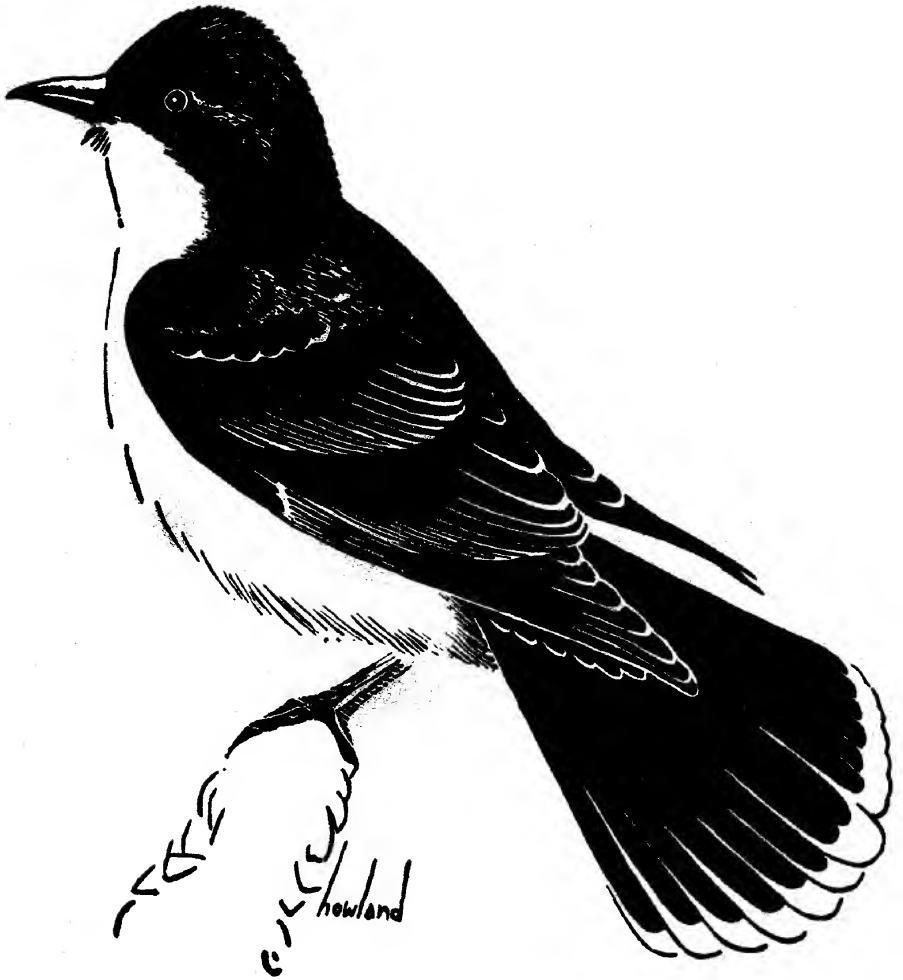


# The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XXXI, NO. 4

FALL • 1981

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

*THE KINGBIRD* (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas. Individual member's dues are \$12.00 annually. Other membership classes are: Family Membership (\$15.00), Supporting Member (\$20.00), or Life Member (\$200.00)—“payable over a four-year period in equal installments,” if member so desires. Student membership \$5.00. *THE KINGBIRD* institutional subscriptions: \$12.00 per year on calendar year basis only. Single copies: \$3.00. Memberships are on a calendar year basis. Applicants for Annual or Family Membership applying in the second half of the year may reduce payment by one-half.

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Publication office is 4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045.

Second class postage paid at Cortland, NY.



# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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Vol. XXXI, No. 4

Fall, 1981

197-268

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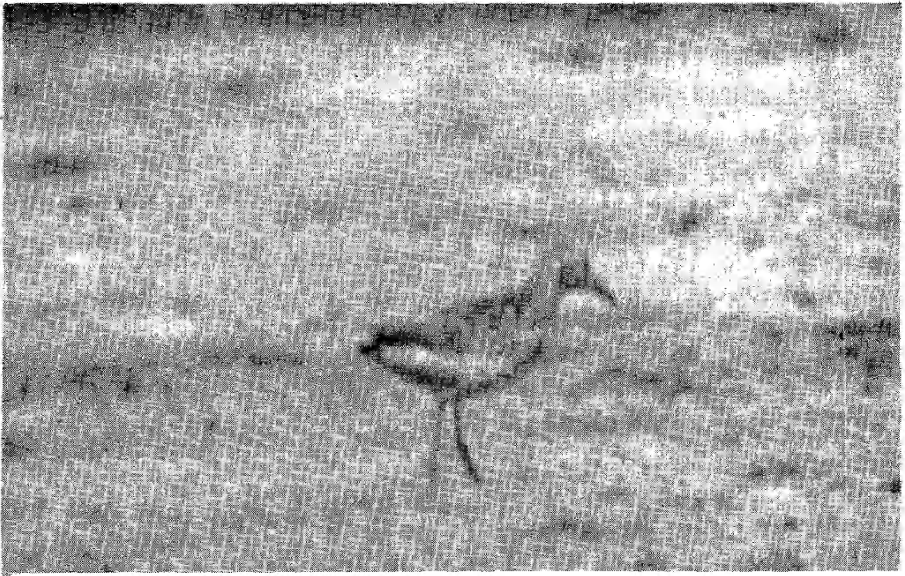
*Co-Editors* – Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr.

*Highlights of the Summer Season*

*Guest Editor* – Manny Levine

*Circulation Manager* – Constance N. Wilkins

*Cover Design* – Douglas L. Howland



*Sharp-tailed Sandpiper—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co.*  
*18 July, 1981* *Robert Lewis*

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 41. SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER

THOMAS H. DAVIS

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) nests on the eastern Siberian tundra and winters from southern China to Australia, and in migration has been recorded in western North America and England as a straggler (Dement'ev *et al.* 1969, p. 172-175). It is "one of the commonest most widespread wader migrants to coastal and inland Australia and Tasmania" (Pizzey, 1980, p. 129). Bent (1927, p. 167) states that "on the fall migration it visits the coast of northwestern Alaska frequently, perhaps regularly, and often commonly. It occurs regularly, sometimes abundantly on the Pribilof Islands in the fall. In southern Alaska and farther south, it occurs only as a rare straggler . . . it is so much like our Pectoral Sandpiper in appearance, behavior, and haunts, that it has probably often been overlooked; it may therefore occur on our northwest coast much oftener than we suspect."

Bent's surmise has proven true; with increased observer recognition, the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is now known to be a rare but regular fall migrant along the Pacific coast south of Alaska, and a steadily increasing number of birds has been reported scattered about the rest of North America. Excluding the Pacific states and British Columbia, *American Birds* (1968-1980, volumes 22-34) cites 15 North American records of the species. Deleting several dubious reports, their occurrence may be summarized as follows: Spring—one definite record, a bird photographed 23 May 1978 in Alberta, Canada; Fall—an adult collected 30 June 1970 in Massachusetts, specimen in MCZ, and eight juvenals of age not stated, 28 September-5 December.

On 18 July 1981 the author discovered a breeding-plumaged adult Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens County. The bird remained until 24 July, during which time it was observed by 150 to 200 birders from eight states and recognizable photographs were obtained by Robert Lewis of New York (see accompanying photographs) and Erik Breden of New Jersey. This report constitutes the first record for New York State.

The following description of behavior and plumage is taken from my field notes of 18 July. I observed the bird for about two and one half hours from as close as 20m. with a Questar 80 and a 30x tele-

scope and other optics. I was joined at this time by Thomas W. Burke, Stephen B. Dempsey, and Robert Lewis, and sought their agreement on all characters noted.

**SIZE:** a *Calidris* sandpiper about the size and shape of a small Pectoral Sandpiper (*C. melanotos*) but with a shorter, slightly arched bill.

**PLUMAGE:** the bird was in breeding plumage with no molting feathers but showed wear on the edges of the mantle and wing covert feathers. Crown chestnut with thin black streaks (about like that of a bright juvenal Pectoral), eyeline dull grayish white, did not contrast sharply with crown. Mantle feathers blackish with narrow rusty edges. Rump white divided by a black central line. Tail appeared wedge-shaped when it was spread to land. Wings with an indistinct white stripe in flight. Throat and breast buff coarsely streaked with dark brown, on the lower chest the streaking splayed outward and turned to bold chevrons which continued along the flanks (visible below the folded wing at rest), and the undertail coverts were white with conspicuous dark streaks that came together in the form of a V (see Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Pattern of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper's underparts  
(redrafted from a crude field sketch.)

**SOFT PARTS:** bill slightly arched, black with flesh pink at the base of the lower mandible. Legs greenish yellow, appeared dark at a distance.

**BEHAVIOR AND HABITAT:** kept much to itself but observed with Killdeer, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, once in flight



alongside two Pectoral Sandpipers when the streaked undertail coverts immediately distinguished it. Favored short grass and mud border along the pond away from the shoreline, usually close to phragmites. Fed deliberately like a Pectoral Sandpiper, walking about picking at the ground. Flight call a reedy *reet-reet*.

#### COMMENT

Much of the information on the identification of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in the standard field guides is either too simplistic or erroneous, and does not properly make comparison to similar species including Pectoral Sandpiper and juvenal Ruff. These shortcomings and the field guides' lack of juvenal shorebird plumages often lead observers astray—a juvenal Sharp-tailed Sandpiper reported several years ago in Connecticut was later revealed to be a juvenal Dunlin!! Britton (1980) published the most comprehensive paper on Sharp-tailed Sandpiper identification in all plumages, profusely illustrated with black-and-white photographs and line drawings. Interested persons will also wish to consult Webb and Conry (1979), detailing Colorado's first record of a juvenal bird and including excellent color and black-and-white photographs.

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## REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

The New York State Avian Records Committee received 78 reports during 1980, representing 49 records of birds. These figures are comparable to last year. This year, 36 of the records were accepted, one is an escape from captivity, 11 were not accepted, and one was filed without formal review by the Committee. In addition, a report pending from 1978 has not been accepted, and two reports from 1979 have been accepted. Inadequate documentation remains the primary factor that causes the Committee to find reports unacceptable.

With Thomas H. Davis' reappointment to the Committee, its membership remains unchanged from last year. The Committee finds that after four years of operation, the "want" list of species to be reviewed as presented in *The Kingbird*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 2, pgs. 73-74, is ready for revision.

The Committee adds the following two species to the New York State list based on previously published reports:

**FIELDFARE** (*Turdus pilaris*), one, Larchmont, Westchester Co., 3-12 Feb. 1973 (*Kingbird* 23: 83-84; 1973). This well documented record is not substantiated by photographic or specimen evidence. There are several more recent records of this species from eastern Canada.

**REDWING** (*Turdus iliacus*), one, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 20-24 Feb. 1954 (*Wilson Bulletin* 71: 382-383; 1974); the NYSARC has been unable to locate the photographs mentioned by Bull (1974). The Committee can find no basis for the allegation that this bird escaped from captivity. It is a common breeder and long distance migrant in Iceland, and has strayed to the New World on at least one subsequent occasion (*American Birds* 35: 147, 1981).

The following species are deleted from our earlier "want" list because we can find no fully satisfactory record from within New York State; any report of them would represent a potential addition to the State list:

Anhinga	Caracara
Trumpeter Swan	Greenshank
American Flamingo	Mew Gull



Common Ground Dove	Brambling
Lewis' Woodpecker	Brewer's Sparrow
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Golden-crowned Sparrow

White-fronted Goose and Sabine's Gull are deleted because they now appear to occur annually, though in very small numbers only. The remaining changes either are additions to our former list or else are changes from category 3) to category 4) below.

The NYSARC will review reports for any of the following:

- 1) any species new to New York State
- 2) any addition to the list of species proven to nest within New York State
- 3) the following species and identifiable forms from any locality within New York State: Yellow-billed Loon; Arctic Loon; Western Grebe; Yellow-nosed Albatross; Audubon's Shearwater; Black-capped Petrel; Scaled Petrel; South Trinidad Petrel; Leach's Storm-Petrel; White-faced Storm-Petrel; Red-billed Tropicbird; White-tailed Tropicbird; White Pelican; Brown Pelican; Brown Booby; Magnificent Frigatebird; Wood Stork; White-faced Ibis; White Ibis; "Black" Brant; Barnacle Goose; Fulvous Whistling-Duck; Cinnamon Teal; Smew; Black Vulture; Swallow-tailed Kite; Mississippi Kite; Swainson's Hawk; Gyrfalcon; Sandhill Crane; Yellow Rail; Corn Crake; Lapwing; Wilson's Plover; Long-billed Curlew; Eurasian Curlew; Whimbrel (white-rumped races only); Eskimo Curlew; Bar-tailed Godwit; Wood Sandpiper; Great Skua; South Polar Skua; Long-tailed Jaeger; Ivory Gull; Thayer's Gull; California Gull; Arctic Tern; Sooty Tern; Bridled Tern; Common Murre; Common Puffin; White-winged Dove; Hawk-Owl; Burrowing Owl; Great Gray Owl; Boreal Owl; Gray Kingbird; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Say's Phoebe; Black-billed Magpie; Brown-headed Nuthatch; Bewick's Wren; Sage Thrasher; Fieldfare; Redwing; Mountain Bluebird; Townsend's Solitaire; Wheatear; Bell's Vireo; Swainson's Warbler; "Audubon's" Warbler; Black-throated Gray Warbler; Townsend's Warbler; Painted Redstart; "Bullock's" Oriole; Brewer's Blackbird; Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Painted Bunting; Hoary Redpoll; "Spotted" Towhee; Green-tailed Towhee; Lark Bunting; LeConte's Sparrow; Baird's Sparrow; Bachman's Sparrow; Harris' Sparrow; Smith's Longspur; Chestnut-collared Longspur.
- 4) the following species when observed away from downstate New York (including established nesting areas on the lower Hudson

River): any species of shearwater, petrel or storm-petrel; Gannet; Great Cormorant; Louisiana Heron; Yellow-crowned Night Heron; Tufted Duck; Common Eider; Black Rail; Purple Gallinule; American Oystercatcher; Black-necked Stilt; American Avocet; Piping Plover; Marbled Godwit; Curlew Sandpiper; Gull-billed Tern; Roseate Tern; Sandwich Tern; Royal Tern; Black Skimmer; any alcid; Chuck-will's-widow; Western Kingbird; Yellow-throated Warbler; Boat-tailed Grackle; Summer Tanager; Blue Grosbeak; "Ipswich" Sparrow; Sharp-tailed Sparrow; Lark Sparrow.

- 5) the following species when observed away from the Adirondacks: Spruce Grouse; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker; Northern Three-toed Woodpecker; Gray Jay.

The committee also will review reports which represent significant deviations from established patterns of seasonal occurrence within New York State. Because such records are difficult to summarize concisely, observers should consult Bull (1974, 1976). The Committee considers any report four weeks before early arrival or four weeks after late departure dates as summarized therein to be a significant deviation from the norm.

Two minor procedural changes have been adopted during the past year: reports will now be catalogued by year of receipt, regardless of the year in which they were submitted; and reports to the NYSARC will be acknowledged by postcard upon receipt by the Committee. As in previous years, reports in the summary that follows are credited only to the persons who submitted them, regardless of the number of observers involved. We repeat our request that contributors submit original reports, as processing of reports by the NYSARC sometimes has been hampered when the only materials available to us are copies.

#### 1907 ACCEPTED REPORT

**WOOD SANDPIPER** (*Tringa glareola*). 1980-35-A. specimen, Gaines, Orleans Co., 10 Oct. 1907 (PDeB). The details of this first New York record are published in *American Birds* Vol. 34: 231; 1980. The Committee has attempted to ascertain the possibility that this is a mislabeled specimen. Our results are equivocal. The Milton S. Ray collection, from which this specimen comes, contains no other birds with similar labels; we would appreciate any further evidence that might corroborate the origin of this specimen.

#### 1979 ACCEPTED REPORTS

- BLACK VULTURE** (*Coragyps atratus*). 1980-10-A,B. adult, Scottsville, Monroe Co., 22 Dec. 1979 (SMS, JDS), photographs on file. This bird is unusual both as to date and locality; a photograph is published in *American Birds* Vol. 34: 270, 1980.
- SOUTH POLAR SKUA** (*Catharacta skua skua*). 1979-33-A. two, one light morph, one dark morph, 40 and 60 miles south Montauk Point, Suffolk Co., 2 Jun 1979 (PDeB); photographs of light morph bird on file. A third skua seen this date resembled the light morph bird but could not positively be assigned to species. This is the first substantiated record of this species from New York.
- SABINE'S GULL** (*Xema sabini*). 1979-54-A. immature, Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua Co., 1 Dec. 1979 (BC); photograph on file. See the accepted report for 1980 below.
- BRIDLED TERN** (*Sterna anaethetus*). 1980-4-A,B. one present 15 to 17 Sept. 1979, Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co. (GSR, BJS). This is the fourth report from New York State; it was associated with the passage of hurricane "David" on 6 Sept.
- SOOTY TERN** (*Sterna fuscata*). 1980-2-A,B. three adults observed 6 Sept. 1979, two found dead 7 Sept., Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co. (GSR). These add to the number associated with hurricane "David" and noted in our previous report.
- SANDWICH TERN** (*Sterna sandvicensis*). 1980-3-A. adult, Lake Sagaponack, Bridgehampton, Suffolk Co., 7 Sept. 1979 (GSR). This, like the previous two species, was associated with the passage of hurricane "David"; see the 1980 accepted reports below.
- WESTERN KINGBIRD** (*Tyrannus verticalis*). 1979-39-A-C. two, town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., 20-21 Sept. 1979 (BV, MEV, EP). Although annual on Long Island, this species is very rare upstate, from where reports now will be reviewed by the NYSARC. This report, previously filed without formal review, is all the more remarkable in that two birds are involved.

#### 1980 ACCEPTED REPORTS

- RED-THROATED LOON** (*Gavia stellata*). 1980-27-A. one, Lake Colby, Franklin Co., 2 July 1980 (DRG). A flightless bird in basic plumage, as is typical of birds that oversummer along the Atlantic coast, is very unusual as to locality and date. The NYSARC will not review future records of this species.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus iherminieri*). 1980-29-A,B.

one, ca. 80 mi. S Montauk Pt., Suffolk Co., 29 and 30 Sept. 1980 (THD, BJS), photographs on file. This bird was associated with warm, Gulf Stream waters, where it now appears that this species is to be expected.

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL** (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*). 1980-21-A, B. singles at approximately 40 and 45 mi. south of Montauk Pt., Suffolk Co., 7 June 1980 (FGS, PDeB). Both birds were seen in company with Wilson's Storm-Petrel by most participants of the Federation's June pelagic trip. This is the first well documented report for this species within New York since the fall 1976.

**GANNET** (*Morus bassanus*). 1980-33-A-C. immature, Lake Ontario off Hamlin Beach, Monroe Co., 6 Oct. 1980 (AFC, CC, RGS). There is no ready explanation for the appearance of this marine species on Lake Ontario; most prior records are from the same time frame.

**GREAT CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 1980-31-A. adult in alternate plumage, Lake Ontario off Oklahoma Beach, Webster, Monroe Co., 14 Apr. 1980 (RGS). A Double-crested Cormorant was present for direct comparison. This is about the fourth upstate record and the second from Lake Ontario.

**WHITE IBIS** (*Eudocimus albus*). 1980-41-A. immature, Rye, Westchester Co., 22 Sept. 1980 (DWC). This bird had been reported from the area for some time prior to this observation. It is the 11th record from New York State.

**WHITE-FACED IBIS** (*Plegadis chihi*). 1980-23-A. two adults, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 6 June 1980 (PDeB). These birds were molting out of alternate plumage, and probably represent the same individuals reported in 1979. They were first reported on 6 April this year. This is the fourth record for New York.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** (*Nyctanassa violacea*). 1980-26-A. adult, Pleasant Point, town of Mexico, Oswego Co., 24 June 1980 (FGS). A well documented upstate report. The bird was first found the previous day.

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*Anser albifrons*). 1980-8-A-F. up to 13 adults, Braddock's Bay, Monroe Co., 7-16 Mar. 1980 (PDeB, FGS, RGS, AC, DS, WLL). 1980-11-A. adult, Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, Erie Co., 13 Apr. 1980 (RFA). 1980-45-A-C. immature, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 30

Nov. to 5 Dec. 1980 (BJS, FGS, THD). The description of the last bird suggests *flavirostris*; the others evidently were *frontalis*. This species appears to be regular within the state in small numbers, perhaps more frequent in spring than in the fall, and will no longer be reviewed by the NYSARC.

**SWAINSON'S HAWK** (*Buteo swainsoni*). 1980-25-A. adult light morph, Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 24 May 1980 (FGS). This is the third record from Derby Hill and about the seventh from New York State.

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*). 1980-17-A,B. adult, Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 26 Apr. 1980 (FGS, DWC), photographs on file. It is not unlikely that this report pertains to the same bird which produced the previously unaccepted reports from this locality in 1978 and 1979; none was seen in 1981. This is the 15th well documented report from New York State.

**MARbled GODWIT** (*Limosa fedoa*), 1980-36-A. one, town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 9 May 1980 (RGS). An upstate report, where the species now appears to occur almost annually.

**STILT SANDPIPER** (*Micropalama himantopus*). 1980-37-A. adult in alternate plumage, town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 18 May 1980 (RGS). This is the fourth well documented spring record for upstate New York State.

**THAYER'S GULL** (*Larus thayeri*). 1980-48-A. immature, near False Point, Montauk, Suffolk Co., 7 Dec. 1980 (BJS). This report is as convincing as any sight observation can be, and appears to be the first documented observation of this species in New York away from the environs of Lake Ontario and the Niagara River.

**SABINE'S GULL** (*Xema sabini*). 1980-24-A. immature, Onondaga Lake, Onondaga Co., 14 Sept. 1980 (FGS). It is now clear that Sabine's Gull, most immatures, occurs regularly though rarely within New York during the fall. The NYSARC no longer will review reports of this species from New York during the fall (Sept. to Dec. inclusively) period; spring reports should be submitted for review.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*). 1980-28-A. immature, El Dorado Shores, Jefferson Co., 6 Sept. 1980 (MAS). Kittiwakes occur regularly on Lake Ontario in the fall and occasionally are found elsewhere in upstate New York. This report is early but not unprecedented. Experience with this species elsewhere suggests that occasional birds may appear almost anywhere at any time of



- the year. It no longer will be reviewed by the NYSARC.
- ARCTIC TERN** (*Sterna paradisaea*). 1980-20-A,B. adult, 6 to 10 miles Montauk Pt., Suffolk Co., 13 and 23 Aug. 1980 (DWC, BJS). This appears to be the fifth well documented report from New York State; it is still uncertain in which state three birds were seen during the Federation's 20 May 1978 pelagic trip.
- SANDWICH TERN** (*Sterna sandvicensis*). 1980-19-A,B. two adults, Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co., 9 Aug. 1980 (FGS, PDeB). There were unconfirmed reports of this species, now almost annual on Long Island, in the area for much of the summer; local tern colonies should be watched for possible breeding birds. Excepting a first nesting record, the NYSARC no longer will review reports of this species from Long Island and adjacent waters.
- THICK-BILLED MURRE** (*Uria lomvia*). 1980-46-A. one in worn alternate plumage, Tobay Beach, Nassau Co., 13 July 1980 (BJS); photographs on file. This species is regular off Long Island in winter but most unusual in mid-summer.
- GREAT GRAY OWL** (*Strix nebulosa*). 1980-1-A. one, Guilderland, Albany Co., 21-22 Jan. (RLM); photograph on file. 1980-18-A,B. one, NY Route 3 near junction of Route 104B, town of Mexico, Oswego Co., 10 Apr. 1980 (FGS, DWC); photograph on file. The latter, very tame bird was hit by a motor vehicle and placed in the care of Mary and John Forness in Cuba, NY, for rehabilitation. Though emaciated on arrival, it recovered and is still being held pending permission to release the bird in Canada. These are the only well documented reports to follow the great flight of 1979.
- BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** (*Picoides arcticus*). 1980-34-A,B. female, Hamlin Beach State Park, Monroe Co., 12 Oct. 1980 (SH, RGS). This report away from the Adirondacks is particularly noteworthy in that there were no indications that the species staged an irruption during the winter season.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscivora forficata*). 1980-16-A. adult, Fort Tilden, Queens Co., 30 June to 4 July 1980 (THD); photographs on file. This is about the 16th record from New York State.
- HOUSE WREN** (*Troglodytes aedon*). 1980-7-A. one, DeWitt, Onondaga Co., 27 Jan. 1980 (FGS). This bird is particularly noteworthy as an upstate winter record in no way associated with a Christmas Bird Count.
- TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** (*Dendroica townsendi*). 1980-38-A. first



(?) year male, Braddock's Bay State Park, Monroe Co., 20 Apr. 1980 (RGS). This is the ninth record from New York and the second upstate.

**PAINTED REDSTART** (*Myioborus picta*). 1980-6-A-D, one, Dansville, Livingston Co., 6-20 Jan. 1980 (DWC, PDeB, FGS, THD); photographs on file. Full details of this first New York record appear in *The Kingbird* 30: 65-66, 1980.

**BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** (*Quiscalus major*). 1980-22-A,B. female, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 6 June, 1980 (FGS, PDeB). 1980-40-A,B. two females, 13 Oct. to 30 Nov., with a third present on the last date, Cow Meadow Park, Freeport, Nassau Co. (THD, BJS); photographs on file. 1980-42-A. male, Greece, Monroe Co., 29-30 Oct. 1980 (RGS); photographs on file. The first report is accepted as this species, as opposed to *Cassidix mexicanus*, on a probability basis only. It and the next record come from an area where nesting may be anticipated, and from which there are as yet unreviewed reports of birds seen feeding young in 1981. The NYSARC will no longer review reports from Long Island excepting a first well documented nesting record. The last report is the first upstate record; its identity was confirmed by Dr. Robert K. Selander of the University of Rochester. A photograph appears in *American Birds* 35: 181, 1981.

#### 1978 REPORT NOT ACCEPTED

**SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*). 1978-32. Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., 31 Oct. 1978. Remarks about the other 1978 reports of this species not accepted, apply equally to this report.

#### 1980 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

**RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD** (*Phaethon rubricauda*). 1980-9. Central Park, Manhattan, 13 Mar. 1980.

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK** (*Buteo regalis*). 1980-32. Hilton, Monroe Co., 3 May 1980.

**STILT SANDPIPER** (*Micropalama himantopus*). 1980-37 (part). Hogan Pt., Monroe Co., 18 May 1980.

**CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*). 1980-14. Kendall, Monroe Co., 7-8 June 1980.

**BLACK GUILLEMOT** (*Cephus grylle*). 1980-43. Webster, Monroe Co., 6 Dec. 1980.

**BLACK-HOODED PARROT** (*Nandayus nenday*). 1980-44. pair with young. Silver Lake, Westchester Co., 8 June 1980. Identity accepted but a clear escape from captivity and not (yet) established as a feral population.

**HAWK-OWL** (*Surnia ulula*). 1980-5. town of Hammond, Cayuga Co., 1 Jan. 1980.

**RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD** (*Selasphorus rufus*). 1980-30. Elizabethtown, Essex Co., 3-13 Sept. 1980. The NYSARC agrees that this well publicized report (*Kingbird* 31: 2-3, 1981) is of a *Selasphorus* hummingbird and, as such, is an addition to the New York State list. The photograph we have examined shows a bronzy-backed, "female"-plumaged bird, contrary to the published and written descriptions. That it is a Rufous Hummingbird is a supposition only. Birds in this plumage are indistinguishable in the field from Allen's Hummingbird, which now also is known to exhibit long-distance vagrancy. Future reports of birds of this complex from New York may be expected; every effort should be made to mist-net such birds and an outermost and central tail feather should be plucked and retained to corroborate the bird's identity if it cannot be retained as a specimen.

**HUTTON'S VIREO** (*Vireo huttoni*). 1980-12. Brighton, Monroe Co., 6 May 1980.

**WESTERN TANAGER** (*Piranga ludoviciana*). 1980-39. Irondequoit, Monroe Co., 6 May 1980.

**LeCONTE'S SPARROW** (*Ammospiza caudacutus*). 1980-13. Newfield, Tompkins Co., 17 May 1980.

**HARRIS' SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia querula*). 1980-15. Dutch, Chemung Co., 23 June 1980.

A winter report of Black Guillemot from Long Island has been filed without formal review. With the addition of South Polar Skua, Wood Sandpiper, Fieldfare, Redwing and Painted Redstart, the New York State list now contains 423 species.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul DeBenedictis, Chairman  
Dr. Robert F. Andrlé  
Dr. Kenneth P. Able  
Thomas H. Davis, Jr.  
Dr. Robert O. Paxton

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## FORSTER'S TERN BREEDING ON LONG ISLAND

JOHN ZARUDSKY

On 1 June 1981, Jim Browne, a biologist with the Department of Conservation and Waterways, Town of Hempstead, was engaged in a nesting survey on Hewlett Hassock, in Hewlett Bay, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County. Hewlett Hassock is a salt marsh island of approximately 27 acres, dominated by salt marsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*). Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) had been recorded nesting here for the past four years.

On the date of Mr. Browne's visit, there were approximately forty pairs of nesting Common Terns. His attention was attracted by a call that was distinctly different from that of the Common Terns, and when investigating further, he was able to identify a pair of Forster's Terns (*S. forsteri*) by the combination of the unique call and the light primaries. Alerted to the possibility that they might be breeding in the Common Tern colony, he watched the actions of the birds but was unable to actually locate the nest. However, he felt sure that he had the choice narrowed down to three or four nests.

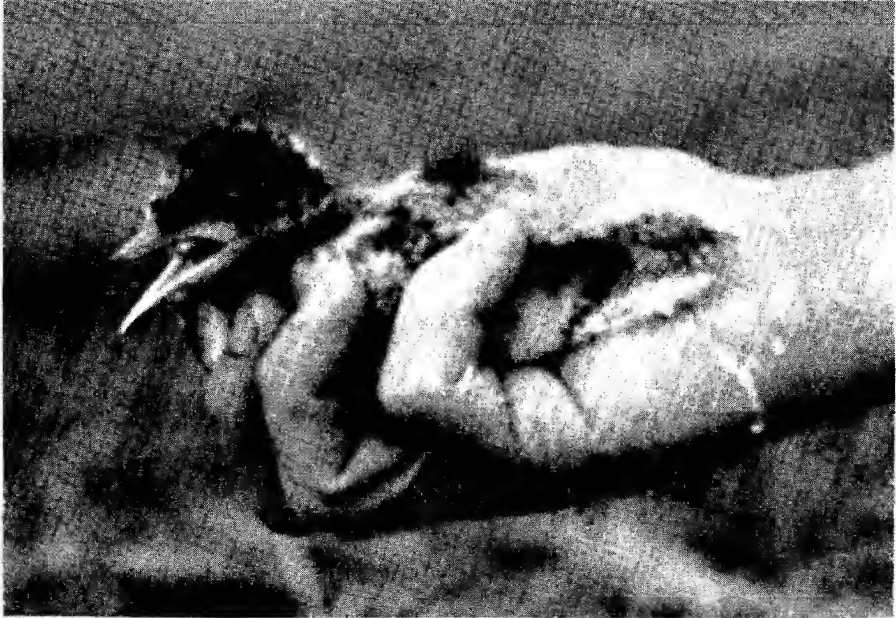
On 8 June, the author visited the colony and was able to determine to which nest the birds returned each time, and marked the nest accordingly. It was situated in *Spartina* grass, about 15" high, and contained three eggs which were quite similar to the eggs of the Common Tern. The nest was constructed of *Spartina* drift and situated on a broad platform of wrack, measuring some 36 by 20 inches. The Common Tern nests on Hewlett Hassock were of the same construction as the nest of the Forster's Terns. This is the typical nest built



*Forster's Tern nest and eggs—Hewlett Hassock, Nassau County  
8 June 1981*

*John Zarudsky*





*Forster's Tern chick—Hewlett Haddock, Nassau County  
23 June 1981  
Michael Gochfeld*

by Common Terns when nesting on salt marsh island.

On 16 June one darkly spotted chick was noted on the nest. This chick closely resembled those of the Common Terns, except that it seemed somewhat darker. On 23 June two chicks were located, one of which was banded by Michael Gochfeld, who accompanied the author on this trip along with Joanna Burger, Carl Safina, and Richard Wagner.

There is no previous breeding record for Forster's Tern in New York State, although it is an uncommon spring migrant and common fall migrant. It does breed on the Atlantic coast from Virginia northward to New Jersey, where it has been nesting at Brigantine since 1956. There are two other breeding populations in North America, one being on the western Gulf coast, and the other being on inland lakes in central United States and south central Canada.

It now becomes a welcome addition to the breeding avifauna of New York State (Atlas block 6049B) and will be eagerly looked for again next year.

*Department of Conservation and Waterways, Town of Hempstead,  
Lido Boulevard, Point Lookout, New York 11569*

## BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES IN HEWLETT BAY, LONG ISLAND

MICHAEL GOCHFELD and JOANNA BURGER

On 23 June 1981, on Black Banks Hassock, Hewlett Bay, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, D. Gochfeld, C. Safina, R. Wagner, J. Zarudsky and the authors observed four Boat-tailed Grackles (*Quiscalus major*) perched in phragmites. Wagner first called attention to the birds, which proved to be an adult female and three large, nearly full-grown young. The female, with a large insect in its beak, approached one of the young, which begged tentatively and took the food. The young had tails nearly as long as the female's and proved capable flyers. They did not necessarily hatch on Black Banks, but since they had not yet achieved adult size, it is unlikely that they had hatched very far away.

P. A. Buckley and A. Lauro observed a full-grown immature Boat-tailed Grackle on 29 June 1979 on Pearsall's Hassock, about 1 km to the north, but we did not find grackles on Pearsall's Hassock. We thank John Zarudsky of the Town of Hempstead for allowing us to accompany him on one of his field expeditions.

*54 Hollywood Ave., Somerset, New Jersey 08873*

## BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES BREEDING AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

THOMAS H. DAVIS

At 7 AM on 18 July 1981 I was studying shorebirds at the south end of the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (JBWR), Queens County. My attention was suddenly distracted by a series of calls from behind including loud "cack" notes. I turned and saw three birds in flight silhouetted against the rising sun. I recognized these as Boat-tailed Grackles (*Quiscalus major*), both by call and by their shape, like an oversized Common Grackle. The lead bird alighted atop a bush and the other two landed and began begging. The first bird turned and fed one of the birds, and then they all dropped from sight. A few minutes later two of the grackles flew to the shore of the pond, landed about one hundred feet distant and drank. Examined with a 20x telescope, in good light, one proved to be a female with a buff eyeline and underparts, and the other a juvenal male in heavy molt with patches of dark new feathers coming in on the body. The three Boat-tails were observed by other birders the following day, flying over the south end of the East Pond but not thereafter. On this evidence, the Boat-tailed Grackle was noted as a confirmed breeder (FY) in the JBWR 5949A Breeding Bird Atlas block.

*9446-85 Road, Woodhaven, New York 11421*



**EXCERPT FROM**  
**WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN NEW YORK STATE**

The following is an exact excerpt from *Where To Find Birds In New York State* by Susan Roney Drennan. There are 500 such site descriptions and 106 maps in this long-awaited book, which was sponsored by The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. It is available from: Syracuse University Press

1011 East Water St.

Syracuse, New York 13210

Cloth—\$38.00

Paper—\$18.95

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El Dorado Beach Preserve (Map 6.3)

Rating: Spring\*\*\*, Summer\*\*\*, Autumn\*\*\*\*, Winter\*

Through the combined efforts of member clubs of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., especially the North Country Bird Club of Watertown, and the Nature Conservancy, this unique shorebird migratory stopover area was purchased in 1969, and thus saved from residential development. The preserve encompasses 250 acres, most of which is a marsh and woods buffer zone for the more than 3500 feet of rocky peninsula shoreline so attractive to transient shorebirds.

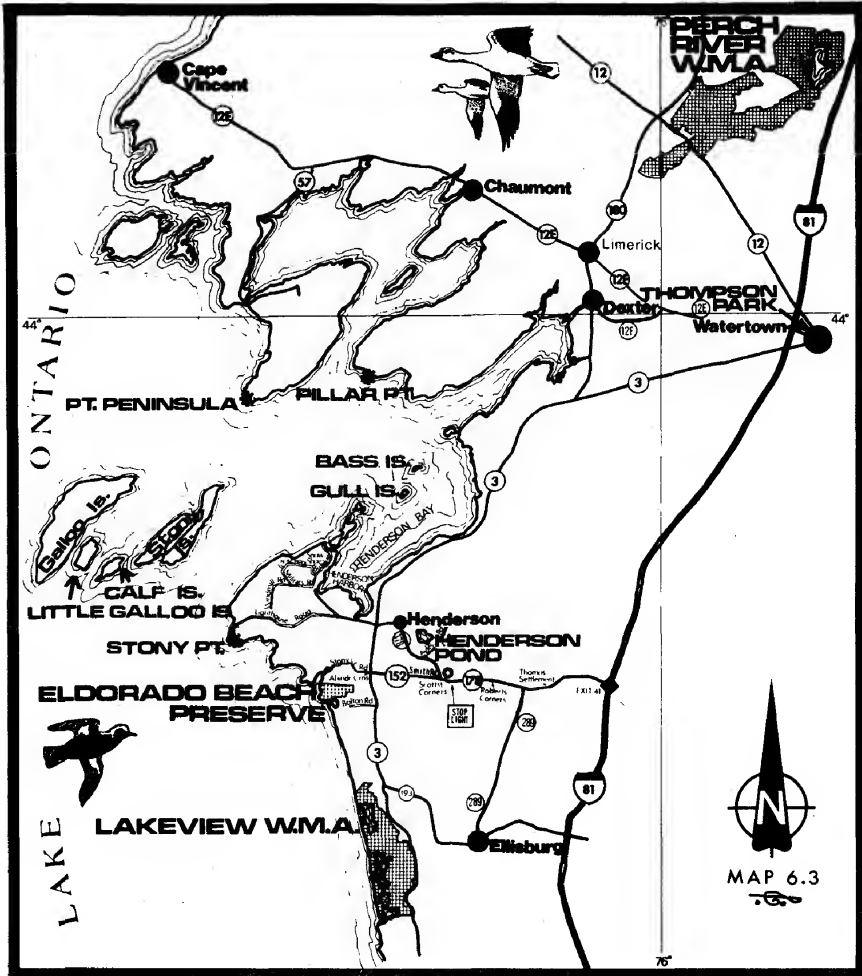
There is only one practical entrance to El Dorado and that is from the north. In the past birders have tried—and regretted attempting to enter on the south end of the preserve. Access to the Bolton Road entrance from the south is by a rough private road and through a gate that is often locked. Directions here are, therefore, to the north entrance. From I-81, take Exit 41 (Adams). After exiting get on NY 178 headed west toward Henderson. Pass through Thomas Settlement and Roberts Corners. At Scotts Corners, approximately 7 miles, NY 178 turns north. Instead of following this route north, head due west toward Alexander Corners on Smith Road. Just after a stoplight Smith turns into Stony Creek Road at Alexander Corners and is very rough until the intersection of it and NY 3. At the intersection of NY 3 and Stony Creek Road, continue west on Stony Creek Road. You are now on a narrow black-top road that traverses grassy pastures and cedar groves. Follow it 1.3 miles to an unmarked dirt road (Grandjean Road) that forks to the left. Bear left on it and drive 0.9 mile, always bearing left, to a gateway. Pass through and continue to

bear left on this grassy two-track road for 0.2 mile and then park. Do not turn right where a sign says "Private Road," and do not inquire at the cottages for directions. In the vicinity of the parking area is a blue-and-orange sign announcing El Dorado Shores. The birder who exercises forethought will have remembered boots and raincoat or windbreaker. The short, low peninsula is often subjected to strong winds and precipitation.

There are two schools of thought on just how to bird El Dorado. Some prefer to walk the path from the parking lot to the beach, turn south (left), bird down the beach, and return to the parking lot by the old dirt road. However, I take another approach, as do the following directions.

Walk south on the dirt road ahead of you and turn west at its end toward Blind Point, which is identifiable by a thicket of red cedar trees surrounded by weedy vines. This is nearly the southernmost boundary of the preserve. Turn north and bird up the stretch of shoreline facing you. Work all of the wave-cut benches and notches along the beach face. These low-lying formations contain various detritus, much of which is thickly interlaced with a dense, slimy layer of algal vegetation and shallow pools, where surface and subsurface insects and larvae abound and into which shorebirds probe. This alliance of freshwater plants, without roots, stems, or even leaves, thrives in this zone. The rich plant and insect life in these pools is the source of the area's attraction to migrating shorebirds. Bird up to and past a collection of glacially deposited boulders and north beyond the rocky point that marks the end of the major shorebirding section of the preserve.

If one considers a bit of the biology basic to shorebirds, it becomes immediately apparent when the birding is prime at El Dorado. The majority of species in the Charadriidae and the Scolopacidae families breed in the Arctic, with the relatively short breeding cycle rarely exceeding six or seven weeks (from incubation through fledging). Egg laying occurs immediately after the spring thaw and the shortness of the season appears to preclude double clutching or clutch replacement in almost all species of these families. The distance covered on migration by these species is quite commonly from the northern Arctic to southern South America. In most species the adults leave the breeding grounds before the young, thereby insuring that the food source remaining will be utilized by the young to build up pre-migratory deposits of fat. Additionally, richer food, found south of



the Arctic, is required by the adult birds for their annual molt.

Consequently, by the middle of July, adult Semipalmated Plovers, flocking Killdeers, Ruddy Turnstones, some Common Snipes, Spotted Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, White-rumped, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitchers, and Stilt Sandpipers may be seen at El Dorado. Numbers of these adults build up, and by mid-August a few Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers may appear.

In the last half of August almost all adult-plumaged birds have disappeared. Black-bellied Plovers in every conceivable plumage variation, usually in small groups or singles, will be visible from late August until the first freeze. Occasional Red Knots and Western Sandpipers may be observed at this time. American Golden Plovers are often found from the beginning of September through mid-October, and are almost without exception immature birds. Whimbrels and Solitary Sandpipers are rare migrants here and may occur singly July 20 through September 10. Dunlins and Sanderlings arrive in late August and early September. The Upland Sandpiper is an occasional visitor, usually found away from the shoreline. All three phalarope species occur here but never in large numbers. The sequence in which they can be expected is: Wilson's, July 15 through August; Northern, mid-August through early October; and Red, rarely but regularly in October and November. Extremely rare occurrences of Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, and Hudsonian Godwit have been recorded in this shorebirders' heaven.

Once the really cold weather sets in and the ground and mud pools are frozen, all shorebirds depart. The time to observe the greatest numbers and variety is in the last week of August or the first week of September, in northwest winds, just after a front has passed through. Hot, windless, summer-like days are generally not as rewarding as brisk days with energetic wave action.

Although this preserve has earned its fame as a special shorebird area, it contains 250 acres and its shoreline is less than one mile in length. Encircling the beach face is a dense border of shrubs and vines edged with clumps of jewelweed, yellow-gold slender-stalked plumes of hybrid goldenrods, and various other grasses and weed species. The heads of several species are filled with seeds in late summer and fall, and white-footed and deer mice fiercely compete with several sparrow and finch species for the profusion of seeds released in autumn.

Behind the hedgerow a narrow ledge parallels the shore and rises about four feet above the water. This ledge, varying in width from eight to thirty feet, was formed by repeated dissipation of waves and backwash along the backshore. Sediment, sand, and vegetation are constantly shifting along this raised platform, which can sometimes be a wonderful place to find probing birds.

# SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE BREEDING STATUS OF THE PINE SISKIN

ROBERT P. YUNICK

## INTRODUCTION

The breeding status of the Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) in New York is not well documented. The species is an irruptive bird of variable occurrence, not nesting commonly in the state, and most authors describe its breeding status as erratic, irregular or unpredictable. Bull (1974) cites only two proven nest records, at Ossining and Cornwall in 1883 and 1887, respectively; and eleven other records outside of the higher elevations of the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains.

With the advent of the NYS Breeding Atlas, new information on this species' status may come to light. However, based on my personal experience with this species at two banding stations, this new information will require considerable care in interpretation, because of the species' unconventional breeding habits. This paper reports on eighteen years of personal banding experience, and some presumed breeding activity of this species. It is intended to stimulate further breeding documentation under the aegis of the Atlas program.

## METHODS AND RESULTS

Since the winter of 1963-64, I have operated a banding station in my yard in Schenectady, Schenectady Co.; and since 1970 a second station at Jenny Lake near Corinth, Saratoga Co., in the Adirondack Mountains at 380 m elevation. During this time I have banded 3820 Pine Siskins at Schenectady and 86 at Jenny Lake. The Schenectady bandings are summarized by month and year in Table 1.

This summary illustrates a nearly biennial rhythm to the occurrence of this boreal finch. Generally, invasions have occurred in winters of odd-even designation, though upsets in this pattern occurred in 1967, 1969, 1979 and 1980. A similar biennial pattern has been described by Kennard (1976, 1977) for the Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) and Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). Typically, the Pine Siskin irrupts from the boreal forests in response to seed crop failures and/or very successful breeding seasons, and in those years appears along the coast as early as September and October. In October and November, as they pour south in numbers, they



seem not to be attracted by feeders, and do not generally frequent them. In my experience, they do not normally begin to appear at feeders in numbers in the Schenectady area until cold weather in December or January, even though they may have been passing south through the area for several months.

Depending on the flight year, their winter numbers stabilize or decrease in February and March; they rarely increase. Then in April and May comes a heavy return flight of birds that have wintered farther south. In non-flight years, the birds are usually scarce, and at my feeder they have been either totally absent, or a very few have appeared usually as spring transients. It is during these spring return flights, typically in invasion years, that I have encountered siskins in breeding condition.

Table 1 — Pine Siskins Banded at Schenectady

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Banded by Month</u>							<u>Total</u>	<u>Date of Last Appearance</u>
	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>		
1963-64				8	76	30		114	19 Apr.
1964-65									
1965-66				16	8	22	17	63	15 May
1966-67									
1967-68									
1968-69						2	2	4	
1969-70							2	2	
1970-71									
1971-72		1	185	68	96	497	421	1268	29 May
1972-73						3		3	
1973-74		135	74	73	16	34	236	568	20 May
1974-75									
1975-76	385	158	236	60	18	158	249	1264	17 May
1976-77									
1977-78		2		2	13	77	301	395	1 June
1978-79						1		1	
1979-80									
1980-81	2				5	52	79	138	20 May
Total	387	296	495	227	232	876	1307	3820	



My assessment of these invasions is as follows:

**1963-64 and 1965-66** — The numbers banded as shown in Table 1 are not truly reflective of the magnitude of these flights. At this time I was developing the techniques and experience at this station which led to later, more successful trapping methods. Nevertheless, the birds arrived in mid-winter in moderate number, and there was a heavy repeated recapture of these first arrivals through the winter, followed by a lull in late winter and early spring. In late April and May, transients returned on their way north.

**1971-72** — There was a heavy January inflex with numerous short-term recaptures of these birds. Winter numbers remained high followed by the heaviest spring return flight experienced so far, starting in the middle third of April. In addition to the record 1268 bandings, there were 14 recaptures of birds previously banded in Md., N.J., Pa. and N.Y. Five of these recaptures occurred on 28 April.

**1973-74** — There was an early invasion, with the first capture on 8 December. Many siskins were present through February, but they became scarcer in March. Then a moderate return flight developed in mid-April and was heaviest in early May.

**1975-76** — This was another intense invasion similar to that of 1971-72, but differing from it in that it: 1) began with the earliest recorded capture to date on 8 November; 2) involved large numbers of birds in the period November through January; 3) featured many repeat captures of the birds banded in late December, followed by a scattering of these birds to other local feeders (based on eight band recoveries during the winter, within 40 km); and 4) involved the re-appearance of many of the previously banded birds in April. The spring flight of transients was heaviest in the first half of May, but the total spring flight was far below that of 1972.

**1977-78** — It was a late invasion of only modest proportions, dominated by returning spring migrants in late April and May with the birds staying later than in any other year to date. The last capture occurred on 25 May and last sighting on 1 June.

**1980-81** — What appeared in the fall to be the beginning of a major invasion proved otherwise. The first capture on 15 November was the second earliest arrival at my feeder. However, the birds were absent thereafter, and there was only a small, brief return flight beginning in mid-April and occurring mostly in May.

The results point to a high degree of variability in the timing of their appearance and the numbers encountered. During these en-

counters of birds in the hand, I routinely measured wing chords, recorded weights and examined birds for fat deposits. While blowing on the abdominal feathers to search for fat deposits, it was my practice to search for, and make note of, certain external, sex-determining characteristics such as a brood patch on females and cloacal protuberance on males. Some of the capture data on these recognized males and females are given in Table 2.

In summary, 104 males and 97 females were recognized on the earliest dates of 16 April 1979 and 16 April 1976, respectively. The maximum lapse between captures of a recognizable male was 33 days; and for a female, 18 days. Results varied from year to year, but there was an approximately 60/40 split among both males and females between birds whose sex was recognized on first capture vs. birds whose sex was apparent on recapture. In the latter category were mostly birds which spent the winter in the area and were captured originally as birds of unknown sex; and the former were mostly transients passing north.

Table 2 — Occurrence of Pine Siskins of Known Sex

<u>Year</u>	<u>No./Sex</u> *	<u>Range of</u> <u>Capture Dates</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Recaptured</u>	<u>Average Lapse</u> <u>Between</u> <u>Captures,</u> <u>Days</u> **	<u>Range,</u> <u>Days</u>
1965-66	26M	27 Apr.-15 May	15	10.2	1-33
	5F	28 Apr.-14 May	3	3.7	2-13
1971-72	5M	7-21 May	0		
	14F	25 Apr.-21 May	1	7.0	7
1973-74	2M	5-14 May	0		
	7F	1-14 May	1	3.0	3
1975-76	48M	23 Apr.-14 May	18	5.7	1-18
	49F	16 Apr.-14 May	11	5.7	1-18
1977-78	8M	16 Apr.-25 May	3	5.0	1-13
	16F	27 Apr.-25 May	3	4.3	1-10
1980-81	15M	17 Apr.-14 May	1	26.0	26
	6F	3-13 May	1	2.0	2

\* M = Male, F = Female

\*\* This represents the average lapse of time between the date of first capture as a recognized male or female, and the last capture as a recognized male or female.

In addition to these captures of birds in apparent breeding condition, I captured four young of the year as single captures on 13 May 1976, 15 and 20 May 1978, and 19 May 1981. All had typically buffy, unworn, juvenal plumage and unpneumatized skulls. All appeared to feed independently; they showed no particular attachment to any of the older birds; and none was recaptured. They appeared to be as transient as any of the other siskins encountered in mid-May, but obviously had recently fledged.

At the Jenny Lake station, Pine Siskins have been heard or seen in low numbers and very irregularly in almost any month. Except for two encounters with it at the feeders in 1972 and 1973, it has been a scarce, nomadic visitor. In 1972, following the heaviest incursion noted at Schenectady, the birds appeared at feeders at Jenny Lake in May. On 28-29 May I captured 15 males and three females. In July, young appeared and 10 were banded between 6 and 15 July. There were five recaptures of these birds lasting until 16 July when they disappeared.

In spring 1973 there was no invasion at Schenectady and I banded only three siskins on 7 April. However, at Jenny Lake I banded 49 adults (28 males, 20 females, 1 unknown) during 6-27 May, and nine young during 13-27 May. Nine of these 58 birds were recaptured, but none beyond 27 May after which they disappeared.

#### DISCUSSION

Superficial examination of the banding results at Schenectady suggests possible local breeding. Such factors as the mid-April appearance of birds in breeding condition; recapture of some of the same birds still in breeding condition for periods of up to 33 days; and the capture of young of the year at or just after mid-May, support this conclusion. In my judgment, however, these observations are inadequate confirmatory proof, because certain other breeding characteristics are lacking, such as courtship behavior (pair association, courtship display, territorial defense, mate feeding, etc.), parental attachment to young, feeding of young, flocking of young to feeders, and repeated appearance of young at feeders.

Rather, it is my opinion that the few young that have appeared at Schenectady are birds hatched somewhere to the south. All but one occurred following major irruptions that penetrated south into mountainous areas of Pa., N.J., Md. and perhaps Va. and W. Va., as well as the Catskill Mountains. They were independent of their parents when captured as they followed the returning tide of migrants going north.

What is more interesting is the timing and number of birds that appeared and remained in apparent breeding condition at Schenectady. Among many other sparrows, warblers etc. that I have handled at Schenectady, Jenny Lake and Vischer Ferry, N.Y. as returning breeders or spring migrants, it is extraordinarily unusual to find migrating individuals with brood patches or cloacal protuberances. These characteristics develop typically only after the species has arrived on territory and some brief time has lapsed. The occurrence of siskins in breeding condition during migration at Schenectady from mid-April to late May prompts consideration of three possible explanations: 1) the birds had already bred prior to arrival; 2) they were breeding locally; or 3) they were preparing to breed when and where they found suitable habitat.

In examining these options, certain of them can be ruled out with some assurance based on current evidence. Had all these birds in apparent breeding condition already bred, there should have been a far greater showing of young birds. The banding of four juvenals hardly balances with the capture of 201 birds in breeding condition, thereby ruling out this possibility as a likely explanation. Some few of them had obviously bred, to judge from the young that were recorded, but certainly the vast majority of them appear not to have bred as evidenced by a lack of young. The lack of any hint of courtship or breeding behavior at my feeder, cited earlier, rules out the second option as a likely explanation. This leaves the third option, namely that they are prepared to breed. It suggests that Pine Siskins are unpredictable, opportunistic breeders with no fixed attachment to any particular territory and therefore likely to appear and breed wherever suitable conditions exist. This explanation is consistent with past recorded observations on their breeding behavior as reported by Eaton (1912), Bent (1968), Bull (1964, 1974), Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) and Forbush (1929). However, the observation reported here that some Pine Siskins migrate in breeding condition is previously unreported and appears unique to this species.

Certain aspects of their appearances at Jenny Lake are consistent also with the conclusion that they are unpredictable, opportunistic breeders. Their 1972 appearance was on the heels of one of the greatest invasions measured locally. It was rather strange that the male/female ratio was 5/1. However, it is possible that the May captures of adults represented several breeding pairs and a temporary surplus of transient males. The capture of 10 young (3.3 per female)

supports this conclusion. Quite differently, the 1973 encounter at Jenny Lake occurred earlier in May in a year when there was no appreciable invasion. The male/female ratio was high (1.4/1), and the capture of nine young appears out of balance with the capture of 49 adults. Again, the possibility exists that among the few pairs that bred there were surplus transients, this time both male and female.

Thus, while I feel the evidence does not support the belief that breeding occurred at Schenectady, I feel more assured that limited breeding did take place at Jenny Lake in 1972 and 1973, in the former case in an invasion year and in the latter case in a non-invasion year. The feeding of young by adults at Jenny Lake in 1973 lent further support to this conclusion.

In light of the apparent opportunistic breeding habit of this species and its lack of attachment to a definite breeding territory, the mere sighting of Pine Siskins in the period May through August should not be taken as an indication of breeding. Even the spot appearance of unattached juvenals is not a definite indication of breeding. Atlas observers should establish more positive criteria than mere sightings, to confirm breeding of this species and thereby better define its exact status.

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Another breeding locality for the Redhead:** On 4 July 1981 the authors set out by canoe on the Upper Chateaugay Lake in southwest Clinton County toward the inlet of the south end of the lake. The inlet is surrounded on both sides by an extensive marsh. Shortly after entering the inlet we came upon a female Redhead (*Anthya americana*) and her eight or ten young. The brood immediately took cover, flapping frantically across the water to the marshy area. The female, in the meantime, led us away in the opposite direction. She would allow us to approach to within about 50 feet. After leading us astray for a sufficient distance, she would fly back to the vicinity of her brood. There she would call them and in a short time they were united again. On 6 July we returned to observe them further.

Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 134) mentions only ten breeding areas in the state. Most of these are as a result of a stocking program conducted by the New York State Conservation Dept. during the 1950's and 1960's. At a number of these areas, breeding colonies have been established. One of the areas that has had good success is the Wilson Hill Refuge, St. Lawrence County. *The Kingbird* (vol. 30, No. 4, Fall 1980) reported six on 1 July; 44 on 14 July; 90 on 31 July; and 300 on 16 August at Wilson Hill Refuge. Possibly this nesting at Upper Chateaugay Lake stems from the released birds that now nest at Wilson Hill Refuge each year. Bellrose (1976, *Ducks, Geese and Swans of N. Am.*, p. 319) says that in spite of their record for homing, Redheads vie with Ruddy Ducks and Blue-winged Teals as pioneers. This may explain as well the breeding of Redheads at Kings Bay, Clinton County, and Lac Saint Francois in Huntington County, Quebec (Weller, 1964, *J. of Wildlife Management* vol. 28, pp. 64-103).

The young Redheads we saw were early Class II stage (Bellrose, 1976, p. 26). Assuming a 24-day incubation period, with ten eggs to a clutch, nesting would have begun the first or second week in May. This would be similar to what has been found in the southeastern part of their breeding range where they started to nest as early as 5 May (Bellrose, 1976, p. 322).

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

MANNY LEVINE

When I wrote the "Highlights of the Spring Season" (*Kingbird* 30: 154-159), I chose to attempt a correlation between that season and the "Blue List" compiled by Robert Arbib (*American Birds* 33: 830-835). As a result, I received several letters, all critical. Even so, it was nice to know that someone was reading the department. One of the letters complained that so many of the birds on that list were so common that observers did not bother reporting them. I can only advise that writer to refer to the original "Blue List" in order to determine the criteria used by Arbib. Another letter pointed out that my attempted analysis should not have been made on a spring or migrant season, but instead on a summer or breeding season. Well, faced with the task of doing a summer highlights, I am going to take another crack at it. I will again omit those species which are either extralimital or do not breed in New York State, and will refer only to those regions in which the species are known to have bred. One must also keep in mind that the birders of this state are actively into the second year of the Atlas project, which fact should make for more current information. However, the results of this summer's efforts are by no means completely covered in this issue. These highlights do not include any records from Region 4.

**Common Loon**—The only regions in which to look for this bird would be 6 and 7. Both report it, but not in large numbers. There is not much doubt that encroaching civilization is taking its toll.

**Double-crested Cormorant**—The number of breeding birds continues to rise each year in Region 6, from the 14 nests first discovered there in 1945. A total of 415 nests is reported this year from Little Galloo Island alone. This species was also found breeding in Region 10 in 1977, but no mention of this is made for this season.

**Great Blue Heron**—The species is not even mentioned in Regions 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10. Could it be that it is no longer breeding in western New York except for Region 2, where the editor states that the breeding population is in "good shape"? Region 6 comes up with some encouragement—"another banner year, they were everywhere."

**Black-crowned Night Heron**—It is mentioned in every region but Region 3, but specific breeding reference is made only in Regions 6, 8 and 9. The Region 9 report of breeding is the first in many years and the breeding status in Region 10 is excellent. One wonders

about the other regions, since this wader has bred virtually throughout the state.

**Least Bittern**—This species is to be expected in Regions 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10. It goes unrecorded in both 1 and 3, with a good count in 2, but with breeding specifically noted only in Region 10.

**American Bittern**—One would assume that this bird breeds in every region in the state. Read the reports. It is mentioned in every region but Region 3, but there is not a single report of breeding.

**Black Duck**—Here is a species believed to be in the process of being genetically absorbed by the Mallard. Does that account for the fact that it is listed only in Regions 3 and 8, with breeding confirmed only in Region 8?

**Turkey Vulture**—This species seems to be doing well with breeding confirmed in Regions 1, 2 and 8 and sight records continuing in Region 10, where formerly it was rarely reported.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk**—Sharp-shins are not mentioned in Regions 1, 5 and 9, but breeding is confirmed in Regions 2, 3 and 8 and good numbers are noted elsewhere. This raptor has become the dominant fall migrant on the outer beaches of Long Island, attesting to a population explosion.

**Cooper's Hawk**—Records are roughly parallel to the Sharp-shin. However, there is no parallel increase in numbers on the beaches in the fall.

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—Breeding is confirmed in Regions 1, 6 and 9. The record for Orange County in Region 9 is the first in that county in many years.

**Marsh Hawk**—For this formerly widespread breeder, you will find a "probable" in Region 8 and no other breeding mention.

**Osprey**—Things continue to look up for this magnificent bird. Breeding was confirmed in Regions 1, 3, 7, 9 and 10, with the bird being recorded in all other regions as well. Region 10, which has always had the largest breeding population in the state, shows a full 25% increase in the production of young over last year.

**Bobwhite**—Mentioned in only three regions in the state, with breeding confirmed only in Region 8. I guess it belongs on the Blue List.

**American Kestrel**—Surprisingly kestrels are not reported in four regions, but they are well reported in the balance of the state.

**Piping Plover**—This beach dweller is to be expected only in Region 10, where it seems to be holding its own against considerable odds.

**Common Tern**—Region 10 is of course the major breeding area in the state and the colonies in that region have been productive this

year. However, there is a problem in Region 6 where the population cannot compete for nesting space with Ring-billed Gulls.

**Roseate Tern**—Although this species was not mentioned in any of the regional reports, it had a good year at its colonies in Region 10.

**Least Tern**—The destruction of 300 chicks as described in the Region 10 report has to be a major blow to this species in this state, as it breeds nowhere else in New York.

**Black Tern**—Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 305) says, "locally numerous breeder on and near the Lake Ontario plain." The only mention made this season is from Region 6 and does not refer to breeding birds.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**—Considering the available food supply during the last couple of years, one is surprised to see the mixed results, with numbers down in Regions 1 and 2, up in Region 3, only two mentioned in Region 5, confirmed in Region 8, and not listed in Regions 6, 7, 9 and 10. However, it has always been rare in Regions 6 and 7, if present at all.

**Barn Owl**—There are only three records in the entire state. With owls, one never knows whether the difficulty in locating them is the major reason for low numbers.

**Long-eared Owl**—While the Long-ear is generally believed to be a widespread breeder, an individual found dead in Region 6, and a pair in Region 2, are the sum total of records for this season.

**Short-eared Owl**—Reports of five birds in Region 6, and a pair that bred in Region 10, are not encouraging.

**Whip-poor-will**—While mentioned in small numbers throughout the state, the Whip-poor-will is not given breeding status except in Region 8. It is hoped that the full Atlas reports will change this for Region 10, where the numbers should be the highest.

**Common Nighthawk**—This species seems to be doing well, including an adventurous pair that raised at least one young in the wilds of lower Manhattan.

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—The reports throughout are good, with increased sightings and nesting reports.

**Hairy Woodpecker**—The sunny report on its relative above is not followed through here, with seven regions showing a total blank, with numbers being down in Region 1, and only Region 8 filing a positive report.

**Eastern Phoebe**—While this species is mentioned in every region, where comparisons were made to last year, the trend was downward.

**Willow Flycatcher**—Evidently the genus *Empidonax* represents less of a problem to other birders than it does to me, as Regions 1, 9 and 10 show good increases, and breeding has been confirmed in Regions 6 and 8.

**Least Flycatcher**—My own fall observations lead me to believe that the species is down, and you really can't make head or tail of the summer reports which go something like this—down in Region 1, no observable trend in Region 2, no mention in Regions 3 and 5, common in Region 6, good in Region 7, breeding in Region 8, and no mention in Regions 9 and 10.

**Purple Martin**—Only Region 3 gives us some good news while Regions 1 and 6 mention that numbers are down.

**Eastern Bluebird**—Excellent reports and production of young. Hats off to those who have dedicated themselves to restoring our official New York State bird.

**Winter Wren**—Reports only from Regions 1, 6 and 7 with Ted Mack specifically mentioning that numbers are down.

**Carolina Wren**—It seems to be recovering nicely from the severe winters of several years ago, at least in Regions 1 and 10.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—A few reports in each of Regions 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9, and not much else to go on.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**—Recorded in Regions 1, 6 and 7—again not much to go on.

**Loggerhead Shrike**—Reports of confirmed breeding in Regions 2 and 6 is heartening for a species which was thought to be on its way to extirpation in this state.

**Warbling Vireo**—Excellent numbers are reported in Regions 1, 6 and 7 and there are scattered records from other regions.

**Yellow Warbler**—In the spring of 1980, seven of the ten regions did not even list this species. This summer season's reports show numbers to be good throughout.

**Yellow-breasted Chat**—The reports just show a scattering of chats, never widely distributed.

**Eastern Meadowlark**—Where this species is specifically mentioned, its numbers are down.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—Numbers are up in Regions 1 and 3, down in Region 6, and the species is not mentioned in Region 10, where the bulk of the state's breeding population used to occur.

**Henslow's Sparrow**—This species is up in Region 1 and holding the line in Regions 2, 3 and 9.

**Vesper Sparrow**—Vesper Sparrows are down in Region 1, scarce in Region 2, up in Region 3 and not recorded elsewhere.

Let us hope that the "green sheets" of the Atlas project will fill in some of the missing data, if indeed it is the data that is missing and not the actual birds, and let me once again ask the regional editors to encourage their observers to report, if not all avifauna, certainly those birds on the "Blue List."

Now for some good news. Two new breeding birds have been added to the New York State list. I refer to the successful nesting of a pair of Forster's Terns on Long Island in Region 10, and the apparently successful nesting of a pair of Boat-tailed Grackles as indicated by the presence of adults feeding young birds, also on Long Island in Region 10. Breeding of Boat-tailed Grackles had been suspected for some years now, and breeding of Forster's Terns had been expected following the establishment of Gull-billed Terns and Laughing Gulls as breeders in Region 10.

Picking the "Bird of the Season" is easy for this period. It belongs to the wayward Sharp-tailed Sandpiper found by Tom Davis on 18 July at that "zoo without bars," Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. It remained through 24 July and was seen by people from many parts of the state and some from other regions of the country as the news spread.

Also, if I may institute a new seasonal award, one for the "Phrase of the Season," how about Vivian Mills Pitzrick's "end-of-May debinoculation"?

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## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Ah—summer! How sweet it is, but spent too soon. Although the delightful birding weather was fairly fruitful, with a long list of rarities and assiduously earned nest discoveries, it is hoped that the paucity of reports is a reflection of fervent atlasing rather than the ofttime end-of-May debinoculation. The nice warm season averaged 1.1<sup>o</sup> F. (.6<sup>o</sup> C.) above normal. However, the continued drought is worrisome for those whose springs are going dry, with precipitation again below normal, June and July by about half an inch (1.3 cm.) and August



by 2.3 in. (5.8 cm.). There was little noticeable nest loss from the warm rains, but following the bad wind storm 22 June, many waxwing nests were found abandoned (Brooks). During August, although at least a trace of rain fell on 14 days, accumulation was minimal and vegetation continued green with little defoliation to reveal late nests, goldfinches' in particular. Regionwide, capricious storms make weather generalizations difficult. During July, for example, rainfall at Wellsville was 3.03 in. (7.7 cm.), a half-inch below average, but at Buffalo it measured 5.05 in. (12.8 cm.)—2.5 in. (6.4 cm.) wetter than usual! (Data: Wellsville Water and Light and Buffalo, WGR TV, Ch. 2).

Results from 15 out of 18 runs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) were below average, but the House Finch was new this year. Findings from 14 of the 18 routes of the Allegany County "Mini" Run Breeding Bird Survey (Abbs) were below normal, with the Hairy Woodpecker absent for the first time. Below, status for a species is indicated by: H+ or L- = highest or lowest ever, or tied; H or L = above or below normal; sd+ or sd- = above or below one standard deviation; and no letter - stable.

Encouraging from the summer are 1) a beautiful recovery for the Cottontail, so long on the low phase cycle, showing favorable effects of the mild winter followed by mostly dry weather for the breeding season, 2) more record-breaking nest discoveries and at least three sightings of *Ursus americanus*, one a cub, in Allegany County (Brooks, A. Hotchkiss), 3) Great Blue Herons doing O.K., 4) territorial expansion of nesting Canada Geese, 5) many Mallards, 6) fair numbers of Turkey Vultures and most hawks, including the Marsh Hawk and kestrel, and exciting raptor news, 7) excellent grouse and turkey production but pheasant numbers on breeding surveys mixed, 8) some improvement for the Common Snipe, 9) Mourning Doves thriving from the many corn crops, 10) several reports of the Barred and Great Horned Owls, and kingfishers and hummingbirds doing very well, 11) breeding survey counts high for Pileated and Downy Woodpeckers and a strong Red-headed colony near Dunkirk (Jones), 12) Alder and Willow Flycatchers more prevalent (were the latter singing true?), 13) splendid recovery from last year's Tree Swallow disaster—with some interesting observations, 14) fair Bank, Barn and Cliff Swallow populations, 15) an occasional Red-breasted Nuthatch, and several more Carolina Wrens, 16) a good Veery count and conscientious monitoring of bluebird trails with encouraging results, 17) varying vireo results and generally high warbler counts on breeding surveys with well-established nesting territories for Yellow-rumped and Prairie Warblers, 18) lots of Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings, 19) continued large population of Purple and House Finches, a tremendous goldfinch season with some "can you top this?" tales, and 20) good reports of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, the latter on the upswing.

Discouraging for summer are 1) Red Squirrels unusually destructive of bird nests (Brooks), 2) Purple Finches feeding on Buckthorn—a starvation food—in late August (Klingensmith), 3) few loons and no grebes, 4) Green Herons decreasing on breeding surveys and near absence of American Bitterns, 5) no Black Ducks, and high mortality in Wood Duck production, 6) many shorebirds declining on breeding surveys and little evidence of the usual late summer shorebird flight, 7) the Yellow-billed Cuckoo still on the skids and the usual scanty

numbers of Screech Owls and Chimney Swifts, 8) low breeding survey counts for the Common Flicker and Red-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers, 9) several flycatchers in trouble and nest production for phoebes down, 10) no change in the Horned Lark's plight, 11) few Rough-winged Swallows and the Purple Martin population on the low cycle, 12) low findings on breeding surveys for Blue Jays, Common Crows and White-breasted Nuthatches, 13) Winter Wrens almost missing and the House Wren with lowest ever breeding survey count but with good recovery through the season, 14) low tallies for catbirds, Brown Thrashers, robins and Hermit Thrushes, and several bluebird eggs and *young* destroyed by House Wrens, 15) no Loggerhead Shrikes, 16) reduced breeding survey findings for a few warblers, and beginnings of the warbler migration delayed until late August; decreased nest production for the Yellow Warbler, 17) most icterid numbers down on breeding surveys and much early nest loss from Common Grackles, 18) subnormal counts for several sparrows and a frustrating White-throated Sparrow story.

Rarities: Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Northern Phalarope, Barn Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; OTH—Olean *Times Herald*; Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: The Com. Loon that spent all last summer in Hume Tpe. arrived O.K. in April but left in mid-June (KP); the only other report was three at Derby 1-10 June (DP). Included in long-legged wader news is: Green Heron, 12 on BBS (L) and four on Abbs (sd-), an overall downward trend; Great Egret, seven, total, at three locations; Black-crowned Night Heron, one on BBS (H) and 11 others, total, from four sites, including two imm. so. of Busti 7 July (OS); and Am. Bittern, one on BBS, the only report. Canada Geese nested again in n. Allegany Co. where at least six pairs each raised from two to seven young (KP), and the flock at Farmersville Sta., Cattaraugus Co., has grown to ten (DC, JC); two nests were discovered in a new area between Elton and Arcade in June (*vide* DC), and five birds were seen at Cherry Creek 25 July (AS, FR). Noteworthy duck news is very scarce: Mallard, 29 on BBS and ten on Abbs (sd+); Lesser Scaup, one at Times Beach, Buffalo, 3 July (AS, ARC); Ruddy Duck, four at Red House L., Allegany SP, 6 June (RS); Hooded Merganser, two young, produced by a pair nesting on Wood Duck box, in Amity Twp., Allegany Co., 21 July (VP); Com. Merganser, two at Derby 1 July (DP) and 12 (females or young) in Amity Twp. 19 and 24 Aug. (DB, LB, MJ); and Red-breasted Merganser, one at Martha's Vineyard, Chautauqua L., 17-23 June (Roby).

**HAWKS--ALCIDS:** Turkey Vultures fledged two young from a nest near Cassadaga 12 Aug. (AR), four birds were tallied on BBS (H) and other reports totaled seven from four areas. Of the two Cooper's Hawk nests in Allegany Co. reported in spring, one fledged two young (VP) while outcome of the other (EB) and of three Cattaraugus Co. nests is unknown (SE). Of five Red-shouldered Hawk nests in Allegany Co., three successfully produced at least six young (EB, VP). Unusual news is the rearing of a young Rough-legged Hawk, hatched at Hawk Hideaway near Hinsdale where the Fornesses are conducting a study for McGill Univ., Montreal (EC). Again this year the Fornesses have worked in the Osprey hacking project, begun last year, on the Seneca Indian Reservation in Cattaraugus Co., where four young were released in Aug. (FM, EC). New for our Region is the hacking program set up in July at Oak Orchard WMA, in which 21 young Bald Eagles from Alaska were raised (FM; Fiess; OTH, 22 July) with successful releasing begun in late Aug. (CBS TV Ch. 4, Buffalo). Other raptor reports include: **GOSHAWK:** two adults and two nestlings near Randolph 15 June (Gagne, Price), and two adults near Sardinia 4 July (RA+); Sharp-shinned Hawk, one on Abbs, 16 over Derby 1 June (DP) and five others from four locations; Cooper's Hawk, one on BBS (H), one on Abbs plus six, not counting young above, from five sites; Red-shouldered Hawk, four on BBS, three on Abbs and singles from two locations; **BALD EAGLE**, one over Derby 12 June (DP), two at Allegany SP 27 June (R. Clark), an adult confronting a recently released young Osprey in Cattaraugus Co. at the hacking site, where the fledgling survived O.K. 18 Aug. (EC), and one near Alfred 22 and 23 Aug. (S. Myers *vide* CK); Marsh Hawk, two on BBS (H), two on Abbs and singles in four areas; Osprey, one, very late near Wellsville 23 June (NI *vide* EL) and one at Belmont irregularly 14-31 Aug. (MJ, JJ, DB, LB); **PEREGRINE FALCON**, an adult in Harmony Twp., Chautauqua Co., 27 June (EP, OS)—very rare; **MERLIN**, one in Stockton Twp. 29 Aug. (FR)—a thrilling discovery; and Am. Kestrel, 37 on BBS (H+). The Ring-necked Pheasant tallied 110 on BBS (L—but best count in four years) and four on Abbs. Virginia Rail adults were seen with young near Busti and Dunkirk in mid-July (OS, MVJ, Baglia) and adult Com. Gallinules appeared with two young near Dunkirk 10-19 July (MVJ, Baglia). With one exception, breeding surveys paint a dark picture for many shorebirds: Killdeer, 168 on BBS (L), and 36 on Abbs (sd-) with an overall downward trend; Com. Snipe—the exception—five on BBS, normal after four low years, and two on Abbs; Upland Sandpiper, four on BBS (L) with one in Gerry Twp. 4 July (RS)—the only reports; and Spotted Sandpiper, seven on BBS (L), and one on Abbs, steadily declining. Other interesting shorebird reports, at Buffalo Harbor (AS, ARC) unless otherwise designated, include: Greater Yellowlegs, one on 14 July; Short-billed Dowitcher, two on 14 July (Buffalo Harbor), and six at Burgeson Sanctuary 29 Aug. (Gagne); Stilt Sandpiper, early, one on 3 July; Semipalmated Sandpiper, one, also early, on 3 July; and **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**, three, early, at Chautauqua L., between Colburn and Cheney's Pt. 26 Aug. (Robys). Eleven Great Black-backed Gulls arrived at Barcelona 23 Aug. (RS), and 89 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Derby 1 July (DP). Good numbers of Caspian Terns were noted: a total of 24 from six areas.

**PIGEONS--WOODPECKERS:** Raising the question, "Where did it come from?" is the **BAD NEWS** of a Monk Parakeet feeding on pears at Jamestown 13 and 14 Aug. (Maggio *vide* RS). Cuckoo reports are discouraging, with only notes: Yellow-billed, two on BBS, and none on Abbs, an overall downward trend; and Black-billed, four on BBS (L-), seven on Abbs and four areas with a total of eight birds. A **BARN OWL** was found at Derby 1 June, 1 July and 2 Aug. (DP), and three **SAW-WHET OWLS** appeared at Randolph 6-7 Aug. (Hallquist). The only Screech Owl reported was one in Amity Twp. during June and July (MH). Two Whip-poor-wills were found near Wellsville 7 June (Wasserloss *vide* C. Button), and Com. Nighthawks noted were a flight of 250 over Lakewood 26 Aug. (RS) and one at Wellsville 30 Aug. (DB, LB). The Chimney Swift isn't doing so well, there being only 28 on BBS (L-) and 13 on Abbs (sd-); however, a nest near Stannards was successful (Grantier). The Red-bellied Woodpecker numbered three on BBS (H+), while the Red-headed tallied two on BBS (L) and one on Abbs, with only two of the latter reported all summer, other than the flourishing group west of Dunkirk where breeding was confirmed this summer



(MVJ). Two nests of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Alfred were successful (EB). The Hairy Woodpecker numbered two on BBS (L) and was missing for the first time on Abbs.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Rated "L" on BBS were the Great Crested Flycatcher at 25 and the E. Phoebe at 23; count of the latter on Abbs was 43 (sd-), low since 1972. In Scio and Amity Twps., from 27 nestings (14 pairs) of the E. Phoebe, 16 were successful, producing at least 45 young (VP), down 1.3 young per nest from last year. The **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** seems well established in Cattaraugus Co. where two adults were feeding two nestlings on Sawmill Run 28 June (RS, Gagne), and others were found in four more valleys west of the Allegheny Res. and also were heard two miles north of Allegany (SE). Other significant flycatcher reports are: Least Flycatcher, 29 on BBS (L-); E. Wood Pewee, 35 on BBS (L) with a nest discovered in Amity Twp. fledging two young in early July (VP); and Olive-sided Flycatcher, one in Amity Twp. 25 Aug. (VP). It was a superb year for Tree Swallows, with no second nestings necessary; of eight nests near Alfred Sta., six fledged at least 23 young (CK); of 12 nestings near Alfred, nine were successful, and here one clutch was laid in bare nest box and abandoned (EB); near Amity L., of 38 nestings, 32 successfully produced no less than 160 young, and here one new box continuously trapped adults until the inside wall was roughened below the entrance; although 50% of these last nests were infested with blow fly larvae, the young fledged O.K. Purple Martins numbered 15 on BBS (L-) and seven on Abbs, and colonies observed at Allegany, Scio and Wellsville were down at least 50% (SE, VP, DN). A pair of clever Black-capped Chickadees chose an old water pump housing for their nest near Fredonia (TM *vide* MVJ). Only six Tufted Titmice, total, were found from three locations and single Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared on BBS, Abbs, and in four areas, one in Aug. probably being an early fall migrant (MVJ). The only wren reports are: House Wren, 96 on BBS (L-), but much depredation of bluebird nests; Winter Wren, one on BBS (H); and Carolina Wren, a comeback, five young fledged from a flower-box nest near Dunkirk in July (MVJ) and five areas reporting a total eight other birds. Two Mockingbirds appeared on BBS (H) and singles were seen at Jamestown 25 July (AR) and at Derby 12 Aug. (DP). Although several E. Bluebird nests were destroyed by House Wrens, including the killing of young in two boxes, production was good; near Amity L. 11 pairs produced 45 fledglings (VP), near Alfred Sta. seven pairs fledged at least 14 young (CK) and 13 other scattered pairs raised no less than 43 young; nine other individuals were counted from four locations. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was identified in Amity Twp. 16 July (VP) and two were seen near Barcelona 23 Aug. (RS). The Golden-crowned Kinglet tallied four on BBS (L) and one on Abbs and one to four appeared near Alfred irregularly to 11 July (EB) while others, also late, were found as two near Centerville 27 June (RA+) and three in Allegany SP 28 June (R. Clark).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Unusual breeding survey results for vireos and warblers include: Yellow-throated Vireo, four on BBS (H), and two on Abbs; Solitary Vireo, eight on Abbs (sd+); Warbling Vireo, 45 on BBS (L) but 13 on Abbs (sd+); Blue-winged Warbler, 26 on BBS (H+); Magnolia Warbler, nine on Abbs (H+); Yellow-rumped Warbler, six on BBS (H+); Black-throated Green Warbler, 12 on Abbs (sd-); Ovenbird, 28 on Abbs (H+); Com. Yellowthroat, 195 on Abbs (H+); and Am. Redstart, 14 on Abbs (H+). A pair of Warbling Vireos was watched at a Scio nest in June (SB). A single **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** was seen at Iroquois NWR 6 and 14 June (RA, AM, WM+). A Golden-winged Warbler appeared on BBS (H) and the nest discovered in May near Amity L., had four eggs 3 June but was lost to predation (VP). A rare "**LAWRENCE'S**" **WARBLER** (hybrid), probably the same bird seen here in late May, was found at Holland 16 and 27 June (AS+, RA+) and another, an adult male singing the Blue-winged song, was identified on Allen St., Town of Ellicott 31 Aug. (Gagne). Among other good warbler notes are: Tennessee Warbler, one at Jamestown 18 June, "latest spring migrant ever for Chautauqua Co." (Kibler *vide* RS); Nashville Warbler, one to four frequenting four Allegany Co. areas; Cape May Warbler, one, late, at Jamestown 5 June (Gagne *vide* RS); Yellow Warbler, of 12 nestings near Amity L., nine fledged 36

young (.4 young per nest less than last year); Magnolia Warbler, five nests near Alfred with only one successful (EB); Black-throated Blue Warbler, singles in four areas; Yellow-rumped Warbler, four nests near Alfred with three fledging eight young total (EB); Blackburnian Warbler, a nest discovered in Allegany Co. but outcome unknown (EB); and Pine Warbler, late, one near Red House L. 6-7 June (RS+). In Allegany Co. the PRAIRIE WARBLER tallied one on Abbs and a max 14 birds were seen near Alfred and in Amity Twp. through early Aug. (EB, VP); near Alfred, in two breeding areas, eight (!) nests were discovered, one containing four nestlings on 24 July—*record late* by 20 days for N.Y. State—and two others, also successful, fledging seven young; between these two locations, another adult was feeding young in early Aug. (EB); a nest in Amity Twp. with four young 15 July (VP) was also *record late* for N.Y. State nestlings by 11 days. Conducive to summer birding are finds like the KENTUCKY WARBLERS of Cattaraugus Co. that were singing on territory at four songs per minute, one near Allegany and singles in two other locations near the junction of Routes 219 and 17 on 18 June (SE), as well as another singing male in the Town of Cold Spring 12 June (Kibler *vide* RS). Single Louisiana Waterthrushes were on BBS (H), on Abbs and found dead in Alfred 2 July (CK, EB). Other noteworthy warblers reported are: Yellow-breasted Chat, one near Allegany 10 June (SE), one on territory near Salamanca during June (T. Baird *vide* SE) and up to two in Newstead Twp. 23 and 27 July (AM, WM); Hooded Warbler, two near Vandalia in June (RV, JV) and up to two in Amity Twp. 12 and 16 July (VP); and Wilson's Warbler, one, late, on BBS (not counted as a breeding bird). During Atlas work in n. Chautauqua Co., breeding was confirmed for many warblers, including No. Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Canada and Hooded Warblers (MVJ).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Extraordinary breeding survey tallies include: House Sparrow: 212 on Abbs (sd-); E. Meadowlark, 229 on BBS (L-), with 64 on Abbs and only 17 other birds noted; Red-winged Blackbird, 2183 on BBS (L-); Com. Grackle, 1095 on BBS (L-) and 313 on Abbs (sd-); Scarlet Tanager, 35 on Abbs (H+), with a nest in Amity Twp. producing three fledglings in June (VP); and Indigo Bunting, 177 on Abbs (H+), steadily increasing. A male ORCHARD ORIOLE appeared in Chautauqua Twp. 12-16 June, heard singing the 15th (Moes *vide* RS). How frustrating it must have been not to find a female or nest along with that male EVENING GROSBEAK spotted two miles n. of Allegany 12 June (SE). Although only 11 Purple Finches were found on BBS (L-), good numbers flocked to feeders all season; near Alfred of 15 nests documented, the first ten all failed while the last five were all successful; one of these after being robbed of the eggs was later built upon by a Cedar Waxwing (EB). House Finches have finally reached nearly every nook and cranny of the Region with two on BBS (new this year), five on Abbs, and over 150 banded at Fredonia during July and Aug. with about 85% of these this year's young (MVJ). While the four PINE SISKINS at Jamestown 1 and 2 June (Gagne *vide* RS) lingered a little, the one at Farmersville Sta. 17 July (DC) was waaay out of season! (How about a nest next year, Don?). Of 53 Am. Goldfinch nests documented near Amity L., eight contained nestlings from two to nine days *record early* for N.Y. State; of these, 39 successfully produced at least 176 young (VP); other dramatic goldfinch news is from three of the 11 nests discovered near Alfred; one had four nestlings 20 July, also *record early* for N.Y. State by 14 days, another was found 27 July with four dead young which were "being nibbled on and tongues eaten by yellow jackets," and on a third nest in a white spruce, a male was incubating the eggs 3 Aug. (EB). The RED CROSSBILL near Alfred 5 and 31 July (EB) was over a month late (Maybe *next* summer . . .!). Sparrows with very low breeding survey tallies are: Rufous-sided Towhee, 34 on BBS (L-); Savannah Sparrow, 303 on BBS (L-) and 49 on Abbs (sd-); Vesper Sparrow, 11 on BBS (L-), with four on Abbs and only other reports singles near Alfred 8 June (EB) and near Rushford 30 July (DC); and Song Sparrow, 785 on BBS (L-) and 365 on Abbs (sd-). No sparrow rated "H+," except the Grasshopper Sparrow with six on Abbs; 14 were found on BBS (H) with a total of nine other birds from four areas being seen. Possibly on the increase near Alfred where up to four were noted during June and Aug. (EB), the Henslow's Sparrow was otherwise reported only as nine on



BBS (H) and four on Abbs. Worth the bone-wrenching hours on rough ground, the annoyance of insect hordes, and dangers from hornets and bears is the return, after several years, of a **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** to the Alfred area 23 June where it was seen irregularly through 15 July (EB); *another* was identified in Andover Twp. 10 July (EB, Chapman). A White-throated Sparrow nest was discovered 1.5 ft. up in goldenrod near Alfred 3 July; the roadside nest was abandoned when "a bus-load of kids . . . had bus trouble" nearby (EB); other summer White-throats are one on BBS, three on Abbs and one to four birds found in at least six widespread areas.

When it's all together—what a summer! Thanks to the Faithful.

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This was a quiet summer. There were few rarities to send the birding hordes flocking afield. Breeding bird surveys were typically just average runs. Many workers were afield atlasing, but the data will not be returned and analyzed in any detail until much later. As July and August wore on, shorebird habitat remained poor and the start of warbler migration was only barely evident. The receipt of field trip reports was at its lowest ebb in many years. 206 species were reported in the Region for the season.

Summer weather brought few extremes relative to the past several years. Rainfall in late July and August was well above normal and brought the year's total to very nearly average. June saw temperatures closely match long-term averages and rainfall reach 2.70" (6.9 cm.), very near the normal of 2.99" (7.6 cm.). July too averaged very near normal temperatures with the first half hot, the latter half cool. In this case, rainfall at 4.60" (11.7 cm.) was 50% above the normal of 3.09" (7.8 cm.). In August, the first half highs and lows tracked the long-term average closely. This was followed by a sunny, cool taste of fall, then an extended warm, dreary stretch of clouds, rain, and S-SE winds. Rainfall at 4.44" (11.3 cm.) was nearly double normal.

Among the general field observations we find there were few straggling spring migrants in June, early fall passerines were few and relatively late, neither gulls nor terns were present in expected numbers, very few diving ducks summered in comparison with the past several years, observers still ignore rails and owls, and shorebirding prospects remain dim with little available habitat and more being tilled and drained annually. Specific positives include: Least Bittern numbers up, Turkey Vulture nesting confirmed in Letchworth Park, a minor rebound for Ring-necked Pheasant, increased Red Knot sightings, Acadian Flycatcher still nesting in Bergen Swamp, huge Bank Swallow gatherings in late July, continued periodic sightings of Common Raven, Winter Wren and Short-billed Marsh Wren breeding, a multitude of confirmed, successful Mockingbird nesting pairs, two confirmed Loggerhead Shrike nestings, good variety in breeding warblers (24 species), Western Meadowlark on territory all summer, spreading and numerically

booming House Finch, breeding Pine Siskin, and continued active Henslow's Sparrow colonies. Negatives include: very poor numbers for Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Am. Bittern; no August gathering of Forster's or Common Terns of any note; few Com. Nighthawk or Whip-poor-will reports; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Yellow-throated Vireo missing from several traditional breeding areas; Golden-winged Warbler numbers continuing to dwindle relative to Blue-winged; and Grasshopper and Vesper sparrows scarce.

By the time of the final typing of this report, 56 atlas work sheets had been returned for the Region with nine possible, 37 probable, and 109 confirmed species reported. Roughly three to four times this number of reports is expected for the year.

Rarities: Long-billed Dowitcher, Franklin's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, Western Meadowlark, and White-crowned Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay State Park; HHSP—Harriet Hollister Spencer Memorial State Park, Livingston Co.; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; OB—Ontario Beach Park, Rochester; PB—Pt. Breeze, Orleans Co.; and WL—general west lakeshore area.

OBSERVERS: Michael Bacon, Burroughs Audubon Nature Club, Chris Bennem, Walter Benning, Nancy Boudrie, Carolyn Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Jack & Joyce Connor, Mike Davids, Dan Davis, Gertrude Davis, Frank & Bob Dobson, Kay Doris, June Feder, John & Arleen Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Harold Griffen, Kevin Griffith, Bob & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Alan & Joan Hurst, Øivind Jensen, Herb & Polly Keating, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Ray Ladwig, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Robert McKinney, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, P.O.S., Neil Powell, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Alison Stewart, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Joe Taylor, Steve Taylor, Tom, Mike, & Dave Tetlow, Bill & Marion Thompson, Jim Tucker, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Munro Will, and Alice Wood.

LOONS—DUCKS: The only loons of the season were: Com. Loon: one BB 8-11 June; one Honeoye Lake 6 June; two Hemlock Lake 11 Aug.; and one WL 25, 31 Aug. Pied-billed Grebe was rarely reported, in spite of atlas activity. Double-crested Cormorant was seen in small numbers in the BB area thru the season with max 24 Carlton 6 Aug. Breeding populations of Great Blue and Green Herons were in good shape. Vagrant southern herons were virtually nonexistent, represented only by Great Egret: one-two Hamlin 11-16 Aug. Black-crowned Night Heron and Am. Bittern numbers were low, though good numbers of night heron immatures started appearing late in the season. A good Least Bittern count was: 15 Buck Pond 28 July (MD). Puddle ducks provided no surprises with local breeders enjoying good success and only Pintail, Am. Wigeon, and Green-winged Teal among the less common summer residents present. Among the divers only Oldsquaw: one WL 16 July (MD, PR); and Red-breasted Merganser: one female BB June were recorded, both rare in summer.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Field trips and atlas work uncovered nests of all three accipiters. Goshawk: one adult, two young on nest HHSP thru, was photographed. Bald Eagle records included many sightings of members of the Hemlock Lake family plus one imm. WL 7 June. A late Osprey was at BB 24 June. The usual fall migration of hawks along the lakeshore was reported in Aug., again mainly imm. Red-tailed Hawks. Daily numbers ranged from 27 to 171, typically over relatively short time spans—1½-2 hours. Bobwhite: one Livonia 7 Aug. (MW, HM), must be recorded as a probable release/escape. Rails were poorly reported. Ring-necked Pheasant increased a bit, while Turkey popped up across the Region. Shorebirding suffered from poor habitat. June saw virtually no records representing a continued northward migration. July and August brought many good records, under the circumstances, with the few good areas well covered. Among the best were: Whimbrel: one OB 24 July;

one IC 10 Aug.; and one BB 23 Aug.; Wilson's Phalarope: one PB 22, 28 July; and one Hamlin 15 Aug.; **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER**: one Carlton 14 July (MD, WLi); and one Webster 26 July (WLi, MAS), both early; Red Knot: one OB 25 July (MD, KG, mob), very early; and max 7 OB 28 Aug; Baird's Sandpiper: three to five Hemlock L. 16-26 Aug.; and Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one OB 28 Aug. Twenty-five shorebird species were tallied thru the season, Gulls and terns never really reached expected numbers as the summer progressed. The most interesting records were: Great Black-backed Gull: 25 WL 12 June, late for so many; **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: one OB 25 Aug. (KG, RP); **BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one Irondequoit Bay 29 July (MD, WS); and Caspian Tern: 38 BB 31 July; and 40 WL 13 Aug. peak counts.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Doves were everywhere. Cuckoos were both far reduced from last year's high numbers. Owls were very poorly reported except by atlas workers who reported Barn, Barred, Long-eared, and Saw-whet as rarer possible or probable breeders among the reports received to date. Whip-poor-will was recorded in several atlas blocks. Com. Nighthawk, while apparently scarce in the Region, was noted in migration at peaks: 20 Rochester 29 Aug.; and 77 Brighton 30 Aug. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported from several locations as a probable breeder. Other species in this group received too little detailed attention to reveal meaningful trends.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: The flycatchers added to the list of species with no migrants straggling into June. E. Kingbirds seemed particularly numerous this summer. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** bred again in Bergen Swamp and appeared briefly in one other atlas block near Scottsville. Olive-sided Flycatcher singles were recorded in IC and Durand-Eastman Park 1, 15, 25, and 31 Aug., a typical number of fall records. There was no obvious trend in numbers of the other flycatchers present. Swallows followed typical patterns: Tree, Rough-winged, and Barn Swallows started flocking in late Aug.; Bank Swallow peaked in late July; max 5000+ BB 24-31 Aug., including one striking albino bird 31 Aug.; and Cliff Swallow bred in several localities. **COMMON RAVEN**: one Hilton 18 July (MD, PR, R & SH), continues the string of regional sightings. Among the wrens, Winter Wren was recorded as a probable breeder in July in Bergen Swamp; Carolina Wren was very scarce; and Short-billed Marsh Wren breeding was confirmed at Hogan Pt. near BB with one to five birds present to 16 Aug., including young. Mockingbirds popped up all over between Webster and Sodus Pt., with 14, including four pairs feeding a single young, each recorded on 21 June (WLi). In the hills above Honeoye Lake, at HHSP, Hermit Thrush was heard singing thru 24 July and Swainson's Thrush was reported 14 June. Increases in E. Bluebird were reported from several parts of the Region. An early Ruby-crowned Kinglet appeared in Greece 31 Aug. Cedar Waxwing was particularly evident all season. Loggerhead Shirke was confirmed breeding in two locations: a pair fledged two young on the Wayne/Monroe Co. Line Rd. 28 June (WLi, mob, photos); and a pair fledged two young, one of which was killed by a car, in Carlton near Pt. Breeze thru 31 July (MD, WLi, mob).

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: In this grouping there were few spring stragglers and fall migrants were generally late and few in number thru season's end. Among the vireos, all were recorded except White-eyed. Yellow-throated was absent from several traditional nesting locales and Philadelphia was recorded only as an early June and late Aug. migrant. Warblers were represented by 28 species with 24 potentially breeding, mainly in the higher country south of Rochester. Among the more interesting warbler reports are: a scarcity of Golden-winged, particularly relative to Blue-winged; No. Parula resident in Letchworth Park; Black-throated Blue as a probable breeder at HHSP; Cerulean missing from several locations; Bay-breasted: one BB 30 July, early; **PRAIRIE**: probably breeding again near Canadice, far removed from the road this year; Yellow-breasted Chat scarce except in Letchworth Park; Hooded particularly abundant; Wilson's: one Canadice Lake 15 June (JTa, JTu), very late; and Am. Redstart, abundant.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS**: Bobolink breeding was apparently highly successful. The PB



**WESTERN MEADOWLARK** was singing on territory thru the end of July, though no better evidence of breeding was obtained. Orchard Oriole fledged young at PB (four imm, 4 Aug.) and Webster (two young July). Rusty Blackbird: one BB 28 Aug. was early. Probable breeding of Evening Grosbeak was reported from several high country atlas blocks. House Finch is expanding all through the Region. There is much probable evidence of breeding among the Pine Siskins left from the huge spring flight, though only one confirmed record to date. Examples include: Pine Siskin: two to 14 Greece thru 31 July; two Honeoye Lake 14 June; one to two Webster, Greece, Irondequoit, Livonia June-July. Among the grassland sparrows, Grasshopper and Vesper were scarce, Henslow's locally in good shape, and Savannah abundant. Dark-eyed Junco: one Hilton 5, 19, 25 July, was unusual for the lakeplain in summer. **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**: one BB 5 July (MD), was a very rare summer occurrence.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Temperatures this summer averaged about normal with the hottest spells, 85°-90° F., at mid-month in June and July. As often happens in the summertime, rainfall varied from place to place. Most of the Region was a bit on the dry side.

For the second year, and with increased interest and intensity, the Breeding Bird Atlas project took over activities of the Region's birders. The fruit and nut crop of the season varies considerably with the species and the locality. Mountain ash berries are abundant with nuts and wild grapes scarce and other species average.

Because extensive mudflats are no longer available at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge through the fall migration period (1 July until freezeup), shorebirding in Region 3 is drastically different. Formerly the statistics from Montezuma, because of the sheer number of species and individuals found there, tended to dominate the Region 3 shorebird report. Now we have only reports from small ponds and marshes. This year most of the common, but very few of the less common species, have been reported.

An interesting observation comes from Elmira where a pair of Cedar Waxwings was observed building a nest in a cottonwood tree on 5 June, a very early date for that species. Later the same observer returned to the site and found two Eastern Kingbirds working on the nest and the female eventually sitting on it.

Seasonal positives: 1) more reports of nesting accipiters. Are there really more or is the increased atlas activity just finding more?; 2) the successful nesting of the Osprey at MNWR for the second year; 3) continued spread of the Turkey; 4) more widespread reports of Upland Sandpipers—again, atlas activity?; 5) both Am. Coot and Black Tern bred in good numbers at MNWR; 6) an excellent E. Kingbird migration; 7) continued and more widespread sightings of Com. Raven in the Region's southern hills; 8) the continued presence and nesting of the Fish Crow at Ithaca; 9) Carolina Wren numbers picking up; 10) a really en-

couraging year for the E. Bluebird except for the reduced use of the nesting boxes at the Seneca Army Depot; 11) the continued annual appearance of such southern species as Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo and Kentucky Warbler; 12) Ring-necked Pheasant and Vesper Sparrow were reported in slightly larger numbers than in recent years. This increase may be more apparent than real. When a species gets almost to the vanishing point as these species had, there is a tendency for everyone to report every sighting which does not occur when the bird is more abundant. Also, here again, the atlas work may have simply ferreted out more individuals.

Seasonal negatives: 1) few reports of either species of bittern; 2) few hummingbird reports; 3) continued scarcity of E. Phoebes; 4) extremely few Rough-winged or Cliff Swallows.

Rarities: Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Ruff, Acadian Flycatcher, Com. Raven, Fish Crow, White-eyed Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Western Tanager.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; Conn—Connecticut; FWBBS—Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey with Cayuga on 19 June, MacDougall 18 June, Orleans 17 June, Romulus 17 June and Trumansburg 14 June; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk—Park; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; Sen—Seneca; Tomp—Tompkins; \* (starred)—details on file.

Contributors and compilers: W. E. Benning, John Confer, Vernon Dewey (MNWR), Bernice Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard; Steve Kahl (Auburn), Herbert & Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Judie McCormick, Dorothy McLroy (Ithaca), Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Double-crested Cormorant: up to 15 at MNWR thru the period. LITTLE BLUE HERON: imm. Ithaca 28 July (D. Sibley). Great Egret: max six MNWR. SNOWY EGRET: Dryden 25 July (D. McCrimmon). Least Bittern one MNWR 5 Aug. only report. Brant: seven were still on Sen L at the mouth of Reeder's Creek on 1 June.

Waterfowl numbers as reported by the Montezuma Refuge personnel:

Mallard	4,000	Aug. 31	Northern Shoveler	700	Aug. 31
Black Duck	125	Aug. 31	Wood Duck	900	Aug. 31
Gadwall	2,000	Aug. 31	Redhead	50	Aug. 31
Pintail	75	Aug. 31	Canvasback	25	Aug. 31
Green-winged Teal	900	Aug. 31	Ruddy Duck	35	Aug. 31
Blue-winged Teal	400	Aug. 31	Hooded Merganser	50	July 31
American Wigeon	270	Aug. 31			

Pintail: two females Ithaca 22 July. Bufflehead: female Elmira into early July. Hooded Merganser: two females with young at Ithaca and one with four young at Elmira. Com. Merganser: a male at MNWR at the unusual date of 19 July.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: fledged young E. Corning and Ithaca; one Moravia July. Sharp-shinned Hawk: in Tomp. Co. adults with food seen on Conn. Hill, a female around Twin Glens and a report of a successful nest on Ellis Hollow Rd., in Cay Co. birds seen at Moravia and Owasco in July and at Niles and Locke in Aug. Cooper's Hawk: nested Moravia; three young fledged east of Ithaca where they nested last year; singles at Corning Glass works and Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. Red-shouldered Hawk: in Tomp. Co. one to three Conn. Hill to 12 June and one at Ringwood. Marsh Hawk: one SAD 13 June and 10 July. Osprey: three young fledged at MNWR; one at Penn Yan Aug. Am. Kestrel: many reports of family groups especially in the no. part of the Region. Ruffed Grouse: female with six chicks Moravia July. Bobwhite: one whistling south of Breeseport thru June. Ring-necked Pheasant: improving slightly at Penn Yan; numerous calling males in the Owasco Valley; on five FW



BBS's 33 birds were recorded at 30 stops; two Junius Ponds 14 June. Turkey: increasing in Yates Co. particularly around Bluff Point; nested west of Elmira; two families Conn. Hill June, two birds Moravia. Com. Gallinule: many young Elmira. Am. Coot: max 650 MNWR 31 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: small numbers at Sen L Pk, Waterloo Dump and Peruville Marsh. Upland Sandpiper: agitated behaviour by adult at Etna but no nest found; 17 Horseheads 19 July, two adults and an imm at Waterloo 19 July; also reported from Phelps, Auburn and Ithaca. White-rumped Sandpiper: one MNWR 19 July. RUFF: a male still in partial breeding plumage at MNWR 3 July (WB\*). Sanderling: four to eight Sen L Pk 26 July-12 Aug; three to eight Ithaca July. Wilson's Phalarope: a female MNWR 7-10 June. Great Black-backed Gull: fall birds returned to Ithaca and Owasco L in mid-July. Bonaparte's Gull: two to three Sen L Pk 29 July-12 Aug.; singles Ithaca 22 and 31 July. Caspian Tern: two to six Ithaca 31 July to 3 Aug.; two to five MNWR 13-15 Aug.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Cuckoos: numerous reports of both species. Barred Owl: the two young reported in the Spring report at Elmira were seen thru early July. Saw-whet Owl: one Conn Hill, Tomp. Co. 1 June. Com. Nighthawk: at Penn Yan in June; big increase in birds over Auburn; 75 passing silently over Elmira 4 Aug. Very early migrants? Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nest with young Schuyler Co. Belted Kingfisher: nests north of Lake Ridge and Salmon Creek in Tomp. Co. and at Owasco L Inlet and Outlet, Dutch Hollow Brook and Fillmore Glen in Cay. Co. Pileated Woodpecker: three young fledged near Moravia. Red-headed Woodpecker: reports, including several of young birds, from all over the Region.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** E. Kingbird: a good southerly movement in early Aug. with groups of up to 30 birds observed. E. Phoebe: continues scarce with many previous nesting sites abandoned. Yellow-billed Flycatcher: in Tomp. Co. one was located on Conn. Hill 1 June and one at Ringwood 6 Aug.; one banded Penn Yan Aug. **ACADIAN FLY-CATCHER:** a singing bird in Bear Swamp near Niles on two dates a week apart (SK). Alder Flycatcher: found on the Romulus and McDougall FWBBS's. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Conn. Hill 1 June; one Elmira 29 June. Tree Swallow: at SAD 74 pairs fledged 229 young (JMc); decreasing at MNWR as the dead trees with nesting holes topple over. Bank Swallow: the Junius Ponds colony down drastically; max 1200 Ithaca 20 July. Rough-winged generally very scarce; nested at Fall Creek and Salmon Creek, Tomp. Co. and in a drainpipe at Emerson Pk. on Owasco L. Purple Martin: very good numbers of nesting birds at the north end of Cay L, including MNWR, but scarce elsewhere. **COM. RAVEN:** reported from Conn. Hill and Arnot Forest. **FISH CROW:** a pair with three young was seen in Ithaca 7 Aug. but the nest was not located. Tufted Titmouse: fledged young at Sapsucker Woods. House Wren: 18 pairs fledged 25 young SAD (JMc). Carolina Wren: continues to nest in a garage in Phelps; present in at least six locations, Ithaca; two MNWR 19 July. Mockingbird: 20-25 Ithaca; nested Benton, Auburn and Myers. Hermit Thrush: nest in Elmira "inches from a rattlesnake den"; six singing males Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. 1 June; also one Bear Swamp near Niles. Swainson's Thrush: banded Penn Yan 16 and 22 Aug. E. Bluebird: at SAD only four pairs occupied the 82 boxes but they fledged 18 young; three young fledged at Moravia; several successful nests in Tomp. Co., also at Waterloo and MNWR; "doing nicely" at Penn Yan. The second encouraging year in a row for this beleagured species. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: young birds noted at MNWR; reported from Phelps, Reeder's Creek, Sen. Co. and Ithaca. Golden-crowned Kinglet: five juvenals in two groups on Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. 6 July. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Vireos: **WHITE-EYED:** one seen and heard at Sapsucker Woods 10 July (C. Smith *et al.*). Yellow-throated: well-reported from much of the Region. Solitary: six singing on Conn. Hill 26 June; adult feeding young Bear Swamp, Niles. Philadelphia: three Moravia 19 Aug.; one MNWR 26 Aug. Warblers: Black-and-white: four Tomp. Co. locations with adult male and juvenal at Ringwood 6 Aug. Worm-eating: three locations Elmira. Blue-winged: max 15 Ithaca including two families 15 July; singing male Moravia;

banded at Penn Yan Aug.; three Vine Valley 14 Aug. "Brewster's" hybrid: one Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. 1 June; one Elmira 11 July; male paired with Blue-wing Ithaca. "Lawrence's" hybrid: male paired with a Blue-wing feeding a "Blue-wing" with Golden-wing traces Ithaca. Nashville: three singing Ithaca 13 June; male Bear Swamp near Niles and one at Moravia 19 Aug. No. Parula: one Elmira 29 June. Yellow: up to 40 Ithaca late July. Magnolia: four-five per day Conn. Hill; banded at Penn Yan Aug. Cape May: banded at Penn Yan Aug. Black-throated Blue: four singing males Conn. Hill; singing males at Moravia and Bear Swamp. Yellow-rumped: five singing males Conn. Hill 6 July. Black-throated Green: in Tomp. Co. a family at Ringwood and seven Conn. Hill 26 June; adult feeding young Moravia; present Bear Swamp near Niles. Cerulean: reported at two locations east of Phelps, Junius Ponds, Camp Barton on Cay. L. MNWR, Salmon Creek north of Ithaca, and Bear Swamp near Niles. Blackburnian: singing males Ithaca 9 and 11 June, and up to four on Conn. Hill; three Moravia 19 Aug. Chestnut-sided: one east of Phelps 14 June; max Conn. Hill 25 on 12 June; many singing males in Bear Swamp and two near Moravia; banded at Penn Yan Aug. Ovenbird: max 20 Conn. Hill 5 June. No. Waterthrush: in Tomp. Co. eight singing males at Ringwood, two at Sapsucker Woods and four plus an adult carrying food at N. Lansing. Louisiana Waterthrush: one Watkins Glen 25 June; singing male Moravia; pair feeding young in Bear Swamp near Niles. KENTUCKY: one Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. (DS & JW). Mourning: one Elmira 29 June; at five Tomp. Co. locations; many singing males Bear Swamp near Niles and a few near Moravia. Yellow-breasted Chat: singing male Conn. Hill 1 June and one north of Ithaca 6-21 June; one Waterloo 16 June and one Moravia 19 Aug. Hooded: singing male in Bear Swamp. Canada: max 14 Conn. Hill 26 June; banded Penn Yan Aug.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: ORCHARD ORIOLE: nest with young Town of Varick, Sen. Co. (BH); nest Romulus (W. Warne); one Ithaca 8 July; female Elmira 17 July and 17 Aug. No. Oriole: nested in the same tree as the Orchard Oriole mentioned above in the Town of Varick; 21 banded 1 and 2 Aug. Penn Yan (ML). WESTERN TANAGER: a male and possibly a female spent the summer at Vine Valley, Yates Co. (R. DeVinney, R & S Gilmour). Efforts to verify the record on 14 Aug. failed to find the bird but the descriptions given by those who observed the bird were very good. Reportedly the bird was in the same area in 1979. Indigo Bunting: max 25 Conn. Hill 5 June; many at Phelps in late July. Purple Finch: max 26 Conn. Hill 12 June; nested Bear Swamp near Niles. Pine Siskin: last winter's birds lingered on with three at SK's feeder in Auburn 1 June; two on Conn. Hill 5 and 12 June; and one Ithaca 12 July. Red Crossbill: male Conn. Hill 6 July (DS). Grasshopper Sparrow: one Waterloo 16 June; one Elmira July; three to five singing in the Ithaca airport area and four on Conn. Hill; a male singing and an adult carrying food at Locke. Henslow's Sparrow: singles near Ithaca airport 3 and 10 July; max eight north of Ithaca 26 July and three singing there 10 Aug. Vesper Sparrow: more reports than in some time. Max 11 Orleans FWBBS. Dark-eyed Junco: 40 Conn. Hill half of them juvenals; three nests Guyanoga Valley, Yates Co.; singing male Bear Swamp. White-throated Sparrow: one singing Conn. Hill 10 July; singing male Bear Swamp.

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## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The early part of June was rather cool, and not until late July and August was there any really hot weather to speak of. The whole season was rather dry with respect to total accumulation, although light rains were reasonably frequent.

While the Atlas project has resulted in several times more summer season data collection within the Region than in the past, the data submitted directly for use in this regional report dropped to a new low. There can be little doubt that a cause and effect relationship did exist, but on the plus side, many observers that were never heard from before have been active in the Atlas project. It is to be hoped that at least some of these new observers can be recruited to continue submitting reports after the Atlas project is completed, or even send reports of their observations to the regional editor as well as to the regional Atlas coordinator in the remaining years of the project.

In the meantime, regional Atlas coordinator Jay Lehman has made available summary totals including 83 of the Atlas blocks covered this year. For many species in this report these summary totals are reported in the form "17 CO, 20 PR, 22 PO," to be read 17 confirmed, 20 probable and 22 possible. The number in each case refers to the number of Atlas blocks where evidence for that level of breeding evidence was found and not for the number of individuals of that species found.

Results from only four of the thirteen Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey routes (BBS) completely or mostly within Region 4 were available at this writing. In addition the results from one locally prepared similar route was available and is treated below as fully equivalent. A second locally prepared route was abbreviated to twenty stops to become a Mini-Breeding Bird Survey route (MBBS) and therefore has not been used in overall totals, although it did produce valuable data. The totals for every species found on at least one of the five full length routes are reported below in the form (7, 3) to be read seven individuals on three routes.

The survey routes available were: Milford 6 June, Mary Dobinsky; Coventryville 7 June, Leslie Bemont (LB); New Ireland (local MBBS) 7 June, Mary Sheffield (MS); Castle Gardens (local) 20 June, Julian Shepherd; McDonough 27 June, Claude Howard; Corbettsville, date not presently available, Jay Lehman (JL).

Rarities: A Gray Partridge, Cerulean Warbler, Kentucky Warbler and an Orchard Oriole are all Atlas records and any observational details are filed with that project. This the third consecutive year in which Kentucky Warblers have been reported, but the locale was different this year.

Other contributors: Lynn Bissell; Stella Carol Blake; Nancy Brundage; Lynn Clark; Mildred Clark (MC); Anna & Marilyn Davis (A, MD); David Diamond (DD); John Dillon (JD); Polly & Earl Getkin; Shirley Hartman; Diane Heath (DH); George Kehr (GK); Margaret Layton; Barbara Mai (BM); Janice Mangan; Leona McDowell (LM); Ron Milliken (RM); Peter Petokas (PP); James Riley; Robert Sheffield (RS); Howard Sweet (HS); Elizabeth Washburn (EW); Irene Waters; Cora Wellman; Kathryn Wilson (KW).

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: one CO, two PO; no other reports, and rarely reported during the summer season in the Region. Great Blue Heron: (7, 5); two CO, one PR, 26 PO. Green Heron: (1, 1) Milford BBS; four CO, three PR, 12 PO. Am. Bittern: one PO; no other reports. Canada Goose: one CO; one PR. Mallard: (10, 1) Milford BBS; 16 CO, four PR, seven PO. Black Duck: two CO, two PR, one PO; three 15 Aug. Portlandville and one 30 Aug. Binghamton, the only reports. Blue-winged Teal: one CO, one PR, one PO; the only reports. Wood Duck: eight CO, three PR, three PO. Hooded Merganser: one CO, one PO; no other reports. Com. Merganser: one PO; no other reports.



**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: three PR, ten PO; one to five "occasionally all summer" (MC) at Delhi; also three at Oneonta 17 June. Goshawk: three PO; no other reports. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two PO; three other reports of four birds. Cooper's Hawk: two PO; one Delhi 17 July; no others. Red-tailed Hawk: (1, 1); 11 CO, 12 PR, 20 PO; well-distributed, reasonably frequent reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: (1, 1) Corbettsville BBS; one PR, three PO; no other reports. Broad-winged Hawk: two PR, seven PO; fledged young near Plymouth 9 Aug.; one Oneonta 26 Aug. "swooped down at our cat" (KW). Bald Eagle: one PR; an imm 12 July Upper Lisle (RS, MS). Marsh Hawk: two PR, two PO; no others. Osprey: one PR; one Portlandville-Milford 15 Aug.; one Upper Lisle 23 Aug.; one Oneonta 31 Aug. Am. Kestrel: (5, 3); 18 CO, eight PR, ten PO. Ruffed Grouse: (2, 2); 24 CO, one PR, 11 PO. **GRAY PARTRIDGE:** one CO; never before reported in the Region. Ring-necked Pheasant: one CO; seven PR, three PO; no other reports. Turkey: seven CO, six PR, ten PO; six Emmons near Oneonta 18 July; one Whitney Point 22 June; several reports around Delhi. Com. Gallinule: one PR (PP). Am. Coot: one CO. Killdeer: (17, 4); 16 CO; 13 PR, 12 PO. Am. Woodcock: (2, 1) Milford BBS; two CO, ten PR, four PO. Com. Snipe: two PR, one PO; no other reports. Upland Sandpiper: three Center Lisle, in n. Broome Co., 24 June (EW, RM, *et al.*), agitated and attempted to drive observers away—the same area where they had been reported a number of years ago. Spotted Sandpiper: (2, 2); two CO, four PR, seven PO. Solitary Sandpiper: 28 Aug. Oneonta Res. Ring-billed Gull: none all summer until 25 Aug. Binghamton.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Rock Dove: (80, 4); 11 CO, 11 PR, 22 PO; at Delhi "many more this year than I can remember" (MC). Mourning Dove: (54, 5); 13 CO, 26 PR, 22 PO; most common ever in the memory of several long-time observers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (1, 1) McDonough BBS; six PR, seven PO; only two other reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: (11, 3); five CO, ten PR, 11 PO; at least seven other reports. Barn Owl: one CO, nest with young in Cortland Co.; one PO, near Chenango Lake n.e. of Norwich. Screech Owl: (1, 1) Milford BBS; four CO, one PR, seven PO; two other reports. Great Horned Owl: eight CO, six PR, ten PO. Barred Owl: one PR, two PO; one New Ireland MBBS. Long-eared Owl: one CO, one PR. Com. Nighthawk: (1, 1) Castle Gardens BBS; two CO, two PR, three PO. Chimney Swift: (17, 2); three CO, eight PR, ten PO; common over Binghamton all period. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: three CO, 16 PR, 13 PO. Belted Kingfisher: (2, 2); eight CO, nine PR, 15 PO. Com. Flicker: (15, 4); 20 CO, 24 PR, 22 PO. Pileated Woodpecker: (1, 1) McDonough BBS; also one on New Ireland MBBS. Red-headed Woodpecker: two PR, seen 7 July and 17 July. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (1, 1) McDonough BBS; six CO, nine PR, 14 PO; five Oneonta-Portlandville 27 Aug. Hairy Woodpecker: (3, 2); 12 CO, 17 PR, 17 PO. Downy Woodpecker: (8, 3); 17 CO, 20 PR, 22 PO.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** E. Kingbird: (27, 5); 25 CO; 22 PR, 15 PO. Great Crested Flycatcher: (14, 5); one CO, 16 PR, nine PO. E. Phoebe: (19, 5); 21 CO, 12 PR, 17 PO. Alder Flycatcher: (6, 3); four PR, three PO. Willow Flycatcher: (1, 1) Coventryville BBS; four PR, three PO. Least Flycatcher: (30, 5); two CO, 14 PR, six PO. E. Wood Pewee: (19, 5); 22 PR, 12 PO. Horned Lark: two PR; 10 and 17 June Center Lisle. Tree Swallow: (34, 5); 38 CO, five PR, seven PO. Bank Swallow: (4, 2); two CO, one PR, one PO. Rough-winged Swallow: (3, 1) Coventryville BBS; eight CO, one PR, three PO. Barn Swallow: (63, 5); 36 CO, 13 PR, 12 PO. Cliff Swallow: five CO, one PO; 12 Portlandville-Milford 15 Aug.; six Portlandville-Milford 27 Aug. Purple Martin: (8, 2); five CO, one PR, two PO. Blue Jay: (56, 5); 23 CO, 12 PR, 30 PO. Com. Crow: (180, 5); 29 CO, 13 PR, 36 PO. Black-capped Chickadee: (36, 5); 26 CO, 25 PR, 18 PO. Tufted Titmouse: six PR, three PO. White-breasted Nuthatch: (2, 1) Coventryville BBS; seven CO, 16 PR, 28 PO. Red-breasted Nuthatch: two CO, four PR, eight PO. Brown Creeper: six PR, ten PO. House Wren: (48, 5), 23 on Castle Gardens BBS; 34 CO; 11 PR, 11 PO. Winter Wren: one PR, two PO. Carolina Wren: (1, 1) Castle Gardens BBS; two PR, Chenango Forks 23-28 June (A, MD); Norwich 26 July to 31 Aug. "singing and trilling one to three times a week" (JL). Short-billed Marsh Wren: one CO, Sherburne (DD). Mockingbird: (1, 1) Castle Gardens BBS; one CO, seven PR, five

PO; in one block just n. of Johnson City found in five different places; four at Binghamton 23 July, apparently a family group. Gray Catbird: (59, 5); 21 CO, 26 PR, 24 PO. Brown Thrasher: (12, 4); ten CO, 23 PR, 14 PO. Am. Robin: (231, 5); 63 CO, six PR, seven PO. Wood Thrush: (88, 5); four CO, 30 PR, 24 PO. Hermit Thrush: (4, 2); six PR, 13 PO; one Norwich 19 July. Veery: (51, 5); eight CO, 21 PR, 17 PO; one Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug., the only report after 19 July. E. Bluebird: 24 CO, five PR, five PO. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two PR. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one CO, one PR, four PO—at least three of the six reports from central Chenango Co. where they have been found previous summers. Cedar Waxwing: (39, 4); 13 CO, 22 PR, 27 PO. Starling: (277, 5); 35 CO, 11 PR, 17 PO—20 blocks (about 25%) where they were not seen at all?

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: (6, 3); five CO, five PR, five PO. Solitary Vireo: (4, 1) Milford BBS; two PR, five PO; five other reports. Red-eyed Vireo: (52, 5) two CO, 30 PR, 13 PO. Warbling Vireo: (13, 4); four CO, 12 PR, six PO; still at Binghamton 25 Aug. Black-and-white Warbler: (13, 3); ten on Corbettsville BBS; two CO, nine PR, ten PO; three Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug. Worm-eating Warbler: one PR, one PO—Sherburne (DD) and Oxford (DH). Golden-winged Warbler: (2, 2); two PR, three PO; two other June reports. Blue-winged Warbler: (7, 4); two CO, five PR, three PO; five other reports, the last of two at Delhi 6 Aug. (LM). "Brewster's" Warbler: Norwich 18 June. "Lawrence's" Warbler: Norwich 18 June (JL). Nashville Warbler: (2, 2); two CO, three PR, three PO. No. Parula: (1, 1), McDonough BBS; one PO; same report?—no details. Yellow Warbler: (100, 5); 16 CO, 24 PR, 17 PO. Magnolia Warbler: (1, 1) Corbettsville BBS; three CO, five PR, three PO; eight Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug.; three Choconut Center 29 Aug. Cape May Warbler: eight Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: (3, 3); one CO, ten PR, seven PO; three other reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: nine PR, nine PO; 12 and 14 July Chenango Forks (A, MD); six Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: (4, 3); one CO, 11 PR, seven PO; 7 June Choconut Center; two Portlandville-Milford 13 June; eight Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** one PR, Sherburne (DD), no previous summer reports in Region. Blackburnian Warbler: (3, 2); one CO, three PR, three PO; one Portlandville-Milford 15 Aug.; nine Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug. Chestnut-sided Warbler: (33, 5); five CO, 15 PR, 15 PO; 24 Portlandville-Milford 13 June; regular reports to 5 July; 12 Portlandville 1 Aug.; one Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: six Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug. Pine Warbler: two PO. Prairie Warbler: (6, 2) Corbettsville and Castle Gardens BBS; one CO, eight PR, two PO; one at Choconut Center 28 June, 3 and 5 July; one Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug. Ovenbird (32, 5); eight CO, 25 PR, 12 PO. No. Waterthrush: (1, 1) Coventryville BBS; five PR, two PO; no other reports. Louisiana Waterthrush: (2, 2); also New Ireland MBBS; five PR, one PO; no others. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one PO; in Tioga Co. (BM). Mourning Warbler: (3, 3); six CO, three PR, five PO. Com. Yellowthroat: (163, 5); 27 CO, 25 PR, 15 PO. Yellow-breasted Chat: one PO, Masonville in Delaware Co. (GK). Hooded Warbler: one CO, one PR, two PO; at Norwich one 26 June, a pair 27 June and two singing 11 July (JL). Canada Warbler: (6, 3); two CO, six PR, five PO; three Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug. Am. Redstart: (21, 5); five CO, 13 PR, 17 PO; two Portlandville-Oneonta 27 Aug.; one male Binghamton 30 Aug.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** House Sparrow: (96, 5); 34 CO, 13 PR, nine PO. Bobolink: (66, 5); 17 CO, 18 PR, 12 PO. E. Meadowlark: (28, 5); seven CO, 27 PR, 13 PO; 29 June Norwich two adults with three young. Red-winged Blackbird: (482, 5); 37 CO, 24 PR, 12 PO; "100's" 27 Aug. Portlandville-Oneonta. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** one PR Cortland Co. (HS). No. Oriole: (41, 5); 30 CO, 27 PR, eight PO. Com. Grackle: (161, 5); 23 CO, 15 PR, 21 PO. Brown-headed Cowbird: (46, 4); 14 CO, 15 PR, 27 PO. Scarlet Tanager: (27, 5); eight CO, 27 PR, 20 PO. Cardinal: (27, 3), 18 on Castle Gardens BBS; 18 CO, 23 PR, 13 PO. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (41, 5); ten CO, 27 PR, 21 PO. Indigo Bunting: (53, 5); six CO, 32 PR, 15 PO. Evening Grosbeak: three flying over Norwich 15 Aug.; two males reported at a feeder at Plymouth 15 Aug. Purple Finch: (6, 2); 12 CO, 16 PR, eight PO. House Finch: (32, 2) Castle Gardens (27) and Corbettsville BBS; 15 CO, 15 PR, five PO; at Chenango



Forks 17 June "took down the feeder. That's the last we saw of them" (A, MD). Pine Siskin: two PO. Am. Goldfinch: (55, 5); nine CO, 35 PR, 22 PO. Rufous-sided Towhee: (22, 4); seven CO, 24 PR, 14 PO. Savannah Sparrow: (21, 5); five CO, nine PR, five PO; 17 counted at Portlandville 1 Aug. Grasshopper Sparrow: (6, 3); one CO, two PR, two PO. Henslow's Sparrow: one New Ireland MBBS; one CO, one PR, one PO; found in five different places in central Broome Co. (MS). Vesper Sparrow: one 18 June a couple of miles south of Center Lisle (LB); the only report all period. Dark-eyed Junco: (3, 3); five CO, 17 PR, nine PO; five Portlandville-Milford 13 June. Chipping Sparrow: (93, 5); 36 CO, 16 PR, 12 PO. Field Sparrow: (53, 5); 19 CO, 20 PR, 11 PO. White-throated Sparrow: (22, 2) McDonough (16) and Milford BBS; one CO, 12 PR, 12 PO. Swamp Sparrow: (5, 2); one CO, ten PR, three PO. Song Sparrow: (198, 5); 33 CO, 20 PR, 16 PO.

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

The summer 1981 had exceptionally fine weather and at best average birding. At Syracuse, temperatures averaged slightly above normal for all three summer months, and the drought of the early year continued through August. Precipitation in Syracuse was 2½ inches below average for the summer and 7½ inches below average for the year at the end of August. It had become apparent that the early thaw and subsequent frosts would greatly reduce seed crops, especially of oaks, maples and early flowering cherries, apples and similar fruit bearing trees.

Involvement of your editor and the Regional Breeding Bird Atlas coordinator in hosting the annual meeting of the Federation precluded a summary of the Breeding Bird Atlas results as was possible last year. A preliminary survey of these data indicates continued progress, trends in the abundance of species similar to last summer, and few exceptional finds. More interesting birding areas continue to be uncovered as workers venture farther afield and into seldom worked blocks.

The nesting season, having little cool weather or rain to hinder it, appeared to be quite successful, especially for swallows and warblers. No species seemed to show the explosive reproductive effort that characterized the previous summer. Several observers commented on late (i.e., August) song by several species, notably Willow Flycatcher and Northern Oriole, though the significance of this is unknown.

As always, the fall migration was underway in July with the return of shorebirds and the passage of Yellow Warblers. Neither exceptional numbers nor much variety of shorebirds was seen, especially given the numerous muddy ponds created by the drought conditions. Tuscarora Lake, near Erieville, Madison County, was drained for dam repair and accounted for a number of locally unique records, such as Ruddy Turnstone, Baird's Sandpiper, dowitcher and Northern Phalarope. This phenomenon is well-known from other similar happenings. Most observers felt that juvenal shorebirds were late in arriving and few in

number. The land bird migration was generally unimpressive.

A total of 193 species plus two hybrids was reported this season. The only real rarity was a migrant Prothonotary Warbler, but several other locally unusual species were reported and appear in the account that follows.

Contributors: Dorothy Ackley, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Gene Huggins, Ferdinand LaFrance, Robert E. Long, Margaret Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Robert Sheffield, Magdalena Stooks.

Abbreviations: arr—arrival; max—maximum; NPT—northern Pompey Township; NYS-ARC—details to New York Avian Records Committee; Onon—onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: ten Howlands Island Game Management Area, a known nesting area, and one Onon. L. in mid-Aug. were the only reports. Double-crested Cormorant: regular along Lake Ontario after 4 July, max 39 on 13 Aug. Great Egret: Tuscarora Lake, Madison Co., 19-27 Aug. Black-crowned Night Heron: present all summer without evidence of nesting Snake Swamp, Oswego Co.; singles Peter Scott Swamp on 20 June and Amboy on 5 July. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: possible imm. Pompey, 21 June (FLaF, NYSARC). Least Bittern: reported from Pools Brook Marsh, town of Manlius; and SP only. Am. Bittern: none reported after early June, Pintail: arr 5 Aug. Onon. L. Am. Wigeon: arr 29 Aug. SP. No diving ducks reported except Hooded and Com. Merganser at known nesting localities.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: possible migrant SP 23 Aug., though nesting confirmed nearby last summer. Red-shouldered Hawk: two singles, town of Florence 13 June and Camillus 18 June, only reports. Marsh Hawk: none nesting this season; arr SP 23 July. Osprey: arr 30 Aug. SP. Semipalmated Plover: arr 19 July Onon. L., max 20 Sylvan Beach on 30 Aug. Am. Golden Plover: arr 27 Aug. Tuscarora L. Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 Aug. Onon. L. Ruddy Turnstone: arr 8 Aug. SP. Whimbrel: one SP after 8 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: migrant Onon. L. 5 July; no large counts from Oneida Lake plain. Solitary Sandpiper: arr 11 July Onon. L., max 26 Pools Brook Marsh 19 July. Greater Yellowlegs: arr 10 July Onon. L., no counts above four. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 July Onon. L., max only 40 on 10 Aug. Red Knot: arr 10 Aug. SP. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 12 July Onon. L., max 28 Pools's Brook on 18 July. Baird's Sandpiper: adult Onon. L. 24 July (FGS), imm seen regularly after 16 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr 2 July Onon. L. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 July Onon. L., max about four, most adults showing characters of *hendersoni*. Stilt Sandpiper: arr Onon. L. 14 July, adult max nine on 9 Aug., imm max 17 on 31 Aug., same spot. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 July Onon. L., max 195 there on 23 July. Western Sandpiper: one SP on 30 Aug., another Onon. L. the next day. Sanderling: arr SP 13 July, max there only 16, very low. Wilson's Phalarope: two Onon. L. 2 Aug., two Bolivar 8 Aug. No. Phalarope: single Onon. L. 27-31 Aug., another Tuscarora L. 29 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SP 23 July, max about 35 there and about 135 Sylvan Beach in Aug. Little Gull: juvenal, SP 29-30 Aug. (FGS, DWC). Forster's Tern: one SP 29 Aug., another Onon. L. 29-30 July (both FGS), the second consecutive year there away from Lake Ontario. Caspian Tern: arr 11 July Onon. L., max 35 there and 20 SP in mid-Aug.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only two reports all summer. Com. Nighthawk: 21 birds at ten localities in Syracuse, comparable to 1979 (REL).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 28 at Onon. L. 10 Aug. were migrants or post-breeding dispersals. Tree Swallow: no large counts. Rough-winged Swallow: last one Aug. early departure. Bank Swallow: to 2500-2800 SP in mid-Aug. Barn Swallow: max 12,000 Clay Marsh on 1 Aug. (FGS). Tufted Titmouse: only one report this summer. Red-breasted Nuthatch: first migrants by mid-Aug., but numbers not very high. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one to three, Victory, 1-7 June, one Clay 18 July, and another SP 30 Aug. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Mexico Point, Oswego Co., 13 Aug. either early migrants or from a nearby lakeshore conifer plantation.

VIREOS--WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr 9 Aug Tug Hill Plateau, only report. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: migrant female Mexico Pt. 8 Aug. (FGS) is first confirmed regional report since 1969. Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 Aug. SP. No. Parula: arr 29 Aug. SP. Yellow Warbler: max 130 SP 2 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: arr 26 Aug. NPT. Cape May Warbler: arr 16 Aug. Tug Hill Plateau. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 29 Aug. SP. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 17 Aug. Onon. L. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 29 Aug. SP. Cerulean Warbler: last 2 Aug. Oswego Co. Blackburnian Warbler: arr 15 Aug. SP. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 8 Aug. SP. Blackpoll Warbler: 1 near Stillwater, Herkimer Co., 19 July, no evidence of nesting; arr 26 Aug. NPT. No. Waterthrush: arr 30 Aug. SP. Mourning Warbler: arr 2 Aug. SP. Yellow-breasted Chat: transient Lafayette early July was only report. Wilson's Warbler: arr 29 Aug. SP. Canada Warbler: arr 8 Aug. SP.

WEAVERS--SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: one at Holland Patent remained to 11 June (RLE); breeding confirmed Camillus mid-July (JH). Rusty Blackbird: arr 13 Aug. SP. Evening Grosbeak: green-billed male at feeder NPT 6-7 Aug. (DWC); what was he up to? Pine Siskin: one on North Wilmot Breeding Bird Survey 24 June (FGS) and family group NPT on 14 June (DWC) were last reports from the winter season. Grasshopper Sparrow: only one report, making it scarcer than Henslow's Sparrow this summer.

*Corrigenda. Kingbird* Vol. 30, Fall 1980. p. 35. Sterling Township is in Cayuga, not Oswego Co.; p. 36. Peregrine: early date and eighth report was on 20 Sept.; p. 37. Pomarine Jaeger: one seen 15 Nov. was at Fair Haven, almost certainly not the bird seen 16 Nov. at SP; Bohemian Waxwing: three seen 22 Nov. were in Oswego, not Syracuse. Vol. 31, Spring 1981, p. 101. Mallard X Gadwall hybrid was at Baldwinsville, not Cayuga Lake; p. 102. Savannah Sparrow seen 31 Dec. at Howlands Island Game Management Area, not DeWitt. Vol. 31, No. 3, Summer 1981. p. 174. "Blue" Goose: last Sterling Township on 16 May (MSR); p. 175. Bonaparte's Gull: arr 5, not 6 Apr., last SP 23 May; Black-legged Kittiwake: comment should end "first spring report since 1967."; Caspian Tern: two SP on 26 Apr. and four there 10 May double the total reported; Tree Swallow: arrival date should read 26 March; p. 176, raptor table: Goshawk total is 39. The data for Osprey were inadvertently omitted; they are: arr 29 Mar., max 70 5 May, last 2 June, 90% date range 18 Apr.-26 May, total 327.

My thanks to MSR for calling these errors to my attention.

306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, New York 13210

## REGION 6 -- ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

The summer of 1981 was indeed a strange one. Temperatures were on the cool side to say the least. On 1 June a low of 38° F. was recorded followed by a 39° F. reading on 8 June. July started out warmish with some 80° F.+ readings and the temperature on 24 July was a record low for that date in Watertown.

Rainfall was lacking early in the period and semi-drought conditions developed. As the period progressed we made up for the lack of water when Watertown and vicinity experienced a four-inch rainfall on 8 August. Other sections received less rainfall but still in the half to inch range. Toward the end of the period it looked like we would make up in a hurry the lack of rain in June and July.



Atlasing activities brought out some very interesting sightings and made time afield pass all too quickly. The assignment of Gerry Smith at El Dorado on a full-time basis brought out excellent shorebird observations for that area, giving a better idea of the magnitude of shorebirds that in fact use that area.

Wild food crops, and in particular mountain ash, viburnums, honeysuckle and highbush cranberry, were unbelievable and well-visited by fruit eating species. The effects of the extreme cold after our warm February and late spring were very evident. Many trees and shrubs were killed outright, while others suffered top kill and fruit loss. Wild apples and black cherry fruits were wiped out.

Trends for the period were as follows: increased waterbird information from Little Galloo Island-Lake Ontario; decrease in American Bittern; Canada Goose production increasing; Black Ducks continue their downward trend; improved Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk numbers; Marsh Hawks down from last year; American Kestrels everywhere; shorebird data way beyond past reports; Mourning Doves on the increase; excellent Woodpecker sightings; Loggerhead Shrikes holding their own; better than normal warbler reports and increasing House Finches.

Rarities for the period included: Yellow-crowned Night Heron; Bald Eagle; Whimbrel; Baird's Sandpiper; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; and Loggerhead Shrike.

Contributors: Stewart Brown (SB), Lee Chamberlaine (LC), Frank Clinch (FC), Kenneth Crowell (KC), William Gordon (WG), Robert Long (RL), Gerry Smith (GS), Joe VanRiet, (JVR), Bob & June Walker (B & JW).

Abbreviations: CWS--Canadian Wildlife Service; EL--El Dorado; SLR--St. Lawrence River.

LOONS--DUCKS: Com. Loon: three Croil I.-SLR 21 June; one Murphy I.-SLR same; one Iroquois dam-SLR same; two Ogdensburg Bridge-SLR same; one Colton 25 June; one Carry Falls Reservoir 17 Aug.; pair at Old Mans I.-SLR near Morristown, produced one young this year (RL). Pied-billed Grebe: one adult with three young Perch River Aug. 24 (SB). Double-crested Cormorant: five Iroquois Dam-SLR 21 June; first juvenal at EL on 4 July; 13 Long Sault I.-SLR 15 July; 140+ Little Galloo I. 26 Aug. (SB); max at EL for period, 17 on 30 Aug. Harold Evans reported counting 165 on one day in Aug. Little Galloo I. (*vide* FC); 416 nests Little Galloo I. (CWS). Great Blue Heron: another banner year, they were everywhere. Green Heron: nest with eggs Dennison Rd.-Massena 9 June; numbers in Henderson and vicinity up from last year. Cattle Egret: three Little Galloo I. 24 Aug. (SB); five nests Little Galloo I. (CSW). Black-crowned Night Heron: three to nine per day EL 15-26 June; two adults with two juvenals in nest Perch River 20 Aug. (WG). YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: one adult EL 3 July (GS) submitted to NYSARC. Least Bittern: two pair Upper and Lower Lakes 13 June (KC); one Brasher Iron Works 23 June (JVR). Am. Bittern: resident breeder Upper and Lower Lakes; one Piercefield 24 June; none on Clare F & WS Breeding Bird Survey 15 June (KC); not in previous numbers in much of Jefferson and St. Lawrence Cos. Canada Goose: one at EL off and on through period; 1200 from Moses-Sanders Dam to Wilson Hill 1 July; nesting in gravel pits from Helena to Chase Mills-SLR (JVR). Brant: two near Strachan I.-SLR 14 July. Snow Goose: one through period till 15 Aug. at Helena (JVR). Mallard: max at EL 15 23 Aug.; a few in Henderson and vicinity. Mallard X Black hybrid: one EL 3 July; one in "homegrown" mallard flock in Henderson. Gadwall: a pair at EL 15-20 June; seven EL 2 July; five EL 8 July; three EL 23 Aug. Pintail: a single female EL 27 June, probably a summering nonbreeder; nine EL 8 Aug; ten EL 26 Aug. Green-winged Teal: one to three per day EL 17-19 June; nine EL 21 Aug.; 17 EL 29 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: nine EL 16 July; 70 EL 8 Aug.; 310 EL 14 Aug.;



330 EL 29 Aug. Am. Wigeon: three to four males per day EL 25-27 June. Wood Duck: about normal numbers. Redhead: 120 Wilson Hill 29 Aug. Ring-neck: adult with young at Brasher Center 23 June (JVR); six Wilson Hill 29 Aug.; adult with nine young Upper and Lower Lakes in July (D. Hamelin). Greater Scaup: one at EL 8-26 Aug., probably sick or injured bird. Lesser Scaup: a pair at Wilson Hill til 14 June. Com. Goldeneye: one EL, a female in molt first seen 29 June and seen into Aug. Oldsquaw: one near Ogdensburg Bridge 21 June (JVR). Hooded Merganser: none reported. Com. Merganser: four EL 22 Aug.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: common on the lakeplain thru; two Carry Falls 18 Aug. Goshawk: one female near Helena 4 July. Sharp-shinned: one Perch River 7 June; one near Raymondville 27 June; one south of Massena 29 June; one Brasher Iron Works July; one EL 22 Aug. Cooper's: one EL 12, 13 and 16 Aug. Red-tailed: in good numbers—maybe up a little from last year. Red-shouldered: a nest with young near Massena 20 June—leaving nest on 5 July (JVR). Broad-winged: one near Waddington 4 June; nest with young near Helena 30 June; one Carry Falls Reservoir 23 July; one EL 8 Aug. **BALD EAGLE:** one imm. Carry Falls Reservoir 23 July (SB). Marsh Hawk: pair feeding young Roosevelttown; pair near Sear's Pond-Lewis Co. transferring food 8 July; many other sightings of individuals and imm toward end of period. Osprey: one Perch River 10 Aug. Am. Kestrel: a fantastic year—birds everywhere; 13 in two miles of road Perch River 10 Aug., feeding on microtus, grasshoppers and crickets. Ruffed Grouse: perhaps a little down from last year's numbers—next reporting period will tell. Gray Partridge: adult with young Robt. Moses Dam 11 July; adult with young Rices Rd. 12 July. Turkey: many reports of broods in Theresa area. Virginia Rail: still responding to a taped call at the beginning of July at Wilson Hill, Chase Mills and Brasher Iron Works (JVR). Com. Gallinule: three pairs Wilson Hill thru; adult with chicks 1 July Brasher Iron Works; adult with three chicks Beaver Meadow near Watertown 11 July; adult with four young Perch River 15 Aug. Am. Coot: pair at Wilson Hill thru. Semipalmated Plover: two EL 19 July; 25 EL 10 Aug.; 19 EL 29 Aug. Killdeer: max at EL 34 18 Aug. Black-bellied Plover: one EL nonbreeding plumage 19 and 20 June (GS); three EL 8 Aug.; one EL 17, 19, 24, 29 and 30 Aug. Ruddy Turnstone: 23 8 Aug.; 40 9 Aug. 44 10 Aug.; 23 16 Aug. all EL. Am. Woodcock: adult with four young crossing road in the two steps forward and one back step method of woodcock near Sear's Pond 8 July. Com. Snipe: one EL 8, 13 and 22 Aug. **WHIMBREL:** one EL 8 Aug (GS). Upland Sandpiper: two on Canton Pizza Hut lawn 5 June; courtship flight Pierrepont 6 June (KC); juvenal crossing State St. Rd., Canton 24 June; adult with young near Helena 30 June; pair south of Massena; other reports from Ashland near Three Mile Bay and Brownville, area of previous year's use near Sackets Harbor converted from pasture to corn; one EL 24 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: 17 EL 7 July; 30 EL 19 July; 34 EL 14 Aug.; five EL 30 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: one EL 14 and 15 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: one near Rodman in Sandy Creek 27 July; one EL 22 Aug.; two EL 24 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: 34 EL 9 July; 46 EL 10 Aug.; 48 EL 14 Aug.; 10 EL 21 Aug.; 49 EL 24 Aug. Red Knot: one EL 16, 17, 19, 22 and 24 Aug.; two EL 18 and 20 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: one EL 16 July; three EL 8 Aug.; one EL 9, 16, 18, 22, 26 and 30 Aug.; four EL 29 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: one EL 14 Aug. (GS). **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** one EL 8, 22, 23, 29 and 30 Aug.; two EL 26 Aug. (GS). Least Sandpiper: one EL 28 June; 23 EL 8 July; 29 EL 16 Aug. 38 EL 29 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: two EL 4 and 19 July; four EL 14 and 16 Aug.; eight 30 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: one EL 8-10, 13, 24-26 Aug.; two EL 27 and 30 Aug.; max three EL 29 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 60 14 July; 175 8 Aug.; 450 10 Aug.; 675 14 Aug.; 675 16 Aug.; 550 24 Aug.; 250 30 Aug. all EL. Sanderling: one EL 14 July; 20 EL 10 Aug.; max 35 EL 14 Aug.; 10 EL 30 Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: one at EL 8-12 Aug.; one EL 29 and 30 Aug. (GS). Great Black-backed Gull: one adult EL 28 June; four EL 7 July; max of seven EL 14 Aug.; six EL 22 Aug.; four nests Little Galloo I (CSW). Herring Gull: max 30 at EL 14 Aug.; 250+ nests Little Galloo I. (CWS). Ring-billed Gull: 350 EL 29 June; 435 EL 9 July; 515 EL 11 July; 280 EL 8 Aug.; 60 EL 30 Aug. 70,000 nests Little Galloo I (CWS). Bonaparte's Gull: seven 1 July; max nine EL 14 Aug.; three EL 27 Aug. Com. Tern: 14 EL 29 June; 33 EL 14 Aug.

55 EL 27 Aug.; max 76. 29 Aug.; 150 nests in small colonies from Sheik I. to the east end of Ogden I.-SLR—nesting mainly on navigation markers (JVR); Bogardus I-SLR Town of Morristown completely shut out this year by the ever-increasing Ring-billed Gull. Ring-bill chick production on Bogardus and Murray I. was 300+. Adult terns present on this section of river as usual—where they nested (RL). Caspian Tern: five adults EL 3 July; six EL 9, 11 and 15 July; 35 EL 9 Aug.; max at EL 48 14 Aug. Black Tern: three Wilson Hill 22-30 June; seven EL 12 July; two EL 9 and 23 Aug.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: seems to be on the increase again in lakeplain and Tug Hill periphery. Black-billed Cuckoo: at Pierrepont 15 June; five to six pairs at EL not as many or as conspicuous this year even with large caterpillar crop. Screech Owl: none reported—usually heard in Henderson area but not this year. Great Horned Owl: numbers may be up or more reported due to atlas activities. Barred Owl: carcass (car kill) from Theresa area turned over to DEC in Aug. Long-eared Owl: one adult found dead near EL on Stony Creek Rd. in June (GS). Short-eared Owl: two Ashland near Three Mile Bay 27 June; one Watertown Airport 22 July; one Chaumont 4 and 5 July. Saw-whet Owl: confirmed nesting near Tupper Lake (*vide* RW). Whip-poor-will: Pierrepont 28 June. Com. Nighthawk: a few in Watertown. Chimney Swift: in Henderson down somewhat—mostly gone by 6 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very common—locate columbine in your breeding bird block and wait. Belted Kingfisher: normal numbers. Com. Flicker: perhaps more than last year? Pileated Woodpecker: pair Piercefield 24 June; pair near Henderson 27 July. Red-bellied: one adult only sporadically in Henderson. Red-headed: one on Route 3 Baggs Corners on telephone pole; one Wardwell Settlement near Belleville on telephone pole 9 Aug.; one adult feeding one young near Brownville 9 Aug (SB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: leaving nest on 30 June at Wilson Hill; a pair feeding young at Chase Mills 4 July.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** E. Kingbird: large numbers (40+) noted at Perch River 16 Aug. Great Crested Flycatcher: very common in Tug Hill sections. E. Phoebe: incubating second clutch of five eggs on 21 June—first brood fledged on 9 June (KC). Willow Flycatcher: breeds at EL—four to five pairs present June and July; one only Wilson Hill 14 June. Least Flycatcher: probably more common than many had supposed! E. Wood Pewee: very common in Henderson and vicinity. Horned Lark: in Lisbon-St. Lawrence Co. 3 June; Canton 15 June; aerial display two or more in Canton 18 June (KC). Tree Swallow: everywhere and flocking in late Aug. Bank Swallow: colonies totaling 3,600 nests between Iroquois Dam and Sparrow Hawk Point-SLR. Rough-winged Swallow: seen rather unexpectedly near Sears Pond on Tug Hill Plateau in July and Aug. (LC). Cliff Swallow: 95 nests on Iroquois Dam-SLR 21 June; no change in large numbers at Robt. Moses Dam. Purple Martin: numbers in Henderson were down from previous year. Red-breasted Nuthatch: in migration by 22 Aug. Brown Creeper: very scarce. House Wren: common even in Tug Hill sections. Winter Wren: adult with young Raymondville 27 June (JVR). Long-billed Marsh Wren: increasing at Wilson Hill, total of 12+; very common at Perch River and Lakeview. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one Wilson Hill 20 June (JVR). Mockingbird: no summer reports. Gray Catbird: fairly common. Brown Thrasher: in good numbers. Am. Robin: tremendous production this year; migrants moving daily in very large numbers in mid-Aug. Wood Thrush: normal numbers. Hermit Thrush: at McCarthy Rd., Brasher Iron Works and Eamon Rd. Brasher Center (JVR). E. Bluebird: one female Three Mile Creek near Three Mile Bay (SB). **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** one near Helena on 4 June, not seen again (JVR). Confirmed nesting near Chippewa Bay (*vide* B & JW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: single bird feeding a cowbird fledging near New Boston in spruce plantation—kinglet was in very ruffled state and was in constant search of food 24 June (LC). Cedar Waxwing: very very abundant—mountain ash fruit crop unprecedented and waxwings took full advantage of the fruit crop. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** nest area near Watertown not active; one Chase Mill 24 June (JVR); pair feeding one begging young near Morristown Center in same field as last year on 27 June (RL); a single adult was found on Philadelphia Breeding Bird Survey on 5 July (RL); nesting area near LaFargeville was successful in raising some birds—numbers not reported (*vide* SB).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Red-eyed Vireo: very common. Warbling Vireo: very common. Black-and-white Warbler: found breeding in deciduous-conifer mixture of mature woods along SLR. Golden-winged: two resident at Pierrepont. Nashville: found breeding along SLR (RL). Yellow: very common. Magnolia: common. Yellow-rumped: adult with young Brasher Iron Works 1 July. Black-throated Green: fairly common along SLR; one at Perch Lake 7 June; three near Wilson Hill 28 June. Ovenbird: very common. No. Waterthrush: one Washington Park 11 July (B & JW). Mourning: two at Fine 16 June. Com. Yellowthroat: in some localities more than Yellow Warblers—very common on Tug Hill. Canada: breeding along SLR; adult feeding young in Massena area—only location in Massena so far. Am. Redstart: very common on Tug Hill.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: excellent production year—started south early in Aug. and still moving at end of period. E. Meadowlark: numbers seem down in many localities as compared with three or four years ago. No. Oriole: excellent production year moving south mid-Aug.; many young killed by strong winds and heavy rains (FC). Com. Grackle: in Henderson area numbers were down somewhat—perhaps due to the wet conditions birds were better able to feed along creeks and streams than normal dry late summer conditions. Scarlet Tanager: common on Tug Hill. Cardinal: increased numbers in Henderson area. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: a common species almost everywhere. Indigo Bunting: perhaps more common this year. Evening Grosbeak: showed up in Henderson two or three overhead 7 Aug.; two at Lakeview 14 Aug.; six in Henderson 22 Aug. feeding on black cherries. Purple Finch: very, very common in young spruce plantations on Tug Hill. House Finch: increasing in Watertown—twice as many as last year (FC). Am. Goldfinch: common. Savannah Sparrow: common along lakeplain. Chipping Sparrow: more than last year. Field Sparrow: numbers down in Henderson and vicinity. White-throated Sparrow: bred in Stony Point and EL cedar scrub forest. Swamp Sparrow: very, very common in the Sears Pond area on Tug Hill and in the upper elevations near Rodman. Song Sparrow: numbers seemed down in Henderson from previous years.

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

There is little to be said about the weather. It was a normal summer with no outstanding weather variations.

Most notable among scarcities was the Common Flicker with a high count of three birds on each of two counts out of three Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) counts for the federal census. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was also down even though one BBS had 15. Bluebirds were scarce and some nest failures were noted. Warbler numbers in general were good. If a species was low in one area it seemed to be high in another. Northern Parula and Mourning Warblers were an exception. These were both very scarce.

There were many positives. Two BBS surveys missed American Bittern, but one had six. Lots of Turkey Vultures were seen. At least 16 Red-shouldered Hawks, including three pairs, were seen. This species wasn't even reported in summer in some recent years. Clinton County had good numbers of Marsh Hawks hunting over farm land. The same area has plenty of Gray Partridges and



Common Gallinules. Mark Gretch reports good numbers of Upland Sandpipers in northern Clinton County with eight in one group 21 July. Brandon Burn had two calling Whip-poor-wills and at least eight Common Nighthawks among all the howling coyotes, all of which makes an interesting wild chorus. Red-headed Woodpeckers were in several Clinton County river bottom locations with at least one juvenal seen. At least ten Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were noted with Ferd's Bog the most. The St. Regis Indian Reservation had a high population of House Wrens. Mark Gretch had a pair of Short-billed Marsh Wrens all summer at Corbeau Creek in Clinton County. These are seldom seen in our Region. Swainson's Thrush numbers are the best in at least ten years and Cedar Waxwings were in excellent numbers. Many thanks for reports received.

Contributors: Ray Brousseau (RB); Mark Gretch (MG); Charlcie Delehanty (CD); J.J. Hanyak (JJH); Ferdinand LaFrance (FLa); Dorothy McIlroy (DMcI); Ted Mack (TM); Margaret & Bob McKinney (M & BMcK); Ed McMahon; Richard Marrus (RM); Fritz Scheider; Gregg Smith; Chris Spies (CS); Armand Vaillancourt (AV); Maurice Villeneuve; Julia Woodard.

LOONS-DUCKS: There were at least 49 Com. Loons reported. Successful nesting (at least one young raised) was reported for Jenkins Pond on Litchfield Park; Duck Pond near Tupper Lake; Buckhorn Lake and Sand Lake near Piseco; and Upper St. Regis Lake. No Grebes reported. Barbara Spencer and Dorothy Crumb saw a Red-necked Grebe at Tupper Lake 21 Apr. This should have been included in the spring report. This species seems to migrate in a very short period of days so they can easily be missed. The third week of Apr. seems to be about the best time to spot them. Two Black-crowned Night Herons were seen in n. Clinton Co. Four Green Herons were at Tupper Lake 5 July (M & BMcK). Single Am. Bitterns were noted at Tupper, Paul Smith, and Rainbow Lake. A Canada Goose was at Lake Alice 13 June. The local Tupper Lake population was 32 in late Aug. Ten were at Monty Bay in Lake Champlain 30 Aug. One Brant was at Rouses Point 23 Aug. (MG). Mallards are increasing. A female with 14 young was near Uncas 27 June and 11 were at Tupper 5 July. A pair of Pintails were at a Champlain Marsh in n. Clinton Co. 28 June (MG). Green-winged Teals were at Madawaska and in n. Clinton Co. Blue-winged Teal was reported from Lake Champlain. MG had four Am. Wigeons in this area 28 June. The same observer reported a female Redhead and young 4 July on Upper Chateaugay Lake at the south inlet marsh. Terry & Louise O'Connell also saw them. This would be a new breeding location for this species. Writeup is to be submitted to *Kingbird* "Notes and Observations." Ring-necked Ducks became scarce. Five young and a female were at Tupper 6 Aug. Four Com. Goldeneye females were in the Canoe Area all summer but no proof of breeding this year. Hooded Merganser: female and six young, Uncas 27 June (JJH, FLA, CS); female and two young Buckhorn Lake outlet swamp 14 July (DMcI); pair with two young Kings Bay 8 Aug. (MG). Com. Merganser: several broods in Tupper area. At least 34 young at Piseco Lake (DMcI).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Several Turkey Vultures were at Tupper, one at Spy Lake 11 June was in a new area (DMcI). Sharp-shinned Hawk: two Indian Lake 3 July (M & BMcK); one killed a Red-winged Blackbird at Mrs. Delehanty's feeder 21 July. An imm was there 23 July on Spy Lake (DMcI). A single Cooper's Hawk was at Tupper 3 and 29 July (CD). One was struck by a car and had its broken wing successfully mended by a DEC employee. The bird was released at St. Regis Falls. There were quite a few Red-tailed Hawks. One harassed a Turkey Vulture at Tupper 30 June (CD). Good year for Broad-winged Hawks. Three young Ospreys were raised at Tupper nest. Some Neanderthal shot one of them later in the summer. Young were reported from the Bear Pond nest. Plenty of Ruffed Grouse. Com. Snipe was rather scarce. Only four Spotted Sandpipers were reported. The first Semipalmated Plover was seen at Kings Bay 14 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: one Kings Bay 20 Aug.; ten n. Clinton Co. 31 Aug. (both MG). Lesser Yellowlegs: one Kings Bay 13 Aug. and six



the next day (MG). Least Sandpiper: five Kings Bay 13 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Kings Bay 14 Aug. and ten 29 Aug. 15 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Monty Bay 9 Aug. which is early (MG). 75 were there 30 Aug. Black Tern: four at Tupper in June (RM); six 9 Aug. n. Clinton Co. (MG).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Quite a few inland Mourning Doves. Black-billed Cuckoo was reported from Indian Lake, St. Regis Falls, and Tupper Lake. Owls seem to have kept their mouths shut except for Barred. Whip-poor-will was heard at Tupper (RB). Com. Nighthawk: single birds at three Clinton Co. locations and at Tupper. Plenty of Chimney Swifts and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. There were ten of the latter at Indian Lake. Belted Kingfisher: fairly common. One nested in an old sawdust pile at Piseco (DMcI). Indian Lake with 12 was the only place that had a decent showing of Com. Flicker. There were a few Pileated as usual.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** E. Kingbird was missed on two BBS and one was noted on a third. There were four at Indian Lake however and eight at Tupper. Good numbers of Great-crested Flycatcher. 18 E. Phoebes listed. A Willow Flycatcher was at Tupper 12 June-20 July (CD). Only about nine reports of Alder Flycatcher. Least Flycatcher, E. Wood Pewee, and Olive-sided Flycatcher were in good numbers. The latter is not hard to confirm for the atlas project. Just go out fairly near a calling bird and wait. Eventually it will fly directly to the nest which is usually 20 to 30 feet up, out on a black or red spruce limb and not far from where the bird is calling. Rough-winged Swallow: three from as many locations in Clinton Co. (MG). Cliff Swallows were fairly successful in nesting at Paul Smiths. Two were at Speculator and some nested at Tupper. None were seen at Piseco, 16 at Indian Lake. Gray Jays were at Ferd's Bog and an imm was at Sagamore Lake (JJH, FLA, CS). Two were seen at Onchiota. Com. Raven: 14 on St. Regis Falls BBS; one at Oxbow Lake near Piseco; one at Sabattis; two at Lyon Mountain; five at Indian Lake. They continue to increase. Sagamore had four Boreal Chickadees; Onchiota and Whiteface Mountain had plenty. Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce, seven was the highest one day count. Winter Wren numbers are definitely low. The best count was 12 at Indian Lake. Bob McKinney notes that weather influences bird song. Eight good observers heard no Winter Wrens in his area. The next weekend several were heard in the rain in the same area. Elsewhere they were scarce, rain or shine. CD found a Long-billed Marsh Wren at Follensby Pond 9 July. They are rare away from Champlain. A Mockingbird was at the Uncas Estate, of all places, on 28 June (JJH, FLA, CS). Good numbers of Brown Thrasher at Lake Champlain, but absent elsewhere except for a nest at Tupper that had the young killed by a red squirrel, and one bird at Indian Lake. Except for E. Bluebird, thrush representation was good. Hermit Thrush numbers seemed highly variable by area. Perhaps it was only weather influencing the amount of singing. My two federal BBS tallied only two on one count but 34 on the other. Other reports indicated similar variations. Except for Tupper Lake and Piseco Lake, Swainson's Thrush is doing very well indeed from Indian Lake to Raquette Lake and Gabriels to Duane. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at the higher elevations including one near Indian Lake on Burgess Mountain 3 July (M & BMcK). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: none at Indian Lake where they have been in the past (M & BMcK); one Tupper suburbs to 19 June (CD); two at Gabriels 14 June (TM); four 28 June Sagamore Lake (JJH, FLA, CS).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** 12 was the max daily count for Solitary Vireo. 153 was the max daily count for Red-eyed Vireo. Philadelphia Vireo: one Indian Lake 27 June (M & BMcK); one 4 July Chateaugay Lake (MG). Two Warbling Vireos were at Simon Pond near Tupper Lake on 5 July (M & BMcK). They were also at Saranac Lake and other towns. One Tennessee Warbler was at Ferd's Bog 11 July (FLA, CS). The only decent No. Parula count was 12 at Indian Lake 3 July (M & BMcK). Two BBS counts had none and one had only three. They were sure around in the spring. They either went on as migrants or weren't singing for observers. Good numbers of Yellow Warblers at Tupper Lake and St. Regis Falls. Plenty of Magnolia Warblers as well as Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided. There was only one Black-throated Green Warbler

on one BBS yet four other areas had 16 or 17 in a day and other reports were positive. Perhaps the species was present but just not singing in the poorly-represented area on that date for some reason. A Bay-breasted Warbler was singing near the Bog River 16 June (CD). Blackpoll Warbler: good numbers; one near summit of Burgess Mountain near Indian Lake 3 July (M & BMcK); one at 2555 feet on Mt. Morris at Tupper 7 July (CD); six to eight at Sagamore Lake 28 June-12 July, unusual because not especially high elevation if they were breeding (JJH, FLA, CS). Several Pine Warblers were near Rouses Point 21 June (MG). A few No. Waterthrushes, lots of Canada Warblers and Am. Redstarts.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Unusual locations for Bobolink were one at Tupper Marsh and one 27 June at the Uncas estate. No. Oriole numbers continue good, plus the odd bird at different inland areas such as Indian Lake and Tupper. Six Rusty Blackbirds at Ferd's Bog 11 July. Scarlet Tanager counts were usually four to 11 in a day. This seems a bit low. A cat was probably the cause of a maimed juvenal Cardinal at Tupper. Blue Grosbeak: Dr. Hyla Walters at Tupper on 1 June had an Evening Grosbeak-sized blue bird with brown wings and grosbeak bill but it didn't stay long enough to be confirmed by others, which is unfortunate. Indigo Bunting was low in some areas such as Tupper, but high along Champlain. Evening Grosbeak was very scarce and there were no reports of Pine Siskin. There were about 20 Red Crossbills at Paul Smiths and one at Tupper. A White-winged Crossbill fed at a Tupper feeder 15-19 Aug. (AV, CD, Gordon Meade, M. Kingsbury). Single Rufous-sided Towhees were at Tupper, Rouses Point, and Speculator, 18 reports of Field Sparrow; Lincoln's Sparrow doing well and reported from Tupper, Ferd's Bog and Gabriels with breeding proved for Newcomb.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

July was wet for a change, according to the local American Meteorological Society, with almost five inches of rain for the month. Temperatures averaged cool with July's minimum at 42° F. in Fulton County and maximum at 98° F. in Columbia County. The average cooler temperatures were probably no consolation to the many forest species trying to avoid the heat and drying of direct sunlight in their gypsy moth denuded woodlands. However, the winter-like landscape was indeed conducive to nest spotting. Some Broad-winged Hawk breeding confirmations were a direct result of this arthropods appalling appetite.

Cuckoo populations have responded to this larval abundance to the point that road kills have offered breeding confirmation. A female Yellow-billed Cuckoo with an egg in her oviduct was found near Columbia-Greene Community College where she opted to reside as a permanent member of the study skin collection. One of her drawer mates, also recently enrolled in the club, is a Common Flicker of apparently eclectic breeding since she is adorned with several red feathers in her tail and wings. Her exact origin remains a mystery since she arrived at CGCC via an unidentified bumper.

The Breeding Bird Atlas "green sheets" received by regional coordinator Dick

Guthrie, about 75 in number from nearly 40 observers, have supplied a majority of the data for this report. He points out that most of the work was done by individuals who are not active club birders and is pleased with this "grass-roots" support.

At least fourteen of the species missed in the confirmed category last year made it this year. They include Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Goshawk, Sharpshinned Hawk, Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Willow Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Mourning Warbler, and Savannah Sparrow.

Common Ravens were confirmed by separate observers while on U.S. Fish & Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey routes in Warren County. Dorothy McIlroy recorded FY (food for young) on the Speculator BBS and Dick Guthrie recorded FY on the North River BBS. He also recorded FL (fledged young) for Mourning Warbler the same day after detecting food calls.

The tendency to be remote makes confirmation of Turkey Vulture cause for excitement. Two downy young were found by George Gilmore on Rossman Hill in Schoharie County. He told Don Cooper on 5 July and Don found them still there on 12 July.

Species that still have eluded confirmation include Least Bittern, Cooper's Hawk, Bobwhite, Alder Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Henslow's and Swamp Sparrows. Observations of a pair of Ospreys on the Hudson River have Dick Guthrie hoping that they are nesting in Greene County. Confirmation of this species in our Region would be a significant highlight.

To the delight of rare bird watchers, a quiet residential neighborhood around East Park in Glens Falls hosted a Yellow-headed Blackbird this summer. According to local residents, he could be found on lawns periodically through much of July. He was last seen on the ides of August and attempts to relocate him on the sixteenth failed.

A correction for the last issue was pointed out recently. Ron LaForce's sighting of Connecticut Warbler was on 24 May at Little Bear Swamp.

Good Birding and may the Hoary Redpolls at your feeder refrain from harassing that lonely shrike on the fence row.

Contributors: V & B Able (V & BA), Roberta Bernstein, Rachael Brody, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook (JC), Don Cooper (DC), Alaire Daley (AD), Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham (KD), Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugo Gardina (B & HG), William G. Gorman, Elisabeth Grace (EG), Andrew & Richard P. Guthrie (RPG), Philip Ingalls, Michael F. Kuhrt, Ronald LaForce, B. Laros, E. Mansell, Dorothy McIlroy (DM), Sherrie Orne, Tom Palmer (TP), Jon Powell, Alice G. Ross, P. L. Worthington, Robert P. Yunick (RY) and all of the Breeding Bird Atlas participants.

Abbreviations: BBS—U.S. Fish & Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey; CO—Confirmed breeding; PR—Probable breeding; PO—Possible breeding from the Breeding Bird Atlas project. County names are also abbreviated.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: PR Ful. Co.: a bird migrating through Coxsackie on 23 Aug., two months ahead of schedule, didn't live to go any farther. Dick Guthrie speculates that acid rain resulting in too little food prompted this early and unsuccessful migration. Horned Grebe: s. Rens. Co. June (JC). Pied-billed Grebe: PO Wash. Co. Double-crested Cor-



morant: PO Gn. Co. Great Blue Heron: CO in Schn. and Scho. Cos. Green Heron: CO in Ful. and Mont. Cos. Great Egret: two Cocksackie 2 Aug.; earliest report from Ghent 29 July. Black-crowned Night Heron: two imm. New Baltimore 18 Aug. Am. Bittern: PO Warn. and Wash. Cos. Mute Swan: one Hudson South Bay 13 Aug. (AD). Canada Goose: CO in Col. Co. Mallard: CO in ten counties, all but Rens. Co. Black Duck: CO in Ful. and Wash. Cos. Gadwall: PO Gn. Co. Pintail: PR Wash. Co. Green-winged Teal: PO Gn. and Wash. Cos. Blue-winged Teal: CO in Wash. Co. Wood Duck: CO in Alb., Gn., Warn. and Wash. Cos. Hooded Merganser: CO in Gn., Ful., Mont. and Wash. Cos. Com. Merganser: CO in Gn., Ful., Scho., Warn. and Wash. Cos.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: CO in Schoharie Co. town of Fulton with two downy young by George Gilmore 5 July (DC). Goshawk: CO in Alb. and Ful. Cos. Sharp-shinned Hawk: CO in Alb. and Scho. Cos. Cooper's Hawk: Ghent 15 July (B & HG); Rens. Co. Aug. (JC). Red-tailed Hawk: CO in all but Sar. Co. Red-shouldered Hawk: Speculator BBS in Warn. Co. 23 June (DM). Broad-winged Hawk: CO in Col., Gn., Ful. and Sar. Cos. Rough-legged Hawk: PR Scho. Co.; Chatham 24 July (V & BA). Marsh Hawk: PR Ful. and Schn. Cos. Osprey: PR Gn. Co. Am. Kestrel: CO in Alb., Gn., Ful., Mont., Rens., Schn. and Wash. Cos. Ruffed Grouse: CO in Alb., Gn., Ful., Mont., Warn. and Wash. Cos. Bobwhite: Rens. Co. (JC). Ring-necked Pheasant: CO in Alb. Co. Turkey: CO in Alb. and Gn. Cos. Virginia Rail: PO Alb. Co. Com. Gallinule: PR Alb. Co. Killdeer: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Ful., Schn., Warn. and Wash. Cos. Am. Woodcock: CO in Alb. and Ful. Cos. Com. Snipe: CO in Ful. Co. Upland Sandpiper: PO Gn., Mont. and Wash. Cos.; ten observed migrating through Mont. Co. 3 Aug. (TP). Spotted Sandpiper: CO in Alb., Gn., Ful. and Mont. Cos.; fledglings were banded at Cocksackie Res. and Embough Bay 5 July (RPG). Lesser Yellowlegs: Ghent 21 July; Res. Co. Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: Taghkanic 25 July (KD & EG). Great Black-backed Gull: PO Gn. Co. Herring Gull: PO Gn., Ful. and Warn. Cos. Ring-billed Gull: PO Gn. and Mont. Cos.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Rock Dove: CO in Alb., Gn., Ful., Mont. and Schn. Cos. Mourning Dove: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Rens., Schn., Warn. and Wash. Cos. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: CO in Col. Co. Black-billed Cuckoo: PR in seven cos. Barn Owl: PO Gn. and Wash. Cos. Screech Owl: CO in Alb., Gn. and Scho. Cos. Great Horned Owl: CO in Alb., Ful., Schn. and Scho. Cos. Barred Owl: PR in five cos. Saw-whet Owl: PO Sar. Co. Whip-poor-will: CO in Ful. Co. Com. Nighthawk: CO in Scho. Co. Chimney Swift: CO in Alb. and Gn. Cos. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: CO in Gn. Co. Belted Kingfisher: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Ful., Mont., Rens. and Warn. Cos. Com. Flicker: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Ful., Mont., Schn. and Wash. Cos. Pileated Woodpecker: CO in Alb., Col., Sar. and Schn. Cos. Red-headed Woodpecker: CO in Gn. and Mont. Cos. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CO in Alb., Gn., Ful. and Warn. Cos. Hairy Woodpecker: CO in Alb., Ful., Mont., Sar. and Warn. Cos. Downy Woodpecker: CO in Alb., Gn., Mont., Sar., Schn., Warn. and Wash. Cos.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** E. Kingbird: CO in all but Sar. and Wash. Cos. Great Crested Flycatcher: CO in Alb., Mont. and Warn. Cos. E. Phoebe: CO in all but Scho. and Schn. Cos. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: PR Gn. Co. Willow Flycatcher: CO in Mont. Co. Alder Flycatcher: CO in Mont. Co.; two North River BBS 28 June. Least Flycatcher: CO on Alb. and Ful. Cos.; 19 North River BBS 28 June. Horned Lark: CO in Sar. Co.; one Mont. Co. 13 July. Tree Swallow: CO in all but Sar. and Scho. Cos. Bank Swallow: CO in Col., Gn., Mont., Rens., Schn. and Warn. Cos. Rough-winged Swallow: observed with fecal sac on Schoharie Creek at Toepath Mt. (DC). Barn Swallow: CO in all but Rens., Sar. and Schn. Cos. Cliff Swallow: CO in Gn., Ful. and Warn. Cos. Purple Martin: CO in Wash. Co. Blue Jay: CO in all but Sar. and Scho. Cos. **COM. RAVEN:** CO in Warn. Co. (RPG & DM). Com. Crow: CO in all but Sar. and Scho. Cos. Fish Crow: New Baltimore June. Black-capped Chickadee: CO in all but Rens., Scho. and Wash. Cos. Tufted Titmouse: CO Alb., Gn., Schn., and Warn. Cos. White-breasted Nuthatch: CO in all but Sar. and Scho. Cos. Red-breasted Nuthatch: CO in Schn., Sar. and Warn. Cos.; present thru the summer at the Powell Sanctu-



ary in Old Chatham (KD & EG). Brown Creeper: CO in Ful., Mont., Sar. and Schn. Cos. House Wren: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Ful., Mont., Rens. and Warn. Cos. Winter Wren: PR Ful. and Warn. Cos. Carolina Wren: occasionally heard in its preferred tangle in New Baltimore. Long-billed Marsh Wren: one Embough Bay Catskill 20 June (RPG). Mockingbird: CO in Alb., Col., Rens., Mont., Schn. and Wash. Cos. Gray Catbird: CO in all but Sar., Scho. and Wash. Cos. Brown Thrasher: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Ful. and Wash. Cos. Am. Robin: CO in all but Sar. Co. Wood Thrush: CO in Alb., Col., Ful., Mont., Rens., Warn. and Wash. Cos. Hermit Thrush: CO in Ful. and Warn. Cos. Swainson's Thrush: Old Chatham 24 Aug. (KD & EG). Veery: CO in Alb., Mont. and Warn. Cos. E. Bluebird: CO in all but Col., Sar. and Scho. Cos. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CO in Alb. and Saratoga National Historical Park 13 June. Golden-crowned Kinglet: PR Scho. Co. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: PO Wash. Co. Cedar Waxwing: CO in all but Sar., Scho. and Wash. Cos. Starling: CO throughout the Region.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: PR Scho. and Wash. Cos. Solitary Vireo: PR Ful. and Scho. Cos. Red-eyed Vireo: CO in Col., Alb. and Mont. Cos.; very low numbers at New Baltimore but 55 on North River BBS. Philadelphia Vireo: Pair of birds reported in Cole Hollow Scho. Co. 7 June (DC); Ghent 28 Aug. (B & HG). Warbling Vireo: CO in Alb., Col. and Warn. Cos. Black-and-white Warbler: CO in Gn. and Warn. Cos. **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** two near Cairo 20 June (RPG). Golden-winged Warbler: CO in Gn. Co. Blue-winged Warbler: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Mont. and Schn. Cos. Tennessee Warbler: Ghent 18 Aug (B & HG). Nashville Warbler: one North River BBS 28 June. No. Parula: one North River BBS 28 June. Yellow Warbler: CO in all but Scho. and Wash. Cos. Magnolia Warbler: singing male Speculator BBS in Warn. Co. Black-throated Blue Warbler: CO in Warn. Co. Yellow-rumped Warbler: CO in Sar. Co. Black-throated Green Warbler: CO in Alb. Co. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** five singing males on Bouck's Island in Schoharie Co. on 22 May. Last heard 12 July. No nest seen since 1977 (DC). Blackburnian Warbler: PR Ful., Scho. and Warn. Cos. Chestnut-sided Warbler: CO in Alb., Gn., Ful., Mont. and Warn. Cos. Prairie Warbler: CO in Col. Co. Ovenbird: CO in Ful., Mont., Rens. and Wash. Cos.; numbers reported up greatly in Greene Co. No. Waterthrush: CO in Ful. Co. Louisiana Waterthrush: CO in Alb., Schn. and Warn. Cos. **MOURNING WARBLER:** CO in Warn. Co. Com. Yellow-throat: CO throughout the Region. Canada Warbler: CO in Sar. Co.; ten max. North River BBS. Am. Redstart: CO in Gn., Ful., Mont. and Warn. Cos.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** House Sparrow: CO throughout the Region; Bud Melick of New Baltimore captured an all white juvenal and plans breeding experiments to artificially produce a white population. Bobolink: CO in Alb., Gn., Mont. and Wash. Cos. E. Meadowlark: CO in Alb., Gn., Mont., Schn., Scho. and Wash. Cos. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRD:** Glens Falls July-Aug. Only two others ever reported in our Region. Red-winged Blackbird: CO throughout the Region. No. Oriole: CO throughout the Region. Rusty Blackbird: PO Warn. Co. Com. Grackle: CO throughout the Region. Brown-headed Cowbird: CO Ful. and Scho. Cos. Scarlet Tanager: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Mont., Sar. and Warn. Cos. Cardinal: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Mont., Sar. and Warn. Cos. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CO in all but Gn., Scho. and Wash. Cos. Indigo Bunting: CO in Alb., Col., Mont., Sar., Scho. and Wash. Cos. Evening Grosbeak: PR Warn. and Wash. Cos. Purple Finch: CO in Ful., Sar. and Warn. Cos.; RY banded 743 Apr.-Aug. and observed FY as late as 16 Aug. House Finch: CO in Alb., Col., Mont., Rens., Schn. and Warn. Cos. **PINE SISKIN:** Hagle Hill 6-21 June (V & BA); Jenny Lake 28 June (RY); Warn. Co. 8 July. Am. Goldfinch: CO in Alb., Gn., Ful., Warn. and Wash. Cos. **RED CROSSBILL:** PO Schn. Co.; Jenny Lake Sar. Co. 28 June. Warn. Co. 8 July. Rufous-sided Towhee: CO in Alb., Gn., Ful., Rens. and Schn. Cos. Savannah Sparrow: CO in Gn., Mont., Rens. and Schn. Cos. Grasshopper Sparrow: PR Gn. Co. Vesper Sparrow: CO in Wash. Co. Dark-eyed Junco: CO in Alb., Ful., Rens., Sar., Schn., and Warn. Cos. Chipping Sparrow: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Ful., Mont., Warn. and Wash. Cos. Field Sparrow: CO in Alb., Col., Gn., Ful., Rens., Schn. and Wash. Cos. White-throated Sparrow: CO in Ful., Rens., Warn. and Wash. Cos. Lincoln's Sparrow: Ghent 18-23 Aug. (B & HG). Swamp Sparrow: PR Rens., Sar. and Gn. Cos. Song Sparrow: CO in all but Sar. and Scho. Cos.

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news at 518-377-9600.  
Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

## REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

June entered warm and humid, but by mid-month temperatures had moderated, and July and August temperatures were below normal. There was enough rainfall during the summer to offset the dryness of the past several years, but not enough to really break the drought.

The serious defoliation of early June was quickly mended due to adequate rainfall and warm temperatures. Most trees were back in full leaf by the end of June. It remains to be seen what damage occurred to the bird population. Although the leaves returned, the larvae and eggs harbored by the old first crop were not there to sustain the insectivorous birds. Defoliation had nests and young exposed to the sun's heat, and they were easy to find in the bare tree-tops. The forest floor was supporting greenery not usually seen in typically shaded woods. Only next spring will tell what trees will make it thru the winter. Drought and defoliation for several years in a row should take their toll.

Once again the shorebird migration was strong with the exposure of so many reservoir bottoms. Warblers started flooding thru on the 18th of August and were in excellent numbers thru the end of the period. Waterfowl started building on the Hudson in July, and were in excellent numbers on all the weedy bays. Resident sparrows put on a good show at Galeville Airport where two colonies of Henslow's Sparrows were discovered and enjoyed by many birders. Rarities for the period include Louisiana Heron, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Blue Grosbeak and Henslow's Sparrow.

For some time now we have not been receiving notes from Sullivan, Putnam and most of Westchester counties. These areas deserve to have their birds recorded. Can someone out there help?

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Fred & Wava Abbott (F & WA), Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed (RFD), Florence Germond (FG), Jim & Mary Key, Helen Manson, Frank Murphy, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer (BSc), Benton Seguin (BSe), Selden Spencer, Edward D. Treacy (EDT), John Tramontano (JT).

Abbreviations: The first four or five letters of each county; BP-Brown's Pond, Newburgh; CB-Cornwall Bay; MC-Marshlands Conservancy; PP-Piermont Pier; PR-Pound Ridge Reservation; PL-Playland, Rye; USMA-United States Military Academy, West Point; WSF-Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr on the East Basin of Ashokan 23 July. Pied-billed Grebe: rarely reported away from the usual nesting areas in summer. One Cross River Reservoir 17 July, and another at Esopus Pt. 26 July. Rock had its first breeding record when an adult with four downy young was reported on a clay pit pond in West Haverstraw 12 June (RFD). Double-crested Cormorant: still no evidence of breeding, but numbers continue

to increase each year. Four birds in the area of Kingston Pt. at the start of the season inc. to 40 by its end. Any trip to the Hudson would produce a few along its entire length thru the Region. Snowy Egret: 18 at PP 31 July was an exceptionally large number for so early a date. Five others were at CB thru much of Aug. LOUISIANA HERON: one continued at PL thru 17 June, and was reported again at MC 21 June. Black-crowned Night Heron: two very young birds recently out of the nest and sporting tufts of down were obs 3 July in the Milton Pt. area of Rye. Another young bird showing tufts of yellow down, but full size, was obs at West Haverstraw on 19 June. No actual nests have been obs in the Region in many years. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: recovering from the Great Horned Owl predation of last year at MC. Four nests produced 11 young. Am. Bittern: unreported during summer in Rock for the past 20 years. One at West Haverstraw 13 June (RFD). Glossy Ibis: single birds at PL 1 June and again 18 June. Four in Rye Swamp 24 July. Mute Swan: once again breeding on most lakes and ponds in good numbers. Concentrations of 20 or 25 nonbreeding birds appeared in most of the bays along the Hudson to spend the period. Brant: three off Rye 20 June were a surprise, as was the one at Iona I 29 Aug. Snow Goose: the single bird reported thru winter and spring at various locations in E. Rock was again observed under the Tappan Zee Bridge at Grand View on 14 June. Gadwall: Rock had its second summer record when two were at Nyack 19 July (Donald S. Deed). Their first breeding record was confirmed on 29-30 July when a pair with three grown young were at PP (RFD). Pintail: unusual in summer, two at CB 16 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: first two at CB 8 Aug. More than 100 there by end of period. Am. Wigeon: two CB 16 Aug., inc. to several dozen by end of period. Canvasback: a male at CB thru the period was observed swimming and feeding normally, but was not seen flying. Ruddy Duck: a male in breeding plumage at PP 29 May. There are only two summer records previously; one in July and one in Aug. Com. Merganser: 34 females at Ashokan 17 July, dec. to 18 by 26 July, not reported thereafter.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Red-shouldered Hawk: a nesting pair at Moonbeams Nature Conservancy near Middletown was the first nesting in many years for Oran. Bald Eagle: an imm was near Kingston Pt. for several days after 13 Aug. (Bob Terwilliger). Osprey: an early bird returned to Cornwall Bay 24 Aug., and two were at Iona I 29 Aug. Bobwhite: unexpected were two males singing at PR in June. Not obs in that area in many years. Turkey: continues slow but steady inc. Obs. several times at Bashakill where it is only rarely seen. A small group was obs in June near Westtown, a locality near the N.J. border. Virginia Rail: two pair near Westtown in June (FWA). Am. Coot: one PP 10 Aug. was the first record in Rock since last reported in June of 1953. Surprising considering the large numbers that winter in the co. Semipalmated Plover: one PP 19 July was four days ahead of prev. early date. Max at CB was four on 24 Aug. Am. Golden Plover: at least 50 at WSF from 24 Aug. thru period. Black-bellied Plover: one at PP 31 July was early. Ruddy Turnstone: three CB 8 Aug. inc to five by 24 Aug. WHIMBREL: one on a bar in CB 8 Aug. flew up and noisily joined seven more passing over down river (Vaughan Morrison *et al.*). Upland Sandpiper: breeding again at four locations in Oran and Ulst. Migrants inc. to 29 at WSF by 17 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: first migrant 21 July at BP. Max 10 Bullville 16 Aug. Willet: one PP 7 Aug. was Rock fourth local record and the first not in May. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 BP 31 Aug. Least Sandpiper: max 30 BP 31 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: one CB 16 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: one CB 15 Aug., and eight at BP 31 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: eight at PP 19 July were one day ahead of previous early date. Max 30 there by 30 July, and 40 at BP by 31 July. WESTERN SANDPIPER: two reported at BP 31 Aug (BS). BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: first at WSF 8 Aug. Three at SA 24 Aug. inc. to four by 28 Aug. Last report three at WSF 31 Aug. (BS). Sanderling: only report 11 at CB 8 Aug. Laughing Gull: usual influx to mid-Hudson area of imm birds in mid-Aug. Com. Tern: one at KP 4 July. Obs several times later in month. Caspian Tern: two at PP 1 Aug. was Rock's tenth record. Black Tern: one on Hudson off Esopus 8 Aug.; two at CB 17 Aug.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Barred Owl: only report PR 21 June. Com. Nighthawk: 51 over Ft. Montgomery 23 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nesting 18 July at Iona I. Two



young in nest 16 Aug. (BSc). Al Brayton's annual late summer census at Cruger's I yielded more than 24 birds on 30 Aug. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to inc. At least five pair in the Westtown area (F&WA). Red-headed Woodpecker: continues to hold in resident areas. No inc. noted.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** Alder Flycatcher: two singing birds at Bashakill thru mid-July. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Rye Nature Center 19 Aug. One singing on Little Tor Mt. 11 June was a late migrant. Six were in the Wittenberg-Slide Mt. area 24 June. Acadian Flycatcher: seen and heard regularly in the usual locations of recent years. Numbers were down last year but seem more normal this—at least seven reports. Willow Flycatcher: BSe feels at least a tenfold inc. over the last two years. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Tamarack Sw 20 Aug. was the first. Another Verbank 29 Aug. Horned Lark: several pairs reported nesting successfully at WSF (no details). Tree Swallow: hordes flying down river during Aug. Bank Swallow: the PR colony in West reported down from 80 pair last year to only 20 pair this year. Cliff Swallow: new colonies reported at Cross River Res. and at Warwick, Purple Martin: five at PL 9 Aug. were migrants. Red-breasted Nuthatch: recovered well from lows of recent years. Exceptional numbers everywhere from 24 Aug. Brown Creeper: six at PR 21 June, and another the same date at Blauvelt. Two singing at Pond Gut Dutch 7 July and four in JMK birdbath at Red Oaks Mill 30 Aug. House Wren: FG reports young still in the box at Clinton Corners 12 Aug. Gray Catbird: has to be an all time high—many everywhere. Hermit Thrush: at least four singing birds at PR thru season. Young obs there in late June. Several singing 25 June below L Tiorati at about 1,032 ft. Much lower than would be expected. Swainson's Thrush: two migrants at Rye Nature Center 29 Aug.; max five Cruger's I 22 Aug. Gray-cheeked Thrush: five near the summit of Slide Mt. 27 June. E. Bluebird: from the 171 bird boxes monitored by FG and her helpers in central Dutch, more than 400 young emerged of which 333 were banded. The last left on 22 Aug. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: more nests than ever reported before because of visibility on defoliated trees. Golden-crowned Kinglet: returned to Kensico Res for the first time since 1976. Four there on 21 June. Another was at Middletown Res for much of the period.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** White-eyed Vireo: RFD reports numbers severely down in Rock. TB reports 31 on 21 June count, and he considered this low. Solitary Vireo: at least two males were present at PR thru period. Four singing in Bear Mt. Pk. 13 July were at 800 ft., a new low in altitude. Another at Innisfree, Dutch 29 July. Philadelphia Vireo: one Mine Rd., USMA 16 Aug. was quite early. Another was at Red Oaks Mill 30 Aug. Warblers: an excellent movement from 18 Aug. on. Reported everywhere. Prothonotary Warbler: the singing male at Bashakill of late May persisted until 10 June when it was seen and heard no more. Worm-eating Warbler: at least four reported along Mine Rd. 3 July. "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers: Donald Deed observed individuals of both hybrids within an 18-hour period near Nyack. 27 June he saw a female "Lawrence's" mated to a Blue-wing. It was carrying food to young that appeared to be Blue-wing. On the morning of 28 June he observed a young "Brewster's" being fed by adult Blue-wings. Tennessee Warbler: one Pond Gut, Dutch 18 Aug. Max three at Red Oaks Mill 30 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: singing in the L Tiorati area 25 June. Cerulean Warbler: also singing at the same place 25 June. Bay-breasted Warbler: exc numbers last week of Aug. Pine Warbler: obs regularly at Ashokan dur June and July. Prairie Warbler: BSe reports them at at least eight locations in Oran. Last obs at Galeville Airport 30 June. Kentucky Warbler: singing bird on Mine Rd. USMA last 31 May was reported again on 1 June for the last time. Another was at Bashakill 3 June. Connecticut Warbler: an imm was obs well at about 20 ft. at Iona I 15 Aug. (EDT). Mourning Warbler: two singing birds at MC 1 July. Absent from Balsam L Mt. where they have summered for several years. Yellow-breasted Chat: the two singing birds at Bashakill persisted to 7 July when they were seen and heard no more. Hooded Warbler: single birds on Mine Rd USMA 21 June and 10 July. A nesting pair and a second nearby male were at PR fire tower in late June. Another pair was discovered at Purchase 19 July. Two sets of fledglings were obs being fed at Bashakill, and a third set at Westtown (no dates). Wilson's War-



bler: first 19 Aug. in Dutch. Max eight Red Oaks Mill 27 Aug. Canada Warbler: three at the Meyer Preserve, Mt. Kisco 21 June, and one Turkey Hollow, Dutch 1 July.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** Orchard Oriole: always uncommon—a few more than usual—three at New Castle and two at Banksville 21 June. Two WSF 15 July and a pair at Bullville (no date). **BLUE GROSBEAK:** an adult male frequented a weedy roadside area at Orange Co. Pk. near Goshen 15-19 July (JT). **Indigo Bunting:** especially abundant in areas where resident. Purple Finch: continues very low. Only breeding report a female feeding a recently fledged young near PR entrance 26 June. House Finch: continues to inc. SS reports this species responsible for the destruction of more than half his Concord Grape crop. Savannah Sparrow: at least 20 singing birds at Galeville and nearby Blue Chip Farm, Walkkill 30 June. Grasshopper Sparrow: at least six singing birds 3 July at Galeville Airport. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** Two colonies at different areas of Galeville Airport from 30 June-28 July. One had six singing birds and the other five. Obs. several birds carrying food (BSe *et al.*). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: at least two pair frequented MC where a nest was found in June. White-throated Sparrow: one ad on Mine Rd., USMA 10 July. Most unusual there at that time. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Beaver Dam, Dutch 20 Aug.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 – MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

The weather during the summer was uneventful with the exception of an extremely dry August which followed a wetter than average July. No effect on avian activities was noted, and the breeding season appeared to be quite normal on Long Island. A first breeding record in New York State for Forster's Tern was established when a pair was found at Hewlett Hassock, Nassau County by Jim Browne as this species followed other species of southern affinity in nesting on Long Island (details on page 212). Also confirmed was the breeding of Boat-tailed Grackles when an adult female was seen feeding two juvenals on Black Banks Hassock, Nassau Co. on 23 June. An adult female Boat-tailed Grackle, also feeding two juvenals, was seen 18-19 July at Jamaica Bay (THD *et al.*). These records represent the first confirmed breeding records for New York State although breeding was suspected previously. Least Bitterns, very scarce residents, bred at Jamaica Bay and Spring Creek, and were present at Montauk, and Saw-whet Owls were apparently successful in fledging young in Lattingtown for a third modern breeding record in our Region. A pair of Prothonotary Warblers fledged three young at Nissequogue for the second breeding record for Long Island (S. Duffy).

### NEW STATE RECORD

The most exciting bird of the season was the adult-plumaged Sharp-tailed Sandpiper that Tom Davis found at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. The bird was present 18-24 July and was observed by many delighted birders. Details on page 199.

### TERN PREDATION

The good-sized Least Tern colony (300 banded chicks) and an even larger

Common Tern colony at Eaton's Neck on Long Island Sound suffered severe predation when Black-crowned and/or Yellow-crowned Night Herons first ate all the Common Tern eggs as they were ready to hatch, and then went on to eat week-old Least Tern chicks. Abundant tracks were left behind as evidence of the predators. No dogs or rats were problems in the colony this year. The problem of how to protect the terns from predators, which are in some environmental danger themselves, is yet unsolved.

#### SAW-WHET OWLS IN LATTINGTOWN

The Saw-whet Owl is a very rare breeding bird on Long Island with only three previous records listed by John Bull in *Birds of New York State*: a nest with five eggs in Miller Place in 1879 (Helme), an injured juvenal with traces of natal down found 21 July 1966 (Puleston), and a female with young were all banded at Jones Beach in 1968 with the young fledged by 16 June. Interestingly, that female was found 12 January 1969, 300 miles to the northeast in South Portland, Maine.

This spring a pair of Screech Owls and a pair of Saw-whet Owls bred in a strip of woods in the North Shore community of Lattingtown. They were first observed behind her house 30 May by Joan Bowdon. On 1 June both the male and the female Saw-whet Owls were very active; one was carrying a caterpillar. They were giving bell-like whistles and seemed to have young in the area. The Screech Owls were also feeding their young in a nearby flicker hole (J. Bowdon, H. McClure). On 12 June a single Saw-whet Owl was located after much searching (BJS) although calls were heard from an adjacent yard. On 30 June the saw-filing sound which gives them their name was heard. A few nights later this call was heard for the last time and one bird was apparently feeding another. This record is a first for the North Shore and only the fourth for Long Island.

#### 1981 SUMMER PELAGIC TRIPS

A summary of pelagic trip reports including the Federation trip on 22 August is shown in the accompanying table. The highlight of the trip was close and frequent views of Manx Shearwaters which permitted photography and careful study.

#### PELAGIC TRIPS

	31 May	6 June	7 June	17 July	31 July	5 Aug.	22 Aug.	28 Aug.
Shearwater, Cory's		5		420	60	50	350	50
Greater	1	10			3	2	60	
Sooty	94	4	110	1	1		3	
Manx			1				5	
Storm-Petrel, Wilson's		60		65	900	28	360	12
Leach's					1			
Gannet	2	2	1				2	
Phalarope, Northern	3				1		4	13
Jaeger, Pomarine		1					4	1
Parasitic								1
Kittiwake, Black-legged		1						

Observers: 31 May (BJS) Finback, 15 miles south of Montauk Pt; 6 June (BJS, DWC, *et al.*) Viking Starship to Cox's Ledge; 7 June (BJS, DWC) Finback to S/Block Island; 17 July (BJS) Finback to 15 miles S/Montauk Pt; 31 July (BJS) Finback to 15 miles S/Montauk Pt.; 5 August (BJS) Finback to 15 miles S/Montauk Pt.; 22 August, Federation Trip; 28 August (BJS) to E. Grounds, almost to Cox's Ledge.

#### OSPREYS HAVE SUCCESSFUL SEASON

A report by Mike Scheibel, part of the DEC special endangered species program, using both aerial and ground surveys, recorded encouraging figures. 125 young were fledged from 91 active Osprey nests, with 61 successful nests. The number of fledged young by area comparing 1981 with 1980 were as follows:

	1981	1980
Gardiner's Island	37	31
North Fork (excluding Orient)	13	3
Orient	17	14
Plum Island	13	9
Fisher's Island	10	9
Central and Western Suffolk	3	3
Robbin's Island	8	8
Shelter Island	10	13

The season total of 125 fledged young equals a 25% increase over last year, and was double the 1979 total of 66, with a productivity rate of 1.37 young fledged per active nest. The results point to a strong and optimistic surge in reproductive recovery, as the young produced four, five and six years ago start coming back. As these birds return a second time their breeding record becomes more successful. Scheibel thinks the species is pulling out of the lag in the growth phase. All hope it will continue.

Positive points of the season included: Good breeding season for Ospreys. Summer Tanagers may be about to extend their breeding range to Long Island. An atlas trip to Plum Island (GSR *et al.*) found the heronry thriving with Snowy and Great Egrets, Little Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons and Glossy Ibis in numbers, and many young. A single Cattle Egret was present. Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls were in numbers. Altogether, 50 probable breeding species were found on the island. Local tern and gull colonies in Suffolk County were about the same as last year. Yellow-throated Vireo and Rose-breasted Grosbeak seem to be spreading to Manorville area from North Shore. Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows located on the North Shore.

Negative features found were: Black Skimmer low in numbers at Moriches Inlet for the second year. Chestnut-sided Warbler declining locally in Suffolk County; Indigo Bunting in lower numbers than usual this year; Yellow-throated Vireo continues scarce on the North Shore.

Rarities included: Leach's Storm-Petrel, Purple Gallinule, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Black-necked Stilt, Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, breeding Forster's Terns, Saw-whet Owls and Boat-tailed Grackles.

Contributors and initiated observers: Robert Adamo (RA), George Bouquio (GB), Paul A. Buckley (PAB), Thomas W. Burke (TWB), Ralph Cioffi, Dorothy W. Crumb (DWC),

Harry Darrow, Thomas H. Davis (THD), Stephen B. Dempsey (SD), Georges Dremeaux (GD), Sean Duffy, Frances File, Walter Friton, Paul Gillen (PG), Emanuel Levine, Alan Lindberg (AL), Robert O. Paxton, James Popp, Glenn Quinn (GQ), Gilbert S. Raynor (GSR), Mike Scheibel, Fritz Scheider (FGS), Lore J. Schore (LJS), Walter Sedwitz (WS), Barbara J. Spencer (BJS).

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Several Com. Loons summered in the Montauk area. A Red-throated Loon in less than breeding plumage was in Fire Island Inlet 6 June (H. Darrow). A summering Horned Grebe was also at Montauk 15 Aug. (R. Kelly). A Leach's Storm-Petrel seen south of Block Island was an unusual sighting. Unconfirmed reports of Leach's Storm-Petrel in the same area raise the question of a possible range extension westward for the species. Summering Gannets were noticed on several pelagic trips. Three Great Cormorants summering at their wintering grounds at Sand's Point was an unusual report 18 July (PG). Adult Little Blue Herons were present at Goethal's Pond, S.I. through the summer, with immatures appearing during July. Possibly these birds are now breeding in the heronry on Prall's Island (W. & N. Siebenheller). Five on 18 Aug. at Poxabogue Pond was a high number for the area (GSR). A pair of Least Bitterns with a recently fledged young bird 23 July at Jamaica Bay was the first proven breeding record in over ten years (P. Didion *et al.*). An adult Least Bittern was found in Baiting Hollow in June (RA), two at Montauk 17 July (BJS) suggested other breeding sites. The first Pintail arrived 2 Aug. at Jamaica Bay (THD). Pairs of Green-winged Teal in three or more places suggested an increasing population (GSR). First arrival of Am. Wigeon was 12 July at Jamaica Bay (THD). Wood Ducks produced broods in suitable locations ranging from Alley Pond Park, Queens Co. (LJS, through Nissequoque (SD). The drake Harlequin Duck seen 7 June at Montauk Point (BJS, DWC) was probably the same bird seen there 3 and 15 Aug. (PG, R. Kelly). All three species of scoters were in the Montauk area on 7 June.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Single Turkey Vultures were seen 26 June at Westhampton and 14 July on Plum Island. Several were reported on Plum Island earlier, and several other eastern Long Island observations are known (GSR). An adult Red-shouldered Hawk was seen 2 Aug. and an imm. 7 Aug. in Upton, both probably post-breeding season wanderers (GSR). Red-tailed Hawk numbers are holding up well in Central Suffolk. Fledged young were seen in Manorville and Calverton, adults were in many locations (GSR). Broad-winged Hawks continue in scattered locations including Alley Pond Park, Queens Co. (LJS), Muttontown (AL) and Nissequoque (SD). A Broad-winged Hawk nest was found in Manorville and an adult was seen in Calverton. The species was thought somewhat scarce by the observer (GSR). Ospreys had a successful breeding season; see the note in the introduction. Peregrine Falcons were sparingly reported: one was at Battery Park 17 June (THD), another was chased by an Am. Kestrel in Cold Spring Hills 1 July (S. D'Amato), another was at Jamaica Bay 2 Aug. (TWB), and an adult terrorized shorebirds and gulls on the Great Kill mudflat, S.I. 30 Aug. (GB & B. Bouquio). At least five territorial pairs of Am. Kestrels were found within a three-mile radius of Woodhaven, Queens Co. (THD). Four Am. Kestrels were on Rikers Island 23 July and probably bred there (WS). Ruffed Grouse were still in low numbers in Central Suffolk, but broods were found in East Manorville 24 June and Manorville 28 June. Ring-necked Pheasant were numerous on Rikers Island 23 July (WS) and evidently back to normal in the area according to the observer. Clapper Rails persist in Douglaston, Queens Co. (LJS) although they are generally hard to find on the North Shore. An adult Sora was picked up dead at Jamaica Bay 20 Aug. (BJS). An adult **PURPLE GALLINULE** was found 17 July at Montauk Point (BJS). A maximum of 125 Am. Oystercatchers were seen on the Line Islands, Nassau Co. (GD *et al.*). Piping Plovers, although extremely pressured, managed to continue to nest at known locations: chicks were seen at the west end of Jones Beach 21 May equalling the earliest date published in Bull (W. Friton); on the beach near Shinnecock Inlet, at Short Beach, and Smithtown on the eastern shore of Nissequoque River (SD). A single Am. Golden Plover was seen at a sod farm in Riverhead 11 Aug. (RA). A scattering of Whimbrels was reported from 9 July at Napeague (GSR) on through the period. Ten Upland Sandpipers at a



sod farm in Riverhead 11 Aug. was a good count (RA). Eight were at Mitchell Field 6 July (J. Popp) where they persist despite enormous pressure. A single Upland Sandpiper was at South Beach Fields in Staten Island 2 Aug. (R. ZainEldeen), and another at Long Beach 14 June (WS, PAB) both unusual locations. A maximum of 130 Willets were present on the Line Islands 1 Aug. (GD *et al.*). Thorough and persistent coverage of Jamaica Bay paid off with the discovery of the spectacular adult-plumaged SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER present 18-24 July (THD, *et al.*) photographed by R. Lewis. A maximum of 15-20 White-rumped Sandpipers were at Mecox Bay in mid-Aug. (PAB). A meticulously described breeding-plumaged Baird's Sandpiper was studied at Shinnecock Inlet (PAB) on 5 June. There is only one other verified spring report in this Region. A breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was present at Shinnecock Inlet 3-5 June (PAB). Another adult arrived "on time" at a now regular location on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay 20 July and stayed until 16 Aug. A second individual was there 7-23 Aug. A report by visiting birders of two Curlew Sandpipers in breeding plumage in Mill Neck 25 July seemed reliable, but local birders were not informed in time to confirm the record (J. Caffrey). Twelve Stilt Sandpipers were present among hundreds of other shorebirds on Goethals Pond 9 Aug. (GB). A similar number was at Jamaica Bay from late July into Aug. (THD). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were sparsely reported: two were seen at a sod farm in Riverhead 2 Aug. (RA). A maximum of 22 Hudsonian Godwits were at the Line Islands 1 Aug. (GD *et al.*). They occurred in threes and fours in other regular locations. An adult female Ruff (Reeve) was present at Jamaica Bay 19-20 July. Another was there 8-12 Aug. The two previously reported BLACK-NECKED STILTS remained until 13 June at Goethal's Pond, Staten Island. Wilson's Phalaropes occurred in ones and twos in suitable habitat. However the buildup in numbers anticipated at Jamaica Bay did not take place. A No. Phalarope was at the Line Islands 1 Aug. (GD *et al.*). A maximum of four Pomarine Jaegers was seen on the Federation pelagic trip 22 Aug. A single Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported from Wainscott 21 Aug. (PAB), and on 30 Aug. an adult was seen on the Great Kills mudflat, Staten Island (GB & B Bouquoio). The first juvenal Ring-billed Gull arrived 18 July at Jamaica Bay—on schedule (THD). The Laughing Gull colony at Jamaica Bay had built up to 325 tagged nests by the second week of June (PAB & F. Buckley). The presence of adults near the mouth of the Nissequogue River has birders alerted, yet no nesting has been detected there or elsewhere on Long Island. The escaped Andean Gull, now in adult breeding plumage, spent the summer with Ring-billed Gulls in the VanCortlandt Park area (WS). Two Little Gulls were reported at Shinnecock Bay 1-4 June, one remained 5 June (PAB). Gull-billed Terns were located in Com. Tern colonies at Jamaica Bay, the Loop Causeway at Jones Beach and at Moriches Inlet (PAB & F. Buckley). FORSTER'S TERNS moved into the area and bred successfully this year. The previously reported pair remained until 5 June at Shinnecock Inlet (PAB), a pair was found breeding at Hewlett Hassock, Nassau Co. (Jim Browne) for a first New York State breeding record, details on page 212. A well-described second year ARCTIC TERN was present 4 and 5 June at Shinnecock Inlet (PAB) for an unusual early summer record. The presence of a Royal Tern 4 June at Shinnecock (PAB) where they previously have been seen in early summer, suggests that breeding may be likely. Twenty-eight Royals at Mecox 29 Aug. was the maximum reported (RA). Two at Sands Point 4 Aug. were rare in Long Island Sound (GQ). Single Royals were reported from various other locations. A SANDWICH TERN in *portlandica* plumage was found 1 June at Shinnecock Bay (PAB). One Caspian Tern dropped in at Jamaica Bay 2 Aug. where it was seen by many observers. Another was viewed 22 Aug. (GSD). The only Black Tern reported was seen 22 Aug. at Sagaponack (GSR, RA).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: A nest and one young Monk Parakeet were found in Brooklyn during atlas work (*vide* GSR). A pair of Short-eared Owls bred at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn (R & J Bourque). A displaying bird was seen 13 June at Tobay Sanctuary (J. Glassberg). Saw-whet Owls were successful in breeding in Lattingtown (see introduction). Chuck-will's-widows were reported from Manorville 25 June (RA), from Amagansett in mid-June (BJS, DWC), and the Calverton region for the fourth successive year (GSR). "Chucks"

returned to the Oak Beach area where they have bred previously. A pair of Com. Night-hawks raised at least one young at Stuyvesant Town, Manhattan (S. Madden *et al.*). One was seen in Riverdale 18 July (WS)—the only reports until migrants started passing toward the end of Aug.

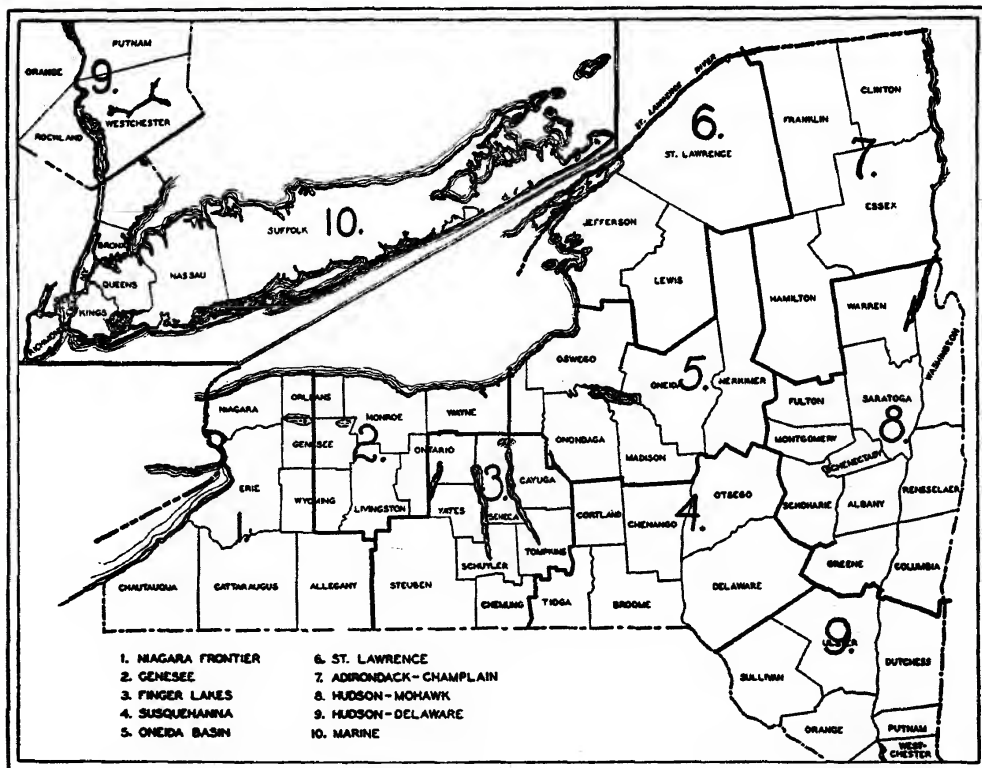
**FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS:** A singing male Acadian Flycatcher was present May through July in Upton. Another was in a different location in Upton 9 June (GSR), and four were on the Captree count. These birds have been regularly reported on June counts, yet breeding has not been demonstrated. A territorial Alder Flycatcher was present for at least a week prior to 7 June in Montauk, where a bird was singing on territory last year (BJS, DWC). The territory adjoins that of a Willow Flycatcher. Willow Flycatchers breed in suitable habitat adjacent to salt marsh on both the North and South Shores and in VanCortlandt swamp. A number of pairs are at Jamaica Bay. About 18 pairs of Rough-winged Swallows bred in the Jerome Reservoir-Riverdale area this season (WS). A migrant Cliff Swallow was sighted at Moses Mountain, S.I., 30 Aug., a rare swallow in the Region (A. Flamm). Thirty-two Purple Martins in two colonies were located on the Captree count. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches bred again in a pine grove at Upton—family group seen 16 July (GSR). Brown Creepers were fewer this year in central Suffolk; no nests found but a pair was in Upton 22 June. A Brown Creeper nest was located in the Nissequogue River State Park 6 July (SD). Two Brown Creepers were on the Nassau count, while 16 were seen on the Captree count. At least six to eight pairs of Carolina Wrens nested in Nissequogue River State Park (SD). Smaller numbers were seen elsewhere in known locations as this species recovers from several hard winters. Hermit Thrushes continue in central Suffolk in suitable habitat, with at least two singing males in an Upton breeding bird census plot. E. Bluebirds were in somewhat higher numbers than in recent years. A pair at Upton raised at least one brood and probably attempted a second. A pair at Manorville raised at least one brood and re-nested. Another female was seen several times in Manorville; a family group was seen in East Manor, and a nest was found in Brookhaven by D. Puleston at the same location as last year (GSR).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** White-eyed Vireo is apparently declining in some central Suffolk breeding locations but breed in two new Manorville locations (GSR). This species seemed abundant in a Montauk breeding block with much suitable habitat. A pair of Prothonotary Warblers produced three young in the Nissequogue River State Park (SD, B. Giffen), a second breeding record for this area. Worm-eating Warbler is known to breed in two or three North Shore locations including Alley Pond Park and Cold Spring Harbor. Yellow Warblers were in good numbers on the Captree count (248) and on the Nassau Count (154). Chestnut-sided Warblers are declining locally in central Suffolk because of habitat changes as growth occurs. Scattered reports of migrant warblers began at the end of July and continued through Aug. with no marked waves reported.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Eight Bobolinks were found on the North Nassau count, a female was seen 20 June at Flushing Meadow Park and a singing male was at Ridgewood Reservoir 21 June (THD). The first migrant was at Jamaica Bay 26 July (FGS). An adult female Boat-tailed Grackle was feeding two juvenals 23 June at Black Bank Hassock (J. Zarudsky, M. Gochfeld, J. Burger) and an adult female feeding two juvenals at Jamaica Bay 18-19 July (THD *et al.*) constitutes the first confirmed breeding records for New York State. Two male Summer Tanagers were found 20 June, one adult, one subadult near Oyster Bay (BJS). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was present in June at the bottom of Lighthouse Hill, Staten Island, but no evidence of breeding was obtained (H. Fischer). Seaside Sparrows were confirmed as territorial birds on the North Shore in Bayside, Queens Co. in June (LJS *et al.*). The numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds reported in the spring *Kingbird* were even higher than recorded. Three flocks in The Bronx totaled 1670 individuals (WS). The number reported, 340, should have been attributed to Spuyten Duyvel.

154 Dayton Street, Sea Cliff, New York 11579

## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February  
 Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May  
 Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August  
 Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November  
 Deadline is December 7

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