

## BAHAMAS/TCI BIRD REPORT SUMMER (June-July) 2007

Eight male Kirtland's Warblers and three active nests were found in Wisconsin this summer. One of the males, pictured on page 14 of the October "Birder's World", was banded in Eleuthera in 2003. This was the first time they have nested outside Michigan in nearly sixty years. Singing males have also been detected in Ontario.

Highlights from the Bahamas during the short summer season included the third report of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, a species whose numbers are increasing in Florida, the second straight year of successful flamingo nesting on Great Inagua, and a die-off of seabirds, probably Greater Shearwaters.

The Schedule for Christmas Bird Counts in the Bahamas is shown below. Bahama counters are always short-handed and welcome participation by outsiders. If you wish to participate in one or more of the counts, contact the organizer shown below. The Northern Abaco Count will be the first ever for that region and will be held only if there are sufficient participants. Results of previous years' Christmas Bird Counts can be found at [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/) .

Grand Bahama 14 Dec contact Erika Gates [kayaknaturetours@aol.com](mailto:kayaknaturetours@aol.com)

Southern Abaco 15 Dec contact Anita Knowles [info@friendsoftheenvironment.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheenvironment.org)

New Providence 16 Dec contact Carolyn Wardle [cwardle@batelnet.com](mailto:cwardle@batelnet.com)

Northern Abaco 29 Dec contact Anita Knowles [info@friendsoftheenvironment.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheenvironment.org)

Summer bird observations:

Three **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at Blue Water Cay, New Providence were the first for the island and third report for the Bahamas (CW, SB, ph TH, WP, m. ob.).

Two West Indian Whistling-Ducks were photographed near Knowles, Cat Island 22 Jun (CW, PM).

A female Blue-winged Teal at Emerald G.C., Grand Bahama 5 Jun was later than usual (BP).

A single Cory's Shearwater was seen flying east 0.75 mi. south of Taino Beach, Grand Bahama 17 Jun (BP).

Second and third hand reports indicate there was a large die-off of seabirds in the northern Bahamas in June. The few specimens obtained were Greater Shearwaters. It is probable that the dead birds were first-year Greater Shearwaters unable to feed successfully on their way to the feeding grounds off the Outer Banks. Six weeks of constant strong (15+ kts.) winds, and an unusual tongue of cold water extending down the eastern side of the Bahamas in late June may have contributed to the die-off. (DL, PMA, BP).

LJ saw 3 Brown Pelicans at Atwood Harbour, Acklins I. 7 Jun, and reported seeing 2 Magnificent Frigatebirds probably nesting, Osprey, and many Brown Noddies on Pro-peller Cay (near Samana Cay) 11 Jun. This small cay should be checked next spring.

An estimated 1,000 Neotropic Cormorants were seen in a one-hour birding tour around Inagua N.P. 3 Jul (LG, AB, KB, TR). A single Neotropic Cormorant 11 Jul at Windemere, Eleuthera was away from its normal locations on the island (EJ).

Greater Flamingos nested successfully in two colonies on Great Inagua this year. Heavy rains in late May and June, after the young had left the nests, destroyed the nest mounds so a nest count could not be conducted (HN *fide* LG). On 3 Jul 5,000 flamingos were seen in Inagua N.P. (LG, AB, KB, TR).

A Snowy Plover at McKinney Pond, Cat Island 22 Jun was near the northern end of its range in the Bahamas (CW, PM).

While surveying Windemere, Eleuthera 7-15 Jul, EJ found a Semipalmated Plover 9 Jul, a Lesser Yellowlegs 13 Jul, and "a few" Wilson's Plovers, Short-billed Dowitchers and American Oystercatchers. EB found 2 Piping Plovers at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco 14 Jul, and on 29 Jul he saw 7 Willets (believed to be Western), 1 Red Knot, 1 Western Sandpiper, 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 4 Least Sandpipers, and 4 Short-billed Dowitchers there. A Piping Plover, 4 Ruddy Turnstones and 3 Least Sandpipers were on the beach at Crossing Rocks, Abaco 21 Jul (EB, UN).

On Cat Island 49 Gull-billed Terns were at a saline pond near Arthur's Town 21 Jun and 50+ at McKinney Pond 22 Jun (CW, PM).

A surprising 6 Caspian Terns were found among a flock of Royal Terns at Windemere, Eleuthera 7-12 Jul (EJ).

A flock of 30 Roseate Terns, including 10 juveniles was roosting on the Atlantic side of Water Cay, Caicos Islands 23 Jul (SW).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen and one heard in the pine forest of Grand Bahama 30 Jun (WH); another was heard calling at the old fruit farm, Abaco 3 Jul (EB), suggesting that this species breeds in the Bahamas.

Chuck-will's-widows may be more common in the northern Bahamas than previously realized. Brief, informal surveys on Grand Bahama 1-2 Jul by WH and North Andros 3-13 Jul by MP found 16 and 93 calling Chuck-will's-widows respectively. They were also calling at Coral Harbour, New Providence 2 Jul (CW) and Treasure Cay, Abaco 10 Jul (EB).

A Western Kingbird was found in coppice near Treasure Cay, Abaco 6 Jun (BB, JG).

A female Black-throated Blue Warbler was feeding at Treasure Cay, Abaco 29 Jul (EB).

A late Northern Waterthrush was at Harrold and Wilson Ponds N.P., New Providence 23 Jun (WP).

#### Observers:

Alan Bolten, Karen Bjorndal, Betsy Bracey, Elwood Bracey, Sonny Bratz, Lynn Gape, Judy Gire, William Hayes, Tony Hepburn, Larry Jackson, Everton Joseph, David Lee, Pericles Maillis (PMA), Predenza Moore, Henry Nixon, Uli Nowlan, William Pinder, Bruce Purdy, Melissa Price, Tamica Rahming, Carolyn Wardle, Stu Wilson