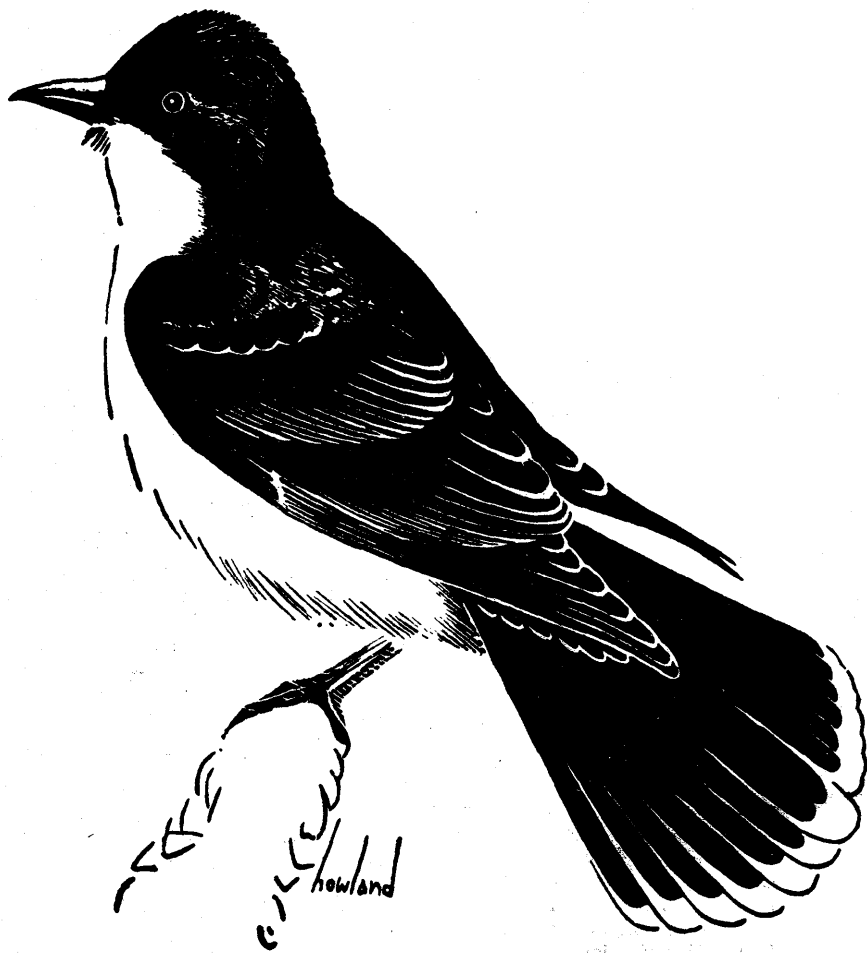


The KINGBIRD



VOL. XXX, NO. 4

FALL • 1980

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP should be sent to the chairman of the Membership Committee, Mrs. Myrna Hemmerick, P.O. Box 203, Setauket, NY 11733. Send CHANGES OF ADDRESS, order SINGLE COPIES, BACK NUMBERS, and REPLACEMENT COPIES (\$3.00 each) from the Circulation Manager, Mrs. Constance N. Wilkins, 4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045.

Publication office is 4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045.
 Second class postage paid at Cortland, NY.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

1. Title of Publication—*THE KINGBIRD* Publication No. (ISSN 0023-1606)
2. Date of Filing—September 30, 1980
3. Frequency of Issue—Quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)
4. Publication offices—4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045
5. Business offices—4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045
6. Publisher—The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.
 c/o Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14853
 Co-Editors—Emanuel Levine, 585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550
 John Farrand, Jr., American Museum of Natural History, New York 10024
 Managing Editor—None (Circulation Manager—Mrs. Constance N. Wilkins,
 4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045)
7. Owner—The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., a non-profit organization,
 c/o Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14853
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders—None
9. The purpose, function and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during preceding 12 months.
10. Extent and nature of Circulation:

	Avg. no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Single issue nearest filing date
A. Total number copies printed	838	840
B. Paid circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	0	0
2. Mail Subscriptions.	765	787
C. Total paid circulation	765	787
D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means.		
Samples, complimentary and other free copies	28	33
E. Total Distribution	793	820
F. Copies not distributed		
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	45	20
2. Returns from news agents	0	0
G. Total	838	840

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
 (signed) Constance N. Wilkins, Circulation Manager



The KINGBIRD

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

Vol. XXX, No. 4

Fall, 1980

197-264

CONTENTS

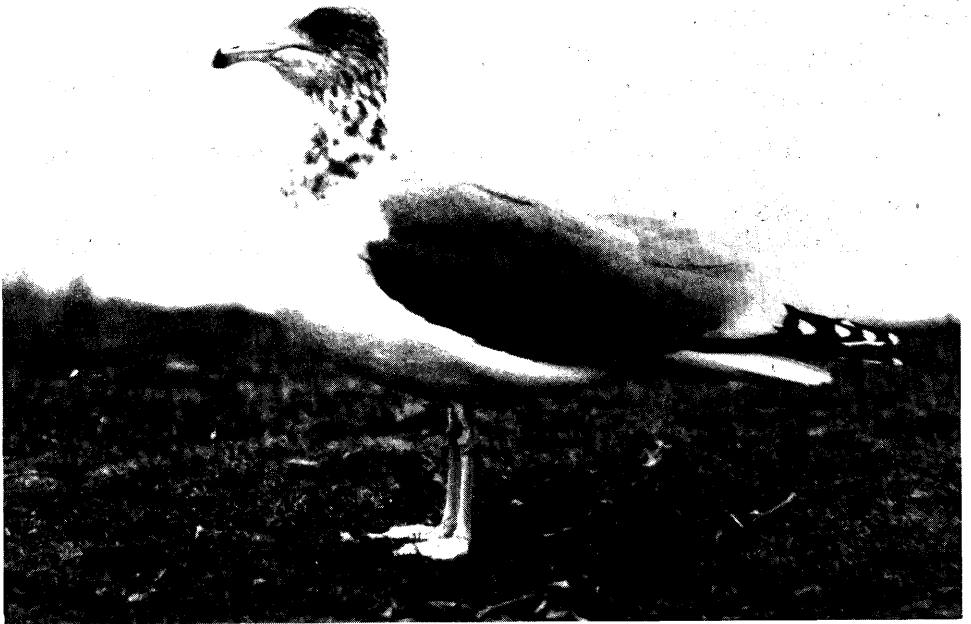
Photographs of New York State Rarities	
37. California Gull	Berna B. Weissman 198
Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee	201
New York State Waterfowl Count, January 1980	Walton B. Sabin 206
The New York State Waterfowl Count, A Quarter Century Report	Morgan Jones 210
Minutes of the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Council of Delegates Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.	217
Highlights of the Summer Season	John Farrand, Jr. 220
Regional Reports	223

Co-Editors — Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr.

Highlights of the Summer Season
Guest Editor — John Farrand, Jr.

Circulation Manager — Constance N. Wilkins

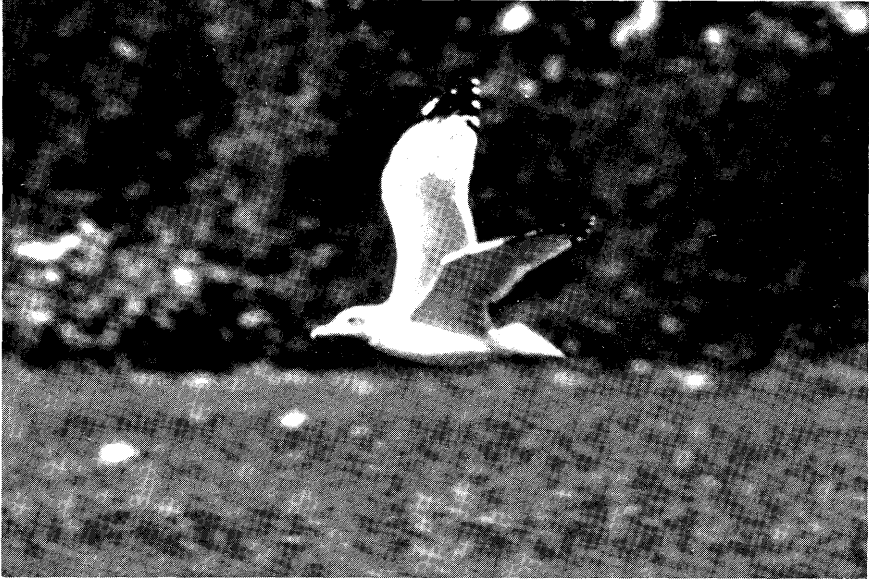
Cover Design — Douglas L. Howland



*California Gull – Rockland Lake, Rockland Co.
October 1978* *Thomas H. Davis*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES
37. CALIFORNIA GULL

BERNA B. WEISSMAN



*California Gull – Rockland Lake, Rockland Co.
October 1978* *Harry Darrow*

The California Gull (*Larus californicus*), breeds on the interior northern prairies and Great Basin of North America, and winters mainly along the Pacific coast from southern British Columbia to Guatemala.

Between 1964 and 1978 there were at least eleven reports of this species east of its normal range, in Texas, Missouri, Michigan and Minnesota, with first records for the latter three states. Reports from the East coast, unsubstantiated by specimens or photographs, include an adult in Fairfax Co., Virginia, on February 22, 1967, and another at Brigantine, Atlantic Co., New Jersey, on August 12, 1967.

On April 15, 1978, an adult was photographed at Mullet Key, Pinellas Co., Florida, the first properly documented east coast record.

On October 4, 1978, driven by rain from the Hook Mt. hawk watch, I was sitting in my car at Rockland Lake, Rockland Co., morosely watching the Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and

assorted waterfowl that had gathered to eye my lunch, when I noticed a gull that was markedly different from the others. An adult bird in basic plumage, it suggested a miniature Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), with the bulky habitus of that species, although it was only slightly larger than the Ring-bills. The mantle and upper wings were decidedly darker gray than those of the Herring and Ring-billed, although not as dark as on a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*); the head and neck were heavily streaked with gray-brown and the tail and underparts were white. The legs and feet were chalky green, the eyes dark brown with a dark red orbital ring, and the bill dull yellow, heavier than that of a Ring-billed and with a more pronounced gonydal angle. There was a black spot on the lower mandible at the gonys, with a smaller pale red spot proximally; a small wisp of black extended onto the upper mandible. Sacrificing my cookies to make the bird move, I noted that the wing tips both above and below were extensively black, with white tips on all the primaries and white "mirrors" on the first two. The gape and mouth lining were bright orange.

After studying it for more than 90 minutes, sometimes from as near as ten feet, I was convinced that it was a California Gull, the first recorded in New York State, and repaired to the telephone to summon help. Although it was seen and photographed by a number of people on the 5th and 6th, it was not until October 7 that its identity was confirmed by several observers previously familiar with the species. I need not have worried. Waxing fat on junk-food hand-outs, it remained that year at least until late December.

On October 3, 1979, I found the bird again at the same spot and last saw it that year on November 8. It reappeared on March 26, 1980, now in full breeding plumage with all of the soft parts more intensely colored and the head and neck pure white, and remained for five days.

On June 7 and 8, 1980, another California Gull, with only the molting secondaries showing signs of sub-adult plumage, was found near the Lake Ontario shore in Orleans Co. by Mary Ann Sunderlin, Warren Lloyd and Bob Thomen, and confirmed by Robert Spahn (pers. comm).

On October 3, 1980, the Rockland Lake bird and I kept our rendezvous for the third consecutive year.

I am grateful to Thomas H. Davis, Jr. for contributing information on previous records.

15 Laurel Hill Road, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

A total of 84 reports, representing 48 records of birds, was received by the New York State Avian Records Committee in 1979. Nine additional reports of six species sent to the NYSARC were placed on file without formal review, because they were of less exceptional records than are normally reviewed by the Committee. Of the records received by the NYSARC, 36 (75%) were accepted, two were judged to be of possible escapes from captivity, and nine were not accepted. One report remains under review. All these figures show improvement from our first year of operation (*Kingbird* 29: 120; 1979); 70% more reports were received this year, and proportionally more of these were accepted. One species, the Mississippi Kite, was added to the New York State List in 1979.

We continue to note a tendency of observers to assume that someone else will submit a report of a rarity which they have observed, with the result that no permanent documentation of the observation is preserved. The NYSARC welcomes multiple reports for all records. As in 1978, failure to provide sufficient detail about observations remains the primary cause of rejection. Our system for cataloguing reports submitted to the NYSARC is described in our previous report (*op. cit.*). All reports received in 1979 were catalogued as "1979 records" even though they might refer to observations made in 1978. However, in the summary below, records are separated according to year of observation. We use the term "documented" to mean observations for which a written report is on file, and the term "substantiated" to refer to a report accompanied by additional material evidence such as a photograph or specimen. Nomenclature follows the Fifth Edition of the AOU *Checklist* throughout. Only the names of observers who submitted reports are listed below, regardless of the number of people involved in the actual observation.

1978 ACCEPTED REPORTS

PARASITIC JAEGER. 1979-2-A, subad. light morph, 16 Dec., Montauk Pt., Suffolk Co. (THD). New late date for this species in New York State.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH. 1979-3-A, one, 29-30 Dec., Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., photographs on file (THD). This is the latest substantiated report from New York State.

WHEATEAR. 1979-1-A, B, one, 19 Oct., Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk Co., (LF, FF). This bird reported as photographed, but motion pictures did not accompany the report. It is the 18th reported from New York, the twelfth downstate.

1978 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

GREATER FLAMINGO. 11-24 Nov., Brookhaven, Suffolk Co. Probable escape from captivity.

BLACK GUILLEMOT. 1979-6, 23 Dec., Camp Ditmar Scout Preservation, Ontario Co.

GREAT GRAY OWL. 1979-7, 9 May, King Ferry, Cayuga Co.

1979 ACCEPTED REPORTS

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER. 1979-45-A, B, C, one, 29 Sept., 39° 48' N., 71° 18' W. (Block Canyon ca. 90 mi south Montauk Point), photographs on file (DWC, THD, FGS). Found in a patch of water with 22.5° C surface temperature on the Federation's September 1979 pelagic trip.

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL. 1979-44-A, one, 39° 18' N., 72° 16' W (near mouth of Hudson Canyon) (RSH). This is the second report from off Long Island, and like the preceding report comes from warm (21.9° C) offshore waters.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD. 1979-34-A, ad. female, 25 Aug., Great Gull Island, Suffolk Co. (JDiC). This is the ninth report for New York State.

GANNET. 1979-41-A, two subads., 9 Sept., Lake Ontario west of Rochester, Monroe Co. (RGS). An upstate record, perhaps associated with the passage of Hurricane David.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. 1979-21-A, near ad., ca. 20-30 May, Solvay, Onondaga Co., photographs on file (DWC). This is only the second substantiated report from upstate New York.

WHITE-FACED IBIS. 1979-24-A, ad. in alt. plumage, 10 June, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co. (THD). This is the second report from New York State. At least two birds were present during the entire summer; full details, with a substantiating photograph, appear in *The Kingbird* 30: 3, 1980.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK. 1979-40-A, two, 30 Nov., Irondequoit Bay Inlet, Monroe Co. (RGS). This is the third report from upstate New York and about the eleventh for the entire state.

- COMMON EIDER.** 1979-48-A, B, female, 15-16 Oct., Quaker Lake, Dutchess Co., photograph on file (MWY, HP). This is about the third substantiated report away from the coast.
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE.** 1979-18-A, ad., 5 May, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Suffolk Co. (C and JH). This is the 13th report for New York State.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE.** 1979-17-A, B, two subad., 28 May to 3 June, LaTourette Golf Course, Richmond Co. (RZ, RC). This is the first report for New York State. Full details, including substantiating photographs, are in *The Kingbird* 29: 179; 1979.
- SWAINSON'S HAWK.** 1979-23-A, B, ad. light morph, 26 Apr., Derby Hill, Oswego Co. (FGS, DWC).
- MARBLED GODWIT.** 1979-26-A, B, one, 2-6 June, Sharon Station, Dutchess Co., photographs on file (BS, EP, MVW). 1979-39-A, one, 19 Oct., Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co. (HHA). Upstate records.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.** 1979-28-A, B, C, three birds, 31 May, Sharon Station, Dutchess Co., photographs on file (BS, HCM, EP). This is the first substantiated spring record for New York State.
- SABINE'S GULL.** 1979-36-A, B, C, imm., 15 Sept., Derby Hill, Oswego Co. (DWC, FGS). 1979-46-A, B, imm., 6 Oct. Derby Hill, Oswego Co. (FGS, PDeB). 1979-47-A, imm., 10 Nov., Niagara River above Canadian Falls, Niagara Co. (RGS).
- SOOTY TERN.** 1979-36-A, B, C, six ad., two imm., 7-8 Sept., Hudson River at New Hamburg, Dutchess Co. (ABR, MCK, KMM). 1979-37-A, exhausted ad. captured 6 Sept., released 10 Sept., Gardner Co. Park, Suffolk Co., photographs on file (FF). These reports, as well as about 90 other birds not formally reported to the NYSARC, were associated with the passage of Hurricane David.
- GREAT GRAY OWL.** 1979-4-A, B, one, 8-14 Jan., Lloyd Harbor, Suffolk Co., photographs on file (THD, FF) [2]. 1979-10-A-G, up to 4 birds, 31 Jan. to 3 Mar., 1-½ mi north Depauville, Jefferson Co., photographs on file (RGS, CCJ, FAC, PDeB, DWC, FGS, RL) [9, 12, 13, 25]. 1979-11-A, B, one, 31 Jan., Rotterdam, Schenectady Co., (DEO, PR) [11]. 1979-14-A, one, 28 Mar., Clinton Park, Saratoga Co. (KD) [63]. 1979-16-A, B, C, two birds (not seen together), 17 Feb. to 14 Mar., 2 mi west Oswego, Oswego Co., photographs on file (DWC, FGS, PDeB) [44, 54]. 1979-49-A, one, 23 Jan., town of Berne, Albany Co., (KPA) [7]. 1979-50-A, one, 13-19 Feb. (shot when found, later rehabilitated), Cohoes, Albany

Co., photographs on file (KPA) [36]. 1979-51-A, one, 23 Feb., Rensselaer, Rensselaer Co., (PK) [43?]. 1979-52-A, one, 18-21 Mar., Voorheesville, Albany Co., photographs on file (KPA) [61]. 1979-53-A, one, 4-5 Apr. (moribund when found), Vischer's Ferry, Saratoga Co., photographs on file, specimen NY State Museum, (KPA) [64]. In addition, newspaper articles with photographs of these birds from North Lawrence, Jefferson Co. [4], and from Pillar Pt., Jefferson Co. [56], are on file with the above reports. These reports represent only part of the greatest incursion of Great Gray Owls yet recorded in New York State. A complete account appears in *The Kingbird* 30: 85; 1980; numbers in square brackets above are the number assigned to the corresponding observation in that account.

BOREAL OWL. 1979-31-A, B, C, one, 4 Apr., Braddock's Bay, Monroe Co., photographs on file (KPA, FGS, RGS). This is the 21st report for New York State (see *The Kingbird* 29: 181; 1979).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER. 1979-43-A-D, ad., 18 Sept. to 18 Oct., town of Sandy Creek, Oswego Co., photographs on file (DWC, FGS, RGS, PDeB). This is the 15th report for New York State and the first substantiated upstate record.

LARK SPARROW. 1979-35-A, singing ad., 5 Sept., Ithaca, Tompkins Co., (SS). This is about the 8th record from upstate New York.

1979 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

BARNACLE GOOSE. 1979-13, 25 Mar., Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Niagara Co. The NYSARC considers this bird to have been a possible escape from captivity.

CINNAMON TEAL. 1979-30, one, 14 Apr., Big Flats, Chemung Co. The description is suggestive of a Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal hybrid.

GYRFALCON. 1979-8, one, 9 Sept., Northrup Creek, Greece, Monroe Co.

SANDHILL CRANE. 1979-22, one, 8 May, Derby Hill, Oswego Co. This report is accompanied by a photograph of a bird identifiable as a crane but not to species.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER. 1979-20. One, 30 May, El Dorado Shores, Jefferson Co.

ARCTIC TERN. 1979-25, one, 11 June, Elmira, Chemung Co.

GREAT GRAY OWL. 1979-12, one, 21 Jan., 5 mi south Plattsburgh, Clinton Co. [6].

NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. 1979-15, one, 4 May, Chatham, Columbia Co.

Reports of Snowy Egret (upstate), White-rumped Sandpiper (upstate), Purple Sandpiper (upstate, spring), Forster's Tern (upstate) Western Kingbird (upstate), and Kentucky Warbler (nesting upstate) were filed without formal review. Reports of these species are not normally reviewed by the NYSARC. With the addition of Mississippi Kite, the New York State List now includes 418 species.

Paul DeBenedictis, Chairman
Kenneth P. Able
Robert F. Andrie
Thomas H. Davis, Jr.
Robert O. Paxton

CONTRIBUTORS: KPA: Kenneth P. Able. HHA: Harold H. AxteLL. FAC: Frank A. Church. RC: Robert Clermont. DWC: Dorothy W. Crumb. THD: Thomas H. Davis. PDeB: Paul DeBenedictis. JDiC: Joe DiCostanzo. KD: Kate Dunham. LF: Lucille Feldman. FF: Fran File. C and JH: Celia and Julius Hastings. RSH: R. S. Heil. CCJ: Catherine C. Johnson. MCK: Mary C. Kay. PK: Paul Kerlinger. RL: Robert Long. HCM: Helen C. Manson. KMM: Kenneth M. McDermott. DEO: David E. Odell. HP: Howard Pellet. EP: Eleanor Pink. PR: Paul Riexinger. ABR: Aline B. Romero. SS: Steve Sabo. FGS: F. G. Scheider. RGS: Robert G. Spahn. BS: Beatrix Strauss. MVW: Marion VanWagner. MWY: Mary W. Yegella. RZ: Richard ZainEldeen.

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1980

WALTON B. SABIN

The New York State Federation Waterfowl Count for 1980 was conducted from January 5 through January 13, with January 6 as the target date. A few observers did not complete their voluntary assignments until January 16. The count period was preceded by a very mild late fall and early winter. These conditions prevailed during the count period as well, with temperatures ranging from the mid to upper 20's all the way to the 50's. January 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13 were the coldest days in this range, January 7 and 11 being the warmest. All in all, very few of the larger bodies of water were ice-covered. As one would expect from these temperatures there was no snow cover in most of the state. Flurries occurred only on January 8, 9, and again on the 12th, over most of the state except in the southeast. There were no accumulations. January 11 saw the temperature soar into the 50's and experience the heaviest precipitation. The total count for 1980 (Table 1) was up 34.2% over 1979 to 242,976, and up 17.7% over the 1973-79 average of 206,397.

Comparing 1980 to 1979 count figures (Table II) for the more common species reveals six of them having increases greater than 40%, namely Canada Goose, a whopping 107.1%; Redhead, 75.1%; Canvasback, 41.9%; Common Goldeneye, 43.0%; Oldsquaw, a tremendous 139.2%; all three scoters, 59.8%; and Am. Coot, 120.1%. Conversely, four species showed decreases: Brant, 19.6%; Am. Wigeon, 11.7%; Common Merganser, 34.6%; and Red-breasted Merganser, 7.7%.

Comparing the 1980 count figures for these same species with the 1973-1979 average (Table III) shows that most species are increasing in numbers. Exceptions are noted in the case of Common and Red-breasted Mergansers and to a lesser extent the American Wigeon. Redhead, Canvasback and scaup are gradually building up toward their respective averages.

For the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida inclusive), total Federal waterfowl population counts or surveys were essentially the same as last year with gains in some species offset by losses in others.

The Department of Environmental Conservation aerial survey is shown in Table IV without comment.

The 1981 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from January 10 through January 18, with Sunday, January 11, as the target date.

TABLE I
NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1980

REGIONS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Loon, Common		3	5		3					61	72
Red-throated		1			2		1			1	5
Grebe, Red-necked					1						1
Horned		11	39		34	1	6		10	346	447
Pied-billed	6		16		1				67	62	152
Cormorant, Great										46	46
Double-crested										145	145
Swan, Mute				1					182	716	899
Whistling	6	48	1								55
Goose, Canada	3,241	526	38,113		6,853	2,071		1,614	7,184	7,444	67,046
Brant										14,218	14,218
Snow	1							1	2	56	60
Mallard	3,576	1,561	4,207	420	1,855	768	3	1,319	2,351	7,889	23,949
Black Duck	291	308	2,265	152	266	407	37	342	833	15,754	20,655
Mallard x Black			22		8				5	8	43
Gadwall	60		26		13				31	902	1,032
Pintail	20	1	1	1	3			3	3	323	355
Teal, Green-winged	3								1	218	222
Blue-winged	1									10	11
Wigeon, American	153	2	17			13			46	1,869	2,100
European										1	1
Northern Shoveler									9	81	90
Wood Duck	2	1							2	22	27
Redhead	22	28	7,044		28	12			3	128	7,265
Ring-necked Duck	1	1	10		12				157	174	355
Canvasback	771	20	881		13		500		1,400	7,568	11,153
Scaup sp?	990		74			416			113	7,846	9,439
Greater	908	1,920	195		416		1			28,378	31,818
Lesser		2			6					279	287
Goldeneye, Common	9,190	3,336	326	15	1,074	1,042	71	38	60	2,341	17,493
Barrow's	2				1						3
Bufflehead	272	256	253		85	34	14	1	99	3,388	4,403
Oldsquaw	48	727	2		157	704			1	1,944	3,583
Eider, Common										11	11
King		3									3
Scoter, White-winged		9,140								2,282	11,422
Surf		6			1					437	444
Black		5								90	95
Scoter sp?										2,000	2,000
Ruddy Duck	18				35				8	192	253
Merganser, Hooded	7	2	7		6				124	182	328
Common	2,348	532	27	44	403	834	80	2	1,845	1	6,116
Red-breasted	27	26			67	19			4	1,597	1,740
American Coot	11	105	1,351		37		1		314	1,315	3,134
TOTALS	21,975	18,571	54,883	632	11,380	6,321	714	3,320	14,854	110,326	242,976

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

Comparison of 1980 with 1979, for all species totalling over 1,000 individuals in 1980, and showing the per cent change from 1979 to 1980.

SPECIES	1980	1979	% change
Canada Goose	67,046	32,373	+ 107.1
Brant	14,218	17,677	-- 19.6
Mallard	23,949	19,492	+ 22.9
Black Duck	20,655	17,387	+ 18.8
Gadwall	1,032	526	+ 96.2
American Wigeon	2,100	2,378	-- 11.7
Redhead	7,265	4,148	+ 75.1
Canvasback	11,153	7,857	+ 41.9
Scaup (both)	41,544	36,677	+ 13.3
Goldeneye (both)	17,496	12,233	+ 43.0
Bufflehead	4,403	4,264	+ 3.6
Oldsquaw	3,583	1,498	+ 139.2
Scoters (all three)	13,961	8,738	+ 59.8
Common Merganser	6,116	9,346	- 34.6
Red-breasted Merganser	1,740	1,885	- 7.7
American Coot	3,134	1,424	+ 120.1
TOTALS	<u>239,395</u>	<u>177,903</u>	+ 34.6

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

Comparison of the 1980 count with the 1973-1979 average, for the same species as in Table II, and showing the per cent change from the average.

SPECIES	1980	Average 1973-1979	% change
Canada Goose	67,046	16,851	+ 279.9
Brant	14,218	9,396	+ 51.3
Mallard	23,949	18,914	+ 26.6
Black Duck	20,655	18,470	+ 11.8
Gadwall	1,032	547	+ 88.7
American Wigeon	2,100	2,229	- 5.8
Redhead	7,265	7,034	+ 3.3
Canvasback	11,153	12,537	- 11.0
Scaup (both)	41,544	69,772	- 40.5
Goldeneye (both)	17,496	11,833	+ 47.8
Bufflehead	4,403	4,117	+ 6.9
Oldsquaw	3,583	2,658	+ 34.8
Scoter (all three)	13,961	12,613	+ 10.7

SPECIES	1980	Average 1973-1979	% change
Common Merganser	6,116	11,423	- 46.5
Red-breasted Merganser	1,740	2,113	- 17.7
American Coot	3,134	2,122	+ 47.7
TOTALS	239,395	206,397	+ 17.7

TABLE IV
STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
AERIAL SURVEY - JANUARY 1-6, 1980

SPECIES	Upstate	Long Island	Totals
Mute Swan	110	688	798
Whistling Swan	37		37
Canada Goose	28,171	6,597	34,768
Brant	155	9,152	9,307
Mallard	7,658	1,337	8,995
Black Duck	6,778	5,254	12,032
Gadwall		2	2
Pintail		65	65
American Wigeon	63	416	479
Redhead	1,550	10	1,560
Canvasback	4,920	468	5,388
Scaup (both)	7,690	12,774	20,464
Common Goldeneye	4,689	721	5,410
Bufflehead	126	2,594	2,720
Oldsquaw	19	941	960
Scoters (all three)		5,544	5,544
Mergansers (all three)	30,483	989	31,472
American Coot	200	70	270
TOTALS	92,649	47,622	140,271

I would like to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participated. A special thanks too, to the regional compilers who coordinated all those volunteers. The regional compilers are:

Region 1—Alan Reckhow	Region 6—Lee Chamberlaine
Region 2—Warren Lloyd	Region 7—John Peterson
Region 3—John Confer	Region 8—Paul Grattan
Region 4—Leslie Bemont	Region 9—Edward Treacy
Region 5—Fritz Scheider	Region 10—Stephen Dempsey

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, New York 12159

THE NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT – A QUARTER CENTURY REPORT

MORGAN JONES

Since 1955, the Federation has conducted a January ground survey of waterfowl. This count shares the many shortcomings of the National Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. It is “unscientific,” loosely controlled, and largely an amateur effort. Quality of observers is maintained only by the regional organizers’ knowledge of their people. Quantity is limited by weather and interest. Observers can count anywhere they please.

The limitations are also strengths. Observers are skilled and dedicated, and their subjects lend themselves well to a limited effort. Significant numbers of waterfowl are found only in the same well-known, predictable places, year after year.

The count was originally intended to supplement the official aerial count of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The DEC made little or no use of the Federation information, but the count kept going, surviving a five-year break from 1968 through 1972. In the spring of 1980, the Federation’s Executive Committee was asked if the count should be abolished, but opinion was unanimous for keeping it. Paul DeBenedictis expressed his professional view, saying, “I would be reluctant to abandon any effort that had produced 25 years of data.”

Table I shows total statewide numbers only, with no separate tabulation by region. There are few surprises. Most of the waterfowl species show the expected normal fluctuations in population, which can be misleading in annual comparison but show no particular long-term trends. For those species whose status is changing, the numbers tend to support the general impressions of experienced field observers and the comments of Seasonal Highlights and Regional Editors in *The Kingbird*.

The decline of the Horned Grebe (Fig. 1), however, may well be classified as a surprise. Its reduction has been gradual and not easily detected from year to year. If this species does not continue its recent small recovery, it may be time for concern.

The Canvasback’s (Fig. 2) decline has been arrested and it is showing signs of recovery.

The increase of the Mallard (Fig. 3), and fears of its genetic swamping of the declining Black Duck (Fig. 4) have been well documented,

TABLE I

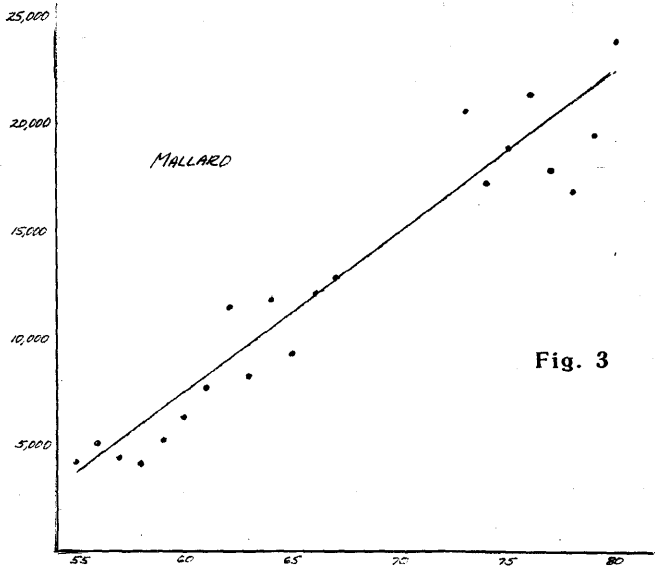
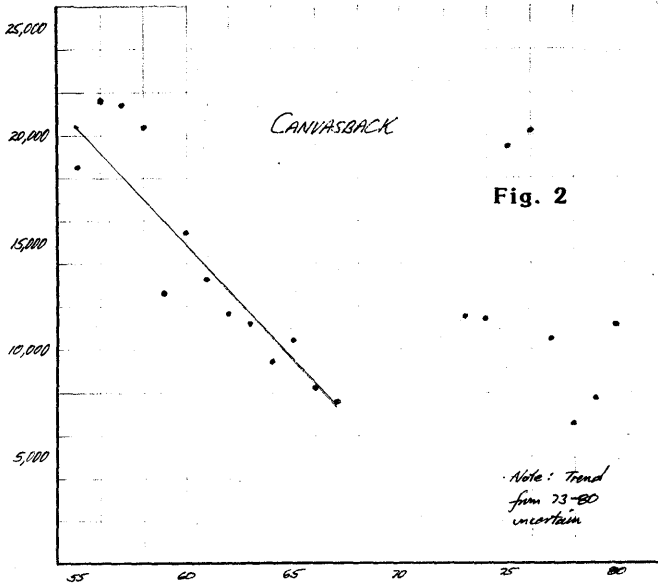
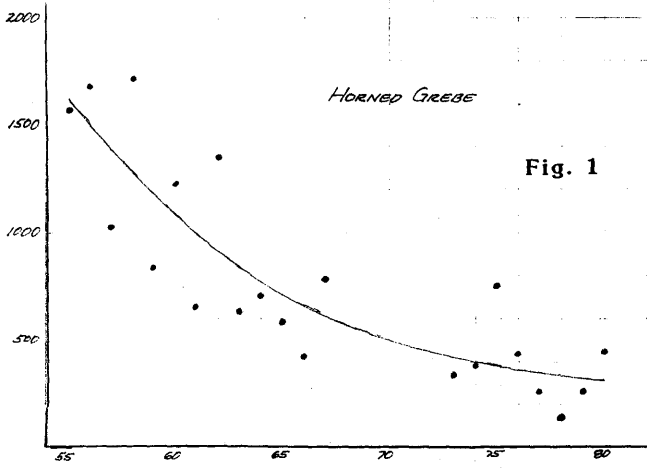
	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Common Loon	205	98	70	185	54	148	64	96
Red-throated Loon	47	34	40	58	9	21	22	17
Red-necked Grebe	6	3	3	26	1	3		1
Horned Grebe	1,574	1,692	1,019	1,704	845	1,279	658	1,361
Western Grebe								1
Pied-billed Grebe	167	102	122	95	37	21	23	22
Great Cormorant								
Double-crested Cormorant								
Mute Swan	313	410	759	312	571	495	209	659
Whistling Swan	3	1		3		10		
Canada Goose	1,536	1,594	1,955	1,998	1,467	1,337	1,334	3,069
Brant	2,739	4,233	8,610	2,423	2,962	23,114	34,546	12,058
White-fronted Goose							1	
Snow Goose		1	4	1	2	8	1	1
Mallard	4,330	5,124	4,653	4,126	5,392	6,498	5,825	11,627
Black Duck	29,469	20,211	22,565	16,984	19,575	24,870	22,356	27,993
Mallard x Black						13	1	2
Gadwall	43	140	143	91	117	91	55	125
Pintail	84	151	118	83	162	204	39	350
Green-winged Teal	17	71	101	123	86	84	27	142
Blue-winged Teal		1				1	1	1
Cinnamon Teal			1					
European Wigeon	5	2	2	2		1	3	1
American Wigeon	1,541	1,492	4,513	4,821	3,586	4,069	2,493	3,125
Northern Shoveler	31	39	80	20	66	12	44	24
Wood Duck	1	3	8	8	12	11	6	5
Redhead	3,910	2,932	2,635	3,337	11,954	6,103	7,288	7,047
Ring-necked Duck	789	447	500	110	182	320	123	345
Canvasback	18,549	21,702	21,349	20,351	12,602	15,414	13,182	11,749
Scaup, sp. all	69,694	106,592	81,337	65,096	72,936	58,580	106,754	118,787
Tufted Duck								
Common Goldeneye	14,697	16,355	13,926	9,580	19,507	17,395	18,008	20,666
Barrow's Goldeneye		1	1		1	1		
Bufflehead	1,706	1,378	1,607	961	2,463	1,549	2,304	1,850
Oldsquaw	3,368	7,509	4,826	7,126	5,998	4,582	3,704	7,330
Harlequin Duck	2					2	5	
Common Eider		3	1	7	1		3	2
King Eider	2		17	18	7	12	11	2
White-winged Scoter	6,782	8,924	7,337	11,766	12,570	8,435	11,223	6,422
Surf Scoter	1,595	1,126	1,005	2,463	528	458	326	1,156
Black Scoter	226	322	93	1,164	289	144	609	58
Scoter, sp.								
Ruddy Duck	161	173	498	523	69	359	40	151
Hooded Merganser	145	231	123	162	135	201	154	362
Smew						1		
Common Merganser	9,700	9,371	14,512	8,333	4,958	20,170	9,978	10,542
Red-breasted Merganser	4,453	2,899	2,552	2,704	1,907	2,288	3,543	3,661
Duck, sp.	9,619	6,223	6,282	1,987	2,138	2,842	3,505	650
Common Gallinule								
American Coot	1,815	817	1,542	1,028	623	744	323	334

TABLE I

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1972	1973
Common Loon	82	262	63	111	184			95
Red-throated Loon	32	35	7	5	21			20
Red-necked Grebe		3	5		3			
Horned Grebe	631	701	592	405	784			323
Western Grebe								
Pied-billed Grebe	18	22	34	16	77			73
Great Cormorant								
Double-crested Cormorant				1				
Mute Swan	823	667	436	580	496			579
Whistling Swan	2	1	4		14			9
Canada Goose	1,898	3,137	977	1,887	2,702			16,331
Brant	20,107	23,086	12,055	3,314	10,577			3,617
White-fronted Goose								
Snow Goose	2	1	4	10	9			12
Mallard	8,166	11,804	9,376	12,098	12,935			20,645
Black Duck	22,089	29,974	22,380	26,376	29,059			26,096
Mallard x Black				1				16
Gadwall	118	381	113	225	337			377
Pintail	63	102	194	141	336			94
Green-winged Teal	60	211	117	114	187			107
Blue-winged Teal		3			2			
Cinnamon Teal								1
European Wigeon	1	1	1	1	4			
American Wigeon	2,310	2,923	2,043	2,124	3,214			1,783
Northern Shoveler	42	30	37	94	64			394
Wood Duck	11	15	26	24	23			15
Redhead	7,043	11,426	9,538	2,638	7,690			3,707
Ring-necked Duck	360	243	478	285	534			214
Canvasback	11,026	9,363	10,407	8,033	7,627			11,602
Scaup, sp. all	81,447	106,067	85,154	59,341	75,453			110,216
Tufted Duck					1			
Common Goldeneye	14,245	16,539	19,049	12,752	14,933			15,473
Barrow's Goldeneye		1	1					1
Bufflehead	2,104	2,045	2,978	1,901	3,837			5,312
Oldsquaw	3,607	10,000	8,977	3,251	5,725			3,669
Harlequin Duck		6			6			1
Common Eider	18	73	16	5	9			76
King Eider	6	20	3	3	34			1
White-winged Scoter	10,888	8,210	7,400	5,105	3,639			5,854
Surf Scoter	194	876	809	132	1,282			825
Black Scoter	120	672	264	351	173			209
Scoter, sp.								16,940
Ruddy Duck	91	101	204	209	724			135
Hooded Merganser	109	142	281	280	318			181
Smew								
Common Merganser	4,895	7,872	12,207	10,702	15,355			15,197
Red-breasted Merganser	2,370	2,586	2,138	1,749	1,378			1,960
Duck, sp.			628	1,288	3,242			1,514
Common Gallinule					1			1
American Coot	336	619	736	447	1,739			1,826

TABLE I

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Common Loon	69	222	91	102	63	130	72
Red-throated Loon	25	43	80	6	4	15	5
Red-necked Grebe		3	1	2	1	3	1
Horned Grebe	393	756	423	265	143	270	447
Western Grebe							
Pied-billed Grebe	69	134	105	77	38	70	152
Great Cormorant			60	70	28	74	46
Double-crested Cormorant			35		4	27	145
Mute Swan	466	658	667	475	412	865	899
Whistling Swan	4	35	13		6	6	55
Canada Goose	6,982	20,574	15,651	12,102	13,940	32,373	67,046
Brant	12,251	16,305	9,268	3,439	3,218	17,677	14,218
White-fronted Goose							
Snow Goose	1	10	13	9	4	12	60
Mallard	17,108	18,979	21,461	17,825	16,887	19,492	23,949
Black Duck	21,668	19,735	15,265	18,050	11,090	17,387	20,655
Mallard x Black	3	18	75	21	9	26	43
Gadwall	391	987	678	480	388	526	1,032
Pintail	171	421	283	190	256	237	355
Green-winged Teal	166	413	252	81	150	141	222
Blue-winged Teal	21	32	5				11
Cinnamon Teal							
European Wigeon		1	2			1	1
American Wigeon	2,762	2,213	3,207	1,271	1,992	2,378	2,100
Northern Shoveler	483	192	323	303	172	109	90
Wood Duck	18	63	25	10	9	44	27
Redhead	7,593	6,658	12,899	8,359	5,877	4,148	7,265
Ring-necked Duck	318	205	384	103	289	68	355
Canvasback	11,505	19,554	20,154	10,552	6,534	7,857	11,153
Scaup, sp. all	96,665	76,157	50,442	86,611	31,635	36,677	41,544
Tufted Duck							
Common Goldeneye	9,651	10,832	11,348	10,967	12,324	12,230	17,493
Barrow's Goldeneye				1	3	3	3
Bufflehead	5,678	3,733	3,426	3,217	3,189	4,264	4,403
Oldsquaw	2,455	2,271	2,750	1,965	4,001	1,498	3,583
Harlequin Duck	1	1	1	1	3	1	
Common Eider	57	8	37	30	372	76	11
King Eider	15	20	5	7	17	2	3
White-winged Scoter	7,942	4,728	9,406	11,597	2,339	3,489	11,422
Surf Scoter	1,517	689	2,367	947	543	968	444
Black Scoter	280	780	470	218	756	1,740	95
Scoter, sp.	465	2,387	677	7,385	240	2,541	2,000
Ruddy Duck	232	742	820	275	36	332	253
Hooded Merganser	185	198	99	82	41	396	328
Smew							
Common Merganser	18,168	8,083	11,719	10,000	7,448	9,346	6,116
Red-breasted Merganser	1,619	2,386	1,949	1,425	3,568	1,885	1,740
Duck, sp.	165	1,631	50	2,090	535	1,424	
Common Gallinule						1	
American Coot	1,583	3,043	3,561	2,085	1,335	1,424	3,134



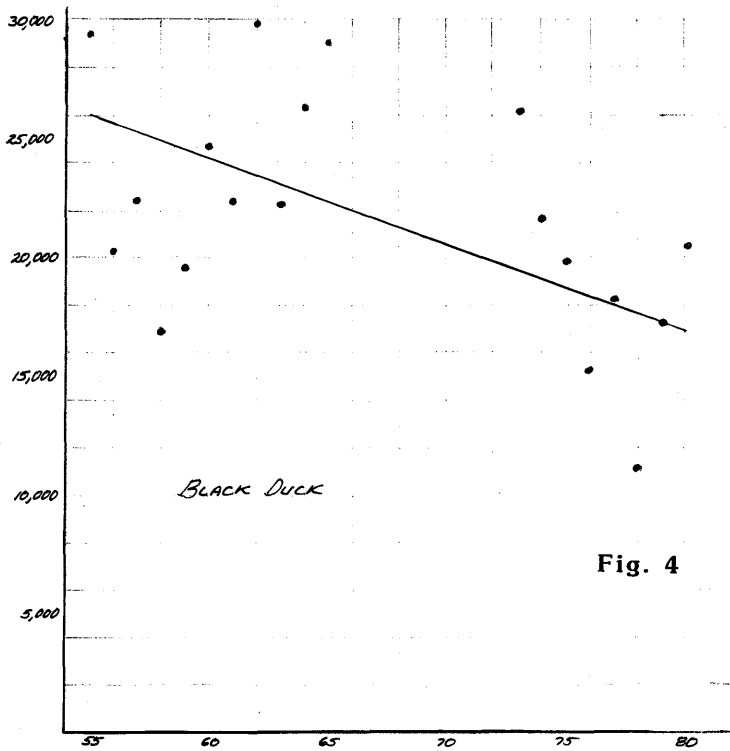


Fig. 4

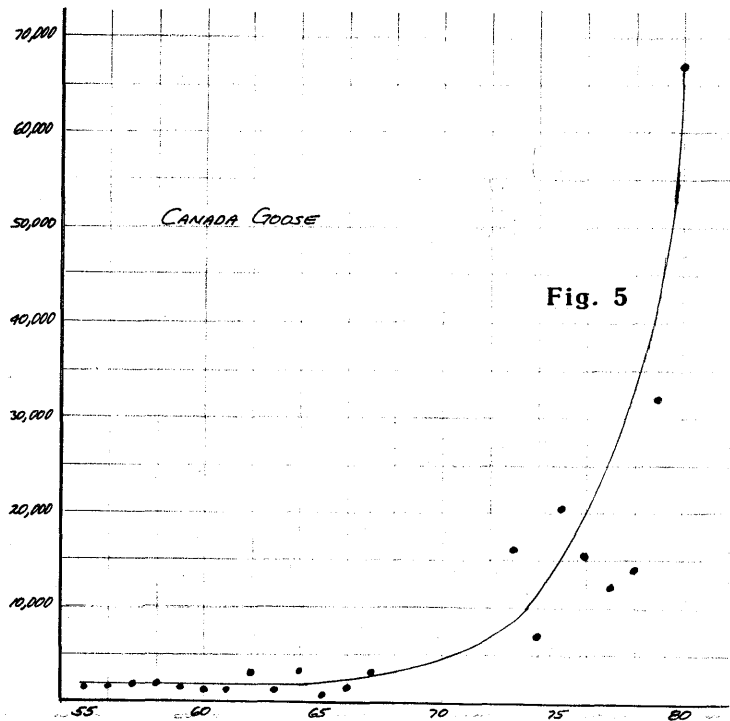


Fig. 5

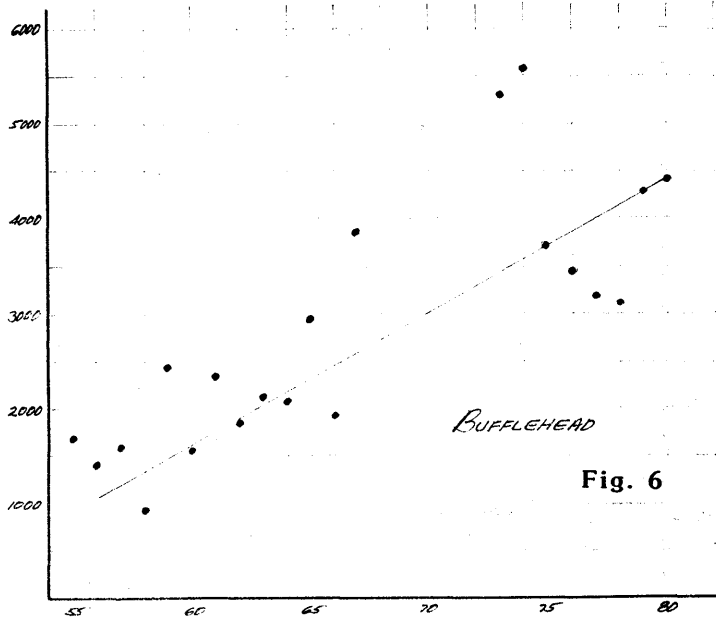


Fig. 6

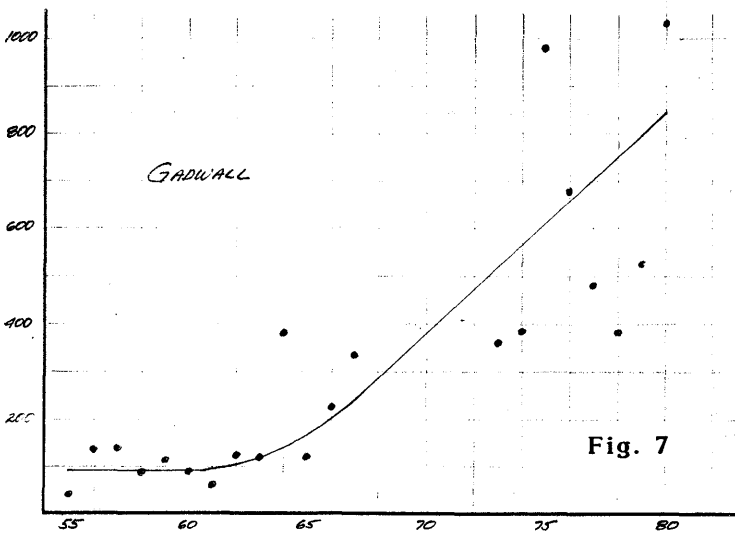


Fig. 7

but the Black Duck does not appear to be declining as rapidly as feared.

The explosion in overwintering Canada Geese (Fig. 5), caused by changes in agricultural methods and increased use of refuges, is part of a continent wide trend.

The Gadwall (Fig. 6) and Bufflehead (Fig. 7) continue to increase, while the Oldsquaw has declined and leveled off.

✓

**MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK
September 21-23, 1979**

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs Inc. was held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Binghamton, on September 21-23, 1979, with the Naturalists Club of Broome County, Inc. as host.

President Stephen Dempsey called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and declared a quorum. Twenty-nine clubs were represented by fifty-eight delegates.

A motion was made and passed to approve the last (1978) annual meeting minutes as published in *The KINGBIRD*. Myrna Hemmerick, Membership Chairman, was absent due to a dog attack but reported a membership of 641. The Treasurer's report presented by John Forness was accepted and filed. The Auditing Committee of Irving Cantor and Don Clark found the Federation's accounts and books in good order. Their report was accepted and filed.

The consensus of the delegates was to send a letter of appreciation thanking Sally Hoyt Spofford for her work on the Bibliography Committee. Dr. Benton has volunteered to serve as Chairman of that committee.

Robert Arbib, Chairman of Publication and Research, reported on the status of Susan Drennan's *Birding Baedeker*. This guide will replace the two Cornell guides to birding in New York State. Work on the guide is about 70% complete. Holt, Rinehart is considering publication with an estimated sales at between 12-15,000. Bob also reported on the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. It will be modeled after the Breeding Bird Atlas of the British Isles where 21,000 observers were involved. A pilot project will start in 1980. Gene McCaffery of DEC is writing a proposal to secure funds. Vermont, Massachusetts and Maryland have similar projects underway.

Ted Dittrich's report as Circulation Manager was read, accepted and filed. Steve Dempsey's President's report was read, accepted and filed. The Nominating Committee Chairman, Ed Reilly, presented the following slate:

Martin Borko – President
Morgan Jones III – Vice-President
Harriet Marsi – Recording Secretary
John Forness – Treasurer
Kate Dunham – Corresponding Secretary

The slate was accepted and the officers declared elected.

The meeting was turned over to Martin Borko who adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m., and reconvened it at 9:15 a.m. on September 22, 1979.

Paul DeBenedictis of the New York State Avian Records Committee stated that the '78 report is published in the 1979 Summer issue of *The Kingbird*. Paul reported that the majority of the rejected reports contained insufficient detail.

Alice Jones presented a resolution to be sent to Commissioner Robert Flacke asking that he not approve the use of pesticide, Endrin, etc. in the Hudson Valley. It was brought out that the poison not only threatens endangered species, like the bog turtle and the Peregrine Falcon, but also makes the consumption of game, killed in the area, dangerous to hunters. Dr. Benton suggested that there is a question as to how effective this poison is in vole control. He stated that natural controls, such as keeping cover cut, are more effective.

The following resolution, as amended, was made by Alice Jones, and accepted by the delegates: (It is to be sent to the DEC Commissioner.)

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, representing more than forty clubs and Audubon Societies with thousands of members, resolve that it is opposed to the use of Endrin to control the pine vole in New York State, as it poses a threat to avian predatory species and more particularly to the attempted re-introduction of the endangered Peregrine Falcon.

Steve Dempsey read the report of the By-laws Committee Chairman, Richard Sloss. It proposed that the following sentence be added to Article VI, Section 2, Executive Committee. "Members-at-large shall be appointed annually by the President." In answer to a question the Chair explained that "annually" would be assumed to mean "at the annual meeting." The motion was approved by the delegate body and will be presented to the clubs by mail.

After a coffee break, election took place with the following results:
Nominating – Stephen Dempsey, Gordon Meade, William Lee
Auditing – Don Clark, Irving Cantor

President Martin Borko and Gordon Meade urged all clubs to appoint permanent representatives. Alan Klonik spoke about the importance of the Mohonk Trust court decision. The President thanked Gene McCaffery, Stu Free and the DEC in general for joining our annual meeting.

Alice Jones announced that the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club would host the 1980 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Hills Convention Center on September 26-28. The Onondaga Audubon Society of Syracuse will host the 1981 meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Dee DeSimone, Sec'y.

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION was presented by Roger Robb:

Whereas, the Naturalists' Club of Broome County has been host club for the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at Binghamton, New York, on September 21-23, 1979, and

Whereas, all members and guests of the Federation at this meeting wish to express their thanks for this superb meeting as it draws to a close at the banquet tonight,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Federation hereby expresses its deep and genuine appreciation to the local committees on workshops, field trips, paper sessions, arrangements and, most certainly, refreshments; and, to the officers and members of the Naturalists' Club of Broome County for their kind and warm hospitality on this occasion.

* * * * *

The annual award for the best article in *The Kingbird* was given to Dan Nickerson for his article "Wilson's Warbler Nests in New York State," Vol. 28, No. 4.

The Lillian Stoner Award was presented to Alexander Brash, as recommended by the Linnaean Society of New York, and to Stephen Scannell, as recommended by the Alan DeVoe Bird Club.

Each Lillian Stoner award recipient thanked the Federation for being chosen.

At the Annual Banquet, the following actions were taken:

Dr. Allen H. Benton, representing the Federation, made the following remarks on the award of a Certificate to Dr. Gordon M. Meade thanking him for his long years of service:

"In the course of a long and misspent life, I have many times been forced by circumstance to do something which I would rather not do. Tonight I am in the fortunate position of having been asked to do something which will give me pure and unalloyed pleasure. The President of the Federation, Martin Borko, has asked me, before this great assemblage, to say exactly what I think of Gordon Meade.

"I have known Gordon longer than about half of you have been alive. Over the years I have found out many things about him which may not be general knowledge. For example, you know Gordon's reputation as a gung-ho birder, always on the alert. Indeed, this very afternoon, he told this group about going from 2:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. during the May count. I am sorry to have to report that this is a fraud. I have documentary evidence: a photograph of Dr. Meade on a hawk watch, leaning back in his viewing chair, eyes tightly closed and mouth wide open, and no doubt snoring, though you can't tell from the picture.

"Seriously, no one person can claim to have had more influence on the origin and growth of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs than Gordon Meade; perhaps no one can claim as much influence. Many of the Federation's most important accomplishments had their origin in Gordon's fertile mind, or were brought to fruition by his immense energy. It is thus a great pleasure for me to hand to Dr. Gordon Meade, on this occasion, a small token of the esteem, affection, and respect which we all feel for him."

Allen H. Benton

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

JOHN FARRAND, JR.

New York State, with an area of some 49,576 square miles, extends over about eight degrees of latitude and four and a half degrees of longitude, and ranges in elevation from sea level to 5,344 feet at the summit of Mt. Marcy in Essex County. Alone among the north-eastern states, it contains large areas of no less than three of Merriam's life zones, the Canadian, the Transition, and the Upper Austral or Carolinian. With such a vast and varied area to consider, it is difficult to draw generalizations from the wealth of information gathered in these regional reports. Nevertheless, a careful reading of the following pages reveals certain broad trends, which can be helpful in interpreting details and placing them in some sort of perspective.

Although the regional editors had differing evaluations of the weather during June, July, and August, there seems to be general agreement that June was unusually cool, July was wet, and both July and August were hotter than normal in many areas. By the end of the summer the state was in the throes of a drought, the worst since the four-year drought of the mid-Sixties, although the effects of this drought were less evident in Region Ten than elsewhere. The cold weather early in the summer caused heavy nestling mortality among swallows, most notably in Regions One, Two, Three, and Four, where Tree Swallows were particularly hard hit. Various regions reported or theorized that other insectivorous birds, and especially flycatchers, were adversely affected as well. There seemed to be no impression that the drought had any discernible effect on nesting success.

The reports contain useful information on a number of species that are currently undergoing changes in their status as breeding birds in New York State, and some of the more noteworthy cases will be mentioned here. Common Loons continued to decline in Region Six. Turkey Vultures are expanding their range on the Ontario Lake plain, also in Region Six. Ospreys continue to increase on Long Island, and nested successfully in Region Three, while a hacking program at the Seneca Indian Reservation in Cattaraugus County produced a single successful fledging. There were conflicting reports on the success of the accipiters, but Red-shouldered Hawks were noted to be on the increase in Region Three. Turkeys are increasing in Regions One and Five, and are holding their own in Region Ten.

Ring-billed Gulls had an excellent year at their colonies in eastern Lake Ontario (Regions Five and Six). Gull-billed Terns nested again on Long Island, where Common Terns had a "normal" year and Black Skimmers a poor one. Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos received little comment in most regions, but numbers were up in Regions Nine and Ten, no doubt because this year saw the largest outbreak of gypsy moths since 1971; there are indications that a similar outbreak may occur next year. Common Nighthawks were up in Regions One and Two, and down or not noted in other regions. Chimney Swifts were still declining in Regions One, Six, and Seven. A decrease in Eastern Phoebes was reported from Regions One and Five, with increases in Regions Three and Six. Continuing their expansion into New York on two fronts, Acadian Flycatchers nested in Regions One and Two in the west, while a singing male was found in Region Three, and the species was noted in several places in Regions Nine and Ten. It was a bad year for swallows generally, as noted above, and Vivian Pitzrick reported a "disastrous" season for Tree Swallows in Region One. Red-breasted Nuthatches were on the upswing in Region One and bred in Region Ten, where Brown Creepers also bred. Regions One, Three and Nine turned in encouraging reports for the Eastern Bluebird, despite early nesting failures, but this species was said to be "barely hanging on" on Long Island, where it has been scarce and in decline for decades. Prairie Warblers, always a sporadic breeder away from Long Island and the Hudson Valley, bred in Region One, were found singing in Regions Two and Three, and were reported on single dates in Region Four. The grass-inhabiting sparrows continue to do poorly in the face of habitat destruction and natural plant succession, with the Vesper Sparrow as usual being the species causing the greatest concern.

There were notable numbers of Snowy Egrets, Little Blue Herons and Yellow-crowned Night Herons in the western part of the state, and both a Glossy Ibis and a White Ibis turned up in Region Two. Two White-faced Ibises spent the summer at Jamaica Bay in Region Ten. Franklin's Gulls were reported in Regions Two, Three, and Five. Three pairs of Fish Crows were seen all summer at Ithaca, in Region Three, and about a dozen were present for several months at Vestal, in Region Four; perhaps this species may begin breeding in inland areas, as it does in the Mississippi Valley.

The timing of the fall migration was near normal, with southbound shorebirds appearing by the end of June, and peaking in numbers in

the latter part of August. The effect of the summer's drought on shorebirds varied in different parts of the state. In some areas, mudflats and ponds dried out quickly, presenting the birds with hard-caked mud that provided no food; observers found a reasonable variety of species but low numbers of individuals. But in other areas, the falling water levels produced good habitat, and excellent shorebirding was reported. The drought seemed to have little effect on the migration of other species.

This season saw the first field work in connection with the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Although the cool weather in June may have reduced bird song and caused some birds to be overlooked in certain areas, as pointed out by Robert Spahn, even this first year has brought some surprises and produced interesting additions to our knowledge of breeding distributions in the state; the reader is referred especially to the comments of Paul DeBenedictis in Region Five. Barbara Spencer, in Region Ten, notes that this one year's efforts have shown where productive work can be done next year. All of this serves to whet our appetite. Several regional editors commented on the fact that the cool weather early in the season caused many birders to hang up their binoculars once the spring migration had subsided, thereby missing out on what is in some ways the most exciting season of the year, when careful notes and well-coordinated team work can pay rich dividends. This writer urges everyone to come out next year and join in this highly worthwhile and exciting undertaking.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

This was a season of superlatives, with the month of June the coldest, July very near the hottest and driest, and August the hottest—in thirteen years. In early June, during a miserable three days of cold and wet, including frost and snow in local areas, some nestlings were lost and eggs chilled. With the total summer rainfall 1.5 inches (5.8 cm.) below normal, shallow-rooted plant life, already retarded from a dry May, developed slowly. The superb weather, along with less vegetation to hamper hiking or hide nests, made it a most successful nest-hunting year. However, it is sobering to remember that predators, too, can locate nests more easily with these conditions, and precautions must be doubled when invading the privacy of the birds. Migrants arrived on schedule with a good representation of shorebirds and warblers. An abundance of wild foods included fair red oak acorns for three successive years, excellent blackberry, beech and black cherry crops (Eaton), many mice and voles and a good rabbit population.

Results from 15 out of 19 runs of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) were negatively influenced by the cold June. Findings from 16 of the 18 routes of the Allegany County "Mini" Run Breeding Bird Survey (Abbs) were near normal, with the Prairie Warbler new this year. Below, status for a species is indicated by: H+ or L- = highest or lowest ever, or tied; H or L = above or below normal; sd+ or sd- = above or below one standard deviation; and no letter = stable.

Summer positives include 1) a first-for-the-state hacking project, 2) several state record-breaking egg dates and more firsts for Allegany Co., 3) exciting loon news, 4) most long-legged waders doing fine, 5) a scattering of Turkey Vultures, accipiters well-reported and Broad-winged Hawks more prevalent, 6) the Ruffed Grouse and Turkey production excellent and a small gain for the Ring-necked Pheasant, 7) the Mourning Dove count up, 8) a good flight of the Common Nighthawk, 9) the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the upswing, 10) an impressive flycatcher discovery, and the Great Crested and Alder Flycatchers doing well, 11) best ever count of Black-capped Chickadees on Abbs, and House Wrens recovering, 12) the mimic thrushes, except the Mockingbird, in fair numbers and the Eastern Bluebird thriving, 13) Cedar Waxwings very prolific in spite of loss of most first nestings, 14) fewer Starlings, House Sparrows and Brown-headed Cowbirds, 15) more Blue-winged, Yellow, Magnolia and Black-throated Green Warblers as well as Ovenbirds and Common Yellowthroats; and the Prairie Warbler expanding territories, 16) Cardinals increasing, and many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings, 17) a mob of Purple Finches, and House Finches nearly everywhere, and 18) Savannah Sparrows numerous in open meadows, and good counts for Chipping and Swamp Sparrows.

Negatives for the summer include 1) count of both the Mallard and the Blue-winged Teal down on BBS, 2) the Red-tailed Hawk population still below normal and very few reports of the Marsh Hawk, 3) Common Snipes rare, 4) the Spotted Sandpiper possibly joining the Upland in scarcity, 5) Rock Doves de-

clining on Abbs for fifth consecutive year, 6) almost no Screech Owls, and the Chimney Swift continuing its downward trend, 7) fewer Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, 8) reduced numbers on breeding surveys for Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatchers and Eastern Wood Pewees, 9) no improvement for the Horned Lark, 10) a disastrous Tree Swallow season, and Cliff Swallow and Purple Martin colonies missing or weakened in some localities, 11) a drop in numbers of the Blue Jay, Common Crow and White-breasted Nuthatch on BBS, 12) the Tufted Titmouse and wrens, except for the House Wren, still seldom seen, 13) no shrikes, 14) poor breeding survey tallies for the Red-eyed Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler and American Redstart, as well as for the icterids, 15) lower counts for American Goldfinches, Rufous-sided Towhees and Savannah, Field and Song Sparrows, and the usual near-absence of Vespers.

Rarities include Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, "Brewster's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and *addenda*, Wilson's Warbler (Nov. 1979), Summer Tanager (May 1980).

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

Contributors: Michael Allen, Robert Andrie, Sharon Baumgardner, Elizabeth Brooks, Vera Brown, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Ed Curtis (Weather Data, Wellsville), Frances DeGroff, Stephen Eaton, Christine Ferrand, Mary Forness (MFr), Gordon Grantier, Helen Graves, Harland Hale, Dolly Hawkins, Matthew Hotchkiss, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Claribel James, Morgan Jones, Walter Klabunde (BBS Compiler), Clarence Klingensmith (Abbs Compiler), Erma Larson, Katherine Palmer, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Earl Schriver, Ann Scott (AnS); and Observers: Richard Byron, Arthur R. Clark (ARC), Dorothy Danner, Marcya Foster, Mary Jordan, Alice McKale, Willard McKale, Fred Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), Arthur Schaffner, Robert Sundell.

LOONS—DUCKS: Will the Com. Loon that spent all this season in Hume Twp. (KP) return next year with a mate? Tune in next summer . . . This was the only report. An imm. LITTLE BLUE HERON was identified at Barcelona Aug. 16 and 17 (RS). Great Egrets were seen at Iroquois NWR irregularly all season gradually increasing in number to max ten Aug. 31, while singles also appeared at Beaver Meadow EEC Aug. 16 and at Tift Farm NP Aug. 20. A SNOWY EGRET was observed at Buffalo Harbor Aug. 22 (RA+) and again Aug. 31 (AS, ARC). High count of Black-crowned Night Heron was 25 at Buffalo Harbor July 12. Encouraging for the Am. Bittern is the report, even though the only one, of an adult with three yg. irregularly at the Allegheny Res. the second week in July (MFr). With five pairs of Canada Geese nesting in Hume Twp., the flock had grown to around 50 by the end of Aug. (KP); the pair at Farmersville Sta. raised one gosling, building the flock to seven which was joined in June by two additional wild ones, one banded (DC, JC). A successful Mallard nest near Amity L. with nine eggs July 9 (VP) was record late by eight days for New York State. Other noteworthy duck reports are: Mallard, 242 at Buffalo Harbor Aug. 9; Black Duck, four in Amity Twp. Aug. 26; Gadwall, two at Times Beach, June 12 and seven at Buffalo Harbor July 21; Pintail, one at Iroquois NWR June 3, and max two at Buffalo Harbor July 24 and Aug. 1; Am. Wigeon, 17 at Times Beach June 12; N. Shoveler, max five at Iroquois NWR June 3 and Aug. 31; and Com. Merganser, a female on the Genesee R. near Belmont June 21 (VP, RP), the third successive year here for the species on Abbs.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The Cooper's Hawk nest, in Allegany Co. with five nestlings in May, fledged at least two yg. in June (VP). Another Cooper's nest, in Cattaraugus Co., was found June 19 with three yg. which fledged July 9 (SE)—later by seven days than the previous New

York State nestling record. Of six documented Broad-winged Hawk nests in Allegany Co., three were successful and at one the female was killed by a Great Horned Owl (EB, VP). Following the exciting accounts of the first state Osprey hacking project, held this summer on the Seneca Indian Reservation in Cattaraugus Co., it was gratifying to learn that one yg. fledged successfully (MFr, MA, FM). Other interesting hawk news include: GOSHAWK, singles at Gowanda June 1 and 28 (RA+) and at the Allegheny Res. July 6 (MFr); Sharp-shinned Hawk, singles at eight locations; Cooper's, a total 11, not counting yg. above, from six areas; BALD EAGLE, single imm. at Bear L. June 6 and 8 (FR, Buck), at the Allegheny Res. July 3 to 29 (MFr) and at Iroquois NWR Aug. 31 (AS); Marsh Hawk, three near Alfred in June and July (EB, CK); Osprey, other than those above, singles at the Allegheny Res. July 3 to 17 (MFr), and in Townships of Wirt, Amity and Ward the latter part of Aug. (MJ, VP, King). Although the Ring-necked Pheasant numbered 101 (L) on BBS, it is gradually increasing here; five were noted on Abbs and a female with six yg. was found near Alfred Aug. 16 (Odlé *vide* EB). Single Soras were spotted at Times Beach and at Tiffit Farm NP Aug. 9 (AS, ARC). Among noteworthy shorebird records—all at Buffalo Harbor unless otherwise noted—are: Ruddy Turnstone, one on July 21 (AS, ARC); Upland Sandpiper, one near Alfred June 3 (Deverells), adults with two-thirds grown yg. as well as another pair nearby "in flight song" on Goodwin's Rd., Conewango, Cattaraugus Co., June 15 (SE), max 27 at Clarence July 13 and Aug. 10 (AM, WM), and two at Jamestown Aug. 10 (RS); Lesser Yellowlegs, 130 July 12 (RA, MF); Red Knot, one early July 24 (RA); White-rumped Sandpiper, one at Canadaway Creek NS Aug. 23 (FR); Short-billed Dowitcher, one on July 8 (RA); and Sanderling, one on July 21 (AS, ARC). Less common in summer, max reports of the Great Black-backed Gull were 28 at Dunkirk Harbor July 13 (AS, ARC) and the same number there again Aug. 23 (FR). The first two Bonaparte's Gulls arrived at Buffalo Harbor July 24 (AS+) and 18 were at Dunkirk Harbor Aug. 23 (FR). Two Caspian Terns were seen at Buffalo Harbor July 24 and Aug. 9 (AS+), and singles were at Dunkirk Harbor Aug. 23 (FR) and at Barcelona Aug. 23 and 24 (RS).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoo numbers were near normal and the nest of a Black-billed with two eggs June 10 in Amity Twp. was later aborted (VP). A Barred Owl nest with two yg. near Alfred June 2 was apparently successful (EB). At least six Short-eared Owls visited the Haskell Rd., near Cuba, about 3:00 A.M. Aug. 5 (MFr). Outcome of the Red-bellied Woodpecker nests at Amity L. was uncertain (VP). Very few Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported; three on BBS, one on Abbs and single birds in Amity Twp., Petrolia and Scio during June and near Belmont in Aug. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nest found near Alfred June 12 fledged at least three yg. (EB) and another pair nested at Farmerville Sta. (DC); seven of the species were tallied on BBS (H+).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: The Great Crested Flycatcher numbered 38 on Abbs (sd+), highest ever, but the E. Phoebe tallied 24 on BBS (L) and 52 on Abbs, lowest ever. However, in Scio and Amity Twps. 23 pairs of the latter, with 11 pairs nesting twice, produced 94 fledglings from 23 successful nestings (VP). During June, singing adult ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS were heard on 10-Mile Rd., Quaker Run, Little Bone Run and Phillips Broad Rd., all Allegheny R. tributaries in s.w. Cattaraugus Co., but the exciting news is the discovery in a hemlock of a nest containing three or four yg. about eight to nine days old (SE). Another first for Allegany Co. this season was documentation of an E. Wood Pewee's nest near Alfred, in which the adult was feeding yg. July 6 (EB). It was a disastrous season for Tree Swallows, with only 33 found for BBS (L). Near Amity L., 26 pairs, with seven pairs nesting twice, produced only 68 fledglings from the 19 successful nests; during the cold, wet period of June 8 to 11, at least 44 eggs failed to hatch (chilled?) and 38 nestlings died (VP); near Alfred, eight of 12 nests were also lost at this time (EB). In Almond Twp., Allegany Co., adult Tree Swallows were feeding yg. in a nesting box July 28 (CK)—later by 14 days than listed for nestlings in Bull's *Birds of New York State*. An estimated 83,000 Purple Martins had gathered at Times Beach Aug. 31 (AS, ARC). A Tufted Titmouse was found on BBS and the only others reported were single pairs at Elma and Spring Brook (DD).

Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were counted on BBS (H+) and two adults with two yg. appeared near Alfred June 28 and July 3 (EB); two other locations noted single birds in late Aug. The Brown Creeper nest near Amity L., documented in May as a first for Allegany Co., produced three nestlings which died during the cold, wet period of early June (VP). Most wrens are still in trouble, evidenced by these few reports: Winter Wren, one on BBS (H) and one in the Town of Shelby June 1 to 18 (Schrader); Carolina Wren, one, also in Shelby, June 1 to 30 (Schrader), one to two at Spring Brook July 26 to Aug. 26 (DD), and one at Bourne's Beach, Chautauqua L., Aug. 16 and 24 (RS); and Short-billed Marsh Wren, one at Tonawanda WMA July 6 (AM, WM). A Brown Thrasher fledgling seen with an adult near Amity L. June 4 (VP) was 15 days record early for New York State. Three Hermit Thrush nests, all with eggs in June, were discovered near Vandalia (SE). Although only three E. Bluebirds were tallied on BBS (L), ten were found on Abbs; near Amity L., 13 pairs produced 69 fledglings and no nestings were lost to weather while fly larvae infestation was avoided by treating each egg clutch, as soon as completed, with rotenone (VP); near Alfred three pairs had two successful nestings (EB). A total of 35 other E. Bluebirds was reported from 14 areas. The only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher report was one at Barcelona Aug. 17 (RS). The Golden-crowned Kinglet numbered three on BBS (H) and two adults with three yg. were seen June 6 and 28 near Alfred where up to six adults appeared all summer (EB); also, three other locations noted a total of ten birds.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: After a three-year absence, a Yellow-throated Vireo appeared again on Abbs, and two were counted on BBS. Adults were feeding yg. in a Warbling Vireo nest near Belmont, 45 feet up in a Sugar Maple tree June 22 (VP)—another first documentation for Allegany Co. One to two **PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS** were back at the Oak Orchard-Iroquois wildlife complex June 2 and 3 (Rosches, AM, WM). Up to two "**BREWSTER'S**" **WARBLERS** were verified in Amity Twp. June 26, 28 and July 18 (VP) while another was seen near Clarence July 12 (RA, MF). Other warblers of interest include: Nashville Warbler, four to five summering in both the Alfred and Amity Twp. areas; Magnolia Warbler, five nests near Alfred, three successful (EB); Black-throated Blue Warbler, singles at Cheektowaga June 7 and 10 and near Amity L. June 14, and first migrant, one at Barcelona Aug. 16; Yellow-rumped Warbler, six nests near Alfred in June, two failing, one due to cowbird parasitism (EB), another nest on Reddy Rd., Amity Twp., June 18, also lost to cowbirds, and in the latter area an adult with three yg. Aug. 4 (VP). Other out-of-season Yellow-rumped Warblers, suggesting nesting, were one near Sardinia July 17 and three in Mansfield July 19 (RA, MF). New this year on Abbs was a **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, and five territorial males, all at different locations, were found during June near Alfred where a nest fledged two yg. in July (EB); another nest, in a new area on Reddy Rd., Amity Twp., fledged at least three yg. in late June (VP). Thrilling discoveries for our Region are: a Northern Waterthrush nest, with one yg. still in it, plus one unhatched egg, and apparently other yg. out of nest nearby, in Mt. Moriah Swamp near Vandalia in the Allegheny R. valley June 18 (SE) and a Louisiana Waterthrush nest with three yg. about three to four days old, in 10-Mile Valley near Vandalia June 11 (SE); others of the latter species seen were one on Abbs, and two at Wales June 2 (Rosche) where one was found tower-killed Aug. 23 (AS, ARC). Seldom reported these days, a Yellow-breasted Chat was noted on BBS (H).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Near Alfred, of 13 Purple Finch nests documented in June, five were successful (EB). House Finches continue to expand with max for the season 14 at Belmont (DB, LB). Although the Am. Goldfinch tally was 280 on BBS (L) and 110 on Abbs (sd-), lowest ever, from 38 nests near Amity L., with 76% successful, 123 yg. were produced. Again as in 1978, Allegany Co. had record-early (for New York State) Am. Goldfinch nests: one near Alfred by nine days with three yg. July 25 (EB) and one near Amity L. by three days with yg. July 31 which fledged Aug. 15 (VP). Another first documentation for Allegany Co., was the Grasshopper Sparrow nest near Amity L. which fledged two yg. July 16 (VP); other reports of this sparrow were: five on BBS (L), four on Abbs, and four others totaled from three areas. In Cattaraugus Co. Henslow's Sparrows are missing except in the

n.w. corner (SE); on breeding surveys there were six on BBS and eight on Abbs and one to five were reported from Alfred, Alfred Sta. and Amity Twp. A pair of White-throated Sparrows nested near Alfred (EB), and others, also out-of-season, singles, were found in Somerset July 11 (Brock) and near Alfred Sta. Aug. 30 (CK). A Song Sparrow nest in Amity Twp. was later by two days than the New York State record, with two eggs Aug. 13 (VP).

ADDENDA: The Allegany County Bird Club is to be commended for action in late May in giving a life membership to Doris and Lou Burton in recognition of their untiring service to the club. The Burtons have long been faithful contributors to this magazine as well as willing respondents to special requests from near and far.

News of two impressive rarities at Fredonia, both banded and released by Morgan Jones: 1) female **WILSON'S WARBLER** on Nov. 4, 1979, a first November record for upstate, 2) a one year old male **SUMMER TANAGER** on May 10, 1980—rare "even 100 miles north of New York City." (Bull, 1974).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

Another season of weather contrasts. June was cool, 3.8° F (2.1° C) below normal, and wet, nearly 7 in. (17.7 cm) of rain fell. The impacts on both bird-song and birder activity were both noticeable and negative. There were some reports of nesting failure, particularly for Tree Swallow. July, by contrast, was hot, 1.7° F (0.9° C) above normal, and dry, only 1.9 in. (4.8 cm) of rain, 0.94 in. (2.4 cm) below normal, and 1.03 in. (2.6 cm) of that on one day. A hot and dry August, about 3° F (1.7° C) and .76 in. (1.9 cm) of precipitation above normal, completed the summer. In addition, August weather patterns featured stagnation with few fronts to move migrants.

This season saw observer activity at a very low ebb. The weather of June discouraged many observers and few seemed to return afield in July and August. There was little interest shown in either the annual breeding bird census in the Conesus-Hemlock area or in the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. The few observers reporting listed numbers of species exceeding recent averages for each month with a few interesting dates and species, but with a volume of data really insufficient to draw many conclusions relative to population trends.

Breeding bird survey reports showed very few changes from long-term averages. Trips afield in cool, cloudy June graphically illustrated the effects of sun and temperature on records. On cooler or cloudy days, some species simply don't sing, particularly some flycatchers and warblers. If records are based on too few surveys through their breeding habitats, these birds may appear absent where really there has been little or no population change.

There are a number of more generally interesting observations which can be drawn from the season's records. Among the positives are: local waterfowl enjoyed a good breeding season; the hawk flight total reached a new high, once

again, with most species increased or stable; another substantial summer flight of immature Red-tailed Hawks was noted; Marsh Hawk apparently attempted nesting at Braddock Bay; Ring-necked Pheasant is rumored increasing, though local bird reports don't support this; Common Nighthawk was a bit more numerous over Rochester; swallows gathered in their typical huge concentrations over the lakeshore marshes in mid to late summer; a new Short-billed Marsh Wren breeding location was noted; House Finch is spreading and booming; and several thriving Henslow's Sparrow colonies were reported. Negatives include: few wandering "southern" herons; fewer accipiter nesting reports than in the past several years; Red-shouldered Hawk still very low; very little shorebird habitat, again very high Lake Ontario levels; much reduced peak counts for the August tern flight; substantial Tree Swallow nestbox mortality; Yellow-throated Vireo missing from some usual nesting sites; fall migrant passerines scarce and at generally late arrival dates; only a single Prairie Warbler at the colony site and the area is for sale; and Vesper Sparrow still low.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Sandhill Crane, Hudsonian Godwit, Glaucous Gull, California Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Barn Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven, Prairie Warbler, Western Meadowlark, and Dickcissel.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay State Park area; Ch—Charlotte area, including Ontario Beach Park; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; LP—Letchworth State Park; and WL—west lakeshore area.

Observers: Doug Bassett, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Anne Clarridge, Roger Clark, Bill Colman, Mike Davids, Fritz Davis, Gertrude Davis, Robert & Frank Dobson, Jeff Dodge, Jim & Kay Doris, June Feder, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Harold Griffen, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Doug Keim¹, Allen Kemnitz, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Jim Lenhard¹, Dorothy Leuze, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Mike McKeon, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Mike & Tom Peter, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Diana Royal, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhauer, Harriet Stride, Brian, Allan, Dan, David & Grace Strong¹, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Steve Taylor, David, Mike, & Tom Tetlow, Bob Thomen, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Kinsley Whittum¹, and Munro Will. 1 = P.O.S.

LOONS—DUCKS: The only loon record for the season was Com. Loon: one BB Aug. 20 (PR). Grebes were also few and represented only by Pied-billed. Double-crested Cormorant was recorded each month as one or two birds at BB. Among the "herons," the event of the season **WHITE IBIS**: one imm. BB July 17-18 (MD), observed carefully at close range. This is at least a first upstate record in this century. There is an 1895 county record which apparently is not accepted by all. Additional interesting heron records include: it was a good season for Great Blue Heron; **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: one Kendall July 18 (WL, mob); **SNOWY EGRET**: one BB Aug. 11 (NH); Great Egret: one Greece July 3; and one WL July 29; **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: one imm. BB June 11, 19 (RS, mob); Am. Bittern: 12 Buck Pond July 17, an improvement in numbers; Least Bittern: five WL July 3, a good count; and **GLOSSY IBIS**: one imm. Hamlin June 3-4 (MD, KG). Waterfowl provided few records of note. Few birds lingered from spring and few summer vagrants were noted. Rare for summer were Pintail: one WL July 18; and one Carlton Aug. 31. Redhead: five Carlton Aug. 29 thru, many for that early. Lesser Scaup: one Kendall thru, summered. Also very early was Com. Goldeneye: one female Carlton Aug. 30 thru. Bufflehead: 1-2 BB June, tarried; and one female Carlton Aug. 24 thru, returned early. Oldsquaw also lingered: one

male BB June 4-21. Unusual dates for Ruddy Duck locally were: one Kendall June 12; and three WL July 29. For Com. Merganser: one male BB June-July, was unusual; a female was also seen there thru June 7; and six LP June 30, led to breeding speculation for the latter area.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The accompanying table summarizes the complete totals compiled by Laura and Neil Moon with the aid of numerous other observers at the Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout thru June 30. The totals for the past four years of daily coverage from late Feb. thru June are presented for comparison. In comparing with other hawk watch data, it should be noted that in three of the four years only 1-5% of the final total occurred in June (less than, 1,000 birds in each case) and that after June 10 there have been no 100-bird days and even few 20-bird days. A general extension of coverage at other watches to June 10 would appear certain to cover any potential late surge of immature Broad-winged Hawks; eg. this year just missed a large June total as 4,056 passed on May 30 & 31.

HAWK WATCH TOTALS - BRADDOCK BAY

<u>Species</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Turkey Vulture	858	1,150	1,638	1,626
Goshawk	8	39	43	22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	923	6,271	4,879	7,714
Cooper's Hawk	59	74	133	142
Red-tailed Hawk	1,156	1,763	2,687	2,823
Red-shouldered Hawk	265	181	436	283
Broad-winged Hawk	16,919	8,300	22,142	24,204
Rough-legged Hawk	174	442	419	231
Swainson's Hawk	0	0	1	0
Golden Eagle	4	14	16	8
Bald Eagle	3	14	26	14
Marsh Hawk	182	360	570	437
Osprey	40	96	218	107
Peregrine Falcon	1	6	6	3
Merlin	0	4	8	6
American Kestrel	109	683	702	536
Unidentified Accipiter	48	15	46	17
Unidentified Buteo	737	453	828	581
Unidentified Eagle	1	2	0	0
Unidentified Falcon	2	8	3	2
Unidentified Hawk	77	18	45	44
Totals	<u>22,566</u>	<u>19,893</u>	<u>34,846</u>	<u>38,800</u>

Additional raptors of note were: Goshawk: one Greece June 1; Red-tailed Hawk: 514 BB Aug. 31, two hr. count, mostly imm.; and 300+ BB Aug. 31, a non-overlapping continuation of the count; Red-shouldered Hawk: one Honeoye Lake area June 15; Rough-legged Hawk: one BB Aug. 31 (WL, mob), very early; Osprey: one Buck Pond July 26; and one BB-Durand Eastman Aug., unusual dates for recent years; and Bald Eagle: one BB June 7; one H June 14, and one East Bay July 7, all three immatures. A **SANDHILL CRANE**: BB July 16 (NH), provided a first summer occurrence for the Region. Rails and other marsh birds received too little attention to yield any information of note. As noted earlier, shore-bird habitat was severely limited, yet visits to field puddles early and Lake Ontario beaches and, finally, plowed fields later yielded many interesting records. Most notable were: Am. Golden Plover: one Carlton Station July 25 (MD), very early; Black-bellied Plover: max. 32 Kendall Aug. 20; Whimbrel: four BB July 18 (mob); Upland Sandpiper: 26 Monroe Co. Airport Aug. 4, a good count; Red Knot: one Aug. 24, 29, the first of the year; Least Sandpiper: 47 Perinton July 12; Western Sandpiper: one BB Aug. 21; and one Ch Aug. 24; Baird's Sandpiper: two H July 27 (MD, KG), a very early date; Buff-breasted Sandpiper:

4-5 H Aug. 31 (RBA, mob); HUDSONIAN GODWIT: one Ch Aug. 29 (MD, KG—photo, mob); and Wilson's Phalarope: one H June 1; one Chili June 11; and five separate individuals scattered across the Region Aug. 14-16. Following the pattern of the past few years, large numbers of Ring-billed Gulls gathered along the lakeshore from late June on. With their arrival a number of other interesting gulls were reported: GLAUCOUS GULL: one imm. Parma June 20 (MD), a very rare summer record; CALIFORNIA GULL: one Kendall June 17-18 (WLi, MAS, RT, mob), a first regional record, acceptance based on current expert opinion, submitted to NYSARC; LAUGHING GULL: one imm. Ch July 28, 30 (MD, KG, PR); and one ad. Ch Aug. 2 (MD, RCI); FRANKLIN'S GULL: one ad. BB June 11-13 (MD, RS, WLi, mob); one imm. H June 20 (MD); and one imm. Ch Aug. 23 (WLi, RBA); and Little Gull: one imm. BB June 6-27 (mob). Terns were present in much lower numbers than usual this year. Their usual large influx to BB in late Aug. failed to occur.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: After last year's major surge, cuckoos dropped back to normal numbers. Finally a summer BARN OWL: Chili July 4 (JSK, mob), certainly a regular, though rare, breeder. Barred Owl appeared where expected, plus: two LP June 7; and one Carlton Aug. 30, new locations. The increase in Com. Nighthawk over downtown Rochester was encouraging.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Again this year ACADIAN FLYCATCHER was found nesting: 2-3 & nest Bergen Swamp June 1-July (mob). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one IC June 2-4; and one H Aug. 23, represent typical occurrences. Bank Swallow: max. 50,000+ BB July 18 (WLi, MAS), was a typical peak concentration. Cliff Swallow enjoyed a good nesting season on the Elmheart Hotel at BB, but all nests have since been removed. COMMON RAVEN: one H-Kendall Aug. 16 thru (CP, mob), is unusual both for occurrence and length of stay. The bird frequented a small woods on the shore of Lake Ontario at the west end of Hamlin Beach State Park and ranged over a large area of orchards and farmland to the south and west. Winter Wren: one Cobb's Hill, Brighton June-July (MW, AW), singing; and one West Barre June 29 (CP, RCI), were rare summer occurrences. Carolina Wren was seldom reported this season, but this is probably more from the failure to visit the right places or send in records than from any significant change in population. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one singing Mendon July 14-Aug. 2 (AC, mob), represents a new, probable breeding location. Very early thrushes were: Hermit Thrush: one WL July 29; and Swainson's Thrush: one Mendon July 28 (AC, SaT). E. Bluebird nesting in the Region was apparently very successful. Golden-crowned Kinglet was recorded as a probable breeder in both LP and H.H. Spencer Park (above Honeoye Lake). Ruby-crowned Kinglet was observed both early and late: one LP June 1; and one IC Aug. 29 (NH). Water Pipit: one Perinton July 13 (F & RD, mob), was a new early arrival date for Fall. Loggerhead Shrike: one Pt. Breeze June 25; two Kendall Aug. 16; and one Sodus Aug. 24, lend some hope of continued breeding in the Region.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Among the vireos, only the lack of Yellow-throated Vireo at a few normal nesting localities and an early Philadelphia Vireo: one Sodus Aug. 24, were noteworthy. Warblers, once again, saw 24 species recorded in proper season and habitat to suggest breeding, but little work to provide confirmation. Fall migration was quite late with few early dates and small numbers for most species by season's end. The more interesting warbler reports included: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Pt. Breeze June 6; one IC June 1-13; and one BB July 1, all unusually late dates for lake plain sightings; Pine Warbler: two Parma Aug. 17, one IC Aug. 19; and one Durand-Eastman Aug. 31, usually scarce at this season; PRAIRIE WARBLER: one male Canadice thru June 15, the only singing male at the colony site this year; and Yellow-breasted Chat: one Sodus July (TT), never a common breeder.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: This year Bobolink seemed particularly abundant both breeding in fields early and in feeding flocks or through calls overhead in late July and August. WESTERN MEADOWLARK: one Pt. Breeze June 4-14 (WLi, AK, mob), was found near where a bird summured last year; and one Williamson June 28 (WLi), may represent a move

of about a mile by a pair sighted in the spring following early mowing of the original site. Orchard Oriole bred successfully again at Pt. Breeze, but there were no other summer records. DICKCISSEL: one male LP thru July 7 (mob), sang on and on and vigorously defended a territory, but there was no sign of a mate. Evening Grosbeak: one Durand-Eastman Aug. 10 (RS); and one Webster Aug. 17 (RS), were rare occurrences. Aside from widespread reports of House Finch, there were no other finch reports of particular interest. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows seem to be holding their own, while reports of Vesper Sparrow, particularly on the lake plain, fell to near zero following an encouraging number this spring, Lingering White-crowned Sparrow was: one BB June 15, 25-30.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

June was a bit on the cool side but July and August were hot. Drought conditions in early July were relieved in some sections by spotty rains in late July. August rainfall was below normal.

The big activity of the summer in birding circles was participation in the Breeding Bird Atlas project. The summer months often become the ornithological doldrums of the year, but not so this year as the wealth of records which poured in on the Regional Editor will attest. The Atlas survey took birders away from their favorite birding spots into new areas, and surprisingly some of them found new birding spots with unexpected species.

Seasonal Pluses: 1) more white herons with small numbers spread widely over the Region, 2) increased numbers, including nesting, of Red-shouldered Hawks, 3) development of a small hawk migration during the closing days of the period with Ospreys migrating at Elmira the last half of August, two Marsh Hawks gliding south along the drumlin ridges northwest of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge August 21 and a movement at Corning on August 31 which included two Turkey Vultures, two Sharp-shinned Hawks, three groups of Broad-winged Hawks within an hour and an Osprey, 4) continuation of the Bald Eagle hacking experiment at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge with eight eaglets hacked and released. Although it did not occur in Region 3, the nesting and successful production of two young eaglets near Watertown by the first pair of eagles hacked at Montezuma Refuge in 1976 was of considerable interest here for it proved that the experiment was a success, 5) probably the most exciting ornithological news in the Region was the successful fledging of two Ospreys from the nest at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge which was reported in the last issue of *The Kingbird*. This would appear to be the first successful nesting of the species in central or western New York during *this century*, 6) a slight increase in Ring-necked Pheasant reports. This could be more illusory than real. When a species becomes rare, observers tend to report every sighting, whereas, when the species is abundant, only the unusual sightings are reported, 7) increasing Eastern Phoebe numbers after a five year low, 8) more Eastern Bluebird reports. This

species operates like a yo-yo. Just when it seems to be picking up, it crashes. Last year is was down but 1980 was definitely an "up" year.

Seasonal Minuses: 1) all reports indicate very poor shorebirding with two exceptions. First, a patch of mudflats at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge during the first half of July attracted the usual early migrants but this area soon dried up. Second, there were reports of many shorebirds at Seneca Lake State Park on Aug. 22, 2) few reports of Rough-winged or Cliff Swallows, 3) Eastern Meadowlarks and Rufous-sided Towhees were down, 4) continued low numbers of Vesper Sparrows.

Rarities: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Marbled Godwit, probable Ruff, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Fish Crow, Orchard Oriole, Dickcissel, Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey, (Trumansburg June 1, Romulus June 17, MacDougall June 18); Cay—Cayuga; GJC—Geneva June Count which covered the Christmas Count Circle on June 15; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk—Park; Sen—Seneca; * (starred)—details on file.

Contributors and Compilers: W. E. Benning, Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen), John Confer, Vernon Dewey (MNWR), Bernice Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard, Eleanor Jones, Herbert and Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca), Dave Sibley, Jeffery Walters, Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: one flying over Sen L Pk June 18; present on Keuka L all summer. Horned Grebe: a bird in breeding plumage at Stewart Pk was probably the first mid-summer record for Ithaca. Double-crested Cormorant: one at Slaterville, an unusual location (Marie King); up to four at Ithaca and up to 14 imm. at MNWR. Great Egret: three MNWR from mid-July on; three Watkins Glen July 24-Aug. 8; four Elmira July 28-Aug. 8; one Cornell fish hatchery pond Aug. 13; four Corning late Aug. SNOWY EGRET: two Ithaca Aug. 3; two near Auburn Aug. 3 (T. Riley); three MNWR Aug. 23 on (WB). YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Imm. bird well described and illustrated Stewart Pk, Ithaca, July 10 and 13 (DS* *et al.*). Least Bittern: one MNWR July 14 only report. Whistling Swan: one MNWR June 22 (S. Kahl). Canada Goose: about 500 birds summered at MNWR with 58 pairs fledging 335 young. Snow Goose: a blue morph individual was at Phelps June 2-11.

Duck numbers at MNWR as furnished by Refuge personnel:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Broods</u>	<u>Young</u>
Mallard	4,500	Aug. 31	18	132
Black Duck	100	Aug. 31	3	12
Gadwall	2,000	Aug. 31	18	123
Pintail	100	Aug. 31	2	?
Green-winged Teal	850	Aug. 31	3	18
Blue-winged Teal	300	Aug. 31	6	33
American Wigeon	2,500	Aug. 31		
Northern Shoveler	700	Aug. 31		
Wood Duck	800	Aug. 31	57	464
Redhead	125	Aug. 31	2	18
Canvasback	35	Aug. 31	2	8
Hooded Merganser	35	Aug. 31		

Other communities reporting nesting ducks were: Black: Ithaca, Elmira, Penn Yan; Wood: Auburn, Shortsville, Penn Yan, Corning; Hooded Merganser: Ithaca, Elmira.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: two Ithaca nesting sites were not active this year and one at Brooktondale, while active early, was abandoned after May 17. Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported from Brooktondale, Ithaca, Corning, Geneva. Cooper's Hawk: nested near Elmira and Ithaca with three young fledged at Ithaca. Red-shouldered Hawk: a report of one near Townsend Apr. 13 was received too late for inclusion in the last issue. Three successful nests near Ithaca compared to one last year; one sighted Hornell July 29. Broad-winged Hawk: nesting reports from Elmira and Rexville. Bald Eagle: one adult Lansing Aug. 3 and one Cay Heights Aug. 31. Osprey: the nesting pair at MNWR fledged two young. Ruffed Grouse: up to 14 sighted at Cohocton; nesting noted at Ithaca, Rexville, Elmira. Ring-necked Pheasant: six near Shortsville, one Clyde, ten GJC; 14 Romulus BBS; eight Trumansburg BBS; two broods at MNWR produced 16 young. Turkey: nest with nine eggs at Mt. Zoar, Elmira; the population on Italy Hill, Yates Co. is being harassed by coyotes. Virginia Rail: female with young Corning July 27. Sora: one imm. Corning, Com. Gallinule: six broods produced 26 young at MNWR; also nested at Corning. Am. Coot: max. 600 at MNWR where 29 broods produced 105 young. Am. Golden Plover: a bird at MNWR July 9 was five weeks early. Upland Sandpiper: more than the normal number of reports. Two south of Waterloo June 17; two south of Phelps June 22; two adults and two flying young King Ferry July 26; max. 14 Horseheads Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: eight Ithaca airport pond July 26. Lesser Yellowlegs: 36 MNWR July 11. Baird's Sandpiper: one MNWR five weeks early on July 14 (DS)*. Least Sandpiper: 49 MNWR July 18. Short-billed Dowitcher: 20 MNWR July 14. Stilt Sandpiper: three in breeding plumage July 15. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Elmira June 4; nine MNWR July 15; nine Ithaca July 28. **MARBLED GODWIT:** one Cay Inlet, Ithaca, Aug. 12 (DS)*. **RUFF:** a probable female or an imm. MNWR July 14 (DS)*. **LAUGHING GULL:** two juvenals Ithaca lighthouse Aug. 3, 5, 9 and one Aug. 8 (DS)*. **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** sub-adult Ithaca July 13-18 and a winter adult on July 24-27 and two probable juvenals July 28 (DS)*.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: singles on the Trumansburg BBS, Elmira June 24, Clyde July 13, MNWR July 30, Clifton Springs late July and Aug. Black-billed Cuckoo: nested Ithaca and Rexville. Screech Owl: two nests Elmira. Barred Owl: one Elmira July 1. Short-eared Owl: two on Zwick Rd., Sen Co. June 14 and three another day. Whip-poor-will: six calling on Harris Hill, Elmira, July 2. Com. Nighthawk: fledglings seen at Ithaca; 25 migrating over Southport Aug. 10 and 16 over Elmira Aug. 23. Red-bellied Woodpecker: nested at Ithaca, Auburn and Clyde; found on the Trumansburg BBS for the third time since 1966; 15 GJC. Red-headed Woodpecker: nested at Clyde, Auburn and Ithaca. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two nests at Ithaca.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: Trumansburg BBS had the highest count since 1966. Eastern Phoebe: slowly recovering from the severe decimation of the Apr. '76 blizzard. **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** one singing south of Newfield June 3 (P. Kelsey). **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** one calling intermittently Cay Inlet July 23-Aug. 1 (DS *et al.*). Willow Flycatcher: 20 singing males at the Ithaca airport ponds July 23; at seven locations near Shortsville; showing up well on the BBS's. Alder Flycatcher: seven singing males Ithaca airport ponds. **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** two at different locations near Elmira July 3 (WH). Horned Lark: feeding young along Reed Rd., Ontario Co. Bank Swallow: three colonies in the Ithaca area, one with 150 holes; colonies near Phelps, Tyre (100 holes), Junius Ponds (230 holes) and E. Corning. Rough-winged Swallow: bred successfully at Clifton Springs. Cliff Swallow: nested on a building at Corning Community College. Purple Martin: had one of their best years at MNWR but reported to be very scarce at Penn Yan. **FISH CROW:** three pairs at Ithaca all summer but no known nesting. Red-breasted Nuthatch: a probable family group of three near Phelps June 15; one feeding fledgling east of Ithaca Aug. 28. Brown Creeper: one singing near Phelps June 15 (JW). Winter Wren: one singing in swamp east of Ithaca (M. King, D. Brann). Carolina Wren: five Tompkins Co. locations including fledged young near Taughannock; an agitated bird was carrying food at Shortsville June 23. Mockingbird: nested Ithaca and Elmira; for the third summer a pair was seen taking food into the bushes in the Town of Varick, Sen. Co.; seen at three locations

near Penn Yan. Am. Robin: had an excellent summer everywhere as evidenced by the 530 found on the GJC. Hermit Thrush: one singing thru July near Taughannock but scarce at Penn Yan and none in previously occupied sites at Brooktondale. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Mt. Zoar, Elmira, June 16 (WH). Eastern Bluebird: eleven pairs reported in the Ithaca-Trumansburg area. Ten attempted nesting and at least four were successful; three nestings at Elmira; a good year at Penn Yan; fledglings seen at Junius Ponds June 15. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pair feeding two fledged young at Shortsville June 23. Golden-crowned Kinglet: singing male Dryden in June (J. Confer); female seen feeding a young cowbird at Camp Dittmer near Phelps (JW). Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: four each at Clifton Springs and Shortsville late June. Warblers: Black-and-white: nested Elmira. Golden-winged and Blue-winged along with both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" hybrids were found on Coddington Rd. south of Ithaca and at Brooktondale. At Elmira a "Lawrence's" hybrid was being fed by a Golden-winged. No. Parula: one singing at MNWR July 14 was the first summer Cay. L Basin record since 1950 (DS). Yellow: 150 migrants at Stewart Pk, Ithaca, July 22. Yellow-rumped: one singing southwest of Dryden in June; nested at Elmira. Black-throated Green: nested Ithaca. Cerulean: one singing north of Milliken Station June 24; two pairs east of Phelps; one at a new location June 15 Elmira. Blackburnian: nested Rexville. Chestnut-sided: Auburn and Elmira; two pairs showing territorial behaviour east of Phelps. Prairie: singing bird previously reported at Branchport on May 18 remained until June 3 (ML); one singing at a new location south of Ithaca reservoir (Shepherd *et al.*); nested Elmira. No. Waterthrush: nested Ithaca. Louisiana Waterthrush: nested Ithaca and Elmira; one Corning Aug. 31 (T. Bates). Mourning: nested Ithaca; several at Brooktondale. Yellow-breasted Chat: juvenal at Ithaca airport pond July 31-Aug. 1 where a singing male was heard and seen in late May; one Elmira June 14; two singing males Brooktondale. Hooded: singing males south of Dryden. Canada: nested Rexville and Elmira.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: ORCHARD ORIOLE: two imm. or females north of Ithaca Aug. 30 (DS). DICKCISSEL: imm. male Elmira Aug. 24 (Runey *et al.*). Evening Grosbeak: male at Strath feeder, Odessa, Aug. 14 for one day only. Rufous-sided Towhee: reduced numbers noted at Phelps, Junius Ponds and on the Trumansburg BBS. Grasshopper Sparrow: several in the Ithaca airport area with one seen carrying food; three locations near Shortsville. Henslow's Sparrow: male singing into June north of Ithaca airport. Vesper Sparrow: reported from Cohocton, Geneva and on the MacDougall BBS. Dark-eyed Junco: nested at Dryden, Elmira and the Guyanoga Valley in Yates Co. HARRIS' SPARROW: one imm. Elmira June 23 (WH, M. Wingert)*. White-throated Sparrow: nested Dryden and Elmira; imm. at feeder south of Clyde July 30-31.

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

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The first half of June was decidedly cold. Records, kept by Don Weber for a hill top area west of Candor show that from mid-day of June 8 to mid-day of June 12 the temperature was never as high as 60 degrees F (15.6 degrees Celsius) and dropped into the 30's three of four nights with a recorded minimum of 32 degrees F (0 degrees Celsius) at daybreak on the 9th. At least part of the time, the low temperatures were accompanied by 25-30 mph winds out of the northwest, and on the 10th, rain and sleet.

From mid-June on, temperatures, although averaging on the cool side, were reasonably seasonable, with some really hot weather in early August. Precipitation was, at most, average leaving rivers and ground water at the low levels that date back to our nearly snowless winter and spring.

The early June cold weather, coming at perhaps the peak of the breeding season, inevitably had its effect on fledglings. The mortality at a Tree Swallow colony in Candor, the highest by far since close surveillance of the colony has been possible, is reported below. It seems likely that similar mortality rates occurred among nestlings of other insectivorous species, particularly those that also depend on flying insects, such as the other swallows and flycatchers.

A sharp hail storm at Candor July 11 also caused casualties. Hailstones almost the size of baseballs were saved in freezers by several people to convince skeptics. Recorded casualties in the wake of that storm were an injured Great Blue Heron, a dead American Robin, a dead Ruffed Grouse and a nestful of dead Cedar Waxwings.

Results from nine of the thirteen Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey routes (BBS) completely or mostly within Region Four were available at this writing. In addition the results from two locally concocted similar routes were also available. Those eleven routes produced 8549 individuals of 109 species. Eight of those routes are directly comparable to results from last year and produced 6631 individuals of 102 species compared to 6495 and 93 last year, a two percent increase in individuals and a nine percent increase in species. Considering only species for which thirty or more individuals were recorded at least one of the two years, the five species showing the greatest percentage increases were: Bank Swallow (442%, probably meaningless), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (166%), Killdeer (59%), House Sparrow (50%) and Eastern Meadowlark (44%). Likewise the species with the greatest decreases were Rufous-sided Towhee (80%), Northern Oriole (65%), Common Flicker (42%), Chimney Swift (26%), Eastern Kingbird (26%) and Red-eyed Vireo (26%). Of those eleven species, the flicker, swift and kingbird were on the opposite list last year. Only the oriole was on the same list last year, although both the grosbeak and towhee numbers shifted in the same direction last year as this year, but to a lesser degree. The totals for every species found on at least one of the routes are recorded below in the form (11,8) to be read eleven individuals on eight routes.

The eleven surveys available were: Whitney Point, June 25, Robert Pantle; Coventryville, June 15, Leslie Bemont; McDonough, June 22, Claude Howard; Oxford, June 1, Harriet Marsi; Lisle, June 27, Robert Pantle; East Newark, June 26, Elva Hawken; Dryden, June 8, Margaret Shepherd; Vestal Center, June 24, Elva Hawken; Milford, June 19, Mary Dobinsky; Castle Gardens (local) June 22, Julian Shepherd; New Ireland (local), June 29, Mary Sheffield.

Rarities during the season included Fish Crows and a Kentucky Warbler, both for the second consecutive year.

Other contributors: Bruce Bozdos; Mildred Clark; Gail Corderman (GC); Glenys Curran; Anna & Marilyn Davis; Janis Dickinson; Mal & Sadie Dorber; Polly Getkin (PG); Fred Leff; Florence Linaberry (FL); Booth Perkins; Joe Sedlack; Robert Sheffield; Cora Wellman; W. Wenokor; Kathryn Wilson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: (8,5); 30 Delhi June 24, the only report of more than two birds, but reported fairly frequently. Green Heron: (3,3); only about a half dozen other reports. Great Egret: one at Portlandville and at least three at Windsor in early Aug., but no others. Black-crowned Night Heron: two Aug. 3 Goodyear Lake and one Aug. 21, also in the Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford area, the only reports. Canada Goose: five June 4, flying over Choconut Center; no others. Mallard: (12,4); regular reports from the Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford area all season, max of 22 Aug. 25 Portlandville. Blue-winged Teal: one Portlandville Aug. 4, the only report. Wood Duck: (1,1); four Aug. reports; eight Aug. 21 max. Com. Merganser: a female and seven young at Emmons, near Oneonta, Aug. 23 to 25.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two to ten all season Delhi; five at Meridale, in Delaware Co., Aug. 2; also three June reports at Oneonta, Vestal Center and Skinner's Falls, on the Delaware River. Sharp-shinned Hawk: five reports. Red-tailed Hawk: (8,6); well distributed; an albino July 27 at Barton, in Tioga Co. Red-shouldered Hawk: (1,1); no other reports. Broad-winged Hawk: (1,1); only a half dozen reports. Bald Eagle: one seen once at West Windsor the third week of July. Marsh Hawk: none reported during the summer. Am. Kestrel: (11,6); common and well-distributed. Ruffed Grouse: (2,2); a one day count of nine at Vestal Center Aug. 2, max of nearly a dozen summer reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: (10,3); no other reports. Turkey: (1,1); Aug. 10 Vestal Center, a female and nine young on a rural lawn; Aug. 8 another report of ten from Vestal Center; an adult with several young on the outskirts of Oneonta for a few days in early June; four adults with 21 imm. Aug. 28 Oneonta. Killdeer: (72,10); common all summer, as usual. Am. Woodcock: (1,1). Com. Snipe: (3,2); the only reports. Spotted Sandpiper: (4,4). Solitary Sandpiper: two Portlandville Aug. 25. Ring-billed Gull: one Portlandville Aug. 16, the first report since May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: (147,11). Mourning Dove: (127,11); everywhere. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (5,3); at Choconut Center and Chenango Forks in early June, but that's all. Black-billed Cuckoo: (4,3); eight other reports. Screech Owl: Aug. 26 Chenango Forks; Aug. 31 Choconut Center. Barred Owl: (1,1), New Ireland BBS. Com. Night-hawk: (1,1); reported over Endicott, Binghamton and Oneonta during period; 30 or more at Vestal Aug. 22. Chimney Swift: (40,8). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (5,4); reported from Binghamton, Chenango Forks, Apalachin, Vestal, Oneonta and Portlandville. Belted Kingfisher: (6,5). Com. Flicker: (28,10); common; a yellow-shafted x red-shafted intergrade banded at Vestal Aug. 29. Pileated Woodpecker: (5,5); three others reported. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (7,6); five more June reports; three Aug. 16 Portlandville. Hairy Woodpecker: (4,4); regularly reported in four different localities and about twenty other scattered reports. Downy Woodpecker: (34,10).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: (48,11); common all summer to at least Aug. 25 Portlandville. Great Crested Flycatcher: (47,11); seemed more common than in recent years but BBS totals show only a modest increase; an apparent family group of four or five still together at Choconut Center Aug. 24. Eastern Phoebe: (77,11); still increasing. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Aug. 23 Port Dickinson; Aug. 27 Chenango Forks; no others. Alder Flycatcher: (7,3); one other report June 10. Willow Flycatcher: (13,8); also June 1 Choconut Center, one in Delhi area June 6 and one June 26 in Portlandville-Milford area; one at Candor that stopped calling in late July was the only one reported after June 27. Least Flycatcher: (60,11); five Aug. 16 Portlandville. Eastern Wood Pewee: (31,10). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Aug. 14 Port Dickinson, the only report. Horned Lark: (1,1), the only report, but surely more common in the open fields at higher elevations in the Region than that would suggest. Tree Swallow: (130,9); 181 young found dead in 43 of approximately 100 nests examined in Candor at the end of the June 8 to 12 cold snap. Bank Swallow: (65,3). Rough-winged Swallow: (3,2); no other reports. Barn Swallow: (242,11); Aug. 24 three adults feeding six young at Emmons. Cliff Swallow: (25,1), Milford BBS and the species still in the same general area Aug. 16; reported nowhere else in the Region. Purple Martin: (3,1), Castle Gardens BBS; at Choconut Center July 8, but no others. Blue Jay: (134,11). Com. Crow: (414,11). **FISH CROW:** about a dozen seen and heard Apr. thru

Aug. in the Willow Point section of Vestal, just as reported last year (GC). Black-capped Chickadee: (104,11). Tufted Titmouse: (7,4). White-breasted Nuthatch: (22,10); 14 on seven of eight routes compared to five on three of those same eight routes last year. Red-breasted Nuthatch: (1,1), McDonough BBS; 13 counted at two stops Aug. 4 Portlandville-Milford, max; three July 6 Bowman Lake; four other reports, three of them after Aug. 23. Brown Creeper: two singing June 14 Bowman Lake and one singing in the same general area July 26; a "family" July 19 Candor; also at Chenango Forks and Delhi in June and Portlandville Aug. 21. House Wren: (159,11). Winter Wren: (1,1), Milford BBS; two June 26 Portlandville-Milford. Carolina Wren: all season at Port Dickinson, but nowhere else. Mockingbird: (3,2); one June 16 Oneonta; the other half dozen June and July reports all from Binghamton-Vestal area. Gray Catbird: (180,11). Brown Thrasher: (25,8). Am. Robin: (599,11). Wood Thrush: (190,11). Hermit Thrush: (3,1), McDonough BBS; June 13 and one or two singing all July at Bowman Lake; one near Bainbridge June 29; on June 26 and July 15 Portlandville-Milford. Swainson's Thrush: (1,1), McDonough BBS; Aug. 3 Candor. Veery: (75,10). Eastern Bluebird: (6,3); several breeding pairs at Vestal during June; one to four present "throughout" at Delhi; one to four per field trip at Portlandville in July and Aug. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Aug. 1, 26 and 27 at Chenango Forks. Golden-crowned Kinglet: several Bainbridge June 29; at Bowman Lake two singing July 4 and 12; then small flocks seen July 26 and 27. Cedar Waxwing: (99,11). Starling: (836,11).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (22,7); feeding young July 25 Bowman Lake. Solitary Vireo: (4,2); the usual scattered small numbers all season; five Aug. 21 Portlandville, max count, but could include migrants. Red-eyed Vireo: (127,11). Warbling Vireo: (23,7); one or two regularly at Delhi all season; one or two each field trip Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford. Black-and-white Warbler: (1,1); East Newark BBS; ten other reports during the season from Delhi, Portlandville-Milford and Port Dickinson. Worm-eating Warbler: June 19 Vestal, the second consecutive year in the same locality. Golden-winged Warbler: (4,4); four other June reports, but none later. Blue-winged Warbler: (5,3); still at Chenango Forks and Port Dickinson in late Aug. Tennessee Warbler: ten Aug. 25 Portlandville, no others. Nashville Warbler: (2,2). No. Parula: one Aug. 25 Portlandville, the only report. Yellow Warbler: (176,11); common as usual. Magnolia Warbler: (2,1); ten more reports of up to three birds, mostly from Portlandville-Milford and Bowman Lake. Cape May Warbler: three Aug. 25, Portlandville area, the only report. Black-throated Blue Warbler: (1,1), Milford BBS; three other June reports, the max five June 26, Portlandville-Milford; Aug. 29 Chenango Forks, probable migrants. Yellow-rumped Warbler: (3,2); at least a dozen other reports during the season, and still singing at Bowman Lake July 12 and Candor in late July. Black-throated Green Warbler: (11,5); over a dozen reports from all parts of the region, with counts as high as six June 26 and Aug. 25 Portlandville; within memory has always been a regular summer resident in heavily wooded areas of the Region. Blackburnian Warbler: (2,2); nine other reports; also a regular summer resident in deeper woods. Chestnut-sided Warbler: (39,7); fairly common regular summer resident in pre-climax second growth. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Aug. 25 Portlandville, the only report. Prairie Warbler: (1,1); Castle Gardens BBS; one June 1 and an imm. Aug. 20 Port Dickinson; one banded Aug. 22 Vestal. Ovenbird: (84,9). No. Waterthrush: (2,2); 7 other reports. Louisiana Waterthrush: six reports, max of five Berkshire July 5, and none after July 20. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one singing June 14 and again June 19 Vestal, the second consecutive year in that locality. Connecticut Warbler: one banded Aug. 31 Vestal. Mourning Warbler: (2,2); three other reports, all in June. Yellowthroat: (376,11). Wilson's Warbler: Aug. 22 Vestal, the first of four late Aug. reports. Canada Warbler: (3,1); eleven other reports. Am. Redstart: (24,7).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (369,10). Bobolink: (149,11); one Aug. 25 Portlandville, the only report after July 13. Eastern Meadowlark: (117,11); only "three times during summer" at Delhi; a little more frequent in other areas with elevation, perhaps, a factor. Red-winged Blackbird: (936,11), so far always the most common species in BBS route results in the Region. No. Oriole: (79,10). Com. Grackle: (406,11). Brown-headed

Cowbird: (71,11). Scarlet Tanager: (65,10). Cardinal: (80,10). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (77,11). Indigo Bunting: (87,11). Evening Grosbeak: Aug. 3 Endwell (FL) and Aug. 18 Apalachin (PG), probably the earliest fall dates ever, but no other reports so far. Purple Finch: (7,4). House Finch: (15,2); 332 banded during the month of Aug. at one location in Vestal; seen regularly at a number of Triple Cities area locations, but not evenly distributed in the area by any means; also seen fairly regularly in Oneonta and Delhi, but only one to six at a time. Am. Goldfinch: (137,11). Rufous-sided Towhee: (54,10); quite possibly on a real decline. Savannah Sparrow: (83,11). Grasshopper Sparrow: (5,3); no other reports. Henslow's Sparrow: (2,1), Lisle BBS; one June 6 on trial run of Castle Gardens BBS; no others. Vesper Sparrow: (5,2); Lisle and Vestal Center BBS routes; no other reports. Dark-eyed Junco: (15,6); twelve Aug. 25 Portlandville, max of about a dozen reports. Chipping Sparrow: (195,11). Field Sparrow: (107,11). White-throated Sparrow: (20,2); about a dozen other reports. Swamp Sparrow: (8,5). Song Sparrow: (381,11).

710 University Ave., Endwell, New York 13760

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

What a great summer! Three months of average or above average sunshine and temperatures, almost consistently dry weekends, and a scarcity of biting insects made summer 1980 one to enjoy out of doors. Indeed, the lack of rain was developing into drought conditions by late August and severely restricted the opportunities for waterbirding. No matter, birds appeared to do well too, as attested by the numbers and variety found by observers in the Region.

The spring migration ended with a thud in early June. Gerald A. Smith saw the final hawk movement of about 200 birds of five species, mostly Broad-winged Hawks, pass Derby Hill on 6 June. The only early June shorebird migrants reported were four Semipalmated Plovers at Sandy Pond on 2 June. Here the mild weather was a disadvantage in that the conditions which bring down these migrants were absent. A few tardy migrants were detected later in June, as noted in the species account below.

The Breeding Bird Atlas Project was off to an encouraging start in Region 5. Dorothy W. Crumb (3983 Gates Road, Jamesville, NY 13078), our Regional coordinator, reports that data were obtained from 72 blocks, 32 of which were the important "A" blocks, mostly in Onondaga and Oswego counties. Contributors reported a total of 156 species, of which 135 were confirmed as breeding in at least one block. Virtually all who participated enjoyed atlasing greatly. Dorothy put much effort into the block that contains the highest point in Madison County. She found 94 species there and confirmed 52 as nesting; her list included seven hawks (four confirmed) and 16 warblers (11 confirmed) attesting to the ornithological diversity of the area. Even less spectacular blocks yielded surprises. Your editor was surprised to discover Willow Flycatchers a common breeder within walking distance of his house, and confirmed Ruffed Grouse as a nester in suburban Syracuse where only pheasants were to be expected. These examples only hint at what the full project has in store for us! Even if the Atlas

is never published (forbid the thought!) data of the sort gathered this summer already make the entire project a most worthwhile success. Atlasing results will be cited frequently below, in the format number of blocks (of 72) in which the species was reported, number of blocks with nesting confirmed. Dorothy Crumb notes that the daily field notes of birders who note where they made observations even when not atlasing are a good source of Atlas data, and invites all visitors to our Region to send what ever data they may have.

As always, the fall migration was well underway by the end of the reporting period, signaled by arriving shorebirds in late June and the migration of swallows and Yellow Warblers in July. The dry summer restricted waterbird habitat greatly in August. Flooded fields and farm ponds were hard to find. Only two sites at Onondaga Lake and the east shore of Oneida Lake consistently had numbers of shorebirds; the beach at Sandy Pond was much disturbed by increasing human traffic. A good variety of waterbird species were reported, but numbers were low. No reports were obtained from Howland's Island, which contains some locally unique nesting species. Landbirds were similarly contrasting. Mild weather produced few concentrations of migrants, but a good variety of species was found. As maxima of most species occurred at the end of August, fall maxima for these species will be deferred until next season's report, when they can be determined more accurately.

A total of 203 species (plus two hybrids) were reported from the Region this summer. Negatives for the season were the general scarcity of ALL waterbirds; no grebes of any sort were reported!; dabblers, excepting Mallards and Wood Ducks, were little in evidence; almost no diving ducks were found; and Am. Bittern, rails, and terns were virtually absent as nesting species. Winter, Carolina, and Long-billed Marsh Wrens still show little recovery to their pre-1977 numbers, and most observers felt swallows, flycatchers, and Brown Thrashers to be low in numbers. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were at all time lows. Besides the weather, the positives for the Region were the outstanding nesting seasons for Am. Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Common Grackle, and Red-winged Blackbird. Many locally rare species were documented nesting this season as a result of the Atlasing project. Rarities for the season included: Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Whimbrel, Franklin's and Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern, "Lawrence's" Warbler, and Orchard Oriole.

Contributors: Dorothy K. Ackley, Kate M. Coyle, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Shirley Glessner, Gene Huggins, Belle & Sheila Peebles, Marge S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Gerald A. Smith, M. Stooks, and Mrs. James VanDressar.

Abbreviations: arr.—arrival; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral in Oswego Co.; NYSARC—report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon.—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; and SVB—Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: last four 2 June, SP. Double-crested Cormorant: one to two per day LOL in June, then in tens/day after 10 July, max. 87 SP 17 Aug. (FGS), a most encouraging new record—Regional high count. Great Egret: one 13 Aug. on, two 23 Aug. on at Bolivar, Onon. Co.; one near Holland Patent on 17 Aug. (R. L. Evans *vide* JV). SNOWY EGRET: an imm. after 16 Aug. at Bolivar (KMC, FGS) was the 12th Regional report of a species-annual since 1971. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: adult, Pleasant Point, town of New Haven, 23-25 June (GAS, FGS, NYSARC), second Regional report. Least Bittern: reported from three sites LOL and from Utica Marsh. Am. Bittern: reported

from eight atlas blocks, one confirmed nesting, none reported after 29 July. Canada Goose: reported from six blocks, confirmed in two. Mallard: firmly established as our most common nesting duck in the Region by reports from 50 blocks, confirmed on 27. Black Duck: almost gone as a breeder, reported on four blocks, confirmed on only one. Gadwall: only three reports, all before 30 July, with no evidence of nesting. Green-winged Teal: one to five per day after 23 July, no evidence of nesting. Blue-winged Teal: scarce, reported from seven blocks, confirmed on only one. Am. Wigeon: three reports June and July, no evidence of nesting. No. Shoveler: female at Onon. Lake 19-23 Aug. was the only report. Wood Duck: second most common duck, reported from 30 blocks, confirmed on 15. White-winged Scoter: one at SP in early Aug. was the only diving duck (except mergansers) reported the entire summer. Three reports of Hooded Merganser included a confirmed nesting. Com. Merganser: female on the lower Salmon River, Oswego Co., 29 July was unseasonal. Red-breasted Merganser: female at DH 12 Aug. (GAS) and seven were at Hinckley Lake on 23 Aug. (SG).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two to four per day throughout LOL June and July, no confirmed nesting. Goshawk: reported from four blocks, confirmed in town of New Haven, a first nesting from the lake plains in Oswego Co. (GAS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported from eight blocks, confirmed on three. Cooper's Hawk: reported from four blocks, confirmed on two. Red-tailed Hawk: clearly our most common hawk, reported from 51 blocks, confirmed on 17. Red-shouldered Hawk: reported from two blocks, the one confirmed nesting our first since 1978. Marsh Hawk: reported from four blocks, a confirmed nesting—our first since 1976. Migrant hawks include the final spring flight at Derby Hill on 6 June (Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Broad-winged, and Marsh Hawk); an Osprey there on 18 June and an imm. Bald Eagle there on 24 July. The first Osprey of the fall was at DH on 18 Aug., part of a small flight that also included 25 Red-tailed and 85 Broad-winged Hawks. Turkey: spread into the southern border of the Region seen in reports from five blocks, with nesting confirmed on three. Rails of all species were scarce, but nesting was confirmed for Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Gallinule. An unidentified crane was seen flying west over Nose Hill, near Camillus, on 19 June (MSR); it was large, gray-brown, and distant. Semipalmated Plover: arr. Onon. Lake 12 July. Am. Golden Plover: arr. Onon. Lake 25 Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr. Onon. Lake 12 Aug. eight at Delta Lake on 21 Aug. (SG) the best count for the summer. Ruddy Turnstone: arr. 1 Aug. Onon. Lake, mostly singles thereafter. **WHIMBREL:** one, SP, 2 Aug. (FGS). Upland Sandpiper: very high counts of 27 on 17 Aug. (KMC) and 34 on 24 Aug. (FGS) in the Bridgeport-Canastota area south of Oneida Lake. Com. Snipe: scarce all summer, no confirmed nestings. Solitary Sandpiper: arr. Onon. Lake 6 July, max. 14 Old Fly, town of Pompey, 30 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr. 21 July, Onon. Lake, only one to five per day thereafter. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr. 26 June Onon. Lake, max. 52 there on 12 Aug. (low). Red Knot: two each on 29 Aug. (SVB) and 30 Aug. (Onon. Lake) were the first Regional reports for the year. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr. 15 July Onon. Lake, max. only 14 there in mid-Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr. 21 Aug. Onon. Lake, singles thereafter, were first for the Region this year. Baird's Sandpiper: one to five per day at Onon. Lake from 13 Aug. on. Least Sandpiper: arr. 29 June Onon. Lake, max. only 37 there on 16 July. Dunlin: a juvenal SVB 24-28 Aug. (DWC, FGS) was early. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr. Onon. Lake 3 July, max. 15 there on 16 July, several July adults (as usual) showing pattern of *hendersoni*. Stilt Sandpiper: arr. 7 July Onon. Lake max. 14 there 24-25 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr. 10 July Onon. Lake, max. 121 there on 2 Aug. and 80 at SVB on 29 Aug. (DKA). Western Sandpiper: three juvenal females Onon. Lake, 18 Aug. only (FGS). Sanderling: arr. 12 July Onon. Lake, max. 60 SP on 24 July. Wilson's Phalarope: male Onon. Lake 4 July, and single imm. there 12-14 Aug. and 25 Aug. No. Phalarope: one 10 Aug. (KMC) at Onon. Lake, later reports all proving to be juvenal Wilson's, a plumage omitted from field guides. Ring-billed Gull: very high counts of 8,000+ DH on 8 June (GAS), 15,800 there on 30 July (GAS), and 10,000 SP on 2 Aug. (FGS) unusual in summer. **LAUGHING GULL:** single juvenal Onon. Lake 29 July (FGS) and 25 Aug. (PDeB), NYS-

ARC) possibly the same bird, our tenth Regional report. **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: adult 7 Aug. imm. 25 Aug., both SP (FGS). Bonaparte's Gull: last of spring 8 June, DH; arr. 10 July SP. Com. Tern: reported from five blocks, nesting confirmed on two (Oneida Lake). **FORSTER'S TERN**: two Onon. Lake, 20 July, one there 29 July (FGS), early and only second and third Regional reports away from Lake Ontario. Caspian Tern: arr. Onon. Lake 4 July, max. 27 there on 23 Aug. and 32 SP on 28 Aug. Black Tern: reported from four blocks, nesting confirmed on one only.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reported from 12 blocks, confirmed on three. Black-billed Cuckoo: reported from 15 blocks, also confirmed on three. Saw-whet Owl: breeding confirmed Oswego, our first nesting record since 1968. Com. Night-hawk: continues very scarce, found only in six blocks, confirmed nesting only in one. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widespread (reported from 34 blocks) but numerous in the Tug Hill plateau region only. Red-bellied Woodpecker: reported from 17 blocks, confirmed in 7 including town of Pompey (DWC), our first nesting in the southern highlands. Red-headed Woodpecker: reported from seven blocks, only confirmed nesting not in an Atlas block.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: most widespread flycatcher, found in 58 blocks, confirmed in 28. Great Crested Flycatcher: somewhat scarce but found in 49 blocks, confirmed in 12. E. Phoebe: reported from 39 blocks, confirmed in 23. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr. 17 Aug. SP; eight near Pompey on 31 Aug. Horned Lark: reported from 7 blocks, confirmed on 5, but probably missed in many blocks where it occurs due to late start of Atlas project. Only a handful of swallow counts above 500-700 birds per day in late summer: ca. 1100 Bank Swallows DH 29 July-2 Aug. (GAS) and an astounding 25,000 Barn Swallows Clay Marsh (FGS—what a spectacle!) on 3 Aug. Cliff Swallow: reported from 14 blocks, confirmed on eight. Tufted Titmouse: reported from three blocks, nesting confirmed Camillus Valley, our most reliable locality. Red-breasted Nuthatch: a minor flight year, arr. SP 2 Aug., summer max. of 14 on that date. Short-billed Marsh Wren: three birds reported from two "traditional" localities in Oswego Co. Brown Thrasher: most observers found it scarce, but no real range contraction. Am. Robin: reported on 70 blocks, confirmed on 59!; pairs near my home in Syracuse raised four broods this summer. Hermit Thrush: arr. SP 17 Aug. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one singing persistently in the Tug Hill Plateau in June (FGS) out of known nesting range, but breeding not proved. Starling: second most frequently confirmed nester (49 blocks) in the Region.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr. SVB 3 Aug. early, next on 24 Aug. "Brewster's" Warblers: singles 10 July, 3 Aug., and 23 Aug. LOL only reports this summer. "Lawrence's" Warbler: female 27 Aug. Pompey (DWC). Tenn. Warbler: arr. SP 2 Aug. Nashville Warbler: arr. 20 July SP. No. Parula Warbler: arr. Pompey 29 Aug. Yellow Warbler: fall max. 82 SP 2 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: arr. SP 17 Aug. Cape May Warbler: tardy spring migrant Georgetown, Monroe Co., 21 June (DWC); arr. SP 23 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler: both arr. SP 23 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr. SP 17 Aug. Cerulean Warbler: last 6 July, very early. Blackburnian Warbler: arr. SP 2 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: one, Cold Brook, Herkimer Co., 12 July (SG) either a peripheral breeder or a tardy migrant; arr. SP 17 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: arr. SP 30 Aug. Pine Warbler: reported from three blocks, confirmed on two. Ovenbird: arr. SP 2 Aug. No. Waterthrush: arr. Onon. Lake 17 July. Louisiana Waterthrush: one at Otto Mills, Oswego Co., unusually far north, adult with fledged young Point Rock, Oneida Co. (Peebles) unusually far east. Mourning Warbler: arr. SP 17 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: seven birds from at least three localities, nesting confirmed at two. Wilson's Warbler: arr. SP 17 Aug. Canada Warbler: arr. SP 24 Aug.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: The four common icterids each found in about 60 Atlas blocks, confirmed in about 40 blocks for all except Brown-headed Cowbird. The Orchard Orioles reported last season fledged two young before disappearing in mid-July. Purple Finch: arr. SP 17 Aug., possibly a flight year. House Finch: reported from 14 blocks, con-

firmed on six including Pompey (DWC), our first nesting in the southern highlands. Red Crossbill: one report only in early June from Herkimer Co. Grasshopper Sparrow: at an all time low, reported from only four sites, none in Atlas blocks. Henslow's Sparrow: similarly scarce, reported from about six sites, nesting confirmed in one of the three blocks in which it was found.

306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

Summer of 1980 initiated the Breeding Bird Atlas Project and some rather good observations Regionwide. Whether the hours afield or a development of a keener eye and greater awareness was the result of the Atlas Project, I am not sure. Many of the observations were in field work other than Atlas blocks.

The weather was not overly hot and some sections of the Region experienced a semi-drought condition. When rain did occur, the result was a deluge. On July 20, an overnight rainfall dropped two plus inches of rain in Watertown. Maximum temperature for the period was in the low 90's, while the coolest periods were in the low 70's. Lake Ontario water level dropped for the period but lake level at the end of the period was above the previous year.

On the positive side: cormorants are still increasing; Turkey Vultures continue to increase; Marsh Hawks show great improvement; Gray Partridges in Massena show some improvement; Upland Sandpipers show great improvement or better coverage; Ring-billed Gulls had an excellent nesting year; Caspian Terns are increasing in occurrence at El Dorado; Short-eared Owls seemed to be everywhere there was a wetland; Loggerhead Shrikes showed vast improvement with two positive nesting locations; increasing House Finches and some excellent grassland sparrow observation.

Negatives for the period include the following: a decrease in Black-crowned Night Herons; Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks still low; Common Terns still decreasing; Black Terns in trouble; Common Nighthawks still low; sapsuckers still in low numbers and White-throated Sparrows still low.

Rarities for the period included the following species: Piping Plover; Wilson's Phalarope; Short-eared Owl; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Tufted Titmouse; Short-billed Marsh Wren; Loggerhead Shrike; Grasshopper Sparrow; Henslow's Sparrow; and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Contributors: Richard Adams, Al Brayton, Richard Brouse, Stewart Brown, Lee Chamberlaine, Frank Clinch, Kenneth Crowell, Charles Devan, Robert Long, Edward Smith, Gerald Smith, Joe VanRiet, Robert and June Walker.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: Adirondack and Indian River Lakes area nesting success was down from last year's; one St. Lawrence River (hereafter SLR) June 4; three SLR June 10; pair Upper and Lower Lakes July 20. Pied-billed Grebe: 46 including young Wilson Hill July 31 (J. VanRiet). Double-crested Cormorant: five to six per day El Dorado in late June--

rapidly building to 28 to 38 per day with 50% being Hy Birds (?)—80 max. at El Dorado by July 10 and remained thus through late July; eight Eisenhower Lock area Aug. 1; one east of Sheik Island—SLR Aug. 31; population still building. Great Blue Heron: a very good year—numbers up. Green Heron: occurring in above average numbers. Cattle Egret: one near Chaumont, July 29—probably from Little Galloo Island; one Croil Island—SLR Aug. 8—a new bird for the Massena area (J. VanRiet). Great Egret: one lower pool Perch River Aug. 1 (R. Adams). Black-crowned Night Heron: numbers way down in Massena area (J. VanRiet); numbers also down in Henderson and El Dorado areas (L. Chamberlaine, G. Smith). Least Bittern: one Wilson Hill June 17 (J. VanRiet); one Upper and Lower Lakes June 17, 18 & 19; nest with five eggs Upper & Lower Lakes June 28—first verified breeding record for St. Lawrence Co. (K. Crowell); one Crooked Creek Marsh, Town of Hammond, St. Lawrence Co. (G. Smith). Am. Bittern: one Wilson Hill July 19 & 31—numbers down (J. VanRiet); frequently heard at Upper and Lower Lakes (K. Crowell); three in Clare June 12 & 13; numbers in Henderson may be down? Mute Swan: one El Dorado Aug. 17 (G. Smith); same Aug. 23; this is probably same bird as seen at El Dorado late last fall. Canada Goose: production at known breeding locations up; one at El Dorado late June thru July—non breeder. Mallard: everywhere. Black Duck: still holding on and maybe a little improved. Gadwall: 25 El Dorado July 3 with two to ten per day for rest of July. Pintail: one female El Dorado July 18. Green-winged Teal: two to five per day, mostly males at El Dorado from July 3 on. Blue-winged Teal: very common on larger wetlands along Lake Ontario; increasing along Lake Ontario at end of period. Am. Wigeon: adult with young seen at Perch River (C. Devan). No. Shoveler: five males Croil Island—SLR June 3. Wood Duck: second to Mallard in frequency as breeder in Jefferson Co. Redhead: six July 1; 44 July 14; 90 July 31; 300 Aug. 16—all Wilson Hill. Ring-necked: two pair Wilson Hill June 17 thru 26; Upper & Lower Lakes birds on June 19; two groups of eight Wilson Hill July 31. Canvasback: one Wilson Hill June 26. Lesser Scaup: one female Wilson Hill June 29. Com. Goldeneye: one female east of Sheik Island—SLR July 28. Bufflehead: female at El Dorado July 3 thru 7. White-winged Scoter: three near El Dorado Aug. 23. Hooded Merganser: one Wilson Hill (female) on July 21. Com. Merganser: 31 SLR (Long Sault to Cornwall Bridge) Aug. 10; six same Aug. 31.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: more and more common along the Lake Ontario plain—ten Henderson Pond June 6; two Sears Pond-Tug Hill Plateau June 18; report of blue-streamered bird in area in June but no number reported on the streamer. Goshawk: one male calling at Brandy Brook near Waddington in June. Sharp-shinned: one Grantville-St. Lawrence Co. July 9 (J. VanRiet). Cooper's: one Perch Lake June 7 chasing blackbirds (S. Brown); one near Henderson Aug. 20 (L. Chamberlaine). Red-tailed: numbers seem a little down. Red-shouldered: none reported. Broad-winged: four Inlet-Oswegatchie River Aug. 7. Marsh Hawk: great improvement—many observations—young and adults. Osprey: one Perch River June 8; one Oswegatchie June 13; one Morristown June 15. Am. Kestrel: summer population was down from the previous summer. Ruffed Grouse: the crash may have come? Gray Partridge: two E. Bangor June 7; three Three Mile Point July 12; a covey at Reynolds Plant and a covey at Robt. Moses Park, numbers slightly up in Massena area. Virginia Rail: one Winthrop area June 7; one Wilson Hill June 17. Com. Gallinule: two Wilson Hill July 31; many through period at Perch River. Am. Coot: two singles Wilson Hill July 19; three same July 31; four same Aug. 12—no evidence of breeding. Semipalmated Plover: 12 El Dorado July 30; six same Aug. 11. **PIPING PLOVER:** one El Dorado Aug. 9 (G. Smith). Killdeer: broods everywhere, excellent nesting year. Ruddy Turnstone: arr. El Dorado July 24; 40 El Dorado Aug. 3; two El Dorado Aug. 17. Am. Woodcock: may be an increase from last year. Com. Snipe: one El Dorado Aug. 3; two El Dorado Aug. 17. Upland Sandpiper: either a tremendous increase or better coverage by observers; pair with young Haverstock Rd.—Massena in June; singles and pairs on lake plain thru. Spotted Sandpiper: 12 El Dorado July 30; 15 El Dorado Aug. 9; four El Dorado Aug. 17. Solitary Sandpiper: two El Dorado Aug. 9. Greater Yellowlegs: two El Dorado Aug. 17. Lesser Yellowlegs: 19 El Dorado July

30; 26 same Aug. 3; 40 same Aug. 9. Red Knot: two El Dorado July 30; three Aug. 3. Least Sandpiper: five El Dorado July 30; 15 same Aug. 3; 15 same Aug. 17. Stilt Sandpiper: one El Dorado July 30 (G. Smith). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 390 El Dorado July 30; 500 same Aug. 3; 300 same Aug. 9; 250 same Aug. 17. Sanderling: one El Dorado Aug. 3; eight same Aug. 8. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: one El Dorado Aug. 23 (R. & J. Walker). Great Black-backed Gull: one adult El Dorado Aug. 3; one imm. El Dorado Aug. 9; 41 Long Sault to Robt. Moses Dam Aug. 10; five El Dorado Aug. 17. Herring Gull: 50 Long Sault to Robt. Moses Dam Aug. 10. Ring-billed Gull: an excellent production year at Little Galloo based on the observations on uplands around Henderson; 6000 pairs on Strachan Island (J. VanRiet); four cripples at Robt. Moses Dam on Aug. 10 probably caused by hail storm on July 11 (J. VanRiet); 2500 El Dorado July 30. Bonaparte's Gull: five (three adults and two imm.) Robt. Moses Dam; 15 same July 31; 95 same Aug. 9. Com. Tern: about 180 nests counted this season from Waddington to Massena-SLR, numbers increasing; decreasing in Eastern Lake Ontario area. Black Tern: "not a single bird" in Massena area (J. VanRiet); nest with three eggs Upper & Lower Lakes June 19 (K. Crowell); Lakeview birds seem to be holding their own and Perch River may be slightly improved. Caspian Tern: 21 El Dorado Aug. 9, increasing at El Dorado area.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: everywhere on the lake plain. Black-billed Cuckoo: fairly common this summer along Lake Ontario and SLR. Long-eared Owl: one found dead in Massena area June 1 (J. VanRiet). **SHORT-EARED OWL**: one Ashland Wildlife Management Area near Three Mile Bay June 5 (S. Brown); one near LaFargeville June 9 (S. Brown); two Watertown Airport near Dexter June 10 (S. Brown); four Ashland WMA June 11 (E. Smith); two Watertown Airport June 17; one Gunns Corners June 23 (R & J Walker); three Black Lake July 29-30; are they increasing or better coverage? Whippoorwill: numbers down in Massena area (J. VanRiet); heard Clare June 13 and Pierrepont June 17 (K. Crowell). Com. Nighthawk: pair over Massena thru period—a few in Watertown. Chimney Swift: numbers in Henderson area were slightly down from normal numbers. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers were above normal. Pileated Woodpecker: one near Mannsville Aug. 2. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: one imm. eating wild apples on tree in Henderson Aug. 16—previous day a north wind was experienced. Red-headed Woodpecker: one near Brownville June 22 (S. Brown); two Clayton Aug. 2 (R. Brouse); one near Clayton Aug. 28 (R. Brouse). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: numbers down on lake plain.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: very, very common this year. Great Crested Flycatcher: in normal numbers. E. Phoebe: numbers up—every bridge in northern New York has a pair. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Sevey's Corners, June 21 (R & J Walker). Willow Flycatcher: one Jefferson Community College June 13; one Black Lake July 21; one or two upstream of Inlet on the Oswegatchie River Aug. (A. Brayton); not a single bird heard in eight blocks (J. VanRiet). Alder Flycatcher: very common in Massena area; several upstream from inlet along the Oswegatchie Aug. (A. Brayton). Horned Lark: six at Wagstaff June 28 (very rare breeder in northern New York). (J. VanRiet); a few in Henderson in July but very few. Tree Swallow: one albino at Wilson Hill July 1-6 (J. VanRiet). Cliff Swallow: 1010 nest funnels below the Robt. Moses Dam. Boreal Chickadee: two June 21 Sevey's Corners (R & J Walker); several at Sevey's Aug. 8 (A. Brayton). **TUFTED TITMOUSE**: a pair reported at Montario Point by Lorna McLeod during the breeding season (*vide* R & J Walker); one at DeGrasse June 13 (K. Crowell). Red-breasted Nuthatch: three including adult feeding young Chases Lake June 29; small migration movement noted the week of Aug. 15 at Jefferson Community College. Brown Creeper: adult with young Canton June 22 (K. Crowell). House Wren: very common this year. Winter Wren: one heard singing Henderson Harbor lake shoreline July 13. Long-billed Marsh Wren: six heard at Wilson Hill on June 17—increasing; in good numbers along Lake Ontario wetlands. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN**: one singing male Louisville Landing July 9 (J. VanRiet); two Philadelphia Fish & Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey (R. Long); one Ogdensburg BBS (R. Long). Mockingbird: pair near Brownville Aug. 1 (S. Brown). Gray Catbird: in normal num-

bers. Brown Thrasher: numbers in Henderson area seemed down. Am. Robin: superabundant this year. Hermit Thrush: heard at Wilson Hill June 4 and Brasher Center June 25. E. Bluebird: nest with unsuccessful brood Canton June 3; nest with successful brood Pierrepont (K. Crowell). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one in migration and feeding in Honey Locust, Henderson Aug. 24—photographed (L. Chamberlaine). Golden-crowned Kinglet: feeding young Wilson Hill June 4. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: four Sevey's Corners June 21. Cedar Waxwing: numbers up everywhere. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: two birds near Watertown June 5 and thru—searches for nest were unsuccessful, adjacent road project may have disrupted nesting? one near Copenhagen June 12 (R & J Walker); pair with two young near Morristown Center, St. Lawrence Co. June 29 (R. Long); single adult near Brier Hill July 8 (R. Long); pair with unsuccessful nesting near Omar, Jefferson Co. July (R & J Walker).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: seven singing along 1.5 miles of lower Crooked Creek, Town of Hammond, St. Lawrence Co. (G. Smith); one singing male Kringpoint State Park July 8 (J. VanRiet). Solitary Vireo: pair Sevey's Corners June 21. Red-eyed Vireo: in normal numbers. Warbling Vireo: about normal numbers. Golden-winged Warbler: three resident males with adjoining territories Pierrepont (K. Crowell); one adult male in full plumage at boat launch site Inlet, near Wanakena on Oswegatchie River Aug. 8—seemed part of a mixed flock of migratory birds that fed in the brush and trees (A. Brayton). Nashville Warbler: one near Cranberry Lake State campsite in heavy brush Aug. 7 (A. Brayton). Magnolia: common at Sevey's Corners—adult feeding young Aug. 8. Black-throated Blue: a pair Brasher Center State Forest June 25. Yellow-rumped Warbler: nesting at Brasher Center and Wilson Hill. Pine Warbler: probably nesting at Wilson Hill and Brasher Center (J. VanRiet); at least six singing males in Jacques Cartier State Park for the period (R. Long); one male resident in Canton June 1-24; two others nearby June 22 (K. Crowell). No. Waterthrush: one Brasher Center June 2; one Grantville June 13. Mourning Warbler: one Brasher Center June 2; one in Waddington and Massena thru June (J. VanRiet); one Aldrich June 12 & 13; one Fine June 13 (K. Crowell); two Sevey's Corners June 21.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: very, very common. No. Oriole: good production year. Com. Grackle: excellent production year. Brown-headed Cowbird: numbers in the Henderson area still down. Cardinal: first recorded nesting for Canton area on June 18, 3 eggs laid and nest deserted on June 23 (J. Green). Evening Grosbeak: three heard and seen overhead Henderson July 23; two heard and seen overhead Henderson Aug. 6 (L. Chamberlaine). Purple Finch: numbers up from last summer. House Finch: a pair at Dry Hill June 14 thru July 4 (R & J Walker); continues to increase in Watertown, max. at feeder of ten, one known successful nesting (F. Clinch). Am. Goldfinch: numbers may be up. Savannah Sparrow: still problems but some improvement in Henderson and vicinity. **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW**: singing at Gunns Corners near Watertown June 23; two same location June 30; several in Chaumont July 20 (R & J Walker). **HENSLOW'S SPARROW**: one Gunns Corners June 23; four to six same location June 30; several in Chaumont July 20 (R & J Walker). Vesper Sparrow: only one singing male heard for the season (J. VanRiet); no birds in Henderson area—very, very scarce. Field Sparrow: numbers seemed above normal on lake plain. White-throated Sparrow: numbers in Massena area still down; Jefferson Co. and Tug Hill numbers down; confirmed breeding in Town of Morristown, St. Lawrence Co. (R. Long). **LINCOLN'S SPARROW**: one Sevey's Corners carrying food June 21 (R & J Walker). Swamp Sparrow: in good numbers in Lake Ontario wetlands. Song Sparrow: numbers may be slightly down but not significantly.

Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

Summer weather patterns were not unusual. There was no lack of rain. Any heat wave that hit Paul Smiths was of short enough duration that it is gone from my memory.

Some disturbing evidence of substantial losses of many bird species should be more widely publicized. Geoffrey Carleton has censused singing male birds on a 30 acre plot at Elizabethtown about once a decade for a half century, starting in 1933. The high count was in 1953 with 139 individuals of 48 species. 1980 gave a tally of 95 individuals of 37 species, the lowest totals ever. Forest succession might reduce the number of species as the clearings were overgrown, but the loss seems greater than can be accounted for so easily. Difficulty in hearing some warblers as one grows older is not a factor because of the skill of the observer and the manageable size of the plot.

One reporter sent me a newspaper clipping by Bayard Webster of the *New York Times* that gives some confirming and depressing facts. He states that a book entitled *Migrant Birds in the Neotropics* soon to be published by the Smithsonian Institution, claims that extensive destruction of Latin American forests has coincided with a reduction in many of our migrating nesting species. Deforestation is continuing at a rate of one to two percent annually. A 35 percent loss of tropical forest has occurred since 1955. Forest exploitation, agriculture, and cattle ranching are some of the reasons for forest destruction.

The breeding bird surveys show progressive decreases in numbers of certain songbirds each year since 1968. Dr. Chandler Robbins of the breeding bird survey is mentioned in this article as stating that Eastern Kingbird has shown a one percent annual loss during the past twelve years and Eastern Wood Pewee, two percent. Some wood warblers are decreasing at a greater rate. Perhaps the World Wildlife Fund or some similar group or groups could at least encourage the establishment of forest reserves for timber growing to sustain harvestable forests for the future and, coincidentally, wildlife for paying tourists.

On the brighter side was a sighting of four Bald Eagles including an immature near Westport, by Peter Farnsworth July 19th, and later reports by NYS DEC personnel. A marked immature bird from Montezuma was recently seen near Lake Champlain. A single Golden Eagle immature, with white wing patches, was seen once in a while near Paul Smiths from June through August by at least four people. Perhaps this was a lone wandering bird, but the Westport Bald Eagles bear watching. A lot of sightings occur there. A new nest record is within the realm of possibility if people keep an eye out and are lucky.

Ferdinand LaFrance made an interesting discovery. On July 6 at Ferd's Bog he found a large maple limb that had broken off and fallen to the ground. There was a Red-eyed Vireo nest in it complete with three young that were being fed by the parents. It looks like they somehow survived a considerable fall.

Herb Saltford was working on a bird atlas project at Piseco Lake when he saw an out-of-place southern warbler. It allowed ample time to see "yellow throat

and white belly, black head with white eye-stripe, double white wing bars, and black streaks bordering its breast." This "lost" male Yellow-throated Warbler was seen on July 9th.

Frank Bell came down from Ottawa at least twice to have a look around for some northern specialities that he is not so apt to find in his neck of the woods. He and Gordon Pringle were stopped near the Madawaska Road June 22 when Frank "heard a bird that sounded like a Wilson's Warbler." There are some as breeders near his home area so he didn't bother to look for it. It was after he got back that he found out how unusual it would be as a breeder here. I believe Gordon Meade spotted one up that way early enough in the season to have been a migrant a year or so ago. Keep the species in mind if you are around there during some future breeding season.

Mike Peterson found an earlier probable breeding record for White-winged Crossbill than the February 22, 1975 Chubb River Swamp nest building. Hugh Fosburgh's book, *One Man's Pleasure*, describes a July 19 instance of a male and a female of this species in which the male perched by while the female gathered nest material. The location was probably The Northwoods Club.

Mike also had a record of a Brown-headed Cowbird banded at Chincoteague, VA. on February 11, 1980 that was retrapped April 21, 1980 near Elizabethtown. A Black-crowned Night Heron banded June 25, 1978 at Four Brothers Island in Lake Champlain was found dead at Garden City, SC on March 2, 1979.

The atlas project has gotten a lot of people out in the field. Some interesting discoveries are already being made. The reports sent in by visiting birders for *The Kingbird* are much appreciated.

Contributors: Frank Bell, Doris Brann, Al Brayton, Ray Brousseau, Geoffrey Carleton, Walter Chapman, Nancy Clum, Charlie Delehanty, Peter Farnsworth, William Frenette, Jerry Geiling, Robert Hagar, Betty Hedges, Elspeth Johnson, Alice Jones, Marie King, Ferdinand LaFrance, Mary Legello, Ted Mack, Dorothy McIlroy, Margaret and Robert McKinney, Richard Moore, Booth Perkins, John "Mike" Peterson, Gordon Pringle, Pedro Rodriguez, Bill Rutherford, Herb Saltford, Carol Samburgh, Fritz Scheider, Robert & Mary Sheffield, Mark Smith, Sue Sochia, Chris Spies, and Janice Timmons.

LOONS-DUCKS: Ferdinand LaFrance had two Com. Loons at Street Road, a village near Ticonderoga. He was told by Ranger Mark Smith that Cascade Lake near Ferd's Bog had a nest with two eggs. A loon was at Blue Mountain Lake and Betty Hedges saw a pair with no young at Limekiln Lake. Dorothy McIlroy reports one young raised at Spy Lake and one at Sand Lake near Piseco. Barnum Pond at Paul Smiths, with no real islands but an extensive bog mat, some of which is isolated but of easy access to the nonflyer, was reported to have had a pair of loons that produced one young. This would be a new site. It would be nice if breeding could be confirmed next year. Three Double-crested Cormorants were at Four Brothers Islands June 21. The atlas project exposed a two nest colony of Great Blue Herons at Newcomb (WC) and the same number at North Elba (NC). There were eight active Cattle Egret and 95 Black-crowned Night Heron nests at Four Brothers. One Am. Bittern was at Lake Lila and one at Raquette Lake. Canada Goose: Charlie Delehanty reports the local Tupper Lake flock at 30 and on June 10 she saw a flock of 100 headed north. A Brant was seen at Four Brothers June 23. Mallards bred at Four Brothers, Raquette Lake and Seventh Lake. Al Brayton reports 16 young at Eighth Lake. Several Gadwall were at Four Brothers. Five young Com. Mergansers were at Blue Mountain Lake but Dorothy McIlroy saw 45 young and five adult females at one time at Piseco. Chris Spies and Ferd saw a fe-

male Hooded Merganser with four young on a beaver pond near Cascade Lake in the Ferd's Bog area. A female and six young were on a swamp pond south of Duane along with a female Ring-necked Duck and six young (RM, PR, TM).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Booth Perkins had a long close look at a soaring immature Turkey Vulture with dark head from the summit of Black Bear Mountain near Fourth Lake on Aug. 30. A color-marked Turkey Vulture sighted on an Apr. 27 hawk watch near Lake Champlain was traced as having wintered in Miami, Fla.—smart bird! FL saw five of this species over Crown Point July 10. There was a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Ferd's Bog on Independence Day. Charlie Delehanty had an imm. that chased and was chased by Blue Jays at Tupper. One Cooper's Hawk was at Ferd's Bog July 19 (CS, FL). Red-tailed Hawk: one Whiteface Mt. June 22; two St. Huberts June 23; two Ferd's Bog July 6; two Street Road July 10; none near Paul Smiths. The only Red-shouldered Hawk was at Piseco (DM, DB, MK, HS). Three parties saw four Broad-winged Hawks in a day or at once at Newcomb, Paul Smiths, and Tupper Lake. Many others were reported. A Marsh Hawk was at Brown's Tract Ponds July 19 and a female was hunting at Madawaska Pond in late Aug. Osprey: three spent a lot of time soaring together in late summer over Paul Smiths. Perhaps they were associated with the Bear Pond nest. Two were over Ferd's Bog July 6; one at Eighth Lake July 4; one at Fourth Lake Aug. 30 may have been the same one. It was headed for Eighth Lake (BP). A pair were on an island nest at Blue Mountain Lake June 19 but no young could be seen (R & MS). An Am. Kestrel spent a lot of time near Gabriels where it is an unusual species. A lot of non-birders admired it in passing. The Champlain Valley had a lot of them with ten seen Aug. 29 by one party. Spruce Grouse: one Tupper Lake June 26. There are quite a few on posted property there. The public is *not* welcome which is probably no great hardship for the birds. I haven't been into the area myself and I fish with the land manager. Ruffed Grouse: large broods, should be a good hunting season. Ring-necked Pheasant: some actually survived last winter partly due to lack of snow cover. A few took advantage of feeders at houses. An early Semipalmated Plover was at Westport July 29 (JP). Two downy young Spotted Sandpipers were seen there July 24. Robert Hagar had the first fall migrant shorebird with a Solitary Sandpiper July 12 at Jay. An early Lesser Yellowlegs was at Westport July 24 (GC, JP). One Greater and one Lesser Yellowlegs were at the mouth of the Bouquet on Aug. 7 (GC). Several Pectoral Sandpipers were early arrivals July 24 at Westport (GC, JP) and an early Semipalmated Sandpiper was there July 18 (EJ, JP). A Western Sandpiper was also there Aug. 24 (GC), a rare find. Four Sanderlings were present July 29 at the same location. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** was added to the Essex Co. species list July 29 at Westport, when Geoffrey Carleton and Mike Peterson found it darting its long thin bill about as it fed with upraised tail. Roughly 250 pairs of Herring Gulls and 10,000 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls nested at Four Brothers. GC and JP identified a Little Gull Aug. 29 at Westport. It was with Bonaparte's Gulls and was compared at rest and in flight. Three Black Terns were at Tupper June 7.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove numbers seemed good in interior areas. Alice Jones and Mary Legello found five from St. Hubert's to Lake Placid June 23. Two were at Indian Lake in July. Even Onchiota had a few. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported from Paul Smiths, Elizabethtown, and the Champlain Valley. Black-billed Cuckoos were at Indian Lake, Paul Smiths, Street Road, Elizabethtown and Willsboro. One was twice seen carrying food on Aug. 13 at Tupper Lake (CD). A Great Horned Owl was near Speculator June 17. Whip-poor-will: one at Tupper in July (RB) and three at Street Road July 10 (FL). Com. Nighthawk: other than the half dozen or so pairs at Brandon Burn near Paul Smiths there was mention of one at Tupper Lake July 25. Chimney Swift: max 15 at Indian Lake in early July. None reported from Tupper Lake. Numbers down near Speculator. A nest with young Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Piseco was a fun find (DM, DB, MK, HS). Belted Kingfisher: max six in early July at Indian Lake. Six Hairy and five Downy Woodpeckers seen June 23 from St. Hubert's to Lake Placid was the high count for those species. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was at Ferd's Bog July 5 (FL, CS) and on the same date EJ

saw a No. Three-toed Woodpecker at Indian Falls. CS and FL saw another July 19 at Ferd's Bog.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: there were three reports of six in a day. Eastern Phoebe: a lot of singles; five June 23 St. Hubert's to Lake Placid (AJ, ML) and eight July 5 at Indian Lake (M & RM). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one at Newcomb; three at Madawaska; three at Ferd's Bog. Eastern Wood Pewee: about 35 individuals reported and many were probably not reported that were noticed. Our Region seems to have good numbers this year. The national BBS figures indicate an alarming decline however. There were moderate numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers. Six at Indian Lake was the high count. Bank Swallows shifted around a lot. New colonies appeared and some old sites were abandoned. Laws requiring a gradual slope to abandoned gravel and sand pits do not help this species any more than do small boys with long-handled sticks. CD found 50 birds at Tupper Lake that were digging nest holes June 13. AJ and ML found two Rough-winged Swallows at Newcomb and two at St. Hubert's while HS had one at Piseco and M & RM had one at Indian Lake. Purple Martins were in at least one Champlain Valley bird house. Two Gray Jays were seen at Ferd's Bog and two at Madawaska. Three Com. Ravens were near Speculator June 17 (DM, FS) and AJ and ML found seven from St. Hubert's to Lake Placid June 23. Many were seen or heard in the usual places. Lang Elliott saw 11 at once at Rainbow Lake. No, they weren't crows. Winter Wren: max 14 on Newcomb survey; M & RM found six one day at Indian Lake but for most people this was a scarce bird. The Speculator survey yielded only one (DM, FS). CD found two Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Raquette Pond near Tupper Lake on June 25. These are rare inland. Jerry Geiling found an Elizabethtown Mockingbird. The large number of Swainson's Thrush reports sent in is encouraging. There seem to be quite a few. There have been times in recent years when it was hard to find a single bird. FB and GP had four singing Gray-cheeked Thrushes on Whiteface Mt. at the highest curve in the road June 22. Eastern Bluebird: a pair at Newcomb town park June 26; an active nest at Inlet golf course July 6; and a single at Street Road July 10. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: three at Blue Mt. Lake June 18 (R&MS); two Whiteface Mt. June 22 and "lots" the same day at Bloomingdale Bog (FB, GP), where they may be heard much of the summer any year; one Newcomb June 25 (AJ, ML); four July 3 Raquette Lake and eight July 5 Indian Lake, both (M & RM); three including two possible juvenals Ferd's Bog July 19 (CS, FL). Somebody should take the time to find a nest, admittedly a challenge at best. Cedar Waxwing had to be the most common late summer bird.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one Newcomb June 25 (AJ, ML); JP saw an agitated pair July 12 at Scott Clearing; one was traveling with a mixed group of "dickey" birds in late Aug. at Onchiota (RM, TM, PR). Warbling Vireos were readily found in villages. 13 Black-and-white Warblers and 17 Nashville on the Newcomb BBS June 25 (AJ, ML) were the high counts for these species. Mrs. Delehanty found a Tupper Lake Nashville nest with five eggs June 4. By the 13th they had hatched and an adult was feeding young near there July 13. Yellow Warbler numbers are improving over the entire Region. Two BBS routes gave totals of 26 and 29 for Magnolia Warbler at Newcomb and Speculator respectively. This is the highest ever at Speculator. GC had a female Cape May Warbler at North Meadow June 23. M & RM had a Cape May at Indian Lake July 5, CS and FL had a singing male Blackpoll Warbler at Ferd's Bog on July 5 & 6. They are a late arrival as rule but this seems exceptionally late, especially to be there two days with the high altitude breeding grounds so near. No. Waterthrush reports were down. Most people found a Mourning Warbler or two. Canada Warbler numbers were good. M & RM had ten at Indian Lake July 5 and not on a BBS.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: the total for Franklin Co. count in May was one bird found by CD at Tupper Lake. A party of three failed to find one in a search of metropolitan St. Regis Falls. Two late Bobolinks flew over Elizabethtown May 27 (GC, JP). Rusty Blackbird was very scarce. FL and CS had four adults and six imm. July 5 at Cascade

Lake near Ferd's Bog. This is not the Cascade Lakes near Lake Placid. A pair of Cardinals raised two young at Tupper Lake and one was seen at Indian Lake. A ~~juv~~ ^{juv} ~~en~~ ^{en} ~~al~~ ^{al} Evening Grosbeak flew into a window, killing itself at Tupper (CD). DM and FS had their highest ever count for Purple Finch at Speculator and it was much the same elsewhere. Nine Pine Siskins at St. Hubert's June 23 was the only report of that wandering species. Rufous-sided Towhee was recorded for Indian Lake and St. Hubert's. A few Red Crossbills were around Paul Smiths. Savannah Sparrows were very scarce. They used to be fairly common. Many people saw the Clay-colored Sparrow at Willsboro found by EJ and JP. It was there June 18 to July 14. Field Sparrows were very scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: pair Blue Mt. Lake June 18 (R & MS) and four Ferd's Bog July 19 (CS, FL) were the most southern reports. Song Sparrows were scarce.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

The highlight of the 1980 Summer season was the inauguration of the New York State Breeding Bird Survey. One hundred fifty-four species were logged regionwide with ninety-nine recorded as confirmed breeders. As with any intensive field activity, there are a number of surprises. Likewise, there always seems to be a number of misses or disappointing showings, cause for retrospection. Such was the case for Region 8. Most unfortunate among the absences was not among the birds, but among the birders. The list of participants is a woefully scant roster of otherwise active birders. Perhaps the rather late, hurried and erratic start caused some confusion and loss of momentum in the project.

Among the birds recorded, there were, as mentioned, some hits and misses. Pleasant surprises were the locating of nesting Long-eared Owls, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals. While none of these are new breeding records for the Region, they are seldom found nesting here. More intriguing is the list of possible breeders. Among these are Common Ravens found at Crane Mt., Warren County, Fish Crows from Cementon, Greene County, Rusty Blackbirds from Warren and Washington Counties, and Ring-billed Gulls from Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County.

Most disappointing is the absence of about fifty species from the list of confirmed breeders. Among these are such common species as Green Heron, Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Willow and Alder Flycatchers, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Savannah, Henslow's and Swamp Sparrows. The rest of the species are less common, more secretive, or having a more restricted range, making their absence more understandable—at least for the first year of the project. There are four more years to find evidence of nesting Brown Creepers, Horned Larks, Least Bitterns, and three Accipiters, Bobwhites, and the like.

The season was exceptionally dry. Rainfall records taken by cooperators of

the Eastern New York Chapter of the American Meteorological Society located throughout the Region show that there was a narrow band of above average rainfall easterly from the Mohawk Valley through an area which includes the Albany Co. Airport. The rest of the Region had well below normal precipitation, with drought-like conditions, especially in the southern counties. Temperatures ranged from a low of 29 F (-2C) on June 9 in So. Columbia Co. to a high of 101 F (38 C) on August 21 in sw Saratoga Co. A four-inch snowfall on June 9 caused a brownout of the ferns and firs atop Hunter Mountain.

From Jenny Lake in northern Saratoga Co., Bob Yunick observed a near-record production of Red-breasted Nuthatches and an unusually large post breeding influx of Purple Finches. In New Baltimore, unusually high numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Canada Warblers were banded in July and August.

Contributors to this report include: V & B Able, Elizabeth Anderson, Bob Budliger, Jim Bush, Janet Carroll, Geoffrey Carleton, Shirley Clark, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Juanita Cook, Jeff Davis, Kate Dunham, Rena Dodd, B & H Gardina, Bill Gibson, Elisabeth Grace, Andrew & Richard Guthrie, Phil Ingalls, Mike Kuhrt, Ron & Carolyn LaForce, E. Mansell, Bob Marx, Ed Reilly, Alice Ross, Walt Sabin, M & B Ulmer, Elaine Vadnais, Bob Yunick, and all the atlas cooperators who turned their data in.

Abbreviations used here are those that are used in the Breeding Bird Atlas project regarding the breeding status of a species: PO = possible; PR = probable; CO = confirmed. Common words and county names may also be abbreviated now and then.

LOONS--DUCKS: Com. Loon: PO; summering individuals at Tomhannock and Alcove Res.; also one at L. Taghanic June 3. Pied-billed Grebe: PO; at Castleton (JC). Double-crested Cormorant: numerous reports along Hudson R at Castleton, N. Baltimore, and Imbought; also L. George mid-Aug. (EA). Great Blue Heron: PR; June 1-July 23 Col. Co. Green Heron: PR; several reports. **GLOSSY IBIS:** six Hudson R. at Albany Aug. 8 (ER). Great Egret: numerous late summer reports of post breeding wanderers. Snowy Egret: up to 24 Imbought Bay most of Aug. (BC). Black-crowned Night Heron: CO; S. Schodack (JC). Am. Bittern: CO; Poestenkill. Least Bittern: PO; two reports. Canada Goose: CO; many reports. Snow Goose: one summered at Basic Creek Res. Mallard and Black Duck: both CO. Green-winged Teal: CO; Schoharie Co. Blue-winged Teal: CO; Wash. Co. Am. Wigeon: July 23 Chatham (PI). Hooded Merganser: CO; Crane Mt. Com. Merganser: CO; Schoharie Co.

HAWKS--ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: PR; surprisingly few reports. All three accipiters listed only as PR. Sharp-shinned Hawk: intermittent--June 1-29 Col. Co. Cooper's Hawk: three reports, Col., Rens. & Saratoga Cos. Red-shouldered Hawk: PR; very few reports. Broad-winged Hawk: CO; only one nesting report. **BALD EAGLE:** one adult each--June 23 Papscanee Cr. (EV) and over JB's house, Catskill, June 25. Am. Kestrel: CO; at least six confirmed nestings. Bobwhite: PR; small group persists near Chatham. Turkey: CO; four confirmed nestings; numerous other sightings from the high country east and west of the Hudson Valley. Virginia Rail: CO; good find. Sora: one, July 13 Papscanee Cr. (PC). Com. Gallinule: CO; near Castleton (JC). Com. Snipe: none reported. Spotted Sandpiper: at least five nestings. **WESTERN SANDPIPER:** three in flock of 20 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Imbought Bay late Aug. (RG & BC). Great Black-backed Gull: up to 40 (mostly imm.) along Hudson R. thru period. Herring Gull: less numerous than preceding, max. 10-15. Ring-billed Gull: PO; good potential for nesting on the larger undisturbed reservoirs such as the Tomhannock and Alcove. No terns reported.

PIGEONS--WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: CO; four other reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: CO; seven reports. Barn Owl: none reported by atlasers; reports did come from Langley Rd. Mont. Co., and Coxsackie, Castleton, and Coeymans. Screech Owl: PR; only three reports. Great Horned Owl: CO; five nesting reports. Barred Owl: PR; about six re-

ports—no nestings; R. Yunick reports two pairs at Jenny L. after several years' absence. Long-eared Owl: CO; found nesting in Berne, Albany Co.; Paul Connor reports seeing and hearing two or three in Schodack Ctr., June 17-Aug. 25. Whip-poor-will: CO; a good find in Schuylerville by J. Cook; also four plus at Alcove. Com. Nighthawk: PO; very few reports; Albany, N. Baltimore, Castleton, and Catskill. Woodpeckers: Pileated: only PR; widely reported however. Red-bellied: not reported. Red-headed: CO; so. Rens. Co. (KD & EG). Also three pairs along Langley Rd. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CO; several reports. Hairy: CO; only five reports.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Flycatchers: Yellow-bellied: PO from Hunter Mt. Alder and Willow: each PR; should be confirmed from many locations. E. Wood Pewee: no confirmed nestings. Olive-sided: CO from Crane Mt.; also singing at 13th L. July 12. Horned Lark: no reports. All six swallow species confirmed nesters. **COMMON RAVEN:** PO; Crane Mt.—will the Warren Co. Adirondacks or the Catskills produce the Region's first nesting of this range-expanding species? **FISH CROW:** four at Cementon, June 11 (RG). Red-breasted Nuthatch: CO; reports of individuals from N. Baltimore and Chatham, as well. Brown Creeper: no confirmed nestings. Winter Wren: CO; only from Crane Mt. Carolina Wren: PR; pair at N. Baltimore; another at Buskirk, July 30 (JD). Neither Long-billed nor Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported. Mimids: all three species confirmed breeders; Brown Thrasher being the least numerous. Thrushes: five species were confirmed breeders—the exceptions are Swainson's and Gray-cheeked, both of which are probables from the Catskills. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: PR; found nesting at Black Cr. Marsh but not reported in survey. Cedar Waxwing: CO; especially more numerous this year.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The only vireo confirmed to be breeding was the Red-eyed. Yellow-throated, Solitary, and Warbling were each reported as probables. A Philadelphia Vireo in Berne in Aug. was likely an early migrant or wanderer. Warblers: Black-and-white: CO; numerous places. Worm-eating: one mid-June Saratoga Nat'l. Park. Golden-winged: CO; two banded, N. Baltimore. Blue-winged: CO; seven banded, N. Baltimore. No. Parula: none reported. Magnolia: PR; should be on the confirmed breeders list. Yellow-rumped: CO from numerous locales. Cerulean: PO from Selkirk, Albany Co. Blackburnian: PR; numerous scattered reports. Blackpoll: PR from Hunter Mt. Prairie: CO; several locations but not any from Albany Pine Bush. Louisiana Waterthrush: CO. Mourning: PR; Hunter Mt. and other high areas. Wilson's: four banded in N. Baltimore in Aug. Canada: PR; 21 banded in N. Baltimore in Aug. Am. Redstart: not confirmed; seven banded in N. Baltimore.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: PR; several reports, N. Baltimore, Coxsackie and Chatham. **RUSTY BLACKBIRD:** PR; small group found at 13th L. July 12; also reported from Washington Co. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CO; five banded in July, 40 in Aug. in N. Baltimore. Purple Finch: not confirmed breeder anywhere in the Region; Bob Yunick reports a large postbreeding incursion to Jenny L. in Aug. Sparrows: Savannah: PO; found in Castleton, Chatham, Coxsackie, and Austerlitz. Grasshopper: PO; mid-June, Saratoga Nat'l. Historic Park. Henslow's: PR; small colony at 5-Rivers Envir. Education Center. Vesper: CO; one nesting report. Dark-eyed Junco: CO; several reports. White-throated: CO; several widespread reports of nesting pairs. Swamp: PO; few reports, mostly along the Hudson R.

P.O. Box 46, New Baltimore, New York 12124

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

What with the mid-March snow, and subsequent flooding on March 13-14,

one might have thought the winter drought was over, and indeed it was with adequate rain falling thru April and May. But hot and dry conditions returned in June to remain thru the period. June rains were more than 2 inches below normal, and barely any precipitation was recorded in July and August save for an occasional thunder shower. The end of the season saw one of the most severe droughts of the century.

The drought condition caused the drawing down of area reservoirs to such a degree that several reporters commented on good shorebirding. The best of these was at L. Tappan on the Rockland Co.-New Jersey border. On July 17, in the northern corner, only an acre of mud was exposed, but it was enough to bring in a Greater Yellowlegs, and ten Least Sandpipers. One week later, five or six acres were exposed, and the count rose to 80 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 15 Least, one Pectoral, and one Spotted along with a half-dozen Killdeer. A week later on July 28, a quarter of the lake bed was exposed, and the count grew to 400 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 20 yellowlegs, four Pectorals, and a few Least. The usual Killdeer were still there. On Aug. 3, the level of the reservoir had dropped some 8 feet, and about 500 shorebirds were present, among them were one Semipalmated Plover, and eight Stilt Sandpipers, the latter being only the fifth record for Rockland.

Gene Brown made his usual June trips to the higher elevations of Harriman Park around Surebridge and Pine Swamps in search of Canadian Zone birds, and came up with excellent results: Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Hermit Thrushes, Solitary Vireos, Nashville Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, Canada Warblers, and juncos. Several of these species were believed to be nesting, and a few were tending young. How remarkable to have Winter Wrens singing within hearing distance of Acadian Flycatchers, and Canada Warblers within earshot of Hoodeds!

Most birders felt the season was rewarding, but enthusiasm was minimal due to heat and humidity. There were the usual contradictions among observers and reporters; some feeling certain species low in numbers, but others finding them to the contrary. Rarities in the report include: Brant, Peregrine, Merlin, Ruff, Long-eared Owl, breeding Golden-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned, "Brewster's" and Kentucky Warblers, Western Tanager and lots of Orchard Orioles.

Contributors and observers cited: Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Florence Germond, Jim & Mary Key, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer, Benton Seguin, Seldon Spencer, John Tramontano, Edward D. Treacy, Marion Van Wagner, Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations used: First four or five letters of each county; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; mob—many observers; PL—Playland, Rye; SA—Stewart Airport; USMA—U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: at least two imm all summer on E. Basin of Ashokan (AB). Pied-billed Grebe: one with young on Mill Rd. Dutch June 10 (MVW). Double-crested Cormorant: AB feels they may have bred on some of the smaller islands s. of Kingston. Sev adults and imm. obs there thru period. One at L DeForest June 6, was unusual for that inland lake. Another on Hudson s of Bear Mt. Br. Aug. 11 (BS). Great Blue Heron: a new heronry found in Dutch ab one mile from the previous one at Tamarack Sw. deserted two years ago. About 20 birds there June 14. Green Heron: about 20 at CB regularly, inc. to 30-35 by end of period. Little Blue Heron: an ad at MC June 19-20. Another at PL Aug. 18.

Two different birds in Dutch; one Aug. 2 at Beaver Dam was white. the other Aug. 6 at Pleasant Valley was about half blue. Two more were obs. near Kingston Pt. for three weeks in Aug. Great Egret: there was much talk of great numbers in the Region during late summer, but correspondents failed to write them up. Max number reported were six at CB Aug. 12. First birds appeared most areas July 30-Aug. 1, and were widespread thru area. Snowy Egret: max 19, Kingston Pt. Aug. 19, and 15 Croton July 28. Only scattered single reports elsewhere. Black-crowned Night Heron: sev. post breeding reports in Aug. One CB Aug. 27 inc. to two by Aug. 31. One Beaver Dam Dutch Aug. 8. Yellow-crowned Night Heron. tragedy struck the only breeding colony in the Region July 5 when a Great Horned Owl was obs. killing young in at least three of five nests at MC. Am. Bittern: single birds June 6 and 27 at Salt Point. Glossy Ibis: one at Purchase June 8 and five at MC Aug. 23. Mute Swan: everywhere! nesting on most lakes and ponds. Five non-breeding adults spent the period on CB. BRANT: an imm. with only a trace of neck marking was at Piermont Pier Aug. 18 (Vic Schwartz, Peter Derven). Snow Goose: one with Canadas at Congers June 9 (Vic Schwartz). Green-winged Teal: a single drake feeding at Kingston Pt. July 9, inc. to two there July 13. Wood Duck: max 24 at Conn's Hook July 30. Oldsquaw: one at PL Aug. 23. Hooded Merganser: two imm. at Kingston Pt. July 24 (R. Terwilliger). Com. Merganser: although no details are given, AB feels they could have nested on the upper Esopus Cr. near Ashokan.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Red-shouldered Hawk: David Kunstler, who has undertaken a study of this species near New Paltz, reports five nests with young near there. A single at Turkey Hollow, Dutch June 16. Last nesting that county was 1961. A single seen and heard Stillwell L, USMA Aug. 9. Bald Eagle: a single bird over Butler Sanct., Mt. Kisco Aug. 24. Another over Rt. 9 north of P'kpsie Aug. 26. Both are well within migration limits. Osprey: sev. reports of Aug. birds, also migrants. One over Sightsberg Aug. 3; another at Bashakill Aug. 24; and another CB Aug. 28. PEREGRINE FALCON: one ad at Tamarack Pd. Dutch Aug. 30 was obs. for 15 min. with scope and binoculars by four of the most competent birders in the state (OTW, MVW, FG, EP). MERLIN: one obs. by BS just north of Ft. Montgomery July 7 was well-described. Bobwhite: only reports of a few single birds. Not quite gone yet. One near L Tappan Aug. 3; another near L Carvel, Dutch June 24; and another near Stockbriar, Dutch July 14; another calling in Town of Lloyd, Ulst one day in July. Virginia Rail: one ad with four imm. June 11 in Dutch. Single birds again June 12 near Millbrook School and June 26 near North Bay, Dutch. Am. Golden Plover: first ad at Purchase Aug. 29. 12 at SA Aug. 30. Black-bellied Plover: one CB Aug. 12, was the only inland report. Upland Sandpiper: one at Purchase July 31 inc. to two by Aug. 6. Reported there for the past three years. Two flightless young at Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill were positive breeding evidence. Four to six pair were obs. from June 6-July 15 at SA, but no signs of young birds. Migrants arr July 29 there with 15 max. Solitary Sandpiper: straggling back by late June, with six in Dutch June 28. Three at Mine Rd. USMA Aug. 30. Semipalmated Sandpiper: (see intro remarks on L Tappan). Western Sandpiper: one at PL Aug. 23. Always difficult to find and identify in Region. RUFF: a first local record; an imm. female or winter-plumaged bird at L Tappan Aug. 8 by Vic Schwartz was well described (*fide* RFD). Great Black-backed Gull: extraordinary numbers of recent years now back in proportion. Only a dozen or so reported with each trip to the CB area where previously one or two hundred were in residence. Laughing Gull: first imm. arr Conn's Hook area of Hudson July 30. Did not appear farther up river until Aug. 30 at CB. Bonaparte's Gull: one on Hudson at Esopus Aug. 21 was the only inland report. Com. Tern: one Hudson R Town of Esopus Aug. 21 was far upstream. Black Tern: always rare in spring, but expected in fall. Four Hudson R Town of Esopus Aug. 20, inc. to nine by Aug. 24 (AB).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos: a banner year for both species. Yellow-billed outnumbered Black-billed by five to one in Rock. Numbers closer in the northern part of Region. Owls: Great Horned reported lower in Ulst. but Barred on the increase there. Screech Owls: reported almost every trip by those who "whistle" for them. Barred Owl:

obs. at Pound Ridge thru June. Breeding again at Winding Hills Park, Oran. **LONG-EARED OWL**: two seen and four heard at Red Oaks Mill, Dutch dur July (JMK). Com. Nighthawk: good migration from Aug. 15. Peaked in Dutch Aug. 26 with 40 near Washington Hollow, and 25 at LaGrange. 34 over Ft. Montgomery Aug. 27 and 41 over Mine Rd., USMA Aug. 30. Chimney Swift: exc. movement Aug. 30 with 50 over Cornwall. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers generally low exc. in Dutch where they were reported "best Aug. in ages." AB turned up only 12 on his annual paddle thru North Bay and Crugers I, which usually produces several dozen. Red-bellied Woodpecker: usual few. Does not seem to increase.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: Empidonax flycatchers were moving thru the area in excellent numbers by the last week of Aug. at least 15 different birds were obs in less than three hours the morning of Aug. 27 (EDT). Eastern Kingbird: missing from most of its usual haunts in Rock, but well reported elsewhere. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: obvious birds reported from Pleasant Valley Aug. 18, Pond Gut Aug. 19, and West Clove Mt. Aug. 19, all Dutch. Other obvious birds were at Mine Rd, USMA Aug. 27 and Cornwall Aug. 29. Acadian Flycatcher: one Rye Nature Center June 3, one Blauvelt June 16, two near Island Pond, Harriman Pk. June 22. Unreported at Bashakill this year, but four June reports from Dutch and two there in July. Willow and Alder Flycatchers seem normal after late arrival in May. Least Flycatcher: low in Rock and Ulst. Olive-sided Flycatcher: earliest arrivals each fall seem to come down the valley near Wawarsing, with the first two there Aug. 14, 15. At least three reports in Dutch thru Aug. 31. Horned Lark: one photographed on July 6 at Blue Chip Farm, Wallkill was a fledgling coming into adult plumage. Bank Swallow: about 80 active nest holes at Pound Ridge. All four species of swallows were obs. moving south early in July and by month's end most of the Banks had left. Cliff Swallow: one on Aug. 3 and 9 at West Clove were unusual in that there are no nesting colonies reported from Dutch. Three or four were at Wicopee Aug. 24. Purple Martin: obs. at usual locations and numbers. Fish Crow: more than usual. One at Highland Falls July 4 and a pair calling at Woodlawn Cem., New Windsor, July 5. One Iona I. July 27, and sev. reported far up river at Esopus and Cruger's I. July 1-5. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one near Island Pd. June 22, one Pleasant Valley July 6, 7 where they are always very rare, one from Aug. 8-28 at Pleasant Valley, and two Aug. 28 at Wappingers Falls. Winter Wren: one singing near Blauvelt June 11 was joined by sev. imm. by June 20. Again a male singing there July 27 with at least three others were calling sev. feet away. Singing again from July 5-12 farther away would indicate possible nesting at another site nearby. Two near Island Pd. June 22 and the usual few birds at the usual locations in Dutch dur. June and July. Hermit Thrush: at least three and possibly five singing birds resident at Pound Ridge thru period. Eastern Bluebird: FG reports good nesting numbers *outside* her bluebird trail. First nesting along her trail had heavy losses, but second nesting reported better. One pair still feeding young Aug. 31. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: an unusual report of a pair at Ferncliff, Dutch, feeding a young cowbird which was subsequently killed by a cat. **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**: one pr. at Pound Ridge Res. feeding two young June 15 (TB). Second year they bred there. Another pair summered at Middletown Res. but no proof of breeding. Cedar Waxwing: exceptional numbers by end of period. Everywhere!

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one June 30 feeding fledged young on Yellow City Rd., Dutch is the first positive county record of breeding. Solitary Vireo: at least three pair and possibly four or five pair at Pound Ridge Res. No breeding proven. One July 3 Turkey Hollow, Dutch. Species formerly bred there prior to 1958. Red-eyed Vireo: exc. movement Aug. 20 along Mine Rd., USMA with at least 20 birds in three hours. Warbling Vireo: numbers unusually good in Rock where on June 6 they outnumbered Red-eyed by three to one. Warblers: unusually heavy movements from Aug. 27-30, with an exceptionally heavy movement on the latter date. Worm-eating Warbler: more summer reports than ever before. Returned to Little Tor and Clausland Mt. in exc. numbers. Unusually high in the Pound Ridge area. Two singing in the Black Rock Forest and two along Mine Rd., USMA thru end of July. One Garrison's Pd. Ft. Montgomery Aug. 10. **"BREWSTER'S"**

WARBLER: one June 9-13, Tower Hill, Dutch was photographed and seen by many. Another was obs. in a bird bath along the Shunpike, Clinton Corners Aug. 10. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** one Aug. 31 West Clove Mt. was very early. Yellow Warbler: last Aug. 30 Mine Rd., USMA. Magnolia Warbler: first three near Clinton Corners Aug. 2. Very early. Exc. numbers everywhere by end of period. Last spring migrant reported at Black Rock June 15 (BS). Yellow-rumped Warbler: a very early bird feeding with a small band of Semipalmated Sandpipers along the shoreline of the Hudson at CB was joined by a Cedar Waxwing, Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow and E. Phoebe on Aug. 28 (EDT). One discovered carrying food in Dutch June 18 (MVW). Three other early migrants near P'kpsie Aug. 22. Black-throated Green Warbler: at least six pair at Pound Ridge in mid-June (TB). Cerulean Warbler: an ad. male at Pound Ridge June 15 and relocated there June 25, 26. A max of eight birds was in the Weyant's Pd. area of Mine Rd., USMA July 2. Two more obs. carrying food July 7 near Iona I. (BS). Pine Warbler: obs near Middletown Res. thru season but no breeding proven. One Aug. 28 at Pleasant Valley was an early migrant. (JO) observed this species regularly in pine woods near his home at Wawarsing dur. June and July. Max three July 27. Prairie Warbler: at least six singing birds along Mine Rd. USMA June 1. Three obs. feeding young there near Stillwell Res. July 19. Last there Aug. 16. No. Waterthrush: one feeding along Hudson R shoreline Aug. 29. One Garrison's Pd., Ft. Montgomery Aug. 19. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one at Pound Ridge June 1 was still in the same location July 31. One near L Tappan May 31 remained until June 11 by which time it was joined by another singing male. Connecticut Warbler: only report one at Tamarack, Dutch by four experienced birders. Mourning Warbler: breeding again atop Balsam Lake Mt. in the Catskills. A female obs. near Palisades June 5. A male Aug. 30 at Town of Ulster Dump at Kingston. Yellow-breasted Chat: one pair bred in Purchase. A second male there found no mate. Another bird at Pleasant Valley Aug. 29. Hooded Warbler: four singing birds on Little Tor June 5 with two or three remaining as late as June 17. One singing at Black Rock Forest June 15 and another along Mine Rd., USMA the same date. Wilson's Warbler: one along Mine Rd., USMA Aug. 27 and five other reports from Dutch from Aug. 19 on. Canada Warbler: three at Butler Sanct. Mt. Kisco thru June and July. Max. six in Dutch Aug. 30. First migrant in the Wawarsing Aug. 3.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: to quote from *Mianus Field Notes*: "an observer standing with a class next to a pond at the Rye Nature Center watching a House Sparrow feeding along the edge was explaining about a bull frog which the previous year had struck from the pond and captured a similar bird; the skeptical group was amazed when a bull frog then leapt out and devoured the sparrow, a few tail feathers the last they saw of it," (Tracy Kay). Bobolink: only a couple of pairs continue to breed at Purchase. Good movement thru Dutch from Aug. 25-30. More than 100 obs. Aug. 29 at Norrie St. Pk. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** more than ever before. At least a half dozen individuals in the Purchase area. One on Mine Rd., USMA July 19; three June records, two July, and one Aug. in Dutch. **WESTERN TANAGER:** an adult breeding-plumaged male well-observed and described at Pound Ridge July 5 is the second record for the area. The first was a female found dead at PL Mar. 12, 1961 (TB, Rich Kelley). Verification report filed. Indigo Bunting: a banner year along the Mine Rd., USMA where they are always common. At least 30 birds obs. in a one mile stretch Aug. 27. Purple Finch: three Mine Rd., USMA Aug. 30. Six males and three young near Clinton Corners July 5-8. One nesting pair at Stissing thru July. Grasshopper Sparrow: resident birds at Westbrookville and Unionville. Was present at Galeville Airport, Wallkill in May, but failed to show there thru the period. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: continues as a breeder at MC, but only a pair or two this year.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

Weather bureau data pronounced this summer the "third hottest" with a mean temperature of 76^o F. August was the third hottest month on record with 80.3^o F., the mean in the city. Normal for August is 74.9^o F. Rainfall was sparse in August, although June and July were wetter than average. The weather conditions did not appear to affect avian activities in the area, and actually enhanced conditions on the east pond at the Jamaica Bay Refuge. Jamaica Bay was probably the best shorebird location on the east coast this summer; the first of four adult Curlew Sandpipers arrived July 20. The fall landbird migration was noticeable August 8-9 with warblers moving along Jones Beach. Bobolinks and flycatchers were passing through on August 16-17.

Reports of "blue-listed" birds are included in this summer report. Breeding season data would seem to be the best means to assess the status of the Region's threatened species. If readers have information to add to the records presented here, I would appreciate receiving it.

Falcons in Manhattan

On July 29 four young Peregrines were ensconced by Cornell researchers in a box atop the 17-story Manhattan Life Insurance Company building on 57th Street, overlooking Central Park. The *New York Times* reported that by August 21 they were soaring confidently over Manhattan. One bird was rescued from an air shaft on its maiden flight by using radio monitoring equipment. Another bird flew into an open window in a building under construction and was shooed out by workmen. With some glee, the *Times* reported later in August that Olivia, a 71 day-old female, oldest of the four, had flown back bearing a freshly killed pigeon which she shared with a second Peregrine. Peregrines disappeared as residents from New York City in the mid-1940s.

Ospreys

Eighty-seven active Osprey nests in Region 10 fledged 101 young this year, compared to last year's 66 chicks from 78 nests. The islands near the east end contain the majority of the nests: 27 on Gardiner's Island, four on Robbin's Island, six on Fisher's Island, 16 on Shelter Island, and eight on Plum Island. The westernmost active nest was at Connetquot State Park near Islip. Summering birds in the Mill Neck-Cold Spring Harbor area suggest nesting attempts can be looked for.

Eaton's Neck Tern Colony

Three hundred pairs of Least Terns nested at Eaton's Neck on the north shore of Long Island this year. Most of the young fledged successfully prior to July 1 when the colony was invaded by four dogs. Common Terns were heavily damaged. Four hundred chicks were killed, approximately half the population produced from some 400 nests in the colony. This number of nests was double the count made last year. Some rat predation on Common Tern chicks was also noted. Vegetation is encroaching on the nesting area. Sally Ruppert and Bill Kolodnicki have obtained the agreement of the Town of Huntington and will

begin to manage the vegetation. The town is also cooperating by putting up a temporary fence during the breeding season to keep the dogs out. Headquarters for this work is at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. Members of the Huntington Society are active in protecting this colony.

June Breeding Bird Censuses

Three June bird counts were conducted again this year, Captree for the ninth year, Northern Nassau for the seventh year, and Central Suffolk for the sixth consecutive year. The longitudinal census data provided by these ongoing counts seems a necessary adjunct to the range information proposed by the Atlas Project. Every effort should be made to continue these surveys during the Atlas period, despite additional demands made upon a small number of consistent participants. Finding enough workers to maintain continuity remains the biggest problem.

The Captree count found approximately 18,295 birds of 118 species with American Wigeon new to the count. Noteworthy birds were American Bittern, Royal Tern, Chuck-will's-widow, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Orchard Oriole. High counts were reached for Black Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Bobwhite, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Black Skimmer, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Hairy Woodpecker, Fish Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Long-billed Marsh Wren, House Wren, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, and Field Sparrow. In low numbers were Least Tern, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird (only one) and Eastern Meadowlark.

Northern Nassau tallied 122 species. New to the count this year were Turkey Vulture, Purple Gallinule, Alder Flycatcher, and Prairie Warbler. Most species were found in numbers that compare well with previous years. Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued to increase. Outstanding finds, in conjunction with Atlas Project work, included the successful fledging of two young by a pair of Kentucky Warblers at Coffin Woods in Locust Valley (only one previous Long Island nest record), a pair of Brown Creepers carrying food to young in a nest at Muttontown, a pair of territorial Bobolinks at Stillwell Woods in Syosset, nesting of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a territorial Cerulean Warbler, both in Coffin Woods.

Central Suffolk counted about 16,678 birds of 137 species. This was the second highest total, compared to 133,135,130,142 and 133 in previous years. The compiler commented that 111 of these species are almost certainly nesting in the area, ten breed or have bred elsewhere on Long Island, and the rest are summer visitors or vagrants. Over the six year period 182 species have been listed of which 145 have bred on Long Island, and 124 have bred in the count circle. New to the count were Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Acadian and Least Flycatchers, and Kentucky Warbler. Missed species included Marsh Hawk, Hermit Thrush, Least Bittern, Virginia Rail and Common Nighthawk. Species in higher numbers than in previous years included Mute Swan, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Veery, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Savannah Sparrow, and Field Sparrow. Species showing declines were American Woodcock, Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Chimney Swift, and Long-billed Marsh Wren. The compiler noted that trends becoming apparent in the six year period

include: the previous increase in Canada Goose numbers appears to have reversed; Gadwall is increasing each year; Bobwhites are still low; Willets continue to increase. Common Tern numbers have improved each year, but Least Terns and Black Skimmers seem to be declining. Purple Martins have been low for the past two years. House Sparrows appear to be decreasing.

Careful Atlas work in Forest Park, Queens, found a territorial, singing Brown Creeper, six or eight pairs of Chimney Swifts at the golf club house, and noted the prosperity of bark-gleaners in the park.

With the advent of the Atlas Project it is hoped that the status of certain species will be clarified. Participation in the project has already produced new breeding records for Northern Nassau, and has made it more clear to participants where work needs to be done next year. An earlier start next year can permit better evaluation of early nesting species. It seems necessary to impress upon workers that Atlas trips made in July are very productive; trips should not stop with the end of June.

Federation Pelagic Trips

The Federation sponsored pelagic trip to Block Carryon June 7 found fewer than the expected number of birds in terms of species and numbers: six Cory's Shearwaters, 19 Greater Shearwaters, 33 Sooty Shearwaters, 300+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels, four Leach's Storm-Petrels, and two Gannets. The Leach's Storm-Petrels were the first ever seen on one of our trips. The August 10 trip to Hudson Canyon did not find the hoped-for rarities. Good studies were possible for most species. The list included 130 Cory's Shearwaters, three Greater Shearwaters, two Manx Shearwaters, 440 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, one Pomarine Jaeger, two Parasitic Jaegers, two Finback Whales, and a sea turtle, probably a Loggerhead.

Rarities for the summer included: Audubon's Shearwater, Leach's Storm-Petrel, White-faced Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, Thick-billed Murre, Arctic Tern, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Boat-tailed Grackle.

Positive aspects of the season included: Ospreys had a good breeding season, American Oystercatchers and Willets are prospering, Common Tern nesting season appeared about normal in C. Suffolk, Hairy Woodpeckers in better numbers, new breeding record for Kentucky Warbler. Some southern species seem to be extending their range with Orchard Orioles increasing in N. Nassau.

Negative notes: Least Bittern and American Bittern very scarce, Least Terns, and Black Skimmers declining in C. Suffolk, Least Flycatcher absent as a breeding bird, E. Bluebirds very low, E. Meadowlark scarce, Yellow-throated Vireos unreported, Vesper Sparrows very low.

June Count compilers: Captree, Frances File, Anthony J. Lauro; Northern Nassau, Ralph Cioffi; Central Suffolk, Gilbert S. Raynor.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, Arthur P. Cooley, Matt Crandall, Dorothy W. Crumb, Harry Darrow, Thomas H. Davis, Stephen B. Dempsey, Frances File, Paul Gillen, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Alan Lindberg, Glenn Quinn, Katherine A. Ray, Herbert Roth, Carl Safina, Michael Scheibel, Walter Sedwitz (all records from the Bronx can be attributed to WS if not otherwise credited), Barbara J. Spencer, Al Wollin, John Zardusky.

LOONS-DUCKS: Several Com. Loons summered in L.I. waters. A Red-necked Grebe was present June 22-Aug. 2 at Marine Park, Brooklyn, as was a Horned Grebe. One or two Horned Grebes were at Jamaica Bay Refuge June 10 through July 4. In addition to shearwaters noted on pelagic trips, Cory's Shearwaters were seen a number of times from shore from Jones Beach to Montauk. Sooty Shearwaters moved by Shinnecock June 8 (L. Feldman). A Manx Shearwater also was reported from Shinnecock June 8 (GSR). A small black and white shearwater at Montauk Aug. 29 (AW) was almost certainly that species as two or three Manx were seen with some regularity from the whale boat near the Point. A total of 27 **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATERS** were seen Aug. 7, 80 miles south of Long Island at a water depth of 200-300 fathoms (R. Rowlette). Four **LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS** were found offshore June 7 (THD, BJS *et al.*). A sub-adult Gannet was moving along the beach at Quogue June 5 (C. Brooks). Single birds were seen at sea June 28 and Aug. 23. A sub-adult Great Cormorant was pointed out by G. Tudor Aug. 30 at Jamaica Bay. The bird was sitting next to Double-crested Cormorants and was critically observed by a group of experienced birders. Double-crested Cormorants were moving west from Block Island toward Montauk in groups of 20-30 birds Aug. 23; summering birds included two at Captree, seven in N. Nassau, and 43 in C. Suffolk. Three Great Blue Herons were found summering in the N. Nassau count area, three in Captree, two were at Jerome Res. in the Bronx July 26 (WS). The three June counts listed Green Herons as follows: Captree 12, N. Nassau 28, C. Suffolk 61. Captree found 12 Little Blue Herons, C. Suffolk one; two were at No. Line Island July 14 (PG). An adult and an imm. Cattle Egret were in Freeport July 13 (AW) while five pairs nested at Pearsall's Hassock (JZ). Six Louisiana Herons appeared on the Captree Count about average. Black-crowned Night Herons were found in good numbers on the three counts: Captree 16, N. Nassau 51, and 23 C. Suffolk. Yellow-crowned Night Herons: Captree two, N. Nassau five (one young), C. Suffolk two. Least Bitterns, missed on the C. Suffolk count, are very rare breeders on L.I., and unreported this summer. One Am. Bittern was seen on the Captree count, and one in C. Suffolk; another rarely reported summer resident. Glossy Ibis continues to prosper in the area with a few (scouts?) showing up on the north shore; 53 were on the Captree count. The previously reported pair of **WHITE-FACED IBIS** remained through the summer at Jamaica Bay. Forty-one Mute Swans were in the Captree circle, 32 in N. Nassau, and 225 in C. Suffolk where they seem to be increasing (100 more birds than the last two years); the previously reported pair remained at Jamaica Bay until June 15. *Seventy-two* Black Ducks were found in the Captree area, more than average, 13 in N. Nassau (down from 35-55 several years ago), and 78 in C. Suffolk where 228 were found in 1979. Numbers definitely seem to be declining on eastern L.I. A drake European Wigeon at Jamaica Bay June 6-13 was unusual in the summer. Three Am. Wigeons were new to the Captree count. The previously reported Ring-necked Duck remained until June 15 at Jamaica Bay; a drake Canvasback stayed there until mid-July. A drake King Eider lingered from May 24 to May 31 at Gardiner's Is. (R. Goellet). A summering White-winged Scoter was at Orient July 7-14 (RA). The previously reported Com. Merganser remained until early July at Jamaica Bay.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: A Turkey Vulture was new to the N. Nassau count. No Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported. One or more Cooper's Hawks continued to be seen again this summer at the Muttontown Preserve, but a nest has not yet been found (AL). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks raised two young at the Bronx Zoo (J. Roderick); they were otherwise unreported. Five Marsh Hawks were on the Captree list; two or three pairs seem to be present along the Jones Beach strip during breeding season. Ospreys had an encouraging breeding season this year; individuals were widely reported away from breeding areas. A Peregrine was seen at Spuyten Duyvel Aug. 9 (WS); another flew over Montauk Point Aug. 29 (AW). Kestrels seem to be maintaining stable numbers in the area. As might be expected, Merlins were unreported. Bobwhite numbers seem to be stable although the C. Suffolk compiler considers them low compared to past numbers; 111 were found on the Captree count, high for the area. 74 in N. Nassau and 100 in C. Suffolk. An observer in Islip thinks numbers of

Bobwhites are up this year in his region, with the low vegetation under high tension lines providing pathways for their dispersion (R. Lascowski). Five Turkeys continue in Connetquot St. Park. A prosperous population of Turkeys increases on Gardiner's Island where some hunting takes place. King Rail was unreported and unexpected. Five Virginia Rails were on the Captree Count; this species was missed on C. Suffolk. None have been located in N. Nassau since 1976-77. A Sora was seen at Jamaica Bay July 22 (RA). A **PURPLE GAL-LINULE**, which turned up and was photographed at a small pond in Sea Cliff, stayed there June 13-16 (BJS *et al.*). Am. Oystercatchers were found in high numbers: 23 Captree, 35 C. Suffolk, 52 No. Line Is. July 11-14 (SBD, PG) including at least eight imm.; several were present at Jamaica Bay during the summer where they are a relatively recent resident. Piping Plovers were reported in small number comparable to recent years: Captree five, N. Nassau one, and C. Suffolk five. Five were on No. Line Is. July 14 (PG). In addition to small numbers nesting along the south shore beaches, five adult Piping Plovers and three chicks were reported at S. Jamesport on Peconic Bay June 5 (C. Brooks). Two pairs nested at Eaton's Neck in the tern colony; one nest was destroyed by a storm, the other hatched three chicks. Six pairs were listed on the tabled Dept. of Conservation data. Eight Am. Golden Plovers were seen on Daniel's Lane in Sagaponack Aug. 29 (BJS). Two juvenals were at Jamaica Bay the same weekend. Two Whimbrels were reported from Sands Point Aug. 15 (GQ), and from Shinnecock July 18 (BJS). No report was received on the population of Upland Sandpipers at JFK Airport. Three were at Mitchell Field July 6 where at least one pair continues to breed despite exceptional construction pressure (SBD). Willets are increasing in Region 10, a record 107 were found on the Captree count, and 32 in C. Suffolk, also a high count; 74 were on No. Line Is. in one flock July 17 (HD). Lesser Yellowlegs were moving early and in good numbers with a max. of 300 July 13 in Oak Beach Marsh (P. Lehman). A Baird's Sandpiper was found at Jamaica Bay Aug. 18 and 19 (K. Ray). A total of four Curlew Sandpipers, all adults, were at Jamaica Bay from July 20 through Aug. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Jamaica Bay Aug. 28 (K. Ray); one Aug. 30 at Mitchell Field had increased to seven the next weekend (H. Roth). A max. of 13 were seen in potato fields along Daniel's Lane, Sagaponack Aug. 29-30 (BJS, AW), and nine were at a sod farm in Eastport Aug. 30 (AW). 250 Short-billed Dowitchers were at No. Line Is. in mid-Aug. (HD). 65 were at Cow Meadow, Freeport Aug. 9, where 16 Stilt Sandpipers were also seen (EL). A Marbled Godwit was at No. Line Is. July 17 (HD); three were present at Jamaica Bay toward the end of Aug. A max. of nine Hudsonian Godwits were at Middle Line Is. July 18 (HD). Four were at Jamaica Bay the end of Aug. An Avocet showed up in Aug. as usual at Jamaica Bay. Two were seen at Tobay Pond where they are also regular (AJL). A pair of **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** were seen at Jamaica Bay June 14 (TWB, S. Stappers). One Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Moriches Inlet Aug. 2 (GSR), while two or three were at Jamaica Bay Aug. 23 (GSR, RA) through the end of the month. Six No. Phalaropes were seen offshore Aug. 13 (DWC, BJS) 20 unidentified phalaropes seen Sept. 12 were thought to be this species. A No. Phalarope was at Mecox Aug. 21 (GSR); another was at Jamaica Bay toward the end of the month. One Pomarine Jaeger was sighted at sea Aug. 10, and another Aug. 23 (DWC, BJS). Two Parasitic Jaegers were also seen Aug. 10 just south of Jones Inlet. A dark phase South-Polar Skua was seen on a whale trip south of Montauk July 18 (APC, BJS). A second year Glaucous Gull was seen July 20 at Northport (A. Smith). A late report of a second year Iceland Gull present May 22 at Jamaica Bay was received (K. Ray). Twenty or 30 pairs of Laughing Gulls nested in Jamaica Bay near Kennedy Airport where about six pairs nested for the first time last year. A summering Bonaparte's Gull was seen Aug. 2 at Moriches Inlet (GSR). The previously reported Little Gull remained until June 15 at Jamaica Bay. Two early imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen south of Montauk Aug. 30 (DWC, BJS). A Gull-billed Tern was seen at Jamaica Bay Aug. 16 (M. Cooper); two pairs nested on East Channel Island (JZ). Com. Terns at Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets had some rat trouble but did well otherwise. Nesting appeared about normal (GSR). Four hundred Com. Terns nests on Eaton's Neck was almost double last year's number, but dogs destroyed almost

half the chicks. The C. Suffolk count reported 2286 Com. Terns, Captree 5002, and N. Nassau 30. An adult **ARCTIC TERN** in flight was seen well about 13 miles SW of Montauk Point Aug. 13 (DWC, BJS). Perhaps the same bird, standing on a floating box, was carefully studied by the same observers Aug. 23 about 8 miles south of the point. Roseate Terns were present in good numbers at Moriches Inlet during the breeding season. No specific information was received about their success. Captree reported 180 Roseate Terns, C. Suffolk 34. Least Terns were low in the Captree area with 17 found; C. Suffolk had 21, N. Nassau 14. The Eaton's Neck colony with 300 pairs was far short of the 1000 pairs there last year. A report of a huge increase in numbers this year at a colony south of our area makes one wonder where such large numbers of birds appear from. There was a feeling that a large number of early arrivals at Eaton's Neck had been displaced by the later arriving Com. Terns. A banding return of a year old bird in breeding plumage introduced some doubt into the previously held theory that year old birds stayed south and did not return to the breeding grounds until their second year. A new colony of 25 pairs was noted at Atlantic Beach (M. Goldsmith). Forty pairs nested at Nassau Beach, 30 on the Wantagh Causeway, and 20 pairs at the Jones Beach Jetty. The presence of Royal Terns from May on through the summer suggests that breeding attempts may soon follow. Five were seen on the Captree count June 14. An adult **SANDWICH TERN** was seen July 3 at Mecox (AJL). Two adults were seen at Shinnecock Inlet Aug. 11 (DWC, P. DeBenedictis, F. G. Scheider). A few Black Terns were noted along the south shore during Aug. They seemed fewer in number than last year and were not seen at sea on pelagic trips. Black Skimmers had a poor breeding season in C. Suffolk where 48 were found on the count. A record 341 skimmers were found on the Captree count; two were seen in N. Nassau. Twenty-one pairs nested on No. Line Island, 200 pairs at the west end of Jones Beach. An adult **THICK-BILLED MURRE** was found just beyond the surf at Jones Beach July 13 (P. Martin). The observer, lacking binoculars, swam out to the bird to get a better look and got within five or six feet before the bird dove. Another observer relocated the bird a mile-and-a-half farther east after trying to look nonchalant while scanning the water with binoculars and telescope over the heads of nude male joggers at one beach along the way (BJS).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoos were present in good numbers: 17 were found on the Captree count, 59 in N. Nassau, and 65 in C. Suffolk. Black-billed Cuckoos also were well reported with 22 in N. Nassau, 17 C. Suffolk, and two at Captree. A Barn Owl nest was found during a visit to North and South Brother Islands in the East River where Typhoid Mary was once quarantined (P. W. Post, CS). No other information about Barn or Long-eared Owls was received. The presence of a Short-eared Owl near Captree one evening in July suggests that scattered pairs may persist along the south shore (N. Ward). Twenty-four Whip-poor-wills were found in C. Suffolk. Captree observers could not gain early access to Connetquot so Whip-poor-wills and owls went uncouneted there. Whip-poor-wills can be heard throughout much of the pine-oak habitat on eastern L.I. Two Chuck-will's-widows were reported on the Captree count and one on C. Suffolk. This bird may be more widespread in the area than is presently realized. The first report of Com. Nighthawk was Aug. 11 at Sands Point (GQ). No evidence of breeding on L.I. was received. However, a few pairs present all summer in Riverdale suggest breeding (WS). The N. Nassau count found 104 Chimney Swifts (range previous years 49-188). Captree found 35, C. Suffolk 16. At least ten pairs nested in nw Bronx; six or eight pairs were found adjacent to Forest Park, Queens. The only report of Ruby-throated Hummingbird was of a young bird rescued in Mattituck, which was fed honey and water from July 3 to July 27, when it was successfully released (M. Kuck). An adult Red-headed Woodpecker was found dead July 21 in Lindenhurst (AJL), no other reports. Hairy Woodpecker numbers seem stronger than in recent years; Captree 11, N. Nassau 17, C. Suffolk ten. Eighty-seven Downy Woodpeckers were in N. Nassau, higher than average. A high count of 58 Eastern Kingbirds was also found on the N. Nassau count; Captree 16, C. Suffolk, 18.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was located in Manorville June 14 (GSR), an adult was present June 30-July 4 at Fort Tilden, Queens (J. Parker, THD photo). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Forest Park June 9 was an unusual migrant (DWC *et al.*). A territorial Acadian Flycatcher was present in Glen Cove well into July, however, firm evidence of breeding eluded persistent searchers (RC). Two Acadians were in Forest Park, Queens, July 5 (G. Tudor). Two were found on the Captree count, two N. Nassau and three in C. Suffolk. One was at Upton June 13 (GSR). An Alder Flycatcher was a rare migrant in Mill Neck May 31 (BJS). Another was seen at Montauk the next weekend. Willow Flycatchers breed in areas at the edge of salt marshes on L.I.; Captree had five, N. Nassau five, C. Suffolk three, about average. One Least Flycatcher was seen on the C. Suffolk count. This bird is a rare to nonexistent breeder on L.I. If anyone knows of breeding, please send in the information. An early Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in Glen Cove Aug. 12 (DWC, BJS) and another was at Jamaica Bay Aug. 23 (GSR, RA). Ninety-five Bank Swallows were found in N. Nassau where a colony persists in the Port Washington sand pits. Eighteen Rough-winged Swallows were in the area, about average. Barn Swallows nested at the 23rd St. Marina at the East River (S. Madden); C. Suffolk saw 277, N. Nassau 243, and Captree 131. Numbers seem stable. A Cliff Swallow was seen at Jones Beach June 8 (AW). C. Suffolk had 78 Purple Martins, considered low by the compiler. 24 were on the Captree count with 22 at one colony (V. & R. Landwehr). A record 161 Fish Crows were seen on the Captree count. Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in N. Nassau where they successfully bred. One was at Upton, one at Manorville (GSR), and four at Connetquot Park. Two Winter Wrens, one singing, in Glen Head Aug. 12 suggests a breeding attempt might have occurred (J. & P. Bookalam). Carolina Wrens seem to be making a slow comeback: N. Nassau four, C. Suffolk 11, Captree two. The stronghold is on Gardiner's Island, but no count available. Captree found 82 Long-billed Marsh Wrens (20 C. Suffolk, low, and six N. Nassau). Hermit Thrush is a sparse breeder in oak-pine habitat in Suffolk Co. Two singing males were on territory in Connetquot Park. An early Swainson's Thrush was netted Aug. 30 in Manorville (GSR). Eastern Bluebirds are barely hanging on on L.I. Only one was at Connetquot, two in C. Suffolk, two June 19 and 25 at Upton (GSR). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher breeds in small numbers on L.I. A pair was in Locust Valley (H. McClure), two individuals in C. Suffolk, two June 13 and 17 at Upton (GSR), and two adults and several fledged young were seen July 12 in Manorville (GSR).

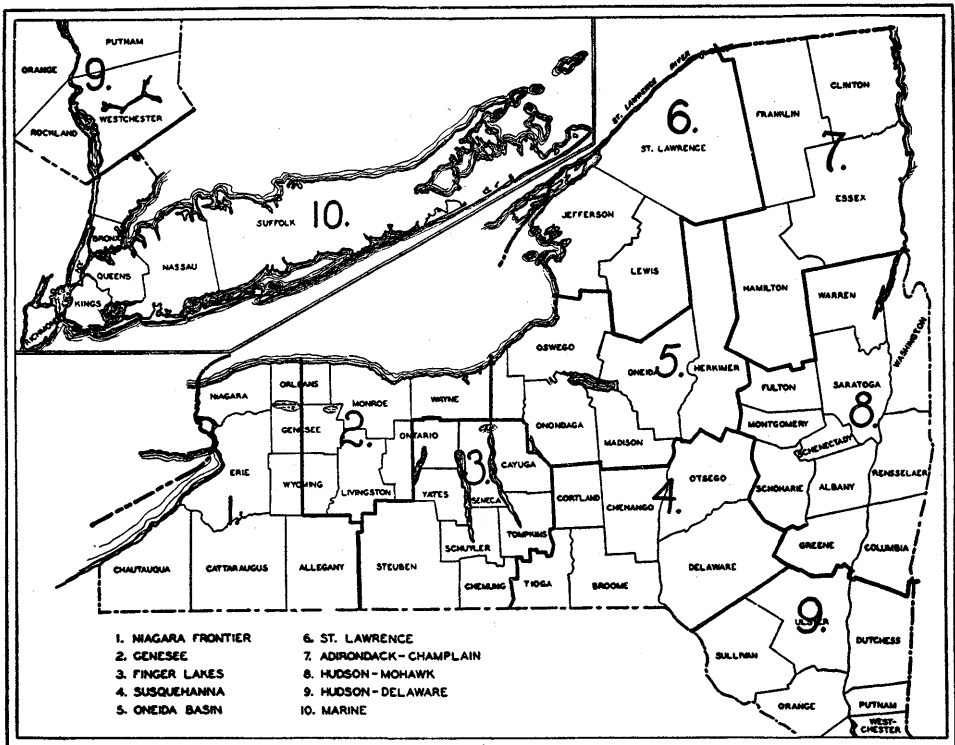
VIREOS—WARBLERS: Warbling Vireos can be found on the north shore, particularly in locations where a big sycamore stands next to a pond; 15 were found on the count. As is usual, they are not recorded on the south shore; several pairs nested in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. Yellow-throated Vireos went unrecorded during the breeding season. A female Prothonotary Warbler June 17 in Sands Point may have been a prospector (BJS). Worm-eating Warblers breed in very small numbers in the Cold Spring Harbor area. A singing No. Parula in Sea Cliff July 3 may have attempted to breed somewhere in the area; two imm. No. Parulas were seen in this location several years ago on July 11. Yellow Warblers were found in good numbers: Captree 151, No. Nassau 163, however the C. Suffolk tally of 107 was one-third lower than in recent years. Historically Black-throated Green Warblers bred over a wide area on L.I. One in Connetquot may have bred there. A Cerulean Warbler on territory in Locust Valley disappeared after a severe storm (H. McClure). This bird has been found on June counts previously and may nest in the area. Ovenbirds seem well represented in C. Suffolk, 134, and Captree with 36, but in N. Nassau they are declining (14). Ovenbirds have disappeared in the Mill Neck area. Louisiana Waterthrushes can be found in a few locations in the Glen Cove to Mill Neck and Cold Spring Harbor area. Much suitable habitat is privately held, and inaccessible to birders. Kentucky Warbler seems to be colonizing L.I.: a pair bred successfully in Locust Valley (H. McClure), singing birds were on territory during June in Sands Point and Huntington and one was found on the C. Suffolk count. A Mourning Warbler was netted Aug. 30 in Manorville (GSR). Two pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats bred at Muttontown where they were present last year (AL). One was netted Aug. 31 in

Manorville (GSR). Redstarts are uncommon breeders on L.I.: 22 in C. Suffolk and seven in N. Nassau seemed like average counts.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Six Bobolinks were found on the N. Nassau count where territorial birds were present in Syosset (AL). Migrating Bobolinks passed overhead in good numbers Aug. 16 and 17 at Jones Beach (EL), nine were at Mitchell Field Aug. 3 (H. Roth). Eastern Meadowlarks deserve blue-listing on L.I.: Captree found three, N. Nassau five, and C. Suffolk 11. Orchard Orioles are appearing in larger numbers than in recent years in N. Nassau with 11 individuals (including five young). One was on territory in Babylon (D. Kaufman, F. File), four in C. Suffolk. A female **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** was found at Jamaica Bay June 6 (F. Scheider, P. DeBenedictis). A singing male Summer Tanager was at Upton June 1 (GSR). House Finch numbers seem stable. Grasshopper Sparrows have disappeared in N. Nassau; a few persist at Mitchell Field (SBD), none were recorded on the Captree census, 27 were found in C. Suffolk. No information was received about populations on JFK airport and Floyd Bennett Field. Henslow's Sparrow was unreported, Captree tallied 167 Sharp-tailed Sparrows, C. Suffolk 108, and N. Nassau 7; 153 Seaside Sparrows were in the Captree circle, 24 in C. Suffolk. Vesper Sparrow, seven in C. Suffolk is certainly a blue-list species. One was at Mitchell Field July 6 (SBD). Chipping and Field Sparrows were present in numbers within recent fluctuations in the count circles.

154 Dayton St., Sea Cliff, New York 11579

REPORTING REGIONS



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

REPORTING DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

1981 Officers

President

Martin Borko Biology Dept., OCCO, Middletown, N.Y. 10940

Vice-President

Morgan Jones 184 Temple Street, Fredonia, N.Y. 14063

Corresponding Secretary

Constance Wilkins 4000 West Road, Cortland, N.Y. 13045

Recording Secretary

Harriet Marsi Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, N.Y. 13903

Treasurer

John W. Forness 3086 Haskell Rd., R.D. 2, Cuba, N.Y. 14727

Co-Editors of THE KINGBIRD

Emanuel Levine, 585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, N.Y. 11550

John Farrand, Jr., American Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y. 11024

Appointed Committees

Editor of New York Birders: Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.,
333 Bedell St., Freeport, N.Y. 11520

Membership: Myrna Hemmerick, P.O. Box 203, Setauket, N.Y. 11733

Publications and Research: Robert S. Arbib, Jr.,
226 Guion Dr., Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

Bibliography: Allen Benton, 292 Water St., Fredonia, N.Y. 14063

Conservation: Karen Slotnick, 211 Tolbert Dr., North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212

John J. Elliott Memorial Committee: John L. Bull, Eugene Eisenmann,
John Farrand, Jr., Emanuel Levine, Joseph W. Taylor

Finance Committee: William Vaughn, Chairman; John Forness, Richard A. Sloss

Lillian C. Stoner Fund Committee: Richard A. Sloss, Chairman;
John Confer, William Reeves

Breeding Bird Atlas: Gordon M. Meade, Chairman,
27 Mill Valley Rd., Pittsford, N.Y. 14534

Elected Committees

Auditing: Irving Cantor, Donald Clark

Nominating: Stephen Dempsey, Chairman; Gordon Meade, Bill Lee