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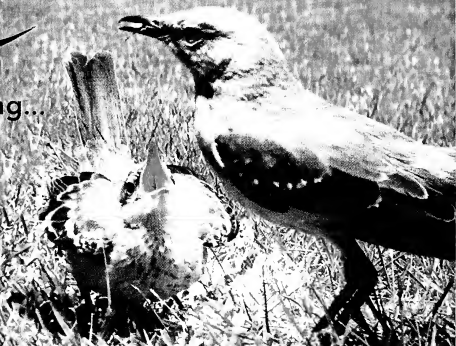
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American Avocet. Photograph by Geoff Malosh. See page 581.



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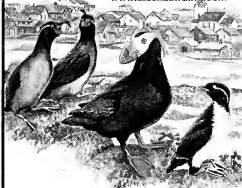
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A Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*) in California: a first for the state and fourth for North America

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Abstract

This paper summarizes the occurrence and identification of California's first Lesser Frigatebird (*Fregata ariel*), a subadult female photographed on 15 July 2007 at Lanphere Dunes near Arcata, Humboldt County. This record is the fourth of this species for North America and the first in the eastern Pacific Ocean of the Western Hemisphere.

Field encounter

On the evening of 15 July 2007, Marshall J. Iliff, C. J. Ralph, Peter Ralph, and Brian L. Sullivan were observing birds at the Lanphere Dunes, a unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, west of Arcata, Humboldt County, California (40° 53' 43" N, 124° 8' 58" W). The weather was unusually calm and warm, with approximately eighty percent cloud cover. At about 18:30 PST, Peter Ralph spotted a frigatebird (*Fregata* species) soaring roughly 100 m above the water and approximately 500 m distant, moving slightly southward and toward the observers, apparently investigating an active feeding flock of Common Murres (*Uria aalge*) and Brandt's Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*). He immediately alerted C. J. Ralph and Sullivan to the bird's presence, and Sullivan alerted Iliff. Within a minute, all were watching the bird through binoculars. Sullivan and quickly trained a spotting scope on the bird and was able to age the bird as an immature by virtue of its largely white head. Iliff soon arrived, and we traded distant scope views of the bird as it drifted northward away from us.

Figure 1. Female Lesser Frigatebird, Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt County, California, 15 July 2007. In this image, note the bright pink bill, black "V" extending into the white of the central breast, and bright pink feet. Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.



Figure 2. Female Lesser Frigatebird, Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt County, California, 15 July 2007. This image shows the distinctive pink bill to good advantage as well as the head pattern: a mostly white head with a dark hindneck, indicating an immature female. Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.

We could only see the white chest and axillaries from this perspective, and we knew that better views would be needed to identify the bird to the species level. Sullivan had a camera, but the bird at that point was too distant to be photographed well. The frigatebird then drifted northward along the beach for about three minutes, banked inland about a kilometer north of us, and then turned inland and southward towards the Mad River Slough. The group then set out in pursuit, as the bird moved along the forest edge just inland from the slough.

C. J. Ralph phoned the local bird alert with the news, hoping that others would be able to help search. The frigatebird followed the edge of the interior riparian zone bordering the dune system, now heading southward toward the Ralph residence, flying at an altitude of approximately 30 m. Steven T. Kelling was at the Ralph residence and was alerted by phone to ready himself with camera, in the event that the frigatebird passed over the house. Iliff ran to the house (where his camera was located) to join Kelling in the search. The other three observers remained on the dunes where they could watch the bird's progress from a distance and coordinate the search with mobile phones.

The frigatebird halted its southward movement about halfway to the house and began to interact with a few Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*). The nature of this interaction was unclear, but the ravens were vocalizing from below the trees while the frigatebird appeared to take evasive flight tactics by diving and swooping just over the treeline. It was impossible to tell if the ravens were chasing the frigatebird or vice-versa, as we never actually saw the ravens. The frigatebird, however, was periodically in

view for the next ten minutes, diving and swooping over the distant treeline. Finally, the bird disappeared from view over the trees to the east. At this point, the three observers on the outer dunes decided to head inland towards the place where the bird was last seen. About ten minutes later from a position farther inland on the dunes, Peter Ralph relocated the bird again soaring over the same treeline, at which point it was watched through the spotting scope and photographed by Sullivan. After a few minutes of soaring, the frigatebird briefly perched in a large conifer. It quickly took flight again and began soaring but then disappeared into a large clearing that consisted of a sandy dune system bordered by conifers and dense undergrowth. Kelling and Iliff reassembled during this period, having tried unsuccessfully to find the bird from opposite sides of the dunes, as the frigatebird was so low over the treeline that it would have been visible only intermittently. Iliff and Kelling were reached by mobile phone and alerted to the bird's possible location.

Thinking the bird had perched, Sullivan and Peter Ralph headed off on a trail to get a closer look, planning to meet Iliff and Kelling at this location, while C. J. Ralph remained atop a dune in case the bird took flight again. After a short hike, the first observers arrived at the sandy area. Iliff and Kelling arrived at about the same time, and all began scanning the surrounding area for the perched frigatebird. After a few minutes, Sullivan spotted the bird perched 20 m high in a Douglas-fir, just 100 m away. Joined by C. J. Ralph, we enjoyed excellent scope views of the perched bird and discussed the field marks. Knowing that better photographs would be required to make a positive identification, Iliff moved closer to the bird, and Sullivan waited for flight shots in case the bird took off. Iliff was able to approach within a reasonable distance and obtained good photographs of the bird perched (Figures 1-2). After ten minutes of observation, the frigatebird took flight and headed westward, directly over the observers' heads,

and Iliff and Sullivan were able to get a series of flight shots (Figures 3-8). Carol Ralph arrived just in time to see the bird overhead as it disappeared low over the western treeline and headed toward the ocean.

Numerous birders arrived shortly thereafter, and we searched until dusk with no further sign of the frigatebird. Subsequent searches by others the following morning and next day up and down the coast failed to relocate the bird. We were uncertain of the species identification until later that evening, when we consulted Harrison (1984) and Harrison (1987); photographs in the latter source reminded us that the pinkish bill was nearly diagnostic for Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*), a species that we had suspected during the observation based on the prominent white axillary spurs.

Description

The following description is based on notes written following the observation and on photographs.

The Humboldt County frigatebird was blackish overall, with prominent pale alar bars that reached the forewing and that appeared whitish-buff in the field. The underparts were largely blackish but with a prominent clean white breast, dusky head pattern (at a distance), and pale cinnamon on the upper breast (visible at a fair distance). White



Figure 3. Female Lesser Frigatebird, Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt County, California, 15 July 2007. As this bird leaves its perch in a Douglas-fir, it reveals its white hind collar and developing blackish hood that has created a partial collar across the lower throat. This image also shows the pinkish orbital ring. Magnificent Frigatebird would be expected to show a bluish orbital ring. Photograph by Marshall J. Iliff.

spurs extended into the axillaries, but the underwing area was largely dark otherwise. The belly was black, with a dark extension pointing toward the lower breast.

General shape and size—Readily identifiable as a frigatebird by virtue of the long, forked tail, overall black and white coloration, sharply angled wings, and large size (Figures 1-8). Di-



Figure 4. Female Lesser Frigatebird, Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt County, California, 15 July 2007. This image shows that the cinnamon feathering below the throat fell largely below the pattern of dark plumage developing on the head. The narrow black collar appears as though it will extend across the throat as the plumage matures, creating a solid black hood; a dark throat in adult female plumage is shared by Magnificent Frigatebird but not Great Frigatebird. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

rect comparison with other birds was not possible; its interactions with two Common Ravens occurred largely below the treeline.

Head pattern—The head pattern was one of the more striking features of the bird. Seen well in flight, the white face was framed by a dark nape and hindcrown, as well as a developing partial collar across the lower throat that imparted a ring-necked look (Figures 1–8). The hindcrown was totally black, contrasting with a bold pale collar on the hindneck. The overall impression was that the bird was in the process of becoming black-headed, with a pale hindneck and clean white chest. The hooded appearance was not quite complete, the black just shy of joining together at the lower throat.

Breast pattern and coloration—Although the breast was white overall, cinnamon feathering was present on the lower throat just below the partial black collar, particularly concentrated at the center (Figures 1, 4). Through the scope we were able to discern actual feathers, some being cinnamon and some being white, adjacent to each other, which argues against the possibility that this coloration was a result of staining. The impression was of an overall buff-cinnamon wash to the upper breast/lower throat, concentrated in the middle.

Axillary pattern—The axillaries had a prominent white "spur" comprised of wholly white feathers, whitest toward the base of the axillaries, with the patch narrowing toward the distal portion (Figures 5–7). In flight, this white patch in the axillaries was prominent and did not appear as mottled "scalloping," a

pattern typical of female Magnificent Frigatebirds (*E. magnificens*), for instance.

Belly pattern—The lower belly was marked with a black inverted "V" that reached up through the central portion of the belly pointing toward the lower breast (Figures 1, 2).

Hindneck pattern—The hindneck was strongly marked with a pale collar, appearing whitish buff and well defined in the field (Figure 8).

Bill—The bill was strikingly pinkish or horn-pink in color (Figures 1–2).

Orbital ring—The pinkish orbital ring was readily apparent and well developed.

Eyes—The eyes were entirely dark. (Figure 2).

Feet and legs—The legs and feet were pinkish (Figures 1, 2).

Discussion

The three prior records of Lesser Frigatebird for North America have involved two adult males and one adult female, and there are also three records for Great Frigatebird (*E. minor*) in North America (Table 1). The identification of immatures in various plumage stages is more problematic, and solid literature regarding the maturation process of frigatebirds is limited. We consulted the published literature

on frigatebird identification and solicited the opinions of experts familiar with any or all of the frigatebird species. The sources we found most helpful were Howell (1994), Harrison (1984), and James (2004).

Below we discuss the specific characters that led us to conclude the bird was a Lesser Frigatebird and allowed us to rule out the other contenders, combining known field characters of adults and the suspected development and maturation processes in frigatebirds with the logical developmental stages of immature females.

Probability

In North America, the usual assumption has been that any vagrant frigatebird is most likely to be a Magnificent Frigatebird, which breeds in Florida and northern Mexico. Magnificent Frigatebird does have an extensive pattern of vagrancy, with records as far north as Alaska and Newfoundland (A.O.U. 1998). Most of these records fall between July and September, and California has well over 1000 records, mostly from invasion years at the Salton Sea and areas in southern California. At the time of our observation, on 15 July 2007, although we suspected that probability still favored Magnificent Frigatebird anywhere in North America in mid-July, we felt it essential to get close studies and photographs to eliminate other species, especially given



Figure 5. Female Lesser Frigatebird, Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt County, California, 15 July 2007. This image shows the prominent white axillary "spurs," comprised of entirely white axillary feathers. Although Magnificent and Great Frigatebirds can have narrow scalloping on the axillaries in some plumages, only Lesser shows such large, white axillary patches that involve completely white feathers. The head pattern, bill color, and belly pattern also show well in this image. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

that northern California may be as close to Hawaiian breeding grounds of Great Frigatebird as it is to those of Magnificent Frigatebird in Baja California Sur and Sonora.

In North America, three frigatebird species have occurred (Table 1), and arguably the

Table 1. Records of Great and Lesser Frigatebirds from the mainland United States.				
Age, Sex, Species	Date	Location	Reference	Notes
ad. male Lesser Frigatebird	3 Jul 1960	Deer Isle, Hancock County, ME	Snyder 1961	Observed flying overhead; filmed
ad. female Lesser Frigatebird	11 Jul 2003	Basin, Big Horn County, WY	Faulkner 2006	Found moribund; photographs
ad. male Lesser Frigatebird	11 Sep 2005	Lake Erie Metropark, MI	Brennan and Schultz 2006	Flying past hawkwatch; photographs
immature female Lesser Frigatebird	15 Jul 2007	Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt County, CA	the present article	Observed in flight and perched; photographs
ad. male Great Frigatebird	3 Nov 1975	Perry, Noble County, OK	Heller and Barclay 1977, A.O.U. 1983, DeBenedictis 1992	Specimen
ad. female Great Frigatebird	13 Oct 1979	Moss Landing, Monterey County, CA	McCaskie and San Miguel 1999	Observed flying along shore; photographs
ad. or near-adult female Great Frigatebird	14 Mar 1992	Southeast Farallon Island, CA	Heindel and Patten 1996	Observed flying overhead; photographs

world's two other species—Christmas Frigatebird (*F. andrews*) and Ascension Frigatebird (*F. aquila*)—must be given due consideration, though both would seem unlikely to appear in North America, as they have small populations and very localized breeding ranges. However, Ascension Frigatebird has occurred as a long-distance vagrant to Scotland: an immature female was found moribund 9 July 1953 on the island of Tiree, Inner Hebrides, Argyllshire. Originally identified as Magnificent Frigatebird, it was reidentified fifty years later (Walbridge et al. 2003) and added to the British List (B.O.U. 2003). Ascension Frigatebird is more likely to be confused with Magnificent than with Lesser, but Christmas Frigatebird has some plumage similarities with Lesser and is discussed below.

Age

Frigatebirds take many years to reach full maturity. Their plumage cycles may not necessarily correspond to calendar years, making their molt sequences more complicated than those of most birds. The primaries of the Humboldt County bird have been replaced at least twice (Figure 5), revealing the bird is in at least its third cycle (P. Pyle, pers. comm.). We know this because there is a gradation from pale to dark from p4 to p10, meaning that these second-cycle feathers have been replaced sequentially, the older inner primaries being palest. Moreover, the bird has replaced again p1–p3, those feathers being the newest, darkest, and freshest overall. Given the dearth of knowledge concerning the actual maturation process in frigatebirds we estimate this bird to be at least three years old and possibly considerably older based on the advanced state of its head pattern.

Sex

We arrived at the conclusion that this bird

was an immature female primarily because the head pattern is suggestive of a bird that is in the process of developing a completely dark head. The color of the breast and underparts are consistent with those expected in an older immature female, approaching an adult female pattern. If the bird were a male, based on the plumage sequences of other frigatebird species, it should show some dark mottling on the white underparts by this age.

Details of plumage and soft parts

Several features of the Humboldt County frigatebird helped us eliminate other frigatebird species from consideration. The combi-



Figure 6. Female Lesser Frigatebird, Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt County, California, 15 July 2007. The underwing and head pattern are also seen to good advantage in this image. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

nation of close study through the spotting scope and reasonably good photographs have allowed us to look at all the pertinent field marks in detail.

Head pattern—The head pattern was that of an older female frigatebird that was becoming

entirely dark-headed, beginning with the lower margin of the black hood. The black partial collar across the lower throat was too extensive for female Great Frigatebird, which at most would have black extending to the edges of the throat. Our research indicates that the black partial collar effectively eliminates female Great Frigatebird from consideration. This crisply defined black half-collar may be diagnostic for immature female Lesser Frigatebirds (S. N. G. Howell, pers. comm.), but this requires further study. The extent to which immature males could show a similar pattern is unknown, but it seems likely that a male would show significant black mottling in the white breast, where the Humboldt County bird showed the typical plumage pattern of older females.

Hindneck pattern—The strong white collar on the hindneck is typical of older subadult and adult female Lesser Frigatebirds. Female Great Frigatebirds can have a pale collar, but this is atypical (P. Pyle, pers. comm.). The prominence and whiteness of this collar strongly suggest Lesser rather than an atypical Great.

Cinnamon feathering—The cinnamon feathering on the lower throat just below the partial black collar strongly suggested a species other than Magnificent. While immature Magnificents lack cinnamon feathering altogether, this color is typical in Great and Lesser Frigatebirds. Our scope views indicated that breast feathers were both cinnamon and white. Great Frigatebirds are extensively cinnamon-headed in their first plumage cycle and retain some cinnamon feathering for at least the next two plumage cycles (i.e., Basic I and Basic II; Howell 1994; S. N. G. Howell, pers. comm.). There is considerably less information on the extent of cinnamon in subadult Lesser Frigatebird plumages, but juveniles begin with an extensively cinnamon head like a Great Frigatebird and presumably may retain it for up to two plumage cycles thereafter (James 2004). We can find no reference indicating that Magnificents can ever be tawny-headed, and we are of the opinion that this character alone may eliminate Magnificent from consideration. The larger Christmas Frigatebird has a tawny head in juvenal plumage and gradu-



Figure 7. Female Lesser Frigatebird, Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt County, California, 15 July 2007. The crisp division between the head and clean white belly is evident in this image, as are many of the other field marks discussed above. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

ally loses this color over subsequent plumage cycles, but other plumage characteristics are not shared with Lesser.

Belly pattern—The black inverted “V” reaching up through the central portion of the belly and lower breast is typical of female Lesser and Magnificent but is not right for Great Frigatebird, which should show a more evenly “U-shaped” belly patch. Juvenal and immature Christmas Frigatebirds do not show this pattern and instead have pale or white bellies and often large wedges of dark feathering across the white of the upper breast (James 2004).

Axillary pattern—Although immature Magnificent and to a lesser extent Great Frigatebirds can have white extending into the axillaries in immature plumages, these axillary spurs are never as bold or as extensive as on Lesser Frigatebird. The Humboldt County frigatebird showed an extensive, solidly white bulge protruding from the breast sides into the axillaries, consistent with female Lesser Frigatebird. On Magnificent or Great, the axillary spur tends to appear as pale scalloping rather than as a solid patch. The feathers comprising the spur appear to be wholly white, and not limited to pale fringes, as with Magnificent. Apparently, a small proportion of immature Great Frigatebirds can have extensive white axillaries approaching those of our bird (P. Pyle, pers. comm.), but this is not typical. Christmas Frigatebird in this age/sex

shows more extensive (longer) white axillary spurs than the Humboldt County bird.

Orbital ring—The well-developed pinkish orbital ring is a strong indicator of Lesser Frigatebird. Adult female Magnificents would have a gray or bluish orbital ring; female Great Frigatebird has a red orbital ring; and



Figure 8. Female Lesser Frigatebird, Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt County, California, 15 July 2007. This distant photograph was one of the first ones captured; it shows the extensive white collar that is a typical of Lesser Frigatebird. The pale carpal bars are typical of female frigatebirds of all species. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

Magnificents can have fleshy or pinkish orbital rings, but only in rare young individuals. The exact colors of frigatebirds soft parts, and how these colors change with age, is a matter of some debate, but typically only Lesser Frigatebird has a bright pink orbital ring in

the latter stages of immaturity.

Bill color—The bill was strikingly pinkish or horn-pink (Figures 1–8). Although some Great Frigatebirds have been reported to have blue-gray, flesh-colored, or even pink bills (Howell 1994), older female Magnificents have blue-gray bills. Immature female Lesser and Christmas Frigatebirds both rather bright pinkish bills; however, they can be readily separated by differences in the shape of the white belly patch.

Foot color—The fairly bright pink feet of this bird, easily visible while it perched in the Douglas-fir, are probably not useful for identification, as Great, Magnificent, and Lesser Frigatebirds all have pinkish feet as adult females.

Apparent patterns of vagrancy

Magnificent Frigatebirds have occurred as vagrants in North America primarily between June to mid-September in the West, with a peak in July and August (Mlodinow 1998) and May to October in the East, with an apparent peak in June (M. J. Iliif, unpub. data) but with the farther-flung birds appearing August–September.

Although there are now just four North American records, a relatively narrow window of vagrancy appears to be developing for Lesser Frigatebird in North America. Of the four records, three have occurred between 3

and 15 July! The lone outlier is the Michigan record from 11 September 2005; Brennan and Shultz (2006) suggested that its appearance could have been connected to the passage of Hurricane *Katrina* 12 days earlier. (*Katrina* originally formed as a tropical depression

southeast of Nassau, Bahamas, on 23 August and did not pass through the known range of Lesser Frigatebird, but the bird may have been influenced in some manner by this very large and powerful hurricane's movement.) Discussing the Wyoming record of 11 July 2003, Faulkner (2006) suggested that a low-pressure system that moved from the Gulf of Alaska through Wyoming had timing that was impressively coincident with the appearance of the Wyoming Lesser Frigatebird. Interestingly, many inland records of Magnificent Frigatebirds have no clear connection to tropical storm activity, and the same may be true of extralimital Lesser Frigatebird records as well. In mid-July 2007, a significant warm-water plume reached the northern California coast and could have had some connection to the wayward appearance of the Lesser Frigatebird there. Records of vagrant Lesser Frigatebirds come from Korea, Japan, and Kamchatka, and vagrancy to the Gulf of Alaska seems therefore plausible in this species. There are three Alaska records of *Fregata* from 26 June through July (Mlodinow 1998), and Lesser Frigatebird should be considered as a possibility in such cases.

Conversely, the emerging pattern of vagrancy for Great Frigatebird in North America falls largely outside the window of vagrancy for Magnificent and Lesser Frigatebirds. North America's first record was an adult male found grounded at Perry, Oklahoma on 3 November 1975 (A.O.U. 1983). The other two records both hail from California: an adult male off Moss Landing, Monterey County, 13 October 1979 (McCaskie and San Miguel 1999) and an adult or near-adult female at Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, 14 March 1992 (Heindel and Patten 1996, see *American Birds* 46: 475 for a photograph). Thus, the three records fall largely outside the vagrancy window of Magnificent Frigatebird; although October is at the tail end of the vagrancy window for Magnificent, there are very few records of known or suspected vagrant Magnificent Frigatebirds between November and April.

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Steve N. G. Howell provided information on identification of frigatebirds over the phone minutes after the observation and immediately proposed the possibility of Lesser Frigatebird. After the sighting, Howell was extremely helpful in providing unpublished identification material, opinions on the photographs, and advice on the ageing of the bird. Likewise, Peter Pyle was instrumental in helping to confirm the identification and age of the

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AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Breeding by a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) on the Atlantic coast of North America

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Abstract

This paper documents the second observation of breeding by Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) in North America and first for the American Atlantic coast. A single bird was discovered on Appledore Island, Maine on 29 May 2007, standing near a Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) at a nest with two eggs. We recorded breeding phenology and behavior of

the pair and their chicks from 30 May until 3 August 2007. Additional observations of the pair and the surviving juvenile were made in mid- and late August.

Field encounters

We observed a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) with a Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) near a nest with two eggs on Appledore

Island (42° 59' N; 70° 36' W) in the Isles of Shoals archipelago, located approximately 10 km from the coast of New Hampshire in the Gulf of Maine, first on the afternoon of 29 May 2007, while walking through a Herring Gull colony (Figure 1, Frontispiece; all photographs by David Brown). We discovered the Lesser Black-backed Gull standing next to a Herring Gull on the top of a bare ledge on the

periphery of the island. We climbed to the top of the ledge and observed a nest with two eggs near the location where the Lesser Black-backed Gull had been standing. We moved away from the nest to allow the gulls to return; the Lesser Black-backed Gull and the Herring Gull returned to the two-egg nest. The two gulls stood very close together, suggesting that they were a mated pair. We observed the nest and pair for approximately 1.5 hours, took photographs, and left the site.

The next day, we constructed an observation platform and blind and placed it in the best position for viewing the nest. Because the nest was located in a depression surrounded by boulders, it was difficult to see from most angles. Thus, the blind had to be situated approximately 60 m from the nest site in order to view the nest and pair adequately. The nest was observed every day from 30 May until 3 August 2007, for a total of 215 hours. Breeding behaviors of the pair were recorded during incubation, hatching, and pre-fledging stages and will be described in detail elsewhere (Stoddard and Ellis, unpubl. data). Videotape and photographs were taken throughout the observation period.

On 22 June, two chicks were observed at the nest (Figure 3). Both chicks survived until the week of 30 July, when the chicks moved behind the boulders surrounding the nest and were only occasionally visible. During this week, only one of the chicks was observed being fed by the parents, so we assume that the second chick had died. On 2 August, we went to the nest and found a fresh carcass nearby that appeared to be the second chick; we banded the surviving chick. On 3 August 2007 we left the island and were no longer able to observe the nest every day.

We returned to the island 11 August and observed the pre-fledging with its parents near the nest. We also obtained videotape of the parents and the pre-fledging. We observed the Lesser Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull at the nest 21 August, but the fledging was not present. Several fledglings were observed in a group on the water near shore, and it is possible that the fledging was in that



Figure 1. Lesser Black-backed Gull (right) with incubating Herring Gull at nest on Appledore Island, Maine. Photograph by David Brown.

group. We observed the nest from 10:30 through 12:30 and again from 13:30 through 15:00 and observed both adults at the nest, but the fledging was not observed.

Discussion

There is only one other record of a Lesser Black-backed Gull in the Isles of Shoals. One individual was observed in September 2006 near the same location (southeastern side of Appledore Island) as the bird we discovered in 2007 (S. Mirick, pers. comm.). There have been sporadic sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in coastal New Hampshire and Massachusetts, mainly during the winter months. Birds seen during summer months (June through August) are typically juveniles (S. Mirick, pers. comm.), and counts of both adults and juveniles have increased in recent decades.

Great Black-backed Gulls (*L. marinus*) and Herring Gulls breed on Appledore Island in a variety of habitats: on exposed inland ridges, cobble beaches, bare rock ledges on the island's periphery, and around shrubs and near buildings of the Shoals Marine Laboratory. Trends in Herring and Great Black-backed Gull populations on the Isles of Shoals are representative of those throughout New Eng-

land. Neither species bred on the Isles of Shoals at the turn of the century, but by 1972, Herring Gulls had increased to over 7000 breeding pairs, while Great Black-backed Gulls had increased to over 1100 pairs (Drury 1973). Since 1975, the number of breeding Herring Gulls has steadily declined, while the number of breeding Great Black-backed Gulls has increased (Borrer and Holmes 1990). Recent surveys indicate that breeding populations of both species have declined in the Isles of Shoals, and in 2006 there were approximately 1427 pairs of Herring Gulls and 1266 pairs of Great Black-backed Gull in the archipelago (Ellis, unpubl. data).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) breeds primarily in northern and western Europe but has undergone a considerable range expansion during the past century (Post and Lewis 1995). Since 1995, the breeding range of the subspecies *L. fuscus graellsii* has expanded southward to include the Canary Islands (Grande and Palacios 2002). The first record of a Lesser Black-backed Gull in North America (outside of Greenland) was in coastal New Jersey in 1934 (Edwards 1935). Records of this species in North America increased slowly from 1950 through the mid-



Figure 2. Juvenile gulls from nest of Lesser Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull at nest on Appledore Island, Maine; these birds were banded and color-marked for subsequent study. Photograph by David Brown.

1970s, then increased substantially thereafter; by 1994, it had been reported in all 31 states in the eastern half of the United States except for West Virginia (Post and Lewis 1995). Maximum numbers seen in a given day include 456 individuals observed in March 2007 at Lake Nockamixon, Pennsylvania (Bill Etter, pers. comm.). Most observations of Lesser Black-backed Gulls along the Atlantic coast of North America occur from October through April, but increasingly the species is observed between May and September, particularly on the outer coasts, e.g., North Carolina. Wintering birds may come from Iceland, where breeding populations of Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been increasing (Cramp and Simmons 1983), but the only firm record of a banded Lesser Black-backed comes from Cold Spring Harbor, New York; the bird had been banded in a Dutch breeding colony (de Knijff and van Swelm 1998).

North America's only other record of a breeding Lesser Black-backed Gull comes from Juneau, Alaska on 12 June 1993 (van Vliet et al. 1993): one was observed with a Herring Gull at a nest with two eggs in the middle of a small mixed colony of Herring Gulls and Glaucous-winged Gulls (*L. glaucescens*). That nesting was apparently not successful; the authors visited the site six weeks after the initial observation and found egg shell fragments and dried egg shell membranes near the nest, along with both members of the pair. They did not locate any evidence of juvenile birds at or near the nest.

Populations of the three subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*intermedius*, *gracillii*, and the nominate) have changed dramatically in recent years. Populations of *L. f. gracillii*

and *intermedius* have increased, whereas *L. f. fuscus* has decreased significantly throughout its range. *L. f. gracillii* breeds in the Faroes, British Isles, Iceland, France, the Netherlands, Germany, and more recently, the Canary Islands in the Macronesian archipelago (Post and Lewis 1995, Grande and Palacios 2002). *L. f. intermedius* breeds in southern Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands. *L. f. fuscus* breeds in northern Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Based on range expansion, increased breeding populations, and migratory patterns, *L. f. gracillii* would be most likely to occur in North America, along with some *L. f. intermedius* (Post and Lewis 1995; de Knijff and N. van Swelm 1998). *L. f. fuscus* has not been conclusively documented in North America.

Putative hybrids between Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been observed in some eastern states, including North Carolina, Connecticut (<www.fordham.edu/lewis/birds/comhyb/herxles.html>), and New York (<www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/lbbgull_hybrid.htm>). These observations, combined with records of large numbers of wintering Lesser Black-backed Gulls and observations of juvenile-plumaged birds (Ridout 1993), suggest that there may be breeding populations in North America that have yet to be discovered.

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The Changing Seasons: Southbound

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Lawrence's Goldfinches dispersed widely in late spring and summer 2007, certainly in response to severe drought across most of its breeding range; most extralimital records of the species come from the post-summer months. This male (two views; here 26 May) at Grand Junction, Colorado spent at least 23 May through 24 July in the area and was seen consorting with a female Lesser Goldfinch. On 3-8 July, it was observed with juveniles that may have been Lesser Goldfinch x Lawrence's Goldfinch hybrids. Remarkably, this bird provided Colorado's first record of Lawrence's Goldfinch. Photograph by Bill Schmoker.

Weather

From Québec through Newfoundland, and south into New England, the summer weather was nearly normal in terms of temperature and precipitation, but some northern areas, such as the Nunavik region of Québec, suffered extensive forest fires—almost 300,000 hectares in the case of Nunavik (four times the norm), and half of these were set by lightning, which is far more frequent now than in past decades. Neighboring Ontario had weather only slightly warmer than average. Farther to the south, temperatures were also mild, but precipitation was above normal in New Jersey, where coastal species lost nests in heavy downpours and flooding. In the Southeast, the

weather was characterized as hot and dry. In the mountains and Piedmont of the Carolinas, the drought was quite notable, while the coast received some rain but shared blistering hot temperatures in July with the rest of the state and the Southeast coast. Georgia and Alabama suffered severe drought. Tropical Storm Barry, which made landfall at St. Petersburg, Florida 2 June, before raking the North Carolina coast in the next two days, added relatively little in the way of rain and moved only a few seabirds into coastal areas. One exceptional find, a South Polar Skua at Carter's Lake, Georgia, must have been a Barry bird, though it was observed over a week after the passage of the

storm (12-28 June), most unusual. No other tropical systems affected land areas of North America in the season.

In the Midwest, the cool spring with ample rains turned quickly to drought in Ohio and much-drier-than-average conditions in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, western Iowa, and Minnesota. To the south, exceptions were in southwestern Missouri, where heavy rains struck in late June and severe drought hit southern Kentucky and Tennessee. Louisiana and Arkansas reported relatively routine conditions over the two-month period.

West of Ontario, Canada was quite warm and generally dry, and the warming trend in

Arctic areas continued unabated this season. June was generally mild in the Prairie Provinces, and most species appeared to benefit from mild and lush conditions, especially grassland nesters. July, however, warmed up considerably and was dubbed a "blast furnace" by one Saskatchewan observer. To the south, conditions were not as severe. The Great Plains were rather dry in the northern sections, with severe drought in western Nebraska, but spring rains and flooding from northern Texas to central Nebraska continued well into the summer months, and copious rainfall was the hallmark of the season through to the Upper Texas Coast and South Texas.

The northern Rocky Mountains bore the brunt of the summer heat on the continent, as persistent high pressure deflected Pacific air and kept temperatures high. Wyoming's July was its warmest in 113 years, and Colorado's was about the sixth warmest in the same time frame. Both states had moderate precipitation, though the western portions of both states were dry, and southwestern Wyoming suffered extreme drought. Both Montana and Idaho experienced their warmest July in 107 years of record keeping. Glasgow, Montana had seven days with a low temperature of 70° F or above, a new record, while the average daily high in July for Missoula, Montana was 96.6° F—"higher than every city east of the Rocky Mountains—including those in Texas!" according to regional editor David Trochell. Not surprisingly, mortality among nesting Tree Swallows and Mountain Bluebirds was said to be high in Montana.

The Southwest reported good breeding conditions for most species, although generous July rains in southeastern Arizona and western Texas were less so across New Mexico and western Arizona, especially later in the season. On the Pacific coast, July was quite hot in Oregon and Washington (5°+ F above average), and drought was evident in many areas, especially in June east of the Cascades. Drought was even worse farther south, and central and southern California's habitats, and birds, were very hard hit, so much so that many species probably did not attempt to breed.

Overshadowed

Southerly birds moving northward—the squeaky wheels that get most of the narrative oil in this column in summer (and often in fall and spring)—have become almost too numerous to track in a column such as this one, and so we tend to look nowadays at whole groups of birds (genera, families, or even birds from like habitats), as much as at par-

ticular species, to see patterns. Herons, doves, kites (of four genera), ibises, terns (Figure 1), and many other groups seem to be moving, nesting, overshooting, or otherwise exploring north of past range.

I mentioned to Paul Lehman once that this pattern seemed to be, "with few exceptions," the norm for our time, and that birds expanding southward, whether as vagrants or nesters, were negligible in number. Leave it to Paul to expand my meager list. Much of this column will focus on the species mentioned in the regional reports as expanding in a direction other than northward—to the south, for the most part—whether by small or large increments. Some species expand their nesting ranges very slowly, others in more piecemeal patterns, others in wildly widespread satellite populations or even "leapfrog" colonies disjunct by many miles from the edge of typical range. There are, indeed, many more expansions than meet the eye, but because so many of the species involved are common migrants through the areas in which they have been found nesting, the panache associated with them is less than that accorded the splashier southerners, many of which were great local rarities a generation (or even just a few years) ago.

Before delving into the list, let us review a few of the birds we'll be overlooking in this season's regional reports, the Southern Eye Candy we so often feature more prominently. The reasons for their northward movements are surely many, and not all can be tied to rising temperatures or droughts, but many of them can be. Some of the species have been marching northward for a decade or more—Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (north to Pennsylvania; Delaware's third and Bahamas' third records this season; nesting north to South Carolina), Mottled Duck, Gadwall (first nesting in Newfoundland), Brown Pelican (Maine's sixth came this season), Magnificent, or unidentified, Frigatebirds (note, too, extralimital Great and Lesser Frigatebirds in the Californias this season!), Wood Stork (first in Colorado since 1934), Laughing Gull (Washington; now nesting in Illinois), Royal Tern (New Brunswick had its fourth), Black-necked Stilts ("staggering numbers" in Alberta; fourth South Dakota nesting; a dozen in Massachusetts, including copulating birds), Mississippi Kite (Ohio's first nesting ever), Swallow-tailed Kites (three north to Nova Scotia), Glossy Ibis (South Dakota, Oregon), White-faced Ibis, White-winged Dove (breeding again in Nebraska), and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (Washington's eighth, Alberta's ninth) are birds that even relatively new birders

know to look for out of range, as the newer field guides carry clear information on their extralimital wanderings, and the Internet is replete with news of their comings and goings. Even when not nesting or apparently not nesting, such birds may linger for weeks or months in an area in the summer. Other species—e.g., Yellow-breasted Chat (New Brunswick), American Goldfinch (Labrador), Northern Pintail (far northern Quebec), Chuck-wills-widow (Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa), Blue Grosbeak (Montana)—have shown similar, if less dramatic, tendencies to inch northward.

More recently, strengthening patterns of northward dispersal have been detected in species such as Red-billed Tropicbird (Nova Scotia and Maine!), Brown Booby (both coasts), Neotropical Cormorant (Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Mississippi), White Ibis (Tennessee, Ohio, Missouri), Roseate Spoonbill (New Jersey, Missouri), Anhinga (Missouri), Southern Lapwing (nesting in Barbados, first for the Caribbean), Short-tailed Hawk (nesting again in Arizona), Harris's Hawk (fourth for Colorado), Common Black-Hawk (Colorado), Lesser Nighthawk (Ontario), Ash-colored Flycatcher (breeding in Nebraska), Curve-billed Thrasher (a second for Idaho), Hooded Warbler (nesting in Massachusetts; male and female at Malheur, Oregon; bob-tailed juvenile in New Mexico!), Prothonotary Warbler, and Gray Kingbird (eighth for Texas; nesting at Savannah, Georgia). Harder to characterize are wanderers such as Gull-billed Terns in interior Alabama, a species with little record of vagrancy inland, or Elegant Tern in Minnesota, although the latter has started to appear in disparate extralimital settings nearly every year. Snail Kite, found in Texas and South Carolina in summer 2007, has been reported before in these regions, but only rarely, and the few records are old. Dry conditions in the breeding range may have spurred movements by these kites.

The opposite problem—deluges in the southern and central Great Plains through the Texas coast—clearly led to the massive incursion of Snowy Plovers into the northern Great Plains (Dakotas) and central provinces of Canada, where breeding and record-high numbers were documented. While only one Snowy Plover could be found in June at Lake McCaughy, Nebraska (normally a stronghold), 21 in North Dakota made headlines, as there were only nine previous state records; the state's first nest was found at Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge this season. Surprisingly, South Dakota had just eight birds (still only

the fifth state record of the species!), all at Stone Lake, where a chick was seen 17 June—the first evidence of breeding in that state. Surely, many others were not detected in the Dakotas. On the periphery of the exodus, Missouri has its first June Snowy Plover at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, and Saskatchewan had a rare visitor at Chaplin Lake. A Snowy in South Carolina, however, was probably part of the Florida/Gulf Coast population, which is presumably responsible for the Atlantic coast records north to Virginia in recent years. Piping Flowers in the central Great Plains were also affected by high water levels in usual nesting areas, but no incursion to the Dakotas or Canada was noted, though one at Arviat, Nunavut, the territory's first, gives one pause.

At the southern reaches of the United States, the tempo of several typically Mexican species is surely picking up. In addition to a handful of both species in southern Texas, a singing White-collared Seedeater at Kino Springs, Arizona and two Yellow-green Vireos in Arizona were exceptional, and that state's fourteenth Yellow Grosbeak turned up at Ash Canyon. Less anticipated, a Crescent-chested Warbler feeding a fledgling in Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains provided a first nesting record for the United States. Newer field guides aimed at novice birders are beginning to include this and other former south-of-the-border vagrants, such as Black-capped Gnatcatcher and Rufous-capped Warblers, as they establish breeding stations in Arizona/New Mexico and Texas, respectively. New Mexico, whose southern tiers are more difficult to bird and less canvassed, had a nice Green Kingfisher this season—the first confirmed in the state.

At the farther extremes of our regions, extreme northbound wanderers were also in evidence. The Magellanic Penguin in El Salvador certainly trumps almost any other record from Central America this season, the distant runner-up being a Costa Rica's second Large-billed Tern. But in the northern reaches of Canada's boreal forest, as well as in Alaska, less outlandish species such as American Crow, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Western Tanager are making more frequent appearances north (and northwest) of typical range, and first territorial records of Turkey Vulture for Nunavut and of American White Pelican for the Yukon—if not as surprising as they might have been a decade or two ago—speak to the general northward shift in distribution of a range of widespread species. We birders who live in more temperate climes do not experience shock and awe on hearing of Nunavut's Turkey Vulture, or of the Great Egret

at Barrow, Alaska, but we should at least put them in a class with New Jersey's Roseate Spoonbill or Maine's Bridled Tern, for instance. A Brown-chested Martin in Illinois, though thousands of miles north of range, may become a staple vagrant, as recent records span the continent, and this species will perhaps turn out to be the new Fork-tailed Flycatcher, another long-distance austral migrant that can show up nearly anywhere during the warmer months—in this season, Illinois and Vieques Island, Puerto Rico!

So much for the species we will *not* be considering in this column, at least for this season.



Figure 1. Holding his cell phone's camera lens up to his spotting scope, the photographer was able to capture this most acceptable image of a Gull-billed Tern at Kettle Cove, Manchester, Massachusetts on 5 June 2007. Such techniques still amaze us; but surely, technological advances in birding are just in their infancy, and it will probably be very soon that we are able to stream live video feeds of such birds to our birding friends. Gull-billed Tern is a great rarity so far to the north, as their early migration (or perhaps their migration's path) seems to place them out of the path of tropical storms, unlike most other terns. Though strictly a coastal species in most areas, Gull-billed Terns turned up inexplicably in interior Alabama in summer 2007. Photograph "phone-scoped" by Rick Heit.

Slow but steady

Sandhill Crane is the flagship species for a small cadre of birds that seems to be expanding on the periphery of their ranges, including southward and eastward. Three pairs nested in Maine, one in Massachusetts, and a pair in the Champlain Valley of Vermont—in its third year of nesting—was successful at last this summer, furnishing a first state record. Neighboring New York's pair in Savannah nested for the fifth consecutive year, and several other singles were observed in counties to the west, while to the north, southern Québec had its first breeding records at two sites, plus six scattered birds. Well to the south, western North Carolina

had a wanderer at the Biltmore Estate near Asheville, and similar records come from western Virginia in recent summers. In the Midwest, Sandhill Cranes nested near Magee Marsh, Ohio, very unusual in the western Lake Erie basin, and the state saw 16 nests, a record, while four cranes in Missouri was above average. Northeastern Iowa's small population is said to be expanding, and Nebraska had a scattered few nesters and lingerers. North Dakota, where the last confirmed nesting was in 1993, had four active pairs this year, with at least two successful nests. And on the West Coast, the small Washington

population reached a new high of 58 birds, plus wanderers in the Willamette Valley and 11 on Sauvie Island. While it is difficult to account for all of these range expansions, a plausible explanation is that a decline in hunting pressure on cranes, coupled with a half-century of improvements in wetland and some upland habitats, has allowed the species to increase and to expand into former parts of range, some not occupied in centuries, some probably never before.

Clay-colored Sparrow, like Sandhill Crane, appears to be making modest range expansions in several directions. Upstate New York, where the species was once considered quite rare, held 33 at Fort Drum alone, and

Wyoming, Cattaraugus, and Allegany, and Schoharie Counties had many more. To the north, in Ontario, singles at Rondeau Provincial Park and in the Toronto area were locally rare, as was one in Oxford County, Maine. Most notably, the Massachusetts Military Reservation had 4 or 5 singing males and at least one nest with young—one of few breeding confirmations of the species in New England anywhere. Atlassing work in Ohio keep turning up more Clay-colored, Pennsylvanians continue to define the eastern edge of the species range (this season at Philipsburg), and healthy numbers were reported at the edge of range, e.g., Abitibi, Québec. Outliers, often expected with expanding species, were on the Hudson Bay at Churchill, Manitoba and in northern New Brunswick at St. Leonards, singing away.

Flirtations: range edges

Sometimes, just a short hop across an international border is enough to warrant boldface type in this journal, even when only a few miles' expansion is involved. In eastern Panama, small numbers of Large-billed Seed-Finches and Yellow-hooded Blackbirds were found, not far from known populations in Colombia but nonetheless both new species for the American Ornithologists' Union's check-list area for North America. But, really, who cares if there is an element of the arbitrary in our self-congratulations on finding a new international, national, state, or local record?! We humans enjoy a sporting element in our pursuit of knowledge, and indeed many records of birds at, or beyond, their ranges' edges would not be made without our mixture of curiosity and determination. I often wonder, when reading about new birds discovered in remote or little-birded areas, "What on earth were the finders doing there?" The record that stands out in summer 2007 in this context was the discovery of nesting Black Rosy-Finches in the Snowy Range of Albany County, in southern Wyoming. Granted, the species nests about 350 km away, in the northern part of the state, but to find a new nesting station so close to Colorado will surely galvanize that state's birders to saddle up for some backcountry work, in hopes of adding a new breeding species to the state list! The same is surely true of Washington's first nesting Northern Hawk Owls near Winthrop, Okanogan County, which raised four owlets.

Not every such discovery takes an off-the-beaten track approach. Close attention to local wetlands produced a new nesting record for

Idaho on 11 July—a family of Horned Grebes in Boundary. In the Pocono Mountains of Pike County, Pennsylvania, careful follow-up of what appeared to be lingering Merlins made it clear that the birds were nesting, and indeed they raised four young birds. This site is roughly 100 km from another nest site in the state, at Eagles Mere in the northeast in Sullivan County. Summer Merlins have turned out to be nesting in upstate New York, and summering Merlins have turned up in Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina and adjacent states with increasing frequency. This expansion closely follows the movement of nesting Merlins into suburban and urban areas of the Midwest and northern Great Plains. The Pocono birds are the southernmost nesters known anywhere; but could the mountains of Maryland or West Virginia shelter a pair or two?

Montane areas, in fact, seem to offer some of the best opportunities to expand our understanding of breeding avifauna at the state level. Swainson's Thrushes breed sparingly south through the Appalachian Mountains of western Virginia, but this season, six singing males spent the summer in North Carolina at famed Mount Mitchell—an excellent opportunity to add a new breeding species to the state's avifauna in coming seasons! In the same state, Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted at high elevations at Roan Mountain and in the Great Smoky Mountains (both in North Carolina and Tennessee), and though possibly just solitary males casting about in search of a mate, these birds could easily be pioneers of new southerly breeding stations. A bird of similar habitats, Winter Wren was confirmed nesting for the first time in South Dakota in Lawrence County, and two were noted on territory in the Hocking Hills area of Ohio, where unknown as nesters. In Pennsylvania, a pair raised four young at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, Northampton County, at low elevation and rather far south in that state. Even more remarkable in Pennsylvania was a territorial Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Parker Dam State Park, Clearfield County—hundreds of kilometers south of the southernmost nesting site known for this species, in the Adirondacks of New York. In Indiana, the state's first summering Golden-crowned Kinglet was a singing male at Beverly Shores, Porter County. Although these kinglets were apparently mateless, such birds should be monitored closely when found, as small pockets of appropriate habitat could support a breeding pair or even disjunct population, as with Red-breasted Nuthatch (Iowa's fourth through sixth nesting records were documented this season). Birds

prone to wandering in search of food sources, such as some nuthatches, waxwings, and finches, sometimes turn up well out of range and stay to breed. Mississippians documented their state's third nesting of Cedar Waxing 1 July near Adaton, and Louisianians saw American Goldfinches attending a feeder in Lafayette as late as 21 June, probably indicative of a local breeding population that has yet to be documented. Louisiana also had a potentially nesting Blue-winged Warbler (Figure 2).

Among seabirds, too, there are many unanswered questions about breeding status. The sharp rise in the number of Manx Shearwaters recorded off the Pacific Northwest leads Steve Mlodinow, David Irons, and Bill Tweit to wonder about local breeding: "Perhaps the question should be 'How many Manx are nesting?' rather than 'Are Manx nesting?'" In the same region, Ancient Murrelets, suspected of nesting in Washington for some time, were detected in very high numbers over the season there (117 adults, 18+ chicks) in the waters around the Olympic Peninsula, plus nine in the Straits of Juan de Fuca. The editorial team notes that these records are "consistent with breeding chronology in the Queen Charlotte Islands, the nearest large colony, where fledging occurs primarily in June, followed by rapid dispersal." Two Ancient Murrelets off Yachats, Oregon and a high total of 38 for the season of California, however, were probably not indicative of a range expansion or southward exploration but instead part of a widespread California influx of northerly alacids that included over 214 Horned Puffins, 2 Thick-billed Murres, and a Parakeet Auklet, plus elevated numbers of locally breeding alacids such as Tufted Puffin and Rhinoceros Auklet in inshore waters. Washington also had five Horned Puffins and a rare Parakeet Auklet. The reasons for such an incursion are unclear, but prey scarcity is probably a good guess. The most recent such spring/summer incursion was in 1975.

Outliers

When summering birds are found more than 100 or 200 kilometers from the edge of known breeding range, careful scrutiny is usually needed to determine whether the birds are attempting to nest in the area or whether they are failed breeders, wanderers, early migrants, or "other." In the case of two pairs of nesting Ross's Gulls in Nunavut in July, nests were observed—a red-letter triumph! The location given in Cameron Ecker's report—"near Bathurst Island"—is charmingly vague (Bathurst itself covers



Figure 2. Although the bulk of range expansions documented in the Lower 48 states over the past 20 years have been northward movements, some species are clearly pushing southward. Strongly suggesting nesting well south of the known breeding distribution was this adult female Blue-winged Warbler captured at a MAPS station at Sherburne Wildlife Management Area, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana on 22 June 2007. Photograph by Michael A. Seymour.

16,042 km²), surely because the last documented nest of the species in North America was stolen by a European egg collector as the nest's night watchman had his back turned to make a cup of tea. The species has been documented as nesting in nearby Greenland. Also in the Northern Canada report, a pair of adult Whooping Cranes was observed at Loch Lake, Northwest Territories, more than 200 kilometers from the nearest nesting areas. How amazing it would be to have discovered a new nucleus of breeding activity in this critically endangered species.

In the Lower 48 states, where we must usually settle for less-flashy fare than Ross's Gulls and Whooping Cranes on our Breeding Bird Survey routes, we sometimes hit pay dirt with wetlands birds, both in "wet" years, when ephemeral wetlands are abundant, and in "dry" years, when reliable wetland habitats are few, concentrating birds and narrowing our search. American Bittern is a species known as a spotty, sporadic breeder south of typical range, as recent records of nesters and single birds on the Texas coast underscore. Most of us forget to look for them in summer, though the sight of their Don-King-crowned nestlings is a jolly birding experience. I was reminded of the remote possibility of their breeding when I saw one while I was driving to work, the bittern flying "all businesslike" across the highway at scenic Treherneville, Virginia on 15 June. A canvas of regional re-

ports shows that other errant singles were in Franklin County, West Virginia 5 July; in Goldsboro 2 June and in Martin County, North Carolina 18 July; at Carters Lake, Georgia 18 June; at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 30 June; at Hoover, through 20 July, at Killbuck 1 June, and in Washington County, Ohio 6 July; at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico 27-28 July; and at Red Slough, Oklahoma, six birds through the season. In similar habitats, summing Soras and Wilson's Snipe often raise hopes of local breeding, and such occurrences appear to be more frequent in recent years than in the 1980s, for instance, perhaps because observers are more attuned to wetland birds and their vocalizations and behaviors. In the flooded Oklahoma and Nebraska fields, Soras were found well south of usual nesting areas, taking advantage of additional habitat (and probably remaining to breed), while in rice fields at the Tidewater Research farm near Roper, North Carolina, Soras and other rails were found in July. Sora is only an occasional breeder in northern Virginia and is not known to have nested in North Carolina. The possibility that these birds were early migrants is worth considering; perhaps another season's scrutiny will provide more insight. Wilson's Snipe in mid-June in Boone County, Indiana may have been nesting and were among a very high count of 13 tallied statewide. Also in Indiana, albeit in different wetland context,

a Common Merganser was seen in June and July on Lake Monroe, only the sixth in summer for the state, and others were in Will County, Illinois and Columbiana County, Ohio (where nesters were noted in 2001). A spree of southerly nestings in this species (Maryland, District of Columbia) suggests that lingering individuals should be watched closely for evidence of nesting.

Every bit as secretive a nester as a rail or bittern, Sharp-shinned Hawks turn up in scattered locations across the continent in summer, though rather rarely in areas where breeding is unknown. Delaware had its first-ever breeding record this summer, at the Ashland Nature Center, New Castle County—an outstanding discovery on the coastal plain. For the third consecutive year, in both locations, the species nested at Southern Pines, North Carolina and Ipswich, Massachusetts. Other summer singles were at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 12 June, in Warren County, Missouri 6 June, in St. Louis County, Missouri 10 July, in Polk County, Iowa 31 July, and at Camp Bullis, Bexar County, Texas 23-24 June. Ages were not reported, but probably any of these records could pertain to breeding birds; *Accipiter* nests can be tricky to find, particularly that of Sharp-shinned, but patience and practice can produce surprising results, even if not those intended! Stumbling on a nest of Long-eared Owl, for instance, could be one's unexpected reward. This species, whose nesting habits are rarely observed (at least in the East), was heard in Monroe County, Ohio 16 June, and nesters were found in Dudleyville, Arizona and four new sites (since the spring) in New Mexico. The regular rains in the Southwest over the previous year apparently allowed vegetation (and rodent populations) to rebound a bit from the severe drought of the past decade, and so the owls have responded by staying to breed.

Wildcards?

We often think of birds found well out of breeding range, and especially habitat, as having zero chance to breed, and that's almost always the case. Take the report of an American Tree Sparrow from California's Farallon Islands on 1 June. On the face of it, this would seem as absurd a record as the Common Redpoll found 13 June on the Bolivar Peninsula of Texas. But a check of records (see the respective regional reports) indicated that both records have precedence. American Tree Sparrows have been recorded on the Farallones sixteen times in May/June in the past (half in each month), and in fact, these are the only records from that

season in the state! The energetic Northern California regional editors did further research and could turn up only five other June records (Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota) from the Lower 48 states at all. The Redpoll, which also seems a red herring, is in fact the second for the Upper Texas Coast—and the other record was also from June.

What are the contexts or causes of such appearances? The broader context for the sparrow should be records of other northern-nesting sparrows well south of range, and there certainly are similar records, often from coastal locations (probably because of the vagrant-concentrating power of coastlines), for Harris's, White-crowned, and White-throated Sparrows. A White-crowned Sparrow that sang all summer in Greece, New York 25 June was unusual so late in the season; singles at Moose River Plains, in New York's Adirondacks 13 June and in Northampton County, Pennsylvania 6 June were probably late migrants. One (subspecies unreported) on Ontario's Amherst Island 14 July and an adult Gambel's in Pamlico County, North Carolina the same day were even more bizarre. The only other Gambel's reported were in Portal, Arizona (through 17 June) and Santa Cruz County, Arizona (through 14 July). Several states have been conducting atlas projects in recent nesting seasons, and most of them have discovered that White-crowned, and even more so White-throated, Sparrows linger more commonly than had been thought, especially at the latitude of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The usual explanation for such birds' presence is that they are in some way impaired in terms of their migratory or breeding fitness, and this may be true. But given the leaps and bounds in southerly nestings noted above, perhaps we should not discount all of these birds as potential breeders—with kind exceptions for birds like the offshore American Tree Sparrows.

Early exodus?

Redpolls, too, might not be nesting on the Texas coast in the near future, but there is a plausible explanation for why one might turn up there in June. Beginning in June, several groups of Common Redpoll, with young in tow, turned up along the southern shores of the Saint Lawrence River in Québec, possibly indicative of a southwestward shift in breeding range or possibly indicative of early post-breeding wanderlust. Though June seems a strange time for a "fall" migrant, late June and early July can be the time to look for other early northern nesters, such as Red Crossbill,

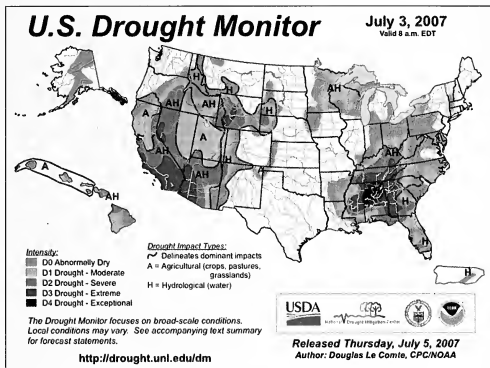


Figure 3. Regular monitoring of The Drought Monitor, available online, can help birders understand short-term shifts in bird distribution. For instance, the midsummer's incursion of southern waders into Missouri and the range shifts of Brewer's, Sage, and Black-chinned Sparrows might have been predicted (or at least interpreted) using maps showing the terrible drought conditions in the Southeast and West. Cross-referencing these maps with eBird-generated maps of real-time records can be a novel way to plan one's birding weekend. Map courtesy of The Drought Monitor.

at backyard feeders across the northern Lower 48 and even farther south. Conceivably, the Texas redpoll just went a lot farther south than usual, until it hit the coast, but was "done" with breeding by then. In the Southern Great Plains regional report, Joe Grzybowski and Ross Silcock observe: "Temporary odd records of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Northern Waterthrush this season lead one to wonder whether early warming on northern breeding grounds is allowing single-brooded species to begin fall migration extraordinarily early." Perhaps this was also the case with the extraordinary adult female Snow Bunting in Rockland County, New York 20-25 June (the only summer record from the state)? Or the 20 Eastern Kingbirds at Big Cypress Natural Preserve, Collier County, Florida 12 July—five weeks ahead of typical schedule? Or the very early push of many Tennessee Warblers in southern Québec in late June? Or the mid-June flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches in coastal lowlands of New York, New Jersey, and Delaware? The Midwest had a few lingering early June Red-breasteds, and the "fall" flight commenced in late July, as is typical, though one in Boone County, Indiana 6 July was the state's fourth ever in that month. Though a shift in breeding phenology is plau-

sible, another explanation for these early migrants is that they encountered food or habitat trouble on the nesting grounds and abandoned breeding efforts, rather than finishing earlier than usual. The Québec regional editors report that extensive defoliation of Trembling Aspen occurred across large areas where Tennessee Warblers nest, and that this may have triggered the early exodus.

Drought-driven

From the chaparral and coastal sage scrub of southern California to the parched sagebrush deserts of eastern Washington, drought had a tremendous impact on many western passerines of xeric habitats (Figure 3). In southern California, Bell's Sage Sparrows in Los Angeles County showed essentially zero reproductive success and indeed had almost disappeared by the middle of May. Brewer's Sparrows likewise vanished from their haunts in the Pacific Northwest, only to turn up in numbers in northern Idaho, "defending territories in clearcut forests, riparian areas, and weedy patches," according to Trochell. In Washington, Brewer's appeared in extralimital settings in early June, "inexplicably set[ting] up territories in grasslands and open dry coniferous woodlands devoid of sage," according to Mlodinow, Irons, and Tweit, and by the end of

the season, dozens of such birds had been documented, even at high elevations. Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows were also found displaced into strange habitats in that region, while Black-throated Sparrows turned up out of range in both Oregon and Washington, almost certainly driven by drought.

The long-distance stars of this rather disastrous set of displacements was certainly Lawrence's Goldfinch, documented near Datil, New Mexico from 19 July into August (one male; where very rare), in 15 locations in Arizona (where erratic and normally found in winter), and in Lemon Canyon 5 June—this pair a first for Sierra County, California. The farthest traveled, however, was the male found in Grand Junction, Colorado on 23 May, which stayed through 24 July and apparently reared young with a female Lesser Goldfinch (see Frontispiece). Though probably no one would have cast a vote for Lawrence's Goldfinch, a near-endemic nester in California, for Colorado's next nesting

species, it seems anything can happen in a state that has a nesting record of White-rumped Hawk (albeit also a mixed pair).

On the topic of star-crossed species, we read in this issue of a Ross's Goose × Snow Goose hybrid in southeastern Arizona; a male Mallard × Cinnamon Teal hybrid at Natural Bridges State Beach, California; a male Blue-winged Teal × Northern Shoveler hybrid at Whitewater Lake, Manitoba; a mixed pair of Cattle Egret and Little Blue Heron (with young!) at Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge, North Dakota; a Glossy Ibis × White-faced Ibis hybrid where expected, at Nebraska's Salt Plains; a probable White-rumped Sandpiper × Dunlin hybrid at South Beach, Massachusetts (hey Marshall, please send photos to Sully!); a male Lucifer Hummingbird × Black-chinned Hummingbird in western Texas; a handsome male Blackpoll Warbler × Bay-breasted Warbler hybrid singing in Goose Bay, Labrador; and hybrids of Indigo and Lazuli Buntings in both Saskatchewan

and Oregon (!). Texas birders have had to do quite a bit of research to document regular hybridization of Virginia's Warblers and Colima Warblers in their state, and this summer, their pet Yellow-throated Warbler in the Davis Mountains Preserve, present for another season, has switched its song to that of Grace's Warbler. Will wonders never cease?

Odds and ends

I will leave it to the reader to hunt on his or her own for this season's Western Reef-Heron, Eurasian Siskin, and Lanceolated Warblers. Whatever the past history of the birds in question, I personally took great delight in reading of Superb Starling in Freetown, Massachusetts and Northern Carmine Bee-eater at Saint-Ferdinand, Québec in June. These birds mean that someone was out birding in June, a month that some of us slackers assume is unshocking. Get out there and sweat and do those B.B.S. routes! You never know when a bittern or bee-eater will fly by.



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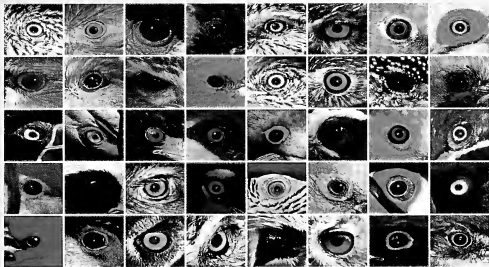
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Editors' Notebook

Change, that inevitable force that keeps us awake and out birding, has come once again to *North American Birds*. Beginning with the Winter 2007-2008 issue, our regional reports will be edited by Bill Pranty, veteran Regional Editor, Associate Editor, and since 2006 Chair of the American Birding Association's Checklist Committee. Bill's editing work is superlative in all respects, and with his help we will catch up to our usual, if somewhat flexible, production schedule. Our arrears are entirely the fault of your Editor, who has been overtaxed with writing projects and with a new private-sector job that leaves him rather frayed at times. I will continue to work on the Changing Seasons, Pictorial Highlights, articles, and other features and will proof regional reports and captions in later stages as well, but Bill will be at bat for the better part of this journal. We're all excited to have him working in this expanded capacity.

In this time of transition, we are sorry to report that the present issue is missing two regional reports, for British Columbia and for the Middle Atlantic region; in the latter region, we are in need of a regional editor, Todd

Day having stepped down gradually over the past year. We will be happy to entertain recommendations for that editorship, and we thank Todd for his six years of hard work and outstanding contributions to the journal! For the fall issue, we will attempt to summarize summer sightings from those regions in expanded reports. Another casualty of our transition was the caption credit for the cover of *North American Birds* 61, issue 3, the Loggerhead Kingbird. In this digital age, we often receive hundreds of images of a single bird (sometimes hundreds from a single photographer!), and keeping track of these is increasingly challenging, particularly when the images arrive second-hand and without data. We credited the cover to the kingbird's finder, Carl Goodrich (who did submit excellent photographs of the bird), but in fact this special image was taken by Larry Manfredi. By way of shame-faced apology, but also to document and celebrate this well-watched North American first documented record, we offer a page of Larry's images of this bird in this issue. We will redouble our vigilance in double-checking our credits in the future and humbly ask our contributors who submit

electronic images to include the photographer's name and date of the image in the filename of the photograph itself (also nice would be an indication of the species depicted and even the location!).

We live in an incredibly rich, even revolutionary time for bird photography—witness even the leaps-and-bounds improvements in photographs of certain species from 2007's *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to the Birds of North America* to 2008's *Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America*: when I first saw Ted Floyd's magisterial book, I thought, among many marvelings: "Hey! Where did he get that incredible Least Storm-Petrel photograph?" Of course, Mike Danzenbaker had taken it after production had finished on my earlier field guide, which had itself used a brand-new image of the species taken by Photo Editor Brian Sullivan off Baja California (I had begged him for his help!). But our era's flood of new and wonderful bird images is no excuse for our miscrediting of the cover photograph in the last issue, and we apologize to Larry Manfredi, who is one of our most generous contributors. We won't let this happen again.

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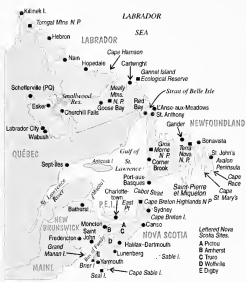
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Atlantic Canada



Bruce Mactavish

The summer weather was cool and overcast in Newfoundland and Labrador but near normal in the rest of the Region. Preliminary results of the first field season of a new breeding bird atlas for the Maritime Provinces revealed a substantial increase in breeding Pine Warblers in New Brunswick, more Northern Cardinals breeding in Nova Scotia, and a significant decline of Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks in Nova Scotia. As usual, the summer season produces some of the most exciting rarities of the year. This summer's booty included a Fea's/Zino Petrel and Pacific Golden-Plover in Newfoundland, a Red-billed Tropicbird in Nova Scotia, a Royal Tern in New Brunswick, and male Eurasian Siskin in Labrador.

LOONS THROUGH RAILS

The long-standing southerly outpost of breeding Red-throated Loon continues on St. Pierre, a nest containing two eggs was found on the Isthmus 21 Jun (LJ). Northern Fulmars were in exceptionally high numbers in the Bay of Fundy, with the highest of several high counts se. of Grand Manan I., NB being 250 on 27 Jun (DI). On the other side of the bay, 30 were observed off Brier I., NS during a whalewatching cruise 17 Jul (Edward Raynor). Kim Eckert of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours has taken the North Sydney, NS to Argentina, NL ferry for 15 consecutive years in early Jun. On the 9 Jul 2007 crossing, he reported hundreds instead of the typical scores of fulmars, plus a well-described Fea's/Zino's Petrel s. of the Burin Pen. (†BmU, †KE). Other records of Fea's Petrel in Regional waters include singles 170 km s. of the Burin Pen. 13 Aug 2000 and e. of Sable I., NS 7 Jul 1997. An imm. Red-billed Tropicbird found alive in a

driveway at Three Fathom Harbour on 16 Jul died three days later in rehabilitative care (Dominic Cormier). This exceptional record falls on the heels of 2 found dead on Sable I., NS in summer 2006.

Overshooting herons were in typical numbers. Nova Scotia was the only province to report any egrets—8 Great, 3 Snowy, and one Cattle. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and St. Pierre et Miquelon reported one Little Blue Heron each. Rarest of the American herons in the Region, a Tricolored Heron was Baie-du-Petit-Pokemouche, NB 3 Jun (*vide* BD). Single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Annapolis Royal, NS 12-13 Jun (*vide* UH) and Langlade, SPM 26 Jun (Jean Edwards). Single Glossy Ibis were in New Brunswick at Cormierville Marsh 12 Jun and at Val Comeau 20 Jun (*vide* BD). A well-described ad. blue-morph Snow Goose at Fogo I., NF 11-14 Jun was both unseasonable and rare for the province (*vide* Bmt). Gadwall remains a scarce and local breeder in the Region, but numbers are slowly increasing. Newfoundland's first confirmed breeding came with the discovery of a female with 2 ducklings in the Grand Codroy R. 10 Jul (TH, PP). In addition, pairs of ads. were at St. John's 13-18 Jun (JWc) and Renewes 6 Jun (DSh). Two pairs of Gadwall for more of the period at Pond Cove, Brier I., NS raised suspicion of breeding (IM). Proving the breeding of Eurasian Wigeon in the Region will be nearly impossible, as the males have no role in incubation or rearing of the young, and the female wigeons are difficult to identify. However, sightings of males during the post-breeding period for waterfowl have been annual for more than a decade and are showing a slow increase. This summer's sightings of male Eurasian Wigeon were: 2 at Marsh Creek, NB 26 Jun (Merv Cormier), one at Kouchibouguac N.P. 13-18 Jun (Shawn Craig), one at Antigonish, NS 17 Jun (*vide* UH), and one at St. Pierre 22-23 Jun (PA). An imm. male Harlequin Duck was late at Seal I., NS 1 Jun (IM).

A well-described Red-shouldered Hawk at Cherry Hill Beach, NS 23 Jun provided a rare summer record for Nova Scotia (SF). There was a rash of unsubstantiated Swallow-tailed Kite reports, with one in New Brunswick and three in Nova Scotia.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDIS

An ad. Pacific Golden-Plover at Trepassey, NL 27 Jun–15 Jul was a well-documented first for the Region (JH, DS et al.); the bird fed on residential lawns closer to houses, buildings, and people than would be expected for an American Golden-Plover. Piping Plovers continue to do well at the e. edge of the breeding range,

with two pairs nesting at Stephenville Crossing, where they have not nested for years (*vide* Bmt) and six pairs at Miquelon (RE). Two pairs of American Oystercatchers had young by early Jul at the only breeding location in the Region, The Hawk, Cape Sable I., NS (MN et al.). A pair of Willets remained at Renewes, NF mid-May–mid-Jul, with no evidence of nesting (Bmt et al.). Five White-rumped Sandpipers at Sand Pt., Big Washbush L., Labrador on 3 Jun was rare for inland Labrador (GP). Prince Edward Island's 7th Curlew Sandpiper at St. Eleanor's 26 Jun was described as a male (DSe). Early Stilt Sandpipers were at Covehead, PEI 12-14 Jul (DSe) and Cape Sable I., NS 17 Jul (MN). Wilson's Phalarope has reverted to being a rarity in the Region; singles were reported at Borden, PEI 10 Jun (Dwayne Oakley) and Cape Sable I., NS 3 Jun (JN et al.).

Skuas in inshore waters continue to be reported. South Polar Skuas were identified off Flint I., Cape Breton I., NS 28 Jun (CM, AM), off Brier I., NS 17 Jul (Edward Raynor) and off Grand Manan I., NB 9 Jul (DI et al.). Laughing Gulls returned to normal summer levels after an unprecedented influx in summer 2006. Totals were 3 in Nova Scotia and 2 each in St. Pierre et Miquelon and Newfoundland. Late spring migrant Lesser Black-backed Gulls often spill over into the summer period. Adult-like birds present in early Jun are rarely present in late Jun or Jul. An apparent ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at the dump at Goose Bay, Labrador late May–late Jun did not appear to be paired (BMT et al.). There is still no evidence to support the surmise that Lesser Black-backed Gulls breed in the Region. A Royal Tern photographed at Mary's Pt., NB 7 Jun furnished the 4th record for that province and one the earliest for the Region (DC).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

The summer's quota of White-winged Doves was met with singles at Cape Sable I., NS 5 Jun (JN, MN) and Red Indian L., NF 22 Jun (Bill Curran, *vide* Bmt). The latter, attracted to an isolated log cabin in the cen. Newfoundland wilderness, was only the 5th recorded in Newfoundland and one of the very inland and non-feeder related sightings for the Region. Summer Yellow-billed Cuckoos are rare. There was one at Cape Sable I., NS 24 Jun (JN, MN) and one at Debec, NB 18 Jun (Dsa). A Boreal Owl nest in a bird box at Bay St. Lawrence, Victoria, NS was rare provincial event (Randy Lauff). In Newfoundland, where Boreal Owl is the common small owl species, 2 Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard calling and viewed with flashlights near Corner Brook

SA A male **Eurasian Siskin** was present at feeder in St. Lewis, Labrador on and off over the period 27 Jun–15 Jul (E1, PL, ph.). St. Lewis is small isolated community located at the end of a long saltwater inlet in s. Labrador. The provenance of Eurasian Siskins in North America will always be suspect, especially with a recent rash of European finch sightings in the Great Lakes area. The possibility that this bird came from the Great Lakes region cannot be ruled out. However, the possibility of a genuine stray from Europe is supported by the isolated wilderness aspect of the St. Lewis and that Eurasian Siskin is one of the more regular European finches that strays to Iceland. It should also be noted that a male Eurasian Siskin was photographed at Langlade, SPM 23 Jun 1983.

7 Jun (Louis Bateman et al.). A Red-headed Woodpecker at Shamrock, PEI 4 Jun made just the 6th record for the province (Molly Colburn). Rare Jun sightings of Red-bellied Woodpecker were Nova Scotia singles at Waverley 21 Jun (Linda & Peter Payzant) and Sucker L., Lunenburg (James Hirtle). There were a few Willow Flycatchers reported in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and one at St. Eleanor's, PEI 20 Jun (DO). A female Purple Martin at Portugal Cove South, NF 20 Jun was a vagrant (DSH). A juv. Carolina Wren was on Grand Manan I., NB 25 Jul (Jim Leslie).

A female Northern Wheatear at Eddie's Cove East, NF 4 Jun (Ivy Gibbons) was considered a late spring migrant, while another female at Taylor Head P.P., NS 20–25 Jun (James Cameron et al.) furnished an odd summer record. For the 2nd consecutive Jun, a silent Gray Catbird was observed at Goose Bay, Labrador, this time on 16 Jun (BMT). A Brown Thrasher at St. Pauls, NF 9 Jul was a summer vagrant (David Milson), while there was breeding evidence for three pairs in New Brunswick, where the species is a scarce nester (*vide* BD).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Cape May Warbler, normally considered a scarce and local breeding species in s. Labrador, was common in the vicinity of Goose Bay during the last two weeks of Jun, for the 2nd consecutive year (BMT). The breeding bird atlas work in the Maritime Provinces has revealed an increase in territorial Pine Warblers throughout New Brunswick (*vide* BD). Territorial Pine Warblers were also found in the Halifax, NS area, which suggests that breeding will soon be confirmed in that province (*vide* KM). A suspected male Blackpoll Warbler × Bay-breasted Warbler hybrid was singing in Goose Bay, Labrador 16 Jun (BMT). The song was similar to a Bay-

breasted Warbler, but the bird looked much like a male Blackpoll except for a broad rufous streak on the flanks and sides of breast. A female Bay-breasted Warbler, a species rare in Labrador, seemed to be associating with the hybrid male. The birds could not be relocated in the subsequent week. A Yellow-breasted Chat singing near Sussex, NB 26 Jun was well n. of the breeding range (JW1).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was singing in n. New Brunswick at St. Leonards 24 Jun (Roy LaPoint). The extraordinary Le Conte's Sparrow found singing at Mercer Settlement, near Sussex, NB 13 May (Richard Blaquiere) kept right on singing, apparently unmated, until early Aug. (m.ob.). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow singing in suitable breeding habitat in the Grand Codroy R. estuary 10–11 Jul adds to speculation that small numbers breed in sw. Newfoundland (TH, PP). A singing male Dickcissel at Grates Cove, NF 2 Jun provided a rare spring sighting in the Region (JC).

This summer's atlas work in Nova Scotia agrees with recent B.B.S. data that Bobolinks are breeding at fewer localities and that Eastern Meadowlark has disappeared as a breeder from the Annapolis Valley (*vide* IM). There was a virtual influx of Yellow-headed Blackbirds—males were reported at Jolicoeur, NB 15 Jun (Ivy Austin), at Penobscuis, NB 23 Jun (Glen Foster), and at West Pubnico, NS 5 Jun (Clyde Stoddard). Three Red-winged Blackbirds at Labrador City 29 Jul were well n. of the species' known breeding range (GP).

A handful of American Goldfinches at the same feeder as the Eurasian Siskin in St. Lewis resulted in Labrador's first confirmed breeding, when food-begging juvs. were brought to the feeder by ads. (EL). During Jul, large numbers White-winged Crossbills descended on the Avalon Pen. of Newfoundland, and in response to a large developing cone crop began singing and nested, with an abundance of begging juvs. observed in Aug.

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Cr.	Creek
Fort	Fort
G.C.	Game Course
G.P.	Game Preserve
Hwy.	Highway
l. (ls.)	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (immv.)	immature(s)
Junct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
L	Lake
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain (Mountains)
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
PP.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Res.	Reservoir
Route	Route
S.R.	State Beach
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/ Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotype (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond

Italics indicate name of county, parish, or municipality.



**Pierre Bannon
Oliver Barden
Normand David
Samuel Denault
Yves Aubry**

The summer temperatures were close to normal in most of the Region, although a slight departure towards higher values was observed in Nunavik. Precipitation was also near normal, but some parts of Nunavik had 30% more rain. Despite these near-normal conditions, 300,000 hectares of forest were lost to fire, which is four times the average. This increase is apparently due to longer periods of drought followed by heavy thunderstorms accompanied by lightning. Half of the fires this summer were caused by lightning, which is now twice as frequent in summer in northern areas as in the past. The effect of these fires on nesting boreal species remains difficult to assess. Various reports from northern Québec, especially from the Nunavik region, by biologists of the Canadian Wildlife Service (C.W.S.) and by others also contributed new insights into the Regional distribution of some species.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

A Wood Duck a few km n. of the Rupert R. along James Bay Road in mid-Jun was notable (MMe), as were 2 Mallards between Eastmain and Radisson, also in mid-Jun (LC, SB). The finding of 2 male Northern Shovelers at Kangisjuuaq, in n. Nunavik 21-28 Jun, was quite intriguing (D. McMullen, ph., *vide MR*), although the species nested at Puvirnituq, some 300 km to the sw, along the coast of Hudson Bay, in 2002. Five male Northern Pintails and a female in the Pingualuit N.P., 23 Jun and 28 Jul respectively, were n. of the species' expected breeding range (MR). Up to 3 male Redheads took up residence in the Magdalen

Is, a first record there in summer (OB et al.). Rare inland, 3 male Common Eiders on L. Méganic 13 Jun were quite puzzling (C. Roy). A male Harlequin Duck on the Toulnoustic R., ne. of Baie-Comeau (MR, C. Marcotte), and two pairs, each on a different river sw. of Kangisjuuaq (MR), contributed to our knowledge of the distribution of this species.

Red-necked Grebe is doing well in the Abitibi region, where 12 pairs produced 17 young on four different lakes near Rouyn-Noranda (LI). One made an untimely appearance at Tadoussac 29 Jun (MMo, RP). Northern Fulmars were widespread along the lower n. shore, with a maximum count of 500+ made from the Rimouski-Blanc-Sablons ferry in mid-Jun (ES et al.). A Manx Shearwater wandered w. to Bergeronnes 18 Jul (RP, MMo). An extraordinary influx of American White Pelicans included one at Bécancour 1 Jun (D. Poliquin), one at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 2-3 Jun (D. Paquette, *vide D.* Ouellette, ph.), one at Gatineau 2 Jun (M. Gosselin, M. Jacob), one at Saint-Timothée 23 Jun (D. Hugues, D. Guillemette, ph.), 2 at Rouyn-Noranda 26 Jun (JP. Lacasse, ph.), 2 near the mouth of the Yamaska R. 2 Jul (M. Chabot), one at Plaisance 22 Jul (D. Collins), and finally an ad. at Saint-Coeur-de-Marie 26-27 Jul (N. Fortin, ph.).

Single Snowy Egrets turned up at Yamachiche 8 Jun and 18 Jul (JG, M. Bourassa) and at Saint-Barthélemy 24 Jun (M. & M. Boulard). Two Little Blue Herons at La Martinique, Magdalen Is. 4-20 Jun (*vide A.* Richard) were apparently displaying on 20 Jun (DGG). A Tricolored Heron graced Saint-Damien-de-Buckland 7 Jun (R. Gingras, J. Forgues). A Cattle Egret showed up at Lennoxville 12-17 Jun (C. Jetté, JP. Charuest), and a Glossy Ibis stopped at L. Georges 10-11 Jun, a first for Anticosti I. (D. Morin).

RAPTORS THROUGH OWLS

A concentration of 14 Bald Eagles at Deschambault 29 Jul represented a high summer count for the Region (S. Gosselin). An ad. Golden Eagle at Hemmingford 28 Jul was locally unexpected in midsummer (ES, A. Lacasse). A Common Moorhen was heard calling 19-23 Jun at La Martinique, Magdalen Is., where the species is only accidental (OB et al.). Sandhill Cranes continued their range expansion. Extreme s. Québec had its first confirmed breeding records: a nest containing a chick at Dundee 20 Jun (P. Tarassoff, m.ob.), 2 ads with a half-grown young at Trois-Rivières 28 Jun (S. Hamel, D. Pronovost). Also notable were 2 individuals at Saint-Édouard-de-Maskinongé 18 Jun (YG, SM), 3 at Low 16 Jul (J. Brûlé), and one at Gaspé all summer (D. Jal-

bert et al.). A flock of 102 birds at Roquemare 19 Jun provided a record summer count for Abitibi (P. Brusseau).

A late Marbled Godwit was detected at Barachois 9 Jun (E. Asselin, D. Jalbert). Three northbound Ruddy Turnstones were notably late at Yamachiche 17 Jun (JG). Again this year, a C.W.S. survey of southbound Red Knots staging in the Mingan Archipelago confirmed the presence of 1500-1800 ads. in late Jul-early Aug (*vide C.* Buidin). An agitated Dunlin was found in suitable nesting habitat in the Pingualuit N.P. 28 Jul, providing further potential evidence for the breeding of the species in the Ungava Pen. (MR).

Totals for Laughing Gulls and Franklin's Gulls were close to normal, with 9 and 5 individuals, respectively. A Laughing Gull at Gagnon 2 Jul was apparently the northernmost for the Region (B. Jolicoeur), while an ad. Franklin's Gull at Blanc Sablon 28 Jun was certainly worthy of mention (H. Tremblay). Black-headed Gull is doing well in the Magdalen Is., where 15 nests and 35 individuals were found at Pointe-de-l'Est N.W.A. 20 Jun (OB et al.). Again this year, a late Arctic Tern visited Sainte-Catherine 14 Jun (PB). Common Murres are thriving in the Magdalen Is., where 9000 nesting birds were concentrated in two colonies this summer (JF. Rail). One located at Rivière-Ouelle 20 Jul was the westernmost bird this summer (JFR).

A White-winged Dove, the 15th for the Region, was a nice find at a Danville feeder 13 Jun (G. Lacroix, ph.). Two Mourning Doves at Radisson in mid-Jun were n. of their current range (LC, SB). Four Yellow-billed Cuckoos represented a good summer total. Black-billed Cuckoos were also well in evidence, e.g., 11 at Bellescombe, Abitibi 25 Jun (LI). The only Great Gray Owl reported outside of breeding range was at Saint-Anaclet 19 Jun (S. Rhéaume, J. Marcoux).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLING

A Red-headed Woodpecker at Sainte-Foy 7 Jul was outside of its former range in Québec (D. Lapointe, M. Drolet). Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested for the 2nd consecutive year at Châteauguay, where 2 juvs. and an ad. were noted 22 Jun (A. Lévesque, PB, G. Duquette). A female was at Maskinongé 1 Jul (SM, YG). Two American Three-toed Woodpecker nests were discovered in the Appalachian Mts. of the Beauce-Étchemin region, where the species' summer haunts are poorly known on both sides of the border (F. Chabot, *vide L.* Tremblay).

An Eastern Kingbird at km 274 along James Bay Rd. in mid-Jun was near the limits of its

range (MMe). An unbanded Loggerhead Shrike was photographed at Les Cèdres 7 Jun, barely a week after the last report of this formerly regular species in the Region (M. Dennis). The secretive Yellow-throated Vireo at Cap Tourmente was seen or heard sporadically up to 16 Jun (m.ob.), while another was at Saint-Raphaël 9 Jul (R. Lepage). Ruby-crowned Kinglets seem to have nested in the Montréal Botanical Gardens as evidenced by one bird 19 Jun (L. D'Amours) and several 16 Jul (SV).

Three downy juv. Northern Wheatears at Kangisquajuaq 29-30 Jul provided one of few nesting records for the Region (MR). In addition, two nests have been found at Kangisquajuaq "in recent years" (P. May, *vide* MR). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was heard on a mountain near the 51st parallel 100 km ne. of Sept-Îles 13 Jul, representing a potential extension of its poorly known range in Québec (OB). Following a strong showing last spring across much of the Region, Northern Mockingbirds were reported to be breeding in many new localities.

WARBLERS THROUGH REDPOLLS

Blue-winged Warblers were reported from Summit-Ancet 30 Jun (G. Falardeau) and Lac-Brome in Jun (2 birds), where the species is known to nest (J.F. Santerre). An impressive (troubling?) total of 9 Brewster's Warblers was reported in sw. Québec. An intriguingly early southbound movement of Tennessee Warblers was noted in s. Québec, starting in late Jun. In Montréal, where the species is not known to breed at all, singles were sighted at Summit Park 21 Jun (PB) and at Pointe-des-Prairies Nature Park 24 Jun (D. Daigneault, SD). Significant numbers followed in the first week of Jul, as evidenced by 10 at both Sainte-Foy 4 Jul (M. Raymond) and on Mount Royal, Montréal 6 Jul (PB). The species also appeared more abundant than usual on its breeding grounds in e. Québec and n. of the 50th parallel, based mainly on B.B.S. data. Such early departure from the breeding

grounds is well documented for this species, but the extent of this event appeared unparalleled this summer. It is worth noting that severe defoliation of Trembling Aspen occurred across vast areas of the Region, notably in Charlevoix and the North Shore at least up to the 51st parallel. A pair of Pine Warblers was at the e. reaches of the species' breeding range at Saint-Onésime-d'Ixworth 24 Jun (JFR). Thirteen Connecticut Warblers (12 males and a female) were banded at Normandin in Jun in the context of a research project directed at this skulking species (J. Ibarzabal et al).

Clay-colored Sparrows were reported widely and in good numbers this summer, e.g., 14 singing males in Abitibi 3-24 Jun (LI et al). A Field Sparrow was at Saint-Philéon-Sud 13 Jun (JFR). A harvest of 22 singing Le Conte's Sparrow was reached in Abitibi 2 Jun-23 Jul (LI et al.); one was at La Pocatière 21-24 Jul (C. Auchu, C. Girard). Two ad. Dark-eyed Juncos at Kangisquajuaq 29 Jul were n. of their expected breeding range (MR). A female Northern Cardinal was at Preissac, Abitibi 9 Jun (M. Lefebvre). Providing a rare summer record, a female Dickcissel was reported at Rivière-Ouelle 9 Jun (M. Cloutier, Y. Gilbert). A first-summer male Orchard Oriole was at Pointe-des-Prairies Nature Park, Montréal 7 Jul (A. Martin, SV et al.).

Last year's White-winged Crossbills largely vacated the forests in which they were so abundant from Jul 2006 onwards due to this summer's poor cone crop. The Canadian Maritimes had a strong influx, with many birds moving into the relatively isolated Magdalen Is. in late Jun (e.g., 150 at Pointe-de-l'Est N.W.A. 30 Jun), as masses of new cones were growing (OB et al.). One of the most remarkable events of the summer was the appearance of several Common Redpoll groups, with up to 30 juvs., in late Jun and Jul along the s. shore of the St. Lawrence R. between Montmagny and Rimouski (m.ob.). No birds were reported from the n. shore aside from the m.s. n. of Sept-Îles. It is tempting to believe that

nesting occurred in coniferous forest in the Lower St. Lawrence, possibly well to the w. of historic breeding localities among the summits of the Chic-Choc Mts. in Gaspésie. The high numbers of birds lingering late in the area last spring, coupled with the locally good remnants of last summer's good cone crop, definitely support this hypothesis.

EXOTICS

Not your ordinary pet shop escapee, a Northern Carmine Bee-eater at Saint-Ferdinand 9-30 Jun dazzled many curious birders (D. Langlois, B. Lemay). Somewhat less surprising, a European Goldfinch was at Duparquet 1., Abitibi 9 Jun (P. Letendre).

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Wayne R. Petersen

Unlike June 2006, June 2007 was generally dry, with slightly below-average temperatures and normal amounts of sunshine. Although the first half of the month was relatively cool and damp, the second half was warm and humid. Rain in the Boston area was slightly below normal and significantly lower than the 25+ cm that fell in 2006. July was normal in all departments, with temperatures in Boston averaging close to 72° F, despite several oppressively warm and humid days late in the month and rainfall totaling a little less than 10 cm.

With most of the spring's wet weather occurring in April this year, nesting of many species was less hampered by weather than during the past few years. Predation was an issue at two of New Hampshire's largest Common Loon nesting lakes, and although this problem continues at certain Regional coastal waterbird colonies, overall productivity was decent this season. Seabird numbers appeared to enjoy a "return to normalcy" this summer, and with Vermont and Massachusetts now engaged in breeding bird atlas projects, interesting or new breeding confirmations were inevitably made. Foremost of these were first state breeding records for Sandhill Crane in Massachusetts and Vermont and Clay-colored Sparrow in Massachusetts. Outstanding seasonal rarities included Western Grebe in New Hampshire; Red-billed Tropicbird, Brown Pelican, and Bridled Tern in Maine; Lewis's Woodpecker in Vermont; and Northern Wheatear in Massachusetts.

Abbreviations: B.O. (*Bird Observer*), G.O.M.S.W.G. (Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group), N.H.E.S.P. (Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program), M.A.S. (Maine Audubon Society), M.D.F.W. (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries

and Wildlife), M.B.R.C. (Maine B.R.C.), N. & S. Monomoy I. (Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, Barnstable, MA), Plum I. (Parker River N.W.R., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA), South Beach (Chatham, Barnstable, MA), Stratton I. (Saco, York, ME), T.N.C. (The Nature Conservancy), T.T.O.R. (The Trustees of Reservations), U.S.F.W.S. (United States Fish & Wildlife Service), V.B.R.C. (Vermont B.R.C.), W.A.R.B. (Westover Air Reserve Base).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

As in most summer seasons, there was a scattering of misplaced, lingering, and non-breeding waterfowl scattered throughout the Region. Most notable were 2 Brant at Rockport, Essex, MA 7 Jul (JB) and another at Plum I. 17 Jul (RH); a Ring-necked Duck at Pembroke, Plymouth, MA 31 Jul (WP); a Harlequin Duck at Sakonnet Pt., Newport, RI 28 Jul (RE); an inland Surf Scoter at Pittsburg, Coos, NH 17 Jun (EN); a Long-tailed Duck at Old Greenwich, Fairfield, CT 1 Jun (C. Ehlinger); and single Ruddy Ducks at Woburn, Middlesex, MA 18-25 Jul (MR) and Farmington, Hartford, CT throughout the period (P. Cianfaglione). A reminder of the increasing spread of breeding Common Eiders in s. New England was reflected by a total of 185 nests located on several Boston Harbor Islands (*vide* RS) and two broods of young at Sakonnet Pt., Newport, RI 6 Jul (RE). Although conclusive nesting of this species in the Ocean State has yet to be confirmed, the regular presence of eider broods in the state for over a decade is certainly suggestive of local breeding, which if confirmed would represent the southernmost breeding station in North America. A brood of Hooded Mergansers at Easton, Fairfield 3 Jun (L. Tiller) was unusual so far s. in Connecticut, while a brood of 45 juv. Common Mergansers with a single female on L. Winnepesaukee, Carroll, NH 9 Jul (S. Gosselin) surely represented a case of either dump nesting or delinquent parenting.

Information from New Hampshire indicated that 215-220 pairs of Common Loons successfully fledged 96 chicks this season, despite heavy predation at L. Umbagog and

Squam L., two especially important nesting sites (Loon Preservation Committee, *vide* TV). Very encouraging was news that for the 2nd year in a row a wetland mitigation area at Brentwood, Rockingham, NH, hosted at least seven broods of Pied-billed Grebes (T. Bronson)—evidence that wetland mitigation can have significant bird conservation impact. Out-of-season grebes included a Horned Grebe at Jamestown, Newport, RI 22-23 Jun (RFe), a Red-necked Grebe at Nahant, Essex, MA 24 Jul (RH), and an unprecedented New England summer occurrence of a Western



An almost annual visitor to New England in recent years, this Swallow-tailed Kite was in Rochester, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 9 June 2007. Photograph by Charlie Wade.

Grebe at Squam L., Holderness, Grafton, NH 21 Jul (J. Cooley, ph. R. Mongeau, *vide* TV).

For the 2nd year in a row, early summer tubenose numbers off Cape Cod were considerably higher than the depressed numbers that characterized these waters several years ago. Representative of this concentration were one-day tallies in the inshore waters off Cape Cod's backside of 125 Northern Ful-



One of few on the East Coast in summer 2007, this Franklin's Gull (left) was found by Wayne Petersen at Plum Island, Massachusetts on 9 June 2007. Photograph by David Larson.

mars, 2500+ Greater Shearwaters, and 4000+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels 10 Jun (SP, WP), 1700+ Sooty Shearwaters and 31 Manx Shearwaters 12 Jun (RH), and 37 Manx Shearwaters 30 Jun (RH). Evidence that austral-breed-



This Little Gull visited Hill's Beach in Biddeford, York County, Maine 18 June 2007. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

ing species were still arriving in mid-June was indicated by a migratory movement of 250+ Greater Shearwaters, 850+ Sooty Shearwaters, 22 Manx Shearwaters, and 12,000+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Nantucket I. 16 Jun (SP). Three Audubon's Shearwaters observed in the Gulf Stream-influenced waters of the outer Continental Shelf s. of Nantucket I. 21 Jun (RH) are no longer considered unexpected in light of increased pelagic investigation of those waters in recent years.

A Red-billed Tropicbird that first appeared 28 May, possibly the same individual seen last summer in the Gulf of Maine, was still being observed in the vicinity of Matinicus Rock until at least late Jul (ph. PV, m.ob.). A remarkable late spring aggregation of 3900+ Northern Gannets off outer Cape Cod 12 Jun (RH) was no doubt concentrated by the abundance of baitfish that also brought so many shearwaters to those waters during the same period. A convincing report of a Brown Pelican observed on the n. side of Casco Bay in the area s. of Brunswick, Cumberland, ME 16 Jun was independently well described (C. Hintz, J. Crosby, *file* M.A.S., JD), and the report is currently under review by the M.B.R.C. There are only five previous records for the Pine Tree State. Another Brown Pelican was reported at Hyannis, Barnstable, MA 15 Jul (J. Huckameyer, *file* B.O.).

The appearance of 3 juv. Least Bitterns at Plum I. 27 Jul (JB) confirmed for the 2nd year in a row the nesting of this elusive marsh dweller at this Regionally important wetland site. Two pairs of Least Bitterns at Kent, Litchfield in early Jun (J. Johnson, *file* GH) were deemed notable for this threatened species in

Connecticut. A nest count of long-legged wading birds at Kettle I., Manchester, Essex, MA tallied 98 Great Egrets, 230 Snowy Egrets, 18 Little Blue Herons, and 185 Glossy Ibis (SP, T.T.O.R. staff). At nearby Eagle I., Salem, totals included 21 Great Egrets, 26 Snowy Egrets, 2 Cattle Egrets, 39 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 4 Glossy Ibis (SP, JB). Similar counts made at Sarah I., Hingham, Plymouth, MA totaled 32 Great Egrets, 25 Snowy Egrets, and 169 Black-crowned Night-Herons (*file* RS), and numbers at Monomoy N.W.R. were one Great Egret, 12 Snowy Egrets, and 139 Black-crowned Night-Herons, the last figure down from 158 in 2006 (*file* MB, U.S.F.W.S.). Cumulative census totals of approximately 50 pairs of Snowy Egrets and 200 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons at colonies in Narragansett Bay, RI were described as "the most pathetic in recent memory" (RfE, CR). If there is a silver lining to any of these numbers, it is the fact that Glossy Ibis numbers appear to be recovering after a decline for a number of seasons. The total of 270 pairs on just two islands in Narragansett Bay represents a significant increase from a total of 98 pairs in 2006, and 185 pairs at Kettle I. represents quite a jump from the previous all-time high of 117 pairs in 2006. Despite the general Regional increase shown by Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Glossy Ibis (this year), concern continues over the apparent

steady decline of Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers. A Cattle Egret at South Beach 29 Jul (A. Farnsworth) was most unusual by both date and location.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Regional Osprey numbers generally reflected the species' continuing recovery from the dark days of pesticide contamination nearly a half a century ago. In n. New England, 78 successful nests in Vermont fledged an estimated 164 chicks (*file* T. Scharf), and 35 nests in New Hampshire fledged 71 chicks for a new state high (*file* CM). At Massachusetts's largest colony along the Westport R., Bristol, Ospreys also saw their best production ever, with 62 successful nests fledging 130 young (DC). A Swallow-tailed Kite first reported in May at Rochester, Plymouth, MA was seen again 9 Jun (ph. C. Wade), and a report at nearby Middleboro 15 Jun (J. Harrison) almost certainly pertained to the same individual. The sole Mississippi Kite report of the season was an ad. at Roxbury, Fairfield, CT 12 Jun (J. Johnson, *file* GH). Similar to Ospreys, Bald Eagles continue to flourish in the Region. Despite some mortality due to weather inclemency early in the season, 15 pairs in New Hampshire fledged 12 young (*file* CM), and an unsuccessful nesting attempt for at



A Wilson's Plover at Sandy Point, Plum Island, Massachusetts on 17 June 2007 was captured photographically by mobile phone and spotting scope! Photograph by Rick Heil.

least the 2nd year in a row at Windham, VT would have represented the first breeding in Vermont in over half a century had it been successful (F. Hammond, *file* JN). In Massachusetts, 22 successful pairs (a new high) fledged 32 young (TF), and in Connecticut 10 pairs fledged 16 young (*file* J. Victoria). For at least the 3rd year in a row, Sharp-shinned Hawks successfully nested in Ipswich, Essex, MA (JB), a county where breeding was practically unknown throughout the twentieth century. Despite the continued depressed numbers of American Kestrels in a long-term monitoring study conducted in se.



On 7 (here 18) June 2007, Mike O'Connor got a call from a woman reporting a dozen Black-necked Stilts at Forest Beach in Chatham, Massachusetts, and although he was skeptical, he was astonished to find six! Stilts are rare in Massachusetts, but six individuals at one location in the state is unprecedented. Photograph by Blair Nilada.

Massachusetts cranberry bogs since 2001, 18 occupied nests out of 65 nest boxes produced 53 young this year, a figure not inconsistent with last year and also rivaling productivity during the best of past years (JM). Persistent questions remain, however, about the causes of decline in this species in the Northeast, with leading hypotheses including impacts from West Nile virus, increased predation by a burgeoning Cooper's Hawk population, habitat alteration or destruction, and possibly the cumulative effect of increased nest mortality caused by a series of cold, wet springs. Following last year's weather-stricken nesting season, totals of Peregrine Falcons fledged in several key states included a robust 56 in Ver-



This Common Murre at Jeremy Point, Wellfleet, Cape Cod, Massachusetts was found on 10 July 2007; the species is very rare in the state in summer. Photograph by Robbie Hunsinger.

mont (fide M. Foule), 24 in New Hampshire (A.S.N.H., fide TV), and 25 in Massachusetts (TF)—a dazzling reflection this species' marvelous post-DDT recovery. Two falcons also fledged from a new nest under an I-95 bridge in Westport, Fairfield, CT (FM).

A Purple Gallinule at Stratford, Fairfield, CT present since late Apr was last observed 11 Jul (J. Scott, fide GH). A pair of Common Moorhens with several young at Lenox, Berkshire, MA in late Jun (G. Hurley, fide B.O.) represented a very infrequent Bay State breeding confirmation in recent years for this species. As noted in the previous issue, Sand-

hill Cranes continue to expand their breeding population in New England. As nearly as can be determined, this season at least three pairs nested in Maine (fide SM, PV), a pair successfully bred in Berkshire, MA (S. Mullen, SM), and a pair that has tried unsuccessfully to nest for three years finally fledged one young this spring in the Champlain Valley of Vermont (E. Elihorpe, fide JN).

SHOREBIRDS

The U.S.F.W.S. Piping Plover Recovery Plan calls for attaining a minimum subpopulation total of 625 pairs in New England for five years in a row, so this season's minimum total of 671 pairs is very encouraging, particularly when ongoing predation, human competition on barrier beaches, and weather-induced nest failures are factored into the equation. Preliminary totals for nesting Piping Plovers in 2007 included 35 pairs in Maine (fide M.A.S.), three pairs in New Hampshire (fide New Hampshire Fish & Game), 545 pairs in Massachusetts (fide N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S.), 74 pairs in Rhode Island (fide T.N.C., U.S.F.W.S.), and a minimum of 14 pairs in Connecticut (M. Stockmal, fide GH).

Massachusetts hosted 199-203 pairs of American Oystercatchers that produced 74-79 chicks (M.D.F.W., fide EJ), although unfortunately gull and coyote predation continue to plague this population, especially at Monomoy N.W.R. (fide U.S.F.W.S.). American Oystercatchers were confirmed nesting in Essex, MA, for only the 2nd time ever when 3 ads. and a juv. were observed at Salem 24 Jul (P. Brown, fide B.O.). Encouraging was a count of 122 ad. Upland Sandpipers at W.A.R.B., Hampden, MA 11-15 Jun (SM, M.D.F.W.), a tally down only slightly from numbers counted in 2005.

Always rare in the Region, a Wilson's Plover at Plum I. 17 Jun (ph. RH) was notable, but an amazing total of 6 Black-necked Stilts at Chatham, Barnstable, MA 7-12 Jun (M. O'Connor, ph. BN, m.ob) was unprecedented. The fact that at least 2 of these birds were observed copulating raised suspicions about possible nesting; however, no further evidence was observed. An American Avocet at Milford, New Haven, CT 3 Jun (R. Muller) and another at Sandwich, Barnstable, MA 19 Jun (E. Winslow) could have been the same individual. Seasonally unusual shorebird appearances included Willet (subspecies *inornata*) at South Beach 18 Jun (BN), Hudsonian Godwit at S. Monomoy 28 Jun (BH), Marbled Godwit at N. Monomoy 23 Jun (BH), Baird's Sandpiper at Duxbury, Plymouth 11 Jul (RB), Purple Sandpiper at Eastham, Barnstable 12 Jun (ph. E. Hogan), Stilt Sandpipers at N. Monomoy 7 Jun (BH) and Plum I. 21-26 Jun (v.o., fide B.O.), Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Plum I. 28 Jul (TW), and Wilson's Phalarope at South Beach 26 Jun (BN). Also interesting was a possible Little Stint at Seawall Beach, Phippsburg, Sagadahoc, ME 31 Jul (ph. PV), a probable White-rumped Sandpiper x Dunlin hybrid at South Beach 29 Jul (ph. MJJ), and a Curlew Sandpiper at Hull, Plymouth, 7 Jun (H. Lappen, fide B.O.). Though none are earth-shattering, selected high migratory shorebird tallies included 417 Willets, 3 Marbled Godwits, 700 Red Knots, and 3000 Sanderlings at South Beach 29 Jul (MJJ); 790 Lesser Yellowlegs at Newburyport 17 Jul



An increasing vagrant, or pioneer, out of range, mostly in the warmer months, two White-winged Doves attended a feeder in Orleans, Barnstable, Massachusetts from 1-21 (here 20) July 2007. Photograph by Stephanie Weeks.

(RH); 46 Hudsonian Godwits at South Beach 31 Jul (G. Gove, fide B.O.); 8000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Newburyport 31 Jul (RH); and 600 Least Sandpipers and 3500 Short-billed Dowitchers at South Beach 22 Jul (BN).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDES

A scattering of Parasitic Jaegers were reported, as well as a Pomarine Jaeger off Truro, Barnstable, MA 10 Jun (WP), 4 Poms off Nantucket I. 16 Jun (SP), and an imm. Long-tailed Jaeger at the Nantucket Shoals 21 Jul (RH et al.). A total of 1498 nesting pairs of Laughing Gulls at Monomoy N.W.R. (*fide*



This Western Kingbird was found by Steve Langer on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts on 16 June 2007 (here). Photograph by Simon Perkins.

U.S.F.W.S.) was augmented by 59 pairs at Plymouth Beach, Plymouth, MA for a first-ever nesting at that locality (N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S., *fide* EJ). The presence of Laughing Gulls adjacent to Bay State tern colonies is a matter of increasing concern due to the impact of kleptoparasitism and nest-site encroachment on breeding terns. Unusual larids reported during the period included an ad. Franklin's Gull at Plum I. 9 Jun (WP, ph. D. Larson), an imm. Little Gull at Biddeford, York, ME 12-19 Jun (ph. DL, v.ob.) and one or 2 at Plum I. throughout Jul (B.O.), a Black-headed Gull at Newburyport 17-31 Jul (RH, v.ob.), an imm. Glaucous Gull at Little Compton, Newport, RI (G. Dennis), an imm. Iceland Gull at E. Gloucester, Essex, MA 13 Jun (RH), an ad. Sabine's Gull at E. Egg Rock in the Gulf of Maine 23 Jun (*fide* M.A.S.), and an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Manomet, Plymouth, MA 13 Jun (I. Davies, *fide* B.O.).

A Gull-billed Tern at Manchester, Essex, MA 5 Jun (ph. RH) seemed curiously out of place, and Royal Terns at Stratton I. 16 Jul and Biddeford, York, ME 20 Jul (*fide* DL) were the northernmost reports in the Region this season. Sandwich Tern, a species appearing in the Region with increasing frequency in recent years, was recorded this season at Provincetown, Barnstable, MA 23 Jun (J. Hoyer) and 22 Jul (BN), and Stratford, Fairfield, CT 31 Jul (C. Barnard, *fide* GH). Preliminary Regional numbers of nesting pairs of Roseate Terns included 227 in Maine (G.O.M.S.W.G., *fide* EJ), 52 in New Hampshire (N.H.E.G., *fide* EJ), and 1730 in Massachusetts (N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S., *fide* EJ). Comparable numbers of Common

Terns were 7710 in Maine (G.O.M.S.W.G., *fide* EJ), 2121 in New Hampshire (N.H.E.G., *fide* EJ), 170 in Vermont (M. LeBarr, *fide* JN), and 15,827 in Massachusetts (N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S., *fide* EJ). Least Tern numbers were 196 pairs in Maine (G.O.M.S.W.G., *fide* EJ) and 3139 in Massachusetts (N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S., *fide* EJ). Regionwide, breeding terns appeared to remain relatively stable in comparison to last year, although the large Bay State colonies reflected a five per cent increase in Roseate Tern numbers and a 20% increase in Least Terns from last season. Despite these local increases, throughout the Region the specter of predation and local food shortages continue to plague certain colonies from one year to the next. For the 2nd year in a row, a Bridled Tern that first appeared at Stratton I. 16

Jul (S. Hall, *fide* PV) was sighted until at least month's end at several islands in Casco Bay and beyond (*fide* S. Hall, PV). The only nesting Black Skimmers in the Region were four pairs that fledged 2 young at Monomoy N.W.R. (*fide* MB, U.S.F.W.S.). Four Black Skimmers were also noted at Charlestown Breachway, Washington, RI 7 Jul (*fide* RF). Extralimital alcids included a Common Murre at Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA 10 Jul (ph. R. Hunsinger, *fide* B.O.) and up to 40 at Matinicus Rock in the Gulf of Maine in mid-Jun (*fide* M.A.S.). Also unusual were 3 Razorbills at Rockport, Essex, MA 13 Jun (RH) and an Atlantic Puffin at Provincetown, Barnstable, MA 6 Jun (BN).

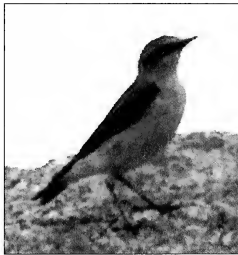
DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

White-winged Dove reports included one at Cumberland, Cumberland, ME 13-16 Jul (*fide* DL), one at Nantucket I. in early Jun (*fide* B.O.), 2 at a feeder at Orleans, Barnstable, MA 1-21 Jul (S. Weeks, *fide* B.O.), and one that first appeared at a Branford, New Haven, CT, feeder in Feb and remained throughout the period (D. Lorello, *fide* GH).

A pair of Barn Owls with 2 chicks in lower Fairfield, CT (P. Comins, *fide* GH) was the only reported nesting in the Region this season. No less interesting were 4 juv. Eastern Screech-Owls at Concord, Merrimack, NH 17 Jul (R. Woodward, *fide* TV)—in a state where only a single breeding confirmation was obtained between 1981-1986 (*Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, 1994). Out of place best describes a dead Barred Owl found in Truro, Barnstable, MA (P. Trull, *fide* B.O.),

where this species is rare at any season. No fewer than 30 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visited a feeder complex at Little Compton, Newport, RI 21-31 Jul (G. Dennis, *fide* RF).

Stunning is the only way to describe a Lewis's Woodpecker well described and photographed at Lyndonville, Caledonia, VT 6-8 Jun (P. Therrian, R. LaPoint, *fide* V.B.R.C.). If accepted by the V.B.R.C., this would represent only the 4th record for the Region, previous occurrences being two in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island; there are very few other records for the American East. For the 2nd year in a row, Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested in at least two localities in s. Maine (*fide* DL). Eleven Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded at M.C.C.S., Manomet, Plymouth, MA 5 Jun (*fide* B.O.) was a reminder of the lateness of this species' migration peak. Acadian Flycatchers made news in Massachusetts, with two first-ever county nesting records at Mashpee, Barnstable in late Jun (M. Keleher, *fide* B.O.) and Salem, Essex 1-28 Jul (JB). A Western Kingbird at Nantucket I. 16 Jun (S. Langer, ph. SP) represented a very rare early summer New England occurrence. The presence of a singing Yellow-throated Vireo at Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA 10 Jun (SP) was



Always rare in spring in the Northeast, this Northern Wheatear at Manchester, Massachusetts on 18 June 2007 was discovered by Susan Hedman. Photograph by Rick Heil.

anomalous; this species has never been known to breed on Cape Cod.

A report of three pairs of Purple Martins nesting at the Crestwood Country Club, Rehoboth, Bristol, MA (R. Marr) represents a previously unknown colony in a state where martins seem to be slowly slipping away. Compilers in Connecticut and Rhode Island commented on several surprising Jun occurrences of Red-breasted Nuthatches in their areas, possibly presaging a fall irruption (GH, RF). Carolina Wrens nesting at Yarmouth, Cumberland, ME (DL) represented what is still considered



These photographs of a Hooded Warbler and its nest in Franklin Park, Suffolk County, Massachusetts were taken in early June 2007. This was the first confirmed nesting attempt in the state since the late 1960s. The warblers and their nest were discovered by Steve Baird. Photograph by Bob Mayer.

an unusual occurrence in the Pine Tree State. Almost as unusual were Massachusetts reports of Sedge Wrens at Brookfield, Worcester 7-16 Jun (ML, *vide* B.O.) and Amherst, Hampshire 11-13 Jun (H. Allen, *vide* B.O.).

A Northern Wheatear at Manchester, Essex, MA 18 Jun (ph. S. Hedman, m.ob.) marked a rare spring Regional occurrence. A long-term Eastern Bluebird nesting study in se. Massachusetts this year had 16 boxes occupied out of 108, from which 85 young were banded (JM). While not as poor as last season, these numbers are still depressed compared to those of several years ago. More encouraging was a tally of 25 Swainson's Thrushes at Mt. Greylock, Berkshire 16 Jul (C. Quinlan, *vide* SK), because this species has seemingly declined in some areas in the higher hills of w. Massachusetts. An American Pipit at Duxbury Beach, Plymouth, MA 3 Jun (RB) was unusual for such a late spring date.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only reported Golden-winged Warblers this season were two pairs at St. Albans Bay, Franklin, VT 17 Jun (TM)—a sad testament to the continuing disappearance of this lovely species as a breeder in New England. In the Bay State, where the species is listed as threatened, a Northern Parula at Harwich, Barnstable 21 Jun (BN) was reassuring at this historical nesting locality. Very tardy can only describe a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Chatham, Barnstable, MA 17 Jun (R. Clem). Palm Warbler, a rare breeding species anywhere in New Hampshire, was confirmed nesting at Effingham, Carroll 25-26 Jun (A. & J. Robbins, *vide* TV). This locality is well s. of any previously documented breeding attempts. Even farther s., a singing male at Bradford, Merrimack 17 Jun (ph. J. Block, *vide* TV) offered no other indication of nesting. A

Prothonotary Warbler at W. Gloucester, Essex, MA 11-19 Jun (J. Nelson, *vide* B.O.) apparently belonged to The Lonely Hearts Club, unlike a Kentucky Warbler clearly holding territory and quite probably nesting at Falmouth, Barnstable, MA 6-21 Jul (RF). The behavior of this individual certainly suggested that it was nesting, and if it had been conclusively confirmed, it would have represented a first Bay State breeding record. Less equivocal was an apparently unsuccessful nesting attempt by Hooded Warblers at Franklin Park, Suffolk, MA 1-14 Jun (S. Baird, ph. B. Mayer, *vide* MR). This breeding effort represented not only the first such in Massachusetts since the late 1960s but also the northernmost on the Atlantic Coast. In addition to its urban location, the actual nest of the warblers was located in a stand of the highly invasive Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)!

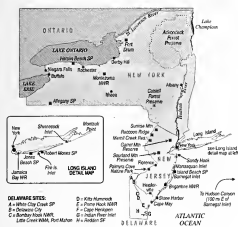
A male Summer Tanager at Salem, Essex, MA 25 Jul (JB) was only slightly less unexpected than a male Western Tanager photographed at Cutler, Washington, ME 6 Jun (*vide* M.A.S.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was present at Wilson's Mills, Oxford, ME 22-27 Jun (*vide* M.A.S.), and the species conclusively nested for the first time ever in Massachusetts at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, Barnstable, where 4 or 5 singing males were present and at least one nest with young was located (ph. PT). Though increasingly anticipated, this confirmation represents one of very few conclusive nesting records of this species in the Region. A comprehensive grassland bird census at W.A.R.B., Hampton, MA produced an impressive tally of 200 male Grasshopper Sparrows (SM, M.D.F.W.), although not a single Vesper Sparrow was located. Three Grasshopper Sparrows at Block I, 21 Jun (CR) were the only ones found in Rhode Island this season—the first time in a

decade none were recorded on the mainland (*vide* RF). Very much out of season was an ad. White-crowned Sparrow at a feeder at Westbrook, Middlesex, CT 19-26 Jun (ph. J. Schwarz, *vide* GH). Slightly less unusual but still notable was a Dark-eyed Junco at Waltham, Middlesex, MA 17 Jul (J. Forbes, *vide* B.O.). As has become traditional in recent years, displaced late spring Blue Grosbeaks appeared as singles at Appledore I., Isle of Shoals 3 Jun (*vide* DL), Concord, Merrimack, NH 7 Jun (L. Herlihy, ph. M. Suomala, *vide* TV), and in Connecticut (*vide* GH). The only Painted Bunting of the period was a male at Yarmouth, Cumberland, ME 7 Jun (*vide* DL). A Dickcissel at Provincetown, Barnstable, MA 5 Jun (BN) could have been either a lingering wintering individual or a rare spring migrant. The importance of the W.A.R.B., Hampton, MA to grassland birds was further underscored by a tally of 125 Eastern Meadowlarks 11-15 Jun (SM, M.D.F.W.). A single Red Crossbill and 6 White-winged Crossbills at Mt. Greylock, Berkshire 16 Jul (C. Quinlan, *vide* SK) were probably wanderers, as were 4 White-winged Crossbills at Westwood, Norfolk, MA 25 Jun (*vide* EN). At least 3 Evening Grosbeaks appeared in Connecticut in early Jun (*vide* GH).

Exotics: A Superb Starling found road-killed beside an interstate highway in Freetown, Bristol, MA in mid-Jun (ph. B. King, *vide* G. Purcell) represented an exotic species seldom seen in New England. A European Goldfinch observed at Norfolk, Litchfield, CT 22 Jun (S. Harms, *vide* GH) is an alien species more frequently reported.

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Summer 2007 was temperate and (along the coast) wet. Beach-nesting species *suffered extensively from heavy rains and flooding* in central New Jersey and perhaps elsewhere, in addition to their normal perils. The season's highlight was a much-pursued Western Reef-Heron that shifted between New Jersey and Brooklyn, establishing first records for two states and the Region. A Roseate Spoonbill in New Jersey and 14 White Ibis in Delaware rounded out a memorable long-legged wader season.

We gratefully thank two major contributors to this column who have retired: Pat Sutton (Cape May Bird Observatory) and Andy Ednie, who assembled the Delaware data for us for nearly a quarter century.

Abbreviations: Batavia (W.T.P., Genesee, NY); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Chazy Riverlands (mouths of Chazy R. on L. Champlain, Clinton, NY); Cupsgogue (county park, barrier beach e. of Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, Long I.); D.N.R.E.C. (Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation); Fort Drum (Fort Drum Military Installation, Jefferson, NY); Hamlin Beach (L. Ontario, Monroe, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, NYC); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Nassau, Long I.); Montezuma (N.W.R., Seneca, NY); N.J.D.F.G.W. (New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife); NYC (New York City); N.Y.D.E.C. (New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation); Plateau Mt. (Catskill summit, Greene, NY); Stone Harbor Pt. (n. side of Hereford Inlet, Cape May, NJ); Upper and Lower Lakes (W.M.A., Canton, St. Lawrence, NY); Woodland Beach (Wildlife Area, Kent, DE).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Delaware's 3rd, visited Woodland Beach 18 Jul (Andrew Leidig et al., ph. Derek Stoner), marking the northeastern edge of a general incursion into the cen. and se. states this season. A few non-breeding geese often summer on the coast; more unexpected inland were 2 Brant at the Chazy Riverlands 14 Jul (BK) and 8 Snow Geese at Lowville, Lewis, NY 23 Jun (JB). Introduced Trumpeter Swans seem to be establishing themselves in upstate New York, for good or ill. Pairs with young were noted just e. of the Monroe/Wayne line (RGS, Susan Spahn) and at the Perch River W.M.A., Jefferson (JB), while apparent nonbreeders summered at Montezuma, at Savannah, Wayne, and at Watertown, Jefferson. Eight broods of Ring-necked Ducks, a relatively recent breeder in the Saint Lawrence Valley, were found at Upper and Lower Lakes (JB). A male Bufflehead at Batavia 16 Jun (WW) was the most unusual among widespread summering diving ducks. Ruddy Ducks no longer breed in the Region, as far as we know, but 27 lingered at Batavia in mid-Jul, and a few individuals remained coastally in all three states. A male at the Chazy Riverlands 4-7 Jul (BK, Charles Mitchell) was the first Adirondack summer record.

We now have the 2006 census results from the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program: a survey on 15 Jul 2006 of 221 lakes and ponds (mostly in the Adirondack Park) found 578 Common Loons on 158 water bodies (79% of those surveyed), of which 493 were ads., 67 were chicks, and 18 were juvs. (*Adirondack Tremolo* 6: 1; 2006-2007 winter newsletter). Numbers have declined slightly since these counts began in 2001. Red-necked Grebes have bred in s. Ontario, so a pair performing courtship display 11 Jun at Upper and Lower Lakes attracted attention (JB). Another in basic plumage lingered there 8 Jul (WR), and still another was in the Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve, Franklin, NY 30 Jul (Hollis White). One American White Pelican seen occasionally at Montezuma was actually a low number,

considering the recent surge of sightings. Once exceptional rarities, frigatebirds were around for the 3rd consecutive summer. Following a May record, an all-dark individual (thus a male of some species) was offshore n. of Cape May 1 Jun (Alan Brady); one (with-out particulars) was at Great Egg Harbor Inlet, Atlantic 22 Jun (E. O'Sullivan); and a fe-



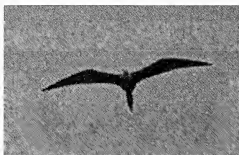
The northward march of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was documented yet again on the East Coast, this time at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, Kent County, Delaware on 18 July 2007. Photograph by Derek Stoner.

male or imm. followed the Cape May ferry 29 Jul to the Lewes, DE dock, where it tangled with Laughing Gulls (Jason Guerdar, ph. Richard Martin). None of these could be conclusively identified to species.

HERONS

The 22nd New York Harbor Heron survey, sponsored by NYC Audubon, found a general increase since 2004 (the counts are now triennial) from 1711 to 1846 herons on 10 of 16 islands inspected (Andrew Bernick). The main apparent trends were increases in Great Egret (361 nests) and Snowy Egret (308 nests); a decline in Glossy Ibis (254 nests)

SA A Western Reef-Heron amazed Anthony Laquidara at South Amboy, Middlesex, NJ 30 Jun. The bird then disappeared, only to turn up 8 Jul at Coney Island Creek in the Dreier-Offerman Park complex (also known as Calvert Vaux Park), Brooklyn, NY (Alex Wilson, AW et al.). It appeared intermittently there through the period, with one additional sighting 14 Jul at South Amboy and a possible flyby at Sandy Hook 9 Jul. This West African coastal species has occurred at least three times and possibly four times in North America. The first record was Nantucket I., MA, 26 Apr-13 Sep 1983. A bird discovered at Rye Harbor, NH 9 Aug 2005 subsequently moved about between Kittery, ME, and adjacent New Hampshire. There are two Canadian records: Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland, summer 2005; and Glace Bay, Cape Breton I., Nova Scotia 26 Jun-2 Aug 2006. This latter bird could easily be the same as the one found at Rye, NH seven days later. Transatlantic vagrancy in this species seems to be quickening: so striking a heron is unlikely to go unnoticed. These birds probably make the Atlantic crossing, like Cattle Egrets before them, at the narrowest point, arriving in Brazil or the Caribbean and moving northward in spring.



With the rather surprising increase in records of Lesser Frigatebird in North America in recent years, from a trio of states no one would have guessed (Michigan, Wyoming, and California), observers of this frigatebird at Lewes, Delaware 29 July 2007 wisely left it unidentified to species, though Magnificient is the most likely species involved. Photograph by Richard Martin.

was evident. Black-crowned Night-Heron (802 nests) still predominate. Cattle Egrets hang on by a toanail in New York Harbor (two nests); the Region's only remaining substantial colony is at Pea Patch I., in the Delaware R. off Delaware City (est. 284 pairs, CB). The growth of urban estuary heronries such as those in New York Harbor has coincided with declines in rural heronries. There is now considerable debate about whether heavy metals and other pollutants subject these urban heronries to extra mortality.

A Tricolored Heron at Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo 28 & 30 Jun (Ed Ratajczak, Peter Yoerg) and another photographed at Vischer Ferry, Saratoga, NY 2 & 3 Jun (John Hershhey), were far n. of their Long I. breeding limit. The same is true of a Glossy Ibis at Hoosic Falls, Rensselaer/Washington, NY 28 Jun (Kevin Hemeau). Fourteen ad. White Ibis over the beach n. of Indian River Inlet 5 Jun (CB) constituted the largest group ever encountered in Delaware, but none were reported elsewhere. Single White-faced Ibis were picked out of the Glossy Ibis flocks only at Brig 3 Jun (Linda Mack; S. Galick) and at Bombay Hook 23-28 Jun (Clive Harris et al.); perhaps fewer people are looking. A Roseate Spoonbill discovered at Brig 12-19 Jul (John Danzenbaker, K. Ar-

curi, C. Herlinds) delighted many into Sep (ph. C. Bohinski et al.). The only previous New Jersey record was at Linden 24 Aug 1992, and the same bird, or another, was on Staten I., NY 20-29 Aug 1992. These are the northernmost East Coast observations.

RAPTORS

Ospreys continue to fill in the blanks; a nest on the Niagara R. was the first there in decades (MM). Most states no longer census them every year. Ground inspection of 232 New Jersey nests indicated a productivity rate of 1.75, well above average (KC), but perhaps because of food shortage, productivity was low on e. Long I. (Mike Scheibel). After multiple spring records, only one Mississippi Kite hung around Cape May. Elsewhere an ad. male was near Prime Hook WA., Kent, DE 2 Jun (BGP), and 2 were in Alloway Twp., Salem, NJ 7 Jul (JDo). A breeding record still eludes us.

Bald Eagle, delisted this year as an Endangered Species, climbed again to 122 occupied territories in New York. Fledged young totaled 151, a little below last year's whopping 178, when a third of the nests had three chicks. Significant new breeding areas included the s. shore of L. Ontario, at Irondequoit Bay, and the U.S. side of the Saint Lawrence in Jefferson, as well as several new sites in N. New York (Joe Nye, N.Y.D.E.C.). Eagles built new eyries down the Hudson R. in Ulster (two sites) and Dutchess and to the southeast in Rensselaer and Westchester. A nest in Three Rivers W.M.A. was the first in n. Onondaga in 57 years (WP). New Jersey's Bald Eagle population climbed again to 64 territorial pairs, of which 60 laid eggs and 40 fledged 62 young. The productivity rate (1.03) was a little below average because of Apr storms at the early chick stage (KC). Delaware fledged 41 chicks (Kit Hecksher, D.N.R.E.C.), compared to 14 a decade ago.

A Sharp-shinned Hawk nest at the Ashland Nature Center, New Castle, DE constituted a first state record (Joe Sebastiani). Merlins continue to expand as breeders in upstate

New York, though not always linearly: last year's sites around Rochester went unoccupied. Elsewhere, five pairs were reported in the Adirondacks without further details (JMCP), while two nests were local firsts in residential neighborhoods of Watertown, Jefferson, and Canton, St. Lawrence (JB). New Jersey had 20 active pairs of Peregrine Falcons that fledged a healthy 45 young, despite the failure in inclement spring weather at three of the state's four natural cliff sites, all on the Hudson River Palisades (KC). New York's 63 territorial pairs fledged a record 127 young. Five new sites were occupied, including an Osprey platform in Jamaica Bay and four upstate cliffs (Barbara Loucks, N.Y.D.E.C.; Chris Nadesky, NYC Department of Environmental Protection).

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Sandhill Crane pair nested for the 5th year at the initial New York breeding site, near Savannah, Wayne, this time successfully raising a colt to flying stage (RGS). Two or three others lingered in the w. L. Ontario plain around the Iroquois N.W.R. and Tonawanda W.M.A. (WW, JW). A "lost" Whooping Crane from the e. reintroduction project summered in the Tug Hill region, w. of the Adirondacks (JB).

The number of lingering summering shorebirds, according to observers in both Delaware and Long I., returned to normal after two summers of abnormally high counts. Following a spate of spring and summer records, a female Wilson's Plover visited Stone Harbor 3 Jun (CV). Piping Plovers responded well to protection, against great odds. We now have the 2006 Piping Plover census results for Long I.: 422 to 436 pairs and 619 fledges, up from 182 pairs in 1992 (Michelle Gibbons, N.Y.D.E.C.). In Delaware, where Piping Plovers have clawed their way back from extinction, the remnant population at Cape Henlopen produced nine nests (one more than last year). New Jersey's Piping Plovers gained 11% to 129 pairs, somewhat above the twenty-year average, but the reproduction rate was a "dismal" 0.65 (TP).

American Oystercatcher established a first nw. New Jersey record at Swartswood L., Sussex, NJ 3 Jun (Rose Hooley et al., ph), on a day of rain and northeasterly wind. American Avocets touched down, as usual, well n. of their habitual Delaware post-breeding assemblage. They have been nearly annual in recent years on the L. Erie shore, but three reports (Dunkirk Harbor, Silver Creek, and Canadaway Creek) 6-27 Jul (WW, Dave Navey) were the most in memory. Two passed briefly at Cuspogue 17-18 Jun (Andy Baldelli).

A gratifying count of 12-15 Upland Sand-

SA Raptors are a growing feature of New York City's avifauna. A survey by NYC Audubon found eight raptor species—five diurnal and three nocturnal—breeding within the city during 2007 (CG). There were 15 confirmed and one probable Osprey nests, 10 of these at Jamaica Bay, where the first NYC nest in a century was found in 1991 (Don Riepe). One Cooper's Hawk, rarest of the five diurnal species, was confirmed nesting on Staten I., plus two possibles in Brooklyn. (A successful nest at Cape May further illustrated this accipiter's growing acceptance of residential areas.) A potential sixth diurnal NYC raptor, Red-shouldered Hawk, an occasional nester at the Bronx Zoo, was missing in 2007. The most conspicuous NYC raptor, Red-tailed Hawk, rose to 21 confirmed nests plus 11 probables and four possibles. Ironically, the Fifth Avenue site where it all began in 1993 with "Pale Male" failed again.

Two American Kestrel nests were confirmed in the city, plus 16 probables and 22 possibles. More are likely, as these cavity nesters are easily overlooked amid rooftop clutter. Urban success is good news for American Kestrels; rural declines are alarming. A survey in Delaware confirmed only two nests in 2007 and several possibles, down from 200-500 in 1990. Nest boxes work well: five of 24 boxes in Franklin, NY in the Adirondacks produced 18 young (Mark Manske).

SA Red Knots peaked at 12,375 in the aerial survey of the Delaware Bay shorebird concentration on 29 May, the lowest yet (KC), down 90% in 10 years. Since Horseshoe Crabs take 11 years to mature, harvest reductions will make more eggs available only slowly. And those reductions are challenged. In Delaware, a two-year harvest ban was overturned on 8 Jun by a Superior Court judge, who ruled that the crab fishermen's interests had been insufficiently taken into account. The Fish and Wildlife Service declined earlier this year to list the *rufa* subspecies of Red Knot as Endangered. The situation is beyond deplorable.

pipers at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Ocean, NJ 14 Jul marked this species' present s. limit, after a half-century of retraction. They have apparently abandoned JFK Airport. At least 6 frequented Blue Chip Farm, Orange, NY in mid-Jun (Pat Pollock, Eve Levine, Omar Morales, Stephanie Seymour), and a small number of active sites in upstate New York includes Tillman W.M.A., near Buffalo; Sharon Springs, Schoharie; Fort Edward, Washington (Mona Bearor); and Ames, Montgomery (WR). Regrettably, only 4 inhabited a section of Fort Drum, formerly the upstate stronghold, where 15-16 pairs used to be found (JB), though some additional birds frequent adjacent Wheeler-Sack Airfield, where access is limited. Fort Drum is very active with deployments to the Middle East, which has produced a boom in real estate development (JB).

Three Curlew Sandpipers continued the pace from spring, recalling the great 1950s-1960s. One bright bird arrived at Cuspsogue 30 Jun-1 Jul (SM, m.ob.). Another was at Jamaica Bay 22 Jul (PLI, m.ob.), and a 3rd graced Stone Harbor Pt. 18-19 Jul (CV). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper in a ploughed field near Hamlin Beach 25 Jul (DT) was the earliest ever for New York. Only 2 Ruffs appeared: one at Brig 4-5 Jun (B. Hiebsch), and a fading black-and-chestnut male at Taylor's Gut, n. of Woodland Beach, DE 12-15 Jul (Colin Campbell, Michael Bowen). Only single Wilson's Phalaropes visited the classic coastal sites such as Jamaica Bay, Brig, Bombay Hook, and Woodland Beach.

GULLS THROUGH TERNS

A first-summer Laughing Gull prospected as far inland as Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ 3-4 Jun (FS, John DeMarras, Sam Galick). A first-summer Franklin's Gull at Pickering Beach, Kent, DE 4 Jul (BGP) was one of few reports in recent years. A third-cycle California Gull at South Cape May Meadows 28 Jun (Michael O'Brien, PELI) would be a 3rd state record and is unprecedented in summer. Six Lesser Black-backed Gulls across the three

states, all coastal except one at the dump area near Florence, Burlington, NJ 9 Jun (Tom Bailey), now seems a normal count in summer. A Glaucous Gull at Greece, Monroe, NY 18 Jul (DT) was the first local Jul record. A first-summer Little Gull, exceptional in mid-summer, turned up at Cuspsogue 15 Jul (Andy Guthrie, AW), and what was probably the same bird was at nearby Sag Pond 23 Jul and Mecox Flats 24-25 Jul (AW).

The center of Gull-billed Tern density in this Region is Brig, where a maximum of 22 was present 21 Jul. Five nested in Barnegat Bay, NJ (JBu). At their n. limit, three or four pairs apparently bred in the Great South Bay in Hempstead, Long I. (JZ), and repeated summer sightings at Jamaica Bay suggest they may be breeding nearby. The Region's one Caspian Tern colony, Little Galloo I. in L. Ontario, contained 1580 nests 6 Jun (JB), and there was a lone nest in Barnegat Bay, NJ (JBu), as has occurred occasionally since 1984. N.Y.D.E.C. personnel collected 271 Caspian Tern carcasses along the L. Ontario shoreline, thought to be victims of Type E Botulism. This outbreak was less severe than that of last summer.

Royal Terns made news at Stone Harbor. Summer visitors have been regular, occasionally displayed courtship behavior, but an influx of some 200 birds this Jun produced about 20 nests and 15 fledglings (CV, TP). The state's only previous breeding record was in 1988. A Sandwich Tern was photographed at Breezy Pt., on w. Long I. 15 Jul (Alexander Hellquist), and a few now summer regularly at Cape May. About 1300 Roseate Tern chicks were banded at Great Gull I., a slight gain, but the species' main problem on Long I. is the absence of any significant alternative colony there since 1995. Two or 3 hung around Cape May, as in most recent summers, and, more unusually, singles were at Sandy Hook 24 Jul (SB) and 29 Jul and at Leonard on Raritan Bay 28 Jul (both Tom Boyle), but breeding in the Region remains unproven s. of Long Island. Forster's Terns continue to nest as far n. as Hempstead, Suffolk, Long I. (327 pairs, JZ). Five ads. at Cuspsogue 17 Jun included a displaying pair (SM), perhaps presaging further eastward expansion. Destruction of Forster's Tern nests by Jul rains in Barnegat Bay, NJ (JBu) could explain wanderers to Round Valley Res., Hunterdon, NJ 17 Jul (FS, Frank Sencher,

Sr.) and even to L. Champlain at the Chazy Riverlands 6 Jul (BK, Nancy Olsen), the first Adirondack record. Two were exceptional on 9 Jun at Olcott, Niagara, NY on L. Ontario (WDA, BeP), more likely off course from the s. Ontario population. Black Terns, limited to far upstate New York, have rebounded to 209 pairs from only 133 in 2001, according to the N.Y.D.E.C.'s triennial survey (Irene Maz-zochi), still far below the 284 pairs of 1991. Interior wetlands produce more Black Terns than L. Ontario shoreline wetlands, where habitat quality is declining.

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES

Nocturnal raptors censused in NYC included eight confirmed Barn Owl nests (mostly at Jamaica Bay), plus sixteen probables and five possibles; two confirmed nests of Eastern Screech-Owl and nine probables (mostly on



Still a shocking vagrant in the mid-Atlantic states, this Roseate Spoonbill at Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey (a.k.a., Brigantine) arrived 14 July 2007 and stayed for nearly three months (last documented 7 October 2007). Photograph by Christopher James Bolinski.

Staten I.); and two confirmed Great Horned Owl nests (one each in the Bronx and Queens), plus several on Staten Island.

Red-headed Woodpeckers hung on in a few widely dispersed lowland areas, primarily on the L. Ontario plain, the upper Saint Lawrence Valley, and s. coastal New Jersey. The best concentrations reported to us were 5 on Fort Drum, St. Lawrence (JB) and 2 in a Red-headed Woodpecker Habitat Enhancement Area in Brendan Byrne (formerly Lebanon) S.E., Burlington/Ocean, NJ. American Three-toed Woodpeckers were found only at Ferd's Bog, Hamilton, NY, while there were seven Adirondack reports of Black-backed Woodpecker.

Flycatcher migration continued as usual well into Jun, as witnessed by 28 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded at Manitou, Monroe, NY 5 Jun (RMCK). An impressive 24 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were counted at dawn 7 Jun atop Plateau Mt. (SC). Acadian Flycatch-

ers are prospering. A pair well documented at Petersburg, *Rensselaer*, e. of the Hudson Valley, was well n. of 1988 atlas limits (ph., vt. Hope Batchelor). An unprecedented number settled in NYC parks (Central, Prospect, Forest), on Staten I., at Jamaica Bay, and in Eastport, Long Island.

Something bizarre got into Red-breasted Nuthatches. Invasion years usually materialize in late summer, but Red-breasted Nuthatches started turning up in mid-June in coastal lowlands well away from their known s. breeding outposts in ornamental pine plantations. A few solitary Jun records are known, but never such a cavalcade of them: East Islip, Suffolk, Long I. 14 Jun (SM); Cape May 18 & 23 Jun (George Myers, Karl Lukens, Tom Parsons et al.); and Montauk Pt., Long I. 23 Jun (JG). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Napeague, Suffolk, Long I. 1 Jul (J. Osterlund); one was on Staten I., NY 2 Jul (Howie Fischer); 5 were in Alloway Twp., Salem, NJ 7 Jul (JDo); and one was near Hockessin, New Castle, DE 4 Jul (Bob Rufe). Records proliferated in Jul in the coastal lowlands of all three states, including outer headlands. Curiously, our reporters in the Adirondacks noted nothing out of the ordinary.

Elusive Sedge Wrens continued at Bombay Hook, as usual, but were scanty elsewhere, mostly in upstate New York wetlands: Savannah, Wayne (KCG); Braddock Bay, Monroe (DT, C. Gates); and especially Upper and Lower Lakes (11 on 4 Jul, JB). Two were a good find at Sharon Springs, Schoharie, NY 30 Jun (Andy Mason). Bicknell's Thrushes inhabited 15 Adirondack peaks, with a maximum of 13 on Blue Mt. 7 Jun (Joan Collins). A remarkable 23 were on Plateau Mt. at dawn 7 Jun (SC), a Catskill summit whose dwarf spruce cap could disappear with global warming.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A dawn count of 32 Blackpoll Warblers on Plateau Mt. 7 Jun (SC) indicates the health of the southerly Catskill population. One at Wilson, Niagara, NY 18 Jun (BeP) was exceptionally late. Northerly Prothonotary Warblers continued at Tonawanda W.M.A., Erie, NY and at two sites on Oneida L.: Shackleton Pt., Madison and Big Bay, Oswego (WP). Breeding was confirmed e. of previously known locations in East Hampton, Suffolk, Long I. (SM, PLI, JG, Betsy McCully), and another one was observed at nearby Sag Harbor in early Jun (Bob Wilson). Hooded Warblers have become one of the most abundant warblers in the lower Hudson Valley, and apparent breeding pairs were found well n. of 1988 atlas limits at New Salem and Clarksville, both Albany, NY (Dave Bain, Ron Harrower).

Clay-colored Sparrows are now fully established breeders in upstate New York. From Fort Drum come counts of 14 singing males 7 Jun and 19 in a different part of the Fort 1 Jul (JB). Richard Rosche found them "with regularity" in proper habitat in Wyoming, Cattaraugus, and Allegany. The southernmost bird known to us was at Sharon Springs, Schoharie (WY). A Lark Sparrow was extraordinarily early at Brig 6 Jul (Nancy Cooke, Stehen Liebhaber).

Significant grassland habitat is being managed for wildlife at the 2700-acre Duke Farms, Somerset, NJ. Breeding there in 2007 were 35-40 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows; two pairs of Dickcissels (the first New Jersey nesting record since 1998); approximately 50 pairs of Bobolinks; and 10-15 pairs of Eastern Meadowlarks (a species in real difficulty in this Region). Henslow's Sparrows bred there in 2006, the first in New Jersey since 1994, but they did not return in 2007 (Chris Aquila). All other Henslow's Sparrow reports came from New York: Sharon Springs, Schoharie (Bill Lee, WR, Matt Liebers); sites in both Livingstone and Genesee; and 7 in Fort Drum (JB). A singing male Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Fort Drum 1 Jun (JB) may have been a late migrant, but breeding should be watched for.

A White-crowned Sparrow singing in Greece, Monroe 25 Jun and observed sporadically all summer (DT, Kathy Tetlow, KG) was curious but not entirely unprecedented. Another at Moose River Plains, in the Adirondacks, 13 Jun (RMCK) was extremely late for a migrant. A Dark-eyed Junco photographed at Jones Beach 15 Jul (Sy Schiff) belongs to a w. form, although the photograph does not permit certainty about which one. Even a Slate-colored Junco would be unprecedented there in midsummer.

In addition to the Duke Farms Dickcissels, the region's only confirmed nesting pairs, 2 more were observed at Mannington, Salem, NJ through mid-June (Frank Lenik), and another was seen 10 Jun at Tonawanda W.M.A., in the L. Ontario plain (JW). One was a surprise over Hamlin Beach 27 Jul (RGS). An ad. female Snow Bunting was truly bizarre at Piermont Pier, Rockland, NY 20-25 Jun (Tom Dow, ph. Alan Wells). We know of no other Regional summer record. A very early female Yellow-headed Blackbird lingered at Jones Beach 6-mid-Jul (Corey Finger, m.ob.). An ad. and a juv. Pine Siskin at feeders at Wells Mills County Park, Ocean, NJ 12 Jul (Fred Lesser) could have bred nearby.

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): Deborah Allen (Central Park, NYC), Robert Andrie (Niagara Frontier), Chris Aquila (Duke Farms), Scott Barnes (n.

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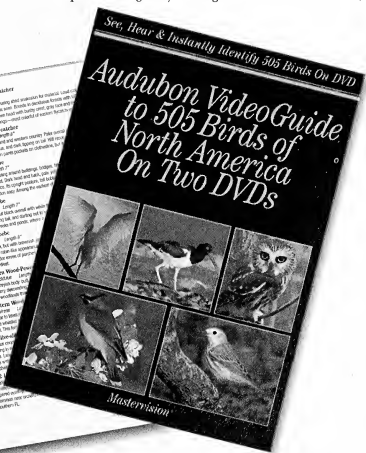
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Southern Atlantic



Ricky Davis

This summer's weather could best be described as dry and hot. The drought conditions in the mountains and Piedmont were severe to extreme, while moderate to minor drought was noted in the coastal regions. Making this situation worse were above-average temperatures throughout the Region, especially in July. The weather's effects on nesting birds were minimal, except in areas where water resources were compromised. Only one tropical storm, *Barry*, passed by the coast, 2-4 June. Seabird displacement was noted by a handful of observers, but the number of birds involved was rather small.

Abbreviations: C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, Dare, NC); E.L.H. (E. L. Hue Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach S.P., Georgetown, SC); Hoop. (Hooper Lane, Henderson, NC); Kennesaw Mt. (Kennesaw Mt. National Battlefield Park, Cobb, GA); Pea I. (Pea Island N.W.R., Dare, NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORK

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have definitely become part of the breeding avifauna of the Region. Adults with young were noted at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA and at Donnelley W.M.A., SC several times this summer, and a pair with 14 young was at the S.S.S. 26 Jul (SC). Away from the coast, 7 were at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 26 Jun+ (LS et al.). It will probably only be a matter of time until this species becomes established somewhere in North Carolina! Noteworthy lingering/summering waterfowl included 2 male Ring-necked Ducks all summer (joined by a female 31 Jul!) at the E.L.H. (CL), a Ring-necked at Santee N.W.R., SC 23 Jun (RC, CE), a Surf Scoter at Emerald Isle, NC 22 Jun (BH), and Black Scoters at two locations: 6 at Ft. Fisher, NC 6 Jun (HS) and 5 at H.B.S.P. 12-14 Jun (Pse). Hooded Merganser and Ruddy Duck are found in the Region each summer, with sporadic localized breeding. Of note this

year was the female Hooded with 3 young at Dawson Forest, Dawson, GA 5 Jun (JH) and the female Ruddy with 3 young at the S.S.S. 13 Jul (SC).

A few Common Loons linger somewhere in the Region each summer, usually near the coast. Thus of interest were up to 2 at Carters L., GA 11-21 Jun (*vide* TM), one at Salem L., Forsyth, NC 12 Jun (JH), and one at Long Pond, Lowndes, GA 23-30 Jun (JA). Pied-billed Grebes, rare breeders outside of the Coastal Plain, nested again at the E.L.H., with at least three pairs noted (CL). Horned Grebes are rarely found lingering in the Region; of interest was one at Carters L., GA 21-24 Jun (JF, SB).

Pelagic birding trips out of Hatteras, NC produced single Herald Petrels 6 & 27 Jul and a Pea's Petrel 1 Jul (BPI). Shearwater numbers offshore were about average for this time of year; however, several onshore reports were of interest. Tropical Storm *Barry* was most likely responsible for bringing numbers of Cory's, Greater, Sooty, and Audubon's Shearwaters to the inshore waters during early Jun. The best count from shore was at C. Hatt. 3 Jun, when 600+ Greater, 25 Sooties, and several Audubon's were noted (GL, Gbu). A Greater Shearwater found in a field in Lancaster, SC 12 Jul (*vide* TP) defies explanation—no storms were active at this time. This bird was captured and taken to a local rehabilitator in the Charlotte, NC area. North Carolina got its 3rd (in four years!) Black-bellied Storm-Petrel, one photographed off Hatteras, NC 23 Jun (BPI). As in the case of recent European Storm-Petrel sightings, one wonders if this species has been overlooked in the past. Always a highlight of any pelagic trip, a White-faced Storm-Petrel was a good find off Hatteras, NC 28 Jul (BPI), providing one of only a few sightings from waters off that section of the Outer Banks.

This summer's tropicbird sightings involved single White-taileds off Hatteras, NC 22 Jun and 27 Jul and a Red-billed off Hatteras, NC 30 Jul (BPI). Lingering Northern Gannets are seen along the beaches each summer, and this year the best counts involved 5 at Tybee I., GA 25 Jun (SWa) and 7 at Ocean Isle Beach, NC 2 Jul (SCo). Inland Brown Pelicans, always unexpected, were found at Walter F. George L., GA 3 Jun (JF, EH) and at L. Lanier, Hall, GA 3 Jun (JF, JFI). Anhingas continued to be found at inland sites this summer, as the species expands its summer range northward and westward. The farthest inland was one in Walton, GA 7 Jul (MF), very unusual that far from the Coastal Plain. One also summered at a heronry along the Yadin R., Rowan, NC (*vide* MS), apparently not the first time at this location. Is

breeding possible that far west in that state? This summer's Magnificent Frigatebird sightings included one at Seabrook I., Charleston, SC 9 Jun (JE et al.), one at Jekyll I., GA 18 Jun (*vide* TM), one at Southport, NC 18 Jul (*vide* WC), and a remarkable 3 near Mann's Harbor, NC 26 Jul (SM).

American Bitterns are rarely found in the Region during summer, thus of note were singles at the Goldsboro, NC W.T.P. 2 Jun (GH), at Carters L., GA 18 Jun (MM et al.), at Mt. Pleasant, SC 30 Jun (DA), and in Martin, NC 18 Jul (JL). Great Egrets have apparently expanded their breeding range inland somewhat, along with the increasing Great Blue Herons. At a large Great Blue Heron colony along the Yadin R. in Rowan, NC, 12 pairs of Great Egrets with at least five nests were present (MS). This is the 3rd year of known nesting by this species at that Piedmont site. Reddish Egrets are annual summer visitors to coastal sites in the Region. The best counts this summer were the 3 at Bear Island W.M.A., SC 31 Jul (SW) and the 3 at H.B.S.P. 15 Jun (Pse). Interesting inland night-heron reports included 2 Black-crowned at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 2 Jul (RR, MW, WF, ST), one Black-crowned at the E.L.H. 4-12 Jun (CL), and a Yellow-crowned along Little Laurel Cr., near Hot Springs, Madison, NC 10 Jun (BB)—the latter a very unusual sighting for the mts. of that state. Along with the usual post-breeding wandering White Ibis to inland portions of the Region was a much less expected Glossy Ibis at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 1 Jul (JF, EH). Roseate Spoonbills were found once again at the usual select coastal sites, with the best count being the 26 at the S.S.S. 26 Jul (SC). Of note inland was one at a pond near Tifton, Tift, GA 13 Jun (*vide* TM). A Wood Stork was a good find flying over Southern Pines, NC 12 Jun (SCa), furnishing a locally rare sighting.

KITES THROUGH SKUA

Swallow-tailed Kites have been reported along the Cape Fear R. in the Bladen-Columbus, NC area for several years now, but no evidence of breeding has been obtained. This summer, an aerial survey in early Jun revealed "several" roosting in one area, without a nest being found; nests of the species are relatively difficult to find (CW). Swallow-tailed Kites routinely gather in post-breeding flocks each year, and the best count received was of 80+ over a field s. of Allendale, SC 28 Jul (JC et al.). The Region's first Snail Kite, present at a crawfish farm at Elliott's Landing, Clarendon, SC from late May, was last observed 15 Jun (JB), when the ponds it used for feeding were drained. Sharp-shinned Hawks nested for the 3rd year

in a row at Weymouth Woods Pres., Southern Pines, NC (SH). Breeding by this species in the Region is sparse and localized. Also one at Mt. Pleasant, SC 12 Jun (DA) was very unusual for that coastal locality on that date. Another interesting coastal hawk was the Broad-winged at Ft. Moultrie, Sullivan's I., SC 3 Jun (DA); there are only a few Broad-wingeds in the outer Coastal Plain during any given summer season, and this bird was likely a straggling subadult (which migrate much later than adults). The most unusual bird of prey this summer was the Merlin seen twice during the day at Wilmington, NC 16 Jun (*vide JE*). This date is a full month later than the usual time period when all Merlins have normally left the Region but part of a widespread pattern of late-lingering Merlins in the East.

The summering Black Rails in n. *Greene*, GA were not present after early Jun this summer (PS). This is the first time since the late 1980s that they did not remain in the area, possibly due to the continuing drought conditions. Elsewhere, Black Rail sightings of note included one calling along the Cape Fear R., *New Hanover*, NC 9 Jun (SCo) and up to 9 at Bear Island W.M.A., SC 13 Jul (ND). The rice fields at the Tidewater Research farm near Roper, NC hosted several King Rails, Virginia Rails, and Sora 21-29 Jul (RD, DR). While Virginia Rails are localized breeders in North Carolina, Sora has not been documented as a nester in that state. Were these birds just very early fall migrants? The E.L.H. had several noteworthy nesting records this summer. At least eight pairs of Common Moorhens nested, continuing a recent trend (CL). Five pairs of American Coots nested this summer, providing the first documented local breeding of this species, which has summered there in previous years (CL). Georgia had another Limpkin, this time at Bluff L., Big Hammock W.M.A., *Tattnall* in early Jun (*vide GB*). Very unusual, but not unprecedented for summer, was the one-day presence of a wandering Sandhill Crane at the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC 12 Jun (*vide TP*).

South Carolina hosted its 5th Snowy Plover, one photographed at Hunting Island S.P. 27 Jul (Sma). This species has been reported from the Carolinas annually in the past several years; is the same individual involved, or has the species started to wander more during this time period? Rare anywhere inland in the Region, 4 Black-necked Stilts were good finds at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 26-30 Jun (LS, m.ob.). Another good inland bird was an early fall migrant Willet at Beaver L., Asheville, NC 2 Jul (ST, WF). Also of note was the Western Willet with Easterns at Emerald Isle, NC 22 Jun (BH); this could

have been a very early migrant or a non-breeding lingerer. The Upland Sandpiper migration started in mid-Jul, as usual, with one near Combahee Plantation, SC 14 Jul (ND), and the best count being 4 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 31 Jul (*vide TP*). Several late sandpipers were noted in Georgia, with 2 White-rumps at the E.L.H. 9 Jun (SB) and a Dunlin at Carters L. 6 Jun (CK et al.) being most notable. And at the other end of the season, a Wilson's Snipe along Taff Rd., *Bartow*, GA 31 Jul provided a new early returning date for that species. A Wilson's Phalarope was a good find at C. Hatt. 3 Jun (GL, Gbu), while the peak count of the annual group of Wilson's at the S.S.S. was 9 on 10 Jul (SC). Very rare inland, and late, was the male Red-necked Phalarope at the American Proteins pond, *Forsyth*, GA 2-3 Jun (JF, m.ob.); one wonders if Tropical Storm Barry brought this bird inland. Also 8 just outside Beaufort Inlet, NC 1 Jun (*vide JF*) were good finds that close to the beach.

A molting ad. gull found at Carters L., GA 16-18 Jun was identified as a Franklin's Gull (DE et al., Jsp et al.) and provided the first summer report for that state. Tropical Storm Barry was probably responsible for bringing 2 Sooty Terns close to shore at C. Hatt. 3 Jun (GL, Gbu), although individuals of this species have been known to be present in the area's tern colonies in years past. The presence of 2 ad. Gull-billed Terns at L. Walter F. George, GA 7 Jul (WCH) was truly unexplainable. This strictly coastal species has only been noted inland in that state a few times previously. A late Roseate Tern was a good find just e. of Hatteras Inlet, NC 14 Jun (BFI) and represented one of the few sightings of this tern in that state the past few years. Another bird possibly brought in by Tropical Storm Barry was the South Polar Skua found at Carters L., GA 12-28 Jun (Jsp, m.ob.). This bird caused quite a stir in the area, was seen by many observers during its stay, and represented the first inland report of the species for that state and about the 3rd inland for the Region (two previous inland North Carolina reports, both in the context of hurricanes).

DOVES THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Common Ground-Doves continue to be found at sites away from the immediate coast in South Carolina. Three were in the *Mayesville, Sumter* area 20 Jun (RC, CE), an area in the inner Coastal Plain. The species continues to decline along the beaches in that state and has been absent as a breeder from North Carolina coastal sites for almost three decades now. An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Asheville, NC 8 Jun (ST) was not only locally

unusual but rather late for a spring migrant. Willow Flycatchers have rarely summered far to the e. of the usual montane and w. Piedmont locations in the Region. Thus of note were single singing Willows in extreme e. *Franklin*, NC 23 Jun-4 Jul (RD) and at the Flat R. Impoundment, *Durham*, NC 23-24 Jun (RD, WCo et al.). The presence of 2 birds in this part of e.-cen. North Carolina during summer is quite unusual. Gray Kingbird reports this summer included one at Ft. Moultrie, Sullivan's I., SC 3 Jun (DA) and an ad. feeding 3 fledglings at Savannah, GA 28 Jun (SWa), providing rare breeding confirmation for that area. The Region's summering Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continued again this year with varying success. The McDonough, GA male arrived in spring but was never joined by the female and was last seen 10 Jun (*vide TM*). The Monroe, NC pair returned for the 5th year and attempted to nest, but by 7 Jul the birds had disappeared (AO). The Southern Pines, NC pair returned in the spring and by Jun were nesting again, for the 2nd year in a row (m.ob.). Other Scissor-tailed sightings, of wandering birds, included one near Baldwin, Brooks, GA 15 Jul (*vide MB*) and one at Pea I. 20 Jul (P&NM et al.). A family group of 3 Blue-headed Vireos at Peachtree Rock Pres., *Lexington*, SC 8 Jun (RC) was locally significant for breeding in that part of the state. This summer's Common Raven report outside of the mts. was of the continuing individual in e. *Greenville*, *Pitt*, NC, observed several times (V&NP). Though fairly common as breeders in coastal Virginia, Horned Larks are generally absent from the Region's outer Coastal Plain as breeders; thus of note were one in *Pamlico*, NC 15 Jun (SW et al.) and 30 at North R. Farms, *Carteret*, NC 15 Jul (JF et al.). The latter report undoubtedly involved post-breeding dispersants, as there is still no evidence of breeding from that site. Cliff Swallows have apparently been spreading eastward and southward as breeding birds in the Region. This summer, several dozen nests were located on two bridges over the Ogeechee R. in the Savannah, GA area 6 Jun (*vide DC*), extending the breeding range to the coast in that state. Also of note, up to 40 nests were found on the outside wall of a motel building in the Havelock, NC area in early Jul (JF). Practically all Cliff Swallow nests in the Region have been placed under bridges and on dams.

Swinson's Thrushes are not known to breed anywhere in the Region; the closest known sites are in the mts. of w. Virginia. Breeding-season reports of Swinson's in the Region have always seemed to pertain to late or lingering migrants; thus of great interest

was the locating of 6 territorial males in one area near Mt. Mitchell, NC this summer (MW et al.). The birds, present all of Jun and most of Jul, were in an area that also hosted territorial Hermit Thrushes and Veeries. Even though no definite evidence of breeding was obtained, it most likely occurred; and certainly the area will be checked again next year. The Roan Mt., NC area once again had summing Magnolia Warblers, with 3 males 10 Jun (RD) and 2 on 18 Jun (RK). This site is easily the most dependable for that species in the North Carolina mts. during summer. Yellow-rumped Warblers were found at high elevations again this year, with a non-singing male at Roan Mt., NC 10 Jun (RD) and 2 singing males near Mt. Kephart in the Great Smoky Mts., NC 9 Jun (*vide* DE). Much less expected were wandering Yellow-rumpeds at the coast—a singing male on Roanoke I., NC 15 Jun (JL) and a female at Charleston, SC 8 Jun (ND). Very unusual was the Eastern Towhee of the white-eyed subspecies *rileyi* found in n. *Greene*, GA 10 Jun (PS). This form is usually found only in extreme se. and coastal areas of that state. A Chipping Sparrow summered in a yard on Skidaway I., GA (*vide* BR), providing a most unusual report from an

area of the state where the species does not breed. Other totally unexpected summer sparrows included an ad. White-crowned Sparrow of the *gambelii* subspecies at a feeder in *Pamlico*, NC 14 Jul (SW, LL), a Dark-eyed Junco in Brunswick, GA 11 Jun (GK), and another Dark-eyed Junco at Meggett, SC 29 Jun (CS). Dickcissels were noted locally throughout the Region again this summer, and the best count as usual came from North R. Farms, *Carteret*, NC when 19 singing males were noted 24 Jun (JF et al.). Also of interest were at least 3 imms. seen there 8 Jul (JF). The nesting site for Baltimore Oriole in the North Carolina Piedmont in the Shimpock Rd., *Cabarrus* area hosted only a male until early Jul (JB); the female was not seen after the spring season. Red Crossbills were reported much more than usual this summer, indicating good numbers of this cyclic species. The best totals involved 35-40 in the Mt. Mitchell, NC area 2 Jun (MW et al.), 20-25 along Heintooga Rd., Great Smoky Mts., NC 3 Jun (MW et al.), and up to 25 in the Roan Mt., NC area during most of Jun (RK). In the s. part of their range, 9 at a feeder in Epworth, *Fannin*, GA 12 Jun (NS) and one at a feeder in Big Canoe, *Dawson*, GA 12 Jul (*vide* TM) were noteworthy.

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Florida



Bill Pranty

It was a quiet summer. The only storm activity during the period was Tropical Storm *Barry* on 2 June, which made landfall at St. Petersburg and exited west of Jacksonville. A few pelagic species were found in the storm's wake. Many other pelagics in the

Atlantic were recorded from boats and from shore, the latter observations aided by strong easterly winds.

We note with great sadness the death of Glen E. Woolfenden following surgery on 19 June at the age of 77. Glen's death marks an incalculable loss to the Florida ornithological community.

Abbreviations/definitions: N.S.R.A. (North Shore Recreation Area, *Orange*); report (any observation); record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence); S.T.A. (Stormwater Treatment Area, *Henry*).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SPOONBILL

As is now expected, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were widespread, with reports from several new sites, including three in *Leon*: 2 at Tallahassee 22-24 Jun (JC), 4 others there 5 Jul (TS), and 2 at Tall Timbers Research Sta-

tion 29 Jul (CB). Lingering waterfowl at S.T.A.-5 on 30 Jun included one American Wigeon, 13 Blue-winged Teal, and 2 Ring-necked Ducks (ME et al.). Casual inland and so late, a Greater Scaup lingered at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. through 3 Jun (HR). A male Surf Scoter in eclipse plumage at St. Vincent N.W.R., *Franklin* 29 Jul (TL) and a Pacific Loon in *Walton* that was rescued 5 Jul and released three days later (PGa) furnished rare summer reports for the Panhandle.

Interest in pelagic species has increased the past few years, as several trips—mostly in small private boats—are now taken regularly, primarily from Ponce de Leon Inlet, *Volusia*. Table 1 summarizes most of the significant reports, with the rest detailed here. There again was a die-off of Greater Shearwaters along the cen. Atlantic coast, with hundreds of live birds, many of these in distress, observed from shore. The largest numbers totaled 500 at Huguenot Memorial Park, *Duval* 4 Jul (RC), 100 at Treasure Shores Park, *Indian River* 16 Jun (DS), 50 at Ponce de Leon Inlet 14 Jun (MBR), and 43 along a one-km stretch of beach at Boynton Inlet, *Palm Beach* 16 Jun

(MBe). Six Leach's Storm-Petrels were observed at Sebastian Inlet, *Brevard* and *Indian River* 30 May–1 Jun (AB), with another rescued at Ponce De Leon Inlet 16 Jun (MBr). Barry probably brought 4 Brown Boobies to Honoyomound Island S.P., *Pinellas* 3 Jun (SG), while 3 were seen at Sebastian Inlet 15 Jun (AB).

Highest counts of summering American White Pelicans were 60 at Merritt I., *Brevard* 13–15 Jun (SG), 53 on the Amelia R., *Nassau* 14 Jun (PL), 106 at Polk phosphate mines 30 Jun (PF et al.), 75 at S.T.A.-5 on 30 Jun (ME et al.), and 50 at St. Marks N.W.R., *Wakulla* 22 Jul (HH et al.). Great White Herons were n. to Ormond Beach, *Volusia* 10 Jun (MBr) and Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 22 Jun+ (HR). Two Reddish Egrets were casual inland at Myakka River S.P., *Sarasota* 7–18 Jun (JD, RG et al.). White-faced Ibis are increasing in Florida, with singles at Cutler Wetlands, *Miami-Dade* 10 Jun (BB), Lake City, *Columbia* 27 Jul (PB), and Sanibel I., *Lee* all summer (CE). Good inland counts of post-breeding Roseate Spoonbills consisted of up to 26 at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. all summer (HR), 9 at Lake City 22 Jun+ (PB), 2 at L. Jackson, *Leon* 23 Jun (MC, MF), 50 at S.T.A.-5 on 30 Jun (ME et al.), and 65 at L. Okeechobee, *Okeechobee* 27 Jul (PGR, BP et al.). An ad. Greater Flamingo with blotchy pink and pale plumage at Cutler Ridge 5 Jul+ was of questionable provenance (JR et al., Tma, ph.).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Robinson estimated 900 Swallow-tailed Kites at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 25 Jul. A partially constructed Snail Kite nest in red mangroves at Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R., *Collier* 27 Jun furnished the first nesting report for the refuge; the nest was abandoned by 17 Jul (TDo). Fifty-six Mississippi Kites in *Ocala* 21 Jun (DWr) represented a post-breeding gathering, but it is difficult to explain the presence of 3 kites at Winter Park, *Orange* 3 Jun (AV). Most interesting among six reports of Short-tailed Hawks was the mixed pair that fledged 2 young at Sawgrass Lake Park, St. Petersburg this summer (RS, SP et al.), furnishing the first recent breeding report for heavily urbanized *Pinellas*. Other rap-

Table 1. Pelagic species observed off the Atlantic coast of Florida, 7 June through 4 July 2007.

Species	7 Jun*	15 Jun*	23 Jun*	14 Jun+	4 Jul#
Black-capped Petrel	6		1		
Cory's Shearwater		20	21	30	18
Greater Shearwater		60	40	400	3
Audubon's Shearwater	5		20	5	2
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	6		300		
Leach's Storm-Petrel	2				
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	8		1		2
White-tailed Tropicbird			1		
Sooty Tern	150		200		
Bridled Tern	6		4		

Location key

* = off Ponce de Leon Inlet, *Volusia* 7, 15, and 23 Jun (MBr, BW et al.).
 + = from Sebastian Inlet, *Brevard* and *Indian River* 14 Jun (AB).
 # = off Miami, *Miami-Dade* 4 Jul (RT, TM).

tors at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. included 132 Ospreys 22 Jul and 18 Cooper's Hawks 27 Jul (HR). A Peregrine Falcon in s. *DeSoto* 7 Jul (WB, DG) was quite unseasonable. At Lake Apopka N.S.R.A., there were 209 King Rails 23 Jul and as many as 43 Limpkins 22 Jun–4 Jul (HR); the latter high number may have been related to drought conditions elsewhere.

chicks and 18 juvs 21 Jul (CE). Fifty Black Terns at Green Key, New Port Richey (*Pasco*) 22 Jun (KT) were presumably southbound. I received reports of Common Terns from seven sites in the cen. pen., with trios at Little Estero I. 5 Jun (CE) and Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 8 Jun–25 Jul (HR), and 14 at Ft. De Soto Park 31 Jul (PS). Reports of Arctic Terns in Florida are increasing. One first-summer bird was found at Ponce de Leon Inlet 2 Jun (MBr), and even more significant were single ads. at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 3 & 13 Jun and one first-summer bird there 10 Jun–1 Jul (HR). There were 139 Forster's Terns at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 10 Jun (HR) and 230 at Polk mines 5 Jul (PF, SR). Rare inland outside Polk, one Royal Tern at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. 8 Jul (HR) and 2 at Newnans L., *Alachua* 11 Jul (JH) were notable. Good counts of non-breeding Black Skimmers were 169 at L. Okeechobee 8 Jun (PGR, BP) and 261 at Polk mines 5 Jul (PF, SR). Birds observed feeding on exotic Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) this summer were a Red-bellied Woodpecker in *Lake* 12 Jul (GQ)



Furnishing the most inland record in Florida by far was this male olive-backed Western Spindalis at Corbett Wildlife Management Area, east of Lake Okeechobee, 16 July 2007. This record provided only the second documented record of an olive-backed spindalis in Florida, as well as the first spindalis found in the state during July. Not surprisingly, given its location in a remote area of the northern Everglades, the bird was a one-day wonder seen only by the photographer. Photograph by Mike Baranski.

Twenty-seven species of non-breeding shorebirds were reported this summer, seemingly a high total. Among these were 160 Semipalmated Plovers and 80 Sanderlings at Ft. De Soto Park, *Pinellas* 31 Jul (PS), a Piping Plover at Nassau Sound, *Duval* 13 Jul (PL), 32 American Avocets at Polk mines 30 Jul (PF), 58 Red Knots at Nassau Sound 28 Jul (PL), 24 White-rumped Sandpipers at Viera Wetlands, *Brevard* 6 Jun (TDo), 45 Pectoral Sandpipers

and a Carolina Wren at Winter Park that fed its nestlings 11 Jul (BH).

The status of the 20 Eastern Kingbirds at Big Cypress Natural Preserve, *Collier* 12 Jul (BA) is uncertain; the date is more than a month early for fall migrants. The 20 Gray Kingbirds at South Lido Key, *Sarasota* 7 Jul (BA) apparently represented a pre-migratory gathering that has been noted along the Gulf coast in recent years. A family of 5 Gray King-

birds at Okeechobee, *Okeechobee* 27 Jul (BP, PGr et al.) furnished the first breeding report for *L. Okeechobee* and the northernmost inland breeding report in Florida. Perhaps foreshadowing eventual breeding in the state, an ad. male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher enlivened Alachua, *Alachua* 29 Jul (JMe, ph.).

VIREOS THROUGH ORIOLES

Two Black-whiskered Vireos (including one in song) at Green Key 12-14 Jun (KT et al., ph.) provided the first *Passco* report in more than 25 years. For the 4th consecutive summer, Purple Martins bred in cavities in cabbage palm snags at Viera Wetlands (DF). Early swallows at Lake Apopka N.S.R.A. included 3 Banks and 2 Cliffs 15 Jul (HR); other migrant Cliff Swallows were singles at Lake City 11 Jul (PB) and St. Marks N.W.R. 28 Jul (MH). Additional proof that Common Mynas are colonizing the cen. Gulf coast was provided by one near Clearwater, *Pinellas* in mid-Jun (DI). "Fall" migration for warblers begins during summer; earliest reports for some species were a Louisiana Waterthrush at Ichetucknee Springs S.P., *Columbia* 26 Jun (MF), a Black-and-white Warbler at Gainesville 6 Jul (CL), an American Redstart at St. Augustine, *St. Johns* 13 Jul (JK), 2 Prairie Warblers at Newnans Lake 18 Jul (RR), and a Yellow Warbler at Green Key 20 Jul (KT).

Furnishing the most inland report in Florida, a male olive-backed Western Spindalis

was a one-day wonder at J.W. Corbett W.M.A., *Palm Beach* 16 Jul (MBA, ph.). A Lark Sparrow at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 22 Jul (BD) established the earliest "fall" report for Florida. Thirty singing Seaside Sparrows enlivened the end of "The Road to Nowhere," *Dixie* 7 Jun (BA). Rare summer reports of Bobolinks were one at St. Sebastian Preserve S.P., *Brevard* 23 Jul (DS) and 2 at Cape Florida S.P., *Miami-Dade* 24 Jul (RD). Shiny Cowbirds are rare in the cen. pen., so singles at Tampa, *Hillsborough* 2 Jun (LS, DWs) and along County Line Rd., *Hillsborough* and *Manatee* 1 Jul (BA) were noteworthy. Seldom detected when southbound, an Orchard Oriole graced Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area, *Miami-Dade* 25 Jul (RD), while a male Baltimore Oriole at Gulf Breeze 13 Jun (BD) was quite unseasonable.

Unestablished exotics: A White-faced Whistling-Duck at Ellenton, *Manatee* 21 Jun (C. Beaton) represented the latest report of this presumed exotic. Egyptian Geese are now breeding in *Ocala*, with 12 there 22 Jun (DWr). Two Common Shelducks graced the Everglades Agricultural Area 28 Jul (BR et al.), as did a Yellow-collared (Masked) Lovelbird near Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, *Collier* 23-28 Jul (JMc, ph.). At least one House Crow (missing several toes) persists at Nokomis Beach Park, *Sarasota* 10 Jun (BP, LG).

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Ontario



David H. Elder

The entire province experienced relatively uneventful weather during June and July. After a rather wet early June,

rainfall became sporadic and below average for the rest of the period, particularly in the north. Temperatures in the south were somewhat above normal, with the north experiencing a number of days well above average. Birding throughout the period was judged as mediocre by most observers. Rarities included Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, Mississippi Kite, and Lesser Nighthawk.

Abbreviations: G.T.A. (Greater Toronto Area); K.F.N. (Kingston Field Naturalists); O.M.N.R. (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources); PPB.A. (Point Pelee Birding Area); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape B.O.).

WATERFOUL THROUGH VULTURES

A Snow Goose remained at Amherst I. 9 Jun-29 Jul (JS et al.), and an ad. Brant present at the Remic Rapids on the Ottawa R. 12-22 Jun was deemed a late migrant (m.ob.). A single Trumpeter Swan that wintered in the

Coubar area appeared in Presqu'île PE 14 Jun paired with a Mute Swan and attempted to nest (m.ob.). In nw. Ontario, a lone Trumpeter Swan summered in Atikokan (DHE) for the 2nd year. Farther w. in the Fort Frances and Kenora areas, an aerial survey carried out by the O.M.N.R. in 2006 located a total of 140 swans, including many breeding pairs. The birds are likely descendants of Trumpeter Swans introduced in Minnesota, and the survey results indicate an expanding population. A male Eurasian Wigeon was present off Howe I. near Kingston, likely the same bird that wintered in the area (JCo). A Northern Shoveler raised 4 young at the Grand Bend S.T.P. (AR). A Redhead brood was found at Thunder Bay 15 Jul (BJM), a rare event for the area, and 2 ads. were noted on Amherst I. 17 Jul (K.EN.). A Canvasback, also on Amherst I. 14-17 Jul, was an expected summer find (K.EN.). An exceptional 24 Long-tailed Duck were noted on L. Ontario off Coubarou 14 Jun (LW). In Algo-



In Ontario, this Glossy Ibis was enjoyed by many birders during its stay at the Brighton Constructed Wetland 14 (here) through 18 June 2007, for Northumberland's third record. Photograph by Bill Edmunds.

nquin P.P., Wild Turkey was documented nesting for the first time. A hen with 2 young was found 11 Jul (JD), and another female with 4 young was seen 16 Jul (DCT).

American White Pelicans were widely scattered across the Province during the period, including 3 at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary 1 Jul (SB), an impressive flock of 60 at Thunder Bay in late Jun (BR), 6 on 30 Jun (JZ) and a single 2 Jul (DC) at Atikokan, a single flyby at Shirley's Bay on the Ottawa R. 3 Jun (BR MC), and yet another single at Rondeau P.P. 9 Jun (RM et al.). Least Bittern, an unusual species in the Ottawa area, was seen 9 Jun near Perth (JS), 10 Jun in a small marsh in Ottawa (ARO), and in the Constance Creek Marsh at Dunrobin 11-15 Jun, in the G.T.A., one was noted periodically 10-24 Jun at the n. end of Bathurst St. (R&DP, KDU). The G.T.A. also had numerous Great Egrets reported, including 2 at High Park 4 Jun (SMF) and 3 at Rattray Marsh 7 Jul (DEP). The outcome of three Great Egret nests on the Leslie Street Spit is unknown (RS). A Cattle Egret made a surprising visit to Longlac 16 Jul (BR) far to



A Ruff (center) accompanied several Lesser Yellowlegs in its one-day appearance 20 July 2007 at the Dundas Marsh, Hamilton County, Ontario. Photograph by Barry Chierrie.

the N. of its usual range in the province. Black-crowned Night-Herons are rare in the Thunder Bay area. One was found 2 Jul (DW), and 2 were subsequently noted 15 Jul (BH), rais-

ing the possibility of breeding, which was subsequently confirmed by the discovery of a juv. later in the season. A Glossy Ibis present 13-18 Jun (EM, m.ob.) and then found again 26 Jun (KL) at the Brighton S.T.P. provided a rare record for the area. Very rare for the area, a Black Vulture was found near the e. edge of Kingston 14 Jun (IS).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Three active Osprey nests were found during the period in the London area, two of these right in the city (PR). A Mississippi Kite at Sturgeon Creek 5 Jun provided the 33rd record for the PPB.A. (AW). Bald Eagles continue to do well throughout the province, with increased numbers noted in the cen. and s. parts. The 2nd and 3rd nests in Algonquin P.P. were found 8 May (JB) and 19 Jun (RD). An ad. was on a nest at the confluence of the Bonne Cherre R. and Ottawa R. 24 Jun (RC), and three active nests were observed in the London area (PR). A successful Merlin nest was found in Cobourg 17 Jul, the first confirmed for the area (KN, BPA), and another pair nested in the center of Kingston (BRO). The Ottawa "downtown" Peregrine Falcons fledged one young in late Jun (m.ob.), nesting successfully for the 11th consecutive year on the Crowne Plaza Hotel. On 1 Jul, 5 Yellow Rails were heard in the sedge marshes on Ship-sands I. near Moosonee (AA). A Common Moorhen pair with 9 fledged young was a nice discovery 23 Jun at the n. end of Bathurst Street in the G.T.A. (RJF). The species has been rarely noted in the area in recent years.

The time difference between northbound and southbound shorebirds can be very close and is complicated by the occasional summering bird. An ad. Black-bellied Plover at the Milne C.A. near Markham 19 Jun (AW) was considered a very late spring migrant, while an American Golden-Plover at Windermere Basin in Hamilton 14 Jun was considered a wandering non-breeder (GB). Early southbound Semipalmated Plovers were noted at Kettle Pt. 5-6 Jul (AR) and at the Tilbury S.T.P. 26 Jun

(AW). A pair of Piping Plovers was found at Sauble Beach 13 May (K&BT); their 4 chicks hatched about 25 Jun, and 3 fledged young were last seen 28 Jul. Both ads. were previously banded and found to be from the Michigan population. Piping Plovers also nested on the se. corner of the Lake of the Woods, but heavy rains in late May and Jun raised water levels, and all three nests were lost (LH). A multi-banded Piping Plover was at Kettle Pt. 10 Jul (AR). A very early fall American Avocet was at West Cranberry Pond, PPB.A. 29 Jun (DMC, MEC). On 11 Jul, 50 ad. Lesser Yellowlegs were at the Theford S.T.P. with 5 Short-billed Dowitchers (AR). A record-late northbound alternate-plumaged Willet was at the Hillman Marsh P.P.B.A. 26 May-4 Jun (JR, PR, CS, DWa). By 18 Jul, the Theford S.T.P. hosted 75 ad. Lesser Yellowlegs, an ad. Solitary Sandpiper, 40 Least Sandpipers, and a Pectoral Sandpiper (AR). Another gathering of 60 Lesser Yellowlegs was at the Holland Landing S.T.P.



This fledging Piping Plover, hatched 25 June 2007 at Sauble Beach, Bruce County, represented the first successful nesting in southern Ontario for several years and was obviously thriving when photographed 12 July. Photograph by Tom Rook.

15 Jul (RJF), and 74 Least Sandpipers were counted at the same location 14 Jul (AK). A Marbled Godwit at Blenheim 8 Jul (KB, SC) was considered an early fall migrant, and a juv. was at Presqu'île PP 29-31 Jul, the first visit of this species to the area in 10 years (FH). The Dundas Marsh hosted a male Ruff 20 Jul (BC et al.). Two Wilson's Phalaropes near Cobourg 1 Jun (SM) and one at Hillman Marsh, PPB.A. 31 May-1 Jun (AW et al.) were late migrants.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A late winter-plumaged Laughing Gull that frequented the Cobourg area earlier in the year reappeared 25 Jun (KN) and remained through 31 Jul (m.ob.). An ad. was noted 2 Jun on Pelee I. (DWa, ACP), and a very late spring ad. was found at Seaciff Beach, PPB.A. 13 Jun (AW). A second-summer Laughing Gull was found dead at the n. end of Pelee I. 7 Jul (BRH). An ad. Black-headed Gull was at Fish Pt. 8 Jun and 6 Jul (ACP et al.), and the



This juvenile Marbled Godwit frequented the beach at Presqu'île Provincial Park 29 (here) through 31 July 2007, a very early date for a young bird of the year in Ontario. Photograph by Bill Edmunds.

same bird was seen at Seacliff Beach, PP.B.A. 19 Jun (ACP). Two ad. Bonaparte's Gulls at Kettle Pt. 25 Jun (AR) and another ad. visiting Holland Landing S.T.P. 14-15 Jul (RJP) were considered early fall migrants. Very high summer counts of imm. Bonaparte's Gulls were found in the PP.B.A., with 2200 at the Tip 24 Jun and 1800 there 14 Jul (AW).

A Eurasian Collared-Dove that aggressively courted Mourning Doves 17-31 Jul furnished the 2nd record for Hamilton (SM, m.ob.). Yellow-billed Cuckoos are now quite unusual in the G.T.A. One was banded on the Leslie Street Spit 1 Jun (DD), and another was noted at High Park 6-11 Jun (SFM). Rare for the area, a Long-eared Owl found at Thunder Bay in early Jun (KW) suggests breeding. The 4th breeding record for the species in Algonquin P.P. was made 9 Jul when 5 young, just out of a nearby nest, were found (PSB). As was true of the three previous breeding records, small mammal populations were very high in the area, following exceptional seed crops during the previous year (RT). Remarkably, a Lesser Nighthawk was observed flying just inland from the L. Huron shore near Grand Bend 3 Jun (AR, CC). Rare in the Thunder Bay area, a Whip-poor-will was heard at Saganaga L. 17 Jun (S&MB). For the 6th consecutive year, Red-headed Woodpeckers were successful nesters at Constance Bay near Ottawa, where 2 fledged young were noted 22 Jul (BD). While no nests were found, two pairs of Red-bellied Woodpeckers present during the period n. of Rainy River suggest probable breeding (LB, CG). The first breeding record for the area, and northernmost for Ontario, occurred in the same area in 2005. A family of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers near Komoka in early Jun was an unusual find (PR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MOCKINGBIRDS

A White-eyed Vireo was noted near London 26 Jun (RS, JH), and a Blue-headed Vireo found 22 Jul was record early for the PP.B.A. (AW). A very large colony of Cliff Swallows occupied a railway bridge in the G.T.A. A total of 240 nests was counted 3 Jun (BH). In Algonquin P.P., a detailed summer survey of Barn Swallow nesting locations indicated a continuing decline of the species in the park (RT). An imm. Tufted Titmouse found 22 Jul at the Tip, PP.B.A. was an unusual post-breeding record for the area and the first for 2007 (AW). Extremely early fall migrant Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted throughout sw. Ontario 16-24 Jun (BAM, DAM, LWI). House Wrens bred widely in Algonquin P.P. up through about 1940, but as settlements and the associated open areas disappeared, so did the wrens. Today, House Wrens are rarely found in the Park, so a singing male 6-7 & 15 Jun (MR) and another 8 Jun (JI) are significant. A Northern Mockingbird was found at Longlac 16 Jul (BR), well n. of the normal Ontario range. Other singles were found 3-4 Jul at Carlingwood (J&MW) and at the Ottawa International Airport 6 Jul (CB).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Yellow Palm Warblers nested again in the Mer Bleue Bog near Ottawa, with 2 fledged young noted 15 Jul (LS). A late migrant Pro-



Furnishing the second record for Hamilton, Ontario, this Eurasian Collared-Dove could be heard long before it was seen at Grimsby 17-31 (here 18) July 2007. Photograph by Barry Cheriery.

thonatory Warbler was at Bronte Harbour 3 Jun (GE, m.ob.). A large influx of Hooded Warblers was noted in the Ganaraska Forest near Newtonville, far to the e. of the normal range in sw. Ontario. Nine singing males and 3 females were found during the period in an abundance of suitable habitat (CG). Elsewhere, a singing male was found at Woodbridge 5 Jun (PNP), a rare find in the G.T.A. A Canada Warbler found perfect habitat in the Oxley Poison Sumac Swamp 30 Jun (AW)

furnished the first summer and breeding record for Essex. Yellow-breasted Chats were scarce in the PP.B.A., with only 2 territorial males noted in the Anders Field area 2 Jul (AW).

A singing Eastern Towhee found 12 Jun (BDS, DS) made a rare record for Algonquin P.P. Two Clay-colored Sparrows, rare for the area, were present mid-May-12 Jun in Rondeau P.P. (BAM) and may have nested. A single was also found at the Cawthra-Mulock Federation of Ontario Naturalists Reserve, G.T.A. 10 Jun and was considered rare in the area (RJF). A male Dark-eyed Junco 3 Jul at the Heart Lake C.A. (BN) was found on an extremely unusual date for the G.T.A. A half-km circular walk in the sedge marshes on Ship-sands I. near Moosonee 1 Jul produced 10 Le Conte's and 15 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows (AA). A summering White-crowned Sparrow was an unexpected find on Amherst I. 14 Jul (JSc). Also unusual were 3 Orchard Orioles at Sandhurst, just w. of Kingston, 5 Jul (GG).

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Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



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A cool wet spring gave way abruptly to extreme dryness across the Region, and the drought was to become among the most severe to affect the Region. Nonetheless, negative comments were few, and there was good news aplenty, as Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, and Ospreys continue to do very well. State atlas projects continue to flesh out our understanding of the mid-summer avifauna, revealing that some species linger more often than previously thought (e.g., White-throated Sparrow) and that a few species are expanding ranges (e.g., Common Merganser, Herring Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Common Raven). Among the prized low-density breeders detected this season were Merlins in Pennsylvania, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in West Virginia, and the Region's first Mississippi Kite in Ohio.

Abbreviations: B.C.S.P. (Buck Creek S.P., Clark, OH); Conneaut (Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula, OH); Hoover (Hoover Res., Delaware/Franklin, OH); Longbrakes (Longbrake Wetlands, Hardin, OH); J.H.N.W.R. (John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia, PA); Magee (Magee Marsh W.M.A., Lucas/Ottawa, OH); Metzger (Metzger Marsh W.A., Lucas, OH); M.W.W. (Miami Whitewater Wetlands, Hamilton, OH); O.D.W. (Ohio Division of Wildlife); Ottawa (Ottawa N.W.R., Lucas/Ottawa, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); P.W.T. (Penn Warner Tract, Bucks, PA); R.C.B. (Robert C. Byrd Lock & Dam, Mason, WV); S.R.C.F. (Susquehanna R./Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, PA); Spring Valley (Spring Valley W.M.A., Warren/Greene, OH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were well described from S.R.C.F. 24 Jun (C. Challant). Single Gadwall and American Wigeon were at Metzger 3 Jun (KK). Two American Wigeons in Erie, OH 24 Jun (MSh) were possible breeders. Blue-winged Teal successfully bred in Union, OH, a county first (K. & J. Davis). Summering Green-winged Teal were in Erie,

OH 6 Jun (MSh) and Pickaway, OH 3 Jul (RR). In Pennsylvania, Green-winged Teal were at Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana 3-17 Jul (MH) and Doylestown, Bucks 14 Jun (J. Trantomano). Redhead fledged young in Erie, OH 24 Jun (MSh), a rare breeding record. A late Canvasback was at P.I.S.P. 9 Jun (MV). Lesser Scaup remained in Hardin 2 Jun (RC) and Franklin 6 Jun (RTh), and one summered on the S.R.C.F. (BS). A Greater Scaup at Minsi L., Northampton, PA 10-19 Jun (ph. S. Angus) was not entirely unexpected in the wake of a strong spring migration. A Bufflehead was on the Susquehanna R., Dauphin, PA 1 Jul (A. Schiavo). Courting Ruddy Ducks were noted 1 Jun at Longbrakes, where they persisted into mid-Jul (RC). A Ruddy Duck in Bucks, PA 28 Jun-8 Jul (G. Johnson, R. French) was unusual, and 6 were at Pymatuning L., Crawford, PA 21 Jul (MV). A Red-breasted Merganser in York, PA 13 Jul was unexpected (L. Carpenter). Common Mergansers continue as local breeders in the Little Beaver Cr. Watershed, Columbiana, OH, where there have been sev-

Sankovich, BS) and on the Allegheny R., Warren 3 Jun (D. Watts, *fade* JF). Uncommon mid-summer Common Loons in Ohio included one on the Ohio R. near Cincinnati 7 Jul (NK) and one at A.W. Marion S.P., Pickaway 18 Jun (K. Brooks). In Pennsylvania, 2 were at the P.W.T. 1 Jul (DF) and singles at Curwensville L., Clearfield 1 Jul (C. Holt, *fade* MV) and Ambridge Res., Beaver 14 Jul (MV).

Rare away from L. Erie in Ohio, an American Bittern summered at Hoover through 20 Jul (CBo), a breeding hopeful was at Killbuck 1 Jun (S. Weaver), and a wanderer appeared in Washington, OH 6 Jul (B. Bond). Another was unexpected in Franklin, WV 5 Jul (C. Rucker). Least Bitterns at L. Logan, Hocking, OH 14 Jun (J. Alexander) and in Wetzell, WV 29 May (S. Olcott) were of local interest, as was one at Julian, Centre, PA 19 Jun (GG). Great Egret was confirmed nesting in Franklin OH 15 Jun (MBr) for the 2nd consecutive summer, while nesters found in Logan, OH 10 Jun (TS) represented a county first. Typical of the species' colonization of the Scioto R. cor-



Very rare in western Pennsylvania away from Lake Erie, this American Avocet at Etna, Allegheny County on 29 July 2007 furnished was just the second county record. Photograph by Geoff Malach.

eral new records (J. Hendrickson, J. Dolan) since the first reported nesting here in 2001.

Scarce in sw. Ohio, single Pied-billed Grebes were in Clinton 6 Jun (B. Powell) and Hamilton 4 Jul (*fade* NK). Rare nesters away from L. Erie, Ohio had two inland nesting confirmations of Double-crested Cormorant. A successful nest in an urban heron rookery was a possible first county nesting record for Franklin, OH 10 Jul (MBr), and a colony of eight nests was found in Summit 8 Jun (D. Kramer). The 74 Double-crested Cormorants on the Delaware R. at Morrisville, Bucks, PA 25 Jun was a mid-summer high count (BK). American White Pelicans in Pennsylvania were at Peach Bottom, Lancaster 1 Jun (M.

ridor in cen. Ohio, a flock of 13 Great Egrets was found in Columbus 13 Jun (PN). Four Snowy Egrets were at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster/Lebanon, PA 7 Jun (B. Carl). Following the normal pattern of post-breeding dispersal, a Little Blue Heron appeared at M.W.W. 31 Jul (C. Goulart). Little Blue Herons in Pennsylvania included 2 at Washington Crossing, Bucks 31 Jul (BK) and one at Shartelsville, Berks 29 Jul (M. Spence). A single Tricolored Heron was found at Pipe Creek W.A., Erie 8 Jul (CC). A 14 Jun Cattle Egret at Indian L., Logan, OH was well away from known breeding sites on L. Erie (TS). A Black-crowned Night-Heron colony (about eight occupied nests) was documented in



This first-summer Franklin's Gull was photographed 10 June 2007 at productive Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Photograph by Eric Witmer.

Hamilton, OH 4 Jul (ER). A flyby in Columbus 1 Jun along the Scioto R. just s. of the Ohio State University winter roost (TS) was near the confluence of the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers. After the Norway Spruces in which it was located were cut down, a colony of 10-15 nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons in Reading, Berks, PA relocated to another site (B. Uhrich). Columbus again hosted nesting Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, with two nests producing a total of 10 nestlings (B. Whan, m.ob.). Two pairs were also observed during an atlas survey in Gallia, OH 10 Jun (fide BSs). Seven Glossy Ibis were seen in Chester, PA 7 Jun (TA).

VULTURES THROUGH DOVES

Long established as year-round residents n. to Holmes, OH, Black Vultures were confirmed breeding there, with two nests successfully fledging young this season (Adam Yoder). First reported at a private golf club in Hocking 7 Jun (A. Elberfeld, fide B. Whan), a single Mississippi Kite in residence eventually became 2. Careful observation over the course of the season culminated in Ohio's first nesting record for Mississippi Kite (ph. TS, ph. AB, m.ob.). In Pennsylvania, Mississippi Kites included 2 in Fulton 2-3 Jun (ph. TJ, D. Snell) and singles at Marsh Creek S.P., Chester 7 Jun (L. Lewis) and Henningsville, Berks 17 Jun (P. Saenger). It was another record season in Ohio for Osprey, as an estimated 43 nests in 23 counties produced about 75 young (O.D.W.); Harrison led the nest count with six, and a pair at Salt Fork Res. raised a remarkable 4 young (JL). A rare nesting confirmation of Northern Harrier came from Ashtabula, OH 3 Jun (JHe). In Ohio, of a record 164 Bald Eagle nests, 115 successfully produced 186 eaglets in 45 counties (O.D.W.). Two interesting Lucas, OH reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk included one 5 Jul at

Toledo (GLI) and one 9 Jul at Kitty Todd Preserve (TS). Along the Ohio R., one was found at Green Bottom W.A., Mason, WV 15 Jul (D. Patick). A rare summer record for Merlin came from Voice of America Park, Butler, OH 20 Jul (L. Brumbaugh). A pair of Merlins successfully fledged 4 young at Promised Land S.P., Pike, PA, making it the southernmost breeding station in the e. United States (ph., vt. RW). Merlins also nested at Eagles Mere, Sullivan, PA (fide DG). Two new nesting sites of Peregrine Falcons were discovered in sw. Pennsylvania, both on bridges, in Allegheny and Beaver (fide PH). A King Rail was observed in Summit, OH over a 12-day span in Jun (ph. S. Brown). Recently fledged Sandhill Cranes were observed 21 Jul at Magee (MSH) for a rare confirmation from the Western Basin of L. Erie, while success was finally realized in Geauga as well (K. Moran). In all, 16 nests fledged 22 young in Ohio, for another record year (O.D.W.).

An early Piping Plover appeared at Conneaut 14 Jul (BCo). Three Black-bellied Plovers lingered at Metzger 13 Jun (KK). Conneaut hosted American Avocets, with one 14 Jul, 2 the following day (BCo), and 3 on the 17th (CH). Erie, OH had one record of a single avocet 22 Jul (SW). American Avocets in Pennsylvania included singles at S.R.C.F. 12 Jul (TJ, AmC), in Allegheny 29 Jul (D. Yagusic, ph. GM), and at S.R.C.F. 31 Jul (DH, AmC). Upland Sandpiper reports from Hardin (RC), Harrison, Ashtabula (CH), Richland (JH), and a rare record from Ross 21 Jun (fide DH) highlight the significance of airports, which appear to be among the last refuges for the species. A pair with young was seen at Barkeyville, Venango, PA in late Jun (RW). An excellent count of 60 Spotted Sandpipers came from Roderick, Erie, PA 12 Jul (T. Wasilewski). Two Willets were at Conneaut 17 Jul (CH), and one was at P.I.S.P. (L. McWilliams). One identified as a Western Willet was at S.R.C.F. 9 Jul (BS). Reports of single Whimbrel and Marbled Godwit came from Conneaut 14 Jul (BCo), with 2 more Whimbrels over Conneaut 24 Jul (CH); that evening, another was at West Branch S.P., Portage, OH (CH). A Marbled Godwit appeared at Metzger 24 Jun (A. Lindsay). A spring migrant Red Knot at Metzger 3 Jun (KK), and 2 at S.R.C.F. 6 Jun (DH), were followed by single southbound birds at Conneaut 14 Jul (BCo), at Hoover 23 Jul (CBo), and in Richland (ph. G.C. JH). A Western Sandpiper in alternate plumage at Metzger 13

Jun (KK) was remarkably late. A southbound bird was at B.C.S.P. 15 Jul (DO). But were 2 Western Sandpipers at S.R.C.F. 23 Jun (BS) coming or going? The annual drawdown at J.H.N.W.R. attracted 1000 Least Sandpipers 26 Jul (FW). A fall migrant Baird's Sandpiper appeared 23 Jul at Conneaut (L. Dornan et al.), but one in Lawrence, PA 2 Jun represented an extraordinary spring migrant (MV). The 19 White-rumped Sandpipers at S.R.C.F. 13 Jun made an excellent count (DH), and one at L. Oneida, Butler, PA 20 Jun was a very late spring migrant (D. Darney). An early Buff-breasted Sandpiper was located 28 Jul on the expansive mudflats of Hoover Res., Delaware (PG). An early Long-billed Dowitcher arrived at J.H.N.W.R. 25 Jul (FW). In Ohio, fledged young of Wilson's Snipe were observed 11 Jun in Lucas (G. Cottier). Wilson's Phalaropes were observed late Jun-mid-Jul in Hardin, where nesting took place in 2006 (RC). Two fall migrants were in Muskingum by 8 Jul (V. Smith, fide B. Whan). A Red-necked Phalarope was at Little Blue L., Beaver, PA 3 Jun (MV).

Annual mid-summer Laughing Gulls appeared on Kellys I., Erie, OH 15 Jun (TB), at Hoover 28 Jul (PG), and at P.I.S.P. 1 Jun (JM). A Franklin's Gull was at Washington Boro,

SA Herring Gulls appear to be moving inland away from major bodies of water. In 2005, we reported the colonization of the uppermost reaches of the Ohio R. drainage in Pennsylvania and subsequently learned of nesting farther downstream in Gallia, OH, which continues. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reported nests of both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls on a factory roof in Shelby, Richland, OH, well away from L. Erie. Nest counts for 2004, 2005, and 2006 were 30, 73, and 72, and egg counts 12, 205, and 340, respectively (fide JH). It is not known how many of these represent Herring Gulls. In 2007, a pair of Herring Gulls 26 Jun appeared at a gravel quarry in Fairfield in cen. Ohio (SA). Such birds have been assumed to be wandering non-breeders through the summer season, but observers are asked to examine these gulls for age and breeding condition, as they may be the forerunners of a further range expansion.

Lancaster, PA 10 Jun (ph. E. Witmer), and a Bonaparte's Gull was at Bald Eagle S.P., Centre, PA 22 Jun for a rare mid-summer record (GG). A first-summer Iceland Gull at Tullytown, Bucks, PA 4-17 Jul was unexpected (TJ, A. Brady), as were 100 Great Black-backed Gulls on the Delaware R., Bucks, PA that day. A large number of Forster's Terns remained into the season at Metzger, with 20 there 3 Jun (KK) dwindling to 10 by 16 Jun (D. Snuffer). The usual few summered within the Western Basin, before daily appearances at fall staging sites in



Up to four Least Terns were present 23 and (here) 24 June 2007 at Conejohanna Flats, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Least Tern is rare but regular on the lower Susquehanna River, a potential breeding species there but one that has never been confirmed nesting. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

Erie and *Sandusky* began 21-22 Jul (SW). Less frequent still, 2 were inland at Grand L., *Auglaize*, OH 9 Jun in the company of 2 Bonaparte's Gulls (TS), while 3 fall migrants were at Alum Creek Res., *Delaware*, OH 1 Jul (RTH) and widely noted across the s. 14-15 Jul (DO, CH, D. Morse, Jr.). Four Least Terns were a nice find at S.R.C.F. 23 Jun (BS, TA, ph. GM).

After several years of tantalizing reports with few confirmed, Eurasian Collared-Dove thoroughly introduced itself to the Ohio birding community this season. A pair was first detected 19 Jun in Fort Jefferson, *Darke* (C. Ploch, R. Schieltz, ph. TS), followed by 3 in West Manchester, *Preble* 26 Jun (TB), where copulation was observed 29 Jun (T. Sponseller). A pair in Celine, *Mercer* 11 Jul (B. Barchus), and 3 birds in nearby St. Mary's, *Auglaize* (TS) Jul-Aug, further outlined the incursion. Eurasian Collared-Doves in Pennsylvania included singles at Peach Bottom, *Lancaster* 9 Jul (BS) and *Lebanon* 4 Jul (JF). A Barn Owl was observed at East Fork L., *Clermont*, OH 9 Jun (William Hull). A vocalizing Long-eared Owl in *Monroe*, OH 16 Jun (P. Chad) represented an exceptional summer record for the unglaciated Allegheny Plateau. Targeted surveys during the season for Short-eared Owl turned up observations at Ohio wildlife areas in *Belmont*, *Coshocton*, *Marion*, and *Muskingum* (fide N. Stricker). Northern Saw-whet Owls continued on Kellys I., *Erie*, OH 15 Jun, with possibly 2 birds calling at the same location where first detected in May (TB). A pair of

Chuck-will's-widows summered in *Fulton*, PA (ph. TJ). A drumming Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at a demonstration forest in s. *Ashtand* 22 Jun was well s. of known breeding sites in Ohio (PR), and a female with fledged young 10 Jun in *Alpena*, WV represents a rare breeding record for the state (B. Sargent).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Four pairs of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers fledged young in *Wyoming*, PA (DG). Two male Least Flycatchers 2-3 Jun may have been on territory in *Meigs* (S. Schaffer, J. Duerr), well s. of known s. Ohio sites. Ohio supplied 2 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, one at Oak Openings, *Lucas* 15 Jul (RN) and one at Lawrence Woods State Natural Preserve, *Hardin* 22 Jun (C. Hoagstrom). A Western Kingbird in Plumstead Twp., *Bucks*, PA 2 Jun fell within the spring pattern for the species in the Region (B. Webster). It was a good season for Bell's Vireo, as multiple records and nesting confirmations came from *Pickaway*, within Deer Creek W.A. (RR), and *Franklin*. Especially notable was the 2nd year of nesting on the Ohio State University campus (ABO). Common Raven may soon be confirmed as nesting once again in e.

Ohio, where 3 were observed cavorting together in a *Jefferson* strip-mine reclamation area 12 Jun (SA). A Red-breasted Nuthatch visited a *Fairfield* feeder up through 9 Jun (ER), and a pair remained in Findlay, *Hancock* through 11 Jun (O. Line). Winter Wren is exceptional away from hemlock gorges of ne. Ohio, but 2 were apparently on territory in the Hocking Hills region, *Hocking*, OH 9 (SA) & 15 Jun (C. Morrow). A pair fledged 4 young in a hemlock area at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center, *Northampton*, PA, at an elevation of only 240 m (vt. RW); they are virtually unknown as nesters in se. Pennsylvania s. of the Kittatinny Ridge. Territorial Sedge Wrens were noted in *Highland* 21 Jul and *Ross* 13 Jun (DH), and one was e. to *McKean*, PA in Jun (JF). Swainson's Thrushes in Pennsylvania included one in *Forest* 25 Jun (RKO, CB) and reports of nesting in *Luzerne* and *Sullivan* (DG). Up to four pairs of Golden-crowned Kinglet were reported from Cuyahoga Valley N.P., *Cuyahoga*, OH through Jun (Dwight & Ann Chasar, CC), while other pairs were observed

at spruce groves in *Lake* (JP) and *Lucas* OH (2 Jun; GLI). One of the highlights of the season was a singing Ruby-crowned Kinglet on territory at Parker Dam S.P., *Clearfield* in Jun (B. Williams); pending acceptance, it would mark the first summer record for Pennsylvania. A Brown Creeper at John Bryan S.P., *Greene*, OH 14 Jun (TSp) and another in Conkle's Hollow, *Hocking*, OH 21 Jun (K. Muetzel, A. Stetz) were of local interest.

Lawrence's Warblers in Pennsylvania included singles in *Venango* 13 Jun (TJ) and *Delaware* Water Gap, *Monroe* in Jun (D. Speicher). A 15 Jul Nashville Warbler in *Trumbull*, OH was a possible breeder (JHe). Northern Parulas continue with greater frequency in w. cen. Ohio riparian corridors, including several recorded along Deer Cr., *Pickaway* (RR). A spring migrant Magnolia Warbler lingered through 4 Jun at Shaker Lakes, *Cuyahoga*, OH (L. Gooch). A singing individual 30 Jun in *Tuscarawas* was unusual there (ES). Potential breeding habitat attracted one to Clear Creek Valley, *Hocking*, OH 17 Jun (M. Smith). A hemlock ravine in s. *Ashtand* produced a territorial male 22 Jun (PR), the same ravine where a wayward Black-throated Blue Warbler had been found 21 Jun (LY). Rare in nw. Ohio, Black-throated Green Warblers have appeared in three atlas blocks so far, the most recent a 2 Jun record from *Lucas* (GLI). Increasing in ne.



One of Pennsylvania's rarest summer residents, this Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed at Piney Tract, Clarion County on 23 June 2007. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

Ohio, as many as 10 territorial Yellow-throated Warblers were in floodplain forest habitat throughout *Lake* (JP), whereas none was detected during Ohio's first breeding bird atlas of the mid-1980s. A Yellow-throated Warbler in Lehigh Gorge, *Carbon*, PA 22 Jul was unusual for that locale (A. Smith). A pair of Prairie Warblers in *Erie*, PA 11 Jun likely represented the first nesting ever for that county (D. Snyder). A late Blackpoll Warbler was recorded on Kellys I. 16 Jun (TB), and an apparent second-year female Bay-breasted Warbler at Tar Hollow S.P., *Ross* furnished a first mid-summer

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record for s. Ohio (K. Sieg). The 10-12 Mourning Warblers in Susquehannock S.E. Potter, PA 25 Jun made an excellent count (Rko, CB). A Connecticut Warbler in Wetzell, WV 1 Jun was late (A. Sabatine). A singing Northern Waterthrush at Heilwood, Indiana, PA 19 Jun was rare for sw. Pennsylvania (MH); one at J.H.N.W.R. 28 Jun was totally out of place (FW). The Swainson's Warbler reported in spring in Allegheny, PA was present through 17 Jun (side PH).

Ohio atlas efforts continue to find Clay-colored Sparrows, with the most recent a territorial male in Williams 29 Jun (L. Murray). One in Philipsburg, Clearfield 16-17 Jun was at the e. edge of its breeding range in Pennsylvania (A. Wilson). Apart from the isolated population in Lucas, OH, nesting Lark Sparrows turned up in Greene (TSp) and in Franklin (pair, PN), and there was an extraordinary nesting, with fledged young, near Dundee in Tuscarawas (ES, m.ob.). Rare in sw. Ohio, breeding confirmation was obtained near New Baltimore, Hamilton, OH (J. Stenger), with 6 seen as late as 22 Jul (E. Baumgardner, J. Lippert, ER). Two Swainson's Sparrows in Juniata, PA 4 Jun+ were unusual for that locale (L. Grove). Late migrant White-throated Sparrows along the Erie lakeshore at Magee 4 Jun (KK) and at Valley Forge, Montgomery, PA 2 Jun (D. Sullivan, side KC) were within expectations. Inexplicably, the species continues to be found in far s. Ohio mid-season. In the s., lone birds appeared in Gallia 9 Jun (BSs), while in the sw., singles were in Hamilton 7-22 Jul (B. Zimmerman) and Butler 20 Jun (J. Hull). A late-season wanderer was found at Magee 27 Jul (S. Wheeler). A late White-crowned Sparrow was in Northampton, PA 6 Jun (A. Koch). A Dark-eyed Junco in Ashland, OH 13 Jun (L. Hochstetler) may have been exploring new territory.

Blue Grosbeaks stretched their breeding limits in Ohio, with a pair in Tuscarawas (ES, m.ob.), territorial males in Jefferson (SA) and Richland, OH 9-29 Jun (G. Cowell), and a successful nest in Franklin (ABo, PR). A Blue Grosbeak in a reclaimed strip mine near Freeland, Luzerne, PA was well n. of its normal range in e. Pennsylvania (B. Hintze, S. Lichvar). Nearly 100 Dickcissels in a field at Deer Creek W.A., Pichaway, OH was a good count 18 Jun (RR). In Ohio, a Western Meadowlark continued in sw. Wood 10 Jun (C. Anderson, T. Kemp), and another was found 1 Jun in Williams (RN). Nesting Purple Finches fledged young in Stark (B. Morrison) and Tuscarawas (H. Mason, ES), while another in cen. Jefferson 11 Jun (SA) was at the s. limit of the breeding distribution in e. Ohio. One was unexpected in Wetzell, WV 15 Jun (W. Jarrell).

Pine Siskins appeared in the highlands once again, with one in Wayne, WV 2 Jul (G. Rankin) and one in Dry Fork, WV 25 Jun-20 Jul (C. Rucker) and pairs in Locoming, PA 7 Jun (N. Bolgiano) and at Cook Forest S.P., Clarion/Jefferson, PA 12 Jul (M. Weible). An ad. male Red Crossbill visited a feeder in ne. Morrow, OH 13-14 Jul (A. Troyer, JH), for a rare summer record. Such records may well originate within the West Virginia highlands, where the species persists.

Corrigenda: It was previously reported in this space that a nineteenth-century specimen of Anhinga for Ohio was no longer extant. However, through the efforts of Donald Morse, Jr., in a multi-year quest to account for all of Ohio's bird specimens, the skin has been found, making the 2006 summer observation Ohio's 2nd (side B. Whan).

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While overall mean temperatures for the period were approximately normal, June was a few degrees warmer than normal, while July was a few degrees cooler than normal. Both June and July were drier than average, with precipitation levels close to 5 cm below the mean. Despite the dry conditions and lack of any significant weather events, several rarities visited the Region, including Neotropical Cormorant, White Ibis, Snowy Plover, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Brown-chested Martin. A variety of birds unusual for the summer season were also present, among them Common Merganser, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations: EP (Forest Preserve); Goose Pond (Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area, Greene, IN); Horseshoe (Horseshoe L., Madison, IL); Lowd.-Mill. (Lowden-Miller S.E., Ogle, IL); Montrose (Montrose Pt., Lincoln Park, Chicago).

WATERFOWL

A summering Snow Goose was at Chautauqua N.W.R. 1 Jun–21 Jul (R&SB). The pair of Trumpeter Swans that nested in Savanna, IL last summer did so again this year, with 4 young present 9 Jun (UWG, SDB, VMK, m.ob.). A pair of Mute Swans with 6 cygnets at Salamonia Res., Huntington 5 Jun (SS, JAH) marked a significant southward expansion of the species' nesting range in ne. Indiana. While Blue-winged Teal nested throughout the Region, five different broods were at Goose Pond (LWS). A pair of Gadwall with 8 newly hatched young was observed 11–14 Jul at the L. Decatur dredge ponds (TAM). Infrequent summer dabblers that were at Goose Pond included a male Gadwall that remained through

30 Jun (LWS), a male Northern Pintail that was seen through 15 Jun (LWS), and a Green-winged Teal (probably an early migrant) that was seen 22 Jul (JDH). Single Canvasbacks were noted 24 Jun at the L. Decatur dredge ponds (TAM) and 14 Jul at the Upper Mississippi River N.W.R. (DW, DLT). A Redhead was seen 13 Jun in Lake, IL (SDB, MPW), and 7 were at Hennepin–Hopper L. Restoration Area, Putnam, IL 16 Jun (GAW). Five Lesser Scaup were noted in Illinois during the season. A female Surf Scoter was observed 14 Jul at the Upper Mississippi River N.W.R. (DW, DLT). A female Bufflehead with young at Black-crown Marsh, McHenry (BS) represented Illinois's first breeding record. A Common Goldeneye lingered in Chicago through 7 Jun (SSP). Indiana's highest-ever summer total of 71 Hooded Mergansers included several successful broods. An ad. male Common Merganser was at the e. end of L. Monroe 16 Jun (RK), and perhaps the same bird was at the w. end of L. Monroe 15 Jul (ph. JG), providing only the 6th summer record for Indiana. Another Common Merganser was in Will, IL 2 Jul (JP).

GROUSE THROUGH IBIS

A brood of Ruffed Grouse was seen sw. of Bloomington 23 Jun (VW). Late Common Loons were seen on L. Monroe 12 & 22 Jun (DRW), at Goose Lake Prairie S.P. 10 Jun (UWG, REF; m.ob.), and in Jasper, IL 4 Jun (CLH). A Common Loon in alternate plumage was present 18 Jul–4 Aug at the Jake Wolf Fish



A one-day wonder, this adult White Ibis, Indiana's third adult ever, was photographed at Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area in Benton County on 1 July 2007. Photograph by Edward M. Hopkins.

Hatchery, Mason, IL (R&SB, SDB, m.ob.).

Large numbers of American White Pelicans remained along the major Illinois river systems, with 2587 at Chautauqua N.W.R. 21 Jul (R&SB). Six Double-crested Cormorant nests, one of which contained four eggs, were

observed 14 Jun at L. Gibson (GB, JKC, KJB), where cormorants last nested in 1999. A Neotropical Cormorant was present 28 Jun–28 Jul at Horseshoe (ph., †FRH, ph. DMK, ph. JU, m.ob.); Illinois has 12 prior accepted records. The high tally for American Bitterns consisted of 4 birds, at least 2 of which were juvs., at Goose Pond 21 Jul (LWS, m.ob.). At least 43 Least Bitterns were reported from 28 different locations in the Region, the high count consisting of 5 birds at least 2 of which were juvs., at Goose Pond 21 Jul (LWS, m.ob.). At least 43 Least Bitterns were reported from 28 different locations in the Region, the high count consisting of 5 birds at least 2 of which were juvs., at Goose Pond 21 Jul (LWS, m.ob.). A nice count of 2000 Great Egrets was made 18 Jul at Horseshoe (FRH). Good numbers of Little Blue Herons were still present in s. Illinois, however, with 225 at Horseshoe 20 Jul (KAM) the peak tally. Cattle Egrets, on the other hand, were very scarce. None were breeding at Alorton (VMK). A remarkable 47 Green Herons were found at Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery, Mason, IL 3 Aug (R&SB). Black-crowned Night-Herons were found nesting in Chicago's Lincoln Park, with 13 nests counted 11 Jul (ph. GN). Good tallies of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons from Illinois included 8 at Mermet L. 10 Jun (DMK) and 7 at Horseshoe 28 Jul (DMK, TAM). Furthermore, high numbers were recorded in Indiana, headlined by 6 at Minnehaha Fish and Wildlife Area 28 Jun (MJ, JSu) and 10 at Goose Pond 19 Jul (J&SH, LWS et al.), the latter representing Indiana's 5th highest one-day tally. An ad. White Ibis, only the 3rd ad. ever found in Indiana, was photographed at Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area 1 Jul (EMH).

OSPREY THROUGH MOORHENS

Ospreys nested at six locations in Illinois, at least three of the nests producing young. In Indiana, eggs were laid in 17 different nests statewide, and 15 of those were successful, producing a total of 40 young (JSC). Mississippi Kites n. of their normal range included an ad. at Dunes S.P., Porter 16 Jun (RJP), an individual 30 Jun in Lake, IL (CEG), and a group of 3 in Peoria, IL 21–26 Jun (MG, m.ob.). A single Mississippi Kite 5 Jul (DC) and then a pair at a nest 8 Jul (SHS) were discovered in Evansville, IN, marking the first occurrence of the species for Vanderburgh. The McHenry/Kane, IL nesting population of Swainson's Hawks included four pairs this summer (ALM, RAM). An unusual summer sighting of a Merlin occurred 30 Jul in Downers Grove, IL (REF).

King Rails were once again seen consistently at Goose Pond, where the high count was of one ad. with 6 downy young 3 Jul



While sight records of Western Kingbirds are not exceedingly rare in the Illinois & Indiana region, nesting records are very much so. A pair was present at a nest in Pulaski County, Indiana from 9 (here) through 19 June 2007; the nest was not successful. Photograph by Robert Huguenard.

(D&HW). A Virginia Rail calling 14 Jun (JC, BF, RRu, LWS), and another seen 3 Jul (LWS), at Goose Pond represented fairly southerly breeders or non-breeding summering birds. Single Soras at Goose Pond 18 (LWS, SE) & 28 Jul (LWS) could have been non-breeders or early fall migrants. Common Moorhens were reported from seven different counties in Indiana, with successful reproduction occurring in at least three different locations. From Illinois, ad. Common Moorhens with young were observed at James Pate Phillip S.P. (PMx), at Rollins Savanna, Lake (MF), and at Horseshoe (DMK, KAM et al.), and moorhens were seen at eight additional Illinois locations, but with no young birds noted.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Four Piping Plovers, at least 2 of which were banded juvs., were at Michigan City Harbor 28 Jul (RT, KJB, JKC et al.), constituting only the 2nd record at this site in the past 15 years. High counts of Black-necked Stilts in Indiana included 11 (4 downy young) at Cane Ridge W.M.A., Gibson 8 Jun (LP) and 8 (2 downy young) at Goose Pond 15 Jun (LWS); a bird on L. Lemon 31 Jul furnished the first record for Monroe, IN (J&SH). East Cape Girardeau, IL hosted 6 Black-necked Stilts 10 Jun (DMK). For the first time since 1992, no American Avocets were recorded in the Region during the summer period.

Indiana's 3rd highest statewide and highest-ever summer total of Lesser Yellowlegs, 700, was tallied at Goose Pond 27 Jul (JC, LWS). Only 4 Willets were tallied on the Indiana lakefront, representing the worst flight there in 11 years and well down from the 20-year

average of 54.8 (fide KJB). A single inland Willet at L. Gibson 19 Jun (DA, CEM) was notable. A fine tally of 9 Upland Sandpipers was made at Universal Mine, Sullivan, IN 4 Jul (G&LB). Late-migrating Whimbrels were seen 2 Jun in Valparaiso, IN (KN) and 6 Jun in Waukegan, IL (CF), and the southbound movement started 24 Jul, with one seen at Montrose (KM) as well as singles at Miller Beach, Lake, IN 29 (MT) & 31 Jul (KJB). The only Ruddy Turnstones of the season were 4 at Montrose 27 Jul (CL) and 4 at Michigan City Harbor 28 Jul (RT, SRB, RJP et al.). Indiana's seasonal total of 52 Sanderlings represented the poorest flight in eight years. Two Semipalmated Sandpipers 26 Jun at Montrose (RDH) and a White-rumped and 3 Pectoral Sandpipers 23 Jun at Carlyle L. (DMK) were presumed to be late spring migrants. An ad. Dunlin, presumably a non-breeding wanderer, was seen 3-5 Jul at Montrose (RDH, ph. GAW). The 13 Wilson's Snipe reported from Indiana, including 4 at Goose Pond 27 Jul (LWS), constituted the highest-ever summer total for the state. Intriguing with respect to the possibility of nesting was a snipe found at Lebanon Business Park, Boone, IN 20 & 27 Jun (RLH). Only 3 Wilson's Phalaropes were reported in the Region.

An ad. Laughing Gull sitting on a nest with one egg at L. Cal. (SB, fide MPW) represented Illinois's first breeding record. Another Laughing Gull in alternate plumage was at Wolf L., Lake, IN 13 Jun (WJM) and subsequently at the Hammond Marina 17 Jun (KJB, JKC). Observations of Bonaparte's Gulls were scattered over the Region. Sightings of the rarer large gulls were limited to second-year Lesser Black-backed Gulls 10 Jun at Illinois Beach S.P. (AFS), 15 Jun at Montrose (GAW), and 27 Jul at Carlyle L. (DMK). The 50+ Common Terns at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center breeding colony fledged 6 young for the summer (DRD). There were 15 pairs of Forster's Terns that attempted nesting at Chain O' Lakes S.P., Lake, IL; however, no young were fledged due to nest predation (CJ, BS). Two Black Terns were at Goose Pond 10 Jun (LWS), and singles were on L. Monroe 20 Jun (DRW) and at L. Gibson 19 Jun (DA, CEM) and 15 Jul (G&LB). Breeding occurred at Redwing Slough, Lake, IL as usual (SDB, MPW).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A White-winged Dove in Adams 27-28 Jun (JR, fide JAH) furnished the first record for ne-

Indiana (p.a.). The largest concentration of Eurasian Collared-Doves was a group of 225 in Granite City, IL 21 Jul (DMK, KAM et al.). On 4 Jun, a Barn Owl nest box in s. Lawrence, IN contained an ad. and 3 downy chicks, and one in n. Orange, IN contained an ad. and 4 nearly fledged young (JSC). A barn in sw. Tippecanoe with one young and 2 ad. Barn Owls 7 Jul (DZ, fide JSC) was well n. of all recent nesting activity in Indiana. Illinois Barn Owl observations included a calling individual at New Athens 29 Jun (DMK) and 2 in Mt. Erie 1 Jun-31 Jul (RES). Twelve Chuck-willows were tallied 23 Jun at Ferne Clyffe S.P., Johnson, IL (KAM), while singles were logged in Greene, Spencer, and Sullivan, IN. Numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were well above normal throughout the Region. In Indiana, a record 248 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were recorded, including 34 in the lakefront area. The highest daily counts were of 15 both in Miami, IN 30 Jun (C&SD) and in Marion, IL 8 Jun (SDB). A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers feeding 3 young was noted 14 Jun at Upper Mississippi River N.W.R. (SDB).

Two Alder Flycatchers were observed 21 Jul at Volo Bog, Lake, IL (JSS), and a Least Flycatcher was seen feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird 7 Jul at Song Bird Slough Forest Preserve, DuPage, IL (ABA, CVW). A pair of Western Kingbirds (EMH), and later a nest (LSH, SRB, JKC, KJB), was discovered in Pulaski, IN 9 Jun. The nest was photographed (RH), and the birds were seen through 19 Jun (BR). Westerns were also reported from s. Illinois, with a maximum of 4 at Granite City 21 Jul (KAM). On 3 Jun, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found in Parke, IN by Patsy Steffen, at the same site where she found one 17 May 2006. Another Scissor-tailed was found in Cass, IN 29 Jul (RR). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher, seen by a single observer 7 Jun at Illinois Beach S.P. (TPWS), would be just the Region's 2nd if accepted.

A pair of Bell's Vireos found at a nest in e. Elkhart, IN 11 Jun (DS, LS, DSt et al.) provided a first county record, and a pair near Indiana Beach 24 Jun (RRd) provided a 2nd record for White, IN. Incredible were the 43 Bell's Vireos tallied at Hawthorn Mine, Sullivan, IN 21 Jun (DRW, JE, MA), representing the 2nd highest statewide count. Along the Eel R. in Miami, 77 Warbling Vireos were counted 30 Jun (C&SD), the 3rd highest count ever in Indiana. A late Blue-headed Vireo was seen at Salamonie River S.F., Wabash, IN 5 Jun (JAH, SS). Nine Loggerhead Shrikes were observed among four locations in Jasper, IL 2 Jul (RES); the only Indiana record was of a family group of 5 birds in Daviess 21 Jun (JD, RD, JM, LWS). A Brown-

ched Martin was studied for 30 minutes at close range 30 Jun in Grundy, IL by a single observer, experienced with South American swallows, who noted details indicating the bird was of the migratory subspecies *fulva* (p.a., tDFS). Unfortunately, this bird was not relocated after the initial sighting. There are only three or four previous North American records. Two ad. and 4 juv. Red-breasted Nuthatches were observed 2 Aug in Woodstock, IL (DF), and a pair was at a nest site in Lyons Woods EP, Lake, IL through 1 Jul (EWW). A calling Red-breasted Nuthatch in Boone 6 Jul (RLH, MH) furnished Indiana's 4th and southernmost Jul record. Six Brown Creepers were reported from a total of five different Indiana locations. A pair of Bewick's Wrens once again nested at Siloam Springs S.P., Adams/Brown, IL (BA, JMy, DMK, KAM). A small breeding colony of Marsh Wrens was found at Two Rivers N.W.R., Calhoun, IL 17 & 21 Jul (DMK, KAM, m.ob.), a rare occurrence for this southerly location. Sedge Wrens were widespread and common throughout the Region. A singing Golden-crowned Kinglet in Beverly Shores, Porter 23 Jun (RJP, KJB, SRB, JKC) that was also present 24 Jun (RJP, B&MB) provided Indiana's first summer record. On 21 Jun, a Veery was heard singing in Shades S.P. (RLH, TS, D&LH) in w.-cen. Indiana, well s. of its normal breeding grounds. Two ad. Hermit Thrushes in Chicago 26 Jul (tDFS) were quite unusual.

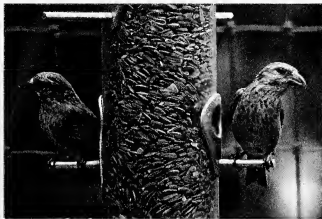
WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Yellowwood S.F., Brown, IN 16 Jun (J&SH) was notable. Five Black-throated Green Warblers were recorded this season, all in Indiana. Sightings occurred at Ft. Harrison S.P., Indianapolis 15 Jun (JC), at Dunes S.P., Porter 16 Jun (RJP), in nw. Brown 16 Jun (J&SH), in Hamilton 22 Jun (GO), and in Furnessville, Porter, with 2 present 3 Jul (SRB). A singing Yellow-throated Warbler was discovered 22 Jun in Kokomo, IN (PK), in the heart of the "great corn desert" (also known as the Tipton Tillplain), furnishing Howard's first record. A Cape May Warbler was seen in Rockford, IL on the very late date of 17 Jun (DTW). A notably late Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen 11 Jun in Chicago (DFS). Blackburnian Warblers were present at Lowd-Mill for the 5th consecutive year, with 2 singing males there 16 Jun-15 Jul (DFS); breeding has yet to be confirmed for this species in Illinois. In cen. Indiana, Worm-eating Warblers were reported from Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis 6 Jun (JC) and in Pine Hills Nature Preserve, Montgomery 21 Jun (RLH, TS). A late migrant Blackpoll Warbler was noted 14 Jun in Chicago (DFS),

while a Mourning Warbler lingered at Lowd-Mill 16 Jun (DFS). The peak count of 8 Hooded Warblers was recorded in Furnessville, Porter, IN 10 Jun and 3 Jul (SRB).

Once again, Summer Tanagers were well represented along the Indiana lakefront, as 4 birds were noted, including a pair in Beverly Shores, Porter 2 Jun (KJB, SRB, JKC, LSH). Four male Clay-colored Sparrows were observed 10 Jun at Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve, DuPage, IL (JS). Strong numbers of Henslow's Sparrows were reported in Illinois, including 121 counted at Prairie Ridge S.N.A. in mid-Jun (JWW et al.). The 3rd record of Lark Sparrow for Vigo, IN was furnished by 5 birds near Prairie Creek 18 Jun (PES). There were 7 different White-throated Sparrows reported in ne. Illinois, but a singing male in Galesburg, IL 20 Jun-2 Jul (JMy) was more southerly. A White-crowned Sparrow summered at Montrose (RDH, LGM, GAW). A late migrant Dark-eyed Junco was observed 9 Jun at Jackson Park in Chicago (KMC, fide PRC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported



A pleasant fourth of July sight was provided by these two juvenile Red Crossbills, present at a feeder in Linton, Indiana 2-4 July 2007. These were the first summer birds seen in the southern third of Indiana since 1885. Photograph by Ily Kardokus.

from numerous southerly locales throughout the Region. Extralimital Blue Grosbeaks were surprisingly numerous this season. Records included a singing male at Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis 6 Jun (JC et al.), a pair s. of Lagrange, IN 6 Jun (PM, LS et al., fide DSt), a singing male 17 Jun at Moraine Hills S.P., IL (SDB), a singing male nw. of Shipshewana, IN 29 Jun (DSt, HY, LC), a first-year male in Madison, IN 10 Jun (BKJ), a male in Shelby, IN 30 Jun (BKJ), a pair with a juv. 2-11 Jul in St. Charles, IL (SAC, PMx, AFS), and a pair at Illinois Beach S.P. 7 Jul (EWW). An excellent count of 32 Blue Grosbeaks was made along the Mississippi R. levee road in Alexander/Union, IL 10 Jun (DMK). A pair of Painted Buntings was back on territory in East St. Louis 6 May-28 Jul (DMK, KAM, m.ob.), and another male was at the same location 12

May-9 Jun (DMK). A record daily count of 213 Dickcissels was made in sw. Indiana 21 Jun (JD, RD, JM, LWS).

Forty male Bobolinks were noted near Salem, IN 10 Jun (JSs), representing the first summer record for Washington since 1954. Unfortunately, most of these Bobolinks were not present 13 Jun, following mowing. A nice count of 129 Bobolinks was made at Paul Douglas Forest Preserve, Cook, IL in Jun (SS). At sod farms in McHenry, IL, 55 Brewer's Blackbirds were noted 4 Jul (DJS).

An amazing find were 2 juv. male Red Crossbills at a feeder in Linton, Greene, IN 2-4 Jul (ph. IK), furnishing Indiana's 7th Jul record and the first summer record in the s. third of the state since 1885. Quite unusual was the assemblage of three reports of Purple Finches in late Jul, all of single birds and all in Illinois: one 28 Jul in DuPage (REF), one at Montrose 29 Jul (KH), and one in Mundelein 30 Jul (EL). The recent expansion of Eurasian Tree Sparrows reached McLean, IL, with one seen there 25 Jul (VMK).

Corrigendum: The observation of five nesting pairs of Swainson's Hawks (*North American Birds* 60.4) is properly credited to Robert A. Morgan.

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Western Great Lakes



Peder H. Svingen

Dry conditions prevailed in northern Michigan and over most of Minnesota. Good shorebird habitat emerged at Pointe Mouillee in Michigan and in western Minnesota, especially at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge.

Abbreviations: Big Stone N.W.R. (*Lac Qui Parle*, MN); Murphy-Hanrehan (Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, *Dakota/Scott*, MN); Pelican I. (Leech L., Cass, MN); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee S.G.A., *Monroe*, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., *Saginaw*, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan); Whitefish Pt. (Whitefish Point B.O., *Chippewa*, MI).

WATERFOWL THROUGH MOORHENS

Unusual for summer was a Greater White-fronted Goose in *Alger*, MI late Jun–22 Jul (JH); singles were also found in five w. Minnesota locations. A male Cinnamon Teal at Pte. Mouillee 9 Jun (WW, AMB) showed no signs of hybridization. Wisconsin's 5th Common Eider in *Sheboygan* 1-5 Jun (ph. DM) was determined to be subspecies *v-nigra*. Unexpected in midsummer in Michigan were a female Common Eider in *Alger* 29 Jun–1 Jul (p.a., JC, m.ob.) and a male Surf Scoter in *Houghton* 8 Jul (JY). The 4th summer occurrence of Harlequin Duck in Wisconsin was found in *Sheboy-*

gan 1-2 Jun (DT). Michigan reported a basic-plumaged Pacific Loon in *Baraga* 4 Jun (p.a., RR, ph. SH). Unseasonable for Minnesota were single Horned Grebes at *Duluth* 4 Jul (PHS) and in *Big Stone* 29-30 Jul (KRE et al.). Red-necked Grebes were found in four Wisconsin counties and nested in *Delta*, MI (SH, RR) for the 3rd consecutive year.

In Wisconsin, a calico Little Blue Heron lingered in *Fond du Lac* 4 Jul+ (DT). Tricolored Heron showed up in *Lyon*, MN 5-8 Jun (RB), m.ob.) and *Shiawassee*, MI 22 Jul (p.a., MK, KKr). Small numbers of Cattle Egrets were in two Michigan, five Wisconsin, and six

from spring through 14 Jun in *Fond du Lac* (KK). Glossy Ibis was found at Pte. Mouillee for the 2nd consecutive summer, including a high count of 10 birds 9 Jun (p.a., AMB, BMu); a White-faced Ibis crashed the party 9-17 Jun (p.a., JJ, AMB).

Michigan reported Yellow Rail in *Keeweenaw* in addition to the usual location at *Seney* N.W.R. Wisconsin had King Rails in *Fond du Lac* 6 Jul (DG) and *Dodge* 17 Jul (DT). In Michigan, King Rail was found at two locations about a mile apart at Pte. Mouillee 10 (SB) & 17 Jun (p.a., AMB, BMu, ST). Common Moorhens in six Minnesota



This Western Wood-Pewee was observed building a nest along the Des Moines River near Jackson, Jackson County, Minnesota in late June 2007 and attending at least one small chick 21 July (here). Its mate was presumed to be an Eastern Wood-Pewee, as one was calling near the nest on several occasions. A breeding record from Roseau County, Minnesota in 1977 may also have involved a mixed pairing between these two species (Loon 49: 169-170). Photograph by Karl J. Bardon.

Minnesota counties. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron appeared at Pte. Mouillee 9 Jun (p.a., AMB, BMu). Wisconsin reported an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in *Walworth* 8 Jun (OB) and a juv. in *Sheboygan* 23 Jul+ (CS). Wisconsin's 4th summer record of Glossy Ibis was established by birds lingering

counties was fewer than last summer by half but still above average; one at *Duluth* through 1 Jun was the first one there since 1965.

SHOREBIRDS

A total of 125 Piping Plover chicks fledged from 63 breeding pairs in the Great Lakes

SA Researchers monitoring breeding success of Common Terns at Pelican I. submitted stunning images of Minnesota's and the Region's first **Elegant Tern** 28 Jun (ph. SMO). Caspian Terns also nested here, and some of Mortensen's images show all three species standing together. Elegant Tern rarely wanders inland from the immediate coast, but inland vagrants have been recorded in Arizona and w. Texas. During the nesting seasons, Pelican I. is off-limits to the public but can be viewed from boats that stay outside of the established boundary. Though the Elegant Tern was not relocated, subsequent visits turned up a good variety of shorebirds.

(ER). Providing a first county record was an unmated Piping Plover in Brown, MN 10-13 Jun (BTS). The first fall migrant Piping Plover arrived in Manitowoc, WI 31 Jul (CS). Two Black-necked Stilts from May in Berrien, MI lingered through 6 Jun (p.a., m.ob.), while one found 1 Jul (TW) in Fond du Lac entertained many Wisconsin observers through the 6th. At least two pairs of American Avocets nested in Big Stone, MN (PHS), while a non-breeding avocet appeared sporadically in Fond du Lac, WI 4 Jun-29 Jul (JF, TW). In Michigan, single avocets in Delta 8 Jul (PB) and at Pte. Mouillee 22 Jul (AMB) represented the beginning of fall migration. High counts for yellowlegs were 120 Greater and 1437 Lesser at Agassiz N.W.R. 29 Jul (PHS, DAY).

Providing one of Minnesota's few fall records away from L. Superior was a Whimbrel at Pelican I. 18 Jul (ph. ALB). Also early was a flock of 25 Whimbrels in Macomb, MI 29 Jul (ATC); flocks of this size are rarely found in the Region during fall migration. A Red Knot visited Fond du Lac, WI 20-21 Jul (BB). Wisconsin reported a Western Sandpiper in Milwaukee 10-11 Jul (JF), with the same or another ad. at the same location 22 Jul (SCu). Northbound or possibly non-breeding White-rumped Sandpipers were recorded in Racine, WI 28 Jun (RF) and Lac Qui Parle, MN 30 Jun and 7 Jul (PCC). Buff-breasted Sandpiper migration normally peaks in early Aug. so flocks of 55 in Lac Qui Parle 28 Jul (PHS, DAY) and 80 in Dakota 31 Jul (SWE) were remarkable for Minnesota. Also noteworthy in that state was a Ruff at Big Stone N.W.R. 28 Jul (PHS, DAY).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

More Laughing Gulls than usual were reported in both Michigan (8-12 birds among three locations) and Wisconsin (singles in three locations). Single Franklin's Gulls wandered as far e. as Alger, MI 11 Jun (SCH), Sheboygan, WI 12 Jun (DT), and Pte. Mouillee 24 Jun (AMB). Minnesota's 3rd Jul occurrence of Little Gull also furnished a first county record at Paynesville W.T.P., Stearns 12 Jul (PCC, RPR). Wisconsin's 12th Black-headed Gull visited Sheboygan 16 Jul (p.a., JS). Lingering larids in Sheboygan included a third-cycle Iceland Gull 5 Jun (DT, DB), and a Black-legged Kittiwake

2-15 Jun (DT, SL); the latter was record late for Wisconsin.

An estimated 1000 breeding pairs of Caspian Terns off the Door peninsula and about 200 breeding pairs of Common Terns at four colonies were encouraging numbers for Wisconsin (SM). Outstanding in Minnesota were ad. Arctic Terns at Garden I., Lake of the Woods 15 Jun (RBJ) and Big Stone 14-15 Jul (PHS, PCC); except for 15 May 2004 in Wilkin, all previous records were at Duluth, and none were in Jul. Wisconsin's first summer record of Arctic Tern was furnished by an imm. in Sheboygan 5-12 Jul (DG, KK).

Apparently the same Band-tailed Pigeon as last winter revisited a feeder in Pierce, WI 27 Jul (JA). Furnishing Wisconsin's first summer record in two decades was a Barn Owl in Jackson 1 Jul (SBe). A pair of Burrowing Owls raised to least 2 young in Polk for Minnesota's first documented breeding since 1991. Presumably returning for its 3rd consecutive year was a Chuck-will's-widow in Jackson, WI 1 Jun (AF) through 23 Jul (RC). The Chuck-will's-widow in Berrien, MI was last heard 7 Jul. Michigan and Wisconsin each reported several Black-backed Woodpeckers; most unusual was one in the n. Lower Peninsula of Michigan near Cooke Dam, Iosco 25 Jul (WSS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

In sw. Minnesota, digital video and audio recordings documented a Western Wood-Pewee paired with an Eastern Wood-Pewee in Jackson (v. KJB, Minnesota County Biological Survey). North of its usual Michigan range was an Acadian Flycatcher in Mason 16 Jun (BJ). An easterly Western Kingbird was at

Whitefish Pt. 2 Jun (SF). Minnesota reported the only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a first county record in Cass 7 Jun (SC, KC). One of Michigan's few summer reports of Loggerhead Shrike in recent years was a one-day event in Huron 13 Jun (p.a., LJD). Wisconsin reported White-eyed Vireo in Green (TW), Iowa (AH), and Jefferson (DG); in Minnesota, where this species is still casual, one was unusually far w. at Pipestone N.M. 14-18 Jun (ph. KTP). Thirteen reports of Carolina Wren in eight s. Wisconsin counties was a good showing for the Badger State. Well ahead of schedule was a Swainson's Thrush in Milwaukee, WI 29 Jul (JM). At Murphy-Hanrehan, 27 Wood Thrush territories within 3 km² was the highest density ever recorded there (BAF). Wisconsin reported 6 Northern Mockingbirds in five counties. Mockingbirds in Baraga and Keweenaw in Michigan's U.P. and Clay and St. Louis in Minnesota, were all farther n. than usual.

Northward expansion of Blue-winged Warbler was evident in Wexford, MI (CMS) and Hubbard, MN (KRE et al.). Remarkably far s. in Michigan were Magnolia Warblers in Hillsdale 6 & 27 Jun (JB) and Berrien 30 Jun-28 Jul (BA, JTW). Cape May Warbler nesting was confirmed in five Wisconsin counties. In addition to the usual locations in Berrien, MI and Grant, WI, a Yellow-throated Warbler sang at Stinchfield Woods, Washtenaw, MI 6 Jun (ATC). A Blackpoll Warbler was tardy in Florence, WI 14 Jun (KK). Remarkably far n. in Minnesota were Cerulean Warblers in Koochiching 1 Jun and Carlton 15 Jun (RBW). Also northerly were a singing male Cerulean in Michigan's Manistee N.E. 15 Jun (CMS) and 3 along the Menominee R. in the U.P. 24 Jun (RR). Worm-eating Warblers continued at traditional locations in Berrien, MI, and Sauk and Waushara, WI, but one in Richland 2 Jun (BD) was at a new Wisconsin location. In Minnesota, a Kentucky Warbler advertised at Minneopa S.P. 17 Jun (BJU). Hooded Warblers in Lake (BS) and Emmet (SAJ) were farther n. than usual for Michigan. Yellow-breasted Chat showed well in Minnesota and Wisconsin, with each state

SA One of the biggest bird stories of the year was the discovery of nesting **Kirtland's Warblers** in Wisconsin. They were found on Plum Creek Timber Company land by Dean DiTommaso, an environmental consultant working on a major pipeline project. An avid birder, Dean discovered 3 singing males on 19 May in a cen. Wisconsin pine plantation. After reporting the sighting to the Wisconsin D.N.R., he continued observations at the site and eventually was able to document 8 singing males, 3 females, and three nests.

The site was carefully monitored by D.N.R. biologists to determine nest success. No definitive evidence of nestlings was found. Two pairs raised Brown-headed Cowbirds, and the 3rd nest was found empty, with the nestlings' fate unknown. Plans are being made for cowbird trapping at the site in 2008, similar to what has been conducted in Michigan for decades.

In 2007, the annual Kirtland's Warbler census documented an estimated 1697 singing males in Michigan, including no fewer than 31 in the U.P. This was a significant increase over the 1478 in 2005. This represents the highest total for this census, which began in 1951 and has been conducted annually since 1971. Thanks to R. Hoffman for writing this summary.

reporting them in five counties; Minnesota tally included a first county record in Aitkin (PHS) and attempted nesting in Dakota.

In Michigan, a pair of Summer Tanagers nested at Warren Dunes S.P. (ph. BA, JTW); breeding was suspected but not confirmed here last year. Establishing Wisconsin's 5th summer record was a Summer Tanager in Brown 4 Jun (IB). Lark Bunting was found in Minnesota for the 2nd consecutive summer and defended a territory in Polk 23 Jun-1 Jul (LS, JCC, m.ob.); unfortunately, it disappeared after the field was partially mowed. Henslow's Sparrow continued its recent resurgence in Minnesota, with reports from 22 counties as far n. as Clay, Morrison, and Todd. Michigan noted this species as far n. as Lake 5 Jun (CMS). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was scarce in Wisconsin, with only one report from Crex Meadows 6 Jul (TP). Outstanding was a male Chestnut-collared Longspur at Whitefish Pt. 1 Jun (CB, ph. CN).

Blue Grosbeak is unexpected in the Region except for sw. Minnesota, so males in Monroe, MI 20 Jun (p.a., ATC), Monroe, WI 2-12 Jul (ph. EW), and Sauk, WI 14 Jul (ph. AH) were noteworthy: A male Painted Bunting brightened up De Kam's yard in Murray, MN 18 Jul (NED). Dickcissel numbers were down dramatically from last year, but reports were

nonetheless widespread, from 22 Wisconsin and 17 Michigan counties, including five in the U.P. One of the few positive reports of Western Meadowlark in recent years came from the U.P., where at least 24 birds were found. Orchard Oriole was found breeding in Menominee 24 Jun (SH), a first for the U.P. A notable count of 236 Red Crossbills was obtained in Ashland, WI 9 Jun (RB). Two Red Crossbills strayed s. to Gratiot, MI 21 Jul (JR). In Wisconsin, White-winged Crossbills lingered into early Jun in Shawano (TE) and Sawyer (TP). Except for 30-40 at W.P.O. 1 Jul (DMC), Evening Grosbeaks remained scarce.

Addenda and corrigendum: For the spring season of 2007 (see *North American Birds* 61: 446-448), Minnesota accepted a Swallow-tailed Kite in Anoka 4 May (AXH) and a Worm-eating Warbler in Lyon 23 Apr (RE). A report of Tricolored Heron in Roseau was not accepted.

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Iowa & Missouri



James J. Dinsmore

In Iowa, June was somewhat warmer than usual, with rainfall somewhat below average. July temperatures were about normal, with rainfall again below average. Parts of western Iowa were extremely dry. Temper-

atures in Missouri were about average in June and slightly below average in July. Other than torrential rains in southwestern Missouri in late June, most of Missouri had less precipitation than normal. However, heavy rains in May flooded Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge and other marshes in northwestern Missouri. Yellow-headed Blackbirds and other marsh species were absent from these areas this summer.

Regional highlights were Neotopic Cormorants in both states, Anhinga, Snowy Plover, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, California Gull, Rufous Hummingbird, and Painted Bunting. American White Pelicans and Red-necked Grebes nesting in Iowa and a Eurasian Tree Sparrow nest near Columbia, Missouri were good finds. Missouri had a major influx of southern wading birds.

Abbreviations: Benton (Benton herony, Scott, MO); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); ER.C.A. (Four Rivers C.A., Vernon, MO); O.S.C.A. (Otter Slough C.A., Stod-

dard, MO); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); Squaw Creek (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO).

GEESE THROUGH FALCONS

Trumpeter Swans did well, with a nest for the 3rd year in Livingston, MO (SK) and 27 Iowa nests hatching young (David Hoffman). Lingered ducks included up to 7 Gadwall (tJE, m.ob.), s. Missouri's first summer record of American Wigeon (tJE, JU), and up to 6 Ring-necked Ducks (m.ob.), all at O.S.C.A. in se. Missouri, plus as many as 5 Northern Shovelers at E.B.C.A. (tPK, SS) and one in Dunklin, MO (tJE). Iowa sightings included 2 Greater White-fronted Geese in Ames (WO) and single Common Goldeneyes in Marshall 14 Jun and Dickinson 28 Jul (MP, ET). Only 3 Greater Prairie-Chickens from Iowa's reestablished population were seen in Ringgold (SP).

Common Loon reports included 3 in Greene, MO 28 Jul (LB, CB, David Ringer) and singles in Cerro Gordo, Dickinson, Musca-



This immature Wood Stork at Four Rivers Conservation Area in Vernon County was one of many Missouri wader high-lights in summer 2007 and the first for this species since 1996. The bird was discovered by JoAnn Garrett and Nan Johnson 28 (here photographed 30) July. Photograph by Peter Kondrashov.

tine, and Story, IA. (m.ob.) A brood of Red-necked Grebes 14 Jul at Grover's L., Dickinson (LS) was Iowa's 4th. Other grebes included an Eared Grebe in Warren, IA 5 Jun (SP), a Western Grebe in Jackson, MO 17 & 20 Jun (Linda Cassebolt, †Bob Fisher), and one or 2 Westerns in early Jun at four Iowa sites (m.ob.). In Missouri, 150 American White Pelicans were at Swan Lake N.W.R., Chariton 19 Jun (SK). Iowa's first migrants were 12 Jul, with 1060 in Marion (JG). By 30 Jul, 2900 were at Saylorville (AB). Neotropic Cormorants were in both states; one at Sedan W.A., Appanoose 6-29 Jun (†Tom Johnson, †CE, †KA, m.ob.) was Iowa's 3rd, while 2 were at F.R.C.A. 29 Jul (†Bill Reeves, Bob Lewis). Double-crested Cormorants nested in Clinton (Mike Griffin, fide BE) and Hancock, IA (RG, PH) and at F.R.C.A. (SK). An Anhinga 19 Jun at F.R.C.A. (†AF, m.ob.) was a rare find for Missouri.

SA American White Pelicans nested on two Mississippi R. spoil islands in Clinton, the first documented successful nesting for Iowa. Found 13 Jun by Russell Engelke, an estimated 200 young were produced. Previous reports of pelicans nesting in Iowa include a colony in 2005 in mw. Iowa that was deserted and a vague report of collecting pelican eggs in this Iowa in the 1880s. The nearest previously known colony is in Fairbault, MN (fide Anthony Hertz), about 320 km from this site.

Other herons reported were Missouri's only American Bittern at Squaw Creek 14 Jul (SK, LL) and Snowy Egrets in Washington and Louisa, IA (SP, SD). The usual Black Vultures were in se. Missouri: 2 in Ste. Genevieve 1 Jun, 5 there 14 Jun (m.ob.), and one in New Madrid 9 Jul (SS, BJ, PW). A slightly out-of-range Black Vulture was near the Dallas/Laclede line 27 Jul (Patrick Sensenig). Iowa's reintroduced Ospreys did well, with

five of nine nests successful and 12 young fledged (PS). A Mississippi Kite nest in Greene, MO was a county first (CB, LB). The top count was 10 in New Madrid 9 Jul (SS, BJ, PW). Up to 3 were at F.R.C.A. and Christian, MO (m.ob.) and in Polk and Wapello, IA (m.ob.). Bald Eagle nesting populations continued to increase, with about 210 nests in Iowa (BE) and 150 nests in Missouri (BR). Northern Harrier nests or recently fledged young were found in Adams and Worth, IA (Ryan Marquardt, Carolyn Fischer) and Harrison, MO (SK). Single Sharp-shinned Hawks in Warren, MO 6 Jun (PM), in St. Louis 10 Jul (SS, BJ, PW), and in Polk, IA 31 Jul (†RC) add to the Region's few summer reports. A kettle of 11 Broad-winged Hawks 7 Jun in Emmet, IA appeared to be late migrants (Harold White). A Swainson's Hawk 22 Jun in Buchanan, MO (LL) was the only report. Iowa's eight successful Peregrine Falcon nests fledged 23 young, the most since the reintroduction program started (PS). In Missouri, a brood was found in St. Louis (Tom Bailey).

RAILS THROUGH GULLS

The only King Rails were singles 1 Jun and 20 Jul at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., Pike (m.ob.) and in Ray, MO 23 Jun (SK, LL). Six Virginia Rails and 3 Soras were heard 27 Jun in Boone, MO (AF, BG). Common Moorhen broods were found in Boone, MO (Dave Rogles) and at O.S.C.A. (JE). Iowa had reports from four counties, but none mentioned breeding (m.ob.). Three American Coots at O.S.C.A. in se. Missouri 20 Jul (JE) were s. of their usual range. Two ads. throughout the season at Squaw Creek (TR, LL) and 2 on 4 Jul in Saline (SS, PW) add to the growing presence of Sandhill Cranes in Missouri. Iowa's small crane breeding population is slowly expanding from its ne. Iowa stronghold.

Late shorebirds included 2 Black-bellied Plovers, a Silt Sandpiper, and a Red-necked Phalarope, all 8 Jun at E.B.C.A. (BJ). Possibly

Johnson 11 Jul (DP), one near Council Bluffs 21 Jul (EB), and one at Saylorville 29 Jul (WO). Black-necked Stilts continued to increase in Missouri, with 37 near O.S.C.A. 10 Jul (SS, PW, BJ) and 88 in Pemiscot 22 Jul (JE).

Upland Sandpipers were found in both states (m.ob.), with 25 at Hi-Lonesome Prairie, Benton, MO (SS, PW) the most. Other than 250 Lesser Yellowlegs 29 Jul (JG) and

SA Missouri had an impressive invasion of southern wading birds this summer. The Benton herony had 2200 Little Blue Herons and 2700-4500 Cattle Egrets (JE, SS, PW). Elsewhere, Little Blues were found at E.B.C.A., F.R.C.A., and St. Charles (m.ob.), with 50 at F.R.C.A. the highest tally (SK, LL). Besides 100 Snowy Egrets in St. Charles (BR), a few were found at E.B.C.A., at F.R.C.A., and in Mississippi (m.ob.). Other good finds, all immis., were a Tricolored Heron at O.S.C.A. 28 Jul (CB), a Roseate Spoonbill at O.S.C.A. 22-28 Jul (†JE, CB, JU; Missouri's 6th record), and a Wood Stork at F.R.C.A. 28-31 Jul (JoAnn Garrett, Nan Johnson, †PK, m.ob.). Finally, a White Ibis at Benton 26 Jun and 21 Jul (SS, JE) and 2-4 immis. in Dunklin 28-31 Jul (JE, m.ob.), a Glossy Ibis at Benton 27 Jun-2 Jul (SS, m.ob.), and single unidentified *Plegadis* in Livingston 7 Jun (SK) and at Squaw Creek 23 Jul (TR) were also present.

1300 Pectoral Sandpipers 30 Jul (AB), both in Marion, IA, counts of common shorebirds were relatively low. Less common migrants included a Marbled Godwit 7 Jul at Saylorville (JG), a Ruddy Turnstone 29-30 Jul at Saylorville (JB, AB), a Sanderling 19 Jul at Saylorville (AB) and 2 on 21 Jul in Pottawatomie, IA (EB), a Western Sandpiper 16 Jul at E.B.C.A. (BJ) and 4 on 28 Jul in Pemiscot, MO (JE), a Baird's Sandpiper 22 Jul at Saylorville (SD), and a record-early Dunlin 10 Jul at O.S.C.A. (SS, PW, BJ). Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports included a very early bird 14 Jul in Warren, IA (†JG), 5 on 30 Jul at F.R.C.A. (SK), and 54 on 31 Jul at Saylorville (AB). An ad. Long-billed Dowitcher in breeding plumage in St. Charles 15 Jul (†BR) provides Missouri's first well-documented Jul record. In Iowa, 5 Wilson's Phalaropes in Emmet 8 Jun (MK) and 2 in Woodbury 18 Jun (GV) may have been nesting. Late Jul reports in Marion, Polk, and Warren, IA (AB, SD, JG) and at F.R.C.A. (JE) were migrants.

An ad. Laughing Gull 1 Jun at R.M.B.S. (m.ob.), a Black-headed Gull at its usual Spirit L., Dickinson, IA spot 28 Jul (ET), a Bonaparte's Gull in Johnson, IA 29 Jul (DP), and Iowa's first-ever summer California Gull in Dickinson 20 Jun (†SD) were the only reports of those species. Lingerer Franklin's Gulls included one 9 Jun at R.M.B.S. (Dave Becher).



This immature Roseate Spoonbill found by Joe Eades at Otter Slough Conservation Area, Stoddard County 22 (here 28) July 2007 furnishes the sixth Missouri record of the species. Photograph by Joshua Uffman.

By mid-Jul, southbound birds were evident, with 80 at Saylorville on 19 Jul (AB) the most. The only Herring Gulls reported were an imm. 1 Jun in Lincoln, MO (m.ob.) and an ad. 26 Jul at Saylorville (JG). The Region's only Ring-billed Gull nesting colony in Dickinson, IA had 160 ads. and about 53 young 20 Jun (SD). The 89 at Saylorville 12 Jul (SD) were the first southbound birds, and 1160 were in Marion, IA 31 Jul (AB).

TERNS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

High counts of Least Terns along the Mississippi R. were about 75 in *New Madrid* and *Pemiscot*, MO (SS, m.ob.). Away from the river, the high count was 60, also in *Pemiscot* (SS, PW, BJ). In Iowa, about 20 Least Terns, including 6 young and two active nests, were at Council Bluffs (EB). The only Common Tern was one in *Buchanan*, MO 16 Jul (LL). Both marsh terns showed evidence of nesting in n. Iowa—Black Terns in *Dickinson*, *Hancock*, and *Winnebago* (LS, PH, RG) and Forster's Terns in *Dickinson* (MB).

White-winged Doves were found in both states with one 26 Jun in *Ida*, IA (†Don Poggensee) and up to 4 from 27 Jun+ in *Mississippi*, MO, where they have occurred since 2004 (SS, PW, m.ob.). Black-billed Cuckoos were found in 12 Iowa and two Missouri counties (m.ob.), typical of recent years. One or 2 Greater Roadrunners were found in five counties in sw. Missouri (m.ob.), where expected. Barn Owls were found in five counties in Missouri (m.ob.), with 10 in *New Madrid* and *Pemiscot* 9 Jun (SS, PW, BJ) the most. None were reported in Iowa (BE). Chuck-wills-widows at *Lucas*, IA (JB, JG, †SP) were at the n. edge of the species' range. A male Rufous Hummingbird 27-28 Jul in *Boone* (ph, †Larry Dau) was Iowa's first since 2000.

Late flycatchers, all singles, were an Olive-sided Flycatcher 13 Jun in *Greene*, MO (Dean Rising), Yellow-bellied Flycatchers 8 Jun in both St. Louis, MO (JE) and *Emmet*, IA (MK),

and Alder Flycatchers 10 Jun in *Pike*, MO (Jim Malone) and 17 Jun in *Boone*, IA (WO). Willow Flycatchers, fairly common in n. Iowa, were found s. to *Lincoln*, *Nodaway*, and *St. Charles*, MO (m.ob.), where the species' distribution is more uneven. Reports of Western Kingbirds nesting in *St. Louis*, *Callaway*, and *Livingston*, MO (m.ob.) and around Des Moines, IA (JG, DK, DP) are e. of its historic strongholds. Three in *Dunklin* 30 Jun (JE), in se. Missouri, were far from usual range. Three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers 2 Jun at E.B.C.A. (KA) and a brood 28 Jul at O.S.C.A. (JU) in se. Missouri continue this species' eastward movement.

A few Loggerhead Shrikes were found scattered across s. Iowa and Missouri (m.ob.). The 21 in *Harrison* in nw. Missouri on 4 Jul (JE) were by far the most. Bell's Vireos were found in both states (m.ob.) with 28 near Sioux City, IA 5 Jun the most (GV). A Fish Crow 3 Jul in *Gasconade*, MO (EW) suggests that the species is becoming established on tributaries on the s. bank of the Missouri R.



These young American White Pelicans in colony on a spoil island in Clinton County, Iowa 13 June 2007 mark the first successful nesting by the species in the state. Photograph by Russell Engelle.

The only report for Iowa's small Black-billed Magpie population was of one in *Plymouth* 22 Jun (Dennis Thompson). Red-breasted Nuthatch broods in *Story* (James Pease), *Cherokee* (LS), and *Winnebago* (Lisa Ralls) constituted Iowa's 4th, 5th, and 6th nesting records. Singles in late Jul in cen. Iowa (Tom Lawson, Jeff Nichols) suggested early southbound birds.

WRENS THROUGH FINCHES

A Bewick's Wren at its traditional Iowa junkey in *Lee* 13 Jun (MP) and another in *Boone*, MO 15 Jul (PM) represented the only reports. As expected, a few Sedge Wrens were found in n. Missouri (m.ob.), but singles 22 & 28 Jul at O.S.C.A. in se. Missouri (JE) were outside its usual range. As many as 17 Marsh

Wrens were found at several sites in *Holt* and *Linn*, in nw. Missouri (TR, SK). Northern Mockingbirds in *Cherokee* (LS) and *Lyon* (Bill Unzen) in nw. Iowa were at the n. edge of their range. Late warblers included a Blackburnian Warbler in *Lucas* 4 Jun (SP) and a Northern Waterthrush 2 Jun in *Hancock* (PH), both in Iowa, and a Connecticut Warbler in *St. Louis* 5 Jun (Mike Brady) in Missouri. A Northern Parula in *Atchison* 27 Jun (TR), 2 Yellow-throated Warblers in *Platte* 2 Jul (SS, PW), and a Cerulean Warbler in *Holt* 1 Jul (TR) were on the edge of their Missouri ranges. Two Chestnut-sided Warblers found throughout the period in *Allamakee*, IA (DK) may have been nesting. Two Pine Warblers in *Adair* 24 Jun (†PK) constituted the first summer record for n. Missouri, while a pair in *Lee*, IA 7 Jul (John Rutenbeck, PR) was at the site where they nested in 2004. A Prairie Warbler that arrived in *Linn*, IA in May remained through mid-Jun (Bill Scheible, Don Robinson). A female Black-and-white Warbler with a fledgling in *Warren* 23 Jun (SP) furnished one of Iowa's few recent confirmed reports of nesting; a male in *Washington*, IA 3 Jul (SP) and one in *Jefferson*, MO 17 Jun (JE) were suggestive of breeding. Besides a brood in *Lee*, IA (RC), Worm-eating Warblers were found in *Johnson* and *Wapello*, IA (CE, SP) and *Pike*, MO (MT). Single Swainson's Warblers were in *New Madrid*, *Oregon*, and *Wayne* (m.ob.), all in se. Missouri.

Two Bachman's Sparrows in *Ozark*, MO 6 Jun (SS, PW, AF) constituted the only report of the species. Clay-colored Sparrows, which nest sparingly in n. Iowa, were found in three counties, including a brood in *Dickinson* (MB, m.ob.). Henslow's Sparrows were found in 19 counties in s. and e. Iowa (m.ob.). Holdovers from May, male Painted Buntings remained in *Ames*, IA (SP, WO) and *St. Charles*, MO (m.ob.) into mid-Jul. The Missouri bird, back for the 6th year, was found dead 20 Jul. Farther s., within their expected Missouri range, as many as 3 males were found in *Cole*, *Greene*, and *Ozark* (m.ob.). Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Bobolink seemed to be common in their usual ranges in both states (m.ob.). A Western Meadowlark 6 Jun in *Callaway*, MO (PM) was far e. of where normally found. A Great-tailed Grackle nest in *Winneshek* (Dennis Carter) is the first for n. Iowa. A Eurasian Tree Sparrow nest near

Columbia, Boone (Melvin West, TBG) extends its range farther inland in Missouri.

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Tennessee & Kentucky



Chris Sloan Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Weather conditions during June–July 2007 were somewhat variable across the Region and not extreme. In general, precipitation was lower than normal across much of central and northern Kentucky in June, with near-normal rainfall across southern Kentucky and Tennessee during the month. In July, the situation became reversed, with near-normal precipitation occurring across the northern half of Kentucky, while the onset of a severe period of drought occurred across most of the remainder of the Region. Temperatures were slightly warmer than normal in June, but slightly cooler than normal in July. The only rare rarities of the season were a White Ibis and a Red-necked Phalarope in Kentucky and an unidentified *Plegadis* ibis in Tennessee. Nesting Least Terns seemed to experience good results, with low water conditions allowing for widespread nesting, although low water levels allowed access to some sites for predators and all-terrain vehicles.

Abbreviations: Barkley Dam (Livingston/Lyon, KY); Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. Shelby, TN); Kentucky Dam (at the n. end of Kentucky L., Livingston/Marshall, KY); Lake No. 9 (Fulton,

KY); Roan Mt. (Carter, TN); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Summer waterfowl reports of interest included an ad. dark-morph Snow Goose in Warren, KY 28 Jun (DR); 2 Gadwalls at Standifer Gap 6 Jun (DP); a male American Wigeon at Watauga L., Carter, TN 9 Jun (BSt et al.); an American Black Duck in Union, KY 20 Jun (BPa), with another on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY 22 Jun (HC, ME); a Northern Shoveler at Lake No. 9 on 20 Jul (HC, ME); a male Redhead in Pulaski, KY through 22 Jun (RD); single Ring-necked Ducks in Hawkins, TN 30 Jun (DMi) and at Ensley 7–8 Jul (JRW); 5 Lesser Scaup at Ensley 17 Jun (JRW); up to two dozen Lesser Scaup on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY into late Jun (m.ob.); a female Red-breasted Merganser at Ft. Loudoun L., Loudoun, TN 21 Jul (DSc, *vide* KDE); and a Ruddy Duck at Robco L., Memphis, TN 17 Jun (JRW). Two American Wigeons, including an injured female, lingered into early summer at Baird W.M.A., Ballard, KY; the hen apparently raised young, for a first state breeding record (JSl, *vide* GB; HC, ME).

Two Common Loons in basic plumage were present above Kentucky Dam 25 Jul (BPa); single birds were at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 16 May–11 Jul (DH, RK) and John Sevier L., Hawkins, TN 4 Jun (SH). The only American White Pelicans reported during the season were up to ca. 100 at Lake No. 9 in late Jul (HC, ME, BPa). Single Least Bitterns in Kingsport, Sullivan, TN 22 Jul (DK) and at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Greene, TN (DMi) were rare for ne. Tennessee; one was at Standifer Gap 7 Jul (DP et al.), but, in contrast to recent years, there was no evidence of successful nesting of either Least Bittern or Virginia Rail at Standifer Gap

this season. A few to 15–20 nesting pairs of Great Egrets were reported at four new colony sites in Kentucky in Ballard, Fulton, Hickman, and Union (BPa, JB). The peak count of post-breeding Great Egrets was 850 at Lake No. 9 on 26 Jul (BPa). A juv. White Ibis was present at Lake No. 9 on 28 Jul (ph. HC, ME), and a White-faced/Glossy Ibis (reported as Glossy) was at Woods Res., Franklin, TN 16 Jun (Jl, D&S).

The only extralimital Mississippi Kite in Kentucky this season was one in Scott 8 Jul (MJ). Seven of nine nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons along the Ohio R. corridor in Kentucky successfully fledged young (SV, BV, AS). In Tennessee, results were more tragic for the historic breeding pair below Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton, TN. The chick was not seen after 17 Jun and presumably died; worse, the ad. male was found with a broken wing 20 May and died 13 Jul. A single Peregrine was at Ensley 21–29 Jul (JRW).

MOORHEN THROUGH TERNS

The only report of Common Moorhen was of 5 ads., including a pair with 2 downy young, in Union, KY 26 Jul (BPa). As is true during most summers, a few American Coots summered, although there was no evidence of breeding this year. A Black-bellied Plover at Rankin Bottoms, Coche, TN 3 Jun (MS) was a very late spring migrant. Two ad. American Avocets in White, TN 28 Jul (DD, ph. JSJ) furnished first county records. The only Kentucky report of Black-necked Stilt was of a migrant family group (2 ads., 4 juvs.) at Lake No. 9 on 28 Jul (HC, ME). A Greater Yellowlegs on L. Cumberland, Pulaski, KY 30 Jun (RD) was rather early. A Spotted Sandpiper on Kentucky L., Calloway, KY 25 Jun (ME, HC) was either summering or an early fall migrant. A possibly injured Solitary Sandpiper was present on L. Cumberland, Pulaski, KY 23 Jun–7 Jul (RD). Two Willets were on the Mississippi R., Shelby, TN 30 Jun (JRW), and single birds were there 1 & 10 Jul (JRW)



This juvenile White Ibis (right) was present at Lake Ho, 9, Fulton County, Kentucky 28 July 2007 and again 16 August (here). Photograph by Hap Chambers.

and at Ensey 11 Jul (JRW). Two ad. Sanderlings on the Mississippi R., *Carlisle*, KY 26 Jul (BPa) and 2 on the Mississippi R., *Shelby*, TN 28 Jul (JRW) were the earliest fall birds to be reported. An early Baird's Sandpiper was at Ensey 22 Jul (JRW). An ad. Long-billed Dowitcher in se. *Muhlenberg*, KY 5 Jul (†DR) represented a new early fall arrival date for Kentucky. Two Stilt Sandpipers at Upper Douglas L., *Sevier*, TN 16 Jul (MS) were early. An injured male Red-necked Phalarope in *Union*, KY 20 Jun (ph. BPa) represented the first for the state in Jun.

Two ad. or second-summer Laughing Gulls were present at Kentucky Dam 1 Jun (DR). A Herring Gull was still at Kentucky Dam 1 Jun (DR). Nesting Least Terns seemed to be doing relatively well during mid-breeding season, with 12-120 nests documented at four Mississippi R. sites in *Carlisle*, *Fulton*, and *Hickman*, KY 24-27 Jun (RR, JB et al.) and 3-19 nests documented at four sites on the lower Ohio R. in *Ballard* and *McCracken*, KY (JB, GB, BPa). A few pairs were on nests at an industrial pond at Calvert City, *Marshall*, KY in Jun (DSw), and up to six pairs were present on a small island in the Ohio R. below Lewisport, *Hancock*, KY in Jun (DA). The only report of a bird away from nesting areas was a juv. in *Muhlenberg*, KY 25 Jul (DR). Two Caspian Terns were still at Barkley Dam 1 Jun (DR); the earliest report of probable returning fall Caspians was of 2 in *Jefferson*, KY 1 Jul (BW, JS). Black Terns were on the Mississippi R., *Shelby*, TN 1 Jul (2) and 6 Jul (one; both JRW). A first-year Forster's Tern was still at Barkley Dam 1 Jun (DR); likewise summering Forster's included one at Hatchie N.W.R., *Haywood*, TN 16 Jun (BPu), a first-year bird on the Ohio R., *Livingston*, KY 26 Jun (JB, BPa, GB), and a first-year bird and an ad. on the Mississippi R., *Fulton*, KY 27 Jun (JB, RR et al.).

OWLS THROUGH WRENS

There were several reports of Barn Owls in Kentucky: one in *Pulaski* 5 Jun (RD); one from a family group in *Marshall* was turned into a raptor rehabilitator in early Jun (DF, *vide EW*); a family group in s. *Fleming* in mid-Jun (TG, *vide WM*); nesting birds in a chimney in *Nelson* in mid-Jun (BH, *vide EW*); and one in *Warren* 30 Jul (DR). A singing Chuck-will's-widow in *Elliott*, KY 13 Jul (EM) was unusual for ne. Kentucky. At least four pairs of Western Kingbirds nested in *Memphis*, TN in Jun (JRW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nest with 4 young was observed in s. *Livingston*, KY 24 Jun (ph. HC); it is unclear if an imm. bird below Barkley Dam, *Lyon*, KY 22 Jul (KL, BL) was from that nearby *Livingston* nest site or one below the dam, as there were no other reports during the season from the latter locale. In Tennessee, at least five pairs nested, all in regular nesting locations in *Shelby*, *Bledsoe*, *Rutherford*, and *Marion*. Twenty-seven Least Flycatchers at Roan Mt., *Carter*, TN 9 Jun was an unusually large number. A singing Bell's Vireo just nw. of *Sonora*, *Hardin*, KY 22 Jun (BPa, AS) was away from known breeding areas. Bell's Vireos at Ensey on 2 Jun (one) and 17 Jun (2 birds) apparently nested (JRW).

A Bank Swallow colony involving about 40 burrows was found at Dayton, *Campbell*, KY in early Jul (FR) for a new county breeding record. A count of 834+ in *Greene*, TN 21 Jul (DMI) was exceptional. Several Cliff Swallows at a bridge at Tatham Springs, *Washington*, KY 16 Jun (BPa) represented a new county breeding record. The singing Bewick's Wren found nw. of Beechwood, *Owen*, KY in late May lingered on territory through at least 6 Jun (BPa, AS, SV); another singing bird was reported just se. of Buena Vista, *Harrison*, KY 9 & 22-23 Jun (SM). Late Jul reports of likely breeding Sedge Wrens in Kentucky came from *Ballard* (BPa), *Fulton* (BPa), *Greenup* (RS, SF), *Jefferson* (BPa), and *Ohio* (DR). Two Marsh Wrens were at Standifer Gap 8 Jul (DP et al.).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Up to 5 Hermit Thrushes, very rare breeders in the Region, were on Roan Mt., *Carter*, TN

through the season (RK et al.); 2 were at Unaka Mt., *Unicoi*, TN 14 Jun (RK, VF). Magnolia Warblers are very rare breeders in the Region, so 2 each at Roan Mt., *Carter*, TN and Unaka Mt., *Unicoi*, TN in mid-Jun (RK et al.) were noteworthy. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers, similarly rare breeders, were near Mt. Kephart, Great Smoky Mountains N.P., *Sevier*, TN 6 Jun (THw). A singing Blackburnian Warbler near the crest of Pine Mt. just s. of Shell Gap, *Harlan*, KY 14 Jun (BPa) was away from known breeding areas of the higher mts. just to the southeast. At least one and possibly two Prothonotary Warbler nests at Lewis County W.M.A., KY in early Jun (SF) represented a first breeding record for that county in ne. Kentucky; a nest in *Smith*, TN 3 Jun (KH) was also a first county record.

Territorial Savannah Sparrows were reported from *Fayette*, KY 1 Jun (BPa, SV) and ne. *Shelby*, KY 10 Jun (BSM). Four pairs were at three sites in *Washington*, TN through the season (RK); a Savannah Sparrow in *Greene*, TN 29 Jun-5 Jul (DMI) also suggested breeding. A new colony of at least 10 singing Henslow's Sparrows was reported just e. of Touristville, *Wayne*, KY in early Jul (ph. CO); 3 territorial birds were in *Marshall*, TN 3 Jun+ (DMO). The White-throated Sparrow that lingered at Richmond, *Madison*, KY into late May was last seen 1 Jun (THG). One in *Putnam*, TN 8-20



This male Red-necked Phalarope in Union County, Kentucky 20 June 2007 had an injured leg. It represents a first June record for the state. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Jul (SJS, BHS) represents the 2nd summer record for the county. Following the unprecedented spring showing of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders across the Region, a female was present in a yard in n. *Woodford*, KY 3-5 Jun (JL); and a pair was present in a yard at Covington, *Kenton*, KY at least into mid-Jun (MAB, *vide LM*).

There were several reports of breeding Bobolinks in Kentucky: birds nw. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer* continued into Jun (GD et al.); one to 2 singing males in ne. *Shelby* 10 Jun (BSM); a small colony of at least 6 males and

4 females in Woodford 18 Jun (ph. JL); 5 territorial birds just n. of Winchester, Clark 26 Jun (JSm); and several territorial birds in ne. Bourbon 16 Jul (SM, RB). Two pairs were in Washington, TN through the season (DH, RK); 3 juvs. seen there 23 Jul (RK) furnished the state's 2nd breeding record.

Corrigenda: The Mottled Duck at Dutch Bottoms, Douglas L., TN Sep 2006 was seen in Jefferson and Coche, not Sevier as reported. It represents the 2nd accepted record for the state.

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Alabama & Mississippi



GULF OF MEXICO

Steven W. McConnell

The number of observer reports from across our Region this season seemed to be fewer than in recent years. Two reasons for this downturn were likely the completion of the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas field work during 2006 and the continuing very warm and dry weather pattern. Many locations did receive some temporary relief during July, when rainfall exceeded normal totals and the mercury averaged slightly below typical. No tropical cyclones threatened the Region this season. Highlights from this breeding season included the discovery of the Region's first Cedar Waxwing nest and a Bell's Vireo captured in Mississippi. A pair of inland Gull-billed Terns in Alabama was more difficult to explain.

Abbreviations: Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., Oktibbeha/Winston, MS); Swan Creek (Swan Creek W.M.A., Limestone, AL)

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

Four Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found 15 Jul near Inverness in Sunflower, MS (SJD). Two calling Pied-billed Grebes made a nice surprise 7 Jul at Swan Creek, where the species is an uncommon breeder (SWM). The

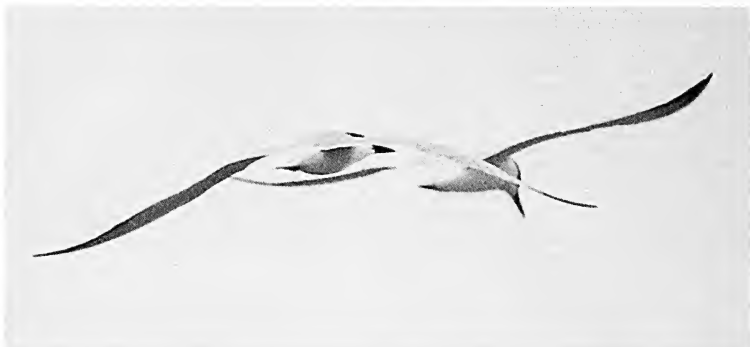
(J&MP). Summering American White Pelicans are rarely found inland in Alabama, making the 24 in Hale, AL 15 Jul quite noteworthy (GJH). The long-staying individual at the mouth of Town Cr., Colbert/Lawrence, AL continued for a 3rd year (m.ob.). Three Neotropical Cormorants (2 ads., one imm.) at Dutch Brake, Sunflower 15 Jul were rare for Mississippi (SJD). Repeated observations of Anhinga throughout the season in e.-cen.



Up to 14 Wood Storks visited a small pond in Muscle Shoals, Colbert County, Alabama in late June 2007 (there with small fish on 29 June). The species is only an occasional visitor to the Tennessee Valley region of northern Alabama. Photograph by Jerry D. Green.

alternate-plumaged Horned Grebe in Bayou Heron n. of Dauphin I., Mobile, AL 16 Jun-7 Jul provided a very unusual summer record

Mississippi, including a nest with 3 young 13 Jul at Noxubee, provided evidence of rarely detected breeding (TLS).



This pair of Gull-billed Terns was seen 6 July 2007 at W. F. George Dam, Henry County, Alabama. They furnished the sixth state inland record and were not associated with any tropical weather event. Photograph Walt Chambers.

Small numbers of Least Bittern are typically scattered throughout the Region; however, the 8 found 10 Jun in *Mobile*, AL made for a high count (BCG). A staggering number of Great Egrets—10,850—was counted in *Sunflower/Humphreys*, MS 15 Jul (SJD). An imm. White Ibis 7 Jul at Swan Creek was rare for Alabama's Tennessee Valley region (SWM). The only Roseate Spoonbill report for the season was of 6 (2 ads., 4 imm.) in *Sunflower/Humphreys*, MS 15 Jul (SJD). Wood Storks seemed unusually widely distributed across the Region. Up to 15 were found 18 Jun+ at *Noxubee* (TLS). Alabama's Inner Coastal Plain produced four records: 16 along the Alabama R. in *Lowndes* 1 Jun (W&LB); 6 on the Alabama R. in *Monroe/Clarke* 6 Jun (ECS, JT); one near *White Hall* in *Lowndes* 16 Jun (LFG); and an impressive 975+ later in the season in *Hale/Perry* 15 Jul (GJH et al.). The latter provided the 2nd highest Alabama daily total ever! In n. Alabama, where this wader is only occasional, 14 were found 22 Jun and lingered several days at a small spring-fed pond at Muscle Shoals in Colbert (DJS, ph. JDG, m.ob.).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Purple Gallinule returned to nest again at *Noxubee*, where 2 ads. and 3 downy young were seen 25 Jun (TLS). The 20+ Common Gallinules at the same location 12 Jun included both ads. and young to furnish a first *Oktibbeha* nesting record (TLS). Up to 4 American Coots were also found at *Noxubee* 11 Jun–30 Jul; however, no evidence of nesting

could be found (TLS).

Two Black-necked Stilts 17 Jun near *Macon, Noxubee*, MS provided one of only a few area records and the first in summer. Again, no nesting activity was noted (TLS). Later in the season an impressive 192 were tallied in *Sunflower*, MS 15 Jul (SJD). The Spotted Sandpiper in *Oktibbeha*, MS 15 Jul provided an early record for a likely migrant (TLS), and 912 Least Sandpipers in *Sunflower*, MS 15 Jul furnished an impressive total (SJD). Early for the Gulf coast were the Upland Sandpiper 12 Jul and 6 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 19 Jul at *Foley, Baldwin*, AL (D&CD). The 2 Gull-billed Terns some 190 km from the Gulf of Mexico at *Walter F. George Dam, Henry* 6 Jul furnished only the 6th inland Alabama record and were not associated with a tropical weather system (ph. WC).

DOVES THROUGH BUNTINGS

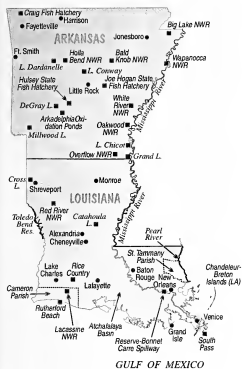
A Common Ground-Dove seen near *Macon, Noxubee*, MS 10 Jun was at the same location where one was noted in summer 2006. Both are the only area summer records (TLS, MS). The Bell's Vireo captured and banded in *Coahoma*, MS 25 Jul was quite a surprise (b., ph. PJB); only a few previous summer records exist for Mississippi. The 3 Tree Swallows (pair and one imm.) discovered 16–23 Jun in *Lowndes* provided evidence for the southernmost Alabama nesting ever (LFG). Cliff Swallows continued to expand nesting into new locations; 30+ at *Robert Henry Dam* on the Alabama R., *Lowndes/Autauga*, AL 16 Jun (LFG) were at a new site, and 2 (near 15

nest) near *Macon*, MS represented the first *Noxubee* nesting record (TLS). The first Cedar Waxwing nest in Mississippi was found 1 Jul near *Adaton, Oktibbeha* (TLS, MS), where one ad. was seen feeding 2 nestlings. The two previous state breeding records were of a lone fledgling and of an ad. seen carrying nest material.

An imm. Magnolia Warbler 24 Jul at *Shorter, Elmore* furnished the earliest record ever for Alabama's Inner Coastal Plain (ECS). The Ovenbird seen and heard on territory several times 1–25 Jun at *Noxubee* represents the first probable breeding record in e.-cen. Mississippi (TLS). A new southernmost Song Sparrow breeding record for Alabama was established by two pairs, plus young, at a shopping mall in *Opelika, Lee* 11 Jun+ (GEH, ph. LW et al.). Up to 5 male Painted Buntings were seen 10–25 Jun near *Macon, Noxubee*, MS, where the species is a rare breeder (TLS, MS).

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Steven W. Cardiff

It was a relatively quiet summer, with no tropical weather systems impacting the Region and no pelagic trips attempted. The inaugural Louisiana Breeding Bird Atlas project took place 1 June through 15 July. I would like to offer belated thanks to my Regional Editor predecessors Phillip A. Wallace (Spring Migration) and R. D. Purrington (Nesting Season), and to Louisiana Subregional Editor Joseph A. Kleiman, for their years of service on behalf of the former Central Southern Region. And extra special thanks go to long-time Arkansas Audubon Society Curators and Arkansas Subregional Editors Max and Helen Parker who have retired as of October 2007. Joe Neal has graciously offered to assume the role of AAS Curator and *North American Birds* Subregional Editor effective beginning with the 2007 fall migration season.

Abbreviations: C.F.H. (Craig Fish Hatchery); counties/parishes are indicated only for the initial mention of a specific locality, and states are indicated only for the initial mention of counties/parishes, except to avoid confusion. For records of "review list" species, documentation has been received and records have either been accepted by, or acceptance is pending by, the respective state bird records committee. Significance for Arkansas records is based on James and Neal (1986), plus the Arkansas Audubon Society online bird record database, and, for Louisiana, on the bird record card file database and the Louisiana

Bird Records Committee archives at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, as well as the most recent draft of the forthcoming *Birds of Louisiana* (Remsen, Cardiff, Dittmann, and Dickson).

WATERFOWL THROUGH WADERS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks appear to be increasingly well established across Louisiana and s. Arkansas; some of the more noteworthy reports (breeding, or from areas with few prior records) included 2 in the Alexandria area, *Rapides*, LA 4 Jun (Pat McKay, *vide* JVH), 2 others there 15 Jul (JVH), one at Big Lake N.W.R., *Mississippi* in extreme ne. Arkansas 5 Jun (Jeremy Bennett), a pair investigating nest boxes in s. *Morehouse*, LA 21 Jun (Robert Rickett), and a pair with 6-7 chicks at Audubon Park in New Orleans in late Jun (ph. Don Bradburn). A male Ring-necked Duck near Sorrento, *Ascension*, LA 13 Jul (JVH) was most likely a crippled bird from the preceding hunting season.

About 150 American White Pelicans at Wapanocca N.W.R., *Crittenden* 27 Jun (JW, JG) may have been summering in the area and represented one of the highest-ever summer counts for Arkansas. Late or, more likely, summering imm. Northern Gannets along the Louisiana coast included one at Rutherford Beach, *Cameron* 6 Jun (SWC, ph. DLD, BMM,

Breton I. at the s. end of the Chandeleur Is. arc, *Plaquemines* (*vide* Breton N.W.R. website), apparently the only suitable site in this area, which sustained heavy erosion from Hurricane *Katrina*; there was no information on breeding status of other seabird species on these islands. Ten Double-crested Cormorants (age?) in *Lee* 25 Jun (DS, WS) were noteworthy, as there are few recent summer records from e. Arkansas. At Grassy L., an important waterbird breeding site in *Hempstead*, sw. Arkansas, high counts of Anhingas were 90 ads on 6 May and 50 ads. plus young on 22 Jun (DS et al.); a female at Wapanocca N.W.R. 27 Jun (JW, JG) was also of interest.

Numbers (combined ads and young) of breeding or presumed breeding waders at Grassy L. 22 Jun included 2 Least Terns, 13 Snowy Egrets, 40 Little Blue Herons, 6 Tricolored Herons (5 ads., one young, two nests with eggs; first documented breeding at this site), an astounding 10,500 Cattle Egrets, 24 Green Herons, 16 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 320 White Ibis (DS et al.). Along with the human population, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons are rebounding in suburban New Orleans, where 46 ads and young were associated with a colony of 31 active nests located 17 Jun in surviving live oaks in a previously *Katrina*-flooded neighborhood (DPM). A *Plegadis* ibis near Sorrento 12 Jun, 6 there



Although just a stone's throw from the Audubon Park Zoo, this family of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Audubon Park in New Orleans, Louisiana in late June 2007 (date unknown) was considered wild and part of the ongoing range expansion in the Southeast. Photograph by Don Bradburn.

PEC), 2 moribund individuals at Grand Isle, *Jefferson* 13 Jun (GR et al.), and additional sick birds there on 23 Jun (GR) and 13 Jul (Jodie Singer). Surveys of the Isles Dernieres region of *Terrebonne* on the cen. Louisiana coast 29 Jun (DP) produced estimates of 16,000 Brown Pelicans (about 50% of these large chicks) at colonies on Raccoon and Wine Islands. About 2000 Brown Pelican nests were reported at

13 Jul, and 6 near Alexandria 15 Jul (all JVH) were well inland from coastal breeding areas. Nine Roseate Spoonbills at the Sorrento site 12 Jun (JVH) hunted at breeding location in this slightly inland area of s. Louisiana; 5 imm. at Bald Knob N.W.R., *White*, AR 30 Jul (NA) were post-breeding dispersers. Two imm. Wood Storks near Fordyce, *Dallas*, AR 18 Jun (WS, Gary R. Graves) were relatively



Representing only the fourth documented breeding record for the state, this Snowy Plover chick accompanied by the male parent was one of two family groups encountered at Rutherford Beach, Cameron Parish, Louisiana on 6 June 2007. Photograph by Donna L. Dittmann.

early and represented one of few Jun records for the state.

RAPTORS THROUGH COOT

A pair of Ospreys with 3 nestlings at L. Monticello 23 Jul (ph. NA) confirmed breeding in Drew, AR. Swallow-tailed Kites were again present in Arkansas, AR, with apparent pairs there 2 (DS et al.) & 9 Jun (KH). Formerly absent as breeders in w.-cen. Arkansas, but adding to recent reports of Mississippi Kites breeding or potentially breeding there, were 15 w of Potter, Polk 4 Jun (Rhonda Huston, fide JN) and at least three nests in Ft. Smith, Sebastian through the season (B&TB); also noteworthy was a pair with a nest and young at De Valls Bluff, near the White R., Prairie 10 Jul (Paul Osborne, Terry & Ruth Singletery). An impressive 75 pairs of Bald Eagles nested in Arkansas during spring and summer of 2007 (fide Allan Mueller), also considered noteworthy was an ad. in Lee 25 Jun (DS, WS). Eight reports of Cooper's Hawks in n. Arkansas included an observation of 5 fledglings at Batesville, Independence 27 Jun (Marcus Board); a Cooper's near Abbeville, Vermilion 8 Jun (JVH) was near the w. Louisiana coast, where there are few summer records. At least six reports of Swainson's Hawks in Louisiana's sw prairie region 6-8 Jun (SWC, DLD, Bill Vermillion) provided ongoing testimony for a presumed modest breeding presence, although direct nesting evidence is still weakly documented, on 6-7 Jun, there was no activity at a site near Bell City, Calcasieu, where a completed nest had been observed in late Apr (SWC). Although Swainson's Hawk is a scarce summer bird in Arkansas, there are at least 25 summer records for Benton since 1986, including an ad. this summer near Maysville 7 Jul (MAM). A pair of Crested Caracaras near Bell City 6-7 Jun (SWC, DLD, BMM, PEC) were at the same location where 2-3 individuals were observed in late Apr and

presumably nested in the vicinity. A female American Kestrel in New Orleans 26 Jun (DPM) could have been either a wandering post-breeder or a rare local breeder.

In addition to 9 Purple Gallinules (3 ads., 6 young), the 22 Jun Grassy L. survey tallied a remarkable 320 Common Moorhens (DS et al.). Five American Coots near Sorrento 12 Jun, 2 still there 13 Jul, and 2 near Alexandria 15 Jul (JVH) were obviously summering, although no direct breeding evidence was obtained.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SKIMMER

A breeding plumaged Black-bellied Plover at C.F.H., Benton 1 Jun (MAM) was apparently the latest-ever spring record for Arkansas. Three pairs of Snowy Plovers found along Rutherford Beach 6 Jun included two pairs guarding at least one downy chick each (SWC, ph. DLD, PEC, BMM); there are only three previous confirmed breeding records for Louisiana, also from w. Cameron in 1994 and 2005. Along with the Snowy Plovers on 6 Jun, an 8-km stretch of Rutherford Beach produced 60 Wilson's Plovers

mering individual; fall migrants typically do not arrive until late Jul. Three alternate-plumaged American Avocets at Little Chenier, Cameron, LA 7 Jun (SWC, DLD) were probably late migrants (along with 6 Greater Yellowlegs, 20 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 15 White-rumped Sandpipers), but a flock of 44 in alternate plumage at Port Fourchon 24 Jun (RDP) were possibly summering. Noteworthy Lesser Yellowlegs at C.F.H. included a presumed late spring migrant 1 Jun and 13 presumed early fall migrants 27 Jun (MAM). A Willet at Merisach L. Park, Arkansas 19 Jun (Bruce Tedford) was also likely a very early fall migrant; a roosting flock of about 400 on Whiskey I., Isles Dernieres 29 Jun (DP) probably represented staging post-breeders. Three Ruddy Turnstones and 25 Red Knots at Port Fourchon 24 Jun (RDP), as well as a flock of 25 turnstones on Grand Isle 28 Jun (SWC, DLD), were thought to be summering, based on the date and their basic to partial alternate plumages. However, a Semipalmated Sandpiper and 2 Least Sandpipers in Desha, AR 14 Jun (DB) could have been late spring migrants. Almost certainly summering Semipalmated Sandpipers in mostly basic plumage included 61 at Port Fourchon 24 Jun (RDP) and 10 on Grand Isle 28 Jun (SWC, DLD). Very late was a Baird's Sandpiper at C.F.H. 1 Jun (MAM). Two Dunlins at Port



This juvenal-plumaged Bonaparte's Gull at Treadway Fish Farm, Prairie County, Arkansas on 29-30 (here 29) July 2007 provided the first well documented July record for the Louisiana & Arkansas Region. Photograph by Kenny Nichols.

(at least 10 small to large chicks), a nice recent breeding concentration for the area. A Semipalmated Plover at C.F.H. 1 Jun (MAM) represents only about the 3rd Jun record for Arkansas; 6 at Port Fourchon, Lafourche, LA 24 Jun (RDP) and up to 22 at nearby Grand Isle 27-28 Jun (SWC, DLD) were most likely summering. A Piping Plover at Port Fourchon 24 Jun (RDP) marked only about the 4th Jun record for Louisiana and may have been a sum-

mering individual; fall migrants typically do not arrive until late Sep-Oct. Summering Short-billed Dowitchers in the Grand Isle area included 5 at Port Fourchon 24 Jun (RDP) and 140 on Grand Isle 28 Jun (SWC, DLD); most of the latter birds were in wing molt. A male Wilson's Phalarope at C.F.H. 8 Jun (MAM) was ap-

parently record-late for Arkansas.

Breeding Laughing Gulls at the Isles Dernieres colonies 29 Jun were estimated at 13,000 (DP); one near Alexandria 15 Jul (JVH) was unexpectedly far inland. A residual pulse of migrant Franklin's Gulls, not surprisingly mostly imm., included singles near Camp, Fulton, AR 4 Jun (DB, EM) and near Cameron 6 Jun (SWC, DLD), and a flock of 12 at C.F.H. 8 Jun (MAM). One of the better birds of the summer was a juv. Bonaparte's Gull, perplexingly early at Treadway Fish Farm, Prairie, AR 29-30 Jul (ph. K&LN, DBr); the species is at best casual in the Region before late Oct. A minimum (visibility restricted) of 77 Gull-billed Terns were present at the Clearview Shopping Center Sears rooftop colony in Metairie, Jefferson, LA 18 May (RDP). Two Caspian Terns in West Baton Rouge, LA 18 Jul and a Forster's Tern near Alexandria 15 Jul (JVH) were fairly unusual inland in summer and otherwise difficult to categorize. During the 29 Jun Isles Dernieres census, Patton estimated breeding tern numbers at 11,000 Royals and 7500 Sandwich (about 50% were chicks in crèches). Up to 250 Least Terns were present at the Clearview Sears rooftop colony in mid-May (RDP); 7 about 10 km w. of Alexandria 15 Jul and 2 at False River, Pointe Coupee, LA 18 Jul (JVH) were presumed post-breeders of the interior subspecies. Four Black Terns near Alexandria 15 Jul (JVH) were almost record-early for fall migrants inland in Louisiana. An unusual sight along the beaches of w. Cameron was a pair of Black Skimmers at a nest with eggs at Rutherford Beach 6 Jun (ph. DLD, SWC); 2500 were counted at the Isles Dernieres colonies 29 Jun (DP).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Although on the increase in s. Louisiana, a juv. White-winged Dove at a feeder near St. Gabriel 8 Jul (ph. DLD, SWC) was a good summer record in Iberville. Common Ground-Doves, on the other hand, have become rare in summer, so one in St. Bernard, LA for the 2nd consecutive summer 8 Jun (Glenn Ousset) was encouraging. At Ouachita N.E. Scott, AR, final census results for the 2007 Red-cockaded Woodpecker breeding season indicated continued growth of the population, with 88 ads. on 39 active territories, 37 nest attempts, and an estimated 66 young fledged (*vide* JN). A Northern Flicker at New Orleans 17 & 24 Jun (DPM) was outside known breeding areas and may have been a wandering post-breeder. Early interior fall migrant Least Flycatchers were detected near Heart, Fulton, AR 4 Jul (DB, EM), along the Red R. near Shreveport, Caddo/Bossier, LA 18

& 22 Jul (TD), and in Washington, AR 21 Jul (MAM). Continuing from the late spring, up to three pairs of breeding Willow Flycatchers were monitored in thickets along the Red R. near Shreveport through the summer, with at least 2 birds present through 1 Aug; a nest containing a suspected Brown-headed Cowbird egg was located 2 Jun but was found damaged and empty when re-checked 3 Jun (TD). Twelve Western Kingbirds in n. Caddo 3 Jun (TD) and a minimum of about 50 (36 ads., about 19 nests, most with nestlings) in the Ft. Smith-Van Buren area, *Sebastian/Crawford* 23-24 Jun (B&TB) reaffirmed an expanding presence in the Region's two breeding strongholds. Nesting pairs at Back Gate and Dumas (plus single ads. at two other locations) provided confirmation of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers breeding in Desha (DB).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Two pairs of Bell's Vireos (one pair nesting) at Wapanocca N.W.R. 27 Jun (JW, JG) and 4 singing individuals in the Maysville area 7 Jul (JN, MAM) apparently represented the first breeding activity in those areas, at least in recent times. Tree Swallows nested at Black Bayou Lake N.W.R. near Monroe, Ouachita, LA, where at least 4 ads. plus an imm. were present 16 Jun, including an ad. entering a nest hole with food and leaving with a fecal sac (Steve Pagans, Joan Brown); one at Cotile L., Rapides, LA 15 Jul (JVH) was in an area where nesting occurred the previous two years and breeding was again suspected during late spring 2007. A White-breasted Nuthatch at Cotile L. from mid-Jun-28 Jul (JVH) was suggestive of local breeding farther s. than currently recognized in cen. Louisiana. A House Wren at Ft. Smith 19 Jun (Sandy Berger) provided another hint at possible breeding in w. cen. Arkansas. Whether the result of range expansion or previously inadequate coverage, 5 Marsh Wrens in the Isles Dernieres area 29 Jun (DP) would appear to be the first breeding season record for the salt marshes of the cen. Louisiana coast. Rare breeders in Arkansas, a nesting pair of Cedar Waxwings was observed through the period near Ozone, Johnson (David Arbour).

More circumstantial evidence for Blue-winged Warblers breeding s. of the known breeding range in Arkansas included 2 males in Saline 20 Jun and another male at a different location there 30 Jun (DS et al.). More shocking was a female Blue-winged with a brood patch captured at a MAPS station at Sherburne W.M.A. in the Atchafalaya Basin, St. Martin, LA 22 Jun (Jill Gautreaux, ph. Michael Seymour); station records also indicate that another individual was captured at a

different site in the W.M.A. on 20 Jun 2005! Late migrant Yellow Warblers were encountered at C.F.H. 1 Jun (MAM) and in Bossier 3 Jun (TD); one was relatively early in Washington 29 Jul (MAM). Suggestive of local breeding was a male Pine Warbler at Kelso, Desha 13 Jun (DB). A Yellow-throated Warbler in suburban New Orleans 24 Jun (DPM) was considered an early migrant or wandering post-breeder. Always of interest during the breeding season, a male Cerulean Warbler was located at Sylamore Cr., Stone, AR 19 Jun (KH); a female at Mt. Sequoyah, Washington, AR 22 Jul (MAM) was thought to be an early migrant. Also relatively early was a Black-and-white Warbler near St. Gabriel 12-13 Jul and an imm. male American Redstart there 20 Jul (SWC, DLD). Puzzling was a Worm-eating Warbler away from breeding areas at L. Fayetteville 17 Jun (David Chapman). Relatively early Louisiana Waterthrushes were noted at Sherburne W.M.A., St. Martin 30 Jun (Danny Dobbs) and near St. Gabriel 6 Jul (DLD); up to 3 per day were noted at a site near Shreveport 21-30 Jul (TD). Record late for Louisiana was a male Wilson's Warbler at Shreveport 1 Jun (Ron & Susan Martin).

Two Lark Sparrows nw of Arkansas City, Desha 12 Jul (D&SB) were probably early migrants rather than local breeders; a Savannah Sparrow there 22 Jun (ph. DDB) furnished the first Arkansas summer record since 1940! A total of 22 Painted Buntings in an 8-km² area of Desha 17 Jun (DB) may be a record single-day count for Arkansas. Dickcissels are seldom detected as a breeder on the immediate coast, so about 10 territorial males in the Rutherford Beach-Grand Chenier area, Cameron 6-7 Jun were noteworthy (SWC, DLD). Adding to the circumstantial evidence for breeding in Louisiana was a pair of American Goldfinches at a feeder in Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 21 Jun (Sheila & Mark Abshire).

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Northern Canada



Cameron D. Eckert

An ongoing surge of extralimital species across the North continues to fascinate and trouble northern birders. Reports of Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Western Tanager added to the ever-growing list of Neotropical migrants appearing well beyond their ranges in the northwest. Two firsts for Nunavut this season were Piping Plover and Turkey Vulture, while Yukoners saw their first American White Pelicans. Two southern invaders bred for the first time in the Yukon this summer; an influx of American Crows in Watson Lake, Teslin, and Whitehorse culminated in the territory's first confirmed breeding record for this northward-expanding corvid. While the crows were greeted with only modest interest, the territory's first nesting House Sparrows inspired even less excitement. The Yukon's summer weather was warmer than average; glacial melt, heavy winter snow pack, and rain made for record flooding in the Yukon Southern Lakes. In the Fort Simpson region of Northwest Territories, June was dry for much of the month but saw heavy rainfall during the latter days of June. The Arctic regions were again increasingly warmer than usual this summer. On 21 June 2007, 15-year-old Yukoner Malcolm Boothroyd and his parents cycled southward to begin a year-long, fossil-fuel-free journey in search of birds. It's an inspiration to see a great birding adventure launched to raise awareness of bird conservation and climate change (<www.birdyear.com>).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A nesting Snow Goose at St. Patrick Bay on the n. end of Ellesmere I., Nunavut 1 Jul enjoyed an absolutely awe-inspiring view: perched adjacent a Gyrfalcon nest on the tip of a 270-m

rocky spire overlooking the Nares Strait to the icecaps of Greenland (ph. DS). Brant are regular late May–early Jun migrants at Akimiski I., Nunavut; this year, daily totals were in the 2000–3000 range until 1 Jun, when there was a major departure on the full moon. Smaller numbers (<500 per day) lingered until 10 Jun. A later movement of birds presumed to be from s. James Bay staging areas was noted 6 Jun, when small flocks were seen crossing Akimiski I. from the s. on a north-easterly path and continuing over the James Bay ice pack (KA et al.). A few late Brant were seen at Nares L., s. Yukon 6 Jun (CE, HG). A late but noteworthy spring report was of a Barnacle Goose in the company of Canada Geese and possibly paired with one at Akimiski I., Nunavut 26–28 May (KA et al.). A pair of Trumpeter Swans

mark the southernmost breeding location for this species in James Bay. A casual stop to check a group of seemingly out-of-place swans at Nares L., s. Yukon 6 Jun yielded the Yukon's first American White Pelicans (DP); a quick call to other birders ensured that the 4 pelicans were photographically documented (ph. CE, HG). In response to subsequent media coverage of the pelicans, it was learned that they had been seen at nearby Tagish for about a week (ph. LG). An aerial survey of islands in Akimiski Strait, Nunavut 5 Jun found 60 ad. Double-crested Cormorants and 30 nests (KA et al.). A Turkey Vulture, Nunavut's first, was an unexpected find in Arviat 23 Jul (ph. LR, MP).

An imm. Bald Eagle at Herschel I., n. Yukon 20 Jun (ph. CE, DA, PF, LJM) established just the 2nd record for the island. The connection between the northern and the southern hemisphere's bird populations was beautifully demonstrated this year by the in-



A Snow Goose on its nest at St. Patrick Bay, Nunavut on the north end of Ellesmere Island 1 July 2007 overlooks a true Arctic wilderness. Photograph by Doug Stern.



was again noted nesting this year in Tombstone Park, cen. Yukon 28 Jun; 4 Tundra Swans were seen on the same day at Chapman L., just n. of Tombstone Park (BM et al.). Three Redheads (2 males, one female), n. of their normal range, were seen on the Mackenzie R., NWT 18 Jun (ph. AL). Heavy snow delayed the return and subsequent nesting chronology of Common Eiders and other species on Southampton I., Nunavut this year (MM). Eiders were also delayed by up to two weeks at High Arctic locations, primarily due to heavy ice conditions along the migration route as opposed to breeding sites (MM). A male Hooded Merganser, very rare in cen. Yukon, was seen near Dawson 26 Jun (LD, KR). A noteworthy summer concentration of 77 Ruddy Ducks was recorded at the Whitehorse sewage ponds, s. Yukon 27 Jul (BD, HG). A female White-tailed Ptarmigan with a brood of at least 5 chicks was seen on Keno Hill, cen. Yukon 6 Jul (ph. MOD).

A pair of Pacific Loons observed on Akimiski I., Nunavut 10 Jun (KA et al.) may

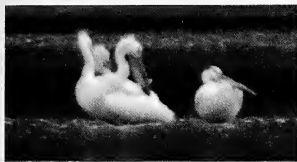
tercontinental migration of marked Peregrine Falcons. The Falcon Research Group put satellite transmitters on 7 falcons in Chile in Feb 2007; on 21 Jun, the ad. male known as "Seven" arrived n. of the Arctic Circle in Tuktoyaktuk N.P., near Paulatuk, NWT. Two other marked birds, named "Linda" and



This trio of Redheads on the Mackenzie River, Northwest Territories 18 June 2007 were none of the species' typical breeding range; however, they may be post- or non-breeders. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

"Sparrow King," traveled to the Wager Bay and s. Baffin I. areas of Nunavut, respectively, to spend the summer months.

Two ad. Whooping Cranes seen 28 Jun at Loche L., Tulita District, NWT (RO) were sev-



This photograph, taken through a shimmering heat haze, nicely documented the Yukon's first American White Pelicans on Nares Lake at Carcross on 6 June 2007. Photograph by Cameron D. Eckert.

eral hundred kilometers away from the species' known breeding grounds. A Black-bellied Plover at Wright Pass (Yukon/Northwest Territories border) 8 Jun (SF, DM) may have provided the first record for the Dempster Hwy. A survey of tundra near Mary R., n. Baffin I., Nunavut turned up good numbers of American Golden-Plovers, with 8 (including 3 local young) on 28 Jul and 52 (including 12 local young) the next day (WR et al.). The bird of the season was Nunavut's first Piping Plover discovered 3 Jun during shorebird surveys at Akimiski I. and seen through 10 Jun (ph. CL, AF, BO et al.). A Killdeer at Tuktoyaktuk, NWT 7 Jun (SF et al.) had overshoot its breeding grounds. A Canadian Wildlife Service (C.W.S.) shorebird breeding survey near Ft. Simpson, NWT found Wilson's Snipe to be the most abundant bird species during 1-19 Jun; Lesser Yellowlegs were much less common than expected (PSM, SD). Nesting Wandering Tattlers are rarely reported and always noteworthy; a pair of ad. tattlers with a small chick were found in an alpine wetland along the upper Ketza R., s. Yukon 2 Jul (ph. BS). Late migrant shorebirds at Herschel I., n. Yukon included a Black-bellied Plover and 3-4 White-rumped Sandpipers 8-9 Jun (AK); also passing through at Pauline Cove on Herschel I. were 4 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 21 Jun (CE) and 3 Red Phalaropes 18 Jun (ph. CE). An Arctic Fox made short work of most of the nesting Baird's and Semipalmated Sandpipers during nighttime forays at Pauline Cove, Herschel I. on 21-23 Jun; however, it seems that the broken-wing distraction display works on foxes, as the nesting Semipalmated Plovers survived (CE). Red-necked Phalaropes were noted breeding at Mary R., on the n. end of Baffin I., Nunavut, with one ad. male with 2 local young seen 28 Jul and 3 local young seen 5 Aug (WR et al.); this is beyond the species' known breeding range, which reaches the s. half of Baffin I. Nesting Red Phalaropes were also noted near Mary R., with one ad. male with 2 local young 29 Jul (WR et al.).

GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

An estimated 45 Franklin's Gulls were seen at the Mackenzie R. crossing near Ft. Providence, NWT 8 Jul (ph. GV), a remarkable gathering North of 60 for this predominantly prairie species. A late but noteworthy report of spring gulls from Akimiski I., Nunavut included an ad. Little Gull 31 May and an ad. Iceland Gull 26 May followed by a second-cycle Iceland 28 May (KA et al.). A concentration of 300 Bonaparte's Gulls on Drury I., s. Yukon 6 Jun (PSI) seemed odd for the date. Highlights of an aerial survey of islands in Akimiski Strait, Nunavut 5 Jun included the first nest record for Great Black-backed Gull (10 ads.) and an estimated 140 Caspian Terns; other nesting species included Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, and Arctic Tern (KA et al.). Glaucous, Thayer's, and Sabine's Gulls, as well as Arctic Terns, in Nunavut's High Arctic nested about 10 days later than usual this year (MM). Black-legged Kittiwake sightings near the Mary R., n. Baffin I. included 3 each day 30-31 Jul (WR et al.). Low numbers of Ivory Gulls (68) were recorded at the Seymour I. and Brodeur Pen., Nunavut colonies this season (MM); the former site also suffered significant nest loss to predation. Two pairs of nesting Ross's Gulls were found near Bathurst I., Nunavut in Jul (MM).

A Great Gray Owl near Eagle Plains, cen. Yukon 8 Jun was a highlight for a couple of Dempster Hwy. travelers (SF, DM). A Short-eared Owl nest with two eggs was found at Pauline Cove, Herschel I., n. Yukon 21 Jun (ph. CE, DA, PF, LJM). Common Nighthawk, now a Species at Risk in Canada, was noted to be in low numbers in the Yellowknife, NWT area (JB). Reports of Barn Swallows well beyond their ranges included singles at Akimiski I., Nunavut 28 May (KA et al.), Herschel I., n. Yukon 23 Jun (CE), and Bylot I., Nunavut 26 Jul (LJ, LM, FR). A Bank Swallow was also unusual at Akimiski I., Nunavut 15 Jun (KA et al.). Early Jun saw a few migrants still arriving at Albert Cr., s. Yukon, such as a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded 4 Jun (TMK); 4 were heard on the Mayo L. Rd. cen. Yukon B.B.S. 12 Jun (MOD). Eastern Kingbird reports from Nunavut included a pair at Akimiski I. 10 Jun (KA et al.) and one at Rankin Inlet 8 Jun (SS). A Blue-headed Vireo just beyond its regular range was recorded for the 3rd consecutive year on the Ingraham Trail B.B.S.

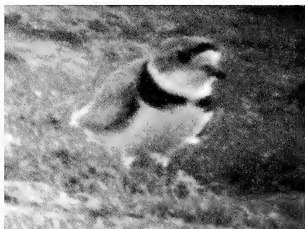
near Yellowknife, NWT 8 Jun; and another was seen in town a few weeks later (JB). A Warbling Vireo singing at Tombstone Park, cen. Yukon 9 Jun (HG et al.) provided the first Dempster Hwy. record for the species. A Red-eyed Vireo, rare but apparently regular in the Watson L. area, was seen at Albert Cr. 4 Jun (TMK). A pair of Eastern Yellow Wagtails carrying food and giving alarm calls provided a good indication that young were somewhere nearby at the Firth R. delta, n. Yukon 11 Jul (HM).

American Crows are steadily gaining a foothold in the Yukon. Small numbers were seen in Watson L. and nearby Albert Cr. through the summer (ph. CE, TMK); one was in Teslin 10 Jun (BS); in Whitehorse, 2-3 were seen through the summer, and breeding was confirmed 16 & 26 Jul when recently fledged crows were seen being fed by ads. (BMu; ph. CE, PSI). A single American Crow, only the 2nd recorded in the area, was at Norman Wells, NWT through the period (RR, ph. DW). A displaying Northern Wheatear was right on cue for a group of birders on Goldensides Mt. in Tombstone Park, cen. Yukon 29 Jun (BMa et al.). A total of 10 Northern Wheatear nest sites (ads. carrying food to nests) was recorded around Iqaluit, Nunavut during 27 Jun-14 Jul (DH). A male Northern



The shores of James Bay at Arviat, Nunavut was an unlikely location for this Turkey Vulture, the territory's first, on 23 July 2007. Photograph by Lynne Rollin.

Wheatear was seen carrying food to young calling from a nest cavity near Mary R. on n. Baffin I., Nunavut 28 Jul (WR et al.). An American Robin was rare on Herschel I., n. Yukon 8-9 Jun (AK, DR), and a female Varied Thrush provided a first island record there 20 Jun (ph. CE, DA, PF, LJM). Single American



Nunavut's first Piping Plover was a startling find at Akimiski Island in southern James Bay 3-10 (here 9) June 2007. Photograph by Carmen Lishman.

Robins, possibly one bird involved, were noted in Iqaluit, Nunavut 28 Jun and 2 Jul (DH). Swainson's Thrush and Tennessee Warbler were the most abundant non-shorebird species recorded on C.W.S. shorebird surveys in the Ft. Simpson area, NWT 1-19 Jun (PSm). Tennessee Warbler numbers have increased in the Yukon in recent years; this species was reported in relatively high numbers across s. Yukon; farther n. in cen. Yukon, 2 were singing at Mayo 5 Jun (MOD), 2 were on the Wareham L. B.B.S. 12 Jun (MOD), and one was at Tombstone Park 27 Jun (BMa et al.). A Magnolia Warbler, well w. of its Yukon range, was seen in Whitehorse 5 Jun (L.C.). A Cape May Warbler was observed near Ft. Simpson, NWT in early Jun (PSm). A Bay-breasted Warbler, rare but apparently increas-

ingly regular, was seen at Albert Cr., s. Yukon 2-4 Jun (TMK).

Western Tanager seen w. of their normal Yukon range included singles in Haines Junction 5 Jun (ph. TH) and in Whitehorse 11 & 20 Jun (PSi). A male Harris's Sparrow singing on a wide-ranging treeless territory at Herschel I. 18-24 Jun provided the Yukon's 2nd photographically documented record (AK, CK, ph. CE, DR); this species was reported without out details from Herschel I. in 1987. Reports of lost Dark-eyed Juncos included one at Herschel I., n. Yukon 8 Jun (DR) and one in Iqaluit, Nunavut 3-8 Jul (ph. MC).

Ten Smith's Longspurs at Surfbird Mt., km 97 on the Dempster Hwy., cen. Yukon 4 Jun were enjoyed by a group of visiting birders on a tour (ph. SF et al.). The C.W.S. shorebird survey near Ft. Simpson, NWT found that Rusty Blackbirds showed up at the study plot 20 May and were seen regularly for the next several days but disappeared as Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles arrived 25 May, with the latter two species remaining through the season (PSm). A female Red-winged Blackbird on Herschel I., n. Yukon 18-21 Jun (AK, ph. CE) was just the 2nd of its kind to wander to that Arctic island.

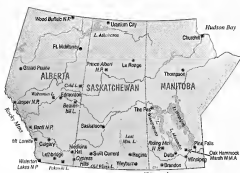
Three Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were seen on Keno Hill, cen. Yukon 7 Jul (MOD). Two fuzzy juv. Common Redpolls in downtown Whitehorse, s. Yukon 26 Jun (PSi) indi-

cated lowland nesting this year for this species. A rich White Spruce cone crop yielded an explosion of breeding White-winged Crossbills across s. and cen. Yukon in Jul (m.ob.). A pair of House Sparrows, a species not previously known to breed in the Yukon, was found nesting in Whitehorse 19 Jul (ph. CE); by 22 Jul, all 4 young had fledged and were being fed by the ads. (ph. CE). A lone female House Sparrow was seen in Carcross, s. Yukon through Jul (DK).

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Prairie Provinces



Rudolf F. Koes
Peter Taylor

Spring and early summer rains, combined with cool temperatures, created lush conditions across the southern

Prairie Provinces that lasted into July. Water levels remained high throughout the period. Extremely hot and generally dry but humid weather followed, spreading eastward from Alberta. Greg Krätzig described July in Saskatchewan as a "blast furnace." Needless to say, birding activity during that month was limited. Judging by the number of early fall migrants in southern Manitoba, it appears that passerines had a productive summer.

GEESSE THROUGH CRANES

A Ross's Goose at Pelican L., MB 16 Jun was record late for spring (WC, RS, MW, m.ob.). Two Brant 6 Jun and 2 Dusky Canada Geese 11 Jun were good finds at Churchill, MB (RK, CNSC). Trumpeter Swans were finally found breeding in se. Manitoba, where a pair with 8

cygnets was seen 24 Jun near Bissett (ph. CA). Elsewhere in the province, 4 were at Oak Hammock Marsh 1 Jun (RK), and one, banded in Aug 2005 at Green Camp, OH, remained at St. Malo from 12 Jul into Aug (F&JM, LV, m.ob., ph.). Nesting Tundra Swans returned to Patience L., SK, far s. of their usual range; 4 juvs. were near fledging by mid-Aug (PH, m.ob., ph.). Other notable waterfowl included a northerly Wood Duck at Churchill 2 Jun (BC), a male Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler hybrid at Whitewater Lake W.M.A., MB 10 Jun (BDL) and 3 King Eiders at Churchill 10 Jun (BC, m.ob.). Unexpected in summer in the s. were single Red-throated Loons at Rafferty Dam, SK 25 Jun (JL, ph.) and Clear L., near Stavely, AB 8-22 Jul (BW, m.ob.). A Yellow-billed Loon



After several sightings in appropriate nesting habitat during the past few years, Trumpeter Swans were at last found breeding in southeastern Manitoba, where this pair with eight cygnets was noted near Blissett on 24 June 2007. Photograph by Christian Artuso.

was reported, without details, at Churchill 1 Jun (JS). A Great Egret summered at Hastings L., AB, where the species nested in recent years (*vide* THI), and another was at DeWinton, AB 27 Jul (DK). A Snowy Egret at Weed L. near Langdon, AB 7-8 Jul was about the



This Red-throated Loon at Rafferty Dam, Saskatchewan on 25 June 2007 was both very rare and out of season. Photograph by Jenn Leslie.

20th for the province (RB, m.ob.), while up to 5 were at Whitewater Lake W.M.A., MB (M.N.S., m.ob.). The larger of two Cattle Egret colonies at the latter location held 100+ ads. in early Jul (RBz). A Green Heron at Belle Plaine 4 Jun was about the 11th for Saskatchewan (JC). White-faced Ibis continues to thrive in s. Alberta, with colonies known or suspected at Langdon, Third L., Blackie, and Fränk L. At Whitewater Lake W.M.A., up to 23 were seen 10 Jun (BDL), and six nests were found in early Jul (RB). A dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk nesting at Calgary was considered very rare (TK). Ferruginous Hawks were down to 36 nesting pairs in sw. Manitoba, the lowest number since the 1980s; a continuing shortage of Richardson's Ground Squirrels was thought responsible (KDS). An out-of-season Gyrfalcon visited McTaggart, SK 5 Jun (V&DT). Locally rare were a Virginia Rail at Water Valley, AB 9 Jun (MS, m.ob.) and an American Coot at Churchill 11 Jun (RK). Sandhill Crane is believed to breed annually now in the foothills w. of Calgary; a pair was near Bragg Creek in

early Jun (MW), and another pair was s. of Water Valley for the 3rd consecutive year (M&CC).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Snowy Plover was at Chaplin L., SK 26 Jun (*vide* Chaplin Lake Nature Centre); one had been noted here in 2006. Two Mountain Plover nests were found in extreme se. Alberta, the species' only known "stronghold" in Canada (RKn). Black-necked Stilt was described as breeding in "staggering numbers" in s. Alberta (TK), while 6, including 2 juvs., were near Morse, SK 22 Jun (LS, JC). The species did not return to Whitewater Lake W.M.A. this year. A Whimbrel near Luck L., SK 15 Jun was rare and late (GT). Fall shorebird migration was generally lackluster; the largest numbers came from s. Alberta, e.g., 700 Lesser Yellowlegs at Clear L. 15 Jul, 325 Short-billed Dowitchers at Weed L. 29 Jul, and 600 Wilson's Phalaropes at Clear L. 14 Jul (all TK). Red Phalaropes peaked at 29 at Churchill 10 Jun (C.N.S.C., m.ob.).

A Little Gull at Hecla PP, MB 9 Jun was rare (BC, LV), as was a Sabine's Gull near Granum, AB 1 Jun (B. Wilson). As expected, Churchill dominated the gull reports; best were a Mew 15 Jun (V.E.N.T., m.ob., ph.), a Great Black-backed 7 Jun (EG.I.), a peak of 30 Sabine's 6 Jun (C.N.S.C., m.ob.), and at least 2, possibly 4 Ross's Gulls in mid-Jun (m.ob.). An Arctic Tern was photographed at Wakamao L., AB 3 Jun (GR). A Forster's Tern colony of about 20 pairs n. of Grand Rapids, MB 27 Jun was far north (PT). A probable Long-tailed Jaeger at Candle L., SK would be about the 9th for the

province, if accepted (RI, *vide* GT). A Black Guillemot was at Churchill 25 Jul (MMa).

Manitoba's 8th and 9th reported Bantailed Pigeons visited Little George I. in L. Winnipeg 17 Jun (RM, GC, ph.) and the Holland area 1 Jul (W&SR).

Burrowing Owl is maintaining its toehold in Manitoba, with three of four pairs successful this summer (KDS). A Chimney Swift at Wasagaming, MB 4 Jun was near the range limit (BFz). A Black-chinned Hummingbird was photographed at Brule, AB 21 Jun (*vide* JR). The Twin Lakes Burn near Churchill held one Hairy, 5 American Three-toed, and 2 Black-backed Woodpeckers in mid-Jun (BDL). Single Eastern Kingbirds were at Churchill 11 & 12 Jun (C.N.S.C., m.ob.), while a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Pakowki L. 8-9 Jun was about the 9th for Alberta (JJ, m.ob.). Some 50 pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes were found in sw. Manitoba, plus a few near Winnipeg (KDS). Common Ravens continue to flourish outside the boreal forest: 3 young fledged from the 2nd nest in Saskatoon, SK (GR), and 300 frequented a Calgary landfill 3 Jul (TK). East of the normal range, a Violet-green Swallow pair fledged one young at Swift Current, SK (ph. MD).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH REDPOLLS

Mid-Jul saw the start of a good Red-breasted Nuthatch flight in s. Manitoba. For the 2nd year in a row, a Northern Wheatear was noted near Churchill, 7 Jun (EN). A nesting pair of Eastern Bluebirds at Ponton, MB 27 Jun was far north (PT). Out of range were a Wood Thrush at Deep L., SK 16 Jun (TH), a Varied Thrush at Churchill 11 Jun (C.N.S.C.), and lone Northern Mockingbirds at Regina, SK 5 Jun (SW, m.ob.) and Arrowwood, AB 19 Jul (*vide* TK). East of their re-



This Red-tailed Hawk near its nest in Calgary on 14 July 2007 may have provided the first known case of a dark-morph bird breeding in the south of Alberta. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.



East of its normal breeding range, this Violet-green Swallow, seen here 27 June 2007, fledged one young at Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Photograph by Ryan Dudragne.



This immature male American Redstart near Churchill, Manitoba on 14 and (here) 15 June 2007 provided the fourth record for the area. Photograph by Bruce Di Labio.

cent Manitoba range were single Sprague's Pipits at Cloverdale 20 Jun (RK) and Oak Hammock Marsh 24 Jun (SG).

A host of warblers turned up at unusual locales, many apparently on territory: 2 Nashvilles at Calgary 23 Jun (A&HB), a Northern Parula w. of Easterville, MB 28 Jun (PT), a Chestnut-sided at Calgary 13 Jun (PC), 5 Cape Mays near Millarville, AB in late May, with one still there 10 Jul (BW), a Black-throated Blue near Riding Mountain N.P., MB 9 Jun and 1 Jul (KB), a Blackburnian at Bragg Creek in early Jun (MwO), Black-and-whites

at Sibbald Creek, Kananaskis Country, AB 9 Jun (HG, BW) and at Churchill about 11 Jun, an American Redstart at Churchill 14-15 Jun (MHK, BDL, m.ob., ph.), a Northern Waterthrush at Taber, AB 4 Jul (LB), and single Connecticut Warblers at Sheep River Valley, Kananaskis Country 2-4 Jun (KH, MM), and Carrot Creek, Banff N.P., AB 7 Jun (JR).

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Churchill 10 Jun was rare (BFz), as was a Lark Bunting at St. Lazare, MB 1 Jun (R&QA). Baird's Sparrow numbers have plummeted in sw. Manitoba in recent years, with fewer than 10 active sites

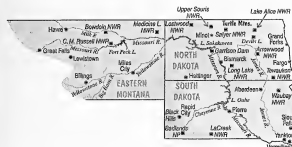
now known (KDS). Le Conte's Sparrow, on the other hand, was abundant in s. Alberta, no doubt due to the lush conditions (TK). One was at Churchill 15 Jun (BDL). Another stray at Little George I. was a female Chestnut-collared Longspur after a violent windstorm 19 Jun (RM, GK, ph.). An obliging Black-headed Grosbeak returned to last year's territory near Coulter, MB 7-28 Jun (GB, JW, m.ob., ph.). A Lazuli Bunting at Outlook, SK 4 Jun was the 2nd for the area (*vide* SS). Single Indigo Buntings strayed n. to near Flin Flon, MB 29 Jun (DR) and w. to Medicine Hat, AB 3 Jun (BF) and Lumsden, SK 10-20 Jun (BL, m.ob.). A hybrid Lazuli Bunting x Indigo Bunting was at the latter location 10 Jun (SW).

A faint echo of last summer's invasion, Dickcissel reports came from Cartwright, Elm Creek, Gretna, and Morden, MB, while one was in sw. Saskatchewan 20 Jun (*vide* GK). Bobolinks drew attention in Alberta, with two pairs at Millarville 3 Jun (AS), one remaining a few weeks later (TK), and another a few kilometers to the w. on 8 Jul (AS), plus a pair at Looking Back L. se. of Edmonton 1 Jul (RK, RKn, E.E.T.). It was a great year for the species in Saskatchewan (GK). After a few years of near absence, there were several Red Crossbill sightings from the Winnipeg area e. to the Ontario border (RK, RP, PT).

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Ron Martin

Weather patterns were relatively uniform across the Region this summer. June had average temperatures and well-above-average precipitation. Glasgow, Montana had already reached the 30-year average for precipitation by the end of June. July was hot and dry. Glasgow, Montana set a record with seven days with a low temperature of 70° F or above.

There was an unprecedented influx of Snowy Plovers into the Dakotas, and the first nesting confirmation for this species was recorded in both states. South Dakota also had the first recorded nesting for Herring Gull and Winter Wren. In North Dakota, Trumpeter Swans nested for the first time in over a century. Low water conditions at Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota produced some notable shorebird peaks.

SWANS THROUGH IBIS

A pair of Trumpeter Swans with cygnets was photographed in Jun in Grand Forks, ND. Likely the result of expansion from introductions in Minnesota, this documented the first nesting for North Dakota in over a century (*vide* DOL). Accidental in North Dakota in summer, a White-winged Scoter was in Eddy 13 Jun (AH, BT, JZ) and a Black Scoter at Audubon N.W.R. 10 Jul (DK, CH, BL). A Harlequin Duck in Billings, MT 25-26 Jul was unusual away from the mountains (RK). Accidental in summer, a Long-tailed Duck was at the Yellowtail Dam Afterbay, MT 1-9 Jun (SS).

Furnishing the first Jun report for South Dakota, a Common Goldeneye was in Brookings 9 Jun (JSP). Casual in summer, a Red-breasted Merganser was in Stanley, SD 22 Jun (RDO). Two Common Merganser broods on the Missouri R. in Oliver, ND 5 Jul (PS) and 6 Jul (DNS) likely indicate a local breeding population. A brood was seen in the same area last year.

Least Bittern reports from four North Dakota locations were above average. The only Little Blue Heron report from South Dakota was of a juv. 22 Jul in Brown (BU). A casual breeder in North Dakota, up to 4 Little Blue Herons were observed during periodic visits to the Chase Lake N.W.R. heron/egret colony this summer. Nesting attempts included

one pair of Little Blue Herons and one mixed pair—Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret. Both nests fledged young (AB, LDI). Providing just the 9th report for North Dakota, a Tricolored Heron was at Lake Alice N.W.R. 14 Jun+ (DOL). This observation was from the same area where one was seen last fall. A possible 4th record for South Dakota, a Glossy Ibis was in Brown 22 Jul (BU).

HAWKS THROUGH PHALAROPEs

An incredible 71 Ferruginous Hawks were seen in a mile-long stretch of road n. of Chester, MT 11 Jul (HM). A male Peregrine Falcon hatched in Fargo, ND in 2005 spent the summer on a water tower in Grand Forks but did not succeed in attracting a mate



Part of the Snowy Plover invasion into the Dakotas this summer, this individual was one of several at Stone Lake, Sully County, South Dakota 16 June 2007. Photograph by Doug Backlund.

(DOL). Sandhill Cranes nested successfully at two locations in McHenry, ND. One pair was at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., where the last con-



Accidental in the Northern Great Plains in summer, this Black Scoter was at Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, North Dakota 10 July 2007 (here) through the end of the period. Photograph by Ben Lardy.

firm North Dakota nesting took place in 1993 (REM, DM). A pair was also noted in Kidder, ND 10 Jul (PCV).

Marking the 4th nesting record for South Dakota, a Black-necked Stilt brood was in McPherson 22 Jun–21 Jul (JW). American Avocet peaks included 1000 at Freezeout L., MT 21 Jun (MS) and an incredible 20,000 at Long Lake N.W.R., ND 26 Jul (MJR). The North Dakota peak was nearly seven times the previous high count. Rare in Montana, a Red Knot was at Freezeout L., MT 21–23 Jul (MS). A flock of 800 Sanderlings was still at Round L. near Westby, MT 9 Jun (TN). Rare in w. Montana, single Short-billed Dowitchers were at Freezeout L. three times during the 4–26 Jul period (MS). A spectacular peak of 75,000–100,000 Wilson's Phalaropes was at Long Lake N.W.R., ND 26 Jul (MJR).

GULLS THROUGH WARBLERS

Casual in summer in South Dakota, a Bonaparte's Gull was in Day 20 Jul (BU). Furnishing the first confirmed nesting for South Dakota, a Herring Gull was photographed on a nest on an island in L. Oahe, Stanley 10 Jun (RDO). A Great Black-backed Gull at Arrowwood N.W.R. 27 Jun would furnish the 6th record for North Dakota, if accepted (SB). The 7th and 8th reports for South Dakota, White-winged Doves were in Pennington 26 Jun (*vide* DB) and Sturgis 3 Jul (EM, RP). A peak of 90 Short-eared Owls was noted in Grand Forks, ND 23 Jul, where at least 25 pairs were thought to have nested (EEF, DOL). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was unusually far e. in Stanley, SD 30 Jul (RDO). In North Dakota, a Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 25 Jul in Beach provided the 6th report of either species (DB).

SA Snowy Plovers made an unprecedented push into the Dakotas this season, almost certainly a product of flooding in parts of the s. Great Plains in spring and summer. Birds were present at Stone Lake, Sully, SD 10 Jun+, with a high of 8 noted 17 Jun. A chick was seen 18 Jul, furnishing the first nesting confirmation for the state (RDO).

Number	Location	Observer(s)	Date(s)
2	Missouri R., Morton	RG	6 Jun
2	Big Muddy L., Kidder	CA	12 Jun
2	Missouri R., Burleigh	DSA	15 Jun
1	L. Williams, McLean	JF	Jun–Jul
12 [six pairs]	Long Lake N.W.R., Burleigh	CA	Jun–Jul
2	Turtle L., McLean	SDL, REM, CDE	16–17 Jul

There were only four previous sightings in South Dakota. In North Dakota, no fewer than 21 individuals were noted among six locations in four counties (Table 1). There were just nine previous reports for the state. The first North Dakota breeding record was established when a nest was found 24 Jun at Long Lake N.W.R. (PCV, KHG, MAG, DNS).

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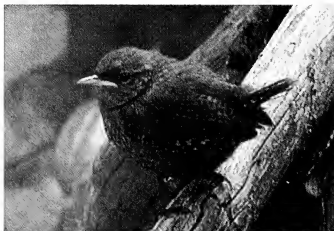
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This Herring Gull at a nest at Lake Oahe, Stanley County marked the first breeding confirmation for South Dakota (here 10 June 2007). Photograph by Ricky Olson.



This fledgling Winter Wren in the Black Hills 30 June 2007 provided the long-expected first breeding confirmation for South Dakota. Photograph by Michael L. P. Retter.

A first confirmed nesting for South Dakota, fledgling Winter Wrens were photographed 30 Jun in Lawrence (MR). An Eastern Bluebird at Freezeout L. 21 Jun was well w. of the species' usual range in Montana (MS). Sprague's Pipit made an appearance back in some of their former range, with 10 individuals noted 18-27 Jul in McPherson and Faulk, SD (RR, BU, MM). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Custer, SD 22 Jun (BH). The species has nested in the Black Hills. Representing the 12th and 13th reports for North Dakota, Prothonotary Warblers were at Audubon N.W.R. 2 Jun (JL) and in Emmons 17 Jun (DNS). The Prairie Warbler reported in the spring in Lincoln, SD remained through at least 14 Jul. Also in Lincoln, SD, 3 Kentucky Warblers were heard 9 Jun (RDO), and at least one remained through 14 Jul, the species is casual in this state. A Wilson's Warbler 24 Jul in Custer provided the 2nd summer record for South Dakota (MM).

TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A Summer Tanager 3 Jul in Lincoln, SD furnished the first Jul report for the state (BU). Three Henslow's Sparrow reports from North

Dakota spanned 9-24 Jun, and three South Dakota reports spanned 2 Jun-20 Jul. Le Conte's Sparrow numbers were quite low in North Dakota this summer. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was in Grand Forks, ND 8 Jun (EEF). Following the report of a White-crowned Sparrow in the Black Hills of South Dakota last summer, 2 more were reported this year: one in Custer 23 Jun (BH) and one in Lawrence 21 Jun (DC). Blue Grosbeaks were noted again this year in Montana, with the 5th and 6th reports for the state: a pair was in Warren, and a male was e. of Bridger on 27 Jun (JO). A peak of 8 Blue Grosbeaks was noted in Emmons, ND 3 Jul (HCT). An Indigo Bunting was far w. at Billings, MT 26 Jul (RK). Out-of-range Eastern Meadowlarks were in Custer 18 Jun (BH) and Stanley, SD 7 Jul (RDO). In North Dakota, an Eastern Meadowlark was in Kidder 14 Jun (HCT, BM). The 11th report for Montana, a Lesser Goldfinch was in Billings 28 Jun, in the same area where birds were seen last summer (GM).

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Joseph A. Grzybowski
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The summer season incorporates the tail end of spring migration, the commencement of "fall" migration, and a wealth of fascinating new information about breeding distributions. In addition, the Region enjoys post-nesting Gulf vagrants, wandering species and shorebirds, and other species whose migrational status is unclear. Temporally odd records of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Northern Waterthrush this season lead one to wonder whether early warming on northern breeding grounds is allowing single-brooded species to begin fall migration extraordinarily early. Such questions might also be posed of early movements by mid-latitude species such as Western Kingbird or southern species like White Ibis.

While western Nebraska continued to be plagued with drought, Oklahoma was inundated by terrible floods this spring and summer. Records of Soras and Wilson's Phalaropes this season suggest that some species moved southward quickly, to take advantage of abundant water. The longer-term westward spread of southeastern species, in part a result of fire suppression's effect on woodlands, continues to be apparent, as does the more general spread of southern taxa northward.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS); Hackberry (Hackberry Flat W.M.A., Tillman, OK); McConaughy (L. McConaughy, Keith, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Rainwater Basin (plays in s.-cen. and se. Nebraska); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Salt Plains (Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa, OK).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS:

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, such as the one at Red Slough 26 Jun (DA, GK), are now expected, but one was much farther afield in Cowley, KS 17 Jul (LW). Far more unexpected was the Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Quivira 25 Jun (MG, AM, TS), among few ever reported Regionally. Arctic geese at low latitudes this summer included a Greater White-fronted Goose in Clay, NE 17 Jun (JG), 20 Snow Geese in Clay, NE 2 Jun (PD), with one at McConaughy 10 Jun (SJD), and a Ross's Goose, also at McConaughy, 9 Jun (SJD). Among less-expected summer waterfowl vagrants were 4 Gadwalls and a Green-winged Teal at the Salt Plains 18 Jun (JWA, JC), with 2 and one of these species, respectively, at Hackberry 7 Jul (VF). Somewhat more surprising were reports of Cinnamon Teal: one at Cheyenne Bottoms 3 Jun (RW), one at Hackberry 1 Jul (L&MT), one in Phelps, NE 3 Jul (KS), and 3 in Kingfisher, OK 21 Jul (JAG, JWA). The token Mottled Duck for the summer season in cen. Kansas was one at Quivira 26 Jun (MG, AM, TS). Perhaps increasing in frequency as a summer straggler, Ring-necked Ducks were noted at Red Slough 10 Jul (DA) and in Clay, NE 22 Jul (JG). Also of note was a female Bullhead at Cheyenne Bottoms 21 Jul (SS).

A Red-necked Grebe in basic plumage at McConaughy 10 Jun (SJD), only the 2nd Jun record for Nebraska, was most surprising. Cheyenne Bottoms provided residence for 75-100 pairs of Eared Grebes (TM), with one noted s. to Kingfisher, OK 21 Jul (JWA, JAG). The largest count of Western Grebes at McConaughy was 1198 on 10 Jun, accompanied by 23 Clark's (SJD); peripheral Westerns included one in York, NE 8 Jun (JG) and one in Cimarron, OK 28-29 Jun (DW). Vagrant Common Loons were noted s. to Tulsa 3 & 16 Jun (BC) and at Hackberry 1 Jul (L&MT). Routinely vagrant, two Neotropic Cormorant pairs nested at Cheyenne Bottoms this season (SS, RW). Anhingas nest at Red Slough, but still northwesterly are the 43 noted there 9 Jun (BH).

Up to 9 American Bitterns were located in the Rainwater Basin (JG, JG, KS, G&WH), but more unusual for being southerly were up to 6 noted at Red Slough through the season (DA). Least Bitterns, very local breeders, were noted in Seward, NE (up to 3; JG) and at Red Slough (DA, BH et al.), with one in Washington, OK 14 Jun (MP). Fewer Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets were noted in Nebraska this summer; the top counts were of only 6 Greats in Harlan 18 Jul (G&WH) and one Snowy at McConaughy 10 Jun (SJD). A breeding outpost for Cattle Egrets this sea-

son was Crescent Lake N.W.R., Garden, NE (WM). Red Slough accumulated an impressive 30,000 Cattle Egrets and 3000 Little Blue Herons 24 Jul, with 1760 White Ibis counted there 18 Jul (DA); however, only 1-3 Tricolored Herons were noted there this season (DA). Continuing a string of sightings in the e. Rainwater Basin was one Glossy Ibis with 68 White-faced Ibis at Harvard Marsh, Clay, NE 2 Jun (PD). Other Glossies were noted at Quivira 9 Jun (SS) and Cheyenne Bottoms 29 Jul (T&SM). Five White-faced Ibis, rarer to the e., lingered at Red Slough through 5 Jun (JM, MD). A Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrid was seen 26 Jul at the Salt Plains (JWA). The first Wood Storks to appear at Red Slough were the 7 on 19 Jun (TS, DA).

Ospreys lingering on the Southern Plains included singles in Keith, NE 9-10 Jun (SJD), Dodge, NE 10 Jun (JG), and Douglas, NE 11 Jul (JG). A Mississippi Kite at Kearney, Buffalo, NE 15 Jun (MU) was away from the two known Nebraska breeding sites. Nebraska Game and Parks reported a record 45 Bald Eagle nests in the state this year; the total for 2005 was 37 (JG). A dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk, not a resident subspecies, was a surprise find 24 Jul in Sarpy, NE (RG). Nebraska panhandle hawk surveys tallied 100+ nests of Swainson's Hawk, most in Kimball, 30+ nests of Ferruginous Hawk, and 30+ nests of Golden Eagle (BB).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

After the heavy May and Jun rains, unexpected rail "appearances" included 5 Soras at Hackberry 28 Jun (MJ) and 3 in Kingfisher, OK 21 Jul (JAG, JWA). Virginia Rails with 2 chicks were found in Lakeside 5 Jul (LR, RH), with another ad. and 3 chicks in Seward, NE 12 Jul (CNK). The single Purple Gallinule outpost, Red Slough, held at least 3 ads. and 6 imms. 1 Jul (DA). Always noteworthy when they appear, Common Moorhens were seen in Douglas, KS 10 Jun (KS), with up to 24 (including several broods) at Red Slough in Jul (DA). The exceptional Sandhill Crane pair again nesting in Morrill, NE had 2 chicks 22 Jun (D&RK, KD, AK). Four Sandhills were also noted in Buffalo, NE 3 Jun (D&JP), with 3 in Cherry, NE 19 Jul (PR).

Summer shorebird sagas always provide some extralimital breeders, lingerers, late and early migrants, plus the "who knows?" subset. Lingerers were an American Golden-Plover in the e. Rainwater Basin 3 Jun (JG), Hudsonian Godwit in Sarpy, NE 1 Jun (CNK), Sanderling in Sarpy, NE 3 Jun (L&BP), with 6 at McConaughy also 3 Jun (SJD), a Silt Sandpiper in Seward, NE 8 Jun

(JG), 37 White-rumped Sandpipers at the Salt Plains 18 Jun (JWA, JC), and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Quivira 9 Jun (SS). About 150 Semipalmated Sandpipers were still in the e. Rainwater Basin 3 Jun (JG), and 70+ were at Quivira 9 Jun (SS). Earlier than normal were a Semipalmated Plover 7 Jul in Seward, NE (JG), Lesser Yellowlegs in Morrill, NE 23 Jun (KD), Ruddy Turnstone 21 Jul in Kingfisher, OK (JWA, JAG), an exceptional Buff-breasted Sandpiper 19 Jul in Seward, NE (MB), and 20 Short-billed Dowitchers at Quivira 21 Jun (SS). Summering or who-knows were 2 Black-bellied Plovers, a Semipalmated Plover, and a Stilt Sandpiper at the Salt Plains 18 Jun (JWA, JC), a Wilson's Snipe in Lancaster, NE 9 Jun and 28 Jul (LE), and another snipe in Kingfisher, OK 21 Jul (JWA, JAG).

High water levels presented problems for Snowy Plovers at McConaughy, where only one was found 10 Jun (SJD); in contrast, 600 were estimated at the Salt Plains 27 Jul (JWA, RS, NS). Piping Plover numbers dropped at McConaughy, with only 41 counted there 9 Jun (SJD). Prairie Partners was able to locate an encouraging 107 Mountain Plover nests this summer in the s. Nebraska panhandle (BB). Only 2-3 Black-necked Stilts nested in Phelps, NE (KS), but numbers were good at Hackberry, where 116 were counted 7 Jul (VF). Intriguing are reports of Wilson's Phalaropes in Jun at Hackberry (TC, JAG), with two pairs (L&MT) and 8 birds (VF) noted there 1 & 7 Jul, respectively; a juv. and 2 ad. Wilson's Phalaropes were also found in Cimarron, OK 30 Jun (DW).

Vagrant Laughing Gulls appeared 2 Jun in Wagoner, OK (JWA), 3 Jun in Coffey, KS (MG, AM), 11 Jun in Riley, KS (LJ), 18 Jun at the Salt Plains (2 birds; JWA, JC), and 26 Jun at Quivira (PJ, KG). Some 200 Franklin's Gulls were at the Salt Plains 18 Jun (JWA, JC). Only 17 California Gulls were noted at McConaughy 9 Jun, perhaps indicative of a downturn in numbers there (SJD); one was at Quivira 28 Jul (SS), a likely migrant. Pushing the late-spring window was a Common Tern 10 Jun at McConaughy (SJD).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Nebraska's 2nd breeding record for the increasingly reported White-winged Dove was established by a pair with a juv. in Lancaster 11 Jul (DL). An Inca Dove in Harvey, KS 31 Jul (MR, KB, BMA) was on the edge of this species' expanding range. Of note for a sporadically reported species, 7 Black-billed Cuckoos located in Otoe, NE 16 Jun (L&CF) may suggest a migration period extending well into Jun; others were found in Lancaster, NE 6 Jun (KP), Adams, NE 7 Jul (MB), and

Jefferson, NE 14 Jul (WRS).

On the hummingbird front, 2 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds observed in Scotts Bluff, NE 24 Jun-23 Jul suggested potential for breeding (AK). Migrant Broad-taileds were noted at another location in Scotts Bluff, NE 12-21 Jul (KD) and in Finney, KS 30 Jul (T&SSH). Proving to be regular visitors in recent years, Caliope Hummingbird was reported in Stou, NE 7 Jul (HKH) and in Scotts Bluff, NE 13 (AK) & 22 Jul (KD). Beginning the Rufous Hummingbird migration were singles in Scotts Bluff, NE 12 Jul (KD) and Finney, KS 13 Jul (P&MR). Four Tree Swallows in Beaver, OK during Jul suggests possible breeding (DW). Normally extending migration into Jun, Alder Flycatchers were noted singing 3 & 10 Jun in Keith, NE (SJD), and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was in Coffey, KS 3 Jun (MG, AM). Willow/Alder Flycatchers were banded 4 & 23 Jun in Cherokee, OK (D&JV), the latter date somewhat late for migration. Willow Flycatchers again nested at Red Slough (DA). An early migrant Willow Flycatcher was found in Kingfisher, OK 21 Jul (JAG, JWA). A female Vermilion Flycatcher was found in Morton, KS 9 Jun (KG), a likely outlier from the isolated nesters in the mesa country of Cimarron, OK (DW). Very exciting was the discovery of an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Kimball, NE 28 Jun (WM), with subsequent breeding confirmed 15 Jul (WM, JG, MB); this represents the first Nebraska breeding record and only the 2nd state record overall. Ash-throated Flycatchers on the edge of range were at three different locations in Morton, KS 28 Jun (TC). A fledgling Western Kingbird being fed in Banner, NE 2 Jun indicated an early nesting season there (AK). At their n. limits in Nebraska, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers fledged young in Lancaster, NE 6 Jul (AR, fide JGJ).

Fish Crosses extending into Kansas included 4 in Bourbon 12 Jun (MR). One of the more easterly nestings of Black-billed Magpie in some time was in Seward, NE this summer (SR), as were 2-3 birds in Adams, NE 7-14 Jul (MB, PD). Also easterly was a Rock Wren in Adams, NE 16 Jun (PD). Tardy was a Swainson's Thrush in Finney, KS 8 Jun (T&SSH). At the w. edge of the species' breeding range was a Wood Thrush in Fremont, NE 27 Jun (RE). With Black-capped Vireo numbers in the Wichita Mts., OK now exceeding 2000 pairs (JAG, VF), extralimital may now be pushing outward; one was noted in Kiowa, OK 8 Jul (VF).

Although an occasional Black-poll Warbler such as the one 2 Jun in Haskell, KS (MR) is within the later migration period for this species, the Black-throated Green Warbler 7 Jun in Daves, NE was quite tardy (L&CF).

And the quite early fall migrant Black-throated Green Warbler 29 Jul in Sedgwick, KS (PG) and the Northern Waterthrush 24 Jul in Payne, OK (TO) were comparatively early. Among warblers wandering outside expected limits were a westerly Northern Parula at Jefferson, NE 3 Jun (LR, RH) and a Worn-eating Warbler in Sioux, NE 8 Jun (HKH). Within their spottily occupied distributional edges were a Hooded Warbler and Swainson's Warbler in Cherokee, OK 15 & 22 Jun, respectively (MR).

Among westerly reports for Summer Tanager was one in Jefferson, NE 30 Jun (WRS). Eastern Towhees in Jefferson, NE this summer all sang songs typical of hybrids (WRS), and Spotted Towhees were reported in Harlan, NE in early Jul (G&WH), where hybrids and Easterns have also been found previously. Perhaps of note, no Cassin's Sparrows were reported from sw. Nebraska, where some would normally be expected (fide WRS). Four Cassin's Sparrows and 2 Lark Buntings were easterly in Haskell, KS 2 Jun (MR). A Field Sparrow in Daves, NE 7 Jul (LR, RH) furnished only the 3rd Panhandle record in summer. Clearly an outlier location for the species, 2 Bachman's Sparrows were located in Osage, OK 17 Jul (JL, JSI). Lark Bunting numbers were down in w. Nebraska, and one in Dixon 2 Jun (JW) was rare so far east. Reports of Henslow's Sparrow in se. Nebraska included up to 39 singing males in Pawnee, NE 24 Jun (WRS), with 31 counted at another site nearby 19 Aug (WRS). Westerly were 2 Henslow's in Saline, NE 2 Jun (WRS). A peculiar trio of laggards included a Harris's Sparrow in Sumner, KS 8-11 Jul (LH), a White-crowned Sparrow 17 Jun in Jefferson, KS (DL), and a Dark-eyed Junco in Wyandotte, KS 6 Jun (LM). Chestnut-collared Longspur is another species affected by dry conditions in sw. Nebraska, where numbers were the lowest in several years (WRS).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at McConaughy 9 Jun (SJD) was westerly, and a Lazuli Bunting was in Keith, NE 2 Jun (JM), where reported only sporadically. A pair of Bobolinks in Scotts Bluff, NE 14 Jul (KD) provided a county first, and an unusual site was one in wheatgrass in Lincoln, NE (TJW). Red Crossbills were reported from the Pine Ridge of Nebraska, where expected (AK, fide WRS).

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Texas



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For the past few years, it seems as though one region or another of Texas has been under the grip of some form of drought. That was certainly not the case during this summer, as almost all regions saw above-average precipitation. For the western half of the state, rainfall ranged from about average to above average and provided excellent nesting conditions for breeding passerines and well-above-average conditions for waterfowl and waders. In the central portion of the state, the rainfall amounts were bordering on excessive in many areas, resulting in the coolest and wettest summer on record. Many reservoirs that had been well below capacity are now full, and many locations had surpassed yearly rainfall totals by the end of July! This trend worsened farther east. Rainfall for the period as reported at Houston's Intercontinental Airport was 33 cm above normal. Record-setting rainfall was persistent throughout the upper coast during the month of June, with widespread flooding causing many birding locations to be inaccessible. Flooding lingered in some areas for the duration of the reporting period. Al-

though the extreme rains in June were desperately needed, birding and bird life were significantly impacted by the excessive rain and flooding. Many reports of washed out nests and nesting areas were received. Shorebird numbers were low due to lack of habitat. Farther south, Corpus Christi recorded 46 cm of rainfall in July alone, compared to a normal average amount of 5 cm for the month! Lake levels were at high marks, and freshwater ponds were mostly full. Flooding occurred in much of South Texas, and vast freshwater playays were formed. Nesting passerines seemed to thrive, and food sources were plentiful in upland habitats.

Two birds were in the running for the bird of the season—a Snail Kite near Port Isabel and a Common Redpoll on Bolivar Peninsula. The kite was just the third to be documented in the state, but who can explain the third summer record of Common Redpoll from Texas—or why all of them have been from coastal locations? Another surprising record was a Chuck-will's-widow, a first for the Trans-Pecos, which spent much of the period in the Davis Mountains.



Above-average rainfall made for abundant nesting habitat for waterfowl in the Panhandle, which resulted in nesting records of several species of ducks that are generally considered rare breeders in Texas. This female Gadwall with a total of nine ducklings (here 13 July 2007) represents only about the tenth documented breeding record of the species in the state. Other successful nesting attempts by this species were noted during the period. Photograph by Bill Johnson.

Finally, after almost 10 years on the job, Mel Cooksey is stepping down as the regional compiler for South Texas. His contribution to the column will be missed, and we certainly wish him success in whatever other endeavors he puts his energies towards.

WATERFOWL THROUGH ANHINGA

A pair of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks with 7-8 ducklings in Bell 27 Jul (RPi) provided the first evidence of breeding for the county. Summer geese included 4 Snows and 4 Ross's at Cactus Playa, Moore 24 Jun (BP) and a summering Cackling Goose at Arthur Storey Park in Houston, Harris (ph. JKe). Two Gadwall broods near Tulia, Swisher 13 Jul and three broods present at the same location 27 Jul (ph. BJ) were notable, as there are only about 10 nesting records for the state. A brood of 9 Northern Shovelers on a playa e. of Happy, Swisher (BJ) represented a very rare nesting record. Lingering Northern Pintails were seen near Angleton, Brazoria 8 Jun (CFr) and at Anahuac N.W.R., Chambers 7 Jul (DVe). A female Northern Pintail with several ducklings found at a pond in Kleberg 30 Jun (LJ) represents what may be the first breeding record for the Coastal Bend Single drake Canvasbacks were seen at Tornillo Res., El Paso 4 Jun (BZ) and Fort Hancock Res., Hudspeth 15 Jun (JPa). Ring-necked Ducks rarely summer, so a male present all period at the Presidio, Presidio (ML) and another at Nelson

Farms on the Katy Prairie, Waller 4 Jul (BH) were notable.

Common Loons at unexpected locations included one picked up at the El Paso Airport, El Paso 1 Jun (fide JSp) and a lingering individual at Austin, Travis until 4 Jun (HR).



Chuck-will's-widows have been known to occur in Donley County in the eastern Panhandle of Texas for quite some time, but it was only in 2007 that nesting was finally documented. This nest (here 28 April) was located in the spring, and the young successfully fledged in the early summer. Photograph by Barrett Pierce.

Pied-billed Grebes nested at Granger L., Williamson, with an ad. on an active nest 28 Jun and a juv. present 16 Jul (TFE), and at Fort Stockton, Pecos, where three pairs with young were seen 21 Jul (ML). Masked Boobies seen from shore included an imm. along South Padre I., Cameron 5 Jul (BMc), one reported diving off of Follett's I., Brazoria 18 Jul (JS), and another at Boca Chica, Cameron 29 Jul (ScC). Northern Gannets were reported all along the coast in impressive numbers during the period. Reflecting this unusual number of summering birds was the number of individuals recovered along the beaches. Three gannets were found beached 20 Jul on the Bolivar Pen., Galveston (JKe), and many dead or moribund birds were found in Nueces, Kleberg, and Kenedy (DN, BS) during the period. An amazing total of 34 beached birds was reported as of 18 Jul to the ARK rehabilitation center in Port Aransas, Nueces (TA). Interestingly, most of these were second-year birds.

Twenty-four American White Pelicans, unusual in the summer, were spotted at L. Bob Sandlin, Titus 24 Jun (LA). Double-crested Cormorants typically leave Central Texas during summer months, but this summer up to 6 were reported along the Cowhouse Cr. arm of Belton L., Bell 8 Jun–18 Jul (RKO), and singles were found at L. Waco, McLennan 9 Jun and at Waco, McLennan 14 Jun (EH). Anhingas were reported in above-average numbers in n.-cen. Texas (m.ob.), with apparent local breeding noted.

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

An American Bittern at San Bernard N.W.R., Brazoria 6 Jul (JW) was in the same general area where 2 were seen in May and provided a first summer record for the county. For the 2nd straight Jul, a Least Bittern was seen at McNary Res., Hudspeth, this time a lone bird 28 Jul (JPa). Two Least Bitterns, one of which

was a juv., at Lubbock, Lubbock 15 May–26 Jul (CM, m.ob.) provided the 8th record for nw. Texas and the first breeding record for the South Plains. An ad. Little Blue Heron near Cotton Center, Hale 8 Jul (AH) furnished the first Jul report since 2000 for the South Plains. An ad. Tricolored Heron at McNary Res., Hudspeth 9 Jul (ph. JPa) was the first in several years for the El Paso area. A count of 23 Glossy Ibis in the Magnolia Beach/Indianola area of Calhoun 9 Jun (BFR) indicates that these birds are holding their own in that area. Two White-faced Ibis

noted at L. Tawakoni, Rains 5 Jun (RKi) made an unexpected find for n.-cen. Texas.

An Osprey near Abernathy, Hale 10 Jun (GB) was only the 3rd Jun report ever for the South Plains. Swallow-tailed Kites are establishing themselves more firmly on the Upper



The status of White-eared Hummingbird in Texas has taken an interesting turn in the past three years. Summer 2007 saw another "invasion" of sorts into the Trans-Pecos and raised speculation that this movement could be part of a normal (or developing) post-breeding dispersal. This hatch-year bird (here 5 July) was one of at least six birds in the Davis Mountains during the period. Photograph by Maryann Eastman.

Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.), with apparent local breeding noted at Baytown, Harris, where an ad. was photographed carrying away a Northern Mockingbird nestling (M&CS), and near Sweeny, Brazoria, where 2 ads. were seen through the period and 2 juvs. were spotted with them in late Jul (fide CB). Both the Baytown and Sweeny observers reported seeing these birds during previous summers. Other Swallow-tailed Kites of note included singles near Dickinson Bayou, Galveston 8 Jun (TO), Lake Jackson, Brazoria 28 Jun (R&KL), just e. of Lake Jackson 5 Jul (SH), Tomball College, Harris 15 Jul (HS), and Kleb Woods, Harris 25 Jul (JM). A Snail Kite found along Old Brownsville Rd. near Port Isabel, Cameron 14

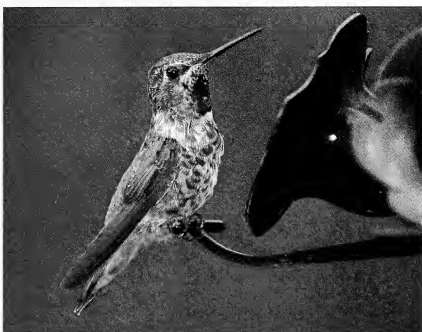
Jul (ph., tJFr, ScC, MG) provided just the 2nd record for the Lower Rio Grande Valley and the 3rd for the state. A Sharp-shinned Hawk seen and heard at Camp Bullis, Bexar 23–24 Jun (LL) was most unexpected. Cooper's Hawks appear to be expanding into new areas, with birds reported at Coppers Cove, Coryell 23 Jun and Fort Hood, Coryell 24 Jun (RKO), at Stillhouse Hollow L., Bell 1–4 Jul (GE), at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso 21 Jun and 16 Jul (JSp), and at four Harris locations. Gray Hawk pairs continue to be found at Rio Grande Village/Daniels Ranch and Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend, Brewster and near Fort Davis, Jeff Davis (m.ob.). The Common Black-Hawk pair at Rio Grande Village, Brewster had fledged one young by the end of the period (fide MF). A Harris's Hawk near Bolivar Flats, Galveston 31 Jul (BN) was likely a holdover from the U.T.C. mini-invasion of the past two years. A Harris's Hawk at Van Horn, Culberson 17 Jun (ML) constituted a rare county record. An extralimital Zone-tailed Hawk found along the Nueces R. in the w. portion of Corpus Christi, Nueces 17 Jul (JS, VS) was certainly at an unexpected location. A pair of American Kestrels nested on the Sam Houston Building near the Capitol in downtown Austin, Travis (fide EC). Also of note was an American Kestrel observed preening in Walker 21 Jul (RBe, LBe), where it is rare in summer. Out-of-place Peregrine Falcons included singles in nw. San Antonio, Bexar 8 Jun (RKL), at Santa Ana N.W.R., Hidalgo 30 Jun (MG), in Collin 24 Jul (DHi), and in Bell 27 Jul (RKO).

RAILS THROUGH JAEGERERS

An impressive count of 9 Black Rails was tallied in s. Calhoun 24 Jul (BFR). Even more exceptional given the inland location was a Clapper Rail found at La Sal del Rey, Hidalgo 29 Jul (DJ). A Sora found at L. McLellan, Gray 2 Jun (LS) was just the 2nd Jun report for the Panhandle. Rare for the area, a Common Moorhen was reported at the Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarrant 4 Jun (JIS). A wayward American Golden-Plover was present in Midland 16 Jun (RMS, JAd). Several pairs of Snowy Plovers at Pauline L., Hardeman 10 Jun (BP) established the first documented breeding record for the county. An early migrant Snowy Plover was noted in Austin, Travis 13 Jul (MK). A count of 150 Semipalmated Plovers at East Beach, Galveston 29 Jun (JKe) was a notable number for Jun. The first Piping Plover report was of one at East Beach, Galveston 29 Jun (JKe). Two Piping Plovers visited Hornsby Bend, Travis 14 Jul (KQ, EC). A Solitary Sandpiper at Fort Travis, Galveston 8 Jul (JKe) was early. Only recently have U.T.C. observers focused on the

comings and goings of Eastern (local breeders) and Western (migrants) Willets. A Western Willet in worn alternate plumage at Bolivar Flats, Galveston 15 Jul (CTL) was the first sign of migrants returning from breeding grounds on the Great Plains. On 28 Jul, Lee remarked "Eastern Willets have almost all vacated Bolivar and have been replaced with worn alternate-plumaged Western Willets. The only Eastern Willets left are a few juveniles and one worn adult." A Spotted Sandpiper at Pelican I., Galveston 7 Jul (CTL) matched the earliest "fall" record for the U.T.C. Two Upland Sandpipers just n. of Lubbock, Lubbock 8 Jul (AH) were either very early migrants or local breeders. Another early Upland was heard in Bell 12 Jul (RPi). Semipalmated Sandpipers were present in record numbers on the U.T.C. through Jun, with a high count of 40 at Pelican I., Galveston 23 Jun (TE). White-rumped Sandpipers lingered almost through the entire period at Pelican I., with the number of birds dwindling from a high of 10 present 21-23 Jun (TE) to one there on 2 Jul, 4 on 3 Jul (TE), and finally one in worn alternate plumage 14 Jul (CTL). Elsewhere, a White-rumped Sandpiper was present at Texas City 20 Jul and 2 at Bolivar Flats 22 Jul, both Galveston (JKe). Two early Baird's Sandpipers were in Midland, Midland 4 Jul (RMS). A Stilt Sandpiper at Pelican I. 23 Jun (TE) was either late or early. A Short-billed Dowitcher was at Millers Creek Res., Bayler 21 Jul (GC, BBu), and 6 were at L. Tawakoni, Rains 28 Jul (RKi, RBa). Wilson's Phalarope reports included 2 at Pelican I. 16 Jun (TE) and 4 there 7 Jul (CTL).

Two Laughing Gulls were on Balmorhea L., Reeves 10 Jun (RFi); the species is essentially annual in the Trans-Pecos in summer. A Franklin's Gull in Lubbock, Lubbock 2 Jun (TS) was considered an accidental summer visitor for the South Plains. Seven ad. Ring-billed Gulls 31 Jul were quite early at the Texas City Dike, Galveston (JKe). Four Sooty Terns were observed 27 Jul from the S. Padre I. jetties, Cameron (BMc). A rare but regular visitor to the w. Trans-Pecos, single Least Terns at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso 3 Jun (JSp) and at Tornillo Res., El Paso 23 Jun-2 Jul (JPa) fit perfectly with the expected pattern of occurrence. Expanding their inland breeding range,



There had been only one previous summer record of Anna's Hummingbird in Texas, from 2006, until this young male spent the entire summer 2007 period (here 7 July) in the central Davis Mountains and was joined by a second immature male 20 July and later. Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.

3 ad. Least Terns with at least one nest at Childress L., Childress 10 Jun (BP) represented a county first. Two Least Terns were found at Village Creek Drying Beds, Tarant 4 Jul (JiS); a single was at L. Tawakoni, Rains 5 & 15 Jul (RKi); 2 were noted in Clay 16 Jul (SL); and a high count of over 25 was observed at Dundee State Fish Hatchery, Archer 21 Jul (GC, BBu). Large Least Tern counts included 400 at Pelican I. 23 Jun (TE) and 600 at Bryan Beach, Brazoria 28 Jul (RW). A Caspian Tern was seen at L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt 15 Jul (RBa), and 2 more were there on 17 Jul (RKi). A total of 1200 Black Terns at San Luis Pass, Galveston 15 Jun (TE) was a nice Jun total. A Black Tern was observed at Soda L., Midland 29 Jun (BLu). A Parasitic Jaeger reported 26 Jul from w. Galveston I. (JSt) provided a first summer record for the U.T.C.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Band-tailed Pigeon in w. El Paso, El Paso 19 Jun (ph. JPa) represented a first summer record for the area. A Black-billed Cuckoo on w. Galveston I. 4 Jun (JSt) was the 2nd latest ever for the U.T.C. Three Burrowing Owls were observed in Clay 4 Jun (SL, BBo), and one near Dundee State Fish Hatchery, Archer 21 Jul (GC, BBu) was at a known breeding area. Restoration efforts at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso, including the placement of some artificial burrows, have clearly benefited Burrowing Owls. A high count of 29 on 21 Jul (JSp) was an excellent total. The breeding Long-eared Owls at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, El Paso from the spring were seen

through 1 Jul (JSp). The most unexpected bird of the season in the Trans-Pecos was a Chuck-will's-widow found by Pinkston 13 Jun at upper elevation in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis. The vocal and territorial bird remained through the period (RPI, audiotape KB). The species occurs west to e. Val Verde but was not on anyone's radar for the Davis Mts. The nesting pair of Chuck-will's-widows with 2 young along Mitchell Cr., Donley continued through 2 Jun (ph. BP) for a first confirmed breeding record for the Panhandle; another at Muleshoe N.W.R., Bailey 10 Jun (AH) was well w. of the species' expected distribution. A calling Whip-poor-will in Alpine, Brewster 25-27 Jul was unusual (ML).

Counts of Chimney Swifts at a Houston, Harris roost were interesting in that the peak of 263 birds was counted 12 Jun, with numbers declining steadily after that (PS, DVe). It was a good season for Green Violet-ear in the state, with single birds present near Ingram, Kerr 16 May-13 Jun (ph., †DP) and near Boerne, Kendall 13 Jun (ph. DP). The long-staying Green Violet-ear from the spring visit- feeders in Bastrop through 14 Jul (ph. SF). An ad. pair of Broad-billed Hummingbirds was present all period at the Davis Mountains Resort, Jeff Davis (M&SME). They were joined by a hatch-year male 28 Jul-5. White-eared Hummingbirds again made a strong showing in the Davis Mts., where 6 additional birds were reported, including a hatch-year bird at one residence 4-20 Jul (fMS&ME, ML) and 5 at another residence (ph., fML). A female White-eared Hummingbird graced feeders near Utopia, Uvalde 21-22 Jul (ph., fMHI). A male Lucifer Hummingbird × Black-chinned Hummingbird visited an Alpine yard, Brewster 8-26 Jul (ph. ML). There are at least 12 state records of this hybrid combination, with nine of them coming from Big Bend N.P. or the Davis Mts. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird near Utopia, Uvalde 1 Jun was w. of the species' usual breeding range (MH). Two imm. male Anna's Hummingbirds in the Davis Mountains (ph. M&SME) provided only the 2nd and 3rd summer records for Texas. One bird was present all period, with the other present 20 Jul-. In Leander, Williamson, a male Calliope Hummingbird came to feeders 24-27 Jul (CFe). Early Rufous Hummingbirds

included singles at Wimberley, Hays 15 Jul (CR) and Copperas Cove, Coryell 16-18 Jul (RKO). A Red-headed Woodpecker near Bull L., Lamb 10 Jun (AH) was w. of its usual haunts in nw. Texas. Three Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in Van Zandt 3 Jun (RKI) in an area where nesting is not known. Rare but regular breeders in the Houston, Harris area, Northern Flickers were found 26 Jun (DM) and 17 Jul (MD).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher on w. Galveston I. 3 Jun was a late migrant (JSt). An Eastern Wood-Pewee lingered in Waller through 1 Jun (BH) for a presumed first summer record. Another Eastern Wood-Pewee on w. Galveston I. 4 Jun (JSt) was likely a late migrant, while yet another was an unexpected find in Bell 30 Jun (RKO). A Willow Flycatcher at Mulshoe N.W.R., Bailey 28 Jul (AH) and one in Tahoka, Lynn 29 Jul (AH) were early migrants. Least Flycatchers in Hunt 15 Jul (RBA) and in Yoakum 28 Jul (AH) were also early migrants. Single Least Flycatchers seen 21 Jul at High I., Galveston and at Sabine Woods, Jefferson were the first returning birds for the U.T.C. (DVe). Three to four territories of Buff-breasted Flycatchers were located in the Davis Mountains Preserve during the period, with at least one pair successfully producing young (†JaP). Dusky-capped Flycatchers were conspicuous in the upper Chisos Mts., Brewster and high in the Davis Mts., Jeff Davis. The pair in Boot Canyon from the spring was last reported 1 Jun (KR), and another pair was found along the upper Pinnacles Trail 12 Jun-13 Jul (†RPI, VE, Bly). Seven Dusky-capped were in the Davis Mts. 7 Jul, including at least one pair with young (†ML). Two Brown-crested Flycatchers were present 9 Jun-12 Jul in Guadalupe (SS). A Great Kiskadee at L. Waco, McLennan 7 Jul (ph. EH, ph. FB) provided only a 2nd county record. The Couch's Kingbirds at Smith Pt., Chambers returned once again, with successful nesting confirmed 1 Jul (†Ar). A Gray Kingbird videotaped at Sea Rim S.R., Jefferson 2 Jun (†DVe) was only the 3rd record for the U.T.C. and the 8th for the state.

Black-capped Vireos attempted nesting at L. Georgetown, Williamson (TFe), but by 16 Jul, summer rains had placed the nest under water. Uncommon for the area, a possible nesting Yellow-throated Vireo was noted at Bob Woodruff Park, Collin 10 & 24 Jun (PA). Freeman reported a singing Warbling Vireo at Webberville Park, Travis 9 Jul. Red-eyed Vireos lingered on the coast through 5 Jun at w. Galveston I. (JSt) and 10 & 14 Jun and 7 Jul at High I., Galveston (DVe, JKe). Three Yellow-green Vireos were reported throughout

the season at Sabal Palm Sanctuary, Cameron (BMc, m.ob.), and one was in Brownsville, Cameron all period (DB, MG), where it had maintained a territory for the previous three summers as well. No Brown Jays were reported during Jun and Jul, raising concerns for the species' continued presence in Texas. Reports of Tamaulipas Crow consisted only of a successful nesting pair at the Brownsville International Airport, Cameron (BMc). Rare for the vicinity, 9 Chihuahuan Ravens were observed 5 Jun (LBA, JFe) on a breeding bird survey route s. of Vernon, Wilbarger. Apparent nesting by Chihuahuan Ravens was observed near Utopia, Uvalde 2 Jul (MHi).

A very late Horned Lark was found in Denton 9 Jun (GG). An estimated 1500 Purple Martins had gathered in Baytown, Harris 14



Hybrid Colima Warbler × Virginia's Warblers are known in the upper elevations of the Davis Mountains of far western Texas. This nest, the first known for this combination, was found 13 June 2007 in a secluded canyon in closed-canopy Ponderosa Pine-Silverleaf Oak woodland. Photograph by Randy Pinkston.

Jul (DwL), while 50,000+ were estimated in sw. Houston, Harris 18 Jul (DVe). Six early arriving Tree Swallows were at Anahuac N.W.R., Chambers 31 Jul (ph. JKe). A large flock of 60+ Bank Swallows near Alazan Bay, Kleberg 13 Jun (TL, BW) led to speculation that there may have been a nesting colony nearby. Cave Swallows continue to be found in small numbers on the South Plains, with 4 near Post, Garza 9 Jun (AH), 22 at a separate location nearby 16 Jun (AH), and 8 near Meadow, Terry 25 Jun (AH, RLe). A single Cave Swallow was found near Vernon, Wilbarger 5 Jun (LBA, JFe), and 12 were found nesting at L. Tawakoni, Rains 22 Jul (RKI, RBA), marking the continued expansion in n.-cen. Texas.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

Rock Wrens successfully nested on the spillway at L. Georgetown, Williamson, with fledglings first observed 20 Jun (TFe). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers arrived on a record-early date

for the U.T.C., and in unusual numbers, with 10 at Sabine Woods, Jefferson and 4 at High I., Galveston 21 Jul (DVe). A lingering *Catharus* thrush at Cibolo, Guadalupe 6 Jun (ph. SS) was likely a Gray-cheeked, but Swainson's could not be completely eliminated as an alternate identification. This would be a particularly late record for a Gray-cheeked Thrush in cen. Texas. Territorial Wood Thrushes were noted in some unexpected locations, among them one in Bell 21 May-3 Jun (RPI) and 2 at River Legacy Park, Tarrant 20 Jun (JIS). For the 5th consecutive summer, a Clay-colored Robin was present in Lake Jackson, Brazoria (TM). To date, attempts to find this bird in winter have been unsuccessful. A Clay-colored Robin present since the spring in Corpus Christi, Nueces was last seen 26 Jul (JeP). A single American Robin in Utopia, Uvalde 27 Jun (MHi) provided a rare summer record for the w. Hill Country. Gray Catbirds were found in record numbers on the U.T.C., with breeding pairs found, or at least suspected, at nine different locations (m.ob.). A lingering Gray Catbird was near Cibolo, Guadalupe 8 Jun (SS), whereas one at L. Livingston, Trinity 20 Jun (PC) may have been a summer resident. Cedar Waxwings are well known to linger into Jun; this season, one was at Lake Jackson, Brazoria 2 Jun (RW), 8 were at Sabine Woods, Jefferson 2 Jun (DVe), and 3 were at Anahuac N.W.R., Chambers 14 Jun (ph. JKe), the latter providing the latest summer record for the U.T.C. Most bizarre was a lone Cedar Waxwing in Boerne, Kendall 13 Jul (TC).

An Orange-crowned Warbler in El Paso, El Paso 31 Jul (JPo) was about two weeks early. A rare migrant in the Trans-Pecos, a singing Northern Parula at El Paso, El Paso 4 Jun (JKI) was late. Two Yellow Warblers near Utopia, Bailey 10 Jun (AH) were late, but one in Utopia, Uvalde 27 Jun (MHi) is hard to explain. A Black-throated Green Warbler at High I., Galveston 10 Jun (DVe) set a new late date for the U.T.C. For the 3rd consecutive year, a Yellow-throated Warbler was present at the Davis Mountains Preserve, Jeff Davis (m.ob.). Interestingly, the bird sang a typical Yellow-throated Warbler song during its first spring and summer but now sings a song typical of a Grace's Warbler (audiotape KB). Multiple sightings of Yellow-throated Warblers in the Central Brazos Valley suggest the possibility of local nesting. Single birds were noted at separate Robertson locations 7 Jun and 16 Jun (DCo) and in Washington 6 Jul (DVo). The only previous evidence is territorial ads. and a juv. observed in May 2006 in Robertson. Rare for the area, 4 singing Prairie Warblers were found 16 Jun at four different locations in Anderson (DDC, DLI). An early migrating Black-

and-white Warbler arrived at High I. 29 Jun (DVe). A late migrant American Redstart was on w. Galveston I. 4 Jun (JSt), and one there 30 Jul (DVe) represented the first Jul record for the U.T.C. Of great interest was an American Redstart at Lake Tawakoni S.P., Hunt 7 Jul (VW); what may have been the same bird was seen again 22 Jul (DHA, Bly). It is unclear whether this was a very late spring migrant, an extremely early fall migrant, or a wandering bird from the breeding populations farther east. A Prothonotary Warbler at High I. 6 Jul (*fide* WB) may have been a very early migrant. Most unexpected was a male Prothonotary Warbler at Fredericksburg, Gillespie 1-25 Jun (ph. BLI). Swainson's Warblers of note included one in Anderson 16 Jun (DDC, DLI) and another singing in Smith 30 Jun (PB). A territorial male Kentucky Warbler was observed on Fort Hood, Coryell 24 Jun (RKO), providing a 2nd record for the fort and possibly the first for the county. A late pulse of migrant Hooded Warblers was noted on the U.T.C., with 3 at Sea Rim S.P., Jefferson, 2 at Sabine Woods, Jefferson, and one at High I., Galveston, all on 2 Jun (DVe). The recently discovered population of Yellow-breasted Chats at White River L., Crosby continues, with 15 ads. and at least 2 fledglings present 30 Jun (AH).

SEEDEATER THROUGH FINCHES

A White-collared Seedeater at Santa Ana N.W.R., Hidalgo 12 Jul (DJ) provided a very rare record for the cen. portion of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Cassin's Sparrows were scarce in cen. Texas this season, with the only report being one at Fort Hood, Bell 26 Jun (RKO). Six ad. Field Sparrows and a nest with 4 nestlings provided continued evidence of breeding by this species at White River L., Crosby 30 Jun (AH). A very early Vesper Sparrow was at El Paso, El Paso 21 Jul (JSp). Two Lark Sparrows at Candy Abshier W.M.A., Chambers 22 Jul (JKe) may have been local breeders. A Grasshopper Sparrow on the Katy Prairie, Harris 10 Jun (JB) was notable, as they are no longer annual nesters on the U.T.C. In the n. portion of the state, Grasshopper Sparrows had a banner year, highlighted by high counts of 44 in Van Zandt 18 Jul (RKi) and reports of multiple birds from nearly every county on the South Plains (m.ob.). A very late White-crowned Sparrow lingered in Austin, Travis until 9 Jun (T&PW). A late migrant Black-headed Grosbeak at Muleshoe N.W.R., Bailey 10 Jun (AH) provided only the 2nd Jun record for the South Plains. Also late was a Dove-breasted Grosbeak at High I. 10 Jun (DVe). Up to 2 Blue Grosbeaks were present along Hebert

Rd., Waller during the period (BH); this species is a very rare summer resident on the U.T.C., though it is usually present in good numbers in adjacent Washington. Similarly, Indigo Buntings were present all period in Waller, with a peak of 10 singing birds 15 Jul (BH); this species is more common in savanna habitats in Washington. Six ad. and 2 fledgling Indigo Buntings provided continued evidence of breeding at White River L., Crosby 30 Jun (AH). A territorial male Varied Bunting was in the Carrizo Mts. in extreme e. Hudspeth 22 Jul (ph. JPa). There are few county records, but the species is likely more widespread in the area than is known due to a lack of access to appropriate habitat. Dickcissles had an incredible breeding season on the South Plains, with reports of multiple birds



Nothing short of bizarre, this Common Redpoll on the Bolivar Peninsula, Galveston County, Texas on 13 June 2007 provided the third summer record for the state. Astonishingly, all of these records have come from coastal locations. Photograph by Linda Vratas.

from virtually every county (m.ob.).

A very well-described female Bobolink was at Oasis Creek Ranch, Hemphill 14 Jul (BP), providing a very rare record for the Panhandle. Bronzed Cowbirds continue to be found in increasing numbers on the South Plains, with more than 20 individuals noted during the period (m.ob.). A very late, or possibly nesting, male Baltimore Oriole was at Willow Springs G.C., Tarrant 18 Jul (JSc). The bird of the season was a Common Redpoll photographed at a seed feeder on the Bolivar Pen., Galveston 13 Jun (LV), providing the 9th state and 2nd U.T.C. record. Amazingly, the other U.T.C. record was also from Jun!

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Colorado & Wyoming



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The Region experienced a warm summer, with both states rated above normal in June. July blistered both states, with Colorado's overall temperature much above normal (the 6th warmest in 113 years), and Wyoming tallying its record warmest July in 113 years of record. Fortunately, precipitation did not necessarily correlate inversely with temperature in the Region during the hot summer. While both states received below-normal precipitation in June, Colorado got near-normal precipitation in July, and Wyoming had above-normal precipitation for the month. Drought conditions remained fairly constant throughout the summer, with most of eastern Colorado remaining free of drought categorization and western parts of the state only experiencing abnormally dry or moderate drought intensities. Southwestern Wyoming was still the Region's most drought-afflicted area, with severe and extreme drought conditions persisting there. Much of the rest of Wyoming saw moderate drought or abnormally dry conditions, with only the northeastern part of the state clear of drought categorization.

Water managers in Colorado were able to fill and maintain full pools in many reservoirs, particularly in the northeastern part of the state, the most accessible shorebirding habitat for many Front Range birders. While easing water supply worries for much of the state, southbound shorebirds and their attendant scope-toting groupies found very little mud to meet their needs, resulting in a lackluster shorebirding season. Still, enough birders made the listserv headlines to engage armchair birders and active chasers alike this season, including Wood Stork, Common Black-Hawk, Harris's Hawk, Red Phalarope, Long-

tailed Jaeger, Magnificent Hummingbird, and most substantially, Colorado's first Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Abbreviations: C.C. Riverwalk (Cañon City Riverwalk, *Fremont*); Crow Valley (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*). Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Colorado except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text.

GEESSE THROUGH JAEGERS

A Greater White-fronted Goose at Williams Creek Res., *Hinsdale* 26-30 Jun (P. Derven, JBy) was quite rare for the season, particularly in such a high-mountain location, and a Wood Duck at Craig, *Moffat* 8 Jun (LS) was locally rare. A male Eurasian Wigeon was a rare summer find 2-10 Jun in *Sedgwick* (H. Armknecht). A Mexican Duck was photographed s. of Lake City, *Mineral* 20 Jul (BKP, MP) and added another datum to the confusing occurrence pattern of this subspecies of Mallard in Colorado. Four male Harlequin Ducks graced the Snake R. near Astoria, *Teton*, WY 12 Jun (*vide* DF), a site at which the species has not previously been reported. Rare summer Colorado reports of Common Goldeneye were obtained from *Chaffee*, *El Paso*, and *Fremont*, but Barrow's Goldeneye went unreported away from breeding areas. At least 4 Common Loons, slightly more than typical, spent part or all of the summer on larger water bodies in *Arapahoe*, *Bent*, and *El Paso*.

All but one of the seven reports of Green Heron came from typical nesting areas, with the outlier, a heard-only bird n. of Craig near the Wyoming border 9 Jun (TL), providing a first *Moffat* record. A Wood Stork was reported briefly from a pond near Windsor, *Weld* 9 Jun (?M. De Wett) and would, if accepted, provide the first Colorado record since 1934. An ad. Mississippi Kite along Fountain Cr., *El Paso* 8 Jun (CW, SR) was a bit out of range, while one at Alamosa 20 Jul (MP et al.) provided a first *Alamosa* record. A Common Black-Hawk (age unreported) was

reported from Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca* 12 Jun (D. Payne, D. Williams).

To round out the rare raptor show, a molting first-cycle Harris's Hawk was in a Pueblo West yard 30 Jun-1 Jul (ph. BKP) and would provide a first Pueblo and 4th Colorado record. An ad. Broad-winged Hawk at Rye, *Pueblo* 10 Jun-21 Jul (DS) acted agitated on occasion during its stay and was suspected of breeding locally. A juv. seen there in Aug would seem to provide added support for that possibility; there is only one breeding record for the species in Colorado.

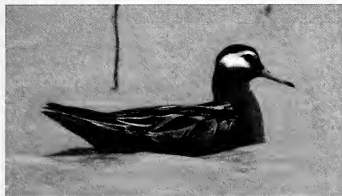
Up to 4 singing Black Rails continued from the spring into Jul at Nepesa, *Pueblo* (MP, BKP, LS). Only one ad. Sandhill Crane was



This potential fourth-state-record Harris's Hawk loitered about a residential neighborhood in Pueblo West, Pueblo County, Colorado 30 June through 1 July (here) 2007. Photograph by Brandon K. Perival.

seen sporadically this summer in the area of the recent *Weld* nesting site, possibly suggesting that the species did not nest locally this year. A Black-necked Stilt 2 Jun near Craig (FL) was the first in "several years" in the area, and 3 on 8 Jun at Rio Blanco S.W.A., Rio Blanco (DF) were not that far away and also locally rare. An Upland Sandpiper in *Cheyenne* 28 Jun (VAT) was somewhat s. of

SA An ad. Common Black-Hawk was seen well at the Mackenzie Bridge, Cañon City, *Fremont* 1-2 Jul and 29 Sep-2 Oct (RM, m.o.b.) and is presumed to be the same individual that was present at this site in the fall of 2004 and 2005 (likely but unconfirmed sightings) and 2-28 Sep 2006. While habitat along this stretch of the Arkansas R. certainly seems suitable for the species, the fact that it has only been seen in late summer and fall is suggestive of post-breeding dispersal. The species breeds not all that far away in ne. New Mexico (Canadian R.), but it would be nice to know where this bird is breeding.



Most Red Phalaropes that wander to Colorado are juveniles or basic adults, so having a bright alternate-plumaged female grace a small wet plays in Weld county for a week was a treat for the birders who braved the prairie winds to see it. From 2-9 (here 3) June 2007, it subsisted on Tadpole Shrimp, a crustacean denizen of such ephemeral ponds. Photograph by Bill Schimker.

typical breeding areas, though the county is, at best, poorly birded and poorly known. A Silt Sandpiper was a bit late 2 Jun near Lower Latham Res., Weld (BK) and was the "best" that Colorado mud-birders could turn up this year. The shorebird highlight of the season was provided by the ad. female Red Phalarope 2-9 Jun that enlivened a pond in back-country Weld (TBK, ph. BS); the species is Regionally very rare as a spring migrant.

A second-cycle Bonaparte's Gull at Hinman Res., Grand 7 Jun (ph. LS) was very late or summering and may have accounted for the record of a second-cycle bird at Walden Res. 16-20 Jul (ph. LS) in neighboring Jackson. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Pueblo Res. 26 Jul (PH) provided one of few (all recent) summer Colorado records and the first such for well-birded Pueblo. The fall Black Tern flight kicked off in Colorado on 28 Jul, with the species seen at multiple sites in the northeast and with 41 at Jackson Res., Morgan (TL et al.). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was quite a surprise at Cherry Creek Res., Arapahoe 22 Jul (ph. J. Connell); all previous Colorado summer jaeger reports have proven to be of Pomarine Jaeger.

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

Most of Colorado's 14 reports of White-winged Dove have come from the se. part of the state, with the most far-flung being of a singing bird in Dinosaur N.M., Moffat 10 Jun (T. Litteral). With w. Yellow-billed Cuckoo populations suffering, it is good to see tenacity by the species at Paonia and Hotchkiss, both Delta (J. Beason, A. Robinson). Three nests of Black Swift in the Wet Mts. w. of Pueblo (PH) probably accounted for individuals seen a bit farther afield at Colorado City in Jun and Jul (DS). A female Magnificent Hummingbird was an on-again, off-again visitor to feeders in the town of Crystal, Gunnison

from Jun through at least 26 Jul (ph. T. Coles); it provided a rare summer record. An ad. male Ruby-throated Hummingbird popped in at the Stulp residence, Prowers 13 Jul (ph. J. Stulp), the 2nd of this review species at the location and one of seven species of hummingbird recorded there! An imm. male Black-chinned Hummingbird was a bit out of range to the n. at the Paulsen residence n. of Lamar, Prowers 19-21 Jul (LP), and another male Black-chinned was well out of range to the n. at Bobcat Ridge, Larimer 16-18 Jul (S. Miller, ph. R. Hopper). The fall migration of Calliope Hummingbird in Colorado started a few days early, with individuals 21 Jun at Arapaho N.W.R., Jackson (D. Dillman) and 25 Jun at Leadville, Lake (T. Kalmbach).

The 2000 Hayman Burn has been providing habitat for large numbers of American Three-toed Woodpeckers since 2001. This summer, Lewis's and Red-headed Woodpeckers were both found in the burn 26 Jun, with the former near Sixmile Hill and the latter nw. of Cheeseman Res., both Jefferson (C. Blakeslee). A Red-headed Woodpecker was a rare find at Pacific Creek, Teton, WY 3 Jun (J. Heerman). A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued through the summer at Lamar (DAL). As the species is quite rare and local in nw. Colorado due to the lack of Ponderosa Pine, Williamson's Sapsuckers feeding young 27 Jul near Pearl Lake Campground, Routt (FL) were of interest. A Red-naped Sapsucker was at an odd low-elevation location 8 Jun at the Inverness Golf Course, Arapahoe (S. Stachowiak). An apparent Yellow-shafted Flicker was well w. of normal, particularly for summer, at California Park, Routt 24 Jun (AS).

Rare in Colorado, no fewer than 3 Eastern Wood-Pewees were reported: singles along Boulder Creek, Boulder 3-9 Jun (EZ), at Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso 8-16 Jun (CW, SR), and at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area 22 Jun (E. Baker). Alder Flycatcher is a rare, but apparently regular, late-spring mi-

grant through e. Colorado, with this spring's bird at Crow Valley 1 Jun (AS et al.). Late for the low-elevation location was the Willow Flycatcher at Pueblo West 7 Jun (BKP). Least Flycatcher, although a relatively common migrant across e. Colorado, was historically very rare in the mts. and unknown there in summer. Summer reports, including nesting records, have been mounting in those areas during the past decade, and this summer saw a pair again nesting at Neversink Park, Gunnison 1 Jun-4 Jul (CD, B. Wright). Additional pairs were near Wuanita Hot Springs and w. of Gunnison, both Gunnison 14 Jun (LS, M. Lockwood), while up to 4 were at Loudy-Simpson Park in Craig, where seen throughout the period (FL). Late and westerly was the Eastern Phoebe at Crow Valley 1 Jun (m.ob.). Only one Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported, that being from near Colorado Springs, El Paso 16 Jun (T. Bulow).

Bell's Vireos are restricted as breeders in Colorado to the ne. corner of the state, so noteworthy were the singing males at Oxbow S.W.A., Otero 20 Jun (J. Drummond) and at Flagler S.W.A., Kit Carson 28 Jun (BK). Gray Vireo is a regular nester in pinyon-juniper woodlands in w. Colorado but is infrequently observed on the e. side of the Continental Divide; the individual in rural e. Las Animas 16 Jun (BKP, MPe) was in an area of previous oc-



Another indication of the species' expanding breeding range in the state, this male Black-chinned Hummingbird was observed over a short span in mid-July 2007 (here on the 18th) in Larimer County, Colorado. Photograph by Rachel Hopper.

currence. The status of Red-eyed Vireo in summer in e. Colorado is a bit enigmatic. Singing birds are sporadically found, although evidence of actual nesting is nearly non-existent, and it appears that many of those birds establish territories but do not attract mates. No fewer than 7 were detected this summer (through 17 Jun) from Adams, Boulder, Douglas, and Fremont. Wyoming hosted a westerly bird as well, with one at Grand Teton N.P., Teton 17 Jun (S. Wolff).

RAVENS THROUGH FINCHES

Establishing one of exceedingly few good records for the West Slope, 2 Chihuahuan Ravens were seen in rural Montezuma 27 Jul (DAL). Low in elevation and out of habitat, a male Purple Martin was photographed in Craig 29 Jun (D. Barnes). Quite unusual was the presence of a group of Bushtits in a spruce-fir complex at 3060 m in the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area, Routt 11 Jul (N. Korte). A harbinger of things to come in fall, a *nelsoni* White-breasted Nuthatch was low in elevation at Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo 26 Jul (B. Maynard). Three Carolina Wrens were in e. Colorado, one present most of the period at the C. C. Riverwalk (RM, SM), one at Cottonwood Canyon, Las Animas 3 Jul (CW, SR), and one in Denver, Denver 16-24 Jun (*vide* J. Takamine). Establishing the 2nd record for the county, a Sedge Wren briefly set up territory near Lagerman Res., Boulder 6-12 Jun (ph. S. Rashid). As in the previous



This singing male Sedge Wren defended its territory against rival House Wrens in rural Boulder County, Colorado at least 2 through 12 (here) June 2007. Photograph by Bill Schmecker.

summer's report, continued effort to map locations of breeding Veery found the species at a "new" site, along Navajo Cr., Archuleta 3 Jun (J. Beatty).

After a poor spring showing, e. warblers put on a good show this summer in Colorado. A female Golden-winged was at Crow Valley 1 Jun (m.ob.). Single singing Northern Parulas were at the Bear Creek Nature Center, El Paso 20-23 Jun (VAT, m.ob.) and along the C. C. Riverwalk 24 Jun (RM). Up to 4 male Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen, including one very westerly one at Grand Junction, Mesa 8-12 Jul (C. Brysky). Unexpected was the male Magnolia Warbler photographed at 3030 m near Braunard L., Boulder 3 Jun (ph. W. Szeliga). A male Black-throated Gray Warbler along Cache Cr., Teton 8 Jun (E. & J. Good) was out of range and habitat for Wyoming. Grace's Warblers are localized, sporadic breeders in the se. mts. of Colorado.

Two singing males were present through the period near Wetmore, Custer (SM, BS), and successful nesting was observed. Up to 7 males were in rural w. Las Animas through the period as well (TL, AS). A singing Prairie Warbler was in n. Larimer 11 Jun (A. Panjabi), and a singing Blackpoll Warbler was at the Carson Nature Center, Arapahoe 22 Jun (JK, B. Kellner). A singing Ovenbird was in Jefferson 11 Jul at a previously unknown location, and another was at the Teton Science School, Teton, WY 16 Jun (B. Bedrosian). Quite exciting was the male Kentucky Warbler found in sw. Colorado in Dolores, Montezuma 6 Jun (S. Allerton et al.); there are only two prior West Slope records. For the 2nd year in a row, a pair of Hooded Warblers nested and raised young (4 this year) along the C. C. Riverwalk (RM).

With more effort expended on the search, more and more locations are found in se. Colorado that support breeding (or at least territorial) Hepatic Tanagers. In addition to 3 located in spring, a singing male was n. of Kim, Las Animas 16 Jun (MP, BKP); the 3 on the Bader Ranch found in spring were still present 3 Jul (CW, SR). Attractive was the blazing male Scarlet Tanager that set up territory in Gregory Canyon, Boulder through the season (J. Harlan, K. M. Dunning, m.ob.). The status of Brewer's Sparrow, typically an inhabitant of arid sagebrush lowlands, in high montane areas of Colorado is puzzling. Discussion continues on the possibility that some of these alpine-breeding birds might be referable to the Timberline subspecies known to breed as far s. as s. Montana. Rare for the location and habitat, a Lark Sparrow was in Jackson, Teton in early Jun (M. Melton). A tarty Harris's Sparrow lingered through 1 Jun near Lamar (LP).

Westerly was the male Northern Cardinal at Chatfield S.P., Jefferson 22 Jul (JK, GW), and somewhat unusual was the singing male Rose-breasted Grosbeak near Manitou Springs, El Paso in early Jun (BSI). Rare for w. Wyoming, a male Indigo Bunting set up territory in early Jun in Pinedale, Sublette (Phlugof family). Painted Buntings continue to be regular in summer in Cottonwood Canyon,



Backed up all the way to the western edge of Colorado's Eastern Plains and far west of the species' typical range in the state, this male Northern Cardinal brightened the woods of Chatfield State Park, Jefferson County on 22 July 2007. Photograph by Joey Kellner.

Baca/Las Animas, with at least one male observed there through a good portion of the season (BKP, MP, CW, SR). Dickcissels pushed farther w. than usual in Colorado, some even to the foothills, with sightings coming from Las Animas, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, and Boulder. Eastern Meadowlarks were found again in Colorado, with one singing Lillian's in rural Huerfano 21 Jun-1 Jul (TL), and up to 3 Easterns at Poncha Springs, Chaffee 22 Jul (MP, BS, BKP). Great-tailed Grackles continue to spread northward in Colorado; a male photographed at Rio Blanco S.W.A., Rio Blanco in early Jun (DF et al.) established a first county record. A few Baltimore Orioles pushed w. of normal in Colorado, with 2 in Boulder (EZ) and a pair in w. Weld (M. Maeda) during the period.

The avian summer sensation in Wyoming was the discovery of a pair of Black Rosy-Finches in the Snowy Range, Albany, very near the Colorado border, where the birds were seen 21-30 Jul (B. Waitkus, C. Benkman); the species is known to breed in Wyoming only in the Big Horns and mts. of the nw part of the state. Brown-capped Rosy-Finches regularly breed in the Snowies, and to

SA Colorado's first Lawrence's Goldfinch, an ad. male first found 23 May, continued through 24 Jul in a Grand Junction yard (LA, m.ob.). During the early part of the bird's stay, it was seen to be associated with a female Lesser Goldfinch, exhibiting both "following flight" and "billing" behaviors that are indicative of pair formation among goldfinch species. This raised speculations about local breeding and hybridization. During 3-8 Jul, the male was seen with oddly plumaged (grayish rather than olive) juv. goldfinches visiting the yard's feeders, and was observed on several occasions to feed begging juvs., but the specific identity of these youngsters was never solidly confirmed.

our knowledge, this may represent the first documented occurrence of the two species occupying the same location during the breeding season. Irregular during any season, 2 White-winged Crossbills were in *Route* in late Jun (AS). A Lesser Goldfinch in *Skyline, Teton*, on 7 Jun (BR) was well north and out of habitat for Wyoming.

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Idaho & Western Montana



David Trochlell

The warm and dry weather trend of late spring continued throughout the summer period but intensified beyond all expectations. After June, it was unbelievably hot; in fact, both states experienced the warmest July ever recorded in 107 years of weather data. A strong and persistent high-pressure ridge over the Rockies allowed heat to build and prevented storms or cooler Pacific marine air from penetrating inland. At most locations, records were shattered for numbers of days above 90° F and for highest temperatures. The average daily high for Missoula, Montana in July was an incredible 96.6°, which was higher than every city east of the Rocky Mountains—including those in Texas! Hot, dry conditions and irrigation drawdowns greatly diminished streams and reservoirs, if not completely depleting them. It is assumed that countless nesting waterfowl were left high and dry and that significant nest abandonment occurred, but as usual, few specific data were reported. The drought impacted nesting land birds too, as evidenced by re-

ports of scarce sagebrush-associated birds in Idaho and high mortality among Tree Swallow and Mountain Bluebird broods in Montana.

Abbreviations: Camas (Camas N.W.R., Jefferson, ID); latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana).

DUCKS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A Hooded Merganser with young near Challis 4 Jun (BW) provided a rare Idaho breeding record and a first for Latilong 13. Even more spectacular was a Horned Grebe family seen in *Boundary* 11 Jul (HK) that furnished Idaho's first verified nesting record. Great Egrets are unusual in w. Montana, so singles in *Beaverhead* (NK) and *Madison* (EH) 3 Jun were noteworthy. A Snowy Plover discovered near Somers 19-21 Jun (ph. DC) was Montana's 7th. Amazingly, w. Montana's 4th Red Phalarope was at that same location 18-19 Jun (ph. DC). If accepted, a Long-tailed Jaeger at C. J. Strike Res., *Owyhee* 6 Jul (BH) would be Idaho's 11th. Always rare in the n. portion of the Region, a Franklin's Gull was near Somers, MT 20 Jul (DC). A Little Gull that stopped near Preston, ID 16 Jul (AB) will bring in Idaho's 8th report, if accepted. Bonaparte's Gulls are unusual in midsummer, so 2-7 near Somers, MT 17 Jun-31 Jul (DC) were notable. One of the highlights of the season was a Least Tern discovered near Stevensville 10 Jun (BD, ph. WT), which provided a first record for w. Montana. Eurasian Collared-Doves were recorded at new n. Idaho locations, including Bonners Ferry 23 Jun (GS) and Kamiah, Lewis 28 Jun (MH). An observation of Long-eared Owl fledglings at Craters of the Moon N.M., *Butte* 24-28 Jun (MM) confirmed breeding in Idaho's Latilong 20. In

Black Swift news, a pair seen near Powell, ID 25 Jun (MH) provided a first for Latilong 6, and in Montana, a nest site discovered in *Ravalli* 5 Jul (RP) will be the Treasure State's 4th known breeding location, if verified. The species is a rare and very local breeder in the Region, with a poorly understood life history. If accepted, an Anna's Hummingbird in *Kootenai*, ID 20-23 Jul (ph., †DW), will represent a first for the county and Latilong 2. Single vocal Alder Flycatchers were reported in *Coolin*, ID 14 Jun (RB) and *Glacier* N.P., MT 26 Jun (PS); although increasingly reported, nesting has not been documented in the Region.

JAYS THROUGH FINCHES

Documentation of Steller's Jay fledglings near Ola, Gem, ID (FZ) confirmed breeding in Latilong 11. A spectacular find was a Purple Martin s. of Rexburg 29-30 May (DCI, †CW), which provided Idaho's 15th report. The only Bewick's Wren was in *Gem*, ID 30 Jul (MW); the species is rare but increasingly reported. The Wood Thrush at Camas since 19 May was last observed 14 Jun (JC). A Varied Thrush seen near Ennis L., MT 1 Jun (NK) represented a first for Latilong 38. Northern Mockingbirds made a very good showing in Idaho, with singles in *Bonneville* 2 Jun (TM), *Camas* 22 Jun (BDV), *Nez Perce* 28 Jun (TG), and *Freemont* 4 Jun-3 Jul (CW). Far less expected were those in Montana, where one was near Elliston 16 Jun (DS) and another near Gardner 30 Jun-23 Jul (EHC, JP) provided a first record in Latilong 39. A Sage Thrasher was well out of range in *Latah*, ID 2 Jun (ph. TG). Single Idaho Brown Thrashers, rare but nearly annual, were at Camas 1-3 Jun (JC) and in *Butte* 13-19 Jun (†JC). If accepted, a Curve-billed Thrasher in *Ada* 28 Jul (†HK) will represent Idaho's 2nd record. Always rare in Mon-

SA Something was afoot with Brewer's Sparrows in the Pacific Northwest this summer, because a widespread irruption of the birds occurred outside of their sagebrush desert breeding range. In mid-Jun, reports began to trickle in from n. Idaho, in *Kootenai*, *Latah*, and *Nez Perce*, where the sparrows were discovered defending territories in clearcut forests, riparian areas, and weedy patches. Estimates of Brewer's Sparrow populations at these sites were from "a few" to about a dozen birds, and the birds apparently persisted at these locations throughout the summer. Unfortunately, there were no reports of confirmed nesting, but a sparrow seen carrying food in *Latah* provided circumstantial evidence of breeding. A prevailing theory for this phenomenon was that Brewer's Sparrows found unsuitable conditions in sagebrush desert areas in late spring, causing them to seek open, brushy habitats elsewhere. Lending credence to this explanation were several Idaho B.B.S. reports from sagebrush desert areas, which reported unusually few Brewer's Sparrows.

tana, Ovenbirds were detected at Red Lodge 7 Jun (BJ) and s. of Bozeman 29 Jun (LAH). The warbler of the season was Idaho's 5th Hooded Warbler in *Owyhee* 11 Jun (ph., †GSA).

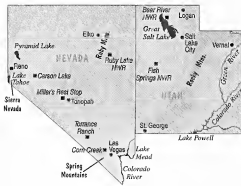
Lark Sparrow breeding was confirmed in Idaho's Latlong 4, when a pair with fledglings was observed in *Nez Perce* 28 Jun (TG). Idaho Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, rare but regular, were recorded near Sun Valley 2 Jun (BHp), in

Kootenai 7-8 Jul (J&RHS), and at Island Park 27 Jul (CW). Not to be outdone, Montana reported a pair near Bozeman 18 Jun (IS). A Common Grackle was found in *Ada*, ID 6 July (HK), where they are not annual. The only Great-tailed Grackle sighting was at A.E.R. 15 Jul (CT). An observation of Lesser Goldfinches with young in Bellevue, ID 22 Jun (KC) established a first breeding record in Latlong 19.

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Great Basin



Rick Fridell

Temperatures this summer were exceedingly high throughout much of the Great Basin, with average daily June and July temperatures setting record highs in both northern and southern Utah. In addition to the heat, it was also abnormally dry, with very little measurable precipitation through mid-July. These conditions contributed to chronic wildfires and one of the most intense fire seasons on record, both in number of wildfires and total acres burned. Thunderstorms in late July provided some much-needed relief. As usual, these conditions limited summer birding activity in the Region; however, intrepid observers still managed many noteworthy sightings. Highlights included Prothonotary and Hooded Warblers in Nevada and a Scarlet Tanager and possibly Utah's first confirmed Painted Bunting at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, *Davis*, UT); Bear R. (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, *Box Elder*, UT); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, *Desert N.W.R.*, *Clark*, NV); Farmington Bay (Farmington Bay W.M.A., *Davis*, UT); Fish Springs (Fish Springs N.W.R., *Juab*, UT); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, *Clark*, NV); L. Mead (Lake Mead N.R.A., *Clark*, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, *Washington*, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, *Esmeralda*, NV); Ouray (Ouray N.W.R., *Uintah*, UT); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., *St. George*, *Washington*, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., *Washington*, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

One of the most unusual sightings of the season was of a wayward first-summer Pacific Loon, first observed 16 Jul at Panguitch L., *Garfield*, UT (RF, KC). The bird remained at this seldom-birded high-elevation site through at least 25 Jul (ph. TA). Also unusual but a bit more expected were basic-plumaged Common Loons summering at Enterprise (JK, KW) and Kolob Reservoirs, *Washington*, UT (RF, KC).

Common Black-Hawks are only found regularly in the Region in the sw. corner of Utah, and this summer there were at least three pairs nesting along the Beaver Dam Wash and one pair nesting along the Santa Clara R., *Washington*, UT (LT, RF et al.); one of the nesting pairs along the Beaver Dam Wash successfully fledged 2 young hawks. Red-shoul-

dered Hawk sightings are increasing in the Region, and ads. were observed at Fernley, *Lyon*, NV (21 Jul; DS), Fish Springs (24-31 Jul; MML, RL, AR), and Bishop Springs, *Millard*, UT (31 Jul; ph. RF). Zone-tailed Hawks were observed again this summer in the Kolob Meadows/Lava Pt. area of Zion (25 Jun-25 Aug; ph., †TA, RF); however, nesting has not been confirmed.

A flock of 7 Whimbrels made a nice surprise 2 Jun at Panguitch L., *Garfield*, UT (JK, KW). Surprisingly, another Whimbrel was reported 2 Jun at Huntington S.P., *Emery*, UT (PJ, SC). Three White-rumped Sandpipers were found 3 Jun at Deseret Ranch, *Rich*, UT (†MS, ph. DW), and another was photographed 21 Jul at Antelope Island (p.a., TA). There are only six previous accepted White-rumped Sandpiper records in Utah. A juv. Stilt Sandpiper and a Common Tern were among the highlights observed on a 16 Jun tour of Deseret Ranch, *Rich*, UT (MS et al.). Least Terns were observed at the Glendale G.C., *Salt Lake*, UT (23 Jun; ph. TA) and at Mason Valley W.M.A., *Lyon*, NV (20 Jul; †JRY, PM).

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

A White-winged Dove visiting a Salt Lake residence, *Salt Lake*, UT 24 Jun (BH) was n. of expected range. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo observed 16 Jun at the confluence of the Delores R. and Colorado R., *Grand*, UT (TA) was the only one reported in the Region. A Greater

Roadrunner was photographed 20 Jun (TA) at Indian Peaks W.M.A., Beaver, UT, a most unusual location for this species. A probable Elf Owl was heard calling 17 Jul along the Beaver Dam Wash, Washington, UT (p.a., TA). A Black Swift was observed 22 Jun (LT) in Stout Canyon, Kane, UT. The timing and location of this observation are very intriguing, as this species has only been confirmed breeding in a few locations in n. Utah.

A Broad-billed Hummingbird was reported with limited details 28 Jul in the Soapstone Basin, Wasatch, UT (p.a., AB). A female Costa's Hummingbird was out of place visiting a feeder 27 Jul in Park City, Summit, UT (K&DH). A male Ladder-backed Woodpecker was a surprising find 9 Jun in pinyon-juniper habitat, Pine Valley, Beaver, UT (LG).

A Least Flycatcher was observed 6 Jun along the Beaver Dam Wash, Washington, UT (RF). Reports of this species are increasing in the Region, either due to an actual increase in occurrence, observers becoming more adept at identifying them—or perhaps observers thinking they are becoming more adept at identifying this tricky species. Eastern Kingbirds turned up at two surprising Clark, NV locations: Corn Cr. (10 Jun; GS, J&MC) and Warm Springs, Moapa (14-15 Jul; BL). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported 11 Jul along I-84, Summit, UT (p.a., DGr). Perhaps an early harbinger of a significant fall movement, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches showed up 29 Jul at a Fernley residence, Lyon, NV (DS).

A female Varied Thrush on 10 Jun was an unexpected traveler along the Mirror Lake Hwy, Summit, UT (J&KB). There were several reports of wayward Gray Catbirds in early Jun, including individuals at Blackrock, Mildard, UT (1 Jun; RF), Panguitch L., Garfield, UT (2 Jun; JK, KW), Porter Springs, Pershing, NV (2 Jun; F&GP, D&JM), and Leidy Cr., Dyer, Esmeralda, NV (2 Jun; GS).

There were a few nice *e.* warblers reported in the first half of Jun, including a male Chestnut-sided Warbler photographed 8 Jun at Lucin, Box Elder, UT (ph., †KE, JRe), a Black-and-white Warbler at Corn Cr. (9 Jun; Rsa), and an American Redstart at Sage Hen Rd., Dyer, Esmeralda, NV (2-3 Jun; GS). A female Prothonotary Warbler was a nice find 12 Jun at the Torrance Ranch, Beatty, Nye, NV (ph. GS), and an Ovenbird was observed 2 Jun at the Circle L Ranch, Dyer, Esmeralda, NV (GS). Following several Hooded Warbler sightings during the spring period, a singing



One of several vagrant eastern warblers observed in the Great Basin region in early June 2007, this female Prothonotary Warbler was a remarkable find 12 June at the Torrance Ranch, near Beatty, Nye County, Nevada. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.

male was photographed 2-3 Jun at Lida, Esmeralda, NV (GS). A pair of Painted Redstarts was observed building a nest 9 Jun along the Riverside Walk in Zion Canyon, Zion (ph., †S&SG); nesting was also confirmed at this location in summer 2006. A male Summer Tanager was photographed 3 Jun at Garr Ranch, Antelope I. (CD), and Utah's 5th confirmed Scarlet Tanager was found at Fish Springs 24-25 Jul (†MMi, RL; ph., †CN).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A singing male White-throated Sparrow was an unexpected summer visitor at Mirror L., Summit, UT (10 Jul; MS). Surprisingly, the only Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported during the season was observed 2 Jun at Indian Peaks W.M.A., Beaver, UT (TA). Indigo Buntings were observed in Clark, Esmeralda, and Nye, NV and Garfield, San Juan, and Washington, UT. One of the highlights of the season was a male Painted Bunting that showed up at remote Fish Springs in w. Utah. The stunning bunting was found 24 Jul (†MMi, ph. RL, AR) and remained through at least 8 Aug, drawing birders and photographers from throughout Utah (†CN, ph. PH, LG, m.ob.). As there was no evidence of banding or abnormal feather wear, this may be Utah's first confirmed Painted Bunting record (p.a.).

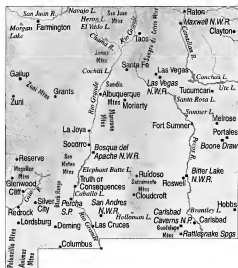
The only Bobolink report was a male observed 4 Jun at Mena, Mineral, NV (RSt, DGH). A possible Eastern Meadowlark was photographed 7 Jun near Blanding, San Juan,

UT (†TA). Unfortunately, the bird remained silent, and due to similarities between the meadowlarks, the U.B.R.C. did not accept this possible first state record. A female Bronzed Cowbird, photographed 2-3 Jul at Central, Washington, UT (LT), supplied Utah's 5th documented record. Several Scott's Orioles were observed 25 Jun n. of expected range, near Vernal, Uintah, UT (BM). White-winged Crossbills, rarely reported in the Region, were observed near Mirror L., Summit, UT (10-22 Jun; J&KB, m.ob.) and at the Monte Cristo Campground, Rich, UT (10 Jul; KP).

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New Mexico



Sartor O. Williams III

Following a year of relatively generous precipitation, summer 2007 presented excellent habitat conditions for breeding birds, especially grassland species, but as the season progressed, drier conditions returned. On the birding front, the season was marked by several outstanding rarities, and Green Kingfisher was added to the list of confirmed species.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap west of Melrose); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck made a brief appearance at the Lordsburg-sewage ponds 29 Jun (ph. CL, ph. CRB). An ad. Trumpeter Swan, first found at Enbom L. in May, was at Stinking L. 12 Jul (ph. DS). Noteworthy Wood Duck broods were one each at Rinconda, *Rio Arriba* 20 Jun (RT) and Mesilla Dam 14 Jul (ph. CL). Unusual for the s. was a Cinnamon Teal brood at Deming 11 Jun (LM). A male Ring-necked Duck was a surprise at Whiskey L., Chuska Mts., McKinley 17 Jun (TR). The female of a pair of White-tailed Ptarmigan on the Santa Barbara Ridge below Jicarita Peak 28 Jul (JP, JPB, ph. DE-B) was in winter (white) plumage, apparently the result of hormonal imbalance (*vide* C. Braun). Unusual above treeline, 5 Dusky Grouse were in stunted willows at Jicarita Peak 28 Jul (JP, JPB, ph. DE-B). A female Gambel's Quail was herding 50 chicks at Bosque 18 Jun (DH); the relatively cool, wet spring led to improved breeding success for

both Gambel's and Scaled Quail nearly statewide. North of usual were 2 singing Montezuma Quail near Horse Springs, *Catron* 3 Jun (DH). Late was a Common Loon found injured at Mesquite 3 Jun (ph. DG), and an apparently healthy one was at B.L.N.W.R. 6 Jun (JH); apparently summering was one at Maxwell 30 Jun and 21 Jul (CR, DE-B). Moderate numbers of Eared Grebes nested in *Rio Arriba*, including 200 nests at Horse L. 29 Jun, 100 nests at Stinking L. 12 Jul, and nine nests at Stone L. 27 Jun (DS); in *Colfax*, eight Eared nests were at Stubblefield L. 9 Jul, where there was an ad. with chicks 24 Jul (DC). Unusual in the sw., an American White Pelican was in the Arenas Valley near Silver City 30 Jul (ph. S. Loeffler).

Surveys for colonial waterbirds located four small nesting colonies in the middle R.G.V. at San Acacia, Quates L. s. of San Marcial, Monticello Bay at E.B.L., and upper Caballo L. 12-13 Jun (DS, RD); highlights included 4 Neotropic Cormorant nests at Quates L. and one at E.B.L. 13 Jun (DS, RD), 15 Great Blue Heron nests at Quates L. 13 Jun (DS, RD), 23 Cattle Egret nests at San Acacia 12 Jun (DS), and 35 Great Egret nests at Quates L. 13 Jun (DS, RD). High count for foraging Great Egrets was 82 at Bosque 7 Jul (JP). An American Bittern at Bosque 27-28 Jun (GF) provided the single report. A Least Bittern was a surprise at Texico 20 Jul (BO). Rarer herons were an imm. Little Blue at Bosque 15 Jul (DE-B) and a Tricolored at B.L.N.W.R. 6 Jun (JH). A small White-faced Ibis colony was established at Stubblefield L. in Jul, where there were three nests with eggs 16-24 Jul and a nestling 30 Jul (ph. DC). Osprey had a banner year in n. *Rio Arriba*, where 12 of 18 nests successfully fledged a record 24 young, and the McKinley nest fledged 2; single Ospreys were at Merrick L., *Colfax* 21 Jun (*vide* DC) and at L. Roberts 3 Jun-29 Jun (NP, JD, DB). White-tailed Kites continued in evidence in *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, and *Doña Ana*, including 2 near Rodeo 28 Jul (ph. RW), a juv. near Hermanas 11 Jul (JPB, ph. MB), and one at Isaac L. 1 Jun (RM). Noteworthy for the upper R.G.V. was a Mississippi Kite at Dixon 4 Jun (RT); surprising for *Grant* was one at L. Roberts 30 Jun (ph. JD). Responding to improved grassland conditions, Northern Harriers continued much in evidence, with summering birds reported in *Colfax*, *Chaves*, *Eddy*, *Valencia*, *Sierra*, *Doña Ana*, *Otero*, *Luna*, and *Hidalgo*, including an ad. with a fledgling in the Uvas Valley 4 Jun (MS, JZ), two pairs

feeding young at Isaac L. 20 Jun (DG), a pair with a fledgling at Hiblar Tank, *Doña Ana* 27 Jun (ph. CL), prey delivery and nest defense near Nutt 14 Jun (SOW), and locally produced juvs. at Rodeo 15 & 22 Jul (ph. RW). An ad. Common Black-Hawk was at L. Roberts on various dates Jun-Jul (JD), and a juv. was there 14 Jul (*vide* DB). Beyond usual range were 2 Harris's Hawks at Cocklebur L. n. of Roswell 11 Jun (WH). A Gray Hawk pair was tending a nest in *Eddy* 6-8 Jun (SOW, ph. RD), a first for the Pecos Valley, but the nest was abandoned by 11 Jul, although the ads. continued in the area through Jul (RD); two Gray Hawk territories were active in New Mexico's Guadalupe Canyon Jun-Jul (ph. JO, m.ob.). Golden Eagle surveys in ne. New Mexico 2-3 Jun found 31 successful nests that fledged 38 young (DS).

PLOVERS THROUGH SWIFTS

Among 12 Snowy Plovers at Laguna Grande 18 Jun were 2 chicks plus 3 ads. on nests (DE-B). Mountain Plovers among the bison and prairie dogs on the Vermejo Ranch e. of Cimarron included an ad. with chicks 2 Jun (ph. DC), another ad. with chicks 19 Jun (ph. DC), and a nest with eggs 4 Jul (ph. DC); small numbers were reported w. to *Taos* 16 Jun (JP), *Santa Fe* 8 Jun (JPB), *Sandoval* 18 Jul (LS), and *Cibola* 4 Jun (DK). Early were single Solitary Sandpipers near Gila 6 Jul (JP)



This aberrant Fulvous Whistling-Duck was at Lordsburg, Hidalgo County, New Mexico on 29 July 2007. There are fewer than a dozen acceptable records, all from the April-May and July-October periods. Photograph by Charles R. Britt.

and at Bosque 7 Jul (JP). Greater Yellowlegs reappeared in late Jun, including 5 at B.L.N.W.R. 22 Jun (JP) and singles at Brantley L. 22 Jun (JP) and Bluewater L. 26 Jun (JT). Scarce in Jun, single Willets were at Bosque 18 Jun (NP) and Maxwell 28 Jun (DC). Some three-dozen Long-billed Curlews persisted in the Uvas Valley, *Doña Ana* into mid-Jun (CL, MS, JZ, DG), including several short-billed birds, apparently juvs., 9 Jun (DG). A re-



A Ruddy Turnstone at Brantley Lake, Eddy County, New Mexico 8 June 2007 was a surprise, as the species is rare in spring and previously unreported in the state in June. Photograph by Robert H. Doster.

markable 5 Marbled Godwits lingered at Brantley L. 8 Jun (RD), where 2 were present 20 Jun (ph. RD) and one persisted 22 Jun (JP); 2 were late at Maxwell 12 Jun (DC). Rare in spring and previously unreported in June, a bright male Ruddy Turnstone was a surprise at Brantley L. 8 Jun (ph. RD). A Semipalmated Sandpiper strayed w. to the Uvas Valley 2 Jun (MS, ph. JZ); even farther w. was one described at Tyrone 29 Jul (EL). Late White-rumped Sandpipers were 2 at Springer L. 5 Jun (ph. DC), 3 at Bosque 13 Jun (JO), and one at Laguna Grande 18 Jun (DE-B). Earliest Pectoral Sandpipers were singles at L. Roberts 8 Jul (RS) and Bosque 14 Jul (J. & M. Hirth). A Red-necked Phalarope lingered at Bosque 1-3 Jun (CL, NP).

Nicely documented was a first-year Laughing Gull at Bosque 1 Jun (ph. CL). New Mexico's breeding Least Terns had another poor year: 10 pairs nested at B.L.N.W.R., but most failed, and by late Jul only 2 young had fledged, although at least two pairs were re-nesting late (J. Montgomery); high water at Brantley L. flooded all likely nesting flats, where the high count was 6 ads. on 11 Jun (WH), but only one to 2 lingered into Jul (RD). Least Terns away from known breeding areas were 9 at L. Avalon 21 Jul (SW) and singles at Grulla N.W.R. 20 Jul (BO) and Holloman L. 17 Jun (CL). Unexpected in Jun were 2 Caspian Terns at Brantley L. 20 Jun (ph. RD) and one at Radium Springs 25 Jun (MS, JZ). An ad. light-morph Parasitic Jaeger at Brantley L. 21 Jun (ph. RD) provided the state's 2nd confirmed record. A Band-tailed Pigeon wandered to San Andres N.W.R. 16 Jun (CL). Common Ground-Dove made a fair showing, with singles at Gila 23 Jun (JMB, CLB), Rodeo 11 Jul (RW), and the middle Animas Valley 2 Jul (DE-B), and up to 2 in Guadalupe Canyon 27 & 30 Jun (NP, JR, JO). Noteworthy for e. *San Miguel* were 5 Yellow-

billed Cuckoos at Trigg Ranch 5-6 Jul (MM) and one at Conchas Dam 29 Jun (*vide* P. Snider).

An Elf Owl was n. to Mockingbird Gap, White Sands Missile Range, Socorro 10 Jul (CL). Building on widespread spring reports, additional breeding Long-eared Owls were reported this season, including a pair with a fledgling at De Na Zin Wilderness, San Juan 29 Jun (ph. P. Kinslow), a nest with nestlings at Gobernador, Rio Arriba 6 Jun (ph. DE-B), two sites with fledglings near Maxwell 4 Jun (ph. DC), and a

family group of 5 near Hachita 13 Jun (SOW). A remarkable concentration of Short-eared Owls, perhaps involving one or more family groups, was discovered in grasslands e. of Tome, Valencia, where there were 12 on 24-25 Jun (ph. JS), 9 on 30 Jun (JS), and 4 on 4 Jul

upper Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 28 Jul (T. Corman). Earliest Calliope Hummingbirds were single males at Cochiti 9 Jul (MW) and Maxwell 10 Jul (DC); earliest Rufous was a male in upper Cottonwood Canyon 27 Jun (NP), but others did not arrive until 1 Jul and later. A probable ad. male Allen's Hummingbird was described at L. Roberts 22 Jul (BN).

A pair of Elegant Trogons was in the Peloncillo Mts. s. of Skeleton Canyon Jun-Jul (m.ob.), the 2nd consecutive year that this newly discovered site has been occupied. Green Kingfisher was added to the confirmed New Mexico list when the male discovered in May on the Gila R. near Gila was re-found on multiple dates 3 Jun-6 Jul (ph. JO, ph. D. Zimmerman, ph. LM, ph. MB, ph. JMB, m.ob.); interestingly, a female was well described about 14 km downstream at Gila Bird Area 14 Jun (RS). A Red-headed Woodpecker was at seldom-visited Texico 20 Jul (BO). Far-flung Acorn Woodpeckers were 2 in the Chuska Mts. at Foster Spring, San Juan 7 Jun



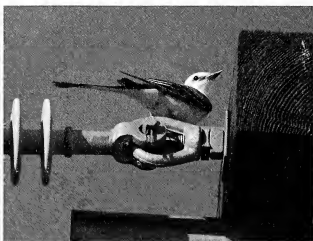
This adult Parasitic Jaeger at Brantley Lake, Eddy County 21 June 2007 furnished New Mexico's second confirmed record of the species. Photograph by Robert H. Doster.

(JS, SOW); another was summering in the s. Animas Valley 1 Jul (ph. JO). A Common Nighthawk nest scrape contained 2 nestlings at Lomas de la Bolsa, Santa Fe 23 Jun (LS). Whip-poor-wills on their n. periphery were 2 in Hausner Canyon, Zuni Mts. 20 Jun (JT) and 3 in Gallinas Canyon, San Miguel 10 Jun (CR). High counts for Chimney Swifts were 12 at Clayton's Eklund Hotel 5 Jul (E. Wooten) and 6 at Texico 20 Jul (BO).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH RAVENS

A male Lucifer Hummingbird n. to L. Roberts 19-26 Jul (R. VanBuskirk, J.R. WW, M. Hilchey) provided a local first; a female was in

(TR), a pair at Sugarite S.P. 20 Jul and one there 28 Jul (ph. DC), and 4 in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 20 Jul (HS). Scarce in summer in the Sacramento Mts., a male Williamson's Sapsucker was s. of Cloudcroft 17 Jun (CL), an early migrant reached Cerillos 12 Jul (LS). Noteworthy for the Zuni Mts. was a Ladder-backed Woodpecker nest in lower Bluewater Gorge 22 Jun (JT). A good season for American Three-toed Woodpeckers produced reports from Taos, Colfax, Santa Fe, Sanáoval, San Miguel, Cibola, and Bernalillo, including an ad. feeding a fledgling below Serpent L. 28 Jul (JR, JPB), a pair tending nestlings at Big Tesque Cr. 24 Jun (ph. JPB),



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher has been spreading northward and westward in New Mexico in recent years, but no one would have predicted a pair (the female here) at a nest at the high elevation of 2134 m at Taos, Taos County (here 5 July 2007). Photograph by Greg and Melissa Coniglio.

an active nest in Hausner Canyon, Zuni Mts. 24 Jun (JT), and an ad. feeding a fledgling on the Sandia Crest Trail 27 Jul (CMB).

One to 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers were in Tajique Canyon, Manzano Mts. 14 Jun (HS), where not known to breed. It has been decades since Willow Flycatcher was found nesting in the San Francisco Valley, but this season a nest at Glenwood and three nests near Alma 7 Jun (H. Walker) all had produced fledglings by 11 Jul (DH); others of note were 2 on Ponil Cr. e. of Cimarron 28 Jun (ph. DC) and a vocal one at L. Roberts 8 Jul (RS). South of known breeding range, an apparent pair of Dusky Flycatchers was seen chasing a cowbird at Aguirre Springs, Organ Mts. 6 Jun (DG). Now well established n. to Colfax, three Black Phoebe nests were in the Cimarron-Springer area 12 Jun–21 Jul (ph. DC). A kingbird of the Couch's/Tropical group was described at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 18 Jun (JT); Tropical remains unverified in New Mexico. Only one Thick-billed Kingbird was in Guadalupe Canyon 30 Jun (JP), where the species has grown scarce in recent years. Late was an active Eastern Kingbird nest at Stubblefield L. 9 Jul (ph. DC). Remarkably far from expected range was a male-female pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers photographed at a nest in Taos 5 Jul (ph. G. & M. Coniglio); others w. of usual were singles at Trigg Ranch, e. San Miguel 5 Jul (MM) and N.R.T. 5 Jun (SOW) and 4 n. of Roswell 11 Jun (WH).

A singing White-eyed Vireo was "captured" on a cell phone at Escondida 29 Jun (V. Hunter). A Bell's Vireo singing e. of Engle 13 Jun (DG) provided a local first. Surveys documented multiple Gray Vireo territories in San Juan (DE-B, TR), the Jicarilla Indian Reservation in Rio Arriba (DS), Santa Fe (JPB, M. Ristow), and in the San Andres, Organ, and Sacra-

mento ranges (m.ob.). As in 2006, a pair of Plumbeous Vireos nested in the Rio Grande bosque near Veguita, Socorro, fledging young by 16 Jul (DH). Hutton's Vireo colonization of the Organ Mts. appears to be complete, with reports from seven canyons 4 Jun–24 Jul (CL, DG, MS, JZ), including a pair feeding fledglings at Fillmore Spring 14 Jun (DG); one n. to Three Rivers Canyon, Otero 30 Jun (WW) was a local first. A singing Red-eyed Vireo was near Cedar Crest 23 Jun (DK), but only Warbling Vireos were found nesting there; a Red-eyed singing along the Delaware R. 10 Jun (RM) was at the same site occupied by a male

in 2006. Eight American Crows were found at Whiskey L., Chuska Mts. 17 Jun (TR). Chihuahuan Raven continues to spread, including a group of 38 on the North Plains, Cibola 4 Jun (DK); in Colfax, three active nests were found 14 Jun (ph. DC). Noteworthy for *Chaves* were 3 Common Ravens w. of Dunken 23 Jun (JP).

SWALLOWS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA

Summering Purple Martins were found n. to the Chuska and Sangre de Cristo ranges, including at five locales in the latter, and 10, including fledglings, were in the recently occupied Gallinas Mts. near Corona 20 Jul (HS);



Although not known to nest in New Mexico, Chestnut-sided Warbler has been found in June in four of the past eight years. This male was singing at Corrales, Sandoval County 5 through 24 (here) June 2007. Photograph by David J. Krueper.

unusual was a male at Albuquerque 2 Jun (S.G.V.). Now rarely found nesting in the middle R.G.V., at least two active Tree Swallow nests were in saltcedar snags s. of San Marcial 13

Jun (RD, DS). Cave Swallows were found nesting n. to a culvert near Brantley L. (SW); farther n., a juv. was well described at B.L.N.W.R. 2 Jul (JH). Noteworthy s. to the Organ Mts. were 2 Mountain Chickadees inspecting a cavity in Fillmore Canyon 6 Jul (DG); others in the Organs were 2 each in Indian Hollow 15 Jul (CL) and Rucker Canyon 24 Jul (CL). Early for the lowlands, a Red-breasted Nuthatch was at Albuquerque 4 Jul (JP). Surprising for *Harding* was a singing House Wren in upper Mills Canyon 27 Jun (HS); 2 were in the Organ Mts. 15 Jul (CL), where not known to breed. Intriguing was a singing Winter Wren at Jemez Falls 5 Jul (JP), where summering birds have been detected in recent years but nesting remains undocumented. Golden-crowned Kinglets away from major mountain ranges were 2 at Narbona Pass, Chuska Mts. 17 Jun (TR), two families in Hausner Canyon, Zuni Mts. 24 Jun (JT), and 4 in the Sandia Mts. 2 Jul (HS).

For the 2nd consecutive year, Black-capped Gnatcatcher was reported from both the New Mexico and Arizona portions of Guadalupe Canyon; in New Mexico, 2 were just e. of the state line and another was near the old orchard 24 Jun (ph. JMB, CLB). Three Black-tailed Gnatcatchers were e. of Engle 13 Jun (DG). West was an Eastern Bluebird n. of El Rito, Rio Arriba 11 Jun (JO); in the middle R.G.V., at least four pairs successfully fledged 2nd broods in Bernalillo, Valencia, and Socorro in Jun or Jul (DH). Noteworthy for the Manzano Mts. was a Townsend's Solitaire in Tajique Canyon 14 Jun (HS). A Veery was singing along the Rio Pueblo near Placitas, Taos 2 Jun (JP). Late was a Gray Catbird at N.R.T. 5 Jun (SOW); far w. was one at Glenwood 24 Jul (*vide* DB). Although outnumbered by Curve-billed Thrashers, a few Bendire's Thrashers were in the Caja del Rio area near Santa Fe, including one to 2 ads. 2 Jun (JPB), a pair 18 Jun (W. West), and one singing 5 Jul (JP). Documenting nesting n. to Colfax was an ad. Curve-billed Thrasher tending fledglings 28 Jun and 18 Jul (ph. DC); w. was one in Bonita Canyon, Zuni Mts. 20 Jun (JT). Cedar Waxwing had its best breeding season since first discovered nesting in New Mexico in 1995: an ad. feeding a recent fledgling at Ghost Ranch 23 Jul (G. Owings), a nest with large nestlings at an apple orchard rd. of Cochiti L. 7 Jul (CR), a nest at Cochiti Village that fledged young by 22 Jul (ph. MW), and an ad. on a nest at Pecos 14 & 17 Jun (ph. K. & G. Schiltz). Single Phainopeplas were n. in the R.G.V. to Algodones 2 Jun (S. O'Neill) and Placitas 29 Jul (M. Milone), and a pair was nesting along Galisteo Cr. near Cerrillos 28 Jul (LS); in the w., a pair was at Zuni in late Jun (JT).



This Kentucky Warbler was far west at Farmington, San Juan County, New Mexico 5-13 (here 11) June 2007. Photograph by Tim Reeves.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Olive Warblers in the recently colonized Organ Mts. were 4 in Indian Hollow in late Jun (CRB) and one or 2 there 15 Jul (ph. CL) and at least 2 in Rucker Canyon 24 Jul (ph. CL). Far n. were 3 Lucy's Warblers at Zuni in Jun (JT); others in non-traditional areas included one in Lake Valley 14 Jun (SOW), 3 near Hatchet Gap 13 Jun (SOW), and one at Panchito Villa S.P. 13 Jun (SOW). A Northern Parula at Bandelier N.M. in May was still there 3 Jun (ph. JPB); another was w. to Zuni in late Jun (JT). A male Chestnut-sided Warbler was singing at Corrales 5-24 Jun (ph. T. Fetz, ph. DE-B, ph. DK, JP). Up to seven Black-throated Gray Warbler territories were found in mature pinyon pine on the Vermejo Ranch in the n. Sangre de Cristo Mts. 20 Jun (ph. DC), where the status is poorly known. Earliest Hermit Warblers were 3 at Jack's Peak, Burro Mts. 29 Jul (CL); several Townsend's were also there. Single Black-and-white Warblers were at N.R.T. 1 Jun (DK) and Little Water Canyon, Zuni Mts. 19 Jun (JT). Single American Redstarts were at N.R.T. 1 Jun (DK), Corrales 24 Jun (JP, DK), Radium Springs 1 Jul (MS, ph. JZ), and Aguirre Springs 6 Jun (DG). Intriguing were single singing Ovenbirds in Hausner Canyon, Zuni Mts. 20 Jun (JT) and in Peñasco Canyon, Sacramento Mts. 13 Jun (WH). A male Kentucky Warbler at Farmington 5-13 Jun (ph. TR, ph. DE-B, WW) provided a San Juan first. Unusual was a juv. Hooded Warbler at Hillsboro 22 Jul (BN); the bird had downy flanks and a short tail, suggesting it may have been locally produced. Up to 4 Wilson's Warblers were at the Taos ski area 2 Jun, and at least one was there 16 Jun (JP). Summer Tanagers in the ne. were 4 along the Canadian R. w. of Mills 26 Jun (HS) and 15 at Trigg Ranch, e. San Miguel 5-6 Jul (MM).

As is typical in wet years, Cassin's Sparrows had a banner year in the e. and s.; singing sin-

gles where rarely encountered were at the Very Large Array 25 Jun (DH) and Glenwood 10 Jul (DH). North was a singing Black-chinned Sparrow on Buckman Mesa, Santa Fe 16 Jun (JPB). Additional evidence of Lark Buntings summering far s. of usual were up to 30 e. of Tome 4 Jul (SOW), 4 females including one carrying food at Sevilleta N.W.R. 15 Jun (HS), and, on Otero Mesa, 5 females including one carrying food to a nest and one feeding a fledgling 8 Jun (RM). Savannah Sparrow had a good year at Bluewater L., with 22 mostly singing males 19 Jun (JT) and about 40, including stub-tailed juvs., 26 Jun (JT); surprising for the e. plains were one to 2 at Yates, Harding 14 Jul (BO). Grasshopper Sparrows were detected in areas where not seen in many years, including



Part of an unusual summer dispersal of the species through much of the West, this male Lawrence's Goldfinch visited a feeder in the Datil Mountains, Catron County, New Mexico, from 19 July (here) into August 2007. Photograph by M. Joan Hardie.

singles se. of Fort Sumner 5 Jun (SOW), near Caprock 6 Jun (SOW), and nw. of Nutt 14 Jun (SOW). Four Lincoln's Sparrows s. of Cloudcroft 13 Jun (WH) was a good count for the Sacramento Mts. Peripheral Northern Cardinals were singles at Trigg Ranch, e. San Miguel 6 Jul (MM) and n. of Lake Valley 14 Jun (SOW). Noteworthy was a Pyrrhuloxia singing n. of Roswell 11 Jun (WH). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Santa Fe 16-19 Jun (ph. JPB) provided the only report. Lazuli

Buntings s. of traditional range were a pair in Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mts. 30 Jun (CL) and 8 Jul (DG) and a nesting pair at Dripping Springs 14 Jun (DG); 2 in the Cliff-Gila Valley 14 Jul (DE-B) were in an area where breeding is known. A Painted Bunting was singing in Selden Canyon, Doña Ana 12 Jun (MS, JZ). Summering Dickcissels were widespread in the e. in Colfax (ph. DC, DE-B), San Miguel (BN), De Baca (SOW), Chaves (JH, WH), Roosevelt (DK), and Lea (SOW); an ad. was feeding 2 juvs. at Grulla N.W.R. 20 Jul (BO).

Brewer's Blackbirds were tending fledglings in the Chuska Mts. at Whiskey L. 17 Jun (TR) and in the Sacramento Mts. near Sacramento 17 Jun (CL). Far w. were 2 Common Grackles at Farmington 2-26 Jun (TR) and one at Animas 28 Jul (JO). Continuing from May, a male Bronzed Cowbird was displaying for a female at Albuquerque 2 Jun (BN). Noteworthy for summer were single Cassin's Finches at Washington Pass, Chuska Mts. 17 Jun (TR), Tyrone 17 Jun (EL), and in Woods Canyon, Sacramento Mts. 8 Jul (DE-B). Small numbers of Red Crossbills were widespread in mountainous regions from the Zuni, Jemez, and Sangre de Cristo ranges s. to the Pinos Altos and Sacramento ranges. Unexpected in summer, a male Lawrence's Goldfinch was at a feeder w. of Datil from 19 Jul into Aug (ph. J. Hardie, ph. JO, m.ob.).

Initialed observers: Jonathan P. Batkin, Matt Baumann, David Beatty, Charles L. Black, James M. Black, Charles R. Britt, Celestyn M. Brozek, David Cleary, John DeLong, Robert Doster, Devin Eby-Bosler, Gary Froehlich, David Griffin, David Hawksworth, William Howe, Jeff Howland, David Krueper, Eugene Lewis, Carl Lundblad, Martin MacRoberts, Larry Malone, Raymond Meyer, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, Bruce Ostyn, John Parmeter, Nicholas Pederson, Tim Reeves, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, Roland Shook, James Smith, Dale Stahlecker, Robert Templeton, John Trochet, Mark Watson, Richard Webster, Steve West, S. O. Williams, William Wittman, James Zabriskie. ☺

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The early summer heat broke with ample July rains in southeastern Arizona. Precipitation was much more erratic in the rest of the state, and the western half of Arizona remained in marked drought condition. The season's highlights included California Condor nestlings, Short-tailed Hawk fledglings, nesting Long-eared Owls, and the apparent nesting of Crescent-chested Warblers. Atypical for summer, Lawrence's Goldfinches were found in small numbers across a broad swath of the state.

Abbreviations: B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum S.P.), G.W.R. (Gilbert Water Ranch), H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado R. valley), S.P.R. (San Pedro R.), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson), Whitewater (Whitewater Draw W.A.).

GEESSE THROUGH TERNS

A goose at the Green Valley S.T.P. 7 Jun+ (PS, ph. MMS) was thought to be a Ross's Goose x Snow Goose hybrid. This may have been the same "Ross's Goose" reported at this location the previous summer. The Scottsdale Ross's Goose continued through the period, providing the first *Maricopa* summer record (MM). A male Wood Duck at Sweetwater 8 Jun+ was a casual summer visitor (P. Collins). A Common Merganser remained at Whitewater until 4 Jul (ph. SH). They are unexpected in summer away from nesting areas along the Mogollon Rim. Also unexpected in summer, a Common Loon was on L. Havasu 9 Jul (B. Campos, T. Magarian), and a Clark's Grebe was at Wilcox 2-25 Jun (H. Hansen et al.). Relatively few Brown Pelicans wandered into Arizona from the Sea of Cortez this summer, with only

3 reported away from the L.C.R.V., all in late Jul. Reports of numerous Neotropical Cormorants continued along the Salt R. and Gila R. near Phoenix, and 8 were at Patagonia L. 2 Jul (SH). Surprisingly out of place was a Double-crested Cormorant at a pond atop Kitt Peak 13-17 Jul (E. Halbedel). An ad. Little Blue Heron at B.T.A. 23 Jun (CST) was a casual summer visitor from Mexico. Reflecting population declines in the Southwest, 5 Wood Storks at Mitty L. 16 Jun (ph. HD) represented only the 5th Arizona report of this species since 1990. The introduced California Condors in n. Arizona produced 2 nestlings this year (Peregrine Fund).

White-tailed Kites continue to do well, with ads. and fresh juvs. in Marana 8 Jun+ (MB et al.), and an ad. nest at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area 15 Jul (B. Burns, M. Nicosia), and a juv. near Hidden Valley, Pinal 23 Jul (ph. N. Lange) indicating nesting. Others were reported in the San Rafael valley 1 Jun (TC) and s. of Sonoita 20 Jul-4 Aug (J. Levy). Several Northern Harriers lingered in se. Arizona into Jun and early Jul, but nesting was not detected. Casual in the L.C.R.V., a Harris's Hawk was reported in Arizona opposite Blythe 21 Jul (R. Higson). Gray Hawk continues to expand into new areas. Extirpated as a breeder in the Tucson area in the 1960s, the species has returned: 2 were fledged along Tanque Verde Cr. (P. Collins, MMS). A pair nested in lower Ramsey Canyon (J. & M. Hirth), and out-of-place individuals were seen near Rincon Cr 5 Jun (MA) and in Fish Canyon in the Santa Rita Mts. 19 Jul (J. Levy). The nesting pair of Short-tailed Hawks near Barfoot Park fledged 2 young in early Jul (H. Snyder), while a single Short-tailed was observed over Carr Canyon 26 Jun+ (MA, SH, m.ob.). There were no reports of the species from other locations. Despite nesting along the lower S.P.R., Zone-tailed Hawk has been accidental in summer along the upper S.P.R., so 2 at St. David 8 Jul+ (KK, DJ) and 2 at Escapule Wash 14 Jul (A. Miller) were intriguing. A few Crested Caracaras lingered outside the nesting range in the Santa Cruz Flats from last winter, with one seen 23 Jun and 2 seen 17 Jul (DJ).

Once again, the lone Sandhill Crane summered at Luna L. 27 Jul+ (SH); the species is unexpected in Arizona in summer. Near Gila Bend, the high count of Snowy Plovers

reached 13 after the spring nesting (BG). The shorebird highlight of the season was a Ruddy Turnstone at Wilcox 22 Jul-1 Aug (C. Lundblad, R. Messenger, ph. MMS, R. Shantz); they are less than annual in Arizona. Also at Wilcox were a Sanderling on 23-24 Jul (R. Messenger, R. Palmer), and the first southbound Wilson's Phalaropes appeared on 15 Jun (TC). Franklin's Gull is casual in summer; one was at Wilcox 24 Jun-8 Jul, and 2 were there 8 Jul (J. McCabe, KK, DJ). Quite unexpected in summer in Arizona, a Common Tern was at Mitty L. 7 Jul (HD).

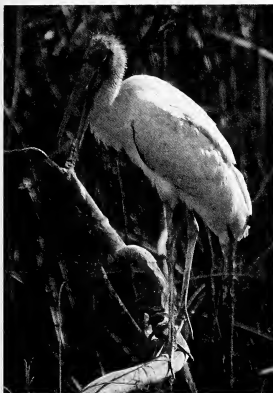
PIGEONS THROUGH TROGONS

Thirty or more Band-tailed Pigeons were at atypically low elevations in Portal 16-25 Jun and in nearby lower Cave Cr. into Jul (EH). Interrupting the recent explosion of sightings, just 2 Ruddy Ground-Doves were reported, at Cascabel 12 Jul (MA) and s. of Amado 26 Jul (MB). Whiskered Screech-Owls are known from the New Mexico portions of the Peloncillo Mts. but not so from the Arizona side,



This Yellow Grosbeak in Ash Canyon, Arizona 1 (here) and 2 June 2007 was, amazingly, in the same yard frequented by an Aztec Thrush in 2006! Photograph by Robert Behrstock.

where up to 2 were heard 28 Jul (A.Z.F.O., TC). After the spring reports of rare nesting Long-eared Owls in se. Arizona, another ad. juv. were seen at Dudleyville 20 Jun (MA). Up to 4 Buff-collared Nighthjars continued at the Oro Blanco Mine through 15 Jul



Five juvenile Wood Storks were located at Mitty Lake near Yuma 16 June 2007 (here), the species is considered casual in Arizona, mostly in summer. Photograph by Henry Detweiler.

(MK et al.). Seldom found n. of Flagstaff, a Whip-poor-will heard near Mangum Spring on the Kaibab Plateau 31 Jul (Z. Zdinak) was perhaps the northernmost individual ever detected in Arizona.

Broad-billed Hummingbird is rare in e. Cochise away from Guadalupe Canyon. Two were in Portal 18 Jul (EH), and one was in the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Jul (A.Z.F.O.). Up to 3 male White-eared Hummingbirds were at their favored location in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts. this summer (T. Beatty) but absent elsewhere. Intriguing was an apparent hybrid hummingbird most closely resembling White-eared near Fly's Peak in the Chiricahua Mts. 30 Jul (ph., v.r. REW). Hybrids with Broad-billed Hummingbird have been reported in the past. The Berylline Hummingbird reported in Ramsey Canyon in spring continued through 3 Aug (m.ob.). A female Berylline found in lower Cave Creek Canyon 10 Jul (ph. EH) nested unsuccessfully 31 Jul–16 Aug (T. Batty et al., REW). Away from typical Sonoita Cr. and Guadalupe Canyon locales, several Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were found in east-side Huachuca Mt. canyons again this summer, and one was in Portal 13 Jul (EH). Startling in the desert was a blue Male-throated Hummingbird at Tucson's Agua Caliente Park 13–14 Jun (SC, MA, ph. C. Jorgenson). Even in migration, they are seldom seen away from mountain canyons. The crowd-drawing sur-

prise at Agua Caliente Park though was a Plain-capped Starthroat 5–26 Jun (R. Carlson, ph. O. Niehuis, MMS, A. Tozler), the 2nd earliest Arizona record and one of the few found away from mid-elevation canyons. Away from their east-side Huachuca Mts. stronghold, the only Lucifer Hummingbirds reported were singles at Fort Bowie National Historic Site 24 Jun (T.J. McCabe) and Madera Canyon 2 Jul (G. West). A Calliope Hummingbird was an early migrant in Miller Canyon 4 Jul (MK). The first southbound Rufous Hummingbird appeared a bit early at Kitt Peak 27 Jun (E. Halbedel). Another was in Pine on 30 Jun (J. Estis). Only 3 Allen's Hummingbirds were reported, all males, at Ramsey Canyon 4 Jul (MK), near Marana 25 Jul (K. Kroesen, MB), and on the e. slope of the Chiricahua Mts. 30 Jul (REW).

In the Patagonia Mts., 2 Elegant Trogons were below Harshaw townsite 19 Jun+ (R. Baxter); nesting remains unconfirmed in that range. Two Gilded Flickers in lower Ramsey Canyon 19 Jun (J. & M. Hirth) were away from the known nesting areas of this resident se. Arizona species.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

Very late Western Wood-Pewees away from breeding areas in the state included one along the Bill Williams R. 15 Jun (B. Campos) and one at Mitty L. 16 Jun (HD). Two Gray Flycatchers in Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 29 Jul (TC) may have been breeding locally; the status of potential breeding birds in the se. corner of the state is still an uncertainty. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Oak Creek Canyon 10–16 Jun (K. Murphy, CL; ph. D. Rasmussen) provided one of the few reports of this species from this far n. in the state, most of which have also come from Oak Creek Canyon. As in 2006, a pair was present at Aspen Springs in the Sierra Prieta Mts. near Prescott through at least 12 Jun (CST). Tropical Kingbirds continue to flourish in the Santa Cruz R. valley, with another new nesting pair located at Roger Road W.T.P., Tucson 15 Jun+ (J. Bock). Two pairs were detected at H.R.P. 24 Jun+ (KR et al.), where they have nested since 2001. Thick-billed Kingbirds continued to be found at odd localities (after a few during the spring season), with an individual at Hunter's Hole near Yuma 3 Jun (P. Hosner, *vide* HD), a pair nesting at Tumacacori 10 Jun (MMS,

MP), one along Cienega Cr. 11 Jun (MA, SC), and one at H.R.P. 15 Jul (M. Herring). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher located at Camp Verde 2 Jul (P. Ollig) was seen feeding a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher x Western Kingbird hybrid 4–19 Jul (R. Radd; ph. D. Rasmussen, J. McKay).

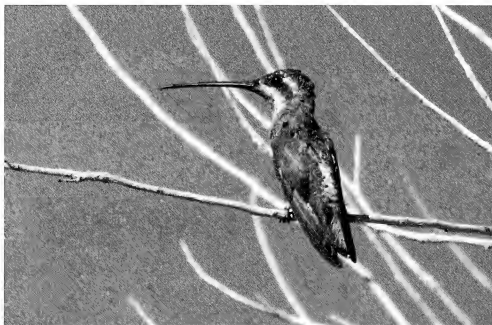
Two different Yellow-throated Vireos were located this summer, one along Cienega Cr. 5 Jun–26 Jul (ph. MA; v.r. JH, PD), and another along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 31 Jul (s.r. CDB); this species continues to be casual anywhere in the state. A Cassin's Vireo at H.R.P. 24 Jun (ph. KR et al) provided a first Jun record for *Maricopa*. A singing male Red-eyed Vireo in upper Miller Canyon 23 Jun–14 Jul (v.r. JH; C. Smith, S. Carnahan) was a surprise, as this species has become quite casual in the state. Rarer yet were 2 different Yellow-green Vireos found in the state, one along Cienega Cr. 27 Jun–4 Jul (MA, v.r. MP, †MMS), and another at Cook's L. 12–17 Jul (†S. Sierra, D. Laush, †TC); all Arizona records have been during summer, quite different from the pattern of vagrancy for this species on the California coast, where most records are from the fall.

Unusual were 2 Clark's Nutcrackers reported at Barfoot Park 2 Jun (T. Magarian et al.), likely lingering birds from a winter incursion. Several Tree Swallows reported at Patagonia 2 Jul (SH) were likely early southbound migrants. Scattered Violet-green Swallows at the B.T.A. in Jun and Jul (CST) were unusually low for breeding birds. A very late Bank Swallow was at Page Springs 8 Jun (R. Radd).



This Ruddy Turnstone, a species casual in Arizona, was present at Willowc 22 (here 30) July through 1 August 2007. Photograph by Robert Shantz.

A White-breasted Nuthatch at Sweetwater 26 Jul (MMS, MP) was away from breeding habitat in se. Arizona, as was a Pygmy Nuthatch found in riparian habitat near San Simon 18 Jul (REW); both reports are suggestive that nuthatches may be on the move this fall and winter. A singing House Wren at Morgan City Wash 21 Jul (TC) was also well away from known breeding areas in the state. Black-



This Plain-capped Starthroat present in Tucson, Arizona 6-26 (here 9) June 2007 was one of the farthest north ever reported in the state, apart from the second state record, which was in Phoenix in 1978. Photograph by Oliver Niehuis.

capped Gnatcatchers successfully bred at Patagonia L. (SH) and along Proctor Rd. below Madera Canyon (E. Embody), with reports coming from these areas throughout the period. Elsewhere in se. Arizona, Black-capped were again reported in Guadalupe Canyon 27 Jun (N. Pederson, M. Baumann), in Leslie Canyon (B. Radke, *vide* REW), and along Sonoita Cr. near the Rest Area 31 Jul (CDB). There has now been continuous presence in Arizona for more than 10 years!

Townsend's Solitaire is not known to breed in s. Arizona, so 4 in the Chiricahua Mts. at scattered locations 15 Jun (S. & B. Birky), and one singing along the Crest Trail in the same mts. 30 Jul (REW), suggested possible breeding there again this summer. A Swainson's Thrush banded at Tumacacori 25 Jun (L. Norris, W. Leitner) provided the "latest" Jun record for se. Arizona, where this species does not breed. A Wood Thrush, still considered casual anywhere in the state, was well described from Madera Canyon 2 Jun (T.C. Burrell, B. Tarbox). A Rufous-backed Robin reported from high in the Santa Catalina Mts. 17 Jun (†A. Palmer), and again 26-29 Jul (MA, †T. Pepper, L. Brown), was at an unusually high elevation and out of the normal season that this species typically occurs in Arizona; there is only one previous summer report, and that was from riparian habitat along the San Pedro River. Quite intriguing was the report of 3 Gray Catbirds at Rio de Flag ("Logan's Crossing") near Flagstaff 30 Jun+ (B. Cooley et al.); the only known nesting area in the state is in willow-alder riparian habitat in the White Mts. in the ne. Arizona.

WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Rather amazing was the discovery of a Crescent-cheated Warbler feeding a recently fledged young in East Turkey Cr., Chiricahua Mts. 12-16 Jul (J. & J. Geeson; ph. I. Davies; ph., †L. Seitz; H. Batcher; ph. REW; NMC, AC, DJ); this will represent the 7th record from Arizona and the first likely breeding record for the United States. Five different singing male Northern Parulas were reported from early Jun, always interesting, but about normal for this time of year in Arizona. A Yellow Warbler in Portal 1-14 Jun (L. & T. Gates) was away from usual breeding areas in the state. Quite unusual from early summer, a singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler was found in lower Miller Canyon 18 Jun (P. Walsh). Similarly, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Buck Spring, Coconino 14-18 Jun (C. Armstrong, L. Harter). Very late, a Yellow-rumped Warbler was at B.T.A. 17 Jun (T. Webster), and a Townsend's Warbler was at Hearst Tank, South Rim of the Grand Canyon 12 Jun (B. Gatlin). Rare in summer, Black-and-white Warblers were reported at San Pedro House 19 Jun (P. Walsh) and near Cascabel 13 Jul (MA). Four American Redstarts were reported this summer, one at Whitlow Dam 21 Jun (J. Bartley), one at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area 26-29 Jun (D. Palmer), one in Picture Canyon, Flagstaff 28 Jun (T. Blodgett), and one along Cienega Cr. 1 Jul (SC); this species is a rare but regular transient, although reports in Arizona have decreased markedly during the past 20 years. More casual in the state, a singing male Prothonotary Warbler was at

Dudleyville 19 Jun (MA). A singing Ovenbird (likely the same individual) was at Buck Spring, Coconino 19-30 Jun (L. Hart). Normally a rare but regular transient, but unusual this late in Jun and at this elevation, a Northern Waterthrush was in Flagstaff 13 Jun (ph. N. Gaines). The best month to find Kentucky Warbler in Arizona is Jun; singles were in Garden Canyon 11-12 Jun (M. Kehl, J. Woodley, †J. Hirth) and at Las Cienegas National Conservation Area 23-29 Jun (ph. RW, D. Smyth et al.; v.r. MP). Hooded Warbler also often appears in Jun; this summer produced one singing at Madera Canyon 9 Jun (WR), a female at Comfort Spring 17 Jun (KR et al.), and one in Portal 22 Jun (REW, RAR). A very early Wilson's Warbler was at Sweetwater 14 Jul (MMS).

The Flame-colored Tanager present at Madera Canyon since spring was last reported 29 Jul. A returning Flame-colored Tanager × Western Tanager hybrid was at Rucker Canyon 1 Jun (REW, RAR). A singing White-collared Seedeater of the w. Mexican subspecies was present at Kino Springs 25 Jun+ (B. Sutton, ph. S. Sams); the Arizona Bird Committee has previously considered individuals in Arizona as "likely" escapees but will review this new sighting nonetheless. Two family groups of Abert's Towhees at Whitewater 26 May+ (REW) were away from any known nesting areas for this species. Rufous-winged Sparrow was again found singing at Guadalupe Canyon 29 Jul (TC, A.Z.F.O.), where it had been found once previously, perhaps indicating a small population in the area. White-crowned Sparrows of the pale-colored subspecies *gambelii* lingered in Arizona, with one in Portal through 17 Jun (DJ) and one at Sopori Ranch, Santa Cruz through 14 Jul (K. Groschupf); the dark-lored form *oriantha* is the more typical early summer visitor in se. Arizona.

Ash Canyon strikes again, with a Yellow Grosbeak 1-2 Jun (ph. RB), amazingly in the same yard in which one of last year's Aztec Thrushes turned up! This will make the 14th accepted record for Arizona (and the 2nd for Ash Canyon), a vast majority of them having occurred in late May and Jun. Only one Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported, an ad. male at Nutrioso 30 Jul (SH). A Black-headed Grosbeak banded at Tumacacori 16 Jun (W. Leitner, L. Norris) was away from breeding habitat in se. Arizona. One along Cienega Cr. 1 Jul (SC) was likely an early migrant. Lazuli Buntings started showing up at migrant locations in the last week of Jul, about a week earlier than usual. A Varied Bunting in Portal most of Jun (L. & T. Gates) was away from breeding areas in the state, as was one at

Whitewater 17 Jun (D. Beaudette). The bulk of Varied Buntings do not arrive in Arizona to breed until early to mid-Jun. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in small numbers at scattered locations in se. Arizona where not known to breed. A pair of Bronzed Cowbirds was in a Cornville yard 1-2 Jun (R. Radd); this species is known to "breed" sparingly to n. to n. *Yavapai*.

Red Crossbills were again at scattered locations low in the Chiricahua Mts. in the period; this species is apparently not annual in this range (EH, DJ). Early Pine Siskins were reported in Scottsdale 11 Jul (J. Bartley) and in Paradise 21 Jul (EH, J. Lewis). Clearly the

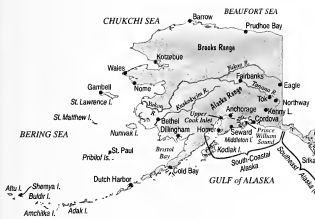
finch phenomenon of the season was an unusually early and widespread irruption of Lawrence's Goldfinches in the state, with no fewer than 15 different reports (mostly in groups of 1-4 individuals) received beginning in early Jun and continuing through Jul, some from as far n. as Prescott and Pine (N. Silacci, J. Estis). Normally, irruptions of this species from California occur during the winter season. A female-plumaged American Goldfinch was out of place (early) in Tucson 15 Jul (MMS).

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Alaska



Theide Tobisch

Relatively widespread cool spring conditions prevailed into the early summer across the Region, with below-average temperatures, lengthy cloudy periods, and lower precipitation totals. It was therefore also a relatively quiet fire season. The vast Interior zone was probably the only area of the state where warm, sunny, dry conditions dominated much of the season. But even there, thunderstorm cells were common afternoon events for most of July. Northbound migrants ended up showing a mostly on-time phenology, while breeding onset seemed a little late, at least at some locales. Rareities at the classic peripheral sites continued well into June, while overshoots to Interior and southeastern sites were spotty at best. A late May cyclone brought a nice array of Palearctic migrants to the western Aleutians, many of which stayed into mid-June. Coverage from the eastern Interior suffers without dedicated

biologists/birders staffing wildlife refuges there, but summer reports from Southeast continue to increase. There were a few surprises of potential new breeders and reports of probable pioneering species prospecting new sites. As always, documentation of rarer species was spotty, and I must continue to remind observers to submit documentation with all reports of rare, casual, or accidental species. Referenced details, specimens, photographs, videotape, and audiotape are on file at the University of Alaska Museum.

GEESE THROUGH ALCIDS

Slightly late was a report of 2 Tundra Bean-Geese at Buldir I. 6-7 Jun (SL, CS). The lone Adak Spot-billed Duck, first discovered in late May, was still there 13 Jul (ph. JL). Adak has now sported all but one of the Aleutians' four-plus records of mostly long-staying individuals. Two eclipse-plumaged Cinnamon Teal found in the Juneau area 23 Jul (PS) were most unusual summer reports. A drake Redhead at Gustavus 12 Jun (BP) and a female Ring-necked Duck at Kodiak 4 Jun (RAM) were both odd, off-season records for the North Gulf coast, where most records come from late fall and winter. The Ring-necked was a first Kodiak summer re-

port. Two Lesser Scaup present on Kagagnuti L. on the Alaska Pen. 4-23 Jun (LD) were at the periphery of this species' taiga breeding range. Single late Smews reached e. to Buldir I. 5-7 Jun (ph. SL), where habitat has limited past reports, and at St. Paul I. 3 Jun (Field Guides). A fly-by Great Egret over the Barrow shoreline 16 Jun (Field Guides, DS, ph. KH) represents the first North Slope/Beaufort Sea record of this otherwise casual spring/summer visitor in the Region.

The end of the shorebird passage reached into Jun, highlighted mostly by Bering Sea vagrants, including a Terek Sandpiper reported at St. Paul I. 4 Jun (Field Guides) and another at Buldir I. 8-10 Jun (SL, SS, EA, CS) and a Far Eastern Curlew at Buldir I. 31 May (ph. SL, EA, SS, CS). A Red Phalarope was most un-



This lucky shot substantiates the first northern (and Arctic Coast) Alaska record of Great Egret, seen near Barrow on 16 June 2007. Photograph by Kevin Heffernan.

usual and late in Cook Inlet at Kenai 9 Jun (KT, TE), and a Stilt Sandpiper was located well w. of typical range in Nome 11 Jun (Field



This adult White-tailed Eagle was a rare sight at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island on 2 June 2007. Photograph by Dave Porter.



This likely full adult Gray-tailed Tattler was one of the six or more birds detected at Shemya between 31 May and 6 June (here) 2007; first-year birds would show heavily worn primaries or worn inner primaries contrasting with fresh outer primaries. The broader supercilium over the eye and the unmarked belly and vent are characteristics that separate this regular vagrant from Wandering Tattler. Photograph by Robert Trotter.



Showing all the signs of a "pure" Eurasian Collared-Dove, this individual, one of two present at Gustavus 4 June 2007, would constitute the first certain Alaska record of this expanding pioneer. Others were noted in the general area and at five other Southeast Alaska sites in the season. Photograph by Nat Drumheller.

Guides). A pair of Solitary Sandpipers was defending a territory in suitable bog habitat near the Ketchikan airport 24 Jun–22 Jul (SCH, JEP), while a single was in similar habitat 2 km away 3 Jun (JEP); these represent the 2nd summer reports from s. Southeast and are well beyond documented nesting range. Another Solitary was behaving as though on territory in

bog habitats near Gustavus 5 Jul (ND), near where the species has nested. Thirty-six Hudsonian Godwits in one group in Gustavus 17 Jul (ND) was an exceptional south-bound concentration and one of the North Gulf coast's biggest counts where singles are the norm. A handsome black-and-white Ruff, distinctly rare on the North Slope, was observed at Barrow 8–9 Jun (Wilderness Bird Tours). On the heels of a local spring report, a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes, the season's only count, showed up in Juneau 23 Jun (GVV).

Extralimital gulls made news this season across the Region, highlighted as always by coastal findings. A slew of Franklin's Gulls in the North Gulf zone produced the highest summer numbers for Alaska, with different single birds at Kodiak 9–10 Jun (CF, BG) and 12 Jul (ph. RAM), 2–3 around Juneau 8 Jun (one), 2 Jul (2), and 19 Jul (one) (PS), and a single in Glacier Bay N.M. 4 Jul (ND). An ad. Black-headed Gull was e. of usual arcs in Juneau 12 Jun (AD), a first local report and one of very few from Southeast, while a Bonaparte's Gull wandered to the North Slope at Barrow 15 Jun (Wings, ph. MP). Bonaparte's are very rare but nearly annual in early summer on the North Slope. Following May w. Aleutian reports, another ad. Black-tailed Gull was located, this one at Buldir I. 8 Jun (ph. SL, EA, SS). Accidental in the Beaufort Sea was an ad. Ring-billed Gull in Barrow 19 Jun (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours). The season's northernmost California Gull report included an ad. and a second-cycle individual in the Gustavus area 10 & 20–24 Jul (ND) at the extreme n. end of this rare visitor's traditional summer range. Most interesting was a banded first-cycle Thayer's Gull in Gustavus 2 Jun (ND), a bird that had been marked as a chick on St. Helena I., Nunavut in Aug 2006. It appeared to be a poor season for Slaty-backed Gulls, with a first-cycle bird in Kodiak 18 Jun (ph. RAM) the most unusual of the handful of coastal reports. Two Caspian Terns at Nome's productive Safety Sound 9 Jun (Wings)

follow very few Bering Sea coastal reports. One of the summer season's largest-ever Marbled Murrelet feeding aggregations included 514 birds in Mud Bay near Haines 2 Jul (CE). This estuarial bay is one of n. Southeast's most

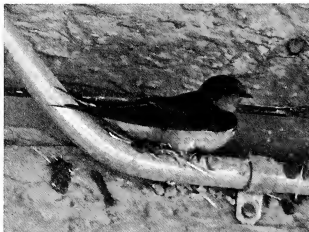


This handsome adult Brown Shrike was found foraging at Shemya Island's eastern end on 6 June 2007. This constitutes only the third spring record for Alaska, all of which are from early June. Photograph by Robert Trotter.

consistent waterbird concentration sites, typically most active between early Jun and mid-Jul.

PIGEONS THROUGH MUSCICAPIDS

Alaska's first official Eurasian Collared-Doves entered the Region with a handful of mid-season sightings in Southeast, including singles at Meyers Chuck 28 May (PC), in Ketchikan early–15 Jun (ph. SCH), and offshore at Klavok on Prince of Wales I. 18 Jun (BT). At least 2 others were documented farther n. in the Gustavus area 4 Jun–19 Jul (ph. ND, SP, BP). These follow several reports from the Petersburg area, but those birds were determined to have been escapees. Two begging Western Screech-Owls were located at Starrigan Park in Sitka, the topotype locale for the nominate subspecies, where it is periodi-



Although extralimital Barn Swallows are occasionally found in the vast eastern Interior of Alaska in summer, the fact that three sites had birds exhibiting nesting behavior was notable in summer 2007. This bird appeared alone at this half-built nest site in Tok on 10 June. Photograph by Theodor Tobisch.

cally detected. Two different Northern Pygmy-Owls around Gustavus 18 & 20 Jun (LP, ND) were unusual and well n. of most summer season reports, which come typically from the s. Southeast. A single Black Swift



This Dark-sided Flycatcher, which fed actively after arriving at Shemya Island, Alaska on 9 June 2007, was coincident with other birds in the same timeframe from nearby Buldir Island. The darkish lores, dusky brownish dorsum, and relatively heavy smudges on underparts and near the "shoulder" separate this bird from Gray-streaked Flycatcher. Photograph by Robert Trotter.



Part of a western Aleutian Islands fallout, this adult male Taiga Flycatcher was singing near a female at Shemya Island, Alaska 7 June 2007. Up to five were detected at nearby Buldir Island from 5 through 7 June. Photograph by Robert Trotter.

over MacDonald L. on the Cleveland Pen. in s. Southeast 18 Jul (SCH) was a first local record and w. of known or suspected breeding sites from the Mainland riparian corridors.

One of very few North Slope reports of the species, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Barrow 8 Jun (Wilderness Bird Tours); there are three other records from the Beaufort Sea region. Most of the Region's rarer and extralimital *Empidonax* showed well this summer. At least 2 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were located 14 & 24 Jun (DP, SP, PP, JJ, JD, ND) in a recently discovered "colony" on Eureka Dome in the Yukon-Tanana Highlands s. of the Yukon R. Another Yellow-bellied was singing n. of Juneau 20-23 Jun (MS, PS, GVV, BA), where there are few sight records. A Willow Flycatcher, about the 5th from Juneau, sang near Pioneer Marsh 11 Jun (MS, PS, ph. PR); most of the Region's reports are from the 2nd half of Jun from Southeast and especially Juneau. Three singing migrant Least Flycatchers were discovered, the first a little early at Eagle on 10 Jun (GHR, RLS, TT), followed by singles n. of Juneau 19 Jun (PS) and Fairbanks 24 Jun (MS). Leasts remain less

than annual in the Region and are detected mostly as Jun overshoots into the e. periphery from Hyder to the e. Interior.

A Warbling Vireo reached South-central Alaska, where it was singing near Eagle River 16 Jul (BD, LD, PD, LM). This represents at least the 3rd Upper Cook Inlet report of the species. Normally restricted to very localized riparian sites in the mainland portions of Southeast, Red-eyed Vireos were unusual and farther n. in Anchorage, where a singing bird became the 3rd local record (all of singing birds in Jun), and in Haines, where a pair was found in suitable nesting habitat 2-3 Jul (ph. CM, PS). Red-eyes are casual away from those Southeast river corridors. Swallows almost always contribute to each summer's rarity accounts, which this year were dominated by extralimital Barn Swallows: a white-bellied bird at Buldir I. 18 Jun (ph. SL, EA, SS); 2 prospecting nest sites at isolated Anomalous Summit in the highlands s. of Eagle 8 & 10 Jun (GHR, RLS, TT); one on a nest at Tok 10 Jun (GHR, RLS, ph. TT); one each in Nome 2 & 9 Jun (*vide* Field Guides); and another pair at a nest in McCarthy 21 Jul (*vide* DWS). Two Bank Swallows were rare in the w. Aleutians at Buldir I. 4-8 Jun (ph. SL, EA, SS).

Reminiscent of the only other Lanceolated Warbler "fallout," in 1984, at least 4 were documented at Buldir I. 8-18 Jun (ph. SL, EA). At least 3 of these were singing and thought to be nesting through the 18th. An early Jun storm brought at least 5 Taiga Flycatchers 5-7 Jun (SL, EA, SS) and a single Dark-sided Flycatcher 4-9 Jun (ph. SL, EA) into the w. Aleutians at Buldir I., the season's only reports.

THRUSHES THROUGH FRINGILLIDS

Mountain Bluebirds continue to be scarce and in decline in the e. Interior, where the species has nested locally since the late 1980s. A lone female in Delta 8 Jun (NC) constituted the season's only report. A Bohemian Waxwing described from the Nome area's Teller Hwy. 6 Jun (TKP) was a good find near the coast



Although occasionally found on the Southeast Mainland river corridors in Alaska, Red-eyed Vireos are still not found annually in the state and are seldom photographed. Two were located in the Haines area 2 July 2007 (here) and the next day. Photograph by Cameron D. Eckert.

away from nesting habitat (taiga), which is restricted in that area to the base of the Seward Pen. At least one Cedar Waxwing present near Ship Cr. 29+ Jul (DP, DWS) carried on the Anchorage area sightings, which started in the previous Aug, the species is a casual visitor to South-central Alaska.

Eight singing Tennessee Warblers were tallied 9 Jun (GHR, RLS, TT) on the short road system around Eagle on the upper Yukon R., the Region's highest one-day count ever. An additional individual was located nearby on the 10th, while another appeared 21 Jun (SD) on the upper Richardson Hwy (near milepost



After chasing this bird around Gustavus, Alaska feeders for several days in early June 2007, Nat Drumbheller finally caught up with this Black-headed Grosbeak on the fifth of the month. It represents the Region's northernmost summer record and one of few outside the fall season, when they are casual visitors, mostly in the Southeast. Photograph by Nat Drumbheller.

244). Overshooting Tennessee Warblers reach into the e. Interior nearly every year in Jun in very small numbers. A singing Yellow Warbler in willows near Dutch Harbor 17 Jun



This female Common Rosefinch, reported from the spring 2007 season, was photographed at Shemya Island 8 June. Mostly female-plumaged birds, showing the classic blank face pattern with dark beady eye, are found intermittently in spring in the western and rarely into the central Aleutians from late May into mid-June. Photograph by Robert Trotter.

(*vide MR*) was a good find for the e. Aleutians, where they are rare overshoots and breed as close as e. Unimak I. The Region's first Magnolia Warbler in several years sang in the Juneau area 17 Jun (PS, BA, FG, LB), where there are a few Jun records. Magnolias had become nearly annual in Hyder when birders made it there in Jun. Alaska's 3rd Mourning Warbler was a singing bird skulking in Juneau *Rubus* thickets 24 Jun (GVV, ph. PS et al.). Previous finds included singles from fall at Middleton I. in the North Gulf and at a North Slope oasis. Mournings are known to nest as close to the Region as the e.-cen. areas of British Columbia and into se. Yukon Territory. Four Common Yellowthroats at Northway 8 Jun (GHR, RLS, TT) was a good tally at the species' breeding periphery in the e. Interior, where they have been found for nearly the past decade in very small numbers. Two Wilson's Warblers wandered to the North Slope at Barrow 7-8 Jun (Wilderness Bird Tours), where the species is occasional in Jun.

A singing Chipping Sparrow at milepost 328 of the Parks Hwy. s. of Fairbanks 15 Jun (DP, SP, PP, JJ) was s. of the species' nw. breeding limits in the greater Fairbanks area. There

are a few previous such records along the Parks Hwy. between Fairbanks and Talkeetna. Very surprising and rare away from alpine nesting habitats was a migrant Brewer's Sparrow in Juneau 10 Jun (PS, AD, ph. PR), a 2nd record for that locale and only about the 3rd in spring from Southeast. Recall that Brewer's Sparrow had been found nesting in the mid-1990s in a disjunct population at treeline in the Nutzotin Mts. of the Alaska Range, not far from the British Columbia border (see *Western Birds* 28.1). A juv. Fox Sparrow located near the Dutch Harbor airport 20 Jul (*vide MR*) was a good find and another presumed breeding record for Unalaska and the e. Aleutians, where imms. have been sporadic. Sooty Fox Sparrow (*alascensis*) is actually extralimital at its type locality: The exciting Hyder coastal fringe produced a new record for Alaska when a Vesper Sparrow was photographed on the dike 4 Jun (ph. IB). Although there are overshoot records from well up the w. coast of British Columbia and in the n. interior from the upper Stikine and upper Skeena R., the closest known breeding sites are in the cen. interior of British Columbia near Quesnel. A Black-headed Grosbeak that had been sporadic around a Gustavus feeder for a few days was confirmed on 5 Jun at the same feeder (ph. ND, PV). This is the Region's northernmost record for the summer season and about the 3rd ever away from the Southeast Mainland and the Ketchikan area, where most records come in fall.

A pair of Common Rosefinches arrived following an early Jun storm and hung around the same spot at Buldir I. 5-15 Jun (SL, SS, EA), the season's only find of this nearly annual very rare migrant in the w. Aleutians. The scattered planted spruce trees in Dutch

Harbor drew in an imm. Red Crossbill 21 Jul (MR), a 3rd report for the e. Aleutians. Other less-common Palearctic finches recorded this season following the late-May storm in the Aleutians included 3 Oriental Greenfinches at Buldir I. 31 May-7 Jun and a Hawfinch 4-7 Jun (SL, EA, CS). A female Evening Grosbeak at a Gustavus feeder 5 Jun (SM, *vide ND*) was also a new local first record and one of only a few from that area in summer.

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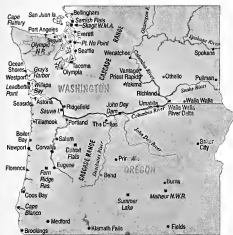
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This season's interesting events centered around three main themes: unseasonable records, range expansions (some dramatic), and an apparent drought-driven explosion of xeric-habitat sparrows. June was quite dry, with much of the Region experiencing less than half of normal precipitation, but July was mixed, with the much of the westside receiving 150%+ of usual rainfall, while the east remained desiccated, averaging less than 25% its usual allotment of rain. Regionwide, June was a bit warmer than usual, but July was hot, averaging more than 5° F above normal.

Abbreviations: Finley (Finley N.W.R., *Benton*), F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*), Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., *Harney*), N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, *Coos*); O.S. (Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, *WAD*), P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, *Snohomish*), P.T. (Puget Trough), W.V. (Willamette Valley), W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, *Walla Walla*). "Eastside" and "westside" indicate locations e. and w. of the Cascade crest, respectively.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

An Emperor Goose, very rare in summer, was at Astoria 19 Jul (MP); the provenance of summer Emperor Geese is uncertain, but many are probably of wild provenance. An apparently healthy *parvipes* Canada Goose and an injured *taverneri* Cackling Goose consorted with hundreds of *hoffitti* Canada Geese on Whitcomb I., *Benton* 9 Jun (SM, BSW). Three more *taverneri* summered at F.R.R. (DI). There are no prior Regional records of *parvipes* and fewer than five summer records of Cackling Geese. Trumpeter Swans graced Washington for the 3rd consecutive summer, with summering individu-

als near Elma, *Grays Harbor* (T. O'Brien) and *Snohomish* (SM). Excepting introduced birds, Washington had but two summer records prior to 2001. Gadwall populations are still increasing, part of a long-term continental trend, best evidenced by a w. Washington summer-record +58 ads. near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 14 Jun, resulting in 31+ broods there 26 Jul (SM). Additionally, w. Oregon had 10 broods at four locations. The Region's 5th summer Eurasian Wigeon lingered at Ridgefield through 22 Jun (B. Clemons, BF); the first summer record occurred in 2001. A female American Wigeon with brood in tow at Hillsboro, *Washington* 21 Jul furnished w. Oregon's first breeding record (GG). A westside summer record 62 American Wigeons were at Stanwood 3 Jun (SM). A congregation of 150 Cinnamon Teal at Wilson Cr., *Grant* 1 Jun was among the largest ever recorded in e. Washington (SM). Broods of Green-winged Teal, scarce westside breeders, were at N.S.C.B. (TR), *Swantown, Island* (SM), and P.S.B. (SM). Single Canvasbacks, not annual on the westside in summer, inhabited Ridgefield until 22 Jun (B. Clemons, BF) and Meares L., *Tillamook* 10 Jul (M. Tweelinks). A pair of Redheads, not annual after early Jun in w. Washington, adorned Ridgefield through 18 Jul (WC). A Greater Scaup was at Desert Aire, *Grant* 8 Jun (SM, BSW); this species has been annual dur-

Crane Prairie Res., *Deschutes* 27 Jun-16 Jul provided e. Oregon's first summer record (K. Boddie, D. Smith). Bufflehead, a rare breeder in Washington, produced a brood at Molson L., *Okanogan* (AS). Three Red-breasted Mergansers at Paterson Slough, *Benton* 9 Jun furnished the eastside's 6th summer record (SM, BSW); Paterson Slough has hosted this species in three of the past four summers.

More than 500 Pacific Loons passed Ruby Beach, *Jefferson* 15 Jun (BS); movements of this magnitude have been noted annually into mid-Jun only during recent years. Three Horned Grebes, including a courting pair, were near potential breeding habitat at Soap L., *Grant* 1 Jun (SM); this species is extremely rare during summer in e. Washington, and there are but two breeding records. An Eared Grebe visited Coos Bay 28 Jul (TR), while a pair built two nests (but laid no eggs) at Ridgefield during Jun (JE); this species is very rare on the westside during summer, and there are no prior nesting attempts known in w. Washington. A boat survey of F.R.R. 13 Jul revealed 620 *Aechmophorus* grebes, including 437 ads. and 183 juvs., 112+ of which were Clark's (D. Farrar, DI); these are summer record numbers for F.R.R., the only regular westside breeding location for both *Aechmophorus* grebes. A Clark's Grebe off Pt. Grenville, *Grays Harbor* 23 Jul (RM) and 2 at Westport 21 Jul (BLB) yielded only the 2nd



Surveys off the Olympic Peninsula found unprecedented numbers of Ancient Murrelets with chicks, strongly implying local breeding. Perhaps the best documentation received was this image of a chick scurrying after its parent near Tatoosh Island, Washington on 7 June 2007. Photograph by Rob Hollingshead.

ing recent summers on the eastside, typically at locations where large numbers winter. A brood of Ring-necked Ducks at N.S.C.B. furnished this year's only westside breeding record (TR). Three broods of Lesser Scaup, scarce westside breeders, were detected at Deer Lagoon, *Island* (RM, SM), and one was at Stanwood (SM). A Long-tailed Duck at

and 3rd w. Washington summer records away from Vancouver L., while an exceptional 3 coastal and 3 W.V. Clark's were detected in Oregon.

Not annual during summer, and extremely rare near land, a Laysan Albatross cruised past Coos Bay 24 Jun (*vide* J. Randolph). A tubenose feeding flock visible from land



Washington's eighth Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hung out near the highway east of Blyn, Clallam County, Washington on 2 (here) and 3 July 2007. The state's most recent record had been in October 2004. Photograph by Russell Rogers.

about 1.5 km off Yaquina Head, Lincoln 28 Jun included 50 Black-footed Albatrosses, 50+ Pink-footed Shearwaters, and 45+ Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels (TG); such a nearshore congregation is unprecedented. This summer's Flesh-footed Shearwater was off Westport 23 Jun (BS), while a Buller's Shearwater off Westport 21 Jul supplied the Region's first summer record since 2000 (SMi, BT). A Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater, always rare in the PT., passed P.N.P. 5 Jul (VN). Not annual during summer, 2 Short-tailed Shearwaters were off Westport 21 Jul (SMi, BT). Ryan Merrill, while doing Marbled Burrelet surveys off the Washington coast, also performed the most thorough Manx Shearwater survey to date. As many as 3 at a time were noted near Alexander I., Jefferson 13 Jun–11 Jul, 2 were off the Long Beach Pen., Pacific 26 Jun, and singles were in n. Grays Harbor 12 & 23 Jul and at Cape Flattery 18 Jul. This abundance of summer sightings suggests that, perhaps, the question should be "How many Manx are nesting?" rather than "Are Manx nesting?"

After a decade of increasing numbers, a party of 16 American White Pelicans was found on the westside, with 5 at Baskett Slough, Polk 28 Jun (L. Norgren) and 11 summering at F.R.R. (m.ob.). Brown Pelicans, not annual during summer in the PT., visited Seattle 27 Jun (D. Hutchinson), Edmonds, Snohomish 3–9 Jul (DD), and P.N.P. 24 Jul (BSW). A Cattle Egret, exceptionally rare during summer on the westside, graced Florence, Lane 21 Jun (D. Petty); peak westside occurrence is Nov–Jan, and the few Regional summer records are nearly all from e. Oregon; photographs suggest that the Asian subspecies *coromandus* could be involved in this case. A Green Heron returned to Green Acres, Spokane 1 Jun (A. Roberson); this species is very rare in the e. third of the Region. A Glossy Ibis at Malheur 4–9 Jun (WC, HN) may have been the same

bird seen 10 km away this past May (providing Oregon's 2nd record). After the spring's White-faced Ibis blitz, Washington's only summer sighting was of 2 at Wilson Cr., Grant 1 Jun (SM). In Oregon, however, up to three pairs bred at Ladd Marsh, Union, yielding ne. Oregon's first nesting record (C. Nowak); out-of-place singletons also visited Hatfield L., Deschutes 16 Jul (D. Smith), Agate L., Jackson 20 Jul (R. Robb), and Tualo Res., Deschutes 25 Jul (P. Low); most of the Region's stray White-faced

occur mid-May–mid-Jun.

A Red-shouldered Hawk at Kent, King 21–26 Jul supplied Washington's 2nd summer record (K. Andrich, ph. A. Brown). A Merlin over College Place, Walla Walla 22 Jun (M&MD), and another in apparently suitable breeding habitat at Godman Springs, Columbia 4 Jul (K. Knittle), suggest that this species may nest in the Bl. Mts. A Prairie Falcon visited Eugene 2 Jun (D. Gleason); the westside probably has but one prior summer record away from Jackson. The Washington breeding population of Sandhill Cranes, entirely in nw. Klickitat and sw. Yakima, reached a modern-day high of 58 this summer (JE). Oddly, Sandhills are nearly annual during Jun in the W.V.; this year singles appeared near Philomath, Benton 10 Jun (WDR) and F.R.R. 11 Jun (D. Gleason), while 11 graced Sauvie I. 17 Jun (E. Knight). A Sandhill at Coos Bay 27 Jun was on the outer coast, where rare at any time (E. J. Petock).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Black-bellied Plover tarried at Iowa Beef, Walla Walla through 17 Jun (M&MD, SM), and another visited Potholes Res., Grant 8 Jun (L. Cooke, R. Finger); there was only one antecedent eastside Jun record. An American Golden-Plover at Iowa Beef 2–3 Jun furnished the eastside's 5th record of a northbound bird (SM). A southbound ad. American Golden-Plover, not annual in the Region, graced F.R.R. 11 Jul (K. Larsen, L. McQueen, R. Robb). Once again, the Region hosted Jun Pacific Golden-Plovers, with singles at Ridgefield 11–16 Jun (G. Mayfield, WC, R. Winde-muth) and Ankeny 13 Jun (WDR); prior to 2001, such records were virtually unknown. Two more Pacifics were found during their usual window of southbound migration, 6 Jun+. A Greater Yellowlegs at Ridgefield 9–16 Jun was present between the dates usually assigned to northbound and southbound migra-

tion (B. Clemons, JE, BF); interestingly, a distinctively injured Greater Yellowlegs last seen at P.S.B. 10 Jun was rediscovered at Deer Lagoon, Island, some 30 km to the sw., on 24 Jun, demonstrating that a departing bird is not necessarily a migrating one (SM). A Lesser Yellowlegs at P.S.B. 14 Jun was up to a week early (SM). Eleven Solitary Sandpipers, 8 Jul+, was supranormal. Note that we erred in last summer's report: the earliest southbound Solitary record from Oregon was on 29 Jun 1989 at Diamond L. (D. Fix). Not annual during spring/summer in the W.V., single Whimbrels enlivened F.R.R. 18 Jul (M. Cutler) and Finley 27 Jul (WDR).

A Long-billed Curlew summering at Dungeness Bay, Clallam was nearly unprecedented away from the outer coast on the westside (RM, GGe). An ad. Hudsonian Godwit brightened P.S.B. 26 Jul (TA); though southbound Hudsonian Godwits are now nearly annual in the Region, this was only the 2nd southbound ad. in the last decade. This summer's Bar-tailed Godwit frequented Tokeland, Pacific 19–24 Jul (P&RS). A Marbled Godwit at Dungeness Bay 25 Jun was about 10 days early (GGe). Six Marbleds on the eastside, 3 Jul+, was exceptional, highlighted by 4 at Gutierrez Ranch, Crook 13 Jul (CG). Semipalmated Sandpipers appeared in better-than-average numbers, with 57 in Washington and 13 in Oregon. The first was a few days early at P.S.B. 24 Jun (SM), and peak movement of ads. came on 30 Jun, when 17 were found in the n. PT. (SM). The first southbound Western Sandpipers arrived at P.S.B. 17 Jun (SM). Washington's 2nd fully documented Red-necked Stint enlivened P.S.B. 21–25 Jun (TSM, ph. TA, ph. S. Pink, TH. Opperman). Eleven Baird's Sandpipers 8 Jul+ was nearly twice the norm. Lone Pectoral Sandpipers were at P.S.B. 28 Jun (SM) and 26 Jul (SM), about one-third the norm. This summer's early southbound Dunlin stopped at Crockett L., Island 29 Jun (BSW, D&PW), a goodly six weeks before the next migrant was noted. Two ill-appearing Dunlins survived at P.S.B. through 30 Jun (SM); a few Dunlins typically summer on the outer coast, but such is extremely rare elsewhere in the Region. Very rare ad. Stilt Sandpipers adorned O.S. 28 Jul (P&RS) and Midway Beach, Pacific 30 Jul (P&RS). A Short-billed Dowitcher at P.S.B. 14 Jun was a week or more early (SM), while singles at Hatfield L., Deschutes 3 Jul (C. Miller) and St. Andrews, Douglas 21 Jul (GS) yielded very rare eastside summer records. Two more *hender-soni* Short-billed Dowitchers were detected, with singles at Crockett L., Island 30 Jun (ph. SM) and P.S.B. 7 Jul (ph. SM); considered casual in the Region, this subspecies may occur

more often than previously thought. The last northbound Long-billed Dowitcher was a tad late at N.S.C.B. 10 Jun (TR), while an early southbound bird visited Ridgefield 21 Jun (JE). Numbers of southbound ad. Long-billeds were exceptional, as evidenced by 474 at F.R.R. 21 Jul (S. Nord). Migration dates for Wilson's Snipe in the Region are poorly understood, but one at P.S.B. 17 Jun appeared to be a very early southbound migrant (SM). A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes at Midway Beach 30 Jun were two to three weeks early for the outer coast, where rare at any time (P&RS). At least 10 male Wilson's Phalaropes guarded nests during Jun at P.S.B., their only w. Washington breeding site (SM, TA); in w. Oregon, this species nested at five locations, including Finley, furnishing *Benton's* first breeding record (WDR).

An astonishing 49 South Polar Skuas were found, far more than all jaegers combined. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary survey yielded 35 skuas, 29 Jun-9 Jul (SMi), and 7 were off Westport on the early date of 23 Jun (BT). Washington's 5th Laughing Gull greeted a visiting Belgian birder at Bowerman Basin, *Grays Harbor* 22 Jul (ph. G. Beckers); of the Region's seven antecedent records, five are from the westside, all but one between 17 Jul and 15 Oct. The 8 Franklin's Gulls noted in e. Washington was near the norm. A Franklin's at Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor* 18 Jul was on the westside, where not annual during summer (J. Flynn). The eastside's 2nd summer Mew Gull graced Looe Beef, *Walla Walla* 9 Jun (SM, BSW). Mews are proving rare but annual on the westside during Jun (mostly imms.), with the first migrants appearing in early Jul (mostly ads.). This year, single imms. visited Cultus Bay, *Island* 24 Jun (SM) and Deer Lagoon, *Island* 30 Jun (SM). A Glaucous Gull at Astoria through 3 Jun was about a month tardy and provided the Region's first summer record since 2000 (ph. B. Barnett). A Sabine's Gull near Well's Dam, *Douglas* 30 Jun provided the eastside's 5th summer record (K. Brown); antecedent records are all 1-19 Jun.

A Common Tern, very rare during summer on the eastside, brightened Desert Aire, *Grant* 8 Jun (SM, BSW); equally unusual was one in the W.V. at F.R.R. 6 Jul (DI). Continued nesting of Arctic Terns on Dungeness Spit was demonstrated by 3 ads. carrying food 28 Jul (GGe); the actual number of breeding pairs could not be assessed, as the area is not fully accessible. A tally of 320 Forster's Terns near Paterson, *Benton* 9 Jun was unprecedented in Washington (SM, BSW). A Black Tern visited Ridgefield 21 Jun (JE); this species is not annual in w. Washington from mid-Jun through

early Aug. Washington's 4th Least Tern enlivened Crockett L., *Island* 16 Jul (ph. S. Littlefield); most Regional records have been on the westside, late May-mid-Aug. Approximately half of the Region's roughly 20 records have been noted during the past five years.

Alcids were abundant and diverse this summer, with 10 species detected. Notable high counts included 8774 Common Murres off *Grays Harbor* 19 Jul (RM), a summer-record 145 Marbled Murrelets near Destruction I., *Jefferson* 14 Jun (RM), 1011 Cassin's Auklets at Cape Flattery 18 Jul (RM), and 279 Cassin's (a record for interior marine waters) in the Strait of Juan de Fuca between Angeles Pt. and Green Pt. 18 Jul (D. Wheelan). A Xantus's Murrelet at Cape Flattery 4 Jul (C. Cox) was at the same location that provided Washington's first from-shore record last Jul. A *scrippsii* Xantus's was 70 km wsw of Cape Alava, *Clallam* 8 Jul, and 2 unidentified *Synthliboramphus* murrelets were 65 km w. of La Push, *Clallam* 9 Jul (both SMi). This is the 5th consecutive summer during which Xantus's has been recorded in the Region, yet the Region had only four summer records prior to 2001. A basic-plumaged Parakeet Auklet off Cape Alava 4 Jul furnished the Region's 2nd summer record (SMi), the first having come last Jun. Horned Puffins have been nearly annual during summer of late, but this summer was extraordinary, with coastal singles near Cape Alava 5 Jun (RM), off Cape Alava 2 Jul (SMi), at Newport, *Lincoln* 5 Jul (D. Faxon), at Quillayute Needles, *Jefferson* 13 Jul (RM), and at Westport 21 Jul (BT, BLB), plus one in the P.T. at P.N.P. 29 Jun (VN).

The ongoing presence of Band-tailed Pigeon in *Klickitat* was demonstrated by up to 15 at Trout L. 4-8 Jul (RH, RM); one farther e.



Washington's fifth Great-tailed Grackle wandered about a park in Nehalem, Whatcom County, Washington 20-25 (here 24) June 2007. In a steep valley on the Cascade Mountain's west slope at 400 m elevation, this location has little beyond a lawn and a dumpster to attract any species of grackle. Photograph by Ryan J. Merrill.

near Prineville, *Crook* 25 Jun was a true variant (D. & N. Tonseth, CG). Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to conquer the Region, with 2 reaching Washington's nw. corner at Forks, *Clallam* 3 Jul (RM). This species was noted in five additional w. Washington and at least five w. Oregon locations. On the eastside, observers have grown weary of reporting collared-doves, but populations of 10+ inhabited Burns, Redmond, *Deschutes*, Madras, *Jefferson*, Washtucna, *Adams*, and probably elsewhere. The Region's first nesting Northern Hawk Owls were found near Winthrop, *Okanogan*, a location that has supplied several recent winter records. A pair first noted in May had 4 fully fledged youngsters by 26 Jun (V. Glick, L. Schreiner). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard along the Touchet

SA Evidence that Ancient Murrelets breed in nw. Washington has been steadily accruing over the past few summers. This year, however, an astounding 117 ads. were detected off the Olympic Pen., almost entirely during Jun, with a maximum of 56 near Cape Alava 5 Jun (RM). More importantly, 18+ chicks were also found 7-21 Jun, including a very young chick with 2 ads. near Tatosh I., *Clallam* 7 Jun (RM). Concurrently, approximately 9 were found on five dates in the Straits of Juan de Fuca 12 Jun-16 Jul, where not annual during summer; and another off Anderson I., *Pierce* 18 Jul was virtually unprecedented for summer in the s. Puget Sound (all D. Wheelan). Not annual off Oregon during summer, 2 flew past Yachats, *Lincoln* 2 Jun (DI, J. Sullivan). Importantly, the Olympic Pen. sightings are consistent with breeding chronology in the Queen Charlotte Is., the nearest large colony, where fledging occurs primarily in Jun, followed by rapid dispersal (Gaston 1994, *Birds of North America*, no. 132).

R., *Walla Walla* 25 Jun (M&MD); if accepted by the W.B.R.C., it would be about the 10th in Washington since the species was extirpated in the 1930s.

Extremely rare for the w. Washington was a Black-chinned Hummingbird at Kelly Butte, King 2 Jun (EH). More regular, but still not annual, were Black-chinned in w. Oregon near Oakridge, Lane 4 Jul (TM) and on Mt. Hebo, Tillamook 4 Jul (RG). Anna's Hummingbirds continue to expand their range, spawning some records that seem just plain odd. Fitting that category was one at about 1600 m elevation in Lodgepole Pine woods at Rider's Camp, Kittitas 3 Jun (A. Sedgely, D. Paulson) and another in similar habitat at about 900 m at Rimrock Retreat, Yakima 2 Jul (BT). Single Costa's Hummingbirds, now found annually during summer in Oregon, brightened Grants Pass, Josephine 1 Jun (DV) and Bend 12 Jul (J. Moodie). There was an unprecedented late summer/early fall movement of Calliope Hummingbirds into the westside lowlands, with singles at Vancouver, Clark 26 Jul (K. Knittle), Mt. Pleasant, Skamania 29 Jul and 3 Aug (WC), and Battle Ground, Clark 2 Aug (J. Danzenbaker); one wonders if this was tied to the interior's drought. At least 100 Rufous Hummingbirds visited a set of feeders near Rockport, Skagit 14 Jun, recorded during a half-hour's surveillance (SM, MB); one wonders how many hummingbirds truly use those feeders.

A Williamson's Sapsucker was near Takhlakh L., Skamania 7 Jul (RM); there are very few w. Washington records of this species, though it might actually be regular in e. Skamania. An apparent Red-naped Sapsucker photographed on Vashon I., King 1-17 Jun, upon close scrutiny, showed signs of introgression with Red-breasted Sapsucker (T. Mansfield, E. Swan). Another (and more typical) Red-breasted Sapsucker \times Red-naped Sapsucker hybrid was unusually low in the Cascades foothills at about 100 m at Barnaby Slough, Skagit 14 Jun (MB, SM). An American Three-toed Woodpecker was near Government Meadows, King 12 Jul (EH). Single Black-backed Woodpeckers were near Takhlakh L., Skamania 7 Jul (RM) and Naches Pass, King 28 Jul (M. Bartels). It has been assumed that both of these species occur high on the w. slope of Washington's Cascades, but

until the past few years, there have been precious few records. Recent scrutiny of these areas have confirmed that American Three-toeds are low-density residents from Whatcom to Skamania and that Black-backed occur there as well, though likely in smaller numbers or less regularly.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

The first apparent southbound Western Wood-Pewee was in Seattle 6 Jul (RM); this onset of this species' southbound migration is poorly established in our Region. After several unverified reports, Oregon's first Alder Flycatcher, near Irish Bend, Benton 29 May-2 Jun (R. P. Moore, WDR), was verified by analysis of its sonogram (A. McCallum). An apparent northbound Willow Flycatcher in Seattle 20 Jun was about a week late (KA). A mind-boggling 24+ Least Flycatchers were discovered in the Region, 1 Jun-5 Jul, continuing this species' ongoing colonization of the Region (see Molodun 2005, *Western Birds* 36: 310-316). Likely breeding pairs were at Turnbull N.W.R., Spokane (M. Probe), Ellisperte, Ohanogan (P. Hicks, B. Sundstrom), and Rock L., Whitman (T. & D. Weber). Very rare westside Least included a spring migrant at S. Prairie, Pierce 3 Jun (CW), a bird on territory near Wabash, Lewis 19 Jun-5 Jul (BS), and a mid-summer apparition at Marymorn Park, King 5 Jul (M. Hobbs). Oregon's only Least visited Ft. Klamath 8 Jun (B. Altman). This species likely enters (and departs) the Region from the north or northeast. A Gray Flycatcher at Cassimer Bar, Ohanogan 7 Jul was probably an early migrant (RH); the first southbound birds are usually detected in early Aug. A Gray Flycatcher in suburban Eugene 16 Jun was either a stray and tardy northbound migrant or simply lost (S. Gordon); the W.V. averages about 2 Grays per spring, typically late Apr-mid-May. Nearly as peculiar in timing and rarity was a Dusky Flycatcher in Portland 17 Jun (G. Lillie). Black Phoebes, steadily pushing their range northward, likely bred at F.R.R. (D. & A. Heyerly). Multiple Ash-throated Flycatchers were heard at the Spring Creek Hatchery, Skamania 21 Jul (WC); though barely annual in w. Washington, Ash-throated breed close to this site in Klickitat and may well breed locally in e. Skamania. Ash-throated Flycatchers again wandered northward into

the W.V., with singles at Baskett Slough, Polk 18 Jun (D. Schrouder) and Dexter, Lane 20 Jun (D. Bontrager). Washington's 8th Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was near Blyn, Clallam 2-3 Jul (R. Rogers); most Regional records have been May-early Jul.

A Warbling Vireo in Seattle 19 Jun was about 10 days late for a northbound bird (KA). A Philadelphia Vireo at Hooper, Whitman 3 Jun (FGS) would be Washington's 4th, if accepted by the B.R.C. A tally of 34 Red-eyed Vireos in the vicinity of Barnaby Slough, Skagit 14 Jun was unprecedented for w. Washington (SM, MB); rather than exceptional, this count likely merely reflects this species' high breeding density in the Big-leaved Maple woodlands on the w. slope of the n. Cascades. In w. Oregon, however, Red-eyes do seem to be expanding their range, with summering/breeding birds at five+ W.V. sites. For the first summer in several years, no new westside Bank Swallow colonies were located; however, for the 5th consecutive summer, lone individuals were found in the s. W.V., suggesting that small numbers may breed there: singles visited Finley (WDR), Philomath, and F.R.R. (R. Robb). Three Juniper Titmice near Malin 18 Jun suggests that this species is continuing to move westward in the Klamath Basin (KS, D. Haupt).

A Rock Wren graced L. Cushman, Mason 3 Jul (BS); this species is exceptionally rare w. of the Cascades during summer. One at Mt. Si, King 23 Jul was high on the w. slope of the Cascades, where scarce (M. Bartels). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Ridgefield 16 Jun furnished Washington's 10th record and only the 2nd for spring/summer (BF). Two Blue-grays at Gray Butte, Jefferson 14 Jul (S. Dougill) and one at Mt. Pisgah, Lane 3 Jun (BA) were n. of their usual range; this species appears to be expanding northward on the eastside. A Gray Catbird among the Lodgepole Pines at Rider's Camp, Kittitas (elevation approximately 1600 m) 3 Jun was well out of habitat (A. Sedgely, D. Paulson), as was a singing bird on the Oregon coast at Florence 14 Jul+ (D. Pettey). Two catbirds along the Little Deschutes R. in nw. Klamath 9 Jul (R. Robb) and one at Toketee L. in e. Douglas 3 Jun (W. Stone) provided further evidence of this species' range expansion southwestward into Oregon's s. Cascades. Three Northern Mockingbirds in Washington was about average, while 3 in Oregon was subpar. Western Washington's first summer Sage Thrasher enlivened Possession Beach, Island 3 Jun (C. Johnson); this species is not annual in w. Washington at any time. A Brown Thrasher graced Fields 1 Jun (JG); this species has been annual in Oregon, May-Jul, during recent years.

SA In 1921, an American Three-toed Woodpecker nest was found at 1800 m on Happy L. Ridge in the Olympic Mts. (Jewett et al. 1953; *Birds of Washington State*). No sightings from this range have been subsequently published, but there were several reports in 1988 at the Deer Park burn (*vide* B. Boekelsheide), and a pair at 1100 m on Mt. Norton in the late 1990s (SG). This year, a female inhabited the Grif Peak burn, at 1550 m, during Jun, and the same burn that hosted a male at 1350 m during summer 2005 (SG). Given the lack of lowland westside records, it seems likely that American Three-toed Woodpeckers are low-density residents of the Olympic Mts.

A Northern Parula was near Sisters, *Deschutes* 11 Jun, bringing this "spring's" total to 3, about treble the norm (C. & M. Miller). Two Chestnut-sided Warblers at Ritzville, *Adams* 6 Jun (ph. B. Lyle) and one near Port Angeles 6 Jul (SG) added to 16 prior Washington records; almost all are from Jun. Oregon's 17th Cape May Warbler enlivened Malheur 2 Jun (C. Charlesworth); most of the Region's records have come from *Harney* in May/June. Two more Hermit Warblers were found in the mts. of King, one at Naches Pass 15 Jun (M. Bartels) and another (paired with a Townsend's Warbler) at Snoqualmie Pass 19 Jul (J. Flynn), suggesting that this species may breed, in small numbers, farther n. than previously recognized. This season's 2 Black-and-white Warblers were both at Malheur 1 Jun (J. Gilligan). American Redstarts were found breeding at only one westside location this year, County Line Ponds, *Skagit*, where two pairs plus one young were noted 26 Jul (TA). A very rare outer coast redbird visited Bayocan Spit, *Tillamook* 2 Jun (R. Smith). A Northern Waterthrush, very rare on the outer coast, visited Cascade Head, *Tillamook* 2 Jun (PP). A male Hooded Warbler at Malheur 1 Jun (JG, O. Schmidt, B. Sites), followed by a female there 5 Jun (WC), supplied Oregon's 11th and 12th records; surprisingly, only two of the antecedent records were from May/June. Yellow-breasted Chats formerly bred widely but locally in W. Washington and were reported as "common" into the 1950s in *Clark*. They subsequently were extirpated and for several decades not even found as vagrants. Over the past decade, numbers of stray territorial males have been increasing, with this being a banner year. As many as 9 territorial males inhabited Ridgefield through 16 Jul (JE). Five territorial males were elsewhere in W. Washington, the most northerly of which were 2 at Stillwater, King through 14 Jul (m.ob.). At least in *Clark*, some of this recovery is due to the

generation of native riparian habitats.

At least 6 Clay-colored Sparrows were detected in e. Washington, sw. to Rocky Coulee, *Adams* (GS)—modestly above average for the past decade.

Black-throated Sparrows showed well on the eastside, perhaps also related to the drought elsewhere. In e. Washington, 4 ads. were on Rattlesnake Ridge, *Yakima* 23 Jun, and an imm. was there 3 Aug (AS). Two singing males were at traditional sites near Vantage during Jun (TA, M. Fleming), and one inhabited Steptoe Butte, *Whitman* through 9 Jul (m.ob.). In ne. Oregon, Black-throated were detected nw. of their usual range at multiple sites in Painted Hills N.M., *Wheeler* 23 Jun+ (J. Geier). More unusual was a westside Black-throated at Ruby Beach, *Jefferson* 15 Jun (BS); most westside records are during years with supranormal eastside numbers. A singing Swamp Sparrow at Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 9 Jun was unprecedented, the previous Washington late date being 26 Apr (SM, BSW). Very tardy Golden-crowned Sparrows visited *Washutna*, *Adams* 1 Jun (P&RS) and *Bainbridge* 1. 9 Jun (D. Watkins); there have been only about seven Washington summer records during the past 30 years.

Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, all in w. Oregon 1-24 Jun, was distinctly subpar. An Indigo Bunting in Snohomish 17 Jun was about the 20th for Washington (D. Kirkland). In Oregon, where annual, an Indigo was at Baskett Slough, *Polk* 14-30 Jun (B. Young); peak occurrence in the Region is late Apr-mid-June. An Indigo Bunting x Lazuli Bunting hybrid at Eugene was the 2nd such bird at Eugene in the past three years (K. Larsen) and the 4th record for the Region. A Bobolink visited Swauk Prairie, *Kittitas* 6 Jun (M. Mathis); Bobolinks are very local breeders in Washington, and migrants are not detected annually. At least 6 male Tricolored Blackbirds were seen carrying food near Othello during early Jun, strongly suggestive of

local nesting (RH). The largest concentration was 41 at Marlin, *Grant* 10 Jun, not far from the established Wilson Cr. breeding location (DS). A Great-tailed Grackle graced Nehalem, *Whatcom* 20-25 Jun (ph. P. DeBruyn, B. Kuntz), and 2 inhabited Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 14 Jul+ (ph. M&MD), providing Washington's 5th and 6th records. Oregon was visited by 6 Great-tailed 6-20 Jun, the most unusual of which was one nw. at Baskett Slough 20 Jun, *Polk's* 2nd (DI); perhaps this species has renewed its range expansion in the Region. The rather remarkable increase of Bullock's Orioles in W. Washington continued, exemplified by 18 near Everett 7 Jul (SM, DD); a decade ago, 18 Bullock's noted during an entire summer throughout *Snohomish* would have been notable. Washington's 5th Baltimore Oriole enlivened Richland, *Benton* 2-9 Jun (NL); three of the antecedent records occurred 31 May-20 Jun. After an eight-month absence, the ever-peripatetic White-winged Crossbill suddenly appeared in the Region during Jul, with small groups at three locations in *Pend Oreille* during late Jul (K. Tran) and one at Santiam Pass 12 Jul (RG).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Bob Altman, Tom Avers (WA), Range Bayer (*Lincoln*), Marv Breese, Wilson Cady, Craig Corder (*Spokane*), Mike and Merrylyn Denny (M&MD), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (*Crook*), Roy Gerig (*Polk, Marion*), George Gerdis (GGE), Jeff Gilligan, Denny Granstrand (*Yakima*), Scott Gremel, Troy Guy, Randy Hill, Eugene Hunn, Stuart Johnston (*Klickitat*), Bruce LaBar (BLB), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, Ryan Merrill, Tom Mickel (*Lane*), Craig and Marilyn Miller (*Deschutes, Jefferson*), Scott Mills (SMi), Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Clarence and Marilyn O'Leary (*Grant*), Michael Patterson (*Clatsop*), Phil Pickering, W. Doug Robinson (*Benton, Linn, Marion*), Tim Rodenkirk (*Coos, Curry*), Doug Schonewald, Bob Shelmeline, Gina Sheng, Kevin Spencer (*Klamath*), Andy Stepniwski, Patrick and Ruth Sullivan (P&RS), Dennis Vroman (*Josephine*), Brad Waggoner (BSW), Charlie Wright. ☉

SA Brewer's Sparrows wandered far and wide in the Region this summer and in a fashion that was utterly unprecedented. This species is typically restricted to eastside sites dominated by sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), where it is quite common from Apr onwards. This year, in late May/early Jun, Brewer's Sparrows inexplicably set up territories in grasslands and open dry coniferous woodlands devoid of sage from *Spokane* s. to *Baker* (M&MD). The first sign of movement into the westside was a singing bird at Finley 7-11 Jun (WDR). Then another territorial bird was found near Brownsville, *Linn* 2 Jun (B. Altman), where eventually 6 Brewer's were detected by month's end, including two or more pairs (DI, Paul Sullivan, C. Karlen). At F.R.R. 3 fledglings 19-20 Jul furnished the first W.V. breeding record (D. Farrar, DI), with up to 7 birds present 2 Aug, 2 of which lingered until 24 Aug (DI). In w. Washington, Brewer's never made it to the lowlands or established breeding territories, but at high elevations, up to 8 were at Windy Gap, *King* 12 Jul+ (EH, RM), and one was on Mt. St. Helen's, *Schumacher* 7 Jul (RM). Interestingly, 16+ Vesper Sparrows at Naches Pass, *King* 20 Jul (RM) were also unprecedented and likely part of the same dispersal. In the W.V., Grasshopper Sparrows were unusually numerous and widespread, with record numbers at F.R.R. (DI) and singing birds at Finley 4 Jun (WDI) and near Alitje, *Polk* 3 Jul (BA) where they have not previously bred. It is unknown whether these birds originated within the Region, or farther e., where drought conditions were far worse.

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Steven A. Glover

(Doves to Wrentit)

Ed Pandolfino

(Thrashers to Finches)

Scott B. Terrill

(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)

Horned Puffins continued to be found along the central coast in unprecedented numbers, and other unexcited alcids were also found close to shore. As is often the case, what is good for birders was not good for the birds, and many of these alcids were eventually found dead on shore. Other exciting pelagic finds included a well-photographed Lesser Frigatebird, a potential first for California, and a Short-tailed Albatross seen from shore. Brown Booby reports continue to increase, including another from the northern portions of the Region. The land-bird highlight was undoubtedly the northernmost Whip-poor-will for the state, a long-staying bird that was the Region's first in 11 years.

Abbreviations: B.S.O.L. (Big Sur Ornithology Lab); C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); E.L. (Southeast Farallon I., San Francisco); P.R.B.O. (Pt. Reyes B.O.); S.F. (San Francisco, not State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, California 91933. Birds banded on E.L. should be credited to Pt. Reyes B.O. and those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab of the Ventana Wilderness Society.

WATERFOWL

A flight-capable Ross's Goose with an appar-

ently injured wing at the Madera W.T.P. 8-17 Jun (GaW) was the first in summer for Madera. Unseasonable Brant inside S.F. Bay included 2 birds in Alviso, Santa Clara 13 Jun (ph. Kathleen Henderson) and one at Hayward R.S., Alameda 17-24 Jul (RJR). A male Wood Duck in eclipse plumage 1 Jul (SCR) was apparently the first ever for the Surprise Valley. Modoc. Among an unusual number of summering American Wigeons on Santa Clara salt ponds was a Eurasian Wigeon n. of Moffett Field 14 Jul (RWR, FV). Breeding American Wigeons were reported from the Sacramento River N.W.R., Butte 21 Jun (female with 2 chicks; JHS) and Crowley L., Mono 20-21 Jul (2 females with broods; JLD). Another unusual hybrid duck was reported this season, a male Mallard x Cinnamon Teal molting into eclipse plumage at Natural Bridges S.B., Santa Cruz 6-23 Jul (ph., †SGe). Only a single Northern Pintail brood was reported, from Redwood Shores, San Mateo 26 Jun-19 Jul (Pat Boor, RSTh); a male at the Ukiah S.T.P. 17 Jun (GEC et al.) provided only the 2nd summer record for Mendocino. The only Redhead brood was at Hayward R.S., Alameda 4 Jul (RJR, PDR, SJu). Summer Ring-necked Ducks included an injured male near Snelking, Merced 3 Jun (PJM) and one at Crowley L., Mono 11 Jul (JLD). Lesser Scaup bred again at Hayward R.S., Alameda 1 Jul (PDR, SJu, RJR), but no young were reported from Santa Clara or elsewhere this season. The resident male Harlequin Duck at Coyote Pt., San Mateo spent its 5th summer there, being joined by a female 6 Jul (RSTh). Other summer Harlequins included one at Little Marin I., Marin 5 Jun (John Kelly) and one to 4 at MacKerricher S.P., Mendocino 16 Jun-7 Jul (DT, KHV, JHV). Summer Black Scoters included males at Pt. Reyes, Marin (RS et al.) and off Doran Beach, Sonoma 30 Jul (Peter Colasanti). The only Long-tailed Duck reported spent the summer at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey (YG, Linda Jordan). Several coastal Bufflehead were somewhat expected, but one at Crowley L., Mono 21 Jul-2 Aug (JLD, MSanM) was more unusual. A Red-breasted Merganser at the latter location 13 Jun (KNN) was likewise rare in summer.

GREBES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Very unusual in summer, 3 Red-necked Grebes and a Horned Grebe were present throughout the period at Drakes Bay, Marin (RS). Elsewhere, summer Red-necked Grebes included singles off Limantour, Marin 17 Jul (RS) and near Bodega Bay, Sonoma 23 Jul (BDP et al.). More typical spring migrant Red-necked Grebes included one at Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 2 Jun (KGR) and 5

at Pt. Reyes N.S., Marin 1 Jun (RS). An imm. Short-tailed Albatross was seen from Pt. Pinos, Monterey 25 Jun (†BLS). Relatively rare in summer, a Flesh-footed Shearwater was off Pt. Sur, Monterey 14 Jun (JND). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel was off Cordell Bank, Marin 31 Jul (Shj), where noteworthy but apparently regular at this time of year. Brown Boobies have recently been present throughout the year in small numbers in the Region: one spent 4-5 Jun on a boat off Humboldt (Bruce Campbell), and one to 2 were present on E.L. 3 Jun-27 Jul (P.R.B.O.). Regional Brown Pelican numbers continue to be strong; 2000 were on the breakwater at Pillar Pt., San Mateo 20 Jun (LHe), and 73 on 29 Jun (MMR, MJM, RGJ) represented a summer high count for Santa Clara. An apparent Lesser Frigatebird was observed and photographed from shore near Arcata, Humboldt 15 Jul (Peter Ralph, †CJR, ph., †BLS, ph., †Marshall J. Iliff, Steve Kelling). This remarkable record would represent the first for California (if accepted by the C.B.R.C.) and the 4th for North America (the previous records are from Maine, Michigan, and Wyoming). This species is restricted to tropical waters in the S. Pacific and Atlantic, and its occurrence coincided with an unusually warm plume of water extending from deep water to relatively close to Humboldt.

BITTERNS THROUGH RAILS

An American Bittern at Benton Hot Springs, Mono 6 Jul (JLD) was in an area where breeding is not known to occur. Least Bitterns at the Yolo Bypass WA. 5-15 Jul included an ad. feeding a begging young bird 8 Jul for Yolo's 5th record and first confirmed breeding (RAD, Laura Davis, JMhu, TEa, FS). An apparent subad. White-faced Bittern spent 3 Jun-24 Jul at Hayward R.S., Alameda (RJR); other coastal reports included a flock of up to 15 over San Mateo and Half Moon Bay in San Mateo 5 Jun (RSTh, DvA), 2 at Watsonville Slough, Santa Cruz 8-23 Jul (RgW), and 2 at Moonglow Dairy, Monterey 15 Jul (RF).

The two Ventana Wilderness California Condor nests—one in a cliff cave, the other in a huge redwood stump—contained single young all season (Ventana Wildlife Society); they are the first wild nests in Monterey since 1905. Ospreys continue to expand their breeding range in Santa Cruz, including a pair nest building at Harkins Slough through 2 Jul (RgW, Gary Kittleson, DLSu) for the first certain breeding attempt for the Pajaro Valley in modern history, and the first recent breeding evidence away from mountainous terrain in the county. A Northern Goshawk at Cape Mendocino, Humboldt 7 Jun (TWL) was at an

unexpected coastal location, particularly for the date. A Swainson's Hawk nest with one large young n. of the Napa County Airport 24 Jun (MBE) was the first successful nest in Napa, following nest-building at this location last year. Breeding by Swainson's Hawks in *Santa Clara* continues to elude detection, although 3 recently fledged juvs. were brought to the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley from San Jose and Alviso 6-20 Jun; ads. were noted over Milpitas 9 Jun (2 birds, Randy Little) and over Coyote Valley 26 Jun (MJM). An ad. Crested Caracara was near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 26 Jun+ (ph. ADB). A Prairie Falcon at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 1-15 Jul (Sju, RJR) was unseasonable for this S.F. Bay location. Ten Black Rails detected on surveys in *Solano* marshes 1 Jun (RLCL, WNE) were expected, but a vocal bird on a Pebble Beach golf course 11 Jun-1 Jul (Rich Trissel, Steve Donahue, m.ob.) was only *Monterey's* 2nd. This record lends credence to the unconfirmed report from the same location on 31 Mar 2006.

SHOREBIRDS

Pacific Golden-Plovers were found at Abbots Lagoon, *Marin* 16 Jul (ASH), Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin* in mid-Jul (RS), and at Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 17 Jul (Amber Transou, SMcA). Solitary Sandpipers were at Adobe Res., *Mono* 20 Jul (KNN) and e. of Lindsey, *Tulare* 27 Jul (RH). The Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* harbored many unusual inland shorebirds this season, with surprisingly high counts of 54 Willets 1 Jul (GEw et al.) and 36 Marbled Godwits 13 Jul (JMHu), a Red Knot 16 Jul (JMHu), and 3 Short-billed Dowitchers on the odd date of 8 Jun (SCH). A Willet at the Madera W.T.P. 24 Jul (GaW) was only *Madera's* 2nd, following the first record at the same location last year. An unseasonable Ruddy Turnstone was on S.F. Bay off East Palo Alto, *San Mateo* 2 Jun (MMR); returning fall migrants were detected 25 Jul+, with a surprising 23 at the e. end of the Dumbarton Bridge, *Alameda* on that date (MJM). An early returning Surf-bird was found 4 Jul at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* (Sju, RJR). A surprisingly high count of 38 basic-plumaged Red Knots on S.F. Bay off East Palo Alto, *San Mateo* 2 Jun (MMR) presumably involved summering birds; early returnees included the earliest southbound migrants for *Santa Cruz* by a week, 2 birds off West Cliff Dr. 6 Jul (SGE). Thirteen Semipalmated Sandpipers in eight



This male Scarlet Tanager was found and photographed at Muir Beach, California 3 June 2007. Photograph by Ryan Terrill.

counties 5 Jul+ included inland ads. at the Gustine S.T.P., *Merced* 16 Jul (PJM) and at the Yolo Bypass W.A. 27 Jul (TEa). A Western Sandpiper and a Long-billed Dowitcher at Gustine, *Merced* 4 Jun were out of season, particularly for an inland location (PJM). The only Baird's Sandpiper report received was of 4 birds at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 26 Jul (RJR), a large number for this time of year. A molting ad. Curlew Sandpiper at the Yolo Bypass W.A. 29 Jul-1 Aug (ph. TEa, m.ob.) was the 2nd for *Yolo*. A count of 2500 Wilson's Phalaropes at the Tulare W.T.P., *Tulare* 23 Jul (SDS) was a very high total for anywhere

away from Mono L. or S.F. Bay; Red Phalaropes other than the *Contra Costa* bird lingering from last season included singles at Younger Lagoon, *Santa Cruz* 2-4 Jun (SGE, ELb) and off Pt. Joe, *Monterey* 3 Jun (DR, RC).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDIS

Rare in the Region, especially in the far n., a Laughing Gull was at the Elk R. mouth, *Humboldt* 21 Jul (BS). Seventy-nine Franklin's Gulls at Fee Res. 17 Jun (RbF) was a high count for *Modoc*. Elsewhere in *Modoc*, 32 were at Goose L. Causeway 17 Jun (EE). Away from the ne. part of the Region, single Franklin's Gulls were at Crowley L., *Mono* 25 Jun (JiDP), the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 1 Jul+ (RAD, m.ob.), and Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara* 27 Jul+ (PJM, m.ob.). The first nesting record of Western Gull in *Napa* involved two nests on the Napa R. during the period (MBE). Unseasonable Glaucous Gulls included a continuing first-cycle bird present for many months at Crescent City, *Del Norte* through 9 Jun (ADB) and one at Samoa, *Humboldt* 11 Jul (KGR). Likely post-breeding dispersers from breeding locations in east S.F. Bay; single Least Terns were at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma* 14 Jul (CLu, LLu), Moss Landing, *Monterey* 14 Jul (TAm), and San Rafael, *Marin* 23 Jul (SBT, LTer). A Least Tern at Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* 10 Jun (CLu, LLu) was late for a spring migrant and early for a post-breeding dispersant. A second-cycle Common Tern at Crissy Field, S.F. 27 Jun (ph. RS) was unseasonable, and one at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 26 Jul was early for the C.V. Continuing a recent trend, Arctic Terns were quite scarce offshore, with singles or small groups the norm. Hundreds to thousands were typically seen on organized pelagic trips in the Region from the 1960s through the 1990s during the fall mi-

SA The remarkable event of the season was the unprecedented number of nearshore alcids. This incursion was led by Horned Puffins, which were present in record-breaking numbers, especially along the central coast area of the Region (i.e., *Marin* to *Monterey*). It is difficult to know how many birds were involved, but over 200 birds had been reported at the time this report was drafted. Most appeared to be second-cycle birds, but a few ads. were reported as well. A similar influx occurred in May-June 1975, when over 200 birds were recorded statewide. This species probably winters regularly far offshore of the Region, but the reasons for these May-June nearshore influxes are currently unknown. The influx was not limited to Horned Puffins, as they were joined by other northern-latitude breeding alcids. Ancient Murrelets were present in high numbers (for summer) in the Region, with approximately 30 birds reported, and, quite noteworthy, single Thick-billed Murre were at Pt. Reyes N.S., *Marin* 5-14 Jun (RS, JCS, Mtb, CLu, LLu) and Patrick's Point S.P., *Humboldt* 7 Jul (HSSa). If accepted by the C.B.R.C., these would represent the first summer records of this species for the Region (and the state). In addition to these n. alcids, locally breeding alcids (e.g., Tufted Puffin, Rhinoceros Auklet) were recorded in unusual numbers close to shore, where they are typically scarce during summer.

gration period, which begins in Jul. Reasons for the substantial decline in numbers are unknown and may involve different migratory routes or decreases in population size. Black Skimmers continue to push northward. One in Crescent City 13 Jul (Lucas Brug) represents the northernmost record in the Region and a first for *Del Norte*; the first for S.F. was on S.F. Bay 22-24 Jun (Eddie Bartley, m.ob.). A pair tending a nest at Brooks I. 28 May was the first nesting documented by this species in *Contra Costa* (Michael Carnall, *vide* Judith Dunham). Elsewhere in the Region, approximately 60 skimmers were reported from *Sonoma* to *Monterey*, with the vast majority in south S.F. Bay. Thirty-four Long-tailed Jaegers near Cordell Bank, *Marin* 31 Jul (Shj) was an expected number for late Jul.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Band-tailed Pigeons are rare in *Mono* and *Madera* e. of the Sierra Crest, so a single bird at Minaret Vista 11 Jul and 5 there on 21 Jul were noteworthy (JLD). A White-winged Dove 15-24 Jul at Trinidad, *Humboldt* provided a very rare mid-summer record for the Region (MHA). Out-of-place Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 19 Jun (b.; B.S.O.L.) and Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 4 Jul (RJR); another heard along Putah Cr. 11 Jun may have been a first for *Solano* (AEn). A single cuckoo at Cock Robin I., *Humboldt* 14-15 Jul was at a location where breeding has been suspected in recent years (EE). Two Greater Roadrunners between Boonville and Manchester 17 Jun were closer to the coast than any previously recorded in *Mendocino* (Scott Klynstra) but were outshone by one on the C.V. floor at s. Davis, *Yolo* 19-21 Jun (Emily Griswald, Carol Traverso). A migrant Common Nighthawk over Rancho Del Oro 10 Jun was a nice find for *Santa Cruz* (DLSu). The closest apparent breeding station for the species is around Salt Point S.P., *Sonoma* where one individual was heard 15 Jun (JSL, JCS). A Whip-poor-will at Willow Creek 27 May-31 Jul was an unexpected first for *Humboldt*, the northernmost ever found in California, and the first found in the Region since Jun 1996 (Marla Shull, RbF, KGR, m.ob.). Unexpected was an ad. male Costa's Hummingbird at a feeder in Lafayette, *Contra Costa* 3-10 Jul; it was joined by an imm. male 6-9 Jul (Maury Stern). Another ad. male was in a Livermore, *Alameda* yard 14 Jun-11 Jul (Jean Lepson). Pileated Woodpeckers are not known to breed in *Monterey*, though one 8 Jul in the Ventana Wilderness (†Adam Wachtel) provided the 5th documented record there in the past 15 years, two others of which were also from this location.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES

A Least Flycatcher was reported without details at Orick, *Humboldt* 24 Jun (KI). A singing Dusky Flycatcher at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 31 May-14 Aug was far from any known breeding stations and, at only 514 m, was at least 700 m lower than would be expected for a breeding bird (KAr, DLSu et al.). A Black Phoebe at Adin 15 Jun (JTz, EE) was a long overdue first for *Modoc*, the last of California's 58 counties to record this species. Two ad. Say's Phoebes feeding 3 to 4 juvs. at the East Swett Ranch near Vallejo 17-19 Jun provided a first nest record for *Solano* and represent the northernmost nesting in California w. of the Great Basin (Ken Poerner, Maureen Geiger, RLCL, MBe); another Say's Phoebe at Briones R.P. 13 Jun was well w. of currently known breeding sites in *Contra Costa* (DSW). Eastern Kingbirds at *Modoc* N.W.R., *Modoc* 16 Jun (RbF) and at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 30 Jun (Charlotte Ann Kising, *vide* Dave Irons) were in areas where breeding has been suspected in the past. As is typical, a single Eastern Kingbird reached the coast in midsummer, this time at Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 14 Jul (RbF). A Pinyon Jay at Shasta 1 Jun marked the 5th record for *Shasta* (Timothy Guide). A singing Yellow-throated Vireo was briefly described from Mono Lake C.P., *Mono* 18 Jun (†Bob Power). Vagrant Red-eyed Vireos were found in the Marin Headlands, *Marin* 17 Jun (William Legge, Tony Harrow) and along the American River Parkway, *Sacramento* 19 Jun (DgSh).

A pair of Purple Martins present at Rocklin through at least 26 Jun were believed to have produced at least one fledgling, the first successful breeding in *Placer* since early in the 20th century (Dan Kopp, m.ob.). The only Purple Martin sighting in *Santa Cruz*, where breeding has gone unrecorded since 2001, involved a post-breeding dispersant at Younger Lagoon 10 Jul (SGe). Such a record might seem rather mundane were it not for the fact that the bird was caught and eaten by a Great Egret! Chickadees at the edge of their currently known range included an apparently unmated Black-capped at the Matole R. mouth, *Humboldt* 2-3 Jun (JTz) and 2 Chestnut-backeds just s. of Cedar Valley, *Madera* 20 Jul (GaW). Swainson's Thrushes away from known breeding areas were at Mt. Diablo S.P., *Contra Costa* 1 Jul (DSW) and lower Walker Cr., *Mono* 4 Jul (CMc). A Hermit Thrush at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 19-23 Jul was an unusual summer find for the shore of S.F. Bay and probably represents a post-breeding dispersant (RSTh).

THRASHERS THROUGH TANAGERS

The Cornell Lab's Nature Recording Class found *Sierra's* first Gray Catbird in Carman

Valley 7 Jun. Our other catbirds were both at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 1 (KWV) & 6 Jun (RS). The Brown Thrasher found in spring at the Pt. Reyes Fish Docks, *Marin* continued through 6 Jun (RS, SBT, LTer, MtB, RyT). The warbler season was pretty typical in terms of numbers and variety. A Tennessee Warbler was at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 1 Jun (RS). All 14 Northern Parulas were coastal except for a singing male at Simis Ranch, *Mono* 2 Jun (KNN). A male Northern Parula n. of Pt. Reyes Station, *Marin* 1 Jun-25 Jul attracted 2 females and produced 3 fledglings (RS). Of the 6 Chestnut-sided Warblers reported, a male present 7-15 Jul at Klamath Glen, *Del Norte*, was unseasonable (ADB). Magnolia Warblers were at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 1-3 Jun (TAE, TEA, SBT, LTer, MtB, RyT), Mt. Davidson, S.F. 6 Jun (Bfi), and Trinidad, *Humboldt* 9-24 Jun (RbF, KI). Juv. Yellow-rumped Warblers found on Ft. 10-11 Jul (P.R.B.O.) and at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 27 Jul (RSTh) were probably dispersing from coastal breeding areas. *Yolo's* first Yellow-throated Warbler was a singing male n. of Davis 7-9 Jun (Laura Davis, ph. RAD, m.ob.). All 4 Blackpoll Warblers were coastal, as were 4 of 5 Black-and-whites, the exception coming from Lundy I., *Mono* 15-16 Jun (PJM). American Redstarts made a good showing, with 17 reports, and once again the only inland reports came from *Mono*, with singles 14 Jun at Fish Slough and Wildrose Canyon (both PJM). An Ovenbird on Ft. 1-3 Jun was a holdover from May (P.R.B.O.). Another Ovenbird was singing at the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 4 Jun (BTM). The only Northern Waterthrush was in Pescadero, *San Mateo* 16 Jun (PJM). Singing Hooded Warblers were in Klamath Glen, *Del Norte* 2 Jun (ADB, OnA), Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 14 Jun (RSTh), and Davis 16 Jun (*Yolo's* 2nd; JMHu). A singing male Canada Warbler at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 2 Jun (SBT, LTer, MtB, RyT) was an excellent find. Summer Tanagers were at Fremont Weir, *Yolo* 12 Jun (JMHu), Lundy Canyon, *Mono* 16 Jun (PJM, ph. A. Lowd), and Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 21 Jun (RS). The Summer Tanager near Colfax, *Placer* that returned last season for a 2nd summer remained at least until 22 Jul (Larry Risser). A highlight of the season was a singing Scarlet Tanager at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 2 Jun (ph. RyT, ph. SBT, LTer, MtB).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Clay-colored Sparrow 1-3 Jun on Ft. (P.R.B.O.) was a holdover from May. A male Lark Bunting on Etzel Rd. 16-19 Jun (EP, ph. Clo, m.ob.) that entertained birders with song and full display was the 2nd for *Solano* and the 2nd for the C.V. in summer.

SA A report of an American Tree Sparrow on El. 1 Jun (P.R.B.O.) inspired a search through our archives and the literature. As has been previously noted by McCaskie (1973; *Western Birds* 4: 71) and McCaskie et al. (1979; *Birds of Northern California*), the only May or Jun records for this species in California come from El. Data from Richardson et al. (2003; *Western Birds* 34: 58) and our archives include at least 16 records during these months from El. Besides the lack of mainland California records, there are also no May or Jun records from Washington and only four May records from Oregon. At least 8 American Tree Sparrows have been found on El. in Jun. After receiving input from Regional Editors covering nearly all of the normal winter range of this species in the lower 48 states, we have found only five other Jun records—two each from Wisconsin and Minnesota (vide Peder Svingsen) and one from North Dakota (vide Ron Martin). The only documented Jul record we can find for the lower 48 is a bird found dead in coastal San Luis Obispo in southern California 20 Jul 1979, as reported by Banks (1980; *Western Birds* 11: 56).

Grasshopper Sparrows were widely reported as present in unusually high numbers this season. A Swamp Sparrow on El. 3-5 Jun (P.R.B.O.) was another unusual summer sparrow. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Sonora Pass, Tuolumne 16 Jun (SUM) was unseasonable.

Among the 33 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported this season was the 3rd for Sierra at Bassetts Station 1-2 Jun (Bob Steele). Blue Grosbeaks were present and breeding along the Pajaro R., Santa Clara 23 Jun+ (SCR, m.ob.). At least a dozen Indigo Buntings were reported, with breeding probable or confirmed in a few locations. A likely Indigo-Indigo pair was indicated by multiple observations on Skyline Drive (San Mateo and Santa Clara) 8-26 Jul (ViT, WGB, Craig Cummings, ADEM). Up to 15 Bobolinks were e. of Eagleville, Modoc 17-22 Jun (RbF, KP, m.ob.). A well-described Orchard Oriole was in Bayside, Humboldt 18 Jul (DFx). Two Scott's Orioles were at Black Rock Mine, Mono 14 Jun (PJM), in an area where they have bred in the past (PJM). A pair of Lawrence's Goldfinches in Lemon Canyon 5 Jun (KPA) was believed to be Sierra's first.

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Roger Adamson (Yolo), Tim Amaral, Onik Arian, David Armstrong, Kumaran Arul, Alan D. Barron (*Del Norte*), Murray Berner (*Napa*), Matthew Brady, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Scott Carey, Rita Carratello, George E. Chanot, Luke W. Cole (*Kings*), Chris Conard (*Sacramento*), Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Peter Dramer, Jon L. Dunn, Tanner Easterla, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (*San Francisco*), Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Andrew Engilis, Gil C. Ewing, Brian Fitch, David Fix, Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF), James H. Gain (*Stanislaus*), Steve Gerow (*Santa Cruz*), Yohn Gideon, Steve A. Glover (*Contra Costa*), Melody Hamilton, Steve C. Hampton, Rob Hansen, Stanley W. Harris, Jim T. Havlena, Karen A. Havlena, Laird Henkel, Alan S. Hopkins, Joan M. Humphrey, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Richard G. Jeffers, Shearwater Journeys, Sheila Jung, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Earl Lebow, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Tom W. Leskiw, Ron LeValley, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Jim Lomax, Calvin Lou, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Blake Mathe-

son, Sean McAllister, J. Mac McCormick (*Plumas and Sierra*), Chris McCreedy, Peter J. Metropoulos (*San Mateo*), Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Wally NeVile, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Jim & Debby Parker, Kathy Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Gary W. Potter (Fresno), Jude C. Power (*Humboldt*), C. John Ralph, Robert W. Reiling, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Robertson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Salvatore Salerno, Mike San Miguel, Barry Sauppe, Doug Shaw, Jim H. Snowden, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc, Alpine, and Calaveras*), Fritz Steurer, Grace Steurer, Tim Steurer (*Amador and El Dorado*), Brad Stowell (Lassen), David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Richard Ternullo, Linda Terrill, Ryan Terrill (*Marin*), Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, James R. Tietz (*Humboldt and El.*), Vivek Tiwari, Dorothy Tobkin, Steve Umland (*Tuolumne*), Frank Vanslager, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced and San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Denise S. Wight, Brian D. C. Williams (*Nevada*), Ken Wilson, Roger Wolfe, Gary Woods, Bob & Carol Yutzky (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

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Southern California



Guy McCaskie
Kimball L. Garrett

The summer period marked the continuation of a prolonged and severe drought throughout the Region, and though quantitative data on breeding success and adult mortality are lacking for almost all species, anecdotal observations suggest that this has been a difficult and non-productive period for resident and migratory birds alike. The Region's mountains lost their meager snow pack early, and many normally "permanent" springs and streams were dry by early summer. Annual growth was minimal, suggesting that seed crops for wintering birds arriving this fall will be extremely poor.

Most of the season's highlights involved waterbirds, and what was certainly the rarest bird of the period was a briefly seen large storm-petrel that showed the characters of Tristram's Storm-Petrel of the central and western North Pacific Ocean. An incursion of Horned Puffins brought at least 19 birds to the Region (as far south as San Diego), and an extremely rare Parakeet Auklet was found beached near Los Angeles. Other notable records included the Region's seventh Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrel well offshore, its eleventh Wilson's Plover in Coronado, San Diego County, and a Red-faced Warbler in the San Bernardino Mountains, one of the few to summer in the Region's mountains.

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring at the s. end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. Kern); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards A.F.B., se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); P.P. (Pitee Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. Los Angeles); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern);

S.J.W.A. (San Jacinto Wildlife Area, including Mystic L., sw. Riverside); V.A.E.B. (Vandenberg A.F.B., nw. Santa Barbara); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County) and SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (C.B.R.C.) review list (see <www.wfo-

Margarita R. mouth near Oceanside 13 Jun (BF) provides the 4th record for *San Diego*. A Black-footed Albatross 31 km s. of Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 21 Jul (JSF) was only the 3rd recorded in the n. *Santa Barbara Channel*. A Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel 160 km sw. of San Nicolas I. (32.15° N, 120.53° W) 3 Jul (JY) provides another record for the waters off s. California. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in s. California waters, was in the *Santa Barbara Channel* near Anacapa I. 9 Jun (JSF), and another was seen from shore at Pt. Dume in Malibu, *Los Angeles* 23 Jun (KLG). A large dark storm-petrel seen near the Cortez Ridge off



This adult Red-billed Tropicbird photographed far to the south-southwest of San Miguel Island, California on 21 July 2007 was in an area where small numbers probably occur annually. Photograph by Thomas M. Blackman.

cbrc.org) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

Single Brant at a farm pond in the w. Antelope Valley, Kern 11 Jun (RAE), in El Monte, *Los Angeles* the same day (CA), and at L. Elsinore, *Riverside* 5 Jun (LRH) were obviously lost. A Wood Duck with 6 ducklings in Hart Memorial Park near Bakersfield, Kern 16 Jun (K&BK) was unexpected. The presence of a pair of Redheads with 7 ducklings at the Santa Ynez R. mouth 3 Jul (WTF) provided the first record for nesting in *Santa Barbara*. A Surf Scoter at Owens L., *Inyo* 17 Jun (SLS) was inland in the ne. part of the Region. A White-winged Scoter at N.E.S.S. 24 Jun-1 Jul (CMC) was evidently summering at this location. A Common Merganser at S.J.W.A. 28 Jun (JFG) was unexpected.

A Red-throated Loon, most unusual inland, was at S.E.S.S. 8 Jun (GMCC). A Common Loon at S.E.S.S. 18 Jun (BLS) was late for a spring migrant, as was another on Castaic Laگون, *Los Angeles* 22 Jun (MSanM), but one at Apollo L. in Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 20 Jul (JSF) and 3 on Big Bear L., *San Bernardino* 27 Jun (DL) were probably summering.

A Laysan Albatross found dead at the Santa

Santa Rosa I. 21 Jul was identified as a Tristram's Storm-Petrel (SNHG), a species with, as yet, no accepted records for North America.

A Red-billed Tropicbird ssw. of San Miguel I. 21 Jul (JSF) was the only one reported. A Blue-footed Booby was well studied at Pt. Vicente on the Palos Verdes Pt., *Los Angeles* 9 Jun (KGL). A Brown Booby was at Pt. Vicente 2 Jun (KGL), and 3 more were at La Jolla, *San Diego*, with a first-year bird 5-24 Jun (MS, GMCC, CH), and an ad. and subad. together 27 Jul (PEL). Brandt's Cormorants successfully fledged 11 chicks at Port Hueme Harbor, establishing the first record for nesting on the coast of *Ventura*. American Bitterns evidently nested at L. Elsinore, *Riverside*, as



This young Reddish Egret, photographed in Santa Barbara, California harbor on 7 July 2007, moved northward to Goleta and then southward to Carpinteria during the following four weeks. It is only the third ever found in Santa Barbara County. Photograph by Bernardo Alpis.



This first-summer Mississippi Kite remained for only a short time in the Tijuana River Valley near Imperial Beach, San Diego County, on 8 July 2007 before leaving this perch, gaining altitude, and disappearing from view to the south. Photograph by Anthony Mercieca.

an ad. and one fledgling were seen there 11 Jun (JSF). The only Little Blue Heron away from coastal San Diego was an ad. at S.C.R.E. 11 Jul (BA). A Tricolored Heron at S.E.S.S. 14 Jul (GmC) was probably the same bird seen in this area in May and Jun. At least 4 Reddish Egrets were present on the coast of San Diego and Orange during the summer; one around Santa Barbara 7 Jul–10 Aug (BA) provided the 3rd record for Santa Barbara. The continuing pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Imperial Beach, San Diego fledged 3 young in early Aug (GmC), and the ad. paired with a Black-crowned Night-Heron at North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego was still attending a hybrid nestling 3 Jul (MM). Two second-year Roseate Spoonbills at S.E.S.S. 19–26 Jun (EM, GmC) were believed to be 2 of the 3 in this area during the winter, but 3 hatch-year birds there 26 Jul+ (GmC) were new arrivals. The first of the few (maximum 9 at the end of Jul) Wood Storks at the S.E.S.S. this summer was seen 1 Jun (GmC).

KITES THROUGH PUFFINS

A first-summer Mississippi Kite in the Tijuana R. Valley near Imperial Beach 8 Jul (PU) was evidently a late spring vagrant. Northern Harrier nests near Westmorland 26 Apr (BM) and se. of Brawley 30 Apr (BM), both containing eggs, provide the first evidence of nesting in the Imperial Valley, Imperial. An imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk at V.A.F.B. 26 Jul (PK) and another in the San Bernardino Mts. 12 Jul (SJM) were both out of season. A Swainson's Hawk near Brawley, Imperial 27 Jun (DRW) provides the first record in summer at the Salton Sink. What is presumed to be the same Crested Caracara present in the

Tijuana R. valley during the winter was again present 18 Jun+ (SES).

A Wilson's Plover in Coronado 13–21 Jun (MS) was the 5th to be found in San Diego. A Solitary Sandpiper in Bishop, Inyo 16 Jul (JLD) was the earliest of the 6 reported by the end of the month. A Red Knot at S.J.W.A. 19 Jul (CMG) was the only one inland away from the Salton Sea. Reports of ad. Semipalmated Sandpipers included single birds in Goleta 29 Jul (NAL), at PP 7–24 Jul (JSF), and S.J.W.A. 28 Jul (MSanM), and the only juv. was one in Goleta 29 Jul (NAL). A Baird's Sandpiper at S.J.W.A. 24 Jul (CMG) was the only one reported. A Stilt Sandpiper at PP 24–30 Jul (MSanM) and 2 at S.J.W.A. 22 Jul (HBK) were the only ones reported away from S.E.S.S. A male Ruff was at S.E.S.S. 8 Jul (GmC), and a female was at S.C.R.E. 28 Jul (JG).

A South Polar Skua was 120 km s. of San Miguel I. 21 Jul (JSF), and single birds were seen from shore at Leo Carrillo State Beach, Los Angeles 9 Jun (MSanM) and Pt. Dume 23 Jun (KLG). A subad. Pomarine Jaeger, rare in midsummer, was on the beach at S.C.R.E. 5 Jul (RS). A subad. Long-tailed Jaeger 129 km ssw. of San Miguel I. 21 Jul (JSF) may well have summered off s. California. A Laughing Gull at Bolsa Chica, Orange 1 Jul (LO) was the only one on the coast. Single Franklin's Gulls lingered at S.E.S.S. through 21 Jun (GmC) and N.E.S.S. through 24 Jun (CMG), and others were at Owens L. 17 Jun (SLS) and S.J.W.A. 14 Jul (CMG), and on the coast in Oceano, San Luis Obispo 12–20 Jun (MLS), V.A.F.B. 5

Jun (NAL), at La Jolla 5 Jun (MS) and near Imperial Beach 21 Jun (RTP). At least 3 Heermann's Gulls (2 ads. and one second-year) were present inland around S.E.S.S. through the summer (GmC). A second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull at Bolsa Chica 10 Jun–18 Aug (BED) provides the first summer record for California.

Caspian Terns enjoyed a banner breeding year at S.E.S.S., with a minimum of 500 young produced; some ads. were still on eggs in early Sep. Perhaps because of this abundance of Caspians at the few suitable nesting sites, breeding success of Gull-billed Terns and Black Skimmers in that area was quite poor this year (KCM). A hatch-year Elegant Tern was inland, where casual, at S.E.S.S. 26 Jul–5 Aug (GmC). A Common Tern at Big Bear L. 10 Jun (JL) was a late spring migrant at an inland location. Most unusual was an ad. Arctic Tern at PP 1 Jun–1 Aug (MSanM). Least Terns remained at S.E.S.S. through 27 Jun, with a high count of 5 there 8 Jun (GmC) but with no evidence of nesting; single birds at Klondike L. near Big Pine, Inyo 12–13 Jun (T&JH) and Zyzx, San Bernardino 20–22 Jun (RF) were at unusual inland locations. A colony of at least eight pairs of Least Terns that successfully fledged young at a groundwater recharge reservoir in Anaheim, Orange (DRW) was about 24 km inland.

At least 15 Common Murres, unexpected in extreme s. California waters in summer, were seen along the Los Angeles coast in Jun



This Horned Puffin at Point Arguello on Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara County, on 5 June 2007 was one of at least 19 found along the southern California coast this summer. Photograph by Wes T. Fritz.

and Jul (KGL, KLG, JSF, JLF), and another was at La Jolla 23 Jun (JP). Single Pigeon Guillemots at Newport Beach, Orange 6 & 24 Jun (BED) were unusually far south. A moribund Parakeet Auklet on the beach in Venice 18 Jun (KAG; *LACM) was the first to be found in Los Angeles. Unexpected were 13 Marbled Murrelets along the coast of San Luis Obispo in Jun (TME, GPS), with the southernmost being one at Shell Beach 13 Jun



Four Chimney Swifts were observed feeding with Cliff Swallows over San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego County, on 3 June 2007. Photograph by Trent R. Stanley.

(MLS); the species is previously unrecorded in the county at this time of year. Two Ancient Murrelets, casual as far s. as *San Luis Obispo* in summer, were at San Simeon 2-3 Jun (AFS), 2 were near 16 Jun (DP), 2 more were at Guadalupe Beach, *Santa Barbara* 7 Jun (BKS), and 2 were farther s. at Pt. Dume 23 Jun (KLG). Rhinoceros Auklets were more numerous than normal in *San Luis Obispo*, and one was as far s. as La Jolla 27 Jul (PEL). Of greater interest was the presence of Horned Puffins, undoubtedly associated with the influx of these birds to cen. California, with as many as 14 found along the coast of *San Luis Obispo* (TME, NG, AFS, GPS, MLS), one at V.A.F.B. 5 Jun (WTF), 2 in flight off Leo Carrillo State Beach 9 Jun (MSanM), another in flight past Point Vicente 30 Jun (KGL), and one alive at North Island Naval Air Station 31 Jul (MM; *SDNHM).

PIGEONS THROUGH WRENS

Single Band-tailed Pigeons on San Clemente 1. 29 Jun (JEB) and 29 Jun (RDD), on Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 3-25 Jun (JMo, SBM), and in Ridgecrest, Kern 5 Jul (JB) were well away from preferred habitat in the mts. A White-winged Dove in Malibu 14 Jun (DGA) was on the coast, where unexpected. An Inca Dove in Harbor City 21 Jun (KGL) was the first to be reported in coastal Los Angeles. Five Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found away from known nesting areas, with single birds in Tustin, *Orange* 25 Jun (WG), Irvine, *Orange* 27-28 Jun (BH), at Batiquitos Lagoon, *San Diego* 17-19 Jun (SB), near Mission Bay in *San Diego* 23 Jun (PS; *SDNHM), and inland near Brawley

8 Jul (GMcC); a pair near Big Pine 17-28 Jun (SLS) and another along San Felipe Cr. in e. *San Diego* 3-4 Jul (PJ) were in suitable breeding habitat, but only 5 were found at the S.F.K.R.P. 7 Jul (BB). Up to 4 Chimney Swifts were at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* 2-11 Jun (GMcC, TRS), and 2 were over El Monte, *Los Angeles* 30 Jul (JFG). The presence of 2-5 Vaux's Swifts, including a fresh juv., at Atascadero, *San Luis Obispo* 26 Jul (AFS) suggested local nesting; this species is unrecorded breeding south of *Santa Cruz* along the coast of California. A White-throated Swift at Fig Lagoon near Seeley, *Imperial* 14 Jul (GMcC) provides the first mid-summer record for the Imperial Valley. Allen's Hummingbirds of the "resident" subspecies *sedentarius* continue to expand their range eastward and southward, with territorial males e. to Montclair, *San Bernardino* (MSanM) and s. into *San Diego* at Fallbrook (KW) and Del Mar (GMcC). An Acorn Woodpecker on San Clemente 1. 2 Jun (JMZ) was unexpected, as were single Hairy Woodpeckers along the Santa Ana R. e. of Yorba Linda, *Orange* 5 Jul (DRW) and near Bolsa Chica 25 Jul (RAE).

A calling Least Flycatcher was photographed in Mojave, Kern 4 Jun (DSC). A Hammond's Flycatcher in Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mts., *San Bernardino* 14 Jul (BED, CAM) was well s. of the s. limit of the species' breeding range in the Sierra Nevada. A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher near El Centro 31 Jul (KZK) was the earliest to be found in fall in the Salton Sink. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers near the species' w. limit at Prado Regional Park, *San Bernardino* raised two broods of 3 young during the period (JEP). Five pairs of Brown-crested Flycatchers were in Whitewater Canyon, *Riverside* in May and Jun (SJM); a single bird was banded and photographed on Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 24 Jun, where completely unexpected (JMa). An Ash-throated Flycatcher sw. of Brawley 8 Jun-8 Jul (GMcC) and another nw. of Calipatria 27 Jun (DRW) were unusual for the Salton Sink in midsummer. An Eastern Kingbird was at F.C.R. 29 Jul (V&GW). The female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Twenty-nine Palms continued from May and was observed constructing a nest 13 Jun (B&ST); a migrant was in Imperial Beach 3 Jun (VLM).

Three Yellow-throated Vireos appeared in mid-Jun, with one on Camp Pendleton, *San Diego* 13 Jun-1 Jul (JA, EK), one in Wilmington, *Los Angeles* 16 Jun (KGL), and one on Pt. Loma 17 Jun (JMo). A Warbling Vireo in Huntington Beach 22 Jun (BED) was unseasonable. The only Red-eyed Vireo reported was at Famosa Slough, *San Diego* 11 Jun (JP). Two of the few remaining nesting sites for

Purple Martins in the Region are Nojoqui Falls County Park, *Santa Barbara*, where 15+ were noted 22 Jun (NS), and near Lost L. in the Cajon Pass, *San Bernardino*, where several ads. and 4+ juvs. were present 9 Jun-17 Jun (HBK, DG). A Bank Swallow in Goleta 3 Jun (NAL) was a late spring migrant. The general increase in summering Mountain Chickadees in coastal *Orange* continued; one was present for the 2nd consecutive summer in Newport Beach (DRW). Detection of Winter Wrens at 10 sites around Montaña de Oro S. P., *San Luis Obispo* 4 Jul (AFS) suggests that this is now a well-established breeding area.

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

A Townsend's Solitaire at V.A.F.B. 29 Jun (MB) established only the 2nd summer record for *Santa Barbara*. A Hermit Thrush on the summit of Big Pine Mt., *Santa Barbara* 15 Jun was one of the few to summer in the San Rafael Mts. (PAG); unseasonable lowland birds were in Pacific Palisades, *Los Angeles* 12 Jun (RB) and near Jawbone Canyon, Kern 27 Jun (DMcN). Miles from breeding habitat, a Wrenit in Marina del Rey, *Los Angeles* 22 Jun (TMCg) was the 2nd in this general area in



Very few Brown-crested Flycatchers have been found on the coast of Southern California, so this one caught and banded on Point Loma, San Diego County on 24 June 2007 was unexpected. The fact that dark brown on the outer web of the rectrices crosses the feather shaft onto the inner web, and that the rufous on the inner web extends to the tips of the feathers, leaves no doubt as to which of the larger *Myiarchus* was caught. Photograph by John Martin.

the past year. A Gray Catbird, a casual vagrant in the Region, was in Oceanside, *San Diego* 24 Jun (AH).

The late spring push of Northern Parulas continued during the period, with 7 more birds found 3 Jun-7 Jul. A singing male in the



This singing Yellow-throated Warbler, a lost spring vagrant, at Lake Jennings northeast of El Cajon, San Diego County, was photographed on the first day of its 7-8 July 2007 stay. Photograph by Trent R. Stanley.

Sepulveda Basin in Encino, Los Angeles 18 Jun–18 Jul was joined by a female 27 Jun (remaining through 26 Jul); a nest was constructed in a patch of Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*), but apparently no young were produced (BED). Chestnut-sided Warblers were at E.C.R. 6 Jun (LEP) and in La Jolla Canyon, Ventura 19 Jun (AS). A count of 311 Yellow Warblers in the vicinity of S.E.K.R.P. 7 Jul showed the species to be at its highest numbers there since the early 1900s (BB). A Magnolia Warbler was on San Clemente I. 5 Jun (JuW). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at E.C.R. 9 Jun was very late for the desert lowlands (C&RH). Early fall Hermit Warblers were in the Laguna Mts., San Diego 25 Jul (PGi) and at Ridgecrest, Kern 28 Jul (JS). A very late vagrant Yellow-throated Warbler was at La Jennings, San Diego 7-8 Jun (MBS). A Blackpoll Warbler was at C.L. 8 Jun (SLS). Four straggling Black-and-white Warblers were along the coast 2-26 Jun, along with 4 American Redstarts during Jun; another redstart was at California City, Kern 16 Jun (TEW, LLA). An Ovenbird was in Los Angeles 18 Jun (DS); another at Mt. Palomar, San Diego 13 Jun (PU) was present for the 3rd year at this locality. Three singing MacGillivray's Warblers were on Mt. Palomar 13 Jun (PU); there is only one previous summer record for San Diego. Mid-

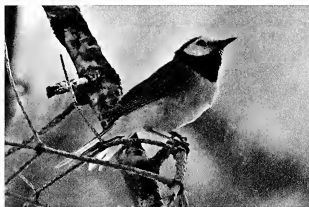
summer Hooded Warblers were at La Jolla Canyon 24-25 Jun (M&JS), Cuyamaca Mt., San Diego 30 Jun–15 Jul (GR, TMB), and in the Santa Ynez Mts., Santa Barbara 22-29 Jul (SNGH). A singing Wilson's Warbler in Huntington Beach 28 Jun–29 Jul (LRH) was unexpected in the coastal lowlands of Orange. A Red-faced Warbler in Green Canyon, se. of Sugarloaf in the San Bernardino Mts. 26 Jun–20 Jul (EAC) marked only the 7th time this species has been found in suitable breeding habitat in the Region. The Painted Redstart at Agua Dulce Cr. in the Laguna Mts. remained May–25 Jul (PGi). Summer Tanagers nw. of the species' breeding range included one in the Santa Ynez Mts., Santa Barbara 29 Jul (DMC) and a pair in Claremont, Los Angeles 16 May–13 Jun (JI).

Bell's Sage Sparrows probably typified the dismal nesting success of chaparral and coastal sage scrub passerines this year; regular surveys in an area n. of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles through the breeding season showed that this normally common resident virtually disappeared by mid-May, with no young produced (HLJ). A Bell's Sage Sparrow on Pt. Loma 2-3 Jun (JR, PU) was away from breeding habitat. A Vesper Sparrow on San Clemente I. 1 Jul (JEB) was quite unseasonable. At least 7 Grasshopper Sparrow territories were found on San Clemente I., with nesting documented (NNJ). Two Large-billed Savannah Sparrows had arrived at Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura by 11 Jul (DV). Late lingering Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows included one (with a broken leg) in Irvine through 23 Jun (LO) and one in the Tijuana River Valley, San Diego 24 Jun (RA).

At least four Northern Cardinal territories were found in the Sepulveda Basin during the period (BED), suggesting that escapees are establishing yet another small coastal population here. Small numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are a typical fixture in the Region in summer; this year, 10 were found 1 Jun–4 Jul along the coast, with others on the deserts at B.S. 1 Jun (DMcN) and Zzyzx 22 Jun (JaW). Three different unseasonable Black-headed Grosbeaks were around S.E.S.S. 22-29 Jun (KZK, DRW). Eleven Indigo Buntings scattered through the Region 25 May–29 Jul (in addition to those noted in the spring report) included late spring vagrants, summering birds, and early fall migrants. Single male Bobolinks were on San Clemente I. 2 Jun (JMZ) and at E.C.R. 6 Jun (LEP). A Tricolored

Blackbird at Zzyzx 1 Jun (C&LL) was well out of range. Scott's Orioles w. of their expected range were at Cuyamaca S. P. 3 Jun (CGE), in the Laguna Mts. 30 Jun (PZ), and in the Santa Ynez Mts. 23 Jul (SB). Purple Finches breed only very locally in the Region's lowland riparian habitats; of note were singing males and a begging juv. in e. Orange, Orange 3-10 Jun (DRW) and several pairs in Temescal Canyon s. of Corona, Riverside 17 May–19 Jun, with several juvs. noted on the last date (SJM).

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This male Hooded Warbler photographed in the Cuyamaca Mountains of San Diego County on 30 June 2007 was one of three territorial birds found in the Southern California region this summer. Photograph by Thomas M. Blackman.

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ly acknowledged submitted reports this season; all have our thanks. ☺

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Baja California Peninsula



Richard A. Erickson
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Coverage was light this season, except in the Cape District in July. Highlights there included a lingering Cackling Goose, nesting Redheads for the second consecutive year, the Region's first Great Frigatebird, the state's first Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, the Region's first nesting Tropical Kingbirds, a Red-eyed Vireo, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Migrant landbirds were especially numerous, perhaps the result of early departure from the drought-ravaged western United States following nesting attempts failed or not initiated. Highlights in the north included unseasonable geese, a Red-eyed Vireo, plus Black-and-white and Yellow-throated Warblers.

WATERFOWL THROUGH JAEGERS

Three geese failed to leave the Region for the summer. In Tijuana, a Greater White-fronted present since Feb 2005 and a Ross's since Jan-

2007 were seen 29 Jul (ph. MJB), and near La Paz a Cackling gander in Mar 2007 was seen again 12-17 Jul (ph. MJB, RAE, SGM). Nesting ducks were poorly reported in Baja California, with only Mallard (Tijuana; Chula Vista, w. of El Hongo; Real del Mar; Ojos Negros) and Ruddy Duck (Tijuana) represented. Ruddies also nested in the far s. at Estero San José, San José del Cabo, as did Redheads for the 2nd year (up to six broods 11-13 Jul) (ph. MJB, RAE, ph. SGM). Ducks at Lagunas de Chemelta 12-17 Jul included a Blue-winged Teal, 6 Cinnamon Teal, and a Redhead (MJB, RAE, SGM). In Baja California, a Northern Pintail was at Laguna Figueroa 6 Jun, and 6 Redheads and a Red-breasted Merganser were at Estero Punta Banda 5 Jun (RAE). Up to three pairs of Least Grebes were at Lagunas de Chamelta 12-20 Jul, and two nests were found (SGM, MJB, RAE). One bird was at a new locality s. of there: El Rosario 18 Jul (SGM). Up to six broods of Pied-billed Grebes were at Estero San José 7-13 Jul (SGM et al.).

Tubenose reports were tame compared to last summer. Highlights included a Northern Fulmar n. of Is. Los Coronados 11 Jun (WTH, DWP, PAG); about 400 Cook's Petrels primarily in deep water s. to 27° N on eight days during 10 Jun-1 Aug (AT, CR, KAR); and from Pta. Arena 6-15 Jul: 500+ Pink-footed, a Townsends, and 50 Black-vented Shearwaters, and a Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel (MJB, RAE, SGM). At Is. Los Coronados, one Brown Booby was reportedly still on a nest 15 Jul-3 Aug, and the Blue-footed Booby was last seen 15 Jul (DWP, WTH). The only Red-footed Booby reported was at Pta. Arena 15 Jul (SGM). At least two pairs of Pelagic Cormorants nested at Is. Los Coronados 20 Mar-15 Jul (DWP et al.). Photographing

frigatebirds at Lagunas de Chamelta 19 Jul paid off for Mlodinow, as subsequent examination of images revealed one of an imm. Great Frigatebird, the first to be found in the Region. The species nests just to the s. of Regional waters at Is. Revillagigedo.

Two Soras at Estero San José 13 Jul (SGM) were presumably early migrants. A Solitary Sandpiper at Lagunas de Chamelta 17-20 Jul (ph. SGM) was eight days earlier than any prior Regional "fall" record. Unseasonable shorebirds (i.e., those seen in the first two or three weeks of Jun) included 3 Wandering Tattlers at Is. Los Coronados 11 Jun, with one on 24 Jun (DWP et al.), a Greater Yellowlegs at El Rosario and 2 at Laguna Figueroa on 6 Jun, 2 Western Sandpipers at Estero Punta Banda and 45 at Laguna Figueroa on 5 Jun, 3 Least Sandpipers and a Dunlin (apparently a first Jun Regional record) at Laguna Figueroa 5 Jun, and a Wilson's Phalarope elsewhere on



This Ross's Goose, first found in January 2007 at Parque de la Amistad, Tijuana, Baja California, was photographed here 29 July 2007, establishing the first summer record for the Baja California Peninsula. Photograph by Mark J. Billings.

Laguna Figueroa 6 Jun (all RAE). Four Wilson's Phalaropes at Héros de la Independencia 18 Jun (RAE, TM) represented the vanguard of fall migrants.

The only Sabine's Gull reported was near Is. Los Coronados 11 Jun (DWP, WTH, PAG). Several Sooty Terns at Rocas Alijos, far sw of



This Redhead with young at Estero San José, Baja California Sur on 13 July 2007 was one of at least six broods found here in July—a second consecutive year of nesting at this tropical outpost. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

Bahía Magdalena, 12 Jun (AT) were at the only Regional location where the species has been recorded regularly (breeds there), whereas one at Pta. Arena 15 Jul (†SGM) was the first to be reported alive in the Gulf of California. Least and Elegant Terns were not recorded at Is. Los Coronados by Jehl (1977; *Western Birds* 8: 91-102), but they have been reported regularly near there in recent years. High counts this year were 20 Least and 75 Elegants 15 Jul (WTH, DWP). Common Terns were seen at both ends of the Region. In the north, 3 were in the vicinity of Is. Los Coronados 15 Jul (WTH, DWP) and 15 were n. of there 25 Jul (DWP). In the south, 3 were at sea nw. of Cabo San Lucas 7 Jul (KAR) and one was at La Paz 17 Jul (SGM). Punta Arena continues to provide a remarkable string of stercorariid observations, including this season's only sightings: 2 South Polar Skuas 15 Jul (SGM) and a Pomarine Jaeger 11 Jul (RAE, MJB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Yellow-billed Cuckoos are proving to be surprisingly widespread in the Cape District. This year, 17 were detected in mid-Jul at seven locations between 70 and 700 m on both sides of the Sierra de La Laguna (SGM, MJB, RAE). Baja California Sur's first Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher visited Caduano 14 Jul (†SGM); the one antecedent Regional record was from El Descanso in Oct 2002. A pair of Tropical Kingbirds tending at least one fledgling at Lagunas de Chametla 12-20 Jul (RAE, MJB, SGM) supplied the Peninsula's first breeding record; lone individuals were also noted at Estero San José 7-11 Jul (KAR, MJB) and near the La Paz airport 12 Jul (MJB, RAE). Several May-early Aug records dating back to 2001 had hinted that this species might breed in the Cape District. Cassin's Kingbirds appeared at three Cape District locations during mid-Jul, including 2 ads. at El Rosario, an ad. and an imm. at Las Cuevas, and an ad. at Chametla (MJB, RAE, SGM); these sightings might seem to suggest local breeding, but Cassin's Kingbirds are known to initiate southbound migration during early Jul (Tweit and Tweit 2000; *Birds of North America* species account). A to-

tal of 54 Thick-billed Kingbirds encountered in the Cape District during mid-Jul included a stunning 40 at Miraflores; though nesting activity seemed largely completed, two broods



Attracted by pishing, this Red-eyed Vireo allowed itself to be photographed on 14 July 2007 at Caduano, where it responded similarly the following day. It is rather surprising that two of Baja California Sur's five records are from July. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

were still being fed at Miraflores and one at Caduano (all SGM). Though previously suspected, breeding by Thick-billed was first confirmed just last year. Two Western Kingbirds at Estero San José 7 Jul (KAR) added to but a few prior Baja California Sur summer

records, all from Jul. This species is another early migrant, typically first arriving in Sonora during mid-Jul (Russell and Monson 1998; *The Birds of Sonora*).

A Red-eyed Vireo at Rancho El Descanso 5 Jun (RAE) furnished about the 4th Regional record of a northbound migrant; this record's timing fits the vagrancy pattern of Red-eyed Vireo in California. A Red-eyed Vireo singing at Caduano 14-15 Jul (ph. SGM) furnished Baja California Sur's 5th record; as odd as this record is, it is even more peculiar given that a male was in nearby Miraflores last Jul—both birds were a goodly 1500 km away from the nearest portion of their "normal" breeding range in Texas. A late Bank Swallow enlivened El Rosario, Baja California 5-6 Jun (RAE), while early southbound individuals visited Lagunas de Chametla 13 Jul (RAE) and Estero San José 14 Jul (SGM). Two Barn Swallows at Cantamar 4 Jun appeared to be a pair (RAE; see below).

A fresh-plumaged Black-throated Gray Warbler was near San Antonio de la Sierra 13 Jul (RAE, MJB), and a worn bird inhabited the same location 18 Jul (SGM). This species typically molts prior to migration (S. Rohwer), raising the possibility that these individuals had summered, especially since Black-throated Grays normally do not begin southward migration until late Jul or Aug (Dunn and Garrett 1997; *Warblers*). A Yellow-breasted Chat sang persistently at Las Cuevas 16 Jul, and another inhabited Santiago 15 Jul (both SGM); these and other recent sightings suggest that chats breed in the Cape District s. of the published limit at Comandú. A singing Western Tanager in willow riparian habitat e. of Tijuana 18 Jun (RAE, TM) was probably a very late spring migrant. The first southbound Western Tanagers were 3 at Miraflores/Caduano 14-16 Jul (SGM); the species is a multi-migrant, well known as an early migrant.

Three singing Grasshopper Sparrows were found on the Maneadero Plain 15 May-5 Jun (RAE); this species is a scarce and local breeder in Baja California. An imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Miraflores 14 Jul

SA The distribution of birds, especially passerines, on the Pacific Islands off Baja California is poorly known. For instance, very little has been published on Islas Los Coronados since Jehl's 1977 summary in *Western Birds* (8: 91-102). A visit by Erickson to I. Coronado Sur in late Jun revealed many surprises, including a Yellow-throated Warbler and a Black-and-white Warbler 24 Jun. Perhaps as interesting, however, was the occurrence of several species not known to breed on the islands, though widespread on the Peninsula itself: 2 Costa's Hummingbirds 24 Jun, 2 vocal Blue-gray Gnatcatchers 23-24 Jun, a Northern Mockingbird 23 Jun, a Blue Grosbeak 24 Jun, and a Lesser Goldfinch 23-24 Jun. In addition to the warblers, the goldfinch was the first Coronados record for any season. Unknown is whether these birds summered/nested on the island, but the Blue Grosbeak and Yellow-throated Warbler appeared to be new arrivals.

Also notable was the absence of Barn Swallows. Jehl reported the species nesting regularly, but none have been seen at the islands recently, despite many spring/summer visits beginning in 2002 (HRC, FG, EP). Barn Swallows have never been confirmed nesting anywhere else in the Region.

(TSGM) furnished Baja California Sur's 2nd summer record, the first coming from the Sierra de La Laguna in late Jul 2004; additionally, a Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeak was at Todos Santos last Jul. Black-headed Grosbeaks were far more numerous this Jul than last. The first was noted near Miraflores 11 Jul (MJB), and a maximum of 23 was at Miraflores and Caduño 15 Jul (SGM). Despite May/June visits (in some cases multiple visits) to at least 35 known, suspected, or potential Tricolored Blackbird nesting areas (s. to El Rosario), the only active colony found involved up to 80 birds at the traditional Héroe de la Independencia site 15 May–18 Jun (RAE, HdC, LMLE). Young were still being fed on the last date, but no fledging was confirmed. Approximately 200 birds were found elsewhere, but none exhibited any nesting behavior. Apparently the extreme drought in the California District severely impacted the nesting success of this species and presumably

many others. A Bronzed Cowbird at Las Cuevas 16 Jul (SGM) was the 3rd for the Cape District, with the first being found as recently as Jan 2005. Brown-headed Cowbirds are now widespread during summer from La Paz to San José del Cabo, with approximately 60 detected during mid-Jul, including juvs. at five locations (SGM). Two flocks of American Goldfinches (both with juvs.), totaling 11+ individuals, were found at two Tijuana locations 29 Jul (ph. MJB); the only prior Regional breeding record, which was Mexico's first, comes from Tijuana in Jul 2000 (*Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 153).

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Mexico

Héctor Gómez de Silva

This summer season's report for Mexico was co-written with Amy McAndrews, Jorge Montejo, and Barbara MacKinnon.

NORTHERN MEXICO

A nesting pair of Gray Hawks was discovered 9 Jun in Cañon de Fernández, Dgo. (AH, FVP). Two pairs of Mountain Plovers (at least one with eggs) were at Llanos de la India, Coah. 29 Jun (AGdL, HGdS, m.ob.). A Eurasian Collared-Dove was on the s. outskirts of Saltillo, Coah. 29 Jun (HGdS). A pair of White-naped Swifts was at Salto del Agua Llovida, Dgo. 8 Jun (HGdS, m.ob.). A pair of

Aztec Thrushes was present near Salto del Agua Llovida, Dgo. 5 & 8 Jun (HGdS, m.ob.). Up to 6 Spotted Towhees were seen in desert scrub at Rancho El Tulillo, Zac. through the first week of Jul (MPV).

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CENTRAL MEXICO

A pair of Muscovy Ducks was observed on Río Uxpanapa near Cerro Nanchital 22 Jun, a single bird was along Río Coatzacoalcos near Peña

Blanca 10 Jul, and up to 3 were seen daily 12-13 Jul at Humedales de la Cangrejera (AM, KSH); all of these locations are in Veracruz (as are all locations here, unless noted otherwise). A male Northern Shoveler was in the artificial lake at Bosque de Aragón, D.F. 16 Jun (HGdS, MPV). An ad. Brown Pelican and up to 75 White Ibis at Río Uxpanapa near Cerro Nanchital 21 Jun were out of normal range. A total of 19 Great Egrets roosted on islands in the artificial lake at Bosque de Aragón, D.F. 16 Jun (HGdS, MPV). Two imm. White-faced Ibis were observed near Peña Blanca 11 Jul (AM, KSH, HYH), and 4 imm. were seen 12 Jul at Humedales de la Cangrejera. Approximately 90 Wood Storks were observed flying northward 13 Jul near Acayucan (AM, KSH). A Hook-billed Kite at the UNAM botanical garden, D.F. 15 Jun (HGdS, GdO) furnished only the 2nd summer record from Mexico City. An imm. Cooper's Hawk and an imm. Red-tailed Hawk flew over Volcancillo 10 Jun (LHA, AM, JM).

Many Pale-vented Pigeons were observed along Río Uxpanapa near Cerro Nanchital 21-22 Jun (AAR, LCA, AM, HYH). A Ruddy Ground-Dove heard singing 26 Jul at El Atorón was above normal elevation. Received late was a report of 5 Military Macaws, including a nesting pair, at Parque Nacional el Tepozteco, Mor. from Aug 2006; this observation represents the first documented nesting record of the species for the state of Morelos





(EAR). A total of 9 Yellow-headed Parrots was encountered 13 Jul at Humedales de la Canejera (AM, KSH, HYH). Another first state record was that of 5 Mangrove Cuckoos discovered near Yautepac, Mor. (ph. MG). Two Chestnut-collared Swifts foraged over the UNAM botanical garden 15 Jun (HGdS, GdO). Up to 20 White-collared Swifts were observed over a cliff face at Puerto Vallarta, Jal. 1-3 Jun (DB). An imm. male Violet Sabrewing seen 22 Jul, a Blue-throated Hummingbird 7 Jul, and single Bumblebee Hummingbirds 2 Jun and 10 Jul at Parque el Haya in Xalapa were all out of normal range (AM, JM). A Mountain Trogon was near the Contadero tollbooth on the Toluca toll highway, D.F. 17 Jun (MG). An Acorn Woodpecker was at Bosque de Tlalpan, D.F. 8 Jun (GdO).

Four Yellow-olive Flycatchers and a Bright-rumped Attila were at El Atorón 26 Jul (LHA, AM, JM). A Rufous-naped Wren was near Tlactalpan 12 Jun (DM). A European Starling was at Ciudad Universitaria, D.F. 12 Jun (MPV). A Louisiana Waterthrush was at Mineral del Chico, Hgo. 17-19 Jul (MG, AM, JM, HGdS). A Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow was discovered at the UNAM botanical garden, D.F. 28 Jun (GdO). A singing imm. male Blue Grosbeak, 3 Chestnut-headed Oropendolas, 6 Montezuma Oropendolas, and 4 Lesser Goldfinches at El Atorón 26 Jul were out of normal range (LHA, AM, JM).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): Alfredo Aguilar Ramírez, Ernesto Alvarado Reyes, Leonardo Contreras Allende, David Bell, Gerardo del Olmo, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Manuel Grossette, Leonel Herrera Alsina,



na, Amy McAndrews, David McCauley, Jorge Montejo, Mónica Pérez Villafaña, Karlo Soto Huerta, Habacuc Ychante Huerta. Uncredited observations are by Amy McAndrews.

SOUTHERN MEXICO

A pair of Muscovy Ducks was near Cerro del Sapo at Presa Malpaso 27 Jun (AAR, LCA, AM, HYH); this location is in Chiapas, as are all locations mentioned in this report. A Magnificent Frigatebird flying northward over Presa Malpaso 27 Jun was well out of normal range (AAR, LCA, AM, HYH). Several Brown Pelicans at Presa Malpaso near Cerro del Sapo 26-27 Jun and at Chicoasen 29-30 Jun were out of normal range (AAR, LCA, AM, HYH). Many Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and ad. Black-crowned Night-Herons were present 26-27 Jun at Presa Malpaso (AAR, LCA, AM, HYH). A Snail Kite at Chicoasen 30 Jun was extralimital (AAR, AM). An ad. Red-tailed Hawk at Chicoasen 30 Jun was below normal elevation (AAR, AM). An imm. Peregrine Falcon near Cerro del Sapo 26 Jun (AAR, LCA, HYH, ph. AM) and a pair of ads. in downtown Tuxtla Jun 28 (AM, HYH) were well out of season. A White-tailed Gnatcatcher at Presa Malpaso near Cerro del Sapo 26 Jun was slightly out of normal range (AAR, AM).

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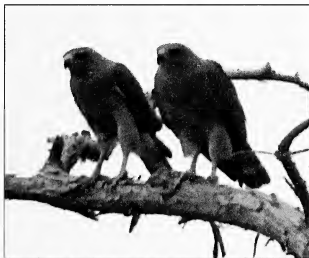
YUCATAN PENINSULA

A pair of Flame-colored Tanagers, a new bird species for the subregion, was reported this season, although the species will remain on the Hypothetical list until photographically (or otherwise physically) documented. An excellent photograph of a Caribbean Short-eared Owl on Isla Contoy confirms the presence of this form on the Peninsula.

Abbreviations: L.C. (Lazaro Cardinas Ejido in s. Quintana Roo); Presa Malpaso (Puerto Morelos); Q.R. (Quintanan Roo); V.C. (Vigia Chico).

CURRASOW THROUGH KINGFISHERS

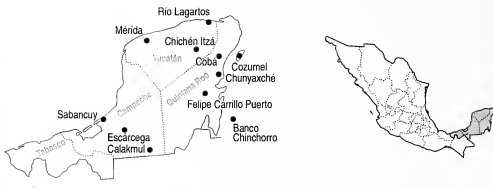
A single male Great Curassow was taking fruit high in a tree on the road to San Felipe Bacalar Reserve 27 Jun (BM), and numerous Black-throated Bobwhites were calling in the cattle grazing fields n. of La Ceiba, L.C. near Bacalar 26 Jun (BM). The latter species is expanding



On 9 June 2007, a pair of very vocal Gray Hawks was seen on a nest in a Montezuma Bald-cypress in Cañon de Fernandez State Park on the Nazas River, Durango, bringing further evidence of the species breeding in this part of Northern Mexico. Photograph by Francisco Valdés Pérezgasa.

its distribution at the base of the peninsula, but to date no one has reported it in between Sian Ka'an Reserve and Bacalar area.

Brown Booby nests near Alacran Reef off the n. coast of Yucatan but is infrequently reported along the coast, but this season 4 were at Rio Lagartos from 1 Jul-mid-Aug (IN); a juv. was feeding along the beach at Celestún 15 Jul (JF, RF, AM); and another was at the Celestún harbor 27 Jun and 20 Jul (AD). American White Pelicans have been known to summer irregularly in small numbers, as was confirmed by one seen 20 Jul on a sandbar at Celestún and 2 there 28 Jul (AD). The unusual number of 9000 American Flamingos in



the estuary at Celestún 20 Jul, means either that many did not successfully nest at their traditional sites within the Río Lagartos Reserve this year—or possibly that the size of the population has grown so much that there are more non-reproducing individuals from the colony (AD). Celestún often harbors non-breeders over the summer.

A Purple Gallinule, which may have been a resident bird rather than a migrant, was in the roadside wetland se. of Peto 24 Jun, along with at least 2 American Coots (BM); and another 10 coots were at Celestún 10 Jun (AD), which may indicate they chose to spend the summer in the subregion. Two Snowy Plovers, local residents, were on the sandbar at Celestún 25 Jun (AD), along with a single Forster's Tern, which is a very unusual date for this species here (AD). Twelve Least Terns were also at the same sandbar at Celestún 28 Jul, where it is assumed they nested (AD).

A pair of Yellow-lored Parrots accompanied a young fledgling high in the canopy at Laguna Ocom, Q.R. 13 Jun (BM, WS), and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were back nesting at San Antonio Chel near Mérida this year, although not re-

ported until Jul (AM). A report of a Caribbean Short-eared Owl, accompanied by an excellent photograph of it preying upon crabs on the rocky shore of Isla Contoy, was received 6 Jun. The exact date of the occurrence is still unknown, as is the name of the photographer, who was visiting the island as a volunteer for the reserve. However, since a few such owls show up once in a while in Florida, it may be expected as well on the Yucatan Peninsula. There are two other records of Short-eared Owl for the peninsula, but the subspecies or form has not yet been determined in each case.

Three Yucatan Poorwills were heard calling at a ranch on the V.C. road pre-dawn 12 Jun, and one was seen the next evening in same location (MG, BM, WS). Vaux's Swift is little known in the s. part of the peninsula; one was seen flying over La Ceiba, L.C., near Bacalar 25 Jun (BM). A single Ringed Kingfisher was seen at the freshwater hole in the estuary at Celestún 20 Jul (AD). The species is known to reside in very low numbers in the n. of the peninsula, where habitat is adequate. A Belted Kingfisher was seen 28 Jul on the Gulf coast at Celestún (AD).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH OROPENDOLAS

Eye-ringed Flatbills appear to be late nesters, as one was just starting to build its nest over the V.C. road 12 Jun (MG, BM, WS), and a female Royal Flycatcher was one third through constructing her nest in same area on same day, with the male looking on (MG, BM, WS). A Vermilion Flycatcher was in the right habitat 10 km n. of La Ceiba, L.C., w. of Bacalar 26 Jun (BM). The distribution of the species in the s. part of the peninsula is not well documented.

Early migrants included 4 Northern Parulas at Río Lagartos 30 Jul (IN). Potentially a new species for the peninsula, a pair of Flame-colored Tanagers was reported from Central Vallarta in Q.R. 24 Jun, observed while they fed on the fruits of poisonwood (HD, LK). Actually, the first observation was of a male in Dec 2006 in the Jardín Botánico, Presa Malpaso, and on two other occasions females were seen at Central Vallarta a few km to the west (LK). Unfortunately, no photograph of the birds was taken, so it will join the list of hypotheticals for the region. A single ad. Montezuma Oropendola was still calling while guarding young in nest at the otherwise abandoned colony located on grounds of INI-FAB, just n. of Bacalar 27 Jun (BM, AS).

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Central America



H. Lee Jones Oliver Komar

Summer is supposed to be the "slow" season for birds, but is it really? There are fewer observers afield because migration is at its lowest ebb. No one will dispute that summer is the season to find that occasional austral migrant wandering a little farther northward than expected. And these certainly include the wealth of seabirds that breed in the southern oceans. Perhaps early summer is also an ideal time to look for birds dispersing northward from nearby "resident"

populations in northern South America. If this summer was any indication of such phenomena, then we have truly been missing out on great opportunities! No fewer than three species new to North America and one new to Central America were found in the Region in June. Two of the four breed in the southern oceans, and the other two were from populations in nearby Colombia. Clearly, the most spectacular was the exhausted Magellanic Penguin found on a beach in El Salvador. The occurrence of the other three, though, could have been predicted. The moribund Greater Shearwater that was

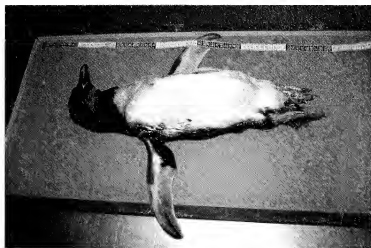
SA A juv. **Magellanic Penguin** was picked up on El Zaite beach, *Ahuachapán* 7 Jun (AP, JP). It was clearly distressed and was placed in a tank of water with ice to cool it down. Despite efforts to save it, it later died. It made all the newspapers and prompted many jokes about the irony of a penguin traveling all the way to El Salvador from Antarctica in search of warmer waters, only to be frozen to death when it arrived. The reality is that it was probably on its last legs already. The specimen was passed on to Salvafutura, where it was later identified (OK). The likelihood of any penguin reaching the Northern Hemisphere unaided by man may always be questioned, but an exhausted juv. washed ashore on a beach—especially of a migratory pelagic species that has turned up as far afield as Australia, ne. Brazil, and Peru—stands as good a chance as any of reaching El Salvador on its own. Furthermore, the record coincides with La Niña climatic event, in which the cold Humboldt current extended northward at least as far as the Galapagos islands.

This record represents the first for North America, but Humboldt Penguin has also been recorded in Alaska, British Columbia, and Washington (see *North American Birds* 56: 402-408), where records have been presumed to be of escaped former captives (see also *Wilson Bulletin* 119: 284-288).

picked up on a beach in Costa Rica is of a species common in summer in the North Atlantic, albeit one rarely seen in the Caribbean, and the small group of Large-billed Seed-Finches and Yellow-hooded Black-birds found in eastern Panama were only a few dozen kilometers from known populations in Colombia and may be from a previously undetected local breeding population. Intriguing also was a June American Kestrel in the same Panama location that was likely a subspecies (perhaps *Falco sparverius aequatorialis*) from nearby resident populations in Colombia. This species was documented breeding in Panama last year. Finally, and not to be ignored among the austral visitors, were a Wilson's Storm-Petrel in Belize and a Large-billed Tern in Costa Rica, only the second ever recorded in that country and the third recorded in Central America north of Panama. So, whoever said summer is the season of the doldrums (aviationally speaking) should consider exploring the margins of Central America in June and July—that is, eastern Panama and the shorelines and nearshore waters of the western Caribbean and eastern Pacific.

PENGUINS THROUGH BOOBIES

The count of at least 30 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at El Real Airport, *Darién* 15-18 Jun (GA, RD) exemplifies the species' increase throughout Panama in recent years. Providing the first record for Cocos Is., 520 km sw. of mainland Costa Rica, was a male American Wigeon seen 15 Jun (ph. FL). In Guatemala, an Ocellated Quail was heard 5 km e. of San Pedro Carchá, *Alta Verapaz* 29 Jul, the same site as a pair found in Apr, and another was heard 3 km farther e. the same day (both KE). Although probably common in the Pacific Ocean off n. Central America, Pink-footed Shearwater had never been confirmed for Guatemala until this summer, when one was photographed off *Succhitepéquez* 7 Jun (ph. PV, VD). On the other hand, a Greater Shearwater found in moribund condition on the beach at Tortuguero, *Limon* 29 Jun (DL) may be the first documented in Central America. After living two days in captivity, it died and was deposited in the collection at University of Costa Rica. Although a relatively common migrant in the n. Atlantic Ocean, it is rarely reported in the Caribbean. Many years ago, a skeleton identified as this species washed up on the beach at Tortuguero, but the remains were not preserved, and even if correctly identified, it cannot be known if it reached Central America waters alive. Another first for Belize was established 4 Jul in Belize when JU closely observed a Wilson's Storm-Petrel "dancing" at the surface of the water just beyond the surf at Placencia, *Stann Creek*. As with the Greater Shearwater, this species is rarely reported in the Caribbean. Much less rare but nevertheless



This starving juvenile Magellanic Penguin found on the beach in Ahuachapán department, El Salvador, 7 June 2007, died of exhaustion later that day. It was hatched just four months or so earlier in southern Chile. Did it move northward on La Niña currents, or did it arrive by ship in El Salvador? We may never know, but other swimming species such as sea lions regularly make the trip from the Galápagos to El Salvador. Photograph by Rocío Juárez.

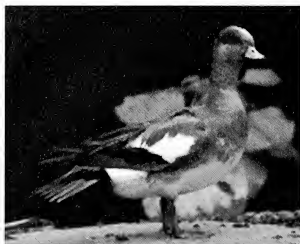


The El Salvador penguin's bill structure, and the light gray band across both maxilla and mandible, confirmed its identification as Magellanic Penguin. Photograph by Rocío Juárez.



The pale gray throat and cheek, narrowly bordered in white, are features diagnostic of juvenile Magellanic Penguin. These features were not clearly evident on the emaciated bird until it was prepared as a study skin (shown here). Photograph by Vladlen Henriquez.

noteworthy was a Nazca Booby seen in Guatemala about 54 km off the coast of *Succhitepéquez* 7 Jun (PV, ph. VD). This species has been reported in Guatemala on several oc-



Although a widespread species on the North American continent, this American Wigeon photographed on 15 June 2007 provided the first documented record for Cocos Island in the Pacific Ocean, 520 kilometers southwest of mainland Costa Rica. Photograph by Felipe López.

occasions previously and may occur more frequently than the few records indicate.

PELICANS THROUGH TERNS

In our continuing effort to report all inland occurrences of Brown Pelican in the Region in order to ascertain a seasonal pattern, if any, we note that 13 were seen flying over Rocja Pomtílá, 8 km se. of Laguna Lachúa, *Alta Verapaz*, on 21 Jul (EC), and 2 juvs. were seen at L. Atitlán, *Solola* 30 Jun (JFH). The species is only occasionally seen at these locations in Guatemala. In e. Panama, a Least Bittern at El Real Airport 18 Jun (GA, RD) provided the first record for *Darién*; in Guatemala, a Black-crowned Night-Heron at Los Trrales Reserve, *Suchitepéquez* 28 Jun (EG, ph. JLL) provided the first record for the reserve; and approximately 6 Boat-billed Herons on Isla de Coiba 23 Jun (D&LE, JO et al.) provided the first record for this large island off the Pacific coast of Panama.

An imm. and 7 ad. King Vultures observed 25 km n. of Uaxactún 1 Jun (MC, JM) was a higher than expected number for this uncommon species in Guatemala's *Peten*; a Hook-billed Kite at El Imposible N.P., *Ahuachapán* 7 Jun (CF) was noteworthy for this rarely reported species in El Salvador. Two fledgling White-breasted Hawks seen perched near their nest in Sanimacá, *Alta Verapaz* 28 Jun (EPC) provided the first nesting record for this Sharp-shinned Hawk "semispecies" in the Sacranix Mts. of Guatemala. A juv. Barred Forest-Falcon seen 13 Jul in Los Trrales Reserve (ph. JLL) provided the first record for the reserve, the 2nd for Atitlán Volcano (the first was recorded last Apr), and the first suggestion of nesting on the Guatemalan Pacific slope. In Panama, another first for Isla de Coiba was a rufous-morph ad. Collared Forest-Falcon seen 23 Jun

(D&LE, JO et al.).

Of interest was a male American Kestrel seen at El Real, *Darién* 16-18 Jun (GA, RD, KEA, DJ, RH, HAM). Evidence exists for American Kestrel breeding in Panama since at least 1995, and in 2006, a nest was found. This individual, and others that have been seen well, had an unspotted breast and lacked the brown crown spot of northern migrants, consistent with that of the resident subspecies from Colombia, *aequatorialis*. Also providing an out-of-season record for the Region was a Peregrine Falcon at El Imposible N.P. 4 Jun (OK). This species was reportedly exhibiting possible breeding behavior at this site in May (see spring report), but later searches through the summer period were unsuccessful and could not confirm breeding. Apparently summering in n. Belize were 4 Black-bellied Plovers 30 Jun and 2 and 8 Greater Yellowlegs on 10 & 30 Jun, respectively, on mudflats in the ne. corner of Shipstern Lagoon, *Corozal* (NB, CG). The much rarer Long-billed Curlew also occasionally summers in the Region. One seen 3 Jul at the mouth of the Rio Lempa, *Usulután* (ph. RIP) established El Salvador's first Jul record.

A Large-billed Tern, the 2nd recorded in Costa Rica and one of the few ever recorded in Central America, was at Boca Rio Matina, between Limón and Tortuguero, 13 Jun (DW). The first was recorded at Tortuguero in Mar 2003. In El Salvador, Gull-billed Terns were present in larger numbers than usual this summer: 6 were at La Unión 30 Jun (RMa), one was at Rio Jiboa, *La Paz* 29 Jun, and another was at the same site 30 Jul (both TJ). Unusual in mid-summer in Belize were single Black Terns in the ne. corner of Shipstern Lagoon 19 & 26 Jun (NB, CG). Occasional summering Elegant Terns have been reported in El Salvador, but a group estimated at between 30 and 40 at Playa El Maculis, *La Unión* 22 Jun (AM) was an unusually high number for a species that is usually only present in large numbers during fall migration.

SKIMMERS THROUGH MONKLET

Very rare in summer in Costa Rica, especially on the Caribbean coast, 2 Black Skimmers

were noted 13 Jun at Boca Rio Matina, *Limón* (DW). Black Skimmers found in summer in s. Central America could be one of the subspecies from South America, rather than migrants from the north. Corroborating the recently documented range extension of Red-billed Pigeon on the Caribbean slope of Guatemala, 2 were in the Rio Chixoy Valley 4 km s. of San Cristóbal Verapaz, *Alta Verapaz* 10 Jul (KE, CA). Also in a location where the species had not been recorded previously, a pair of Plain-breasted Ground-Doves, one of many open-country species that have benefited from deforestation in the Region, was at Chiquibul, *Alta Verapaz* 8 Jul (KE). In Costa Rica, well-birded Arenal Observatory in *Alajuela* recorded its first Violaceous Quail-Dove 22 Jul (LC). This is typical for this species in the Caribbean lowlands and foothills where it simply appears for a while at a location and then disappears.

In El Salvador, a Pacific Parakeet paired with a Red-throated Parakeet were at a breeding site at San Felipe La Joya, *San Vicente* 1 Jun (ph. RIP). The taxonomic status of these two forms has been debated for many years (they are currently considered to be separate species by the American Ornithologists' Union, with the red-throated form treated as a subspecies of Green Parakeet). An Oilbird seen at Cerro Jefe, Chagres N.P., *Panamá* 27 Jul (AG, CAG, EuC) was the 2nd reported from the area and one of only a few from Panama. Providing the first confirmed evi-



The status of many pelagic seabirds, even common species, is still poorly documented in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The globally threatened Pink-footed Shearwater, probably a regular non-breeding visitor along the Pacific coast of Central America in the austral winter, was finally confirmed for Guatemala by this photograph, taken 7 June 2007 off Suchitepéquez department. Individuals were also observed 6 June off Escuintla department, 7 June off Retalhuleu, and 25 June off Santa Rosa department. Photograph by Pilar Velásquez.

dence of breeding in El Salvador, five White-collared Swift nests were discovered behind a waterfall at Municipio de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, *Sonsonate* 17 Jul (ph. CF, JF, IV, JJ, ST). At the same site, several groups of 2-5 Lesser Swallow-tailed Swifts were seen daily by the same observers 17-19 Jul. This species is rarely reported in El Salvador. Rarely reported in Guatemala, a Great Swallow-tailed

Swift was seen flying over the Río Chixoy Valley 4 km s. of San Cristóbal Verapaz 10 Jul (ph. KE, CA).

A Wedge-tailed Sabrewing at The Lodge at Big Falls, Toledo 10 Jun (LJ) was at a lowland locality in s. Belize where it had not been recorded previously. And in Guatemala, Ele-

Yellow-billed Cotinga seen in mangroves 12 km se. of Predregal (s. of David), Chiriqui 26 Jul (GB) was the first reported from the area since 1901. A Barn Swallow in Punta Gorda, Belize on 11 Jun (LJ) was completely out of season. Exceptionally early but not out of season was a Yellow-throated Warbler seen 2 km se. of Sarteneja 30 Jun (NB, CG). Although this species, consistently the earliest arriving fall migrant warbler in the Region, typically appears in the 2nd week of Jul, this Jun record precedes the previous earliest record for Belize by eight days. Another early fall warbler was a male Black-and-white Warbler, still in breeding plumage, seen in San José, Costa Rica 15 Jul (CW). The species typically arrives in the region the latter part of Jul.

Three singing male Slaty Finches at Monteverde 25 Jul (CS) now join Peg-billed Finch as the 2nd bamboo nomad to arrive this year in this popular Costa Rican destination to take advantage of an extensive bamboo fruiting episode. At only 400 m above sea level, a Rusty Sparrow at Hun Nal Ye Reserve, Alta Verapaz 15 Jul (KE, CA) was at a lower elevation than expected for this part of Guatemala. Spot-breasted Orioles were seen at two new locations in Alta Verapaz this summer: 2 in the Río Chixoy Valley 24 Jul and one at Sataña, 14 km n. of Cobán, 28 Jul (both KE, CA). Also new to the Río Chixoy Valley were 2 Altamira Orioles seen 10 Jul (KE, CA).

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The presence of several singing males of the Large-billed Seed-Finch in Darién, Panama—the first for the country—suggests that this species is probably resident in North America. These birds were first found on 15 (here 16) June 2007, at a site just 100 km from the nearest known range in Colombia. Photograph by Kevin Easley.

Knut Eisermann (Guatemala), Dodge and Lorna Engleman, Jesse Fagan, Carlos Funes, Everilda García, Camilla Gomez, Alexis Guevara, Juan Fernando Hernández, Ron Hoff, Ricardo Ibarra Portillo, Tom Jenner (El Salvador), Jorge Jiménez, Lee Jones (Belize), Dev Joslin, Oliver Komar, Josué de León Lux, Felipe López, Daryl Loth, Romain Martin (RMA), Olmedo Miró, Rosabel Miró, Alvaro Moisés, José Moreira, Holly Ann Myers, Jacobo Ortega, Alcides Pérez, Juan Pérez, Efraim Pop Chub, César Sánchez, Sofia Trujillo, Jonathan Urbina, Iselda Vega, Pilar Velásquez, Dennis Wille, Christopher Wood, Jim Zook (Costa Rica). ☉

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Very rare in the Caribbean was this Greater Shearwater, found moribund at Tortuguero National Park, Costa Rica, on 29 June 2007. This is the first documented record of the species for Costa Rica, although the species was reported once previously at the same site. Photograph Daryl Loth.

giant Trogon was recorded for the first time in the Río Chixoy Valley this summer when a female was seen on 10 Jul (ar. KE, CA). Thirteen days later, a male was seen and 2 more individuals were heard calling in the same fragment of pine-oak forest. These records suggest a small local population 50 km nw. of the nearest known population in the arid Motagua Valley. In Costa Rica, a Turquoise-browed Motmot at Manuel Antonio (the town next to Quepos but not the N.E.) on 2 Jul (AA) was very far south. This species is seldom seen s. of Carara. Two Lanceolated Monkeys were at Río Mulabá, above Santa Fe, Veraguas 17 Jul (RM). Although there have been several reports from Panama in the past few years, it is nevertheless considered to be quite rare.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A male Golden-green Woodpecker, rare in Panama, was seen in the Bayano area, Panamá 29 Jul (OM). Elsewhere in Panama, a male

SA North America's first **Large-billed Seed-Finches** (*Dryobates cassirostris*) were recorded in Panama, with 3+ males 15-18 Jun (one on the 15th, 3+ on the 16th, and one or more on the 18th) at El Real Airport, Darién (ar. GA, RD, ph. KEA, DJ, RH, HAM). They exhibited the very large white bill and prominent small white speculum in the wing characteristic of this species. Hilty and Brown (1986. *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia*) show its range as coming within 50 km of Panama and 100 km from El Real. The similar Great-billed Seed-Finch (*D. maximiliani*) is found no nearer to Panama than sw. Colombia, where it is scarce. Populations of this species w. of the Andes (perhaps only a subspecies of *cassirostris*) have a yellowish-white bill and little or no white in the wing, which is at the base of the primaries. While the determination of these birds as Large-billed Seed-Finches has not been established unequivocally, Large-billed is far more likely than Great-billed based on range, and the observed field marks support Large-billed. Perhaps the audio recordings will prove definitive.

A day after finding North America's first Large-billed Seed-Finches at El Real Airport, the same team of observers were surprised to find at least 3 male **Yellow-hooded Blackbirds** (*Agelaius luteocephalus*) in the same location—another first for North America (vt. GA, ph. KEA). At least 3 males and 2 females were present two days later on the 18th. One pair was being followed on the latter date by a begging juv. Shiny Cowbird. This species apparently ranges right up to the Panama border w. of the Gulf of Uraba in Colombia, so its occurrence a short distance away in Panama was expected.

West Indies & Bermuda



Robert L. Norton
Anthony White
Andrew Dobson

Summer is a brief season with relatively few reports, but there were noteworthy rarities in the West Indies this season. A pair of Southern Lapwings on Barbados provided the first West Indies record for the species. Puerto Rico had its first Bahama Mockingbird (in March) and Fork-tailed Flycatcher, the latter on Vieques. House Wrens attempted to nest on Bermuda for the first time. The Bahamas had its third Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Short-eared Owl, the second straight year of successful flamingo nesting on Great Inagua, and a die-off of seabirds, probably Greater Shearwaters.

DUCKS THROUGH SANDPIPERS

Three Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Blue Water Cay, New Providence 24 Jun provided



Confirming local nesting, this Wilson's Plover brooding a chick was caught on film 10 June 2007 at Boca Quebrada, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. Photograph by Daphne Gemmill.

the first record for the island and 3rd for the Bahamas (CW, SB, ph. TH, WP, m ob.). The S.C.S.C.B. post-conference tour found 5 West Indian Whistling-Ducks at Laguna Cartagena N.W.R., Puerto Rico (a regular location for the species) 25 Jul; 2 were photographed near Knowles, Cat 1., Bahamas 22 Jun (CW, PM). A female Blue-winged Teal at Emerald G.C., Grand Bahama 5 Jun was later than usual (BP). At least 18 White-cheeked Pintails were found on Vieques 1-11 Jun (DG), confirming the island's importance for this species. Six Ruddy Ducks and 15 Caribbean Coots were found at Laguna Puerto Diablo, Vieques 7 Jun (DG, MB). At Gaschet Res., Guadeloupe, FD recorded 113 Pied-billed Grebes 13 Jul. In Bermuda, a record-high 80 pairs of Bermuda Petrels produced 39 young (equaling the highest breeding success since rediscovery) (JM). Shearwater passage peaked 3 Jun in Bermuda, with birds moving at about 150 per hour. The majority were Greater, but there were also Cory's and Sooty Shearwaters (JM). A Greater Shearwater arrived on a cruise ship in Bermuda 18 Jul (DBW). A single Cory's Shearwater was seen flying eastward 1 km s. of Taino Beach, Grand Bahama 17 Jun (BP). Second- and third-hand reports indicate there was a large die-off of seabirds in the n. Bahamas in Jun. The few specimens obtained were of Greater Shearwaters. It is probable that the dead birds were Greater Shearwaters unable to feed successfully on their way to more northerly feeding grounds. Six weeks of constant strong winds, and an unusual tongue of cold water extending down the e. side of the Bahamas in late Jun, may have contributed to the die-off (DL, PMA, BP).

Seven White-tailed Tropicbirds, 2 of which were nesting, were seen at the cliffs of Cayo Alfuera, Vieques 9 Jun (DG, OD, MB). On 23 Jun, two pairs of Red-footed Boobies were nesting on Cato Cay, and a Masked Booby was roosting on White Cay in



These three Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, constituting the third Bahamas record, were at Blue Water Cay, New Providence 24 June 2007. Photograph by Tony Hepburn.



White-cheeked Pintails are fairly common on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, and are rather tame here, and on Culebra Island, as hunting them is now prohibited. A pair (9 June 2007) took up residence in an ephemeral pond near Blue Beach; they allowed very close approach by cars and people. Photograph by Daphne Gemmill.



Up to 15 Caribbean Coots, a local high count, were noted 7 June 2007 at Laguna Puerto Diablo, Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. Photograph by Daphne Gemmill.

Graham's Harbour, San Salvador (WH). On 9 Jun, only 7 Brown Pelicans were found at Cayo Conejo, once the largest colony in Puerto Rico (DG, OD, BM). The low number may be seasonal or may reflect a decline in the colony since the 1970s. Three Brown Pelicans were at Atwood Harbour, Acklins I. 7 Jun, and 2 Magnificent Frigatebirds (probably nesting), Osprey, and many Brown Noddies were on Propeller Cay (near Samana Cay) 11 Jun (LJ); this small cay should be checked next spring. An estimated 1000 Neotropic Cormorants

SA This summer, a pair of **Southern Lapwings** bred on a turf farm at Bright Hall, St. Lucy, Barbados, (WB, MF, ph. EM); as of 28 Jul, they had successfully raised 3 young. Another ad. **Southern Lapwing** was at Kendal, Barbados (KW). These birds constitute the first record for this species in the West Indies and add to the evidence that it is expanding its range northward.



These terns were part of a flock of thirty that caused some confusion before being identified as Roseate Terns, a regular breeder in the Turks and Caicos Islands. These terns were roosting on Water Cay, Caicos Islands 23 July 2007. The West Indian nesters of this species look quite different from northern birds, showing shorter tails and orange bases to the bills.

Photograph by Stu Wilson.

were seen in a one-hour birding tour around Inagua N.P. 3 Jul (LG, AB, KB, TR). A single Neotropic Cormorant 11 Jul at Windemere, Eleuthera was away from its normal locations on the island (EJ). Summering heron species in Bermuda included 10 Great Blue Herons, a Great Egret, and a Little Blue Heron (DBW); the long-staying Gray Heron was also present



The first photographic documentation for Key West Quail-Dove for Vieques Island, Puerto Rico was established 5 June 2007 at Puerto Mosquito; the photographer had previously documented two other *Geothlypis* here, Ruddy and Bridled, making it the only location in the world where these three species of quail-dove coexist in close proximity.

Photograph by Daphne Gemmill.

throughout the period (AD). Greater Flamingos nested successfully in two colonies on Great Inagua this year. Heavy rains in late May and Jun, after the young had left the nests, de-

stroyed the nest mounds, so a nest count could not be conducted (HN, *vide* LG). On 3 Jul, 5000 flamingos were seen in Inagua N.P. (LG, AB, KB, TR). One Osprey summered in Bermuda (GB). At Gaschet Res., Guadeloupe, Levesque found 13 Caribbean Coots and 44 American Coots or hybrids 9 Jul, and Duzont recorded 91 Common Moorhens there 13 Jul.

A Snowy Plover at McKinney Pond, Cat 1 22 Jun was near the n. end of its range in the Bahamas (CW, PM). The first significant arrival of returning shorebirds in Bermuda was in the last week of Jul (EA). A Semipalmated Plover 12 Jul at Whalebone Bay, Bermuda may have been a summering bird (AD). A Piping Plover, 4 Ruddy Turnstones, and 3 Least Sandpipers were on the beach at Crossing Rocks, Abaco 21 Jul (EB, UN). DG found 70 Wilson's Plovers during her 1-11 Jun survey on Vieques, indicating the island's population is in good shape. A Black-necked Stilt remained at Spittal Pond, Bermuda through 6 Jun (KR); another seen at various locations in Bermuda in Jul may have been the same individual. Six Black-bellied Plovers 3-10 Jun, 4 Semipalmated Plovers 10 Jun, 4 Short-billed Dowitchers 2-3 Jun, 2 Greater

Yellowlegs 6 Jun, 2 Ruddy Turnstones 2 Jun, and 30 Stilt Sandpipers 11 Jun lingered on Vieques after their expected spring departure dates (all DG). Summering shorebirds in Bermuda included Black-bellied Plover (4), Greater Yellowlegs (one), Whimbrel (4), and Ruddy Turnstone (14) (DBW, PW). While surveying Windemere, Eleuthera 7-15 Jul, EJ found a Semipalmated Plover 9 Jul, a Lesser Yellowlegs 13 Jul, and several Wilson's Plovers, Short-billed Dowitchers, and American Oystercatchers. EB found 2 Piping Plovers at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco 14 Jul, and on at the same location 29 Jul he saw 7 Willets, a Red Knot, a Western Sandpiper, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, 4 Least Sandpipers, and 4 Short-billed Dowitchers there. A Whimbrel was at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., Puerto Rico 25 Jul (S.C.S.C.B.).

GULLS THROUGH WARBLERS

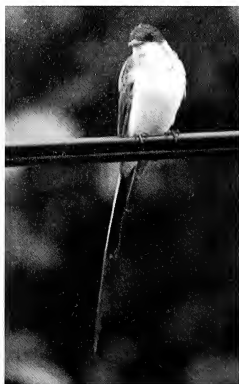
In Bermuda, 2 Laughing Gulls were present throughout Jul, and one Great Black-backed Gull summered (PW). On Cat 1, 49 Gull-billed Terns were at a saline pond near Arthur's Town 21 Jun and 50+ at McKinney Pond 22 Jun (CW, PM). A surprising 6 Caspian Terns were found among a flock of Royal Terns at Windemere, Eleuthera 7-12 Jul (EJ).



The first summer record for Guadeloupe of Barn Swallow was established by this pair at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve 3 July 2007.

Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

A Royal Tern was in St. Georges Harbour, Bermuda 15 Jun (PW). A Sandwich Tern stayed in the East End, Bermuda 23-25 Jun (PW). A Roseate Tern was seen in various locations in Bermuda 14 Jun-11 Jul (DBW, JM). A flock of 30 Roseate Terns, including 10 juvs., was seen roosting on the Atlantic side of Water Cay, Caicos Is. 23 Jul (SW). Eight Roseate Terns were nesting on Roca Alcatraz near Cayo Conejo, Vieques 9 Jun (DG).



This Fork-tailed Flycatcher provided the first record for Puerto Rico and the eastern Greater Antilles on 8 June 2007, near Green Beach, Vieques Island. Photograph by Daphne Gemmill.

OD, MB). The Bermuda population of Common Terns devastated by Hurricane *Fabian* (2003) was hit again by Hurricane *Florence* (2006). Nevertheless, their breeding success improved. A population of 18 birds (eight pairs, plus 2 single birds) resulted in four pairs producing 11 fledglings (DBW). A Plain Pigeon at El Yunque rainforest 11 Jun (BMo) was unusual but not unprecedented. Two White-winged Doves were noted at Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe 14 Jul (AL). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen and one heard in the pine forest of Grand Bahama 30 Jun (WH); another was heard calling at the old fruit farm, Abaco I. 3 Jul (EB), suggesting that this species breeds in the Bahamas. One was an unseasonable find at Spanish Pt., Bermuda 8 Jul (JFI), and 2 were at Laguna Cartagena N.W.R., Puerto Rico 25 Jul (S.C.S.C.B.). The Bahamas' and Exuma's 3rd Short-eared Owl was seen on Sandy Cay, the southernmost cay in the Exuma Chain, 21 Jun (WH). Three endangered Puerto Rican Nighthawks were heard and one well seen at Guanica S.F. 25 Jul (S.C.S.C.B.). Late calling Chuck-wills-widows are suggestive of breeding. Sixteen were heard on Grand Bahama 1-2 Jul by WH, one at Coral Harbour, New Providence 2 Jul by CW, and 3 at Treasure Cay, Abaco I. 10 Jul by EB.

A Western Kingbird was found in copcpe on Treasure Cay, Abaco I. 6 Jun (BB, JG). A



House Wrens made their first known breeding attempt in Bermuda, using empty Eastern Bluebird nest boxes at Alfred Blackburn Smith Nature Reserve (here 6 July 2007). Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher photographed near the old Navy Headquarters, Vieques 8 Jun (DG, EL, SN) provided the first record for Puerto Rico and the e. Greater Antilles. Numbers of Caribbean Martins at Pointe à Pitre, Guadeloupe steadily increased from 504 on 25 Jun to 805 by 28 Jul (AL, JF). A single Bank Swallow was at Pitman's Pond, Bermuda 10 Jun, and 2 Barn Swallows were at Bermuda Airport 8 Jun (DBW). The first summer record in Guadeloupe of Barn Swallow (one pair) was made 3 Jul at Petite-Terre Nature Reserve (ph. AL).

House Wrens made their first breeding attempt in Bermuda this season; the birds made use of Eastern Bluebird nest boxes. A nest at Alfred Blackburn Smith Nature Reserve containing four eggs was abandoned. Two more nests containing seven eggs in each nest were also unsuccessful, as the eggs failed to hatch. Wrens were sitting on both nests, and at least 3 individuals were confirmed (DBW, FH, AD). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler was feeding at Treasure Cay, Abaco I. 29 Jul (EB). A Blackpoll Warbler 7 Jun at the Bermuda Institute for Ocean Sciences (JA, BM) provided the first summer-season record for Bermuda. On 26 Jul, at least 2 Elfin-woods Warblers were found around the perimeter of the campground at Maricao S.E., Puerto Rico (S.C.S.C.B.). A Black-and-white Warbler at Tom Moore's Mangroves, Bermuda 19 Jul furnished the earliest date by seven days (DW). A late Northern Waterthrush was at Harrold



Representing the first summer record of the species for Bermuda, this Blackpoll Warbler was photographed 7 June 2007 at St. Georges. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

and Wilson Ponds N.P., New Providence 23 Jun (WP).

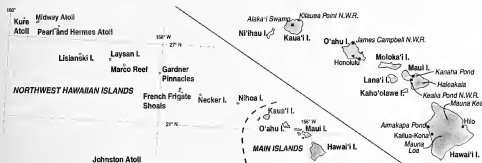
Addendum: From 23-30 Mar, a Bahama Mockingbird was seen visiting a water drip at a residence at Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico (ph. JS), providing the first record for the island.

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Peter Donaldson

The most notable thing about this report is that, for the first time since 1967, Bob Pyle did not write it. Bob passed away in July at age 83. He had continued working on the Hawaiian Islands reports almost until the end. He will be greatly missed in the birding community.

Summer is always a dry season in the Hawaiian Islands, but this year was even drier than usual. Trade winds kept blowing nearly the whole season, providing welcome rain over windward (northeast) sections but keeping leeward (southwest) areas very dry. We received a pretty good number of reports but only one from a pelagic trip. The season was notable for an unusual number of summering migrants.

Abbreviations: H. (Hawaii I.); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawaii I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kauai I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); K. (Kauai I.); Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui I.); Kawaele (Kawaele Waterbird Sanctuary, Kauai I.); Keala (Keala Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I.); Kokee (Kokee S.P., Kauai I.); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kauai I.); M. (Maui I.); Midway (Midway Atoll N.W.R.); Mo. (Molokai I.); O. (Oahu I.); Ohiapiilo (Ohiapiilo Pond, Molokai I.); Pouhala (Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Oahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu I.); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui I.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Migrant geese are uncommon to rare in the Region, so it was unexpected to have three species linger through late Jun. A Greater White-fronted Goose was still at Kualapuu Res., Mo. 22 Jun (ADY), and a Snow Goose lingered at Kealia Jun+ (MN). A Cackling Goose was spotted in Kaneohe, O. 2 Jun (ph. CP), and another remained at Kii Jun+ (MS). Greater White-fronteds are rare in the Region, but one at Waiakea Pond, H. has remained there for years. Snow Geese are very rare, with no previous summer records. Migrant ducks are also very uncommon in the summer, but

this year an American Wigeon was observed at Kauaui, Mo. 22 Jun (ADY, ES) and a Northern Pintail was seen at Ohiapiilo 16 Jun (ADY).

Laysan Albatrosses start nesting in Nov, and the last young fledged in Jul. Laysans on Kauai did well this year, with 119 chicks fledging—a new record. Laysans resumed breeding on the island in 1977. We have had a rare bit of good news regarding one of the Region's endemic seabirds. Unexpectedly high numbers of Hawaiian Petrels (Endangered) have been found breeding in the mts. of Lanai I. These burrow nesters are difficult to count, but biologists with the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife believe the population may number over 1000. Surveys are underway to determine the size of the colony. Red-tailed Tropicbirds at K.P. suffered high chick mortality due to predation by rats and possibly cats (BZ).

A White-faced Ibis remained on Molokai I. Jun+ (ADY), and another *Plegadis* ibis, probably a White-faced, was observed at Kealia Jun+ (MS). Another White-faced was spotted at Honouliuli 25 Jul (MS). The White-tailed Eagle first reported on Kauai I. in Dec 2006 apparently remained on Kauai through at least late Jul. The eagle was spotted near Princeville 24 Jul (S&TL). This is the only White-tailed Eagle ever reported in the Region.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PASSERINES

Numbers of migrant shorebirds are generally low over the summer, so counts of 112 Pacific Golden-Plovers at Honouliuli 2 Jun (PD) and 40 at Tripler Hospital, O. the following week (DB) are puzzling. A Semipalmated Plover was observed at Kii 1 Jun (PD), and one remained on Laysan I. Jun+ (CM, KPa, CT). Hawaiian Stilts (Endangered) nest mainly during the spring and early summer, with most chicks fledging by late Jul. The stilts had a decent nesting season on Oahu I. (MS) but a very poor one on Kauai (BZ). Bristle-thighed

Curlews in Kahuku, O. summered in lower numbers than during the previous few years, with 2 observed 1 Jun (PD) and 24 Jul (MS) and single birds seen 3 (MW) & 27 Jun (MS). Summering Sanderlings are rare in the Region. A Sanderling at Kii 1 Jun (PD), one at Kealia 27 Jun (MN), and 2 at Kealia 5 Jul (MN) may well have been summering. Two Sanderlings in partial alternate plumage at Ohiapiilo 30 Jul (ADY) were probably early fall migrants. A Long-billed Dowitcher was at Kii 24 Jul (MS); summer-season dowitchers are very rare in the Region. Laughing Gulls were widespread in the spring, but the only report this season was of one at Kealia 27 Jun (MN). A Franklin's Gull was observed at Kii 1 Jun (ph. PD), and 2 were spotted at Kealia 2 Jun (MN).

As usual for the summer season, reports were too sparse to tell much about what might be happening to the populations of any passerines. We got no reports of any of the rare native forest birds on Kauai or Maui. The common endemic forest birds such as the Apapane and Iiwi were reported to be unusually sparse or quiet in the Humuula Saddle, H. during a period of rainy weather late Jun–early Jul (BR). Tour groups reported seeing Paila (Endangered) regularly at Puu Laau, H. Jun+ (H.E.T.). One to 3 Akiapolaau (Endangered) were found in the saddle 14 Jun–7 Jul (BR). One Akiapolaau was observed on remote Ainapo Trail, H. 31 Jul (LC, J&DL). One or more Hawaii Creepers (Endangered) were reported at Puu Oo Ranch, H. 25 Jun (H.E.T.), but no details were provided. Three Hawaii Creepers were found in the Humuula Saddle 5 & 7 Jul (BR). Two to 3 Akepa (Endangered) were heard at Hakalau 17 Jun (BR), and one or more were reported there 31 Jul (H.E.T.), but with no details on the 31 Jul report.

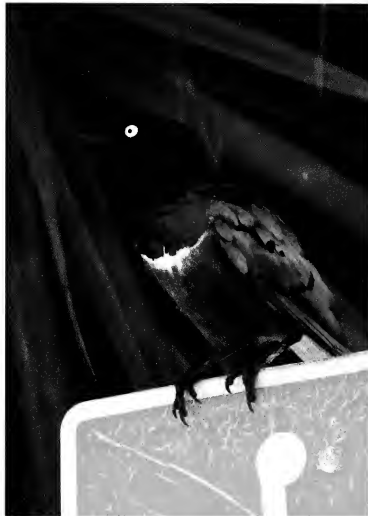
Contributors: David Bremer, Steve Burkson, Les Chibana, Ku Ching, Reg David, Arleone Diben-Young (ADY), Peter Donaldson, Hawaii Forest & Trail (H.F.T.), Betty Joao, David Kuhn, Susan & Tony LeHovden, Dan Lindsay, John & Denise Lynch, Chris Malachowski, Michael Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Kevin Payne (KPa), Rob Pacheco, Cori Pohle, Brooks Rownd, Mike Silbernagle, Forest and Kim Starr, Erik Svetin, Carissa Turner, Michael Walker, Brenda Zaun.

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SA A pelagic trip on 19 Jun sw. of Kauai I. to tiny Lehua I. and back turned up a good variety of species, many of them in a huge feeding flock. The tally included 2 Laysan Albatrosses, one large *Pterodroma*, 6 Bulwer's Petrels, several thousand Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, 25 Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened), 25 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, 5 White-tailed Tropicbirds, 35 Red-tailed Tropicbirds, 70 Brown Boobies, 100 Red-footed Boobies, 100 Great Frigatebirds, 3 Gray-backed Terns, 40 Sooty Terns, 6 Brown Noddies, and 150 Black Noddies (DK).

Records of Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*) in Florida

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Figures 1, 2. Two views of a Superb Starling at Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida on 21 July 2007. This bird, perhaps one of a pair, often sang and built a nest in a native palm in a shopping center parking lot. It shared this habitat with, among others, a family of Gray Kingbirds (*Tyrannus dominicensis*), a nesting pair of Common Mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*), and a female-plumaged bishop (*Euplectes spp.*)—a fairly typical scene in southeastern Florida's urban jungle. Photographs by Bill Pranty.

Abstract

This paper digests all known reports and records of Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*) in Florida, including a documented nesting in Broward County.

Overview

Florida is the exotic avifauna capital of North America, with more than 200 species reported outside of captivity, and with nearly four "new" species reported annually (Pranty 2004). Through 2003, 97 species of exotic birds had been documented in the state by archived specimen or photographic evidence (Pranty 2004), and this number now exceeds

100. One of the most recent exotics to be documented in Florida is Superb Starling (*Lamprotornis superbus*, sometimes placed in the genus *Spreo*), the subject of this note (Figures 1, 2).

Superb Starling, one of 21 "glossy starlings," is a monotypic species common in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda (Feare and Craig 1998, Clements 2000). It is generally found in arid country such as thorn scrub, but it ventures to the Kenya coast and is also found in gardens and other cultivated habitats (Feare and Craig 1998). Superb Starlings are cooperative breeders (Rubenstein and Lovette 2007), and

family groups of 20 or more birds may be found year-round (Feare and Craig 1998). The adult is distinctive with its black head, glossy bluish nape and upperparts, glossy bluish-green wings, tail with boldly black-tipped uppertail coverts, and white undertail coverts; a stark white breast band separates the glossy bluish-black breast from the rusty belly. The bill, legs, and feet are blackish gray, and the irides are whitish and conspicuous against the black face. The sexes are similar, but the male's breast band is said to be wider than the female's. Juveniles have non-glossy plumage, dark irides, a pale yellow bill, and lack the breast band (Feare and Craig 1998).

Table 1. Recent reports of Superb Starlings in Broward County, Florida. The three birds photographed during 2007 may represent the first documented records of Superb Starling outside the species' native range in east-central Africa.

Date(s)	City	Comments	Observer(s)
21 Jul 2003	Hollywood	One at North Beach Park	B. Roberts
ca. Jun 2004	Hollywood	One near the greyhound racetrack	D. Bogos
13 Jul 2004	Hollywood	One along Hallandale Beach Boulevard west of the Intracoastal Waterway	D. Bogos
ca. 1 Dec 2004	Hollywood	One near US-1 and Washington Street	C. Chinelly
ca. 2005–8 Sep 2007	Hollywood	Two (one banded, the other unbanded) thought to be nesting along Hallandale Beach Boulevard east of the Intracoastal Waterway; birds had been present "2–3 years"	L. Manfredi, P. Cunningham, J. Steel et al.; photographs of both birds
7 Jul–1 Sep 2007	Pompano Beach	One (unbanded), possibly two, building a nest in a cabbage palm along Atlantic Boulevard east of US-1	D. Howard, B. Roberts, E. J. Reed, B. Pranty, photographs of one bird

Superb Starlings in captivity and in Florida

Owing to their stunning plumage, Superb Starlings are widely found in animal exhibits and aviculture. In mid-2007, more than 120 Superb Starlings were held in 36 registered exhibits in the United States and Canada, including two exhibits in Florida: one female at Disney's Animal Kingdom and four starlings (one adult of unknown sex and one pair with their juvenile) at Miami MetroZoo (ISIS 2007). Additionally, one website (SFS 2007) contained recent advertisements by aviculturists in Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington who offered to buy or sell Superb Starlings (at up to \$200 each). Because neither Long (1981) nor Lever (1987) lists any exotic populations of Superb Starlings in the world, and because I was unable to locate any reports by searching the Internet, the Florida observations may represent the first Superb Starlings reported outside their native range.

Except for two previously unpublished reports from the Kendall area, Miami-Dade County, during the 1980s that may represent the same individual (B. Kelley, in litt., July 2004; M. Wheeler, pers. comm., September 2007), Superb Starlings were first noted in Florida in 2003 and apparently have been observed annually since then (Table 1). All recent observations have been within 3 km of the Atlantic Ocean in Broward County, along Florida's heavily urbanized southeastern coast. Five of the six recent locations have been from Hollywood, with the sixth location (representing several sightings of the same two birds) from Pompano Beach, 25–30 km farther north. A minimum convex polygon drawn around the Hollywood observations suggests an occupied range of about 730 ha. Two of the reports are documented by photographs, and the remaining reports clearly describe the species: no other glossy starling has the combination of whitish irides, rusty

underparts, and white breast band. Prior to 2007, all of the sightings of Superb Starlings were of single birds seen once each at various sites in Hollywood. During 2007, evidence of breeding (or at least nest-building) was observed at Hollywood and Pompano Beach. The Hollywood location contained two territorial birds suspected of nesting in a Coconut Palm (*Cocos nucifera*), while at Pompano Beach, one or two starlings were observed singing and building a nest. The nest, observed solely from the ground, was 4–4.5 m up in the upper fronds of a Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*) and appeared to be composed mostly of dried grass. The six sightings of Superb Starlings scattered geographically and temporally within urban regions of Broward County suggest the presence of a small to perhaps moderate-sized population. Habitat around each of the sites occupied in the past five years is similar to surrounding areas and amounts to thousands of hectares of apparently suitable habitat. Surveys of the region are needed to determine the true status of the Florida's most recent exotic colonist.

Acknowledgments

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Status and distribution of Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) in Florida

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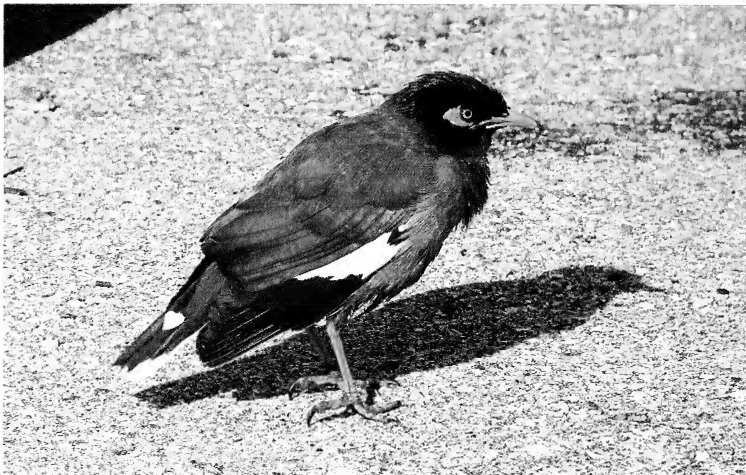


Figure 1. Adult Common Myna at Seven Springs, Pasco County, Florida, 28 October 2006. This photograph documents one of the northernmost records of the Common Myna in Florida, and the northernmost record to date along the recently colonized Gulf coast. In addition to their distinct plumage—brown body with black head, wings, and tail, white wing and tail patches, and yellow soft parts—Common Mynas are distinguished from other mynas by their confiding manner, semi-terrestrial habits, and habitat preferences. Usually, as shown here, suitable myna habitat in Florida consists of parking lots of shopping centers or fast-food restaurants, where the birds search for French fries, potato chips, or similar fare. Photograph by Ken Tracy.

Abstract

This paper summarizes the known status and distribution in Florida of the exotic Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), focusing particularly on the species' range expansion in the past 25 years and on its current population size.

Background

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*; Figure 1) is native to the Caspian Sea region and Kazakhstan, south through the Indian subconti-

nent, and east through Indochina (Feare and Craig 1998). Two subspecies are recognized: *melanosternus*, which is endemic to southern India and Sri Lanka, and the widespread nominate subspecies, *tristis*, which has been widely introduced, either intentionally for insect control, or accidentally from the pet trade (Long 1981, Lever 1987). Exotic populations of Common Mynas are now found in Australia, Florida, Hong Kong, Madagascar, New Zealand, Polynesia, South Africa, island chains such as Hawaii, the Maldives, Mauri-

tius, New Hebrides, and the Seychelles, and elsewhere (Long 1981, Lever 1987, A.O.U. 1998, Kannan and James 2001).

Common Mynas were discovered in southern Florida during the early 1980s. Since that time, the population has been expanding in range and increasing in numbers. The species has been ignored by ornithologists and birders in Florida and so remains largely unknown except for anecdotal information compiled for this paper. The recent discovery of a roost of perhaps 400 Common Mynas at

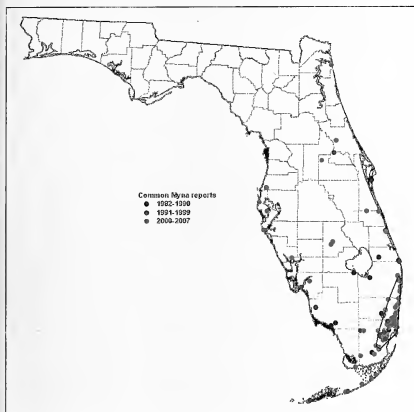


Figure 2. Distribution of the Common Myna in Florida, 1982–2007. Most locations within 0.8 km of one another are combined. Note that the myna's range has increased in extent and distance from Miami during each eight- or nine-year period. Each location mapped is colored according to the earliest report, so this map should not be used to gauge population persistence. The area shown bounded in red may be considered as the limits of the Common Myna's current core range. There is also a recent report of an apparent Common Myna at Sapelo Island, Georgia (see text).

Florida City, along with recent observations along the central Gulf coast, rekindled my interest in this species. This paper summarizes the past quarter-century of Florida records of Common Myna, its range expansion, and its current population size in the state.

Methods

I compiled observations of Common Myna from the seasonal bird reports published in *Florida Field Naturalist* and *American Birds/North American Birds*, from Stevenson and Anderson (1994), the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas project (1986–1991; Kale et al. 1992), observations posted to the three primary online birding lists in Florida: BrdBrain, FloridaBirds-L, and the Miami BirdBoard (T.A.S. 2007), and the Christmas Bird Count (C.B.C.) database (NAS 2007). Because the Common Myna is a conspicuous and unwary semi-terrestrial species that is closely associated with areas of human development, it is usually noticed, even by novice birders. I mapped all locations as specifically as possible, then entered them into a Geographic Information System (GIS) coverage. I combined most locations that were within 0.8 km. I presume that all Common Myna observations in

Florida represent dispersers from known populations rather than local escapees. I express abundance of mynas on Christmas Bird Counts as the number of individuals observed per 1000 party-hours to take advantage of whole numbers of mynas. All county names are listed in parentheses and italics, and sites where mynas have bred are marked with an asterisk.

Results

I compiled 275 observations of Common Mynas in Florida since 1982. Of these, 171 (62%) had not been published formally; most represented recent posts to online birding lists. All observations represent 98 discrete locations (Figure 2). Overall, Common Mynas have been reported in 20 counties in Florida and have been reported to breed in 13 of these (Table 1). All but one report, from Neptune Beach (Duval), are from the southern two-thirds of the peninsula or the mainline Florida Keys (those traversed by US-1). There is also a recent report from southern Georgia (see below). The stronghold of the Common Myna in Florida is along the southern At-

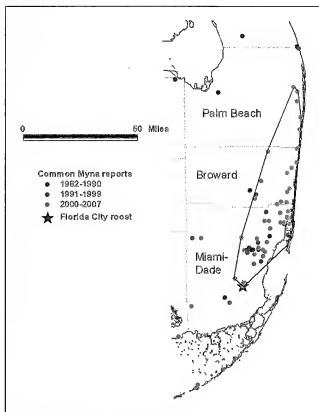


Figure 3. Distribution of Common Myna along the southern Atlantic coast of Florida, 1982–2007. Most locations within 0.8 km of one another are combined. Each location mapped is colored according to the earliest report, so this map should not be used to gauge population persistence. A much greater number of observers in Miami-Dade relative to Broward and Palm Beach may skew the apparent distribution of mynas along the southern Atlantic coast; 72% of the observations from these three counties are from Miami-Dade. The area shown bounded in red (minimum convex polygon), which may be considered as the known limits of Common Myna's current core range, is more than 1760 km² in size. The distribution of mynas within this core range is likely much greater than what is shown due to birder disinterest and traffic congestion. The red star marks the location of the Florida City roost, which was estimated to contain about 400 mynas in November 2006. The scarcity of reported observations around this roost is of interest: there is surely incomplete information of myna range, even where the birds are most numerous and presumably most widespread.

lantic coast in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade (Figure 3).

Summary of Observations

I have divided all observations of Common Mynas in Florida into one of three periods of nearly equal duration: the first nine years (1982–1990), the second nine years (1991–1999), and the most recent eight years (2000–2007).

1982–1990—The published literature indicates that Common Mynas were first observed in Florida on the Dade County C.B.C. (Miami-Dade) on 17 December 1983 (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), and that they were first observed breeding at Homestead (Miami-Dade) on 22 May 1985 (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). However, Larry Manfredi (in litt.) first saw Common Mynas at Hialeah (Miami-Dade) in 1982, by which time

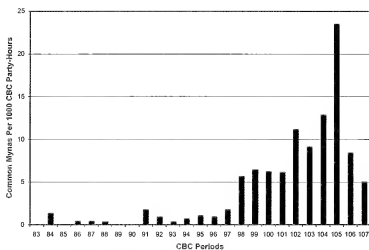


Figure 4. Common Mynas reported on Christmas Bird Counts in Florida, from the 84th (1983–1984) through 107th (2006–2007) C.B.C. periods. Numbers of mynas are graphed per 1000 party-hours to take advantage of whole numbers of birds.

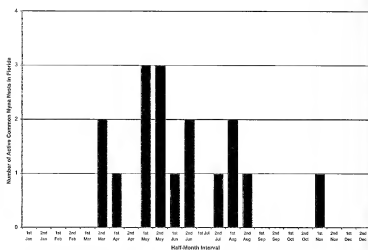


Figure 5. Chronology of active Common Myna nests in Florida with known dates, 1982–2007 ($n=17$) by half-month intervals. Dates refer to the earliest sign of nesting activity.

they were already breeding. Within a few years of their discovery, mynas had dispersed to near Belle Glade (*Palm Beach*) in 1984, Everglades National Park, *Homestead, *Kendall, and *Miami (all *Miami-Dade*) in 1985, Tequesta (*Palm Beach*) in 1986, *Cocoa Beach (*Brevard*) in 1987, *Clewiston (*Hendry*) in 1988, near Indiantown (*Martin*), near *Pembroke Pines (*Broward*), and at

*Everglades City (*Collier*) in 1989?, and Ochopee (*Collier*) in 1990 (Table 1).

Thus within nine years of their discovery in Florida, Common Mynas had colonized seven counties (*Brevard*, *Broward*, *Collier*, *Hendry*, *Martin*, *Miami-Dade*, and *Palm Beach*), with breeding confirmed in six of these (all but *Martin*; Table 1). The highest count of mynas obtained during 1982–1990

was 16 birds at Tequesta in November 1986 (Atherton and Atherton 1987).

1991–1999—Common Mynas colonized *West Palm Beach (*Palm Beach*) in 1991, Stuart (*Martin*) in 1992, *Iona (*Lee*) in 1993, and *Hollywood (*Broward*), the Miccosukee Indian Reservation (*Miami-Dade*), and near Jonathan Dickinson State Park (*Martin* or



Figures 6 and 7. Two examples of Common Myna nests in Florida. Mynas build their nests "in any place that will hold a large pile of leaves, twigs, paper, and the like" (Kannan and James 2001). In Florida, one nest was placed in the crotch of a Black Olive, while others have been built in cavities in wooden utility poles or niches in street lights. Perhaps most Common Myna nests in Florida are built within letters of logos attached to commercial buildings. These two nests were built within lettering of Publix supermarkets, in the "d" of "food" and the "c" of "pharmacy," respectively. The image at left shows a nest with three nestlings, from Kendall, Miami-Dade County, 1 June 2002, with the image at right, of an occupied nest with unknown contents, from Pompano Beach, Broward County, 21 July 2007. Photographs by John H. Boyd and Bill Pranty, respectively.



Figure 8. A flock of at least 188 Common Mynas at Florida City, Miami-Dade County, Florida, DfE. The recent discovery of a communal roost of perhaps 400 Common Mynas at Florida City in November 2006 provided the first proof that the myna population in Florida numbers at least in the hundreds of individuals. Photograph by Larry Manfredi.

Palm Beach) in 1995. Common Mynas reached *Fort Pierce (St. Lucie) and Islamorada and *Key West (both Monroe) in 1997, Golden Gate Estates (Collier) in 1998, and *Pompano Beach (Broward), Sebastian (Indian River), and *Sanford (Seminole) in 1999 (Table 1). The Sanford site marked the northernmost breeding site in Florida, approximately 350 km north-northwest of Miami.

During their second nine-year period in Florida, Common Mynas occupied 11 counties (Brevard, Broward, Collier, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, and Seminole), with breeding in eight of these (all but Brevard, Collier, and Martin). Mynas became extirpated from three counties (Brevard, Collier [1991 and 1998], and Martin), they recolonized one county (Collier [1999]), and they colonized four new counties (Lee, Monroe, St. Lucie, and Seminole). The highest count of mynas obtained during 1991–1999 was 22 birds on the Dade County C.B.C. in December 1994 (Cooper 1995).

2000–2007—Common Mynas colonized DeLand (Volusia), Boynton Beach (Palm Beach), and Flamingo, Everglades National Park (Monroe) in 2000, *Lake Placid (Highlands) in 2001, the Ten Thousand Islands C.B.C. circle (Collier) in 2002, *Goodwin Marsh Waterfowl Management Area (Brevard and Indian River) in 2003, Neptune Beach (Duval) and

Key Biscayne (Miami-Dade) in 2004, and Holmes Beach (Manatee) and Lake Apopka Restoration Area (Orange) in 2005. Mynas then colonized other areas along the central Gulf coast, at St. Petersburg (Pinellas) and Seven Springs (Pasco) in 2006, and Clearwater (Pinellas) and *Port Charlotte (Charlotte) in 2007 (Table 1). The Neptune Beach myna was more than 500 km from Miami. Even more significantly, it accompanied two or three European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) into a supermarket sign 1 May 2004 and was observed feeding a juvenile starling seven days later (Pranty 2004a). Nonetheless, I do not consider these behaviors to represent confirmed breeding; Kannan and James (2001) list two other observations of Common Mynas feeding the young of other sturnids.

By the end of 2007, Common Mynas occupied parts of 18 counties (Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Duval, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, St. Lucie, Seminole, and Volusia), with breeding in 11 of these (all but Brevard, Duval, Manatee, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, and Volusia). Mynas recolonized one county (Brevard) and colonized seven others (Charlotte, Duval, Manatee, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, and Volusia). The highest count of mynas obtained during 2000–2007 was a communal roost of perhaps 400 at Florida City (Miami-Dade) in November 2006 (Pranty 2007a).

Range expansion

Since the early 1980s, Common Mynas have exhibited a nearly continuous series of dispersal events outward in nearly all directions from Miami-Dade. These dispersals continue to consolidate the myna's range along the southern Atlantic coast and to result in new colonization of areas inland, along the main-line Keys, the Gulf coast, and north along the Atlantic coast. Each of the three temporal periods listed above documents an increasing number of counties colonized, from seven during 1982–1990, 11 during 1991–1999, and 18 during 2000–2007. Between 1982 and 2007, Common Mynas had been observed in 20 counties in Florida—plus one county in Georgia—with all but Collier and Martin occupied during 2000–2007.

Georgia report

Because a recent report of an apparent Common Myna in Georgia was not mentioned by Davis (2002) and was reported too late for inclusion in Beaton et al. (2003), I include it here. On 11 May 2002, two observers noted "a most unusual bird" (the ferry parking lot on Sapelo Island (McIntosh) about 80 km north of the Georgia/Florida border. The bird was described by Cohrs (2002) as "... a little smaller than a Blue Jay; it was mostly black with a yellow pointy beak and had yellow eye ring and a yellow spot behind the eye. When flying, there was a white flash on the wing [that] showed up as a white streak on the side when sitting. The breast was robin-orange. The legs were yellow. The tail was wedge shaped with white edging [and] ... looked like an arrowhead. The bird walked as opposed to hopping. Posture was fairly erect." This description of a "mostly black" body and "robin-orange" breast are incorrect for Common Myna, but the rest of the descriptions of plumage, habitat, and behavior accord well with the species. Indeed, the yellow soft parts, white wing and tail patches, and terrestrial feeding habits point to an *Acridotheres* myna, and none of the world's 10 species of *Acridotheres* mynas has an orange breast (Feare and Craig 1998). I believe that the Sapelo Island myna was a Common Myna, and, coupled with its location on a largely uninhabited barrier island, was more likely to have been a disperser from one of the Florida populations than a local escapee.

Population size

While the size of the Common Myna population in Florida is unknown, it numbers in the several hundreds of individuals at least. The discovery in November 2006 of the Florida City roost that contained perhaps 400 mynas

Table 1. Distribution of Common Mynas in Florida by county. Mynas have been observed in 20 of Florida's 67 counties and have bred in 13 of these. The Panhandle is the only region not yet known to be colonized by mynas. Infrequent reports cloud the current status of some breeding populations (i.e., those in *Indian River*, *St. Lucie*, and *Seminole*), which are here considered to be extirpated but that may be extant but recently unreported or not observed.

County	Duration	Breeding status	Comments
<i>Brevard</i>	1987–1991, 2003–2005	Extirpated	Single pairs at Cocoa Beach and along the <i>Indian River</i> line
<i>Broward</i>	1999–present	Current	Fairly widespread
<i>Charlotte</i>	2007	Current	One pair at Port Charlotte
<i>Collier</i>	198–1990, 1998	Extirpated	Single pairs (?) at Everglades City and Golden Gate Estates, and one bird at Ochopee
<i>Duval</i>	2004	No	One bird at Neptune Beach
<i>Hendry</i>	1988–present	Current	Up to 8 birds at Clewiston
<i>Highlands</i>	2001, 2002	Extirpated	One pair at Lake Placid and one bird near there
<i>Indian River</i>	2000, 2003–2005	Extirpated	One pair along the <i>Brevard</i> line
<i>Lee</i>	1993–1997, 2005–2007	Current	Two or three pairs at Fort Myers
<i>Manatee</i>	2005–2006	No	One bird at Holmes Beach
<i>Martin</i>	198–1992–1995	No	One pair near indiantown
<i>Miami-Dade</i>	1982–present	Current	Widespread; roost of perhaps 400 at Florida City
<i>Monroe</i>	1997–present	Current	Fairly widespread along mainline Keys; none on the mainland
<i>Orange</i>	2005	No	One bird at Lake Apopka
<i>Palm Beach</i>	1984, 1986, 1999–present	Current	Fairly widespread
<i>Pasco</i>	2006	No	One bird at Seven Springs
<i>Pinellas</i>	2005, 2007	No	Singles at Clearwater and St. Petersburg
<i>St. Lucie</i>	1997–2002	Extirpated	One pair at Fort Pierce
<i>Seminole</i>	1999–2002	Extirpated	One pair (?) at Sanford
<i>Volusia</i>	2001	No	One bird at Deland

Table 2. Common Mynas on all Florida Christmas Bird Counts (C.B.C.s) between the 84th (1983–1984) and 107th (2006–2007) count periods. Vertical lines separate the three temporal periods (1982–1990, 1991–1999, and 2000–2007) used in this paper. A "0" (zero) indicates that no mynas were seen; "nc" denotes that no C.B.C. was conducted, and "cw" denotes that one or more mynas were seen during count week but not on count day. Count names (abbreviated) and the counties in which they are located are as follows: CO=Cocoa (*Brevard*); DC=Dade County (*Miami-Dade*); FP=Fort Pierce (*St. Lucie*); JD=Jonathan Dickinson State Park (*Martin* and *Palm Beach*); KA=Kendall Area (*Miami-Dade*); KL=Key Largo–Plantation Key (*Monroe*); KW=Key West (*Monroe*); RP=Royal Palm–Homestead (*Miami-Dade*); SB=South Brevard County (*Brevard* and *Indian River*); ST=Stuart (*Martin*); TT=Ten Thousand Islands (*Collier*); and WP=West Palm Beach (*Palm Beach*). *The 2 mynas on the Cocoa C.B.C. during the 91st count period were listed as Crested Mynas. However, given that Crested Myna had never previously been reported outside of the Miami area, and further considering that Common Mynas had been observed at Cocoa Beach (within the Cocoa C.B.C. circle) between 1987 and 1993, it seems clear that these "Crested Mynas" were misidentified Common Mynas. Source of all data: the online C.B.C. database (NAS 2007).

C.B.C.	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	
CO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2*	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
DC	6	0	2	2	2	0	0	7	2	0	2	22	19	5	10	22	12	14	30	33	39	84	27	13	
FP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	nc	nc	nc	0	0	0	0	4	cw	0	0	0	0	0	0	
JD	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
KA	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
KL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	5	4	11
KW	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
RP	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	cw	6	6	6	6	14	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
SB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TT	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
WP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	6	6	5	2	7	7	4	5	7	3	4	2	
# C.B.Cs	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	2	2	4	3	3	3	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	
Non-DC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	2	4	9	6	11	8	12	13	19	12	16	27	11	17	
DC	6	0	2	2	2	0	0	7	2	0	2	22	19	5	10	22	12	14	30	33	39	84	27	13	

(Pranty 2007a) verified that the current myna population in Florida numbers in the hundreds of individuals (e.g., Figure 8). It should be noted that the location of this roost is far from the mapped locations of most mynas, even those elsewhere in *Miami-Dade* (Figure 3), suggesting that numerous locations occupied by Common Mynas in the region have not been reported.

Population increase

The limited data on the size of the local myna populations in Florida make it difficult to document overall population trends. However, two sources of data are available. The first is simply the highest number of mynas reported at any one site during the three temporal periods: 16 during 1982–1990, 22 during 1991–1999, and perhaps 400 during 2000–2007 (Table 1). A better index for gauging population growth is the C.B.C. database (NAS 2007). C.B.C. data show a dramatic increase in the number of Common Mynas reported per party-hour beginning with the 98th count period (Figure 4). These data also show a nearly equally dramatic decrease beginning with the 106th count period, but this "decline" is thought to be the result of inconsistent surveying on Christmas Bird Countys in *Miami-Dade* (see Discussion).

Population persistence

Common Mynas have persisted—indeed, they have thrived—in *Miami-*

Dade since their discovery in 1982 (Table 1), and they have expanded their range northward into *Broward* and *Palm Beach* (Figure 3). Although some colonization events failed to produce stable populations, even where breeding occurred (e.g., *Everglades City* and *Lake Placid*), other colonizations have succeeded, and some areas have been repeatedly colonized (e.g., *Brevard*, *Collier*, and *Lee*). Furthermore, the *Miami-Dade* population survived the effects of Hurricane *Andrew*, a Category 4 storm that devastated the *Homestead* area in August 1992. Smith (in Pranty 1995) stated that the Common Myna population was "seriously impacted" by *Andrew* but had recovered by spring 1995. The *Clewiston* population has persisted for 20 years (Table 1), and it represents the most persistent population outside of *Miami-Dade*.

Breeding observations

Common Mynas have been breeding in Florida since 1982, and breeding reports exist from 13 counties. Each of the temporal periods listed above documents an increasing number of counties in which breeding has occurred, from six during 1982–1990, eight during 1991–1999, and 11 during 2000–2007. I have compiled a list of 42 observations of breeding by Common Mynas in Florida (Table 3), representing nest-building activities (2), active nests (33), or fledged young or juveniles (5). Because most nests are placed in cavities or niches, few eggs or nestlings have been observed. Most breeding observations are of oc-

cupied nests, where one or both adults was seen to enter a cavity into which material had been placed. Except for one nest in *Miami-Dade* that was placed in the crotch of a Black Olive (*Bucida buceras*), all nests in Florida

have been placed in artificial structures (Table 3). Some myna nests were located in cavities in utility poles or niches in street lights, while others were built within letters of logos attached to commercial buildings (e.g., Figures

Table 3. All known breeding observations of Common Mynas in Florida ($n = 42$). Because mynas nest almost exclusively in cavities, the nest contents are rarely observed. As a result, most observations of nests in Florida are of occupied nests; adults observed entering or leaving a cavity or niche.

County	Location	Date(s)	Substrate	Status	Reference
Broward	Fort Lauderdale	12 Nov 2001	Building signage	Occupied nest	Pranty 2002b
Broward	Oakland Park	3 Apr 2007	?	Pair with nesting material	T. Eakins to BirdBoard
Broward	Parkland	17 Sep 2004	Traffic light	Family; occupied nest observed earlier	"Paul" to BirdBoard
Broward	Pembroke Pines	18 Mar 2007	Building signage	Building a nest	D. Humeston to FloridaBirds-L
Broward	Pompano Beach	May 1999	Building signage	Two occupied nests	Pranty 1999
Broward	Pompano Beach	21 Jul 2007	Building signage	Occupied nest	Figure 7
Broward	Sunrise	5 Jan 2002	?	2 adults and 1 juvenile	G. Feuss to FloridaBirds-L
Charlotte	Port Charlotte	18–20 May 2007	Building signage	Occupied nest	Pranty 2007b
Hendry	Clewiston	~1988	Street light	Occupied nest	J. Orsenigo in litt.
Hendry	Clewiston	19 Jun 1995	Building signage	Occupied nest	Pranty 1996
Hendry	Clewiston	7 Jun 1999	Building signage	Occupied nest	P. Bowen in litt.
Hendry	Clewiston	13 Aug 2000	Building signage	Nest with ≥ 2 nestlings	Pranty 2001b
Hendry	Clewiston	2001	Sign cavity	Occupied nest	D. Humeston in litt.
Hendry	Clewiston	1 Nov 2003	?	Flock with 2 juveniles	Pranty 2004b
Hendry	Clewiston	8 Aug 2004	Street light	Occupied nest	B. Pranty pers. obs.
Highlands	Lake Placid	2002?	Street light	Nestling on ground	F. Lohrer in litt.
Lee	Fort Myers	6 May 2007	Building signage	Occupied nest	Pranty 2007b; G. Hampton to FloridaBirds-L
Lee	Iona	6 May 1994	?	One adult with a fledgling while the other adult was incubating an apparent second brood	Pranty 1994
Miami-Dade	Coconut Grove	Jun 2005	Building signage	Occupied nest	S. Benedetto to BirdBrain
Miami-Dade	Coral Gables	Mar 2003	Black olive	Occupied nest	R. Diaz in litt.
Miami-Dade	Hialeah	1982	Building signage	Occupied nest	L. Manfredi in litt.
Miami-Dade	Hialeah	Spring 1985	Building signage	Occupied nest	Kale 1985
Miami-Dade	Homestead	22 May 1985	Building signage	Occupied nest	Kale 1985, Stevenson and Anderson 1994
Miami-Dade	Kendall	31 May–2 Jun 2002	Building signage	Nest with ≥ 3 nestlings	Figure 6
Miami-Dade	Miami Shores	2003	Light pole cavity	Occupied nest	A. Harper to BirdBoard
Miami-Dade	Miami Shores	Jul 2004	Light pole cavity	Occupied nest	A. Harper to BirdBoard
Miami-Dade	Miami Shores	13 Aug 2005	?	Pair with one juvenile	A. Harper to BirdBoard
Miami-Dade	Perrine	annually 1995–2006	Building signage	Occupied nests	T. Mitchell to BirdBoard
Miami-Dade	Pinecrest	—	Light pole cavity	Occupied nest	L. Manfredi to BirdBoard
Miami-Dade	Westwood Lake	ca. 1999	Building signage	Occupied nest	S. Paez in litt.
Miami-Dade	West Kendall	10 Apr 2004	Building signage	Occupied nest	P. Bithorn to BirdBoard
Monroe	Isamorade	17 Aug 2002	Light pole cavity	Nest with nestlings	L. Manfredi to FloridaBirds-L
Monroe	Key West	26 Jun 2000	Power pole cavity	Occupied nest	Pranty 2001c
Monroe	Key West	24 Mar 2001	Power pole cavity	Occupied nest	Pranty 2001d
Monroe	Key West	31 Jul 2001	?	Pair and 5 juveniles	Pranty 2002c
Palm Beach	Tequesta?	8 May 1988	?	Pair feeding young	Langridge 1988, Stevenson and Anderson 1994
St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	11 May 1997	Building signage	Nest with 2 nestlings	Pranty 1997
St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	May 1998	Building signage	Occupied nest	Pranty 1998
St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	1999	Building signage	Occupied nest	J. Brooks in litt.
Seminole	Sanford	24–31 Mar 2002	Sign pole cavity	Occupied nest	Pranty 2002d; M. Wilson to FloridaBirds-L

6 and 7). Active nests with known substrates ($n=34$) represented building signate (22; 64%), cavity in wooden utility pole (6; 17%), niche in street light (5; 14%), and tree (1; 2%; Table 3). The temporal distribution of active nests in Florida with known dates ($n=17$) ranges from 24 March to 17 August, with one potentially anomalous active nest (videotaped; pers. obs.) on 12 November (Figure 5). Most nests (9 of 17; 52%) were active from early May through late June, while all nests but one were active from late March through late August (Figure 5). Double-brooding has been observed once in Florida (Pranty 1994, Table 3) but likely occurs often (and perhaps regularly); three broods are raised annually in the countries of the former Soviet Union (Kannan and James 2001). A much larger sample of Common Myna nests from Florida undoubtedly will clarify the primary breeding season and the average number of broods produced annually by each breeding pair.

Christmas Bird Count Trends

Common Mynas have been reported on 12 Christmas Bird Counts in Florida since the 84th C.B.C. period (1983–1984). They have been seen on nearly every Dade County C.B.C. (*Miami-Dade*) since the 84th count period and on all but one West Palm Beach C.B.C. (*Palm Beach*) since the 92nd count period (Table 2). The number of Florida counts with Common Mynas has increased from one through the 1980s to four or five counts annually in recent years (Table 2). An analysis of Common Mynas reported on Florida counts per party-hour (Figure 4) yields interesting—and perhaps misleading—results. After remaining relatively stable at 0–2 mynas per 1000 hours during their first 13 C.B.C. periods (84th–96th), the number of mynas increased steadily and perhaps exponentially over the next nine count periods (97th–105th) to peak at 24 mynas per 1000 party-hours during the 105th period (Figure 4). The myna population then appears to decline dramatically to 5 mynas per 1000 party-hours by the 107th count period (Figure 4).

Discussion

Little information has appeared in the literature on Common Mynas in Florida. Between 1984 and 1999, only 14 observations were published in *American Birds*, with nine of these during 1984–1987. An overall disinterest in “unaccountable” exotics by birders and ornithologists has played a primary role in the scarcity of published reports. Traffic congestion in the Miami metropolitan area has also played a role in the lack of formal myna sur-

veys (J. Boyd, in litt.). This paper would not exist without the dozens of observations posted to the three primary online birding lists in Florida—especially the Miami BirdBoard. Observer bias may influence the number of myna reports in *Miami-Dade* relative to *Broward* or *Palm Beach*, which each have very few resident birders; 72% (120 of 167) of the observations in these three counties are from *Miami-Dade*. Despite this potential geographical bias, the temporal pattern of myna expansion is well documented. With the exception of Cocoa Beach, which was colonized in 1987, all sites north of Lake Okeechobee have been colonized since 1997, most since 2000 (Table 1, Figure 2). Mynas observed far from their core range were reported at Sanford in 1999, DeLand in 2000, Sapelo Island, Georgia in 2002, Jacksonville in 2004, Lake Apopka in 2005, and along the central Gulf coast beginning in 2005.

Bates and Busenbark (1970) claimed that importation of any species of *Acridotheres* into the United States was illegal. If correct, then this restriction must have been lifted at some point—the Florida population had to have begun from birds intentionally imported into the state and that then either escaped or were released. Small (1994, in Kannan and James 2001) stated that Common Mynas were one of the most frequently observed exotic birds in California. During November 2007, several online vendors, including three in Florida, offered to sell Common Mynas at prices ranging between \$200–500 each (e.g., <www.softbillsforsale.com>). Despite their presence in aviculture, Common Mynas cannot possibly escape so frequently as to drive the pattern of numbers and distribution in Florida (Figures 2–4). I believe that the increase in the Common Myna population in Florida over the past 20+ years is largely if not exclusively the result of successful breeding of birds outside of captivity.

There is a report of Common Mynas evicting Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) from a martin house somewhere in Florida in the mid- or late 1980s (Neville 1988, 1992), but this report is seemingly the only such observation in the state. In fact, I am not aware of another observation describing Common Mynas interacting with any native species in Florida. Elsewhere, Common Mynas have been lauded as agents for seed-dispersal, pollination, and insect control, and blamed for depreeding crops and the eggs and young of other birds, and for being a nuisance in urban areas (Kannan and James 2001). The Common Myna's habitat preferences in Florida exclude contact with most native species and agricultural areas; I

don't consider the myna to represent a serious threat to native species or ecosystems or to human health or commerce in the state.

Numbers of mynas on the Dade County C.B.C. have ranged from 5 to 39 birds since the 95th count period, excepting the 84 mynas tallied during the 105th C.B.C. (Table 2). This single figure greatly influenced the C.B.C. results during the 105th count period (Figure 4). The numbers of mynas reported on the 10 C.B.C. circles outside of *Miami-Dade* are far more consistent: 0 during 1982–1990, 2–11 during 1991–1999, and 11–27 during 2000–2006 (Table 2). Although C.B.C. data are valuable in documenting the long-term trend in the Common Myna population in southern Florida (Figure 4), short-term trends may be biased by the numbers of mynas observed or overlooked from one or two key C.B.C. circles. Unfortunately, the Royal Palm–Homestead C.B.C. was discontinued in December 2002; this C.B.C. circle would have included the recently discovered Florida City roost. Even if the decline in Common Myna numbers during the two most recent C.B.C. periods (Figure 4) is accurate, C.B.C. data clearly show that numbers of mynas observed per C.B.C. party-hour since the 98th period (9.51, range 5.1–23.5) has increased more than 1300% over myna numbers per party-hour for the previous 15 C.B.C. periods (0.71, range 0–1.8). Graphed by the three temporal periods used elsewhere in this paper, the numbers of mynas observed in Florida per 1000 C.B.C. party-hours are 0.31 (range 0–1.4) during 1982–1990, 2.23 (range 0.4–5.4) during 1991–1999, and 10.36 (range 5.1–23.5) during 2000–2007.

The range of Common Mynas in Florida is extensive and increasing, encompassing parts of 18 counties since 2000 (Figure 2). A minimum convex polygon drawn around the bulk of recent myna observations in *Broward*, *Miami-Dade*, and *Palm Beach* approaches 1760 km² of mostly suitable habitats (Figure 3). Although the unpredictable history of exotic bird populations in Florida (e.g., Pranty 2001a, 2002a) should make one hesitant about predicting the long-term trends of particular species, at the present time, there seems little reason to doubt that range expansion of Common Mynas in Florida will continue. In January 2008, the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee voted unanimously to accept the Common Myna as an established exotic species (A.W. Kratter, pers. comm.).

Acknowledgments

I thank all who directly or indirectly submit-

ted their myna observations, especially John Boyd, Robin Diaz, and Larry Manfredi. I thank P. William Smith and Larry Manfredi for attempting to set up formal myna surveys in Florida in the past. Giff Beaton provided information about the Sapelo Island myna. The manuscript was improved by comments from Bruce Anderson, Mark Berney and Jon Greenlaw.

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Loggerhead Kingbird in Florida

Ornithological history can be most interesting when research and sleuthing are involved, when the identification of a bird is complex, or when the historical record is flawed or obscure. All have been the case with extralimital Loggerhead Kingbirds reported in since 1971, all from Florida (one nineteenth-century record from Isla Mujeres, Mexico, is the only other extralimital record known). The tortured history of this species' inclusion on, then exclusion from, North American avifaunal lists was considered carefully in an article in these pages by P. William Smith, Glen E. Woolfenden, and Alexander Sprunt IV (The Loggerhead Kingbird in Florida: The Evidence Revisited, *North American Birds* 54: 235-240). Happily, with Carl Goodrich's discovery of the bird depicted below at Fort Zachary Taylor, Key West on 8 March 2007, Loggerhead Kingbird will now have an undisputed place on the American Birding Association's *Checklist* (the species is already on the American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds*, which includes the Caribbean islands). Although earlier reports of Loggerheads in the United States and Mexico may have been correct, at least one bird—photographed at Islamorada, Florida on 31 December 1971—appears to be a Giant Kingbird, a rare Cuban species not yet included on checklists of North American birds!

The photographs below were taken by Larry Manfredi on 8, 10, and 14 March, as was the cover photograph from the last issue (credited in error to the bird's finder). The bird's proportions and color suggest that it was of the mainland Cuban subspecies *caudifasciatus* (or possibly the Isle of Pines subspecies *flavescens*). Loggerheads in the Bahamas (subspecies *bahamensis*) have more yellowish underparts than the Key West bird, while other Greater Antillean taxa show a different tail pattern: Puerto Rican *taylori* and Hispaniolan *gabbi* lack the Key West bird's pale tail tip, while Jamaican *jamaicensis* has a more distinct white tail tip. The Cayman Islands' Loggerheads (*caymanensis*) show more olive tones in the back than the Key West bird, which appeared brown-backed in the field. This bird remained in the area through at least 26 March and was observed by hundreds of birders, many from out of state!

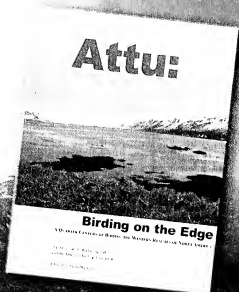


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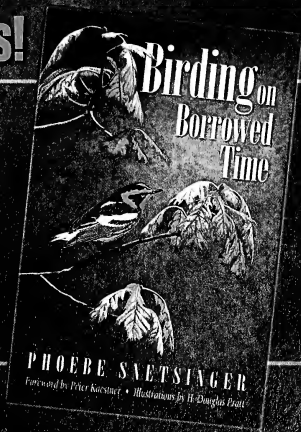


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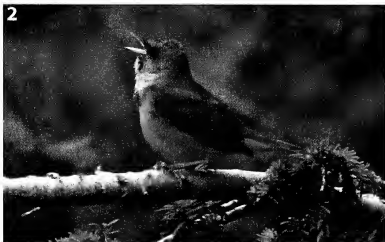
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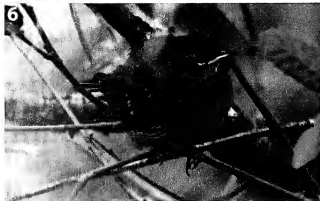
1 • After years of June sightings from the Hyder, Alaska area, Magnolia Warbler has gotten scarce, with few documented since the late 1990s. This bird hung around a territory at Juneau for several days after this photograph was taken 17 June 2007. *Photograph by Paul Suchanok.*

2 • This cooperative Mourning Warbler, likely an overshoot from east of the Coast Range in east-central British Columbia, was found in Juneau 24 June 2007 and furnished Alaska's third documented record and first in spring. *Photograph by Patty Rose.*

3 • This handsome Brewer's Sparrow, probably of the Alaska-breeding taxon *taverneri*, appeared near sea level in Juneau 10 June 2007—only the Region's third spring record. The bird was likely on its way to alpine breeding sites in the northern Coast Range, where it is known from Chilkat Pass. The clean supercilium, large bill (darker than in the nominate subspecies), and clean gray tone to the nape and dorsum point towards *taverneri*, but these are subtle and tricky characters. *Photograph by Patty Rose.*

4 • This Pacific Golden-Plover at Trepassey, Newfoundland 27 June to 15 July (here) 2007 furnished a first record for eastern Canada and one of a handful from eastern North America. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*

5 & 6 • This adult Crescent-chested Warbler was discovered feeding this recently fledged juvenile 12 through 16 (here) 2007, documenting what must have been the first breeding record for the United States and only a seventh record overall for Arizona. *Photographs by Richard E. Webster.*





1 - Ohio's first nesting record for Mississippi Kite was confirmed in summer 2007. On 7 June, a pair was found at a private golf course near Logan in Hocking County. The pair was observed copulating and carrying food to a potential nest site a few weeks later. Golf course staff reported seeing "a noisy youngster" around 20 August, and a young bird (here) was observed being fed by an adult on 30 August (here). *Photograph by Aaron Boone.*

2 - Determining the provenance of free-flying flamingos in southern Florida is difficult, given the feral population of nearly 400 unpinioned and unbanded birds at the former Hialeah Race Track in Miami. This unbanded adult Greater (American) Flamingo with mottled plumage and undamaged flight feathers graced Cutler Wetlands in the Miami area 5 July (here 10) July 2007 through the season. *Photograph by Tricia Martilla.*

3 - This Merlin was one of four young that successfully fledged from a nest at Promised Land State Park, Pike County, Pennsylvania, apparently the southernmost nesting location ever in the eastern United States (here 10 August 2007). *Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.*

4 - On 16 June 2007, at least two pairs of Yellow-hooded Blackbirds in Darien, Panama, one of them followed by a begging *coibindi* juvenile, provided incontrovertible evidence for a new "resident" species for North America. Successful breeding and year-round presence, however, remain to be confirmed. *Photograph by Kevin Easley.*

5 - King Rail, rare in Ohio, was found this season at Turkey Foot Lake in Summit County (here on 17 June 2007). *Photograph by Sandy Brown.*



1 • This frigatebird was photographed at Lagunas de Chametla, Baja California Sur as it came in to bathe on 19 July 2007. Current understanding of the identification of immature *Fregata* leads to the conclusion that this bird is a Great Frigatebird, the first for the Baja California Peninsula. Its extensively buffy throat and head, flesh-colored feet, rounded posterior belly patch, and tail formula all indicate Great Frigatebird. For a detailed discussion of Magnificent and Great Frigatebird identification, see S. N. G. Howell 1994 (*Birding* 26: 400–415). Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.



2 • Following several spring 2007 reports of vagrant Hooded Warblers in Nevada, this beautiful male Hooded Warbler was located 2 (here) and 3 June at Lida, Esmeralda County. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.



3 • This handsome male Painted Bunting was found by Matt Mills and friends on 24 (here 29) July 2007 at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge in northern Snake Valley, Juab County, Utah. Fortunately, the bunting remained through 8 August, drawing a steady pilgrimage of birders to this remote location. Doubt about wild provenance has prevented previous records of this species from being accepted in Utah; however, the remote location, timing, and the lack of bands or abnormal feather wear all suggest that this individual was a wild bird. Photograph by Paul Higgins.



4 • This Western Reef Heron (here with Snowy Egret) at Dreier-Offerman Park, Brooklyn, New York, New York 9 July 2007 furnished a first state record, though the species has been recorded recently in adjacent states. Photograph by Ulyad Spitalnik.



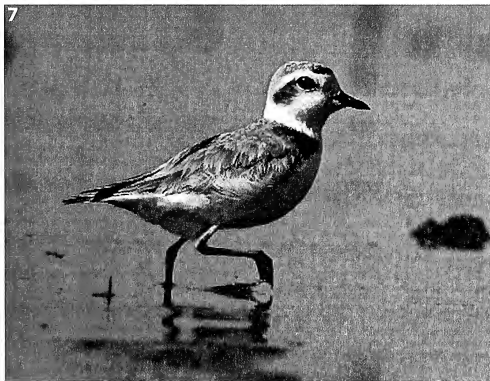
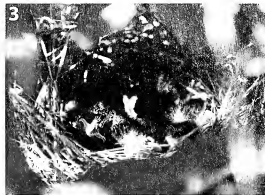
5 • This adult male Common Merganser, likely present for most of summer 2007, was photographed on Lake Monroe, Indiana on 15 July and represented only the sixth summer record of the species for the state. Photograph by Jason Greenberg.



6 • This Harris's Sparrow, representing the Yukon Territory's second well-documented record, was found at Herschel Island 28–24 (here 20) June 2007. Photograph by Cameron D. Eckert.



7 • Yielding a first record for the state of Morelos, this Mangrove Cuckoo was one of a surprising five individuals discovered near Yautepec, Mexico 9 June 2007. Photograph by Manuel Grosselet and Georgita Ruiz.



1, 2, & 3 - Peter Trumble discovered breeding Clay-colored Sparrows 19 June 2007 (as well as in previous summers) at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, Massachusetts. Photographs by Peter Trumble.

4 - The adult Red-billed Tropicbird (here with Razorbills) graced Matinicus Rock, Maine 9 July 2007. Photograph by Peter Vickery.

5 - Furnishing (at last!) New Mexico's first confirmed record, this male Green Kingfisher in the Cliff Gila Valley, Grant County was discovered 14 May 2007, was photographed multiple times in June (here 14 June), and was still present 6 July. Photograph by Dale A. Zimmerman.

6 - This fluffy youngster is one of four fledglings raised by a pair of Northern Hawk Owls near Winthrop, Okanogan County, Washington, furnishing the state's first breeding record. The pair was first noted in May, and the young had fully fledged by 26 June 2007, five days after this photograph was taken. This species has bred close to Washington before, at British Columbia's Manning Provincial Park. Photograph by Victor Glick.

7 - Furnishing the first breeding confirmation for North Dakota, this Snowy Plover at Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge 24 June 2007 was part of a major invasion into the Dakotas this summer. Photograph by Mark Ganzalez.



1 • A brief visitor to Little George Island, in the middle of Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba on 17 June 2007, this Band-tailed Pigeon was nicely documented with photographs and provided the eighth record for the province. A second bird was seen elsewhere in the province on 1 July. Photograph by *Randy Moai*.

2 • This glorious Lazuli Bunting × Indigo Bunting hybrid (here 21 June 2007) was near Eugene, Oregon during much of the summer. This hybrid combination has been found only a handful of times in Oregon, and only a few pure Indigo Buntings are found in that state annually. This lucky bird paired up with a Lazuli, perhaps producing more interesting offspring. Photograph by *Kit Larsen*.

3 • This juvenile Common Redpoll was one of several seen at various locations between Montmagny and Rimouski, Quebec during the summer and photographed at Rimouski on 25 July 2007. Photograph by *Gerard Proulx*.

4 • A number of Red-naped Sapsucker × Red-breasted Sapsucker hybrids were found farther west and at lower elevations than normal in Washington. Most of these were obviously of hybrid derivation, but this bird closely resembles a "pure" Red-naped upon first inspection. However, the red of the crown is somewhat contiguous with the red of the nape and actually extends below the nape (not readily evident in this photograph). The red on the auriculars is apparently shown by some pure Red-naped, but note the broken supercilium. This bird also had very narrow pale stripes down the back, more like a typical Red-breasted Sapsucker. This interesting bird inhabited Vashon Island, King County 1-17 (here 17) June 2007. Photograph by *Thomas Mansfield*.

5 • This White-faced Storm-Petrel was photographed nicely off Hatteras, North Carolina 28 July 2007; multiple subspecies (or species?) of this widespread complex are thought to occur off the state, but further study is needed to determine which ones. Photograph by *Steve K. G. Howell*.

6 • This Wilson's Plover, photographed on the first day of its 13-21 June 2007 stay at Delta Beach on San Diego Bay, California, fed almost exclusively on small crabs frequenting the beach. Photograph by *Matt Sedowski*.

7 • Mick Mackey, the seabird and cetacean watcher aboard the *RRS James Cook*, a vessel surveying an area over the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (49° N, 29° W), was photographing pilot whales on 20 July 2007 when he took a quick photograph of a passing Greater Shearwater. When he was sorting through the pictures that evening, he noticed the small gadfly petrel in the frame. Although the photograph is not sharp enough for certainty, the very pale crown, tiny bill, and rather rounded look to the wingtip suggest Zino's Petrel, an endangered species whose populations are rebounding in the high mountains of Madeira, off northwestern Africa, thanks to conservation efforts. Field identification of the species has yet to be fully worked out, and so most such suspected Zino's Petrels are identified as "Fea's/Zino's Petrels." This bird was a mere 1544 nautical miles (2860 km) from the nearest point of land in North America—Sable Island, Nova Scotia! Photograph by *Mick Mackey*.

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Contact Rick Houlik, www.oceoadventuretravel.com, rick@bluemooncruises.org, (888) 723-8622.

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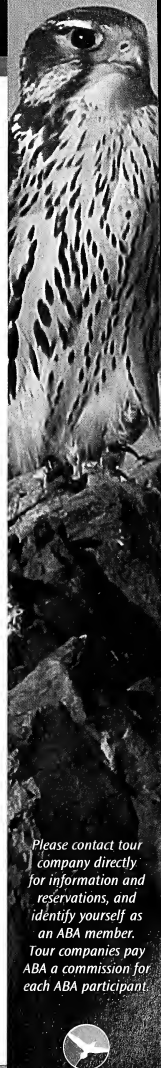
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Contact Hawaii Forest & Trail, www.hawaii-forest.com, info@hawaii-forest.com, (808) 331-8505.

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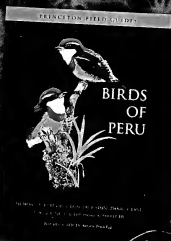
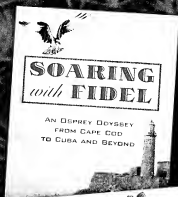
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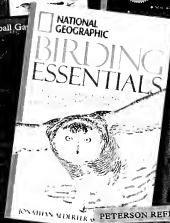


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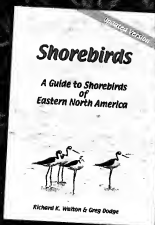
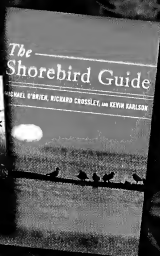


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