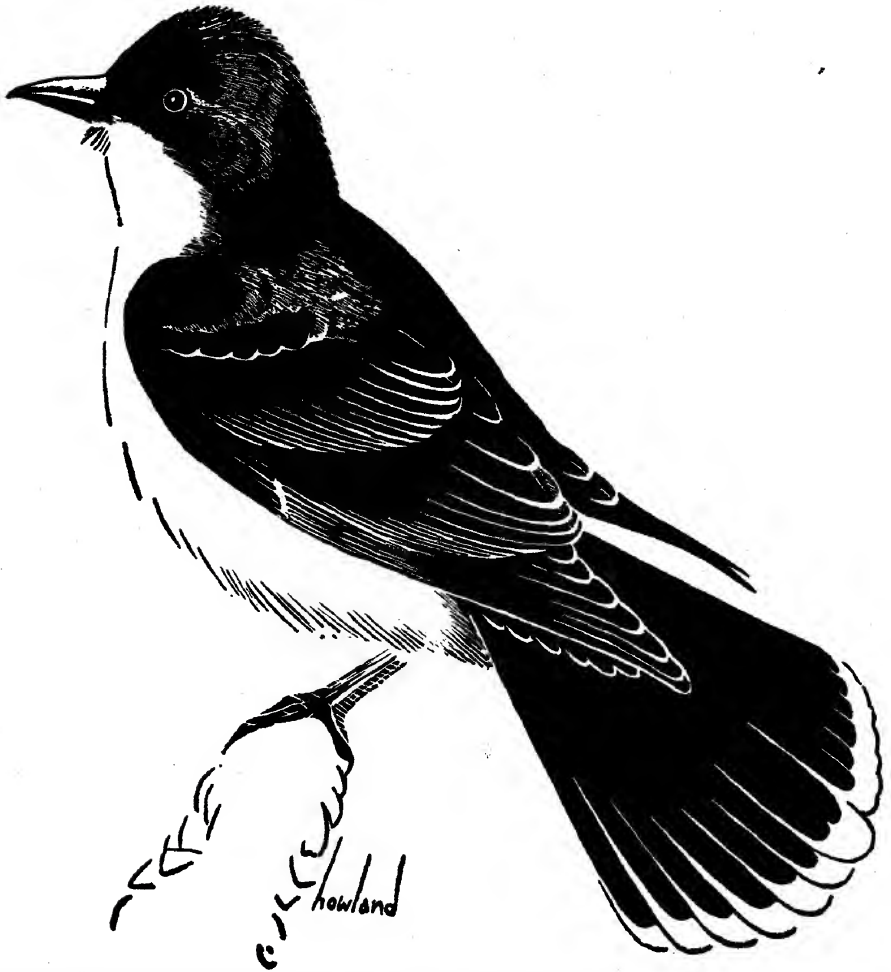


The KINGBIRD



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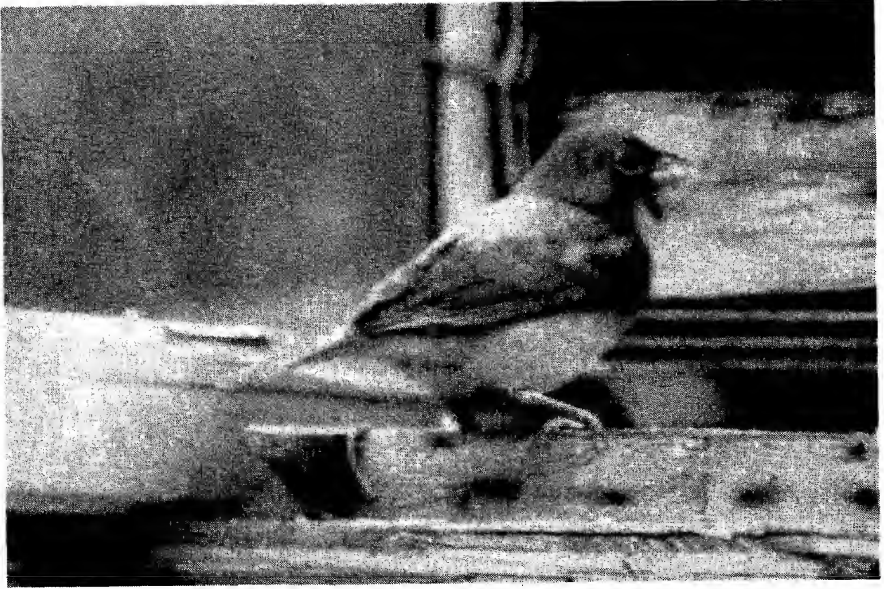
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Highlights of the Season

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Painted Bunting—Richmond County
2 May 1983 *Harry Jenkins*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 45. PAINTED BUNTING ON STATEN ISLAND

WILLIAM and NORMA SIEBENHELLER

On Monday, 2 May 1983, an adult male Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) appeared at a standing feeder in the rear yard of 21 John St., Staten Island, Richmond County, in the shadow of the Bayonne Bridge. The bird pecked at the mixed bird seed and appeared quite healthy and aggressive, successfully keeping other species away while he fed.

The Painted Bunting was first noted at about 7 a.m. by Charles and Dolores Helgesen, the owners of the house, who watched it come and go at intervals of about 20 minutes until 9 a.m., when they called us. We arrived at 9:20 a.m. and saw the bird within minutes. It was in impeccable plumage, every feather brilliant and unblemished. We studied it for at least fifteen minutes from a distance of only ten feet. We were inside the house, and the bird was unaware of our presence.

The Helgesens took several photographs, as did Harry Jenkins, who spent much of the afternoon observing the bird. One of Jenkins' photos accompanies this report.

Other local birders arrived too late to see the bird, as it left the site at about 6 p.m. and did not return.

It is interesting to note that the Helgesens' property has attracted many other unusual birds, including, during the winter of 1982-83, two Orange-crowned Warblers (*Vermivora celata*). One of these birds stayed for more than two months, eating grape jelly from a feeder only inches from the kitchen window. The location of the site, a half-block from the Kill van Kull and adjacent to an 11-acre brushy field, is obviously very hospitable to a wide variety of species. Green-backed Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Common Barn-Owls and scores of songbirds are all included in the Helgesens' "yard list."

The sighting of the Painted Bunting marks the first Staten Island record for the species, which is very rare throughout New York State (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 551). The lack of feather wear would indicate that this was indeed a wild bird, which may have come north during the fierce storms of a week earlier, storms which are known to have brought an influx of Indigo Buntings, among other species, to the New York area ahead of their usual schedule.

267 Edinboro Road, Staten Island, New York 10306

CORRIGENDUM

"Photographs of New York Rarities" in *Kingbird* XXXIII, No. 4... "43. Chestnut-collared Longspur" should read No. 44.

A YEAR-ROUND CENSUS

DAVID McINTYRE

Changes occurring in a bird community over the course of an entire year at one particular site are seldom documented. Fortunately, I had the time available to conduct such a year-long census in a natural area in southeastern New York State from March 1978 until March 1979. The study has some important practical applications in that it provides baseline data for use by interested birders in predicting the composition of the bird population at the site at any one point during the year. Finally, seeing that a natural area's ecological value is often narrowly determined on the basis of a sampling of its wildlife resources during only one particular time of the year, I decided that a broader, more sophisticated view of these resources was needed for a proper evaluation of the site's ecology.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The study site is located in Hastings-on-Hudson in suburban Westchester County, just north of New York City. The major natural features bordering this small village are the Hudson River to the west and the Saw Mill River valley to the east. In the northeast corner of Hastings is found one of the very few natural areas of any appreciable size remaining in this well-developed residential community. This wildlife haven consists of two contiguous parcels of land: undeveloped property belonging to Children's Village (a private organization) and Hastings' own Hillside Park. Centered on Hillside Park, a particular 45-acre section of this 100-acre tract was chosen as the study site for the wide range of habitats it represented, as well as its accessibility to the observer.

Lying to the east and northeast of the main body of the study site, the Children's Village property (hereafter CV for short) consists mostly of open oak woodland. The section within the study area includes not only a representative of this woodland, but also a small sumac grove, thickets of cat brier associated with second-growth oaks, maples and ashes, and a $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre vernal pond. An interesting glacial remnant, the vernal pond habitat includes such vegetation as willow, locust and phragmites, which are rare elsewhere in the study site. A great diversity of birds was recorded here including a "Brewster's" Warbler, a male Summer Tanager, and a Great Horned Owl. In fact, the whole CV section of the study site proved to be very productive for birds at all seasons. The heterogeneity of the vegetation in this section, producing a substantial "edge effect," is most likely the cause of this.

The remaining 38 acres or so of the study site are located to the west,

downslope of the topographically high CV section. On the upper eastern edge are found thickets similar to the ones noted above. They form the eastern border of a four-acre field known locally to birders and teenagers alike as "The Meadow." It is a very attractive open area with bayberry, sassafras, young oak, and maple saplings slowly succeeding the grasses which once formed the dominant vegetation. Farther to the west down a moderate slope lies a mature, mixed oak/beech forest. A lack of diversity of vegetation was responsible for the occurrence of few species of birds other than thrushes and woodpeckers in this section. At the base of this incline is a small stream flowing from springs to the north. Here the stream forms a delightful bottomland swamp with red maples and tulip trees overshadowing a diverse understory of dogwood, ironwood, birch and wild azalea. Lush patches of skunk cabbage and various ferns form the ground cover.

Following the stream south one comes upon a one-acre man-made body of water called Sugar Pond. Over 75 species of birds were recorded at this highly eutrophic pond during the course of the study, including a Prothonotary Warbler and a Common Snipe. To the south of the pond the stream flows into a remnant hemlock ravine and then out of the study site. The remainder of the study site includes the grassy areas surrounding an elementary school and a mature oak woodland.

STUDY METHODS

In order to adequately document the bird population occurring at this site over the course of the year, an intensive surveying program was undertaken. From 11 March 1978 through 10 March 1979 the study site was regularly censused by the author exactly 170 times, totalling 395 hours in the field. The distribution of the study days over the course of each month is indicated in Table 1. Censusing was performed more frequently during the fall and spring migration periods than during the summer and winter months, as more frequent coverage was required when relatively greater changes were occurring in the bird population. Sight and sound were both used in censusing the birds. The species, numbers of individuals and sex of the birds were recorded, as well as any incidental observations made on behavior or ecology—courtship displays, foraging substrate and interspecific relations. Wind speed and direction, cloud cover and temperature at the start and end of each study day were also noted.

A route of approximately 1.3 miles in length was carefully established, taking advantage of the preexisting trail system to allow full coverage of the study area. The route was followed once in the same direction from the same starting point each study day. Days on which it was raining or snowing heavily were consistently avoided because of reduced visibility. The time of starting each day was rigidly fixed—always

Figure 1--Monthly Species Totals

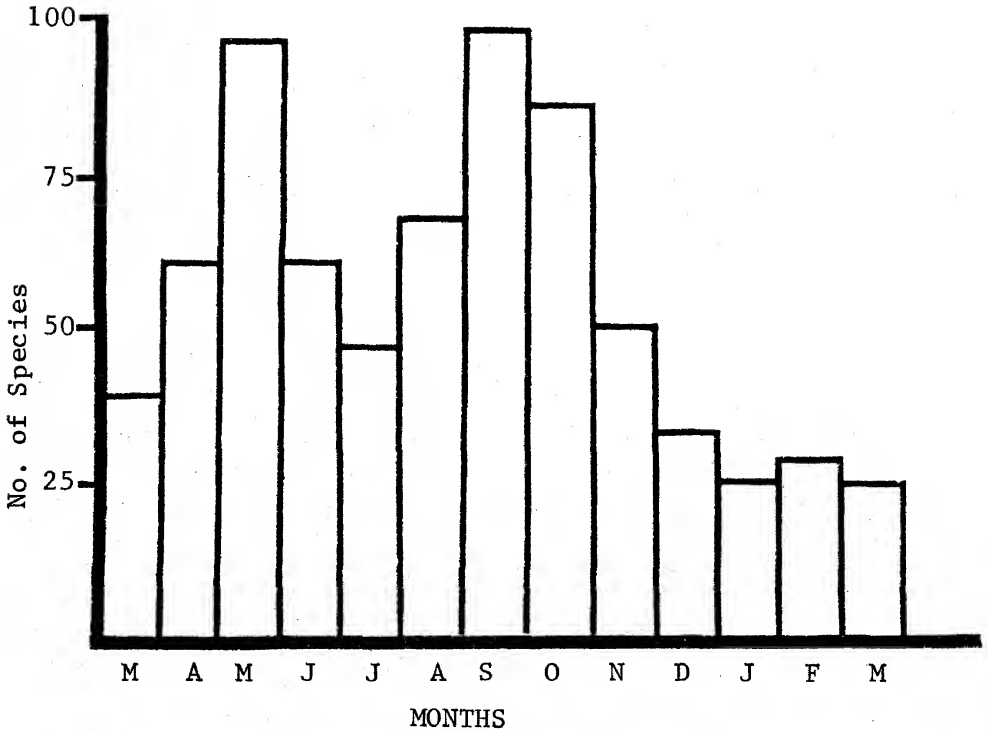


TABLE 1 - SUMMARY OF SPECIES OBSERVED VS. NUMBER OF OBSERVATION DAYS

Month	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
No. Study Days	8	23	25	13	8	7	21	23	16	9	8	6	3
Total No. Species	39	61	96	61	46	67	97	86	50	33	25	27	25
Max. No. Species Per Study Day	29	38	58	39	35	46	47	42	31	20	18	17	22
Avg. No. Species Per Study Day	25	31	39	33	31	37	34	31	24	18	14	15	21

at dawn as soon as it was light enough to see. The amount of time spent thereafter in the field depended on the birds—the longer it took to adequately census them, the more time spent. A constant traversing speed was therefore not kept. An average of 2¼ hours was spent censusing on each study day. Minor deviations from the standard route were occasionally made as needed (such as when packs of wild dogs stood in the path), yet the order in which the various sections of the site were censused and the degree of coverage each received day to day were not altered.

RESULTS

A total of 139 species of birds plus one hybrid was recorded at the site during the study period. Three additional species—Kentucky Warbler, Cerulean Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo—reported during the study period by others frequenting the site were missed by the author. The largest number of species detected on a single day was 58 on 20 May 1978. The low of 11 species was recorded on both 3 January and 27 February 1979. These species per study day figures were combined to give monthly cumulative species values illustrated in Figure 1. The changes in species numbers indicated here are rather predictable, with peaks occurring during the spring and fall migration months and lows during the summer and winter months. The monthly maximum and average number of species detected per study day are included in Table 1. Plots of both these sets of figures closely follow the relationship with time shown by the plot of cumulative species detected per month in Figure 1. This indicates that the pattern of peaks and troughs exhibited in Figure 1 are not a mere artifact of census effort. The changes in species numbers are real, following a pattern which is intuitively correct.

The total number of individual birds detected was tallied for each study day. The figures for March through July were surprisingly similar, averaging 160 birds per study day. From August through November the figures were consistently higher than the previous five months, here averaging 270 birds per study day. This increase in numbers from earlier in the year is almost wholly due to the very large numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds passing over the site during this period. The highest count by far for the entire study period, recorded on 11 November 1978, was of 1,214 birds, including an estimated 988 Red-winged Blackbirds! Compare this with the study period average of 172 birds per study day. Finally, the months of December through February averaged 84 birds per study day, with the lowest study period count of 38 birds occurring on the cold, blustery morning of 18 January 1979. These low numbers are attributable to the movement of most birds out of the site by late November with the onset of winter conditions.

Table 2 illustrates the monthly occurrence of each of the 139 species. A small "y" after some of the species' names indicates if young or immatures were observed during the breeding season. The number in parentheses after each bird is the number of study days on which it was detected out of a maximum of 170. Note that even though these figures give no information about numbers of individuals recorded, they are very useful as indicators of the relative frequency of occurrence of a particular species during the course of the year.

One thing to keep in mind when using these figures, however, is that because censusing was limited exclusively to the morning hours, those birds most active during other times of the day may have been subject to under-representation. Those particularly affected are some hawks, active mostly later during the day especially during migration, and nocturnal birds such as nighthawks and owls. Another problem bird is the woodcock, usually detected only if flushed from very short distances. Finally the detection or identification of some birds was solely a function of calling rate. Those subject to this type of problem include the Fish Crow, *Empidonax* flycatchers and Ring-necked Pheasants. Unless they called, they usually were not counted.

DISCUSSION

A wide variety of birds was supported by the site during the course of the year. Each of the habitats attracted different birds during different seasons. Waterfowl made use of the limited open water at the site during migration and winter; shorebirds and herons frequented the muddy pond edges during the warmer months; woodpeckers worked dead trees in the swamp throughout the year; insectivorous birds found insects in the vegetation especially along the edges of habitats from spring through fall; and seedeaters searched the field and thicket areas, especially during winter. No two months of the year were ever alike, as the avian community was in an almost constant state of flux all year.

The spring migration began around 15 March, peaked sharply in May and effectively ended by mid-June. A handful of species such as the Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Red-winged Blackbird, Rufous-sided Towhee and Fox Sparrow began arriving by the end of March, getting the migration off to a modest start. The first day during the migration period in which over 30 species were recorded was 5 April. The migration proceeded less slowly from there, with new arrivals occurring most frequently later in the month.

The first week of May did not differ greatly from the last week of April. Activity during the rest of May, however, was decidedly more intense than during the previous 5 or 6 weeks, with waves of numerous species invading the area, especially during mid-month. The center of activity at this time was Sugar Pond, with its abundance of insects both

in the water and in the surrounding vegetation attracting the mainly insectivorous migrants. By 31 May the monthly tally had reached 96 species. Migration continued on a diminished scale through early June with three new species and one hybrid bird being recorded for the season.

During the breeding season, the year-round resident birds were joined by twenty more species of birds, giving a total of 38 summer resident species. The birds were found to be more evenly distributed among the different habitats during the summer than during any other time of year. Between 15 June and 7 August young or immatures of 16 out of a total 38 or so species of possible breeding status were observed. This information, indicated in Table 2 by a small "y" following each of the 16 species' names, almost certainly indicates that these birds were nesting at the site. In addition active nests of two of these birds—Blue-winged Warbler and Black-and-white Warbler—were found.

The copulation of four species—Canada Goose, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Tufted Titmouse and Scarlet Tanager—were recorded during the study period. The sequence observed with the Yellow-billed Cuckoos was particularly fascinating, being an excellent example of courtship feeding in birds. One of the pair of birds was first heard calling loudly in an ash tree near the border of Sugar Pond and the swamp. The pair of birds, both very quiet, was then observed in a large sassafras tree along the edge of the pond. The male, holding a large green insect larva in his beak, mounted the female there. During this 30-second copulation period the two held the larva jointly in their beaks. The female was left with the juicy larva to eat after the male dismounted.

A final point of interest concerning the breeding season is the occurrence of several species of "summer visitants." These six birds were: Green-backed Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Belted Kingfisher, Barn Swallow and Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Occurring only once or twice during the breeding season, these birds were most likely wanderers from nearby breeding sites.

This study revealed some very interesting differences between the fall and spring migration periods. As noted earlier, the spring migration reached a sharp peak during the month of May. The fall migration, however, was characterized by a double peak of 97 species in September and 86 in October. This difference was due to the fact that many migrant species were present at the site for a longer period of time during the fall than during the spring. This point is especially well illustrated by the warblers, most of which were recorded during only a two or three-week period during the spring in May. During the fall, many of the same species were recorded over a five-week or even six-week period.

Another point of interest is the lesser degree to which different

species collected together at one point in time during the fall. This difference is evident in the study day counts. The concentrations of 50 or more species noted on several study days during May were never recorded during the fall. Instead, figures in the 40's and upper 30's were the case. These results can all be explained by the greater differential in departure dates occurring during the fall compared with the spring. This is partly due to the fact that newly-hatched immature birds and adults present during the fall often migrate at somewhat different times. Also, during the spring the drive for all species to reach the breeding grounds as soon as possible tends to collect the birds together during a short time interval. During the fall, no such drive to concentrate in this way seems to exist, with different species lingering longer than others before migrating south.

All these factors then helped produce a more protracted migration during the fall than during the spring. This did not make the fall less interesting, however. As expected, greater numbers and kinds of raptors were recorded during the fall than during the spring, due to seasonal differences in migration patterns. Also, surprises such as a White-eyed Vireo in the sumac grove in September, a Bufflehead and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Sugar Pond in October, and a Turkey Vulture stopping briefly in the trees near "The Meadow" in November, made the fall migration period exciting throughout.

The winter season turned out to be much more dynamic than anticipated. The year-round residents and a few winter residents (e.g., Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, and Field Sparrow) were joined sporadically throughout the season by an unexpectedly large number of non-resident wanderers. The Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Snipe, Great Horned Owl, Hermit Thrush, House Finch, and American Tree Sparrow are among the 15 winter visitants occurring irregularly at the site during this time. Presumably the need for birds to range over larger areas than normal, due to the increased difficulty of finding food during the winter, is the explanation. Some of the birds such as the Red-tailed Hawk undoubtedly traveled farther than others such as the House Finch, which probably wandered in from much shorter distances (such as one of the backyard feeders adjacent to the study site).

Sporadic appearances were also made by a few species of waterfowl. Their presence was dependent mainly on the availability of open water at the site, with nearby water bodies such as the Hudson River providing alternative resting and feeding sites. Finally, cyclically occurring invaders from the north such as the Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin were present at the site during one of the winters (1978) but not the other (1979). In short, any notion that the winter bird population at the site is fixed and unchanging was decidedly challenged by the results of this study.

CONCLUSION

Year-round monitoring provides one with a comprehensive view of a community of birds. Seasonal fluctuations in habitat use and differences between the fall and spring migration periods, for example, are revealed and best studied by using such an approach. Anyone visiting the site only occasionally would almost certainly have missed most of these phenomena and would therefore have a very limited understanding of the site's ecology.

Ecological assessment can be done only by considering the whole picture, not a partial one. The study produced many surprises, providing the author with a much deeper understanding of this small area. By the end of the period the study site had become a very special place indeed. Full appreciation of the value of something cannot come about without understanding it. To know intimately is to care intimately.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is difficult to list here the names of all those who have so generously given of their time and energy to help make this study a successful one. Those who come immediately to mind include: Richard B. Fischer, Tom Gavin, Ann S. McIntyre, Lawrence McIntyre, Marjorie Plant, Charles Smith, and Berna Weissman. All the suggestions and support they and others have given me has never gone unnoticed. Thank you all very much.

TABLE 2 — SPECIES RECORDED AT
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY 1978-1979

Species	No. Days	Month												
		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Common Loon	(11)		X	X	X			X						
Double-crested Cormorant	(2)			X					X					
Mute Swan	(1)		X											
Canada Goose	(50)	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X
Mallard	(75)	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X
American Black Duck	(48)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X
Wood Duck	(43)	X	X	X			X	X	X	X				
Ring-necked Duck	(3)	X												
Bufflehead	(1)								X					
Turkey Vulture	(1)										X			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	(19)		X					X	X	X				
Northern Harrier	(5)			X				X	X					
Red-tailed Hawk	(6)							X			X	X	X	
Red-shouldered Hawk	(5)								X	X				
Broad-winged Hawk	(6)		X					X	X					
Osprey	(3)							X	X					
Merlin	(2)							X	X					
American Kestrel	(14)	X	X					X	X				X	
Ring-necked Pheasant	(42)	X	X	X				X			X			
Great Blue Heron	(4)		X	X			X							
Green-backed Heron	(2)				X	X								
Solitary Sandpiper	(3)			X										
Spotted Sandpiper	(6)			X		X								
Lesser Yellowlegs	(1)							X						
American Woodcock	(5)									X	X	X		
Common Snipe	(2)								X		X			
Herring Gull	(2)	X			X									
Ring-billed Gull	(96)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rock Dove	(63)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Mourning Dove	(106)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	(19)			X	X	X	X	X						
Black-billed Cuckoo	(9)			X	X			X						
Eastern Screech-Owl	(3)						X	X	X					
Great Horned Owl	(5)								X	X	X			
Common Nighthawk	(1)						X							
Chimney Swift	(48)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					

Species	No. Days	Month												
		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	(6)			X			X	X						
Belted Kingfisher	(11)	X	X		X	X		X	X	X				
Common Flicker	(122)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pileated Woodpecker	(4)		X					X						
Red-bellied Woodpecker	(16)	X	X					X	X				X	X
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	(4)							X	X					
Hairy Woodpecker	(79)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Downy Woodpecker	(125)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Kingbird	(8)			X	X	X	X							
Great Crested Flycatcher	(35)			X	X	X	X	X						
Eastern Phoebe	(34)	X	X	X				X	X					
Least Flycatcher	(3)				X		X							
Eastern Wood-Pewee	(20)			X	X	X	X	X						
Olive-sided Flycatcher	(2)				X			X						
Barn Swallow	(23)		X	X		X	X							
Tree Swallow	(5)		X	X			X	X						
Northern Rough-wg. Swallow	(1)					X								
Blue Jay - y	(169)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Crow	(170)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fish Crow	(2)													X
Black-capped Chickadee	(140)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tufted Titmouse - y	(151)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
White-breasted Nuthatch	(130)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brown Creeper	(23)	X	X					X	X	X	X			
House Wren - y	(63)			X	X	X	X	X	X					
Winter Wren	(24)		X					X	X	X				
Northern Mockingbird	(75)	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Gray Catbird - y	(84)			X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Brown Thrasher - y	(122)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
American Robin - y	(151)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wood Thrush	(51)			X	X	X	X	X						
Hermit Thrush	(37)		X	X					X	X			X	
Swainson's Thrush	(27)			X	X		X	X	X					
Gray-cheeked Thrush	(3)			X					X					
Veery - y	(47)			X	X	X	X	X	X					
Eastern Bluebird	(3)		X								X			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	(11)		X	X			X	X						
Golden-crowned Kinglet	(11)	X	X						X	X				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	(58)		X	X				X	X	X				

Species	No. Days	Month												
		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Cedar Waxwing	(45)			X	X		X	X	X	X	X			
European Starling - y	(170)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Solitary Vireo	(17)		X	X				X	X					
White-eyed Vireo	(2)							X						
Yellow-throated Vireo	(3)			X										
Red-eyed Vireo	(51)			X	X	X	X	X	X					
Black-and-white Warbler - y	(70)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
Prothonotary Warbler	(1)		X											
Worm-eating Warbler	(3)			X			X							
Blue-winged Warbler - y	(43)			X	X	X	X	X						
["Brewster's" Warbler]	(2)				X									
Tennessee Warbler	(19)			X			X	X	X					
Nashville Warbler	(7)			X			X	X	X					
Northern Parula	(12)			X			X	X	X					
Yellow Warbler	(11)			X	X		X							
Magnolia Warbler	(21)			X	X		X	X	X					
Cape May Warbler	(3)			X			X							
Yellow-rumped Warbler	(61)		X	X			X	X	X	X				
Black-throated Green Warbler	(25)			X			X	X	X					
Black-throated Blue Warbler	(7)			X			X	X	X					
Blackburnian Warbler	(17)			X			X	X	X					
Chestnut-sided Warbler	(19)			X			X	X	X					
Bay-breasted Warbler	(8)			X			X	X	X					
Blackpoll Warbler	(29)			X	X		X	X	X					
Pine Warbler	(1)						X							
Prairie Warbler	(10)			X			X	X						
Palm Warbler	(28)		X	X			X	X						
Ovenbird	(28)			X	X		X	X						
Northern Waterthrush	(23)			X	X		X	X						
Common Yellowthroat	(68)			X	X	X	X	X	X					
Yellow-breasted Chat	(2)						X	X						
Mourning Warbler	(3)			X	X		X							
Hooded Warbler	(1)			X										
Wilson's Warbler	(9)			X			X							
Canada Warbler	(20)			X			X	X						
American Redstart	(46)			X	X		X	X	X					
House Sparrow	(75)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bobolink	(1)			X										

Species	No. Days	Month												
		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Red-winged Blackbird	(95)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Rusty Blackbird	(7)							X	X	X				
Common Grackle - y	(115)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	(66)		X	X	X	X	X	X						
Northern Oriole - y	(44)			X	X	X	X	X						
Scarlet Tanager	(35)			X	X	X	X	X						
Summer Tanager	(1)			X										
Northern Cardinal - y	(166)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - y	(33)			X	X	X	X	X						
Evening Grosbeak	(9)			X					X	X	X	X		
Indigo Bunting	(19)			X	X	X								
Purple Finch	(26)							X	X	X	X			
House Finch	(25)		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	
Common Redpoll	(5)	X												
Pine Siskin	(15)	X	X	X										
American Goldfinch	(149)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rufous-sided Towhee - y	(113)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Vesper Sparrow	(1)								X					
Dark-eyed Junco	(101)	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X
American Tree Sparrow	(4)									X	X			
Chipping Sparrow	(23)		X	X				X	X	X				
Field Sparrow	(43)		X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	
White-throated Sparrow	(118)	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fox Sparrow	(29)	X	X						X	X				
Lincoln's Sparrow	(1)								X					
Swamp Sparrow	(29)		X	X				X	X	X				
Song Sparrow - y	(127)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOTAL SPECIES		39	61	96	61	46	67	97	86	50	33	25	27	25

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS BREEDING
ON GARDINER'S ISLAND**

CARL SAFINA¹, DAVE PETERSON², MICHAEL SCHEIBEL³



Double-crested Cormorant Colony—Suffolk County
13 June 1983
Carl Safina

While on Gardiner's Island in Great Peconic Bay, Suffolk Co. on 11 May 1983, Scheibel and Mike Laspia noticed 300 Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) on Hellgate Island in Home Pond, just inland from the west shore of Gardiner's Island. Two cormorants were

seen carrying sticks to the island. On 13 June, while surveying Gardiner's Island for breeding Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) (none were found), Safina and Peterson counted approximately 130 adult cormorants among roughly 60 nests, which were situated in the upper branches of the dead trees (possibly *Quercus* or *Sassafras*) that cover Hellgate Island. These trees had been alive prior to 1983 and hosted 100 to 200 pairs of Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), Great Egrets (*Casmerodius alba*), and Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) annually. In 1983 the island was also covered with a tangled understory, probably greenbrier (*Smilax* sp.), which grew among the trunks and lower branches of the dead trees. At the top of this green understory, approximately ten Great Egrets and four Snowy Egrets were nesting. The egrets and cormorants were vertically segregated; all of the egrets were situated lower than the cormorants.

Although known to nest on Fisher's Island, New York, off the Rhode Island coast (*Kingbird* 32: 4 p. 302; first nesting 1978), this species, while abundant on Long Island during the warm months, has not previously been reported breeding in the Long Island area.

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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

The New York State Avian Records Committee received 63 reports, representing 51 records, during 1982. Of these records, 33 were accepted, seven were filed without formal review, eight were not accepted, and three remain unresolved within the Committee. The seven reports filed without review would have been accepted if they dealt with species reviewed by the NYSARC.

Unfortunately, there has been little change in either the quality or format of reports since 1981, and reports difficult to read and reproduce continue to plague the NYSARC. We urge all potential contributors to carefully read the introduction to our 1981 report (*Kingbird*, 228-233, 1982). Because there continues to be misunderstanding, and because of recent nomenclatural changes, the list of species reviewed by the NYSARC is included 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) any of the following species, where (U) means upstate New York reports only and (D) means reports away from the Adirondacks only: Arctic Loon; Yellow-billed Loon; Western Grebe; Yellow-nosed Albatross; Northern Fulmar (U); Black-capped Petrel; Mottled Petrel; Herald Petrel; Audubon's Shearwater; any other shearwater (U); Wilson's Storm-Petrel (U); White-faced Storm-Petrel; Leach's Storm-Petrel; White-tailed Tropicbird; Red-billed Tropicbird; Brown Booby; Northern Gannet (U); American White Pelican; Brown Pelican; Great Cormorant (U); Magnificent Frigatebird; Tricolored Heron (U); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (U); White Ibis; White-faced Ibis; Wood Stork; Fulvous Whistling-Duck; "Black" Brant; Barnacle Goose; Cinnamon Teal; Tufted Duck (U); Common Eider (U); Smew; Black Vulture; American Swallow-tailed Kite; Mississippi Kite; Swainson's Hawk; Gyrfalcon; Spruce Grouse (D); Yellow Rail; Black Rail (U); Corn Crake; Purple Gallinule; Sandhill Crane; Northern Lapwing; Wilson's Plover; Piping Plover (U); American Oystercatcher (U); Black-necked Stilt (U); American Avocet (U); Wood Sandpiper; Eskimo Curlew; Whimbrel (white-rumped races only); Eurasian Curlew; Long-billed Curlew; Bar-tailed Godwit; Marbled Godwit (U); Sharp-tailed Sandpiper; Curlew Sandpiper (U); Long-tailed Jaeger; Great Skua; South Polar Skua; California Gull; Thayer's Gull; Ivory Gull; Gull-billed Tern (U); Royal Tern (U); Sandwich Tern (U); Roseate Tern (U); Arctic Tern; Bridled Tern; Sooty Tern; Black Skimmer (U); Common Murre; Atlantic Puffin; any other alcid (U);

White-winged Dove; Northern Hawk-Owl; Burrowing Owl; Great Gray Owl; Boreal Owl; Chuck-will's-widow (U); Three-toed Woodpecker (D); Black-backed Woodpecker (D); Say's Phoebe; Ash-throated Flycatcher; Western Kingbird (U); Gray Kingbird; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; Gray Jay (D); Black-billed Magpie; Brown-headed Nuthatch; Bewick's Wren; Northern Wheatear; Mountain Bluebird; Townsend's Solitaire; Fieldfare; Redwing; Sage Thrasher; Bell's Vireo; "Audubon's" Warbler; Black-throated Gray Warbler; Townsend's Warbler; Yellow-throated Warbler; Swainson's Warbler; Painted Redstart; Summer Tanager (U); Western Tanager; Black-headed Grosbeak; Blue Grosbeak (U); Painted Bunting; Green-tailed Towhee; "Spotted" Towhee; Bachman's Sparrow; Lark Sparrow (U); Lark Bunting; "Ipswich" Sparrow (U); Baird's Sparrow; Sharp-tailed Sparrow (U); LeConte's Sparrow; Harris' Sparrow; Smith's Longspur; Chestnut-collared Longspur; Brewer's Blackbird; Boat-tailed Grackle (U); "Bullock's" Oriole; Hoary Redpoll.

4) any birds found at least four weeks before typical early arrival dates or four weeks after typical late departure dates, as summarized in Bull (1974, 1976).

Reports to the NYSARC should be sent to:

Dr. John Confer, Secretary
New York State Avian Records Committee
c/o The Laboratory of Ornithology
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14850

As in past years, only contributors are acknowledged in the summary of reports below, regardless of the actual number of observers. The term "substantiated" means that material evidence accompanies the report. In summaries of species status, the NYSARC ignores reports made since 1978 (when the NYSARC became active) and not reviewed by this Committee.

1981 ACCEPTED RECORDS

NORTHERN GANNET (*Sula bassanus*). 1981-46-A-D immature—Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua Co., 5-19 Dec, photographs on file Buffalo Museum of Science (MJ, FML, W & MW). An upstate, inland report of a normally marine species.

IVORY GULL (*Pagophila eburnea*). 1981-43-A immature—Niagara River at Niagara Falls, Niagara Co., 1 Jan (RFA). This bird was seen on both sides of the international border; what is presumed to be the same bird was photographed 22 Dec 1981 on the Ontario side (slide in Buffalo Museum of Science). This is the 13th record for New York.

1982 ACCEPTED RECORDS

NORTHERN GANNET (*Sula bassanus*). 1982-29-A immature—Lake

- Ontario at Oswego, Oswego Co., 28 Nov (DWC). 1982-44-A immature between Ithaca and Caroline, Tompkins Co., 30 Nov (KA-C). Similarly plumaged birds were reported without details in the Rochester area 13-14 Nov and at Derby Hill 26 Nov; all these reports possibly refer to a single individual attempting to return to the Atlantic Ocean from Lake Ontario; however, a dead immature was recovered at Oswego in March 1983.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). 1982-23-A adult—ElDorado Beach Preserve, Jefferson Co., 1 Aug (SK). 1982-49-A-C adult—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., 4 June to 11 Oct, photograph on file (SK, DWC, PDeB). Both records may refer to a single individual. There are now about 30 records of this species from New York.
- SWAINSON'S HAWK** (*Buteo swainsoni*). 1982-15-A,B adult light morph—Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 31 Mar (GAS, GS). This is the eighth record from New York and the fourth from Derby Hill.
- TRICOLORED HERON** (*Egretta tricolor*). 1982-27-A immature—on Hudson River at Cornwall Bay, Orange Co., 12 Sept (L & ED). An upstate record of a species normally confined to Long Island.
- YELLOW RAIL** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). 1982-28-A single—East Patchogue, Suffolk Co., 23 Oct (APC). This is the fourth record from New York since 1970; two are previously unpublished specimens (25 Sept 1975, 24 Sept 1982) in the Buffalo Museum of Science salvaged from TV tower kills in Erie County.
- AMERICAN AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra americana*). 1982-40-A female—Carlton, Orleans Co. 4 June (RGS). An upstate record of a species more regularly found on Long Island.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER** (*Calidris ferruginea*). 1982-17-A,B bird in basic plumage—Morehouse Fish Hatchery, Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., 16 May (DRG, JC). 1982-18-A bird in pre-alternate molt same locality as above, 18 May (WEB). These are the first records from upstate New York.
- STILT SANDPIPER** (*Calidris himantopus*). 1982-33-A,B adult—Fairport, Monroe Co., 23 May (BC). An upstate, spring record of a species regularly present during the fall migration period.
- THAYER'S GULL** (*Larus thayeri*). 1982-13-A-C immature—Fulton, Oswego Co., 4-7 Feb, photographs on file (DWC, PDeB, FGS). 1982-46-A immature—town of Colonie landfill, Albany Co., 13 Dec-4 Jan 1983 (KPA). 1982-47-A immature with above 23 Dec (KPA).
- THICK-BILLED MURRE** (*Uria lomvia*). 1982-30-A one in basic plumage—Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 21 Oct (FGS, JH). An upstate record of a typically marine species.
- NORTHERN HAWK-OWL** (*Surnia ulula*). 1982-2-A single bird—near

Canton, St. Lawrence Co., 6 Jan-26 Feb, photograph on file (KC) 1982-14-A,B single bird—near Keene, Essex Co., 9 Feb-20 Mar, photograph on file (BRC, KPA). There were about three dozen reliable records from New York prior to 1970. Two additional, substantiated records were made between then and 1978: Vernon, Oneida Co., 15 Dec 1973-3 Mar 1974 (photograph in *Am. Birds* 28: 604, 1974) and North Gage, Oneida Co., 20 Dec 1974-late Feb 1975 (photograph on file). Since 1978 the NYSARC has accepted one record in addition to the two in this report.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Guiraca caerulea*). 1982-21-A pair nesting—Latourette Park, Richmond Co., 17 June to 1 July (N & BS). Full details of this first state nesting record appear in *The Kingbird* (32: 236-237, 1982).

HARRIS' SPARROW (*Zonotrichia querula*). 1982-11-A immature—Gilgo Beach, Suffolk Co., 30 Jan to early Apr (ROP). This is about the 36th record from New York and about the seventh from Long Island.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR (*Calcarius ornatus*). 1982-24-A male—Bay County Park, East Rockaway, Nassau Co, 6-8 June (THD). Full details, including a photograph, of this fifth state record appear in *The Kingbird* (32: 226-227, 1982).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1982-35-A,B two males—town of Hamlin, Monroe Co., 1-10 Apr (DS, MD). A small flock was observed at the same locality during the spring 1981! This is the tenth record from New York.

HOARY REDPOLL (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1982-2-A to 1982-10-A at least eight individuals—Pompey Township, Onondaga Co., between 31 Jan and 4 Mar, five trapped and banded, several photographed (DWC). 1982-12-A male—town of Onondaga, Onondaga Co., 4 Feb (JH). 1982-37-A female-plumaged bird—Rochester, Monroe Co., 17 Jan (FD). 1982-38-A two—Irondequoit, Monroe Co., 4 Feb (NSM). Numerous other individuals were reported without details during the late winter 1981/82 in what appears to have been the largest incursion of this form into New York ever recorded. However, observers must be cautious in identifying Hoary Redpolls; DWC noted trapping three additional birds that appear intermediate between this form and the Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*).

1981 REPORT NOT ACCEPTED

TANAGER (*Piranga sp.*) 1981-44-A. Fredonia, Chautauqua Co. late Nov-19 Dec. Indistinct photographs submitted with this report depict a bird of the color, size and build appropriate for Summer Tanager (*P. rubra*) or Hepatic Tanager (*P. flava*).

1982 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

WHITE IBIS (*Eudocimus albus*). 1982-48-A Lake Champlain, Clinton Co. 12-15 Sept.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (*Buteo regalis*). 1982-32-A Webster, Monroe Co., 12 Apr.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisea*). 1982-19-A Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge 7 May.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*). 1982-20-A DeWitt, Onondaga Co., 25 May.

GOLDEN-CROWNED WARBLER (*Basileuterus culcivorus*). 1982-41-A Hamlin Beach State Park, Monroe Co., 4 Sept.

CASSIN'S FINCH (*Carpodacus cassinii*). 1982-22-A Cleveland Township, Columbia Co., 1 June.

HOARY REDPOLL (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1982-39-A Hamlin Monroe Co., 20 Feb.

In addition to these records, reports of Glossy Ibis (upstate), Eurasian Wigeon, Peregrine Falcon, Lesser Black-backed Gull (upstate), and Boreal Chickadee (outside Adirondacks) were received, but filed without formal review. Blue Grosbeak is the third species to be added to the list of state nesting birds as a result of the Breeding Bird Atlas project. The total state list remains unchanged at 423 species.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul DeBenedictis, Chairman
Kenneth P. Able
Robert F. Andrie
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LETTER TO THE EDITORS

To the Editors:

In the Region 8 season report in the Winter 1983 issue (*Kingbird*, Vol. 33, p. 70), mention was made of two Cedar Waxwings banded in Greene County that "had orange tail bands like the Japanese race." This "record" was also mentioned in Robert Spahn's "Highlights of the Fall Season" in the same issue (p. 44), with the wording "Cedar Waxwings with the orange tail tips typical of the Japanese race." The cautious phrases "like..." and "typical of..." disappear in the Region 1 season report in the summer 1983 issue (*Kingbird*, Vol. 33, p. 187): "An alert bander discovered a Cedar Waxwing of the Japanese race with bright orange tail tips..." Mr. Spahn, too, abandoned his earlier tentative wording and stated "A Japanese race of the Cedar Waxwing (orange tail tips) was again recorded..."

I have no idea how the rumor got started that there is such a "Japanese race" of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), which is a purely North American species. The Japanese Waxwing (*B. japonica*) is a highly distinctive *species* (see color plate in *A Field Guide to the Birds of Japan*, Wild Bird Society of Japan, 1982, p. 235). It differs from both the Cedar Waxwing and Bohemian Waxwing (*B. garrulus*) in having bright red, not orange, tail tips; the black facial mask extends posteriorly to the back of the crown such that the longest feathers of the crest, which is proportionately longer than in the other two species, are black; and the black throat patch is more extensive than in either of the others. The under tail coverts are reddish brown, somewhat redder than in the Bohemian Waxwing. Like the latter species, the Japanese Waxwing has highly patterned wings, but the pattern is quite different. The primaries are tipped with white, forming a conspicuous row of white lines or v-shaped marks in the closed wing. In many individuals, some of these white marks are washed with pink. The secondaries are not boldly marked with white on the outer web as in the Bohemian Waxwing, but are gray with a broad black tip, on which there may be a small spot of pink and/or white. The greater coverts are tipped with dark red, forming a conspicuous band. About the only character in which the Japanese Waxwing resembles the Cedar more closely than the Bohemian is the yellowish abdomen, although this color averages paler and is generally less extensive than in the Cedar Waxwing.

For those who believe that the English names of birds should be diagnostic, that of *Bombycilla japonica* is rather inappropriate. The species is only a winter visitor to Japan (as well as to Korea and parts of eastern China), breeding in extreme eastern Siberia; and it *lacks* the waxy red tips found on the secondaries (and occasionally the rectrices and some wing coverts) of the other two species!

Orange tail tips have not been described for the Cedar Waxwing in any of the standard references that I have consulted. Nevertheless, this variation should be well known to those handling a large sample of this species. Of 207 study skins of non-albinistic Cedar Waxwings in the collection of Carnegie Museum of Natural History, six have orange tail tips, including both adults and juveniles. There are additional specimens of this color variety now in our freezer awaiting preparation. I do not know whether Bohemian Waxwings also exhibit occasional orange tail tips; of the 44 skins in our collection, none has anything richer than deep yellow on the tail tip.

The personnel of the Section of Birds of Carnegie Museum of Natural History have been collecting information about plumage variations in Cedar Waxwings for many years. As of the fall of 1983, we have banded almost 10,000 individuals of this species at our field station, Powdermill Nature Reserve, noting color variations such as number of wax tips and abnormal tail tip colors. We hope to complete this survey and submit it for publication during the coming year.

Kenneth C. Parkes
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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Late Nesting Attempt by an American Woodcock: The American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) is considered the earliest nesting upland gamebird in the northeastern United States. Nests of this species in the northeast have been observed in late March and early April when snow cover still remained on the breeding grounds. Most woodcock nesting in the Northeast occurs in April and May with eggs in most nests hatching in May. Eggs in late nests and renests usually hatch at the end of May and in early June (Sheldon 1967). I report here my observation of a woodcock incubating eggs at least 36 days after the last known hatching date for woodcock eggs in the Northeast.

On 11 July 1982 my bird dog pointed an incubating hen woodcock in an old field located three km south of Pulaski, Oswego County. The vegetation of the old field consisted of various forbs and grasses interspersed with arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) and alder (*Alnus* sp.) shrubs. When flushed, the hen went into the distraction display as described by Sheldon (1967). The nest, located at the base of an arrowwood shrub, contained three eggs. On 20 and 22 July the nest was examined, and in both instances the hen flushed from the nest performed the distraction display; on both days the nest still contained three eggs. When the nest was examined again on 24 and 26 July, the hen was not detected, and the eggs were cool to the touch. On 29 July, the hen was not located around the nest site, and the three eggs were collected. The eggs, which had been incubated for a minimum of 12 days, were found to be infertile.

The latest hatching dates reported for woodcock eggs in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York, respectively, are 15 June (Mendall and Aldous 1943), 15 June (Sheldon 1967), and 17 June (Bull 1974). The nesting attempt described in this report is the only known occurrence of a woodcock incubating eggs in July. Since the nest contained three eggs rather than the normal four, it was likely a renesting attempt (Mendall and Aldous 1943).

I wish to thank R. E. Chambers, T. P. Cullinan, and A. M. Johnsen for reviewing this paper in manuscript.

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- R. W. Parris, State University of New York, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York 13210.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A Central Breast Spot in the Savannah Sparrow: My many hours in the field participating in the New York State Atlas Project have convinced me of the regularity of which a central breast spot occurs on the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerulus sandwichensis*). The breast streaking seems to coalesce into a central spot which is less pronounced than that of the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) but nevertheless evident. I have conducted field trips in which novice birders seeing a frontal view of a Savannah Sparrow misidentified it as a Song Sparrow. This confusion arises because all of the commonly used field guides fail to mention that not only Song Sparrows but Savannah Sparrows as well may have a central breast spot.

The following were obtained from personal communication with Richard E. Bonney, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. C. J. Maynard in his *Handbook of the Sparrows and Finches of New England* (Newtonville, 1896) states that "the streaks sometimes form a central spot on the breast," (p. 31). A. C. Bent in *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*, Part II, states that "...the crisp, black or brown streaks sometimes cluster into a breast spot as in the song sparrow," (p. 689). In addition, John K. Terres in the *Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds* (1980) says "some have small spots, like song sparrows in [the] center of the breast," (p. 348).

Robert Andrie (personal communication) says after inspecting the Buffalo Museum of Science collection of study skins "that the presence, absence, and degree of size and darkness of the Savannah's spot could vary with age, moult, and perhaps subspecies as well." Personal communication with other expert birders (the abovementioned and John M. C. Peterson, Atlas Coordinator, Region 7) all agree that many Savannah Sparrows observed in the field have a noticeable breast spot.

R. Bonney goes on to say, "I have noted that the darkness of the central spot on the Song Sparrow varies with the distance from which the bird is observed, as Song Sparrows held in the hand often appear nearly 'spotless', perhaps this is also true of the Savannah Sparrow."

Perhaps this communication will clarify what I consider to be an omission from the commonly used field guides that results in confusion to the novice birder.

Mark Gretch, P.O. Box 748, Champlain, New York 12919

A central breast spot may sometimes be found in Lincoln's Sparrows (*Melospiza lincolnii*), immature Swamp Sparrows (*M. georgiana*), and immature White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). —Eds.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Unusual Song for Blue-winged Warblers: At 5:00 a.m. on 26 and 27 May 1983, while doing a breeding bird census on Mohonk Preserve land in Ulster County, we heard a new warbler (at least three of them) whose recorded songs were identical to that of the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*). As this bird is an "accidental" in our area and does not nest here, we were anxious to see it, but decided to continue our route and return when the sunlight was brighter. However, on both days when we returned, the birds had disappeared. On 28 May at 5:15 a.m., a Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) was heard and seen singing a perfect Cerulean song. After about a half-hour, a single bird was observed switching from the Cerulean song to a typical Blue-wing song. From about 5:00 to 5:30 a.m. the birds sang Cerulean songs only. They then alternated between songs, and by 7:00 a.m. were singing the Blue-wing song exclusively.

On 6 June at 4:00 p.m., a bird was seen and heard singing primarily the Cerulean song with a Blue-wing song occasionally thrown in. In mid-June, two of these Blue-wings were still in this same area, while a third had moved into another brushy area several hundred yards away.

Stacey Wright and Karl Beard, Mohonk Preserve Inc.,
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Summer Tanager at Feeding Tray: The spring of 1983 was an especially noteworthy one for the occurrence of Summer Tanagers (*Piranga rubra*) in the New York metropolitan area. Without going out very much, I saw at least four individuals at three different localities, both in Central Park and on western Long Island. All that I observed were males in immature plumage with patches of red. One of these was present at Helen Hirschbein's feeder in Cedarhurst, Nassau Co., for at least two days—9 and 10 May. Most interesting was the fact that it was feeding chiefly on sunflower seeds, with occasional visits to a suet rack at the side of the feeder. Ordinarily a fruit and insect feeder, this species has rarely been recorded to partake of seeds. In examining much of the North American literature, I was able to find only one reference to its seed-eating habits, in *Bird Life of Texas* by H. C. Oberholser, (1974, Univ. Texas Press, p. 851). The following statement, contained therein was "...some seeds are taken at times..." The writer would be interested to know if other observers have witnessed this habit.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Albinistic American Robin in Allegany County: Receiving a phone call about a peculiar white bird that had been in Wellsville for about a week, I went to investigate on 16 April 1983. As I drove along Fairview Ave., soon I spotted several American Robins feeding on a lawn, and with one of them, about 30 feet from my car, was a bird of the same size and shape as the robins but with white breast and back. The breast was faintly dusted with orange-brown at the top and along each side below the wings. With medium-sized yellow bill of the same size and shape as the robin's, the bird's head was gray with a lighter area around the eye, and the gray extended down the neck to the upper breast. The wings and tail were a darker gray blotched with white. The bird moved about, picking and eating earthworms from the lawn, just as the robin near it was doing. I studied it in the open in cloudy-bright light from noon until 12:15 p.m. with 7 x 50 binoculars and went back the following morning to try to get pictures. This time the bird was near where it had been feeding before, and in bright sunlight the orange-brown wash on the white breast was particularly beautiful. Because the size, shape, actions, head carriage and bill were like those of the robins always feeding with it, I am confident this was an albinistic American Robin. Others who also saw the bird and agree with me on its identification are Dorothy Stoll and Dan Gridley.

Vivian Mills Pitzrick, Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

This was the season in which the Breeding Bird Atlas Project really took off in many regions, with regular Atlasers and blockbusters combining to provide much data from areas relatively unbirded in the past. This volume of data has produced many very interesting breeding records and trends, but considerable difficulty in making historical comparisons due to the gross increase in observer activity. "One thing, however, is obvious, there are many areas in Region — [insert any region number] that deserve deeper investigation," to borrow a phrase from Harriet Marsi.

The weather was relatively uniform across the state, with most regions reporting prolonged hot spells and little rain from at least the second week in June to mid-August. Much of the rain which did fall came in torrents on a few days accompanied in several regions by severe weather, including thunderstorms, hail, and tornadoes. The generally warm, dry weather appeared to be ideal for breeding birds and Atlasers, except that song shut down a bit early on hot days and the heat beat down the observers. The cool early June weather pushed breeding back a bit for some species in many areas, providing for useful Atlasing into early August. It was very interesting that, in spite of a cool May and early June, several regions commented on a lack of late migrants into early June, especially among passerines. Region 10 seems to be the only notable exception to this, with a number of warbler migrants straggling through to quite late dates in June. Similarly, at season's end, the first push of fall migrants was still very slim and there were almost no significantly early migration dates.

As this season encompasses the heart of the breeding season, it is appropriate that we first look in some detail at the noteworthy breeding reports. As noted by Mike Peterson in Region 7, the sheer volume of records from Atlas work makes traditional format reporting difficult. In several reports, including Region 7, you will find different approaches to weaving Atlas data into the records. Looking for specific, exciting breeding records, you will find a wide variety. Very large Great Blue Heron colonies are noted in Regions 3 and 7. Reports of potentially breeding (though probably only summering) American Wigeon come from Regions 1, 2, and 6. From Montezuma NWR in Region 3 we have the usual table of waterfowl counts plus note of a dramatic drop in nesting productivity of waterfowl, grebes, American Coot, and Common Moorhen as the main pool was drawn down for necessary dike repairs. Among the raptor reports were an encouraging increase in Osprey nesting, with more hacking in Region 1, nesting in 2, 3, and

4, a pair nesting, though unsuccessfully, in 5, and excellent nesting reports from 7 and 10; Northern Harrier reports increasing in nearly all upstate regions plus possible nesting at Jamaica Bay NWR in Region 10; and the success of the Peregrine Falcon bridge nests in New York City, plus note of Barn Owls using similar sites there. As noted by Joseph DiCostanzo, these will become the world's most expensive eyries as they become unsafe for vehicular traffic. Spruce Grouse appeared in a new location as Region 5's first confirmed nesting. Many regions reported more rails than usual, certainly just a result of more intense Atlasing. In Region 1 a record late date, 16 July, for Killdeer eggs was tied at the same spot where a late nest was found in 1979. Among the gulls and terns is a first confirmed Great Black-backed Gull nesting in Region 5 and excellent tern nesting success reported from Region 10, although Black-crowned Night-Herons continue to be serious predators in some tern colonies. Owl notes include Short-eared confirmed in Region 5, mid-summer records in Region 4, and a congregation of 25-30 young Eastern Screech-Owls in one back yard in Region 2 for several days in June. Red-headed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler all were reported in increasing numbers or extending ranges in several regions. With the late breeding season came two additional late nestling dates: Brown Thrasher on 29 July in Region 1 and Eastern Bluebird on 25 August in Region 9. Species which can be anticipated as additions to our breeding species include the Brewer's Blackbirds in Region 2, present into June this year, and the Summer Tanagers of Region 10, possibly following one of their major spring incursions, such as this year. Along with all the upbeat breeding news came a few negatives: Pied-billed Grebe low, especially in Regions 3 and 7; American Bittern low across the state; American Black Duck very low where noted in Regions 2, 3, 5, and 6; Common Nighthawk low; Sedge Wren only in Regions 5 and 7; Loggerhead Shrike down to only one breeding site in Region 6; a local crash in Indigo Bunting numbers reported in Region 10; and many regions red-flagging Vesper, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows. Additional breeding bird data may be found in commentaries on Breeding Bird Survey results in Regions 1 and 6.

Of course this season is not all breeding; we have the tail end of spring migration in early June and the start of fall migration from late June on. While both migrations were rather weak this season, there are abundant non-breeding notes to be gleaned from the regional reports. Common Loons were reported from all regions, with relatively large numbers in some where they normally don't breed; an indication

of problems in traditional breeding areas? Brant were recorded at late spring dates in Regions 2, 3 and 7 and in large numbers, 3,000, in Region 10, all between 6 and 8 June. The numbers in the Montezuma NWR waterfowl table in the Region 3 report reflect the drawdown of the main pool and the late start for this fall's migration. That same pool drawdown did result in better shorebirding than has been experienced there in several years. Elsewhere, poor shorebirding was noted for Regions 1, 2, 5, and 6, possibly correlating with an early algal bloom and low levels of invertebrates along the Lake Ontario shore as suggested in the Region 6 report, contrasting with excellent shorebird reports from Region 10 where several much sought after species have become regular, and annual surprises are almost expected. Skipping around to illustrate other types of information you can look for, we find: date records: early White-rumped Sandpiper—9 July in Region 6, Pileated Woodpecker summering in Region 10, Tennessee Warbler—17 July in Region 2, and Parasitic Jaeger—27 August in Regions 2 and 6; trends: Common Black-headed, Little, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls more or less regular in summer in Region 10; exotics: Parrot Jungle of the North-Nyack/Piermont in Region 9, several species in Region 3, and more reports of the "eradicated" Monk Parakeet from Region 10; a pelagic trip with good results in Region 10; behavioral notes: Blue Jays eating Gypsy Moth larvae in Region 3, and cowbird parasitism on Black-capped Chickadee in Region 5 and Yellow-throated Vireo and Least Flycatcher in Region 10; and finally, an environmental warning from Region 9 where water chestnut is once more (after 30 years in check) expanding in shallow bays along the Hudson and threatening to shade out other plant species used as food by waterfowl.

As usual, among the 298 species recorded for this summer season were special treats, the rarities, most of which are highlighted early in each regional report and bold-faced in the text. Especially outstanding among these (and not mentioned above) are: Iceland and Common Black-headed Gulls far out of date range in Region 1; Royal Tern from 31 July to 2 August in Region 2, about as far inland as any has ever occurred on the continent; Three-toed Woodpecker far south for summer in Region 3; regional firsts for Tricolored Heron and Cerulean Warbler in Region 7; a Blue Grosbeak family group and a Western Meadowlark into summer in Region 9; and in Region 10 a first regional summer record of Eared Grebe, a second state record for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and a first state record for Little Stint. Several of these are obviously contenders for bird of the season, but as this is the heart of the breeding season, the BOTS Award goes to the state's first breeding pair of Palm Warblers and their offspring in Region 7.

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EDITORS' NOTE

This issue marks the "changing of the guard" for Regions 1 and 3. After a decade of selfless and unstinting labor as regional editors, both Vivian Mills Pitzrick and Walter E. Benning have decided that it is time for somebody else to have a chance at the job. The editors will certainly miss them. They met their deadlines right on the nose. Their successors will have a hard act to follow as both did a full and comprehensive account of the regions' activity that season. Again we wish to emphasize the fact that the Federation owes Vivian and Walt a tremendous debt of gratitude as the editors could never put out this publication without the hard work and devotion of such people. We therefore are saying "thank you" for the Federation and "happy birding."

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

When it was hot, it was very very hot and when it was cold, it was horrid, this enervating summer of '83. The unwelcome cold weathr of May continued nine days into June with temperatures five degrees below normal and a killing frost the 9th. Then the capricious Jet Stream shifted far to the north over Hudson Bay, ushering in the heat that persisted, with little respite, through the period. Temperatures every month averaged above normal, June by .6°, July by .9°, and August, very hot, by 2.3°. The 8 August marked the 29th successive bone-wearying day of temperatures 80° or above. Although breeding birds apparently suffered little harm from the cooler time at the end of the first week in July, the cold, cloudy, drizzly two days of 11 and 12 August were fatal to nestlings, such as bluebirds and Purple Finches, that happened to be at the tender age when wings were just out of sheath and adults had stopped brooding them.

As usual, summer precipitation varied greatly across the Region. For Allegany County, with most of it coming at the end of each month, rainfall was near normal for June and August and one inch below normal for July. However, during June and July, southern Chautauqua County averaged 1.5 inches below normal, but *four* inches fell in the Fredonia area on 29 July. A final bit of violence closed the season with a tornado at Lewiston 30 August.

Following a rather slow spring migration, it was surprising so little movement was noted in early June, although perhaps we early-rising diurnal birders should begin burning the candle at both ends in view of Bob Sundell's report of 5 June. From the evening sky between 10 and 11:30 P.M. he heard a host of calls including four Black-billed Cuckoos, 11 Gray-cheeked and 110 Swainson's Thrushes. With little change in the summer weather pattern, the shorebird and warbler migration was late and unimpressive for the fall prelude.

The Osprey hacking project, begun in 1980 on the Seneca Indian Reservation in Cattaraugus County, was resumed this year, there being none last year because of decimation of over half the population on Long Island where the young birds are obtained. Six baby Ospreys arrived here in early July, were given a month of TLC by Mary Forness and then were released for free flight with monitoring to be continued five or six weeks until they leave for Florida and South America. An adult in the area may have been one raised there in 1981.

The excellent results from the breeding bird surveys are no doubt a reflection of the finer singing weather, hence easier bird detection, of the warmer latter part of June which had 14% more sunny days than normal. Findings from the 15 routes of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Breeding Bird Census for western New York (BBC) were better than usual with *record high* counts for Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Warbling Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and House Finch, and with *record low* counts for Red-headed Woodpecker, Blackburnian Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and Eastern Meadowlark (W. Klabunde). From 16 of the 18 runs of the Allegany County "Mini" Run Breeding Bird Survey (Abbs), tallies were also above normal. Outstanding are 72 Black-billed Cuckoos, since the previous high was six. Other species with *highest ever* counts were: Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Cliff Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue-winged Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting and Bobolink, and with *lowest ever* counts were: Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Redstart, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle (C. Klingensmith). Below, status for a species is indicated by H+ or L- = highest or lowest ever; H or L = very high or very low; N+ or N- = somewhat above or below normal; sd+ or sd- = above or below one standard deviation; and no letter = normal.

This summer of many positives includes 1) continued benefit from Atlasing: growth in both number and expertise of birders as well as species turning up regularly in new localities; 2) Canada Geese summering in old haunts and breeding confirmed in the Town of Villenova, Chautauqua County; 3) near normal breeding survey numbers for the Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks and American Kestrel; 4) appearance of a few Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey families with young, the last named some-

times apparently nesting late; and more Upland Sandpipers; 5) good tern numbers; 6) slightly better Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports, and the Hairy Woodpecker up slightly on BBC but down on Abbs; 7) extension of the Acadian Flycatcher's range, and Alder, Willow, Least and Great Crested Flycatchers doing well except in northern Chautauqua County where the Alders may soon be ousted by Willows; 8) many Cliff Swallow colonies reported across the Southern Tier with several new from Atlas work, and good Tree Swallow production; 9) summering titmice in Chautauqua and Allegany Counties, a sprinkling of Red-breasted Nuthatches all season, and good wren reports; 10) Eastern Bluebirds well nurtured in Allegany County, but few other records (possibly more a reflection of neglect in reporting than scarcity of the species?); 11) low count of European Starlings on Abbs; 12) a few more Yellow-throated Vireos and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and breeding confirmed for the Yellow-breasted Chat; 13) normal numbers of Vesper Sparrows on BBC and Abbs; 14) both Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds less prevalent; and 15) House Finches popping out all over.

Summer negatives include 1) scarcity of loons and grebes, and no cormorants or American Bitterns; 2) only five Eastern Screech-Owls from four reports (well—better than none!); few nighthawks; and Belted Kingfishers and Northern Flickers down on breeding surveys; 3) low Eastern Phoebe tallies and production poor; 4) scarcity of Horned Larks (should be Blue Listed); 5) Hermit and Wood Thrushes low on BBC and Abbs; 6) no Loggerhead Shrikes; 7) poor Yellow Warbler production; 8) low breeding survey counts for the Savannah Sparrow; and a decade of decrease for the Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows in southern and central Chautauqua County (Sundell) but a few more in some other areas; and 9) very poor American Goldfinch production.

Rarities: American White Pelican, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Mute Swan, Common Black-headed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, "Brewster's" Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole.

Abbreviations: BC—Bird Club; BH—Buffalo Harbor; Cem—Cemetery; DH—Dunkirk Harbor; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res—Reservoir; Sanct—Sanctuary; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

Contributors: Allegany County BC, Mallory Adams, Mary Adams, Tim Baird, Kenneth Balmas, Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Cattaraugus County BC, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Don Cook (DCo), Lewis Day (Weather Data, Wellsville), Frances DeGroof, Harrison DeGroof, Stephen Eaton, Gordon Grantier, Helen Graves, Lake Erie BC, Doris Hurlburt, Jamestown Audubon Society, Walter Klabunde, Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Erma Larson, Terry Mosher, Katherine Palmer, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Robert A. Sundell (RS—Weather Data, s. and c. Chautauqua Co.), James Valente (JV), James VanScoy and Regina VanScoy; and Observers: Alan Anderson, Robert Andriele, Allen Benton, Nancy Bowser, Lois Buck (LBk), Douglas Carlson (DCar), Jerry Chapple, Arthur R. Clark (ARC), Willie D'Anna, Dorothy Danner, Jeanine Flory, David Gagne, Frank Gardner, Joanne Goetz, Joe Gula (JGul), Paul Hess, Morgan V. Jones (MVJ), Mary Jordan, Harriette Klabunde, Allan Lyford, Craig Lyford, Alice McKale, Willard McKale, Fred Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), Judy Mosher (JMos), Grace O'Dell, Elizabeth Pillsbury, Betsy Potter, Arthur Schaffner, Robert Schrader, Ora Stanford, Gladys Stanley, Willard Stanley, and Carol Wagner.

LOONS-DUCKS: The Com. Loon resting at Amity L, Allegany Co., in May stayed on thru 4 June, the only report. Also one of our spring rarities, three **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** were spotted from the pier at Barcelona Harbor on 23 July as they winged their way to the northeast over Lake Erie (RS). Although no Am. Bitterns were reported, a Least Bittern was found at Tonawanda WMA 20 July (BP). Other good long-legged wader reports include: Great Egret: at Tonawanda WMA, two on 18 June and one on 20 July; Green-backed Heron: four (sd-) on Abbs, max 10 at Farmersville Sta. 9 Aug (DC), and two adults with six juveniles at Stannards 14 and 15 July (HG); Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 15 at Lewiston 19 and 25 June (Miranians); and **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** one in the Town of Shelby 2 and 3 June, photographed by D. Cook and also seen by others including RSc. A **MUTE SWAN** appeared at Tift Farm NP 21 June (RA+) and at DH 12 Aug (TM, JF, JG+). Less common summer ducks include: Green-winged Teal: two at Burgeson Sanct. 31 July (DG)—possible breeder?; N. Shoveler: three at Iroquois NWR 28 Aug (AM, WM), the only report; Am. Wigeon: one at the beaver dam on Wall St., Town of North Harmony, Chautauqua Co., 6 Aug. (RS+), a bit late (another possible breeder?); Bufflehead: the female, apparently unable to fly, staying on from the spring season at Red House thru 24 July (TB, SE), unusual in summer; Hooded Merganser: a pair nesting again in Amity Twp, Allegany Co., and a female in Allegany SP 4 June (RS)—in "ideal breeding habitat"; Com. Merganser: three at Amity L. 3 June, but hopes dashed for CO; and Ruddy Duck: one at Iroquois NWR 28 Aug, the only report.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Max count of the Turkey Vulture was 51 at Iroquois NWR 5 Aug, and the only Bald Eagle reported was an imm at the Allegheny Res. near the hacking tower 27 Aug (RS, DG, AA) where it forced an Osprey to drop its fish. Other significant raptors include: N. Harrier: seven (H+) on BBC and one to two in Allegany and Chautauqua Counties; Sharp-shinned Hawk: two (H) on BBC, one on Abbs and one at Farmersville Sta. 3 June, the only reports; Cooper's Hawk: two (H) on BBC, none on Abbs, and 13 other scattered birds, including at least one young fledged in Amity Twp in July; N. Goshawk: an adult and imm in Allegany SP 7 July (TB), a previous breeding area, an adult in the Town of Cold Spring, Chautauqua Co., 11 and 12 June (DG, FG), near a former breeding site, and one in the Town of Charlotte 12 Aug (LBk, FR); and Red-tailed Hawk: two on Abbs (L-). With the N. Bobwhite seldom on any birder's list anymore, the one (H) on BBC was unusual. Shorebird notes of special interest include: Killdeer: an adult on eggs on the Alfred SUNY campus 26 July (EB); Mrs. Brooks found an adult on four eggs near here in 1979 on the same date, which was record late for N.Y. State; Willet: one at Niagara Falls irregularly 19-29 Aug (WD, BP), unusual but expected; Upland Sandpiper: one (L) on BBC, adults with young both west of Randolph and in the Town of Pomfret, two near Fredonia and two in the Town of Clarence; Ruddy Turnstone: one at Burgeson Sanct. 31 July (DG); Pectoral Sandpiper: max eight near Dunkirk 12 Aug; and Short-billed Dowitcher: max 15 at Burgeson Sanct. 31 July (DG). The **COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL** at Niagara Falls 19 Aug (WD) is an exciting rarity here; and the two-months-early Iceland Gull, a second-year bird identified in DH 30 July (TM), marks the first in summer for Chautauqua Co. while an adult also was here 14 Aug (AS). Summer terns showed up well: Caspian Tern: max ten at DH 30 July to 27 Aug (TM) plus at least nine, total, from two other Chautauqua Co. areas; Forster's Tern: one at Point Gratiot, Dunkirk, and four at DH 14 Aug (TM, AS, JGul) and up to three near Barcelona 20 and 22 Aug (RS), excellent numbers; Com. Tern: 500 ± at DH 14 Aug (AS), record high for the Region; and Black Tern: one at Tonawanda WMA 22 July (TM, JMos) and three at Iroquois NWR 5 Aug (AM, WM+).—better than zero for this Blue Listed species.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Single Long-eared Owls were discovered on Abbs near Alfred 12 June (EB) and at Lewiston 22 July (WD+); and four recently fledged young N. Saw-whet Owls were found at Science Lake, Allegany SP, 6 July (TB, Richard Clark). Only six areas reported Com. Nighthawks, all in small numbers, including one adult and one

young, banded, at Dunkirk 21 July (MVJ) and max of the migration: 20 going north over Jamestown 9 June and 14 headed south over Little Genesee 26 Aug. Four young Chimney Swifts fledged in Stannards in July (VP, GG). Although the Red-headed Woodpecker is still thriving along the Lake Erie shore, Dunkirk, it tallied but one (L-) on BBC and none on Abbs; one to two birds were found near Red House, Allegany SP, in the Town of Arkwright, on Grand Island and in Amity Twp.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Allegany SP 9 and 12 June was a bit late for spring departure (TB, DG, FG), and another appeared here 27 Aug (RS+), the first for fall. The **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** is evidently successfully expanding its breeding grounds, with many reports: Adults singing in three new Atlas blocks in s. Cattaraugus Co. 7 to 10 June (SE); one singing on Sawmill Run Rd. between Frewsburg and Onoville 11 June (RS, DG), old stamping grounds; one near Freedom, Cattaraugus Co. 20 June (EB, KP), a new location; two in the Town of Pomfret, Chautauqua Co., 21 June (TM, AS), also here in May; max two in the Town of Hamburg 22 and 29 June (RA, Leonards); and one at Quaker Run, Allegany SP, irregularly 21 June thru 8 July (TB). With Horned Larks so scarce, only 21 (L) on BBC and missing for the first time on Abbs (L-), the one with young near Alfred 24 June (EB) is particularly noteworthy. A Tree Swallow nest with four young near Alfred 28 July (EB), while not a record-breaker, is very late. Breeding was confirmed for the Carolina Wren at Lakewood and near Barcelona with other birds, usually singles appearing near Alfred, in the Towns of Portland and Westfield, and in Allegany SP. Other wren reports include: Winter Wren: one (H+) on BBC plus eight, total from five locations; and Marsh Wren: three in the Town of Arkwright 2 July (TM, AS), seldom reported. The Golden-crowned Kinglet tallied four (H) on BBC as well as up to six in Alfred, Ward and West Almond Twps, Allegany Co., 4-21 June with four young in a new Alfred area 1-31 July (EB); one carrying food in Thorpe Hollow, Cattaraugus Co., 8 June (TB); and eight from two sites in the Town of Ashford 7 July (AM, WM). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest with four eggs at Amity L 5-18 June (VP) was lost to cowbirds, but in a nearby area, later on 7 July, two adults were feeding five young out of the nest; singles were also found in Allegany SP 5 and 13 July (TB) and at Youngstown 31 Aug (WD, BP). Except for the Amity Lake Bluebird Trail, Belmont, that fledged 87 young from 17 pairs (VP) and nine pairs nesting near Alfred (EB), the E. Bluebird was poorly reported; other records were: nine on BBC, ten on Abbs and a total four from Hanover and Pomfret Twps, Chautauqua Co. (TM, AB). A Swainson's Thrush on BBC was probably a migrant; a large new colony was discovered w. of the Allegheny Res. 27 June (SE) and they were singing in the Quaker Run area 2-14 July (TB). Single N. Mockingbirds were seen at Houghton 21 June and near Fredonia 26 Aug; while a Brown Thrasher nest with three young in Amity Twp near Belmont 29 July (VP) was 15 days *record late* for nestlings in N.Y. State. The Yellow-throated Vireo is doing better: seven (H) on BBC, three on Abbs and singles at Jamestown 10 June, near Alfred 11-29 June and in Allegany SP 14 June-15 July. A Philadelphia Vireo appeared on BBC (N+). Single Golden-winged Warblers were seen: paired with a Blue-wing, defending territory, in Amity Twp; in Alfred and at Red House; and a male "**BREWSTER'S**" **WARBLER** was identified in the Town of Cold Spring, Chautauqua Co., 11 June (RS, DG). Other warbler highlights include: Nashville Warbler: one in Town of Portland, Chautauqua Co. 16 July (MVJ)—apparently expanding its territory to the lakeplain; Yellow-rumped Warbler: really settling in in western N.Y.: max 21 in Alfred Twp. during June and five nests documented here in July (EB), another nest in Ward Twp, Allegany Co., 2 July (VP), five birds in Allegany SP 4 and 5 June (RS+) and singles in Thorpe Hollow, Cattaraugus Co., 8 June (TB) and in the Town of Cold Spring 11 June (RS, DG); Black-throated Green Warbler: a nest with adult on in Amity Twp 7 June (VP); **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: one near the dam at Red House L., Allegany SP 4 and 5 June (RS+), studied at close range in excellent light, the second sighting of the species in Cattaraugus Co., the first being on 3 June 1979 in exactly the same area; Prairie Warbler: continued expansion in Allegany Co. with max 16 near Alfred during

June and six active nests here (EB); Cerulean Warbler: singles in Town of Pomfret and Scio Twp in June; Ovenbird: a nest with eggs on the Fredonia campus in June (AB); N. Waterthrush: two nests, each with four eggs: near Red House 17 June (TB) and e. of Forestville 17 June (AB, TM); Louisiana Waterthrush: 11 birds, total, from six areas, including an imm at Allegany SP 29 June (TB); Hooded Warbler: four (N+) on BBC and a female near Barcelona 14 Aug (RS) only reports; and Yellow-breasted Chat: one (H) on BBC; max five in the Town of Pomfret 21 June to 8 July (TM, AS, RS) and carrying food for young here 7 July (TM); and a pair and nest with three eggs near Red House 14 and 17 June, and young 26 June (TB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Although seen here in the spring, the **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** at the Dunkirk-Fredonia Airport thru 17 July (TM, AS, MVJ) apparently failed to nest. A quick look at other noteworthy sparrows includes: Grasshopper Sparrow: max eight near Alfred during July, the "most ever" (EB) and ten, total, in six other locations: Henslow's Sparrow: two in the Town of Busti and an adult with three imm e. of Bemus Pt. 13 July (RS, EP+), new location, max six near Alfred in July (EB), and one to three in Twps of Scio, Pomfret and Villenova; Swamp Sparrow: nest with four eggs near Red House 4 June (TB); and White-throated Sparrow: one (N+) on BBC; two on Abbs; one to two in Alfred, Ward, West Almond and Almond Twps, Allegany Co., during June and July (EB, CK, VP); nest with four eggs in last year's territory on Reddy Rd., Amity Twp., 2 July (VP); and nest with three eggs in swamp near Red House 9 June (TB). An **ORCHARD ORIOLE** was verified in the Town of Hamburg 11 June (ARC, AS) and a migrant female appeared at Burgeson Sanct. 31 July (DG), seldom seen after the nesting season. Although the Purple Finch tallied only 14 (L) on BBC, 78 were banded at Farmersville Sta. during the season. For the prolific House Finch, a better criterion of status than the breeding surveys, 90 (H+) on BBC and 17 on Abbs, are banding records for the season: over 500 in Fredonia with 92% this year's young (MVJ), and 96 at Farmersville Sta. (DC). Imagine, along with Terry Mosher, "500 write-ups?!" Fortunately this species no longer requires a verification report. Is winter this close upon us that Evening Grosbeaks have arrived already? One was seen in Alfred 15 Aug and two were there the next day (EB)—nearly two months early!

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The summer performed before a host of local groups. To sunworshippers and beachcombers she was the heroine, to farmers the villain, and to birders the unpredictable double agent. She produced a good breeding season with robins and doves fostering three to four broods, yet some species went unrecorded as breeders. Some new species, on the other hand, were confirmed as breeders in the region. Prevailing southerly winds brought warm, humid air to the region, but southern wanderers were nearly nonexistent. The performance ran for three months. Act One, June, was relatively normal with an average temperature of 66.7° F. Precipitation was a meager .38 inches below normal at 2.4 inches. Act

Two, July, was quite a different season. Dryness moved on stage and refused to leave until the waning moments. If not for the last two days of the month, a new record would have been established. The average temperature was 73.8° F—2.5° above normal. The real story was the 1.13 inches of precipitation. This amounted to less than half the average rainfall for July. The heat persisted as the finale neared. The temperature was up 1.2° with an average temperature of 70.7° F, yet August made up for July dryness with 5.43 inches of precipitation—2.23 inches above the norm. As a result, the show closed amidst mixed reviews.

On the positive side of trends for the season was the successful nesting season. Least Bitterns were up, showing that they are possibly more common than one might expect along the lakeshore marshes. Waterfowl had a good season with Wood Ducks having a banner year. Resident raptor populations were very good. American Kestrel broods were evident along many roads and highways. Virginia Rails seemed to expand into some new areas. They were reported from numerous new locations such as tiny ponds with limited marsh vegetation. Tern populations were on the up side towards the middle and end of the period prompting a "five" tern species day at Braddock Bay—a remarkable inland record. The nesting of a Northern Saw-whet in Bergen Swamp must be looked at favorably. Acadian Flycatchers expanded in the region. Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly numerous towards the end of the period—a finch winter forecast? The presence of White-eyed Vireo during the early part of the season led to speculation of breeding. June reports of Brewer's Blackbirds created additional speculation. Purple Finches were well above recent levels of abundance. All-in-all, a most positive look at the season.

Negatively speaking, which again seems to be of less magnitude, American Bittern populations were down slightly. The scarcity of suitable habitat may have been responsible for the meager shorebird totals. Both cuckoo species were down in numbers along the lakeshore, while Alder Flycatchers were nearly absent from the same area. No reports of Sedge Wren were received during the period. This is a continuation of recent trends. Henslow's Sparrows were absent from some known breeding sights.

Rarities: Ruff, Royal Tern, White-eyed Vireo and Brewer's Blackbird.

Abbreviations: A—Avon area; B—Bergen Swamp; BB—Braddock Bay, CH—Ontario Beach, Charlotte; G—Greece, H—Hamlin Beach State Park, HH—Harriet Hollister-Spencer Park; HL—Honeoye Lake; IB—Irondequoit Bay; K—Kendall; L—Letchworth State Park; WL—West Lakeshore, W—Webster; RS—Russell Station.

Contributors: Michael Bacon, Doug Bassett, Nancy Boudrie, Jean Browning, Carolyn Cass, Roberta Childers, Julie Claffey, Bruce & Pat Crowder, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Frank & Bob Dobson, Kay Doris, John & Arleen Foster, Yehuda Gelb, Kevin Griffith, Nurak Irasena, Oivind Jensen, Allen Kemnitzer, David Levy, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Bob & Margaret McKinney, Nancy Miller, Mary Beth & Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Tom Painting, Patty Reister, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symbonds, Steve Taylor, Tom Tetlow, Paul Weld, Monro Will, Doris Wilton, Alice Wood.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: reports of this species showed some interesting tendencies. June produced a rather large group of late birds with 40 H 3 June and one H 23-24 Aug was an early migrant report. Pied-billed Grebe: confirmed breeding was finally attained

with two separate reports of broods. Horned Grebe put in an early appearance with three H 25 Aug. Double-crested Cormorants appeared regularly in July with up to six daily at BB throughout the period and max of 28 WL 15 Aug. Am. Bittern: generally down this season. Least Bittern: they had a good year along the lakeshore with a max of nine G 16 July. Black-crowned Night-Herons remained stable yet low. Glossy Ibis: an imm, one WL 22 July (MD, KG, WS), was the only report of a wandering wader. Mute Swan: one K off and on thru the period acted wild but is of unknown origin. Brant: one BB 5-11 June was a surprise straggler. Canada Goose: a number of individuals and small groups spent the summer in the region. Wood Duck: a good breeding season was signaled with the appearance of large numbers along the west lakeshore. Green-winged Teal: one WL June was either late or summering. N. Pintail: one H 12 Aug was an early migrant. Lesser Scaup: one WL 4 June and one WL 23 July may have been the same summering individual, six H 25 Aug were most likely migrants. Oldsquaw: one H 3 June, late. White-winged Scoter: this species has been seen along the lakeshore in nearly every month, 18 H 3 June were late birds. No reports came from July but one H 12 Aug was the first fall sighting. Com. Goldeneye: one RS 29 Aug was an early individual. Com. Merganser: one H 9 Aug may have been one of the local breeders from the lower Genesee River. Red-breasted Merganser: 25 H 3 June was a high count for such a late spring date, one BB 5 Aug was the first fall report. Ruddy Duck: one G 1 June was late for spring, one BB 27 Aug was an early fall report.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures continue to increase in the region with more frequent sightings to the lakeshore. Osprey: one BB 23 July and at other times during the period was an uncommon occurrence in the region. Accipiter reports were encouraging. Cooper's Hawk: one W 17 July, one W 31 July. N. Goshawk: nesting pair HH, one BB 13 Aug. A Red-shouldered Hawk sighting, one HL 12 June, was unusual for the period. Am. Kestrels had a banner year. Merlin: one A 17 Aug was the only other falcon report. The shorebird flight began as usual in July, but the magnitude was less than exciting. Lack of habitat may have been a major factor. Still, the variety was good and there were some interesting reports. Willet: one H 14 Aug (MD, WS). Upland Sandpiper: ten Monroe County Airport 7 Aug (CC). Whimbrel: one H 27 July (WS), two BB 1 Aug, one H 1-25 Aug (MD, WS). Red Knot: one H 30 (RO), first of fall, two H 13 Aug (JB, CC), two to four H 18-24 Aug (MD, WS) lower than usual. Western Sandpiper: one B 2 June (WS), one WL 2 Aug (KG), one H 24 Aug (WS). Baird's Sandpiper: several reports. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 4 Point Breeze 31 Aug (MD, WS), low. RUFF: one Perinton 5 June (RS), good spring record. Wilson's Phalarope: one K 27 July (WS). Parasitic Jaeger: early searching this year produced an early sighting, one H 27 Aug (MD). The gull situation along the lakeshore was relatively normal, but the terns were in the process of a noteworthy season. Two observers recorded five species on a single day at BB in Aug. Caspian Tern: max 40 BB 18, 27 Aug. **ROYAL TERN:** one BB 31 July (MD, WL *et al.*), photos (KG), reported again 1-2 Aug. Undoubtedly this was the bird of the season for Region 2. It was cooperative enough to allow photographs with Caspians and lingered long enough for additional observations. Com. Tern: max 25 BB 29 July. Forster's Tern: max 11 CH 20 Aug. Black Tern: a good number of individuals were reported through the end of the period.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos were down in general. E. Screech-Owl: an interesting occurrence was 25-30 Highland Park 13-16 June (OJ, DL), mostly imm flying about at dusk. N. Saw-whet: one B 14 June (WS) still further signals the likelihood that breeding occurs in the region. Com. Nighthawk: good numbers continued to be seen, max 47 G 2 June. Whip-poor-will: one W 1-31 July was an unusual report along the lakeshore. Red-headed Woodpecker: good number of reports from the area. N. Flicker: they're everywhere—a very successful nesting season.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: some late spring reports came from June, one WL 4 June, one L 5 June, one Livingston Co. Park 5 June; and the first of the fall was reported two Riverside Cemetery 27-30 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: this species

was more widespread in the region this summer; two B thru the period (WS), one Island Cottage Woods 1 June (CC), one L 18 June (ST), three Durand-Eastman Park 23 July (RS), adults feeding young. Swallows did well after an early arrival this spring was greeted with a brief cold snap. Bank Swallow: max 7,000 BB 14 Aug. Cliff Swallow: nested again at BB, new nest location also reported further west on the lakeshore. Barn Swallow: max 300 WL 15-19 Aug. Black-capped Chickadee: a great breeding year. Carolina Wren: they're holding their own in the region with regular reports of individuals and family groups. Sedge Wren: no reports. Swainson's Thrush: one Cobb's Hill 8 June, late migrant; one HH 12 June, nesting?, one H 29 Aug, first of fall. Hermit Thrush: one HH 4, 12 June, traditional haunt. Am. Robin: large numbers everywhere, multiple broods were the rule. Loggerhead Shrike: one BB 19 Aug (MD), not very encouraging.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: one IB 4, 10 June (RS), the bird was singing regularly but no nesting was confirmed. Tennessee Warbler: one G 1 June, late spring report; one W 17 July, first of fall? Orange-crowned Warbler: one Riverside Cemetery 28 Aug (ST), first fall report. N. Parula: one Cobb's Hill 9 Aug, first fall report. Cape May Warbler: one H 25 Aug, first fall report. Black-throated Blue Warbler: one L 5, 18 June, uncommon nester. Prairie Warbler: one B 18-19 June (R & SS, B & PC), new location. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Mt. Hope area 1 June, late spring migrant; one WL 13 Aug, fall arrival. Blackpoll Warbler: one G 1 June, late spring report; one BB 19 Aug, fall arrival. Kentucky Warbler: one L 5 June (mob), nesting? Wilson's Warbler: one G 19 Aug, first fall report. Yellow-breasted Chat: one L 5 June, one Mendon Ponds 1-30 June.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: good nesting season. Vesper Sparrow: few reports. Savannah Sparrow: abundant along the lakeshore. Henslow's Sparrow: colony at L, absent from other nesting localities. White-throated Sparrow: one Parma 31 July, first fall report. Dark-eyed Junco: one BB 22 July, fall arrival. Western Meadowlark: present thru the period at Pt. Breeze site. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** two Hamlin 3 June (MD), one female 4 June (MD, KG); latest report for the species ever in the area; confirmed nesting may not be too far away. Orchard Oriole: successful nesting at traditional Pt. Breeze site, one Canadice 1 June. Pine Siskin: one W 17 July, interesting report.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The cold wet weather of spring continued into early June, but on 10 June summer arrived in full force. The period was hot and dry except for a brief cold spell in late June, a cool break the second week in July and the same in August. Otherwise the temperature was in the 80's or 90's almost every day. There was little rain—mostly spotty—after early June until August.

Summer reports were meager. It was too hot for birding except for the most avid and dedicated people and they were busy Atlasing. The Atlas program did bring us reports from Steuben County, an area from which we have received very few records in recent years.

Two exotic species were reported, both of which were no doubt escaped birds. A Black-hooded Parakeet visited the Malcolm Lerch home 27 June and was seen two miles to the west on 5 August. A Red-crested (Brazilian) Cardinal was seen east of Ithaca in mid-August. This species was reported from Tioga Co. in April, Broome Co. in May, and Chemung Co. in mid-April—all the same bird?

Most shorebird reports were from two places, Corning Glass Works pond at Big Flats, where the hot dry weather lowered the water level and exposed mud flats, or Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge where the main pool was partially drained to expedite repair work on the dike. These two spots provided the best shorebird records in several years.

Nesting success at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge was down, with only 93 broods of geese and ducks combined, one brood each of Common Moorhen and American Coot, and no broods of Pied-billed Grebes. Black Terns were scarce.

Henslow's, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows were way down in the area southeast of the south end of Canandaigua Lake and spotty in the rest of the Region.

Rarities: Glossy Ibis, Three-toed Woodpecker, Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; M—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen—Seneca; * (starred)—confirming details on file.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: sighted on Keuka, Sen and Cay Lakes with a max of 15 on Sen L 20 July, many for summer. Pied-billed Grebe: reported as "none" from Penn Yan and Elmira; down drastically at M with no broods seen. Double-crested Cormorant: one Hammondsport 28 July; nine Big Flats 11 Aug; several at M all summer. Am. Bittern: one Tompkins Co 19 June, only report. Least Bittern: one Big Flats 30 July, only report. Great Blue Heron: only one nest at M but 600-700 birds there fishing, most of them coming from the big colony in Marengo Swamp in Region 2. Great Egret: one Elmira 12 Aug; one Bath 20 Aug; six max for the summer at M. Black-crowned Night-Heron: about 30 pairs nested at M but there was no activity at the Van Cleef L colony at Sen Falls. GLOSSY IBIS: one M 13 July. Brant: one Aurora 7 June. Canada Goose: the Richardson's race bird remained on Sen L near Dundee where it has been since last fall.

Max waterfowl numbers at M as reported by the Refuge personnel:

Wood Duck	700 31 Aug	N. Shoveler	500 31 Aug
Green-winged Teal	1,500 31 Aug	Gadwall	500 31 Aug
Am. Black Duck	80 31 Aug	Am. Wigeon	1,200 31 Aug
Mallard	1,500 31 Aug	Redhead	25 31 Aug
N. Pintail	50 31 Aug	Ruddy Duck	12 31 Aug
Blue-winged Teal	1,700 31 Aug		

Note that in all cases the max occurred at the end of the period indicating that birds were moving into the Refuge. Wood Duck: two broods at Big Flats 30 July. Am. Black Duck: one pair only at Watkins Glen; only two broods at M. Mallard: many nesting at the south end of Sen L and at Big Flats. Canvasback: one brood M. Redhead: one brood M. Hooded Merganser: female with five young 29 June Big Flats. Com. Merganser: two females each with young Elmira.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 15 north of M 4 July. Osprey: the nest at M fledged one young; one Elmira 15 Aug. N. Harrier: encouraging summertime reports from Catlin, Rushville, M and Steuben Co. Red-shouldered Hawk: nested in Steuben and Cay Cos. Ring-necked Pheasant: two or three successful broods near Phelps. Otherwise reported as "none" or "very scarce." Ruffed Grouse: nesting reported from Rushville, Elmira, Steuben Co. and north of M. Wild Turkey: continuing to do well. Virginia Rail: young found at Big Flats and 12 at M on 13 July. Sora: adult and young Big Flats. Com. Moorhen: down at Elmira and drastically so at M with only one brood noted there. Am. Coot: no reports from Yates Co; at M numbers dropped from 200 in June to 50 in Aug with only one brood sighted. Black-bellied Plover: M 13 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: two to three Big Flats 30 July thru; 500 imm M 1 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: a few M early July thru; 2 Big Flats 16 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: 170 M 23 July; Big Flats. Upland Sandpiper: reported from Steuben Co. only. Sanderling: one M 26 July; one Big Flats 30 July for only the second Elmira area record in 30 plus years. Stilt Sandpiper: 20 M 2 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Big Flats 28 June, an early migrant; 23 M 16 Aug. Caspian Tern: two Ithaca in July; four Watkins Glen 9 Aug and two on 22 Aug; two M 13-27 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: reported from Schuyler, Yates and Tompkins Cos. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reported from Schuyler, Yates and as nesting in Steuben Co. Com. Barn-Owl: Steuben Co. Great Horned Owl: young calling Catlin; calling Lansing 23 Aug. Barred Owl: young calling Catlin. Long-eared Owl: one Ferguson's Corners, Yates Co first week in Aug. Whip-poor-will: calling Big Flats last week of June. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: up in Yates Co. Red-headed Woodpecker: widespread reports; feeding young at Montour Falls and north of M. Downy Woodpecker: the melanistic bird at Trumansburg, reported on in the last issue, remained until near mid-June; more than usual numbers reported at feeders in Yates Co. **THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** one West Cameron, Steuben Co. 16 June (J. Clinton *vide* DM).*

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one M 7 June; one north of M 18 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Ithaca 7 June; three banded Penn Yan July and Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: Arnot Forest, Elmira singing 26 June (Smith, Gilbert). Least Flycatcher: 15 banded Penn Yan July and Aug. Purple Martin: very low numbers. Bank Swallow: 200 plus nests in a colony at Montour Falls; ML banded 409 at a colony of 1,000 nests south of Dresden and he had 36 returns from the birds banded at this colony in 1982; nesting near Rushville. Cliff Swallow: four nests on a barn near Ithaca. Blue Jay: seen eating Gypsy Moth larvae in the Elmira area 2 July. Carolina Wren: two locations in Schuyler Co. Sedge Wren: no reports. Marsh Wren: could not be found, though searched for, in Schuyler Co. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nest Rushville; observed Steuben Co. E. Bluebird: encouraging reports especially from the southern half of the Region with 20 nesting pairs in Yates Co. Swainson's Thrush: at Penn Yan ML banded individuals on 26 July, 6, 13 and 23 Aug. Gray Catbird: up at Penn Yan where 117 were banded to the end of the period. N. Mockingbird: at Phelps a nesting pair was so noisy and aggressive that the landowner removed the nest. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: singing many days north of Phelps, two birds were seen. The crash Atlasing done in Steuben Co. turned up the following species of warblers: Blue-winged, Nashville, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Prairie, Cerulean, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, **KENTUCKY** (D. Judell *vide* DM)*, Mourning, Hooded, Canada and Yellow-breasted Chat. "Brewster's" hybrid: Ithaca 8 June and 9 July at a new location. "Lawrence's" hybrid: on 19 June south of Elmira DC saw a "classic" "Lawrence's" feeding three young. One was a typical Golden-wing, one was all yellow with just a line near the eye and one was a mixture of gray and yellow. Nashville: singing male Town of Hornby, Steuben Co. last two weeks of June and into July. Yellow: heavy

migratory movement late July. Bay-breasted: migrants 28 Aug New Townsend and Penn Yan. Cerulean: at two new locations in the Elmira area. Am. Redstart: large numbers at Brooktondale and Lansing 14 Aug. Prothonotary: carrying nesting material M June. N. Waterthrush: at mouth of Reeder's Creek, Town of Varick, Sen Co; adult carrying food Brooktondale. Com. Yellowthroat: at Hornby TB counted 25 adults carrying food in a Christmas tree plantation with trees three feet high.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: singing at New Townsend June-July and at Rushville 24 July; at eight locations in Steuben Co. Henslow's Sparrow: two locations Steuben Co; one Valois, Sen Co. Orchard Oriole: one singing Pine City 4 June for a week or more. Evening Grosbeak: female at Odessa 13 Aug and one at Sen Falls 19 Aug.

R.D. 2, 793 Tyre Rd., Clyde, New York 14433

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

Summer, 1983—the year of the Big Debate. Did we or did we not live through a Heat Wave? The official weather service definition of a heat wave is “several consecutive days with high temperatures (taken in the shade) in the 90's or higher.” Simple enough. Why any debate? Official National Weather Service reports from Edwin A. Link Field Station placed area temperatures 11 through 19 July—one of the hottest periods—at 88 degrees—hence no heat wave.

However, Link Field with its professional meteorological instruments, is located high atop Mt. Ettrick (elevation 1,600'). Many sweltering lowland valley dwellers (elevation \pm 800') looked at their ordinary backyard thermometers and day after day noted mercury readings over the 90 degree mark. Try to tell them there was no Heat Wave!!!

Well, heat wave or no—except for a few weeks early in June, Region Four suffered one of the steamiest, stickiest, muggiest summers remembered by many. Day after day dawned “hot, humid and hazy.” Morning after morning lengthened to noon and then afternoon with the mercury climbing and the haze hanging on. Perspiring wishful thinkers seemed to discern the faint outlines of cumulus clouds—the kind that could blossom into full-blown, shower-producing thunderheads. Faint heavenly rumblings often added to the illusion, but nothing ever materialized. A very few localized spots perhaps had light rain but mostly the sun sank, fire-red, viewed through the same hot, humid haze that had colored its rising. “Forty percent chance of showers tomorrow,” came the pronouncement from Mt. Ettrick. Not good enough! Tomorrow after tomorrow was more of today and yesterday—“hot, humid, hazy,” with a few notable exceptions—mostly violent. On 17 June, short, concentrated, intense thunderstorms ripped through the area. Three-quarters of an inch of rain fell on Mt. Ettrick in the 15 minutes between 5:45 and 6:00 p.m. A 46 mph gust of wind was reported at 5:46 p.m. Unfortunately the precipitation came so fast on the hard, dry earth

that most of it ran off, flooding streets and underpasses in Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties. Some hail damaged crops and gardens.

Also, on 21 July a short but violent windstorm, accompanied by precipitation that fell as rain in some parts, but as marble-sized hailstones in many locations, left a wake of uprooted trees, fallen limbs, damaged properties and flattened croplands. Electrical outages were common. Only on 11 and 12 August did the area enjoy a good, slow, steady rain. On those days a total of 3.42" at Greene, 3" in Bainbridge, 2.30" in Oneonta and 1.46" in Cooperstown fell on parched dairylands and burned lawns. Grateful residents longed for more, but incredibly this short respite was quickly terminated and it was back to the usual "hot, humid, hazy." Heat records continued to be broken or tied until the last day of August before relief finally came. If we did not live through a Heat Wave somewhere in there, it sure was Some Impressive Hot Spell!

And what about the birds through all of this? It would appear that aviana coped well. However, this would be hard to prove by our records for the issue became obscured by a factor totally unrelated to and existing in spite of the weather. The fourth year of the Breeding Bird Atlas Project really took off in Region Four! Not only were more birders out more often and for longer periods, but also several "block-busting" teams were covering the hinterlands. As a result we have high numbers, most of which cannot fairly be compared with previous records, and some very interesting results which may or may not indicate trends.

The only really rare birds to show were: Black-crowned Night-Herons (not related to BBA), Short-eared Owl, White-eyed Vireo, Pine Warbler (all BBA finds), and a Kentucky Warbler and an Orchard Oriole (both BBS records).

Many birds usually found only occasionally, or at best sparsely, appeared in increased numbers. Among these were Common Loon, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. Hard to tell how many, if any, of these are really extending their ranges or increasing their numbers. One thing, however, is obvious. There are many areas in Region Four that deserve deeper investigation.

Abbreviations: BBA—Breeding Bird Atlas; BBS—Breeding Bird Survey; Br.Co.—Broome Co; Chen.Co.—Chenango Co; CO—confirmed; Cort.Co.—Cortland Co; CVSP—Chenango Valley State Park; Del.Co.—Delaware Co; imm—immature; OPM—Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PO—possible; PR—probable; REEC—Rogers Environmental Education Center.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two 9 June, Susquehanna R, CVSP, one bird in eclipse plumage, one in nuptial plumage; the bird in eclipse plumage remained in one spot close to the far bank of the river from observers, the bird in nuptial plumage spent approx. 10

minutes diving in mid-river, then swam close to the far side, stayed there in one spot for about 10 minutes, then parted the reeds on the river bank and waddled through them, out of sight; an attempt to locate the spot from the far side the following day failed; there was no sign of the birds a week later; were these birds displaced from their usual Adirondack Lake breeding grounds? Was the eclipse bird a first-year male, therefore inexperienced? Was the bird in nuptial plumage simply going through instinctive nest-seeking motions? (BB, FL, HM). Pied-billed Grebe: two reports, possibly the same bird, one 25 Aug Portlandville, one 29 Aug Portlandville (MD, KW). Am. Bittern: three reports all from atlasers; one PR Chen.Co. (JL); one PO Cort.Co. (MH); one PR Cort.Co. (MH). Great Blue Heron: regular thru. Green-backed Heron: regular thru. **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON**: 13 imm 23 Aug to end of period. Susquehanna R, Br.Co., young wandering during post-breeding period, no doubt. Canada Goose: five reports; two 12 June, farm pond, Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); two Genegantslet R, Smithville Flats, Chen.Co. (RM); two July Delhi, "on a farm pond—no young" (MC); five June, Corbettville BBS, one stop (JL). Wood Duck: several Br.Co., Chen.Co., OPM, Tioga Co.; 30 ducklings Lily Lake CVSP 15 June (BB, FL, HM); a good year. Am. Black Duck: moderately regular thru. Mallard: common thru. Blue-winged Teal: pair June Chen.Co.; a nearby resident reported to Atlasers that a pair had nested in the Rod & Gun Club sanctuary swamp but the young had fledged and were gone by time Atlasers arrived (BB, FL, HM). Hooded Mergansers: a "brood" 12 June reported at REEC, Sherburne (Chen.Co.), only one sighting (LC); three June-July Atlasing Chen.Co. (JL). Com. Merganser: pair 8 June, CVSP, flying up-river (BB, FL, HM); one June-July BBA report Del.Co. (JL); one July BBA Del.Co. (JC, DJ).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: moderately regular Br.Co., Chen.Co., Cort.Co., Delhi, OPM; 15 in one location July Del.Co. (JC, DJ). N. Harrier: four reports: one 8 June CVSP (BB, FL, HM); one 21 June Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); occasional June Delhi (MC). A pair June-July So. Otselic, "the female often observed carrying sticks and food back to one area, nest never located." (DM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 15 reports scattered thru Br., Chen., Del., Tioga Cos; one CO nesting So. Otselic (DM). Cooper's Hawk: eight reports: one 12 July OPM (MD, KW); one 6 July Afton (Chen.Co.) (HM); one 29 Aug OPM (MD, KW); during June-July Atlasing period, two Cort.Co. (HM), one Chen.Co. (JL); two Del.Co. (JC, DJ); Chen.Co. bird was "bombed in flight by a kestrel, turned over in air to fight with its talons." (JL). N. Goshawk: one 23 June n. Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM). Red-shouldered Hawk: seven reports: one 28 June n. Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); rest June-July, Chen.Co. two PO, one PR (JL), Del.Co. one PO, one CO (nest with eggs) (JC, DJ), Tioga Co. one PO (JC, DJ); an encouraging increase though probably slanted by Atlasing. Broad-winged Hawk: 24 reports scattered thru; two in Cort.Co. CO (MH), two in Chen.Co. CO (JL). Red-tailed Hawk: regular thru. Am. Kestrel: very common thru. Ring-necked Pheasant: ten reports all in the June-July Atlas period; three Br.Co., all PO; three Cort.Co. all PR (MH); three Del.Co. all PO; one Tioga Co. PO. Ruffed Grouse: common thru. Wild Turkey: common thru; definitely on the increase. N. Bobwhite: three reports; one 9 Aug Norwich (LC); one PO Chen.Co. (JL), one PR Chen.Co. (JL), both June-July Atlasing period. Virginia Rail: two 25 July REEC "seen in the same place for at least two weeks and responded to a recording of their song. No young seen." (LC); one PR Cort.Co. during Atlasing period (MH); one Del.Co., July (JC, DJ). Sora: one 2 Aug, Portlandville "saw him at edge of cattails" (MD, KW); three June-July Atlasing period records; one CO Chen.Co. (JL); one PO and one PR Cort.Co. (MH). Com. Moorhen: two 4 June CVSP (FM, HM), in reeds in typical nesting habitat; two 7 July REEC "two sitting on same log in the marsh, no nest found, no young seen." (LC). Killdeer: common thru. Solitary Sandpiper: one 20 July Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); one 23 July OPM (MD, KW); both very early records; five 26 Aug, one 27 Aug, one 30 Aug, Chen.Co. (JL). Spotted Sandpiper: common thru in June and July; first probable migrant returned to farm pond Vestal 9 Aug (GK). Upland Sandpiper: two records, both during June-July Atlasing period; one PR Cort.Co. (MH);

one PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); has been reported before in Cort.Co. but Tioga Co. record is a new one found thru Atlasing. Least Sandpiper: six 16 Aug, six 26 Aug, eight 27 Aug, four 30 Aug—all Chen.Co. (JL). Com. Snipe: six reports all during the June-July Atlasing period; four Cort.Co. (MH), one PO, one PR Chen.Co. (JL). Am. Woodcock: regular two places in Vestal, Br.Co. (GK, HM); 13 Atlas reports; Chen.Co. two PO, four PR (JL); four PO Cort.Co. (MH), three PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ). Ring-billed Gull: "several" 27 July Whitney Point Res. (FL, HM), 80 plus July Otsego Lake (MD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: moderately common thru. E. Screech-Owl: one 1 Aug, Vestal, Br.Co. (HM), one 3, 5, 22 Aug Chen.Co. (JL), one June Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). Great Horned Owl: Br.Co. occasional; Atlasing results; three CO Chen.Co. (JL); two PO, one PR Cort.Co. (MH), two PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ), two PO Tioga Co. (JO, DJ). Barred Owl: one PR 23 June CVSP (BB, FL, HM); one 9 July n. Br.Co. (FL, HM); one PO Cort.Co. (MH); one PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ). Long-eared Owl: one heard twice in June in a location where it had been seen in previous years, Delhi (NC). **SHORT-EARED OWL:** one PO July Del.Co. discovered by Atlasers (JC, DJ). Com. Nighthawk: numbers in Binghamton, Johnson City and Oneonta about the same as last year; no reports of large flocks migrating but regular sightings during the last two weeks of Aug of small bands of a dozen birds or so working the insect hatches on the Susquehanna R near Binghamton. Chimney Swift: usual numbers in Binghamton, Johnson City area; several reports on BBA blocks; one large group (80+) in Vestal mid-Aug (GK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: reported regularly by BB Atlasers and others; a good year. Belted Kingfisher: common thru in appropriate habitats. Red-headed Woodpecker; two BB Atlas reports of pairs regularly at feeders, in one case bringing in young in Aug; locations about five miles apart; both in Afton area (HM, LR); one Cort.Co. PO (MH); one REEC "nesting in elm near marsh" (LC). Red-bellied Woodpecker: Newark Valley birds nesting, regular patrons at feeding station, bringing in young; Atlas reports, three CO Cort.Co. (MH), one PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: many reports; at least ten new sites discovered by Atlasers; can now be reported as moderately common thru in appropriate habitats. Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: moderately common thru. N. Flicker: common thru. Pileated Woodpecker: here again Atlasers discovered several new locations and bird can be listed as moderately common in appropriate habitats.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: common thru. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 8 Aug adult, one 26 Aug imm, both at a Vestal banding station (HM). Alder Flycatcher: regular thru in appropriate habitat. Willow Flycatcher: regular thru in appropriate habitat. Least Flycatcher: common thru. E. Phoebe: common thru. Great Crested Flycatcher: common thru. E. Kingbird: common thru. Horned Lark: two reports: one 8 June Newark Valley (Tioga Co.) (LD), one 6 Aug Edwin A. Link Airport, Br.Co. (MS). Purple Martin: two colonies in Br.Co. (FL, MS), one colony in Cort.Co. (MH). Tree Swallows: common thru but nested late; one birder at a farm with 34 boxes banded over 100 on 28 June; last year at this same date only six were banded because the nestlings were deemed to be so advanced that a disturbance like banding would have caused them to fledge too early. N. Rough-winged Swallow: 32 locations reported; numbers up from last year but unquestionably due to Atlasing. Bank Swallow: 29 reports; numbers up decidedly from last year but definitely due to Atlasing. Cliff Swallow: 31 reports; seems to be increasing but much is due to Atlasing. Barn Swallow: common thru; still around in large numbers at period's end; a late nesting due to cold spring? Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: three reports: one 9 June Br.Co. (BB, FL, HM), one July Br.Co. (CH, HM), one 23 June Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: nine reports: three of confirmed nestings; one family of five or six 7 July OPM (MD, CW, KW), one Chen.Co. (JL), one Cort.Co. (JL), one Cort.Co. (MH). White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: 14 reports scattered thru; one 16 June "a pair

at nest under loose bark of old tree about 5 or 6 feet off ground in swampy area" OPM (MD, KW); three CO in Chen.Co. "one at a nest under loose bark of a tree, feeding young" (JL). Carolina Wren: four reports: one CO 20 July Br.Co. "bird singing loudly on barn weathervane, stopped abruptly and entered cavity in barn ventilator, remained five minutes, emerged, resumed singing on weathervane, repeated performance several times" (BB, FL HM); two PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ); one PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). House Wren: common thru. Winter Wren: 16 reports: one PO 22 June Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); one PR 6 July Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); seven Chen.Co. one CO (JL); one CO Cort.Co. (MH); four Del.Co. (JC, DJ); two birds, each in different location, 16 June OPM (MD, KW). Marsh Wren: one 23 July REEC "heard on this date and on several other occasions; no nest or young found" (LC); two CO Cort.Co. (MH). Golden-crowned Kinglet: one Corbettsville BBS (JL); one PO, two PR, three CO Chen.Co. (JL); one PO, one CO Del.Co. (JC, DJ); usually found in spruce islands. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one pair 11 June Windsor (Br.Co.) "very noisy near nest in mixed woods" (JS); two PO, one PR, one CO Del.Co. (JC, DJ); one PO So. Otselic (DM); one PO, one CO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). E. Bluebird: doing well thru. Veery: common thru. Swainson's Thrush: one 18 June Bowman's Lake (Chen.Co.) (JL); one Del.Co. (JC, DJ); the Del.Co. record might be expected as on the edge of the Catskill breeding range but the Chen.Co. record is definitely unusual and may indicate a trend to extend range. Hermit Thrush: several reports scattered thru; some new records due to Atlasing. Wood Thrush: common thru. Am. Robin: common thru. Gray Catbird: common thru. N. Mockingbird: several; new locations mostly found thru Atlasing; mostly Br. and Tioga Cos.; one in lower Chen.Co. 7 June (MD). Brown Thrasher: moderately regular thru. Cedar Waxwing: common thru. European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: one adult, one imm, late June Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); found thru Atlasing. Solitary Vireo: 33 reports; doing well thru; several new locations found by Atlasers. Yellow-throated Vireo: regular thru. Warbling Vireo: regular thru. Red-eyed Vireo: common thru. Blue-winged Warbler: regular in Southern Tier cos.; on the increase. Golden-winged Warbler: seven reports; all Southern Tier; one 19 June, Vestal (Br.Co.) "feeding young" (RM). Tennessee Warbler: one report 14 June Chen.Co., not seen after this date so probably a late migrant (JL); ten other reports of fall migrants, earliest 31 July Chen. Co. (JL). Nashville Warbler: two non-Atlas reports; one 6 June OPM (MD, KW); one June Choconut Center (Br.Co.) (MS); Atlas reports include one PO, four PR, four CO Chen.Co. (JL); six CO Cort.Co. (MH); four PO, three CO Del.Co. (JC, DJ); one PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); earliest migrant 7 Aug Vestal (Br.Co.) banded (GK). Yellow Warbler: common thru. Chestnut-sided Warbler: regular thru. Magnolia Warbler: 34 reports scattered thru Chen., Cort., Del. Cos., Delhi, OPM; earliest migrant 26 Aug, banded Vestal, Br.Co. (HM); migration apparently late. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 22 June-July reports from all cos. but Br. and Tioga; none CO. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 28 reports; four Br.Co. (MS, BB, FL, HM, JL); four PR, one CO Chen.co. (JL), one Chen.Co. (CH), one PO, one PR Cort.Co. (MH), eight PR five CO Del.Co. (JC, DJ); one PO, one PR Tioga Co (JC, DJ); an extraordinary explosion possibly due to range expansion as well as Atlas activity; first fall migration 27 Aug. banded Vestal (Br.Co.) (GK). Black-throated Green Warbler: regular thru. Blackburnian Warbler: 28 reports; one Br.Co. (BB, FL, HM), one Br.Co. (JL), one PO Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); one PO, three PR, two CO Chen.Co. (all JL); two PR, two CO Cort.Co. (MH), six PO, two PR, four CO Del.Co. (JC, DJ); two OPM (MD, KW); one PR Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); a large increase but probably due to Atlasing. **PINE WARBLER:** one PO Chen.Co. (JL). Prairie Warbler: four reports Br.Co., one CO (GK); three singing males Chen.Co. (JL); one PR Cort.Co.(MH); two PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ); two PO, one CO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). Black-and-white Warbler: 35 records scattered thru. Am. Redstart: common thru. Worm-eating Warbler: three reports: one PR Chen.Co. (JL); one PO Cort.Co. (MH); one CO Del.Co. (JC, DJ). Ovenbird: common thru. N. Waterthrush: regular in suitable habitat; earliest migrant 5 Aug Vestal (Br.Co.) banding station (GK). Louisiana Waterthrush: regular in suitable habitat; earliest migrant 18 July Chen. Co. (JL).

KENTUCKY WARBLER: one PR 12, 17, 19 June Chen. Co. (BB, FL, HM); heard singing in same location three times, could not see bird. Mourning Warbler: 13 reports scattered thru Br.Co., Chen.Co. and OPM. Com. Yellowthroat: common thru. Hooded Warbler: seven reports: two PR Chen.Co. (JL); one PO, four PR Cort.Co. (MH); all Atlas efforts. Canada Warbler: 40 reports; one Br.Co.; three PR, four CO Chen.Co. (JL); one Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); three PR, two CO Cort.Co. (MH); four PO, three PR, two CO Del.Co. (JC, DJ); occasionally Delhi (MC); 12 June, four July OPM (MD, KW); solid in northern area. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Br.Co. (FL).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager; common thru. N. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru. Indigo Bunting: common thru. Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru. Chipping Sparrow: common thru. Field Sparrow: common thru. Vesper Sparrow: 15 reports; five PR Chen.Co. (JL); two PR Cort.Co. (MH); occasionally June Delhi (MC); five June-July OPM (MD, KW); one Tioga Co. (LB); one CO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); some improvement over last year but probably mostly due to atlasing; a comment from a regular observer is sobering: "I saw only the few Vesper Sparrows in a place where I have seen them for years—no others. There used to be *lots* of them, down the lane and along the road" (MC). Savannah Sparrow: common thru. Grasshopper Sparrow: 27 reports; four Br.Co. (JS); four Br.Co. (BB, FL, HM), five PO, two CO Chen. Co. (JL); four PR, two CO Cort.Co. (MH); one PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ), five PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). Increase probably due to atlasing. Henslow's Sparrow: one 10 July, Chen.Co. "singing on fencepost" (HM); one PO, one PR, four singing males Chen.Co. (JL); two PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); all Atlas discoveries. Song Sparrow: common thru. Swamp Sparrow: common thru in appropriate habitat. White-throated Sparrow: 33 reports scattered thru; 25 from Atlas returns. Dark-eyed Junco: scattered thru. Bobolink: regular thru. Red-winged Blackbird: common thru. E. Meadowlark: regular thru. Com. Grackle: common thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** one Corbettsville BBS (JL). N. Oriole: common thru. Purple Finch: common thru. House Finch: common thru. Am. Goldfinch: common thru. House Sparrow: common thru.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

One would hardly have expected from the cool, wet spring that the summer 1983 nesting season would be hot, **hot, HOT!** The only significant rainfall came during the first two weeks of June and the first two weeks of August. The latter precipitation was hardly enough to compensate for the baking conditions that had prevailed earlier. Were it not for the wet spring, this summer would have been a drought-laden disaster!

There appear to have been few direct effects on bird populations from this weather. Land bird (especially warbler) nestings seemed to run eight to ten days late, perhaps due to the cool spring, but fledglings were numerous. Many shallow marshes dried by mid-July, but here the effects were difficult to assess. The temperatures were more significant for birdwatching. One had to be afield by 6 A.M., because most avian activity was over by 9 A.M., with little pick-up in

the evening hours. During the remainder of the day, most birds sat back in the trees and undergrowth, panting silently.

Work on the Atlas moved forward. Of five Regional Atlas goals for this season, only one was not quite fulfilled. Just over 100 new blocks were visited. There is now some data from at least one block in every square in the Region except for six in Herkimer County. Eight squares have all four blocks adequately covered and 65 other blocks have reached this same level. Coverage is best southeast of Syracuse in Onondaga County and, due almost singlehanded to F. G. Scheider, in the Tug Hill Plateau of northern Oswego County. Common Snipe, the most widespread species for which nesting had not been proven, was confirmed in two blocks; there is only one other prior modern nest record from the Region of this rather common and widespread species. In addition to Common Snipe, nesting finally was confirmed for Pied-billed Grebe, Long-eared Owl, Common Raven, Pine Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and two entirely unexpected species—Great Black-backed Gull and Spruce Grouse. A total of 162 species now have been confirmed nesting in the Region; about a dozen more species are known to have nested in the Region historically.

In addition to these new nesting species, several unusual records were obtained. For only the second time in recent years, Osprey attempted to nest this summer in the Region outside the Adirondacks. The Acadian Flycatcher mentioned in the spring report remained through the summer but did not nest. A Prothonotary Warbler returned to Delta Lake in early June, but at a site where its nesting status could not be established. A Prairie Warbler in southern Madison Co., and at least three Orchard Orioles were found but all were apparently unpaired. Other interesting distributional records will be found in the report that follows.

Two behavioral records were noteworthy. Your editor was amazed to find a begging fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird being fed by a pair of Black-capped Chickadees near Warners on 19 June. One wonders how this association, apparently never reported from New York (?or anywhere) before, arose. An equally bizarre episode took place in John Hanyak's yard in the town of Onondaga during June. A single, silent Northern Mockingbird appeared, built a nest, laid a clutch of eggs and incubated them for three weeks before discovering that reproduction requires more than just going through the motions!

The summer report is always complicated by straggling spring migrants in early June and the start of the fall migration in July. This summer only a small handful of tardy spring migrants were found, mostly warblers and no shorebirds. Both the shorebird and the Yellow Warbler migration southward was evident by July. Shorebirds, in particular, produced a number of unusual species. There was little evidence of irruptive species even by the end of the season.

A total of 202 species plus two hybrids were reported this season, more than usual. Few population trends were consistently evident. The rarest species noted were Spruce Grouse, Ruff and Acadian Flycatcher, while Great Black-backed Gull may be the most significant record.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; BBS—breeding bird survey; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NPT—northern Pompey township; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SVB—Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr—Syracuse; twsp—township.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two Salmon River Res 19 June only report away from Adirondacks. Pied-billed Grebe: nesting confirmed two Tug Hill Plateau blocks where unexpected. Double-crested Cormorant: single Onon Lake 30 June unseasonal, arr Moose River, Herkimer Co. 4 Aug and LOL 7 Aug, max 130 there 14 Aug. Great Egret: one Minoa 18-20 Aug. Brant: one SP 7 Aug is a rare summer straggler. Green-winged Teal: arr Onon Lake 20 July. Am. Black Duck: no confirmed nesting. N. Pintail: arr Onon Lake 20 July. Blue-winged Teal: arr Onon Lake 20 July. N. Shoveler: arr Onon Lake 14 Aug. Greater Scaup: male Onon Lake 20 July-14 Aug is a rare summer record, and only diving duck (except mergansers) reported. Com. Merganser: noted Redfield twsp in June, arr SP 18 Aug. Red-breasted Merganser: single SP 7 Aug only report of summer.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: pair nested unsuccessfully North Bay, Oneida Co. (Lorraine Aust *vide* DWC), second modern Regional nesting record away from Adirondacks. Bald Eagle: imm SVB in early Aug. N. Harrier: reported from about 20 blocks this summer, by far the best showing in several years, but none confirmed. Sharp-shinned Hawk: felt to be somewhat down in numbers. Broad-winged Hawk: adult in the largest remnant woods in urban Syr 8 June could not be checked later for possible nesting. **SPRUCE GROUSE:** nesting confirmed on private lands south of Old Forge is the first modern Regional nesting record and the southernmost for the state. Virginia Rail: one responding to tape recording in Mattydale was carrying a fishing spider (*Dolomedes triton*). Sora: very few noted even in response to tape playing in apparently suitable marshes central Onon Co. Com. Moorhen: one in Tug Hill Plateau 7 July unexpected at such a high elevation. Am. Coot: single Onon Lake 17 July-6 Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr SP 14 Aug. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr near SVB 21 Aug, max 25 there four days later. Semipalmated Plover: arr SVB 17 July, max 15 there early Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Onon Lake 2 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Onon Lake 4 July, max 31 there 31 July. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Boonville 9 July. Upland Sandpiper: max 13 Bridgeport 28 Aug. Hudsonian Godwit: five SP and single Minoa 18 Aug. Ruddy Turnstone: arr and only report SP 18 Aug. Sanderling: arr Onon Lake 21 July. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 14 July, max 70 there 24 July. Western Sandpiper: two Onon Lake 26 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 4 July, max 30 there 30 July. White-rumped Sandpiper: singles Onon Lake 18 Aug and SVB 26 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 10 Aug, max 12 SVB 18 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 22 July, max five there 31 July, rather low. **RUFF:** adult male Onon Lake after 17 Aug (FGS, mob), first fall report since 1969. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Onon Lake 30 July. Red-necked Phalarope: single SP 18 Aug only phalarope noted. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SP 21 July, max 70 SVB 7 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: very conspicuous in lowlands all season. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** pair nested unsuccessfully Long Island, Oneida Lake in June (Patty Blair *vide* DWC) is the first Regional nesting record ever. Caspian Tern: arr Onon Lake 17 July, max 21 there 21 Aug and 20 SP 27 Aug. Forster's Tern: one to three SP after 17 Aug. Black Tern: max 53 SP 7 Aug is best Regional count since 1972.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: rather sparse but widely noted. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: total of nine reported, including two window kills Syr, all in June. E. Screech-Owl: one northwest of Pulaski 3 July rather far north. Barred Owl: found in almost every Tug Hill Plateau block Atlased. Long-eared Owl: nesting confirmed Rome is first for Regional breeding record since 1966. N. Saw-whet Owl: fledgling found Oswego, where reported in 1980: pair near Palermo all summer could not be confirmed (Roy Slack). Com. Nighthawk: one Whiskey Hollow 3 June a migrant or non-urban nester; several Rome Sand Plains 18-24 June very likely non-urban breeders. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max ten Redfield twsp 18 June. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: male southeast of Mexico 2 July is very low elevation for summering bird.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: single noted Tug Hill Plateau 19 June, only migrant Mexico Point 25 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Redfield twsp 14 Aug. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** male persisted evidently unpaired Whiskey Hollow through 6 July. Willow Flycatcher: seemed to be exceptionally numerous this season. E. Kingbird: arr 7 Aug, max 118 LOL 25 Aug. Purple Martin: only swallow generally felt to have been hurt by cool spring. Bank Swallow: max 2,000 SP 18 Aug. Red-breasted Nuthatch: rather widespread as nester, including NPT and the Noyes Sanctuary, but migrants after 14 Aug not especially numerous. Sedge Wren: reported from two sites including one in Tug Hill Plateau. Marsh Wren: bred in *Phragmites* on west side Onon Lake. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: much better numbers than last year. Swainson's Thrush: arr Nedrow 6 Aug. Am. Robin: max 135 Alder Creek BBS 17 June. N. Mockingbird: see introduction; one noted Old Forge through the summer is far north and up mountain. Water Pipit: arr town of Lenox 28 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Blue-winged Warbler: one carrying nest material Noyes Sanctuary in June is northernmost probable nester for Region. "Brewster's" Warbler: about four reported including male paired with Golden-winged female giving distraction display northwest of Pulaski 3 July, north of most of our Blue-winged Warblers. "Lawrence's" Warbler: single Stone Road, Oswego Co., 21 July. Tennessee Warbler: arr N. Boylston 17 July, next a month later. N. Parula: arr N. Boylston 27 Aug. Yellow Warbler: maximum 104 SP 14 Aug. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr SP 7 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: last of spring *Camillus* 9 June, arr SP 25 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr town of Webb 20 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: male Whiskey Hollow 3 June either late migrant or peripheral nester; arr SP 14 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SP 14 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: status of female in young spruce plantation near Pulaski 2 July hard to interpret; arr SP 7 Aug. Pine Warbler: first confirmed nesting for Regional Atlas at Community Park, a new locality in northwest Oswego Co., subsequently also confirmed in Adirondacks. Prairie Warbler: singing male Brookfield Swamp 18 June-4 July evidently unpaired; there are no modern Regional nesting records of this warbler! Bay-breasted Warbler: arr N. Boylston 7 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: last Euclid 2 June, singing male Pineville, Oswego Co., 3 July in unsuitable nesting habitat. Cerulean Warbler: rare fall migrant SP 7 Aug. N. Waterthrush: arr SP 7 Aug. Louisiana Waterthrush: fledglings Alder Creek and Redfield twsp early June are northernmost confirmed Regional nestings. Hooded Warbler: status of singing males near suitable habitat remnant in Mattydale 5 June hard to interpret; four males, nesting confirmed Whiskey Hollow, a new site n. Onon Co.; male southeast of Mexico late June-early July helps link populations in the southern highlands and Lake Ontario shore. Wilson's Warbler: arr SP 25 Aug. Canada Warbler: singing bird Whiskey Hollow 3 June not found on subsequent visit, status unclear; arr SP 25 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one reported all summer.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr SP 17 Aug. Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from about a half-dozen blocks, none confirmed. White-throated Sparrow: arr SP 14 Aug. Bobolink: migrants after 17 Aug. W. Meadowlark: bird persisted Union Settlement into early summer. Orchard Oriole: three males reported Syr, Minoa, near Baldwinsville in June, none long persistent. House Finch: several pairs noted east of Sandy Pond on Oswego/Jefferson Co. line in early July. Pine Siskin: arr Old Forge 25 Aug. Evening Grosbeak: arr NPT 19 Aug.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

What makes for a good nesting season? Perhaps the very warm, but otherwise unremarkable, summer of 1983 was an unusually good year. Next year's population levels should give the answer. June was decidedly milder than in 1982. Temperatures were about normal, and precipitation, mainly in thundershowers, was below normal in most areas. Early June was on the cool side, with the monthly minimum temperature of 30° F occurring on the ninth. A hot spell beginning on the tenth was followed by severe showers on 17 June in many areas. For example, Massena recorded 1.27" rain. A second hot spell was followed by rain of half an inch or so on 27 June. The monthly max temperature of 94° occurred 22 June. Mean monthly temperatures ranged from 62° to 68° F. Total precipitation ranged from 1.26" on Wellesley Island to 3.28" in Massena. July began with record heat. The max temperature for the month was 93° F on the fourth. A cold air mass a week later sent the mercury to the monthly low of 39° F on 10 July. The 12th to 21st, a period of unusually sustained heat, was followed by the most violent weather of the summer—widespread severe thunderstorms with high winds and hail. Mean monthly temperatures ranged from 67.6° at Wanakena to 72.9° at Ogdensburg, the latter being 3.1° above normal. Rainfall, on the other hand, ran about 2" below normal. August continued warm, but with more rain, most of which fell during the first 12 days of the month. Lowville received 2.64" on 12 August, and a total of 8.65" for the month. In most areas total precipitation was an inch or so above normal. Maximum temperatures of about 90° occurred on the eighth, while minimum temperatures in the high 30's were recorded on the tenth. The monthly average of 66-70° was about normal, in spite of the intense heat elsewhere in the state and nation.

Positive trends and noteworthies include: several successful loon nestings, nesting of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Potsdam, Loggerhead Shrike with fledged young, and increasing House Finch in St. Lawrence Co. but no confirmed nesting as yet. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Eastern Kingbirds and Scarlet Tanagers were numerous and several grassland sparrows including one Henslow's were reported.

Negatives were: few accipiters and absence of Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. The shorebird flights of ElDorado Beach Preserve were abysmal. There were no Solitary Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, Short-billed Dowitchers, or Wilson's Phalaropes. According to Gerry Smith, it was a poor year for the invertebrates on which shorebirds normally feed, which Dr. Fred Kingsbury attributes to an unusually early algal bloom following the mild winter and spring. Gerry also reports that tern populations in the St. Lawrence River, on which he and George Maxwell will report in full, were the same or slightly down from last year.

In another interesting analysis of downward trends, Joe VanRiet notes that in his Coles Creek Breeding Bird Census, several species including Eastern Wood-Pewee, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow are still markedly depressed from 1976 levels. Joe attributes this to the effects of the April 1977 blizzard in the South, but the fact that

numbers of most of these species are now half of what they were in the summer of 1977 indicates either a lag effect or additional factors.

Rarities were few and included: the first occurrence of Snowy Egret at Eldorado where an American Avocet also appeared.

Abbreviations: BBS—Breeding Bird Survey; DeG—DeGrasse (BBS); EDB—Eldorado Beach Preserve; Jeff Co.—Jefferson Co.; O—Ogdensburg (BBS); P—Philadelphia (BBS); PR—Perch River; St. Law. Co.—St. Lawrence Co.; ULL—Upper and Lower Lakes; WH—Wilson Hill WMA; WMA—Wildlife Management Area.

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LOONS-DUCKS: six pairs with at least two broods on Cranberry L; two pairs on Pleasant L (JW); a pair at Old Man's L, Morristown; failed to breed; pair Lake-of-the-Woods, Jeff. Co. 9 July (RL); one Southwick Beach, L Ont 28 June. Pied-billed Grebe: 18 ULL 4 July (KG). Double-crested Cormorant: avg five to ten per day at EDB, max 36 on 13 Aug and 51 on 27 Aug. Am. Bittern: pair OBBS 19 June, first in this area in three years (RL); three ULL 4 July; two French Creek WMA 5 July; three nests each with three eggs Richville in hay field 300 yards from marsh in early July (JB). Least Bittern: 18 including young ULL 4 July—stupendous! Great Blue Heron: numbers up, two to six per day EDB; nesting north of Potsdam (JVR). Egret species: two WH 28 July (JW). **SNOWY EGRET**: one EDB 13-27 Aug, first record for preserve (GS). Green-backed Heron: two to six per day EDB thru mid-Aug, then none; frequent sightings from Henderson, So. Canton, Potsdam. Black-crowned Night-Heron: two to five per day EDB thru 10 Aug, max 11 on 8 Aug; Henderson every evening (LC). Wood Duck: 18 ULL 4 July. Green-winged Teal: arr EDB 1 July, one per day in July and two to five per day in Aug, down from 1981 and 1982. Am. Black Duck: one to three per day EDB thru; no other reports. Mallard: two to four per day EDB thru mid-July, then 20-40 per day; abundant throughout Region. N. Pintail: none EDB, unusual. Blue-winged Teal: one to four per day thru 10 Aug, max 10-15 per day 10 to 23 Aug, extremely low; eight ULL 4 July. N. Shoveler: female EDB 13 Aug. Am. Wigeon: one to two per day EDB 1 to 15 July; pair Morristown 15 June, Surprise! (RL). Ring-necked Duck: pair ULL 4 July, only report. Greater Scaup: one adult male EDB 24 to 26 June. Com. Goldeneye: female entering nest hole at Cranberry Lake 11 June (WG); imm male EDB 18 July to 16 Aug. Bufflehead: female EDB 6 June to 10 July. Hooded Merganser: brood of four to five Hannawa Falls 20 July (WG). Com. Merganser: max four EDB 13 Aug. Red-breasted Merganser; max five EDB 5 and 15 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture; increasing in St. Law. Co., 14 Canton 2 to 6 June; 11 Clare 18 June; one to four per day EDB. Osprey: pair cavorting over Morristown 5 July; singles Page Rd, Lewis Co. 18 July; EDB 31 July, 6 and 12 Aug. Bald Eagle: two or three year old imm observed several times at EDB 19 June thru 15 Aug, no wingtag; adult male WH 28 July (JW); two young banded and wing-tagged at Jeff Co. nest in July (LC). N. Harrier: one to two per day EDB thru July, 6 migrant young of year 13 Aug; single Potsdam thru; pairs and singles Cape Vincent, Pt. Peninsula, and Lewis Co. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Henderson 13 July; adult EDB 9 Aug. N. Goshawk; one Lewis Co. 19 July (RW). Broad-winged Hawk: two fledged young near Highmarket 19 July; four imm migrants EDB 13 Aug. Am. Kestrel: abundant in St. Law. Co. Virginia Rail: abundant in St. Law. Co., found in ULL (KG) and in ten blocks (RL). Sora: common in marshes of Black, Chippewa and French Creeks, St. Law. Co. (RL). Com. Moorhen: 20 including FY in ULL 4 July. Black-bellied Plover: arr EDB 9 Aug, one to two per day thru 17 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr three adults at EDB 22 July, six to ten per day with max 15 on 31 July, imm arr 18 Aug, with max 17 on 28 Aug. Killdeer: two to ten per day, poor flight. **AMERICAN AVOCET**: one in breeding plumage EDB 21 July (GS). Greater Yellowlegs: arr 21 July,

scattered sightings of one to three per day thru 16 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: early arr EDB 25 June, 10 to 15 per day 10 July thru 16 Aug, then two to six per day with max 26 on 18 July and 24 on 10 Aug, very poor. Solitary Sandpiper: none EDB; two Page Rd., Lewis Co. 18 July. Spotted Sandpiper: five to ten per day, max 26 EDB 18 July. Upland Sandpiper: fledged young in four blocks in Morristown and Hammond (RL); two Cape Vincent 16 July (RW). Whimbrel: two EDB 24 to 28 Aug. Ruddy Turnstone; arr 21 July, max 12 on 2 Aug. Red Knot: none! Sanderling: arr EDB 23 July, fair flight, three to ten per day, thru 26 Aug, then good flight with max 44 on 28 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr EDB 8 July, peak 30 July to 3 Aug with max 670 on 1 Aug. Western Sandpiper: one EDB 28 to 29 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr EDB 8 July, good flight with max 476 on 19 July. White-rumped Sandpiper: adult EDB 9 July, extraordinarily early. Baird's Sandpiper: one EDB 27-28 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr EDB 2 July, dep 9 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper; arr two EDB 21 July, dep 2 Aug, scarce. Short-billed Dowitcher: none at EDB, extraordinary! Wilson's Phalarope: none! Parasitic Jaeger: light phase subadult EDB 27 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr EDB 28 July, max 8 on 31 July. Ring-billed Gull: 50 to 200 per day EDB thru. Herring Gull: two to seven per day EDB thru. Great Black-backed Gull: one to four per day EDB thru. Caspian Tern: two to six per day EDB in June, ten to 20 per day in late Aug, max 38 on 15 Aug, regular at Southwick Beach State Park. Black Tern: one to four per day EDB 6 June to 5 Aug; 25 including FY at ULL 4 July; good numbers PR thru.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: two Clare 3 July. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Pt. Peninsula 24 June (RW); one PBBS, Rossie 3 July. Com. Nighthawk: occasionally in Watertown (LC). Whip-poor-will: two New Bremen 15 June. Chimney Swift: seven Canton 25 July, two Clare early July. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: four pairs Canton early June and July; pair Canton with FY (MEH); one Aldrich, Fine 12 June; pair Clare 3 July; one Potsdam 12 July thru; regular thru in Jeff Co. (LC). Belted Kingfisher: one Potsdam, pair Canton, FY at ULL in July. Red-headed Woodpecker; one Rodman 11 July. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one sporadically in Henderson coming for cracked corn (LC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: no reports. Downy Woodpecker: pairs or singles from Canton, Potsdam and Clare; pair with two young in Canton. Hairy Woodpecker: four reports of pairs or singles in Canton and Clare plus two FY in Canton (MEH). Pileated Woodpecker: singles from Ellisburg and Hounsfield.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: four ULL, six Clare, seven Canton early July. Willow Flycatcher: two ULL 4 July (KG) one OBBS, Black Lake Rd., Hammond 19 June. E. Phoebe: four NE Canton, two NE Clare early July (KG); none at past sites in Jeff Co. (LC). E. Kingbird: abundant in St. Law. Co., 80 reports for July (mostly JW). Bank Swallow: 70 pairs Pierrepont dump mid-June. Purple Martin: three to five Canton, July (MEH), ten, some nesting, Canton early July (KG). Cliff Swallow: eight FY Canton 2-6 July. Am. Crow: 35 moving northwest Henderson 8 Aug. Black-capped Chickadee: fledged young in Canton and Clare early July. White-breasted Nuthatch: FY Canton July. Red-breasted Nuthatch: FY Pierrepont July. Winter Wren: three Clare 2 July; regular Tug Hill. Marsh Wren: 56 singing males in two miles on Chippewa Creek between Chippewa Bay and No. Hammond, also common on Fish and Black Creeks (RL) and at ULL (KG). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one DeGBBS. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: successful first nesting in Potsdam (MDiG). E. Bluebird: successful nesting in two locations in Pierrepont, one with two clutches (MEH); nesting in Clare 2 July; one Potsdam 8 Aug; two Pierrepont 27 Aug. Hermit Thrush: NE Canton and Clare early July (KG). Wood Thrush: NE Canton and Clare (KG). N. Mockingbird: one OBBS, Brier Hill 19 June. Brown Thrasher: good numbers; FY Canton early July. Cedar Waxwing: several reports thru. Loggerhead Shrike: two adults, one imm at Long's Corners, Morristown, one mile from old breeding site in Morristown Center, 27 July (RL).

VIREOS-WARBLES: Solitary Vireo; one Aldrich, Fine 13 June; pair Clare 18 June. Yellow-throated Vireo: one Canton early July; two Clare 3 July (KG). Warbling Vireo: down

some. Nineteen species of warblers were reported, including the following: Golden-winged Warbler: locally very common, 15 males in three miles on Burns Rd., Theresa 9 July (RL); no others reported, none at past sites in Pierrepont (KC). Cerulean Warbler: one Burns Rd., Theresa (RL). Louisiana Waterthrush: two adults feeding two FY plus one FY Cowbird at Washington Park near Adams 22 July (RW). Mourning Warbler: singles DeGrasse and Fine 12 July.

TANAGERS-SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: pair Pierrepont 11 June; three DeGBBS. N. Cardinal: two Potsdam thru (SDeG); pair and one FY Canton; several in Massena, but no confirmed breeding. Indigo Bunting: ten Canton 2-6 July; ten Clare 3 July; three DeGBBS 12 July. Field Sparrow: two DeGBBS, DeGrasse and Fine. Vesper Sparrow: singing males in three locations, Morristown. Henslow's Sparrow: one S male PBBS, 1.5 mi. N of Philadelphia on Rt. 26, 3 July (RL). Confirmed breeding in Canton for all common Icterids except E. Meadowlark. Bobolink: moving south after 20 July (LC). Purple Finch: six Canton thru, decrease (MEH); six Potsdam thru; one Clare 3 July; one DeGBBS Aldrich, Fine. House Finch: ten Canton, increased (MEH); one male Morristown 5 July (RL); increasing in Henderson, outnumber Purple Finch which is also up (LC).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

We now have so many Atlas records that presenting reports in the accustomed format (species, number, place, date, observer) is impossible for all but a few rare birds. Happily though, we can now begin to present some preliminary figures showing the number of blocks in which a species has been found and how many of those are Confirmed records, as well as a few of the most recent locations from 1983 field work.

Locations, however, pose a growing problem, even without the Atlas. Of the Spring Season report, a reader observes, "Even I, as a resident of the Adirondacks, don't know where many of these places are." Nor, at times, does the editor. Known locations, whose names have become familiar to birders (Ferd's Bog, Madawaska), are avoided by birders in search of virgin blocks, of increasingly remote areas with no ornithological history. This year the Gray Jays were found at sites where the largest villages or landmarks in the blocks were Augerhole Falls, Black Brook, Cranberry Bog, Derrick, Duane Center, Hayes Brook, Indian Lake, Lake Eaton campsite, Panther Pond, Vermontville, and West Branch bog. Locating each by township or county, assuming the research could be done, would only take space, since each will appear as a symbol on the final species map and many will not be revisited by birders until the next Atlas anyway. If a sense of cartographic mystery prevails, at least the place names cited convey a sense of previously unexplored diversity, of the adventure of the Atlas experience.

By the reporting deadline, green data sheets had been submitted for more than half of the 689 blocks in this region. With the approach of the final year of Atlas field work, less than 100 blocks remain with no coverage. Perhaps 12,000 records were submitted, although many represent upgrades of previous records to a higher breeding code, or several encounters with a species in the same block. Some observers also perversely insist upon incorporating all previous records for a block on their green sheet. Almost 5,000 records were obtained by a dozen blockbusters who covered approximately a hundred blocks. The goal of 76+ species has now been reached in 115 blocks, and 86% of all blocks in the region have now obtained at least some coverage.

The weather, if observers took much note of it, was generally dry and warm. There were exceptions. Cloudbursts over much of the region during June often caught field workers out in remote parts, causing extreme discomfort. High winds and even tornados passed through the region on 8 August, downing trees all along the Clinton-Essex line, and dashing a Bonaparte's Gull from the sky, through tree branches, and onto the ground near Port Douglas along the Champlain shoreline.

A total of about 197 species was reported, of which all but eight are considered breeding birds for Atlas purposes, assuming that all verification reports stand up to scrutiny. Rarities include Tricolored Heron (a first not only for this region of NYS, but also for the State of Vermont), White-eyed Vireo in Franklin Co., a long-awaited first Cerulean Warbler, and a host of others no less important to our growing understanding of regional and state birdlife. Highest credit goes to the Brooklyn observer whose willingness to bushwack a dense alder stand alone and slog a sphagnum bog in a remote corner of western Franklin Co. led to the discovery and documentation of a pair of Palm Warblers, the fourth new breeding species for the state since 1980. Finally, if the boreal reports tantalize, contact a coordinator of Region 5, 6, 7, or 8, remembering that a block *anywhere* in the state pushed to the levels of adequate coverage (76+ species, 38 Confirmed [CO]) will yield its own exciting rewards.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loons have now been reported from 149 blocks, CO in 61, and some blocks have several lakes with nesting loons; downy young were found along L. Champlain this summer as far north as Point au Roche. By contrast, Pied-billed Grebe is scarce: nine blocks, two CO thus far, with only one young reported this summer from Chazy Landing (MG). This was the summer of the Double-crested Cormorants: 55 Four

Brothers Island 12 June (JP), 250-300 there the evening of 14 Aug (LS), 35 Plattsburgh 27 Aug (MG), and even two on L. Colby 30 Aug (DY). With 214 nesting trees tagged, 432 nests counted, and the colony only partly surveyed, Valcour I. may have one of the largest populations of Great Blue Herons in the state (CM). Snowy and Cattle Egrets in Clinton Co. may nest on the Sisters Islands in VT. A **TRICOLORED HERON** at Chimney Point, VT, 15 Aug flew across the Champlain narrows at Crown Point into Essex Co., NY (GC, RH). About 100 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons nested on the Four Bros., and breeding is suspected near Point au Roche. Mute Swans raised young in Plattsburgh (CM), where there was a Brant 8 June (J & RH, D & JY). Canada Goose: nine CO blocks, added at Chazy, Hinchinbrook Brook, L. Alice. Wood Duck: 32 CO, added L. Durant, Lewey L., Madawaska. Green-winged Teal: two CO, added Raquette R. (CD). N. Pintail: first CO from Chazy Landing (MG). Blue-winged Teal: seven CO, added Tourville Rd. (DN, JP). Gadwall: one CO, pair added Chazy Landing. Am. Wigeon: two CO, pair added Chazy Landing. Male Greater Scaup and pair Lesser Scaup Chazy Landing 17-18 June (MG). Com. Goldeneye: eight CO, added Chazy and Tupper L. Bufflehead: male Chazy Landing 18 June (MG). Hooded Merganser: 50 CO, added Buck Pd., De Bar Pd., Follensby Jr. Pd., Grass Pd., Hayes Brook, Indian L., L. Alice, L. Durant, Paul Smiths, Rickerson Brook, Saranac R., Shingle Shanty Pd., Sly Pd., W. Branch Ausable.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures have now been recorded in 107 blocks, four CO; added at Azure Mt., Moriah, and Point au Roche. Interestingly, Hamilton Co. has only two PO, one PR, thus far. Osprey: 114 blocks, 33 CO; added Habroucks. The hacking of 23 Bald Eagles from Alaska in Franklin Co. was disrupted by an outbreak of avian pox, with some birds moved to Cornell and Delmar, then returned for release. Upon fledging, birds immediately set off on long distance journeys; some first flights were over 100 miles before landing. Adults were reported from Indian L., L. Durant, Lewey L., Oxbow L. Outlet, and pair Union Falls. A strong population of N. Harriers has been detected in northern Franklin Co. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 20 new records. Cooper's Hawk: eight new records. N. Goshawk: six new records. Red-shouldered Hawk: 16 new records. Broad-winged Hawk: 66 new records, including 20 new CO. Red-tailed Hawk: 37 new records. Golden Eagle: Wakely Mt. Am. Kestrel: 36 new records. Peregrine Falcon: a third hack site in Franklin Co. was added to those in Clinton and Essex and several subadults from previous years visited the last two sites. Spruce Grouse: now 13 blocks, four CO; brood Nehasane this summer (MB). More methodical spring searches and less dependence upon serendipity might improve the picture. Virginia Rail: now 21 blocks, six CO; chicks at Chazy Landing (MG) and Deadwater Pd. (MA, CW) this summer. Sora: 11 blocks, two CO; chicks Chazy (MG). Com. Moorhen; pair Chazy Landing 30 June (MG). Only 11 shorebird species, six of them migrants were reported—a poor showing. Lesser Golden-Plover: Gabriels 9 Aug (DY). Semipalmated Plover: arr Westport 30 July (GC, JP). Lesser Yellowlegs: two arr Chazy Landing 30 June, four there 9 July (MG). Solitary Sandpiper: Westport 4 Aug (JP). Up along the Canadian border, Upland Sandpipers have begun to turn up, sometimes in flocks of 8-12 or family groups, and there are now records from 23 blocks, including six CO. Semipalmated Sandpiper: two arr Chazy Landing 18 June, 20 there on 9 July (MG). Also Westport to 4 Aug (GC, JP). Least Sandpiper: three arr Chazy Landing 6 July (MG), also Westport 30 July (GC, JP). Bonaparte's Gull: Westport early Aug. Ring-billed Gull: 1,000 chicks banded Isl. C, Four Brothers, 12 June by High Peaks Audubon. Two band numbers were read with binoculars in May; one banded as an adult on the same island June 1981, the other banded as an imm on Ontario July 1979. Ring-bills from Champlain and the St. Lawrence range far inland, but what is the origin of birds in Hamilton Co.? Herring Gull: now 81 blocks, including 17 CO on interior lakes in Franklin and Hamilton Cos, plus the Four Brothers in Essex Co. Good numbers of Black Terns were at Chazy Landing, max ten on 30 June (MG).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: With a sense of regret akin to the loss of the America's Cup, we note that after four years of field work, keen Atlas observers not only recorded,

but also CO the first Rock Dove in Hamilton Co. at Indian Lake (M & RM); details will *not* be published elsewhere.!! Cuckoo ratio stands at 98 Black-billed (four CO); 28 Yellow-billed (one CO). E. Screech Owls were added at Hearts Bay, Hoffmeister, Piseco L., and Port Kent. Great Horned Owl: now 82 blocks, 12 CO; added Burke, Champlain, McDonald Pd., Saranac R. Barred Owl: 139 blocks, 12 CO; added Sable Mt. Long-eared Owl is being seriously under-recorded regionally, and perhaps statewide, due to observers' lack of familiarity with the three basic vocalizations; now recorded in only 17 blocks (one CO) after four seasons, the coordinator has shared in a disproportionate ten of these owls, which seem to turn up around conifer-lined lakeshores more often than not. N. Saw-whet Owl: 37 blocks, five CO. Com. Nighthawk: 34 blocks, three CO. The first Whip-poor-will CO came from Goose Pd.; only one of 72 records has come from Hamilton Co. Red-headed Woodpecker: 24 blocks, five CO; added Tourville Rd. Three-toed Woodpecker is now noted in 14 blocks, five CO, while Black-backed Woodpecker has been recorded in 51 blocks, 14 CO, in just this region; note too that many of these records involve pairs, family groups, or multiple sightings.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: 183 blocks, ten CO; added at Catamount Mt., Duane, Duck Pd., Goldsmith. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 63 blocks, seven CO; added Black Brook bog. Willow Flycatcher remains something of a mystery—almost the only species with no emerging coherent pattern, in spite of reports from Crown Point Penin., Devins Corners, Goodnow R., Guide Board Rd., Harkness, and Willsboro. Horned Lark is seemingly under-recorded, in only 23 blocks, nine CO. Gray Jay has now turned up in 35 blocks, 15 CO, in Franklin and Hamilton Cos. Given the amount of habitat and oft-secretive nature of the birds, many more could be found; perhaps Clinton and Essex Cos. observers should check over their shoulders more frequently. A Franklin Co. Gray Jay used nest was collected, a first for NYS (DM, MM; deposited AMNH)! Com. Raven has been recorded in 134 blocks here and 21 nesting sites are known, located in all four counties. Lots of Boreal Chickadees remain to be recorded, even though already noted in 80 blocks, 24 CO, with still no Clinton Co. records. Sedge Wren still in only three blocks, but a second CO added at Mt. View, while there are 16 blocks with Marsh Wren, two CO. None of the 105 Adirondack breeding blocks with Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 11 CO, are in Clinton Co. Vast amounts of E. Bluebird habitat near the Canadian border go unoccupied, with no nest boxes in evidence. Gray-cheeked Thrush was located near Buck Mt., The Glen, Handsome Pd., Loon L., and Snowy Mt., and CO Bradley Pd. and Giant Mt., but is still being badly missed, with only 22 blocks, six CO, and a paucity of records from the High Peaks; shame on the Audubon chapter of the same name. European Starling: 281 blocks, 191 CO, 48% of blocks surveyed.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: A singing male **WHITE-EYED VIREO** spent most of July in a thicket at the edge of a brook on Potter Rd., Alburg; white wing bars and yellow wash on sides of breast, song which continued over as long as 30 minute periods recorded on tape was played back and compared to all vireos. The match was excellent with White-eyed and none other (TP). Yellow-throated Vireo: 13 blocks, two CO, with records from Percy Campground and Perry Mills on the Canadian border. Philadelphia Vireo was CO this year at Hatch Brook Rd. (TD) and Piseco (A. Powers), with other sightings from Franklin Falls, G. Lake Rd., Moose Pd., Morehouse Rd., Hurricane Mt., Powley Place, Route 10, Spotted Mt., and Vermontville, for a current regional total of 25 blocks, four CO! Golden-winged Warbler: 13 blocks, one CO, all in Clinton and Essex Cos. Tennessee Warbler: suddenly 18 blocks, three CO, with new records from Augerhole Falls, Blue Mt. L., The Glen, Griffin, Martin Pd., Nehasane L., and West Branch bog. Cape May Warbler: inexplicably still not CO, although recorded now in 14 blocks; two were eating suet at a Tupper Lake feeder 30-31 Aug (CD), the observer noting that Yellow-rumped Warblers catch flies near the suet, but don't seem to fancy the suet at this time of year. Prairie Warbler: singing male Paleface 3-27 June, pair 5 June (AP, later GC, EJ, JP). Our regional candidates for

birds of the season are the "YELLOW" PALM WARBLERS: pair Black Brook bog 23 June (TS), nest located 6 July (DN, JP, TS; photos on file High Peaks Audubon); nest with one egg 8 July (TS), used nest collected 24 Aug (EJ, JP; AMNH 17922); first nesting record for New York State. Bay-breasted Warbler: still not CO although recorded in 18 blocks. Blackpoll Warbler: looking better, at 58 blocks, two CO; first Clinton Co. record from Lyon Mt. (BB, L & TO). CERULEAN WARBLER: singing male at Moriah 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. on 11 June (GC; also TB, NM). Louisiana Waterthrush: now 14 blocks, three CO, suggesting that a few observers are learning this bird of brooks, with records from all four cos. Wilson's Warbler: transient Saranac Lake 13 Aug (RH). Yellow-breasted Chat: Wadhams mid-July (DS).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: 85 blocks, 21 CO, seems fairly representative. Vesper Sparrow is being sadly overlooked by observers in northern farm country, based upon the experience of blockbusters, with records from only 57 blocks, 11 CO. Grasshopper Sparrow: only four blocks, first CO from Cadyville (BB, TO). Lincoln's Sparrow is the Region Seven success story, now recorded in 117 blocks, 36 CO (Bull noted just 14 breeding localities in this region). Rusty Blackbird: 68 blocks, 29 CO, following this summer; rather hard to find, easy to Confirm once located. House Finch: now 41 blocks, 14 CO, mainly in the Champlain Valley. Red Crossbill: 15 blocks, one CO. White-winged Crossbill: unconfirmed, only eight blocks. Evening Grosbeak: many 1983 reports of this widely-distributed species from the Sacandaga to Canada, from the Fulton chain to Champlain, and currently recorded in 108 blocks, 19 CO. Finally, House Sparrows are apparently much less widely distributed than starlings, having shown up in 162 blocks, with 94 of those CO.

Discovery Farm, R.D. 1, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

ED REILLY

June was warm and dry although there was a light frost on the ninth; July was generally warm and humid, and August was just a bit cooler. It rained on seven days in August, but there were occasional thunderstorms. Apparently the weather in July and August was uncomfortable for humans as we received fewer reports than usual—my own outings were restricted to short trips in my home area.

July is also a quiet month as most birds have stopped their territorial singing and August is worse, if possible. The woods and fields are not silent as there are various calls to be heard; birds and other animals must still communicate their alarms and let the others of the species know where the individuals are. Nests may still be located and even late reports are welcomed by the Atlas teams, so send them in. You may enjoy practicing nest identification using the newly published guide in the Peterson series.

Only 142 species were reported and many species which have been noted in the past summers apparently evaded our observers. A Short-eared Owl still lingers in the Ghent area according to Hugo and Barbara Gardina; Fish Crows nested near Castleton as noted by Paul Connor; Worm-eating Warblers appa-

rently bred near Weed Mines according to Dick Guthrie and Bill Cook; and a Yellow-headed Blackbird flew over Rte. 23, either in Greene or Columbia Cos. Larry Biegel reports a Swallow-tailed Kite seen at Catskill (*vide* Dick Guthrie). An unconfirmed sighting of a Golden Eagle at West Athens by Irene Halliday is "one of those things." We report these sightings in our local papers as a means of alerting members to keep their eyes open for possible confirmation.

Observers: Vi & Bill Able, Roberta Bernstein, Fran Bogausch, Arlene & Tom Brown, Janet Carroll, Bill Cleveland, Juanita Cook, Bill Cook, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, Andrew & Richard Guthrie, Betty Laros, Tom Palmer, Shirley & A. Schadow, Marion & Bill Ulmer, Robert Yunick.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: flying over Ancram 8 June. Double-crested Cormorant: one Greendale on Hudson R, one Hudson 7 July. Great Blue Heron: one Claverack 5 June; two Chrysler Pond 20 June; one S. Gilboa 22 June; two E. Taghkanic 29 June; three near Boston Cor 23 July; one Jenny L 22 July; two near Ghent 1, 20, 24 July; one Old Chatham 29 July. Great Egret: one South Bay at Hudson 2 Aug. Green-backed Heron: three Boston Cor 15 June; one Greendale on Hudson R 16 June; three Claverack 21 June; two Gilboa 22 June; four Hillsdale 24 July; three Spaulding Furn 29 July; throughout Columbia Co by most observers; and at Central Br thru period. Mute Swan: an escaped pet seen frequently at Oom's Pond thru season. Canada Goose: two family groups at Chrysler Pond 8 June; several at Ghent and Oom's Pond 3, 16, 17, 22, 29 July and into Sept. Wood Duck: four Ancramdale 22 July; one Boston Cor 23 July; four Hillsdale 24 July; nine Gallatinville 29 July; one near Jenny L at Miners' Mill Vly during July. Green-winged Teal: a male at Boston Cor 20 June. Am. Black Duck: nesting at Boston Cor along with pair of Black x Mallard cross 20 June; Ghent 3, 17, 19, 20 July. Mallard: pair at Ancram 8 June; 20 at Greendale on Hudson 16 June; nesting Boston Cor 20 June; at Central Br thru period; at Ghent 3, 17, 19, 20 July; at Jenny L one of three pairs raised young 19 June and later. Canvasback: sighted on Hudson 22 and 31 July. Com. Merganser: on Schoharie Creek female plus 12 young in July by S & A Schadow.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Ancram 8 June; one Martindale 11 June; one Boston Cor 18 June; one being chased by Red-winged Blackbirds at Spaulding Furn 25 June; six circling Weed Mines 20 July; one seen Schoharie Co. mid-Aug; Central Br June to 31 July; thru season by many observers in Columbia Co. Osprey: one Rip van Winkle bridge over Hudson 4 Aug; one Embough Bay, Catskill 14 Aug; Schoharie Co. mid-Aug; Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Ghent 4 July; one at Old Chatham 22 July and another 29 July. Cooper's Hawk: adult carrying food for young at E. Taghkanic 29 June; Bob Yunick banded a second year male 7 Aug, also saw singles 5-7 Aug; one found dead at Queechey Lake 31 July. Broad-winged Hawk: nest with three young at Churchtown 3-8 July; Bob Yunick reports it heard and seen thru period. Red-tailed Hawk: three L Taghkanic 6 June; fledgling Boston Cor 23 July; thru period at Central Br; occasionally thru season by most observers in Columbia Co. Am. Kestrel: one Ancram 8 June; adult carrying small rodent Spaulding Furn 25 June; two W. Taghkanic 17 July; family of three Martindale 2 July; at Central Br occasionally thru season and also in Columbia Co. by most observers. Ring-necked Pheasant: two calling Claverack 13 June; two Livingston 13 June; reported occasionally thru season and area of Columbia Co. Ruffed Grouse: male displaying Claverack 13 June; drumming at Hillsdale 24 July; at Central Br thru season; often thru season by several observers in Columbia Co. Wild Turkey: less young noted in Churchtown area possibly due to cold spring. Virginia Rail: one Weed Mines 20 July; on 31 July at Spaulding Furn; one 14 Aug at Embough Bay, Catskill. Killdeer: six Elizaville 3 June; 1 June-31 Aug at Central Br; seen by many observers thru Columbia Co. 1 June-31 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: one Boston Cor 23 July; one Central Br 1 Aug; in Columbia Co. 17, 22, 29 July. Spotted Sandpiper: two Elizaville 3 June; adult and fledgling Greendale 15 July; two Hillsdale 24 July; thru season at Central Br with nest and four eggs seen, then three young. Com.

Snipe: seen thru June at Central Br. Am. Woodcock: one Elizaville 3 June; one Old Chatham 8 July. Ring-billed Gull: five at Hudson R near Greendale 16 June; at Efner L 10 July and 21 Aug; several at Ghent 16 July. Herring Gull: two on Hudson 7 July; Jenny L in small numbers 21 Aug. Great Black-backed Gull: two on Hudson 7 July.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: 20 Ancramdale 8 June; reported thru season and areas by most observers. Mourning Dove: reported thru areas and season by most observers. Black-billed Cuckoo: pair courting at Elizaville 3 June; one at Ghent 10 July; one at Canaan 12 July; one at Old Chatham 16 and 17 July. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one E. Taghkanic 29 June; very few caterpillars noted. E. Screech-Owl: two at Chrysler Pond in Copake 19 June; one at Copake Falls 16 July; four W. Taghkanic 17 July. Great Horned Owl: one fledgling harassed by kingbirds in Ancramdale Swamp 22 July; one Hillsdale 24 July; one present July and Aug at Central Br; noted in Old Chatham 3, 4, 10 July. Barred Owl; reported by Yunick as present at Jenny L June-Aug. Short-eared Owl: reported at Ghent 21, 29, 30, 31 July. Whip-poor-will: two singing at Chrysler Pond 19 June. Chimney Swift: six Claverack 4 June; one Hillsdale 24 July; noted at Scotia 10 Aug; many at Central Br 1 June-31 Aug; several in Chatham 4 and 5 July and at Old Chatham 22, 25, 31 July. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one W. Taghkanic 1 June by Burrell Buffington; male on territory Martindale 11 June; one Greendale 15 July; one Manorton 3 Aug; four Hudson 5 Aug; three Clermont 10 Aug; seen thru season at Central Br; observed 18, 23 June, 16 July, and 23, 24 Aug at E. Glenville; occasionally thru period by several observers in Columbia Co. Belted Kingfisher: one W. Taghkanic 1 June by Burrell Buffington; five Boston Cor 15 June; carrying food for young at Greendale 17 June; thru at E. Glenville 1-30 June; thru season at Jenny L; occasionally thru season by several observers in Columbia Co. Red-headed Woodpecker: thru season at Central Br by Bill Cleveland; pair at Smith Pond 4 July by K. Dunham & E. Grace. Red-bellied Woodpecker: adult carrying food Ancramdale 24 June; three at Ancram 28 July. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: at Jenny L 31 July and 14 and 28 Aug; at Old Chatham 2, 12, 23 July. Downy Woodpecker: one L Taghkanic 6 June; thru season at E. Glenville; and at Central Br; according to Bob Yunick populations of both Hairy and Downy were lower than usual; seen thru season by most observers in Columbia Co. Hairy Woodpecker: female at Claverack 13 June; one Boston Cor 23 July; at E. Glenville 5 July; at Central Br thru June-Aug. Ghent 3 July, Chatham 6, 17 July, and Old Chatham 21, 29 July. N. Flicker: three L Taghkanic 6 June; nesting thru s. Columbia Co; at E. Glenville 15-31 Aug; Central Br 1 June-31 Sept; nesting Jenny L; thru season in Columbia Co. Pileated Woodpecker: at W. Taghkanic 1 June; two Craryville 10 June; one W. Copake 19 June; two Livingston 23 June; thru season at Jenny L by Bob Yunick.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: at Palmer L 22 July by Yunick. E. Wood-Pewee: two Elizaville 3 June; nesting thru s. Columbia Co; at Central Br thru season; thru June & July at Jenny L; Palmer's L 22 July; Central Br thru season; thru season in Columbia Co by most observers. Alder Flycatcher; one Gilboa 22 June; five on breeding territories Boston Cor 23 July; one Hillsdale 24 July; four breeding territories Ancram 28 July. Willow Flycatcher: two Gilboa 22 June; at Ghent 3, 17, 21, 29 July. Least Flycatcher: female on nest L Taghkanic 6 June; E. Glenville 23, 24 Aug; thru season Schenectady and Jenny L by Yunick; Old Chatham 4, 17 July. E. Phoebe: nest at Elizaville 3 June; Central Br thru June; thru season at Jenny L; Ghent 3, 8 July; Chatham 17; Canaan 28 July. Great Crested Flycatcher; pair courting L. Taghkanic 6 June; on nest Chrysler Pond 1 June; nest plus young Claverack 8 July; E. Glenville 23, 24 Aug; Central Br thru June-July; Old Chatham 4, 16 July; Canaan 17, 23 July. E. Kingbird: three Ancram 8 June; nesting pair Mellenville 1 July; nesting Claverack 8 July; Central Br 1 June-31 Aug; bred raised two broods at Jenny L late July; thru season Central Br; Columbia Co by most observers thru. Horned Lark: two Boston Cor 20 June; Ghent 3 July. Purple Martin: female at Boston Cor 15 June. Tree Swallow; nest in Martin house Elizaville 3 June; about 350 Chrysler Pond 28 July; thru season at Central Br, E Glenville, Jenny L, and Columbia Co. N. Rough-winged Swallow: one Chrysler Pond 1 June; Central Br thru June. Bank Swallow: about 15 in

colony Ancram 8 June; colony of about 100 Claverack 10 July; thru June Central Br; Old Chatham 24 July. Cliff Swallow: one Conesville 22 June; four E. Taghkanic 30 July; Old Chatham 4, 10, 31 July. Barn Swallow: two Ancram 8 June; breeding thru Columbia Co; Central Br and E Glenville thru season. Blue Jay: thru areas and season E Glenville, Central Br, Jenny L (42 banded by Yunick), and Columbia Co. Am. Crow: flock of 30 Snyderville 4 June; nest with young Spaulding Furn 25 June; thru season and areas E. Glenville, Central Br and Columbia Co. Fish Crow: nest found at Castleton 2 July by Paul Connor (full details to Atlas). Black-capped Chickadee; one Ancram 8 June; breeding thru Columbia Co; thru season at E Glenville, Central Br, and Jenny L (14 + 10 returns banding by Yunick at Jenny L) where nest found 12 June and another 19 June, almost none reported at Jenny L during June and early July then great increase—almost an invasion. Tufted Titmouse: one Boston Cor 15 June; adult carrying food Greendale 17 June; fledgling Claverack 21 June; E. Glenville 27 July, 23 & 27 Aug; occasionally thru season and area by several observers Columbia Co. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Earlton 22 June; bred Jenny L 26 June, seven banded, population low. White-breasted Nuthatch: nesting Chrysler Pond 1 June; E Glenville 1, 5 July and 24 Aug; thru season Central Br; bred Jenny L 1 July two banded; thru Columbia Co and season by several observers. Brown Creeper: carrying food Churchtown 5 June; seen 16 July Old Chatham. House Wren: pair nesting W. Taghkanic 5 June; ten Hudson 9 June; E. Glenville June and early July; Central Br thru season; thru area and season Columbia Co. Winter Wren: Old Chatham 16 & 23 July. Marsh Wren: one Ancram 8 June; four Hudson 7 July. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one at Jenny L by Yunick. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Columbia-Greene CC 7 July; five Hudson 5 Aug; four Clermont 10 Aug; one Embough Bay, Catskill 14 Aug. E. Bluebird: pair courting L. Taghkanic 6 June; pair Boston Cor 20 June; nesting S. Gilboa 22 June; male Spaulding Furn 25 June; fledglings Mellenville 1 July; pair Copake Falls 16 July; four Gallatinville 29 July; thru season and two nests found at Central Br; Jenny L 10 July. Veery: nest with eggs W. Taghkanic 5 June by Burrell Burrington; carrying food W. Copake 19 June and Hillsdale 18 June; E. Glenville 18 June; thru season at Jenny L. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Canaan 12-14, 17 July. Hermit Thrush: singing S. Gilboa 22 June; thru season at Jenny L. Wood Thrush: one Ancram 8 June; 1 June-23 Aug. E. Glensville; at Central Br thru season; thru season at Jenny L and in most areas by most observers in Columbia Co. Am. Robin: nest and three young Elizaville 3 June; E. Glenville and Central Br thru season; thru season and area by most observers in Columbia Co. Gray Catbird: 15 Ancram 8 June; E. Glenville and Central Br thru season; thru Columbia Co. area and season by all observers. N. Mockingbird: one L. Taghkanic 6 June; Hudson 9 June; three Greendale 16 June; W. Glenville 18 June; Old Chatham, Chatham, Canaan 3, 4, 22, 29, 31 July. Brown Thrasher: pair courting Churchtown 5 June; one Greendale 16 June; three Gilboa 22 June; three Copake Falls 16 June; Cenbtral Br thru June and July; Old Chatham, Canaan 25, 29, 30 July. Cedar Waxwing: two Elizaville 3 June; flock L. Taghkanic 6 June; female on nest Chrysler Pond 20 June; on nest Ancramdale 24 June; Central Br thru season; Jenny L thru Aug; thru area and season Columbia Co. European Starling: carrying food Ancram 8 June; thru season and areas E. Glenville, Central Br. and Columbia Co.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: one Meduas 22 June; nest at Jenny L where reported thru season. Yellow-throated Vireo: pair nesting Ancram 8 June; pair Craryville 12 June; three Greendale 16 June. Warbling Vireo: two singing Elizaville 3 June; two singing L. Taghkanic June; four singing Boston Cor 15 June; fledgling being fed Claverack 10 July; thru season at Central Br. Red-eyed Vireo: two males singing L. Taghkanic 6 June; three Greendale 17 June; nest and four eggs Copake 27 July; thru season at Jenny L; Old Chatham 16-23 July. Blue-winged Warbler: carrying food Elizaville 3 June; W. Glenville 18 June; occasionally thru area and season Columbia Co. Golden-winged Warbler: three males singing L. Taghkanic 6 June; W. Glenville 18 June. "Brewster's" Warbler: male singing Blue-winged song Craryville 10 June; male and female W. Copake 6 June; plumages of all three varied from large yellow breast shield to none and faint wing bars to large yellow.

Tennessee Warbler: Jenny L 28 Aug. Nashville Warbler: Jenny L 14 and 28 Aug. Yellow Warbler: nesting Churchtown 5 June; carrying food Ancram 8 June; W. Glenville thru June; Central Br thru June-July; thru area and season by many observers Columbia Co. Chestnut-sided Warbler: singing Snyderville 4 June; fledgling being fed Claverack 10 July; Ghent 1 July; Old Chatham 12, 14, 16, 23 July. Magnolia Warbler: two Gilboa 22 June. Yellow-rumped Warbler: gathering nesting material at Jenny L 11 June; female with brood patch at Jenny L 12 June. Black-throated Green Warbler: Jenny L 14 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: one Gilboa 22 June; Jenny L 14 and 28 Aug; Old Chatham 4, 16 July. Prairie Warbler: male singing L. Taghkanic 6 June; eight Gallatinville 26 June; carrying food Snyderville 6 July. Bay-breasted Warbler: Jenny L 14, 19 Aug. Cerulean Warbler: over Roe-Jan Kill, Elizaville 3 June. Black-and-white Warbler: two singing Churchtown 5 June; one Elizaville 13 July; Jenny L 19, 28 Aug. Am. Redstart: one Ancram 18 June; one Hudson 9 June; eight Hudson 5 Aug; Jenny L 28 Aug; Old Chatham 1, 10, 16, 23 July. Worm-eating Warbler: two adults and two fledglings Weed Mines 20 July; one Clermont 10 Aug. Ovenbird; two Snyderville 4 June; four singing Greendale 17 June; carrying food Gallatinville 26 June; W. Glenville 18 June; Central Br thru June; nested at Jenny L and Yunick banded 25; Old Chatham 17, 23 July. N. Waterthrush: pair nesting E. Taghkanic 2 June; territorial male and nest Churchtown 5 June; one E. Taghkanic 29 June; two Greendale 15 July; Old Chatham 4, 16, 23 July. Louisiana Waterthrush: male singing L. Taghkanic 6 June; nest with eggs Ghent 1 June by Wendy Neefus; one Copake Falls 16 July; one Hollowville 2 Aug. Com. Yellowthroat: males singing Ancram 8 June; nesting thru Columbia Co; thru season at Central Br; Niskayuna 16 June; W. Glenville 18 June; E. Glenville 16 June, 5 July, 23, 24 Aug. Canada Warbler: Jenny L 14 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: two singing Snyderville 4 June; nesting thru Columbia Co; W. Glenville 28 June, 24 Aug; thru June at Central Br; Jenny L banded 22 July and 20 Aug. N. Cardinal: pair Churchtown 5 June; nesting thru Columbia Co; W. Glenville thru season; Central Br thru season. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one Ancram 8 June; nesting thru Columbia Co; W. Glenville thru June, 1 Aug. Jenny L up to 15 Aug, banded 52; Central Br thru season. Indigo Bunting: males singing W. Copake 19 June; Boston Cor 20 June; Gilboa 22 June; female in nest Ancramdale 24 June; two fledglings Ancramdale 22 July; six Hillsdale 24 July; Central Br thru season; W. Glenville 18 June; Old Chatham 4, 8, 12, 16, 17, 24, 20 July. Rufous-sided Towhee: pair defending territory L. Taghkanic 6 June; nest and four young Elizaville 13 July; Central Br thru June-Aug; occasionally thru season thru Columbia Co. Chipping Sparrow: nest with eggs Elizaville 3 June; nest W. Taghkanic 5 June; W. Glenville 15 June-15 Aug; Central Br thru season; Jenny L thru season but rare; Columbia Co thru and thru season occasionally. Field Sparrow: pair mating Elizaville 3 June; 20 Gallatinville 26 June; W. Glenville 18 June; Central Br thru season; Old Chatham 4, 8, 10, 16 July. Vesper Sparrow: at least four S. Gilboa 22 June; one Livingston 23 June; one Ancramdale 22 July; one Manorton 3 Aug; Ghent 3, 17, 22, 29 July. Savannah Sparrow: males singing Ancram 8 June; Craryville 10 and 12 June; at least six S. Gilboa 22 June; 20 Gallatinville 26 June. Grasshopper Sparrow: three plus singing S. Gilboa 22 June. Song Sparrow: carrying food Elizaville 3 June; through season in W. Glenville and Central Br; thru area and season Columbia Co. Swamp Sparrow: one Claverack 21 June; ten on breeding grounds Boston Cor 23 July. White-throated Sparrow: singing Boston Cor 15 June; two Gilboa 22 June; Jenny L area singing in June and common on 2nd year lumber clearings. Dark-eyed Junco: one Gilboa 22 June, Jenny L thru, 27 banded. Bobolink: nesting Snyderville 4 June; W. Taghkanic 5 June; 20 plus fledglings in one field Martindale 21 July; W. Glenville 18 June; Central Br thru season. Red-winged Blackbird: nesting thru Columbia Co; W. Glenville and Central Br thru season. E. Meadowlark: carrying food Snyderville 4 June; fledgling Hillsdale 18 June; Clifton Park 18 June; Central Br thru season. Yellow-headed Blackbird: male flew over Rte. 23 (county not mentioned) by two observers 20 July. Com. Grackle: nest with one egg W. Taghkanic 5 June; W. Glenville 15-19 June, thru Aug; Central Br thru season; Jenny L thru season;

thru Columbia Co. Brown-headed Cowbird: males courting L. Taghkanic 6 June; fledgling fed by Yellow Warbler at Hudson 9 June; fledgling Weed Mines 20 July; W. Glenville occasionally thru; Central Br thru June; Jenny L 1 June-15 July. N. Oriole: female on nest L. Taghkanic 6 June; W. Glenville 18 June, 5 July; Central Br thru season; thru Columbia Co by most observers. Purple Finch: pair nesting E. Taghkanic 29 June; two males Martindale 21 July; Jenny L thru, 452 banded plus 150 returns; Schenectady (Yunick), 423 banded. House Finch: pair nesting L. Taghkanic 6 June; W. Glenville thru season; Central Br thru season; Jenny l thru season. Red Crossbill: Jenny L one seen 17 July. Pine Siskin: Jenny L 18 June and 3-19 July. Am. Goldfinch: males singing Ancram 8 June; building nest Livingston 23 June; W. Glenville 15 June, 5 July, 14 Aug; Central Br thru season; Jenny L occasional thru. Evening Grosbeak: female at Seward in early Aug by Charlie Cobb; male with cloacal protuberance and female with brood patch banded at Jenny L 21 May and recaptured 12 June. House Sparrow: fledged young Churchtown 5 June; W. Glenville thru season; Columbia Co thru area and season.

P.O. Box 21, Old Chatham, New York 12136.

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

At the time of this writing in mid-September, the New York Weather Bureau is declaring the summer of 1983 the second hottest on record. By 19 Sept. there had been 36 days of above 90° temperatures with the record being 37 for the season ending 21 Sept. Very hot weather started with the third week of June, cooled for the rest of the month and early July, then heated up again the third week of the latter thru the second week of August. Rain fell on 3, 4 June and not again till 27, 28 July. In between were scattered thunder showers, but only a few. One to three inches of rain fell on 11, 12 August and except for the occasional thunderstorm was the only precipitation for that month. Plant life depended upon the abundant spring rains and by the end of the period many mountain tops were turning brown from lack of water.

The dearth of insects last spring continued into the dry summer, and a decrease in several insectivorous bird species was noted especially in the Mohonk area. The heavy rains of spring did bring on the development of fruit and berries as expected; and some, such as wild cherry trees, were well attended in late August by waxwings, mimids, thrushes, vireos and some warblers, especially Cape Mays. Thirty years ago the DEC eradicated a threat from water chestnuts (*Trapa natans*) on the shallow bays along the Hudson. Now, although it took a long time, the threat is back. Plants are once again blanketing prime waterfowl feeding areas such as Esopus Point and Cornwall Bay, shading the shallows and cutting off sunlight needed to support plants upon which ducks, geese and swans depend. Wandering postnuptial herons did not appear in their usual numbers in August, with only a few reports coming in. Hawks seemed to have had a

successful season with only the American Kestrel reported lower than usual. Shorebirds made a poor return in July and August as runoff from the spring rains kept the reservoirs high thru most of the period. The Great Black-backed Gull continues to outnumber all other species in the family, and the appearance of a subadult Lesser Black-backed Gull on the Hudson off Highland Falls is one of the few state's records away from salt water.

Someone in the Nyack region is out a lot of money in the loss or release of exotic parrots. On 6 August a pair of Green Conures was found in the same tree that Red-crowned Amazons were in on 29 July, and it wasn't too far away in Piermont that several Maroon-bellied Conures appeared on the Rockland Christmas Count in 1982. Monk Parakeets have been surfacing on and off in that area for several years. Most warbler species were in good numbers during the period, and an excellent movement of migrants occurred on 28, 29 August. The appearance of a male Blue Grosbeak shepherding three immatures in late August could well be the second breeding record in the state for the species, the first being reported last year on Staten Island.

Rarities mentioned in the report include: Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Baird's Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Forster's Tern, Common Raven, Northern Parula (in July), Kentucky Warbler, Blue Grosbeak and Western Meadowlark.

Addenda to the spring report: Sedge Wren: two at Thompsonville, Sull May 22 (DN). No details. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: one along RR tracks 200 yards north of Cruger I 17 May. Observed for 2-3 minutes by Seward Highly and his class from Millbrook School.

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Abbreviations: AR—Ashokan Reservoir; CB—Cornwall Bay; EP—Esopus Point; GSBC—Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count, 19 June 1983 (includes nearby parts of Westchester Co); MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; the first four or five letters of each county.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one on GSBC off Rye. one L. DeForest 20 July was the second summer record for Rock, the first being 19 July 1933 (Wes Hennessy). A summer population of nine were on AR, two of which were in breeding plumage, no breeding proven (FM). Double-crested Cormorant: a few reports of summer birds but down from last year. One at EP 4 June increased to five by 30 Aug. A few seen regularly at CB and Conn's Hook. An unusual inland record of two at LaBar L, Sull 13 June (BW, SL). Great Blue Heron: numbers good thru region even though no breeding locations are known. Great Egret: usual post breeding few along the Hudson. Two on an inland pond near Wurtsboro 18 Aug (A, SB). Snowy Egret: 21 at CB 30 July, gone the next day. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** two in the Pleasant Valley area during Aug. Cattle Egret: rare in recent years; two in Dutch 9 June (Bill Mackey). Black-crowned Night-Heron: no reports from Rock this summer. One adult and one imm were at Kingston Point 31 July, but no evidence of having bred there. One was at Squirrel's Corners, Sull, 25 July (D, KN). Glossy Ibis: two spent 17-24 July at 6½ Station Sanct., Goshen (F, WA). Wood Duck: at least five reports of adult with young in Dutch during June and July. Numbers building on Hudson off Kingston Pt by 31 July. N. Pintail: a female on Haight Marsh, Dutch during July. N. Shoveler: one at MC

on GSBC. Gadwall: two CB 4 June. Greater Scaup: one at PL on GSBC. Com. Goldeneye: one at Rye on GSBC was very late. Hooded Merganser: a female near Eldred 25 June, and two adults with four young at Yankee L, Sull 15 July (DN, BG). Com. Merganser: more breeding than ever before. Rock had its first summer record of a male with five females on L Deforest 10 June (RFD). Two males and five females there on 21 June, and two males and four females there 23 June. Reduced to one pair on 27 June and a single male from 8-25 July. A flock of 30 at AR 31 July. Appeared to FM to be young of the year, and probably fledged locally. VF reports many records of females with young on the Delaware, Neversink and Rondout Res. Latest report eight downy young on Rondout Res 14 July.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: more summer birds than usual. One imm near Pine Plains 29 Aug (Russ O'Malley). One adult obs several times in Aug near Cooper L. Woodstock. One adult Rondout Res 24 June. An adult at Neversink Res 7 July. An adult at Rio Res 3 Aug, and another adult at Rondout Res 7 Aug. N. Harrier: a brown bird all summer in the Pawling area, last there 28 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: one Mine Rd., USMA 27 Aug. Another just missed catching a kingfisher at Wurtsboro on 6 July (A, SB). N. Goshawk: nest with young at Deep Hollow, Dutch 14 June, obs there again on 20, 23 June. Two adults and two imm in the Pawling area in Aug. One near Narrowsburgh 13 June, and another near Parksville 5 July. Red-shouldered Hawk: FM reports them "doing well" around AR. VF reports many sightings in Sull during June and July. Am. Kestrel: numbers down. RFD reports very scarce in Rock, only one sighting there, and no established territories in four Atlas blocks. Also low in Dutch. Wild Turkey: a family group at Green Haven during July. Three at Middletown Res during June and July. One was escorting four chicks for the first local breeding record. N. Bobwhite: four in the New Paltz area during July and Aug. DEC says they have not released any in the region. Com. Moorhen: two adults with two young at Pulver's Cor. Dutch during July. Lesser Golden-Plover: 30-40 were at Warren Sod Farm by 28 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: one returned to the Ehmer Farm at LaGrangeville by 21 July, three at Pleasant Valley 23 July. Spotted Sandpiper: nest with four eggs at AR 11 June. Eggs still there 26 June, but nest deserted by 29 June (FM). Upland Sandpiper: inc to about 40 at Warren Sod Farm by 28 Aug. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers: arr in Dutch by 25 July. Obs there regularly thru Aug. Numbers in the CB area very low. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** an unprecedented *five* at AR 31 Aug (R. Terwiliger). Laughing Gull: first birds appeared at CB and Conn's Hook 29 July, 15 at the latter location by 14 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: one at CB 29 July (P. Jeheber). Herring Gull: numbers continue low in mid-Hudson area. Outnumbered by Great Black-backed Gull by 30-40 to one. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** one subadult at Conn's Hook, Highland Falls 19 June. Well observed for about two hours and compared with other species of all ages at about 20 yards, with a 25 x telescope. This is the first summer record for upstate New York (EDT, BS). **FORSTER'S TERN:** one imm at CB 30 July (EDT).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Owls: all resident species noted thru period, no significant change in numbers. Great Horned Owl: one on garage roof all day 7 July was found dead on the ground the next day (A, SB). Barred Owl: nesting successfully in the city of Kingston. Obs regularly thru period (FM). Com. Nighthawk: usual few residents obs over the principal cities, good migration last week of Aug. Whip-poor-will: heard regularly thru period on Stissing Mt, last heard there 28 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: FG and MY at Clinton Corners and Dover had anywhere from three to six coming regularly to feeders, many others coming to flowers. Conflicting reports of numbers at Cruger's I at end of period. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: several reports of adults of both species bringing young to suet feeders in Dutch thru July.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: three June and July records in Sull. One Callicoon Center 10 June, one Wolf L 2, 4 July and two above Neversink Res with one young 23 July (BW, SL). E. Wood-Pewee: numbers up far more than usual, heard everywhere. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three on Big Indian Mt. 12 June and one at Panther

Mt 24 June. First migrant at Pond Gut, Dutch 27 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: appeared on six of ten reports. Nine obs in two days of birding in the L. Kanawauke-Arden area of Harriman Park 7, 8 June. One at the high elevation of Jackie Jones Fire Tower of Harriman Park 5 June. FM reports them "common" along a roadside stream at Peekamoose Mt. 26 June. Four at Rock Hill, Sull 14 July. Breeding confirmed at Wolf L, Sull (DN). Alder Flycatcher: one 5 June at South Monsey, and a singing adult feeding three young at West Haverstraw 20 July. Least Flycatcher: numbers down. Only three pair obs in Rock, all at Stony Pt Ski Center, unreported in Dutch during June. Nest found at AR 4 June, feeding young there 24 June. Adult feeding Brown-headed Cowbird 14 July at AR (FM). Great Crested Flycatcher: suddenly very scarce in Rock. Only found twice all summer in four Atlas blocks. Horned Lark: breeding pairs obs at Warren Sod Farm, Stewart Airport and Orange Co Airport in Oran. Two adults with two imm at Sullivan Co. Airport 30, 31 July. Purple Martin; six pair at Lynch Pd Golf Club, Bethel, 2 June, did not stay. Ten birds in two houses at Lava, Sull 13 June, five at Rye on GSBC. Tree Swallow: migrants moving thru by second week of July, more than 400 at Pleasant Valley 24 July. N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 20 at Wissman Rd, Dutch 3 July. Bank Swallow: higher numbers and more localities in Rock. **COMMON RAVEN**: one heard at the base of Slide Mt near Winisook 12 June. Several others seen and heard near Frost Valley 24, 30 July. Two near Neversink Res 7 July. Red-breasted Nuthatch: two July and three Aug reports in Dutch were more than in recent years. Brown Creeper: at least five reports. EB obs nine in two days birding at Harriman Park 7, 8 June. One at Jackie Jones Fire Tower 12 July. A family group was at Cary Arboretum 18 July in the same area where a nest was discovered 3 June. An adult was feeding young in a nest near Yulan, Sull 10 June. Carolina Wren: increasing away from the Hudson where the numbers are usually greatest. One was at Forestburgh, Sull 8 July and another at Sacket L 30 July, neither being a likely habitat. Winter Wren: good breeding in Sull. One obs singing 30 July at the Roosevelt Estate in Hyde Park. Golden-crowned Kinglet: more than usual. Two adults with two young at Monticello 25 June (DN). Three other reports of individuals that county in early July. Four at Kensico Res on GSBC. A nesting pair was at AR in a spruce grove (no date). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: scarce in Rock after three or four good years. E. Bluebird: a late nesting reported from Wurtsboro in a box previously occupied by a Tree Swallow. Feeding young there 25 Aug. FG had banded 259 young in Dutch by late July. Swainson's Thrush: one singing at South Nyack 5 June was a late spring date by four days. Two return migrants were heard in Dutch 10 Aug. Hermit Thrush: seven heard in two days birding in Harriman Park 7, 8 June (EB). Two were singing on Stissing Mt. the first week of June.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: Rock had more records than in recent years, singing there thru 11 July. Solitary Vireo: two in Harriman Park 7 June, one on a nest in Butler Sanct on GSBC. First migrant on Mine Rd, USMA 27 Aug. A nest with three young on Big Indian Mt obs 12 June by FM. Yellow-throated Vireo: an adult was feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird at AR 2 July. Warbling Vireo: continues high in Rock where they are found in almost every suitable habitat. Philadelphia Vireo: first migrant at Pond Gut, Dutch 27 Aug. Nashville Warbler: EB had two 7 June in Harriman Park. **NORTHERN PARULA**: a full-plumaged adult at Tyrell Rd. Dutch 18 July, first July report for that county and probably the region. One at Thompsonville, Sull 4 June and another at York L, Sull 14 June were probably late spring migrants. Magnolia Warbler: Sull had many reports during July. One fledgling obs near Woodbourne 3 July. An adult feeding young near Parksville 5 July (BW, SL). Yellow-rumped Warbler: one heard 19 June at Clove Valley, Dutch. A very early migrant was at Cary Arboretum 24 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: one heard at Tymore Forest 12 June; another at East Clove Valley, Dutch 19 June. Pine Warbler: a singing male near L LaBarr 13 June, another singing at a swamp near Eldred thru June. One Forestburgh 8 July, and another at Bashakill 10 July. Has become a common resident in pine plantations around both Middletown and Ashokan Reservoirs. Cerulean Warbler: two adults with two young at Yankee L 25, 26 June. Others found in usual

locations, but numbers seem to be lower than past years. Ovenbird: an adult doing a broken wing act with a fledgling at Cary Arboretum 18 July. Kentucky Warbler: one on the north side of Low Tor Mt. 6 June, and another on South Mt. Rd. on the opposite side of Low Tor 1-5 June. One singing at Pawling Nature Center 14 Aug was not heard after that date. Mourning Warbler: one in a small mixed flock of warblers near Forestburgh 16 July. Canada Warbler: three at Butler Sanct. on GSBC. First migrant on Mine Rd, USMA 14 Aug. FM reports them "common" on Big Indian Mt. 12 June, and feeding young on Peekamoose Mt. 26 June. Yellow-breasted Chat: rarely found in Rock. One was on the north slope of Low Tor Mt 6 June. One seen and heard at Stanfordville 8-10 June.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Blue Grosbeak: F, WA discovered an adult male shepherding three imm near Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island 14 Aug. This may be the second breeding record for NY State and the first for the region. Grasshopper Sparrow: back in the usual location and in slightly better numbers. Three June and July records in Sull, three at Westchester Airport on GSBC. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: two at MC on GSBC. Seaside Sparrow: one on Hen I, Rye on GSBC. Lincoln's Sparrow: one imm and a singing adult at Pawling 15 Aug were early migrants. Bobolink: several families ob near Pawling during July. E. Meadowlark: Rock had its first summer record in ten years with five or six birds on 11 June in W. Ramapo. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** the Stewart Airport bird found in late May persisted thru 3 June. Orchard Oriole: after being reported in eight locations in Rock this past spring, only one had a confirmed breeding with a full grown young obs on 1 July in S. Nyack. In Sull a first year male was obs carrying food for young at Bashakill 26 July. Thelma Haight had a nesting pair near Stanfordville, Dutch in June; and an adult male was at Wurtsboro on 11, 14 June. Pine Siskin: two at Youngsville, Sull 7, 16 June. Am. Goldfinch: obs building 21 July near Dover; and a nest with five young at Pleasant Valley 21 Aug.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOSEPH A. DICOSTANZO

Overall it was a fairly warm summer in the Region this year. June set the pattern with the daily temperature average being at or above normal on 21 days during the month. The average daily temperature for the month was 73.4° F, 2.0° above normal. June was also fairly dry throughout; the total rainfall of 2.82 in. was only .41 in. below normal, but over half that total fell on 28 June. July continued hot and dry with 24 days recording at or above normal temperatures. The hottest day of the season was 15 July with a high of 98°, right in the middle of a heat wave that saw above 90° temperatures from the 12th to the 18th. The average for the month, 79.5°, was 2.8° above normal. The dry weather also continued with a July total of 3.40 in. of rain, .37 below normal. But as in June, most of that fell in one day, the 21st, when 2.26 in. fell. August pretty much followed the same pattern: 26 days at or above normal; an average for the month of 77.7°, 2.3° above normal. Total rainfall of 7.26 in. was 3.23 in. above normal, but most of it fell on only two days, the 11th (2.39 in.) and the 28th (2.79 in.). (All weather data from New York City.)

With the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas in its fourth and penultimate year, Atlasers and other observers continue to increase our knowledge of our local breeding birds and recent changes in their status. New breeding sites were discovered or established for Pied-billed Grebe, Barred Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown Creeper and Prothonotary Warbler; and not all of the season's reports were in yet. Several well established species with southern affinities continue to increase their populations in the Region: American Oystercatcher, Willet, Tufted Titmouse and Northern Cardinal. Others such as Gull-billed Tern and Chuck-will's-widow have maintained their northern breeding outposts on Long Island. A potential addition that should be looked for in the upcoming years is Summer Tanager. One interesting development is the emergence of New York City bridges as nesting habitats for birds of prey: see Peregrine Falcon and Common Barn-Owl.

For the last few years the National Park Service has been lowering the water level of the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in the summer months, creating excellent habitat for fall migrant shorebirds at the Refuge. The East Pond has consequently become the premier shorebirding area in the Region. This summer the area really outdid itself with the state's first record of Little Stint, the second state record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and one to two Curlew Sandpipers almost any time you wanted to look for them, as well as one Ruff. Tom Davis, continuing his annual spring and fall shorebird counts at the Refuge, reported that arrival dates were similar to those of two years ago.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Brown Pelican, Little Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Pileated Woodpecker.

Abbreviations; BBC—Breeding Bird Census; NYSARC—New York State Avian Records Committee; LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; SP—State Park; BLSP—Belmont Lake State Park; HHSP—Hither Hills State Park; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers; pr—pair.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loons lingered well into June in Gardiner's Bay (MM, JW) and a breeding plumaged oiled bird was at Ward's Pt, SI 13 Aug (*vide* GB). A pair of Pied-billed Grebes raised young in the lake in Prospect Pk, Bklyn this summer (G. Thompson); only the third confirmed breeding location in NYC. The species did not breed at JBWR this year (DR). A lingering Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was at Great Kills, SI on 11 June (*vide* THD). One of the few rarities of the season was an EARED GREBE in breeding plumage on 4 Aug at Jones Beach (ROP); this is the first summer occurrence for the Region. A pelagic trip off Montauk Pt on 20 Aug reported 130 Cory's, 20 Greater and one Sooty Shearwater and 70 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (BJS). A Sooty Shearwater was found dead on Quogue Beach on 9 June (GSR). Four BROWN PELICANS were seen flying west along the beach at RMSP 2 July (J. Wallace), coinciding with a large incursion this summer on the New Jersey shore. Over 200 Double-crested Cormorants were counted coming into an evening roost at JBWR 13 June (THD). Least Bitterns were reported breeding in several locations around the Region: Montauk (BJS), Calverton (GSR) and JBWR (DR). Individual subadult Snow and "Blue" Geese summered at JBWR (mob). About 3,000 Brant flew over Forest Pk, heading north on 5 June (THD), fairly late for so many. Several species of

waterfowl that are normally present only in the winter lingered: a male Lesser Scaup summered at JBWR (mob); Oldsquaw remained in the vicinity of Bostwick Pt, Gardiner's I until at least 21 July (MM, JW); and individual Surf Scoters were reported from several locations including a male at JBWR (mob) where the species is rare even in the winter.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Ospreys continue their comeback with both the Captree and Central Suffolk BBCs reporting their highest counts ever, with eight and 17, respectively. A survey of Ospreys on LI recorded at least 127 fledged from 111 active nests (M. Scheibel). Several reports of imm Bald Eagles were received: individuals were seen at JBWR (PWP) and Oak Beach (RM) on 10 July and at Sayville on 13 July (RM); it is possible that all three sightings were of the same bird. Another imm was seen at Silver L, SI on 17 Aug (TS). N. Harrier may have bred at JBWR (DR). Red-shouldered Hawk did breed at Noyack (GSR). As reported in the spring, Peregrine Falcons successfully nested on the Throgs Neck and Verrazano Bridges in NYC; a banded juvenile male Peregrine was present at JBWR from 14 Aug thru the end of the period. A Sora at Seatuck in Islip was new to the Captree BBC. Lesser Golden-Plovers started appearing in the Region by mid-Aug with a max of 23 reported at a sod farm near Riverhead 23 Aug (GSR). An estimated 15-20 pairs of Am. Oystercatchers nested at JBWR (DR). Another shorebird that has been increasing in the area in recent years is Willet, with ten pairs at JBWR (DR) and 150 pairs along the Jones Beach strip from the Wantagh causeway to the Robert Moses bridge (B. Lauro). Twenty pairs of Upland Sandpipers nested at JFK Airport (S. Chevalier); 27 Uplands were reported at Westhampton Airport 25 July (RM). Other late July shorebirds were 12 Hudsonian and three Marbled Godwits at the Line 1 in Great South Bay on 31 July (TWB). A Marbled Godwit, rare in spring, was at Jones Beach 8 June (PAB). On 9 Aug 736 Red Knots were counted at JBWR, the highest count in years (THD). The peak number of Western Sandpipers reported was 24 at JBWR on 26 Aug (THD). Undoubtedly, the most exciting and sought after bird of the season was the **STINT** found at JBWR on 17 July and present till 22 July; the bird was first called a Rufous-necked Stint but was subsequently identified as a **LITTLE STINT**, the first ever for NY State. Details and photos to NYSARC (P., J. & M. O'Brien, THD, JY, *et al.*). Also contributing to the excitement at JBWR was NY's second state record of **SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** on 16 July (THD, *et al.*); this may be the same individual that was found in the same location two years ago, almost to the day. Curlew Sandpipers have gotten to be quite regular at JBWR during the fall migration in recent years; this summer one to two were found there from mid-July to mid-Aug (mob). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in small numbers on farm fields in eastern LI as usual in late Aug, with eight to 15 in the vicinity of Riverhead and Mecox (*fide* THD). A molting adult Ruff was at JBWR 30 Aug (H. McGuiness, TS). A pelagic trip off Montauk 20 Aug sighted a Long-tailed Jaeger (THD). The Laughing Gull colony at JBWR increased this summer to over 300 pairs (DR). Little and Com. Black-headed Gulls are now sighted year-round in the Region: this summer a subadult Little at Breezy Pt 11 June (PWP) and a breeding plumaged Black-headed at Mattituck on 27 July (P. Bernarth). 14 Bonaparte's Gulls, one in breeding plumage, were at Ward's Pt, SI 13 Aug (GB). There seems to be a regular, but often overlooked, movement of Bonaparte's Gulls in the Region in late July to early to mid-Aug. On 4 July, from a fishing boat north of Great Gull I, an odd gull was spotted resembling a Lesser Black-backed Gull, but with pink legs. An examination of museum skins at the Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. resulted in the conclusion that it was a hybrid Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (JD, KCP, S. Drennan, *et al.*). Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported: 6 June at Oldfield Pt, Suffolk Co (PAB), 30 July at JBWR (THD, PWP), and 20 Aug at Shinnecock Inlet (TWB, TS). Two pair Gull-billed Terns nested in the Cedar Beach tern colony (C. Safina). An adult Caspian Tern was at JBWR 23 July (THD, B. Basham). The Com. Tern colony in the marsh at JBWR numbered approx 1,000 pairs (PAB). The Com. and Roseate Tern colony on Great Gull I did very well with a record number of Com. young, over 6,000 and about 800 Roesate young, the most in several years (H. Hays). Most other tern colonies on eastern LI did not do so well, with the colony

at Southold again being hard hit by Black-crowned Night-Herons (H. Hays). Forster's Terns were reported at JBWR on several dates during the season: 26 June (THD), 30 July (TWB) and 2 Aug (RA, GSR). Least Terns were reported to have done well at their Breezy Pt colony (DR). Also at Breezy Pt were 40 pairs of Black Skimmers (DR).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Monk Parakeets are apparently still on SI with several sightings reported during the summer (*vide* GB). Four pairs of Com. Barn-Owls bred at JBWR in manmade nest boxes (PWP); another pair may have bred on the Bayonne Bridge on SI (Mr. & Mrs. C. Helgesen). It would seem that even if NYC bridges become unsafe for auto traffic they have a potentially useful future as the biggest and most expensive bird nest sites ever built by man. A pair of Barred Owls nested on Fisher's I for the first confirmed nesting on LI in recent years (*vide* GSR). Com. Nighthawks were found nesting in several places within NYC; the Bronx (O. Rusabo) and LI City (THD). The Chuck-will's-widows nesting at Oak Beach raised at least two young (RM, GSR); another was present at E. Manorville as in recent years (GSR). Late spring migrant Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported at Alley Pd Pk 5 June (THD) and RMSP 6 June (LS). A **PILEATED WOODPECKER** was present during the summer at Mill Neck (GSR), presumably the same one reported in the spring.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Following last year's nesting near Riverhead, the first in many years, a pair of Acadian Flycatchers was found nesting in HHSP this summer (GSR). As usual the spring flycatcher migration continued into mid-June with reports of an Olive-sided at Upton 10 June, three Willows at Tobay 16 June and two Leasts at Manorville 17 June (GSR). The Tufted Titmouse continues its increase on LI with record numbers reported on both the Captree and Central Suffolk BBCs, 55 and 54, respectively. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered until mid to late June with one on the grounds of Sea View Hospital, SI till mid-June (GB) and one at Far Rockaway 26 June (THD). A new LI breeding site for Brown Creeper was found at BLSF (FF). E. Bluebirds nested at Upton, as usual, and others were found nesting at HHSP and near Easthampton (GSR). Two Water Pipits were a bit early at Manorville 17 Aug (EL).

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: A pair of White-eyed Vireos nested at JBWR (DR). A male Golden-winged Warbler, a very rare fall migrant species on LI was at Forest Pk 22 Aug (R. Wolfert). A number of spring migrant warblers occurred well into June; a female Blue-winged 26 June at Far Rockaway (THD); male Nashville 5 June at Pt Lookout (RM); male Magnolia 26 June at Far Rockaway (THD); male Blackpoll 25 June in S. Jamaica (THD); second year male Am. Redstart 19 June at Far Rockaway (THD); and a singing Ovenbird 19 June at Far Rockaway (THD). Early fall Yellow-rumped Warblers were at Alley Pd Pk 24 Aug (LS *et al.*) and Great Gull I 27 Aug (KCP). A new breeding site for Prothonotary Warbler was established for the Region when a pair was found nesting at BLSF with perhaps another pair nesting nearby (FF, *et al.*). A Connecticut Warbler, an extremely rare spring migrant, was reported at Forest Pk 8 June (P. Bernarth). A pair of Yellow-breasted Chats nested at Manorville.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Following a record spring flight, Summer Tanagers were seen during the breeding season on SI this summer (*vide* GSR); perhaps, in another year or two, this species will be added to the growing number of southern species nesting in the Region, as Blue Grosbeak did last year. N. Cardinals seem to be doing well with the Captree BBC recording 88 and Central Suffolk 147, both all time highs. Indigo Buntings were reported to have crashed in south Queens with only one pair found in five Atlas blocks this year compared to 12-20 in the last two years (THD). An early fall Dickcissel was found at Freeport 15 Aug (C. Ward). A Dark-eyed Junco lingered till the relatively late date of 2 June on Great Gull I (JD, *et al.*).

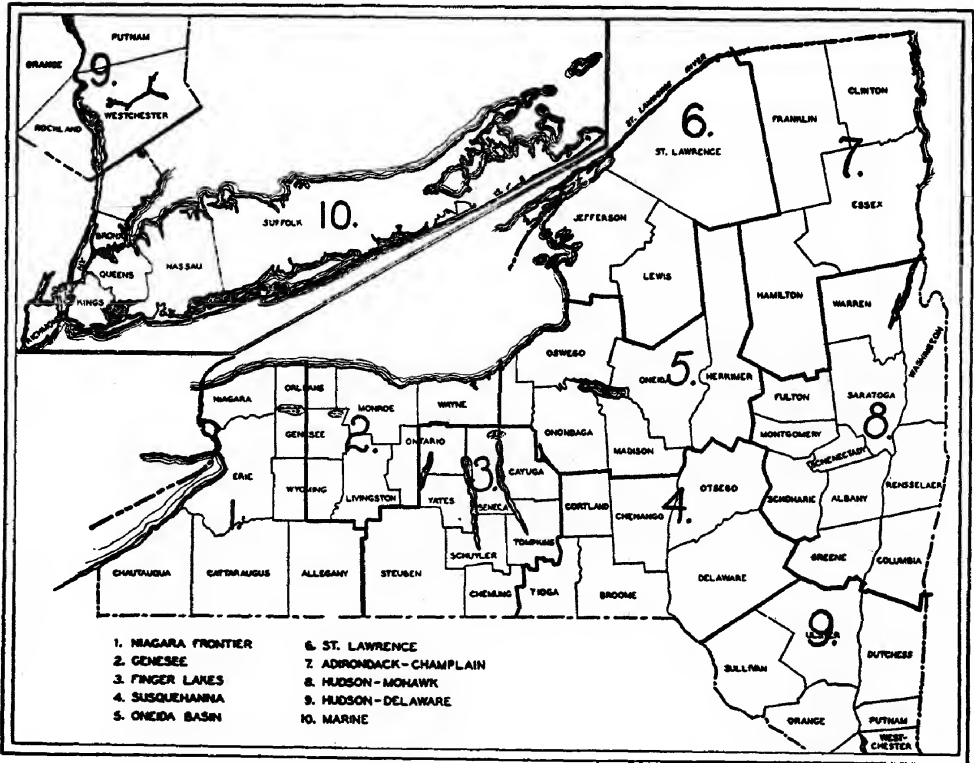
Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.

Central Park West at 79th St., New York, New York 10024

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Letters may be of a general nature as long as they pertain to New York State ornithology, or may be of a specific nature with reference to something that has appeared in *The Kingbird*. The editors reserve the right *not* to accept a letter for publication, or to edit a letter in accordance with space requirements. All letters received will be acknowledged. Your participation is invited.

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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