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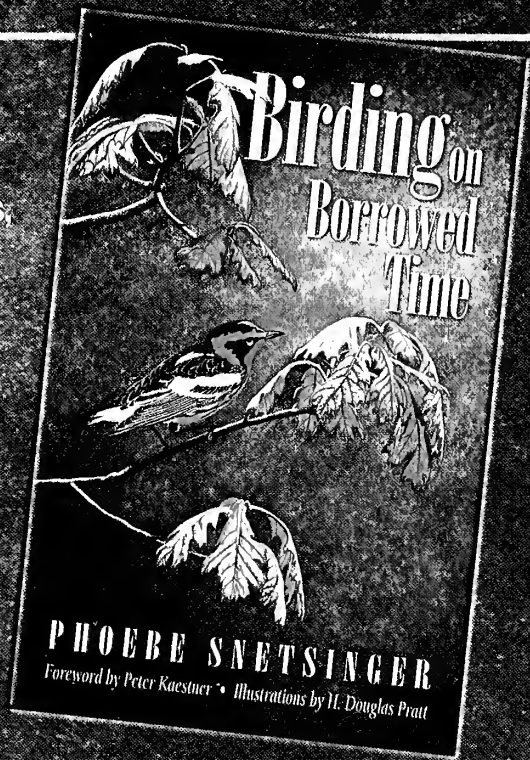
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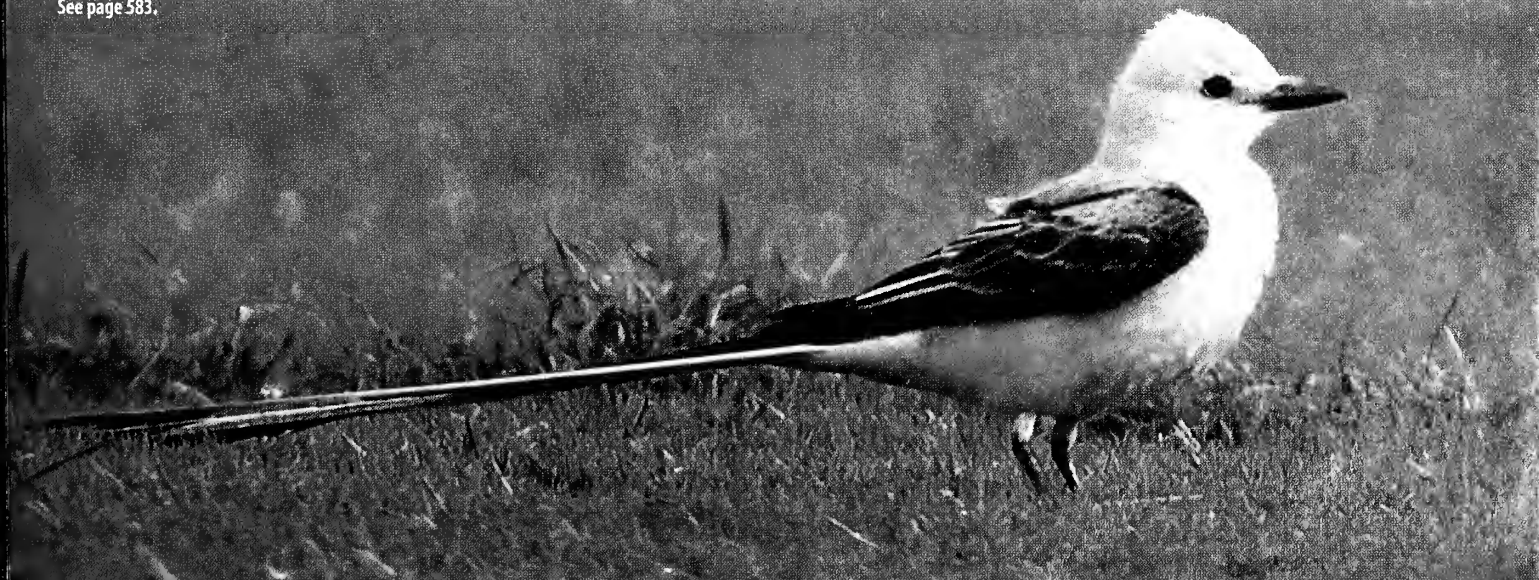
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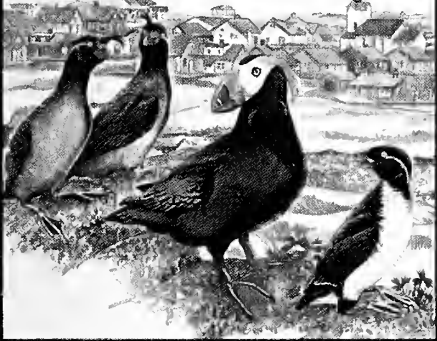
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Storm-Petrel

Occurrence and identification of the Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) complex off southern California

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Figure 1. Presumed Leach's or Chapman's Storm-Petrel (left) and presumed Townsend's Storm-Petrel (right) off Santa Barbara, California, 21 July 2007. This photograph conveys well the rangier build and larger size of the paler, browner Leach's/Chapman's versus the smaller size and more compact build of the darker Townsend's. A series of photographs of these individuals supports the consistency of the differences shown here. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

Abstract

Observers of seabirds over deep water off the Pacific coast of California have long noticed distinct variation in plumage, structure, and size exhibited by members of the Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) complex. Herein, variation within the complex is reviewed and tentatively linked to recent observations of Leach's Storm-Petrels off southern California. We discuss provisional identi-

fication criteria and possible occurrence patterns for four taxa within the complex: the widespread Leach's Storm-Petrel, found in both the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans (*O. l. leucorhoa*); Chapman's Storm-Petrel (*O. l. chapmani*), breeding in the Coronado Islands and San Benito Islands of Mexico; and two taxa breeding on islets off Mexico's Guadalupe Island (*soccoroensis* and *cheimommestes*), treated herein as full species,

with English names Townsend's Storm-Petrel and Ainley's Storm-Petrel, respectively.

Background

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) is a rather variable seabird that breeds in both the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans. Over the years, it has been the subject of a convoluted taxonomic history, with authors placing variable emphasis on the color and

pattern of the uppertail coverts (often referred to for the sake of brevity as the "rump"), on size and structure, and more recently on breeding season and vocalizations (Loomis 1918, Oberholser 1919, Van Rossem 1942, Austin 1952, Crossin 1974, Ainley 1980, Bourne and Jehl 1982, Ainley 1983, Power and Ainley 1986). The view that has prevailed in recent years (e.g., Power and Ainley 1986 and subsequent literature) is that four taxa should be recognized: nominate *leucorhoa*, breeding in both the North Pacific and North Atlantic, and three taxa breeding on islands off the Pacific coast of Mexico: *chapmani*, *socorroensis*, and *heimomnestes*.

For Pacific breeders, from Alaska to Baja California, recent authors indicate that variation is clinal, changing from larger, longer-winged breeding populations in the north (nominate *leucorhoa*) to smaller, shorter-winged breeding populations in the south (subspecies *chapmani*). Three other subspecies have been described from southeastern Alaska to northern Baja California (from north to south, *beali*, *beldingi*, and *willetti*), but these taxa are no longer recognized as valid in more recent literature on the complex, particularly following Power and Ainley (1986). Past authors have argued that these taxa differ subtly in size and rump pattern from members of the Leach's group that breed to the north and south, but more recent research has not found the distinctions to be consistent. Genetic analysis would probably provide greater insight into their relationships with other populations/taxa to the north and south.

In addition to the Pacific coastal populations, at least two distinct taxa breed on islets around Guadalupe Island, about 250 kilometers offshore of Baja California: *socorroensis* in summer, and the slightly larger *heimomnestes* in winter. That winter and summer breeding populations replaced each other around Guadalupe Island was first documented by Hubbs (1960) and echoed by Crossin (1974). Subsequently, Ainley (1980) described the taxon *heimomnestes*, noting that "on Guadalupe [Island], the two populations of *O. leucorhoa* [i.e., winter-breeding *heimomnestes* and summer-breeding *socorroensis*] are morphologically and behaviorally

distinct" and "so different are their songs that, if they met, it is questionable that interbreeding would occur." The prevailing taxonomic practice of the day was "lumping," and Ainley described *heimomnestes* as a subspecies of Leach's Storm-Petrel, also the status he maintained for *socorroensis*. Interestingly, Ainley (1980) drew parallels between the storm-petrels of Guadalupe Island and the "Soft-plumaged Petrel" (*Pterodroma mollis sensu lato*) complex, at that time considered a single species. More recent treatments indicate that "Soft-plumaged Petrels" comprise three or four species (e.g., Robb et al. 2008, Jesus et al. 2009), but the taxa in the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex have languished in obscurity by comparison.

As far as is known, Leach's Storm-Petrels from the North Atlantic and North Pacific have very similar vocalizations, whereas vocalizations of both of the morphologically distinct Guadalupe populations sound different, both from each other and from more northerly-

breeding taxa (Ainley 1980). In light of recent re-evaluations of the biogeography, vocalizations, and speciation of tubenoses (e.g., as summarized for the eastern North Atlantic by Robb et al. 2008), we consider that the data presented by Ainley suggest that at least three species of "Leach's Storm-Petrel" may be recognized in the Pacific. Genetic analysis may elucidate this conclusion. In a forthcoming identification guide to North American petrels, albatrosses, and storm-petrels, Howell (in prep.) will treat the Guadalupe Island taxa as full species, using the English names Townsend's Storm-Petrel for the summer-breeding *O. [leucorhoa] socorroensis* and Ainley's Storm-Petrel for the winter-breeding *O. [leucorhoa] heimomnestes*. These names recognize the ornithologists who described these taxa, Charles H. Townsend and David G. Ainley.

These potential splits prompt the obvious questions: Do Townsend's and Ainley's Storm-Petrels occur in North American waters? And: how might they be identified at sea relative to

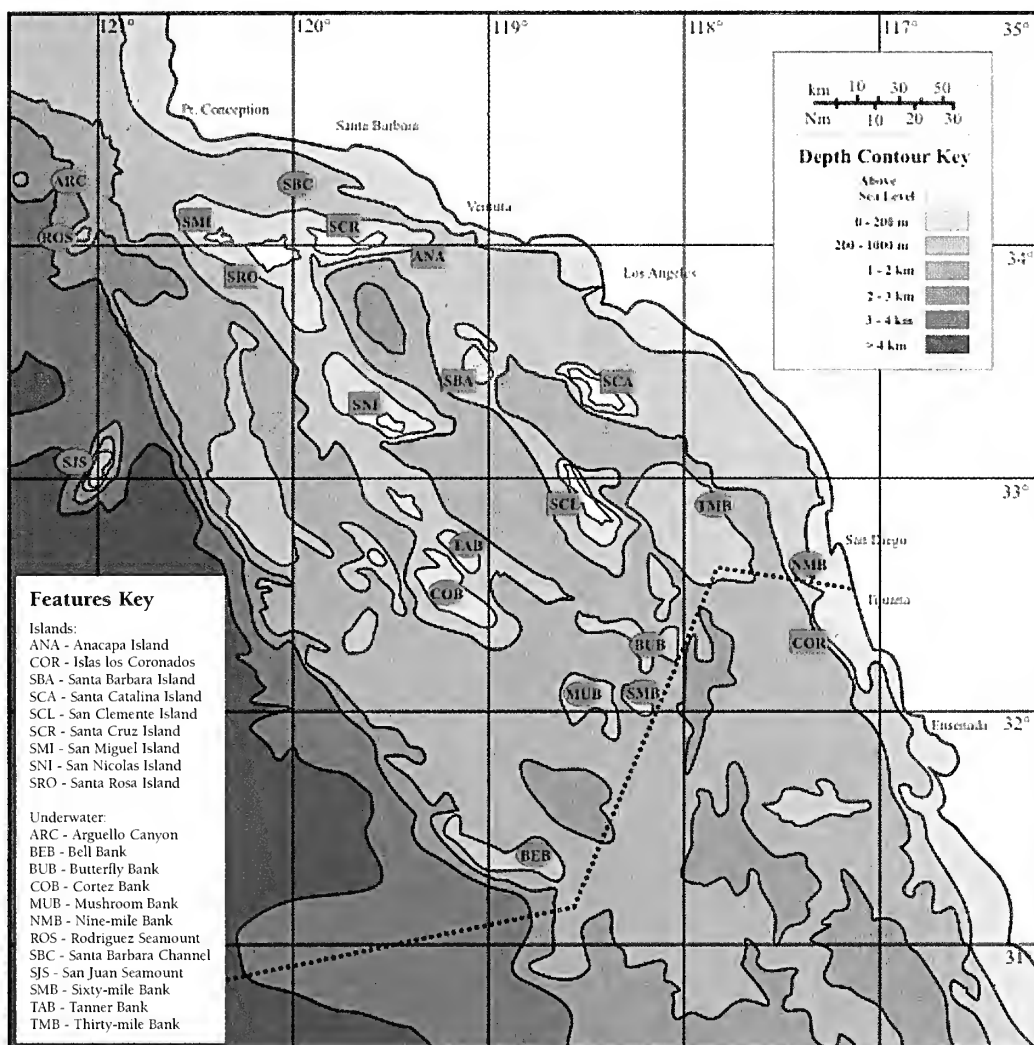


Figure 2. Map of southern California offshore waters and submarine features. Dotted line indicates the international border. Map by Jon Feenstra.

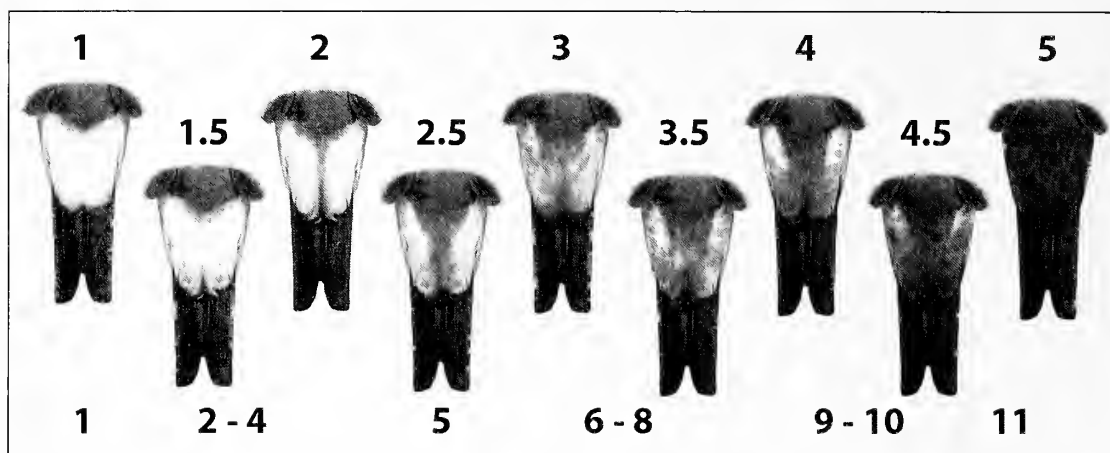


Figure 3. Variation in uppertail-covert ("rump") pattern for the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex. Simplified scores and half-scores used here are given across the top, with corresponding Ainley scale values across the bottom. Scores used in this paper range from 1 (white overall, including solidly white) to 5 (dark overall, including solidly dark). Score 1 can have a few dark marks (rarely visible at sea), and score 5 can have a few pale markings, likewise rarely visible at sea. Score 2 is mostly white, score 3 about 50:50 white/dark, and score 4 mostly dark. Scores of 1 and 2 are typical of white-rumped Townsends', 1.5 and 2.5 are typical of white-rumped Leach's, 2.5–3.5 are typical of Ainley's, and 4–5 are typical of Chapman's and dark-rumped Townsends'. The extent of "rump" patches and depth of tail fork shown here are not intended to convey taxonomic significance. Illustration by Ian Lewington.



Figure 4. Leach's Storm-Petrel in the western Pacific (26° N 142° E), 22 April 2007. This bird is probably well away from the geographic range of other taxa and appears to be a typical North Pacific example of nominate Leach's. Note the relatively limited white rump band (score 1.5–2), its length (measured along the axis of the body) about equal to the depth of the tail fork. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

other taxa in the Leach's complex as well as to other storm-petrels? Here we offer some preliminary thoughts, based on the literature, our review of museum specimens, and our observations of thousands of Leach's Storm-Petrels of various taxa on pelagic trips off California (Figure 1); marine topography off southern California, with many of the areas described below, is illustrated in Figure 2.

What is known of the overall distribution of these four taxa can be summarized as follows.

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*O. l. leucorhoa*) breeds in the North Pacific from Alaska south to California; North Atlantic populations are also considered to belong to nominate *leucorhoa*. Populations from southeastern Alaska to northern Baja California average smaller than

Aleutian (and North Atlantic) Leach's and have been grouped as the subspecies *beali*, including the subspecies *beldingi* described from Oregon (Austin 1952, Crossin 1974). As noted above, the most recent analysis (Power and Ainley 1986) suggests that variation is clinal in eastern Pacific breeders, from larger and whiter-rumped in the north to smaller and darker-rumped in the south, and that *leucorhoa* effectively "intergrades" with *chapmani* between the Farallon Islands and Coronado Islands (between 38° and 32° N latitude).

Birds return to colonies from late February through May; egg laying is mainly in May–June, with fledging from Pacific colonies in mid-August to early November (later northwards; Ainley et al. 1974, Gibson and Byrd 2007). The larger northern-breeding Leach's (with longer and relatively pointed wings) winters mainly in the central tropical and equatorial Pacific (Crossin 1974, Spear and Ainley 2007); Leach's wintering off California (Briggs et al. 1987, P. Pyle, pers. comm.) have been attributed to the smaller "beali" (with shorter and blunter-tipped wings), which winters mainly in the eastern Pacific (Crossin 1974).

Chapman's Storm-Petrel (*O. l. chapmani*) breeds on the Coronado Islands and San Benito Islands, Mexico, with a nesting schedule similar to early-breeding *leucorhoa* (mainly May–September). The Coronado and San Benito island groups lie about 500 kilometers

southern California (P. Pyle, pers. comm.).

Townsend's Storm-Petrel (*O. socorroensis*) breeds on islets off the south end of Guadalupe Island (mainly Isote Afuera and Isote Negro) and perhaps also locally on the main island, but most storm-petrels there (including the now-extinct Guadalupe Storm-Petrel, *O. macrodactyla*) have been eliminated by feral cats (Ainley 1980, Ainley 1983, Crossin 1974, Jehl and Everett 1985). The population on Isote Negro has been estimated at 4000 birds and on Isote Afuera at 3000 birds (Crossin 1974, Ainley 1983). Egg laying is mainly in late May–June, with fledging in October–November. The known at-sea range lies in the eastern Pacific between 35° N and 10° N (Crossin 1974), but seasonal movements are not well known.

Ainley's Storm-Petrel (*O. cheimomnestes*) breeds on three islets (Isote Negro, Isote Afuera, and Gargoyle Rock) off the southern end of Guadalupe Island, Mexico (Ainley 1980, 1983, Crossin 1974, Jehl and Everett 1985). Crossin (1974) proposed reviving the subspecies name *kaedingi* for the winter-breeding population, whose distinctiveness he recognized, but the type specimen of *kaedingi* (Carnegie Museum #22219) is from the summer-breeding population, for which the name *socorroensis* has priority (Ainley 1980).

The breeding population of Ainley's Storm-Petrel may not be in excess of a few thousands birds. Egg laying is mainly in November–December, with fledging in April–May. The at-sea range has not been described previously, but we presume that birds range over waters off the Baja California peninsula during their

apart, and birds breeding on the former island have been treated as the subspecies *willetti*, which has at times been subsumed with more northern populations into the subspecies *beali* (Austin 1952). Power and Ainley (1986) showed, however, that these two island populations were morphologically similar and thus better grouped together.

The wintering range of Chapman's is mainly in the eastern tropical Pacific (Crossin 1974, Spear and Ainley 2007), but some birds may occur north to waters off

breeding season (November–April). Although measurements of Ainley's and Chapman's overlap (Table 1), differences in plumage aspect (such as rump pattern, which is difficult to qualify; see Figures 6 and 16), plumage wear, and molt timing allow many specimens to be identified, particularly when compared with series of specimens collected at the breeding islands.

After breeding, Ainley's Storm-Petrels appear to withdraw southward, based on limited specimen data. An adult female in worn plumage (SDNHM #29925) collected 360 kilometers southwest of Guadalupe Island on 21 May, and a juvenile in fresh plumage (SDNHM #29924) collected 550 kilometers west of Clarión Island, Mexico on 24 May (at about 18° S), both suggest a southward post-breeding dispersal, as does an adult in wing molt (with p4 shed) collected on 11 June at 4° S, 93° W (CAS #484), a location about 400 kilometers southwest of the Galápagos Islands. A specimen completing wing molt (with p9–p10 growing) on 9 October (CAS #471), taken about 500 kilometers south-southeast of Mexico's Revillagigedo Islands, may have been a northbound migrant.

Potential identification criteria

With the newly described complexity in the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel complex (Smith and Friesen 2007, Smith et al. 2007), criteria for identifying some taxa away from the breeding islands have been proposed (Robb et al. 2008). Members of the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex have not previously had such treatment in the literature, certainly not from the perspective of at-sea identification. For the purposes of this article, we assume observers are familiar with nominate Leach's and do not cover identification of that taxon relative to other species of storm-petrels. The accounts below summarize our thoughts on potential identification criteria, based on study of specimens and encounters with birds at sea off southern California and northwestern Mexico. As in most birds, wing molt in storm-petrels starts with the innermost primary (p1) and progresses sequentially outward to the outermost (p10).

All measurements are given in millimeters (Table 1), but we augment more general "field guide" measurements, such as length and wingspan, with measurements in inches, to which most North American birders are more accustomed. For consistency, all measurements were made by Howell. Wingspan measurements come from 30 fresh specimens of Leach's collected by the late Larry Spear, and by a formula derived from these. In nominate Leach's, wing chord averages 33% (32–34%)



Figure 5. Variation in rump pattern of Leach's Storm-Petrels collected in summer (early May to early July) off Oregon, showing the typical range of *leucorhoa* rump patterns, from all-white (score 1) to having a broad dusky median patch (score 3). Relative to Townsend's, note the relatively long and deeply forked tails of these birds. SDNHM specimens. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

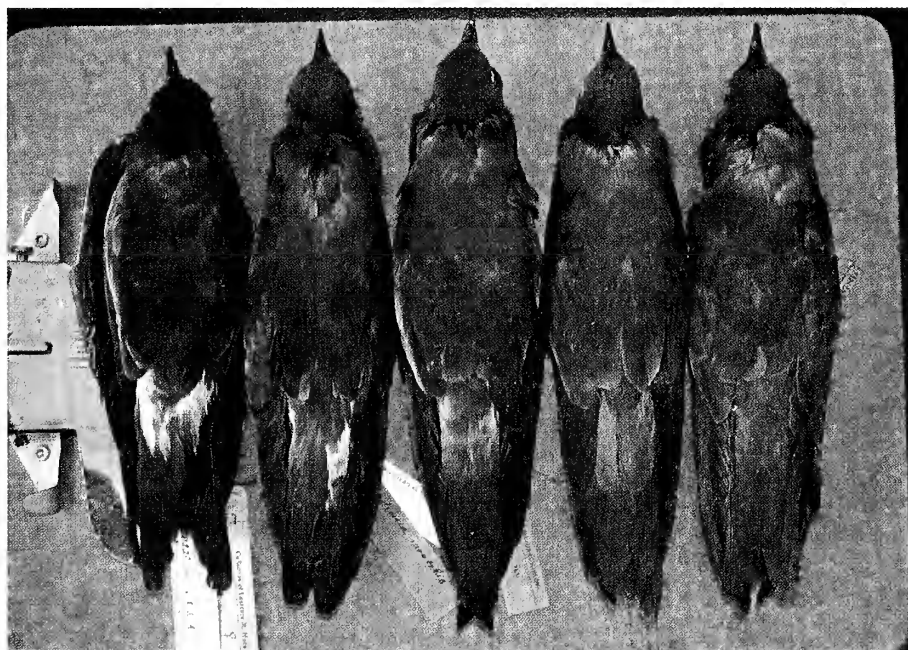


Figure 6. Variation in rump pattern of Chapman's Storm-Petrels collected in summer at colonies off Baja California, showing a typical range from some white (score 2.5) to all-dark (score 5). SDNHM specimens. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

of wingspan, as is true of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel (*O. furcata*) and Ashy Storm-petrel (*O. homochroa*), among other species of *Oceanodroma*. We have made the assumption that this ratio also holds for Chapman's, Townsend's, and Ainley's, which allows hypothetical wingspans to be calculated from wing chords. Most conventional measurements overlap among all taxa in the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex (Table 1), leading some recent

authors (e.g., Unitt 2004) to suggest that even maintaining nominate *leucorhoa* and *socorroensis* as distinct subspecies might not be tenable. Considered in combination, however, distinctions among vocalizations, measurements, and plumage support the recognition of at least four taxa.

The Leach's Storm-Petrel complex is well known for marked variation in "rump" patterns (technically, the uppertail coverts),

Table 1. Comparative measurements (ranges, with means in parentheses; in mm) of Leach's (Pacific birds only), Chapman's, Townsend's, and Ainley's Storm-Petrels. "Rump" indicates the extent of white uppertail coverts (measured at their center, from anterior to posterior edge, *not* laterally). This aspect was not measured on Chapman's specimens, which are mostly dark-rumped. The measurement "Tail > White" indicates the length of tail projecting beyond white uppertail coverts. The Leach's (n=40) were a mix of birds from Alaska and Oregon; all Chapman's, Townsend's, and Ainley's were collected from the breeding islands with the exception of two Chapman's, one Townsend's, and the four specimens of Ainley's that are discussed in the text.

	Wing Chord	Tail	Tail Fork	Rump	Tail > White
Leach's n = 40	145-162 (151)	70-86 (78)	13-25 (19)	15-25 (22)	36-45 (42)
Chapman's n = 40	144-157 (151)	69-82 (77)	14-24 (20)	—	—
Townsend's n = 70	135-147 (142)	66-77 (71)	11-17 (15)	20-30 (24)	30-41 (34)
Ainley's n = 45	141-153 (146)	70-80 (77)	12-20 (16)	20-30 (23)	35-45 (40)

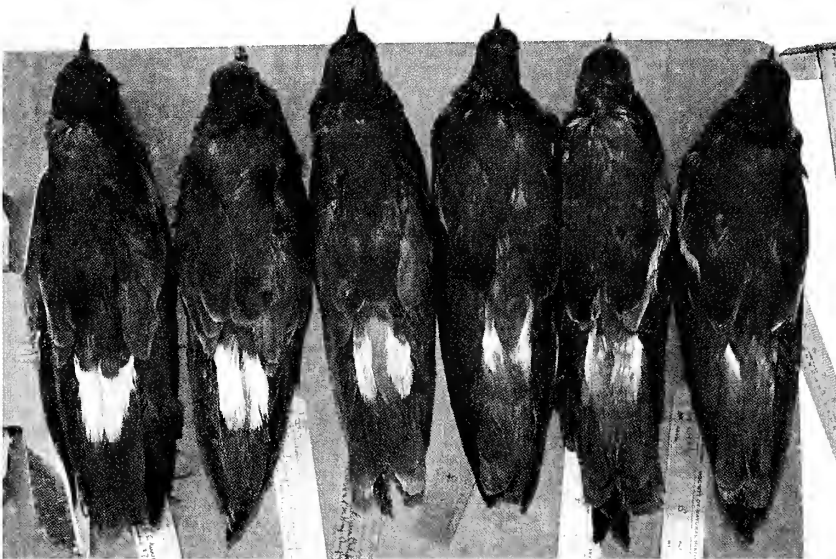


Figure 10. Variation in rump pattern of Townsend's Storm-Petrels collected in summer at Guadalupe Island, Baja California, showing a typical range from all-white (score 1) to mostly dark (score 4.5); some individuals, not shown here, have solidly dark rumps (Ainley 1980). Also note that the short tails have a relatively shallow tail fork. SDNHM specimens. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

which vary from from all-white to all-dark. A scale of "rump" patterns, grading from all-white (score 1) to all-dark (score 11), was devised by Ainley (1980), who scored 391 Leach's (47 Atlantic and 344 Pacific), 103 Chapman's, 137 Townsend's, and 127 Ainley's. We use a simplified scale of five steps that can be employed more easily in the field (Figure 3; Howell, in prep.; cf. Crossin 1974) and below have converted "Ainley scale" values to our five-step scale; half-step values can be estimated in our scale if desired, such as when evaluating photographs. Basically, our scores of 1-2 equate to white-rumped and 4-5 to dark-rumped, when viewed under at-sea conditions.

Flight manner obviously varies, depending on wind speed and on what a bird is doing. The simplified flight descriptions below con-

vey typical traveling and foraging flight manners in light to moderate winds, which is how most observers see these birds at sea.

Leach's Storm-Petrel (length 7.5-8.7" [190-221 mm], wingspan 17.3-19.3" [439-490 mm]). This is the largest and longest-winged taxon (Table 1), and the most familiar point of reference for most observers (Figure 4), although California birds average smaller and shorter-winged than Aleutian and North Atlantic birds. The rump patch is mostly white, often with variable dusky markings concentrated down the center, but a few birds are darker (overall rump score = 1-5, mainly 1-3; Figure 3). Typically,



Figure 7. Presumed Chapman's Storm-Petrel off southern California (33° N 120° W), 6 September 2006 (rump score 4.5). Note the fairly rangy and long-tailed shape and generally brownish plumage tones. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.



Figure 8. Presumed Chapman's Storm-Petrel off Santa Barbara, California, 21 July 2007 (rump score 4.5). This photograph conveys well the rangy build, long and narrow tail, bold pale upperwing bands, and overall sooty-brownish plumage of this taxon. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.



Figure 9. Presumed Chapman's Storm-Petrel (front; rump score 4) and Townsend's Storm-Petrel (behind; rump score 1) off Santa Barbara, California, 21 July 2007. Relative to Chapman's, the Townsend's appears shorter-tailed and darker overall, with a broad white rump band and duller pale upperwing bands. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.



Figure 11. Presumed Townsend's Storm-Petrel off San Diego, California, 20 July 2008. This photograph conveys well the relatively compact build, dark plumage aspect, relatively duller pale upperwing bands than Chapman's, and large white rump patch of this taxon. Note that the extent of the white rump patch (score 1) appears greater than the short tail. Note also the fairly shallow fork in the tail. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.



Figure 12. Presumed Townsend's Storm-Petrel off Santa Barbara, California, 21 July 2007. Besides the fairly dark plumage aspect, note the large white rump patch (score 1) and short tail with a fairly shallow fork. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.



Figure 13. Presumed Townsend's Storm-Petrel off Santa Barbara, California, 21 July 2007. This image suggests a small, fairly compact, and short-tailed bird relative to North Pacific (and North Atlantic) Leach's, although the tail is foreshortened at this angle. The white rump patch (score 1) appears greater in extent than the brown of the tail and could suggest to some observers a Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel, the largest individuals of which are about the same size as a small Townsend's. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

the white rump patch is relatively limited in extent, comprising less than half of the rump/tail projection beyond the trailing edge of the wings (Figure 3). Fully dark-rumped birds are very rare in Pacific Leach's (and unknown in the Atlantic; Flood 2009) but common in Chapman's. From Alaska to Washington, Leach's have a rump score of 1–2, whereas by central California, this changes to a score of 1–5, with most being 1–2 (Figure 5). Good views are needed to assess rump score accurately at sea, and birds scoring 3.5–4.5 can appear solidly “dark-rumped” at a distance.

Wing molt of breeding adults starts in August–October and completes in February–April, with the tail molted in July–September. First-year birds start wing molt in May–July and complete it in October–December; subsequent molts presumably synchronize with the adult schedule (Ainley et al. 1976, Spear and Ainley 2007; Howell, unpubl. data). A few Leach's (and Chapman's) off southern California in late summer and fall show molt of rectrices and inner primaries, but such birds are quite rare, which suggests that most Pacific Leach's may remain to the south in their first summer.

The bounding, nighthawk-like flight of Leach's Storm-Petrel mentioned in field guides is a good thing to learn well as a yardstick for learning the other species. As a rule, relative to other taxa in the complex, nominate Leach's exhibits the most unpredictable use of three-dimensional space in its flight, such that its erratic course is often difficult to track with a camera. That said, the slightly smaller California Leach's may have a “mellower” flight more like that of Chapman's.

Chapman's Storm-Petrel (length 6.8–7.7” [173–196 mm], wingspan 17.2–18.7” [437–475 mm]) averages smaller than Leach's but, on average, has a slightly deeper tail fork (Table 1;



Figure 14. Presumed Townsend's Storm-Petrel off Santa Barbara, California, 21 July 2007. This image conveys well the compact build, dark plumage aspect, and short tail of this species. As in Figures 1, 9, and 11–13, the white rump patch (score 1) dominates the caudal projection of the bird, being greater in extent than the short, shallowly forked tail. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.



Figure 15. Presumed Townsend's Storm-Petrel (rump score 4.5), near Sixty-mile Bank off San Diego, California, 7 September 2006. Although perhaps not identifiable to taxon from this photograph, the notably small size and compact shape of this individual were readily apparent in the field to Howell and McGrath, who noted the bird's superficial resemblance to Least Storm-Petrel. Note the relatively rounded wing-tips, which are typical of southern taxa in the Leach's complex (Townsend's, Ainley's, and some Chapman's); the wings of northern-breeding populations tend to be longer and more pointed. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

see also Ainley 1980). The uppertail coverts range from having obvious white (on some Coronado Island birds) to being all-dark (on most San Benito Island birds). Overall rump score = 2.5–5, mainly 4–5 (Figures 3, 6–9), with white-rumped birds comprising about 10% of the Coronado population and 0% of the San Benito population (Ainley 1980). The molt schedule of Chapman's appears similar to that of Leach's.

The flight of Chapman's is much like that of Leach's but averages weaker, less confident-looking, with slightly quicker and often shallower wingbeats; Chapman's tends to be easier to track with a camera. At times Chapman's can recall a purposeful Ashy Storm-Petrel, but

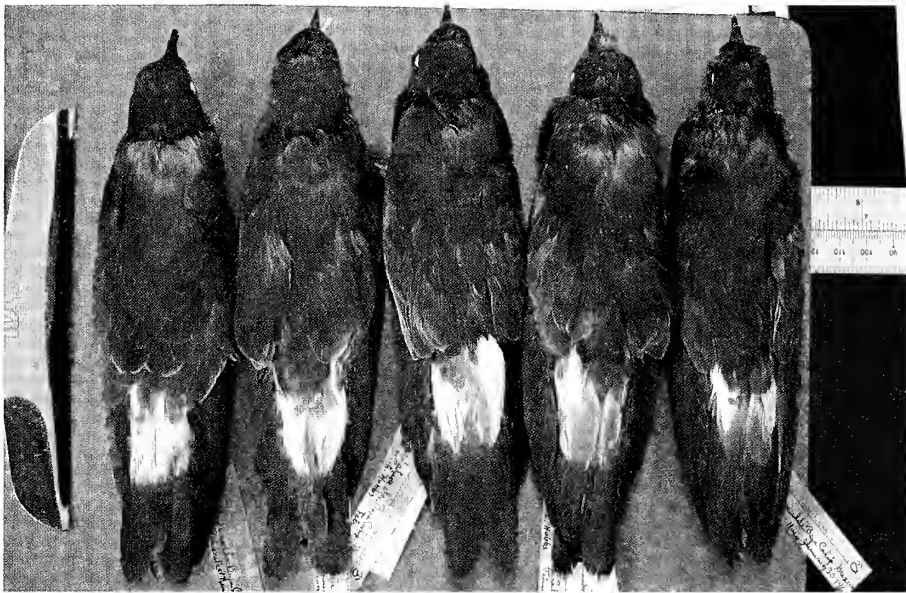


Figure 16. Typical variation in rump pattern of Ainley's Storm-Petrels collected in winter at Guadalupe Island, Baja California, from mostly white (score 1.5) to heavily mottled with dusky (score 3.5); no Ainley's with all-white or all-dark rumps have been confirmed. SDNHM specimens. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

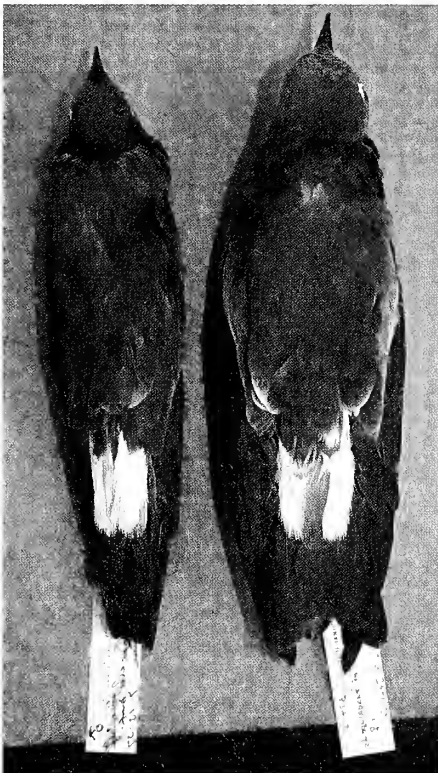


Figure 17. Comparison of fresh-plumaged adult Townsend's Storm-Petrel (left; SDNHM specimen 17672, 13 July; rump score 1) and fresh-plumaged juvenile Ainley's Storm-Petrel (right; SDNHM specimen 37473, 14 April; rump score 2). Despite overlap in most conventional measurements between these two species, the larger bulk of Ainley's is usually readily apparent when the two are compared directly. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

Chapman's is still generally a stronger flier with fairly clipped and jerky wingbeats relative to the more fluttery Ashy.

Townsend's Storm-Petrel (length 6.5–7.2" [165–183 mm], wingspan 16.2–17.5" [411–444 mm]) is the smallest and shortest-tailed taxon in the Leach's complex (Oberholser 1919, Ainley 1980, Table 1). The uppertail coverts are variable, being bright white on some birds (rump score = 1–3, mainly 1–2), mostly dark on others (rump score = mainly 4; Figures 2, 9). Some 80–90% of birds on Isote Negro are dark-rumped, whereas on the nearby Isote Afuera 70–90% are white-rumped (Crossin 1974, Ainley 1983). Analyses of vocalizations and genetics of these populations might shed light on their taxonomic status. The tail is relatively short, and the white rump patch typically comprises half or more of the rump/tail projection beyond the trailing edge of the wings (Figures 9–15).

Assuming molt relates to breeding as in Leach's Storm-Petrel (and given that Townsend's is smaller and may require less time for its complete molt), wing molt in breeding adults likely starts in August–October and completes in February–March; the first-year wing molt may start in June–August and complete in October–December. We have not seen any presumed Townsend's in wing molt off southern California in July–September.

The flight manner of Townsend's requires critical study, but in calm to light winds it is a fairly fast and strong flier, with fairly deep, clipped wing beats and a more direct and steadier (less three-dimensional) flight than the jerkier, more-confident bounding flight of Leach's. Relative to Leach's and Chapman's, Townsend's is smaller (which can be readily apparent, even when direct comparison is



Figure 18. Comparison of fresh-plumaged adult Townsend's Storm-Petrel (left; SDNHM specimen 17672, 13 July) and fresh-plumaged adult Ainley's Storm-Petrel (right; SDNHM specimen 30177, 2 November). Collected at corresponding points in their breeding cycles, these specimens with comparable plumage wear illustrate the appreciably darker plumage aspect of Townsend's. Also, as in Figure 17, note the obviously larger bulk of Ainley's. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

lacking) and shorter-tailed, with a shallower tail fork, accounting for its more compact, less rangy shape (Figure 9). The plumage of Townsend's is darker overall, more blackish than brownish, and the white rump patch is often solidly white and more extensive, in relative terms, than on Leach's, with a shorter tail projection beyond the white (Table 1); thus it may even suggest a Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma* [*Halocyptena*] *tethys*). In dark-rumped birds, the pale upperwing band of Townsend's averages duller than the relatively bolder, brighter band of Chapman's (Figures 7–9, 11–14), and it is possible to mistake dark-rumped Townsend's for Least Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma* [*Halocyptena*] *microsoma*) (Figure 15).

Whether Townsend's and Ainley's Storm-Petrels can be distinguished at sea is not currently known, but from specimens, Ainley's appears more like a typical Leach's and is thus generally slightly paler overall than Townsend's, with a duller white rump patch that usually has a dusky median stripe or messy dusky markings that, in series, appear subtly but qualitatively different from Leach's (Figure 16). Ainley's averages larger than



Figure 19. Unidentified "Leach's Storm-Petrel" off San Diego, California, 20 July 2008. Under typical at-sea conditions, and even with reasonable photographs, many birds are best left identified as simply "members of the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex," given our limited understanding of identification criteria. This bird may be a California-breeding Leach's, which appear smaller and less rangy than North Atlantic and Aleutian Leach's. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

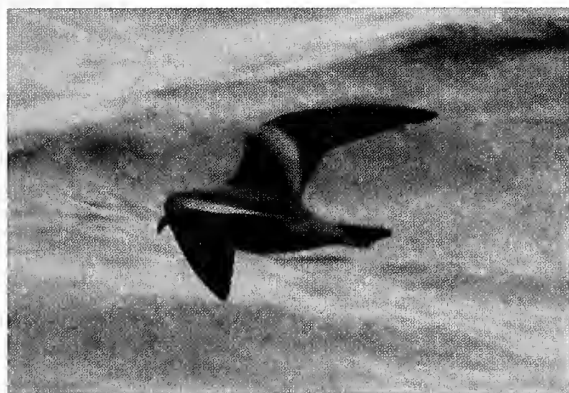


Figure 20. Unidentified "Leach's Storm-Petrel" off Santa Barbara, California, 21 July 2007. This all-dark bird (rump score 5) may simply be a Chapman's Storm-Petrel, but its relatively compact shape and shallow tail fork—both perhaps artifacts of the angle of the photograph—might suggest Townsend's. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

Townsend's, with a longer tail, and a longer tail projection beyond the white tail coverts (Table 1). Specimens of Ainley's appear bulky relative to those of Townsend's Storm-Petrel (Figures 17, 18), suggesting that these species may have different wing-loadings and thus different flight manners, but to our knowledge the flight manner of Ainley's is undescribed. Note that Ainley's fledge in fresh juvenal plumage at the same time as fresh-plumaged adult Townsend's are starting to breed, and vice versa.

Ainley's Storm-Petrel (length 7–7.5" [178–190 mm], wingspan 16.7–18.3" [424–465 mm]). Size similar to Chapman's but averaging smaller, with a shallower tail fork (Table 1). The uppertail coverts are white with a variable and irregular dusky median stripe or dusky markings (rump score = 1.5–4, mainly 2–3; Figures 3, 16), and the white rump patch typically comprises a little

more than a third of the rump/tail projection beyond the trailing edge of the wings. No dark-rumped Ainley's have been certainly reported, although a mummified, dark-rumped "chick" found in June 1968 was presumed to have been from the winter-breeding population (Crossin 1974). Such birds might be difficult if not impossible to distinguish at sea from Chapman's.

Wing molt timing needs study, but breeding birds are not usually molting, and it is reasonable to assume that the adult wing molt extends from April to October. First-year birds probably molt earlier than adults, as in other storm-petrels, and the first-year wing molt of Ainley's thus may be mainly during January–July. Given that the summer-breeding Leach's, Chapman's, and Townsend's would be in fresh plumage or completing wing molt in spring, any "Leach's" in the early stages of wing molt during spring, or in advanced wing molt during summer, would be a good candidate for Ainley's Storm-Petrel.

Relative to Leach's, Ainley's is smaller, with shorter, slightly less-pointed wings and a proportionately longer but less deeply forked tail (Table 1). Ainley's and Chapman's are similar in size, but most Chapman's are dark-rumped (a condition unconfirmed in Ainley's) or have white patches on the rump sides in a pattern atypical of Ainley's (Figures 6–9, 16). Wing-molt timing of adult Ainley's probably spans April–October, versus August–April in adult Leach's and Chapman's. Further work based upon birds of known taxon may

bring to light other characteristics, such as structure or flight manner, that could aid in at-sea identification.

Occurrence off Southern California

Off California as a whole, Leach's Storm-Petrels occur mainly between March and November (Ainley 1976). Off southern California, the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex is considered commonest in June through October and least common in December through May (Briggs et al. 1987). Leach's Storm-Petrels tend to forage well offshore over warmer waters and thus are rarely found on pelagic day trips into the relatively cooler waters off central and northern California. In southern California, most records of the Leach's complex are from late summer and fall, which coincides both with warmer waters (warmer than in spring) and with the July–September period when most offshore pelagic trips occur.



Figure 21. Presumed Chapman's Storm-Petrel near Sixtymile Bank off San Diego, California, 7 September 2006. The brown plumage tones (rump score of 4.5 apparent in other photographs), rangy structure, and distinct, deep tail notch indicate that this bird is not a Townsend's Storm-Petrel. This bird appears typical of what many birders simply call "Leach's" (or "dark-rumped Leach's") off southern California. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.



Figure 22. Probable Townsend's Storm-Petrel near Sixtymile Bank off San Diego, California, 7 September 2006. The apparently blackish plumage tones, compact shape, and bold white on the outer uppertail coverts suggest that this bird is a Townsend's Storm-Petrel (compare with Figure 21), but how much of this could be caused by the angle of the photograph? We suspect that this bird is indeed a Townsend's Storm-Petrel, but attempting an identification from a single photograph is probably unwise in this case and in many others. Birders fortunate enough to observe storm-petrels in the Leach's complex in the Pacific would do well to take extensive series of photographs of the birds they observe and to circulate these photographs for discussion, as we continue to refine our understanding of this group. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.

Only since the early 2000s have birders started to explore offshore southern California waters with any regularity, although some birders participated in research cruises well offshore dating back through the mid-1980s.

On most recent fall pelagic trips out of Santa Barbara and San Diego, from 60 to 350 "Leach's" have been seen daily, mainly over deeper offshore waters and around banks such as the Tanner Bank, Cortez Bank, and Sixtymile Bank (Figure 2). Based on these observations, we have adduced the following patterns of occurrence for the birds we have documented in southern California waters. With a limited number of trips from which to work, we acknowledge that this portrait of status and distribution is provisional, sometimes conjectural, and certainly incomplete (Figures 19-22).

Leach's Storm-Petrel. Presumably there is a northbound migration through offshore waters in February–April, with a southward movement back to the tropical Pacific in September–November, but to what extent the larger northern Leach's occur relative to "beali" Leach's is unknown. Non-breeding immatures (but perhaps not many first-year birds, see above) probably occur in summer and fall off southern California, perhaps mainly in July–September, the period during which non-breeding immatures of other pelagic species are present in numbers off California, e.g., Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*), and Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). Most presumed Leach's occur over deeper offshore waters, at and beyond the shelf break.

The breeding population of Leach's Storm-Petrels on the California Channel Islands was estimated at 159 pairs in 1991; only 19 birds were mist-netted, with about two-thirds white-rumped and one third dark-rumped (Carter et al. 1992). This population may be increasing (fewer than 10 breeding birds were estimated in 1975-1977; Hunt et al. 1980), although more mist-netting effort occurred in 1991, and the 1970s estimate was derived from mark-recapture analyses that may have been flawed (H. R. Carter, pers. comm.). Given that breeding storm-petrels are probably restricted to foraging within a few hundred kilometers of colonies, and that large numbers of non-breeding immatures can be present around colonies in the breeding season, the Channel Islands population may contribute appreciably to the numbers of "Leach's" observed in summer off southern California.

Chapman's Storm-Petrel. This taxon (based

on the sheer number of dark-rumped birds seen) is fairly common off southern California, at least during April–October. For example, 65% of 100 birds at Cortez Bank, 10 September 2005, were dark-rumped (score 4-5; JF, pers. obs.), as were 25% of 200 birds between Cortez Bank and Sixtymile Bank, 7 September 2006 (SNGH, pers. obs.); 21% of 190 birds in the vicinity of San Juan Seamount, 21 July 2007 (JF, pers. obs.); 33% of 78 birds south of Santa Cruz Island, 25 July 2009 (SNGH, pers. obs.); 45% of 102 birds from the 4000-meter depth contour west of the Bell Bank to the Bell Bank, 25 August 2009 (JF, SNGH, pers. obs.); and about 90% of 138 birds north of Ninemile Bank, 7 September 2009 (TM, WTH pers. obs.).

In addition to birds from the nearby colony at the Coronado Islands, the fall numbers of Chapman's may include birds from the San Benito Islands, paralleling the well-known annual northward fall incursions into California waters of Black Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma [Halocyptena] melania*) and Least Storm-Petrels from Mexican colonies. During April–October, Chapman's tends to occur nearer to shore than nominate Leach's and is regularly found from the Thirtymile Bank out to beyond the shelf edge. Small numbers may occur well offshore in winter, but at this season most "Leach's" off southern California are apparently white-rumped (P. Pyle, pers. comm.).

Townsend's Storm-Petrel. In general, 3-5% of all Leach's-type storm-petrels seen on offshore trips in the southern half of the Southern California Bight from late July to mid-September show characteristics of Townsend's Storm-Petrel. Both white-rumped and dark-rumped birds have been seen, with more of the former perhaps reflecting the relative ease with which they can be identified at sea. We have two records outside of this period. About 90% of 110 birds seen 5 June 2008 in the vicinity of the Bell Bank (JF, pers. obs.) were thought to be white-rumped Townsend's, suggesting that their occurrence in California waters may be prone to marked interannual variation. We also have one record of a white-rumped bird, perhaps a juvenile, on 2 November 2008 west of the Cortez Bank (photograph by TM). We suspect that this taxon occurs regularly off southern California, mainly July–October (but see the June observation, above), which mirrors the northward dispersal at this season by sundry Mexican-breeding seabirds, such as Black and Least Storm-Petrels, Guadalupe [Xantus'] Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus [h.] hypoleucus*), and Craveri's Murrelet (*S. craveri*). Townsend's Storm-Petrels have often been observed over deep water just beyond the shelf

break, thus occurring in areas where both Leach's and Chapman's are frequent.

Ainley's Storm-Petrel. Despite searching, we have seen no birds that we considered candidates for Ainley's Storm-Petrel, although distinguishing this taxon from California Leach's, and perhaps from white-rumped Chapman's, may not be possible given our present (lack of) knowledge. Although the limited specimen record suggests a southward post-breeding withdrawal during May–October (noted above), it is conceivable that foraging adults range north into United States waters during their winter breeding season (perhaps from September or October onwards?). Any pelagic trips far offshore in winter should be on the lookout for this taxon. A report of 20 "Leach's Storm-Petrels" at the Davidson Seamount on 1 December 1979 (Garrett and Dunn 1981) is intriguing. These birds could have been late southbound or wintering *leucorhoa*, possibly birds of the smaller southerly breeders thought to winter off California (Briggs et al. 1987)—but could some have been Ainley's Storm-Petrels?

Conclusions

Mark Twain once said that he would rather have his ignorance than another man's knowledge, for his ignorance was far greater. In the case of the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex, however, we would happily trade a lot of ignorance for a little knowledge, and Oberholser's statement of 1919 still rings true today: "Notwithstanding the considerable attention that has been paid to petrels of the *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* group, the last word has evidently not yet been said on the subject."

Our provisional observations indicate that Chapman's and Leach's are the predominant taxa in the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex in waters off southern California, but that small numbers of Townsend's Storm-Petrels also occur in late summer and fall, mainly July through September. As yet, we have no evidence that Ainley's Storm-Petrel enters United States waters, but it may well occur, perhaps mainly in late winter.

Acknowledgments and Dedication

We thank Phil Unitt (San Diego Natural History Museum; SDNHM), Maureen Flannery and Jack Dumbacher (California Academy of Sciences; CAS), Carla Cicero (Museum of Comparative Zoology, University of California, Berkeley), and Kimball L. Garrett (Los Angeles County Museum) for access to specimens in their care; Harry R. Carter, and Peter Pyle for sharing unpublished data; Howell also thanks Kim Kreitingner and Kirsten

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This paper is dedicated to the memory of Luke Cole, a good friend who lived life to its fullest and always enjoyed pushing the frontiers that pelagic birding has to offer.

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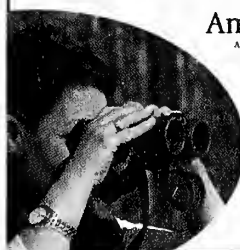
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The Changing Seasons:

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Not a species associated with the eastern highlands, this subadult Roseate Spoonbill in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley 15-19 (here 18) June was part of an unprecedented eastern flight of the species that stretched as far north as Illinois, Ontario, and New Jersey in summer 2009. *Photograph by Lynda Blair.*

The Weather

• Canada and Alaska

Across Canada as a whole, the average temperature for the summer of 2009 (July through August) was 0.4° C above normal, according to Environment Canada. Much of central and southern Canada was cooler than normal, while western, northern, and eastern Canada was warmer (Figure 1). Parts of southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba saw temperatures more than 1.5° C below normal; by contrast, British Columbia, southern Yukon, northern Québec, and the much of the Arctic archipelago experienced temperatures more than 2° C above normal. Since 1993, summer temperatures in Canada have remained at or above normal; averages over the past 62 years have increased by almost a degree Celsius. Overall, Canada had a slightly wetter summer than normal, with 2.2 percent

more precipitation than average. Much of Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, southern Manitoba, northern Ontario, southern Ontario, and the Maritime provinces had more than 20 percent above normal precipitation, while some of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan experienced the driest June in half a century, with very low levels in major bodies of water (Figure 2).

Brian Dalzell, who has shifted from winter to summer editor for the Atlantic Provinces region, laments the "interminable period of rainy weather that consumed the entire month of June and lingered into July" there (Figure 2), while the Québec crew notes dryly that in southern Québec "it was not a very pleasant summer," with very little sunshine, temperatures below normal, and precipitation above normal. The greatest departures from the norm were in northern Québec, where

temperatures were as much as 5.3° C above average (at Inukjuak) and where conditions were drier (Figure 2). In similar vein, David Elder writes that, "for Ontario birders, the summer of 2009 seemed merely an illusion." He continues: "Caught on the wrong side of a persistent southerly loop in the jet stream, July recorded the fewest number of days with sunshine on record for the province. Consistent cool and wet conditions prevailed, and monthly temperatures were well below average, especially in the north. An immobile North Atlantic high-pressure zone prevented eastward-moving continental low-pressure systems from dispersing, resulting in abundant rainfall for the period." To Ontario's west, in the Prairie Provinces, Rudolf Koes and Peter Taylor observe that the "jet stream bisected the region for most of the season, resulting in far-below-normal temperatures to

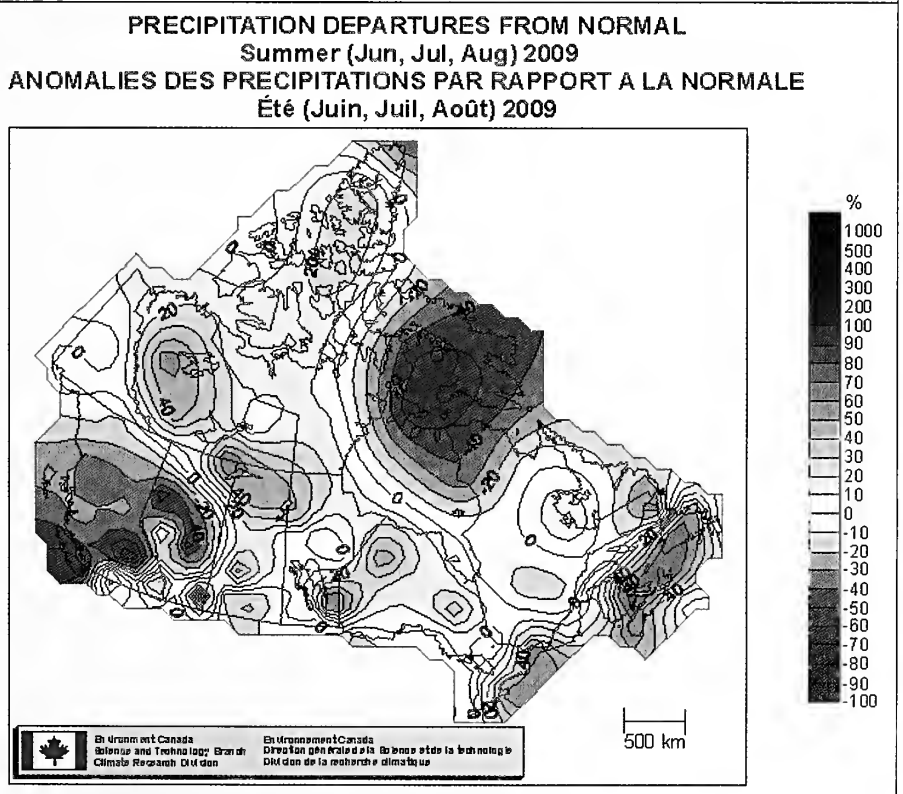
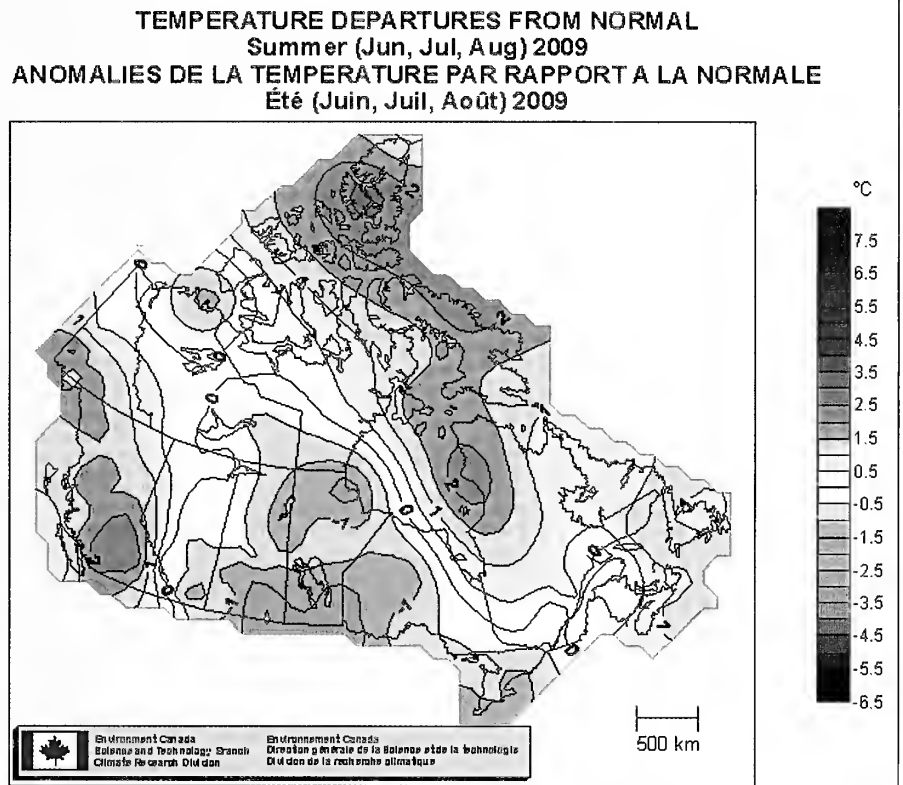
Think Pink

the east and more moderate conditions to the west. Wintry weather persisted in the north well into June, with substantial snow cover remaining until mid-month." Still farther west, in British Columbia, "June began seasonably warm but became unsettled by mid-month, [and] this cool, showery pattern continued until mid-July, when summer finally arrived. In fact, July ended up being one of the three hottest on record for many British Columbia locations, with the last week being particularly scorching," according to Chris Charlesworth.

The northern tier, from Greenland to Alaska, saw a very late arrival of warm weather in the east, with cold persisting in Nunavut and adjacent areas well into June but July (and into August) much warmer than average (Figure 1), a "relatively normal" summer in Yukon and southern Northwest Territories, and a warmer-than-average summer in Alaska that "banished memories of the cold and wet conditions that dominated [the state] in summer 2008," according to Thede Tobish. For many northerly breeding species, then, the summer's nesting scorecard seemed most favorable from the western half of the continent ("a generally quick and probably successful nesting season" in Alaska) and mixed, or even dismal, from Hudson Bay eastward: "Observers in Nunavut told consistent tales of very late arrivals, delayed nesting, or failure to nest in many species," writes Cameron Eckert. In northern Ontario, David Elder indicates that Snow Geese on Hudson Bay did not breed, and to the north at Churchill, Koes and Taylor write that

Figure 1 (top). The summer period (here, June through August) in 2009 in Canada was 0.4° C above normal on the national level, but the center of the country continued cooler, just as it had in spring 2009. The effect on nesting birds in western Hudson Bay, particularly waterbirds, was devastating, but even in the eastern Arctic, where July warmed quickly, the "spring" may have arrived too late to allow a successful nesting season for many species. *Map courtesy of and © Environment Canada/Environnement Canada.*

Figure 2 (bottom). The Canadian summer of 2009 was rainy in the southeastern reaches of the country but rather dry in the northeast and southwest (this map illustrates precipitation from June through August). Although the dark brown tones of this map between Hudson Bay and Baffin Island may look ominous, this region gets much less precipitation than does southern Canada, such that "a percent departure in the north represents much less difference in actual precipitation than the same percentage in the south," according to Environment Canada. *Map courtesy of and © Environment Canada/Environnement Canada.*



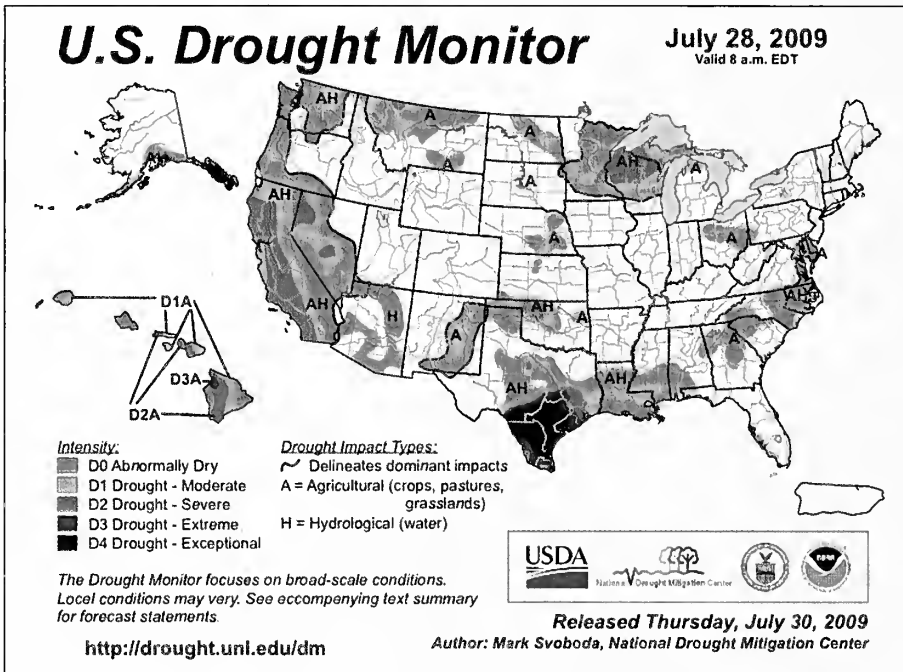


Figure 3. As of the end of the summer period, extreme drought conditions persisted in northern Wisconsin, and southern Texas's exceptional drought continued. Map courtesy of and © The National Drought Mitigation Center.

“many geese and other waterfowl found so little open ground in the area that they starved to death. Nest initiation for most birds was late there, and almost complete nesting failure followed, due to cold, storms, and predation. In the rest of Manitoba and much of Saskatchewan, the cold appeared to also have a negative impact, as many warblers and other passerines were seen wandering outside their breeding ranges. Sparse foliage, scarcity of food, and cold nights combined to reduce breeding success for early nesters.” In the Northern Canada report, Eckert notes that, “at Cambridge Bay, the late spring, coupled with high water in the smaller lakes and ponds, contributed to the loss of much edge habitat and thus a reduction in nesting opportunities for many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and loons.” A likely result of delayed or failed nesting in the far North, species such as Pacific Loon, Ross's Gull, Sabine's Gull, and Long-tailed Jaeger were found in the upper Saint Lawrence valley well into the middle of June, and even in Alaska, where North Slope nesters may have experienced setbacks, “this summer yielded more than the usual wandering or lingering non-breeders at sites well south of traditional breeding areas,” according to Tobish. It is not known why certain alcids (e.g., Dovekies in western Greenland) failed to breed in 2009, but food scarcity is likely to blame. Black-legged Kittiwake abandoned several

colonies, among them one on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, but this was attributed to marauding by Bald Eagles, whose chief prey (herring and mackerel) had become scarce or departed early. Wandering kittiwakes and Dovekies were reported south of breeding grounds in both June and July, the latter as far south as New Jersey waters, which is most unusual for summer.

• South of the Canadian border

For the lower 48 United States, where the warming trend is less dramatic, June and July were not off the charts: the average temperature for June was 69.5° F, or 0.2° F above the twentieth-century mean, whereas the average July temperature of 73.5° F was 0.8° F below the twentieth-century mean. As in Canada, there was an east-west split in the 48 states: an abnormally strong and persistent upper-level pattern kept temperatures remarkably low east of the Rockies, while record warmth was recorded at locations mostly west of the Rockies.

Continental averages help us to discern climatic trends, but when we are out in the field, we don't experience weather as an average across two months' time and 24.5 million square kilometers. In June, the United States' South, Southeast, and Northwest had temperatures above the average, while the Midwest, Northeast, and Southwest had cooler temperatures than usual. Far more unusual was the

rather cool July: Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia experienced their coolest July ever (in 115 years of records), and Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Michigan recorded their second coolest July. In the West, the tale was different: Arizona experienced its third warmest July, while New Mexico and Washington both had the ninth warmest July on record. In Death Valley, California, the all-time monthly average maximum temperature of 121.3° F was set in July: on 22 days there, the mercury reached 120° F or higher, which broke the standing record of 19 days. New Mexico's January-through-July period in 2009 is its fifth warmest on record, and the period is Colorado's eighth warmest.

On the main, precipitation was unremarkable in the contiguous 48 states, being 0.2 mm above the long-term mean in June and 4.0 mm above the mean in July. June was wetter than usual in the Northeast, West, and parts of the Southwest but drier in the South. July rains were memorable in many areas. As in southeastern Canada, the U.S. Northeast was soaked, recording its ninth wettest July ever. By state, Massachusetts and Rhode Island had their second wettest Julys, Maine its fifth, and Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut each recorded its sixth. Above-normal precipitation also fell in the Midwest, but the Southeast, Southwest, and Plains regions had drier-than-normal conditions during the month. Based on the U.S. Drought Monitor (Figure 3), by the end of July, moderate-to-exceptional drought covered 14 percent of the contiguous United States. Drought conditions worsened in southern Texas and northern Wisconsin. At the end of July, about 19 percent of the contiguous United States had moderate-to-extremely wet conditions, mostly areas east of the Plains. The regional reports' introductions provide excellent specifics, in most cases, on local meteorological conditions and events.

East of the Rockies, the effects of the cool, wet weather on birds were apparent mostly in disruptions of nesting activity. In New England, Wayne Petersen lists Common Loon, Osprey, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Black Skimmer, Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin, and Eastern Bluebird among the affected species, as well as other cavity nesters and ground nesters. In New York, New Jersey, and Delaware, rain and onshore winds in June “wiped out beach and marsh nests,” according to Bob Paxton, Dick Veit, and Frank Rohrbacher. In the Southeast, Ken Blankenship reports that “marsh- and beach-nesting

species endured great hardships in part due to the [severe] tidal events: out of 75 monitored pairs, only a single American Oystercatcher chick fledged on the entire Georgia coast.” (However, several regions, from Ontario to Florida, reported good success with nesting terns and plovers, particularly at locations where policing of nesting areas was employed.) Heavy rains (and some hail) and flooding 10 June and 15-16 June had negative impacts on many nesting species in Missouri, and heavy rains during the latter window also hit Bismarck, South Dakota. Cool weather meant that “few insects were available” in the northern Great Plains, according to Ron Martin, which probably further suppressed nesting activity and success.

Northern exposure

Because this column does not look as much at long-term trends as seasonal snapshots, we admittedly miss some very important phenomena that probably have more to do with the fluctuations in bird numbers we observe than do many of the storm fronts and ocean anomalies we often consider here. Historically, too, the northern half of North America, the lightly settled boreal forest and tundra, has received less attention in this column than the southern tier of Canada and the Lower 48 states because our observers and contributors live mostly south of 50° N latitude.

In the abundant discussions about climate change, melting ice, and sea level rise, the rapid changes in the boreal forest—especially the increasing tolls taken by drought, fires, and insects—have not received as much attention as they deserve, although Alan Alda’s *Scientific American Frontiers* did a good job of summarizing the impacts of these plagues for the television audience about five years ago. In the current year, 2009, the media brought this subject to world’s attention, first in March, when scientists gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark at the conference entitled “Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges, and Decisions,” then in mid-December at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which, unfortunately, failed to produce a consensus in the form of a ratified agreement to mitigate global climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the scientific working group sponsored by the United Nations, has analyzed numerous studies that investigate the relationship between wildfires and warmer, drier conditions and found that scientific evidence supports a positive correlation (IPCC 2007). And there is no question that forest fires have

increased in North America’s West and North in recent decades. In Canada, for instance, the area burned in the 1990s was double what it was in the 1970s (Amiro et al. 2003). Of course, the northern forests extend across Eurasia as well. American researcher Amber Soja of the United States National Institute of Aerospace, working with teams in Siberia at the Sukachev Institute of Forestry in Krasnoyarsk, notes that all but two of the past ten summers have witnessed extreme wildfires across central Siberia (Soja et al. 2007, 2009). Warmer summers are part of the reason for increasing wildfires: average summer temperatures have increased between 2° and 4° F over the past hundred years, more than twice to four times the average increase in temperate zones over the same period. Warmer climates dry the forests, lengthen the fire season, and have more storms with lightning, which ignite more fires.

While fires are part of the natural cycle in which boreal plants and animals have existed for thousands of years, the frequency and size of these fires have increased so starkly as to upset this balance. The logging of tens of millions of acres of boreal forest has produced more fragmented, younger, and more even-aged forests, and the additional loss of mature forest to frequent and often massive fires has become a dire concern for the conservation of wildlife, including many bird species, from Black Scoter to Rusty Blackbird. When healthy, these forests serve as “sinks” (net absorbers) for carbon dioxide, one of the principal gases associated with climate change; but decaying and burning wood releases tons of carbon dioxide, as does burning peat, the carbon-rich substrate that underlies the forest. The fear of many scientists is that we may still underestimate the “domino effect,” or positive biospheric feedback, by which more fires lead to an accelerating rate of liberation of carbon dioxide, which in turn leads to even more extensive fires. By Canadian Forest Service estimates, the country’s forests have already lost their role as a carbon sink, one that absorbed about 55 million tons of CO₂ annually a decade or so ago, to a carbon source—now producing a net of perhaps 245 million tons per year.

Possibly accelerating this process, too, are more frequent outbreaks of beetles and other insects in recent years, which provide more fuel in the form of dead and dying trees, which causes fires to burn more intensely. The epidemic of Mountain Pine Beetle in the Lower 48 states, from Colorado to Washington state, has killed 2.6 million hectares (6.5 million acres)

of forest. Across the border, in British Columbia, beetles have killed 14 million hectares (35 million acres) of forest, and they are expected to kill 80 percent of the Canadian province’s Lodgepole Pines before the outbreak subsides. Farther north, other insects, among them Northern Spruce Engraver, Aspen Leaf Miner, and Willow Miner have shown increasing activity during the recent period of warming. In the Yukon, Spruce Bark Beetles have eaten their way through 400,000 hectares (1 million acres) of woodland, and over 1.2 million hectares (3 million acres) in neighboring Alaska since 1989. The Yukon has not yet recorded Mountain Pine Beetle, but an outbreak there could devastate native pines, which may have little resistance to this species.

Although recent studies show a positive correlation between warm/dry periods and forest fires (e.g., Meyn et al. 2009), the relationships between warmer/drier weather, fires, and beetle outbreaks have not been as clearly established. Several paleoecological studies have looked back several hundred years, using dendrochronological reconstruction of historical climate and beetle activity (e.g., Alfaro et al. 2010), and found that the age and composition of a forest, as well as its history of exposure to fires of various types, appear to contribute to its susceptibility to beetle outbreaks. My own reading of such studies does not give me cause for optimism; even the best-case scenarios show increases of about 50 percent in areas burned in the American West by the 2050s (Spracklen et al., in press), for instance. It is difficult to imagine our avifauna in the aftermath of such losses.

Debates continue to rage on many fronts as to the best way to mitigate this rapidly worsening situation. According to some models, fires and beetles are projected to impact a Montana-size area of boreal forest by the year 2020. Carbon dioxide releases from decaying wood due to the beetles *alone* have been projected at 270 million tons over that period. Some forestry groups advocate more logging of northern forests to avoid the problems associated with fires and insects, and the forest products industry in Canada has increased harvests as a result. However, many scientists believe that increased logging will unleash far more carbon by exposing and drying the peat layer, which would decay and burn more readily. In addition, there is growing evidence that the even-aged and fragmented forests that dominate many landscapes as a legacy of logging practices can allow beetles to spread more rapidly than they would in an unmanaged, natural forest. Forest products, of

course, continue to store carbon, which is released at different rates (rapidly in the case of paper products, more slowly for lumber); forest products that are dumped in landfills contribute to the production of methane in those facilities, a far worse greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Because the boreal forest region is one of the world's largest storehouses of carbon in its trees, peat, and soil, there continues to be a strong interest in maintaining that carbon bank but also in establishing large protected areas that are off limits to industrial disturbances that increase the risk that that carbon will be released into the atmosphere. Over 120 million acres of new parks and protected areas in which no industrial activities are allowed have been established in Canada's boreal region since 2000, and the governments of Ontario and Québec have pledged to protect at least 200 million additional acres in part to maintain the carbon contained within them. Those interested in these subjects should consult the websites of the Boreal Songbird Initiative (<www.borealbirds.org>), International Boreal Conservation Campaign (<www.interboreal.org>), Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (<<http://cpaws.org/programs/climate/>>), and the Canadian Forest Service webpage (<<http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca>>) for more information, including ready access to scientific literature. In summer 2009, fire activity was thankfully below average, probably owing to the below-average temperatures in some areas; through July, the total number of acres burned in the United States was about 1.7 million, mostly in Alaska and the West, according to the National Interagency Coordination Center.

Green(land) Violetears

Some years ago, I recall reading, in a paragraph about hummingbird vagrancy, a quip to the effect: "What's next? A violet-ear in Greenland?" Or maybe I wrote this and have happily managed to disavow it in memory. Whatever the source, the sentiment seems much less hyperbolic now, as we approach 2010. Our essay's subtitle, emphasizing extralimital spoonbills, tries to keep a light tone, but in truth, the sweep of southern species into new areas of the north is still truly breathtaking. Although it's not a violetear (now spelled without the hyphen), and was not quite in Greenland, a Rufous Hummingbird made it to a spot 100 kilometers northeast of Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut, very near the Arctic Circle (Figure 4). Take a moment online to look at photographs of this tidy village; it does not look ideal for hummingbirds there. Remarkably, the Rufous followed another territorial first—a Painted Bunting on Akimiski Island (Figure 5). Exaggerating to make a point becomes more difficult when the "Nonpareil" turns up in Nunavut. To add further perspective: the same little island had produced Nunavut's first documented record of Black-capped Chickadee a week earlier!

But the outlandishness of these records is middling, really. Rufous Hummingbirds stray ever more northward in multiple seasons, nearly each year, as do Painted Buntings. In fact, Manitoba had its second Painted Bunting this season, from late May through 6 June, and another made it to the French island of St. Pierre in early July. A glance at the map, moreover, shows that Akimiski Island is well south of most of Nunavut, at 53° N latitude in James Bay, actually below the latitude of Manitoba's first Painted Bunting, at The Pas in 1998. No one would call Akimiski Island part of "southern Canada," but in light of the increase in records of many *Passerina* well beyond the northern edges of range, in both spring and fall, this record makes perfect sense—even if lichen-clad dwarf Black Spruce do not make typical perches for the species. Despite the cool, wet summer of 2009, other *Passerina* pioneered: Saskatchewan had its first Blue Grosbeak, and Montana confirmed its first nesting of the species, while Indigo Buntings made headlines in British Columbia (Figure 6) and the Great Basin, and Alaskans found their state's eighth Lazuli Bunting.

Other southern species moved northward this season, some of them nesting, others vagabonding: Summer Tanagers streaked across the continent



Figure 4. This Rufous Hummingbird, a first for Nunavut, was found 24 June 2009 in a cabin about 100 kilometers northeast of Chesterfield Inlet, where it later perished. This location is close to the Arctic Circle and is about 2200 kilometers from the species' regular breeding range. Photograph by Hilde Johansen.



Figure 5. Painted Bunting was certainly not on Nunavut's list of expected new bird species, but this brilliant male found 12 June 2009 on Akimiski Island in southern James Bay established the first record for Nunavut and for the Northern Canada and Greenland region. Photograph by Derek Mockenzie.

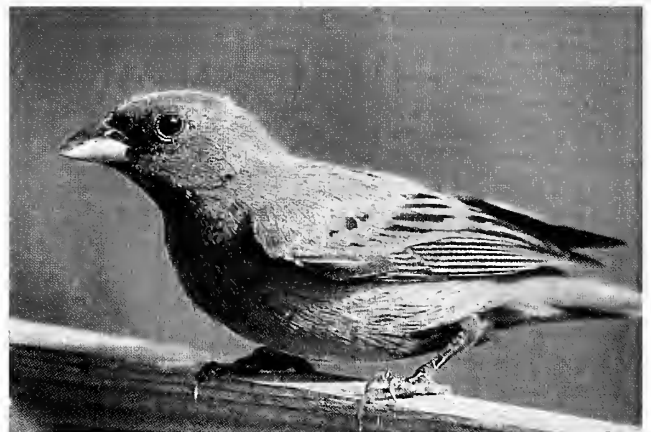


Figure 6. A species that appears to be increasing during summer at the northern and western edges of its range, this male Indigo Bunting visited feeder in Lillooet, British Columbia 9 June 2009. Photograph by Kansas Allen.

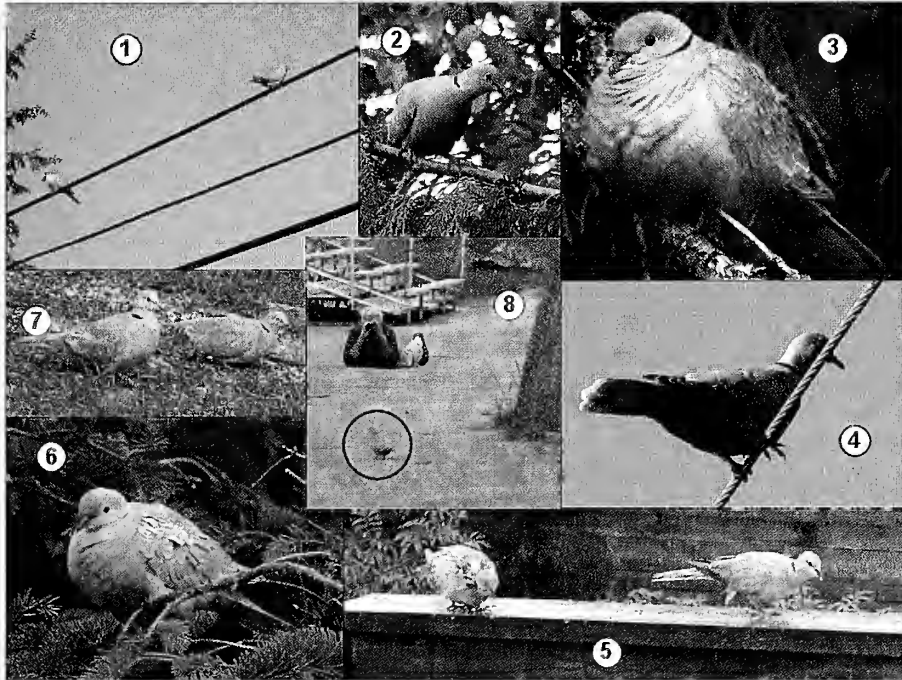


Figure 7. An invasion of Eurasian Collared-Doves hit Alaska's Southeast in summer 2009, including this sampling (photographer's name in parentheses): 1. Wrangell, 4 June (Carol Ross), 2. Ketchikan, 12 August (Steven C. Heintz), 3. Glacier Bay area, 30 June (Nat K. Drumheller), 4. Juneau, 5 June (Patty A. Rose), 5. Yakutat area, early August (2 birds; Nate Cattersen), 6. Juneau, 8 June (Mark W. Schwan), 7. Elfin Cove, 11 June (Dennis Enderle), 8. Juneau, 8 June (Mark W. Schwan).



Figure 8. In western Virginia's mountains, this Violet-crowned Hummingbird dazzled the state's birders all too briefly, 25-28 (here 28) June 2009, at a bed-and-breakfast in Craig County, near the West Virginia border. Photograph by Brenda Tekin.

from British Columbia (its first two records) to Montana to South Dakota to Michigan to Massachusetts; Prothonotary Warbler was confirmed nesting in South Dakota; and Florida confirmed its first nesting of Western Spindalis, the first true tanager ever recorded nesting in the United States, now that the *Piranga* tanagers are classed as cardinals. North Carolina's Black-whiskered Vireo, a

seeming oddity in a pine forest, fits a clear summer pattern in the southeastern corner of that state, which has about a half-dozen records, mostly from barrier islands. In southern Illinois, at Carlyle Lake, Dean DiTommaso found a Tropical Kingbird 13 June, which remained through 18 June, long enough to be captured and measured for a first state record. Perhaps overshadowed by more numerous records of Gray Kingbirds in summer, records of Tropicals in the East and Midwest in spring/summer do exist: 12 May 1984 at Grand Isle, Louisiana; 14-15 May 1975 at Luke's Farm, Bermuda (subspecies *melancholicus*); 23 May 1997 at Eagle Harbor, Michigan (Tropical/Couch's); 16 June 1984 at Anticosti, Québec; 3-22 July 1989 at Cap Tourmente, Québec (subspecies *satrapa*); and 18 July 1976 at Wolfville, Nova Scotia (Tropical/Couch's). (There are also fall through winter records of Tropicals from Florida, North Car-

olina, Maine, and Connecticut, at least.) It is interesting that the U.S. and Bermuda records fall in May, the Canadian records in June and July.

And what would a summer be without the doves? A White-winged Dove in Saskatchewan was the first of its kind documented in the province, but others were fetched up to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Québec, Maine, and Montana, less remarkably to North Carolina, Ohio, Missouri, Iowa, and six counties in Colorado. Records of White-wingeds continue to increase in the Southern Great Plains, where Joe Grzybowski and Ross Silcock tallied 14 in Kansas and six in Nebraska. Farther west, notables were two each in Utah and Oregon, one in Nevada, and one in Placer County, California, its first ever. Eurasian Collared-Doves also continued their hard work, conquering Ohio and Alaska (Figure 7) with first nesting records, and making other noteworthy appearances in Wisconsin and upstate New York. In other areas, they have become so numerous as to disappear from the regional reports. Chris Charlesworth indicates that "most records are no longer noteworthy in the southern half" of British Columbia, and Jim Dinsmore notes that collared-doves have now been recorded in 96 of Iowa's 99 counties. Two in Martin County, Indiana make the forty-third county in that state (which has 92 counties) with a record of the invader. In the continent's center, two apparent Mourning Dove \times Eurasian Collared-Dove hybrids were studied at Bushnell, Nebraska 2 July. We should remain attentive for such hybrids and attempt to document them.

Although all of these records have plenty of context, summer 2009 was memorable for several records that seem anomalous. About 2900 kilometers from southeastern Arizona, a Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Appalachian Virginia (Figure 8) was even more out of range than the near-Arctic Rufous Hummingbird in Nunavut. The Special Attention box by Mark Adams and Matt Hafner in the Middle Atlantic regional report provides evidence of increasing records into westernmost Texas, but no Violet-crowned has been reported in the East, not even in Louisiana, a comparative western hummingbird mecca. Was this bird following in the summer footsteps of Green Violetears and Broad-billed Hummingbirds moving northward from Mexico? A singing Yellow-green Vireo at Solana Beach, San Diego County 22-27 July was California's first ever in summer; on the Pacific coast, the species appears almost solely as coastal vagrant in autumn, much like Tropical Kingbird in the West. Are we witnessing the

emergence of new patterns, perhaps?

Most of the "southern birds north" in this column are not passerines or near-passerines but wading birds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and pelecyaniforms. As Jim Hengeveld, Keith McMullen, and Geoffrey Williamson put it, "The most prominent aspect of this season was the invasion by southern species associated with water. The Region was seemingly overrun by large numbers of wading birds and an assortment of rarities like Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Mottled Ducks, Brown Pelicans, Neotropic Cormorants, Anhingas, White Ibis, Tricolored Heron, and Roseate Spoonbills." The introductions to reports from the Iowa & Missouri and Tennessee & Kentucky regions read similarly—add a Great White Heron for Tennessee (another made it to Massachusetts, New England's second ever). South Dakota at last documented its first Black-bellied Whistling-Duck; Alabama recorded its first nesting of that dapper duck. In both Iowa and Illinois, nesting of American White Pelicans was confirmed, and Illinois and Virginia confirmed nesting of Anhinga for the first time. Neotropic Cormorants made it to Utah twice this season, Florida had its fourth, Maryland its third. Colorado had a tenth (!) Reddish Egret and may have had nesting Least Bitterns. Wisconsin got two Purple Gallinules, the only ones well north of normal.

Most of these species have shown gradual expansion or exploration over the past 10 or 20 years, but summer 2009 was clearly the breakout season for Roseate Spoonbill in the Midwest and East (Table 1, frontispiece)—the first time the species was recorded in appreciable numbers and diverse locations north of about 37° N latitude. First records were established for Virginia, Delaware, Indiana, and Ontario, the latter also Canada's first (a sight record from Sable Island in summer 1948 was never documented); Grand Bahama Island got two, for a second record; and New Jersey and Illinois recorded thirds. Based on the distribution of records, compiled by Ken Blankenship, it would appear that extralimital birds originated from the coastal Southeast (Florida through South Carolina), rather than from the Gulf coast: the majority of unusual records extend from the coast, into the interior areas of Georgia, with a scattering up the coast to New Jersey, one in interior Virginia, and singles northwestward to Indiana, Illinois, and Ontario. Tennessee, which has had an increase in spoonbill records since the 1990s, did not report the species, and the Natchez, Mississippi area was about as far up the Mississippi River drainage as spoonbills

were reported in Gulf coast states, according to Steve McConnell. Two spoonbills on Grand Bahama Island also imply that the flight was probably not from the Gulf colonies. Flights of the spoonbills' relatives, the ibises, continue to be detected each year in new areas, and White Ibis pushed farther north and inland than ever in 2009, with multiples in Appalachia, where formerly extremely rare. The underlying reasons for such dispersals are not well understood (Patton and Lasley 2000), but the distributional patterns among the ibises have been similar: occasional wanderers, increasing irregularly in number and in geographic and temporal span, followed by expansion of breeding range. As one might predict, most of the spoonbills recorded out of range were not adults. With both White Ibis and Roseate Spoonbill, it will be very interesting to see if more adults are observed in extralimital settings; it has taken decades for adults to turn up with regularly north of the Virginia coast, where nesting was first documented in 1977, but records of adults are now on the distinct increase.

Looking back 100 years into records of extralimital Roseate Spoonbills, one finds little of note in the East, though there was a small flight of immatures in 1972 into northwestern Georgia and Tennessee (Robertson et al. 1983). California has had flights, mostly to the Salton Sea area, in 1959, 1973, and 1977, presumably comprised of spoonbills from western Mexico. (An interesting quiz question, for so many birds of this sort: *Which states lack records of the species altogether?* In the East and Midwest, that would be West Virginia, Michigan, Minnesota, and any state in New England; in the West, the Dakotas, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Ore-

Table 1. Noteworthy records of Roseate Spoonbills north of the Gulf coast states, summer 2009. Asterisks indicate inland records. Refer to the respective regional reports for observer attributions and location data. Note that Delaware reports may pertain to no more than two individuals. *Table compiled by Ken Blankenship.*

Number	First date	Observer(s)	Location
4	1-Jun-09	GW	McIntosh, GA
1	1-Jun-09	P&SL	Chatham, GA
1	2-Jun-09	LWS, JJM, JKC	Goose Pond F.W.A., IN*
2	2-Jun-09	TA	Miller, GA*
3	2-Jun-09	RS	Chatham, GA
1	5-Jun-09	fide BB	Bulloch, GA*
2	6-Jun-09	WP	Charleston, SC
1	13-Jun-09	JJH	Morton, ON* (first for Canada)
7	13-Jun-09	DMo et al.	McIntosh, GA
6	13-Jun-09	ND	Charleston, SC
17	13-Jun-09	JS et al.	Giynn, GA
1	13-Jun-09	AB	Atkinson, GA*
2	14-Jun-09	ED	Duplin, NC
1	15-Jun-09	AMc	Lyndhurst, Augusta, VA*
5	15-Jun-09	GW	McIntosh, GA
1	16-Jun-09	DM	Brunswick, NC
3	19-Jun-09	BS	St. Catherine Creek N.W.R., MS*
1	20-Jun-09	fide ND	Charleston, SC
1	21-Jun-09	R. Wood et al.	Fenwick I., DE/MD
5	22-Jun-09	DMo, BL	Miller, GA*
2	24-Jun-09	TP, m.ob.	Brunswick, NC
2	26-Jun-09	NM, LY	Dare, NC
1	30-Jun-09	PWS et al.	McIntosh, GA
2	30-Jun-09	SL	Chatham, GA
3	30-Jun-09	SCo	Brunswick, NC
205	2-Jul-09	SC	Jasper, SC
2	4-Jul-09	DA	Charleston, SC
2	5-Jul-09	TR	Camden, GA
2	5-Jul-09	fide ESB	Chincoteague N.W.R., VA
9	5-Jul-09	fide JL	Dare, NC
4	5-Jul-09	RCI	Brunswick, NC
1	6-Jul-09	RL	Georgetown, SC
1	6-Jul-09	R. Wood	Fowler's Beach, DE
2	7-Jul-09	L&SW	Dare, NC
1	8-Jul-09	B. Williams	Craney I., Portsmouth, VA
2	8-Jul-09	JP	Georgetown, SC
2	12-Jul-09	PH	Sumter, GA*
2	13-Jul-09	LW	Dare, NC
1	16-Jul-09	AE	Thousand Acre Marsh, DE
2	17-Jul-09	MMc	Brunswick, NC
1	18-Jul-09	BM	Georgetown, SC
1	18-Jul-09	S. & L. Zirlin	Forsythe N.W.R., NJ
3	19-Jul-09	ND	Charleston, SC
1	20-Jul-09	J. Harding	Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE
7	24-Jul-09	MT	Charleston, SC
1	26-Jul-09	LL	Decatur, GA*
2	26-Jul-09	BP	Freeport Harbor, Grand Bahama I.
2	27-Jul-09	JK	Georgetown, SC
1	30-Jul-09	KAM, MS, DMK	Carlyle L., IL*

gon, and Washington.) But most records of vagrants, and even wanderers inland, from Texas to Louisiana and up the Mississippi River, do not come together into especially neat patterns, and most records north of about 36° N are singular, many of them also rather old. In the early 1990s, I remember predicting, in the *Cayuga Bird Club Newsletter*, that Roseate Spoonbill would turn up in New York's Cayuga Lake Basin; well, a pink blob has yet to materialize at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, but it seems a far less far-fetched proposition now almost 20 years later. After all, back in 1990, an ibis of any sort was a great rarity in the Finger Lakes region! How times change—ibises of various stripes are annual visitors around the southern Great Lakes, and Canada now has a spoonbill record (from longitude 76.4° W; Ithaca, New York is at longitude 76.5°). Next stop Greenland?

The rapid northward expansion of the *Plegadis* ibises, including the establishment of many new nesting locations, is certainly aided by their adaptability: they forage readily in many sorts of wetlands, including muddy agricultural fields. Their expansions began humbly, as a scattering of birds in spring or in post-breeding dispersal, but have then surged suddenly, becoming virtual invasions, first to the north, then westward in the Gulf into Texas, then again strongly northward and westward (Patten and Lasley 2000). White Ibis have begun popping up more frequently inland and farther north, though much more recently. White Ibis too seem flexible in their foraging: in many parts of their range, at least where they are not hunted for food, they can be tame backyard birds, allowing close approach as they probe wet suburban lawns and farm fields for earthworms. The more specialized foraging habits (and food requirements) of Roseate Spoonbill, however, would seem to limit its ability to establish an inland presence like that of the *Plegadis* ibises. In our frontispiece, the young spoonbill that gave Virginia its first documented record was rather approachable as it fed on tadpoles in a farm field puddle. So perhaps assumptions about spoonbills' limited adaptability are not entirely accurate, and their flights may some day produce nestings away from the coastal plain of the Southeast. If vagrant Brown Pelicans seem oddly comfortable in interior settings in recent years, why not the occasional spoonbill or two?

Subtly shifting ranges

The phenomenon of species expanding northward has been well publicized, and there is also much attention in recent years to species

withdrawing northward (or upslope) as the climate warms. But other bird species, often those associated with riparian corridors, have been spreading southward in recent years, and these are not as often considered. This season, both Cedar Waxwing (Figure 9) and American Goldfinch continued to make conspicuous inroads as nesters in New Mexico; Rhode Island confirmed its first breeding Pine Siskins; Horned Larks sang in the Florida Panhandle; Gray Catbirds apparently nested in extreme southwestern Louisiana; and the discovery of an isolated population of Black-throated Green Warblers in western Georgia extends that species' breeding range a bit farther south. A few nonpasserines, too, seem to be pioneering new sites to the south of core range, among them Ruddy Duck—documented nesting in South Carolina and possibly Mississippi and lingering in Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma—and Common Merganser, which has shown southward gains from New York through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and now West Virginia and probably South Dakota. A nesting of Northern Pintail on the Virginia coast was also very unusual. Perhaps because such birds are not as conspicuous as a pelican, whistling-duck, spoonbill, flamingo, or Jabiru when noted out of range, or perhaps because they are familiar visitors at other times of year in these locations, they get much less billing in local publications and on listserves.

Empidonax flycatchers make a good case in point. Although hardly a "think pink" tropical-drink sort of genus, their various range shifts in recent years have been of real interest. Because Alder Flycatcher is a notoriously late spring migrant (with reports this season of mostly northbound birds from New Mexico, Montana, Kentucky, British Columbia), it can be difficult to tell a prospector from a migrant; a singing bird in Putnam County, Indiana 24



Figure 9. Historically unknown as a breeding species in New Mexico, Cedar Waxwings have, since 1995, been found nesting in five northern counties. This season brought additional breeding events, including this female brooding young at Simon Point below Navajo Dam, San Juan County on 17 June 2009. Photograph by Tim Reeves.



Figure 10. This Alder Flycatcher was found by the photographer near Saylorville Reservoir in Dallas County, Iowa on 29 June 2009 (here 8 July). On 16 July, an adult Alder Flycatcher and a recently fledged young bird were found near a nest. This represents the first nesting record for the species in Iowa. The nearest nesting known populations are in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

June was judged a migrant, though it fell between usual spring and fall migration periods for this latitude. And because Alder nests across a lightly populated swath of the continent, we rarely read about the species' status in the core of its range, though it is said to be "doing well" in the Atlantic Provinces, during the current Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas project, with strong counts from routes in Labrador. But this species has shown signs of nesting south of range edge in recent years. In addition to territorial individuals in three Ohio counties this season, a well-documented nesting in Iowa (Figure 10) was over 500 kilometers south of typical range edge in the western Great Lakes states, and one singing in Avery County, North Carolina 11 June was in a new location for nesting, though nesting was not confirmed there. Willow Flycatcher, which has shown comparatively modest range changes in recent years, was found singing in



Figure 11. This Least Flycatcher near Snoqualmie, King County 24 July was one of four territorial males detected in western Washington in summer 2009. The conquest of Washington by Least Flycatchers has been mostly restricted to the east side of the Cascades. Photograph by Gregg Thompson.

Morgan County, Alabama, in Clayton and Henry Counties, Georgia, and well east of usual areas in Halifax County, North Carolina this season. In the West, Least Flycatcher continues to be on the move, especially in Washington and Oregon, where sporadic breeding has been known for some time but where more than a dozen territories were documented this season, four of these notably on the western side of the Cascades (Figure 11). In the East, the Midwest, and even the Plains, of course, Acadian Flycatcher has been moving *northward* for some years now. Clinton County, in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, had a pair this season; both Saginaw and Midland Counties in Michigan had reports in June; a single was at Skunk's Misery, Ontario in early June, possibly a prospector; and the species "continues to push northwestward" in Nebraska, as far to the north as Knox County.

Diurnal raptors also show mixed tendencies in their range changes. Bald Eagles and Osprey continue to populate counties not occupied in many years, and several basically western raptors have shown modest eastward movements. Southwestern Louisiana, for instance, enjoyed not just the state's first documented nest of Swainson's Hawk in Calcasieu Parish but also its seventh nest of White-tailed Kite (Figure 12), and that species that also returned to the same site (same tree) in Lincoln County, Nebraska again in 2009. While a few mostly tropical raptor species have turned up beyond the Southwest, Texas, and Florida recently, several temperate-zone species, notably Red-shouldered Hawk and Mississippi Kite, are clearly

expanding their breeding ranges northward. Still other species have shown the opposite trend, either lingering south of typical range in summer or nesting in new southern outposts, among them *Accipiter* species. The star of the show in recent years, and especially in summer 2009, has been Merlin, which "continued its magical return, breeding in Ohio for the first time in almost a century and in West Virginia for the first time ever," according to Aaron Boone, Vic Fazio, and Rick Wiltraut, who catalogue nesting evidence from Lake County, Ohio, from Pike County, Pennsylvania, and from Grant County, West Virginia—the latter "the southernmost breeding outpost for the species in North America and indeed anywhere in the world." (Virginians, start your engines!) It seems likely that the spread of Merlins into Appalachia is part and parcel of the species' gradual expansion southward, and into urban centers, that has stretched from the Great Plains to the Great Lakes to New England in the past two decades (Warkentin et al. 2005). What drives such an expansion? It does not appear to be a re-occupation of former range in most cases.

Northern Harrier is another enigma, a species that seems vanished from some parts of its former range but still appears, ghost-like, after decades of absence. A pair that spent the summer in Windsor, Massachusetts was "intriguing," according to Wayne Petersen: "this threatened species is practically unknown inland as a nesting bird in Massachusetts these days." Other "unexpected" harriers were found in June in Arkansas, in two Ohio counties, in Tennessee, and in Maryland's Queen Anne's County. Andy Bankert and Bruce Anderson note that "Northern Harriers have never been verified as breeding in Florida," but singles were confirmed in two counties there over the summer. It seems likely that that harriers may linger in former range, or even what is typically winter range, when conditions are optimal, as do Short-eared Owls, but optimal conditions, with plenty of mammalian prey, are hard to come by in areas with increasing development.

Seabirds

Some summer seasons are sleepy for seabirding, but not 2009. The Climate Prediction



Figure 12. The first two White-tailed Kite nests in Louisiana were found in Bienville Parish (1976) and St. Tammany Parish (1983), but the next four were from the extreme southwestern coast near Holly Beach, Cameron Parish (1995–2000). In summer 2009, a nesting pair discovered in the southwestern interior, near DeRidder, Beauregard Parish, successfully fledged three young in early June (two here on 11 June). Photograph by Matthew T. Pontiff.

Center reported that the equatorial Pacific Ocean was trending toward El Niño conditions in June and that such conditions were very much present as of July. With calm winds, little upwelling, and sea temperatures nearing 60° F (15° C), some seabird species nesting in California had poor reproductive success and even suffered mortality in adults. Seabird enthusiasts bound for pelagic waters, however, look to the "bright" side during and following such episodes, which have been associated with many unusual records in years past. Although it is not possible to predict precisely what effects a shift toward El Niño conditions will have on rarer pelagic birds off one's local port, many birders lined up to find out. In California, none were disappointed this year. A flight of Cook's Petrels (Figure 13) like none ever recorded materialized with the warm water in late June and hit a crescendo in July before tapering off in September; this issue's Photo Salon has notes on the extent of the flight and high counts. Among these scads of Cook's was a single Stejneger's Petrel, still a near-mythical bird in U.S. waters. The documentation of the incursion came from both researchers and birders—and these parties were in near-daily contact with one another regarding the birds' locations and numbers! Such communication happens only rarely, if ever, in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, but perhaps that will soon change.

Not all records of seabirds that we receive come from scheduled pelagic trips or from research cruises. Gail Mackiernan and Barry Cooper took a vacation cruise on the *Norwegian Majesty* from Baltimore, Maryland to Bermuda and back 31 May through 7 June and



Figure 13. A stunning 136 Cook's Petrels, including this bird, were counted during a pelagic trip out of Santa Barbara, California 25 July 2009, all in Santa Barbara and Ventura County waters west of the Channel Islands. Photograph by Matt Sadawski.



Figure 14. Far from home, this Long-billed Murrelet was found dead in a salt lake in the Laguna Grande area of Eddy County, New Mexico on 12 July 2009. Records from inshore waters of northern California are also from this time of year, as are almost all records from the interior West—quite in contrast to most records from the Great Lakes and East, which are mostly from late October through December. Photograph by Samantha R. Uhrig.

noted two Black-capped Petrels (and two more unidentified petrels) about 260 kilometers east of the Virginia capes 1 June, a Bermuda Petrel about 260 kilometers east-northeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina 6 June, and a Black-capped just 130 kilometers off Virginia 6 June. While none of these records lacks precedent, true Gulf Stream waters off Virginia generally lie beyond the reach of birding trips, so that there are very few records of *Pterodroma* at sea at this latitude. Further records of Bermuda Petrel this summer came from waters just off Hatteras, North Carolina (now a regular "spot" for the species) on 27 June and from New England pelagic waters on the marine boundary with Canada the following day. The latter loca-

tion might seem to indicate a vagrant, but Wayne Petersen writes in his "SA" box that geolocation devices placed on Bermuda Petrels indicate that this bird might well have been foraging in a typical spot! Perhaps even more unusual, a Black-capped Petrel visited a massive group of foraging shearwaters off Race Point on Cape Cod, Massachusetts 23 June—the species is virtually unrecorded from land in North America out of the context of a hurricane or tropical storm. Also in the Northeast, Maine recorded a Black-browed Albatross, the first successful United States fledging of a Manx Shearwater, and a nesting attempt of Common Murre—the first in coastal Atlantic waters for over 100 years. Farther south, Brown Boobies made their mark in Maryland (its first) and Virginia, and Maryland tallied its second Yellow-nosed Albatross.

And not all records of seabirds come from the sea. New Mexico became the latest state to add Long-billed Murrelet to its list, found dead in a salt lake 12 July (Figure 14). I puzzled over this record and the bimodal pattern of Long-billed Murrelet vagrancy, but I was fortu-

nate in having several veteran regional editors set me straight. Steve Mlodinow's (1997) article on the species indicates that eight interior western records (four from California, two from Wyoming, one each from Alaska and Colorado) fall squarely in the late summer period between 23 July and 30 August; a Colorado record from Chatfield Lake 2 November 1996 matches the pattern in the Midwest and East. But why the stark difference between western and eastern records? New Mexico's Regional Editor, Sandy Williams, offers a remarkably clear explanation:

The records from the Pacific coast and the interior West are likely related to the Aleutian Low weather pattern during the time these birds are migrating in late summer, pushing some of them eastward to the Pacific coast as well as inland. As I understand it, this phenomenon has gotten stronger in recent years, is related to El Niño/Southern Oscillation, and so can be linked to climate change since the late 1970s (about when most North American records began).

The Long-billed Murrelet records from eastern North America, however, are later in the year, generally late fall and winter.



Figure 15. Although Yellow-billed Cuckoo is a fairly common summer resident in central Texas, this melanistic individual was totally unexpected at Liberty Hill, Travis County 20 July 2009. Melanism in the genus appears to be very rare and not previously reported in Texas. Photograph by Bert Marcam.



Figure 16. This striking leucistic Spotted Sandpiper was photographed near Kingston, Ontario 12 July 2009. Photograph by Paul R. O'Toole.

These may also have an easy explanation: namely, as the summer sea ice disappears from the Arctic Ocean, some seabirds are dispersing into that “new” ocean. But when freeze-up comes in the late fall, it catches the murrelets wherever they may be, and so they move southward, showing up in eastern North America, England, Romania, and so forth. These records have been increasing in frequency in recent years, and the connection to climate change again seems potentially obvious.

Sandy suggests, too, that the unusual appearances in the American East of Asian gull species, as well as the recent West Coast records of Iceland Gulls that appear to be of the nominate subspecies, may simply be the result of dispersal of many taxa into the “new” ocean after breeding, following by southward migration from unaccustomed longitudes—a very sensible suggestion.

Black and white

Even in a lifetime of birding, one may be privileged to see only a handful of genuinely melanistic birds, those with an excess of melanin in the plumage. Most appear mostly sooty overall, rather than blackish, and usually have some hints of typical plumage pattern. Leucistic birds, though far more common than melanistic ones, are nevertheless far more frequently recorded in some bird species than others; most of us have seen a leucistic gull, goose, or blackbird at some point. As do hybrids, these birds keep us on our toes, and a good study of such a “sport” is often reward enough for a long day in the field and a reminder to expect the truly unexpected.

A poor look at a flying melanistic Yellow-

billed Cuckoo, such as the one nicely photographed in Travis County, Texas on 20 July 2009 (Figure 15), could produce all sorts of interesting misperceptions—many not in the genus *Coccyzus* or the family Cuculidae! One normally thinks of plumage color as unrelated to a bird's shape, but veteran birders agree that pigmentation can have an influence on how we perceive a bird's size and even its structure. For observers who have felt disheartened because an avian records committee has not accepted a sight record, it is worth bearing such records of oddly pigmented birds, and hybrids, in mind: when considering records that lack strong photographic or specimen evidence, committees need to be able to rule out even the improbable. Fortunately, some birds with aberrant plumages give us other clues, such as the telltale shape and tail-bobbing of Spotted Sandpiper (Figure 16). But how would one rule out the very similar Common Sandpiper in such an unusual case? This juvenile has rather strong markings in the median and lesser coverts but little or none in the tertials and greater coverts, thus much better for a Spotted. And the tail projection is short, unlike Common. One can never be too careful....

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Editors' Notebook

Join the American Birding Association!

A recent conversation with our Director of Publications, Bryan Patrick, yielded a rather surprising statistic: more than a few of our subscribers to *North American Birds* are not currently members of the American Birding Association! During a recession, most of us trim back expenses for non-essentials, and I suspect that many of our readers have done that recently. Hopefully, for some of us, the tide is beginning to turn back toward greater prosperity, and we can begin enjoying some of the pleasures we have denied ourselves in the past several years. In looking over the latest *Birding* magazine, with two richly illustrated articles on Krider's, Western, and Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks and intergrades—co-authored by Brian Sullivan, our Photo Editor at *North American Birds*—I could not imagine any of our own readers missing out on these very important pieces, or on the many fine book reviews (written by Bob Paxton, veteran Regional Editor, plus many long-term contributors of articles and sightings to this journal), or the Photo Quiz, or the fine updates in News and Notes and the Sightings column. The Sightings column carries over in alternate months in *Winging It*, so that each month our readers can get a "jump" on the rarest of the rare species reported, well in advance of our own publication schedule.

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New regional editors

We are pleased to announce the participation of several new Regional Editors on our teams in six regions. Chris Charlesworth (c_charlesworth@hotmail.com), an energetic birder and tour guide, has taken the helm in the British Columbia region and has gotten us caught up, providing a two-season report in this issue and the previous issue. Thanks, Chris! In this volume, our Associate Editor Alan Wormington (wormington@juno.com) has taken on double duty by writing the Spring Migration report, filling Matthew Holder's spot. Josh Southern (joshsouthern79@gmail.com) joins Ken Blankenship in co-editing all four seasons for the Southern

Atlantic region, beginning with the Fall Migration 2009 issue. Since the Spring Migration 2009 report, Jeff N. Davis (jdavis@harveyecology.com) has covered the Doves through Wren-tit section for the Northern California region, taking over for Steve Glover, who served in the position for over a decade. In the Iowa & Missouri region, Walter Wehtje, Jr. (wehtjew@missouri.edu) will be writing the fall report, taking Bill Eddleman's chair. Eddie Massiah (ebmassiah@hotmail.com), who lives in Barbados and is a very active birder there, joins our West Indies & Bermuda regional team. Yves Aubry, who has co-edited the Québec since 1984, finishes his editing duties with this issue. During his tenure, he and colleague Jean Gauthier completed the remarkable book *The Breeding Birds of Québec* (1995); in recent years, Yves has conducted surveys of Bicknell's Thrush and Red Knot with the Canadian Wildlife Service. To all outgoing editors—Yves Aubry in Québec, Don Cecile in British Columbia, Bill Eddleman in Iowa & Missouri, Steve Glover in California, Matthew Holder in Ontario—we all thank you for your hard work and service. Job well done. And welcome on board, Chris, Alan, Josh, Jeff, Walter, and Eddie!

Leach's, at last

Our lead article on the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex is a gauntlet cast down. To many of us, who already struggle to identify these sprites through salt spray and sunscreen, the idea of distinguishing among the different types of Leach's Storm-Petrels at sea may seem a tall order. And, as the intrepid authors confess, the field identification of these taxa is still in its infancy. Before actually reading the article, try this first: look at the photographs, and see whether at least some of the distinctions described among the various "Leach's"—in proportions and plumage—are clear. In most cases, they do seem to be. Then peruse the text of the article, and you'll surely be engaged by the sleuthing and the field study that have gone into it. The limits of current knowledge are candidly spelled out by the authors, who no doubt will devote many more hours to the pursuit of storm-petrels off California and who have given the rest of us a big advantage in sorting out these birds for ourselves.

I was delighted, in early September 2009, to be part of the *Searcher* pelagic trip that studied Leach's Storm-Petrels (and other birds) daily in the deep waters off Southern California, a trip

guided by Todd McGrath, Terry Hunefeld, and Dave Povey. As a novice in the deep water here (in fact, I had never seen a Leach's anywhere in the Pacific!), I was very puzzled when I saw my first Chapman's-type storm-petrel, over the Nine Mile Bank northwest of San Diego. Once I had seen one relatively closely, Chapman's became much easier to pick out; and a bit later, when we encountered the larger Leach's up nearer Point Conception, it was like looking at an old friend from the Atlantic. We were also lucky to see small numbers of the Townsend's types, several white-rumped and one nice dark-rumped—and you could have knocked me over with a storm-petrel feather! These Townsend's are genuinely small birds, quite unlike their larger brethren in many respects. I was prepared to be flummoxed by the variation in the Leach's we saw, and I instead came away more enthusiastic than Steve Howell, Todd McGrath, Terry Hunefeld, and Jon Feenstra were onto something important.

As with the best *North American Birds* articles, this one raises scores of questions that beg our attention. The biggest question, when I read the article, seemed to be: What does the *cheimomnestes* taxon (named "Ainley's Storm-Petrel" in the article) look like at sea? When I reviewed specimens in the collection at the San Diego Natural History Museum last September (thanks to Phil Unitt), I found that *cheimomnestes* did not always leap out as distinct from other taxa, particularly from individual *chapmani* that showed some white in the uppertail coverts, but also from some *socorroensis*. In general, the specimens did look intermediate between these taxa, but there appeared to be some overlap. Of course, birds in the field are very different from specimens in the museum tray, and so for the intrepid birders who seek out Ainley's—perhaps on their winter breeding grounds around Guadalupe Island, Mexico—there are still challenges that await. One may rightly, too, suspect that Leach's that nest from Alaska's Southeast to California's Channel Islands—currently lumped as "*leucorhoa*," along with larger North Pacific and North Atlantic birds—could benefit from renewed research that attends not just to morphometrics but also to vocalizations and genetics. It's hard to believe that a cline is involved across such widely separated island groups. Among our Associate Editors, the current paper on the Leach's Storm-Petrel complex off California generated vigorous discussion on the advisa-

bility of advocating a split in this group—and if split, then how it should fall. Looking back on a century of writing about the Leach's group, in which new taxonomy has been proposed more than a dozen times, one gets the sense that this discussion may continue for many years to come, as is true for many groups of tubenoses. We are delighted to bring the article to our readers' attention as a cutting-edge attempt to synchronize the authors' study of the literature, of the specimen record, and of many thousands of birds in the field. We look forward to the conversation on this complex in the seasons to come.

This article is dedicated to the memory of our dear colleague and friend, Luke Cole, who was as stalwart and enthusiast a seabird-er as ever there was. We are so sorry that Luke is not among us to add his brilliance and his companionship to sorting out seabird enigmas and to oceangoing adventures, but we are so grateful to have spent part of our lives with him—his warmth included and touched everyone who met him, and he is very much missed by his *North American Birds* family. A memorial piece will be included in a future issue of this journal.

Corrigenda

We owe an apology to Pete Moulton, whose image of the Eurasian Teal from Arizona (*North American Birds* 63: 304) was mis-credited. Another waterfowl gaffe: the image of the swan published in the recent winter Texas report (*North American Birds* 63: 290) was in fact a Trumpeter, not a Tundra, and was more-over a bird from Tennessee (and correctly captioned in that report). An editorial insertion into the South Atlantic regional spring report—namely that a Sandhill Crane found near Beaufort, North Carolina “was in an area where escaped cranes have been noted since at least 1999”—was misleading. John Fussell reports that although “not all the birds in 1999 were recaptured,” “wintering birds (usually consisting of family groups of three, present from about November to March) have become regular enough here that I would not assume that a bird here in May is likely related to the 1999 birds. I have never seen a crane here in summer (June through mid-October).” Given how regular the species has become in the East, and in winter in the Southeast, the implication that cranes in southeastern North Carolina might have a few feral birds among them is thus probably incorrect. We thank Dominic Sherony, John Fussell, and Paul Lehman for bringing these items to our attention.

—Edward S. Brinkley

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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
Ft.	Fort
G.C.	Golf Course
G.P.	Game Preserve
Hwy.	Highway
I. (Is.)	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	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
P.P.	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
Rte.	Route
S.B.	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.	videotape (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.

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Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon



Brian E. Dalzell

Despite an interminable period of rainy weather that consumed the entire month of June and lingered into July in most of the Region, breeding success for many passerine species appears to have been good, perhaps due in part to an abundance of water-hatched insects. At tern colonies in Nova Scotia, however, many young died of exposure in July. Bobolinks may also have been displaced from low-lying fields to higher and drier ones, giving the false impression of greater abundance in some areas. This was the fourth year of the planned five-year Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas, and many changes have naturally occurred since the first incarnation of the Atlas during the period 1986-1990. Distribution maps for both atlases are available online at <http://www.mba-aom.ca/english.html> (look under "Data and Maps" and click "Bird Maps").

Abbreviations: C.B.I. (Cape Breton I., NS); COSEWIC (Committee On Status of Endangered Species in Canada); C.S.I. (Cape Sable I., NS); G.M.I. (Grand Manan I., NB); G.N.P. (Great Northern Pen., NF); H.R.M. (Halifax Regional Municipality, NS); M.B.B.A. (Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas); NF (insular Newfoundland); PE (Prince Edward I.); SPM (Saint Pierre et Miquelon, France).

WATERFOWL THROUGH LOONS

Wood Duck is still pushing the ne. limits of its range, with regular reports of small numbers now coming out of the Goose Bay, Labrador area, such as 2 drakes there 3 Jun (B Mt, CJ). Breeding has been suspected in Goose Bay in recent years and confirmed in Labrador City in 2007. Male Eurasian Wigeons were found paired with female American Wigeons at Saint John, NB 22 May-

21 Jun (MC) and Dalhousie, NB 22 Jun (KW, SD), and there can be little doubt that interbreeding occurs here between these species, albeit sparingly. American Wigeon was reported as far n. as Goose Bay, Labrador 3 Jun (B Mt, CJ). Northern Shoveler lived up to its name, with single drakes noted far n. at Labrador City 5 Jun (LS) and Goose Bay 3 Jun (B Mt, CJ). At least 7 drake Greater Scaup summered in a pond on the Isthmus of Miquelon, SPM, but breeding was not detected (RE). Nonbreeding King Eiders are rare but regular around Newfoundland during the summer, where 16 second-year birds (15 females, one male) were at Cape Ray near Port-aux-Basques 17 Jul (LG). They are much rarer farther south; a male was nicely photographed at Maces Bay, NB 22 Jul (SD, OB).

Wild Turkey is now a rare permanent resident in w. New Brunswick, thanks to the burgeoning population in adjacent Maine. A day's birding in the area is enough to turn up at least one, as was the case with a hen found s. of McAdam, Charlotte 19 Jul (SD, KW). Another hen with a brood much farther e. in the province near Minto 25 Jun (BS) was likely a result of recent releases in that area.

Significant numbers of nonbreeding Northern Fulmar occur every summer in the Labrador Current as far s. as Georges Bank,

province if confirmed. A well-described Pacific Loon was at Port George, Annapolis, NS 28 Jun (CS, FL).

HERONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The only report of Tricolored Heron came from Saints Rest Marsh in Saint John, NB 21 Jul (MC). An ad. Little Blue Heron was unusual at Eddie Cove River, G.N.P. 2 Jun (Daryl Torraville). It would appear that at least 2 Little Egrets were in Nova Scotia during the period, starting with one at C.S.I. 3 Jul (JN), another at Cow Bay, H.R.M. 7 Jul, then 2 there 21 Jul (HT), and then just one 28 Jul (m.ob.). Great Blue Heron now has a beachhead in far w. Newfoundland, where a small colony was discovered in the Codroy Valley in 2008; a peak of 14 was counted there 12 Jul. Post-breeding Great Egrets are regular in the Maritimes beginning in the last week of Jul, but one at St. Paul's Inlet, NF 21 Jul was remarkable, both for the location and the age of the observer, seven-year-old Kyle Reid. It seems only a matter of time before the species breeds in the Region, likely in a Great Blue Heron colony in New Brunswick, perhaps in the Saint John R. valley or the Northumberland Strait area. Least Bittern breeds at only one known location in Nova Scotia, and it had not been reported there since the first Breeding

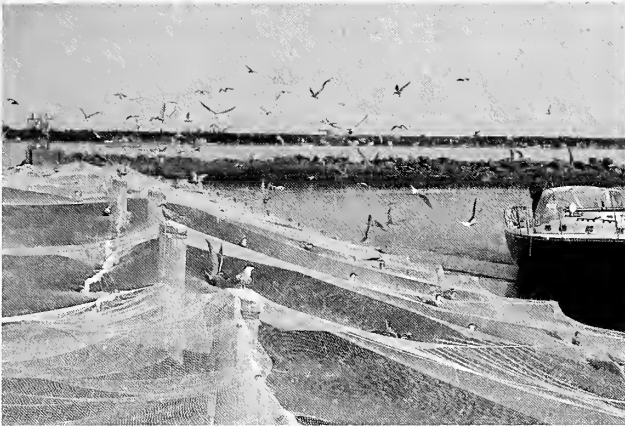


This flock of 40 Ruddy Turnstones (mostly adults) in spiffy breeding attire put down at Big Wabush Lake, Labrador City 5 June 2009, but most were gone the next day. A flock this size has not been observed in some years in the Atlantic Provinces region in spring migration. Photograph by Gordon Parsons.

but they seldom come within sight of land. They occur regularly into the Bay of Fundy as far as the Grand Manan Banks, so 6 off Brier I. 31 Jul (EM) were of note. Cory's Shearwater is an enigmatic species at the n. limit of its range, occurring regularly in the Gulf of Maine off Cape Cod and to a lesser degree just s. of Nova Scotia, but the species apparently shuns the cold Bay of Fundy waters and has yet to be confirmed in New Brunswick waters, for instance. This season, 2-3 were noted off Chebucto Head, H.R.M. 18-28 Jul (MK). The highest count of Manx Shearwater reported was 100+ around St. Pierre in Jul (RE). An apparent Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was photographed off Lunenburg, NS 4 Jul (Roy John), potentially a first record for the

Bird Atlas, so it was encouraging to learn they still occur in the Amherst area on the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border, with 3 there 20 Jun (MK, FL, CS). Only one report of Glossy Ibis came to light—one at Saints Rest Marsh, NB 17 Jun (Samantha Perrin).

Turkey Vulture now likely breeds as far e. as the Albert county hills in se. New Brunswick, where 17 were counted at Harvey Marsh 4 Jun (DC). The species has yet to be confirmed as breeding in Nova Scotia, despite being fairly common there in summer (and rare in winter) for the past 30 years! A light-morph Swainson's Hawk at Cape Ray, NF 26 Jun (DB, JH) was a fortuitous provincial first. Rough-legged Hawks were said to be in "good numbers" on the G.N.P. during the summer (JG). A pair of



Boat owners at Shediac, New Brunswick illegally attempted to displace a Common Tern colony next to a marina by covering it with a large net in early May 2009 before the birds returned (here shown 27 May). The colony of about 500 pairs was on a barge being used as a breakwater. After a great deal of effort by local conservationists, the netting was removed in early June, and the terns immediately settled back in. *Photograph by Stuart Tingley.*

American Coots near Churchill Falls, Labrador 4 Jul was most unexpected (FS, GP) and may indicate breeding. The species breeds in similar habitat in the Yukon and Alaska. Observations of a pair of Sandhill Cranes at Hampton Marsh, NB from early Jun through at least 5 Jul (Kevin Roy) raise the possibility of breeding in that province.

American Oystercatcher has yet to expand its breeding range in the Region from C.S.I., but a prospector was found at the other end of the province, at Canso 24 Jun–20 Jul (TK). At the limit of their breeding range, nesting Piping Plovers were found on the Isthmus of Miquelon, SPM 1 Jul (LJ) and at Gros Morne N.P., NF 23 Jul (DW)—to the delight of a film crew from Belgium at the latter site. An Upland Sandpiper seen on a logging road near Mt. Mitchell, *Northumberland*, NB 4 Jun was certainly out of place (Kevin Fraser); the species has declined markedly as a breeder in the province over the past 20 years (M.B.B.A.). A few Willets breed in the Stephenville Crossing area of w. Newfoundland, but this summer, the species made a great leap eastward in that province. A pair with 2 young was found at Frenchman's Cove on the Burin Pen. in Jul (Allan Nolan), while a single bird was present throughout the period at Renew's, NF (DS), about 80 km s. of St. John's. A flock of 40 Ruddy Turnstones at Big Wabush L., Labrador City 5 Jun (LS, GP) was an unprecedented number for spring in the Region. Long-billed Dowitcher made a few early appearances, with one at Hartlen's Pt., H.R.M. 18 Jul (MK) and 2 at Machias Seal I., NB 20 Jul (Ralph Eldridge). The highest count of Red Knot was 27 at Maisonette Dune, *Gloucester*, NB 2 Jun (RD), one of which had been banded in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina 10 Nov 2006. Amazingly, it

had also been present at Maisonette 3 Jun 2008. A Wilson's Phalarope was found near Churchill Falls, Labrador 3 Jul (FS, GP), at least 800 km n. of its nearest known breeding area in cen. New Brunswick, which raises the possibility of nesting in that area.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Fair numbers of second-cycle Bonaparte's Gulls summer annually in Chaleur Bay in n. New Brunswick, as indicated by a count of 160 in Bathurst harbor 13 Jun (ST). Two migrant Sabine's Gulls, an ad. and a

second-cycle bird, were noted in the Grand Manan Channel, NB 9 Jun (Roger Burrows). A fairly new colony of about 500 pairs of Common Terns nesting at a marina in Shediac, NB caused quite a stir when the marina owners covered the nesting site (an old barge) with netting in late Apr before the birds returned in late May (ST). After much lobbying and negative publicity, the marina owners relented and removed the netting in early Jun, before the birds abandoned the site. Efforts will be made to lure the birds to a nearby breakwater in the spring of 2010, where it is hoped they will not defecate on sailboats in the marina—the main reason given for the attempt to drive the colony off. Great and South Polar Skuas were said to be “present, but scarce” in the Orphan Basin, some 560 km e. of St. John's, NF 27 Jul (BMT). Small numbers of Long-tailed Jaegers were migrating there on the same date, while one off Hartlen's Pt., H.R.M. 18 Jul was much rarer (MK, CS).

Unusually large numbers of Dovekies were found in Jul, with reports book-ended between 10+ at Cape Anguille in w. Newfoundland 11 Jul (LG), and one to 3 birds at several sites along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia

and into the mouth of the Bay of Fundy 7–22 Jul. This likely represents a flight of failed breeders from w. Greenland (EM) rather than winter holdovers. A thorough census of the Common Murre colony at Grand Columbier Island, SPM 1 Jul was encouraging, with 2753 birds counted (RE). A single Razorbill was investigating possible nesting sites at Pokeshaw I., *Gloucester*, NB 26 (BW) & 27 Jul (ST) but was not welcomed by the resident Double-crested Cormorants. The nearest nesting colonies are off the Gaspé coast of Québec. A count of 3619 Razorbills at Grand Columbier, SPM 1 Jul (RE) was termed “an incredible number.”

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Single White-winged Doves were found at Clarendville, NF 27 Jun (Pauline Drove) and Woods Harbour, NS 8 Jul (Dorothy Cameron). Black-billed Cuckoos nested in good numbers in the Maritime provinces, while one was found dead far e. at Ferryland, NF 17 Jul (Jim Tuck). After last winter's big flight of Snowy Owls, several young birds remained in the Region throughout the summer, such as one at Bathurst, NB 7 Jun (ST) and another at Buctouche Dune, NB 15 Jun (Don & Dorca Pellerin). Several were also reported on the Magdalen Is. at the same time by a birding tour group (Tony Beck). Whippoorwill is a bird of the past in the Region, seldom reported in recent years, so one calling near Charlottetown, PE 1 Jun was very unusual (Roberta Palmer). A Chimney Swift near Churchill Falls 3 Jul (FS, GP) was one of very few records for Labrador. A male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker excavating a nest hole at Goose Bay 4 Jun was a first for Labrador (BMT, CJ), while a female at Eddie Cove, G.N.P. 10 Jun was the first in spring at that location in more than 20 years (JG).

A species listed as “Threatened” in Canada by COSEWIC, Olive-sided Flycatcher was found to be fairly common in suitable habitat near Bathurst, NB during the period, with densities of up to two pairs per square kilometer (ST). There was also a general increase in re-

SA The tour operators who visit the Bird Is., *Victoria*, C.B.I. report that the Black-legged Kittiwakes there (1400 pairs) failed to nest successfully this year and left the colony a month early. The culprits were 60+ Bald Eagles, as Blake Maybank related, “loitering about both islands, eyeing the young kittiwakes and cormorants. This concentration of eagles is most unusual and suggests that their regular fare, larger fish, were not available to them. The Razorbills did manage to get their young fledged and off the colonies, but as they nest within rock crevices and burrows, they were out of the reach of the eagles, who are now staking out the entrances to the puffin burrows, preventing the puffins from entering to feed their young. This unusual behavior of the eagles does indeed seem to have been due to lack of fish: a fisheries biologist told me that herring and mackerel left the area of the Bird Islands early this year, herring into the Bras d'Or Lakes and mackerel into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, creating a food shortage.” Elsewhere, a kittiwake colony with 214 nests at Cape Miquelon, SPM 12 Jul (RE) was said to be “dwindling.”



While the odd Dovekie is sometimes found in summer in easternmost Canada, a definite flight of the species took place 7-22 July 2009, when at least 25 were noted between western Newfoundland and southern New Brunswick. They are believed to have been failed breeders from western Greenland. This individual was found at Bird Islands, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia 21 July. Photograph by Allan Murrant.

ports in Nova Scotia, with up to 6 found on some B.B.S. routes (BMy). Alder Flycatcher is doing well in the Region, even at the n. edge of its range, where 20 were found on a B.B.S. route near Churchill Falls, Labrador 2 Jul (FS, GP). The only report of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was one at Pt. Escuminac, *Northumberland*, NB 26 Jun (SD, KW). Red-eyed Vireo is perhaps the most common breeding passerine in the Region and has maintained and even increased its numbers over the past 30 years, in contrast to its decline elsewhere and to the decline of so many Neotropical migrants. At the n. edge of its range in Labrador, 34 were found on the Happy Valley–Goose Bay B.B.S. 1 Jul (TC), and at least 2 singing males were present in St. John's, NF 16 Jul. White-eyed Vireo appears poised to breed in the Region, with a territorial male present throughout on G.M.I. A Warbling Vireo in the Codroy Valley 3 Jun (DB, JH) was a spring overshoot but was near suitable breeding habitat.

Cedar Waxwing did not arrive in Labrador City until 20 Jul (GP), while one over the Atlantic Ocean 560 km e. of St. John's 27 Jul (BMT) "looked a little lonely." Eastern Bluebird has gone from a rare breeder in the Maritimes 20 years ago to a fairly common one in recent years, especially in se. New Brunswick. Seven were found at French Village, *Queens*, PE 6 Jun (DS), in a province where they are (oddly) still very rare breeders. Farthest afield was a male at Saint-Pierre, SPM 3 Jun (LJ). Gray-cheeked Thrush is now said to rare in the French Islands (RE), a situation also sadly reflected throughout its traditional range in Newfoundland and Labrador, where declines have been noted. A singing Bicknell's Thrush along the Bay of Fundy coast at Little Salmon R., NB 15 Jul (JW, HM) was in a disjunct nesting area where the species has not been heard from in 20+ years. Wood Thrush is also a bird of the past in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with an apparent 90% or greater decline in

breeding numbers since the first M.B.B.A. Probably fewer than 250 pairs remain in the Region, a discouraging state of affairs. One in the Codroy Valley 11 Jun was "totally unexpected" (DB, JH), as were 2 at Goose Bay 29 May (TC). Gray Catbird continues to push at the far e. edge of its range, with at least 6 (two pairs) in St. Pierre et Miquelon 7 Jun (PB, JPS) and another singing all summer along the Rennies R. in St. John's (AH).

Sedge Wren is an enigmatic species, breeding in the middle of the continent early in the season, then sometimes moving eastward

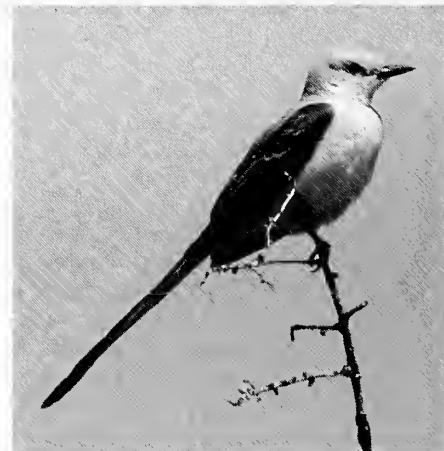
over great distances to attempt a second nesting. A pair with young was found on Seal I., *Shelburne*, NS in early Oct 2008 (FL), and this year, at least 2 were present at Tiddville Marsh, Digby, NS 1-15 Jun. Still, their only regular breeding area in the Region remains the vast reed beds found at the outlet of Grand L., *Queens*, NB. While still rare, House Wren appears to be somewhat more common than 20 years ago, with several reports of singing males from New Brunswick. A few pairs of Northern Rough-winged Swallows nest in w. New Brunswick, perhaps fewer than 50. Extralimital reports came from Tiddville Marsh, NS 8 Jun (EM) and most notably from Grand Codroy, NF 1 Jun (DB, JH), a single bird with 2 Cliff Swallows. The nearest breeding colony of the latter species is located at Fortress Louisbourg, C.B.I. Four American Pipits counted at the Wabush Tailings, Labrador 7 Jul were probably breeders (GP), somewhat s. of their continuous Labrador range but perhaps not unexpected.

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

The only report of Golden-winged Warbler was a male at Branscomb Pond, St. John's, NF 22-23 Jun (Terrence Hounsell). Tennessee Warbler was said to be "particularly plentiful" in Newfoundland during the period (DB), an observation confirmed by a count of 28 on the Goose Bay B.B.S. 1 Jul (TC, CJ). Breeding Orange-crowned Warblers are restricted to Labrador in the Region, where they are fairly common in recovering forest burns and other semi-open habitats. Seven were found on the Goose Bay B.B.S. 1 Jul (TC, CJ). Chestnut-sided Warbler is a rare breeder in Newfoundland, where a pair was found nest-building 21 Jun at Grand Codroy (DB, JH). Cape May Warbler is much harder to find in the Region than it was 30 years ago, with numbers likely down by 95% or more. One on the Goose Bay B.B.S. 1 Jul (TC, CJ) was at the ne. limit of its

breeding range. A post-breeding male Yellow-throated Warbler was a tad early at Bancroft Point, G.M.I. 22 Jul (BD). The species more typically first appears there in mid-Aug. Pine Warbler is doing extremely well in New Brunswick, now being found breeding throughout most of the province (M.B.B.A.). It is likely just as common in Nova Scotia, where there are extensive White Pine forests, but there are only a few reports to date from the n. portion of the province. Palm Warblers are also doing very well throughout the Region. Curiously, during a bird census near Bathurst, NB, the species was found to have quite an odd dialect, distinctly different from birds in the s. of the province (ST).

Bay-breasted Warbler, one of the three spruce budworm warbler specialists that were common to abundant in the Region during the 1950-1990 period, is not faring as badly as Cape May Warbler but not quite as well as Tennessee Warbler. Bay-breasted was found to be fairly common in the Codroy Valley, NF, where 25+ were tallied 3 Jun (DB, JH). Outliers were 3 males at Goose Bay 3 Jun, feeding on willow pollen on a very cold day (BMT), and a male singing at Argentia, NF 7-10 Jul. While listed as "Threatened" in Canada by COSEWIC, Canada Warbler was found to be quite common in suitable habitat near Bathurst, NB, with an estimated 5-10 pairs per square kilometer (ST). A Yellow-breasted



Averaging about one per spring in the Atlantic Provinces region over the past several years, the summer's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was this one-day wonder 26 June 2009 at Point Escuminac, New Brunswick. Photograph by Samuel Denault.

Chat sang from late May until at least 14 Jun along the Musquodobit Trail, H.R.M. A Field Sparrow was a great find in the Codroy Valley, NF 3 Jun (DB, JH) and provided one of very few spring records for the province. A few pairs breed in w. New Brunswick, likely fewer than 25. White-crowned Sparrows were said to be "common" around L'Anse aux Meadows,

SA The Grand Codroy Estuary in extreme w. Newfoundland has been a RAMSAR site since 1987 and is well known for its diversity of waterfowl, but not much is known about the area's landbirds (not surprising—as most active birders in the province live on the Avalon Pen., a good 800 km away). But in May and Jun 2009, in conjunction with the new "Feather & Folk" nature festival in the Codroy Valley, birders from St. John's made the long trek to help search for passerine vagrants and the rarer nesting species. Some spent a month, into late Jun, with 111 species tallied on 10 Jun (Dave Brown, Jen Harding). Besides vagrants, they found the following species—some at or near the e. limit of their breeding ranges in North America—to be fairly common in (often rather limited) appropriate habitat: Pied-billed Grebe, Gadwall, Wood Duck, American Woodcock, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Veery, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Nashville Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Canada Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bobolink, and Red-winged Blackbird. For many of these species, the Codroy is proving to be their only toehold on the island.

G.N.P. 10 Jun (DW). The only spring report of Dickcissel was a female far afield at St. Lewis, Labrador 5 Jun (Eva Luther).

Indigo Bunting was reported often in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick during spring, including singles at Goose Bay 17 May (Carol Wilcox) and Grand Codroy, NF 1 Jun (LG), in addition to records digested in the spring report. A male Painted Bunting at St. Pierre village in early Jul (Fred LeGlaunec) was very rare for the French islands. The Region's first record of breeding Orchard Oriole was a direct result of atlas work: a nest with eggs was found 16 Jun at Riverbank, Carleton, NB (KW, SD), near the Maine border. The female was still incubating 9 Jul (indicating the eggs were likely infertile), and the nest was empty 14 Jul.

A male Boat-tailed Grackle well observed and described at Freeport, Digby, NS 4 Jun (CS, FL) furnished only the 2nd firm record for the province. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was reported 13 Jun near Kentville, NS. Bobolinks, widely in decline, were down on the North Kingston, NS B.B.S.: only one was recorded this year, versus a recent average of 14, perhaps a result of flooded fields. Good numbers of fledglings on the Bellisle Marsh, Annapolis, NS were likely due to delayed haying (BMy). At the Bélanger farm in Upper Stewiacke, Colchester, NS, fields were mowed from the center to the edges (Corrine Redden-Bélanger), which may be better for the birds.

Red Crossbill is a declining species in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia but appears to be

holding its own on the Avalon Pen. of Newfoundland, where fledged young were noted at Conception Bay South 15 Jun. Evening Grosbeak has also declined significantly as a breeder in the Maritime provinces over the past 25 years but remains fairly common on the island of Newfoundland. Of note was one far to the ne. at Goose Bay, Labrador 9 Jun (Patricia Kelsall).

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Québec

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For people living in the south, it was not a very pleasant summer. Temperatures were slightly below normal, while total precipitation was in general above normal. The most noticeable climatic feature of the season was the lack of sunshine. In July, at Montréal, Québec City, and Gaspé, the total number of hours of sunshine was 49% to 66% below normal. For much better weather, one had to move north. In July, the average temperature in extreme northern Québec was above normal by as much as 5.3° C at Inukjuak and 2.8° C at La Grande Rivière. La Grande Rivière also had its driest June since 1976.

A flurry of Arctic breeders, including Pacific Loon, Ross's Gull, Sabine's Gull, and Long-tailed Jaeger, turned up in the upper St. Lawrence valley in mid-June, at a moment

when the weather was not particularly exceptional. Although all these species have appeared in June in the past, their almost simultaneous presence was most unusual. Otherwise, no great surprises were noticed in the Region.

WATERFOWL THROUGH JAEGERS

A male Ruddy Duck at Cap-Bon-Désir 16-19 Jun (M. Maury) was considered a local rarity. An ad. Pacific Loon in definitive plumage was spotted at Neuville 16 Jun (F. Grenon et al.). A Northern Fulmar at Saint-Fulgence 4 Jun was the first in summer for the Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean region (CC). A count of 150 Greater Shearwaters and 25 Sooty Shearwaters made from the ferry off the Magdalen Is. 5 Jul was noteworthy (G. Cyr, GÉ et al.). Four Wilson's Storm-Petrels were detected off Tadoussac 27 Jul (RP). An American White Pelican visited Lac Duparquet 15 Jul (P. Cadieux et al.). An ad. Little Blue Heron graced Trois-Rivières 18-21 Jul (J. Bénin, ph. M. Bisson, m.ob.), while a Cattle Egret stopped at Saint-Vallier 5 Jun (A.





This fledging Orchard Oriole was photographed 1 July 2009 at Philipsburg, Québec. The bird was observed being fed by a female, and a first-year male and an adult male were also present there. This represents the third confirmed nesting in the province. Photograph by Gilles Éthier.

Baron). Good counts of Bald Eagles were made in Jun, e.g., 22 along the St. Lawrence R. between Deschaillons and Neuville 19 Jun (CR) and 11 at Gaspé 22 Jun (O. Deruelle).

Two Willets at Métabetchouan 3 Jul were out of place (ph. D. Sangster); one at Barachois 12 Jul was more expected (D. Jalbert, E. Asselin). A Wilson's Phalarope represented a rare occurrence at Baie-Comeau 5 Jun (Y. Rouillard), while a rare female Red Phalarope showed up at Saint-Gédéon 13 Jun (CC, GS). Single ad. Sabine's Gulls at Yamachiche 14 Jun (A. Rasmussen) and Portneuf 16 Jun (JPO, M. Lafleur) were noteworthy. A second-cycle Ross's Gull was discovered at Neuville 16 Jun, the 8th record for the Region and the 4th in Jun (R. Dion et al.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were well in evidence throughout the Region, but a peak count of 23 imm. at Rivière Saint-Jean 4 Jul (C. Buidin, YR) was particularly noteworthy. Single ad. Long-tailed Jaegers were found at Les Escoumins 13 Jun (N. Boucher, J. Bernier, ph. JG. Beaulieu), Saint-Fulgence 14 Jun (GS), and Tadoussac 18 Jun (M. Moisan, RP), while 2 lingered at Neuville 14-16 Jun (S. Deladurantaye et al., m.ob.). This species has a history of irregular appearance in Jun.

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

A White-winged Dove was photographed at Ville-Marie 19-22 Jul (ph. J. Fréchette). Two Snowy Owls in the Magdalen Is. preferred beach over tundra this summer (*vide* AR), while one was at Percé in early Jul (*vide* PP). A Great Gray Owl noted at Île Verte 3 Jun

seems to have become a permanent resident of the island, possibly since the 2004-2005 invasion (R. Gaudreault, D. Boulet). A pair of Whippoor-wills at La Doré 13-16 Jun (M. Larouche, m.ob.) made a first for the Lac Saint-Jean area since 2001; the species is in decline in the Region. Large concentrations of Chimney Swifts were noted at some roosts, although early Jun numbers are swollen by northbound migrants: 869 at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce 1 Jun and 277 birds there on 30 Jul (A. Beauchamp) and 308 at Bromont 1 Jun (L. Lacroix, F. Mallette et al.). A male Red-bellied

Woodpecker was at Sherbrooke 3-4 Jun (S. Brûlotte), while a female and a male were sighted at Danville in early Jun (G. Lacroix).

The 6th White-eyed Vireo of the spring migration was at Cap Tourmente 3 Jun (JPO). A Sedge Wren at Bic 22 Jun-10 Jul was a welcome first for the Lower St. Lawrence (J. Munro, ph. G. Proulx). After another strong spring, Northern Mockingbirds were found breeding in several municipalities across the province. A survey aimed at discovering new Golden-winged Warbler sites in the Huntingdon area in Jun yielded 2 Blue-winged, 18 Golden-winged, and 3 Brewster's Warblers (Le Duing Lang et al.). Four additional Golden-winged Warblers were found at Kazabazua in Jun (C. Savignac et al.). A male Prairie Warbler was singing at Frelighsburg 25 Jun (ph. S. Beaudette). Four Connecticut Warbler nests were discovered at Normandin in Jun (J. Ibarzabal et al.). A singing bird was also at Bergeronnes 11 Jun at the same location where one was seen last summer (ph. JG. Beaulieu), and 2 males were banded at this site later on (YR). A high count of 23 singing Canada Warblers on Mt. Sutton 21 Jun was good for this species, which is generally detected in lower densities (R. Guillet).

TOWHEES THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

An Eastern Towhee was far out of range at D'Alembert, Abitibi 10 Jul (L. & N. Ouimet). Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from nine different localities spread across s. Québec in Jun. A male Lark Bunting was at l'Anse-au-Griffon 17 Jun (ph. J. Lacasse). A

Nelson's Sparrow at Châteauguay 3 Jun was a local rarity (L. d'Amours). Two singing Western Meadowlarks were discovered in the Pontiac region of *Outaouais* this summer: the first at Isle-aux-Alumettes 4 Jun (V. Létourneau) was refound 23 Jun (R. Bisson et al.), while the other was at Onslow Corners 21 Jun-1 Jul (D. Morin). A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen in Yamaska park 1 Jul (M. Berlinguette). Orchard Orioles were confirmed breeding for the 3rd time in the Region and first since 2002, but the paternity is unresolved in this particular case. A female and a first-year male were observed carrying food 24-27 Jun at Philipsburg (C. Auchu, C. Girard); on 30 Jun and 1 Jul, 4 birds, including the former pair, plus a fledgling and an ad. male, were seen in the same spot (JG. Papineau, m.ob.; ph. GÉ). The fourth male Chaffinch in the Region since late May graced Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive 24 Jun-15 Jul (D. Hamel, m.ob.). A small outbreak of European Goldfinches was detected in various parts of the province: birds of an undetermined subspecies were reported at Saint-Donat, *Bas-St-Laurent* 2 Jun (F. Boily, A. Kemp); 2 birds of the *caniceps* group visited a Frelighsburg feeder 13 Jul (ph. Y. & S. Cardinal); one was at Chapais, *Nord-du-Québec* near the 50th parallel (!) 5 Jul (A. Riverin); 2 were in nearby Chibougamau 29 Jul (P. Bureau); and finally another was at Sainte-Germaine-Boulé, *Abitibi* 3-5 Aug (M. Bégin). There is no doubt that all these goldfinches are of captive provenance, especially when birds of Asian subspecies are in the mix.

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Wayne R. Petersen

New England witnessed some of the coolest and wettest June and July weather in many years. Combined June and July temperatures in Boston were the coolest since 1915 and tied for the fourth coldest in 138 years of record-keeping. Boston rainfall in June was 9.75 cm above normal, making the month the wettest in 138 years, with July totals actually exceeding those of June in some areas.

An anticipated result of such cool, rainy early summer weather is the disruption of nesting activity. Not surprisingly, various species sustained weather-related mortality. Although often difficult to document, specific examples include Common Loon, Osprey, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Black Skimmer, Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin, and Eastern Bluebird; undoubtedly, other cavity and ground-nesting species were affected as well. One impression shared by several observers was that some species appeared to re-nest following early summer failures, so the fall report could shed some light on this phenomenon. Despite any interruptions in breeding bird activity, the Region was not without some exciting occurrences. Maine hosted the first-ever fully documented successful fledging of a United States-hatched Manx Shearwater and the first nesting attempt of Common Murre in American Atlantic coastal waters since the 1800s. Meanwhile, Rhode Island confirmed its first breeding Pine Siskins. Hardly less outstanding were Black-browed Albatross in the southern Gulf of Maine, Bermuda Petrel on the in waters east of Cape Cod, New Hampshire's first Red-billed Tropicbird, and Maine's second-ever Lesser Goldfinch. All and all, a very interesting summer season!

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Allen Bird Club), Andrew's Pt. (Rockport, Essex, MA), A.S.N.H.

(Audubon Society of New Hampshire), A.V. (Audubon Vermont), B.O. (*Bird Observer*), B.B.C. (Brookline Bird Club), Charlestown Breachway (Charlestown, Washington, RI), Eagle I. (Marblehead, Essex, MA), G.O.M.S.W.G. (Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group), H.B.S.P. (Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, New Haven, CT), Kettle I. (Manchester, Essex, MA), L. Josephine (Easton, Aroostook, ME), M.A.R.C. (Massachusetts A.R.C.), M.A.S. (Maine Audubon Society), M.D.F.W. (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife), M.M.R. (Massachusetts Military Reservation, Barnstable, MA), M.B.R.C. (Maine B.R.C.), Muskeget I. (Muskeget I. off Nantucket I., MA), M.N.H.E.S.P. (Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program), N.H.F.G. (New Hampshire Fish and Game), N. & S. Monomoy I. (Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, Barnstable, MA), Plum I. (Parker River N.W.R., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA), Plymouth Beach (Plymouth, MA), P.F.S.I.N. (*Project Puffin Seabird Island e-newsletter*), Race Pt. (Provincetown, Barnstable, MA), R.I.A.R.C. (Rhode Island A.R.C.), S.S.D.F. (Sanford Sewage District Facility, Sanford, York, ME), South Beach (Chatham, Barnstable, MA), Stellwagen Bank (Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary), Stratton I. (Stratton I., Saco, York, ME), Tuckernuck I. (Tuckernuck I. off Nantucket I., MA), U.S.F.W.S. (United States Fish and Wildlife Service).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

A Snow Goose at Plum I. throughout the period was seasonally rare (B.O.), and one at N. Truro, Barnstable 2 Jun (D. Manchester) was notably late. Although routine on the coast in early summer, single Brant were of particular interest at L. Josephine 15 Jun (BS) and Grand Isle 13-19 Jul (DH). At the only known breeding station in Kittery, York, a pair of Mute Swans this year failed to breed successfully (*fide DL*), temporarily halting the further spread of this species in Maine. Lake Josephine (a.k.a., Maine's leading "duck factory") once again hosted a plethora of breeding waterfowl, most notably Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and a pair of Redheads for the 2nd year in a row (BS). Among an assortment of outliers was a pair of Northern Pintails at H.B.S.P. 6-25 Jun (*fide GH*); a very tardy Eurasian Teal in Newton, Middlesex, MA lingering from May until 7 Jun (S. Abele, *fide*

B.O.); a pair of Ring-necked Ducks at Redding, Fairfield, CT 19 Jun (T. Green); an imm. male King Eider at H.B.S.P. throughout the period (*fide GH*) and a female at Little Compton, Newport, RI 14 Jul (ph. A. Hrycin); 12 Long-tailed Ducks at three Connecticut coastal locations throughout Jun (*fide GH*); a juv. Hooded Merganser at Muskeget I. 28 Jul (RV); and a Ruddy Duck at Wolcott, New Haven, CT 17 Jul (GH). Despite the presence of 10 Ruddy Ducks at L. Josephine (BS), none were confirmed nesting; however, 5 were present at the S.S.D.F. throughout the period, and at least one pair successfully nested (m.ob., *fide LS*)—a noteworthy event, considering that the species was first documented nesting in Maine as recently as 2005.

A Pacific Loon in breeding plumage off Manomet, Plymouth, MA (ph. ID) represented another in a series of late spring occurrences of this species in New England. In New Hampshire, 264 pairs of Common Loons successfully fledged 110 chicks, an increase from 97 young last year (J. Cooley, *fide TV*), while Vermont loons hosted a record-breaking 53 successful nesting pairs and 73 surviving chicks through mid-Sep (*fide CRI*). Despite these expanding ad. populations, concern



Now an annual visitor to southern New England, White-faced Ibis was detected twice in summer 2009; this one was found 30 July 2009 at Milford, New Haven, Connecticut by Frank Gallo. Photograph by Mark Szantyr.

persists in New Hampshire, where the average of one chick fledged per every two pairs is not good news. The diminished productivity was attributed to rainy early summer weather, predation, and human disturbance. In the Bay State, 21 pairs of Common Loons raised 13 chicks (*fide TF*). No doubt due to increased coverage by Massachusetts breeding bird atlas workers, nesting Pied-billed Grebes were con-



Still an extreme rarity in the Northeast, this Great White Heron was found by the photographer at Fairhaven, Massachusetts 9 (here 30) July and lingered into August 2009. New England has just a single prior record of this subspecies of Great Blue Heron, from 1996. Photograph by Carolyn Longworth.

firmed in Essex, Middlesex, and Hampshire—something that has not been documented for a number of years in a state where the species is endangered (B.O.). Four lingering Horned Grebes appeared at three Connecticut coastal locations in Jun (*fide* GH), and single Red-necked Grebes were noted at Hampton, Rockingham, NH 5 Jun–9 Jul (SM); Chatham, Barnstable, MA 3–27 Jun (BN); and Winthrop, Suffolk, MA 3 Jul (MI). More unusual was the continued presence, since spring, of an Eared Grebe throughout the period at the S.S.D.F. (*fide* DL, m.ob.).

On the heels of a subad. Black-browed Al-

batross sighted at Cashes Ledge in the s. Gulf of Maine in Mar, an albatross sighted between Seal I. and Vinalhaven I., Penobscot Bay, Knox 15 Jul (ph. J. Drury, A. Hill, L. Budd) may have been the same individual and represented the first-ever photographically documented report for New England waters. Along with a convincing 1978 Maine observation, there are five or six other previous reports from elsewhere in New England waters. For the 2nd year in a row, Cory's Shearwaters appeared earlier and in far greater numbers than usual in the cool boreal waters n. of Cape Cod and the Gulf of Maine. This species tends to prefer the warmer, Gulf Stream-influenced surface waters s. of New England. A count of 250 off Tuckernuck I. 19 Jun (RV) could hardly prepare observers for the huge numbers that were to remain off Cape Cod throughout the summer, topped by the stunning tally of 2700 off Race Pt. 7 Jul (RH)—possibly the highest single one-day total ever recorded over Cape Cod's inshore waters. Maine observers described the appearance of these shearwaters as a "massive invasion," with as many as 60+ counted off Portland, Cumberland, and many others regularly seen on whale watching trips out of Boothbay Harbor, Lincoln (*fide* LS). In addition to unprecedented numbers of Cory's Shearwaters, 19,000 Greater and 3800 Sooty Shearwaters were logged on 7 Jul (RH), both totals exceeding what most observers are ever likely to encounter in years of shore-based observation. Somewhat less dramatic were 1500+ Greater and 1500 Sooty Shearwaters moving northward past Tuckernuck I. 19 Jun (RV), and 3400 Greater Shearwaters at Race Pt. 21 Jun (BN). Despite the fact that the much-anticipated breeding of Manx Shearwaters in Boston Harbor described in the spring report failed to materialize, following more than a decade of similar anticipation, and after 120 days of careful surveillance this summer, a juv. Manx Shearwater was successfully raised

at Matinicus Rock, 42 km off Rockland, Knox, ME (S. Hall, B. Benedict et al., *fide* P.F.S.I.N.). More details will follow in the fall report. A tally of 19 Audubon's Shearwaters near Atlantis Canyon 18 Jul (RH, B.B.C.) was not unexpected; however, one at Nantucket I. 23 Jun (VL) was rare so close to shore. Fifteen Leach's Storm-Petrels at Barnstable, Barnstable, MA 22 Jun (PT) were storm-driven, but less expected was one photographed well inland at Lakeville, Penobscot, ME 2 Jul (*fide* LS, P. Vickery).

A Red-billed Tropicbird that first appeared at the Isles of Shoals 23 Jun (ph. D. Hayward, *fide* TV) was New Hampshire's first and was likely the same individual seen irregularly between Matinicus Rock and Seal Island N.W.R., ME during Jun–Jul for at least the past four years (*fide* P.F.S.I.N.). Three nests of Double-crested Cormorants found at Muskeget I. 7 Jul (L. Manne, RV) represented a first-ever nesting at this historic colonial waterbird site. New England's 2nd Great White Heron appeared at Fairhaven, Bristol, MA 9–31 Jul and later (ph. C. Longworth); the only previous occurrence of this subspecies was on Cape Cod in 1996. Massachusetts wading bird nest counts at Kettle I. produced 129 Great Egrets, 207 Snowy Egrets, an estimated 20 pairs of Little Blue Herons, 44 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 117 Glossy Ibis; at nearby Eagle I., totals were 35 Great Egrets, 36 Snowy Egrets, 30 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 7 Glossy Ibis (SP, JB). Sarah Island in Hingham, Plymouth, MA supported 72 Great Egrets, 38 Snowy Egrets, and 243 Black-crowned Night-Herons (C. Trocki, RS). In Rhode Island, a Narragansett Bay nest survey tallied 185 Great Egrets, 224 Snowy Egrets, about three pairs of Little Blue Herons, 224 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 110 Glossy Ibis, the ibis number figure reflecting a continuous drop from 270 pairs in 2007 (RF, CR). It appears that Cattle Egret has become extirpated as a nester in the Region. White-faced Ibis, however, is practically annual in appearance, so singles at Biddeford, York, ME 9 Jun (m.ob., *fide* LS) and Milford, New Haven, CT 30 Jul (FG, ph. MS) were not totally surprising.

KITES THROUGH RAILS

Following last year's first confirmed New England nesting records of Mississippi Kite, the species rebounded this year at Newmarket, Rockingham, NH, where one young was fledged from two nests (*fide* SM) and as many as 5 ads. and one juv. were noted 20 Jul (SM). At Simsbury, Hartford, CT, another returning pair fledged one young (J. Weeks et al.). One has to wonder about the presence of 2 Missis-

SA A Bermuda Petrel was well documented at 40° 56.12' N, 66° 14.32' W 28 Jun (ph. P. Duley)—288 km se. of Cape Cod—during a marine mammal survey conducted by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, MA. The petrel was at the edge of the continental shelf, close to the marine boundary between the United States and Canada in waters 2280 m deep and 23.8° C at the surface.

Preliminary data from "Lotek" data-loggers placed on 12 Bermuda Petrels in 2008 indicated that petrels' foraging trips covered up to 6400 km and that they ranged as far away from Bermuda as the Bay of Fundy, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Grand Banks off Newfoundland—and even Ireland in the case of a failed breeder (*fide* Jeremy Madeiros). Full information from this study will be published elsewhere. It has been speculated that the New England seamounts might serve as an important foraging area for "Cahows," and it will be of great interest to learn the routes traveled by this enigmatic, endangered species.

Another gadfly petrel very rarely reported from New England waters was a Black-capped Petrel off Race Pt. 23 Jun (RH) seen in association with huge numbers of shearwaters present in the waters following a storm. This sighting represents one of fewer than five documented inshore occurrences for Massachusetts—and one of perhaps two from-shore observations in North America not associated with a tropical cyclone.

issippi Kites at Cumberland, Cumberland, ME 1 Jun (W. Russell, *vide* LS) and one at Granby, Hampden, MA 25 Jul (T. Tynan). Indicative of the pernicious effects of the early summer's rainy weather were 11 active Bald Eagle nests in New Hampshire that fledged 16 young (24 in 2008; C. Martin, *vide* TV) and 21 nests in Massachusetts that fledged 21 young (33 in 2008; TF, M.D.F.W.). Connecticut's eagles fared better, with 18 active nests successfully fledging 31 young (21 in 2008; *vide* JV). In spite of reduced productivity, overall pair counts continue their upward trend throughout New England. A pair of Northern Harriers in Windsor, Berkshire, MA throughout the period (ML) was intriguing; this threatened species is practically unknown inland as a nesting bird in Massachusetts these days. A long-standing American Kestrel nest-box trail in se. Massachusetts saw 29 out of 64 boxes occupied. Despite the influence of adverse early season weather and five nest failures, the 92 chicks banded from 22 nests represented an increase over 83 young banded in 2008 (JM). Merlins that successfully nested at Martha's Vineyard last season were this year unsuccessful; however, a different pair successfully raised 2 young in Florence, Hampshire, MA 30 Jun+ (L. Peugh et al., *vide* B.O.) for a 2nd Bay State nesting record. The number of Peregrine Falcons fledged in New England continues to soar, as reflected by 64 in Vermont (*vide* MF, A.V.), 29 in New Hampshire (A.S.N.H., *vide* TV), and 39 in Massa-



A rarity at any season in Maine, this Lark Bunting was present 9-10 (here 10) June 2009 at Kennebunk, York County. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

achusetts (*vide* TF, M.D.F.W.) A wandering Purple Gallinule appeared on Nantucket I. 23-24 Jun (ph. P. Burchell et al.). In Maine, Common Moorhens successfully nested at the S.S.D.F. (m.ob., *vide* LS) and at L. Josephine after an eight-year absence (BS).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Once again, Piping Plover totals reflected the

efficacy of Regional recovery efforts. Preliminary nesting totals included 27 pairs in Maine (*vide* M.D.I.F.W.), five pairs in New Hampshire (*vide* B. Clifford, N.H.F.G.), approximately 585 pairs (a new high) in Massachusetts (*vide* Mass Audubon, N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S.), 84 pairs in Rhode Island (*vide* RF), and 44 pairs in Connecticut (*vide* JV). Despite a record high pair number, Massachusetts plovers fledged only about 0.8 chicks per pair, a number insufficient to sustain the population over time. Massachusetts also hosted approximately 181 pairs of American Oystercatchers, where a fledging rate of 0.8 chicks per pair was the lowest in several years (SM, N.H.E.S.P.). Despite this low fledging success, Bay State oystercatchers enjoy some of the highest productivity on the East Coast.

It is likely that only one Black-necked Stilt was responsible for sightings at Nantucket I. 6-7 Jun (E. Ray et al.), Chappaquiddick I., Martha's Vineyard 13 Jun (R. Whitten), and Muskeget I. 16 Jul (ph. RV, J. Barrera). Shorebird reports were notably scarce this season, the only reports worth highlighting being an American Golden-Plover at South Beach 5 Jul (F. Atwood, *vide* B.O.), 2 Western Willets at South Beach 27 Jun (BN), an ad. Baird's Sandpiper at Plum I. 28 Jul (ph. RH), a Ruff at Martha's Vineyard 26 Jul (ph. L. McDowell), and a Red Phalarope at Littleton, Grafton, NH 8 Jun (M. & R. Aldrich, *vide* TV). While not exceptional, the totals of 650 Ruddy Turnstones, 90 Red Knots, 1200 Sanderlings, 30 White-rumped Sandpipers, and 90 Dunlins at South Beach 3 Jun (BN) demonstrated that many northbound Arctic-nesting shorebirds were still moving in Jun. Of greatest interest among southbound shorebirds were 30+ Hudsonian Godwits at South Beach 20 Jul (D. Clapp, *vide* B.O.), 3 Marbled Godwits at



One of three Iceland Gulls found in New England in summer 2009, this bird was discovered by the photographer at Quicksand Pond, Newport County, Rhode Island 17 July (here early August) 2009. Photograph by Geoff Dennis.

Charlestown Breachway 30 Jul (R. Larsen, *vide* RF), and a Long-billed Dowitcher at Plymouth Beach 30 Jul (ID).

Among the crowd pleasers this summer was an imm. Sabine's Gull at Rye, Rockingham, NH 26 Jun-26 Jul (M. Harvey, ph. SM, m.ob.). Slightly less unusual were 2-3 Black-headed Gulls between New Hampshire and Massachusetts in Jul (*vide* TV, B.O.), an imm. Little Gull at Hampton, Rockingham, NH 8-25 Jul (SM et al.), an ad. Franklin's Gull (p.a.) at Block I, RI 8 Jul (M. Magarian, *vide* RF), 2 Iceland Gulls in Massachusetts (B.O.) and one in Rhode Island (ph. G. Dennis), and 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Provincetown, Barnstable, MA 4 Jul (S. Surner et al.). A Laughing Gull colony at Plymouth Beach increased from 261 pairs in 2008 to 1067 this season, an explosion causing growing concern over the impact that these rapidly increasing gulls could have on the Bay State's largest tern colony at the same site (M.D.F.W., SM).

Massachusetts—the epicenter of New England breeding terns—hosted a total of 3524 pairs of Least Terns, 1339 Roseate Terns, and 15,899 Common Terns (*vide* S. Melvin, B. Harris, M.N.H.E.S.P., U.S.F.W.S.). The Bay State tally of Roseate Terns is slightly below last year's 1375, again underscoring the need for continued stewardship and careful monitoring of this endangered species. In Vermont, 180 pairs of Common Terns produced approximately 160 chicks at L. Champlain (MLeB).

Twenty Arctic Terns were still migrating at Tuckernuck I. 19 Jun (RV) and 132 *portlandica* (i.e., second-cycle) individuals were at Provincetown 23 Jun (RH). A mixed pair of Roseate and Common Terns and another mixed pair, of Arctic and Common Terns, were observed at Stratton I. this summer (*fide* P.P.S.I.N.). In addition to six Caspian Tern and four Royal Tern reports Regionwide, there was a Sandwich Tern at the Charlestown Breachway 25 Jul (M. Tasagarakis et al., *fide* RF). Five pairs of nesting Black Skimmers failed due to over-wash problems at Minimoy I. off S. Monomoy I., and another late nesting attempt at Plymouth Beach failed for the 2nd year in a row when the day-old chicks were predated in early Aug (B.O.).

Six skuas believed to be South Polar Skuas and 7 Pomarine Jaegers were tallied at Tuckernuck I. 19 Jun (RV), along with large numbers of other storm-driven seabirds, and another apparent South Polar Skua was seen at Andrew's Pt. 21 Jun (RH, JT). Twenty-two Parasitic Jaegers were present at Race Pt. 26 Jun, and the following day, 5 Long-tailed Jaegers were noted at the same location (BN). At least one ad. Long-tailed was also seen at Race Pt. 7 Jul (RH), and an ad. and a subad. were seen and photographed off the Isles of Shoals 4 Jul (*fide* TV, m.ob.). All four previous New Hampshire Long-tailed Jaeger records occurred on inland lakes. The seasonal total of 12 Long-tailed Jaegers far exceeds any in the Region in recent summers.

Ten Common Murres and 4 Razorbills at Andrew's Pt. 21 Jun (RH) were remarkable for the season, but far less expected was the discovery of a Common Murre nest at Matinicus Rock, Knox, ME 26 Jun (M. Cunha et al.). This nesting, the first in Atlantic waters s. of the Canadian border since 1883, was described as the culmination of a 17-year effort using decoys, mirrors, and sound recordings (*fide* P.P.S.I.N.). Additionally, a total of 386 nesting Razorbills at Matinicus Rock represented a 13% increase over last season's total, and the numbers of breeding Atlantic Puffins at Egg Rock and Seal Island N.W.R. were the highest in modern historical times (*fide* P.P.S.I.N.), all suggesting that life in "Alcid Land" was rosy in the Region this summer.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A White-winged Dove at Belfast, Waldo, ME 25 Jun (*fide* M.A.S.) was the season's only report. Unusually late was a Snowy Owl at Boston's Logan International Airport 12 Jun (N. Smith). Another Snowy captured at the Isles of Shoals, NH and later released at Stratford, Coos, NH 25 Jun (*fide* TV) was thought to account for one sighted at Lancaster, Coos,

NH 10 Jul (S. Stoddard, *fide* TV). Of geographical and ecological interest were 8 Eastern Screech-Owls at Naushon I., Dukes, MA 16 Jun (SP et al.), a location where the species was unrecorded during the first Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas conducted in the 1970s.

The only Red-headed Woodpeckers reported were singles in Connecticut at Norwalk, Fairfield 24 Jun (J. Bear, *fide* GH) and Middlebury, New Haven 17 Jul+ (GH). A total of 58 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers tallied during a breeding bird census at the Little River I.B.A. in s. Hampden, MA 7 Jun (A.B.C.) indicates just how numerous this species is in appropriate upland northern hardwood forest. Unexpected were single appearances of Scissortailed Flycatchers at Easton, Fairfield, CT 21-23 Jun (P. Davenport, *fide* GH) and Richmond, Washington, RI 29 Jun (B. Whitehouse, *fide* JF). A pair of White-eyed Vireos at Biddeford Pool, York through at least mid-Jun (m.ob., *fide* LS) was intriguing, as the species has never been confirmed as a breeder in Maine. An example of the impact of Jun rainy weather on Purple Martins was the loss of nine nests out of 35 at a colony in Lakeville, Plymouth, MA (D. Egger). A colony of 110+ Cliff Swallow nests in Adams, Berkshire, MA 5 Jul (ML) has to be one of the largest in the state.

Carolina Wrens produced 3 young at Grand Isle, VT 23 Jul (DH), a 2nd brood; this location lies close to the n. edge of the species' breeding range in New England. Two Sedge Wrens in Connecticut (*fide* GH) and one in Massachusetts (B.O.) gave no indication of nesting. In se. Massachusetts, only 15 pairs of Eastern Bluebirds occupied 118 nest-boxes, and 29 nesting attempts resulted in eight failures, mainly a result of wet weather (JM). A Swainson's Thrush at Medford, Middlesex, MA 14 Jun (R. LaFontaine, *fide* B.O.) was a late migrant, and a Northern Mockingbird at St. Agatha, Aroostook, ME from May until 20 Jun (*fide* BS) was rare so far north.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Very local in Maine, 2 Blue-winged Warblers at Falmouth, Cumberland 5 Jun-early Jul (DL et al.) could not be confirmed nesting this season, but 3 Lawrence's Warblers at Nashua, Hillsborough, NH 17 Jun (C. Sheridan, *fide* TV) clearly highlight the plight of Golden-winged Warblers in New England. Three Northern Parulas at Naushon I. 15-16 Jun (PT et al.) were at one of very few remaining Massachusetts breeding sites for this state threatened species. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Patchaug S.E., Voluntown, New London, CT 27 Jun (R. Jones, *fide* GH) was present in the same area where one lingered in 2008. In Massachusetts, a single Kentucky Warbler

and 3 Hooded Warblers reported in early Jun gave no indication of breeding (B.O.)

Single early Jun reports of Summer Tanagers in Connecticut and Massachusetts were significantly outclassed by an out-of-range and most unseasonable male Western Tanager at Branford, New Haven, CT 14 Jul (ph. D. Lorello, *fide* GH). Although concerns over declines in shrubland birds are unequivocal, a count of 145+ Eastern Towhees during a breeding bird atlas blitz at Naushon I. 15-17 Jul (SP et al.) gives new meaning to the notion, "Build it, and they will come." In the pastoral and relatively undisturbed thickets and woodlands on this seven-mile-long island, towhees virtually swarm. Single Clay-colored Sparrows appeared at Newington, Rockingham, NH 5 Jun (B. Griffith, *fide* TV) and Presque Isle, Aroostook, ME 8-17 Jun (J. Johnston, ph. BS). Five Clay-colored, including one feeding young at M.M.R. (PT) and 2 on territory at the Kennebunk Plains, York, ME in early Jun (DL, m.ob., *fide* LS), provided evidence of the continued colonization of New England by this Great Plains sparrow. Other notable emberizids included a Lark Bunting at Kennebunk, York, ME 9-10 Jun (ph. DL, LS), the very rare Regional appearance of a Henslow's Sparrow at Montague, Franklin, MA 27 Jun-8 Jul (M. Fairbrother, ph. m.ob., *fide* B.O.), and 5 territorial Fox Sparrows at Deboille, Aroostook, ME (*fide* BS). Errant Painted Buntings appeared in early Jun at Portsmouth, Rockingham, NH (*fide* TV) and Mystic, New London, CT 20 Jun (M. Jones, *fide* GH). Nearly as out of place was a female Yellow-headed Blackbird at Rockport, Essex, MA 12-13 Jun (*fide* B.O.). Interestingly, recorded call notes of 40 Red Crossbills at Sandwich, Carroll, NH (R. Ridgeley, M. Young, *fide* TV) were thought to contain at least four different call "types." Nesting Pine Siskins were confirmed in a number of s. New England localities in the aftermath of last winter's massive invasion (*fide* B.O.), and Rhode Island attained its first-ever breeding record (*fide* RF). Arguably the most unexpected passerine of the period was a male Lesser Goldfinch at Clifton, Penobscot 7 Jul (ph. J. Zievis, *fide* BS), amazingly Maine's 2nd record.

Corrigendum: A Red-headed Woodpecker observed by Lauren Harter and David Vander Pluym on Brothers I., ME (*North American Birds* 62: 536) and listed as a breeding record should have been noted as a single bird present for about an hour.

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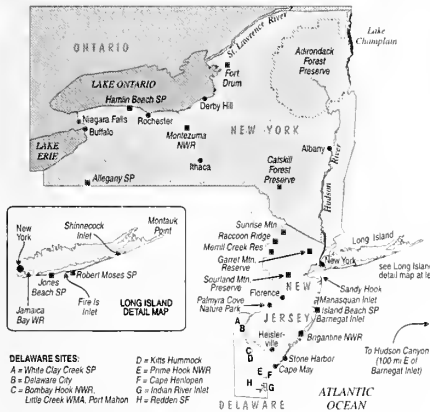
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Hudson-Delaware



Robert O. Paxton
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It was one of the coolest summers ever. Temperatures averaged 3-4 degrees Fahrenheit below normal. Rochester, NY had only 12 days above 80°, a record. Precipitation was more variable. Rain and onshore winds seemed almost constant on the coast. Rainfall was nearly twice normal on the Lake Ontario shore and more than twice normal in June in the lower Hudson Valley. Poughkeepsie, NY had only six rainless days in June. Further inland precipitation was nearer normal.

A combination of full moon, rain, and northeasterly winds produced exceptional tides in June that wiped out beach and marsh nests. Marsh nesters had zero productivity in Hempstead Township on Long Island, NY (JZ), and they experienced "total disaster" in Barnegat Bay (JBU). Rain may have diminished the productivity of Long Island Ospreys (BL) as well. On the positive side, late mowing probably helped ground nesters.

A striking feature of this season was unprecedented numbers of tubenoses close inshore, especially off Long Island. Notable rarities included at least three Roseate Spoonbills, including Delaware's first. Two closely monitored Mississippi Kites in central New

York failed, in the end, to provide the long-awaited first Regional nesting record.

Abbreviations: Barnegat (Inlet and Bay, Ocean, NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Chazy R. (at L. Champlain, Clinton, NY); Cupsogue (barrier beach e. of Moriches Inlet, Suffolk, Long I., NY); D.N.R.E.C. (Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation); Great Gull I. (ternery off the e. end of Long I., NY); Fort Drum (Fort Drum Military Installation, Jefferson, NY); Hamlin Beach (State Park and seawatch on L. Ontario, Monroe, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, NYC); Montezuma (N.W.R., Seneca, NY); N.J.D.F.W. (New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife); N.Y.D.E.C. (New York Department of Environmental Conservation); Lakehurst (Naval Air Station, Atlantic, NJ); Robert Moses (S.P., w. end Fire I., Suffolk, NY).

WATERFOWL THROUGH ANHINGA

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Cape May 25 Jul was missing its claws and was thus considered an escapee rather than an example of this species' recent northward expansion (MOB); one present at Rehoboth Beach, DE since at least 23 Nov 2008 has become semi-domesticated after months of handouts. The upstate New York Trumpeter Swan population, derived ei-

ther from an Ontario re-introduction project or from escaped captives, is surging to the point that some already dread the next pest species. Dominic Sherony assessed the Wayne population at six pairs with 18 cygnets. Montezuma contained at least two pairs and 4



An odd couple at Thousand Acre Marsh, on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, New Castle, Delaware, this American White Pelican and Roseate Spoonbill were photographed 17 July 2009. American White Pelicans are seen with increasing frequency in the East, though this bird represents just about the ninth state record. The Roseate Spoonbill, present at this location 16-22 July, was part of a general irruption that brought many spoonbills northward. Photograph by Jay Young.



Delaware's first Roseate Spoonbill, an immature, was discovered at Fenwick Island, Sussex County 21 June 2009 by Richard Wood and was photographed 26 June (here). At least two and possibly as many as four spoonbills reached Delaware in summer 2009, and one made it to New Jersey. Photograph by Maurice Barnhill.

SA The N.Y.D.E.C. asked spring turkey hunters to report Ruffed Grouse drumming. In 4800 hours in the field, 541 participants detected Ruffed Grouse at an overall rate of 0.3 per hour, or one every 4.1 hours. Frequency was highest in the St. Lawrence Valley (0.73 grouse drumming per hour in the field), and least in the lower Hudson Valley (0.22). These figures were higher than in this survey's first two years.

cygnets (*vide* RGS). Eleven at Perch River W.M.A., Jefferson, in mid-Jul included a pair with 4 cygnets (TWB, Gail Benson). A single was at Volney, Oswego, NY 9 Jun and 10 Jul (WP). A drake Eurasian Wigeon was a surprise at Montezuma 21 Jun (Mike & Joann Tetlow). A Northern Shoveler with 4 ducklings at Chazy River 21 Jul (BK) was a welcome record of this occasional breeder. A Redhead duckling at Montezuma 4 Jun (CW, JBa, SK) confirmed this species' persistence at



This adult Mississippi Kite, discovered by Stephanie Restuccia near Ames, Montgomery County, New York 1 June 2009, was photographed that day (here). The bird was rediscovered in late June and joined by a subadult 12 July, and the two were enjoyed by multitudes of birders until early August. This was New York's first apparently territorial pair, but no sign of breeding could be discovered. Photograph by Michael Restuccia.

one of its two regular New York breeding sites. Among the usual summering geese and diving ducks, including Brant, all three scoter species, both scaup, and a handful of Long-tailed Ducks, 14 Snow Geese at the n. end of L. Cayuga, Tompkins, NY 13 Jun (Steve & Susie Fast) were a new summer high for the Finger Lakes region. Genuinely rare were 3 mid-summer Buffleheads well inland: a male at the Batavia W.T.P., Genesee, NY 22 Jun (WW et al.), a female at Tompkins Park on Cayuga L., Ithaca, NY 21 & 26 Jul (CW, JBa, SK, MI), and one that summered at Dividing Creek, Cumberland, NJ (m.ob.).

More Red-throated Loons summered than usual: one was at Hamlin Beach (RGS, m.ob.), 2 on Long I. (AW, DG), 2 around Staten I., NY

(Catherine Barron et al.), and one in alternate plumage was observed on the Hudson R. at Inwood Hill, New York City 12-14 Jul (Mohammed Alomeri, ph. DA). Good counts of Pied-billed Grebe, listed as Threatened in New York, were 47, including chicks, at Montezuma 4 Jun (CW) and 35, including chicks, at Alabama Swamps, Genesee, NY 27 Jul (David Gordon). A Red-necked Grebe on the Mohawk R. at Cohoes, Albany, NY 8-20 Jun (John Hershey, Bill Lee, Ken Harper et al.) and one at Hamlin 28 Jul, followed by 2 more three days later (William Symonds), furnished rare mid-summer records.

Much of our Region's offshore birdlife remains beyond our ken. John Shemilt took several fishing/photography excursions well offshore, finding a healthy 7 Audubon's Shearwaters at Block Canyon 25 Jul. Two other Audubon's were 32-40 km off Avalon, Cape May, NJ 28 Jul (DF Mike Fritz). Shemilt also photographed 12 Leach's Storm-Petrels 138 km sse. of Shinnecock, Long I. 27 Jun, and 12 more near the 500-fathom contour sse. of Shinnecock 4 Jul. Among the inshore tubenoses in Jun, Northern Gannets (not ads.) were often observed, the maximum being 89 at Democrat Pt., Suffolk, NY 19 Jun (SSM, TWB). This was roughly twice last summer's maximum.

American White Pelicans, once exceptional, now visit annually. One was on the Hudson R. at Kingston Lighthouse, Ulster, NY 8 Jul (Jack Haber) and at nearby Pt. Ewen 9-10 Jul (m.ob.). Two arrived at the Thousand Acre Marsh, New Castle, DE 15 Jul (Jeffrey Hall, m.ob.) and remained into fall. Numbers of post-breeding Brown Pelicans were a bit above average, with maxima of 5 at Cupsogue 22 Jul (Dave Klauber, Bob May, Jim Cullen), 40 at Barnegat Light 26 Jul (Carole Gobert), and 24 at Cape Henlopen in early Jul (Birdline Delaware). One passed Montauk, NY 13 Jun (Dan Heglund) and later that evening

SA Beginning abruptly 18 Jun, unprecedented numbers of tubenoses moved close to the beach, especially along Long I.'s shore, and the phenomenon was also observed in New England waters. Indeed, more tubenoses were counted from land than from boats offshore. On that evening, over 600 seabirds streamed eastward past Robert Moses during two hours, including one Sooty, 300+ Cory's, 17+ Greater, and 2 Manx Shearwaters, 33 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 80 Northern Gannets, and a Parasitic Jaeger (SSM, PLI). Simultaneously, 100+ Cory's Shearwaters passed Tiana Beach, 56 km farther east (AB). The maximum was 3000+ shearwaters, mostly Cory's, seen just w. of Montauk Pt. 8 Jul (Brad Carlson, Doug Daniels). Observers tended to relate these observations to incessant easterly winds. More likely, they were related to food supply, as nutrient-rich waters piled up against these shores, driven perhaps by wind or perhaps by oscillations and convergences of currents that are still poorly understood.

Great Gull I. (Joe DiCostanzo), a first record there. Another traveled to L. Erie at Dunkirk Harbor, Erie, NY 6-8 Jul (Joe Gula, m.ob.); it was found dead 14 Jul at Evans, 19 km to the north (Peter Schultz). Double-crested Cormorant nests totaled 1183 in New York Harbor, slightly down from 1333 last year (EC), but general numbers showed little effects of the N.Y.D.E.C.'s control measures. An Anhinga was over the Rea Farm, Cape May, NJ 27 Jun (KL, ph. BF) and reappeared 28 Jun (BF) and 2 Jul (ph. MOB). Most confirmed records are in May/June.



This female Ruff was present at Taylor's Gut, Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, Kent County, Delaware, 25 July into early (here 1) August 2009; it was the only one of its species found in summer 2009 in the Hudson-Delaware region, where a half-dozen or more would have been expected a few decades ago. Photograph by Frank Rohrbacher.

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Most of the herons in the greater New York City area have concentrated in New York harbor to breed, safe from predators but exposed to contaminants. The 23rd Harbor Herons Survey, sponsored by New York City Audubon, found 1683 heron nests, down 9% from 1846 in 2007, the last full survey Black-crowned Night-Herons (750 nests) accounted for nearly half, followed by Great Egret (308), Snowy Egret (295), and Glossy Ibis (205) (EC). The true "southern herons," having colonized Long I. and beyond in the 1950s, have retreated from their 1980s peaks. Only 5 Little Blue Herons nested in New York harbor, plus several at two Long Island sites. Moriches In-



Up to nine Little Gulls loafed among Bonaparte's Gulls at Fort Niagara State Park, New York into June (here 13 June) 2009. These images depict birds undergoing their first prealternate molt, in which head patterns vary widely from full black hoods to scattered black speckles. All the birds had dark carpal bars, and a few had black terminal tail bands. The species has nested sporadically in Ontario, not far away, since 1962, and occasionally around the western Great Lakes in Manitoba, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Photographs by Jim Pawlicki.

let (SSM) and the William Floyd Estate, *Suffolk* (Mary Laura Lamont). Tricolored Herons, always scarcer, are down to two nests in New York Harbor. Cattle Egrets have declined to one nest in New York Harbor (EC); there were two in 2007. No individual was reported farther north. The Region's only breeding colony remains Pea Patch I. in Delaware Bay, where 300-400 Cattle Egrets entered or left the colony the evenings of 30 Jun and 27 Jul, among some 1000-1500 herons (Chris Bennett, D.N.R.E.C.). This colony is also notable for the Region's only coastal breeding Great Blue Herons. The suburban Yellow-crowned Night-Heron colony at the Redford Houses in Far Rockaway, *Queens*, NY is still prospering, with 59 nests (EC). The annual wandering White Ibis turned up at Cape May 28-29 Jun (Dave Githins, m.ob., ph. KL), but, for the first time in many years, none was reported in Delaware. This Region shared richly in the widespread northward dispersal of Roseate Spoonbills. Delaware's first turned up at Fenwick I., *Sussex*, straddling the Maryland border, 21 Jun and remained until 25 Jul (Richard Wood, m.ob.). A paler individual was at Fowler's Beach, *Sussex* 6-12 Jul (MB, Bill Fintel, m.ob.). Whether this paler bird continued northward to the Thousand Acre Marsh 16-22 Jul (Andy Ednie, m.ob.) and again to Bombay Hook 20-28 Jul (John Harding, m.ob.), or whether these were additional individuals, is not known. New Jersey's 3rd Roseate Spoonbill remained at Brig from 18 Jul into fall (Shari & Larry Zirlin, ph. Eric Reuter, m.ob.).

The Black Vulture frontier is now in New England, but pioneering continues in cen. New York, with reports from *Onandaga*, *Cortland*, *Albany*, *Columbia*, and *Herkimer* (Lee Ellsworth, RG, Ron Fry, Matt Webster et al.). The upstate maximum was 4 at Copake Falls, *Columbia*, NY, at the edge of the Taconic Highlands, 6 Jun (Russ Alderson). On Long I., sin-

gles were recorded all the way e. to Orient Pt. 8 Jun (John Brush, Sr.; John Brush, Jr.) and Greenport 28 Jul (ph. Jody Levin). Turkey Vultures, a species that also shunned Long I. until last year, when the first nest and the first winter roost were discovered, were visible all summer on the e. end, reaching 7 at Northville, *Suffolk* 20 Jun (Johnny Cullen). Budget cuts canceled the aerial survey of Osprey nests in New York (BL). New Jersey's triennial census found 485 active nests (up from 408 in 2006; KC). Bald Eagles soared again to 158 breeding pairs in New York and 223 young fledged (Pete Nye, N.Y.D.E.C.); 77 territorial pairs were recorded in New Jersey (KC) and 56 in Delaware (AGo). A Rough-legged Hawk 24 Jun at Cortland, NY (ph. Jim Barry, *vide* MY) was rare but not unprecedented in mid-summer. Merlins keep spreading, with nests in both Buffalo and Rochester (B. Watts, Landy & D. Atkinson). Southernmost was a territorial pair at Jamestown, *Chautauqua*, NY 30 Jun (Tom Simmons et al.)

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Black Rail was observed during high tides 25 Jun during a Cape May B.O. workshop (MO'B, m.ob.). The first territorial Black Rail detected on Long I. in several summers was at Napeague, *Suffolk* (Hugh McGuinness et al.). Ninety-six Clapper Rails were visible to boaters, during a massive tide, in the back

SA An ad. Mississippi Kite was discovered at Ames, *Montgomery*, NY 1 Jun (Stephanie Restuccia, ph. Michael Restuccia). As birders converged on this spot 12 Jul (Kevin McGann, RG), another kite appeared, this one still bearing traces of subad. plumage (AGU et al.). The 2 birds were last seen 3 Aug (SR). No nest or young was found. At Cape May, the most regular Regional site since the 1970s, 5 were in West Cape May 13 Jun (Harvey Tomlinson), plus one simultaneously at the Rea Farm (KL).

bays of Cape May 20 Jun (MO'B, LZ). The only King Rails reported were singles at Oswego City from mid-May-5 Jun (Mickey Scilingo, Martin Mau et al.) and at Cape May 23 Jun (ph. BF). Sandhill Cranes bred again at Savannah, *Wayne*, NY, as they have since 2003, while singles visited Orient Pt., at the e. tip of Long I., 2-8 Jun (Rob McGinness, John Brush, Jr.) and the Derby Hill hawkwatch site, *Oswego*, NY 28 Jul (WP).

Piping Plovers declined in New Jersey, from 111 nesting pairs last year to 105. Though productivity was a gratifying 1.49 at Sandy Hook and other *Monmouth* sites, flooding in the south cut statewide productivity to 1.05 (TP). Back from the brink in Delaware, Piping Plovers fledged 13 chicks at Cape Henlopen and for the first time in recent years tried to nest elsewhere, at Fowler's Beach, *Sussex* (MB). Long I. had between 443 and 472 breeding pairs in 2008, the latest figures available (MGB). They have almost doubled since 1999. Killdeer formed impressive post-breeding assemblages of 210 at the Sky High Sod Farm, *Madison*, NY 18 Jul (WP) and 200 the same day at Blue Chip Farm, *Ulster*, NY (Corey Finger). Single Black-necked Stilts were northerly at Brig 6-8 Jun (Dave Lord, Karen Johnson, Janet Crawford) and in the Hackensack Meadowlands, near Harrier Meadow, *Bergen*, NJ 10 & 18 Jun (Jim Wright et al.). They nested as usual at Bombay Hook. American Avocets visited the L. Ontario shore, where they are still rare, at Sodus Pt., *Wayne*, NY 16 Jul (WW, J. Lazarczyk) and Irondequoit Bay, Rochester, NY 17 Jul (J. Compitello), conceivably the same bird. Single Willets, presumed Westerns, were odd in midsummer at Hogan Pt. 12 Jun (ph. DT, m.ob.) and at Charlotte 21 Jun, both near Rochester (DT). Up to 9 Upland Sandpipers frequented two sites near Buffalo in Jun (PY, Richard Salembier, J. Landau), and eight sites had pairs or individuals

in Jefferson, NY (JBo). Elsewhere, they bred at the Seneca Falls Fairground, Seneca, NY (Paul Hurtado et al.), but 11 there 18 Jul (Chris Wylie, Tim Lenz) may represent a post-breeding assemblage. Farther s., breeding was probable at Blue Chip Farm, Ulster, NY (m.ob.), confirmed at Gabreskie Airport, Suffolk, NY (fide SSM), and continued at two sites in New Jersey: Lakehurst (down to 8 birds) and the Atlantic City airport (fide Don Freiday). Intriguingly, 2 visited the old Columbus Sod Farm, Mansfield, Burlington, NJ 3 Jul (Dana Eglinton). As Burlington County now owns this site, future breeding is imaginable there.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

A count of 7000 Laughing Gulls in the back bays of Cape May 20 Jun (MO'B) suggests this species' abundance here. Nine Little Gulls in prealternate molt lingered at Fort Niagara S.P., NY 21 Jun (ph. JP); this plumage is seldom seen in this Region. An ad. Black-headed Gull lingered exceptionally at the Niagara R. mouth until 9 Jun (WW), and another ad. visited Cape May, NJ 27 & 30 Jun (ph BF). Gull-billed Terns are increasing on Long Island. Eight to 10 pairs inhabited the estuaries of Hempstead, Nassau, Long I., though high tides prevented breeding (JZ). The Gull-billed Terns that frequented Jamaica Bay in Jul climaxed on 31 Jul at a near-record 24; one of these birds sported a band (DG, JP). In New Jersey, however, they were absent from Barnegat Bay (JBU) and seem not to have bred n. of Brig.

The tidal bar where Royal Terns nested for the last two years near Cape May was eroded. A few pairs joined a skimmer colony nearby at Stone Harbor Point, but everything disappeared in a total washover (TP). A single Caspian Tern pair bred in Barnegat Bay once again (JBU), far from the Region's only colony at Little Galloo Island in L. Ontario. Roseate Terns increased to 1600 nesting pairs on Great Gull I. (HH). The effort to create alternate colonies was set back when Cartwright Shoal, the most promising site, was overwashed. Only isolated Roseate Tern pairs breed elsewhere on Long Island. Common Terns on Great Gull I. reached 10,500 pairs (HH), about a third of Long Island's total. This colony, elevated above the tides, was highly productive (HH), while productivity in Barnegat Bay fell to 0.13. Productivity has been below one chick per nest there in seven of the past eight years (JBU). Arctic Terns, now known to summer regularly around Long I. in small numbers, coming ashore usually for only one day at a time, numbered 9 this year (SSM). Black Skimmers plummeted in New Jersey from 2787 ads. last year to 2219,

though the count may have been skewed by emigration after flooding. Only five colonies formed (down from ten in 2008), and a meager total of 327 young fledged came from a single colony (Seaview Harbor Marina, Longport, Atlantic). In Barnegat Bay, some skimmers were learning to nest on higher substrates of *Spartina patens*, but the water eventually got them, too (JBU). On Long I., the Lido Beach, Suffolk colony reached a historic maximum of 933 individuals (JZ). None nested in Delaware (MB). A South Polar Skua, a species reported less than annually, was photographed 77 km sse. of Shinnecock Inlet, Long I. 4 Jul (JS). Totally unexpected were 2 alternate-plumaged Dovekies photographed 94 and 114 km sse. of Shinnecock Inlet 27 Jun, and another 136 km sse. of Shinnecock Inlet 4 Jul (JS). There are some old mid-summer records but few recent ones.

DOVES THROUGH WRENS

In addition to the well-known colony at Selbyville, on the s. Delaware/Maryland border, Eurasian Collared-Doves seem to be establishing themselves around Rochester, NY. Those found at Parma in winter 2008-2009 continue, and another 2 at Hamlin 20-30 Jun exhibited courtship behavior (DT). One appeared in Ogdenville, NY 25 Jul (DT). The ConEd power company is contending with some 300 Monk Parakeet nests in Brooklyn and Queens, many of them on power poles (New York Times, 18 Apr 2009). For the 2nd summer, Snowy Owls remained into midsummer in upstate New York: Clayton, Jefferson (fide JBo); Albany Airport (Will Raup, ph. Chris Albright, fide RG); and Deerfield, Oneida (ph. Steven Heerkens). A gratifying 24 Whip-poor-wills sang at Fort Drum 5 Jun (JBo).

Red-headed Woodpeckers, which declined 76% in New York State between the 1988 and the 2008 atlases, hang on along the Great Lakes and in the St. Lawrence Valley. The best location is Fort Drum, with eight pairs (JBo). Outside these areas, isolated pairs remained: one nested again in Manorville, Suffolk, Long I. (Robert Adamo, Sy Schiff, m.ob.), and n. New Jersey had three sites in Sussex, Middlesex, and Morris. One at the Rehoboth Beach Yacht Club golf course in Jul represented the only Delaware report (Birdline Delaware). Twenty-one Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in High Point S.P., Sussex 13-14 Jun (DF, MO'B) were remarkable, considering that nesting was unknown in New Jersey until about a dozen years ago.

Acadian Flycatchers continue their slow advance northward and upcountry. A pair at Miner Flat Rock, Altona Township 18 Jul (Kenneth Adams, Melanie A. McCormack,

John & Patricia Saxton et al., ph.) represented a first record for Clinton, NY and for the Adirondacks. A Gray Kingbird at the Nature Conservancy's Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge (formerly South Cape May Meadows) 4 Jul, thought to be a first-year by its broad primary ends, made a first Jul record for Cape May (MO'B). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher visited Warinanco Park, Union, NJ 1 Jun (Cliff Miles, ph. Bill Boyle, Hank & Karin Burk). Another, or the same, appeared 12 Jun on Staten I. (Cliff Hagen et al.), just 11 km away. Late spring is a typical time for Scissor-tailed Flycatchers to appear in the Region.

White-eyed Vireos ventured well beyond their n. limits in the Region, with singles at the University of Rochester's Lehigh Swamp in mid-Jun (William Rowley) and at the Hannacroix Creek Preserve, Greene, NY 5 Jun (RG). Common Ravens are now seen occasionally within New York City: one flew over Forest Hills Gardens 12 Jul (Steve Plust). In the New Jersey highlands, they "continue their march southward" from Sussex and Warren into the Hunterdon and Morris highlands (RR). An early fall roost of 9000 Bank Swallows "perched along every row of dead cat-tails" at Montezuma 16 Jul (Chris Wiley, Tim Lenz) was impressive. Highly localized Sedge Wrens increased steadily at Fort Drum from 2 singing males in early Jun to 39 in late Jul, and about 10 others were found at other St. Lawrence valley locations (JBo). Elsewhere, they were detected at only about ten localities in upstate New York, the southernmost being Montgomery, Orange (Carl McDermott, Ken McDermott, m.ob.). A singing male Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Summerhill, near Ithaca, NY 5 Jun-7 Jul showed no signs of breeding (CW, JBa, MY). Bicknell's Thrushes still breed s. to the Catskill summits where they were first described. Good counts included 15 on Slide Mt., Ulster, NY 17 Jun (Kent McFarland, Brendan Collins) and 8 by the same observers on Plateau Mt., Greene, NY 16 Jun.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Golden-winged Warblers are now best looked for in the n. reaches of the Region. Fort Drum contained over 50 pairs, alongside about 40 pairs of increasing Blue-winged Warblers (JBo). Two males each sang on L. Champlain at Westport (MDM, EKT) and at Webb Royce Swamp (John & Patricia Thaxton), both Essex, NY. The best areas in downstate New York remain the powerline cuts in Sterling Forest, Orange, where this season's maximum was 8 on 6 Jun (Rob Fanning). Only one was reported in New Jersey, at Layton, Sussex in mid-Jun (fide RR). The zone of Golden-winged/Blue-winged hybridization is likewise shifting

northward. The 2nd and 3rd records of Brewster's Warbler for Essex, NY, on L. Champlain, were established at Westport 22 Jun (MDM, EKT) and at Webb Royce Swamp 22 & 28 Jun (Daniel Peters, Dana Rohleder, MDM, EKT). Other n. New York reports came from Allegany S.P., *Cattaraugus* (Chris Newton); the Catskills in *Greene* (John Kent); L. Champlain in *Warren* (Ed Ellday); and *St. Lawrence* (JBo). Two Lawrence's Warblers were observed at Fort Drum, where the first occurred only last year (JBo). Other singles were at Cary Arboretum, Millbrook, *Dutchess*, NY, all summer (*Wings Over Dutchess*) and at the Elizabeth Kay Environmental Center at Chester, *Morris*, NJ through 21 Jun, for the 2nd summer (*vide SB*). Palm Warblers, first found nesting in the Adirondacks in 1984, have prospered: witness 19 at Massawepie Mire, *St. Lawrence* 7 Jun (Joan Collin, Hope Batcheller et al.) and 31 there 13 Jun (JBo). The best Cerulean Warbler counts were westerly: 6 in Allegany S.P., *Cattaraugus*, NY 21 Jun (PY, Tim Baird) and 8 on Old Mine Rd., *Warren*, NJ 13 Jun (*vide SB*). One at L. Alice in the Adirondacks 9 May–1 Jun at (BK) constituted the 2nd *Clinton*, NY record. A window-killed Summer Tanager found at Claverac 1 Jul (Bill Cook), marking the first *Columbia*, NY record since 2000, was about 190 km n. of known breeding areas.

Henslow's Sparrows, down 80% in New York State between the 1988 and 2008 atlases, are now nearly limited to the *St. Lawrence* Valley, and even there, the known breeding sites are falling to agriculture and construction. Fort Drum contained 17–19 singing males in Jul, while 5 males sang in two locations in *Orleans*, *Jefferson* 9 Jun, and 2 sang in *Hammond Twp.*, *St. Lawrence* (JBo). The only other report came from the L. Ontario plain at Kendall, *Orleans*, NY (AGu, m.ob.). A singing Nelson's Sparrow, possibly accompanied by another, at Chazy River 21 Jul (BK) represented the 3rd *Clinton*, NY record since 2002. Atlasers found Delaware's 2nd confirmed Rose-breasted Grosbeak nest in the Alapocas Woods near Wilmington (*vide AGO*). Blue Grosbeaks have moved n. of their recent Raritan R. frontier in New Jersey to breed regularly in small numbers in *Hunterdon* (RR). None were found there in the 1999 atlas. Dickcissels frequented only s. Delaware this summer, but at four locations, the most in modern times: near Harrington, *Kent*; near Milford; near Seaford; and near the headquarters of Prime Hook N.W.R., all *Sussex*. Several young were fledged (*vide AGO*). An ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Whallonsburg in late Jul (Maureen Ecclesine) was only the 6th *Essex*, NY record and the 7th Adirondack record since 1980. Most appear in fall or winter. Only a few crossbills remained

after last year's invasions, limited to n. New York. After their historic invasion, a few Pine Siskins lingered widely, but they bred in only five upstate New York counties—*Niagara*, *Wyoming*, *Monroe*, *Orleans*, and *Tompkins*—and in New Jersey at three locations in *Morris* and *Ocean* (RR). Such breeding as occurred most likely finished in May (MY).

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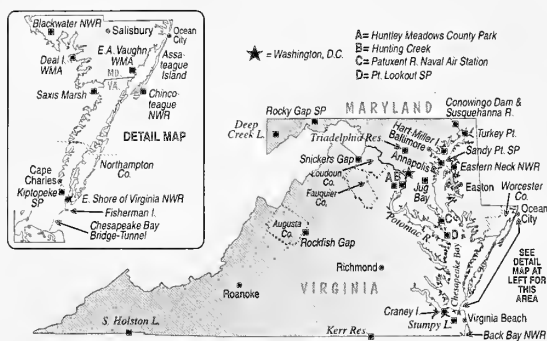
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Middle Atlantic



Mark T. Adams
Matt Hafner

June temperatures were near normal across most of the Region, though parts of Maryland and northern Virginia were somewhat cooler than average. July was a marked contrast to June: Virginia and Maryland recorded their 4th and 7th coldest July average temperatures, respectively, of the past 115 years. The Region's mid-summer cool down was part of a larger pattern of below-average temperatures that extended across at least ten nearby states in July. Precipitation was above average in June, but July rainfall was below normal except in far southwestern Virginia, where it was near normal.

The season's avian highlights included Yellow-nosed Albatross, Brown Booby, Neotropic Cormorant, Great White Egret, multiple Roseate Spoonbills, an amazing Violet-crowned Hummingbird, and encouraging breeding success for the Region's sole Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony. In addition to this report's many individual contributors, we thank Tim Hodge, Adam D'Onofrio, Nick Flanders, YuLee Larner, Robert F. Ringler, Jo Solem, and Bill Williams for their assistance in compiling and interpreting the season's records.

Abbreviations: Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); Back Bay (Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach, VA); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Craney (Craney I. Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA); False Cape (False Cape S.P., Virginia Beach, VA); Hart (Hart-Miller I., Baltimore, MD); Poplar (Poplar I., Talbot, MD); V.D.G.I.F (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

Eight Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks visited Jug Bay, Prince George's/Anne Arundel, MD 2 Jun (DB, m.ob.); the 8 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks seen flying northward at Wooten's Landing, Anne Arundel 4 Jun (HH)

were only about 10 km n. of Jug Bay and probably the same flock; these birds were also likely the same flock reported in late spring at L. Churchill, Montgomery, MD. The Ross's Goose near downtown Lynchburg, VA in late spring (TDA et al.) remained through 1 Jun. A Tundra Swan at Lyndhurst, Augusta, VA 15 Jun (DQ, *fide* YL) established a first county record in summer. The injured Tundra Swan at Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester, MD continued from the spring through 18 Jul (m.ob.).

An impressive variety of accidental to rare waterfowl was reported. Two Gadwalls lingered at Hart 6-20 Jun (EJS et al.), as did 2 Blue-winged Teal 6-13 Jun (EJS et al.). A female Northern Pintail tending a seven-egg nest on Metompskin I., Accomack, VA 6 Jun (AW) provided a rare Virginia breeding record, though a check 19 Jun found the nest abandoned. An early Green-winged Teal visited Mill Creek L., Amherst, VA 25 Jul (RB, TDA); 3 Green-winged Teal were at Hart 20 Jun (KGr et al.). An unexpected Canvasback was at Masonville, Baltimore, MD 20 Jul (KGr). At least 8 Ring-necked Ducks were observed around the Region, including a one on the Potomac R. at Great Falls N.P., Fairfax, VA 21 Jun (MR) and 2 drakes at Clyde's Pond, Dick Cross W.M.A., Mecklenburg, VA 27 Jun (AD, TT). Three Greater Scaup were at Hart 6-20 Jun (EJS et al.); 2 were on the Potomac R., Prince George's 7-14 Jun (m.ob.); and the latest was a single at Masonville, Baltimore 20 Jul (KGr). At least 9 Lesser Scaup lingered into summer, including a drake at Craney 1 Jul+ (BW). An imm. male King Eider, very rare in summer, was at Poplar 6 Jul+ (JR, m.ob.), often mingling with 11 Surf Scoters that were present 23 Jun+ (JR, m.ob.). A Surf Scoter was at Fisherman I., Northampton, VA 29 Jul (RLA). Rare in summer even on the coast, 2 Long-tailed Ducks visited Poplar 6-20 Jul (JR, m.ob.). Single Buffleheads were surprising 30 Jun at Violette's Lock, Montgomery, MD (DCz) and at Patuxent River Park, Prince George's (CO). A female Common Merganser was on a nest on the Youghiheny R., Garrett, MD 12 Jun (BH). A female Common Merganser and 9 young were an excellent find at Violette's Lock, Montgomery 18 Jun (SA). An apparently injured drake Common Merganser was on the Shenandoah R., Clarke, VA 9 Jul

(Dca). Single Red-breasted Mergansers continued from the spring at Ocean City, Worcester, MD through 22 Jul (m.ob.) and at Hart through 6 Jun (EJS et al.). Others were at Ft. Smallwood, Anne Arundel 2 Jun (*fide* Voice of the Naturalist) and Liberty L., Carroll, MD 15 Jun (RFR). At least 11 Common Loons were seen, the latest 2 birds each on 18 Jul at Chinc. (JL) and at Liberty L., Carroll (RFR). Four Horned Grebes were reported from Maryland, including a bird from the spring at Rigby's Folly, Talbot, MD that remained through the summer (HTA). A Western Grebe briefly visited a pond at The Summit, Bedford 6 Jun (JWo) for only the 5th Virginia Piedmont record.

A Yellow-nosed Albatross over the ocean at Assat. 6 Jun (p.a., SA) was well described and would be Maryland's 2nd record. This bird was only a stone's throw from Virginia, which has just two accepted Yellow-nosed Albatross sight records (1979, 1981). Six Greater Shearwaters and a Sooty Shearwater were nice finds off Fisherman I. and Smith I.,



This immature Brown Booby rested on a boat that was sailing around the northwestern Chesapeake Bay, apparently in Virginia waters, on 17 July 2009. Photograph by Lois Fussell.

Northampton, VA 29 Jun (FS). A pelagic trip out of Lewes, DE 16 Jun (ES) reported 325 Cory's, 25 Greater, and 3 Sooty Shearwaters in Maryland waters; another Lewes pelagic trip 26 Jun recorded 10 Cory's and 8 Greater Shearwaters (JLS) in Maryland waters. Rarely seen from the Bay shore, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel was at Pt. Lookout, St. Mary's, MD 19 Jul (TF). An imm. Brown Booby perched on a boat sailing in the Bay just below the Potomac R. in Virginia waters 17 Jul (ph. LF, *fide* TD). A first for Maryland, an imm. Brown Booby was photographed 22 Jul flying southward

past Assat. (FJ) Though Northern Gannets are merely uncommon in summer, most are subsads., so 2 ads. at Assat. 24 Jun (SA) were rare in that respect.

Though an occasional individual will summer on barrier islands, often among Brown Pelican or gull colonies, lone American White Pelicans were of interest at Ft. McHenry, Baltimore 10 Jun (JP et al.) and at Poplar 16 Jun (*vide* PO); single flyovers were seen 18 Jun at the District of Columbia (GB) and Patuxent Research Refuge, *Prince George's* (JFa). An American White Pelican at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester* continued from the winter through the season (m.ob.). Initially colonized by 13 Brown Pelican pairs in 2005, a Sandy I., *Northampton* site supported 740 ads. this summer (AW). A total of 1760 Brown Pelican young was banded in the upper Bay 8-19 Jul (HTA, JW): 1434 at Peach Orchard Pt., *Accomack* and 326 at South Pt. Marsh, *Accomack*. More than 20,000 Brown Pelicans have now been banded in the Bay (*vide* HTA). A color-banded Brown Pelican at Pt. Lookout, *St. Mary's* 29 Jul (PR, *vide* HTA) had been ringed as a chick at South Pt. Marsh 12 Jul 2000.

A second-year Neotropical Cormorant at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery* 17 Jun-1 Jul (ph. DCz, m.ob.) furnished a 3rd state record, the 2nd at this location (the first was also observed in Virginia).

An ad. female frigatebird was at False Cape 12 Jul (DC). Five American Bitterns at Elliot I., *Dorchester* 27 Jun (DS, MG) represented an excellent summer count in Maryland, where the species is a rare breeder; one at Truitt's Landing, *Worcester* 10 Jul (LS et al.) was also notable. The black-billed Great Egret, often called the Great White Egret, was again reported at Chinc. 27 Jun-20 Jul (ph. GL, MAK, RLA, ESB et al.); this is likely the same bird that resided at Chinc. late May-early Jun 2008 and at False Cape 4-24 Aug 2008. A Little Blue Heron in breeding plumage at the Dulles Wetlands, *Loudon*, VA 13 Jun was unexpected (MAG, GH). Rare on the Piedmont, a Tricolored Heron was at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery* 26-28 Jul (RO, MO). A juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Swoope, *Augusta* 2-5 Jul (AL) marked the first county record since the mid-1990s. Imm. White Ibis were reported from more than five inland loca-

SA Roseate Spoonbill records are exploding to the Region's south: in Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, the Gulf Coast states, and even into the lower Midwest. Prior to this season, the only Virginia record was photographed at Back Bay 3 Jun 1996, though photographs were lost before they could be reviewed. Thus, a **Roseate Spoonbill** observed this summer near Lyndhurst, *Augusta* 15-19 Jun (GHe, AMc, m.ob.; ph. 8Te et al.) delighted birders and furnished a first firm Virginia record. Remarkably, additional records soon followed, including 2 Roseate Spoonbills seen by multiple parties at Chincoteague N.W.R. 5 Jul (*vide* ESB). A single Roseate Spoonbill arrived at Craney I. 8 Jul (BW, SD, AM, DR) and stayed into early Aug (BW et al.).

Prior to this season, Maryland had two Roseate Spoonbill records (1979, 1996) from Smith I., a Chesapeake Bay island divided between Maryland and Virginia. The 1996 Maryland record occurred just three days after the Virginia record and was likely the same individual. This season, an imm. Roseate Spoonbill that visited Delaware also made brief forays into Maryland to establish a 3rd state record. It was reported, e.g., at Fenwick I., *Worcester*, MD 26 Jun (KKa) and 1 Jul (EP).

tions, including a bird at Stuarts Draft, *Augusta* 9 Jul (AL) that established a 4th county summer record. Unexpected single Glossy Ibis were at Shirley Plantation, *Charles City*, VA 11-25 Jul (LB, LBa) and Green Springs Trail, *James City*, VA 12-13 Jul (BW, SD). A White-faced Ibis at Chinc. 7 & 13 Jun (JT, PL, *vide* RH) was likely the same bird noted there in spring.

STORKS THROUGH OWLS

A rare summer visitor, a Wood Stork soaring with 2 Turkey Vultures near Millsboro Springs, *Bath*, VA 7 Jul (ABO, GK) was notable. An Osprey was building a rather late nest near the South R. in downtown Waynesboro, VA 6 Jul (BTe). Interesting Mississippi Kite records include singles near Percival's I., Lynchburg, VA 6 Jun (PLy, JPi); at North East, Cecil, MD 6 Jun (CS); at Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel* 9 Jun (MG); and in s. *Campbell*, VA 2-3 Jul (RB, TDa). The V.G.D.I.F. has conducted Bald Eagle counts along the Potomac R. in Jun and Jul since 2006. The first of this year's counts yielded a record 488 Bald Eagles, of

which 288 were adults. In addition to supporting breeding birds, the Potomac R. and the Bay host migrant eagles from southeastern states in the summer (*vide* SH). A Northern Harrier at Hope, *Queen Anne's* 4 Jun (HTA) was unexpected, as this species is scarce away from the Eastern Shore marshes.

An ad. and fledgling King Rail at Swan Harbor, *Harford*, MD 28 Jul (DL, PLe) provided another breeding record for this manmade wetland. Three King Rails were at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William*, VA 4 Jul (JBa), though not at the usual lower Catamount Cr. location. An ad. King Rail with 4 chicks and an ad. Virginia Rail with 6 chicks were encouraging sights at Huntley Meadows Park, *Fairfax* 27 Jul (HG et al.). An American Coot at Back Bay 16 Jun (DH, *vide* JG) was a rare summer resident.

The annual V.D.G.I.F. plover survey documented 37 Wilson's Plover pairs on three northern *Accomack* barrier islands (Assawoman, Metompkin, and Cedar Islands), surpassing the 2008 total of 31 pairs but well below the 1991 peak of 50 pairs (RBo). The survey also located 182 Piping Plover pairs on 11 separate barrier islands, a sharp decline from the 2008 peak of 208 pairs. Forty-five Piping Plover pairs were recorded at Assat., with an average of 1.5 young per pair fledged (*vide* TP). The Nature Conservancy/V.D.G.I.F. American Oystercatcher monitoring project found 375 pairs on the Virginia Atlantic barrier islands (AW), 200 of which were on 5 n. *Accomack* islands: Assat., Wallops, Assawoman, Metompkin, and Cedar (AW). Eighty-four American Oystercatcher nests were observed on eight *Accomack* bayside islands (RBo). Notable Black-necked Stilt reports included 20 birds at Chinc. 2 Jul (RLA, ESB) and 4 at Craney 1 & 9 Jul (BW, DR). Four downy Black-necked Stilt young were at Craney 28 Jul (BW, SD, AM, DR). Two Black-necked Stilts were at Assat. 6 Jun (SA); the species nested again at Hart and Poplar. Two American Avocets, rare inland, were at Jamestown I., *James City* 17 Jul (D&PL). Poplar hosted 2 & 7 American Avocets, respectively, on 6 & 21 Jul (JR); and a lone bird at Piney Run, *Carroll* 9 Jul (BHo) provided a very rare Piedmont record.

Two Spotted Sandpipers at *Powhatan*, VA 25 Jun (WE) were very late or early; another was at Staunton View Park, *Mecklenburg* 27 Jun (AD, TT). An Upland Sandpiper at Alpha Ridge, *Howard* 31 Jul (RC et al.) was a rarity for cen. Maryland. A late migrant Whimbrel was at George's Island Landing, *Worcester* 6 Jun (ZB, SA). The Center for Conservation Biology migration project tallied 80 Whimbrels at Box Tree Cr., *Northampton* 9 Jul and about

SA After decades of tantalizing observations of Anhingas behaving as though they might be breeding, Virginia at last had a confirmed breeding record this season. An **Anhinga** pair nested in a Great Blue Heron rookery at Harwood's Mill Res., *York*, VA 11 Jun (DYo). An ad. Anhinga was photographed on the nest 14 Jun. By 22 Jun, the nest was unoccupied, and 2 fledgling Anhingas were observed. Elsewhere, single ad. male Anhingas were at a swamp on Cabin Point Rd., *Sussex*, VA 12 Jun (ph. AD), at ponds on Hicks Ford Rd., *Southampton*, VA 16 Jun (EE), and near Heathsville, *Northumberland*, VA 18 Jul (RD, *vide* TS). This *Northumberland* pond hosted 2 Anhingas last summer. An Anhinga was again at Stumpy L., *Virginia Beach* 12 Jul (PL, *vide* RLA), where restricted access limits surveying for nests to a small portion of the reservoir.

250 birds there 23 Jul (FS). The Long-billed Curlew seen in spring at Elkins Marsh, Northampton was relocated one km n. at Buckhorn Pt. 14 Jun (FS, BTr). Rare between mid-Jun and Aug, a Marbled Godwit was at Ocean City, Worcester 11 Jul (DCz); and 2 birds each were at Castaways Campground, Worcester 15-18 Jul (SA et al.) and George's Island Landing, Worcester 11 Jul (MI). Nine flocks of 2-19 Red Knots were reported in Maryland from Assat., Hart, and Ocean City. Two Western Sandpipers at Assat. 24 Jun (SA) were early. Rare anywhere in Jun and Jul in the Region, particularly away from the coast, the 12 Dunlins that summered at Poplar (JR) were unexpected. A migrant Stilt Sandpiper at Summit Hall, Montgomery, MD 26 Jul (DCz) provided a rare Piedmont record. A scarce summer visitor and declining fall transient, an ad. female Wilson's Phalarope was at Chinc. 27 Jun (GK&MAK); another was at Poplar 21 Jul (JR et al.).

A South Polar Skua was an excellent Maryland pelagic find 16 Jun (ES). Very rare in the summer, a Pomarine Jaeger 9 Jul (SA, MW) and a Parasitic Jaeger 24 Jul (BC) were both at Assat. Weekly surveys recorded a peak of 570 Laughing Gull pairs at Grandview Beach Park, Hampton, VA 2 Jun (BW, SD, DR, BT) and 2546 nests along the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel 9 Jun (SD, DR, DT, BW). A second-cycle Franklin's Gull followed the James R. ferry between Jamestown, James City and Scotland, Surry, VA 12-15 Jun (ph. BT, AD, KK, FB). A Bonaparte's Gull was at Poplar 20-21 Jul (JR et al.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls peaked at about 200 birds at Back Bay/False Cape (GM, DH, RLA et al.). The Oyster, Northampton Glaucous Gull from the spring was still present 26 Jun (GL, MAK), establishing a 5th Virginia summer record. The Glaucous Gull reported in late spring at Ocean City, Worcester remained through 21 Jun (JB et al.). Although a comprehensive survey was not conducted this season, it was evident that Gull-billed Terns continue to struggle in Virginia. Only 10 pairs could be found on the Accomack and Northampton barrier islands, and a colony of 79 pairs on a marsh shell pile near Wreck I. was washed out as eggs were hatching. In Maryland, 1-2 Gull-billed Terns were seen regularly at Castaways, Worcester, 1-2 birds were seen several times at North Vaughn, and a single bird was reported several times in Ocean City. Royal Terns did not nest on any of the Virginia Atlantic barrier islands for the first time since at least 1935. However, 1386 pairs nested at Hampton (BW et al.), more than double the 633 pairs there in 2008. At least 944 Royal Tern pairs bred on the Clump I./Fox I. complex, Accomack (JW,

HTA et al.). The 11 Caspian Terns at Staunton View Park, Mecklenburg 31 Jul represented just the 2nd summer Piedmont record (JBI). In Jun, a Sandwich Tern pair was observed defending a space among Royal Terns on the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (BW et al.), then carrying food to the colony site 22 & 30 Jul (DR, BT, DT). If the pair did nest, as the evidence suggests, it constitutes a first for Hampton Roads and a first for the Region away from the coastal barrier islands. A rare transient and summer visitor along the coast and the lower Bay, a Roseate Tern was a nice find at Assat. 9-29 Jul (m.ob.). One of the few onshore reports for this species, an ad. Arctic Tern was at Assat. 22 & 25 Jul (p.a., FJ, JLS); the species has been detected with increasing frequency in and around Long I., NY and occasionally coastal New Jersey, though most have not been ads. in summer. Regional birders on the outer coasts should look carefully for "portlandica" (first-summer) Arctics at this season. Least Terns attempted to nest at Lynnhaven Mall, Virginia Beach for a 9th consecutive year, with 41 nests (same as 2008) 17 Jun (RBo). The colony was subsequently abandoned, perhaps because of Red-tailed Hawk predation. Least Terns failed to nest at Patrick Henry Mall this summer after three years of success (2006-2008). The 18 pairs at Grandview Beach Park 2 Jun (BW, SD, DR, BT) failed to produce young. There were 123 ad. Least Terns at Craney 1 Jul (DR, DT), scattered among a loose aggregation of colony sites along the Elizabeth River. A late season V.D.G.I.F count of Least Tern nesting activity in Mathews, VA yielded 13 active nests at New Pt. Comfort and 82 ads. with 18 active nests and 17 fledglings at Sandy Pt. 9 Jul (RBo). A

Black Tern arrived at Craney 1 Jul (BW, DR, DT). The only inland Black Tern was at Violette's Lock, Montgomery, MD 23-26 Jul (DCz). Twenty-three of 59 ad. Black Skimmers at Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel 8 Jun (DR, DT) were incubating; a Grandview Beach Park colony peaked at 386 ads. 12 Jun (BW, SD, DR, BT). Black Skimmers nested in numbers on Skimmer I., Worcester after several years of low numbers there.

Several observers reported Yellow-billed Cuckoos as being scarce this season (FA et al.). The 3 Short-eared Owls at Elliot I., Dorchester 27 Jun-18 Jul (DS, MG et al.) may indicate breeding activity. There have been no confirmed Short-eared Owl breeding records for the lower Eastern Shore in the last half-century.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FINCHES

The Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at the Nature Conservancy's Piney Grove Preserve had a successful breeding season: six pairs fledged 15 birds. The 9 females and 6 males that fledged in 2009 represent the highest production of young in the past decade (MWi et al.). Intensive habitat management by the Nature Conservancy and the translocation of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers from other populations into the Preserve has seemingly secured this colony. There are now 43 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at the Piney Grove Preserve. Two ad. Loggerhead Shrikes were feeding one young in Bedford 30 Jul (PLY). A Loggerhead Shrike in Greensville, VA 15 Jun (TDA, *vide* WE) was notable, as most recent records of this species are from n. and w. parts of the state. The Purple Martin roost at Shockoe Bottom, Richmond, VA hosted about 3000

SA One 25 Jun, Carol and Ron Baker were surprised to see an apparent ad. male **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** defending a feeder also patronized by numerous Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at their bed & breakfast in Craig, Virginia. They forwarded photographs of the interloper to Bill Akers and Jerry Via, who visited 27 Jun and confirmed the bird's identification; the bird was last seen 28 Jun. This record is comparable to Brown Booby the Claytor Lake, Pulaski, VA in fall 2008 for its lack of continental precedence.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird has strayed from its typical Mexico-Arizona-New Mexico locations into California a half-dozen times, reaching as far n. as Humboldt, and there is a Portland, OR sight record. Though it remains a great rarity in the state, Texas has seen an increase in Violet-crowned Hummingbird sightings: there are now about 16 documented records, including nine reported since spring 2007 (*vide* Mark Lockwood). Violet-crowned Hummingbirds have wandered much less than other southwestern hummingbird species in New Mexico, and there have been very few records outside Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo since the first state record (also the first U.S. record) occurred there in 1957. The summering population in the New Mexico portion of Guadalupe Canyon is small and has shown no detectable change in recent decades (Sandy Williams). These data suggest that Violet-crowned Hummingbird would be among the least-expected hummingbirds to visit the Middle Atlantic region.

States e. of the Mississippi R. have records of Anna's, Costa's, Broad-billed, Buff-bellied, Blue-throated, Broad-tailed, and White-eared Hummingbirds, Green Violetear, and Green-breasted Mango. Though none of these species have been observed in Virginia, states adjacent to Virginia have recorded most (a Green Violetear was reported, though not photographed, in Cumberland, Virginia). The Virginia record of Magnificent Hummingbird (Radford, 22-25 Oct 2003), in combination with this Violet-crowned Hummingbird record, may indicate that observers are seeing only the tip of the iceberg.

birds in late Jul (JF). A Purple Martin roost at Chantilly, *Fairfax* grew from 21+ birds on 27 Jun to 500+ birds by 4 Jul, peaked at 1500+ birds on 13 Jul, and declined to 600 birds on 25 Jul (SB, SJ). A Cliff Swallow pair nested at Little Creek Res., *James City* for the first time since 1995 (PS).

Two Winter Wrens at Dans Mt., *Allegheny*, MD 1 Jun (DY) were notable. Though there are no confirmed Winter Wren nesting records for *Allegheny*, Dans Mt. does host breeders found elsewhere only in *Garrett* on the Allegheny Plateau. A Winter Wren along the Blue Ridge Parkway, *Nelson*, VA 22 Jul (JS) was unusual. Though Bachman's Sparrow was a primary target of the 2009 Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Bird Foray 12-17 Jun in *Sussex* and *Greensville*, none were seen or heard. Although expected, this outcome was disappointing. Twenty-four Grasshopper Sparrows made an impressive total for the Sharps B.B.S. route, *Richmond/Westmoreland/Northumberland*, VA 14 Jun (WP). Seaside Sparrow counts included the 30 birds at Fisherman I., *Northampton*, VA 16 Jul (RLA) and about 40 at Box Tree Cr., *Northampton* 23 Jun (FS). Single White-throated Sparrows lingered at Ellicott City, *Howard* 27 Jun (KH) and Grosvenor Park, *Montgomery*, MD 19 Jun (MO). An ad. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the G. Richard Thompson W.M.A., *Fauquier*, VA 22 Jun was surprising (TD), whereas one at Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel* 17 Jul (JH) was early at this Coastal Plain migrant trap.

This summer saw an average breeding sea-

son for Dickcissel, with reports from at least ten counties that encompass the expected locations. A rare summer visitor to the Coastal Plain, 2 male Bobolinks at Hog Island W.M.A., *Surry* 4 Jul (ph. AD, TT) were a nice find. The 3 Bobolinks in se. *Campbell* 7 Jun (RB) may have been late migrants. A singing Baltimore Oriole, a rare and local summer resident, was at New Quarter Park, *York* 27 Jun (BW). Two Red Crossbills were at Elkhorn L., *Augusta* 11 Jul; another was heard the same day in the George Washington N.F., *Augusta* (ABr). Pine Siskins holding over from the winter and spring invasion included singles at Staunton, VA 1 Jun (E&NL) and *Bedford* 6 Jun (RB); 2 birds at Woodbine, *Carroll* 18-19 Jun (RS); and very late singles at Ellicott City, *Howard* 28 Jun (BO) and at George Washington's Ferry Farm, *Stafford*, VA 1-2 Jul (PN).

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Ken Blankenship

Meteorologically speaking, it was a season of contrasts. Summer bolted out of the gates in June with relatively dry and extremely hot conditions: Atlanta, Georgia sizzled, with 15 consecutive

days over 90° F. However, July brought much cooler weather by typical Deep South standards, with many cloudy days and mean high temperatures in several areas establishing record lows for the month. Despite a few severe weather events that produced locally drenching rains and some flash flooding, precipitation was slightly below average.

Like the weather, the breeding season also delivered mixed news, with both successes and failures among the nesting birds of our Region. Although no major Atlantic storms affected the Region, unexplained extreme high tides impacted several coastal nesting species. In the Appalachian Mountains, species were observed at the southernmost outposts of their known breeding ranges in eastern North America: Alder Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Magnolia Warbler,

Southern Atlantic

Golden-crowned Kinglet, and others. An isolated breeding population of Black-throated Green Warblers was confirmed in western Georgia, possibly the southernmost in North America. On Georgia's coast, several tern species bred abundantly on a dredge spoil island created just for them. However, marsh- and beach-nesting species elsewhere endured great hardships in part due to the aforementioned tidal events: out of 75 monitored pairs, only a single American Oystercatcher chick fledged on the entire Georgia coast.

Abbreviations: H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach S.P., *Georgetown*, SC); L.W.F.G. (Lake Walter F George, *Clay*, GA); P.S.N.P. (Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, *Richmond*, GA); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, *Jasper*, SC).



A species now found annually off North Carolina's Outer Banks in the Gulf Stream, this Bermuda Petrel was smartly photographed off Hatteras 27 June 2009, the fifth of the year there. Molting birds sometimes show a thin white hindcollar, recalling some Black-capped Petrels. Photograph by Dan Haas.

WATERFOWL THROUGH WADERS

There were many sightings of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks away from coastal strongholds this season, all in Georgia's coastal plain: 4 in Thomasville 5 Jun (YS); one at Reed Bingham S.P. 7 Jun (MM, WS); 4 in Dougherty 16 Jun–6 Jul (MM, WS, AA); 2 at P.S.N.P. 20 Jun+ (*vide* LS); 2 in Shellman Bluff 30 Jun (PWS et al.); and 2–6 in Baker 25 Jul+ (WS). Unusual waterfowl for summer in their respective locations included a Gadwall in Clayton, GA 15 Jul (CL) and 2 at Panola Mountain S.P., GA 25 Jul (CM); a Blue-winged Teal in Goldsboro, NC 11 Jul (ED); a Green-winged Teal in Macon, GA 12 Jun (TI, KC) and 2 at the S.S.S. 2 Jul (SC); a Ring-necked Duck on Bass L., NC 6 Jun (JL); and a Greater Scaup at the S.S.S. 20 Jun (SC). One of 2 male Surf Scoters lingering in Charleston, SC stayed until 23 Jun (EA, ph. DG). Two female Hooded Mergansers were observed in Clayton, GA 18 Jun–27 Jul (CL), though breeding was not detected. Red-breasted Mergansers extending their stay in the Region included: 2 at H.B.S.P. 1 Jun (GL); 7 at Oregon Inlet, NC 14 Jun, and 3 there 27 Jun (JL); and one at the S.S.S. 20 Jun (SC). Ruddy Ducks again summered at the S.S.S., with an impressive 84 tallied on 6 Jun and a pair with ducklings 27 Jun (SC). A Red-throated Loon was late at H.B.S.P. 1 Jun (GL), while a few Common Loon sightings were typical for mid-summer. Pied-billed Grebes again nested "in good numbers" in the piedmont in Clayton, GA (CL), and a Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was still at Pivers I., NC 4 Jun (JF, RM).

Results of early Jun pelagic trips off Hatteras, NC were included in the spring column, but there were several noteworthy mid-summer finds as well. A Fea's Petrel was observed off Hatteras 18 Jun (BPI), as was a Bermuda Petrel 27 Jun (BPI, ph. DH). One Cory's Shearwater was seen on a pelagic trip off Tybee I., GA 14 Jun (KB et al.), while the species was expectedly numerous off Hatteras late in the season (BPI); Greater Shearwaters were present there in low to modest numbers all summer (BPI). "Many" Leach's Storm-Petrels were off Hatteras 18 Jun (BPI), while at least two forms of Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were observed this season. An imm. Brown Booby was a good find just outside Hatteras Inlet, NC 11 Jun (BPI), while the latest imm. Northern Gannets were 2 recorded off Tybee I., GA 14 Jun (KB et al.) and one off Topsail I., NC 3 Jul (ph. AI). Four American White Pelicans were at Bear Island W.M.A., SC 19 Jul (ND), and the species was present at the S.S.S. 10 Jul+ (SC). Brown Pelicans nested in Georgia at the Satilla Marsh I. (350 pairs) and on Little Egg Island Bar (1000 pairs); nest and chick abandonment was high at the latter location due to an avian tick infestation (BW); one ad. continued inland at L.W.E.G. 26–27 Jul (WS).

An American Bittern was unseasonable at Donnelly W.M.A., SC 20 Jul (JE), and 2 Least Bitterns were found in appropriate breeding habitat in Bartow, GA 19 Jul (GS et al.), in a region where the species is a rare and local breeder. Notable inland waders included 2 Tricolored Herons in Baker, GA 25–31 Jul (WS) and several Glossy Ibis reports: one to 4 in Sumter, GA 3–19 Jul (CR, WS, ph. PH), 3 in Dooly, GA 25 Jul (JFI), and a high inland count of 85 at L. Mattamuskeet, NC 25 Jul (RD); 2 of the latter species were notably far offshore, 88 km e. of Blackbeard I., GA 14 Jun (ph. RC).

Wood Storks had a productive nesting season in Georgia: 1900 pairs, including 500+ at

the largest rookery at Harris Neck N.W.R. (BW); inland dispersal was about average, with one juv. in Clayton 13 Jun (CL) and 20 at P.S.N.P. 20 Jun (LS) being the most noteworthy sightings. The northernmost reports involved a juv. in Charlotte, NC 17 Jun (D&MW) and one at Pea Island N.W.R., NC 21 Jun (NM).



Glossy Ibis staged a notable inland incursion into southwestern Georgia, including this bird (one of three) in Sumter County 3–9 (here 3) July 2009. Photograph by Phil Hardy.

RAPTORS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Biologists participated in the first interstate effort to survey Swallow-tailed Kite populations between e. Texas and South Carolina; the species is of special conservation concern. Because the birds form large communal roosts in late summer, aerial surveys along major rivers may provide a means to accurately estimate numbers across their U.S. range. In Georgia, 155 were found gathered in seven roosts 21–22 Jul (TK), with a few scattered pairs as well; biologists flying along the Sa-

SA A species once considered likely to be encountered only in Gulf Coast states, Roseate Spoonbills did not "disperse" into the Region this summer, they simply exploded. Unexpected pink blobs in wader roosts or foraging in shallow, wet areas surprised and delighted birders far n. into the Carolinas: 2 were inland in Duplin, NC 13–16 Jun (ED); 3–6 at Bear Island W.M.A., SC 13 Jun–19 Jul (ND); 2–4 at Sunset Beach, NC 16 Jun–17 Jul (DM, m.ob.); 2 in Mt. Pleasant, SC 20 Jun–4 Jul (*vide* ND, m.ob.); 2–9 at Pea Island N.W.R., NC 26 Jun–13 Jul (NM, LY, m.ob.); 2 at H.B.S.P. 6 Jul+ (RL); and 7 at Goat I., SC 24 Jul (MT). The highest count this summer was an astonishing 205 recorded at the S.S.S. 2 Jul (SC). The wave also spread deep into Georgia's coastal plain: an early arrival of 2–5 juvs. in Miller, GA 2–22 Jun (TA, m.ob.); one in Bulloch, GA 12 Jun (*vide* BB); one in Atkinson, GA 13 Jun (AB); 2 juvs. in Sumter, GA 12–25 Jul (CR, ph. PH, m.ob.); and one in Decatur, GA 26 Jul (LL). Spoonbills are uncommon in Georgia and South Carolina spring through fall, with juvs. appearing in early Jun. Nesting is considered imminent by some biologists in Georgia but has yet to be documented. The species has even been observed mingling in wading bird nesting colonies, including a pair among White Ibis on James I., SC 6 Jun (WP). The species is now a permanent resident in coastal Georgia, though still very rare in winter.



Likely an early southbound migrant, this adult female American Golden-Plover was most unexpected when it was photographed 4 July 2009 at a golf course on Kiawah Island, South Carolina. Photograph by Tom Giduz.

vannah R. 19-25 Jul found three roosts containing 110 birds on the Georgia side, with an additional 104 birds on the South Carolina side (*fide* TK). An ad. Peregrine Falcon was observed at Rabun Bald, GA 12 Jun (PHo); summer sightings in the state are quite rare outside of downtown Atlanta, where the species nests on skyscrapers.

Black Rails were detected at known nesting sites: Bear Island W.M.A., SC 13 Jun (RoC et al.) and 19 Jul (ND) and in Greene, GA 26 Jul (PWS et al.). A family of Clapper Rails with 2 downy young was observed stranded on a floating mat of *Spartina* grass during an extreme tidal event in Beaufort, SC 20 Jun (PWS)—an ominous sign that many nesting marsh birds may have met a similar fate (though some early nesters likely escaped harm). Unseasonable Sandhill Crane sightings included one in Richland, SC 2 Jun (ph. JTA), and 2 in Mecklenburg, NC late Jun–1 Jul (D&MW, m.ob.), one of which had been shot and was taken to a rehabilitation facility.

An ad. female American Golden-Plover on Kiawah I., SC 4 Jul (†ph. TG) was likely a very early migrant, perhaps a failed breeder. Wilson's Plovers were reported with fledglings in all three states; the highest count of 47 ads. and juvs. came at the S.S.S. 27 Jun (SC). Though a few summer annually in the Region, a group of 10 Semipalmated Plovers was notable on St. Simons I., GA 20-21 Jun (ph. GK). Already beleaguered by a May storm that

wiped out early nests, American Oystercatchers suffered even more hardships, as raccoon predation combined with unexplained extreme tides late Jun–Jul repetitively foiled later attempts. Sadly, only one chick is known to have fledged in the state of Georgia this season (BW). Many Black-necked Stilts nested at the S.S.S., with 555 present 10 Jul (SC); one was inland in Baker, GA 28-31 Jul (WS). An inland Willet was noted in Clayton, GA 29 Jul (CL). The first report and highest count of Upland

Sandpipers were 5 at the reliable Marshallville Super Sod farm in Macon, GA 12 Jul (WS); sightings of this species were below average. Two Long-billed Curlews provided a rare summer record at Shackleford Banks, NC 1 Jul (FE). All 3 Marbled Godwits tracked in the ongoing satellite-tagging project (<www.seaturtle.org>) returned to Georgia from breeding grounds in the Dakotas by early Jul. Always noteworthy inland, a Ruddy Turnstone was in Bartow, GA 31 Jul (KB, ph. RC). The highest count of Stilt Sandpipers was 254 at the S.S.S. 24 Jul (SC), while a Wilson's Snipe was very early at Savannah N.W.R., SC 22 Jul (SB, BB). A few Wilson's Phalaropes again spent time at the S.S.S., with 3-6 birds noted 10-24 Jul (SC).

A Ring-billed Gull was quite late in Gordon, GA 28 Jun (MMe). Rarely seen from shore, an ad. Sooty Tern was spotted at Topsail I., NC 31 Jul (GG). Biologists celebrated a successful 2nd nesting season on the dredge spoil island near Brunswick, GA created specifically for the birds: Least Terns, Gull-billed Terns (60 pairs), Royal Terns (600 pairs), and Black Skimmers (400 pairs) fledged many young there (BW). Least Terns also nested on the roofs of Kmart buildings (200 pairs total) in Savannah, GA

and Kingsland, GA (BW). Locally unusual were 11 Caspian Terns in Carteret, NC 21 Jun (JF, JFe). While 1300 pairs of Royal Terns nested on Little Egg I., GA, the biggest news for this species is a massive colony on Tompkins I., SC. The majority of birds that once nested elsewhere in both states have apparently converged on this site, where 12,000–15,000 pairs nested this season (*fide* BW); this may be the largest breeding colony on the Atlantic coast. In stark contrast to the successes on the dredge spoil island, 100 pairs of Black Skimmers on Little Egg I., GA took a one-two punch from a ravenous raccoon and tidal inundations and did not nest successfully. A Parasitic Jaeger in the Pamlico Sound, NC 7 Jun (SWr) was the only jaeger reported inshore.

A White-winged Dove visited feeders in Topsail Beach, NC late Jun (CS), while a pair of Black-hooded Parakeets was present in downtown Morehead City, NC late Jul+ (JF). A territorial pair of Black-billed Cuckoos in Halifax, NC 21 Jun (RD) and 9 Jul (FE et al.) was



Though no nesting pairs were noted in summer 2009 in the Southern Atlantic region, there were several sightings of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, including this male in Gastonia, North Carolina 31 May–21 (here 11) June. Photograph by Jeff Lemons.

far e. of the species' regular breeding range. An Alder Flycatcher singing on territory in Avery, NC 11 Jun (ML) was at a site previously unknown for this rare and local nesting species of the high elevations of that state. Willow Flycatchers were noted outside of their core range in several areas. In North Carolina, several were singing well e. of typical breeding areas; the most surprising was one in the w. coastal plain in Halifax 21 Jun (RD). In Georgia, they were farther s. than usual: 2 were in Clayton 11 Jun (CL), and one was in Henry 27 Jun (PB, HG). No Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are known to have nested in the Region this season, though there were four reports: one in Henry, GA 2 Jun (TS); one in Murray, GA 13 Jun (TH, GS); one in Clarke, GA 9 Jul (ET); and one in Gastonia, NC 31 May–21 Jun (ph. JLe, m.ob.).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

Nesting Warbling Vireos were again detected e. of their core range in North Carolina: two pairs in Winston-Salem 9 Jun (PD) and up to three

SA Lake Mattamuskeet in e. North Carolina began hosting massive numbers of migrating shorebirds in late Jul; it is a critical staging area for many species, and it is hoped that future management plans will include the consideration of water levels for the benefit of shorebirds as well as wintering waterfowl. A survey on 25 Jul (RD) provides a snapshot of this phenomenon even early in migration, with 4500+ shorebirds observed, including: 217 Black-bellied Plovers, 25 Semipalmated Plovers, 11 Black-necked Stilts, 17 Spotted Sandpipers, 76 Greater and 930 Lesser Yellowlegs (plus 450+ unidentified yellowlegs), 810 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 1290 Least Sandpipers, 108 Stilt Sandpipers, and 168 Short-billed and 4 Long-billed Dowitchers (plus 100+ unidentified dowitchers). In addition to these impressive totals were noteworthy uncommon migrants such as one Upland Sandpiper, one Hudsonian Godwit, and 4 Marbled Godwits (RD).



An isolated southern breeding population of Black-throated Green Warblers was confirmed in 2009 on Pine Mountain Ridge in Harris County, Georgia, including this juvenile being fed by adults on 22 June. Photograph by Walt Chambers.

pairs in Concord 6 Jun (fide TP, ph. JLe). A wayward Black-whiskered Vireo was heard singing and eventually seen well in the Croatan N.E., Craven, NC 13 Jun (†JF). Although there are multiple records at this time of year from the coast, this bird was in Longleaf Pine savanna away from the coast. While 8 Common Ravens provided a good count at Rabun Bald, GA 12 Jun (PH), the species continues to be observed in the piedmont of North Carolina at several sites. Rare breeding of Horned Larks high in the mts. was documented in Avery, NC 11 Jun (CSm et al.), including photographs of ads. with nestlings. Cliff Swallows continue their eastward and southward march across the Region: expansion usually occurs as new colonies are established downstream along substantial rivers, the nests constructed on bridges. Though the species has apparently not fully colonized the coastal plain, outposts were again noted near the coast: 12 nests on the Ogeechee R. in Chatham, GA 15 Jun (SW et al.) and 98 nests on the walls of a hotel in Craven, NC early Jul, all but two of which were later abandoned for unknown reasons (JF). The current status of Black-capped Chickadees in the Region is not fully understood; their isolated breeding populations in the highest elevations of North Carolina are apparently threatened by hybridization with Carolina Chickadees. Two were found on the summit of Richland Balsam 30 May, but 2 Carolinas were also present in the area 6 Jun (PS). In the Clingmans Dome area, both a Carolina Chickadee and a hybrid were found 10 Jun; only Black-capped was previously suspected to occur there (PS). Seemingly out of place for the date was a calling Golden-crowned Kinglet at Cloudland Canyon S.P., GA 7 Jun (MH); the most solid evidence yet of the species nesting in the state was an ad. feeding a fledgling on Hale Ridge Rd., Rabun 20 Jun (KB et al.). Both Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes were again on territory in the

spruce-fir zone of North Carolina at several sites. Though there is still no direct evidence of nesting by Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush appears to be expanding, particularly in the Balsam Mts. (MW); a fledgling Hermit Thrush was observed being fed by ads. on Roan Mt. 15 Jun (AL), and a singing ad. was in Graham 14-15 Jun (DTr, v.r. MN).

Passerines landing on ships offshore are always interesting, but a Sprague's Pipit was most unexpected when it took refuge on a tall sailing vessel

64 km off the North Carolina coast e. of Currituck 2 Jun (ph. LM); the bird expired on deck, but the specimen was not preserved. An imm. Chestnut-sided Warbler was early in Mecklenburg, NC 29 Jul (TSa), while a singing Magnolia Warbler was exceptionally late in Clarke, GA 13 Jun (†Bma). Nesting of Magnolia Warblers in North Carolina has long been suspected: 4 were singing on territory early Jun at Roan Mt. (RK) and Grandfather Mt. (MBS); 2 ads. feeding a fledgling at the latter site 25 Jun 2008 (MBS) represents the most definitive breeding evidence but was not previously reported in this column. A male Yellow-rumped Warbler was singing vigorously high atop Mt. Mitchell, NC 11 Jun (GS). Very exciting was the confirmation of an isolated breeding population of Black-throated Green Warblers on Pine Mountain Ridge, Harris, GA: 5 singing males and food delivering behavior were observed 2 Jun (WC), and a juv. was being fed by ads. 22 Jun (ph. WC). A Palm Warbler in Chattahoochee, GA 4 Jun (†CJ) established a new late departure date for that state. Ovenbirds have been documented in recent years nesting along the fall line in cen. Georgia; this season they were found even farther s., including 4 males singing at Oohopee Dunes N.A., Emanuel 2-9 Jun (MH) and 2 at Yuchi W.M.A., Burke 13 Jun (LS). These Ovenbirds are utilizing a sandy habitat in transition zones between arid Longleaf Pine-Turkey Oak scrub and mesic hardwood bluff forests (MH): if nesting is confirmed at the former location, it would represent the southernmost known breeding population in North America.

Bachman's Sparrow is a species of special conservation concern: good news included 20 singing males during a survey at Chickasawhatchee W.M.A., GA 22 Jun (DMo et al.) and the discovery that the species is nesting outside of typical open pinewoods, as 3 were in sandhill habitat in Burke, GA 9 Jun (ph. PHo). A local breeder at high elevations, 2 Vesper Sparrows were singing on Roan Mt., NC in early Jun (RK). Lark Sparrows again summered at Carolina Sandhills N.W.R., SC with ads. present 18 & 22 Jun (DM, PSe et al.) and a juv. 4 Jul (ph. D&PD): this is the only known breeding site in the state. A juv. Lark Sparrow in Cobb, GA 24 Jul+ established a new fall early arrival date for that state (SA). Another localized nesting emberizid, a Savannah Sparrow was singing on territory in Henderson, NC 23-28 Jun (MW), while 4 were in Alleghany, NC 27 Jun (ML). Very odd for the date was a White-throated Sparrow singing in Cobb, GA 31 Jul (Wsk, v.r. JS). Dickcissels were widely reported, from 15 different sites (11 in Georgia, 4 in the Carolinas), with an impressive high count of 17 singing males at



A glimmer of hope for the struggling Bachman's Sparrow was the discovery on 9 June 2009 of a breeding colony utilizing an uncharacteristic sandhill habitat in Burke County, Georgia. Photograph by Pierre Howard.

North River Farms, Carteret, NC 7 & 11 Jun (JF), where juvs. were observed later in the season. Another rare highland breeder, Bobolinks were singing on territory in Henderson, NC 23 Jun (MW). A male Shiny Cowbird was among blackbirds and cowbirds during stormy weather at Oregon Inlet, NC 13 Jun (ESB). A male Purple Finch with an apparently infected eye frequented a feeder in Dawson, GA 3 Jun (GS). Among a few sightings of single Pine Siskins at the s. edge of their range in Georgia's mts. was an atypical report from the piedmont in Clarke, GA 11 Jul (B&KO); nesting has yet to be confirmed in that state.

Corrigendum: In line 4 of the "SA" box treating pelagic seabird migration in spring (*North American Birds* 63: 409), the count for South Polar Skuas should read "56+" (as in Table 1)

rather than 47, as printed. [N.B.: This error was not the fault of the Regional Editor but rather the Editor, who apologizes!—Ed.]

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Florida



Bruce H. Anderson
Andy Bankert

With near-normal rainfall amounts and temperatures, the summer weather was unremarkable. The absence of tropical weather systems, as well as widespread policing of colonies, resulted in increased success rates of coastal beach-nesting species such as Snowy Plovers and Least Terns. Two species and one subspecies were verified breeding in the state for the first time, and another species not previously known to breed in Florida was suspected of nesting, as was a very casual breeder. During the late spring and early summer, singing Horned Larks were located in the panhandle's Jackson County, where breeding has been suspected but not yet verified. At St.

Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Wakulla County, in the big bend, the state's first nesting of southwestern Cave Swallows was reportedly documented. In central Florida, Dickcissels lingered at Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Orange County, where they were verified breeding in two years since 1999 but not this season. At Dania Beach, Palm Beach County, breeding was verified for the first time for Bronzed Cowbird, and at Everglades National Park, Miami-Dade County, a pair of breeding Western Spindalis was not only a first for Florida but for the continental United States as well.

For at least 12 years, Purple Swamphens have been breeding in Florida; the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission attempted to exterminate this Asian exotic from Florida but recently announced that as of March 2009 it has no future plans to continue that project (*fide* Bill Pranty). It is likely that within the next three years, this species will be the next established exotic to be added to the official Florida list.

Abbreviations/definitions: big bend (Apalachicola R. e. to *Jefferson*); L. Apopka (L. Apopka Restoration Area, *Orange* unless otherwise stated); panhandle (Apalachicola R. west to *Escambia*); Paynes Prairie (Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P., *Alachua*); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence); report (any observation); S.T.A. (Stormwater Treatment Area).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Unusual were 2 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks n. at Paynes Prairie 3-6 Jun (Lloyd Davis et al.). Late ducks included: single Blue-winged Teal at Roosevelt Wetlands, *Pinellas* 1 Jun (RoS), L. Apopka through 14 Jun (HR), and Ft. Walton Beach Spray Fields, *Okaloosa* 28 Jul (Don Ware); a Ring-necked Duck at Lake City, *Columbia* through 2 Jun; and single Lesser Scaup at Holiday, *Pasco* through 16 Jun (DG), Palm Harbor, *Pinellas* 19 Jun (RoS, DG), and Viera, *Brevard* throughout the season (DF). Surf has been the usual scoter to remain in Florida in summer, and this season was no exception. Up to 14 were at Bald Point S.P., *Franklin* throughout the summer (JM, MF); 3 were at Cedar Key, *Levy* 19 Jun (DH); and singles lingered at Ormond Beach, *Volusia* through 12 Jun (MB, Jim Swarr) and Eagle Crest Lake, *Pinellas* through 8 Jun (Greg Brecht, RoS et al.). A single Black Scoter joined the Surfs at Bald Point S.P. 15 Jun (MF). Only occasional in summer, 3 male Ruddy Ducks were at S.T.A.-5, *Hendry* 11 Jul (KW et al.).

Five Common Loons at Deer Lake S.P., *Walton* 20 Jul (DaS) were early. Fourteen American Flamingos at S.T.A.-2, *Palm Beach* 24-27 Jun (*fide* Mike Baranski) and one at S.T.A.-5 on 11 Jul (Margaret England) were of unknown provenance, while 2 at Snake Bight, Everglades N.P., *Monroe* 19 Jul were likely wild (BRo). Rare in the Gulf, a Sooty Shearwater was found moribund off Palm Harbor 12 Jun (*fide* Scott Patterson); an Audubon's Shearwater was seen from shore off Walton 30 Jul (DaS); and duos of Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrels were photographed off Clearwater Beach, *Pinellas* 6 & 30 Jun, respectively (SC). The only Band-rumped Storm-Petrel re-



Florida's fourth ever, this adult Neotropic Cormorant visited Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Orange County 3-7 (here 5) June 2009. Photograph by Bruce Anderson.

port was of 3 off Miami, *Miami-Dade* 13 Jun (RoT). Single Brown Boobies wandered n. to Ponce de Leon Inlet, *Volusia* (MBr, Bob Wallace), Port Canaveral *Brevard* (fide SS, *Florida Institute of Technology), and Philippe Park, Safety Harbor, *Pinellas* (Joe Zarolinski, RoS et al.), and 19 were off Miami, where they are regular, 13 Jun (RoT). Rare in summer, Northern Gannets were near shore in the Gulf from *Okaloosa* to *Charlotte* in late Jun, with a high of 27 at Destin Pass, *Okaloosa* 27 Jun (DaS), and a Magnificent Frigatebird appeared at Bald Point S.P. 27 Jun (M&SK). Brown Pelicans were inland at L. Lochloosa, *Alachua* 14 Jun (3, Matt Hafner et al.), Orlando, *Orange* 9 Jul (Cheri Pierce), and Winter Haven, *Polk* 2 Jun (PF), where inland breeding was confirmed in 2008. An ad. Neotropic Cormorant on Key Largo, *Monroe* 5 Jun 2008 (ph. Bruce Horn), only recently reported, and another at L. Apopka 3-7 Jun 2009 (HR, ph. BHA, ph. BP et al.) brought to four the number of records of this species for Florida. An American Bittern was late at Paynes Prairie 6 Jun (Barbara Shea et al.). In the panhandle, where they are rare, 7 Reddish Egrets were at

Gulf Islands N.S., *Santa Rosa* 8 Jun-27 Jul (R&LD); a Roseate Spoonbill was at Santa Rosa I. 17 Jun (Dustin Varble); and a Wood Stork was in n. *Walton* 28 Jun (Bob Reid). Rare but regular in Florida, a White-faced Ibis was a one-day-wonder at L. Apopka 8 Jul (HR).

A very rare and local breeder, White-tailed Kites summered at Avon Park Air Force Range, *Polk* (DR, PF et al.), Three Lakes W.M.A., *Osceola* (Joyce Stefancic), Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., *Okeechobee* (L&BA), and on Browns Farm Rd., *Palm Beach* (Vince McGrath). A pair of Mississippi Kites nested at Carlton Village, *Lake*, about 46 km s. of the species' known breeding range, in late Jun and Jul (Gallus Quigley, James Dinsmore, m.ob.). An imm. Mississippi Kite at *Cocoa*, *Brevard* 15 Jul (Mitchell Harris) was likely a post-breeding wanderer. Northern Harriers have never been verified as breeding in Florida; singles were at Viera Wetlands 22 Jun-12 Jul (Mark Kiser et al.) and

Avon Park Air Force Range, *Highlands* 3 Jun (DR). The northernmost Short-tailed Hawks, all light morphs, were 3 at Ormond Beach 6-17 Jul (Meret Wilson) and a juv. at Orlando 20 Jul (Kenn Blye). Florida's *paulus* American Kestrels are rare and local breeders in the peninsula; a pair in *Pinellas* fledged one young (ph. Judy Fisher), and singles were noted at Winter Springs, *Seminole* (Bob Sicilia) and L. Apopka (HR).

LIMPKIN THROUGH JAEGERS

The expansion of Limpkins around Tallahassee, *Leon* may be attributed to the recent introduction of the nonnative Island Apple Snail in the area (GM). Up to 3 members of the reintroduced migrating population of Whooping Cranes loitered at Paynes Prairie throughout the season (RR et al.). With the absence of destructive tropical weather systems and the protection provided by park personnel and volunteers this summer, more than 100 Snowy Plover nests were detected at Gulf Islands N.S., *Escambia* (fide Mark Nicholas, Vicky Withington). Likewise, 19 Wilson's Plovers at Opal and Navarre beaches, *Santa Rosa* (B&LD) and 147 at Bird I., Nassau Sound, *Duval* (PtL) were high counts for each respective area. On schedule, the first Piping



Reported occasionally as breeding in Florida, but never verified to date, Northern Harriers were reported at two locations in summer 2009. This female was at Viera Wetlands, Brevard County 22 June through 12 (here 7) July. Photograph by Matt Paulson.

Plovers returned to Mashes Sands Park, *Wakulla* 22 Jul (SMc), Tigertail Beach, Marco I., *Collier* 24 Jul (Ted Below), and Bird I. 28 Jul (PtL). American Avocets at Cutler Wetlands, *Miami-Dade* 18 Jul (SP) and Snake Bight 19 Jul (BRo) were early or possibly summered locally. Rare in any season, a Long-billed Curlew that summered at Ft. De Soto Park, *Pinellas* was joined by another 14 Jun (RoS), and one was photographed at Bunche Beach, *Lee* 7 Jul (Elaine Swank). Marbled Godwits were widespread, with one in the panhandle at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* 2 Jul (Patrick James); 200 at Snake Bight 19 Jul (BRo); 30 at Ft. De Soto Park 12 Jul (P&JS);



Only the fourth report of the species in North America since 1994, this Zenaida Dove visited Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida 4 (here) and 5 June 2009. Photograph by Larry Manfredi.

23 at Mashers Sands Park 22 Jul (SMc); and 5 summering at Little Estero Lagoon, Ft. Myers Beach, Lee (CE). A White-rumped Sandpiper at Dry Tortugas N.P. 2 Jun was surprisingly the only report for the summer (CW). Early Red Knots were reported at Ft. De Soto Park 12 Jul (84; P&JS); Bald Point S.P. 27 Jun (24; M&SK); Ponce de Leon Inlet 13 Jul (4; MBr); Little Estero Lagoon 16 Jun (one; CE); and Stump Pass Beach S.P., Charlotte 22 Jun (one; Susan Daughtrey). Rare inland, 2 Sanderlings in Leon 29 Jul were early (GM, Marvin Collins), as was a Wilson's Phalarope at L. Apopka 24 Jun (HR).

Each spring and early summer, numbers of Laughing Gulls in alternate plumage are observed transiting the peninsula from the Gulf; this summer's high inland counts were 52 at Newnans L., Alachua 7 Jun (RR) and 21 at L. Apopka 2 Jun (HR). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Cutler Wetlands 12 Jul (SP) was the high count for this species this summer. Black-backed gulls are rare and local on the Gulf; single Lesser Black-backed were found at Three Rooker Bar, Pinellas 12-17 Jun (RoS et al.) and Ben T. Davis Beach, Hillsborough 12 Jul (KT), while lone Great Black-backed were identified at Tyndall A.F.B., Bay 15 Jul (Dan Greene) and Treasure I., Pinellas 12 Jul+ (Sandy Harris et al.). Gulf Islands N.S., Escambia personnel counted 243 Least Tern chicks 8 Jun (fide RAD); however, after an overwash event at Little Estero Lagoon, only 48 volant juvs. remained as of 10 Jul (CE). Twenty-five Least Terns at Matanzas Inlet, St. Johns fledged by 27 Jul after a May storm destroyed hundreds of nests (Monique Borboen). At least one nesting pair of Gull-billed Terns at Ft. Pickens furnished a new breeding site for this species (R&LD). A first-summer Arctic Tern at Gulf Islands N.S., Escambia 27 Jul was only the 2nd for the panhandle (R&LD). A Pomarine Jaeger off Clearwater Beach, Pinellas 20 Jun (SC) was the only jaeger reported.

DOVES THROUGH MIMIDS

Only the 4th report since 1994, a Zenaida Dove was discovered on Key Largo, Monroe 4 Jun (ph. LaM); there was an unverified report of the bird the next day. Typically late migrants, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Dry Tortugas N.P. 2 Jun (CW). Rare and endangered in Florida, single Smooth-billed Anis were reported at Belle Glade, Palm Beach 3 Jun (Eric Gegring), where anis were common 30 years ago, and farther w. at S.T.A.-5 on 20 Jun (ph. KW et al.). Historically, a few Smooth-billeds emigrated from the Antilles, passing through Florida's keys in the spring and summer annually; this pattern continued

this summer, when one passed through Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade 30 Jul (Robin Diaz). Post-breeding dispersal occasionally brings Burrowing Owls to the barrier islands along the Atlantic Coast, where one was found at Satellite Beach, Brevard 12 Jul (SS). Short-eared Owls, presumably from the Caribbean population, continue to appear sporadically during the summer in the s.-cen. peninsula. Singles were found at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P. 1 Jun (fide Paul Miller), with other reports from the park later in the season (fide LA) and at Avon Park Air Force Range, Polk 12 Jun (DR). Only a casual breeder in the s. peninsula, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed building a nest at Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk, Fakahatchee Strand S.P., Collier 27 Jun (AM).

A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was seen at Hickory Mound W.M.A. 14 Jun, a first for Taylor (JM, Stephanie Parker), while a Tropical Kingbird was at Homestead, Miami-Dade 18 Jul about 8 km from where 2 Tropical Kingbirds spent winter 2008-2009 (RoT, LaM). From the panhandle came reports of Gray Kingbirds nesting in five different coastal locations (R&LD). Single Red-eyed and Black-whiskered Vireos at Dry Tortugas N.P. 2 Jun were late (CW). There were seven Jul reports of Tree Swallows, the earliest at L. Apopka 5 Jul with an early Bank Swallow (HR). A Cliff Swallow at Opal Beach 8 Jul was the earliest in fall for the panhandle by 11 days (RAD).

SA West Indian Cave Swallows have been breeding locally in Miami-Dade since at least 1987. Southwestern pallida Cave Swallows are annual visitors, especially along the coasts. Several were noted in Jun and Jul 2008 with nesting Barn Swallows at a bridge at St. Marks N.W.R.; up to 4 were seen at the same bridge from Apr 2009+ and were reported by a refuge biologist to be breeding there (JM, Jean Simpson)—a first for that population in Florida.

Very rare in summer in the extreme ne. peninsula, an American Robin was seen at Boulougne, Nassau 10 Jun (DF). For the 9th consecutive summer, a Gray Catbird was s. in Gainesville, Alachua, where breeding has been attempted in previous years but has not been known to have been successful (RR, Craig Parenteau et al.). Farther s., single catbirds were discovered at Sugden Regional Park, Naples, Collier 3 Jul (AM) and L. Apopka 17 Jul (HR).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Since the late 1970s, the proliferation of breeding cowbirds throughout the peninsula has paralleled the decline of two mangrove-

SA Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe host Western Spindalis annually, with occasionally 2 or more in the same area. Females, because of their plain plumage and relatively sedentary nature, are rarely reported but likely show up in numbers similar to those of the more striking males. Until recently, the idea of spindalis breeding in Florida has been wishful thinking. On 28 Jul, 2 females and a singing black-backed male were located at Long Pine Key, Everglades N.P. (Heidi Trudell, Matthew York et al.). On at least one occasion, the females were seen attacking each other, and one female was noted to have a definite brood patch. Eventually, a nest was found in a nearby pine tree, in habitat very much like that in the Bahamas where this population breeds. The last of 3 young fledged 1 Sep (LaM)! This constituted the first record of this species breeding in Florida and in the continental United States.

breeding species in Florida: Black-whiskered Vireo and Prairie Warbler. At Green Key, Pasco, where last year KT counted 10 singing Prairie Warbler males, he located only 3 this summer, including one feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird 18 Jun. A 2 Jun visit to Dry Tortugas N.P. found late warblers, including a female Northern Parula, a male Magnolia, a female Black-throated Blue, a female Blackpoll, and 2 female American Redstarts (CW). A Kentucky Warbler was late at Boulougne 10 Jun (DF). A female Black-and-white Warbler at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa 6 Jun was the latest for the panhandle (R&LD), while another at Ft. George I., Duval 4 Jul (P&JS) tied the earliest Jul date for Florida. Thirteen days earlier than the previous earliest fall report, an imm. Magnolia was photographed at the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Lab, Turkey Pt., Franklin 21 Jul (Rob Lengacher). Other early warblers included: a female Cerulean and a Worm-eating Warbler at Jacksonville, Duval 31 Jul (DF) and 24 Jul (Mary Davidson), respectively; a

SA For several years, Bronzed Cowbirds have been year-round residents in Miami-Dade. In 2008, breeding was suspected when a juv. appeared at a Homestead bird feeder (LaM, ph. BP), and a report was received of a female Red-winged Blackbird feeding a fledgling Bronzed Cowbird at Davie, Broward (BRo). Finally, at Dania Beach, a fledgling of this notorious nest-parasite of tropical orioles was photographed being fed by s. Florida's only breeding Icterus species, the established exotic Spot-breasted Oriole (Arthur Nelson, fide JHB). Confirmation of the Bronzed breeding brought to three the total number of cowbird species verified breeding in Florida.

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO FLORIDA by Bill Pranty



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Louisiana Waterthrush at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, *Pinellas* 4 Jul (RoS); and a Canada at Eglin A.F.B., *Okaloosa* 23 Jul (DaS). Yellow-breasted Chats, Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo and Painted Buntings, and Orchard Orioles are very rare and local breeders in the n.-cen. peninsula, except at L. Apopka, where HR counted up to 12 chats, 26 grosbeaks, 28 Indigo and 4 Painted Buntings, and 28 male Orchard Orioles throughout the summer! A male Scarlet Tanager at Jacksonville 15 Jun (Jamie Ross) was the latest in spring in Florida by 13 days!

A late Bachman's Sparrow nest with eggs was discovered at Avon Park Air Force Range, *Polk* 24 Jul (DR). A Lark Sparrow at Gulf Breeze 10 Jul was the earliest in the panhandle by 15 days (RAD). Dickcissels have been verified breeding in Florida twice, each time at L. Apopka; this summer, up to 2 were seen there sporadically 12 Jun–19 Jul, but nesting was not detected (HR). Shiny Cowbirds were widespread, with a female inland at L. Apopka 22–26 Jul (HR) and at least 4 along the Atlantic coast at Boca Raton, *Palm Beach* 24 Jul (Linda McCandless). Shiny Cowbirds along the Gulf coast, where the species is most regular, included single males at St. Petersburg, *Pinellas* (Don & Lorraine Margeson), Green Key and Gulf Harbors, *Pasco* (KT, Ray Smart et al.), Cedar Key (DH), and Alligator Pt., *Franklin* (JM). Occasionally, American Goldfinches appear in summer in n. Florida, where they are not known to breed. This summer, lone birds were reported at two *Wakulla* locations, a male 7 Jun (Lyn Ronolds) and one 11 Jun (SMc; sex not specified), as well as at Cedar Key 3 Jul (DH, Melissa Barbour).

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David H. Elder

For Ontario birders, the summer of 2009 seemed merely an illusion. Caught on the wrong side of a persistent southerly loop in the jet stream, July recorded the fewest number of days with sunshine on record for the province. Consistently cool and wet conditions prevailed, and monthly temperatures were well below average, especially in the north. An immobile North Atlantic high-pressure zone prevented eastward-moving continental low-pressure systems from dispersing, resulting in abundant rainfall for the period.

The inclement weather undoubtedly had an effect on bird reproduction, but just how and to what degree is open to speculation. Whereas Snow Geese on Hudson Bay generally failed to breed, Ontario's Piping Plovers had a banner year. During the period, personnel from the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Royal Ontario Museum were active along the James Bay coast and made many interesting and significant observations. Rarities for the period included Brown Pelican, Roseate Spoonbill, Black Vulture, Curlew Sandpiper, Black Guillemot, a Tree Swallow x Barn Swallow hybrid, Northern Wheatear, Lark Bunting, and Lazuli Bunting.

Abbreviations: C.W.S. (Canadian Wildlife Service); G.T.A. (Greater Toronto Area); Point Pelee (Point Pelee Birding Area, a standard C.B.C. circle centered just n. of Point Pelee N.P.). Place names in italics refer to counties, districts and regional municipalities.

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

Due to a cold, late spring and the resultant late snow melt, most of the 140,000 Snow Geese along the Hudson Bay coast (10,000 on the Pen Is. and 130,000 at Cape Henrietta Maria) either failed to breed or had a very

poor nesting season (KFA). In Atikokan, an ad. blue-morph Snow Goose appeared 4 Jun and remained for three weeks, feeding with Canada Geese throughout the town (DHE). In the Ottawa area, single ad. white-morph Snow Geese were at the Embrun W.T.P. 16 Jun (RP) and at the Alfred W.T.P. 14 Jul (CD). Ottawa had a cooperative Brant at Andrew Haydon Park 10-31 Jul+ (m.ob.); another at Hamilton Harbour 9-12 Jun likewise drew many observers (ON et al.). A yearling Trumpeter Swan still retaining some brown feathers was found along the James Bay coast at Longridge Pt., *Cochrane* 20 Jul (AWH). After last year's failure, a pair of Trumpeter Swans raised 2 young near Atikokan (DHE). Three Tundra Swans at Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay* 6 Jun were very late migrants (JMW). Three broods of Canvasback were present at the Hearst W.T.P., *Cochrane* 27 Jul (WJC, DAS), probably marking the first nesting record for n. Ontario. A male Redhead at the Moosonee W.T.P. 11 Jul (CDJ, WJC, DAS) was a local rarity. A male Ring-necked Duck at Presqu'île P.P. 15 Jun (RDM) was presumably a non-breeding visitor. An aerial survey conducted by C.W.S. staff off Longridge Pt. on James Bay 26-28 Jul recorded 10,000 Black Scoters (RKR), mostly molting males. A single male Black Scoter at Hurkett, *Thunder Bay* 2 Jun (AW) was a late migrant. Fifteen White-winged Scoters in Hamilton Harbour 22 Jul (RZD) made a high count for summering birds. A single Long-tailed Duck was noted off Colonel Samuel Smith Park, G.T.A. 13 Jun (SMF). A male Ruddy Duck at the Hearst W.T.P. 27 Jul (WJC, DAS) was a rare find for the area.

A Pacific Loon in breeding plumage at Longridge Pt. 18 Jul (MKP) furnished one of only a few records for s. James Bay. A Common Loon was on the Niagara R. 6 Jul (R&LG). Two Pied-billed Grebes with 6 young at Little River Corridor Park in Windsor 12 Jul (DJL) was most unusual for this urban area. Three Horned Grebes were off East Beach, Point Pelee N.P. 14 Jun (BAM). At least three pairs of Red-necked Grebes were at Colonel Samuel Smith Park, G.T.A. 22 Jul, with one pair observed building a nest (BPB). The only Eared Grebe noted during the period was an ad. at the Grand Bend W.T.P. 22-31 Jul (MC et al.). Wandering, non-breeding American White Pelicans were noted across the province in interesting numbers. Two flocks totalling 150 birds were on the James Bay coast near Fort Albany 15 Jul (SG), with an additional 16 near Longridge Pt. 8 Jul (WJC et al.). Singles were reported at Presqu'île P.P. 18 Jul (GP), at Golden L., *Renfrew* 28 Jun (TFMB), and at Hamilton 19-31

Jul and later (KAM et al.). An additional 3 were noted in late Jul at Balanger Bay, L. Huron (LL), and 6 were at Holiday Beach, Essex 12 Jun (CAC). An imm. Brown Pelican was at Pt. Edward, *Lambton* 27 Jun (DM, SM). A Great Egret at the Moose R. mouth, *Cochrane* 10 Jul (DAS et al.) was the most northerly of its species ever recorded in Ontario. A record count for the G.T.A. of 13 Great Egrets was made at Reesor Pond 19 Jul (RBHS et al.). A single ad. was at Mud L. in the Britannia C.A. near Ottawa 24 Jun-23 Jul (m.ob.). A Snowy Egret at Port Colborne 2 Jun was a very nice find (BE, JMF). An ad. Cattle Egret was found at a composting facility near Peters Corners, *Hamilton* 31 Jul+ (DRD et al.). The Northumberland Summer Bird Count 14 Jun located 27 Green Herons, almost doubling the previous high of 14 found in 2007 (*vide* CEG). Green Herons are rare in the Muskoka area. A pair of Green Herons fledged 5 young at the Bracebridge W.T.P. 15-17 Jul (BT, m.ob.). Four unidentified *Plegadis* ibis flew over the Old Cut dyke at Long Pt. 4 Jun (SAM). An imm. Roseate Spoonbill found at Morton, *Leeds and Grenville* 13 Jun (JJH) was a new species for Ontario and was supported with excellent documentation; a substantial extralimital flight of the species was recorded during early summer in the East and Midwest. A Black Vulture found at Courtice, *Durham* 14 Jun (SRW) was the only one reported.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Two dark-morph Rough-legged Hawks at Moosonee 12 Jun were possibly nesting nearby (MWJ). Farther along the James Bay coast, up to 10 were noted between Hannah Bay and Attawapiskat during the period (DAS et al.). Peregrine Falcons fledged 2 young from a nest on the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ottawa 21 Jun (EDT), the 13th consecutive nesting at that site. Another pair fledged 3 young from the Sun Life Financial Center, Islington, G.T.A. 2 Jul (SCH). Transect surveys carried out on sites along the James Bay coast by staff from the Royal Ontario Museum tallied more than 300 Yellow Rails between Attawapiskat and the Quebec border 1-11 Jul (MKP et al.). The surveys point out the significance of the coastal marshes for the species. At least 2 Virginia Rails were heard calling at Otterhead Cr. near Moosonee 10 Jul (DAS et al.); the species is very rare on James Bay. Two Common Moorhens at Komoka P.P. 9 Jun (MN) were probably a breeding pair. A Sandhill Crane at Komoka P.P. 10 Jun was an excellent record for *Middlesex* (MN). Observations of a pair of Sandhill Cranes with a single colt in Algonquin P.P. 30 Jul (RGT) confirmed

breeding for the park.

Defying categorization was a breeding-plumaged American Golden-Plover in fields near Hillman Marsh 21 Jun (AW); all other summer records from Point Pelee have been of birds in nonbreeding plumage. Five late northbound American Golden-Plovers were noted 31 May–2 Jun at Thunder Bay, *Thunder Bay* (NGE, BJM, AW). Piping Plovers had an excellent breeding season with a total of 16 chicks fledged from three nests at Sauble Beach, two nests at Wasaga Beach (both KT), and single nests at Carter Bay, Manitoulin I. (CTB) and at Windy Pt., Lake-of-the-Woods (LH). High productivity this season was due in large part to the army of dedicated volunteers who watched over the nests. The Windy Pt. nest was moved three times due to rising water levels. As usual, late northbound shorebirds were still being seen in early Jun, with the first southbound birds making appearances in late Jun. Willets were observed moving both ways, with a late spring migrant at Presqu'île P.P. 4 Jun (FMH) and early fall migrants at Pt. Edward 28 Jun (DM) and Point Pelee N.P. 15 Jul (AW). A pair of Greater Yellowlegs with 2 young was found 16 Jun s. of the Smoky Falls Dam on the Mattagami R. near Kapuskasing (MWJ). Late northbound Lesser Yellowlegs were noted 2 Jun, with 2 at Thunder Bay (AW, NGE) and one at the Terrace Bay W.T.P., *Thunder Bay* (AW). Lesser Yellowlegs numbers built up at the Emo W.T.P., *Rainy River* to a maximum of 154 individuals on 17 Jul (DHE). One of the first shorebirds to move southward is Upland Sandpiper; one near St. Catharines 6 Jun (BH, JH) was likely a fall migrant, as no suitable nesting habitat exists anywhere in the area. Birds observed in breeding habitat were near Strathroy: 2 on 12 Jun (SI) and another 2 on 14 Jun (PAR, IP), subsequently seen with young 23 Jun (RT, DS). One hundred thirty-six ad. Whimbrels were noted on Shippans I. near Moosonee 22 Jul (MKP et al.). Also on the James Bay coast were 528 molting ad. Hudsonian Godwits at Longridge Pt. 24 Jul (AWH et al.). On 23 Jul, 2 in the flock were noted to have leg flags that indicated they had been banded in Chile. A single Hudsonian Godwit was present near the Tip of Long Pt. 15–17 Jun (BKW, RWW, SIM), with another ad. found at Vinemount near Hamilton 29–31 Jul (KD, m.ob.). Very unusual for the area was a Marbled Godwit near L. on the Mountain, *Prince Edward* 5 Jun (PS), likely a late spring migrant.

Molting Red Knots were surveyed from the air along the s. James Bay coast by C.W.S., with an estimated 2000 found on 22 Jul (RiGM, RKR). At Longridge Pt., 1100 molt-

ing ads. were counted 27 Jul (MKP). Of these, 150 birds had colored leg flags indicating they had been banded in Argentina, Delaware, and Southampton I. in the Canadian Arctic. Two early Sanderlings appeared at the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 13 Jul (AW). A maximum count of 4835 molting Semipalmated Sandpipers was made at Longridge Pt. on James Bay 19 Jul (MKP et al.). A first-year Western Sandpiper provided an identification challenge for Ottawa birders 19 Jul at the Almonte W.T.P. (BMD et al.); another of the same age was at Windermere Basin, *Hamilton* 7–9 Jun (CEE et al.). On 6 Jun, a count of 62 White-rumped Sandpipers at Hillman Marsh, Point Pelee (AW) was the highest on record for spring migration there. Baird's Sandpipers are very rare in spring migration in Ontario, so 2 found at Thunder Bay 1 Jun (AW) and a different 4 there 2 Jun (AW, NGE) are significant records. The only Pectoral Sandpiper seen during the spring migration at Presqu'île P.P. was noted 7 Jun (DPS). An ad. male Curlew Sandpiper at Longridge Pt. 17 Jul (RDM, MKP, AWh) was an excellent find for the James Bay coast. An ad. Stilt Sandpiper at the Embrun W.T.P. 22 Jul was a bit early for the Ottawa area (RC). Record late for Point Pelee was a Red-necked Phalarope at Hillman Marsh 4–5 Jun (CAC, RPC).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

There were numerous gull records of interest during the period. A second-cycle Laughing Gull was at Peters Corners near Hamilton 19 Jun and 17–28 Jul (BRH, m.ob.), and another was at Long Pt. 8 Jun (YA). A somewhat late ad. Franklin's Gull was at Thunder Cape 4 Jun (JMW et al.), the only report for the period. Numerous Little Gulls were reported from Point Pelee, which included 12 or more summering first-cycle birds (AW). Two ads. were seen there 3 Jun (MBR), followed by just a single ad. on subsequent dates (AW et al.), suggesting that breeding may have occurred. The first fall migrant ads. were 5 noted at Point Pelee 9 Jul (AW); a record-high 16 ads. were counted there 23 Jul (AW). Another 12 ads. were tallied at Rondeau P.P. 25 Jul (BAM), an unusually high number for that area. Near Moosonee, 5 ads. were seen in courtship flight displays 7 Jul (CDJ, DAS). An ad. Black-headed Gull at Point Pelee 23 Jul (AW) was an early fall migrant and the only one reported. An imm. Iceland Gull was at Bronte 6 Jun (KAM), and a first-cycle Glaucous Gull was at the town of Michipicoten River, *Algoma* 4 Jun (AW). Great Black-backed Gulls were well to the n. of their usual range along the lower Great Lakes, with an

ad. at Netitishi Pt. 3 Jul and a second-cycle bird at Longridge Pt. 6 Jul on the James Bay coast (both DAS, CDJ).

Caspian Terns are rare in the Ottawa area. From 23 Jun through 21 Jul, as many as 5 were at Fitzroy along the Ottawa R. (m.ob.). Black Terns are now rare in the s. James Bay area; only one was seen near Attawapiskat 8 Jul (PH et al.). In the Dryden area, good numbers of Black Terns were noted in several areas. On 26 Jun, 22 ads and two nests were found at Butler L. (DJMS, AMM). Ten nests and 18 ads were counted on Kuensli Bay of Eagle L. 18 Jun (DJMS, AMM), with a single nest and 2 ads. on Beattle Bay of Eagle L. 24 Jun (DJMS, JAB). Six ads. and a downy chick were in a wetland between Wabigoon L. and Eagle L. 6 Jul (DJMS, AMM), with 12 ads. and one nest found on Nabish L. 6 Jul (DJMS, AMM). On 2 Jun, 4 Arctic Terns were at the Deschênes Rapids on the Ottawa R. (BMD). Farther n., 60 were at the Moose R. mouth, *Cochrane* 14 Jun (MWJ, EH). Totalling 920 individuals, a record-high count for Point Pelee, two gatherings of mostly ad. Forster's Terns were tallied 14 Jul, with 680 at Leamington Marina and 240 at Sturgeon Creek Marina (AW). Two Long-tailed Jaegers were seen at Moosonee 12 Jun (MWJ), and another was at the Moose R. mouth 14 Jun (MWJ, EH). A Black Guillemot in first-alternate plumage was at Longridge Pt. 18 Jul (MKP et al.).

Black-billed Cuckoos were present in *Northumberland* in unprecedented numbers. The 12th summer bird count for the area, held 14 Jun, tallied 31 individuals, more than three times the previous high (*vide* CEG). Two Snowy Owls lingered in the Ottawa area, with an ad. male at Nepean through 10 Jun and another near Arnprior 7–15 Jun (m.ob.). Great Gray Owls nested successfully in the Kinburn area near Fitzroy Harbour, Ottawa, where 2 ads. and 3 young were noted in mid-Jun (MWPR). The nest was the most southerly ever recorded in Canada. A Great Gray Owl made an unexpected appearance at Thunder Cape 6 Jun (JMW et al.), and another was noted in Algonquin P.P. 11 Jun (RGT). Owls are rarely observed bathing, but a Great Gray Owl was watched for 10 minutes as it splashed about in a beaver pond near Thunder Bay 13 Jun (SCB, MGB). Two territorial pairs of Short-eared Owls were observed at Kimmount, near Hamilton, on 16 Jun (CEE), indicating a local reliable food source and possibly breeding. An imm. Northern Saw-whet Owl found 8 Jul (DH) provided Presqu'île P.P. with a first confirmed breeding record. Usually rare on the Bruce Pen., 5 Chimney Swifts seen there 6 Jun are of note (SM). A first-year Red-headed Wood-

pecker was at Thunder Cape 4-5 Jun (JMW et al.), and 2 ads and a juv. made a nice record for the Bala area in *Muskoka* 22 Jul (JF). A male Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Thunder Cape 5 Jun (SLS et al.), with another in the town of Rainy River 26 Jun (DHE). The species seems to be increasing in the Rainy River area.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

An Acadian Flycatcher at Skunk's Misery, *Middlesex* 8 Jun was an excellent find for the area (GCP, RR). Eastern Kingbirds reached the James Bay shore, with one at Otterhead Cr. near Moosonee 10 Jul (DAS) and one at Longridge Pt. 22 Jul (RDM et al.). A Yellow-throated Vireo was near Gravenhurst 13 Jun (D&RG). Three juv. Northern Shrikes were seen at Longridge Pt. 27 Jul (DPS, GB, JI). Three Common Ravens flew over Richmond-hill, G.T.A. 21 Jun (FP), another sign of the continuing southward range expansion of the species. On 3 Jun, a Black-billed Magpie made an appearance at Thunder Cape (JMW et al.). A male Horned Lark of the subspecies *hoyti* ("Hoyt's Horned Lark") was a late migrant at Thunder Bay 2 Jun (AW). Apparently unprecedented was a Tree Swallow × Barn Swallow hybrid found at Thunder Bay 1-2 Jun (AW et al.). An early Red-breasted Nuthatch was at Point Pelee N.P. 4 Jul (AW). A territorial male Sedge Wren at The Shoals P.P., *Sudbury* 4 Jun (AW) was an excellent record for the e. part of L. Superior. A singing Marsh Wren was an unexpected find at Otterhead Cr. near Moosonee 10 Jul (DAS). Totally unexpected was a male Northern Wheatear found at Redbridge, *Nipissing* 4 Jun (CTH, EMH). Very rare for *Essex* in summer, a singing Hermit Thrush was found at Pelee I. 18 Jun (ACP). A singing Wood Thrush in willow thickets s. of Fort Albany on the James Bay coast 3-10 Jul (PH et al.) was far n. of its usual range in the province. Also unusually far n. were a singing Gray Catbird at the Harri-canaw R. mouth 5 Jul (WJC, MJO) and a Northern Mockingbird at Moosonee 15 Jul (MKP et al.). Another mockingbird at Point Pelee N.P. 22 Jul (AW) was locally a record-early fall migrant. A very late American Pipit was at Longlac, *Thunder Bay* 9 Jun (FJ).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Yellow-throated Warbler singing near Gravelly Bay on Long Pt. 22 Jun (RWW) was most unexpected for the date. A pair of Yellow Palm Warblers (subspecies *hypochrysea*) bred successfully at Mer Bleue Bog in the Mer Bleue C.A. near Ottawa, where 3 juvs. were noted 11 Jul (LS). A first-year Connecticut Warbler at Skunk's Misery 3 Jun (PSB) was a

tardy migrant. A late Hooded Warbler was in downtown Toronto 3-4 Jun (LF); another was at the Tip of Point Pelee N.P. 9 Jun (AW). Numbers of Yellow-breasted Chat continue to be depressed. Only one pair was found at Point Pelee N.P. (AW), and only two pairs were at Pelee I. (ACP). A single chat banded at the Tip of Long Pt. 18 Jun (YA) was certainly at a bizarre location for the date. A territorial Prairie Warbler at Westover 5 Jun (RZD) was the first found in the Hamilton area since 2002.

SA Golden-winged Warblers are found in cen. and s. Ontario, with a small population in the Rainy River area. The warblers in cen. and s. Ontario have been interbreeding with Blue-winged Warblers, and it is suspected there may no longer be any pure Golden-winged Warblers in that part of the province. A multi-agency study is underway in Manitoba and the Rainy River area to ascertain the status of the species in that area where Blue-winged Warblers are not present. Golden-winged Warblers were found in surprising numbers in the Rainy River area, with birds being found on 15.7% of 428 point counts, much higher than numbers found in Manitoba. It is suspected that recent timber harvesting activities in the area during the past 10 years have created an abundance of suitable habitat for Golden-winged.

A first-year male Summer Tanager was singing in the Hepburn Tract near Long Pt. 6 Jul (SAM). A male Eastern Towhee at Marathon, *Thunder Bay* 16 Jun (FJM) was well out of its usual range. A surprise for observers was the widespread occurrence of singing Clay-colored Sparrows along the James Bay coast 1-30 Jul (MKP et al.). A Lark Bunting was present near Lake on the Mountain 4 Jun (PS), a very unusual find. Two Lark Sparrows appeared at Thunder Cape, with one present 31 May-5 Jun (JMW et al.) and another 25 Jun (JMW, MEW). The Northumberland Summer Bird Count located 83 Grasshopper Sparrows 14 Jun, a surprising and very encouraging number for this declining species (*vide* CEG). A singing Henslow's Sparrow was a complete surprise in a coastal graminoid marsh at Paskwachi Pt. on James Bay 27-29 Jul (RDM, MKP, AW et al.), a first record for n. Ontario and presumably the most northerly record anywhere for the species. A White-crowned Sparrow at Point Pelee N.P. 21 Jun (AW, HTO) provided a first-ever summer record locally. A Dark-eyed Junco also at Point Pelee N.P. 13 Jun was very late if indeed a migrant (HTO). Two very late Lapland Longspurs were at Thunder Bay 2 Jun (AW, NGE). A Northern Cardinal visited feeders at Harris Hill Lodge n.

of Rainy River 15-17 Jul (CG, GG). A male Blue Grosbeak made a remarkable record for the Sault Ste. Marie area 26 May-7 Jun (WHE). Ontario's 9th Lazuli Bunting remained at Crooks, *Thunder Bay* 31 May-3 Jun (SEI, RII et al.). Two Western Meadowlarks were noted 14 Jun near Strathroy (PAR, IP) the only record for the period. An unidentified meadowlark was flushed from the train tracks just s. of Moosonee 11 Jun (MWJ), well n. of any meadowlark habitat. After last winter's invasion, Pine Siskins were noted breeding in numerous locations across s. Ontario (m.ob.).

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Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



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The summer was generally mild, with mean temperatures below average and some record lows reached locally. The cooler temperatures may have been associated with several exceptional records of boreal breeders lingering within the Region. Birders are increasingly anticipating, and finding, near-annual vagrants such as Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and White Ibis. Summer breeding bird atlas work abounded in the Region, as Pennsylvanians added some last-minute survey efforts for an additional year to their six-year project, while Ohio's atlas entered its fourth year and West Virginia initiated the state's second project in its inaugural year. Reports of vagrants were few and far between, although Long-billed Curlew would represent a second Pennsylvania record, and West Virginia hosted its second Tricolored Heron. Birders were kept busy with exciting breeding activity that produced some exceptional records. Eurasian Collared-Dove added Ohio to its résumé, and Merlin continued its magical return, breeding in Ohio for the first time in almost a century and in West Virginia for the first time ever.

Abbreviations: Conneaut (Conneaut Marsh and Harbor, *Ashtabula*, OH); Killbuck Marsh (Killbuck Marsh W.A., *Wayne/Holmes*, OH); Headlands (Headlands Beach S. P. and State Nature Preserve, *Lake*, OH); Magee (Magee Marsh W.M.A., *Lucas/Ottawa*, OH); O.D.N.R. (Ohio Department of Natural Resources); Ottawa (Ot-

tawa N.W.R., *Lucas/Ottawa*, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., *Eric*, PA); S.R.C.F. (Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, PA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

Trumpeter Swans nesting in *Guernsey*, OH (D. LeVasseur) demonstrate the spread into the Allegheny Plateau. A lingering Tundra Swan was a P.I.S.P. through at least 23 Jun (JM). Lone Gadwalls were in *Harrison*, OH 3 Jun (S. Albaugh), *Lorain*, OH 6 Jun (B.R.A.), and *Jefferson*, WV 7 Jun (E. Kirschnaum). *Hardin*, OH saw its first nesting record of Northern Shoveler, with 10 there 4 Jul (RC). A pair of Northern Pintails in *Ottawa*, OH 18 Jun (MSh) was suspected of nesting. Two male Green-winged Teal were found at *Ottawa* 7 Jun (*vide* D. Vogus), but more intrigu-



After several years of sight records, breeding confirmation for Common Merganser in West Virginia came in the form of these 15 young and two adults 22 July 2009 on the South Fork of the Potomac River, in Smoke Hole Canyon, Pendleton County. Photograph by Mike Powell.

ing was a pair at Tri-Valley W.M.A., *Muskingum*, OH 14 Jun (CP). Single Green-winged Teal in suitable breeding habitat were found in *Fulton*, OH 29 Jun (TK) and *Hardin* OH 4 Jul (RC). Breeding Redheads were confirmed in *Ottawa*, OH 18 Jun (MSh), when hen with a brood was observed; a lone Redhead was on the Ohio R. 23 & 25 Jun (J. Frogde). Mid-summer Ohio Ring-necked Ducks were found in *Franklin* 5 Jun (2; S. Jones; 8 Jun, J. Thurston), *Auglaize* 3 Jul (D. Snuffer), *Mont-*

gomery 3 Jul (RA), and *Paulding* 25-31 Jul (DMD). In Pennsylvania, single Ring-necked Ducks lingered in *Berks* at Peter's Creek 14 Jun (MW) and *Oley* 4 Jul (RK). Single male Lesser Scaup were in *Guernsey*, OH 20-21 Jun (DS, DL), *Paulding*, OH 3 Jul (DMD), and *Berks*, PA 30 Jun (F. Haas). A pair of Hooded Mergansers was in *Morgan*, OH 12 Jun (B. Lowe), while a hen with 6 young was in *Randolph*, WV 27 Jun (RT). Common Mergansers continue to be reported in ne. Ohio during the breeding season: one was seen 4 Jun along *Conneaut Cr.*, *Ashtabula* 4 Jun (CH). Single Red-breasted Mergansers appeared 7 Jul in *Ashtabula*, OH (MV) and *Lorain* OH (B.R.A.), and one was at L. *Ontelaunee*, *Berks*, PA 5 Jun (MW). A lingering Bufflehead was in *Bucks*, PA 10 Jun (E. Boenzli). Single Ruddy Ducks

were scattered across *Trumbull*, OH 13 Jun and 5 Jul (DHo, CH), *Summit*, OH (D. & A. Chasar), in *Chester*, PA 10-20 Jun and 29 Jul (*vide* NP) and *Bucks*, PA, 13 Jun (DF). A rare summer record for the e. Panhandle came 25-31 Jul in *Jefferson*, WV (MO, m.ob.).

Observations of Northern Bobwhite from ne. Ohio included records in *Columbiana* 25 Jul (JD), *Mahoning* 16 Jun (WJo), and *Trumbull* 1 Jun (DHo); a covey of 11 in *Jefferson*, WV 25 Jun (MO) was exceptional for

the e. Panhandle. Although summering (non-breeding) Common Loons are routine in Ohio, less expected were singles in *Hamilton* 27 Jun (K. Westendorf), in *Pike* 4 Jun (C. Ball), and *Ashtabula* 8 Jul (CH), with 4 seen in *Warren* 24 Jul (RA). In Pennsylvania, lingering Common Loons included 3 in *Bucks* 12-26 Jun (m.ob.) and 4 on *Raystown L.*, *Huntingdon* 16 Jul+ (G. Bickel). Twelve American White Pelicans (*vide* DKr) dropped in at a *Stark*, OH park 25 Jun, with numbers increasing to 28 birds 26 Jun (ph. Gly), a record summer count for Ohio. Two were at *Magee* 21 Jun (ph. D. Adams) and one in *Hardin*, OH 13 Jul (RC), where it was a county first. Three unconfirmed reports of Brown Pelican from *Portage*, OH 18, 21, & 25 Jun (*vide* Gly, DKr) were followed by confirmation of one in *Lake*, OH 2 Jul (ph. JP). Frank Renfrow confirmed another 13

SA The resurgence of Common Merganser in the s. Alleghenys has been one of slow but steady progress s. and w. of the burgeoning populations in New York and Pennsylvania (and more recently Maryland and n. Virginia). The West Virginia chapter of this expansion began in 2001 with observations on the Dryfork R. in *Preston*, with 20 birds present in mid-Aug. Subsequently, there were unconfirmed reports of two broods in 2006 on the Dryfork (*vide* Casey Rucker). In 2008, we reported on a brood on Shavers Fork in *Randolph*. This season saw a pair with young in the same vicinity on Shavers Fork just upstream from Porterwood, *Randolph* 1 Jun (*vide* RT). Another pair was observed on Shavers Fork just downstream from Cheat Bridge in *Randolph* 8 Jun (*vide* RT). Finally, Mike Powell photographed 2 ad. females with 15 young at Smoke Hole Canyon on the s. fork of the Potomac R. in *Pendleton* 15 Jul for confirmation of the state's first breeding record since 1897. In addition, 3 males were observed on the Potomac R. near Shepherdstown, *Jefferson* 8 Jul (*vide* RT). There is little doubt that the West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas will add new pages to this chapter.



American White Pelicans are increasing as visitors to many parts of the East and Midwest, even in summer, as attested by up to 28 birds in Stark County, Ohio 26 July 2009. Photograph by Gabe Leidy.



A few reports of Brown Pelican in northeastern Ohio in late June 2009 culminated with this bird nicely documented in Lake County on 2 July. Photograph by John Pogacnik.

Jul in Hamilton, OH as it flew in from the Kentucky side of the Ohio River. Single American Bitterns in different Morgan, OH wetlands were unexpected 10 Jun (DS, DL) and 3 Jul (B. Lowe). A Least Bittern at a restored wetland in Union, OH was noteworthy (fide KW), as was another in Hancock, OH 12 Jul (RSs). In Pennsylvania, Least Bitterns presumed breeding were present in Bucks, Cumberland, and Erie (DF, VG, JM). The presence of 25 Great Egrets in Trumbull, OH 1 Jun (fide DHo) led to the observation of an individual collecting nesting material 10 Jun (LGo). Unexpected was one in Putnam, WV 6 Jun (CE), with 2 in the highlands of Pocohontas, WV 28 Jul (S. Kearns). Little Blue Heron reports in Pennsylvania included 5 in Bucks 11-27 Jul (fide AM) and 2 at S.R.C.F 28 Jul (CC). Harlan Spring Rd. pond, Jefferson, WV hosted an imm. 23-29 Jul (BD, m.ob.). The same observer discovered a Tricolored Heron at nearby Stauffer's Marsh, Jefferson 29-31 Jul (BD, m.ob.), only the 2nd for West Virginia. Three

Snowy Egrets along the Schuylkill R., Berks, PA 26 Jul were unusual (SF), as were 2 Cattle Egrets at Toppin, Berks 12 Jun (SF). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found feeding within in a Franklin, OH spillway 14 Jun (RTh), and one in Delaware, PA 19 Jun-1 Jul was rare there (L. Lewis). An imm. White Ibis obliged many in Guernsey, OH 14-19 Jul (EH, ph. R. Tressler). Two one-day wonders in West Virginia included one a mile n. of the Rte. 33 bridge over the Buckhannon R., Upshur, WV 19 Jul (ph. W. Kordek, fide RT), and an imm. along the Kanawha R., near St. Albans, Kanawha, WV 22 Jul (ph. S. Fox). A White-faced Ibis was in Ottawa, OH 30 Jun-1 Jul (R. Hinkle, ph. GLy). Glossy Ibis were at Landenburg, Chester, PA 4 Jun (KF) and 10 Jul (A. Leidig).

VULTURES THROUGH TERNS

Two Black Vultures were seen 3 Jul in Ashland, OH (GCo). Several Osprey nests appeared at new Ohio locations in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Geauga, Marion, Meigs, Portage, Summit, and Warren (fide DSh, O.D.N.R.). Mississippi Kites returned, once again, to a private golf club in Hocking, OH for the 3rd straight year; ads. were seen 12 & 17 Jun (fide B. Whan). Elsewhere, a kite over the Cincinnati Zoo, Hamilton, OH 30 Jun (ph. TSh) and another ad. kite over suburban Columbus 15 & 16 Jun (ph. B. Master) were intriguing. In Pennsylvania, Mississippi Kites included up to 2 in Lancaster 1-2 Jun (E. Chubbs, M. Lombard et al.) and one in Berks 10 Jun (TC). The Bald Eagle population increased for the 22nd consecutive year in Ohio; 33 new eagle nests were found in Butler, Franklin, Hamilton, Logan,

Medina, Montgomery, Paulding, Pike, and Scioto (fide O.D.N.R.). Single Northern Harriers in Stark, OH 12 Jun (CMc) and in Washington, OH 27 Jun (B. Bond) were unexpected. New Ohio pairs of Peregrine Falcons were observed in Franklin and Trumbull (fide O.D.N.R.) but apparently did not nest. Peregrines nested in Clinton, PA, the first time there since the DDT era (W. Laubscher).

Two King Rails were observed at Pickerel Creek W.M.A., Sandusky, OH 13 Jun (KW), and one was at Killbuck Marsh 27 Jun (GLy). A Common Moorhen was at a restored Union, OH wetland 4 Jun, with a pair evident there 15 Jun (fide KW), and a moorhen nest was found in Belmont, OH 22 Jun (EH). A Common Moorhen in Dauphin, PA 12 Jun was unusual for that locale (B. & J. Horton). A pair of Sandhill Cranes at Slate Run Metro Park, Pickaway, OH continued into Jun (fide J. Watts), while a new nest in Madison, OH produced at least one colt (fide DSh). O.D.N.R. survey efforts yielded evidence of 21 young produced in the state during the period. A reliable second-hand report of a pair with one fledgling in Knox, OH is intriguing (fide M. Bowman). Since 1993, Plain Grove, Lawrence continues to be the most reliable nesting site for this species in Pennsylvania (MV). One in Lebanon, PA all summer was unusual for that locale (A. Annibali, fide R. Miller).

Single Black-bellied Plovers were in Ottawa, OH (CC) and Ashtabula, OH (CH) 18 Jul. A color-banded ad. Piping Plover was at Conneaut 26 Jul+ (R. Krajewski, fide JP; CH, ph. L. Keene, m.ob.). Four American Avocets were in Franklin, OH 26-27 Jul (B. Sparks, DSr); 2 were in Montgomery, OH 31 Jul (RA); and one was at Pymatuning L., Crawford, PA 17 Jul (MV). Three at Sutton Dam, Braxton, WV 23 Jul (S. Gillespie) were exceptional for the highlands. Two Black-necked Stilts were at S.R.C.F 10 Jun (CC, EW et al.). Fifty Solitary Sandpipers in Montgomery, OH 31 Jul (RA) made an excellent count for the species anywhere. Fifteen Willets were at Conneaut 22 Jul (CH), with singles reported in Ottawa, OH 23 Jul (TB), Erie, OH 26 Jul (GLy), and Wayne, OH

SA A single Merlin first observed in Lake, OH 16 Jun (JP) continued from the same location through Jun and into Jul. An ad. female was observed bringing food to at least 2 juvs. 16 Jul. This nesting continues a westward return to the Allegheny foothills and is Ohio's first nesting record since the 1930s. In Pennsylvania, Merlins successfully raised young for the 3rd year in a row at Promised Land S.P., Pike (RW). Topping off these discoveries, Casey Rucker visiting settling ponds of the ski resort in the Canaan Valley highlands of Grant, WV 30 Jul came across an ad. Merlin. Recalling a report, accompanied by photographs, earlier in the week of a "family" of Merlins on private property in the vicinity, he investigated that evening to find 2 ads. and 2 juvs. there. The ad. female persisted in giving agitated alarm calls, while the 2 juvs. gave soft mewling calls. Upon closer approach (100 m), the ad. female took flight toward the observer, circling 3 m overhead, calling all the while. This observation marks a first breeding record for West Virginia—and the southernmost breeding outpost for the species in North America and indeed anywhere in the world.



White Ibis have become regular, albeit typically brief, summer visitors in many parts of the lower Midwest and intermontane East. This immature, one of two in West Virginia in summer 2009, appeared 19 July along the Buckhannon River in Upshur County. Photograph by Walt Kordek.



After a recent spate of records, White Ibis is no longer a review species in West Virginia! This immature was found along the Kanawha River in Kanawha County 22 July 2009. Photograph by Steven Fox.

24-28 Jul (James F. Yoder, W. Brubaker). In Pennsylvania, single Willets were at Imperial, Allegheny 23-26 Jul (D. Wilton et al.), Fox Chapel, Allegheny 27 Jul (B. Shema), and P.I.S.P. 16 Jul, with 4 there 22 Jul (JM). Atlas-ing effort in Ohio turned up territorial Upland Sandpipers in Champaign 15-16 Jun (TSh, AB), Madison 21 Jun (DO), and Mercer 24 Jun (TK). Encouraging counts of this dwindling species

(MV); 2 were at Headlands 27 Jun (CMc, m.ob.). In Pennsylvania, three nesting colonies of Herring Gulls in Allegheny held 86 ads. and 5 young 27 Jun (MV). Lingering white-winged gulls in Bucks, PA included an Iceland Gull along the Delaware R. 6-12 Jun and a Glaucous at the Penn Warner Tract 12 Jun (DF). Another Glaucous Gull was at P.I.S.P. 24 Jun (J. Dell). A late Caspian Tern in

came from Richland, OH, where up to 8 were reported through Jun (m.ob.); Harrison, OH also had reports of 4 birds in Jun (m.ob.). A Long-billed Curlew at P.I.S.P. 26 Jul was well described by an observer familiar with the species (p.a., J. Hill). An early Whimbrel was in Ashtabula, OH 13 Jul (CH); later Whimbrel records in Ohio came from Ashtabula 31 Jul (MV), Lorain 26 Jul (CP), and Ottawa 24 Jul (CC), and one was at P.I.S.P. 31 Jul (JM). A Hudsonian Godwit was at S.R.C.F. 29 Jul (CC, EW). Single Marbled Godwits were at Conneaut 21 Jul (CC) and Ottawa 26 Jul (fide C. Knoll).

The 150 Lesser Yellowlegs brought down by a rainstorm in Mason, WV 29 Jul (W. Argabrite, M. Griffith) was a healthy total. A late Ruddy Turnstone was in Ottawa, OH 15 Jun (fide J. Witter). The 143 Ruddy Turnstones over Peace Valley Park, Bucks, PA 1 Jun (DF) must have been stunning. Possibly breeding Wilson's Snipe were reported from Butler, OH 3 Jul (J. Hull), Paulding, OH 18 Jun (3 birds; DMD), and Mahoning, OH 21 Jun (fide WJo). A Wilson's Snipe at Imperial Grasslands 2 Jul furnished only the 2nd summer record for Allegheny, PA (MV). A Wilson's Phalarope showed up at a farm pond in Tuscarawas, OH 6 Jun (Jennifer & Christina Schla-bach), and 2 were in Sandusky, OH 21 Jul (GLy). A single female Red-necked Phalarope was a surprise in Sandusky, OH 1 Jun (RSW).

A first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Conneaut 13 Jun (CH). Seven Great Black-backed Gulls was a good number at Conneaut 7 Jun (MV); 2 were at Headlands 27 Jun (CMc, m.ob.). In Pennsylvania, three nesting colonies of Herring Gulls in Allegheny held 86 ads. and 5 young 27 Jun (MV). Lingering white-winged gulls in Bucks, PA included an Iceland Gull along the Delaware R. 6-12 Jun and a Glaucous at the Penn Warner Tract 12 Jun (DF). Another Glaucous Gull was at P.I.S.P. 24 Jun (J. Dell). A late Caspian Tern in



This White Ibis was found in an obscure wetland in Guernsey, Ohio 14-19 (here 14) July 2009. Whereas *Plegadis ibis* in the Ohio-West Virginia-Pennsylvania region tend to frequent man-made marshes, White Ibis are more often reported along rivers and in wooded wetlands in sparsely populated areas of the Alleghenys. Photograph by Renee Tressler.

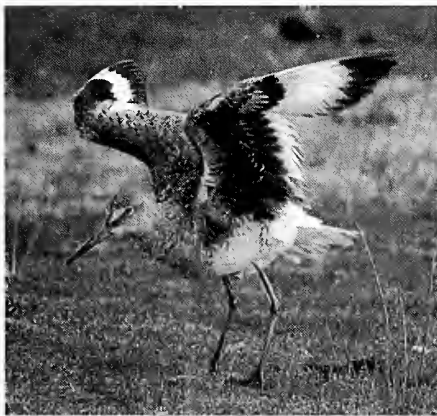
Richland, OH 15 Jun (CBI) and a high count of 16 for the interior in Knox, OH 31 Jul (GCo) were noteworthy. In Pennsylvania, nice counts of Caspian Terns included 6 at Blue Marsh L., Berks 11 Jul (J. Silagy), 5 at L. Ontelaunee, Berks 12 Jul (MW), and 7 at Peace Valley Park, Bucks 25 Jul (AM, JM). Two Arctic Terns were on the Susquehanna R. at Columbia, Lancaster, PA 2 Jun (D. Weber). A Least Tern was at S.R.C.F. 7 Jun (BS). Marsh bird surveys at Cedar Point N.W.R., Lucas, OH yielded a Black Tern nest 16 Jun (KW). Early fall migrants included 3 s. to Pickaway, OH 17 Jul (RTh), while one strayed to a farm pond in Holmes, OH 23 Jun (B. Glick). A single Forster's Tern in breeding plumage was in Columbiana, OH 21 Jun (RL); 2 were in Portage, OH 26 Jun (GLy).

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

Ohio's first confirmed breeding record for Eurasian Collared-Dove came from Logan 15 Jun, when juv. birds were found in the vicinity where an ad. was previously observed carrying nesting material (TSh). A pair of Eurasian Collared-Doves was observed in Mercer, OH 14 Jun (TSh), where noted in recent years. In e.-cen. Ohio, multiple collared-doves were observed in Holmes and Tuscarawas throughout the period (fide ES). A White-winged Dove was seen in Holmes, OH 25-26 Jun (A. Barkman, fide ES). At least 50 Barn Owl nests were recorded in their ne. Ohio stronghold around Holmes and vicinity this season (fide ES); scarcer in sw.



This adult White-faced Ibis at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ottawa County, Ohio 30 June 2009 was also present the following day. Photograph by Gabe Leidy.



Allegheny County, Pennsylvania's fifth Willet (all records since 2004) appeared at Bald Knob 23-26 (here 25) July 2009 and was the first to appear in the county away from its famous three rivers. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

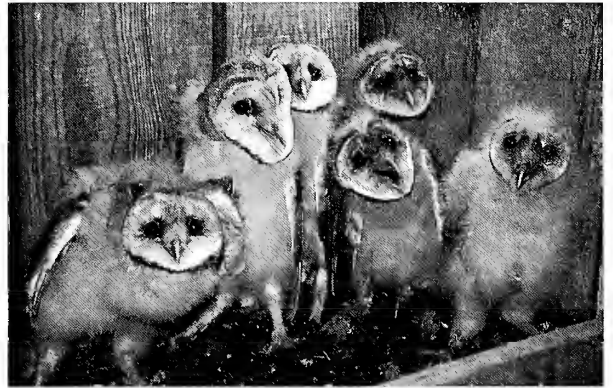
Ohio, a single Barn Owl was in *Brown* throughout the period (John Troyer, Jr.). An indication of the success of placing nesting boxes in suitable habitat in Pennsylvania was the 75 Barn Owl nestlings banded at 19 sites in *Dauphin*, *Lancaster*, *Berks*, *York*, and *Lebanon* (fide D. Mummert). A Long-eared Owl was observed in *Ashtabula*, OH 1 Jul (LGo, TM, CH; v.r.). Two separate Northern Saw-whet Owls remained in suitable breeding habitat in *Lake*, OH from May through 11 & 19 Jun, respectively (JP). The Chuck-will's-widow reported in May in *Bucks*, PA remained through at least 6 Jun (fide AM). A Whip-poor-will in *Bucks*, PA 3 Jun (D. Long) was rare for that locale. Hess reports that recent Breeding Bird Atlas data from sw. Pennsylvania, "confirms the severe decline of Common Nighthawk during the 20 years since the first atlas." In *Northampton*, PA, one or 2 returned to a barren mountainside that had been denuded by a zinc operation (RW), and at P.I.S.P., a pair

nested on a "large grassy sand plain" (D. Snyder). A female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was observed w. to *Lorain*, OH 6 Jul (H. Spencer). Unusual for mid-summer was an ad. male Rufous Hummingbird described near Pittsburgh, *Allegheny*, PA 5-19 Jul (fide R. Protz).

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen in *Clarion*, PA 21 Jun by an observer familiar with the species (S. Collins). Late Ohio Olive-sided Flycatchers lingered in *Cuyahoga* 14 Jun (B. Tacon), *Lucas* 10 Jun (M. Anderson), and *Tuscarawas* 13 Jun (Leroy Schlabach). Late

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at Magee 7 Jun (GS) and in *Lake*, OH 8 Jun (JP). A territorial Alder Flycatcher continued through 8 Jul in *Logan*, OH (TSh), and counter-singing males were detected in *Coshocton*, OH 22 Jun (AB). Alder Flycatchers continue as breeders at Clear Creek Metro Park, *Hocking*, OH, where a pair was observed 5 Jun (CM). Least Flycatchers in s. Ohio were in *Montgomery* 9 Jun (E. Neubauer) and in *Pickaway* 12 Jun (CM). A Bell's Vireo returned to a *Franklin*, OH location through 16 Jun (J. Lehman). In sw. Ohio, a pair was present in *Hamilton* through 2 Jul (B. Wulker); nesting confirmation came from *Montgomery* 3 Jul (RA, J. Habig); and a singing bird was in *Clark* 19 Jul (DO). A Blue-headed Vireo was on territory throughout the period in *Coshocton*, OH (Adam Yoder). The only Loggerhead Shrike was reported from *Jefferson*, WV 24 Jul (R. Hilton).

Common Ravens continue to crop up in e.-cen. Ohio, where 4 were seen within *Harrison* strip mine lands 28 Jun (RSW). Singles were observed in *Noble* 1 Jun (B. Morrison, K. Miller) and in adjacent *Marshall*, WV 19 Jun (TBr). In e. Pennsylvania, Common Ravens have expanded their range s. of the Kittatinny Ridge. Adults with young were noted in *Northampton* (RW) and *Bucks* (fide AM). In sw. Pennsylvania, a family group at Woods Run, Pittsburgh in Jul furnished a 2nd breeding record for *Allegheny* (A. Berchin). A noteworthy Red-breasted Nuthatch was calling in *Perry*, OH 16 Jun (EH), and a lingering bird was at Tyler Arboretum, *Delaware*, PA 17 Jun (T. Reeves). A territorial Brown Creeper in *Muskingum*, OH was a good find 29 Jun (DSr, AB), and a family party in *Lucas* 24 Jul (MSh) was noteworthy for nw. Ohio. Unusual was a stray Winter Wren in *Hancock*, OH 21 Jun (RSs), while a territorial bird in *Wayne*, OH 6-14 Jun (W. Brubaker) was in suitable breeding habitat. A Winter Wren at Hay Creek, *Berks*, PA 6 Jun



These six young Barn Owls in a nest box in Rehresburg, Berks County were among 75 nestling Barn Owls banded in five counties in south-central Pennsylvania during 2009, the result of a successful nest box program (here 29 June 2009).

Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

was late (K. Lebo). Ohio Sedge Wrens were confirmed nesting 4 Jul in *Union* (N. Nye), and territorial birds of note were in *Butler* 25 Jul (S. Fitton) and *Lawrence* 24 Jul (J. Friggens). At least 8 Marsh Wrens were in a *Hardin*, OH wetland 13 & 18 Jul (RC). Multiple pairs nesting in *Muskingum*, OH 24 Jun (AB) and in *Guernsey*, OH 28 Jun (S. Pendleton) represent the southernmost found in the current atlas effort. An excellent count of 24 Marsh Wrens came from John Heinz N.W.R., *Delaware*, PA 9 Jun (B. Byrnes). A single Golden-crowned



Eurasian Collared-Doves have frequented Holmes County, Ohio over the past few years, and the species was finally confirmed nesting in the state in June (here 27 June) 2009. Photograph by Gabe Leidy.

Kinglet was in *Lorain*, OH 2 Jul (fide B.R.A.). A lingering Ruby-crowned Kinglet was in Penn Forest Township, *Carbon*, PA 7 Jun (ph. DF). A Veery at a preserve in *Darke*, OH 30 Jun (R. Clifford) was a good find. A territorial Hermit Thrush in *Harrison*, OH 25 Jun (EH) was well away from known populations.

Cuyahoga Valley N.P., *Cuyahoga*, OH seems to be the only reliable location in the state to find Golden-winged Warbler during the summer period; one was seen there 6 Jun (RSH). A late Tennessee Warbler was at Ottawa 7 Jun (fide A. Bartley). Exceptional for Ohio, an ad. Nashville Warbler was observed attending to 2 fledglings 13 Jul in *Lake* (JP). A late tran-



Present during June (here 9 June) 2009 at Runnymede Farm, Chester County, this Dickcissel was one of seven singing males found in Pennsylvania during the summer season. Photograph by Dustin Welch.

sient bird was heard singing 6 Jun in *Tuscarawas*, OH (Levi Yoder). A pair at Canaan Valley N.W.R., *Grant*, WV 5 Jul (D. Courtney) was at the s. limits of the species' range in the Alleghenys. A singing Northern Parula on Kelleys I., *Erie*, OH 17 Jun (TB) represented a rare summer record for the island. The species continues to consolidate its presence in nw. Ohio, with additional territorial records from *Fulton* (3 Jun; RSR), *Defiance* (two locations: 8 Jun, KW; 14 Jun, RSR), *Hancock* (countersinging males 5 & 10 Jul, RSRs), and *Lucas* (two locations: 25 Jun, C. Anderson; 29 Jun, R. Nirschl). A territorial Chestnut-sided Warbler in *Knox* 6 Jul (AB) was at the s. edge of the species' typical breeding range in Ohio. A singing Magnolia Warbler was out of place on Kelleys I., *Erie*, OH 17 Jun (TB); a territorial individual was in *Jefferson*, OH 6 Jun (RL). A singing Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Ashtabula*, OH 13 Jun (*vide* TM) could not be relocated. A territorial male in *Geauga* 5 & 12 Jun (L. Gilbert) and at least 3 territorial males summering in *Lake* (H. Petruschke) continue hopes for a return of the species to Ohio's breeding avifauna. A Blackburnian Warbler was on territory in *Columbiana*, OH 13 Jun (R. Antonucci). Late (breeding?) Blackburnian Warblers in *Berks*, PA included singing males at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 6 Jun (B. Moses) and Stony Creek 1-8 Jun (TC). A well-described Palm Warbler was an extraordinary find at the Sandstone Visitor Center, *Summers*, WV 5 Jul (P. Barker). Lingered migrants included a Blackpoll Warbler in *Richland*, OH 2 Jun (GCo), Mourning Warbler in *Montgomery*, OH 3 Jun (P. Ware), and a Wilson's Warbler in *Marion*, OH 1 Jun (AB). A Prothonotary Warbler in Morgantown, *Monongalia*, WV 7 Jun (TBr) was unusual for the highlands. A Kentucky Warbler in the Delaware S.E., *Pike*, PA 20 Jun was unusual at

510 m elevation (RW). A lingering Wilson's Warbler was at Big Spring, *Cumberland*, PA 6 Jun (VG). A Northern Waterthrush singing at Bear Swamp, *Northampton* 26 Jun was at its s. limit in e. Pennsylvania (RW). The territorial Swainson's Warbler in *Preston*, WV remained through 11 Jun (L. Graffious, m.ob.).

A Henslow's Sparrow in *Chester* 10 Jun+ (KF) was rare for se. Pennsylvania. Atlasing in West Virginia brought to light several locales for the species, including 2 at Cross Creek W.M.A., *Brooke* 10 Jun (J. Boback). A Clay-colored Sparrow summered in *Holmes*, OH but was apparently unmated (James F. Yoder). Single territorial Clay-colored Sparrows were at the e. edge of their range in Pennsylvania in *Clearfield* 6 Jun (J. Dunn, S. Lewis) and *Junia-ta* in Jul (A. Renno). Three Lark Sparrows continued at O.S.U., where copulation 15 Jun (AB, DSr) was suggestive of local breeding. Stray Ohio White-throated Sparrows were in *Erie* 29 Jun (M. Gentry), *Lucas* 7 Jun (GS), and *Richland* 19 Jun (CBL). A White-crowned Sparrow at P.I.S.P. 29 Jun adds to the mid-summer records for the L. Erie shoreline (J. Flynn). A singing Summer Tanager was in Carlisle Springs, *Cumberland*, PA 10 Jun (A. Markel). A Blue Grosbeak in *Guernsey*, OH 15 Jul (A. Sewell) adds to the records from e.-cen. counties, and several pairs in *Tuscarawas* included two new locations in the county (*vide* ES). There was an "explosion" of Blue Grosbeaks in the Lehigh Valley area of e. Pennsylvania, with at least seven pairs found in *Lehigh*, *Northampton*, and *Carbon* (D. Welch, RW, R. Hoopes, A. Smith). This is the n. limit of their range in e. Pennsylvania. Even more unusual were 2 singing at high elevation on the Allegheny Plateau in *Sprout* S.E., *Centre*, PA 9 Jun–25 Jul (GG). One was noteworthy in the e. Pandhandle of West Virginia in *Jefferson* 20-31 Jul (MO, m.ob.), while another summered at the Winfield Locks, *Putnam*, WV (R. Hardway, CE).

In Pennsylvania, territorial Dickcissels were found in *Chester*, *Adams*, *Franklin*, *Bucks*, and *Northampton* during the period (m.ob.). An Orchard Oriole nest at Lackawaxen, *Pike* in Jun was at its n. limit along the Delaware R. in e. Pennsylvania (RW). A Western Meadowlark returned to *Wood*, OH (*vide* TK), and one was territorial in *Paulding*, OH 1 Jun–18 Jul (DMD). Also of note was a singing Western Meadowlark in sw. Ohio in *Hamilton* 1 Jul (TSh). Lingered White-winged Crossbills in Pennsylvania included 5 in *Northampton* 5 Jun (*vide* RW), 4 in *Lehigh* 13 Jun (B. Etter), one in *Berks* 24 Jun (RK), and 2 in *Potter* 19 Jul (JF). An amazing 35 White-winged Crossbills were in *Tioga*, PA 15 Jun (B. Israel). The southernmost report came from Big Spruce Overlook,

Pocahontas, WV 3 Jun (ph. K. Aldinger) in the company of Red Crossbills. In the wake of the massive winter irruption of Pine Siskins into the Region, nesting birds turned up in several Ohio counties. In *Holmes*, birds were still coming to feeders into early Jul (*vide* ES). In Pennsylvania, many Pine Siskins were reported at feeders through Jun into early Jul. A pair nesting at Phoenixville, PA was a first for *Chester* (V. Smith). They have become routine in recent summers in West Virginia, where singles were reported from *Putnam* 5 Jun (K. Kazmierski), *Wayne* 10 Jun (G. Rankin), and *Tucker* 21 Jun (C. Rucker). A female Evening Grosbeak was seen in *Erie*, OH 24-25 Jun (B. Phillips, S. Wright).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold). OHIO: Rick Asamoto (RA), Black River Audubon (B.R.A.), Carl Ball (CBL), Tom Bartlett (TB), Aaron Boone (AB), Craig Caldwell (CC), Rick Counts (RC), Gary Cowell (GCo), Jim Dolan (JD), Doug & Micki Dunakin (DMD), Laura Gooch (LGo), Eric Hall (EH), Rob & Sandy Harlan (RSW), Dave Hochadel (DHo), Craig Holt (CH), William Jones (WJo), Ned Keller, Tom Kemp (TK), Dan Kramer (DKr), Terri Martincic (TM), Chuck McClagherty (CMc), Carrie Morrow (CM), Robert Lane (RL), Gabe Leidy (GLy), Dorene Linzell (DL), Doug Overacker (DO), Chris Pierce (CP), John Pogacnik (JP), Robert Sams (RSs), Dan Sanders (DS), Mark Shieldcastle (MSh), Ed Sclabach (ES), Ryan Schroeder (RSr), Dave Sherman (DSh), Troy Shively (TSh), Dave Slager (DSr), Su Snyder, Gene Stauffer (GS), Rob Thorn (RTh), Mark Vass (MV), Karen Willard (KW). PENNSYLVANIA: Chuck Chalfant (CC), Tom Clauser (TC), David Eberly (DE), Devich Farbotnik (DF), John Fedak (JF), Steve Fordyce (SF), Kevin Fryberger (KF), Vern Gauthier (VG), Greg Grove (GG), Paul Hess (PH), Rudy Keller (RK), Mark McConaughy [MM-Central PA Birdline], Jerry McWilliams (JM), August Mirabella (AM), Judy Mirabella (JM), Nick Pulcinella (NP), Bob Schutsky (BS), Mark Vass (MV), Rick Wiltraut (RW), Eric Witmer (EW), Matt Wlasniewski (MW). WEST VIRGINIA: Terry Bronson (TBr), Cynthia Ellis (CE), Jeanette Esker, Matt Orsie (MO), Rob Tallman (RT). ☺

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**James D. Hengeveld
Keith A. McMullen
Geoffrey A. Williamson**

Though temperatures in June were slightly above average, both Indiana and Illinois experienced their coldest Julys on record, with temperatures in both states about 3° C below the twentieth-century average. Region-wide precipitation levels were above the norm throughout the season. The most prominent aspect of this season was the invasion by southern species associated with water. The Region was seemingly overrun by large numbers of wading birds and an assortment of rarities like Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Mottled Ducks, Brown Pelicans, Neotropic Cormorants, Anhingas, White Ibis, Tricolored Heron, and Roseate Spoonbills. Other rarities included Western Grebe, Black Rail, Royal Tern, and Tropical Kingbird. Also significant were first Illinois nesting records for American White Pelican, Anhinga, and Caspian Tern.

Abbreviations: Cane Ridge (Cane Ridge W.M.A., Gibson, IN); Carl. L. (Carlyle L., s. Illinois); F.W.A. (Fish and Wildlife Area); Goose Pond (Goose Pond F.W.A., Greene, IN); Kankakee Sands (Kankakee Sands Preserve, Newton, IN); Mich. City (Michigan City Harbor, LaPorte, IN); Miller (Miller Beach); Montrose (Montrose Pt. in Chicago's Lincoln Park); Pine Creek (Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area, Benton, IN); Winthrop (Winthrop Harbor, Lake, IL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks invaded the area, with one located near Horseshoe L., Madison, IL 31 May (FRH) that was subsequently seen by many off and on through 15 Jun. From 14 through 24 Jun, 2-3 were at Goose Pond (LWS, MB, CWM, DAy). Two more were reported at Grand Tower, Jackson,

IL 24 Jun (MPW, JWW). Numbers of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Goose Pond were even more impressive, as one (BJG, LWS) and then 2 (RLH, TH, JDH, ph. SEH) on 11 Jun jumped to 4 on 13 Jun (DG, JJM, LWS et al.), and crested at 5 on 27 Jun (CH, TH, LAB); at least 2 were present through the end of the period. The pair of Trumpeter Swans at Savanna, IL that three years ago provided the first confirmed modern Illinois nesting produced 4 cygnets this season, and another nearby nesting pair produced 2 (*vide* RE). Two cygnets were also seen with the pair of Trumpeters at McGinnis Slough in Orland Park, Cook, IL (WSS, m.ob.). Unexpected Gadwalls included a single at Cane Ridge 4 Jun (G&LB, JJM, JKC), a pair at Goose Pond 15 Jun (JCK), and one at Pine Creek 29 Jul (EMH). Intriguing, given the plethora of southern invaders at Goose Pond, was a group of 6 "black" ducks there 13 Jun (JJM, LWS, JDH, SEH, DG et al.), with 3 still present 20 Jun (JJM, RR) and one 24 Jun (LWS). The ducks showed characteristics consistent with Mottled Duck but no confirming studies or photographs were obtained. Photographs of single Mottled Ducks in Illinois came from Kidd L., Monroe 15 Jul (DMK, MS) and Sante Fe Bottoms, Clinton 30 Jul+ (DMK, MS, KAM). A pair of Northern Pintails was at Goose Pond 15 Jun (TW), and a pair of Green-winged Teal was there for much of the period. Other unusual summering waterfowl included a male Canvasback at Thompson L., Fulton, IL 26 Jun (REF, KF, JSm) and a female at Two Rivers N.W.R. 25 Jul (DMK, MS), a female Bufflehead at Rochelle, Ogle, IL 25 Jul (EWW), and single male Common Goldeneyes at Cane Ridge 4 Jun (JKC, JJM, G&LB) and Wolf L. 6-27 Jun (WJM). Indiana's first summer record of Black Scoter was represented by a female found in Gary in late May that lingered through 2 Jun (JCK). Unusual for Lake, IN, at least one pair (and probably two or three) of Hooded Mergansers bred successfully, as 3 females and 18 ducklings were seen at the Grant St. wetland 16 Jun (JKC, KJB). Late Red-breasted Mergansers included a female at Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis, IN 12 Jun (RFB), an individual 17 Jun at Winthrop (EWW), and one 11 Jul at Heidecke L., Grundy, IL (DFS). Unexpected was a pair of Ruddy Ducks at Indianapolis's Eagle Creek Park 31 Jul (ph RFB). A female Ruddy with a small duckling at Wakarusa Wastewater Treatment Facility 13 Jun (DS) provided the first breeding record for Elkhart, IN. Northern Bobwhites are scarce in ne. Illinois, so one observed 16 Jun (WSS) in restored habitat at Orland Grasslands Forest Preserve, Cook and 2 there 19 Jun (CBT, BT) were encouraging.

Higher-than-normal numbers of Common Loons were encountered, with reports from eight different sites in Indiana and four in Illinois. Quite unusual for the summer period was a Horned Grebe in breeding plumage at Wolf L., Cook, IL 6 Jun-9 Jul (ph., †WJM, DFS). A Western Grebe was at Newton L., Jasper, IL 4-8 Jul (DH, RES, CLH); most likely the same bird was then at E. Fork L., Richland 13 Jul (CLH, ph. RES, ph. MS) and at Carl. L. 19-30 Jul (ph. DMK, MS, KAM, m.ob.). An *Aechmophorus* grebe, most likely a Western, was at Miller 10 Jul (JJM, JKC). Prior to 2009, the maximum summer total for American White Pelicans in Indiana was 6. This summer, 104 were logged, as 66 were tallied in Vigo 6 Jun (JS), 16 were at Goose Pond 30 Jun (SG), and 22 were noted at Goose Pond several times in Jul+ (LWS). In Illinois, American White Pelicans nested for the first time, with 6+ chicks noted 17 Jun at Upper Mississippi River N.W.R., Carroll (ph. RE). This location is within a km of Iowa's first nesting site, which was established three years ago. Brown Pelicans made a splash, with 3 birds being seen at four locations. In McHenry, IL, one was present on Crystal L. 2-4 Jun (KP; ph., †GAW; ph. CSF, m.ob.). In sw. Illinois, the Madison bird found along the Mississippi R. in late spring continued there or on the Missouri side through mid-Jul, then relocated upriver to Two Rivers N.W.R., Calhoun 23 Jul+ (DMK, MS, KAM, m.ob.). A different Brown Pelican was located downriver in Monroe 1-12 Jul (WMR, ph. EWW, m.ob.), with both sw. Illinois birds seen 2 Jul (EWW). Two Neotropic Cormorants were recorded: one at Almond Marsh and Rollins Savanna in Lake, IL 28 Jun-12 Jul (GN, JRS, KM, m.ob.) and another at Carl. L. 30 Jul (MS, DMK, KAM). The Anhingas discovered in spring along the Cache R. at the Johnson/Pulaski, IL border took up residence, with three nests being located 25 Jun and five active nests found by 14 Jul (ph. MM-L). Whether or not Anhingas historically nested in Illinois is uncertain, but this is the first documented occurrence.

Four single Snowy Egrets were reported in Indiana: at Goose Pond 11 Jun (LWS) and 24 Jul (DG, WH et al.), at Kankakee Sands 22 Jul (JBH), and at Grand Kankakee Marsh, Lake 25 Jul (KJB, SRB, JGr, RJP). Of the fine total of 83 Little Blue Herons reported in Indiana, the peak count was of 11 birds at Goose Pond 26 Jul (LWS). The Tricolored Heron discovered in Hammond, IN 30 May remained until at least 22 Jun (MJ). Encouraging was a tally of 200 Cattle Egrets at Dogtooth I., Alexander, IL (DMK, MS); during the past two summers, the species had been absent from several reg-

ular breeding locations. On 24 Jul, 55 Cattle Egrets were seen flying to roost at Goose Pond (LWS), furnishing Indiana's 3rd highest tally. Nesting activity by several birds was subsequently detected 10 Jul (BF), representing the 3rd known nesting attempt by the species in Indiana. The 56 Green Herons logged at Goose Pond 29 Jul (JID) provided Indiana's all-time high daily count. Indiana's record book on White Ibis was rewritten this summer. Two juvs. that were photographed by staff at Muscatatuck N.W.R. 6 Jul (*fide* DHK) remained at that location through 18 Jul (RLH, DGr, DHK). Numbers of juvs. at Goose Pond gradually climbed from 5 on 12 Jul (G&LB) to 11 on 14 Jul (BC, JSc), to 13 on 20 Jul (S&CS), to a maximum of 16 on 22 Jul (AWB). In Illinois, a juv. was seen 12-18 Jul near Beall Woods S.P., *Wabash* (CLH), and 4 juvs. were observed in *Monroe* 19-27 Jul (CA, CK, ph. WMR, m.ob.). Two Glossy Ibis were found at Goose Pond 6 Jun (DG); another *Plegadis* ibis seen there 8 Jul (GLC et al.) and identified as a White-faced Ibis 13 Jul (LWS) lingered until 16 Jul (GP). A White-faced Ibis was at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve, *Lake*, IL 7 Jun (ph. EWW). The star of the show was Indiana's first documented Roseate Spoonbill, a first-year bird that was found at Goose Pond 2 Jun (LWS, JJM, JKC) and remained there off and on through the end of the period, having been seen and photographed by scores of birders. Illinois's 3rd Roseate Spoonbill was discovered at Carl. L 30 Jul (KAM, MS, ph. DMK). These birds were apparently part of a widespread flight of the species that also included the middle Atlantic states and Ontario.

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A new maximum summer count for Black Vulture in Indiana was logged 25 Jul, when 72 were tallied at Whitewater S.P., *Union* (WHB). In Illinois, five Osprey nests with young were reported. Mississippi Kites at n. locales included one 2 Jun in *Knox*, IL (DJM); a pair on 1 Jun and then 4 on 27 Jun (LB, DTW) at last year's Rockford, *Winnebago*, IL nest locale; and an imm. in Greene-Sullivan S.E., *Sullivan*, IN 2 Jun (JJM, JKC). Swainson's Hawks were present 17 Jul at traditional Illinois nesting areas in *Kane* and *McHenry*, with one pair in each county (RAM, ALM). A possible breeding Black Rail was discovered in *Marion*, IL 11 Jun-17 Jul (ph. RES, CLH, ph. JWW et al.). Observers noted an open-wing threat display, which is said to be given by birds during incubation. Two other Black Rails were reported: near Eckerts Woods, *Fayette*, IL 26-27 Jul (DMK, MS, KAM) and at Kankakee Sands 9 Jul (AL). In addition to a maximum of 4

King Rails (including 3 juvs.) seen at Goose Pond 23 (GP) & 31 Jul (DA), singles were seen or heard at Patoka N.W.R., *Pike*, IN 3 Jun and at Cane Ridge 4 Jun (JJM, JKC), at Middlefork Savanna, *Lake*, IL 8 Jun (JSS), and near L. Calumet, Chicago 29 Jul (JWL, JOS). A family group of one ad. and 3 juvs. was at Cane Ridge 12 Jul (G&LB), and 2 ads. were at Kankakee Sands 17 Jul (JBH).

A pair of Piping Plovers had a nest with four eggs in late Jul at Waukegan, IL; the eggs were later moved to Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, with 3 young artificially hatched and released 7 Aug at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan (Scott Garrow, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service). The Region's last known Piping Plover nesting, also in Waukegan, occurred in 1979. Nesting activity of Black-necked Stilts extended northward, with a territorial pair in sw. *Lee*, IL 13 Jun-25 Jul (EWW) and a pair in *Champaign*, IL producing 5 young (TDF, EJC). Tying the earliest ever (presumed) fall migration date for Indiana was a Black-bellied Plover in alternate plumage at Grand Kankakee Marsh, *Lake* 10 Jul (KJB, JKC, JJM). Indiana's only American Avocets of the season were 2 at Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis 25 Jul (ER, RR), and the state's latest ever spring migrant Lesser Yellowlegs was noted in *St. Joseph* 6 Jun (JJM, SRB, JKC, LSH, KJB). On 10 Jul, a mega-flock of 358 Willets, Indiana's 2nd largest group ever, was logged at Mich. City (JKC, JJM, KJB). Inland on the following day, 6 Willets were at Dugger F.W.A., *Sullivan*, IN (DG), and a single was at Goose Pond (LWS). Single Whimbrels were reported at Winthrop Harbor 1 Jun (MH), at Mich. City 25 Jul (JJM), and at Miller 28 Jul (JKC, KJB); 2 were at Mich. City 30 Jul (KJB). An excellent Marbled Godwit flight was exemplified by 13 birds that accompanied the Willet mega-flock at Mich. City 10 Jul (JJM, JKC, KJB); 4 were at the site the following day (JKC, JJM, KJB), and singles were at Mich. City 16 Jul (JJM), at Washington Park, *LaPorte*, IN 28 Jul (JKC), and in *DeKalb*, IL 14-15 Jul (RM, KL). Reports of Hudsonian Godwits included single birds at Sante Fe Bottoms, *Clinton*, IL 5 Jun (DMK, MS) and in *DeKalb*, IL 14-15 Jul (RM, KL). A Marbled Godwit was seen at Emiquon N.W.R., *Fulton*, IL 26 Jul (KR, MJB).

A northbound Red Knot in Winthrop 4-5 Jun (BS, EWW) was a bit tardy, and one was noted 28 Jul in *Sangamon*, IL (HDB). Indiana's Sanderling flight, with 112 reported, was the best in three years. An early Baird's Sandpiper turned up 18 Jul at Pine Creek (EMH). A flock of 10 White-rumped Sandpipers at Goose Pond 15 Jun (TW, JCK, GO) was late, but 2 in *St. Joseph* 19 Jun (ph. BH)

furnished Indiana's latest spring record; singles seen 17 Jun both in *Sangamon*, IL (HDB) and in Winthrop (EWW) were similarly tardy. An excellent count of 6000 Pectoral Sandpipers 29 Jul was noted at Two Rivers N.W.R., *Calhoun*, IL (KAM). Extremely rare for Indiana was the documentation of nesting by Wilson's Snipe; an ad. and a downy chick were discovered at Goose Pond 13 Jun (JID). At Pine Creek 25 Jul, a juv. Wilson's Phalarope (JJM, SRB, RJP, KJB) was the only one reported for Indiana, while a male with 2 juvs. at Bolingbrook, *Will*, IL 3 Jul were noteworthy (UWG).

There were 6 Laughing Gulls reported in the Region. Among 10 Franklin's Gulls were 2 in *Kendall*, IL 6 Jun (UWG), a first-cycle at Mich. City 2 Jun (KJB), a second-cycle in *Sangamon*, IL 10 & 12 Jun (HDB), a juv. at Carl. L. 26 Jul (DMK, MS), and an ad. at Miller 30 Jul (BZ). An ad. California Gull remained in Winthrop during the season, being seen there 13 Jun (ph. TBL), 4 Jul (AA), and 29 Jul (JWL, JOS). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted at Winthrop 29 Jun (EWW), and one was there 29 Jul (JWL, JOS). Least Terns are unusual away from the Mississippi R. and Ohio R., making notable the 2 seen at Thompson L., *Fulton*, IL 25 Jun (REF, KF) and one at Heidecke L., *Grundy*, IL 11 Jul (DFS). Three Least Terns were found at Goose Pond 13 Jun (AK, NK), and the population in *Gibson*, IN seemed to have a successful breeding season (AK). As in 2008, Least Terns were forced by high river levels to nest away from their usual exposed sandbars along the major rivers in s. Illinois. A group of 45+ was discovered 20 Jun on the higher elevations of flooded agricultural fields near Gorham, *Jackson*, IL (KAM et al.). The first Illinois breeding record for Caspian Tern was documented this season with a colony discovered in Chicago 6 Jul (ph. SJH). Counted there 9 Jul were 230 ads. and 67 young, with 5 or 6 ads. still on nests (DFS). This colony and the one at LTV Steel, *Lake*, IN are the only ones known in the Region. The colony of Common Terns at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, *Lake*, IL was apparently depredated by mink in Jun, but with the help of a make-shift floating platform, a 2nd nesting had commenced by 9 Jul and was still in progress 23 Jul (DRD). The tern of the season was a Royal Tern at La Salle Lake F.W.A., *La Salle* 9-10 Jul (APS, MAM, AFS, m.ob.), only the 3rd confirmed record for Illinois.

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

The 2 Eurasian-Collared Doves found in Loo-gootee, *Martin*, IN 30 Jul (GP) expanded the number of counties in which the species has

been found in the state to 43. A downy Barn Owl chick from a farm in *Lake*, IN was brought into a rehabilitation clinic, where it was identified 20 Jul (JSC); an ad. was subsequently seen at the farm 30 Jul (PBG). Other Barn Owl reports were confined to s. Illinois, with calling birds noted in *Clinton* 25-26 Jul (DMK, MS) and at Heron Pond, *Johnson* 11 Jun-7 Jul (MM-L), plus 6 young at a *Union* nest 11 Jun (CHu, VMK, RI). An ad. male Rufous Hummingbird was in *Bowen*, *Hancock*, IL 18 Jul (VMK, ph. JR).

A singing, probably migrating Alder Flycatcher found 24 Jun represented a first record for *Putnam*, IN (BJ). An early south-bound Least Flycatcher was noted at *Montrose* 26 Jul (MC). A Tropical Kingbird at *Carl*. L. was a complete surprise. First noted and photographed by Dean DiTommaso 13 Jun, it was relocated 15 Jun (MS, DMK, KAM) and then mist-netted by Vern Klein 18 Jun, when measurements confirmed the identification. Numerous birders made the trek to witness this first state record. It was last seen 18 Jun. Reports of Western Kingbirds included one at *Illinois Beach S.P.* 1 Jun (DRD), plus birds at the regular breeding sites in *Granite City*, IL (*vide* KAM) and at *Joppa*, IL, with 3 there 2 Jul and 2 observed feeding young 10 Jul (FKB). Two were also seen near *Columbia*, *Monroe*, IL at a nest 11-27 Jun (ph. DMK, MS). On 6 Jun, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen flying up the *Kankakee R.* at *Kankakee F.W.A.*, *LaPorte*, IN (SRB). Good signs for the disappearing population of Loggerhead Shrikes in Indiana included a family group of 3 in *Lawrence* 26 Jun (JSC) and an ad. carrying food in *Orange* 30 Jun (DC). A state-high total of 57 Bell's Vireos was logged at *Hawthorn Mine*, *Sullivan*, IN 9 Jul (DRW). In late May, a Fish Crow was seen and heard in *LaPorte*, IN, across the border from Michigan where they had been consistently reported. On 6 Jun, at least 6 Fish Crows were seen and heard at the same site (SRB, JKC, LSH, JJM, KJB). In Illinois, a Fish Crow was seen and heard calling in *Niota*, *Hancock* 12 Jul (EWW), which is unusually far n. for this species.

Indiana's 5th and 6th breeding records for Red-breasted Nuthatch were registered when an ad. was seen feeding a nestling in *Goshen*, *Elkhart* 15 Jun (ph. JH, EH) and an ad. was observed feeding a fledgling in *Westville*, *LaPorte* 20 Jun (PK). Two early Swainson's Thrushes returned 26 Jul at *Montrose* (RDH) and *Jarvis Bird Sanctuary* (LM), *Chicago*. Also early were 3 Tennessee Warblers noted 24 Jul at *Montrose* (RDH). A Black-throated Green Warbler 20 Jul in *Sangamon*, IL (HDB) was likewise notable. Along the Indiana lakefront,

breeding evidence was recorded for several Black-and-white Warblers (BB, JKC). At least 2 territorial Swainson's Warblers were seen in *Jackson*, IL 20 Jun-27 Jul (RRo, ph. KAM, ph. DMK, MS, MM-L) and in *Johnson*, IL early Jun-25 Jul (MM-L). A singing Canada Warbler heard in *Indianapolis* 7 Jun was late. An ad. pair and 3 nestling Hooded Warblers found at the *Conley Property* 24 Jun (DS, EH) represented a first breeding record for *Elkhart*, IN. A Summer Tanager strayed n. to *Illinois Beach S.P.*, being noted there 14 Jul (JB et al.).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

This was the 2nd straight year with a notably large concentration of Clay-colored Sparrows in *Rockton*, *Winnebago*, IL, with 11 there 13 Jun (DTW, BCW). Undated photographs of an ad. and fledgling Lark Sparrow at *Cobus Creek County Park* (TB, JG) furnished the first breeding evidence for *Elkhart*, IN. At *Goose Pond*, a fine total of 192 Henslow's Sparrows was tallied 13 Jun by multiple parties. Quite unusual was a Lincoln's Sparrow in *Sangamon*, IL 19 Jul (HDB). Also significant was a confirmation of breeding by Swamp Sparrow at *Goose Pond* 13 Jun (JID). A White-throated Sparrow was singing at *Miller-Anderson Woods Nature Preserve*, *Bureau*, IL 5 Jul (CKM, JM). A spring migrant Dark-eyed Junco lingered through 8 Jun in *Chicago's Grant Park* (DFS). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks feeding 2 young at *Illinois Beach S.P.* 20 Jul (SDB) was unusually far n. for the species. Only one Painted Bunting was noted 29 Jun at the traditional E. St. Louis breeding location (DMK). The bird could not be relocated, and it is believed no nesting occurred there for the first time in 10 years (*vide* KAM). A singing Western Meadowlark at the *Valparaiso airport* 11 Jun (RJP) provided *Porter's* first summer record since 1984, and a singing male at *Forest* throughout Jun (WH) represented the first record for *Clinton*, IN. Pine Siskins were reported throughout Indiana. A flock of 9, Indiana's highest summer total ever, was in *Beverly Shores*, *Porter*, IN 16 Jun (BB), one was in *Chesterton* 25-27 Jun (KJB), and 3 and 6 were at a *Monroe* feeder 18 & 19 Jul (VWW), respectively. Though Eurasian Tree Sparrows have been moving slowly northward up the Illinois R. valley in recent years, one noted 29 Jul at *Montrose* (RDH) was well away from normal haunts. A Eurasian Tree Sparrow was observed feeding upside down at a backyard finch feeder filled with niger seed in *Table Grove*, *Fulton*, IL 5 Jul (KAM).

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Western Great Lakes



Peder H. Svingen

Temperatures were cool across the Region. Precipitation was below normal, except for southern Wisconsin, the southern Lower Peninsula of Michigan, and northwestern Minnesota in June. Highlights included Brown Pelican in Minnesota, two Purple Gallinules in Wisconsin, and Fish Crow in Michigan.

Abbreviations: Horicon (Horicon Marsh, Dodge, WI); Murphy-Hanrehan (Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Dakota/Scott, MN); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee S.G.A., Monroe, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula of Michigan); Whitefish Pt. (Whitefish Point B.O., Chippewa, MI); Wisconsin Pt. (Douglas, WI).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

In Minnesota, a Greater White-fronted Goose in *Kandiyohi* 1 Jun (DBW) was probably still northbound, but one in *Lac Qui Parle* 26 Jul+ (PCC) may have summered. Unseasonable were Greater Scaup lingering at Duluth, MN through 14 Jun (ph. PHS), Surf Scoter in *Manitowoc*, WI 1 Jun (TS), White-winged Scoter in *Itasca*, MN 4 Jun (EEO), and Black Scoter at *Manitowoc* 2-7 Jun (JS, BD). Michigan chimed in with Long-tailed Ducks in *Alger* through 11 Jun (SCH) and *Manistee* 18 Jul (BAA). Wisconsin's only report of Gray Partridge was in *Crawford* 11 Jun (MS). Michigan observers commented on the scarcity of Northern Bobwhite, with reports limited to the s. Lower Peninsula.

Spring migration of Red-throated Loons was well documented at Duluth, MN again this summer, including a peak of 16 birds 14 Jun and 4 birds 26 Jun (PHS); these were complemented by sightings off Wisconsin Pt. 14 Jun-4 Jul (PHS). Red-necked Grebes were found in five Wisconsin counties, including 7 in *Winnebago* 21 Jun (TZ). Minnesota's 2nd Brown Pelican was often difficult to locate during its stay in *Le Sueur* 27 Jun-2 Jul (CVK, WS, ph. RMD). The Region's only Little Blue Heron graced *Monroe*, MI 27-31 Jul (WGP). Four reports of Snowy Egret were more than usual for Wisconsin, and one in *Tuscola* 10

Jun (JEV) was farther n. than normal for Michigan. In Minnesota, up to 8 Snowy Egrets were in *Grant* 22-23 Jul (RPR). Cattle Egrets showed well in Michigan, including *Arenac* 4 Jun (DLJ) and *Midland* 11-30 Jun (MKE), but appeared in only three Minnesota and three Wisconsin counties. Minnesota had ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in *Dakota* 21 Jun (RPR) and *Hennepin* 23 Jul+ (VL). Wisconsin's only Yellow-crowned visited *Sauk* 19 Jun (AH). An ad. and an imm. White-faced Ibis first found in May (AMB, PCC) both lingered at Pte. Mouillee through 12 Jun; the imm. was still present 30 Jul. Michigan's 7th Swallow-tailed Kite blessed the Pellston Airport, *Emmet* 4 Jun (DK). In Wisconsin, a Purple Gallinule delighted scores of birders in *Walworth* 8-10 Jun (EH); another was found dead in *Dane* 30 Jul (JF). Encouraging in Minnesota was a pair of Common Moorhens with 8 young at *Sherburne* N.W.R. (PLJ).

SHOREBIRDS

Sixty pairs of Piping Plover in Michigan (JD fide LJD) included a pair nesting at Whitefish Pt. for the first time in more than 20 years. Eight chicks fledged from four Piping Plover nests on Wisconsin's Apostle Is. (JVS). Piping Plover breeding was not documented in Minnesota again this year, and that state's only fall migrant was in *Rice* 31 Jul (TFB). Killdeer peaked at 1088 in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 26 Jul (PCC). Black-necked Stilts summered at Horicon again this year, including a peak of 8 birds 19 Jul (WM); elsewhere in Wisconsin were singles in *Dane* 9 Jun (MG) and *Fond du Lac* 26 Jul (DS). An American Avocet in *Monroe* 23 Jun (GN) was unusual for Michigan; all other reports for Michigan and Wisconsin referred to southbound migrants in Jul. All three states reported Willet; most unusual was one in *Bay*, MI 13 Jun (JMS). Single Whimbrels transited Pte.

Mouillee 11-13 Jul (CO, JJ) and *Manistee*, MI 18 Jul (BAA). Spring migration of Hudsonian Godwit normally extends into early Jun; an apparent fall migrant in *Berrien*, MI 15 Jul (TB) was early. Baerwald also reported a Mangled Godwit there the same day.

All three states reported Red Knot. Michigan had one in *Berrien* 2 Jun (TB), and up to 3 were at Duluth, MN 1-5 Jun (KRE, LS, PHS, ph. SCZ). Wisconsin had the latest north-

bound knot in *Milwaukee* 10 Jun (DG) and the first southbound knot in *Manitowoc* 22 Jul (ST). White-rumped Sandpipers peaked at 457 in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 7 Jun (PCC); one was still northbound in *Milwaukee*, WI 12 Jun (SF). Michigan accepted a Jun record of Baird's Sandpiper in *Marquette* on the 1st (SH). Furnishing the Region's only report of the season was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN 26 Jul (PCC). A total of 136 Wilson's Snipe at Agassiz N.W.R. 31 Jul (PHS, JMJ) just missed the all-time record of 137 for that Minnesota refuge. Southbound Red-necked Phalaropes reached *Brown*, MN 10 Jul (BTS) and *Dodge*, WI 19 Jul (CM).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

In Wisconsin, a Little Gull summered in *Manitowoc* (m.ob.). All three states reported Laughing Gull. Michigan hosted different ads. in *Berrien* 3 & 10 Jun (TB), one at Pte. Mouillee 28 Jun (AMB), and another in *Berrien* 26 Jul (MH). Wisconsin had one in *Milwaukee* 1-12 Jun (CP). Minnesota attracted an ad. in *Houston* 27 Jul, the first Laughing Gull in that state since 1997 (CLW). Single Franklin's Gulls strayed to *Berrien*, MI 6 Jun (TB) and *Kenosha*, WI 18 Jun (BCa). Also in *Kenosha*, the Badger State borrowed a California Gull from Illinois 10 Jul (SF). Elsewhere in Wisconsin, the latest of several lingering Iceland Gulls was in *Manitowoc* 26 Jun (CS), and a Glaucous Gull loitered in *Sheboygan*



This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher delighted scores of observers during its extended stay in Dodge County, Minnesota 25 (here 31) July through 3 August 2009. Photograph by Douglas W. Kieser.

until 27 Jun (MBo). More unexpected was Michigan's well-described Glaucous Gull in *Alger* 17 Jul (SCH). Two ad. Pomarine Jaegers were reported from a boat off Park Pt., Duluth 3 Jun (JLK); all but one of Minnesota's 17 records are from fall.

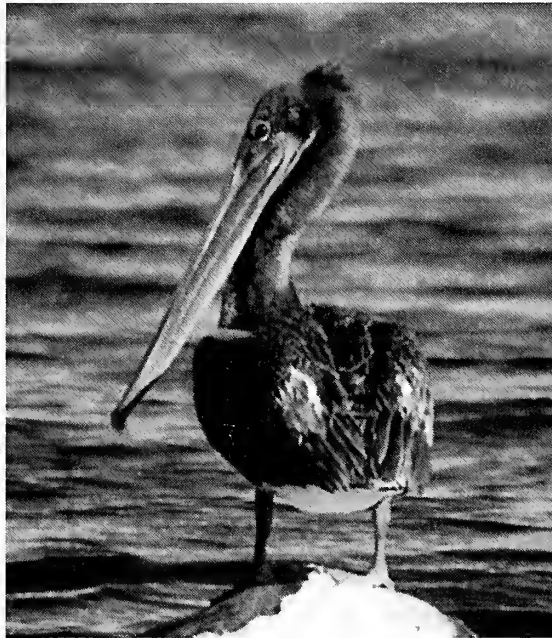
The only Eurasian Collared-Doves outside of Minnesota were in Wisconsin at *Columbia* 27 Jun (PF). Wisconsin's 3rd Band-tailed Pigeon was photographed in *LaCrosse* 20-22 Jul

(TR). Totally unexpected was a Snowy Owl in Bay, MI 24 Jun (LJD). Continuing from spring were Chuck-will's-widows in Jackson, WI through 27 Jul (RC) and Berrien, MI through 1 Aug (MBu, JTW)—the 5th consecutive summer for both locations. An ad. male Rufous Hummingbird was photographed in Bayfield, WI 30 Jul (RSB). Good news for Minnesota was a high count of 45 Red-headed Woodpeckers including 22 active nests at Cedar Creek S.N.A., Anoka (fide ALD). Though similar to last summer, six reports of Black-backed Woodpecker was still the most for Wisconsin in more than two decades.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Earlier than normal was a southbound Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Hennepin, MN 27 Jul (SLC). Acadian Flycatcher was found at the n. periphery of its Michigan range in Saginaw 10 Jun (LMA) and Midland 18 Jun–14 Jul (MKE). Minnesota welcomed single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Sibley 26 Jun (ph. LLR) and Dodge 25 Jul+ (MM, m.ob.). Michigan and Wisconsin each had one Loggerhead Shrike, in Berrien 12 Jun (HV, RV) and Sauk until 17 Jun (AH), respectively; this threatened species was found in only six Minnesota counties. White-eyed Vireo was scarce in Wisconsin, with only one in Green 4 Jun–18 Jul (TCW, PSc) and one in Sauk through 12 Jun (TP). In contrast, 16 reports of Bell's Vireo in 10 Wisconsin counties was more than usual. Brady photographed a Black-billed Magpie in Bayfield, WI 5 Jun (RSB). Field work started this year for Minnesota's Breeding Bird Atlas; new county breeding records included Black-billed Magpie in Crow Wing (JSB) and Common Raven in Benton (RBJ). Continuing from spring through 27 Jul was at least one Fish Crow at Forest Lawn Landfill, Berrien, MI (p.a., TB, ATC, m.ob.). Wisconsin's only reports of Boreal Chickadee were in Forest 20 Jun (TP) and Vilas 18 Jul (JS). Michigan's 9th Rock Wren was unexpected in St. Clair 7 Jun (ATC, m.ob.); most of that state's records are from fall. Wisconsin led the Carolina Wren parade with eight reports from six counties. A tardy Gray-cheeked Thrush was carefully identified in Hennepin, MN 10 Jun (TT). Northern Mockingbirds sang in six Minnesota counties as far n. as Cass and St. Louis. In Wisconsin, a pair of mockingbirds nested in Sauk and was observed feeding fledged young 15 Jul (RH). A tardy American Pipit in Cook, MN 5 Jun (RBJ) eclipsed 18 at Whitefish Pt. 1 Jun (JR).

Fall migrant Tennessee Warblers normally



Part of a broad and strengthening pattern of Midwestern appearances, Minnesota's second Brown Pelican was documented at German Lake, Le Sueur County 27 (here 28) June through 2 July 2009. Photograph by Robert M. Dunlap.

show up in late Jul; slightly ahead of schedule was one in Dane, WI 14 Jul (AP). Three reports of Cape May Warbler from three Wisconsin counties was the fewest in several decades for the Badger State. Wisconsin hosted Yellow-throated Warblers in Waukesha 2 Jun–31 Jul (TCW, ASz), Crawford 5 Jun (MJ), and at the traditional Grant site through 12 Jul (AH). Remarkably far n. in Michigan was a Yellow-throated Warbler at Ludington S.P., Mason 21–27 Jun (DCD). Kirtland's Warbler strengthened its foothold in Wisconsin, with seven or eight nests successful out of 11 nests found; at least 26 young successfully fledged. Michigan's total of 1795 singing males barely exceeded last year's record of 1791 and included 30 in the U.P. Another early fall arrival was the Bay-breasted Warbler in Hennepin, MN 26 Jul (SLC). Cerulean Warbler was found in 11 Minnesota counties compared to 14 last summer. In Michigan, Ceruleans were found in good numbers in the s. Lower Peninsula, and one strayed n. to the U.P. in Dickinson 4 Jul (GC). Refreshing after its absence from Michigan last summer were 3 territorial Worm-eating Warblers; 2 of the 4 males found in spring persisted at Warren Dunes S.P., Berrien (BA, m.ob.), while another from spring disappeared after 1 Jun in Allegan (RB). In Wisconsin, Worm-eating Warblers held on at traditional locations in Sauk (KK) and Grant (JE). Prothonotary Warblers in Chisago 13 Jun (PEB) and Arenac 12 Jul (SJ, SS) were n. of their established ranges in Minnesota and Michigan, respectively. Kentucky Warbler in four Wis-

consin counties was near average. Minnesota's only report was from Blue Earth 3–11 Jun (ALD, RBW). Systematic surveys in Wisconsin's Southern Kettle Moraine documented 229 singing Hooded Warblers in Waukesha, Walworth, and Jefferson during Jun (ASz), compared to 167 last summer. In Michigan, a Hooded Warbler was n. of its usual range in Tuscola (MW). Hooded Warblers in four Minnesota counties included 31 territories at Murphy-Hanrehan (BAF) and one far n. of its usual haunts at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, St. Louis 14 Jun (JV). Slightly s. of normal was a Canada Warbler at Murphy-Hanrehan 14 Jun (BAF). Yellow-breasted Chat showed well for the 2nd consecutive summer in seven Wisconsin counties. In Minnesota, 2 territorial males first found in spring vied for a female's attention at Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Hennepin 27 Jul (SLC). Elsewhere in Minnesota, chats were one-day wonders in Goodhue, Washington, and Winona.

Summer Tanager is starting to live up to its name in the Region. After last summer's absence, Michigan celebrated the return of this species to the Wolverine State with 2 at Warren Dunes S.P., Berrien 7 Jun–5 Jul (SH, m.ob.). Wisconsin welcomed a Summer Tanager in Manitowoc 5 Jun (JT). Minnesota had spring overshoots in Aitkin 8 Jun (WEN) and Crow Wing 8 Jun (JSB); more unusual was a first-year male in Washington 12–25 Jul (LH, m.ob.). A Spotted Towhee in Kittson 9 Jun (ph. RMD) was the first for that nw. Minnesota county. Furnishing another county first was a Field Sparrow in Koochiching, MN 6 Jun (AXH). In Michigan, a Lark Sparrow found in spring disappeared after 1 Jun (BCo). Less widespread than in recent years, Henslow's Sparrow was still found in 13 Minnesota counties; this is likely to change, as fields enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program are converted back to agriculture. Nelson's Sparrow was not found in Wisconsin this summer for the first time in decades, but in Michigan, Youngman reported singing birds in Luce 14 Jun and Houghton 17 Jun (p.a., JAY). Harris's Sparrow lingered until 7 Jun in two s. Minnesota locations. In Wisconsin, a Harris's persisted in Burnett through at least 28 Jun (BSc). Unusually far s. were tardy White-crowned Sparrows in St. Clair, MI 1 Jun (SBH), Manitowoc, WI 6 Jun (BD), and Bay, MI 8 Jun (DLJ). More widespread than usual, Blue Grosbeaks were documented in seven Minnesota counties. A male Lazuli Bunting in Sibley 18 Jun (p.a., JCC) would be Minnesota's first for that month. Sixty-six Bobolinks burbling at Crow Hassan Park Reserve, Hennepin 10 Jul

(SLC) was an excellent number for that Minnesota location. Northeast of its normal Minnesota range was a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Lake 5 Jun (JWL). In Michigan, Pine Siskin fledglings were seen in Berrien 1 Jun (AV). Evening Grosbeak passed muster for the good news column for a change, with an above-average 12 reports in 10 Wisconsin counties.

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Iowa & Missouri



James J. Dinsmore

Unlike in 2008, when flooding dominated many parts of Missouri, rainfall this summer was closer to normal. June totals were 2-5 cm above average, and in July, rainfall was slightly below normal in southern Missouri and at or just above average elsewhere. Potentially the most dangerous weather events for nesting birds occurred on 10 June, when high winds, hail, and flash flooding occurred in the southwestern and Ozark regions, and on 15-16 June, when parts of central and northern Missouri received up to 7.5 cm of rain. June was much warmer than average, mainly a result of a heat wave

17-27 June that brought 95° F temperatures across the state. July temperatures were 4-5° below normal.

Iowa temperatures and rainfall were about average during June. The warmest temperatures were recorded 17-27 June, when 90° F temperatures were common. July rainfall was about average, with much of this occurring in the first half of the month. It was the coolest July on record: temperatures ran about 6° F below normal. Temperatures reached 90° F on only one day. Other than some scattered hail on 17 June and several days in July, there was little severe weather, unlike the severe flooding in 2008.

Regional highlights included Mottled Duck in both states, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Brown Pelican, Neotropical Cormorant in both states, Anhinga, and nesting American White Pelicans and Alder Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: Coralville Res., Johnson, IA); E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); F.R.C.A. (Four Rivers C.A., Vernon, MO); MidAmerican (MidAmerican Energy Ponds, Pottawattamie, IA); Neal Smith (Neal Smith N.W.R., Jasper, IA); O.S.C.A. (Otter Slough C.A., Stoddard, MO); Red Rock (Red Rock Res., Marion, IA); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Liv-

ington 10 Jun (SK) and one in Cass 1 Jul (ph., †V. Myer; †L. Rizzo) and 2 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks 2-3 Jun at O.S.C.A. (†PM, BJ, MR) added to Missouri's limited records. Iowa's Trumpeter Swans had their best year ever, with 31 or 32 successful nests (R. Andrews). Both states had Mottled Ducks. Missouri's first, a female, was near O.S.C.A. 2 Jun-16 Jul (†PM, †B. Reeves, ph. CB, m.ob.), and Iowa's 2nd, a male, was at Saylorville 8, 9, & 14 Jul (ph., †SD; †JB, JG). Late waterfowl in Iowa included a Greater White-fronted Goose in Hancock 1 Jul (RG), a Ross's Goose in Calhoun 12 Jun (RA, PA), and a Greater Scaup in Hancock 3 Jun and 22 Jul (RG). Most of Missouri's late waterfowl were at O.S.C.A., with up to 5 Gadwall 2 Jun-13 Jul (MR, CB), an American Wigeon 13 Jul (ph., †CB), 2 Northern Shovelers 2 Jun (PM, BJ, MR), a Northern Pintail 6-27 Jun (†CB), a Green-winged Teal 3-16 Jun (†CB), and one or 2 Ring-necked Ducks 2-27 Jun and 13 Jul (PM, BJ, MR, CB). Elsewhere, a male Ring-necked Duck spent the summer at E.B.C.A. (EW, BJ).

Four male Greater Prairie-Chickens and a female with a chick in Ringgold indicated that Iowa's small population is still holding on (TH). Northern Bobwhite were found in s. and w. Iowa, but only along the Missouri border did they seem to be doing well. Common Loons were found at five Iowa sites, with 4 in Dickinson 29 Jul the highest count (MP, m.ob.). Missouri's only report was of one at O.S.C.A. 3 Jun (CB). Red-necked Grebes in n.



This female Mottled Duck found near Otter Slough Conservation Area in Stoddard County represented Missouri's first record. Found on 2 June 2009 by Paul McKenzie, Brad Jacobs, and Mark Robbins, it remained through 16 July (here 5 June) and was seen by numerous birders. Photograph by Joshua P. Uffman.

Iowa included 7 in *Dickinson* 26 Jun (SD) and a pair with a downy young in *Hancock* (PH, MP). In Iowa, one or 2 Western Grebes were found in *Cerro Gordo*, *Hamilton*, and *Dickinson* (m.ob.), and a pair was seen building a nest in *Hancock* 27 Jun (SD).

A juv. *Brown Pelican* continued from 11 May through 18 Jul at R.M.B.S. (†JU, C. Malone). For a 3rd year, *American White Pelicans* nested in *Clinton*, IA, with about 400 young fledged (RE). By late Jul, migrants were evident in both states: 1828 were at Red Rock 25 Jul (SD), and 500 were at Swan Lake N.W.R., MO 28 Jul (SK). In Missouri, 2 ad. and 5 imm. *Neotropic Cormorants* were at F.R.C.A. 12 Jul, with one imm. staying through 26 Jul (ph. DW). Iowa's 5th *Neotropic Cormorant* and 2nd summer record came from Elm L., *Wright* 5 Jul (ph., †SD). Iowa *Double-crested Cormorant* colonies were at Coralville (CE) and in *Clinton*, where about 1100 nests were found (RE). Missouri's only colony at F.R.C.A. had 19 nests (DW). Missouri's *Anhingas* included 5 near O.S.C.A. 2 Jun (†R. Meade) and one at F.R.C.A. 26 Jul (DW).

American Bittern broods were found in *Hamilton* and *Story*, IA (SD, H. Zaletel). One or 2 *Least Bitterns* were seen in three Missouri and 13 Iowa counties (m.ob.). High counts of post-breeding *Great Egrets* were 1000 at F.R.C.A. 20 Jul (DW) and 248 at Red Rock 25 Jul (SD). Southern wading birds were scarce in both states. Missouri's most diverse count was 52 *Great Egrets*, 8 *Little Blue Herons*, 4 *Snowy Egrets*, and 3 *Cattle Egrets* at Columbia Bottom C.A., *St. Louis* 14 Jun (BR). A *Little Blue Heron* in *Livingston*, MO 29 Jun (SK) was a bit far north. Iowa reports, all of singles, included *Little Blue Herons* in three counties (W. Oesterreich, T. Schilke, DP) and *Cattle*

Egrets in two (MP, SD), a big drop from last summer. Few *night-herons* were reported. Missouri had reports of one and 3 *Black-crowned Night-Herons* (MT, BR) and Iowa one report of 3 (PH, MP). Each state had two reports of single *Yellow-crowned Night-Herons*. The Region's only *ibis* was a *Glossy/White-faced* in *Hardin*, IA 5 Jun (MP).

VULTURE THROUGH PHALAROPE

A *Black Vulture* in *St. Louis* 6 May (PL) was n. of the species' usual range. Twelve of 13 *Osprey* nests in Iowa were successful, the most since the reintroduction program started (BE, PS). In Missouri, single *Ospreys* were at O.S.C.A. 2 Jun (†PM, BJ, MR) and in *Clay* 20 Jul (DW). *Mississippi Kites* were found in both states: one or 2 mid-Jun–Jul in or near Des Moines, *Polk* (m.ob.), 3 at *Joplin* (LH), up to 4 in *St. Louis* (MT), and 2 at F.R.C.A. (P. St. John, C. Kline). *Bald Eagles* continued to do well in Iowa, with about 210 active nests. Two more counties were occupied this year,

bringing the total to 86 of Iowa's 99 counties (BE). *Northern Harrier* nesting activity was noted in five Iowa counties (m.ob.), more than most years. The Region's only *Swainson's Hawks* were singles in *Greene* and *Vernon* in sw. Missouri (D. Rising, DW). A *Sharp-shinned Hawk* in *Cerro Gordo* 15 Jun (PH) provided a rare summer record for Iowa. Nine of Iowa's 13 *Peregrine Falcon* eyries were successful and produced 26 young, the most since the reintroduction program started (BE, PS). *Soras* were found in seven Iowa counties s. to *Wapello* (AB, m.ob.). The only Missouri report was of one heard in *Linn/Livingston* (SK). *Sandhill Cranes* continued to do well in Iowa, with most nesting activity in e. Iowa (BE, PS). A pair with a colt in *Fremont* 24 Jun (KVS) furnished the first recent nesting report in sw. Iowa. Two at E.B.C.A. mid-Jun+ (BJ, EW) add to the few summer records for Missouri.

One or 2 *Black-bellied Plovers* at Coralville 14-15 Jun (JF, DP) and single *American Golden-Plovers* at Saylorville 18 Jul (RA, PA) and

29 Jul at Red Rock (SD) were the only reports. Eight ad. and 4 young *Piping Plovers* at Mid-American (MP) provided the Region's only nesting report; Missouri's only report was of one at F.R.C.A. 25 Jul (DW). An amazing 295 *Black-necked Stilts* were counted 2-3 Jun in rice fields and wetlands in six se. Missouri counties (PM, MR, BJ). One in *Clay* 13-14 Jun (LS, T. Lutter) was Iowa's only report. Each state had an *American Avocet*: 17 Jul in *Clay*, MO (DW) and 26 Jul at Coralville (B. Scheible). Late shorebirds in Iowa included a *Hudsonian Godwit* in *Polk* 5 Jun (S. Stilwell) and 2 in *Clay* 7 Jun (LS); a *Ruddy Turnstone* at Saylorville 6 Jun (AB); 50 *Dunlins* and 10 *White-rumped Sandpipers* at Coralville 13 Jun (DP); and 59 *White-rumped Sandpipers* in *Clay* 13 Jun (LS). In Missouri, a *Whimbrel* was at F.R.C.A. 12 Jun (A. Forbes). Counts of southbound sandpipers were generally low. The six reports of *Willetts* were more than usual. Early arrivals were one 28 Jun in *Fremont*, IA (JF) and 2 on 6 Jul at Thompson River Wetlands, *Livingston*, MO (SK). In Missouri, high counts included 125 *Solitary Sandpipers* 27 Jul, 150 *Least Sandpipers* 25 Jul, and 600 *Pectoral Sandpipers* and 85 *Stilt Sandpipers* 26 Jul, all at F.R.C.A. (DW). In Iowa, peaks included 66 *Solitary Sandpipers* at Bays Branch, *Guthrie* 26 Jul, 830 *Least Sandpipers* at Saylorville 24 Jul, and 295 *Less-*



Marking Iowa's second summer record and fifth record overall, this subadult *Neotropic Cormorant* at Elm Lake in *Wright County* was found on 5 July 2009 by the photographer and not seen after that date. Compared to the *Double-crested Cormorant* (at right), the smaller size, shorter bill, and relatively longer tail are all evident in this photograph. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.

er *Yellowlegs* and 1876 *Pectoral Sandpipers* at Red Rock 29 Jul (SD). *Upland Sandpipers* found in 14 Iowa counties were likely breeding (m.ob.); both Missouri reports were of late Jul migrants (SK, DW). Other southbound shorebirds included 3 *Baird's Sandpipers* and a *Wilson's Phalarope* 25 Jul and a *Western Sandpiper* 26 Jul, all at F.R.C.A. (DW), a *Ruddy Turnstone* at Saylorville 24 &



Least Tern chicks were banded by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel at an artificial nesting island established this year at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in St. Charles County, Missouri, among them this one on 6 August 2009. Photograph by Charles Deutsch.

30 Jul (SD), one or 2 Sanderlings at four Iowa sites 16-30 Jul (m.ob.), single Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Saylorville 27 & 30 Jul (SD) and at Coralville 29 Jul (DP), and a Red-necked Phalarope at Saylorville 25 Jul (SD).

GULLS THROUGH WRENS

Iowa's usual Black-headed Gull was at Spirit L., Dickinson 21 Jul (E. Thelen). An ad. Franklin's Gull at R.M.B.S. 14 Jun (JU), an ad. in Adair 27 Jun (PK), and a juv. at F.R.C.A. 12 Jul (DW) were unusual for Missouri. A second-cycle Laughing Gull in Adair, MO 27 Jun (ph., †PK) was the only report. The Region's only Ring-billed Gull colony near Spirit L., IA had many nests in late Jun (SD). The 1189 Ring-billed Gulls at Red Rock 25 Jul (SD) was a high count for summer. Single Herring Gulls were found in Polk, Dubuque, and Johnson (m.ob.), more than usual for Iowa, and at R.M.B.S. (BR). Up to 7 Least Terns were seen at MidAmerican, but no nesting was reported (JF). In Missouri, besides singles in Jun in Stoddard and at two sites 26 Jul in Pemiscot, all along the Mississippi R. (CB), one in Bates in w. Missouri 25 Jul (DW) was unexpected. Three Common Terns were at Saylorville 13 Jun (JG). In Iowa, a few Black Tern nests were at three sites in Dickinson and Winnebago (SD, SP), but no one reported nesting by Forster's Terns.

SA The upper Mississippi R. once provided abundant nesting habitat for Least Terns. However, nesting is now limited to sandbars below its confluence with the Missouri River. On 30 Apr 2009, two barges topped with a sand-gravel mix were placed by the Army Corps of Engineers Rivers Project Office at R.M.B.S. (St. Charles, MO and Madison, IL). Least Tern decoys were placed on this artificial nesting habitat to try to lure terns. The first report of a pair using the barges was 14 May, and by 19 Jun, the first nest was confirmed. About a month later, 12 nests containing 30 eggs were present. By 31 Aug, 20 chicks had been banded, and all terns had left the area for their southward migration. The project will be repeated in 2010 (JU).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their conquest of Iowa, with reports from Fayette and Lyon (JG, SD); they have been found in 96 of Iowa's 99 counties. Each state had a single White-winged Dove: in Mississippi, MO for the 4th year (PM) and in Dallas, IA (T. Lawson). Single Black-billed Cuckoos in Jasper, in St. Charles, and at O.S.C.A. (LH, PK, MR) were in s. Missouri, where rare. Three calling in Holt, MO 31 Jul (MR) were the most reported in either state. Two Barn Owls in Dunklin, MO 2 Jun (PM) and nesting pairs in Calhoun, Carroll, Lucas, and probably Fremont, IA (BE)

indicate small populations persist in both states. A Short-eared Owl seen in late Jun in Ringgold, IA may have nested (TH). Late migrants in Iowa included 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers 9 Jun in Winneshiek (DK), 2 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers 7 Jun in Hancock and Kosuth (PH, MK), and an Alder Flycatcher 23 Jun in Hancock (RG). Missouri's last Alder Flycatcher was 2 Jun at O.S.C.A. (MR). An Alder Flycatcher in Dallas 29 Jun+ nested, a first for Iowa (SD). The eastward range expansion of two flycatchers continued in Missouri, with single Western Kingbirds in St. Louis and St. Louis City (MT, PL, PK) and 2 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers each at E.B.C.A. and in Buchanan (EW, F. Cramer); nesting activity was observed in St. Charles for the 2nd year (J. Hitzeman, PK). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Union 24 Jun (J. Newton) made Iowa's first summer record since 2006. A few Loggerhead Shrikes were found in five Missouri and 12 Iowa counties, mostly in the w. half of both states (m.ob.). A few Bell's Vireos in St. Charles and St. Louis City (MT, PL, PK) were away from their expected St. Louis area locations, and 20 at O.S.C.A. 15 Jun (CB) was the most reported in Missouri.

Three ad. Black-billed Magpies were near a nest in Plymouth, IA 11 Jun (G. Von Ehwegen), their lone Regional nesting site. A Red-breasted Nuthatch in Webster, IA 26 Jul (T.

Johnson) may have been an early migrant. Single Bewick's Wrens were found in both states: 13 Jun in Jefferson, MO (JE) and at its usual Lee, IA site 6 Jun-7 Jul (JG, DP, SD). Sedge Wrens seemed to be fairly common through much of Iowa (m.ob.) and in n.-cen. Missouri (SK). Farther s., a few in Pettis, Pike, and St. Charles (EW, JE, BR) were considered Jul arrivals. Twelve Marsh Wrens at Fountain Grove C.A., Linn/Livingston 21 Jul (SK) and 19 in Pike 19 Jul (JE) were high counts for so far s. in Missouri.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Late warblers in Iowa, all singles, included Nashville Warbler in Hancock 1 Jun (JB), Black-throated Green Warbler in Hardin 3 Jun (MP), and Blackburnian Warbler in Hancock 7 Jun (PH). A Black-throated Green Warbler in Dallas, MO 28 Jun (P. Sensenig) represented the 5th summer record for Missouri, and one in Polk, IA 3 Jul (B. Engebretsen) was similarly puzzling. A Northern Waterthrush in Hancock, IA 3 & 15 Jun (RG) may have summered. A Nashville Warbler in Story, IA 27 Jun (C. Gregory) was one of the first signs of southward migration. In Iowa, 4 Chestnut-sided Warblers in Allamakee 10 Jun (DK) and one in Winneshiek 1 Jul (D. Carter) were probably nesting, and a singing Pine Warbler in Lee 6 Jun-7 Jul was close to where this species nested in 2004 (JG, DP, SD). Cerulean Warblers were found in 10 Iowa counties (m.ob.), with nesting noted in Monroe (SP). Five in Franklin and one in Crawford (JE) were reported from new locations within its expected Missouri range. One or 2 Black-and-white Warblers in Boone, Callaway, Crawford, and Morgan, MO (EW, JE) and mid-summer reports in Lee (CE, SD) and Warren, IA (J. Sinclair) suggested breeding away from its usual range. All of Iowa's reports of Worm-eating Warbler were in Lee and Van Buren in se. Iowa (m.ob.). A Hooded Warbler 8 Jun in Taney (GS, A. Kinslow) was the only one reported in Missouri.

Clay-colored Sparrow broods in Dickinson and Worth (AB, SP), and singing males in three other counties (RG, D. Harr, MK, SP), were all along Iowa's n. border. At least 3 vesper Sparrows in Sullivan, MO (SK, J. Newman) were near the s. limits of its range. Henslow's Sparrows were reported in 29 counties, mostly in s. Iowa but n. to the Minnesota border (m.ob.). An estimated 50 males were at Neal Smith (KVS). A female White-throated Sparrow in Winnebago 8 Jul (L. Ralls) is Iowa's 3rd summer report in the last four years. Counts of 31 Grasshopper Sparrows in Dade, MO 8 Jun (D. & B. Blevins), 30 at Neal Smith (KVS), and 120 Dickcissels in

St. Louis 14 Jun (BR) suggest that several grassland species had good years. In Iowa, a Blue Grosbeak pair in *Black Hawk* 4 Jun (SP) and singles in Jul in *Appanoose* and *Lee* (R. Cummins, SD) were e. of where it is expected. In Missouri, up to 5 were found in *St. Louis* and *St. Charles* (BR, MT), where the species is uncommon. Besides the expected Painted Buntings in sw. Missouri, a nesting pair was in *Cole* (EW) and a female was in O.S.C.A. in se. Missouri 2 Jun (PM, MR). Pine Siskins, presumably holdovers from the massive flight this past winter, were found in five

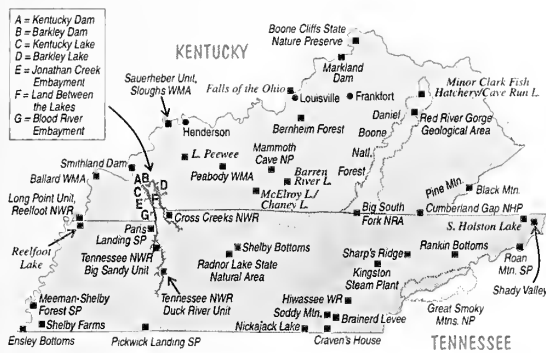
counties in each state, with most visiting bird feeders (m.ob.). Although Iowa had numerous nesting birds reported in spring, no one reported nesting this summer. Siskins are rare in summer in Missouri, so one in *Christian* in s. Missouri 4 Jun (GS) was unexpected.

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Tennessee & Kentucky



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Weather conditions were remarkably variable across the Region during the period. Precipitation varied significantly during June, being copious across the central portion (where Louisville recorded more than two times the normal rainfall and Bowling Green recorded nearly two times the normal rainfall during the month) but lacking in the western portion of the Region. Temperatures were slightly warmer than normal across most of the Region during June. July precipitation was greater than normal Regionwide, especially across western half, where Bowling Green, Paducah, and Memphis all recorded twice the normal rainfall for the month. Correspondingly, temperatures were cooler than normal during July across the Region, but especially across Kentucky, where Louisville's mean July temperature was 5° F lower than normal and both Louisville (56° F) and Bowling Green (54° F) established record-low temperatures on the morning of 19 July. The only vagrants of the season were both species of

whistling-ducks, Mottled Duck, Brown Pelican, and Great White Heron. This year's Least Tern nesting season was much more successful than in 2008.

Abbreviations: Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex, in sw. Shelby, TN); Kentucky Dam (Livingston/Marshall, KY); Little Elder I., Woods Reservoir (Franklin, TN); Roan Mt. (Carter, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., Henderson, KY); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN).

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to turn up at several locations in Shelby, TN, with as many as 18 seen in one day, including an ad. and 6 young at Ensley 23 Jul (JRW). Eight were in Lake, TN 5 Jun (NM, BS). Six Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were at Ensley 17 Jun (JRW, RR, TR). Up to 5 likely injured Snow Geese lingered at Ballard W.M.A., KY through the season (m.ob.). A Gadwall pair at Ensley 23 Jul+ (JRW) had wing injuries. Blue-winged Teal were present in above-average numbers in w. Tennessee, including three breeding pairs in Dyer during Jun (GC); a few birds were seen in w. Kentucky during the season, but no evidence of nesting was detected this year. A Mottled

Duck was reported at Lake No. 9, Fulton, KY 31 Jul (ph. DR). Three Northern Shovelers, a male and 2 females, were at Ensley 6-30 Jun (JRW); copulation was observed, but nesting was not confirmed. Likely injured diving ducks included a Canvasback and up to 20 Lesser Scaup on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY through the season (DR et al.); 4 Lesser Scaup at Ensley 6-15 Jun (JRW); a male Ring-necked Duck in w. Henderson, KY into early Jul (CC); a female Ring-necked Duck in Union, KY 18 Jul (BPA, MA); and a pair of Ring-necked Ducks at Watauga R., Elizabethton, Carter, TN through the season (HF, GE, RK). Other unusual summer waterfowl included a Redhead on the Ohio R., Campbell, KY 21-25 Jun (FR, JF et al.) and up to 7 Ruddy Ducks at Robco L., Shelby, TN 6 Jun-3 Jul (JRW). A Common Loon was on Kentucky L. above the dam 18 (BPA) & 26 Jun+ (DR). A brood of Pied-billed Grebes was present at Island No. 8 Slough, Fulton, KY in Jul (DR et al.).

Five American White Pelicans on L.



This immature Brown Pelican, present on the Ohio River in Oldham County, Kentucky 14 July 2009, may have been the same individual that had been seen at four Kentucky locales earlier in the year. Photograph by Wondo Bortholomai.



Records of wandering immature Brown Pelicans—such as this one at Duck River Unit, Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Benton County, Tennessee 27 July 2009—are on the distinct increase in the interior of eastern North America. Photograph by Clayton Ferrell.

Barkley, *Lyon*, KY 19 Jun (DR, JR) may have been summering; a flock (number unspecified) was at Barkley Dam, *Livingston/Lyon*, KY 31 Jul (DR). The imm. Brown Pelican present at L. Carnico, *Nicholas*, KY during late May was last seen 12 Jun (WK, GK); perhaps the same imm. bird was observed on the Ohio R. at Dayton, *Campbell*, KY 13 Jul (ph. FR) and again on the Ohio R. about 6 km upstream from Charlestown, *IN/Oldham*, KY 14 Jul (ph., †WB). Another (or the same?) imm. Brown Pelican was at the Duck River Unit Tennessee N.W.R., *Humphreys*, TN 27 Jul+ (ph. CF ph. MT et al.). Single Anhingas were observed in *Dyer*, TN 21 Jun (GC), in *Lake*, TN 3 Jul (GC), and at the Long Point Unit, Reelfoot N.W.R., *Fulton*, KY 13 Jul (†DR).

There were only three reports of Least Bittern in Kentucky: 2 at Peabody W.M.A., *Ohio* 6 Jun (DR, CS) and one at Sauerheber 6 Jun (BY, MY) and 23 Jul (EHa, MM). In Tennessee, 2 ads. were at Standifer Gap 7 Jul (TR), although no other breeding evidence was reported. A Great White Heron was on the Tennessee R. below Chickamauga Dam, *Hamilton*, TN 9 Jun–2 Jul (HS, JG, m.ob.). Astoundingly, another was confirmed 8 km away at the Thomas Farm, *Hamilton*, TN 21 Jun–3 Jul (J&CW, DJ, m.ob.). A group of at least 1300 Great Egrets at Island No. 8 Slough, *Fulton*, KY 26 Jul (BPa, EHu) represented the season's peak count of post-breeders. Great Egrets are rare breeders in e. Tennessee, so five nests on Cherokee L., *Hamblen* 14 Jun (MS) were noteworthy. A Snowy Egret nest with 2 ads. and 2 chicks at Little Elder I., TN 7 Jul (DSw, JSw, DHa) was a rare find in the Region, and espe-

cially away from the Mississippi River; 141 fledgling or nestling Cattle Egrets were also present. A Tricolored Heron was in *Dyer*, TN 4 Jun (BPu). Three Glossy/White-faced Ibis were seen flying in the distance at Chickasaw N.W.R., *Lauderdale*, TN 7 Jun (JRW). An impressive number of imm. White Ibis turned up in middle and e. Tennessee during late Jul: 2 at Little Elder I. 20 Jul (DSw, JS, SS); 15 at Rankin Bottoms, *Cocke* 24 Jul (MS); 3 in *Hamilton* 26 Jul (TB et al.); one at Mossy Creek, *Jefferson* 30 Jul (MS); and 7 at Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Humphreys*, TN 26 Jul (CF), with 4 still there 30 Jul (MT). Two other White Ibis were reported: an ad. (rarely seen in the Region) in *Dyer*, TN 4 Jun (BPu), and an imm. in Bristol, TN late Jun–11 Jul (EO). A Wood Stork was in *Lauderdale*, TN 5 Jul (ph. DBr-TN).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Single Mississippi Kites at Louisville, KY 25 Jun (JBr) and in *Jefferson*, TN 27 Jul (BB) were away from the normal summer range of the species in the w. portion of the Region. A new Osprey nest was located along the Ohio R., *Pendleton*, KY (DSt). A Northern Harrier along the *Dyer/Lake* line, TN 6 Jul represented yet another summer report from an area in the Region where the species has not been confirmed breeding. A loose group of approximately 35 American Kestrels at the Louisville, KY landfill 16 Jul (RA) represented a remarkable post-breeding concentration. It was a good season for nesting Peregrine Falcons in Kentucky, with three new pairs discovered this year: in w. Louisville, *Jefferson*; at Covington, *Kenton*; and in w. *Boone* (all KH, DSt et al.). This brings to 11 the total number of active nesting territories, all along the Ohio R. corridor. These 11 pairs produced a record 35 young that survived to fledging age in 2009 (KH). In Tennessee, no nests were reported, and only 2 individuals were reported, one each on 19 & 23 Jul at Ensley (JRW).

As last year, Virginia Rails bred again at Standifer Gap, with an ad. and a chick present there 3 Jul (DJ); one at Shady Valley, *Johnson*, TN 26 Jun (TM) was suggestive of breeding, whereas one lingering in a yard in Nashville, TN 13 Jun–8 Aug (AM, JKS, m.ob.) had an injured wing and eventually died. A Common Moorhen was heard at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, several times during late Jul (MM); 2 ads. and at least one young were at Camp #11, *Union*, KY 25 Jul (BPa, EHu). A Semipalmated Plover in *Muhlenberg*, KY 6 Jun (DR, CS) was unusually late; one and 8 in w. *Henderson*, KY 2 & 8 Jul (CC), respectively, were the earliest returnees. Two American Avocets in *Dyer*, TN 3 Jun (GC) and one at Mud

L., *Lake*, TN 16 Jun were in between normal migratory periods; one at Rankin Bottoms, *Cocke*, TN 12 Jul (MS) was an early returnee. A few Black-necked Stilts bred successfully in the Lower Hickman Bottoms of w. *Fulton*, KY during Jul (BPa, EHu, DR). A Greater Yellowlegs in s. *Jefferson*, KY 5 Jun (EHu) was likely a tardy spring migrant; one at Obion W.M.A., *Fulton*, KY 26 Jun (DR, DBr-KY) and one along the *Dyer/Lake* line, TN 3 Jul (GC) were likely early southbound migrants. Spotted Sandpipers lingered into early Jun at several locations in both Tennessee and Kentucky, with nesting confirmed at two locales: a pair with 4 small young along the Ohio R., Dayton, *Campbell*, KY 2 Jul (ph. FR) and 2 fledglings at Ensley 24 Jul (JRW). A pair of Spottedts in se. *Muhlenberg*, KY 6 Jun (DR, CS) also appeared to be on territory. Single Upland Sandpipers were found in *Ballard*, KY 26 Jul (BPa, ph. EHu) and at Ensley 26 Jul (JRW). Two Least Sandpipers in w. *Fulton*, KY 20 Jun (DR) were likely early fall migrants. A flock of 8 Sanderlings on the Mississippi R., *Hickman*, KY 10 Jun (JBr) established a new late spring date for Kentucky. Two molting ad. Sander-



This Great White Heron was on the Tennessee River below Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton County, Tennessee 9 (here 16) June through 2 July 2009. Astoundingly, a second bird was confirmed about eight kilometers away at the Thomas Farm in Hamilton County 22 June through 3 July. Photograph by Richard Schier.

lings were at Dacus Bar, Mississippi R., *Shelby*, TN 19 Jul (JRW). A Western Sandpiper in w. *Fulton*, KY 2 Jul (HC) established a new early fall arrival date for Kentucky. White-rumped Sandpipers are uncommon spring and very rare fall migrants, so 2 at Ensley 21 Jun (JRW)

and one there 7 Jul (JRW) were quite unusual. Baird's Sandpipers in w. *Henderson*, KY 25 Jul (BPa, EHu) and at Kentucky Dam Village S.P., *Marshall*, KY 31 Jul (HC et al.) were the earliest fall migrants reported. One to 2 Dunlins lingered at three w. Kentucky locations into early Jun, with the latest being one in *Fulton* 11 Jun (JBr). A Wilson's Snipe in *Henderson*, KY 8 Jul (†CC) was early.

An ad. Laughing Gull was seen at Kentucky Dam 26 Jun (DR) and 13 Jul (DR, DBr-KY). Two Herring Gulls were at Kentucky Dam 14 Jul (DR). Least Terns had better breeding success along the Mississippi R. and lower Ohio R. than in 2008; however, some fluctuation in water levels again caused some nesting losses. Caspian, Forster's, and Black Terns do not breed in the Region, but nearly every year there are a few Jun records between normal spring and fall migration periods. Caspian Tern reports appearing to suggest either a small summer presence of non-breeders or a mid-Jun commencement to fall migration included 2 at Calvert City, *Marshall*, KY 18 Jun (BPa); one at Steele Creek Park, *Bristol*, TN 18 Jun (LM); one n. of *Hickman*, *Fulton*, KY 19 Jun (DR); 4 at *Obion* W.M.A., w. *Fulton*, KY 20 Jun (DR); and 10 at *Barkley* Dam 26 Jun (DR, DBr-KY). Early migrant or summering Forster's Terns included 2 in w. *Fulton*, KY and one at *Kentucky* Dam, both 26 Jun (DR, DBr-KY). There were two reports of Black Tern during Jun: at least 4 on the Mississippi R. near *Middle Bar*, *Hickman*, KY 10 Jun (JBr) and 2 in s. *Daviess*, KY 14 Jun (BLI). Black Terns made a noteworthy push through the Region 25 Jul, with 3-25 observed at four w. Kentucky locales (BPa, EHu) and 117 counted in *Lake*, *Lauderdale*, and *Shelby*, TN (JRW) that day.

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

There were only 2 Black-billed Cuckoos reported: one at *Flatwoods*, *Pike*, KY 1 Jun (SF) and one heard at *Shaker Village*, *Mercer*, KY 15 Jun (BLc, DP). It was apparent by late Jul that many fewer Ruby-throated Hummingbirds than normal were present in n. Kentucky, although numbers appeared to be normal across the rest of the Region. Cool, rainy weather as well as several bouts of severe storms in this area were thought to be responsible for low nesting success and fewer birds.

A calling Least Flycatcher at *Louisville* 19 Jun (BPa) and an Alder Flycatcher heard singing softly at *Shaker Village*, *Mercer*, KY 30 Jun (†BPa) were apparently extremely early migrants. Continuing the trend of recent years, an impressive total of 18 Western Kingbird nests was photographed in *Shelby*, TN

during the period; three of these nests involved a Western Kingbird paired with Western Kingbird × Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hybrids. In Kentucky, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported near the former *Grand Rivers*, *Livingston* nesting territory 12 Jun (PL, *fide* BLi), but no other sightings occurred there during the season. In Tennessee, one nest was in *Marion* 14 Jun (DJ, JH), at least five were in *Bledsoe* (MG, SWa, SWi), and one was on *President's I.*, *Shelby* (JRW).

Loggerhead Shrikes have become very rare in all but the westernmost part of the Region, so two summer reports from e. Tennessee were noteworthy: an ad. with 2-3 young was in *Washington* 10 Jul (RHa) and, for the 3rd year in a row, one was in *Polk* 4 Jun (RHo). Several significant Purple Martin roosts were detected on National Weather Service radar images during late Jul, with two confirmed in Kentucky: thousands on the nw. side of *Campbellsville*, *Taylor* 30 Jul (NC) and 15,000-25,000 on the nw. side of *Lexington*, *Fayette* during the last week of Jul (PD, *fide* JWi). An apparent Tree Swallow × Barn Swallow hybrid was at *Louisville* 29 Jun-3 Jul (BPa, ph. EHu). A Cliff Swallow nesting colony along *Drakes Cr.*, *Simpson*, KY (DR) represented a county first. A Sedge Wren in *Union*, KY 25 Jul (BPa, EHu) was the only one reported. A Swainson's Thrush and 6 Hermit Thrushes were at *Mt. LeConte*, *Great Smoky Mountains N.P.*, *Sevier*, TN 14 Jul (AL); this is the 2nd summer record there for Swainson's Thrush and only the 3rd for Tennessee. Four to 5 Hermit Thrushes were at *Roan Mt.* through the season (RK, AL), and up to 3 were at *Unaka Mt.*, *Unicoi*, TN 3 & 6 Jun (RK, AL).

Atlas work for Golden-winged Warblers conducted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources resulted in reports of 13 territorial birds at four sites (two in *Bell* and two in *Harlan*) during late May (DBa, LP, JSt, SV), as well as a singing male at *Flatwoods*, *Pike* 1 Jun (SF). Up to 4 singing male Magnolia Warblers were at *Roan Mt.* 1-23 Jun (RK); 5 singing males were at *Unaka Mt.*, *Unicoi*, TN 3 Jun (RK). A significant amount of research was conducted on the breeding population of Bachman's Sparrows at *Ft. Campbell* this season, with 16 ads. and 3 juvs. observed in *Trigg*, KY and 6 ads. observed in *Stewart*, TN (DMo, EHo). Many of these birds were banded as part of research

being conducted by the University of Tennessee. Breeding Savannah Sparrows appear to be strengthening their toehold in ne. Tennessee; two to three pairs were at each of two sites in *Washington* (RK), single singing males were at two sites in *Johnson* 13 & 16 Jun (ML, TM), 3 singing males were in *Hamblen* 4 Jul (DMi), one was in *Greene* 3 Jul (DMi), and as many as 7 singing birds total were at two sites in *Cumberland* (JM, EL). A singing Savannah Sparrow was present at *Christine*, *Adair*, KY 23 Jun (RD) for the 2nd year in a row. A Lark Sparrow in *Crockett*, TN 29 Jul (CF) represented a new summer location. In general, this species appears to be increasing as a breeder in localized areas in the cen. part of the Region. Quite unexpected



Following the heavy Pine Siskin flight of winter 2008-2009, small numbers lingered in the Tennessee and Kentucky region into early summer. This was one of two birds reported in Kentucky during July (here captured at a MAPS banding station in *Mercer* County, Kentucky, 9 July). Photograph by *Dan Stoelb*.

were 2 singing Vesper Sparrows in w. *Henderson*, KY 18 Jul (BPa, MA), with at least one still there 21 Jul (ph. CC); one to two pairs were at *Roan Mt.*, a traditional breeding locale, 1 & 10 Jun (RK). Several Bobolinks were heard at *Shaker Village*, *Mercer*, KY 12 Jun (JBr) and 30 Jul (BPa); a pair with 2 fledglings in *Washington*, TN 22 Jul (RK, m.ob.) furnished at least the 2nd confirmed breeding at this location. Following the heavy spring flight of Pine Siskins, there were two reports during Jul: one at a feeding station near *Caney*, nw. *Magoffin*, KY during the first 10 days of Jul (DHe) and one at *Shaker Village*, *Mercer*, KY 9 Jul (ph. KH et al.).

Corrigendum: The Swainson's Thrush reported 1 Jun 2008 in *Greene*, TN (*North American Birds* 62: 570) was in fact a Swainson's Warbler.

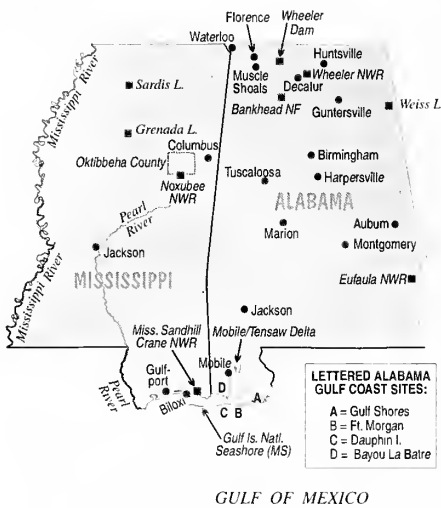
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Alabama & Mississippi



Steven W. McConnell

Deep South birders found this season's climate generally warmer and dryer than normal in June but cooler and wetter later in July, especially in the northern portion of our Region. No tropical systems threatened to cloud our horizons this season. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to make news with an apparent first nesting in Alabama. Two Kelp Gull x Herring Gull hybrids furnished a first Alabama record. Sooty Terns returned to the Alabama coast to nest again for only the second time. A Gulf of Mexico pelagic trip in June found mostly brown water but also good views of Band-rumped and Wilson's Storm-Petrels.

Abbreviations: Dauphin (Dauphin I., Mobile, AL); Delta (Mississippi R. delta of nw. and w. cen. Mississippi); Ft. Morgan (Ft. Morgan State Historical Park, Baldwin, AL); Grand

Bay (Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Preserve, Jackson, MS); M.R. (Mountain Region of n. Alabama); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., Noxubee/Oktibbeha/Winston, MS); Ross Barnett (Ross Barnett Res., Rankin/Madison, MS); Seaman (Seaman Road lagoons, Jackson, MS); T.V. (Tennessee Valley Region of n. Alabama); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., Limestone/Morgan/Madison, AL); Yazoo (Yazoo N.W.R., Washington, MS).

WATERFOWL THROUGH EGRETS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks managed to maintain a presence at several locations in the Region this season, on the heels of an active spring season. Four reports of up to 4 ducks were collected from Mississippi 3-10 Jun, mostly from Delta or coastal counties (m.ob.). Up to 7 birds, including juvs., continued 13 Jun-29 Jul at Blakeley I., Mobile, AL, presumably furnishing a first state breeding record (CH, SWM). Summer waterfowl reports seemed especially numerous, with 18 records accumulated comprising 11 species. Most noteworthy of these were a male Canvasback 10 Jun at Guntersville, Marshall, AL that furnished only the 2nd summer T.V. record (KH); an injured male Greater Scaup 23-24 Jul at a catfish pond near Moorhead, Sunflower, MS, where very few previous summer records exist (†DB); five Ruddy Duck reports, including the possibility of breeding at a catfish pond in Sunflower, MS, where 18 ad. drakes and hens were noted 23 Jul (DB); and 2 Surf Scoters on Dauphin 6 Jun (HEH, T&JS), representing only the 2nd Alabama Jun record.

A Gulf of Mexico pelagic trip 20 Jun successfully reached a point 135 km s. of Orange Beach, Baldwin, AL into waters around 1300 m deep. Despite the lack of clear, blue water,

fish oil chum attracted 8 storm-petrels into view, including 5 Band-rumped and a Wilson's (ph. KH, m.ob.). Two large flocks of American White Pelicans were noted this summer, a season when the species is frequently absent. A count of 62 was made at Blakeley I., Mobile, AL 12 Jul (CH), and 60 were found at Noxubee 1 Jun (DR). A lone Brown Pelican was observed at Ross Barnett 29 Jun (ph. SP), where several have been present since fall 2005. Least Bittern is a rarely detected breeder, making the two reports received noteworthy. The first was at a small wetland in Madison, AL 7-11 Jul, where 2 birds were found last spring (DRC), and the other was at Noxubee 5 Jun (D&JP). Snowy Egrets made a significant post-breeding dispersal into n. Alabama, where the species is typically hard to find in summer. Leading the pack were the 5 in Lauderdale 26 Jul (SWM), providing an impressive total compared to recent years' totals. Black-crowned Night-Herons are not unusual to find during summer; however, the 25 counted at Neely Henry Dam, St. Clair/Calhoun, AL 10 Jun (MSh) established a new maximum for the M.R.

IBIS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Imm. White Ibis staged a noteworthy late-summer movement 15-31 Jul into the T.V., where the species is rarely found. Maximum counts were 5 in Colbert 22 Jul (DJS) and 8 at Wheeler 18 Jul (m.ob.). White-faced Ibis continue to be found into the summer season at Yazoo, where Mississippi's first breeding record was established the previous spring (DL). Three Roseate Spoonbills at St. Catherine Creek N.W.R., Adams, MS 19 Jun (BS) made the only report. An excellent count of 60 Clapper Rails came from Grand Bay 10 Jul



After a probable adult Kelp Gull was photographed in March 2009, it was not completely surprising to discover two apparent Kelp Gull \times Herring Gull hybrids on a dredge spoil island in Mobile Bay, Mobile County, during early summer (here 17 June 2009). The origin of these apparent F_1 "Chandeleur Gulls" is open to speculation, but it is certain they represent a first report for Alabama. Photographs by Roger Clay.

(JW). A troubling report was the scarcity of Wood Storks at Noxubee this season compared to the hundreds often present during summer. Frequent observations only resulted in a maximum count of 17 on 1 Jun, and most trips only found one to 3 birds (TLS, DR, LT). Ospreys were much in evidence at L. Gunter'sville, Marshall, AL 22-28 Jun, with four active nests and up to 24 individuals—new maximum inland and summer Alabama totals (JGr). The chance of finding a feeding or roosting Swallow-tailed Kite flock is usually enough to convince birders to wander outside even on the hottest summer days. This season, three such Alabama concentrations were noted. The 15 at Forest Home, Butler 2 Jun (CK) provided a good count for Jun, while the 50+ found 20-28 Jul near Autaugaville, Autauga (JDL, RD, TRP, m.ob.) made an excellent post-breeding count. However, the prize goes to the results of the aerial surveys conducted 19-25 Jul along the Alabama R. and Tombigbee R. systems, where up to 256 were counted during one day (ph. ECS, m.ob.)! This total was more than quadruple the previous Alabama maximum. A new state record was also established by the estimated 135 Mississippi Kites seen in Butler, AL 2 Jun (CK). Bald Eagles have usually completed breeding in our Region by late May, making the ad. with 2 juvs. on a nest at Columbus, Lowndes, MS 3 Jul very unusual (JD). The location was near where a late nesting also took place in 2008. At least 3 Black-bellied Plovers were noted on Dauphin 3 Jul in addition to a single Semipalmated Plover (HEH, T&JS), either summering birds or early migrants. Two late Semipalmated Plovers were found in Colbert, AL 2 Jun (DJS), to be followed seven weeks later by a record-early returnee in Lauderdale 12 Jul (TMH). The Black-necked

Stilt nesting attempts in Colbert, AL continued until at least 7 Jun, when a pair was seen still attending their nest adjacent an increasingly flooded field (SWM). Visits later in the season failed to relocate any birds and revealed the site had been plowed and planted. Rarely found in summer, an Upland Sandpiper s. of Magnolia Springs, Baldwin 18 Jun+ (DP) furnished only the 5th Alabama Jun record. The earliest Alabama Jul record ever for Western Sandpiper was established 3 Jul by a lone bird on Dauphin (HEH, T&JS). Late White-rumped Sandpipers were noted 13 Jun, when 2 were found at Blakeley I., Mobile, AL (CH) and 15 Jun, when a single bird was found at a sod farm in St. Clair, AL (GDJ, DGJ). Also tardy was a Baird's Sandpiper in Colbert, AL 9 Jun (JMH, JBCH). The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper reported this season was a lone bird at a turf farm near Oxford, Lafayette, MS 28 Jul (GK), where the species is an uncommon migrant.

GULLS THROUGH CHICKADEES

Two ad. gulls, apparently first-generation (F_1) Kelp Gull \times Herring Gull hybrids, were studied on a dredge spoil island in Mobile Bay, Mobile, AL 17-26 Jun (ph. RC). This would presumably be the first documented occurrence of "Chandeleur Gull" in Alabama. Sooty Terns returned this season to breed again on Dauphin, where ads. were observed incubating up to three nests with eggs 11 Jun-4 Jul (RC, ph. SCM). This was only the 2nd season definite nesting documented in Alabama (2008 was the first). A Common Ground-Dove was detected again this season along the Macon B.B.S. route, Noxubee, MS 7-16 Jun (TLS, MS). This was the 3rd time the species has been found along this route in recent years, in a region where it is otherwise

considered rare. A lone Black-billed Cuckoo was a very interesting find 9 Jul at Seaman (m.ob.); the date seemed to indicate a very early returning migrant or failed breeder. Confirmed breeding evidence for Chuck-will's-widow is rarely discovered, making the two nests with eggs at Gulf Shores, Baldwin, AL 1-2 Jun (ph. BSu) particularly interesting.

Two singing Willow Flycatchers were well documented near Hartselle, Morgan 6-27 Jun (vt. MSG) for a probable 2nd Alabama nesting record. Seven reports comprising 16 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (2 at new sites) provided further evidence the species continues to entrench and expand its breeding range into Alabama (m.ob.). Searchers taking part in the St. Clair, AL summer bird count discovered a possible breeding Blue-headed Vireo 14 Jun (GJH, JG); the species is otherwise believed to be very rare in summer in this area. A new Alabama maximum inland count of Blue-headed Vireos was established 16 Jul when 17 (including 12 immms.) were totaled during a 30-stop route around Cheaha Resort S.P., Cleburne in the Talladega N.F. (DAM). Six Fish Crow reports were accumulated from n. Alabama sites, where the species is still rare but increasing in population and distribution. In the same vein, six Tree Swallow sightings were received (four at new sites) from the n. half of Alabama. Most interesting were the three or four pairs observed nesting in Purple Martin houses in Limestone 9 Jun (JMH, JBCH). Careful searching of a large, post-breeding swallow gathering adjacent to the Mississippi R. in Tunica 21 Jul resulted in the discovery of 28 Bank Swallows (DB). The possibility of breeding in the area was not evaluated. Furnishing a first confirmed island record, a Carolina Chickadee was observed at feeders on Dauphin 19-26 Jul (ph. EC).



After several tantalizing late-summer sightings on Dauphin Island, Mobile County, over the past several years, Sooty Terns were finally confirmed nesting in Alabama during 2008. Observations during the summer of 2009 (shown here 4 July) included three nests with eggs and provided the second documented breeding record for the state. Photograph by Sean C. McConnell.

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

The singing Black-throated Green Warbler at Monte Sano S.P., Madison, AL 26 Jun furnished a first Jun county record (JMH, JBCH). A 30-stop count around Cheaha Resort S.P., Cleburne, AL 16 Jul produced 46 Black-throated Greens (including 29 imms.), an excellent summer count (DAM). A singing male Blackpoll Warbler at Ft. Morgan 14 Jun was

extremely tardy for s. Alabama (MJJ). Cerulean Warblers were reported from three locations this season. The first report consisted of 3 seen just s. of the Tennessee line in Jackson, AL 6 Jun, where the species is still an expected breeder (DRC, RCu). A single bird was noted at Percy Quin S.P., Pike, MS 19 Jun (GKo), and up to 4, including a probable juv., were observed at Monte Sano S.P., Madison, AL 26 Jun–10 Jul, where the last recorded nesting took place in 1960 (JBCH, JMH). A new maximum Alabama inland summer count for Black-and-white Warbler was established when 24 were totaled during a 30-stop route around Cheaha Resort S.P., Cleburne 16 Jul (DAM). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder in Dothan, Houston 1 Jun was tardy to depart and tied the latest Alabama record (ph. SM). Two Bobolinks remained into Jun in Mississippi: a male near West Point, Clay 2 Jun (HM, KB)

furnished only the 2nd local Jun record, and a female at Noxubee 5 Jun (HM, KB) was observed within a few days of the previous late date. A Baltimore Oriole was noted during point count surveys at St. Catherine Creek N.W.R., Adams, MS 8 Jun (BS), furnishing a very late local record.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kristina Baker, Devin Bosler, Eugenia Carey, Roger Clay, Dean R. Cutten, Raelene Cutten, Rod Douglas, Jessica Germany, M. Scott Gravette, Jerry Green, Tom M. Haggerty, Kate Hanson, Greg J. Harber, J. Bert C. Harris, Jim M. Harris, Chazz Hesselein, Kathy Hicks, Howard E. Horne, Judy Howle, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson (Alabama), Michael J. Jordan, Charles Kennedy, Gene Knight, Greg Kohn, John D. Law, David Linden, Sean C. McConnell, Steven W. McConnell, Hal Mitchell, Sharon Montefusco, Derek A. Muschalek, Dianne & Jim Patterson, Scott Peyton, David Plumb, Tommy R. Pratt, Dave Richardson, Maureen Shaffer, Marion Schiefer, Terence L. Schiefer (Mississippi), Tom & Joan Siegwald, Damien J. Simbeck, Eric C. Soehren, Bob Strader, Bill Summerour, Lauren Thead, Jake Walker. 🌐

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Arkansas & Louisiana



Steven W. Cardiff

The first two months of the 2009 hurricane season were quiet in the Region. In fact, some tropical rains would have been welcomed, as drought conditions persisted from the spring into mid-July over much of the southern portion of the Region. The third season of the Louisiana Summer Bird Atlas project took place from 1 June to 15 July.

Abbreviations: C.F.H. (Craig Fish Hatchery, near Centerton, Benton, AR); C.N.F. (Camp Nine Farm, Desha, AR). 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 *Arkansas Birds*,

their distribution and abundance (James and Neal 1986) and the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) online bird record database (for records since 1986). Significance for Louisiana records is based 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

Notable Black-bellied Whistling-Duck sightings in Arkansas included 2 in Arkansas 8 Jun (ph. Holden & Jennifer McCollum), 17 in Crawford 13 Jun (Bill & Toka Beall), and 2 w. of Winchester 2 Jul (adding to the few *Drew* records; DB). In Louisiana, nesting is likely rampant these days, but actual reports of confirmed breeding remain few; this summer, the only such report was of an ad. with 8 small ducklings at L. Martin, St. Martin 3 Jun (Danny



Not exactly a species that one would expect to show up on a Gulf of Mexico barrier island in late June, this immature Snow Goose was present just one day, 22 June 2009, at Wine Island, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. Photograph by E. J. Raynor.

Dobbs). Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, generally rare outside sw. Louisiana, continue to be found with some regularity at C.N.E. in sw. Arkansas, where the summer high count was 25 on 2 Jun (DB); 8 near Winchester 6 Jul (DB) were thought to be the first for *Drew*. Although the occasional spring/summer straggler Snow Goose is almost expected on the mainland, a transient imm. at Wine I. in the Isles Derniers barrier island chain, *Terrebonne* 22 Jun (ph. EJR) was certainly a surprise. A male Blue-winged Teal at C.E.H. 17 Jun (MAM, SE) was considered an unusual summer visitor in nw. Arkansas. An assortment of late puddle ducks near Cheneyville, *Rapides*, LA 6 Jun, including 8 Gadwalls and 5 Northern Shovelers, may have involved leftover hunting season cripples (Wayne Watkins), but a female Northern Shoveler at Lonoke, *Lonoke*, AR 26 Jul (JD) was considered a very early fall migrant. Five very late Surf Scoters were at Rutherford Beach, *Cameron*, LA 5-6 Jun, and 3 remained through 14 Jun (SWC, ph. DLD). Whether a late spring migrant or a summering bird, a first-year male Black Scoter at Wapanocca N.W.R., *Crittenden* 31 May (Jeff R. Wilson, Gail King) was the first Arkansas occurrence from between Mar and Oct. Up to 15 Ruddy Ducks at Treadway's Minnow Farm, *Prairie*, AR 26 Jul (JD) had likely summered in the area.

A basic-plumaged Common Loon sighted on the s. shore of L. Pontchartrain, New Orleans, *Orleans* 3 Jul (DPM) was presumably summering in the area. Perhaps more interesting was an ad. in alternate plumage at L. Cortez, Hot Springs Village, *Garland*, AR 12-27 Jul (Dave Specht, Debbie Whitecotton, ph. Carolyn Minson et al.); there are very few previous Jul records, and only a few other summer records involving alternate-plumaged individuals. Reports of summering Northern Gannets were limited to an ailing imm. on the beach at Grand

Isle, *Jefferson*, LA 3 Jul (ph. Christine Schexnayder) and a freshly dead subad. at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, LA 30 Jul (ph. PEC). An imm. Brown Pelican at Bald Knob N.W.R. 22 Jul (K&LN, Bill Alexander, Robert Pearrow) was a first for *White*, AR and generated yet another "anomalous" data point from the deep interior of the Region. On the heels of last summer's concentration just n. at Morganza Spillway, 74 Neotropic Cormorants along the e. edge of the Atchafalaya Basin from Ramah to Bayou Sorrel, *Iberville*, LA 23 Jun (JVR, CF, JaP) was indicative of continued eastward expansion of the breeding distribution. Last summer's new state high count of 27 Least Bitterns at C.N.E. was dramatically trounced exactly one year later, when 100 were conservatively estimated in the area 27 Jun (DB); apparently, the species is thriving there. Up to 6 Least Bitterns at Frog Bayou W.M.A., *Crawford* 6-11 Jul (JCN, Scott Michaud, DO, JBr), including a fledgling 11 Jul, were also noteworthy breeders for nw. Arkansas. An ad. Tricolored Heron near Kelso, *Desha* 8 Jun (DB) was very unusual so early in se. Arkansas. Considered scarce in nw. Arkansas, 2 ad. and 2 fledgling Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Frog Bayou W.M.A. 3 Jul (JCN, JBr, DO) and an ad. at Devil's Den S.P., *Washington* 27 Jul (JoP) were of interest. The above-mentioned 23 Jun Ramah-Bayou Sorrel survey in Louisiana's s. interior also produced unexpected totals of 21 ad. White-faced Ibis, 46 *Plegadis* (White-faced or Glossy Ibis), and 18 Roseate Spoonbills (JVR, CF, JaP). Another 2 ad. White-faced Ibis were documented in ne. Louisiana's Ouachita W.M.A., *Ouachita* 7 Jun (ph. JBe); it remains unclear whether these ad. *Plegadis* in the interior represent breeders or post-breeding dispersers. Relatively early Wood Storks in Arkansas included 25 at Woodard L., *Ouachita* 8 Jun (Kelly Chitwood, Carrie Davis) and 4 at Raft Creek Bottoms W.M.A., *White* 25 Jul (K&LN); 730 in the Ramah area 10 Jul (JVR, CF, JH) was also an excellent count for midsummer.

OSPREY THROUGH TERNS

A nesting pair of Ospreys at L. Conway, *Faulkner* 1 Jul (DS) marked the 10th consecutive year of breeding at the site. Swallow-tailed Kites at Provencal, *Natchitoches*, LA 12 Jun (JH) and at L. Fayetteville 28 Jul (MAM) were well outside known breeding areas. An ad. White-tailed Kite and 2 recently fledged young near a nest s. of DeRidder, *Beauregard* were confirmed 11 Jun (ph. Matthew T. Pontiff); the finders (Kerney & Maxie Sonnier) report that the pair fledged 3 young from the nest. This is the 7th confirmed

breeding occurrence for Louisiana and the 3rd away from the Holly Beach area of *Cameron*. Another ad. White-tailed Kite observed in *Rapides* 7 Jul (Steve Shively) was also an unusual find during summer in the Louisiana interior. Until fairly recently, Louisiana's winter-nesting Bald Eagle population would relocate to n. latitudes for the summer months, but summer records are slowly accumulating, indicating a shift in seasonal presence. This summer, an ad. was noted at Cotile L., *Rapides* through the period (JVH), and another was found along Thompson Cr., *East Feliciana* 6 Jun (Mark Skinner, JVR, D. Prowell, V. Bayless). A male Northern Harrier, either a very late migrant or possible rare breeder, seen about 16 km e. of Malvern, *Grant* 7 Jun (Cody Fields), was apparently the first Jun occurrence in Arkansas in almost 30 years. Additional Sharp-shinned Hawk breeding records generated from Arkansas this summer included a pair with a fledgling 11 km s. of Hector 19 Jun, and a nesting pair 8 km n. of Hector 25 Jun (both Pope, both Leif Anderson). Although now considered a scarce but increasingly well established breeder in sw. Louisiana based on circumstantial evidence, the state's long-overdue first confirmed active nest of Swainson's Hawk, containing a large chick attended by an ad. at Holmwood, *Calcasieu* 9 Jun (ph., vt. Michael A. Seymour, Nicole F. Lorenz, Blain Cerame; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries) was cause for celebration; an ad. in *St. Martin* 19 Jul (Gary Broussard) was somewhat farther e. than expected. An ad. Swain-



Swainson's Hawks have obviously become established as a breeding bird in southwestern Louisiana over the past several decades, but an active nest had never been found—that is, until 9 June 2009, when this poorly concealed platform with one large chick and attending adult was discovered at Holmwood, Calcasieu Parish. Photograph by Michael A. Seymour.

son's near Vaughn, *Benton* 10 (MAM, JoP, DOu) & 28 Jul (JCN) provided circumstantial evidence of continued breeding in this area of nw. Arkansas. American Kestrels near Pearl River, *St. Tammany* 3 Jun (JOC) and at Baton Rouge, *East Baton Rouge* 28 Jun (JH) were suggestive of rare s. Louisiana breeding attempts. Almost always mentionable in Arkansas, 1-2 Purple Gallinules at C.N.E. 24 Jun+ (DB) were



This recently hatched Snowy Plover chick at Rutherford Beach, Cameron Parish, Louisiana 25 July 2009, one of two attended by the female parent, confirmed the first July nesting in the state; the previous six records, all since 1999, were from late April through early June. Photograph by Donna L. Dittmann.

the first found there since 1991, and 2 more were detected at Bois d'Arc W.M.A., *Hempstead* 5 Jul (K&LN). An impressive 300 Common Moorhens were tallied at C.N.F. 27 Jun (DB).

Following the finding of a female Snowy Plover with a small chick at Rutherford Beach in early May 2009, another female and small chick were documented 5 Jun (6th Louisiana breeding occurrence; ph. DLD, SWC), and, amazingly, a female and 2 small chicks were located 25 Jul (ph. DLD, SWC) for Louisiana's 7th breeding occurrence and first record later than the first week of Jun. A Spotted Sandpiper on the upper Arkansas R. s. of Mulberry, *Crawford* 11 Jul (K&LN) was probably an early fall migrant; although there are a few older breeding records for Arkansas, breeding activity would probably be more likely during late May and Jun, and fall migrants have been recorded as far s. as the Louisiana coast by early Jul. A Marbled Godwit on the coast near Port Fourchon, *Lafourche*, LA 25 Jun (JMM) may have been an early fall migrant rather than a summering bird; 2 at Anderson's

Minnow Farm near Lonoke 31 Jul (JD, Craig Provost, Dale Provost, Delos McAuley) were also unusual and relatively early fall migrants for Arkansas. Also possibly an early migrant, and rare away from the sw. Louisiana coast, was a Long-billed Curlew at W. Raccoon I., *Terrebonne* 29 Jun (EJR). Five Whimbrels, possibly late spring migrants, were at Rutherford Beach 5 Jun (SWC, DLD). An assortment of late spring migrant shorebirds at C.F.H. in extreme nw. Arkansas included 30 Semipalmated Sandpipers 3 Jun and 3 present 17 Jun, an exceptional concentration of 170

White-rumped Sandpipers 3 Jun, and 4 Pectoral Sandpipers 17 Jun (all MAM, SE). Interesting early fall migrant ad. shorebirds in *Lonoke*, cen. Arkansas included a Willet at Lonoke 28 Jul (DBo), a Ruddy Turnstone near Kerr 30 Jul (K&LN), and up to 9 Sanderlings at Anderson's Minnow Farm 28 Jul (DBo, K&LN). A Pectoral Sandpiper near Ramah 10 Jul (JVR, ph. CF) was relatively early for the Region and apparently record-early for the Baton Rouge area. Except for an anomalous record from nw. Louisiana 18 Jun 1950, single Wilson's Snipe along the Red R. in *Natchitoches* 4 Jun (JVH) and at the

Bonnet Carre' Spillway, *St. Charles* 14 Jul (Melvin Weber) would be record-tying late spring and record early fall Louisiana occurrences, respectively.

Laughing Gulls are venturing inland with increasing frequency but remain noteworthy deep into the interior, e.g., an ad. at Cotile L. 2 Jun (JVH). A first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull was noted at Rutherford Beach 13 Jun (SWC, DLD); considering the dramatic increase in this species' status in the Region, there are still surprisingly few well documented Jun/Jul occurrences. A Forster's Tern in non-breeding plumage at Bois d'Arc W.M.A. 5 Jul (K&LN) was thought to be an

Raccoon I. and another pair at Wine I. through the period (ph. EJR, ph. Hannah Tetreault, ph. Mark Suchy) represented a westward expansion of the breeding distribution in Louisiana; perhaps these colonists originate from the species' former stronghold on the now nearly obliterated Chandeleur I. chain off se. Louisiana.

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS

Single Inea Doves in *St. Bernard* 11 Jun (Glenn Ousset), at two locations in *St. Charles* 4 Jul (DPM), and near Slidell, *St. Tammany* 15 Jul (JOC) added to the growing number of reports from se. Louisiana; one at Burn's Hill N.A., Franklin 6 Jun would appear to represent a first for *Izard* in cen.-n. Arkansas. A Common Ground-Dove was unexpected at Baton Rouge 26 Jun (DLD). A Black-billed Cuckoo at L. Fayetteville, *Washington* 30 May (JoP) was most likely a migrant. A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird near Rockefeller Refuge headquarters, Grand Chenier, *Cameron*, LA 6 Jun (SWC) and potentially the same bird there 14 Jun (DLD, SWC) was a surprise, considering there are only a few previous Jun occurrences in the coastal zone. Belted Kingfishers e. of Pecan I., *Vermilion* 12 Jul (vt. PEC) and at Grand Chenier 26 Jul (2 individuals; SWC, DLD) were of interest, appearing during a late Jun-mid-Aug hiatus with few coastal records. An Olive-sided Flycatcher at L. Fayetteville 9 Jun

(HDC) was record late for nw. Arkansas and one of the latest ever for the state. An Eastern Wood-Pewee near Rockefeller Refuge headquarters 5 Jun (ph. DLD, SWC) was presumably a late spring migrant, but one at Grand Isle 27 Jun (DPM, Phillip A. Wallace) was more difficult to categorize; there are only a few other records of summering birds in the coastal zone (New Orleans 1983 and 1993), and



For the first time, Sooty Terns were found nesting on the barrier islands of Louisiana's central coast, with two pairs on Raccoon Island and one pair on Wine Island, both in the Isles Dernieres chain, Terrebonne Parish. Formerly, small numbers nested in the Chandeleur Islands off southeastern Louisiana, but the species' status there is now uncertain following near-obliteration of those islands by recent hurricanes. Pictured at left is a two-day-old chick at Wine Island 7 June 2009; at center, a two-month-old juvenile at Wine Island 22 July 2009; and at right, an adult at Raccoon Island 8 June 2009. Photographs by (left to right) Mark Suchy, E. J. Raynor, and Hannah Tetreault.

early fall migrant but conceivably could have been a summering bird or post-breeding wanderer. Inland Least Terns away from the expected major river corridors included an ad. foraging over a crawfish pond near Thornwell, *Jefferson Davis*, LA 5 Jun (SWC, DLD), a small breeding colony (persisting since 2007) of 13 pairs with nests/eggs on an expanse of concrete at the I-10 Lacassine exit, *Jefferson Davis* 6 Jun (SWC, ph. DLD), and an aggregation of 62 post-breeding ads. and juvs. at Anderson's Minnow Farm 28 Jul (DBo). The discovery of two nesting pairs of Sooty Terns at

presumed migrants have never been recorded after early Jun or before mid-Jul. A Least Flycatcher e. of Pecan I. 12 Jul (ph. PEC) tied for the 2nd earliest ever fall migrant for Louisiana and was the earliest in two decades. The pair of nesting Great Kiskadees first discovered near Rockefeller Refuge headquarters in early May continued through the period; the first nest had been abandoned by early Jun, but another almost complete nest was located about a half km away 26 Jul (SWC, ph. DLD, R. Terrill). A rare breeder in cen. Arkansas, at least two Western Kingbird nests were locat-

ed in Little Rock, *Pulaski* 22 Jun–5 Jul (Guy Luneau, DS, Samantha Holschbach, K&LN). Eastern Kingbirds are well known as relatively early fall migrants, with numbers on the move by early Aug, but an obvious storm-grounded migrant flock of 30 in se. *Calcasieu* 21 Jul (PEC) provided good evidence for passage of transients during mid- to late Jul. A singing Gray Kingbird at Grand Isle 25 Jun (JMM, R. T. Brumfield) was suggestive of local breeding; there are very few prior breeding/season records, all from New Orleans 1999–2004.

Two Bell's Vireos in a developing thicket at the "Couch" addition of Chesney Prairie N.A. near Siloam Springs, *Benton*, AR 28 Jun (JCN, DO, JBr) were the only ones reported. An astounding 23 Warbling Vireos in *Caddo-Bossier* 2 Jun (TD, JT) were thought to involve mostly breeding birds and would be the 3rd highest count ever for Louisiana and the first summer report of more than 2 per day. Thirteen Horned Larks in *Richland* 25 Jun (JB) was a nice summer count and indicative of a persisting small breeding population in ne. Louisiana. Providing additional circumstantial evidence of an expanding breeding population of Tree Swallows in n. Louisiana, 1–2 each were noted at L. Claiborne and Homer, *Claiborne* 1 Jun, 2 were at Corney L., *Claiborne* 6 Jun (all John Dillon), and 2 were at Cotile L. (a known breeding location) 2 Jun (JVH). Three Tree Swallows at Gonzales, *Ascension* 27 Jun (Sue Brousard) also hinted at the possibility of breeding in s. Louisiana but could have involved early post-breeding dispersers; 4 ads. near Hayes, *Calcasieu* 19 Jul (ph. PEC) and another at Thornwell 26 Jul (DLD) were early fall migrants. Four Bank Swallows at two locations in *Cameron* 14 Jul (JVR, BMM) were relatively early fall migrants. A rash of Louisiana summer Cave Swallow observations included 4 still lingering 16 Jun at the new colony reported during the spring near Vinton, *Calcasieu* (Colin Dillingham, David L. Anderson), one near Ramah 10 Jul (ph. DBo), 10 mixed ads. and juvs on the sw. coast at Johnsons Bayou 14 Jul (JVR, BMM), and possible family groups of 3 near Lake Arthur and 4 farther e. near Gueydan 19 Jul (both in *Vermilion*; vt. PEC). At least some of these Cave Swallows were likely associated with as yet undiscovered breeding colonies in sw. Louisiana, although the Ramah bird was relatively far e. and associated with hundreds of migrant Northern Rough-winged Swallows. About 20 Cliff Swallows at a colony in n. *Washington*, LA 29 Jun (SS) were possibly the first breeders found this far inland in the e. Florida parishes.

NUTHATCH THROUGH FINCHES

Two Brown-headed Nuthatches n. of Gonzales in extreme n. *Ascension* 14 Jun (SB) were at or slightly beyond the s. extent of the breeding distribution. An ad. American Robin near Rockefeller Refuge headquarters 6–14 Jun (SWC) was probably a summering non-breeder or post-breeding wanderer. Presumed breeding Gray Catbirds were once again noted in extreme sw. Louisiana on the *Calcasieu-Cameron* line s. of Holmwood, with 6 on 11 Jul (DBo); the species is also thought to be increasing in se. Louisiana, with several noted during the period in the interior in *Washington*, and 2 found extremely far se. in the Buras area of lower *Plaquemines* 11 Jul (all DPM). Two Bewick's Wrens (noted as "brown-backed form") e. of Maysville, *Benton* 7 Jun (JCN, Doug James, Elizabeth Adam) suggested that a few breeders persist in extreme nw. Arkansas. A singing Sedge Wren was definitely out of place at L. Fayetteville 6 Jun (MAM). Observation of 5 Cedar Waxwings at L. Fayetteville 28 Jun (Karen Garrett, Paula Jugenheimer) was followed by discovery of an incubating ad. on a nest 5 Jul (HDC, MAM, DOu, JoP); the species is a scarce breeder in Arkansas, with only a few previous nest records from the state's nw. corner.

A male Northern Parula at Oak Grove, *Cameron*, LA 6 Jun (SWC) was more likely a prospecting breeder rather than a late migrant; small numbers regularly breed just e. in the Grand Chenier area. Yellow Warbler is one of our earliest fall migrant passerines, but one at Johnsons Bayou 14 Jul (JVR, BMM) was the earliest found in Louisiana in several decades. Prairie Warbler is another relatively early fall migrant, but there are still few well-documented Jul records from the coast; thus, 3 near Oak Grove 26 Jul (ph. PEC) were of interest. A Prairie at L. Fayetteville 9 Jul (HDC) was unusual for the area and may have also been a very early migrant. A female American Redstart at Oak Grove 6 Jun (SWC) was presumably a late spring migrant and one of the latest ever found on the coast; one in *Red River* 9 Jun (ph. JT, TD, RS) provided a rare early summer record for nw. Louisiana. A female Prothonotary Warbler away from suitable breeding habitat at Lafayette 28 Jun (PEC) was suspected of being "drought displaced;" 3 "weakly singing" males on the coast near Rockefeller Refuge headquarters 26 Jul (SWC, DLD) were considered relatively early migrants, as none had been detected at the site during Jun.

Indicative of a rather late breeding attempt, a pair of Lark Sparrows were feeding a fledgling near Harrison, *Boone*, AR 3 Jul (Sheree & Hank Rogers); 2 at Chesney Prairie N.A. 12

Jul (Bob Caulk, Andrew Scaboo et al.) were considered early fall migrants, as the species is not known to breed in the area. Exceptionally late male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were encountered in *Webster*, LA 2 Jun (RS) and at Harrison 19 Jun (Sally Jo Gibson). Up to 2 territorial male Indigo Buntings near Rockefeller Refuge headquarters 5 Jun–26 Jul (SWC, DLD) represented only the 2nd such occurrence for the immediate coast. Normally absent as a breeder on the immediate coast, up to 3 territorial male Dickcissels along Rutherford Beach 5–14 Jun (SWC, DLD), 8 n. of Grand Chenier 14 Jun (SWC, DLD), 6 in the Johnsons Bayou area 14 Jul (JVR, BMM), and one s. of Gibbstown, *Cameron* 26 Jul (SWC, DLD) were likely utilizing temporarily favorable habitat created as a result of recent hurricane impacts. Representing a first breeding record for *East Baton Rouge*, a male and 2 female Boat-tailed Grackles were noted just s. of Baton Rouge late May–mid-Jun; on 13 Jun, one female was feeding 2 fledglings, and the other was carrying food to a presumed nest in an ornamental palm tree (JVR et al.). Another ad. female Boat-tailed accompanied by a juv. near Ramah 10 Jul (JVR, CF) also suggested breeding at or near that inland site. The first found on the sw. coast in about 10 years, a singing male Shiny Cowbird was observed briefly at the Oak Grove Sanctuary, Oak Grove, *Cameron* 6 Jun (ph. DLD, SWC). Further evidence of a breeding presence of Bronzed Cowbirds in the Baton Rouge area included 2 males near St. Gabriel 28 Jun (JVR) and another in *Ascension* 3 Jul (Lindsay Seeley); likewise, several in *Cameron*, including a pair at Cameron 14 Jun (SWC, DLD), a female or imm. at Johnsons Bayou 14 Jul (JVR, BMM), one at Creole 19 Jul (ph. PEC), and at least 6 near Sweet Lake 26 Jul (ph. PEC) were indicative of low-level breeding in extreme sw. Louisiana.

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Northern Canada & Greenland



Cameron D. Eckert

While the Yukon and southern Northwest Territories experienced relatively normal summer conditions, a cold spring in the central and eastern Arctic resulted in a late breeding season. Observers in Nunavut told consistent tales of very late arrivals, delayed nesting, or failure to nest in many species. At Penny Strait, breeding was markedly late for Arctic Terns, eiders, and Long-tailed Ducks; the same was true at Akimiski Island in southern James Bay. Shorebird researchers at East Bay, Southampton Island did not even see their first shorebird until 8 June—a full 10 days later than in 2008. At Cambridge Bay, the late spring, coupled with high water in the smaller lakes and ponds, contributed to the loss of much edge habitat and thus a reduction in nesting opportunities for many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and loons. Nonetheless, Nunavut reported an impressive four new species for the territory. As well, this report marks the beginning of our connection with birders in Greenland, and their field notes are certainly fascinating. We'll look forward to more reports in the future.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Peak counts of migrating Pink-footed Geese at Zackenberg, Greenland included 592 on 19 Jun and 321 on 24 Jun (JaH). Counts of 500 Brant were recorded daily 1-5 Jun at Akimiski I., NU (DM). A lone Brant, a late spring migrant, was at Tagish L., s. Yukon 3 Jun (ph SvD); another was with Canada Geese at Dawson, cen. Yukon 10 Jun (CE). Brant numbers (6-9 per day) were about normal at Cambridge Bay, NU 25 Jun-15 Jul, but all traditional nesting sites were under water (JRI). High counts of Barnacle Geese (mostly imms.) at Zackenberg, Greenland included 53 on 8

Jul, 145 on 14 Jul, and 92 on 17 Jul (JaH). The Yukon's 3rd Tufted Duck, an ad. male, was seen on Two Moose L., cen. Yukon 20 Jun-13 Jul (ph. CE; HH, LyH). A male King Eider at Gravel L., cen. Yukon 1 Jun was nicely documented by a visiting birder (ph. BW). This may represent only the 3rd interior North American spring record; the previous two were also from the Yukon. High water levels at Cambridge Bay, NU contributed to a poor breeding season for King and Common Eiders; only a few nests were found on higher ground during 25 Jun-15 Jul (JRI). A male Harlequin Duck provided a first record for Cambridge Bay, NU 6 Jul (JRI). A large flotilla of about 300 Long-tailed Ducks, mostly males, was noted ne. of Chesterfield Inlet, NU on about 8 Jul (BZ). Two ad. Yellow-billed Loons were a nice find at Yellowknife, NWT 7 Jun (BB, DS). A Double-crested Cormorant, rare in s. Yukon, was on the Yukon R. in Whitehorse 8 Jun (ph. MuM). Also rare was a Great Blue Heron at Tulita, NWT 20 Jun (ph. RD).

An imm. Bald Eagle was unexpected at Cambridge Bay, NU 11 Jul (RK, EET). A Northern Goshawk being mobbed in flight by a pair of Merlins was an interesting sight near Island Lakes, Nahanni National Park Reserve,



This male Tufted Duck, the Yukon's third, spent mid-June (here 25 June) through at least mid-July 2009 on Two Moose Lake in Tombstone Territorial Park. Photograph by Cameron Eckert.

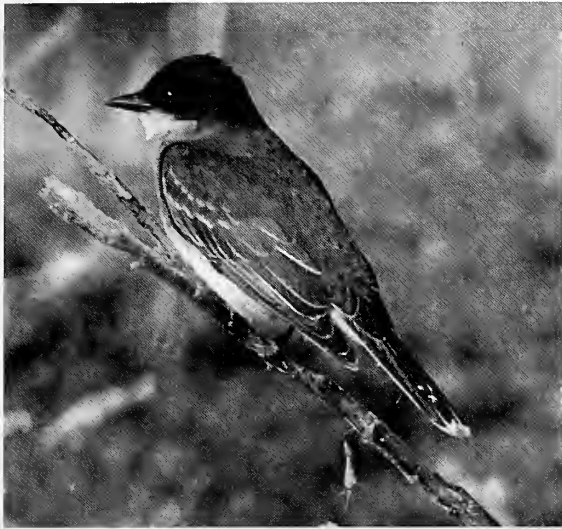


NWT 21 Jul (DT, PKn). Broad-winged Hawk is a very rare breeder in sw. Northwest Territories, so one seen along the Liard Hwy., 10 km n. of the border with British Columbia, 11 Jun (BB, DS) was noteworthy. A dark-morph ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen hunting over open tundra along the Dempster Hwy., just s. of Eagle Plains, cen. Yukon 24 Jul (RC, SyC); the species was found nesting in this area in 2005. A total of 13 Gyrfalcons was tallied on a trip down the Firth R., n. Yukon 18-30 Jul (HH, LyH). The count of 27 Peregrine Falcon nests at Rankin Inlet, NU this summer was

impressive, but many of them ultimately failed (AA, HJ). A Sora, a first for Nunavut, was heard calling at Akimiski I. 10 Jun (AM, BM). This year, a total of 62 pairs of Whooping Cranes nested in Wood Buffalo N.P., NWT; 52 young hatched and at least 22 young fledged. While habitat conditions were good throughout the nesting area, rainy and cool conditions in Jun may have contributed to lower-than-average survival of chicks to fledging age. The high water levels may, however, ensure that spring 2010 conditions are favorable; but given the number of young produced this year and the number of ads. and subads. that were lost last winter, the population will decline in 2009 (BJ, CWS).

A late Black-bellied Plover was at Coot L., s. of Pelly Crossing, s. Yukon 9-10 Jun (HG). Two European Golden-Plovers noted at Zackenberg, Greenland 30 Jun (JRn) furnished the only report this season. Long-term monitoring has detected declines in Common Ringed Plovers at Zackenberg, Greenland; surveys this summer recorded a few individuals, including a pair with a fledged juv. 20 Jul (JaH). Bird identification challenges in the Canadian Arctic can be the reverse of what most North Americans face; for example, careful study of a pair of nesting plovers and their young at Arctic Bay, NU 28-31 Jul determined that they were Semipalmated rather than the expected Common Ringed (ph. CK). This establishes

Arctic Bay as perhaps the most northerly breeding site for Semipalmated Plover. Wandering Tattler reports, all from the Yukon, included 2 along the N. Klondike R. and one along the Blackstone R., Tombstone Park 8 Jun (ph. CE; HG, PSp); one along Fox Cr. and another along Lil Cr. in Tombstone 9 Jun (OH; HG, GW, MW); and one along the Firth R. 27 Jul (HH, LyH). Tombstone Park in cen. Yukon continues to be the best place in the Region for viewing breeding Surf-birds; 2 were displaying on Charcoal Ridge 7 Jun (ph. CE, PB, MH, SJ); and an amazing 10 were seen in



Though Eastern Kingbird is a well-known wanderer, this individual at Rankin Inlet, Nunavut 15 June 2009 was nonetheless a great surprise. Photograph by Mark Petersheim.

the snow on Adney Mt. 27 Jun (ph. CE, CFB, SJ). It wasn't clear whether a flock of 16 Red Knots seen at Zackenberg, Greenland 13 Jun were late arrivals or non-breeders (JaH). Shorebird researchers at East Bay, Southampton I., NU found an impressive number of nests including 46 White-rumped Sandpipers, 32 Ruddy Turnstones, and 29 Red Phalaropes (DE, ML, SB, DT, KW). Pectoral Sandpiper is considered a review species in Greenland by Birdlife Denmark; records this summer from Zackenberg included well-observed singles on 8 & 12 Jun and a flyby on 24 Jul (JaH). A vagrant in the Bay Islands region of Nunavut, a Red Phalarope established the first record for Akimiski I. 5 Jun (GF, SG). Shorebird numbers were low in Cambridge Bay, NU this summer, with few American Golden-Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, and Baird's Sandpiper noted—and no Buff-breasted Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers, or Ruddy Turnstones at all 25 Jun–15 Jul (JRi; RK, EET).

GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

A Parasitic Jaeger, always of interest in the interior, was seen at Ft. Providence, NWT 7 Jun (BB, DS). Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaeger numbers at Cambridge Bay, NU were normal (2-13 per day) during 25 Jun–15 Jul, though there was no evidence of nesting likely due to the low lemming numbers (JRi; RK, EET). A flock of 37 Long-tailed Jaegers was recorded at Zackenberg, Greenland 28 Jun (LeH). Many Iceland Gulls were seen feeding alongside Thayer's and Glaucous Gulls on a Ringed Seal carcass at Cambridge Bay, NU 25 Jun–15 Jul (JRi). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull, casual in Nunavut, was at the Cambridge Bay dump 10

Jul (RK, EET). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull returned for its 5th consecutive summer on Herschel I., n. Yukon 12 Jul (ph. DR). Five Sabine's Gulls, a rare interior migrant, were noted at Ft. Providence, NWT 3 Jun (BB, DS). Normal numbers of Sabine's Gulls and Arctic Terns were noted at Cambridge Bay, NU 25 Jun–15 Jul, although, as with other species, high water impeded their nesting (JRi). No Ross's Gulls were observed this summer at Cheyne I., NU (MaM), where this species has been known to nest in past years. Only one pair of Ivory Gulls was seen at Seymour I., NU this summer, and about 17 were noted w. of Devon I., NU 2 Jul (MaM). Three Caspian Terns were seen on Great Slave L. at Hay River, NWT

4 Jun (BB, DS). It has been a few years since Caspian Tern was reported in the Yukon, and so 2 ads. at Army Beach 8 Jul were noteworthy (MG). A large colony of about 1000 Arctic Terns was recorded at an unnamed island in Penny Strait, NU this summer (MaM). The impression of observers near Chesterfield Inlet, NU is that there has been a decline in Arctic Tern numbers over the past 15 years (BZ); whether this is a localized trend or more widespread is not known.

Snowy Owls were present in about normal numbers (up to 4 in a day) at Cambridge Bay, NU during 25 Jun–15 Jul, with no evidence of nesting as expected given the low lemming numbers, although Arctic Hares were far more obvious than in the past several years (JR; RK, EET). Short-eared Owls were regularly seen at Rankin Inlet, NU this summer, including 3 on 8 Jun (AA, HJ); and 2 were noted at Akimiski I., NU 12 Jun (DM). Despite deep snow in spring, a few Boreal Owls were found nesting near Whitehorse, s. Yukon in early Jun: one pair occupied a nest box near the Takhini R. (LG, ph. JuH), and a trio of owlets fledged from an old flicker hole in the side of a house on about 1 Jun (NJ, ph. CE, NSE). Common Nighthawks have shown steep declines, so it was encouraging to hear of a nest near Brintnell Cr., NWT 1 Jul (StC, KS), and a distraction display near Island Lakes, NWT 22 Jul (LM, JRd). A male Rufous Hummingbird, Nunavut's first, flew into a cabin at a remote site about 100 km ne. of Chesterfield Inlet 24 Jun, where it subsequently died (ph. BZ). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, with a total of 17, was the 2nd most common flycatcher on Yukon's 11 B.B.S. routes this summer (CWS); this is a change

from a decade ago, when this species was considered the Yukon's rarest breeding flycatcher. Eastern Kingbird is well known as an extralimital wanderer; reports this season included one at Burwash, sw. Yukon 5 Jun (ph. PSi) and another much farther n. at Rankin Inlet, NU 15 Jun (ph. MP). There are few records of Blue-headed Vireo in Nahanni National Park Reserve, so 2 counter-calling males in Deadmen Valley 20 Jun (DT) were noteworthy. A Philadelphia Vireo at Teslin 11 Jun (ph. vr. DH, THa, THe) established the Yukon's westernmost record. Also well w. of its normal range was a Red-eyed Vireo at Porter Creek, s. Yukon 11 Jun (PSi). A drive of 165 km along Hwy. #5 e. of Ft. Smith, NWT 6 Jun produced a remarkable count of 39 Common Raven nests (19 occupied, 20 vacant) on hydro poles (BB, DS).

The occurrence of Barn Swallows tends to be somewhat erratic at the n. edge of their range; one at Two Moose L., cen. Yukon 27 Jun (CE) established the first record for Tombstone Park. A common backyard bird for temperate-zone birders can be an epic find in the North; such was the case with a Black-capped Chickadee found at Akimiski I. 5 Jun (GF, SG), which established the first confirmed record for Nunavut. Northern Wheatear is one of the Region's most sought-after breeding birds by visiting birders; reports this summer included one seen just e. of Wright Pass, NWT in early Jun (BW), a male seen along Charcoal Ridge in Tombstone Park, cen. Yukon 7 Jun (ph. OH), one singing on territory at Rankin Inlet, NU 15 Jun (AA, HJ), 2 juvs. still showing some down at Zackenberg, Greenland 20 Jul (JaH), and 4 seen on a mountain hike from the Firth R., n. Yukon 23 Jul (HH, LyH). Single Townsend's Solitaires, near the e. edge of their range in Northwest Territories, were observed on Ram Plateau 15, 17, & 18 Jun (DT). Surveys on 20 Jun (DT, AO, MiM) found that Tennessee Warbler continues to reign as the most abundant bird in riparian spruce forests along the lower South Nahanni R., NWT. A singing male Bay-breasted Warbler in Deadmen Valley, Nahanni National Park Reserve 20 Jun (DT) provided a rare park record. Single Western Tanagers, both singing males w. of their range in s. Yukon, were seen at Teslin 9 Jun (THE) and Tagish 30 Jun (ph. SvD). A Timberline Brewer's Sparrow was singing in alpine shrubs above Kusawa L., s. Yukon 18 Jun (CE). A Lark Sparrow, the Yukon's 4th, was at Watson Lake 29-31 May (ph. RS). Two White-throated Sparrows, well w. of their range, were singing at Fish L., s. Yukon 1 Jul (PKu). Also beyond its normal range was a male Dark-eyed Junco singing at Rankin Inlet, NU 11 Jun (AA, HJ). Sightings of

Lapland Longspurs at the s. edge of the species' breeding range in Tombstone Park, cen. Yukon included a female on Charcoal Ridge 7 Jun (CE) and 2 on Adney Mt. 27 Jun (CE). Tombstone Park, cen. Yukon is an excellent place to view Smith's Longspurs on their nesting grounds; 3 were on territory at km 96 along the Dempster Hwy. 9-12 Jun (HG; CE).

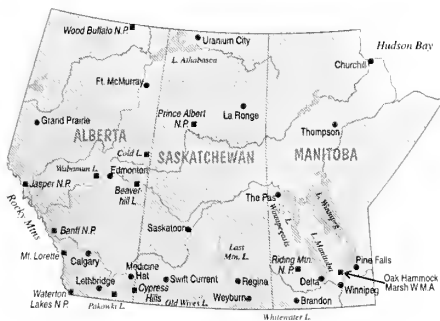
Nunavut's first Painted Bunting, a brilliant ad. male, was an unexpected and exciting find on Akimiski I. 12 Jun (GF, ph. DM, AT). Seven Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were seen on a hike along Charcoal Ridge in Tombstone Park, cen. Yukon 7 Jun (CE; ph. OH); one was seen near Margaret L., n. Yukon 18 Jul (HH, LyH).

Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Alexandre Ancil, Barbara Begg, Sarah Bogart, Pamela Brown, Canadian Wildlife Service, Rob Cannings, Syd Cannings (SyC), Steve Catto (StC), Ron Doctor, Eagle-eye Tours, Cameron Eckert, Darryl Edwards, Cathy Finlay-Brook, Gabriel Foley, Stacy Gan, Linda Gerrand, Mike Gill, Helmut Grünberg, Dawn Hansen, Tami Hamilton (TaH), Tiarella Hanna (TiH), Jannik Hansen (JaH), Miriam Havemann, Todd Heakes (ToH), Howard Heffler, Lyn Heffler (LyH), Olivia Hell, Lenze Hofstee (LeH), Jurg Hofer (JuH), Niels Jacobsen, Hilde Johansen, Brian Johns, Sebastian Jones, Clare Kines, Paul Knaga (PKn), Richard Knapton, Piia Kukka (PKu), Meghan Larivee,

Derek Mackenzie, Mark Mallory (MaM), Mike Matou (MiM), Beth McLarnon, Andree Messier, Lisa Moore, Murray Munn (MuM), Ashley Okrainec, Mark Petersheim, Don Reid, Jenn Redvers (JRd), Jeroen Reneerkens (JRn), Jim Richards (JRi), Kim Schlosser, Pam Sinclair (PSi), Nigel Sinclair-Eckert, Patricia Spencer (PSP), David Stirling, Robert Stitt, Douglas Tate (Northwest Territories), Austin Taverner, Devin Turner, Shyloh van Delft, Kara Ward, Gerry Whitley, Mary Whitley, Bill Wilson, Brian Zawadski. 🌐

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Prairie Provinces



Rudolf F. Koes
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The jet stream bisected the region for most of the season, resulting in far-below-normal temperatures to the east and more moderate conditions to the west. Wintry weather persisted in the northeast well into June, with substantial snow cover remaining until mid-month. Upon arrival, many geese and other waterfowl found so little open ground in the Churchill, Manitoba area that they starved to death. Nest initiation for most birds was late there, and almost complete nesting failure followed, due to cold, storms, and predation. In the rest of Manitoba and much of Saskatchewan, the cold appeared also to have a negative impact, as many warblers and other passerines were seen wandering outside their breeding ranges. Sparse foliage, scarcity of food, and cold nights combined to reduce breeding success for early nesters. Nevertheless, Breeding Bird Survey totals for most species in the southern boreal forest were near normal, as was the early part of the fall migration banding at Delta, Manitoba.

Precipitation ranged from above average in the southeast to below normal in the southwest. Parts of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan experienced the driest June in half a century, resulting in continued low levels in major water bodies, after winter snows had raised false hopes. Conversely, water levels remained exceptionally high at the Shoal Lakes in Manitoba's Interlake region. The best of the few highlights to liven up the season were Saskatchewan's first White-winged Dove and Blue Grosbeak and Manitoba's second Painted Bunting.

GEESE THROUGH CRANES

Record numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese (flocks up to 40) lingered with untold thousands of other geese at Churchill in early Jun (C.G.C., m.ob.). A lone Greater White-fronted at Glenmore Res., Calgary 8 & 24 Jul may represent a first summer record for Alberta (m.ob.), while a Ross's Goose near Ochre River 25-27 Jun (PT) was a seasonal rarity for s. Manitoba. Among the hundreds of Ross's Geese at Churchill 5 Jun were at least 2 rare blue-morph birds (C.G.C., ph.); in addition, 7+ Snow Goose x Ross's Goose hybrids were seen there early Jun (C.G.C.). Canada Geese are not normally persistent re-nesters, so 3 goslings less than a week old near Minnedosa, MB 16 Jul (CC) were exceptionally late. A slough near Shepard, AB held about 500 Gadwall 5 Jul (TK). A Cinnamon Teal at

Whitewater L., MB 7 Jul was a good find (RP).

Red-necked Grebe continues to expand as a breeding species throughout w. Manitoba, being seen in a number of wetlands this year for the first time and seeming to have replaced Horned Grebe in some areas (CC). A Great Egret near Sundre, AB 14-21 Jun was rare (RKu). A Snowy Egret was noted at Whitewater L. on a number of occasions (m.ob.), and a Little Blue Heron was seen at nearby Boissevain 5 Jun (*vide* LV). Cattle Egret tallies at Whitewater L. peaked in the mid-teens, a far cry from the hundreds a few years back, and White-faced Ibis also numbered in the low double-digits at the same location (m.ob.). Ferruginous Hawks enjoyed a productive year in sw. Manitoba, with an average of 3+ young at 34 successful nests out of 35 total (KD). The species apparently did well in Saskatchewan too, as did Prairie Fal-



The PR 227 landfill northwest of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba has produced some remarkable gull records over the years. On 5 June 2009, the landfill attracted this Lesser Black-backed Gull (with Ring-billed Gulls). Photograph by Jennifer Green.



Saskatchewan's first confirmed, and long overdue, White-winged Dove was present at Lumsden 5-8 (here 6) June 2009. Photograph by Jeanette and Robb Taylor.



Well north of its usual range was this Black-and-white Warbler at Churchill, Manitoba 13-15 (here 14) June 2009. Photograph by Justin Scott.

con (DZ, *vide* GK). Virginia Rail has become rare but annual in s. Alberta; one was noted twice in Jun near Cochrane (J&MM, m.ob.). American Coots experienced another poor breeding season in s. Alberta (TK). A Whooping Crane at Chaplin L., SK on 20 Jul (SC) was unexpected.



This apparent MacGillivray's Warbler x Common Yellowthroat hybrid near Water Valley, Alberta 31 May 2009 sang like a yellowthroat, showed a single white eye-arc, and had a considerable amount of black on the face. Photograph by Brian Elder and Ray Woods.

PLOVERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

No details were received on reports of a Snowy Plover at Cooking L., AB 2-3 Jun (GR, m.ob.) and 2 birds at Chaplin L., SK early Jun (*vide* BL). Although there have been other recent sightings at Chaplin L., the species remains accidental in the Region. Five Black-necked Stilts were in the Goose L., SK area 5 Jun (NS). Chaplin L. held 500 Willets, 2000+ Marbled Godwits, 7000+ Long-billed Dowitchers, and 2000 Wilson's Phalaropes 20 Jul (SC). Other notable shorebird sightings included 1500+ Lesser Yellowlegs near Blackie, AB 19 Jul (TK), a Whimbrel at Coulter, MB 28 Jun (GW, JW), a Purple Sandpiper at Churchill 11 Jun (ph. BW), and up to 20 Red Phalaropes at Churchill in early Jun (m.ob., ph.). Sabine's Gulls were prominent at Churchill in early Jun, with up to 30 noted (m.ob., ph.). A second-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull visited the PR 227, MB dump 5 Jun (JL, m.ob., ph.). A first-cycle Glaucous-winged Gull at Calgary 10 Jun provided the city with its first summer record (BSt), and another imm. was reported at Churchill 14 Jun, unfortunately

with few details (JL, JG et al.). Four Caspian Terns at Cypress Hills, AB 8 Jun were rare (TK), as were singles at Churchill 14 Jun (TJ) and 10 Jul (NSe). Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers were prominent at Churchill in early Jun; sightings included a flock of 14 of the former 8 Jun (TJ, m.ob.).

A White-winged Dove at Lumsden 5-8 Jun was the first confirmed for Saskatchewan (ph. J&RT, *vide* BL). Almost equally rare was a Common Poorwill, well outside the limited Saskatchewan breeding range, at Regina 14 Jun (SC, ph., *vide* BL). One near Taber, AB 4-15 Jul was closer to its normal range (LB). Although Chimney Swift numbers in Manitoba have declined severely in recent decades, small numbers continue to breed at Winnipeg and Selkirk, and a few continue to pop up at scattered locations near the limits of their historic range. Up to 3 were at Souris late May-20 Jun (RK, PT, LV), and 3 were at the n. edge of the Porcupine Hills 9

Jul (CA). A Red-bellied Woodpecker near Birch Point, MB 3 Jun was rare (LV). Out of place was a well-described American Three-toed Woodpecker visiting a feeder (!) at Winnipeg, MB 12 Jul (NB).

PASSERINES

A Say's Phoebe pair at Mowbray was at the extreme e. edge of the species' Manitoba range (KD, LV, JS, m.ob.). Loggerhead Shrikes have dwindled to fewer than 50 pairs in sw. Manitoba, down from 300+ in the early 1990s, while only one pair of the e. subspecies is known to have nested at Winnipeg (KD). A Mountain Bluebird 4 Jun (RK, AB) and a Varied Thrush 10 Jun (BB et al.) were rare Churchill visitors. Northern Mockingbird sightings included 2 at Onefour, AB 9 Jun (TK), a possible nesting near Langham, SK 20 or 21 Jun (*vide* NS), one at Bradwell, SK 26 Jun (*vide* NS), a nesting pair near Miami, MB 1 Jul-Aug (G&JG, m.ob.), and one at Hecla P.P. 1 Jul (HH). A Sage Thrasher s. of Turner Valley, AB 18 Jun was at an unexpected location (BC). Six Cedar Waxwings at Churchill 9 Jul were rare (*vide* TJ). Non-breeding or failed breeding warblers s. of the boreal forest in Manitoba in late Jun and Jul included numerous Tennessee Warblers at Winnipeg (RK), Brandon (CC), and Grosse Isle (KG), and 2 Northern Parulas at Winnipeg 8 Jul (RK). A Cape May Warbler 15 Jun (BD) and a Black-and-white Warbler 13-15 Jun (ph. JL, m.ob.), both at Churchill, were noteworthy. A MacGillivray's Warbler x Common Yellowthroat hybrid at Water Valley, AB 31 May



The first confirmed Blue Grosbeak for the Prairie Provinces region was this bird, photographed at Hackett Lake, Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan 1 June 2009. Only the photographer was fortunate enough to see the bird. Photograph by Cam Markle.

was an exciting find (BE, RW, ph.). Unexpected were a Yellow-breasted Chat at Riding Mountain N.P., MB in early Jul (KK), a Scarlet Tanager at Calgary 7 Jul (BBu, ph.), a Spotted Towhee at Turtle Mountain P.P., MB 3 Jun (RKI), and a Golden-crowned Sparrow near Irricana, AB 1 Jun (JC). A Chestnut-collared Longspur was a Churchill first 22 Jun (TJ, JM). Very tardy was a Snow Bunting at Hecla P.P., MB 2 Jun (BS).

A Blue Grosbeak photographed at Hackett L. 1 Jun provided Saskatchewan's first confirmed record (CM). A Lazuli Bunting was in the Pierson, MB area early Jun (R&MW), and a possible Lazuli Bunting × Indigo Bunting hybrid was at Winnipeg 6-7 Jun (RC). Fifteen years ago, Painted Bunting was not even on the Canadian prairie birding radar, but two Manitoba records now bring the Regional total to nine, starting with the first Saskatchewan bird in 1997 and Alberta's first in 2000. First for Manitoba was a male at a feeder at The Pas, 24 May 2008 (PTo, ph., *fide* CA), news of which reached us belatedly this spring. This year, a cooperative male visited a

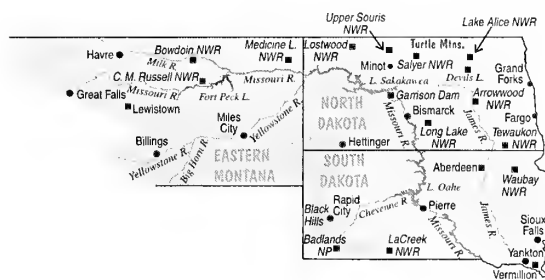
St. Georges feeder from some time in May until 6 Jun (R&MB, m.ob., ph.). There was a pronounced White-winged Crossbill influx in s. Manitoba in Jul (RK, m.ob.), whereas the species was abnormally scarce in the Grand Rapids, MB region in Jun (PT).

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): C. Artuso, L. Bennett, A. Blewett, R. & M. Boulet, B. Boyle, B. Burke (BBu), N. Butchard, S. Canevet, R. Clarke, Cornell Godwit Crew (C.G.C. = T. Johnson, S. Billerman, J. McGowan, N. Senner, and B. Walker), J. Corbin, B. Cutfield, C. Cuthbert, K. De Smet, B. Di Labio, B. Elder, K. Gardner, J.

Green, G. & J. Grief, H. Hinam, T. Johnson, K. Kingdon, R. Klauke (RKL), R. Koes, T. Korozyk, G. Krätzig, R. Kutz (RKu), J. Langham, B. Luterbach, J. & M. Macdonald, J. McGowan, C. Merkle, R. Parsons, G. Romanchuk, N. Saunders, N. Senner (NSe), B. Shettler, B. Storms (BSt), J. Swartz, J. & R. Taylor, P. Taylor, P. Tonn (PTo), L. Veelma, B. Walker, G. Walz, R. & M. Wang, J. Weier, R. Woods, D. Zazelenchuk. ☺

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Northern Great Plains



WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

A first for South Dakota, 2 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were photographed in Lincoln 21-22 Jul (p.a., DC, JSP, DS, TJ). Five Greater White-fronted Goose reports from the Dakotas was above average for the summer season. Blue-winged × Cinnamon Teal hybrids in North Dakota were in *Stutsman* 5 Jun and *McLean* 18 Jun (REM). Evidence of nesting continued along the Missouri R. for Common Mergansers in North Dakota, and this year four sightings of this species were reported from along the river in South Dakota, where nesting has not been confirmed.

Great Egrets continue to increase in Montana. This summer, a single was in *Billings* 1-2 Jun (SH, MSU, GM), and 2-3 were at *Freezeout Lake N.W.R.* 2-6 Jun (MS, RW). Regular in very small numbers in North Dakota, a Little Blue Heron was in *McHenry* 2 Jun (WE). The 11th report for North Dakota, a Tricolored Heron was at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. 13 Jun (p.a., PJ).

SA Horned Grebes returned this year in impressive numbers after many years of almost total absence. Nesting pairs were easily found in appropriate habitat over much of North Dakota, sometimes with several pairs on a single wetland. After a number of dry years, the melt from the massive snow pack from last winter created an abundance of newly flooded grassy wetlands with an abundance of submerged vegetation. Perhaps the now-extensive beds of cattails in many wetlands are not conducive to Horned Grebe nesting.

HAWKS THROUGH OWLS

A pair of ad. Broad-winged Hawks in *Cass*, ND 21 Jun may indicate nesting in the area (DWR). There are no confirmed breeding records for the county. A dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk in the *Turtle Mts.* of North Dakota 13 Jun was unusual (TH, DOL). Casual in summer in North Dakota, 3 Rough-legged Hawks were reported in Jul, including one photographed 7 Jul in *Grand Forks* (DOL, GSL). Unusually far e. and out of breeding range, Prairie Falcons were in *Brown*, SD 11 Jun (CG) and in *Mountrail*, ND 12 Jun (DNS, CDE). Heavy rains in *Grand Forks*, ND 26-27 Jun appear to have triggered breeding for Yellow Rails. Twenty were heard calling 13 Jul in areas where few were noted in Jun (DOL). Sandhill Cranes nested again in *McHenry*, ND, and singles were noted 3 Jun in *Emmons* (MJR) and 13 Jun in the *Turtle Mts.* (DOL, TH). A Ruddy Turnstone was unusually late or early 2 Jul in *Kidder*, ND (MJR, GPS). The 2nd highest count for fall in North Dakota, an impressive flock of 13 Red Knots was in *West Fargo* 31 Jul (KRC, DWR).

An ad. Sabine's Gull 11 Jun at the *Grand Forks*, ND Lagoons provided the 2nd Jun record for the state (p.a., EEF); the first record was at the same location 12 Jun 2004. Accidental away from the Missouri R. in North Dakota, a Least Tern was a surprise 4 Jun at *Long Lake N.W.R.* (MJR). In a more regular area, 2 Least Terns were on the Missouri R. near *Poplar*, MT 18 Jun (LL). Imagine the amazement of two visiting birders at *Lostwood N.W.R.*, ND 16 Jun when an ad. Pomarine Jaeger made a few circles nearby and moved on to the north (p.a., CB, JD). If accepted, this would furnish only the 3rd record

Ron Martin

Temperatures were well below average in the Region, especially the first half of June. June precipitation was above average in the Dakotas, but July was fairly dry. The opposite was true for eastern Montana, with July the wetter month. North Dakota had two large, local rain events in June. June 15-16 brought 18-25 cm of rain to the Bismarck area, and 18 cm fell in some parts of northeastern North Dakota June 26. Nesting was noticeably delayed by the cold and rain—and seemingly not very successful when it did take place. Few insects were available much of the season. At least ten species of warblers were still migrating in numbers in early June in North Dakota. High water levels from the spring made for very limited shorebird habitat.

The season's highlights in South Dakota included the first record of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and the first modern nesting of Prothonotary Warbler. North Dakota had a Rufous Hummingbird and a Pomarine Jaeger. Nesting of Blue Grosbeak was confirmed for the first time in Montana.

for the state. Only 6 Short-eared Owls were reported, 3 each from North and South Dakota.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH THRUSHES

A Rufous Hummingbird photographed at Jamestown, ND 18-19 Jun provided the first Jun record for the state and the 2nd for the summer season (CSt). Making just the 2nd nesting record for the Turtle Mts. of North Dakota, a Pileated Woodpecker nest with young was photographed by many attendees of the Minot American Birding Association Conference 16-18 Jun (DOL). Olive-sided Flycatchers were late 11 Jun in *Charles Mix*, SD (DS) and 17 Jun in *Bottineau*, ND (DOL). The latest spring migrant for North Dakota, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Minot 8 Jun (REM). A rare nester in the Missouri R. valley of North Dakota, an Eastern Phoebe was below Garrison Dam in *McLean* 16-20 Jun (CDE). Casual in w. Montana, a Philadelphia Vireo was near Freezeout L. 2 Jun (p.a., MS). A single Philadelphia Vireo at Westby, MT 9 Jun (TN) was more expected. A rare nester in the Missouri R. valley in North Dakota, a Yellow-throated Vireo was below Garrison Dam, *McLean* 16 Jun (REM). Rare away from the Black Hills in summer, a Brown Creeper was in *Charles Mix*, SD 20 Jun (RM). The first nest record for nw. South Dakota, a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were building a nest in *Harding* 3 Jul (p.a., KM). Accidental in sum-

mer in North Dakota, a Townsend's Solitaire was in *Wells* 20 Jun (p.a., LJ).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Late Black-throated Blue Warblers were at Westby, MT 3 Jun (EH, RW) and in *Stanley*, SD 17 Jun (KM). A rare summer record for North Dakota, a Palm Warbler was in *Stutsman* 4 Jun (BJA). A late migrant Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Ft. Peck, MT 28 Jun (CC). Prothonotary Warblers with young were in *Union* 10 Jun-5 Jul (p.a., CM, RD)—the first nesting record in the modern era in South Dakota. Providing the first summer record for South Dakota, a Louisiana Waterthrush was in *Union* 3 Jul (p.a., DC). Accidental in summer in South Dakota, a Hooded Warbler was in *Minnehaha* 20 Jun (p.a., DC). Unusual was a Connecticut Warbler singing a Northern Waterthrush song in *Grand Forks*, ND 1 Jun (DOL). Eastern Towhees and probable hybrids with Spotted Towhees were singing various songs in *Bottineau*, ND 12-18 Jun (REM, DOL). Both species occur in small numbers in the scrub oak belt on the edge of the Turtle Mts. Le Conte's Sparrow numbers were poor this year, likely because most of the habitat was flooded by the massive snow melt. Several observers reported that Nelson's Sparrows had another banner year in North Dakota. The 3rd summer record for South Dakota, a White-throated Sparrow was in *Lawrence* 7 & 18 Jun (DGP).

The first Jul record for South Dakota, a Summer Tanager was in *Fall River* 6 Jul (p.a., RP). Two Northern Cardinals were singing 13 Jun in the Turtle Mts. of *Bottineau*, ND (DOL); there are no nesting records for this area of the state. Providing the 8th record for Montana, and the first confirmed nesting, Blue Grosbeaks were near Bridger 13 Jun-31 Jul (GM). Casual in North Dakota, an Eastern Meadowlark was singing in *Stutsman* 4 Jun (REM, DOL). About the 13th and 14th reports for Montana, single Lesser Goldfinches were in Billings 21 Jun (GS) and at Ft. Peck 22 Jun (CC).

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Southern Great Plains

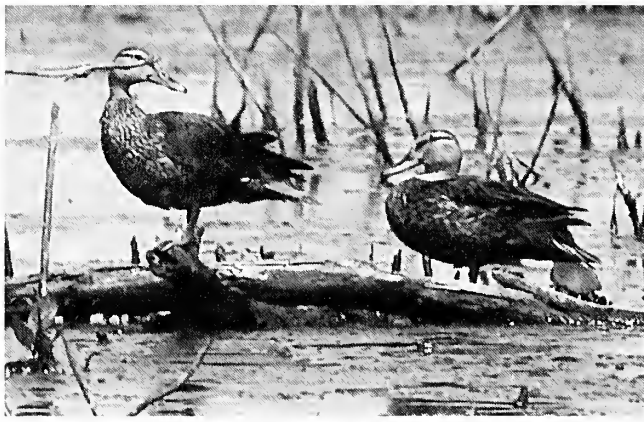


Joseph A. Grzybowski W. Ross Silcock

The summer provided another series of data points for the avian phenomena of the current era. Southeastern species such as Acadian Flycatcher and Summer Tanager continued to expand their ranges northward in response to global warming but also in tandem with the expansion of woody vegetation, particularly along riparian corridors. Decades of fire suppression have also increased the extent of woody vegetation in the Plains. Species such as Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks have shown tendencies to pioneer new areas as the availability of trees for nesting and foraging increases, and the ranges of some sibling species, such as the wood-pewees', may be edging closer to one another as well. During wet summers, as in 2009, wetland obligates such as Least Bittern, White-

headed Ibis, King Rail, and Common Moorhen typically prosper, but it may also be the case that the southward spread of Trumpeter Swan in the Plains has been facilitated by the current wet cycle. Shorebird records during the mid-summer are a frequent source of consternation, as species one expects to be much farther north opt instead for the hot flats of the Salt Plains and Quivira National Wildlife Refuges; some of these are surely non-breeders or failed breeders rather than simply late or early migrants that have yet to breed or have completed a successful nesting season. But the warmer climate that creates ever-earlier spring arrivals may also allow earlier completion of breeding activity and departures, as is the case with some populations of Long-billed Curlew and Marbled Godwit, for instance.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS); Hackber-



These Mottled Ducks at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area in McCurtain County, Oklahoma 21 July 2009 are part of an strengthening if localized pattern of occurrence there. Photograph by Berlin Heck.

ry (Hackberry Flat W.M.A., Tillman, OK); Quivira (N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Salt Plains (Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa, OK).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are expected at Red Slough, where 1-4 were present through the period (DA); additionally, Black-bellieds appeared w. to Hackberry, where 1-2 were seen 1-16 Jun (L&MT, LH), with 2 n. to Pratt, KS 10 Jul (DP) and 2 to Woods, OK 13 Jun (JW). Greater White-fronted Goose, an Arctic breeder, was clearly extralimital at Red Slough 2 Jun (DA), with 4 at Cheyenne Bottoms 5 Jun (MR). Trumpeter Swan is restricted as a Regional breeder to the w. Sandhills of Nebraska; ads. with 2 flightless young in Buffalo, NE (ES, *fide* MSt) were extending the range southeastward, as were 3 ads. in Douglas, NE 6 Jun (JGJ, JLL), where considered vagrants. A Gadwall at Salt Plains 29 Jul (JWA, KW) was southerly. Most Mottled Duck reports in the Region come from Red Slough, where up to 2 were seen through the period (DA), and from Quivira, where a single was noted 5 Jul (JK, WCT, NA, MG). Less expected were 2 Mottleds in Sumner, KS 14 Jul (MT). Up to 3 Cinnamon Teal at Hackberry through 8 Jul (L&MT, LH) and 3 at Quivira 7 Jun (SS) were pleasant summer surprises at those locations. Similarly unseasonable were a Greater Scaup 21 Jun (PJ) and an ad. male Common Merganser 27 Jun in Sedgwick, KS (JCa, PJ) and 2 Green-winged Teal at Hackberry 1 Jul (L&MT). Slightly out of summer range was a Ruddy Duck in Oklahoma, OK 11 Jun (MJ).

Difficult to locate in its ne. Nebraska range, 2 Gray Partridge in Knox 4 Jun–22 Jul (MB) were the observer's first there in three years; another was noted in Antelope 21 Jul (MB). Survey routes in n.-cen. Dawson, NE located

two Sharp-tailed Grouse leks (TJW); these are the southernmost known in sw. Nebraska. A still healthy population of Greater Prairie-Chickens occurs in a few counties of sw. Nebraska (TJW). Mild winters have helped Northern Bobwhite populations surge in n. and w.-cen. areas of Nebraska (TJW). Common Loons are appearing more frequently as summer vagrants, this season with 5 at three Nebraska locations, all 12 Jun (JT, LE), singles in Mitchell, KS 7 Jun (HA) and in Jefferson, KS 23 Jun (BW), and 1-2 in Oklahoma, OK 22 Jul (BD). As with Ruddy Duck, Eared Grebe breeds on occasion s. of Nebraska; a colony with 46 nests was located in Kearny, KS 6 Jul (T&SS, DLS). Rare anywhere in the Region, a Brown Pelican was noted at several separate locations in Oklahoma and Canadian, OK 29 Jun (PV) through 28 Jul (BD et al.). Neotropic Cormorants in w. Oklahoma and Kansas continue to pioneer, with up to 5 at Cheyenne Bottoms 14 Jun–26 Jul (MR, JK et al.), another at Quivira 14 Jun (PJ), 1-2 northward to Phillips, KS 26 Jul (HA), and several noted breeding at the Salt Plains 17 Jun (JWA, JAG, RS, SM).

Least Bitterns were reported nw. of typical range in Garden, NE 18 Jul (LR, RH) and Cherry, NE 25 Jun (MS) and w. of typical range in Oklahoma at Hackberry through 21 Jul (BS, m.ob.); one in Tulsa 9 Jun (JL et al.) was still noteworthy. Some 142 Great Egrets in Tulsa, OK 16 Jun (JL, JB, JCr) made a fine count. The only Little Blue Heron for Nebraska this season was far nw. of typical areas in Scotts Bluff 21 Jun (KD). Tricolored Herons, now breeding at the Salt Plains (JWA, RS et al.), and appearing regularly in se. Oklahoma, particularly Red Slough (DA, BH et al.), are also being seen more regularly in cen. Oklahoma (BD) and as far n. as Quivira, where one was seen 7 Jun (BSa). Amazing numbers of Cattle Egrets were reported: 20,000 at Salt Plains 17 Jul (*fide* RW) and 5000 at Cheyenne Bottoms, also 17 Jul (JK, LSG, MA). Two juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons made it n. to Seward, NE 14 Jul (JC,

SSc) and to Lancaster, NE 24 Jul (LE). An ad. and 7 young Yellow-crowneds were at a nest in Shawnee, KS 22 Jun (CM). Only 2 White Ibis were reported away from Red Slough: an imm. as far n. as Quivira 11 Jul (NO) and one in Lincoln, OK 10 Jun (VC). The only Glossy Ibis reported this season were up to 10 at Salt Plains (RS, JWA et al.) and one at Hackberry 1 Jun (L&MT). Among the Salt Plains Glossies were as many as 4 Glossy Ibis x White-faced Ibis hybrids (JWA et al., RS). An excellent Regional tally, 1200 White-faced Ibis were counted at Cheyenne Bottoms 17 Jul (JK, LSG, MA); nesting is now expected in w. Nebraska s. to the Salt Plains, with summer vagrants s. to Hackberry (L&MT, VC, m.ob.).

OSPREY THROUGH TERNS

An Osprey, banded and hacked in South Dakota, appeared in Sarpy, NE 22-28 Jul (MBB, m.ob.); there were five additional reports of the species in the Region (*fide* JWA, *fide* LM, *fide* WRS), including a pair that nested unsuccessfully in Scotts Bluff, NE (KD). A surprise was the re-appearance of a lone White-tailed Kite at exactly the same location (and perch) as last year in se. Lincoln, NE 22 Jun–2 Jul (TJW, PD, ph.). Summer Bald Eagles are becoming routine in the Region, as more individuals are breeding. Rare in summer, a Sharp-shinned Hawk was in Caddo, OK 23 Jun (JAG). Exciting for Nebraska was the



This immature Brown Pelican 29 June at Lake Hefner, Oklahoma was the only one found in summer 2009 in the state and remained in the area through the period. Photograph by Patricia Velte.

presence of 3 Red-shouldered Hawks at the Lancaster site (LE) where breeding was first noticed last year; a juv. with an ad. in Nema-ha/Richardson 29 Jul (L&BP) also suggests breeding. Two Broad-winged Hawks were known at least to have attempted breeding in North Platte, where a pair was successful in 2008 (TJW). Two juv. Broad-winged Hawks 1 Jul in Comanche, OK were products of a westerly nesting effort first located 15 May (VF). A Peregrine Falcon was at Salt Plains 29 Jul



This apparently unmated Osprey on nest at Taylor's Ferry, Muskogee County, Oklahoma 29 July 2009 reflects a growing pattern of nesting activity in the Southern Great Plains region. Photograph by Jeri McMahon.

(JWA, RS, KW), becoming the norm for arrival of post-breeding dispersers.

A Black Rail was at Quivira 19 Jul (DS), possibly the most consistent site for this species in the Region. King Rail is regular at Red Slough, where up to 7 were seen during the period (DA); 2 at Quivira 14 Jun (SS, MR) and a pair with 4 chicks at Hackberry 30 Jun (BA, L&MT) were also in expected settings. Unexpected in midsummer was a Sora at Quivira 14 Jun (SS). Common Moorhens were much in evidence this wet season; a pair with 8 chicks was in *Seward*, NE 28 Jul (CL, SL), where almost extralimital; 3 were at Quivira 14 Jun–5 Jul (SS, JK, MG); one was in *Douglas*, KS 18 Jul (MA); and Hackberry hosted as many as 8 during the period, including an ad. with 2 chicks 1–8 Jul (L&MT, BS, JL, LH). The only place in the Region one might expect Purple Gallinule is Red Slough, where the presence of as many as 18 during the period (DA) was still exciting. Sandhill Cranes bred again in *Morrill*, NE; there were additional reports from four other scattered potential breeding locations in n. and w. Nebraska (*fide* WRS).

Black-bellied Plovers, late or wandering, were at Cheyenne Bottoms 14 Jun (MR) and Salt Plains 16 Jun (JWA, JAG, RS); one at Salt Plains 28 Jul (JWA, RS, KW) was more likely an early returnee. An American Golden-Plover and 2 Semipalmated Plovers were at Salt Plains 16 Jun (JWA, JAG, RS). Salt Plains also hosted very high numbers of Snowy Plovers this season: 3500 were there 5 Jun and 6000 on 17 Jul (*fide* RW), dwarfing the 65 counted at Quivira 5 Jul (JK, m.ob.). Generally only a migrant in Kansas, a Piping Plover was in *Sedgwick* 1 Jun (NO). Two Black-necked Stilt chicks in *Major*, OK 18 Jun (JWA) and one at Red Slough 23 Jun (DA) were away from the regular breeding loca-

tions at Hackberry and Quivira (*fide* L&MT, PJ). Very rare during fall in the Region, a Whimbrel was at Cheyenne Bottoms 17 Jul (JK, LSG, MA). A Long-billed Curlew at Hackberry 16 Jun (LH) was almost certainly an early fall migrant, as suggested by departures of 2 females (bearing satellite transmitters) from *Garden*, NE 19 & 29 Jun after their nests were depredated (CG, JGJ). A Hudsonian Godwit at Cheyenne Bottoms 14 Jun (MR) was tardy. Early fall migrants, 6 Marbled Godwits were reported in n. and cen. Kansas 5–26 Jul (JK, HA, m.ob.). Ruddy Turnstone, less regular in fall, made a better showing this

season, with 14 reported 17–28 Jul in Kansas and Oklahoma (*fide* LM, *fide* JWA); 10 of these were at Salt Plains 28 Jul (*fide* RW). An eclectic group of sandpipers at Salt Plains 16 Jun included a Sanderling, 3 Semipalmateds, a Western, a Pectoral, and 2 Stilts (JAG, JWA, RS). Excellent numbers of returning Semipalmated Sandpipers were in cen. Kansas 17 Jul, with 600 at Cheyenne Bottoms and 750 at Quivira (JK, LSG, MA). White-rumped Sandpiper migrates well into Jun, as shown by the 2000+ at Cheyenne Bottoms 5 Jun (MR), dwindling to singles there 26 Jun (MR) and in *Douglas*, NE 25 Jun (JGJ). Generally non-existent as a fall migrant in the Region, a White-rumped in *Clay*, NE 25 Jul had an injured wing (PD). Also a late spring migrant, 25 Dunlins were at Cheyenne Bottoms 5 Jun (MR). A good total of 1000 Stilt Sandpipers had returned to Cheyenne Bottoms by 17 Jul (JK, LSG, MA). Furnishing one of fewer than 20 Regional records was the Ruff in *Nemaha*, KS 11 Jul (PJ, GF). Two Long-billed Dowitchers at Hackberry 1 Jul (L&MT) were early. Also joining the 16 Jun Salt Plains party of sandpiper laggards was a Wilson's Phalarope (JWA, JAG, RS); 200 were at Cheyenne Bottoms 5 Jul (JK, m.ob.).

Good mid-Jun counts for Franklin's Gull were the 100+ at Cheyenne Bottoms 19 Jun (MR) and 50+ at the Salt Plains 16 Jun (JWA, JAG, RS). Only the 4th for Jul for Nebraska was a Bonaparte's Gull in *Lincoln* 27 Jul (TJW). The usual small mid-summer number of California Gulls at McConaughy included 7 (mostly ads.) 14 Jun (WRS, KN). A rare mid-summer find was a Caspian Tern in *Wagoner*, OK 26 Jun (JWA).

DOVES THROUGH THRASHERS

Putative hybrids between Eurasian Collared-Dove and Mourning Dove have been reported

but appear to be quite rare. Two candidate birds at Bushnell, sw. Nebraska 2 Jul were the size of Mourning Doves but were pale and lacked a nape mark (MRe). White-winged Dove is now a regular summer visitor n. in still small numbers to Nebraska; 6 were reported from Nebraska this season, with at least 14 in Kansas, including 6 juvs. in *Finney* 15 Jul (T&SS). The 8th documented record of Inca Dove for Nebraska was one in *Dundy* 8 Jun (ph. TS). Monk Parakeet is not established in the Region; 6 were found in Oklahoma City 18 Jul (PM) and 8 in Tulsa 10 Jul (*fide* PR). Reports of Black-billed Cuckoo were encouraging, especially the 15 reports of about 18 birds from Nebraska, far more than in recent summers (*fide* WRS); Oklahoma and Kansas reported only one each (SSE, PJ). Greater Roadrunner reports continue in Kansas, with one in *Pawnee* 4 Jul (*fide* SS) and "several in various locations" in *Pratt* (KB). The northerly Chuck-will's-widows found in *Knox*, NE last season were back this year, with one heard 28 Jul (MB, D&JP). Recent years have seen several fall reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird in the



In an encore performance from 2008, this extralimital White-tailed Kite appeared in virtually the same tree in Lincoln County, Nebraska on 29 June 2009. Photograph by Paul Dunbar.

Nebraska Panhandle; one was in *Sioux* 22 Jul (HKH); there are surprisingly still no records of Black-chinned for Nebraska. Fewer *Selasphorus* hummers than usual were reported this fall; an ad. male Calliope was in *Finney*, KS 15 Jul (T&SS), with an imm. female Broad-tailed there 27 Jul (T&SS). Rufous Hummingbirds were reported only from Kansas, with singles in *Pawnee* 22 Jul (DK), *Finney* 25 Jul (M&PR), and *Ellis* 29 Jul (TM).



These two juvenile Red Crossbills first appeared in early June 2009 at disparate locations in the Southern Great Plains region: at Fairmont, Fillmore County, Nebraska 3 June (left), and in Sedgwick County, Kansas 5 June. Photographs by Juanita Rice (left) and Billie and Tom McDavitt.

The summer ranges of Western and Eastern Wood-Pewees meet in the Niobrara Valley, n. Nebraska, and, now, the North Platte Valley in s. Nebraska; a Western singing in se. Lincoln 6 Jul (TJW), and 5 at another location in Lincoln 10 Jul (TJW), were in locations where Easterns are fairly common. At least one Western Wood-Pewee was in Morton, far sw. Kansas 12 Jun (TC). Acadian Flycatcher continues to push northwestward, with reports to Sarpy, NE 30 Jun–2 Jul (L&BP, ph. PS), Lancaster, NE 28 May–12 Jul (LE), and as far n. as Knox, NE 10–22 Jul (MB), latter a first county record. Cordilleran Flycatchers continue their presence on the Pine Ridge, nw. Nebraska (CNK) and at the Wildcat Hills Nature Center, Scotts Bluff 10 Jun (P_{Ro}). A Say's Phoebe with 6 fledglings in Logan, KS 21 Jun (T&SS) was easterly. Ash-throated Flycatchers pressing northward included 3 in Morton, KS, where possibly nesting, 12 Jun (TC) and one there 4 Jul (JK et al.), and as far n. as Kimball, NE 22 Jun–5 Jul (one; WM, TH, WRS, ph.) and Scotts Bluff, NE 12 Jul (KD).

Continuing the species' northward push was a White-eyed Vireo in Knox, NE 28–29 Jul (MB, D&JP). Yellow-throated Vireos pushing the w. envelope included singles at the Salt Plains 16 Jun (JAG, JWA, MGr) and in Knox, NE 22 Jul (MB). An apparent spring carryover was a Fish Crow present on the Platte R. in Sarpy/Cass, NE 24 Jun (JGJ). The Purple Martins roosting in Omaha built to 7000–8000 by the end of the period (JR); 9 in Dawes, NE 29 Jul (JJ) provided only the 2nd fall report from the Panhandle. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches persisted in e. Nebraska, as last year, although no breeding was noted (*vide* WRS). As was the case last summer, more Sedge Wrens than usual were reported from ne. Nebraska during Jun, with some 12 reports, mostly of singles 2–18 Jun (WF, MB, DH, D&JP), with three pairs found in Lancaster, NE 29–30 Jun (KC, LE). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher can now be

found throughout most of Nebraska except for the Sandhills.

A Townsend's Solitaire, rare in the Pine Ridge of Nebraska, was found in Dawes 13 Jun (WM). A Swainson's Thrush in Finney, KS 14 Jun (MO) was tardy. Harder to explain, although likely of the later-migrating w. subspecies *auduboni*, was a Hermit Thrush in Finney, KS 20 Jun (T&SS). Westerly Wood Thrushes were in Gosper, NE 2 Jul (CNK) and Webster, NE 7 Jun (LR, RH). Providing the first confirmation of breeding by Sage Thrasher in Nebraska, an ad. was seen carrying food in sw. Kimball 18 Jun (CNK) and 2 Jul (MRe).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Northern Parula in Caddo, OK 23 Jun (JAG) was w. of its usual summer range. An Ovenbird in Pierce, NE 17 Jul was westerly (DH). Nebraska had more reports than usual of Louisiana Waterthrush, including one as far nw. as Knox 2–22 Jul (MB). A second-year male Summer Tanager in Colfax, NE 6 Jun (WF) was probably a late migrant but potentially more evidence of that species' expansion in the Region. Continuing the trend of increased numbers of Cassin's Sparrow in sw. Nebraska were 7–8 in Chase 12–15 Jun (MB, JLL) and 1–2 in sw. Kimball 13 Jun–19 Jul (WRS, m. ob.). Song Sparrow is expanding its summer range in Nebraska southward and westward; this season, one was in Harlan 10 Jun (LF), 3 in Franklin 25 Jul (LR, RH), and one in Garden 19 Jul (LR, RH). Westerly was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Dawes, NE 13 Jun (KD). Lazuli Buntings provided several e. Nebraska records this spring, the last of which was one in Dixon 1 Jun (JJ). Rare e. of the Nebraska Panhandle, one was singing in se. Lincoln 8 Jul (TJW). An ad. male Painted Bunting in Finney, KS 23 Jul (M&PR) was westerly.

In a repeat of last year, Dickcissels were common as far w. in Nebraska as Lincoln, Cher-

ry, and Logan (*vide* WRS), with singles in Kimball 10 Jul (JRo), Scotts Bluff 18 Jun (AK), and Dawes 13 Jun (KD). In Apr and May, up to 17 ad. Red Crossbills attended a feeder in Sedgwick, KS (B&TM), and on 5 Jun, an advanced-plumage juv. joined 6–10 ads.; it was the last bird present at this location and was last seen 15 Jun (*vide* PJ). Pine Siskins, sometimes present in early Jun in Oklahoma and Kansas, were in Pawnee, OK 4 & 12 Jul (1–2 birds; PR); a pair with 2 young visited a Riley, KS feeder 16 Jun (DR).

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Drought conditions continued to be severe on the southern Edwards Plateau and South Texas, with the National Weather Service continuing to list many counties in the "Exceptional Drought" category, the most severe. For most of the eastern two-thirds of the state, the precipitation was below average, as was documented at Houston, where the cumulative total was 13.77 cm below average. In the Trans-Pecos and locally in northwestern Texas, rainfall was about average, but the overall pattern was just below average in these areas as well.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were noted in exceptional numbers in the Rio Grande Valley, with 500 at the La Feria sod farm, *Hidalgo* 12 Jul (JY) and an amazing 2000 birds tallied along Sugar House Rd., *Hidalgo* 22 Jul (DJ). Farther inland, 2 were at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 10 Jun (BL, VE, ph. ECA), and most surprising were 7 at Ft. Hancock Res. 19 Jun (ph. JP), a first for *Hudspeth*. A Greater White-fronted Goose was unexpected at Mitchell L., *Bexar* 21 Jun (ph. LP). Ross's Goose reports included 2 at Dimmitt, *Castro* 13 Jun (AH) and one that once again summered along with a Snow and a Greater White-fronted Goose at Tom Bass Park, *Harris* (JKe). But the goose of the season was unquestionably the very worn Brant first seen 26 Jul at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* (ph., †GL; JKa). Likely not capable of migratory flight, it was seen until 2 Aug, when its favorite pond dried up. Two Wood Ducks were at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 25 Jul (JP), where they are rare in summer. Two Mottled Ducks stayed the season at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* (m.ob.), while 5 were at Belton L., *Bell* 30 Jul (RK, GE). Two pairs of Redhead

successfully nested in the same Ft. Stockton, *Pecos* ponds where they have bred before (ML). Completely unseasonable was a Hooded Merganser that put in a brief appearance at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 1 Jul (SMC).

An unusually late Common Loon was observed at L. Lewisville, *Denton* 4 Jun (KS). A Least Grebe was on Fort Hood, *Bell* 6-26 Jul (ER, GE, RK). Now expected in the Austin area, a pair of Least Grebes bred successfully just n. of downtown Austin, *Travis* (m.ob.), and another pair fledged young sw. of town in late Jun (JGi). In n.-cen. Texas, a Least Grebe was present at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 27 Jun (CC), and 2 were at John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* 21 Jun+ (GC, TR, DDC, DL, BoS). The World Birding Center pelagic trip 25 Jul off of South Padre I., *Cameron* found 4 Cory's Shearwaters, 2 Leach's Storm-Petrels, and up to 25 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (†MGU, ECA et al.). An American White Pelican in *Burleson* 27 Jun (LS, BVe) contributed one of few summer records for L. Somerville. An apparently healthy Northern Gannet was photographed flying around the Quintana Jetty, *Brazoria* 6 Jun (MBa). An imm. and 2 ad. Double-crested Cormorants at White River L., *Crosby* 12 Jul (AH) were suggestive of a first local breeding record.

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A Least Bittern at Richland Creek W.M.A. 21 Jun (DO) made only the 2nd summer record for *Freestone*. An extremely high count of 24 Least Bitterns was recorded at John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* 27 Jun (GC). An imm. at L. Six, *Lubbock* 1 Jul (CM) indicated the 3rd year in a row for breeding at this site. A Great Egret spotted on a nest at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 15 Jul was not seen subsequently, leaving breeding unconfirmed there (BZ). Wayward Little Blue Herons included single imm. near Crosbyton, *Crosby* 28 Jul (KH) and Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 20 Jul (ph. BZ). Seven Tricolored Herons in Uvalde, *Uvalde* 25 Jul (MH) was a noteworthy count. A juv. Reddish Egret at Canyon L., *Comal* 25 Jul (DP et al.) was at the same location where most of the records from the Hill Country have been found. Single imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were spotted at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 9 Jun (JP) and 27 Jul (BGi). A count of 170 Wood Storks at Addicks Res., *Harris* 5 Jun (AS) was an impressive total for so early in the summer. Seven Wood Storks in Temple 31 Jul (RP) was a first summer record for *Bell* and only the 2nd record in more than two

decades. A Jabiru at the recently established Nueces Delta Preserve, *San Patricio* 10 Jun provided yet another one-day appearance, as is typical for occurrences of this tropical stork (†GB, ph. CSp).

An Osprey at Caprock Canyon S.P., *Briscoe* 10 Jun (BGi) provided one of few summer records for the Panhandle. Unexpected Swallow-tailed Kites were along the Nueces R. e. of Camp Wood, *Edwards* 28 Jul (TH) and w. of Utopia, *Uvalde* 30 Jul (MH). This species seems to be increasing in Texas, as likely breeders were seen in *Jefferson*, *Chambers*, and most notably w. to *Brazoria* through the summer. A pair of White-tailed Kites at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* (JS) made three unsuccessful breeding attempts, and a different ad. was seen with a buffy juv. not far away. This strongly suggests a successful *El Paso* nesting, but this location is less than a mile from Chihuahua. A pair of White-tailed Kites at the Stelzer Ranch, *Kent* 21 Jun (AH) furnished one of few records for the South Plains. Upper Coast numbers of Mississippi Kites seem to be increasing rapidly, with birds commonly noted in towns in every county, including w. to *Austin*, where fledged young were found at Stephen F. Austin S.H.P. 15 Jul (FF). A pair of Mississippi Kites successfully fledged young along Salado Cr., *Bell* (RP, WP), providing a first county breeding record. Elsewhere, a subad. Mississippi Kite at the South Shore Unit of Choke Canyon S.P., *Live Oak* 7 Jun (WS, DM) and an ad. at Centerville, *Leon* 29 Jun (RP) were away from known breeding areas. The Bald Eagles at L. Waco, *McLennan* successfully raised an eaglet



Unprecedented for summer in Texas, this very worn Brant was a stunning find at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge 26 July 2009 (here) through the end of the period. Photograph by Joanne Kamo.

(EH et al.). A Cooper's Hawk at Estero Llano Grande S.P., *Hidalgo* 26 Jul (JY) was well outside the known breeding range. A Harris's Hawk at L. Kickapoo, *Archer* 7 Jul (BSu) made a great summer record. At least three Broad-winged Hawk nests were documented inside



Mississippi Kites are increasing as a nesting species in central Texas. This successful nesting at Salado, Bell County (here 4 July 2009) provided a first county record. Photograph by Mike Williamson.

the I-610 loop in Houston, *Harris* this season (WR, ph. MS). Gray Hawks found at higher elevations than normally expected included one in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 4 Jul (ph. ML, RP) and another near Boulder Meadow in the Chisos Mts., *Brewster* 18 Jul (BZ). Rather bizarre for the location and season, a Zone-tailed Hawk was at Pollywog Pond, *Nueces* 19 Jul (MC). A Ferruginous Hawk near Crosbyton, *Crosby* 16 Jun (KH) was well away from the breeding population in the Panhandle proper. Five American Kestrels at Fort Hood, *Bell* through 12 Jun were presumably a family group and perhaps a rare indicator of local breeding (*fide* CP). An imm. Peregrine Falcon hung around Rio Bosque Wetlands Park 18 & 29 Jun (JS). Apparent early migrant Peregrine Falcons were in the Hegar L. area, *Waller* 25-26 Jul (DDi, SG) and at Salineño, *Starr* 26 Jul (ECa, MBu).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Imm. King Rails seen through the period were indicative of breeding at John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* (GC, m.ob.). Out-of-place Soras included singles at Estero Llano Grande S.P., *Hidalgo* 6 Jun (KO) and near Indianola, *Calhoun* on the same date (BFR). A pair of Purple Gallinules with 5 young at John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* through the period (GC, m.ob.) provided a rare breeding record for n.-cen. Texas. The same area had an unprecedented high count of 84 Common Moorhens 27 Jun (GC, m.ob.). A Sandhill Crane was a completely unexpected find at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Navarro* 16 Jul (TFe). An early Black-bellied Plover was near Utey, *Bastrop* 16 Jul (BFR). A single basic-plumaged American Golden-Plover was in a rice field in nw. *Jefferson* on the odd date of 4 Jul (RW). An injured American Golden-Plover lingered at a *Hidalgo* playa 29 Jun–20 Jul (DJ). Mountain Plovers are rare breeders in the Panhandle, and 2 were located e. of Thompson Grove, *Dallam* 14 Jun (AH). A

count of 86 American Avocets at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* 27 Jun (ECa, MBu) was a high concentration for summer.

Two Spotted Sandpipers at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 4 Jun (TM, JE) were later than usual. A Willet at the turf farms on the Brazos R. bottoms, *Burleson* 30 Jul (LS, BN) provided only the 3rd Jul record for the Central Brazos Valley. Six Whimbrels in a rice field in nw. *Jefferson* 4 Jul (RW)

and a count of 13 birds in the same field 6 Jul (SMA) were exceptional summer counts. A Whimbrel at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 21 Jun was thought to be an early fall migrant (MC). A group of 16 Long-billed Curlews near Dickens, *Dickens* 21 Jun (AH) provided just the 3rd Jun record for the South Plains. Marbled Godwits were reported in above-normal numbers in the Trans-Pecos, with one at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 8 Jun (JP) and 8 at the same location 30 Jun (RP), 3 split between McNary Res. and Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 24 Jun (JP), and one at McNary Res. 3 Jul (JP). Farther e., a Marbled Godwit was out of place at John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* 11 Jul (GC, TR, DDC, DL). An exceptionally early juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Choke Canyon, *McMullen* 26 Jul (WS). Two White-rumped Sandpipers were at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 8 Jun (JP). Three White-rumped Sandpipers at Yacht Basin Rd., *Galveston* 1 Jul (JKe) were notably late; typically only injured or sick birds are found in midsummer. A Baird's Sandpiper at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 24 Jun (JP) made for a very rare regional Jun record. Alternate-plumaged Dunlins included one on Pleasure I., *Jefferson* 4 Jul (RW), 2 at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 25 Jul (CTL), and one near Crosbyton, *Crosby* 28 Jul (KH).

A Laughing Gull at Welch Park, *Burleson* 27 Jun (LS, BVe) made a first summer record for L. Somerville and one of few summer records for the cen. Brazos Valley. Locally annual in recent years, 2 ad. Laughing Gulls were at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 15 Jul (BZ). Out-of-season Franklin's Gulls included one at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 9 Jun (JP), one at L. Waco, *McLennan* 11 Jun (EH), 2 at the John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* 27 Jun (GC), and one at Belton L., *Bell* 22 Jul (RP). Four Franklin's Gulls spent the season at Choke Canyon, *McMullen* (WS). A Ring-billed Gull lingered in Lubbock, *Lubbock* through 3 Jul (CSt, m.ob.), while 2 summered at Choke Canyon, *McMullen* (WS). Unprecedented was a first-cycle Glaucous Gull at Galveston's East

Beach, *Galveston* 5 Jun+ (ph. JKe, JBe).

Following the trend in recent years, a Brown Noddy was on Padre Island N.S., *Kleberg* 10 Jun (ph., †BSa) and another off *Matagorda* 27 Jun (ph., †KLa). No storm-related or other known reason accounts for the occurrence of a Sooty Tern found alive at College Station, *Brazos* 6 Jul (*fide* KAR). McIntyre tallied 19 Bridled Terns in *Nueces* offshore waters 15 Jun. Rare but regular in the Trans-Pecos, a single Least Tern was at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 8 Jun (JP). A Least Tern at L. Waco 14 Jun (EH) provided a rare *McLennan* record. Eight Least Terns, including 3 on nests, were at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Navarro* 13 Jun (DDC, DL). Juveniles made up an estimated 25% of 90 Least Terns at L. Lewisville, *Denton* 31 Jul (KL). More unexpected was the discovery of two nesting pairs at E.V. Spence Res., *Coke* 29 May (AB). A Caspian Tern was at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 24 Jun (JP). A late migrant Black Tern was at L. Waco, *McLennan* 14 Jun (EH). A large migration involving an estimated 3500-4000 Black Terns moved through the High I. area, *Galveston* 17 Jul (WB). An ad. jaeger at Rollover Pass, *Galveston* 3 Jul was thought to be a Parasitic based largely on size (FC); another, or possibly the same bird, was seen from the Quintana Jetty, *Brazoria* 24 Jul (SG).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Unprecedented was a wholly melanistic Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Liberty Hill, *Williamson* 20 Jul (ph. BM). A Common Poorwill was a great find in *Somervell* 6 Jun (GC). A Chuckwill's-widow returned for the 3rd consecutive year to the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 1 Jul+ (RP, KB), and also of interest was another at White River L., *Crosby* 12 Jul (AH). Green Violetear is now expected annually on the Edwards Plateau. One at Ingram, *Kerr* continued through 3 Jun (MI), another was in sw. *Gillespie* 2-3 Jun (ph., †TC), and one was near Leakey, *Real* 21 Jun–24 Jul (ph. D&SM). Providing a first Panhandle record was a Broad-billed Hummingbird attending a feeder in Timbercreek Canyon, *Randall* 17-25 Jun (BP, m.ob.). Broad-billeds were also present in cen. Texas near Eldorado, *Schleicher* 29 Jun+ (ph., RF) and in Poteet, *Atascosa* 29 Jul–2 Aug (MGI). At least 5 White-eared Hummingbirds were noted through the summer in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* (KB). A quasi-resident Buff-bellied Hummingbird at a Smithville, *Bastrop* residence was present all season (ph. AC, ECE), while another summered in nearby Bastrop (ph. LC). A Rufous Hummingbird arrived early in Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 24 Jul (BFR). An imm. male Allen's Hummingbird was banded in *Jeff Davis* 19 Jul (KB). A Red-headed Woodpecker in Richwood

24-25 Jul made the first summer report from *Brazoria* in many years (JBo). A Ladder-backed Woodpecker in Zionsville 24 Jun (DVo) marked the first *Washington* record in 25 years. A Hairy Woodpecker reported from *Harris* 2 Jun was noteworthy (DDi).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Western Wood-Pewee along the Brazos R., *Kent* 26 Jul (AH) was unexpected. An early Least Flycatcher was near Sargent, *Matagorda* 10 Jul (BFR). Buff-breasted Flycatchers occupied three apparent territories in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* (ML), but birds were felt to be harder to locate than usual, and subsequent surveys yielded no clear evidence of breeding success. It was another good year for Dusky-capped Flycatcher, which has become an expected, albeit rare, breeder in the upper Davis and Chisos mt. ranges. Four territories were in the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* (ML), and the pair found in the spring along the Pinnacles Trail in Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* was reported through 18 Jul (BZ). A Brown-crested Flycatcher at Freeport, *Brazoria* 6 Jun (JA, ph. MLI) was acting as if on territory but was not relocated. Just on the n. edge of expected range, a Brown-crested Flycatcher was in Utey, *Bastrop* 13 Jun (BFR). Well w. of expected breeding range, 2 Eastern Kingbirds were observed near Thompson Grove, *Dallam* 14 Jun (AH). Unexpected was a nesting pair of Couch's Kingbirds in San Saba, *San Saba* 7 Jun (ph. ByS) for a first county record and perhaps the northernmost breeding record in the state. The pair successfully fledged at least 2 young. Two Couch's Kingbirds were in Junction, *Kimble* 16 Jul (RH), while the pair at Webberville, *Travis* remained



One of the highlights of the season in Texas was this male Evening Grosbeak. It made a brief visit to a feeding station in El Paso, El Paso County 15-16 (here) June 2009 and provided just the second summer record for the state and the first to be fully documented. Photograph by Ada Ibarra.

through early Jun, though successful nesting was not noted (m.ob.). For the 3rd straight year, a pair of Couch's Kingbirds nested at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground, *Brewster* (m.ob.), but more unexpected was a calling bird near Marathon, *Brewster* 27 Jun (DJ). A

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher just s. of *Kent* near the *Culberson/Jeff Davis* line 20 Jul (BZ) was w. of typical range.

Nesting Bell's Vireos near Jayton, *Kent* had successfully fledged 3 young by 26 Jul (AH) for a successful first county nesting record. A Red-eyed Vireo singing at Thompson Grove, *Dallam* 13 Jun (BP) represented a rare summer record. A Yellow-green Vireo graced Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 16-18 Jun (BFR). Tree Swallows were present in good numbers on the Upper Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.), including the first documented nesting record. A pair discovered in the spring at Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* fledged 3 young 28 Jun (m.ob.). Elsewhere, two pairs were at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 24 Jul, each with an apparent dependent youngster (JKe). Four Cave Swallows near Floydada, *Floyd* 18 Jul (AH) represented the first for the county. A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches carrying food along Wolf Cr., *Ochiltree* 18 Jul (AH) suggested a rare local nesting attempt. A singing Canyon Wren at Independence Park in Gonzales, *Gonzales* 23 Jun (BFR) was well away from the normal range. This misplaced bird is presumably the same individual that was first discovered there in Aug 2007. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are rare nesters on the U.T.C., and this season more than one family group was found along the *Waller/Grimes* line 20 Jun (RW), while up to 3 individuals were in n. *Harris* 11 Jul+ (DDo) and may have nested locally. A Wood Thrush was in Edinburg, *Hidalgo* 13-26 Jun (TW) represented a rare summer record for South Texas. A pair of Brown Thrashers was present in Beaumont, *Jefferson* through the period (HJ), and a young bird was observed, which suggests local nesting. After more than a decade-long hiatus of summer Brown Thrasher sightings in the Central Oaks and Prairies region, one was photographed in Waco, *McLennan* 18 Jun (ph. BB), and 2 were in the same location 21 Jul.

A persistently singing Yellow Warbler lingered at Copperas Cove, *Coryell* until 12 Jun (RK).

A late migrant Blackburnian Warbler at Lafitte's Cove, *Galveston* 6 Jun (TFi) provided the 2nd latest record for U.T.C. A pair of Yellow-throated Warblers successfully fledged one young in Austin, *Travis* in mid-Jun (ph. MBe), providing a rare nesting record for the county. A lingering



Unmistakable was this adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Freeport, Brazoria County 25 July 2009 providing a first documented summer record to the Upper Texas Coast. Photograph by Greg Lavaty.

Black-throated Green Warbler was at Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 7 Jun (DJ); however, much more surprising was a male near Boulder Meadow in Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 18 Jul (BZ). A singing Black-and-white Warbler in El Paso, *El Paso* 19 Jun was unexpected and may have been the same bird found at the same location 26-28 Jul (JP). A wandering first-summer male American Redstart at Ft. Hood, *Bell* 17 Jun (ph., ER) was well away from breeding areas. A Northern Waterthrush was at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 1 Jun (YB). The first migrant Louisiana Waterthrushes noted for the fall included singles at High I., *Galveston* 23 Jul (DVe) and Lubbock, *Lubbock* 25 Jul (AH). A Mourning Warbler at Welborn, *Brazos* 4 Jun (John Hale) is the first summer record for the county and the 2nd latest for the Central Oaks and Prairies region. An early Hooded Warbler arrived in Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 25 Jul (BFR). A pair of Painted Redstarts with an older fledgling in the Davis Mountains Resort, *Jeff Davis* 29 Jul (DEn) provided one of the few nesting records for the county. A pair of Rufous-capped Warblers found along Big Bend's Window Trail, *Brewster* 17 Jul (ph., †BZ) were unfortunately not relocated. A good count of 22 ad. Yellow-breasted Chats along with numerous fledglings at White River L., *Crosby* 12 Jul (AH) documented the continued presence of the species on the South Plains as a breeding species.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Rare in summer on the U.T.C., a pair of Summer Tanagers was noted sporadically in Hitchcock, *Galveston* 11 Jun-4 Jul (KAY). A wandering female Western Tanager was near Crosbyton, *Crosby* 10 Jul (KH). A female Flame-colored Tanager was in upper Boot Canyon, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 18 Jul (†BZ). The female Eastern Towhee that wintered at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* was last reported on the incredibly late date of 1 Jun (YB). A Spotted

Towhee at Thompson Grove, *Dallam* 13-14 Jun (AH) provided a first Jun record for the Panhandle. A group of 4-5 Cassin's Sparrows near Sargent, *Matagorda* in Jun were well e. of their normal range. A Field Sparrow near Oil-tan, *Webb* 16 July (ND) was out of place. Lark Sparrows found in two *Austin* locations 7 Jul were apparently local breeders (BGr). A Savannah Sparrow at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 11 Jun (TM) represents the first documented summer record for U.T.C. An imm. Seaside Sparrow at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 22 Jul (TM, ph. JE) was a surprise at an inland location. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 16 Jun (BFr) was very late, as was a female Lazuli Bunting in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 9 Jun (AH). A female Indigo Bunting at Quintana, *Brazoria* 2 Jun (GL) was a holdover from the spring. Single Indigo Buntings in Friona, *Parmer* 13 Jun (AH), Hereford, *Deaf Smith* 13 Jun (AH), and near Stratford, *Sherman* 14 Jun (AH) provided first summer county records. Up to 3 singing Indigo Buntings along the Window Trail in Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 17-20 Jul (BZ, m.ob.) were unexpected.

A male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Freeport, *Brazoria* 25 Jul (ph. GL) provided a first summer record for the U.T.C. A Bronzed Cowbird in *Wilbarger* 29 Jun (BSu) was a great find and probably a sign of continued range expansion. Up to 3 Bullock's Orioles summered in Turnersville, *Hays* (ph. BVi), though breeding was never confirmed. A territorial male Audubon's Oriole was at Knolle Farms, *Nueces* 6 Jun (MC), where the species is very rare. A pair of Baltimore Orioles with 3 large young was observed in *Clay* 10-12 Jul (DH); another was unexpected at Village Creek Dry-

ing Beds, *Tarrant* 18 Jul (GC, GM). An early southbound migrant or local nesting ad. male American Goldfinch molting into basic plumage was found in *Clay* 11 Jul (ph. DH). Two Lesser Goldfinches in *Somervell* 6 Jun (GC) were well e. of the breeding grounds. One of the rarest finds of the season was a male Evening Grosbeak in an El Paso, *El Paso* 15-16 Jun (ph. AI, JGr)—apparently just the 2nd summer record for the state.

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Colorado & Wyoming



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June brought overall cool and damp conditions to the Region, with both states below normal in the former category and much above normal in the latter. Colorado's overall July temperature and precipitation ranked near normal, while Wyoming's was below normal in temperature and above normal in precipitation. This cool, damp combination abated the drought in the last remaining abnormally dry regions in Colorado's Southeastern Plains and the southwestern portion of Wyoming. For the first time in recent memo-

ry, the entire Region was free of any drought classification by the end of the season. Among a smattering of highlight ardeids were likely breeding Least Bitterns in Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado also saw its longest-staying and most reliable Black Vulture. Numerous notable eastern warblers were found in this post-migration timeframe, many exhibiting territorial behavior. Cassin's Sparrows and Dickcissels followed the spring and early summer rains and resultant lush vegetation across much of the Eastern Plains, turning up in high numbers and in unusual locales.

Abbreviations: Eldorado Mountain (Eldorado Mountain Open Space, Boulder). "West

Slope" denotes locations west of the Rockies. 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. Because the great majority of rarities are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are noted. Undocumented reports of Colorado B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review species (<www.cfo-link.org>) are summarized at the end of this report.

GEESE THROUGH GULLS

The only seasonal report of Snow Goose came from *Morgan* 20 Jun (T. Smart). A Bufflehead was at low elevation for summer at *Cheney Res.*, *Mesa* 17 Jun (JBn). A female Hooded Merganser with 3 ducklings confirmed breeding for this very rare Colorado breeder in *Jefferson* 17 Jun (DF), the site from which last year's breeding confirmation came. A Red-throated Loon just made it into the season at *Brush Hollow Res.*, *Fremont* 1 Jun (RM); as many as 10 Common Loons were noted in Colorado this summer. A Neotropic Cormorant was a nice find at *John Martin Res.*, *Bent* 18-26 Jun (BKP); the species is now nearly annual, though individuals are rarely present for more than a week. The only American Bittern found this season away from known breeding sites visited *Turtle L.*, *La Plata* 29 Jun (JBy); the species is quite unexpected in sw. Colorado. A juv. Least Bittern accompanied single ads. of both sexes at *Cottonwood Hollow Pond*, *Larimer* 20 Jul (N. Komar) for a very rare suggestion of local breeding in the state. Another Least Bittern was found at *Fort Lyon S.W.A.*, *Bent* 25 Jul+ (R. Hopper et al.).

White egrets are, at best, uncommon on Colorado's West Slope, so a Great Egret at *Craig*, *Moffat* 2 Jun (FL) and a Snowy Egret near *Nucla*, *Montrose* 2 Jul (CD, B. Wright) were both of interest. A calico Little Blue Heron graced *Boulder* 2 Jul (B. Zilly). A dark-morph Reddish Egret pranced at *DeWeese Res.*, *Custer* 17-19 Jul (RM), accounting for the state's 10th record of the species and providing a new high-elevation record. The only Cattle Egrets away from the San Luis Valley (the state's epicenter of breeding) were 3 at *Red Lion S.W.A.*, *Logan* 12 Jul (J. Dunning, K. Mihm-Dunning).

A Black Vulture visiting *Castlewood Canyon*, *Douglas* 2-17 Jul (K. Metz) was the

cause of joy among Colorado birders, as it was the longest staying (and most chaseable) of the very small number of individuals found in the state to date. An ad. and a juv. Broad-winged Hawk were noted at last year's locale of suspected breeding in *Pueblo* 30-31 Jul (D. Silverman); hopefully, this record was reported to the second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas. Two Sandhill Cranes were unseasonable 26-27 Jul s. of Mancos, *Montezuma* (SM), though the species has been expanding its breeding range in Colorado recently.

Recurvirostrids at least a bit out of place were American Avocets in *Montezuma* 6 Jun (3; D. Garrison), *DeWeese Res.* 17 Jun (one; RM), and *Fremont* 22 Jun (one; RM), plus a Black-necked Stilt in *Boulder* 13 Jun (DW). Upland Sandpiper staged its typical early southbound migration and was noted in places w. of normal in Colorado, particularly the singles over nighttime *Boulder*, one each 30 Jul (TF), 20 Aug (TF), 24 Aug (T. Deininger), and 25 Aug (TF). The oddest re-



Accounting for Colorado's tenth record of Reddish Egret, this immature dark-morph bird also set a new state (and perhaps all-time?) high elevation record of 2338 meters above sea level at *DeWeese Reservoir*, *Custer County* 17-19 (here 17) July 2009. Photograph by *Brandon K. Percival*.

port, however, was of a bird on the ground s. of *Dolores* 16 Jun (SM); the species is very rare on the West Slope, particularly so in the s., and this bird provided a *Montezuma* first. Determination of the status of Long-billed Curlew as a breeder in Colorado away from the e. plains is hampered by the early arrival on their southward migration in the state of failed breeders and recently fledged young. The problem was experienced this summer with Jul records in *Jackson*, *Moffat*, and *San Miguel*, including a juv. in the last-listed county. A Marbled Godwit 24 Jun at *Hugo*, *Lincoln* (H&UK) was probably a migrant, but the 4 in *Jackson* in mid-Jul were almost certainly such. A Bonaparte's Gull was quite late

at *Fruitgrowers Res.*, *Mesa* 11 Jun (JBn). An ad. Laughing Gull was well appreciated at *Adobe Creek Res.*, *Bent* 25 Jul (BKP et al.); the species is now annual in the state, particularly on the e. plains. An ad. Herring Gull at the *L. Meredith feedlot*, *Crowley* 26 Jul (ph. LS), was quite a surprise and nearly unprecedented in the state at this season.

TERNs THROUGH SWALLOWS

A Least Tern was out of place in *Arapahoe* 12 Jun (S. Latona), and a Black Tern was about on time as a fall migrant at *Fruitgrowers Res.* 19 Jul (B. & C. Day). As is typical, reports of Caspian Tern were scattered, with this summer's three hailing from *Delta*, *Douglas*, and *Crowley*. White-winged Dove reports came to us from six Colorado counties, though none from the Arkansas R. valley, where the species has been breeding for a few years now. As the species is now quite uncommon along the Front Range edge, a juv. Burrowing Owl in *Boulder* 13 Jul (TF) was of some interest. A fledgling Northern Saw-whet Owl at *Limon*, *Lincoln* 11 Jun (H&UK) was out on the plains, where the species is thought not to breed; this belief may need some updating.

Fifteen Black Swifts dropped down to low elevation at *Zink's Pond*, *La Plata* 9 Jun (V. Zerbi); the species is fairly rare, and/or seldom detected, in the county. Another was at a higher low elevation over *Carbondale*, *Garfield* 1 Jul (D. Filby). An ad. male Calliope Hummingbird was well e. of normal s. of *Lamar*, *Prowers* 31 Jul (J. Stulp). Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were w. of normal at *Fraser*, *Grand* 4 Jun (T. Jones); *Portland*, *Fremont* 7 Jun (S. Moss); *Boulder* 10 Jun (J. Dulberger, CN); and, the oddest of all, 19 Jun at *Hayden*, *Routt* (on the West Slope; N. Merrill, L. Williams, T. Litteral). A male Red-bellied Woodpecker in *Pueblo* 6 Jun (BKP) was both s. and w. of normal.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at *Valco Ponds S.W.A.*, *Pueblo* 9 Jun (BKP) was late for such low elevation. Small populations of nesting Least Flycatchers are still present in w. Colorado, with reports again coming from *Gunnison* and *Moffat* during the period. A White-eyed Vireo, rare but regular in Colorado, was at *Cañon City*, *Fremont* 2 Jun (RM). Three wayward Yellow-throated Vireos ventured w. to the Rockies and paused to set up territories. One was discovered at *Franktown*, *Douglas* 5-29 Jun (U&HK), another was quite far w. at *Black*

Canyon of the Gunnison N.M., *Gunnison* 9 Jun (ph. AB), and the last was at Pueblo West, *Pueblo* 16 Jun (BKP). The three singing Red-eyed Vireos found across Front Range counties was a typical count. Late spring/early summer snows across montane areas of Colorado often result in some montane-breeding individuals temporarily dispersing downslope to more hospitable climes. Such was the case 2 Jun when Percival counted roughly 800 Violet-green Swallows below Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*.

WRENS THROUGH FINCHES

Carolina Wren is a rare and very local denizen near the e. border of Colorado, and the report of one visiting Two Buttes Res., *Baca* 31 Jul (T. Barksdale) provides more support for that status. Eastern Bluebirds nest in various plains locations of extreme e. Colorado, and small numbers wander westward to the foothills during fall and winter. A territorial male was at Eldorado Mountain 7 Jul (CN), a location where the species nested out of range last year, while another male was at Genesee Park, *Jefferson* 6-10 Jul (M. Henwood). Late for the e. plains, a Mountain Bluebird was in n. *Weld* 1 Jun (D. Leatherman). Establishing a first for *Montezuma* and a very rare record for sw. Colorado, a Brown Thrasher was photographed w. of U.S. 491 on 16 Jun (M. & D. Hill). Individual "eastern" warblers regularly show up in e. Colorado during the season; some attempt to establish territories. This summer, 3 singing Northern Parulas were observed: singles were in rural *Boulder* 10 Jun (CN), Gregory Canyon, *Boulder* 11 Jul (M. Peterson), and Cherry Creek S.P., *Arapahoe* 28 Jul (K. Shipe). A singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Skunk Canyon, *Boulder* 7 Jun (DW), while a male Black-and-white Warbler was seen at Last Chance, *Washington* 5 Jun (GW, J. Kellner). The warbler highlight of the season, however, was the territorial male Kentucky Warbler that set up camp in Gregory Canyon, where present 6 Jun+ (NP, m.ob.); there are 35 previous state records. Single male Hooded Warblers were noted this summer, with a returning bird at Eldorado Mountain 22 Jun-3 Jul (CN) and another at nearby Gregory Canyon 26 Jun-11 Jul (E. DeFonso).

Good spring/summer rains greened up the grasses of the Plains, and some prairie bird species responded dramatically. Cassin's Sparrows were noted as being common across the



Fortunate birders caught a glimpse of this lurking Least Bittern 25 July 2009 in the vast marshes of Fort Lyons State Wildlife Area in Bent County, Colorado. Photograph by Lawrence S. Semo.

plains, with a few birds even found singing along the Front Range in *Boulder*, which is w. of usual. Black-throated Sparrows nest in se. Colorado as well as in many areas across the west. Northwest of usual for the se. population, nesting was confirmed at Fort Carson, *Pueblo*, where males were found singing and young were discovered 21 May-11 Jun (R. Clawges). A second-year male Summer Tanager made an appearance at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld* 6 Jun (TF); presumably it was the last of the spring migrants. The returning male Scarlet Tanager was present for its 3rd summer at Gregory Canyon 6 Jun-20 Jul (NP). Northern Cardinals breed in a few locations across extreme e. Colorado. Well w. of normal, a singing male was at Rock Canyon, *Pueblo* 13 Jun (BKP). Dickcissels arrived on the e. plains en masse, with individuals seemingly present in all suitable habitats across the e. portion of the state, including some w. to the foothill edge. Very far w., a male was photographed in rural *La Plata* 28 Jun (R. Donley), establishing a county first and the first for sw. Colorado.

Westerly was the Baltimore Oriole at Chatfield S.P., *Douglas* 1 Jun (D. Shoffner). A pair of Scott's Orioles was at Little Gypsum Valley, *San Miguel* 8 Jun (G. Steele, CD) for a very rare local record; the species is known to breed in localized areas across portions of extreme w. Col-

orado and very locally in the se. Although located in sw. Colorado, *San Miguel* has little habitat (sparse piñon-juniper woodlands) to support Scott's Orioles. Fledgling White-winged Crossbills were found in Dillon, *Summit* 26 Jun (M.J. Black); the species breeds erratically across high-elevation areas. Low in elevation for the season, an Evening Grosbeak graced Chatfield S.P., *Jefferson* 11 Jul (ph. D. Vogel).

Undocumented rarities: We do not include in the above report undocumented Colorado reports of C.B.R.C. review species; such reports this season included: Red-throated Loon in *Denver*; Neotropic Cormorant in *Bent*; Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in *Bent*; Glossy Ibis in *Fremont*; a potentially different Black Vulture in *Douglas*, Lesser Nighthawk in *Montrose* and *La Plata*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird in *Boulder*; Acorn Woodpecker at a different site in *La Plata*; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in *Larimer*; Alder Flycatcher in *Gun-*

nison; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Kiowa*; Eastern Towhee in *Weld*; Vermilion Flycatcher in *Fremont* and *Pueblo*; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Las Animas*; Hepatic Tanager in *Pueblo*; and Eastern Meadowlark in *Larimer*.

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David Trochlell

Much of the Region received an unusual bounty of rain during the first three weeks of June, and, at least for western Montana, this period was also notable for unseasonably cool temperatures. July was closer to the norm in many of the drier valleys but remained somewhat cooler and wetter than usual in parts of Montana.

Abbreviation: 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).

WATERFOWL THROUGH OWLS

An out-of-range Harlequin Duck photographed in Beartrap Canyon, Madison, MT 25-26 Jun (EH) provided the first report in Latilong 38 in 34 years. Especially rare in summer was a Long-tailed Duck in Bonner, ID 11 Jun (†WT). Red-breasted Mergansers are also unexpected in summer; nevertheless, a flock of 6 was found in Madison, MT 10 Jun, as was a single 25-28 Jun (EH). A count of 5 Common Loons at Ennis L., MT 26 Jun (EH, JP) represented the largest summer-period tally there in memory. Although now nearly annual in Montana, a Great Egret near Townsend 9 Jun (BS) was interesting, as they are still scarce in w.

valleys. A Green Heron in Lake 9 Jun (RJ) made only about the 5th report for w. Montana. Black-crowned Night-Herons, rare and local in Montana, reportedly nested in the Warm Springs area in Jul (GS). A Glossy Ibis, now annual in e. Idaho, was documented at Market L., Jefferson 2 Jun (†CW). Of special note was a Merlin nest discovered in Thompson Falls, MT 5 Jul (JG); there are few verified breeding records in the Region.

One of the outstanding discoveries of the season was a vocal Yellow Rail in Glacier N.P., MT 19 Jun (SG); it furnished only the 2nd record for w. Montana. Despite the recent range expansion of Black-necked Stilts in Montana, a flock of 30 seen s. of Stevensville 3 Jul (JR) likely represented a record high count for w. Montana. Idaho reported out-of-range Franklin's Gulls at Lewiston 1 Jun and in Bonner 27 Jun (SS). A quintet of Caspian Terns documented at Thompson Falls, MT 21 Jun (JG) brought in a local first record. Perhaps a returning visitor, a White-winged Dove near Gardiner, MT 5-10 Jul (TO) was thought to be the same bird that visited the area in early May. Representing the first local record in 22 years was a Burrowing Owl near Three Forks, MT 26-30 Jun (EH, JP).

PASSERINES

Two Alder Flycatchers documented sw. of Kalispell 11 Jun (DC) added to a growing number of early Jun reports from w. Montana. A wayward Northern Mockingbird was a sensational find near Missoula 15-16 Jul (TT). At least 2 Sprague's Pipits were discovered singing near Harrison, MT 19 Jun (BM), providing the first circumstantial evidence of breeding in sw. Montana, if not the entire Region. At least 9 singing Tennessee Warblers reported in Glacier N.P., MT in Jun (SG) represented a record breeding season count there. Another Tennessee Warbler spotted near Bozeman, MT 7 Jun (JP) was a good find, as the species is not reported there annually. The eastern warbler vagrant list included a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Boise, ID 6-7 Jun (†JB), single male Magnolia Warblers in Ca-

mas 4 Jun (†CW) and Hailey, ID 18 Jun (ph. JC, †KC), and Ovenbirds at Camas 4 Jun (†CW), in Missoula, MT 28 Jun (DC), and in Glacier N.P., MT 3 Jul (SG).

A Summer Tanager, furnishing only the 4th record for Montana, was photographed in the Centennial Valley 17 Jun (RG). If accepted, a Scarlet Tanager at Camas 1 Jun (JC) would represent Idaho's 3rd record. Clay-colored Sparrows photographed with nestlings near Moscow 6 Jul (ph. TG) will provide a first verified breeding record in Idaho, pending acceptance. Bird surveys turned up 2-3 singing Baird's Sparrows near Harrison, MT 18-20 Jun (BM), and another was discovered s. of Ennis, MT 2 Jul (BC, GM). The species was previously unrecorded anywhere in sw. Montana. Rare Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were documented in Clayton, ID 1 Jun (ph., †PH), Gardiner, MT 6 Jun (DS), and near Hailey, ID 15-17 Jun (JC). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks, not annual in Idaho, made a celebrated find in Twin Falls 1 Jun-19 Jul (ZW). Providing a first record for Latilong 16 was a Bobolink at the Chester Wetlands, Fremont, ID 18 Jul (DCI). An exciting first for Montana and the Region was a well-documented Eastern Meadowlark s. of Ennis 18 Jun-early Jul (BC, GM). A Great-tailed Grackle discovered in Butte 7 Jun (KA) brought in Montana's 2nd record. Idaho's only reported Great-tailed Grackle was a single bird in Meridian 12 Jun (RM).

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New Mexico



Sartor O. Williams III

Summer 2009 saw plentiful rains in some sections but continued drought in others, resulting in uneven breeding performance by many species, often in closely adjoining areas. The phenomenon of species expanding northward has been well publicized, but several other species, typically riparian, have been spreading southward in recent years; this season, both Cedar Waxwing and American Goldfinch continued to make conspicuous inroads into New Mexico. Meanwhile, Long-billed Murrelet was added to the state list when one was salvaged from a brine pit near Loving.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap w. of Melrose); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

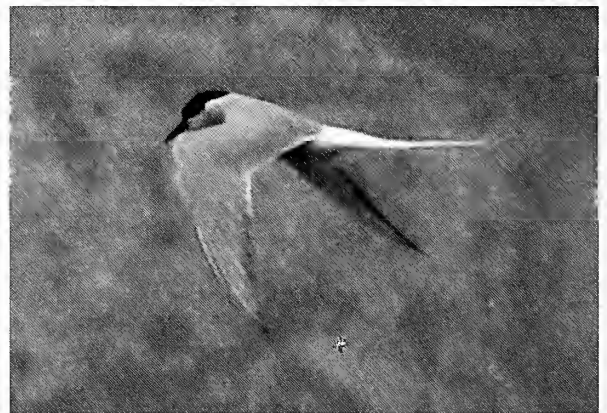
Far-flung Wood Ducks included single males w. to Crownpoint 4-5 Jun (WWi, DK) and Tyrone 30 Jul (EL). Noteworthy for Lincoln, a female Gadwall was tending young at Capitan 25 Jul (CR); in Socorro, a female Green-winged Teal was escorting young at La Joya 19 Jul (DH); in Eddy, a Redhead pair with young was at Mexican L. near Malaga 20 Jul (SW). Perhaps a first for the Sandia Mts., a female Dusky Grouse with chicks was along the Cienega Spring Trail 19 Jul (R. Murphy). Montezuma Quail were again found n. to the vicinity of Horse Springs, Catron, with singles at two sites 7 Jun (DH); in the s. Sacramento Mts., singles were at two sites near Piñon 14 Jun (WH). A Brown Pelican at Morgan L. in May continued through the summer (ph. TR, ph. MB); another discovered at Santa Rosa L.

7 Jun (ph. RM) likewise remained through the season. The Neotropic Cormorant found n. to Morgan L. in May was still present 13 Jun (ph. TR). The Double-crested Cormorant colony at Santa Rosa L. contained 46 active nests 10 Jun (RM), the most yet counted there. Isolated Great Blue Heron colonies included six active nests at Morgan L. in Jun (ph. TR), 10 or more nests with young at Quemado L. 4 Jun (ph. HW), and one nest with young at Snow L. 23 Jun (CH). Snowy Egrets were conspicuous in the Albuquerque area and may be nesting locally; noteworthy were 25 near Alameda 26 Jun (DK) and 15 in the South Valley 4 Jul (JJ). A strong Tricolored Heron season produced single imms. at Sumner L. 3 Jun (WH) and Holloman L. 30 Jul (ph. M. Turner), 2 imms. at Brantley L. 28 Jul (WWi), and 2 imms. at B.L.N.W.R. 31 Jul (JP, WWi, MS, JZ). A subad. Reddish Egret was at B.L.N.W.R. 30 Jun-1 Jul (ph. JS). Two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons reached the lower Pecos Valley, an ad. at L. Avalon 12 Jul (ph. SW) and an imm. at Six Mile Dam 28 Jul (WWi).

An Osprey was s. to Snow L. 23 Jun (CH). A White-tailed Kite was at Rodeo 27 Jul (RW); 2 ads. with an imm. near Sunshine s. of Deming 10 Jul (D. Williams, *vide* LM) suggested successful nesting there. An ad. and an imm. Mississippi Kite at Socorro's Riverine Park 19 & 26 Jul (DH) may be indicative of a new nesting locale. Four Bald Eagle nests, two each in Rio Arriba and Colfax, were all successful, fledging a total 6 young in Jun (DS). A Northern Harrier pair at Morgan L. fledged one young by 27 Jul (ph. TR); a pair at B.L.N.W.R. through Jun may have nested, but no young were detected (JS). A Common Black-Hawk was n. in the R.G.V. to Albuquerque's South Valley 4 Jul (JJ); in the Sacramento Mts., one was on the Rio Bonito at Salado Cr. 25 Jul (CR). North of usual, a Harris's Hawk was n. of Roswell at Cocklebur L. 4 Jun (WH). Gray Hawks continued much in evidence in Guadalupe Canyon (m.ob.) and in the lower Pecos Valley in the Black R. area (m.ob.); others included one in lower Clanton Canyon 16 Jun (JB) and a vocal ad. on the Ladder Ranch along Las Animas Cr., Sierra 30 Jul (WWe). Four captive-bred Aplomado Falcons were released in the Deming area 12 Jun (U.S.F.W.S.), near where native Aplomados nested in recent years; some 120 have been released in New Mexico over the past three years, and 100 more were slated for release in

New Mexico and w. Texas in 2009, forever obscuring re-colonization by wild birds.

Noteworthy for the Zuni Mts. was a Virginia Rail in the upper Bluewater Cr. wetlands 7 Jul (HS). An imm. Common Moorhen was n. to Albuquerque 30-31 Jul (D. Paez); a pair with 3 chicks was at Bosque 20 Jun-19 Jul (m.ob.). American Coots breeding in obscure locales included a nest at Lake Valley, Sierra 9 Jul (DC) and ads. plus a chick near Weed, Otero 14 Jul (WH). Snowy Plovers away from breeding strongholds were 2 n. to Maxwell N.W.R. 13-14 Jun (JP, MB, NP, CW) and one at E.B.L. 3 & 14 Jul (DC). A Semipalmated Plover at Holloman L. 17 Jul (MB) was early. Noteworthy for Valencia, the pond at Belen's Taco Bell had 22 ad. Black-necked Stilts with several chicks plus 6 ad. American Avocets with 6 or more chicks 13 Jun (WH). Earliest Upland Sandpipers were 2 at B.L.N.W.R. and 10 at Six Mile Dam 31 Jul (JP). Surprising in summer s. to Luna were a Long-billed Curlew e. of Columbus 6 Jun (MS, JZ, J. Paton) and 2 together in grasslands near Hermanas 14 Jun



Providing New Mexico's ninth record in the past 10 years, this Arctic Tern was at Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge, Colfax County on 13 June 2009. Photograph by Nicholas D. Pederson.

(G. Bieber). The appearance of Marbled Godwits in mid- to late Jun may indicate breeding failure farther north; this season found singles at Deming 12 Jun (LM) and Stubblefield L. 13 Jun (NP), 2 at E.B.L. 20 Jun (JP, WWi), 3 at Morgan L. 25 Jun (TR), and 36 at Bosque 28 Jun (CW). Northbound White-rumped Sandpipers continued well into Jun, including 45 at B.L.N.W.R. 4 Jun (WH), 4 at Holloman L. 8 Jun (ph. MB), up to 11 at L.V.N.W.R. 7-8 Jun (CR, WWi), and up to 12 at Maxwell N.W.R. 13-14 Jun (m.ob.). Unusual for the season were 4 Red-necked Phalaropes at B.L.N.W.R. 3 Jun and 7 there 17 Jun (JS). Surprising was a bright Red Phalarope at B.L.N.W.R. 4 Jun (ph. WH). High counts for summering but non-breeding California Gulls were 13 at Morgan L. 6 Jun (DH) and 25 there 30 Jun (TR), and 6 at E.B.L. 6 Jun (JP) and up to 13



Providing another tantalizing summer record for New Mexico, this female Chestnut-sided Warbler was in a dense alder bog at Taos, Taos County on 12 July 2009. Photograph by Hira A. Walker.

there 17 Jul (ph. DC). An ad. Least Tern was nw. to Morgan L. 13 Jun (ph. TR), and 2 were there 22 Jun (TR). A Caspian Tern lingered at Morgan L. 6-25 Jun (DH, ph. TR, ph. MB), and 2 were at E.B.L. 14 Jul (ph. DC). Unseasonable Black Terns included one at B.L.N.W.R. 17 Jun (WWe), 3 at Santa Rosa L. 27 Jun (CR), and 5 at Brantley L. 1 Jul (HW). An alternate-plumaged ad. Arctic Tern at Maxwell N.W.R. 13 Jun (ph. MB, ph. NP, JP) provided New Mexico's 13th record and the first for Jun.

MURRELETS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

New Mexico joined the growing list of inland locales to record Long-billed Murrelet when one was salvaged from a salt lake in the Laguna Grande area east of Loving 12 Jul (ph. S. Uhrig; *Museum of Southwestern Biology); this date is typical for arrivals in the Pacific Northwest on the ocean and consistent with most interior w. North American records, which fall mostly in the Jul-Aug window. Another good season for Common Ground-Dove produced singles at San Simon Cienega 15 Jul (RW), Rodeo 3 & 19 Jul (WWi, RW), and the middle Animas Valley 21 & 26 Jun (CW, JO) plus one to 3 at R.S. 20-31 Jul (ph. SW, MS, JZ). Noteworthy n. to Rio Arriba was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in El Rito Canyon 23 Jun (JO); one to 2 were at Lake Valley 2-29 Jul (ph. DC). A Greater Roadrunner was at Farmington 1 Jul (*vide* TR), where presumably now resident. A Northern Pygmy-Owl was giving double-note calls in the Burro Mts. 14 Jun (DG). Elf Owls are now well established on the e. slope of the Black Range where, in addition to one on Las Animas Cr. 13 Jun (DC), singles were vocal in Chloride Canyon 15-16 Jul (DC), e. of Kingston along Percha Cr. 8 Jul (DC), and

in the Mud Springs area n. of Kingston 1 & 8 Jul (DC); s. of Hillsboro along Tierra Blanca Cr., one to 2 were at three sites 9 & 29 Jul (DC). Encouraging was a Spotted Owl in the Animas Mts. 27 Jun (NP, JP et al., ph. JO, ph. CW), the first detected there since the 2006 fire; two pairs produced fledglings in one Black Range canyon by Jun (ph. DC). A Short-eared Owl was in a grassy field s. of Melrose 4 Jun (L. Neely). Maintaining a Sangre de Cristo Mts. presence, a vocal Whippoorwill was at Black Canyon C.G. near Santa Fe 11 Jun (JB).

Two Chimney Swifts strayed w. to Las Vegas 14 Jun (CW). Unexpected in the Sacramento Mts., a female Broad-billed Hummingbird was at Mescalero 25 Jul (ph. L. Stephenson); providing a Burro Mts. first was a male Broad-billed 21-22 Jun (DG), while in the Peloncillo Mts., a male was in Post Office Canyon 12 Jul (CL), one to 2 were in Cottonwood Canyon 26 Jun-19 Jul (m.ob.), and 18, plus a nest with nestlings, were in Guadalupe Canyon 9 Jul (HW). Up to 6 Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were in Guadalupe Canyon 28 Jun (CW, NP) and 9 Jul (HW). A Magnificent Hummingbird was n. to Rociada, San Miguel 13-14 Jun (S. Walker); noteworthy for the Burro Mts. were a female Magnificent 10-11 Jul (DG) and a male 17 Jul (J. Wick). One to 2 Lucifer Hummingbirds were in upper Cottonwood Canyon in the Peloncillo Mts. 20 Jun-19 Jul (m.ob., ph. CW, ph. JO); earliest Anna's were singles in Cottonwood Canyon 26-27 Jun (CW, NP) and Post Office Canyon 30 Jun (CL). Rare in New Mexico, up to 3 Costa's Hummingbirds were in Cottonwood Canyon 28 Jun-4 Jul (CW, MB, NP, JP, ph. JO). The earliest Calliope Hummingbirds reported were single males 7 Jul at Luis Lopez (JO) and L. Roberts (JD-M); earliest Rufous was one at Santa Fe 17 Jun (JB) followed by one in the Datil Mts. 23 Jun (JH). A Red-headed Woodpecker was w. of Rosebud on Ute Cr., Harding 7 Jun (CH); noteworthy s. to Eddy was one at Malaga 20 Jul (ph. SW).

Continuing from May, one to 2 Greater Peewees were on the e. slope of the Black Range at Poverty Creek 10 Jun-11 Jul (ph. DC); others were one to 2 in the Pinos Altos Mts. 5 Jun (JP) and the Animas Mts. 27 Jun (JP et al.). A probable Alder Flycatcher was at N.R.T. 3 Jun (ph. WH); the species is still unverified in New Mexico. Providing a new Willow Flycatcher breeding locale were up to eight pairs at Taos 12 Jul, including a nest with nestlings (ph. HW); one was detected at a new locale along the Mora R. near Watrous 3 Jul (M. MacRoberts), in an area free of cattle; also in Mora, 5 were singing along Coyote Cr. near Guadalupita 21 Jun (DH). Dusky Flycatchers suspected of breeding were 2 singing from Gambel's Oak just w. of Johnson Mesa 11 Jun (CR) and one along the Rim Trail near Cloudcroft 16 Jun (WH). Three pairs of Buff-breasted Flycatchers were in the Animas Mts. 27 Jun (JP et al.), including two pairs tending nests (ph. JO, ph. CW). A Vermilion Flycatcher pair was n. to Lower Frisco near Reserve 18 Jun (JO). A probable Brown-crested Flycatcher was at Broad Canyon Ranch n. of Radium Springs 23 Jul (MS). Casual n. to the Pinos Altos Mts., a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher made a brief visit to L. Roberts 28 Jun (JD-M). At least 3 Thick-billed Kingbirds were in Guadalupe Canyon



One of a remarkable six found in New Mexico this June, this Black-and-white Warbler was at Bandelier National Monument's Juniper Campground, Los Alamos County on 2 June 2009. Photograph by Barry R. Zimmer.

Jun-Jul (m.ob.), including a nesting pair 8-10 (ph. HW) & 18 Jul (MH). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers pushing their breeding frontiers were a pair near Bueyeros, Harding 8 Jun (KG) and an active nest at the Mesa Rest Area, n. Chaves 11 Jun-Jul (ph. R. Doster, m.ob.); farther n. and w. were singles at L.V.N.W.R. 31 Jul (ph. A. Core) and Albuquerque 12 Jul (J. Williams).



One of three Hooded Warblers in New Mexico in June 2009, this male was north of Pecos at Monastery Lake, San Miguel County 7 June. Photograph by Nancy E. Hetrick.

VIREOS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA

The Black-capped Vireo first found in May in Slaughter Canyon was last seen 22 Jun (SW). Noteworthy for w. Sierra were 2 singing Bell's Vireos s. of Hillsboro along Tierra Blanca Cr. 25 Jun (DC) and 2 more singing at Lake Valley 2-29 Jul (DC). Gray Vireo surveys in the San Andres Mts. produced astounding results—194 discrete territories along 475 km of linear transects (D. Burkett et al.); in the n., another large population was discovered on Santo Domingo Pueblo uplands, where preliminary results indicated some 100 territories (LS). In the ne., where the status of Gray Vireo is vague at best, a male was singing near Sabinoso, *San Miguel*, and a pair was at the top of the escarpment s. of Solano, *Harding* 17 Jun (CR); other noteworthy Grays were a pair in Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais N.M. 19 Jul (NH), singles n. of Laguna, *Cibola* 14 Jun (DK), in Las Cabras Canyon, Bear Mts. 2 Jun (HS), and in Gold Gulch, Burro Mts. 25 Jul (DG), three pairs in Bootleg Canyon, Los Pinos Mts. 2 Jul (KG), and three territories in Guadalupe Canyon 9 Jul (HW). A male Yellow-throated Vireo was singing near the Gila Cliff Dwellings 10 Jun (M. Ali); 2, believed to be a pair, were at R.S. 13 (WS), 16 (MS, ph. JZ), & 19 Jun (JG). A singing Warbling Vireo was late at Sumner Dam 3 Jun (WH); a Red-eyed at N.R.T. 3 Jun (WH) provided the only report.

Unusual was an American Crow at the Santa Fe Ski Area 19 Jul (CR); others summering in obscure locales were singles near Techado, *Cibola* 5 Jun (DK) and e. of Mountainair 17 Jul (SW), plus 2 at Poverty Creek, w. Sierra 18 Jun (DC). An abundance of grasshoppers in the North Plains, *Cibola* area 5 Jun attracted 29 Chihuahuan and 114 Common Ravens

(DK). A partial survey found Bank Swallows present at 12 *Sandoval* colonies 9 Jun (HW); one was foraging at Belen 13 Jun (WH). Nesting Cave Swallows met stiff resistance at Whites City this season, where hotel staff destroyed some 20 nests containing eggs or young (SW). There was good news for New Mexico's only known Mexican Chickadee population, with 6 or more observed in the Animas Mts. 27 Jun (JP et al., ph. CW). Providing a breeding first for the Burro Mts. was a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches feeding fledglings 26 Jun (DG). A Cactus Wren was n. to the base of Corazon Hill near Trujillo, *San Miguel* 8 Jun (WWi); a pair at Kirtland A.F.B. 19 Jun (ph. CW) provided another *Bernalillo* locale. A Carolina Wren at Bosque, first detected in May, was still singing 27 Jun and 6 Jul (C. Lee). Surprising were 2 Marsh Wrens—one singing—at Isleta, *Bernalillo* 26 Jul (JJ). Nicely documented was a Black-tailed Gnatcatcher pair on Antelope Ridge sw. of Eunice 11 Jun (ph. M. Watson); seven pairs were in the E.B.L. area 3 Jul (DC). Maintaining a Guadalupe Canyon presence, single Black-capped Gnatcatchers were seen and/or heard at two sites 18 Jul (MH). A singing Townsend's Solitaire was in Fourth of July Canyon, Manzano Mts. 11 Jun (HS); others where seldom reported were singles in the San Mateo Mts. on Mt. Withington and in Bear Trap Canyon 25 Jun (SOW) and, in the Black Range, one on Lookout Mt. 11 Jul and 2 in Chloride Canyon 15 Jul (DC). Late Swainson's Thrushes were one at B.L.N.W.R. 2 Jun (ph. JS) and 3 at N.R.T. 3 Jun (ph. WH); 3 were singing along the Rio Pueblo, *Taos* 13 Jun (JP). A Brown Thrasher was w. to the R.G.V. at E.B.L. Dam 15 Jun (ph. DC). Far e., an apparent ad. Bendire's Thrasher was along Garita Cr., s. *San Miguel* 7 Jun (CR). Crissal Thrashers were noted at three upland areas on Santo Domingo Pueblo, with one near Santo Domingo Canyon 18 Jun, 2 near Borrego Canyon 12 Jun, and several in the Arroyo Largo area 29 Jun (LS). Single Phainopeplas were n. to *Santa Fe* at Jacona 20 Jun (JB) and Madrid 12 Jul (LS) and to Placitas, *Sandoval* 18 Jul (ph. P. Spaltro).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Far n. of expected range, a Lucy's Warbler was in the Corrales bosque 12 Jul (DK). A female Chestnut-sided Warbler was in dense alder at Taos 12 Jul (ph. HW); there are New Mexico summer records in six of the past ten years. Two Audubon's Warblers singing in the Burro Mts. 20 Jun (DG) and a hatch-year bird netted there 25 Jul (DG et al.) suggested local breeding. Earliest southbound Townsend's Warbler was one in the Burro Mts. 30 Jul (DG). An unusually busy Black-and-white Warbler season found singles at Bandelier N.M. 2 Jun (ph. B. Zimmer), Albuquerque 16 Jun (CR), Madera Canyon, Manzanita Mts. 19 Jun (ph. CW, MB), Oscura Mts., *Socorro* 30 Jun (CW, MB), E.B.L. Dam 2 Jun (DC), and R.S. 19 Jun (JG). Following a strong spring showing, a Kentucky Warbler was at Edgewood, *Santa Fe* 6 Jun (A. Johnson). Hooded Warblers were conspicuous into early Jun, with single males in Santa Fe Canyon 1 Jun (WWi), at Monastery L., *San Miguel* 7 Jun (CB, ph. NH), and Chloride Canyon 10-11 Jun (ph. DC). At least 2 Wilson's Warblers were summering at the Taos Ski Area 31 Jul (ph. JO). A Red-faced Warbler was n. to the Datil Mts. 14-19 Jun (JH). Far n. of expected, a Painted Redstart visited the Santa Fe Opera 13 Jul (M. & R. Reed); noteworthy for *Lincoln* was a territorial pair above Three Rivers C.G. 2 Jul (WWe). A female Scarlet Tanager lingered at R.S. 1 Jun (MS, JZ); most unusual was an ad. male banded at Los Alamos 23 Jul (ph. C. Hathcock), the 2nd late Jul record for the Jemez Mts. in recent years.

Cassin's Sparrows continued to show close association with local rainfall; uneven distribution of precipitation this year produced record-high counts in some areas, record lows in others. A Botteri's Sparrow in the s. Animas Valley 26 Jun (JO) and 2 Jul (JP) was some 30 km s. of the species' stronghold; noteworthy were one probable Botteri's heard s. of Gage in Jun (R. Wilcox) and one near Rodeo 19 Jun (CW). Unusual in *Harding* were 2 Rufous-crowned Sparrows w. of Rosebud near Ute Cr. 7 Jun (CH). Additional evidence of Chipping

SA As in recent years, summering Cedar Waxwings were much in evidence in n. New Mexico, and several breeding records were obtained, including 2 nestlings rescued when their nest tree was cut down near Abiquiu 29 Jun (ph. K. Eagleson). In *San Juan*, waxwings were found breeding at four sites: a pair at Simon Pt. below Navajo Dam was feeding one or more nestlings 14-17 Jun (ph. TR); a pair was feeding 2 recent fledglings at Farmington's Berg-Animas Park 14 Jul (TR); a pair was feeding fledglings in the Farmington Glade area 7 Jul (A. Nelson, *vide* TR); and an ad. was carrying nest material at Shiprock 23 Jun (S. Wagner, *vide* TR). Other summering waxwings suggestive of local breeding included 2 or more at Chama 14 Jun (CW), 2 each near El Rito 23 Jun (JO) and at Chamisal, *Taos* 13 Jun (JP), about a dozen as ones and twos seen on each of three Rio Grande float trips through San Juan Pueblo 8-22 Jun (DS), and up to 4 at the old San Juan Pueblo bridge 5-8 Jul (CR, S. Wilson). Since the state's first active nest was discovered at San Juan Pueblo in 1995, Cedar Waxwings have now been confirmed breeding in *San Juan*, *Rio Arriba*, *Sandoval*, *Bernalillo*, and *San Miguel*.



Unexpected in New Mexico in July, this Scarlet Tanager was banded 23 July 2009 at Los Alamos, Los Alamos County. Photograph by Charles D. Hathcock.

Sparrows summering in atypical habitat was provided by ads. carrying food at the old San Juan Pueblo bridge 5 Jul (CR), up to 2 singing males in the Corrales bosque Jun–12 Jul (DK), and a pair feeding begging fledglings at the Albuquerque Academy 7 Jun (B. Vaughn). Noteworthy n. to Cibola, single male Black-chinned Sparrows were singing at La Ventana 29 Jun (SOW) and in The Narrows 18 Jul (SOW); others of interest included singles in the Datil Mts. 7 Jun (JH) and at Pine Lodge, Lincoln 25 Jul (CR). Vesper Sparrows vanished from the Piñon B.B.S. when their juniper habitat was leveled; six years later, recovery of junipers resulted in 2 Vespers there 14 Jun (WH). Migrant Lark Sparrow flocks were conspicuous by late Jul, including 13 at Deming 24 Jul (LM) and 25 at the Gila Bird Area 30 Jul (RS). The 65 Grasshopper Sparrows in the s. Animas Valley 8 Jul (HW) was the highest count there in several years. For the 2nd consecutive year, Song Sparrows persisted into summer in the Cliff-Gila Valley, including one heard near Cliff 5 Jun (JP) and 2 singing at the same site 18 & 30 Jun (RS); 2 more were singing below Redrock at Nichols Canyon 16 Jul (RS). Very late for the prairie were 2 Lincoln's Sparrows at N.R.T. 3 Jun (ph. WH); 3 were singing near timberline on Mt. Taylor 14 Jun (DK). Searches for Yellow-eyed Junco in the Animas Mts. 27 Jun found at least 8 ads. (JP et al.), including one pair with recently fledged young (ph. CW). The junco situation was more complex in the Burro Mts., where among several junco pairs was an apparent mixed pair—one Yellow-eyed ad. and one Red-backed ad.—tending a nest with 3 nestlings 17 Jul (HW).

A male Northern Cardinal n. to Summer Dam 3 Jun (ph. WH) was chasing a male Sum-

mer Tanager; a cardinal pair was at Hillsboro 25 Jun–30 Jul (ph. DC). North were 2 male Pyrrhuloxias n. of B.L.N WR. 4 Jun, including one at Cacklebur L. (ph. WH). Lingering Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were single males on the Los Pinos R., Rio Arriba 9 Jun (M. Flint), Corrales 7 Jun (DK), Datil Mts 28 Jun (JH), and R.S. 14 Jun (WS). Indigo Buntings were conspicuous in the Broad Canyon area n. of Radium Springs, where a 1.7-km transect found 2 singing males plus a pair with a fledgling 23 Jul (MS). Four Varied Bunting territories were tallied in Guadalupe Canyon 9–10 Jul, including a nest with eggs (ph. HW); Varieds were found at several canyons in Carlsbad Caverns N.P., including Walnut, Slaughter, and Rattlesnake (SW), and a pair was feeding fledglings in upper Walnut Canyon 31 Jul (HW). Up to 2 Painted Buntings were singing at Deming 24 & 26 Jul (DH).

One to 2 Bronzed Cowbirds were n to two Albuquerque sites 1 Jun (DK) and 12 Jul (CB); away from usual areas were single males at Hillsboro 6 Jun (JP) and Carrizozo 13 Jun (WH). Brown-headed Cowbirds were successful in the Peloncillo Mts., where fledglings were fed by Hutton's Vireos and by Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (CL). Noteworthy for Lincoln was a Hooded Oriole at upper Three Rivers Ranch 3 Jul (WWe). Summering American Goldfinches may be spreading farther southward in New Mexico, this season, up to 3 males were singing at Bosque from 20 Jun through Jul (m.ob.), and one or more were at the Gila Cliff Dwellings 10 Jun (M. Ali) and 8 Jul (LM); in the n., several were at Taos 20 Jul (HW), and 3 were along the Rio Pueblo, Taos 13 Jun (JP).

Initialed observers: Jonathan Batkin, Matt Baumann, Celestyn Brozek, David Cleary, Joan Day-Martin, Kathy Granillo, David Griffin, John Groves, Joan Hardie, David Hawksworth, Charles Hayes, Nancy Hetrick, Michael Hilchey, William Howe, James Joseph, David Krueper, Eugene Lewis, Carroll Littlefield, Larry Malone, Robert Mumford, Jerry Oldenettel, John Parmeter, Nicholas Pederson, Tim Reeves, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Jeffrey Sanchez, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, William Scott, Roland Shook, Dale Stahlecker, Hira Walker, Richard Webster, Steve West, William West, S. O. Williams, William Wittman, Cole Wolf, James Zabriskie. ☺

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Mark M. Stevenson (Non-passerines)
Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)

Following a June that was cooler than average, summer rainfall began well but fizzled out after mid-July, when a ridge of high pressure camped out over the state. Rare bird highlights included two potential first United States records—Gray-collared Becard and Brown-backed Solitaire—and a state-second Pacific Golden-Plover. There were also multiple Elegant Terns, Rufous-capped Warblers, Flame-colored Tanager, and out-of-place Five-striped Sparrows.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), B.W.D. (Bill Williams Delta, L. Havasu), G.W.R. (Gilbert Water Ranch), H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve), Las Cienegas (Las Cienegas National Conservation Area), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado R. valley), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Surprising, but not unprecedented in the heat, 2 Greater White-fronted Geese were in Tempe 4 Jun (PD). Bufflehead is also casual in summer; one lingered at Patagonia L. through 11 Jun (MMS), one was at Gila Bend through 13 Jun (PEL), and another was at Sipe White Mountain W.A. 14-16 Jul (vt. TD); all were imms. or females. Up to 2 Common Goldeneyes at Imperial Dam 2-13 Jun (PEL) were also casual. A female Common Merganser with 5 young in Prescott 9-10 Jul (CST) was likely a first local nesting occurrence. Ring-necked Pheasant is a very local introduced nesting species in Arizona; this season, multiple birds were heard calling in the Fort Thomas-Eden area along the Gila R. (RHu), downstream from where they had previously been reported. Common Loon is rare in summer. At L. Hava-

su, up to 4 were on the n. end 1-2 Jun (PEL), 2 were at B.W.D. 20 Jun (T. Linda), and a very worn individual was at B.W.D. 30 Jul (ph. JH). Repeating last year's experience, surprisingly high numbers of Eared Grebes were found on n. L. Havasu 1-2 Jun (PEL), with day counts of 310 and 360. Even more surprising, 3 ad. and 3 half-grown juv. Eared Grebes were found at Havasu N.W.R. 12 Jul (DD); there were no prior L.C.R.V. nesting records. Three ads. were found in a different area of the refuge 16 Jul (DD). There was a minimal summer influx of Brown Pelicans, with one, probably a holdover, at Imperial Dam 2 Jun (PEL) and one in Avondale 5-6 Jul (J. Truan). Neotropical Cormorants have been mostly few and localized in se. Arizona, compared to their explosive expansion in greater Phoenix. This season, a few summered in unusual areas, with 3 moving around Tucson (m.ob.) and one to 2 at Willcox (KK et al.). Singles at San Carlos L. 3 Jul (KK, JM) and B.W.D. 21-30 Jul (ph. K. Blair) were in areas where considered casual. A Green Heron at Cameron 11 Jun (CL) was the latest spring migrant on the Navajo Nation ever. Black-crowned Night-Heron is a sparse nester above the Mogollon Rim, so 6 fledglings with ads. at Holbrook 16 Jul (EH) were notable.

Another noteworthy nesting was a pair of Mississippi Kites in an isolated pecan tree at Duncan 10 Jun-15 Jul (TC, ph. R. Shantz), a first for *Greenlee* and the upper Gila R. in Arizona. A Red-shouldered Hawk was at the 'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve near Parker 28 Jul (ph. JH); though seldom checked, this location has produced several recent records of this species. Of note was the absence of reports of this species from H.R.P., the only location in the state where they have been resident. A Gray Hawk continued at H.R.P. through 20 Jun (TD), beyond the usual range of the species. In the Chiricahua Mts., reports of an ad. and imm. Short-tailed Hawk carried through the season (m.ob., ph. C. Gregory), but there were no reports of nesting. The species was otherwise unreported. The season's only wandering Crested Caracara was an individual at Cienega Creek Preserve, Pima 27 Jun (A. Sabatine). In the Santa Cruz Flats, where they are now essentially resident, 3 were seen 29 Jun (DJ), and one was e. of Picacho Peak 6 Jul (MA). A Sora was heard at Laguna Dam 27 Jun (HD), where they are not known to nest. The lone summering Sandhill Crane was reported again from Luna L. through 25 Jul (D. Touret, TC).

Exceptional was a second-year male Pacific Golden-Plover at Willcox 26-27 Jun (ph. MMS; ph. RT, GHR, JM; WR). This is only the 2nd Arizona occurrence, and the species is not expected in the lower 48 states in summer. There were again few reports of Snowy Plover,

with one in Dome Valley 19-20 Jul (GMcC, PEL) and another near Gila Bend 30 Jul (J. L. Dunn, GMcC); both were at dairy wastewater ponds. A tally of 500 Black-necked Stilts in Glendale 25 Jul (TC) was impressive for Arizona; though they nest in the area, many were likely migrants. American Avocet is a rare nesting species in n. Arizona, so two clutches hatched at Holbrook in Jul (EH) were of interest. Multiple juv. Spotted Sandpipers along the Gila R. in the Fort Thomas-Eden area 27 Jun (R. Hunt) suggested a newly found nesting area. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Willcox 4-7 Jun (RH et al.) was between expected migration dates. Early Marbled Godwits were at Prescott 19 Jun (S. & S. Burk) and Willcox 20 Jun (J. Ulrich, ph. GHR). A Sanderling was casual at San Carlos L. 25 Jul (PN. DJ). The first southbound Semipalmated Sandpiper was on the early side at Willcox 2-3 Jul (ph. DS). A Western Sandpiper was a late spring migrant at Willcox 4 Jun (R. Fray), and a Least Sandpiper at Glendale 14 Jun (TC) provided the first mid-Jun report for *Maricopa*. White-rumped Sandpiper is a casual late spring migrant, with only one prior record of multiple individuals (3), so a flock of 13 at Willcox 3-5 Jun (ph. GB; JM, DS, RH) was stunning. This nearly doubles the total number ever documented in Arizona. A Baird's Sandpiper in Dome Valley 19-20 Jul (GMcC, PEL) was very early there, while one at the Grand Canyon South Rim 25 Jul (ph. BG) was the park's 2nd record. Three Stilt Sandpipers at Sunsites, Cochise 6 Jul (KK) were very early.

GULLS THROUGH KINGFISHERS

Single Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gulls at San Carlos L. 3 Jul (KK, JM) were unexpected in summer. Up to 6 California Gulls at n. L. Havasu 1-2 Jun (PEL) added to the few early summer reports from the L.C.R.V. It was an eventful summer for terns in Arizona. The state's first nesting of Least Terns that began at Glendale in late spring continued, with one pair fledging one young on 10 Jul while the other pair's nest failed (M. Herring, TC); details will be published elsewhere. Otherwise, single Least Terns were at Lake Havasu City 11 & 22 Jun (ph. JH) and Sweetwater 14 Jun (O. Harvey et al.). A subad. Black Tern at Sweetwater 16 Jun (MMS) was between migrations, while 2 at Willcox 4 Jul (C. West) and 2 at Sunsites 11 Jul (KK) were early migrants. Outstanding was a first-year Arctic Tern at n. L. Havasu 1 Jun (†PEL); the most recent accepted Arizona record is from 1993. A late Forster's Tern was at Prescott 4 Jun (S. Burk), and an early individual was at Arlington W.A. 20 Jun (T. Hildebrandt). An unprecedented abundance of Elegant Terns was found 7 Jul,

about a week after their nesting colony in the Sea of Cortez was abandoned due to rising sea surface temperatures (*vide* E. Copper): 2 were in Tucson 7-10 Jul (R. Tess; KK, ph. A. Sabatine et al.), 2 were at Patagonia L. 7-8 Jul (ph. MB et al.), and one was reported at Benson 7 Jul (KK). There are fewer than ten state records, usually of single individuals.

There was some activity at the periphery of the range of White-winged Dove, with one young fledged in Holbrook 16 Jul (EH) and at least one fledged again in Prescott (W. Bull, *vide* CST). Ruddy Ground-Doves remained sparse, with singles near Wellton 12 Jun (PEL) and Patagonia 18-19 Jun (S. Pipkin et al., ph. RB). Northern Saw-whet Owl is rarely reported in the Prescott area, so one in the Bradshaw Mts. 26 Jun (M. Nicosia) was of interest. A Common Nighthawk over n. L. Havasu 2 Jun (PEL) was just the 3rd for the L.C.R.V. Up to 2 Buff-collared Nighthawks were reported from the Oro Blanco Mine site near California Gulch all season (m.ob.). White-eared Hummingbirds were numerous again, with reports from the Chiricahua, Santa Rita, and (especially) Huachuca Mts., with as many as 8 reported in total. Berylline Hummingbirds were found in these same ranges, with as many as 10 total reported. Nesting by Beryllines was reported in Cave Creek Canyon (C. West) and suspected in Miller Canyon (T. Beatty), and a female and

with 7 more reported statewide 25-30 Jun. Allen's Hummingbird is a rare migrant; 3 were reported in se. Arizona 13-31 Jul (S. Wethington, G. West, MMS, MP). A Green Kingfisher at Kingfisher Pond, San Pedro R. in late Jul (MA et al.) was the only one reported.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS

A singing Greater Pewee s. of Heber along Black Canyon Cr., Navajo 20 Jun was in the same general area where one occurred during Jul and Aug 2008 (EH); this species is likely a rare but regular summer visitor (breeder?) to the "Rim" country in cen. Arizona. A very late Western Wood-Pewee was at Agua Caliente, far sw. Maricopa 13 Jun (PEL), which is well away from known breeding areas in the state. Pacific-slope Flycatcher is a regular spring migrant to lowlands across s. Arizona through late May, with a few stragglers extending into early Jun; this year, the migration period appeared to be protracted, with several reported in mid-Jun, the latest being at Las Cienegas 20 Jun (JM). The Buff-breasted Flycatcher found in Willow Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mts. in May remained on territory through the end of Jul (B. Bickel; ph. AC); this species is casual this far n. in the state. Another was present in Cave Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. 14 Jun (JY et al.), providing yet another locality in this range for this "apparently" expanding species.

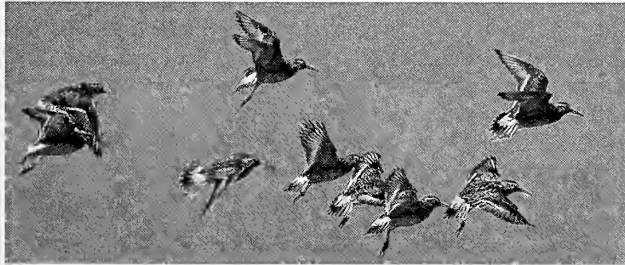
A group of 5 Vermilion Flycatchers (one male, 2 females, and one juv.) at Fredonia 3 Jun (TC) certainly suggests local breeding, which would confirm the first breeding of this species n. of the Mogollon Rim in n. Arizona. Dusky-capped Flycatchers reported n. of their normal breeding range in the state included one at Aspen

Springs near Prescott 30 May-4 Jun (CST), one in Pine Mountain Wilderness, Yavapai 6-7 Jun (M. Plagens), one carrying food along the E. Verde R. at its confluence with Webber Cr., Gila 27 Jun (B. Ison), and one at Granite Cr., s. of Watson L., 16-17 Jul (DM, K. Archibald); this species also has been expanding its range northward and westward in Arizona. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at the Patagonia Roadside Rest 16 Jun (KK, JM) was away from normal breeding areas. Two Thick-billed Kingbirds were at the monastery in St. David 5-14 Jun, with a "third" along the San Pedro R. near there 14 Jun (KK, A. Sabatine), and the species was found at two locations along Fresno Wash., sw. of Arivaca, during the summer (T. Staudt); both of these sites are away of

known breeding areas in the state. An Eastern Kingbird at Sweetwater 25 Jun (MMS; ph. AC) was a nice find, as this species is casual in the state during summer.

The only report we received of Rose-throated Becard this year was of a migrant "out of habitat" near California Gulch 4 Jun (ph. A. Spencer); this species has declined in recent years (not that it was ever very common), with none reported at the traditional breeding locality along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia again this year. Much more intriguing and exciting was the discovery of a very worn first-year male Gray-collared Becard along the South Fork Rd. in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. 5 Jun (ph., †J. Johnston; A. Pellegrini, R. Davis; ph. C. West; P. D. Hulce); if accepted by the A.B.C., this would represent a first record of this species for the United States. All subsequent reports of this species from Cave Creek Canyon were not substantiated. White-eyed Vireo is still considered casual in the state, so 4 in one season was an excellent showing: one was at Las Cienegas 1-2 Jun (KK; ph. JM; v.r. DS); one was at Cameron seep 23 Jun+ (†CL; ph., †BG); one was in Round Valley n. of Portal 2 Jul (†REW); and one was in Portal 7 Jul (v.r. REW, RAR). A Bell's Vireo that was located at Yuma during the spring remained on territory until at least 27 Jun (HD). The Yellow-throated Vireo found at La Cienegas 25 May was present again 18 Jun and heard there 30 Jul (KK, JM; ph., †DS; ph. AC). Other singles were at Montezuma Well 19 May-29 Jun (m.ob.) and along the San Pedro R. near Hwy. 90 on 15 Jul (ph., †B. Van Doren); this species has been increasing in Arizona in recent years. A Warbling Vireo in a Tucson yard 9 Jun (WR) was late for a lowland location. A Red-eyed Vireo, casual in the state, was at Sweetwater 23 Jun (ph., †JM).

Three Purple Martins were near Sheldon along the Gila R. in s. Greenlee 10 Jun (Troy Corman); two distinct populations (sub-species) occur in Arizona, one nesting in saguaro cacti in the lowlands, and one nesting in pines above about 1500 m in elevation. As neither saguaros nor pines occur at this location, we are unsure to which group these birds should be assigned, given that this location is not within the geographic distribution of either. Single Tree Swallows were at Willcox 20 Jun (J. Hand, GHR), 27 Jun (WR), and 8 Jul (DS), and 2 were at Benson 26 Jun (MMS); there are few summer season reports of this species from s. Arizona. The Sinaloa Wren discovered along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia in Aug 2008 was still present through this summer season (m.ob.). A Black-capped Gnatcatcher in Sycamore Canyon 20 Jul (RH) was at a potentially new location for this expanding species.



Unprecedented in Arizona, this photograph shows nine of a remarkable 13 White-rumped Sandpipers present together at Willcox 3 (here) through 5 June 2009, representing only a tenth Arizona record overall. Photograph by Dave Stejskal.

male were banded in Madera Canyon 15 & 29 Jun (G. West). In lower Florida Canyon, Pima, a male reported 19 Jun+ (L. Halsey et al.) was noted to be banded 28 Jul (ph. P. Deviche); it may have transited from Madera Canyon. A gravid female Violet-crowned Hummingbird banded at the San Pedro House 27 Jun (S. Williamson) provided the first evidence of breeding along the river. Single Violet-crowneds were n. to Sabino Canyon 25 Jul (E. Fazio) and Madera Canyon 31 Jul (MM). Wandering notably far n. and upslope was a Lucifer Hummingbird in Willow Canyon at 2100 m in the Santa Catalina Mts. 29 Jul (MA, ph. J. Faust). The first southbound Rufous Hummingbird of the season was banded at Sabino Canyon on the early date of 13 Jun (E. Fazio),

An Eastern Bluebird was in Cave Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. 1 Jun (ph. KK, JM), where rarely reported. A singing Brown-backed Solitaire was discovered in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts. 16 Jul (R. Day, D. Jasper, ph. B. Van Doren, ph. B. Mangier) and moved to nearby Ramsey Canyon 18 Jul–1 Aug (S. Kunzer, R. Romea; ph. J. Woodley, M. Tarachow, C. Melton, CVC, J. Oidenettel, GHR; v.r. CDB, DS). While there is no doubt of the identification of this bird, the A.B.C. will have to consider the provenance of this individual, given the high frequency with which this species is kept as a caged bird throughout Mexico; there was one previous well-documented occurrence of this incredible songster in Arizona (fall 1996), which was not accepted by the A.B.C. because of the question of provenance. American Robins at Patagonia L. 11 Jun (MMS) and in Phoenix 31 Jul (JW) were both at odd locations for the summer season. Exciting was an Aztec Thrush at Ramsey Canyon 31 Jul+ (ph. M. & T. Bauer et al.); this species is casual in the state, with most reports from late summer. Single Gray Catbirds were at Las Cienegas 13 Jun (ph. J. McKay) and in Cave Creek Canyon 20 Jun (C. Wolf, ph. A. Schmierer); this species is a rare but regular straggler in Arizona away from breeding areas in the White Mts.

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Golden-winged Warbler, casual in the state, was at Wellton 2 Jun (†PEL). An Orange-crowned Warbler, also at Wellton 2 Jun (PEL), was a very late migrant. Six Northern Parulas and 4 American Redstarts were about average for the season. A Black-and-white Warbler, casual in Jun, was at Quigley W.A. near Yuma 2 Jun (PEL). Unusual for summer, an Ovenbird was at Starr Pass in the Tucson Mts. 16 Jun (ph. J. Smith). Kentucky Warbler has proven

to be rare but regular in the state during early summer; this year, one was near Herb Martyr, Chiricahua Mts. 21 Jun (ph. J. Joseph), and another was at along Lynx Cr., *Yavapai* 29 Jun (CST, DM). Amazing were 15 Hooded Warblers reported this season; this species has been increasing in frequency in the state in recent years, but this high number of individuals in one season was unexpected. The Rufous-capped Warbler pair in Florida Canyon continued through the summer (m.ob.). Elsewhere, another pair of Rufous-capped was discovered in the Patagonia–Sonoita Creek Preserve, with one there 4–10 Jun (ph., †A. & R. Outlaw), and 2 present 26 Jun+, with nest-building observed intermittently (MB; ph. RB, CC; R. Miller). This species is a casual northward disperser during spring and summer from Mexico. A pair of Yellow-breasted Chats nest-building in Patagonia 31 Jul (RB) was late for breeding in Arizona.

The long-returning male Flame-colored Tanager at Madera Canyon was present through 30 Jul (m.ob.). A nesting pair of Flame-colored Tanagers was discovered at Southwest Research Station in Cave Creek Canyon Jun 21+ (ph. RT; ph. REW, m.ob.); Arizona's first accepted record for this species came from Cave Creek Canyon in 1985, and it remains a casual spring and summer visitor to canyons in se. Arizona. A late Green-tailed Towhee was at G.W.R. 5 Jun (T. Loomis). Rufous-winged Sparrow was again found in Guadalupe Canyon 28 Jun (ph. C. Wolf), where it was found in both 2003 and 2007. One along the San Pedro R. (Garden Wash) 13 Jul (SH) was away from known breeding areas. Five-striped Sparrows were located at Montosa Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. 11 Jun (S. Pipkin, RH), and at Florida Canyon, Pima, 15 Jun–3 Jul (MK, S. Pipkin; ph. A. Schmierer); both these locations are new for this species in Arizona. Scattered reports of *ori-*

antha White-crowned Sparrows occurred in early Jun, but one singing at Sweetwater 23 Jun (JM) was extremely late for s. Arizona. The status of Rose-breasted Grosbeak continues to change in Arizona during late spring and summer, with no fewer than 20 reported this summer statewide. Indigo Bunting was previously considered a rare but regular migrant and summer breeder across s. and cen. Arizona; this summer, far more than usual were reported, often in small groups, statewide. Fewer Painted Buntings than usual were reported in late Jul, with only three reports received. Small groups of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from scattered locations across s. Arizona, where this species is rare in summer. Hooded Oriole is casual in n. Arizona, so 2 at Cameron 11 Jun (CL et al.) and one there 21 Jul (CDB, JC) were noteworthy.

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Great Basin



Rick Fridell

The summer started off with a mild June that featured below-average temperatures and above-average levels of precipitation through most of the Region. However, by July, weather was back to the typical hot and dry conditions characteristic of the Great Basin. Either it was a very slow summer in Utah, or birders took the summer off: the vast majority of reports and of noteworthy sightings originated from Nevada. Nevada summer highlights included Mississippi

Kite, Arctic Tern, Whip-poor-will, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Red-faced Warbler. Utah highlights included the third and fourth records of Neotropic Cormorant and an unseasonable Mew Gull. Several contributors noted higher-than-normal numbers of territorial Indigo Buntings in southern Nevada and Utah this summer.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island State Park and Causeway, Davis, UT); Ash Meadows (Ash Meadows N.W.R., Nye, NV); Bear River (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge,



Always rare in the Great Basin, this Yellow-throated Vireo was photographed at Dyer Pond, Esmeralda County, Nevada 7 June 2009. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.

Box Elder, UT); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); Farmington Bay (Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, 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); Pahranaagat (Pahranaagat NWR, Lincoln, NV); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

An injured Brant mysteriously appeared 9 Jun on the small ponds at Corn Cr. (JH et al.) and remained through 14 Jun, when it was found dead. A female White-winged Scoter, first discovered 25 May, remained at Walker L., Mineral, NV through 16 Jun (GS, MM). Two Neotropical Cormorants, the 3rd documented occurrence in Utah, remained at Ivins Res., Washington, through the summer (ph. RF et al.). Surprisingly, 2 additional Neotropical Cormorants were found 18 Jul at Lee Kay Ponds, Salt Lake, UT (PF, ph. TA et al.). Nevada's first Glossy Ibis, first discovered 24 May, lingered at Pahranaagat through at least 7 Jun (ph. CL). A Glossy Ibis was also reported 6 Jul at Bear River (J&KB). An apparent White-faced Ibis x Glossy Ibis hybrid was photographed 16 Jun at Ash Meadows (CL). A Common Moorhen was n. of expected range at Benjamin Slough, Utah, UT 1-9 Jun (DSh, ph. JBi, ph. JM).

White-tailed Kites remained at Pahranaagat through the summer (EH, CL, et al.). A Mississippi Kite was a great find 12 Jul along Meadow Valley Wash, Lincoln, NV (ph. JS). A Bald Eagle made a rare summer appearance at Quichapa L., Iron, UT 12 Jun (SH). An out-of-season Broad-winged Hawk was observed 13-16 Jun at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV (ph. GS, ph. MM). Two pairs of Zone-tailed Hawks were

observed this summer; the first pair was photographed 21 Jun along Meadow Valley Wash, Lincoln, NV (ph. CL), and a pair was also reported 26 Jun near Navajo L., Kane, UT (LT). There were very few sightings of rare shorebirds in the Region this summer. The only noteworthy reports included a Whimbrel at H.B.V.P. 16-19 Jun (JB et al.), a Semipalmated Sandpiper 19 Jul in the Amargosa Valley, Nye, NV (CL), and a Short-billed Dowitcher 23 Jul at H.B.V.P. (RM). A second-cycle Mew Gull made an extremely unusual summer appearance at Antelope I. 28 Jun (CC, KB). Least Terns were observed 16 Jun at Ash Meadows (ph. CL), and 21 Jun and 19 Jul at H.B.V.P. (fide JB). Certainly one of the biggest surprises of the season was an Arctic Tern observed along Hwy. 772 near the Reese R. crossing in seldom-birded Lander, NV 11 Jul (JL).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FINCHES

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from two NV locations: 6 Jun at Corn Cr. (GS) and 30 Jun at Ash Meadows (CL). Wayward White-winged Doves were found 7 Jun at Cedar City, Iron, UT (SH), 18 Jun at Ash Meadows (CL), and 12 Jul at Morgan, Morgan, UT (AS). A cooperative Whip-poor-will, of the Mexican subspecies, was found singing 11-17 Jun at Kyle Canyon, Clark, NV (SS, et mult al.). A male Anna's Hummingbird was photographed 20 Jul visiting a feeder in Lydia's Canyon, Kane, UT. A small colony of Acorn Woodpeckers continued through the summer in the Kolob Meadows, Washington, UT (RF, J&KB). A Downy Woodpecker made a rare Esmeralda, NV appearance 13 Jun at the Circle L Ranch (GS).

Eastern Kingbirds were observed at Corn Cr. 8 Jun (RS, DG) and at Fish Creek Valley, Eureka, NV 12 Jul (MM). A singing Yellow-throated Vireo was found 7 Jun at Dyer Pond, Esmeralda, NV (ph. GS, RS, DG). Two Winter Wrens were heard singing along Strawberry Cr., Great Basin N.P., White Pine, NV 11 Jul (MM, GS), suggesting possible breeding at this isolated location. Gray Catbirds were observed at the Circle L Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 5 Jun (MM) and at the Dyer Pond, Esmeralda, NV 13 Jun (GS). A female Phainopepla was n. of expected breeding range at Arlemont Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 7-22 Jun (GS, RS, DG).

A well-documented Magnolia Warbler was observed at McCarren Ranch, Storey, NV 14 Jun (†DS). Black-and-white Warblers were found 1 Jun at Ethel M. Gardens, Clark, NV (TS) and 14 Jun at Pahranaagat (GS). A female American Redstart visited Miller's R.A. 3-7 Jun (DW et al.). Nevada Ovenbirds were reported in a narrow window: at Crystal Spring, Lincoln 6 Jun (CL), at Dyer, Esmeralda 7 Jun (RS, DG, GS), and at Fletcher Canyon, Clark 9 Jun (RS, DG). A singing male Hooded Warbler graced Deadman Canyon, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV 5 Jun (GS). A Red-faced Warbler was observed for the 2nd consecutive summer at Fletcher Canyon, Clark, NV; the warbler was found 22 Jun (ph. BG, PJ) and remained through at least 10 Aug (ph. CR). An ad. Painted Redstart was reported feeding young 14 Jun at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Clark, NV (DH). An ad. was found again 17 Jun (CL); however, evidence of successful nesting was not documented. At least one pair of Painted Redstarts successfully fledged young again this summer along the Virgin R. in Zion Canyon, Zion (RF). An out-of-range male Summer Tanager was observed at Josie's Ranch, Dinosaur N.M., Uintah, UT 22 Jun (MJ).

It was an amazing season for Rose-breasted Grosbeak sightings in the Great Basin; 12 were observed between 2 Jun and 10 Jul in Carson City, Clark, Lincoln, and Nye, NV and Kane, Millard, Summit, and Weber, UT. Observers reported higher-than-normal numbers of Indigo Buntings breeding in the Region this summer, particularly through s. Nevada and sw. Utah. At least one of the White-winged Crossbills first discovered in Feb remained through 28 Jun at the Elko Cemetery, Elko, NV (JB). A Lawrence's Goldfinch was observed along the Amargosa R. at the Beatty Narrows, Nye, NV 10 Jun (LC).

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The de Tobish



By most accounts, summer 2009 banished memories of the cold and wet conditions that dominated the Region in summer 2008. May opened what became nearly eight straight weeks of above-average temperatures, few storms, and below-average rain. The fire season started early, included long periods of widespread smoke coverage, and ended with extensive burned acreage in the Interior. With few data otherwise, it appeared to be a generally quick and probably successful nesting season, with a few exceptions, notably swallows and possibly North Slope coastal tundra nesters. It seemed that this summer also yielded more than the usual wandering or lingering non-breeders at sites well south of traditional breeding areas. Although the El Niño developed in the central Pacific in June, sea surface temperatures in the northern Gulf of Alaska appeared about average at least through July. One of the season's most notable events was an invasion of Eurasian Collared-Doves that commenced in late May and continued through June, with many individuals lingering at several sites through the season. Summer rarities were above the norm, including a new addition to the Alaska list and quite a few birds rarely found in Southeast.

Abbreviations: A.B.O. (Alaska B.O., Fairbanks); North Gulf (n. Gulf of Alaska); Referenced details (†), specimens (*), photographs (ph.), videotape (vt.), and audiotape (v.r.) are on file at the University of Alaska Museum.

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

Single Greater White-fronted Geese in Southeast (where the species typically moves through by mid-May) were at Sitka through 10 Jul (MLW, MET, ph.) and Juneau 19 Jul (PMS), a first in summer there. Northbound Brant showed a similar pattern in Southeast, with lots of late birds still moving deep into Jun. Four Brant in Ketchikan 12 Jul (SCH,

AWP) were the first ever for mid-summer in s. Southeast. Other very late Brant included a group of 12 in Juneau 28 Jun–1 Jul (MWS, GBVV), 2 in Haines 2 Jul (PMS), and 18 in Glacier Bay 22 Jul (NKD). A Cackling Goose described as probably *minima*

accompanied local Canada Geese in Anchorage 16 Jun (Field Guides)—most unusual for South-coastal Alaska in summer—while a *parvipes*

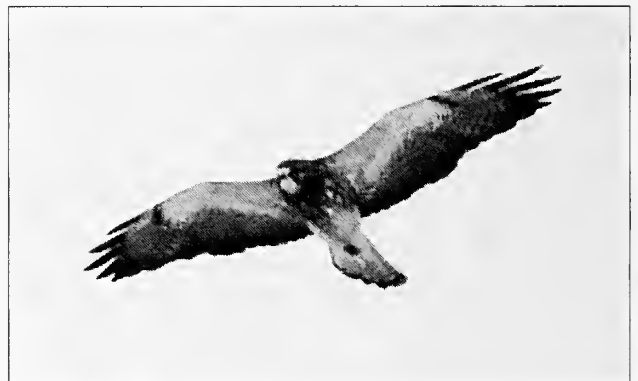
Canada Goose was casual in

the Bering Sea at St. Paul 7-15 Jun (St. Paul Tour). A Cackling Goose at Juneau 12 Jun (PMS) was thought to be simply a late migrant. A male Gadwall was extralimital on the North Slope, where there are a few records of overshooting individuals, at Barrow 26 Jun (Field Guides), while a Northern Shoveler pair there 26 Jun (Field Guides) was also rare for the North Slope but is a species recorded with more regularity. First noted on a freshwater lake at Adak 29 May, a pair of Falcated Ducks hung around through 3 Jun (ph. IH). While there are early Jun records from the cen. Aleutians, most reports come from farther west. Among the standard handful of Eurasian Wigeon reports, concentrated at n. coastal sites, a drake in Juneau 16 Jun (PMS), where casual in summer, was most notable. Of the usual scattering of mostly single Blue-winged Teal beyond the e. Interior, a male at Safety Lagoon near Nome 12-13 Jun (JT, JR, EP) was farthest from core range; they are intermittent visitors there, especially during droughts on the prairies. MacIntosh identified a male Eurasian Teal at Kodiak 3 Jun (RAM, CT); there are a few previous reports there.

It turned into a good summer for *Aythya* reports. Sixty Canvasbacks estimated from Safety Lagoon 20-22 Jun (Field Guides) was an exceptional grouping from beyond their Interior taiga nesting areas well to the southeast. A male Common Pochard in partial eclipse plumage at Adak 30 Jun (ph. IH) was only the Aleutians' 2nd ever in summer. Fourteen Ring-necked Ducks at Barnes L. on the lower Stikine R. 7 Jun was a strong showing at one of Southeast's few known nesting sites, while 9 were counted at Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands 28 Jun (PMS, BAA), and 3 were offshore

at Sitka 12 Jun (MLW, MET). Out in the North Gulf off Kodiak, a lone male occupied a pond n. of Big Bay, Shuyak I. 30 Jun (RAM) in good-looking nesting habitat, Kodiak's 2nd summer record. The summer's only Tufted Ducks included a single male at Nome's Safety Sound 1-2 Jun (Wilderness Birding, LD, JJ) and 4 at St. Paul 22 & 27 Jun (St. Paul Tour). Lesser Scaup in odd locations included 2 males near Safety Sound 2 Jun (LD, JJ, AL), where they are occasional, and 5 males with a female near Perevalne Passage on Shuyak I. near Kodiak 29 Jun (RAM), near where the only previous Kodiak area nest was found in 1997. Ruddy Ducks continue to occupy Kenny L. in the se. Interior s. of Glenallen, with at least 4 ads. towing around 7 imms. between 24 Jun and 13 Jul (BM, ph. AL, EWC, JDL, RLS, ph. TGT et al.). Ad. Ruddy Ducks have become a regular feature at this large, shallow farm pond, which seems to be filling in and shrinking.

Noteworthy was an ad. Red-throated Loon with 2 chicks on a pond near Carroll Pt. on Revillagigedo I. near Ketchikan 11 Jul (ph. JEP), the 3rd local confirmed breeding record. Red-throated Loon is an uncommon breeding species in Southeast. A Horned Grebe located on a small pond n. of Toolik L. in the n. Brooks Range foothills 14 Jun (JS) was very near the



This adult Swainson's Hawk in the alpine zone above Juneau, Alaska 26 June 2009 represented one of few reports from Alaska's Southeast, and there is only one previous summer record. Photograph by Mark W. Schwan.

site of the Region's only prior breeding record n. of the Brooks Range. Careful scoping of the Kenny L. oasis in se. Interior turned up a breeding-plumaged Eared Grebe 2 Jul (EWC, JDL), a bird that associated with Horned Grebe family groups through at least the 11th (m.ob., ph. TGT, ph. DD). We now have two photographically documented Alaska records and at least one convincing sight report.

ALBATROSSES THROUGH ALCIDS

It was a great summer for Short-tailed Albatross reports, highlighted by a subad. photographed in Southeast waters w. of Kruzof I.



This South Polar Skua seen from a research vessel west of Cape Edgecombe and Kruszof Island, Alaska 30 June 2009 nicely documents this casual summer pelagic visitor to the Gulf of Alaska. Photograph by John Calambokidis.

11 Jun (ph. LAW) and up to 8 in the w.-cen. Bering Sea towards Russian waters 23 Jul–2 Aug (ph. AL, MR), which is where strong counts of this recovering species have come over the past few years. Short-taileds remain rare visitors to Southeast waters. Last noted in the Pribilofs in 2003 at the n. periphery of their Bering Sea range, a single Double-crested Cormorant visited St. Paul 13-18 Jul (St. Paul Tour). It appears that at least one Great Blue Heron summered offshore in the North Gulf at Kodiak 8 Jun–9 Jul (PD, DH), only that site's 2nd at this season, though a few typically winter there.

Northern Harriers are rare in summer in Southeast, which lacks suitable nesting habitat; notable were 2 at Sergief I. at the mouth of the Stikine R. 13 Jun (AWP, EWC, JDL, JED), one around Gustavus 7 & 9 Jul (NKD), and another offshore at Sitka 13 Jun (MRG), where the species is a rare migrant as well. An ad. Swainson's Hawk was photographed in the alpine zone on Gold Ridge behind Juneau 26 Jun and 3 Jul (ph. MWS, GBVV). This dry country species is only sporadically reported from e. Alaska, and summer reports from Southeast are limited to the Juneau alpine, where perhaps non-breeders from points e. of the Coast Range might wander. Very rare for summer in Southeast, apparent Harlan's Hawks were found in Gustavus 9 & 13 Jun (NKD) and to the e. at Haines 29 Jun (PMS). Harlan's breeds across cen. Alaska through the Yukon Territory into n. British Columbia, but their presence in the Haines area in summer over the past decade hints at possible nesting there, which is not far from their taiga forest breeding areas. A female American Kestrel seen in the fog near Nome 9 Jun (JJ, LD) was a rare coastal Seward Pen. record for this species, which is more regularly found well e. and inland. Equally as odd for the North Slope coast, a Merlin was seen over the tundra at Barrow 27 Jun (Field Guides), where summer extralimitals are occasional.

The summer's only Sora report included 3 all season from Juneau's Pioneer Marsh, one of Southeast's most regular sites for this rare summer visitor. Notable summer Sandhill Crane observations included 5 at Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands 1 Jun followed by singles on the 9th and 27th (RJG, GBVV), at least one bird in Gustavus through the season (TL), and a lone bird in Indian R. valley near Sitka 13 Jun (AT), where breeding had been suspected in the past (*American*

Birds 44: 1171). What are probably Greater Sandhill Cranes breed in Southeast only in the s. Archipelago, while these northerly reports were likely late migrant or non-breeding Lessers, the widespread subspecies that breeds across the bulk of the Region.

Shorebird finds were the typical summer mix of odd dates or early southbound ads., with the handful of Asian species in the Bering Sea. Another Killdeer located at Barrow 13 Jun (KZ ph.) and 1 Jul (MG, *vide* MJJ) added to the batch of North Slope overshoot reports, which are mostly from the Barrow tundra. A shorebird that appeared at first to be a Ruff to the observer in wet tundra at Barrow 6 Jun (ph. RM) turned out to be a Common Redshank, Alaska's first. The Common Sandpiper at St. Paul 28 Jun (St. Paul Tour) was likely a southbound ad., but single Common Greenshanks continuing from late May at St. Paul 1 & 3 Jun (St. Paul Tour) and in the cen. Aleutians at Adak 3 Jun (ph. IH) were certainly late spring birds. An agitated, defensive pair of Solitary Sandpipers was noted in muskeg near the Ketchikan Airport on Gravina I. 12 Jul (AWP, SCH et al.); similar behavior has been seen at this site in two other pairs since 2005, and breeding is suspected. A Black-tailed Godwit lingered at St. Paul from late May through 1 Jun, while another showed up there 27 Jun and displayed over marsh pools through 4 Jul (St. Paul Tour). There are a few scattered mid-summer Black-tailed Godwit records from across the Region, and this is the Pribilofs' first since 2000. On the heels of last summer's discovery of nesting Hudsonian

Godwits near Kanuti L. in the n. Interior Koyukuk country s. of Bettles, up to 10 family groups and volant young were detected in the area between 8 Jun and 13 Jul this season (CH et al.). While Hudsonians are known to nest on coastal sites w. of here, these mark the first breeding records for the Interior, where the species is mostly a rare, irregular spring migrant. A single ad. Hudsonian near Juneau 5 Jul (RHA) was Southeast's first of the fall. While the lone Marbled Godwit at Juneau's Portland I. 3 Jun (RHA) was a very late migrant for that locale, another ad. to the s. at Ketchikan 20-21 Jul (ph. AWP) provided one of very few documented fall reports from Southeast. Single ad. Red-necked Stints located in and around Safety Lagoon near Nome 8 Jun and 12 Jul (Wilderness Birding, AL) and at St. Paul 22 Jul (St. Paul Tour) were the season's most interesting reports. With few true summer reports, an ad. Temminck's Stint on St. Paul 3-4 Jul (St. Paul Tour, ph. SS) was possibly about the 3rd ever in Jul. Of the few Ruff reports, an ad. at Anchorage's popular Westchester Flats 11 Jun (Field Guides, m.ob.) furnished only the 3rd local record and one of few from South-coastal Alaska away from the immediate North Gulf Coast, while at least 2 males initiated a mini-lek 13-15 Jun at Barrow



This Western Kingbird, foraging from old posts in the Hyder area's intertidal zone 2 June 2009, provided this site's eighth record of this casual summer visitor. These old posts at Hyder remain the state's best location for both Eastern and Western Kingbirds. Photograph by James D. Levison.

(ph. DN), where this species is nearly annual. Although 2 Common Snipe were seen in winnowing displays over St. Paul marshes 20 Jun–23 Jul (St. Paul Tour), actual nesting was not suspected. Single Wilson's Phalaropes were located this season, a female in Juneau at Pt. Bridget 2 Jun (ph. PMS) and male at that location's Mendenhall Wetlands 19-21 Jul (GBVV, ph. PAR). Most of the irregular summer season reports come from Juneau.

Getting late were 10 Sabine's Gulls in low-



Documented by holding a camera to binoculars, this Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Craig on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska 22 June was one of two in the state's Southeast in summer 2009. Photograph by Paul Coffey.

er Glacier Bay 6 Jun (NKD). But more interesting in midsummer in that area was a feeding group of 23+ near Columbia Glacier in Prince William Sound 11 Jul (MB), where there are occasional records of mostly single birds, probably non-breeders. Up on the North Slope at the Colville R. delta, the local breeding Sabine's Gull population was 100% wiped out by Arctic Foxes, an event never witnessed there before (JH). Of the season's average 3 Franklin's Gulls, 2 ventured into the Bering Sea, both ads., at St. Paul 8 Jul (St. Paul Tour), the Pribilofs 3rd ever, and at sea about 240 km e. of the Pribilofs 14 Jul (ph. RAM). Another ad. in the Kenai Fjords just off Aialik Glacier 24 Jun (DG, Field Guides) added to the handful of previous summer reports in the North Gulf of Alaska. Just within Alaska waters in the w. Bering Sea some 278 km w. of St. Mathew I., an ad. Kamchatka Mew Gull rode the *M/V Oscar Dysan* for a few hours 29 Jul (ph. AL). This subspecies from ne. Russia is a rare summer visitor, mostly at the Bering Sea island outposts. Notable Thayer's Gull reports included one in transition to second cycle at Safety Sound near Nome 22 Jun (Field Guides, ph. DS), one of very few Bering Sea summer observations, and a first local summer bird for the Ketchikan area 22 Jun (ph. SCH). Exceptional Bering Sea Slaty-backed Gull counts included 6 for the season at St. Paul 1-4 Jun and 30 Jul (St. Paul Tour) and 15+ in various plumages in the Nome area 20-22 Jun (Field Guides).

Small numbers of Aleutian Terns foraged in Glacier Bay's lower West Arm for the 3rd consecutive summer, mostly near Lone I., with a

maximum count of 6 from 26 Jun (NKD). Aleutian Terns had only recently been confirmed breeding in Glacier Bay (*North American Birds* 59: 641). Two ad. *longipennis* Common Terns were noted in the Pribilofs around St. Paul 13 & 23 Jun (St. Paul Tour, Field Guides), where this subspecies is nearly annual in summer. The Aleutians' 3rd White-winged Tern in Adak's Shagak Bay tern colony 5 Jul (ph. IH) adds to the Archipelago's prior records from Attu and Nizki; other summer records in the Region are from considerably e. of there (Homer, Fair-

banks). There are now six Alaska records.

Two summer skua reports came from the North Gulf, waters that produce most of the occasional summer records: a South Polar Skua was confirmed off the outer Southeast coast w. of Kruzof I. 30 Jun (GS, ph. JC), and a brief flyby (probable) South Polar was off Kodiak's e. side 23 Jun (ph. RAM). An ad. Pomarine Jaeger off Anchorage's shores 1 Jun (Field Guides, †DS) was a first in Upper Cook Inlet and far from normal near-shore migration waters. A lemming crash on the North Slope meant essentially no jaegers at most sites for this summer. Casual in the s. Bering Sea and away from the St. Lawrence I. sites, a Dovekie in the Pribilofs at St. Paul 27 Jun was probably the same individual as the one located on nearby Walrus I. 28 Jul (*vide* St. Paul Tour). A rare Marbled Murrelet nest was located when an ad. was flushed off an egg on the ground below towering evergreens near

Eagle Cr., on Douglas I. near Juneau 30 Jun (MFW, ph. KH). This nest and the young bird were then monitored through fledging in Aug. Forty Horned Puffins counted in Windy Bay on Coronation I. off the outer Southeast coast 19 Jul (JB-P) was a strong showing—the entire Southeast population had been estimated at 270 birds from 15 small colonies.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A flock of 25 Band-tailed Pigeons near Ketchikan 17 Jun (TG) provided one of that locale's highest counts. Although Band-taileds summer regularly in the Ketchikan area, there is little breeding documentation from really anywhere within their Alaska range. Thus, 2 juvs. with ads. at a feeder there 24 Jun (CAF) were noteworthy.

Several observers noted an abundance of Short-eared Owls concentrated on Seward Pen. coastal tundra, e.g., 14 along 3 km of road near Nome's Safety Sound in early Jun (LD). Two Vaux's Swifts at Gustavus 10 Jun (NKD) were at the extreme nw. edge of the species' range in n. Southeast; they are not annual there. The season's only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a drumming individual along the Alaska Hwy. near Scottie Cr. 11 Jun (NH, LD) just w. of the Canadian border.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher overshot the species' nesting habitat on the Bering Sea coast to Shishmaref 6 Jun (ph. KS). All of the three prior Seward Pen. documented sightings have been on the Bering Sea coastal fringe. A B.B.S. team tallied 5 singing Yellow-bellied Flycatchers within the Kanuti Canyon in the n.-cen. Interior n. of the Eureka area in the Yukon R. watershed, where a small colony was discovered in 2005. Nearly annual from somewhere in the e. half of the Region, lone Least Flycatchers were singing along Ketili Cr. on the lower Stikine R. 8 Jun (AWP, EWC, JDL, JED), in Hyder 19 Jun (LP), and near Juneau 18 Jun (RJG, PMS). An *Empidonax* song at the Dyea Camp-

SA Following a long Pacific Coast population expansion, Caspian Terns began to wander into North Gulf of Alaska coastal areas in the 1980s and early 1990s, with local nesting at several coastal colonies in the past few years (Gill and Mewaldt 1983, *Auk* 100: 369-381; Gibson and Kessel 1992, *Condor* 94: 454-467; McCaffery et al. 1997, *Pacific Seabird Group Bulletin* 24: 71-73; Johnson et al. 2008, U. S. Forest Service, General Technical Report PNW-GTR-739; Lohse et al. 2008, *Western Birds* 39: 94-96). However, this summer's reports and peak counts distributed across the species' now regular North Gulf coast range are unprecedented. Summering birds noted away from colony sites included 12 in the Juneau area 5 Jun (PMS), 16 near Gustavus 16 Jun (NKD), 4 in Ketchikan from 5 Jun (AWP), and singles at Hyder 2 Jun (JDL) and near Haines 2 Jul (PMS). The traditional Copper R. delta colony included 250 pairs by 10 Jun (DR, *vide* GBVV), about half with chicks. To the e., the Icy Bay colony included about 190 birds this season (*vide* GBVV). Quite a few banded Caspians were also noted, including one banded as an ad. in 2006 on the East Sand Spit, Columbia R. colony where it bred in 2007 and 2008 before moving to the Copper R. colony where it was tending an egg this year. Other banded birds included 3 single ads., banded as chicks at the same Columbia R. colony, that turned up at Juneau 12 Jun (PMS; b. 2004), at Gustavus 16 Jun (ph. NKD, b. 2005), and another in Juneau 6 Jul (PMS, b. 2006). Summer reports away from Prince William Sound remain sporadic and span the Alaska Pen. to Nome.

SA Following several spring reports from Southeast, **Eurasian Collared-Doves** invaded Southeast this season, when more than 35 were located at a dozen locations, many of them lingering into Aug. One pair exhibited courtship behavior at a Juneau site, and they were also seen carrying twigs into a spruce tree in mid-Jun (JJ; *fide* GBVV). No nest was found. The Region's first Eurasian Collared-Doves away from Southeast were documented this summer, with singles found in the Cordova area 18 Jun and then 7 Jul (ph. JR, GM; *fide* AL) and way n. at the McLaren R. near the e. end of the Denali Hwy. 13-19 Jun (SE, JD, ph. ND). Eurasian Collared-Dove is increasing in the Pacific Northwest (*North American Birds* 60: 429) and was first reported from Alaska in 2006 and 2007. Although collared-doves are kept in captivity in Alaska (and one of the Region's first appeared to be from captive stock), the appearance of numerous collared-doves across Southeast and a few points to the n. this Jun suggests a movement of birds from areas to the s. rather than local releases.

ground woods near Skagway 2 Jul (†TE) strongly suggested Dusky Flycatcher, which has been reported fewer than ten times in the Region and mostly as spring or fall migrants. The closest breeding areas to Skagway are the nearby alpine, tree-limit sites mostly on the e. side of the adjacent Coast Range. A singing Dusky has been located at the top of the pass in British Columbia within a few km of the Alaska border. A Western Kingbird 2 Jun and single Eastern Kingbirds 3 & 22 Jun reached Hyder (EWC, JDL, LP, ph.), where they are nearly annual, typically found when the site is birded in early Jun. Another Eastern Kingbird at Barrow 13 Jun (DM, ph. KZ), added to the handful of early summer records from the North Slope, where the most recent report came in 2006. This year's Cassin's Vireo push included singles at Hyder 2-4 Jun (EWC, JDL) and Haines 30 Jun (PMS), the only known Alaska breeding site, and up to 3 were at Juneau through the season (m.ob.). Although rare on the Southeast islands and outer coast, Warbling Vireos can be fairly common in deciduous riparian corridors on the Mainland river systems, as evidenced by counts of 45 singing birds along the Stikine R. between the Mt. Flemmer cabin and Barnes L. 6 Jun and another 30 noted downstream of there between Twin Lakes and Seigief I. 12 Jun (AWP, JDL). These counts rival the Region's previous one-day tallies from the Haines area. Only one Red-eyed Vireo was found this summer, at Haines 1-2 Jul (PMS), where there are not many previous records.

Unexpected for the Bering Sea was a lone Gray Jay foraging in beach driftwood on an

islet w. of Shishmaref 1 May (*fide* KS; ph.). There are a few Seward Pen. coastal records, mostly from winter, of this boreal forest resident that nests on the peninsula's se. corner. Another Purple Martin, at least the 4th, was documented out in the Bering Sea at St. Paul 22 Jun (St. Paul Tour, ph.; *fide* SS). The last record came from summer 2003. Another Cliff Swallow wandered to the Aleutians, where the species is a casual late spring/early summer migrant, at Dutch Harbor 20 Jul (AL, SG), a first ever for Unalaska Island. Bank Swallows are uncommon to locally common breeders in suitable habitat on Southeast's Mainland river systems, as evidenced by a small colony of 12 birds at a sand bank on Sergief I. at the Stikine R. mouth 13 Jun (AWP, JDL). A single Bank Swallow offshore at Hollis on Prince of Wales I. 30 Jun (SCH) was rare off the Mainland. A flighty Common House-Martin was photographed around sea cliffs on Otter I. in the Pribilofs 14 Jun (St. Paul Tour, ph.; *fide* SS)—another odd summer Bering Sea record, of which there are a few since the 1980s. The usual scattered extralimital Barn Swallows appeared this summer away from their known range in Southeast, including 3 in Solomon near Nome 23 Jun (LD, JDL, AJ) and 2 from 24 Jun and then another 30 Jun on the Arctic coast at the Colville R. mouth 30 Jun (†JH). Waif Barn Swallows are nearly annual to the n. and w. periphery in late Jun-early Jul timeframe.

The season's first Arctic Warbler on the Seward Pen., a single inland on Nome's Kougarak Rd. 2 Jun (Wilderness Birding), was nearly record early for the Region. Probably arriving with a late-season storm was a Dark-sided Flycatcher at St. Paul 27 Jun (St. Paul Tour, †SS), where there are at least four Jun records and at least one from this late in the month. Normally known from fall migration in the s. half of the Bering Sea, a rare spring migrant Bluethroat appeared at St. Paul 10 Jun (St. Paul Tour). Bluethroats are casual in spring in the Aleutians and the Pribilofs, and the bulk of the Alaska breeding population migrates mostly eastward across the Bering Strait. Casual out in the Bering Sea away from St. Lawrence I., where small numbers are found from a popu-

lation moving to and from Palearctic breeding areas, was a Gray-cheeked Thrush at St. Paul 13 Jun (St. Paul Tour). Three Eyebrowed Thrushes lingered at St. Paul after arriving with a late-May storm through 3 Jun, and then another odd summer bird moved through there 28 Jun-1 Jul (St. Paul Tour). Much rarer to the n. at Gambell was an early Jun bird followed by another on 5 Jun (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, *fide* KZ; ph. KZ). MacIntosh finally confirmed American Robin nesting at Kodiak when he photographed an ad. feeding 2 flightless young in the downtown area 15 Jun (KJ, MAM, ph. RAM). Amazingly, American Robins are regular migrants and wintering birds at Kodiak but had never been found nesting. A shy Gray Catbird that sang from *Rubus* thickets at Wrangell 23 Jun-2 Jul (GG, HG, ph. CLR, ph. SZ) provided only the 4th Alaska record. It was not far from the state's first report, a Jul bird from the Stikine River.

WAGTAILS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Of the White Wagtail reports scattered around the w. Seward Pen this season, a lone bird at the Shishmaref dump 19 Jun (ph. KS) was the best find, although this species has



Alaska's eighth, this female Lazuli Bunting was nicely documented at Ketchikan 26 June 2009; all of the state's records come from Alaska's Southeast. Photograph by J. H. Lewis.

been found previously at the n. fringe of the Seward Peninsula. Southeast observers noted Cedar Waxwings in above-average numbers at the usual sites, and two nests were discovered in Ketchikan 22 Jun (AWP, ph. SCH, ph. JHL). Another Tennessee Warbler was singing from thickets on the Richardson Hwy. s. of Delta Jct. 24 Jun (SD) and 5 Jul (LD) in an area where one or more was noted last year. The area s. and e. of Delta Jct. and on highways between there and Tok seem to be the

most reliable areas to find the odd singing Tennessee in summer. A rewarding day of searching at Shishmaref came 6 Jun, when an Orange-crowned Warbler and a Northern Waterthrush were documented (ph. KS). Both are known from interior forested portions of the Seward Pen. and casual w. to the Bering Sea coast. Nesting behavior by a female Yellow Warbler was noted in Ketchikan 2 Jun (AWP), where the species has not been documented breeding, due largely to an almost complete lack of habitat. Follow-up visits did not produce any further nesting evidence. Yellow Warblers are common Mainland Southeast breeders otherwise, as evidenced by a running count via canoe of 68 singing birds on the Stikine R. between the Mt. Flemmer cabin and Barnes L. 6 Jun (AWP).

A singing Chipping Sparrow was a rare find w. of known breeding sites in the Interior 13 Jun (RD, AL) at milepost 315 of the Parks Hwy., while a pair was found carrying food and scolding the observers 15 Jul at Kenny L. (AL), where nesting is suspected. Following recent summer finds from e. Unalaska I. in the e. Aleutians, Fox Sparrows (2 ads. and a juv.) were seen along a gravel road at Captain's Bay, Unalaska I. 31 Jul (RAM, SG). The presence of singing birds and occasional juvs., including a bob-tailed bird in Jul 2003, continues to provide circumstantial breeding evidence here beyond the traditional nesting range to the e. at Unimak Island. Surprising for midsummer was what was probably a late migrant ad. Harris's Sparrow at a Juneau feeder 6-7 Jun (GBVV, MM). The Ketchikan area's first mid-summer White-crowned Sparrow appeared there 14 Jul (AWP, SCH). White-crowneds do not breed in Southeast and are uncommon migrants otherwise. Notable in the e. Aleutians was a juv. Golden-crowned Sparrow in willows of Captain's Bay, Unalaska I. 31 Jul (RAM, SG). As with Fox Sparrow, Golden-crowneds reach their breeding limits to the e. of here on Unimak Island. While this could be circumstantial evidence of local breeding, the date hints more to post-breeding dispersal. Getting late were 4 Rustic Buntings at St. Paul 6-12 Jun (St. Paul Tour), while a Rustic that appeared in early Jun at Gambell was still around through at least 5 Jun (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, ph. KZ). Surprisingly, several pairs of Snow Buntings double-clutched at a North Slope site at the Colville R. mouth (JH); while there is plenty of food and abundant daylight at this latitude, the timing required to pull off two broods in the extreme conditions of the Arctic Coast is surely tight.

Stunning ad. male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were conspicuous offshore in South-

east at Craig on Prince of Wales I. 22 Jun (ph. PC, SJM) and n. at Juneau 30 Jun (ph. KC), the 7th and 8th Alaska records. Given that there were only three Alaska reports before 1995, it was a banner showing for Black-headed Grosbeaks. Two were at Twin Lakes on the Stikine R. 10 Jun, with one the next day (ph. AWP, EWC, JDL, JED), while the singles from the spring season remained through 6 Jun at Wrangell (BHD, JM) and through 9 Jun on the lower Stikine R. (BN). Black-headed breed regularly n. to s. British Columbia, where its range has expanded steadily over the past 50 years. A female-plumaged Lazuli Bunting was nicely documented at Ketchikan 26 Jun (ph. SCH, LP), the Region's 8th record; all of Alaska's records come from Southeast.

An aggregation of 80 Red-winged Blackbirds in Juneau's Pioneer Marsh 24 Jul (ph. GBVV) was easily the largest count ever for Southeast, where the species is fairly common in limited habitat on the Mainland. The season's lone Brambling report was a single at St. Paul 26 Jun (St. Paul Tour), where there are few mid-season records. Also odd for midsummer and casual in the Pribilofs were 2 Common Rosefinches at St. Paul 7-8 Jul (St. Paul Tour). Most of the Region's records come from the first two weeks of Jun. The small introduced spruce grove on Amaknek I. near Unalaska harbored a juv. White-winged Crossbill 10 Jul (ph. RAM), the first documented Aleutian record. There are two previous sight records, from Adak and Attu. Unusual for the North Slope from the Colville R. delta were several double-clutch Hoary Redpoll nests, where few have been reported previously (JH). While observers reported Pine Siskins as locally common beyond their normal nesting range, the small numbers that wandered off the Mainland were by far the most significant. A group of 5 reached St. Paul 30-31 Jul (St. Paul Tour), where they are sporadic and casual mostly as fall migrants to the Bering Sea islands. The Amaknek I. spruce grove also provided substrate for siskins, with 2 first found 9 Jul followed by 6 mixed with a group of Common Redpolls 30 Jul (ph. RAM, SG). There are two prior mid-summer Aleutian records. United States Fish and Wildlife staff happened on a calling male American Goldfinch in the e. Interior at Scottie Cr., about a km from the Canadian border 9 Jun (†PK, AM). Half of the Region's six records have been photographically documented, and this is the 3rd from summer. Way out of habitat was a lone Hawfinch feeding in rocky coastal tundra near Wooley L. just outside of Nome 4-6 Jun (Wilderness Birding, AL, ph. AS, LD). There

are now three records for the Alaska Mainland. Following their first nesting attempt at Ketchikan from the spring, a pair of House Sparrows re-nested and was seen carrying food to the active nest 14 Jul (AWP, SCH). The female was accompanied by 2 recently fledged young at the site 1 Aug (ph. AWP). These observations confirm the successful nesting in Alaska at the site from which most records have come.

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Chris Charlesworth March through July 2009

It was a cool spring throughout the Region, as a northerly air flow predominated. The late snowfall on 19 May across interior regions likely stopped some northbound migrants in their tracks. June began seasonably warm but became unsettled by mid-month. This cool, showery pattern continued until mid-July, when summer finally arrived. In fact, July ended up being one of the three hottest on record for many British Columbia locations, with the last week being particularly scorching. A number of devastating wildfires broke out in the province during late July, particularly in the southern interior.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Rare but regular in inland regions, Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from a number of locations in the s. interior; one ad. was at Robert L., Kelowna 5-12 Apr (CC, RT); 8 were at Swan L., Vernon 18 Apr (ES, GS); 3 were at Gellatly Bay, West Kelowna 19 Apr (EF); 11 were at Otter L. near Vernon 28 Apr (PL); 2 were at Summerland 12 May (HP, LP); and one was at Duck L., Creston 6 May (LV). Although a common migrant and wintering bird on the coast, Snow Goose is rare but regular in the interior, with singles this season at Tranquille near Kamloops 4-6 Apr (RR, RH) and at Swan L., Vernon 18 Apr (ES, GS). Rare anywhere in the province, 2 Ross's Geese were at Rawlings L. near Lumby 7-8 May (CS, RC); another was feeding with Canada Geese in Nakusp 30 Apr (GD). In British Columbia, Eurasian Wigeons are fairly common along the s. coast, but they are rare but annual visitors to the interior, where 10 were reported: a pair was seen at Robert L. in Kelowna 27 Mar (MF); 2 males were at Vaseux L. 29 Mar (DB);

4 were seen in the Osoyoos area 5 Apr (DB); and 2 males were at Duck L., Creston 29 Mar 29 (PP). Uncommon on Vancouver I., a male Redhead was at Somenos Marsh, Duncan 26-27 Mar (DM). A male Tufted Duck was photographed on a lake near 111 Mile House 2 May (*fide* PR), providing one of just a few records of this species in the interior of the province. Fairly rare in the s. interior, 9 Surf Scoters seen at the n. end of Kalamalka L. near Vernon 21 May were of note (RC). Two Long-tailed Ducks, rare in the interior, were seen on Okanagan L., the Maude Roxby Sanctuary 18 Mar (RC).

At Stuart L. near Fort St. James, 10 Red-throated Loons were noted 9 May (RR). A possible Arctic Loon was off Quadra I. 5 Jun, but photographs were not adequate to confirm the identification. At White Rock, an imm. Yellow-billed Loon thrilled observers 22-24 May (HM, JM, m.ob.). Rare on interior lakes, single Pacific Loons were seen on Okanagan L., Penticton 22 Mar (RC) and in Lake Country on Wood L. 24 Apr (MF). A whopping 400 Horned Grebes were counted on Arrow L., Nakusp 1 May (GD). A Clark's Grebe was present on Wood L. near Lake Country 29 Apr-1 May (MF, m.ob.).

On 11 Apr, 3 American White Pelicans were seen at Nulki L. near Vanderhoof (CCo, CA, NK, Debbie Coxson)—over a week ahead of the previous early dates for cen. British Columbia. Brown Pelicans invaded the province this spring and summer in good numbers. Singles were seen at Carmanah Pt. Lightstation, Vancouver I. 12 Apr (JE); off Tofino 28 Apr (AD); and near the Delta Coalports s. of Vancouver 6 Jun (RS). A flock of 39 was seen on Sea Otter Rock nw. of Cleland I. 5 Jun (Michael Mullen), and 29, perhaps including some of the same birds, were seen off Long Beach near Tofino 8 Jun (AD). The province got its usual smattering of Great Egret records for the period, including singles at Williams L. 3 May (*fide* PR), at Acland Pond, Kelowna 13 May (GW), and along the Okanagan R., Penticton 16 May (RC, AK). A White-faced Ibis at Thomson Brook Pond, Kelowna 3 Jun provided the Okanagan's 2nd record of this species (GW et al.).

At Boundary Bay, an imm. Golden Eagle was seen 26 Mar (MT). An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was seen over the Shelley Sludge Lagoons in Prince George 23 May (RC, AK). The

species breeds in this area in very small numbers. Very rare in the province, a dark-morph Ferruginous Hawk graced the skies over Sutherland Hills Park, Kelowna 21 Apr (CC et al.). A rarity on Vancouver I., an ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen at Mt. Manuel Quimper near Sooke 2 Jun (IC, RS). In the s. Okanagan Valley, where Gyrfalcons are rare, a gray morph was seen 19 Mar near Rd. 22 (Jim Ginns et al.). Another gray morph was observed eating a Mew Gull near the mouth of French Cr. near Qualicum, Vancouver I. 2 Mar (GM).

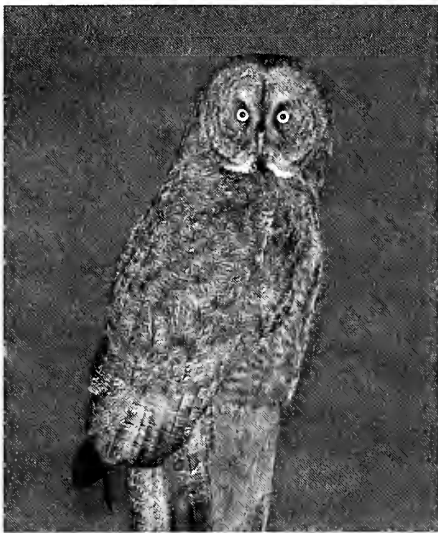
SHOREBIRDS THROUGH DOVES

American Avocets seem to return to the province earlier each spring. On 7 Apr, there were 3 at Robert L., Kelowna (LR), and in the n. part of the province, one was at the Shelley Sludge Lagoons near Prince George 17 May (Heather Meier, Bonnie Meier). On 26 May, 2 avocets at the Fort St. John sewage lagoons provided an excellent record (RC). Black-necked Stilts made their annual resurgence this spring, with 5 seen at Nature Bay in Salmon Arm 10 Apr (TH), 2 at Robert L., Kelowna 3 May (BC), and 3 at Leach L. near Creston 21 Apr (AB et al.). On the coast, a Black-necked Stilt appeared at the Iona Sewage Ponds near Vancouver 6-7 May (BS, m.ob.). A rarity anywhere in British Columbia, a Willet was at Witty's Lagoon in Metchosin 1 May (DA). Rare away from the coast, a Whimbrel



This Northern Hawk Owl delighted birders near Nanaimo on Vancouver Island from 24 January through 14 March (here 2 February) 2009. Photograph by Mike Yip.

visited Separation L. near Kamloops 1 Jun (KT, RR, MH). Up to 5 Whimbrels at Newlands, ne. of Prince George were present 18-23 May (CCo, m.ob.). An Upland Sandpiper was seen 20 May with Whimbrels in fields near Newlands, ne. of Prince George (NK). A Hudsonian Godwit was found at the Englishman R. estuary near Parksville 18 May (RM) and relocated at Rathrevor Beach 19 May, where it remained until 25 May. Two Ruddy Turnstones were a nice find at Duck L. near Creston 18



Seen by many birders near Enderby, British Columbia 16-22 (here 20) March 2009 was this cooperative Great Gray Owl. Photograph by Chris Charlesworth.

May (GB). Reports of Red Knot are always of interest, especially as this species experiences serious population declines in North America. Three were seen on mudflats in Tofino 3 May (AD). A Sanderling was at Alki L., Kelowna 25 May (ES, GS, AR). Rare in the interior, Dunlins were reported at several locations in Kelowna: one was at Robert L. 20 Apr (RC); one was at the mouth of Mission Cr. 19 Apr (RC); and 2 were in flooded fields near the airport 21 Apr (RC). A rare but regular spring migrant in the Peace R. area, 4 White-rumped Sandpipers were at the Fort St. John sewage lagoons 26 May (RC). A rare spring migrant in the interior, a Baird's Sandpiper was at White L. near Okanagan Falls 9 Apr (JL et al.).

Rare anywhere in the province, a Little Gull was at the Vanderhoof Sewage Lagoons 9 May (CCo, CA et al.). Glaucous Gull is a rel-

atively rare throughout the province. The highest numbers occur in the Kelowna area, where 5 were seen at the landfill 8 Apr (CC, m.ob.); and 4 were at the Maude Roxby Bird Sanctuary in Kelowna 13 Mar (RC). Elsewhere in the province, singles were at Beach Grove Park in Delta 8 Mar (PD); at Spanish Banks, Vancouver 13 Apr (Richard Wing); at Race Rocks near Victoria 8 Mar (Ryan Murphy); and at Witty's Lagoon in Metchosin 15 Mar (DA), perhaps the same individual as seen at Race Rocks. Two Glaucous Gulls were seen at the Quatse Estuary in Port Hardy 6 Mar (MS). Sightings of Kumlien's Iceland Gulls were many this spring. A second-cycle bird was seen at Robert L., Kelowna between 24 Mar and 4 Apr (CC, RC, m.ob.); 3 second-cycle birds were at the Kelowna Landfill 8 Apr (CC, RT et al.); and a pale ad. was seen at the same location 28 Apr (MF). On Vancouver I., a first-cycle Iceland Gull was at Admiral Tyrone Pool near Parksville 12 Mar (GM); another first-cycle bird was seen at Duncan 13 Mar, perhaps representing the same bird as above (Val George). A second-cycle Iceland Gull was at Witty's Lagoon in Metchosin 15 Mar (DA). Single ad. Slaty-backed Gulls were on Vancouver I. at Deep Bay 9 Mar (Mike Ashbee) and at Swan L. in Victoria 17 Mar (CSa).

Common Tern is a very rare migrant in cen. British Columbia in spring, so one at Cottonwood Island Park, Prince George 23 May was of note (NK, RC et al.). Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to expand, and most records are no longer noteworthy in the s. half of the province. Up to half a dozen reports were received from the Prince George area in the center of the province (*vide* CA).

OWLS THROUGH GRACKLES

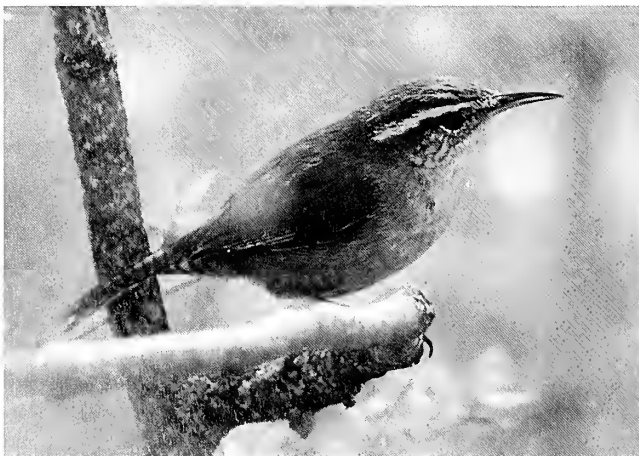
A few northern owls lingered into the period, including a very cooperative Great Gray Owl near Enderby that remained 16-22 Mar (SB, m.ob.). A pair of Great Grays seen near Rock Cr. near the U.S. border 12 Apr was suspected of local breeding (DB). A very cooperative Northern Hawk Owl remained in Nanaimo, Vancouver I. from 24 Jan through at least 13 Mar (MY, m.ob.). A Snowy Owl at Island View Beach in Victoria 6 Apr was of note (MR). Rare along the coast, a Red-naped Sapsucker was along Cambridge St. in Vancou-

ver 20 Apr (DHC).

A singing Alder Flycatcher was at Grant Narrows in Pitt Meadows 4 Jun (LL). On Vancouver I., a Least Flycatcher was singing at Sasamat L. near Port Moody 13 May (JR). Rare on Vancouver I., a Dusky Flycatcher was singing in Langford 12 May (DA). In Vancouver, a Dusky Flycatcher was banded at Colony Farms 8 May, and 2 were seen on 14 May (DMA). At Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver, a Say's Phoebe was seen 24 Apr (CT). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Colony Farms in Vancouver 21 Jun (Jeremiah Kennedy, DMA) was noteworthy. Uncommon in the Lower Mainland, 4 Western Kingbirds entertained birders at Jericho Park in Vancouver 18 May (Michelle Lamberson). Single Eastern Kingbirds were seen at Blackie Spit in White Rock 7 Jun (Hank Tseng); at Swan L., Victoria 2 Jun (Ted Ardley); and at Long Beach Airport near Tofino 7 Jun (AD). A Loggerhead Shrike was seen at Duck L. near Creston 10 Jun (Marc-Andre Beaucher). Singing Red-eyed Vireos appeared at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver 1 Jun (RL) and at Parksville 10 Jun (Christopher Stephens). An excellent find was a Philadelphia Vireo at Witty's Lagoon in Metchosin 24 May (DA).

A Blue Jay turned up in Kelowna near Kinsmen Park 21 Apr (RC). Maple Ridge hosted a Western Scrub-Jay, seen by many, 20 Jun+ (RCr, m.ob.). This species is expanding its range northward in Washington but remains a very rare visitor to British Columbia. A White-breasted Nuthatch continued at Beach Grove Park in Delta through at least 10 Mar (GC, m.ob.). The Bewick's Wren expansion into the Okanagan Valley continues, with one singing in Inkameep PP, Oliver 24-26 Apr (BM, CC, m.ob.). The province's first Eastern Bluebird was photographed at Fort Nelson 28 May (Penny Hall). Rare in the Vancouver area, a male Western Bluebird was at Iona Beach 20 May (PC). On Vancouver I., male Mountain Bluebirds were reported at Nanoose 4 Apr (GM) and at Island View Beach in Victoria 7 Apr (AC). A Northern Mockingbird appeared briefly at the Carmanah Point Lightstation, Vancouver I. 10 Jun (JE). Extremely rare in British Columbia, a Brown Thrasher was banded and photographed at Colony Farm in Vancouver 6 Jun (DMA et al.).

A Nashville Warbler at Witty's Lagoon in Metchosin 2 May was an uncommon find (AC). A singing male Northern Parula was found in Edgewood in the West Kootenays 5 Jun (JG). This represents the first interior record in the province for this species. A male Chestnut-sided Warbler was banded at the Rocky Point B.O. near Victoria 14 Jun (RS, m.ob.). A male Black-and-white Warbler was



This Bewick's Wren near Oliver, British Columbia 26 April 2009 was part of the massive expansion of the species in the Pacific Northwest. Previously strictly a coastal species in the province, Bewick's Wrens have recently expanded into the Okanagan Valley, where breeding has been confirmed. Photograph by Chris Charlesworth.



Rare in British Columbia, this Brown Thrasher was banded at Colony Farm, Vancouver on 6 June 2009. Photograph by Derek Matthews.

found in Cecil Green Park at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver 9 May (PC). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was photographed on Hornby I. 26 Mar (fide Neil Robins). A male Hermit Warbler × Townsend's Warbler hybrid was photographed in Belcarra Park in Port Moody 26 May (Hilary Macguire). A mini-invasion of Black-throated Green Warblers was noted in the forests e. of Prince George this breeding season. On 21 Jun, one or 2 were found on the Bowron Rd. (JB et al.), another was on Buckhorn Lake Rd. 23 Jun (GM), and up to 5 were on the Bowron Rd. 23 Jun (JB). Stray Blackpoll Warblers turned up in several locations in s. British Columbia. A male was seen in a yard in Oliver 23 May (BMc); a singing male was found in Beach Grove Park in Delta 29 Jun (DT); a male was found in the Maplewood area of Victoria 26 May (EP). A Yellow-breasted Chat singing in Beach Grove Park in Delta 13-18 Jun was a nice find (Roger Meyer, m.ob.). A pair of American Redstarts was found in Pitt Meadows 20 Jun (LC, m.ob.).

British Columbia's first Summer Tanager, found and photographed near Blue River 8 May (Michele Humphrey), was quickly followed by the province's 2nd, near Golden in the Rocky Mts. 11 Jun (DB). The Blue R. bird was a first-year male, and the Golden bird was an ad. male. A Green-tailed Towhee was found singing in an orchard in Osoyoos 28 May (DB). A female Lark Bunting was found in the parking lot at Botanical Beach, s. Vancouver I. 20 Jun (BM, MM). At Viaduct Flats in Victoria, a Swamp Sparrow was present 26 Mar–10 Apr (RS). In Hazelton, an imm. Harris's Sparrow visited a feeder 8 Mar (Ray Sturney). Single White-throated Sparrows appeared throughout s. British Columbia: Stanley Park in Vancouver 1 May 1 (CT); Burnaby Mountain Park, Burnaby 3 May (DP); Grant Narrows near Pitt L. 3 May (JR); at a feeder in North Vancouver 5 May (QB); and in the gar-

dens at Emily Carr House, Victoria 2 Mar (Rhys Harrison). A Snow Bunting was at Clover Pt., Victoria 21 Mar (DA).

A rare but regular visitor to the s. part of the province, a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at a feeder in Johnson's Landing in the Kootenays 20 May (GS). In the Prince George area, male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited feeders 23 May (BS); 25 May (Mary Antoniazzi); and 29 May, with one at a Fort St. James feeder (fide Joanne Vinnedge). Several Indigo Buntings appeared this spring, all but one of them ad. males. A female was seen at Buttle L., Vancouver I. 13-14 Jun (GM). Males were found in Lillooet 28 May (Kansas Allen), near the Dot Ranch near Merritt 17 Jun (WW), and in Pacific Rim N.P. at Florencia Bay 5 May (Bob Stevenon). On 27 Apr, a Western Meadowlark was on the grass in Hastings Park in Vancouver (DHC). A reliable Rusty Blackbird kept birders happy at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver 5-30 May (RL, QB, m.ob.). Two Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches were at Blackie Spit in White Rock 13-15 May (BS, m.ob.), and one was atop Mt. Douglas in Victoria 20 May (BB). Large flocks of Common Redpolls were present during the late winter around Prince George. Seven Hoary Redpolls were also reported between 14 Mar and 20 Apr in the Prince George area (JG, CCo, Margaret Bathy).

Observers: David Allinson, Cathy Antoniazzi, Avery Bartels, Brent Beach, James Bradley, Gary Breault, Samantha Brett, Quentin Brown, Peter Candido, Russell Cannings, Chris Charlesworth (CC), Christopher Coxson (CCo), Aziza Cooper Douglas H. Cooper (DHC), Larry Cowan, Roger Craik (RCr), Ian Cruikshank, Bill Cutfield, Gary Davidson, Pete Davidson, Adrian Dorst, Jerry Etkorn, Elke Fischer, Michael Force, Jeremy Gatten, Mike Hanry, Ted Hillary, Rick Howie, Andrew Keaveney, Nancy Krueger, Les Lee, Janna Leslie, Rob Lyske, Hue Mackenzie, Jo An Mackenzie, Derek Matthews (DMa), Derrick Marven (DM), Barb Mcgrener, Mike Mcgrener, Bob McKay, Guy Monty, Richard Mooney, Dan Pedersen, Ed Pellizzon, Helen Poncelet, Lou Poncelet, Paul Prappas, Phil Ranson, Randy Rawluk, Adrian Reigen, John Reynolds, Ralph Ritcey, Lesley Robertson, Mary Robichaud, Chris Saunders (CSa), Rick Schortinghuis, Brian Self, Michael Shepard, Chris Siddle (CS), Gail Spitler, Emily Styles, Geoff Styles, Richard Swanston, Mike Tabak, Ken Taylor, Ryan Tomlinson, Danny Tyson, Chris Turner, Linda Van Damme, Wayne Weber, Gwynneth Wilson. ☺

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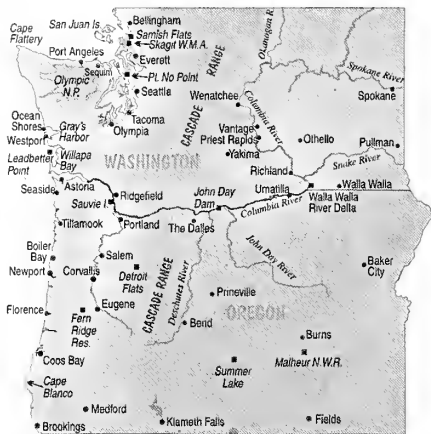
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Oregon & Washington



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“Hotter” and “drier” generally characterized both states for much of the season, particularly in Washington, which had its eighth hottest July ever. It was wetter than normal in Oregon during June, but much of the state dried out in July. Rarities showed well, with one addition to the Oregon list, one seasonal first, and two birds, including a swallow hybrid, that had only been recorded once previously in the Region. After several consecutive summer seasons of negative data, it appears that one of the Region’s most fragile breeding populations has been extirpated. Nesting populations of several duck species, many of which have only begun breeding on the westside over the past 10-15 years, gained further footholds.

Abbreviations: Ankeny (Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*); Baskett Slough (Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*); E.E.W. (E. E. Wilson W.M.A., *Benton*); Finley (William L. Finley N.W.R., *Benton*); F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*); N.S.C.B. (North Spit Coos Bay, *Coos*); O.S. (Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*); P.N.P. (Pt. No Point, *Kitsap*); P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, *Snohomish*); P.T. (Puget Trough); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, *Walla Walla*); W. V. (Willamette Valley, Oregon). “Eastside” and “westside” indicate locations e. and w. of the Cascade crest, respectively.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Eight Greater White-fronted Geese, Regionally rare during summer, were reported from four westside locations 6-15 Jun; these, along with 4 at Bonanza, *Klamath* 18 Jun (JVM), were considered late northbound birds. Two Greater White-fronteds at F.R.R. 2 Jul+ (J. Sullivan) likely summered. Three Ross’s Geese

carried at Beulah Res., *Malheur* (TJ et al.), while additional singles at Bonanza 18 Jun (JVM) and Burns, *Harney* 1 Jun-11 Jul (m.ob.) were thought to be sick or injured. A late northbound flock of 24 Cackling Geese was at Ridgefield 3 Jun (*vide* CW). A lone *minima* Cackling inhabited Portland’s Crystal Springs Park 18 Jun (A. Frank), and 2 were on N.S.C.B. 6 Jul (JB); these reports add to just seven prior summer records, all since 2005. Brant were present in above-normal numbers in both states, with maxima of 24 at O.S. 17 Jun (RM, BW, TA) and 16 at Tillamook Bay 2 Jun (JL). Five at Skamania Landing along the Columbia R., *Skamania* 22 Jun (B. Cady) constituted the first inland summer record for the Region. After 30+ years of solitary residence at Turnbull N.W.R., a Trumpeter Swan affectionately known as “Solo” surprised local observers by not only finding a mate but also producing 4 cygnets during Jun (CC).

Fifty-plus Gadwall summered on N.S.C.B., where they are now firmly entrenched as breeders (TR). With only a few previous Washington records, a Mallard x Gadwall (“Brewer’s Duck”) near LaConner, *Skagit* 16 Jul was noteworthy and may possibly represent the first summer record for this cross (GB). Three Eurasian Wigeons, detected 20 Jun+, added to just five prior summer records (all since 2001); singles were at P.S.B. 20 Jun (ph. SM) and Ridgefield 21 Jun (*vide* CW). A male Eurasian banded and fitted with a satellite transmitter near Tule Lake N.W.R., California during the winter season remained in e. Washington through the period after first appearing at Rock L., *Whitman* 25 Jun (*vide* CC). The westward movements of this bird were tracked online (<<http://www.werc.usgs.gov/sattrack/ewigeon/maps.html>>)

as it made multiple stops before eventually settling in 77 km away at Potholes Res., *Grant* 9-30 Jul (DS). Six American Wigeons at F.R.R. 20 Jun (DI) were at a site where they are not known as breeders. An exceptional westside tally of 120 Blue-winged Teal was at P.S.B. 7 Jun (SM); females with broods at N.S.C.B. 26-27 Jun (JB, TR) provided the 3rd and 4th nesting records for *Coos*. Broods of Green-winged Teal, scarce westside breeders, were at Everett 22 Jun (SM), Deer Lagoon, *Island* 27 Jun (SM), and near Swantown L., *Island* 11 Jul (SM). A Canvasback, not annual on the westside in summer, resided at Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor* 17

Jun+ (BW, RM, TA). A Ring-necked Duck x scaup hybrid at L. Lenore, *Grant* 3 Jul (†SM, DS) provided the first summer record of this cross for the Region and also the first e. of the Cascades. Single Greater Scaup, now nearly annual on the eastside during summer, were at the Burns S.T.P. 2 Jun (TJ) and the Coulee City S.T.P., *Grant* 3 Jul (SM, DS); nearly all records are from deeper water locations at which this species winters in numbers. Similarly, a single Greater at F.R.R. 16-20 Jun (DI) was an unexpected summer visitor in the Willamette Valley. Lesser Scaup produced three broods at Swantown L. 11 Jul (SM) and seven broods at Deer Lagoon 25 Jul (SM); they are generally scarce westside breeders. A King Eider, Washington’s 19th and only the 2nd summer record, enlivened O.S. 2 Jul + (H. Vail); most records have occurred late Oct through early May, with only four occurring since 1989. Long-tailed Ducks are not annual in the Region during summer, thus one at O.S. 8-18 Jul was noteworthy (BS). The congregation of 150 Buffleheads on Agency L., *Klamath* 5 Jul (AS, ES) provides a record summer count for the eastside, where this species is a rare but local breeder. In recent years, Common Goldeneyes have proven to be rare but annual during Jun in e. Oregon; 5 were reported from four *Har-*



This first-year female King Eider found at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County 2 (here 3) July 2009 remained through the summer period. Only two of Washington’s 19 records have occurred in summer. Photograph by Gregg Thompson.

ney/Malheur locations 1-6 Jun (TJ et al.). A Red-breasted Merganser near Adrian, *Malheur* 5 Jun (TJ) made just the 7th summer record e. of the Cascades.

The traditional gathering of non-breeding Western Grebes at Seaside, *Clatsop* held 600+ birds 9 Jul (MP). Only 4 Clark’s Grebes were reported on the westside away from F.R.R., which has a breeding population of 15-20 pairs. The season’s only Manx Shearwater was seen at Boiler Bay 14 Jun (W. Hoffman). Large numbers of American White Pelicans again wandered around the W.V., with 35 as far n. as Ridgefield, *Clark* (R. Windemuth) and maxima of 100+ at F.R.R. 16 Jun (DI), 58 at Finley



Seven of Oregon's nine previously accepted Red-necked Stints have been adults in alternate plumage or partial alternate plumage. Adult birds have appeared 20 June through 26 August. This adult was found on the open beach near the mouth of Tenmile Creek, Coos County 21 June 2009. Photograph by Hendrik Herlyn.

N.W.R. 17 Jun (W. Wright) and 50+ at Baskett Slough 10 Jul (C. Shank). On the outer coast, where less than annual, flocks of 20 visited Tillamook 20 Jun (JL), and 33 were e. of Astoria 23 Jun+ (MP et al.). Three near Suquamish, Kitsap 12 Jun (*vide* CW) and one at Padilla Bay, Skagit 14 Jun (MWi) were in the P.T., where still very rare. Probably related to this influx, 950 at Crab L., Grant 3 Jul (SM, DS) was likely e. Washington's largest congregation ever away from Potholes Res. For the first summer in six years, no Brown Pelicans were detected in the P.T. and incredibly none were reported n. of La Push, Clallam or in the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Conversely, the 22,000 tallied at East Sand I., Pacific 16 Jul (D. Jaques) was a Regional record. The Little Blue Heron, first detected in Nov 2008 at Siletz Bay, Lincoln, continued there through the period (D. Demarest et al.). Two Cattle Egrets n. of Burns 2 Jun (TJ et al.) were the first summer season birds on the eastside since 2006.

A juv. Red-shouldered Hawk at Ridgefield 30 Jul and an ad. at Vancouver, Clark 21 Jul (T. Hicks) supplied Washington's 4th and 5th summer records (G. Neavoll). A Swainson's Hawk over Vancouver, Clark 28 Jun was only the 2nd ever during summer for the w. Washington (T. Hicks); the only other w. Washington summer record was from Jul 1968. Following up on one detection during summer 2008, up to 7 Yellow Rails were heard along the w. side of Summer L. during Jun (S. Carpenter et al.); this species was previously unknown from the Summer L. basin. The Common Moorhen that visited Borax L., Harney 4 Jul (J. Johnson) was the Region's 9th and the first since 2001; the eight antecedent records have all come from Oregon. A Sandhill Crane,

extremely rare during summer in w. Washington, was near Carnation, King 29 Jul (T. Risdon).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An American Golden-Plover, a species less than annual during summer, was at N.S.C.B. 4 Jul (TR). Once again, the Region hosted a Pacific Golden-Plover during Jun, with one at P.S.B. 7 Jun (SM). Another suspected Pacific was at N.S.C.B. 18 Jun (KC, DL); prior to 2001, such records were virtually unknown. The ad. Pacific that inhabited N.S.C.B. 4-8 Jul (TR) was more expected; 3-4 southbound ads. during Jul is typical in the Region. A pair of Semipalmated Plovers at Alvord L., Harney 5 Jun suggested possible nesting; this species is a rare nester in the Region. Two American Avocets reached the westside, one at Dunes Overlook, Douglas 1 Jun (DF, HH), the other at Baskett Slough N.W.R. 20 Jun (RG). The last apparent northbound Greater Yellowlegs was at P.S.B. 7 Jun (SM), while 2 at Smith I., Snohomish 13-20 Jun (SM, R. Shaw) were present between dates usually assigned to northbound and southbound migration. One Greater at P.S.B. (SM), 3 at ER.R. (DI), and 4 at Baskett Slough N.W.R. (RG), all on 20 Jun, were likely the first southbound migrants. A Lesser Yellowlegs at P.S.B. 20 Jun was about on time for a first southbound migrant (SM). Washington had 17 Solitary Sandpipers, more than triple the Regional average, 11 Jul+, while Oregon had but two. There are no records of breeding Solitary Sandpiper in Washington, but one was in potential breeding habitat at Surprise L. 30 Jun; southbound birds rarely reach the Region before mid-Jul. A juv. Willet at Bandon 22 Jul (TR) was a bit surprising, as they rarely return to the s. Oregon coast before late fall. It would seem that The Region's remnant breeding population of Upland Sandpipers is now likely extirpated—none were detected in Oregon's Bear Valley for the fourth straight summer. A Whimbrel at Alvord L., Harney 6 Jun (JGi, OS) adds to about 10 prior e. Oregon summer records, while another at Baskett Slough N.W.R. 12 Jul (RG) provided a rare

summer record for the W.V. Marbled Godwits were noted at Dungeness, Clallam 2-25 Jul; 30 there on 10 Jul (GGe) is among the highest counts ever for the P.T., where they are generally rare. Forty-eight Marbleds bejeweled the W.W.R.D. 12 Jul (M&MLD), nearly tripling the e. Washington record for any season. A Red Knot, very rare during summer in the P.T., was at Dungeness 25 Jul (RM, T. Mansfield). An above-average 93 Semipalmated Sandpipers 27 Jun-29 Jul were tallied in w. Washington, including a Washington record 34 ads. at P.S.B. 5 Jul (SM, RM); 16 in e. Washington 3 Jul+ was slightly below average. Eight Semipalmateds in Oregon 1-22 Jul was an above-average summer showing. Each state hosted an ad. Red-necked Stint. Oregon's 10th was at the mouth of Tenmile Cr., Coos 19 Jun (DF, HH), and Washington's 3rd brightened O.S. 24 Jul (vt. BW, GGe, J. Acker, DWg); all but three of the Region's records have involved alternate-plumaged ads. detected 20 Jun-2 Aug. Five westside Baird's Sandpipers included one that was about two weeks early at P.S.B. 25 Jun (RM, TA, TB); ads. typically arrive in small numbers starting in early Jul, with juvs. arriving during late Jul. All but one of 30 eastside Baird's 12 Jul+ were in Washington, where the tally was quintuple the seasonal average. A Pectoral Sandpiper at P.S.B. 7 Jun was two or three weeks late and furnished the 2nd latest record ever of a northbound bird (SM). Six



Oregon's first White-eyed Vireo, found at Fields, Harney County on 9 June 2009, was in a woodlot that has produced many state firsts over the years. Photograph by Graham Floyd.

more Pectorals visited Washington during Jul, including 4 on the eastside 12-17 Jul. Dunlins were once again found in summer on the westside; one northbound bird at Sutherlin, Douglas 2 Jun (JH) and 2 more at Crockett L., Island 6 Jun (BW) were about three weeks late, while one at P.S.B. 20 Jun (SM), 2 at Ridgefield 2 Jul (BF), and one at P.S.B. 11 Jul (SM, RM) were likely exceptionally early

southbound birds. Though individuals often summer on the outer coast, each summer a few are found among other southbound shorebirds in late Jun and Jul, about two months ahead of the "normal" fall arrivals. Single Short-billed Dowitchers at N.S.C.B. 5 Jun (TR) and P.S.B. 7-13 Jun (SM, DFi) and a Long-billed Dowitcher at Nisqually 10 Jun (BS) defied categorization as to their migration status. A tally of 380 Long-billeds at F.R.R. 10 Jul (JS) reflected the first influx of southbound adults. An apparent southbound migrant Wilson's Snipe was at P.S.B. 20 Jun (SM); migration dates for this species in the Region are poorly understood. Wilson's Phalaropes were once again at P.S.B., recently considered their only w. Washington breeding site, and included an ad. high count of 48 on 7 Jun; at least 10 males guarded nests during Jun (SM). However, breeding was also confirmed at Midway Beach, *Pacific*, with an ad. male performing a "distraction display" flight 16 Jul (BW, TA, RM) followed by 2 downy juvs. noted 30 Jul (ph. G. Thompson). Baskett Slough N.W.R. can be added to the list of W.V. sites, with burgeoning nesting populations of Wilson's; 40 juvs. were counted there 14 Jul (RG). Most surprising was an ad. female Wilson's Phalarope observed 35 km w. of Cape Alava, *Clallam* 17 Jul (CW, BW, RM, P. Hodum); this species had not been previously recorded offshore in Washington. Single Red-necked Phalaropes at Burns 2 Jun (TJ et al.) and Beverly Beach, *Lincoln* 3 Jun (D. Bailey) were the latest northbound birds. The migratory status of lone Red-neckeds at Gleneden Beach, *Lincoln* 18 Jun (DB) and P.S.B. 20 Jun (SM) was less clear, as they would be exceptionally early southbound migrants.

A Parasitic Jaeger was at Partridge Pt., *Island* 27 Jun (SM), and a Pomarine Jaeger was there 11 Jul (SM, RM); jaegers of any species are rare in the P.T. prior to Aug. Up to 4 Franklin's Gulls at Sprague, *Lincoln* were the only ones reported this summer in e. Washington, about half the recent norm (m.ob.). An exceptional count of 7500 Heermann's Gulls came from O.S. 24 Jul (BW). Mew Gulls (mostly imms.) are rare but annual on the westside during summer, and 2 were at Useless Bay, *Island* 7 Jun (SM). A Glaucous Gull at Westport, *Grays Harbor* 25 Jul+ furnished only the 2nd summer record for Washington (BS, S. Mills, B. Labar). The season's only Elegant Terns were 13 at Gold Beach, *Curry* 25 Jul (DMu); despite weak El Niño conditions, no major invasion materialized during the early fall season.

Arctic Terns again nested at Dungeness Spit, *Clallam*, where they were first noted in 2004, with 2 ads. and a chick observed there

10 Jul (GGe). Noteworthy in the P.T. away from Dungeness Spit, one visited Crockett L., *Island* 27 Jun (SM). A Forster's Tern visited Everett 13 Jun (SM, R. Shaw); there are only about eight previous summer records for this species in w. Washington. A presumed northbound Black Tern, rare in the P.T., visited Nisqually 3 Jun (BS). A summer-record 300 Marbled Murrelets congregated near Pt. Wilson, *Jefferson* 21 Jun (GGe). Eight Ancient Murrelets were near Ediz Hook, *Clallam* 1 Jun (D. Wheelan), and one was near Observation Pt., *Clallam* 31 Jul (BW); this species is not annual during summer in the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Also in the Straits, and more surprising, were 2 ads. with 2 chicks near Protection I., *Jefferson* 14-19 Jun (ph. T. Amico). A Tufted Puffin, very rare in the e. Puget Trough, was near Edmonds, *Snohomish* 11 Jul (T. Haas).

Band-tailed Pigeons are rare in e. Washington away from w. *Klickitat*, so singles at Toppenish, *Yakima* 3 Jun (*fide* Denny Granstrand) and at Farmer, *Douglas* 8 Jul (MWi) were noteworthy. A White-winged Dove, first detected at Frenchglen 30 May, remained through 3 Jun (AC), and another was at Florence, *Lane* 7 Jun (WH); most records of this species, now annual in the Region, come during fall. A calling Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in suitable breeding habitat at the Sandy R. mouth, *Multnomah* 22-23 Jul (JW, JGa); the bulk of the Region's record have come from se. Oregon oases during late May and early Jun. A Northern Hawk Owl near Tatoosh Butte, *Okanogan* 17 Jul (ph. V. Glick) continues the recent trend of backcountry sightings during breeding season. Although no young were located, it is likely that this bird bred in the area. A congregation of 98 Common Nighthawks (all ads.) about 19 km n. of Moses L., *Grant* 3 Jul (ph. SM, DS) was likely a seasonal record. It is unknown why so many assembled at one site so early in the season. A Black-chinned Hummingbird, extremely rare for w. Washington, was at Naches Pass, *King* 19 Jul (EH). Four Calliope Hummingbirds were located on the westside, 21 Jun-12 Jul. Though small numbers of Calliopes occur w. of the Cascades in spring, they are still rather rare there during summer, and breeding has yet to be documented. Yet another Acorn Woodpecker wandered e. of the Cascades, where formerly extremely rare; this season's bird inhabited Malheur N.W.R. 1-14 Jun (C. Chutter et al.). Rare at any season w. of the Cascades, a Red-naped Sapsucker was at the County Line Ponds, *Whatcom* (ph. RM, TA, T. Brooks). Almost certainly the result of increased observer scrutiny, an exceptional 3 Red-naped Sapsucker × Red-breasted Sapsucker hybrids were detected in w. Washington lowlands 10 Jun-19 Jul.

PASSERINES

The ongoing range of Least Flycatchers into the Region continued, with no fewer than 11 holding breeding territories in e. Washington 3-21 Jun. In w. Washington, an unprecedented 4 territorial males were detected, including 3 in *King* 10 Jun-19 Jul and one near Oakville, *Grays Harbor* 21-25 Jun (T. Schooley). In Oregon, where Least Flycatchers have summered and bred sporadically, singles were at Fort Klamath, *Klamath* 26 Jun (A. McCallum) and n. of Sisters 3 Jul+ (S. Shunk). Washington's 13th Black Phoebe was near Willapa Bay, *Pacific* 24 Jul (ph. JGi); this species has been expanding its range northward, and most of the records are from sw. Washington. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Northrup Canyon, *Grant* 3 Jul (SM, DS) was 350+ km ne. of the nearest known breeding location. A northbound Ash-throated strayed to Newport 8 Jun (JL); this species is near annual on Oregon's outer coast in early Jun. Aside from expected pairs at the Sandy R. mouth, the only w. Oregon Eastern Kingbird was at Cape Blanco 4 Jul (K. Andersson).

Oregon's first White-eyed Vireo enlivened Fields 9 Jun (AC, ph. GF). This species has rarely occurred n. of cen. California along the West Coast; one at Vashon I., *King* 11 Jul 1981 is the only prior Regional record. A singing Red-eyed Vireo along Balch Cr. in nw. Portland 16 Jun (AH, CH) and another at Freyer Park, near Molalla, *Clackamas* 19 Jun (TJ) were at locations where they have not been detected previously; given the abundance of suitable breeding habitat, there are likely many such pairs in the Willamette Valley. Clark's Nutcrackers inexplicably showed up in several lowland locations where they are rare at any season; these included 2 at Richland, *Benton* (117 m elevation) 2 Jun (*fide* NL), 2 at Trout L., *Klickitat* (580 m) 27 Jun (SJ), and singles at Saddle Mt., *Adams* (823 m) 30 Jun (SDs) and the mouth of Northrup Canyon, *Grant* (550 m) 3 Jul (SM, DS); the latter provided just the 2nd record for *Grant*. Western Scrub-Jays maintained their foothold in e. Washington, evidenced by singles at Ward Gap Rd., *Benton* 1 Jun (MH) and Yakima, *Yakima* 28 Jul (SDs). A wayward Black-billed Magpie near Tacoma 31 Jul (J. Meyer) made w. Washington's 2nd summer record and only the 3rd at any season since 1988; prior to the 1980s, this species was considered a rare but somewhat regular winter visitor to the westside. Over the past decade, Red-breasted Nuthatches have started summering in the Columbia Basin, where formerly absent during the breeding season. They now summer annually at Othello (RH), and this summer, they were also noted from

Moses L. (DS), Wannapum Dam S.P., *Kittitas* (SM), and Sentinel Bluffs, *Grant* (SM). They seem to be expanding their breeding range into the Columbia Basin, mostly at isolated parks and towns with mature trees, especially conifers.

A Barn Swallow × Cliff Swallow hybrid enlivened P.S.B. 13 Jun (†SM, R. Shaw); this cross has only been recorded once previously in the Region. A w. Washington record 300 Bank Swallows inhabited the colony near Concrete, *Whatcom* 9 Jul, providing further evidence of this species' continuing establishment on the westside (TA). A single Bank at New River, *Coos* 10 Jul (KC, DL) was far removed from known breeding colonies. Though Rock Wrens are occasionally found in the nearby Coast Range, one along Beaver Creek Rd. near Seal Rock, *Lincoln* 5 Jul (C. Philo) was out of place on the coastal plain. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Gray Butte, *Jefferson* 17 Jun (K. Owen) was at a site where they were suspected breeding in 2007; the only other county record came from nearby Haystack Res. in Jun 1992. A Veery was at their only westside breeding location near County Line Ponds, *Whatcom* 18-25 Jun (GB). Another Olive-backed Swainson's Thrush (subspecies group *swainsoni*) was at Rainy Pass, *Skagit* 23 Jul (TA); the breeding range of Olive-backed in Washington was previously thought to be limited to ne. highlands plus the Blue Mts. in Oregon, with all breeders on both slopes of the Cascade Mts. considered to be Russet-backed Swainson's Thrushes (subspecies group *ustulatus*). Recent study has revealed that *swainsoni* breed extensively on the e. slope of the Washington Cascades and w. of the Cascades in British Columbia, so one would assume that small numbers breed w. of the Cascades in Washington as well. A tally of 52 Hermit Thrushes along 4 km of trail between Union Gap and L. Janus, *Snohomish* 18 Jul set a Washington summer high count and displayed the amazing breeding density these birds can reach in Washington's Cascades (SM, DFi). A Gray Catbird, extremely rare in w. Washington, was near Snoqualmie, *King* 14-17 Jun (TB); the only previous *King* record was in 1931! In Oregon, 3 catbirds were away from traditional sites; a migrant lingered at Malheur 1-11 Jun (AC et al.), and another likely migrant visited Pine Grove, *Wasco* 2 Jun (W. Gross, J. Fitch, A. Frank). Another was along the Little Deschutes R. near Gilchrist, *Klamath* 18 Jun (KS); Gray Catbirds have now appeared in nw. *Klamath* and sw. *Deschutes* for several consecutive breeding seasons, which suggests the establishment of a small and localized nesting population in the upper *Deschutes* R.

watershed. Five Northern Mockingbirds in Oregon was about the seasonal norm; all 3 westside birds were in *Lincoln* 1-11 Jun, and both eastside birds were in *Klamath* 2-3 Jun. The only mockingbirds in Washington, which averages about 2 per summer, were on the eastside at Sacajawea S.P., *Benton* 7 Jun (L. Ness) and n. of Ephrata, *Grant* 14 Jun (R. & C. Youel). A very tardy American Pipit was near Silverdale, *Kitsap* 1 Jun (BW, M. Breece); there are very few lowland records for this species in w. Washington during summer. A *Phainopepla*, only Washington's 2nd if accepted by the Washington B.R.C., was at Mill Creek, *Snohomish* 31 Jul and 5 Aug (†N. Johnson); Washington's previous record came from Seattle in Sep 1994.

A Townsend's Warbler × Hermit Warbler near L. Janus 18 Jul provided *Snohomish*'s first record of this hybrid (SM, DFi); *Snohomish* remains without a record of a pure Hermit Warbler. A Hermit Warbler at Mt. Vernon, *Grant* 17 Jun (T. Winters) was nearly 200 km e. of the species' normal breeding range in the Cascades. Oregon's 7th Yellow-throated Warbler sang persistently as it moved quickly through Netarts, *Tillamook* 2 Jun (†D. Vander Pluym, †L. Harter). The season's Black-and-white Warbler brightened Bullard's Beach S.P. 24 Jun (†JW). American Redstarts were again noted at their isolated well-established colony at County Line Ponds, *Whatcom*, with a maximum of 8 ads. there 25 Jun (RM, TA, TB). Two ad. males and one ad. female were found 12 Jun near Carnation, *King* (C. Anderson), and later observations from there through 26 Jul established *King*'s first breeding record (EH). An Ovenbird at Cold Springs Campground w. of Sisters, *Deschutes* 26 Jul (H. Horvath) may have summered locally; there are few records outside of the traditional late May-early Jun window in which most of the Region's records have fallen. A singing male Hooded Warbler in a sw. Portland yard 7 Jul (†T. Love) was most unexpected; the majority of Oregon's 11 antecedent records have come from vagrant traps during spring and fall migration. Breeding Yellow-breasted Chats have increased in w. Washington over the past five years, but this summer, only 3 territorial males were noted 3-22 Jun.

A subad. male Summer Tanager at Malheur headquarters 2 Jun (GF, TR) was followed up by a female 56 km to the s. at Page Springs Campground 6 Jun (J. Spencer); more than half of Oregon's 17 prior records have come May-Jun. Clay-colored Sparrows reports continue to increase in n.-cen. and ne. Washington, with 10 birds on breeding territory noted from 6 Jun-5 Jul, nearly double the ten-year average. The lone extralimital Lark Sparrow of

the season was at the Siltcoos R. mouth, *Lane* 10 Jun (DF); this species is a rare but annual spring stray on the s. Oregon coast, but much rarer this far north. A single Black-throated Sparrow was at Steptoe Butte, *Whitman* 14 Jun (Terry Gray), and another male was near Vantage 16-27 Jun (GG) (MH); the Vantage site is Washington's most reliable site for this species, whereas Black-throateds are a recent addition to the avifauna of Steptoe Butte. Similarly, a Black-throated at Painted Hills S.P., *Wheeler* 20 Jun (JGe) marks at least the 3rd consecutive year that they have appeared at this locale. Western Washington's 6th Grasshopper Sparrow, and 2nd for summer, was at Ridgefield 9 Jun (BF). A late northbound Golden-crowned Sparrow was in Seattle 4 Jun (*fide* CW), while another near Lorane, *Lane* 17 Jun (DI) may have been summering; most Golden-crowned depart the Region by mid-May. A Snow Bunting at Dunes Overlook, *Douglas* 6 Jun (R. Namitz) appears to be a summer season first for the Region; on the westside, this species is usually gone by mid-Apr, and there are few May records.

Nine Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 1-23 Jun was a typical showing. A Lazuli Bunting at Cascade Head, *Tillamook* 7 Jul (PP) may have been summering; a few migrants are detected at this site most springs, but they are otherwise rare on Oregon's n. coast. Indigo Buntings again showed exceptionally, matching the 6 found during summer 2008; historically, the Region has averaged one or 2 per summer. Half of these birds remained or were initially detected during Jul, suggesting that they summered; Indigo Bunting × Lazuli Bunting hybrids, reported each of the past two summers near Eugene, went undetected this season. The Umpqua Valley's lone Tricolored Blackbird outpost persists at Sutherlin, where 8 birds were present 2 Jun (JH). After several years of suspected breeding in the general vicinity, Yellow-headed Blackbirds finally bred at P.S.B. (SM, TA); there are only a few known active nesting locations in w. Washington, none of which are in *Snohomish*. The Great-tailed Grackle at Liberty L., *Spokane* continued from the spring period and was last reported 8 Jun (Ron Dexter); all 5 in Oregon were w. of the Cascades. Washington's 6th Baltimore Oriole was at Richland, *Benton* 21 Jul (†Patricia Rutherford); this species remains surprisingly rare in that state, considering they appear annually in Oregon. Cassin's Finches, rare on the w. slope of the Cascades, included one near Mt. Hardy, *Skagit* 12 Jul (GB, H. Armstrong), 6 at Naches Pass, *King* 19 Jul (EH), and 3 at Mt. Hardy 29 Jul (TA). The lone White-winged Crossbills of the season were at Waldo L., *Lane* 20

& 22 Jul (R. Maertz). Numbers of Evening Grosbeaks in the W.V. and in Oregon's Coast Range were far above the norm throughout the season (m.ob.).

Observers (subregional and eBird compilers in boldface): Tom Aversa (Washington), Gary Bletsch, Justin Bosler, Tayler Brooks, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder (*Spokane*), Scott Downes, Daniel Farrar, Debbie Fischer, Bob Flores, Graham Floyd, John Gatchet, Chuck Gates (*Crook*), Joel Geier, George Gerds, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson (Washington, *The Bird Guide Pelag-*

ics), Denny Granstrand (*Yakima*), Jim Hein, Hendrik Herlyn, Randy Hill, Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, Michael, Hobbs, Wayne Hoffman, Eugene Hunn, Tim Janzen, Stuart Johnston (*Hood River, Klickitat*), Bill LaFramboise (Lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise (Lower Columbia Basin), Janet Lamberson, Dave Lauten, Ryan Merrill, Craig & Marilyn Miller (*Deschutes, Jefferson*), Steve Mlodinow, Don Munson, Harry Nehls (Oregon), Mike Patterson (*Clatsop*), Tim Roderkirk (*Coos, Curry*), Owen Schmidt, Bill Shelmerdine, Doug Schonewald, Kevin Spencer (*Klamath*), W. Douglas Robinson

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In late May, coastal weather patterns changed from strong northwesterly winds to calm and warm conditions that persisted for several weeks. As a result, upwelling subsided, and the sea surface temperature increased to 14.8° C. The resulting effect on productivity and fish populations caused food shortages that contributed to very low reproductive success for many seabirds. While these El Niño conditions adversely affected some of our local breeders, they provided an unprecedented opportunity for birders to see large numbers of Cook's Petrels in the Region. A single Stejneger's Petrel was reported among one of the flocks of Cook's Petrels. Onshore weather drew little comment, generally being described as cool and mild. The

only other boldfaced species found this season were an Arctic Loon and the long-staying Common Black-Hawk.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.R.P. (Cosumnes River Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.V. (Central Valley); Fl. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., *Alameda*); PRBO (PRBO Conservation Science); 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 Fl. should be credited to PRBO Conservation Science and those banded at Big Sur R. mouth to the Ventana Wildlife Society.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CORMORANTS

A tally of 85 Brant at the s. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 1 Jul (KBu) was high for summer; up to 5 at H.R.S. 23 Jun–8 Jul (RJR et al.) were unexpected so far inside S.F. Bay. Twelve ad. Redheads near Mendota 8 Jun (ph. GaW) included a female with 4 ducklings, a rare breeding confirmation for *Fresno*. A pair of Ring-necked Ducks at Searsville L. 25 Jul+ (RSTh, Leonie Batkin) provided the 3rd summer record for *San Mateo*. Lesser Scaup bred again at H.R.S., with two broods detected 11–23 Jul (RJR). Summering Harlequin Ducks included males on Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 27 Jun (MWa), at Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* 16 Jun–13 Jul (B. Bernard, ph. PP), and the Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* bird 1 Jun+ (RSTh, George Chrisman, Leonie Batkin), finishing its 7th year there. Only a single Long-tailed Duck was

noted past 4 Jun, one at King Salmon, *Humboldt* through 29 Jul (MWa). A male Black Scoter was also present there 24 Jun–29 Jul (MWa). A vocal ad. female Bufflehead at a pond s. of Tenaya L. in Yosemite N.P., *Mariposa* 16 Jun (KER) was suggestive of breeding. Two Common Goldeneyes at the Stanly Ranch wetlands s. of Napa, *Napa* 12–31 Jul (MBe) were very unseasonable but appeared healthy. Hooded Mergansers summered again at Steamboat L., *Siskiyou* (2 birds; RE), which suggests the possibility of local breeding. Common Mergansers at L. Solano were confirmed using next boxes in *Solano* 9 Jun (MFri).

In *Sonoma*, an Arctic Loon at the Sea Ranch 14 Jun (ph. †TEa) would provide the 6th Regional record (p.a.), and a Yellow-billed Loon at Bodega Harbor 26 Jun–3 Aug (ph. Ruth Tonascia, RoM, m.ob.) was the Region's 6th in summer. Providing a first summer record away from the ocean for *San Mateo*, a Pacific Loon was at Coyote Pt. 29 Jul–5 Aug (RSTh, Leonie Batkin). The lone Red-necked Grebe report was of an alternate-plumaged bird in Bodega Harbor, *Sonoma* 27 Jul (RS, m.ob.). Western and Clark's Grebes summered in unusually high numbers along the *Santa Cruz* coastline, with a high count of 11,125 (803 Western, 137 Clark's, the rest unidentified) 29 Jul (DLSu); for the 2nd consecutive year, none nested at Clear L., *Lake* (JRW). A banded imm. Short-tailed Albatross on Monterey Bay 30 Jul (ph. Lisa Etherington) provided *Santa Cruz's* first record. Warm water accompanying El Niño conditions brought unprecedented numbers of Cook's Petrels to nearshore *Monterey* waters in late Jul. A single individual just 9 km w. of Ragged Pt. 30 Jul (MFo) was unusually close to shore. The next day, Force's seabird survey recorded 179,

mostly 46-65 km sw. of Cypress Pt. over water deeper than 1100 fathoms, and a pelagic trip recorded 138 on Monterey Bay (ShJ). A Stejneger's Petrel reported within a flock of Cook's sw. of Cypress Pt. 31 Jul (MFO) would provide only the 4th Regional record (p.a.).

A juv. Brown Pelican n. of Elk Grove 6 Jul (KMz) was unusually far inland and provided Sacramento's 3rd record. Numbers on F.I. peaked at 2739 on 6 Jun before dwindling to fewer than 100 in late Jun and Jul (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). Two American White Pelicans were in Humboldt, where rare, at Humboldt Bay N.W.R. 1-14 Jun (JCP, DFX, m.ob.). After widespread breeding failures in spring, Brandt's Cormorants re-nested successfully at several coastal locations, albeit in lower numbers than usual; 3000 along the Santa Cruz shoreline 29 Jul consisted mostly of loafing (rather than re-nesting) birds (DLSu). In contrast, re-nesting attempts were unsuccessful at F.I., where the species suffered complete reproductive failure (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). The spring "invasion" of Brandt's Cormorants into Santa Clara tapered off, with singles lingering at Shoreline L. through 16 Jun (MDo, m.ob.) and at Lexington Res. through 17 Jun (SCR); in Alameda, singles were at H.R.S. 23 & 30 Jun (RJR). The new Double-crested Cormorant colony at Moonglow Dairy, Monterey was successful, with 60 young counted among 27 nests 1 Aug (RF, DR, RC, m.ob.).

HERONS THROUGH CRANES

An American Bittern in flight over an Alviso salt pond 28 Jul (JAC, ph. Charlie Moores) made the first Jul record for Santa Clara and was away from known breeding locations, all of which are inland, far from S.F. Bay. A Least Bittern n. of Lincoln 13 Jun (†PRO) was Placer's 3rd. Up to 4 ads. at Rodman Slough, Lake 17 Jun-13 Jul (GEC, JRW et al.) were in the same locations as last fall's breeding birds. Two ad. Little Blue Herons were found: one, perhaps returning from last year, along Alameda Cr. in Fremont, Alameda 11 Jul-9 Aug (ph. David Leahy, m.ob.) and San Mateo's 6th at the Gazos Cr. mouth 19 Jul (RSTh, Leonie Batkin, ph. GJS). A few Cattle Egrets lingered coastally, including one at Redwood Shores, San Mateo 1 Jun (RSTh); one through 6 Jun at Palo Alto Baylands, Santa Clara (Lois Goldfrank et al., ph. MMR); 2 at Salinas River S.B., Monterey 27 Jun (RJA) and another at Moonglow Dairy, Monterey the same day (D. & J. Styer, L. & C. Rose); and Santa Cruz's 3rd summer record at Watsonville Slough 9 Jul (JHW). A Green Heron at Manzanita L. 10 Jul (BiO, Larry Jordan, Don Marsh et al.) was apparently only the 3rd for Lassen Volcanic N.P., Shasta.

Coastal White-faced Ibis included singles at Ukiah S.T.P., Mendocino 11-12 Jun (CEV, JSL) and 1 Jul (Steve Stump); up to 10 near Watsonville 29 Jun-9 Jul (new Santa Cruz record summer count of 10 on 1 Jul; CKf, AMR et al.); and birds in Mountain View, Santa Clara 23 Jun (4 birds; Sidd Ramachandramurthi) and 5-8 Jul (one bird; Jean Palmeter, Nancy Kenyon et al.).

A young Osprey in a nest below L. Kaweah Dam 9 Jul (JLt) may constitute only the 2nd nesting record for Tulare. Bald Eagles fledged at least one young from the same site at Kent L., Marin used in 2008 (JGE). Successful breeding was also confirmed again in Napa and Santa Clara. Sonoma's Common Black-Hawk was seen again in the Laguna de Santa Rosa area 25 Jul (Stan Moore). Two pairs of Swainson's Hawks apparently nested in se. Napa, with young birds detected at two locations 8 Jul (Eric Lichtwardt); 2 were found farther w. in Sonoma in the Napa Sonoma Marsh 14 Jul (MBe). An ad. Ferruginous Hawk e. of Ft. Bidwell, Modoc 7 Jun (SCR) followed on the heels of last season's May report from the same area. Del Norte's Crested Caracara continued near Ft. Dick 1 Jun+ (Paul O'Connor, ADB, JEH, GJH). Nesting Peregrine Falcons included the first to breed on F.I. since 1933 (PRBO).

A Yellow Rail was detected 13 Jul (DEQ) at the location near the city of Mt. Shasta, Shasta where the species was reported 2002-2005. Two Black Rails in the Napa R. floodplain, Napa 4 Jul (MBe) indicate colonization of this site, which was converted from pastureland 10 years ago. Santa Clara's 2nd Virginia Rail breeding confirmation came in the form of a downy chick accompanied by a vocal ad. in wetlands near Carnadero Cr. and the Pajaro R. 27 Jun (SCR). The pair of Common Moorhens found last season in Ukiah was seen with 2 young 1-19 Jun (GEC, KHv), providing Mendocino's first breeding record. On the heels of a report last May, San Joaquin's first Jun Sandhill Crane record came in the form of 7 birds near Lodi 6 Jun (Donald Gill).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Returning ad. Pacific Golden-Plovers at H.R.S. 21 Jul (RJR) and Coyote Pt., San Mateo 30 Jul (RSTh) were fall migrants at an expected time of year; an unidentified golden-plover at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt 5 Jun (DFX) was much less expected. Single Black Oystercatchers 18



This Hudsonian Godwit (the right bird) south of Corcoran 10 June 2009 provided the first record for Kings County, California and only the second June record for the state. Photograph by Jeff Seay.

& 30 Jun provided the first Jun reports for H.R.S.; 2 were there 30 Jul (all RJR). Two Black-necked Stilts nw. of Nice 16 Jun (DvW) provided only the 2nd summer record for Lake. A Solitary Sandpiper at the Madera S.T.P. 1 Jun (†KPa) was the first summer record for Madera and one of few Jun records for the Region; the only other report this season was from the Napa S.T.P. on the more expected date of 31 Jul (MBe, BDP). Inland Willets away from traditional breeding sites included one on territory in the Carson R. Valley 5 Jun (one of few ever found in Alpine; TEa, JCS, FO), one at the Upper Truckee Marsh, El Dorado 4 Jul (CCo, KLL), and an early migrant at the Madera S.T.P., Madera 19 Jul (PFa). Early fall migrant Lesser Yellowlegs were seen at the Madera S.T.P., Madera 19 Jun (JSy, GaW) and in Alviso, Santa Clara 23 Jun (RWR, FV). King's first Hudsonian Godwit was s. of Corcoran 10-18 Jun (ph., †JSy; RH, SDS, John Silvas), providing the 2nd record for the C.V., the first Jun record for the Region, and only the 2nd Jun record for California. A Bar-tailed Godwit was at Humboldt Bay, Humboldt in the early date of 1 Jul (p.a.; †Leslie Tucci). Inland Ruddy Turnstones were found in Kings 3 km n. of Stratford 23 Jul (JSy) and w. of Corcoran 25-26 Jul (Mark Stacey).

A molting ad. Sanderling at Clear Lake S.P. 27-31 Jul (DvW, JRW) marked the first Jul record for Lake. Thirteen Semipalmated Sandpipers in nine counties 3 Jul+ included 3 early ads. at Goose L., Modoc 3 Jul (SCR) and an early juv. on Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 13 Jul (Leslie Tucci, Stephanie Schneider). A Western Sandpiper in Alviso, Santa Clara 1 Jun (MJM) was thought to be summering, whereas 2 in Eureka, Humboldt 18 Jun (TWL) were the first fall migrants. Five Baird's Sandpipers in three counties 12-18 Jul included an early juv. at the Salinas W.T.P., Monterey 17-18 Jul (TAM et al.). Three of the 4 Pectoral Sandpipers reported were at the Marysville W.T.P.,



Making the first breeding record for Fresno County, California, these Forster's Terns were among a small colony at a groundwater recharge facility in central Fresno 16 July 2009. Photograph by Gary Woods.

Yuba (JLa). Up to 3 Dunlins summered at H.R.S. (RJR). The only Stilt Sandpiper reported was 3 km n. of Stratford, Kings 23-26 Jul (JSy); the only Ruff was in Alviso, Santa Clara 26 Jul (DvWb). Unseasonable Wilson's Snipe were at C.R.P. 21 Jun (CCo, KLL, John Schick) and 11 Jul (JTr et al.); one at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt 30 Jul (ScC) was an early returning bird. A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes with 2 young at the Jepson Prairie Preserve, Solano 12 Jun (RLCL, Lillian Fujii, Steve Hayashi) marked the 2nd breeding occurrence there in five years.

A first-cycle Little Gull at the S. Truckee R. mouth in S. Lake Tahoe 5 Jun (†JCS, TEa) would be *El Dorado's* first and only the 4th summer record for the Region (p.a.). Franklin's Gull counts at Goose L., Modoc included 22 on 8 Jun and 32 on 19 Jul (SCR); elsewhere, 5 s. of Corcoran, Kings 3 Jun dwindled to one on 18 Jun (JSy); 7 were at Shasta Valley W.A., Siskiyou 2 Jun (RE); and one was at the Davis W.T.P., Yolo 29-31 Jul (TEa, ph. CCo). Summering Mew Gulls are extremely rare anywhere in the Region, so a second-cycle bird at Goose L., Modoc 19 Jul (ph. SCR), almost certainly the same bird seen there in May, was unexpected. California Gulls, predominantly subads., were in unusually high numbers in Santa Cruz throughout the period, with a high count of 2200 seen flying northward at Seacliff S.B. 5 Jul (DLSu). Perhaps associated with this phenomenon, an ad. on a nest within a Western Gull colony in Capitola 9 Jun (PCp, LHe, JND) provided the first nesting record for Santa Cruz. The California Gull population at Mono L., Mono numbered 23,766 nests, an increase of 29% over 2008 numbers and the highest since

2004 (KNN). Nesting was again attempted at the Fl. colony established last year, with high counts of 718 individuals and 95 nests (including some with eggs and chicks) on 10 Jun, but the number of active nests dwindled to three by 8 Jul, and apparently none were successful (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). Similarly, Western Gulls on Fl. experienced their lowest productivity in 40+ years of monitoring, due in large part to a high rate of chick predation by ad. conspecifics (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley).

After last year's failed attempt, the pair of Least Terns at the Sacramento Regional W.T.P. in Sacramento nested successfully (CCo, m.ob.). They were first seen 29 May and had 3 chicks 25 Jun, 2 of which fledged 13 Jul. The family group was last seen 7 Aug, foraging on ponds surrounding the W.T.P. At the traditional nesting area e. of Kettleman City, Kings, a pair present 3 Jun-16 Jul fledged one young (JSy). A Least Tern at the Madera S.T.P. 6 Jun (ph. GaW, Pfa, LyH), which provided a 3rd Madera record, was thought to be different from the May bird at that location. Rare in the S.F. Bay area in summer, Black Terns in former salt ponds in Santa Clara included a basic-plumaged bird 6 Jun (WGB) and one or more alternate-plumaged birds 8 Jun-15 Jul (GrH, m.ob.). Ad. Forster's Terns seen carrying fish in early Jul led to speculation that nesting was occurring at a groundwater recharge complex at Leaky Acres in cen. Fresno (JND, JSy); a visit on 16 Jul found 52 ads. and 30 juvs. (ph. GaW), confirming the first Fresno breeding record. Three Common Terns at Goose L. 8 Jun (SCR) provided the first Jun record for Modoc. Even more unusual inland was an Arctic Tern at the S. Truckee R. mouth in S. Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado* 5 Jun (ph. JCS, TEa). Elegant Tern numbers in Santa Cruz were the lowest in decades (DLSu); one at H.R.S. 23 Jun (RJR) was only the 2nd Jun record for that location. Black Skimmers nested in San Mateo at Menlo Park and Redwood Shores and in Santa Clara at Alviso and Mountain View.

The first South Polar Skuas of the fall and 115 Long-tailed Jaegers were on Monterey Bay, Monterey 31 Jul (ShJ). A subad. Long-tailed chased a fisherman's fly on L. Almanor

28 Jul (Dick Fording), providing a rare *Plumas* record. A Thick-billed Murre at the Sea Ranch 14 Jun (ph. †TEa) was an overdue first for Sonoma. Common Murre productivity at Fl. and other cen. California locations was very low, owing both to low anchovy populations and to high Western Gull predation (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). Single Common Murres were at four locations inside s. S.F. Bay, where unusual, in San Mateo, Alameda, and Santa Clara 6-9 Jun. An alternate-plumaged Long-billed Murrelet 1 km w. of the Eel R. mouth 31 Jul (EE, Brian O'Donnell, MMo) continued Humboldt's recent string of records. Suddjian's surveys of long-term monitoring stations in Big Basin Redwoods S.P., Santa Cruz revealed all-time low activity of Marbled Murrelets, and the species was generally scarce along the Santa Cruz coastline as well. In San Mateo, murrelet activity was again noted in the Upper Pilarcitos Cr. watershed, with a high of 18 detections 22 Jul (Seth Bunnell), and 53 were at Año Nuevo S.R. 31 Jul (GJS). Marbled Murrelets were reported to be in low numbers on Humboldt Bay (MWA). In contrast to most seabirds, Cassin's Auklets experienced high reproductive success on Fl. (Pete Warzybok, Russ Bradley). Santa Cruz's 2nd Parakeet Auklet was found dead at Manresa S.B. 2 May (Judy Garrison, ph. Hannah Nevins). Single Horned Puffins were at Waddell Bluffs, in both Santa Cruz and San Mateo waters, 9 Jun (DLSu) and at the Sea Ranch, Sonoma 14 Jun (ph. TEa).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

A White-winged Dove n. of Lincoln 4-5 Jul (ph. PRo, BWb) was the first for Placer. Yellow-billed Cuckoos included Santa Cruz's first since 1996 at Santa Cruz 14-23 Jun (Melani Clark, Rob Moeller) and one of few for Mono at Lower Mill Cr. 9 Jul (SaH); a bird that hit a window and was taken to a rehabilitation center in Shingle Springs 28 Jun (Bill Wade, ph. SAbb) was the 2nd for *El Dorado*. As many as 10 Burrowing Owls w. of Corning 6-9 Jul (FrO, JRow, Liz West, Jlx, KPa) was an impressive showing for Tehama, where the species had gone undetected for the past three years. A Long-eared Owl sw. of Lakeport 12 Jun (CEV) provided the first summer record for Lake. Northern Saw-whet Owls are not known to breed in or near Moss Landing, Monterey, so one in a residential yard 3 Jul (Rebecca Dmytryk) was especially surprising. A Common Nighthawk at Lakeport 15 Jul (DvW) rendered the 3rd record for Lake. The Whippoorwill at Willow Creek, Humboldt remained at least until 21 Jun (EE, MMo, Lucy Rowe).

Supplying Santa Cruz's 4th record for spring migration, a Chimney Swift sailed with

swallows over Rancho Del Oso S.P. 8 Jun (OsJ, Adam Searcy, Amy Patten). Calliope Hummingbirds generally migrate s. through the mountains, so one that hit a window in South Natomas, *Sacramento* 31 Jul (DaW) was at an unexpected lowland locality. Coincidentally, 3 Calliopes were found dead at the same location in spring. A probable breeding pair of Lewis's Woodpeckers at June L., *Mono* 20-22 Jun (KNN, m.ob.) was in a woodland that burned two years ago. This burned area also hosted 5+ Black-backed Woodpeckers, including at least one nesting pair 20 Jun-late Jul (KNN, m.ob.). Approximately 40 Pileated Woodpeckers detected at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 14-18 Jun (DLSu) illustrate the large number present in the E. Waddell Cr. watershed.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher pair feeding 2 fledglings 24 Jul (DR) provided the first nesting record for Pacific Grove, *Monterey*. Likewise, fledglings photographed at Del Monte Forest 18 Jul (BLS) furnished the first nesting record for Pebble Beach, *Monterey*. An exceptionally large fallout of approximately 200 Western Wood-Pewees descended on Oasis Ranch, *Mono* 6 Jun (KNN). *Alpine's* first Least Flycatcher continued at Carson R. through at least 4 Jul (TEa, JCS, CCo). A Dusky Flycatcher spent its 4th summer at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz*, remaining at least through 15 Jul (DLSu, Brent Thordarson, Jeff Bleam). An ad. Pacific-slope Flycatcher fed one of 2 attendant fledglings at C.R.P. 15 Jul (JTr); this site continues to be the only regular nesting locality for this species in the C.V. A pair of Black Phoebes at Bob's Creek Ranch 1 Jun+ (KAb) supplied the 2nd nesting record for *Lassen*; the first was from the same site in 2008. Ad. Say's Phoebes feeding 4 nestlings at Eastern Swett Ranch 18 Jun (MBe) represented a rare breeding record for *Solano*. A begging juv. following an ad. Eastern Kingbird at Modoc N.W.R. 18 Jul (SCR) supplied the first nesting record for *Modoc*; a bird sitting on a nest at Blue L. 28 Jun (DSg) furnished the 2nd nesting record for *Lassen*. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included a spring holdover on FI. through 6 Jun (PRBO), *Santa Clara's* 2nd at Mountain View 6 Jun (ph. WGB), and *El Dorado's* first at S. Lake Tahoe 30 Jun (ph. Don Harriman, *vide* WRi).

A well-documented White-eyed Vireo was at outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 6 Jun (vt., †SBT; ph. LTer, DDeS, RS, vt. CLu & LLu, Hugh B. Harvey, m.ob.). A brightly plumaged Bell's Vireo on FI. 4 Jun (ph. PRBO) was believed to be of the Arizona subspecies. The Yellow-throated Vireo at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* continued until at least 18 Jun (MiT, Mike Stake). Three Plumbeous Vireos detected on a B.B.S.

route from Antelope L. to Squaw L. 2 Jun (CPD) were thought to represent the first records for *Plumas*. Warbling Vireos breeding in the Mono Basin, *Mono* generally are restricted to higher elevation aspen groves. Yet this year, many pairs nested in lower elevation cottonwoods (CMc, KNN). Six Red-eyed Vireos included *Modoc's* 2nd at New Pine Cr. 19 Jul (SCR) and *Yolo's* 2nd in Davis 18 Jul+ (Chris Dunford, TEa, SHa, JCS, m.ob.).

Five American Crows at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* over four separate days (DLSu) were the first summer records for this heavily forested park in the Santa Cruz Mts. Large gatherings of Common Ravens, thought to consist mainly of non-breeding imms., have been reported with increasing frequency in the Region. Gangs of 162 s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 24 Jun (JND) and 127 at Swanton, *Santa Cruz* 4 Jul (DLSu) are emblematic. Purple Martins entered cavities in snags near Loma Prieta, *Santa Clara* 6 Jun-29 Jul (RWR, FV, MMR, JM, DvWb, WGB, DLSu, m.ob.), suggesting probable breeding in an area where the species has not been observed in more than five years. A Red-breasted Nuthatch at C.R.P. 12 Jul (JTr) provided a rare summer record for the C.V. A juv. and ad. Townsend's Solitaire at Estel Ridge 11-12 Jul (GEC, CEV, m.ob.) yielded the first breeding evidence for *Mendocino*. Two Swainson's Thrushes counter-singing at lower Rush Cr., *Mono* 17 Jun-4 Jul (CMc) sustained hope for future breeding at this restored riparian site.

THRASHERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Brown Thrasher near Bayside, *Humboldt* 23 Jul+ (Brian Hahns) might have been the same bird that spent much of the winter and spring in Arcata. Three American Pipits at Cascade L., *Mono* 10 Jul (PJM, FrT), plus 2 ads. with a fledgling in the Desolation Wilderness Area, *El Dorado* 22 Jul (Malcolm Sproul), are notable, as there are relatively few breeding records for the Region. Our only Tennessee Warbler was at Mono Lake C.P. 20-24 Jun (PJM, m.ob.), just one of the birds that produced an outstanding vagrant season for *Mono*. Seventeen Northern Parulas included 3 in *Mono*, *Solano's* 2nd in Vacaville 17 Jun (David Bell), and *Yolo's* 5th in Davis 29 Jul+ (SHa, TEa, JCS+). Three of the Region's 7 Chestnut-sided Warblers were in *Mono*, *Nevada's* first was near Sagehen Cr. 15 Jun (ph.



This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Mountain View, California 6 June 2009 established the second record for Santa Clara County. Photograph by William G. Bousman.

Scott Crosbie), and *Sutter's* 2nd was at the Sutter Bypass 25 Jun (†RDiG). A Magnolia Warbler was on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 1 Jun (KBu). A Magnolia on FI. 1-4 Jun (PRBO) was a holdover from spring. Our only Blackburnian Warbler was a singing male along Rush Cr., *Mono* 1 Jul (CMc). Single Blackpoll Warblers were on FI. 8 Jun (PRBO) and in Eureka, *Humboldt* 18 Jun (TWL). *Mono* recorded 4 of our 6 Black-and-white Warblers (at three locations; 21 Jun-29 Jul). A singing Black-and-white along Jess Valley Rd. 2 Jun (SAbb, BWb) was *Modoc's* 2nd. Among 15 American Redstarts were a singing male and ad. female at the Ft. Bragg Botanical Gardens, *Mendocino* 17 Jul (CEV, BD, CWH, GeH) and *Madera's* 2nd near Borden 9 Jun (ph. GaW, JND). A singing Ovenbird in Sacramento 1-8 Jun (Jim Weigand, JLx, JSL, vt. CCo, m.ob.) was *Sacramento's* 3rd. Ovenbirds were also on FI. 1-7 Jun (PRBO), in Butano S.P., *San Mateo* 9-12 Jun (DLSu), and along Lee Vining Cr., *Mono* 22 Jun (CMc, Lenny Warren). A Northern Waterthrush was singing at Dry Lagoon, *Humboldt* 21 Jun (KI). To top off *Mono's* remarkable warbler summer, a Kentucky Warbler was singing along Rush Cr. 21-22 Jun (ph. CMc, Lenny Warren, RS, JuH, KNN). Eight Hooded Warblers were reported and, yes, one was in *Mono* at Wildrose Canyon, 11 Jul+ (PJM, FrT, m.ob.).

Eight Summer Tanagers included *Tulare's* first in Sequoia N.P. 7 Jun (SDS, Priscilla Summers). A Sooty Fox Sparrow was in Portola Valley, *San Mateo* 26 Jul (†G. Chrisman, H. Higley), and a Golden-crowned Sparrow was on Mt. Davidson, S.F. 11 Jul+ (DMo); these taxa are rarely observed in summer in our Region. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were again well represented (39 individuals from 12 counties). A total of 22 Indigo Buntings was more than twice our summer average and included *Tuolumne's* first along Cherry Hill Rd. 18 Jun-3 Jul (Bob Brandriff, m.ob.). A

Bobolink was at the Eel R. Delta, *Humboldt* 8 Jul (KMS), and up to 5 were near Eagleville, *Modoc* 7-26 Jun (SCR, m.ob.). Great-tailed Grackle breeding was confirmed in two more counties: in Quincy, *Plumas* 14 May–22 Jun (Scott & Amber Edwards, CPD, m.ob.) and at the s. end of L. Tahoe, *El Dorado* 4-24 Jul (CCo, KLL, WRi). Male Orchard Orioles were at the Big Sur R. mouth 1-7 Jun (OsJ, RF) and near Gazos Cr., *San Mateo* 30 Jun (DLSu).

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Southern California



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Highlights during the typically dry and climatically uneventful summer period included an unprecedented movement of Cook's Petrels into waters closer than normal to the coast, two pairs of nesting Northern Goshawks in the mountains of Santa Barbara County and Kern County, and a singing Yellow-green Vireo, the first to summer in the Region, in coastal San Diego.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); P.M.N.A.S. (Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, *Ventura*); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.F.B., ne. *Los Angeles*); 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 Joaquin Wildlife Area near Lakeview, *Riverside*). 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 B.R.C. review list (see <www.californiabirds.org>) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Two exotic Mandarin Ducks at S.E.S.S. 16 Jul (DRW) were the first to be seen in that part of the Region. Two male Harlequin Ducks summered in *San Luis Obispo*, with one at Estero Bluffs S.P. 7 Jun–31 Jul (RA) and the other at

Morro Bay Harbor 17 Jun–31 Jul (MLS). A Surf Scoter remained at N.E.S.S. through 9 Jun (CMcG), and another at S.E.S.S. 24 Jul (GMcC) had probably been present undetected since May. A Long-tailed Duck at P.M.N.A.S. 14 Jun (DaP) was evidently attempting to summer locally. A late migrant Pacific Loon was at N.E.S.S. 7 Jun (HBK), and another remained on L. Havasu, *San Bernardino* through the summer (PEL). Six Common Loons on Big Bear L. 28 Jun (HBK), up to 3 at N.E.S.S. 5-18 Jul (CMcG) and 3 at S.E.S.S. 3-24 Jul (GMcC) were attempting to summer locally.

A Black-footed Albatross at La Jolla 14 Jun (PEL) and another at Dana Pt., *Orange* 21 Jun (RMcN) were two of very few ever reported seen from shore in s. California. The highlight of a 25 Jul pelagic trip out of Santa Barbara was a count of 136 Cook's Petrels along the Patton Escarpment s. to a point about 129 km w.-sw. of San Nicolas I., with the closest to shore being 33 km sw. of San Miguel I. and 83 km w. of San Nicolas I. (TMcG). A raft of 2000 Black Storm-Petrels at the Nine Mile Bank off San Diego 12 Jun (DWP) made an



Northern Goshawks successfully fledged young in July 2009 from nests in the mountains of Santa Barbara County and the Kern County portion of Mount Pinos, with fledged young photographed at the Santa Barbara County site on 18 July (left) and at the Kern County site on 24 July. Photographs by Thomas A. Blackman (left) and Bill Schmoker.

impressive sight. A Red-billed Tropicbird was far from shore 129 km w.-sw. of San Nicolas I. 25 Jul (TMcG). Brown Boobies continue to forage northward from the Los Coronados Is. into the waters off San Diego, as indicated by one at the Nine Mile Bank 12 Jun (PAG), 3 there 13 Jul (DWP), and one at the entrance to San Diego Bay 2 Jul (DWP). Two Brant's Cormorant nests with young on a sea stack off Crescent Bay Pt. in Jul (NAG, KLP) provided the first nesting record for Orange.

An American Bittern, a rare nesting bird as far s. as San Diego, was in suitable breeding habitat in the Tijuana R. Valley 18 Jun (GLR). The Little Blue Heron at Marina del Rey/Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 31 May remained through the summer (RS) and was the only one away from coastal San Diego. Reddish Egrets away from coastal San Diego and Orange were one at P.M.N.A.S. through the summer (DaP), another in Goleta, Santa Barbara 30 Jul (WTF), and one inland at S.E.S.S. 20 Jun–24 Jul (GMcC). The pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons present in Imperial Beach, San Diego since 2005 successfully fledged at least one young in Jul (GMcC); one paired with a Black-crowned Night-Heron at North Island N.A.S., San Diego fledged 2 hybrids in Jul (TS), and at least one ad. and an imm. were around Famosa Slough in Ocean Beach through the period (JP). A Glossy Ibis photographed at Owens Lake 11–12 Jul (C&RH) provides the 2nd record for Inyo, and another was in the Riverside portion of the Prado Basin 29 Jul (JEP). The first of the post-breeding Wood Storks reached S.E.S.S. 8 Jun (KCM), with numbers building up to a high count of 45 on 10 Jul (GMcC).

A pair of Cooper's Hawks that fledged 3 young in Ridgecrest 14 Jun (JSi) provides the first record for nesting in e. Kern. A pair of Northern Goshawks that successfully fledged

2 young in the mts. of Santa Barbara in Jul (PG) provided the first nesting record for that county, and another pair successfully fledged 2 young on the Kern side of Mt. Pinos (WTF). A Red-shouldered Hawk near Seeley, Imperial 9 Jul (JMcM) establishes the earliest date for a fall migrant/winter visitor in the Imperial Valley. The long-staying Crested Caracara around the Tijuana R. valley, San Diego was still present 7–11 Jun (TRS, CH). A pair of Peregrine Falcons that fledged 2 young at Keller Cliffs in the San Bernardino Mts. in Jun (DG) provided the first evidence of nesting in this area in recent years.

RAILS THROUGH GUILLEMOTS

A Clapper Rail on the Oxnard Plain, Ventura 24–28 Jun (DK) was away from any known breeding area. Sora is exceptionally rare anywhere in s. California in summer, so one at S.J.W.A. 2 Jun (HBK) was of note. A Solitary Sandpiper at C.L. 3 Jul (LLA, TEW) was the earliest of the seven southbound ads. reported this year. A Baird's Sandpiper on the Los Angeles R. in Long Beach, Los Angeles 23 Jul (KSG) was the only one reported. Two Wilson's Snipe in the Prado Basin 23 Jun (JEP) were unexpected at this time of year. A Red Phalarope inland near Lancaster, Los Angeles 12 Jun (JSF) was clearly lost. A first-summer Franklin's Gull at Owens Lake 15 Jun (C&RH) and another in Chula Vista, San Diego 17 Jun (PEL) were evidently late spring stragglers. For the 2nd year in a row, a pair of Heermann's Gulls nested at S.E.S.S. (KCM), but the eggs were infertile; elsewhere inland, an ad. was in Borrego Springs, San Diego 4 Jun (RT), and another was closer to the coast in Santee, San Diego 20 Jun (JSt). A bedraggled Mew Gull at S.E.S.S. 5–11 Jun (GMcC) probably did not survive the summer. Not surprisingly, following last winter's influx of

Glaucous-winged Gulls, small numbers remained along the coast through the summer, as indicated by 6 in Laguna Beach, Orange 29 Jun (NK) and at least 4 around San Diego during the period.

A Sooty Tern at Bolsa Chica, Orange 27 Jul–30 Aug (PK, BED) was the 12th to occur in California and first in the Region since 1998. Up to 6 Least Terns remained inland at S.E.S.S. through 5 Jun (GMcC). Black Terns, now rare on the coast, were in Oceano, San Luis Obispo 25–26 Jul (DSn) and Irvine, Orange 3 Jul (JG), both singles. An Arctic Tern inland at P.P. 9 Jul (MSanM) was unexpected. Elegant Terns continued to push northward from

the Gulf of California into the Salton Sink, with up to 3 near Seeley 5–11 Jun (GMcC) and another at S.E.S.S. 5 Jun (GMcC). A South Polar Skua was at the Nine Mile Bank off San Diego 13 Jul (DWP), and another was 20 km se. of Santa Rosa I. 25 Jul (TMcG). A Parasitic Jaeger, rare in summer, was at La Jolla 25 Jun (PEL). A Long-tailed Jaeger photographed at Owens Lake 15 Jun (C&RH) was one of a very few found inland at this time of the year; single birds 129 km w.-sw. of San Nicolas I. and 74 km w. of San Nicolas I. 25 Jul (TMcG) were early fall migrants. Single Common Murres at Newport Beach, Orange 13 Jul (BED), La Jolla 13 Jun (PEL), and at the Nine Mile Bank off San Diego 13 Jul (DWP) were well s. of the species' breeding range. Single Pigeon Guillemots at Del Mar, San Diego 12 Jun (DH) and La Jolla 19 Jun (PAG) were at the s. extreme of the species' range.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

The only White-winged Dove on the coast was one at Morro Bay 3 Jul (JSR). An Inca Dove in Redlands, San Bernardino 24 Jul (AEK) was nw. of the species' expanding range. Only seven pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoo had been located at the species' last remaining nesting stronghold at the S.F.K.R.P. by the end of Jul (BB); single birds along the Santa Clara R. near Oxnard, Ventura 14 Jul (DaP), the Rio Hondo near Whittier, Los Angeles 28 Jun (DSC), and San Felipe Cr. in Anza Borrego Desert S.P. 24 Jun–13 Jul (PJ) were in suitable breeding habitat, but one near in Blythe, Riverside 22 Jun (RH) and another in El Centro, Imperial 4 Jul (BK) were late spring migrants.

The presence of up to 4 calling Flammulated Owls on Pine Mt., Ventura 10 Jul–4 Aug (DaP, OJ) provides the first evidence of nesting at this location. Common Nighthawks appear



A worn and faded but singing Yellow-green Vireo in riparian growth at the southern edge of San Elijo Lagoon in Solana Beach, San Diego County 22-27 (here 24) July 2009 provided the first record for California in summer. Photograph by Eric G. Kallen.

to be declining at the species' southernmost breeding site near Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts., with only 2 there 15 Jun (SR). Two calling Whip-poor-wills were at Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mts. 2 Jul–26 Aug (TB) and another was at the upper South Fork of Big Rock Creek in the San Gabriel Mts., Los Angeles 19 Jun–2 Jul (M&NF, OJ); nesting has yet to be documented in California. Up to 4 Chimney Swifts around De-Forest Park in Long Beach 11 Jun–22 Aug (KSG, AKL) were the only ones reported—a far cry from the numbers present in the 1970s. The Broad-billed Hummingbird in Borrego Springs remained through 24 Jun (RT). A Red-naped Sapsucker at Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mts. 20-28 Jun (ET) was w. of the species' known breeding range.

A singing Least Flycatcher at S.E.K.R.P. 1-3 Jul (OJ) was at a locality where the species has been recorded frequently in summer. Hammond's Flycatcher has never been recorded nesting s. of the Sierra Nevada, but the capture on 27 Aug of a juv. judged to have fledged only a week or two earlier in Round Valley in the San Jacinto Mts., Riverside was highly suggestive of local breeding (PU); another, somewhat older juv. was captured the following day. An exceptional 27 Dusky Flycatchers in the vicinity of Big Pine Mt., Santa Barbara, two years after much of the area was burned by the Zaca fire, suggests a positive fire response in this species (PGa). The Vermilion Flycatcher population at California State University in San Bernardino continues to grow, with up to three pairs and several fledglings over the period (TAB), and a pair raised two broods at Prado R.P., San Bernardi-

no 7 Jun–26 Jul (DG); a male in Brawley 25 Jun (BM) was one of the few to be found recently in summer in the Imperial Valley. Hard to classify were single Eastern Kingbirds in Kelso Valley, Kern 9 Jul (DL) and Long Beach, Los Angeles 14 Jul (KSG).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES

White-eyed Vireos continued to appear into summer, with singles in Santa Barbara 17 Jun (GR), Goleta 20-27 Jun (NAL), and Long Beach 2-4 Jul (KSG). Late Cassin's Vireos away from breeding habitat were in Costa Mesa, Orange 4 Jun (BED) and near Pico Rivera, Los Angeles 8 Jun (JEP). A singing male

Plumbeous Vireo along Big Rock Creek 20 Jun (KLG) was among the few to have been found in summer in the San Gabriel Mts., Los Angeles. In addition to those noted in the spring report, Yellow-throated Vireos were in Los Angeles at El Monte 21-22 Jun (JLF) and Hansen Dam 3 Jul (KLG), as well as inland at Bishop, Inyo 20 Jun (C&RH) and summering at G.H.P. 10 Jul–2 Sep (K&BK). Red-eyed Vireos appeared in Big Tujunga Canyon, Los Angeles 22 Jun (MSanM), Pacoima Wash, Los Angeles 30 Jun (BED), and at the San Diego Zoo 10 Jul (TRS). A singing Yellow-green Vireo at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego 22-27 Jul (SES, PEL) established the first summer record for California.

An ad. Steller's Jay and 2 fledglings at 100 m elevation near Santa Ynez 6 Jun (JD) were well below the expected breeding elevation in Santa Barbara. A singing Winter Wren at Alta Sierra in the Greenhorn Mts., Kern 26-30 Jun (BB) was s. of the species' known Sierra Nevada breeding range. Two juv. Ruby-crowned Kinglets in different areas of Round Valley, San Jacinto Mts. 25-28 Aug (TM, PU) established the first breeding documentation there since the early twentieth century; this species has decreased greatly as a breeder in the mts. of California. A pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers raised young in creosote/Joshua tree scrub w. of Mojave 2-31 Jul (JSF), establishing the first nesting record of this species in Kern. A very late coastal Townsend's Solitaire was on Point Loma 2 Jun (SBM). Also unseasonable was a Sage Thrasher on San Clemente I. 22 Jun (MDG).

A Tennessee Warbler at The Village Green in Los Angeles 25 Jun (DSt) was emblematic

of the many late spring eastern wood-warblers that occur in the Region during the "summer" season. A Virginia's Warbler slightly away from known breeding areas was along Pine Cr., w. of Bishop, Inyo 10 Jun (J&DP). Up to 2 ad. Lucy's Warblers and a fledgling were at C.L. 29 Jun–21 Jul (SLS), establishing the first breeding confirmation for Kern; early fall vagrants were in Long Beach 23 Jul (KSG) and in Brawley 24 Jul (GMCC). Another Northern Parula nesting was documented this summer in the Region after an exceptional showing by the species this spring; a pair at The Village Green in Los Angeles remained through the period, with the nest located on 29 Jul and 3 near-fledging young observed 2 Aug (DSt, RB). Another 10 late vagrant or summering parulas were found on the coastal slope 3 Jun–31 Jul (in addition to those tallied in the spring report), and interior birds were at Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mts. 14 Jun (BS), G.H.P. 23 Jun (K&BK), and Aspendell, Inyo 2 Aug (SLS). A straggling Black-throated Blue Warbler was at G.H.P. 17 Jun (K&BK), and a Chestnut-sided Warbler there 1 Jun (BB) was followed by an unseasonable mid-summer bird in Santa Clarita, Los Angeles 20 Jul (MJB). Breeding of Black-throated Gray Warbler was confirmed in the Santa Ana Mts., Orange, with 4-5 birds in upper Silverado Canyon and Maple Springs, including 2 singing males and a female carrying food, 20 Jun (NAG); one at G.H.P. 10 Jul (K&BK) was midway between the latest spring and earliest fall dates for e. Kern. Casual in spring, a Bay-breasted Warbler was photographed in Goleta 11 Jun (LW). A singing male Blackpoll Warbler was in the Prado Basin, Riverside 9 Jun (JEP). A late spring Black-and-white Warbler was near Poway, San Diego 23 Jun (A&GB). Straggling American Redstarts were in Santa Barbara 18 Jun (HPR) and Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 20 Jun (DeP), and inland at G.H.P. 1 (BB) & 17 Jun (K&BK) and at Sheep Creek Spring, e. San Bernardino 13 Jun (JEP). Also late was an Ovenbird on Point Loma 20 Jun (CH). A male Hooded Warbler was in the rarified (2400 m elevation) air of Aspendell, Inyo 27 Jun–7 Jul (SLS); 2 late migrants were at G.H.P. 23 Jun (K&BK).

A Brewer's Sparrow on San Clemente I. 10 Jun–18 Jul established first mid-summer record for the island (DMG, TDD). A straggling Golden-crowned Sparrow was present through 4 Jun in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo (BKS). Dark-eyed (Oregon) Juncos are expanding their breeding range in the Los Angeles basin, with juvs. noted in Jul at The Village Green, Kenneth Hahn S.R.A., and Westchester (RB, A&EB, KGL), and territorial birds found at several other localities in Jun.

Two ad. Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Juncos feeding a juv. near North L. in the Sierra Nevada w. of Bishop 28 Jun (ADK) were a bit w. of the normal range of this interior subspecies. A male Northern Cardinal in Blythe 7-8 Jun (RH) was at a different location than the bird reported in May. The spring's huge showing of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued into the summer, with an additional 17 birds found in all coastal counties 1 Jun–15 Jul and 10 more on the deserts 2 Jun–24 Jul. The expected scattering of at least 13 Indigo Buntings during the period included a high-elevation bird at Aspendell 13-14 Jun (SLS) and singles in the Salton Sink at Brawley 26 Jun (GMCC) and N.E.S.S. 9 Jul (DG). Three Bronzed Cowbirds (2 ads., one juv.) were at various N.E.S.S. localities through 17 Jul (DG); a male caught in a cowbird trap at L. Elsinore, Riverside 14 Jun (HA) was well to the w. of the species' range. An ad. male Baltimore Oriole was in the Santa Ynez Mts., Santa Barbara 4 Jun (SB). Pine Siskins away from known breeding areas included 2 at Morro Bay 12 Jul (TME) and singles at S.F.K.R.P. 25 Jul (BB) and Canoga Park, Los Angeles 26 Jul (WD).

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Baja California Peninsula



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As has become customary in summer, coverage was better in Baja California Sur than in Baja California. Rare and uncommon species confirmed nesting included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Redhead,

Prairie Falcon, Tropical Kingbird, and apparently Savannah Sparrow (at a new location) in the south; and Gadwall, Redhead, Clark's Grebe, Brown Booby (Pacific), California Condor, and Tricolored Blackbird in the north. Top rarities were Yellow-billed Loon, Great Frigatebird, and Tropical Parula.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SKUA

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have colonized the Region's Cape District, presumably having coming straight across the Gulf of California. The species was first recorded in Jun 1991 and first recorded nesting in Sep 2004. This year, a record 38 were at Lagunas de Chametla 24 Mar (MSM et al.), two nests with eggs were found on a dredge spoil island in the harbor at La Paz 19 Jun (ph. EA), and two broods of chicks were at the Lagunas 7 Aug (SGM). Gadwalls, Mallards, Redheads, and Ruddy Ducks were again found nesting in the Ensenada area in May and Jun (ph. EDZH, RAE). Later, and much farther s., Redheads and Ruddy Ducks with young were at Estero San José 12-19 Aug (ph. SGM, DGE). Up to 4 American Wigeons at Lagunita El Ciprés 5-17 Jun (EDZH) and up to 2 Red-breasted Mergansers at Estero Punta Banda 24

SA Mlodinow, Palacios, Galindo Espinosa, and others hiked into the Sierra de La Laguna 8-10 Aug. Owls showed well during their early morning hike up the w. side (7 Western Screech-Owls, one Northern Pygmy-Owl, and 21 Elf Owls heard), but the Whip-poor-wills at La Laguna were not vocal. An active Hooded Oriole nest was the first recorded from high-elevation La Laguna, but, in general, nesting appeared to be considerably delayed compared to the situation during 14-19 Jul 2008.

Two-day tallies of certain resident species are informative: 480 Xantus's Hummingbirds, 370 Spotted Towhees, 225 Yellow-eyed Juncos, 160 Bushtits, 80 Hutton's Vireos, 60 American Robins, and 35 Oak Titmice. Migrants were already well in evidence and included 215 Orange-crowned Warblers, 40 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 18 Western Tanagers, 14 Black-throated Gray Warblers, and an early Gray Flycatcher (La Laguna, 9 Aug). And what would a Mlodinow trip be without a major rarity? A **Tropical Parula** at La Laguna 9-10 Aug (ph. SGM et al.) was new for the mountains and established only the 5th Regional record (see *Western Birds* 39: 69-81, 2008). The bird was identified by Peter Pyle from photographs as a second-year male.



Two nests of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (one shown here) were found on a dredge spoil island created for nesting terns and skimmers in the harbor at La Paz, Baja California Sur 19 June 2009—an unusual site for a whistling-duck nest. Photographs by Edgar Amador.

Jun–2 Jul (RAE, ph. EDZH) were unseasonable. An imm. Yellow-billed Loon on the Gulf of California at Bahía de los Ángeles 4–10 Aug (ph. GMy) was a great surprise. Three previous Regional records were from the extreme nw. (Nov 1968, Jan 1997) and the n. gulf (Jun 1973). The first observed Pied-billed Grebe brood of the year was at Estero San José 11 Jan; three broods of small chicks were still there 12 Aug (all SGM). Unseasonable was an Eared Grebe at the Arroyo del Rosario estuary 30 Jun (GR-C). A Clark's Grebe nest at the Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds 29 May (ph. ESM) was the first found since nesting was confirmed there 2003–2006.

The only Cook's Petrels reported were 3 about 147 km offshore and about 314 km s. of San Diego 19 Jun (AT). Townsend's Shearwa-

cult to identify, and recent studies (e.g., Robb and Mullarney et al. 2008, *Petrels Night and Day*) suggest that cryptic species remain unrecognized. Baja California is fertile ground for study, with six extant and one extinct nesting taxa described (including three subspecies of Leach's), but population estimates vary widely, and the prospect of extralimital visitors on nesting islands is high. All of this is to set the stage for another report of Ashy Storm-Petrels off Punta Eugenia in Jul. Although specimens have reportedly been taken s. to the vicinity of Is. San Benito, we believe a specimen or convincing photograph should be obtained to establish the species' occurrence off Baja California Sur. Near the mouth of the Gulf of California, dark-rumped Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported from Punta Arena for the first time, with 4 on 6 Aug and 8 on 11 Aug (+SGM).

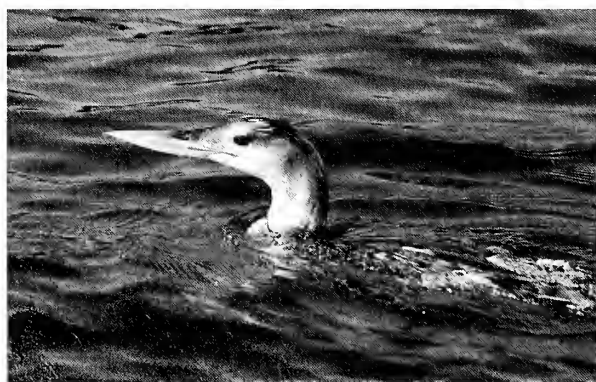
Boobies at Cabo San Lucas 18 Jul included 2 Masked, 2 Blue-footed, and 30 Brown (KAR, DJP). In the far nw., up to 26 Brown Boobies at Is. Coronado included at least three pairs that produced nestlings 28 Jan–16 Jun (WTH, DWP et al.). A Magnificent Frigatebird about 64 km w.-sw. of Ensenada 12 Aug (FLH) was rare so far n. on the Pacific coast. On the far s. gulf coast, an ad. male Great Frigatebird at Punta Arena 11

Aug (ph., +SGM) established the Region's 2nd record. Herons n. of their usual Pacific haunts included a Reddish Egret at La Salina 23 Jun (RAE) and a subad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Lagunita El Ciprés 14 May–24 Jun (ph. EDZH, RAE). In n. Baja California, reintroduced California Condors again nested in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir (fate unknown;

vide HdIC), and Red-shouldered Hawks fledged 2 young at a traditional site in Tecate (ph. JS). Two very unusual raptor observations were made at the Guerrero Negro saltworks: an imm. Golden Eagle was seen 21 Jun (VA, RCL), and an ad. Prairie Falcon 25 May was accompanied by 4 juvs. (VA, MD, DJ). There are few records of the eagle s. of n. Baja California, and the falcon has been confirmed nesting only once before in Baja California Sur. A Red Knot at Estero Punta Panda 24 Jun (RAE) and a Western Sandpiper at Lagunita El Ciprés 5 Jun (EDZH) were unseasonable. No jaegers were reported, but South Polar Skuas were seen from a cruise ship in the Pacific: one off Baja California 17 Jul and 3 off Baja California Sur 19 Jul (KAR, DJP).

DOVES THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Eurasian Collared-Doves reached one of the "continent's" most remote locations this season, as evidenced by 18 birds at two locations on I. Guadalupe in the 2nd week of Jun (ELP). Downy Woodpeckers were recorded at their traditional Tecate site throughout the period, with a pair confirmed present 11 Jul (ph. JS); nesting is still unconfirmed for Mexico. Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were still attending a nest at Miraflores 11 Aug (SGM), and up to 4 Tropical Kingbirds at Lagunas de Chametla in Aug included a juv. 7 Aug (ph. SGM, DGE), establishing nesting there for at least the 3rd consecutive year. An addition to Joe Sweeney's growing list of birds recorded at Rancho la Puerta, w. of Tecate, was the officially endangered Least Bell's Vireo (*V. b. pusillus*): one or 2 were singing there 11 Jul but not heard before or after. Purple Martins are widely, but locally, distributed in the Region, and the subspecific identity of Baja California birds is disputed in the literature. Five birds at Misión San Fernando 29 Jun (GR-C) were in cen. Baja California, where the Vizcaíno



This immature Yellow-billed Loon at Bahía de los Ángeles, Baja California, was present 4–10 (here 4) August 2009. Oddly, two of the four Mexican records now come from the Gulf of California in summer. Photograph by Greg Myer.

ters were seen off Cabo San Lucas 18 Jul (2; KAR, DJP) and at Punta Arena 6 Aug (SGM). One farther n. ("about 100 miles offshore and 100 miles s. of Cedros") 18 Jul was presumably associated with the same conditions that brought 100 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels to waters w. of Baja California Sur that day (KAR, DJP). Other storm-petrels can be more diffi-



This nearly adult male Great Frigatebird was photographed at Punta Arena, Baja California Sur 11 August 2009. Although the species nests as close as the Revillagigedo Islands, this established only the second record for the Baja California Peninsula. Photographs by Steven G. Mlodinow.

Desert and the California District merge, and where the Sierra San Pedro Mártir is not far removed.

A juv. Belding's Yellowthroat following an ad. male at Miraflores 11 Aug suggested local nesting (SGM). The species was considered common there 100 years ago but was subsequently regarded as extirpated. More recently, a few birds have been found in fall and winter, and one (or more) singing male was present in Jul 2007 and Jul 2008. Similarly, a juv. Savannah Sparrow at Estero San José 12 Aug (ph. SGM) appeared to be too young to have wandered far from its natal territory. Despite con-

siderable coverage there, the species has never been suspected of nesting anywhere closer than Bahía Magdalena. A singing Grasshopper Sparrow on the Maneadero Plain 24 Jun (RAE) was heartening in light of ongoing development there. Also singing, but nowhere near a territory, was a very late dark-lore'd White-crowned Sparrow (presumably *oriantha*) at La Bufadora 14 Jun (KAR, DJP). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Tecate 3 & 24 Jul, 7 Aug, and 11 Sep (ph. JS et al.). Another rare, and apparently irregular, nesting species on the Maneadero Plain is Tricolored Blackbird. A pond there hosted 175 birds 24 Jun, in-

cluding many fledglings (RAE). The species was not reported elsewhere.

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Héctor Gómez de Silva

NORTHERN MEXICO



GREBES THROUGH FINCHES

At least 6 Clark's Grebes were at Laguna de Bustillos just n. of Cuauhtémoc, Chih. 1 Jun (BW, MW, AF, SW). A belated but noteworthy record was received of an ad. King Vulture soaring over Gómez Farías, Tamps. 20 Oct 2008 (ph. C&PS, DM, DH, RJ, m.ob.). A late ad. Broad-winged Hawk was at Gómez Farías 1 Jun (MC). A Peregrine and a White-tailed Hawk were near Los Murillos, Nay. 11 Jun (AD, AL, BM). More than 100 Limpkins were estimated at Los Murillos 11 Jun (AD). One late or summering Sandhill Crane was at Laguna de Bustillos 1 Jun (BW, MW, AF, SW). Summering or late shorebirds at Los Murillos 12 Jun were 2 Marbled Godwits, 4 Whimbrels, a Black-bellied Plover, a Greater Yellowlegs, plus a Gull-billed Tern (AD, BM). Gulls and terns at Laguna de Bustillos 1 Jun



In Mexico, this adult King Vulture found above Gómez Fariás, Tamaulipas 20 October 2008 was the first for that state in perhaps a decade; indeed, there are very few records from Veracruz and Tamaulipas in recent decades. Photograph by Clay Sutton.

included 2 Caspian Terns, 2 Franklin's Gulls, an ad Laughing Gull, and one ad. California Gull (BW, MW, AF, SW).

Six pairs of Military Macaws were in a side canyon of the Río Choruybo near Otachique, Chih. 28 May (BW, MW, AF, SW). Around 80-100 Black Swifts were at Casacada de Basaseachic at dawn 27 May (BW, MW, AF, SW). A Violaceous Trogon responded to playback at Gómez Fariás 1 Jun (MC). Two American Dippers were at the drainage e. of Cuiteco, Chih. 31 May (BW, MW, AF, SW). Two pairs of Blue Mockingbirds were in thornscrub just above Uruachi, Chih. 29 May (BW, MW, AF, SW). An ad. male Tennessee Warbler at Cascada de Basaseachic 27 May was late and probably the first record for Chih. (BW, MW, AF, SW). Two Flame-colored Tanagers were at the drainage e. of Cuiteco 31 May (BW, MW, AF, SW). Late migrants at Los Murillos village 11 Jun were a female Indigo Bunting (AL, AD) and a Yellow-breasted Chat (AD).

At least three territories of Rufous-capped Brush-Finch were found in a side canyon of the Río Choruybo near Otachique 28 May (BW, MW, AF, SW). Two pairs of Five-striped Sparrows and a pair of Black-vented Orioles were in thornscrub just above Uruachi 29 May (BW, MW, AF, SW). A pair of Evening Grosbeaks was 4 km w. of San Juanito, Chih. 30 May (BW, MW, AF, SW). Four Hooded Grosbeaks and 2 Black-headed Siskins were in the drainage e. of Cuiteco, Chih. 31 May (BW, MW, AF, SW).

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CENTRAL MEXICO



HERONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A male Blue-winged Teal was near Minatitlán, Ver. 18 Jun (MG). Two Cooper's Hawks were at Meseta de Tarango, D.F. 6 Jun (MPV, HGdS). A White-tailed Kite was at Meseta de Tarango 18 Jun (HGdS, MPV). A light-morph Short-tailed Hawk at Meseta de Tarango 24 Jun furnished the first record for the D.F. (HGdS, ph. MG, MPV). A Peregrine Falcon was seen over Lomas de Bezares 11 Jun (MG). There were 3 Eurasian Collared-Doves in Coatzacoalcos, Ver. 22 Jul (MC). Three pair-banded Tuxtla Quail-Doves were at Ruiz Cortinez, Ver. 27 Jul (MC). A female and an imm. male Violet Sabrewing were at Parque

ers, including two pairs, at Meseta de Tarango 24 Jun were a surprise (HGdS, MPV, ph. MG). Two Hutton's Vireos were at Chapultepec Tercera Sección 22 Jun (HGdS, MPV). A Cliff Swallow was near Minatitlán 18 Jun (ph. MG). A summering female Black-and-white Warbler was near Ruiz Cortinez 22 Jul (LH, MC). A Louisiana Waterthrush, an early migrant, was near Ruiz Cortinez 22-23 Jul (MC). Up to 2 Hooded Yellowthroats were singing in planted eucalyptus woodland with brushy undergrowth at Chapultepec Tercera Sección in the latter half of Jun (HGdS, MPV). A Cinnamon-bellied Flowerpiercer was singing in Bajío and Tuxpan in



This vireo, either a Yucatan Vireo with yellow undertail coverts and a malar streak or else a Black-whiskered Vireo, was photographed 26 June 2009 in the ruins of Xel-ha. If the latter species, it would represent the only summer record of a species that is a rare transient in the area. Photograph by Mark Dennis.

El Haya in Xalapa, Ver. 23 Jun (ph. AM, JM). Fifteen active Monk Parakeet nests were found at Ciénega Grande, D.F. in Jun and Jul (RC, AMH). Two Common Nighthawks were at Las Choapas, Ver. 22 Jul, whereas Spotted-tailed Nightjars seemed to be absent (MC). Two probable Black Swifts were seen briefly at Ruiz Cortinez 23 Jul (MC).

Two Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets were at Chapultepec Tercera Sección, D.F. 22 Jun (HGdS, MPV). Five White-throated Flycatch-

downtown Mexico City 6 Jun (HGdS, MPV). Up to 5 male Grassland Yellow-Finches were on territories in Ciénega Grande throughout the period (RC, AMH).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



GREBS THROUGH EUPHONIAS

Four Least Grebes were at 2300 m on the road to Arroyo Guacamaya, Oax. 12 Jul (MC). Three Blue-footed Boobies (arranged in pairs) were on an offshore islet 70 km w. of Salinas Cruz, Oax. 17 Jul (MC). An imm. Masked Booby was sitting on the water just beyond the breakers at Puerto Arista, Chis. 17 Jul (MC). Ten Brown Pelicans were at Chicoasen Res., Chis. 19 Jul (HGdS, MPV).

An imm. Cooper's Hawk was above Teotitlán del Valle, Oax. 11 Jul (MC). A Peregrine Falcon was at Yagul, Oax. 11 Jul, and another was near Arriaga 17 Jul (MC). A probable Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported from Puerto Arista 7 Jul, which would be a first for Chis. (PB). A White-winged Dove in the zócalo at Valle Nacional, Oax. 25 Jul was in an area without previous summer records. A group of 4 Green Parakeets at San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 19 Jul probably involved escapees (HGdS). An Unspotted Saw-whet Owl was calling and responsive when other owls were quiet 19 Jul on the Dos Lagunas rd. near San Cristóbal de las Casas (MC). An imm. male Amethyst-throated Hummingbird visited a Teotitlán del Valle, Oax. garden 25-30 Jun and 11-14 Jul, some distance away from its habitual pine-oak forest habitat (ph. EAM); this same garden was also visited by a Plain-capped Starthroat 14 Jul (ph. EAM). A Purple-crowned Fairy was constructing a nest on the road to Bonampak, Chis. 4-7 Jul (AM ph., JM). A female Wine-throated and 2 male and a female Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were in thistle fields in San Cristóbal de las Casas 19 Jul (MC). A Speckled Mourner was discovered at Bonampak 6 Jun (ph. AM, JM).

A White-throated Jay was seen at San José del Pacífico, Oax. 14 Jul (DS). Three to 5 Black-throated Jays were in two mixed-species flocks with Steller's Jay and Yellow-backed Orioles on the Dos Lagunas rd. 19 Jul (MC). Dozens of Cliff Swallows were seen daily migrating eastward near Union Hidalgo, Oax. in mid-Jul (AM, JM, KSH). Three Sumichrast's Wren territories were near Vega del Sol, Oax., where they are rapidly losing habitat 24 Jul (MC). Five Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush territories were in rainforest/cloudforest tran-

sition in El Ocote reserve nw. of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chis. 20 Jul (MC). Three female or imm. Aztec Thrushes were near Arroyo Guacamaya 12 Jul (MC). A female American Redstart at Bonampak 6 Jun was a late migrant (ph. AM, JM). A Louisiana Waterthrush was in a ranch near Tuxtla Gutiérrez 21 Jul (MC). A pair of Hooded Yellowthroats feeding young were at San José del Pacífico 14 Jul (MC). Two singing male Blue Seedeaters were in El Ocote Biosphere Reserve nw. of Tuxtla Gutiérrez 20 Jul (MC). At least 2 White-vented Euphonias were at Bonampak 4 Jun (ph. AM, JM)—the first undisputed evidence of this species in Mexico.

Erratum: In the Fall Migration report for 2008, the photographs of Red-throated Pipit credited to Jorge Montejo were in fact taken by Amy McAndrews (*North American Birds* 63: 166).

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YUCATAN PENINSULA



WATERFOWL THROUGH SWALLOWS

An observation of several Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Laguna Silvituc, Camp. 7 Jul (JC, RC, JG) extends the known distribution of this species just slightly farther to the southeast. Muscovy Duck is a declining species for which we report all sightings; one was photographed at a pond a just before the entrance to the archaeological site of Calak-

mul, Camp. 7 Jul (JC, RC, JG). Although American White Pelican has been reported previously in Jun, the report of 60 in the estuary behind Chuburna, 20 km w. of Progreso, Yuc. 10 Jul was quite unusual (DB, HL, GT). Also uncommon was the report of 2 Double-crested Cormorants on L. Cobá 5 Jul (JC, RC, JG); several Neotropical Cormorants were nearby for comparison. The status of Zone-tailed Hawk on the peninsula is not entirely understood; it is thought to be a migrant, but the report of one at Celestún 10 Jul opens the possibility of local breeding (JC, RC, JG).

A Spotted Sandpiper near the ferry terminal on Cozumel I., Q. Roo 4 Jul (JC, RC, JG) may represent the subregion's first summer record. A Whimbrel at Progreso 9 Jul (JC, RC, JG) was perhaps the same individual as seen there 10 Jul (DB, HL, GT). Six Marbled Godwits were in the Chuburna harbor w. of Progreso 10 Jul (DB, HL, GT). Another first summer sighting included 2 Franklin's Gulls seen 18 Jun at Progreso (DB). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Progreso 10 Jul, confirming that this species may be found year-round in the area in small numbers (DB, HL, GT). A first-summer Common Tern at Celestún with resident tern species 8 Jul (JC, RC, JG) was rare for the season; the species is predominantly a transient in the subregion. Even stranger was an emaciated ad. Sooty Tern found on the road leading into the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve 8 Jul (JC, RC, ph. JG); the closest colony is located 31 km off the s. shore of the state of Quintana Roo, and no unusual weather conditions account for the appearance of the bird there.

A family of Common Tody-Flycatchers with 4 young was discovered along the road leading to the coastal village of Chuburna 10 Jul (DB, HL, GT). At least 3 male Purple Martins were identified among a flock of 10-12 birds circling overhead and feeding on insects along the Vigia Chico Rd. 6 Jul (JC, RC, JG). The observers assumed the others to be Gray-breasted Martins, which is a possibility, but

they may have been female Purples. Purple Martins have been observed migrating southward in the subregion as early as the 2nd week of Jun. A singing vireo that may have been Black-whiskered was photographed in

Xel-ha ruins, Q. Roo 26 Jun (ph. MD).

bara MacKinnon, Guilmer Tun. 🌐

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Central America



H. Lee Jones
Oliver Komar

In most regions, the Nesting Season report is, understandably, the briefest of the four. It covers only two months, and the lull in migration in June and July in most species invites a similar lull in birding activity. But in Central America, there is another reason for the paucity of reports, one that is clearly reflected in this report—the lack of visiting birders. The few contributors to this summer report are all nationals or are foreign researchers either living in the region or conducting long-term research projects.

Although officially called “The Nesting Season” in this journal, we prefer to call it the “Summer Season,” because bird nesting in the tropics, even the northernmost reaches of the tropics, occurs throughout the year. In Central America, the breeding season for most species extends from April to September; however, some species, especially nectarivores like some hummingbirds and the flower-piercers, prefer to breed in the dry season from November through March. Therefore, the brief two-month “nesting” season does not begin to capture the full spectrum of breeding in the tropics. A quick perusal of the spring and fall season reports, and even the winter report, will reveal periodic reports of interesting nesting records—unseasonable nesting dates, unusually low- or high-elevation nesting, or range expansions confirmed by the discovery of a nest (or nests) in a new area—but they never mention the many species that routinely nest at these other seasons.

Many of the reports below document “invasive” species that are expanding into new areas, areas once forested that are slowly giv-

ing way to expanding human populations with their agricultural, commercial, industrial, transportation, and urban support systems. A few reports like Nazca Booby and Sabine’s Gull add incrementally to our knowledge of pelagic species in the Region. Two others, Magnificent Hummingbird and Rufous-and-white Wren, are of species recorded beyond their normal elevational limits. There are no country firsts to report, but Belize got its second record of Shiny Cowbird, a species sure to become more frequent in the Region in the coming years.

BOOBIES THROUGH WOODCREEPERS

At least 2 ad. Nazca Boobies were observed off Los Cóbano, *Sousonate* 28 Jul (ph. NH). Although there are still fewer than ten records for El Salvador, increasing awareness of this species and better coverage of offshore waters suggest that it may be a regular and fairly common pelagic species in the Region. Two Roseate Spoonbills seen at a small pond in San Antonio Village 26 Jun+ (ph. RM) provided the first record for Cayo and one of the few for w. Belize. In Panama, a Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture at El Real airstrip 12 Jun (JAC, KK, DM, DeM) was the latest of only a few that have been recorded in *Darién*. Rare anywhere in Panama, a Black-collared Hawk was seen on the Tuira R. between Yaviza and El Real, *Darién* 12 Jun (JAC, KK, DM, DeM).

A Sabine’s Gull in breeding plumage seen off Los Cóbano 28 Jul (NH) provided the first summer record for El Salvador. Individual Plain-breasted Ground-Doves seen at several locations around El Real 12-14 Jun (JAC, KK, DM, DeM) suggest that this species, considered rare in *Darién*, may be on the increase. Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift is rare on the Pacific slope of Guatemala, so one seen in the Los Tarrales Reserve, *Suchitepéquez* 12 Jun (KE) was noteworthy. A male and a female Magnificent Hummingbird were at the unusually low elevation of 800 m in the Los Tarrales Reserve 12 Jun (KE). They are normally seen above 1500 m in Guatemala. El Salvador’s first Spotted Woodcreeper in nearly 30 years was banded in Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* in 2006. Since then, 6 other individuals have been banded in the park, the latest on 22 Jun (ph. RJ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

Establishing the first records for *Darién* were single Bran-colored Flycatchers heard, respectively, at the El Real airstrip and the cemetery 12 Jun (DeM). Belted Flycatcher was added to the list of species from L. Atitlán’s s. shore when 2 were seen 24 Jul in San Juan La Laguna, *Sololá* (ph. JF). Purple Martin is easily the earliest southbound migrant in Central America. On 18 Jun, a mixed flock of 30 ad. males, females, and imms. was seen in Ladyville, Belize (PB). And this is not an unusually early

SA Last summer we reported on the nesting successes (or lack thereof) of seven beach-nesting bird species at the Xirihualtique–Jiquilisco Biosphere Reserve on the Pacific coast in the San Dionisio municipality, *Usulután*, El Salvador. Some of these species are not known to nest anywhere else in Central America. The nesting season runs from Apr to early Aug, and EM and MR visited the nesting sites at Isla San Sebastián and Isla Pajarito weekly during the summer season. In 2008, they reported 164 nests that produced 72 juvs. of four species (breeding failed completely for three species). In 2009, at the same sites, they documented declines across all of the species, with a total of just 115 nests, which produced just 26 juvs. This season, Collared Plover produced 18 eggs in six nests, but only 3 juvs. survived, 15 fewer than last year. Wilson’s Plover produced 180 eggs in 60 nests and raised 15 juvs., 26 fewer than last year. American Oystercatcher produced 18 eggs in nine nests, and just 2 juvs., but this was one more than last year. Black-necked Stilt produced 80 eggs in 20 nests and raised only 6 juvs., half of last year’s production. As with 2008, breeding in 2009 appeared to have failed completely for Black Skimmer (no signs of nests), Least Tern (six nests), and Lesser Nighthawk (14 nests). As with the previous year, the culprit responsible for most of the failures was tidal overwash that destroyed nesting areas. The future of some of these species as breeding species in Central America, in particular the skimmer and oystercatcher, seems tenuous.

date; the earliest date we have for Belize (and Central America?) is 14 Jun. At the unusually high elevation of 2000 m, a Rufous-and-white Wren was heard in the Los Tarrales Reserve on Atitlán Volcano 12 Jun (KE). An unexpected find in a mixed-species flock near Altos de Piedra above Santa Fe was *Veraguas's* first Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager 18 Jul (JAC, RMi). This species was previously known from Panama only from the area of Oleoduct Rd., *Bocas del Toro*.

Large-billed Seed-Finch and Yellow-hooded Blackbird continue to be seen at the El Real airstrip where both were first recorded in North America in 2007: 2-3 singing male seed-finches (JAC, KK, RMi, DM, DeM) and one blackbird (JAC, RMi, DM) were there 12

Jun. Adding further support for a local breeding population of Blue Seedeater in El Imposible N.P., *Ahuachapán* were 5 singing males on territory between El Mirador Mulo at 850 m and Cerro Leon at 1100 m elevation 14 Jun (vt., v.r. JF, LA). All territories were in dense stands of understory native cane. A male Shiny Cowbird seen at Douglas D'Silva, Mountain Pine Ridge, *Cayo* 20 Jun and 2 there 24 Jun (†RM) provided only the 2nd documented record of this species for Belize. A male Lesser Goldfinch at El Real cemetery 12 Jun and several House Sparrows at a gas station in Metetí 14 Jun (both JAC) established first records for *Darién*.

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West Indies & Bermuda



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The short summer season was a relatively eventful one, particularly in the Bahamas. The American Flamingos on Great Inagua had a very successful breeding season, and Grand Bahama had its second records of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and Roseate Spoonbill. Seabird breeding surveys on Great Isaac, north of Bimini, and Brush Cay off eastern Grand Bahama were very productive.

WHISTLING-DUCK THROUGH TERNS

Five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at Pine Tree Stables, Grand Bahama intermittently between 30 Jun and 20 Jul (ph. CM, *fide* BP), just the 2nd record for the island. A pair of was observed 28 Jun on a small pond

near Mayagüez, Puerto Rico (*fide* HM). The long-staying male Eurasian Wigeon was present through the period on Spittal Pond, Bermuda (EA). Two Blue-winged Teal at Harold & Wilson Ponds N.P. (hereafter H.W.P.N.P.), New Providence 11 Jul were probably birds that did not migrate (PD). Eight Masked Ducks were seen at Barbados 10 Jul (EM, RLn), 3 of which were males. A pair of Least Grebes was noted nesting 28 Jun near Mayagüez (JAS-F). Bracey found 10 ad. Pied-billed Grebes with young on Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 21 Jul.

At Cayo Diablo near Pineros I., Puerto Rico, there were 3 Red-billed Tropicbirds and more than 200 Brown Boobies; on the same day, a Red-billed Tropicbird was observed near Lobos Cay part of the La Cordillera Nature Reserve 27 Jun. A bit farther s. of Alcarraza (which lies off the nw. coast of Culebra I.) are the larger Cayo Luis Peña and the smaller Cayo de Agua and Cayo Yerba, where a few White-tailed Tropicbirds were noted; and one White-tailed was at Palomino I. in Cayo Lobos, along with some 50 Magnificent Frigatebirds, all 27 Jun (all JAS-F, JMW, RLW). A breeding colony of about 20 Masked Boobies was noted on Cayo Alcarraza 27 Jul (AP); this would appear to be an expansion w. of the well-established Cockroach Cay site at St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. Two imm. Neotropical Cormorants at the Treasure Cay G.C. 17 Jul represented only the 4th report from Abaco (EB).

A probable Gray Heron was reported from the former Sonesta Hotel site, Bermuda 17 Jun (EA). A Little Egret was seen at Congo Rd.

swamp, Barbados 10 Jul (EM, RLn). At Piñeros I., Puerto Rico, a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was noted 27 Jun (JAS-F, JMW, RLW). On 8 Jul, Purdy discovered seven Yellow-crowned Night-Heron colonies, with up to 14 nests per site along Fortune Bay, Grand Bahama. He was previously aware of only two sites. A Glossy Ibis was seen at Packers Swamp, Barbados 10 Jul (EM, RLn). Twenty-eight White Ibis nests were found on Sandy Cay in Bimini Harbour 19 Jun and five on Brush Cay, Grand Bahama 20 Jun. Brush Cay is now the 2nd known White Ibis nesting site in the Bahamas. The Brush Cay survey also found three Brown Pelican nests, five Green Heron nests, 21 Tricolored Heron nests, 28 Double-crested Cormorant nests, and four Reddish Egret nests. Twenty-four Magnificent Frigatebirds were also roosting on the cay (all JK, KH, BP). Two Eurasian Spoonbills continued at Congo Rd. swamp, Barbados 10-12 Jul (EM, RLn). Two Roseate Spoonbills were noted at Freeport Harbor, Grand Bahama 26 Jul, and at least one remained through the end of the season (BP). This is the 2nd record for the island. Henry Nixon, the ranger at Great Inagua N.P., estimates that between 10,000 and 11,000 American Flamingos hatched in the park this year. The rookery stretched for about 3 km, and there appeared to be three different hatching periods (*fide* LG). The large numbers and different hatching periods suggest that some of the birds may have come from other breeding colonies. At Josiah's Bay pond, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, RLn noted a single American Flamingo 18 Jul. Its provenance is unknown but suspected to be from the re-

established population at Anegada, British Virgin Islands. Two Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawks fledged from a nest in the Maricao S.F. 20 Jun (MJM). Two Red-tailed Hawks continued at Morgan's Pt., Bermuda through the period (AD). A Peregrine Falcon was seen in Bermuda over Hamilton 14 Jun (PA) and near the Whaler Inn 1 Jul (DBW).

A pair of Caribbean Coots was seen in Barbados 11 Jul (EM, RLN). Common Moorhens suspected of nesting were noted near Mayagüez, Puerto Rico 28 Jun (JAS-F). At least 3 Southern Lapwings were seen at various locations 10-12 Jul from the sw. to n. portions of Barbados (EM, RLN). Two Black-necked Stilts were noted 18-25 Jun at various Bermuda locations (DG), and 3 Semipalmated Plovers were seen 11 Jun at Spanish Pt. (EA). Migrant shorebirds seen in Jun in the Bahamas included 15 Black-bellied Plovers and 6 Semipalmated Plovers (TW). At Green Turtle Cay, Abaco 5 Jun, there were 40 Black-bellied Plovers (EB, BB). At Piñeros I., Puerto Rico, a Wilson's and a Semipalmated Plover were seen 27 Jun (JAS-F, JMW, RLW). At Playa Matías, Vieques I., Puerto Rico, Wilson's Plovers with chicks were noted 11 Jul (JAS-F). Two Piping Plovers were at Discovery Beach, Grand Bahama 29 Jul (BP, NB). A survey looking for American Oystercatchers in the Bahamas 20 Jun through 16 Jul found none from Brush Cay to Cross Cay e. of Grand Bahama but found probable nesters in the Berry Is. on White Cay and Soldier Cay, and in the Exuma Cays on Flat Rock Cay, Leaf Cay, Bushhill Cay, Zebu Cay, and Whitebay Cay (JK, KH). A pair of American Oystercatchers was on Cayo Diablo, Puerto Rico 27 Jun (JAS-F, JMW, RLW).

Migrant shorebirds seen in Jun in the Bahamas included 8 Ruddy Turnstones and 14 Short-billed Dowitchers at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco 5 Jun (EB, BB), and a White-rumped Sandpiper, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, and a Short-billed Dowitcher at Southwest Ridge, Nassau 6 Jun (PD, LL). A Greater Yellowlegs was at South Hoffman Cay, Berry Is. 23 Jun (JK, KH), and 2 Western Sandpipers were at Crossing Rocks, Abaco 26 Jun (EB, HP); both could have been instances of summering. The first Bermuda fall migrant shorebirds noted in Jul included a Lesser Yellowlegs at Devonshire Marsh 10 Jul (EA) and a Spotted Sandpiper there 15 Jul (EA, DBW). At Grenada, PHo noted a Spotted Sandpiper 21 Jul. Other southbound shorebirds begin arriving in the Bahamas in the 2nd half of Jul were Greater Yellowlegs 26 Jul, Lesser Yellowlegs 18 Jul, Solitary Sandpiper 25 Jul, Spotted Sandpiper 25 Jul, Least Sandpiper 18 Jul, Stilt Sandpiper 28 Jul, and Short-billed Dowitcher 26 Jul (PD,

BP, TH). A single Lesser Yellowlegs was noted at Josiah's Bay pond, Tortola, British Virgin Islands 18 Jul (RLN). The Common Green-shank that arrived 23 May departed Spittal Pond, Bermuda 1 Jun (KR). At Jaluva Beach, Vieques I., an early Spotted Sandpiper in breeding plumage was seen 11 Jul (JAS-F). A Whimbrel in the Cabo Rojo N.W.R. was reported 18 Jul (MJM). A few Whimbrels summered in Salinas, Puerto Rico, especially at Jobos Bay (JAS-F). At Congo Rd. swamp, a Least Sandpiper was present 10 Jul (EM, RLN). In Bermuda, 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers were at St. Georges Dairy 25 Jun (EA), and a Solitary Sandpiper was at Devonshire Marsh 30 Jun-2 Jul (DW). A Solitary Sandpiper at Packers swamp, Barbados 10 Jul was considered early (EM, RLN).

A first-cycle Great Black-backed Gull at Bimini 9 Jun (BP) was the first summer record for this species in the Bahamas. Seventy-five ad. Laughing Gulls (with 30 young) were noted at Southwest Ridge but possibly nested elsewhere (PD, TH). An ad. Franklin's Gull was at Dockyard, Bermuda 9-22 Jun (DBW). A second-cycle Franklin's Gull was at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 26-31 Jul and later (DBW). A Gray-hooded Gull, the West Indies' first record (and second for the Americas), was photographed at Barbados 31 May-5 Jun (EM). A Ring-billed Gull stayed until 13 Jun at Dockyard, Bermuda (DBW); a Forster's Tern was there 21 Jun (PH), and a Roseate Tern there 24-26 Jun (AD). Four Roseates were seen off Oistings Beach, Barbados 11 Jul (EM, RLN). In their slow recovery from Hurricane *Fabian* (Bermuda 2003), five pairs of Common Terns raised 12 young (DBW). Least Terns nested on New Providence at Southwest Ridge (15+ nests) and Blue Water Cay (a few nests). Three pairs of Least Terns were probably nesting on dried Diablo Lagoon, Puerto Rico 11 Jul (JSA-F). A Least Tern was seen near Oistings, Barbados 11 Jul (RLN, EM). Bridled Terns nested on Don't Rock and Least Terns on Spoil I. off Guana Cay in Abaco Sound (EB). A 19 Jun survey of Great Isaac n. of Bimini found 568 Bridled Tern nests, 1380 Sooty Tern nests, 64 Brown Noddy nests, six Roseate Tern nests, eight Least Tern nests, and 83 Laughing Gull nests. The results were similar to last year's survey except that Least Tern was not seen last year. The Bridled Tern colony is one of the largest in the Bahamas and argues for Great Isaac to be designated a National Park (JK, KH). Breeding at Cayo Diablo and Cayo Lobos near Piñeros I., Puerto Rico, there were 10 Bridled Terns, 30 Sooty Terns, 100 Brown Noddies, and 100 Laughing Gulls in La Cordillera Nature Reserve 27 Jun (JAS-F, JMW, RLW).

PIGEONS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

A small but growing population of Pied Imperial-Pigeons (*Ducula bicolor*) now exists on e. New Providence I., Bahamas. Three pigeons (a female and 2 males) were released in 1996 in the East Bay section of Nassau. By 2007, the flock numbered 28 birds; in 2009, it was estimated at 40-50. The flock roosts near the point of release but feeds throughout e. New Providence. A resident of northern Australia and New Guinea, the species lays a single egg and is a fruit-eater, characteristics that will keep it from increasing as rapidly as has the seed-eating, two-egg-laying Eurasian Collared-Dove (DK, TH, PD, TW). A pair of Rock Pigeons was near Greenville, Grenada 27 Jul (PHo). On 27 Jun, at Piñeros I., Puerto Rico, 2 Key West Quail-Doves were heard (JAS-F, JMW, RLW). Two White-winged Doves were seen at Josiah's Bay pond, Tortola, British Virgin Islands 18 Jul (RLN, KD). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Big Pond, Nassau 14 Jul (PD). Two Mangrove Cuckoos were seen at Greenville, Grenada 27 Jul (PHo).

Second-hand reports and posted signs indicate that there are active Burrowing Owl colonies on North and South Bimini, Bahamas (*vide* BP). Antillean Nighthawks were found nesting on Zebu Cay (also called North Adderly Cay), Noddy Cay, and Whitebay Cay in the Exumas and on Fowl Cay in the Berry Is. (JK, KH). Reports from the Biminis are rare, so a report of 30+ Antillean Nighthawks 15 Jul was noteworthy (BP). Chuck-will's-widows were reported singing in summer on Grand Bahama (JK, KH), Abaco (EB), and New Providence (CW, TH, PD), indicating nesting on these islands. A Belted Kingfisher at Clifton Cay, New Providence 23 Jul (TH) was early. Black Swifts were noted at Barbados 11 Jul (EM, RLN).

More than 8 Thick-billed and 10 Black-whiskered Vireos were noted 15 Jul at South Bimini (BP). Early swallows included 6 Tree Swallows and 2 Cliff Swallows at St. Georges Dairy, Bermuda 29 Jul (PW). Moving through the Bahamas a bit late was a Tree Swallow noted at the Treasure Cay dump, Abaco 10 Jun (EB), and 2 Barn Swallows were noted at Crossing Rocks, Abaco 15 Jun (EB, S&SG). Early arrivals in the Bahamas included 2 Barn Swallows at the cattle farm, Grand Bahama 26 Jul (BP). A single Bare-eyed Robin was seen near Greenville, Grenada 27 Jul (PHo). Late-departing migrants included a Blackpoll Warbler at Adelaide, New Providence 1 Jun (PD, TH) and a Common Yellowthroat at Double-blocked L., Abaco 3 Jun (EB). Early arrivals included a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Flat Rock Reef Cay, Exumas 16 Jul (JK, KH)

and 2 Yellow-throated Warblers and an American Redstart at St. Augustine's College, Nassau 27 Jul (PD, TH). A Prairie Warbler singing at Point Shares 21 May–12 Jun furnished the first summer record for Bermuda (BL), while one at Blue Shark G.C., New Providence 23 Jul (TH, PD) was early. The first fall warbler in Bermuda was a Louisiana Waterthrush on Nonsuch I. 26 Jul (JM); 2 were at H.W.P.N.P., New Providence 20 Jul (PD, TH). A Northern Waterthrush was at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 25-26 Jul (EG).

Among a dozen Bananaquits seen near Sauteurs, St. Patrick, Grenada 27 Jul (PHO) was single dark type. A second-hand report of a Northern Cardinal on North Cat Cay 13 Jul

(*vide* BP) indicates that the small colony there persists. Three Yellow-bellied Seedeaters were noted 27 Jul near Greenville, Grenada (PHO). Scores of Grassland Yellow-Finches were seen at Barbados 12 Jul (RLN, EM). A pair of House Sparrows has apparently taken up residence in Bridgetown, Barbados 12 Jul (EM, RLN). At least a dozen House Sparrows were noted at the airport on Beef I., British Virgin Islands 18 Jul (RLN).

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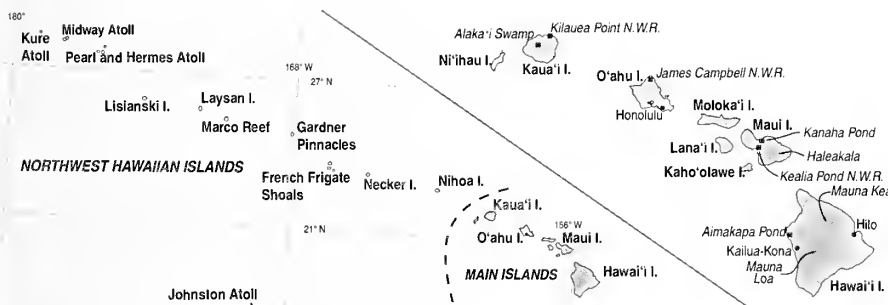
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Hawaiian Islands



Peter Donaldson

Persistent easterly trade winds dominated the weather around the Hawaiian Islands through the summer. The trade winds brought welcome rain to windward areas, but leeward areas remained very dry, with drought conditions continuing over the leeward sides of Hawaii and Maui Islands. It seems likely that the weather may be having an impact on the local avifauna, but with very spotty observations, it is hard to tell what the impact might be.

Summer is usually a quiet season in the Hawaiian Islands. The wintering birds are gone by the end of May, and most fall migrants arrive after the end of July. Many passerines nest in late winter, and by June, they have finished raising their young and turned very quiet. Because summer is such a quiet time for birds, birders tend to get out in the field less often. Observer coverage was even lighter than usual this summer, making for a rather uneventful season.

WATERFOWL THROUGH PASSERINES

No migrant ducks or geese were reported over the summer. One White-faced Ibis was observed at Kealia Pond N.W.R. 4 Jun (MN). White-faceds have been regular for several years in low numbers. No unusual shorebird species were reported over the summer. Pacific Golden-Plovers seemed unusually scarce over the summer. Three Bristle-thighed Curlews summered on Molokai I. (ADY). Fourteen Bristle-thigheds seen at the Kii unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu I. in late Jul (MN) may have included some newly returned migrants. There were good numbers of Ruddy Turnstones present, with 77 counted in Kahuku 3 Jun (MW) and 42 at Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I. 9 Jul (MN). It is hard to say if these birds summered in the islands or were birds that departed late or returned early from the far north. No gulls were reported over the summer, but one Least Tern was seen at Kealia 7 Jul (MN). Least Terns are rare but regular in the region.

We had no reports of any of the native forest birds on Kauai I. over the summer. On Maui I., a group of birders visiting Waikamoi Preserve 27 Jul found lots of juv. Apapane, Iiwi, and family groups of Maui Alauahio, locally common native species. They also heard lots of Akohekohe (Endangered) and spotted several. More interestingly, they observed at least 3 very rare Maui Parrotbills (Endangered) (CP et al.). On the Big Island of Hawaii, Hawaii Forest & Trail tour groups regularly found small numbers of Palila (Endangered) at Puu Laau, 1-3 Akiapolaau (Endangered) at Hakalau N.W.R. and Puu Oo Trail, small numbers of Hawaii Creepers (Endangered) at Hakalau, and as many as 6 Akepa at Hakalau Jun+ (H.F.T.). Very small numbers of Hawaii Creepers and Akepa were found in the Humuula Saddle 19-21 Jul (BR).

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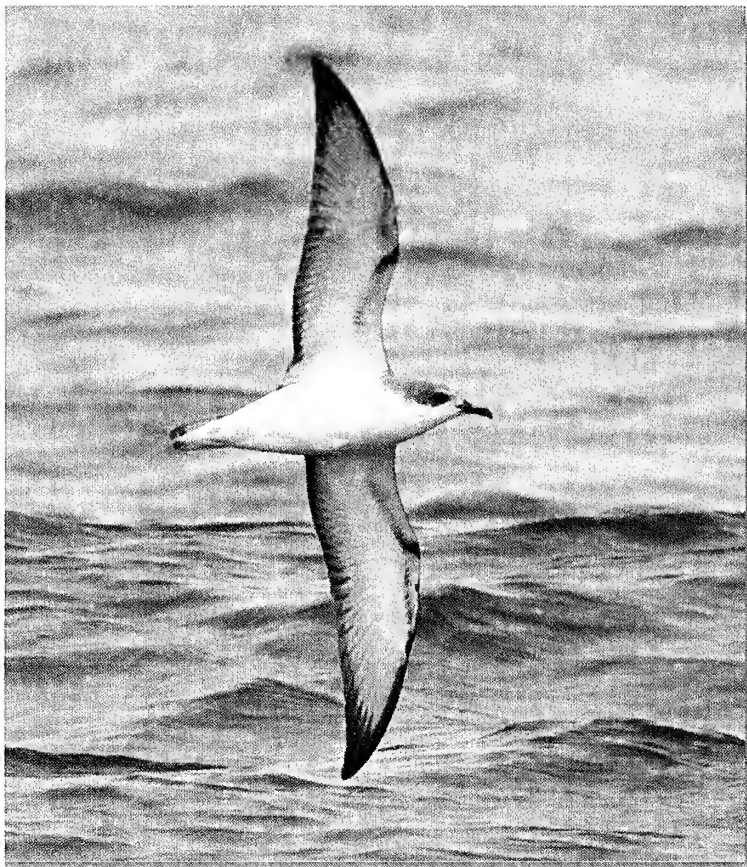


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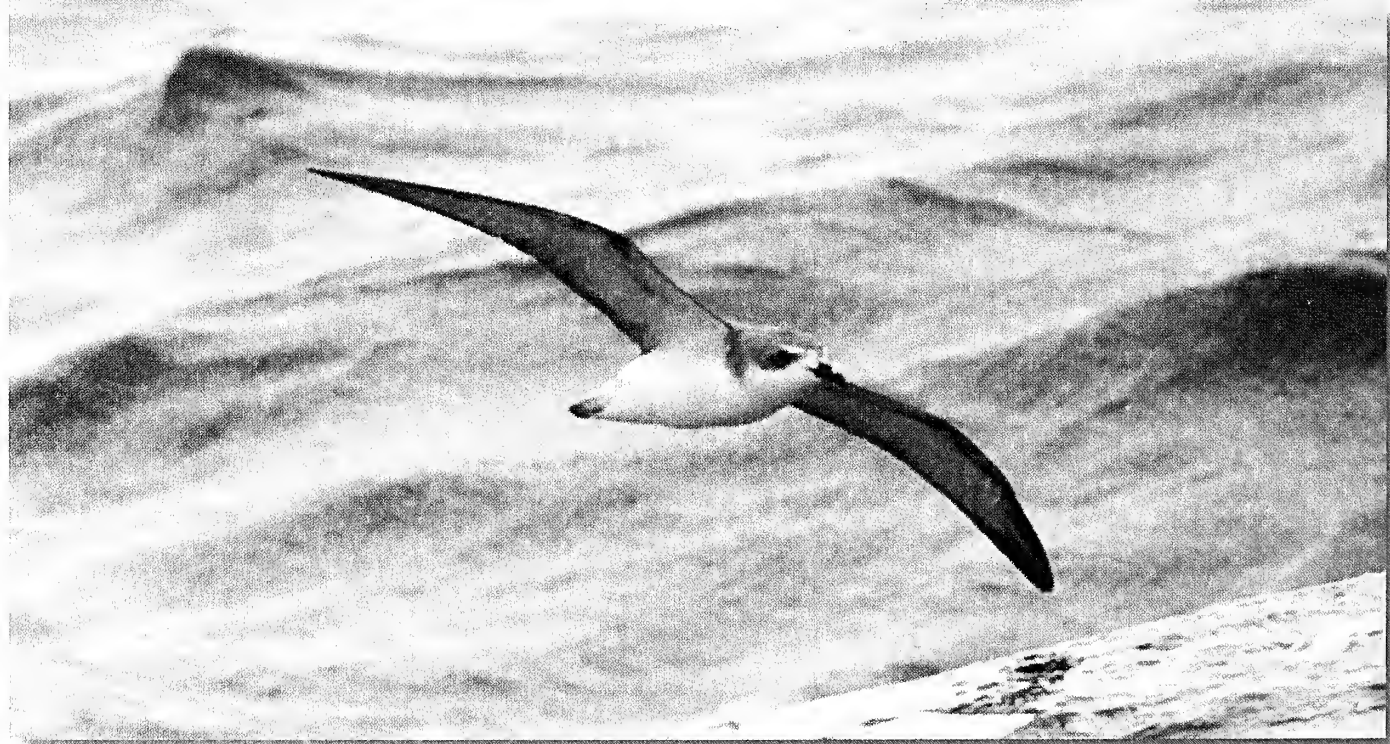
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Photo Salon

Cook's Petrel's off the California Coast



In summer and fall of 2009, seabird researchers and seabirders recorded an influx of Cook's Petrels into nearshore California waters like none other on record. The first inkling of this incursion came from Southern California waters 25 July, when a deep-water pelagic trip from Santa Barbara counted an unprecedented 136 Cook's Petrels. In Northern California waters on 30 July, researcher Michael Force observed a Cook's just 9 kilometers from Ragged Point, Monterey County—far closer to shore than normal. The next day, Force tallied 179 in nearby waters, and a Shearwater Journeys trip inside Monterey Bay counted 138! From top left to bottom, these images depict individuals off Monterey County 31 July (one of 138 documented that day); west of San Nicolas Island, Ventura County 25 July (one of 130; top right); and over the San Juan Seamount, Santa Barbara County 25 July. *Photographs by Brian L. Sullivan.*



The appearance of so many Cook's Petrels off California was thought to be tied to a mass of warm water that moved northward and inshore, particularly in July through August. The event allowed birders unparalleled opportunities to study and photograph the species repeatedly, often at close range. These photographs, from top to bottom, were taken 25 July over the San Juan Seamount, Santa Barbara County; 2 August off Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, and 4 August over Bodega Canyon, Sonoma County. *Photographs by Brian Sullivan, David Vander Pluym, and Matt Brady.*

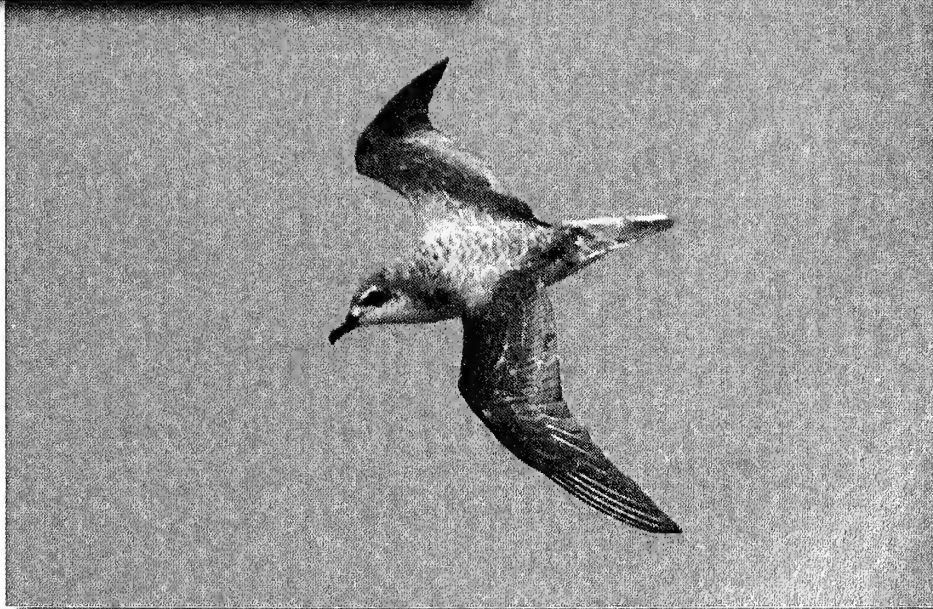




FACING PAGE: The pelagic waters off California have been crisscrossed for decades, but each year produces remarkable new discoveries. Veteran California seabirders noted that the 2009 phenomenon with Cook's Petrels increased their personal total records from "a handful" to "hundreds" in just a few trips. The image at top is a composite image of a single bird photographed 25 July in Santa Barbara County waters; it shows nicely the typical flight behavior of a Cook's Petrel traveling in moderate winds. At bottom left is a bird (one of 35) off Monterey 21 August, and at bottom right, one in Santa Barbara County waters 25 July. *Photographs by Bill Schmoker, Don Doolittle, and Todd McGrath.*



California may be unique among U. S. states in carefully segregating records of birds offshore by county. In 2009, Cook's Petrel was recorded in ocean waters of at least seven counties; some of these counties had few prior records of the species, and indeed, in the hundreds of trips conducted off Monterey, the species had not previously been recorded inside Monterey Bay. Although the final count of Cook's Petrel records from 2009 is not known, at least 700 were reported through 19 October. These images, from top to bottom, were taken 25 July in Santa Barbara County waters, 6 August in Monterey County waters, and 12 August over Bodega Canyon, Sonoma County. *Photographs by Martin Myers, Monte M. Taylor, and Larry Sansone.*



Pictorial Highlights



1 - Marbled Murrelet nests are always a rare find, especially this one located on the ground (rather than in a tree) above a ravine at Eagle Creek near Juneau, Alaska 30 June 2009. *Photograph by Kathy Hocker.*

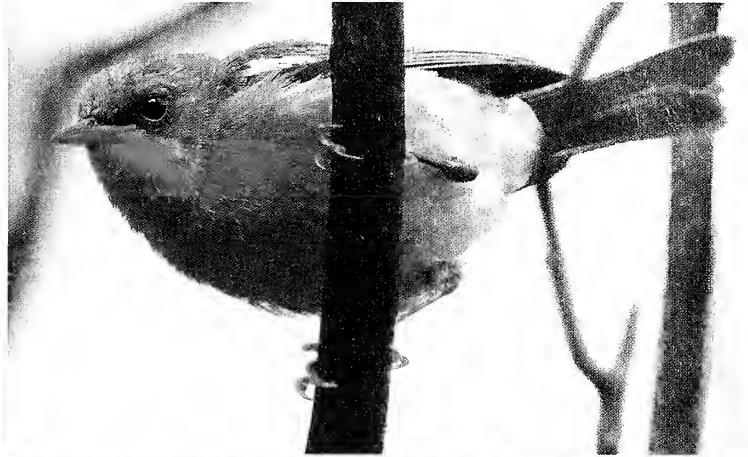
2 - Skulking in berry thickets at Wrangell for over a week in late (here 26) June 2009, this Gray Catbird provided Alaska's fourth record ever. *Photograph by Steve Zimmerman.*

3 - A species seldom encountered south of Newfoundland in summer in the East, this second-year male King Eider was found 22 July 2009 at Macs Bay, New Brunswick. In heavy molt of remiges and rectrices, the bird was likely flightless when found. *Photograph by Samuel Denault.*

4 - Arizona's second Pacific Golden-Plover was discovered at Willcox 26 June 2009 (here) by Mark Stevenson; it was last seen the following day. There are very few inland reports of this species in North America. *Photograph by Gary Rosenberg.*

5 - This immature male Gray-collared Becard was discovered in the South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon 5 June 2009, and, if accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee, would represent a first North American record of the species. *Photograph by Jillian Johnston.*

6 - A singing Brown-backed Solitaire was discovered in Miller Canyon, Arizona 16 July 2009 and later relocated in Ramsey Canyon on 18 (here 26) July, where it was reported off and on until 1 August. If accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee, this would represent a potential first North American record; there is one previous Arizona report, a bird seen in lower Madera Canyon on 4 October 1996, which was ultimately not accepted as a record of a wild bird because of concerns about its provenance. Brown-backed Solitaire is a common cage bird in Mexico. *Photograph by Christie Van Cleve.*



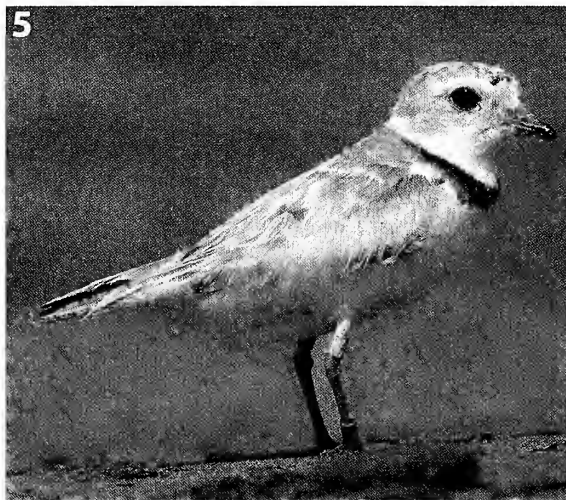
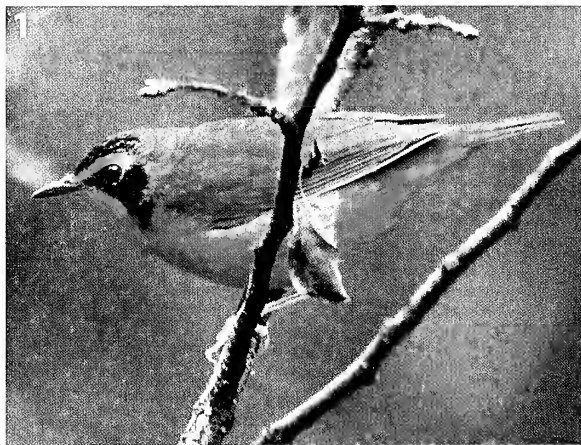
1 • This Elegant Tern was one of two that visited a Tucson pond 7-10 (here 7) June 2009, representing only an eighth Arizona record. Photograph by Pierre Deviche.

2 • Photographed at La Laguna, Baja California Sur on 9 August 2009, this first-summer male Tropical Parula is apparently of subspecies *insularis*. The amount of white in the wings and tail, the extensive yellow throat, and the rich coloration below all suggest this subspecies rather than *graysoni* of Socorro Island, which was originally reported from Baja California Sur, although none of the state's five records are referable to that taxon. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

3 • A subspecies little known to most birders, this fledgling San Lucan Cassin's Vireo (*V. c. lucasanus*) was nicely documented at La Burrera, at the western base of the Sierra de La Laguna, Baja California Sur 10 August 2009. Adults of this subspecies often resemble Blue-headed Vireos more than Cassin's. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

4 • Discovered 20 June 2009 (here), this Western Scrub-Jay was still present in early 2010 in a Maple Ridge neighborhood of British Columbia, where it has been seen by many. The species continues to spread northward in Washington state, but it is still very rare in British Columbia. Photograph by Paul Kusmin.

5 • This male Eastern Bluebird, photographed 28 May 2009 near Fort Nelson in northeastern British Columbia, represents the first record for the province. Photograph by Penny Hall.



1 • For most of the summer (here 25 June 2009), this male Kentucky Warbler sang and defended its territory against a perceived rival Hooded Warbler (a rarity for the location in its own right) at Gregory Canyon, Boulder County, Colorado. *Photograph by Bill Schmoker.*

2 & 3 • The first verified breeding of any true tanager species in the United States, a Western Spindalis pair successfully fledged three young 31 August 2009 at Long Pine Key, Everglades National Park, Miami-Dade County, Florida. The pair was discovered 28 July 2009, and the birds remained in the area after nesting. These photographs show the male and female bringing food to the nest on 26 August. *Photographs by Larry Manfredi.*

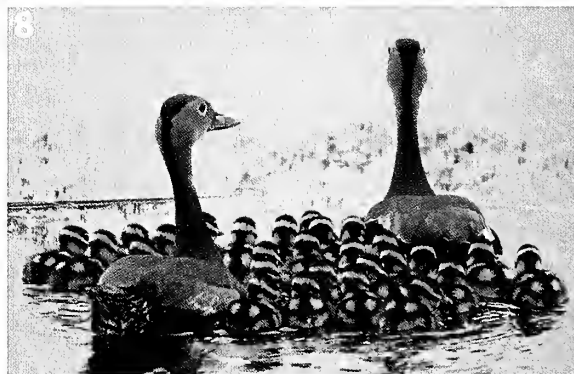
4 • Verified breeding of Bronzed Cowbird at Dania Beach, Broward County on 28 July (here) made another first for Florida in 2009. The established non-native Spot-breasted Oriole was its host, the male (above) seen here feeding the brood parasite, with the female oriole below. *Photographs by Arthur Nelson.*

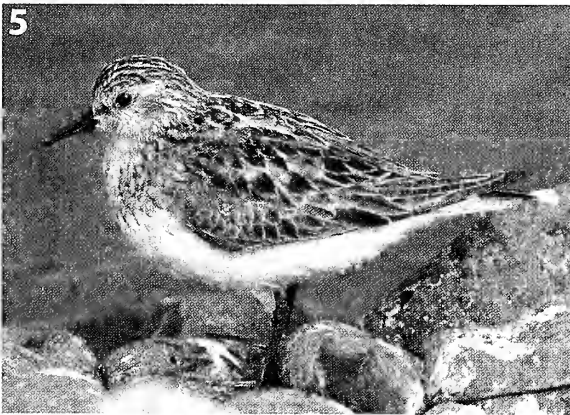
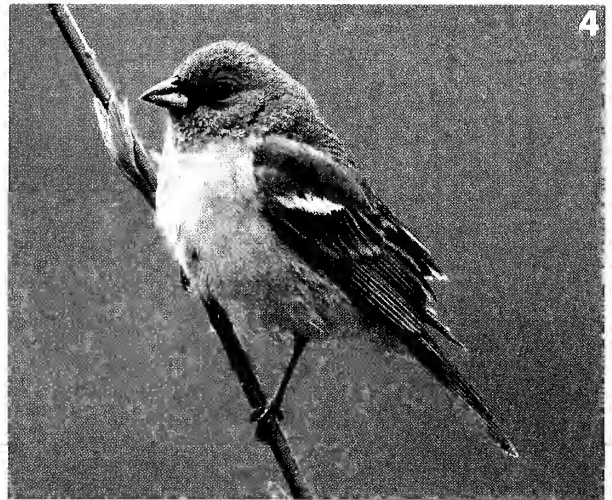
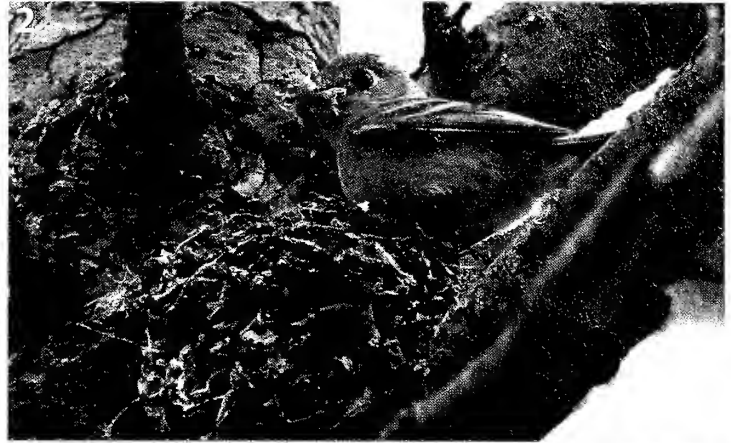
5 • Many Piping Plovers that wander in the Midwest have colored leg bands, such as this adult that visited Ashtabula County, Ohio 26-31 (here 27) July 2009. *Photograph by Lana Hays.*

6 • Lesser Goldfinch, a vagrant essentially anywhere east of the hundredth meridian, was hardly expected at Clifton, Penobscot County, Maine (here 7 July 2009). Records of the species east of range appear to be increasing, and the breeding range is expanding in the Pacific Northwest as well. *Photograph by John Zievis.*

7 • Part of a widespread flight of the species into the East and Midwest in summer 2009, this young Roseate Spoonbill provided a first firm record for Virginia at a nursery near Lyndhurst, Augusta County 15-19 (here 19) June 2009. This location, in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, between the Blue Ridge Mountains and Appalachian Mountains, has little habitat for such a bird, which appeared to be feeding heavily on tadpoles in a flooded corn field. *Photograph by Lynda Blair.*

8 • Whether the result of egg-dumping or communal nesting, these two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks with at least 25 chicks in tow at Brevard County, Florida's Viera Wetlands 7 July 2009 well illustrate the robust northward expansion of this species. *Photograph by Matt Paulson.*





1 - One of very few Black-browed Albatrosses satisfactorily documented in North American waters, this subadult was photographed 15 July 2009 between Seal Island and Vinal-haven Island in outer Penobscot Bay, Maine. *Photograph by John Drury.*

2 - Building on recent increases in their numbers, three pairs of Buff-breasted Flycatchers were in New Mexico's Animas Mountains, Hidalgo County in summer 2009, including this nest-building adult in upper Indian Creek Canyon 27 June. *Photograph by Cole J. Wolf.*

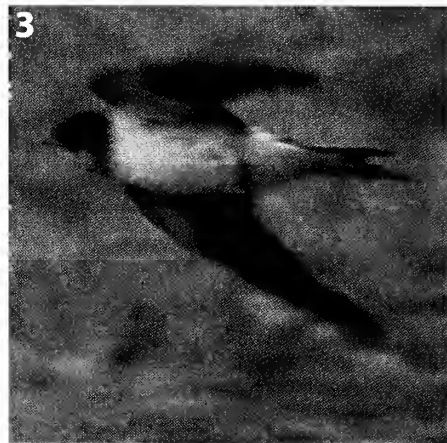
3 - Baird's Sandpiper is a very rare spring transient in Ontario, and none have been better documented than this individual at Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay District 1 June 2009, which was one of six birds present here in early June. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*

4 - This first-spring male Lazuli Bunting was present at Crooks in Thunder Bay District from 31 May through 3 (here 1) June 2009, providing the ninth record for Ontario. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*

5 - Washington's third Red-necked Stint was a one-day wonder at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County 24 July 2009. All three of Washington's records have been adult birds appearing between 27 June and 7 August. *Photograph by Gregg Thompson.*

6 - Those with knowledge of North American tree and bird distribution will note the incongruity of a Scarlet Tanager among Ponderosa Pine needles in this image. This territorial male returned for its third breeding season (here 10 June 2009) in upper Gregory Canyon, Boulder County, Colorado. *Photograph by David Waltman.*

7 - Amongst tens of thousands of snow-bound geese at Churchill, Manitoba on 5 June 2009 were these two rare blue-morph Ross's Geese. *Photograph by Tom Johnson.*



1 • In early (here 6) June 2009, the extremely late ice-out induced up to a few dozen Red Phalaropes to linger at Churchill, Manitoba, as they awaited favorable conditions for northward movement. *Photograph by Tom Johnson.*

2 & 3 • This swallow was present with many Barn Swallows in northeastern Jefferson County, Kentucky 29 June–3 July (here 3 July) 2009. The most likely identity seemed to be a Tree Swallow × Barn Swallow hybrid. *Photographs by Eddie Huber.*

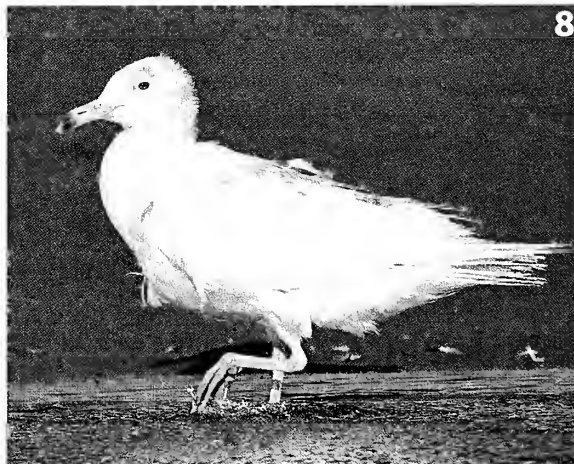
4 • This exhausted Sprague's Pipit became a most unexpected stowaway when it landed on a tall sailing ship about 64 kilometers off the North Carolina coast on 2 June 2009. In the literature, there is essentially no context for a bird of this species in the East in the summer season, much less offshore, although other rare western and mid-continental birds have certainly made appearances in the East in early June, typically farther north. *Photograph by Captain Lauren Morgens.*

5 • Manitoba's second (but its first "twitchable") Painted Bunting proved to be very cooperative. Initially discovered in late May 2009, it was identified 2 June (here 6 June), after which numerous observers managed to see it until it was last noted 6 June. *Photograph by Doug Dance.*

6 • A pair of Northern Parulas constructed this nest and raised three young in a wooded residential complex in urban Los Angeles in summer 2009; this image of the male at the nest was taken 30 July. *Photograph by Don Sterba.*

7 • Dispersal of Roseate Spoonbills was extensive in the Southeast (and beyond) in summer 2009. This juvenile was spotted with at least two others in Sumter County, Georgia on 12 July. *Photograph by Phil Hardy.*

8 • An odd visitor to the Upper Texas Coast in summer 2009 was this first-cycle Glaucous Gull at Galveston's East Beach, Galveston County 5 (here) through 26 June. *Photograph by Joseph Kennedy.*



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296 Acorn Woodpecker
Meisterulus formicivorus Length 9"
 Common in Pacific Coast forests and at higher elevations in AZ and NM. Highly social and comensally vocal. If this bird is nearby you will know it. Caches acorns in holes and occasionally in oak. Has a black cap with white nape and white around face. Both sexes wear red on top of head, male's more extensive.

297 Lewis Woodpecker
Meisterulus lewis Length 11"
 Forested lower elevations. Pacific Coast and inland through Redwoods. Wanders in woods. For one recently drew crows all Lovettsville, VA, west of Washington. Glossy metallic green back, more than body and gray collar and flanks. Overall aspect very dark.

298 Pilated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus Length 17"
 Eastern forests: mixed and deciduous, extending westward in Canada. Crow sized and with the coloration of the hairy woodpecker, now the largest woodpecker. Owing to its size it has historically suffered persecution as a pest bird and as an insectivore. In the early twentieth century both the museum collections to track the backside of the hairy woodpecker. Its nest increasing throughout its range, and occasional all feeders. Wingspans deep, irregular. Black with white stripes down side. Both sexes wear red crest, red on male's extends forward to base of bill and into mustache mark. Vocal in flight. Call a rattle series of 10's at constant pitch. Compare with Common Flickers descending pitch series.

299 Eastern Kingbird
Tyrannus tyrannus Length 9"
 Kingbirds are noted for their fearlessness, often chasing predators such as crows and hawks. Energetic, tumbling, courtship flight. Breeds in barnyards, white underparts, and iridescent. Widespread throughout the East. Black upperparts, white underparts, and broad white band across tail tip.

300 Western Kingbird
Tyrannus verticalis Length 9"
 Black head in turn, white chin, and black tail edged in white. Aggressive on territory. Often occurs near streams, flying out to chase up insects from roadside fences and wires. Breeds in dry agricultural lands and open country of the West. Gray upperparts and breast, greenish wings, and yellow belly and nape.

301 Cassin's Kingbird
Tyrannus vociferans Length 9"
 The most of the kingbirds, it resides in denser habitats than others. Aggressively defends territory. Breeds in semi-open mountains, semi-open high country in the Southwest. Similar to Western, but darker gray head and breast, and broader white chin. Black tail with light tip.

302 Gray Kingbird
Tyrannus carolinensis Length 9"
 Like Eastern, but larger and paler, with gray upperparts, solid gray tail, and much larger bill. Also like Eastern, possesses larger bills and defends nest vigorously. Breeds in coastal mangrove, barnyards, even oaks, mainly along FL Coast.

303 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Tijuanacauda Length 14"
 In flight, takes insects in mid-air. Common along river country and riparian in southern Great Plains. Feisty gray upperparts, black wings, and salmon-pink underwings and tail. Very long scissor-like black and-white tail streamers, usually folded. are used in courtship.

304 Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchus cinerascens Length 9"
 Nests in tree holes, sometimes using shed snakeholes for entrance. Loud and noisy. It is heard more easily than bird in some forests in deciduous forests with birds throughout the East. Greenish-brown head with bushy crest, gray face and body, and red sides in tail and wings—most colorful of eastern flycatchers.

305 Ash-throated Flycatcher
Myiarchus cinerascens Length 9"
 Common along Gulf Coast and in western country. Pale overall with white breast, less rufous and dark tipping on tail. We resemble bird boom, molasses, even parts pockets on outside, but not.

306 Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe Length 7"
 Commonly observed nesting around buildings, bridges, throughout the Northeast. Dark head and back, pale-rumped. Despite plain appearance, its upright posture, tail bobbing, and song makes identification easy. Among the earliest to sing.

307 Black Phoebe
Sayornis nigricans Length 7"
 Similar to Eastern, but black overall with white underparts. Above water, winging tail, and darting out to catch insects. Southwest along creeks and ponds, where it is common.

308 Say's Phoebe
Sayornis saya Length 8"
 Similar to Eastern, but with brownish upperparts. Black tail and breast like appearance. Insects. Nests under eaves of porches and barns. Common in woodlands throughout the West.

309 Western Wood-Peeper
Contopus sordidulus Length 7"
 Small, sleek grayish body, but iridescent. Bury themselves in brush. Common in woodlands throughout the West.

310 Eastern Wood-Peeper
Contopus virens Length 7"
 Very similar to Western, but with more iridescent plumage. The tail is more rounded.

311 Olive-backed Thrush
Contopus richardsonii Length 7"
 Feeds in brush and trees. Lark-like. Feeds in brush and trees. Lark-like. Feeds in brush and trees. Lark-like.

312
 Very similar to Olive-backed Thrush, but with more iridescent plumage. The tail is more rounded.

313
 Common in riparian areas in southern FL.

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