adair, OK*.

Cited Observers (area editors boldfaced): KANSAS—Roger L. Boyd, Dan Kilby, Mike McHugh, Lloyd Moore, Galen Pittman, Richard Rucker. NEBRASKA—Mark Brogie, Bill Huser, Marge Kelley, Gary Lingle, Wayne Mohlhoff, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Dorothy J. Rosche, Richard C. Rosche, Al Werthman, Ione Werthman, Rick Wright. OKLAHOMA—Pat Chancey, C. Clemons, Lyn & John Dickerson, David Ely, Vic Fazio, Mike Gray, Randy Hiatt, James C. Hoffman, Jo Loyd, J. Malinowski (JMa), Janet McGee (JMc), Louis McGee (LMc), Jeri McMahon, Mike Mlodinow (MMI), Erik Munson, John G. Newell, Jimmie Norman, Mitchell Oliphant, Fred Pianalto, Pat Seibert, Don Varner (DVA), Don Verser, Ernie Wilson.—JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI, 1701 Lenox, Norman, OK 73069.

TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and
Chuck Sexton

In a sense, June and July were reversed this year. June was the hotter of the two months, and was brutally hot and dry statewide. Many localities suffered through record stretches of 100°+F weather, with Beeville topping out on June 22 at 114°F. Midland had its driest June ever (0.01 inches of rain). Rainfall was absent even from normally wetter east Texas areas. Early July appeared as if it would continue the pattern but there was statewide relief beginning about July 12–13. Thereafter heavy rains deluged most of the state. Kickapoo received 15 to 18 inches of rain in the next ten days. Trails and roads were washed out in Big Bend. Even some areas of deep south Texas got heavy rains, but Palmer reminded us that most of the heavy rains fell north of the Nueces River. With the odd summer, some counties in interior south Texas actually qualified for disaster relief for both drought and flooding damage to crops and property!



Many observers admitted embarrassment at their minimal efforts during the heat of June and July; coverage was rather sparse in many areas. Not so for folks like Ken Seyffert, Joann and Don Merritt, Andrew O'Neill, and other Breeding Bird Atlasers who continued to make good finds in unexplored corners of the state. There were also un-

expected and exciting new discoveries from the upper slopes of the Davis Mountains.

Abbreviations: G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); Norias (*Norias Division of the King Ranch*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas*

Cooperative Wildlife Collection, Texas A&M University); T.P.W.D. (*Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Anzalduas, Bentsen, Big Bend, Brazoria, Devil's River, Hagerman, Kerr, Kickapoo, L. Mineral

Wells, Laguna Atascosa, Lost Maples, Santa Ana.

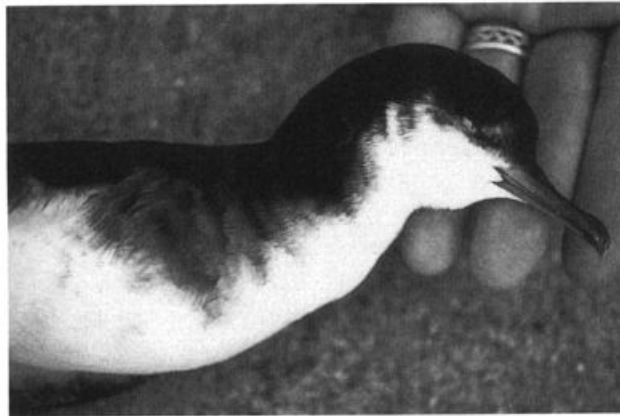
LOONS TO STORKS

Common Loons away from the coast lingered at L. Tawakoni to June 27 (RK, MWh) with another at L. Fork June 23 (N.E.T.F.O.). An Audubon's Shearwater was found alive at Port Aransas, Nueces, July 23 (*fide* TA); the bird died several days later (*to T.C.W.C.). It will represent the 9th documented state record. A pair of Pied-billed Grebes managed to fledge young n. of Vernon June 19 (KO, MP) for a first *Montague* nesting record. A subad. Masked Booby found injured at Rockport July 23 (John Howell, ph. Brad Steiner) furnished the only report. There was an encouraging report that the breeding colony of Am. White Pelicans on S. Bird I., *Kleberg*, may be recovering from the setbacks suffered in recent years as a result of heavy parasite infestations (SB). A group of 157 Am. White Pelicans at L. Tawakoni June 6-27 was a surprisingly large concentration (N.E.T.F.O.). Another group of 250 over *Dewitt* July 20 was also out of place (DMu).

S.A.

We would have to nominate the Brown Pelican as the comeback bird of the year. One could not drive along the U.T.C. without seeing hundreds of this species in the nearshore waters. Eubanks estimated that at least 2000 summered between the Sabine and Brazos rivers. Less than 10 years ago, one Brown Pelican along the U.T.C. would have been very reportable (*fide* TE). Down the coast, approximately 20 Browns spent June in W. Nueces Bay for the first time in a quarter century (SB).

Among the five reports of Olivaceous Cormorant in n. Texas was the discovery of a nest at L. Fork June 23 (RK, GH, JN, MWh), a 2nd nesting record for *Raines*. Eight Olivaceous were in *Hudspeth* June 29, where the species continues to increase (BZ); 128 at San Antonio's Braunig L. July 6 made a particularly large non-breeding



Audubon's Shearwater found washed up in Port Aransas, Texas, on July 23, 1990. Ninth documented state record. Photograph/Greg Lasley.

group (WS). An Anhinga at Hubbard Creek L. June 2 provided a first *Stephens* record (KN). Anhingas nested at the Southside Sewage Treatment Plant in *Dallas*, providing the 2nd known county nesting (first in 1963; *fide* WP). Single American and Least bitterns were seen in suitable nesting habitat June 26 e. of St. Joe, both first records for *Montague* (KO). A Least heard near *Weinert*, *Throckmorton*, June 17 provided a 2nd record there (KN); Feather L. in *El Paso* hosted Least for the 2nd year in a row (JSp). Three heretofore unreported Great Blue Heron rookeries were found in *Lipscomb*, *Hartley*, and *Roberts* (KS). Nesting of this species in the Panhandle can easily go undetected, as such nest sites often consist of only 2 or 3 nests located a long distance from water. Two Tricolored Herons seen flying from a rookery July 21 in s.e. *Dallas* were suspected of nesting there (JP). Foraging groups of Reddish Egrets on the lower Texas coast can be stunning; in June a group of about 800 was seen near Horse I. on Laguna Atascosa (MFe). About 5000 pairs of Cattle Egrets established a rookery in a woodland in *Bryan*, a new *Brazos* breeding record (KA). A fledgling Green-backed Heron in *Hemphill* July 29 provided another new county breeding record (KS). Four nests of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found at L. Mineral Wells, *Parker*, June 17, pushing the w. edge of their regular breeding range in Texas a bit farther west. A small number of White Ibises wandered inland, the most northerly in s.e. *Dallas* July 19-28 (JP, BS). At the large

rookery at the latter locality, White-faced Ibises established a new nesting record with the discovery of a nest May 13 (JP). Thirty-five Wood Storks over *Karnes* July 18 (WS) provided the first record there in several years.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Hornsby Bend provided a first July record for Austin. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks seemed to have a fair nesting season locally in s. Texas. A pair of Black-bellieds in *Nacogdoches* July 5-6 represented a first county record of unquestionably wild birds (D & MW). Summering non-breeding waterfowl were widely scattered in all regions; collectively, these included most of our common ducks. Records of breeding waterfowl were likewise scattered, although none bred in Midland owing to low water levels. The more interesting breeding records included Wood Ducks in *Randall*, Mottled Duck at L. Tawakoni and in *Dallas*, and Blue-winged Teal at *Commerce* (with other territorial birds in n.c. Texas) and at *Anahuac* and *Brazoria* (m.ob.). A Masked Duck in nuptial plumage was reported on a pond near *Bentsen* June 24 (J & WR).

An Osprey photographed at Ft. Hancock *Hudspeth*, June 29 provided only the 2nd summer record for the area (BZ). Biologists from T.P.W.D. observed 15 to 17 Am. Swallow-tailed Kites (both adults and young) this summer near *Newton City* along the Sabine River. The specific site is on private property that contains fish farms which attract large numbers of

dragonflies, a staple in the diet of the kites (DB, *fide* TE). The species presumably nested again near *Hamshire* but was reported only periodically through the season. Mississippi Kites nested for the first time in *Tarrant* (HA, RDC, TG, WP), and repeated nesting efforts in *Johnson* and *Walker*. Twenty-nine active Bald Eagle nests in Texas fledged a record 29 young this year (T.P.W.D.). The status of Cooper's Hawk as a breeding species is clouded by its secretive nature. Reports of confirmed or probable breeding came from e. and n. Texas along with the more expected records in s. Texas and the Hill Country. More noteworthy were one or more Sharp-shinned Hawks that summered in the *Kenedy* area, although no nests were found (AO,PP). A Com. Black-Hawk was noted again in June near *Baker's Crossing* in *Val Verde* where the species nested 2 years ago (*fide* JE).

A pair of Gray Hawks raised two young in June-July at *Rio Grande Village* in *Big Bend* under the watchful eye of staff and visiting birders. For the first time in recent memory, Red-shouldered Hawks nested at *Santa Ana* (*fide* JE). There were noticeably fewer reports of Broad-winged Hawks in n.c. Texas this year, although a pair did frequent last year's nest site in *Montague* June 9 (MP, GK). Swainson's Hawks nested near *Rice University* in *Houston* for the 11th straight year (DM). *Uzar* discovered another pair in *Jefferson* June 17 & 30 and *Graber* noted a single adult at *Beaumont* July 1, a very unusual sighting for the e. edge of the state. A group of 114 Swainson's June 27 in *Wilson* was a remarkably large and early migrant congregation (WS). A Zone-tailed Hawk began patrolling a bird feeder in *Real* during July, where it was seen to take several Brown-headed Cowbirds (BA)! An ad. Ferruginous Hawk June 25 in *Ochiltree* provided a very rare summer sighting (CA). Researchers located a surprising number of Am. Kestrel nesting sites in wooded e. Texas (RiS, CR, RB). *Wolf* commented: "This species may be a more widespread breeding bird in our region than we have realized, preferring sparse longleaf pine forest. Like other e. Texas rap-

tors, kestrels retreat from the open country into the woodlands to nest, and become rather inconspicuous at this season." One Aplomado Falcon was sighted July 15 on Laguna Atascosa (*fide* MFe), but no new releases of the species were made this summer. An ad. Peregrine at Laguna Atascosa July 18 was another interesting sighting (*fide* MFe).

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS TO SKIMMERS

Attwater's Greater Prairie-Chicken continued its decline toward oblivion. The Spring 1990 count of adults was revised downward to 470 birds. Brood counts at Attwater N.W.R. June 27 to July 10 were disappointing, with an adult:young ratio of just 1:0.33 in spite of management efforts to improve brood production (*fide* SL). Despite the drought conditions, Wild Turkeys seemed to enjoy a surprisingly good hatch in s. Texas (AO). A pair of King Rails discovered in suitable nesting habitat e. of St. Joe June 26 (KO) provided a first *Montague* record. A juv. Virginia Rail was observed in the Sanford Dam marshes at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson*, July 11, for the first confirmed nesting in the Panhandle (KS). An ad. Virginia furnished a new county record in *Swisher* July 10 (N & EE, CB). A pair of Am. Coots with fledged young in *Montague* June 19 provided another first record there (KO).

For some reason, many shorebirds arrived earlier than normal over the entire state, with many species establishing new early dates in late June and early July (see Table 1). The July rains provided better than average habitat for these migrants in many areas. Several pairs of Snowy Plovers were accompanied by newly hatched young at San Angelo by late May (T. Maxwell, *fide* DT). Two pairs of Snowies were at a playa lake just n. of Weinert, *Haskell*, June 16, and another Snowy July 29 at Hagerman was especially noteworthy (BG, RR). Two hundred Black-necked Stilts near Lubbock July 28 (CSt) made a high count for that area (*fide* DS), while two families of stilts in s.e. *Dallas* provided a 2nd nesting record there (JP *et al.*). American Avocets continue to give signs of nesting in n.c. Texas (es-

TABLE 1. A sample of early arrival dates in Texas, Summer 1990.

Species	Location	Date
Shorebirds		
Lesser Yellowlegs (500+)	El Paso	July 5
Willet	El Paso	July 5
Upland Sandpiper	Austin	June 19*
Upland Sandpiper	Victoria	June 26*
Marbled Godwit	El Paso	July 5
Marbled Godwit	Austin	July 19*
Stilt Sandpiper	El Paso	July 12
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (75+)	Falfurrias	July 19
Other Species		
Ring-billed Gull	El Paso	July 5
Ring-billed Gull	Lubbock	July 30*
Forster's Tern (13)	El Paso	July 5*
Calliope Hummingbird	Midland	July 19
Rufous Hummingbird	Midland	June 22*
Tree Swallow	El Paso	July 1
N. Waterthrush	Midland	July 25*
Louisiana Waterthrush	Dallas	July 15

*New early date for species and area.

pecially in *Haskell*), but nesting was not confirmed. Solitary Sandpipers moved through e. Ft. Worth in record breaking numbers, peaking at an incredible 120 birds July 28 (JC); the species normally peaks in mid-August. Nine Whimbrels at Port O'Connor July 29 represented a larger-than-normal summering (or early migrant) group (RU).

An ad. Franklin's Gull lingered at Mitchell L. in San Antonio June 1-22 (WS); eight more Franklin's that summered at the Ft. Bliss sewage ponds were very unusual (BZ *et al.*). A dozen Ring-billed Gulls summered at L. Tawakoni, as did an unusually large number of Forster's Terns—an unprecedented 119 were there July 11 and they built up to 300 by the end of the month (RK). Summering Com. Terns peaked on the U.T.C. July 4 with 200 (RU). Many non-breeders apparently spend the summer at the n. edge of their traditional winter range here. These birds vacate the U.T.C. in early August, most likely returning to the south for their 2nd winter. The species is then absent from the U.T.C. until migrant breeders return in late August and early September (TE). Black Terns on a stock pond near Brackettville July 24 were a first for *Kinney* (OC). A Black Skimmer at L. Tawakoni July 8 was the only inland vagrant of this species reported for the season (N.E.T.F.O.).

DOVES TO KINGBIRDS

All regular nesting dove species seemed to have a good season despite the early heat. Stray doves well n. of their nesting range included White-winged in *Mason* July 5 (BoF) and at L. Marvin, *Hemphill*, July 17 (HS), as well as Com. Ground-Doves at Waco June 13 (Nada Wareham, *fide* LMB) and in Nacogdoches July 21 (DW). A Red-crowned Parrot at Santa Margarita Ranch June 23 was away from usual urban haunts in the L.R.G.V. (*fide* MA). Three species of psittacids made surprise appearances in Falfurrias in late July: six Red-crowned Parrots, two Yellow-headed Parrots, and six Green Parakeets (AO). We received a belated report of a Black-billed Cuckoo at Junction May 11 for a first *Kimble* record (K. Rylander, *fide* NJ). Groove-billed Anis apparently were quite numerous and had good nesting success in much of their s. Texas range. One or possibly two pairs of anis nested in *Bexar* for the first time (TF, DMu, WS); another ani was at Big Bend July 18 (JG) where the species is rare.

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls were found at Falcon Dam (J & WR), and continued to be noted on Norias at multiple localities (PP, VE, LS). Calling Elf Owls, not on Laguna Atascosa's check-list, surprised visitors to the refuge July 27 (LA, PG). A pair of Burrowing Owls reared

four young in s. *Brooks* (AO). Graber continued to note the absence of Com. Nighthawk as a breeder in the s.e. corner of the state. Several e. Texas observers have noted the annual "disappearance" of this species after early June from the Pineywoods and have questioned the status of the bird as a breeder there; Is its range shrinking? Two pairs of Chimney Swifts were present throughout the summer in Alpine, with nesting suspected (ML). The species is not known to nest in the Trans-Pecos. A small handful of Buff-bellied Hummingbirds spent all or portions of the summer at scattered localities n. of the L.R.G.V but once again there was no evidence of nesting. A nest of Blue-throated Hummingbirds in McKittrick Canyon in G.M.N.P June 2 provided an unusual record (MF).

Several pairs of N. Beardless-Tyrannulets were observed on Norias in early June (RW, VE, PP, LS), and a fledgling begging from an adult was reported at Bentsen in late June (J & WR). An Olive-sided Flycatcher, seven W. Wood-Pewees, and one E. Wood-Pewee in *Hartley* June 2 were all late migrants (KS); the latter furnished a new county record. Numbers of Acadian Flycatchers were up in *Van Zandt* at the w. limit of their range in n.c. Texas. Very exciting, and totally unprecedented was the report of four to five singing Gray Flycatchers near the top of Mt. Livermore in the Davis Mtns. (SHo, SoW). One bird was observed putting the finishing touches on a small cup-shaped nest in an oak. The nearest documented nesting of the species is some 200 mi away in New Mexico. A pair of nesting E. Phoebes was found in *Armstrong* July 1 (JH, TJ), not only a first county record but one of very few confirmed nestings in the Panhandle. Brown-crested Flycatchers, rare vagrants in Big Bend, were in Cottonwood Campground July 18 (JG). The pair of Thick-billed Kingbirds at that locality delighted birders throughout the summer, successfully raising three young; the birds were last noted Aug. 4 (Big Bend files). Another Thick-billed was photographed at Rio Grande Village July 4 (BZ *et al.*)—perhaps one of last year's young? A Couch's

Kingbird at Iraan (*Pecos?*) in late May was well out of range (J & DMe, *fide* FW).

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

A pair of N. Rough-winged Swallows with six fledglings July 15 provided a first *Hemphill* nesting record (KS). Rough-wingeds and Barn Swallows both suffered poor nesting success in n. Texas owing to the heavy rains and flood waters (AV *et al.*). Two Bank Swallows June 3 in w. *Culberson* may have been late migrants (SW). An adult and juv. Bank at San Antonio June 10 indicated probable nearby nesting (WS). Cliff Swallows, heretofore unconfirmed as breeders in the Pineywoods, were found nesting in 4 e. Texas counties (*fide* DW). The battles between Cliff and Cave swallows for nesting culverts in s. Texas appear to be quite dynamic and worthy of more extensive study (AO, PP).

A Green Jay that appeared at a feeder at Aransas Pass July 17 was a bit out of range (E & NA). One pair of Mexican Crows remained into early June in Brownsville; they were seen carrying nesting material June 3-6 (MFa, BM) but no nest was ever located. Wolf found a pair of territorial Fish Crows on Toledo Bend Res. in *Sabine* June 1, considerably farther up the Sabine R system than they had been found previously. Carolina Chickadees were found along Rita Blanca Creek, *Hartley*, June 2 to July 5 (KS), the farthest known westward extension in the Panhandle and only about 25 mi from the New Mexico line. Healthy numbers of Verdins were recorded on the e. fringe of the species' range in *Haskell*, *Shackleford*, *Throckmorton*, and *Young* during June (KN). Pettingell reported the 2nd summer record of White-breasted Nuthatches for *Smith* July 1 at Palestine. More remarkable were two adult and two fledgling Brown-headed Nuthatches May 26 in s.w. *Van Zandt* (RK), providing the northwesternmost Texas breeding record and a first for n.c. Texas.

A singing Cactus Wren at Ft. Hood, *Coryell*, July 20 was a bit n.e. of its regular range (KM). Two Rock Wrens June 19 near the Red River in *Wilbarger* pos-

sibly represented a nesting pair (MP, KO); there are only historical breeding records for that region. Notable Carolina Wrens were in *Dickens* (ML), *Hemphill* (KS), and Midland (J & DMe, *fide* FW). A Carolina Wren at Kerr nearly became a prey item in the web of a large orb weaver spider but finally escaped, leaving behind two primaries (JGr)! Efforts on the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas have established the House Wren as a common nester in the e. Panhandle, as in *Hartley* this year (KS), far w. of its previously known range. Also in *Hartley* June 2 was a nesting pair of E. Bluebirds (KS), a new county record and westward extension of its breeding range. An E. Bluebird at Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend July 18 provided a rare summer record for the park (OC, KB). Payne remarked that Wood Thrushes nested abundantly in *Walker*, perhaps owing to improved food supplies from the heavy rains of spring. A lone Clay-colored Robin was singing at Anzalduas June 22 and later (J & WR, m.ob.). American Robins nesting in urban areas were noteworthy in *Tarrant*, *Victoria*, and *Jefferson*. Brown Thrashers nested in *Dickens* in June (ML), a new county record. Curve-billed were at the fringe of their range in *Victoria* (RM). The southernmost nesting Loggerhead Shrikes were in *Hidalgo* (HW) with other notable nesting attempts in *Kingsville* and s.w. *Nueces* (PP, SB). The breeding populations of Loggerheads in *Collin* and *Fannin* in n.c. Texas have shown a significant drop over the last few years (AV *et al.*).

VIROES, WARBLERS

Bell's Vireos, rare but regular in e. Texas, were found in *Smith* June 17 and in *Harrison* July 6-29 (N.E.T.F.O.). A Bell's frequented marginal habitat all summer in w. Ft. Worth but was apparently not mated (JWS); the species was common there 25 years ago. Coverage of the Black-capped Vireo breeding range was irregular: No nesting was noted in the Concho Valley but "that's probably because no one really looked" (DT). Intense monitoring efforts in *Travis*, *Kerr*, and at Kickapoo, Devil's River, and Lost Maples

indicated very good nesting success. Kickapoo Black-capped had low cowbird parasitism (7%) where cowbird trapping was done, but at Devil's River, studied as a control site without trapping, parasitism was a significant 48%. At the 3 parks, a total of 288 young Black-capped was raised in 190 observed nesting attempts for a fecundity of 1.52 fledglings per nest attempt (KB, DStu). The suspected nesting by a pair of Hutton's Vireos in *Real* reported in the Spring was confirmed by Gee when he observed the adults feeding newly fledged young on June 13, a remarkable range extension of some 200 miles. A Warbling Vireo was observed nest-building in *Lipscomb* June 10 (new county record; KS) and two singing in *Armstrong* July 1 (JH, TJ) were unexpected. A pair of Red-eyed Vireos successfully nested at Kickapoo (KB) and another was seen at L. Marvin, *Hemphill*, July 17 (HS), last reported at the latter locality in 1977. The Yellow-green Vireos at Laguna Atascosa appeared to have fledged one of their own young as well as a cowbird (m.ob.).

There were remarkable warbler observations in the Davis Mtns: One Orange-crowned, two to three Virginia's, three Yellow-rumped, and two Grace's were observed on Mt. Livermore June 19, all species known to breed in Texas only in the Guadalupe Mtns. The latter three species were in full song, and two ♂ Yellow-rumped were engaged in a territorial dispute (SHo, SoW). Restricted access to the uppermost portion of this range for many years has left much to be discovered by ornithologists. Lucy's Warblers were at Cottonwood Campground June 14 (RMa *et al.*) and July 2 (BZ) but had departed by mid-July. A singing ♂ N. Parula was found on the W. Nueces R. in s. *Edwards* June 3, w. of the known breeding range (KB, DStu). Multiple pairs of Tropical Parulas were present and presumed nesting on Norias early in the season (RW).

Most interesting was a singing ♂ Yellow Warbler in *Amarillo* June 20 (KS), the same date one was found nearby last year. A late Black-throated Green was netted in *Driftwood*, *Hays*, June 17 (DC). A Yellow-throated

Warbler was found singing in *Henderson* near Cedar Cr., June 16 (GK), while last summer's ♂ Yellow-throated in Dallas returned and spent the summer without finding a mate (JP). Pine Warblers were confirmed breeding in *Wood* June 17 (RK), marking the w. edge of their range in n. Texas. Six more Pines were counted in nearby *Van Zandt* on the same date (RK). After a first Big Bend record in the spring, a 2nd Prairie Warbler was studied at the Sam Nail Ranch June 15 (RMa *et al.*). A Black-and-white Warbler in *Parker* in early July exhibited territorial behavior (CH, TR), while at the same time non-breeding birds were showing up out of range in Corpus Christi and elsewhere. Two Am. Redstarts near Karnack June 23 were probably local breeders (N.E.T.F.O.).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Wolf discovered a Scarlet Tanager near Nacogdoches June 1, exceptionally late for a migrant. He speculates that the species may nest rarely in the Pineywoods; it has been found in summer in previous years in *Montgomery* (*fide* TE). A pair of Indigo Buntings with a fledgling were seen in *Hemphill* July 29 (KS) for a new county record. A singing ♂ Indigo at Tornillo L., *El Paso*, July 11 was unusual (BZ, SoW), as was a ♀ Varied carefully studied at Balmorhea L., June 12 (RMa *et al.*). Eight to nine Green-tailed Towhees on Mt. Livermore June 19 were yet another unexpected breeding species for the area (SHo, SoW). Botteri's Sparrows were reported as "uncommon," rather more numerous than anticipated, on Norias in early June (RW). Field Sparrow is a fairly common resident in the e. Panhandle but had never been confirmed as nesting until this year. Adults feeding young were seen in *Hemphill* (KS) May 29 and Aug. 12, and on May 24 a nest with 3 eggs was found at L. McClellan, *Gray* (HS). The species was also confirmed nesting at L. Mineral Wells for a first *Parker* record (CH, TR). Three singing Fields near *Victoria* June 17 were unexpected and far outside the breeding range (RM). Also unexpected was a Lark Bunting at Laguna Atascosa

June 29 (*vide* MFe). Grasshopper Sparrows were locally abundant and successful nesters in *Brooks*, *Karnes*, and *DeWitt* (AO, DMu). A well-described singing Le Conte's Sparrow in *Ochiltree* June 25 was remarkable (CA). The species nests nowhere near Texas.

One careful observer again called attention to a steady decline in numbers of E. Meadowlarks in some s. Texas counties (including *Kleberg* and *Nueces*), perhaps correlating with farming and highway right-of-way maintenance practices (SB). In contrast, the species had excellent success in s. *Brooks*, and *Midland* got its first confirmed nesting of Easterns June 21 (J & DMe, *vide* FW). One pair of Westerns again nested s.w. of *Falfurrias* (AO). Fifty or more pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were nest-building near *Kress*, *Swisher*, June 19 (N & EE, CB), for a new county record and only the 3rd reported nesting locality for the Panhandle (*vide* KS). A flock of 50 Yellow-headed 15 mi n. of *Brackettville* June 28 was out of place (OC). Great-tailed Grackles were said to have "overrun" wetlands in *Midland* since their first arrival in 1977, displacing Red-winged Blackbirds (FW). Bronzed Cowbirds continued their discouraging expansion with single birds at G.M.N.P. June 1 (first park record; MF) and in *Hudspeth* June 9 & 29 and July 1 (SW, BZ *et al.*). Orchard Orioles were found nesting in westernmost *Hudspeth* July 11 (BZ, ScW) at the extreme limit of their breeding range in the Southwest.

Hooded Orioles seemed to do well at several s. Texas localities (PP, SWe, RW). At their northern limit, Hoodeds were rare finds in *Bexar* July 4 (WS) and *Hays* June 28 (Laura Kichline, *vide* TM).

A Cassin's Finch lingered in Dog Canyon (G.M.N.P.) until June 25 (RRe). A ♀ House Finch frequented *Crowley*, *Tarrant*, June 7-12 (MRa). Lesser Goldfinches were particularly plentiful in the oak mottes of *Brooks* and *Kenedy* (AO, PP). At the opposite end of the state, the species nested at L. *Tanglewood*, *Randall* (TJ), where it is found only intermittently in summer. Significant Am. Goldfinch records also spanned the state: A singing ad. male was in *Aransas Pass* July 1 (E & NA); another was in *Austin* July 6 (first July record); and most notably, the species was found nesting near *Canadian*, *Hemphill* (KS). In the latter area, adults were observed at 2 sites and a fledgling was found Aug. 12 for a first confirmed Panhandle nesting.

Corrigenda: The Red-throated Loon record from the spring report should have been Mar. 17 instead of Mar. 19. The Mangrove Warbler in the same report was last seen Apr. 14 (JGo).

A record of a Sooty Shearwater in *Galveston* Apr. 27, 1986 (AB 40:495) was recently rejected by the T.B.R.C. when in-hand photos were finally submitted. The photographs reveal that the bird was actually a **White-chinned Petrel** (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) and represents the first record for the United States. Details will be

published elsewhere.

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IDAHO-WESTERN MONTANA REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

Although average temperatures in the Region appeared to be only a little on the warm side, the summer was characterized by long hot, dry spells interrupted by a very few brief cool rainy spells. June rains, generally deficient in total, came nearly all in the first half; July rains, more or less normal in amount, came mostly near the end. Vegetative growth appeared to be good.

LOONS TO HERONS

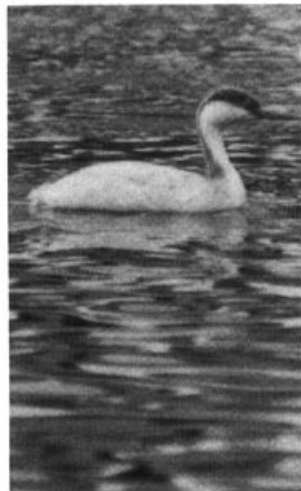
Common Loons raised young at Murphy L. near Fortine, MT (WW). Two of the species were sighted at Mann L., Lewiston, ID, June 2 (C.B.). No Pied-billed Grebes were noted at the usual nesting sites around Fortine. Five Red-necked Grebes were counted June 10 on the B.B.S. at Hayden L., ID (SHS). They again nested successfully at Harriman S.P. and on Henrys L. in s.e. Idaho (CHT). Thirty W. Grebe nests were located at Denton Slough, Pend Oreille L., ID (PS). Mann L. had eight to 10 birds June 2 (C.B.). A partial albino was photographed on the Snake R., w. of Blackfoot, ID (JT). C.J. Strike Res., Bruneau, ID, had 232 grebes identified as Clark's Grebes June 24 (SD). Idaho had one in *Fremont* June 11 & 26, and Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, MT, had four June 13 & 28 (WEH).

Thirty-one Am. White Pelican nests out of about 100 attempts on Canyon Ferry Res. e. of Helena, MT, had 35-40 small young July 27, for the first documented success there (DR, TC). C.J. Strike Res. hosted 220 adults June 10 (SD) and Cascade Res., Cascade, ID, had 30 on July 10 (DJ). A Double-crested Cormorant was seen near Salmon, ID, July 14 (HR). At least 100 were at Ninepipe N.W.R. June 13 (WEH). A Great Egret was recorded at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, ID, July 1, and four were at Nyssa, ID, July 9 (SD). One was seen near St. Anthony, ID, and six s.

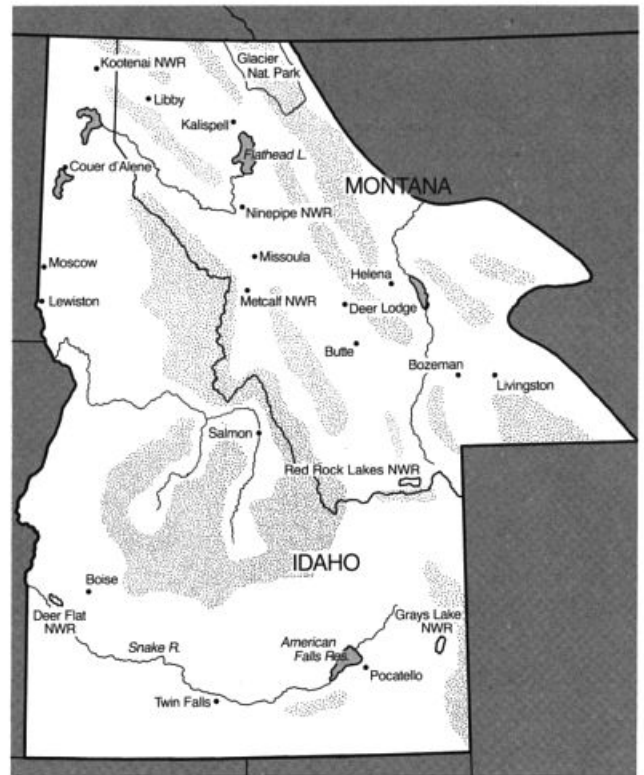
of Rexburg, ID, July 31 for an e. range extension (MC, FK). A flock of 10 Cattle Egrets was seen n. of Idaho Falls, ID, in early June (JSh) and one was s. of Rexburg, ID, July 31 (MC, FK). Both sightings were reportedly e. range extensions. A Green-backed Heron appeared along the Snake R. near its entrance into American Falls Res. June 30 (JT). Black-crowned Night-Herons, mostly immatures, numbered 110 at Crow I. in the Snake R. n. of Nyssa, OR, July 10 (SD).

WATERFOWL TO TURKEY

A pair of Trumpeter Swans at Grays Lake N.W.R., ID, hatched five cygnets, three of which were alive at the last sighting. The female was transplanted from Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., MT, in 1989. This was the species' first nesting at Grays Lake since 1972. Trumpeters have been transplanted to there for the last 3 years (RD). The species had good success at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Monida, MT, with 131 cygnets in 33 broods as of June 27 (JB). Canada Goose production at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, was 155, about twice last year's (LDN). Wood Ducks were suspected of nesting along the Snake R. near American Falls Res. (CHT). Noteworthy were two in Ponderosa S.P., McCall, ID, as were 3 pairs of Ring-necked Ducks and three ducklings there July 10 (DJ). At Fortine the only duck species present in expected numbers



An albinistic Western Grebe on the Snake River west of Blackfoot, Idaho, on June 15, 1990. Photograph/Joel Tinsley.



was the Com. Goldeneye (WW). A ♀ Hooded Merganser with six young on the Snake R. below Blackfoot July 4 apparently produced e. Idaho's first breeding record (CHT).

Single Turkey Vultures, uncommon in the Flathead Valley, MT, were seen near Bigfork and w. of Kalispell (where they apparently nest) (DC). Ospreys were "very numerous" at Cascade Res. the week of July 8-15 (DJ). Four active nests were found along Hwy 12 e. of Lewiston, ID (CV, HV). Nesting numbers were increasing at L. Koocanusa on the Columbia R. in n.w. Montana (WW). In the Helena area the birds had a good nesting year (GH). Ten nestling Ospreys were transferred from the Coeur d'Alene, ID, watershed for release in Colorado. Five Bald Eagle nests checked in Boundary and Bonner counties, ID, were all successful (LDN). Two nests on Poison Cr. w. of Cascade Res. each contained young (DJ). Three of 4 historic nests and both newly discovered Bald Eagle nests in the Kalispell area produced 11 fledglings (DC), and Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, MT, fledged at least one young (DH). Red-tailed Hawks were the only hawks in the Fortine vicinity that were in numbers usual for the last several years (WW). A Ferruginous

Hawk was on a nest 6 mi s.w. of Bruneau, ID, June 4 (SD). Three Merlin sightings and nine (four were of released birds) Peregrine Falcon sightings were reported. A flock of 15-20 Wild Turkeys was sighted near Fernan L., Coeur d'Alene (FA).

RAILS TO TERNS

Two Virginia Rails near Donnelly, ID, July 10-11 were apparently latilong firsts, and two ad. Soras with one young confirmed breeding there (DJ). A Common Moorhen was photographed at Market Lake W.M.A., Roberts, ID, July 2 for supposedly the 4th state record (DB). Two Sandhill Cranes appeared near Donnelly, ID, July 10 (DJ) and one was at Winton Weydemeyer's ranch near Fortine June 2.

S.A.

Whooping Cranes numbered 13 in the Rocky Mountain region, the same as counted since April 1989. Eight were at Grays Lake N.W.R.; two in *Sublette*, WY; two in Yellowstone N.P. (RD), and one believed to be 13 years old, at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., that stayed throughout the summer in association with two Sandhills (JB).

Two Snowy Plovers were observed at length at C.J. Strike Res. June 10 (SD). Three Semipalmated Plovers were seen at Mann L. July 28 (CV). A Lesser Yellowlegs was sighted along the Snake R. n. of Marsing, ID, June 21 (SD) and three were found at Mann L. July 28 (CV). A Solitary Sandpiper was at Mann L. July 29 (CV) and another was near Leadore, ID, July 26 (HR). Leadore also had a Willet June 23 (HR). Eight separate sightings of Upland Sandpipers were made in the Island Park, ID, area (MC, FK). These may have been a result of several miles of solar-powered electric fence placed along the river near Harriman S.P. to keep cattle away from the river bank, leaving a 50 meter ungrazed strip on each side of the river (CHT). A flock of 56 Marbled Godwits was seen June 26 only at Red Rock Lakes (JB), and 32 showed up at C.J. Strike Res. July 8 (SD). Mann L. was visited by eight Western, six Least, and three Baird's sandpipers, four Dunlin, and 12 Long-billed Dowitchers July 28, and a Solitary Sandpiper the next day (CV). Two Baird's were sighted at C.J. Strike Res. July 30 (SD). A Red-necked Phalarope visited Mann L. June 2 (C.B.) and six were there July 28 (WHa); one at Fortune July 25 was exceptionally early (WW).

One or two Franklin's Gulls were seen at Lewiston June 4-5 (WH, MK) and 11 were sighted at C.J. Strike Res. June 30 (SD). An immature of this species was along the Flathead R. near Kalispell, MT, with unusually large numbers of adult and imm. Ring-billed and California gulls July 21 (DC). A first-summer Bonaparte's Gull was on the Snake R. near Marsing, ID, June 19-21 (SD). Caspian Terns were seen all summer in the vicinity of Ninepipes N.W.R., Charlo, MT, and a nest was photographed on the refuge for a new latilong breeding record (LC). One bird was sighted at Coeur d'Alene L. in late June and July (DJo) and one at Island Park Res., s.e. Idaho, June 11 (WEH). Several observations were made of Common Terns at C.J. Strike Res. June 30 (SD). A Forster's Tern and a Black Tern were at Mann L. June 12 (CV).

DOVES TO HUMMINGBIRDS

A lone Rock Dove at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. made only the 2nd sighting there in the last 4 years (JB). Two Band-tailed Pigeons were photographed during June at Boise River W.M.A. e. of Boise, ID (*vide* DJ). Three Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found along the Snake R. below Blackfoot June 30 (JT) and at least two were heard in the same area July 4 (CHT). A Barred Owl was heard at Coeur d'Alene L. (CS) and one was heard and seen the night of July 11 at Ponderosa S.P., McCall, ID (DJ *et al.*) A Great Gray Owl was seen in a clearcut near Spotted Bear, Hungry Horse, MT, July 26 (DC). One with at least one nestling was observed near Kilgore, ID, in June (WEH). About 20 Short-eared Owls were counted at Blasdel Waterfowl Production Area near Somers, MT (RW).

Most remarkable was the occurrence of a **Whip-poor-will** near Libby Dam in n.w. Montana June 27 to at least July 4 for the state's first record. Although not seen, the bird's call was heard by several observers familiar with this species; the bird responded to tapes of the species' call (DS, DC, HC, BC, KC, MS, MH, JH).

A flock of 50-100 Black Swifts over Somers, MT, was most unusual (DC). Black-chinned Hummingbirds outnumbered other species at Fortune (WW). Hummingbird numbers were down at Coeur d'Alene, ID, and Helena and Troy, MT.

WOODPECKERS TO WAXWINGS

A Red-headed Woodpecker appeared on Bear Track W.M.A. s.e. of Carey, ID, June 25 (PC). Two nests of Three-toed Woodpeckers were discovered in Glacier N.P., MT, in late June (*vide* WEH). Coyote Gulch s. of Genesee, ID, had an Olive-sided Flycatcher June 2 (C.B.). Least Flycatchers were reported in several areas in the Flathead Valley, n.w. Montana (DT). A singing Gray Flycatcher was found in Lolo N.E. w. of Missoula, MT, June 14 (BM). A Cordilleran Flycatcher nest was located near Inkom, ID, June 20 (CW, CHT) and a pair nested in a Missoula yard (AB). A "Western" (Cordilleran?) Flycatcher was feeding nestlings in Cottonwood Canyon s. of Cottonwood, ID, July 8 (C B) A Say's

Phoebe was seen near Salmon, ID, June 29 (HR). Ash-throated Flycatchers nested in a bluebird box near Pocatello, ID (CW), and another bird was found w. of that city (CHT). A late brood of Violet-green Swallows was still in a nest box July 31 at Somers, MT (DC).

A **Bewick's Wren** was found near the top of Coyote Grade s. of Genesee, ID, June 2 (C.B.), and one singing in a canyon area w. of Hammett, ID, all during June was suspected of nesting (SG). This is about the 3rd state record (CHT). Four or five Veeries were heard in Cottonwood Canyon July 8 (C.B.). Cedar Waxwings were far more abundant in the Kalispell, MT, area than they were during the last 6 summers (DC).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Several singing ♂ Orange-crowned Warblers were seen along Little Morgan Cr. near Ellis, ID, July 6 (HR). A Nashville Warbler at L. Waha s.e. of Lewiston was unusual (CV, LP). A few Am. Redstarts were in the Troy, MT, vicinity (KB), and at least six were observed in Glacier N.P. (WEH). An Ovenbird was calling on Kirk Hill s. of Bozeman, MT, June 9 (WEH), and a singing male was found in Missoula's Greenough Park for 4 days in mid-June (AB). One near Plains, MT, June 13, apparently in suitable nesting habitat, was not found there in mid-July (DT). A N. Waterthrush was found near Island Park Dam, ID, June 19-20 (MC, FK). Missouri Headwaters S.P. near Three Forks, MT, had a Yellow-breasted Chat June 27 (WEH).

A well-described **Summer Tanager** appeared in a Pocatello yard July 10, for probably the state's first record (DB). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, rare in the Helena area, appeared 5 mi w. of the city May 29 (a pair—JS) and 20 mi n.w. of the city (a male—ME). A Green-tailed Towhee was seen near Baker, ID, June 11 (HR).

A Lark Sparrow was sighted s. of Cottonwood, ID, July 8 (C.B.) and one was seen near Baker June 6 (HR). At least eight Grasshopper Sparrows were singing at the National Bison Range, Moiese, MT, June 28 (WEH). Singing Le Conte's Sparrows were found in the

marsh s. of Swan L., Flathead, MT (EJ, DC). The species was also present at McGee Meadows, Glacier N.P., in late June (WEH). A lone ♂ Bobolink sang for several hours at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. June 5 but was not noted again. The species is rare there (JB). Unusual also were three ♂ Bobolinks e. of Kalispell, MT; they are erratic breeders in the Flathead Valley (DC). Several Bobolinks were seen near Baker, ID, June 6 (HR). Juvenile Com Grackles were sighted at Dixon, MT (DT). The species continued to be found in s.e. Idaho: an adult was feeding a nestling in Soda Springs June 20 (CHT), one was in an Idaho Falls yard in late June (KS), and they were reported in Aberdeen (DB).

Several Lesser Goldfinches were found in June near Pocatello (CHT, CW) and one was reported up Mink Cr. n.e. of Preston, ID (JSh).

Addendum: An Ancient Murrelet was picked up and photographed near Osburn, ID, Jan 29, 1990, after a stormy period of high winds and heavy snowfall (SW, GW, LB).

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

The Region recorded two new state breeding species (Snowy Plover in Wyoming, Field Sparrow in Colorado), despite a hot, dry season that extended the dryness of last summer. Low water and a resultant land bridge at Pathfinder National Wildlife Refuge, Wyoming, caused a complete failure of the colony of American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, California Gulls, and Caspian Terns (LN). A similar land bridge led to the same results at a new colony of California Gulls near Walden, Colorado (WH).

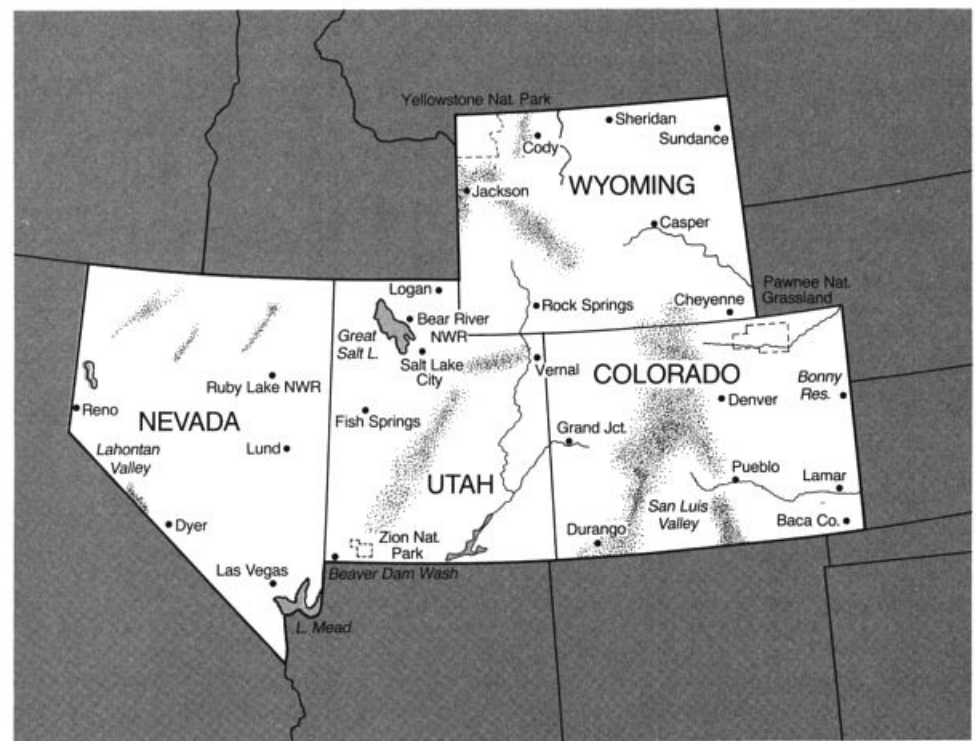
Dryness also may have accounted for the results of 3 Breeding Bird Surveys in eastern Colorado that showed big declines from last year for Ring-necked Pheasant (down from 131 to 48), Mourning Dove (from 392 to 289), Lark Bunting (from 472 to 312), and Western Meadowlark (519 to 364), but no particular changes for Western Kingbird, Horned Lark, and Cassin's Sparrow (CEB).

In contrast, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, Nevada, enjoyed an unprecedented event when a water rights purchase by Nature Conservancy and the Nevada Wildlife Association delivered fresh water to the refuge on June 2. It did not create an instant fix, but as a first step it bodes well for this very important refuge (LN).

ETHICS AND BIRDERS

The impact of birders on birds creates ethical problems that we all need to consider. During the American Birding Association convention (in Ft. Collins, CO), leaders found a Boreal Owl in a nestbox on Cameron Pass. After serious consideration they decided to show it to all who wanted to see it—and conducted a remarkable logistical and ethical feat.

On June 22, buses took 200+ A.B.A. members to the pass. The birders had strict instructions that from the moment they left the buses they could



not speak and that they must walk single file. The nest tree stood at one end of a clearing in which they arrayed themselves silently, in rows like pews in a cathedral of spruce spires. A leader scratched on the tree; the female owl popped out. She puffed up her head (the better to frighten the scratching predator), peered at the assemblage for 80 seconds, then retired. The congregation silently filed back to the buses, and proved that with foresight and consideration, mobs of bird watchers can enjoy their hobby without damage to the objects of their concern.

By July the nest contained three juveniles, and the path left by 400 human feet had largely grown over.

This leadership initiative resulted in less impact than the likely alternative: the bird was disturbed once for 2 minutes (for the benefit of 200 people) rather than dozens of times by separate groups on independent forays.

Abbreviations: B.B.S. (*Breeding Bird Survey sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*); L\A\B\A\ (Longmont\Lyons\Berthoud\Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon club records); 1st Lat First latilong record (*a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and*

longitude, and measures about 50 by 70 miles); † (*Written description on file with Regional Editor*); †† (*Written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee*).

LOONS TO IBISES

Could three Pacific Loons summer inland in the Mountain West? Observers reported them from Pyramid L., NV, June 27 (†SB), Yellowstone Park, June 7–July 10 (BSc, TM), and St. George, UT, July 9–30 (††NS, ph.). A smattering of Com. Loons in June stopped at Fish Springs N.W.R., Sheridan, WY, and Grand, CO, and two arrived July 30 in a fishless pond near Fallon, NV. Yellowstone reported 11 nesting pairs of Com. Loons, but with poor production. Eared Grebes had 450 nests at San Luis L. near Alamosa, CO (C.B.O.) and 124 at Stillwater N.W.R., NV. A handful nested at Cody, WY, and L\A\B\A\ Western Grebes nested for the first time at Cody, and a few nested at Cheyenne, WY, and Saguache, CO. Non-breeders summered throughout the Region, and L\A\B\A\ recorded 782 observations *cf.* 81 last year—perhaps unsuccessful breeders from other places. Clark's Grebes also bred at Saguache, and L\A\B\A\ observations also increased—from one to 50.

American White Pelicans had 4000 nests at Anaho N.W.R., NV, on Pyramid L., but they fledged only 329, similar to last year, possibly owing to decreasing wetland habitat and lack of food (LN). They nested at a new Colorado site—Antero Res., in a high mountain park near Fairplay; enough of the 100 summering pelicans nested to



Pacific Loon summering near St. George, Utah, July 9, 1990. Photograph/W. Neal Stephens.

produce eight or nine young (DP, C.D.O.W.). Yellowstone's 522 nests produced 572 fledglings (TM). Antero also held 50 Double-crested Cormorant nests (RR, C.D.O.W.), Anaho N.W.R. had 2240 young from 865 nests (LN), and Yellowstone produced 23 fledglings from 107 nests (TM). A count of 110 gathered at Arapaho N.W.R., Walden, CO, July 28.

In each sizeable stand of cattails in 2 wetland areas in the San Luis Valley, CO, C.B.O. reported one pair of Am. Bitterns—the only cheerful news of that species. Nesting Great Blue Herons diminished at Chatfield as the trees in the heronry fell down; the herons declined to accept a nearby site to which C.D.O.W. tried to lure them with decoys. Herons nested in a new site across the mountains in Granby Res., on an island covered with lodgepole pines. Nevada's Lahontan Valley had 310 nesting pairs of Snowy Egrets, Anaho I. had 10 nests and the San Luis Valley sites had a similar number, but few nested elsewhere. Little Blue Herons did not nest again at Monte Vista N.W.R., CO.

Full details described a reported Glossy Ibis from Walsenburg, CO, July 4 (††DS); Colorado now has 3 spring reports plus this one, all subject to C.F.O. review. White-faced Ibises produced an encouraging 2500 young in Lahontan Valley; 20–30 nested in the San Luis Valley. By late July, flocks of 75 or more gathered at Ordway, Montrose, and Cortez, CO (A.V.A.S., JRG, LB).

WATERFOWL TO CRANES

Las Vegas had a stray Tundra Swan in early June (MC). Trumpeter Swans produced only 12 cygnets in the Jackson, WY, area. The 40 adults in Yellowstone made 8 nesting attempts, but only two cygnets were expected to fledge, from one pair. A Ross' Goose found at Ft. Collins on June 23 had, according to a local farmer, been present since early spring, flying among several nearby ponds (A.B.A., †PL). Another, 30 miles n., was at Rawhide Res. June 3. Hill confirmed the century's 2nd breeding record of Barrow's Goldeneye in Colorado, when she found a brood

in the Flattops Wilderness e. of Meeker July 6. Righter saw a brood of Buffleheads near Big Spring L. near the Mount Zirkel Wilderness Aug. 1, adding data on a breeding population discovered 4 years ago (AB 43:1346). The ♀ Com. Merganser with five young e. of Ogden June 22 gave Utah its 4th breeding site (AS, 1st Lat).

Ospreys nested at a number of sites: an eyrie in Lahontan Valley had three young near flight stage July 27; extreme heat dropped breeding success of the colony at Flaming Gorge N.R.A., UT; and Grand, CO, had about 25 nests (DJ). Yellowstone had 67 nesting pairs, 77 fledglings (TM). New Osprey sites included one at Tropic Res. in n.e. Utah, and 2 hack sites at Ft. Collins that fledged nine color-marked birds. Stray Mississippi Kites visited Ft. Collins June 18 (AC) and Pawnee Nar'l Grassland June 20 (A.B.A., †SB). Ten Colorado pairs of Bald Eagles produced 13 young (16 last year); two in Utah hatched four but fledged only two. In Yellowstone 14 pairs nested, but produced only 12 eaglets; weather induced failure in 5 nests (TM). At a site s. of Mesa Verde N.P. a N. Goshawk brooded in the same nest in use 2 years ago (HEK).

Across e. Colorado, Swainsons' Hawks nested widely, and in Grand were 20–25 nests (DJ). At least one, possibly nesting, stayed near the Flattops Wilderness June 11–July 5 at a high elevation—10,000 feet—but in typical grassland habitat (†JM, HEK). Biologists in Sheldon N.W.R. in n.w. Nevada found the refuge's first 2 Ferruginous Hawk nests (B & DS), while s. Utah reported poor reproduction. Of 34 Golden Eagle territories in s.e. Utah, the 20 active ones fledged 32 young (BB). Utah claims 100 active pairs of Peregrine Falcons (U.D.W.R.) and Colorado has 44. Colorado's fledged 55 young; in 1978 Colorado had 4 known breeding pairs (JC). The Salt Lake City hotel pair fledged two this year; they have produced 10 in 5 years. In Yellowstone 6 pairs fledged eight birds; at least one of each pair is banded, indicating that the nationwide hacking program helped to bring Peregrines back to Yellowstone (TM).

Logan reported 35–45 nesting pairs of Sandhill Cranes, with 13 young by June 10, plus 100–135 non-mated birds. The greater approachability of the nesting birds led to fears about survival of the territorial birds during the controversial fall hunting season (AL, VG).

SHOREBIRDS TO DOVES

S.A.

The evaporation pond at Bridger power plant near Rock Springs gave Wyoming its first breeding record of Snowy Plover when a young chick followed an adult around on July 31, and a nearly full-grown one was seen Aug. 15 (FL). A probable nest site near Laramie, WY, had two Snowies in early June (WEH). Paton found evidence of a successful Snowy season in Utah: 132 nests around Great Salt L. He also found 208 adult Snowies July 25 at Locomotive Springs W.M.A. and 254 birds at Ogden July 30, 85% juveniles. Last year a U.D.W.R. counted 849 adults around the lake in June. In Colorado, 4 pairs were at Cheraw July 21 (A.V.A.S.), and they also nested n. of Lamar at Nee Noshe Res. (C.B.O.). They apparently did not nest at their 3rd Colorado site, Antero Res. in the mountains.

Nee Noshe also hosted 8 pairs of Piping Plovers, which fledged 12 young (C.B.O.). Last year one pair had four chicks there—the first Colorado nesting record in 50 years. Nee Noshe is apparently the only place where Piping and Snowy plovers nest together (JS).

For the 2nd year, Black-necked Stilts fared poorly at Lahontan Valley, Cody, and Monte Vista N.W.R. They did produce six young at Rock Springs, WY (FL), and nine at Las Vegas (VM). On the other hand, 2700 Am. Avocets at Lahontan Valley had excellent nesting success; 8400 avocets gathered at Carson L. July 18 (LN). Avocets nested at Rock Springs (25 with young July 18) and Cody (six on June 1). A breeding bird atlas trip found 30 Long-billed Curlews near Pritchett, CO, June 3 (JM), and nine

nested in Lahontan Valley; migrants appeared early—23 at Las Vegas June 22 and 50 at Arapaho N.W.R. July 8.

Northbound shorebirds included 51 White-rumped Sandpipers June 3 at Rawhide and 20 at Rocky Ford, a day later but 200 mi s. of Rawhide. Present at odd dates were a White-rumped at Ft. Collins June 23 (†PL), and late June Greater Yellowlegs at Yellowstone and Arapaho N.W.R., Lesser Yellowlegs June 25 at Saguache and July 1 at LALABL, and 35 Marbled Godwits near Brigham City, UT, June 21 (ES). Problematical mid-June records were of a Lesser Yellowlegs June 12 at Fish Springs and Greater Yellowlegs June 15 at Locomotive Springs, UT, and June 16–25 at Saguache, CO. LALABL counted 126 Lesser Yellowlegs this July compared with 80 last July. By July 9, Locomotive Springs had 2200 peeps, 90–95% Westerns, the rest Least, and Carson L. had 1000 Westerns on July 18. A Red-necked Phalarope at Ogden June 6 was crippled (ASt), but two at Arapaho N.W.R. June 22 had returned (probably) on an early date (DJ). A ♀ Red Phalarope in breeding plumage at Rocky Ford June 4 furnished the 2nd Regional spring record (†MJ, DN).

Another coastal stray spent July 17–21 at Fish Springs N.W.R.: Utah's 4th Long-tailed Jaeger showed off to a legion of observers as it repeatedly harassed Forster's Terns (††JE). Anaho N.W.R. reported another Heermann's Gull July 12, Nevada's 3rd in a year (FT). California Gulls had 1680 nests at Anaho, and produced at least 460 young (LN), and 157 nests at Yellowstone had 295 fledglings (TM).

Caspian Terns flooded Colorado, with records from 9 sites in 5 latilongs, but no one reported nesting. In Yellowstone, 28 ternlets fledged from 28 nests. Anaho produced only one young from 6 nests. No reporters mentioned nesting Black Terns, and Forster's Terns have declined substantially as Regional breeders. Colorado had a record 15 pairs of nesting Least Terns, 10 at Rocky Ford and 5 at Nee Noshe (C.B.O.). A White-winged Dove stayed at a Denver feeder June 4–9, for Colorado's 12th record (†IC, ph.).



White-winged Dove at Denver, Colorado, June 6, 1990. About the twelfth state record. Photograph/Irwin H. Cohen.

CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS

Utah had two Yellow-billed Cuckoos, at Cedar City June 16–July 15 (SH) and Fish Springs June 29 (JE)—but the Salt Lake City hotel Peregrine eyrie did not, for the first time, contain any remains of Utah's elusive cuckoos.

S.A.

The Forest Service mounted a major search for Spotted Owls (Mexican race) in Colorado, Utah, and Nevada. They found none in Nevada, 6 sites in c. Utah, 2 in the Mesa Verde N.P. area, and no others in s. Colorado, but a surprising 2 territories at opposite ends of the Wet Mts. w. of Pueblo (JV).

The surveys had a bonus of Flammulated Owls, found at 3 sites in the Carson Range near Reno and 12 sites in c. Utah. The Utah group also found several N. Pygmy-Owls and N. Saw-whets, and the Nevadans found one Saw-wheat in the Pine Nut Range. At Morgan, UT, in his personal survey, Smith found 13 nesting Flammulated Owls, including some using nest holes occupied last year. One nest was found near Golden, CO (DG, AH), and Flammulated were seen at Pueblo and Ft. Collins.

Rocky Mt. Arsenal—which, despite calamitous water and land pollution problems, contains undisturbed prairie and woodlands within sight of downtown Denver—censused 22 Burrowing Owl nests that produced 109 young.

A Magnificent Hummingbird stopped in Rocky Mountain N.P. July 7–12 (††DJ). The 27 Calliope Hummingbirds seen in Colorado in July represented a major increase; 10 thronged a foothills feeder near Denver (RW, PH). The Calliope at Cortez July 15 furnished a 1st Lat (AV). The 295 Broad-taileds counted on the I.P.B.C. made a typical number. The first Regional Rufous Hummingbird arrived in Springdale June 24 (JG), followed by one June 30 near Morgan, UT, and early July birds at Penrose, Evergreen, West Elks Wilderness, and Cortez, CO. Utah recorded 10 Lewis' Woodpeckers at Ouray N.W.R. At Heber, UT, on June 24 a Red-headed Woodpecker fed on fence posts and telephone poles and foraged like a flycatcher (†RC). Yellowstone reported 18 observations of Three-toed and 19 of Black-backed woodpeckers, more than before the fires (JZ, TM).

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

On June 1 at Ovid, CO, an

Alder Flycatcher sang 22 times in 10 minutes, but it quit before the observer, committed to a timed bird census, could look for it—as if seeing it would have aided the identification (WH). Atlasers confirmed Ash-throated Flycatcher nesting at Rifle, CO (VZ—1st Lat) and linked the breeding territory around Eagle and McCoy with Grand Junction. Howe enlarged the South Platte R. breeding range of the Great Crested Flycatcher with 3 nesting pairs at Julesburg and another at Ovid. To the south, a Great Crested exploring a nest hole near Kit Carson did not stay to nest (BRi, DP, HEK). Atlasing located nesting Purple Martins in 5 aspen groves in 3 blocks n. of Paonia, CO, none near water. The new sites extended west from a traditional site, unoccupied this year, on McClure Pass (HEK). Colorado atlas work filled in a gap in the range of Bewick's Wren; 1st Lat breeding records at Rifle and Maybell (VZ, HEK) link with the breeding population in Rock Springs, where 35 on July 28 included several juveniles (FL). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Yellowstone June 1–3 pushed its range to a n.w. limit (††GA, 1st Lat).

Atlas and U.S.F.&W. work solidified the w. limits of breeding E. Bluebirds—youth at Brush, CO, June 4 (WH, 1st Lat) and 3 nests at Kit Carson June 1–28 (HEK). A Wood Thrush stopped at Balzac, Morgan, CO, June 4 (†WH), and on June 2 a Varied Thrush stopped at Fontenelle, WY (†FL). Gray Catbirds nested at Cody and Jackson, and one stopped at Yellowstone June 9–10 (JZ).

Atlas work discovered 2 pairs of Gray Vireos building nests June 3–4 east of Kim, CO (RL, HEK, 1st Lat). This extended the breeding range 200 mi east across the Continental Divide, although they probably nest at Canon City, 125 mi N.W. of Kim. A Yellow-throated Vireo stayed on territory at Chatfield S.R.A. through June, but no breeding confirmation materialized (D.F.O., VZ); another sang at Crow Valley Campground in the Pawnee Grassland June 20 (A.B.A., †SB). Early June warblers included a Tennessee at Rocky Mountain N.P. (BR), N. Parulas at Kit Carson and Longmont (†HEK, BR, †KB), May

Parulas that stayed to June 2 & 7, respectively, at Fontenelle and Rock Springs (FL), a Black-throated Blue at Weldona, CO (†WH), one or two Blackpolls at Fontenelle (†RS), a lingering Black-and-white at Fontenelle to June 6 (FL), the Swainson's Warbler at Ft. Collins last seen June 8, and a Mourning Warbler at Kit Carson, CO, June 1 (†BR, †HEK, 1st Lat).

Chestnut-sided Warblers sang at Manila, UT, June 30–July 8 (†FL), Arapaho N.W.R., CO, July 7 (†WH), and Denver June 12–14 (BSp); Utah lacks breeding records and Colorado has only a handful along the Front Range. In Rocky Mountain N.P. two Townsend's Warblers sang on territory June 19–21 (A.B.A.); Colorado has no breeding records. A N. Waterthrush had a territory in the Gardiner, MT, section of Yellowstone; a second one sang in the Wyoming part on July 13. Several observers think Wilson's Warblers are declining—e.g., 109 on the June 16 Indian Peaks Bird Count, down from the prior counts like the 303 in 1988.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

For a 2nd year, Ohio birders found Hepatic Tanagers at the Royal Gorge near Cañon City, CO; one of the pair this year carried an apparent fecal sac (†NW), which would confirm breeding 135 mi n.w. of its known Colorado range s. of Kim, CO. Near Kim observers found Hepatics in 2 new sites, a nest in typical ponderosa pine, and 2 territorial pairs in piñon pine (VT, HEK).

On June 28, after a 60-day absence, a N. Cardinal returned to a Georgetown, CO, feeder (MG); a female was at a more likely breeding spot at Holly, CO, June 15 (PL). The 7 Blue Grosbeak reports in n. Utah included a possible pair nesting at Clarkston (KA). The Lingle, WY, B.B.S. turned up 11 on June 28. Spring's scarcity of Lazuli Buntings continued at Killpack's banding station in Oden, with only two banded in June and July cf. 34 in 1989. Indigo Buntings sang at Delta and Loveland, CO, without showing nests, but one carrying food for young at Rye provided the Colorado atlas with its first

confirmation (DS). One was described from Fish Springs July 11 (MT). Three Cassin's Sparrows on the Lingle B.B.S. gave Wyoming its second record (†WH). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow July 5–7 provided the first Yellowstone record, a n.w. extension of the range (†G & LM, ph.). Prather found nesting **Field Sparrows** at Crook—finally proving that they nest in Colorado. At Sheldon N.W.R., NV, banding confirmed nesting White-crowned Sparrows, for the first time (B & DS). Reports of Bobolinks came from 3 Utah sites, 3 in Wyoming including the 2nd nesting at Jackson (BR), and 3 sites in Colorado. In *Weld* June 27–July 29, observers checked out an E. Meadowlark (DL, D.F.O.). Great-tailed Grackles nested at Cortez, Mancos, and Durango, CO, and summered at Saguache, and set a *1st Lat* at Maybell, CO (JW). The Denver Bronzed Cowbird found in spring stayed to July 15.

Observers found juvenile Brown-headed Cowbirds in the custody of Olive-sided Flycatcher, W. Wood-Pewee, Yellow Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and, sort of, House Sparrow. For the latter, "a female House Sparrow pounded on the head of an imm. cowbird for a few minutes; I thought she was going to kill it but it perked up and acted normally when she left" (LB).

S.A.

The Lingle B.B.S. turned up 16 Orchard Orioles at 12 stops June 28 (WH). Red Crossbills came back; counts included 40 at Yellowstone, 25 June 7 at Story, WY, 10–18/day at Buffalo, WY, 300 in Boulder Mt., UT, 101 on the Indian Peaks Bird Count, a nest at Georgetown, CO, and good counts throughout the Colorado Rockies. The reports included no White-winged Crossbills. Lesser Goldfinches, rare in Wyoming, were seen in Rock Springs and Guernsey. The singing Lesser at Arapaho N.W.R. June 17 was a *1st Lat* (WH). In Cedar City, UT, fledgling Evening Grosbeaks arrived at feeders July 15, but they absented themselves from the 1987–1988 nesting site at Logan (although one was seen July 8 a mile away—KD).

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SOUTHWEST REGION Arizona

David Stejskal and Gary H. Rosenberg

The avian event of the summer in Arizona was undoubtedly the widespread movement of *Pelecaniformes* into the state, presumably from the Gulf of California. While Brown Pelicans were reported in the southwestern half of the state in unprecedented numbers, causing quite a stir among local birders (as well as the media), it was the occurrence of single individuals of Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Booby, and amazingly, Red-billed Tropicbird, that shed light on the actual scope of this invasion (see also the Southern California report to get an idea of just how large this invasion was).

Perhaps the biggest news overall for the season was the above-average rainfall throughout much of the state after almost five years of drought conditions. Although the effects of such a wet summer were immediately evident (*i.e.*, the high breeding success of several sparrow species in southeastern Arizona), it is the long-term impact of such a wet year on the avifauna of Arizona that we are cautiously anticipating. Not only will the food crop for wintering sparrows be incredibly abundant this winter, but lush conditions in Arizona and northern Mexico this year, with the subsequent high breeding success for many species, may result in a better than average year in 1991 in Arizona for both breeding birds and for wanderers from Mexico.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.T.A. (*Boyce Thompson Arboretum*); L.C.R. (*Lower Colorado River*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro River*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*); V.O.C. (*Village of Oak Creek*).

GREBES TO WATERFOWL

Out of place during this season was a Western Grebe at Peck's L. July 20 (VG). One of the out-

standing vagrants of the season was the imm. Red-billed Tropicbird found on the outskirts of Tucson in a small pond in late June. The bird was captured for rehabilitation, and photographed June 29 (ph., *vide* JH); amazingly, this represents the 4th record of this highly pelagic species in Arizona, but only the second since 1927. Coinciding with the first invasion in years of this species to the Salton Sea in southern California, a single **Brown Booby**, the first in Arizona since 1977, was reported along an irrigation canal s. of Yuma July 15 (Bill Grossi). Another or the same was found below Imperial Dam, on the California side of the Colorado River, July 25 (*vide* SG). A small concentration of 13 Am. White Pelicans July 22–26 (CL), earlier than usual, was at Many Farms Lake.

S.A.

The most intriguing phenomenon of the summer was the widespread invasion of unprecedented numbers of Brown Pelicans into the Region beginning in early July. No fewer than fifty individuals were found virtually statewide, with one wandering as far northeast as Show Low in the White Mt. region. At least 15 individuals were rounded up by Arizona Game and Fish personnel, while another nine were brought to Sea World in San Diego by the Adobe Mt. Rehabilitation Center, west of Phoenix. With few exceptions, nearly every larger body of water in southern Arizona hosted an imm. Brown Pelican at some time during July or August. This movement of Brown Pelicans into the state coincided with a huge influx into the Salton Sea region of southern California. Interestingly, south of the border at Puerto Peñasco on the Gulf of California, an estimated 600–1000 pelicans were picked up dead along beaches and in town, and were reported to have been incinerated.

Very unusual for the White Mts. were eight Double-crested Cormorants at Lakeside June 12 (GM, T. Huels), and another nine at Luna L., near Alpine, June 13 (RBr); there are no nesting records of this species for the



White Mountains. One at Willow Tank, southeast of Portal, July 10, and two found shot there July 18 (RM), were at an odd locality for southeastern Arizona. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird was found on Lake Havasu, south of Lake Havasu City, July 22 (ph. RW, JW, S & L. Burge); this species occurs about every other year in the state. Unusual in southeastern Arizona at any season (away from Picacho Reservoir) was a Least Bittern at Pena Blanca L. July 3 (N. Brinkley). Very late were a single White-faced Ibis and a single Blue-winged Teal at Willcox June 11 (PL, SF). A ♂ Lesser Scaup at Basin L., White Mts., June 12 (GM) was unexpected as this species does not nest within the state. Also out of place was a pair of Lessers at Sierra Vista S.T.P. throughout July; this species only infrequently summers in the southern portion of the state.

RAPTORS TO TERNS

Although initiation of breeding was about 3 weeks later than usual on the upper San Pedro River, the Gray Hawk population there successfully fledged 20 individuals, the highest count since detailed surveys have been conducted in the area (DK). A Swainson's Hawk s. of Maricopa June 4 (TG *et al.*) represented one of only a few June records for Maricopa County. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk 4 mi s. of St. David along the S.P.R. June 13 was away from known nesting localities in southeastern

Arizona (DK).

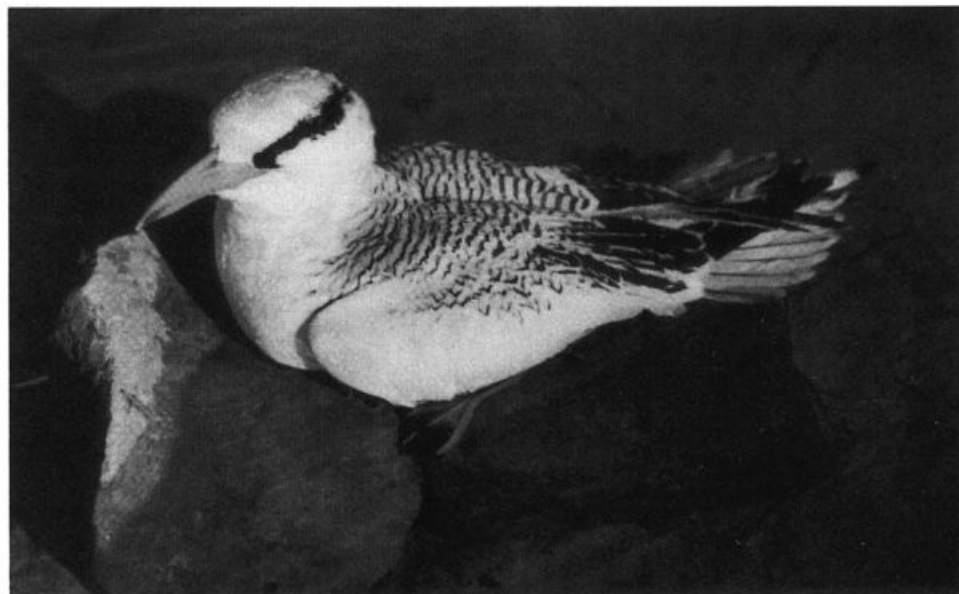
Surveys of the endangered subspecies of Clapper Rail, *R. l. yumanensis*, have revealed at least 2 new localities along the Gila River drainage, where this species has nested sporadically in the past; four were e. of P.R.D. in Citrus Valley and two were along the Sisson Rd. Wash May 22 (DT). Up to 11 Clappers were found again along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix in the Arlington Valley between May 9 & 23 (DT *et al.*). Virginia Rail is only an occasional summer visitor to most of southern Arizona, and while an individual heard along the Salt R. near Blue Point May 25 (DT) may have represented a late migrant,

three imm. birds at Nogales June 25 (B. Machover) represented definite nesting.

In recent years, Am. Avocet has been found nesting at several new locations within the state; one seen apparently sitting on eggs in Tucson along the Santa Cruz R. May 28 (S. Levy) probably represented the first nesting record of this species for Pima County. An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper at Sierra Vista S.T.P. from July 18 to the end of the period (J. Dunn, GHR *et al.*) represented one of only a few reports ever of an adult seen in Arizona. Representing only a 3rd Arizona record, a breeding plumaged White-rumped Sandpiper was at Willcox on the very

late dates of June 23–24 (S. Mlodinow, ph. JH); most spring migration records for the West occur during the first half of June. A Stilt Sandpiper at Kayenta July 21, and another there July 29 (CL), probably represented the earliest "south-bound" migrants seen in northern Arizona. Common Snipe is a rare and sporadic breeder in the Springerville region, so four seen and heard displaying there June 9–10 (PL, SF) were noteworthy. It is still unclear whether or not Wilson's Phalarope nests in the Springerville area; three were seen there again this summer (including a pair in suitable breeding habitat) on June 9 (PL, SF), but to date no evidence of nesting has been found. A single individual observed at Kayenta June 8 (CL) was probably a migrant, although suitable nesting habitat also exists occasionally in the Kayenta area. Except when a nest or young are found, June records of this species are probably best regarded as non-breeders.

A late Bonaparte's Gull was at Tucson June 7 (C. Williamson); there are several scattered summer records of this species throughout the state. Although Heermann's Gull is a nearly annual visitor to the state, one at Tucson June 24–28 (S. Dolan, JH) apparently represented only the 2nd summer record. Twenty-five imm. California Gulls at Mormon L. June 12 (PL, SF) made an exceptionally



Immature Red-billed Tropicbird found in Tucson, Arizona, in late June 1990. Fourth state record. Photograph/Jack Holloway.



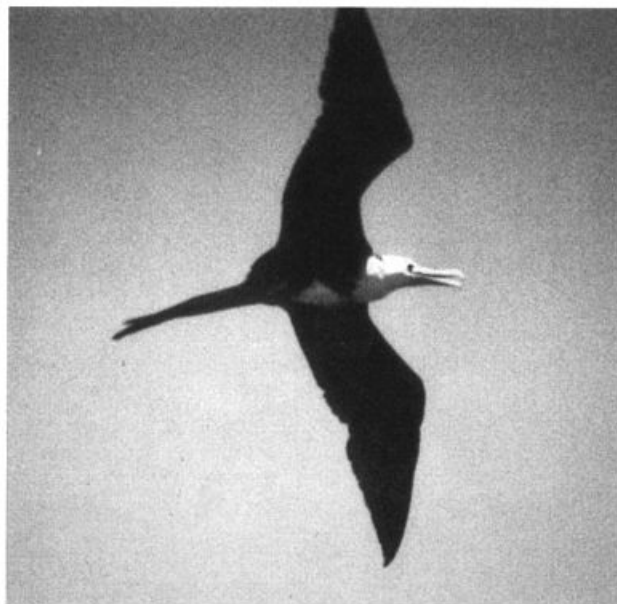
Subadult Brown Pelican at the Snyder Hill ponds, Tucson, Arizona, July 1990. Unprecedented numbers of the species reached Arizona this season. Photograph/Gary H. Rosenberg.

high count for summer; additionally, three at Willcox June 11 (PL, SF), up to five at Sierra Vista through the period, and two at Tucson through July (m.ob) were all thought to be unusual for the summer months. Three Caspian Terns at Mormon L. June 9 (PL, SF) furnished one of the few records of this species for northern Arizona. Hot on the heels of the May Tucson record, another **Elegant Tern**, this time a subadult, was w. of Tucson July 7-9 (m.ob., ph. GHR); there are now three Arizona records (all since 1988) of this normally very coastal species. Two ad. Forster's Terns at Sunrise L., White Mts., June 12 (GM) were very late for migrants in northern Arizona.

DOVES TO THRASHERS

East of its usual range in Arizona was a Common Ground-Dove at Portal June 6 (T. Gates). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo netted in the lower Little Colorado R. Gorge July 18 (P. Ryan) was far from known nesting areas in Arizona and probably was a

non-breeding wanderer. At least two Elf Owls summered 3 mi s. of Charleston, upper S.P.R.; although this species is a common breeder in canyons draining the east side of the Huachuca Mts., there are apparently no nesting records for the



Immature Magnificent Frigatebird over Lake Havasu, Arizona, July 22, 1990. Photograph/Robert A. Witzeman.

upper S.P.R. drainage proper (DK).

A pair of White-eared Hummingbirds returned to Ramsey Canyon and apparently nested for the 2nd straight year. The adult female was the same female banded in 1989, and the two juveniles present through the period were first reported July 6. Further suggestion that Magnificent Hummingbird may nest locally along the Mogollon Rim was obtained when a male was seen in late June at Christopher Creek (B. Crummen). A Plain-capped Starthroat was reported off and on at Patagonia throughout the period (m.ob.); considering how many observers saw this individual, we find it disheartening that no one submitted details to document these sightings. A Costa's Hummingbird at the Village of Oak Creek July 5 (A. Thornburg) was at an unexpected locality.

Two pairs of Belted Kingfishers at South Fork in the White Mts. June 9-10 (PL, SF) further suggested that this species nests in this area. A single ♂ Green Kingfisher continued to be sighted infrequently throughout the period along the upper S.P.R. (DK), but no evidence of nesting has been obtained in 2 years.

For the 2nd year in a row, breeding was confirmed for N. Beardless-Tyrannulet on the upper S.P.R. near St. David June 20 (DK); despite the presence of suitable habitat for

this species on the S.P.R. between St. David and the Mexican border, this is the only known breeding locality for this section of the river. One of the outstanding finds of the season was an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** singing its complete song along the Little Colorado River near South Fork June 10 (†PL, †SF); pending acceptance by the A.B.C., this represents the first spring record, and only the 4th or 5th record overall, for the state. Observers should keep in mind that separation of Eastern from Western Wood-Pewee in the field by plumage characteristics alone is virtually impossible, and that only individuals singing *complete* songs will be acceptable. A wandering imm. Black Phoebe on Black Mesa June 27 (CL) represented a first local record; this species is virtually unknown away from the Little Colorado River drainage in n.e. Arizona. For the 3rd year in a row, Dusky-capped Flycatcher was found breeding along the upper S.P.R. south of St. David (DK); it is perplexing why this species is such a rare breeder on the S.P.R. Two Eastern Kingbirds were found in southeastern Arizona, one in lower Pinery Canyon July 19 (D. Fisher, B. Woodruff) and another in Patagonia in late July (R. Stallcup). This species continues to be a rare late summer migrant throughout the state.

At least one Marsh Wren in marshy habitat along the Little Colorado River n.w. of Cameron throughout the period (P. Ryan) probably represented the first summer record for northern Arizona. The only known breeding localities in the state are along the lower Colorado River, and the Gila and Salt River valleys in the Phoenix region. A Swainson's Thrush along the upper S.P.R. June 6 (DK) was about as late as this species has been recorded as a spring migrant in the state. A Gray Catbird, a sparse migrant in Arizona away from its highly localized nesting grounds in the White Mts., was at a feeder in Portal June 5 (T. Gates). A Brown Thrasher, normally a very rare fall and winter visitor to the state, was found in a yard in Bisbee June 9 (C. Gottlund), representing one of only a handful of spring records

for Arizona.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A ♀ Golden-winged Warbler was found in Sycamore Canyon, June 6 (†J. & C. Black); normally an extreme rarity in western North America, Golden-wingeds have been recorded 5 times in the past 3 years in Arizona. Yellow Warbler, formerly a widespread breeder on the L.C.R., was virtually extirpated as a nesting bird there with the destruction of its riparian habitat during the past century. One south of Laguna Dam in seven-year-old replanted Fremont's Cottonwoods June 6 (MJ, J. Rorabaugh) offered encouragement that this species, along with other riparian obligates, may yet become re-established in revegetated areas along the L.C.R. Unprecedented for the Southwest was the reported nesting of **Black-and-white Warbler** w. of Prescott along the Santa Maria River drainage. A pair was seen feeding two downy young June 9 & 14, with the adult male still present until at least June 28 (†B. Houser *et al.*).

The only American Redstart reported during the season was a male in Tempe on the late date of June 14 (KG). A Prothonotary Warbler at Nogales, July 20 through the end of the period (DS, B. Millett, m.ob.) furnished the first July record for the state. An Ovenbird at Madera Canyon June 9 (R. Freeman) was the 5th individual of this species to be found in the state this year. A ♂ Common Yellowthroat on Black Mesa June 25–July 15 (CL) provided a first local summer record; this species is not known as a breeder in n.e. Arizona away from the Little Colorado River drainage. Two more Hooded Warblers were found during the summer, one male at Summerhaven, Santa Catalina Mts., July 14 (WR), and another male at Garden Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 20 (KK, LK), bringing the year's total to six. The status of Hooded Warbler has evolved from being a casual vagrant to being one of the most frequently reported "eastern" warblers in Arizona. A Wilson's Warbler at Portal June 25 (RM) was either a very late spring migrant or a wandering, non-breeding indi-

vidual. A pair of Olive Warblers feeding young in the Pinal Mts., near Globe, June 21 (R. Hefferon) appeared to furnish a first local nesting record; lack of breeding evidence from this locality in the past is most likely a result of the infrequent visitation of these mountains.

Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, about average for this season, were reported this summer, with one at Canelo Hills Cienega July 1 (R. Haaseth), and another at Summerhaven July 14 (WR). A ♂ Indigo



White-rumped Sandpiper at Willcox, Arizona, June 23, 1990. Third state record, and surprisingly late in the spring. Photograph/Jack Holloway.

Bunting on Black Mesa June 26–27 (CL) provided another local first for that area. A Painted Bunting, proving to be an annual wanderer to s.e. Arizona during late summer and early fall, was found at Portal July 4 (A. Farnsworth, V. Emanuel). One of the many benefits of the removal of cattle grazing from along the upper S.P.R. in the San Pedro National Riparian Area has been the dramatic increase in the number of

individuals of certain riparian obligates; numbers of Song Sparrows, for example, have probably tripled there since grazing has been eliminated (DK). A White-crowned Sparrow at Portal July 18 (T. Gates) provided one of the few mid-summer records for s.e. Arizona. At least 3 pairs of Great-tailed Grackles nested at Kayenta Reservoir (CL), establishing yet another nesting locality in northeastern Arizona for this rapidly expanding species. A ♀ Cassin's Finch spent the summer at a feeder in Portal (SSp), at an unusually low elevation and far south for this species.

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New Mexico

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Abbreviations: Bitter Lake (*Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); Bosque Refuge (*Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge*); P.O. Canyon (*Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts*); S.P. (*State Park*); T/C (*Truth or Consequences*); Wagon

Mound (*Wagon Mound State Wildlife Area*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*); Guadalupe Canyon refers only to the NM portion of the canyon. place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Highly unusual was a **Pacific Loon** at Bosque Refuge June 2 (ph. BS), while also notable were single presumed Commons at Heron L. July 13 (CB) and Weatherly L., *Union*, July 16 (WC). An estimated 2500–3000+ Eared Grebe nests at Burford (Stinking) L. hatched young in early July (DS). About 30 Eareds summered at Wagon Mound (JH, JV) and over 40 at L.V.N.W.R. (GS), but dry conditions at Zuni resulted in only six birds and no nests being present in June (DC). A brood of W. Grebes was at La Jara L., *Rio Arriba*, June 25 (DS), while up to eight Westerns and 16 Clark's were among about 40 *Aechmophorus* grebes summering at L.V.N.W.R. (GS). Single Westerns were at Storrie L. (LG, TH) and Bluewater L. (DC), plus a Clark's at Bitter Lake (RM) and another—with a probable Western—at Wagon Mound (JH, JV) in the period. Unusual were 22 late Am. White Pelicans at Caballo L. June 17 (CS), while early were 35 at Bosque Refuge July 29 (SW). A few Double-crested Cormorants were at Weatherly L. July 15 (WC) and L.V.N.W.R. June 28 (GS), while 80 nests of this or the Olivaceous were at Elephant Butte L. (C. Painter) and 60 at Caballo L. (CS) in June.

Up to 15 Great Blue Herons (two apparently on nests) and four Great Egrets (one apparently nesting) were at Caballo L. June 17 (CS). Up to 92 Snowies were at Bitter Lake June 14 (SOW), plus a vagrant at Zuni June 11 (DC); in *Eddy*, the species was rare, and the heronry near Loving may have failed (SW). Notable at Bosque Refuge were three imm. Little Blue Herons July 14 (CS) and 25 Cattle Egrets July 29 (SW), with a Tricolored at Bitter Lake June 18 (RM). About 50 Green-backed Herons and a nest with eggs were along the Pecos R. below Loving June 19–20 (SW *et al.*). Highly unusual was an ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Mesilla June 27 (CS, EW). A

few Black-crowned Night-Herons nested at Burford L. (DS), while a straggler was near Caprock June 18 (RM). White-faced Ibises again nested at Burford, with 35 birds present and a nestling banded July 15 (DS). A few non-breeding ibises were present in June at Maxwell N.W.R. (LH), L.V.N.W.R.—plus 29 on July 6 (GS), Bosque Refuge (RT, PB), and Radium Springs (CS, EW), with early migrants at Mangas Springs July 19–28 (RF).

Two Snow Geese lingered at Bosque Refuge until June 1 (CS). Canada Geese again summered in the Chama area, with five there June 13 (L & JS). Up to five Wood Ducks were at L.V. N.W.R. through the period (GS). A male Mexican Duck was on the Mimbres R. with a possible Mallard July 6 (RF), and two Cinnamon Teal were in the Peloncillo Mts. June 3 (DC). Diving ducks summering at L.V.N.W.R. included maxima of six Canvasbacks, 74 Redheads, three Ring-neckeds, nine Lesser Scaup, and three Buffleheads (GS)—plus up to four Canvasbacks and 30 Redheads at Wagon Mound in June (JH, JV). Stragglers included a Canvasback near Clayton June 14 (WC) and a Bufflehead at Bosque Refuge June 19 (RM).

Unusual were up to three Ospreys at Cochiti L. June 4 (T. Johnson) and one at Bosque Refuge June 2 (RT, PB). A Mississippi Kite was along the Dry Cimmaron R., Union, June 17 (DC), while single nests were at Albuquerque (P. Elliston) and Mesilla (CS, GE). Unusual were an imm. Bald Eagle in the Chama area June 20 (L & JS) and an adult summering at Maxwell N.W.R. (W. Moberly). Early was a N. Harrier near Las Cruces July 2 (GS). A juv. Com. Black-Hawk at Bosque Refuge June 2 (ph. BS) probably fledged from a nest in the area. Harris' Hawks persisted in the Luna area (*vide* RF), while numbers remained low in Eddy (SW). A Zone-tailed Hawk was in the Mimbres Valley June 12 (PL, RF), where rarely reported. Single Ferruginous Hawk nests were observed in *Colfax* and *Union* (HS) in mid-June.

QUAILS THROUGH CUCKOOS

Northerly were two N Bob-

whites east of Sabinoso June 20 (SOW); reports elsewhere included small numbers near Fort Sumner (SOW), Caprock (SOW), and Eunice (GS) in mid-June, plus south of Loving July 20 (SW). Virginia Rail reports included a nest with nine eggs at Burford L. June 9 (GS), five adults and 10 juveniles at Zuni July 1 (DC), at least six at Mangas Springs in June–July (RF), and two calling near both Mayhill (with a Sora) and Sacramento L. June 21 (SW, MM). A mid-June survey for Snowy Plovers yielded 228 adults (plus nests and broods) at Bitter Lake, 16 at Bottomless Lakes S.P., 32 at Holloman L., but only three at Laguna Grande, Eddy (SOW). Mountain Plovers were “difficult to find” in the Clayton area, with a pair and two young there July 3 (WC); unusual were three birds at the Lordsburg Playa June 7 (DC). Up to 18 Black-necked Stilts summered at Holloman L. (SOW), with a nest and four eggs there June 5 (GE). Breeding Am. Avocets included nests or broods at Burford L. (GS), near Clayton (WC), Bitter Lake (SOW), and Holloman L. (SOW) in June. Also presumably nesting were 10–15 at Wagon Mound (JH) and eight at the Lordsburg Playa (SOW) in June.

Early Lesser Yellowlegs included singles at Wagon Mound June 24 (JH, JV) and L.V.N.W.R. June 20 (GS). Rarer shorebirds included a single **Whimbrel** at Holloman L. June 16 (SOW) and a **Hudsonian Godwit** at L.V.N.W.R. July 6 (GS). Long-billed Curlews were widely reported in the northeast, including 18 at Folsom June 17 (DC), “more than usual” in the Clayton area (WC), and a brood near Las Vegas June 21 (D. Macfarlane, R. Salter). Southerly were four near Ft. Sumner June 13 (SOW), while presumed late migrants were one at Bosque Refuge June 1 (CS) and up to nine at Holloman L. June 5–16 (GE, SOW). Breeding was suspected but not confirmed in the 30–50 Wilson's Phalaropes at Wagon Mound June 8 & 24 (JH, JV); 23 were also at Bitter Lake June 14 (SOW).

Single Franklin's Gulls were at Burford L. (DS et al.) and Holloman L. (GE, SOW) June 5–16. Southeasterly were four-five California Gulls at Maxwell

N.W.R. June 27 (LG, TH) and Wagon Mound June 8 (JH, RD), plus one at Storrie L. June 26 (LG, TH). Notable were single Caspian Terns at Morgan L., *San Juan*, July 6 (CB, ph. JB) and Storrie L. June 26 (LG, TH), plus a few Forster's Terns at Ute L. (SOW), Bitter Lake (RM), and Holloman L. (SOW) in mid-June. Three pairs of Least Terns nested near Bitter Lake, but only one of four-five chicks fledged (M. Peckinpaugh). Three Black Terns were at L.V. N.W.R. in mid-June (GS), plus singles at Bosque Refuge (RM) and Holloman L. (SOW).

Eggs hatched in a White-winged Dove nest in north Albuquerque July 2, with young fledged July 16 (BO); one-two adults remained in the south part of town through July (AS). White-wingeds outnumbered Mourning Doves at T/C, with fledglings of the former as early as June 11 (DM). Notable were two White-wingeds in Silver City during the period (D & MZ), plus “good numbers” in Carlsbad (SW). Three Incas were at T/C on July 12 (DM). Small numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Clayton (WC), Albuquerque (AS), Bosque Refuge (PB, RT), west of Roswell (SOW), the lower San Francisco Valley (RF, JH), Mangas Springs (RF), Mesilla (CS), Carlsbad, and Loving (SW et al.).

OWLS THROUGH DIPPER

Sixteen Barn Owls were roosting in salt cedars along the Pecos R. near Loving July 19–20 (SW et al.). Nine Flammulated Owls were in the Magdalena Mts. June 2 (JB et al.). **Whiskered Screech-Owls** remained in the Peloncillo Mts. through the period with three apparent pairs in Clanton Canyon (DC, SOW) and another in Cottonwood Canyon—where a presumed juvenile was heard with an adult July 28 (JB, BC). A N. Pygmy-Owl was calling in Clanton Canyon July 6 (DC), along with up to three Elf Owls July 3–6 (DC, SOW). Three Whip-poor-wills were in the Magdalena Mts. June 2 (JB et al.). New Mexico's first actual nests of the **Black Swift** were discovered in the Jemez Mts., with four adults on the East Fork Je-

mez R. June 24 (R. Butler *vide* BL), adults entering a cave at Jemez Falls in mid-July (*vide* P Snider), and four or five active nests confirmed there July 25 (P Johnson). A few Chimney Swifts summered in Clayton (WC), while easterly White-throateds included two near Mosquero June 20 (SOW).

At least three male Broad-billed Hummingbirds were in Guadalupe Canyon June 4 (SOW, DC), with possible juveniles there July 29–30 (CB). One-two male Violet-crowneds appeared in Guadalupe Canyon June 5 (SOW, DC), with none seen the previous two days (*vide* v.o.). Notable were two Blue-throated Hummingbirds at L. Roberts, *Grant*, in June (*vide* RF) along with up to three Magnificents (RF, PL); other Magnificents included one-two at Signal Peak in the Pinos Altos Mts. (LG, RF) and Clanton Canyon June 3 (DC). An estimated 10 Lucifers were in P.O. Canyon during the period (RS). A straggling Acorn Woodpecker was at Bosque Refuge June 14 (RT, PB), while a pair at Mangas Springs was the first breeding there in several years (RF). Single nests of Williamson's Sapsuckers and Downy Woodpeckers were at Redondo Campground in the Zuni Mts. June 26 & July 3 (SI, DC). A Downy in the Magdalena Mts. June 2 (JB et al.) was unusual, while also notable was a pair feeding nestlings in the Pinos Altos Mts. June 12 (RF).

Two-three territorial N Beardless-Tyrannulets were in Guadalupe Canyon June 4–5 (SOW, DC) with one still calling there July 29–30 (CB). One-two Willow Flycatchers were at Zuni June 27 and July 1 (DC). One or two Hammond's and Duskiess reported at Redondo Campground July 3 (DC) were in a new summering locality for these species in the Zuni Mts. Southerly was a Gray Flycatcher and seven *Empidonax* sp. in the Magdalena Mts. June 2 (JB et al.); a probable Pacific-slope was calling in Guadalupe Canyon June 5 (SOW, DC). Westerly was an Eastern Phoebe near Folsom June 17 (ph. DC), while one-two Eastern Kingbirds were in the Clayton area (WC) and near Las Vegas (PL) in June. Three pairs of Thick-billed Kingbirds had presumed

juveniles in Guadalupe Canyon by July 29–30 (CB). Nineteen Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were near Eunice June 22 (GS), but only two were reported in *Eddy* (SW).

Up to 20 Bank Swallows were entering holes along the Chama R below El Vado June 16 (K. Copeland *et al.*), where not previously reported nesting. A Steller's Jay in Santa Fe July 8 & 29 (SOW) may have been a straggler from last winter's invasion. Southerly Pinyon Jays were near Silver City June 19 (RM); others included 127 near White Oaks June 17 (SOW), 40 near Capitan July 29 (SW), and juveniles in Santa Fe from mid-June through July (JH). Two possible Chihuahuan Ravens in Albuquerque June 6 (HS) were at a new northlerly locale for the species in the Rio Grande Valley. Well north of the usual range was a Cactus Wren east of Sabinoso June 20 (SOW), for the second local record in three years. Notable was an Am. Dipper in the Black Range along nearly-dry Animas Cr. June 16 (GE).

KINGLETS THROUGH FINCHES

Golden-crowned Kinglets included birds presumably nesting in the Sandias (HS) and a few in the Zunis July 3 (DC), Magdalenas June 2 (JB *et al.*), and near Cloudcroft June 21 (SW, MM). A Swainson's Thrush was singing in the Chama area July 11 (JB). Several Am. Robins bred successfully in Clayton, where nesting is "irregular" (WC). A late and westerly Gray Catbird was at San Simon Cienega June 6 (DC, SOW). Curve-billed Thrashers again nested in the Sandia Mts., where the species may be increasing (HS). Northerly Phainopeplas were at Sevilleta N.W.R. and Bosque Refuge (RT, PB) in June

and in the Lower San Francisco Valley in mid-July (JH); the 60 or so in Guadalupe Canyon June 5 (SOW, DC) were gone by July 29–30 (CB).

A new area for Bell's Vireos was along the R. Felix drainage west of Roswell, with two there June 16 (SOW); a few were in Guadalupe Canyon (SOW) and none in most areas of regular occurrence in *Eddy* (SW). Notable was a **Gray Vireo** in the Sandia Mts. near Placitas June 24 where an adult was feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird July 24 (HS); two–three birds were also at Zuni June 27 (DC). Easterly Solitary Vireos were in Trujillo Canyon, *San Miguel*, and Mills Canyon, *Harding*, June 7 (JH, RD). One or more Hutton's Vireos were in the Mogollon Mts. along Mineral and Sheridan creeks July 16–17 (JH). Vagrant warblers included a Black-and-white at Mangas Springs July 4 (RF), single male Kentuckies at Españoia June 16 (M. Williams *vide* BL) and in the Magdalena Mts. June 2 (BO, JB), two Am. Redstarts in the Organ Mts. June 23 (CS *et al.*), and a N. Waterthrush near Caprock June 18 (RM).

A N. Cardinal west of Roswell June 16 (SOW) was at a new locality for the species, while also noteworthy were up to six near Loving July 20 (SW *et al.*). One–two Indigo Buntings were near Cloudcroft June 21 (SW) and at Aguirre Springs June 30–July 22 (GE, R. Ketchum). Only one Varied Bunting was found in Guadalupe Canyon June 5 (SOW, DC), increasing to two–four males by July 29–30 (CB). Two pairs of Abert's Towhees were at San Simon Cienega June 6 (SOW, DC). Northerly and/or westerly Cassin's Sparrows included up to 12 at Zuni June 27–July 4 (DC), plus one–two

near Laguna, *Cibola*, June 23 (GF), Fence Lake June 9 (DC), and Los Lunas June 3 (HS). Noteworthy were 25 Brewer's Sparrows on a 10-mile transect in the San Augustin Plains June 13 (JS). Black-chinned Sparrows were again in Trujillo Canyon, with at least three there June 7 (JH, RD); one was also in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona June 18 (SOW).

Southerly Vesper Sparrows included up to 14 on the San Augustin Plains (JS) and in the Gallinas (SOW) and Jicarilla mts. (SOW) in mid-June. Among the few summering Lark Buntings in the northeast were two near Farley June 3 (K. Mitchell) and seven near Grenville June 17 (KS); a straggler was at Bosque Refuge June 14 (RT, PB). Grasshopper Sparrows occurred widely in the northeast in June, with at least 13 at Maxwell N.W.R. (LG, TH) and up to five at Grenville (KS), west of Kenton, OK (PL), and near Clayton (HS)—plus a few at L.V.N.W.R. through July 20 (GS). In the extreme southwest, 30 were near Cloverdale June 4 (SOW). A local first were two Song Sparrows summering at L.V.N.W.R. (GS), while very late were single White-crowns near Gallup June 26 (SI) and at Zuni June 30 (DC).

Four Eastern Meadowlarks reported near Clayton June 22 were well north of the usual range (HS). Over 500 Yellow-headed Blackbirds summered at L.V.N.W.R. (GS), with nests there in early June (JH, RD); a vagrant was at Mesilla June 8 (GE). Up to 10 Great-tailed Grackles were near Clayton, where nesting was recorded apparently for the first time (*vide* WC). Peripheral were one near Gallup June 2–3 (SI) and five at Zuni June 13 (DC). Seven Common Grackles nests were in

Albuquerque (BO), while other birds were near Los Lunas (HS), Bosque Refuge (RT, PB), and Carlsbad (SW) in the period Easterly were a few Bronzed Cowbirds at T/C (DM), Las Cruces—where a N. Oriole nest was parasitized (CS), and Rattlesnake Springs (SW); other records included Mangas Springs (RF) and San Simon Cienega (DC, SOW). Orchard Oriole nestlings were at Black River Village June 6 (SW), while noteworthy was a male Baltimore (N.) Oriole at Clayton July 28 (WC, B. Cook). Three Pine Grosbeaks were near Hopewell L., *Rio Arriba*, July 13 (CB). One–two Cassin's Finches were in the Sandi Mts at Capulin Springs June 8 (PS) and July 12 (HS). Highly unusual were two Evening Grosbeaks at Silver City June 17–20 and seven there July 22 (D & MZ).

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ALASKA REGION

T. G. Tobish, Jr. and
M. E. Isleib

Summer 1990 followed in the mold of the previous two summers. Mainland Alaska was again dominated by above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation. Virtually the entire mainland was dominated by high pressure after late May. The Aleutian Low was weaker than average and led to positive anomalies that translated to lots of fog and few storms through most of the period in the Aleutian/Bering Sea areas. North Slope observers noted some of the warmest, driest weather in years at Prudhoe Bay, where nesting shorebird numbers were way up. Swans and geese on the Copper River Delta enjoyed the best breeding success in many years, directly attributable to fair weather.

As is true in most warmer summer seasons, the Region's Interior was essentially without precipitation in most of June and early July and lightning ignited over 200 fires. By early August over 2.5 million acres of mostly Black Spruce woodlands had been consumed in fire, the third worst fire season since statehood. The effect of these fires and associated hazy smoke on nesting birds was, as usual, difficult to assess.

To most resident observers it was a quiet summer. Bird song and nesting activity seemed diminished earlier in June than normal. Although there are few breeding bird surveys conducted and thus few data to compare populations each year, most reporters wrote of the widespread low numbers of many passerine species, especially Swainson's Thrush and White-crowned Sparrow.

Owing to litigation complications, resource studies connected to the March 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill have been held in a shroud of secrecy. Few biologists have been allowed to share data and it will be years before we hear of the full and longer term impacts to birdlife in Prince William Sound.

We received excellent details



and trip summaries from the various bird tours this season, a trend we hope continues. We encourage all visitors to submit trip summaries and field descriptions of all sightings of species listed as casual or accidental on the Alaska checklist. Visiting birders' contributions are vital to our knowledge of Alaska bird distribution.

GREBES TO WATERFOWL

Walsh's counts of Western Grebes at the traditional summering sites in Sumner Straits south of Mitkof I. ranged from two June 9 to an above-average 25 July 28 (PJW). Single Red-necked Grebes in salt water off Mitkof I. June 2 & 9 were probably unusually late migrants (PJW); there are no Southeast Alaska breeding records. Deep water records of Mottled Petrels were about average in the e. Bering Sea-North Pacific interphase, where maximum was at least six between Unalaska I. and south of the Pribilofs July 19 (RAM). A "pumping" Am. Bittern could be heard calling from a cattail marsh just west of Mile 25 on the Haines Hwy June 17 (MEI, RJG). This marsh is nearly 400 km north of the Stikine R. sloughs, the only area where the species is found regularly in Alaska.

Despite constant fire conditions throughout July, waterfowl

brood rearing in the e. Interior approached record numbers (TJD). Although fires completely burned many Trumpeter Swan territories in the Tanana Valley, production was up 100% from 1989 (TJD). Five itinerant Brant appeared at Anchorage, where the species is casual, June 8-9 (RLS, TGT); apparently the same group remained in the area through June 29 (DWS). Mostly immature Brant can be found in migration throughout w. Alaska north to the Beaufort Sea coast into early July. It was apparently not a drought displacement year for Prairie dabblers in the Region although N. Pintails nested in unusually high numbers at Prudhoe Bay, where 12 nests were located (*vide* KK), and a gathering of ♂ N. Shovelers at Anchorage grew to 75+ by June 15 (DWS). This summer's Garganey reports (both without details) came from Buldir I. June 15-27 (ILJ) and the Nome area's Woolley Lagoon July 4 (TL, first local mid-summer record). One of very few in summer, a drake Cinnamon Teal was located at Barnes L. on the Stikine R. June 23 (PJW).

Two ♂ Spectacled Eiders were with a summering flock of King and Steller's eiders at the Ugashik R. mouth on the north side of the Alaska Pen. July 17 (MEI). This was most interesting since we know of no other mid-summer records from the

south side of Bristol Bay. Spectacled Eider breeds on the coastal tundra lowlands at the Kuskokwim and Yukon R. deltas, well north of the Ugashik R. Unusual mid-summer reports of Steller's Eiders came from Enackwik Inlet June 23 and Shoop Bay July 20 where single males were identified (LB). We know of few previous mid-summer records from the Gulf Coast east of Kodiak I. A ♀ Com. Goldeneye at Barrow June 23 (DW, KL, DG, DJS) was most unusual; this taiga breeder is casual on the North Slope. A drake Ruddy Duck was found June 18 (MEI) on the same pond in Northway where the species bred in 1987. *Twenty-two* Ruddy Ducks, the Region's highest count ever, were tallied July 16 between Dathlalmund and Gasoline Lakes near Tetlin in the e. Interior (TJD). This Prairie breeder is a sporadic visitor and casual nester in the e. Interior (Kessel and Springer 1966, *Condor* 68: 186-187; *AB* 41: 1476).

HAWKS TO SHOREBIRDS

The now famous Taku R. Steller's Sea-Eagle was reported regularly from the Taku Glacier Inlet through the season (m.ob.). This bird associates with an ad. Bald Eagle, and we expect that it can be found along this stretch of river be-

tween mid-May and October. Two Swainson's Hawks at Delta June 18-19 (MEI) were slightly north of known higher-elevation nesting areas, no doubt attracted by a spectacular grasshopper invasion to the Delta agriculture fields. A family group of Am. Kestrels (with five young) was found at treeline up the Eagle River valley July 19 (TW). This falcon nests in the Talkeetna Mts. to the north, but we have very few summer Cook Inlet Basin reports. A pair of Sandhill Cranes seemed to be defending a territory in open muskeg on *Kruzof I.* June 11-23 (MW). Although we have no substantiated nest reports from Southeast Alaska, there are similar records of paired birds in suitable habitat south of the species' nesting range limits in Cook Inlet.

A pair of Soras may well have nested in Mitkof I.'s Blind Slough, where Walsh had two calling birds through July 13 (PJW). Another pair was heard up the Stikine R. at Barnes L. June 23 (PJW). A calling Sora in the e. Interior at Dathlalmund L. July 16 (TJD) was in an area where this rail is casual in summer (Kessel and Springer 1966, *Condor* 68: 185-195). A total of 27 Am. Coots from Dathlalmund and Gasoline Lakes July 16 (TJD) represented a new Alaska high count. Coots had bred once before in this lake region of the east-central Interior (see Trapp *et al.*, *AB* 35: 901-902). Elsewhere, one coot summered at Sitka's Swan L. for the 2nd year in a row (MW, KH).

Of special interest to summer birding is the phenomenon that many first-year (or nonbreeding) Arctic nesting shorebirds make abbreviated migrations and/or wander at latitudes short of nesting areas into mid-summer. Most noteworthy shorebird sightings in the summer column are representative of this phenomenon, and an absence of patterns is the norm. This year's shorebird highlights included: a single Killdeer at Barrow (where rare) June 23 (DG), one southbound Wood Sandpiper at Buldir I. July 16-18 (ILJ, SR, MH), one Gray-tailed Tattler at Nome June 11 (KJZ, BRZ, ph.) and two southbound birds at Buldir I. July 24-31 (ILJ, SR, MH), Terek Sandpiper at An-

chorage June 8-9 (DW, KL *et al.*, sixth local record), Hudsonian Godwit at Barrow June 20 (†KJZ) where this form is casual, Rufous-necked Stint at Nome, two June 11 (KJZ, RS), three June 14 (BRZ, ph.) and at Prudhoe Bay June 28 (*vide* KK), and a ♀ Wilson's Phalarope at the Copper R. Delta's Egg I. June 23 (PGM). The later represented, surprisingly, only Prince William Sound's 2nd record.

Surfbirds peaked at 3400 July 8 (GCW) at Homer, where certainly a large percentage of the entire population stages in July. Southbound peep numbers were unspectacular at sites where migration is regularly monitored, e.g. Anchorage, where the first migrants were noted on time June 22 (TGT), and at Homer (GCW). Pectoral Sandpipers nested in greater numbers than in any of the past 13 summers at Prudhoe Bay. Nest densities there reached over 25 per square km (*vide* CH). Buff-breasted Sandpipers nested in similarly high numbers at Prudhoe this



Gray-tailed Tattler at Nome, Alaska, June 11, 1990. Good distinctions from Wandering Tattler in this view are the extensively white lower underparts and the long white supercilium. Photograph/Kevin J. Zimmer.

season with a projected nest density of nearly 13 per square km (*vide* CH). Summer carrying capacity of these Arctic nesting shorebirds is apparently dynamic, and may reach whatever levels the food and weather conditions can support.

GULLS TO OWLS

Summer Com. Black-headed Gull reports were more than average. Birds were found at the Pribilofs (at least three adults at St. Paul I. June 8-11, VENT, FIELD GUIDES, †BRZ), in Anchorage (one adult June 8, RLS), at Buldir I. June 12 (ILJ), and at Safety Sound near Nome (two adults June 19, FIELD GUIDES). A bleached-out, molting, first-summer gull at the outlet of Safety Lagoon near Nome June 19 was felt by the observers to be a Black-tailed Gull (FIELD GUIDES, DJS, †DM, ph.) Photos of this intriguing bird have been circulated for opinion. If confirmed, this would be the 2nd substantiated record from the Region and the 2nd in the Bering Sea zone. An adult and two juv. Ring-billed Gulls from Ketchikan July 30-31 (†SH) furnished the Region's only mid-summer report. There are no prior records of juveniles. At least three California Gulls at Anchorage June 9 (JLD, TGT, WINGS, RLS) and two the following day provided only a 2nd local spring record. Prudhoe Bay observers found an adult gull that they identified as a Lesser Black-backed Gull July 18-30 (RF, JL *et al.*). Excellent photos of this bird are being circulated to European gull experts for confirmation. A previous sighting of a possible Lesser Black-backed Gull from Prudhoe Bay (*AB* 53: 970) could not be confirmed, as experts could not rule out one of the yellow-legged races of Herring Gull. A brilliant pink Ross' Gull dazzled birders at St. Paul I. June 8-11 (BRZ, VENT, WINGS, MT, ph.). There is only one previous late spring report from the Pribilofs.

Caspian Terns were once again present, albeit in smaller numbers, at the Copper R. Delta where this species is apparently expanding its nesting range (RF). The species made its most widespread showing ever in the Region and was widely re-

ported as individuals or in groups of up to four between June 7 and July 30 from Ketchikan (†SH) to Nuka Bay in the s. Kenai Pen. (†DW).

A weak Common Cuckoo died following capture at Buldir I. June 16 (ILJ*) and a second cuckoo with bold ventral barring was seen far to the east at Big Koniui I. in the Shumagin Is. July 15 (EPB). Snowy Owls went unrecorded this summer at Prudhoe Bay after two previous summers of abundance (EB), but they were judged to be common to the west at Barrow, where up to 25 per day were found June 18-20 (KJZ). Barred Owls continue to expand into Southeast Alaska, where each summer seems to bring new sightings. This season's records included a bird that was found dead north of Juneau June 14 (*vide* MS), one calling near Gustavus June 18 & 29 (BBP), one heard in the Haines area in "early summer" (MHP), and a nest with two young located along Skagway's lower Chilkoot Trail July 11 (MH). The Skagway nest was the Region's second. These reports constituted the Region's northernmost. That these birds continue to reach into Southeast Alaska still seems remarkable, given the barriers presented by harsh winter weather and limited habitat across the formidable Coast Range massif that separates Alaska from known British Columbia nesting areas. The North Slope's third Common Nighthawk appeared at Prudhoe Bay June 17-21 (JW, KK).

HUMMINGBIRDS TO THRUSHES

Reports of a "green-backed" adult ♂ hummingbird among a group of 30 Rufous Hummingbirds at a feeder drew birders to Haines in early June. Thought to be either an Allen's or a green-backed Rufous Hummingbird (of which Alaska had no prior reports), the bird was collected July 17. The specimen was compared to series of Allen's and Rufous hummingbird skins from California and it was confirmed as a Rufous (MEI*, RJG, *vide* DDG). The central Kenai Pen. Three-toed Woodpecker population continues to expand with the spread of the Spruce Bark Beetle, which is wiping out

White Spruce forests. Three-toeds are locally abundant between Cooper Landing and the city of Kenai. Interestingly, Hairy Woodpecker has displaced Three-toed as the dominant woodpecker in the Glacier Bay area since an outbreak of Spruce Bark Beetles began 10 years ago (BBP).

For the 2nd successive year, the Hyder area produced a singing Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, on June 24–25 (JCH, †MO), Alaska's 4th report. Least Flycatchers appeared at Hyder June 26 (†MS) and in McCarthy July 1–2 (TL). None was found farther out in the Copper R. drainage, where this form has been annual recently. Hammond's Flycatchers were discovered at two unusual sites, south of the Alaska Range, where the species is casual. Singing birds were located at Copper Center in the Copper R. drainage June 24 (TGT, RLS) and to the west in Denali State Park, south of the Alaska Range along the Parks Hwy July 25 (MEI). Most surprising was Alaska's first Eastern Phoebe, which sang on territory from an old building west of Barter I. at Camden Bay June 29–July 6 (PDM, †MDH, tape to Cornell Lab.). This form breeds north and west in Canada to central-western MacKenzie. Also for the 2nd successive summer, a Western Kingbird, the Region's 7th, was at Hyder June 27 (†MS). Eastern Kingbird was well represented in Southeast Alaska, where it is annual. Singles were seen at Juneau June 16 (GV), Hyder June 22 (JCH, MO), and Mitkof I. July 1 (PJW). Most unusual was an Eastern Kingbird at Nome, June 9–10 (KJZ ph., BH ph., VENT). The scene, with bright sun at midnight and a Semipalmated Sandpiper displaying from the same willow as the kingbird, must have been as strange to the bird as it was to the observers. Eastern Kingbird is casual in early summer in Northwest Alaska.

Extralimital swallow reports included single overshoots to the North Slope: Tree Swallow at Demarcation Bay June 13–17 (PD), Bank Swallow at Prudhoe Bay June 21 (*vide* KK), and Barn Swallow June 21 (DMT, NT). The latter was the Arctic Slope's 7th record, which includes



Far out of range, this Eastern Kingbird basked in the midnight sun at Nome, Alaska, June 9, 1990. Photograph/Kevin J. Zimmer.

both nearctic and pale-bellied palearctic races. Another wandering Barn Swallows was reported from Togiak on the Bristol Bay coast July 19 (DHR).

S.A.

In light of both plumage similarities and taxonomic questions between two obviously closely related species, a House Martin at Buldir I. June 13 (†ILJ, EM) must be dealt with at the genus level. According to most authors, Asian House Martin (*Delichon dasypus*) breeds in n.e. Asia to the s. Kurile Is., while Common House Martin (*D. urticae lagopoda*) breeds north of Kamchatka across to Chukotka. Although Alaska's only specimen, from Nome, is clearly Common House Martin (*vide* DDG), until the taxonomic and identification questions are sorted out, it remains prudent to be conservative. At this stage we are treating all Alaska records that are not specimens as "House Martin (sp.)."

Steller's Jays were unusually abundant in the Glacier Bay area this summer (BBP). At Anchorage, Steller's Jay continues to expand in new areas where it is now a permanent resident (TGT, m.ob.). The Hyder population of American Crows was similar to last year's lower numbers. This summer's high count was of 15 birds June 22 (JCH). A singing *Locustella* warbler at Buldir I. June 27 was identified by the observers as a Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler (†ILJ, ph., SR). This was the Region's fourth mid-summer observation of this form. At least two family groups of Golden-crowned Kinglets near Chitina June 23 (RLS, TGT) were north of the species' normal nesting range, which is mostly south of the Chugach Mts.

Bluethroat was the 5th most common passerine on a 17 km breeding bird survey up the Kougaruk Rd. n.e. of Nome (*vide* REG). This palearctic thrush has increased steadily over the past 10 years in the central parts of the Seward Pen. (HKS, *vide* REG). A *Catharus* thrush song from the hillside thickets near Hyder was identified by the observer as that of a Veery June 22 (†JCH). The bird was never glimpsed. This is a first Alaska report. Interestingly, a Gray-checked Thrush was seen and heard singing about a mile from the Veery site at Hyder June 28 (MS). Gray-

checked Thrush is a rare nester in mainland Southeast Alaska.

MOTACILLIDS TO FINCHES

The presence of several Yellow Wagtails in suitable habitat near Pilot Point on the north side of the Alaska Pen. July 10–16 (MEI) was suggestive. The nearest known nesting areas are to the north on the north shore of Bristol Bay. Extralimital Black-backed Wagtail reports came from Homer, where a male hung around June 14–30 (RO, †NL, GCW), and from the Alaska Hwy near Northway June 27–28 (†ASW). The former was Southcoast's 2nd report, while the latter was Alaska's easternmost. The tenuous Alaska nesting range of Red-throated Pipit was extended inland and to the east when a pair was found on territory at Mile 32.5 Taylor Hwy east of Nome June 16 (JM *et al.*). These birds were feeding young July 1 (RB ph.) & 3 (REG). This pipit is known to nest in the Region in the highlands on St. Lawrence I. and on the coastal highland fringe between Wales and Cape Lisburne.

The season's only Tennessee Warbler report came from the Copper R. valley willow thickets near Lower Tonsina June 23 (RLS, TGT). This warbler remains casual away from the Southeast Alaska mainland river systems. Quite unexpected were



Nest of Bluethroat north of Nome, Alaska, June 12, 1990. This species apparently has been increasing as a breeder on the Seward Peninsula. Photograph/Rick Bowers.

two ad. Common Yellowthroats feeding two young out of the nest at *Homer's* Beluga L. July 21 (EPB, DC, WP). There are no breeding records in the Region west and north of Glacier Bay, and this represented South-coastal's 2nd summer and 4th ever record. A ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** was well described from Mitkof I. July 3 (†PJJW). This was Alaska's 2nd single-observer sighting and first summer record. At least four adult Chipping Sparrows gathering food in aspen woods just south of Menstata June 24 (TGT, RLS) were in an area where this Interior nester had not been reported previously. Chipping Sparrows normally nest on the north slope of the Alaska Range. The species may have bred at *Cordova*,

where a juvenile was described July 19 (†RF). Among the storm-deposited birds at Buldir I. June 13 was a ♂ **Yellow-breasted Bunting** (†ILJ, EM), Alaska's (and North America's) second.

Clearly an overshoot was the ♀ Red-winged Blackbird on the beach at *Demarcation Point* June 13–17 (PD). This blackbird is casual north of the local nesting sites in the e. Interior. White-winged Crossbills continued their hiatus in the Region; only a few sedentary flocks were scattered across the southern half of the stae. Mainland Alaska's first Hawfinch appeared at the Sikusuilq Spring fish hatchery up the Noatak R., 48 km north of Kotzebue, June 15–20 (DS, KP, †PJR, ph.). This hatchery

has become a bird trap. We encourage local birders to check this site often.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON REGION

Chris Siddle

Except for the Queen Charlotte Islands, June was very rainy. Vancouver had the fourth wettest June on record with rainfall totalling more than twice the long-term average, while Kelowna reported four times the normal amount of rain. June temperatures were slightly higher than normal except in northern British Columbia, where it was cold. July began wet but after the first week turned clear and very dry for the month's remainder throughout the province. The cold, wet storms of early June brought an impressive showing of rarities to the Vancouver area, including Sabine's Gulls, Silt Sandpiper, and Lapland Longspur.

Summer on the Queen Charlottes was warm and very dry. According to Margo Hearne, "Many...songbirds had fledged young by June 15 and were starting to nest again. Townsend's Warblers, Song Sparrows, and Varied Thrushes were still singing quietly on August 11."

Several threatened or endangered species were surveyed by contractors working for the Ministry of Environment. Some interesting results from field work—51 Canyon Wrens were found from Naramata to the U.S. border from May 15 to July 11 (AGP); 51 singing Gray Flycatchers were found, 44 of them in the Summerland area, in late May and June (AGP, RJC); and only eight singing Grasshopper Sparrows were discovered in the Okanagan (AGP).

A few late reports from the spring are included as are some records from the Northwest Territories, which, at present, are not part of any particular Region.

Abbreviations: Q.C.I. (*Queen Charlotte Islands*); Van. (*Vancouver*); W.S. (*Wildlife Sanctuary*).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Up to four Red-throated Loons were off the Iona I. West Jetty June 1–5 (†DMP, WCW, RT *et al.*), with one also seen July 25 (RT). This species is probably a rare but regular summer resident around Vancouver. The Queen Charlottes Islands had their first confirmed breeding of Pied-billed Grebes at Delkatla W.S. when two adults were seen feeding four chicks July 28 (MH). A Clark's Grebe was at Duck L., Creston, June 7 with 120 Westerns (†WCW). Four



Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen off Cape Beale July 22 (RWB, PJS, Ian McLaren). Somewhat more unexpected were small numbers of storm-petrels seen close to land. One Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was off Victoria Harbour June 23 (RWB), and another was off East Sooke Park June 25 (PJS). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was about 6 km s. of Jordon R. on July 7 (RWB). Double-crested Cormorants, stragglers in the in-

terior, continued to appear at Tranquille, Kamloops. Four were present June 2, five on June 5, and one on July 28 (SR). Fifty Brandt's Cormorants made an unusual concentration off Sechart June 2 (TG).

A breeding bird survey north of Prince George found two Am. Bitterns, rarely reported that far north, calling at McLeod Lake June 29 (CA, HA, JB, DR). Another bittern was at Bowron River camp, Bowron

Lakes P.P., July 6 (SGC).

Trumpeter Swans normally occur in the Okanagan only as rare transients or winterers. One adult-type at Ellison L., n. of Kelowna, July 4 was well out of season (GD, CS). Another out-of-season Trumpeter was at Courtland Flats, Saanich, June 11 (BW, DM). Revelstoke usually has a resident population of 1500 Canada Geese, but this summer only one could be found (DP)! The cause for the decline is unknown. Records of Brant in the interior of the Yukon are very uncommon. A light-bellied Brant was seen on Lake Laberge June 5 (SGC, BGS). Gadwalls are rare in the Queen Charlotte Is.; two at Agate Beach May 19 were of note (KM). Two sightings of Am. Wigeons with young were submitted for the Van. area, which has fewer than 10 breeding records. Both came from Reifel I. Waterfowl Refuge, where a female and seven young and a female and three young were seen June 26 and July 24 respectively (JI).

Redheads are very uncommon in the Yukon; a pair at Tthe Ndu Lake June 5 was of note (SGC). Ruddy Ducks are also unusual in the Yukon. Up to three males and four females were at Swan L., 20 km s. of Whitehorse, June 9 & 10 (HG). Even rarer were two basic plumaged males at Kilometre 616 of the Dempster Hwy, NWI, on a slough immediately n. of the Mackenzie River crossing (TG). This was a first record for the Dempster. Two Black Scoters were reported at Vancouver, where now considered very rare in summer. One was off the Iona I. West Jetty June 1 & 13 (DMP, RT), and the other was off Point Grey June 18 (Larry Neily). Another Black Scoter was reported from Cowichan Bay June 28 (Victoria Bird Alert). Five Red-breasted Mergansers, very rare in summer along the s.w. coast, were at Iona I. June 2 (WCW).

VULTURES TO CRANES

Thirteen Turkey Vultures were along the Puntledge R., Courtney, a good spot for this species, June 6 (DVM). There were more sightings (7) than usual this summer for the Turkey Vulture in the Van area. This

species is quite regular in summer both farther e. in the Upper Fraser Valley at Chilliwack, and farther n. around Madeira Park. A new Osprey nest site was reported at Maplewoods Flats, North Vancouver, June 28 (DTy, RTy). A **Black-shouled Kite** was seen along River Rd., Delta, June 5 (†RT). It may have been the same bird that appeared at Reifel I. April 26 for Canada's first record for this species. However, another kite watched for an hour at Pitt Meadows June 7 showed some signs of immaturity and was clearly a different individual (†DTy, JL, Christine Hanrahan). These sightings furnished the 2nd and 3rd records for the nation.

Bald Eagle nests with young were reported from e. and s. Vancouver I. with two young in a nest on Saturna I. (Lorraine Fontaine), two young in a nest off MacDonald Rd. in Comox (RLT), one young in a nest at Union Bay, and two young at a nest near Little R., Comox (DVM). Cooper's Hawks are being reported much more frequently from the Prince George area now. This probably reflects better coverage more than it does a range expansion. An adult was 10 km s. of town June 20, while an unaged bird was at the Shelley sewage lagoons July 26 (JB). Only 11 sightings of Cooper's Hawks (all single birds) were received from Victoria. No nests were reported there (*vide* DFF). Vancouver had only 5 sightings, 4 of these probably of the same bird at Reifel I. June 24–30 (JI). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen on Sea I., Van., June 1, for Vancouver's first summer record (†DMP). Peregrine Falcons may be breeding in the greater Victoria area. A male was seen hunting around Cowichan Bay and flying toward Mt. Tzouhalem on June 19 and July 19 (DVM).

A Sora, rare in the Yukon, was recorded at Teslin May 27 (Patty Dennison). An Am. Coot, also rare in the Yukon, was seen at Swan L., 20 km s. of Whitehorse, June 9 & 10 (HG). A Sandhill Crane nest was monitored in the Port Clements area, Q.C.I. The nest had 2 eggs May 11, only one egg on June 9, and no eggs (or young detected) July 7 (MH). At Pitt Meadows two adults were seen with one juve-

nile July 2 (BGS, MA).

AVOCET TO ALCIDS

One Am. Avocet was at Iona I. June 1–3 (RT, BRG, m.ob.). A Willet, perhaps the same bird that stayed at Blackie Spit, Surrey, from August 1989 to April 1990, was at the Spit on July 15 (JL). A Wandering Tattler frequented the Iona I. West Jetty July 25–30. On July 27, two were present (RT, Andy Stewart, m.ob.). A Long-billed Curlew was at Blackie Spit July 8–31 (DTy, m.ob.). One was also at Iona I. June 17 (RT). Twenty Marbled Godwits, an unusually high number for coastal British Columbia, were at Delkatla W.S., Q.C.I., May 11 (MH, PH, TR, SD). One was at Blackie Spit June 18–30, one was at Beach Grove July 1–3, and two were at Blackie Spit from July 8 to period's end (Jack E. Williams, GAP, m.ob.). Two Hudsonian Godwits lingering at the North Sewage Lagoons, Fort St. John, were seen May 30 (BGS).

Definite proof that Upland Sandpipers breed in British Columbia has yet to emerge. However, for about the fifth year in a row, Upland Sandpipers were found along 229 Rd. east of Fort St. John, where WD, TD, and MW found two pairs July 3. Prince George birders have discovered a shorebird hotspot, the Shelley Sludge ponds. Small numbers of both yellowlegs, all three peep, Long-billed Dowitchers, a Semipalmated Plover, Wilson's Phalaropes, and two Red-necked Phalaropes were found July 26–31 (JB). Eight Sanderlings, rare but regular migrants in the Peace River area with over 30 records in the past decade, were at Charlie L. June 12–13 (RWC, CS). Up to 20 Least Sandpiper nests were estimated for the Delkatla W.S. in Q.C.I. during May and June (MH). Western Sandpiper numbers peaked July 1 with 5000 at Iona I. (DMP). Among the Westerns at Van. this summer were many Semipalmated Sandpipers. A high count of 39 was reported from Iona I. July 23 (DMP, MW). A Stilt Sandpiper at Iona I. June 2–3 furnished only the 3rd spring record for Vancouver (WCW, m.ob.). An early fall Stilt Sandpiper was at Beach

Grove, Delta, July 25 (GAP). A Short-billed Dowitcher was seen at Swan L., Yukon, June 9–10 (HG). This species is rare in the Yukon. Up to 15 Wilson's Phalaropes were at Swan L. June 9–10 (HG). This species seems to be slowly increasing in the Yukon, s. of Whitehorse.

Franklin's Gulls used to occur in British Columbia mostly as immature vagrants in summer and fall, except for a local population of non-breeding subadults in the Peace R. area. Since the mid-1980s this pattern has changed. Adult or near-adult Franklin's are beginning to appear throughout the province in June and July. An adult Franklin's Gull was at Iona I. June 4 (†DMP), for the first June record for Van. and one of very few spring records for the s.w. coast. Two ad. Franklin's were at Revelstoke June 4, for a first local record (DP, HG, JW, AC, ph.). More usual were two imm. Franklin's seen at Kamloops July 28–29 (SR, RH). An adult Little Gull was at Clover Point, Victoria, July 1, 19, & 22 (KT, David Pierce, BD). An adult Black-legged Kittiwake off the Iona I. Jetty June 3 & 4 was rare, though expected, as there is a pattern of late May and early June reports (†DMP). A flock of 56 ad. Sabine's Gulls 1 km off the Iona I. Jetty was harassed by one or more Parasitic Jaegers June 3 (†DMP, m.ob.). This is a very high number for the Van area, where singles are usually spotted. Twelve were seen June 4 (RT). An adult was seen closely at Blackie Spit, Surrey, during the evening of July 31 (†HMc, †JMc).

Caspian Terns continue to increase, especially along the coast. In the interior where the species is still scarce, single Caspians showed up at Fletcher L. (near Williams L.) July 24 (JW), and at Summerland July 5 (CS, GD). On the coast, Vancouver had counts of 75 on the Iona I. causeway June 5 (MA) and 130 off the Roberts Bank Jetty July 28 (BGS). A larger number than usual was reported from Vancouver I. with 6 reports from the Victoria area (high of six at Esquimalt Lagoon on July 5—RS) and four reports from farther up Van. I. (high count of eight at Miracle Beach P.P. July 8—DS). Four at Sechelt June 2 (TG) and one at Sand-

spit, Q.C.I., June 21 & 23 (MH, SH) were unusual. MH notes that this species is becoming an almost regular visitor to the Q.C.I. Black Terns were present in small numbers at interior marshes: four at Cranberry Marsh, Valemount, June 18 (JB); only four adults at a small lake 75 km s.w. of Prince George where 20 used to be present (LL); a big colony of 100–200 pairs at Boundary L., e. of Fort St. John, June 15 (RWC, CS). Another large colony of two exists at Creston with 100 at Duck L. June 7 and 50 near the Visitors Centre June 8 (WCW).

A survey of Upper Carmanah Creek in the controversial Carmanah Valley, Vancouver I., resulted in 65 Marbled Murrelets seen or heard from 2 locations about .6 km apart early on one morning (BB). Such numbers might indicate substantial numbers of murrelets are breeding in old growth areas. A faller working near Fairy L., Vancouver I., described a bird that fell from a tree to DFF who felt the bird was "almost certainly a not quite fledged Marbled Murrelet." In the Q.C.I., MH reports that "many" Marbled Murrelets were seen flying and calling in old growth forests on Graham Island the morning of July 15 (MH, PH). Two Marbled Murrelets were also reported from Eastcap Creek Valley in the Capilano watershed on June 20, but no other details were supplied (DTy).

Cassin's Auklets are rare around Victoria in summer. One was seen from the M.V. Coho July 8 (Chris Sandham). One to three Rhinoceros Auklets were seen off Iona I. West Jetty June 1 & 13 and July 25 (RT). Perhaps this bird is becoming a rare but regular summer visitor to the Vancouver area. Reports of Tufted Puffins were numerous at Victoria. Birds were most often seen near Race Rocks and Chain Islands. Nesting may be taking place in both places (RWB, KS, DFF).

PIGEONS TO FLYCATCHERS

Seventeen Band-tailed Pigeons 15 km s. of Merritt on July 3 was a very high number for the interior, where the Band-tail is a vagrant (WCW). A Mourning Dove at Prince George June 13

(LL) was considered casual for the area, as was one at Gibsons June 14 (Ryan Lewis).

Barn Owls are casual in the Okanagan Valley. However, since the first was reported in 1972, reports have slowly increased. On June 5 a Barn Owl was reported roosting in a barn along Road 22, s. of Oliver (Brian Gibson). Breeding was confirmed, for the first time in the interior, when two downy young were discovered July 4 (GD, ph. CS). Four Flammulated Owl nests were under observation n. of Kamloops and according to RH all did well. A Flam nest at Penticton had 4 eggs June 5 (RJC). A Burrowing Owl was seen fleetingly n. of Kamloops on 4 occasions during June and July. Whether this was a banded bird from either the Cache Creek reintroduction attempt or the Oliver colony was not determined (RH). RWC flushed a Great Gray Owl from the side of the Alaska Highway 54 km n. of Fort St. John June 14. Great Grays probably breed in the area. A pair of Long-eared Owls, rare outside the Okanagan, nested on Machette I., Revelstoke (DP).

An insect hatch at dusk over the turbulent waters of the Okanagan River at the Okanagan Falls Prov. Campground attracted over 500 Common Nighthawks July 6 (GD, CS). This is probably the province's highest single count for this species ever. A high count for Victoria was of 50+ at Kinsmen Park July 10 (JG). The high Vancouver count was of 15 over Horsehoe Bay July 21 (Cathy Aitchison). Black-backed Woodpeckers are local in the interior. A female and two young were at Kettle River Rec. Area, near Rock Creek, July 10 (GD, CS). Two adult Three-toed Woodpeckers with a fledged juvenile in Cypress Park, the first breeding evidence for the Vancouver area, were seen July 15, 16, & 20 (WCW, m.ob.). A Three-toed was seen June 24 on Mt. Arrowsmith, Van. I., where the species is rare and local (BRG). One in Nakusp July 31 was usually far from the deep woods (GD).

A Hammond's Flycatcher, a rare host, was seen feeding a juv. Brown-headed Cowbird in Johnstone Creek P.P., near Bridesville, July 10 (GD, CS).

Records of Hammond's along the coast are infrequent. Three were at Thetis Lake Park, Victoria, June 19 (JG), and two were in the Upper Carmanah Valley July 7–8 (BB). "Western" Flycatchers were found in the interior at Vaseux L.; Twin Lakes Golf Course, s. of Penticton; Rock Creek; Midway; Christina L.; Vernon; Little Shuswap L.; Radium Hot Springs; and Bowron Lakes P.P. (RJC, SGC, GD, CS). Sonogram analysis by RJC revealed most birds' vocalizations closely resembled those given for the Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Willow Flycatchers occur about as far north as Quesnel. One was at Wells July 29 (CA, JB), one was at Babcock Creek, Bowron Lakes P.P., July 6 (SGC), and one was singing in the same clearing as an Alder Flycatcher at McLeese L. June 17 (CS). A Least Flycatcher, s.w. of its normal range, at Pitt Lake June 23 remained on territory for at least three weeks (W. Douglas Kragh, WCW, GA, SA). Other single Least south of their usual range were near Nakusp June 3 (GD) and Summerland June 6 (RJC). Two were singing near Brisco June 17 (RJC).

A Say's Phoebe at North Vancouver June 3 & 4 furnished the first breeding season record for the Van. area (C. Giovanna, RT). Western Kingbirds were reported more frequently than ever before in s.w. British Columbia with two at Colony Farm, Port Coquitlam, June 11 & 13 (TH, CH), and three in North Vancouver June 5 (DTy, JL), among other sightings. An Eastern Kingbird, a vagrant on the coast, was seen on the Acous Peninsula, just s. of the Brooks Peninsula, Vancouver I., June 13 (Nadine Adams, *fide* Mike Force).

SKYLARK TO WARBLERS

As the Spring report indicated, Victoria's Eurasian Skylark population has dwindled alarmingly in the face of habitat destruction. One bright note—a singing bird was at the Cassidy Airport, Nanaimo, June 20–July 25 (KT, BRG). There were only three reports of the very local Purple Martin from Vancouver I.: two at Ladysmith Harbour July 9 (DS), three July 18 (MMc), and six at Esquimalt

Harbour July 20 (JG, R. Evans) An unusually large Bank Swallow colony of an estimated 300 pairs was found in a road-cut n.e. of Wardner July 13 (GD, CS). Bank Swallows, normally casual in summer in the Van area, lingered into June from a late May invasion. One was seen entering a cavity at a small N Rough-winged Swallow colony on Sea I., and breeding was suspected but not proven (WCW, RT).

Once again a tour to Reindeer Station in the Mackenzie River delta, NWT, turned up Siberian Tits, one Aug. 16 and another Aug. 18 (DMF, m.ob.) A Marsh Wren was carefully watched at Parker L., Fort Nelson, June 18. Although n. of its mapped range, the Marsh Wren has been seen at Parker L. twice before: July 1, 1986, and July 17, 1987 (JB, CS *et al.*). Northern Wheatears are very locally distributed along the Dempster Hwy in the Yukon. Of note was the observation of two adults with young in the nest at Wright Pass in the Richardson Mountains June 11 (SGC). Western Bluebirds continue to occur in the s.e. Vancouver I. area with two on Galiano I. June 9 (H Pollock), two adults with four nestlings on Mt. Tuam, Salt-spring I., June 10 (JG, C. Palmateer), and one adult feeding young on Galiano July 23 (Aziza Cooper). Mountain Bluebirds nesting in boxes around Grand Forks had to contend with cool, very wet weather in June that resulted in some nests being abandoned. Black Bears also destroyed a few boxes. However, second nestings were quite successful (DH).

Single N. Mockingbirds were at Tranquille, Kamloops, June 24 (SR), and at Revelstoke June 9–10, the first for that area (GD, DP, O. Gordon, AC, ph.) Sage Thrasher numbers fluctuate each year within the Okanagan. This summer none appeared at Chopaka until July 4 when two were seen (AGP). By July 30, five were present. Another Sage Thrasher, well east of usual range, was at Duck L., Creston, a local first, June 7 (†WCW).

For the second summer in a row, a Philadelphia Vireo, rare in n.e. British Columbia, was reported from Beaton P.P. where this species may breed (WD,

TD, MW). Red-eyed Vireos are increasing on s. Vancouver I. Fourteen singing birds were counted between Cowichan Bay and the Duncan Sewage Lagoon on June 27 (DVM). In the Yukon, vireos are normally listed as very rare if they are listed at all. This summer HG found Warbling Vireos regularly around Whitehorse, Porter Creek, Swan L., and areas near Rancheria, where he recorded eight on June 23. In addition he first heard (June 17) and then saw (June 23) a Solitary Vireo, accidental in the Yukon, near Rancheria.

Tennessee Warblers, with a population that fluctuates from year to year, were reported as common or abundant from Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, and Mount Robson Park (WD, CS, JB). More than usual were seen in the south too with two n. of Prince George June 29 (CA, HA, JB, DR), nine in Bowron Lakes P.P. June 29–30 (SGC), and two at Scotch Creek, Shuswap (SR). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was nicely documented at Stanley Park July 27 for one of very few coastal records (†Margaret Benson). For the second year in a row, a male Black-throated Green Warbler was found on Mount Revelstoke June 9, 5 miles from the 1989 location (DP, PMc). This species may prove to be a rare but regular summer visitor, from the Alberta population on the east side of the Rockies. Two Black-throated Greens were at Moberley Lake P.P., May 29, where it may prove to be regular (BGS). Other Black-throated Greens were in their usual locales at Taylor and Kiskatinaw P.P. (CS). A male **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen in Prince George on July 15 (Eileen Campbell, RWC). This is the first record of this species for the Prince George area, and one of 6 or fewer for the province west of the Rockies. The Connecticut Warbler is the rarest of the regularly occurring "eastern" warblers in the Peace River area, BC. The discovery of *two pairs* was noteworthy, although within one of the species' known sites of occurrence. These birds were on territories at Tupper, near Swan L., s. of Pouce Coupe on June 30 (GA) and were seen by other birders early in July. A singing male

Connecticut was heard during a BBS route east of Cecil L. on June 14, also at a traditional site (CS, Joan Johnston).

BUNTINGS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Indigo × Lazuli Bunting hybrid, paired with a ♀ Lazuli, was found near Nakusp July 23 (†GD). The bird defended its territory against Lazuli males and in early August was seen feeding a juvenile. The hybrid resembled an Indigo except that the blue of its upperparts was much closer to that of a Lazuli, while its lower breast and belly were light slate-gray, flecked by dark blue spots. It had no wing bars.

A Vesper Sparrow seen at Jerico Park June 11 (†GA, m.ob.) provided about the 20th sighting for Vancouver. A small colony of Vesper Sparrows was discovered at Cassidy Airport, s. of Nanaimo, with six present June 20 (KT). Two juveniles were seen in July (*fide* BRG). Le Conte's Sparrows were widely reported. In the Peace region where they are local but regular breeders, CS found two males singing in damp short grass margins to grain fields, a new habitat for the area, at Cecil L.; RWC and CS found a male in the wet sedge verge of Black Spruce-Tamarack muskeg between Fort St. John and Hudson Hope; and TG saw a singing male in long grass at the south sewage lagoons, Fort St. John. Elsewhere the small "colony" of Le Conte's at Revelstoke was active again with two birds throughout June and early July (E. Trembley, DP, H. Gordon, GD). South of Revelstoke, a Le Conte's was singing beside Highway 6, one km from the Edgewood turnoff, and another was n. of the New Denver golf course June 17 (GD). These are the first and second records of Le Conte's Sparrow for the West Kootenay checklist. Sharp-tailed Sparrow is, arguably, the most local passerine species in the province. One ♂ Sharp-tailed was studied at Boundary L., its usual spot, July 8 (WD, MW), while another was found at the s. end of Swan L., s. of Dawson Creek, in June (Pat McAllister). For the second summer in a row, Fox Sparrows were found in Cypress P.P. Four males were present July 15 (WCW). The

nearest known breeding localities are in Garibaldi and Manning parks.

Definitely out-of-season was an adult ♀ Lapland Longspur on the Iona I. Jetty, Van., June 1–2 (†DMP, †WCW, m.ob.), a first summer record for the Van. area. A Smith's Longspur was seen at Cornwall Creek along the Dempster Hwy June 10 (SGC).

Single ♂ Bobolinks, local in s. British Columbia, were seen at Swan L., Vernon, in early June (CS), in Richter Pass July 7 (GD, CS), and at Rock Creek July 9 (GD, CS). Nakusp had a breeding population of 16 birds (GD). Courtenay, Vancouver I., hosted a pair of Bobolinks first discovered July 15 (Lois Shopland) that remained throughout the period. There have been fewer than 10 records for Vancouver I., most in the fall. A pair of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, casual in the Prince George area, were at Eaglet L. on June 17 (HA). Rusty Blackbirds were reported at notable southerly locations: one at Bowron River camp in Bowron Lake P.P. July 7 (SGC), and a pair with at least two young at Lake Oyama July 25 (David Aldcroft). A Brown-headed Cowbird, rare on the Q.C.I., was at Queen Charlotte City about July 30 (KH). Very unusual was a pair of Northern Orioles described as "more like Baltimore" than Bullock's, at Quick, s. of Telkwa, June 15 and Aug. 1 (ML). Whichever subspecies, this is the first record of N. Oriole for the Smithers-Houston area, well n.w. of the oriole's usual range. Birders are urged to submit detailed notes on orioles that occur there in the future. It will be interesting to see if they are Bullock's from the s. central interior or Baltimore's from the Peace River country.

Eight Pine Grosbeaks were seen at Quick, s. of Telkwa, July 10 & 15 (ML), locally an unusual lowland summer record. In the West Kootenays, Red Crossbills, absent during winter and spring, returned in large numbers (GD). The only White-winged Crossbill report of note was of several at Sandspit, Q.C.I., where this species is rare, June 10 (MM). Five Hoary Redpolls were noted at Tuktoyaktuk, NWT, June 12 (SGC). An Am. Goldfinch, casual in the Q.C.I., was seen in Queen

Charlotte City June 2 (SH, *fide* MH).

Corrigenda: The Anna's Hummingbird at Hotspring I., Q.C.I., May 29 furnished the second Q.C.I. record, not the first. For the first record see *AB* 44:148. In the Winter Report (*AB* 44:313), two Turkey Vultures were reported as seen on January 20, 1990 in the Saanich, V.I., area by Vic Goodwill. This is incorrect. Mr. Goodwill reports that he did not see any Turkey Vultures on that date. The record should be deleted.

Initialed Observers: (subregional editors in boldface)—Morley Adelman, Gerry Ansell, Stephen Ansell, Cathy Antoniazzi, Helen Antoniazzi, Robin W. Baird, Barbara Begg, **Jack Bowling** (Prince George and the north), R. Wayne Campbell, **Richard J. Cannings** (South Okanagan), Sydney G. Cannings, Arne Chaddock Sr., **Gary Davidson** (West Kootenays), Lyndis A. Davis, Brent Diakow, Thor Diakow, Wayne Diakow, Dennis M. Forsythe, **David F. Fraser** (Victoria and Vancouver Island), Bryan R. Gates, Jeff Gaskin, **Tony Greenfield** (Sunshine Coast), **Helmut Grünberg** (the Yukon), Peter Hamel, Steven Hamel, Daphne Hamilton, Christine Hanrahan, Tom Hanrahan, **Margo Hearne** (Queen Charlotte Islands), **Rick Howie** (Kamloops), John Ireland, Marcel La Vigne, Laird Law, John Luce, Hue Mackenzie, Joann Mackenzie, Diane Maloff, Derrick V. Marvin, Mike McGrenere, Priscilla McPherson, Ken Morgan, Mary Morris, David Pierce, Doug Powell, G. Allan Poynter, Al G. Preston, D. Michael Price, Syd Roberts, Dave Robinson, Ron Satterfield, Brian G. Self, Karen Sherman, Chris Siddle, Pam J. Stacey, David Stirling, Keith Taylor, Robert L. Thompson, Rick Toochn, Danny Tyson (DTy), Rick Tyson (RTy), **Wayne C. Weber** (Vancouver and area), Bruce Whittington, John Woods, Mark Wynja.—**CHRIS SIDDLER, Site 10, Comp. 56, R.R. 8, Vernon, BC V1T 8L6.**

OREGON/ WASHINGTON REGION

Bill Tweit,
Jim Johnson, and
Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

A cool, damp May continued into a cool, damp June. Snow fell in the Cascades, Olympics, and Okanogan highlands June 10 and 11. After mid-month, the weather dried and warmed. July was warmer than average, with some heavy precipitation in the interior late in the month. The few indications of breeding success we received were not encouraging. There was a marked drop in nesting numbers of grebes, herons, and pelicans at Malheur. Nesting success of Western Bluebirds was below average, certainly attributable to the inclement spring.

An unusually strong northward movement of Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls, and Elegant Terns may have been correlated with elevated sea surface temperatures. Coastal upwelling was below average, but the effects were not apparent until fall.

First breeding records included Washington's first observed Marbled Murrelet nests, and the first records of Acorn Woodpecker and Northern Mockingbird, and Oregon's first confirmed record of Black-chinned Sparrows.

The above average spring flight of eastern vagrants continued into early June, with most records coming from Harney County in southeastern Oregon. The highlights included Yellow-billed Cuckoo, eastern Veery, and Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, and Kentucky warblers. Washington got its first Piping Plover record.

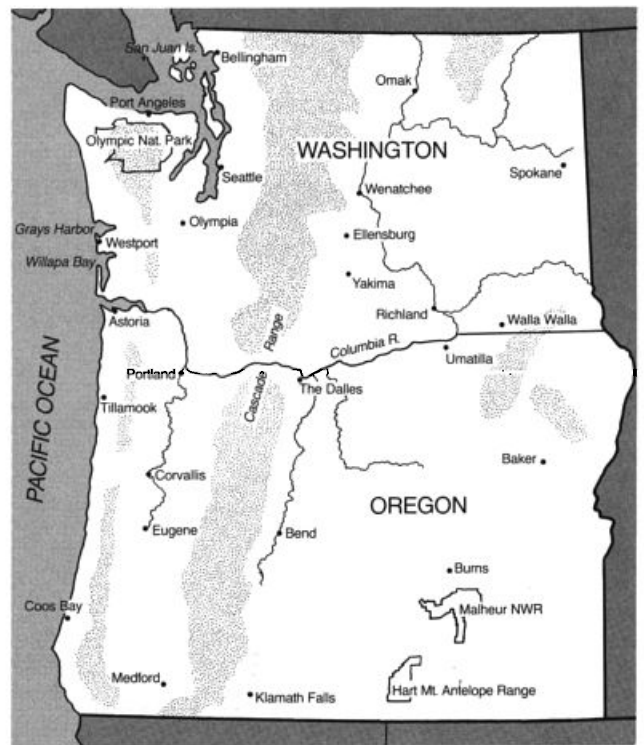
Abbreviations: Davis (*Davis L.*, Klamath and Deschutes, OR); Fields (*Fields*, Harney, OR); Malheur (*Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*, Harney, OR); O.S. (*Ocean Shores*, Grays Harbor, WA); Sauvie (*Sauvie I.*, Columbia, OR); S.J.C.R. (*south jetty of the Columbia R.*, Clatsop, OR).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

The largest summering flock of Pacific Loons reported was 150 at S.J.C.R. (MP). Until recently, Com. Loons were thought to no longer breed in Washington. Three pairs of Com. Loons nested on Chester Morse Res., King, this summer (EH) and another pair nested unsuccessfully on Hozomeen L., Whatcom (BK). Only one colony of 75 nests of Eared Grebes was found on Malheur this summer (GI). Western Grebes had a good year at Davis (LM), but none were found nesting in the Harney Basin (GI) where they normally are abundant breeders. The summering W. Grebe flock on Bellingham Bay, WA, numbered 500 (TW), probably normal numbers for there. Only a few Clark's were present at Malheur this summer (GI), but there were five sightings of Clark's Grebe from western Oregon, where they are unknown as breeders. Possibly they were displaced from the interior.

The summer's three pelagic trips included two from Westport, WA, July 14 and 31 (TW) and one from Charleston, OR, June 27 (Tom Staudt). A Laysan Albatross was seen June 23 about 12 mi w. of Tillamook Head, OR (Terry Thompson). Northern Fulmars were found on all three pelagic trips; the counts ranged from eight off Oregon to 166 July 31. Both Pink-footed and Sooty shearwaters were seen on all three trips, with counts increasing from the small numbers seen off Oregon in June to 109 Pink-foots and 7000 Sooties at the end of July. Small numbers of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were seen on all three trips, with a peak of 28, and only one Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen July 14 off Westport. Leach's forage farther offshore and have become increasingly difficult to find on pelagic trips in recent years, even though they are the more abundant breeder in the Region.

About 940 pairs of Am. White Pelicans, fewer than average, nested on Malheur, and only 75 young were produced. Laboratory analysis of the 250 pelicans found dead in the Malheur area in late May failed to identify any disease problems. Pesticide poisoning from the wintering grounds is suspected



(GI). Non-breeders from Malheur, and possibly other colonies, were spread throughout eastern Washington. Over 1000 non-breeding pelicans were reported from there (m.ob.) with a peak count of 722 on an aerial survey of the Columbia R. (Lisa Fitzner *vide* Ron Friesz). They also summered in western Oregon on Howard Prairie L., Jackson where the peak count of 50 was July 8 (MM). Following the unusually early spring arrival of Brown Pelicans, excellent numbers summered along the southern Washington coast. The peak count was 500 at O.S. June 18 (G & WH).

Nesting numbers of all species of herons in the Harney Basin were much lower than the record levels of recent years (GI). The nest counts included 164 Great Blue Herons, 125 Great Egrets, 30 Snowy Egrets, and 105 Black-crowned Night-Herons. In eastern Washington, up to 20 Great Egrets were seen at the recently established colony near Moses L. One Snowy Egret, a rare visitant, was there July 8 and Aug. 18 (JW, Maurice Vail). White-faced Ibis numbers were also down at Malheur, where only 2860 nests were found (GI).

Both the N. Pintail brood at Nehalem, Tillamook, July 23 (HN) and the Gadwall brood at Smith L., Clatsop, July 1 (HN)

are very rare breeders in western Oregon. There was also a spring breeding record for Gadwall in western Oregon this year. The species could undertake the same population explosion there that it has shown in the Puget Sound region since the 1970s. The Bufflehead broods at Diamond L. in the southern Oregon Cascades (DFi), Turnbull N.W.R., Spokane, WA, June 10 (G & WH), and Big Meadow L., Pend Oreille, WA, June 28 (ASt) and the Lesser Scaup brood at Sidley L., Okanogan, WA, July 20 (DC) are scarce breeders in any part of the Region. Unusual summering ducks included a female Oldsquaw in breeding plumage on Yaquina Bay, Lincoln, OR, June 3 (KM), another female at O.S. July 20 (G & WH), and a male King Eider at LaPush, Jefferson, WA, until June 4 (RM).

KITES THROUGH PHALAROPES

The two Black-shouldered Kite nests found near Medford, Jackson, OR, this spring were apparently unproductive (*vide* MM). There were no reports of kites outside the Rogue valley this summer. A Red-shouldered Hawk nest was found July 4 near Sumner, Coos, OR (Geoff Keller); this is the only known Oregon nest in recent history. An adult Red-shouldered at

Page Springs, Malheur, July 19–22 (WCa) was an eastern Oregon rarity. A Merlin nest discovered in the Skagit R. drainage in the north Cascades (Bud Anderson) is apparently the third nest found in Washington. A Merlin was also found July 7 in the southern Washington Cascades (ASt).

As many as 60 Black-bellied Plover summered on Grays Harbor, WA (DPa). The first Lesser Golden-Plovers, subspecies not identified, were at Bandon, Coos, OR, July 18 (LT) and the only other report was three adult *fulva* at O.S. July 29 (BL). Snowy Plover reports included two pairs at Bayocean, Tillamook, OR, June 30 (m.ob.) and two adults and three immatures at O.S. July 4 (BW). An adult male Piping Plover at Reardan, Lincoln, July 13–16 (†RM, m.ob., photos) furnished an unexpected first Washington record. At least 30 Semipalmated Plovers summered on Grays Harbor, WA (DPa). The peak number of migrants was 450 at Clatsop Beach, Clatsop, OR, July 26 (HN).

There were six reports of Solitary Sandpiper from the interior and one from the coast. Washington's remnant population of Upland Sandpipers numbered two this year (JA). It is hard to imagine that this population will survive much longer. The highest count of summering Whimbrel during June on Grays Harbor, WA, was 17 (DPa) and the peak count of migrants was 200 at Tokeland, Pacific, WA, July 15 (RM). Migrant Long-billed Curlew flocks included 76 west of Boardman, Umatilla, OR (CC) and 32 at Tokeland July 15 (RM). A Ruddy Turnstone at Malheur June 2 (Verne Marr) was a late and rare migrant in the interior. Fall arrival dates for the rock shorebirds included Ruddy Turnstone July 11 at Bandon (LT), Black Turnstone July 14 near Anacortes, WA (M & MLD), and 110 Surfbirds July 8 at Yachats, Lincoln, OR (KM). The first Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported June 30 at Crockett L., Island, WA (M & MLD) and July 2 at Warrenton, Clatsop, OR (MP). Large numbers of W. Sandpipers were reported early: 500 at O.S. June 28 (DPa), 1300 at Bayocean, Tillamook, OR, June 30 (JJ, JG) and in the



The Piping Plover at Reardan in eastern Washington on July 15, 1990, provided a first state record. Photograph/James F. Acton.

interior 300 at Boardman, Umatilla, OR, July 4 (CC). The peak count of 800 Least Sandpipers at Tillamook Bay on July 23 (HN) was quite large. Baird's Sandpiper numbers were average. An adult Stilt Sandpiper at S.J.C.R. July 22–23 (MP) and two at the W.W.R.D. July 20 (KK) were the only reports of this scarce migrant. There were two Ruff reports: an adult Reeve at S.J.C.R. July 25 (MP) and an adult male at Sauvie July 26 (NL, JJ). At least 50 Short-billed Dowitchers summered on Grays Harbor, WA (DPa). The first coastal migrants were noted June 25 at Warrenton, Clatsop, OR (MP). Interior Short-billeds included two at Reardan, Lincoln, WA, July 16 (EH, PM, DPa) and 13 at McKay Creek N.W.R., Umatilla, OR (PSu). Red-necked Phalaropes were quite scarce both on the ocean and on Puget Sound (TW).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS

Up to four Bonaparte's Gulls summered at Malheur (GI). Heermann's Gulls moved north

in large numbers. By the end of June 300 were at Grays Harbor (DPa) and 900 were there July 31 (TW). Most of the June birds were adults, and by the end of July fair numbers of immatures appeared. There were no reports of summering Black-legged Kittiwakes. Caspian Terns appeared again in large numbers in Puget Sound, with 300 seen near Anacortes July 14 (M & MLD) and immatures at Bellingham July 28 (TW), but there are still no signs of breeding anywhere on Puget Sound. Elegant Terns came north into our Region again; the only previous years with significant movements were 1983 and 1987. About 30 were at the Rogue R. mouth, OR, in mid-July (*fide* JJ) and numbers were at Yachats and Waldport, Lincoln, July 22 (*fide* DFa). The small Arctic Tern colony at Everett, WA, produced at least one young this year (ASt). Two Arctics were a very surprising find inland at Sauvie July 19 (NL); mid-summer records are rare even on the outer coast.

Two Marbled Murrelet nests with chicks were located in the Stillaguamish R. drainage of western Washington by WA Dept. of Wildlife research crews (TH, Ann Eissinger). The nests were on horizontal branches in older conifers and were monitored using video cameras. The single chick from one of the nests fledged by flying over 20 miles directly to Puget Sound!

Band-tailed Pigeons showed a slight increase in northwestern Washington this season; no comments were received on their status in Oregon. There were an outstanding number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos on the eastside in June. In Oregon, where there were six previous modern confirmed records, there were three records: one west of LaGrande, Union, June 23 (CC), one at the refuge HQ at Malheur June 23–28 (L. Hammond), and one window kill at Bend June 18 (*fide* TC). One seen just north of the state border along the Milton-Free-water Hwy, Walla Walla, June 5 (†MLD) was the first Washington record in over ten years.

A Flammulated Owl was heard at Eagle Point, Jackson June 1 (MM *et al.*); this species is probably more common in the Rogue valley than currently

realized. A Flammulated heard calling at the southern base of Dread And Terror Ridge, Douglas, July 16 (DFi) is the first westside record n. of the Rogue valley since a pair summered at Perry Butte, Douglas, in 1985. Reports of Barred Owls continue to increase, both in the Puget Trough (TW) and in Oregon, where a pair and a juvenile in the Columbia R. gorge June 24 (JJ) provided the first *Multinomah* breeding record, a pair and a juvenile near Diamond L., Douglas, provided the first breeding record for that area (DFi), and an adult with three juveniles was with Klamath Agency, Klamath, July 8 (NL). The only Great Gray Owl report was of one at Klamath Agency, a traditional area, June 7 (HN) and the only Boreal Owl report was of one calling June 31 at Rogers L., Okanogan, WA (BT, BL), which may also be a traditional area.

S.A.

Two hybrids between Spotted and Barred Owl, called "Sparred" Owl, were found in the Region this summer (TH, Eric Forsman). One adult male was described as "looking superficially like a pale Spotted Owl, but is larger (700 grams) than a normal male Spotted. Has barring on back of nape and head like a Barred Owl. The round spots on top of the head are replaced by rectangular bars. The breast looks sort of like a Spotted, but has larger white areas, and a more barred appearance across the throat, and a large buff patch on the upper breast. Facial disks are paler than a Spotted, but darker than Barred. The tail bars are farther apart than in a Spotted. His call is intermediate between a Barred and a Spotted Owl. It goes Hoo—hoo-hoo-hooooawww! The call ends with a downward inflection, much like the last note of the Barred Owl call." This bird was paired with a female Barred for the last two seasons near Mt. Baker, WA. It is unknown whether they have produced any young. The other reported hybrid was found Aug. 1 south of Butte Falls, Jackson, OR.

NIGHTHAWK THROUGH THRUSHES

Common Nighthawks were

fairly common this summer on Fort Lewis, WA (GW), and apparently had good breeding success. Nighthawks have become scarce breeders in the Puget Sound lowlands. What appears to be a small population of Com. Poorwills was discovered in the Douglas southern Oregon cascades about 12 mi west of the Cascade Crest. Four birds, sounding like *P. n. californicus* of the Rogue valley instead of the eastslope *P. n. nuttalli*, were calling from Dread And Terror Ridge at about 4000' July 16 & 17 (DFi). At least 9000 White-throated Swifts were massed along the escarpments at Ephrata, Grant, WA, June 12 (Ben Feltner), which seems like more than the entire number known from all colonies in the state! Up to 100 Black-chinned Hummingbirds in Fields June 2-3 (JG) is also an impressive number for this uncommon breeder. Two male Costa's Hummingbirds, now annual in Oregon, were found in the Rogue valley: one at Ashland May 7 to June 20 (fide MM) and another at Phoenix June 14 (fide MM). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird, uncommon and local in Oregon, was at Stukel Mt. near Klamath Falls July 16 (Mike Robbins).

Washington's first nesting Acorn Woodpeckers at Lyle, Klickitat, were present through the summer (PM, WC, photos). A Red-naped Sapsucker, casual on the westside, was a window kill in Lake Oswego, Clackamas, OR, July 21 (fide HN). Three-toed Woodpeckers are scarce in the Oregon Cascades. A pair was found near Gold L., Lane, June 17 (JJ) in the central Cascades. Another pair found near Howard Prairie L., Jackson (June Babcock), was extremely far south.

Willow Flycatchers seemed to be more numerous than a decade ago in northwestern Washington (TW). Vagrant Least Flycatchers included one at Fields June 3-4 (JG) and another at Malheur June 4 (PP). In Washington, a pair of Least's nested on the westside near Monroe, Snohomish (Bill Boyes, m.ob.), June 15 to July 16, when the nest was apparently destroyed by a predator. In e. Washington, there were an unprecedented number of records. Single singing males were at We-

nas Campground, Yakima, June 15-July 5 (Merrill Peterson *et al.*), along Umtanum Cr., Yakima, June 27 (MO), south of Nighthawk, Okanogan, July 6 (WW), at Oroville, Okanogan, July 20 (DC), and at Metalline Falls, Pend Oreille, June 19 (DC). A pair of Gray Flycatchers at Bachelor Prairie, Lincoln, July 16 (DPa, BSu) extended the known range of Gray Flycatcher in Washington 30 mi east. Wandering Ash-throated Flycatchers included two on the Oregon coast, at Yaquina Bay June 3 (KM) and at North Bend June 4 (BG), and one just north of their limited Washington range at Hardy Canyon, Yakima, June 2 (Rob Thorne). Washington's third Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was captured on board a fishing boat 10 mi n.w. of Grays Harbor July 15 (Phil Anderson *fide* TW, *Univ. Puget Sound).

Adult Horned Larks feeding begging fledglings near Cathlamet, Wahkiakum, July 29 (Alan Richards) were probably of the *E. a. strigata* race, which



An adult female Acorn Woodpecker peering from the first known Washington nest of the species at Lyle, Klickitat County, on May 3, 1990. Photograph/Wilson Cady.

S.A.

The recognition of Pacific-slope and Cordilleran flycatchers as distinct species poses special problems for Pacific Northwest observers. Johnson's 1980 monograph on the Western Flycatcher complex (*Univ. Calif. Publ. Zoo.* 112:1-151) incorrectly implies that a broad gap where neither species nests separates Pacific-slope and Cordilleran flycatchers in e. Washington. No such gap exists. Western Flycatchers nest throughout e. Washington in suitable habitat between 2000 and 3500 feet. Singing territorial males recorded this summer along the eastern base of the Cascades in Kittitas (EH), in the Okanogan valley along the Canadian border (DC, EH), and along the eastern boundary of the state in Pend Oreille (RM), Spokane (JA), and Walla Walla (JW), all gave typical Pacific-slope vocalizations. Many of these were tape recorded. However, two territorial male W. Flycatchers tape recorded June 23 in Whitman in s.e. Washington exhibited a perplexing mix of vocalizations (EH). Their full song was like Cordillerans, but they gave both coastal and interior male position notes, freely alternating between them, and incorporating both types of notes in the first song position. Additional singing males in s.e. Washington

in Whitman and Columbia seemed to be intermediate (EH).

Johnson describes a "Northwest Volcanic Region" subpopulation of the Cordilleran Flycatcher, including birds from n.e. California north to s.e. Washington. According to Johnson, several features of the advertising songs in this subpopulation "fall neatly between the coastal series and...far interior samples" (1980:67) while males of this subpopulation may give either type of position note. Thus, a feature considered the best distinction between the two species appears to be of no use in e. Washington. Furthermore, nesting habitat which Johnson considers typical of this subpopulation hosts both species in e. Washington, although the singing Cordilleran type Flycatchers in Whitman were on steep wooded hillsides, rather than in the riparian corridors apparently preferred by Pacific-slopes.

It is clear that identification of these two species in our Region is not simple, and that some singing males may currently be unidentifiable. Observers should watch for further evidence of sympatry or contact between the two species in s.e. Washington and probably along the east slope of the Oregon Cascades as well.

seems to be reduced to a few isolated populations in the lowlands of western Washington. A flock of 3000+ Bank Swallows in Irrigon, Umatilla, OR, July 28 (CC) was a large concentration for the region. Scrub Jays continue to inexorably expand their range north and west. Three found at Westport, Clatsop, OR, June 25 (MP) were 25 mi east of the mouth of the Columbia R. To the north, Scrub Jays have become abundant in Chehalis, Lewis, and at least three pairs bred successfully in the Olympia area (BT). Western Bluebirds suffered the worst year since 1985 on the Corvallis Bluebird Trail (ME) and breeding success was lower than the previous four years on Fort Lewis, WA (GW), which was mostly attributable to the cold,

damp May and June. An apparent eastern Veery (resembling *C. f. fuscescens*) was in Fields June 2 (JG, m.ob.) and another Veery was at Pike Creek, OR, June 4 (GI). The isolated population of Veeries in the Ochoco Mts., OR, was much scarcer than past years (TC), but they seemed to be in greater numbers than previously in the Blue Mts. near Walla Walla (M & MLD).

MIMIDS THROUGH FINCHES

A vagrant Gray Catbird was at Malheur June 6 (JG). The first breeding record of Northern Mockingbird for Washington was furnished by a pair west of Moses Lake, Grant, seen carrying food July 6 (DPa, BSu). Three young were seen there July 17 (JA, Warren Hall). In

Oregon, there were three records from *Harney* in early June (JG, BTi, Roy Gerig), one record on the outer coast at *Nertarts, Tillamook*, July 17 (Craig Roberts), and one remnant of the pair this spring near *Medford* (Howard Sands).

The *Harney* list of spring vagrant warblers includes 12 individuals of seven species from the spring report and another 15 individuals of ten species in early June. They included a N. Parula at *Frenchglen* June 5 (PP), two Chestnut-sided Warblers at *Malheur* June 3 (BTi, JG) and one in *Frenchglen* June 4 (JG), a male and female *Magnolia Warbler* at *Malheur* June 3 (TC, m.ob.) and another male there June 5 (JJ), a male *Black-throated Blue Warbler* at *Malheur* June 20 (GI, DBy), a *Black-throated Green Warbler*



Black-throated Green Warbler at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, Oregon, June 5, 1990. Sixth state record. Photograph/Jim Johnson.

(sixth Oregon record) at *Malheur* June 4-5 (JG, JJ, TC, photos), a male *Blackburnian Warbler* (fourth Oregon record) at *Page Springs* June 2 (BTi, †Robbins King, photos), a fe-

male *Black-and-white Warbler* at *Fields* June 6 (PP), a male *Am. Redstart* at *Malheur* June 5-12 (m.ob.), *Ovenbirds* at *Malheur* June 3-4 (T & AM, TC, m.ob.) and *Fields* June 4 (JG) and a *Kentucky Warbler* (second Oregon record) at *Frenchglen* June 8 (†SS, Jim Carlson, m.ob.). There were no vagrants reported elsewhere.

More attention is being paid to hybridization between *Townsend's* and *Hermit* warblers. Three hybrids were seen at *Davis* June 13-17 (LM) in the central Oregon Cascades at the southern edge of *Townsend's* breeding range. In the southern Washington Cascades at the northern edge of the *Hermit's* breeding range, hybrids were seen at *Cedar Falls, King*, June 9 (EH) and in the *Potato Hill* area, *Yakima*, June 17 and 24 (ASt, BT). An apparently pure male *Hermit Warbler* singing on *Sumas Mt., Whatcom*, June 2 (Jim Duemmel) was only 20 mi south of the Canadian border and far north of their usual range. *Hermits* are accidental in *British Columbia*. A singing N. *Waterthrush* at *Lost L., Linn*, June 19-July 3 (PP, Dave Irons) is the first indication that nesting may occur in Oregon away from their limited range in the *Salt Cr.* and *Little Deschutes R.* drainages.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak records included a territorial male at *Coppei Cr., Walla Walla*, June 10-17 (†M & MLD, photos), about the eleventh for Washington, and a male at *Lake Oswego, Clackamas, OR*, June 7 (fide HN). A male *Indigo Bunting* at *Grants Pass* June 10-30 (m.ob.) provided only the fifth or sixth western Oregon record. At least three *Green-tailed Towhees* were at *Lewis Peak, Walla Walla* (KK, m.ob.), one of only two known locations for this species in Washington. A breeding family of *Black-chinned Sparrows* on *Stukel Mt., s.w. of Klamath Falls*, found July 17 (SS, TC) furnished the first breeding record for Oregon and only the seventh state record. At least one pair of *Black-throated Sparrows* bred successfully at the *Vantage, Kittitas*, location (EH, ASt) where the first Washington breeding station was documented in 1987. A *Golden-crowned Sparrow* at *Indian Ford*



The exceptional May push of eastern strays into the interior of the West continued into June. This Blackburnian Warbler, the fourth for Oregon, was at Page Springs on June 2. Photograph/Stephen P. King.

Campground, Deschutes, June 19 (†DBy) was very late. *White-crowned Sparrows* of the coastal race, *Z. l. pugetensis*, are continuing to expand their breeding range into Washington's interior. Several territorial males were in the *Potato Hill* area, along the *Cascade Crest* in *Yakima* this summer (ASt, BT).

Tricolored Blackbird populations in Oregon seem healthy. The *Portland* colony was occupied throughout the period (JJ), despite development adjacent to it. There was a good-sized colony at the *Medford airport* (fide HN). In eastern Oregon, a colony with eight males was reported from the *John Day* drainage near *Clarno, Wheeler* (Chuck Trost). The spring incursion of *Type III Red Crossbills* into the western lowlands from *Portland* north continued into late June (JJ, EH, TW). Small numbers of unknown type *Red Crossbills* were on the *Washington coast* (Evelyn Peaslee, Georgia Ramsey). *Type II*

Red Crossbills were noted at *Kamiak Butte, Whitman, WA*, June 23 (EH) and *Type IV* June 24 in the *Blue Mountains* of Washington (EH). *White-winged Crossbills* were scarce, with reports of 15 in the *Lane Cascades* of central Oregon June 11 (PSu) and small numbers in the *Okanogan* highlands of northern Washington in mid-July (WW, ASt).

Exotica: Up to three *White Storks* were seen in southern *King, WA*, throughout the summer (m.ob.). They had apparently escaped from a local private collection. BG now has young of the year *Eur. Tree Sparrows* coming to her feeder in *North Bend, OR*.

Initialed Observers, with subregional editors in boldface: Jim Acton, **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), **Danny Bystrak**, **Wilson Cady**, **Dick Cannings**, **Craig Corder**, **Tom Crabtree** (e. Oregon), **Mike & Merry L. Denny**, **Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth** (Corvallis area), **Darrell Faxon**, **Dave Fix**, **Jeff Gilligan**, **Barbara Griffin**, **Tom Hamer**, **Glen & Wanda Hoge**, **Eugene Hunn**, **Gary Ivey**, **Ken Knittle**, **Rick & Jan Krabbe**, **Bob Kuntz**, **Bruce Labar**, **Nick Lethaby**, **Larry McQueen**, **Kathy Merrifield**, **Tom & Allison Mickel**, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue valley), **Roger Muskat**, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), **Mark Oberle**, **Mike Patterson**, **Dennis Paulson** (DPa), **Phil Pickering**, **Tom Rogers** (e. Washington), **Andy Stepnewski**, **Paul Sullivan**, **Steve Summers**, **Bob Sundstrom**, **Larry Thornburgh**, **Bill Tice**, **Terry Wahl**, **George Walter**, **Wayne Weber**, **Jeff Wisman**, **Bob Woodley**.—**BILL TWEIT**, P.O. Box 1271, Olympia, WA 98507, **JIM JOHNSON**, 3244 NE Brazee St., Portland, OR 97212, and **PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR.**, 915 E Third Ave., Ellensburg, WA 98926.

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

David G. Yee,
Bruce E. Deuel, and
Stephen F. Bailey

Seabird nesting success was poor, because of food shortages and an unseasonal storm on May 28 that flooded many nests (Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Alan Baldrige). The drought continued to have negative effects. Lowered water levels at Hartson Reservoir near Honey Lake allowed coyotes to reach the heronry there, resulting in total destruction of thirty Snowy Egret and two hundred forty Black-crowned Night-Heron nests. Already imperiled species such as Bank Swallow have also been impacted. Breeding bird atlasing projects continued to produce significant nesting information. The spring vagrant season among landbirds was rather modest except for a handful of standouts.

We are grateful to Phyllis Bailey for compiling the land-bird reports for Yee's analysis.

Abbreviations: C.V. (*Central Valley*); Cyn. (*Canyon*); F.I. (*S.E. Farallon I.*); M.B.O.S.P. (*Monte Bello Open Space Preserve, Santa Clara*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional Editors*). All records from F.I. should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

A late Red-necked Grebe June 15–17 was at Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes (RMrr, m.ob.), where others have lingered in past years. A Laysan Albatross 3.5 mi n.w. of Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, June 16 (RT) was rare in summer. Throughout summer N. Fulmars were common offshore, e.g. 35 off *Monterey* July 1 (AB, DLSh, MJL). An early Flesh-footed Shearwater was 7.5 mi s. of Santa Cruz Pt., *Santa Cruz*, July 1 (DLSh, m.ob.). Several early Black Storm-Petrels continued through the Period off

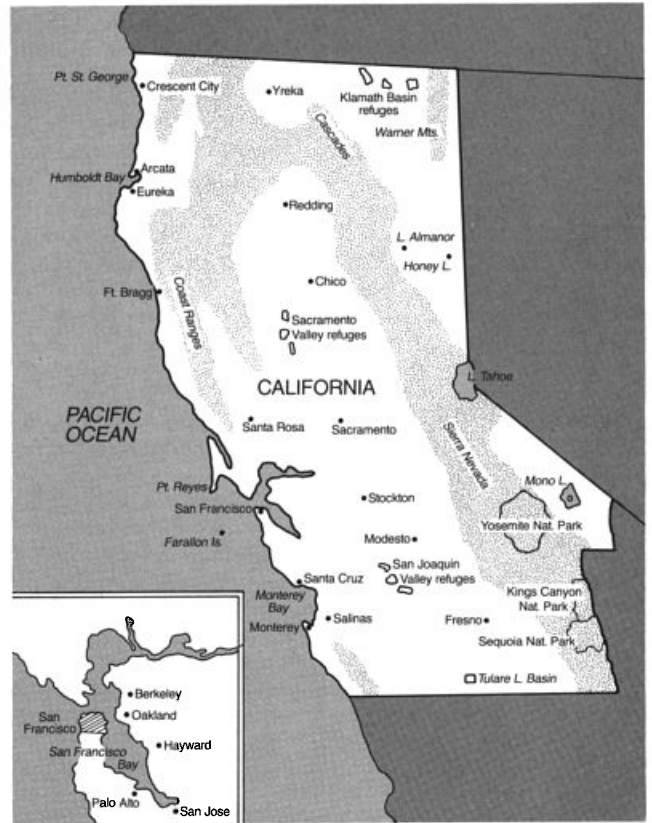
Santa Cruz and *Monterey* (RT, DLm, DLSh).

Last year's new colony of Double-crested Cormorants on towers beside the San Mateo Bridge, *San Mateo*, swelled to 100 nests from about 12 in 1989 (PJM). Three Pelagic Cormorants at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo*, June 7 (HRC) were both unseasonal and far enough into the bay to be very rare at any season. Despite being separated by 170 miles but only one day, single imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds at Ano Nuevo Pt., *San Mateo*, July 28 (M. Casey) and at Mendocino Headlands, *Mendocino*, July 29 (J. Curry) may have represented the same individual of this highly mobile and conspicuous species.

HERONS THROUGH DUCKS

A total of four Great Egrets was reported from three *Mono* locations, where always unusual, on June 29 (ES). The first Snowy Egret nesting attempt in *Del Norte* was successful as evidenced by two adults with three immatures at Smith R. estuary July 21 (ADB). *Santa Clara's* long-time resident Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron was still present July 14 (PJM *et al.*), but no other Little Blues were reported. A record of 200 Cattle Egrets between Firebaugh and Dos Palos, *Fresno*, July 13 (DES) was the largest Regional number in recent years, while a flock of 350 White-faced Ibis, including many immatures, in *Sierra Valley, Plumas*, July 21 (LJ) was this summer's highest number reported.

Several summering Tundra Swans and arctic nesting geese were reported: two swans and a Greater White-fronted Goose in the Klamath Basin, June 9; a swan on Goose L., *Modoc*, July 28; and two Snow Geese with a Ross' Goose at Big L., *Shasta*, July 28 (all SFB). Though summer reports often note the healthy appearance of the birds involved, it is highly likely that some physical impairment prevented them from migrating. Summer Brant sightings tallied 54 birds from coastal localities, including a light-bellied individual at Princeton Harbor, *San Mateo*, May 23–June 4 (†PJM). Much rarer inland, Brant were seen at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, June 9 (SFB); Honey



Lake W.M.A., *Lassen*, June 24 (DS, DB); and *Mono L.* June 16–July 26 (DK, RAE, AME).

Still uncommon but possibly increasing in n.e. California, up to 19 Wood Ducks, including seven young, were seen in *Sierra Valley, Plumas* and *Sierra*, through June (DS, LJ, KL), and three were at Whitehorse Flat Res., *Modoc*, June 8 (BED). A ♀ Green-winged Teal with five young at the Tracy sewer ponds July 11 was *San Joaquin's* first nesting record (DGY). *Humboldt's* first nesting record of Gadwall was obtained when a hen and brood of five were seen at Arcata Marsh July 28 (BED). Small numbers of Am. Wigeon every year, and their range may be expanding southward. Eight broods totalling 47 chicks were at Crowley L., *Mono*, July 25 (PJM), only a year after the first nesting record there. Nesting also was noted at Bridgeport Res., *Mono*, July 23 (PJM).

San Mateo's first summering Redheads were a pair seen at L. Lucerne June 17 (RSTh). A Tufted Duck present along the Hayward Regional Shoreline, *Alameda*, from July 4 on (†RJR) furnished only the second summer record of the species in the Region. An incredible total of

48 Harlequin Ducks was found at Pt. Saint George, *Del Norte*, June 20 (ADB), but equally noteworthy was one on the N. Fork of the Stanislaus R., *Calaveras/Tuolumne*, July 22 (RJR). Does nesting still occur in the Sierras? Four coastal Oldsquaws were recorded this summer. A Black Scoter at Pt. Reyes June 16–July 2 (GF, JM, RJR) was the only one reported.

RAPTORS

Ospreys nesting on a pile driver in the Napa R. by Vallejo, *Solano*, were apparently the first known to nest by greater S.F. Bay tidewaters (HRC, RbL, V. Coburn). Fifteen Ospreys at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, July 31 (JMR, m.ob.) was a large number for that site. Two Bald Eagles fledged near Blue L. (L. Dillard, M. Fahr, M. Morris) represented the first coastal *Humboldt* nesting. Sharp-shinned Hawks were discovered for the first time breeding on Mt. Diablo, *Contra Costa* (KGH, G. Beeman) and in the Diablo Range at Henry Coe S.P., *Santa Clara* (JY, AL). Additionally, four Sharp-shinned Hawks were unusual in summer in lowland *San Mateo* (PJM) and one was at Livermore, *Alameda*, July 28 (ALE). Stray

Red-shouldered Hawks visited Hat L., Lassen N.P., *Shasta*, June 24 (D. Ward, DPM) and Mono Lake C.P. July 26 (AME). The former was the first park record.

Another species was added to the list of California breeding birds with the late report of a pair of **Ferruginous Hawks** nesting successfully in 1988 and 1989 on the Madeline Plain near Termo, *Lassen* (fide P. Roush fide WDS). Adults were also reported in 1990, and one was seen there June 3 (TDM, AM), so nesting was again likely. An adult Ferruginous Hawk documented from Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, June 17–24 (LJ, KL, †WDS, †GFi, MPI) was in another area of potential nesting.

QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A California Quail at Manzanita L. in Lassen Volcanic N.P., *Shasta*, June 24–28 appeared to be a first summer record for the park (DPM). A Sandhill Crane flying over the Pt. Reyes lighthouse June 3 (MCM) must have been a startling sight. A Virginia Rail heard at the mouth of Lee Vining Cr. June 30 was the first in the Mono Basin in 40+ years (ES). It was found in a small wetland created after increased flows were mandated in the creek. Lesser Golden-Plover reports included an alternate-plumaged *fulva* at Abbott's Lagoon July 14 (SFB), a *dominica* at the same location prior to Aug. 5 (CSp *et al.*), and a basic-plumaged bird of undetermined race at Mountain View Forebay, *Santa Clara*, July 4 (MJM). A Snowy Plover nest in Adobe Valley June 7 (DS, D. Herbst) and chicks at Bridgeport Res. July 23 (PJM) represented new *Mono* nesting locales.

A ragged-looking Greater Yellowlegs at Bridgeport Res. June 12 was felt to be summering (PJM), a rare event in the Great Basin. Of Lesser Yellowlegs which were aged, the first returning adult was at Palo Alto July 3 (PJM) and the earliest juvenile was at Sunnyvale July 29 (PJM). Only one Solitary Sandpiper was reported, at Mono L. July 25 (PJM). Three alternate-plumaged Wandering Tattlers at Pt. Lobos June 26 (RHwt) were *Monterey's* earliest fall returnees by one day (fide DR). A pair of Spotted Sandpipers with two young at the Calistoga sewer

ponds July 5 (BiG) established the first *Napa* breeding record (fide RbL). Very rare inland during fall, a Whimbrel was at the Stockton sewer ponds July 6 (WRH). Two Long-billed Curlews and five Marbled Godwits, both considered casual in the Tahoe Basin, were reported from Rowland Marsh, *El Dorado*, July 16 (MBG, NB). A Ruddy Turnstone at Tule L., *Siskiyou*, June 9 (SFB) and a Sanderling near Lemoore, *Kings*, June 22 (DS, T. Poole) were our only inland sightings.

Three Semipalmated Sandpipers included a juvenile at Ft. Dick, *Del Norte*, July 21 (ADB), an inland adult at the Lodi sewer ponds July 26 (DGY), and another adult on Alameda Cr., *Alameda*, July 29 (RJR). The first Baird's Sandpiper of the season was an adult, as expected, at Abbott's Lagoon July 14 (SFB). The remaining five reports, all coastal, were of juveniles, beginning with one in Crescent City Harbor July 23 (ADB). Summer period Dunlins are always notable. A basic-plumaged bird was at the mouth of L. Talawa, *Del Norte*, June 4 (ADB). Alternate-plumaged birds were found in Hayward June 21–July 31 (RJR), at Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey*, June 24 (CGott), and Crowley L. July 25 (PJM), representing a summering bird, a late spring migrant (fide DR), and a probable early fall migrant, respectively. The only Stilt Sandpiper was an adult at Moss Landing W.M.A., *Monterey*, July 28 (†RSTh, PJM). Four basic-plumaged Short-billed Dowitchers at the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey*, June 9 were felt to be summering (DR), while a bird at Mono L. June 16 (J. Carle, D. Marquart) was the first in June for *Mono*. A Long-billed Dowitcher in Palo Alto July 3 may have been the second earliest fall record for the Region (PJM). Twenty-three Wilson's Phalaropes on the coast after June 9 was a strong showing.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Unexpectedly our only reported Franklin's Gull was a first summer bird at Pescadero, *San Mateo*, June 17–18 (RSTh, GJS, J. McKean). We had our usual scattering of summering yearling Bonaparte's Gulls, but an

immature still showing patches of natal down July 31 at Point St. George, *Del Norte* (ADB), defied precedent. The nearest known breeding grounds are on Vancouver I., nearly 500 mi to the north. Was this bird merely a precocious fall migrant, or was it fledged in the western states? Among rare summer gulls were a Mew Gull at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, through July 3 and a second year Herring Gull there July 1 (both PP, KH), plus a sick ad. Herring Gull at Sunnyvale sewage ponds, *Santa Clara*, June 20 (PJM).

Elegant Tern counts in n.w. California peaked at 400 July 17 at Humboldt Bay (FJB). Two Com. Terns at Hayward Shoreline, *Alameda*, June 9 (JMR) were unusual in that most early summer stragglers are on the outer coast. A single nest of Least Tern at Hayward Shoreline (RJR, JMR) added a new breeding site. The major colony at Alameda Naval Air Station gathered between 87 and 101 pairs and fledged about one bird per pair (LDC). Two coastal and four S.F. Bay Black Terns in July were a bit early, with three July 8 in western *Solano* (MFRI) particularly so.

Seven species of alcids were seen from shore at Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes, including two or three Ancient Murrelets June 23–July 2 (JiD, D. Oglesby, m.ob.) and up to six Horned Puffins June 9–July 21 (J. Manker, JM, m.ob.). As some of the latter were oiled, it is likely that more than six Horned Puffins were represented. Offshore, three Horned Puffins were at F.I. June 1–3, one was there June 22–24 (P.R.B.O., m.ob.), and singles were off *Monterey* June 2 and off *Santa Cruz* July 1 (both DLSh, AB). Rhinoceros Auklets and Tufted Puffins were unusually numerous away from F.I., as exemplified by 65 "Rhinos" offshore *Monterey* June 2 (AB, DLSh) and nine Tufted Puffins there July 1 (DLm, DLSh, D. Rookaird).

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

As we mark the 10th year of Barred Owls invading our northwest, the ♂ Barred Owl of Willow Cr., *Humboldt* (present since 1983), was joined by a female in mid-July (C. Moen).

This establishes at least three known pairs in the state; it is only a matter of time before nesting will be confirmed. Confirmation of nesting Long-eared Owl sometimes is as difficult within the Region. Two birds at the M.B.O.S.P. June 9 (MRo, J. Carliss) and three at Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, into mid-June (LJ *et al.*) appeared to be in new locales for the species but showed no signs of nesting. However, a pair with a fledgling n. of L. Berryessa June 19–29 (G. Gamble, †BiG, †RbL, BDP *et al.*) appeared to be a *Napa* first.

White-throated Swifts are extremely rare in the montane areas n. of *Plumas*, so two birds w. of Fall R. Mills, *Shasta*, June 24 (TDM, AM) were of note. The 2nd Regional nesting of Broad-tailed Hummingbird was documented n.e. of Crowley L. in Wildrose Canyon, *Mono*, June 11 (PJM, WDS). Lundy Canyon to the n. of Mono L. is where the other family has been raised. Usually confined to *Modoc*, two ♂ Red-naped Sapsuckers were seen just e. of Conway Summit, *Mono*, June 14 (WDS) within an aspen grove, one of their choice nesting habitats. Nesting within *Mono* has occurred at least 3 times.

A Black Phoebe s.e. of Pittville June 23 (TDM) was only *Lassen's* 5th; they are rare at high elevations and even rarer in our Great Basin region away from *Siskiyou*. Five Ash-throated Flycatchers in *Del Norte* May 20–June 6 was a good spring showing for the n. coast. The pair of E. Kingbirds at Homestead in Sierra Valley June 11 (LJ) was a *Plumas* first and may have been contemplating doing some homesteading, as they have bred at Honey L. just to the north. Coastward spring vagrants included singles at L. Earl, *Del Norte*, June 19 (B. Barton), McKinleyville, *Humboldt*, June 24 (GSL *et al.*), and near Pescadero June 25–26 (RSTh *et al.*). Another along Cloverdale Rd., *San Mateo*, July 26 (GFi, M. Plant) was more likely a bird of the "fall."

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRASHERS

Life seemed good for Bank Swallows (recently elevated to State Threatened Status) in *Mono* as the newly established colony in Bridgeport swelled to

at least 100 pairs from last year's 30+ (PJM). However, reality sets in when one examines their plight in the Sacramento Valley. The *Sacramento Bee*, June 24, 1990, recounted the state Department of Fish and Game's dismal figures of 4500 pairs along the Sacramento R. this year compared to about 16,000 in 1986. This precipitous drop has been blamed on the Army Corps of Engineers' continued re-enforcing of the river bank with rocks to arrest erosion, coupled with the long drought. The future of the bird's largest stronghold in the state looks bleak. A most unseasonable and extralimital Steller's Jay near Lodi L., *San Joaquin*, June 17 (M. Phelps) may have been related to the lowland incursion last winter. *Napa's* first breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches were found with young near Atena Springs July 14 (†RbL, BiG). In *Mono*, the presence of six singing Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Glass Cr. Meadow June 8 and another near Conway Summit June 14 (both WDS) was duly acknowledged, as they are considered rare breeders e. of the Sierran crest.

The Townsend's Solitaire at Pt. Reyes June 16 (GF_i, S. Glover) became the Region's latest for spring along the coast. The sharp decline in nesting Swainson's Thrushes on the w. slope of the Sierra Nevada in recent years prompted BED to comment, "At least they are breeding somewhere," when he observed four birds near Nevada City, *Nevada*, June 3. Nesting Hermit Thrushes e. of Hecker Pass on Hwy 152, *Santa Clara*, June 11 (DLSu) extended their nesting range in the s.e. edge of the Santa Cruz Mts. (WGB). The singing N. Mockingbird near Termo, *Lassen*, June 3 (TDM) was also a pioneer of sorts, as they are very rare in our Great Basin region away from *Siskiyou*.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Plumbeus Solitary Vireo is showing strong signs of attempting to establish itself as a breeder in the Region, as at least one bird has been found in *Mono* during 4 of the past 5 summers. This year a singing male was in Wildrose Canyon, Glass Mt., June 7-11 (WDS, PJM). The Yellow-

throated Vireo at Gazos Cr. June 3 (†MFe, RSTh) established a first for *San Mateo*. Our sole Red-eyed Vireo was on F.I. June 14-16.

The strong showing of Tennessee Warbler mentioned in the Spring report continued into June with six birds along the coast June 2-20. A Virginia's Warbler on F.I. June 17 appeared to be only the Region's 5th in spring away from the e. side of the Sierra; the others were also from F.I. Only one N. Parula at Gazos Cr. June 17 (RSTh) and one Chestnut-sided Warbler at F.I. June 15 was a meager showing for this two-some. Four coastal Magnolia Warblers June 14-19 were well below our recent spring average while the Cape May Warbler at Pt. Reyes June 16 (RSTh) met the recent status quo. Two "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers were at Pt. Reyes June 16 (DSg, RSTh *et al.*); late spring "vagrants" are now annual. Black-throated Gray Warbler was finally confirmed breeding in *Contra Costa* when a pair was observed attending young in Pine Canyon, Mt. Diablo, June 28 (†KGGH). Single Black-throated Green Warblers on F.I. June 14 & 18-19 and another at Bolinas Lagoon June 28 (†PP) made for an impressive spring showing. Two "western" Palm Warblers were on F.I. June 18-19. Two Blackpoll Warbler reports were received: Pt. Reyes June 22 (†MAP, D. Pikus) and, surprisingly, one from the interior: Honey Lake W.M.A., *Lassen*, June 2 (†TDM, AM).

Three Black-and-white Warblers along the central coast June 10-16 were typical for spring but a male at Lodi L., *San Joaquin*, July 29-Aug. 9 (DGY) qualified for the fall season and was very rare for the C.V. There was nothing atypical about nine Am. Redstarts coastally June 11-23, but the singing Prothonotary Warbler collected near Los Banos, *Merced*, June 20 (†M. Holmgren, R. Fleischer) provided a Regional first during spring. Spring Ovenbirds most often are found on F.I. as this Season typified: three there June 14-19 in addition to the two there last Season. The ♀ Connecticut Warbler on F.I. June 16 provided the 7th or 8th Regional spring record (the others were also at F.I.). The ♀

Hooded Warbler at Fairhaven, *Humboldt*, June 24 (GSL, LPL) marked the 13th consecutive spring we have recorded the species. A Yellow-breasted Chat near Pt. Reyes Station, *Marin*, June 11-14 (GF_i) was considered extralimital, while the singing male in the n.w. corner of the Mono Basin June 28-29 (D. Marquart) may have been involved in a rare breeding attempt for that locale.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

It was a mediocre spring for Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Excluding the two from the Spring report there were five along the c. coast June 11-16, one in Milpitas, *Santa Clara*, June 16 (*fide* D. Johnson), and two in *Mono* June 1 & 16. Blue Grosbeak has been a suspected breeder in *Monterey's* upper Salinas Valley areas since 1939 and in *Alameda's* Patterson Pass area for the past several years. Both counties confirmed Blue Grosbeak as a breeder this summer when a nesting pair was observed in the Salinas Valley between San Lucas and San Ardo June 16-17 (†DR), and two nesting pairs were seen along Patterson Pass and Cross Roads e. of Livermore June 9-30 (ALE). Six coastal and two Mono L. Indigo Buntings June 5-July 13 was a modest affair.

The Rufous-crowned Sparrow heard at the M.B.O.S.P. June 9 (CB) was part of the small population that is resident in this portion of the Santa Cruz Mts. Their paucity in this mountain range is reflected in the few San Mateo records on file and their absence, thus far, in *Santa Cruz* (Suddjian, 1990, *Atlasser's Assistant—A Preliminary Analysis of the Status and Distribution of Breeding Birds in Santa Cruz County*, 2nd edition.) Not surprisingly, our two Clay-colored Sparrows were on F.I. June 14-18, as spring mainland records are few. The Brewer's Sparrow at Westhaven, *Humboldt*, June 14 (GSL, m.ob.) and the Vesper Sparrow on F.I. June 14-16 were coastal vagrants. A Lark Bunting at Dyson L. June 17-23 (LJ, WDS *et al.*) might be a first for *Plumas* and the 3rd for Sierra Valley. Point St. George's singing Grasshopper Sparrow was last detected June 20 (ADB). During a

search for nesting Bobolinks, a female was found in Eagleville, *Modoc*, June 27 (DnB, WDS). However, no further evidence was found in this area where they have been suspected of breeding in the past.

The gloomy Tricolored Blackbird picture painted in the Spring report was brightened slightly with the news that the *Sonoma* Breeding Bird Atlassing Project had detected 3 new nesting colonies (BBu). Unfortunately, there was no mention of their sizes or breeding success. *Lake's* first record of Hooded Oriole materialized when a male appeared at Clearlake Oaks June 21. It was joined by a female July 14 and both remained at least through the end of the Period (G. & L. Commeay). After breeding along the c. coast last year, Red Crossbills were seen in very small numbers in the same areas with no mention of breeding this year, further reaffirming their erratic breeding behavior. Seven birds in Livermore July 9 (KGGH) were very unseasonal. Up to six Am. Goldfinches at Ft. Bidwell in Surprise Valley, *Modoc*, June 26 (WDS, DnB) were summer rarities in our Great Basin region. The Evening Grosbeak in Belmont June 18 (PJM) furnished only the 2nd summer *San Mateo* record. Summer sightings along our coastline are very rare away from the immediate northwest.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

Tropical storms off the southern tip of Baja California pushed moist air northward, bringing with it some rain, but not enough to make a significant difference to the drought conditions prevailing throughout the Region. Conditions along the coast were such that water rationing was in effect in many localities, most of our reservoirs were at their lowest in many years, many creeks were bone dry, and conditions throughout the mountains were extremely dry.

A late movement of "spring migrants" was evident at oases in the eastern portion of Kern County on June 16 when the list of birds found by Matt T. Heindel included Western Wood-Pewee (8), Willow Flycatcher (20), Pacific-slope Flycatcher (10), Swainson's Thrush (2), Solitary Vireo (1), Orange-crowned Warbler (5), Yellow Warbler (6), Yellow-rumped Warbler (1), Yellow-breasted Chat (1), Western Tanager (2), Black-headed Grosbeak (3) and Indigo Bunting (1), this being an excellent example of just how late spring migrants can be found in southern California. This same observer found fall migrant landbirds in this same area as early as July 14, leaving very little time in summer when migrants are absent.

Abbreviations: C.L.N.W.C. (*China Lake Naval Weapons Center in extreme n.e. Kern*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside*); S.C.R.E. (*Santa*



Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura); S.D.N.H.M. (*San Diego Natural History Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial*). Place names in *italics* are counties. As virtually all rarities found in southern California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on the file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

A Com. Loon at Silver Lakes, *San Bernardino*, Aug. 5 (MAP) had undoubtedly summered at that inland location, and one at S.E.S.S. Aug. 18 (GMcC) was one of a very few to have summered at this location. A Horned Grebe, casual in sum-

mer, particularly so inland, was at N.E.S.S. June 30-July 7 (GMcC). Since Eared Grebes are considered sporadic breeders in s. California, the presence of 3 nesting pairs at N.E.S.S. this summer (RMcK) was of interest. In addition, 18 Western Grebe nests and 15 Clark's Grebe nests were found in this area (RMcK).

The presence of four N. Fulmars in the San Pedro Channel July 1 (KLG), along with 3 or 4 sightings of single birds in that same area during June and July, indicated a few of these birds spent the summer in s. California waters. Two Buller's Shearwaters off Morro Bay Aug. 8 (MJL) were a little early. A Sooty Shearwater was found at S.E.S.S. July 14 (BED), and what may have been the same individual was seen flying north towards the N.E.S.S. off Salton Sea Beach July 19 (MTH), at the N.E.S.S. July 21 (JO'B), and back at the S.E.S.S. July 25

(CS); this species is accidental inland, but there are 2 previous records from the Salton Sea, another from just north of the Salton Sea, and a 4th from s.w. Arizona, all during spring and summer. Unusual numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters were present off the coast as indicated by 12 off La Jolla July 16 building up to 1100 on Aug. 4 (JO'B), and 40 off Pt. Dume, *Los Angeles*, Aug. 2 (KLG); this species is not normally found in s. California waters during summer. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel off Pt. Conception, *Santa Barbara*, Aug. 6 (MJL) and another off Morro Bay Aug. 8 (MJL) were unusually far south.

Sixteen Red-billed Tropicbirds were seen between July 30 and Aug. 4 during a scientific survey cruise off s. California, including eight in the San Pedro Channel between Dana Pt., *Orange*, and Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, July 31 (MJL). After a hiatus of ten years, Blue-footed Boobies

once again put in an appearance on the Salton Sea with a minimum of four (three adults and one immature) present between July 12 (JLD) and the end of the period. Brown Boobies were also present with at least eight (two adults, five subadults, and one immature) between July 12 (JLD) and the end of the period, these being the first on the Salton Sea since 1974. Brown Pelicans moved into the area of the Salton Sea in June with numbers increasing to a unprecedented 2000+ on Aug. 4 (GMcC). Thirty years ago Brown Pelicans were classified as accidental inland; twenty years ago counts of 25 on the Salton Sea were considered remarkable, and ten years ago the largest numbers recorded there were still under 100, hence there has clearly been a major change in the status of this species on this inland sea in recent years. Away from the Salton Sea, single Brown Pelicans were inland around Redlands July 10 (ELaR) & 11 (GH), on Puddingstone Res., Los Angeles, July 25-Aug. 1 (KLG), and over Pasadena July 9 (RMcK). Magnificent Frigatebirds appeared to be somewhat scarce along the coast with one near Imperial Beach Aug. 8 (RR), another over Bolsa Chica July 13 (VL), one over Pacific Palisades July 22 (RF), two at Redondo Beach July 23 (AH), one over Santa Barbara July 25 (GR), and another near Cambria July 23 (SL); inland there were at least ten reports of single individuals from various points around the Salton Sea between June 30 and July 27 (GMcC, SEF, D & MH), three together at N.E.S.S. Aug. 2 (DJ), and one more over Puddingstone Res. Aug. 1 (LFK).

HERONS TO GROUSE

The Little Blue Heron found on Upper Newport Bay in January was still present at the end of the period, having now molted into adult plumage, and was the only one reported away from coastal San Diego. An ad. Tricolored Heron, now very rare in California, was near Imperial Beach Aug. 4-9 (JO'B). An imm. Reddish Egret at N.E.S.S. July 28 (GMcC) was only the 7th to be found at this inland locality. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that has frequented the



Blue-footed Booby at Salton City, California, August 5, 1990. The invasion of boobies to the Salton Sea was the highlight of the season for southwestern birders. Photograph/Kevin J. Zimmer.

coast of San Diego since 1981 was in La Jolla July 31 (JO'B), and what was most likely the same bird was on nearby Mission Bay later the same day (LP). Wood Stork numbers built up to around 75 at S.E.S.S. in July, this being more than in recent years, but fewer than the numbers found 20 years ago; encouraging, however, was that

about half were immature, indicating successful nesting somewhere in w. Mexico. Along the coast, where Wood Storks are now considered casual stragglers, one was present on Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo, June 16 (BS).

At least 60 Brant were on the Salton Sea at the start of the season, but they dwindled in num-

bers as summer progressed, with 15 at S.E.S.S. being all that could be found at the end of the season. A Canada Goose of the small race *minima* was in Goleta June 27 (PEL) and in adjacent Santa Barbara June 28 (RWH), another found on Laguna L., San Luis Obispo, July 29 (KAH) was still present at the end of the period, and a third was in



Adult Brown Booby at Red Hill Marina, Salton Sea, on August 5, 1990. Photograph/Kevin J. Zimmer.

Bishop, *Inyo*, July 28 (T & JH), giving us the first records of "Cackling Geese" in s. California in summer. A ♀ Wood Duck raised five young in Descanso Gardens, *Los Angeles*, in May (GB) and another was seen with two young in Fullerton, *Orange*, at the same time (BB), to give us two more records for nesting in the s. portion of this Region; up to two present in the Fremont Valley of e. *Kern* June 9 through the end of the period (MTH) were unexpected for summer. A Canvasback, quite rare in summer, was at N.E.S.S. July 14 (MAP), another was in Ontario, *San Bernardino*, throughout the period (MAP), and two more were near S.C.R.E. May 7-July 28 (RJM). A Ring-necked Duck, also quite rare in s. California in summer, was present in Ontario July 4 (MAP). A ♀ Greater Scaup at N.E.S.S. June 30 (GMcC) was evidently attempting to summer locally.

Two ♂ Harlequin Ducks, rare anywhere in s. California, were at Pt. Sal, *Santa Barbara*, May 26-June 25 (DK), and were clearly summering locally. A ♂ Oldsquaw, also rare in s. California, present on the San Diego Bay June 17-30 (REW) was also summering locally. The ♀ Black Scoter found at N.E.S.S. Apr. 14 was present through July 13 (CMcG) and the immature male at nearby Desert Shores was last seen July 12 (JLD), there being only 2 previous records of this species summering on the Salton Sea; one at El Capitan, *Santa Barbara*, July 3 (RGJ) was on the coast where small numbers can be found in winter. Some 25 Surf Scoters present on the Salton Sea in early June had declined to about 10 by the end of the period, this being an exceptional number to attempt summering at this inland locality. In addition, the nine White-winged Scoters present around N.E.S.S. in early June had been reduced by the harsh conditions of summer to three by the end of the period, this also being a remarkable number to attempt summering at this locality.

A pair of Bald Eagles successfully raised two young on L. Cachuma, *Santa Barbara*, early this summer (PEL), this species having first nested here last year. A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks



Lesser Golden-Plover near Lancaster, California, July 14, 1990. Apparently a bird of the race *fulva* (unexpected inland) in partial alternate plumage. Photograph/Matt T. Heindel.

fledged two young from a nest near Santa Margarita, *San Luis Obispo*, in July (JR), for the 2nd documented record for nesting along the coast; one in Millard Canyon in the San Bernardino Mts. June 16 (CMcG) was in suitable breeding habitat but not proven to be nesting. A pair of N. Goshawks again nested on Mt. Abel, *Ventura*, hatching two young in June (RJM), but the nest was later abandoned and/or the young stolen; an adult carrying food in the White Mts., *Inyo*, July 13 (T & JH) was believed to be nesting locally, although breeding is unknown in these mountains. The only Peregrine Falcons found around the Salton Sea this summer were an immature at Salton City June 30 (MAP), another at N.E.S.S. July 14-26 (CMcG), and an adult at S.E.S.S. July 20 (MTH), these birds believed to be from the population breeding in the Gulf of California.

Twenty-one Sage Grouse were found in the higher portions of the White Mts. July 27 (T & JH), the southernmost being nine at Reed Flat adjacent to Schulman Grove, *Inyo*, the

southern limit of this species' range.

SHOREBIRDS TO GULLS

A Lesser Golden-Plover photographed near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, July 14 (MTH) was clearly *fulva*, most unusual inland, and another found at S.E.S.S. July 20 (MTH) was identified as *dominica*, the form normally found inland, although any occurrence away from the coast is noteworthy and documented records of adult *dominica* in fall are rare indeed. The first of this fall's Solitary Sandpipers was one at S.E.S.S. July 12 (JLD) followed by at least six more at various locations within the Region by the end of the month. Two Black Turnstones at S.E.S.S. July 12 (JLD) established the 2nd record for this species inland in fall. A Ruddy Turnstone at Edwards, *Kern*, July 14 (MTH) was the only one found inland. A breeding-plumaged Surf-bird inland at S.E.S.S. June 16 (GMcC) was probably a lost spring migrant. Four Red Knots at S.E.S.S. July 7 (GMcC) were early fall migrants, and one at Edwards July

14 (MTH) was the only one found away from the Salton Sea. An ad. Semipalmated Sandpiper was found at Edwards July 14 (MTH), another was near Lancaster July 21 (KLG), and single adults were photographed at S.C.R.E. on July 21 & 27 (RJM), and the first juvenile of the fall was a relatively early individual in Goleta July 24 (PEL). An ad. Rufous-necked Stint photographed at the Santa Maria R. mouth, *Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo*, July 15 (JSR) was the 4th to be found in s. California. An early Pectoral Sandpiper was at N.E.S.S. June 30 (KR). The earliest Baird's Sandpiper this fall was an adult in Goleta July 12 (SEF), with the first juveniles found near Lancaster July 27 (NBB). The first Stilt Sandpipers to be found this fall were 25 at S.E.S.S. July 20 (MTH), followed by one on the coast at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego*, July 22-29 (GMcC). The Buff-breasted Sandpiper found at Edwards June 3 was still present June 9 (MTH). An adult ♂ Ruff in Goleta July 16 through the end of the period (PEL) still had remnants of breeding plumage when first found. Common Snipe again nested in the Garner Valley of the San Jacinto Mts. this summer (RMcK).

Two jaegers, one of which was clearly a Pomarine, at Salton City July 12 (JLD) established one of a very few records for this species inland in California. A S. Polar Skua, quite scarce in s. California waters, was off Morro Bay Aug. 8 (MJL). Laughing Gulls, regular post-breeding visitors to the Salton Sea, were relatively common this year with a high count of 750+ made at S.E.S.S. July 7 (GMcC); an adult in Imperial Beach June 17 (REW) was along the coast where considered very rare. Five different Franklin's Gulls, rare on the Salton Sea in summer, were at S.E.S.S. June 9-10 (MAP, GMcC), and an adult was near Salton City July 18-28 (GMcC); in addition, a first-year bird was at Edwards June 9 (MTH), and another was in San Diego June 10 (GMcC). At least four Heermann's Gulls were found on the Salton Sea with a first-year bird present around S.E.S.S. July 12-28 (JLD), a juvenile there July 14-15 (GMcC), and two first-year birds off Salton City Aug. 4

(GMcC, MAP); an adult photographed at Edwards June 16 (MTH) was the first to be found in *Kern*. Since Herring Gulls are exceptionally rare in summer anywhere in s. California, the presence of an adult around S.E.S.S. June 9-July 15 (GMcC), a first-summer bird there July 12-28 (JLD), and an adult at N.E.S.S. July 21-28 (SM) were of interest. Yellow-footed Gull numbers built up to more than 1000 on the Salton Sea in early August, with the first juveniles noted there July 7 (GMcC). A first-year W. Gull, casual on the Salton Sea, was present around S.E.S.S. June 9-July 28 (REW), and an adult was found there July 21 (JO'B). An adult Sabine's Gull off *San Diego* July 16 (JO'B) was early for a fall migrant, and another was on-shore at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 29-Aug. 2 (PEL).

TERNS TO ALCIDS

At least 150 pairs of Gull-billed Terns managed to nest around S.E.S.S. (JMCK) and 10 more pairs attempted nesting on s. San Diego Bay this summer (EC). A Gull-billed Tern at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, June 3 (KH) was the first to be



Adult Rufous-necked Stint at the mouth of the Santa Maria River, California, July 15, 1990. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.



An adult Heermann's Gull quite far inland at Edwards Air Force Base, California, on June 16, 1990. Photograph/Matt T. Heindel.

found on the coast away from the vicinity of San Diego. An adult Royal Tern in non-breeding plumage photographed at N.E.S.S. July 19 (MTH) furnished the first confirmed record for this species inland in the West. Two or 3 pairs of Royal Terns nested at Bolsa Chica this summer, with two young banded July 7 (EB), there being very few documented records for breeding in this state. A single Elegant Tern, casual to accidental inland, was at N.E.S.S. June 16 (RAE), another was at S.E.S.S. July 7 (GMcC) and a third was photographed there July 20 (MTH). The status of Elegant Terns along the coast is changing, individuals arriving north of known nesting localities much earlier than ten years ago, as indicated by the presence of at least 35 in Malibu in late March (KLG) and two in Santa Barbara on Apr. 3 (FS); at least 1000 pairs nested in *Orange*, but none attempted nesting in *San Diego* this year. A breeding-plumaged Com. Tern, unknown inland away from the Salton Sea in spring, was near Lost Hills, *Kern*, June 17 (JCW). An ad. Arctic Tern at S.E.S.S. July 7 (GMcC) and a first-year bird there July 14 (REW) were the first to be found inland in s. California in summer; another adult photographed at Edwards June 16 (MTH) was a little late for spring and only the 2nd to be found in *Kern*.

Two Least Terns, considered casual inland, were at S.E.S.S. June 10-16 (MAP). Of extreme interest was the presence of a Bridled/Sooty Tern visiting the tern colony at Bolsa Chica Aug. 5 (ELM); there is one record for Sooty Tern and none for Bridled in California, but both are known to occur along the w. coast of Mexico. Remarkable were two Black Skimmers at C.L.N.W.C. July 28 (MTH); one near Lakeview, *Riverside*, Aug. 27 to Sept. 4, 1978 (AB 33:214, 1979) and one on L. Havasu on the Colorado R. Sept. 1-4, 1977 (AB 32:241, 1978) were the previous northernmost occurrences on record in the e. portion of the Region, although a pair nested on Tulare L. at the s. end of the San Joaquin Valley in 1986 (AB 40:1251, 1986). At S.E.S.S. at least 500 Black Skimmers were present this summer, although only 100 pairs attempted to nest (JMCK). Along the coast, numbers continue to increase n. of San Diego, as indicated by at least 275 pairs nesting at Bolsa Chica (EB); in addition, up to 70 individuals at Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, between April and June (LRH, RJM) included 10 banded as young in *Orange*.

A Pigeon Guillemot in Goleta July 26 (SEF) was at an unusual locality. As many as 16 Marbled Murrelets could be found along the n. coast of *San Luis Obispo* at

the end of the period (GPS), this being near the s. limit of regular occurrence for this species. Twelve Craveri's Murrelets, regular late summer visitors to the waters off s. California, were off Morro Bay Aug. 8 (MJL).

DOVES TO VIREOS

A White-winged Dove, very rare along the coast in summer, was in *Ventura* July 24 (TT). The only Yellow-billed Cuckoos reported were 2 nesting pairs, along with seven unmated males, along the S. Fork of the Kern R. near Weldon during June and July (SL). Flammulated Owls were again present on Black Mt. in the San Jacinto Mts., *Riverside*, with at least two heard there June 2 (RMCK), another was heard on Mt. Pinos June 1 (JEL), and two were calling on Big Pine Mt., *Santa Barbara*, June 21 (JEL); a pair feeding two young in a nest in a dead bristlecone pine in the White Mts., *Inyo*, in July (T & JH) gave us the first proof of breeding in this mountain range. A Whip-poor-will was heard at Hartbar Campground in the San Bernardino Mts. June 2 (SM), this being one of about half-a-dozen localities within California where this species is suspected to nest. A *Chaerura* around Atascadero June 18-July 8 (RZ) was probably a Chimney Swift, the most likely of the two

to be found in summer in s. California; one over Malibu June 17 (KLG), three together near Santee, *San Diego*, June 22 (REW), and three more over Chula Vista July 21 (EC) were all positively identified as Chimney Swifts. The presence of 16 Black Swifts near Pine Cove in the San Jacinto Mts. May 27 (RMcK) and 10 around Forest Falls in the San Bernardino Mts. June 2 (SM) suggested they may have again bred at these known nesting localities. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Vail L. near Temecula, *Riverside*, July 24 (SJM) was west of its normal desert range.

The presence of at least 44 Gray Flycatchers, along with "several" nests, in the Lockwood Valley/Quatal Canyon area of n.w. *Ventura* between Apr. 15 and June 3 (RJM) showed this species to be much commoner than originally believed in this area. A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers in Mojave Narrows Park near Victorville June 16-July 8 (SJM), and 3 to 5 pairs along the S. Fork of the Kern R. near Weldon throughout the summer (SL), were probably nesting at these two locations. A pair of Barn Swallows found nesting near *Riverside* Aug. 21-22 (RMcK) provided the first breeding record in recent history for *Riverside*.

Eight singing Cactus Wrens at Joshua Flats, 25 mi e. of Big Pine, July 16 (T & JH) were at the edge of this species' breeding range. A pair of Am. Robins successfully fledged one young in Mojave in July (MTH), outside this species' known nesting range in California. A Le Conte's Thrasher in the Cuyama Valley of s.e. *San Luis Obispo* June 19 (BS) was at the n.w. extreme of the species' range.

A pair of Solitary Vireos on Black Mt. July 8 (MAP) were gray birds of the interior form *plumbeus*, previously unrecorded on the San Jacinto Mountains in summer. A Red-eyed Vireo in Mentone, *San Bernardino*, June 9 (GH) was a late spring vagrant.

WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A ♂ Tennessee Warbler in the Fremont Valley of e. *Kern* June 16 (MTH) was a spring vagrant, as were the two N. Parulas with it, but a singing N. Parula on

San Rafael Mt., *Santa Barbara*, June 17 (JH) could have been summering locally. A ♀ Magnolia Warbler at Butterbred Springs north of California City, *Kern*, June 8 (MTH) was late, and the only one reported this "spring." A Hermit Warbler at 8000 ft. on Black Mt. in the San Jacinto Mts. May 27 (RMcK) may well have been on territory. This species is known to nest in the San Bernardino Mts. just to the north, where 18 territorial males were found June 10 (DGo). A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler in Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, June 5 (AM), and another near Weldon June 10-13 (SL) were both late spring vagrants. A ♂ Am. Redstart at Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, June 10 (GPS) was a late spring migrant, but another near Imperial Beach May 27-June 30 (JO) was undoubtedly the same individual present here last summer. A ♀ MacGillivray's Warbler near Cayucos July 14 (TME) was in suitable breeding habitat. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler, one of the rarer stragglers to reach California, was in Mojave, *Kern*, June 9 (MTH).

A ♂ *Pyrrhuloxia* photographed on San Miguel I. July 19-23 (DGu) was remarkable. There are about 10 records from the s.e. portion of the Region, along with 2 from the coastal slope, indicating this species occasionally wanders from its known range; but in order to reach San Miguel I. an individual would have to travel at least 400 miles, including some 35 miles of open ocean. On the other hand, there are no sources for escapees on San Miguel Island. Reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks included a male at Oceano June 12 (BS), one near Pt. Sal in mid-June (DF), another in Goleta June 28 (PEL), and a 4th in Huntington Beach July 29-Aug. 4 (TG); reports of Indigo Buntings included a male near Big Pine June 28-July 15 (T & JH), three males along the S. Fork of the Kern R. near Weldon throughout the period (SL), a male feeding two young (young suspected to be hybrids with Lazuli Bunting) near Morro Bay July 12-14 (JMcD), two more near Santa Barbara May 20-June 12 (NS), and another in Goleta June 26 (NS).

An imm. Black-throated Sparrow at Vail L. July 20 (SJM)



Far from its normal range was this male *Pyrrhuloxia* on San Miguel Island, California, July 19, 1990. Photograph/Dan Guthrie.

was west of the species' normal range. Two Large-billed Savannah Sparrows, a form that disperses northward after nesting around the head of the Gulf of California, were near Pt. Mugu on the somewhat early date of June 24 (RJM), and the first were found at the Salton Sea July 7 (MAP). Grasshopper Sparrows are now quite rare in the developed areas along the coast, hence a singing male in the San Jose Hills near Walnut, *Los Angeles*, Mar. 23-25 (DRW) and as many as four in the Puente Hills near Pomona, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 3-June 19 (SJM) were of interest.

Small numbers of Great-tailed Grackles are now nesting as far north as Lone Pine in the Owens Valley (T & JH), California City in the w. Mojave Desert (MOC), near Bakersfield in the s. San Joaquin Valley (MOC), and around San Diego/Oceanside on the coast (EC), indicating the species is still expanding its range. Bronzed Cowbirds continue to expand their range westward with small numbers present in at least July 29 (GMcC), and single males as far west as Borrego Springs May 27 (AM) and June

23 (PU, *S.D.N.H.M.).

Eight Red Crossbills in California City July 14 (MTH) were well out on the Mojave Desert, and defied explanation; one in the White Mts. of *Inyo* July 20 (MAP), up to eight on Mt. Pinos June 8-23 (FS) and 15 on San Rafael Mt. June 17-18 (JH) were in suitable nesting habitat.

Addenda: An injured Clay-colored Sparrow, most unusual along the coast in spring, was found in Santa Barbara in early May, but not correctly identified until late July (PEL) when still in captivity.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

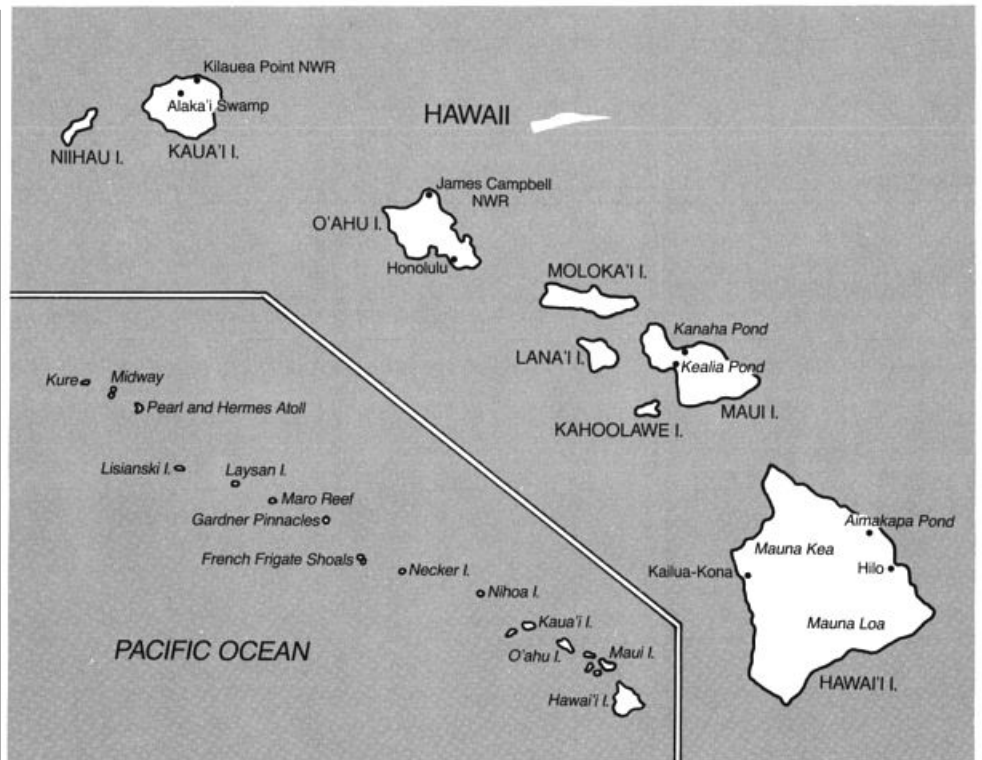
Summer rainfall averages, which are considerably lower than in other seasons, were exceeded this year at two-thirds of the state's 31 reporting stations. Cumulative amounts for 1990 remain above normal at a majority of the stations, particularly in the southern islands of Maui and Hawai'i. The northern islands remain a bit drier.

Abbreviations: F.F.S. (*French Frigate Shoals*); H. (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); O. (*O'ahu I.*); J.C.N.W.R. (*James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.*); P.H.N.W.R. (*Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.*).

GREBES TO STORM-PETRELS

A pair of Pied-billed Grebes was observed June 11 building a nest at Aimakapa Pond, H. (JL), where this species has self-colonized over the past decade. It is otherwise unknown in the state except for a few vagrant occurrences in the 1970s. Laysan Albatrosses at Kilauea Point N.W.R., K., made 46 nest attempts during November–February, had 22 eggs hatch and 14 young fledge successfully, the last one Aug. 14 (KF). This compares to none fledged last year when all chicks were lost to an undetermined predator. An extensive cat-trapping program prior to the nesting season may well have contributed to this year's fledging success. Sightings of single adult Laysans from boats at sea 4 mi off Kaena Pt., O., Aug. 19 (TS) and off the n. shore of Kaua'i Aug. 26 (RM) were on unusual late summer dates.

Four nests of Bulwer's Petrel, none containing eggs, were found on Manana Islet, O., July 14 (MG). During the Hawaii Audubon trip to Manana July 15, Bulwer's were found nesting "in good numbers" with eggs and downy chicks seen, and several adults were heard calling (BE). One nest with an adult incubating one egg was found on



Moku Manu Islet, O., July 25 (MG). A small *Pterodroma*, probably a Bonin Petrel which is rarely observed in the main Hawaiian Is., was found alive on Waimanalo Beach, O., and turned in to Sea Life Park June 1, identified (DW), banded, and released June 6 (MB). Also, three grounded Newell's Shearwaters (*Threatened*), picked up on May 26 and June 2 & 5 in the Aiea-Mapunapuna area of interior O'ahu, were taken to Sea Life Park, kept a few days for rehabilitation, banded, and released (MB). At sea off Kaena Pt., O., three Newell's were seen Aug. 4 but none Aug. 19 (TS).

During a trip by helicopter to rarely-visited Moku Manu Islet off Mokapu Pen., O., July 25, MG found 10 nests of Christmas Shearwater, including two adults on eggs, one young downy chick, and older chicks up to fledgling size. Moku Manu is the only known nesting site of Christmas Shearwater in the main Hawaiian Is., although they nest in modest numbers in the N.W. Hawaiian Is. A bird heard calling just after midnight July 18 over a lighted parking lot at Honolulu Airport was thought to have possibly been a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (PD). Individuals of this enigmatic species have been recorded in the main Hawaiian Is. irregularly over the years, and

supposedly they breed on Kaua'i, although a nest has never been found.

TROPICBIRDS TO COOTS

A highly unusual concentration of 11 White-tailed Tropicbirds, including adults and immatures, was observed at Kealakekua Bay, H., June 15 (JL). More expected were the single birds sighted during June and July on O'ahu, but at diverse locations including Mokoli'i I., Pali Lookout, Haiku Valley (all PD), and Kahala Beach (MO). Red-tailed Tropicbirds at or over Manana I., the well-known O'ahu nesting site, were reported during the summer in numbers from 2 to 7 pairs (PD, MG, BE, JE), but visitors on the island found only one fledgling (dead).

Two or three Masked Boobies seen off the east end of Manana I. Aug. 11 were considered unusual there (JE). None was reported by other visitors to Manana. But 12 pairs, most with a half- to fully-grown chick, were found on Moku Manu I. July 25, along with hundreds of Brown Booby nests containing chicks of all ages (MG). The same day an estimated 400 Great Frigatebirds in ratio of 6:3:1 ad. males: ad. females: immatures were on and near Moku Manu (MG). Individuals of the species are found roosting there

at all seasons, but are not known to nest there except for one anomalous nesting reported several decades ago.

A straggler Cattle Egret on Tern I., F.F.S., was first seen June 28 and found dead July 16 (JME, *vide* CR). A high number (22) of Black-crowned Night-Herons was recorded at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., June 23 (PD). An ad. Little Blue Heron was sighted in flight at Puohala Marsh at the head of Waipi'o Pen., O., Aug. 19 (MO) & 20 (TS). This is one more occurrence in the same general area where single Little Blues have been observed occasionally in summer and fall during the past several decades. They've been recorded nowhere else in the state.

A male and female N. Shoveler were found at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N.W.R., June 6 (PD), a very late date. At Hakalau N.W.R., H., a Hawaiian Hawk (*Endangered*) was observed catching and eating a young drepanid, probably a Hawai'i Akepa (*Endangered*) since a pair of agitated ad. Akepa were nearby (JL). Three males and a female Com. Peafowl were seen July 14 along the road to Peacock Flats in n.w. O'ahu (JL), where the species has existed in the wild for more than a century since being introduced reputedly by Hawaiian royalty. Nine

adults and five juv. Hawaiian (Com.) Moorhens (*Endangered*) found at Ki'i Unit June 23 (PD) made a good high count. One Hawaiian (Am.) Coot (*Endangered*) was observed Aug. 3 in a ranch pond near Keanakolu Cabin at 5360 ft on the n.e. flank of Mauna Kea, H., an unusually high elevation for this species (TL, *vide* TP).

SHORBIRDS TO TERNS

Bristle-thighed Curlews are irregularly observed early fall migrants in the main Hawaiian Is., although non-breeders occur in good numbers through most of the year in the unpopulated N.W. Hawaiian Is. This was doubly significant when two were found at Kahuku Pt. Pond, O., Aug. 8 (PD, RLP), one of which had color bands placed on the bird a year earlier at Laysan I. (*vide* JMa). Another color-banded Bristle-thighed was spotted at South Pt., H., Aug. 18 (BM). These had probably made the round trip from Hawaii to the Alaskan tundra and back. Ruddy Turnstones are usually the earliest migrant shorebirds to return in late summer. This year eight were found at Ki'i Unit June 23 (PD), 15 were on Manana I. July 14 (MG), "a lot" in partial breeding plumage were on the grassy dunes at Ki'i Unit July 16 (PC), six were at Waipi'o Pen., O., July 17 (PD), and seven in breeding plumage at Kahala Beach, O., July 22 (MO). The July birds at least were probably early returning migrants. Gulls rarely if ever over-summer in Hawaii, but two Ring-billeds were seen repeatedly through this summer at Ki'i Unit and nearby Kahuku Pt. Pond (v.o.). One was in full adult plumage and the other almost so.

Reports from several visits to Manana and Moku Manu islets off O'ahu in July and August suggest that Sooty Terns may have fledged very few, if any, young from either colony this year (MG, BE, JE). Brown Noddies, which nest later than the Sooties, were reported nesting in good numbers on both islets with many chicks and eggs seen.

CROWS TO CANARIES

A lone color-banded Hawaiian

S.A.

Small terns seen occasionally in summer and fall in Hawaii had traditionally been reported as Least Terns (*S. antillarum*) from North America, even for a while after the Least Tern was split from the eastern hemisphere Little Tern (*S. albifrons*). Recently, however, most such individuals have been reported as Least/Little Terns, especially after a specimen collected at Tern I., F.F.S., proved to be a Little Tern of the race *pusilla* from eastern Asia. This was Hawaii's first preserved specimen of either species, and provided the basis for adding *S. albifrons* to the A.O.U. Checklist. It was followed by a 2nd specimen, also determined to be *pusilla*, collected at Midway Atoll in August 1989.

Clapp ('*Elepaio* 49:41-46, 1989) described the great difficulties of separating these species in the field by plumage. The character most easily seen in the field, the difference in color of rump and tail between *pusilla* and Least Tern, is valid only for breeding plumaged adults which are not often seen in Hawaii. Calls of the two species are analogous, but have

Crow, (critically *Endangered*) was seen June 20 in the state Puu Waawaa Wildlife Sanctuary, set aside for the crows, on the n. slope of Hualalai Mtn., H. (RD *et al.*). None had been seen in this area for 6 years. This female had been banded as a young bird in this same area in 1977, and was known to have nested there more than once in ensuing years. The Sanctuary is about 25 mi from McCandless Ranch, where what are thought to be the last remnant wild Hawaiian Crows currently reside. Subsequent visits failed to find the bird again.

An Elepaio heard scolding and seen on Lanipo trail, O., at 1650 ft elevation July 22 (PD) was encouraging, as the population of this endemic species on O'ahu seems to be crashing. Elepaios also were reportedly seen fairly regularly at a rarely-visited location in the back of Maunawili Valley where a new trail is being constructed. A family group of five or six individuals was seen more than once (DD). Adults and begging juveniles of

some distinct differences (Massey, *Auk* 93:760-773, 1976).

This year, one Least/Little Tern was seen regularly at Aimakapa Pond, H., from June into August, but was already in non-breeding plumage (PB, BM, JL, RD). Another was at Honouliuli Unit., P.H.N.W.R., on several dates in early July, but its plumage was not determined (PC). An individual at Kahuku Pt. Pond was in fine breeding plumage when first found Aug. 8 (PD, RLP), and was thought possibly to have the darker rump and tail color of a Least Tern (PD). It was seen again Aug. 26 and Sept. 2; by the latter date the bird had a definitely grayish rump and tail but was already well into its molt to other features of its winter plumage. Some fairly good recordings of its call were obtained Sept. 2 (RLP).

The question remains of how many, if any, of Hawaii's visiting terns are Least. A few recent sightings have been judged Least Tern by plumage or call. But clearly there is an opportunity in Hawaii, perhaps unique in the world, to try to work out comparative field differentiations between these two terns.

both White-rumped Shama and Hwamei were observed during June in lower Kalalau Valley along the isolated n. shore of Kauai.

The introduced Red-billed Leiothrix, once one of the most abundant species in O'ahu's forests until its population there abruptly crashed some 20 years ago, seems now to be making a slow comeback. Scattered observations, increasing in recent years, were augmented this season by reports of one to five individuals on Aiea, Lanipo, and Woodlawn trails (PD), and two at the upper small reservoir on Nuuanu Pali Rd. Aug. 18 (MO). DD reported them regularly in the back of Maunawili Valley in mid-July, now heard and seen there more frequently than a few years ago.

Mixed flocks of 20-80 adult and imm. Yellow-fronted Canaries moved up, apparently from lower elevations, into the manane-naio forests on the w. side of Mauna Kea, H., during August, somewhat earlier than

last year (JL). Very few of this introduced species are seen in that region from April to July, and no nests have been found there.

DREPANIDS TO ESTRILDIDS

On the semi-annual survey of Palila (*Endangered*) on Mauna Kea July 9-12, 230 individuals were counted on the regular transects. This was the highest summer count in the past decade, although somewhat lower than the winter counts (TP). Eleven detections of Akiapolaau (*Endangered*) were also recorded. At Hakalau Nat'l Wildlife Ref., H., a nest of Akiapolaau was found under construction June 8 but evidently was never completed (JL).

A Maui Parrotbill (*Endangered*, super-rare) was carefully observed by a Park Naturalist leading a visitors' hike in Waikamoi Preserve adjoining Haleakala Nat'l Park, Maui, Aug. 20 (VG). One had been observed 10 months earlier in the same general area, which is about 11 km west of the Hanawi region where most recent observations of Parrotbill have been made. At the study area in Hakalau Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Hawai'i Creepers (*Endangered*), juvenile Amakihi, and Akepa (*Endangered*) were all down in general numbers from last year's levels. Only two juv. Akepa have been caught and banded this year compared to 14 by the end of July last year. However, 16 Akepa nests were found this year and 13 young fledged successfully from them (JL).

Black-rumped Waxbills, scarcest of the introduced Estrildids, were reported again in the traditional locality near Puu Anahulu, H. One was seen June 9 and three on June 13 (JL).

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WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Dry conditions continued to dominate, at least in the north-eastern Caribbean, where rainfall was 34% below average in June and 39% below average in July. Reduced rainfall may have been slightly beneficial for nesting seabirds, especially ground-nesters.

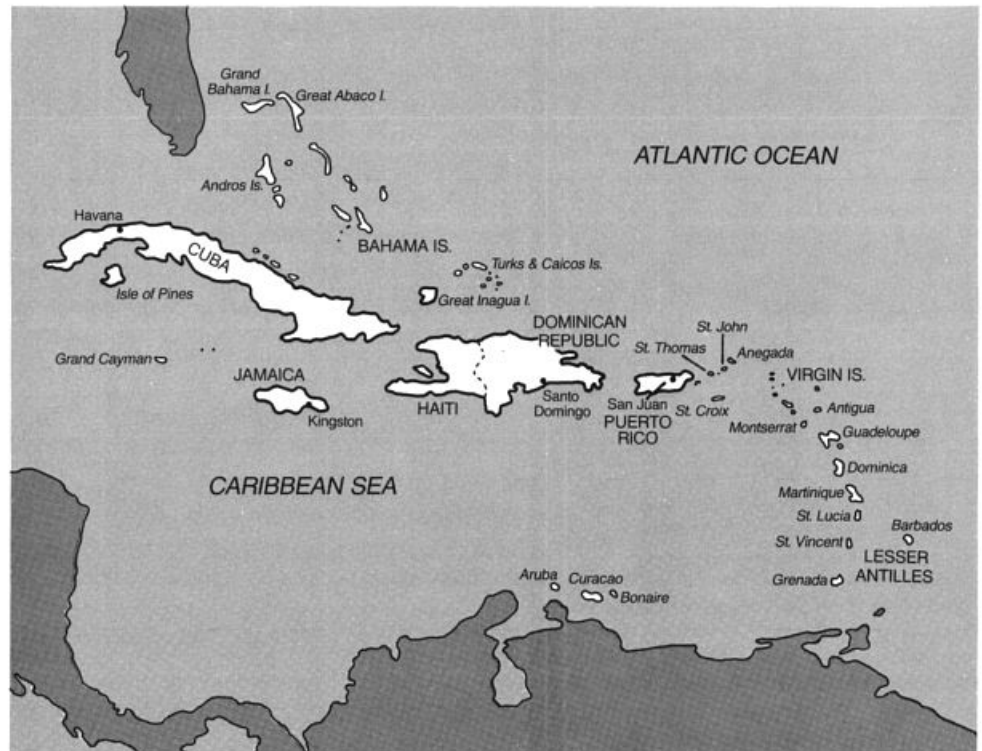
Wetland habitats of Barbuda make up a significant resource in the northeastern Caribbean. Serving as an integral part of the international network of wetlands, they are important to the survival of West Indian Whistling-Duck as well as migrant shorebirds and seabirds. One of the largest Magnificent Frigatebird colonies in the West Indies may be found at Codrington Lagoon, Barbuda; development schemes there could threaten one of the most important wildlife reserves in the Region.

Little summer season birding activity was reported this year, so I have supplemented this short summer report with an Addendum of late but interesting accounts from spring.

Abbreviations: B.V.I. (*British Virgin Islands*).

TROPICBIRDS TO SHOREBIRDS

The name "White-tailed Tropicbird" appeared to be a misnomer for birds seen in May at San Salvador, Bahamas, where the adults had buff-orange central rectrices (SBT). The same condition has been noted on breeding White-taileds in the Virgin Islands (RLN). A cormorant seen June 1 at the coastal freshwater fish-farm outside Falmouth, Jamaica (CF, JA) was identified as an Olivaceous Cormorant, apparently unrecorded from Jamaica (*vide* AD). Populations of Olivaceous Cormorants have increased in Cuba in recent decades, possibly because of extensive fish-farming and rice production there (*vide* OG), and this could account for increased numbers of



the species in the Greater Antilles in general. At the inland cormorant colony at San Salvador, Bahamas, the availability of fresh water may be crucial to understanding the seasonal "turnover" of Double-crested and Olivaceous cormorants (SBT). On July 14, a 32-mile sail from St. John's, Antigua, north to Barbuda on the Antigua-Barbuda marine shelf produced only one Magnificent Frigatebird and two Bridled Terns (RLN).

At Anegada, five summering Semipalmated Plovers were noted June 16, and a Greater Yellowlegs was also seen on that date (RLN). Two Red Knots seen June 16 on Anegada represented the first June record for the West Indies (RLN). At a small inland salinas n.w. of Codrington Lagoon, Barbuda, two Least and 25 Semipalmated sandpipers were noted July 15 (RLN). Five Stilt Sandpipers and four Ruddy Turnstones were seen June 16 at Anegada, and singles of each were at the Codrington Lagoon complex on July 15 (RLN). Nesting Willets (three) were seen June 16 at Anegada (RLN); a Willet was seen during June at St. Croix (DK), where nests had been found in the early 1980s (FS, RLN). Three Willets seen at Barbuda July 15 (RLN) also could have been nesting birds.

TERNs TO NIGHThAWKS

Ongoing surveys continued this year on the eastern Puerto Rico Bank, the largest tropical Western Atlantic breeding area for the Roseate Tern (RLN). Roseates nested later than last year and apparently favored the B.V.I., as more were seen there than in any other year of the surveys (RLN). On Green Cay, east of Jost Van Dyke, an estimated 1200 pairs were found nesting on June 10; contents of 850 nests were tallied (average clutch size 1.47) before the observers left the cay for fear of adversely affecting the colony. The numbers of Roseates observed loafing and feeding in the area equalled those seen in the colony. Perhaps as many as 2600 birds were in the vicinity of Green Cay that day (RLN, GT).

Numbers of nesting Gull-billed Terns have dropped steadily at Anegada since 1980 (RLN). Least Terns appear to be holding on at Anegada, and an occasional Roseate Tern pair nests with the Least, as was the case on June 16 (RLN); but Sandwich and Royal terns were not seen in the usual large numbers at the west end of Flamingo Pond Bird Sanctuary on Anegada. Least and Sandwich terns were seen July 14 at St. John's Harbor, Antigua (RLN), and two Least were noted June 1 at

Montego Bay, Jamaica (CF, JA). Least Terns were seen July 17 at Barbuda's northern salinas, where they probably nest (RLN).

White-crowned Pigeons were abundant July 14-15 at Barbuda (RLN), where illegal hunting by non-nationals is a concern (*vide* IP). One White-crowned was noted July 16 in St. John's, Antigua (RLN), in a recreational park where some mature trees have been preserved, indicating a plasticity of habitat use — a hopeful sign. Crested Quail-Doves were heard and seen June 3 at Windsor Cave near the Cockpit Country, Jamaica (CF, JA). Antillean Nighthawks were abundant in the early evening of June 16 at Anegada, the eastern terminus of the species' breeding range in the Greater Antilles (RLN). The absence of the introduced Mongoose from this island has allowed terrestrial fauna, such as this nighthawk and the Anegada Rock Iguana, to survive as relicts on the eastern Puerto Rico Bank.

Addendum: The following notes are from the Dominican Republic in January 1990 (all DL, CH). Over 100 Greater Flamingos were seen on Beata I., and 20% young were estimated from an overflight on Jan. 27. In addition, 19 were seen at Lago Enriquillo Jan. 10. Both Barn Owl