

The Nesting Season

June 1–July 31, 1986

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

We regret that at press time, we had not received the Northeastern Maritime Regional Report.

QUEBEC REGION

Richard Yank and Yves Aubry

This summer was cool and wet throughout the province. June saw especially changeable weather, with periods of extreme cold and heavy precipitation that may have had some negative effect on nesting birds, particularly passerines.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — The description of a breeding-plumaged Pacific Loon at Sainte-Luce June 8 (AV) did not eliminate Arctic Loon, and no details were provided on two seen at nearby Pointe-au-Père July 27 (YG). Although never recorded in the East, the Arctic Loon could conceivably stray into the St. Lawrence Estuary from Europe; according to current literature, the only character that may prove useful in separating these species in the field in summer is the paler nape and hindneck of the Pacific Loon. Pied-billed Grebes nested at Bergeronnes for the 2nd consecutive year (BD, AB, JJ), and a pair with two young at Cap-d'Espoir July 7 (PP) provided a rare nesting record for the Gaspé Peninsula. The population of N. Gannets on Bonaventure I. has increased by several thousand from the 1984 census of 21,000 pairs, with excellent breeding success reported again this year (GCh). A Great Cormorant was notable at Rivière-du-Loup July 4 (GGe).



Single Snowy Egrets were present at Métabetchouan June 12 (NT) and L'Isle-Verte July 8–21 (GGe et al.), and a Little Blue Heron reached the Madeleine Is., June 27 (SD, SA, CBe). A Green-backed Heron observed along the Matane R., June 27 (GGe, DR) was at the e. limit of its range. A visiting birder found Quebec's 5th **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Cap

Tourmente June 4 (MJ) The bird was last seen June 23, when two **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were discovered at the same location (MLv), representing a 6th record for the Region and the first since 1973. A ♀ Mallard was seen at Inukjuak June 6 (GB), where a dead male had been found the previous day, furnishing our most northerly sighting from Hudson Bay. The province's 2nd **Garganey** was a male at Cacouna June 18 (DR, GGe)—could this have been the same individual as the one found nearby in 1983? A concentration of 54 Gadwalls was unprecedented at Cacouna July 12 (JLr, YG). Noteworthy was a ♀ Bufflehead that nested on L. Chicobi (*fide* DDe), near Amos; other breeding sites found since 1982 are well n. of this area. The Ruddy Duck is a waterfowl species that has remained rare in the Region. This summer, singles were noted at Baie-du-Febvre until July 15 (Dju, DJa) and Saint-Gédéon July 3 & 12 (NT, PS *et al.*).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Although confirmation of breeding has yet to be obtained, Turkey Vultures are now considered regular in s. Quebec as indicated by counts of 15 around Grenville June 14 (PBa *et al.*) and 12 at Saint-Cléophas June 25 (LB, CDu, DDU). An individual also wandered to Bergeronnes June 30 (YD, AB). Well n. of its breeding range was an Osprey at Inukjuak June 28 (GB). A pair of banded Peregrine Falcons successfully fledged two young in the Quebec City region, while a pair (of unknown origin) was observed feeding a recently-fledged bird at another suitable site in s. Quebec. In addition, an unbanded juvenile appeared at a Montreal hacking site, raising the possibility of local nesting (*fide* DBi). A Yellow Rail was heard June 13+ at Cacouna (YG, m ob.), an area where the species had not been found for many years, and one at Pointe-aux-Outardes July 16 (*fide* RO) provided only the 3rd record for the N. Shore. At least five birds also called at Saint-Fulgence July 1–29 (JI *et al.*). A Sandhill Crane was present at Villemontel (DBo) in early June, where the species had summered during the past 2 years, and an immature wandered to Longue-Pointe on the N. Shore July 23 (RStG, SL).

A Lesser Golden-Plover at Pointe-au-Père July 2 (YG) may have been a lingering non-breeder. A pair of Piping Plovers with three young were photographed near Chevery July 7 (CDr, KB, WH); this furnished only the 2nd recent breeding record from the N. Shore for this endangered species. Slightly s. of their breeding range were Solitary Sandpipers exhibiting defense behavior in the Labrieville area in late June and at Godbout July 20 (CV, DBL, SB, SM). Lone Willets appeared at L'Assomption May 25 (PMa) and La Pocatière June 3 & 5 (CA). Four Upland Sandpipers were local rarities at Cap-d'Espoir July 7 (PP), as were 10 Whimbrels at La Baie July 20 (GS). A Baird's Sandpiper at Pointe-au-Père June 5 (YG, JLr, CG) added a rare "spring" record for this species, and an ad. Long-billed Dowitcher was identified by call at Cacouna July 21 (JPO, MLf). At least three Com. Snipes were sighted at Inukjuak May 31–June 3 (GB), n. of their known breeding range along Hudson Bay. The behavior of two ♂ Wilson's Phalaropes indicated nesting on I. aux Oies off Montmagny July 8 (*fide* RO), and a Red Phalarope was unusual inland at Saint-Gédéon June 27 (NT, MS, RBD).

GULLS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — Two ad. Laughing Gulls were observed near Chevery July 9 (PBr, GCh). For the 5th consecutive summer, a pair of Little Gulls attempted, unsuccessfully, to nest at LaSalle (PBa). The species is obviously having better luck somewhere else, as three immatures remained at Aylmer June 2–Aug. 20 (*fide* DDa), one was on I. du Moine June 7 (GM *et al.*), and two arrived with the adult pair at LaSalle. The breeding population of Com. Black-headed Gulls in the Madeleine Is. appeared to be stable, with 6 pairs nesting at Havre aux Basques this year (*fide* PF), compared to the 5 originally found there in 1981. Of interest was a pair of apparently territorial Great Black-backed Gulls at Brompton-

ville May 28 (FS, GGr, VL), there is only one unpublished inland nesting record away from the St. Lawrence—from L. Wayagamac, Champlain Co., in 1980 (*fide* MGo). The species is not known to nest along Hudson Bay either, but a pair seen at Inukjuak June 24+ (GB) was possibly nesting in the area. Caspian Terns were reported much more frequently than usual with one each at Katevale June 3 (PBo), Desbiens June 16 (MAB, RSm), L'Isle-Verte July 8 (GGe, JPO), and Gatineau July 11 (RSc, RStJ), three at Saint-Gédéon July 12 (MM, BC, PMi *et al.*), two at Pointe-au-Père July 16 (YG), and four on I. aux Fermiers July 23 (GD). Saint-Gédéon's **White-winged Tern** again mated with a Black Tern this year and fledged one young hybrid (RBo, m.ob.).

Single extralimital Black-billed Cuckoos were at Tadoussac June 21 (YD) and Godbout July 18 (CV, DBL), while a Whippoorwill at L. Rouyn June 1 (JLp) was at the n. limit of its range. An E. Wood-Pewee nest containing three young at Port-Daniel July 9 (PP) may have represented a first nesting record for the Gaspé Peninsula. Singles were also seen at Baie-des-Rochers June 24 (IM) and Baie-Comeau July 12 (MDi, GCy). Three Willow Flycatchers that remained at Cap Tourmente June 23+ (YA) may have presaged a further breeding range extension. The 7 Great Crested Flycatcher sightings from the Rimouski area, where this bird was first discovered in 1976, indicated that the species is now well established as a local breeder. Extralimital individuals were also at Miguasha June 22 (RC) and Sainte-Anne-de-Portneuf July 24 (HP, AGa). A W. Kingbird showed up at Saint-Thomas-de-Joliette June 16 (SBr) while a Barn Swallow was unusually far n. at Inukjuak June 30 (GB). A family of White-breasted Nuthatches at Laniel July 10 (YA, AGi) extended the n. limit of this species' breeding range.

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES — A N. Wheatear paused at Forestville May 31 (AP). Again well reported this season were E. Bluebirds: worthy of mention were pairs that bred at Villemontel (YA), Saint-Félicien (BN, DA, MAB), Alma (DG, MGa, MC), Mont-Joli (DR), Pabos (RG), and Moisie (RLg, MT)—the latter representing the easternmost record from the N. Shore. A Gray Catbird seen near Havre-Saint-Pierre July 13 (VL) provided one of very few records from the N. Shore. The N. Mockingbird appears to be doing well at the n. edge of its range: it was reported more often than the Gray Catbird in the Saguenay, one reached Bonaventure I., June 21 (*fide* AD) and, along the N. Shore, it was seen at Labrieville June 24, Godbout July 20 (CV, DBL), and Sheldrake July 11 (VL). A Brown Thrasher at Labrieville June 14 (CV) was also noteworthy. A group of 10 Bohemian Waxwings at Micoua July 6 was quite surprising (CV, DBL, SB, SM) and a bird transporting nesting material at Noranda June 10 (CBr) provided our best evidence to date that the species breeds in the Region. An imm. N. Shrike at Sainte-Anne-de-Portneuf July 23 (HP, AGa) was early for a young of the year but could have been a non-breeding 2nd-summer bird. A Loggerhead Shrike was observed on I. aux Coudres July 2 (FB).

The confirmed breeding of Solitary Vireos near Huntingdon (PBa) was a first for the Montreal area, and Warbling Vireos were nesting at Sainte-Marie July 23 (YA), extending their breeding range into Témiscamingue County. Exceptional was a ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** at Cap Tourmente June 12 (JPO). A pair of Scarlet Tanagers at Sacré-Coeur June 27 (AB) confirmed that this species now breeds e. of the Saguenay River. Singing males at Huntingdon May 24–31 (PBa), Pigeon-Hill June 16 (MDa), Sherbrooke June 20 (VL *et al.*), and Mansonville June 26 (YB) suggested that Clay-colored Sparrows may be increasing in s. Quebec. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Notre-Dame-de-la-Doré June 15 & 21 (MAB, HL *et al.*) was unprecedented for L. Saint-Jean, and a pair with two young at Melbourne July 6 (DJa) provided a rare nesting record. Single Le Conte's Sparrows were e. of their c. Quebec breeding range on I. d'Orléans July 3 (RBr, m.ob.) and at Saint-Paul-du-Nord July 18 (*fide* RO).

Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were on I. aux Fermiers July 23 (GD), where present in 1983, and new colonies were discovered on I. aux Oies and at Pointe-aux-Outardes July 8 & 16 respectively (fide RO); the species was previously unknown along the N. Shore. A Fox Sparrow was again found well s. of its breeding range at Stratford, Wolfe Co., July 7 (YB)—two were sighted in neighbouring Beauce County in 1985 (see AB 39: 890). Vagrants included a W. Meadowlark that sang at Sainte-Rita June 21–27 (JLr, JR) and an Orchard Oriole found dead at Thetford-Mines (SJ). House Finches nested at Joliette (DP) and Quebec City (RLp, BA), 2 new localities. Flocks of Com. Redpolls were seen July 17 & 19 at Havre-Saint-Pierre (VL), where they are not known to breed. Large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were present along route 299 on the Gaspé Pen. (JG, BG, RM, AD); a high count of 5000+ was made July 5, counts of up to 1700 birds July 6 & 7 included an estimated 350 roadkills, and on July 12 a tally of 1000 birds included at least 275 roadkills.

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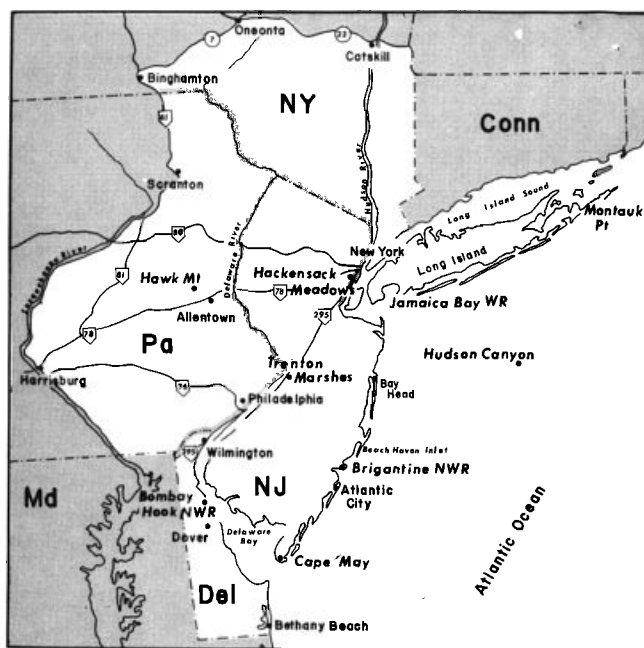
HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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Summer 1986 was not earth-shaking. Weather interfered little with nesting. Only one spectacular rarity was confirmed, Rufous-necked Stint. The heart of our report is the hard, quiet, but satisfying work of atlasers and researchers, amateur and professional. They gave special attention to Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, terns, Piping Plover, Upland Sandpiper, owls, and Cliff Swallow. Atlasing continued in Pennsylvania and Delaware. We also drew heavily on early June Summer Bird Counts. The southern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Summer Bird Count produced an informative ten-year summary by Schutsky, and there were useful data from counts in Cumberland County, New Jersey, and on Long Island at Captree and in central Suffolk County. Another careful survey of the breeding birds of the Pequannock Watershed in Passaic, Sussex, and Morris counties, New Jersey, was conducted by Bacinski, Benzinger, and Miranda. The Seatuck Research Program, operated by Cornell University and supported in part by check-off funds, monitored colonial waterbirds on Long Island more closely than ever.

Non-breeding birds seemed to move through with no perceptible pause between spring and fall migration. An unusual number of migrants, particularly shorebirds and warblers, were still around in mid-June, and Bobolinks—presumably southbound—were already heard overhead at Cape May on June 30 (JDo).

ABBREVIATIONS—Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig = Brigantine Unit, Edwin B. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co., N.J.; D.D.F.W. = Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife; H.M. = Hackensack Marshes, between E. Rutherford and Kearny, Bergen and Hudson counties, N.J.; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City; L.I. = Long Island, N.Y.; Little Creek = Little Creek Wildlife Area,



near Dover, Del.; N.J.D.F.G.W. = New Jersey Div. of Fish, Game, and Wildlife; N.Y.D.E.C. = New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation; S.B.C. = Summer Bird Count. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH PELICANS—Two families of Pied-billed Grebes raised in a Vernon marsh, in the Pequannock Watershed (JB), added another site to the slender list of known New Jersey breeding areas published in summer 1982 and 1983 (AB 36:959, 37:971).

Pelagic birding has slacked off in this Region, but a trip from Montauk, L.I., to Cox's Ledge July 19 produced the expected 25 Cory's and 21 Greater shearwaters, and one regular-but-scarce Manx Shearwater (BK et al.). Wilson's Storm-Petrels fed

abnormally close inshore this season, possibly because of warm water currents. They were common in the mouth of Delaware Bay, with a maximum of 144 July 9 at Deadman's Shoal, and penetrated as far upstream as 31 mi n.w. of Cape May (RDB, C Phillips). Ten were in the mouth of Long Island Sound between Great Gull Island and the Connecticut shore June 8 (TL et al.). One was even reported off Pelham Bay Park, in the Bronx, N.Y.C., June 12 (B. de Candido).

An Am. White Pelican was found by park naturalists on the Delaware R. at the mouth of Lackawaxen Creek, Pike, Pa., June 26 (*fide* VS), and what must have been the same bird paused briefly at the Peace Valley Nature Center, Bucks, Pa., June 29 (*fide* BLM). Although there have been nearly annual records over the past decade, this seems to be the first Regional midsummer occurrence. The Brown Pelicans reported in the spring made a good showing for the 4th straight summer, although not quite in the numbers of 1984. The season's maximum seems to have been 54 in Hereford Inlet, Cape May, N.J., June 22 (C & PSu). They did not reach n. of the central New Jersey coast.

HERONS, IBISES — The Long Island heron population, censused at 3775 pairs of nine species in 1985, remained mostly stable (DM, Seatuck). This was an off summer for the biennial New Jersey heronry survey. American Bitterns, now declared a threatened species in New Jersey, went almost unreported in the Region. Least Bitterns, by contrast, could be downright abundant if sought intrepidly enough: Joan Hansen found 35 by canoe in the H.M. at Kearny, N.J., June 24. Five at Cedar Creek, near Slaughter's Beach, Kent, Del. (RLW), was a good count, and they probably bred at J.B.W.R. (DR).

Since Great Blue Herons have not bred on the coast for some time, it was not surprising that new heronries were reported only upland. A large colony of over 40 nests was near Jeffersonville, Sullivan, N.Y. (G. Hahn). Pennsylvania atlasers have turned up, in addition to the known colony at Wyalusing, Bradford, another of 20–25 pairs there, another near Tunkhannock, Wyoming, 2 colonies of 33 and 45 nests in Wayne, and 2 in Pike (VS, WR). The shooting of 15 young in one colony, believed to be the work of neighbors, is under investigation. Atlasing work has determined that there are 3 Great Egret nesting sites in Pennsylvania (RMS). An ad. Little Blue Heron at Rookery I., Washington Boro, Lancaster, Pa., may have been breeding in that colony, but no Pennsylvania nesting has yet been confirmed (RMS). Six at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, July 27 made a local record count (GAF, GLF), and another was near Allentown the same day (BLM). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons are not doing badly along the lower Susquehanna R., where Schutsky found 12–15 adults near the mouth of Conodoquin Creek and five young along the Conestoga in Lancaster (RMS). Three or 4 pairs at J.B.W.R. (DR) seem to be an addition to the 8 scattered colonies known last year on Long Island, which contained 31 adults then (Seatuck, 1985 *Long Island Colonial Waterbird and Piping Plover Survey*).

An imm. White Ibis flying into the heronry at Rookery I., Lancaster, Pa., July 31 (RMS, B & FH, E. Blom, m.ob.) provided the season's only report.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — We have a belated report of a N Pintail brood last summer in the H.M., near the Grover Cleveland Service Area of the New Jersey Turnpike (WW), which would seem to establish a first state breeding record. Northern Shoveler bred at J.B.W.R. (DR). Among the usual handful of summering diving ducks, single King Eiders at Island Beach, N.J., June 9 (RK) and after July 27 at Cape Henlopen, Del (Bfi, WWF), were noteworthy.

All three mergansers were confirmed breeding this season. Hooded Merganser broods were at Shoholah Preserve and near Damascus, Pike, Pa. (Pa. game commission, BW). Two broods of Red-breasted Mergansers, a species that probably breeds somewhere on this coast each year but is rarely detected, were found in Delaware (WWF). Common Mergansers seemed to be pushing south of their strongholds on the upper Delaware and

Susquehanna rivers: there were numerous reports farther downstream (GH, WW et al.), and once again—as in 8 of the past 10 years—they tantalized observers in Lancaster, Pa., who still have no proof of breeding (RMS).

Although no new extralimital nests were found, Black Vultures continued to press N and E. Single explorers scouted as far as Cape May, N.J., June 9 (BM, DWi, D. Turner) and Montauk Pt., L.I., July 15 (JR), a first local record. Several summered again along the Delaware Bay shore in Cumberland, N.J. (CSu, JDo), beyond known nesting range.

Ospreys fledged 186 young (170 last summer) on Long Island (M. Scheibel, N.Y.D.E.C.), and 157 young (151 last summer) in New Jersey (W. Kell, N.J.D.F.G.W.), but only 41 in Delaware, the lowest there since 1979, perhaps because of rainstorms at crucial moments (JT, D.D.G.W.). The Osprey recovery is now extending inland. Pennsylvania's first non-hacked nest in about 70 years raised three young at Conowingo Pond, Lancaster, and encouraging numbers prospected inland. One young Osprey in Delaware had to be disentangled from a plastic six-pack holder.

The spring's Mississippi Kites at Cape May carried over only slightly, with two June 1 & 2 and one June 3 (RDB, BM, BMo). Only 3 Bald Eagle nests were active in this Region (2 in Delaware [JMA] and one in New Jersey [W. Kell, N.J.D.F.G.W.]) compared with 5 last year (4 in Delaware). An encouraging number lingered elsewhere in the area, however, including several adults: one at Forest L., near Narrowsburg, Pike, Pa (*fide* WR), and three at Rio Res., Sullivan, N.Y., through July (J. Artale). Bald Eagle hacking programs continue in s. New Jersey and in Pennsylvania.

Northern Harriers had their least productive season in 4 years of study on Long Island, where only 3 nests out of 10 succeeded in the 10 mi of the Jones Beach strip (ME). Few of the 40 pairs in s. New Jersey even attempted to nest (PD). A Sharp-shinned Hawk, the rarest nester of the three Accipiters in this Region, bred in n.w. New Jersey (C. & R. Decker). Three N. Goshawk nests were found, one in Westchester, N.Y., and 2 in n.w. New Jersey (R. Radis, C. & R. Decker).

Thirty-four individual Red-shouldered Hawks in the Pequannock Watershed (PBa) made an encouraging count, but although 2 pairs were found in Bear Swamp, Cumberland, N.J. (CSu), the southern swamp forest population seems to be in difficulty, perhaps from Great Horned Owl predation (RK). Atlasing has turned up 2 additional sites in Delaware (RLW). Reid feels that burgeoning Red-tailed Hawks, now 3 times as common as Broad-winged Hawks in n.e. Pennsylvania, are supplanting other Buteos there.

Seventeen pairs of Peregrine Falcons were present in this Region (3 in New York, 14 in New Jersey, and 3 in Delaware), 12 of which attempted to breed. Ten nests produced 19 young, 15 in New Jersey and four in New York. All 3 nests in New York were on great bridges, and 3 of the New Jersey nests were on great bridges near Philadelphia. Hacking was terminated in this Region some time ago, but two young from New Jersey coastal sites were hacked in the Adirondacks and near Albany Mountain sites have had to be abandoned in this Region because of Great Horned Owl predation, so that interior hacking efforts are now located in deeply forested hill sites in the Adirondacks, the Green Mts., and the White Mts. (M. Gilroy, The Peregrine Fund).

RAILS, CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — Black Rails were found in a couple of additional sites: Goshen Landing Road, Cumberland, on New Jersey's Delaware Bay shore, and, much more remarkably, at Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, Westchester, June 6–21, for the first certain New York record away from Long Island (TWP, m.ob.). This season's Sandhill Crane was a bugling adult at Woodstown, Salem, N.J., June 10–July 4 (J. Haag et al.). A Purple Gallinule arrived in a Morrisville, Bucks, Pa., nursery around July 7 and was seen by many birders later in the month (B & FH).

Shorebird migration was underway early, and 18 species

could be found by July 17–19 on the Line Islands, in Long Island's Great South Bay (TL *et al.*). South Cape May Meadows, N.J., held 23 species of shorebirds during the week of July 30 (JDo). Massive shorebird concentrations of tens of thousands built up in Delaware, where low water in both Raymond and Shearneck pools made Bombay Hook especially attractive. High water kept J.B.W.R. from being productive, however, until after this season's end.

Threatened Piping Plovers about held their own on Long Island, with about 100 pairs, and in New Jersey, with 80–98 pairs, but the most careful search ever in Delaware turned up only eight adults (D), N.J.D.F.G.W.; DM, Seatuck; JT, D.D.F.W.). A sign of Am. Oystercatchers' continuing prosperity was a count of 250+ at the Line Islands, L.I., July 19 (TL). They continued to prospect interior shores: four were at Rye, Westchester, N.Y., July 21, where the first county record was established only earlier this year. In Delaware, they nested for the first time up into Delaware Bay, at Slaughter's Beach. Avocets reached unprecedented totals in their post-breeding concentration in Delaware; 175 were at Little Creek alone July 29 (RH).

Among an exceptional number of mid-June birds that may have been either coming or going, a Solitary Sandpiper at Dover, Del., June 16 (S. Speck) was particularly unusual. Airports are still the best strongholds of the declining Upland Sandpiper. Chevalier banded 14 chicks at JFK Airport, New York, and a careful census at the perimeter of the Greater Wilmington Airport turned up two peaks, the earlier one of 29 birds July 15 believed to be adult breeding birds (L. Falk). Godwits mounted to nine Hudsonians and five Marbleds at the Line Islands, July 26 (AJL, Linnaean Soc. of N.Y.).

July was stint time again. A **Rufous-necked Stint** in fading alternate (breeding) plumage was discovered July 21 at Little Creek and seen through at least July 29 by many (C. Pederson, †RH, ph. APE), for the 2nd Delaware and 3rd Regional record. On July 26 what may have been a different Rufous-necked Stint was found at Shearneck Pool, Bombay Hook (†T. Stock *et al.*). White-rumped Sandpipers lingered unnaturally late, with singles on June 13 or 14 at J.B.W.R. (TL), central Suffolk, L.I. (JRu), and the Longport sod banks, Atlantic, N.J. (BM). This season's only Curlew Sandpiper was a bird in fading alternate plumage at the Line Islands, L.I., July 17 & 19 (TL, S. R. Drennan, F. Baumgarten *et al.*). A Com. Snipe at Mauch Chunk L., s. Carbon, Pa., June 4 provided a first local summer record (BLM).

We should be keeping a close watch on Wilson's Phalarope, a species that has bred as far e. as Ottawa and Massachusetts. This season singles were at Harmony, Warren, N.J., June 2 (J. Ebner), and at Brig after June 28 (*vide* RK, P. Plage *et al.*). One was at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, N.J., July 22 (E. Patten).

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS — Two Pomarine Jaegers at Cox's Ledge July 19 were to be expected, but two S. Polar Skuas there were a good find (BK). Along with the usual handful of summering Bonaparte's Gulls on the coast (BM, RC), one inland at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, Pa. (GAF), furnished a first summer record there. The first Delaware breeding record of Great Black-backed Gull was at Slaughter's Beach, Kent (*vide* DAC), although this species' march down the coast has reached North Carolina.

Two pairs of Gull-billed Terns were on the s. shore of Long Island again, without positive breeding evidence this time (DM, Seatuck). At least 30 moved in late summer into the Pine Barrens at Whitesbog, Burlington, N.J. (L. Little), as has become regular in the last few summers. Caspian Terns must have bred for a 3rd time in New Jersey, as adults were observed with a young juvenile at Brig from early July (RK *et al.*). A prospecting individual was at Rye, Westchester, N.Y., June 11, and two at Great Kills, Staten I., July 5 (*vide* TWB). Two Sandwich Terns visited Montauk, L.I., July 15, unrelated to any storm (JR). As has become regular, a few Roseate Terns hung around the New Jersey shore, far from their nearest known breeding areas on Long Island (ph. S. LaFrance, PD, DWi, P. Githens).

Atlasing work in Delaware has nearly doubled the known population of Com. Terns in Delaware to 757 adults (JT, D.D.F.W.), while farther north the approximately 6000 adults in New Jersey and 37,000 on Long Island remained stable Delaware also had 393 ad. Forster's Terns, according to the first really thorough census by boat (JT, D.D.F.W.; BFi).

Least Tern populations seemed to be holding their own, aided by more fencing and posting than ever before. Even where human intrusion was under control, however, there was significant predation by gulls, rats, foxes—and even Am. Kestrels (D), N.J.D.F.G.W.). Ever volatile, Least Terns may be beginning to explore habitats away from the outer beach to which they have been too wedded in this Region. The little colony found last year in the H.M. near the Vince Lombardi Service Center along the New Jersey Turnpike did not succeed, however, on its 2nd try. The long-established colony continued on fill at Glade's sand plant, Cumberland, N.J. (CSu). In addition to those mentioned in last spring's column, a single Black Tern summered once again in a Common Ternery on e. Long Island (E Salzman; *cf.* AB 39:893), and several lingered elsewhere in the Region: singles at J.B.W.R. and Jacob Riis Park, New York City, June 22 (B. Cook, M. Hake *et al.*), and at Green Lane Res., July 14 (GAF), only a 2nd summer record there.

S.A.

Black Skimmers, their open beach nesting sites perhaps saturated in this Region, are beginning to explore other habitats. As Com. Terns did a generation ago, skimmers have begun to breed on tidal wrack in Barnegat Bay, N.J., and the same phenomenon was observed this year near Moriches Inlet, L.I. (D), N.J.D.F.G.W.; DM, Seatuck). Up to eight explored as far up Long Island Sound as Rye, N.Y., in June (TWB). Others fed in the H.M., and a few hung around the Least Tern colony at the Vince Lombardi Service Area of the New Jersey Turnpike, although there was no sign of breeding there (D), N.J.D.F.G.W.).

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS — Both cuckoo species, heavily dependent on the tent caterpillar cycle, remained low, although S.B.C. figures showed a slight gain over last year.

Encouraging counts of Barred Owls came from both ends of New Jersey. The Suttons estimated 37 pairs present in the s. one-half, including 9 pairs in Bear Swamp, Cumberland, the best concentration in the state. The Pequannock Watershed survey turned up calling birds in 27 locations (PBa). A survey of Barred Owl populations in the n. one-half of New Jersey, using tape playbacks along selected 5-mile routes in wooded country, found at least one Barred Owl on 12 of 19 routes, and often several (M. Valent, N.J.D.F.G.W.). Not one Short-eared Owl was found this season in the Region, despite much field work in former nesting areas (PD, ME, SC). One of the N. Saw-whet Owls found last spring turned up with a juvenile at Buckabear Pond, Passaic, N.J. (JB), an exciting find. Others in 3 locations in Wayne and Lackawanna, Pa. (VS, Dr. Skinner), heightened our impression that this species breeds annually both in the uplands and in the Pine Barrens of this Region, but breeding males call only briefly before dawn and are likely to remain undetected (PBa).

Many observers were gloomy about Com. Nighthawks (SRL, EJR), Reimann observing that Pennsylvania towns that once were "loaded" now have none. The same goes for Whip-poor-will, which remains common in some coastal and Pine Barren locations (e.g., 29 on June 14 at Connetquot S.P., L.I. [Captree S.B.C.]), but remains locally common only in a few upland areas (e.g., Wild Creek Res., Carbon, Pa. [B & NM], Rockaway Valley, and Skyline Drive, Bergen, N.J.). Only two calling birds were recorded in the Pequannock Watershed survey (PBa), and Reid has heard "only one bird all year" in n.e. Pennsylvania.

Pileated Woodpeckers, curiously rare in this Region's lowland swamp forests, are increasing there. For the 2nd season they were in Bear Swamp, Cumberland, N.J. (CSu, JDo, A. & M. Nicholson), and atlasers turned up 2 new sites in s. Delaware (RLW, APE).

Acadian Flycatchers continued to inch northward, with new localities in lower Carbon and Lehigh, Pa. (BLM, GLF), another nesting at Mianus R. Gorge, Westchester, N.Y., and three on the Captree S.B.C. on Long Island. Alder Flycatchers once again seemed quite numerous, with an amazing 12 in and around Black River W.M.A., Morris, N.J., June 5 (DHa, *vide* WW), and seven in the Pequannock Watershed (PBa). After many poor years, Least Flycatchers were in "great numbers" on the Pocono plateau (BLM) and definitely increased in n. New Jersey (RK, PBa—e.g., 30 in the Pequannock Watershed). An E. Phoebe was observed in Dutchess, N.Y., repeatedly picking something—presumably flies—from the back and face of a White-tailed Deer (J. Key).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is another species to watch. Breeding e. of the Mississippi, in South Carolina, since 1983 (AB 36:966, 37:979), they have reached this Region each late spring or early summer since 1980. This season's bird was an adult June 10 near Mantua, Gloucester, N.J. (JKM), following another in s. New Jersey in May. A novice birder described minutely a long-tailed black and white bird that paused on a telephone line outside his window in Brooklyn July 17 (†J. Flack). His painstaking description seems to rule out some escaped exotic like Pin-tailed Whydah, and fits Fork-tailed Flycatcher. His notes are under study by the New York State Avian Rarities Committee.

SWALLOWS TO WAXWINGS—The Cliff Swallow explosion on bridges and dams that began in 1981 continues (L. Niles, N.J.D.F.G.W.), to the point where the decline in barnnesting may be reversing. A new colony of 3 pairs at Black River W.M.A., Morris, N.J. (DHa), used a building, and the tiny colony on stables at the Sussex, N.J., Municipal Complex near Blairstown has skyrocketed to 24 pairs (WJB).

Red-breasted Nuthatches fell from boom to bust, but even so, four young were fledged at a new Pennsylvania location: Nazareth, Northampton (D. DeReamus). Brown Creepers, some carrying food, were found at several locations in Cumberland, N.J., and s. Delaware (C & PSu, JDo, APE). This species spread its breeding range S into the coastal plain of this Region a generation ago, but it remains scarce s. of coastal Long Island.

House Wrens presented a bizarre picture: abundant in the south of the Region, perhaps because of increased bluebird boxes (RMS, WWF, C & PSu), they seemed low in the north (BW). Winter Wrens were nearly absent from n.w. New Jersey and n.e. Pennsylvania (PBa, BW, WR). Apart from a single report from coastal Delaware (M. Little, *vide* APE), the only Sedge Wrens were one singing male, possibly more, in a wet hayfield at Millbrook School, Dutchess, N.Y., for several weeks after July 24 (S. Highley). Atlasers found Marsh Wrens down in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR), and the coastal populations have been declining slowly for years (RK).

Thirty Golden-crowned Kinglets in the Pequannock Watershed survey (PBa) were a measure of how well this species, unknown as a nester in this Region 20 years ago, has adapted to artificial conifer plantations. The E. Bluebird population is "exploding" in Dutchess, N.Y., and no wonder. The R T W.B.C.'s long-running "bluebird trail" has over 200 boxes that fledged over 600 young this summer (F. Germond). At another successful "trail" in s. New Jersey, banded first-year males from last summer fathered new broods (J. Gerle, *vide* JKM). One passerine migrant that winters in tropical forests that shows no signs of diminution is Veery. The Pequannock Watershed survey found Veeries in 391 locations (PBa), and they were still present at their s. outpost established 4 or 5 years ago at South Valley Woods, near Moorestown, Burlington, N.J. (BM). The Pine Barrens population of Hermit Thrushes discovered by Proctor a few years ago is still flourishing; six,

one carrying food, were in the Wharton State Forest, Burlington, N.J., June 10 (E. Manners). Upland, a healthy 25 were in the Pequannock Watershed (PBa).

Brown Thrashers, viewed with alarm in many parts of this Region, have shown a small increase since 1980 on the s. Lancaster, Pa., S.B.C. (RMS). Erratic Cedar Waxwings bred abundantly throughout the Region, both in the uplands and in the coastal plain (e.g., 247 in the Pequannock Watershed [PBa], and "many everywhere" in s. New Jersey [C & PSu]).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—White-eyed Vireos advanced into the uplands w. of their coastal strongholds, as in what may be a first county record in Sullivan, Pa. (AG). Solitary Vireos did well; they were found in 53 locations in the Pequannock Watershed, and one bred below Mianus River Gorge, Westchester, N.Y. (BW). A remarkable two Philadelphia Vireos reported June 11 at Rowlands, along Lackawaxen Cr., Pike (VS), may only have been late migrants.

Golden-winged Warblers went unreported in New York e. of the Hudson, but they seemed to be holding their own in the Pequannock Watershed of New Jersey: 42 locations, as compared with 72 for Blue-winged Warbler (PBa). An overwintering Orange-crowned Warbler in the Brooklyn Botanical Garden was believed to have remained into June (JYr). Northern Parula showed some improvement in s. Lancaster, Pa., where 36 found on the S.B.C. was 2.5 times the 10-year average (RMS), and in Bear Swamp, Cumberland, N.J., where two or three singing males were found "after a long absence" (CSu). It remains fairly common up the Delaware River to Warren, N.J. (WJB), but farther north it "hasn't done well" (PBa) and "is not recovering" (BW). A Blackburnian Warbler was very late at Cape May Pt., June 9 (KB).

S.A.

Conifer plantations are playing a role in warbler ranges, after having helped spread Golden-crowned Kinglets and Red-breasted Nuthatches in this Region. Magnolia Warblers had a "great year" in n.w. New Jersey; they were found in 16 locations in the Pequannock Watershed, mostly in Norway Spruce (JB, DM, PBa). Yellow-rumped Warblers are spreading into n.w. New Jersey. A new high of 8 locations was recorded in the Pequannock Watershed, where a Red Pine plantation held New Jersey's 2nd confirmed nesting (JB, DM, PBa).

Having returned to Westchester, N.Y., as a breeding species last summer after over 40 years, Pine Warblers continued to expand there (BW). Six were also found in the Pequannock Watershed (JB, PBa), for the 2nd summer. But they were lower on the s. Lancaster S.B.C. (RMS). An ad. ♀ Bay-breasted Warbler banded on Great Gull Island, L.I., July 14 (TL) was far from any known breeding range. The Blackpoll Warbler at Rye June 15 was late even for this species. Worm-eating Warblers seemed to be doing well in the lowlands. They reached twice the 10-year average in s. Lancaster, Pa. (RMS), and have been confirmed by atlasers in all 3 Delaware counties (APE).

Schutsky attributes continued Kentucky Warbler success in s. Lancaster, Pa., to canopy openings created by gypsy moths, but they have not yet reached as far north as the Pequannock Watershed (PBa). Two on the central Suffolk S.B.C. were beyond the known n.e. breeding limit (JR). Hooded Warblers can be quite common upland (e.g., 109 in the Pequannock Watershed [PBa]), but they have been found breeding only twice a few miles away on Long Island. Therefore the discovery of yet another individual in Connetquot S.P., L.I. (Captree S.B.C.), is worth following up.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES—Vesper Sparrows were still "widespread in good numbers" in s. Lancaster, Pa. (RMS), and in parts of central Delaware (GKH). Locally good counts of Grasshopper Sparrow were 14 at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lebanon, Pa. (PSW), and 5 pairs at Assunpink W.M.A.,

Mercer, N.J. (RK), and atlasers were finding them more common than expected in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Atlasers there also turned up singing ♂ Henslow's Sparrows in 4 locations: near Towanda, Bradford, three at 2 sites in Susquehanna, and at least three near Tunkhannock, Wyoming, Pa. (DB, WR, RMS). Six were at the Galesville airport, Ulster, N.Y. (fide TWB), but we are not aware of any other breeding populations in this Region. An *oreganus* Dark-eyed Junco was at Cape May June 23 (RC).

An ad. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Bombay Hook July 21 (refuge personnel, fide APE). After a winter build-up to 44 birds, a few Boat-tailed Grackles remained to breed again at J.B.W.R. (DR), with a maximum count of nine there July 13 including females feeding young. This species is still expanding up Delaware Bay, too, where their furthest outpost is now Mad Horse W.M.A., s.e. Salem, N.J. (JKM).

Following a moderate invasion last winter, Pine Siskins probably bred again in the Region. Lingerers visited feeders in Westchester, N.Y. (P. & T. Haight), Villanova, Pa. (KB), and Pine Hills, Gloucester, N.J. (M. O'Brien). At Braddock's Mill Lake, an immature trapped July 8 at a feeder and found to lack skull ossification (H. Spendelow) must have fledged nearby.

CORRIGENDUM — The Sage Thrasher report from Bombay Hook (AB 40:90) should be dated Oct. 29, 1985, not Oct. 31.

EXOTICS — A Ringed Turtle-Dove has been at Clark's Green, Lackawanna, Pa., since May (ph., fide WR).

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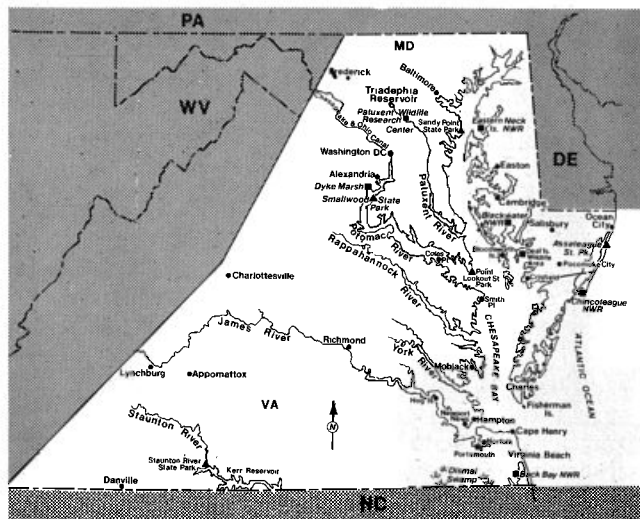
MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead

Extrême drought and high heat characterized the summer of 1986. Lakes, reservoirs, and impoundments dried up or were at best very low, following a drought which began in March. Deviation from normal based on local climatological data from the Region's six reporting stations: temperature, June +2.37°F., July +3.03°; precipitation, June -2.29 inches, July -0.05 inches. In spite of beastly conditions, reporting was excellent for pelicans, cormorants, heron-like birds, shorebirds, gulls, terns, and skimmers, with especially good coverage for colonial waterbirds. Breeding Willow Flycatchers, Cliff Swallows, Cedar Waxwings, and House Finches continued to expand, and Bald Eagles had another excellent year. The Virginia Piedmont had good coverage, for a change, with many interesting surprises resulting. Coverage of coastal areas, normally good anyway, was better than average.

ABBREVIATIONS — the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; Fish. I. = Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Hart = Hart & Miller Is., Baltimore Co., Md.; Huntley = Huntley Meadows County Park, Fairfax Co., Va. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A late Red-throated Loon and a Com. Loon were at Ocean City June 6 (DC). Other single Commons were at Chinc., June 14 (RFR), Pt. Lookout, St. Mary's, Md., July 27 (JLS, RFR) and Bellevue, Talbot, Md., July 5-6 (CP, GLA). Pied-billed Grebe continued as an uncommon



but widely dispersed Regional breeder with confirmed breeding at Lilypons, Frederick, Md. (DHW), St. Martin, Worcester, Md (RFR), Brandon Shores, Anne Arundel, Md. (RFR), and Huntley (JMA). Wilson's Storm-Petrels again strayed up to the Maryland part of the Bay with four seen off St. Jerome's Creek, St. Mary's, June 29, as close as 2 mi from shore. An Ocean City pelagic trip June 7 turned up 25 Leach's Storm-Petrels 45-70 mi off the Virginia coast, an excellent count, in addition to 100+ Wil-

Great Egret 510 (18), Snowy Egret 342 (8), Tricolored Heron 359 (7), Black-crowned Night-Heron 96 (18), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 27 (9), Glossy Ibis 242 (7). However, these are preliminary totals and numbers for most herons smaller than Great Egret are probably considerably higher, since Smith I. colonies were incompletely surveyed. Largest Great Blue Heron colonies were of 600 pairs at Nanjemoy Creek, Charles, 596 at Canoe Neck Creek, St. Mary's, and 450± at Poplar Is., Talbot.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS — Mute Swans continue to do well at their s. range extremes, with 91 at Barren I., June 1 (HTA) and 36 at Chinc. in early June (fide DFH), when as many as 97 Gadwalls were also present. Two Green-winged Teal were at Elliott I., Md., July 5 [A], GLA, HTA) and two were at Hunting Creek July 26 (JMA). The fancy duck for the summer was an imm. ♂ Com. Eider near Ship Shoal I., Va., June 16 (BTt, fide BW). There were more than the usual number of summer strays, including Canvasbacks at 4 sites, Greater Scaup at 3, N. Pintails at 2, a ♀ Hooded Merganser at Hart June 1 (RFR et al.), a Bufflehead at Dyke Marsh, Va., the same day (OF, fide JMA), and as many as 15 Ruddy Ducks at Hart June 8 (HK). On the Virginia Piedmont a pair of Blue-winged Teal lingered until mid-June at the Big I. settling ponds, Amherst (fide JD). Ruddy Ducks were at sewage ponds in Maryland at Easton and Hurlock (RFR), and Snow Geese were seen at 3 locations.

In the central Bay, Osprey production improved over the previous 2 summers with less starvation of nestlings (PRS). They continue to attempt to breed on the Potomac R. just s. of D.C. (EMW, JMA). Blinds in the Chinc. area were heavily used for nesting (DFH) and 17 young were banded in blinds n. of Chincoteague I., July 3 (JSW, JHB). One at L. Anna in the Virginia Piedmont June 17 was unusual (MRB). Bald Eagles continue to do well, 1986 being the "Eighth year in succession for increase in breeding pairs, active nests, number of young hatched, fledged and banded" (JMA). In the Bay region there were 133 active nests, 102 of which hatched young, and of 190 young birds 149 were banded. Centers of abundance were, for Maryland (no. of nests/young): Dorchester 13/28, Kent 9/16, Charles 8/15, and Talbot 6/10, and for Virginia: Richmond 8/8, Westmoreland 7/11, and King George 6/8. One nest in Kent, Md., contained four young, the first 4-egg or 4-young nest known for the Bay area since 1935 (JMA). Long-abandoned ancestral nest sites, vacant 10 years or more, continue to be reactivated. "The center of abundance remains s. Dorchester, Md., where 13 active nests in 1986 produced 28 young, an average of 2.1 per active nest (there were no abandonments)" (JMA). The huge roost near Hopewell, Va., held up to 79 eagles July 2 and 72 July 8 (MAB, fide FRS), most if not all of these being passage birds rather than part of the area breeding population. The Virginia E. Shore barrier island survey found N. Harriers on Hog, Cobb, Wreck, and Fish islands towards the s. end of their breeding range (BW et al.). At Lynchburg in the Virginia Piedmont, three Sharp-shinned Hawks were found on the June 7 "Christmas count in June" (fide MM). A Broad-winged Hawk carrying a Blue Jay in James City, Va., July 20 was possibly a very early migrant (BW). American Kestrels are scarce coastal plain breeders in this Region, but were more widely reported than usual this summer (RFR, HTA, RJT, MA, M & DM).

No blockbuster Black Rail counts were forthcoming from Elliott I., but plenty of people heard them there, three were seen July 5 (HTA, GLA, AJ) and one even turned up on a Breeding Bird Survey along with four Virginia and four Clapper rails at nearby Lakesville June 14 (HTA). King Rails caused a stir at Huntley, and two adults with two young were there July 13 (JMA). At Martinsville two adult and one young Virginia Rail in mid-June in a 30+ acre cattail marsh along the Smith R. provided the first confirmed breeding record for the Virginia Piedmont, while across the river at the DuPont Nylon plant's settling ponds an adult and an imm. Com. Moorhen were a probable breeding record (date?), there being only one other



Purple Gallinule at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., June 14, 1986
Photo/Robert F. Ringler.

breeding record for the Virginia Piedmont (JD). Summering Am. Coots were detected by Ringler at Hart and near Berlin. The rare railid was a Purple Gallinule at Chinc. for the first one-half of June (RFR, EMW, WK et al.).

SHOREBIRDS — Nine trips were made to Hart, providing some of the best shorebirding in Maryland history (RFR, EB, HK et al.) at this impounded fill area near the head of the Bay. June 1 was an exceptional day, yielding 80 Semipalmated Plovers, a Black-necked Stilt, eight Am. Avocets, a Hudsonian Godwit, 25 Ruddy Turnstones, 12 Red Knots, 300 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 40 Dunlin, a Ruff, 30 Short-billed Dowitchers, and a Wilson's Phalarope, not bad for an area that is about 85 mi from the coast. The avocets, all males, remained through July 5. Late White-rumped Sandpipers peaked here at 60 June 8, with 30 still on hand June 15. A Ruff was also seen July 27, and two Wilson's Phalaropes were present June 8. Early south-bound migrants were already on hand June 29 when 15 Lesser Yellowlegs and 27 Least Sandpipers were seen. Single Whimbrels were seen June 15 and July 5. On the Virginia E. Shore barrier island survey, 1054 Am. Oystercatchers were found at 14 localities, 95 Piping Plovers were on 7 islands, and 63 Wilson's Plovers, a new high, were on 6 islands (BW et al.). Unfortunately, although these numbers are encouraging, many of these birds are perilously concentrated on a few of the northerly islands, especially Metomkin, which accounted for 364 of the oystercatchers, 47 of the Piping Plovers, and 40 of the Wilson's Plovers.

The severe drought limited wader counts at Chinc., but six two-day censuses were conducted there (CPW, EMW, WK). Selected high counts include: June 5-6, Ruddy Turnstone 280, Willet 104, Semipalmated Sandpiper 705, Sanderling 958, most of these spring migrants; June 13-14, Red Knot 171, Marbled Godwit one; July 10-11, Short-billed Dowitcher 676, Hudsonian Godwit eight, Ruff one; July 17-18, Semipalmated Plover 46 (lowest-ever count for end of July), Piping Plover 43 (18 pairs on the refuge), Wilson's Phalarope 10 (best July count ever), July 24-25, Black-bellied Plover 153 (biggest count of non-breeding aged birds in 12 years), Whimbrel 103, Spotted Sandpiper 34, Red Knot 305, Sanderling 972, Long-billed Dowitcher 24, Stilt Sandpiper 40, Wilson's Phalarope six. Peep and yellowlegs numbers were low, and fall Sanderlings arrived about 2 weeks late. Early fall migrants (or most were presumably such) on July 3-4 were 27 Whimbrels, 16 Greater Yellowlegs, a Red Knot, a White-rumped Sandpiper, 15 Least Sandpipers, 265 Short-billed Dowitchers, and three Wilson's Phalaropes.



Leach's Storm-Petrel near "Poor Man's Canyon" off the Virginia coast, June 7, 1986. Visible here is the faint dark line down the center of the white rump-patch, ruling out both Wilson's and Band-rumped storm-petrels. Photo/Michael O'Brien.



Brown Pelicans at Ocean City, Md., June 28, 1986. Photo/Robert F Ringler.

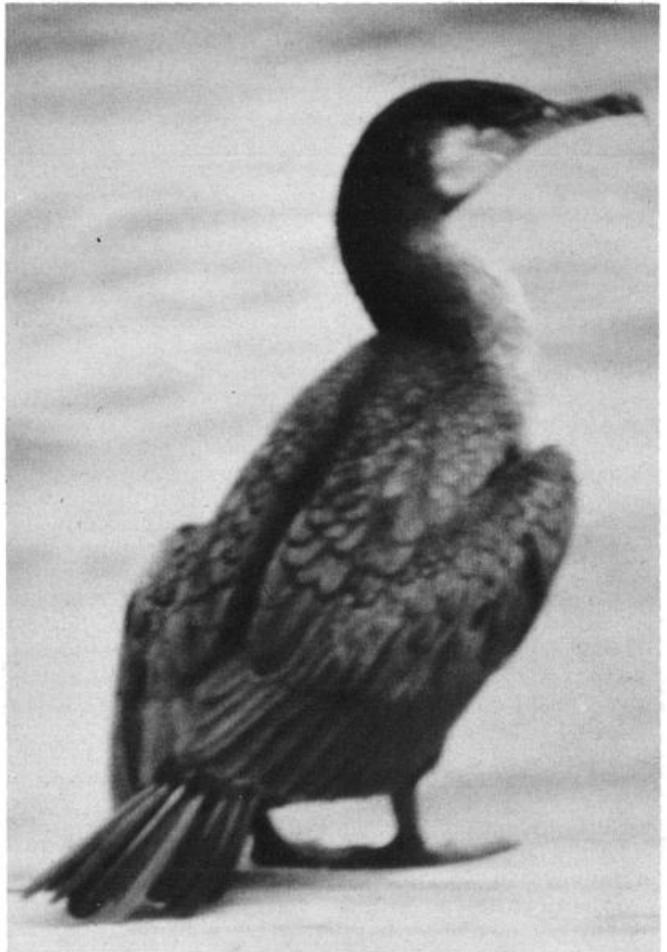
son's Storm-Petrels, 40 Greater, seven Cory's, one Audubon's, and three Sooty shearwaters (WK, DC, DFA et al.). Off Rudee Inlet, Va., another Leach's was reported June 18 (BT). An Am. White Pelican materialized again at the s. end of Metomkin I., June 19 (JSW). Small numbers of Brown Pelicans infiltrated into Maryland, such as one June 7 (MO, DC et al.), five June 24 (RM), 15 June 28 (RFR), two July 12 (JS), and 20 July 30 (PO), these all in the greater Ocean City area. But the big show was again in Virginia with 200± July 1 & 25 on Fish. I., as well as at an unnamed island developing between Chinc. and Wallops I., July 24 (JSW), with an estimated 300 at the latter site June 6 (IA). Other impressive counts were of 167 at Chinc., July 3-4 (CPW) and 485 at Fish. I., June 15 (BW, BA, JV, RB). Combined with the tremendous increase at the Oregon Inlet, N.C., colony this year, these totals renew hope that these great birds may one year breed in the Region.

An imm. Great Cormorant at Hart June 15-July 27 provided a first summer record for Maryland (EB, RFR et al., ph.). For the 4th time since 1978 Double-crested Cormorants bred on the James R. near Hopewell, Va. (TRW, JWD), the only Regional

records, with adults on at least eight nests there June 15 (FRS). Representative Bay totals, perhaps no longer surprising, were 250 at Hart July 20 (RFR), 125 at Cove Pt., Calvert, July 27 (RFR, EB, JLS), 145 at Hunting Creek, Va., July 20 (DFA), and 135 at Barren I., Dorchester, Md., June 1 (HTA). In Virginia Beach, Stumpy L. once again came through with one to two Anhingas present throughout the period (GMW, GTH, MRB et al.).

For the 12th consecutive year a survey of breeding birds on the Virginia E. Shore islands from Assawoman to Fish. I. was conducted (BW, RB, BA, JV, BTt). Major mixed heronries continue on Metomkin, Hog, Wreck, and Fish islands. Numbers of most herons are down from the totals of the late 1970s. Total numbers of adults seen included 150 Little Blue Herons, 142 Cattle Egrets, 411 Great Egrets, 611 Snowy Egrets, 436 Tricolored Herons, 850 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 63 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 556 Glossy Ibises (lowest since 1981), and two White Ibises (on Fish. I.; present 7 of 12 years since 1975). Counts of herons at Chinc. were disappointing in the face of a drought even worse than that of 1985, which left most impoundments bone dry (CPW). Unusual for the Virginia Piedmont was a Cattle Egret in s.e. Mecklenberg June 14 (JML). At least eight Least Bitterns were at Huntley in June in a beaver pond, and a nest with 4 eggs was found (JMA); this fresh-water marsh provides many D.C. area birders with good views of this and other secretive marsh species. An imm. White Ibis was seen at Liberty Res., Carroll, July 20 w. of Rt. 32 (JN, fide EMW).

The results of the 2nd year of a 5-year study of Maryland colonial waterbirds by the Univ. of Maryland showed these totals for 1986 (JEG, DFB, JEM): Great Blue Heron 2923 pairs (27 colonies), Little Blue Heron 96 (8), Cattle Egret 570 (5),



Immature Great Cormorant at the Hart-Miller Impoundment, Baltimore Co., Md., July 20, 1986. First summer record for Maryland. Photo/Robert F. Ringler.



Black-necked Stilt at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., June 15, 1986. Photo/Robert F. Ringler.

A pair of Black-necked Stilts at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., in early June showed aggressive behavior and distraction displays, but there still is no confirmed breeding for the state (RFR, DC, MO, PO). At Craney I. disposal area, Portsmouth, Va., 30 Am. Avocets and a Marbled Godwit were seen July 9, and four Wilson's Phalaropes were there July 29 (M & DM), five on July 18 (MRB). An Upland Sandpiper at Sandy Point S.P., Md., was presumably a very early migrant July 1 (MO), but two at Lucketts, Loudoun, Va., June 14 were breeders (VK). Rare on the Bay, a Whimbrel at Chesapeake Beach, Md., July 27 was a first for Calvert (RFR, JLS) and a late report was of 625 e. of Marchipongo, Va., Apr. 19 (BTt). On Cobb I., June 16, Williams saw 130 late Red Knots. A Stilt Sandpiper at Hart July 5 was early (RFR et al.).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — A jaeger (sp.) was seen off Ocean City June 7 (WK, DC et al.). It was an excellent summer for rarer larids at Hart, with two first-summer Franklin's Gulls June 8 plus singles June 1 and July 13, a first-summer Little Gull June 8, 15, & 20, three Lesser Black-backed Gulls June 1, and a Sandwich Tern June 8 (HK, EB, RFR et al.), the latter a first record for the upper Bay. As mentioned in spring, Herring and Great Black-backed gulls posted huge northward range extensions up the Bay here at Hart, Herrings with 506 nests with eggs, the Great Black-backed with one, as did Com. Terns with 53 nests with eggs. There were also 43 Least Terns nests with eggs, most of these all on June 15. Yet hardly any of these nests were successful, for reasons which are not quite clear (EB, RFR, HK et al.). Best tern counts here were of 200 Caspians June 15, 700 Forster's July 27, and 200 Leasts June 1; small numbers of Black Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls were there through the summer.

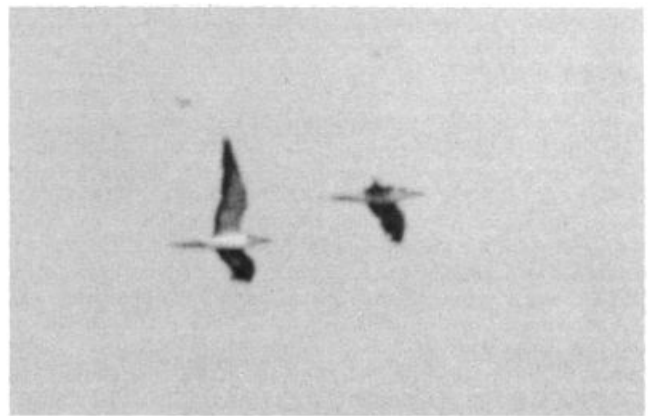
The Univ. of Maryland survey yielded excellent larid coverage (Maryland Waterbird Study, Project FW-8-P, Progress Report No. 2, 1 August 1985-30 July 1986, 64 p., by JEG, DFB, JEM) with special studies of Black Skimmers and Least Terns. These investigators found these numbers of breeding pairs in the state: Great Black-backed Gull 48, Herring Gull 4766, Laughing Gull 594 (steady decline since 1977 when there were 2080), Forster's Tern 1775, Com. Tern 2161, Least Tern 552, Gull-billed Tern 33 (at Big Bay Marsh in coastal Worcester), and Black Skimmer 328. These represented increases for the latter two species, little change from 1985 for the others. On the Bay, especially rich areas were Barren Island, with 155 pairs of Least, 816 of Common, and 323 of Forster's terns, plus 38 of Black Skimmers; and Smith Island, with its traditionally monstrous gulls colonies, 3811 Herring and 42 Great Black-backed gull pairs. Tiny Spring I., Dorchester, boasted 392 Forster's and 147 Common tern pairs. Larid colonies in coastal Worcester tended to be more numerous but smaller.

The Virginia E. Shore barrier island survey had the highest

gull numbers in its 12 years (BW et al.), with (no. of adults): 8306 Herring (previous high 3932), 22,286 Laughing (previous high 19,624 in 1985), and 561 Great Black-backed gulls (previous high 186 in 1985). The biggest colonies of Herring and Great Black-backed were on Metomkin (5712 & 350 respectively), and the most Laughings were on Wreck I. again this year (21,886). Of course this all bodes ill for terns, and Gull-billed, Common, and Forster's terns were in low numbers there, as were Black Skimmers. Virginia E. Shore island survey totals (adults seen) were Gull-billed Tern 475 (6 islands), Com. Tern 2220 (7 islands), Least Tern 1413 (7 islands; best since 1981), Royal Tern 5910 (2 islands), Sandwich Tern 80 (Fish. I. only), Caspian Tern eight (four pairs on Ship Shoal I., best ever), Forster's Tern 0 (many nest back in the marshes and are missed by this island survey), and Black Skimmer 3780 (7 islands). Ship Shoal I. had the most Gull-billed Terns (213), Com. Terns (1044), and skimmers (1425), Metomkin I. the most Least Terns (806), but details from the great Least Ternery at Grand View, Hampton, Va., were lacking.



Downy young Least Tern in the colony at Bethel Beach, Mathews Co., Va., July 5, 1986. Photo/J.B. Bazuin.



Two Bridled Terns about 20 miles e.s.e. of Ocean City, Md., June 7, 1986. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

Weske et al. had an excellent banding year, tagging 6011 Royal Terns, 4245 on Fish. I., 1639 on Metomkin I., and 127 (plus a Sandwich Tern) on the new island s. of Chinc., most of these July 1-2, one of the best-ever production years for Royals in Virginia. He also found a Caspian Tern chick on the new island Aug. 16, which probably perished along with the Royal chicks in the hurricane a few days later. Rare on the upper Bay, two Gull-billed Terns and a Black Tern were at Barren I., Md., June 1 (HTA). The new island s. of Chinc. also contained 388 Com. Tern and 586 Black Skimmer nests June 6 (IA et al.). Three Caspian Terns at Liberty Res., July 12 furnished only the 2nd record for Carroll, Md. (RFR). The only

Maryland report for Sandwich Tern, other than the Hart one, was of a single at Ocean City July 30 (PO). At Hog I., Surry, Va., 163 Least Terns July 26 were unusual for that far up the James R. (BW, TB, TA). On the Maryland E. Shore this species again nested on the roofs of 2 schools in Cambridge and one in Easton (MO), with 12 pairs at Cambridge High School and 29 at Sandy Hill Elementary School (JEG). On the Ocean City pelagic trip June 7, two **Bridled Terns** were seen 20 mi offshore in Maryland waters (DC, MO, WK, ph.).

This summer's records were the most complete ever for breeding gulls and terns in the region.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS — The Lynchburg "Christmas count in June" tallied 339 Mourning Doves June 7 (MM *et al.*). After a poor spring, Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued down in the summer (AJF, RFR, JEJ, PN). A Com. Barn-Owl survey at Nokesville, Va., June 29 found 8 nests (6 in boxes), average clutch size of five, 21 of the young being banded (KHB, MC, CR). Four offshore blinds at Chinc. had nests June 13 (DFH, AM). Common Nighthawks continued an apparent decline on the Virginia barrier islands, and were found only on Ship Shoal and Myrtle islands (BW *et al.*). A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Arlington, Va., June 4 (DFA). Willow Flycatchers continue to turn up in surprising areas, including singles at Deal I., June 15 (RFR) and at Washington Creek, St. Mary's, June 13 (EMW) in s. Maryland, while others were at Dyke Marsh, Va., through the period (JMA), three were at Lynchburg, Va., June 7 (MM *et al.*), and several were singing (and one was carrying food) on the s. Virginia Piedmont near Martinsville, Henry, in mid-June (JD). Extremely rare in spring or summer here, a **Western Kingbird** was seen w. of Rt. 194 and 0.2 mi s. of the Pennsylvania line in Carroll, Md., June 12 during a Breeding Bird Survey (DB).

On the Virginia coast, Horned Larks were at Chinc., June 6 when Wilson saw 12 including juveniles, and only on Hog I. by the barrier island survey, an all-time low for that venture (*vide* BW). Purple Martins had poor production, the worst since Hurricane Agnes, owing to heat and the drought (MKK). A roost at Gum Springs, s. of Ft. Hunt, Fairfax, Va., developed in early July, with 12 on July 10, 1000 July 16, and 4000 July 27 (JMA). Two pairs of Tree Swallows feeding young at Martinsville, Va., in mid-June extended the known Piedmont breeding range some 50 mi south (JD). Swallows at the Easton, Md., sewage lagoons June 28 were considered early post-breeding migrants, including four N. Rough-wingeds, eight Banks, and three Trees (RFR). Cliff Swallows continue to expand their breeding range slightly S and E with 33 nests under a James R. bridge near Hopewell, Va., June 15 (FRS), 30+ pairs at Kerr Res. and 16 at Pea Hill Creek Bridge in s. Virginia in June (JML), and other breeding records in Fauquier, Va., June 26 (RAA), Montgomery, Md., at L. Needwood (JB), s. of Charlottesville (best in 12 years; JD, TD), under a bridge of the Middle Patuxent R., Howard and Montgomery, Md. (BAX, *vide* JKS), and suspected breeding in Harford, Md. (DK). After 14 years of Breeding Bird Surveys, Lynch found Fish Crows increasingly common on the Virginia Piedmont in the Kerr Res. and Elm Hill W.M.A. areas. A Com. Raven was seen at L. Anna, Louisa, Va., June 17 (MRB).

The only Sedge Wren report was of two at Elliott I., July 15 (RE, *vide* EMW). Eastern Bluebirds had good production at Newport News City Park, Va., where the Mitchells banded 106 young, but in St. Mary's, Md., many boxes were taken over by S. Flying Squirrels (RRR). Late thrush migrants banded at Baltimore included a Swainson's June 4 and a Gray-cheeked June 3 (BMR). Cedar Waxwings were again widespread in s. Maryland and Virginia, such as 6 pairs near Martinsville in mid-June (JD) and birds around Williamsburg June 28–July 9 (BT), but with little confirmed nesting reported.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Singing Solitary Vireos in 2 atlas blocks near Martinsville in mid-June extended their known Virginia Piedmont breeding range to the south (JD). Late warblers included these Baltimore bandings, a Blackpoll

June 3 and a Mourning June 4 (BMR), and a very late Blackpoll was at L. Elkhorn, Columbia, Md., June 10 (JH, *vide* JKS). Completely unexpected was a singing Cerulean Warbler at Brookneal, Campbell, Va., June 28 along the Roanoke (Staunton) R (*vide* JD). Very late was a Canada Warbler at Greenbelt N P, Prince Georges, Md., June 20 (LMD). Excellent counts on the Lynchburg "Christmas count in June" were of 272 Indigo Buntings, 100 Grasshopper Sparrows, and 84 House Finches June 7 on the Virginia Piedmont, tallied by 31 observers in 16 parties. The near-spectral presence of Dickcissels as Regional breeders evanesced again this summer with three singing birds along Oland Rd., Frederick, Md., June 16–20 in fields mowed soon afterwards (DHW).

The find of the summer was the rediscovery, the first Regional breeders since 1968, of breeding **Bachman's Sparrows** in s. Virginia Piedmont areas in Brunswick by Bryan, who found two or three singing birds at each of 2 sites June 7–28 in large clearcut areas with young pines, broom sedge, and some deciduous saplings. Apparently there is a great deal of such habitat in this area. At one of the sites, 4 mi e. of Brunswick, single immatures were seen Aug. 6 (C & MH) & 19 (MS) and three singing birds and an immature were there Aug. 10 (JD, TD). Several very active observers commented on the increase of Grasshopper Sparrows (RFR, SD, DB, RRR). Lynch had a record 21 on his s. Virginia Piedmont Breeding Bird Survey June 14, and Wilson had 13 in St. Mary's July 17. The only Henslow's Sparrows reported were one or two singers at Elliott I., Md (v.o.), where a brief walk in the marsh produced a surprisingly high count of 33 Sharp-tailed Sparrows July 5 (HTA, GLA, AJ) Swamp Sparrows at the extreme s. edge of their breeding range included birds at Fishing Creek Marsh, Calvert, Md., July 27 (RFR), at Dyke Marsh, Va., near D.C. on the Potomac R. (where they had nested in the mid-1970s) May 22 and June 16 (JMA), and in the marshes of the upper Nanticoke R., Wicomico, near Vienna, Md., the classic setting where the race nigrescens was discovered (SD). Anomalous mid-summer White-throated Sparrow singles were discovered at Hart June 20 and Baltimore July 4 (RFR), and another was seen July 4 at Ft. Meade, Anne Arundel, Md. (DB), but even more startling was a Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco s. of Newburg, Charles, Md., June 3 (SD).

Bobolinks often turn up at nonsensical times in coastal plain areas where they never breed. This year some were heard at dawn at N. Beach, Calvert, Md., July 27 (RFR, JLS), and 10 were at Tuckahoe Creek s. of Ridgely, Caroline, Md., July 22 (MO, CSR). House Finches still seem to be spreading (v.o.) and in 1986 the first confirmed breeding in Westmoreland, Va., on the lower Potomac R. was obtained (JEJ).

CORRIGENDA — AB 40:265, the Cattle Egret reported in D C, Jan. 4, was a Great Egret; AB 40:266, Flourdew 100 Plantation should be Flowerdew Hundred Plantation.

OBSERVERS — D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Margaret Abbott, Irvin Ailes, R.L. Ake, Bill Akers, Burton Alexander (BAX), R.A. Anderson, G.L. Armistead, Tom Armour, K.H. Bass, J.B. Bazuin, Ruth Beck, Henry Bielstein, John Bjerke, Thom Blair, Eirik Blom, M R Boatwright, L.D. Bonham, D.F. Brinker, Allen Bryan, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Danny Bystrak, Mark Causey, David Czaplak, John Dalmas, Thelma Dalmas, L.M. Davidson, J.W. Dillard, Sam Droegge, Stephen Eccles, Richard Edwards, Ethel Engle, Owen Fang, A J Fletcher, J.E. Gates, Charlie Hacker, Charles & Melva Hansrote, G.T. Harris, M.W. Hewitt, Jim Hill, Robert Hilton, D.F. Holland, J.E. Johnson, Alice Jones, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain, Dennis Kirkwood, Valerie Kitchens, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Wayne Klockner, J M Lynch, Annette Macek, Robert Mains, J.E. McKearnan, Mike & Dorothy Mitchell, Myriam Moore, Jerry Newton, Paul Nistico, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Carl Perry, Don Peterson, Bill Portlock, K.E. Rambo, R.F. Ringler, Wilbur Rittenhouse, C.S. Robbins, Chuck Rosenberg, B.M. Ross, R.R. Runkles, Jack Schulz, F.R. Scott, J.K. Solem, P.R. Spitzer, J.L. Stasz, Mike Stinson, Brian Taber, R.J. Tripician, Barry Truitt (BTt), Jerry Via, D. H. Wallace, J.S. Weske, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, G.M. Williamson, E.M. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The drought in the Southeast continued through the summer, and 1986 was fast becoming one of the driest on record. Temperatures were near normal in June, but the latter half of July became excessively hot. Many ponds became dry by late summer, whereas the larger reservoirs generally had well-exposed shorelines.

The comments were mixed from contributors when queried about the effects of the drought on breeding success and population levels of local birds. Generally speaking, it was felt that most landbirds fared well, but there was considerable concern for survival of birds during the upcoming winter. This concern was based on the fact that mast production of trees was poor because of the drought, and especially that seed production by herbaceous plants was (or will be) also quite low; thus, granivores and frugivores may have difficulty finding enough food for survival.

Waterbirds had only mixed nesting success, as those breeders later in the season generally met with failure as ponds and marshes dried up. Colonial waterbirds on the coast also had mixed success, depending on whether local storms destroyed nests. Again this summer, however, there was no systematic survey of bird colonies along the coast, and I can only speculate about which species are declining and which are doing well.

This season, contributors nominated their candidates for species in trouble or species on the move. There was little unanimity on the latter group, but a few species were mentioned as declining by numerous observers. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo showed a considerable drop in numbers this summer, although hopefully this was just a seasonal variation in numbers as a result of fluctuation in tent caterpillar numbers. Common Nighthawks also drew widespread notice, or lack of notice. They have never been common as breeders in the Region, but some observers are having trouble finding any in a given year now. The biggest concern is for Neotropical-migrating, forest-interior nesting birds, particularly the Wood Thrush. These species (including warblers such as the Hooded and Kentucky) are losing habitat both here and in the tropics, and it is no surprise that such forest-interior species are becoming slightly more difficult to find each summer.

On the other hand, the season was not completely devoid of notable sightings. The Region did have one first record ever, and a few species were found nesting for the first time in the Region.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — June 24 was an unusual date for a Com. Loon near Hardeeville, S.C. (SW). M. Lynch and Baker noted Pied-billed Grebes at 11 natural limesink ponds in Baker Co., Ga., during the summer; some successful breeding was seen, but the drought caused some of the ponds to go dry later in the season, obviously disrupting other nesting attempts. A moderate number of pelagic trips was taken off the 3 states, mostly in July. The usual totals of Cory's, Audubon's, and Greater shearwaters and Black-capped Petrels were detected (fide RA, PD, BO); again this summer, no Sooty Shearwaters were encountered. (Disappointingly few pelagic trips are being taken between mid-May and mid-June, an exciting time for such birding.) A year ago many Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen on trips out of Oregon Inlet, N.C. This summer, these petrels could not be found, for one reason or another, although a handful of Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (single-digit counts) continued to be seen on trips off Oregon and Hatteras inlets, N.C. (RA, PD, BO). Four Band-rumped were also ob-



served off Jekyll I., Ga., June 14 (fide PB). The only White-tailed Tropicbird report for the season was of one off Oregon Inlet June 18 (fide BT, HA). Probably the most notable report of the summer was the Region's first record of **Red-footed Booby**. An immature found July 27 in weakened condition at Edisto I., S.C., died several days later and is now a specimen at Charleston Museum (TMu, fide WP). Although the species breeds in the s. Caribbean Sea as close as Puerto Rico, it apparently wanders little from its breeding grounds, and this seems to be the first record for the Atlantic coast outside of Florida. The trend of increasing numbers of breeding Brown Pelicans in North Carolina may have hit a snag this summer, as production of young in several colonies was low. An Am. White Pelican was seen June 19 in Pamlico Sound, N.C., midway between Cedar I. and Ocracoke (TW, JS). Post and Belser found a 2nd nesting colony in South Carolina for Double-crested Cormorants. In addition to the colony in L. Marion first noted last year, they counted 45 nests at L. Moultrie in 1986. This latter colony included 32 nests of Great Blue Herons and 68 Anhinga nests. The breeding population of cormorants on Jordan L., N.C., had 3 active nests in early June (KK); it is unknown if any produced young. Anhingas, apparently extralimital and all in the Coastal Plain, were at Hamburg S.P., Ga., June 7 (NI), Merchants Millpond S.P., N.C., June 10 (FW, PH), and the Roanoke R. s.w. of Windsor, N.C., June 26 (WL, DS, DC).

WADERS, WATERFOWL — In addition to the rookery mentioned above, another colony at L. Moultrie had 250+ Cattle Egrets, 50 Little Blue Herons, and 25+ Anhingas (WP, CB). A survey of about 4 heronries in n.w. Jenkins and s. Burke counties, Ga., had 4000+ Cattle Egret nests, 150+ nests of Wood Storks, and small numbers of at least five other species (ML et al.). A heronry in s.w. Baker Co., Ga., was notable in that 3+ nests of Snowy Egrets were present (ML, WB, MH). A nest of Snowy Egrets was also noted inland in South Carolina at L. Marion June 20 (WP, CB); the species seldom nests away from the coast. Even rarer, and apparently a first for an inland site in the Carolinas, was the successful nesting of 2 pairs (based on clutches of juveniles) of Tricolored Herons at L. Marion, S.C. (WP, CB). Perhaps the best-ever influx of Reddish Egrets, all immatures as would be expected, occurred this summer along the coast. Two were at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., July 11 (JEC), with one July 24 (BH); three were at Kiawah I., S.C., July 10-24 (BC); and one was at Lea I., N.C., July 6-11 (JH et al.). It is interesting to note that prior to the publication of the

National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* in 1983, most reports of Reddish Egrets in the Region were of adult birds. This guide was the first to picture the immature plumage, and observers are now identifying this age class; these birds had obviously been overlooked or misidentified prior to this book's publication. The enormous nesting colony of White Ibises at Drum I. in Charleston, S.C., was a complete disaster. This year essentially no young were fledged, a casualty of both the drought and over-predation by Fish Crows (WP). Unfortunately, no reports on the fate of other coastal White Ibis colonies were received. In c. North Carolina, respectable post-breeding counts of White Ibises were of up to 12 immatures at Jordan L. in mid-July (BW, MW) and 10 at nearby Falls L. at the same time (RD).

Summering Ring-necked Ducks have occurred at several Regional sites in recent years. Apparently new locales for lingerers were Fayetteville, N.C. (one ad. male—PJC) and Monroe Co., Ga. (three birds—TJ). It is not unusual for Black Scoters to linger along the coast in summer; however, nesting would seem to be absurd. Nonetheless, a pair of **Black Scoters** apparently did nest, as Crutchfield saw a female with three half-grown juveniles July 4–20, plus an ad. male July 20, in n.e. Pamlico Co., N.C. A Hooded Merganser near Dublin, Ga., June 2 (TKP) was s. of the breeding range, but the species has nested sparingly in all 3 states in the Region.

HAWKS THROUGH COOTS — Although there have been more recent sightings than normal of Am. Swallow-tailed Kites along the Savannah R. between Augusta and Savannah, Ga. (RC *et al.*), there has apparently been a sharp decline in numbers in Francis Marion N.F., S.C. (*vide* PN). Likely the first nesting for Mississippi Kite at Sumter, S.C., occurred this summer, when a pair built a nest high above a home in a residential area (ED)! There were no new nesting sites reported for Bald Eagles in the Region, although North Carolina's 2 known active pairs in 1985 bred again this year. The eagle roost at Jordan L., N.C., had 34+ birds July 23 (SH, *vide* BW), and there were apparently 40+ eagles present at the lake during that month. Post-breeding numbers of eagles in the Region seem to be rising, although nesting totals (when compared with those in neighboring Florida, Virginia, and Maryland) are mysteriously low. Single N. Harriers were seen at Pungo N.W.R., N.C., June 7 (ML, HL) and Roanoke I., N.C., July 14 (GW). The birds may have just been visitors, but both sites contain extensive marshes and conceivably could support nesting pairs. An ad. Sharp-shinned Hawk carrying food near Pinehurst June 8 (JHC) was the first indication of nesting for the North Carolina Sandhills. Also strongly suggestive of breeding was the presence of two ad. Cooper's Hawks in n. Fulton Co., Ga., for much of the summer, followed by up to four fledged juveniles after mid-July (TM). Few Broad-winged Hawks breed in the Coastal Plain; thus, notable for this province were summer reports from w. Carteret Co., N.C. (TW, JS), Sumter, S.C. (ED), Columbia, S.C. (JEC, LG), and near Newton, Ga. (ML, WB). It is difficult to say if the beleaguered nesting population of Am. Kestrels is increasing, but the Carolina Raptor Center near Charlotte, N.C., alone reported at least 7 nestings in the s. Piedmont of that state (*vide* DB). It seems apparent that the birds are avoiding agricultural lands for nesting territories (presumably because of pesticide problems); nesting habitats included a shopping mall and the dam of a large reservoir.

Single Black Rails were calling on territory at new North Carolina sites (and counties?) near Hobucken in Pamlico Co. in late May (JF) and Topsail I., Onslow Co., June 1 (GG). This state may well contain the most widespread Black Rail nesting populations in the country. Two pairs of Purple Gallinules at Sea Pond in Baker Co., Ga., this summer (ML *et al.*) were likely at a new site, also. An Am. Coot again summered at Peachtree City L., Ga. (PB).

SHOREBIRDS — Exciting news was Fussell's survey of nesting Piping Plovers in parts of Cape Lookout Nat'l Seashore, N.C. (Portsmouth I. to Cape Lookout). He found 25 territories,

plus several other individuals June 28–29. This was apparently an increase in numbers over his survey of 3 years ago, which covered a slightly different area. A single Piping on July 9 at Lea I., N.C. (KKo *et al.*) seems too early for a migrant, and another June 14 at Jekyll I., Ga. (PR), was unusual in that month. An outstanding nesting-season count of 250+ Black-necked Stilts was made at a dredge spoil area near Brunswick, Ga., July 4 (HG). Most unusual was a nesting of **Spotted Sandpipers** in North Carolina, where there were just a handful of previous such records, and probably none in over 15 years. Crutchfield noted adults all summer near Fayetteville and several half-grown young July 25.

Portsmouth I., N.C., again produced notable (yet expected) rarities July 27—a Long-billed Curlew, 50+ Marbled Godwits, and a breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper (JF, ML, AB, RD, DC). Surprisingly early were a Pectoral Sandpiper at Portsmouth June 30 (JF) and two at Macon, Ga., June 29 (TI), plus two Stilt Sandpipers July 4 at Andrews I., Ga. (HG). Although Ruffs have been appearing yearly in North Carolina, one in near breeding plumage July 10 at Eagle I. (JN) might have been the closest to full plumage ever seen in the state. One wonders what an Am. Woodcock was doing at Portsmouth village, N.C., June 30 (JF); it was definitely not in nesting habitat. The best phalarope records were of three early Wilson's at Andrews I., Ga., July 4 (HG) and a late and most surprising inland bird on the water at L. Jordan June 4 (KK). Though the latter bird was not positively identified, it almost certainly was a Red-necked

GULLS THROUGH CAPRIMULGIDS — Again this summer, hard data on gull and tern colonies were sparse. Several colonies on barrier islands at Cape Hatteras Nat'l Seashore, N.C., did not fare well because of storm tides (*vide* KT). Over the past few years in that state (at least), the nesting populations of Common, Gull-billed, and Least terns, plus Black Skimmers, have declined; whereas Royal and Sandwich terns have noticeably increased. A Great Black-backed Gull at Jekyll I., July 13 (LT) was notable for the season in Georgia. In the Greensboro, N.C., area were up to eight Ring-billed Gulls all summer, and a Caspian Tern and three Forster's Terns July 10 (HH). A few Sooty Terns were again noted at Cape Hatteras during the summer, but no nest could be found this year, unlike 1985 (*vide* KT). On the other hand, Georgia birders observed a remarkable 30+ Sooties off Jekyll I., June 14, plus 16 Bridled Terns (*vide* PB). Five Black Terns were somewhat early July 13 in n.e. Laurens Co., Ga. (TKP). Fussell had a surprising number of singing Whip-poor-wills near the North Carolina coast, where generally unknown in summer a decade ago. He heard six in Craven Co., May 12, four in w. Carteret Co., June 1, and two in e. Brunswick Co., June 8.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — The only Gray Kingbird sightings were all from Georgia and were of likely breeders—the "usual pair" at Sea I. (*vide* TM), one at St. Simons I. lighthouse June 13 (PR), and a pair feeding three young on Jekyll I. in late June (LT). Georgia also had the only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—one seen and photographed just s. of Darien June 9 (LT). An excellent count of Horned Larks near the edge of the range was of 6 to 8 pairs near Sumter May 18 (ED, JB). It was only a matter of time until the Region's first breeding record of **Tree Swallow** would be noted. Instead of being in upper North Carolina, where one might expect, the first nest was at L. Juliette, Monroe Co., Ga., in the c. part of the state, June 6 (TJ, TH). Unfortunately, the hollow tree with the nest was later blown down. Notable in that same month, and presumably migrants, were Tree Swallows near Wilmington, N.C., June 15 (JN) and Augusta June 7 (SCG). Cliff Swallows were finally found breeding at Falls L., N.C.; in fact, nests were observed at 3 sites at the lake (HL, ML, KL). A few Fish Crows were seen and heard during the season at Greensboro (HH), not really surprising because the species has been reported on several occasions at nearby High Point. The White-breasted Nuthatch generally does not breed in most coastal counties,

thus, quite unusual were three at Greenfield L. in Wilmington this summer (KKO) and one in w. Carteret Co., N.C., July 11 (HHa).

A nesting colony of Cedar Waxwings was again present near Winston-Salem, N.C., where 12 nests were counted, though only 3 were definitely active (RS). There were a few scattered June-July reports from other Piedmont locales, as usual, but waxwings apparently nested in the Coastal Plain at Merchants Millpond S.P., N.C. At this park, a few were seen all summer, and two juveniles were noted July 19 (FW *et al.*).

S.A.

There were mixed reviews on the Loggerhead Shrike situation. The species is clearly endangered in most of North Carolina as a breeder, though a few observers in that state seem to be optimistic. In South Carolina and Georgia, the decline has been less severe and some birders contend that numbers are holding their own in recent summers. The shrike decline in the East is certainly a geographic, "clinal" one. The decrease continues to move southward, and I suspect that some sort of disease may be partly responsible. Can such a clinal decrease in shrikes be explained by pesticide use, habitat loss, decline in thorny shrubs and trees, or competition from other bird species?

Completely surprising was the return of a Solitary Vireo to mist nets at Oriental, N.C., July 16 (DF), almost one year after it had been banded there as a juvenile! This tidewater town is far e. of the usual breeding range. Yet most unusual was a **Warbling Vireo** singing, apparently on territory, at a cypress pond in e. Halifax Co., N.C., June 7 (ML, HL). This is the first territorial bird reported in the Region in decades.

WARBLERS — There were few new breeding range extensions uncovered for warblers, obviously a result of insufficient birding effort (e.g., no atlas projects, as yet). However, Fussell combed much of the lower Coastal Plain of North Carolina, finding the Black-and-white Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, and Ovenbird occurring south to Pender and Brunswick counties. In fact, he heard 20 territorial Worm-eaters singing in Green Swamp in Brunswick Co., June 7. Several Black-and-whites were noted persistently during the season in Cumberland Co., N.C. (PJC), where normally absent. And M Lynch *et al.* tallied 36 Ovenbirds on a Breeding Bird Survey route in Hertford and Gates counties, N.C., also in the Coastal Plain. Three territorial Cerulean Warblers along the Roanoke R. near Quitsna, Bertie Co., N.C., Apr. 26 (ML) were near the lower limit of this disjunct population; whereas one singing Apr 27, if on territory, was at the upper limit near Weldon (RY). Another Cerulean on territory all May and June at Tryon, N C (ST), was slightly to the east of the main breeding range (in the mountains). Two Blackburnian Warblers were early migrants at the Chattahoochee R., n. of Atlanta, July 27 (PR). The very early migration of the Louisiana Waterthrush was brought out by the sighting of 15 birds July 31 along a 14-mi stretch of the Flint R., Baker Co., Ga. (ML, WB), where the species does not breed.

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELINES — Rare for the Sandhills in summer was a ♂ Scarlet Tanager near Hoffman, N.C., June 19 (PM). Dickcissels seen in the spring at 3 Piedmont locations remained into June. One pair nested at Raleigh, with at least one juvenile fledged (RD, HL); but near Kings Mountain, N.C., no nesting evidence other than a territorial male could be found (PH). At Townville, S.C., at least eight birds were seen in early June (CW), although no fledglings were reported. Robin Carter found Bachman's Sparrows this season in 3 Piedmont counties in South Carolina—Chester, Saluda, and Union, and he had a remarkable 30 Grasshopper Sparrows in a single field near Cross Keys in Union County this summer. A good find was several singing Grasshopper Sparrows July 6 near the edge of the range in s. Wayne Co., N.C. (EDe). The first territorial **Henslow's Sparrow** in South Carolina since the 1950s was one singing June 1-July 4, with three present June 22, in the Grasshopper Sparrow field mentioned above (RC). Henslow's were again found at several North Carolina clear-cuts in the Coastal Plain, where reported in previous years, with 20+ birds in at least 2 sites in Pitt and Edgecombe counties (AB, JW, SS). The only new locales in that state reported were in s.w. Onslow County, near NC 50 (JF). A late lingerer, possibly injured, was a White-throated Sparrow at Raleigh June 26 (DC).

Although it is not unusual to find an imm. Yellow-headed Blackbird along the coast in late summer or fall, an ad. male at Folly Beach, S.C., July 24-28 (VH, WP) was quite unexpected. Northern Orioles nest very sparingly and erratically in n. Georgia; thus, a report that opened eyes was of 7-8 pairs nesting in a city park in Macon (TI, TKP). Since there has been practically no one reporting from this city for many years, one wonders if this nesting is a new phenomenon or has been going on for a few years. A ♀ N. Oriole was notable in e. Greenville Co., S.C., June 8 (CW). The first positive nesting of House Finch for Dublin, Ga., was noted in mid-July (TKP). A most tardy Red Crossbill visited a Chapel Hill, N.C., feeder June 11-12 (CH, DA). A pair of Am. Goldfinches in w. Craven Co., N.C., July 12 (BHo) was somewhat e. of the usual breeding range.

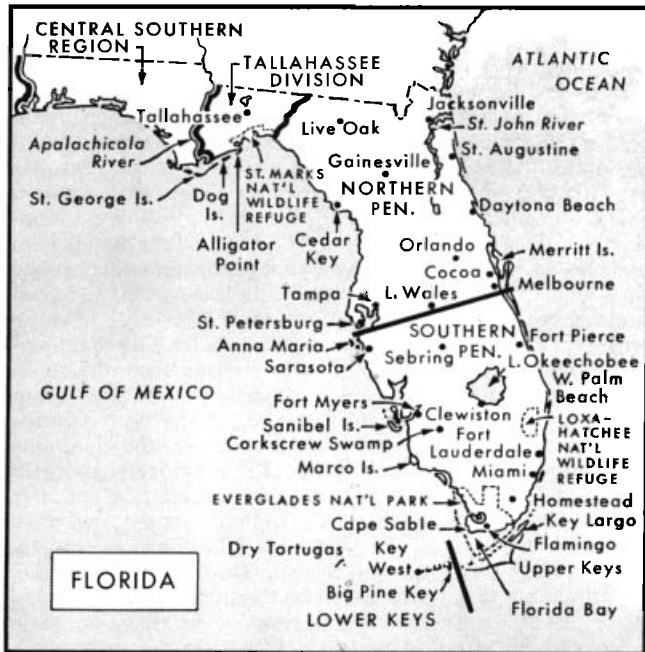
OBSERVERS — Robert Ake, Dennis Alwon, Henry Armistead, Wilson Baker, Jimmy Beatty, Carroll Belser, Patrick Brisse, Dick Brown, Allen Bryan, Derb Carter, J.H. Carter III, Robin Carter, J.E. Cely, David Cobb, Bob Cowgill, P.J. Crutchfield, Ricky Davis, Evelyn Dabbs, Eric Dean (EDe), Paul DuMont, Dorothy Foy, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Lex Glover, Gilbert Grant, S.C. Guy, Henry Haberyan (HHa), Carol Hamilton, John Hardwick, Paul Hart, Vivian Hembree, Herb Hendrickson, Tom Hicks, Bill Hilton Jr., Bob Holmes (BHo), Milton Hopkins, Sam Hudson, Nancy Iha, Ty Ivey, Terry Johnson, Kitty Kosh (KKO), Kathy Kuyper, Wilson Laney, Harry LeGrand, Karen Lynch, Merrill Lynch, Phil Manor, Terry Moore, Tom Murphy (TMu), Jeremy Nance, Perry Nugent, Bob Odear, T.K. Patterson, Will Post, Paul Raney, Jack Schultz, Susan Sferra, Ramona Snavely, Dennis Stewart, Lydia Thompson, Simon Thompson, Barry Truitt, Kent Turner, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Steve Wagner, Tony White, Floyd Williams, Gary Williamson, Charlie Wooten, John Wright, Randy Yelverton. — **HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.**

FLORIDA REGION

Richard T. Paul

After a somewhat drier-than-usual spring in Florida, summer conditions were ordinary, with near-normal temperatures and rainfall throughout the state. To be sure, there were some locally heavy rains. But afternoon thun-

derstorms are the rule here during the summer rainy season (about 60% of our annual rainfall occurs during June to September), and some are bound to be frog-chokers. Possibly drier than the rest of the Region was the Tallahassee Division, where Henry Stevenson noted some effects from the prolonged drought affecting the southeastern United



States. But there too, summer rains were near normal once they began.

Fortunately, 1986 marks the beginning of the five-year Florida Breeding Bird Atlas project. This project should greatly improve our knowledge of breeding bird distribution here, and, I hope, also this column. Some of the early finds are noted below.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.S.M. = Clear Springs and adjacent phosphate mines; D.T. = Dry Tortugas; F.S.M. = Florida State Museum; G.F.C. = Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; S.F.H.S.P. = San Felasco Hammock State Preserve; Tally Div. = Tallahassee Division; T.T. = Tall Timbers Research Station. Place names in *italics* are counties.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — The only shearwater reported this season was a Cory's near Rebecca Light off Key West, in July (DL, AM). A White-tailed Tropicbird was seen 25 mi e. of Boynton Beach by Alan Buckner (*vide* HL). Summering Am. White Pelicans were reported from 2 inland sites this year, with numbers peaking at 60 at C.S.M., June 22 (PF, SB) and 50 at Lower Myakka L., July 5 (BL). Also inland were 11 Brown Pelicans over Winter Haven's Street Nature Center June 1 (BC). Brown Pelicans nested at Passage Key for the 2nd time in memory, with 40 pairs counted June 7 (LH). At least 30 Brown Pelicans died at Port Canaveral in early June; the suspected cause was methyl-ethyl-ketone (BPL). Along the s.w. coast, Brown Pelicans nested in greater abundance than usual (580 pairs) but numbers dropped off fast in mid-May. Local fishermen reported bait and inshore fishing were down, a possible explanation for pelican nesting failures (TB). Double-crested Cormorants are now almost regular inland in the Tally Div.; one was found near Tallahassee June 4, three more in Madison June 21, and four to five on L. Munson, Leon, in July (HS, TM). Magnificent Frigatebirds may nest annually at the Marquesas Keys, but I do not receive annual reports. Therefore 10 small young seen in July (TW) were welcome news. Straying inland and caught at it was one frigatebird seen over Street Nature Center July 26 (BC).

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — Single Great White Herons were n. of their normal range at 3 localities: St. Marks N.W.R. (entire period; RG, J), Duda Farms near Belle Glade July 13 & 27 (PWS), and W. Delray sewage ponds July 17 (PWS). Reddish Egrets continued their strong recovery of recent

years. Breeding was newly documented at Broken I., Charlotte Harbor (RP, RWR); Placida, Gasparilla Sound (RP); and the n. Banana River (RP, BPL). Also, a remarkable 41 fledglings were counted June 4 at the Haulover colony at Merritt Island N.W.R. (RP). Single Reddish Egrets were found n. of normal range at St. Marks N.W.R., June 7 (RG), and St. George I., July 15–16 (DB), where they are still scarce but increasing.

Noteworthy concentrations of feeding wading birds occurred at the Ft. Pierce mudflats July 13 and Duda Farms July 27. At Ft. Pierce, JMB found 500 Great Egrets, 230 Snowies, 54 spoonbills, and 95 Wood Storks. At Duda Farms were 210 Little Blues, 640 Great Egrets, 530 Snowies, 240 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 745 Wood Storks (PWS). An unusual aggregation of 80 Green-backed Hérons was at Peacock Pond, Wellington, July 31 (PWS).

Five thousand pairs of White Ibises nested at Seahorse Key (Cedar Keys N.W.R.), 10 times the 1985 total and the first large nesting effort there since 1978 (LH). At Alafia Bank, White Ibises increased to 3900 pairs, 60% more than last year but well below numbers of 1982–1984 (RP). Development of important feeding areas s.e. of Tampa along the newly completed I-75 may be one reason. One White x Scarlet Ibis hybrid was seen, June 19–20 at Paynes Prairie in a Cattle Egret-White Ibis roost, the first in that locality since 1982 (BM). Of 3 reports of Glossy Ibis in the Tally Div., one was of a scarce inland bird at the Tallahassee sewage plant sprayfield July 23–24 (HS, JS). Roseate Spoonbills occasionally straggle inland; this year three were found at Lake Parker June 25 (BC), one at C.S.M., June 22 (PF, SB), a flock of 30 at Lower Myakka Lake July 5 (BL), and another flock at Duda Farms that peaked at 115 July 27 (PWS).

S.A.

There was good news and bad news about Wood Storks. Aerial and supplementary ground surveys of all known active sites (including 3 new ones) in April and June produced a preliminary estimate of 5850 breeding pairs in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina (about 5100 in Florida). This is comparable to revised population estimates for the last 3 years, and suggests that the population may have reached a stable level. If so, credit goes to the more northerly colonies, which have increased in recent years and which this year produced approximately 1.8 young per pair—twice the production of 1985. Bad news continues in S. Florida, however, where just 2 colonies were active: Cuthbert, with 375 pairs, and Corkscrew, with 250. At the latter site, only 12 pairs were successful, producing 20 young. These dismal results are a reminder that something is profoundly wrong with South Florida wetlands systems (JCO, JR, EC).

With the spoonbills at Duda Farms on July 27 was a Greater Flamingo, origins unknown (PWS).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Duda Farms peaked at 1675 June 8, well above last year's high but only one-third of the 1984 maximum (PWS). Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Duda Farms June 15 appeared to be, and may have been, wild birds (PWS). The high count of Mottled Ducks at Duda was on June 15, when 1110 were tallied (PWS). East of Tallahassee July 8 was a rather large-for-summer flock of 38 Canada Geese (HS, TM). None was immature. Forty-five Wood Ducks were seen at Peacock Pond, Wellington, July 31, a high count (PWS). Two pairs of Blue-winged Teal were observed throughout the period at Duda Farms (PWS, JS, BJ). Sykes also reported a single Ring-necked Duck with very worn plumage at Duda July 19. A large downy Ruddy Duck at Lake Munson in the Tally Div. was seen July 4 but not subsequently (HS, TM).

The Osprey population of Monroe is now under review by the G.F.C. for listing as Threatened or Special Concern, owing

to apparent significant decline since the early 1970s. A thorough survey is needed. Twenty-three Ospreys feeding off St. Teresa, Franklin, July 30 were considered an unusual concentration (TM).

Once again Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were seen in s. Jacksonville (one, June 9; PP, MD), Gainesville (numerous sightings, primarily near Devil's Millhopper where nesting was suspected; BM), and Polk (2 reports, including one of 11 birds roosting in one tree in the Green Swamp July 6—BC, LG et al.) But mind-boggling was the report (by G.F.C. Nongame Biologist Brian Millsap) of 684+ Swallow-taileds counted in an hour late on July 26, n. of Moore Haven! This may be a staging area for fall migrants (see also AB 32:1151 and 34:388). G.F.C. studies at the site will continue. June surveys of Lake Kissimmee produced a tally of 32 Snail Kites (BC, LG, GC). Another 14 were found July 31 at Peacock Pond, where Sykes thought they might have nested.

Bald Eagles enjoyed another successful year. The G.F.C. annual aerial survey tallied 329 active nests (plus a number of unknowns, so we are not really down 60 from last year), of which 75% were successful. Average reproductive success was 1.3 young per active nest, excellent for this species (SN). In the Tally Div., Bald Eagles are considered rare but possibly increasing locally. An adult was seen n. of Bristol July 5 (JM), while at St. Teresa an immature was present July 30 and an adult the following day (TM).

A pair of N. Harriers was seen several times in June and early July in marshes around Mill Cove, near the St. Johns River mouth (BR). The species formerly bred sporadically in n. Florida, might it again? Another harrier was seen in s.w. Madison June 21 (TM, DW), possibly the 5th summer record for the Tally Div. A Cooper's Hawk was found July 11 "in suitable nesting habitat" in Citronelle, Citrus (SN). From the behavior of two ad. Cooper's Hawks seen June 6 just n. of Myakka City, BAM considered it likely that they were a resident pair. This would be a new site, if confirmed.

Two ad. Broad-winged Hawks with fledged young were found July 21 in S.F.H.S.P. near Gainesville (RN). Four nesting areas are now known in the Gainesville area (fide BM & SN). Another Broad-winged was seen July 5 along I-75, 10 mi n. of Wildwood, carrying prey (JH). A rare black-phase Short-tailed Hawk was seen July 6 in the Green Swamp (BC, LG, GC, E & LS), the lone report of this species. Thirteen Am. Kestrels (the resident race *paulus*) were found in Sumter during July (DG, BP). There were no other reports of this disappearing little falcon.

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES — Up to eight Black Rails were heard calling along a 3-mi stretch of levee in n.w. Broward June 6 (BN) through mid-month (BH, GH, HL). Rising waters inundated the site by the 3rd week in June, and rails were not heard thereafter. W. George wrote that they were "obviously calling on territory but no positive evidence of nesting (nests, young birds) was detected." At Duda Farms, 1200 Com. Moorhens were counted June 8—a high for that site (PWS, BJ). A brood of four moorhen chicks was seen at the Key West golf course pond June 12, for an uncommon Keys nesting record (JO). Seven Purple Gallinules were reported from Key West and Big Pine Key in June, a surprisingly high number for the Lower Keys (JO). A Limpkin was found July 12 at Ft. Jefferson, D.T., for the 3rd summer record there (TR).

Snowy Plovers continued to nest at Casey Key, where Stedmans reported one of 3 nests successful in June. Two birds were also seen at Midnight Pass June 7 (EM, BZ). This species is on the G.F.C. Threatened list but has received scant attention except from a few local observers. A program to identify the important natural beaches and recommend guidelines for protection where feasible is urgently needed!

Black-necked Stilt numbers peaked at 226+ at C.S.M., July 27 (PF), and 1475 at Duda Farms July 19, where hundreds of nests with eggs had been present in June (PWS, BJ). Summering Am. Avocets were numerous at C.S.M., with 46 counted June

22 and July 5 (PF, SB). Also summering were 30 Red Knots that remained at Casey Key throughout the period (S & AS). But was a Marbled Godwit at St. Marks N.W.R. on July 13 (RG) summering, or an early fall migrant? Lesser Yellowlegs peaked at 5310 at Duda Farms July 19 (PWS). A Solitary Sandpiper flew over Archbold Biological Station July 18 (GW, JF). Two Upland Sandpipers were present July 28 at Cape Coral (RWR). High counts of 1800+ Semipalmated Sandpipers and six White-rumped Sandpipers were at C.S.M., July 27 (PF). At least 100 Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded at the Tallahassee sewage lagoon July 23 after heavy rains (JS), while another on the same date was 4 days earlier than the previous early fall date for *Alachua* (SN).

A ♂ Ruff was seen well at Duda Farms July 19, and a female 8 days later (PWS). Six dowitchers (sp.), uncommon anytime in *Alachua*, were unusually early at Kanapaha Prairie July 23 (SN). Florida breeding records of Am. Woodcocks are rare, so the report of a pair flushed but not relocated in *Columbia* July 1 was tantalizing (PDS). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were reported this season, one in full basic plumage at Duda Farms July 19 (PWS), and another at C.S.M., July 27 (PF).

LARIDS — Laughing Gulls in the Tally Div. commuted, as last year, from the coast to Tallahassee landfills and sewage ponds. About 3300 pairs of Laughing Gulls were nesting at Passage Key June 7 (LH), and approximately 4000 more on spoil islands in the Banana River June 4 (RP, BPL). The largest colony (Island "3D" in Hillsborough Bay) was not censused in detail this year, but nesting gulls there again numbered in the tens of thousands (SP, RP). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull at Ward's Bank near Jacksonville July 8 provided an unusual summer record (RR).

There were 2 reports of nesting Gull-billed Terns: 4 nests on Banana River spoil islands June 4 (RP, BPL) and 6 (with 21 adults present) at Duda Farms June 15 (PWS). The sole Florida colony of Caspian Terns again formed on Island 3D, with 45 pairs this year (RP). Royal Terns nested at 4 sites in the state: 1035 pairs on 2 islands in the Banana River (Merritt Island N.W.R.), 600 at Passage Key (RP), 450 at Island 3D (RP), and 2 pairs July 14 on a rooftop in Vero Beach (BT). Success appeared excellent at all sites except on the roof, where neither egg hatched. With the roof-nesting Royals were 20 pairs of Least Terns (BT); other roof-nesting Least Terns were spotted in Tallahassee (2 colonies, numbers unstated; HS), and Ft. Pierce (100+ birds; B & HD). Other noteworthy records of breeding Least Terns came from Ft. Lauderdale, where about 50 young fledged from "the first beachfront colony in memory" (WG), 12 pairs from St. Marks N.W.R. (RG), and 565 pairs in 5 colonies from St. Augustine to the St. Johns River mouth (PP). A moribund Sooty Tern was found on Big Pine Key July 12 (JO). Black Terns were seen at Duda Farms as early as June 8 (PWS), probably already southbound; a high count there was 101, on July 27 (PWS).

For the 2nd year Black Skimmers nested inland at Duda Farms, where up to 77 birds were present through the period Sykes found at least 8 nests in 3 different nesting attempts, all of which failed. About 180 pairs nested at Passage Key (RP, LH), 130 at Island 3D, 100 on the Howard Frankland Causeway, 95 in Clearwater Harbor (RP), and 100+ at Caxambas Pass near Marco (TB). None was attracted to a managed (scarified) site prepared for them in San Carlos Bay, but an unstated number nested not far away—with Least Terns, Wilson's Plovers and Black-necked Stilts—in a Ft. Myers housing development (RWR).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A pair of White-winged Doves with at least one fledged young in Martin "west of the Fla. Turnpike" in mid-June marked a new breeding locality for this spreading species (GB). Collared Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) have expanded their range in rural *Dade*, and are beginning to be seen in E.N.P. (OB). Two large Monk Parakeet nests were found on Plantation Key in July. One, in

a Norfolk Island pine, was attended by up to 14 birds including juveniles, while the other was daringly plastered to the side of a house and supported by electrical and telephone lines (KS). A Mangrove Cuckoo was seen carrying food on Summerland Key June 18 (JO). Two more were seen June 6 just s. of the Clearwater/St. Petersburg airport, a week after an earlier sighting at the same location (Paul Trunk). A pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos seen copulating near Tallahassee July 27 stimulated HS to comment the species is a late migrant, arriving in the Tally Div. as late as early July, and breeds late into the summer.

Families of Burrowing Owls in St. Lucie and Sumter in June and July, respectively, established new county breeding records (GB, DG, BP). Common Nighthawks were thought to be down in numbers in the Tally Div. (HS, Charles Watt), but on the other side of the ledger was a count of 113 in a 360° scan at the West Delray sewage ponds June 14 (PWS). Antillean Nighthawks were seen regularly at Big Pine Key during the period, with a high of six recorded July 1 (JO). Twenty-five Chimney Swifts in downtown Sarasota July 23 was a high number (EM); do they breed any farther south along the s.w. Gulf Coast?

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest next to the Corkscrew Sanctuary boardwalk apparently furnished the first confirmed Collier nesting (Greg & Paula Seamon, TB). The earliest Belted Kingfisher reported was at Hutchinson I., July 5 (JB). Two Red-headed Woodpecker nests found near Parkland, in extreme n.w. Broward, June 6 and in July, were far south for this species and the first in the county in 3 years (WG). A pair of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers was found excavating a cavity Apr. 27 in large pineland in St. Lucie newly accessible to observers, ironically, because of development (H & WD, JMB).

KINGBIRDS THROUGH THRUSHES — A drastic decline in Gray Kingbird numbers was noted at Ft. DeSoto, where LA saw just one pair all season. She suggested 2 possible causes: habitat damage from freezes in previous years, and cowbird parasitism. Fifty-six Purple Martins at Duda June 15 were the earliest migrants reported (PWS). Thousands of martins at Walt Disney World in late July were a notable aggregation (WF). Barn Swallows, uncommon breeders anywhere in Florida and newly found nesting in *Pinellas* in May (see spring report), were found nesting at 2 new localities: under a bridge along I-75 (2 nests, no date) in *Hamilton* (PDS), and just n.e. of Venice, Sarasota (a nest with five large young, June 24, in a culvert under I-75). The latter was well south of previous Florida nesting records (L & BA; photos to T.T.).

The first Broward Scrub Jay in 8 years was found June 6. It will probably also be the last, as it inhabits a relict 20 acres of scrub in Pompano Beach surrounded by housing developments (Ted Hendrickson). At least 12 Brown-headed Nuthatches found s.w. of Ft. Pierce Apr. 27 and May 18 provided the 2nd and 3rd St. Lucie records, and the first in the breeding season. They were in the same pineland as the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers noted previously (H & WD, JMB). An E. Bluebird nest found June 5 in an abandoned Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest was the first one in *Palm Beach* in 30 years (MR). A very late Swainson's Thrush was found dazed in Lake Worth June 2 (A & PW), revived, and released. Wood Thrushes appear to be increasing near Gainesville, where RN reported about 5 times as many as last year in S.F.H.S.P. American Robins in Jacksonville staged a small increase of their own, with three singing males found where one pair was known in 1984 and 1985 (Katherine Umstot).

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Gray Catbirds breed sporadically in n. Florida. At least three were found June 26 on the w. side of Lake Jackson, where they have nested previously (HS). A pair was also found in s.w. *Madison* June 21 (TM, DW), and a nest in Lake City June 11. Single, apparently early migrant, catbirds were found July 18 at a birdbath on Casey Key (S & AS) and July 27 in the Green Swamp (PT). Nesting Brown Thrashers in Key West, not content with a spring brood, produced a 2nd in July (JO). In the same de-

partment, EM reported the fledging of broods of N. Mockingbirds in her Sarasota back yard in April, May, June, and July, raising the possibility of a four-brooded pair!

As with Gray Kingbirds, Black-whiskered Vireos were considered unusually scarce at Ft. DeSoto, possibly for the same reasons (LA). A bird identified as a "Brewster's" Warbler was seen at Corkscrew July 20 (JB). Northern Parulas are among our early fall migrant warblers, and one at Hypoluxo I., June 26 was so classified (PS). But a pair feeding two young at Crowley Nature Center, Sarasota, May 17 was local, as perhaps was a N. Parula singing June 18 at Nokomis (S & AS). Single Yellow and Black-and-white warblers near Tallahassee on July 7 & 8, respectively, provided Florida's earliest fall migrant records known to HS for those species. A Worm-eating Warbler was observed foraging on the chimney of the Street Nature Center in Polk July 27 (BC). Considered a probable breeder was the Swainson's Warbler found singing June 10, 13, & 18 at S.F.H.S.P. (RN), providing the only area record for the species. The Louisiana Waterthrush is another early migrant; of three reported this year, the earliest was along the Aucilla River near U.S. 98 on July 8 (HS, TM). As last year, Yellow-breasted Chats were found singing at Paynes Prairie State Preserve in June (Craig Parenteau). At least three chats were located June 23 in second-growth pine flatwoods in *Bradford*, n.e. of Gainesville, where there had been just one previous record since 1974 (Linda Caine).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH ORIOLES — Sumter is not quite at the s. limit of breeding range for Blue Grosbeaks, but three broods found there in July were nevertheless welcome confirmation of breeding (DG, BP). Three singing Field Sparrows in s.e. *Madison* June 21 were not confirmed breeding (HS). A ♀ Bobolink at St. Marks N.W.R., June 10 was very late (RG). **Shiny Cowbirds** were again found in the Keys, with three males in Islamorada July 5 (P. William Smith, Sue Dolder). Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported from the far corners of Florida, with confirmed nestings at Paynes Prairie and S.F.H.S.P. (the host/victims were Summer Tanagers and Red-eyed Vireos, respectively; CP, JCB). The Paynes Prairie fledgling was killed on its maiden flight by a dog, * to F.S.M.! Two pairs, but no young, were seen throughout the period on Pine Island (RWR), seven were at C.S.M., July 13 (PF, Mae Hartshaw), and three—two males and a female—were at a feeder on Plantation Key June 28 (JCO). The rapid southward spread of this species, and arrival of the preceding species, should remind us all to watch for possible population declines in small passerines. A pair of Orchard Orioles was confirmed breeding in June in Orlando (ST), a slight range extension. Another individual was considered a very early migrant at the Gulf Stream Golf Course in *Palm Beach* July 29 (PWS).

CORRIGENDA — In AB 39:905, a ♀ Brown-headed Cowbird at Archbold Biological Station was the first summer area record known to FL (Fred Lohrer), not "Florida". Also, Amazon parrots reported from Tampa June 3, 1984 (AB 38:1013) as "Blue-fronted" and "Violet-crowned" Parrots are correctly the Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa* and Lilac-crowned Parrot *A. finschi*.

PARTING SHOTS — Two reports were rejected for lack of supporting evidence: three Hudsonian Godwits at Flamingo July 26, and Yellow Sparrow (*Passer luteus*) at Big Pine Key from June 4 through the end of the period. We Regional Editors necessarily accept most records on faith, but cannot do so when accidental or improbable species are reported. Unfortunately, some good information will be lost when unsupported rarities are rejected. Please submit the evidence supporting your outstanding finds to the Regional Editor, and to the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee.

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ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

The summer period was wet and cool throughout most of Ontario. From the Ottawa valley west to North Bay especially, frost and wet conditions lasting well into June took a heavy toll on insect-eating birds. Large numbers of first broods of swallows were killed in the nests, although some adults did raise a second batch. The impact on the adults is uncertain, but some were thought to have perished.

In this first year following completion of the five-year Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, field work was less intense. However, observers were active in the extreme southwest working on the Natural Areas Surveys sponsored by World Wildlife Fund Canada and many interesting discoveries were made. Extremely high water levels along the shoreline of the Great Lakes adversely affected the number of migrant waders that stopped enroute from Canada's arctic. In spite of the various handicaps, Snowy Egrets nested for the first time in Canada, and outstanding rarities included Black Vulture, Gray Kingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, and Black-throated Gray Warbler.

ABBREVIATIONS — Pelee = Point Pelee National Park & vicinity. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — The only Red-throated Loon reported was the individual rescued from a runway at the Pearson airport, Toronto, in mid-June, after which it was released at the e. Headland (GMB). The 32 young Com. Loons raised on Quetico Lake were good numbers, and 96 adults gathered on 2 other lakes in Quetico P.P., July 16 & 20 (SFP). The 10 at Morpeth, Kent, June 24 were in first-summer plumage (AW, MSG). The lone Horned Grebe in breeding plumage at Dyer's Bay, Bruce, July 6 was the only one noted (JWJ). Two Red-necked Grebes summered in L. Ontario off Mississauga (*fide* BDP) and 11 were together at Burlington June 8 (KAM). Singles appeared at Ottawa June 27 (SG *et al.*) and in the Thunder Bay harbour July 12 (NGE). The number of nests of Double-crested Cormorants on 31 colonies in the Canadian Great Lakes increased by 16%, from about 3310 in 1985 to 3850 this summer. However, this was a slower rate of increase than in recent years (DVW). The 25 nests in Hamilton Bay (LS) marked a significant increase over the 2 last year, which represented first-time breeders there.

Three nests of Least Bitterns were located in the Tiny marsh near Elmvalle during the period (DH) and three birds were killed, presumably by cars, on the road in Presqu'île P.P. (RDM). Away from their usual haunts were single Great Egrets in e. Hamilton Bay June 7 (KAM), Cranberry marsh at Whitby June 8 (MJB *et al.*), Lyal I., Bruce, June 11, perhaps the same one as at Oliphant in early July (MP), and in Ottawa July 20 (FWM). The two at Craigeleith, Grey, were last seen July 13 (RLB). The pair of **Snowy Egrets** noted in the spring report in e. Hamilton Bay nested, thereby providing Canada's first breeding record



ever. The nest contained three downy young July 6 (ph. RC, GBr). Wandering Snowies turned up in the Tiny marsh June 26 and July 1 (DH, RLB) and on Amherst I., June 30 (*fide* BMD). The only report of Little Blue Heron was from the St. Clair N.W.A., July 16 (PAW). Cattle Egret numbers were higher than in the past several summers. Two lingered on Wolfe I., May 15–June 19 (N. Eves, DMA) and two summered in e. Hamilton Bay (KAM). The others were five at Long Pt., July 6 (HGC), three in the Cranberry marsh June 15 (HGC *et al.*), and one in Ottawa June 6 (ET). Hamilton Bay's Black-crowned Night-Herons increased their nest number to 180 from the 95 in 1985 (LS).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Out-of-season Tundra Swans in the s. were two immatures in the Tiny marsh all through June (*fide* WEZ), three adults at Port Perry lagoon June 18–July 26 (MJB *et al.*), an adult in Algonquin P.P., June 17–23 for the park's 5th ever (AK *et al.*), and one at Omeme ponds July 31 (RJP). Thunder Bay's spring Greater White-fronted Goose stayed to July 19 (NGE). Extremely rare for summer in the s was the ad. Snow Goose (blue) at Morpeth June 13 (AW *et al.*) Late Brant were 35 in Ottawa June 5 (BMD), two at Virginia-town beach June 3–14 (PWR), and two on Amherst I., June 20–21 (DVW, K.F.N.). The last of the migrant Canada Geese to pass over Algonquin P.P. were seen June 18 (RGT).

The group of 360 Mallards at Pelee June 8 was the only post-breeding concentration reported (AW). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal, whose molt had begun, accompanied ♂ Blue-winged on Amherst I., July 20 (RDW). The flock of 11 Gadwall in Algonquin

P.P., July 27 (DSt) provided only the 2nd park record (RGT). Two broods of Redhead located during summer in Presqu'île P.P. (RDM) will hopefully augment the slowly-expanding breeding population at the e. end of L. Ontario. Up to 11 Greater Scaup summered in pairs at Amherst I., but without any sign of nesting (K.F.N.). The one seen in Ottawa July 13 was considered rare (BMD). Three Lessers summered at Amherst I. (K.F.N.) as did eight at Thunder Bay (NGE, IM). A lone female was in Cranberry marsh July 12–30 (MJB). The ad. ♂ Harlequin Duck in Presqu'île P.P., June 25 was out of season and had begun its molt (RDM, JMR). Late White-winged Scoters were 250 off Amherst I., June 1 (JHE) and a lone bird at Hamilton Beach June 8 (KAM). Single ♀ Buffleheads were unusual at MacGregor, Essex, June 25 (AW) and Casselman lagoons, Russell, July 3–17 (BMD, JRH et al.). The ♀ Red-breasted Merganser in Algonquin P.P., June 1 (JS) was considered a rarity for summer. Some 14 of the 27 ad. Ruddy Ducks reported summered in the Casselman lagoons (BMD) and five summered in the Long Pt. area (MEG). Two were in Cranberry marsh June 7–11 (fide MJB), four were in the Blenheim ponds July 8–18 (AW, MSG), and a pair in the Alfred lagoon, Prescott, July 5 had five chicks (CH).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — The Black Vulture at Long Pt., July 2–3 (AW, AWM et al.) was Ontario's 8th since 1961 and 5th since 1980 as this species' status in the province appears to be changing. Turkey Vulture numbers were up in North Bay during the summer (RT), and the one at Matachewan June 15 was a first there (LT). Nesting Ospreys were reportedly doing well at Quetico, where at least 5 nests fledged young (SFP), in Peterborough also with 5 nests (DCS), and in Muskoka and Parry Sound where 4 new nests placed on abandoned hydro poles and posts produced young (TDM). Other successful nests reported included 11 of Bald Eagle, 6 of Cooper's Hawk, and 8 of Merlin. The pair of Red-tailed Hawks that raised young in Presqu'île P.P. established a first park nesting (C.W.S., RDM, JMR). Single Peregrine Falcons were at Barrow Bay, Bruce, July 5 (TP) and in Quetico P.P., July 18 (DTF). Another summered around the high-rise buildings in downtown Ottawa (BMD).

Based upon several visits this summer to Walpole I., the area remains one of best sites in Ontario for concentrations of N. Bobwhites (YRT, SAC, CS). The species was reported from 4 other sites, 2 of which were in the Long Pt. area (MEG, DAS). One pair at Melbourne June 15 was with 12 young (DM) and a single was heard at Blenheim July 25 (KJB). Several families of King Rails were seen on Walpole I. (CS, PAW) through summer, although their numbers were unusually low on nearby Squirrel I. (YRT, SAC). Individual Kings were seen in the Long Pt. area to mid-June (L.P.B.O.) and one was heard in the Cranberry marsh in late June (JL). The 20 broods of Am. Coot in



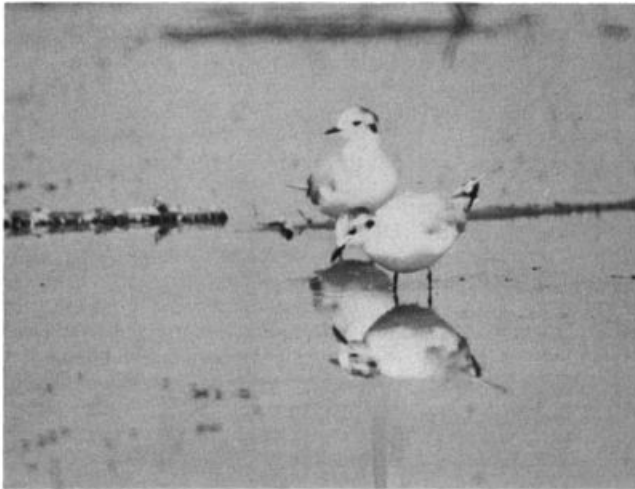
Two Sandhill Cranes at Ottawa, Ont., July 17, 1986. Photo/B.M. Di Labio.

the Townsend sewage lagoon in the period were a good count (MEG). One pair of Sandhill Cranes was found again in central Bruce July 3 (MP) and two were near Ottawa June 23–July 17 (ph. MGo).

SHOREBIRDS — One Piping Plover in e. Hamilton Bay June 1–2 was the area's first since 1975 (JK, LM, RS et al.), but the species nested successfully at a site on Lake-of-the-Woods (TM). Stragglers in the poor spring flight of Whimbrels included 16 in Oshawa June 1 (GAS, DB, MC) and singles at Darlington Park June 3 (MJB) and Toronto's e. Headland June 15 (EJ). Late migrant waders were a Ruddy Turnstone on Amherst I., June 20 (K.F.N.), a Red Knot at Sudbury June 15 (JGL)—although 22 had been in Ottawa June 1 (BMD), five Sanderlings and five Semipalmated Sandpipers at Long Pt., June 19 (AW, MF), and two Short-billed Dowitchers in Hamilton Bay June 7 (KAM et al.). The White-rumped Sandpiper flight in June was heavy with 141+ reports. They were headed by 43 at the Ridgetown and Blenheim ponds (AW), 16 at Pelee (AW), 13 at Sudbury (JCN) and seven at Thunder Bay (NGE)—all June 13! Two northbound Red-necked Phalaropes were in the Almonte lagoon June 1–2 (VBL et al.), but it is uncertain which way the lone male was headed that appeared in the Casselman lagoon, Russell, June 26 (BMD).

Southbound shorebirds encountered extremely high water levels along the Great Lakes, and only a few sewage ponds were with exposed muddy areas. Nevertheless, the chronology of their first arrivals was documented nicely. Four migrant Spotted Sandpipers were early at Pelee June 24 (AW, MSG). Movement of Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitchers was widespread by June 26, 28, & 30, respectively. A Stilt Sandpiper arrived at Ridgetown ponds July 4 (AW, MSG), another at Cranberry marsh July 6 (MJB et al.), and 10 were in the Wawanosh wetland, Lambton, by month's end (DFR). An ad. Black-bellied Plover appeared at Long Pt., July 6 along with Greater Yellowlegs (AJ). The Greater Yellowlegs at Kingston the same day was an earliest-ever arrival (K.F.N.). At Presqu'île P.P., the returning Ruddy Turnstones July 13 were only 28 days after the area's last spring migrant (RDM). More than usual numbers for the month were the ♂ Red-necked Phalarope at Port Perry July 19 (MJB) and four in Ottawa July 26 (BMD). Whimbrels numbered nine and 14 in Ottawa July 20 & 26 (BMD), and single W. Sandpipers were near Kingston July 20–22 (JHE, RDW) and Port Perry July 23 (MPW), after which two were found in the Wawanosh wetland July 30 (DFR). The only Long-billed Dowitcher reports were of single adults in the Cranberry marsh July 23–26 (JMS, MJB) and at Ottawa July 28–29 for a first July record there (BMD et al.). The first migrant Baird's Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were reported at Thunder Bay July 25 (NGE). One day later a heavy grounding of waders occurred at Ottawa consisting of two Hudsonian Godwits in alternate plumage, a first ever in July (CH, TH), 22 Red Knots, 1100 Semipalmated Sandpipers, a Baird's, and as noted above, Whimbrels (BMD).

GULLS, TERNS — An ad. Laughing Gull at Long Pt., June 2 furnished the only sighting of the period (DOL). The ad. Franklin's at Ottawa June 5 was thought to have lingered from May (MG). Summering Little Gulls included two immatures in Ottawa, which molted into their 2nd-winter plumage (ph. BMD et al.), nine immatures in Cranberry marsh (MJB), and three adults with two flying juveniles at Bassett I., L. St. Clair, July 14–21 (fide DFR, MPW). A lone adult appeared at Presqu'île P.P., July 31 (RJP, BMD). One ad. Com. Black-headed Gull was in L. Ontario just off the Cranberry marsh July 1 (DVR) where 200+ Bonaparte's spent the summer (MJB). The first migrant ad. Bonaparte's were detected at Long Pt., July 16 (AW, AJ) and Pelee July 25 (AW, MSG). The tenacious Ring-billed attempted nesting again at the Nepean dump only to be ploughed under again (BMD). The Vaughan dump at Maple hosted an ad. Iceland Gull June 12 and an imm. Glaucous Gull July 3 (GMB). The pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Oliphant in

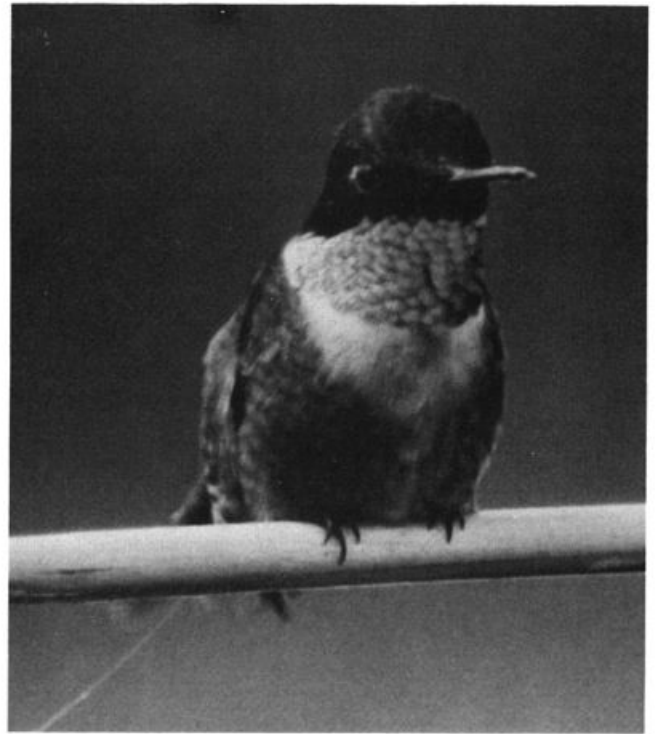


Two Little Gulls in first-summer plumage (one year old) at Ottawa, Ont., July 16, 1986. Photo/B.M. Di Labio.

early July (MP) showed no signs of nesting, but observers eagerly await Ontario's first nest of this European species. Great Black-backed Gull nesting was confirmed at Presqu'île P.P. One pair laid 2 eggs and another was seen with three young (C.W.S., RDM, JMR). An ad. Herring x Great Black-backed hybrid was found at Port Stanley July 4 (AW). Hamilton's 2nd new nesting species of this summer was the Caspian Tern, with 45 nests counted July 6 (RC, GBr). Some 35 nests of Com. Terns were flooded out at Presqu'île P.P., June 22 (RDM), and high water levels discouraged their nesting at Kettle Pt. (AHR). Spring migration of Arctic Terns at Ottawa continued to June 16, with 12 of the 14 sightings June 1-3 (BMD et al.). Two at Long Pt., June 13 were the first ever there (MT). In the Walpole I. marshes, 210 nests of Forster's Terns were tallied in early June (DVW); the only sightings of this species away from the extreme s.w. were of two adults and one immature in Cranberry marsh June 8-July 17 (MJB, TS).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Black-billed Cuckoos were plentiful in e. Ontario from Frontenac and Leeds (areas of heavy infestation by Gypsy Moths), to Presqu'île P.P., in Lambton and the extreme southwest. However, Yellow-billedes were reported to be very scarce nearly everywhere. An influx of both species was detected in the Long Pt. area during mid-July (MEG). Young E. Screech-Owls, always tough to find, were discovered in nests at Wiarton and Shallow Lake during the period (JWJ, DF). Late spring migrants were the 35 Com. Nighthawks at Sudbury June 8 (JCN), but it is unclear whether the 100+ feeding together at Matachewan July 26 were in early autumn movement (LT). The usual reports of Chuck-will's-widows, involving four birds, came from the Long Pt. area (TM, BF) and Rondeau P.P. (PAW). Nesting success of Whip-poor-wills in Lambton was poor (SAC). The ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at the e. gate of Algonquin P.P. lingered July 30-Aug. 4 and defended its newly-found feeder against seven Ruby-throateds (FH, MR, RGT). It was the 3rd in the past 2 years, a much higher rate of occurrence than is normal. The first Belted Kingfishers to nest within Pt. Pelee N.P., which were reported this spring, failed to raise young because their sand pile was disturbed (AW).

A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers raised young just w. of Whitby (ph. EP), at the e. edge of the range; one adult n. of Kingston June 21 (LSW) showed no sign of a nearby nest. Within the heart of the species' Ontario range, it was widespread and numerous in dry woods along the Thames R. from Bothwell, Kent, into Elgin (AW) and uncommon in the clay plain of Haldimand (MEG). Three new sites containing 4 territories for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in e. Elgin (AW). The lone ♀ Three-toed Woodpecker in Algonquin P.P., July 12 was rare for the season (JZ). A nest with 3 eggs of Black-backed



Male Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Forest, Ont., July 1986. Photo/A.H. Rider.

Woodpeckers near Apsley spilled when its tree blew over (J. Scott), but another in Quetico P.P., June 28 held young (SFP). Three birds were in Petroglyphs P.P., July 25, but their ages were not reported (JM).

The last of the northbound and the first of the southbound migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported from Pelee June 15 and Long Pt., July 15, respectively (AW). Acadian Flycatchers were located at 2 new sites in London June 27 and Wallacetown July 24 (AW). Reports from established areas include 3 sites in the Long Pt. area (DAS, MEG), Rondeau P.P. (PAW), 2 sites in Kent (WL, AW), and on Walpole I. (CS). Nesting E. Phoebes were fewer in Middlesex (DM), and no Great Crested Flycatchers were found in the Thunder Bay area where common last summer (NGE). A juv. Gray Kingbird at Pelee July 26 was nicely described (AW) and was Ontario's 3rd ever. Previous sightings occurred in 1970 and 1982. The swallow roost discovered last autumn at Kingston has been censused regularly, and numbers increased to 225,000 by July 31 (K.F.N.). Farther n., in areas from Ottawa to Kirkland Lake and Matachewan, cold weather in June resulted in heavy casualties to nesting Tree Swallows. Reduced numbers of swallows in the Pembroke roost during July were thought to be a consequence (WC). Cliff Swallows were in greatly increased numbers at Ingersoll, Kingston, Prince Edward, and 150+ were flying S near Sudbury July 31 (JCN).

RAVENS THROUGH VIREOS — The Com. Raven at St. Williams, near Long Pt., July 19-20 was s. of range (L.P.B.O.). Tufted Titmouse nesting was confirmed on Walpole I. (CS), and at Niagara-on-the-Lake June 26 when four young fledged, but one of the parents died 7 days later (MD). New breeding locations were discovered in Elgin for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and Golden-crowned Kinglet at 2, 4, and 2 new sites respectively (AW). Carolina Wrens continued their recovery, and the 11 sightings were more than during any summer of the 1980s. How many of these entered Ontario from breeding areas farther s. is unknown. Single juveniles were at Pelee June 21 and July 24 (AW, GTH), and a juvenile accompanied an adult at Thamesville July 29 (AW). Three were banded July 29-30 at Long Pt., where at least two others were

seen June 17–July 17 (MF, GH, L P B O) Singles were at Ingersoll July 19 and Rondeau P.P., July 20 (DBu, PT). The House Wren singing on territory at North Bay this summer was the area's first in several years (BR). Three nests of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found at Port Glasgow June 1 (WR) and another was found in Pickering June 4 (MW, KQ). Ottawa's first-ever nest (found this spring) failed, owing to the cold, wet weather of early June. Two dead, but nearly fledged young and 2 eggs were in the nest June 16 (BMD). Five adults at Marmora, Hastings, June 28 (AGC, DCS, TB) were surprising.

Nest box programs for E. Bluebirds continued to pay off. Some 43 pairs nested in the Lucknow area of Huron and Bruce (JBM), and a new project at Matachewan attracted 15 pairs, with eggs and young by late July (LT). The ♂ Mountain Bluebird paired with an Eastern at Port Stanley was still present July 31 (AW). A record-late spring migrant Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Pelee June 8 (AW) and the first southward migrant reported was at Pickering July 22 (JMS). Early Swainson's Thrush movement is normal, as banding studies have shown, and birds were noted over widespread areas of the s. beginning with one at Long Pt., July 15 (AW *et al.*). Ontario's Breeding Bird Atlas work has shown the importance of reforested areas for a number of breeding species, including Hermit Thrush, s. of their 'normal' range. This species was widespread in the reforested areas near Burnley, Northumberland, this summer (BCO), and 2 territories were discovered near Eden, Elgin, July 3, first breeding sites for the county (AW). The only reports of N. Mockingbird away from the s. were of singles at Matachewan June 1 (LT) and Thunder Bay June 13 (NGE, BA). The Water Pipit near Bright's Grove July 27 was remarkably early (SAC). Successful nests of Loggerhead Shrike numbered 5, 3 of which were at Kingston (PG, K.F.N.), one of the last strongholds of the species in the province. The 4th was near Richmond (CH, TH) and the 5th at Kirkfield, Victoria (AGC). Other birds were at Cobden, Renfrew (CM), Red Bay, Bruce (MP), and 2 more Kingston sites (K.F.N.). Two Solitary Vireos were singing on territory at Burnley June 29–July 4 (BCO) as was another at Eden June 20 for Elgin's first in summer (AW).

WARBLERS — Some interesting finds of breeding warblers resulted from the Natural Areas Surveys in the extreme southwest. At least 40 pairs of Blue-winged Warblers were breeding on the Moravian Indian Reserve, Kent (AW). Rare for Elgin in summer were a territorial Nashville Warbler at Port Burwell July 15, a Black-throated Blue at Richmond July 18, Black-throated Greens at 4 county sites, and Blackburnians at 2 new sites (AW). Two ♂ Black-and-white Warblers at Bothwell, Kent, June 4 & 24 (MSG) were rare for summer. Louisiana Waterthrushes were found breeding at 7 new Elgin sites (AW) and were common along watercourse ravines in the Long Pt. area (MEG). Six pairs were confirmed breeding in Middlesex (WR). A ♂ Kentucky Warbler summered at Vanessa, near Long Pt., for the 2nd consecutive year (JDM). At least 27 pairs of Hoodeds were on territory near Long Pt. (MEG). They were also found at 5 new Elgin sites (AW) and on the Moravian Indian Reserve, Kent, July 10 (AW, MSG). One male was n. of Burlington July 9–13 (MWJ).

Elsewhere, the ♂ Blue-winged Warbler in Algonquin P.P., June 5 provided a first park record (JS, DJM) and one "Brewster's" summered near North Bay (RT). Nesting Tennessees were fewer at Atikokan, coincident with the drop in spruce budworm infestation (SFP), and males were singing on territory near St. Williams June 25 (L.P.B.O.) and at Burnley June 30–July 1 (BCO). The outstanding warbler sighting was of the ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Whitby June 16–17 (MJB *et al.*). This was Ontario's 5th since 1979. One pair of Prairie Warblers nested successfully at Nephton, Peterborough, a new location (G & RCr). Five males summered in the Long Pt. area (MEG) and singles were at Pelee June 18 (GTH *et al.*) and at CFB Ipperwash in June (MPW). The pair of Cerulean Warblers feeding young in Pelee June 22 provided the first confirmed breeding there (AW) and a male appeared at Burnley in early July (BCO).

Migrant Tennessees were at Presqu'ile P.P. and Pelee from July 6 (RDM, AW), and the lone Yellow-rumped Warbler at Pelee July 27 was a record-early arrival (AW *et al.*). Early migrant Bay-breasted and a N. Waterthrush were at Long Pt., July 15 (AW), where one Worm-eating was banded June 1 for a first occurrence in June (JC). Wainfleet's ♂ Yellow-breasted Chat returned for the month of June (MEF).

DICKCISSEL THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ Dickcissel sang on territory at Inverary, near Kingston, June 17–19, until its lush clover field was cut (DJM *et al.*), for the first in summer there since 1972. Clay-colored Sparrows were at Burnley in new plantings at several locations (BCD) and at 2 new sites near Kingston (RDW). Ten and 4 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows were on territory in June at Kilworth and Fanshawe respectively (DAM) and another was n. at Sudbury June 15 (JGL). One pair of Henslow's was found at a new site on Walpole I (CS) and the species summered near Shelburne (TS). Seven Le Conte's Sparrows were tallied June 13–July 1 at Thunder Bay, where the species appears to be a common breeder (NGE). Single White-throated Sparrows were at Pelee June 8–22, where the species is not known to nest (AW), and on territory at Jaffa, Elgin, June 10 (AW). The ad. White-crowned Sparrow banded at Lively June 29 lingered until July 5 (JGL). Several reports of summering Dark-eyed Juncos were remarkably far south. Their breeding near Long Pt. was confirmed by an adult feeding young at St. Williams (AJ), and an adult was found at another site nearby (JDM). The junco at Presqu'ile P.P., June 8–11 (TD, JD) led observers to suspect breeding, and singles were at Oshawa June 11 (DVR). Bothwell June 24 (AW, MSG), and Erie Beach June 30 (KJB).

Migrating Bobolinks were detected passing S over the York region in early July (GMB). Noteworthy W. Meadowlarks were singles at Oshawa to June 14 (HGC, DVR), Pelee's Onion Fields June 8 (AW), and Vaughan July 15 (GMB). The only Brewer's Blackbird reported out of place was the single at Brighton June 21 (HS). Successful nests of Orchard Orioles were noted near Port Stanley (ADS, MSS) and Fingal (RJK), both June 29, and Toronto's High Park (GC). The first-year male at Ottawa June 14–17 was the area's 5th ever (ph. RB *et al.*). Five of the six at Pelee July 6 were flying off the tip of the point, and the 40 there July 27 were mostly juveniles (AW *et al.*). Some 26 House Finches were also flying off Pelee's tip July 6 (AW). Observers reported a continued spread of this species through s. Ontario. Numbers rose in Ottawa (BMD) and breeding was confirmed at Meaford, Owen Sound, and Kincardine (TM). A few Red Crossbills were at Red Bay June 28 (TP) and in Algonquin P.P., July 7–31 (RGT), and one was in Thunder Bay July 27 (NGE). However, 10–50 per day were noted in Bon Echo P.P., July 27–30 (AGC). White-wingeds were scarcer. The single and two in Algonquin P.P., June 30 and Aug. 2 (MR, AGC) plus the four in Bon Echo P.P., July 30 (AGC), were the only reports. A few Pine Siskins bred at Sudbury during June (JCN) and by the end of July, they became common in Algonquin P.P. (RGT). The ♂ Evening Grosbeak in Pelee June 30 provided the park's first summer record (JLa) and the pair at Kleinburg July 22 (GMB) furnished the only other report from the south.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

Douglas P. Kibbe

Last summer marked the completion of the Region's breeding bird atlassing efforts. Judging from the dearth of reports received this season, most observers took advantage of the respite by vacationing out of state, hopefully in New Hampshire or Pennsylvania where atlas projects are still ongoing. Significant field work was carried out, however, particularly on Little Galloo and the Lake Champlain islands.

Vivian Pitzrick again documented over 500 nests of 50 species for Cornell's nest record card program, thereby setting a standard to which we should all aspire. Although landbird nesting activity otherwise drew little hard scrutiny, general observations indicated that many species got an early start, presumably because of the mild spring. The summer was, in contrast to last, extremely wet with significant rainfall, usually several times a week. Whether this precipitation affected productivity remains a mystery given the low level of observer activity and the difficulty in tracking brood survival. Inclement weather immediately post-fledging, when parental protection is waning or absent, may constitute a major mortality factor for young birds. If so, the hatching-year class may appear in diminished numbers this fall at coastal banding localities and local breeding populations may be down next year (if mortality is not density-dependent).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL — While non-breeding Com. Loons may appear anywhere in the Region during the summer, a concentration of six on Hemlock Lake in mid-June was worthy of passing notice. In Vermont, 12 nesting pairs produced 17 chicks (V.I.N.S.). Pied-billed Grebes remained very scarce, some of Vermont's most active observers missing them completely. The growth of the Region's Double-crested Cormorant population has been little short of phenomenal. On Little Galloo, 1468 nests were tallied (H.P.A.S.), an increase of 100% over 1984. Figures for Four Brothers Islands indicate a similar or greater rate of growth. Cormorants apparently started nesting there in 1984 when 22 nests were found. Last year the population stood at 80 nesting pairs (contra AB 39:909), and this summer swelled to 110 nesting pairs, while dozens more looked on.

Once again Least Bittern reports outnumbered those of Am. Bitterns. While the assumption is that fewer observers bother to report the American, both species have experienced population declines, and all sightings should be submitted if future trends are to be tracked. Up to a half dozen Great Egrets frequented Iroquois N.W.R. but no evidence of breeding was discerned. The species has been an incipient colonizer, if not actual breeder, in the Region for several decades and careful monitoring of Great Blue Heron colonies will doubtless eventually reveal nesting. Although Cattle Egrets no longer breed on Four Brothers Islands, they presumably still nest on Young



Island. There was an unconfirmed report of about 20 near Greece (G.O.S.), but nesting in w. New York is still undocumented. With the exception of an imm. Little Blue Heron at Buffalo there was no influx of southern herons. Their absence was more remarkable given the drought in the Southeast, since water (food?) shortages are often given as the factor responsible for extralimital wandering in long-legged waders.

Mute Swans bred again at Perch River W.M.A. (LC). Tracking this species' expansion would make a fascinating population dynamics study for someone with years to devote to such endeavors. Long well-established along the upper mid-Atlantic coast, its range expansion into our Region has proceeded at a snail's pace. A wayward Brant spent late June on Cayuga L. (C.B.C). Broods of Am. Wigeon near Buffalo (B.O.S.) and Carlton (G.O.S.) were considered notable, at least in the absence of more exotic sightings.

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS — Almost no reports were received of the nesting success of Osprey, Bald Eagle, or Peregrine Falcon in the Region. Hopefully, no news is good news. The Osprey nest at Perch River W.M.A. blew over but Bald Eagles fledged two young in Jefferson County (LC). Gallinaceous birds, as usual, drew little attention. The Northern Bobwhite in Wayne County (CC) was considered a probable escape, and one heard near Caneadea (EB) was also suspect. Only one Gray Partridge was seen, near Moira, N.Y. (TM, BH). Wild Turkeys were still expanding while Ring-necked Pheasants continue at low numbers. Rails were virtually unreported and elicited no comments. Summer records of Yellow Rails are still sought by this writer, one of the last remaining optimists thinking that this species may breed in the Region.

Even the shorebird migration, normally a mainstay of birders' late-summer reflection, was below par (in the opinion of some "the worst ever"). High waters flooded many traditional concentration points but created a mosaic of muddy fields over which birds dispersed. Despite conditions that should have induced occasional fallouts, only average numbers were recorded. Local nesting activity has been, at best, only sporadically monitored, even among conspicuous species like the Upland Sandpiper, which has rigid habitat requirements and a

strong tendency to return to traditional breeding grounds. This summer's best Upland counts were of 17 at Monroe County airport (ST) and 14 at Hamlin (WS). Another traditional colony on Pt. Breeze declined from a dozen pairs in past years to one pair (R.B.A.). It is unfortunate that more colonies are not monitored annually, since the species has been a candidate for the Blue List and various state lists. No evidence of possible breeding by Wilson's Phalaropes was reported. Whether the absence of sightings reflects a decline in actual occurrence or in observer activity remains problematic. The only rarity reported before the close of the season was a Whimbrel at King Ferry July 19 (PM).

Although summer is traditionally the slack season for gull enthusiasts, this was the slowest in memory. An imm. Glaucous Gull at Rochester in mid-June was the closest observers could come to a rarity. The propensity of terns to abruptly abandon or establish breeding colonies is well known. This knowledge scarcely prepared observers for sudden appearance of a colony of 112 **Caspian Terns** on Little Galloo I., N.Y. This rapid colonization was all the more remarkable in that it represented the first nesting by this species in the Region. News from Vermont was less heartening. Although about 100 pairs of Common Terns attempted to nest on 3 islands in L. Champlain, only three young fledged (V.I.N.S.).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — Although Old World European cuckoos exemplify highly-evolved nest parasitism, North Americans are seldom fortunate enough to find evidence of avian cuckoldry since only the Yellow-billed and Black-billed exhibit such behavior, and then only rarely. A Field Sparrow nest parasitized by a Black-billed Cuckoo in Allegany County was unsuccessful (VP), but its doubtful parasitism played a part in the failure. The Com. Raven at Hamlin Beach S.P., June 4 (MR) was, presumably, a late migrant. It would not be astonishing, however, given the resourcefulness of corvids, to find this species breeding anywhere in the Region in the future, if the current population increase continues. Tufted Titmice, also resourceful expanders, attended a hummingbird feeder in Henderson (LC), near the edge of their current range. Three colonies of Sedge Wrens were reported, two near Rochester (R.B.A.) and the 3rd near Fredonia (TM). Although many observers bemoan this species' apparent scarcity, few spend the necessary time searching unmown hayfields in June required to discover this interesting recluse. No new Loggerhead Shrike nest sites were reported despite increased interest in the status of this species in the Northeast.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Except for the Yellow-throated Warbler that continued at Allegany S.P. (TM), the warbler world yielded no real notables. Much the same could be said for the sparrow and finch picture. No cones were present to induce "winter" finches south to breed, and few observers were afield to track the tribulations of more traditional nesters. Despite this, accounts of Henslow Sparrow colonies were up. A singing male at South Londondery in mid-June (WN) lent hope that the species still breeds in Vermont. On the down side was the disappearance of the Clay-colored Sparrow from its traditional (breeding?) area near Fredonia (TM). It took an observer familiar with the species in w. New York to discover an apparent migrant near Rochester. It has been this editor's long-standing contention that Clay-colored Sparrows may be rare but regular summer visitors/breeders in abandoned fields and orchards along the shores of the Great Lakes. Orchard Orioles continue to breed in the Lake Champlain valley and may in time become widespread in that area which, ostensibly at least, appears to offer abundant suitable habitat. House Finches, already pests at seed feeders, were frequenting a hummingbird feeder in Henderson (LC); what's next?

S.A.

The final report is, regrettably, of a flock of approximately 20 pairs of European Goldfinches released somewhere in Delaware County, N.Y., in mid-July (*vide* D.O.A.S.) by a less-than-enlightened individual from New York City. Apparently an effort to establish a viable nesting colony similar to the one once established on Long Island, this illegal endeavor deserves as much accolade as bygone efforts to introduce the European Starling and House Sparrow.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It was a season of contrasts. In the south and east of the main mountains the drought continued, with Knoxville getting only 1.8 inches of rain in June and 1.9 in July, but northward and westward rainfall was more normal with Pittsburgh reporting 10.90 inches for the period, an excess of 3.6 inches, and Youngstown, Ohio, reporting 18.97 inches for the two months. June temperatures were about normal but July was unusually warm.

The drought and high temperatures probably caused nest failures, but if so this was not widely reported. Food crops may not have been up to normal even where the rainfall was adequate.

The Breeding Bird Atlas projects continue to produce range expansions, but also this work is showing that some

species are more common than had been thought. This is especially true for some of the grassland sparrows.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., Pa.; Ch.N.F. = Chattahoochee Nat'l. Forest, Ga.; G.R.W.A. = Grand River Wildlife Area, Trumbull Co., O.; G.S.M.N.P. = Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l. Park; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pa.; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., Pa. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — As usual a few Com. Loons remained in the Region in early June, but the birds at Tellico L., Tenn., June 28 (FB), and in Amherst, Va., July 22 (BP) were more unusual. The spring report commented on the increased number of reports of Double-crested Cormorants. There were 7 reports for this summer season, ranging from n. Pennsylvania to w. Tennessee. Most of these were of late stragglers in the first week of June, but sightings June 14 in *Lycoming*, Pa. (SS),

and July 24 in Wood, W. Va. (JE), were quite late. There is as yet no evidence of nesting in the Region.

Least Bitterns nested in the G.R.W.A. (CB), and their presence in early July at P.I.S.P. suggested breeding there (JM, SSt). A late season count of the heronries in Mercer, Pa., showed 588 adult and subad. Great Blue Herons and 537 fledglings (EB). There were 2 nest sites in Washington, O., one with 2 nests and one with 10+ nests (LR). There was about the normal number of reports of Great Egrets in the latter part of the season, but only 2 reports of Little Blue Herons, in Murray, Ga., July 20 (HD) and Clinton, Tenn., July 23 to end (LF). No reports of Snowy Egrets were received. A Cattle Egret at Waterford, Pa., June 27 provided the first summer record there (BM *et al.*). A new colony of 50+ nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons was located near Pigeon Forge, Tenn. (JH), while adults with young were found in Bridgewater, Va. (R.B.C.) and at Austin Springs, Tenn. (RK). Adult and imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen near Waynesboro, Va. (JHi), and at 2 new locations near Elizabethtown, Tenn., where the known nesting site successfully produced young (GE). A White Ibis was seen at the Eagle Brand Fish Hatchery, Tenn., from July 7 to the end of the period (LF).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A straggling Tundra Swan was seen in Centre, Pa., in early June (TS) and another remained there all season (MW). Mute Swans were reported from Conneaut Marsh, Pa., June 5 (ML, RFL) and from Colyer L., Centre, Pa. (JP). Canada Geese continue to spread and to nest in places where they were previously unknown: Elizabethton, Tenn. (first nesting in memory—GE), and 85 adults and goslings at L. Chatuge, Ga. (AG). There were few reports of nesting ducks. Blue-winged Teal nested in Bath, Va. (R.B.C.), and Hooded Mergansers nested in Fulton, Pa. (KG), and were seen June 4 at Caledonia S.P., Pa. (JW). Other summer sightings of unusual waterfowl were of an imm. ♂ Com. Goldeneye at P.I.S.P., July 17 (JM) and 23 Red-breasted Mergansers at Kinzua Dam, Pa., July 15 (TG).

No Black Vultures were seen this season at Dalton, Ga. (HD), but the N movement continued with a sighting in Mifflin, Pa., June 22 (TS). Ospreys were more commonly reported than usual. There were 7 nests on Watts Bar L., Tenn., and one on Chickamauga L., Tenn. (EBE). In addition to the Bald Eagle nestings reported in the spring, the pair at Mosquito L., O., raised two young (CB). Other summer sightings were at Kinzua Res., Pa. (fide WH), Crooked Creek Res., Pa. (fide PH), French Creek, Pa. (RFL, ML), L. Moomau, all summer (YL), Norris L., Tenn. (JH), and Murray, Ga. (MC). Northern Harriers continued to be reported from the strip mine areas of s.w. Pennsylvania, which supply a suitable nesting habitat where none existed before. Other reports came from Crawford, Pa. (RFL), and Belmont and Muskingum, O. (MG). Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks were generally in low numbers, and for the 3rd year in a row the N. Goshawk did not nest at Laurel Hill near P.N.R. (RCL). Several observers commented on the scarcity of Red-shouldered Hawks. Most unusual was a Golden Eagle seen in Centre, Pa., June 11 (DB).

A Peregrine Falcon was reported from Bath, Va., July 28 (LT). A nest-box project for Am. Kestrels at Warren, Pa., had 22 out of 27 boxes occupied, and 17 boxes fledged 68 young (WH).

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS — At the Ch.N.F., Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkeys, and N. Bobwhites all were in good numbers (HD). Bobwhites are gradually recovering in the n., and turkeys seem common everywhere. No Ring-necked Pheasants have been released in Tennessee for 15 years, so where did the bird seen in Claiborne (GM) come from?

At least one of the Black Rails reported from Centre, Pa., was thought to have been present there throughout the period (JP). A Virginia Rail with a chick was seen in Belmont, O., June 4 (MG) and the species was present at L. Somerset, Pa. (RFL, RM), and Fairbrook Marsh, Centre, Pa. (JP), all season.



Soras were also present all season at these latter 2 places, as well as at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa. (JP). Common Moorhens nested at L. Somerset, Pa., for the first local record (TM), and at G.R.W.A. (CB). They were also seen in Blount, Tenn., until June 14, leaving after cows destroyed the vegetation at the pond (PHA), and at Toftrees Pond, Centre, Pa., through July (HH).

As usual there were a few shorebirds in the Region in early June, and the S migration started as early as July 10. By late July most areas had a smattering of the commoner species but there were rather few rarities reported. The more unusual species were: Black-bellied Plover at Roanoke, Va., July 27 (MD); Willet at P.I.S.P., June 23 (DS) (which way was he going?) and July 16 (JM, LS); Whimbrel, four at P.I.S.P., July 16 (JM, LS); Red Knot at P.I.S.P., July 16 (somewhat early) (JM); Sand-erling at B.E.S.P., July 23 (GZ); White-rumped Sandpiper at Kingston Steam Plant, Tenn., June 2 (RC), Murray, Ga., June 5 (HD), and B.E.S.P., June 6-7 (GB, DB); Short-billed Dowitcher at B.E.S.P., June 6 (DB); Com. Snipe at Jennerstown, Pa., mid-June (nesting?) (RM); Wilson's Phalarope at Roanoke July 10-12 (MD *et al.*); and Red-necked Phalarope in Murray, Ga., June 3 (HD).

A new nesting site for Upland Sandpiper was located near Edinburg, Va. (R.B.C.), and the species nested at Champion, O. (fide CB), and Somerset, Pa. (RM). Other summer sightings came from Centre, Pa., June 1 (JP *et al.*), Roanoke Airport, all July (BK), and 3 locations in Garrett, Md. (RR).

A subad. Laughing Gull was at B.E.S.P., June 8, for the 7th local record (DB). A Bonaparte's Gull at Pymatuning L., Pa., June 14 was unusual (RFL). A few Ring-billed Gulls had remained at Pymatuning L. through June, but by the end of July about 300 were present (RFL). One was seen at Norris L., Tenn., July 20 (CN) and a Herring Gull remained at Watauga L., Tenn., until June 7 (GE). Caspian Terns were at B.E.S.P., June 2 (DB) & 6 (TS, GB). A late Com. Tern was at Pymatuning L., Pa., June 14 (RFL) and a Forster's Tern was at Watauga L., July 27 (GE). Black Terns were at Pymatuning June 14 & 15 (RFL, ML).

DOVES TO SWALLOWS — A Ringed Turtle-Dove was seen near Salisbury, Pa., June 8 (RH). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were as usual in good numbers at some places and in low numbers elsewhere. Most encouraging was the report from 6 locations of Com. Barn-Owls, although only 2 nest sites were found at Elizabethton, Tenn., where 5-6 had been present in recent years (GE). The seldom-reported Long-eared Owl was found nesting in Gilmer, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.). Northern Saw-whet Owls were still present in Centre, Pa., through the summer

but became difficult to find once calling ceased. Reports also came from Atlassers in Somerset and Fayette, Pa. (*vide* RCL, RM).

Whip-poor-wills continued to decline at most places but the Chuck-will's-widow continued to expand northward. Reports of the latter came from Armstrong, Pa., where four singing males were present (R & MH), Augusta, Va., in July (YL), Montgomery, Va., in June (TJ), and in late June they were numerous at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE). All reporters commented on an unusual number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. This may have been owing in part to the increased use of hummingbird feeders in the Region, but even granting that it is probable that numbers were above normal.

A new site for Red-headed Woodpeckers in Rockingham, Va., brought the total of sites to 6 in that area (R.B.C.). Two nestings were located in Washington, O. (LR), and other sightings were from Oakland, Md., June 7 (RR), Whitfield, Ga. (HD), and Blount, Tenn. (PHA). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, which have almost disappeared as breeding birds in the s. Appalachians, were reported from Reddish Knob, Va., July 20 (R.B.C.) and from Allegheny Mt., Highland, Va., June 12 (LT). Hairy Woodpeckers were thought to be declining at Pittsburgh (PH) but no other reporter commented on them. Four Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were observed July 4 at an active hole in Laurel, Ky. (EN).

The only report of Olive-sided Flycatcher came from Cranberry Glades, W. Va., June 17 (GBr). An early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at P.N.R., July 24 (RCL, RM). Alder Flycatchers were reported from as far s. as the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina, with 3 nests found (R & JY), and 2-3 pairs were on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE). In the n. they nested at G.R.W.A. (CB) and were doing well in much of Pennsylvania (PH, DBr). Willow Flycatchers were as far s. as the Hiwasee River Area in Meigs, Tenn. (CN), and Campbell, Tenn. (JH), both first county breeding season records, and one was in Cade's Cove, G.S.M.N.P. (KGr). Least Flycatchers were out of the normal range in Morgan and Muskingum, O. (MG), and Black Mt., Ky. (EN).

None of the Purple Martins "hacked" at Ligonier, Pa., last year returned to nest there, but efforts to restore this colony continue (RCL, RM). At Clarksville, Pa., martins had their best year since the 1972 hurricane with 12 pairs nesting (RB). Tree Swallows nested at Austin Springs, Tenn. (GE), and the Operation Bluebird boxes in Warren, Pa., had a 35% increase in Tree Swallow nesting success (WH), but at least 2 nesting attempts near Waynesboro, Va., were unsuccessful (RS). A new colony of Bank Swallows with 30 nests was found in Botetourt, Va. (BK), and the species nested at Boaz, W. Va. (LR), and at Savage, Pa., where 20-40 pairs were found (TM, RM, RCL). Cliff Swallows apparently are doing well and increasing in most places. At Shenandoah L., Va., a supposed conservation organization knocked down 18 Cliff Swallow nests from the sides of their clubhouse (R.B.C.).

CORVIDS THROUGH VIREOS — In e. Kentucky, Com. Ravens nested at Bad Branch, Letcher (HA), and on Black Mt. (EN). Red-breasted Nuthatches were quite common in n. Pennsylvania (DBr) but reports from Allegheny, Pa., June 22 (JG) and Edinboro, Pa., July 1 & 2 (DS) were out of range. Nests of Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper were found at the Devil's Courthouse on the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., June 15 (R & JY). Creepers also nested at Mosquito L., O. (CB).

Carolina Wrens continue to make a comeback, and they nested (in a tangle of debris from the 1985 tornado) at Niles, O., for the first time since 1977 (CB). The only report of Bewick's Wren came from Highland, Va., where it had occurred in 1985 (YL, LT). A Sedge Wren was heard near Accident, Md., July 15 (MO), and Marsh Wrens nested at G.R.W.A. (CB) and were seen in Belmont, O., through July 2 (MG).

Golden-crowned Kinglets continue to move to lower elevations. They were found near Shelocta, Pa. (MH), and 2 lo-

cations in Sullivan, Pa. (SS). Eastern Bluebirds had a good nesting season. At Warren, Pa., they occupied 37% of the boxes available and fledged about 4 young per box (WH), while in Augusta, Va., 35 boxes fledged about 135 young (RS), and at P.N.R., 14 broods were banded (RM, RCL). Veeries were seen feeding young at Mosquito L., O., June 27 (CB), and young birds were banded at P.N.R., July 5 (RCL, RM). Both Swainson's Thrushes and Hermit Thrushes were on Mt. Rogers, Va., June 19 (BP) and the first migrant Swainson's was banded at P.N.R., July 22 (RCL, RM).

The N. Mockingbird seldom summers as far n. as Pittsburgh, but one was seen near the Greater Pitt Airport July 7 (KP). A Water Pipit was still at P.I.S.P., June 7 (JM). In addition to the Loggerhead Shrike nestings reported in the spring account, there were reports of two adults and two young in Albemarle, Va. (SR), a young bird was seen in Sevier, Tenn., and birds were sighted in 4 other w. Tennessee counties (*vide* CN), and away from the Ridge and Valley Province one was seen in Gilmer, W. Va. (B.B.C.F.). Yellow-throated and Warbling vireos remain scarce at most places, but the Solitary Vireo is doing well and is nesting at lower elevations each year.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — The trend for s species to move N and upslope, while n. and high-elevation species move S and downslope, continues. A Worm-eating Warbler was present in McKean, Pa., throughout the period (WH), a Prairie Warbler was seen in Forest, Pa., June 16-23 (TG), and Yellow-breasted Chats nested near Warren, Pa. (WH). A Swainson's Warbler was seen at Bad Branch, Ky., June 7 (BP-B). Nashville Warblers nested in Indiana, Pa. (MH, ZJ), and they were found on Elliott Knob, Va., well s. of previous limits but above 4000 ft in elevation (SR). Newly-fledged Mourning Warblers were also found on Elliott Knob (SR) as well as on Mt. Rogers, Va. (BP). Black-throated Blue Warblers were found in Morgan, Tenn., and the first confirmed breeding in the Cumberland Mountains was established (CN). Canada Warblers were also found there (CN) as well as on Black Mt., Ky. (EN). Yellow-rumped Warblers were numerous in Bradford and Tioga, Pa. (DBr).

Golden-winged Warblers still outnumber Blue-winged in s.w. Pennsylvania (RCL, RM) but both are scarce in the Pittsburgh area (PH). A successful nesting of two "Brewster's" Warblers observed in Allegheny, Pa., may be the first documented mating of two of these hybrids (JG, JP).

The Blue Grosbeak is also moving N with reports from Huntingdon, Pa., June 1 (DB), Beaver, Pa., June 29 (M & MM), Noble, O., June 19 (MG), and Buncombe, N.C. (R & JY). Three Dickcissels were at Chambersburg, Pa., until June 13 when the fields were mowed (KG), at least nine males with one nest were found in Muskingum, O. (MG), and one was present near Christiansburg, Va., until about June 18 when the field was mowed (TW).

Field Sparrows were thought to be below normal numbers at many places, but Atlassing work has shown that Grasshopper Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow are perhaps more common than had been thought. Savannah Sparrows have also been found to be more common in w. Pennsylvania than had been thought (PH), and at Lyndhurst, Va., an adult was seen carrying food July 17 (RS), somewhat s. of the normal range. The Henslow's Sparrow presented a varied picture, being extremely common in e. Ohio (MG) and parts of w. Pennsylvania, but rare elsewhere. The first breeding record for Bradford, Pa., was established (*vide* DBr).

Purple Finches were recorded at 8 localities in w. Pennsylvania in June (PH). Besides the regular locations on Shenandoah Mt. near Harrisonburg, Va., Red Crossbills were found on the same mountain in Highland (LT) and on the Skyline Drive near Waynesboro, Va. (WC). A single Red Crossbill was observed on several occasions on Mt. Davis, Pa. (RCL). Red Crossbills were observed building a nest at Highlands, N.C., July 24 (H & MP). Pine Siskins remained on Roan Mt., Tenn.,

until June 6 (RK) and nestings were observed on Mt Mitchell, N C., in early June (DM) and at Mountain Lake, Va., in mid-June (CZ).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

This summer there was only one extremely hot, humid period—a week in mid-July. Otherwise brief bursts of heat were followed by longer periods of cooler, more normal temperatures. Precipitation was the main news. Most areas of Wisconsin and Minnesota had more than ample amounts of rainfall. Only extreme northeastern Wisconsin and the western Upper Peninsula were dry. Occasionally the rainfall was very heavy, often accompanied by severe weather. Most notable was the record high level of both Lakes Superior and Michigan. Beach—shorebird habitat—was almost nonexistent due to the current levels. Predictions are for this record water level to continue for some time.

Birds presented a mixed picture. Most observers, if asked, said it was a quiet summer with few eventful sightings. However, a gleaming of Wisconsin's and Minnesota's highlights indicated exactly the opposite. There was an unprecedented number of rarities in Minnesota, with a somewhat reduced number for Wisconsin. The problem was that many birds proved uncooperative, remaining for only one day. Despite this frustrating situation a remarkable number of new state and seasonal records occurred.

ABBREVIATIONS—Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH RAILS—A Western Grebe was at Horicon N.W.R. the last half of July (WM *et al.*). Also in Wisconsin was one at Rush L., July 19 (TZ). The only Am. White Pelican sighting away from its range was of one in the Eagle River, Wis., area July 8 (*vide* RS). Minnesota had its first nesting Snowy Egrets in several summers with a nest containing 4 eggs at Agassiz N.W.R., unusually far north. A Snowy was found June 17 at Whitefish Bay area, Mich. (BRo). A **Tricolored Heron** summered at Agassiz N.W.R. Due to the extremely high water level, plus several severe storms during June, the heron rookery at Green Bay was decimated. The Snowy Egrets disappeared while several pairs of Cattle Egrets established nests on a larger adjacent island. Additional Wisconsin Cattle Egret sightings included lone birds at Horicon N.W.R. and Rush Lake. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in Minnesota with 2–3 pairs nesting in the Twin Cities area (SSt, SC). In Wisconsin birds were found in Sauk and Columbia (MM *et al.*) intermittently during June–July while four were seen June 21 near the confluence of the Kickapoo and Wisconsin rivers, Crawford (EM *et al.*). Five Plegadis ibis were seen June 2 at Heron L., Jackson, Minn. (JSc).



A Tundra Swan was in Houghton, Mich., June 14 (LB) with one to two Snow Geese there July 3 & 16 (LB). Out-of-range ducks in Wisconsin included single Canvasbacks June 7 in Dodge (BC) and June 27 in Chippewa (JP); Redheads during June in Jefferson and Milwaukee; Ring-necked Ducks in Winnebago (TZ) and Jefferson (KH), with a summering individual at Manitowoc (CS *et al.*); and Lesser Scaups in 6 counties. Unusual were a Greater Scaup in early June at Sheboygan (D & MB) and a ♀ Black Scoter July 5 in Forest (BR). A ♀ Bufflehead with seven young at Agassiz N.W.R. represented only the 4th Minnesota nesting record.

An Osprey summered at Rush L. (TZ), s. of its normal Wisconsin range. Merlins nested at Duluth and along Minnesota's N. Shore, both unusual as their normal territory is near the Canadian border. Spruce Grouse were hard to locate in Wisconsin again this summer. King Rails were found in 3 Wisconsin counties, about average.

SHOREBIRDS—Very late were Lesser Golden-Plovers June 14 at Torch L., Mich. (LB), and June 17 on Long Island, Wis. (EE), and a Semipalmated Plover June 18 at Manitowoc (CS). Wisconsin's only Piping Plover sighting was of two June 17 on Long Island, with no breeding indicated (EE). The two outstanding records within the group came from Minnesota. A **Snowy Plover** was seen June 30 in Clay (KE *et al.*), representing the 5th state record. Eclipsing this was the discovery by Janssen of two nonbreeding-plumaged ad. **Mountain Plovers** in Fairbault July 2. They were observed by many others through July 5. If accepted by the records committee, this will constitute the first Minnesota record.

There was the usual extension of spring migrants (12 species)

well into June, followed closely by the appearance of fall migrants in late June (25th–28th). Late spring migrants included Whimbrels (max. three) seen intermittently through June 26 at Manitowoc (CS), Ruddy Turnstone until June 19 and Red Knot until June 29 in Oshkosh (TZ), Semipalmated Sandpiper until June 29 at Manitowoc (CS), and a Dunlin June 20 at Madison (JS), all in Wisconsin. Early-arriving fall migrants in Wisconsin included Greater Yellowlegs June 28 and Lesser Yellowlegs June 25 in Chippewa (JP), a Solitary Sandpiper June 29 at Madison (DC), and Least and Stilt sandpipers June 28 in Chippewa (JP).

Unusual sightings from the group included single Am. Avocets July 19 in Columbia (m.ob.) and July 29 at Manitowoc (CS, ph.); a Willet June 26 at Manitowoc (CS); a Marbled Godwit June 21 in Bay, Mich. (JSo, PD, BD); a very early Buff-breasted Sandpiper July 25 at Superior's Wisconsin Pt. (RJ); and a Red-necked Phalarope July 12 in Jackson, Wis. (TR).

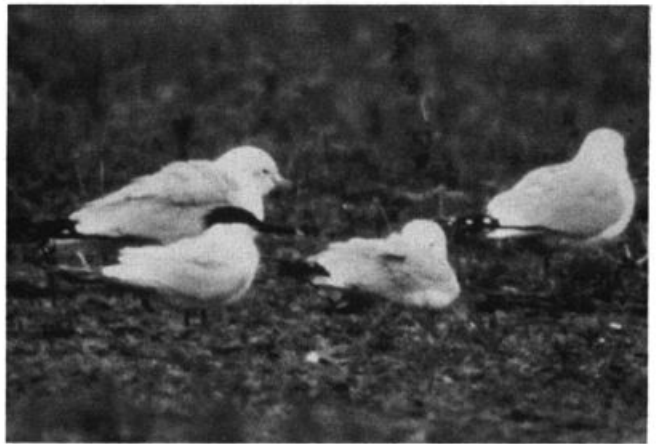
LARIDS — Outstanding finds highlighted this group including two first and one 2nd state records. Most unusual was an ad. Parasitic Jaeger seen by Sontag June 24 at Manitowoc. It was watched flying around the impoundment harassing the gulls and terns. The sighting represents one of very few for Wisconsin during the summer. Single Laughing Gulls appeared in Minnesota June 15 in Fillmore (MP) and in Wisconsin July 5 when one was photographed by Sontag at Manitowoc. Franklin's Gulls lingered into June at 3 Wisconsin locales, with 30 in Columbia until June 2 (m.ob.), one at Sheboygan June 5 (D & MB), and nine at Manitowoc until June 26 (CS). Minnesota had its first nesting record for Little Gulls when a pair attempted to nest at Heron L., Jackson. Unfortunately the nest and eggs were flooded out in early June with the adults subsequently leaving. The usual summer concentration occurred at Manitowoc with a maximum of 12 (m.ob.). Minnesota's first **Common Black-headed Gull**, the adult that appeared in late



Common Black-headed Gull at Heron Lake, Jackson Co., Minn., June 1986. Photo/Warren Nelson.

May at Heron L., remained into early July. However, when the Franklin's Gulls with which it associated had completed nesting and dispersed, it also left. A Glaucous Gull was at Manitowoc June 20–30 (CS).

For the 2nd consecutive summer a **Royal Tern** appeared at Manitowoc, Wis. It was found by Sontag July 6 and carefully studied during that day. Unfortunately the bird disappeared and could not be relocated by other birders on succeeding days. This represents only the 2nd state record, if accepted by the records committee. **Least Terns** appeared in both Wisconsin and Minnesota, with one of the three birds providing coverage for the 2 states. Two birds were seen in Minnesota's

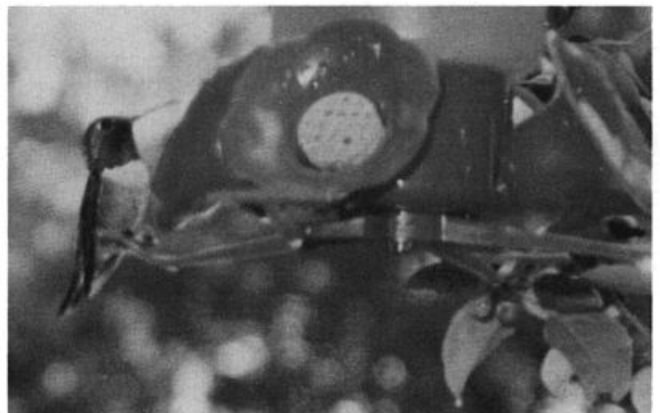


Adult Sandwich Tern (with Ring-billed Gulls) at Duluth, Minn., June 11, 1986. First Minnesota record, and a remarkable occurrence anywhere inland. Photo/Stan Sunde.

Olmsted June 12 & 14 (JB, MP). One was seen at Duluth June 9 (PB) and then was found at Superior June 19 (JSt). Eclipsing all this, except perhaps the Royal Tern, was Backstrom's and Kienholz's find. When they tried to relocate the Least Tern June 11, instead they found an ad. **Sandwich Tern**. Numerous photographs were taken and a few Duluth birders were lucky enough to dash out in time to watch it. Unfortunately it had also disappeared by the next day. Quite obviously this was Minnesota's first record.

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — Minnesota found both cuckoo species up in numbers, owing to an increase in their food supply. For Wisconsin, numbers continued sub-par. There were no confirmed Com. Barn-Owl reports this summer, a sad commentary for this species. Most unusual was a Snowy Owl that remained at Ashland, Wis., until June 22 (DV). A **Burrowing Owl** was found alive in a laundry room (!) in St. Joseph, Mich., June 7 (fide CN). It was taken to the Sarrett Nature Center where it was determined to be uninjured, and was then released. This was the 5th state record. Great Gray Owls had a good nesting season with 6–7 nests found in 3 Minnesota counties. Long-eared and Short-eared owl sightings continued scarce in Wisconsin. However, Minnesota had good numbers of Short-eareds, especially in the n.w. sector. Again this summer a Boreal Owl was heard n. of Isabella, Minn. (SW/MS). Northern Saw-whet Owls were found unusually far s. in Wisconsin, including Milwaukee, Dane, and Sauk. Apparently nesting is occurring in the latter 2 counties.

For the 3rd consecutive summer at least two **Chuck-will's-widows** resided in Adams, Wis. The Vogts were understandably excited by a ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** that frequented their



Male Rufous Hummingbird near Cedarburg, Ozaukee Co., Wis., June 1986. Photo/Vince & Linda Vogt.



Male Mountain Bluebird at nest box in Aitkin Co., Minn., July 15, 1986. Photo/Warren Nelson.

hummingbird feeder every 10–15 minutes June 13–14. Located just w. of Cedarburg, Wis., they had an excellent opportunity to study and photograph it as it chased the Ruby-throateds away. This represented only about the 4th state record. Demonstrating its northern range extension was a Red-bellied Woodpecker in Wisconsin's Douglas July 26 [RJ]. After the record invasion of Three-toed Woodpeckers last winter in Minnesota and Wisconsin, observations quickly diminished after mid-March. However, one was found June 11 in Cook, Minn., for one of the few summer records [BE]. Black-backed Woodpecker sightings were up in n. Wisconsin, with several successful nestings.

South of its normal range (late migrant?) was an Olive-sided Flycatcher in Outagamie, Wis., June 13 [MM]. A late-migrating Western Kingbird was seen June 1 in Monroe, Wis. [EE]. Most unusual was one July 15 in Grant, Wis. [CR]. East of their normal range were 2 pairs of Black-billed Magpies in Minnesota, one that built a nest but did not breed in Aitkin [WN] and the other at Tower-Soudan [SW/MS]. Boreal Chickadees were more numerous in n.e. Wisconsin than in past years. A Carolina Wren was found July 22+ in Rochester, Minn. The E. Bluebird picture continued to improve. Both Wisconsin and Minnesota noted more sightings and many successful broods. Minnesota had its first nesting record (half record?) for the **Mountain Bluebird**. A male paired with a ♀ Eastern at Aitkin; 5 eggs were laid but only two hatched and fledged. Unfortunately, no one got a good description of the hybrids. Two N. Mockingbirds were at Thunder Bay Island, Mich., June 4–5 [WL]. Most un-

expected was a **Sage Thrasher** June 16 at Carlos Avery W.A., Minn. (PSh). This was only the 3rd state record. The Loggerhead Shrike pictured improved dramatically in Minnesota. A D.N.R.-sponsored survey, while final data are not complete, already indicates many more nests than ever before with many additional sightings. In Wisconsin, sightings and nesting continued very limited. There were 5 nests, 2 in St. Croix with young fledged from both nests, 2 in Eau Claire with one fledging six young but the other unsuccessful [cat], and one in Polk with two young fledged. Additional sightings came from Rock (three birds), Shawano (one), and Dunn (one). Michigan had one nest in Allegan [JL].

VIREOS, WARBLERS — There were only 3 White-eyed Vireo reports this summer. Two were in Wisconsin (Sauk and Iowa), one in Minnesota [Martin] [PS et al.]. Bell's Vireos were found in the usual number of s. Wisconsin counties. Most unexpected were single Philadelphia Vireos at 2 different Houghton, Mich., sites July 7 & 16 [LB].

The Golden-winged Warbler is expanding its range into n.w. (Lake of the Woods) and n.e. (Grand Marais area) Minnesota. Yellow-throated Warblers were again found this summer along the Sugar R., Rock, Wis. Two, possibly four, males were located on territory [MM et al.]. The Prairie Warbler was back at its Ozaukee, Wis., site [m.ob.]. One was in Newaygo, Mich., June 7 [DP]. Palm Warblers apparently summered in Ashland and Oneida, Wis. Late was a Bay-breasted Warbler June 9 in Forest, Wis. [SS], and very late was a Blackpoll Warbler June 25 in Cheboygan, Mich. [JR]. North of its normal range was a Cerulean Warbler June 7 in Forest, Wis. [EE]. Three pairs of Worm-eating Warblers were again in Sauk, Wis. Hooded Warblers were found in 2 Wisconsin counties. Wisconsin had three Yellow-breasted Chats and Minnesota had one. Especially in Minnesota, warblers started migrating early. For example, a Tennessee was found July 14 in Dakota [JD], a Nashville July 20 in Wright [RJa], and a Chestnut-sided July 17 in Houston [E & MF].

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — An unexpected summer sighting was of the ♂ **Western Tanager** in Milwaukee June 2 [DG et al.]. Again this summer there were few Dickcissel reports in Wisconsin (about 10 counties). The singing ♂ **Baird's Sparrow** June 24–28 at Crosby [KR et al.] was the first in Minnesota since 1980 and the first ever away from the w. prairies. A Henslow's Sparrow at Rice Lake N.W.R., June 21+ was the first for n.e. Minnesota [TS et al.]. A White-crowned Sparrow June 6 in Marquette, Mich., was late [BI, NI]. Most unusual was a Pine Grosbeak at Michigan's Pt. Isabelle July 9 [LB].



Baird's Sparrow near Crosby, Crow Wing Co., Minn., June 25, 1986. Photo/Steve Blanich.

Wisconsin's long-awaited **House Finch** invasion that occurred this spring continued into the summer. Nesting (first state record) was attempted at Milwaukee, Racine, and Madison. It was successful in both Milwaukee and Racine, with birds coming to various feeders all summer, accompanied by young in July. A few Red Crossbills were found in n. Minnesota and Wisconsin. White-winged Crossbills were found only in Minnesota's Cook and Michigan's Keweenaw.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

This spring's above-normal temperatures prevailed throughout most of the summer. However, rainfall totals varied considerably across the Region. Locally severe storms produced flooding in portions of Iowa and Ohio, while other areas received below-normal precipitation. Some birds were adversely affected by the local storms although most experienced a fairly successful breeding season.

With breeding bird atlases being undertaken in all states, observer activity levels were relatively high. Although only a small portion of this data has been received, it has considerably furthered our knowledge of breeding bird distribution within the Region. In addition, noteworthy rarities appeared in several states and contributed to a rather eventful summer season.

ABBREVIATIONS — Spfld. = Springfield, Ill.; C.V.R.A. = Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, O. *Italicized place names are counties.*

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Nonbreeding Com. Loons appeared at 8 locations in the n. states this summer. Pied-billed Grebes maintained stable populations in Iowa, n. Illinois, and Ohio. A summering adult at Burlington, Ky. (LM), plus one in Jackson, Ill., July 12 (DRo) provided rare records s. of their regular breeding range. Fewer nonbreeding Am. White Pelicans summered this year, with flocks of 10 and 25 in w. Iowa, and one at Carlyle L., Ill., May 31–June 1 (*fide* CM). No reports were received on the status of the Double-crested Cormorant colonies along the Mississippi R. in Iowa and Illinois. However, a newly-discovered colony at L. Renwick, Ill., supported 4 nests (JMi). As many as 20 nonbreeding cormorants appeared at 11 sites in all states except Missouri. Anhingas appeared along the lower Mississippi R. with at least two near Caruthersville, Mo., June 15–July 11 (CPa, JW, ST) and one in Alexander, Ill., July 5 (†DRo). Although they are still considered to be casual visitors to these states, Anhingas have recently nested in w. Tennessee and could conceivably expand into adjacent portions of this Region. A **Magnificent Frigatebird** was acceptably documented after flying across the Mississippi R. at Alexander, Ill., July 19 (†DRo). Its appearance was not correlated with any obvious weather patterns.



Double-crested Cormorants (adults and young at nests) at Lake Renwick, Will Co., Ill., Aug. 10, 1986. First nesting record for n.e. Illinois. Photo/Joe Milosevich.

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILL — The good numbers of Am. Bitterns this spring did not translate into increased breeding populations. Summering bitterns were reported from

only 6 sites in Missouri, Iowa, and Ohio, including 2 successful nests at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo. (JW). In contrast, Least Bitterns apparently remained stable in the n. states. Great Blue Herons continued to thrive with new colonies being discovered in most states. The only sizable postbreeding concentration was reported from Ottawa, O., July 15 where an estimated 1400 Great Blues congregated with 400 Great Egrets (KA). Trends in Great Egret populations were not discernible from the scant data, although 2 nests in Ballard, Ky. (BP, JMg), provided that state's first confirmed breeding record since 1949. Snowy Egrets were reported in their usual small numbers along the Mississippi R. and w. Lake Erie. The largest flock totalled 16 in Alexander, Ill., July 13 (TP), while postbreeders appeared at 7 sites n. to w. Iowa and n. Illinois. Little Blue Herons remained numerous in s.e. Missouri and adjacent areas despite the abandonment of the large heronry near Sikeston, Mo. These herons apparently established several smaller colonies elsewhere in s.e. Missouri, while the large heronry near Caruthersville, Mo., remained intact. Their breeding populations are apparently stable in Illinois and along w. Lake Erie. Postbreeding Little Blues were scattered across all states but were most numerous in Iowa where there were 7 reports with a maximum of 20 in Fremont July 21 (M & BPr).

Summering Tricolored Herons were intermittently noted at their traditional sites at L. Calumet, Ill., and the w. Lake Erie marshes. Cattle Egrets were also numerous along the Missis-

sippi R. in s.e. Missouri and the adjacent states, where nesting populations were apparently stable. However, their numbers may be declining farther n., since only 8 pairs nested at L. Renwick, Ill. (JMi), and Cattle Egrets were unusually scarce along w. Lake Erie. Few postbreeding egrets wandered outside of their breeding range this summer. Green-backed Herons experienced local declines in portions of Kentucky and Ohio. Black-crowned Night-Herons remained fairly stable in all states. The largest colony was composed of 417 nests at L. Calumet, Ill. (JL), and a new colony was discovered in Clark, Ky. (TE, BP *et al.*). Normal numbers of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons consisted of reports from 19 locations with scattered nests n. to Chicago (WM), plus maxima of 12 at Burlington, Ia., July 12 (JF) and 21 in Jackson, Ill., July 24 (DRo). An imm. White Ibis was discovered in Alexander, Ill., July 5 (fDRo) where the species is a casual visitor. Following fairly good numbers this spring, White-faced Ibises nested in Iowa for the first time with seven adults and 3 nests at Jemmerson Slough June 5+ (SD *et al.*). The most unexpected wader of the summer was an imm. **Roseate Spoonbill** at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Aug. 1 (fJW, ph.), providing the first record for Missouri.



Adult White-faced Ibis at Jemmerson Slough, Iowa, July 13, 1986. Photo/Erik Munson.



White-faced Ibis nest at Jemmerson Slough, Iowa, July 13, 1986. Photo/Erik Munson.



Roseate Spoonbill (right) with egret at Schell-Osage Wildlife Area, Mo., Aug. 1, 1986. Photo/Jim Wilson.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES — As expected, most species of waterfowl were represented by nonbreeding individuals somewhere in the Region, complemented by a few isolated nesting attempts. An imm. Tundra Swan at Cleveland June 29 (RHn) provided a rare summer record for Ohio. The 200 Green-winged Teal at Maumee Bay S.P., O., July 14 (KA) undoubtedly represented migrants returning to the w. Lake Erie marshes. A brood of Am. Black Ducks at Atterbury W.M.A., May 10+ (m.ob.) was unusual for c. Indiana, while a brood of N. Pintails at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., June 15 (JM) provided the first nesting record for c. Ohio. Pairs of Blue-winged Teal summered s. to Louisville and s. Illinois although nesting was not confirmed at these locations. A molting ♂ Cinnamon Teal in Woodbury July 17 (fBH) provided the first summer record for Iowa. A brood of N. Shovelers in Holt May 10 (LG) established Missouri's first confirmed nesting. Redheads nested at Big Island W.M.A. (J), providing one of few Ohio breeding records away from the L. Erie marshes. A pair of Ring-necked Ducks exhibited nesting behavior in Portage, O., but breeding was not confirmed (LR); there are no definite nesting records for Ohio. Other noteworthy nonbreeding waterfowl included a Greater Scaup at Chicago June 2-7 (JL), Com. Goldeneyes in Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois during the first one-half of June, and a summering Bufflehead at Michigan City, Ind. (KB). Breeding and summering Hooded Mergansers continued to be discovered at new locations in the n. states and a brood was also reported from Sloughs W.M.A., Ky. (BP).

Small numbers of Ruddy Ducks nested at traditional sites in Illinois and Iowa. They also nested at Arcola, Ill., for the 2nd consecutive year (RCh), and at Big Island W.M.A. for the first c. Ohio breeding record (J).

Kentucky's efforts to introduce breeding Ospreys proved successful with nesting pairs at Barkley L., Kentucky L., and Livingston this summer (BP, ER). Nonbreeders were reported from 8 additional locations in the other states. Mississippi Kites were routinely reported from their normal range along the Mississippi R., although they were apparently absent along the St. Francis R. in extreme s.e. Missouri. Extralimital reports of one at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., June 1 (†JR) and as many as four at 3 sites in the St. Louis-Alton, Mo., area (RK, †PS) may be indicative of a slight range expansion. In addition, an adult and an immature were observed repeatedly at Poague W.M.A. in w.-c. Missouri June 25+ (KK, TF). Bald Eagles continued their slow recovery. Two new pairs along w. Lake Erie raised the Ohio population to 8 pairs, 6 of which successfully raised young. Elsewhere, both pairs in Missouri also nested successfully (*fide* JW), three young fledged from 2 nests at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill. (JR), and 3 active nests were reported from n.e. Iowa (DR). Summering N. Harriers were less numerous than last year, with 10 reports scattered across the n. states; nesting was not confirmed at any area. Sharp-shinned Hawks have proven to be regular breeders in Missouri, where 13 nests were discovered, mostly in the e. Ozark Mts. (KK). This same research project also uncovered 25 Cooper's Hawk nests. Summering Cooper's Hawks were widely reported from Ohio, while small numbers were noted in the other states. Most Buteos were reported in normal numbers for recent years. Two pairs of Swainson's Hawks successfully nested in Kane, Ill. (JMj), and one summered in nearby McHenry (CMi). In Iowa, pairs summered in Osceola (DB *et al.*) and George Wyth S.P. (FM), while singles were found at 3 locations. Five young Peregrine Falcons were released at the University of Illinois, Chicago, campus during July. They were later observed in the Chicago area and may also have been responsible for the sightings of immatures at Indianapolis during July (*fide* CK) and Louisville July 14+ (BP *et al.*).

Gray Partridges continued their expansion S and E in Iowa. Illinois Ring-necked Pheasant populations increased by 36% over last year (JEL). Numbers of N. Bobwhites also improved in the s. one-half of the Region as evidenced by a 21% increase in s. Indiana. Sightings in Sioux (JV), Plymouth (SD), and Spirit L. (DH) were unusual for n.w. Iowa. Nesting rails elicited few comments. Summering King Rails were scattered across 9 sites in the n. states, normal numbers for recent years. Good numbers of Com. Moorhens appeared in the n. states with a maximum of 27 adults and 33 young at Big Wall L., Ia., June 29 (SD). They are very rare summer residents in Kentucky where a pair probably nested at Sloughs W.M.A. (BP). Breeding Sandhill Cranes were discovered in n. Illinois, where they are casual residents, with two young at Chain O'Lakes S.P. (RHe) and a nest in McHenry (WS). A nonbreeding crane was unexpected in Lawrence, Ind., June 17 (JC).

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebirds presented the expected pattern of late spring migrants, the ever-increasing number of summering birds, and normal numbers of fall migrants. Early returning Lesser Golden-Plovers were noted in Illinois and Iowa July 5–9. Nesting Piping Plovers had fair success in w. Iowa, with 4 successful pairs out of 8 attempts at the IPL ponds (BW) and six adults with one young near Sioux City (BH). The only July migrant was encountered in Illinois. A total of 408 Killdeer near Polk City July 27 constituted a large flock for Iowa (SD). The 2nd record of **Mountain Plover** for Iowa was provided by a well-documented bird at Colo July 9–10 (†HZ, †m.ob.). A summering pair of Am. Avocets near Sioux City, Ia., acted very defensively but no nest was ever found (†BH); there are no breeding records for the state. Fall migrant avocets were fairly scarce with a maximum of seven along L. Erie plus singles

in Illinois and Kentucky July 18–20. The few sizable shorebird concentrations included 1400 Lesser Yellowlegs in Ottawa, O., July 21 (KA) and 1194 in Polk, Ia., July 26 (SD), plus 130 Solitary Sandpipers at Chicago July 27 (JL). Willets returned in fair numbers, beginning with an early migrant at Smithland Dam, Ky., June 22 (BP). The largest flocks totalled 21 near Ames, Ia., July 6 (SD) and nine to 10 along both Great Lakes. Summering Spotted Sandpipers are rare in Kentucky, where they were reported from Hickman and Louisville. Upland Sandpipers continued to be reported from new sites, undoubtedly as a result of increased field work rather than expanding populations. The largest July flocks totalled 19–27. Migrant Whimbrels appeared along L. Michigan June 5–7 and scattered along L. Erie July 13+.

Godwits were very scarce with a few late Hudsonians in Iowa during early June plus one to three Marbleds at 2 Iowa sites July 6. Summering Ruddy Turnstones were unexpected at Chicago (JL) and Wolf L., Ind. (KB). A late Red Knot at Pickerington June 8 (Fry) was noteworthy for c. Ohio, while another at Rend L., July 28 was equally unusual for s. Illinois (DRo). Semipalmated Sandpipers massed along w. Lake Erie with 1200 in Ottawa, O., July 28 (KA), while Pectoral Sandpipers peaked at 1286 in Polk, Ia., July 27 (SD). Stilt Sandpipers were surprisingly scarce in all states. An early Buff-breasted Sandpiper returned to Polk City, Ia., July 26–29 (SD, RM). The only Ruff was reported from Chicago July 26 (JL). The largest Short-billed Dowitcher flock totalled 900 along w. Lake Erie. Long-billed Dowitcher reports were limited to scattered singles in Ohio. A Com. Snipe in Osceola, Ia., June 18 (DH) provided the only summer record this year. A Wilson's Phalarope at Wolf L., Ind., June 18 (KB *et al.*) was probably a migrant, but in which direction? Typical numbers of fall migrants were scattered across the n. states July 3+ with a maximum of 17 in Iowa. A Red-necked Phalarope at Spfld., June 4 provided a rare spring record for c. Illinois (H).

GULLS, TERNS —

S.A.

An unmated ♀ Laughing Gull returned to the Oregon, O., gull colony for its 3rd consecutive summer. Although this bird had built nests and laid eggs in previous years, it never had a definite mate, nor were its eggs known to have hatched. However, an adult gull believed to be a Laughing x Ring-billed hybrid also appeared at the colony this year (†KA *et al.*), raising suspicions about the previous nesting efforts of the ♀ Laughing Gull and causing potential identification problems for gull watchers in the Great Lakes area.

Other Laughing Gull reports consisted of one at Michigan City, Ind., June 11 (KB, CF) and two at Kentucky Dam, Ky., June 4 (BP). Nonbreeding Franklin's Gulls were scarce with only a few reports from Iowa and Illinois. A Bonaparte's Gull at Saylorville Res., June 25 (SD) provided one of few summer records for Iowa. The large Ring-billed Gull and Herring Gull colonies at Oregon, O., and L. Calumet, Ill., continued to thrive. Two pairs of Herring Gulls also attempted to nest along L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana but were unsuccessful this year.

Summering Caspian Terns were noted in normal numbers but did not form the expected late-summer concentrations along L. Erie. The status of breeding Com. Terns remained precarious with only a small colony at Waukegan, Ill. (JL), and at least 3 nests at Oregon, O., where they had not nested since 1982 (ET). The success of either colony was not determined. It was a good year for breeding Forster's Terns in Iowa with colonies reported from Ventura Marsh, Dan Green Slough, Big Wall L., and Jemerson Slough (TL, JD, SD). A survey along the Mississippi R. revealed 14 Least Tern colonies in Missouri, w. Kentucky, and s. Illinois (JS); the largest colony contained 120 nests. Nesting was initiated by mid-June and most colonies

successfully fledged young In w Iowa, 14 Least Tern nests produced nine young at the IPL ponds (BW) and they also nested near Sioux City (BH). Extralimital Leasts appeared at Louisville June 15 (BP), Spfld., June 19 (H), and Cleveland July 17 (†TLe *et al.*). Nesting Black Terns were reported from 2 sites in Iowa and 3 in n.e. Illinois, normal numbers for recent years. They returned to n.w. Indiana after several years' absence, with 7 unsuccessful nests at Horseshoe L. (DPI) and 2 nests at Roxana Pond (KB). No large flocks had been reported by late summer.

CUCKOOS THROUGH CREEPERS — Cuckoos received mixed comments without any apparent Regionwide pattern. A Black-billed in Pulaski, Ky., June 8 (BP) furnished the only report s. of its normal range. Two Greater Roadrunners were reported from their normal s.w. Missouri range in Taney (BG). Breeding Com. Barn-Owls remained scarce with single nests or pairs in Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois. In addition, there had been few recent summer records from Indiana, where pairs nested in Lawrence and Orange (JC), or from Iowa, with a nest in Wayne and a pair in Story (DR *et al.*). Burrowing Owls appeared in w. Iowa, where they are casual visitors, with one or two in Fremont through July 12 (BW, m.ob.) and one near Sac City July 29 (LK). Following large numbers last winter, Long-eared Owls nested in Iowa near Ledges S.P. and in Clarke (BE, SD), and also in Lawrence, Ill. (DJ). Short-eared Owls remained in Lyon, Ia., through May 20 (SD), and Pike, Ill., throughout June (LSt) where nesting was suspected but not proven. Chuck-will's-widows were reported only from established sites. Whip-poor-will numbers were apparently stable; 188 males in Sand Ridge S.F., Ill., compared favorably with 170 counted 3 years ago (RB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported in normal numbers. An ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was studied at a St. Olaf feeder July 10–11, providing a first confirmed record for Iowa (†LS). A small population of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers remains in extreme n.e. Ohio, where 3 nesting pairs were discovered in Ashtabula and one in Geauga. In Illinois, a pair produced two young in Vermilion (MC) for that state's 2nd nesting record in as many years. In addition, one was reported June 29 from n.w. Indiana at Cowles Bog (LKO, *fide* KB), where they are not known to nest, and small numbers were found in their expected n.e. Iowa range. Pileated Woodpeckers are expanding and nested in the Indiana Dunes area for the first time.

Late migrant flycatcher reports included an Olive-sided at Big Wall L., Ia., through June 21 (SD) and Yellow-bellieds along both Great Lakes on June 13. Summering Alder Flycatchers appear to be fairly widespread in n.e. Ohio, where they were reported from 11 sites this year. In addition, a summering male in Champaign was well outside of this range in w.-c. Ohio (DO). Summering Alders were also reported from 3 n.w. Indiana sites, where they were observed carrying food, although a nest has not yet been located. Fair numbers of Willow Flycatchers in Kentucky consisted of reports from 7 locations. The slowly-expanding Least Flycatcher was scattered across the n. states with males s. to Champaign, Ill. (RCh), and c. Ohio. Outside of their normal range, at least six W. Kingbirds were noted at St. Louis, where one nest was successful (RK), while one pair nested at the traditional Alton, Ill., site (RP). Another W. Kingbird was well described in DuPage, June 4 (†DJh) and one was reported from L. Calumet, Ill., June 14–15 (JL). Extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included a male at Reform W.M.A., Mo., June 7 (JW), another male near Hale, Mo. (DF), and one in Sac, Ia., June 20 (†MM, *fide* JD).

Most breeding swallows experienced good nesting success, although Purple Martins were thought to have declined in several states. Tree Swallows continued to spread through Kentucky, nesting in Pulaski for the first time (JE). Numbers of Cliff Swallows were still increasing, with new colonies discovered in most states. Unlike previous years, no concentrations of migrating swallows were reported in late summer. A

Fish Crow in Marshall, Ky., July 4 (CP) was unexpected away from the Mississippi R. The only summering Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted at L. Rockwell, O. (LR). Small numbers of Brown Creepers have traditionally nested in the wooded swamps near the lower Mississippi R. in s. Illinois, where one was noted at Crab Orchard N.W.R. this summer. Hence, the appearance of four or more and a possible family group in Axe Lake Swamp, Ballard, June 29 (BP *et al.*) was not totally unexpected for w. Kentucky, although there are no confirmed nesting records for the state. Creepers continued to be reported regularly from n. areas with a maximum of nine at Brecksville, O. (RH). Sightings in Louisa and Des Moines, Ia. (P), and Spfld (H), this summer were outside of their normal ranges in these states.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — Carolina Wrens have recovered in s. areas but remain rather scarce in the north. Bewick's Wrens are still commonly encountered in s. Missouri but have virtually disappeared elsewhere. A pair nested in Pike, providing Ohio's first breeding record since 1980 (DM, *fide* J). Other reports were limited to singles in Hamilton, Ind., during early July (BB), Somerset, Ky. (JE), and near Fayette, Mo., June 9–11 (CR). A Winter Wren at West Okobojo L., Ia., June 9–14 (NB) was probably a nonbreeder. Sedge Wrens were scattered across the n. states but were widespread only in Illinois with sightings from 10 sites s. to Jackson (DRo). Eastern Bluebirds experienced good nesting success in most states this summer. Veeries have become locally common in portions of the n. states, as evidenced by 30 in Boone, Ia. (SD, EM), and 19 at Pinhook Bog, Ind. (DPI). Reports from West Okobojo L., Ia. (NB), and Sand Ridge S.F., Ill. (RB), were indicative of additional range expansion in those states. The status of N Mockingbird remained unchanged, with few sightings from n. areas. Cedar Waxwings were widely noted s. to Louisville and to Springfield, Mo. Improved numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes in Iowa comprised 12 nests plus 5 additional sightings. Only scattered individuals and nesting pairs were detected in Ohio, Indiana, and n. Illinois. However, 35 pairs in portions of Wayne, Clay, and Jasper were indicative of the sizable populations remaining in s.e. Illinois (BL).

White-eyed Vireos continued to expand along the n. edge of the Region. Bell's Vireos were scarce in Iowa but normal numbers appeared in the other states. A nest at Buck Creek S.P. (DO) was at a new location in Ohio. Solitary Vireos nested in Lucas, for the first breeding record for n.w. Ohio (TK). They were also reported from several new sites in n.e. Ohio.

The only territorial Golden-winged Warbler was found at the C.V.R.A. into early June (RH). Single Tennessee Warblers at Spfld., July 10 (H) and near Charleston, Ill., July 21 (BHu) are best treated as early fall migrants. Northern Parulas may be experiencing local increases, as indicated by summering birds at new locations in s. Iowa, n.e. Indiana, and n. Kentucky. Chestnut-sided Warblers continued their expansion in the n. states. They are presently most numerous in n.e. Ohio and n.w. Indiana, with scattered males elsewhere s. to Orange, Ind. (JC), Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O. (JM), and Spfld. (H). There had been few previous summer records from Iowa, where three males were recorded in Boone and Webster (SD, RM, EM). Both Yellow-throated and Prairie warblers continued their N expansion through the Region. A ♂ Prairie returned to Shimek S.F., Ia., June 7–12 (†TC *et al.*), although there was no indication the bird was mated. Prairie Warblers have also increased in n.e. Indiana, and in extreme n.e. Ohio where males were recorded at 2 Ashtabula sites. Black-and-white Warblers are rare summer residents in Iowa, where reports from Shimek S.F., May 31 (RC) and Ledges S.P., June 1 (SD) suggested potential breeders. Other extralimital reports were of either nonbreeders or early fall migrants.

An impressive 111 Am. Redstarts were counted at Kankakee W.M.A., Ind., June 7 (DPI). Summering Worm-eating Warblers at C.V.R.A. (*fide* JMa) and Dunes S.P., Ind., June 4 (LC) were n. of their normal breeding range. The status of Swainson's

Warbler in s. Missouri was indicated by the presence of eight males along the Current and Eleven Point rivers (*fide* JW). One was also reported from Mingo N.W.R., Mo., during July (PS). Elsewhere, singles were noted at the traditional breeding site near Pomona, Ill. (m.ob.), and in McCreary, Ky. (BP). A total of 32 Ovenbirds in Pope (DRo) was noteworthy for s. Illinois, where they are inexplicably scarce summer residents. Only n.e. Ohio regularly supports breeding N. Waterthrush; small numbers were found at 3 sites in *Ashtabula* during June. The N. expanding Kentucky Warbler appeared at scattered areas in n. Illinois and *Ashtabula*, O., during June. Migrant Mourning Warblers were detected along both Great Lakes until mid-June with a maximum of three at Euclid, O., June 10 (DC). The continued presence of a small breeding population in n.e. Ohio was indicated by territorial males in *Geauga*, *Ashtabula*, and C.V.R.A. A total of 17 Hooded Warblers in Pope (DRo) was a good number for s. Illinois. They are scarce summer residents in Iowa, where 2 reports included one in Holst S.F. (RM). Late migrant Wilson's and Canada warblers were detected along both Great Lakes through June 7-13. A Canada Warbler probably nested in Dunes S.P., Ind. (KB), where breeding has been suspected in the past but a nest has never been found.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — The number of Summer Tanagers in n. Illinois in *Will* increased to four males this summer (JMi). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have expanded throughout Ohio and may become resident in adjacent portions of Kentucky, where a male lingered through June 8 in Grayson (KC). Blue Grosbeaks continued their expansion through the Region. A nest in *Lee* (SD) was unusual for s.e. Iowa, while there were 5 c. and n. Illinois reports n. to *Tazewell*, June 6 (JMi). Scattered birds were found in Ohio n. to *Erie* (RH). In Indiana, they were described as common in *Sullivan* (AB) and returned to *Newton* in the north (KB). A closely-studied ♂ Painted Bunting at *Meramac S.P.*, June 22 (†WL) was well outside of its normal range in e. Missouri. Dickcissels must be close to the upper end of their population cycle. They were widely reported in all states, and several large concentrations were reported, such as 100 in a *Champaign*, Ill., field (RCh) and 62 males in *Tazewell*, Ill., June 7-9 (JMi).

Bachman's Sparrows were detected only at a regular location in *Calloway*, Ky., where 2 pairs summered (CP). In n.w. Iowa, five ♂ Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded near *Larchwood* through mid-July (JD *et al.*), and singles were noted at *West Okoboji L.*, June 13 and in *Lyon* June 14 (JF). Nesting was not confirmed at any of these sites, and there are no recent nesting records from the state, although they regularly breed in adjacent portions of South Dakota. Lark Sparrows were reported mostly from traditional sites within their local breeding range e. of the Mississippi R. Summering Savannah Sparrows at *Bedford*, Ky. (JY), and *Oldham*, Ky. (BP), were near the s. edge of their present breeding range. Grasshopper Sparrows received mixed reports although overall populations appeared to be stable. A Henslow's Sparrow in *Pope* June 5 (DRo) was unprecedented for s. Illinois during summer. Two Iowa reports consisted of as many as three near *Leon* and near *Mount Ayr* (*fide* JD), while the expected numbers appeared in the other n. states. A late Lincoln's Sparrow tarried at *Euclid*, O., June 12 (DC). A ♂ White-throated Sparrow in *Ashtabula* June 6 (J) was in suitable nesting habitat, although there are no recent nesting records for Ohio. Another White-throated Sparrow at *Chicago* July 9-24 (JL) was undoubtedly a nonbreeder. Dark-eyed Juncos were not detected in *Ashtabula*, O., where they formerly nested. However, a pair raised young in *Cuyahoga*, O., for the 2nd consecutive year (TLe).

Numbers of Bobolinks were apparently normal including breeding birds s. to *Fayette*, Mo., June 26 (CR) and *Fayette*, Ky. (m.ob.). Both W. Meadowlarks and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were largely reported from expected sites within their limited ranges e. of the Mississippi R. Nine Brewer's Blackbirds appeared at *Illinois Beach S.P.*, June 8 (JL); they are casual in summer in n. Illinois. Great-tailed Grackles are expanding quite

rapidly in the w. states. A colony of eight or more was discovered near *Freeman*, Mo. (JJ), well removed from their previous nesting range in the n.w. counties. They are spreading through Iowa, where breeding was first noted only 3 years ago. This year, nesting birds were found at *Guthrie*, *Lakin Slough* (SD), near *Sioux City* (BH), and *Forney L.* (FM, RM), while 3 additional reports included a maximum of 26 in *Greene* and *Guthrie* June 10 (SD).

Good numbers of nesting Purple Finches were found in n.e. Ohio s. to *Stark* and *Wayne* (LR). The only other report was from n.w. Indiana in early June. House Finches are expanding exponentially in Illinois and have become locally common in the e. one-half of the state. Iowa had its first nesting records this year with 2 broods in *Davenport* (P) and one at *Corydon* (DP, *fide* JD). In Missouri, nesting was confirmed at *Kennett* (HS), and suspected at *Columbia* (JRa) and *Charleston* (JH). It is only a matter of time before they spread across these states as well. Iowa also had its first nesting Red Crossbills when a pair and four young were discovered at *Des Moines* July 9-10 (E & EA, DT). A ♀ Red Crossbill in *Crawford*, Ill., June 3-11 was probably a nonbreeder (DS). Following last winter's invasion, Pine Siskins remained into summer in all states except Missouri. Definite nesting attempts were established only at *Cleveland* (RH), *Columbus*, O. (*fide* J), and *Morton Arboretum*, Ill. (EW), although apparently none was successful. Lingered Evening Grosbeaks were reported only from *Farmington*, Mo., where a female remained at a feeder until July 15 and a flock of 10 was reported earlier in the summer (BR).

CORRIGENDA — The Black-backed Woodpecker at *Ottumwa*, Ia., last winter (AB 40:287) was observed only on Dec. 28. The Iceland Gulls at *Alton*, Ill.-Mo., Feb. 16 (AB 40:287) should be attributed to W. Rowe and R. Goetz.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

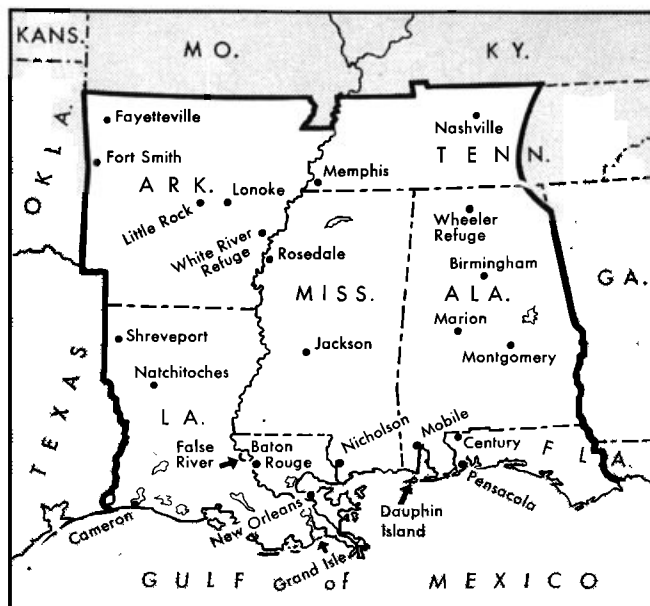
Jerome A. Jackson

It was a hot, dry summer in most of the mid-South, although in Arkansas Joe Neal reported a wet June followed by dry, record-breaking heat. Records were also broken at Mobile (DC). Water was rationed in some areas and agricultural problems owing to the drought made national news, although the greatest drought problems were east of our Region. In spite of extreme weather, the season seems to have generally been a good one for birds—although the heat may have kept a few birders indoors! Herons, egrets, and shorebirds were reported in large congregations at ponds lowered by the drought throughout the Region. Hurricane Bonnie struck the Louisiana coast in late June, and seems to have pushed a few seabirds inland as far as Arkansas.

Highlights of the season included good documentation of widespread summering of American White Pelicans, continued growth of seabird colonies on Gaillard Island in Mobile Bay, an upswing in Wood Stork and Osprey reports, and a number of Bewick's Wren records. My candidates for best birds of the season were the first summer records of Lesser Black-backed Gull in Louisiana, the first documentation of Royal Tern in Arkansas, and nesting Herring Gulls in Alabama—although the latter record may bode future trouble for other nesting seabirds in the Region.

Setbacks included a lack of reports of Black-shouldered Kites from Mississippi and eastern Louisiana, loss of a court battle to limit gas drilling near Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies on D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana, and the burying of nests, eggs, and young of several species by dredge spoil in Mississippi.

The latter problem occurred at Singing River Island, near Pascagoula, Mississippi, a spoil island that shows great promise for colonial waterbirds. This season's nesting efforts by 40–50 Black-necked Stilts, 100+ Gull-billed Terns, 20 Black Skimmers, and others were cut short in late June by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' dredges that pumped spoil onto the nesting area (JT). This disaster followed on the heels of similar breeding-season activities by the Corps in the mid-South in recent years, and ironically followed a letter I received this April from a Corps biologist in which I was told that the Corps is not "getting the credit it deserves for the environmental work it does." The letter further expressed "hope that" I "may be able to correct at least some of the negative (and incorrect) publicity" that the Corps has gotten. I have reviewed the record of the past few years and feel that the records published in *American Birds* speak for themselves: in numerous instances, Corps operations have resulted in the destruction or disruption of nesting seabird colonies. This year has been no different. Yes, the Corps of Engineers built the islands in the first place and for that they deserve credit—although they had to put the spoil someplace, and the islands are just by-products of other activities. Such spoil islands can be a wonderful haven for seabirds, but all too often they have been a cruel trap in the northern Gulf: the birds are attracted to them, begin nesting, then are wiped out by Corps bulldozers or dredges. Whatever good the Corps biologists do does not need to be undone by Corps dredges. Continued dredging is necessary to maintain channels, and the addition of fresh spoil does maintain the early successional stage needed by so many seabirds. Why can't the Corps get its act together and simply ban pumping of spoil onto or adjacent to spoil islands from April through July? I believe



in giving credit where credit is due—and there are some entries on the positive side, such as the great success at Gaillard Island in Mobile Bay this year (the Corps stayed away!)—but the environmental ledger sheet for the Corps of Engineers along the coast in the mid-South keeps coming up with a negative balance.

Helpful hint of the season: for birders who write dates as 6/7/86. Such notations lead to errors. Was the bird seen June 7 or July 6? To assure accuracy, please write-out or abbreviate the month!

ABBREVIATIONS — A.M.F. = Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke Co., Arkansas; P.R.M. = Pascagoula River Marsh, s. Jackson Co., Mississippi; S.R.I. = Singing River Island, near Pascagoula, Jackson Co., Mississippi. Place names in *italics* are parishes (in Louisiana) or counties.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS — A Pacific Loon was identified at Ft. Pickens, Escambia, Fla., June 6 (SDu), and TI notes that BG and BBr reported one at Dauphin I., Apr. 17—presumably the one seen there by others Apr. 20. WC found a Pied-billed Grebe with a brood on 3 occasions June 1–July 24 in marsh e. of Tatumville, Tenn. At A.M.F., H & MP found eight Pied-billed Grebes, including one incubating and two nest-building June 18. A **Masked Booby** at Ft. Walton Beach June 6 provided the 2nd June record for n.w. Florida (BiB).

About 70 Am. White Pelicans at East Bay, Santa Rosa, Fla., June 29 (RDu) were considered very late migrants. However, this species is summering in increasing numbers in the mid-South. Up to 300 summered at Gaillard I. in Mobile Bay (CDC, SH, DD, m.ob.), and up to 22 were lounging on S.R.I., June 18 and July 2 (JT, CD, MH, DK). In Louisiana 36 were near Cameron June 21 (DD, SC), 400 were near Fourchon Rd., Lafourche, June 27 (MS, JK), and 15 were at Morganza July 28 (DG). American White Pelicans may also have summered in Arkansas, where 60 were at L. Millwood June 27 (H & MP) and seven were at L. Dardanelle July 7 (WS).

The Brown Pelican colony on Gaillard I. mushroomed to about 200 nests this year and produced as many as 400 young (CDC, TS, PD, MD). Up to 1500 adult and 1000 imm. Brown Pelicans were seen at Gaillard I. and around Mobile Bay through the summer; they also continued to be seen in coastal Mississippi with increasing frequency, most in Jackson (JJ, CD,

DK, JT) A lone ad Double-crested Cormorant was along Fourchon Rd., Lafourche, La., June 27 (MS, JK). Anhingas nested again this year at the cooling ponds at Big Point, Jackson (JT, JM), and at least 3 nests were found in n. Harrison (JT, MH, DK, DH, JB).

HERONS THROUGH DUCKS — The season's only Am. Bittern report was of one at Radnor L., Davidson, Tenn., June 28 (AT). MH, CD, DK, and JT found four Least Bitterns along the W. Pascagoula R., July 2. A **Great White Heron** was discovered at St. Joseph Peninsula, Gulf, July 2 (HL, TF), and probably the same bird was found s.e. of Wewanitchka July 10 (HL, HS, DSc); there are now only 10 records of this race from n.w. Florida. Great Blue Herons had a banner year on Round I., Jackson, Miss., where there were at least 70 nests and many large nestlings June 18 (JT, CD, DK); this island has supported a similar number of Great Blue Heron nests for several years (JJ), and we hope it will continue to do so. However, much of the island was transferred as "surplus" from federal ownership to the city of Pascagoula this year. Apparently neither the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service nor the National Park Service were willing to assume responsibility for it—a real pity, particularly since Gulf Islands Nat'l Seashore islands are within view of Round I. Although the "Gallinule Pond" near Ingall's Shipyard, Jackson, Miss., is slowly being filled in, it seems to be holding its magic attraction for birds to the end: 73 Great Egrets were there June 3 (JT, JM). MDa had an unusual congregation of 43 Great Egrets at Lower L. below Sardis Dam, Panola, Miss., July 16. Lone Great Egrets were at 2 Benton, Ark., fish farms July 24 & 26 (MM). In Tennessee, up to 14 Snowy Egrets were in Lake July 14 (WC), and one was in Sumner July 26 (JPC, DTC). A heronry in n. Harrison, Miss., included at least 10 Little Blue Heron and 1500 Cattle Egret nests (JT, MH, DK). Groups of 53 Little Blue Herons June 28, and 33 July 16 n. of Savage, Tunica, Miss., suggested a local heronry (MDa). At S.R.I., two adult and 10 imm. Black-crowned Night-Herons were flushed from vegetation July 2 (MH, JT, DK, CD); five were at A.M.F., June 18 (H & MP). In Arkansas, JN, RB, & BS found three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons along Hamstring Creek w. of Fayetteville July 9, and an adult and one immature were near Durham, Ark., July 17 (DJ). At Cocodrie L., Rapides, La., a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nest with three young was found May 31 (HG).

White Ibis records included one at Lonoke, Ark., June 15 (RC, MW, m.ob.) and about 230 adults and five immatures near the E. Pascagoula R., July 2 (JT, MH, DK, CD). Wood Storks must have had a better-than-recent-years season, since there were more records—although still many fewer than a decade ago. In Louisiana these included eight s.w. of Niblett June 1, 30 n. of Hackberry June 2 (MS, PM), and 35 over the Atchafalaya Basin e. of Whiskey Bay exit on I-10 June 16 (SC, DD). In Arkansas there were two at L. Millwood, Howard, July 12 (CM).

A pair of Green-winged Teal was near Niblett, La., June 1 (MS, PM), and an ad. male was in Cameron June 21 (SC). An Am. Black Duck was at the Duck R. Unit of Tennessee N.W.R., July 6 (JCR). Nesting of Mottled Ducks in coastal Mississippi was evidenced by eight non-flying young June 4 at a catfish farm near Kiln (JT, JM), and by adults with broods of six and eight seen June 18 at S.R.I. (JT, CD, DK). At Cedar Pt., Mobile, Ala., a female and four nearly-grown young were seen July 23, suggesting the possibility of a 2nd or at least a replacement brood (TI, JI). Blue-winged Teal nested again at P.R.M., where an adult and six young were seen June 29 (CD). In Arkansas, two Blue-winged Teal made an out-of-season appearance at Fayetteville July 12 (DJ). Out-of-season ducks that could not be written off as cripples included a volant ♀ Gadwall at Bonnet Carre Spillway June 28 (MWe), and a Surf Scoter picked up as it was walking through the Gulf Islands Nat'l Seashore park in Ocean Springs July 2; it appeared uninjured and was released on Horn I. (TS). To round out the duck scene, an unbanded (but likely escapee) Ruddy Shelduck was at the Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner, Tenn., July 4 & 11—the 2nd Nashville area record (JPC, DTC).

VULTURES THROUGH RAILS — A Black Vulture at Cocodrie L., La., was incubating an egg in a duckblind in a cypress-tupelo swamp June 1 (HG). In coastal Mississippi about 25 Black Vultures and 15 Turkey Vultures congregated at the catfish farm near Kiln June 13 (JT, DK). Ospreys fared well in coastal Mississippi this summer: one nest was found at the Big Point cooling ponds June 3 (JT, JM), and numerous nests were under study on Horn and East Ship islands (TS); 2 nests and 10 adults were at Round I., June 18 (JT, DK, CD); and 7 active nests and about 40 adults and immatures were found along the Escatawpa R., Jackson, July 2 (JT, MH, CD, DK). An Osprey was n.e. of Henderson, La., June 1 (MS, PM), and in n.e. Arkansas the species nested successfully at Big Lake Wildlife Ref. for only the 2nd record in 30 years (EP, JN). Although two Ospreys were at Beaver L., Benton, Ark., July 19, no nest was found (AB, *vide* EN). At Percy Priest L., Rutherford, Tenn., the hacking project worked! One of the birds rebuilding a nest in late July was locally hacked (RDP, MiB). Elsewhere in Tennessee, nests were built at Old Hickory L. (*vide* SS), and at the Duck R. Unit, Tennessee N.W.R. (EB), but neither produced young.

The first **American Swallow-tailed Kite** record accepted by the Arkansas Audubon Society in 30+ years was of one along Hwy 167 S in Ouachita R. bottomland of Calhoun Apr. 7, but not reported last season (CaM). In Louisiana, one was seen near Grosse Tete June 1 (MS, PM); another was n. of Butte/La Rose exit on I-10, St. Martin, July 5 (MWe, RS); and four adults and two juveniles were seen near the Pearl R. exit of I-10, St Tammany, July 12 (BC, PN, LHe). At least five Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were viewed from the Pascagoula R. bridge near Wade, June 3 (JT, JM), and lone birds were seen in Hancock, Miss., near Logtown July 7 (JT, DK, MH), and near Kiln July 16 (JT, DK, JS). Black-shouldered Kites have retreated—or at least haven't been seen in Hancock, Miss., this year; the season's only report was of an immature 2 mi s. of Cameron, La., June 21 (SC, DD). Ten Mississippi Kites were at Hatchie N.W.R., Tenn., June 3 (LW), an adult was feeding an immature in Hancock, Miss., July 16 (JS, DK, JT), and many were seen in Shelby, Tenn., through the summer (LC). Bald Eagles nested successfully near Gulfport and Vicksburg, Miss. (JJ, HM), and at White River N.W.R., Ark. (BP, *vide* JSt). In Tennessee, eagle nests included 3 in Stewart, 2 in Humphreys, and one each in Coffee and Jackson; these produced five or more young (*vide* SS).

The appearance of an imm. Cooper's Hawk at Fayetteville, Ark., July 30 erased doubts that the species still occurred as a summer bird there (DJ, JN). Cooper's Hawks were unusually visible in Tennessee this season—9 reports came from Lawrence, Stewart, and Williamson (*vide* SS).

The D'Iberville B.B.S. route was good for four Red-shouldered Hawks June 1 (JT, DK). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk was at Grand Isle, La., June 27 (MS, JK), and JS found two immatures in Hancock, Miss., July 16. A lone Swainson's Hawk was at the Centerton Fish Hatchery, Benton, Ark., July 4 (MM). A very late Peregrine Falcon was near West L., Calcasieu, La., June 1 (MS, PM).

The Black Francolin still persists in Cameron, Louisiana, where one was found near Gum Cove June 2 (*vide* MS, PM). The only King Rail report of the season was of one heard at Goose Pond, Grundy, Tenn., June 6 (JLI). A Purple Gallinule was the star at the Bear Creek W.M.A., Stewart, Tenn., June 4 (MHI, CKC). Although rare and local in Arkansas in summer, Purple Gallinules and Com. Moorhens (one to four of each) were at Faulkner L., Pulaski, in May and June (RC, FM). A Com. Moorhen at Monsanto Ponds, Maury, Tenn., June 27, gave a broken-wing display in response to a nearby raccoon, suggesting a nearby nest or young (KGA). At L. Bentonville, Ark., two Am. Coots were seen June 2 and July 4 (NW, CK, MM). Two were at P.R.M., June 3, and three were at Lakeshore, Hancock, June 4, but there was no sign of nesting (JT, JM).

SHOREBIRDS — The season provided ample rewards for plover lovers: 15 Black-bellieds in basic plumage, about 20 adult and imm. Wilson's, and about 12 Semipalmated, were

all at P.R.M., July 19 (JT, CD). At Blakely I., Mobile, Ala., TI found two Black-bellied Plovers July 22: one in basic plumage, one in alternate. A large Wilson's Plover chick was also seen at S.R.I., June 18 (JT). In Louisiana, Semipalmated Plovers may have summered: eight were e. of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass June 21-22, and two were there July 19-20 (DD, SC); two were at Fourchon Beach, Lafourche, June 27 (MS, JK). In Alabama, one was at Blakely I., July 22 (TI). In Tennessee, two Piping Plovers were at Island 13, Lake, July 26 (MI), and one was in the s.w. corner of Lake July 28 (WC). About 20 Killdeers (uncommon in summer in n.w. Florida) congregated at crawfish ponds in Gulf July 10 (HL, HS, DSc).

Up to six Black-necked Stilts were at the Ensley sewage lagoons in Memphis this summer and at least 2 broods were hatched; this was the 5th year the birds have been seen there, and the 3rd nesting season (JRW). To the west, at A.M.F., H & MP found two June 18. Stilts nested again at P.R.M. (JJ, BJ), and in Louisiana, six were at Morganza July 28 (DG). Crawfish ponds s.e. of Wewanitchka, Fla., attracted six Black-necked Stilts July 10, but there was no sign of local nesting (HL, DSc, HS).

About 40 Am. Avocets were at S.R.I., June 18, but none was there July 2 after fresh spoil had been pumped onto the island (JT, CD, DK). CM found three in breeding plumage at L. Millwood, Ark., July 15, and H & MP found one at L. Hamilton Fish Hatchery, Garland, Ark., July 8. Greater Yellowlegs may have summered in Cameron, La., where eight were seen June 21-22 and one July 20 (DD, SC). At the Grenada, Miss., airport, eight Lesser Yellowlegs came in with the rains from Hurricane Bonnie June 28 (G & SK). At least 20 Lesser Yellowlegs were at P.R.M., July 19 (JT, CD). A Solitary Sandpiper at crawfish ponds s.e. of Wewanitchka July 10 (HL, HS, DSc) was very early for n.w. Florida. The "before the Corps" birds at S.R.I. included 15+ adult and imm. Willets June 18 (JT, DK, CD). Inland appearances of six Willets at the Grenada, Miss., airport June 28, and of four at L. Hamilton State Fish Hatchery, Ark., July 5 (H & MP) followed Hurricane Bonnie.

Spotted Sandpipers appeared in Tennessee at DeKalb June 11 (JWW) and at Stewart June 15 & 24 (JCR), and in Arkansas at A.M.F. and the Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery, Lonoke, July 6 (H & MP). Early southbound Spotted Sandpipers showed up at Waveland and Bay St. Louis July 16 (JT, DK, JS) and at P.R.M., July 19 (JT, CD). A Whimbrel graced the beach e. of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass July 19-20 (SC). Up to six Long-billed Curlews were there June 21-22, and one was there July 19-20 (DD, SC). Also in Louisiana a Hudsonian Godwit in basic plumage was near Morse June 1 (MS, PM), and four Marbled Godwits were on the beach in Cameron June 22 (SC, DD). Ruddy Turnstones seem to be regular but rare summer birds along the n. Gulf. This year five were along Harrison, Miss., beaches June 4 (JM, JT), 12 were on the beach e. of Calcasieu Pass June 21-22 (DD, SC), and one was there July 20 (DD). Although uncommon inland, two were at Island 13 in the Mississippi R., Lake, Tenn., Aug. 2 (WC). The beach e. of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass was refuge for up to 60 Red Knots (most in basic plumage, two or three in partial alternate) and 80 Sanderlings (many stained with oil) June 21-22, and for seven Red Knots and about 20 Sanderlings (some with oiled plumage) July 19-20 (DD, SC). Jackson, Miss., was host to six Semipalmated Sandpipers June 18 at S.R.I. (JT, DK, CD), and one July 19 at P.R.M. (JT, CD). In Lafourche, La., eight in alternate plumage were on Fourchon Beach June 27 (MS, JK). Late or summering W. Sandpipers included one in Cameron June 21 (DD, SC), 40 at Fourchon Beach June 27 (MS, JK), and four at Bay St. Louis July 16 (JT, JS, DK); by July 19 there were about 50 at P.R.M., suggesting returning migrants (JT, CD). Least Sandpipers showed a similar pattern: three at Waveland July 16 (JT, DK, JS), and 200+ at P.R.M., July 19 (JT, CD), although in Cameron, La., one in alternate plumage was present June 22 (DD, SC), and a near-record-early bird was s.e. of Wewanitchka, Fla., July 10 (HL, DSc, HS). A lone Pectoral Sandpiper was at P.R.M., July 19 (JT, CD). A possible summering Dunlin was e. of the mouth of Calcasieu

Pass July 4 (in alternate plumage; RS, MWe) and July 19 (in "mostly alternate plumage"; DD). Most of about 20 Stilt Sandpipers at P.R.M., July 19 were still in alternate plumage (JT, CD). A Short-billed Dowitcher was at A.M.F., July 2 (H & MP), and in n.w. Florida, six were near Wewanitchka July 10 (HL, DSc, HS), and about 20 were near Pace July 12 (BM). The Florida records were the first for dates between June 13 and July 15 since 1929! Their arrival on the Mississippi and Louisiana coasts coincided with that of other shorebirds: two in alternate plumage July 16 at Waveland (JT, DK, JS), about 100, most in alternate plumage, July 19 at P.R.M. (JT, CD); and up to five in alternate plumage July 19-20 in Cameron (DD). In Florida, a Long-billed Dowitcher was at the Perdido Bay Country Club sewage lagoon, July 30 (OF); in Louisiana, two were at Morganza July 28 (DG).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — A Pomarine Jaeger collected 6 mi w. of Holly Beach, Cameron, La., July 5 was a possible leftover from Hurricane Bonnie (RS, MWe, *L.S.U.M.Z.). Laughing Gulls were abundant on the Mississippi coast, with about 500 adults congregated at S.R.I., June 18 (JT, DK, CD); many nested at Gaillard I. in June (CDC, m.ob.). An ad. Laughing Gull seemed to have followed Hurricane Bonnie to L. Millwood, Ark., July 12, to become the 12th state record (CM, H & MP). Coastal Cameron was summer home for several Ring-billed Gulls: about 20 (all 2nd-summer plumage except one adult) were seen June 21-22, and 13 on July 19-20 (SC, DD). One of the season's big surprises was a pair of Herring Gulls that had a nest with 2 eggs June 4 on Gaillard I. (CDC, TS, MD, PD). A very faded 2nd-summer Herring Gull was also at S.R.I., June 18. In Cameron, the seven Herring Gulls found June 21-22 included an ad. plumaged bird (DD, SC); on July 19-20, lingerers included three in first-summer plumage, and one each in 2nd- and 3rd-summer dress (DD, SC). A Lesser Black-backed Gull in 2nd-summer plumage e. of Calcasieu Pass June 21-22 and July 20 provided the first true summer record of this species for Louisiana (DD, SC).

Although there were numerous small Gull-billed Tern chicks at S.R.I. on June 18, none could be found "post Corps" July 2 (JT, DK, CD, MH). Loafers at S.R.I., June 18 included about five Caspian Terns (JT, CD, DK). A summer Caspian Tern was at New Spodra, Ark., June 7 (T & LH), and a very early immature was at Lower L. below Sardis Dam, Panola, Miss., July 16 (MDa). A thriller in Arkansas was a very rare inland and first documented state appearance of an ad. **Royal Tern** at A.M.F., June



Adult Royal Tern at Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke Co., Ark., June 15, 1986. First Arkansas record, and one of very few inland in North America. Photo/Max Parker.

14–15 (H & MP, RC, E & HH, MW, WM, MS), a few days later the bird was found dead, apparently shot (*Univ. of Arkansas Museum, *vide* JN). About 300 well-grown but dependent young Royal Terns and 150 similarly-aged Sandwich Terns, presumably from nests on Gaillard I., were congregating between Ft. Morgan and Dauphin I., July 23 (TI, JI). A lone juv. Common Tern was seen at Waveland June 30 (MH, JT). The seven Com. Terns in summer plumage with bright soft-part colors at A.M.F., July 2 were exceptional for Arkansas (H & MP), but perhaps reflected hurricane displacement of some of the higher-than-usual numbers seen on the s.w. Louisiana coast this summer: about 200 June 21–22 and up to 250 July 19–20 (DD, SC). Two ad. Forster's Terns were at Bob Kidd L., Ark., June 8 (MM), and a juvenile was at Waveland July 16 (JT, DK, JS).

The Least Tern colony at Gulfport suffered some setbacks owing to construction associated with placement of storm sewers along the beach, but obvious efforts were made by those involved to minimize disturbance to the birds. Indeed, the construction equipment and ban on parking in the area undoubtedly had some positive effects in keeping sun-worshippers out of the colony (JJ, BJ). Elsewhere on the Mississippi coast, Least Terns had a moderate season. None nested at P.R.M., but colonies on the roof of the Singing River Mall in Gautier and on the nearby K-Mart and other buildings did well (JJ, BJ). New roof-top nesting was noted in Biloxi (JT, JJ), and several adults with non-flying young were seen on the Waveland beach June 30, the first indication of Hancock nesting (JT, MH). About 200 were at S.R.I., June 18, but there was no sign of nesting (JT, CD, DK). About 30 birds tried to nest near the west end of Horn I. in company with about 10 Gull-billed Terns and 30 Black Skimmers (JJ). Nowhere was there evidence of the Least Tern malady of a few years ago that some tried to attribute to the heat—which was just as bad this year. Least Terns were seen on several dates at Island 13 in the Mississippi R., Lake, Tenn., with a maximum of about 40 July 14 (WC). An unusual middle Tennessee record was of a Least Tern at Cross Creek N.W.R., June 12 (JCR). In Arkansas, two were at the L. Hamilton Hatchery July 11 (H & MP). In Louisiana, five were seen at a Mississippi R. borrowpit at Transylvania, E. Carroll, June 11 (BCr); and about 300 gathered on the beach e of the mouth of Calcasieu Pass, where there were also 7 nests with eggs July 19–20 (DD). About 150 Black Terns were at S.R.I., June 18 (JT, DK, CD), and 350 were near Fourchon Beach, Lafourche, La., June 27 (MS, JK). Black Skimmers did well at Gulfport, although they avoided the Least Tern colony where there were construction activities. The nesting area at the VA Hospital included 200–250 pairs (JJ, JT).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS—The Com. Ground-Dove typically shows up in the fall in Mississippi, but there were records of single birds at Kiln June 4 (JM, JT), n. Jackson June 11 (JT, JD), and near Nacaise Crossing July 7 (MH, JT, DK). In Reserve, La., three Com. Ground-Doves flushed from farm land June 1 (RS); near Brusly, St. James, two were seen June 25 (MS). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was with a fledged juvenile July 2 along the Escatawpa R. in Jackson, Miss. (MH, JT, DK, CD). Although Greater Roadrunners seemed to rapidly occupy new areas of Arkansas in the 1970s, there have been fewer records in recent years; two were in Washington farmland July 24 (NW, CK). On June 8, D & CS saw two Com. Barn-Owls near Eudora, Chicot, and a road-kill near Portland, Ashley, Ark.

Leiper's Fork, Williamson, may have been this season's hummingbird capital for Tennessee: 50+ Ruby-throateds were there in June and July (BHS). Hummingbirds also seemed particularly abundant in east-central Mississippi—as measured by numbers we saw and numbers of phone calls from feeder proprietors (JJ, BJ). A battle to protect the 5 Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies at D'Arbonne N.W.R., La., from habitat destruction by gas well drillers was lost this year, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service taking the position in court that loss of these colonies would not affect the species (JJ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPER—Eastern Wood-Pewees at Logtown fledged two young between June 28 & 30 (JT, DK, CD, GM). An Alder Flycatcher was heard June 6 at Devil's Den S.P., rather late for Washington, Ark. (JN). A Willow Flycatcher was seen and heard at the same L. Bentonville location June 2 and July 4, suggesting local breeding (MM). In Tennessee, Willow Flycatchers were heard at Del Rio Pike, Williamson, June 2 (SS); Monsanto Ponds, Maury, June 7 (WJ), Cross Creeks N.W.R., June 11–23 (JR); and at the Duck R. Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., July 6 (JR). The woods of coastal Cameron harbored up to 16 Least Flycatchers July 19–20 (SC, DD). An E. Kingbird nest 2 ft above a pond in dead brush at Port Bienville, Hancock, Miss., was unusually low but was successful in fledging one young (JT, DK, JS). A first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for Jonesboro, Ark., was present July 13–14 (LK).

In Tennessee up to four Horned Larks were at Liberty Grove, Lawrence, in June and July (DJS), and two were at Woods Res., Franklin, July 3 (HY, JP). Again this year Purple Martins nested at least 120 ft high in a microwave tower in Hancock, Miss (JT). For the 2nd summer Tree Swallows were at Bob Kidd L., Ark., but no nest was found this summer (MM). Elsewhere in Arkansas, 2 pairs had nests at Ashbaugh L., Greene, May 27 (EH, WB), and three were seen at the Okay Levee, L. Millwood, July 12 (CM, H & MP). In Louisiana, two were carrying food to a cavity in a dead tree at the Mississippi R. levee at Transylvania Park in E. Carroll June 11 (BCr), and two were at Bonnet Carre spillway July 26 (MWe). Tennessee records included 2 nests June 7 at Monsanto (WJ), 3 nests June 7 at Laurel Hill, Lawrence (DJS), and 2 nests June 19 at Cross Creeks N.W.R. (JR). No nest records of this rapidly-expanding species have yet been reported from Mississippi, but the challenge is there and the birds may be too—the many ponds and lakes with standing dead trees in n.w. Mississippi are an open invitation. Nesting of Cliff Swallows on the Mississippi coast was documented June 11 under a U.S. 90 bridge over the Pearl R. (JS, JT). In Yalobusha and Grenada, Miss., Cliff Swallows showed moderate increases (L & BC). Fifty to 100 pairs were nesting the old-fashioned way—on cliffs rather than under bridges—along the War Eagle R. n. of Huntsville, Ark., June 14 (DW, *vide* JN). An adult and fledgling Fish Crow were at S.R.I., July 2 (CD, MH). BB found two Brown-headed Nuthatches June 10 near Fern, Franklin, n. of their usual range in Arkansas.

Some of the surprises of the season were summer records of Brown Creepers for bottomland areas of several w. Tennessee counties: w. of Jackson, Madison, June 12; n. of Rossville, Fayette, June 17; Reelfoot L., Lake, June 20; s. of Como, Henry, June 23; and Shelby Forest S.P., Shelby, July 5 (RF).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS—This has been a Bewick's Wren year. Not necessarily a comeback for them, but rather, a year in which observers really seemed to be looking for them. That's good. The first step to understanding what is happening to this apparently-declining species is to find out where and in what numbers they still exist. During June, observers in Arkansas found the species in Washington at the Fayetteville V.A. Hospital and Bob Kidd L. (MM), and at Mt Sequoyah (JN); in Benton, singing individuals were at 2 places in Rogers and at stop 36 on the Avoca B.B.S. route (EN). In Tennessee, no evidence of breeding was noted, but one to three birds were in Stewart, Sumner, Dickson, Humphreys, Wilson, Williamson, Rutherford, Maury, and Lawrence—the best Tennessee showing in the 1980s (*vide* SS). House Wrens continued their invasion of Tennessee, with summer records from Clarksville, Nashville, Lebanon, Murfreesboro, Gallatin, Celina, and Cookeville (*vide* SS). MM located a singing Sedge Wren at Centerton, Ark., July 26. A pair of Marsh Wrens and one fledged young were found w. of the Pascagoula R. in coastal marsh July 2 (MH, DK, JT, CD). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was unusual for coastal Cameron, La., July 19 (SC).

JW watched early young assist adult E. Bluebirds feed their 2nd brood June 30 (*vide* JT). An Am. Robin nest at Lyman July

11 was rare for coastal Mississippi (JT, JW) Also rare were 3 s Louisiana records: 2 pairs attending young June 6 at Baton Rouge (VR), a lone bird at Reserve June 8 (RS), and a pair that fledged young in May at Houma (RD, MO, BD). Two Gray Catbirds in Harrison, Miss., July 16 provided a rare breeding-season record (JS, DK, JT). A Gray Catbird was at Grand Isle June 27, where a pair was seen last summer (MS, JK).

A group of six Loggerhead Shrikes lined up on a chain-link fence at Logtown June 26 appeared to be practicing finding and impaling prey (JT, DK, CD). Shrikes seemed to fare well in Lawrence, Tenn., where 35 territories and 4 nests were found in June and July (DJS). A lone Bell's Vireo was at the dog pound in Monroe, La., June 13, where a pair nested last year (DTK). At L. Siloam Springs, Ark., MM found three Warbling Vireos June 4.

A Blue-winged Warbler was seen at L. Wedington, Washington, Ark., June 7 (MM). An apparently late migrant Tennessee Warbler was singing at Fayetteville, Ark., June 13 (JN). At Eureka Springs, Ark., two singing males and ♀ Yellow Warbler were found June 4 (JF). Yellow Warblers appeared in coastal Mississippi about on schedule: 14, most immatures, were in Jackson July 19 (JT, CD). The 2nd Nashville, Tenn., area summer record of a Chestnut-sided Warbler was of an ad male July 7 (JCM). A very early imm. Black-throated Green Warbler was collected near Cameron, La., July 19 (DD, SC, *L S U.M.Z.). Prairie Warblers had young out of the nest in Hancock, Miss., June 30 (JT, MH). A very late Bay-breasted Warbler put in an appearance at Mt. Magazine, Logan, Ark., June 19 (KM). An imm. Black-and-White Warbler was at Logtown July 16 (JT); and first there was one female July 4 (RS, MWe), then up to 16 on July 19–20 that plied the woods of coastal Cameron, La. (DD, SC). A singing Am. Redstart was at Jay, Santa Rosa, Fla., May 26–June 7 (RDu). A Worm-eating Warbler was found near the limit of its breeding range in n.w. Arkansas near L. Wedington June 7 (MM); in Mississippi one was at Logtown June 26 (DK, CD). B & LC heard an Ovenbird n w of Corinth, Alcorn, Miss., June 4.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — B & LC found a Scarlet Tanager June 4 near Walnut, Tippah, and two others June 5 at localities near DeKalb, Miss. RP heard one near Samburg, Tenn., June 2. An ad. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Williamson, Tenn., June 9–10 (JC). An important record left out of the spring report was of a ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak at Nashville May 4, the 5th record there, but the first since 1975 (AT).

Painted Buntings seem to be uncommon, but making more regular appearances, in coastal Mississippi. Records this summer included singing males at Port Bienville and Lakeshore June 4 and at Lyman June 8 (JT, JM, GM). In Washington, Ark., five were seen near Lincoln L., June 8 (MM). Dickcissels had a good year in middle Tennessee, where populations were found in Stewart, Montgomery, Sumner, Humphreys, Overton, Williamson, Maury, Bedford, Rutherford, Coffee, Lawrence, and Franklin (fide SS). Counts of Bachman's Sparrows on the Ne-caise and D'Iberville B.B.S. routes in coastal Mississippi were 13 and 28 (JT), and an adult and four fledged young were near Kiln July 16 (JT, DK, JS). In n. Mississippi, GK found two to four singing males at 3 sites near Oxford. In Arkansas, they were found near Edinburg and Kingsland, Cleveland, July 4 (WS, TF). At Fall River, Giles, Tenn., DJS found up to 10 Bachman's Sparrows in June and July. The Rufous-crowned Sparrow persists in Arkansas, where one was seen July 19 (WS, MW). A nice July 26 find at the Bonnet Carre Spillway was a subad. ♂ Lark Sparrow (MWe). In middle Tennessee, Lark Sparrows were found in June at 3 sites in Rutherford and 2 sites in Wilson (RM). A lone Grasshopper Sparrow near Siloam Springs June 4 provided a new summer locale for this rare Arkansas species (MM). Populations of Seaside Sparrows in coastal Mississippi were found in marsh grasses along the W. Pascagoula R. north of U.S. 90 (MH, JT, CD, DK), at Bang's L., Pascagoula (JT, DK, CD), and on Marsh Point at Ocean Springs (JJ, BJ).

New Louisiana localities for Great-tailed Grackles included the LSU-E campus and nearby rice fields s. of Eunice, Acadia, and the e. edge of Eunice, St. Landry, where 10–25 were seen through June (HG). In Terrebonne, La., two Boat-tailed Grackles were s.e. of Chacahoula June 25 (MS). A pair of **Bronzed Cowbirds** was at Pearlinton June 17 for a 2nd Mississippi record (JS) and photographed there June 19 (JT, DK, HW, GM, MB) At Reserve, St. John, La., five to seven were seen through the summer (MWe, RS). Northern Orioles are uncommon breeders in the Arkansas Ozarks, but MM found them in Benton at L. Siloam Springs June 4 and on the Ozark N.F., June 29, and in Adair at L. Frances June 7. The species' numbers seem to be declining in Mississippi (JJ) and in middle Tennessee (SS), where the only report was of an ad. male in Coffee (SS).

House Finches continued their invasion of the mid-South, taking young to feeders in Memphis (WM, fide BC), where they have been seen since 1980 and where young were first seen in 1982. Elsewhere in Tennessee, nesting was documented for Montgomery and Rutherford, and birds were seen in Clay, Pickett, and Putnam (fide SS). The first House Finch breeding record for Mississippi was in Starkville this summer (JJ, BJ, MH), but a male spent the summer in Oxford and was joined at a feeder by a female August 5–7 (MDa, SD). In Mobile, Ala., at least two males and two females were seen at feeders through the summer, although there was no positive evidence of breeding (AD, DSm, VF, MF). A ♀ Am. Goldfinch at Grand Isle, La., June 27 was extremely unusual (MS, JK).

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Bernard Gollop

Our summers are not known for their scintillating records, but 1986 was different, including a record Saskatchewan list of 282 species for June and July.

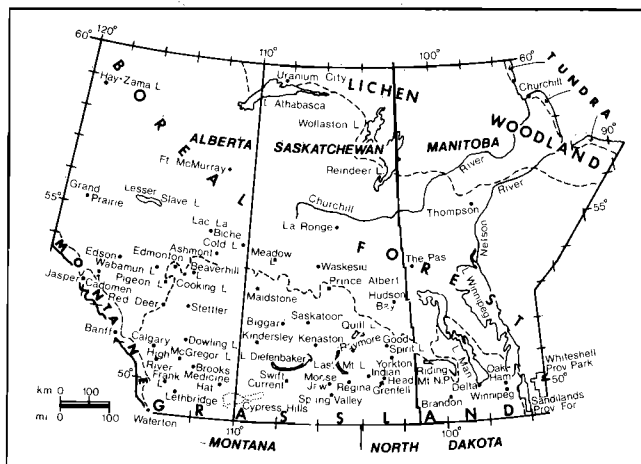
June temperatures were 1°–2°C above normal while July was 2°C below normal. June precipitation was below normal, more than 50% through central Saskatchewan and central Alberta. There were tornadoes in southern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta June 19, and heavy thunderstorms in southern Manitoba June 26. Precipitation in July was well above normal with hail and thundershowers in one or more parts of the Region every week.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Pacific-type loon showing green sheen on the throat was studied at Churchill June 17 (MGi, SS). According to the National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (1983) as well as Robbins et al., *A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America* (1983), this would be an extralimital Arctic Loon—following recent taxonomic changes that designate the birds breeding in Canada as Pacific Loons. However, Palmer's *Handbook of North American Birds* (1962) states that some Pacific Loons (then a subspecies) also show green sheen. This could suggest that purple/green sheen is as unreliable a field mark for loons as for scaup. Very few Clark's Grebes were reported, and all were with Westerns. Two incubating Clark's and two others were found June 25 on Pelican L., Ninette, Man., and one was on Wascana Marsh, Regina, July 22 (KD, TR, BL, PB). Taxonomically, the first Churchill species far from usual summer ranges were a Red-necked Grebe June 8 (GY) and two Am. White Pelicans June 29 (JL, JC). Pelican and Double-crested Cormorant production was the best in years at Redberry L., Krydor, Sask., with >275 and 124 young, respectively (SH). Three species of egrets showed up at the n. end of Last Mountain L.—two Greats almost daily through June, a Snowy July 24, and a Cattle Egret June 2 (WH, SL).

S.A.

This might well be referred to as the Year Of The Ibis in Saskatchewan. Previous reports included up to four White-faced in 1976, 1977, 1978 & 1984, and a single Glossy in 1979. This summer a **Glossy Ibis** in full breeding plumage was studied near Crane L., Piapot, June 2 and on Chaplin L., 120 km e., July 14. An unidentified ibis was seen on Crane L., June 3. Then 2 pairs of vociferous ibises in breeding plumage were photographed on a slough near Chaplin L., June 5; three were typical White-faced, but one might have been a Glossy. These birds were not found July 14. On July 15 a breeding-plumaged Glossy and an unidentified ibis were seen on Chapin L., and on Aug. 25, three ibises were seen on Chaplin L. and nine on Crane L. during an aerial survey. All except the June 2 & 5 birds were on newly-created Ducks Unlimited projects (MGo, BG, MGi).

GEESE THROUGH FALCONS — A flock of 12 Snow Geese July 27 at Whitewater L., Man., was particularly unusual (Brandon Nat. Hist. Soc.). In the Raymore-n. Last Mountain L. area, breeding Canada Geese increased by 50% (WH). Eighteen ♂ Cinnamon Teal constituted a large concentration for Saskatchewan; they were along the Ducks Unlimited dyke at Crane L., June 3 (MGo). A ♀ Harlequin Duck at Candle L., June 17 was the farthest n. this rarity has been reported in Saskatchewan (DW). At Loon L., Sask., 14 of 25 Osprey nests produced young, compared to 11 last year (SH, FS). Two Ospreys



in a cultivated field at Weyburn, Sask., June 20 were far from normal June range and habitat, as was a Broad-winged Hawk at Big Muddy L., Minton, Sask., June 24 (NP, RGO). Swainson's Hawks were much more common in s. Saskatchewan than in the past 3 years. In 226 successful nests, most of the 473 young were banded—about average production (WH, SH, JH). A flock of 40 Swainson's, presumably nonbreeders, was found in a field near Moose Jaw June 19 (SW) and another of 60± in late July near Bromhead, Sask. (CB). Red-tailed Hawks had more nests (34) and better production (55 young) than in the past 10 years around Raymore (WH). Successful Ferruginous Hawks were also average in s.w. Saskatchewan—189 young in 62 nests (SH, WH). There were 3 nesting attempts in s.w. Manitoba—one successful, one abandoned, and one with fate unknown (CC, BRA). A late Rough-legged Hawk was found at the n. end of Last Mountain L., June 1 (WH, SL). Ten young were banded in 6 Golden Eagle nests in Saskatchewan (SH). Seven Am. Kestrel nests on a farm at White Bear, Sask., produced 31 young (SJ). Two Peregrine Falcons remained at Oak Hammock until at least June 15 (GH, PH).

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES — A concentration of >15 Yellow Rails in Douglas Marsh near Brandon June 23 was notable (JL). Large numbers of migrant shorebirds remained later than usual into June in Manitoba and Saskatchewan

S.A.

In 1984 Wayne Harris found two **Snowy Plovers** on Old Wives Lake, s.w. of Moose Jaw, for the 2nd Saskatchewan record. The area was not checked in 1985, but on July 7, 1986, Phil Browne found a single bird in the same locality. On the 18th a nest with 5 eggs was found by Bob Kreba and Bob Luterbach, establishing Canada's first nesting record. An egg was collected for the Provincial Museum. The birds were still in attendance July 25, but there were only 3 eggs. The pair eventually deserted—probably as a result of too much harassment by local and distant listers. If the birds return next year, will they suffer the same fate?

Piping Plovers, designated an endangered species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), decreased significantly on at least 2 major breeding areas—Chaplin and Big Quill lakes. New small populations were found on 5 other lakes (WH, SL). Periodic surveying of Big Quill L. again produced some interesting shorebird numbers: 8600 Greater Yellowlegs July 10; 13,600 Lesser Yellowlegs,

1120 Marbled Godwits, 7200 Sanderlings, 2200 Least Sandpipers, 3700 Baird's, 6200 Pectorals, 21,600 Stilt Sandpipers and 3200 dowitchers (both species) July 24. There were also 37 northbound Ruddy Turnstones June 8 and 1000 southbound White-rumped Sandpipers July 10 (WH, SL). High counts for other species included 200 Hudsonian Godwits July 16 and 850 Red-necked Phalaropes June 9 on the Ducks Unlimited project at Chaplin L. (MGo). At Churchill, Ruddy Turnstones peaked June 9–12 with 10,000± birds, a W. Sandpiper (provincial rarity; no description) was reported June 11, and 2000± Red Phalaropes occurred June 14 (BC, MG1).

GULLS THROUGH SAPSUCKERS — One **Lesser Black-backed Gull** June 29 (with description; JL, JC) and three Ross' Gulls June 25 were seen at Churchill (*vide* BC). Common Tern production at Redberry L., Sask., was the best in 5 years with 134 young banded (SH). Another rarity at Churchill was Black Guillemot from June 16 through July 13, with a maximum of 14 on June 30 (BC, m.ob.). Many Saskatchewan observers reported that Black-billed Cuckoos were up over last year; they were also up in the Medicine Hat area (*vide* BG, RGa). Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos June 23 at E. Braintree, Man., were rarities for the Region (RKL). After a bust year, Great Horned Owls made their greatest comeback in 3 decades in Saskatchewan; based on 84 nests, the average was 2.5 young fledged per pair (SH). Some observers in all 3 provinces reported Burrowing and Short-eared owls, the latter as far n. as Churchill, down from 1985. A **Vaux's Swift** was described from Waterton Lakes N P June 4 & 7 (RS, LG). Single Rufous Hummingbirds turned up at La Pérouse Bay near Churchill July 17 and in a Moose Jaw yard July 28 (BC, SW). A far w. Red-headed Woodpecker was found in Calgary July 19 (JRI). Red-naped Sapsucker, recently separated from the Yellow-bellied, becomes a new breeding species in the Cypress Hills of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

PHOEBES THROUGH WAXWINGS — Three recently-fledged Say's Phoebes were found as far e. as Snowflake, Man. (CC). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Ravenscrag June 16 became Saskatchewan's 7th record (CE). An albino Horned Lark was found in a flock of 100± June 24 near Coronach, Sask. (RGo). Tree Swallow production in the Saskatoon area was poor with an average of 3.1 young banded in 129 box-nests (100 successful; MH). A family group of about six Rock Wrens at Gardiner Dam, Cutbank, Sask., July 27 furnished a particularly northerly breeding record (SS). Two E. Bluebird nestings were reported as far w. as Moose Jaw and another 2 as far n. as Saskatoon (SW, MH). Also in the Saskatoon area, 51 of 64 box-nestings of Mountain Bluebirds were successful, yielding 227 banded young (MH). At Sundre "more robins than ever before" were reported (FH).

S.A.

Wayne Harris reported a record three species of thrashers in Saskatchewan this summer. In addition to the common Brown, he found a Sage Thrasher June 25 at Big Muddy L., >200 km e. of its usual range in the Cypress Hills. Then on July 27, while driving near Raymore, he saw a **Curve-billed Thrasher**, apparently in imm. plumage, eating grasshoppers on the road. He heard it sing twice while he searched unsuccessfully for it. It could not be found the next day. This is apparently the first reported sighting of this species for Canada. A description has been submitted.

Two Cedar Waxwings July 14 at Churchill were far from "home" (JRg).

SHRIKES THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW — Loggerhead Shrikes, designated a threatened species by COSEWIC, were noticeably up in Saskatchewan, and more nests than usual

were reported in the Raymore-n Last Mountain L. area, 21 of 25 nests were successful and produced 99 young (WH). Based on sightings and nests, they did well also in Manitoba, but not around Calgary (RKO, DC, JS). Two singing Nashville Warblers near Water Valley, Alta., were out of their published breeding ranges on June 3 & 11 (JP). Two warblers n.e. of their breeding ranges were found at Churchill: a ♂ Magnolia June 12, and a ♂ Bay-breasted June 30 (BC, JL, JC). Single singing Black-throated Blue Warblers near Meacham, Sask., June 20–22 and Water Valley, Alta., June 22 were far w. of their usual summer haunts (BJ, WW). A ♂ Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler was found beyond its normal breeding range—the Cypress Hills—June 8 at Nicolle Flats, n.e. of Moose Jaw (CA, BL). Six reports of one to two singing Connecticut Warblers w. of Calgary again suggested a s. extension of their breeding range (DC). The Yellow-breasted Chat, a Manitoba rarity, at Birdshell P.P. was still present June 7 (RP). A ♂ **Scarlet Tanager** May 23 near Bow Island was an extreme rarity for Alberta (IP, SG).

An ad. ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak, e. of its recognized breeding range, was seen near Lumsden June 27 (CA, BL). A Rufous-sided Towhee was far north June 23 when it was found at Turtle L., Livelong, Sask. (MC, SS). A **Brewer's Sparrow**, normally found in extreme s.w. Saskatchewan, was singing and remaining on territory e. of Montreal L., Sask., June 30, July 1, 4, & 9 (DW). Saskatchewan's first summering **Field Sparrow** (there are 2 winter records) was a bird singing s. of Saskatoon from early July to at least the 26th (HF, JW, m.ob.). Baird's Sparrows continue to adapt to man-made habitats; "many" were singing in an irrigated hayfield at Maple Creek, Sask., June 6 (MO). Relatively high Saskatchewan densities of Grass-hopper Sparrows were found n.e. of Piapot—seven heard in 3 km June 3—and s.e. of Goodwater—a colony of about six June 22 (MGo, BG, CB, RKR). A high concentration of Sharp-tailed Sparrows was found at the s. tip of Porter L., near Saskatoon, June 11—six birds singing (CE). Manitoba's 3rd sighting of an **Eastern Meadowlark** was June 21–23 at E. Braintree (PT). Western Meadowlarks have become rare in the St. Paul-Vegreville-Vermilion, Alta., area in the past few years despite no obvious change in land use (BRi). Pine Siskins and Am Goldfinches were particularly common in extreme s.e. Saskatchewan while "hundreds" of siskins appeared at Sundre June 23 (RD, DS, HP, FH).

OBSERVERS — (Provincial compilers in boldface; local compilers in italics)—C. Adam, C. Bjorklund, P. Browne, M. Carlson, B. Chartier, D. Collister, J. Coons, C. Cuthbert, K. DeSmet, R. Dixon, C. Escott, H. Freeden, R. Gardner (RGA), S. Gerber, M. Gilliland (MGi), R. Godwin (RGo), **B. Gollop**, M. Gollop (MGo), L. Guillemette, P. Hamel, J. Harris, W. Harris, F. Haug, G. Holland, M. Houston, S. Houston, B. Johns, S. Jordheim, R. Klauke (RKL), **R. Koes** (RKO), R. Kreba (RKR), S. Lamont, J. Langham, B. Luterbach, M. O'Shea, I. Painter, R. Parsons, H. Paton, J. Podlubny, N. Postey, B. Ratcliffe (BRa), J. Riddell (JRI), T. Riffel, B. Rippin (BRi), J. Rising (JRg), F. Scott, S. Shadick, D. Silcox, J. Steeves, R. Storms, P. Taylor, S. Wait, J. Wedgwood, D. Weidl, W. Wilson, G. Yaki.—**J. BERNARD GOLLOP**, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4.



NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

David O. Lambeth

Abundant precipitation that fell across the Region was particularly welcome in Montana and the western Dakotas, where grasslands and wetlands were in good condition for the first time in several years. In the eastern Dakotas, rainfall was excessive in some locales. Harris reported that many lakes in eastern South Dakota were at their highest levels in 50 years—flooding nesting sites on islands and forcing gulls, terns, and pelicans to choose shorelines and peninsulas where predation was probably heavy.

The season was notable for several first state records and the discovery of a major nesting site for waders at Lake Preston in South Dakota.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in *italics* are counties.

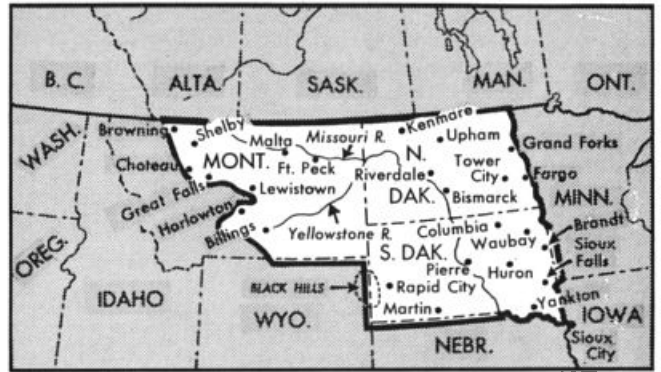
LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Common Loons, known to breed only in the Turtle Mts., N.D., summered at several locales in the 3 states. The Eared Grebe colony at Minnewaukan Flats in Benson, N.D., was much reduced from last year, apparently because the extensive area of dead, flooded-out cattails disappeared as the level of water in Devils Lake stabilized at a higher level (DL). Three broods of Red-necked Grebes were raised at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., at the s. limit of their range (LL). Clark's Grebe was seen in North Dakota at Minnewaukan Flats (GL), Long Lake N.W.R. (RR), and Gascoyne Res. (D & CG), leaving little doubt that this newly-recognized species will be seen regularly.

Nests for Am. White Pelican totalled 2200 in South Dakota, and the reports did not include some of the larger sites there. The count of Double-crested Cormorant nests at Medicine Lake N.W.R., Mont., was inexplicably down to 73 from last year's 254 (SM). Three Least Bitterns were seen in late June at Sand Lake N.W.R. (RH).

Seven Great Blue Heron nests on an island at N. Drywood Lake, Codington, S.D., were on the ground (DS). At Lake Andes N.W.R., S.D., 15 Great Egret nests contained young July 7 (JJ). Forty-five Snowy Egret nests in South Dakota were about equally distributed among Lake Preston, Rush Lake, and Lake Andes (MS, BH, JJ). At least 20 adult Snowies were highly agitated as wildlife personnel approached an egret colony on Minnewaukan Flats, leaving little doubt that this species is now nesting in North Dakota (RS).

In addition to the Snowy Egret nests at the newly-discovered Lake Preston site in Kingsbury, 4 Little Blue Heron nests containing young were photographed there July 20 (MS). Fourteen ad. Little Blues were present July 26 (MS). The observation of a Tricolored Heron there June 19 (BH) led to the discovery of 2 nests in late July (MS, GB1)—the first records for nesting in South Dakota. Fifteen pairs of Cattle Egrets also nested at L. Preston.

The 175 pairs of Cattle Egrets reported for South Dakota included 25 at a new area on White L., Aurora, where nesting was not confirmed (SVS). At Minnewaukan Flats, 50 pairs of Cattle Egrets nested (RS), and a Tricolored Heron was seen in the area July 4 (D & CG). The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Fargo in May continued to be seen through June 13 (MB), and a belated report was received of one photographed in Kingsbury, S.D., in June 1985 (J. Wilson). A total of 170 White-faced Ibises was reported for South Dakota, and 2 and 4 nests were found at new breeding sites, Grass Lake and Goose Lake, both in Codington (BH).



WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS — Despite the steady loss of wetlands, counts of the more common species of waterfowl are not made and reported to the Regional Editor. A pair of Snow Geese summered at Arrowwood N.W.R., N.D., where nesting occurred in 1979 (PV). A Greater White-fronted Goose summered at Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., and a Snow Goose was also seen in June (DLI). On Long Lake N.W.R., 165 duck nests were found on a 65-acre tract developed by Ducks Unlimited, which has recently expanded its efforts into North Dakota (AH). Five Canvasback nests were on artificial nesting islands established in stock reservoirs in Phillips, Mont. (DP).

Wood Ducks have extended their range along the Milk River in Montana to 10 mi n.w. of Malta (DP). A brood of Com. Mergansers on Canyon L., Pennington, established the 2nd confirmed nesting for South Dakota (RP). A county-atlasing project in Ward, N.D., turned up 45 and 17 broods of Canvasback and Redhead, respectively (GB, RM).

Turkey Vultures in Yankton, S.D., and Stutsman and Renville, N.D., were away from their normal breeding range. An Osprey was found July 24 in Custer S.P. (NW); there is no breeding record for South Dakota. A detailed report of Mississippi Kites in Brule and Aurora July 5, by an observer (JC) familiar with the species, will be reviewed by the South Dakota records committee. Irrespective of their decision, might this species—which has more than reclaimed its former range—find suitable breeding habitat in the Dakotas, where extensive shelterbelts and tree claims are now present?

The atlasing project in Ward, N.D., located the following hawk nests: 9 of Cooper's, which is considered to be doing very well in the Souris Loop, 25 of Swainson's, 43 of Red-tailed, and 15 of Ferruginous (GB, RM). A Golden Eagle June 15 in Ward was e. of its range (RM). Disturbing, however, was the report that only 4 of 98 known eyries in the MacKenzie Ranger District were occupied by Golden's (*vide* B. Stotts). Merlins were observed in Custer, S.D., July 3 (MP), and a pair nested in a crow's nest in the North Unit of T. R. Roosevelt Park (SS). A Peregrine Falcon was at the Fargo lagoons July 31 (MB).

PARTRIDGES THROUGH OWLS — A Blue-winged Teal nest at Arrowwood May 28 contained 9 Gray Partridge eggs, at least 3 of which hatched (GM). The use of taped calls in a survey of about 4 mi of river-bottom marshes at Upper Souris resulted in responses from 25 Virginia Rails and 12 Soras (DLI). A Sandhill Crane summered at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont. (CC).

The declaration of the plains population of Piping Plover as "threatened" has spurred several censuses. In South Dakota, 179 adults and 30 nests were found on the Missouri R., mostly below Gavins Point (MJ). A total of 19 pairs was located in Montana on Medicine Lake, Nelson Res., and C. M. Russell N.W.R., while 28 pairs nested in Pierce, N.D. (AB). The tendency of this species to pioneer was again shown by a pair

nesting at the Grand Forks lagoons, more than 100 mi from known colonies (GL).

An adult and two young **Black-necked Stilts** were at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., July 29 (JS, JC). More than 600 Am. Avocets hatched on 200 artificial nesting islands in the Phillips Resource Area, Mont. (DP). Thirty broods of Upland Sandpiper were found during atlasing in Ward, N.D. (GB), and this species was considered unusually abundant in the Malta area, especially in greasewood habitat adjacent to riparian areas (DP). Counts of Long-billed Curlew in South Dakota totaled 14 in Shannon June 23 (RP) and 18 in Pennington June 15 (MM). Three were also found in Stanley, S.D. (DT), and two were at Salyer N.W.R., N D , June 6 (JW), the latter providing the first record in several years away from the s.w. corner of the state.

Early, presumably southbound shorebirds included a Greater Yellowlegs in Ward, N.D., June 10 (GB); a Lesser there June 17, and a Least Sandpiper June 27 and Baird's Sandpiper June 26, both at Fargo (MB). Reports of W. Sandpiper in North Dakota were of singles July 11 in Ward (GB) and July 29 on Gascoyne Res (D & CG), both in adult breeding plumage.

California Gulls, only recently known to nest in South Dakota, moved from S. Waubay L. to new locations because of high water. Eleven nests were found in Day (DS). In North Dakota, 5 nests were found at a historically-used site on Stump Lake (RS), and the species was present with Ring-billeds at a newly-discovered nesting site on an island on Long Lake in Rolette (BV). Caspian Terns, which seem to wander erratically through this Region, were seen July 11 on Goose L. in Codrington, S.D. (BH), July 22 in Ward (GB), and July 23 in Foster, N D (JF). A survey of Least Terns in South Dakota found 390 adults and 63 young, most on the Missouri R., below Gavin's Point (MJ). However, perhaps surprisingly, 43 adults and 14 nests were on the lower Cheyenne River (MJ), while some of an additional 20 terns were on the Cheyenne s.w. of Wasta (MM). Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found near Hettinger, N D , and another at Bowman-Haley Dam, in late June (D & CG).

Common Barn-Owl again nested at Arrowwood N.W.R., N D , where three downy young were found in a Wood Duck box July 22 (CV, GM). A Barred Owl was calling Aug. 10 in Spearfish Canyon, Lawrence, S.D. (BH). Fifteen nests of Short-eared Owl were found at Medicine Lake N.W.R., compared to one last year (SM). However, it is disquieting that in 4 years of atlasing of Ward, N.D., Berkey and Martin have yet to record a nesting-season observation for either Short-eared or Long-eared owls—these two species were once considered to be fairly common and uncommon, respectively, in that area of the state (see Stewart, *Breeding Birds of North Dakota*). For both Dakotas, there were only 4 observations reported for Short-eared Owl, and the only report for Long-eared was an inferred nesting at the N. Unit of T. Roosevelt Park (SS). For comparative purposes, it can be noted that Berkey and Martin have confirmed breeding for Great Horned and Burrowing owls in 50 and 6 of the 57 townships of Ward, respectively.

There are no records for nesting of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in North Dakota. A fledgling owlet found on the Red River in Richland in early June was capable of flight and was only a short distance away from Minnesota (RN).

POORWILLS THROUGH SHRIKES — Common Poorwills were calling in early July from 3 different locations in the N. Unit of T. Roosevelt Park (SS). A Whip-poor-will was calling June 7-15 at Salyer N.W.R., N.D. (BV); this species has not bred in the state for many years. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest found July 29 in Roberts produced at least one young (BH, DS); the record was a long-overdue first for South Dakota. The elevation of Red-naped Sapsucker to species status raises inevitable questions about its distribution in this Region. The breeding sapsucker in the eastern Dakotas is the Yellow-bellied, while Red-naped Sapsuckers nest in the Black Hills (fide NW). Both a Red-naped and a Yellow-bellied were found July 5 on Upper Hanson Creek in latilong 30 of Montana (LM).

Adult Three-toed Woodpeckers were tending young Aug 9 in Spearfish Canyon, Lawrence, S.D. (BH, LH).

Late migrant Olive-sided Flycatchers were in McPherson, S.D., June 13 (DP), and Ward, N.D., June 10 (GB). Also late was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded in Brown, S.D., June 9 (DT). Ten pairs of W. Wood-Pewees were in Marmath, N.D., July 13 (D & CG), while one was singing near Foxholm, N.D., June 8. Twenty Purple Martins at Williston July 18 were at the w limit of their range in this Region (D & CG).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch June 25 in Hettinger, N.D., may have been an early fall migrant (D & CG). Also unusual with regard to date was a Brown Creeper at Grand Forks July 26. Twenty of 120 bluebird boxes were occupied by E. Bluebirds on a bluebird trail in its 2nd year near Devils Lake, N.D. (RS). Easterns also nested for the first time in years in Grand Forks, N.D. (A. Schroeder).

A Swainson's Thrush was banded June 8 in Brown, S.D. (DT), and Wood Thrush nested at Newton Hills S.P. (MS). A N Mockingbird was found June 18 in Jackson, S.D. (DT). Some of the best populations of Sprague's Pipit and Baird's Sparrow are located in the meadows just e. and s.e. of Dunseith, N.D (DK). Loggerhead Shrikes were up substantially in Ward, N.D , where 4 nests and 10 broods were found (GB), and they were in every "good" shelterbelt in the Hettinger area (D & CG).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Singing individuals out-of-range in North Dakota on the dates observed included a Solitary Vireo June 14 in Grand Forks (GL), Tennessee Warblers June 26 in Hope (DK) and Ward (GB), a Yellow-rumped Warbler June 15 in Rolette (DK), and a Blackpoll in Renville June 19 (GB). A ♀-plumaged N. Parula was foraging in shrubbery in Rolla, N.D., July 11 (DK). A singing ♂ Cerulean Warbler was heard June 5 at Newton Hills S.P. (MS); this species is not known to breed in South Dakota.

A Scarlet Tanager at Upper Souris N.W.R., June 29 was somewhat w. of normal range (J. Hefflefinger). A pair of N Cardinals feeding young in Bismarck in mid-July provided evidence of nesting considerably w. of previous occurrences in North Dakota (J & HP). A Black-headed Grosbeak in Roberts, S.D., June 1 was far e. of normal range (GS).

The range of Dickcissel, which was once statewide in North Dakota, increasingly appears to be limited to the s.e. corner. Three Green-tailed Towhees were seen June 12 on the W. Unit of C. M. Russell N.W.R. (LM). An individual of the w. race of Rufous-sided Towhee was defending its territory against a member of the e. race in Newton Hills S.P., June 5 (MS). Four nests of Brewer's Sparrow were found by S.D.O.U. members in Fall River, S.D., May 25.

Is the range of Lark Bunting in North Dakota undergoing a normal fluctuation or a permanent contraction? Prior to the 1970s, it was found at least sporadically to the easternmost tier of counties. This year, Lark Buntings were not found in prime habitat in mid-state in Kidder (DK), and the species was reported as almost absent from Ward for the 2nd year in a row (GB). It was similarly scarce around Bismarck (RR). Buntings were abundant only in the s.w. corner, but numbers dwindled n. of Dickinson (D & CG). The reason for this change is not apparent. Lark Bunting and Dickcissel populations were described as being in good shape in South Dakota (fide BH).

A Le Conte's Sparrow carrying food to calling fledglings in Day Aug. 6 provided a rare nesting record for South Dakota (DS). A Bobolink nest in Ward June 17 had 5 cowbird eggs only (GB). In Ward, Orchard Oriole has been confirmed breeding in 37 and N. Oriole in 56 of the 57 townships, a testament to how the planting of trees has allowed some species to move out onto the former plains. Contrary to a citation in the last Blue List, the Orchard Oriole is certainly not in trouble in the Northern Great Plains. A House Finch at Lewistown June 1 was unusual there (LM). Cassin's Finches were observed in July in Pennington and Custer, S.D. (RP, MP).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

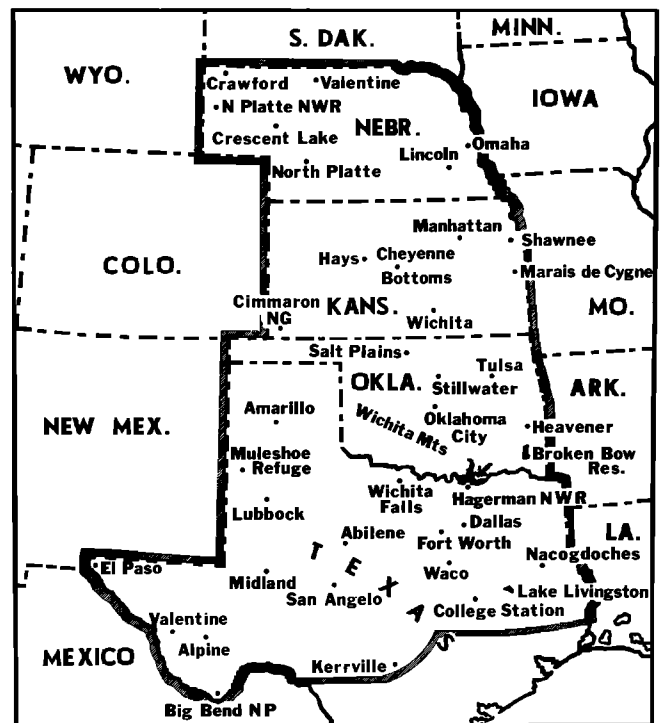
Frances Williams

A warm, early spring, abundant rains, and a delay of the usual scorching heat until late July resulted in a successful nesting season for the common garden and roadside birds. By season's end, there were noisy hordes of juvenile Purple Martins, kingbirds, American Robins, mockingbirds, and House Finches. One could even be guardedly optimistic about the reports of Peregrines, Snowy Plovers, and Least Terns, but Black-capped Vireos still raised more cowbirds than vireos. There were numerous reports of species that are normally elsewhere during the summer months—were they late spring or early fall migrants?

ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.N.P. = Big Bend National Park, Texas; B.B.S. = Breeding Bird Survey; F.F. = Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., Nebraska; G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas; L.M.R.A. = Lake Meredith Recreation Area, Potter Co., Texas; W.A.S. = Wachiska Audubon Society, Lancaster Co., Nebraska. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — An out-of-season Com. Loon fished on L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt, Tex., July 2 (RK). Pied-billed Grebes nested at El Paso, Amarillo, and Midland, and were present during July at Kerrville and Waco, Tex. One W. Grebe summered at L. Balmorhea, Reeves, Tex., and one was seen at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., June 14. A Brown Pelican at Amarillo June 21 provided the first record there since 1956 (KS, RR). A Double-crested Cormorant was found at El Paso June 26 (BZ, JD). Olivaceous Cormorants seem to be well established as summer residents in n.c. Texas, and were also reported at Kerrville and at L. Somerville, Burleson, Tex.

A Least Bittern was discovered at Tulsa June 21 (PS, JL) and at least four males could be heard at Oklahoma City in June (JN). Ten Great Egrets in Washington, Okla., June 3 constituted an unusually high number (ED). Three pairs of Snowy Egrets nested in a heronry of about 300 Cattle Egrets at Temple, Tex. (ML). A single Snowy Egret arrived at DeSoto N.W.R., Washington, Neb., July 26 (MB). A Little Blue Heron at Ingram, Tex., July 6 was early (JM). Tricolored Herons visited Quivira July 7–14 (TTC *et al.*), Kerrville June 10 (E & KM), and Rains, Tex., July 2 (RK). A Reddish Egret at El Paso July 21 provided a first record there (JD). At Wichita, Kans., a heronry inhabited by 7000 individuals contained 1300 nests. It was estimated that 50% were Little Blue Herons and 45% were Cattle Egrets, the remainder being Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (DK). Green-backed Herons nested at Midland for the 2nd time and one was observed rather far w. in Oldham, Tex., June 12 (KS). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested in a back yard tree in Wichita and in a cemetery at Tulsa. A pair summered at Midland but no evidence of nesting could be found. A single adult appeared at El Paso July 3 and one was seen at L. Somerville July 1. An imm. White Ibis remained at Oklahoma City May 30–June 17 and July 15–18 (JN).



WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck visited L. Somerville July 1 (*vide* KA). Two Ross' Geese that summered in El Paso could fly but were obviously sick. Mottled Ducks produced at least five young at L. Tawakoni. Canvasbacks with almost-grown ducklings were observed in the Davis Mts., Tex., May 13 (JA, KZ). There were unusual summer sightings of Hooded Mergansers in Antelope, Neb. (MB), Tulsa (BJ), Hagerman N.W.R., Tex. (KH), and Amarillo (KS). Also noteworthy were Com. Mergansers at Amarillo July 22–30 (KS) and Washington, Okla., June 24 (DV).

Ospreys at Oklahoma City July 20 (JN) and Sequoyia N.W.R., Okla., July 31 (DM, SHa) were early. At least two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites summered in Newton, Tex. (m.ob.). In Ponca City, Okla., Mississippi Kites frequently chased Chimney Swifts but were never successful while under observation (MD). A Bald Eagle summered at Sequoyah N.W.R. A pair of N. Harriers successfully fledged four young in Comanche, Okla., providing a first breeding record for the s.w. part of the state (TM, CB). Five nestling N. Harriers taken from a nest in a Mayes, Okla., hayfield by the haycutter died of calcium deficiency—a result of being fed hamburger meat too long before being taken to a rehabilitator. At least 3 Cooper's Hawk nests in Kerr., Tex., fledged young (JAG). More Broad-winged Hawks were reported than usual, but apparently no one found a nest. Swainson's Hawk nests become scarcer each summer, but 2 were found in Comanche. Crested Caracaras were reported in Texas in

Burleson, Van Zandt, McLennan, and Parker, but no nests were located. An Am. Kestrel visited Kerr, where it is rare in summer, July 3 (E & KM). Ten Peregrine Falcon young were raised in B.B.N.P. and the lower canyons of the Rio Grande (BMCK). In G.M.N.P., the Peregrine nestling reported in spring fledged successfully and was observed through July.

TURKEY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Fort Worth Nature Center's introduced population of Wild Turkeys increased by at least one dozen poults. A Wild Turkey in desert scrub habitat near Sanderson, Tex., June 16 was surprising (GT). Montezuma Quail had a good year in both the Davis Mts. and Glass Mts. of w. Texas. In s.e. Nebraska, N. Bobwhites have recovered from the severe winter of 1984 (JMR), and in Washington, Okla., the number of bobwhites on the B.B.S. almost doubled over last year (ED). A Scaled Quail called in Archer, Tex., June 8 (CBH, KO). Black Rails responded to taped calls at Quivira July 7 (TTC). A Purple Gallinule remained in Bell, Tex., June 1-25, but there was no evidence of nesting (ML). An ad. Com. Moorhen with four chicks was found in Bell June 20, and the species nested again in Hutchinson, Tex. (KS, PA). At Bryan, Tex., Com. Moorhens June 11 and July 19 (KA et al.) represented first records for those months. In Randall, Tex., nine red-faced Am. Coot chicks were found May 16 (KS).

At least 10 Snowy Plovers summered in El Paso, and one chick was seen. About 75 pairs of Snowy Plovers at Quivira fledged fewer than 40 young, but at Little Salt Plains, Woods, Okla., about 50 Snowy Plovers fledged (RLB). A Piping Plover fed at Quivira June 14 (SS) and others had returned to Oklahoma and n. Texas by mid-July. Four Mountain Plovers were in a short-grass Prairie in Hartley, Tex., June 12 (KS). At Midland, Am. Avocets and Black-necked Stilts were at the height of breeding season when heavy rains flooded all the nests. A few stilts re-nested, but the avocets left the area. Flooding at Quivira was apparently the cause for very low productivity of avocets and Black-necked Stilts there. A single Am. Avocet was observed in Douglas, Neb., June 22 (JT). Two Black-necked Stilts protecting young in Tarrant, Tex., July 21 provided a first nesting record there (BN). The N. Jacana noted at Kerr, Tex., in the spring report remained until June 10 (E & KM).



Northern Jacana in Kerr Co., Tex., May-June 1986. Photo/Ernest & Kay Mueller.

Southbound shorebirds are usually feeding on s. plains mudflats by mid-July, but this summer many species had returned by late June. Several Willets were present all summer in El Paso. Upland Sandpipers were found in June in areas where they are not known to nest: Milam, Tex., June 13 (ML), Archer, Tex., June 8 (CBH, KO), and Armstrong, Tex., June 28

(PA). The latter were assumed to be early migrants, as southbound birds normally appear in early July. Long-billed Curlews summered in El Paso, and were seen at Tulsa July 5 and Oklahoma City June 27. A Marbled Godwit was located in Randall, Tex., July 12 (KS) and one was at Oklahoma City Aug. 2 (JN). Both Least and Western sandpipers remained at El Paso through the summer, and a Baird's Sandpiper lingered until June 10. An injured Dunlin was discovered at Kerrville June 12. A Long-billed Dowitcher in breeding plumage was seen and heard at El Paso on the startling date of June 23 (BZ, JD). At F.F., an Am. Woodcock was discovered July 19 (RB). Hundreds of Wilson's Phalaropes were present in El Paso in late June.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Laughing Gulls were found on Sam Rayburn Res., Tex., June 20 & 27, following weather disturbances moving in from the coast (BO). A Franklin's Gull arrived at Hagerman July 8. Both Bonaparte's and Ring-billed gulls lingered into June at El Paso. At Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., a Herring Gull was found July 31 (KS). Caspian Terns visited Tulsa July 22, Wichita July 9, Oklahoma City July 23, and El Paso July 4. A Royal Tern was found at Sam Rayburn Res., June 27 (BO). At Quivira, 28 pairs of Least Terns fledged only three young. Minor flooding from periodic storms caused them to nest and re-nest on dike roads, which made the nests susceptible to predation by coyotes. About 70 pairs of Least Terns summered at Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., but breeding success was not reported. In Meade, Kans., 23 tern nests were washed away in early July and none re-nested. About 50 juv. Least Terns fledged at Little Salt Plains, and 25 fledged from 33 nests at Optima Res. in the Oklahoma Panhandle (RLB). On the Arkansas R. at Tulsa, 44 Least Tern chicks hatched from 26 scrapes (FP).

Inca Doves were found again in Crosby, Tex., and Ft. Worth. A Black-billed Cuckoo was observed in Pawnee, Kans., June 12 (SS). A Groove-billed Ani at Lost Maples Natural Area, Bandera, Tex., June 5 was unexpected (fide JM). In B.B.N.P., July 11, a Com. Barn-Owl shuffled around on a desert roadside, perhaps looking at something in the borrow ditch (GFW). Barn-owls nested in a garage at a ranch in Jeff Davis, Tex. (JMi). At Kerr W.M.A., Kerr, Tex., W. Screech-Owls called at 2 localities, and an E. Screech-Owl also called at one of the sites (JAG). A N. Pygmy-Owl was found in B.B.N.P., July 29 (EH). A Long-eared Owl family with three owlets was observed in Lancaster, Neb., June 1 (BH). Common Poorwills were heard in Hutchinson, Tex., June 15 and Potter, Tex., July 9 (FC et al.). A Chimney Swift visited Alpine, Tex., June 16 (JS). By July 30, six species of hummingbirds swarmed around feeders in the Davis Mts.: Black-chinned, Rufous, Lucifer, Magnificent, Calliope, and Broad-tailed (PE). Calliope Hummingbirds arrived in Lubbock July 19, B.B.N.P., July 21, and Midland July 28. Magnificent Hummingbirds summered in both the Davis Mts. and Guadalupe Mts. Hairy Woodpeckers have almost disappeared from the n. Texas area (AV), and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in s.e. Texas seem to have a very dark future (JCK, AM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Unusual summer records were provided by Olive-sided Flycatchers at Lost Maples June 12 and in Kendall, Tex., June 19 (E & KM). Two Empidonax, thought to be Dusky Flycatchers, were gathering nest material in B.B.N.P., May 24 (RH). Ash-throated Flycatchers nested again in Meade, Kans. (RLB) and were sighted in Clay, Tex., e. of their usual range (CBH, KO). A Brown-crested Flycatcher in Bandera, Tex., June 8 was noteworthy (E & KM). A Thick-billed Kingbird visited B.B.N.P., June 4 and July 4 (m.ob.). Although E. Kingbirds spent June in Denton and Midland, Tex., they were not known to be nesting. Bank Swallows appeared sporadically all summer at El Paso. In a culvert under Hwy 187, Bandera, Tex., there were 25 Cave Swallow nests June 12. Of 700 Barn Swallow nestlings banded in n. Texas, only one brood was found in a barn! All others were in roadway culverts (AV). Fledgling Blue Jays were being fed by adults

June 16 in Kerr, where the species is an erratic breeder (JM) Black-billed Magpies nested again in Meade, Kans. (RLB). Adult Carolina Chickadees fed four fledglings at L.M.R.A., June 22 (KS). A Bushtit provided a first county record in Dallam, Tex., June 14 (KS). A White-breasted Nuthatch in Randall, Tex., June 1 provided the only summer sighting on record (KS) and one seen in Bryan, Tex., July 8 furnished only the 3rd record for that month (KA). A pair of Rock Wrens fed a fully-fledged imm. Brown-headed Cowbird in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex., July 24 (KS). Two Carolina Wrens were sighted July 22 in F.F., where they have been very scarce in recent years (RB). In Kerrville, a pair of Carolina Wrens built 2 successive nests in hanging baskets on a patio, and fledged five young from each nest (E & KM). The fact that Bewick's Wrens nest in El Paso was confirmed (BZ, JD).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested in Waco, Tex., for the first time in a number of years (FG). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen at El Paso, where there were no previous summer records, June 11. A bluebird route in Lancaster, Neb., has 234 nest boxes. There were 438 eggs laid and 263 young fledged this summer (W.A.S.). A Wood Thrush fed a juv. Brown-headed Cowbird in Grayson, Tex., July 21 (KH). At Amarillo, a fledged, spot-breasted Am. Robin was seen as early as May 18 and an adult worked on an almost-completed nest as late as June 22. A juv. N. Mockingbird was found in F.F., June 25 (BP). Numbers of Brown Thrashers doubled on 2 B.B.S. routes in Oklahoma, and a pair was at Buffalo L., June 18. Phainopepla populations increased noticeably in G.M.N.P. and the Davis Mts. In Comanche, Okla., 42 pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes nested and 82 young were banded (JDT, SO). In Washington and Nowata, Okla., 49 shrike nests were located (MD *et al.*). This species was seen in larger numbers than usual on several B.B.S. routes in the Texas Panhandle. An adult with three fledglings was found in Burt, Neb., June 23 (BP, TB).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — The songs of Bell's Vireos are more conspicuous than Warbling Vireo songs in n.c. Oklahoma (ED). More than 70% of all monitored Black-capped Vireo nests in Texas were parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. Where no cowbird control measures were taken only about 13 vireo young per 50 adults were fledged (JAG). In Kerr and Bandera, 69 singing ♂ Black-capped were located (JM). A new site for this species was found w. of Clifton, Bosque, Tex. (*vide* LMB). Out-of-range Red-eyed Vireos were observed in G.M.N.P., July 4 (Bjo). A N. Parula at Lubbock July 25 was unexpected (ML *et al.*). A bird identified as an imm. Yellow-rumped Warbler was found in Amarillo July 6, a surprising date (PA). A Black-throated Blue Warbler sang throughout June in Tyler, Tex. (AM). Prairie Warblers had a successful season in Hardin, Tex., where the cowbird population was low (AM). A pair of Black-and-white Warblers fed a cowbird fledgling in Osage, Okla., May 31. There were summer records of Black-and-white Warblers at several Texas localities where breeding has not been established: Kerr July 3, Ft. Worth July 1, and Brazos July 29. In Hardin, a fledgling Am. Redstart was being fed by adults July 24 (JCK). An Am. Redstart was found June 28 in Osage, where it is rare in summer (BS). Prothonotary Warblers fed fledglings in F.F., June 25 (B & LP). For many years, Newell has placed nest boxes for Prothonotaries along the N. Canadian R. near Oklahoma City. This year, 2 of the 6 boxes were used for two broods each and 2 were used for one brood each. Wasps took over the other 2 boxes. In Hardin, record June rains following hurricane Bonnie flooded out low-nesting warblers: Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Swainson's (JCK). Kentucky Warblers fed young in Van Zandt, Tex., July 6 (RK). Early N. Waterthrushes arrived at Lubbock July 26 and Midland July 30. Late migrants were a Louisiana Waterthrush in the Wichita Mts. N.W.R., Okla., June 3 and a Mourning Warbler in Canadian, Okla., June 2 (JAG). A MacGillivray's Warbler in El Paso June 11 was very late (BZ, JD). There were sightings of Yellow-breasted Chats in Potter, Randall, and Midland, Tex., where nesting has not yet been confirmed.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ Hepatic Tanager was photographed in Lost Maples June 14, providing a first park and area record (MH, SH). A singing ♂ Scarlet Tanager at L.M.R.A., June 22 provided a first summer record for the Texas Panhandle (KS). First summer records were provided by Black-headed Grosbeaks June 24 in Hudspeth (BZ, JD) and June 27 in Crosby, Tex. (ML). Indigo Buntings increased greatly as breeders in El Paso, with one or 2 pairs inhabiting almost every mountain canyon. At L.M.R.A., Indigo Buntings summered for a 6th time, so nesting can perhaps be assumed. A Painted Bunting was present throughout June in Riley, Kans (TTC). Dickcissels were scarce or absent on B.B.S. routes in the Texas Panhandle, but summered for the first time in El Paso. After heavy June rains spurred lush growth of grasses and forbs at Midland, Cassin's Sparrows nested a 2nd time, apparently with more success than in May. A singing Field Sparrow at L.M.R.A., June 22 was farther w. in the Panhandle than usual. Grasshopper Sparrows were in good numbers as far west as Deaf Smith in the Texas Panhandle.

Red-winged Blackbirds nested in G.M.N.P. for the first time (OVO). Yellow-headed Blackbirds nested at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., providing a first Refuge and area record (KH). Bronzed Cowbirds increased at El Paso and reached G.M.N.P. for the first time. In Kerr, Bronzed Cowbirds have parasitized Cardinals, Orchard Orioles, and Carolina Wrens (JM). In the Oklahoma City area, Newell has not found even one pair of Orchard Orioles nesting in 2 years, and believes cowbirds are to blame. Both Hooded and Scott's orioles are now rare summer residents in Lost Maples, where they were formerly casual visitors only (JM). A Hooded Oriole was reported in G.M.N.P., June 8 (B & CH).

House Finches are now well established in Waco, Tex. (WH). Red Crossbills were sighted in the G.M.N.P. high country July 4 & 11 (BW, OVO). Pine Siskins came to a Bellevue, Neb., feeder June 11 (B & LP). American Goldfinches are not known to nest in Texas, so records in Hemphill June 7 (KS) and Rains June 16 (RK) were noteworthy. At least two Evening Grosbeaks resided in the high country of G.M.N.P., June 15–July 27 (OVO, m.ob.).

CORRIGENDUM — AB 40:298. The Glaucous Gull at Amarillo provided a 5th record, not a first.

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

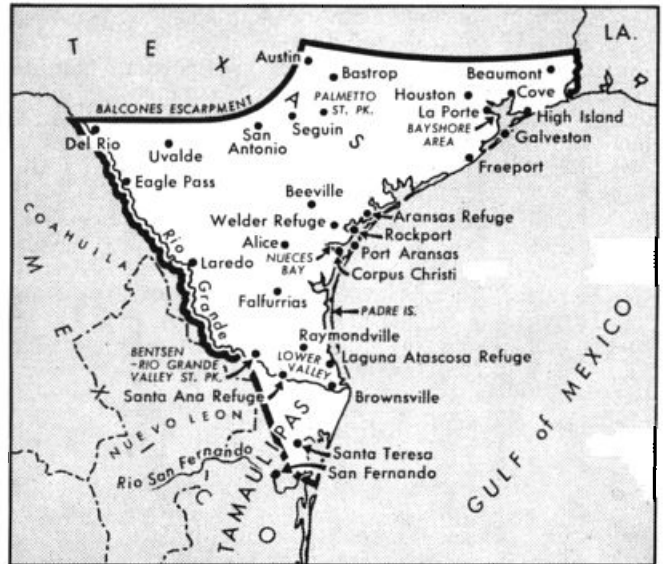
June was wetter than normal Regionwide, with some heavy rainfall totals on the Upper Texas Coast and at many inland locations. Hurricane Bonnie, which formed south of New Orleans June 24, came ashore June 26 at Sea Rim State Park with 95mph winds and heavy rains; avian casualties were minimum. July was nearly dry in all areas, but temperatures were moderate so that nesting birds were not adversely affected. At Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Labuda noted "3½ inches of rain in May, 3 inches in June, but only ¼ inch in July. This represented ample precipitation to assure an adequate crop of leaves, fruits, insects, and aquatic organisms for nesting birds." Food and cover were generally available when needed Regionwide, but interior areas such as Kingsville, Falfurrias, and Alice still experienced drying conditions in July that reduced most fresh-water ponds to dust.

Chuck Kaigler died June 2, 1986. He was a faithful and accurate observer in the Rockport area and his reports and his friendship will be missed. We dedicate this column to his memory.

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

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — In contrast to the successful nesting season in 1985, Least Grebes nested in lower numbers in the L.R.G.V. this season. None was detected at Santa Ana from June 11 to July 18, when one finally appeared (JI). Other observers reported just one or 2 sightings during extended visits to the L.R.G.V. (BB, MH et al.). The Am. White Pelican colony in the Laguna Madre near Corpus Christi (the only coastal colony of the species in the United States) had a productive season. Over 160 young were visible June 22, with 55 or 60 adults still brooding small chicks or incubating eggs (EP, *fide* KM). The Texas Brown Pelican population continues to boom. McCracken reported: "Fasten your seatbelt for a birth announcement, over 500 young are possible from 300 nests at Pelican Island!" (Corpus Christi) (EP, *fide* KM). The species is now reported to be plentiful in the Port Aransas area (m.ob.). In addition to Brown Pelicans, Pelican I. supported (in pairs): 52 Great Blue Herons, 69 Great Egrets, 96 Snowy Egrets, 23 Little Blue Herons, 509 Tricolored Herons (low), 27 Reddish Egrets (low), 26 Black-crowned Night-Herons, 15 White Ibises, 120 White-faced Ibises, and nine Roseate Spoonbills (very low). McCracken and Payne carefully report information from this important rookery each year; the editors lack information from the numerous other waterbird breeding areas along the coast. An imm. Reddish Egret was at San Antonio July 29 (WS). An ad. *Plegadis* sp. with one immature showed up at San Antonio's Mitchell L., June 6 (C & MH, WS). The adult appeared to be a full alternate plumaged Glossy Ibis, a species that is still of uncertain status in Texas. There is still controversy over the identification of all previous records of this species in the state. A "June" sighting of a Roseate Spoonbill near Pearsall (DS), another June 8 at Sarita, and two near Falfurrias July 3 (AO) were odd locations for this mainly coastal species. The first Wood Storks of the summer were two June 16 in Jim Wells (KA).

Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen at Santa Ana June 4 (JI). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to nest in increasing numbers over most of the Region. In Falfurrias, O'Neil noted "wet or dry, they do well either way." Many large clutches were seen near e. Neuces Bay during the period (SB,



GB), and many observers reported them from the King Ranch area in high numbers. At least 56 Black-bellieds utilized Santa Ana in June (JI), and by July the count was up to 138 as previously-secreteive ducklings began to emerge. Five pairs of Black-bellieds fledged at least 50 young at San Antonio's Mitchell L. (MH, WS), and at least 3 pairs nested successfully at Austin.

There were unusually large numbers of late lingering, summering, and wandering ducks this season, especially at Mitchell Lake. Several of these nested and produced young for the first records in many years. A Mottled Duck hatched 9 eggs at Falfurrias, for a notable inland record (AO). One Mallard spent the season at Mitchell L., and was joined by two more July 24. A N. Pintail also spent the summer there. Two Cinnamon Teal at Mitchell L., first observed in May, were seen copulating June 1 (MH). The pair was seen sporadically through June and early July. On July 24 the pair was seen with one downy young (WS) for the first Bexar nesting record since 1916 (when the species had bred at the same location). Two pairs of N. Shovelers were present at Mitchell L., June 15+, and four juv. birds (too small to fly) were seen with the adults July 31 (MH)—establishing, again, the first Bexar nesting record since 1916. One wonders what the nesting seasons of 1916 and 1986 may have had in common. Three Am. Wigeons remained at Mitchell L. until June 6, and a ♂ Redhead spent the entire season there. A pair of Redheads was at Sarita June 24 (PP, HS). The Greater Scaup at Mitchell L. mentioned in the spring report remained until June 29, and a pair of Lesser Scaups remained there through the period (MH). Our list of unusual summering ducks was completed with two Com. Goldeneyes at Austin July 26 (EK).

RAPTORS — Hook-billed Kites were reported sporadically from appropriate L.R.G.V. locations all season. Two Black-shouldered Kites near Austin July 26 (EK) were unusual. Seven Mississippi Kites at Richmond July 26 (SW) may have been local breeders. Cooper's Hawks were again seen more commonly than normal this summer in far s. Texas. They were observed numerous times July 3-19 at Falfurrias, Sarita, Riviera, and Encino (AO, PP et al.). One Com. Black-Hawk was reported occasionally at Santa Ana through the period, for a rare summer record (*fide* JI). Harris' Hawks nested in lower numbers in the Falfurrias area, where O'Neil reported brush

clearing still going on at a fast pace. San Antonio observers also noted decreases in observations of Harris' Hawks during the summer, with no reports during July (SH et al.). A Gray Hawk nest was found at Santa Ana May 13 (JI) with two visible young. By mid-June the ad. birds were still feeding the young. Several observers saw and photographed juv. Gray Hawks at Santa Ana and elsewhere during July, which would indicate several successful nests for this rare Texas breeder. Broad-winged Hawks are not yet known to nest in the Austin area, but observations of ad. birds June 9 & 14 (BR, CA et al.) in Austin, and another "soaring and calling" over Bastrop S.P., June 28 (JT) certainly bring up the possibility. Swainson's Hawks were seen surprisingly often in the Kingsville area all period (SB, N & PP), and at least one pair nested at Falfurrias (AO). Swainson's Hawks were also present all season in the Houston area (WC), and a pair nested in Karnes (WS). A Zone-tailed Hawk was sporadically seen at Santa Ana (fide JI) all season, and another was at Rancho Santa Margarita in Starr July 24 (N & PP, SB, AO, TP). This species is not expected in the Region during the summer. Red-tailed Hawks had a good nesting season in most areas.

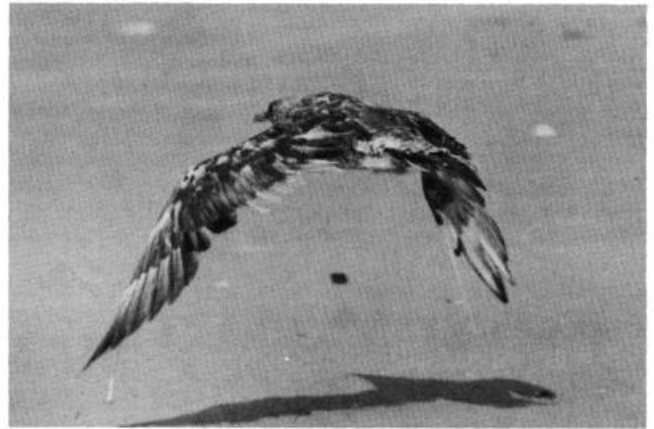
— S.A. —

The status of **Aplomado Falcons** in s. Texas is changing, due to a hacking program sponsored by the Peregrine Fund. During the summer of 1985 apparently four young Aplomados were released somewhere s. of Sarita on King Ranch property. At least two of the four were immediately killed by Great Horned Owls (fide BO). The status of the other two birds is not known to these editors, but one Aplomado was seen July 7, 1986 just s. of Sarita (MH). This year, four young Aplomados were brought to Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. in late June, and after a carefully-monitored hacking schedule all four gained independence by July 29 (fide SL). The birds were seen regularly thereafter by refuge staff. We will be watching closely to see if this re-introduction is successful.

An imm. Peregrine Falcon at San Antonio July 28 was very early (ph. GL, WS, MH).

CHACHALACA THROUGH SKIMMER — The first Plain Chachalaca young were noted July 5 at Santa Ana (JI), a little later than normal. Wilson's Plovers seemed harder to find this season than in the last 3 or 4 years on the c. coast (PP). Numerous pairs of Black-necked Stilts started nests at Mitchell L. but were flooded out by high water after heavy June rains (C & MH, WS). A 2nd nesting attempt by many of the pairs was successful, however. Black-necked Stilts at an Austin sewer pond had the opposite problems of their San Antonio brethren; 7 pairs built nests around the edges of a pond, but unfortunately they chose a pond being drained by city workers (JS, EBE). Only three young birds fledged, representing the 3rd nesting record for this inland location.

With a mixture of late-lingering and early-arriving shorebirds, it often seems difficult to decide which ones are going north and which ones are coming south. Two Marbled Godwits in Galveston June 28 (RP) and 30 breeding-plumaged Red Knots at San Luis Pass June 14 (DM) were some examples. A Dunlin was on Galveston I., July 6 (MA), a new early record for the U.T.C. Among the late lingerers was a highly probable Curlew Sandpiper in full breeding plumage at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., June 7 (fGT). The observer (who knows the species well) was without a scope, but could observe the curved bill and the overall brick-red coloration. There were only 2 previous documented records for Texas. Western Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpipers, and Greater Yellowlegs were noted on their way S on the early date of July 9 at Santa Ana (JI). A mostly breeding-plumaged ♂ **Ruff** (red color phase) showed up at Mitchell L., July 24 (fMH, WS). It was later seen and photographed (MH,



Jaeger (of controversial specific identification) at San Luis Pass, Brazoria Co., Tex., July 1986. Photos/Ted Eubanks.

GL) by many through the end of the period. To our knowledge this was the first record of a breeding-plumaged Ruff in Texas.

On May 31 a ragged jaeger (sp.) arrived at San Luis Pass on the U.T.C. (TE et al.). The bird was barely able to fly, and observers watched it carefully in order to salvage the specimen when the bird died. During the coming weeks, however, not only did the bird live, but it regained strength, size, and bulk, and went through a body molt. During the course of its stay the bird was identified as a Long-tailed, a Parasitic, and a Pomarine by various observers. By the time the bird left August 16, its identification was still being hotly contested (half voting Parasitic, half Pomarine). Details and photographs are currently being studied by "experts" and we will keep you posted. A juv. Laughing Gull at Mitchell L., July 17 (MH) was joined by another July 28. With additional water being pumped into Santa Ana lakes, some unusual summer tern records were established for the area. Seventeen Gull-billed, two Forster's, and many Least terns were seen June 30 (JI). A juv. Common Tern provided a rare summer record July 6 on w. Galveston I. (MA). Least Terns began nesting at a fenced-off beach area near Rockport in mid-May (C & HK), but left the nest sites in June for unknown reasons. In contrast, Least Terns enjoyed good nesting success at several Baffin Bay areas (N & PP, SB et al.). Two pairs of Sooty Terns nested on Shamrock I. (EP, fide KM), one of the traditional locations for this rare Texas breeder. Heindel noted Black Terns in unusually large numbers at McAllen sewer ponds in July, with 110 July 14, 150 July 19, and 225+ July 21. West Galveston I. hosted 27 Black Terns by July 6 (MA). Black Skimmers set up housekeeping at the aban-

done Least Tern area in Rockport in mid-June and built over 100 nests, most of which did well (HK). Some adults were still incubating eggs July 31.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — White-winged Doves apparently recovered from their poor nesting season last year to have good success this season. Mourning Doves did well Regionwide. Common Ground-Doves had an excellent nesting season in the Falfurrias area (AO). A possible Blue Ground-Dove was seen briefly but well by a single observer July 20 at Rancho Santa Margarita in Starr (†MH). So far, this species has not been documented in the United States. Introduced Monk Parakeets are increasing their populations in Houston and Austin (MK, GL et al.). Five to nine Green Parakeets were seen in McAllen through July (MH et al.). During June the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced that 26 persons had been indicted for smuggling 250 parrots over the Texas-Mexico border. The undercover operation identified various illegal Mexican wholesale suppliers, wholesale dealers, and transporters. Thus, confusion over the origin of "our" parrots continues.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports varied. In Falfurrias they were late in arriving and "definitely down in numbers" (AO), and they were described as scarce or absent at many U.T.C. locations (WC et al.). In contrast, observers in Kingsville and in c. coast areas found Yellow-billeds more plentiful than in recent years (PP et al.), and Austin-area observers noted the species in increased numbers all season. Groove-billed Anis apparently had a banner year with large hatches reported at Falfurrias (AO) and most L.R.G.V. areas. Common Barn-Owls again enjoyed good success nesting in deer blinds at many locations. A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was heard calling at Bentsen July 12 (MH); the species is rarely seen or heard away from the Falcon Dam spot. Elf Owls were reported regularly at Bentsen through the period. An adult and four juv. Burrowing Owls were seen near Encino June 1 (fide AO). It was also reported that the species nested at the same area last year, apparently representing a first Brooks record. Lesser Nighthawks were more common than normal around Kingsville (N & PP, SB), and several pairs were at San Antonio all period (MH et al.). Graber continued to express concern for the decline of Com. Nighthawks in Beaumont, where he recorded only 2 pairs all season; they were also described as less numerous in Brazoria (MA). In contrast, Kingsville, Austin, San Antonio, and elsewhere reported increases or at least stable populations of Com. Nighthawks.

There were few reports of Buff-bellied Hummingbirds in the L R G.V. proper, but the species was described as numerous during the season at Falfurrias (AO). Some observers thought that Black-chinned Hummingbirds were less numerous as breeders in the Austin-San Marcos area (BW et al.). Green Kingfishers seem to be recovering from a period of lowered abundance in the n. part of their range after the 1983-1984 winter. Red-headed Woodpecker numbers are still somewhat low in the Beaumont area, where Graber feels the species may be losing ground to the very numerous Red-bellied Woodpeckers. A N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker June 15 at Beaumont (WG) provided the area's first summer record in several years for this local e. Texas nester.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH ROBINS — Early Least Flycatchers were noted July 25 at Santa Ana (JI) and July 26 & 27 in Jim Wells (KA). Vermilion Flycatchers again had a good year at Falfurrias (AO), and our three Myiarchus flycatchers reportedly had a good nesting season in appropriate areas. Western Kingbirds again nested at Houston, choosing over 25 electric power substations as nesting sites. Several of these sites had multiple pairs of kingbirds in residence (BH et al.). The species did well in more traditional areas as well.

— S.A. —

The invading Cave Swallows continued their march toward the Gulf. Cave Swallows successfully nested in culverts at all of the new sites reported in the past 2 years, and continued to expand eastward. This year they added 3 more counties to their nesting range: Wilson, Nueces, and Kenedy (WS, N & PP et al.). The birds now occupy sites in 4 counties that border on the Gulf, but so far have not nested e. of U.S. Hwy 77 (PP). Palmer's studies have shown the species to clearly outnumber all other swallows in many areas formerly dominated by Cliffs and Barns. Cliff and Barn swallows are showing a marked decrease in the area of Kingsville and Falfurrias in the face of this expansion by Cave Swallows (AO). In addition to expanding E, the species is now finding new niches at more traditional nesting locations. A colony of Cave Swallows built 22 nests in the eaves of a roadside picnic shelter at Concan in Uvalde and were feeding young there June 14 & 15 (GT). Four nests were found May 1 near Brackettville, also at a roadside picnic shelter (WS, CB). Since 1983 the Cave Swallow has nearly doubled the size of its nesting range in Texas.

A Green Jay was seen June 21 in n. Live Oak (SH), 40 mi n of the normal n. extreme of the species' range. A pair of Mexican Crows July 8 e. of Brownsville (MH) furnished a rare summer record. The Fish Crow population at Beaumont remained stable (WG). A pair of Clay-colored Robins had 2 failed nesting attempts in May and June at Bentsen (GD), but was apparently successful in late July or August; a dependent young bird was seen there with an adult Aug. 26 (JP). Four pairs of Am. Robins fledged 14 young in late May at Falfurrias (AO), the southernmost location in the state for nesting by the species. An Am Robin was seen in Kingsville June 15 (PP). Wood Thrush numbers are declining on the U.T.C.; there was only one June report Cureton noted, "five or six years ago they could be found at many wooded areas outside Houston, and even in some residential areas. This year they were virtually gone."

VIREOS THROUGH ORIOLES — Austin's highly publicized population of Black-capped Vireos had an unusual season. For years the birds had been parasitized by cowbirds, which sharply reduced their nesting success. Last year a cowbird trapping program was begun and the vireos produced a good crop of young. This year, the cowbird trapping continued at the 250-acre study area, but a new wrench was thrown into the works. Out of 40 nests located, 26 were preyed on by Scrub Jays, and another was cleaned out by a mammal. Still other nests were parasitized by cowbirds. The net result was 8 successful nests with a total of 14 young. The studies of this population will continue (JO). Elsewhere, there were numerous observations of Black-capped but no reports of nesting success, good or bad. Studies were also begun this year at the Travis Audubon Sanctuary (near Austin) to determine the rate and effect of cowbird parasitism on the Golden-cheeked Warbler. A cowbird trapping program was begun and clear evidence of parasitism was quickly gathered when an ad. pair of Golden-cheekeds was seen feeding a young cowbird through the wire mesh of the trap June 17 (DL).

— S.A. —

For the first time in recent years the White-collared Seedeaters stayed in Texas through the breeding period and probably nested. One or two singing males were noted at San Ygnacio into May, which was considered late, then 2 pairs with one singing male were seen June 12-13 (GT). Tudor reported the birds "seemed as happy as little clams" as they foraged in the riverside vegetation. A singing male was again reported July 2 (E & MB), and a probable juv. bird was carefully studied and described July 4 (BB, ABB).

Hooded and Kentucky warblers were down in numbers in various U.T.C. locations (WC). Summer Tanagers were thought to be in decreased numbers around Austin (BF), but were not mentioned by other observers. Blue Grosbeaks nested abundantly in interior brushlands where observers declared them "in the largest numbers ever seen here" at Falfurrias, Welder Refuge, and the Kingsville area (AO, N & PP, SB). Painted Buntings again had a good nesting season Regionwide.

Botteri's and Cassin's sparrows fared well. Cassin's had been declining for several years in the Falfurrias area, but increases were noted this year (AO). Two Botteri's were noted at the Brownsville Dump July 3 (BB, ABB), an unusual location. An out-of-season ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Austin July 4 (EK). Unfortunately, Bronzed Cowbirds were said to number in the millions around Kingsville and Falfurrias. Hooded Orioles were seen in increased numbers at Sarita and Kingsville (AO, N & PP, SB), and imm. birds were seen at Zapata June 13 (GT) and at Alice July 13 (RA). Audubon's Orioles were also regularly seen in the L.R.G.V., with several individuals re-

ported as far n. as Kingsville and San Ygnacio. A Scott's Oriole at Lakeway near Austin May 3–June 14 (*vide* EK) was out of range.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

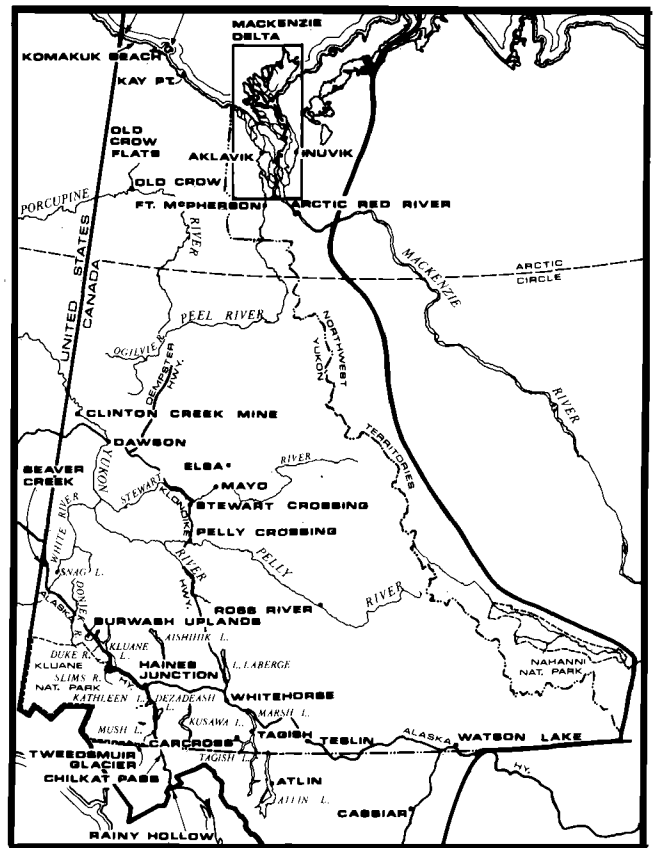
W. G. Johnston and C. McEwen

This season's observations were from a wide range of areas—the Yukon North Slope, the Mackenzie Mountains, Coppermine, and Fort MacPherson in the Northwest Territories, and the usual coverage from southern and central Yukon and northern British Columbia. In general, numbers of most alpine and subarctic nesting birds (shorebirds, sparrows, pipits, and longspurs) near Oldsquaw Lodge in the Mackenzie Mountains were down from previous years. Breeding numbers of wetland birds (shorebirds and waterfowl) were also down in the southern Yukon. Weather for the Whitehorse area (which is not representative of the entire Region) could be summed up as wet and cool. June temperatures were slightly below the normal 12°C, July's monthly mean was at the average 14.3°C, while August's was below average at 11.1°C. Weather in the Canol Road area of the Mackenzie Mountains was also wet and cool throughout the season.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.S.J. = Fort St. John, B.C.; F.N. = Fort Nelson, B.C.; M.M. = Mackenzie Mts., N.W.T.; Whse. = Whitehorse, Yukon.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS — A large concentration of Com. Loons, comprising five singles and 3 nesting pairs (nests with 0, one, and 2 eggs), was seen at Soby L., s.e. Yukon, June 18 (HG). Ten Pacific Loons and two Com. Loons were seen at Dragon L., on n. Canol Rd. of the Yukon, Aug. 16 (GJ, CM). During wetland surveys in June and July on the Dezadeash R. in s.w. Yukon, breeding Horned Grebe numbers were down by 50% from the previous 2 years (JM, DP, GJ). One pair of Pied-billed Grebes with four young at Boundary L., F.S.J., July 11 (CS) represented one of few breeding records for the area. Two Double-crested Cormorants seen June 13 in high flight over F.S.J. were well w. of their normal s.c. Alberta range (CS). Also unusual were Am. Bittern (suspected of breeding) s. of Dawson Cr., July 5 (GD, CS, LD), and 2 separate sightings of Great Blue Herons near Whse.—one at Kookatsoon L., June 15 (BS, *vide* DM) and one at Mclean L., July 2 (RS, *vide* DM).

Breeding numbers of Am. Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Barrow's Goldeneye, and Bufflehead were down from the last 2 years in s.c. Yukon, possibly owing to the late spring (JM, DP, GJ).



Two Trumpeter Swans remained at F.S.J. until June 11 (CS). On a helicopter survey across the Mackenzie R. Delta Aug. 21, none of 70 pairs of Tundra Swans seen had young (DP, GJ). Reports from Coppermine, N.W.T., indicated that Canada Geese, N. Pintails, and Oldsquaws were common breeders in the area June 12–15 (TA). Oldsquaws were noted courting in high alpine lakes of the M.M. near Oldsquaw Lodge June 28 (SM). One Greater White-fronted Goose was noted on the Peel R., Ft. MacPherson, June 19 (PJ).

A Cooper's Hawk seen June 15 (CS) provided the first record for the Peace R. area of n. British Columbia. A Rough-legged Hawk remained from late May to June 19 at F.N., well s. of its breeding range (JB). Two active nests of the endangered *tundrius* race of Peregrine Falcon were noted July 16–24 at Coppermine (TA). Based on a territory-wide survey this summer, the race *anatum* of Peregrine Falcon is increasing in population (DM).

GROUSE THROUGH GULLS — Grouse and ptarmigan numbers, other than the coastal mountain populations, were up and increasing from previous years in the Yukon (DM) and the M.M. (SM). Rock Ptarmigan were noted at Stone Mountain P.P., F.S.J. area, July 2 (JB, GD, CS, LD). A family of Sharp-tailed Grouse was seen on the Dempster Hwy near Ft. MacPherson, N.W.T. (PJ). Sandhill Cranes were found in small numbers in the F.S.J. and F.N. areas (JB, CS, GD, LD) and near Ft. MacPherson (PJ), but with no evidence of breeding.

The numbers of breeding Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers, Red-necked Phalaropes, and Com. Snipe were down from the previous 2 years on the Dezadeash R., s.c. Yukon (JM, DP, GJ). Over 300 Lesser Yellowlegs were noted at the F.S.J. sewage lagoons July 5 (CS). A Wandering Tattler with downy young was seen July 20 at Km 460, Dempster Hwy, N.W.T. (PJ). Numbers of breeding tattlers in the M.M. near Oldsquaw Lodge were down from previous years (SM). Two Hudsonian Godwits were seen at F.S.J., June 24 (CS), and one was at Coppermine July 23 (TA). Also noted at Coppermine were Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, and Red Phalarope, June 4–16 (TA). Baird's, Pectoral, and Solitary sandpipers were observed more frequently than in previous years in the M.M. (SM). Long-tailed Jaegers were reported July 20 from Km 460 Dempster Hwy (PJ), where commonly seen, but none was observed in the Ogilvie Mts., Km 105 Dempster Hwy, where usually common (CM, JS). One Pomarine Jaeger was at Coppermine June 15 (TA). Interesting was the note of Long-tailed Jaegers and Mew Gulls feeding on mushrooms near Oldsquaw Lodge (SM). A Sabine's Gull was seen with two Bonaparte's and 71 Franklin's gulls at F.S.J., June 4 (CS).

OWLS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — One Short-eared Owl was seen June 6 at F.S.J. (GA), one was at Km 576 Dempster Hwy, N.W.T. (PJ), and at least three were resident in the M.M. (SM). A Boreal Owl with 4 eggs and prey remains of pika was noted June 1 at Km 250 Dempster Hwy (DM). There was an "invasion" of Calliope Hummingbirds into the Peace R. area: one at Mi 63 Alaska Hwy, June 6 (CS, GA), two at Dawson Creek (CS, GD, LD), and two at Moberly L., July 6 (SS). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found June 19 at Scoby L., s.e. Yukon (HG), and Hairy Woodpeckers (an adult and a fledgling) were seen June 17 s. of Whse. (JL).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen at Parker L., near F.N., July 1 (GD, JB, LD), and one was at Dragon L., n. Canol Rd.,

Yukon, Aug 17 (GJ). Alder Flycatchers and W. Wood-Pewees were common on the Breeding Bird Survey conducted in the s. Yukon in early June (m.ob.). A Hammond's Flycatcher was seen feeding young in the F.N. lowlands July 9 (JB). Dusky Flycatchers were reported to be common at Scoby L., s.e. Yukon (HG). A suspected Hammond's responded to a recording of Dusky Flycatcher in the Whse. area, adding to confusion over identification of Hammond's/Dusky flycatchers. An E. Phoebe was seen near Haines Jct., Yukon, June 3 (ML, *fide* DM). A N. Rough-winged Swallow was sighted at Miles Canyon, Whse., July 26 (PP). Cliff Swallows (5000–10,000) were 2 weeks late arriving and 2 weeks late in leaving their traditional breeding area at Johnson's Crossing, s.c. Yukon (ED, *fide* GJ). Flocks of 60–70 Bank Swallows were southbound on the n. Canol Rd., Yukon, Aug. 16 (GJ). Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Scoby L., June 18–21 (HG).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES — The 3rd record of **Bluethroat** in Canada was provided by a male singing in an alder thicket in the Blow R. Valley, British Mts., n. Yukon, July 18 (DR, WN). Northern Wheatears were noted at Bonnet L., n. Yukon, July 6 (DR, WN). A Philadelphia Vireo was seen at F.N., June 30 (JB, CS, GD, LD). Warbling Vireos were heard singing adjacent to the Alaska Hwy near Rancheria in the s.w. Yukon, near Whse., and at Scoby L., June 7–21 (HG). Tennessee Warblers were common at Scoby L., June 16–22 (HG). Two Magnolia Warblers were at Rancheria, Yukon, June 16–17 (HG). Unusual at Coppermine were a Yellow-rumped Warbler June 6 and a Yellow Warbler July 23 (TA). Singing Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers were seen in n. British Columbia at Kleddo Cr., Mi 335 Alaska Hwy, July 2 (CS, JB, GD, LD). A late migrant Connecticut Warbler met its demise against a high school window in F.S.J., June 24 (CS). A W. Tanager was noted often near Teslin, Yukon, where accidental (DM).

An agitated pair of Am. Tree Sparrows in Stone Mountain P.P., July 2 (CS, GD), may have represented a southern breeding area in British Columbia. Le Conte's Sparrows were noted from 2 areas of n.e. British Columbia: one singing at Boundary L., July 7, and two at Swan L., s. of Dawson Creek (CS, LD). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was also at Boundary L. on July 7 (CS, LD, GD). Dark-eyed Juncos bred in abundance in the Whse area, with 30–40 adults and fledged young (young being fed birdseed by adults) daily at a feeder there, June to August (GJ). A **Western Meadowlark** singing lustily and daily at F.N., June 22–July 10, provided a first record for n.e. British Columbia (JB).

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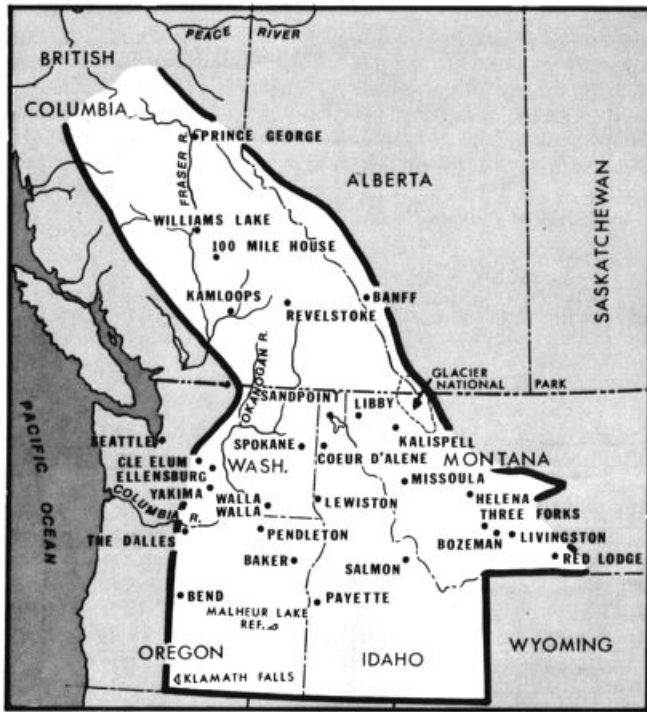
NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

June weather was unseasonably hot and very deficient in precipitation nearly everywhere in the Region. July, by contrast, turned cold and wet, in fact colder than June! For the most part the summer season appeared to be good for nesters, with food and water generally adequate. Some exceptions are mentioned later.

ABBREVIATIONS — Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Burns, Ore. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Com. Loon in nonbreeding plumage near Burns, Ore., June 2 made a rare record (GI). The only reports of the species' nesting came from *Lincoln* and *Flathead*, Mont. Four ad. Red-necked Grebes and a nest with eggs were found at Davis Res. near Cascade, Ida., for the most southerly nesting record for s.e. Idaho (JM). A pair nested again



at Silver L., near Island Park, Ida. (CHT), as did another pair at Bull L. near Stryker, Mont., where they are rare (WW). Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had 120 W. Grebes June 6. An estimated 290 pairs of W. Grebes and 460 pairs of Clark's Grebes nested at Malheur, but both species had a poor year as high winds destroyed most of their nests. In Grant, Wash., Potholes Res. had one Clark's (ZB, EC), and Moses L. provided two to three (JG, EH, GG, PM et al.). Several appeared on American Falls Res., Ida., in July (DMT).

American White Pelican young approaching flight stage at the period's end totaled 125 on Malheur and 120 on nearby private land. Seven appeared on Potholes Res., June 20 (PL) and five at the Walla Walla R. mouth s. of Pasco, Wash., July 19 (DHR, CW, REW). Ninepipe N.W.R. had 26 Am. White Pelicans June 6 (PLW). In Idaho no nesting was known, but the birds continued abundant; more than 1800 were counted on American Falls Res. in June, where they were robbing Double-crested Cormorants. The colony of the latter there yielded dawn flight counts of 1300–2000 per hour. Double-crested Cormorants established a new record at Malheur with 982 pairs and an estimated 1681 young produced.

Great Blue Herons also broke a record at Malheur, with 682 pairs producing 1817 young. Great Egrets there were up 30% from last year with 631 pairs producing 1417 young. At least one pair nested again at the American Falls Res. colony and several pairs were reported at Mud L., w. of Hamer, Ida. Snowy Egret numbers at Malheur dropped 53% from last year's record high, with 113 pairs producing 193 offspring. The species' numbers appeared stable in s.e. Idaho. A well-described **Little Blue Heron** at American Falls Res. near Springfield July 13 was apparently Idaho's first (DMT). Cattle Egrets have increased in s.e. Idaho; up to 59 were counted on the Springfield Bottoms (DMT, CHT). A new colony of this species has appeared on the Snake R. near Bruneau, Ida.; up to 10 adults and a nest with three young were present for apparently the first nesting record for w. Idaho (JM). These birds increased to 6 pairs at Malheur and brought off 14 young. A molting ad. Green-backed Heron was sighted July 23 at the same location on the Snake R. near Pocatello where one was seen last year; breeding was suspected (CHT). One of this species at Ninepipe July 3 furnished Montana's 2nd record w. of the Continental Divide (PLW). Black-crowned Night-Herons at Malheur dropped from

their big high of 1985 but still had 493 pairs, producing 1123 young. Their numbers appeared stable in s.e. Idaho. White-faced Ibises continued to increase. At Malheur a record 2095 pairs reared 4925 young. In s.e. Idaho, Dan Taylor counted up to 800 at American Falls Res. and Bear River N.W.R., Montpelier estimated over 3000 nesting pairs (GD). This may reflect the flooding at Great Salt L.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — Trumpeter Swans at Malheur had a good year but the count of fledged young was not yet available. At Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., five birds summered and one young was fledged. A Snow Goose was sighted s.e. of Burns July 9 (CDL). Canada Geese had their best year since 1983 at Malheur with 1611 young reared. The species did well again at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., with 135 fledging, and nesting success was good in Pend Oreille and Stevens, Wash. The species was also on the increase in the Salmon, Ida., area. Nesting success for Cinnamon/Blue-winged Teal at Kootenai N.W.R. was low. Production was low for most duck species in the Fortine, Mont., vicinity. The same was true for Pend Oreille and Stevens, Wash., where low water levels were blamed. Fortine and other Lincoln, Mont., areas had broods of Com. Goldeneye as did Pend Oreille, Wash. At Klamath Falls, Ore., 22 Com. Goldeneyes and 12 Buffleheads June 12–13 were large numbers for non-breeders (PL). A brood of four downy Bufflehead chicks at McCall furnished s.w. Idaho's first breeding record (JD, AL, JM). A ♀ Hooded Merganser at Big L., n. of Columbus, Mont., July 18 was noteworthy (EHa). A Red-breasted Merganser on Osoyoos L. in the s. Okanagan Valley, B.C., was a summer rarity (PL).

The June raptor count at Malheur found 41 Turkey Vultures, up from last year's 26. One was sighted June 8 just n. of Kamloops, B.C., where the species is very rare (RRH). One in the Salmon, Ida., vicinity July 13 was unusual, and 2 Osprey nests there appeared to be successful (HBR). The Bald Eagle pair at Kootenai N.W.R. fledged one young (LDN) as did a pair on the Pend Oreille R. in n.e. Washington (SZ). The pair that nested at Libby Dam, Lincoln, Mont., brought off two young (DH). A Bald Eagle was sighted near Cusick, Wash., July 14 (EJL) and an adult at L. Chatcolet, St. Maries, Ida., June 22 was unusual (PL). Northern Harriers showed a substantial increase at Malheur, correlated with an increase in the small rodent population. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported along the Snake R. near Swan Valley, Ida., July 23 by an observer familiar with the species (DSS). An active Swainson's Hawk nest in the Frenchtown valley w. of Missoula, Mont., provided the latilong's first breeding record (PLW). Two Ferruginous Hawks, possibly paired, were sighted June 7 near Boulder, Mont.; the species is rare in the Boulder-Helena area (G & NN). Buteos, especially Ferruginous and Red-tailed hawks, had very high production, associated with the outbreak of voles, at Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, Arco (TDR). Golden Eagle nest surveys in Pend Oreille and Stevens, Wash., indicated very poor success. Of 7 nests, only 2 were active, each with one young (SZ).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Six ad. and three imm. White-tailed Ptarmigan were found at Burrough's Mt., Mount Rainier N.P., July 9 (A & SS). Malheur reported a Sage Grouse hen with three chicks at Double-O Station and two females near Frenchglen (CDL). Wild Turkey young totalled 47 in the Wenas Cr. area n.w. of Yakima, Wash. (TB). The birds were introduced there 3 years ago by the department of game. At least five Yellow Rails were heard in the Ft. Klamath, Ore., area (PL, JC, SSu). Nesting success of Greater Sandhill Cranes improved at Malheur where predator control was initiated. Sandhills were "numerous" and increasing in the Lemhi Valley and around Salmon, Ida. (HBR). One was observed at Mara Meadows, a known nesting site, near Enderby, B.C., June 17, and two were sighted in late July near Rollings L., e. of Lumby, B.C. (RRH).

The Narrows at Malheur had a Snowy Plover June 5 (AA, MA) and one was found near Mud L., Hamer, Ida., June 8 (DF). A few returning Semipalmated Plovers were moving through

the Region in late July Black-necked Stilts nested for the first time at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. (JRR). One at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab was the first ever there and for the latilong (TDR). Two Am. Avocets near Missoula, Mont., June 1 were suspected of breeding; this would be a latilong first. The same place had 13 of the birds June 12 (DHo). Three adult and two imm. Solitary Sandpipers at 2 different locations in the mountains s. of Lavington, B.C., July 17 provided a southern breeding record for the species (RRH). Upland Sandpipers were discovered at 3 localities in Valley, Ida.; a flightless chick provided the first positive documentation of breeding in s w Idaho and the only recent one for the state (JM). Up to eight Uplands were observed at the traditional nesting site in the Spokane Valley. Two breeding pairs were believed present, but no nests or young were found. The Washington Department of Game conducted a study of the species there during the summer (KW). Four were again observed in the Logan Valley e. of Seneca, Ore. (PL). Four Marbled Godwits at the Walla Walla R. mouth July 19 provided the species' only sighting (DHr, CW, REW). A breeding-plumaged Red Knot on Springfield Bottoms July 31, and two there a few days later, provided Idaho's 5th and 6th records (TF, CHT, DMT, DF). A Baird's Sandpiper at Wenas Res., n.w. of Yakima, was noteworthy (EH) as was a Short-billed Dowitcher there (DG). An ad. Long-billed Dowitcher at Columbia N.W.R. was remarkable for June 20 (PL). At least two Stilt Sandpipers still in breeding plumage appeared at Springfield Bottoms July 26 (CHT, CWe). One at Folsom L., Whitman, Wash., July 9 was the county's first (BO).

GULLS AND TERNS — A new colony of Franklin's Gulls was established on Knox Pond at Malheur and about 480 pairs nested on private land in n. Malheur L., producing 665 young. Klamath Falls had two one-year-old Bonaparte's Gulls June 12-13 (PL). An aggregation of 30 postbreeding Mew Gull wanderers appeared in Wells Gray Provincial Park, B.C., July 24 (RRH). California Gulls produced 776 young and Ring-billed Gulls, 1046 in the Malheur area. A one-year-old Herring Gull appeared at the Walla Walla mouth June 18-19 (PL). The Western Gull at American Falls Res. had achieved full ad. plumage (EHa, SSc, CHT).

Caspian Terns continued to do well at Malheur, with 560 young produced, a 14% increase over 1985. Common Terns were again present on Pocatello area reservoirs. More common than Forster's, they apparently were nesting (CHT). No Forster's Tern colonies were found on Malheur, but a colony of 10 pairs was discovered 25 mi s. of Frenchglen in the Catlow Valley. Forster's nested for the first time at Columbia N.W.R. (JRR). Single Forster's and Caspian terns visited Hatfield L., Bend, Ore., in July (TC). Black Terns appeared to be doing well in s e Idaho. Ten were at Springfield Bottoms July 26 and many were flying over the colony at Oxford July 12 (CHT). Eighteen pairs summered at Kootenai N.W.R.; 15 nests were found there.

CUCKOOS, OWLS — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo stayed around Rupert, Ida., until late July (WHS). Two were heard in Blackfoot, Ida., in early June (JT), and two were heard along the Snake R. between Tilden Bridge and American Falls Res., July 26 (CHT, CWe). Two well-described Black-billed Cuckoos were observed near Red L., n.w. of Kamloops, in early July (EM).

The reintroduction of Burrowing Owls into s. interior British Columbia is thus far a success. Two pairs returned to the Osoyoos release site and had fledged one young each by July 6, and another was noted at a 1985 release site at Cache Cr., Aug. 6 (SC). A Burrowing Owl at the Helena airport in mid-June was the first seen in the Helena Valley since 1981 (GH). Three adult and two imm. Barred Owls were sighted in July in the Little Naches area n.w. of Yakima (SS). An adult and three fledged imm. Great Gray Owls were observed at Kamloops July 9 (EM). Two adults and two nestlings were found in the Nicola L., Merritt, B.C., vicinity (RB), and another adult and a dead fledgling were found in that area (BD), both in early July.

A pair of Great Grays raised three young near Sunriver, the farthest n. they are known to nest in the Oregon Cascades (TC). Fort Klamath had a Great Gray June 12 (PL). Four nestling Long-eared Owls, their nest accidentally destroyed by logging near St. Maries, Ida., were hand reared and released (JTa). Owl numbers in the Snake R. Birds of Prey Natural Area, Ada and Owyhee, Ida., were down precipitously, especially for Long-eared, with only 5 pairs compared to 63 in 1980 (JM). Short-eared Owls were abundant in the Malheur area and on the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, presumably in response to an increase in small mammal populations. Cathedral Park, s. of Keremeos, B.C., hosted a Boreal Owl July 6 (DC, RC), and several sightings of the species were obtained in the Salmo Mt. area of n. Pend Oreille, Wash. (BB, JG, EMi, JP). A N. Saw-whet Owl was heard June 17 in Colorado Gulch s.w. of Helena (G & NN) and one was calling at Horsethief Meadows e. of Mt Hood in n. Oregon (DAA). Nestlings of this species, made homeless by logging near St. Maries, were hand reared and released (CS).

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Common Nighthawk numbers at Fortine, Mont., were higher than for several years but still were far below those of 40-60 years ago (WW). After an increase in 1985, these birds again decreased at Malheur for reasons unknown. A Com. Poorwill calling at midnight June 21 added that species to the bird list for Kootenai N.P., B.C. (LH, RRH). One was heard at Calamity Butte, 30 mi n.n.e. of Burns, in June (MA), for the only other record. Up to 50 Black Swifts were sighted in July in the Kamloops-Clearwater area, B.C. (CH, RRH). A pair of Black Swifts, presumed to be breeding, was again sighted near Cabinet Gorge, Bonner, Ida., July 23 (DF). White-throated Swifts attempted to nest under the freeway bridge over Latah Cr. at Spokane but apparently were deterred by repair work (S.A.S.). Richland's ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird stayed around until early July. Then a female appeared July 18 (REW). A female was identified near Lookout Mt., e. of Mt. Hood, July 6 (DAA). An albino of the species, except for dark wings and tail, visited a Nife, Wash., feeder (J & JW). A female along Morgan Cr. n.w. of Ellis, Ida., was noteworthy (HBR). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was back at Bend for the 3rd year (PL). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Helena latilong's first and Montana's 11th, visited a feeder in Colorado Gulch (G & NN).

About 20 Lewis' Woodpeckers were sighted along the S. Fork of the Boise R. below Anderson Ranch Dam, Elmore, Ida. (DMT). Two localities in the Libby, Mont., area had sightings of single birds (DH), and Calamity Butte had up to six in July (MA). A Red-breasted Sapsucker and a nesting Williamson's Sapsucker were spotted in the Clear L. area, Mt. Rainier N.P., June 1 (BR, Y.A.S.). A Williamson's Sapsucker was noted on Ulysses Mt., 20 mi n.w. of Salmon (HBR). Three sightings of the species in The Dalles, Ore., area were Anderson's first there. At Calamity Butte, Williamson's seemed to be giving way to Red-naped Sapsuckers as nesters; only 2 nests of the former were found, compared to 5 of the latter species (MA). Eight pairs of Three-toed Woodpeckers were sighted between Crescent Lake and Bend, Ore. (RG). One in the Snowy Mts. s. of Lewistown was at the e. limit of its range in Montana (LKM). The Dalles area had a pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers (DAA) and the species was reported near Lost L., Mt. Rainier N.P. (A & SS). A nesting pair at Stanley L. near Stanley, Ida., added the species to the list for Sawtooth N.R.A. (LHa).

Willow Flycatchers hit a record 71 on the breeding bird survey in the s. Blitzen Valley at Malheur, but the species continued its downward slide at Panhandle L. in Idaho. A Least Flycatcher was singing at White Mud L., 6 mi e. of Colville, Wash., June 23 (PL). Canada's first confirmed breeding record for the **Gray Flycatcher** was of a nest with one young and 3 unsuccessful eggs at Oliver, B.C., July 27 (SC).

SWALLOWS THROUGH MIMIDS — Seven Purple Martins were observed June 13 at the Region's only known breeding locality at Chiloquin, Ore. (PL). Some 1500 Bank Swallows

gathered in late July along the Blitzen R. at Malheur for a record concentration there (CDL). The increasing population of Com. Ravens in the Fortine area was taking a toll of the eggs and young of smaller species (WW). Several Boreal Chickadees along Smith Cr., n. Boundary, Ida., July 26 indicated breeding there (DF). A Winter Wren sang at Golway Gulch, 10 mi n.e. of Salmon, July 19 (HBR). The species is rare in that area. A new location for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was discovered near Malin, Ore. (*vide* PL).

Two W. Bluebirds at Mara Meadows, Enderby, B.C., June 17 were supposedly near the species' n. limit (PLe). A pair of W. Bluebirds apparently nested at a box at the Canadian border n. of Eureka, Mont., for an adult and two immatures were there June 22 (DH). Three pairs of W. Bluebirds used nest boxes in the valley around Fortine for Wedemeyer's first record of nesting there since 1935. The Mountain Bluebird population there is also building as the result of nest boxes. The latter species was also reported as abundant at nest boxes at Eureka, Mont. A bluebird trail n. of Coeur d' Alene, Ida., continued to show increased success, with 88 fledged, about equally divided between Western and Mountain bluebirds (BW). Two trails in n. Idaho, one on a mountain ridge on the Montana border n.e. of Prichard and the other at Pinehurst, fledged 128, about 75% Mountain Bluebirds (CHa). Two Sage Thrashers sang at Calamity Butte, elevation 6695 ft, June 28–July 3, leaving when it snowed (MA)! A Gray Catbird at Fields, Ore., June 10 was noteworthy (HN). The singing N. Mockingbird at Malheur attracted no mate but remained at least until June 19 (CDL). A nest with three imm. N. Mockingbirds was found near Melba, Ida., June 17 (AL, VM, LP), and a family of two adults and two fledged young was sighted s. of Grandview, Ida. (JD), for apparently the 2nd and 3rd state breeding records—a previous record exists for Oneida (LP). A N. Mockingbird that stayed near Kalispell, Mont., in May and June was joined by a 2nd bird. The two acted as if nesting (JR). Malheur had a Brown Thrasher June 6 (TC) and the N. Fork of the Big Lost R. n.e. of Ketchum, Ida., had two to three July 3–4 (RS).

PIPITS THROUGH WARBLERS — Two Sprague's Pipits appeared at Big Lake, n.e. of Columbus, Mont., after an absence of a year (EHa). "Many" Loggerhead Shrikes were noted in s.e. Idaho, where they apparently had good breeding success (JS, DMT, CHT). A singing **Gray Vireo** was reported along Kinney Cr., s. of Pocatello, Ida., June 18 (EHa). Later that day a bird responded to a Gray Vireo song tape with an identical song (JT, JTr). This would be the state's first record. Four Red-eyed Vireos were observed along the Imnaha R., s. of Imnaha, Ore., June 21 (M & AA). A ♀ Tennessee Warbler was closely examined near the N. Fork of the Big Lost R., July 3 (RS). An ad. ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler showed up at Malheur June 15–18 (CDL, PL). Two N. Waterthrushes were again seen along the Little Deschutes R. near Gilchrist, Ore., June 13–14 (JC, PL). Malheur hosted a singing ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler June 23–24 (CDL). A pair of Black-throated Gray Warblers near Frenchglen July 8 strongly indicated nesting there; the area has very few summer records for the species (CDL). A ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler at Malheur June 15 provided the 2nd record there (CDL). Kamiak Butte e. of Colfax was favored by a ♂ **Hooded Warbler**, e. Washington's first, June 15–21 (D & JP, PL).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ W. Tanager in Richland July 25 was apparently an early migrant (REW). Two ♂ Blue Grosbeaks were singing at the trout farm along the Portneuf R. n.w. of Pocatello July 27 and a female came to a tape, indicating breeding there (CHT). In June a singing male was near Buhl, Ida., a known nesting spot for these birds (DF, JS). A **Dickcissel** near Radersburg, Mont., June 16 was a latilong first, and only the Region's 2nd (JH). A pair of Green-tailed Towhees was feeding three well-grown immatures at Wenatchee Guard Station in s.e. Washington's Blue Mts., July 9

(WKH) Baird's Sparrows were back at Big Lake, Mont., after their absence during last year's drought (EHa). A ♂ White-crowned Sparrow sang at 4000 ft elevation at Lac le Jeune, s. of Kamloops, July 5 (RRH). At least 215 ♂ Bobolinks were recorded at Malheur in early June; 2 new nesting areas were found there. The birds were described as plentiful in the Almo, Ida., area (WHS), and at least six occupied the Toppemish N.W.R., Wash., colony June 22. The colony near Cusick, Wash., was active; the species was regular at Weydemeyer's Fortine ranch, and was seen occasionally near Polson, Mont. (LK). Unusual was one near Hayden, Ida., June 22 (PL). A singing ♂ Scott's Oriole at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab was a first for that site and for the latilong (LP, MW). Common Grackles were still nesting in s.e. Idaho: a female was seen carrying feces from a conifer in Soda Springs June 3, and two birds were sighted in Ashton June 14 (CHT, CWe). A Great-tailed Grackle appeared 21 mi s.w. of Malheur headquarters June 1 (MJ) and three were sighted on the refuge June 1–7 (TC). Reporters' consensus of opinion seemed to be that Brown-headed Cowbird numbers were increasing or at least steady.

Adult and imm. Purple Finches were reported at a Libby feeder (DH) and apparently valid sightings were made of a male and two females of this species at Coeur d' Alene, Ida (PH). A ♂ White-winged Crossbill was sighted at Lost L., n.w. of Mt. Hood in Oregon (DAA). A very few Lesser Goldfinches were seen at Lyle, Wash. (EH, PM).

ADDENDA — Two Snowy Plovers were sighted at Dry L., s. of Nampa, Ida., May 19 (DMT, SCT). A N. Mockingbird was seen at Coeur d' Alene May 23 (RI, KM). A Hoary Redpoll was studied at length and photographed along State Line Road, Umatilla, Ore., in late January–early February (OS, JGi, TC, MS *et al.*).

OBSERVERS CITED — David A. Anderson, Anne Archie, Merle Archie, Tom Bass, Rick Bonar, Bob Brokkaw, Zee Butler, Dick Cannings, Rob Cannings, Steve Cannings, Jim Carlson, Tom Crabtree, Emily Cragg, Bob Davis, Gerry Deutcher, John Doremus, Dave Finkelnburg, Tom Fitch, John Gatchett, George Gerdtts, Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Rebecca Goggins, Denny Granstrand, Clarence Hagerman (CHa), Lucinda Haggas (LHa), Larry Halverson, Edward Harper (EHa), Chris Harris, John Hartman, William K. Hayes, Della Hermsmeyer, David Herr (DHr), Denver Holt (DHo), George Holton, R.R. Howie, Peg Hughes, Eugene Hunn, Richard Ila, Gary Ivey, Marv Jess, Lynn Kelly, E.J. Larrison, Al Larson, Peter Legg (PLe), Paul Lehman, C.D. Littlefield, Larry K. Malone, Jeff Marks, Vicki Marks, Phil Mattocks, Eric McAlary, Ken McIntyre, Ed Miller (EMi), Larry D. Napier, Harry Nehls, Gene & Norma Nixon, Bill O'Connell, Deanna & Jeff Palmer, Leon Powers, James R. Rees, Tim D. Reynolds, Hadley B. Roberts, Jean Robocker, Bill Ryan, Martha Sawyer, Owen Schmidt, Charles Schultz, Susan Scott (SSc), W.H. Shillington, John Shipley, Spokane Audubon Society, Andy & Susan Stepniewski, Donald S. Starks, Steve Summers (SSu), Robert Sutherland, Joe Taggart (JTa), Daniel M. Taylor, S.C. Taylor, Joel Tinsley, C.H. Trost, Judy Trotter (JTr), Bill Walker, Cheryl Webb (CWe), Winton Weydemeyer, Mark Wheeler, Joe & July Will, Kim Williams, Charles Woodley, Robert E. Woodley, Philip L. Wright, Yakima Audubon Society, Steve Zender.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**



MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

The summer brought two new breeding species to Wyoming—Virginia's Warbler and Orchard Oriole, and one new one to Utah—Evening Grosbeak. (None seemed surprising, other than not having been found before.) It brought Wyoming one new species—a Vermilion Flycatcher in Grand Teton National Park, and second state records of a Tricolored Heron in Nevada and a Broad-billed Hummingbird in Utah.

The western portion of the Region had unusually hot weather (especially in June), while the eastern portion had lower temperatures.

The new A.O.U. checklist invented four new species of interest to Mountain West birdwatchers: Clark's Grebe, Eastern and Western Screech-Owls, and Red-naped Sapsucker. Ranges of the grebe and owls are largely unknown in the Region, so that our observers continually add information on their distribution. This report contributes a few bits of data on their nesting ranges.

ABBREVIATIONS — 1st Lat = first record in a latilong (that piece of geography bounded by one degree of latitude and longitude); # = no written documentation received by deadline; B.B.S. = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey; I.P.B.C. = Indian Peaks Breeding Count, compiled by DB & DH; L/L/B/L = the Longmont, Lyons, Berthoud, Loveland area of Colorado.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS — A pair of Com. Loons with dependent young at Riddle Lake, elev. 7900' in Yellowstone N.P., may have set a high-altitude nesting record for the species (fide JZ). Five locations reported 1096 Eared Grebe nests, the most 520 at Kirch W.M.A., Nev. The only location that reported on its nesting W. Grebes, Delta, Colo., had 98 young and 128 adults on July 27 (MJ). At Grand L., Colo., 300 summered, but showed no signs of nesting. Clark's Grebes nested at Pueblo and Delta, Colo. (DS, MJ). Observers found them at Yellowstone, Sheridan, Sundance, Saratoga, and Hutton L., Wyo., and Eagle, Colo., and 4 n.e. Colorado sites. Riverside Res., near Masters, Colo., Colorado's only breeding site of Am. White Pelicans, held 800–900 young on the annual July banding trips, despite the deterioration of the island on which the birds nest (RR, JD). Last year 300 pelican nests at Yellowstone showed good success; this year only 41 nests produced a paltry 16 chicks—with only half expected to survive. An extremely high spring runoff flooded the Molly I. nest site; on one island with 17 nests, the water level left only 8–10 inches of rock poking up (KD). At Sundance, Wyo., 30 juvenile pelicans, including one very young one, suggested a new breeding site (JA, FL). The 560 pelicans at Bear River Ref., July 10 found congenial feeding at that closed refuge (JN). A number of locations reported summering Am. White Pelicans (e.g., 287 at L/L/B/L, 175 at Ruby Lake N.W.R.), and on June 15, 124 flew over the top of the Teton Range near Jackson, Wyo. (FL). A Brown Pelican spent 2 weeks (July 9–20) at Kirch W.M.A., Nev., the first in n.e. Nevada. An immature that exhibited the begging behavior of many coastal pelicans, it followed boats and hovered above fishermen, but remained shy of vehicles and people (†CS). Double-crested Cormorants built 125 nests at Casper and 130 at Sheridan, similar to last year, and 178 at Chatfield park near Denver, up from 146 last year. At Yellowstone the 25 nests fledged 40 young; high water aided their success by reducing the California Gull nesting population by 75% (KD).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Regional observers saw 22 Am. Bitterns, including 2 pairs that produced three young each at Berthoud, Colo. (fide AM). Two parties



saw a juv. Least Bittern at Latham Res. near Greeley, Colo. July 20 (JC). Another pair may have nested at Berthoud (AM) Colorado has only one recent nesting record, near Boulder 1979–1982. The only large herony of Great Blues reported, at Chatfield, increased from 148 to 171 nests this year (HEK) Small ones at Sheridan, Casper, and Evanston, Wyo., and Gypsum and Kremmling, Colo., had 5–10 nests. A Great Egret stood at the edge of a Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo., marsh on July 19 (†MR). Five Great Egrets at Longmont, Colo., June 26 could have come from the small colony at Boulder to feed (F.A.C.) Another was at Julesburg, Colo., July 19 (DM). Fish Springs N.W.R. produced 430 young Snowy Egrets (CND), Ruby L. had 15 nests, and 240 pairs nested at Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo. (RS). About 25 pairs of Cattle Egrets nested at Riverside Res., an increase (RR). A Tricolored Heron flew out of a carex marsh at Kirch W.M.A. on June 10, for Nevada's 2nd record (†CS) Fish Springs produced 250 young Black-crowned Night-Herons (CND), and Denver's City Park produced about 150. Casper confirmed its first nesting; 3 pairs produced young (JH). Ruby L. had only 10 night-heron nests, but had 260 pairs of White-faced Ibises nesting (SB). Ibises produced 300 young at Fish Springs (CND), and had 75 nests at Monte Vista and 40 nests at Alamosa Ref., Colo. (RS). One pair attempted, unsuccessfully, to nest at Riverside, their 2nd try there in 25 years (RR). Ibises nested at Latham Res. near Greeley, Colo., in the early 1970s, the one to 30 immatures during July hinted at nesting in 1986 (JC). Kirch reported 81 ibises July 7, and Bear R. had 155 July 10.

Monte Vista produced 31,812 ducklings, up 20%; the total was 45% Mallards, 21% Cinnamon/Blue-winged Teal, and 15% Gadwalls (RS). Alamosa's production dropped 15% to 5099 ducklings—32% Gadwalls, 25% Cinnamon/Blue-winged Teal, 18% Mallards, 11% N. Pintails (RS). Fish Springs produced 2730 young, including 700 Redheads, 380 N. Shovelers, 350 Mallards, 310 N. Pintails, and 290 Canvasbacks (CND). Kirch had 1262 ducklings, a record, mainly Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Ruddy Ducks. Ruby L. produced 4650 young, a decrease from the 10-year average of 8603 (3 different biologists took the counts; Brown advises using the numbers with caution) Top producers were Redheads, 740 young (average 1482), 720 Ruddies, and 460 Cinnamon/Blue-wingeds. Trumpeter Swans produced 16 cygnets at Yellowstone (JZ), eight at Jackson, Wyo. (BR), and two at Ruby L. (SB). A count June 13 produced 46 Trumpeters in the Jackson area (DLo). One Snow Goose has remained at Pueblo, Colo., since October 1985 (DS). July 22 produced a count of 45 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Yellowstone N.P. (SD). Buffleheads appeared for rare summer observations

at Sheridan (one male and four females June 22—HD) and Antero Res. near Fairplay, Colo. (one female July 13—D.F.O.).

RAPTORS — On Bureau of Land Management lands around Casper, Wyo., raptor nests apparently have a high turnover. Of nest sites active in 1978, 60% were active in 1979 and 46% in 1986. Productivity was low in 1986, as it had been in 1978; on the Powder R., production equalled only 30% of 1984's production. This drop probably resulted from severe spring storms, poor precipitation, and low rabbit populations (*vide* JH). Jackson also saw a drop in raptors, linked to a huge decline in voles, ground squirrels, and gophers (BR). Nesting Ospreys enjoy success at Grand L., Colo.; 8 pairs nested, including one that abandoned the traditional island site for a telephone pole (DJ). Wyoming reported 6 nests away from Yellowstone (where 4 nests at Canyon produced eight young) and Grand Teton: 2 at Pinedale, 2 at Sheridan, and one each at Sundance and Casper. Mississippi Kites have spread from Lamar 100 mi up the Arkansas R. to nest at Pueblo, Colo., with possibly 20–30 pairs breeding (DS). Stray Mississippi Kites visited Las Vegas June 6 (a first-summer bird—†VM) and Denver July 13 (†DSc).

Yellowstone reported 6 Bald Eagle nests that produced 11 young; in n.e. Wyoming they nested successfully at Sheridan and Sundance. In Colorado, 9 pairs of Bald Eagles attempted to nest; 4 succeeded in fledging young (C.D.W.). Along an 8-mi stretch of foothills near Boulder, at 6000–6800' elevation, Cooper's Hawks had 6 active nests; they preferred Douglas fir, some mixed with aspen (HW). No Sharp-shinned competed with the Cooper's; however, Sharp-shinned did nest in Douglas fir at Radium, Colo., and produced three young (DJ). Two pairs of Swainson's Hawks nested within the city limits of Boulder (SJ), but a pair that had three young in Cheyenne caused a brouhaha. First, teenagers harassed them, and then the hawks attacked some smaller children. The uproar forced the Game & Fish Dept. to remove the nest (MH). In Boulder Co., Colo., 5 of 7 historic Golden Eagle nest sites were active and fledged seven young (SJ). At Sheridan 4 nests had two young each (HD). A Merlin at Radium June 29 stooped on Violet-green Swallows (DJ). Salt Lake City's Peregrine Falcons nested on a ledge of the Hotel Utah; fans watching from the street saw three chicks fledge, as did Utah TV watchers. Grand Co., Colo., had probably 6 nests of Prairie Falcons (DJ); across the Divide, Boulder County had 4 active sites, one of which failed (SJ).

MOORHENS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Com. Moorhen was at Kirch W.M.A., July 7 (CS). At Ruby L., 20–30 Sandhill Cranes summered, with three on territory Aug. 11, but they produced no young (SB). A fine count of 50+ Black-bellied Plovers and 20+ Lesser Golden-Plovers stopped at Sundance, Wyo., May 13–June 1 (†JA). Late Black-bellied stopped at Boulder June 1 and Loveland June 2 (SJ, AM). An oddly-timed one appeared at Las Vegas July 5–6 (VM, J & MC). Mountain Plovers nested at Meeteetse, Wyo. (DBe—1st Lat) and 100 gathered nearby at Cody July 31 (EG). They had poor nesting success w. of Cheyenne—10 young survived from 2 nesting attempts by 10–15 pairs (AK). The count of eight on the Briggsdale, Colo., B.B.S. matched the 18-year average (RR).

Good numbers of Black-necked Stilts populated Kirch and Fish Springs refuges (283 and 530 at their respective peaks). Wyoming acquired its 2nd breeding location when one young was at Green R. with 10 adults July 1 (MA). At Casper the original nesting site hosted 6 nesting pairs and 12 young (JH). Stilts also bred at Cheraw and Greeley, Colo. (DS, JC). Out-of-season stilts appeared June 1 at Cody (DBe), June 10–11 at Delta, Colo. (MJ), and July 19–21 at Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo. (MR, EH). Delta had its first nesting record of Am. Avocets: 6 nests, which produced seven young (MJ—1st Lat). Casper had possibly 36 nesting pairs, although with lower success this year (JH). Kirch had 33 on June 23, its peak, a drop from last year, but they had better success this year (CS).

Greater Yellowlegs set their usual mystifying dates: one to

two at Kirch June 23–July 7 (CS), three at Fish Springs June 20 (CND), two at Ogden, Utah, June 21 (CK). Lesser Yellowlegs displayed a similar pattern: one to 15 at Casper June 15+ (JH), 18 at Ogden June 12 (CK), four at Cody June 22, singles at Boulder June 30 and Green R., July 1 (B.A.S., FL). Then scattered Lessers began to show up all over, after July 5. Single Solitary Sandpipers spotted themselves 2 weeks apart: June 11 at Denver, June 24 at Green R., July 13 at Sheridan. Willets nested for the first time since 1975 at Kirch (CS), and for the first time ever at Green R. (FL—1st Lat), at Sundance, and possibly at Casper (the adults acted like avocets when people got close—JH). One Willet was at Briggsdale, Colo., June 12 (RR). Cody reported 20 nests of Long-billed Curlews. The first Marbled Godwits did not show up until July: a total of 167 counted on 9 days, July 1–19, at Yellowstone, four at Loveland and 17 at Casper July 5, and 65 July 6 at Sheridan.

A Ruddy Turnstone stopped at Sundance May 29 (†JA—1st Lat). Seven White-rumped Sandpipers at Grand Jct., June 3 provided Colorado's first W. Slope record (CD). Forty Short-billed Dowitchers probed the mud and shallows at Julesburg July 19; the observers suggest that in e. Colorado in the early stages of shorebird migration, Short-billed may be more likely than Long-billed (DM, DN). Two Long-billeds stayed at Delta June 11–17 (MJ). July flocks of Long-billeds, 500+ mi w. of Julesburg, included 40 at Fish Springs, 48 at Bear R., and 56 at Kirch, and reports of one or two came from Westcliffe and Delta, Colo., and Cheyenne and Jackson. High counts of Wilson's Phalaropes included 700 at Rock Springs, Wyo., July 1, with young present (FL—1st Lat), 400 at Saratoga, Wyo., July 21 (EH), 240 at Fish Springs June 1 (CND), and 120 at Farmington, Utah, July 19 (CK). Late Red-necked Phalaropes passed through Loveland (35 June 1—AM), Grand Jct. (three June 3—CD), and Delta (17 June 4, three June 11—MJ). Two early ones appeared at Farmington July 19 (CK).

GULLS TO ROADRUNNERS — Three imm. Bonaparte's Gulls summered at Kirch, spending much of their time on mudflats (CS). One Bonaparte's had reached Rock Springs, Wyo., July 19 (FL). In contrast to their nesting crash of 75% at Yellowstone, California Gulls at Riverside Res., Colo., enjoyed the best nesting season in 25 years of study; they produced hundreds of young (RR). Five Com. Terns had journeyed to Las Vegas by June 27 (J & MC). A Least Tern spent several hours over Las Vegas sewage ponds and mud flats on July 6, harassed by Cliff and N. Rough-winged swallows, it several times dove into the water and caught a fish once. This was the first Nevada observation since 1938 (†VM, KW). The Black-billed Cuckoo at Greeley June 13, along with two observed last summer, confirmed a 1st Lat (JC). Yellow-billed Cuckoos fed young in a nest at Prewitt Res. near Sterling, Colo., for a 1st Lat breeding record (JD). A Greater Roadrunner lived up to its name at St. George, Utah, July 11, as it ran down the freeway (JG).

OWLS TO POORWILLS — A Com. Barn-Owl at Kremmling, Colo., set a 1st Lat record (RSp). Three pairs nested at White Rocks natural area e. of Boulder (SJ), pairs nested at Ft Collins and Grand Jct. (RR, A.S.W.C.), and one to two were seen at Kirch June 9 and July 21 (CS). Observers from D.F.O. followed the progress of a Flammulated Owl nest 25' up in an aspen w. of Golden; the owls started feeding young June 23, and fledging came July 17 (AH). Sixty B.A.S. volunteers on an owl survey in Boulder and Gilpin Counties found 8 Flammulated territories, including 2 nests (SJ). Both Eastern and Western screech-owls breed in Colorado, but apparently have a convoluted range delineation. Easterns nested at Bonny Res., on the Kansas line e. of Denver, and in Wheat Ridge near Denver; observers identified Easterns in Longmont and Boulder, n. of Denver. Observers identified Westerns w. of the mountains at Grand Jct., in the mountains at Rocky Mountain N.P., on the plains in s. Colorado at Fountain and Kim, and in s.e. Colorado in Baca Co., on the Cimarron R. and Cottonwood Canyon.

The B.A.S. survey turned up 5 N. Pygmy-Owl and 4 N. Saw-whet Owl territories. At Colorado N.M., near Grand Jct., a pair of pygmy-owls preened each other June 5 (BRi). Other pygmy-owls were reported in the foothills w. of Denver and Golden and at Penrose (AH, DN, RW). Two Spotted Owls answered a tape in Mesa Verde N.P., where they have been located before, July 28 (MJ). The park's dry pinyon/juniper "pygmy forest" differs drastically from the towering forests that Spotted Owls inhabit in the n.w. United States. A Boreal Owl allowed observers to approach to 10 ft at Saratoga, Wyo., June 20 (†GR—1st Lat); this first observation in s. Wyoming may have a link to the n.c. Colorado population. The Com. Poorwill nest found June 25 at Wilson (2 eggs hatched) established a 1st Lat breeding record for n.w. Wyoming (fide BR), and the fledgling found July 15 at Rock Springs provided the 1st Lat for s.w. Wyoming (FL).

HUMMINGBIRDS TO NUTHATCHES — Utah had its 2nd **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, a male that ventured all the way to a Jensen feeder in n.e. Utah near Colorado; it stayed July 24–Aug. 5 (†DC et al., ph.). For the 5th year, Bailey, Colo., attracted a **Magnificent Hummingbird**—presumably the same bird for 5 years. Calliope Hummingbirds arrived at 5 Colorado Front Range locations in July. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds increased in the Indian Peaks, w. of Boulder. The annual breeding bird count there (I.P.B.C.) June 14 tallied 205, an average of 2.43/hour cf. a 4-year average of 1.76/hr; a breeding count there found 5 territories, up from 3 the last 2 years (DH, DB). They seemed much scarcer—half the usual—across the Divide in Grand County (DJ). Why do Rufous Hummingbirds, moving S from the n.w., arrive in the s. part of the Region first? This year, the first reports came from Cedar City, Utah, June 22, Durango, Colo., June 25, and Alma, Colo., June 28.

A study of the S. Platte river bottom at Milliken, Colo., found 10 adult and 4 young Red-headed Woodpeckers; perhaps they thrive in wilder areas where they do not face competition from starlings (JC). West of their usual range by 15–30 mi, they also nested at Boulder (two adults feeding young July 10—TJ) and were seen 3 times July 17–28 in Florence, Colo. (RW, NP). An Acorn Woodpecker in early July at Cedar City provided a 4th Utah record, the most northerly by 70 mi (LF#). Both Yellow-bellied and Red-naped sapsuckers nest around Sundance, although in different places (JA, FL). Observers found Black-backed Woodpeckers at the 2 corners of n. Wyoming; two June 14 at Grand Teton N.P., and in 3 places near Sundance. Three localities reported more N. Flickers: 40 at Zion cf. four last summer; 56 on the I.P.B.C., .66/hr. cf. .37 last year, and 84 on 18 D.F.O. trips cf. 35 last year.

Least Flycatchers singing June 13 at Chatfield park near Denver suggested possible breeding in Colorado (HEK); Wyoming has the only Regional breeding records, including a pair at Sundance this summer (JA). Dusky and Western flycatchers showed increases at Indian Peaks (.52/hr for both on I.P.B.C., cf. .27/hr and .35/hr average). In Grand Teton N.P., at the edge of the 1985 Beaver Creek forest fire burn of 1985, Wyoming's first **Vermilion Flycatcher**, a male, fed actively July 5 (†SM, RH). An E. Kingbird at Escalante, Utah, 200 mi s. of the Utah breeding range, provided a 2nd Latilong record (SH). Horned Larks showed a slight drop on the Briggsdale, Colo., B.B.S. (215 vs. a 237 average), but the Nunn, Colo., B.B.S. was down only slightly with 181. Purple Martins have only a handful of nest sites in the Region. The Strawberry area e. of Provo had a peak count of 30 this summer (MW); Monte Cristo, near Ogden, had six June 28 (JN), and McClure Pass near Redstone, Colo., had 2 pairs nesting (JC). A flock of 500 Bank Swallows appeared several times on a fence at Soda L. near Casper; observers do not know where they came from, and saw only 12–24 last year (JH). Blue Jays nested at Florence for a 1st Lat breeding record (RW). Mountain Chickadees dropped on the I.P.B.C., from an average of 1.35 to .79/hr. Red-breasted Nut-

hatches continued scarce; 9 locations in Wyoming and Colorado reported them.

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS — Eastern Bluebirds used 5 nest boxes at Sundance for 1st Lat breeding. A pair nested on the Arikaree R. in Yuma Co., Colo. (DBr). A pair of Veeries apparently nested in the Wheat Ridge greenbelt near Denver, probably Colorado's first plains nesting report; this pair wore the rich rust color of the eastern race, apparently not known from Colorado (DM, DN). A pair of Brown Thrashers nested where the mountains begin, on the edge of the hogback w. of Denver (AS). Brown Thrashers also strayed W: three at Jackson, one at Las Vegas June 1–2, and one feeding on a small lawn and among shrubs at a desert highway rest stop at Tonopah, Nev., June 16 (VM). Bendire's Thrashers apparently breed in Colorado's San Luis Valley; 2 parties found them for the 5th year near Saguache, where Bendire's preferred the pinyon/juniper hilltops while Sage Thrashers inhabited nearby sagebrush flat: (†JC, PG, †JR). Yellowstone had its first nesting Cedar Waxwings (JZ—1st Lat). A Phainopepla was reported for the week prior to June 28 at Ignacio, Colo. (H & RM#). Counts of Warbling Vireos showed them up 20% at Cedar City, based on B.B.S. totals (SH) and up to 2.24/hr on the I.P.B.C. (avg. 1.16) Nearby, Zion had the usual 3 territories on 2 breeding bird censuses, and D.F.O. reported 38 on 11 trips, compared with 37 on 5 trips last year. A Red-eyed Vireo at Las Vegas June 6 was the first since 1980 (VM).



Swainson's Thrush on a nest at Story, Wyo., July 2, 1986. First breeding record for the Latilong. Photo/Helen Downing.

Orange-crowned Warblers continued to prove themselves widespread but sparse summer residents of the Colorado mountains. Observations of five to 10 daily at Radium (DJ) and one singing June 23 at Granby (†WCR) converted the species to a likely breeder in Grand County. Singing birds pointed to the same status at L. Isabel, Redstone, and Marble. The **Virginia's Warblers** feeding recent fledglings at Rock Springs confirmed breeding in Wyoming for the first time (FL). A N. Parula sang from the top of an elm tree in Pine Bluffs, Wyo., June 19 (†JC). A Chestnut-sided was at Denver June 11 (D.F.O.). A Magnolia Warbler visited Sundance Apr. 28–30 (JA—1st Lat). Summer Black-throated Blues stopped at Las Vegas June 6 (VM) and Sundance July 20 (JA—1st Lat). A ♂ Blackburnian Warbler stopped June 9 in a Cheyenne yard (D & EH). A Grace's Warbler was at Rye, Colo., June 13, but it no longer seems to breed there (MHu, DS). A Black-and-white Warbler sang in the Wheat Ridge greenbelt June 6 (DN). The foothills in the Evergreen/ Buffalo, Colo., area attracted Am. Redstarts June 1 & 7 (PE, HEK). A loudly singing active ♂ Hooded Warbler attracted attention at Ft. Collins June 4–5 (†DL).



Male Hooded Warbler at LaPorte, Larimer Co., Colo., June 5, 1986. Photo/Dave Leatherman.

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES — A Blue Grosbeak at Beaver, Utah, provided a 1st Lat record (SH). Lazuli Buntings, feeding young at the Milliken study area, confirmed breeding in that latilong (JC). Indigo Buntings seem to have a different distribution today than that understood 20 years ago. Confirmed nesters only in s.w. Utah and in 11 of Colorado's 28 latilongs, Indigos occur regularly throughout Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado, and probably nest through much of all 3 states. In Utah, Green R. boat trips confirmed nesting in Lat. 13 last year, and this year added a 1st Lat record in Utah's Lat. 12. A Yampa R. trip added it to Colorado Lat. 1 (CD). A pair feeding young at the Milliken study area confirmed a 1st Lat nesting in e. Colorado (JC). Dickcissels bred at Rocky Ford (DS), Arikaree R., Yuma Co. (DBr), and Julesburg, Colo. (DM). Three observers found Cassin's Sparrows in n.e. Colorado, at Ft. Morgan and Pawnee Grasslands, the first in several years (DM, JCR, RR). Lark Buntings dropped on the 2 n.e. Colorado B.B.S. routes,



Male Lazuli Bunting at Sheridan, Wyo., May 1986. Photo/Gene Kilpatrick.

423 vs. an average of 500 (RR). The fledgling Song Sparrows July 19 at Rock Springs yielded another 1st Lat (FL).

Northeastern Nevada has scattered colonies of breeding Bobolinks; they were reported this summer from Lamoille (JE), Elko/Wells (EH), and White Pine County (PHo). Three colonies in c. Utah (at Midway, Lehi, and Springville) had 33 birds; the only fledgling was a cowbird fed by a ♂ Bobolink (MW). Ruby L. reported a count of 565 W. Meadowlarks July 29—and only one by Aug. 4 (SB). Great-tailed Grackles continue their colonizations; 2 pairs at Tooele, Utah (DJe), and one male at Florence, Colo. (RW), very active and vocal, did not reveal any nest sites. Isolated observations came from Juab Co., Utah, July 31 (PHo) and LaSalle, Colo. July 13 (JC—1st Lat). They summered at Kirch, more than in 1985 (CS). Several Com. Grackles spent late July in Elko, Nev. (JE). Yellowstone reported its first nest (JZ—1st Lat). They have increased 100% in Grand Co., Colo., in the last 2 years, spreading from Kremmling (which now has 100+) to Hot Sulphur Springs and Granby (DJ). Wyoming confirmed its first nesting Orchard Orioles with a pair feeding young at Hawk Springs Res., July 24 (FL). Another pair probably nested at Cheyenne (D & RP).

House Finches continued to prove how to succeed. At Ogden, of 288 banded, 35 were adults and 253 young (MK). At Salida, Colo., the male tended one nest while his female sat on a 2nd one (RE). Over 50 cruised Hot Sulphur Springs; none was there last year (DJ). Red Crossbills have returned, in small numbers; July brought 20–30 to the Sheridan area, and they were reported from 5 Front Range mountain towns. Yellowstone counted 369 in 43 reports. The five at Grasslands Ranger Sta., Cheyenne, June 15, had ranged far from their usual cone-bearing forests (D & EH). It seems incredible, but the 5 pairs of Evening Grosbeaks that nested in Cedar City provided the first Utah breeding records—although the species occurs year-round throughout the state (SH).

CORRIGENDUM — National experts reviewed the descriptions of the Iceland Gull observed at Denver last winter (AB 40:308). They suggested not accepting the record because the observer did not see and describe the color of the orbital ring (JR).

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Arizona, Sonora

Janet Witzeman and David Stejskal

Surveys on the San Pedro and Gila rivers were again conducted throughout the summer and added a considerable amount of new data to our knowledge of these areas.

Several observers commented on the excellent cone crop in the southeast mountains, the mountains around Prescott, and the White Mountains; this seemed to have a favorable effect on Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins.

Despite the fact that the southeast canyons received more attention than usual (due to the large numbers of observers there in July), there were noticeably fewer vagrants from Mexico. We wonder what the conditions were in Mexico that influenced the lack of northward wanderings this summer.

ABBREVIATIONS — G.R.A. = Granite Reef Aqueduct; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; S.P.R. = San Pedro River.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Clark's Grebe, uncommon away from the L.C.R., was observed at Picacho Res., June 26 (DJ). Four Brown Pelicans from s. Arizona were taken to the Desert Museum in Tucson, including an early individual from Oracle June 7 (fide P. Siminski); one was seen at Nogales July 14 (DSj, J. Sunder) and one was reported near Bouse, G.R.A., in July (JH). An Oliveaceous Cormorant was observed with a Double-crested Cormorant at Guevavi Ranch, Nogales, July 27 (AM, DD, JBa, B. Bates); both species were also at Patagonia L. in July (JBo et al.).

Two Great Blue Heron colonies were found on the upper S.P.R., one with 8–10 nests s. of St. David, the other with 2–3 nests n. of Hereford (TC, DK). A Cattle Egret, uncommon in summer, was seen n.w. of Bouse June 15 (JH). An ad. **White Ibis** at Picacho Res., June 22 through the period (fj & AP, m.ob.) represented only the 5th record for the state.

The two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at the Gilbert sewage ponds, s.e. of Phoenix, were still present June 7 (CK, J. Burns). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to have a successful breeding season in their usual haunts as well as in some new areas in the n.w. part of their range. Six individuals, including two young, were seen at 2 areas in s.w. Phoenix (m.ob.), one was observed farther west on the Gila R. near Buckeye (ph. CBg), and the pair at Sun Lakes, s. of Phoenix, raised another brood (fide DSj). Up to 10 adults were reported in July at Patagonia again for the 2nd year (MO, GG, DSu et al.). Farther s.e. were two at Douglas June 2 (B. Zans) and six at McNeal June 21 (AM). Wood Ducks were present all summer at Watson L., Prescott (CT). "Mexican" type Mallards were common and nesting on the upper S.P.R.; many intermediates between this form and "true" Mallards were seen as well (TC, DK). Individual "Mexican" Mallards were also recorded farther n. on the Gila R. at Solomon June 26 and Eden July 15 (CH). A high of 180 "Mexican" Mallards was counted at McNeal June 21 (AM).

The usual smattering of non-breeding ducks was found summering at several s. Arizona ponds.

RAPTORS, TURKEYS — Ospreys are rarely recorded in w. Arizona in summer, so of interest were individuals at Burro Cr. below the Francis Cr. confluence June 6 (CT), at Alamo L., July 24 (D. Laush, J. Wegrzyn), and at the Imperial Dam area all summer (CH). Three more Black-shouldered Kites were reported s.w. and w. of Prescott, at the n.w. edge of their range in the state: one near Date Creek June 5 (M. Morgan), one near



Kirtland Cr., June 13 (CT), and one n. of Skull Valley in open chaparral June 13 (CT). Additional records in new locations included a pair all summer on the lower Gila R. near Buckeye, a pair all summer near Ft. Thomas, upper Gila R., and one n. of Dudleyville, lower S.P.R., June 27 (CH). As usual, numbers were reported from s.e. Arizona, plus one at Sasabe and one w. of Gila Bend. Extralimital records of Mississippi Kite were of an adult near the confluence of the Salt and Gila rivers, s.w. Phoenix, June 29 (RB); an adult farther w. on the Gila R. near Buckeye June 30 (CBg), for the 3rd record for this location in the past year; and an adult flying over Cibola N.W.R., June 6 (SM, JBa), providing the 2nd record for the L.C.R.

A nesting pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks was discovered in S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., July 14 (RM, DW); a juvenile was seen at the nest site July 20 (PL). The species is extremely rare as a breeder in s.e. Arizona. Four Com. Black-Hawk nests found along the lower S.P.R. (CBg), plus one nest found there the previous summer, represented the first known nests along the lower S.P.R. since 1977. Four to 5 pairs along Bonita Cr. produced four young (CH), which also represented an increase over the previous summer.

Harris' Hawk is a rare breeder on the S.P.R.; one family group was found s. of Mammoth during the summer (CH), one adult and a dead immature were seen at Hereford June 2 (DD, AM), and a pair near a nest with at least one downy young was found n. of Hereford June 26 (TC). Two adults and one immature at Cochise July 17 provided the northernmost record for the Sulphur Springs Valley (GM). Up to 3 pairs from the reintroduced stock on the L.C.R. bred on the Arizona side (CH). Nine nesting territories of Gray Hawks counted along the upper S.P.R. contained 23 adults, two 2nd-year birds, and at least 15 fledglings (TC, DK). Five pairs of Gray Hawks were found along the lower S.P.R. (CH). Two pairs of Zone-tailed Hawks were found breeding on Bonita Cr., only one of which was thought to be successful (CH). An imm. Ferruginous Hawk seen in Chino Valley July 17 (H & AG) represented one of only a few summer records for n. Arizona and only the 2nd near Prescott in recent years.

Individual Wild Turkeys in 2 areas of the S.P.R., e. of Sierra Vista June 13 & 16, may have been wandering birds from a flock introduced in the Huachuca Mts. a few years ago (TC).

SHOREBIRDS — Although three to four Snowy Plovers summered at Willcox for the first time in several years, there was no evidence of breeding (m.ob.). Four pairs of Black-necked



Red Phalarope at Cunningham Wash, Ariz., June 1986. Photo/Ron Christofferson.

Stilts were recorded June 10 at Cibola N.W.R. (SM, JBa), where the species has been nesting only since 1983. Nine individuals were recorded at Willcox June 28 (DD, AM); the species is uncommon in s.e. Arizona in summer. Twelve Am. Avocets, including one with three young, observed at McNeal June 3 represented the first breeding record for that location (AM). A high count of 220+ Am. Avocets at Willcox July 17 was probably the largest number yet recorded in the southeast (GM). A N. Jacana was reported as having been seen on Mittry L., L.C.R., June 3 & 30 (M. Johnson), but details have not yet been received.

Two Lesser Yellowlegs at Willcox June 25 and one at Picacho Res., June 26 (DJ) were among the earliest records for the state (June 24 is the earliest date on file). Fifteen late Willets were seen June 9 in an odd habitat—in the desert s.e. of Sierra Vista (TC, DK). An early Whimbrel was seen at Picacho Res., June 22–29 (jSa, BS, m.ob.); another individual was observed at Willcox July 31 (A. Keith). An early ad. Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at the Gila Bend sewage ponds July 27 (CBa). An ad. Short-billed Dowitcher was observed at Picacho Res. on the early date of June 22 (DSj, RN, D. & J. Burns). Another early adult was found at Willcox July 19 (†PL, DW) & 26 (JD).

Common Snipe was found nesting at Tsaille L., Navajo Indian Reservation, in early June (B. Jacobs); a pair, giving a broken-wing act w. of Eagar in late May, was probably nesting there as well (GR, JW). A Red Phalarope at Cunningham Wash, G.R.A., June 8–9 (ph. Ron Christofferson) provided a first June record for Arizona.

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS — A 2nd-year California Gull at Willcox June 10 (JBo) furnished one of only a few summer records for the state.

A large tern, identified as an Elegant Tern, was observed at Patagonia L., July 25 (†BS); the status of this species in the state is under consideration by the Arizona Bird Committee, and as yet there have been no confirmed records. Seven Com. Terns in various plumages observed at Willow L., Prescott, June 20 (†RTh) made a large number for this uncommon migrant. Another individual was seen at Parker, L.C.R., June 7 (SM). There was only one previous June record for the state. **Least Terns** were discovered in 2 areas of the state: one at Cibola N.W.R., June 5–6 (SM, JBa) and two at Picacho Res., June 21–23, with one remaining until June 29 (†PT, †J & AP, m.ob.). There had been only 7 previous state records.

For the first time, no Yellow-billed Cuckoos were detected in the Yuma area, where there has been habitat loss due to flooding and clearing. A few individuals were found along the lower Gila R., but they did not attempt breeding (CH). Numbers seemed stable at Buckeye (CH) and s.w. Phoenix (DSj, RB). At higher elevations, they were nowhere common except at Pima, upper Gila R., n.w. of Safford (CH).

An imm. Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was seen and heard in Sycamore Canyon June 7 (TC, DK). For the 2nd year Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was recorded on the S.P.R. at Dudleyville: two were heard and one was seen from June 2 to July 3 (CBg, †CH). Another individual was reported at the Patagonia Rest Stop in late July; there was only one individual in n.w. Tucson during the summer (fide JBa). Spotted Owls are being monitored throughout the West. Probably 2 or 3 pairs of Spotted Owls nested in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts.; individual adults (three) and fledglings (two) were seen in 3 areas in this canyon during the summer (TC, DK). One was heard n.e. of Bog Springs, Santa Rita Mts., July 27 (PN) and one was heard from Rustler Park, Chiricahuas, Aug. 1 (DSu, PN). At least three individuals were heard in the Pinal Mts., June 29 and July 30 (RH, BJ et al.). A Long-eared Owl detected in a ponderosa pine forest near Canyon Cr., e. of Payson, June 6 was at a higher elevation than usual (RB).

Common Nighthawks were observed along the S.P.R. all summer: one at Dudleyville June 6 (CH), five (with Lesser Nighthawks) seen and heard n. of Fairbanks June 25, then seen irregularly the rest of the summer throughout the upper S.P.R. (TC, DK), and four near Hereford July 23 (PL et al.). Although the species is more common at higher elevations farther north, it is also an uncommon local resident in grasslands of the southeast, from the Mule Mts. east of the S.P.R. west to the Atascosa Mts. Up to four Buff-collared Nightjars were again present in Florida Wash, Madera Canyon, all summer (m.ob.).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Only one each of the four rare hummingbirds was reported during the period, in contrast to the previous summer when there were multiples of each. A ♀ White-eared Hummingbird was observed in Sheelite Canyon, Huachuca Mts., June 26 (RS). A Berylline Hummingbird was present at Ramsey Canyon feeders June 22–26 (D. Collazo). A Plain-capped Starthroat was at feeders in Whitetail Canyon, Chiricahuas, again from early June to July 18 (RTa, m.ob.). A ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird frequented a Portal feeder the last week in July (S & WS).

A Violet-crowned Hummingbird was found nesting again at Log Canyon, S. Fork trail, Chiricahuas, June 23 (RM). Individuals were also recorded at Madera Canyon, where it has become more regular in recent years, as well as at Sonoita Cr. and Ramsey Canyon. Magnificent Hummingbirds were seen June 9 at Rose Cr. cabins, Sierra Ancha Mts., where they were reported by the owners to have been present for 3 years (S. Peabody); there was only one previous record for this range. The species is recorded only infrequently in the White Mts., where one was seen at S. Fork, w. of Eagar, May 31 (JW, GR); and at least one has been seen at feeders in Greer every summer in recent years (fide JW). Three males at feeders on Signal Peak, Pinal Mts., June 3 were more than had been recorded there previously (RH).

An ad. ♀ Elegant Trogon was found away from its normal habitat along the S.P.R., n. of Hereford, July 10 and Aug. 1 (DK).

Belted Kingfishers (at least two) observed at Watson L. and Granite Cr. throughout the period furnished the first summer records for Prescott (CT, H & AG, RTh). An individual seen at S. Fork, w. of Eagar, June 4 (TC) added another summer record for the White Mts. A ♀ Green Kingfisher was seen at the Sonoita Cr. crossing, Patagonia, July 27 (†CH).

At least nine Lewis' Woodpeckers counted in the Springerville area in late May was a larger number than usual for the White Mts. (GR, JW). Both "Red-shafted" and "Gilded" forms of N. Flicker were found along the upper S.P.R., as well as intergrades showing many shades of orange in tail and wing linings (TC, DK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS — N. Beardless-Tyrannulets were found again for a 2nd summer at the new area on Bonita Cr., above the Gila R. confluence (CH).

The species was found to be more numerous than last summer on the lower S.P.R. (CH), but surprisingly was heard or observed only infrequently along the upper S.P.R. (TC, DK). Willow Flycatchers, first found breeding along the S.P.R. and Gila R. a year ago, were present there again this summer; a breeding pair was found at Ft. Thomas, Gila R., again and several new individuals were spending the summer nearby; singing birds at Dudleyville and San Manuel on the S.P.R. probably attempted breeding (CH). A pair of Buff-breasted Flycatchers, present from early May into mid-July at Rustler Park (TGu), provided another in a growing number of records from the Chiricahuas in recent years, as the species continues to re-inhabit its pre-1920s range.

A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers raised two broods at Watson L. during the period; this represented one of only a few breeding records for Prescott, where the species is at its upper elevational limits (CT). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was found at the Patagonia Roadside Rest June 6 (TC); there are very few records for Sonoita Cr. Tropical Kingbirds were found again along the lower S.P.R. from Mammoth to Hayden, and the Gila R. w. of Hayden (CH).

Several Bridled Titmice, observed in the cottonwood stand near Ft. Thomas June 25, July 14, and Aug. 4, provided the first summer records for the upper Gila R. (CH). However, surprising was the absence of the species on the upper S.P.R., compared to its fairly common to uncommon status on the lower S.P.R. (TC, DK). A ♀ Red-breasted Nuthatch and three fledglings found in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts., July 25 indicated nesting at a lower elevation than usual (TC, DK).

A pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers feeding three young in a nest was found in a sycamore tree about ½ mi from the border in Sycamore Canyon July 27 (GG, ph. †MO et al.); four young were seen in the nest July 30 (V. Zerbi et al.). The young had fledged by Aug. 2 (m.ob.).



Female Black-capped Gnatcatcher at a nest in an Arizona Sycamore (appropriately) in Sycamore Canyon, Ariz., July 27, 1986. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

At least four singing ♂ Townsend's Solitaires were recorded near Snowshed and Chiricahua peaks July 5–6 (GW, BC). There was only one previous summer record for the Chiricahuas. An Am. Robin seen at the Nogales drive-in pond June 6 (TC) added to the summer lowland records for the state.

A Gray Catbird at Dudleyville June 16–17 was in the same area where one was recorded in July of the previous summer (†CH). The individual at the S.W. Research Station at Portal (since May 29) remained at least to June 7 (A. Greene). Three Curve-billed Thrashers were seen at Willcox July 17, where they had not been recorded before; the species is local in the Sulphur Springs Valley (GM).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo found singing near Laguna Dam in late May was the only individual recorded along the L.C.R. and lower Gila R., where the habitat is still recovering from the 1983 floods (CH). In s.w. Phoenix, where the habitat is also regenerating, three individuals were counted June 11 (DSi) and one June 29 (RB). There is still a healthy population throughout the upper and lower S.P.R. (TC, CH). At least three Hutton's Vireos on Bonita Cr., above the Gila R., June 6, and at least one individual on the S.P.R. at San Manuel July 2, provided the first summer records of the species in lowland riparian habitat (†CH, TM, CBg). A Red-eyed Vireo at Portal June 22–24 (DSi) provided the 3rd summer record for that area.

A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler at Bisbee June 20 (†DD) was the 7th for Arizona and the 3rd in summer. Three Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at different spots near the summit of Mt. Lemmon July 23 (J. Buckman); the species is uncommon in the Santa Catalina Mts. in summer. Several Yellow Warblers seen and heard singing along the Gila R. s.w. of Buckeye June 9–30 may have been breeding; the species had been extirpated as a breeder along this stretch for more than 50 years (CH).

A Black-and-white Warbler was observed at Canelo Hills June 13 (TS). American Redstart is another regular summer visitor; a singing ad. male was seen at Patagonia June 25–July 3 (JBo et al.), and a female was reported at Patagonia July 28 (MO et al.). A Prothonotary Warbler, a sparse migrant or vagrant, was observed at Elgin June 11 (TS).

The pattern of late-summer records for Louisiana Water-thrush continued to grow: one was observed in Sheelite Canyon July 26 into August (R. Stallcup et al.); and another individual, found in the Patagonia Sanctuary in late July and early August (R. Baxter, W. Weber), was in the same area where it has wintered the past 4 years, and will likely do so again. This summer's records of Hooded Warbler were of a male at Bisbee June 21 into August (†DD) and one in Cave Cr. Canyon, Portal, June 30 (DSi).

BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES — Two ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported—one June 30 at Patagonia (TC) and one June 21 in the Chiricahua Mts. (RM). Two ♂ Varied Buntings were found at 2 locations on the Mexican border s.e. of Vamori, Tohono O'odham (Papago) Indian Reservation July 7 & 29 (S. Levy); there were no previous records from the area between the Baboquivari and Ajo mountains (fide GM). Individual Varied Buntings were seen in 2 areas near Portal June 25 (RM); the species is rare in the Chiricahuas. Fairly large numbers of singing males and females were recorded in the Fairbanks area of the upper S.P.R. all summer (TC, DK). An imm. ♂ Dickcissel banded e. of Tucson July 3 was recaptured there July 31 (P. Walters); it provided the first July record in the state of this uncommon migrant.

An early migrant Chipping Sparrow was seen in n. Tucson July 5 (GM). Several singing ♂ Black-chinned Sparrows were recorded along the road between Portal and Paradise, as well as in Whitetail Canyon from mid-July on (RM, PL et al.); this is an uncommon and recent local breeder in the Chiricahuas. At least two Song Sparrows in Lower Aravaipa Canyon July 11 were in an area where they had not been reported before (GM). An ad. White-crowned Sparrow was found on Mt. Wrightson, Santa Rita Mts., July 2 (GW, BC) where it has not been recorded in summer before.

Sightings of male and female Bronzed Cowbirds, and three eggs of this species found in the nest of a Hooded Oriole along Burro Cr., n.w. of Prescott, June 9, represented the first confirmed breeding for this area, which is n.w. of the previous known limits of the species' range (CT).

Although Red Crossbills had been recorded in some mountain ranges in a few summers previously, never before have they been present in all 3 mountain ranges around Prescott in the same summer as they were this year (CT). Unprecedented were the singing males all period, not only around Prescott, but also in the White Mts., the Santa Catalinas, the Huachuacas

(Sawmill Canyon), and the Chiricahuas (TC, DK *et al.*) Some Pine Siskins tend to linger into June in their wintering areas; one at Portal was still present June 10 (RM). However, one s. of Charleston on the S.P.R., July 23 was surprisingly late or early (DK). An individual was seen flying over Bog Springs Campground July 27 (DSu); the species is a sparse breeder in the Santa Rita Mts.

An Am. Goldfinch at Prescott July 7 (H & AG) provided the first mid-summer record for that area, and one of only a few summer records for the state. Evening Grosbeaks were present in the Huachuca Mts. again, as they have been in some recent summers; and in the Chiricahuas, adults were observed feeding fledglings s. of Rustler Park June 18 (TGu).

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New Mexico

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ABBREVIATIONS — Bosque Refuge = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; La Joya Refuge = La Joya State Game Refuge, Socorro Co.; P.O.Can. = Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., Hidalgo Co.; T. or C. = Truth or Consequences. Place names in *italics* are counties.

GREBES THROUGH DUCKS — Both Western and Clark's grebes again bred at Elephant Butte L., where the downy young of both were seen June 8 (TM). Two adults of each species were also at Bosque Refuge July 26–27 (PS *et al.*). Many nests of Double-crested Cormorants were present in upper Elephant Butte L., June 8, along with about 50 of Olivaceous Cormorants (TM). Eighty-plus nests of presumed Double-crested were in Jemez Res., July 17 (R. Brown, JH), while unusual was an adult of this species at Mangas Springs, Grant, July 13 (RF). Presumed Snowy Egrets were also nesting at Jemez Res. on July 17, with about 20 nests observed (JH). A Great Egret at Zuni June 24–30 (JT) was out-of-season there. Three ad. Little Blue Herons were in the Belen-La Joya Refuge area July 2–5 (WH), while one at Ft. Sumner June 4 (BO) was a local first. Apparent early migrant White-faced Ibis were two at La Joya Refuge (WH) and Holloman L., Otero (EW *et al.*), July 2.

The Wood Duck was again present in summer at Percha Dam, Sierra, with a pair there June 5 (DM); also notable was a male at Zuni June 25 & 30 (JT). A ♂ Mexican-type Mallard near Grants June 23 (JT) was well n.w. of the usual range. Out-of-season at Zuni were up to eight N. Pintails, four Am. Wigeons, two Canvasbacks, three Ring-neckeds, and a Com. Mer-

ganser in the period June 24–30 (JT). Similarly notable were four N. Pintails, an Am. Wigeon, four Green-winged Teal, and 12 Redheads at La Joya Refuge July 2 and/or July 5 (WH), as were two Redheads at Luna L., Catron, July 27 (SW).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS — Late were single Ospreys at Cochiti L., June 10 (PS) and Bosque Refuge June 7 (DD). Two **Black-shouldered Kites** were present near Rodeo in the period (D. Sibley *et al.*), suggesting that breeding might have been attempted. A nestling and two fledgling Mississippi Kites near Isleta July 29 & 31 (P. Elliston *et al.*) represented the first solid evidence of breeding by the species in the area in several years. Out-of-range was an adult at Mangas Springs July 1 (RF). Single N. Harriers near Rodeo June 4 (RS) and Three Rivers, Otero, June 21 (JM) may have been late migrants. Quite unusual was an imm. N. Goshawk near Hollomon A.F.B., July 28 (JM), as was an adult in P.O.Can., July 29 (RS).

Broods of Montezuma Quail were at Mangas Springs June 27 (RF) and P.O.Can., July 30 (RS). The high count for Mountain Plovers was 100-plus near Los Lunas July 20 (WH *et al.*). East of the usual range was a Black-necked Stilt near Hobbs July 4 (JS), while southwesterly were two Am. Avocets w. of Lordsburg July 4 (JH). Early were a Marbled Godwit at Bluewater L., June 22 (JT) and 10 Least Sandpipers at Hollomon L., June 18 (JM). The only June report of Wilson's Phalaropes was of seven at Zuni on the 25th (JT). An ad. Franklin's Gull was at Cochiti L., June 11 (PS). Rare in New Mexico, an ad. **Caspian Tern** was at Clayton L., June 5 (WC, A. Krehbiel). The nesting Least Tern population in the Roswell area did not fare well, the eight or so adults producing only two known young (S Marlatt). Single vagrants were at Bosque Redondo, DeBaca, June 4 (BO) and Hollomon L., July 2 (EW *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Juvenile White-winged Doves first appeared in T. or C. on June 13 (DM), while a bird at Albuquerque June 10 (PS) was n. of the usual range. Peripheral records of Inca Doves included singles at Percha Dam June 26 (BO) and Tularosa June 20 (NH). On June 10, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in the n.e. heights of Albuquerque (WH). Greater Roadrunners in peripheral areas were singles near Grenville, Union, June 15 (KS), Zuni June 26 (JT), and near Hobbs July 4 (JS). Up to five Burrowing Owls were at Zuni June 23–30, plus a Long-eared there on June 26 and two others in the Zuni Mts., June 28 (JT). Infrequently reported in the Magdalena Mts., a Whip-poor-will was in N. Fork Canyon June 14–15 (JS). Four to six **Black Swifts** at Reese Mesa (AN *et al.*) provided one of the few records for San Juan County. Three probable Black Swifts were on Lake Peak, Santa Fe, July 29 (JH). Also notable were up to eight Chimney Swifts in Albuquerque through June 15 (S. Hoffman).

Very rare in the state, the Blue-throated Hummingbird was again reported at L. Roberts, Grant—along with the Magnificent Hummingbird (D. Seymour). One to two Magnificents were also present in the Cloudcroft area through July 20 (ND *et al.*) Up to 10 Lucifer Hummingbirds summered in P.O.Can. (RS *et al.*), where the species is now regular and probably breeding (this must be the largest U.S. population outside the Chisos Mts. of Texas). Out-of-season was a ♂ Anna's Hummingbird at Silver City in the period (A. & D. Arteaga, *vide* M. O'Byrne) A rufous-bodied, green-backed ♂ hummingbird in P.O.Can., July 24 (BZ *et al.*, ph.) was thought to be an Allen's Hummingbird, a species still unverified in New Mexico. One to two Belted Kingfishers were at Zuni June 21–30 (JT), while one at Bosque Refuge July 27 (PI *et al.*) may have been an early migrant Lewis' Woodpecker was nesting at Clayton L., June 14 and later (WC), while Acorn Woodpeckers were found at 2 new sites in Los Alamos County (BL). A "Yellow-bellied" Sapsucker (presumably Red-naped) in Alamogordo July 28 (RJ) was probably an early migrant. A Three-toed Woodpecker was in the Zuni Mts., June 22 (JT) and another on Sandia Crest July 18 (HS). Very early was an imm. **Yellow-shafted (Northern) Flicker** at Clayton L., June 28 (WC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Up to three probable breeding Olive-sided Flycatchers were in the Zuni Mts., June 22 & 29 (JT), while possibly breeding were singles at Heron L., Rio Arriba, July 16 (PS) and in the Sandia Mts., July 13 (HS). Four territorial Willow Flycatchers were at Zuni June 30 (JT), while none was observed near La Joya Refuge where several were present last summer (WH). One to two Hammond's and up to eight Dusky flycatchers were singing in the Zuni Mts., June 24 & 29 (JT). Several Dusksies were also in the Sandia Mts., June 8 and July 13 (HS). Singing Gray Flycatchers were again reported in the Pinos Altos Mts., with two in Cherry Creek Canyon July 19 (RF et al.). In the El Pueblo area, San Miguel, one Eastern and at least three Black phoebes were present June 16 (JH); up to six of the latter species were at Zuni June 21–30 (JT). Easterly Cassin's Kingbirds were near Grenville (KS) and in Trujillo Canyon, San Miguel (JH), in mid-June. A W. Kingbird in Ancho Canyon, Los Alamos, June 1 was high and did not linger (BL).

The Tree Swallow again bred at Clayton L., with young being fed there June 28–July 5 (WC). Apparent early migrants at Bitter Lake N.W.R. were two Violet-green Swallows June 28 (Sherry Bixler). Likely breeding birds of the species were several through the summer near Cochiti L. (F & RS), six on Rowe Mesa, San Miguel, June 7 (WE, WH), and at least three in Trujillo Canyon June 16 (JH). The only Bank Swallows reported were probable early migrants, these being two at Zuni June 27 (JT) and La Joya Refuge July 2 & 5 (WH). Cliff Swallows were reported nesting on 2 buildings in Silver City (RF). Barn Swallow nests were recorded at Lordsburg and near San Simon Cienega (JH), and summer birds were near Rodeo (RS) and Gage (BH).

CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES — A Steller's Jay on Rowe Mesa June 7 (WE, WH) was at a new summer locale for the species. Fledgling Pinyon Jays were in Santa Fe June 12 and July 19 (JH). Up to five Clark's Nutcrackers were in the Zuni Mts., June 22–24 (JT). The Black-billed Magpie was confirmed as breeding in Los Alamos, with nestlings there June 8–11 (BL et al.); southerly was a bird at El Pueblo June 7 (WE, WH). Two family groups of Am. Crows were between Belen and Los Lunas July 5 (WH), and a juvenile was near El Pueblo June 16 (JH). Northerly were two Chihuahuan Ravens at Los Lunas July 2 (WH). Verdins were numerous at La Joya Refuge in July, including a family group (WH). Very high were two Bushtits at treeline on Wheeler Peak July 8 (GH, WH), while also notable were two in n.e. Albuquerque July 4 & 22 (WH). Up to six Red-breasted Nuthatches were in the Zuni Mts., June 24–29 (JT). A pair of Brown Creepers was feeding nestlings on Sandia Crest July 6 (BD).

Low was a Canyon Wren in the lower Mimbres Valley June 30 (JH). Unusual was a singing House Wren in n.e. Albuquerque June 9 (WH), while two were in the El Pueblo area June 16 (JH). An Am. Dipper was at Bluff Spring in the Sacramento Mts., June 14 (JM). Two Golden-crowned and up to 40 Ruby-crowned kinglets were in the Zuni Mts., June 24–29 (JT). The former species was locally common in the Sandia Mts. (HS), with fledglings observed there July 6 (BD, WH). Northerly were two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers near Tres Piedras June 22 (WE, WH), while easterly was one in Trujillo Canyon June 16 (JH). A Mountain Bluebird was in the Magdalena Mts., June 26 (JS), while early was an imm. Townsend's Solitaire in Los Alamos July 19 (PI et al.). A Hermit Thrush on Rowe Mesa June 7 (WE, WH) was in a new summer locality for the species. Lower elevational reports of Am. Robins included eight birds at Bosque Refuge July 27 (PI et al.), a juvenile at Percha Dam June 5 (DM), and one to two birds at Trujillo Canyon June 16 (JH), Tularosa July 17 (NH), Alamogordo through the period (K. Jenness, RJ), and Hobbs July 4 (JS).

MIMIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — A Gray Catbird near El Pueblo June 7 (WE, WH) may have been a late migrant, while a Sage Thrasher near the Magdalena Mts., July 10 (JS)

was probably an early one. Well e of the usual s New Mexico range was a **Bendire's Thrasher** at Hollomon L., July 9 (J. Donaldson, BZ). A new locality for the Crissal Thrasher was Las Bolsas, Santa Fe, where several birds were present in early June and earlier (L. Sager). Late were up to six Cedar Waxwings at Percha Dam June 5 (DM) and Zuni June 26–27 (JT). Zuni was a new and unexpected locality for **Phainopepla**, where a female was seen June 26 and a male and two immatures June 30 (JT). Northerly reports in the Rio Grande Valley were of one to three at La Joya Refuge July 25 (WH) and Bosque Refuge June 4 & 7 (DD, R. Teuber). Other notable records included three at Three Rivers June 21, one near Alamogordo July 20 (JM), and another in upper P.O.Can., June 5 (RS). The only Gray Vireos reported were up to seven at Zuni June 27–30 (JT) and one near La Cienega, Santa Fe, June 22 (JRT). Easterly were three Solitary Vireos in Trujillo Canyon June 16 (JH), while four on Rowe Mesa June 7 (WE, WH) were in a new summer locality. Three Warbling Vireos were at Zuni June 30, and a nest was found in broadleaf cottonwood woodland (JT). A bird on the same date in similar habitat in the Mimbres Valley (JH) may have been breeding. A vagrant Red-eyed Vireo was singing at San Simon Cienega July 7 (JH).

Four Orange-crowned and 20 MacGillivray's warblers were in the Zuni Mts., June 29 (JT). Five Virginia's Warblers on Rowe Mesa June 7 (WE, WH) were in a new summer locality, one at Santa Fe July 10 (JH) was an early migrant. Presumably breeding were the small numbers of Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warblers in the Zuni Mts., June 22–29 (JT) and Magdalena Mts., June 26 (JS), but two on Rowe Mesa June 7 (WE, WH) may have been late migrants. The Black-throated Gray Warbler appears to be local in summer in the s.e. highlands, so notable were five near Three Rivers June 21 (JM), two in 16 Springs Canyon July 15, and one at High Rolls June 6 (GS). A vagrant **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at Bandelier N.M., June 6 (G. Emerson, P. Hansley). The only Olive Warbler reported was one at Trout Creek in the Pinos Altos Mts., July 12 (RF). A pair of Hepatic Tanagers was tending fledglings in Los Alamos June 29 (BL et al.). On July 16, a Summer Tanager was at Alameda (J. Phillips), where the species is infrequently reported.

CARDINAL THROUGH SPARROWS — A ♂ **Northern Cardinal** near Las Cruces June 28 was pale in coloration (EW), which suggests that the bird was of captive origin. Single ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were near Tularosa July 6 (J. Hutto) and in Alamogordo June 5 (GS). Easterly were three Black-headed Grosbeaks in Trujillo Canyon June 16 (JH). Up to nine Lazuli Buntings were at Zuni June 25–30 (JT), while two were near El Pueblo June 7 (WE, WH). Also at Zuni were up to three Indigo Buntings June 24–30 (JT), while six were in the Mimbres Valley June 30 (JH) and one in Karr Canyon in the Sacramento Mts., June 8 (JM). A new summer locality for **Dickcissels** was Maxwell N.W.R., where up to five were singing July 16 (P. Desjardins) & 24 (WH); whether these were early migrants or breeders is unknown. Peripheral records for Green-tailed Towhees included one to two birds on Sierra Grande July 27 (MM), Magdalena Mts., June 26 (JS), near Three Rivers June 21, and Karr Canyon June 8 (JM). Most unusual was one reported near Las Cruces June 2 (EW), presumably a very late migrant. The high count for Rufous-sided Towhees at Bosque Refuge was of nine on July 27 (PI et al.). Two to three Brown Towhees were near Grenville June 15 (KS), Trujillo Canyon June 16 (JH), and Zuni June 25–30 (JT). Abert's Towhees persisted at San Simon Cienega, with two there July 7 (JH).

Early were two Cassin's Sparrows near Rodeo June 4 (RS), otherwise, the earliest reports in the s.w. were in early July (JH). On June 16, only five were present on a transect e. of Las Vegas (32 is the average number); clearing of roadside ditches by the highway crews may account for the decline (JH). Finally, two birds were present June 22 near La Cienega (JRT), where not always present in early summer. The earliest migrant

Chipping Sparrows in Albuquerque were on July 11 (WH), and 20 were near Alamogordo by July 20 (JM). Up to 15 Brewer's Sparrows were at Zuni June 25–30 (JT). Only one definite Black-chinned Sparrow was located in Trujillo Canyon June 16 (JH). Vesper Sparrow reports included many singing at Maxwell N.W.R., July 24 (WH), five at Sierra Grande July 27 (MM), three at Los Alamos in the period (BL), two on Rowe Mesa June 7 (WE, WH), four e. of Las Vegas June 16 (JH), and up to 70 in the Zuni Mts. and vicinity June 21–30 (JT). Three Lark Sparrows were near El Rito, Rio Arriba, June 22 (S. Huntington), while a single Black-throated and up to seven Sage sparrows were at Zuni June 26–28 (JT). No Lark Buntings were reported in New Mexico in the period, even in the n.e. where the species is most regular in summer. A Savannah Sparrow nest that had been constructed at Zuni in late May was abandoned as of June 26 (JT). Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were up in the Clayton area, with young noted July 5 (WC). A new summer locality for the species was Maxwell N.W.R., where eight singing birds were present July 24 (WH). In the Jemez Mts., three Song Sparrows were at La Cueva July 5 and three Lincoln's were at Camp May June 28 (PI *et al.*).

ICTERINES THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW — The maximum count of E. Meadowlarks at Zuni was 14 June 21–30 (JT). Southwesterly records of W. Meadowlarks were of singles at Mangas Springs July 3–15 (RF) and near Rodeo June 4 (RS). Yellow-headed Blackbirds again summered in the Las Vegas (JH) and Zuni (JT) areas, while the first presumed migrants were on July 2 at La Joya Refuge (WH) and Hollomon L. (EW *et al.*). Very late were six Brewer's Blackbirds near Rodeo June 4 (RS), while 24 at Tularosa July 9 (NH) may have been early migrants. The species summered near Cochiti L. (F & RS), which is low for breeding. The high count for Great-tailed Grackles in the Zuni area was of 30 on June 23 (JT). Up to 10 birds were present at Evans L., Grant, in the period (RF). Young Com. Grackles were noted in Santa Fe as early as June 4–6 (JH), while 50+ birds at Bosque Refuge July 27 (PI *et al.*) may have been migrants. Southern Rio Grande Valley reports of the Bronzed Cowbird were of one to two in T. or C. in June and July, Caballo L., June 5 (DM), and near Las Cruces June 6 (EW).

Cassin's Finches summered near Chama (LS) and in the La Cueva area, with fledglings at the latter locality July 25–27 (MS). Unusual for the season was a singing male in the Zuni Mts., June 23 (JT), plus a pair in the Sandia Mts., June 13 (HS) and a female there July 13 (G. Parker). Except for a pair at Santa Fe June 5 (PI), Red Crossbills were not reported in the state until the last one-third of June—including six at Camp May June 28 (PI *et al.*), up to 30 in the Zuni Mts., June 22–29 (JT), and numerous birds in the Sandia Mts. soon after June 22 (HS). Other records included several in the Apache Creek–Luna area July 21–31 (SW), plus one at Santa Fe June 21 (JH). Pine Siskins were unreported at lower elevations in the period, except for small numbers at Santa Fe June 6–8 (JH) & 17 (PI) and at Zuni June 28 (JT). Summer records of Am. Goldfinches included small numbers in the Chama area through the period (LS), one at Los Ojos, Rio Arriba, July 16 (PS), a pair at Zuni June 25 (JT), and three birds at Percha Dam June 5 (DM). In addition, 2 family groups were seen along the Pine R. just n. of the s.w. Colorado border (AN). Evening Grosbeaks summered in the Chama area (LS) and in the Sangre de Cristo (JRT *et al.*), Jemez (MS *et al.*), Sandia (HS), and Sacramento (ND) mountains, with young noted at La Cueva June 4 (MS). Late birds were present until June 3 at Santa Fe (S. Bowles) and Cedar Crest (PS), with a straggler at the former locality June 23 (L. Herrmann). Returning birds were in Santa Fe as early as July 20 (JH) and Sandia Park on July 18 (HS). House Sparrows were nesting in an occupied Cliff Swallow colony near El Pueblo June 16 (JH).

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ALASKA REGION

D. D. Gibson

Summer 1986 was a fine one in this Region. In the Interior, for example, it was the warmest June since 1975. Temperatures at Fairbanks equalled or exceeded 70°F on twenty days of the month, and 85° on 16th, 87° on 28th, and 85° on 30th all set new records. The first one-half of July brought an 11-day heat wave, during which record highs were set at Fairbanks each day July 1–6—85°, 87°, 88°, 89°, 91°, and 90°F, respectively. Concomitant with this heat, forest fires in the Interior claimed at least several hundred thousand acres in dozens and dozens of fires. Events turned around in the second one-half of July, when heavy rains halted fires and brought rivers to flood stage.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH DUCKS — Alaska's 4th report of a bird in the Manx Shearwater superspecies (which comprises—according to the 6th A.O.U. Check-list—Manx, Black-vented, Townsend's, Fluttering, and Hutton's shear-

waters) was of a white-vented bird seen briefly but well amid Short-tailed Shearwaters between Kodiak and Seward June 19 (†DJF, †JLD, †BH, †CG).

Habitat conditions for breeding waterfowl in 1986 were an improvement over 1985, except on the North Slope, where ice and snow persisted into mid-June; there was virtually no flooding this spring, and snow cover disappeared early (Conant and Hodges 1986, "Alaska-Yukon Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey, May 14 to June 13, 1986," U.S.F.W.S., Juneau). The writers expected both Tundra and Trumpeter swans to fare better than they did in 1985, but preliminary impressions on the coastal zone of the Yukon Delta were of variable production of Brant, Canada (*B. c. minima*), Emperor, and Greater White-fronted geese. Thirty years' survey data from that area denote an annual rate of decline in goose numbers of 4%. Their assessments of ducks included the following: Green-winged Teal numbers on the surveys up 44% from 1985 and up 37% from the 10-year mean of these surveys; Mallard +41% but -09%, respectively; N. Pintail +42% but -20%; N. Shoveler +51% and +12%; Am. Wigeon +21% but -13%; Canvasback +06% but -17%; scaup -03% and -21%; Oldsquaw +26% but -10%; and Bufflehead +05% but -29%.

A Tundra Swan seen at St. Matthew I., c. Bering Sea, June 11 was identified as a "Bewick's" (KDS). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal observed at Narrow Cape, Kodiak I., June 22–24 (†RAM et al.) simultaneously furnished a first record for the Kodiak Archipelago, the westernmost Alaska record of the species, and one of few midsummer records ever in this Region. The bird was seen with a ♂ Blue-winged Teal.

OYSTERCATCHERS THROUGH TERNS — A species not known for its wanderings, Black Oystercatcher was recorded at 3 extralimital localities this summer: Anchorage (one, June 9, DWS, MEI); St. Paul I., Pribilofs (one, June 13, DED); and St. George I., Pribilofs (one, July 31, DED). Three Gray-tailed Tattlers at Adak June 4 (RAR, CFZ, FGD, TRE et al.) provided a new species for that island, and one at the Nome River mouth June 15 (TRR et al., †KK) was of interest because there have been few Seward Peninsula records. The latest, tardy, northbound Gray-tailed Tattler was reported June 20 (DWF, fide GVB) and the earliest southbound bird July 26 (IJ, fide GVB), both at St. Paul. A Terek Sandpiper at Adak June 4 (RAR, CFZ, TRE et al.) was also new to the c. Aleutians, and one at St. Paul June 16 (AE et al., †JLD) numbered among few records in the Pribilofs.

An ad. Surf-bird with a chick in the Selawik Hills June 28 (TJD) added to few positive breeding records in W Alaska. Thirty-nine ad. Surf-birds at Campbell Creek, Anchorage, July 10 established a new midsummer high count for upper Cook Inlet (TGT); the species clearly prefers lower Cook Inlet, however, where 1000 were seen at Homer July 4 (GCW). Southbound Semipalmated Sandpipers arrived on time at Anchorage June 24 and peaked at a remarkable (for the Alaska Pacific coast) 1000+ near Earthquake Park July 9 (RLS). Western Sandpiper numbers, spread over a period of weeks, were not so impressive, although that species is more numerous at Anchorage than Semipalmated (TGT). At Kodiak, Westerns peaked at 2100 birds July 20 (RAM) and 1100 July 31 (RAM, DWS). Maximum count of Semipalmateds at Kodiak, where "always found in much larger numbers of Westerns" (RAM), was of 10 birds July 31 (RAM, DWS). Two southbound ad. Long-billed Dowitchers at Anchorage June 26 were the earliest there by 2 weeks (TGT); one at St. Paul June 25–26 (BJM) was going which way? A lone ♂ Ruff at Kotzebue June 16–17 (TJD et al., ph.) and a lone female at Deering, Seward Peninsula, July 9 (†JW) were of interest, since our only nesting record is from n.w. Alaska.

A summer-plumaged ad. **Franklin's Gull** observed with two Sabine's and 30 Bonaparte's gulls at Ugashik Bay, Alaska Peninsula, July 18 (†MEI) was Alaska's 7th since 1971 and the 2nd this year (see Spring). One Caspian Tern at Haines June 9 (BJM) and two adults at Bartlett Cove, Glacier Bay, June 20 (KK, LHK) were the summer's only reports of the species. One to three Com. Terns (*S. h. longipennis*) were seen at St. Paul from June 9 through July (GVB et al.), but there was apparently no suggestion of breeding. About 12 Aleutian Terns among Arctic at Glacier Bay in June and July (DJM, CFL), on the other hand, constituted an easternmost nesting colony, which has been known, apparently, for 2 years (BBP, fide DJM, CFL; and see AB 37:1018).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWIFTS — Common Cuckoos arrived in the w. Aleutians, at Attu I., at the end of May (GBR et al.), and a few were present there at least through late June (GFW). A singing bird at Attu in early June (TGT tape) was remarkable—the first Alaska record of a vocalization by one of these visitants. A single bird observed June 13–17 at Adak (JSM, FGD, TRE, MGZ et al.) provided the 2nd record there; one observed at St. Matthew June 16 (KDS) was a first for that island. Although these birds are evidently unable to flourish on these treeless islands in midsummer (and, indeed, it seems unlikely that any survive the season they arrive), they continue to reach us on an irregular basis, now 11 years of the last 17.

A fork-tailed, dark-rumped **Apus** swift seen well in flight at St. Paul June 26 (GVB ph.) & 29 (RH, fide GVB) would furnish



an extraordinary 2nd Alaska record if confirmed as a Com. Swift. Reaching its e. range limits on the China coast of the Yellow Sea, this species is, to judge from the literature on Japan and the e. Soviet Union, unknown north and east of there—except at St. Paul, where a specimen was collected June 28, 1950 (Kenyon and Phillips 1965, Auk 82:624–635).

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS — Several species in the genus *Empidonax* were newsworthy in summer 1986. Although there have been several unconfirmed reports of the species in recent years, a singing ♂ **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** present near Chitina June 21–29+ (RLS et al.; TGT tape) provided only the 2nd certain Alaska record of this visitant from n.w. Canada. Near Hyder—at 130°W the easternmost community in Alaska—a just-arrived, singing ♂ **Willow Flycatcher** observed June 13 (*DDG) provided a 1st for Alaska; the specimen is an example of *E. t. brewsteri*. A 2nd individual, also singing a clearly-ennunciated "fitz-bew", was reported at Juneau July 4 (MWS). Both of these records are from the SE mainland, where closely-related Alder Flycatcher, first heard at Hyder June 10 (DDG) and at Juneau June 12 (RJG), is an uncommon to fairly common local breeder. And, hardly known in Alaska, **Least Flycatcher** occurred on a broad front this season, when seven singing males were found across 9 degrees of latitude and 18 degrees of longitude. Following a June 4–5 record near Fairbanks (see spring report), up to two singing males were present near Hyder June 10–19 (*DDG, SRJ); one was found near Skagway June 15 (PDM); up to two were present near Kenney Lake, s.e. of Glennallen, June 21 (RLS) to at least July 5 (GFW); and one was present at Ester, just w. of Fairbanks, among territorial Hammond's Flycatchers, June 22 (BAC) to June 26 (*DDG).

A **Western Kingbird** at Eagle Beach, Juneau, June 15 (m.ob., fide RJG) was Alaska's 5th. The only E. Kingbird report this summer was from Hyder, where one was seen June 10 (DDG).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAGTAILS — A ♀ **Purple Martin** observed at Deadhorse June 12 (DMT ph., DRH) provided the first record in N Alaska in a decade; the species is a casual visitant anywhere in the state. Crows in a colony at Hyder were determined in June to be **American Crows** (**DDG, SRJ), a species previously unknown in this Region. These birds

probably arrived in this Alaska cul-de-sac from the nearby Kispiox/Nass/Bell-Irving river valley system of British Columbia, where long known to occur. Over 100 km inland via Portland Canal, Hyder would seem to be segregated from the range of Northwestern Crow, which does not penetrate any distance from the SE Alaska seacoast. A ♂ wagtail variously identified as a White, a Black-backed, or a hybrid of the two, which spent the summer at St. Paul (m.ob.), was not, apparently, the same male involved in the first Pribilof breeding record of 'White' wagtail. A pair of birds of uncertain identity and their three begging fledglings were seen there in early August (RH, IJ, †GVB). A clean-cut ♂ White Wagtail observed at Herendeen Bay June 23 (†RCK et al.) was a first for the Alaska Peninsula.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Near Hyder, a singing ♂ **Solitary Vireo** observed June 11 (*DDG) and another heard June 12–15 (DDG) provided the first record of the species in Alaska. The specimen is an example of western *cassinii*, not of trans-Canadian *V. s. solitarius*. Singing ♂ **Magnolia Warblers** were found at Hyder June 15 (DDG) and at Juneau July 3–7 (RJG, MWS), and the remains of a **Magnolia Warbler** were found in an upper Yukon River Peregrine Falcon aerie in July (*REA, RHu), this last providing the first C Alaska record of the species. A ♂ Am. Redstart at Juneau June 3 (RJG) was the earliest this year.

Red Crossbills were fairly common to common this summer across Southeast Alaska, from Glacier Bay to Hyder. White-winged Crossbills were scarce or absent in much of Central Alaska this summer (m.ob.), but their numbers returned to normal, from all-but-absent, in early summer in Southcoastal Alaska, in upper Cook Inlet (TGT, MAM). There were only 3 sightings this season at Kodiak (RAM). In Southeast Alaska, White-winged was common at Juneau after mid-June (RJG), seen in single-species flocks or in mixed flocks in which it outnumbered its congener. White-winged Crossbills were not seen paired or singing in Southeast Alaska, as were Reds. Pine Siskins were ubiquitous and common in Southcoastal and Southeast Alaska, Kodiak to Hyder.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

It was another dry summer. For five of the last six years here June has been slightly wetter, and July much dryer, than the long-term averages. This year both months were dry. Rain during June at the Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver weather stations totalled about half the long-term averages. July rainfall was up to 87% of normal, but it was concentrated in the first ten days and overall the month felt much dryer.

Much of the population changes and local range extensions noted in the following column would fit an hypothesis of a drier Pacific Northwest, at least during the nesting season. Read about Rock Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Lazuli Buntings, Brewer's Sparrows, gallinaceous birds in general, and others, with this in mind.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A large aggregation of Pacific Loons apparently summered at the S.J.C.R. Counts were of 200 June 29 (JJ, DB) and 65 July 5 (PL). An ad. Pacific Loon in breeding plumage was found July 5 on Lightning L., Manning P.P., B.C., a most unusual location (MSh et al.). About 35 summering Com. Loons were noted June 30 along coastal Whatcom Co., Wash. (PL), and 20 were counted at nearby Crescent Beach, Surrey, B.C., July 21 (Frank Walker). Groups of one to four Common and Red-throated loons were scattered coastally throughout the season as usual. Single Red-necked Grebes, rare in summer, were found June 26 at La Push, Clallam Co., Wash. (FS), and July 1 on Penn Cove, Whidbey I., Wash. (PL). The usual aggregation of W. Grebes summered in Birch Bay and Bellingham Bay, Whatcom Co., Wash. (PL, TW).



Only 2 pelagic trips were reported this season: July 2 to LaPerouse Banks, off s.w. V.I. (MSh et al.), and July 26 to Grays Canyon off Westport, Wash. (TW et al.). The 522 N. Fulmars seen July 26 was a high count for any season, and was the

highest so far for 16 July trips off Westport Likewise, the 168 Pink-footed Shearwaters off Westport provided the highest-ever July total. The 20,415 Sooty Shearwaters found July 26 also made a relatively high count for this early in the migration. Counts of five Black-footed Albatrosses July 2 and 95 July 26, and of two Flesh-footed Shearwaters July 26, were normal numbers for these species. There were 150 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels at the La Perouse Banks, and 117 Fork-tailed and 54 Leach's storm-petrels over Grays Canyon; these were high counts. Both Fork-tailed and Leach's were noted during July at known breeding sites on Triangle I., off the n.w. tip of V.I. (MF), and Tatoosh I., at the n.w. tip of Washington (BP).

An Am. White Pelican was an unusual visitor to the Victoria area June 6-18 (Stan Baker, Molly Lyons, m.o.b.). Numbers of Brown Pelicans seen at the S.J.C.R. remained at 10-20 birds from late May through mid-June (HN, JJ, DB). By July 2-4 there were 50-70 present (HN, PL). Eight had reached Tatoosh I. by July 18 (BP, Tim Wootten).

Double-crested Cormorants nested in normal numbers on Mandarte I., B.C. (ML, FS), and Protection I., Wash. (about 100 nests—SSp), with apparently normal success. However, Double-crested were absent from the previously-occupied Bird Rocks and Williamson Rocks, in the San Juan Is., Wash, and only 4 nests were present this year on Colville I. (ML, FS). There were about 639 Pelagic Cormorant nests on Protection I and 98 at Port Angeles, Wash., with normal fledging success (SSp) About 200 Pelagic Cormorant nests, the same number as last year, were noted on Smith I., Wash., but a much-reduced total of only 92 nests was counted on Colville I., Williamson Rocks, and Hall I. (ML, FS). Most troubling, with the large oil spill last December at nearby Port Angeles in mind, was that by the end of the season no Pelagic chicks had been seen at any of the latter 4 colonies (ML).

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS — A Great Egret arrived at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Ore., on July 9, about 6 weeks early (TM). Another was found July 13 on the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, for only the 9th documented sighting for the Vancouver, B.C., area (†TC, Bill Hunter). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron, of unknown geographic origin, was seen at Pistol R., coastal Curry Co., June 14 (SH *et al.*). An adult and an imm. Black-crowned were back to a regular wintering area at Smith L., Portland, by July 2 (Mike Houck).

A pair of Canada Geese (probably *moffittii* from the description) seen June 24 with one nestling on San Juan I. established the first nesting record for that county (ML). The nest was just above the high tide line on rocky marine shore. Single broods of N Pintail at the Kent, Wash., sewage ponds July 10 (EH *et al.*), of Green-winged Teal at Gold L., Lane Co., Ore., July 4 (SH), and of Blue-winged Teal at Ocean Shores July 17 (G & WH) provided scarce nesting records for those areas. A brood of Gadwalls on Nisqually L., Ft. Lewis, Pierce Co., Wash. (JBe), marked the spread of this species to another new nesting locality.

A pair of Ring-necked Ducks, one of several species of diving duck for which nesting records are scarce in the Region, was noted June 5 & 19 on Killibrew L., Orcas I., Wash. (SA, FS), and a brood was found on Chambers L., Pierce Co., Wash. (JBe) Single ♂ Ring-necked Ducks were seen June 8 at Iona I., B C (BK), July 6 on Twenty Minute L., Manning P.P. (WW), and July 20 at the Nehalem sewage ponds, Ore. (JG), but no evidence of nesting was obtained. A ♀ Canvasback, with no young, was seen July 30 at the Auburn ponds, near Seattle (BS) Greater and Lesser scaup were reported from 6 lakes, sewage ponds, or protected bays throughout the Region, but no nesting was noted.

A ♂ Tufted Duck June 7-8 at Iona I., B.C., furnished the 3rd June record for the Vancouver area (fWW, BK). A ♀ Black Scoter in W Vancouver, B.C., June 4 & 28 (fBK, JH, PL) and another June 30 at Blaine, Wash. (PL), were rare summer sightings. Broods of Barrow's Goldeneye, a regular but seldom-reported

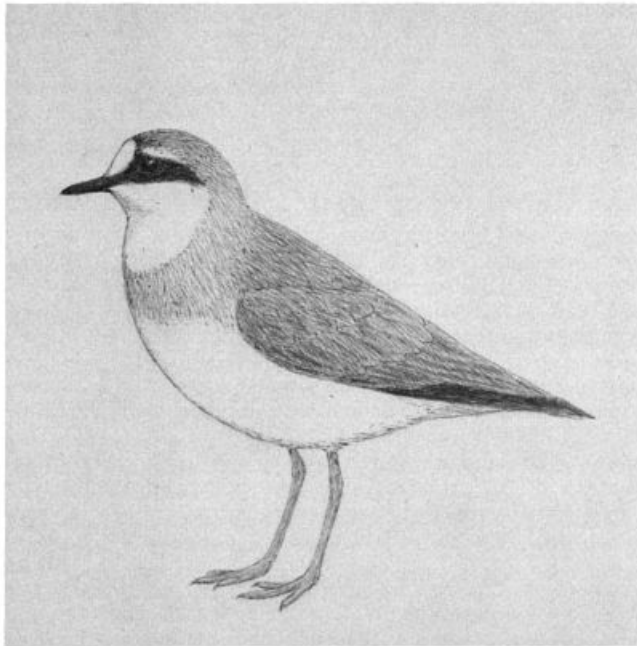
breeder in the mountains of the Region, were noted at the Diamond Lake sewage ponds, e. Douglas Co., Ore. (DFi) and on Silver L., s.w. of Hope, B.C. (DK, TC, DD). Several broods of Ruddy Ducks were found July 10 at the Kent ponds, Wash (EH), and July 31 on Nisqually L., Pierce Co., Wash. (GW).

OSPREY THROUGH QUAIL — Numerous Osprey nests were reported from throughout the Region, and good nesting success was indicated. The Washington Dept. of Game counted 59 occupied Bald Eagle territories with 67 young eagles in the San Juan Is. this summer (*fide* ML). These were the highest-ever counts for the area of both occupied territories and young birds per pair. An ad. ♀ N. Harrier fed a recently-fledged young bird in the fields near the Kent sewage ponds, Wash., July 12-14 (Thais Bock, PM) for the only actual report of breeding this season. However, pairs of N. Harriers were seen repeatedly at Ocean Shores and Bowerman Basin (G & WH) and near Sequim, Wash. (D & SSm), and two immatures were noted at False Bay, San Juan I., July 30 (ML).

A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks nested near Melrose, w. of Roseburg, Ore. (DI). The site was in the dry foothills of the Coast Range. This was one of surprisingly few breeding records reported over the years. A Cooper's Hawk nest in Saanich, V I (BW), was the only one reported. An ad. Cooper's and two immatures were seen in Victoria July 25 (J & RSa). An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk was north to Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Ore., by the early date of July 21 (SH). Single Merlins were reported July 17-29 from N. Saanich (AM) and w. of the Goldstream estuary (Barbara Begg), V.I., and Dungeness, Wash. (D & SSm) A pair of Merlins was noted July 25 at Beaver Pt., Salt Spring I., B.C. (ML). This is a rare nesting species just to the north of these locations. The Peregrine Falcon eyrie in the s. Oregon Cascades fledged two young (DFi). There were Peregrine reports from 12 other locations, some for throughout the season

An adult and five young White-tailed Ptarmigan were seen July 25 near the summit of Granite Mt. for one of very few records from King Co., Wash. (TP). A single ptarmigan was sighted June 22 near Butte Camp on the s. slope of Mt. St Helens, which is at the very s. edge of their range in the Cascades (DA). This bird must have either survived the blast and mudflows of the 1980 eruption, or recolonized the area from a nearby mountaintop. Numerous broods of the introduced population of Wild Turkey on San Juan I., Wash., were noted this season (ML). These birds have become quite tame and can often be seen in fields and farmyards. Northern Bobwhites were readily located at their established location in Thurston and Pierce counties, Wash. (GW, PM). Single adults were seen July 19 near Philomath, Benton Co., Ore. (Lorne Fitts, *fide* ME), where the species has been reported in the past (AB 37:1020), and s.w. of Hood River, Ore. (DA). A recent analysis of introduced species in Oregon by JE concludes that neither of these locations represent self-sustaining populations (Oregon Birds 12:174, 1986). During June 7-22 three ♂ Mountain Quail were closely observed at an overgrown gravel pit on the edge of a clearcut 2 mi n. of McCleary, in Mason Co., Wash. (PM, BMO, JSk). This site is reasonably close to other locations where small numbers have been found over the last 15 years. A single Mountain Quail was seen June 15 at Mile 11, Butler Main, Sooke, V.I. (AM, Harold Hosford).

SHOREBIRDS — The only reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers were of singles on the Iona I., B.C., ponds June 20-21 (RP, BK), at Tillamook Bay, Ore., June 18 (HN), and at Bandon, Ore., July 14+ (SH *et al.*). A **Mongolian Plover** graced the Bandon, Ore., shoreline July 11-29 for the 3rd record for the state (Larry Thornburgh, m.ob., †Alan Barron). At least one pair of Snowy Plovers brought off a chick at their embattled northern outpost on Catala spit, Ocean Shores, Wash. (G & WH). One of the Snowies nesting at this location had been born and color-



Mongolian Plover at Bandon, Ore., July 12, 1986. Drawing/Alan D. Barron.

banded in California (Gary Page), which is a good sign for the future recovery of this breeding population.

The first few Greater Yellowlegs appeared on schedule June 18–25 at Victoria (RSa), Tillamook (HN), and Eugene (SH). First arrivals at other locations were spread through early July, and the 12 at Tillamook June 29 was the high count (JJ, DB). The earliest report and the high count for Lesser Yellowlegs was the 20 seen June 27 on the Roberts Bank jetty, Delta, B.C. (BK, PL). Two Solitary Sandpipers spent the season again at the Gold Lake bog, e. Lane Co., Ore. (SH et al.). They became very agitated upon approach, but no nest or fledglings were observed. Elsewhere the first fall migrants appeared at the Diamond Lake sewage ponds, Douglas Co., Ore., July 22 (DFi) and near Enumclaw, Pierce Co., Wash., July 26 (DBe). The first few Willets returned to Tokeland, on Willapa Bay, Wash., by July 3 (PL) and to Yaquina Bay and Bandon, Ore., July 16 (JE, HN). A Wandering Tattler found June 6 on Iceberg Pt., Lopez I., Wash., was late (SA). The first returning migrants were noted July 15 on Triangle I., off the n.w. tip of V.I. (MF), and July 20–24, slightly later than usual, at Victoria, San Juan I., Tatoosh I., and Bandon (RSa, ML, BP, Tom Crabtree). Movement of Spotted Sandpipers into areas in which they did not breed was first reported July 18–20 at Olympia, Seattle, and San Juan Is., Wash. (Jbu, DBe, ML).

High counts for Whimbrels were of 120 at Ocean Shores July 3 (PL) and at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., July 4 (PL, BHT), 23 along Boundary Bay in Delta, B.C., July 19 (Rob Catchpole), and 30 at Tillamook July 30 (Dave Hoffman). Three Long-billed Curlews at Yaquina Bay June 8 and July 4 apparently summered (Verda Teale); the eight at Leadbetter Pt., July 4 could have been recent arrivals or summering individuals (PL, BHT). A Marbled Godwit was found June 23 along Boundary Bay in Delta, B.C., where it is a rare migrant (H & JM). Five others were found June 11–July 4 at Dungeness and Willapa Bay, Wash., and Tillamook, Ore. Three Ruddy Turnstones at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 27 were early (G & WH). The first flocks noted were at Bandon, Ore., July 14 (DI), and 50 at Dungeness, Wash., July 21 (D & SSm). Arrival of Black Turnstones and Surf-birds throughout the Region was noted on schedule July 14–22. Single Red Knots June 21–23 in Delta (RP, BK et al.) and June 27 at nearby Blackie Spit (PL) were rare summer visitors to the Vancouver, B.C., area. Three Red Knots in basic plumage were also at Leadbetter Pt., July 4 (PL), and one to two were

at Tillamook July 12–20 (JG, OS). The first small flocks of migrants arrived July 19 at Delta and July 27 at Blackie Spit (both BK).

The first Semipalmated Sandpiper of the season at the famed Iona I. sewage ponds appeared June 29 (DSo, MF et al.). One to four were present until July 5, then 69 were counted July 6 (MP), 200 Semipalmateds were there July 18 (BK), and 120 were still present July 31 (MF et al.). Elsewhere the high count was of eight at Witty's Lagoon, Metchosa, V.I., July 19 (KT). Three adults were seen in Washington, at Dungeness and San Juan I., July 1 & 17 (PL, ML). The first of three adults found in Oregon was June 29 at Tillamook (JJ, DBa et al.) and the only immatures reported for the Region were four along the Oregon coast July 23–29 (HN, JJ, OS, JE). Counts of over 1000 W. Sandpipers were obtained July 3–17 at Iona I. (RP, DK et al.), July 4 at Leadbetter Pt. (BHT, PL), and July 12 at Tillamook (JG, OS). One of the Westerns at Tillamook had been color-banded last winter in Peru. Fewer than usual Least Sandpipers were reported this season. The high counts were of only 200 at Tillamook July 12 (JG, OS) and Bandon July 16 (HN).

S.A.

Among the swarm of peep at Iona I., B.C., was a well-marked ad. **Rufous-necked Stint** July 3–4 (BMa, RP, †RC, DK, DJ, MP, H & JM) for the first well-documented record since 1978. The excellent description and sketch by RC indicated that the bird was separable from a Little Stint by 1) a completely orange throat, with some white around the base of the bill only, 2) dusky spots or streaks present only below, not within, the orange throat and upper breast, and 3) the wing coverts being gray, not buff-brown.

Two early Ruffs were noted July 19 on Reifel I., Delta, B.C. (John Ireland). As usual the only large flocks of Short-billed Dowitchers were on the large bays along the Washington coast, with 3000 at Willapa Bay July 4 (BHT, PL) and "several thousand" on Grays Harbor July 17 (G & WH). Elsewhere there were 200 at Tillamook July 16 (HN, JE) and 50+ on Witty's Lagoon, Metchosa, V.I., July 16–19 (RSa, BW, Jeff Gaskin). Small flocks of Long-billed Dowitchers were widely scattered during July, with high counts of 25–37 at Cowichan Bay, V.I., Iona I., B.C., and the S.R.C.R., Ore. Up to eight juv. Wilson's Phalaropes were seen July 15+ at the Diamond Lake sewage ponds, and breeding at the s. end of Diamond L. was suspected (DFi, DI, MH, MSA).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — The first June records for Franklin's Gull in the Vancouver, B.C., area were of one adult at Iona I., June 7 (†BK, JH), and two adults at Pt. Roberts, Wash., June 20 (†BK, Leona Haggart). A juv. Franklin's at Iona I., July 31 was the first of the regular fall migrants (MF, RP et al.). An ad. **Little Gull** in breeding plumage was seen July 23 off Clover Pt., Victoria (†VG, KT). It or another Little Gull was observed Aug. 3 at West Pt., Seattle (Rob Thorne). Surely the increasing numbers of Little Gulls found here late in spring and early in the fall are nesting at undiscovered sites in the Canadian north. Groups of one to 10 Bonaparte's Gulls were widely scattered in the Region during June, with a higher concentration in the Vancouver, B.C., area. Numbers increased steadily through July, and flocks of several hundred were widely reported by late July. Heermann's Gulls moved N into the Region during July as usual. Ring-billed Gulls arrived from the east during June, with W movement noted through the Columbia Gorge (HN). An estimated 8000 California Gulls had arrived at Ocean Shores, Wash., by July 27 (BMo, TW). Not all of these traveled down the several river valleys. A flock of 28 flew from east to west across 4900' Naches Pass July 30 (DBe). Widespread nesting failure by Glaucous-winged Gulls was observed in the San Juan Is., Wash. (ML, FS). Hundreds of adults were present on Bird Rock, Williamson's Rock, and Colville I., but no chicks.

The first Com Tern of the season was an adult at Iona I., June 27 (PL, BK). Fifteen adult and 45+ one-year-old Com. Terns were at Dungeness, Wash., July 1–2 (PL) and 40+ were there July 14 (DBe), for higher than usual numbers this early in the season. A one-year-old Forster's Tern was seen with Commons at Dungeness July 2 (†PL) for the 5th w. Washington record. At least 3 pairs of Arctic Terns nested again on the 40-acre gravel lot by the Everett, Wash., harbor (BS, EH). This lot is contained within the U.S. Navy's home port expansion plans for Everett.

A thorough census of the San Juan Is., Wash., found 645 ad. Pigeon Guillemots this July (ML, FS). Sucia I. hosted 139 of these, Stuart I. 90, Matia I. 86, Speiden I. 70, and Davis Bay, Lopez I., 65. Hopefully this census will be repeated in the future. The first fledgling was noted Aug. 15. **Marbled Murrelets** were observed 30 mi inland on Mary's Peak, on the e. side of the Coast Range, Ore. (Kim Nelson, Will Wright, Brad Fiero). On each visit Apr. 28–June 26 they saw and heard several of these birds on the e. slope of the peak (*vide* ME). No nests or fledglings were found, and a paper is in preparation. The first fledgling this season was seen off Sucia I., San Juan Co., Wash., July 22 (ML, FS).

The count of 156 Cassin's Auklets at sea off Westport July 26 was a rebound to normal numbers following 3 seasons of low counts (7 July trips 1983–1985, 59 total Cassin's Auklets—TW). The count of 1727 Rhinoceros Auklets seen July 26 (TW *et al.*) was the highest count out of Westport for any season and was more than triple the average trip total for July. Another high alcid count was the massed flock of 1600 Tufted Puffins seen at once from Triangle I., V.I., in mid-July (MF). At least six **Horned Puffins** were observed July 6–23 at Triangle I. (MF). One was seen entering a burrow July 14 and another was defending a ledge July 16, but no actual indication of breeding was noted. The Triangle I. Horned Puffin site was occupied every season during the 1970s, and is the southernmost site on the West Coast where actual breeding evidence has been obtained (*Canadian Field-Nat.* 93:84, 1979).

OWLS THROUGH MARTINS — Recently there have been widespread reports of Boreal Owls in e. Washington, at sites above 5000' in Englemann Spruce. In addition, an imm. **Boreal Owl** was photographed July 2 near the Porcupine Creek campground, about 7 mi up the Robinson Creek trail, n.w. of Mazama, in the N. Cascades of Washington (Tom Parsons). Another Boreal Owl was calling July 10 in Cathedral Lakes Park, just n.e. of Manning P.P. in the Cascades of s. British Columbia (*vide* DK). An adult and two imm. N. Saw-whet Owls were seen July 12 on the lower slopes of Granite Mt., King Co., Wash. (TP), and a road-killed immature found July 13 on Ft. Lewis, Pierce Co., Wash. (GW) provided further evidence of local nesting.

Common Nighthawks were more numerous than in recent years at several regular locations in Pierce, Thurston, and Whatcom counties, Wash. (GW, BHT, TW). Up to 10 Black Swifts were again seen this season at Salt Creek Falls, Lane Co., Ore., but still no evidence of nesting was noted (m.ob., *vide* SH).

A ♂ **Costa's Hummingbird** was seen June 1 on a ceanothus-covered hillside just e. of Medford, Ore. (†HN). There are more than a dozen records of this hummingbird in Oregon now. Most have been in late spring and summer, and at feeders. A Calliope Hummingbird, rare w. of the Cascades, was seen along the Swift Res., e. of Cougar, in Skamania Co., Wash., on the annual solstice census on Mt. St. Helens (*vide* DA). None was found at Thorn Prairie, e. Douglas Co., Ore., June 1 (DFi, DI), where they have nested in some summers.

A pair of **Red-naped Sapsuckers** was feeding young July 20 near Colonial Creek campground, on Thunder Arm, along the upper Skagit R., Whatcom Co., Wash. (TW). This is about 20 mi w. of the Cascade crest, and well within typical Red-breasted Sapsucker habitat. Active nests of Three-toed Woodpeckers were recorded at Manning P.P. (DK, WW), Naches Pass,

King Co., Wash. (DBe), and Lower Marilyn L., e. Lane Co., Ore. (Kit Larson, *vide* SH). Pileated Woodpeckers were widely reported in the usual small numbers.

No Olive-sided Flycatchers were heard this season in the Toketee R.D., e. Douglas Co., Ore., by an observer living and working in the area (DFi). Elsewhere, however, the species was reported to be in its usual numbers. Willow Flycatchers continue to do well in the Region. Normal numbers were recorded on several of the U.S.F.&W.S. Breeding Bird Surveys in Washington, and more than usual were found near Tacoma (CC). The first record of the **Least Flycatcher** for Manning P.P. was provided by one found June 22 at Alison Pass, 1350 m (DK, D & E). A Dusky Flycatcher was seen and heard July 19–20 in the Royal Creek basin, n.e. of Mt. Deception, Jefferson Co., Wash. (†CC). This site is on the dry n.e. side of the Olympic Mts. The last of the spring movement of W. Kingbirds was one noted June 6–7 at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C. (John Knezek-evich, m.ob.). An E. Kingbird observed June 1–12 in Saanich, V.I. (KT *et al.*) and two at the Montlake fill, Seattle, June 7–8 (Elise Cole, DBe, DW) were unusual for those localities.

The small colony of Horned Larks discovered in 1984 (AB 38:1055) on a natural prairie on Ft. Lewis, Pierce Co., Wash., was absent this season, based on 5 visits to the area (GW). Five male and six female Purple Martins were seen on the dolphins at the head of Cowichan Bay, Duncan, V.I., June 14–24 (RSa), up from 2 pairs last year. Twenty or more pairs, up from 15, nested on Ft. Lewis, Wash., in martin houses and wood duck boxes (GW). Fifteen fledglings were banded at boxes in Olympia (*vide* Kelly McAllister). Isolated pairs nested successfully at outposts on San Juan I. (ML, FS) and Bainbridge I. (Ian Paulsen). The Washington Dept. of Game has begun a monitoring program for Purple Martins, hopefully to include all known nest sites in the state.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — Single Rock Wrens, typically east-side birds of relatively dry areas, were found singing June 1 near Naches Pass, King Co., Wash., June 12 on Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Mts., and June 22 atop Snoqualmie Mt., King Co., Wash. (all DBe). Two were singing on Saddle Mt., Clatsop Co., Ore., June 25 (HN), and three were at 8000' on Mt. Thielsen, e. Douglas Co., Ore. (DFi). At the e. edge of their range in British Columbia, six Bewick's Wrens were observed in Manning P.P., June 22 (DK). Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen and heard singing July 19–20 about a mile apart along upper Royal Creek in the n.e. Olympic Mts. of Washington (CC). This dry, rain-shadow site is considerably west (or south, depending on the subspecies) of the known breeding range.

Three active nests of Mountain Bluebirds near Naches Pass June 1, and three additional males in the area, established a first breeding record for King Co., Wash. (DBe). At least 105 pairs of W. Bluebirds, up from 51 last year, nested on Ft. Lewis, Wash., this season, and over 400 fledglings were banded (GW). The Corvallis, Ore., bluebird trail experienced its 2nd highest production of young in 10 years, with 180 fledglings (EE). Numerous Hermit Thrushes were heard, and one seen, this season in the Coast Range near Melrose, w. Douglas Co., Ore. (DI). This is n. and w. of the range for the species as described in Gabrielson and Jewett, *Birds of Oregon*. The record of a Veery heard at Pitt Meadows, just e. of Vancouver, B.C., on July 8, 1982 (AB 36:1010) was not considered acceptable by the Vancouver Bird Records Committee, and should be deleted. In most summers since 1980 there has been a small northward movement of N. Mockingbirds. This season individuals were north to Oysterville, Pacific Co., Wash., June 15 (DW), Alaksen N.W.A., Delta, B.C., June 16–18 (Rob Butler *et al.*), Ucluelet, on the w. coast of V.I., June 17 (Eric Tull, Brook Glibbon), and Triangle I., off the n.w. tip of V.I., July 19–23 (Al Burger *et al.*, ph. MF).

A singing Red-eyed Vireo returned June 5+ to Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Ore., near the s. edge of its breeding range w. of the Cascades (SH). Please delete the record of a Red-eyed Vireo

found last summer w of Elsie, Clatsop Co., Ore (AB 39 955), at the request of the observer.

A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** sighted June 22 at Burnaby L. provided the 3rd record for the Vancouver, B.C., area (†Allen & Helen Poynter). The only previous spring record was June 19, 1979. An imm. ♂ Am. Redstart was singing at Brookings, Curry Co., Ore., June 14 (SH, JG, JJ, Eric Pozzo). Two ♂ Am. Redstarts were seen at McDiarmid Meadows, Manning P.P., possibly a potential breeding site, June 21 and July 6 (DK, SC, BMa, WW). At least one N. Waterthrush was at the Salt Creek site, e. Lane Co., Ore. (see AB 37:1022) throughout the season (m.ob., fide SH), and a male was seen June 28 at nearby Gold Lake bog for the first sighting there (SG). Six N. Waterthrushes were noted June 21 in Manning P.P., on the w. edge of the species' breeding range in s. British Columbia (DK, SC, BMa).

S.A.

Hermit Warblers were found regularly and were almost common along the e. side of the Olympic Mts. this year. Nine were seen June 2 at the Mt. Walker viewpoint, just s. of Quilcene, Jefferson Co. (JSk). One male was found on Fuzzy Top, in Capitol Forest, s.w. of Olympia (JBU). An extensive survey for the Univ. of Washington Burke Museum found Hermit Warblers at over a dozen sites between Shelton and Quilcene (Chris Wood). Most interestingly, a collected series of these birds indicated that *all* showed evidence of hybridization with Townsend's Warblers.

BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES — Many more Lazuli Buntings than usual were found in Pierce Co. (BHT, GW), Thurston Co. (JSk), and Lewis Co. (CC), Wash., and in Douglas Co., Ore. (DFi). Among the numerous Lazulis near Roseburg, Ore., was a ♂ **Indigo Bunting**, found in late July for a first Douglas County record (DI, MH, Meredith Jones). The Indigo was apparently paired with a ♀ Lazuli and was observed feeding a fledgling bunting and a young Brown-headed Cowbird.

Following last summer's discovery of breeding Brewer's Sparrows in e. Lane Co., Ore., the observation of 15+ imm. Brewer's July 25–Aug. 3 at the nearby Diamond Lake sewage pond was not so surprising (†DI, DFi, MSa, MH). An equal number of Chipping Sparrows and about six Vesper Sparrows were also in the flock. Good breeding success for Vesper Sparrows was noted on San Juan I. (ML, FS) and Ft. Lewis (GW), Wash., but the species was unreported from southern V.I. A

pugetensis White-crowned Sparrow was observed July 19 along the upper Skagit R., B.C. (DK, TC, DD). This is a seldom-reported location, but is not far from the regularly observed population at the s. end of Ross L., Wash.

Brewer's Blackbirds were much more abundant than usual in the Toketee R.D., Douglas Co., Ore. (DFi) and in Pierce and Thurston counties, Wash. (GW). The ♂ "Baltimore" N. Oriole was last seen at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Ore., June 13 (SG). Twenty N. Orioles, many more than usual, were present in Fort Steilacoom Park, near Tacoma, Wash. (CC). A first-year male was noted in a blackberry thicket on Mt. Dallas, San Juan I., July 30, for the first confirmed San Juan County record (ML, ph.). Elsewhere the species was well reported, from the e. side of southern V.I., the e. side of the Puget Sound trough, and in the Willamette Valley. An imm. ♂ **Hooded Oriole** was present for a few days around June 6 at a feeder in Florence, Ore (Margaret Markley *et al.*), for the 2nd Lane County record.

Red Crossbills were abundant in all reporting areas of the Region, coastal, lowland, and mountain. A few White-winged Crossbills remained with the Reds near Mt. Rainier (CC). A pair of White-winged was seen June 25 near White Pass, Wash (G & WH), and four were observed June 29–July 4 at Gold L., e. Lane Co. (TM, SG). Pine Siskins also continued very abundant in Washington (BHT, GW, CC). Among few lowland breeding records of Evening Grosbeaks are the pair and four fledglings at a feeder in Olympia July 16+ (Ilse Allen) and an immature noted in Corvallis June 29 (E & ME).

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

**Richard A. Erickson, Stephen F. Bailey,
and Alan D. Barron**

Farallon Islands seabirds had mixed reproductive success. Western Gulls and Common Murres did rather well, while Brandt's Cormorants and Cassin's Auklets had a fair season. Pelagic Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots, the inshore feeders most sensitive to the warm water/reduced upwelling syndrome (e.g., El Niño), suffered a bad season. Conversely, the latter two species reproduced well in Monterey County (AB). A levee break at Big Lake, Shasta County, flooded many acres and attracted county record numbers of seven species of waterbirds July 13 (BY, BVdM). At Pt. Reyes the spring vagrant season was generally unimpressive, but coverage may have been down. In contrast, Humboldt County experienced its best June on record.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve, S.F. = San Francisco; W.A. = Wildlife Area; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. Italicized names refer to counties. All sightings from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter P.R.B.O.). References to the Gull refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is currently written by Helen A. Green.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — Northbound loons were noted as late as June 13 (four Red-throateds and 23 Pacifics at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo) and June 18 (seven Pacifics at Santa Cruz—all DLSu). Horned Grebes lingered at outer Pt. Reyes to June 2 (JM, DAH) and Bodega Bay to July 19 (DAH, KFC), and Red-necked Grebes lingered with them to June 5 (two—RS) and June 15 (SFB) at Pt. Reyes, and to June 16 at Bodega

Harbor (RAE, KFC, NTC). Over 300 W. Grebes nested very successfully at L. San Antonio, Monterey (DR, RLR). From one to 5 pairs of Clark's Grebes were known or suspected breeding at each of 5 localities in Plumas, Mono, Stanislaus, and Monterey, all sympatric with W. Grebes. Seven Clark's Grebes were reported summering on the coast from Marin to Monterey.

Black-footed Albatross was well-reported, with 20–200 on 9 boat trips from Marin to Monterey. Two Laysan Albatrosses were offshore Monterey June 7 (JSL, TAC). Northern Fulmars remained numerous throughout the period, with up to 30 per trip around Cordell Bank, Marin, and up to eight offshore Monterey. A major and unseasonal influx concentrated 150 at Cordell Bank July 13 (SFB et al.).

Following this spring's sightings of *Pterodroma* petrels 15–20 mi s.w. of Cordell Bank, Marin, birding boat trips repeated these findings in the same area. Due to identification difficulties often including poor viewing conditions, many individuals could only be called "large dark *Pterodroma*, probably Solander's or Murphy's". However, three of seven birds on June 1 were well photographed (two at close range on the water!) and described (ph. JMD; †RAE, †ADB, †MJL, m.ob.). We still have much to learn about these species, and the C.B.R.C. has yet to vote, but apparently one of these three was **Murphy's Petrel** and the other two (plus perhaps another—DGY) were **Solander's Petrels**. Of the eight seen June 7, two were identified as Murphy's and two as Solander's (†JM, †MJL, RS et al.). All five on June 13 and both birds on July 4 were too distant to identify to species (KFC, JM, m.ob.). On June 7 one petrel was light-bellied, probably of the "Cookilaria" group (†JM, DLS).



Apparent Murphy's Petrel (*Pterodroma ultima*) beyond Cordell Bank, Cal., June 1, 1986. Note whitish throat and relatively small bill in comparison to Solander's Petrel. Photo/J. Michael Danzenbaker.

Shearwaters were very scarce (KFC, DLS, DLSu). No Pink-footed Shearwater totals exceeded 10. No large flocks of Sooty Shearwaters appeared, and most boats found fewer than 1000. At least one Buller's Shearwater was exceptionally early in the Cordell Bank area, Marin, as single sightings occurred June 13 (KFC), July 4 (JM), and July 13 (SFB, JM). Cordell Bank also attracted storm-petrels, highlighted by a remarkable concentration rafted on plankton-rich waters July 13. It included a very unseasonal **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** (†JM, †SFB, RS) and up to 20 Fork-taileds, 20 Leach's, and 1200 Ashy Storm-Petrels (SFB, JM). JM suggests that the regular summer occurrence of Fork-taileds at Cordell Bank may indicate undetected breeding on F.I. or some small coastal island in central California. The southernmost known colonies of this species are near Trinidad, Humboldt.

Brown Pelicans vacated Santa Clara in June but returned in record numbers in July, with up to 300+ at Palo Alto July 17 (JY, AL).



Apparent Solander's Petrel (*Pterodroma solandri*) beyond Cordell Bank, Cal., June 1, 1986. Note paleness encircling base of bill, and relatively large bill in comparison to Murphy's Petrel. Photo/J. Michael Danzenbaker.



Flight view of same apparent Solander's Petrel beyond Cordell Bank. Note the relatively bold whitish patch on the underside of the primaries, and the narrow bar formed by dark tips to the pale greater underprimary-coverts. Photo/J. Michael Danzenbaker.

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A ♂ Least Bittern at Arcata Marsh July 7–17 (Jack Mays, †GSL, †LPL *et al.*) was a first for *Humboldt* as well as providing the first coastal record of *Marin*. An imm. Little Blue Heron was at Las Gallinas sewage ponds, *Marin*, July 18–24 (JM *et al.*). Single ad. Little Blues were near Richvale, *Butte*, July 10–11 (J. Hainline), at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara*, June 14 (T. Simons), and Sonoma Dunes Campground, *Sonoma*, June 1 (S.L. Yee, †DGY *et al.*). Forty-three Cattle Egrets near Richvale July 2 (J. Hainline) was considered a “*Butte* high count”, and one at Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin*, July 30 was unseasonal (CLF). White-faced Ibises were widely reported in good numbers. Eighty pairs nested at Colusa N.W.R., with 132 birds there in late June (GM). Twenty-one ibises at Lower Klamath N.W.R., July 31 (RE) included juveniles, which suggests breeding on the refuge for the 2nd year in a row following a 25-year absence. Fifteen in Surprise Valley, *Modoc*, June 16 (BED) were away from areas of recent concentrations.

Two Tundra Swans at L. Almanor, *Plumas*, June 5 (BED) and one there June 24 (DAA) might have been cripples. All goose species except Ross’ were well reported as summering in small numbers and all appeared healthy. July *Butte* Mallard populations were thought to be about one-third of 1985’s high numbers while Cinnamon Teal numbers there were at a 12-year high (JHS). Last year’s first *Marin* N. Shoveler nesting was repeated at Las Gallinas sewage ponds, as five young were found July 4 (DAH). Gadwalls did very well at Palo Alto Flood Control Basin, *Santa Clara*, where 410 birds July 10 were estimated to be 70–80% immatures (DLSu). Several coastal summering Canvasbacks were usual, as was the fact that the high count reported of nine at the Modesto sewage ponds, *Stanislaus*, June 1–July 31 (HMR) was inland. A survey of Ring-necked Ducks at 35 lakes in e. *Tehama*, w. *Lassen*, and n. *Plumas* in June by Beth Waterbury revealed about 65 birds including juveniles. This is a real increase over 1982–1984 surveys by DAA. For the 3rd consecutive year, Ring-neckeds were found nesting near L. Earl, *Del Norte* (PFS). A ♂ Ring-necked at Pescadero Marsh June 24 through July (PJM *et al.*) provided a first *San Mateo* summer record. Two ♂ Lesser Scaups at the Chester sewage ponds, *Plumas*, June 24 (DAA) were within a possible breeding area as they have bred in adjacent *Lassen*. Extralimital nesting was confirmed again in *Santa Clara* (at least the 4th time in recent years) when a female and ducklings were seen July 20 (PMB). Last season’s King Eider at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey*, was last seen June 15 (DR). Oldsquaw was reported in the Region for the 7th consecutive summer, with one at Tomales Bay, *Marin*, June 21–July 8 (JM *et al.*). A ♀ Com. Goldeneye was at Bay Farm I., *Alameda*, July 16 (DAH, DDK) and one was at the Salinas R. mouth June 28–July 8 for one of the few summer *Monterey* records (PJM, DR, DLSu). The above-mentioned Ring-necked Duck survey also counted Buffleheads in the same area and found the population to be stable compared to 1981–1984 surveys. A Red-breasted Merganser was at Mono L., July 6 (SFB *et al.*). A melanistic ♂ Ruddy Duck at Charleston Slough June 19–27 (DLSu) was a very interesting find and rarely recorded for this species.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS — Ospreys did well at L. Almanor, as last year, with 77% of 30 nests being successful (DAA). The tufa-nesting Ospreys at Mono L. were back this year June 8 (PDG *et al.*). A Bald Eagle nest that produced young at Union Valley Res., *El Dorado*, was well s. of recent *Sierran* sites (DAA). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks possibly nested at Stockton in June (*vide* DGY), the female having been released recently from a local rehabilitation center. This would be a very rare C.V. floor record. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk was near Grenada, *Siskiyou*, July 22 (RE), but this species is still not known to breed in the county after repeated sightings. Twenty-seven pairs of Swainson’s Hawks were located in *Butte* Valley, *Siskiyou*, with good reproductive success noted (*vide* DAA). An ad. Peregrine Falcon near Richvale July 17 (JHS) provided a first *Butte* summer record.

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird observers are encouraged to report age/sex/plumage data as an essential part of understanding the migration, timing, and nesting success, as well as vagrancy patterns, of these birds. For this purpose shorebirders should utilize the recently-published *Shorebirds, an Identification Guide* by Hayman, Marchant, and Prater, with its many excellent color plates.

An army of 200 Black-bellied Plovers at the Modesto sewage ponds July 27 (HMR) certainly symbolized fall migration in action. As *dominica* Lesser Golden-Plovers sometimes reach Argentina by late August and start nesting slightly earlier and closer to California than the mostly coastal migrant *fulva*, we might find our July and early August records to be of *dominica*. Note however that *fulva* has been known to show up on its w. Pacific migration routes, and even in Hawaii, by the end of July. As with all shorebirds, the actual direction of movement can be confusing at times, and random wandering is also a factor. This season’s only birds were identified as “probably” *fulva*: one in partial-alternate plumage at Abbott’s Lagoon, *Marin*, July 31 (†DAH), and one in alternate plumage at the Salinas R. mouth July 8–12 (†DLSu, DEG *et al.*). A downy young Snowy Plover at the Modesto sewage ponds June 3–5 (HMR, ECa) established the first *Stanislaus* nesting record.

Black Oystercatcher colonization of e. San Francisco Bay continued as evidenced by several reports (SFB, RAE, JM *et al.*). A pair of Black-necked Stilts nested again at Humboldt Bay, fledging two young at Arcata Marsh in July (GSL, RLeV *et al.*). American Avocets did well at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara*, where 545 including young were seen June 15 (DLSu). A group of 16 Greater Yellowlegs at Fremont June 20 (RAE) was thought to be a record summer concentration. The first juveniles reported were at Petaluma, *Sonoma*, July 21, with the first juv. Lesser at Pt. Reyes July 31 (both DAH). The only Solitary Sandpiper reported was at Woodland Sugar Ponds, *Yolo*, July 27 (KS). An excellent summer gathering of 150+ Willets was at the Moss Landing salt ponds June 16 (DEG). The first juv. Willet reported away from nesting areas was at Moss Landing July 13 (SNGH). A June high count of Whimbrels was of 44 at the Moss Landing salt ponds June 16 (DEG), while one at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin June 20–July 4 (PMB) provided the first *Santa Clara* summer record. Were 300+ Marbled Godwits at the Moss Landing salt ponds June 16 (DEG) summering, or just arrived from the north? Note the number of Willets, Whimbrels, and Ruddy Turnstones also at this date and location. A late northbound Marbled Godwit was on F I, May 31–June 2, unusual dates. Twenty-eight Ruddy Turnstones were at the Moss Landing salt ponds June 16 (DEG). Eight Surfbirds at Ano Nuevo Pt., June 24 (PJM) beat the previous *San Mateo* early date (July 9) by 15 days, while a Red Knot there the same day (PJM) provided a first June county record.

It was the best July on record for Semipalmated Sandpipers, with a minimum of 23 found. Adults were at L. Earl, *Del Norte*, July 14 (ADB), Eureka July 25 (RAE, ADB), and the Modesto sewage ponds (*Stanislaus*’ first) July 27 (†ECa, †HMR). Two juveniles were at Eureka July 30–31 (ADB, RAE), one was at Arcata, *Humboldt*, July 31 (SDF), two were at the Ukiah sewage ponds (*Mendocino*’s 2nd record) July 31 (RAE), and one was at Abbott’s Lagoon, *Marin*, July 31 (†DAH). Coastal *Del Norte* was checked daily in late July by ADB who found juveniles July 22–29, with a peak of 14 on July 28. Juvenile W. Sandpipers were not noted until July 26 and only six were found by July 28 (less than half the number of juv. Semipalmateds; all *Del Norte*—ADB *et al.*). This would seem to confirm the suggestion made in AB 36:213 that the migration of juv. Semipalmateds is earlier than that of Westerns in California.

A Least Sandpiper at Abbott’s Lagoon, *Marin*, July 27 (SNGH) was the first juvenile of this species reported. Single ad. Baird’s Sandpipers were reported at Pt. Reyes July 20 (RS) and Abbott’s Lagoon July 21 (†SNGH, SWW), while two were at the Smith R. estuary, *Del Norte*, July 24 (JKi, ADB, RAE). Another at Salinas sewage ponds July 21 (CT) was unaged but by date probably

also was an adult Juveniles were first reported July 28 at Del Norte (ADB). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt, June 1-3 (FJB et al.) furnished the latest spring record for the state. Interestingly, the first fall Pectorals were all noted July 20 as follows: six at L. Talawa, Del Norte (ADB), one at Pt. Reyes (RS), one at Modesto sewage ponds, Stanislaus (ECa), and one at Moss Landing (†DAH, †DDK). The early date indicates that all were adults, but only the latter was reported as such. An alternate-plumaged Dunlin was at Arcata June 5-July 31 (RAE et al.). A Stilt Sandpiper was at Arcata Marsh July 6-7 (FJB et al.), where the species is surprisingly regular. Last season's two partial-albino dowitchers at Charleston Slough were seen again, with one remaining to July 10 (DLSu et al.). Of the several other June dowitchers reported, all were Short-billed and most were coastal as expected. The first juv. Short-billed reported was at Abbott's Lagoon July 31 (DAH). Wilson's Phalaropes were suspected of nesting, away from their stronghold in the Great Basin and mountains, w. of Nelson, Butte (four juveniles July 9—JHS) and at Petaluma (broody male present July 13—BDP). Twenty-five ad. Red Phalaropes on a "beyond the Cordell Bank" trip Sonoma/Marin July 13 (RS, SFB, DLS) helped to fill the late-June-through-July gap in records.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Probably the seven Pomarine and two Parasitic jaegers reported June 1-7 were spring migrants, and the three Pomarines and five Parasitics July 14-22 were fall migrants, but the subad. Pomarine at Santa Cruz June 26 (DLSu) likely summered in California waters. Before this year there were very few far-offshore birding trips during spring and fewer spring records of Long-tailed Jaeger in California. Four beyond Cordell Bank, Marin, June 7 included at least two adults (RS, m.ob.). A single imm. Long-tailed Jaeger was there July 13 (JM), as was the year's first S. Polar Skua on July 4 (DLS). Three S. Polar Skuas were offshore Monterey July 20 (PJM, AB).

An ad. **Laughing Gull** flying across Stockton sewage ponds July 2 (†DGy) provided the first C.V. record. Three ad. Franklin's Gulls were about average. They were at Mad R. Estuary, Humboldt, June 1 (FJB), Pt. Saint George, Del Norte, June 9 (ADB), and Honey Lake W.M.A., June 13 (ph. †TDM, AM). Summering Bonaparte's Gulls were widely reported along the coast, with high counts of 49 at the Salinas R. mouth June 29 (DR) and 66 at the Salinas sewage ponds July 19 (DLSu). The C V had up to five at the Modesto sewage ponds (HMR, ERC). A Mew Gull at New Brighton State Beach, Santa Cruz, June 26 carried very worn first-year plumage (DLSu). At Lower Klamath N.W.R., the large sump containing many nesting islands was drained in April, forcing the thousands of ad. California Gulls to abandon this site by June 1 (RE, MR). There was only scattered nesting elsewhere in the Klamath Basin this year. Western Gulls continue to pioneer new nesting sites inside the S F Bay system; a nest was found June 7 as far inland as the Benicia Marina, Solano (†RL et al.). Migrating ad. Sabine's Gulls beyond Cordell Bank included 15 June 1 and three June 7 (KFC et al.). Three first-summer Sabine's Gulls near F.I., June 2 were also flying N (SFB).

About 260 Caspian Tern nests at Alameda Naval Air Station, Alameda, produced well over 220 chicks and fledglings by July 28 (LDC). An Elegant Tern at Martinez, Contra Costa, July 3 (RJR) furnished the most inland record for the Region. Boat trips beyond Cordell Bank, Marin, regularly detected Arctic Terns: two June 1, seven June 7, five June 13, and one July 4 (KFC, RAE, DLS, JM). Least Terns produced the most fledglings since 1981 (all LDC). At Alameda Naval Air Station, 37-47 pairs (55 nesting attempts) fledged 68-83 young. Oakland International Airport hosted 29-34 pairs (35 nests) and yielded 10-11 fledglings. The only other pair known in the Region fledged two at W. Pittsburg, Contra Costa. Startling news was of a pair of **Black Skimmers** nesting in a Caspian Tern colony at Tulare L. Drainage District ponds, Kings (MOC et al.). Found July 19, the pair had three chicks by July 27, but only the

adults were seen Aug 9 Not only was this the northernmost nesting for w. North America, but it represented the first interior sighting for the Region.

Single Pigeon Guillemots near Cordell Bank June 7 (KFC) and July 13 (SFB) were unusual that far offshore. A pair of Xantus' Murrelets was near F.I., June 2 (SFB), and this species was recorded on all 5 trips to beyond Cordell Bank June 1 to July 13, with a high of nine on June 13 (KFC, JM et al.). Do a few Xantus' Murrelets nest on F.I. or elsewhere in our Region? A small portion of Cordell Bank had 2000 Cassin's Auklets gorging in the plankton-rich waters July 13 (SFB et al.). The total number present must have been a substantial part of the enormous F.I. breeding population. An anomaly was the Cassin's Auklet on L. Talawa, Del Norte, July 22; it could fly well, and the weather was clear and windless (ADB, JKl). About 23 active Rhinoceros Auklet burrows were discovered on Ano Nuevo I., San Mateo (GJS), for the southernmost confirmed nesting in North America. Up to 11 Rhinoceros Auklets at outer Pt. Reyes were suspected of nesting on the mainland (DAH, DDK, RS). The 2 pairs of Tufted Puffins carrying food to the tip of Pt. Reyes in late June (RS) provided even more convincing evidence. Single **Horned Puffins** were seen 4 times s.w. of Cordell Bank June 1 (ph. JMD, †MJL et al.), offshore Monterey June 22 & 23 (fide DLS), and offshore Santa Cruz June 28 (fide DLS).

S.A.

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory has maintained a long-term avian biomonitoring program at its Palomarin Field Station in coastal Marin County since 1966. The local avian production in coastal scrub and mixed evergreen forest at Palomarin has been estimated from 11 years of standardized mist-netting data. These data supply evidence that a major reproductive failure of landbirds occurred in 1986. The total number of young birds banded per 100 net hours between May 10 and July 28 of 1986 was only 36.8% of the average for the previous 10 years, and the 1986 ratio of young to adults was only 41.8% of the previous 10-year mean. These reductions represent statistically significant deviations from the previous years' patterns. Moreover, this high level of reproductive failure occurred in virtually all of the 48 locally breeding species and was independent of foraging guild, habitat preference, and nest location. Of special interest is the fact that no significant reductions in the number of young birds or in the young/adult ratio occurred during the first three 10-day sampling periods of 1986, indicating that the onset of reproductive failures began after the nesting season was well under way and after early nesters successfully fledged young. The data point to an onset of reproductive failure around the first week of May. Such a large-scale reproductive failure of an entire landbird community has not been previously reported anywhere and no obvious weather factors appear to explain the phenomenon. Preliminary investigation, however, indicates that severely reduced productivity in 1986 may have characterized many avian species throughout much of c. and n. California w. of the Sierra. Furthermore, the early and drastic curtailment of breeding may well have led to the early initiation of fall migration that was detected by P.R.B.O. researchers both on the Farallon Is. and in the high country of the Sierra. Situations such as this in 1986 serve to illustrate the immense importance of long-term landbird biomonitoring projects.—Dave DeSante

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Mono L. County Park June 21 (†DLSu) was a significant migrant (2nd for the Mono Basin), as there are less than a handful of Regional records e. of the Cascade/Sierra crest.

S.A.

A few comments on California's incipient **Barred Owl** population are in order, especially in light of what appeared in the spring report. The following known males are all still accounted for: Howland Hill, Del Norte (June 19 and July 16—ADB *et al.*); Salyer, Trinity (this season, no date); Willow Creek, Humboldt (May); near Orleans, Humboldt (rediscovered in mid-July; pair present in June 1983). The latter three birds were all reported by Spotted Owl biologist John Brack (*fide* GSL) along with the fact that the Orleans bird was seen to drive off the male of a pair of Spotted Owls while under observation. This negative aspect of the Barred Owl's expansion in the Pacific Northwest has caused considerable concern among those involved in Spotted Owl management. Consequently, the discovery of Siskiyou's first Barred Owl, another vocal male, on upper Somes Cr., near Somes Bar, in May (TH, *fide* J. Brack, GSL; details not yet seen) is not necessarily good news.

At Yosemite's McGurk Meadow, two Great Gray Owls were fledged from only the 7th known natural nest in California (JW). A single bird was fledged at Crane Flat (JW *et al.*). There is currently considerable interest in the status of Short-eared Owls in California; nevertheless we received no reports of any kind.

A Com. Nighthawk over Livermore June 11 (PAW, *fide* ALE) was at least Alameda's 4th record, surprising since this species is almost unknown in California as a migrant. Another Alameda record from Berkeley Apr. 20, 1924 (Grinnell & Miller, 1944. Distribution of the birds of California. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 27.) should be disregarded, as the species has not been reliably recorded in the state earlier than late May. An impressive addition to the Pt. Reyes list was the **Whip-poor-will** seen June 6 (†GH, †RS). The only previous Regional record was of a calling bird in Tulare in June 1983 (AB 38:243), possibly extending the fringes of the limited s. California range.

A pair of White-throated Swifts returned to nest at Tule Lake N.W.R., June 17–July 19, with three juveniles seen on the latter date (RE, BED, MR). After successfully raising two broods for each of the last 2 years, a ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird in Stockton outdid herself this year. Just before fledging the 2nd brood of the year, she began incubating her 3rd clutch of eggs in the 3rd of 3 separate nests (CS, *fide* DGY). A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird on the Hoopa Indian Reservation July 2 (GSL) was slightly w. of the known breeding range, and provided only the 2nd Humboldt record outside of spring migration. Broad-tailed Hummingbird was added to the Region's list of confirmed nesting species when two females were found on nests in Lundy Canyon, Mono, June 7–8 (†HAG *et al.*). The species was first recorded in 1972 and nesting has been sus-

pected for at least 10 years, primarily in this immediate vicinity. A ♂ Broad-tailed was at June L., Mono, June 24–27 (BHG, *fide* DR) and a female above Eagleville July 5 (†KLH) was a first for Modoc; a male was also said to be present by locals. One a few miles to the south in Lassen July 9, 1975 was the only previous record for the n.e. corner of the state. Six southbound Rufous Hummingbirds (five ad. males, one female/immature) had already gathered at Kennedy Meadows, Tuolumne, June 20 (KVV), and one or two ad. ♂ Allen's Hummingbirds at Shasta June 14–26 (BY, CY) were far e. of their breeding range.

The season's most heartbreaking rarity (owing to its brief visit) was the stunning **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Pt. Saint George, Del Norte, June 9 (ph. †Ki, †ADB, †GSL, †LPL, †WER). California's only previous acceptable record was at the Salton Sea in July/August 1971.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS—The dismal spring for Willow Flycatchers along the coast continued with only three birds reported (Marin and Monterey June 2–6). Inland reports are less easily evaluated. A singing Least Flycatcher near Crescent City (Del Norte's first) June 3–8 (ADB, †LPL *et al.*) surprisingly did not remain to summer. Did any of California's previous spring migrants sing?

Two Say's Phoebes in San Carlos, San Mateo, June 14 (DLSu) hinted at possible local nesting, but unfortunately there was no follow-up. This species is not known to breed anywhere closer than the dry foothills of the Coast Ranges to the east and south. Unseasonal coastal W. Kingbirds were at Pt. Reyes June 15 (DAH), near Ft. Dick, Del Norte, June 21 (ADB), and at Russian Ridge O.S.P., San Mateo, June 29 (PLN). The latter bird was said to be in good habitat where nesting is a possibility. Vagrant E. Kingbirds were one to two at Pt. Reyes June 11–15 (RS, SFB, DAH *et al.*), one at Muir Beach, Marin, July 22 (D. Williams, *fide* HAG) and, more impressively, one at Sacramento June 23 (DoM, *fide* TDM). A pair was present at their traditional site (since at least 1976) near Edgewood, Siskiyou, at least early June to July 12 (RE, MR *et al.*).

An apparent family group of five or more Pygmy Nuthatches in Redwood Regional Park, Contra Costa, June 27 (RAE) suggested the nesting pair found there in April was successful. Contrary to the spring report, this species was strictly a casual visitor in the East Bay Area until very recently, and nesting has been suspected for only about the last 5 years as records have accumulated in this immediate vicinity. Three Winter Wrens in the Pine Cr. drainage, Modoc, July 12–13 (JTr) were in the Warner Mts. where this species is not known to breed. The landbird of the season for most observers (since so many saw it) was California's 2nd **Sedge Wren**, a persistently singing male, at Little Shasta, Siskiyou, June 8–July 4 (ph. †RE, m.ob.). The previous record was from Marin Nov. 4–8, 1980.



Red-headed Woodpecker at Point St. George, Cal., June 9, 1986. Second acceptable California record. Photo/Jeff Kingery.



Male Sedge Wren at Little Shasta, Cal., June 23, 1986. Second state record. Photo/Ray Ekstrom.



Male Sedge Wren at Little Shasta, Cal. Photo/Ray Ekstrom.

Single singing Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at McGurk Meadow, Mariposa, June 16 and Kennedy Meadows, Tuolumne, June 20 (both KVV) were above their usual haunts, at 7200 and 6900 feet above sea level respectively. Varied Thrushes made an impressive showing s. of their breeding range with single males at Pt. Reyes May 20–June 6 (HG et al.), Old La Honda Rd., San Mateo, June 7+ (JGr), Kenwood, Sonoma, June 19 (LSt, fide KFC) and La Honda, San Mateo, June 27 (†CB). Water Pipits were found near Swanton Peak July 21 (including fledglings) and near Burro Pass July 24 (both Tuolumne—†HAG), but more surprising were three at low-elevation Big L., Shasta, July 18 (BY, BVdM).

Two singing ♂ plumbeus Solitary Vireos were w. of Mono Craters, Mono, July 4 (SFB et al.). We still know little of the status of this local breeder in the Region. Red-eyed Vireos were found at Pt. Reyes June 1 (DAH, JM et al.), Inverness June 4 (RS), and Fairhaven, Humboldt, June 11–12 (GSL et al.).

WOOD WARBLERS — In addition to those in the spring report, four Tennessee Warblers were found, at F.I., Humboldt, and Marin, June 1–13. Five N. Parulas were seen along the coast from Mendocino to San Mateo June 1–28, with one inland at Mono L., June 6 (PJM).

Five Chestnut-sided Warblers were found along the coast from Humboldt to San Mateo June 1–14, along with two inland: Shasta's first at Summit City June 7 (BVdM, BY, CY) and one near Bridgeport, Mono, June 19 (†KVV). Nine Magnolia Warblers were all coastal (Humboldt to F.I./San Francisco June 1–12), as was the single Cape May Warbler at F.I., June 11. A juv. "Audubon's Warbler" on outer Pt. Reyes June 14 (†JM) wandered from home early, as the species is not known to breed within miles of there. A curious partial-albino ♀ Black-throated Gray Warbler returned for its 2nd season to Trinidad, Humboldt, where it was described July 5 (†GSL). Late migrant Townsend's Warblers were a female in Menlo Park June 7 (DLSu) and a male at Mono L., June 8 (PJM). The F.I. hosted the season's only Palm Warbler (a western bird) June 11, and

the only Bay-breasted Warbler (a male) June 3. Singing ♂ Blackpoll Warblers were at Fairhaven, Humboldt, June 11–12 (RLeV, GSL, JCS et al.) and Pt. Reyes June 14–15 (DAH, JM, SFB et al.).

Eight Black-and-white Warblers were found along the coast from Humboldt to F.I./San Francisco June 1–25, but all seven coastal Am. Redstarts were at Pt. Reyes or F.I., June 1–15. Three additional redstarts were found inland: Seiad Valley, Siskiyou, June 17–18 (AS, MR), Bridgeport, Mono, June 19 (†KVV), and June L. loop, Mono, June 20 (DLSu). Two more Ovenbirds visited F.I., June 2–3 (three in spring report), one was at sea 12 mi w.s.w. of Bodega Head in June (GF, fide RLeV), but more impressive were singing males inland at Seiad Valley June 17–21 (AS, †MR, †RE) and the Hoopa Indian Reservation June 26 (†GSL). In contrast, N. Waterthrush went unrecorded this spring for the 6th time in the last 10 years.

Male Kentucky Warblers were well described from F.I., June 10 (†PP) and Fairhaven June 11 (†GSL); this species has been recorded in 10 of the last 15 springs, primarily at F.I. Hooded Warbler was recorded for the 9th consecutive spring: a singing male at Gazos Cr., San Mateo, June 1 (PJM) and a female at New Brighton State Beach June 17 (†DLSu). A ♀ Canada Warbler at Mammoth Scenic Loop, Mono, June 21 (†DLSu) furnished only the 7th Regional spring record.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — Twelve Rose-breasted Grosbeaks along the entire coast (inland as far as Alameda/Contra Costa and Salinas, Monterey) June 1–23 was about average for June. Another was at F.I., July 25, and San Joaquin's first was at Lodi L., July 14–17 (†DGY). Blue Grosbeaks made a strong showing on the coast with a female at Pt. Reyes June 26 (BDP), a male near Ft. Dick, Del Norte, June 18 (JKi, ADB), and a female near there July 20 (ADB). The latter bird represented the first coastal July record. Another Blue Grosbeak at Jameson Canyon, Napa, June 1 (MFR) was also w. of normal haunts. Two singing Lazuli Buntings at Crane Flat, Tuolumne, June 20 (DLSu) were at a high elevation. An ad. ♂ Lazuli × Indigo Bunting was found e. of San Gregorio Beach, San Mateo, June 28, paired with a Lazuli Bunting (†SFB). Thirteen seemingly-pure Indigo Buntings were seen along the coast from Del Norte to Santa Cruz, June 1–July 18.

Two Dickcissels were found: Arcata June 1 (JBo, fide GSL) and F.I., June 14. The only extralimital Brewer's Sparrow was at Pt. Reyes June 2 (MLR, fide HAG). Vesper Sparrows were again proven breeding in Del Norte when an adult was seen feeding a young bird at L. Talawa July 20 (ADB). A ♀ Lark Bunting at Pt. Reyes June 6 (GH, fide HAG) was one of the rarer birds found there this spring. Noteworthy Grasshopper Sparrow sightings included one to three at Little Shasta June 8–July 7 (only 4 previous Siskiyou records—RE, †KLH, MR et al.) and one at F.I., June 9. A Swamp Sparrow was unseasonal at F.I., June 1, as was a Golden-crowned Sparrow near Yreka July 3 (RE). A nuttalli White-crowned Sparrow in Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, at least Apr. 23–Aug. 15 (RAH) was slightly e. of normal, but this race is not so sedentary as one might think (see recent comments in Roberson, 1985, *Monterey Birds*, Monterey Audubon Society).

A Bobolink near Bolinas June 9 (DDeS) was the only one seen. One report of San Francisco's resident pair of Great-tailed Grackles was received: Ft. Mason July 2 (fide HAG).

Lesser Goldfinches were said by seasoned mountain-man JW to have had a great breeding year in the central Sierra,

Table 1. Early fall migrant/post-breeding landbirds in the Central Valley

Western Flycatcher	July 14	Lodi Lake	San Joaquin	DGY
Solitary Vireo	July 26	Bobelaine Sanctuary	Sutter	DJo
Warbling Vireo	July 23	Turlock Lake	Stanislaus	HMR
Orange-crowned Warbler	June 4	Reichmuth Park	Sacramento	TDM
Yellow Warbler	July 29	Tuolumne R. Reg. Pk.	Stanislaus	HMR
Wilson's Warbler	July 26	Bobelaine Sanctuary	Sutter	DJo
Western Tanager	July 1	Lodi Lake	San Joaquin	DGY

with hundreds present, especially at Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne. Siskiyou's 3rd Lawrence's Goldfinch record (of a male and two females on the Klamath R. near the Oak Knoll Ranger Station June 18—†MR) was the most significant of several reports. The species is still unrecorded in adjacent Oregon. Two Evening Grosbeaks in Fortuna June 2 (C. Monet, *vide* RLeV), two at Crescent City June 23 (ADB), and one at Westhaven, Humboldt, July 4 (RAE, GSL, LPL) were the only lowland reports.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

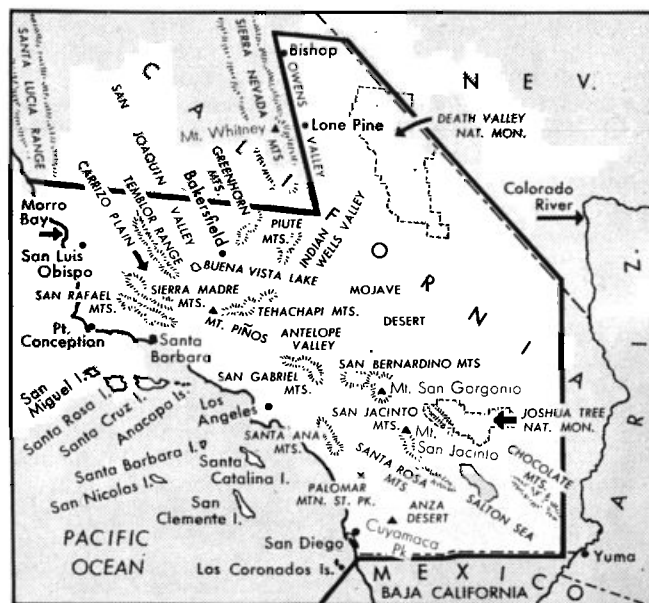
Guy McCaskie

The summer season was again uneventful, with stable weather conditions and average temperatures for this time of the year. Small range extensions were established by the discovery of breeding birds just outside the species' known range, but there were many more reports of "possible breeding" that would extend a species' range, and these should be followed up in future breeding seasons.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.S.U.M.Z. = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology, Baton Rouge, La.; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary, Ventura Co.; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.; S.F.K.R.P. = the South Fork of the Kern River Preserve at the e. end of Isabella L., Kern County. As virtually all rarities found in s. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (% Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

GREBES THROUGH STORKS — Five pairs of Eared Grebes nesting at the S.C.R.E. (JSR) were the only breeding birds reported; this species is a local and irregular breeder along the coast of s. California. On July 12, 20 Clark's Grebes, including eight white downy young, were seen on the Piute Ponds near Lancaster for the first documented nesting record away from Colorado R. valley, N.E.S.S., and San Diego in recent years (KLG). A N. Fulmar found recently dead at Atascadero Beach July 26 (GPS) indicated a few remained offshore through the summer.

Brown Pelican numbers built up to over 200 on the Salton Sea by early July (GMcC) but the species was unreported elsewhere inland. An ad. Olivaceous Cormorant at N.E.S.S., July 19 (GMcC) and Aug. 3 (MAP) was undoubtedly the same bird seen here in spring, and probably the individual seen off and on at this location in late summer since 1982. Single imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen along the coast over s. San



Diego Bay July 13 (GMcC), the Pacific Palisades July 3 (DMcL), Playa del Rey July 13 (CF), La Conchita, Ventura Co., July 1 (LRB), and over Santa Cruz I., July 12 (LLN); inland, single immatures were at N.E.S.S., June 28 (GMcC) and July 12 (MAP), and at S.E.S.S., July 19 (GMcC).

There are very few nesting records for Am. Bitterns in s. California in recent years, hence the presence of at least 5 pairs in the Prado Basin near Corona, Riverside Co., throughout the period, and the finding of a juvenile there July 31 (LRH), were of interest. Two pairs of Great Blue Herons nesting at Legg L. in El Monte (MCL), 6 pairs along the Santa Ana R. in Anaheim (DRW), and 20 pairs nesting along the Kern R., e. of Bakersfield (MOC) were away from known breeding sites. The number of nesting pairs of Great Egrets at Morro Bay rose to 13 this summer (GPS); fair numbers were again present all

summer in coastal Orange and San Diego counties (DRW, EC), along with seven to 20 in the Prado Basin during June and July (LRH), but with no evidence of nesting. Up to four ad. Little Blue Herons were present around Imperial Beach throughout the period, and one was seen with two recently-fledged young July 26 (CGE), indicating at least one pair successfully nested. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., June 21 (DK) and in nearby La Jolla June 27–July 19 (JO'B) was believed to be the same bird initially found in October 1981. Small numbers of White-faced Ibis at various locations along the coast, along with up to 17 in the Prado Basin (LRH), were all thought to be non-breeding wanderers, but 20 pairs at Guajome L. near Oceanside in April were clearly nest-building (EC). An ad. Wood Stork in the Prado Basin July 6+ (LRH) was the only one found away from the s. end of the Salton Sea.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at N.E.S.S., June 28 (JO'B) was one of very few to be found away from S.E.S.S. in recent years. Totally unexpected was an ad. Tundra Swan at the Santa Maria R. mouth July 13 (TME); there is only one previous summer record for s. California. A flock of 18 Brant attempting to summer at N.E.S.S. had all succumbed by mid-July (GMcC) but one was still alive at S.E.S.S., July 26 (ML); small numbers attempt to summer on the Salton Sea most years but invariably die as a result of the heat and/or unsuitable foods. Two Wood Ducks in the Mojave Narrows Regional Park near Victorville, San Bernardino Co., July 8 (RMcK) were in suitable breeding habitat, but far from the nearest known nesting locality. Two Canvasbacks, rare to casual in summer, were present at Pt. Mugu throughout the season (JSR), and two more were at N.E.S.S. through June 21 (GMcC). A Ring-necked Duck in Goleta July 7 (CB), two on nearby L. Cachuma July 8 (PEL), and another on Otay L., San Diego Co., Aug. 9 (DK) were all of interest since the species is considered casual through the summer. A Greater Scaup, most unusual in summer, remained at Bolsa Chica all summer (LRH). An Oldsquaw spent the entire summer on Morro Bay (TME). A Surf Scoter at S.E.S.S., June 28 (JO'B) was evidently attempting to summer on this inland body of water. A ♀ Com. Merganser accompanied by 11 young on Nacimiento L., San Luis Obispo Co., May 31 (RR) gave us the first record for breeding in s. California.

A pair of Swainson's Hawks in the Fremont Valley, Kern Co., May 26 (MOC) and another pair seen nest-building (nest abandoned) in the Bitterwater Valley, San Luis Obispo/Kern Co., Apr. 12–16 (GPS) were the only ones found away from the Owens Valley. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks successfully fledged one young from a nest on Hot Springs Mt., San Diego Co., in July (RHi); a pair that attempted to nest on Santa Rosa Mt., Riverside Co., during the summers of 1978–1981 provided the only previous record for breeding in California. Sightings of Peregrine Falcons along the coast have increased in recent years, no doubt as a result of the "hacking" of captive-bred young by the Peregrine Recovery Team, and it is now difficult to differentiate true wild birds from the locally "hacked" birds; however, one at S.E.S.S., July 7 (RMcK) was most likely from the breeding population in the Gulf of California.

SHOREBIRDS — A Lesser Golden-Plover (*fulva*) at S.C.R.E., July 15–19 (TW) was in full breeding plumage, hence judged to be an early fall migrant rather than a bird summering locally. In s. California, shorebirds are present throughout the summer, only the smaller species such as the "peeps" and Dunlin being rare; late spring migrants are still encountered in the first week of June, and the first of the fall migrants, after the ♀ Wilson's Phalaropes, are back by the last few days of June. The late spring migrants and early fall migrants are always in full breeding plumage, while non-breeding shorebirds remaining through June are invariably in winter plumage or partial breeding plumage at best, making them easily separable from the migrants. An ad. **Mongolian Plover** at S.C.R.E., July 12–17 (JSR, ph.) was believed to be the same individual present

at this location Aug 7–13, 1982 and July 26–Aug 2 1983. A count of 77 Snowy Plovers at Harper Dry Lake, San Bernardino Co., May 28 (SWC) indicated good numbers nested there this year, and a pair was seen with young near Lancaster July 17 (BB). An Am. Oystercatcher photographed on Santa Barbara I., May 30 (BWA) was one of a very few ever to be found in California, but the 2nd from this locality.

Single Solitary Sandpipers at China Ranch near Tecopa July 23 (JML) and near Frazier Park July 24 (JML) were the earliest reported this fall. A pair of Spotted Sandpipers accompanied by downy young along the Santa Ana R. in Anaheim June 18 (LRH), and a nest with eggs at San Elijo Lagoon July 14 (S & JG), gave us concrete evidence of breeding along the coast s. of Los Angeles. A calling Long-billed Curlew near Bishop, Inyo Co., June 22 (MH) was in suitable breeding habitat, and in the same area where s. California's only nesting has occurred. A Red Knot at S.E.S.S., July 19 (JO'B) was clearly a fall migrant. Three W. Sandpipers near Santa Maria June 11 (PEL) were exceptionally late spring migrants, and one at N.E.S.S., June 27 (BB) was the first of the adult fall migrants. Two Least Sandpipers near Santa Maria June 11 (PEL) were also exceptionally late spring migrants. A Baird's Sandpiper near Santa Maria July 25–26 (JML) was the earliest juvenile reported this fall. A Stilt Sandpiper at S.C.R.E., July 13–18 (BED) was along the coast where considered very rare. A Short-billed Dowitcher at N.E.S.S., June 28 (GMcC) was the first to be noted this fall. Single Com. Snipe near Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., July 6 (TME) & 27 (GPS) were exceptionally early, especially so for the coast. Five ♀ Wilson's Phalaropes at N.E.S.S., June 15 (GMcC) were fall migrants.

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMER — An ad. Laughing Gull at S.C.R.E., June 15 (SR) and another on Upper Newport Bay July 22–25 (LRH) were both along the coast where considered very rare. Three Franklin's Gulls at N.E.S.S., June 12 (DLD) were the only ones found this summer. A Heermann's Gull was seen sitting on a nest on Shell Beach Rocks off Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., May 28 (GPS) but deserted; 2 pairs attempted to nest at this same location in 1980, and the only other nesting attempts in California were in San Francisco Bay in 1979–1981 (*W. Birds* 14:39–46, 1983). Four Heermann's Gulls on L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., July 6 (RHi), an adult at Salton City July 26 (GMcC), and an immature at N.E.S.S., Aug. 9 (GMcC) were inland where considered casual. An imm. Mew Gull in Oceano July 8 (TME) was unexpected, since few indeed have ever summered in s. California. A Herring Gull, another rarity in summer, was at S.C.R.E., June 28–July 8 (JSR), and a 2nd was at N.E.S.S., Aug. 9 (REW). An imm. Glaucous Gull found at N.E.S.S., May 31 (REW) was still present at the end of the period, to give us the 2nd summer record from this locality.

Thirteen ad. Gull-billed Terns were seen along with seven young on a small islet along the w. shore of the Salton Sea, just s. of Salton City, June 21 (RMcK), and about 75 were seen on nests at S.E.S.S., June 28 (GMcC), giving us an idea as to the size of the breeding population in California. The discovery of 20 Caspian Tern nests at Bolsa Chica this summer (LRH) provided the first breeding record for this species in Orange County, and the first in s. California away from San Diego Bay. An ad. Royal/Elegant Tern at N.E.S.S., June 12 (SWC, DLD) was most unusual, since there is no previous record of a Royal Tern from the interior of California, and only 2 previous records for an Elegant Tern inland. The observers felt the bird was a Royal Tern, but the fact that the bird had a virtually complete black cap would suggest it was an Elegant Tern, since Royal Terns lose the black cap during April–May, and should be in "winter plumage" in June. [This is true of Royals on the Pacific Coast, but the bird *could* have reached Salton Sea from farther east—K.K.] Three pairs of Forster's Terns found nesting at Upper Newport Bay in June (KF) were the first to be found breeding away from the Salton Sea and s. San Diego Bay. A Least Tern at N.E.S.S., July 6 (GMcC) was inland where very rare

Black Skimmers continue to increase and expand their range in s. California with 130 nests on s. San Diego Bay (EC), 2 nests on Upper Newport Bay (LRH), 60 nests, all unfortunately destroyed by predators, at Bolsa Chica (LRH), along with 300+ nests at S.E.S.S. (GMcC); two seen periodically at the now mostly-drained Tulare L. in extreme n. Kern County during July (MOC) were clearly the pair nesting just to the n. of the Kern/Kings County line at that locality.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A White-winged Dove at Oasis May 31 (SWC) was unusually far north. Common Ground-Doves were found to be abundant breeders in the Prado Basin near Corona. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Barstow May 28 (DLD) and another at Oasis June 12 (BS) were spring migrants, this species being exceptionally late to arrive in California; 9 pairs in the S.F.K.R.P. (SL) and 3 pairs in the Prado Basin (LRH) were the only breeding birds found this year. A pair of Flammulated Owls again nested at Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel Mts. (KLG), and two to three calling birds were around Black Mt. Group Camp in the San Jacinto Mts. during May and June (RMcK). Several Long-eared Owls were present in the Prado Basin and one nest was found in June (MW), indicating this area may still support a healthy breeding population. Since few Short-eared Owls have been found nesting in s. California in recent years, a recently-fledged young accompanied by an adult at Harper Dry Lake, San Bernardino Co., May 28 (DLD) was of interest; in addition, up to seven around the S.F.K.R.P. all summer (RS) and two or three in the Fremont Valley, Kern Co., May 26 (JLD) were thought to be nesting. The finding of juv. N. Saw-whet Owls on Hot Springs Mt., June 21 (CGE) added another mountain location to the list of breeding localities for this species in s. California. A calling Whip-poor-will at Angeles Oaks in the San Bernardino Mts., June 15 (KLH) and three or four calling birds at Heart Bar Campground in the same mountain range July 5 (MAP) were at localities where nesting has been suspected in previous years, but a calling Whip-poor-will near Weldon May 31 (MOC) was the first ever to be found in Kern County.

Up to six Chimney Swifts over downtown Los Angeles all summer (KLG) and one over Carpinteria July 6 (LRB) were the only ones reported this year. Three Anna's Hummingbirds in Caruthers Canyon of the New York Mts., e. San Bernardino Co., May 21-22 (SWC) were felt to be post-breeding wanderers from the coast, but the possibility of nesting in this area should be considered. Allen's Hummingbirds now apparently nest throughout much of the Los Angeles Basin, with most along the coast (KLG); the migratory race *sasin* is known to nest along the coast s. to Ventura County, and the non-migratory race *sedentarius* nests on the Channel Is. and locally on the coast on the Palos Verdes Peninsula; hence, without specimens in hand to study, it would be mere speculation as to which race is expanding its range. A Lewis' Woodpecker near Weldon July 26 (RS) was unexpected, since this is far from any nesting localities. A Hairy Woodpecker at 1400 ft in Trabuco Canyon in the Santa Ana Mts., July 4 (DRW) was at a somewhat low elevation considering the time of year.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — Since the s. form of Willow Flycatcher (*extimus*) is now very rare and local in s. California, and in danger of being extirpated in the Region, it is of significance that 40± pairs were present in the S.F.K.R.P. (RHe), five or six territorial males were along the Santa Ynez R. near Buellton, Santa Barbara Co. (PEL), and 4 pairs were found in the Prado Basin near Corona (LRH). A Dusky Flycatcher on Hot Springs Mt., July 19 (REW) was at the s. limit of the species' breeding range. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers at a nest in Jacumba (elev. 3000 ft), San Diego Co., June 1 (JO'B) was at an unusually high elevation as well as establishing one of a very few nesting records in s. California away from Morongo Valley in recent years. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher at Deep Springs June 7 (PJM) was the first to be found during the

spring vagrant period. A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers seen building a nest at China Ranch near Tecopa June 2 (JT) established the first breeding record for this area, and a pair at S.F.K.R.P., July 2-13 (SL), although not proven to be nesting, was well to the n.w. of the species' known breeding range. A vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in San Diego June 14-17 (M & JF, ph.) and another was seen in Goleta July 10 (HR).

An imm. Steller's Jay in Santa Barbara July 30-31 (ED) was unexpected, since the species does not breed along the coast s. of n. San Luis Obispo County. A juv. Verdin at Mesquite Springs at the n. end of Death Valley July 23 (JML) was at the extreme n. limit of the species' breeding range in California. Six Red-breasted Nuthatches on Hot Springs Mt., July 19 (REW) and two on nearby Cuyamaca Peak July 3 (D & MH) were thought to be nesting, although breeding is so far unrecorded in these mountains; two in the Mojave Narrows Regional Park near Victorville July 8 (RMcK) may have been nesting in the ornamental pines planted in this area of the desert. Up to six Golden-crowned Kinglets were present on Hot Springs Mt. during June and July (CGE) and were believed to be nesting, breeding is unknown s. of the San Jacinto Mts. in s. California. One or two singing Hermit Thrushes at 5800 ft on Big Pine Mt., Santa Barbara Co., June 20 (JEL) were suspected to be breeding, and would establish the first nesting record for this location if proved. A Brown Thrasher hit by a car on San Clemente I., July 14 (DB-S) was the first ever to be found in s. California at this time of year. Three Bendire's Thrashers near Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino Co., July 8 (RMcK) were thought to be nesting locally. A singing Solitary Vireo at 6600 ft near Weldon throughout the summer (MOC) was of the gray race *plumbeus*; since this form has been expanding its breeding range in California, nesting here at the s. end of the Sierra Nevada Mts. should be considered a possibility.

WOOD WARBLERS — A ♂ Tennessee Warbler in Claremont July 5 (DW) was only the 2nd ever to be found in s. California in July. A pair of Virginia's Warblers nesting near Wrightwood in the San Gabriel Mts. in June (TW) were the first to be found breeding in this mountain range, significantly to the w. of the nearest known nesting locality on the e. side of the San Bernardino Mts.; two young hatched on June 15, but the final outcome is unknown. It is of interest that Nashville Warblers have been found nesting within one mile of the Virginia's Warbler nest site, indicating this is an area of marginal sympatry. A Lucy's Warbler at Oasis June 7 (PJM) was unusually far north. A ♂ N. Parula at Oasis June 7 (BS) was a late spring vagrant but another in Santa Barbara July 19-Aug 22 (HR) was probably summering locally. The sighting of a pair of Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers feeding recently-fledged young on Hot Springs Mt., July 12 (GMcC) furnished the first evidence of nesting in San Diego County. A Black-and-white Warbler in Redlands June 26 (RMcK) and another in La Jolla July 14 (JM) were both summer stragglers. A ♂ Am Redstart at Oasis June 12 (PM) was a late spring vagrant. A N Waterthrush near Bishop Aug. 7 (H & JM) was exceptionally early for a fall migrant; observers should be aware that 2 or 3 fall records of Louisiana Waterthrushes in Arizona fall between July 31 and Aug. 3, and that the only 2 records for California are for Aug. 7 and Aug. 17, indicating it can occur exceptionally early in the Southwest in fall, and may be the more likely waterthrush in early August. Four singing MacGillivray's Warblers in Montana de Oro S.P., June 16 (CM) suggested nesting at this locality, and if so would establish this as the southernmost outpost for breeding along the coast.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — At least one pair of Hepatic Tanagers was again along the upper end of Arastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts., May 24+ (JSR) and was thought to have nested. Nesting Summer Tanagers were found w. to the Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co. (SJM), near Valyermo, Los Angeles Co. (H & PB), and Victorville (RMcK); single

birds in Rustic Canyon, Los Angeles Co., June 23 (BW), at Malibu in late June (JKA), and in Santa Barbara all summer (SP) were w. of the species' known breeding range, and considered summer stragglers. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager near Lopez L., San Luis Obispo Co., June 14 (CM) was one of a very few ever found in spring. A pair of W. Tanagers at Cerro Alto Campground near Morro Bay June 26–July 11 (JMcD) appeared to be on territory, and, if nesting, would establish the first breeding record for this area. A ♂ Pyrrhuloxia, an accidental straggler to California, was well seen at Cottonwood Springs in Joshua Tree N.M., June 1 (GH). A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Oasis June 7 (PJM) was a late spring vagrant, but a male and female at the S.F.K.R.P. during late July (SL) and single males in the Laguna Mts., June 21–22 (AR) and in La Jolla July 29 (RP) were all summer stragglers. No Indigo Buntings were found in the S.F.K.R.P., where small numbers had been found in recent summers, but up to three territorial males were present in the Prado Basin near Corona June 4+ (LRH) and nesting should be looked for in this area in the future. A ♂ Dickcissel at Oasis June 9 (BS) was in the same area where Dickcissels have been found at about this time in the past 2 years. Singing Grasshopper Sparrows at 4 locations around Weldon during June and July (RB) were the first to be found in Kern County in many years. Two pairs of Dark-eyed Juncos found nesting in La Jolla in June (JO'B) were the first ever to have been found nesting along the coast s. of Los Angeles County.

A ♀ Bobolink at Oasis June 9 (BS) was late for s. California. Twenty pairs of Great-tailed Grackles nesting in the Prado Basin near Corona this summer (LRH) established the 2nd breeding record w. of the Coast Range; a male in La Jolla Aug. 7 (PH) and another in Goleta July 6–16 (RHs) were both along the immediate coast where still considered very rare. A Com. Grackle, a casual straggler to California, was at Deep Springs June 10–12 (BS). Up to three Bronzed Cowbirds were present all summer in Brawley (GMCc), where the species undoubtedly

breeds. An Evening Grosbeak on Mt. Pinos July 24 (JML) was unexpected, there being only one previous record in July.

ADDENDA — A recently-dead (probably shot about Jan. 1) Red-throated Loon at N.E.S.S., Jan. 16 (SWC, *L.S.U.M.Z.) was the first ever to be found on the Salton Sea. Two Lark Buntings, now very rare and irregular in spring, were near Borrego Springs, San Diego Co., Apr. 11 (JK, ph.).

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

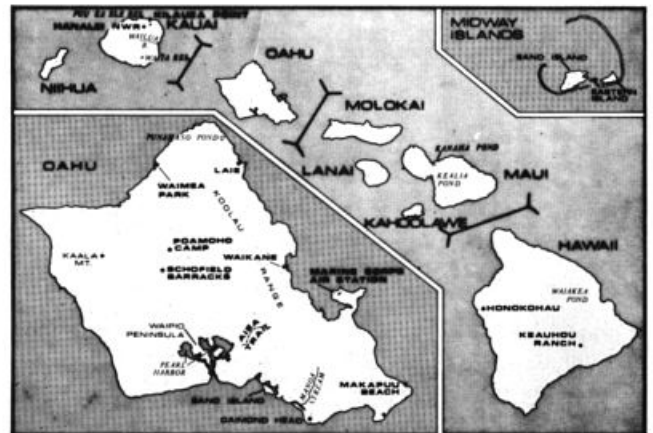
Robert L. Pyle

June-July rainfall exceeded average at 26 of 33 reporting stations in the main Hawaiian Islands, stimulating good vegetation growth in the drier lowland areas. Summer amounts are normally small, however, so that calendar year deficits remained widespread on the northern islands of Kauai, Oahu, and Molokai.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S. = French Frigate Shoals; H. = Hawaii I.; K. = Kauai I.; O. = Oahu I.; E.S.F.P. = Endangered Species Facility at Pohakuloa, Hawaii I.; K.P.N.W.R. = Kilauea Point Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Kauai; H.R.B.P.F. = Hawaii Rare Bird Photograph File.

ALBATROSSES THROUGH GESE — The three Laysan Albatross chicks from the nests at K.P.N.W.R. all fledged successfully in mid-July (DM). Hopefully, this will mark the beginning of a sustained successful breeding colony under Refuge protection. Nesting attempts in the Kilauea area over the past 10 years have been frustrated by dog depredations against the youthful adults probably trying to nest for the first time at about 6–7 years of age.

The four Laysan chicks moved from Pacific Missile Range at Barking Sands, K., to Sea Life Park, O., in April, and a 5th brought in May, all fledged successfully in mid-July (IK). This year, for the first time, about 15 ad. Laysans were captured at locations around Oahu where they were not wanted and were brought to Sea Life Park. Two died, and the others were pinned for permanent exhibit in the Park's seabird sanctuary.



The Animal Damage Control Section of U.S. Dept. of Agriculture is developing a plan for future years in which adult albatrosses captured on Oahu would be flown to the new colony at K.P.N.W.R. for release (TO).

A (Hawaiian) Dark-rumped Petrel (Endangered) observed flying near the 7000 ft level on Mauna Kea above E.S.F.P., June 19 might have been the same bird observed at the same place Apr. 20 (FD). These petrels nest on Maui and Lanai, and might possibly be nesting in very small numbers somewhere on

Hawaii I Flocks of 91 and 100+ Great Frigatebirds seen in late afternoon flying over e. Honolulu, O., July 6 (PF) & 7 (SS) were an unusual sight for this suburban residential area. They were taking a short cut across the mountains heading toward their roost on Moku Manu islet. A Cattle Egret with an injured wing has been resident at Johnston Atoll, 1100 km s.w. of Honolulu, for the past year (*fide* RS). Eleven Hawaiian Geese (Nene—Endangered) were seen flying over Saddle Road near Puuhuluhulu, H., June 21, and nine again in the same area June 26 (FD).

FRANCOLINS THROUGH TERNS — Interesting reports of introduced gamebirds this season included two Erckel's Francolins sighted at Kolekole Pass, O., July 20 (KF), a Japanese Quail heard calling in a cane field on Kawailoa Ridge, O., July 16 (TP), and a Kalij Pheasant and a (Green) Ring-necked Pheasant seen well in Kipuka Puauulu in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, H., in mid-July (PB). A Black-bellied Plover, uncommon migrant in the central Pacific, was collected at Johnston Atoll in early July (RS, *in Los Angeles County Museum). A Red-necked Phalarope, rarest of the phalaropes in Hawaii, was seen regularly at Laysan I. from July 11 until the observer departed Aug. 4 (EB, ph. to H.R.B.P.F.).

A Least/Little Tern was seen well at Waiawa Unit, Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O., June 5, and probably the same individual was seen later the same day at nearby Waipio, O. (SB). Two others were reported at Pearl & Hermes Reef June 4 (TO, *fide* KM). These were odd early-summer dates for this species complex in Hawaii, where post-breeding strays seldom arrive in the main Hawaiian Islands any earlier than mid-July. One seen at Laysan I. for a week beginning July 10 (EB, ph. to H.R.B.P.F.) occurred at a more expected date. A pair of **Blue-gray Noddies** successfully fledged one young on North I., Johnston Atoll, in July (RS, *fide* SF). This was the first known nesting of Blue-grays at Johnston, where the species was first recorded in 1985. Five hundred White Terns were banded at Johnston Atoll in July, from a total population estimated at 4000–5000 (RS).

CAPRIMULGIDS THROUGH CROWS — The first doc-

S.A.

Both good news and sad news came from this year's nesting efforts by the captive flock of Hawaiian Crows ('Alala—Endangered) at E.S.F.P. Good news was that for the first time in the history of the captive flock, all birds in the flock began nesting activity this year. Four pairs each built a nest and the 9th bird, an unmated female, also built a nest. Sad news was that no young were produced.

Three of the nests, including that of the unmated female, were built on the ground, and were destroyed by rain before eggs were laid. Ground nesting by 'Alala had not been previously known, either in captivity or in the wild. In the other 2 nests, clutches of one and 2 eggs were laid in May and June, but these did not develop beyond 2 days (FD).

Increase in breeding activity this year could be related to the suspension during the breeding period of heavy ordnance firing by the U.S. Army on its training grounds adjoining the captive rearing facility. In past years, vibrations and shock from heavy firing by the Army are known to have disturbed the 'Alala's breeding attempts, and are strongly suspected to have been a cause of cracks discovered in some of the eggs (FD). A joint Army-Hawaii State project to move the captive rearing facility to new and better quarters on Maui I. was not completed before this year's breeding season as planned. If procedural questions are resolved, the move can be made before next year's breeding season. For the sake of the species, whose remaining numbers in the wild may be no more than the captive flock of nine, we certainly hope so.

umented report of a **Caprimulgid** in Hawaii came from Tern I., F.F.S., where one was observed daily from July 21 and was still there in mid-August. It was photographed at distances down to 1–2 m. The observers (RV *et al.*) believed it to be a Lesser Nighthawk after considering all other North American species. Identity confirmation awaits comparison of the photos with e. Asian species, particularly *Caprimulgus indicus*.

LEIOTHRIX THROUGH HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS — One Red-billed Leiothrix heard singing on Kawailoa Ridge in n. Oahu July 16 and three in the Pauoa Flats area of s.e. Oahu July 19 (TP) confirmed that this introduced species was still extant in widely separated parts of the Koolau Mt range. One 'Elepaio, lots of 'Amakihi, and a few 'Apapane were recorded on Pauoa Ridge, O., July 19 (TP). An 'Akiapola'au (Endangered) was heard singing June 16 near Puu Laau Cabin, H. (FD), where the species is only occasionally reported. No surveys of the super-rare Endangered Hawaiian forest birds were undertaken on Kauai and Maui during late spring and summer this year (CKe) because of cutbacks in U.S.F. & W S programs.

ESTRILDID "FINCHES" — Common Waxbills have now been recorded on the far w. and n.w. coasts of Oahu. CK₁ had three in her yard between Waialua and Haleiwa on Oahu's n shore for the first time June 20. As part of an intensive survey of the current ranges of Estrildid species on Oahu, KF reported at least 34 Com. Waxbills at Campbell Industrial Park, and from one to 10 at Waianae, Dillingham Airstrip, and Haleiwa during July to Aug. 1. Two Warbling Silverbills were reported in Maili July 15 (KF), only the 4th report of the species on Oahu and much farther n.w. than the others. The observer is familiar with these birds from having raised them in captivity. Two ad. Chestnut Mannikins and four probable juveniles were on Kawailoa Trail, n. Oahu, July 16 (TP). This species was also found in good numbers at Makakilo and Campbell Industrial Park, s.w. Oahu, during July (KF). At Mililani High School in central Oahu, seven to nine Red Avadavats were in a flock of 100+ Nutmeg Mannikins June 2 (KF). Two Java Sparrows were seen at Haleiwa on Oahu's n. shore Aug. 1 (KF).

These records represent new or rarely-reported localities for these species, which (except for Nutmeg Mannikin) are currently in a stage of dynamic range expansion.

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Robert L. Norton

Rainfall in the Virgin Islands in June was 23% below the 60 year average, and July rainfall was 37% below this average, as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. The dry summer followed a late, wet spring that provided a fair summer food crop.

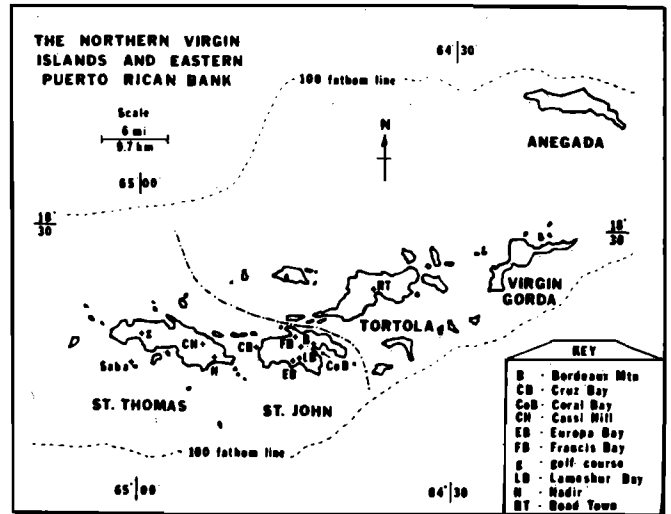
The future and/or isolation of the Guanica Forest in western Puerto Rico may be threatened by a Club Med resort (San Juan Star, Sept. 15, 1986) located on 160 acres just south of the state forest. Tropical Forestry Service officials are taking the position that the forest would be irreparably damaged. This unique area is habitat for several endemic and threatened species, including the rediscovered Puerto Rican Nightjar. Human encroachment is continuing to reduce tropical habitats piecemeal throughout the West Indies as more and more visitors return to initiate or stimulate development.

The National Historic Trust, British Virgin Islands government, supported the first territory-wide seabird survey in June. Seabirds in the British Virgin Islands have long suffered from poaching which has apparently been regulated to some degree, but not rigorously enforced. Nesting success was nonexistent for some species and limited for others. The Trust is attempting habitat restoration and surveillance for seabirds in the territory which, if successful, will improve the status of species on the eastern Puerto Rico Bank. Ruud van Halewyn reminds us that poaching is an ever-present problem in the Caribbean in his report "eggers took all early eggs of Cayenne Terns, plus most of Roseate, Common and Sooty Terns and sold them by the many hundreds in San Nicolas (Aruba)" in the summer of 1985.

Reports are generally few during summer, but observers visiting in the northern Bahamas and researchers in Aruba, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands submitted some interesting notes and observation of breeders, late and early migrants in the Region.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.V.I. = British Virgin Islands; P.R. = Puerto Rico; St. C. = St. Croix; St. J. = St. John; V.I. = Virgin Islands.

GREBE THROUGH TERNS — An ad. Least Grebe with five chicks was noted July 19 at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R. (PM et al.), for one of the few reports of breeding on the P.R. Bank. A Reddish Egret observed June 28 at Rincon, P.R., on the west coast, probably represented a vagrant from the Dominican Republic. Four imm. Greater Flamingos were present in s.w. Puerto Rico July 12–31 at Cabo Rojo N.W.R. and Pitahaya Salinas (IC, PM, JC et al.). Local fishermen (fide PM) report that flamingos appear occasionally along the w. coast of P.R.; these are likely to be vagrants from colonies in the Dominican Republic. An island count of 95 White-cheeked Pintails June 30 at St. C. (FS) also provided evidence of widely-dispersed nesting activity on offshore cays and around mainland mangrove ponds. Resident Turkey Vultures were noted at Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas, June 20 (PWS, SAD, KMP). A Broad-winged Hawk seen at Maricao State Forest, P.R., July 16 was apparently the first recorded from that location (TD, FV). A Red-tailed Hawk was seen taking a Sooty Tern above a large, isolated colony at Carrot Rock, Peter Island, B.V.I., June 14 (RLN, NC). Red-tailed Hawk predation of Sooty Terns has been noted at Culebra N.W.R., P.R. (fide JT). Summer reports of Osprey in P.R. and from Aruba (RvH) June 19, are of imm. birds that lack the urge to migrate. These have led some observers in



the past to declare nesting activity—see Wilson Bull. 91:148–149, 1979. This undocumented report of birds of prey building a nest near the sea in May is insufficient and misleading. A small trial nest of *P. h. carolinensis* closely examined (RLN, FS, ER, JY) at Krause Lagoon (AB 38:969, 1984) undoubtedly represented an abortive attempt by an imm. male unable to attract a cooperative female. Northern Bobwhites are apparently resident at Marsh Harbour (PWS et al.) where they were heard calling regularly June 20–23, expanding their range to Abaco instead of New Providence, Eleuthera and Andros (Bond 1979). Ten Snowy Plovers were noted at Anegada, B.V.I., June 22 (RLN), where nesting pairs have been found recently. Three Greater Yellowlegs and 20 Willets were also noted there on the same date (RLN, NC). Table 1 offers numbers of migrant shorebirds and date of occurrence from 2 locations on and adjacent to the P.R. Bank.

Laughing Gulls nesting at Anegada (20 pairs) appeared to have a low mean clutch size (2.05) compared to previous years (ca. 2.35) which may be attributed to a reduced food resource this season. A remarkable summer record of a **Common Black-**

Table 1. Numbers and date of occurrence of migrant shorebirds observed at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., Puerto Rico, and St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Species	Cabo Rojo (PM et al.)	St. Croix (FS)
Black-bellied Plover	—	26/24-7
Semipalmated Plover	37/30-7	21/24-7
Greater Yellowlegs	—	13/30-6
Lesser Yellowlegs	879/30-7	6/24-7
Willet	9/25-6	16/26-6*
Spotted Sandpiper	1/22-7	1/24-7
Whimbrel	3/30-7	8/30-6
Ruddy Turnstone	—	51/30-6
Red Knot	3/9-7	2/26-6
Sanderling	1/30-7	—
Semipalmated Sandpiper	419/30-7	155/26-6
Western Sandpiper	39/25-6	61/29-6
Least Sandpiper	523/30-7	35/24-7
Pectoral Sandpiper	2/30-7	1/26-7
Stilt Sandpiper	133/30-7	40/30-6
Short-billed Dowitcher	7/25-6	1/8-6

* nesting confirmed

headed Gull seen at Cabo Rojo N W R , July 22–31 (PM, WB, JC, S & MF, m.ob.) post-dates a June 9 record (Bond 1979) from the Lesser Antilles. Further details are expected elsewhere. The small colony of Gull-billed Terns (6 pairs) at Anegada, B.V.I., suffered a major setback. Only one clutch of unbroken eggs was found June 22, while the others had been attacked by ants as the chicks pipped the shell. Sladen noted two breeding-plumaged Gull-billeds at St. C. on July 14. Sandwich Tern pairs numbered 475 at Anegada June 22 (RLN, NC) in 2 groups rather than one large group as has been censused in the past (RLN). Among the Sandwich Terns were 10 individuals with either pure yellow (three) or mottled black-yellow bills, indicating continued presence of Cayenne Tern (*S. s. eurygnatha*) introgression on the P.R. Bank (Norton 1984, Schaffner *et al.* 1986). Roseate Terns nested in very small numbers in the B.V.I., principally at Seal Dog rocks where 15 nests were counted (RLN, NC) on June 14. There were large numbers of Roseates feeding in nearby waters, which suggests that the colony had been egged. An ad. Common Tern was seen at St. C. (FS) on July 5. There are a number of mid- to late-summer records of Com. Terns from St. C., which may suggest that breeding birds are being egged on the P.R. Bank and await migration with other non-breeding terns on that island prior to their September departure. Halewyn noted that Black Noddies seem to be increasing at Aruba, Neth. Antilles, with at least nine birds present in the summer of 1985.

PARROTS THROUGH SPARROW — Cuban Parrots were reported to be common and easily seen in s. Abaco, Bahamas, but numbers were not available (PWS *et al.*). A single Antillean Nighthawk was seen June 27 at St. C. (FS), raising the suspicion that the species has returned as a breeder after a long hiatus (*vide* GS). If confirmed, St. C. is the southernmost isolated breeding station in the Caribbean. A summer record of two nighthawks at St. Martin's, Neth. Antilles, airport (June 14, Voous 1983) may refer to *gundlachii*. The extensive lowlands of St. Martin should not be overlooked as possible breeding sites. Antillean Nighthawks were also noted June 20–23 at Marsh Harbour, Abaco, where they nest in May and June. A swift (sp.) was noted July 5 at St. C. (RW, PM, *vide* FS), providing one of the very few reports of any swift from the V.I. West Indian Woodpeckers were observed at Marsh Harbour, Abaco, June 20–23 (PWS *et al.*), and heard or seen at several other locations on the island. I agree with Bond (26th Suppl., Checklist, 1986) that the name West Indian as applied to this species, which has a restricted range in the Bahamas, Cuba, and Grand Cayman, is misleading and inappropriate. Abaco's other resident woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, was noted June 21 (PWS *et al.*).

S.A.

Sladen reports that a ♂ **Purple Martin** was seen and confirmed (RW, RR, PP) paired and nesting at Fredricksted, St. C., on June 9 & 30 with an as yet unconfirmed ♀ *subis* or *dominicensis*. The pair successfully raised two young at the Fredricksted Pier, where a ♂ Purple Martin was seen last year (FS *et al.*) from March to July. Caribbean Martins (*P. (s.) dominicensis*) winter in South America, presumably in the historical range of *P. subis* and Southern Martin (*P. elegans*) in Bolivia. Southern Martin looks very much like *subis* and has been recorded from Key West, Florida (A.O.U., 1983) in August, suggesting that some individuals may return extraliminally with migrant *subis* or *dominicensis*. More descriptive material would be desirable regarding any all-dark martins during summer in the West Indies. This is the southern most breeding record of the species in North America.

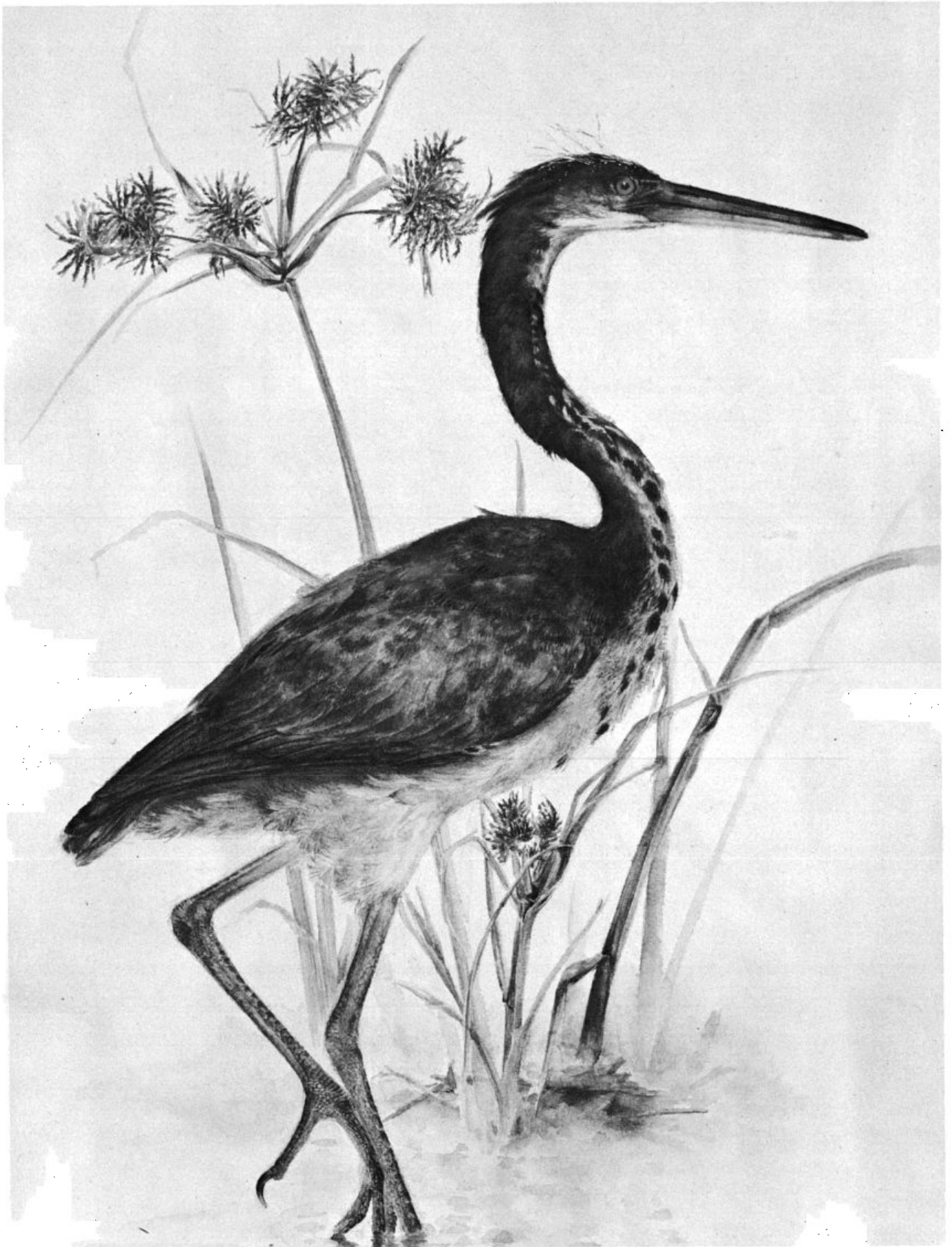
A Eur Starling remained at St. C., July 9–14 (FS), for one of the few V.I. occurrences. Another remarkable summer record was that of a well-described **Northern Parula** at Cabo Rojo N.W.R. (CS, WB) June 1–25, during which period CS recorded it singing. This is apparently the only June record of the species in the West Indies. Smith reported seeing a few Olive-capped Warblers at Abaco June 21; the species is endemic to that island, Grand Bahama, and limited areas of Cuba. Another endemic warbler, Elfin Woods Warbler, was noted July 26 (PM, WB) at Maricao State Forest, P.R. A few Red-winged Blackbirds were noted at Crossing Rock, Abaco, June 22 (PWS *et al.*); some breeding pairs can be expected in the n. Bahamas. A quarterly census of Yellow-shouldered Blackbird, an endangered endemic of P.R., revealed a large roost at Parguera where 80 birds were counted July 2 (PM, SS, TD *et al.*). A total of 131 birds was counted from Parguera to Boqueron, P.R. (D.N.R., E.S.O.). The principal culprit of Yellow-shouldered Blackbird decline is the nest parasite Shiny Cowbird, which has made an explosive expansion of its range recently. The cowbird was lacking on St. C. until very recently, when a male was noted near mid-island last winter (RLN, FS). Apparently the same bird has been returning to roost in the same locale, as reported by FS on July 31. Initial observations of the species on St. C. met with courageous and immediate dispatch of all individuals in the 1940s. Similar action should be contemplated as the species expands its range into areas where certain species are vulnerable to nest parasitism, such as Tawny-shouldered Blackbird and other endemics of Cuba and the Bahamas. Another potentially harmful species, the House Sparrow, is apparently extant at Marsh Harbour, Abaco (PWS *et al.*), where it was observed June 20.

EXOTICS — Smith suggests that Florida is the source of the Region's newest introduction, Eurasian Collared-Dove, found at Abaco. More details are expected elsewhere.

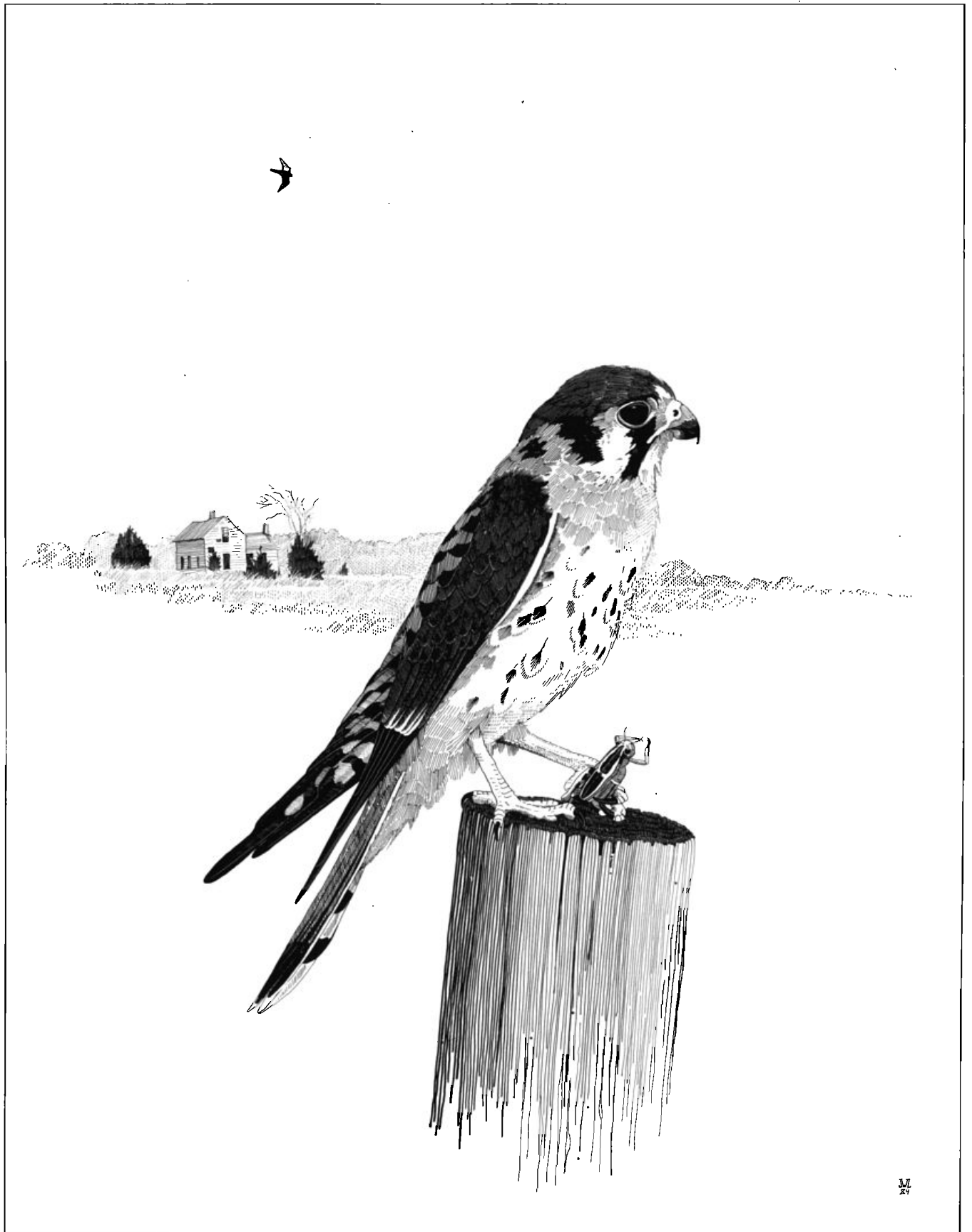
CORRIGENDUM — Royal Terns are scarce, non-breeding visitors to Aruba, Neth. Antilles, contrary to AB 38(6):1065.

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Immature Tricolored Heron (Egretta tricolor). Illustration/Michelle LaGory.



American Kestrel (Falco sparverius). Illustration/James Lish.