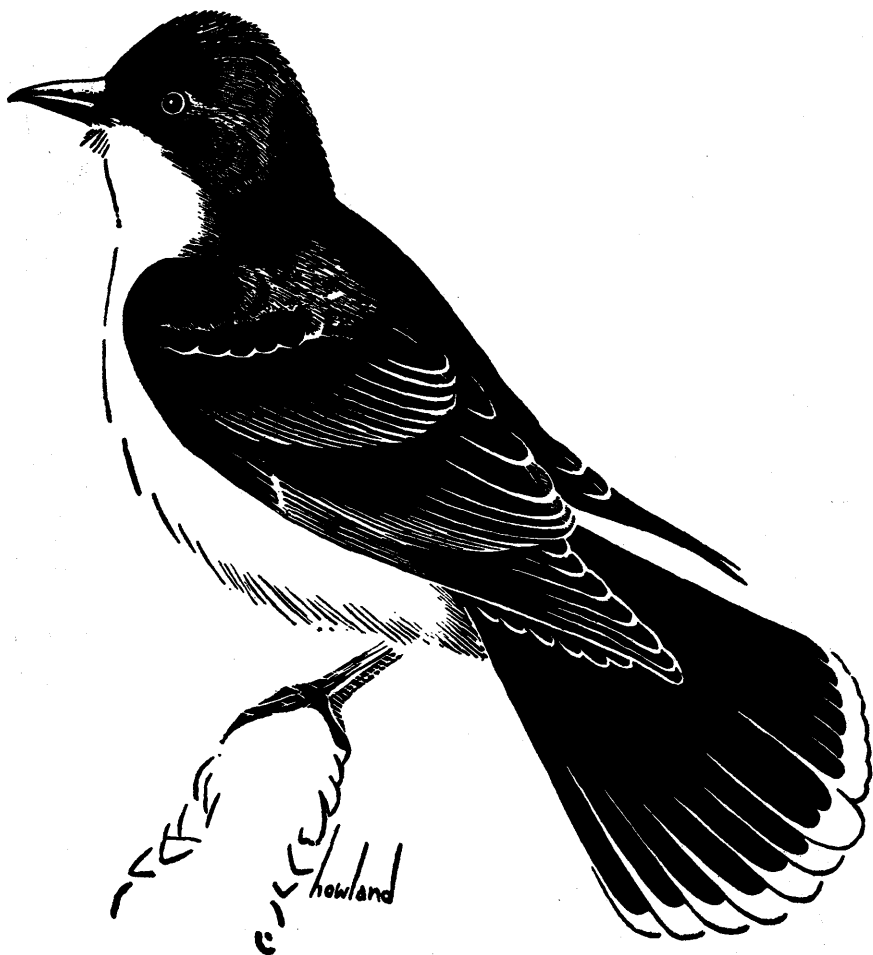


The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XXXII, NO. 4

FALL • 1982

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, of which \$8.00 is for *THE KINGBIRD* publication. 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 is \$5.00. *THE KINGBIRD* institutional subscriptions: \$12.00 per year on calendar year basis only. Single copies: \$3.00. Memberships are on a calendar year basis. Applicants for Annual or Family Membership applying in the second half of the year may reduce payment by one-half.

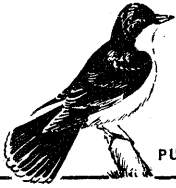
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP should be sent to the chairman of the Membership Committee, Mrs. Myrna Hemmerick, P.O. Box 203, Setauket, NY 11733. Send CHANGES OF ADDRESS, order SINGLE COPIES, BACK NUMBERS, and REPLACEMENT COPIES (\$3.00 each) from the Circulation Manager, Mrs. Constance N. Wilkins, 4000 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, 1982
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 14850
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 14850
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 | 885 | 900 |
| B. Paid circulations | | |
| 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Mail subscriptions. | 830 | 835 |
| C. Total Paid Circulation | 830 | 835 |
| D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means. Samples, complimentary and other free copies | 40 | 40 |
| E. Total Distribution | 870 | 875 |
| F. Copies not distributed | | |
| 1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing | 15 | 25 |
| 2. Returns from news agents | 0 | 0 |
| G. Total | 885 | 900 |
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. XXXII, No. 4

Fall, 1982

225-304

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|--|
| Photographs of New York State Rarities | |
| 43. Chestnut-collared Longspur | Millard R. Lindauer 226 |
| Report of the New York State | |
| Avian Records Committee for 1981 | 228 |
| Blue Grosbeak Nesting in New York State: | |
| A First Record | Norma Siebenheller and Bill Siebenheller 234 |
| Two Cases of Polygyny in the House Wren | Patricia A. Grove 239 |
| New York State Waterfowl Count, January 1982 | |
| | Walton B. Sabin 244 |
| Review: <i>Where to Find Birds in New York State:</i> | |
| <i>The Top 500 Sites</i> | John Farrand, Jr. 250 |
| Behavior and Occurrence of the Hawk-Owl | |
| in Northern New York | Kenneth L. Crowell 252 |
| Frigatebird in Rockland County | Robert F. Deed 256 |
| Notes and Observations | |
| Some noteworthy breeding records on Staten Island in 1982 | |
| | Norma Siebenheller and Bill Siebenheller 258 |
| Highlights of the Summer Season | John M. C. Peterson 259 |
| Editor's Note | 265 |
| Regional Reports | 265 |

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

Highlights of the Summer Season

Guest Editor — John M. C. Peterson

Circulation Manager — Constance N. Wilkins

Cover Design — Douglas L. Howland



Chestnut-collared Longspur – Bay County Park, Nassau County
Georges Dremeaux *7 June 1982*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES
43. CHESTNUT - COLLARED LONGSPUR

MILLARD R. LINDAUER

A male Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*), in breeding plumage, was discovered late in the afternoon on 6 June 1982 at Bay County Park, Nassau County. The sky was overcast. The bird was first observed as it landed in very sparse, short grass and weeds at the edge of a gravel road. It remained feeding in this situation for the fifteen minutes spent studying and photographing it, and was still feeding where first observed upon my departure from the area. The bird was alone.

Upon returning three days later, I found the bird still present, but this time feeding in lush, mowed grass. In mentioning this, may I quote George M. Fairchild in Bent's *Life Histories* (1968, *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 237, p. 1636): "Several writers have noted their habit of stopping for several days at favorable feeding and watering places." This reference is, of course, to their spring migration in their normal range.

John Bull, in *Birds of the New York Area* (1964, p. 466), gives the range of the Chestnut-collared Longspur as "a central Nearctic species of the Great Plains, breeding east to southwestern Minnesota. Winters east to Louisiana. Stragglers recorded east to the Atlantic coast from New Brunswick to Maryland."

This constitutes the fifth record for New York and the first sighting in thirty-eight years.

This bird was last seen on 8 June 1982.

It is interesting to note that this sighting is the only known summer occurrence. Of the previous records, two were in April, one in February and another in September.

130 Home Street, Valley Stream, New York 11580

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1981

A total of 81 reports representing 50 records of birds was reviewed by the New York State Avian Records Committee during 1981. This represents a slight decrease from the previous year. Of these reports, 35 were accepted, two were thought to pertain to escapes from captivity, nine were not accepted, and four are still pending.

As in past years, the quality of documentation submitted to the NYSARC remains the primary deficiency in reports not accepted, and is sometimes marginal even in reports which are accepted. In general, descriptions are least adequate when a common species is seen under exceptional circumstances. Observers tend to emphasize only field marks in their reports. The NYSARC greatly values a complete description of all features noted during an observation. A full description is highly desirable even when photographic specimen or other material evidence accompanies the report. Use of the proper names for plumage, body parts and pattern is most helpful to the NYSARC; these names appear in the introduction to all popular field guides. Emphasis on field marks should be deferred to a discussion of the observation. This discussion should stress how the bird was distinguished from similar and more likely species, rather than merely present a list of field marks. More casual reporting is justified only when so many well-documented reports exist that the species is no longer considered a great rarity within New York State.

We also remind observers that use of the reporting forms, available from the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850, is not a requirement for submitting reports to the NYSARC. Each year the NYSARC receives well-documented reports whose format is only coincidentally the same. The reporting form is intended primarily to remind observers what information the NYSARC desires to consider when it evaluates a report. We also urge contributors to submit dark (preferably typed in black ink) originals of reports; several reports submitted this year are delayed because copies made from copies and circulated within the Committee are so light as to be unreadable.

We regret to report that the pressure of other duties has forced Charles R. Smith to resign as Secretary of the NYSARC. We extend our fullest appreciation to Dr. Smith for a job well done. Dr. Smith continues to support the Committee by making the Laboratory of

Ornithology available as a central receiving point and repository for reports submitted to the NYSARC. The Committee is most pleased to welcome John Confer as the new Secretary of the NYSARC. Communications to the NYSARC should be sent to:

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

As in past years, only contributors are acknowledged in the summary of reports, regardless of the number of observers. The term "substantiated" means that material evidence accompanies the written documentation.

1981 ACCEPTED REPORTS

LOUISIANA HERON (*Hydranassa tricolor*). 1981-20-A,B adult 23 Apr and two 24 Apr, town of Greece, Monroe Co. (RGS, KG). An upstate New York record.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nyctanassa violaceus*). 1981-13-A adult 3 July, El Dorado Beach Sanctuary, Ellsburgh township, Jefferson Co. (GAS). An upstate New York report.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). 1981-4-A-F one 9 Apr, Cruger's Island, Dutchess Co. (FG, MEVW, JWK, MCK, MWY). 1981-27-A one (?immature) 3 Sept, town of Greece, Monroe Co. (RGS). These represent the 12th and 13th records from New York State, of which five are from upstate New York.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*). 1981-6-A three adults 3 Apr, Biddlecum Marsh, town of Phoenix, Oswego Co. (DWC). 1981-7-A banded adult 10 Apr, Pools Brook Marsh, town of Manlius, Onondaga Co. (DWC). 1981-8-A adult 18 Apr, Beaver Lake, town of Lysander, Onondaga Co. (JH). All showed the characteristics of the pink-billed race *frontalis*. Although this species is no longer on the list of species to be reviewed by the NYSARC, these reports were received before that list was revised. These reports support our earlier assessment of the status of this species within New York State.

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*). 1981-37-A,B. One 1 Nov, Minnewaska State Park, Ulster Co. (MCK, JWK). An upstate report, rather late in the season.

GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*). 1981-3-A immature "white morph," 2-8 Feb, Lawrence, Nassau Co. (THD); photograph on file. This is the first substantiated record from New York State since 1965.

- SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*). 1981-16-A-C adult 28 Mar, Hamlin Beach, Monroe Co. (AW, AC, CC). 1981-21-A adult 23 May, town of Carlton, Monroe Co. (RGS), photograph on file. These are the 16th and 17th state records. It is possible that a single individual persistent during the spring along the southeast corner of Lake Ontario is responsible for these and for other reports of Sandhill Crane submitted to the NYSARC since 1979.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** (*Calidris bairdii*). 1981-14-A adult 5 June Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co. (PAB). This is the second documented spring record from New York.
- SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** (*Calidris acuminata*). 1981-12-A adult 18-24 July, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co. (THD). Full details of this first state record appear in *The Kingbird* 31: 198-201; 1981.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** (*Tryngites subruficollis*). 1981-49-A one 1 Nov, Hamlin, Monroe Co. (MD). This appears to be the first November record from New York State.
- CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*). 1981-34-A-C adult 15 Oct to 2 Nov, Rockland Lake State Park, Rockland Co. (JH, REL, DWC), photograph on file. This appears to be the same individual first found in 1978. It was reported (usually without documentation) from 4 Oct to 17 Dec 1978, 11 March 1979, 3 Oct to 7 Nov 1979, 26-29 Mar 1980, early Sept-Dec 1980 and early Oct 1981 to 12 Feb 1982 at the same locality.
- THAYER'S GULL** (*Larus thayeri*). 1981-17-A immature 21-22 March, outlet to Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co. (MAS). Birds in immature (usually Basic I) plumage appear to predominate in New York away from the Niagara gorge and vicinity.
- SABINE'S GULL** (*Xema sabini*). 1981-28-A,B immature 8-15 Oct, Sandy Pond, Oswego Co. (FGS, REL). No longer listed for review during the fall period; this report was received before the species was reevaluated.
- IVORY GULL** (*Pagophila eburnea*). 1981-1-A-C immature 11-20 Jan, Newburgh, Orange Co. (EDT, KMcd, MB, MCS), photograph and details in *The Kingbird* 31: 63-64; 1981. 1981-15-A immature 21 Jan, mouth of Genesee River, Monroe Co. (AK), photograph on file. These are the 11th and 12th state records. No documentation for a reputed second bird at Newburgh was seen by the NYSARC.
- COMMON MURRE** (*Uria aalge*). 1981-41-A,B adult 19 Dec, Montauk, Suffolk Co. (SRD, KCP). This bird, in delayed alternate

- plumage, is about the 19th record from New York.
- BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** (*Picoides arcticus*). 1981-48-A male 26 Sept, Hamlin Beach State Park, Monroe Co. (SH). Early for bird far removed from a nesting area, but this is the more frequent of the two three-toed woodpeckers under such circumstances.
- SAY'S PHOEBE** (*Sayornis saya*). 1981-38-A-E one 9 Nov to 20 Dec, Baltimore Woods, Marcellus, Onondaga Co. (DWC, JH, REL, FGS, PDeB), photographs on file, specimen to American Museum of Natural History. Full details of this seventh state record appear in *The Kingbird* 32: 147-148; 1982.
- WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). 1981-31-A,B one 27 Sept, Cruger's Island, Dutchess Co. (JWK, MCK). This is the 20th state record; prior records are summarized in *The Kingbird* 31: 122-125; 1981.
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** (*Dendroica dominica*). 1981-22-A adult 3 June, High Peak Recreation Club [Atlas block 5690B] Essex Co. (TRD). Seen briefly at a time when late spring migrants are possible, this bird was not described in sufficient detail to suggest its racial affinities.
- TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** (*Dendroica townsendi*). 1981-9-A adult male 29 Apr, Hempstead Lake State Park, Nassau Co. (THD). This is the tenth record from New York.
- SCARLET TANAGER** (*Piranga olivacea*). 1981-46-A winter plumaged bird 10 Dec, Mendon Pond Park, Monroe Co. (RGS). This upstate winter record appears to be the first December report of a Scarlet Tanager from the state.
- SUMMER TANAGER** (*Piranga rubra*). 1981-11-A,B female 19 May, DeWitt, Onondaga Co. (DWC, FGS). An upstate report of a species far more regular on Long Island.
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). 1981-42-A immature male 16 Dec, Greece, Monroe Co. (RGS). An early winter report from upstate New York, where this species occasionally persists at or near feeders. The NYSARC will not review any further similar reports of this species.
- LARK SPARROW** (*Chondestes grammacus*). 1981-29-A adult 8 Sept, town of North Elba, Essex Co. (JMCP). Details of this upstate record appear in *The Kingbird* 32: 29; 1982.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1981-5-A-C as many as seven males and four females 2-9 Apr, town of Hamlin,

Monroe Co. (FGS, DWC, RGS), photograph on file. 1981-35-A,B ?immature male 22-24 Oct, Liverpool, Onondaga Co. (FGS, DWC). photograph on file. 1981-42-A immature or female 7 Nov, Parma, Monroe Co. (MD). Birds in the spring flock showed sexual chasing and nest-building behavior but evidently departed before actually nesting. These are the seventh through ninth records from New York.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus major*). 1981-26-A female with two dependent young 18 July, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co. (THD), details appear in *The Kingbird* 31: 214; 1981. This is the first evidence of actual nesting by Boat-tailed Grackles within New York; nest(s) were found in 1982. Reports of this species from Long Island no longer will be reviewed by the NYSARC.

HOARY REDPOLL (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1981-2-B,C one 13-14 Jan, Upton, Suffolk Co. (GSR, TL). 1981-50-A one 13 Jan, Pompey township, Onondaga Co. (DWC). This is about the number of reports expected in a moderate redpoll incursion year.

1981 REPORTS: IDENTITY ACCEPTED, ORIGIN UNCERTAIN
BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). 1981-30 19 Sept, Brad-dock's Bay State Park, Monroe Co.
EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*). 1981-18 1-6 Apr, Centereach, Suffolk Co.

1981 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nyctanassa violaceus*). 1981-24 21 June, town of Pompey, Onondaga Co.
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*). 1981-36 24 Oct, Black River Bay, Jefferson Co.
GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*). 1981-40 20 Dec, Henderson Harbor, Jefferson Co.
CALIFORNIA GULL (*Larus californicus*). 1981-45 29 Dec, Montauk, Suffolk Co.
ROSEATE TERN (*Sterna dougallii*). 1981-19 17 Apr, town of Greece, Monroe Co.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*). 1981-23 5 June, Mt. Pisgah, Franklin Co.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*). 1981-25 5 June, Mt. Pisgah, Franklin Co.

LeCONTE'S SPARROW (*Ammospiza leconteii*). 1981-33 10 Oct,
town of Genoa, Cayuga Co.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). 1981-10
9 May, near Wanakena, St. Lawrence Co.

In addition to these records, reports of Semipalmated Sandpiper (early), Lesser Black-backed Gull (upstate), Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, and Tennessee Warbler (?nesting upstate) were received and filed without formal review.

Our previous tally of New York's birds includes the Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*). Data from the Breeding Bird Atlas indicates that this species was exterminated as a nesting species by the Department of Environmental Conservation before it had time to become established unquestionably within the State. We delete it from the State List. With the addition of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper this year, the total list remains 423 species.

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

CONTRIBUTORS: Karen L. Allaben-Confer, Martin Borko, Stuart H. Brown, Paul A. Buckley, Carolyn T. Cass, Anne F. Clarridge, John Confer, Dorothy W. Crumb, Eric R. Czirr, Mike Davids, Thomas H. Davis, Paul A. DeBenedictis, Susan R. Drennan, Thomas R. Dudones, Florence Germond, Jeffrey Glassberg, Kevin Griffith, John Hanyak, Sandra Hazen, Allen E. Kemnitzer, James W. Key, Mary C. Key, George C. Kutzrock, Ferdinand LaFrance, Nick Leone, Robert Long, Thomas Luhman, Ken McDermott, Asterid Otero, Kenneth C. Parkes, John M. C. Peterson, Eleanor Pink, Gilbert S. Raynor, F. G. Scheider, Brian C. Schieffer, Gerry A. Smith, Robert G. Spahn, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Scott Sutcliffe, Edward D. Treacy, Marion E. VanWagner, Ann Watson, Mary W. Yagella.

**BLUE GROSBEAK NESTING IN NEW YORK STATE:
A FIRST RECORD**

NORMA SIEBENHELLER and BILL SIEBENHELLER



Blue Grosbeak – Richmond County
27 June 1982 *H. Fischer*

On 17 June 1982, a nest of the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) was found on a shrubby hillside in Latourette Park, Staten Island (Richmond County). When first located, it contained three eggs. This represents the first breeding record for this species in New York State.

Blue Grosbeaks, whose range has recently been expanding northward (Peterson, 1980, map 362) have been seen in central Staten Island with increasing frequency each spring since 1979. Most sightings had been of individual birds, usually sub-adult males, but in 1981 a pair was seen (*Kingbird*, vol. 31, no. 4, p. 268; Fall, 1981) and it was felt that it was only a matter of time before breeding would take place.

Thus when on 27 May 1982 the authors saw a pair of Blue Grosbeaks in an area known as Heyerdahl's Hill (after the family who farmed there a century ago) we decided to monitor the site daily until breeding evidence was obtained.

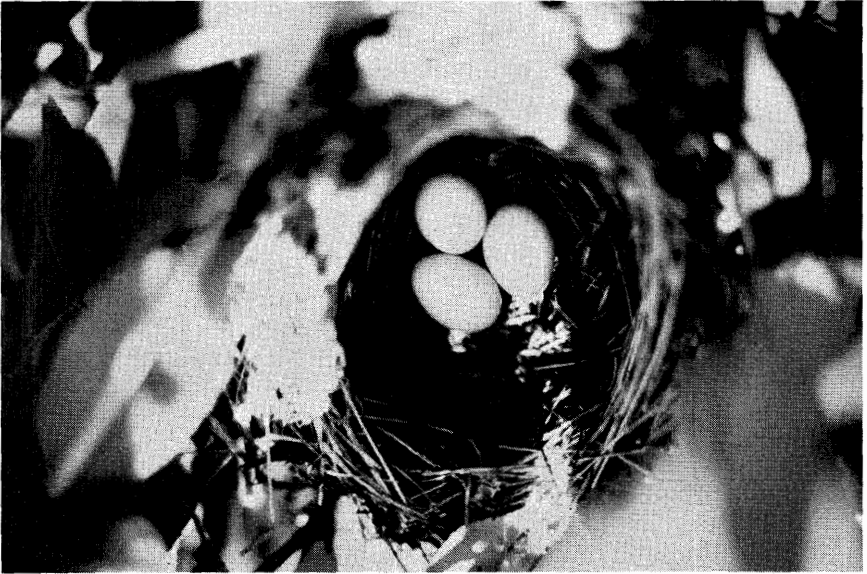
Beginning with that first day we kept a detailed journal, recording everything we heard or observed about the grosbeaks. We visited the hill at various times of day, morning or afternoon, and usually spent about three hours at the site each time. We generally saw the birds for less than one-half hour during each three hour visit, and between 6 June and 15 June we did not see them at all and were almost convinced they had left the area.

On the latter date, however, we heard the male sing—something we had not heard often during our observations. The following morning we arrived at 7:00 a.m. and heard him singing again from the same place. A day later, on 17 June, we discovered the nest. It was located 32 inches above the ground in a sapling Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). The three eggs were very pale blue, almost white.

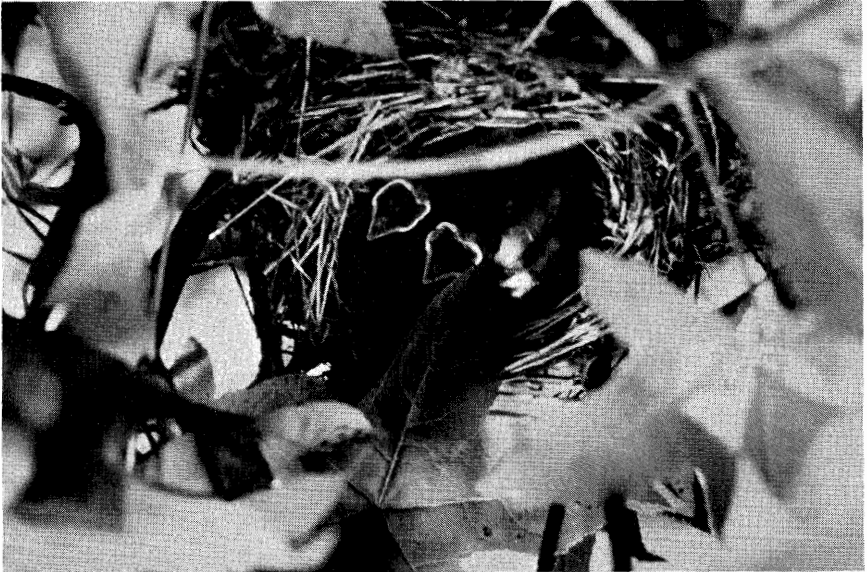
Thereafter, we visited less frequently so as not to disturb the birds unduly. The eggs had not yet hatched on the morning of 21 June, but on 24 June we found three totally unfeathered nestlings. By 27 June they had almost doubled in size and were showing pinfeathers and moving about in the nest much more than before, their heads reaching out over the rim.

On 1 July, our next visit, we found the nest empty except for one dead nestling. A few minutes later we saw the adult birds in a clump of small Black Birches (*Betula lenta*) about 20 feet away, "clicking" and acting in an agitated manner. As we approached them, their behavior became even more disturbed. Finally we saw two fledglings in the brush behind the adults. The young were partially obscured, but from their lack of tail feathers and fluttering flight, as well as from the very protective behavior of the parent birds, we are sure that these were the two fledgling Blue Grosbeaks, and that they had left the nest only hours before.

Heyerdahl's Hill is a serpentinite hillside of approximately 15 acres in an undeveloped portion of Latourette Park known as Buck's Hollow. The hill is covered with Little Bluestem Grass (*Andropogon scoparius*) and Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) (Buegler and Parisio, 1981, p. 16), with a great deal of low growth consisting primarily of sapling trees such as Sweet Gum, Black Birch, oak (*Quercus* sp.) and poplar (*Populus* sp.). Common Catbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*) covers



Blue Grosbeak Nest and Eggs – Richmond County
17 June 1982 *H. Jenkins*



Blue Grosbeak Young in Nest – Richmond County
27 June 1982 *H. Jenkins*

large parts of the hill. During the time of our observations, Whorled Loosestripe (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*) was a common herbaceous plant, interspersed among the grasses. There are a few scattered large trees, mostly oaks. The hill is surrounded on all sides by mature deciduous woodlands, the entire complex being part of the 3500-acre undeveloped heart of Staten Island known locally as the "Greenbelt."

The breeding area is similar to habitats described by Bent (1968, p. 67ff) and H. Harrison (1975, p. 226). Other species confirmed as breeders on this same hillside since 1980 include Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, House Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and Field Sparrow.

The nest measures 2½ inches across (inside diameter) and is 2¼ inches deep. It is a neatly woven cup of dried grasses and weed stems. It does not contain any snakeskin, although that is a common component of Blue Grosbeak nests (H. Harrison, 1975, p. 226) and both the Northern Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor constrictor*) and the Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) are found on the hill.

The nest and the dead nestling were collected and are now in the collections of the Staten Island Museum, 75 Stuyvesant Place, St. George, Staten Island, along with our original notes of the entire experience.

The following are a few general observations we made during this time:

1. The birds were extremely secretive during most of the nesting period. The male sang very little; during the more than 50 hours we spent on the hill we heard him on only five occasions. His voice was weak, almost tentative, and did not carry far. He did not begin to sing with gusto until the day the young were fledged. At this writing, more than a week later, he is still singing heartily.
2. The birds were also very difficult to locate visually. They ranged over the entire hillside; we never knew where to expect them and because of the size of the area we had difficulty following them when they flew. Only once (on 3 June) did we see the female carrying nesting material; we never saw her again in that precise area until 17 June when we discovered the nest.
3. We never saw the male at the nest. Each time we approached the nest we found it either unguarded or occupied by the female. She

appeared to be fending for herself during the incubation period, leaving the eggs for twenty minutes at a time while she fed on the ground nearby. At this time the male was nowhere in sight. After the nestlings hatched we spent less time at the site; we saw only the female bringing food, but our observations were not extensive enough to state definitively that the male did not participate in this activity. The young fledged at a (maximum) age of 10½ days. This seems a very short period for the size of this bird but is consistent with information given by C. Harrison (1978, p. 389), who states that some Blue Grosbeaks fledge as early as nine days after hatching.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bent, Arthur Cleveland. 1968. *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows and Allies*. Dover, New York.
- Buegler, Richard and Steven Parisio. 1981. A Comparative Flora of Staten Island 1879-1981. *Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences*.
- Harrison, Colin. 1978. *A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of North American Birds*. Collins, New York.
- Harrison, Hal. 1975. *A Field Guide to Birds' Nests . . . East of the Mississippi River*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.
- Peterson, Roger Tory. 1980. *A Field Guide to the Birds*. Fourth ed. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

267 Edinboro Road, Staten Island, New York 10306

TWO CASES OF POLYGYNY IN THE HOUSE WREN

PATRICIA A. GROVE

The House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) is commonly a double-brooded species, each male fledging two clutches per breeding season. The male does not share in the incubation of the eggs, but may assist the female in feeding nestlings and fledglings (Kendeigh 1941, Verner and Willson 1969, Grove 1981). The pair may remate for a second brood, but more often mate-switching occurs between nestings. In cases where the male does not participate in the feeding of the young, he may be able to advertise and attract a female for a second brood before the first brood has become independent, and thus become polygynous (Wittenberger 1976). Kendeigh (1941) reports that approximately 6% of the matings are polygynous in this species. The potential for polygyny exists, especially in optimal territories with many nesting cavities and with resources sufficient to enable the female to provision the brood with minimal assistance from the male.

Two polygynous matings in which five overlapping broods were fledged are described here. Using the terminology of Martin (1971, 1974) the first mate of a male is termed the primary female, the second female of a polygynous male termed the secondary female, and so on.

The male House Wren coded as NML was first banded as an adult on 17 May 1977 at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale, Westchester County. In 1978, he defended a territory containing several nest boxes, mated with a banded female for his first brood, and fledged four young. He then mated with a different female for the second brood, the boundaries of the territory were shifted somewhat, and a box in another part of the territory adopted. Pairing with the second female occurred within a day or two of the fledging of the first brood. Shortly thereafter, the second female was found dead in the newly-adopted nest box, and was removed. Two days later, another female was observed lining a nest in this box. Six eggs were laid, but the number of young successfully fledged from the second brood is not known.

NML was one of the first males to arrive at the Nature Center in April 1979 (see Figure 1). He defended a territory with roughly the same boundaries as the one he had established during the previous

breeding season. In early May the male was observed displaying to females near two of the nest boxes at opposite ends of the territory. By mid-May the primary female had indicated her acceptance of nest site and male by lining the nest he had prepared. She started incubation on 20 May. Her clutch of five eggs hatched 2 June and the young were fed in the nest box until 21 June, when the brood fledged.

The secondary female was first seen in the territory in early June. This female selected the nest box that had been used for the male's second brood in 1978. This box was 35 m north of the box in which the primary female was feeding nestlings. The secondary female began incubation on 15 June, and her clutch of six eggs hatched on 28 June. The young were fledged on 14 July.

Near the end of the secondary female's incubation period, a tertiary female was being courted by the male. She selected a nesting site in another area of the territory, 30 m west of the box of the primary female, and 50 m northwest of the box of the secondary female. Incubation of her clutch of six eggs began 13 July, but only two of these eggs hatched, both on 24 July.

In 1981, another polygynous mating was noted in the same territory at the Nature Center. The unbanded male singing in the area in early May was mist netted, color-banded, and coded as RK. His primary female lined a nest in the southwest of the territory and started incubation on 21 May. Her clutch of eight eggs hatched on 6 June and young were fledged on 21 June.

On 26 June, the secondary female was lining in a nest box 20 m east of that used by the primary female. The incubation of her clutch of seven eggs began on 5 July, six young hatched on 20 July, and were fledged on 2 August.

Near the middle of the secondary female's incubation period, a tertiary female was being courted by the male at a box 43 m north of that of the primary female and 48 m northwest of that of the secondary female. Incubation of her clutch of five eggs started on 21 July. The eggs and nest lining were found to have been removed from the box on 30 July.

Male House Wrens commonly feed nestlings and may feed fledglings. The amount of assistance provided by the male varies with the male, the season, and the particular circumstances. Whether or not a male feeds young may depend on the abundance of insect life on the territory during that period, and the ability of the female to feed the young unassisted. The less time a male spends foraging for food and

feeding the young, the more time and energy may be devoted to advertising for a new mate, and starting another nesting.

Since the nestling periods did not overlap, the polygynous males theoretically were able to share in the feeding of all of their broods. Staggered nestings that permit males to assist in the feeding of multiple broods also has been reported in the Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) (Verner 1964), and the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) (Welsh 1975, Weatherhead 1979).

NML was not observed to feed the nestlings of the primary female, although he did assist in the feeding of those of the secondary and tertiary females. He had assisted during both nestling periods in 1978. RK fed nestlings of both the primary and the secondary nestings. Thirty percent of the feeding visits to the first brood and 65% of the feedings of the second brood were done by the male. Brackbill (1970) similarly noted inequalities in male assistance at the nests of multiple broods. No information is available on the assistance provided by the males during the feeding of the fledglings of any of the broods.

Given adequate space and resources, the potential for polygyny in the House Wren extends to mid-summer. Males defend territories containing several potential nesting sites, and display to unpaired females that occasionally move through the area. I feel that only a scarcity of unmated females in breeding condition keeps the incidence of polygynous pairings from greatly increasing. Thus it is important for the male to maintain the integrity of his territory as far into the season as he can still attract another mate and raise another brood, and as long as exclusion of competing foragers (neighbors) is energetically advantageous. That males sing loudly and frequently, and strongly defend their territories against both neighboring and unfamiliar conspecifics throughout much of the breeding season (Grove 1981) is likely attributable to the potential for polygyny that exists in this species.

Partial funding for this work was received from NIH Training Grant MH-15341, and the Graduate Studies Committee of the Department of Biology, the City College of New York. I am grateful to Donald M. Cooper and James F. Wittenberger for valuable criticism of earlier versions of this manuscript, to Kathleen McCarthy, Maria Santos, Walter Schoepf, and Katherine Antzoulatos for field assistance, and to Paula Martin for preparation of the illustration.

LITERATURE CITED

- Brackbill, H. 1970. A polygynous House Wren. *Bird-Banding* 41: 118-121.
- Grove, P. A. 1981. The effect of location and stage of nesting on neighbor/stranger discrimination in the House Wren. Ph.D. Thesis. City University of New York.
- Kendeigh, S. C. 1941. Territorial and mating behavior of the House Wren. *Illinois Biol. Monogr.* 18: 1-120.
- Martin, S. G. 1971. Polygyny in the Bobolink: habitat quality and the adaptive complex. Ph.D. Thesis. Oregon State University.
- Martin, S. G. 1974. Adaptations for polygynous breeding in the Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. *Am. Zool.* 14: 109-119.
- Verner, J. 1964. Evolution of polygamy in the Long-billed Marsh Wren. *Evolution* 18: 252-261.
- Verner, J., M. F. Willson. 1969. Mating systems, sexual dimorphism and the role of the male North American passerine birds in the nesting cycle. *A.O.U. Ornithol. Monogr.* 9: 1-76.
- Weatherhead, P. J. 1979. Ecological correlates of monogamy in tundra-breeding Savannah Sparrows. *Auk* 96: 391-401.
- Welsh, D. A. 1975. Savannah Sparrow breeding and territoriality on a Nova Scotia dune beach. *Auk* 92: 235-251.
- Wittenberger, J. F. 1976. The ecological factors selecting for polygyny in altricial birds. *Am. Nat.* 110: 779-799.

*Department of Biology, The City College of New York
138th St. and Convent Ave., New York, New York 10031*

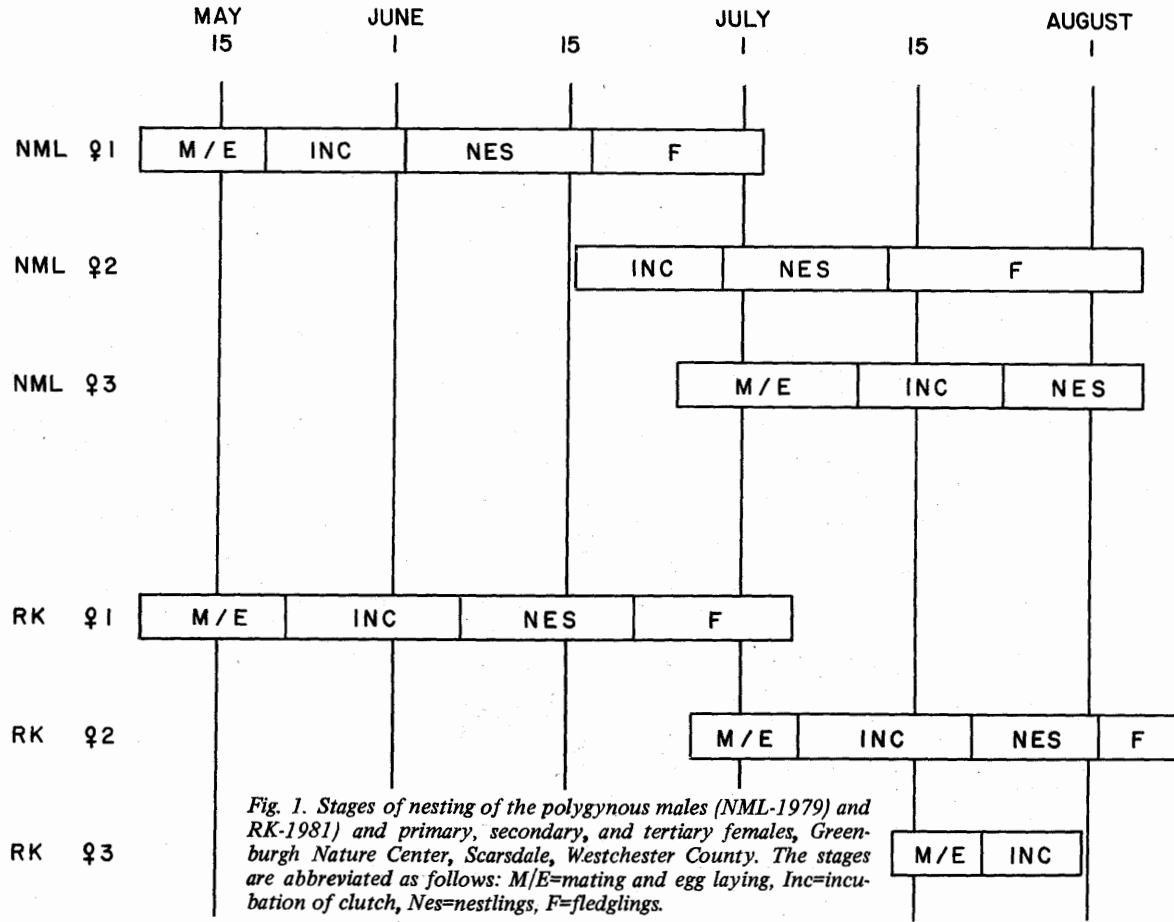


Fig. 1. Stages of nesting of the polygynous males (NML-1979) and RK-1981) and primary, secondary, and tertiary females, Greenburgh Nature Center, Scarsdale, Westchester County. The stages are abbreviated as follows: M/E=mating and egg laying, Inc=incubation of clutch, Nes=nestlings, F=fledglings.

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1982

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., Waterfowl Count for 1982 was conducted from 9 January through 17 January, with 10 January as the target date. A few observers did not complete their voluntary assignments until 24 January, with one not done until 31 January. The count period was true to form, with a repeat of last year's subzero temperatures and accompanying bad weather, particularly in the western part of the state in regions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. As an example of the adverse weather conditions encountered, observers reported "The target date of January 10 was a complete bust. Cold, 0° to -10°, strong northerly winds and ice on Lake" [Ontario] "also snow squalls almost all day," and "The weekend of January 17 was about the same, plus much vapor" over "the water on the 17th making visibility completely blocked out over 50 to 100 yards." And, "—finally went out on the 30th. By 9:30 it was snowing and by noon a blizzard." Notwithstanding these hardships, the total count for 1982 (Table I) was up 1.4% over 1981 to 173,301, but still 12.7% below the 1973-1981 average of 198,494.

Comparing 1982 to 1981 count figures (Table II) for the more common species, reveals that all except Canada Geese, Redheads and Red-breasted Mergansers showed decreases, with American Wigeons and Common Mergansers exhibiting decreases greater than 30%. Canada Geese, Redheads and Red-breasted Mergansers were up by 69.0%, 282.7% and 44.0%, respectively, over 1981. These increases more than offset all other decreases, so that the 1982 total is greater than the 1981 total. Both Canada Geese and Redheads are rebounding toward their numbers of 1980, but still have a way to go.

Comparing 1982 count figures to the 1973-1981 averages for these same common species (Table III) shows eleven species below average, while only three species, Canada Goose, Brant and Red-breasted Merganser, above the average of the preceding nine years.

For the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida inclusive), total Federal and State waterfowl population counts decreased 8.2%, with the greatest decreases being in Canada Geese (-26.4%), Mallards (-27.8%), American Wigeons (-25.8%), Redheads (-54.8%), Buffleheads (-32.1%), Ruddy Ducks (-34.3%), scoters (-39.6%) and Oldsquaws (-63.3%). These decreases were not quite offset by increases in Mute Swans

(+27.4%), Green-winged Teals (+76.3%), scaups (+37.5%), Ring-necked Ducks (+75.0%) and American Coots (+37.9%).

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

The 1983 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 15 January through 23 January, with Sunday, 16 January, as the target date.

I wish to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participated in such bitter cold weather. Special thanks also to the regional compilers who coordinated all these volunteers. The regional compilers are:

Region 1 — Alan Reckhow
Region 2 — Warren Lloyd
Region 3 — John Confer
Region 4 — Leslie Bemont
Region 5 — Fritz Scheider

Region 6 — Lee Chamberlaine
Region 7 — John Peterson
Region 8 — Paul Grattan
Region 9 — Edward Treacy
Region 10 — Stephen Dempsey

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, New York 12159-0044.

TABLE I

| <u>REGIONS</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| Loon, Common | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | 55 | 58 |
| Grebe, Horned | | | 26 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 24 | 53 |
| Red-necked | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Pied-billed | 3 | | 4 | | 1 | | | | 2 | 11 | 21 |
| Cormorant, Great | | | | | | | | | | 28 | 28 |
| Double-crested | | | | | | | | | | 17 | 17 |
| cormorant sp. | | | | | | | | | | 23 | 23 |
| Swan, Mute | | | | | | | | | 225 | 566 | 791 |
| Goose, Canada | 45 | 222 | 19,416 | 134 | 641 | 201 | 444 | 346 | 1,889 | 13,588 | 36,926 |
| Brant | | | | | | | | 3 | | 10,714 | 10,717 |
| Goose, Snow | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Mallard | 3,044 | 1,128 | 3,301 | 334 | 1,103 | 123 | 93 | 888 | 1,163 | 7,877 | 19,054 |
| Black Duck | 299 | 53 | 986 | 302 | 435 | 55 | 220 | 477 | 298 | 14,190 | 17,315 |
| Mallard x Black | | | 14 | | 4 | 1 | | | | 6 | 25 |
| Gadwall | 21 | | 5 | | 6 | 2 | | | 12 | 288 | 334 |
| Pintail | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 9 | | 138 | 149 |
| Green-winged Teal | | | | | 2 | | | | | 181 | 183 |
| American Wigeon | 47 | | 6 | | | | | | 2 | 1,442 | 1,497 |
| Northern Shoveler | | | | | | | | | | 61 | 61 |
| Wood Duck | 1 | | 7 | | | | | | 1 | 14 | 23 |
| Duck (sp?) | | | 100 | | | | | 865 | 30 | 170 | 1,165 |
| Redhead | 103 | 8 | 5,808 | | 2 | 7 | | | 1 | 33 | 5,962 |

| <u>REGIONS</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Ring-necked Duck | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | 55 | 68 | 128 |
| Canvasback | 2,703 | 7 | 2,468 | 1 | 3 | | 606 | 40 | 320 | 3,480 | 9,628 |
| Scaup, Greater | 2,127 | 712 | 308 | | 1,700 | 1 | 5 | | 52 | 32,731 | 37,636 |
| Lesser | 7 | 1 | 48 | | 5 | | | | | 297 | 358 |
| scaup sp. | | | 212 | | | | | | 28 | 1,082 | 1,322 |
| Tufted Duck | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Goldeneye, Common | 3,154 | 1,674 | 637 | 57 | 498 | 327 | 579 | 18 | 58 | 1,546 | 8,548 |
| Barrow's | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 3 |
| Bufflehead | 100 | 20 | 169 | | 96 | | 15 | | 52 | 2,392 | 2,844 |
| Oldsquaw | 32 | 2,006 | 2 | | 22 | 11 | | | | 674 | 2,747 |
| Harlequin Duck | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 6 |
| Eider, Common | | | | | | | | | | 54 | 54 |
| King | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 6 | 8 |
| Scoter, Surf | | | | | | | | | | 571 | 571 |
| White-winged | 3 | 131 | | | | | 1 | | | 2,792 | 2,927 |
| Black | 2 | | | | | | | | | 263 | 265 |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | | | | | | 3 | 465 | 468 |
| Merganser, Hooded | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 9 | | | | 17 | 195 | 230 |
| Common | 1,370 | 749 | 108 | 58 | 1,595 | 2,216 | 820 | 78 | 838 | 19 | 7,851 |
| Red-breasted | 11 | 4 | 15 | | 8 | 2 | | | | 2,343 | 2,383 |
| American Coot | <u>5</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>509</u> | | | | | | <u>55</u> | <u>346</u> | <u>916</u> |
| TOTALS | 13,084 | 6,718 | 34,155 | 887 | 6,137 | 2,947 | 2,786 | 2,724 | 5,103 | 98,760 | 173,301 |

TABLE II

Comparison of 1982 with 1981, for all species totaling over 1,000 individuals in 1982, and showing the percent change from 1981 to 1982.

| SPECIES | 1982 | 1981 | % CHANGE |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Canada Goose | 36,926 | 21,843 | + 69.0 |
| Brant | 10,717 | 14,218 | - 24.6 |
| Mallard | 19,054 | 21,627 | - 11.9 |
| Black Duck | 17,315 | 17,953 | - 3.6 |
| American Wigeon | 1,497 | 1,887 | - 20.7 |
| Redhead | 5,962 | 1,558 | +282.7 |
| Canvasback | 9,628 | 9,723 | - 1.0 |
| Scaup (both) | 39,316 | 41,575 | - 5.4 |
| Goldeneye (both) | 8,551 | 8,643 | - 1.1 |
| Bufflehead | 2,844 | 4,785 | - 40.6 |
| Oldsquaw | 2,747 | 3,328 | - 17.5 |
| Scoters (all three) | 3,763 | 4,813 | - 21.8 |
| Common Merganser | 7,851 | 11,772 | - 33.3 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | <u>2,383</u> | <u>1,655</u> | + 44.0 |
| TOTALS | 168,554 | 165,380 | + 1.9 |

TABLE III

Comparison of the 1982 count with the 1973-1981 average, for the same species as in Table II, and showing the percent change from the average.

| SPECIES | 1982 | Average 1973-1981 | % CHANGE |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------|
| Canada Goose | 36,926 | 22,983 | + 60.7 |
| Brant | 10,717 | 10,468 | + 2.4 |
| Mallard | 19,054 | 19,775 | - 3.6 |
| Black Duck | 17,315 | 18,655 | - 7.2 |
| American Wigeon | 1,497 | 2,177 | - 3.1 |
| Redhead | 5,962 | 6,451 | - 7.6 |
| Canvasback | 9,628 | 12,071 | - 20.2 |
| Scaup (both) | 39,316 | 63,503 | - 38.1 |
| Goldeneye (both) | 8,551 | 12,108 | - 29.4 |
| Bufflehead | 2,844 | 4,223 | - 32.7 |
| Oldsquaw | 2,747 | 2,836 | - 3.1 |
| Scoters (all three) | 3,763 | 11,897 | - 68.4 |
| Common Merganser | 7,851 | 10,872 | - 27.8 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | <u>2,383</u> | <u>2,020</u> | + 18.0 |
| TOTALS | 168,554 | 200,039 | - 15.7 |

TABLE IV
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
 AERIAL SURVEY – JANUARY 5-22, 1982

| SPECIES | Upstate | Long Island | Totals |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Mute Swan | 71 | 996 | 1,067 |
| Canada Goose | 30,396 | 8,582 | 38,978 |
| Brant | | 14,925 | 14,925 |
| Mallard | 9,057 | 2,583 | 11,640 |
| Black Duck | 9,015 | 10,600 | 19,615 |
| American Wigeon | | 168 | 168 |
| Redhead | 7,591 | | 7,591 |
| Canvasback | 7,237 | 4,145 | 11,382 |
| Scaup (both) | 7,546 | 32,805 | 40,351 |
| Common Goldeneye | 6,729 | 1,921 | 8,650 |
| Bufflehead | 32 | 979 | 1,011 |
| Oldsquaw | 615 | 141 | 756 |
| Scoters (all three) | 6 | 6,619 | 6,625 |
| Ruddy Duck | | 135 | 135 |
| Mergansers (all three) | 34,686 | 2,093 | 36,779 |
| American Coot | <u>318</u> | | <u>318</u> |
| TOTALS | 113,299 | 86,692 | 199,991 |

REVIEW

Where to Find Birds in New York State: The Top 500 Sites. Susan Roney Drennan. 1981. Syracuse University Press. 672 pp., 106 maps. \$38.00 (Cloth), \$18.95 (Paper).

In the mid-1970s the Executive Committee of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs determined to undertake a guide to bird-finding localities in New York State, and invited Susan Roney Drennan to prepare it. The choice of this author was a fortunate one. At a time when bird-finding guides have become numerous, Susan Drennan has produced a book that sets a new standard for books of this kind, and one that both the author and the Federation can take great pride in.

In preparing this monumental work, the author seems to have thought of everything. *Where to Find Birds in New York State* is a comprehensive and detailed guide to more than 500 birding localities in the state. Descriptions of these top sites are arranged according to the ten regions currently recognized in the Regional Reports in *The Kingbird*. Preceding the guide to localities are a discussion of the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), complete with instructions on how to report a rarity and a sample form; a section on Rare Bird Alerts in the state; a directory of research collections and ornithological libraries in New York State; and detailed physiographic and ecological descriptions of each of the ten regions. Following the site descriptions are specialized chapters on pelagic birding (covering the whole New York Bight), and on hawk migration sites, a useful bibliography, and an index to the localities covered in the guide.

It is the descriptions of birding localities that form the bulk of the book—some 454 pages and 106 maps, many of them drafted by the author herself—that merit the most attention here. The amount of information presented is almost overwhelming. Not only is each site discussed in terms of the birds to be found there—their abundance, seasons of occurrence, and status, notes on “special” species and hints on how to find them—but a wealth of supplementary ecological information is provided as well, information that will surely entice the most determined and hurried lister to slow down and take greater notice of the habitat and how the birds fit into it. Such detailed descriptions of the habitats, with lists of dominant trees and shrubs, greatly increase the usefulness of the book. Careful directions for lo-

cating each site are provided, and happily, these directions *work*, a feature that not every birding Baedeker can boast.

Each of the other sections of the book lives up to the high standard achieved by the author in her descriptions of the birding localities, but space limitations here prevent this reviewer from doing more than recommending them. The whole book is written in an engaging, conversational style that both reveals Susan Drennan's personal knowledge of most of the sites and subjects and makes it easy to absorb the great amount of information she has compiled. Although the major burden of preparing this splendid birding Baedeker has been borne by the author, she herself points out that the book would not have been possible without the help of scores of people from all parts of the state. *Where to Find Birds in New York State* is liberally sprinkled with expressions of gratitude to these numerous collaborators; this reviewer cannot recall a book in which the matter of acknowledgments has been attended to so thoroughly.

Where to Find Birds in New York State lives up to the highest expectations its announcement could have engendered, and fills a gap in the ornithological literature of our state that has long been felt. Congratulations are due to Susan Drennan, her many collaborators, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, and Syracuse University Press on a job very well done.

— John Farrand, Jr.

BEHAVIOR AND OCCURRENCE OF THE HAWK-OWL IN NORTHERN NEW YORK

KENNETH L. CROWELL

A Hawk-Owl (*Surnia ulula*) was observed at Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area in the Town of Canton, St. Lawrence County, between 6 January and 15 March 1982. This appears to be the second record of the species from St. Lawrence County since 1962 and extends the extreme dates for this region. There are two previous records for St. Lawrence County since 1950: Potsdam, 20 December 1962 (Peakall 1969), and Massena, December 1973-27 February 1974.

Bull (1974) reports "scarcely three dozen reliable reports" for the state and cites extreme dates of 24 October to 16 March. Peakall (1969) reviews records for the Hawk-Owl in New York State and lists sightings since 1950. Gordon (1965) reviews reports for Region 6. Between 1950 and 1969 there were three reports from Jefferson County and one each from Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. Three of the six sightings occurred the winter of 1962-63. Beehler (1979) cites two sightings from Franklin County in 1962, omitted by Peakall (1969). This past winter a Hawk-Owl was reported by Bernard Carman in Keene, Essex County, on 9 February 1982. The bird, observed by many persons, was last seen 20 March, six days later than the last date previously reported for New York State (*High Peaks Audubon Newsletter*, 10: 26). The only sighting for Essex County prior to this, from Keene in 1979, is not cited by Carleton (1980). No records are given for Clinton County (Warren 1979), or Oswego County (Smith and Ryan 1978). I suspect the species is frequently overlooked in northern New York. The species is equally rare in southern Ontario; Quilliam (1973) states that none had been reported since 1964. Previous to that, eight birds had been seen between 20 November 1962 and 17 February 1963, the only previous records being from 1926 and 1906.

Hawk-Owl sightings reported in *The Kingbird* and by Bull (1974) since 1969 are:

- 1 Dec. 1973-27 Feb. 1974. Massena, St. Lawrence Co. (XXIV (2): 85).
- 15 Dec. 1974-15 March 1975. Vernon, Oneida Co. (XXV (2): 103; Bull, 1976).

- 20 Dec. 1974. North Gage, Oneida Co. (XXV (2): 103).
3 Dec. 1978. Keene, Essex Co. (XXIX (2): 106).
18 Feb. 1978. Ithaca, Cayuga Co. (XXVII (2): 109).
6, 14 Feb. 1980. Greece, Monroe Co. (XXX (2): 108).
6 Jan-15 March 1982, Canton, St. Lawrence Co. (XXXII (2): 126).
4 Feb. 1982. Limerick-Chaumont, Jefferson Co. (Unpubl.)
9 Feb.-20 March 1982. Keene, Essex Co. (XXXII (2): 129).

The 1978 Keene sighting was unconfirmed, as was the 1982 Chaumont sighting reported by Lee Chamberlaine. In addition, I received an unconfirmed report of a sighting near Tupper Lake, Franklin County, during the winter of 1980-81.

The 1982 bird was first identified by Harold Gerbis of St. Lawrence University, who was accompanied by David Hamelin, Wildlife Technician, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It was then observed frequently throughout the period by myself, James Winterbottom, Supervisor at the management area, and visiting birders. I last saw the Hawk-Owl on 26 February 1982. During the first three weeks it spent most of its time perched conspicuously in trees along Route 68. Its most frequent perch was at a height of about 45 ft. on the broken branches of a dead elm about 25 ft. from the road. (This tree and adjacent ones were cut by a road crew 3 March.) Other perches in the vicinity ranged from 15 to 50 ft. in height and were located in Black Willow, Big-toothed Aspen and American Ash. Twice the bird was observed perched low (15 ft.) in a brush field, obviously hunting.

The bird exhibited behavior generally described as characteristic of the species—rapid low flight with strong wingbeats, rising abruptly to the perch. While perched it rapidly rotated its head in all directions. Twice the Hawk-Owl was mobbed by other species. On 13 January a flock of five Pine Grosbeaks briefly “buzzed” it; on 5 February it was briefly mobbed by 5-7 crows, which subsequently departed.

It was observed to eject a pellet on 22 January, and several pellets were subsequently collected. Ovoid in shape, four pellets averaged 16.8 mm x 20 mm x 40 mm in size. Those that were in poor condition were dissected, yielding remains of three Meadow Voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), one Short-tailed Shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*), one lagomorph incisor, and one White-footed Mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*). Under the perch, entrails of mouse and/or rabbit were collected. On one occasion J. Spivack and D. Hunt observed it plucking

a small bird and J. Winterbottom saw it kill a Snowshoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*).

The following comments were made in *High Peaks Audubon Newsletter* (10 (3): 15-17, 1982) with regard to feeding by a Hawk-Owl observed in 1962 in Keene: "Various observers reported seeing the Hawk-Owl drop down from his perch to capture prey that included shrews, voles, meadow mice, deer mice, and red squirrels. The only avian prey reported was a Pine Grosbeak that was eaten on the spot, but most of the mammal prey was cached in the top of nearby broken elm stubs. Food seemed abundant. Greenie Chase thinks, 'Lucky the Hawk-Owl chose a sedge-goldenrod rich meadow vole community—with shrews to spook the voles to the surface.'"

On 26 February 1982 J. Winterbottom observed a second "buffy-colored" individual although the identification was not confirmed. I checked the area on 3, 4 and 6 March, and did not see the Hawk-Owl, but did see a Rough-legged Hawk on those days. Winterbottom observed the two birds hovering and flying together near the Grasse River. He last reported a single individual on 15 March. Other arctic and boreal visitors frequently seen in the immediate area were two Northern Shrikes, several Rough-legged Hawks, and one Snowy Owl. A Barred Owl was found dead on the road 20 February.

The Hawk-Owl is the only invading winter raptor from the eastern boreal coniferous forest or taiga. The Boreal and Great Gray Owls have a more westerly distribution and the Snowy Owl and Rough-legged Hawk breed farther north in open woodlands and tundra. The distribution of the Northern Shrike is similar to that of the Hawk-Owl. The last major invasion of Hawk-Owls was in the winter of 1962-63. Several Hawk-Owls were also reported this winter from Maine and southeastern Ontario, and one each from New Hampshire and eastern New Brunswick (unpublished reports). In addition, there were heavy influxes of Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes and above average numbers of Snowy Owls, all suggestive of low prey abundance in the Arctic.

As I recorded its behavior, I pondered why, with 8000 acres of Wildlife Management Area and hundreds of square miles of rural landscape, did it select this area along the road? With tens of miles of side roads, why did it choose to locate along a state highway? Certainly the set of perches was necessary, but by no means unique to that location. During its stay here the owl provided interest to persons as far as southern New York State and Montreal, Quebec.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bull, J. 1974. *The Birds of New York State*. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City.
- Bull, J. 1976. *Supplement to Birds of New York State*. Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. Special Publication.
- Beehler, B. McP. 1979. *Birdlife of the Adirondack Park*. Adirondack Mountain Club, Glens Falls.
- Carleton, G. 1980. *Birds of Essex County, New York*. High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc. Elizabethtown.
- Gordon, D. C. 1965. Notes on winter owls in northern New York. *Kingbird* 15 (2): 96-97.
- Gordon, D. C. 1968. *Birds of North Country, New York—Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties*. Rochester.
- Peakall, D. B. 1969. Photographs of New York State Rarities, 19. Hawk-Owl. *Kingbird* XIX (4): 182-8.
- Quilliam, H. R. 1973. *History of the Birds of Kingston, Ontario*. Kingston Field.
- Smith, G. A. & J. M. Ryan. 1978. Annotated Checklist of the birds of Oswego County and Northern Cayuga County, NY. *Bull. No. 5 of the Rice Creek Biol. Station SUNY-Oswego*. Oswego.
- Warren, P. H. (H. G. Klein and C. W. Mitchell, Eds). 1979. *Birds of Clinton County*. Northern Adirondack Chapter of National Audubon Society, Plattsburgh.

*Department of Biology, St. Lawrence University,
Canton, New York 13617*

FRIGATEBIRD IN ROCKLAND COUNTY

ROBERT F. DEED

The first few days of April 1982 produced two of the most violent non-hurricane storms of the century. From the afternoon of 2 April through 4 April, a powerful front extending from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico passed eastward, with winds in excess of 75 mph, and on 6 April the East endured a genuine blizzard, with winds up to 60 mph. This storm, on its way northeastward, skirted the Gulf of Mexico and was centered off Georgia and South Carolina when it became a matter of concern to New York area weather forecasters.

At midday on 7 April, the sky had totally cleared in Rockland County, but a northwest wind was still gusting from calm to 50-55 mph. A few hundred feet south of the state line at Northvale, New Jersey, Lee Bjong glanced out his window while on the telephone with a business associate and saw what looked like "a large black plastic bag" plunging from the sky. He excused himself and stepped outside. As an experienced sailboater, he immediately realized that the wind had produced "a horrendous downdraft," and he recognized the object as a big black bird, wings half folded and struggling to keep from somersaulting. At about 35 or 40 feet above the ground and 100 feet away from Mr. Bjong, the bird righted itself, straightened out, and planed upward to 50 feet or so, headed northwestward into the wind. Mr. Bjong watched until the bird disappeared behind trees that blocked his view, by that time well on the New York side of the state line, in Rockland County.

Mr. Bjong had the distinct feeling that he recognized the bird, and he associated it with his extensive time in the Caribbean and the Florida Keys. But before he checked any of his bird books, he decided to exercise his profession as a commercial artist by putting his impressions on paper as quickly as possible. At his drawing board he made a silhouette sketch which, after further recall of his observations, he then refined in a second sketch that brought out more clearly the sweepback of the long, narrow wings and also the "V" of the inner portions of the wings. He noted that the wings spanned six or seven feet and that the tail was long and pointed, briefly appearing forked at times during the bird's gyrations. He then took out his new Peterson guide and looked up the Magnificent Frigatebird. His second sketch was almost identical to that of the adult male in Peterson, even to the direction of flight.

Because of the bird's great wingspan, Mr. Bjong notes that his first impression was of an albatross, also having seen these at sea. In fact, he returned to the telephone excitedly to tell his caller, "I think I've just seen an albatross," which led to jokes about "Ancient Mariners." But he says he quickly realized that his wind-tossed bird was too slender, too crooked-winged, too black-bodied, and too pointy-tailed to be an albatross. To be on the safe side, he also looked up the albatrosses and also the Swallow-tailed Kite (much too small and white). He recalls that he has seen frigatebirds even closer than on this occasion, as close as 25 feet over a boat when the frigatebird was harassing a smaller bird that had caught a fish.

I can think of no other bird more positively identifiable by the casual observer, with or without binoculars or a field guide. I see no reason to doubt that a windblown frigatebird did appear, barely within both New York and New Jersey, on 7 April 1982.

50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, New York 10960.

[While the bird reported here was almost certainly a Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*), the Lesser Frigatebird (*F. ariel*) has occurred in North America as an accidental; it is therefore not possible to identify this bird to species.—Eds.]

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Some noteworthy breeding records on Staten Island in 1982: The discovery of a nest of the Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*; see p. 234, this issue) on Staten Island was the highlight of the spring season in Richmond County, but was by no means the only nesting record of importance. Our other finds on Staten Island are as follows:

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). We located a nest of this species, which eventually produced two young, about 40 feet up in a Tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in Latourette Park on 15 April. This represents the first confirmed breeding record for the Red-tailed Hawk on Staten Island, the only other—a second-hand, 19th-century report—being unacceptable (Siebenheller, 1981, *Breeding Birds of Staten Island 1881-1981*. Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliptila caerulea*). We discovered a nest of this species 45 feet high in a White Oak (*Quercus alba*) in High Rock Park on 17 May. It is the first breeding record for the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on Staten Island and in the Metropolitan New York area.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*). On 25 April we found a nest of this species in a Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) in a portion of High Rock Park only about 100 feet from the intersection of Rockland Avenue and Manor Road—within sight of a New York City traffic light! The nest was located about 30 feet high and 12 feet from the trunk of the tree, which is typical for this species (Harrison, 1975, *A Field Guide to Birds' Nests . . . East of the Mississippi River*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, p. 229). Although breeding had been established for the Pine Siskin on Staten Island in 1976 on the basis of circumstantial evidence (Siebenheller and Siebenheller, 1976, *Kingbird*, vol. 26, no. 4, pp. 202-203), this is the first nest ever found on Staten Island or in the Metropolitan New York area. The nest was collected and is now in the collection of the Staten Island Museum.

Norma Siebenheller and Bill Siebenheller, 267 Edinboro Road,
Staten Island, New York 10306

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Sometime during the 1982 summer season we passed the halfway mark for field work on the five year New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. When records began to arrive at the end of the third nesting season, state and regional coordinators could see that we were clearly involved in the most complete field survey of our breeding avifauna ever undertaken. Observers have already discovered more about the distribution of nesting species than was known in all of New York State ornithological history prior to 1980.

With observers recruiting the help of family, friends, and local residents, the number of participants engaged in the Atlas can no longer be fixed with any authority, but is certainly over a thousand people. In spite of a pressing need for more help from competent birders, this effort compares favorably with the final total of 1,500 dedicated observers whose work was the basis for *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland*, the model for all such efforts. The Atlas is an amazing consortium of professional ornithologists, expert birders, and casual bird watchers, plus many contributors who can at best name only a few dozen avian species. Thanks to all of them, we are now obtaining records from virtually every part of the state, including many areas never before birded. The realization that the Atlas is fun swept the state as more birders moved out of familiar haunts into new parts. There were boat trips to islands and backpacking expeditions into the mountains, canoe trips to wilderness areas and surveys of metropolitan neighborhoods that required no less of a sense of adventure. Coverage included large tracts of land—Indian and military reservations, lumber and paper company holdings, estates and private clubs—rarely visited by birders. By the end of the summer, well over half of the 5,345 blocks in the state had received at least some coverage, although Regions 3, 4, 6, and 8 still seemed to be below the 50% threshold.

The increase in observers combined with the geographic expansion of coverage to provide a multitude of Atlas reports. During the first two years of field work about 89,000 individual records were reported statewide. Early evidence suggests that during the '82 season that number was more than doubled. We may also have picked up a few new additions to the 237 breeding species already reported state-

wide. To place these figures in some sort of perspective, the British Atlas accumulated 285,000 records for 229 species over a five-year period.

Another highlight of the summer was the preparation of a set of computer-drawn maps showing the range of each species based upon 1980-81 records. As good as those were, the next set showing all 1980-82 data will be even better. The Information Age is upon us and, after less than a decade, the methods used by the great British Atlas (punched paper tape and an adapted electric typewriter) seem creaky by comparison. Acknowledgment should be made of the enormous contributions made by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, not only to data processing, but also to Atlas communications, blockbusting coverage of unassigned areas, and other essential services.

As excellent as the regional reports of the 1982 summer season are, and they all contain much detailed and interesting information carefully compiled by the editors from everything available to them, there is a noticeably uneven response to Atlas data. The Region 9 editor is clearly pleased that, "What with all the work on the N.Y.S. Breeding Bird Atlas, notes come pouring in," adding, "There was a time a few years ago when we had to scratch for records; now we have more than we can handle." Even though the Region 2 editor could only include data from the first 105 green sheets and the Region 8 editor from the first 103, the considerable impact upon the reports of these regions is apparent. Region 5 intensified work on the Atlas, "has begun to yield some surprises." Yet some accounts fail to make mention of the Atlas in the introductions, and refer to it only obliquely in the body of the reports. Region 3 had more Prairie Warblers, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Henslow's Sparrows than usual, with a parenthetical question if this might be the result of Atlas work. We can only suspect so, an uncertain state of affairs in a journal of ornithological record. The project itself may be partly responsible. The Region 6 report finds summer a difficult season because "many birders are preoccupied with the Atlas project," the editor of that region being no exception. As the Region 2 editor, also an Atlas coordinator, notes, the green data sheets are, "a mixed blessing, as they arrive late for this report and have apparently resulted in less quantitative data with fewer field trip reports being submitted."

Admittedly, the Atlas does not lend itself easily to regional reports, and even material available prior to the deadline is not always

in a form useful to the editors. Where, an editor may ask the coordinator, is Block 5497A that had the "PO-X" Clay-colored Sparrow? Who were the observers? What was the date? Are there any verification details, and was the location revisited, or did the bird disappear before it could be upgraded? In many cases, the equally mystified coordinator is still trying to obtain those very details. Editors can no longer depend directly upon seasonal reports from active observers, many of whom have never read, or even heard of, *The Kingbird*. Even field workers who do contribute regularly find it difficult to summarize their findings, and in any case their list of common species recorded is only significant in association with all of the multitude of other similar reports.

If we have entered the Information Age, we also seem to be subject to the expected human difficulties in adjusting. The day is here when observers can store field records in data banks, allowing editors to review computer lists and maps for each species while preparing the seasonal report on a word processor. Lest this seem completely out of touch with reality, it should be noted that not only Atlas information, but also U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys, Manomet shorebird surveys, nest record cards, colonial bird register data, and banding records are all computerized. Atlas information is available on print-out in a variety of formats by region, as well as by species and breeding code for each block, while the computer maps provide a visual record of the range of each species, accurate within five kilometers. As a final note, one editor prepared the summer season report on a word processor.

The summer of 1982 marked the start of major blockbusting efforts to obtain coverage of areas of the state still unassigned. Two DEC-sponsored observers obtained coverage of 36 blocks in Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8, with over 2,400 records of 143 species obtained, including Long-eared Owl, Gray Jay, Philadelphia Vireo, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Ten Region 7 blockbusters working in Regions 6, 7, and 8 turned up about 3,000 records in roughly 100 blocks, including Spruce Grouse, White-eyed and Philadelphia Vireos, and Clay-colored Sparrows. Yet these two notable efforts comprise only about 5% of the expected total of 1982 records, and from a relatively insignificant number of blocks. The most important contributions to the developing range maps continue to come from the growing number of observers, many unaffiliated with the Federation or any bird club, who are reporting 76+ species per block. It is unfortunate that

most of the blockbusting results, as well as records from many individuals, didn't make their way into the seasonal reports.

The regional reports include positive notes for a number of species that may be a result of better coverage of the state by more observers, rather than indications of genuine increases. Note the comments from around the state regarding Red-headed Woodpecker (Regions 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 10), Acadian Flycatcher (1, 9, 10), Short-billed Marsh Wren (4, 5, 6, 8, 9), Prairie Warbler (1, 2, 4, 5, 8), Orchard Oriole (1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10), Grasshopper Sparrow (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9), and Henslow's Sparrow (1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9), as examples. As coverage continues to improve, the cumulative evidence will allow us to trace the ranges and determine with greater authority the status of a number of birds formerly considered rare or uncommon. The evidence of a single region or a single season can only tantalize.

Consider, for example, the Philadelphia Vireo, a bird of fairly undistinguished plumage and oft-confusing song usually found in leafy second-growth. In more than a half-century preceding the Atlas, between 1926-78, the literature documents only 11 summer records, confined to Region 7. If Atlas criteria are applied, seven were "Possible" and four "Probable." However, because five of these occurrences would have to be assigned to the same Atlas block, this historical record actually stood at just four "PO" and three "PR." After only three seasons of Atlas field work, observers have reported five "Possible," five "Probable," and three "Confirmed" Philadelphia Vireos in Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8. The three "CO" records all came this past summer, in Essex, Hamilton, and Warren Counties. These have turned up in the course of what, in most cases, amounts to a spot-check of all habitats for the entire check-list of species present. Given the vast amount of available habitat in northern New York, much of it the result of forest fires and heavy logging early in the century, even greater success might be expected of a specific search of second-growth hardwoods for Philadelphia Vireos, made by observers familiar with the species.

With the increase in summer field work taking place across the state, most species continue to turn up outside their previously documented ranges, as might be expected. Caution in avian records is essential, but the editorial suggestions in the regional reports that mid-June records of Blackpoll Warblers in Essex, Hamilton, and Warren Counties are, or could be, late migrants seem overly conservative in light of the cumulative evidence of the past eight years of expanded

field work. Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 497) stated, "Unlike many other breeding warblers of boreal or northern affinities, the Blackpoll Warbler is restricted to the *upper* slopes of the mountains, mostly above 3500 feet in the Adirondacks and usually above 3700 feet in the Catskills." That elevation was lowered by Beehler, (1978, *Birdlife of the Adirondack Park*, p. 165), who said that it was "common above 3,000 feet; elsewhere locally distributed," in the Adirondack Park. Carleton, (1976, *Birds of Essex County, New York*, p. 21) called the Blackpoll a "fairly common summer resident from 2,900' [Mt. Jo] to timberline," in Essex County, and in a subsequent supplement (1981) made note of two summer locations at 2,386' and 1,882'. Notice the sixteen hundred foot drop in elevation since 1974. Blackpoll Warblers have now been found in at least 20 Adirondack blocks at elevations well below the previously accepted altitudinal boundary, in suitable spruce-balsam association, since the Atlas began. This is not meant to serve as an illustration that all mid-June records of boreal warblers, regardless of location, represent breeding birds. What it might demonstrate is that the rejection or questioning of records requires the same care as acceptance. Perhaps the Atlas calls for a certain suspension of disbelief? The question is not whether a bird in proper nesting habitat during the breeding season is a possible migrant, but whether it satisfies the criteria to be noted as a "Possible" breeding species. Our perspective or emphasis will determine whether we learn more about actual ranges, or simply accept what fits preconceived theories.

For many species it will be difficult to determine immediately, if ever, whether the final 1980-84 range maps represent expansions or contractions of previously documented ranges. Early evidence suggests that some birds, like Short-eared Owl and Loggerhead Shrike, will indeed have disappeared from many parts of the state. Many range expansions have been documented or anticipated. Other birds—Saw-whet Owl, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Oriole, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow come to mind—already show promise of either overturning or exceeding any previously held theories regarding their distribution.

We are now entering what our British counterparts termed, "the penultimate season's work." The state Atlas will be a lasting document, and certainly everyone wants the range maps for every species to be as complete and accurate as possible. Hopefully, the Atlas will be repeated at regular intervals, perhaps every quarter-century, in

order to realize its full potential for documenting changes in the breeding birds of New York. If this is to be done, it is important that we establish as a legacy the most accurate benchmark possible in this initial effort. To accomplish this, the help of all competent observers is needed. In at least one metropolitan area of the state, boasting two active bird clubs (and some 700 members), fewer than 10% of the active birders took part in the Atlas in the first three years. This lack of participation extends to other regions as well, and places a burden of impossible coverage upon the coordinator and other observers. As one coordinator observes, "Currently, it is a dedicated few who are doing all the work from which all will later benefit."

During the '82 summer season we doubled the number of records already gathered. With the help of all Federation birders that number could be more than redoubled in 1983, and provide us with nearly a half-million records going into our final year. The Atlas is a Federation project, a project of all individual members and all member clubs. The '83 breeding season, at least for the earliest birds, is already underway. Now is the time for all good birders to contact their regional coordinators, for all clubs to support the final push to the finish.

Enough of accidentals, they only encourage wayward birders to stray from their Atlas blocks. This time the "Bird of the Season" award goes to one of New York State's own, and this season's finest: Blue Grosbeak, the award to be shared by the pair found nesting in a Staten Island park, the first "Confirmed" record for New York State.

This seasonal perspective has already failed to mention so many birds named in the regional reports that it seems consistent to close with a bird that got absolutely no mention. Both urban and rural birders will enjoy knowing that after three years and hundreds of observer days of intensive field work in Hamilton County, not a single Rock Dove has turned up.

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

EDITORS' NOTE

In a supplement to the July 1982 issue of *The Auk*, the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union published a list of the English and scientific names of North American birds that will be adopted officially in the Sixth Edition of the A.O.U. *Checklist*, which is scheduled to appear in 1983. This list was arranged according to the sequence of species and the arrangement of families, subfamilies, and genera that will be followed in the new *Checklist*.

Although this new list has become widely available, the names and sequence contained in it will not be adopted in *The Kingbird* until the next issue, which will be the first issue of Volume 33, 1983. To adopt these names before the end of the current volume would result in a confusion of names in a single volume, and would greatly complicate the task of preparing an index to this and previous volumes.

— The Editors

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"To every thing there is a . . . time," and it was the time in June for an earthquake along the Onondaga escarpment to rattle the Clarence area, pulling the plug on Newstead Sinks, completely draining it. This was favorite habitat for ducks, swans and shorebirds. Then, it is time, if the Recreation Forest Resource Management Plan is to be followed, to schedule logging, with some possible clear-cutting of mature timber in Allegany State Park. Following this operation should be an opportune time to study changes in bird life.

With the jet stream consistently flowing far south of its usual summer pattern, temperatures averaged below normal every month: June by 2.8° F (1.6° C), July by 3.8° F (2.1° C) and August by 8.2° F (4.6° C), making this July and August the coldest in sixteen years. An early frost blackened local areas of the Southern Tier on August 28. Since precipitation for June was 3.2 in. (8.1 cm) above normal, it raised the water table, compensating for the last two months when rainfall measured 1.3 in. (3.3 cm) less than normal.

Hacking news is both good and bad. The Bald Eagle program, begun last year at Oak Orchard WMA, was continued this summer and 21 more young birds were successfully released in late August (Balmas). However, this year there could be no Osprey hacking for the project begun in 1980 on the Seneca Indian Reservation in Cattaraugus County. Previously, the young birds have been obtained from

Long Island nests, but a severe storm in June decimated more than half of the nestlings there, making it inadvisable to take any this season. Although good numbers of Ospreys came through in migration near this hacking site, none with bands was noted (Forness).

Findings from 15 of the 18 routes of the Allegany County "Mini" Run Breeding Bird Survey (Abbs) were about average with unusually *high numbers* of Ruffed Grouse, Turkey, Mourning Dove, Great Crested Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, Com. Yellowthroat, Am. Redstart, Bobolink, Purple Finch and Indigo Bunting, and with very *low numbers* of Killdeer, Am. Robin, House Sparrow and No. Oriole; missing were Spotted Sandpiper and Rough-winged Swallow (Klingensmith). Below, status for a species is indicated by: sd+ or sd- = above or below the standard deviation, and no letter = stable. Regretfully, with no new volunteers this year for the several routes in our region lacking workers, too few of the runs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey could be carried out for a meaningful summary to be made (Klabunde).

Summer positives include 1) more record-breaking nests; 2) Great Blue Herons holding their own, and good Mallard, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Duck production; 3) fair numbers of Turkey Vultures; Cooper's Hawks on the upswing for three years (Forness) and Am. Kestrels holding steady; 4) healthy grouse and turkey populations, the latter nesting late, and here and there a Ring-necked Pheasant; 5) Black-billed Cuckoos doing well with one worker documenting several nests; 6) many Great Horned Owls, paralleling the abundance of rabbits, and fine numbers of Screech Owls (Forness); 7) many, many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and several Red-headed Woodpeckers; 8) Least and Great Crested Flycatchers locally abundant; 9) slightly better numbers of Cliff Swallows and many Barn Swallows; 10) generally splendid success with Eastern Bluebirds; and unusually abundant Cedar Waxwings taking advantage of a bumper berry crop; 11) good numbers of Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Ovenbirds and Common Yellowthroats; 12) Orchard Oriole expanding its territory in Chautauqua Co.; 13) many Purple Finches: two to 25/day; House Finches apparently taking over the House Sparrow niche; and a great goldfinch season with many nests documented; 14) a stable Savannah Sparrow population, but only two to five/day; and Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows more numerous in northern Chautauqua Co. than suspected before Atlas work (Jones, Sundell).

Summer negatives include 1) no loons, Black-crowned Night Herons or Black Ducks, and almost no bitterns; 2) few Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks; 3) disappointing shorebirding with poor habitat—but some exciting finds; and low numbers of Killdeer, Spotted Sandpipers, Am. Woodcocks and Upland Sandpipers; 4) no Black Terns, Barn or Short-eared Owls, Whip-poor-wills or Common Nighthawks; and almost no Yellow-billed Cuckoos, "except along the Lake Erie plain where they may be as common as the Black-billed" (Sundell); 5) slightly fewer Belted Kingfishers, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Common Flickers, chickadees and nuthatches; 6) scarcity of Willow Flycatchers and Horned Larks; 7) low numbers of Bank and Rough-winged Swallows and Purple Martins; and a poor Tree Swallow nesting season; 8) Winter and Carolina Wrens almost absent; 9) few Golden-crowned Kinglets: one to six only, in Keeney Swamp, Alfred and W. Almond areas to mid-July (Brooks); 10) almost no Golden-winged Warblers; 11) only the usual very few Eastern Meadowlarks—

one to 10/day and reduced numbers of cowbirds; and 12) hardly any Grasshopper, Henslow's, Vesper or Swamp Sparrows.

Rarities: Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Laughing Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: 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: Allegany County Bird Club, Mallory Adams, Mary Adams, Kenneth Balmes, Sharon Baumgardner, Esther Becker (EsB), Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Frances DeGroff, Stephen Eaton, Mary Forness, Helen Graves, Matthew Hotchkiss, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Jamestown Audubon Society, Ken Johnson (Weather Data, Wellsville), Walter Klabunde, Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Lake Erie Bird Club, Erma Larson, Terry D. Mosher (TM), Katherine Palmer, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Earl Schriver, Robert A. Sundell (RS), James VanScoy and Regina VanScoy; and initialed observers: Robert Andrlr, Paul Baglia, Allen Benton, Jim Bowser, Nancy Bowser, Lois Buck, Arthur R. Clark (ARC), Jeanine Flory, David Gagne, Joanne Goetz (JGtz), Morgan V. Jones (MVJ), Mary Jordan, John Jordan, David Junkin, Judy Kumler, Phil Kumler, Fred Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), Richard Miga, John Morse, Odmund Olsen, Arthur Rosche, Olga Rosche, Joseph Thill and James Yaich.

LOONS—DUCKS: Breeding was confirmed for the Pied-billed Grebe when an ad with ten yg was seen near Alfred 24 July (EB). The late imm Double-crested Cormorant in Alma Twp. 12 June (SB, EB) was unusual. At Iroquois NWR two Great Egrets appeared 18 July with max four there 5-30 Aug (JM), and here also an injured Least Bittern fledgling was recovered 15 Aug, but died (JM). The only Am. Bittern was one near Fredonia 6 June (JB, NB). Summering Canada Geese include about 250 at Iroquois NWR (JM), and other flocks: about 60 in Hume Twp. (KP), up to 22 at Farmersville Sta. including one ad banded at Pymatuning, Pa (DC, JC), and max 41 near Forestville and E. Mud Lake (Smith *vide* JGtz, AB+). About 4000 ducks, mostly Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks, were estimated at Iroquois NWR 18 July (JM), and small broods of these were also noted in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties (FR, DC, KP+). A single Pintail was found at Iroquois NWR 19 Aug (OO). Two Hooded Mergansers were at Farmersville Sta. 1-15 June (DC) but apparently moved on, and a Com. Merganser was raised at Hawk Hideaway, near Cuba, this summer (MF) while a max 11 of the latter species were found at Belmont 23 and 24 Aug (DB, LB, MJ).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: A total 15 Turkey Vultures were spotted in five locations. The only GOSHAWK this season was an ad over Chautauqua Co. Airport, no. of Jamestown 13 June (RS, Cordosi). The Sharp-shinned Hawk was scarce, with only reports: one on Abbs, and singles at Farmersville Sta., where it was banded 21 Aug (DC), and in Amity Twp. 10 June and 30 Aug (VP). Of three Cooper's Hawk nestings in Allegany Co., one fledged four yg while two failed because of woodcutting nearby (VP, EB, ES); a bird was sighted on Abbs and only three others were reported. Other raptor news is sparse: Red-shouldered Hawk, one on Abbs plus a dozen others, all from Allegany Co.; Broad-winged Hawk, good numbers; BALD EAGLE, one in Amity Twp. 9 Aug (W. Burton); Marsh Hawk, one on Abbs and one near Alfred 13 and 25 June (EB); and Osprey, singles in Amity Twp. 15-29 Aug (DB, LB, MJ, JJ) and at Tonawanda WMA 28 Aug (JM). Record late for N.Y. State were two Turkey nests: one with 15 eggs near Alfred 20 July (EB), record late by 11 days, and the other with 11 eggs near Wellsville 15 Aug (NI)—*six weeks* record late. Both were deserted. Two ad SANDHILL CRANES frequenting cornfields two mi. n.e. of Frewsburg 15-18 June (Leichner, RS, DG+) were photographed by Jim Yaich and watched in "their characteristic courtship dance" by Yvonne MacIassac; this is the second authentic Chautauqua Co. record

(RS). In late June a pair of Virginia Rails appeared on territory near Cherry Creek (FR, LBk), an ad was at Main St. Pond, Dunkirk, 24 June (PB, TM) and an imm was seen at the latter pond 26 Aug (NB). An ad Sora was spotted at W. Mud Lake, Chautauqua Co., 8 June (AB, PB, TM). Two broods of the Com. Gallinule were seen in Aug, one of an ad with five yg in Cherry Creek Twp. (FR, LBk) and the other of an ad with eight yg near Dunkirk (NB). Noteworthy shorebirds include: Ruddy Turnstone, four at the mouth of Canadaway Creek 1-2 June (RS, TM+); Upland Sandpiper, one regularly near the Dunkirk-Fredonia Airport all June and July (MVJ) and eight at Clarence 16 July (Hess); Willet, two in winter dress at Canadaway Creek NS 14 Aug (JK, PK, AB, TM)—a great find; Pectoral Sandpiper, two at Buffalo Harbor 16 July (Hess); Baird's Sandpiper, a splendid flight and seen at Canadaway Creek NS with both Least and Semipalmateds for easy comparison; max six imm and three ads 31 July-5 Aug (NB, TM) as well as two ads on 27 Aug (NB); Short-billed Dowitcher, one at Buffalo Harbor 7 July (Hess); and Stilt Sandpiper, one at Burgeson Sanct. 28 Aug (RS). Uncommon in summer were the two Great Black-backed Gulls at Canadaway Creek NS 2 June (TM) and another on the Niagara R. 25 July (KB), but a rare find were the two LAUGHING GULLS at Canadaway Creek NS 2 June (JB, NB, TM+). An imm Bonaparte's Gull arrived at Amity L. 7 Aug (VP, RP); 15 were seen at Canadaway Creek NS 15 Aug (JK, PK) and four more were migrating west at Barcelona the same day (RS). Max of Caspian Terns was six migrants moving west at Barcelona 15 Aug (RS) while a total of at least a dozen others were noted in five areas.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Except for the note that they are common in Chautauqua Co. on the Lake Erie plain (RS), only six Yellow-billed Cuckbos, including two on Abbs, were reported. Of five Black-billed Cuckoo nests documented near Alfred, four were successful (EB). In addition to the "fine numbers of Screech Owls" mentioned above, the only other report was one at Farmersville Sta. 17 June (DC). For the Com. Nighthawk, too, the only report was one at Belmont 23 and 29 Aug (DB, LB, MJ). An interesting nest by an obliging Ruby-throated Hummingbird just outside a living room window at Fillmore fledged two yg in late Aug (KP). Three noisy yg Com. Flickers were watched in a nesting hole at Amity L, Allegany Co., 26 July to 1 Aug (VP)—record late by a week for N.Y. State. It is encouraging that the Red-headed Woodpecker is flourishing in the Fredonia-Dunkirk area (TM); one to three birds were seen near Sheridan, in Amity Twp., in Angelica Twp, at Iroquois NWR and in the Town of Sheldon. The only Hairy Woodpeckers reported were three on Abbs, and three other birds, total from two locations, while the Downy Woodpecker tallied 11 on Abbs (sd-).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: In Scio and Amity Twps., Allegany Co., 17 pairs of the E. Phoebe fledged 99 yg from 33 nestings of which 27 were successful (VP), about normal production, and there were 51 birds on Abbs (stable); however, at Farmersville Sta. this is the "first year without Phoebes around" (DC). Single ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS were noted at Hamburg 12 June (RA, Leonard) and in Sawmill Run, s.w. Cattaraugus Co. 12 June (RS, Cordosi). Willow Flycatchers were scarce with four on Abbs, max three near Alfred 8-18 June (EB) and two in Amity Twp. 28 June (VP). It was a rough season for Tree Swallows. At Amity L., out of 42 nestings 15 failed because of House Wrens, blowfly larvae and various other causes, but some nestlings may have died for lack of insect food due to the cold, wet June; two pairs renested successfully (VP). Near Alfred, of 18 nestings only six were successful (EB). Cliff Swallows numbered 38 on Abbs (sd+) and colonies were reported at Scio, Wellsville and Alfred. Two COMMON RAVENS were identified in Ward Twp., Allegany Co., 1 July (EB). A Tufted Titmouse was found in Wales Twp. 21 June (Hein) and one to two were seen irregularly at Little Genesee 14 July thru 29 Aug (FD). Although the outcome of neither is known, two Allegany Co. nests were exciting discoveries: 1) a Red-breasted Nuthatch 26 ft. up in a dead maple near Alfred and 2) a Brown Creeper 18 ft. up under bark of a dead tree at Alma Pond (both by EB). The only Winter Wrens reported were singles at Swain 24 June (EB) and at Little Valley 1 Aug (Rosches), and Carolina Wrens were almost as scarce with max two at Barcelona 14 and 15 Aug (RS) and one at Iroquois NWR 6 Aug (OO, Schrader). Although Am. Robins tallied 626 on Abbs

(sd-), it is suggested that this low figure may be a reflection of the cold mornings when surveys were taken and the robins were quiet (CK). News of the E. Bluebird is mostly good although it is reasonable to suppose that many go unreported; the Amity Lake Bluebird Trail, Belmont, fledged 77 yg from 14 pairs (VP), but the trail at Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center had no bluebirds this season (DJ *vide* KB); in 12 other locations, 27 pairs are known to have nested but few results were noted; five additional areas reported a total of at least 18 birds. Early in June ads were feeding yg in the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest reported in spring at Canadaway Creek NS (JB, NB); another of this species was seen at Amity L 20 June (VP) and four migrants appeared in the Barcelona area 15 Aug (RS).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Two **WHITE-EYED VIREOS** were heard and seen near the Allegheny Res. in the Town of Cold Spring 12 and 27 June (RS, Cordosi, Roger Sundell);—as yet breeding is unconfirmed. Single Yellow-throated Vireos appeared on Abbs, at Canadaway Creek NS 8 June (JK, PK) and at Keeney Swamp 1 June (EB), while a Philadelphia Vireo was seen, also at Canadaway Creek NS, 22 Aug (FR). Single Golden-winged Warblers were found during June near Alfred (EB), and in Amity Twp (VP) in last year's nesting area. Appearing for the third successive year, a "**LAWRENCE'S**" **WARBLER** stayed at Holland until mid-July (EsB+). Other noteworthy warblers include: Nashville Warbler, up to six in each of Alfred and Amity Twp. areas all season; No. Parula, a male in Allegany SP 6 June; Yellow Warbler, 27 nestings in Amity Twp., with 17 successfully producing a probable 60 fledglings (VP); Magnolia Warbler, an active nest with five eggs 29 Aug (EB)—record late for N.Y. State where the previous latest egg date was 11 July; and Black-throated Blue Warbler, singles near Dunkirk thru 3 July (NB) and in Amity Twp. 12 June (VP). Ten Yellow-rumped Warbler nests were documented in Allegany Co. (EB, VP) with only one successful and outcome unknown of one with three yg near Angelica, a new area (VP); as in previous years, late eggs were found in mid-July in the county; three of this species were found singing in Allegany SP 6 June (RS). A Blackpoll Warbler was discovered 11 days early in the Town of Charlotte 8 Aug (FR). A **PRAIRIE WARBLER** appeared on Abbs and of the four Allegany Co. nests found this year, three near Alfred (EB) and one near Amity L. (VP), only one was successful. However, nine other birds, total, including a fledgling, were found in the County in Twps. of Ward, Andover and Angelica (EB, VP). More warbler notes include: No. Waterthrush, one near Alfred regularly (CK); Louisiana Waterthrush, one near Alfred 15 July (EB); Hooded Warbler, one at Keeney Swamp 1 June (EB), one near Limestone 20 June (RV, JV), and two ads feigning injury and the female carrying food near Amity L. 4 and 5 July (VP) confirming breeding for the Atlas block; and Canada Warbler, a nest with two eggs and another on the ground, plus a cowbird egg, near Amity L. 12 June (RP)—deserted probably because of woodcutting nearby:

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: A **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** was singing and calling at the Chautauqua Co. Airport, no. of Jamestown, 12 June to 4 July (RS, Cordosi) and a tape recording was made of the song for verification. One was last noted in the county 12 years ago e. of Fredonia (RS). Breeding was confirmed for the **ORCHARD ORIOLE** at three Chautauqua Co. locations: 1) in Maple Grove Cem., Frewsburg, with an imm male and a female feeding yg in a nest 13 June (RS, Cordosi), 2) in Westfield Cem., Westfield, with two ads feeding fledged yg 27 June (JGtz, JF) and one still here 29 June (TM), and 3) with a male feeding yg on Berry Rd., Fredonia, 3 July (JF, JGtz). Up to 2000 Com. Grackles were noted on the way to roost each night near Farmersville Sta. in Aug (DC, JC). Purple Finches are doing well: 24 on Abbs (sd+), 16 (!) nests discovered near Alfred for the season (EB) with nine probably successful, and 39 birds banded at Farmersville Sta. in Aug (DC). House Finches tallied 13 on Abbs with max for the season 42 on Colden 23 July (ARC); 28 were banded at Farmersville Sta. in Aug (DC), and of the 415 (!) banded at Fredonia during the period, about 90% were yg of the season. Several Pine Siskins stayed late, well into June with max seven near Alfred 25-30 June (Chapman, EB) and one to two reported in Amity Twp (VP, RP), Belmont (DB, LB), Fredonia (TM) and Jamestown (DG). The 73 Am. Goldfinch nests discovered and documented near Amity L. this season, all by one observer, produced a probable 123 fledglings with more than half of the early nests lost to predation but

86% of the later, successful; success in *finding* the nests is attributed to many acres of excellent shrubby habitat, kind land owners and great good fortune (VP). Interesting sparrow reports include: Grasshopper Sparrow, four on Abbs, singles in four Allegany Co. areas and ads feeding fledglings at the Chautauqua Co. Airport, no. of Jamestown 23 July (RS, Anderson); Henslow's Sparrow, two on Abbs, singles near Alfred 8 June to 16 July (EB) and at Chestnut Ridge Pk. 13 and 21 June (O'Dell), and three singing males in Villenova Twp. 8 June (AB+); Vesper Sparrow, three on Abbs, and up to two near Alfred 27 June to 19 July (EB), the only reports; **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**, one to two irregularly near Alfred 14 June to 14 July (EB), where they nested several years ago, and a male, singing, at the Dunkirk-Fredonia Airport 13 June to late July (MVJ, AB, RS, TM+)—the second record for Chautauqua Co.; White-throated Sparrow—many reports—three on Abbs, a nest on Reddy Rd., Belmont, fledging 6 yg about 31 July (VP), max five ads near Alfred 21 June to 16 July (EB) where they have nested in previous years, a very agitated pair on Coe Rd., Town of Stockton 2 July (FR, LBk), a singing male on Munger Rd., also Town of Stockton the next day (FR, LBk), and a pair with two imm on state lands, Town of Charlotte, 4 July (FR, RA); and Lincoln's Sparrow, one, a week early, banded at Farmersville Sta. 27 Aug (DC).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

As usual, this summer season was a mixture: the end of spring migration, the bulk of the breeding season, and the start of fall migration. There were the usual late migrants straggling into June, with a few waterfowl even tarrying well into summer. Breeding activity is well summarized now by the Breeding Bird Atlas data sheets, a mixed blessing, as they arrive late for this report and have apparently resulted in less quantitative data with fewer field trip reports being submitted. Fall migration began typically with shorebirds, with the first in late June and most species well reported through July and August. However, the passerine migration was very slow, with no substantial movements until the latter half of August. A strong cold front passing on the last weekend of the month then provided many early dates for waterfowl and passerines normally associated with mid-September.

A weather summary provides some tentative explanations for some of the phenomena. The overall season probably averaged as close to long-term norms for temperature and precipitation as we will ever see, though it seemed cold for vacationers as the usual peaks in temperatures were neither as high nor as prolonged as in many summers. On a finer scale, June followed the normal high/low temperature band tightly, *i.e.* seemed cool, and brought much rain, 3.92 in. vs. a normal of 2.99 in. The response to this, particularly in our higher elevations which may provide many of our very early passerine "migrants" later, was an absence of many species from territories, occupied in early June for many previous years, until late June when virtually all were singing loudly just where expected. As one might expect, these birds were still feeding young in late July and early August when other years would have seen them on their way. July was average, with temperatures seesawing about the norm lines and rainfall at 3.13 in., just

.04 in. above normal. Atlassing in July was super. August brought temperatures cooler than normal and rainfall also low. The cold front at the end of the last week produced several days of record and near record lows.

A quick summary of the Regional Atlas results provides a good picture of the breeding part of the season. This report was delayed as long as possible to include as much of the Atlas data as possible. At the time of this writing, 105 data sheets have been received, representing a sample of nearly 1/3 of the Region's 332 Blocks. About 30-40 more are expected, with the end of the season expected to see about 55% of the Region's Blocks entered, though only 13-15% will be adequately covered. For the first three years of the project we have 170 breeders recorded—147 confirmed (CO), 17 probable (PR), and 6 possible (PO), though a hard-nosed review of the 23 unconfirmed to date will probably trim about half of them as really just very late migrants or summering non-breeders. This year's results show 160 breeding birds recorded—125 CO, 27 PR, and 8 PO, with no real surprises, present or missing. Two species were added to the Regional total—Bald Eagle, simply a reporting of the Hemlock Lake pair as atlassing of that Block was started, and Lesser Scaup, most likely a summering pair as no young were reported. Upgrades for the project included: Golden-crowned Kinglet to PR and Least and American Bitterns, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Sora, Long-eared Owl, Whip-poor-will, Hermit Thrush, Golden-winged, Black-throated Blue, and Prairie Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, and Evening Grosbeak to CO. In most cases, detailed analyses of distribution maps to date reflect coverage and observer competence as much as they show real breeding limits.

Particular positive notes for the season include: the increased level of Atlas work; increased numbers of Great Blue Heron; increased sightings of Bald Eagles, mostly wing-tagged immatures; widespread breeding records for Am. Kestrel; many Belted Kingfishers—CO; increases in reports of Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows; widespread and numerous reports of breeding Blue-gray Gnatcatchers; several Pine Siskin—CO; Turkey and House Finch breeding records continuing to spread; E. Phoebe well reported after the concerns expressed following the April blizzard; and reports of E. Bluebird numbers good in established breeding areas, plus a few records from the lakeplain where they have been absent in recent years.

Negative comments outnumber the positive and generally represent worries over apparent low numbers. These include: very few breeding Pied-billed Grebes, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Am. Bitterns; few Black Ducks; fewer broods of Blue-winged Teal than normal; Ring-necked Pheasant still low; very few Red-shouldered Hawk Atlas reports; only two reports of Forster's Tern; low peak numbers in the late summer gathering of Common and Caspian Terns in Brad-dock Bay; owls poorly reported; surprisingly few reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Whip-poor-will missing from its traditional site in Bergen Swamp, though confirmed in the hills to the south; Common Nighthawk still scarce in the Rochester area; Short-billed Marsh Wren missing from some of its very few local breeding sites; Loggerhead Shrike back to a single breeding locale with one of two young again a motor vehicle fatality; Golden-winged Warbler continuing to decrease as Blue-winged gains; Ovenbird song less than usual; and no CO for Western Meadowlark—four years on the same territory with nothing beyond song noted.

Rarities: Am. Avocet, Willet, No. Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Barn Owl, Prothonotary Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay Park and vicinity; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; ICW—Island Cottage Woods, town of Greece; K—town of Kendall; OB—Ontario Beach Park, town of Charlotte, on the west side of the mouth of the Genesee River; PB—Pt. Breeze area, town of Carlton; and WL—general west lakeshore area.

Observers: Jean Browning, Nancy Boudrie, Jim Burke, Carolyn Cass, Roberta Childers, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Kathy Disney, Frank & Bob Dobson, Kay Doris, June Feder, John & Arleen Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Tom Hampson, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Øivind Jensen, Herb & Polly Keating, David Levy, Eric Lewis, Warren Lloyd, Walter Listman, Hayward Madden, Bob & Margaret McKinney, Jim & Thelma McNett, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Mike Peter, Rochester Birding Association, Pat Reister, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Durward Skiff, Tom Slecter, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Tom, Mike, and David Tetlow, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Floyd Welke, Doris Wilton, Munro Will and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon arrived late and returned early with one BB 12 June and one H 25 Aug. Pied-billed Grebe breeding records were very few. Double-crested Cormorant continues to be reported every month along the Lake Ontario shore. Great Blue Heron is doing well as evidenced by max 80 BB 4 June feeding and numerous Atlas reports. Among the other herons, Green was well reported breeding; Black-crowned Night Heron was very scarce; and both bitterns were seldom reported, though this year both were added to the Atlas CO category, one occurrence in each case. Among the waterfowl, all expected breeders were recorded. The only particular recurring comment was the lack of Blue-winged Teal broods in the lakeshore marshes. Black Duck is in much worse shape, but has been that way so long that there are few comments. Interesting waterfowl date records included: the late—Whistling Swan: one K 1-22 June (mob); Ring-necked Duck: one K 6 June; Canvasback: one K 12, 22 June; Lesser Scaup: 1-2 K 3-5, 22 June; Bufflehead: one Carlton 12 June; Com. Merganser: two males Durand-Eastman Park 5 June; and Red-breasted Merganser: two WL 12 June; mid-summer surprises—Pintail: 1-2 WL 14-17 July; Ring-necked Duck: one male Greece 3 July; and Lesser Scaup: 1-4 BB 1-20 July; and the early—Am. Wigeon: one BB 17 Aug; Greater Scaup: two PB 24 Aug; Oldsquaw: one Morton, H, OB 2-12 Aug; and White-winged Scoter: two PB 20 Aug; and 40 H 28 Aug.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Other than the widespread Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel records, breeding hawk reports were few and generally from the hills south of Rochester. Turkey Vulture was widely reported, mostly just birds dispersing to seek food, but also three new CO reports. Two large Turkey Vulture concentrations were: 55 Scottsville 19 June; and 16-26 Carlton Station 18-22 Aug, gathered to feed on a dead calf. Goshawk breeding reports were very few; an early migrant was one imm K 19 Aug. Bald Eagle reports included: one each on BB 1, 10-13, 13, 14 and 19 June, with the 10-13 June bird carrying an orange tag on the right wing; one imm Webster 31 July; one imm (no tag) H 27-31 Aug; and one imm (yellow tag) H 27-31 Aug. A very late Rough-legged Hawk was sighted along the west lakeshore 12 June (MD). Ring-necked Pheasant continues low, while Turkey breeding records increase and spread. Rails were largely ignored, though both Virginia Rail and Sora were reported as CO this summer. Shorebirding continued to suffer from lack of habitat thru the season, but diligent checking of the few good spots and a late Aug lake watch produced good variety and even excellent numbers in some cases. The pick of the list included: AMERICAN AVOCET: one Carlton Station 4 June (WS, mob), a first Regional spring record; Whimbrel: six reports of singles along the Lake Ontario shore—13 June, 4, 17 July, and 27, 28 Aug; two WL 12 Aug; 11 H 25 Aug (MD, WL); and 12 Carlton 14 July (MD, WL, WS); WILLET: one H 14 July (J & TM); Red Knot: one Carlton 12-13 June; and 1-8 OB, H, PB 26-31 Aug;

White-rumped Sandpiper: one BB 17 June, late; Baird's Sandpiper: 1-3 WL several locations 23 July thru, typical for fall; Short-billed Dowitcher: two Perinton 29 June, apparently already headed south; Stilt Sandpiper singles: Carlton Station 9 July; PB 21, 22 July; and OB 27 Aug; Western Sandpiper: three K 2 June; 1-3 WL 9, 22 July and 15-29 Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: one Carlton Station 26 July (MD, WS); one OB 20 Aug (RO); and one Carlton Station 23 Aug (WS); and NORTHERN PHALAROPE: one PB 5 June (MD); and one H 26 Aug (WLi, CP). Gulls were generally uninteresting. Two exceptions were: very late Iceland Gull: one K 5 June (RS, mob); and one BB 23 June (MD); and, joining the thousands of Ring-billed Gulls in plowed fields, FRANKLIN'S GULL: one ad Hogan Pt. 4 June (MD); one imm and one ad Hogan Pt. 17 June (MD, PR); and one imm Hogan Pt. 20 June (MD). Migrant terns did not mass to the numbers reached in other recent years. There were only two Forster's Terns: one BB 25 June; and one BB 14 Aug. Caspian Tern peaked at 30 WL 11 Aug. Breeding Black Terns were numerous with several CO Atlas records reported.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos were below last year's levels, but both were reported in many Atlas Blocks, CO in a few. Most interesting among the owls were an Atlas report of a BARN OWL: Webster June (FW); and a Long-eared Owl—CO—adults and two young, town of Bethany. Whip-poor-will was scarce as a migrant and virtually absent as a breeder, though recently-fledged young were found near Naples. Com. Nighthawk continues low near Rochester; even their fall flight peaked low at max 50 Rochester 30 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird reports were down both from field trip records and Atlas work. Confirmations of Belted Kingfisher were way up. Woodpeckers simply provide little noteworthy news, the best being several more Atlas reports of breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, all in the higher country.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Among the flycatchers we had the usual few migrant Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided straggling into early June and returning in late Aug. The rest of the usual breeding flycatchers were all present in good numbers, documented by many Atlas observations, many of these CO. Reports so far record Acadian Flycatcher breeding only in Bergen Swamp this summer. Horned Lark was reported as a common breeder. The swallows massed in their usual profusion in late July and very early Aug, with Bank and Tree the most numerous. Winter, Carolina, and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported in even less than their usual sparse numbers. Again this year Mockingbird breeding reports were numerous, with many CO. The most interesting thrush reports were Atlas—CO for Hermit Thrush in one Block, PR in several others; Swainson's Thrush: one Webster 20 Aug very early; and E. Bluebird at several lakeplain locales. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was widely distributed as a breeder, with the greatest concentration six pairs feeding young along about a ¼ mi. stretch of trail at the s. end of Canadice Lake 17 July (RS). Both kinglets were reported, though not confirmed, with Ruby-crowned: one Barbutt 20 June (RCh) the more unusual. Loggerhead Shrike was found only at the Carlton location, again losing one of two young to traffic. (This is a very low traffic area, so maybe this type of loss has been a significant part of their decline, as some have suggested.)

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Breeding records among the vireos followed typical patterns with Yellow-throated and Solitary in small numbers in suitable habitat and Red-eyed and Warbling abundant, often at PR-S, but seldom CO. Philadelphia Vireo returned very early with the first fall migrant in ICW 15 Aug (RS). Among the warblers there were Atlas records for 26 of the 27 species noted in the previous two years, with 14 of these CO, including four for the first time in this period: Golden-winged, Black-throated Blue at H. H. Spencer Park; Prairie near Canadice where found for the past four years; and No. Waterthrush at Cumming Nature Center near Naples. Additional interesting warbler notes were: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: one male ICW 22-24 Aug (mob, photos); No. Parula again at Letchworth State Park 20 June; Blackpoll Warbler: four WL 22 Aug, very early; Ovenbird fewer than usual breeding; KENTUCKY WARBLER: one H 3 June (WS); and one Webster 18 Aug (WLi); and Yellow-breasted Chat: one pair breeding in Mendon Ponds Park June-July.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark continued singing thru much of Aug at Pt. Breeze, but, in spite of considerable effort, no proof of breeding could be found. This same general area is the center of the Regional breeding activity for Orchard Oriole, though a few Blocks along the lake east of Rochester and, surprisingly a few in the hills to the south also reported them. Evening Grosbeak-CO-FY in the Naples area was a Regional Atlas first. House Finch has spread throughout the Region as a breeder, possibly at some expense to Purple Finch. Pine Siskin was even more widely reported breeding this year than last. Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Vesper Sparrows were more widely reported as breeders than the few reports during spring migration would have suggested. A Dark-eyed Junco in Webster 20 July (DSk) was unusual for that date/location combination. Breeding White-throated Sparrows were the usual very few. Lincoln's Sparrow: one BB 21 Aug (MD), was very early.

The regional species count for the season was 222, plus one hybrid—"Brewster's" Warbler—and one probable escape—Bobwhite.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Two weeks of hot weather in mid-July gave us the only really high temperatures of summer. June was cool, cloudy and wet. July was cool at both ends and dry except for a heavy rain in the closing days. August was very cool, more like fall, and very dry. Some areas had a frost on 29 August.

Mary Welles included some interesting items in her Elmira area report:

(1) People south of Pine City purchased Mallard ducklings and put them where they had access to a pond. On 28 June a Canada Goose appeared on the pond and mothered the ducklings all summer.

(2) Several hundred sheep are pastured on the grounds of the Mt. Saviour Monastery near Elmira. Cedar Waxwings built a nest there made entirely of wool.

(3) Dick Clements reported a pair of warblers, a "Brewster's" male and a Golden-winged female, had fledged two young. One was all yellow with off-white wingbars and a trace of black around the bill. The other was "blah," a non-descript mixture of yellow and gray with no wingbars and no black. What an identification nightmare unless one was aware of the parentage!

The annual TV tower kill at Elmira was minimal up to the end of the period.

There were complaints of poor birding at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge this summer. Comparison of waterfowl counts as shown in the table below with a similar table for summer 1981 (*Kingbird* Vol. XXXI, No. 4, p. 241) shows decreases for most species. American Coots were down by one-half, Pied-billed Grebes down considerably and Common Gallinules drastically so. On the positive side all of the rarities listed below were found on the Refuge. Nine species of herons, including three rare ones, were present altho in small numbers. Great Blue Herons nested there for the first time in forty years. There were some indications of a slight decline in Killdeer and Savannah Sparrows and the Eastern Phoebe continues at a low ebb.

On the brighter side, Ring-necked Pheasants and Vesper Sparrows seem to be holding their own or perhaps even increasing a bit from their disastrously low levels of recent years. Both cuckoos, especially the Black-billed, were easily found.

Malcolm Lerch at Penn Yan reports banding fourteen species of warblers including Black-and-white, Blue-winged, "Brewster's," Yellow, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Ovenbird, Mourning, Wilson's and Canada. There were more reports of nesting Prairie Warblers than usual (Atlas work?); also more Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrow reports than at any time in my ten-year Regional Editor tenure (again Atlasing?).

We have been pleased with the extensive reporting over the past year from Cayuga County, an area only poorly covered before. We now need someone to fill the vacuum in Steuben County where coverage has been very minimal.

Rarities: White Pelican, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, European Wigeon, Sandhill Crane, Ruff.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers; Sen—Seneca; Tomp—Tompkins.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: three summered on Keuka L and up to nine on Sen L. Horned Grebe: one in breeding plumage on Owasco outlet 15 June; one Branchport 15 July. Pied-billed Grebe: down in numbers at MNWR; none on Keuka L July and Aug. **WHITE PELICAN:** one at MNWR 3 June, two on 5 and 7 June and one thereafter thru the period (mob). This is the third time in five years that this species has summered at MNWR. Double-crested Cormorant: up to 13, mostly imm, summered at MNWR. Great Blue Heron: had two nests on the Tschache Pool MNWR for the first time in forty years. Green Herch: 17 on Owasco flats. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** an imm chasing a Louisiana Heron at MNWR on 12 June (Steve Taylor *vide* J. W. Brown's column in the Rochester *Times-Union* 17 June); seen by others later in the day. Great Egret: six max at MNWR. **SNOWY EGRET:** one MNWR 30 Aug (VD). **LOUISIANA HERON:** see Little Blue Heron above. Third record for MNWR and the fifth for the region, all since 1970. Black-crowned Night Heron: a new nesting colony discovered at Van Cleef L in Sen Falls where ten adults and 12 imm were noted (HPK). The birds may have moved from nearby MNWR where there were relatively few this summer and where the cattails they have nested in during recent years are largely gone. Least Bittern: one MNWR 5 July; heard calling on Owasco flats. Am. Bittern: one calling on Owasco flats; two MNWR 30 Aug.

Max number of ducks at MNWR as reported by the Refuge personnel:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|------------------|-----|--------|
| Mallard | 2,000 | 31 Aug | Wood Duck | 600 | 31 Jul |
| Black Duck | 100 | 31 Aug | Redhead | 20 | thru |
| Gadwall | 800 | 31 Jul | Canvasback | 6 | 1 Jun |
| Pintail | 20 | 31 Jul | Greater Scaup | 2 | 30 Jun |
| Green-winged Teal | 500 | 31 Jul | Bufflehead | 10 | 5 Jun |
| Blue-winged Teal | 700 | 30 Jun | Ruddy Duck | 30 | 31 Aug |
| Am. Wigeon | 200 | 31 Jul | Hooded Merganser | 50 | 31 Jul |
| No. Shoveler | 30 | 31 Aug | | | |

Black Duck: female with young Big Flats 20 July. **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** the male bird previously reported at MNWR on 26 May remained all summer. Am. Goldeneye: a juvenal male remained at Elmira until 11 June.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: for the third year two young were raised at E. Corning; on 8 June two young were banded at Brooktondale and one south of Danby. Cooper's Hawk: a nest was built on Mt. Zoar, Chemung Co. but later abandoned. Red-shouldered Hawk: nested Niles. Broad-winged Hawk: absent from its usual nesting site at Niles; two young were abandoned in a nest at Mt. Zoar, Chemung Co. Bald Eagle: yellow-tagged birds were seen at Union Springs in early July and north of King Ferry 16 Aug; adults at Elmira 16 Aug and at MNWR 26 Aug. Marsh Hawk: reported up in the Penn Yan area. Osprey: the nest at MNWR was destroyed last Sept. when high winds toppled the stub on which it was perched. The birds rebuilt on a nearby stub last spring. The female was observed sitting on the nest and bringing food to it. Then there was no more activity altho the old birds remained thru the period. Possibly Great Horned Owls, which are in the area, may have taken the young. It is questionable whether this nest is any more secure than the previous one, as all the trees and stubs in the pool are from a forest that was killed when the land was flooded forty years ago. Am. Kestrel: reported scarce in Cay Co but abundant near Penn Yan where 30 were seen on the wires in the 13 miles between Penn Yan and Gorham, Ruffed Grouse: female with young Moravia. Bobwhite: one at Pine Valley calling on 16 June. Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce but appears to be doing a little better. Turkey: three hens with 20 young at Caton 29 June; found at Niles, Moravia and Venice in Cay Co. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one MNWR 25 Aug (VD, R. Secatore). Sora: adult with downy young Big Flats 25 Aug. Com. Gallinule: very few MNWR but many, including small young, Big Flats 25 Aug. Am. Coot: max MNWR 350. Shorebirds: with habitat strictly limited, most observers found them hard to locate. The following more common species were seen in small numbers: Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer in reduced numbers, Am. Woodcock, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, both yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper. Am. Golden Plover: two MNWR 25 Aug (VD). Black-bellied Plover: 40 MNWR 25 Aug (VD). Upland Sandpiper: three sites Cay Co (SFK). White-rumped Sandpiper: Elmira 28 Aug (WH). Baird's Sandpiper: Ithaca 27-31 Aug. **RUFF:** one MNWR 25 Aug (VD). Sanderling: Reeder's Creek, SenCo 24 July; 2 Ithaca 30 July. Wilson's Phalarope: one MNWR 21 Aug. No. Phalarope: one Reeder's Creek, Sen Co 24 July. Bonaparte's Gull: one regularly at Ithaca during July and Aug. Com. Tern: a pair Owasco L 1 July. Caspian Tern: three at Ithaca 30 July with two adults and two imm there the following week; seven adults and four imm at Myers Point 11 Aug; seven at Watkins Glen 24 Aug. and three 31 Aug. Black Tern: one Owasco L 1 July; fewer at MNWR; nested at farm ponds south of Sen Falls where there were ten adults and 30 young 24 July.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: three broods raised in the same nest at Reeder's Creek, Sen Co. Cuckoos: both species abundant especially in the Gypsy Moth areas; fledging Yellow-bills at Owasco 6 June and two nests of Yellow-bills within one-half mile at Odessa. Barred Owl: a young bird calling at Elmira from 12 July on. Whip-poor-will: two calling in Tomp Co into July. Com. Nighthawk: present at Auburn thru the period; 21 migrating at Elmira 15 Aug and 40 on 24 Aug; flight of 15-20 at Penn Yan 31 Aug-1 Sept; also sighted at Sen Falls. Belted Kingfisher: nest with young near Sen Falls; fledged young at Owasco inlet. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: birds at six sites in Cay Co; raised two young at Elmira.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: raised a brood of Brown-headed Cowbirds at Venice. Bank Swallow: a colony in the riverbank opposite the Corning Country Club was drowned out in June and a similar fate probably occurred to a colony at Elmira near the monastery; Malcolm Lerch banded over 700 in a gravel bed south of Dresden where there were 1000 holes. Cliff Swallow: two nests at Freeville; nested again at Cayuta. Purple Martin: good numbers at the north end of Cay L and MNWR. Winter Wren: singing males Sempronius (SFK). Long-billed Marsh Wren: reported from MNWR only. Hermit Thrush: singing males at Sempronius and Fillmore Glen with fledglings sighted at Moravia; up in Tomp Co. Swainson's Thrush: one Owasco flats 18 Aug. E. Bluebird: the third year of increasingly good reports from all parts of the region but particularly in Sen, Tomp, Yates and Schuyler

Cos. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nested at Owasco flats; found at three locations near Penn Yan. Cedar Waxwing: several nests at Elmira; nest with young Varick, Sen Co 5 July. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: more abundant at south end of Owasco L than at north end. Warbling: fledglings at Owasco flats and outlet. Warblers: "Brewster's": mated with Golden-winged at Elmira (see opening remarks); one netted at Penn Yan. Nashville: feeding young Owasco flats; singing males Sempronius and Fillmore Glen. Magnolia: singing males Moravia and Fillmore Glen. Yellow-rumped: singing males Niles and Moravia. Cerulean: pair at Owasco flats; singing males Sempronius. Pine: singing male near Danby. Prairie: singing males Niles; several nesting areas around Elmira. Ovenbird: nested at Venice. Louisiana Waterthrush: many locations south end of Owasco L. No. Waterthrush: agitated birds at Sempronius. Yellow-breasted Chat: one sang for three weeks in June-July at Sheldrake; one heard into July at Danby. Hooded: a pair at Sempronius and at Moravia; a singing bird at Venice; one south of Elmira sang for two weeks; fewer around Dryden; one Odessa 24 Aug. Am. Redstart: many nests at south end of Owasco L.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Cardinal: young brought to Auburn feeder early July. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: up to 15 feeding on jewelweed seedpods in Aug. at Elmira. Purple Finch: pair at Niles. House Finch: there seems to be no end to their expansion. Pine Siskin: seen carrying strings from binder twine into hemlocks on 6 June at Elmira. No nests were found and the birds disappeared after the second week in June (Tim Bates). Am. Goldfinch: very abundant; an albino was seen near Benton. Savannah Sparrow: some decreases reported. Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from three spots in Cay Co; plentiful at Elmira; up at Penn Yan. Henslow's Sparrow: about 15 singing males were seen in one small area near Elmira; young also seen there. First resident record for Elmira in several years. Also more at Penn Yan. Vesper Sparrow: several reports of possibly increased numbers. Dark-eyed Junco: nested Niles, Moravia, Fillmore Glen, Summerhill. White-throated Sparrow: birds singing and carrying food at Niles. Lincoln's Sparrow: one in the Elmira TV tower kill 24-25 Aug.

ADDENDUM: The following were received too late for inclusion in the Spring report: Goshawk: pair nesting near Monterey in late May. Marsh Hawk: pair nesting near Burdett. Great Horned Owl: two nesting sites near Montour Falls. Prothonotary Warbler: one Cayuta L 16 May. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Cayuta L 20 May.

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

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

July and August brought Region Four normal summer weather with periods of heat, humidity and haze, accompanied by sudden thunderstorms, periods of cool nights and foggy mornings and more periods of dry sunshine than farmers care for, but nothing the bird world couldn't readily handle. June was another story and one that could be told in two words—"wet" and "cold." Temperatures averaged 3° below normal and precipitation was 3½" above normal. The rivers, lakes and ponds were high, the fields and woods were soaked and soggy as in early spring; the continued cold must have appreciably impacted breeding bird success. For those birds who feed their young aquatic fare, the food supply was abundant. Nestlings could be kept warm between short foraging trips. Reports of herons, kingfishers and ducks were high. One observer spotted a Hooded Mer-

ganser family of mother duck and nine ducklings on a beaver pond near Oneonta (MD). Those birds who feed their young land-type insect larvae also enjoyed a copious larder, easy and close.

But what of those whose diet is winged insect adults? How easy is it to hunt flying bugs in the rain? For swallows, at least, not too hard, judging by the reports from most quarters. One location of 30 nestboxes reported 25 with successful fledgings, a record comparable to that of 1981. Only Otselic Township reported low nesting success "probably due to cold weather and raccoons" (DM). Conclusions on flycatchers had better wait for the fall banding age/ratio records. Nighthawks, although possibly not suffering from lack of food, must have had difficulty keeping hatchlings dry and warm. The flat rooftops—their preferred nest sites—could have been flooded the entire month. Although the usual number of birds nested, midsummer reports do not seem to reflect an increase due to breeding success. Nevertheless, Oneonta reported hundreds of birds gathering for migration (IW).

Another group that must have labored to keep young warm would be those ground nesters with precocial young, such as pheasants, grouse, Turkeys, and woodcocks. Assuming the young had hatched by June, some (woodcock, for example) would be undergoing juvenal molt, compounding the problem. The only reports of families of birds in this group were of Ruffed Grouse. Other ground nesters seemed to have coped, since August banding records show high ratios of young to adults in such species as Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat. Birds of prey had additional problems. Just at a time when late nestlings were largest, needing most food, and early fledglings were learning to catch their own prey, a major food source was severely reduced by the flooding of the nurseries of ground nesting and burrowing mammals. This may explain the scarcity of hawk listings on BBS and on some BBA reports, as well as a scarcity of reports of hawks designated as immature. Owls also must have suffered from the food supply loss. Presumably these and all predators would be forced to fill the gap with other food sources, such as nestling song birds. In fact, several localities reported nest box starts failing due to marauders. What of birds (Chimney Swifts, hummingbirds) who "glue" their nests to surfaces? Would the dampness have softened the "glue"? Possibly. Chimney Swift flocks in the cities seemed normal but BBS reports were low. In two cases usual locations were negative. Hummingbird reports were, however, numerous.

Gypsy Moths also continued to be a factor, especially in Broome Co. on the leading edge of the invasion. Reports of both cuckoos were up except from Otselic Township. Other birds observed eating the larvae were starlings, grackles, red-wings, orioles, chickadees, jays and robins. In two cases adult birds were seen banging a larva against a tree trunk, thus dehairing it, and feeding it to nestlings (FL, ML).

No real rarities but some excellent sightings. Five new locations of Henslow's Sparrows have been found, four in Broome Co. (AP) and one in Chenango Co (JL). In two of these sites six singing males were heard. In the same location in Chenango Co. singing Short-billed Marsh Wrens were discovered. Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported. Sapsuckers, Cliff Swallows and Prairie Warblers seem to be increasing.

Negatives: Brown Creepers only in Chenango Co.; Tufted Titmice low; no Red-shouldered Hawks; no American Bitterns.

Observers: Judy Bell, Leslie Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Wm. Breidinger, Nancy Brundage, Mildred Clark, Irwin Cooen, Anna & Marilyn Davis, Louise Dean, Ellen Delaney, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Louella Gridley, Claude Howard, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Joe Longtin, Harriet Marsi, Rick S. Marsi, Dave Messineo, Ron Milliken, John New, Allen Peterson, Joe Sedlacek, Mary Sheffield, Julian Shepherd, Lou Strnatka, Cora Wellman, Beryl & Tom Wilson, Kathryn Wilson, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: BBA—Breeding Bird Atlas; BBS—Breeding Bird Survey; OPM—Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford area.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: very abundant; 29 reports, seven of them more than one bird; a new rookery “discovered by DEC forester near Perkins Pond” (Pharsalia) (DM). Green Heron: abundant; 17 reports including four of families and one of a group of approximately 20, 4 Aug along the Susquehanna River between Vestal and Endwell (FL). Great Egret: one bird, 20 thru 30 Aug Delhi, “first seen beside a small farm pond about 7 miles from Delhi toward E. Meredith” (MC). Am. Bittern: none. Canada Goose: two reports, two birds; one 12 June Pharsalia Game Management Area (JL); one 24 June Corbettsville BBS (JL). Mallard: frequent thru period thru region. Black Duck: four 19 Aug Portlandville (MD). Blue-winged Teal: one bird 24 Aug Portlandville (MD). Wood Duck: 12 reports, mostly Broome Co and OPM, five included imm birds. HOODED MERGANSER: ten birds 21 June Hartwick, one female with nine young at a beaver pond adjacent to Beaver Valley Park (MD). Com. Merganser: one 24 June, a female below Cannonsville Reservoir (JL).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 11 reports, scattered thru period thru area, one 24 June of 16 near Deposit “roosting on power line poles” (JL). Goshawk: two, 14 June Otselic, both young birds, banded (DM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: four reports, all June, one Broome Co., three OPM. Cooper’s Hawk: three reports: 13 June Coventryville BBS (LB); last week Aug Middlefield (NB); July and Aug Otselic, “several brief glimpses” (DM). Red-tailed Hawk: 29 reports, thru period thru region; one with no date Otselic of two nests, “only one appeared successful. The other hatched, but was destroyed. Remains of adult found (most likely prey to Great Horned Owl)” (DM). Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Broad-winged Hawk: 15 reports, four June, five July, six Aug. scattered thru region. One reported, 6 July Otselic two young banded, also mentioned finding “remains of a young Broad-wing found in So. Otselic. Apparent Great Horned Owl kill” (DM). Bald Eagle: three reports, 11, 12, 18 July all in Vestal area but all from non-birders. Marsh Hawk: one 28 Aug Oneonta (KW). [Due to error, the summer 1982 *Kingbird* mistakenly listed 17 Osprey sightings as Marsh Hawks. These reports should have read “Marsh Hawk: eight reports, first 23 March, last 29 May. Osprey: 20 reports, first 28 March, last 12 May; one report Otselic R., between 13 Apr and 2 May, 17 separate sightings on 13 days” (DM).] Osprey: three reports: 1 July Portlandville (MD, KW), 24 Aug Milford (MD), 21 Aug “flying south over Otselic River” (DM). Am. Kestrel: frequent thru period thru region, five reports of parent birds feeding young, one of a fledgling. Ruffed Grouse: 13 reports; ten single sightings, three all summer at same location; three sightings of parent bird with fledglings. Bobwhite: one 13 thru 23 July Delhi. Another, maybe the same bird, heard one-and-a-half miles distant (MC). A pair 5 Aug Endwell “getting gravel along roadside” (JS). Two birds, probably same pair 31 Aug Endwell, two miles distant from pair seen earlier (FL). Ring-necked Pheasant: four, one July OPM (MD, KW), three 12 June Pharsalia (JL). Turkey: four reports, all June, all Broome Co. Killdeer: frequent thru period thru region; only two 5 June, Windsor and 29 June OPM, mentioned young. Am. Woodcock: three reports: one 15 June Chenango Co, all Aug. Vestal, Com. Snipe: one 29 June Portlandville, “feeding in meadow pools from recent rains” (MD, KW), one 29 July OPM (MD, KW). Spotted Sandpiper: nine reports, thru period thru region, two off and on all summer. Solitary Sandpiper: one 5 Aug Endwell (FL), one 17 Aug OPM (MD, KW), one 21 Aug OPM, Greater Yellowlegs: one 15 July Vestal (GK). Lesser Yellowlegs: one 27 July Vestal, one 4 Aug Vestal, one 4 Aug Endwell.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: moderate numbers thru period thru region. Mourning Dove: common thru period thru region. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 21 reports, mostly from Broome Co. and OPM. Gypsy Moth infestation heavy in Broome Co. Otselic reports "cuckoos seem down in numbers, possibly remaining in areas where gypsy moths are abundant" (DM). Black-billed Cuckoos: 19 reports, mostly Broome Co. and OPM. See above. Screech Owl: one, 1 June Broome Co (A & MD); only report. Great Horned Owl: one 26 June Chenango Co "sitting in a barn window, flew into barn. Apparently hunting in barn"; two other reports Aug. Broome Co; observation Otselic of several nests destroyed "probably work of Great Horned Owl" (DM). Com. Nighthawk: all period in Binghamton, Johnson City and Oneonta in low numbers but comparable to 1981. One observer counted five breeding pairs in Johnson City and Binghamton. On 24 Aug Oneonta "at four pm forty birds were observed by seven pm in hundreds" (IW). In Vestal 30 Aug approx. 30 migrants were counted. Chimney Swift: all period in Binghamton, Johnson City and Oneonta in low numbers but comparable to 1981; low or missing in BBS reports; Otselic "very few, down in numbers;" eight other reports. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 28 reports thru period thru region. In two instances they were apparently feeding young as there were continued beeline flights to and from a food source off in the same direction. Belted Kingfisher: common thru period thru region. Com. Flicker: common thru period thru region. Pileated Woodpecker: seven reports scattered thru period thru region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one all summer Newark Valley, "12 July brought young to feeder" (LD). **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** one 29 June Schuyler Lake "male at nest hole" (NB); one 3 July McDonough BBS (CH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 45 birds reported thru period thru region; five nest sites with young being fed; one report Delhi of 14 birds "attacking my Mountain Ash and that of my daughter-in-law next door. They were also girdling her birch tree" (MC). Hairy Woodpecker: common thru period thru region; two reports of parent birds feeding young at feeders. Downy Woodpecker: common thru period thru region; several reports of parent birds feeding young at suet feeders.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: common thru period thru region; only one report of imm birds. Great Crested Flycatcher: common thru period thru region; 6 June Windsor "nesting in natural cavity of an apple tree about 6 feet up" (JS). "19 June one pair with four eggs in nest box; 21 June moved to another box, four eggs, other one invaded by House Wren which punctured eggs" (JS). E. Phoebe: common thru period thru region; four successful nesting reported. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: six 17 Aug Vestal banding station, two adults, four imm (HM). Willow Flycatcher: ten reports scattered thru period thru region. Alder Flycatcher: 16 reports, thru period thru region. Traill's Flycatcher: ten banded Aug Vestal. Least Flycatcher: common thru period thru region; nine banded at Vestal banding station, four imm, five adult. E. Wood Pewee: common thru period thru region. Horned Lark: two reports; one 12 June Milford BBS (MD, KW); one 13 June Coventryville BBS (LB). Tree Swallow: abundant all thru region except Otselic where nest box success was low. Bank Swallow: only two reports; 24 June OPM (MD, KW); 24 June Deposit (JL). Rough-winged Swallow: five reports; Deposit, Johnson City, OPM, Otselic, Upper Lisle. Barn Swallow: common thru period thru region. Cliff Swallow: eight reports; one Deposit of "five nests under a bridge"; S. Otselic "seems to be increasing; nests on three barns this season. Started ten nests on my barn, all abandoned after spring cold (sparrows took two); two pairs re-nested in Aug. but apparently nests fell" (DM). A single nest started on a house in e. Binghamton fell "apparently just from the weight of the five young." One nestling died from the fall. The homeowner placed the nest in a small cardboard box which was attached to a window at approx. the same spot. After one full day of chicks cheeping and parents hovering trying to get up courage, the adult birds accepted the new arrangement and went back to feeding and caring for young. Three young were successfully fledged (LS). Purple Martin: five reports; all Broome Co. Blue Jay: common thru period thru region. Com. Crow: common thru period thru region. Fish Crow: one report 16 June Vestal (JS); possibly same bird last reported 27 May Vestal. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru period thru region. Tufted Titmouse: only report two birds at an Endwell feeding station several times the first

week of June (FL). None on BBS's; none BBA Chenango Co. White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru period thru region. Red-breasted Nuthatch: five reports, three OPM, one Deposit, one Tracy Creek State Land, five different dates in June. Brown Creeper: four reports; one Deposit 24 June, one W. Plymouth (Chenango Co) 5 July, one Plymouth 10 July, six Pharsalia July (all JL); no other reports. House Wren: common thru period thru region. Winter Wren: three reports; one 18 June Oneonta "he singing, she close and scolding" (MD, KW); one 9 July Norwich "singing in logged over area" (JL); one 17 Aug Oneonta "below Crumhorn Lodge" (MD, KW). Carolina Wren: one 30 Aug, imm banded Vestal (HM). **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** 7, 8, 11 Aug Plymouth (Chenango Co). "apparently one pair in one field, two other possible pairs in an adjoining field, separated by a row of trees from first field" (JL). Mockingbird: nine reports; seven Broome Co., one Tioga Co., one Otego. Gray Catbird: common thru period thru region. Brown Thrasher: common thru period thru region. Am. Robin: common thru period thru region. Hermit Thrush: 14 reports scattered thru region. Swainson's Thrush: two reports both 12 June, both Pharsalia Game Management Area but separate locations; one singing (JL). Veery: common thru period thru region. E. Bluebird: 25 reports, thru period thru area; apparently an excellent year; Otselic "best year yet for nesting attempts" (DM). Golden-crowned Kinglet: five fledglings 10 July Plymouth (Chenango Co.); one declaring territory Chenango Co (all JL). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one 21 Aug OPM (MD). Cedar Waxwing: very common thru period thru region, "most common bird during Aug along Otselic River on willows, catching flies." (DM).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: very good year; 35 reports scattered thru region. Solitary Vireo: 22 reports, mostly north, but a few in Southern Tier. Red-eyed Vireo: common thru period thru region. Warbling Vireo: 21 reports, scattered thru region, all before 4 July. Black-and-white Warbler: 42 reports, thru period thru region. Golden-winged Warbler: seven reports; all Southern Tier; two banded Vestal, both in areas where nesting had been probable. Blue-winged Warbler: 17 reports thru region, all June except for six (two adults, two imm, two age unknown) banded Vestal in Aug. Tennessee Warbler: two reports; two birds 24 Aug OPM (MD); one 26 Aug imm bird banded Vestal. Nashville Warbler: 15 reports; nine June and early July, six Aug thru region. Yellow Warbler: common thru period thru region. Magnolia Warbler: 63 birds reported 22 June-July, 41 Aug, 32 of the Aug birds were banded Vestal (30 imm, two adults). Cape May Warbler: only report, one banded Vestal 28 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 24 reports, all in northern section of region except two banded 30 Aug Vestal. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 23 reports; 19 June Broome Co, Chenango Co., OPM; two July, two Aug all OPM. Black-throated Green Warbler: 47 reports, thru period, thru area. Blackburnian Warbler: 36 reports, six Broome Co., 30 Chenango Co. and OPM; all but seven June, early July. Chestnut-sided Warbler: common thru period thru region. **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** 13 reports all Broome Co; two pairs with singing males were observed thru June and early July Vestal at a banding station when banding was suspended. Banding was resumed in Aug; two imm birds were banded 20 Aug. Ovenbird: common thru period thru region. No. Waterthrush: four reports, all Chenango Co., all June-early July. Mourning Warbler: eight reports, all June, early July, all Chenango Co., except one 31 Aug banded Vestal. Two were of confirmed breeders (JL). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru period thru region; of 330 banded Aug at a Vestal banding station 322 were imm. Hooded Warbler: only one report 24 Aug banded Vestal (HM). Wilson's Warbler: ten reports, ten banded 24 thru 31 Aug Vestal. Canada Warbler: 50 reports; 34 June, early July, all but two northern areas, two Broome Co.; 16 Aug reports, five OPM, nine Vestal. Am. Redstart: common thru period thru region.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: common thru period thru region. Bobolink: common thru period thru region. E. Meadowlark: common thru period thru region. Red-winged Blackbird: common thru period thru region. Orchard Oriole: one report July Vestal, no details. No. Oriole: common thru period thru region. Com. Grackle: common thru period thru region. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru period thru region. Scarlet Tanager:

common thru period thru region. Cardinal: common thru period thru region. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru period thru region. Indigo Bunting: common thru period thru region. Purple Finch: common thru period thru region. House Finch: common in Broome Co. thru period; absent in Chenango Co. In Oneonta a pair nested but left end of July (KW). Am. Goldfinch: common thru period thru region. Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru period thru region. Savannah Sparrow: common thru period thru region. Grasshopper Sparrow: 13 reports; seven Broome Co., two McDonough BBS, one Coventryville BBS, three Chenango Co. HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Banner year; five locations reported; in Broome Co. a definite search was undertaken with 35 sites carefully selected and studied; four of these produced Henslow's Sparrows. "At site 5, three singing males were observed. Two of these were seen with females. At site 29, two singing males were heard, one of which was observed. At site 30, one singing male was observed and at site 31 at least six singing males were heard, one of which was observed. A common characteristic of all four sites was 'pure or nearly pure herbaceous communities with long, unbroken view to the horizon'" (AP). The fifth location was found near Plymouth, Chenango Co. It was visited twice in July and twice in early Aug. A total of six singing males were heard. The habitat was "dry fields, for about 5 years not cut, poor quality hay, little Timothy, Bent and Orchard Grass, low blackberries and Virginia Creeper occasionally" (JL). Vesper Sparrow: 14 reports, nine OPM five Chenango Co. Dark-eyed Junco: 39 reports thru period thru region. Chipping Sparrow: common thru period thru region. Field Sparrow: common thru period thru region; of 71 banded Aug Vestal 67 were imm. White-throated Sparrow: 45 reports; three Broome Co.; 12 Chenango Co., one Coventryville BBS, six McDonough BBS, 23 OPM. Swamp Sparrow: 35 reports, thru period thru region. Song Sparrow: common thru period thru region; of 330 banded Aug Vestal 322 were imm.

Box 1, Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, New York 13903

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

Summer 1982 was more notable for ornithological events than for its weather. June and August both were cold. June was the eleventh coldest and twelfth wettest on record at Syracuse, with lows of 47° F on 12 and 27 June and rainfall almost one-and-a-half inches above average. July was generally more favorable even though temperatures were more extreme than in June. July rainfall was about three-quarters of an inch above average at Syracuse, but almost all of it came in storms on 7, 18 and 28 July. The net result was very dry conditions by the end of the month. August, the fourth coldest ever at Syracuse, had a low of 43° F on 28 August. The month also was quite dry, with nearly an inch less rainfall than average. The cool weather did not seem to affect plant life, insects or birds adversely. Fruit and berry crops were especially heavy, a notable contrast to last summer's failure.

Work on the Atlas was much intensified. As of this writing, data from about 170 blocks had been reported, with almost 50 contributors yet to report. Now there has been some work in at least one block of every square in the Region except one square in Cayuga Co. and several in remote Herkimer Co. Onondaga and Oswego Counties are approaching the point where some data is available from every block. This effort has begun to yield some surprises, the most notable of which is the rediscovery of nesting Prothonotary Warblers in the Region. In

addition, significant new localities for Cerulean and Pine Warblers were found north of Oneida Lake, and at least one Orchard Oriole and a Clay-colored Sparrow also turned up. The prize for effort spent in a block now goes to block 4177B south of Oneida Lake, where over 2100 man-hours of work were directed by Dr. John Confer! Needless to say, "adequate" coverage was achieved. A Prairie Warbler, strangely absent as a Regional nesting bird, was found on a Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey. At least three species were added to the list of confirmed Regional nesters this season, and about four were added to the total list of species encountered while atlasing in this Region.

The summer reporting season straddles both migration periods. A few late northbound shorebirds were found through mid-June, while the first southbound shorebirds appeared at the very end of that month. In spite of a general lack of habitat, most of the expected species had been found by the end of August, though numbers were unimpressive. Landbird migration was similarly complicated. Tennessee, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers were noted informally in Syracuse during the first week of June, and southbound Yellow Warblers were conspicuous by early July. Almost all of our warblers, as well as many other landbird species, had been found as definite migrants by late August. In contrast, several June Atlas reports are difficult to interpret because they could have been straggling migrants. Birds like these probably will require high-level confirmation of nesting status, especially when they are marginal members of a Regional avifauna. This summer, Tennessee Warbler provides a particularly good example of this potential atlasing pitfall.

A total of 195 species plus one hybrid were reported this summer. Prothonotary Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow were the only true rarities found, but other unusual species reported were: Great Egret, Whimbrel, Willet, Forster's Tern, Common Raven, Prairie Warbler and Orchard Oriole. Pine Siskin provided an unusual mid-summer, lowland record. While there was little change in the status of most species from last year, a surprising miss for the summer was Northern Parula. Yellow-breasted Chat apparently did not nest in the Region this year.

Contributors: Dorothy K. Ackley, Kate Coyle, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Gene Huggins, George Maxwell, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Gerald A. Smith, Magdalena Stooks.

Abbreviations: arr--fall arrival; BBS--breeding bird survey; last--last of the spring; LOL--Lake Ontario littoral; max--maximum(a); mob--multiple observers; NPT--northern Pompey township; Onon--Onondaga; SP--Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SVB--Sylvan-Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Twp--township.

LOONS--DUCKS: Com. Loon: only reports from Adirondack lakes in Herkimer Co. Pied-billed Grebe: single SP on 4 Aug only report. Double-crested Cormorant: last Onon Lake on 1 June, arr LOL on 11 July, next on 12 Aug. Great Egret: one near Biddlecum, Oswego Co., on 13 June (MSR). Black-crowned Night Heron: 30 in Snake Swamp, Oswego Co., all summer, still not nesting (GM); single Clay Marsh on 10 July. Least Bittern: noted at Clay Marsh, Utica Marsh and SP, all traditional localities. Gadwall: arr SP 14 Aug. Pintail: single Onon Lake on 14 July, arr SVB on 29 Aug. Am. Wigeon: single Clay Marsh on 10 July. No. Shoveler: arr Onon Lake 28 July. Greater Scaup: last Onon Lake on 13 June. Com. Goldeneye: male in block 4986A (Herkimer Co.) on 11 June, a possible nesting bird. Hooded Merganser: arr LOL on 26 Aug. Com. Merganser: two McKeever BBS only report.

HAWKS--ALCIDS: Red-shouldered Hawk: nest reported Rome sand plains, though the Atlas reveals it commoner in this Region than most observers suspect. Marsh Hawk: male near Oneida on 6 June only (*vide* DA); arr female SP on 22 July. Osprey: arr SVB on 29 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr SP on 20 July, max 12 at SVB on 27 Aug. Am. Golden Plover: arr (four) Biddlecum on 22 Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr Onon Lake on 2 Aug but only two or three others noted. Ruddy Turnstone: arr Onon Lake on 15 July, about six reported. Upland Sandpiper: max 11 both near Bridgeport and Oneida in July. Whimbrel: one Pool's Brook Marsh, Onon Co., on 22 Aug (MSR). Willet: one briefly at Onon Lake on 17 Aug (GH). Greater Yellowlegs: last at Biddlecum 6 June, arr Tug Hill Plateau, Oswego Co., 15 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Onon Lake on 30 June, max 38 there on 19 July. Solitary Sandpiper: arr (two) Redfield Twsp, Oswego Co., on 18 July, very few reported. Red Knot: arr SVB on 26 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake on 19 July, next and max seven there on 1 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake on 2 Aug, and three or four more reported are a better total than most recent summers. Baird's Sandpiper: adult arr Onon Lake on 6 Aug (FGS), all others seen being imm as is typical of the east coast. Least Sandpiper: arr (six) Onon Lake on 30 June, max 46 there on 18 July. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last (five) Onon Lake on 13 June, arr there 10 July, max 110 there on 28 July. Western Sandpiper: two/three per day Onon Lake after 27 Aug. Sanderling: arr Onon Lake on 18 July. Stilt Sandpiper: adult arr Onon Lake 23-28 July, then one SVB on 29 Aug, very scarce! Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Onon Lake on 10 July max 32 there on 18 July. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SP on 8 July, where very scarce this summer. Forster's Tern: one SP 12-16 Aug (DWC, JH, FGS). Caspian Tern: arr Onon Lake 30 July, max 20 there on 15 Aug. Black Tern: max seven SP in July.

PIGEONS--WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only four reliable reports all summer. Black-billed Cuckoo: widespread and conspicuous through early August. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 15 Redfield Twsp on 18 July is from our center of abundance.

FLYCATCHERS--STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Tug Hill Plateau on 15 Aug. Olive-sided Flycatcher: two very late town of Onon on 24 June (JH), arr LOL on 19 Aug. Bank Swallow: max 1100 SP on 7 Aug. Barn Swallow: max 800 SP on 28 Aug. Com. Raven: one Old Forge on 24 June (DWC, JH). Tufted Titmouse: fledged young at Baltimore Woods in July (*vide* MSR) and near Oneida (*vide* DWC) is a rare confirmed Regional nesting. Red-breasted Nuthatch: no migrants! Winter Wren: max eight Woods Lake Bog on 19 June. Short-billed Marsh Wren: town of Onon on 16 June (JH). Mockingbird: bred Kenwood, Oneida Co., (*vide* DKA), one of the few Regional nestings away from Syracuse. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: appeared less abundant but as widespread as last summer. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: only reported from known Adirondack breeding sites in Herkimer Co.

VIREOS--WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one in block 4986C on 11 June (*vide* DWC) is possible new nesting species for Region. Black-and-white Warbler: arr (seven) SP on 31 July. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** nest found Delta Lake 26 June to 11 July (DWC, mob), first confirmed nest in the Region since 1963 and at a new nesting locality for New York State; our colony at Oneida Lake disappeared shortly after 1968. Tennessee Warbler: adult and imm Redfield Twsp on 18 July would suggest nesting had not other imm been located in two improbable blocks within the next five days! Our record early arr is 12 July (two years). However, this site deserves more attention earlier in the season to establish the status of Tennessee Warbler in the Tug Hill Plateau. Nashville Warbler: arr SP on 31 July, but almost no other certain migrants. Yellow Warbler: max 62 SP on 7 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: arr SP on 26 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr SP on 14 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: male Tully Valley in June is surprisingly low altitude for summering bird; arr SP on 14 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr SP on 26 Aug. Cerulean Warbler: one near Panther Lake, Oswego Co., on 13 June is a new locality north of Oneida Lake; migrant reported 7 Aug. from Stone Road, Oswego Co. Blackburnian Warbler: arr SP on 14 Aug. Chestnut-sided Warbler: ditto. Bay-breasted Warbler: one in block 4986A on 10 June is a possible nester; arr 15 Aug. Tug Hill Plateau. Blackpoll Warbler: one in Block 4986A as above; arr SP on 28

Aug. Prairie Warbler: one Forestport on 18 June (FGS, MSR) is a rare summer report from this Region. Pine Warbler: male singing from mature White Pines at Panther Lake is a new summering locality north of Oneida Lake. No. Waterthrush: one SP on 7 Aug. is earliest report, sure to be a migrant. Hooded Warbler: proving more widespread than expected in Tug Hill Plateau. Wilson's Warbler: arr SP on 14 Aug.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: male NPT 2-9 June (DWC, mob); female at nest Camillus Valley on 20 June (FGS). Evening Grosbeak: fledged young at feeder in Eagle Bay adds a confirmed nester to the Regional Atlas. Pine Siskin: two with Am. Goldfinches in Syracuse on 16 July (PDeB) suggests that some birds which nest at low altitudes may over-summer there rather than move to high elevations (where renesting would be possible). Red Crossbill: two on Cicero Center BBS on 27 June (MSR) would be surprising were not this species' erratic wanderings so well known. Grasshopper Sparrow: nesting confirmed in three blocks this summer, the first for local Atlases. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: singing male Redfield Twp 4-8 July (FGS) is seventh Regional record. White-throated Sparrow: arr SP on 7 Aug, the only sure migrant reported.

Educational Communications and Studies, Upstate Medical Center,
766 Irving Ave., Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

Summer is a difficult season to write about. Birding moves from breeding to mid-summer dispersal to molt to early migrants; many birders are preoccupied with the Atlas project, as well as their own peregrinations, and in the latter the Crowells are no exception.

June began with clear skies, but fledglings were assailed with wind and cold rains during the third week of the month. For June the mean monthly temperature was 62°F (40 to 84°F). Total precipitation was 2.02 in with nine rainy days. July was warm and dry: mean temperature 70°F (44° to 89°F); total rain 2.4 in. with 11 rainy days. August was colder and wetter: mean temperature 65°F (42° to 84°); total rain 3.1 in., with 9 rainy days.

Based on 60 days field work (21 June thru), Gerry Smith reported good shorebird flights with stronger movement of immatures than in 1981. All sightings from Eldorado Beach Preserve are his unless otherwise indicated. He also continued a survey of the nesting status of Common Tern colonies on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, the results of which will be published separately. Joe Van Riet sent an interesting summary of seven years BBC at Coles Creek and writes, "CCC plantations of the 1930's bring us Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and Pine Warblers, and Broad-winged Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Goshawks. Flooding of some of these areas by beavers has increased puddle and diving ducks, grebes, Red-shouldered Hawks, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, etc. Those CCC people, now in their 70's, never realized the fine habitat they gave us." Van Riet also summarized the number of Atlas blocks out of 30 (!) in which he has found each of 132 species during the past three years.

The summer of 1982 saw many populations on the upswing. Scanning recent Blue List species, the Double-crested Cormorant continued to increase both on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, as did Black-crowned Night Heron. Marsh Hawk gained in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence lowlands. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported for the first time in three years. Several Whip-poor-wills were heard and Chimney Swift showed some increase as did Belted Kingfisher. E. Bluebird was definitely stronger.

Species holding their own (for better or worse) included Com. Loon (apparently no worse), Great Blue Heron and Am. Kestrel (still strong), accipiters, Osprey, Upland Sandpiper, woodpeckers, Least Flycatcher and Loggerhead Shrike—all status quo. Downward trends were seen in Am. Bittern, E. Phoebe, and E. Meadowlark in Jefferson Co., and Yellow Warbler. There were no reports for Cooper's Hawk, Screech Owl, Short-eared Owl, Purple Martin, Grasshopper Sparrow or Henslow's Sparrow. With regard to species undergoing range extensions, only one Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported and no Tufted Titmouse. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed in Potsdam and a confirmed nesting of this species in Macomb was presumably a first nesting record for St. Lawrence Co. House Finch continued to breed in the Watertown area and the Cardinal seems established in Potsdam and Massena.

Rating as true rarities were a White Pelican, two early Merlins, a Piping Plover, a Parasitic Jaeger seen in late August, and last, a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in Potsdam.

Contributors: John B. Belknap, Lee B. Chamberlaine (LC), G. Chase, Ken Crowell (KC), Victor J. & S. Coyne DeGhett (VSDeG), Mike Flood, David Hamelik, Steve Kahl, Robert Long (RL), Richard Matzell, Don Nelson, Len Ollivett, Damon Ormsby, Johannes VanRiet (JVR), Robert & June Walker (RJW), Ron Weir, Chip Weseloh.

Abbreviations: EDB—El Dorado Beach Preserve; Jeff Co—Jefferson Co.; LVWMA—Lake-View Wildlife Mgt. Area; St. Law. Co.—St. Lawrence Co.; SLR—St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA—Upper and Lower Lake WMA; WHWMA—Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: pair Long Sault I. thru, pair Brandy Brook 28 June, one 2 mi. w. of Conifer 8 July (JVR); pair Old Man's I., SLR (no chicks), one ad Pt. Comfort 19 June (RL), pair with chicks Big Island, Chippewa Bay 9 July (GS); pair Massawepie Lake, Piercefield 10 May (RL). Pied-billed Grebe: one Plumbrook, one s. of Louisville. WHITE PELICAN: EDB 1 Aug (S. Kahl, *vide* G. Smith). Double-crested Cormorant: 595 nests Little Galloo I. (CW); max 100-150 per day 21-30 June, 4-20 per day, max 45 in July, two to six per day Aug, all EDB (GS); 500 off Pillar Pt. 8 Aug (D. Ormsby)—all these birds are associated with colony on Little Galloo I.; 24 near Long Sault Dam late July (JVR). Cattle Egret: one Limerick 7 July (RJW); six nests Little Galloo I. 23 July (CW). Great Blue Heron: two to three per day thru, max ten—mostly imm—2 Aug (EDB); several sightings near Potsdam in June (VSDeG) and in Canton thru. Green Heron: good numbers, many young of the year in Henderson area (LC); two to three per day EDB thru; 12 sightings Potsdam 16 June thru 19 Aug (VSDeG); four Waddington BBS 19 June (KC); resident near Boland Creek Marsh, Richville (J. Belknap). Black-crowned Night Heron: one to four per day EDB late June, none thereafter; four Polly's Gut, SLR thru (JVR); numbers up in Henderson and Henderson Harbor—imm every evening (LC); two ad Cape Vincent 14 June (RJW). Least Bittern: one on pond near Robinson Bay 23 June (JVR). Am. Bittern: very few, one LVWMA 27 Aug (LC); found in 14 of 30 blocks (JVR). Canada Goose: three EDB 8-14 Aug only. Brant: 40 SLR near Snell Lock 26 July (M. Flood & D. Nelson); ten Dexter late July (L. Ollivett). Green-winged Teal: arr EDB 7 July; three to seven per day thru. Black Duck: one EDB 6 June, then none till three 7 July, two to six per day thru, max ten 8 Aug. Mallard: 18

EDB 6 June, then two to ten per day to 7 July, 15-50 thru; max 141 31 Aug; "Everywhere" (LC). Pintail: arr EDB 24 July, two to eight per day thru. Blue-winged Teal: arr EDB 7 July, 15 to 40 per day thru, max 65-85 10 to 31 Aug, down from 310-330 in 1981. "No evidence of breeding" (GS); possibly slightly down LVWMA (LC); likewise at ULLWMA (KC). Gadwall: one EDB 9 July, five 3 Aug, one and two per day mid-Aug thru. Am. Wigeon: arr EDB 7 July, max three 22 July. Redhead: 50 WHWMA late Aug (JVR). Ring-necked Duck: successful breeding for second year ULLWMA (D. Hamelin); six WHWMA 9 July (JVR). Com. Goldeneye: one female EDB in NW blow 10 Aug. Ruddy Duck: male WHWMA 20 July (JVR). Com. Merganser: pair Long Sault Dam late June (JVR); two or three females EDB 21 June to 6 July, none till three females 21-25 Aug--summering non-breeders? (GS).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Osprey: pair mating Lake Massawepie site 19 May (RL); on the nest 8 July (JVR); arr EDB 14 Aug, two 21 Aug (GS); ad feeding at Jacques Cartier Park 29 June and 3 July (RL). Bald Eagle: adult Carry Falls Reservoir Colton 15 June (RL); same bird (?) 20 June over Carry Falls (R. Matzell); two fledged from nest in Jeff Co. (LC). Marsh Hawk: abundant thru (LC); pair south of Hogansburg in late June, pair feeding young Munson Rd., Massena; one over bog 2 mi. w. of Conifer 8 July (JVR); pair at Burrville 12 June, male near Copenhagen 12 June, one Cape Vincent 14 June, three Theresa 15 July, one Keener Hill, Lewis Co. (RJW); one June, singles Potsdam 2, 15, 20 June; 7, 24 Aug (VSDeG). Turkey Vulture: pair Philadelphia 10 July, six Theresa 15 July (RJW); increasing thru (LC); singles at Parishville, Brasher Falls, Brasher Ctr. (JVR); one Clare 16 June (KC). Goshawk: singles in State Forest at Plumbrook, Brasher Ctr., No. Stockholm. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one flying young Henderson 27 June; arr one EDB 29 Aug. Red-tailed Hawk: down in Henderson area—one bird every other day (LC); resident pair Pierrepont thru (KC). Red-shouldered Hawk: three Brasher State Forest 26 June, one near Brandy Brook, Waddington. Broad-winged Hawk: one arr EDB 21 Aug. Golden Eagle: imm over Potsdam 27 June (VSDeG). Am. Kestrel: 12 per day lake plain and Tug Hill region in Aug (LC); ad at nest hole in Lewis Co. 12 June; fledged young Philadelphia 10 June, Pt. Peninsula 4 July, Keener Hill, Lewis Co. 27 June (RJW); several pairs in Canton area in June (KC). **MERLIN:** two imm EDB 21-22 and 28 Aug—very early (GS). Gray Partridge: pair Mud Creek 14 June (RJW), pair near Twin River School, Massena, covey in Rooseveltown (JVR); down from last year (LC). Spruce Grouse: six males in three locations Seevey Bay Colton 9, 18, 28 May, two located by tape, four heard in courtship booming (RL). Turkey: several reports from vicinity of release sites in Pierrepont and Theresa but few young (LC); female with two young near Pope's Mills 28 June (RL). Virginia Rail: "responding to tape in many marshy areas of northern St. Law. Co., 14 of 30 blocks" (JVR). Sora: early in season, 5 of 30 blocks (JVR). Com. Gallinule: ad with ten young, Wilson Bay near Cape Vincent 14 June (RJW), nest with young Massena 28 June, ad with young WHWMA 9 July (JVR). Black-bellied Plover: one EDB 8 Aug, one to two per day thru (GS). Semipalmated Plover: adults EDB 15 July, 6-18 per day thru 20 Aug, max 24 on 10 Aug, imm arr 10 Aug, 6-12 per day thru. **PIPING PLOVER:** imm EDB 31 Aug—first in two years (GS). Killdeer: six resident breeders EDB 24 June to 15 July, 8-20 per day 15 July to 15 Aug, max 43 on 13 Aug, fewer in late Aug; one to two Potsdam thru 4 Aug, five Potsdam 30 July (VSDeG). Greater Yellowlegs: arr EDB 20 July, one to two on scattered dates thru, max 4 on 13 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr EDB 30 June, two to three per day to 10 July then 10 to 24 per day thru, max 37 on 17 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr and max seven EDB 2 Aug, three on 3 Aug, one 15 Aug, one 26 Aug; single migrant on wooded pond near Louisville 30 June (JVR); several at Boland Creek Marsh, Richville 14 Aug (J. Belknap). Willet: one EDB 9 July. Spotted Sandpiper: six to eight breeders EDB 21 June to 15 July, 10-19 per day to 2 Aug, max 22 on 11 July, then two to six per day thru; nest with four eggs Cape Vincent 14 June (RJW). Upland Sandpiper: ad with young near Washington Park 15 June (RJW); pair near Twin River School late June, two Wagstaff Corner 3 July (JVR); none this year in Canton-Pierrepont area (KC); improved in Jeff. Co., confirmed in 3 blocks (LC). Ruddy Turnstone: two arr EDB 24 July, 20-35 per day thru, mostly adults, max 44 on 12 Aug, one to three imm

per day late Aug. Red Knot: arr EDB 21 Aug thru, max four on 28-29 Aug, all imm. Sanderling: arr EDB 20 July, one to four per day thru, max 20 on 20 Aug, 16 on 25 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: four arr EDB 15 July, 100-250 per day 18-27 July, 350 to 600 per day 27 July to 8 Aug, max 820 on 29 July and 850 on 3 Aug, then 150-300 per day thru; four color-marked birds from Canadian Wildlife Service project sighted. Western Sandpiper: one EDB 19 Aug. Least Sandpiper: three arr EDB 9 July, 10-25 per day to 8 Aug, max ad 46 on 18 July; imm flight five and ten per day 3 to 18 Aug, max 28 on 21 Aug and 34 on 25 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: singles EDB 29-31 July, 3, 6 to 7 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: one EDB 30 July, 6 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: three arr EDB 30 July, increased to 11-12 per day thru 10 Aug, two to six per day to 20 Aug, then scattered singles thru; better flight than 1981. Stilt Sandpiper: one EDB 30 July to 2 Aug, two on 3 Aug, one 4 Aug, scarce. Short-billed Dowitcher: four arr EDB 11 July, one to two ad to 2 Aug, then one to four 9 to 22 Aug, max seven 20 Aug, then scattered singles thru. Com. Snipe: marked increase on Ogdensburg BBS from three to four stops in recent years to 28 (RL); one to two per day EDB scattered thru. Wilson's Phalarope: scattered singles EDB 22 July to 20 Aug, two on 7 and 13 Aug—8 different individuals. No. Phalarope: imm EDB 31 Aug. **PARASITIC JAEGER**: dark phase imm EDB 10 Aug—very early (GS). Black-headed Gull: aberrant individual or hybrid seen each year 1979 to 1982 PRWMA (RJV), similar or same individual hybridized with Ring-billed Gull on Little Galloo I. to produce 3 eggs 13 May; not found on visit in July (CW). Bonaparte's Gull: arr EDB 29 July, one per day scattered thru, max 12 on 28 and 29 Aug (GS). Ring-billed Gull: 200 to 600 per day EDB thru 3 Aug, max 1,000 on 29 July, then 10-60 per day thru; another big year at Little Galloo I. (LC); ten Pierrepont dump 13 June. Herring Gull: two to six Potsdam 15 June, 1 and 10 July, max 25 on 19 June; two to five per day EDB thru 17 Aug, then 8-14 per day thru. Great Black-backed Gull: six nests with eggs on Little Galloo I. 13 May (CW); one to four imm, subad and ad per day EDB thru (GS). Caspian Tern: one Wilson Bay 14 June (RJW); one to six ad per day EDB 21 June to 21 July, 4-12 per day thru 15 Aug, max 18 on 3, 12, 13 Aug, two to six per day 15 Aug, thru; birds are from Pigeon I. Ontario colony (GS). Com. Tern: two to four per day EDB 20 June to 10 Aug, ad birds probably from Carl I. colony; 10-20 per day 10-20 Aug, max 38 14 Aug, one to two per day late Aug; in his survey of 15 colonies in Region 6, between 30 May and 13 July, Smith found 305 nests prior to 28 June, 606 adults, and 215 chicks between 14 June and 13 July. Black Tern: colony of about 75 at Wilson Bay 14 June (RJW); one WHWMA 9 July (JVR); one to two per day EDB thru 10 July, none till 11 Aug, then two to five per day 11-21 Aug (GS).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: numbers up throughout region, even on Tug Hill (LC). Black-billed Cuckoo: pair Theresa 16 July (RJW); one or two per day, three Hopkinton BBS (JVR); increasing thru (LC). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: singles Cape Vincent, Adams, Allensdale 14-15 June (RJW); one per day and four Hopkinton BBS 3 July (JVR). Screech Owl: none in Henderson—usually heard thru in July and Aug (LC). Long-eared Owl: juvenal killed by car near Woodville, So. Jeff. Co. 12 July (LC). Com. Nighthawk: nest with young drowned in storm, Massena (JVR); one Potsdam 8 June, two center of Canton 8 June (KC). Whip-poor-will: one Dry Hill, Watertown, 2 June (RJW); three near New Bremen, Lewis Co. 16 June (LC); one flushed Pierrepont 15 June, one w. Pierrepont 16 June (KC). Chimney Swift: common, decreasing after 6 Aug (LC); pair in courtship Canton 1 June, 6 Canton 8 June (KC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very common, seen sunning in tops of dead willows in wetlands (LC); one Potsdam on 12 dates 11 July thru, two 18 and 31 Aug (SVDeG). Red-headed Woodpecker: one Keener Hill, Lewis Co. 27 June (RJW); one near Henderson 8 July, one Henderson 14 Aug, one DOR Adams 24 Aug (LC); now gone from Massena area (JVR). Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Henderson 26 June (LC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: improved; PR-D Canton 9 June. Downy Woodpecker: four Potsdam 31 Aug (SVDeG); 27 of 30 blocks (JVR). Hairy Woodpecker: two resident pairs at our Farm (KC); 27 of 30 block (JVR). **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: male seen in mixed hardwood-conifer swamp in Potsdam 26 June (VDeG); also a male, previously unreported, was observed several times at a feeder in Lisbon Jan-Feb 1981 by Glenn Harris. This

lowland site is decidedly out of the normal distribution, but I found typical flaking of bark on spruces in nearby swamp. Pileated Woodpecker: only one in Henderson 24 Aug (LC); male possibly near nest Canton 9 June (KC); feeding young near Robt. Moses Pk, one near Plumbrook, pair near Reynolds Plant (JVR).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: fairly common Tug Hill (LC); one singing 2 mi. w. of Conifer 8 July (JVR); one Colton 9 June (KC). E. Wood Pewee: one or two pair Canton 9-22 June (KC); 28 of 30 blocks (JVR); one DeGrasse 2 June (KC). Alder Flycatcher: one to four per day thru (JVR). Willow Flycatcher: two Cape Vincent 14 June (RJW); one 23 June Eisenhower Lock, one 26 June Brasher State Forest (JVR). E. Phoebe: very, very few (LC). Fledged young Pierrepont 13 June (KC); one to two Potsdam 30 June to 18 July (SVDeG). Great Crested Flycatcher: abundant, 29 of 30 blocks (JVR). E. Kingbird: abundant; 20 per day (LC). Horned Lark: very low (LC); five so. of Hogansburg 29 June, one Wagstaff Corners 3 July, two Town Line Road Chase Mills (JVR). Tree Swallow: many fledged young in Canton area mid-June (KC); increasing thru mid-July, six imm 1 to 6 July then three 7 to 11 July (SVDeG). Rough-winged Swallow: two Clark's Bridge, Hogansburg (JVR). Cliff Swallow: common near Fish Creek, Lewis Co. (LC); Twin Falls, DeGrasse 12 June. Barn Swallow: in Potsdam two daily thru 15 July, five imm 10 July, four ad 16 to 31 July; ten 7 Aug, 15 on 20 Aug (SVDeG). Blue Jay: numbers up slightly. Com. Raven: singles Childwold in June (RL); pair on ledge at Cat Mt., Town of Clifton 20 May (G. Chase). Black-capped Chickadee: in Potsdam, one 19 June, 30 July, four 12 Aug, three 18 Aug, ten 31 Aug (SVDeG). Red-breasted Nuthatch: common in softwood plantations on Tug Hill (LC); ad with food for young Highmarket, Lewis Co. 5 July (RJW); other reports of singles thru. Brown Creeper: one pair Canton 9 to 22 June; one Colton 10 June (KC). House Wren: one per day thru but ten on Smith Rd. so. of Hogansburg (JVR); generally abundant. Winter Wren: one Tug Hill WMA 15 June, one Lake Ontario shore 5 July (LC); fledgling in Robert Moses State Park 23 June (JVR). Short-billed Marsh Wren: at least three males ULLWMA between Hdg. and lake 9 June (KC); one LVWMA 23 June (LC); one LaRue Rd., Massena 17 July (JVR). Long-billed Marsh Wren: good population ULLWMA (KC). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singing males Colton in June (RL). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: adult feeding young at Pleasant Lake, Macomb 19 June (RL); one in Potsdam 26 June (SVDeG). E. Bluebird: one to two ad Potsdam 16, 22 June, 11, 14 July. One imm 22 June, two imm 11 July (SVDeG); one near Waddington 19 June (KC); two ad, three imm feeding on red elderberry near Sears Pond, Tug Hill (LC). Veery: "Probably most common bird in St. Law. Co." (JVR)! Swainson's Thrush: at Highmarket 5 July (RJW). Hermit Thrush: at Highmarket 5 July (RJW); pair Joe Indian Pd. Rd., Colton 10 June (KC). Brown Thrasher: increased from one to ten on Ogdensburg BBS (RL). Loggerhead Shrike: adult with begging young at Morristown Ctr., same location as 1980 and 1981 (RL). Starling: flocks of imm everywhere after mid-June. Cedar Waxwing: increasing thru; in Potsdam two 31 July, 15 Aug, max 35 on 16 and 31 Aug (VSDeG).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one singing in Tamarack, Town of Fine 17 June (KC); singles so. of Hogansburg 29 June Walter Pratt's Memorial Forest, Brasher Ctr. 2 July, Brasher Falls (JVR). Warbling Vireo: none, usually two to three, Coles Creek BBC (JVR); slightly down in central St. Law. Co. (KC). Philadelphia Vireo: silent male at Bostwick Creek, Macomb on 18 June—late migrant? asks RL. Golden-winged Warbler: one Dry Hill 3 June (RJW); common in abandoned fields in Town of Macomb, Oswegatchie, Rossie (RL). Nashville Warbler: abundant; one No. Osceola 24 June, five in Little John UMA 20 Aug (LC); ad gathering food for young Colton 10 June (RC). No. Parula: pair at Leonard Pd., Colton 15 June (RL). Yellow Warbler: numbers down—from five in recent years to two in Coles Creek BBC, 20 to 11 in Hopkington BBS (JVR); from 9 and 12 to 3 DeGrasse BBS, but 5.5 to 5 BBC at ULLWMA (KC); one Potsdam 20 June thru 18 July, five 31 July (SVDeG). Magnolia Warbler: singles at Blake Reservoir Colton 10 June (KC); Totman Gulf, Adams 15 June; Allendale, Washington Park 16 June; Pinkney, Lewis Co. 17 June (RJW). Black-throated Blue Warbler: Highmarket 5 July (RJW). Yellow-rumped Warbler: one plus

pair PR D, Co Fy(?) Joe Indian Rd., Colton 10 June (KC). Black-throated Green Warbler: one 15 June (RJW); one Brasher Falls 26 June, one Clark's Bridge (JVR). Blackburnian Warbler: abundant in foothill zone (RL, KC); one on Fish Creek, Macomb in June (RL); one Highmarket 5 July (RJW). Pine Warbler: abundant in mature pines feeding young at Black Lake (RL). Cerulean Warbler: four males on territory, Bostwick Creek near South Woods Rd., Rossie 18 June; two males on tributary of Fish Creek, Macomb; one at Pleasant Lake (all RL); one singing male near Brasher Ctr. 2 July (JVR). Black-and-white Warbler: common on St. Law. lowlands at edges of mature woodland (RL). Mourning Warbler: one singing male on St. Law. R. in Morristown (RL), one to two per day (JVR); one Twin Falls, DeGrasse 2 and 12 June (KC). Com. Yellowthroat: abundant; six Coles Creek BBC (JVR); five Potsdam 16 and 18 Aug (VSDeG). Ovenbird: good shape. No. Waterthrush: one Canton 9 June (KLC). Canada Warbler: none!

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Cardinal: one to two thru, one imm 3 Aug (VSDeG); pair on Andrews St., Massena (JVR). Field Sparrow: six DeGrasse BBS 17 June vs 4 and 5 for previous two years; "rare," 4 of 30 blocks (JVR). Dark-eyed Junco: feeding young at Lake Masaweepe, Piercefield 8 July (JVR). Bobolink: strong movement daily 6 Aug thru (LC). E. Meadowlark: one imm Potsdam 5 July (SVDeG). Purple Finch: two Potsdam 10 June, six 11 June thru (SVDeG); common in Henderson in June, decreasing thru (LC). Pine Siskin: one to two Jeff. Co. in June (LC). Am. Goldfinch: six daily Potsdam thru (SVDeG). House Finch: max seven including four young in Henderson (LC); five at feeder Dry Hill June; successful nesting in hanging spider plant near Watertown (RJW).

RD 4, Box 97, Canton, New York 13617

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

June was such a wet month at Paul Smiths that gardens stagnated for want of sunshine. July and August reversed this trend with a drought that exposed Lake Champlain mudflats but few shorebirds arrived. Eastern Meadowlark was unreported and this includes five Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys. This looks like a species with a problem. Are there really more Red-headed Woodpeckers than Eastern Meadowlarks in this region?

Several summer Ruby-crowned Kinglets were heard. Bloomingdale Bog, Onchiota, and Bay Pond should have this species singing in summer every year. Tom Dudones confirmed Spruce Grouse.

Many thanks are extended to all who shared their Atlas reports, breeding bird surveys, and other observations. Observers are rather scarce in this region.

Contributors: Jennifer Back, Merry Baker, A. Brayton, John Bruce, (spelled in full in text), P. Bruns, Geoffrey Carleton, Charlie Delehanty, Tom Dudones, Evan Hannay, Ives Hannay, Elsbeth Johnson, Alice Jones, Ferdinand LaFrance, Bruce Landon, Ted Mack, Ken McDermott, Dorothy McIlroy, Helen Manson, Sarah Morley, Dan Nickerson, John Peterson, Cindy Rechlin, Fritz Scheider, Bob & Mary Sheffield, Chris Spies, Jan Trzeciak.

LOONS-DUCKS: CD found two adult Com. Loons and a juvenal on Sperry Pond near Tupper 20 July. AB and PB saw two adults on Lake Kushaqua 29 July. One young was fledged on Upper St. Regis Lake but vanished soon thereafter. DM had five young at 3 Pisco locations. There were lots of Great Blue Herons, a few Green Herons, and Am. Bittern was listed for Newcomb, Tupper Marsh, Elk Lake, Mountain View, Chasm Falls, and Brown's

Tract Ponds. GC saw a V of 22 Canada Geese flying north over Elizabethtown on the very late date of 12 June. A few pairs of Wood Ducks were at Chubb River. Bob & Mary Sheffield had this species at Elk Lake. Ring-necked Duck was definitely scarce. A Hooded Merganser with two young was at Beaver Brook near Ferd's Bog 13 July (FL, CS). The same people had a hen Mallard on the same date with seven young at Brown's Tract Ponds. A Com. Merganser with about 40 young, probably not originally all hers, was at Piseco (DM).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: There were Turkey Vultures from Owls Head to Bay Pond and Tupper Lake on to the Champlain Valley. Good numbers of Goshawk and Broad-winged Hawk. There were a few Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawks. A Brayton and P Bruns made an interesting observation. They saw an adult Sharpshin apparently teaching her young to hunt. "She seemed to be trying to get them to chase her as she flew past them with a small passerine in her talons; finally, at least one of them did." CD had a Cooper's Hawk with food for young 14 July. Floodwood and Piseco seemed to have the only Red-shouldered Hawks. I strongly suspect a few more were present but not reported. A single Marsh Hawk was at Bay Pond much of the period and one was at Tupper Marsh 29 Aug. Two adult and one imm Osprey were near Brown's Tract 13 July (FL, CS). Alice Jones found two adults on the Underwood survey in late June and a few were at the usual locations. Halfway Brook in block 5590D produced a female Spruce Grouse and young for TD. A Ring-necked Pheasant was at Tupper 6 June. A Com. Snipe was winnowing at Lake Placid 11 June and a few were at Lower St. Regis Lake and Onchiota but they were scarce. John Bruce had two Upland Sandpipers at Crown Point 16 Aug. Spotted Sandpipers were at Underwood, Goodnow Flow, Buck Pond campground, Tupper, and Elk Lake. There were several early July Solitary Sandpipers, with two at New Russia on 8 July, the earliest (DN, JP). They were also seen at Paul Smiths, McColloms, Mountain View, and Tahawus (all TM, CR). On 7 July a WILLET was at the East Branch of the Ausable River. Size and color indicate it was an adult of the large pale western subspecies (EH, IH, GC, EJ). This is the third Adirondack record. There were a few Greater Yellowlegs at Paul Smiths and McColloms in Aug. as well as a few Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. An early Bonaparte's Gull was at Westport 6 July and seven were there 30 July (both GC). There were two Black Terns at Tupper 4 July (CD).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove numbers are up. Black-billed Cuckoo was seen at Onchiota, Chasm Falls, Brown's Tract Ponds, St. Regis Falls, and the St. Regis Canoe Area. Great Horned Owls were at Paul Smiths (TM, SM), Tahawus (TM, CR), and Piseco (DM). Barred Owls are all over. Merry Baker had a Long-eared Owl which is always a good find and she confirmed Barred for her block in addition to having a calling Saw-whet Owl. TM & SM had a Saw-whet come to within ten feet in a Duane swamp on 16 June. Whip-poor-wills were at Chasm Falls, Bay Pond, and the Champlain Valley. There were Com. Nighthawks at Tupper and Bay Ponds. There were a few Chimney Swifts and a lot of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds including an active nest at Brown's Tract 13 July (FL, CS). Com. Flicker was really scarce. Starlings don't help this bird. There were three adult Red-headed Woodpeckers all summer at Bay Pond and at least one young was raised there (BL, TM). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker numbers are low. Downy Woodpeckers are scarce. There are so many Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers reported that with over 20 seen it appears they are doing well. Mountain View, Paul Smiths, and Onchiota have several. Alice Jones had one at Newcomb. Ken McDermott had four together one day at Onchiota. No. Three-toed Woodpecker is not so plentiful. Tom Dudones found a female Northern feeding one young at Halfway Brook in block 5590.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird and Great Crested Flycatcher were in decent numbers but E. Phoebe was very scarce. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is doing great. The species was confirmed as a breeder at the Goodnow Flow (TM, JB) and FL & CS had seven at Shallow Lake and five at Beaver Brook. CD had one at Sabattis. High counts for Alder Flycatcher were 4 at Speculator and 3 at Underwood. Least Flycatcher still hasn't built up to where it should be. E. Wood Pewee is doing better with the high being five on the Speculator breeding survey and four on the Gabriels Survey. Olive-sided Flycatchers are all over.

This is a common bird. Gray Jay was confirmed as a breeder at Sabattis (CD) and Cranberry Pond (FL, CS). They were seen at Halfway Brook and a few of the more usual places. Common Raven is widespread. Boreal Chickadees were too numerous to detail. Two breeder surveys had high counts of seven for Winter Wren. They still need to increase. CD had two singing Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Little Tupper Lake 21 July. CD had a Mockingbird for about a month at Tupper. It left 3 June. Eight was the high count for Gray Catbird. Brown Thrasher was scarce. Am. Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, and Veery averaged out to respectable numbers from the breeding surveys. Hermit Thrush with a high count of only 16 needs to build up in numbers. E. Bluebird nested successfully at Owls Head and was seen at Newcomb, Gabriels, Bay Pond, Chubb River and Tupper. Golden-crowned Kinglet was confirmed as a breeder at Newcomb (TM, JB); Sabattis (CD); and seemed in decent numbers. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Onchiota 30 June (TM, JB); one Newcomb 26 June (AJ, HM); one Elk Lake 16 June (R & MS); one Piseco atlas search (DM); and two Sabattis 27 June (CD). Cedar Waxwings were abundant.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Alice Jones had a Yellow-throated Vireo on the Underwood breeding count as well as two Warbling Vireos. The former is a good find in this Region. High counts were 137 for Red-eyed Vireo and 19 for Solitary Vireo. This was the St. Regis Falls breeding survey on 7 July (TM, JB). Some high counts for warblers follow: Black-and-white Warbler, eight, and two others had seven; Nashville, 16; No. Parula, four, numbers are really low; Yellow Warbler, five; Magnolia, 22—good numbers; Black-throated Blue, two reports of eight which is low; Yellow-rumped, 30 and 29 on another count; Black-throated Green, 17 and 16 are the high counts; Blackburnian, 14, 14, 13, and 13; Chestnut-sided, 28 and 23; Ovenbird, 21, 16, and 16; No. Waterthrush, two on Underwood survey and noted at Elk Lake and Piseco; Mourning Warbler, three, two, and two; Com. Yellowthroat, 39, 21, and 21; Canada Warbler, seven and four; Am. Redstart, 37 and 31. AJ and HM had a Wilson's Warbler 26 June at Newcomb but it did not stay after that date. Blackpoll Warbler: one Elk Lake 15 June (R & MS); one Speculator 14 June (RS). These could be late migrants.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: three breeder surveys tallied one each but there were at least fair numbers. A No. Oriole was on the Underwood survey and two or three were seen or heard in areas of lower elevation. CS and FL had four Rusty Blackbirds at Haymarsh Pond 21 June. A few were in the St. Regis canoe area. The Gabriel's breeder route had seven Scarlet Tanagers 30 June for the high count (TM, JB). Cardinal was in towns including a Tupper Lake nesting. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 13 on one count and two counts of 11. High count for Indigo Bunting was eight for Underwood. They were in good numbers. There were a very few Evening Grosbeaks. Purple Finch high was 14 for St. Regis Falls. The only Pine Siskins were one at Underwood and two at Tupper. Good numbers of Am. Goldfinch. AB and PB had over 20 Red Crossbills at Chubb River Swamp 30 July. No reports of Rufous-sided Towhee. Savannah Sparrow numbers were low. Vesper Sparrow was unreported except that Bay Pond had a lot of them as usual. 15 was the Dark-eyed Junco high. Chipping Sparrow was common and Field Sparrow was rare indeed. In spite of the high of 44 White-throated Sparrows on the St. Regis Falls count this species is definitely down in numbers. There were lots of Lincoln's Sparrows with a high of 11 at Beaver Brook 13 July (CS, FL). Highs for Swamp and Song Sparrow were four and 14 respectively.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

Breeding confirmation for at least thirteen new species highlights the third year of the Atlas project in Region 8. The newcomers include Cooper's Hawk,

Red-shouldered Hawk, Bobwhite, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Nashville, Magnolia and Pine Warbler, Grasshopper and Swamp Sparrow. Confirmation for many of the northern species was due to "blockbusting" efforts into the more remote mountainous areas of the region as well as more extensive coverage by residents of Fulton, Warren and Washington Counties. Data summarized in this report come from the first 103 green sheets received by regional coordinator Dick Guthrie. Of 158 species recorded for breeding evidence this year, 120 have confirmed status. The season's total of 172 is six more than last summer.

Birds still needing confirmation include Com. Loon, Least Bittern, Sora, Alder Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren (I hope all of you Atlas participants asked Santa for hip boots this year), Barn Owl, Fish Crow, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Northern Parula, Cerulean Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow.

Bob Yunick reports four new state records for late fledging dates and speculates that the weather may have been the cause. June was reported wet and July hot, but the summer could generally be described as cooler than usual and dry. Fledging in several species appeared delayed; fewer young were noted in June and July and the following record late dates were recorded:

| Species | Late Date (Bull, 1974) | New Record |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Blue Jay | 31 July | 18 August |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 3 August | 13 August |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 18 August | 22 August |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | 17 August | 6 September |

Yellow-breasted Chat appears on the Regional roster for the first time since the 1980 Century Run with probable breeding evidence in Wilton, Warren Co., submitted by Linda Morzillo. Loggerhead Shrikes, last reported in April 1981, were found in Fran Vosburgh's Gloversville Atlas block and Mike Crevier's Princetown block.

Janet Carroll confirmed breeding for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Warren Co. near the northern edge of its range. Four reports of Saw-whet Owl on Atlas sheets are also worthy of note.

Dick Guthrie, whose birding ability leads his companions to suspect that he sews rare birds into his shirt sleeves before field trips, hosted a fourth of July spectacle on his back porch overlooking the Hudson River. A Turkey Vulture relaxing on a perch across the river was inconsiderately displaced by an immature Bald Eagle, whereupon an Osprey immediately flew into a territorial defense against the eagle.

From Hagel Hill comes a report of an albino House Finch on 16-17 July following a 4 January report from Ghent perhaps five miles away. Hybridization possibly accounts for the unusual plumages noted for Scarlet Tanager, Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler.

The Alan DeVoe Bird Club mourns the loss of Elsie Powell who died on 7 September.

Good Birding and a reminder to put lemmings on your winter feeder shopping list.

Contributors: V. & B. Able, Dean Amadon (DA), V. Austen, Janet Carroll (JCa), William Cleveland (WC), Bill Cook (BC), Juanita Cook (JC), Mike Crevier (MC), Kate Dunham (KD), Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, John Gregor (JG), Richard Guthrie (RG), Linda Hoyt (LH), Philip Ingals, Ron LaForce (RL), M. Mickle (MM), Tom Palmer (TP), Robert Yanick (RY) and all of the Avian Atlas participants.

Abbreviations: CO—Confirmed breeding; PR—Probable breeding; PO—Possible breeding. County names are also abbreviated.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: PO Ful Co. is probably a late migrant; Queechey L. 26 July (MM). Pied-billed Grebe: PR Grn. Co.; Castleton 15 June. Double-crested Cormorant: Stockport 3 July. Great Blue Heron: CO Col., Grn., Ren. and Wsh. Cos. Green Heron: CO Alb., Col., Ful., Ren. and Scn. Cos. Black-crowned Night Heron: PO Ful. Co. Am. Bittern: PR Col. Co.; PO in four counties. Canada Goose: CO in five counties. Mallard: CO in eight counties. Black Duck: CO in six counties. Pintail: PO Buck Mt. Wrn. Co. (LH). Green-winged Teal: PR Alb. and Col. Cos. Blue-winged Teal: CO Wsh. Co.; Castleton 8-18 June. Wood Duck: CO in seven counties. Canvasback: Castleton 8 June (JC). Hooded Merganser: CO Ful. and Wrn. Cos. Com. Merganser: CO Ful. Co. and twice in Wrn. Co. Red-breasted Merganser: PR New Baltimore Grn. Co. (RG); pair at Jenny L. thru 27 June (RY).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: PR Alb., Col., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos. Goshawk: PO Scn. and Wsh. Cos.; adult Middlegrove 11 July; Chatham 20 July. Sharp-shinned Hawk: PR Ful. and Scn. Cos.; two Jenny L. 14 Aug; Canaan 20 July. Cooper's Hawk: CO Scn. Co. Red-tailed Hawk: CO in seven counties. Red-shouldered Hawk: CO Wsh. Co.; PR Ren. and Wrn. Cos.; PO Alb., Ful., Grn. and Scn. Cos. Broad-winged Hawk: CO Col., Ful., Ren. and Wrn. Cos. A **GOLDEN EAGLE** has been reported by an Atlas worker in the Adirondacks. Bald Eagle: an imm spent the fourth of July weekend in New Baltimore (RG). Marsh Hawk: PR in five counties. Osprey: PR New Baltimore Grn. Co. 4 July (RG); adult Jenny L. 26 June first summer record (RY). Am. Kestrel and Ruffed Grouse CO in eight cos. Bobwhite: CO in Sar. Co.; Hollowville 1 June; Castleton 3 June. Ring-necked Pheasant: CO Col. and Sar. Cos. Turkey: CO Alb., Col., Grn. and Wsh. Cos. Virginia Rail: PR Alb. Co. Sora: PR Saratoga Springs (David Smith). Com. Gallinule: PO Col. and Ful Cos. Killdeer: CO in nine cos. Am. Woodcock: CO Col., Scn. and Wsh. Cos. Com. Snipe: PR Alb., Col., Sch. and Wsh. Cos. Upland Sandpiper: PO Selkirk Alb. Co. (JCa). Spotted Sandpiper: CO Alb. and Wrn. Cos. Solitary Sandpiper: one Howes Cave July (WC). Great Black-backed Gull: 50 Mohawk R. 16 June eating dead herring. Herring Gull: 14 Mohawk R. 16 June. Ring-billed Gull: three Mohawk R. 16 June. Black Tern: ad Vischer's Ferry 16 June.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: CO in eight cos. Mourning Dove: CO in nine cos. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: CO Col., Ful. and Scn. Cos. Black-billed Cuckoo: CO Col., Ren. and Scn. Cos. Screech Owl: CO Alb., Grn. and Scn. Cos. Great Horned Owl: CO in seven cos. Barred Owl: PR Ful., Grn., Scn., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos.; Queechey L. July; Sacandaga Res. Aug. Saw-whet Owl: PO Col., Ful., Sco. and Wrn. Cos. Whip-poor-will: PR Sar., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos.; Castleton 2-30 June. Chimney Swift: CO Alb., Col., Sar., Scn. and Wsh. Cos. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: CO Col., Grn. and Wrn. Cos. Belted Kingfisher: CO in seven cos. Com. Flicker: CO in all but Sco. Co. Pileated Woodpecker: CO Ren., Sar. and Wrn. Cos.; five other reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: CO Mon. Co. (TP); PR Scn. Co.; one Central Br. July; Ghent 1 June; Ren. Co. 19 June. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CO Alb., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Hairy Woodpecker: CO in seven cos. Downy Woodpecker: CO in eight cos.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: CO in all but Sco. Co. Great Crested Flycatcher: CO in six cos. E. Phoebe: CO in all 11 cos. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: PR Ful. and Grn. Cos.; one banded New Baltimore 17 Aug. Willow Flycatcher: CO Alb., Col. and Scn. Cos. Alder Flycatcher: PR Ful., Scn., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos. Least Flycatcher and E. Wood Pewee: CO in five cos. Olive-sided Flycatcher: CO twice in Wrn. Co. Horned Lark: PR Wsh. Co. All six swallows confirmed breeders with Purple Martin in Sar. and Sco. Cos. Blue Jay: CO in all but Sco. Co.; late fledging Jenny L. 18 Aug. Com. Raven: CO Tongue Mt. Wrn.

Co. (JCa). Com. Crow: CO in eight cos. Fish Crow: PR Grn. Co. Black-capped Chickadee: CO in nine cos.; late fledging Jenny L. 13 Aug. Tufted Titmouse: CO Alb., Col., Ful., Scn. and Wsh. Cos. White-breasted Nuthatch: CO in nine cos. Red-breasted Nuthatch: CO Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos.; late fledging Jenny L. 22 Aug. Brown Creeper: CO in four cos. House Wren: CO in all 11 cos. Winter Wren: PR Ful. and Wrn. Cos. Carolina Wren: PO Mon. Co. (TP). Long-billed Marsh Wren: CO Ren. and Wrn. Cos. Short-billed Marsh Wren: PO Thatcher Park Alb. Co. (RL). Mockingbird: CO Alb., Col., Grn., Sar. and Scn. Cos. Gray Catbird: CO in all but Sco. Co. Brown Thrasher: CO in eight cos. Am. Robin: CO in all 11 cos. Wood Thrush: CO in five cos. Hermit Thrush: CO in the four no. cos. Swainson's Thrush: PR Alb. Co. may be a migrant. Veery: CO in five cos. E. Bluebird: CO in all but Ren. and Scn. Cos. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CO Alb., Ren. and Wrn. Cos. Golden-crowned Kinglet: CO Ful. and Wrn. Cos. Cedar Waxwing: CO in eight cos. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: PO Ful. and Scn. Cos. Starling: CO in all 11 cos.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: CO Alb., Col. and Wrn. Cos. Solitary Vireo: CO Ful., Sco. and Wrn. Cos. Red-eyed Vireo: CO in seven cos. Philadelphia Vireo: CO Silver Bay Wrn. Co. (Cindy McCranels); PR Glenville Center Scn. Co. (Shirley Schadow). Warbling Vireo: CO Ren., Sco. and Wsh. Cos. Black-and-white Warbler: CO Col., Ful., Grn. and Wrn. Cos. Prothonotary Warbler: PR Alb. Co. (RL). Worm-eating Warbler: PR Scn. Co. (MC). Golden-winged Warbler: PR Ful., Ren. and Wrn. Cos.; one with yellow wash on breast banded New Baltimore 31 July. Blue-winged Warbler: CO Alb. and Scn. Cos.; one with yellow wing bars banded New Baltimore 1 Aug. "Brewster's" Warbler: one banded New Baltimore July (RG). Tennessee Warbler: two Jenny L. 31 Aug. Nashville Warbler: CO Ful. Co. Yellow Warbler: CO in all but Mon. and Sco. Cos. Magnolia Warbler: CO Ful. Co. Black-throated Blue Warbler: CO Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Yellow-rumped Warbler: CO Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos.; late fledging Jenny L. 20 days after Bull's (*Birds of New York State*, 1974) late date. Black-throated Green Warbler: CO Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Cerulean Warbler: PO Thatcher Park Alb. Co. and Duanesburg Scn. Co. (RL). Blackburnian Warbler: CO Ful. and Wrn. Cos. Chestnut-sided Warbler: CO Alb., Col., Ful. and Grn. Cos. Bay-breasted Warbler: late migrant Ful. Co. Blackpoll Warbler: late migrant Duanesburg Wrn. Co. 10 July (JG). Pine Warbler: CO with fledglings located on Crane Mt. Wrn. Co. (F. Greene). Prairie Warbler: CO Alb., Grn. and Scn. Cos. Ovenbird: CO in five cos. No. Waterthrush: CO Grn. and Wrn. Cos. Louisiana Waterthrush: CO in Mon. and Sco. Cos. Mourning Warbler: PR Ful. Co. Com. Yellowthroat: CO in all but Mon. and Sco. Cos. **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**: PR Wilton Sar. Co. (Linda Morzillo). Wilson's Warbler: one New Baltimore 30 Aug. Canada Warbler: CO Ful. Co.; an early migrant banded in New Baltimore 12 Aug. Am. Redstart: CO in five cos.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: CO in all but Sco. Co. Bobolink: CO in six cos.; PR in all the rest. E. Meadowlark: CO in six cos. Red-winged Blackbird, No. Oriole and Com. Grackle: CO in all cos. Orchard Oriole: PR Alb. and Ful. Cos. Brown-headed Cowbird: CO in five cos. Scarlet Tanager: CO in seven cos.; one with wingbars banded in New Baltimore 14 Aug. Cardinal: CO in eight cos. including Wrn. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CO in eight cos. Indigo Bunting: CO in five cos. Evening Grosbeak: PR Sar. and Wrn. Cos. Purple Finch: CO Col., Ful., Grn. and Wrn. Cos.; 492 captured as most abundant feeder bird at Jenny L. House Finch: CO in nine cos. Pine Siskin: PR Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Am. Goldfinch: CO in all but Mon. and Sco. Cos. Rufous-sided Towhee: CO Alb., Col., Ful., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Savannah Sparrow: CO Col., Grn. and Scn. Cos. Grasshopper Sparrow: CO Crum Church Cem. Col. Co. (KD) and Princetown Scn. Co. (MC). Henslow's Sparrow: PO Altamont Alb. Co. (RL). Vesper Sparrow: CO Col. Co. Dark-eyed Junco: CO Grn., Sen., Sco. and Wrn. Cos.; poor breeding season at Jenny L., first juv. late 10 July, banded only 13 (21-90 range for past 11 years). Chipping Sparrow: CO in all 11 cos.; only two banded at Jenny L. as population declines over 12-year period. Field Sparrow: CO in five cos. White-throated Sparrow: CO Ful., Wrn. and Wsh. Cos. Swamp Sparrow: CO Alb., Scn. and Wrn. Cos. Song Sparrow: CO in all 11 cos.

Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

This summer period will go down as one of the coolest of the century. The New York Weather Bureau announced that August was the coldest for that month in the last seventeen years. June was cool and cloudy with rain much of the first week and at well scattered intervals thereafter. July continued the trend, with only a few really warm days at mid-month. The usual drought of mid-summer never materialized, and lawns and gardens remained green and flourishing. As we enter the fall, seeds and fruit are abundant and awaiting migrants.

What with all the work on the N.Y.S. Breeding Bird Atlas, notes come pouring in. There was a time a few years ago when we had to scratch for records; now we have more than we can handle. Shorebird migration was excellent during Aug, and although the variety was wanting, the numbers were great. Migrant warblers were moving thru in early Aug. with an excellent movement noted on 24 Aug. Several species of birds were reported down in numbers by a few observers. Among them were: Least Flycatcher, Wood and Hermit Thrush, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Field Sparrow. On the plus side were increases in Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, E. Bluebird, Warbling Vireo, Orchard Oriole, and Am. Goldfinch. The rarities included in the report are Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, both eagles, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Monk Parakeet, Western Kingbird, Acadian Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Western Meadowlark and Dickcissel.

Contributors and observers cited: Peter Both, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Jan & Francis Fitzpatrick, Valerie Freer, Florence Germond, Helen Manson, Frank Murphy, Drew Panko, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schieffer, Benton Seguin, Selden Spencer, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; Basha—Bashakill Swamp; CB—Cornwall Bay; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; PP—Piermont Pier; USMA—U.S. Military Academy, West Point.

Corrigendum: The Waterman Bird Club May Census on 15 May, 1981 was conducted exclusively in Dutchess Co., not Sullivan as stated in the summer 1982 edition.

The Pine Warbler was observed arriving at Ashokan on 17 Apr, not the Prairie Warbler as stated on p. 220 of that edition.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: although breeding is not proven, an imm was at Ashokan 12 June, and an adult with three imm were there 26 June (FM). Double-crested Cormorant: down from the good numbers of last summer. Only a few birds reported from the lower Hudson; max 12 at Kingston Pt. 6 Aug. Great Blue Heron: numbers still good in Dutch despite the loss of two heronries; very likely still nesting there in yet to be determined location. Nested in two locations at the Basha, only a few nests in each, and numbers of young undetermined. Little Blue Heron: one at Milton Pt., Rye on 19 June, and another at nearby MC 21 July. An adult at Iona I. 26 June and an imm obs several times in the Ten Mile River area of Dutch in Aug. Cattle Egret: more than in recent years. Three in nearby Conn. 20 June. Another near Stone Ridge, Ulst 23 July, and another near Esopus Light 23 Aug. Great Egret: several post breeding wanderers reported. Four at PP 30 July, several Aug reports from the mid-Hudson region, max 19 at Milton Pt., Rye 31 July. Snowy Egret: well scattered

Aug reports especially along Hudson. Max 14 Croton Pt. Aug. 26 and nine at Conn's Hook 8 Aug, the latter seen again 9 Aug. at Garrison's Pd., Ft. Montgomery. Black-crowned Night Heron: things are looking up for this species. More reports than usual. Bob Deed had an imm at West Haverstraw 27 May where he had a downy imm last summer. Two imm were in the same location 26 July. Peter Derven counted nine imm at PP on 28 July. Throughout June both he and Deed noted adults flying south at dusk past Nyack and Grand View; perhaps to Piermont Marsh. This would indicate a possible breeding area up river perhaps in the Haverstraw area, but none has been found. Another heronry probably exists in northeastern, west or southeast Conn. Thirty-six on the Greenwich-Stanford Bird Club 20 June and about 20 at Greenwich Pt. during July would indicate a colony or two must exist in that area, but to date none has been found. Several other imm found thru period at Cruger's I. and CB. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: as indicated in the last edition, sev adults were driven from the nesting area at MC by Great Horned Owls. One pair moved to adjacent Milton Pt. Rye and successfully raised one young. Am. Bittern: one was sounding off on the Hackensack Cr. between West Nyack and Blauvelt thru May to 1 June. Another was at PP 30 July. **GLOSSY IBIS**: always rare away from the coast, one obs flying over Campbell Hall, Oran 3 Aug. (JFF). Ducks: started concentrating in the CB area by mid-July, hundreds there by end of period. Mute Swan: 30 in the CB area by end of period. Green-winged Teal: always rare in summer. A male in eclipse plumage at PP 30 July was close to the earliest arr date. Wood Duck: breeding in exc numbers in the Basha. A pair in juvenal plumage was at PP 20 and 28 July. There are only two prev records for that location. Com. Merganser: 16 at Ashokan 3 July was reduced to two the next day.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: one over Campbell Hall 22 July (JFF). Gos-hawk: one Clove Valley, Dutch 18 June. One ad with one imm near Eldred, Sull 28 July (Alice Jones). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one at Purchase 29 June, and another at Pound Ridge Reservation from mid-June thru 4 July. AB observed four along the Hudson in a canoe trip from Kingston Pt. to Sleightsburg 22 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: the aforementioned canoe trip produced one 22 Aug. One 4 Aug near Amenia. One obs nesting at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall. Its success was not determined (Ken McDermott). Red-shouldered Hawk: more than usual, some breeding, RFD and son had this species in all five Rockland Atlas blocks they were covering. Nests with young were found in n. Sull near Willowemoc and in Ulster near Yeagerville. Another was in the Blue Mt. Atlas territory near Peekskill. Another was seen and heard regularly near Ashokan, and another was observed in Dutch 9 June by a Waterman field trip. Broad-winged Hawk: obs in three out of five Atlas blocks in Rockland including an active nest near Spring Valley. A nest within the Monticello limits fledged three young 15 July. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: one was flying over the Tamarack area of Dutch 12 Aug. **BALD EAGLE**: reports from the Wassaic and Amenia areas of Dutch on 5 and 24 July. An imm was obs by many in the Tamarack region from 12-25 Aug. Marsh Hawk: one at Purchase 29 June was the only report. Osprey: still no breeding. One at CB 24 July and another Tamarack, Dutch 26 Aug. Am. Kestrel: numbers reported severely reduced according to several reporters. RFD reports it vanished from most of last year's Atlas territories. He observed the species in only two out of five Atlas blocks. One pair at West Haverstraw was discovered on his 15th visit to the block, and a single bird was at Haverstraw on his 18th visit. The only exception was in Dutch where they were reported normal. "Several pair" nested in boxes at the Carey Arboretum. There is one story of Starlings invading one of the boxes and killing the young. Bobwhite: This species barely hangs on from year to year. Several were calling at Buchberg L, Tomkins Cove from 11 June thru 14 July. A small group was flushed from a pasture at Bedford 20 June. One ad with five or six young was near Wassaic near the Conn. line in June. Another was obs almost daily near Hartwood, Sull during July. Ring-necked Pheasant: RFD obs it at Thiels, Orangeburg and Haverstraw. Exc. numbers for Rockland where its habitat is fast disappearing. An ad with young was at Salt Point 19 June, and one was heard at Vassar Farms 16, 20 June. Turkey: continues its increase. Obs with young at Carey Arboretum in June and again in Aug. Clapper Rail: as many as three at MC dur June and July. Virginia Rail: sev birds responded to a Barred Owl tape at dawn on 4 Aug just

west of Harriman Park. Young were obs (DP). Sora: heard on Hackensack Cr. between West Nyack and Blauvelt thru June. Com. Gallinule: obs on the Hackensack thru 1 June. Sandpipers: about 30 Semipalmateds and 20 Least were feeding on the algae mat in CB 23 Aug. Obs there in smaller numbers thru most of Aug. Semipalmated Plover: three at PP 30 July. Killdeer: parents with young obs on Mine Rd, USMA 10 June. Am. Golden Plover: first obs at Warren Sod Farm 19 Aug. In numbers less than a dozen thru end of period. Black-bellied Plover: 12 northern migrants lingered at MC till 2 June, and two were there probably on their way back 31 July. First at Stewart Airport 25 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: obs thru period at Warren Sod Farm, Stewart Airport and Galeville Airport. Max 60 at Warren 24 July. Three groups of juvenals about two-thirds the size of adults and totaling 12 birds were at Stewart 29 June. A pair were at Amenia 16 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: one ad with three young were at Salt Point 20, 21 June. Solitary Sandpiper: first migrants were one at Dover 17 Aug. Another at Millbrook 31 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: one Tamarack, Dutch 12 Aug. At MC 30 June inc to 12 by late July. Lesser Yellowlegs: at MC 20 June. May well have been headed either north or south. Several others there dur July. Pectoral Sandpiper: early at PP 28 July. Four at Warren Sod Farm 25 Aug. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: one atop the Spillway Dam at Ashokan 14, 15 Aug (Bob Terwilliger). **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: two in ad plumage were at Warren Sod Farm 24 July. Five in juvenal plumage were at Stewart Airport 25 Aug (BSe). Great Black-backed Gull: an unusual 200 at PP 30 July. Herring Gull: almost completely absent from the mid-Hudson area thru period; still no explanation. Laughing Gull: started up river from Rock 31 July when the first was found at Conn's Hook, inc to 30 there by period's end. Not reported farther north. Bonaparte's Gull: only one, an ad at CB 4 Aug. Com. Tern: only report up river was an ad at CB 11 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: exc numbers. Breeding again for the fifth year in a hanging flower pot in Dutch, and the third brood at that. **MONK PARAKEET**: one eating mulberries on PP 28 July. Was still there 31 July. Black-billed Cuckoo: numbers down everywhere. Too sudden a reduction to have been caused by the Gypsy Moth crash of last summer. Screech Owl: many reports now that observers are using tapes and imitations to get them to respond. A pair nesting at Clinton Corners lost one young when it fell from nest hole. Great Horned Owl: two young still with downy feathers on their heads were at Stone Ridge, Ulst 23 July. Barred Owl: three recently fledged young near Balsam Lake Mt. Ulst 22 June. Another young bird was obs hopping thru brush near Hartwood, Sull 9 July. Com. Nighthawk: the big migrant push at the end of Aug did not materialize. First migrants obs in modest numbers 14, 16 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: low in most areas. RFD had none in Rock. Dutch numbers seem to be good, and a census by canoe at Cruger's I for three hours 29 Aug produced 15 birds (AB). Woodpeckers: normal.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **WESTERN KINGBIRD**: one in Dutch 10 Aug was obs for only a few minutes (MVW, HM). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: a few more than usual. A spring migrant was at Rye Nature Center 2 June. Three reports from the Basha from 15 Aug. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: Atlas workers have found many more than usual. In at least three locations in Rock dur June and July. Three singing near Narrowsburgh, Sull and four in Ulst near Yeagerville. Seven in the Island pond area of Harriman Pk, and five reports from West. At least two pair were south of the Basha, and at least three reported from Dutch. Willow Flycatcher: after late arrival last spring it was in most of its usual sites. BSe reports fewer in Oran this year. Alder Flycatcher: always far fewer than the Willow, but there were several reports. Least Flycatcher: numbers low. RFD had only one pair in five Atlas blocks. Olive-sided Flycatcher: fall returns on 16, 21 Aug along Mine Rd. USMA. Maxima were four on 26 Aug, and five on 28 Aug in Dutch. Swallows: usual exc migration under way by 1 Aug. Hundreds over Cornwall Bay most evenings in Aug. Tree Swallow: FG reports young still in Bluebird box 29 Aug. Bank Swallow: 30 pair at Pound Ridge in June and at least 300 active nests discovered in a quarry near Bedford Hills in June. Rough-winged Swallow: 25 along roadway at PL feeding upon ants. Cliff Swallow: ab 20 pairs nesting again at Cross River Res. Excellent numbers also at Ashokan Dam. One was settled on an offshore

bar in CB with hundreds of trees 16 Aug. Fish Crow: continues to hold its small numbers in the Hudson Valley. Northernmost found at Kingston Pt. 16 Aug. Black-capped Chickadee: a pair nested in a bluebird box in Dutch. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one at Mianus River Gorge near Bedford in early June. Another at Red Oaks Mill 9 June, and FM reports them a common nester at Ashokan. Brown Creeper: sev at Pound Ridge during June. First migrant along Mine R USMA 16 Aug. House Wren: FG found them troublesome in Dutch where they filled bluebird boxes with sticks, and often took them for nest sites, more this year than in others. Winter Wren: heard reg thru June in Deep Hollow, Dutch and also on 30 June near Thompson Pd. Another was in song south of Basha 31 July. Carolina Wren: very few. May have been damaged by the blizzard of early Apr. Absent from Rock. A pair at Rye Nature Center raised two broods. Two were at Red Oaks Mill thru June. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** one seen and heard at SUNY campus in Purchase. Built a nest and then abandoned mateless 18 July (DP, *et al.*). Thrushes: a Burroughs Club trip up Balsam Lake Mt. 22 June had Hermit, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked as well as the more common species. Wood Thrush: most report numbers down. Hermit Thrush: at least five were singing at Pound Ridge 4 July and another singing at L. Tiorati in mid-June. Swainson's Thrush: two spring migrants remained at Pound Ridge till 2 June. E. Bluebird: FG reports summer records better than May. One box still had young 30 Aug. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one 20 June at Kensico R. where they formerly bred. Water Pipit: first fall birds noted at Stewart Airport 25 Aug.

VIREOS--WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: single birds singing at Blauvelt and Haverstraw in early June. Last obs on Mine Rd. USMA 19 June. Solitary Vireo: a pair with three fledglings in Harriman Pk 14 July. Seems to be a regular breeder there above the 550 ft. level. One at Pound Ridge Res. thru June and last seen 4 July. One was at Rio Res 26 July and the first migrant was in the Basha by 3 Aug. Philadelphia Vireo: first migrants in Dutch 23-26 Aug, and in the Basha 24 Aug. Exc numbers by the end of period. Five or six per day in the Basha. Warbling Vireo: exc inc in numbers. Quickly becoming the most numerous vireo at lower elevations. The Greenwich-Stamford Count 20 June had 32 birds with two being the annual average. FM noted them at Ashokan for the first time. Warblers: an exc migration by mid-Aug in Dutch. About half the species were noted in somebody's bird bath in that county. Worm-eating Warbler: adults feeding young in two locations on Dunderberg Mt. 27 June. **"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER:** the male on Mine Rd. USMA was not obs after 8 June. Another male at Pound Ridge was obs feeding a very young juvenal on 11 July. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Rio Res 26 July. Two singing males 18 June in Dutch were later confirmed to be nesting, the first for the county. The first migrant was at Dover, Dutch 7 Aug. Another was obs nesting at Ashokan, usually found at higher elevations in Ulster. Cerulean Warbler: rarely reported in late summer. Two south of Basha in Oran 3, 15 Aug. A pair probably nested at the intersection of Rt. 210 and Cedar Flats Rd. in Stony Pt. where a male was singing thru 20 June. Pine Warbler: quite common at Ashokan thru period. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one on Mine Rd. USMA 19 June. Another in the Basha 17 Aug. One singing on Jockey Hill Rd., Town of Ulster was observed for the second time there on 15 June. It was also there during the summer of '81. Mourning Warbler: one singing at Blauvelt 2 June was late. One at MC, 1, 2 June, two there on 3, 4 and 7 June. The last one there 8 June. Another was at Rye Nature Center 2, 3 June. A fall migrant was in Pleasant Valley 31 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one at Purchase 22 June-9 July where it formerly bred. JT reports at least three pair confirmed breeders in west Oran. Hooded Warbler: continues slow inc at lower elevations in the Hudson Valley where it was formerly a breeder but was poisoned by insecticides in the 1950's and '60s. At least five in the Armonk-Pound Ridge area, and two or three in the Silver Lake Park and Rye L area. An adult with one young was near Eldred 21 July (Alice Jones). Wilson's Warbler: earliest at Basha 3 Aug. Canada Warbler: earliest Basha 3 Aug.

WEAVERS--SPARROWS: Bobolink: of the flocks reported at Thiels last Spring at least one or two pairs remained till 10 June. Nested again in the Bedford area of West, where they were discovered in 1980. Migrants moving south by 21 July. Hundreds were reported in the

Cruger's I area on 29 Aug. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: the bird referred to in the spring report at Stewart Airport in May was obs singing for 15 minutes on 11 May in the company of several E. Meadowlarks (BSe). Orchard Oriole: occurrence usually restricted to a few spring reports, but this year it remained to breed. A pair with three or four young were found at the Stony Point Ski Center 16 June. A male in Rye 20 June was feeding a young cowbird. A pair with a brood was obs 25 June at Stissing, and another pair in Dutch was nesting 18 June, and gone by the 25th. Scarlet Tanager: numbers low in Dutch. Three reports there of adults feeding cowbirds. **BLUE GROSBEAK**: a young male was at MC 1, 2 June. **DICK-CISSEL**: one report from Dutch 20, 21 July. Purple Finch: three at Pound Ridge 13 June and another at Purchase 8 July. 45 were banded at Hartwood during the period, and the first young appeared at feeders there 27 June. Pine Siskin: two adults with three young were at a Hartwood feeder 12 and 18 June. Others were at feeders 7 and 27 July near Winterton. One was at a feeder at Salt Point 3 June and another at Stissing 8 June. Another at a feeder in Clinton Corners 4-16 Aug. Am. Goldfinch: numbers good. One flock of more than 100 was in Dutch 19 Aug. Savannah Sparrow: one was at the south end of the main runway at Westchester Co. Airport from 26 June thru mid-July. At least 15 were at Galeville Airport 7 July. Grasshopper Sparrow: last at Galeville Airport 27 July. Three or four singing males were at LaGrange in June. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW**: last obs at Galeville Airport 14 Aug, max seven there 7 July. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: at least two were present at MC thru period. Vesper Sparrow: at least three were at Watchtower Farms, Walkkill 12 July. Dark-eyed Junco: three in the Deep Hollow area of Dutch 2 June. One was carrying food.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

Weatherwise, the season got off to a depressing start with seven days of rain. Not surprisingly, cold temperatures went with this rain, the first seven days of June averaging nearly four and a half degrees F below normal. A few days of sunny weather allowed temperatures to climb to normal on 9-10 June before the next storm system came thru 11-14 June. This second rainy spell dropped as much rain as the first but with even colder temperatures, an average of 11° below normal. In terms of weather, the single worst day of the season almost has to be 13 June with temperatures 17° below normal and 1.65 inches of rain. The rest of June saw fairly normal weather with average temperatures and rainfall. Overall, June was three degrees below normal with a total of 5.12 inches of rain, over two inches above normal. July also started cool, the first week averaging five degrees below normal, but without June's rain. After this, July turned warm with the hottest day of the season 18 July when temperatures reached 98° in New York City. In total, July was about a degree warmer than average and its 3.14 inches of rain was about half an inch below normal. Two-thirds of July's rain fell on the 28th, including over an inch in one hour during a thunderstorm. August was close to normal until record and near record cold temperatures at the end of the month, particularly on the 29th. This cold spell helped drop the August average to about a degree below normal. August's rainfall of 4.66 inches, about an inch above normal, combined with June's surplus and July's small deficit, left the season on the plus side for rain. (All weather data for New York City.)

The June rains washed out nests of both passerine and colonial species on Long Island, reported Gil Raynor. He reported, however, that most tern colonies on eastern Long Island, including the hard-pressed Least Tern, did well after much renesting. Walter Sedwitz reported that many passerines seemed down in numbers in the north Bronx, perhaps because of the rains. Despite these somewhat negative reports, there are many interesting breeding bird records in this report. Included are: new nesting sites for Gadwall, American Wigeon and Ruddy Duck; the first confirmed Acadian Flycatcher nesting on Long Island in years; the third Long Island nesting record for Kentucky Warbler; continued nesting of Boat-tailed Grackles after last year's first proven state nesting. In addition, there is the first reported nesting of Cerulean Warbler on Long Island and New York State's first ever nesting Blue Grosbeaks on Staten Island.

This past winter the Central Suffolk Christmas Bird Count reported all time count highs for 23 species. In the winter season report I wondered how many of these species had fared during last January's severe cold weather. This summer's Central Suffolk Breeding Bird Census seems to give at least a partial answer to that question. In its eighth year the Central Suffolk Census reported all time count highs for 23 species (again!). Ten species are common to both lists of records: Red-tailed Hawk, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Dove (alas), Great Horned Owl, Common Crow, Fish Crow, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin and Cedar Waxwing. Most of the rest of the species on the CBC and Census record lists are birds that primarily only winter on Long Island or go south for the winter, respectively.

A survey of the shorebirds at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge was continued this year by Tom Davis. He reported that numbers of many fall migrants averaged one to two weeks later than last year. Also, he found poor numbers of western Canadian species, including: Western, White-rumped, Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers. Am. Oystercatchers and Willets have increased compared to recent years, probably reflecting an increase in local breeding populations, according to Davis.

Rarities, plus several out of season birds were: Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Harlequin Duck, Black-headed Gull and Little Gull.

Finally, I would like to ask observers to include more notes on the status of more of our resident and breeding species and also on bird movements, particularly during migration. A reading of the seasonal reports will show that some observers regularly do include these types of notes, but more would be welcome. Observers should not restrict themselves to "good" birds in their reports or feel that they have nothing to contribute to the seasonal report if they did not see a "good" bird that season. What about those flocks of Blue Jays you noticed flying over when you went out to lunch last week? Or the geese heard going over in the dark the other night? We've all had experiences like these. We do not lose our interest in birds when we take off our binoculars. It is only when observations like those above are compared with other observers' reports do we see if they fit together into a bigger pattern. So send in those reports. (The moans you hear in the background are the editors who feel, rightly, that I am already too late with the seasonal reports as it is.) Thank you to all the observers and contributors

whose efforts make these seasonal reports possible.

Abbreviations: LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; BBC—Breeding Bird Census; mob—many observers.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, George Bouquio, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas H. Davis, Joe DiCostanzo, Rich Miller, Peter W. Post, Gilbert S. Raynor, Walter Sedwitz, Al Wollin.

LOONS—DUCKS: At least a couple of Com. Loons lingered in Gardiner's Bay thru June and July (M. Male, J. Walsh). A pelagic trip to 30 miles s and se of Montauk Pt. on 21 Aug found one Sooty, 83 Greater and 56 Cory's Shearwaters and 95 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (B. Spencer, THD). Double-crested Cormorants were seen passing over the Riverdale area 24-25 June (WS). No report was received on whether or not Double-crests will breed at the Fisher's I. colony started in 1978, but they remain relatively common at the east end of LI Sound (JD). A Least Bittern was found at East Moriches on the Central Suffolk BBC and two were seen and heard throughout the period in the Calverton Marsh (RA, GSR). These were the only reports of this rare LI breeder. A late lingering Snow Goose was at Plum I. 17 June (GSR). One Breeding Bird Atlasser reported a very poor breeding season for the Mallards nesting at Hempstead Lake St. Pk.: "Between the Black-crowned Night Herons and Snapping Turtles it is difficult to find an immature Mallard to confirm breeding." (S. B. Dempsey). See the notes on Com. Terns for another report of Black-crown's predation. A pair of Gadwalls nested at the Goethals Bridge Pd. for what is apparently the first nesting record for SI, though breeding had been suspected there for the last couple of years (W. & N. Siebenheller, H. Jenkins, *vide* GB). A pair of Gadwalls also nested on Great Gull I, following last year's first ever nesting there (H. Hays). A new breeding locality was established for the Am. Wigeon when a female with young was found at North Sea (J. Ruscica, *vide* GSR). This is the first regional nesting away from western LI. A number of winter ducks lingered, or summered, in the region. A male Bufflehead was at Spring Creek 27 June-3 July (THD). A female Harlequin Duck, a good bird at any time, was found at Ft. Tilden 26 June (W. Baumann, *vide* THD). Three White-winged Scoters were at Orient 23 July (RA) and a female Black Scoter frequented Oakwood Beach, SI, 12-19 Aug (R. Clermont, *et al.*, *vide* GB). A brood of young Ruddy Ducks at Patchogue was evidence of the first LI nesting away from JBWR (*vide* GSR). A female and eight large young indicated successful nesting of Red-breasted Mergansers at Shinnecock Bay (GSR).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: A Turkey Vulture, an uncommon bird on LI even during migration, was at Southampton 13 July (AW). Four Marsh Hawks were a record for the Central Suffolk BBC, following a near record count on the area's CBC. A pair of Marsh Hawks with newly fledged young in the Westhampton pine barrens confirmed breeding there after several years of suspicion (GSR). An imm Bald Eagle was at JBWR on 28 July (P. Bernarth, *vide* THD). The only report of Virginia Rail received was one at Manorville 1 Aug (GSR). The earliest Am. Golden Plover reported was one at JBWR 14 Aug (THD); 13 were at Southampton 28 Aug (S. Dempsey). The first Whimbrel of the fall was at Moriches Bay 7 Aug (RA, GSR). Upland Sandpiper: ten were at Republic Airport 17 July (RM) and 11 were found there 29 Aug (J. Greenlaw, *vide* RM). From mid-July thru Aug, one to two individuals were regularly found at Miller or South Beach Fields, SI (R. Clermont, *vide* GB). Willets apparently continue to increase in the region with 49 on the Central Suffolk BBC a count record. White-rumped Sandpiper numbers peak later in the spring than most other shorebirds. The max reported this past spring was 34 at JBWR on 6 June (THD). The first fall bird appeared at JBWR on 31 July (THD). Single Baird's Sandpipers were found at JBWR 22 and 28 Aug (*vide* THD) and at Mecox Bay 29 and 30 Aug (J. Ash, *vide* THD). The Mecox Bay birds were recognizably different individuals. The only Curlew Sandpiper reported was an adult that remained at JBWR from 28 July to 12 Aug (mob). Three Long-billed Dowitchers were at Shinnecock Inlet on the very unusual date of 23 June (PAB, *vide* THD). The first Long-bill of the fall was found at JBWR 23 July (THD); 22 were there on 15 Aug (THD). A lone

Stilt Sandpiper arrived at JBWR 18 July (THD); 9 to 19 birds were there throughout Aug (THD). Fifteen Stilt Sandpipers were at Goethals Bridge Pd. 14 Aug (GB). A Western Sandpiper at Shinnecock Inlet 23 June (PAB, *fide* THD) was a very late spring migrant or a summering bird. One month later on 24 July the first fall Western arrived at JBWR (THD); one to four birds were present there thru the end of July and Aug (THD). Marbled Godwits arrived in early Aug with two at the Line I 7 Aug (G. & M. Dremeaux, *fide* THD) and two at Great Kills, SI 9 Aug (A. Peterson, *et al.*, *fide* GB). Arriving with the Marbleds were Hudsonian Godwits: 16 were at the Line I 7 Aug (G. & M. Dremeaux, *fide* THD). The only reports of Ruff were at JBWR on the surprising dates of 30 June (J. Blass, *fide* THD) and 10 July (M. Sohmer, B. Baker, *fide* THD). Considering the unusualness of the dates it seems possible the two sightings may have been the same bird. As usual, Am. Avocets appeared at JBWR in Aug: different individuals 10-21 Aug and 27 Aug thru the end of the period (mob). At JBWR it was a summer to look for what we normally think of as uncommon winter gulls. An adult Black-headed Gull lingered from 5 July to 28 Aug (mob). Also frequenting the refuge during part of this time was a subadult Little Gull, 23 July to 18 Aug (mob). A lone Bonaparte's Gull was at Great Kills I Aug (GB). A pair of Gull-billed Terns were at Bay County Park in East Rockaway 7 June (PWP, *fide* THD). Fall migrant Forster's Terns arrived at JBWR 31 July (mob). There was no report from Hewlett Hassock, the site of last year's first state nesting. Com. Terns had a banner year on Great Gull I. with over 3000 pairs producing a record number of young (H. Hays). In contrast, the colony at Southold had a disastrous season producing virtually no young due to predation, mostly by Black-crowned Night Herons. On one evening in June, 14 Black-crowns and a Barn Owl were observed feeding in the tern colony (J. Syme). Four ARCTIC TERNS were reported at Shinnecock Inlet 23 June by an observer familiar with the species (PAB, *fide* THD). Roseate Terns did very well on Great Gull I. this year with approximately 700 pairs producing the most young in several years (H. Hays). Four Royal Terns were at Shinnecock Inlet 23 June (PAB, *fide* THD). 20 Royals were at Shinnecock 22 Aug (S. Terrill, *fide* THD). SANDWICH TERNS have been reported from e. LI annually for the last few years. One at Shinnecock Inlet 23 June rounds out an amazing collection of terns and shorebirds for that location on a single day (PAB, *fide* THD). Another Sandwich was reported at Mecox Bay 29 Aug (J. Ash, *fide* THD). A total of four Caspian Terns were reported this season: one at Mecox Bay 26 July (D. Larsen, RA), one at JBWR 2 Aug (M. Russak, *fide* THD) and two at Shinnecock Inlet 22 Aug (S. Terrill, *fide* THD). Shinnecock is clearly the place for rare terns in the summer months.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: The Central Suffolk BBC reported a count record of 712 Mourning Doves. Central Suffolk found only two Screech Owls, in sharp contrast to the record count of 42 on the CBC, running counter to the pattern mentioned in the introduction. An injured, juvenal-plumaged Saw-whet Owl was picked up in Hollis, Queens Co. on 20 June (*fide* H. Richard, THD). The bird subsequently died and the specimen went to the American Museum of Natural History. Another juvenal Saw-whet was discovered, netted and banded on Great Gull I on 1 July (M. Rubega, JD, *et al.*). The Great Gull I bird shows why extreme caution must be exercised in considering a species a proven breeder for an area on the basis of a lone, flying juvenal. This bird definitely did not originate on Great Gull I and had to have flown a minimum of three to five miles over water to reach the island. The Saw-whet stayed for several days and was successfully hunting on its own. A Chuck-will's-widow nest was found at Oak Beach where they have nested previously (K. Feustel, *fide* GSR). Others were heard in the vicinity of Calverton, Manorville, Wading River and Napeague (GSR). The Central Suffolk BBC found only one Ruby-throated Hummingbird. An adult Red-headed Woodpecker frequented an old Com. Flicker nest hole in Manorville from 16 June to 26 July, but no mate or evidence of breeding was found (GSR).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: An imm SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER was found at JFK Airport 2 July (S. Chevalier, *fide* THD). Coinciding with the cold temperatures of 29 Aug were the fall's first Western Kingbirds with one at Jones Beach St. Pk (PWP, E. Levine,

et al.) and one at Robt. Moses St. Pk. (PWP, S. Safire, *vide* THD). As in the past two years a calling male Acadian Flycatcher was at Upton, but no evidence of nesting was found (GSR). However, an Acadian nest was found southwest of Riverhead 12 June (J. Clinton, Sr., *vide* GSR). Except for an aborted nesting attempt near Noyack in 1972, this is apparently the first confirmed nesting on LI since 1926. Tree and Barn Swallows were both found in count record numbers on the Central Suffolk BBC: 146 and 414, respectively. Tufted Titmice continue to increase on eastern LI with 42 on the Central Suffolk BBC another count high. Several Brown Creepers were present in the vicinity of Upton and Manorville, as in recent years (GSR). Single nests of E. Bluebirds were found at Upton and E. Manorville as in previous years, with another pair also seen at E. Manorville (GSR). 14 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the Central Suffolk BBC were a count record. One observer felt that Cedar Waxwings were more numerous than in recent years with nests found in Manorville and Upton (GSR).

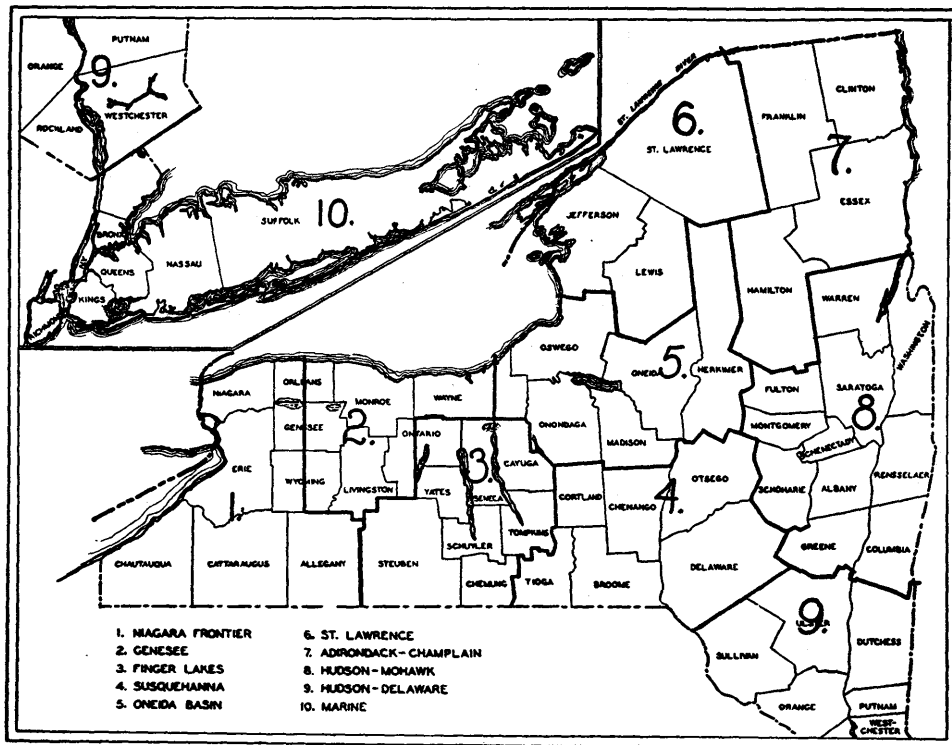
VIREOS—WARBLERS: Singing male Yellow-throated Vireos were present sporadically at Manorville and Upton during the season, but no evidence of nesting was found (GSR). The heavy June rains were reported to have rained out nesting Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos in Van Cortlandt Pk. (WS). Prothonotary Warblers are rare fall migrants in the region but two showed up in New York City parks this Aug. A male was in Central Park 12 Aug (J. Farrand, *vide* THD), and another male in the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens 19 Aug (J. Rosenthal, *vide* THD). Cerulean Warblers are rare spring migrants on LI but a female feeding newly-fledged young at Sag Harbor gave evidence that one pair stayed to nest, a first for LI (E. Salzman, *vide* GSR). Singing male Blackpoll Warblers were late spring stragglers at Ridgewood Reservoir 22 June and Springfield Pk. 26 June (THD). A pair of Kentucky Warblers were seen carrying food at Miller Place in early July (P. Laino, *vide* GSR). Fledged young seen there on 14 July indicated the third nesting record for LI (GSR). A female Canada Warbler at Far Rockaway 19 June was a bit late for the spring (THD).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: E. Meadowlarks were reported to be barely hanging on in the Central Suffolk BBC area with only three birds found (GSR). A pair of Orchard Orioles bred at Springfield Pk. for the first nesting in Queens Co. in years (THD). In the early morning of 27 July 175 Com. Grackles were migrating southwest over Riverdale, one day ahead of the heavy rains of 28 July (WS). Boat-tailed Grackles consolidated last year's first state nesting record with two nests found at Piersall's Hassock (R. Miller, *vide* THD) and a nest with young at Middlebay near Hewlett Harbor (J. Zarudsky, *vide* GSR). New York State picked up another first-ever nester from the South this year when a pair of Blue Grosbeaks were found nesting at Latourette Park, SI (W. & N. Siebenheller). An invader from the north was a male Red Crossbill and four newly-fledged young seen bathing in a puddle in Upton on 15 June (GSR). See the spring report for other reports of nesting Red Crossbills. The Central Suffolk BBC found only two Vesper Sparrows, their lowest count ever. Last, but very far from least, is a male CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR at Bay County Park in East Rockaway 6-8 June (M. Lindauer; photo G. Dremeaux). This represents the fifth state record. That it occurred in June rather than in the winter or early spring is even more remarkable.

Corrections: Several errors crept into the spring season's report. The date of the Iceland Gull at JBWR should be 4 Apr, not 1 Apr. The Kentucky Warbler in Alley Pond Pk. observation should be credited to S. B. Dempsey. The flock of Bobolinks in a buckwheat field were in Cutchogue, not Patchogue. Finally, the Pine Siskins on SI represent the second regional nesting record. The first was at New Dorp, SI in 1976. My thanks to Gil Raynor for bringing these to my attention.

Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.
Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024

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.

1983 Officers

President

Morgan Jones 184 Temple Street, Fredonia, NY 14063

Vice-President

Charles R. Smith 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

Corresponding Secretary

Constance Wilkins 4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045

Recording Secretary

Harriet Marsi Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, NY 13903

Treasurer

John W. Forness 3086 Haskell Road, R.D. 2, Cuba, NY 14727

Co-Editors of THE KINGBIRD

Emanuel Levine, 585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

John Farrand, Jr., American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY 10024

Appointed Committees

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

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

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

Bibliography: Allen Benton, 292 Water St., Fredonia, NY 14063

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

John J. Elliott Memorial Committee: John L. Bull, 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, NY 14534

Elected Committees

Auditing: Richard Sloss, Stephen Dempsey

Nominating: Martin Borko, Chairman; Alice Jones, Mary Ann Sunderlin