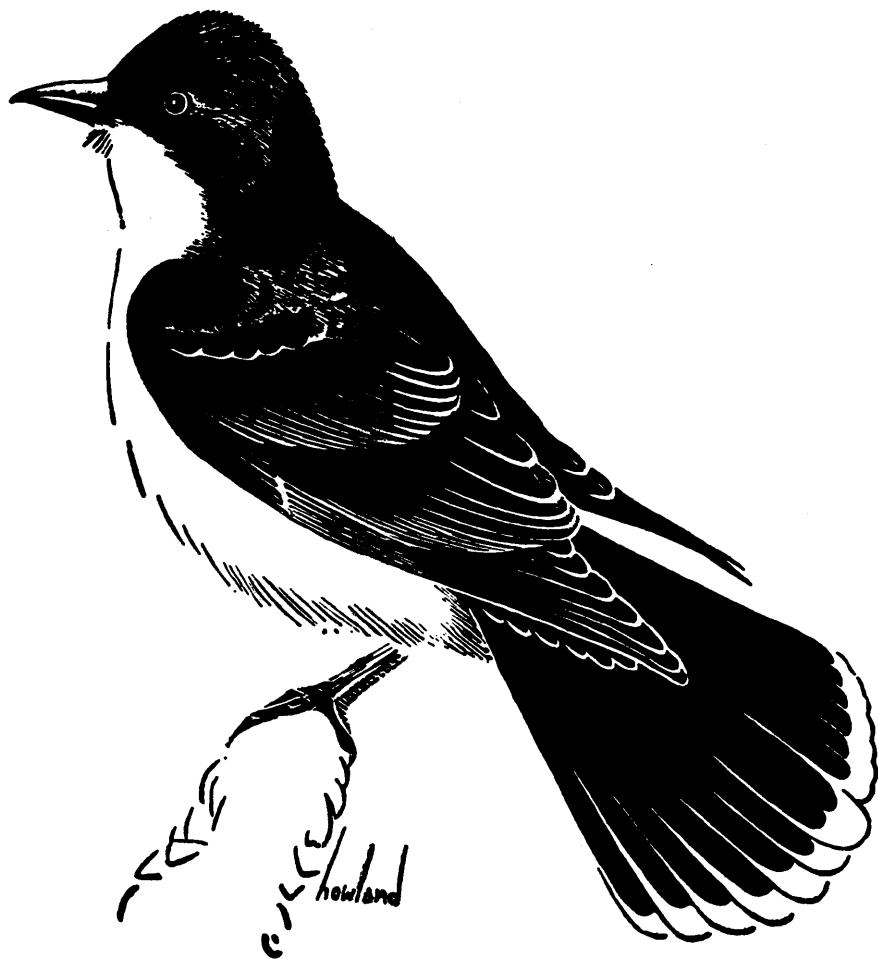


The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XXXV, NO. 3

FALL • 1985

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 \$15.00 annually, of which \$8.00 is for *THE KINGBIRD* publication. Other membership classes are: Family Membership (\$20.00), Supporting Member (\$25.00), or Life Member (\$200.00) – payable over a four-year period in equal installments, if member so desires. Student membership is \$10.00. *THE KINGBIRD* institutional subscriptions: \$18.00 per year on calendar year basis only. Single copies: \$5.00. Memberships are on a calendar year basis. Applicants for Annual or Family Membership applying in the second half of the year may reduce payment by one-half.

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

Second class postage paid at Cortland, NY.

Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation

1. Title of Publication – *THE KINGBIRD* Publication No. (ISSN 0023-1606)
2. Date of Filing – September 30, 1985
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 Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Editor – Paul DeBenedictis, 306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210
Managing Editor – None; Circulation Manager – Constance N. Wilkins,
4000 West Rd., 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 Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
8. Known bondholders – None
9. The purpose, function, and nonprofit 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	1000	1010
B. Paid circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	0	0
2. Mail subscription	959	956
C. Total paid circulation	959	956
D. Free distribution by mail, carrier, or other means, samples, complimentary, and other free copies	21	27
E. Total distribution	980	983
F. Copies not distributed		
1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	20	27
2. Return from news agents	0	0
G. Total	1000	1010
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The **KINGBIRD**

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

Vol. XXXV, No. 4

Fall, 1985

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Editor – Paul A. DeBenedictis

Highlights of the Season

Editor – Robert Spahn

Circulation Manager – Constance N. Wilkins



Lake Kan-ac-to, Herkimer County

Boreal Owl

18 March 1955

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

47. BOREAL OWL IN HERKIMER COUNTY

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

The considerable effect of the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas project upon state ornithology is not limited solely to nesting species, or even to the period 1980-84. Recently, through Atlas contacts, the accompanying photo of a Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) was submitted to me for verification. The original black and white photograph from which this enlarged (3x) view of the owl is taken measures 3" x 4½". The two observers, who ask that they remain anonymous, took the picture on the early evening of March 18, 1955, on the shore of Lake Kan-ac-to, Town of Webb, Herkimer Co., three miles northeast of Old Forge. The lake appears on the 1954 Big Moose Quadrangle 15 minute series (topographic). The owl was perched "head high," according to the observers, in a balsam fir.

This appears to be the earliest photographic record of Boreal Owl in New York State, preceding that taken of a bird at Pulaski, Oswego Co., March 17-18, 1962 (Bull, *The Birds of New York State*, Doubleday/Natural History Press, New York, 1974), by exactly seven years. Based upon "A Review of New York State Boreal Owl Records" provided by Robert P. Yunick (*The Kingbird* 29: 181-89; 1979) and subsequent "Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee," this should be inserted as the ninth New York State report and brings the total number of reports through 1979 to 22. The Lake Kan-ac-to owl also provides a first record for Herkimer County, a third for the Adirondack Park, and the fourth for Oneida Lake Basin Region. My thanks to Merry Baker for calling this early documented record to my attention.

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

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

The New York State Avian Records Committee received 65 reports representing 47 records of birds in 1984, as well as one record each from 1955 and 1962, and two records from 1983. In addition, the committee was able to resolve the status of eight records submitted in prior years. Of these records, 32 were found to be acceptable and include an addition to the list of birds recorded from New York as well as an addition to the list of species found nesting there. Twenty-six reports were not accepted. One report from 1981 remains unresolved within the Committee. In addition, reports for two records of Varied Thrush and one each of Bald Eagle and Greater White-fronted Goose were received and filed without review. The list of species normally reviewed by this Committee may be found in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 33: 246-247; 1983.

The proportion of reports not accepted is higher than in recent years, reflecting the increasing number of reports difficult to judge being submitted to this Committee. As in past years, inadequate details remain the primary cause for a record not being accepted. Supposedly "unmistakable" species continue to cause the most problems, usually because of the brevity of the report. We have commented on a few of the reports not accepted in the summary below, especially when they illustrate recurrent problems with submitted reports. These comments are intended to apply generally to the species, as well as to the report(s), in question.

We remain hampered by reports that are difficult to read and/or to reproduce for circulation within the Committee, and by the submission of duplicates rather than original reports in some instances. An important function of this Committee is the archiving of submitted reports for later generations of ornithologists. Your written account may be more durable than a photograph, especially a color slide. Contributors should submit reports in *black ink; type or write clearly; give the exact locality* (including the county) for the observation and their *printed name* as well as their signature.

Reports to the NYSARC should be submitted to:

Mr. Steve Sibley, Secretary
The New York State Avian Records Committee
% Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

A number of errors and inconsistencies in past reports of the NYSARC are corrected below. As noted at the end of this report, membership of the Committee changes with this report as well.

As in past reports, the term "documented" means that there is a report on file for an observation. The term "substantiated" means that material evidence accompanies the documentation. Only those persons who have submitted reports to the NYSARC are acknowledged in the summary below, regardless of how many observers actually were involved. Most reports since 1978 which have not been reviewed by this Committee are omitted from summaries of a species' status in New York.

1955 Accepted Report

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) 1955-1-A adult, Lake Kan-ac-to, Town of Webb, Herkimer Co., 18 March 1955 (JMCP), photograph on file. This becomes, historically, the eighth record from New York (see below).

1981 Accepted Reports

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). 1981-44-A immature (Basic I plumage), town of Onondaga, Onondaga Co., 17 Dec. (FGS). A very few Thayer's Gulls are found almost every winter in the Oneida Lake Basin Region, usually along the Oswego River. Its identification is sufficiently difficult, and its numbers so small, that the Committee desires to review all reports from New York State. This report was delayed by problems in duplicating it for circulation within the Committee.

Northern Hawk-Owl (*Surnia ulula*). 1981-53-A one, Town of Ohio "in a bog near Route 8," Oneida Co., Dec. [day not given] (DWC), photograph on file. This is about the 42nd report from New York State; it was delayed in Committee by the sketchy details, submitted second-hand, that accompanied the photograph.

1983 Accepted Report

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*). 1983-40-A one found shot near Masena, St. Lawrence Co., 5 Feb. (PAD), photograph on file. This bird was sent to Cornell University for rehabilitation, where it died; its remains were destroyed in autopsy and not preserved. This is the only substantiated record from New York during the winter of 1982/83.

1984 Accepted Reports

Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*). 1984-34-A immature found dead, Oswego, Oswego Co., 3 March (GM), specimen at Rice Creek Biological Station, SUNY Oswego. This report follows several late 1983 sightings reviewed in our previous report; there are about 40 records from upstate New York, but only six are substantiated.

Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*). 1984-2-A,B one, Henderson Pond, Town of

Henderson, Jefferson Co., 25 March to 1 April (LBC, DWC). This is the second record from New York, coming only a year after the first; none are substantiated.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). 1984-40-A one, Town of Knox, Albany Co., 15 May (KPA). There are about 100 reports of this species from New York, most made before 1930. This is only the fifth report in the last decade.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1984-43-A one, Chappaqua, Westchester Co., 6 June (BW), photograph on file. This is the 20th record from New York.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*). 1984-17-A one (?female), Great Kills National Recreation Area, Richmond Co., 7 June (AM). This is the 29th record from New York, the last in 1978.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). 1984-20-A-C nesting pair, Sandy Pond, Oswego Co., 21 May to 25 July (FGS, DWC, JJB), photographs on file. This species last nested at this upstate locality in 1959, and is now sporadic here; there are only four other records from upstate New York in the last decade.

American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). 1983-31-A female, Hogan Pt., Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 12 May (RGS). There are about 17 prior records from upstate New York.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). 1984-8-A immature (Basic I plumage), Fulton, Oswego Co., 19 Jan. (FGS). 1984-23-A,B,C immature (Basic I plumage), Fulton, Oswego Co., 28 Jan. (FGS, DWC, BJS), photographs on file. See the comments under the 1983 accepted record above.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). 1984-12-A,B adult, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., 21 April (LC, PJM). This appears to be the earliest record for New York by two days. This species is rarely reported upstate during the spring migration, when it is especially similar to the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*.) Nonetheless, the NYSARC will not review future reports of this species.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*). 1984-24-A one, North Road ("Helena road"), St. Lawrence Co., 21 Jan. (JMCP), photograph published in High Peaks Audubon Newsletter 12:15 on file. 1984-25-A. St. Regis Indian Reservation, Franklin Co., 21 Jan. (JMCP), photograph published in High Peaks Audubon Newsletter 12:16 on file. There are perhaps 100 reports of this species from New York, of which about two-thirds have satisfactory details. Most records come from winters when irruptions occur, as was the case for these reports. Other reports from the winter 1983/84 may be found in our previous report and below under 1984 records not accepted.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*). 1984-5-A adult, Snake Swamp, Town of Oswego, Oswego Co., 3-15 Feb. (LDH), photographs on file. This is the 21st record from New York State, the previous in 1979.

Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*). 1984-44-A female, Irvington-on-Hudson, Westchester Co., 17 Dec. (LRS). The Committee has seen several reports of extralimital birds with insufficient detail to preclude aberrant Hairy Woodpeckers (*Picoides villosus*), which rarely show either back-barring or flank-barring, or both, and which may become dark-stained during the nesting season. The brief description of this bird is entirely consistent with birds from eastern North American populations of this species, which has been recorded in New York away from the Adirondacks on about ten prior occasions.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). 1984-38-A one, west spit Little Sodus Bay, Fairhaven, Cayuga Co., 23 Sept. (MSR). This is only the fourth record from the Oneida Lake Basin Region, and about the 22nd from upstate New York.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*). 1984-22-A one, Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 28 April (FGS). Seen and heard with a group of American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) at a time when juveniles of the latter are absent, this bird is far from populations on the Hudson River and the isolated colony in Ithaca. All observations of this species outside of known nesting areas should be submitted to the NYSARC for review.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*). 1984-45-A one, Croton Point, Westchester Co., 15 Dec. (BW). This latest record (the first for Dec.) from New York follows a season of exceptional numbers nesting in the lower Hudson Valley, and others were reported elsewhere in New England during the early winter.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). 1984-46-A-D immature, Town of North Elba, Essex Co., 28-29 Sept. (GTC, RKH, POT, CSL). This is the 22nd record from New York and the tenth upstate.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). 1984-16-A,B pair at nest, South Cairo, Greene Co., 6 June to 1 July (DNN, DEE), nest in American Museum of Natural History. 1984-35-A pair at nest, Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus Co., 9-21 July (WD'A), nest in Buffalo Museum of Science. 1984-26-A two, Hamburg, Erie Co., 1 May (LH & RDL). Full details of these first nesting records from New York may be found in *The Kingbird* Vol. 34: 221. There are about 40 prior records from upstate New York, and it is found almost annually in migration on Long Island.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). 1984-18-A female, Canastota, Madison

Co., 11 May (DWC). 1984-21-A female, Martisco, Onondaga Co., 27 May (FGS). There are about 25 previous satisfactory records from upstate New York; it is found on Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley in the spring of most years.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). 1984-13-A adult male, Town of Preble 3 mi. s. Tully, Cortland Co., 5-6 May (DWC, FGS), photographs on file. This is the 12th record from New York, and the sixth upstate.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). 1984-14-A one, Point Peninsula, Jefferson Co., 14 May (J&MT). Although this species is found most falls on Long Island, there are only about a dozen prior records from upstate New York.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1984-47-A,B one, Essex, Essex Co., 6-14 Dec. (JP, GC, JMCP). It is not known if the remains of this bird, salvaged from a local cat, were preserved; this is about the 13th record from New York.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). 1984-11-A-D male, Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., 13-27 March (EP, MEV, JWK, MCK), photographs on file. Full details of this first state record appear in *The Kingbird* Vol. 34: 214; it becomes the 428th species to have been recorded from New York. Many other Bramblings were found at widely scattered points in the United States and Canada during the winter 1983/84. The distribution of records of this and of other Palaearctic species suggests a Siberian origin for this bird. This was the eastern-most bird reported, although there are earlier records from western Massachusetts and New Jersey.

1962 Report Not Accepted

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). 1962-1-A one, Tupper Lake Village, Franklin Co., 6 April. This report, whose submission was prompted by the 1984 record above, illustrates the importance of a central repository for reports especially well. The original sketches and notes for this observation have been lost during the intervening years, and this report now is a recollection from more than 20 years ago.

1977 Report Not Accepted

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*). 1981-32-A one, Middle Line Island, Nassau Co., 23 July. Although this bird may have been this species, the Committee felt that the circumstances of the observation and the lack of unanimity among its observers, as noted in the account published in *The Kingbird* (Vol. 28: 3-4; 1978), precludes its admission to the state list on the basis of this report.

1981 Report Not Accepted

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1981-43-A,B one, Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 23 Nov. See below.

1982 Report Not Accepted

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). 1982-26-A subadult, Mecox Bay, Suffolk Co., 1 Sept. Great care is required to identify vagrant subadults of this species, and observers even should consider the possibility of hybrids, especially Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull, which could be similar in appearance.

1983 Reports Not Accepted

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). 1983-30-A immature, Plattsburgh, Clinton Co., 3-4 Sept.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1983-32-A one, Shelter Island, Suffolk Co., 30 Dec. See below.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). 1983-23-A one, Lake Sagaponack, Suffolk Co., 18 Sept.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*). 1983-39-A "female," Fredonia, Erie Co., 29 Oct. Although this bird was trapped and measured in hand, it escaped before it could be photographed. One of the measurements used to separate it from the Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) was taken "incorrectly," and can never be verified independently. This is one of the few American birds that may be unidentifiable out of range under field conditions, especially in the fall.

1984 Reports Not Accepted

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*). 1984-36-A one, Hudson Canyon, 26 May. This report also was evaluated by David S. Lee, North Carolina State Museum, who also feels that this suggestive report is sufficiently atypical to preclude its acceptance as a New York record.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). 1984-41-A one near Plattsburgh, Clinton Co., 5 June.

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). 1984-5-A one, Charlotteville, Schoharie Co., 12 Jan. 1984-29-A one, Webster, Monroe Co., 5 April.

"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*). 1984-32-A one, Perinton, Monroe Co., 6 May. Current data on variation and distribution of this form suggest that even under the best conditions (which did not apply to this report), one can regard vagrant birds only as "showing the characteristics of this race." Nonetheless, any future observations of "Harlan's" Hawk from New York should be submitted to the NYSARC.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*). 1984-28-A one, Baskets, Monroe Co., 31 March.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). 1984-7-A one, Bond's Lake, Niagara Co., 8 Jan.

- Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*). 1984-1-A one, New Lebanon, Columbia Co., 7 Jan. 1984-6-A one, village of Lisbon, St. Lawrence Co., 13 Feb. Most Gyr Falcon reports seen by the NYSARC are too brief to exclude other raptor species. Also, free-flying Gyr Falcons wearing jesses occasionally have been seen in New York. Identification of this species is further complicated by various falcon hybrids deliberately produced by falconers and which have been found loose in New York on at least two occasions. One of these hybrids eventually was traced to a Missouri falconer!
- Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*). 1984-30-A one, Webster, Monroe Co., 20 May.
- Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*). 1984-6-A immature, Montauk Pt., Suffolk Co., 14 Jan. 1984-48-A,B,C immature, Westport, Essex Co., 17 May.
- Roseate Tern** (*Sterna dougallii*). 1984-10-A adult, Elmira, Chemung Co., 4 May.
- Great Gray Owl** (*Strix nebulosa*). 1984-9-A one, LaFargeville, Jefferson Co., 28 Jan. This bird was seen in silhouette at great distance from a rapidly moving car by four experienced observers who had just seen this species in Canada; all simultaneously made the identification, but were unable to view the bird more closely. Most observers have experienced similar situations when they confidently identify a bird based on a fleeting view. Each observer must decide whether to submit such observations to others formally or informally. While there may be more value in documenting such an observation when you know of other similar sightings, the NYSARC is unlikely to find them acceptable as formal records, as in this case.
- Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*). 1984-42-A,B male, Castleton-on-Hudson, Rensselaer Co., 26-27 Aug.
- Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*). 1984-19-A immature, Fredonia, Erie Co., 11 Aug.
- Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*). 1984-27-A male, Lansing Village, Tompkins Co., 16 May.
- Blue Grosbeak** (*Guiraca caerulea*). 1984-33-A pair, Steuben City, Steuben Co., mid-June.
- Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*). 1984-39-A one, Trumansburg, Tompkins Co., 16 May.
- Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*). 1984-15-A one, Webster, Monroe Co., 30 April.

Corrigenda

The following errors of commission or omission have crept into past reports. For each error, the citation gives the Volume and Page where the report was originally published. In addition, some years have report

numbers that either were not reviewed, were unused, or are still pending a decision by the NYSARC.

1979 report (Vol. 29)

Purple Gallinule: filed as 1978-10, *not* 1978-11 (p. 122).

Sabine's Gull: filed as 1978-29, *not* 1978-19 (p. 122).

1980 report (Vol. 30)

White-faced Storm-Petrel: observed 19 Sept. 1979 (p. 202).

American Flamingo: filed as 1979-5 (p. 202).

Sabine's Gull: filed as 1979-42, *not* 1979-36 (p. 203).

1982 report (Vol. 32)

Brewer's Blackbird: filed as 1981-47, *not* 1981-42 (p. 232).

1983 report (Vol. 33)

N. Gannet: filed as 1981-54, *not* 1981-46 (p. 247).

Ivory Gull: filed as 1981-51, *not* 1981-43 (p. 247).

Tanager sp.: filed as 1981-52, *not* 1981-44 (p. 249).

Hoary Redpoll; the several reports from Pompey, Onondaga Co., begin with number 1982-3, *not* 1982-2 (p. 249).

1984 report (Vol. 34)

Piping Plover: observed 14 Sept. 1983 (p. 218).

American Avocet: *delete* record 1983-27 (p. 218); it is a duplicate of 1982-40 with an incorrect date, re-evaluated through an error by the Committee. (Both reviews resulted in identical evaluations.)

Western Kingbird: report 1983-34 was submitted by David J. Messineo, *not* DS, and the bird was seen in Chenango, *not* Chemung Co. (p. 219).

With this report Paul DeBenedictis resigns from the NYSARC to assume editorship of *The Kingbird*. In seven years of service, it has been his great pleasure to see the growth in acceptance of the NYSARC and in the quality of reports submitted to it; it has been equally difficult to have had to turn down reports felt to be correct, sometimes submitted by good friends, because of inadequate details. The committee accepts with sadness the resignation of Thomas H. Davis, for reasons of health. We welcome Drs. F. G. Scheider and Barbara J. Spencer as their replacements.

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

Contributors: Kenneth P. Able, Lester J. Badenoek III, James J. Bardsley, Lysanne Cape, Geoffrey Carleton, Lee B. Chamberlaine, G. T. Chase, Richard Clements, Juanita Cook, Jack P. Cook, Robert H. Cornell, Dorothy W. Crumb, Willie D'Anna, Thomas H. Davis, Paul A. DeBenedictis, Charlcie Delehanty, Victor Emanuel, Diane E. Emord, Robert K. Hagar, John Hanyak, Lynn D. Hemink, Deborah Jones, Morgan Jones, James W. Key, Mary C. Key, William E. Kreuger, Charlotte S. Ladwig, Lucile H. & Robert D. Leonard, Warren L. Lloyd, David N. Magne, George Maxwell, P. J. Milburn, Charles W. Mitchell, Arthur Morris, David & Linda Murray, Maurice C. Noyes, John Parke, Eleanor Pink, John M. C. Peterson, Gilbert S. Raynor, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Dominic F. Sherony, Robert G. Spahn, Barbara J. Spencer, Langdon R. Stevenson, David B. Strong, Patricia O. Tarkowski, Susan J. Tavano, Joann & Michael Tetlow, Helen H. Terry, Marion E. Van Wagner, Berna Weissman.

THE 1985 NESTING OF PINE SISKIN, RED CROSSBILL AND WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL IN CHENANGO COUNTY, N.Y.

DAVID J. MESSINEO

In 1929 New York State authorized the purchase of one million acres of worn out, abandoned farmland in the Alleghany Plateau region. Ultimately almost 700,000 acres were purchased and about half was reforested with spruce, pine and larch. These lands, interspersed with private forests, farms and small towns, provide the setting for the following account.

In mid-December 1984 large flocks of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) were discovered in Pharsalia. A survey was initiated to determine the extent of the invasion. This search was concentrated in State owned conifer stands, which are at the highest elevations in the county. This search also revealed the presence of White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*) and a massive invasion of Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*).

Pine Siskin

All areas surveyed had great numbers of Pine Siskins. They were present in hemlock stands (often mixed with hardwoods) at lower elevations as well as in spruce and larch stands at higher elevations. Some flocks of over 100 birds were seen. Siskins flew in almost immediately when tapes of the Red Crossbill "jip jip" call were played.

Pairing by some birds was seen in December and was widespread by February. In the last half of February, siskins were seen in courtship flight displays. The male flew in circles above the treetops, singing with rapidly fluttering wings. On sunny days these displays became magnificent as the sunlight above the birds turned their spread wings and tail to brilliant gold. This display is a spectacular contrast to their usually inconspicuous appearance.

During February and early March siskins were observed courtship feeding, copulating, and nest building. Courtship activity appeared to taper off in March.

On 29 March a female siskin was flushed from a nest in a large Norway Spruce in a backyard in the hamlet of South Otselic. The nest was located about six feet from the ground on a bottom branch far from the trunk. It held four bluish eggs. The following morning two eggs had hatched. The male was seen feeding the female by placing his bill deeply into the female's bill for a prolonged period, passing regurgitated food. Concern for the birds due to cold weather prevented my checking the nest until 1 April, when all four eggs had hatched.

By 10 April the female ceased her constant brooding and had stopped cleaning the nest. The nest was ringed with fecal matter indicating that the nestlings had been up and about. The young fledged on 17 April.

On 20 April several miles from the above nest, I found a siskin fledged on the road unhurt but barely able to fly. This bird probably had fledged on the same day. As I carried the bird to safety, I was able to examine its plumage carefully. In all respects except for size and the shorter tail feathers this young bird was identical to the adults. Pale yellow wing bars were present. I am certain that as soon as flight is attained by these young birds, they are indistinguishable from adults.

Both the found nest and the other fledgling were in the valley bottom at 1200-1300 feet elevation. Most siskins were in more isolated habitat and were present at the highest points in the county. Out of thousands of siskins in the area around my home, only two instances of breeding were proved, and these by pure luck.

Red Crossbill

Both Red and White-winged Crossbills were reported on the Sherburne Christmas Bird Count 15 December. The following day I chanced upon a road kill of 16 Red Crossbills. About six live birds remained with their flockmates even when passed over by automobiles. Only when I removed the dead birds would the remaining birds leave. All of the dead birds were in adult plumage and the sex ratio was about even. I returned daily to this spot and found groups of two, four or six birds, seemingly paired, licking road salt or eating poplar buds from roadside trees. Their continued presence prompted me to check other conifer stands. By early January I had found Red Crossbills in all nearby stands of white and Norway spruce. Ultimately other observers and I located crossbills throughout the reforestation lands at high elevations and dominated by spruce in Chenango County as well as in similar habitat in adjacent parts of Madison, Onondaga, Cortland and Otsego Counties.

Red Crossbills were observed in ritual feeding, gathering nest material and copulating during late January and February. In February males began singing their courtship song, unlike their usual "jip jip" call. By the beginning of March courtship activity had decreased and females no longer were seen.

After 1 March I concentrated all my observations in the town of Otselic. In late March female Red Crossbills began to reappear at roadsides searching for salt and grit. Pairs of adults began "jip jipping" and were answered by faint "jeep jeep" calls from the trees. On 28 March a male and two fledglings waited in a low roadside bush while the adult female ate road salt or grit. The young were heavily streaked

with sooty charcoal and had dark wings, uncrossed mandibles and short tails. By 10 April the fledglings had developed a more yellow-olive plumage and their mandibles had begun to cross.

White-winged Crossbill

At the end of January White-winged Crossbills appeared in pairs and small flocks in response to the playing of taped Red Crossbill "jip jip" calls. In February White-winged Crossbills appeared in all areas where Red Crossbills were present. They responded very aggressively to tapes of their own calls as well as to calls of Red Crossbills. Courtship display flights, billing, ritual feeding, female begging, copulation and nest material gathering were observed during February.

Because they remained very visible during March, although becoming less aggressive and finally non-responsive to play-backs of calls, I assumed that they would nest later or possibly not at all. However, after observing a fledging crossbill "jeep jeeping" on 1 April, I decided to study it with my telescope. When I returned with my telescope, it had turned, revealing two narrow white wing bars! White-winged Crossbill fledglings were streaked with sooty charcoal, dark-winged, short-tailed and have uncrossed mandibles like fledgling Red Crossbills. Fledglings of both have a prominent buff rump mark. Fledgling White-winged Crossbills showed some mandible crossing and developed a yellow-olive tinge in about ten days.

White-winged Crossbills definitely were colonial nesters. Red Crossbills nested near each other but seemed to be independent of one another. White-winged Crossbills each held an acre or two around a spruce, which was used for singing and possibly for nesting. By observing from the center of a shale bed surrounded by forest, I was able to hear and see a dozen or more males each in the tip branch of a spruce. Later during the nesting, if I waited long enough in this spot, I would see and hear flocks of 25 to 50 birds return from feeding, each male dropping to a spruce tip. He would call and be answered, presumably by the female. Then the male would drop into the spruce and disappear. On warmer days and later, when the young were further developed, the females joined these flocks.

Young appeared only a few times in the nesting area. Newly fledged young remained hidden until they were able to fly well. When the young joined flocks, all birds became extremely jumpy. Close approach became almost impossible. Flocks of 100-150 birds, usually including some Red Crossbills, would fly at the slightest noise or movement, such as an approaching American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) or Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Flocking, leaving the nest area, addition of fledged young to the flock occurred at the same time. At this time also

a large number of Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) returned and often loitered at crossbill feeding areas. At a roadside spring surrounded by fields and leafless trees where both species regularly came for water, road salt or gravel, I saw many young of both species. The young always waited in the trees and never descended for water or gravel.

Discussion

The invasion of Pine Siskins coincided with, but was not restricted to, State reforestation areas in Chenango and surrounding counties. Breeding was widespread, involving thousands of birds. Few nests were discovered due to their remote habitat and the dearth of observers. Courtship and breeding took place earlier than previously recorded or believed to occur in New York (Bull, 1974). This may account for the scarcity of records of breeding Pine Siskins in past years.

Few Pine Siskins were reported at feeders. Their absence despite their unprecedented numbers seemed to be due to the abundant natural food supply. Although siskins did not come to feeders, they often fed on salt and grit on all area roads. Many were killed by passing cars. Because of their independence from feeders, they went unnoticed even though there are some competent feeder watchers in this area. The fact that a massive invasion can take place and go almost unnoticed suggests that siskins easily could nest in smaller numbers and never be seen. Indeed, the presence of Pine Siskins at feeders may be contraindicative of breeding in a given year.

The invasion involved thousands of Red and White-winged Crossbills. The breeding activities that I observed occurred throughout the reforestation areas, where there was a massive cone crop of white and Norway spruce, European larch and hemlock. Spruce seemed to be the factor most attractive to both crossbills. Larch and hemlocks also were used heavily, and occasionally they fed upon pines when their cones were open. Poplar and maple buds were eaten by both species. White-winged Crossbills regularly were seen foraging in a plowed field.

Norway spruce and European larch have larger cones and far more seeds than do our native spruce or larch. Norway spruce also holds its seeds longer than does white spruce. Both crossbills fed in Norway spruce long after the white spruce had emptied of seeds. Later in season, larch became an important food source.

Both Red and White-winged Crossbills came out to roads near their breeding grounds but only Red Crossbills habitually came to paved roads in valleys for salt. White-winged Crossbills were more skittish than Red Crossbills, and many of the latter were killed by passing cars.

There is evidence that both crossbill species have occurred here before

and past breeding is a possibility. Bull (1974) notes that in December 1963, 100 White-winged Crossbills were seen in Sherburne and 200 were seen in Eaton. The Cornell University collection contains series of White-winged Crossbills from Pharsalia taken in February 1947 and 1951. A series of Red Crossbills was taken there in 1951 in mixed flocks with White-winged Crossbills. It was noted that the male Red Crossbills were "singing." All Red Crossbills from Pharsalia at Cornell were labeled as the subspecies *sitkensis*, which normally breed on the Pacific coast.

Twenty-one recently road killed crossbills were salvaged and measured for subspecific determination. These have been deposited in the American Museum of Natural History. Culmen (average 14 mm) and wing chord (female average 80 mm, male average 85 mm) indicate that all but one bird are *sitkensis* (Griscom 1937). One large female (culmen 16.5 mm, wing chord 90 mm) definitely is not *sitkensis*. Its bill depth of 9 mm suggests that it is *minor*, the subspecies resident in the Adirondacks and the Northeast.

All three species still were present in this area in late May. The foliage made them hard to see and calling became much diminished. Generally, calling flocks are the only indication of their presence. Some still drink along roadsides, but feeding on road gravel or salt ceased completely. During May flocks began to drop in size from over 100 to small groups of six to ten. The decrease in flock size coincided with the development of foliage and the appearance of a few new cones (both staminate and ovate) on both larch and spruce. Late in the season larch became the main attraction for birds, which fed on the new, green cones in the topmost branches.

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NESTING FINCHES IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SOUTHERN ONONDAGA AND MADISON COUNTIES

DOROTHY W. CRUMB

Having heard of large numbers of Red and White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins in the Adirondacks and the high, forested country to the south and east, several local observers and I decided to check similar habitat in southern Onondaga and Madison Counties. This coverage was done for the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. From 18 February to 17 April, I made nine trips into this area. I worked in 13 blocks. Chad Covey and Gerald Church supplied records for two blocks that I did not visit. Other blocks within this area did not contain the right habitat for these finches.

Most of this area is 1300 to 1700 feet in elevation and was reforested in the late 1930s. It is approximately 40 miles east to west and 12 miles north to south in extent. There are stands of mixed hardwoods, larch, red and white pine, and white and Norway spruce. The white pines had almost no cones, and red pines had only a few. Both spruces had abundant cones. Birds mainly used white and Norway spruces, and some larch, during the winter.

During this period, small groups of Purple Finch and Evening Grosbeak were utilizing the abundant food throughout the area. Although I saw numerous flight displays by Purple Finch, I saw no evidence of nesting for either species. A few crossbills and siskins were reported away from the Adirondacks in other parts of the Oneida Lake Basin Region outside of this reforested section. These were all singles and there was no evidence of nesting. I visited an extensive area north of Oneida Lake in Oswego County, checking small evergreen plantations that had good cone crops. There were only scattered finches here.

Pine Siskins were found in 13 of the 15 blocks checked. At first, the siskins were in large flocks, flying around and utilizing the abundant food available. However, a few had paired. On 19 February I watched one pair building a nest. They were still breaking off small dead twigs to complete the outer part of the nest. I believe this nest subsequently was destroyed by a heavy, wet snowstorm. I could not see the nest in the snow and the pair abandoned the area. It was not until 17 April that I saw young Pine Siskins being fed in this block. By 1 March there were few flocks of siskins left. Most siskins were paired and in active courtship. Where one bird of a pair flew, the other followed. If one bird landed in the road to get food or water, the other landed close by. If the male was singing in a tree, the female was feeding in the

same tree. There were many short chases of rivals or prospective mates. Occasionally males performed a high, circular song-flight. I saw copulation only once, in a low bush near some evergreens. I saw nest building twice.

Although I am certain there were many successful nestings, I saw two young birds actually being fed only once. No matter how many times I observed these birds alone or in small groups, I was never certain whether I was watching a male, a female or a young bird. When I watched an obvious pair, one individual always seemed brighter colored. I assumed that it was the male.

I found White-winged Crossbills in nine blocks. A small section of one block that was almost entirely planted to white spruce was favored by this species. I found one pair of Red Crossbills at the very end of this particular road where the trees ended. White-winged Crossbill males were perched on various treetops along the road. There was almost constant chasing or territorial singing. Once active nesting started, their territories became less defined and birds frequently formed small flocks. These groups became very defensive when I imitated a Screech-Owl or did any "squeaking" on the back of my hand. The females became very secretive at this time. I am sure there was considerable nesting success in this strip of woods. However, I never saw young being fed in or found a nest in this part of the block.

White-winged Crossbills presented similar problems for aging and sexing as did Pine Siskins. Males were easy to separate by their red or orange coloring, but females were streaked on the breast like fledglings. Sometimes I saw small family groups in trees, but could not be sure which birds were the fledglings. I was only sure in one case. A group of three adult males and four streaked birds was found feeding in a road. One streaked bird was shivering and fluttering its wings. Its mandibles were not crossed. One of the adult males walked over and fed this individual.

Red Crossbills were located in ten blocks and nesting was confirmed in three. They were greatly outnumbered by White-winged Crossbills, but seemed more obvious and easy to locate. They often fed on dirt or dirt-shouldered roads in pairs or in groups, more so than did White-winged Crossbills. Since this feeding or gathering of salt and grit from roads seemed to be important to the birds, it was easy to locate flocks. I walked back into the woods on snowshoes but found no birds there. I think that the majority of them fed or nested near these roads. I occasionally saw flocks of both crossbill species, but I never saw siskins in a mixed flock. They often fed in the same trees but remained apart.

Courtship behavior of Red Crossbills was similar to that of White-

winged Crossbills. However, I did not find females as difficult to locate once nesting began. I often watched females gather nesting materials, ignoring my presence. Since there were fewer pairs, singing males were some distance apart. They frequently chased other males or females, and performed spiraling song-flights during early courtship.

Male, female and immature Red Crossbills were easy to distinguish by color. None of the adult birds had streaks on the breast. Fledglings were easy to pick out because they are heavily streaked. I saw several sets of fledglings being fed.

By mid-April the birds began to disperse. It became more difficult to find any in areas which had held large numbers throughout the late winter months. My home is 20 miles from the closest known nesting area. On 1 May a flock of 45 White-winged Crossbills appeared in an evergreen plantation in back of my house. Several of them looked like young birds. On 17 May a pair and two young Red Crossbills were in my yard. However, almost none were seen or heard migrating over Derby Hill along Lake Ontario, a route commonly used by migratory species. Probably these birds migrate from food source to food source rather than follow a regular route.

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NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1985

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held the 1985 winter Waterfowl Count from 12 January through 20 January, with 13 January as the target date. All regions completed their counts within the established dates.

The count period this year was mild and bodies of water almost universally were open. Exceptions are always the case in the vicinity of the Great Lakes, where snowfall can be expected when there is none elsewhere. Although the count did not set a record for the grand total, most observers, except for Region 3, felt results were better than average. The grand total count for 1985 (Table I) was up 1.1% from 1984 to 239,656, and still a respectable 18.2% above the twelve year average (1973-1984) of 202,828.

Comparing 1985 to 1984 count figures (Table II), the commoner species showed increases for all listed species except Canvasback, Redhead, Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser and American Coot. Next, comparing 1985 figures with the 1973-1984 average (Table III) only American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Scaup, all three scoters and American Coot were down markedly from their twelve year averages.

All geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were up 9.5% over 1984, which indicates that some had a very good nesting season. The same cannot be said for the dabbling ducks or the diving ducks, which were down 7.9% and 9.7% from 1984 figures, respectively, for the flyway. In contrast to the ducks, American Coot were up 35.3% with 90.4% of the population occurring in the states of Georgia and Florida. As for the American Wigeon, the Atlantic Flyway is showing a further decrease of 11.5% compared to 1984 and an even greater decrease of 42.3% from the five year average (1980-1984). This species, perhaps, bears watching.

The Department of Environmental Conservation 1985 aerial survey was delayed due to poor visibility and flying conditions caused by wind and snowstorms. It was conducted from 9 January to 18 February. The results are presented in Table IV. Table V compares 1984 with 1985 aerial survey results. These data are offered without comment.

The 1986 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 11 through 19 January, with Sunday, 12 January, as the target date.

I wish to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participate each year. A special thanks also to the regional compilers who coordinated all those volunteers. The regional compilers are:

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

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TABLE I

SPECIES	REGIONS										TOTAL
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	
Loon, Red throated										4	4
Common	1		16		5	1	6		1	44	74
Grebe, Pied-billed	3	1	9		3				1	40	57
Horned	5	4	17				10			268	304
Cormorant, not to spec.										23	23
Great										196	196
Double-crested		1								59	60
Swan, Tundra		20									20
Mute		1								915	1,063
Goose, Snow								2	145	6	28
Brant										16,402	16,402
Canada	1,093	201	10,224		625	1	730	2,358	11,946	21,661	48,839
Wood Duck		1	1		1	1			3	24	31
Green-winged Teal	1	4								266	271
Am. Black Duck	284	167	1,681	435	230	29	159	2,140	653	12,846	18,624
Mallard	2,631	1,493	8,494	829	2,310	93	294	2,038	2,610	8,575	29,367
Mallard x Black			12		1	3	1			114	131
Northern Pintail	2	2	2	1	1			16	2	279	305
Blue-winged Teal										5	5
Northern Shoveler										208	208
Gadwall	25	2	91		5				9	550	682
Wigeon, Eurasian										3	3
American	54		4		1					1,460	1,519
Duck sp.?			2						50	795	847

TABLE I

SPECIES	REGIONS										TOTAL
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	
Canvasback	886	103	1,180		6	9	2		916	4,571	7,673
Redhead	193	13	4,074			6			6	66	4,358
Ring-necked Duck	1	6	28						46	99	180
Tufted Duck										1	1
Scaup, not to spec.			1,107			228	1		115	18,451	19,902
Greater	3,463	1,329	26		2,081	172	2	13		24,969	32,055
Lesser	3	8	14		15		1	3	7	807	858
Eider, Common										1	1
King	1				1					3	5
Harlequin Duck										4	4
Oldsquaw	5,449	1,498	1		121	13				2,450	9,532
Scoter, not to spec.										1,150	1,150
Black	1				1					64	66
Surf	1									574	575
White-winged	10	2,783			6	1				4,139	6,939
Goldeneye, Common	3,930	2,551	564	47	1,269	1,074	1,575	50	53	1,120	12,223
Bufflehead	173	174	164		92	19	33	1	7	4,627	5,290
Merganser, Hooded	5	3	39	1	6	1	3	2	2	220	282
Common	2,121	346	224	39	3,183	4,001	511	359	2,823	5	13,612
Red-breasted	15	89	13		19		1			3,847	3,984
Ruddy Duck									12	721	733
American Coot		4	606		1				84	464	1,159
TOTALS	20,351	10,804	28,593	1,352	9,983	5,652	3,329	6,982	19,497	133,112	239,656

TABLE II

Comparison of 1985 with 1984, for all species totalling over 1,000 individuals in 1984, and showing the percent change from 1984 to 1985.

Species	1985	1984	% change
Brant	16,402	6,138	+ 167.2
Canada Goose	48,839	47,565	+ 2.7
American Black Duck	18,624	16,826	+ 10.7
Mallard	29,367	26,688	+ 10.0
American Wigeon	1,519	832	+ 82.6
Canvasback	7,673	15,758	- 51.3
Redhead	4,358	8,331	- 47.7
Scaup Duck (both)	52,815	70,863	- 25.5
Oldsquaw	9,532	2,324	+ 310.2
Scoters (all three)	8,730	2,116	+ 312.6
Common Goldeneye	12,233	11,079	+ 10.4
Bufflehead	5,290	4,374	+ 20.9
Common Merganser	13,612	12,467	+ 9.2
Red-breasted Merganser	3,984	4,477	- 11.0
American Coot	1,159	1,316	- 11.9
TOTALS	234,137	231,154	+ 1.3

TABLE III

Comparison of 1985 count with the 1973-1984 average for the same species as in Table II, and showing the percent change from the average.

Species	1985	Average 1973-1984	% change
Brant	16,402	10,958	+ 49.7
Canada Goose	48,839	27,672	+ 76.5
American Black Duck	18,624	18,464	+ 0.9
Mallard	29,367	20,901	+ 40.5
American Wigeon	1,519	2,205	- 25.0
Canvasback	7,673	12,091	- 36.5
Redhead	4,358	6,576	- 33.7
Scaup Duck (both)	52,815	62,013	- 14.8
Oldsquaw	9,532	2,922	+ 226.2
Scoters (all three)	8,730	10,040	- 13.0
Common Goldeneye	12,233	11,738	+ 4.2
Bufflehead	5,290	4,352	+ 21.6
Common Merganser	13,612	12,331	+ 10.4
Red-breasted Merganser	3,984	2,503	+ 59.2
American Coot	1,159	1,947	- 40.5
TOTALS	234,137	206,533	+ 13.4

TABLE IV

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Aerial Count – 9 January - 18 February 1985
 All species of about 1,000 individuals and more

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	52	1,412	1,464
Brant		8,715	8,715
Canada Goose	39,270	13,295	52,565
American Black Duck	7,123	14,568	21,691
Mallard	10,887	2,407	13,294
Canvasback	3,815	5,595	9,410
Redhead	9,059		9,059
Scaup (both)	5,680	34,024	39,704
Oldsquaw	1,455	244	1,699
Scoter (all three)	600	3,441	4,041
Goldeneye	10,480	3,259	13,739
Bufflehead	392	1,029	1,421
Merganser (all three)	15,715	2,661	18,376
TOTALS	104,528	90,650	195,178

Note: NO Tundra Swans were recorded.

TABLE V

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 1984 and 1985 Aerial Counts Compared
 All species of about 1,000 individuals and more

Species	1985	1984	% Change
Mute Swan	1,464	1,235	+ 18.5
Brant	8,715	2,427	+ 259.1
Canada Goose	52,565	58,461	- 10.1
American Black Duck	21,691	19,101	+ 13.6
Mallard	13,294	13,566	- 2.0
Canvasback	9,410	8,952	+ 5.1
Redhead	9,059	5,652	+ 60.3
Scaup (both)	39,704	38,387	+ 3.4
Oldsquaw	1,699	3,731	- 54.5
Scoter (all three)	4,041	9,159	- 55.9
Goldeneye	13,739	9,662	+ 42.2
Bufflehead	1,421	1,061	+ 33.9
Merganser (all three)	18,376	25,965	- 29.2
TOTALS	195,178	197,359	- 1.1

LARGE 19th CENTURY EGG AND NEST COLLECTION RECENTLY DISCOVERED

WILLIAM E. COOK

Nearly 1400 specimens from the oological collection of Albert H. Frost have been cataloged and preserved at Columbia-Greene Community College. With 5490 eggs and 306 nests identified, the collection ranks as the fifth largest in the state based on data in Drennan (1981). It is a significant addition to New York State's ornithological research and educational resources.

A. H. Frost was a furniture manufacturer whose residence and main business office was located on Canal Street in New York City during the last half of the 19th century. However, oology was his major avocation as evidenced by his 30 years of collecting and his considerable expenditures on it. For example, the price he paid for the egg of a Wandering Albatross, fifteen dollars (Lynch 1885), would have purchased a two-wheeled horse cart with leather seats, a top of the line Graphophone Talking Machine, or five bottom line brass beds (Schroeder 1971).

The specimens were collected between 1870 and 1900, mostly by natural history suppliers who wrapped each individual egg in cotton, packed them in wooden crates, and shipped them to Frost via Wells Fargo Express. The collectors were conscientious businessmen and as a rule meticulous about supplying data with each specimen. For example, the details for a Ferruginous Hawk nest from Benson County, North Dakota, (Bryant 1897) indicate the readily available materials: "A number of loose rocks laying on a hill top. Nest placed among them, of large sticks, twigs, Buffalo ribs, a whole buggy whip, lined with dry grass."

By 1980 the collection somehow had been moved to a barn in the Adirondack village of Old Forge. About that time, the owner, Doug Walker, decided to move to Florida and wanted to dispose of this mountain of crates. His attempts to donate them to various museums failed for one reason or another, and the collection allegedly was "on the way to the dump" when Region 8 Editor Dick Guthrie overheard a conversation on the matter and suggested that they be given to Columbia-Greene Community College. During the summer of 1985 I was able to devote three months (over 400 hours) to the collection, unpacking and identifying the specimens, updating the taxonomy (A.O.U. 1983), cataloging and labeling each specimen, fumigating them, designing a storage and retrieval system, typing a numerical

specimen list, arranging and storing the specimens in taxonomic order, and, finally, producing a location guide.

Although Frost purchased specimens from around the world, the collection has a definite North American flavor. Most of the 240 specimens from outside the United States are of species that occur in North America at least as accidentals. From Russia there are specimens of White-tailed Eagle, Eurasian Coot, and Little Ringed Plover. The Bahamas are well represented with specimens of Audubon's Shearwater, White-tailed Tropicbird, Greater Flamingo, Royal, Bridled, and Sooty Tern, Brown Noddy and Bahama Woodstar. Mexican specimens include Harris' Hawk, Crested Caracara, Plain Chachalaca, Inca and White-tipped Dove.

Arizona had not yet become a state when this collection was made. However, 62 specimens from the Huachuca Mountains, which still draw birders today, include Montezuma Quail, Elf and Flammulated Owls, Magnificent Hummingbird, Strickland's Woodpecker, Buff-breasted Flycatcher and Yellow-eyed Junco.

It is interesting to note that Frost acquired his European Starling and Ring-necked Pheasant egg sets from England. These species probably were not obtained as easily in North America a century ago. On the other hand he had a Short-eared Owl set from Tennessee and a Loggerhead Shrike set from Maine, areas where these species now rarely, if ever, breed. The collection includes Passenger Pigeon eggs from Texas, Louisiana and New Hampshire, although they were dwindling rapidly at the time. The collector from Texas, E. A. Pope, noted that there were 14 pairs in the breeding colony in Mobile in 1887 when he collected the eggs but "Have not seen a Passenger Pigeon since '89." As one can see, the collection offers many insights into changes in the distribution of breeding birds.

In addition to the North American species there are egg sets from birds that are unknown from our continent, like Waved Albatross from the Galapagos; White Spoonbill, Saker, Red-footed Falcon, Spotted Eagle, Common Redshank and Meadow Pipit from Europe; and Demoiselle Crane from Russia. Others, like Lineated Woodpecker and White-throated Towhee from Mexico, have not been found north of the Mexican border.

The list of 455 species does not reflect the numerous subspecies that are incorporated into the collection. The late 19th century was a time when many subspecies were named and much attention was paid to them. Chester Reed (1904) lists 18 subspecies of Song Sparrow; the Frost collection contains sets of Eastern, Mountain, Heermann's and Samuel's Song Sparrow. Baird's Wren from Arizona and Vigor's Wren

from California are subspecies of Bewick's Wren included in the collection, as is the Tule Wren, a race of Marsh Wren from California. Races of Solitary Vireo present in the collection are Plumbeous Vireo from Colorado, Cassin's Vireo from California, and Blue-headed Vireo from Massachusetts. Red-tailed Hawk specimens include Krider's Hawk and both light and black morphs of Western Red-tailed Hawk. These distinctions between subspecies are not without value. They made it possible to differentiate specimens of Willow and Alder Flycatcher.

Despite the impressive list there are some common eastern species missing, suggesting that the entire collection was not preserved. The eastern species apparently were collected in the 1870's but were poorly packed compared to the specimens obtained later from the western United States and abroad. Common species that are missing include Rock Dove, Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird, Eastern Bluebird and Red-winged Blackbird. Labels for Belted Kingfisher and Pyrrhuloxia that lack specimens also indicate that the entire collection did not survive.

About 675 specimens (49% of the collection) represent species that breed in New York, although most of these sets were taken outside the state. Frost seems to have done most of his own collecting near Malden, New Hampshire. It is likely that most of Frost's local egg sets were among the supposedly lost specimens. Only 47 (about 4%) of the surviving sets actually are from New York. However, these include Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawk, species now of special concern in our state. Most of the New York State specimens were supplied by Benjamin Hoag, who collected in and around Stephentown, Rensselaer County.

The extant collection is a significant natural history reference tool. Egg collections of this size have not been accumulated since the 1930's, when conservation laws ended collecting without a valid purpose and permit. Columbia-Greene Community College holds federal and state salvage permits in order to build a teaching collection of study skins. It was therefore exciting to find accompanying the avian oological collection not only several reptile eggs but also about 25 study skins of birds. These study skins include some unusual species like Swainson's Warbler and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. They bring our modest study skin collection to a total of nearly 400 specimens of 160 species.

Anyone wishing to use the collection should make arrangements with William E. Cook, Scientific Studies Department, Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, NY 12534, (518) 828-4131. A synopsis of the collection which lists the 455 species and the number of specimens, eggs and nests for each is available upon written request.

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A CHANGING OF THE EDITORIAL GUARD

For the past ten years, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has enjoyed the benefit of an exceptional editorial team with Co-editors Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr. Their term of office has spanned nearly one-third of the thirty-five year history of *The Kingbird*. Together, they have been responsible for the publication of 2720 pages of text since their work began with the May 1975 issue of *The Kingbird* (vol. 25, no. 2)—more than half the 4617 pages of text published in *The Kingbird* since it began. My mind boggles to contemplate the countless pages of manuscripts that had to be reviewed, accepted, rejected, and distilled for final publication by Manny Levine and John Farrand over the last ten years. As I review past volumes of *The Kingbird*, its quality of editing and printing consistently have been exemplary.

Our first seven editors (Allan Klonick, Stephen Eaton, Gerald Rising, Minnie Scotland, Alice Ulrich, Dorothy McIlroy, and Joseph Taylor) set high standards which Manny Levine and John Farrand have maintained. At the same time, the Federation has had ten years of quality service from our printer, Wilkins Printers, under the very professional guidance of Connie Wilkins. In behalf of the membership of the Federation, I am pleased to extend hearty thanks to Manny Levine, John Farrand, and Connie Wilkins for a job well done.

With this issue of *The Kingbird*, we continue to enjoy the fine services of Wilkins Printers, but we welcome a new Editor, Paul DeBenedictis. Those of you who are members of the American Birding Association may be familiar with Paul's contributions, "Gleanings from the Technical Literature," published from time to time in *Birding*. Since 1978, Paul DeBenedictis also has served the Federation in a dual capacity. He has contributed regularly to the pages of *The Kingbird* as Regional Editor for "Region 5-Oneida Lake Basin." In addition to that responsibility, Paul has served as Chairman of the New York State Avian Records Committee since its inception in 1978. Now, he has relinquished the second of these commitments to become Editor for *The Kingbird*, to continue to serve the Federation, and to share with us the benefits of his past experiences.

While the Editor manages our official publication, it is the responsibility of you, our members, to assure that *The Kingbird* continues to be published. Your dues, and the dues of new members whom you recruit, pay the costs of publishing *The Kingbird*. Our Editor works as a volunteer, receiving no remuneration for his services. And you, too, serve as a volunteer by submitting your accounts of observations for publication in *The Kingbird*. It is through your efforts that we officially document for future generations important information about the occurrences, distributions, abundances, and behaviors of the rich and varied avifauna of New York State. The observations and experiences of countless volunteers like yourself make possible such landmark publications as *The Birds of New York State*, by John Bull, *Where to Find Birds in New York State*, by Susan Roney Drennan, and the forthcoming Atlas of the Breeding Birds of New York State, as well as the quarterly issues of *The Kingbird*. With the Editorial leadership of Paul DeBenedictis, and with the contributions of our members, the Federation will be able to continue the fine tradition begun thirty-five years ago when Allan Klonick launched the first issue of *The Kingbird*.

Charles R. Smith, President

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A Ground Nesting Mixed Heronry in Suffolk County: One of the mysteries of Long Island ornithology has been the absence of mixed heronries in Suffolk County. There are no known mixed heronries either on the South Shore or in the Peconic/Gardiners Bay area between the Tobay, Oak and Gilgo Beach areas near the Nassau County line and Plum and Gardiners' Islands off the east end. This is a distance of well over fifty miles east to west. It includes a substantial portion of the remaining tidal wetlands in New York State.

Nevertheless, herons, egrets and ibis of several species regularly are seen feeding in the marshes throughout this area during the spring and summer. Many of these birds are in breeding plumage, suggesting that there must be overlooked colonies in the area. The alternate explanations—that these are non-breeding birds or that the birds fly distances of up to twenty and thirty miles to feed—always have seemed doubtful. Green-backed Herons (*Butorides striatus*) and the two night-herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax* and *N. violaceus*) do nest in this zone, but no mixed heronries have been found despite intensive searching, particularly during work on the Breeding Bird Atlas. Many likely locations, such as the Shinnecock Indian Reservation, have been searched without success. It is hard to see how conspicuous, tree-nesting colonial birds like the various egrets could be overlooked.

In at least one case, the answer is that they have been nesting on the ground. An island colony of several dozen nests of five species was found in 1983 in a dense stand of *Phragmites communis* in the middle of this area. Birds returned and nested successfully here in 1984 and 1985. The colony is virtually invisible from the outside. It consists of Black-crowned Night-Herons, Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) and Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) with a few pairs of Green-backed Herons along the edges. The island also holds a conspicuous colony of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus argentatus* and *L. marinus*), which nest in the open on less vegetated ground. The presence of these large birds undoubtedly helps to keep potential predators away from the island and also makes it unpleasant for human visitors. American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) and Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*) also breed successfully on the island.

The dense thickets of *Phragmites* harbor several vine species including Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) and Bittersweet (*Celastrus* cf. *orbiculatus*). The nests of all five species are placed on the ground in the vines or they are set into the reeds a few inches off the ground. The colony is extremely difficult to enter without causing extreme damage to the plants. Because of this difficulty, the lack of outside vantage points, and the high degree of disturbance that any exploration would entail, it is impossible to determine the numbers and relative proportions of each species accurately. Somewhat surprisingly Great Egret seems to predomi-

nate, with Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis and Green-backed Heron ranked in decreasing order. The total number of nests probably is between four and six dozen. It is possible that other species are present but no evidence of this has been obtained so far.

Although the herons, egrets and ibis are commonly seen feeding in nearby marshes, there is very little external evidence of the colony itself during most of the nesting season. The approach and departure of adult birds is fairly cautious. There is no major exodus at dawn or influx at dusk. There is a total lack of roosting or perching sites for adults. However, fledgling birds, particularly egrets, roost on a row of low shrubs near the crest of the island for a few days before they are fully airborne. It was the presence of these birds on the skyline that led to the discovery of the colony.

Ground nesting and secretiveness undoubtedly are adaptations to difficult local conditions which include (1) a scarcity of isolated island sites, (2) a scarcity of trees and shrubs in shore, marsh and island areas, (3) increasing human activity and disturbance beginning earlier and earlier in the spring, and (4) the lack of predators on the island. There almost certainly is no disturbance at all from the gulls. Ground nesting has been reported for all five of these species before, and occurs in many if not most species of herons. In North America, ground nesting by herons is most prevalent in the Southwest. It seldom has been reported in the Northeast although it may be more widespread than generally is realized.

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[Editor's Note: The author is keeping the location of this colony secret. Access to it would be quite easy and, therefore, the possibility of disturbance is quite high should the location be publicized.]

Some Early Egg Dates for Cavity Nesting Ducks: For the past four years we have maintained a small waterfowl nest box project along Lake Champlain in northern Clinton County. In early spring of each year, we inspect each of the boxes for nesting activity. This year 10 of 17 boxes were occupied by cavity nesting ducks: three by Common Goldeneyes, four by Wood Ducks, and three by Hooded Mergansers.

Each year we have been checking the boxes earlier so as to determine the earliest initiation of egg laying. On 17 April of this year we canoed the Little Chazy River and inspected the four nesting boxes we have along this slow moving stream. At that time, only one of the boxes was occupied. We flushed a female Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) from the nesting box as we approached, and found eight eggs in the box. If we assume one egg was laid per day, the first egg would have been laid 10 April. This date is earlier than the one I reported for the 1984 breeding season (*The Kingbird* Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, p. 167; 1984). Considering that spring arrived late this year,

egg laying may begin even earlier than this in some years. Nesting activity started about two weeks after the ice had gone out of the Little Chazy River. On 10 April there still were patches of ice on some of the bays in nearby Lake Champlain.

We also have nesting boxes at King's Bay W.M.A. This year we set out four boxes on the perimeter of a small island in the center of a marsh. These boxes were placed on live trees rather than dead stumps. We have learned from experience that the boxes have a greater chance of surviving from season to season if we use live trees on the periphery of the marsh rather than dead stumps over water. On 26 April, we canoed through the button-bush marsh surrounding this island and found that all four boxes were occupied: two by Wood Ducks, one by Common Goldeneye, and one by Hooded Merganser. The nest box occupied by the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), had eleven eggs. Again assuming that one egg was laid per day, the first egg would have been laid 16 April. This is earlier than the earliest egg date reported by John Bull (*Birds of New York State*, 1974, p. 152). This is the most northern reported breeding site in New York State for this species. Much earlier dates for initiation of egg laying should be expected in more southern parts of the state. Also, there were still a few patches of ice remaining on this marsh as late as 12 April at this site. It appears, therefore, that egg laying started soon after the ice disappeared from the surrounding nesting area.

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A Case of Woodcock Mortality possibly due to weather: One of the most difficult types of information to collect on an avian species is the cause of mortality. Direct observations on avian death are rare and the decomposition or removal of carcasses by scavengers is often rapid. Reports on woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) mortality aside from hunter kill and collisions with power lines or towers are scarce. Gregg (1984), Liscinsky (1972), and Mendall and Aldous (1943) have reported causes of adult woodcock mortality, but the reported causes of woodcock chick mortality are few. I report in this note on a possible case of woodcock brood mortality due to inclement weather.

On June 30, 1984 my bird dog located a group of three dead woodcock chicks in an alder (*Alnus rugosa*) stand located 10 km south of the town of Pulaski, Oswego County, New York. The woodcock chicks were not scattered but were all grouped in an interlocking pile. Examination of the chicks indicated no external injuries. The chicks were wet and their plumage was matted. Although the weather was warm the chicks were not in an advanced state of decomposition, indicating death had been fairly recent. The chicks were 9 days old as indicated by the bill length method (Amman 1977), and

had a mean weight of 54.3 g. The chicks were still in natal down although some juvenile body contour feathers were present on their bodies, the flight feathers were only slightly developed and still in sheaths. This brood was believed to be the same one encountered in the same alder stand on June 23. The lack of external marks on the chick bodies and the death of all chicks at one location indicated that the cause of death was due to some factor other than predation or disease. The day the chicks were found the alder stand was particularly wet and numerous small puddles surrounded the chicks. Rainfall for the prior week consisted of 2.2 cm of rain with most of the rainfall occurring on June 24 and June 28 (weather data for the city of Syracuse). Rain of sufficient duration and/or intensity which soaked the natal down could have caused their deaths due to hypothermia caused by a prolonged wetting. According to Sheldon (1967) woodcock chicks are brooded by the hen until the chicks develop flight feathers. The chicks described in this note were of sufficient size that all three would have had difficulty finding adequate shelter under the hen.

Several studies (Gregg 1984, Mendall and Aldous 1943, Sheldon 1967) have suggested that rainy and/or cold weather could be an important cause of woodcock chick mortality. Chambers (1973) documented that the chick to adult ratio of summer-trapped woodcock in central New York during 1969 was much lower than in previous years. In that particular year a heavy rain (15 cm of rain in two consecutive days) occurred in early May and was believed to have caused considerable mortality of woodcock chicks, as well as the destruction of woodcock nests.

While it is possible that the dead woodcock chicks described in this note died of some other cause, it appears plausible that their deaths resulted from hypothermia due to a period of heavy rainfall.

Dr. R. E. Chambers reviewed this short report.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

This season saw highly successful mop up work carried out for the Breeding Bird Atlas Project and showed us the whole range of effects that one might expect from this extra effort. Regions 4, 6, and 8 saw the greatest push to complete substantial numbers of previously untouched blocks. You will find an enthusiastic, relatively complete summary of the Atlas activity in the Region 4 report, peripheral mention in the Region 6 report, but no report from Region 8. Wrap-up work at varying levels of intensity occurred in the other Regions, with reporting ranging from much detail from Region 5 to no report from Region 10. In near future summers, certainly less organized breeding data will be gathered. However, the number of reports ready in time for this quarterly summary may increase as observers are released from the burden of Atlas paperwork, which didn't fit well with the timing of these summer Regional reports. Some Atlas workers may even return to areas of special interest and report studies and findings which they couldn't complete due to the push to obtain wider Atlas coverage in recent years. (Hint!!) We shall see.

The weather this season provided a typical summer mix for the state, though averaging a bit cooler than normal. June was cold, particularly in the north central regions, and followed by average to cool temperatures in July and August. Precipitation was average to a bit low throughout. Region 9 alone reported well above average rainfall for August. Major weather-related effects were the loss of many Ring-billed Gull chicks to a storm on 31 May-1 June in Region 7, good shorebird habitat in many regions due to low water levels, and generally good conditions for nesting birds and wandering Atlassers.

This final breeding season with Atlassers afield saw a nearly complete filling of the few void spaces left on the state's map of Atlas coverage. This work provided much reinforcement for changes in breeding status noted in previous summer reports. Some examples include: Double-crested Cormorant numbers again were good in six of the eight Regions reporting; Osprey hacking continued in Region 1, with a returning bird from an earlier hacking reported, and Bald Eagle hacking continued in Region 7 (and Region 8 as well); and the expansion of southern species northward was noted again. Acadian Flycatcher was up in six Regions, White-eyed Vireo numbers were up in Region 1, Orchard Oriole nested in five Regions, and a male Yellow-throated Warbler returned to Allegany State Park, though no nest was located this year. Of special

note this year was: the widespread breeding or suspected breeding of crossbills and Pine Siskins in Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9; the late June appearance of a Gray Jay in suitable habitat in Region 2; increased reports of several waterbird and warbler species and Swainson's Thrush in Region 4; and six species not proven to breed in the past 20 years or more plus another low-elevation Osprey all were confirmed nesting in Region 5, where Atlas work in Herkimer Co. extended the known breeding ranges of Common Raven, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow southward. Negative trends mainly reinforced levels of concern previously noted. Little or no data were reported for: Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, Red-shouldered Hawk, terns, both cuckoos (even where Gypsy Moth numbers were high), Whip-poor-will, Loggerhead Shrike, and the grassland sparrows, generally. An addition to this list of negatives this year is Brown Thrasher from Regions 1, 3, 5, and 9. Additional interesting, breeding-related notes include: Dick Clements' examples of the element of luck involved in obtaining many Atlas nesting confirmations; notes of the early cessation of song this season; the possible effects of heavy, local, insecticide spraying in Region 7; 1110 gull and heron chicks banded on Four Brothers Islands this season; excellent bluebird trail reports from Regions 5 and 9; and a bit of disappointment in Region 9 that the imminent nesting of Double-crested Cormorant and Black Vulture did not come to pass during the Atlas project.

The migrations are generally well summarized in Paul DeBenedictis' statement: "In general the quality of both migrations was poor in terms of numbers of birds found, but not quite so bad in terms of diversity." Most comments were negatives: gulls and terns low, thrushes low, little evidence of passerine movement by late August, and shorebird numbers unimpressive in spite of the best looking habitat in many years. Still, there were many positive notes. A table summarizing the final tally from the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch has few real negatives. Waterfowl and jaegers were noted passing the lake watch on Lake Ontario in Region 2 in late August. Shorebird rarities were observed: Willets inland in Regions 1, 2 and 5; Baird's Sandpiper in Region 9 (less rare farther west); Ruff in Region 2; and Long-billed Dowitcher in Region 5. Really outstanding dates and counts were few this season, with the best: **late**—Red-throated Loon on 9 June in Region 2, Rough-legged Hawk on 30 June in Region 2, Three-toed Woodpecker nestlings on 31 July in Region 7, Olive-sided Flycatcher on 22 June in Region 2, and House Finch nestlings on 23 August in Region 1; **early**—Tennessee Warbler on 19 July in Region 1, Wilson's Warbler on 16 July in Region 4, and Blackpoll Warbler on 17 July in Region 5; and **high counts**—850

Common Nighthawks on 19 August in Region 1 and 11,000 Bank Swallows and 14,000 Barn Swallows both on 3 August in Region 5. Let us hope that next Spring brings an end to the recent series of relatively poor migrations.

Once again a potpourri of additional interesting comments and insights are provided by the Regional editors. A few examples to pique your curiosity include: summaries of the Breeding Bird Surveys within Regions 1 and 5; tables of waterfowl counts and nesting productivity from Montezuma NWR in Region 3; notes from Region 7 on some of those thousands of green-dyed gulls noted in the Spring report, along with their pink-dyed Vermont counterparts; a report that one of the hacked Bald Eagles was found shot in Ontario within ten days of hacking; a Tree Swallow nesting atop a hand pump in Region 3; and finally, from Region 9, notes ranging from the serious—salt water moving up the Hudson River to near the city's intake, a chance to study the effects of salinity increase as a positive bonus, and House Finches as possible bluebird box usurpers—to the simply fun—a hummingbird trying to obtain nectar from the flowers on a set of P.J.'s hanging on a wash line. Certainly there are nuggets for all. Certainly, many of you also could contribute interesting observations of your own; the addresses of the Regional editors are with their reports.

This season the list of rarities is slimmer than usual, but nearly every region reported something. The best of the list are: Region 1—Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, "Lawrence's" Warbler, and Yellow-throated Warbler; Region 2—Sandhill Crane, Ruff, Gray Jay, and Yellow-throated Warbler; Region 4—Painted Bunting; Region 5—Glossy Ibis and Long-billed Dowitcher; Region 6—Yellow-headed Blackbird; Region 7—Red-throated Loon; and Region 9—Wood Stork, Swallow-tailed Kite, Kentucky Warbler, and Black Vulture. From this list it was impossible to extract one occurrence sufficiently outstanding relative to the others to grant a BOTS Award.

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REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

The first ten days of June continued the warm, dry weather of April and May. The middle of the month, from 11 to 21 June, was wet and cool. Average temperatures ranged from 51 to 67 degrees and precipitation totaled about 3.2 inches. The last third of the month was drier and warmer, and Lake Erie reached 62 degrees by the end of the month. A low temperature for the month came on the 4th with 35° at Jamestown and 44° at Buffalo International Airport.

July continued the drought but stayed pleasantly cool. Average temperature for the month, 69.7 degrees, was one below normal and precipitation was more than an inch below normal, 1.81 inches at Buffalo, but 4.13 inches at Jamestown.

August continued sunny with high temperatures in the 70's and 80's but pleasantly cool at night. Only one low temperature exceeded 70 degrees. An upper Great Lakes pressure system maintained this fine weather until the 20th, when the weather cooled slightly. The last week brought 3-4 inches of rain, ending a drought that browned lawns and parched crops in many parts of the Region. Lake Erie's temperature peaked during mid-month at 71 degrees and started cooling on the 22nd.

The birds of the wetlands are still in trouble in the Region. There was only one report of American Bittern, but Least Bittern was found in at least four swamps on the lake plain. Great Egrets appeared in July and August, again mostly in swamps on the lake plain. At Burgeson Sanctuary a fourth nesting record in Chautauqua Co. for Green-winged Teal was confirmed. At Times Beach, Buffalo, five American Wigeons produced 30 young and Common Mergansers were seen in June and July in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. Two Black Terns at Burgeson Sanctuary were the only reports for the period.

At the Allegheny Reservoir Mary and John Forness and Tom Jurzcak released seven young Ospreys, which make a total of 25 hacked in the past five years. DEC plans to continue hacking through 1987, when a total of 37 birds will have been released. The Fornesses reported that Osprey #X06 returned this year, without a mate, but built a more substantial nest. Three Bald Eagles frequently were seen here as well.

In southern Cattaraugus Co., the Gypsy Moth hit with a vengeance this year, defoliating the oaks, hawthorne and aspens. This left a large area without mast or berries. By 30 June most of the moths had pupated and the rain of droppings was much slowed. This infestation concentrated cuckoos in southern Cattaraugus Co. North and west of the infestation in Chautauqua Co. the fruit crop, particularly hawthorne, was fair to good. By mid-August the oaks, and other defoliated trees, had put forth new leaves. Many of the moths failed to emerge and we hope that their population will crash.

Southern species seem to keep increasing. Orchard Orioles were found nesting on the Allegheny Plateau in several areas. A White-eyed Vireo possibly nested

near Dunkirk. A male Yellow-throated Warbler returned to Allegany State Park but no nest was found.

Some carduline finches, which feed on the seeds of conifers and nest when and where these happen to be abundant, were reported but not as nesters. Red Crossbills, which eat spruce seed, and Pine Siskins and goldfinches, which eat hemlock and birch seed, seemed to be attracted to the abundant cone supply and perhaps nested.

Walter Klabunde summarized the 18 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys from the Region. Of the 118 species counted, 45 were reported in higher numbers than normal, 51 in about average numbers and 22 in lower than normal numbers. Lowest numbers were reported for Red-shouldered Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Belted Kingfisher, Brown Thrasher, Canada Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Northern Oriole.

Rarities: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Willet, Franklin's Gull, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler.

Abbreviations: Alle-Allegany; BC-Bird Club; BBS-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey; Catt-Cattaraugus; Chau-Chautauqua; NP-Nature Preserve; NWR-National Wildlife Refuge; WMA-Wildlife Management Area; WP-Wildlife Preserve.

Contributors: Alle Co Bird Club, Robert Andrie, Timothy Baird, Paul & Virginia Barden, Robert Brock, Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Lou & Doris Burton, Cattaraugus Co Bird Club, Don & Jane Clark (inadvertently omitted last issue-sorry), Janice Conrad, William D'Anna, David Dister, Steve Eaton, Don Endres, Marcya Foster, Dave Gagne, Denys Gardner (DaG), James Gregory, Paul Hess, Jamestown Audubon Soc., Pat Johnson, Tom Jurczak, Walter Klabunde, Clarence Klingensmith, Terry & Judy Mosher, William & Linda O'Brian, Grace O'Dell, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Frances Rew, Roycroft, Art Schaffner, Robert Sundell, Roger Sundell (RgS), Kris Young, Janet Welch.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: three in Basic plumage Pt. Stockholm, Chau Co 30 June (PJ, JW) one Chau Lake off Colburns 18 Aug (W & LO); one Alle Res near Onoville 26 Aug (DG). Pied-billed Grebe: one Farmersville Sta 20 Aug (D & JC) and two Tiffit Farm NP 18 Aug (WD) were only reports of grebes. Am. Bittern: one Tonawanda WMA 15 June (WD, BP). Least Bittern: one Iroquois NWR 5 July (DE); one Tiffit Farm NP 12 July (PH), five 13, 18 July (WD, BP), two Alabama Twn 8 Aug (DE), three (2 ad, 1 imm) Oak Orchard WMA 9 Aug (GO). Great Egret: one Tonawanda WMA 6 July (DC) first of several in swamps of lake plain through Aug; one Twn Ripley, Chau Co 19, 25 and 26 July (P & VB); one Alle Res Aug (TJ). **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON**: one South Park, Buffalo 4 Aug (RA). Canada Goose: 13-60 Farmersville Sta. June, July, Aug (D & JC), local nesters continue to increase. Wood Duck: continues as successful breeder. Green-winged Teal: female with five young Burgeson Swamp 28 June, a fourth nesting Chau Co. N. Pintail and Gadwall: Tonawanda WMA in June (WD, BP). Am. Wigeon: four ad, three-five imm Times Beach, Buffalo, 24 June, five females and 30 imm 28 July and seen to end of Aug (RA). Com. Merganser: 10, 11 and two Amity Lake 2, 3, 8 June (VP, Adams); three Quaker Run and Lake ASP 5 July (TB); two females Chau Creek near Barcelona Harbor, Chau Co, 27 July (RgS); two Salamanca 10 Aug and 10+ on 14 Aug (TB), possible fledged brood. Red-breasted Merganser: female Barcelona 28 Aug (RS).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 12 on 18 BBS routes, higher than average. Osprey: see intro.; one Iroquois NWR 16 Aug (DE), first migrant; one Amity Lake 19 Aug (VP);

one Tift Farm NP 31 Aug (RA, JG). Bald Eagle: imm Burgeson Swamp 13 June (DD); two Iroquois NWR 4 Aug (DE); three (1 ad, 2 subad) Alle Res through most of period (TJ). N. Harrier: reported from Tonawanda WMA, Tift Farm NP, Pomfret Twn, Chaut Co and Clarksville, Alle Co, during period. N. Goshawk: one Cold Spring, Catt Co June (DD); one nesting near Weathersfield, Wyoming Co. (TJ); two imm banded by Earl Schriver Alle Co, another nest with four infertile eggs (L & DB). Red-shouldered Hawk: still in low numbers. Broad-winged Hawk: of four nests located near Scio, Alle Co, only one successful (VP). Red-tailed Hawk: three nests in Alle Co successful (VP). Am. Kestrel: 23 seen on 18 BBS routes, about average (WK). Wild Turkey: many flocks in southern Catt Co (SE). Killdeer: 165 on 18 BBS counts, an upward trend (WK). Lesser Yellowlegs: two Tonawanda WMA 5 July (WD, BP) ushered in the sandpiper fall migration. **WILLET**: one Dunkirk Harbor 7 Aug (TM), inland record assumed to be western subsp. Stilt Sandpiper: four Goat Island, Niagara R, 24 July (WD, BP) was first Regional record for year. Am. Woodcock: The Fish and Wildlife Service has reduced the daily bag to three and the season to 45 days in the northeast; their "peent" counts still down. **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: one LaSalle Park, Buffalo, 21 Aug (RA, MF), Buffalo, 31 Aug (RA, JG). Caspian Tern: two Burgeson Swamp 28 June (DD); two Times Beach 3 Aug (RA); one Tift Farm NP 18 Aug (WD); Barcelona and Dunkirk Harbors Aug (RS). Black Tern: two Burgeson Swamp 12 June (DD) only report for period.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 100+ on powerline Farmersville, Catt Co (D & JC), still increasing with increase in corn fields. Many Black-billed and fewer Yellow-billed Cuckoos Catt Co where Gypsy Moth abundant (SE, TB). N. Saw-whet Owl: two Charlotte Twn 1 and 7 June (FR, AS); one Alfred Twn 26 June (EB). Com. Nighthawk: 17 Buffalo 8 Aug (PH), considered first fall migrant by BOS; 102 Tonawanda Twn, Erie Co, 21 & 24 Aug (PH); 850± Jamestown 29 Aug (DG). Red-headed Woodpecker: one Pt. Gratiot 8 June (AS); one Amity Twn 11 June (VP); one Delaware Park, Buffalo, 30 June (PH); two Tonawanda WMA 13 July (DE); four Burgeson Swamp 26 Aug (DD). Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Scio Twn, Alle Co, 8 June (VP); one Springville, Erie Co, 11 June (GO); two Iroquois NWR 27 July (DE).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Alle SP 8 June (DD *et al.*), late. Acadian Flycatcher: five Wheeler Gulf, Pomfret Twn, 7 June (AS, TM); two Canadaway Creek NS 8 June (AS); one Mayville 6 July (DD). Least Flycatcher: 71 on 18 BBS counts, heard on all routes, highest total ever. E. Kingbird: 76 on 18 BBS counts was above average. Purple Martin: 31 on 18 BBS counts, a median figure. Red-breasted Nuthatch: six on 18 BBS was the highest total ever, and also reported during June and July from Alle, Catt, Chau, and Wyoming Cos; two Tift Farm NP 17 Aug (WD, BP) first of several reports of probable fall migrants; one 12 Aug Amity Twn, Alle Co, (VP), perhaps a local bird. Carolina Wren: one Bourne's Beach 15, 16, 20, 27 July (RgS); one w of Barcelona 4 Aug (RS); one Times Beach 24, 28, 31 Aug (RA *et al.*) only reports; still down from winter '76-'77 and unreported from Allegheny Plateau. E. Bluebird: 25 pairs fledged 128 young on Vivian Pitzrick's Alle Co bluebird trail. There were 41 nestings, 32 successful as opposed to 38 nestings and 23 successful in 1984; three nestings were lost to weather, three to predation and three to House Wrens.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: two Pomfret Twn, 30 June-20 July (TM, *et al.*), probably nesting; one Old Warren Rd, Frewsburg, Chau Co, 28 & 29 June (KY, JC). Warbling Vireo: 65 on 18 BBS counts more than normal. "Lawrence's" Warbler: one Poland Twn, Chau Co, 14, 21 June (TM, AS). Yellow Warbler: 305 on 18 BBS counts about average (WK). **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: singing male Science Lake, Alle SP, 28 June & 2 July (TB) where they nested 1984 (*Kingbird* 34: 220-223). Prothonotary Warbler: one Fredonia College Camp 7 June (TM, AS); one Iroquois NWR 15 June and three (two ad, one fl) 20 July (WD, BP). Ovenbird: 53 on 18 BBS counts, above average. Kentucky Warbler: one Hinsdale Twn, Catt Co, 19 June (RA, RB); one Ivory Twn, Chau Co, 23 & 30 June

(DD, DaG). Yellow-breasted Chat: two Amity Twn, 1 and 4 June (VP); one Pomfret Twn, (T & JM); one near Frewsburg 23 June (RS).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Clay-colored Sparrow: four Pomfret Twn 7, 14, 21 June (AS *et al.*), perhaps the male is no longer lonesome; one Andover Twn, Alle Co, 14, 21 June (EB), a new locality; one West Almond, Alle Co, 26 June (EB, CK *et al.*). Henslow's Sparrow: two Pomfret Twn, 7 June; two-three Arkwright Twn 13 July; one to two Villanova Twn 1 Aug, all Chau Co (T & JM). White-throated Sparrow: five territorial males in three twns, Alle Co in young spruce plantations 4-30 June (EB); one Beaver Meadows WR 16 June (Rycroft). Orchard Oriole: two ad two imm Cold Spring, Catt (DG *et al.*); one Clarksville Twn, Alle Co, 15 June (EB *et al.*); two Hinsdale Twn, male carrying fecal sac 15 June (EB *et al.*); one Java Twn, Wyoming Co, 22 June (RA *et al.*); one Tifft Farm NP 24 Aug (Collins). House Finch: still increasing over Region; Vivian Pitzrick reports three young in nest 23 Aug (27 days later than in Bull, *Birds of N.Y.*); two others with young 6 Aug; 54 on 18 BBS counts, highest ever; 119 banded Farmersville Sta July (D & JC). Red Crossbill: on two BBS routes in June; four seen and heard in three widely separated localities Alle Co in June (EB, KC); four Baker School 17 June (DD), probably nested in Region as elsewhere in State. Pine Siskin: 25 West Hill Rd, Alle Co, 8 June (EB); two HY (hatching year) banded at Farmersville Sta, present at feeders 11 July to 20 Aug (D & JC), another possible breeder. Am. Goldfinch: 475 on 18 BBS, a high count (WK); 69 nestings near Amity Lake, 26 successful and 115 young fledged; first egg 15 July - 7 nests still active 11 Sept, suspects four nests destroyed by mice (VP); another finch perhaps responding to abundant cone crop.

Ten Mile Rd., Allegany, New York 14706

REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The summer season began with a cold June. The average temperature was 61.7°, a full five degrees below normal. Some unseasonably cold stretches persisted during the month. July showed the same tendency with a below average temperature of 68.8°. This trend continued into August, which had a slightly below normal average of 68.7°. Precipitation totaled only a very low 1.1 inches in August, over two inches below normal. June and July were just barely below the average.

These conditions provided some interesting situations for the season. The early cold may have caused some problems for early nesting insectivorous species. However, the dryness that prevailed afterwards produced excellent nesting conditions for most species. Water levels in the marshes along the lakeshore were lower than in recent years, resulting in very good nesting conditions for marsh nesting birds like rails. In contrast to recent years, there was an adequate supply of shorebird habitat.

It was again a good season for Least Bittern. Buck Pond and Round Pond were good locales for finding this species. Reports of up to twenty birds in a single day came from the former site, while the latter was a consistent source of reports. Turkey Vultures continued their summer success with very regular reports from many sites. The hill country south of Rochester once again produced confirmed nestings of Broad-winged Hawk. Broad-winged Hawks also were found traveling with Red-tailed Hawks in the traditional late summer movements along the lakeshore.

Areas south of the lakeshore have been studied more consistently due to the Breeding Bird Atlas project. Such northern species as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Dark-eyed Junco were reported. The latter has been recorded in very good numbers. Of special interest are the out-of-range sightings of Gray Jay and Rusty Blackbird during June in a heavy spruce area near Springwater south of Rochester. Both species were seen only once in June. The habitat looked suitable and the reports were adequately documented. This area needs more investigation.

Cuckoos appeared in good numbers in the southern portion of the Region, which once again experienced problems with the Gypsy Moth. Acadian Flycatchers continue to maintain their slow but persistent increase. Hooded Warblers were found in very good numbers in Letchworth State Park, continuing a recent trend. Open field habitats here also yielded good numbers of some species of sparrow. Vesper, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows appeared to be faring much better away from the lakeshore.

Of note along the lakeshore were territorial Yellow-breasted Chats. Some new and more numerous locations held this often erratic species during the season. The late summer shorebird flights were fairly decent. Presence of habitat helped improve the reports. The late summer lakewatch once again produced jaeger reports with respectable totals for the season.

Late-lingering waterfowl that usually are present in the early summer never really materialized. The often productive borrow pits were unproductive for the most part. Blue-winged Teal once again seemed low in numbers. It apparently wasn't a good nesting season for them. The lack of terns was most evident during the season. Forster's Terns were all but nonexistent and Common Tern numbers were down. Only Black and Caspian Terns showed any consistent numbers. Some favorite tern perches in the Braddock Bay area have been eliminated. Although additional and adequate perches were available, this may have caused a relocation of the birds.

The status of Carolina Wren is somewhat fuzzy. Reports of this species were few and far between, yet word comes from other sources that there are good numbers. The general consensus seems to be that numbers of nesting warblers were lower than usual. This echoes the lack of warblers during the spring. The late summer passerine migration had reached only a trickle by the end of the season. The fall season lies ahead. Hopefully we'll have a more satisfactory picture at that time.

The seasonal rarities and novelties included Snowy Egret, Sandhill Crane, Ruff, Gray Jay, Yellow-throated Warbler and Rusty Blackbird.

Contributors: Betty & Martin Baker, Nancy Boudrie, Carolyn Cass, Julie Claffey, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Bill Dingerson, Frank Dobson, Bob Dobson, Kay Doris, Warren Ferris, John & Arlieen Foster, Kevin Griffith, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Nurak Irasena, Oyvind Jensen, Walt Listman, Ferdinand LaFrance, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Robert McKinney, Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Vivian Pitzrick, Martha Reinhardt, Patty Reister, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, C. R. Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Mike Tetlow, Tom Tetlow, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, and Megan Wood.

Abbreviations: arr-fall arrival; B-Braddock Bay, BE-Bergen Swamp; C-Carlton; CH-Charlotte; CB-Cobb's Hill; H-Hamlin Beach; K-Kendall; last-last of spring; LSP-Letchworth State Park; WL-West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Canadice Lake 9 June, quite a find at this time of year. Com. Loon: arr one H 17 Aug. Pied-billed Grebe: ad with four young Canandaigua 18 June. Double-crested Cormorant: max 55 H 29 Aug. Great Egret: max four K 2 June, many other singles reported. Snowy Egret: one H 25 July (MD, WS). Mute Swan: singles B 25-26 June; Pt. Breeze 24 June; probably the same bird. Canada Goose: arr H 29 Aug, observed coming directly across the lake. N. Pintail: one K 10 Aug. Ring-necked Duck: one Greece 30 July, lingering individual. Lesser Scaup: one-four K 2-12 June, singles irregularly thereafter. White-winged Scoter: arr H 11 Aug. 1

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The Braddock Bay Hawk Watch continued into June. Its results are summarized in the table below:

1985 Braddock Bay Hawk Watch Totals		
Species	Total	Population Trend
Turkey Vulture	3,672	above average
Osprey	147	above average
Mississippi Kite	1	only report
Bald Eagle	34	above average
Northern Harrier	357	below average
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8,177	above average
Cooper's Hawk	279	above average
Northern Goshawk	39	below average
Red-shouldered Hawk	371	slightly above average
Broad-winged Hawk	19,633	below average
Red-tailed Hawk	2,082	below average
Rough-legged Hawk	109	below average
Golden Eagle	13	above average
American Kestrel	555	below average
Merlin	10	nine year average = 9
Peregrine Falcon	7	nine year average = 4
unidentified raptors	175	
Total	35,691	nine year average = 36,489

Osprey: last W 23 June (JC). Bald Eagle: singles, no age given Palmyra 27 Aug, imm K 8 July, two Brockport 8 June. Rough-legged Hawk: one W 30 June, extremely late. **SANDHILL CRANE**: one B 18 June (LM), much later than most reports. Black-bellied Plover: arr H 8 Aug. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr H 23 Aug, late. Semipalmated Plover: arr H 26 July. Greater Yellowlegs: arr WL 21 July. Lesser Yellowlegs: Pt. Breeze 8 July. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Pt. Breeze 24 July. Willet: three H 25 Aug (WS), good total any year or season. Whimbrel: arr Sodus 6 June, max two Sodus 30 June. Ruddy Turnstone: last one CH 12 June, arr one H 1 Aug. Red Knot: arr one CH 18 Aug. Sanderling: arr two CH 16

July. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last three K 2 June, arr 12 WL 21 July. W. Sandpiper: last three K 4 June, arr one Carlton 30 July. Least Sandpiper: arr Pt. Breeze 1 July. White-rumped Sandpiper: last one K 26 June. Baird's Sandpiper: arr one H 20 Aug, later than usual. Pectoral Sandpiper: Pt. Breeze 8 July. Dunlin: last Carlton 4 June. Stilt Sandpiper: one Pt. Breeze 8 July. **RUFF**: two Shore Acres 25 Aug (TH), well described, verification report on file. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr one Pt. Breeze 8 July. Wilson's Phalarope: last one Perinton 16 June. Parasitic Jaeger: arr two H 27 Aug. Laughing Gull: one CH 18 Aug, first year bird (RS). Caspian Tern: arr Sodus, B 3 July. Com. Tern: arr five B 6 July. Forster's Tern: one B 18 June (RO), only report, poor total.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-hooded Parakeet: one Wayland 29 July (CRS), observed while working on Breeding Bird Atlas, origin unknown. Barred Owl: max three Bergen 22 June. Long-eared Owl: one found dead H 25 July (WS); there are nesting records for the Region from recent years. Com. Nighthawk: max 92 Brighton 26 Aug. Whip-poor-will: one Webster 1-17 Aug, poor totals as of late. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers throughout the period. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Harriet Hollister Spencer Park 26 June, another reported from the Region without details.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last one Irondequoit 22 June, arr one CO 22 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr one Pt. Breeze 23 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: reports of two to four came from BE and LSP. Cliff Swallow: 16 nests B throughout the season, scattered reports from other locales. **GRAY JAY**: one Springwater 27 June, good habitat, verification report received and on file with Genesee Ornithological Society, out of season and out of normal range (Gye Fram). Com. Raven: one K 9 Aug, continuing the recent trend in sightings. Carolina Wren: a few reports of scattered individuals. Swainson's Thrush: last six CB 2 June.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: "Brewster's" Warbler: one Webster Park 3 Aug. Tennessee Warbler: last two CB 2 June, arr one Island Cottage Woods 25 Aug. N. Parula: arr two CB 28 Aug. Cape May Warbler: last one LSP 1 June, arr two CB 28 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr one CB 22 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr four H 16 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr one CB 22 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: arr four CB 22 Aug. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: adult male Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester, 7 June (MR, AS, RS); increase in reports in the last two to three years, may not be a rarity in the future. Pine Warbler: arr one Webster 3 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr one Webster 3 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: last one LSP 1 June, arr two CB 28 Aug. N. Waterthrush: arr one WL 17 Aug. Wilson's Warbler: arr one CB 28 Aug. Canada Warbler: arr one B 17 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one of the best years in recent history, reports from a minimum of three locations.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last one Wayne Co. 11 Aug, but a later date may be coming in the next reporting period. Vesper Sparrow: good numbers away from the lakeshore. Savannah Sparrow: possibly down along the lakeshore. Grasshopper Sparrow: good numbers in southern portions of Region away from the lakeshore. Henslow's Sparrow: some reports south of Rochester, lakeshore colonies appear abandoned. **RUSTY BLACKBIRD**: eight Springwater 30 June; verification report received and on file (HH); suitable habitat. Pine Siskin: 50 Naples 1-30 June, very high number; nine Naples 1-31 July (B & MP), very high total for the time of year, especially when mediocre numbers were present in the spring.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

Cool and dry is an adequate description of the summer season in our Region. Precipitation, as usual, varied from place to place as many hit or miss thunderstorms were much in evidence. Precipitation in the Elmira area was almost an inch and a half below normal for June. After a dry spring, this left many of our streams and ponds either low or dry before warm temperatures were even upon us. July's precipitation was slightly above normal but this statistic is deceiving. Most of the rain came between 9-12 July. On 12 July a series of thunderstorms rumbled through our area, dumping as much as 2.38 inches of rain on Elmira. Temperatures were rather mild with an occasional record low. July had record lows of 44 on 11 July and 42 on 25 July.

With many streams dry in Chemung County, herons were driven to the Chemung River where more and more islands were exposed as the season progressed. In August, it was common to scan the river and spot over a dozen Green-backed Herons and six to eight Great Blue Herons. The river also attracted two Great Egrets and two Black-crowned Night-Herons, ho-hum for Cayuga Lake Basin residents, but a real treat for Elmirans. Conditions appeared ripe for excellent shorebird observations, but this was not the case. Even though good numbers were seen in late August, some of the usually reported species were missing or sparse.

The breeding season on the whole was not spectacular. In fact, your editor can't even report a legitimate rarity—no bold face print this time. Just for interest's sake, a rather tame Ringed Turtle Dove came to a feeder in Elmira in late July. Thrushes provided highs and lows. American Robins and Eastern Bluebirds had very productive breeding seasons, whereas the other species of thrushes were reported in reduced numbers.

Many of us who were involved in finishing the Breeding Bird Atlas Project can agree that some breeding confirmations come by sheer luck. Your editor would like to share his experiences this summer with three elusive species. 1). He had never seen a Purple Martin in Chemung County until he went golfing on a course he had never played before and found three active Purple Martin houses. 2). While testing the brakes on his camper in an elementary school parking lot, he spotted a Cliff Swallow gathering mud, followed it and found nineteen nests attached to the school. 3). Thought he heard a Worm-eating Warbler singing on a steep hillside, but put off making the long climb for three weeks. When he came back to conquer the hill, he found the warbler feeding three young at the bottom only a few feet from the highway. This was the first breeding confirmation for our Region. If only all the birds were that easy! On second thought, we'd probably miss the blood, sweat and tears shed these last six years, wouldn't we?

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Chem—Chemung; Co—County; L—Lake; M—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pd—Pond; Pk—Park; Schuy—Schuyler; Sen—Seneca; St—State; QC—Queen Catherine Marsh.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: seen in breeding plumage all summer on Cay L, three max; present Sen and Keuka L's thru, no evidence of successful nesting anywhere in our Region. Pied-billed Grebe: reported from M only with no report of young. Horned Grebe: present on Keuka L thru mid-Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: settled at M again this season, no max number reported; sighted at Watkins Glen and Keuka L in June. Am. Bittern: one flying over Route 17 near Aurora in June; one Corning Pd 25 Aug. Least Bittern: only report from Ithaca area on lake near Cayuga Village where single bird was observed in June and July. Great Blue Heron: 50 nests M; 12-15 nests north west of Hornell Reservoirs; 12 nests Middlesex; at least 12 birds Sen L inlet near QC 11 Aug. Great Egret: three M 6 July; two Elmira 2-5 Aug; four M 10 Aug. Green-backed Heron: confirmed nesting near Van Etten. Black-crowned Night-Heron: Texas Hollow July; imms seen Elmira, M, and Varick early Aug. Wood Duck: nested Italy Valley, Hammondsport, Middlesex, Elmira and QC. Hooded Merganser: pair north of Penn Yan.

Maximum waterfowl numbers at M as reported by Refuge personnel:

Canada Goose	423	4 June	Blue-winged Teal	335	27 Aug
Wood Duck	1072	27 Aug	Gadwall	100	26 June
Green-winged Teal	60	7 Aug	Am. Wigeon	18	4 June
Am. Black Duck	104	27 Aug	Ruddy Duck	36	11 June
Mallard	1749	27 Aug	Am. Coot	44	27 Aug

Nesting success of waterfowl and other selected species at M:

Species	Young Produced	Species	Young Produced
Great Blue Heron	250	Blue-winged Teal	45
Black-crowned Night-Heron	115	Gadwall	40
Canada Goose	260	Hooded Merganser	55
Wood Duck	935	Am. Coot	25
Green-winged Teal	20	Com. Tern	9
Am. Black Duck	10	Black Tern	35
Mallard	190		

Wood Duck: nested Italy Valley, Hammondsport, Middlesex, Elmira and QC. Hooded Merganser: pair north of Penn Yan.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: increasing Ithaca and Penn Yan areas; one chased and repeatedly hit by Red-tailed Hawk Elmira, mid-June. Osprey: no report of nesting at M this year; several reports Elmira during Aug; one Sen L St Pk 22 Aug. Bald Eagle: one Cay L 23 June; one possible Jacksonville 8 July. N. Harrier: raised three young west of Keuka L; confirmed nesting near Middlesex. Sharp-shinned Hawk: nested southwest of Canoga. N. Goshawk: none observed. Red-shouldered Hawk: present near Hammondsport and Lamoka L. Broad-winged Hawk: only nesting report comes from near Canandaigua. Ring-necked Pheasant: doing much better in northern sections. Wild Turkey: hen with 15 young often observed at south entrance to Watkins Glen St Pk. Virginia Rail: singing birds Italy Hill; nested again Corning Pd. Sora: young observed Corning Pd late Aug. Com. Moorhen: three imm, one ad Corning Pd 27 Aug. Am. Coot: only at M. Black-bellied Plover: two reports from M and Keuka L areas. Lesser Golden-Plover: Mays Pt. Pool 25 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: several observations from Elmira in Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: one Elmira 22 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: sightings in Elmira, Sen L St Pk and M with a max 24 at M 20 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: two Flint Creek 19 July; ten Guyamosa

Valley 30 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: numerous Elmira during Aug; brood seen Watkins Glen St Pk. Upland Sandpiper: adult with six chicks Horseheads 16 July. Ruddy Turnstone: one Sen L St Pk 24 Aug. Sanderling: reported from Elmira, Geneva and M during Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: numerous Elmira and M. W. Sandpiper: one Sen L St Pk 21 Aug. Least Sandpiper: numerous Geneva, Elmira, M and Keuka L areas. Pectoral Sandpiper: small flock M 14 July. Com. Snipe: three Corning Pd 27 Aug. Red-necked Phalarope: two M 25 Aug. Great Black-backed Gull: imm Aurora 20 July; three juv. Sen L St Pk late Aug. Caspian Tern: present Cay L end of July thru 17 Aug; 16 near Stewart Pk 17 Aug; four Watkins Glen 21 Aug. Com. Tern: nest with eggs in reeds opposite Cay Village 5 July. Black Tern: M only nesting record; one Stewart Pk 17 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: no new nesting confirmations in Steuben Co; more observations Keuka L area; singing several locations in the Watkins Glen area. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: confirmed in two new atlas blocks Steuben Co. Com. Barn-Owl: none observed. E. Screech-Owl: singing birds heard in many locations. Great Horned Owl: more nesting records established in western areas. Com. Nighthawk: usual late Aug migration through the Elmira area with a max of 100 birds seen at once. Whip-poor-will: one Esker Brook Trail early July. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nest with young and two young birds coming to fuschia plants late July thru, Pine City. Red-headed Woodpecker: nested near Aurora; single bird still calling into July, Elmira. Red-bellied Woodpecker: common only at QC. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: confirmed in five of seven new atlas blocks. Downy Woodpecker: coming to empty suet log Pine City late Aug in anticipation. N. Flicker: had excellent nesting season in Chem Co as young were observed in many locations. Pileated Woodpecker: family gatherings of four Elmira and three Watkins Glen St Pk.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: found at the top of a dead tree two successive days Elmira 3 and 4 Aug. Yellow-bellied and Acadian Flycatchers: none observed. Alder Flycatcher: common Schuy Co. Willow Flycatcher: regular QC Marsh, nest with three eggs found there in June. Great Crested Flycatcher: family of five Elmira mid-July. E. Kingbird: several breeding records in Schuy and Chem Co; increasing Tompkins Co. Horned Lark: decreased breeding populations Penn Yan area. Purple Martin: nested Varick; 23 Sen L St Pk 22 Aug. Tree Swallow: nest with three young in the top of hand water pump Chemung; nest with young South Danby 29 July. Cliff Swallow: large colony Ingersoll Rand Plant in Corning; aborted nesting in Freeville. Blue Jay: observed carrying beheaded vireo (assumed) crossways in its bill mid-Aug. Fish Crow: population steady in Ithaca area. Black-capped Chickadee: abundant Yates Co as 30 responded to owl call. Red-breasted Nuthatch: nested in Schuy Co. Brown Creeper: family observed Italy Hill. Carolina Wren: increasing Yates Co; regular QC. House Wren: one male, two females, three broods Pine City. Marsh Wren: regular at QC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: observed at Montour Falls, Connecticut Hill and Hector Forest. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: usual three to four invade your editor's yard in late July staying almost thru Aug. E. Bluebird: quite successful Schuy, Tompkins and Chem Co; confirmed in nine of fourteen new atlas blocks; pair began successful third nesting Pine City 15 July; over 20 Chem Co 30 Aug. Veery: decreased numbers Yates Co; your editor did not see one after late June. Gray-cheeked Thrush: none observed. Swainson's Thrush: adults banded Penn Yan 19 July, 13 Aug. Hermit Thrush: observed Canandaigua area; singing Watkins Glen St Pk June; adult banded 26 Aug. Am. Robin: over 1000 at Pine City roost. Brown Thrasher: few Tompkins Co.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: very few Ithaca. Yellow-throated Vireo: feeding young Chem 16 July. Warbling Vireo: several nesting confirmations Chem Co; eight banded Penn Yan 8 Aug. Philadelphia Vireo: two west of Romulus 3 June, probably late migrants. Blue-winged Warbler: pairs in several locations Schuy Co; numbers up Penn Yan. Golden-

winged Warbler: Chem Co seems to be the best place to find these birds. "Lawrence's" Warbler: feeding young Pine City early July. Tennessee Warbler: adult banded Penn Yan 19 July. N. Parula: one Elmira 30 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: two new locations in Schuy Co. Black-throated Green Warbler: scarce throughout our Region. Pine Warbler: feeding young Hammondsport. Prairie Warbler: feeding young Pine City 16 July. Cerulean Warbler: still another new location in Chem Co. Louisiana Waterthrush: three nestings Penn Yan area. Hooded Warbler: probable nesting near Watkins Glen. Canada Warbler: feeding young Elmira 16 July.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: plentiful Ithaca and Elmira. Rufous-sided Towhee: reduced numbers Ithaca area due to "urban sprawl." Vesper Sparrow: common Bath area; lower numbers Penn Yan. Grasshopper Sparrow: nested in Schuy and Chem Co. Henslow's Sparrow: continued nesting success Pine City; down Yates Co. White-throated Sparrow: found in two areas Steuben Co. Orchard Oriole: nest with eggs south of Willard. N. Oriole: prolific nester along Chem R. Red Crossbill: young at feeder Ithaca area 13 June. Evening Grosbeak: nested near South Danby.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

Only one group of people in Region Four found June 1985 ideal. Not children, who would have preferred more sunshine. June had overcast skies almost two-thirds of the time. Not farmers, who desperately needed more rain. The 2.64 inches that fell was 0.74 inches below average. The cloud cover brought dampness but not rain. Home gardeners had similar complaints: little rain, little sun. The average citizen found June cold. Only twice did the high go over 70°. Only one group really loved this cloudy, cool, damp-but-not-wet month. They were the atlasers! The overcast skies kept birds singing late into the day, the cool temperatures kept the gnats and blackflies down, and the lack of rain kept the birders dry.

Atlasers also loved July. More normal weather came at a time when bird song was decreasing and atlasers were concentrating more on spotting fledglings or parent birds feeding young. The brighter, warmer, sunnier days made this more pleasant. Temperature highs were between 70° and the mid-80's. Rainfall, 0.42 inches above normal, fell mostly as cloudburst thundershowers, hard but of short duration.

With the added pressure of knowing that 1985 would be the last year of the program, the atlasers really poured it on. Block after block was covered. Records piled up. Data was accumulated, valuable data which will prove significant for future research. However, it is impractical to compare such data with previous

years. Most reports came from blocks not previously covered. The birds found there may have been present for years but had not been discovered before. Likewise, there was little time for birding in blocks covered in previous years. Hence, this year's reports could be misleading. For example, an atlaser (JL) commented that Blackburnian Warblers were "more common in western Otsego County than expected . . . I suspect that [Blackburnian Warbler] is increasing but have no proof because I haven't been there before." However, a contrary opinion came from a birder (MC) who lives on the farm where she grew up: "This is the first year I can remember when our farm forests had NO Blackburnian Warblers—not one! I am concerned!" So reports for this season will be simply that: not comparisons, just a base for future evaluations.

As might be expected the increased atlasing effort produced many interesting discoveries, especially of birds not usually presumed to breed in Region Four. Some were just possible breeders but others were confirmed nesting. Among these were: PIED-BILLED GREBE, CANADA GOOSE, HOODED MERGANSER, COMMON MERGANSER, COMMON MOORHEN, UPLAND SANDPIPER, N. SAW-WHET OWL, WHIP-POOR-WILL, SWAINSON'S THRUSH, N. PARULA, CERULEAN WARBLER and HOODED WARBLER. A PEREGRINE FALCON seen during this period was presumed not to be nesting. All in all, it was a grand finale to an inspiring program. Our thanks to all who participated.

As for August, it too was normal. Reports showed a definite let-down after the tremendous energy expended in June and July, but they did reflect the usual light shorebird migration and the expected start of the general songbird migration. August also produced a number of unusual reports: GREAT EGRET, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, and PAINTED BUNTING. Our thanks also to those who didn't let the anticlimax stop them.

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Abbreviations: Br—Broome County; Chen—Chenango County; Del—Delaware County; locs—locations; OPM—Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford area; Ots—Otsego County; res—reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Lake Canadarago 7 July (JL). **PIED-BILLED GREBE**: four young in a beaver pond near Lordville, 26 June (SL, BW). Great Blue Heron: over 50 birds thru. **GREAT EGRET**: four birds Chen 20 July (WH), one killed probably by an electric fence, two remained until 16 Aug (MR, BrW, CC). Green-backed Heron: over 40 birds thru. **CANADA GOOSE**: "pair in secluded pond" thru (DM). Wood Duck: over 65 birds thru. Am. Black Duck: 15 Br (mob), singles Chen (JL) and Tioga (LD) Cos. Mallard: over 50 birds thru. **HOODED MERGANSER**: singles Chen 1 June and Ots 20 June (JL). **COM. MERGANSER**: two Chen 11 June (JL), one Ots 24 June (JL), and 29 Delhi 29 Aug (C & KK).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: over 40 birds thru. Osprey: two birds several days in early June around Finch Hollow Nature Center Pond, Br (CE); singles Br 17 (AC, CCA) and 27 (FL, HM) Aug. Bald Eagle: imm Chen June (JL); adult Greene 27 Aug (AB, BE, MO). N. Harrier: one Chen early June (DN), two Chen July (DM), two Ots July (JL), one Delhi 25 Aug (MC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 18 birds thru, mostly Br, Chen and Ots. Cooper's Hawk: singles Ots 18 June (MD) and 26 July (JL), Br June (FL) and July (FL, HM), Chen 5 July (JL) and Oneonta 20 Aug (MD, KW). N. Goshawk: singles S. Otselic 2 June (DM), Ots 17 June (JL), Chen 7 July (JL) and Ots (MH, WM). Red-shouldered Hawk: singles Br (FL, HM) and Chen (BB, FL, HM), eight Chen (JL). Red-tailed Hawk: over 100 thru. Am. Kestrel: over 100 thru. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one bird "we saw it zip over a small bay/marsh on the edge of Otsego Lake . . . I have no reason to think the bird was nesting . . . it simply went quickly across the marsh" (HK). Ring-necked Pheasant: 12 reports scattered locs thru. Ruffed Grouse: over 75 birds thru. Wild Turkey: over 80 birds thru. Virginia Rail: one Tioga Co Aug (LD), one "seen twice carrying food (worm) from a lawn back into marsh" Chen (JL). **COM. MOORHEN:** pair with eight young Tioga Co. (LB, D & JB, LD). Killdeer: common thru. Greater Yellowlegs: one Br 12 Aug (FL, HM), two Oneonta Res 20 Aug (MD, KW). Lesser Yellowlegs: singles Br 12 and 29 Aug (FL, HM). Solitary Sandpiper: 16 birds scattered locs late July, Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: over 40 birds thru. **UPLAND SANDPIPER:** two Ots early June (DN); nine "about ¼ mi e of Springfield [Ots, 16 July] . . . including one young bird. I saw them on 7/17 and 7/20, two both days. They were in a poor cornfield—corn about 6 to 10 [inches] high with lots of grass between the rows (corn 2 ft tall grew on the other side) . . . a strip about 50 ft wide with another crop, behind the corn, maybe alfalfa—not too tall" (U & HK). Semipalmated Sandpiper: six Cannonsville Res 7 Aug, singles Br 12, 20 and 25 Aug (FL, HM). Least Sandpiper: five OPM 20 Aug (MD, KW). Com. Snipe: one displaying S. Otselic June (DM), nine birds Ots (JL), one Br 28 Aug (FL, HM). Am. Woodcock: over 20 birds scattered locs thru. Ring-billed Gull: seven Lake Canadarago 13 July (JL), 60 Otsego Lake 30 Aug (MD), one Cannonsville Res 7 Aug (MC, SH), singles Br 12 and 20 Aug and two on 29 Aug (FL, HM). Herring Gull: singles Lake Canadarago 13 July (JL) and Tioga Co July, Aug (LD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: singles OPM 13 Aug (MD, KW), Del 1 July (MC), Tioga Co Aug (LD) and Ots 21 July (JL); six birds Chen June (DM). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: two Ots early June (DN), one Tioga Co June (LD). E. Screech-Owl: singles Chen 27 June, Ots 23 June and 25 July (JL), Del 17 June (MC), Tioga Co thru (LD), Br 9 Aug (GK), and S. Otselic "began calling in Aug" (DM). Great Horned Owl: ten Ots (JL), 12 Br (BB, FL, HM); singles Del 26 July (RB) and thru Aug (C & KK), Tioga Co thru (LD), Chen July (DW) and S. Otselic July (DM). Barred Owl: two each Chen and Ots (JL), one Br (BB, FL, HM). **N. SAW-WHET OWL:** one heard singing Br 9 June, 15, 17, 19 July, 1, 8, 25, and 29 Aug (GK, HM). Com. Nighthawk: six Norwich June (DW); several heard regularly Binghamton all season (CJ); one downtown Oneonta 4 June was first of year where "heard one again on 1 July and Kathryn (KW) heard one later in July. This was the first year you wouldn't hear one most any night downtown" (MD). **WHIP-POOR-WILL:** one Delhi 19 June (EM). Chimney Swift: over 200 birds scattered thru; only Oneonta reported "two or three occasionally—not common as other years" (MD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: over 75 birds thru. Belted Kingfisher: over 110 birds thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Br 24 June (BB, FL, HM). Red-bellied Woodpecker: regular at Newark Valley (LD). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: over 90 birds thru. Downy Woodpecker: over 150 birds thru. Hairy Woodpecker: over 100 birds thru. N. Flicker: common thru. Pileated Woodpecker: over 45 birds thru.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** one Oneonta Res 20 Aug (MD, KW). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one banded Br 24 Aug (GK), singles Delhi June (MC) and Tioga Co July (LD). Alder Flycatcher: over 75 birds thru. Willow Flycatcher:

over 80 birds thru. Least Flycatcher: over 180 birds thru. E. Phoebe: over 150 birds thru. Great Crested Flycatcher: over 130 birds thru. E. Kingbird: over 300 birds thru. Horned Lark: one Br June (FL, HM) and Ots June (JL), two Chen July (JL) and S. Otselic all period (DM). Purple Martin: three locs Br (FL, HM), one report Tioga Co (LD). Tree Swallow: common thru. N. Rough-winged Swallow: over 60 birds thru. Bank Swallow: regular thru. Cliff Swallow: eight locs Ots (JL, MD, KW), one location Chen (HM), three locs Br (FL, HM). Barn Swallow: common thru. Blue Jay: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: two Ots Co., singles Chen (JL) and Tioga Co (LD), ten Br (FL, HM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one S. Otselic (DM), five Del (MC), 28 Ots (JL), one Chen (JL). White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: seven Br, 61 Chen and Ots (JL), one S. Otselic (DM). Carolina Wren: two Norwich (JL), four Br (FL, HM). House Wren: common thru. Winter Wren: 14 Ots (JL, HK), two Br (FL, HM). Marsh Wren: one Tioga Co. July (LD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 20 birds Ots (JL). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: singles Chen 5 July (JL), Delhi 26 July (MC), OPM 5 Aug (MD, KW) and Tioga Co July (LD). E. Bluebird: over 140 birds thru. Veery: over 100 birds thru. **SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** four Pharsalia Game Management Area, 12 North Rd. to E. Pharsalia, all singing and calling at "known locations from last year" (JL). Hermit Thrush: over 60 birds thru. Wood Thrush: common thru. Am. Robin: common thru. Gray Catbird: common thru. N. Mockingbird: one Ots (JL), 12 Br (FL, HM), three Tioga Co (LD). Brown Thrasher: over 50 birds thru. Cedar Waxwing: common thru. European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: over 65 birds thru. Yellow-throated Vireo: over 100 birds thru. Warbling Vireo: over 140 birds thru. Philadelphia Vireo: one banded Br 11 Aug (GK). Red-eyed Vireo: common thru. Blue-winged Warbler: 49 birds thru, mostly Chen and Ots. Golden-winged Warbler: four birds Chen (JL, HK). Tennessee Warbler: adults Vestal banding station 12, 15, 18, 19 (two) and 23 Aug (HM). Nashville Warbler: 11 breeding reports Br and Ots; seven Ots (MD, KW) and four Br (HM) in Aug. N. **PARULA:** two locs Del (SL, BW). Yellow Warbler: common thru. Chestnut-sided Warbler: common thru. Magnolia Warbler: over 100 birds Chen and Ots, three Br. Black-throated Blue Warbler: over 40 birds, mostly Br, Chen and Ots. Yellow-rumped Warbler: over 130 birds Chen and Ots, three Br, four Del and one Tioga Co. Black-throated Green Warbler: over 115 birds Chen and Ots, seven Br. Blackburnian Warbler: over 88 birds Chen and Ots, two Del, one Br. Prairie Warbler: two Ots (JL), five Br. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** one Glimmerglass State Park 1 July (HK). Black-and-white Warbler: over 80 birds thru. Am. Redstart: common thru. Ovenbird: common thru. N. Waterthrush: over 50 Chen and Ots. Louisiana Waterthrush: over 46 birds Chen and Ots. Mourning Warbler: 114 birds Chen and Ots, one banded Br 19 Aug (GK). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru. **HOODED WARBLER:** "a singing male at same place where they nested last year, north of Cherry Valley" 15 June (HK), one Pepacton Res, Del, 22 June (SL, BW). Wilson's Warbler: one Del 16 July (MC), one banded Br 28 Aug (HM). Canada Warbler: over 65 Chen and Ots, one Br.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: over 200 birds thru. N. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: over 200 birds thru. Indigo Bunting: over 275 birds thru. **PAINTED BUNTING:** one Afton 15 and 16 Aug (EL) identified by HM after very detailed description on telephone: "small saddle of green on back; red breast and rump, blue head, conical bill, square tail, size of Indigo Bunting," seen in a tree right outside her window where it stayed about 10 min each day. Rufous-sided Towhee: over 175 birds thru. Chipping Sparrow: abundant thru. Field Sparrow: over 220 birds thru. Vesper Sparrow: 26 birds, all Chen and Ots. Savannah Sparrow: over 250 birds thru. Grasshopper Sparrow: eight Chen and Ots, 26 Br (JS, FL, HM). Swamp Sparrow: over 200 birds thru. White-throated Sparrow: over 120 birds Chen and Ots, three Br. Dark-eyed Junco: over 175 birds Chen and Ots, 19 Br. Bobolink: over 300 birds thru. Red-winged Blackbird: abundant thru. E. Meadowlark: over 170 birds thru. Com. Grackle: abundant thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: over 200 birds

thru. N. Oriole: over 175 birds thru. Purple Finch: over 125 birds thru. House Finch: common thru. Red Crossbill: 25 birds, last Chen 19 June (JL, DM). White-winged Crossbill: about 15 birds, last Chen 19 June (JL, DM). Pine Siskin: about 11 birds, last Chen 19 June (DM, JL). Am. Goldfinch: abundant thru. House Sparrow: abundant thru.

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[Editor's note: With this report Harriet Marsi steps down as Region Four editor to assume the Presidency of the Federation. Beginning with the Fall 1985 season, she is replaced by Jay Lehman. Contributors should send their reports to: Dr. Jay Lehman, R.D. 2, Box 68, Norwich, New York 13815.]

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

The past several reports have noted the similarity between the weather this year and last. This pattern continued through the summer of 1985. June averaged nearly 4.3 degrees below normal, and both July and August were slightly cooler than average. All three months were dry, June being the wettest at only 0.8 inches below normal. There was virtually no rain at all for a six week period from mid-July to late August. At the end of the season total annual precipitation was nearly six inches below normal in Syracuse. The summer also was quite cloudy.

These weather conditions did not seem to interfere with the nesting season. Rain in June frequently inconvenienced planned birding expeditions, but the combination of dryness and coolness kept biting insects to a minimum. July was positively pleasant, when one could bird watch in central New York with neither insect repellant nor cold weather clothing. There seemed to be good numbers of baby birds about by late summer as well, so the dryness apparently had little effect on nesting populations. However, most observers felt that bird song, parent birds feeding young and fledgling birds disappeared sooner than usual. Work on the Breeding Bird Atlas in early August was much less rewarding than in past years.

In this final year of the Breeding Bird Atlas, workers added no less than six species to the list of confirmed Regional nesters. The two crossbills were noted in the previous report. This season Acadian Flycatcher, Carolina and Sedge Wren, and Bay-breasted Warbler were added to the list. All of these are species last proven to nest in the Region at least twenty years ago! The only half-way cooperative Least Bittern disappeared before its nesting status could be ascertained, and at this writing we were still trying for Whip-poor-will. Only these two species kept workers from confirming nesting for every avian species thought to breed in the Region annually.

With attention focused mainly on inadequately covered blocks this year, many other significant nesting records were obtained. One of the more remarkable was the pair of Osprey that spent the summer at Beaver Lake, Onondaga Co. Although a nest was never found, they suddenly appeared with freshly fledged young in early August, giving us a third lowland breeding record only ten km from the site where a pair tried to nest in 1979! Residents of the north shore of Oneida Lake also hinted that a pair was present in the North Bay area, where an unsuccessful nesting occurred in 1983.

Herkimer County was the least well worked part of the Region at the start of the summer. By the end of this summer every block but two had been visited. Workers found Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Common Raven, Bay-breasted Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow about 10 to 20 km farther south than had been known previously. Hooded Warblers from this area are an addition to the avifauna of the Adirondacks, and may well be colonizing this range just now from their stronghold in the southern Tug Hill Plateau. Mysteries remain. What is the status of the June and early July Blackpoll Warblers in our Region? Do Common Goldeneye and Philadelphia Vireo nest in Herkimer County? Is Spruce Grouse still extant there? Alas, the answers to these questions will have to come another year.

Elsewhere in the Region a new site for Pine Warbler was found in Oswego Co. Golden-winged Warblers still predominate over Blue-winged Warblers in central Oswego Co. near Fulton, and this season nesting finally was confirmed for a black-throated hybrid ("Lawrence's" Warbler) between these two species.

An observation that will require checking in future years is the Double-crested Cormorants on Oneida Lake. An investigation of "possible nests" on the islands at the west end of the lake in early June revealed no nests. Nearly 40 birds, all but two immatures, were present, but none was in breeding condition. Suitable nesting habitat is present and the species may well colonize this area as these young birds mature.

Results from only six breeding bird surveys were reported. No species were consistently very different from their long term averages on any of the surveys. However, everyone felt Winter Wren was markedly down in numbers, and both cuckoos and Brown Thrasher were scarce at least locally. Henslow's Sparrow made its worst showing ever, but Grasshopper Sparrow was widely, though thinly, spread through the Region. Our Prothonotary Warbler site was drained before it could be checked, to allow work on the dam that forms Delta Lake. Red-breasted Nuthatches were more conspicuous in lowland conifer plantations than in many years, but seem to vanish by August. Hooded Warbler continues to increase along the Lake Ontario shore and House Finch populations continue to explode everywhere. Most of the winter finches that nested here last season were gone by mid-June, Red Crossbill being the most persistent species.

The summer season spans both migrations. The last shorebirds and warblers of the spring were fairly easy to identify, but a number of odd June dates for other species, including Caspian Tern and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, were obtained. The fall migration began in early July with the return of the first shorebirds. By mid-month the landbird migration was evident and many arrivals

were recorded in August. Two early Evening Grosbeak reports may foretell an incursion of this species in the coming fall, but other irruptive species were little in evidence at the season's end. In general the quality of both migrations was poor in terms of numbers of birds found, but not quite so bad in terms of diversity.

The only great rarities found were Glossy Ibis, Long-billed Dowitcher and Acadian Flycatcher, while lesser rarities found included Great and Snowy Egret, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Willet, Western Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Little Gull and Orchard Oriole. A total of 204 species (plus two hybrids) was reported, which is a little better than normal.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; last—last of season; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; StMc—Saint Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onon Co.; SVB—Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr—Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: last Oneida Lake 1 June. Pied-billed Grebe: arr SP 8 Aug. Great Egret: two Cicero Swamp 31 Aug, one Delta Lake after 25 Aug. Snowy Egret: one Oneida Lake 25-26 Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Onon Lake 25 Aug. **GLOSSY IBIS**: one town of Manlius 7-16 Aug (DWC), third Regional fall record. Mute Swan: five Lyons Pond in Aug. Canada Goose: first flocks reported Biddlecum 21 Aug. Green-winged Teal: only two mid-summer reports; arr Onon Lake 21 Aug. N. Pintail: arr SVB 25 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: arr Onon Lake 5 Aug. N. Shoveler: male spent entire summer Fourth Lake (GL), first Regional summer record since 1972. Gadwall: arr Onon Lake 5 Aug. Am. Wigeon: arr Onon Lake 30 Aug. Hooded Merganser: arr SP 31 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: see intro; arr Onon Lake 15 July. Bald Eagle: imm DeWitt 17 Aug (REL). N. Harrier: arr SP 15 Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: only one reported. Merlin: arr town of Webb 29 Aug. Peregrine Falcon: record early arr imm SP 8 Aug (FGS). Ruffed Grouse: no large populations reported. Wild Turkey: widely reported by residents in central Herkimer Co. n of the Mohawk River. Am. Coot: one near Rome 16 Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr SP 8 Aug, max 34 Delta Lake 25 Aug. Lesser Golden Plover: arr Delta Lake 4 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: last Oneida Lake 8 June; arr Onon Lake 25 July. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Delta Lake 4 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Onon Lake 5 July. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Poolsbrook 12 July. Willet: one Onon Lake 11-16 Aug (FGS, mob). Upland Sandpiper: last near SVB 26 Aug. Ruddy Turnstone: last SVB 1 June, arr Onon Lake 8 Aug. Red Knot: arr SVB 25 Aug. Sanderling: last SVB 1 June, arr SVB 29 July. Baird's Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 29 July. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 29 June. Western Sandpiper: arr (two, FGS), SP 5 Aug, early. Least Sandpiper: last SVB 1 June, arr SVB 29 June, max 100 Delta Lake 25 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 29 July, max 27 Salmon River Reservoir 25 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 29 July, max 22 Onon Lake and 25 SVB on 8 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Onon Lake 21 July. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER**: adult calling, with Short-billed, Onon Lake 25 July (FGS), record early, fifth in last ten years. Wilson's Phalarope: one Onon Lake 27 Aug only report. Little Gull: juv SP after 24 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SVB 24 June. Caspian Tern: one Onon Lake 30 June (GH) unseasonal, arr Onon Lake 21 July, max 61 SP 8 Aug. Black Tern: scarce.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: about ten reported. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one reported. Long-eared Owl: one calling all summer Shackleton Point. Com. Night-hawk: nesting populations remained low, but record max 216 counted going south Syr 26 Aug (J. Propst *vide* DWC). Whip-poor-will: several new sites north and east of Rome.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Tug Hill Plateau 7 July, two or three near Hinckley Reservoir mid-July are at peripheral locations. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: present as far south as Gray, Herkimer Co.; at least one Nelson Swamp to 25 June (MSR), status uncertain; arr SP 15 Aug. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: one near Minetto 22 June (PDeB, mob) to 9 Aug, when accompanied by fledgling (DWC), is our first modern Regional nesting record; another near Bridgeport 11 June (DMO) is tenth Regional record. Bank Swallow: max 11,000 Clay Marsh 3 Aug. Barn Swallow: max 14,000 Clay Marsh 3 Aug. Com. Raven: nesting confirmed near Nobleboro, Herkimer Co., in June (FGS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: present in many low elevation pine plantations this summer; no evidence of an irruption by end of season. Carolina Wren: bird at StMC disappeared 7 July, then singles appeared irregularly at three Syr sites thru mid-Aug; family group near Brookfield (DWC) first confirmed Regional nesting since 1969. Winter Wren: very scarce everywhere. Sedge Wren: reported from four sites including one feeding young Clay (DWC) and one near Alder Creek (FGS) remote from most Regional reports. E. Bluebird: John Rodgers' bluebird trail in central Oswego Co. produced almost 500 fledged young this year, showing what dedicated management can accomplish. Brown Thrasher: scarce in western half of Region, evidently more numerous in the southeastern part.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Tennessee Warbler: last SSSP 2 June, arr Florence 27 July. N. Parula: found south to Nobleboro area. Magnolia Warbler: arr SP 24 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr Salmon River Reservoir 25 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SP 31 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr SP 8 Aug, only obvious migrant. Pine Warbler: family group Battle Isle State Park (PDeB), new nesting locality. Bay-breasted Warbler: pair feeding young town of Webb 10 July (FGS) first confirmed Regional nesting since 1962. Blackpoll Warbler: several Granny Marsh 17 July (GL) of uncertain status. Louisiana Waterthrush: migrant SSSP 8 Aug (FGS). Hooded Warbler: two males near Nobleboro to early July (PDeB, DWC, FGS) evidently unpaired, first summer records from Adirondacks. Wilson's Warbler: arr SP 24 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: widespread but scarce. Henslow's Sparrow: found at four sites only. Lincoln's Sparrow: found nesting in dry heath south to Hinkley Reservoir area (FGS). Orchard Oriole: male near Camillus 12 June (MSR) only report. Red Crossbill: occasional in ones and twos in conifers thru season. Evening Grosbeak: two sw of Minetto 9 Aug (DWC) and one E. Syr 24 Aug were the only reports away from known nesting areas.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

Farmers say that you can't count on three good crops—if it's a good hay year, it's too wet for the corn. June was cold and wet; July and August dry. Thus, it was a rough nesting season—at first too wet for swallows and then too dry for waterfowl. In fact, it was the third coldest June since 1890. Mean temperatures

were over 4° below normal and the monthly minimum on 7 June was in the upper 30's. Canton reported 18 days with measurable precipitation. July was also cool with temperatures 1-3° below normal. Maximum readings in the upper 80's occurred on the 26th followed by monthly lows in the lower 40's on the 28th. There were only ten days with rain and total rainfall was about half the normal for the month. August likewise had ten days with rain, but half of these came in the last week. Temperatures averaged below normal, but mid-month was warm with monthly lows occurring at the end of the second and fourth weeks. Late-summer seeds and berries were plentiful.

As usual, we devote much of this report to Smith's observations at ElDorado Beach Preserve on Lake Ontario. A total of 23 water birds, 19 raptors, 27 shorebirds and Larids, and 72 Passerines was reported for the Region for a total of 172 species. According to L. Chamberlaine, Eastern Wood Pewee, Warbling Vireo and Brown-headed Cowbird were down; while Ruffed Grouse, Gray Partridge, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Phoebe, wrens, and Northern Oriole showed gains. With regard to species expanding their ranges, Tufted Titmouse showed no gains, but Red-bellied Woodpecker bred and Northern Mockingbird was reported. House Finch populations are reaching pest proportions in Jefferson Co., and the species is reported widely in St. Lawrence Co. New York State "Species of Special Concern" which were not reported included Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrow, but see Spring Reports. "Good birds" included two reports of Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, several Little Gulls and two Loggerhead Shrikes. Our only true rarity was a well-documented Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, John and Susan Barthelme, Lee B. Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, John I. Green, Scott Harris, Mildred and Everett Howard, Ken Karwowski, Robert E. Long, George R. Maxwell, Lorena McLeod, Beryl Remington, Gerald A. Smith, Nicholas Smith, J. VanRiet, Brian Watson.

Abbreviations: EDB—ElDorado Beach Preserve; Jeff. Co.—Jefferson County; L. Ont.—Lake Ontario; NYSARC—report to New York State Avian Records Committee; PR—Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; SLR—St. Lawrence River; ULL—Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WH—Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: two sightings of one in basic plumage EDB 15 June (GAS) and near Grindstone I. SLR 17 June (GAS, KK); could have been a single northbound individual—very rare in summer. Com. Loon: scattered pairs and individuals present SLR as usual; confirmed nesting of a pair at Mosquito I., Eel Bay near Clayton SLR was unsuccessful; adult with half grown chick near Barnhart I., SLR 30 June (GAS, KK) indicates successful breeding—a rare event on the SLR; a pair produced two young at ULL (KC). Pied-billed Grebe: five Massena Area 13 July-31 Aug (MB), two ULL 31 Aug, and ad with young Norwood (JVR). Double-crested Cormorant: definitely increasing as a summer bird on the SLR; five to ten per day many areas June-Aug; maxs 25 near Barnhart I. 16 June and 24 near Clayton 5 Aug; 15-30 per day at EDB in June, two to eight per day July-Aug, maxs there 85 on 11 June, 70 on 19 June, a few counts of 26-28 per day July-Aug. Least Bittern: one Stony Creek near EDB, Town of Henderson, 8 July (LBC); many ULL (JVR); also near Morley and Norwood 14 June. Am. Bittern: four reports including five ULL 11 Aug (BPW). Great Blue Heron: one to four per day three in most areas; much more frequent within 25-30 miles of the massive Ironsides I. colony, which contained 621 nests 17 June (GRM, KK). Rapid deforestation of Ironsides because of heron-induced

deaths of nest trees is continuing at a rapid rate; it appears that the colony has nearly peaked and that a substantial reduction in size, due to lack of nest sites should occur over the next several years; previously unreported colony of 80 nests near Kindrew Corners, DeKalb. Green-backed Heron: seemed scarce EDB this year; one to four per day June, one to two per day July, singles only in Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: scattered reports of one to three per day eastern L. Ont. and western SLR areas; one ULL 11 Aug (BPW) is unusual. Canada Goose: virtually unreported as observers ignore the complacent breeding stock that now abounds lowland areas. Wood Duck: scarce; "few due to the dry summer" (LBC). Green-winged Teal: no evidence of breeding; arr two EDB 26 July, thereafter one to four per day to 22 Aug; 10-22 per day thru, max 26 on 31 Aug. Am. Black Duck: very scarce as a breeder everywhere; scattered singles only EDB June-July; max eight EDB 8 Aug; continuing increase of hybrids with Mallard evident at EDB (GAS). Mallard: ignored and unreported by most observers; the only data available are from EDB—one-two per day June-mid July (very scarce), two-six per day 17-28 July; 15-60 per day thru Aug. N. Pintail: all reports are from EDB—arr two 16 July; two per day to 20 July, four 40 six thru; max 12 on 31 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: slight increase from 1984 numbers at EDB but numbers still way down; none EDB until arr one 17 July; mostly four to six per day thru to mid Aug, 15-30 per day late Aug; few reports elsewhere. Gadwall: two EDB 28 June and two there 1-2 Aug are only on SLR reports; widely distributed as a breeder along the SLR with pairs present on many small inlets. Am. Wigeon: one EDB 18 July is only report away from eastern SLR breeding population centered at WHWMA. Greater Scaup: male EDB 3 June. White-winged Scoter: two 2 June Chippewa Bay SLR. Bufflehead: female SLR Massena 8 Aug (MB) is the only truly summering diving duck of the season. Hooded Merganser: female on a beaver pond near Barnes Corners, THP could be a breeder (LBC). Red-breasted Merganser: three EDB 28 June, two EDB 30 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one-two per day EDB three and seven-eight per day Jeff. Co. only reports; are they becoming so regular that observers no longer report them? Osprey: one EDB 14 June is a late spring migrant, none thereafter to one WHWMA 31 July; several singles in Aug. Bald Eagle: a previously unreported spring sighting at Montario Pt. near LWMA, Jeff. Co. on 4 May of a bird hacked at Tupper L. in 1983 (LM); only fall record is a migrating imm at EDB 31 Aug (GAS, LBC). N. Harrier: no data on breeding; arr one EDB 26 Aug, six there 31 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: no reports of breeders; arr one EDB 13 Aug; max 11 there 31 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: one Canton 25 June (HV) and one Sears Pond 23 July are probable breeders; arr one EDB 26 Aug, max four there 31 Aug. N. Goshawk: one Osceola THP 4 July (LBC) is a likely breeder; one Raymondville (JVR). Broad-winged Hawk: no breeders reported; arr imm EDB 30 Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: nesting Fullertown in early July (JVR). Red-tailed Hawk: only comment on breeders is from LBC "down"; a few migrants at EDB in late Aug. Am. Kestrel: few reports of breeders; arr female EDB 21 Aug, max 5 there 31 Aug. Merlin: two migrants EDB 29-31 Aug (GAS); one WHWMA 31 Aug (MB). Peregrine Falcon: an imm male probably EDB 8 Aug (GAS) was observed to capture a Semipalmated Sandpiper. Virginia Rail: three Massena area 3 June (MB). Sora: one Massena area 3 June (MB). Com. Moorhen: eight Grasse River near Massena 13 July (MB). Shorebird flights at EDB, the only known consistent concentration area in this Region were poor in July but excellent in Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr 9 Aug, three to seven per day thru, max 12 on 30 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr one 12 July, one per day to 19 July, two to five per day to 28 July, increasing to 12 to 18 per day 6 Aug thru; maxs 23 on 6 Aug, 24 on 8 Aug, 22 on 25-26 Aug. Killdeer: none breeding at EDB for the second year in a row; arr three 23 June; one to two per day to 26 July; seven to 30 per day thru. Greater Yellowlegs: arr one 30 July (late), singles to 8 Aug; one to four per day thereafter. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr one 7 July (a week late); one per day to 13 July; five to 15 per day thru July, 15-40 per day to 8 Aug; 60-90 per day to 22 Aug; a surge 23-25 Aug provided maxs of 13-40; 60 per day thru; largest flight in five years

of daily coverage. Solitary Sandpiper: total of five 9-30 Aug; scarce as usual. Spotted Sandpiper: one to two per day June; two to three per day first week of July; four to eight per day to 19 July; ten to 15 per day to 19 Aug; three to five thru; maxs 21 on 30 July and 6 Aug. Whimbrel: none for the first time in five years of daily coverage. Ruddy Turnstone: arr one 21 July; one to five per day intermittently to 8 Aug and regularly to 19 Aug, 10-25 per day thereafter, max 43 on 24 Aug; good late Aug flight primarily imms. Red Knot: two to six per day from 19 Aug thru, max 7 on 27 Aug, all imms. Sanderling: arr one 16 July, few scattered one to three per day to 8 Aug, 15-25 per day after 12 Aug; max 36 on 23 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr one 12 July, four to eight per day to 19 July, 10 to 20 per day to 28 July, 50-100 per day to 7 Aug, 200-400 per day thereafter, max 540 on 23 Aug. W. Sandpiper: one or two per day 21-23 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr two 17 July (very late), two to nine per day to 8 Aug, 30-50 per day thereafter, maxs 114 on 23 Aug and 107 on 24 Aug; a superb and consistent Aug flight with the best counts for the five years of daily observations. White-rumped Sandpiper: one only 26-28 Aug, very scarce as usual. Baird's Sandpiper: singles 8 Aug. and 27-28 Aug., scarce. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr one 1 Aug, one to three per day to 20 Aug; six to ten per day thereafter; max 12 on 26 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: arr one 29 July; four 6 Aug; one to three per day after 9 Aug; max 5 on 27 Aug; a good flight. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr one 5 Aug (very late); one to two scattered dates to 14 Aug; one to six per day 15 Aug thru. Phalaropes: none; most surprising in light of the fine Aug shorebird flight. Little Gull: an unprecedented flight at EDB—ad 24 Aug, two ad 26 Aug; four ad and two imm 30 Aug; two ad and three imm 31 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: 12 Chippewa Bay SLR 2 June last spring migrants; arr one EDB 19 July, one to two per day intermittently to 29 July; two to ten per day to 19 Aug; ten to 20 per day thereafter thru maxs 58 on 23 Aug and 54 on 24 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: 135 nests on main Eaglewing I SLR near Clayton, Jeff. Co. (GAS, KK); 150-600 per daily EDB June and July; 50-150 per day Aug; max 800 2 July. Herring Gull: two to 16 per day thru; max 19 on 3 July. Great Black-backed Gull: one to ten per day thru, max 20 on 21 July. Caspian Tern: one to three per day 1 June to 19 July; five to ten per day to 10 Aug; ten to 14 per day thru, max 19 on 24 Aug. Com. Tern: one to two per day intermittently June; scarce; two to four per day 3 July to 8 Aug; two to six per day 23 Aug; eight to 15 per day thereafter; scarcity to mid Aug reflects continuing decline of the colony at Carl I., Sandy Pond; a max total of 595 nests were recorded in a total of 19 colonies along the international sector of SLR (GAS, KK, GRM). Forster's Tern: one 8-10 Aug. Black Tern: one to two per day, scattered in June and July; one to three per day intermittently to 26 Aug, max 6 on 15 Aug, very scarce.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Louisville 2 June (MB). E. Screech-Owl: two Henderson late Aug (LBC). N. Saw-whet Owl: one Louisville 1 June; one juv DOR west of Massena (JVR). Com. Nighthawk: six Massena 1 June and 5 July (MB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: imm Henderson 2 Aug. Loggerhead Shrike: one ad Long's Corners, Morristown 18 July, same location as two years ago (REL); one near Henderson Pd. 14 Aug (LBC).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood Pewee: singles Massena and Louisville thru. Purple Martin: 30 with FL Louisville 1 June and 31 July. Sedge Wren: one Louisville 13 July; also at Small Flats Rd, Richville (JVR). E. Bluebird: nesting Louisville 13 July.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: two Sears Pd. 23 July (LBS). Yellow-throated Vireo: Stockholm, Skinnerville, pairs DeKalb and Richville all in June (JVR)—not usually reported. Golden-winged Warbler: 12 singing males Indian Lakes district, Town of Theresa, Jeff. Co., early July; three families Rossie 7 July (REL). Mourning Warbler: one Tug Hill 30 June.

TANAGERS-SPARROWS: N. Cardinal: two pair Louisville 1 June, 31 Aug. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: excellent reproduction on Tug Hill, 20 feeding on Red Elderberry at Osceola 4

July (LBC). Dark-eyed Junco: two Osceola 4 July. Vesper Sparrow: pair Fullerville, Town of Fowler early June (JVR). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: female carefully described Renshaw Bay Marsh, North Sandy Pond, Ellisburg 4 June, being harassed by Red-winged Blackbirds (LMcL, BR, NYSARC); male seen twice by fishermen on Montario Pt Rd, also Town of Ellisburg 15 June (LMcL), only other Regional record reported by Gordon is Lowville 1970. Purple Finch: "numbers somewhat up in Henderson" (LBS); fledglings Louisville thru. House Finch: "a pest in Henderson," 20 per day, 185 banded 2-15 Aug (LBC); 4 Louisville 2 July; also Skinnerville, North Lawrence and ULL (JVR); fledglings begging from parents in late Aug is first confirmed nesting for Canton (MEH). Red Crossbill: three fledglings Massena 15 June. Pine Siskin: White's Hill, Parishville (JVR). Evening Grosbeak: pair Cole's Creek Campground, Louisville early June (JVR); five Henderson 10 Aug, one DeFeriet 18 Aug, early!

KLC-RD 4, Box 97, Canton, New York 13617

GAS-Box 38, Henderson, New York 13650

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

The season began with heavy rain and winds 31 May-1 June that hit the Four Brothers Islands, killing Ring-billed Gull chicks and crushing several incubating adults under fallen dead snags on Island C. Nippy Newcomb dropped to 30° F. on 4 June and 31° F. on 24 July! In fact, much of the early summer was cool and rainy throughout the Region. A drought then set in during August, dropping Lake Champlain water levels to just above 95', providing the maximum amount of exposed beach and mudflats for shorebirds, and yielding a few good finds.

One of the 16 young Bald Eagles from the Franklin County "megahack" program was found shot near Alexandria, Ontario, only ten days after release. The eagle was wearing a wing marker, leg band, and radio transmitter, but was out of radio contact when the bullet shattered its right radius and ulna. Taken to Dr. Edward Becker in Guilderland, the bird underwent three hours of surgery, but died on 1 September. Canadian authorities are investigating.

Passerines fared little better. Following spraying of the insectide Dibrom 14 in the Towns of Altamont and St. Regis Falls, local residents reported finding over one hundred dead birds in nest boxes. At Tupper Lake, Clarence Reandeau found over 70 dead—mostly Tree Swallows, Charlie Delehanty found 19 dead Tree Swallows and four dead Eastern Bluebirds, a neighbor found four dead Tree Swallows, and Betty Jay found two dead Tree Swallows, while Douglas Egeland of Dickinson Center was told by neighbors that they were finding dead

birds in their nest boxes. No direct causal relationship between spraying and deaths could be established by DEC Delmar lab, Hale Creek Field Station, or Ray Brook regional headquarters, but the department received not even a single report from unsprayed areas. Whatever the cause of the deaths, the Adirondack Park Agency charged the Duflo Spray Chemical Co. of New Bremen with illegally spraying wetlands near Little Wolf Creek and Raquette Pond, in violation of the Federal Wetlands Act, based upon sworn affidavits of residents.

A total of 1,110 chicks of three species were banded on the Four Brothers Islands between 8-17 June: seven Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1,000 Ring-billed Gulls, and 103 Herring Gulls. Thanks to "Return a Gift to Wildlife" funding, two High Peaks Audubon wardens assisted the wildlife manager in making regular patrols of the islands during June and July, monitoring boat traffic near the colonies and discouraging landings during the nesting season.

Contributors and initialed observers: Russell Bailey, Merry Baker, Greg Bigelow, Beverly Brown, C. Cahill, Geoffrey Carleton, Ann & Walter Chapman, William Cook, John Curtiss, Paul DeBenedictis, Charlie Delehanty, John Dennis, Joanne Duncan, Katherine Eagleson, Douglas Egeland, Wyn Frahn, Gregory Furness, Evelyn Green, Jennifer & Mark Gretch, Richard Guthrie, Jeff Herter, Gordon Howard, Anne Hungerford, Betty Jay, Elsbeth Johnson, Hugh Kingery, Gary Lee, Tony Leukering, Robert Lewis, Theodore Mack, Andrea Malik, Paul Martin, Norman Mason, Dorothy McIlroy, Robert McKinney, Michael Milligan, David O'Neill, Olive & Wes Paquin, John Peterson, Anne Powers, Clarence Reandeau, Jerry Rosenband, D. Rosgen, Carole Slatkin, Timothy Sterrett, Langdon Stevenson, Jan Trzeciak, Joe VanRiet, Richard Whitaker, Hollis White, Henry Williams.

LOONS-DUCKS: An ad **RED-THROATED LOON** was resting on the south end of Mountain View L. inlet 4 June, flying south (!) at 8:20 p.m. that evening (JT). Two migrant Com. Loons were on Big Tupper L. 29 Aug (CD). L. Alice has good numbers of Pied-billed Grebes annually, with up to six adults this Aug (MG). By 2 June there were 80 Double-crested Cormorant nests at the Four Brothers Islands: 78 on Isl. A, two on Isl. B. More cormorants joined the nesting and loitering birds at this mid-lake staging area during the late summer, with the tally growing to over 500 birds by 28 Aug. A Least Bittern was at Fort Montgomery 21 July and three at Monty Bay 11 Aug (MG). Great Blue Herons were repairing old nests in Apr at King's Bay WMA, but deserted the heronry by June; other large heronries at Valcour I. and near Fish Creek were reported active. A Great Egret was at L. Alice 18 June (MG); sightings were also made in July on the St. Regis Indian Reservation. A Snowy Egret was on Isl. B, Four Brothers, 23 Aug (LS). Cattle Egrets were again reported from the Four Brothers after an absence of several years, but no nesting was confirmed this year. Island B had a single bird 8 June (JP), a pair 13 July (JD, RW), and on the evening of 28 Aug two flocks totalling 25 egrets came in to roost (LS); a feeding Cattle Egret was seen near Point au Roche 15 June and may have come from Young I. in Vermont. Most of the Black-crowned Night-Heron colony at the Four Brothers has shifted from Isl. A and B since the arrival of the cormorants over to the tops of tall white pines on Isl. D, where an accurate count is not possible; on 2 June there were only four nests on Isl. A, ten on Isl. B. The night-herons at L. Alice and Monty Bay (MG) are not unexpected, but an imm. at Mountain View L. in early July (AH, JT) was a great surprise. One of a flock of 12 Canada Geese at Chazy Landing 7 June wore a dark gray neck collar [JF33] from NJ. The municipal park flock at Tupper L. had 32 geese, down from 68 last year, and included a leucistic bird with wide white breast streak, pink bill, and *brown* head and neck (CD). Wood Duck: 120, L. Alice 27 Aug. Green-winged Teal: three, Chazy Landing 18 June. A large—and seasonally late—flock of 67 male, 20 female Mallards was at Chazy

Landing 18 June. N. Pintail: territorial female Chazy Landing 7 June, two there 18 June, one at King's Bay WMA 16 July. Blue-winged Teal: hen with seven young, Chazy Landing 18 June (MG). N. Shoveler: male stayed on Fourth L. (GL). Am. Wigeon: two, Chazy Landing 18 June (MG). Com. Goldeneye: hen with six young at Ft. Montgomery on L. Champlain 21 July (MG); hen with five full-sized young on Lower St. Regis L 16 Aug (TM). Predation of Com. Merganser ground nests on Isl. D of Four Brothers was explained when a red fox was sighted on the island 2 June (RW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: A prescient Sharp-shinned Hawk perched on a Tupper Lake feeder 24 Aug. Near Elizabethtown a family group of Cooper's Hawks appeared in late July, while Peregrine Falcons fledged young at their cliff sites near Keene Valley and Wilmington. A flock of Wild Turkeys was reported from southern Hamilton Co. (GL). Virginia Rail: Jones Pd. in June (RM), Ft. Montgomery 21 July, adult with chick Monty Bay 11 Aug. Sora: imm feeding on Monty Bay mudflat 29 Aug. Com. Moorhen: two, Chazy Landing 16 July; two, Monty Bay 11 Aug. (MG). Semipalmated Plover: King's Bay had northbound birds 2-7 June, southbound birds 23-29 Aug, max five (MG), while the first southbound migrants arr Westport 3 Aug (GC, EJ, JP). Killdeer: max 14 King's Bay 30 July. Greater Yellowlegs: one King's Bay 30 July-23 Aug (MG); three Westport 31 Aug (EJ, JP). Lesser Yellowlegs: King's Bay 30 July-23 Aug, max five (MG); Paul Smiths early Aug (TM). Solitary Sandpiper: Chubb R 13 July (EJ, JP); King's Bay 16 July-1 Aug, max two (MG); Westport 13 Aug (GC, JP). Spotted Sandpiper: max three, King's Bay 30 July. Upland Sandpipers, already recorded in 44 regional Atlas blocks, were Confirmed this summer near Coveytown Corners and South Bombay, with other records added near Brushton, Burke, Ft. Covington, Moira, Wagner Rd., and Westville in northern Franklin Co. (JR, CS). Ruddy Turnstone: one Westport 27 Aug (GC, JP). Red Knot: one King's Bay 16 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: King's Bay 2-7 June northbound, 1-29 Aug southbound, max five (MG); two, Bulwagga Bay 27 July (GG, JP); two Westport 31 Aug (EJ, JP). Least Sandpiper: eight King's Bay 16 July-23 Aug (MG); arr Westport 25 July (GC, JP); max ten, Bulwagga Bay 27 July (GC, JP); eight Westport 31 Aug (EJ, JP). Pectoral Sandpiper: one Westport 27 Aug (GC, JP). Short-billed Dowitcher: two King's Bay 7 Aug. Com. Snipe: two King's Bay 30 July (MG). Ten Bonaparte's Gulls arr Westport 19 Aug, and by 27 Aug numbers had grown to over 100 (GC, JP). The Ring-billed Gull color-marking project produced a number of reports from Clinton and Essex Counties. Gulls with green bellies who picked up the dye on the Four Brothers Island C colony were sighted on the Boquet R. near Wadhams, Crown Point State Historic Site, King's Bay WMA, Moriah landfill, Saranac R. near Cadyville, Skyway Plaza in Plattsburgh, Willsboro farms and landfill, and Wilmington landfill; the last sighting was 17 July near Wadhams. Most of these locations also noted at least one of the pink-bellied gulls from Young I. (South Sister), Vermont. Com. Tern: one, Chazy Landing 18 June; five, Rouses Point 28 July (MG). Black Tern: three, Chazy Landing 16 July (MG); one, Long Lake 12 Aug (CD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Owl reports, like those for many species, declined precipitously in the wake of five years of Atlas field work. E. Screech-Owl: two locations; Great Horned Owl: two locations; Barred Owl: nine locations; N. Saw-whet Owl: two locations, for a total of just 15 reported sites. In contrast, these same species were reported from a total of 426 blocks between 1980-84, and there were no reports this summer of Com. Barn-Owl, Long-eared, or Short-eared Owls. A Red-headed Woodpecker visited a Mountain View feeder in early summer (O & WP). A pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers were still feeding at least two nestlings at Ferd's Bog on the late date of 31 July, and a different adult male was also observed in the vicinity (DO). Black-backed Woodpecker: feeding young at the north end of Cedar Lakes in June (RM); Shallow L. 9 July (MM).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Willow Flycatcher: between Jay and Wilmington in June (RM). Young Great Crested Flycatchers left a nest box at Tupper Lake 7 July, where the

last Tree Swallow fledgling left its box 2 Aug (CD). Near North Hudson, both Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows still were feeding nestlings on 19 Aug (MB). Gray Jay: adults with young, Sabattis Rd 29 June and 20 July (TL). The cattail marshes at Fort Montgomery and Monty Bay had large colonies of Marsh Wrens in July-Aug (MG). A family of Loggerhead Shrikes with two food-begging young was observed by blockbusters near Ft. Covington 22-26 June (JR, CS); this was only the second Regional Confirmed record since 1980.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: A Chestnut-sided Warbler was still feeding a fledgling on the morning of 19 Aug near Paradox (MB). Cape May Warbler: Sabattis Rd. 17 June (TL). Wilson's Warbler: transient at Tupper L 30 Aug (CD). Otherwise, there were no noteworthy sightings this summer, following the five full seasons of Atlas work.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: distraction display near Moira in late June (JR, CS); this species has now been recorded in 12 regional Atlas blocks, Confirmed in three. A flock of 20 House Finches visited an Owls Head feeder 2 July-11 Aug (AH), reflecting the continued northward range expansion. At least some of the Atlas reports of crossbills and siskins date back to this past winter and spring, although sightings continued into the summer. Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported and may have nested in Champlain this summer, along the lake in the very northeastern corner of the state (J & MG).

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

There is no **Region 8** report as *The Kingbird* has no Editor for Region 8 at this time.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Several reporters who mentioned the long-standing drought also noted frequent rains which kept lawns and foliage in excellent condition. These rains also kept fruit and seed crops at high levels even following last year's bumper yield. The drought affected water supplies, and was largely due to a lack of winter snows.

June began colder than usual and continued below normal all month. July temperatures were quite normal. August was above normal, with temperatures reaching the mid-nineties by mid-month. Precipitation was below average for June and July but well above normal for August. The August rains did not raise municipal water supplies, and the appearance of Ashokan's East Basin was worrisome to say the least. Completely empty of water for the entire season,

its bottom was abloom with plant life. The only beneficial aspect of the drought was the increase in birds, especially Indigo Bunting, which fed on the abundant weed seeds. Perhaps opportunistic fall migrants also will avail themselves of this new food source. Shorebirds did not profit from the low water as no mud flats or shore line was exposed in the sea of weeds.

As New York City draws more and more water from the Hudson, the salt water front moves farther up river. At the end of the season it was only a few miles south of the water intake at Chelsea near Poughkeepsie. The effects of increasing the salinity of the lower and mid Hudson will make an interesting study.

Bird life during the period showed no marked changes. Double-crested Cormorants continued their increase. One of two major disappointments to atlasers was their failure to find cormorants nesting in the Region this year. The other was the failure to prove nesting of Black Vulture. All of the accipiters did well this season. Wild Turkey continues its phenomenal increase, and is observed more and more near populated areas, thriving near man. Most reporters stressed the lack of cuckoos, even where Gypsy Moths had population highs. Large areas of Harriman State Park once again were devastated by the pest, only five years after the last infestation. There likely will be severe tree loss this winter as most of the trees damaged in June failed to refoliate as they usually do in July and August. Reports from Dutchess County indicate good numbers of nesting warblers.

Shorebirds were a disappointment, showing poor movements in mid-August. Warblers which usually come through in good numbers in mid-August were scarce to the end of the period. This could be a reflection of the poor northward movement shown last spring.

Although not many rarities were observed, they were of superior quality. They included: Wood Stork, Ring-necked Duck, Black Vulture, American Swallow-tailed Kite, both eagles, Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Raven, Kentucky Warbler, "Bullock's" Oriole, Red Crossbill and a belated European Goldfinch.

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Abbreviation: BRF-Black Rock Forest, Cornwall; CB-Cornwall Bay; HSP-Harriman State Park; KP-Kingston Point; MC-Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; NYSARC-report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; PL-Playland, Rye; WSF-Warren Sod Farm, Pine Island; counties abbreviated to first four letters.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one PL 14 June, subad Ashokan 21 July, two others there a week earlier. Double-crested Cormorant: continues to increase on Hudson n to Kingston, but no evidence of breeding; singles at Wanasink L 28 July and Siskowit Res near Pound Ridge 15 June. Least Bittern: reported on Hen I. off Rye 15 June and at MC 25 June and 14 July. Great Blue Heron: two pairs nesting at a beaver pond near Amenia Dump, Dutc; eight nests at Bontecue L near Shunpike, Dutc, were abandoned in June; up to 40 at Tamarack Swamp and Beaver Dam, Dutc, in July. Great Egret: one Ashokan 17-18 Aug

(FM) was a first there; three at Norrie Pt, Dutc, 3 Aug. Snowy Egret: several KP in Aug. Little Blue Heron: one MC after 3 Aug; imm at a small reservoir at Doodletown 14-18 Aug. Tricolored Heron: one MC 31 Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: imm at New Hamburg 6 July, another at CB 23 Aug; two imm and two ad Sleightsburg 17 Aug; seven at KP 4 Aug. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: irregular at MC thru, did not nest. **WOOD STORK:** imm at East Branch Res near Brewster, Putn, 23 Aug found dead in an emaciated state 28 Aug (Ted Gass *et al.*). Blue-winged Teal: one Ashokan 18 Aug and two more KP 25 Aug may have been summer residents. **RING-NECKED DUCK:** male going into eclipse on Neversink Res, Sull, 14 July-24 Aug (BW) most unusual in summer. Greater Scaup: remained at PL to 21 June and at MC to 30 June. Hooded Merganser: hatched ten young at Stissing (TPH). Com. Merganser: what appeared to be six grown young at Ashokan 4-7 July (FM); ad female with seven young at Mongaup Falls, Sull, 20 July and 17 Aug (JA).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: one over thruway s New Paltz 10 Aug (Bob Arbib), but none in the Goshen area where one or two present the past several springs. Turkey Vulture: RFD reports them in higher numbers in mid and lower Rock, more than 30 daily at the Amenias Dump thru July and Aug. Osprey: singles Kensico Res 14 June and Tamarack, Dutc, 24 July are remarkable summer appearances. **AM. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** one along Palisades Parkway near Exit 8, West Nyack, 22 June (JAs, NYSARC). Bald Eagle: ad with tail and primaries in molt over Granite Springs, West, 13 June; about seven (one tagged ad, two other ad, two subad, one imm) thru period at Rio-Mongaup in Sull (JA). Sharp-shinned Hawk: four just-fledged young near Port Jervis Res 23 July (BW); one at KP with a bird in its talons; one at Monticello all summer was taking mainly House Finches; singles at Rio 27 July and Bashakill 31 Aug; one hit a window at Wurtsboro 21 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: nested at Pound Ridge Res; one at Wurtsboro after 4 July was seen taking Mourning Doves, young Blue Jays, a Hairy Woodpecker and a young Tufted Titmouse. N. Goshawk: ad so fiercely buzzed Gene Brown in HSP at the same location where similar attacks occurred in 1976 and 1977 that he retreated without even trying to find the nest; imm at Wittenburg Mt 24 Aug; two ad and two young in the Pawling area 11 June; two others Dutc seen taking Mourning Doves. Broad-winged Hawk: young calling thru July at Amenias and Pleasant Valley; two young at Salt Point 25-31 July; a "kettle" of eight Norris Pt, Dutc, 16 Aug is a very early movement. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one seen with rabbit at Cimmarron Pd, Sull, 29 Aug (John Kroeger). Merlin: one eating Tree Swallow at MC 31 Aug. Peregrine Falcon: a nest box installed on the Tappan Zee Bridge to induce wintering birds to breed was occupied by starlings and pigeons instead; a box similarly placed atop the Bear Mt. Bridge remained unoccupied. Wild Turkey: AB had 14 birds, mostly young, behind his home near Saugerties 30 June; up to 30 at Wurtsboro on 16 Aug; ad with seven young at Mongaup Falls 30 Aug; two females with young near Millbrook in Aug; four young near Pawling Nature Preserve 17 July; and a hen with six young near Abel's Pd, Dutc, 10 July. Clapper Rail: five at MC in Aug, nested. Virginia Rail: calling in a marsh near Ashokan 19 June, responded aggressively to tape. Lesser Golden-Plover: disappointing numbers WSF this season, arr three on 13 Aug, max six on 31 Aug. Killdeer: excellent numbers at WSF thru, max 76 on 9 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: two downy young following parent at Ashokan 6 July. Upland Sandpiper: present thru at WSF, four imm and six ad on 29 June, migrants arr by mid-July with 14-20 on 19-20 July, max 25-30 12, 13 Aug. **WHIMBREL:** one on the Hudson at Sleightsburg 25 Aug (RT). Sanderling: juv Cross River Res 31 Aug only report. Least Sandpiper: five at WSF 17 Aug increased to 50 by 27 Aug. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** two WSF 16 Aug, one on 19 Aug. Laughing Gull: young birds found up river starting mid-Aug as usual. **CASPIAN TERN:** one KP 25 July (RT). **FORSTER'S TERN:** on KP 30 July. Least Tern: a few off coastal West early to 17 Aug. Black Tern: five on the Hudson at Sleightsburg and Esopus Pt 25 Aug. Black Skimmer: at MC 16 June.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-hooded Parakeet: banded bird Piermont Pier 6 July (Pete Derven). Cuckoos: most observers had *none*; BW found only one Black-billed at North Salem 9 June and one Yellow-billed in Ulst 19 July; both species heard regularly but not in numbers along Mine Rd, USMA, thru; two Yellow-billed but no Black-billed reported Dutc in June. Barred Owl: one young at Tivoli 8 July (BW); two ad and two imm calling near Saugerties 8 Aug (AB); seven, including several young birds, reported in July from several Dutc localities. Chimney Swift: excellent numbers everywhere. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: AB's annual count by canoe in the bays around Cruger I. produced only seven; FG had two males and two females at her Stanfordville feeder during June and July, three in Aug; an amusing report of one trying to get nectar from flowered pajamas on a clothes line in Dutc. Red-bellied Woodpecker: territorial male near Accord 19 June was at the nw limit of its range in the Hudson Valley; pair with one young at Rhinebeck during July (FG) who reports that she never sees parents with more than one young at any time.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: at several places in the Frost Valley-Willowemoc area, Sull/Ulst (BW); one at the base of Westkill Mt 30 June. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three on Westkill Mt 30 June; only one on Slide Mt 7 July; one at MC 24 Aug; six reports from Dutc after mid-Aug. Alder Flycatcher and Willow Flycatcher: regular and apparently much more common than previously presumed in almost all suitable habitat n and w of West Co (BW). E. Kingbird: migrants peaked in Dutc 21-28 Aug. Horned Lark: several ad and at least two young at extreme ne corner Dutc, flying back and forth across the Dutc-Colu border, on 6 July (BW); four ad and four imm at WSF in June (JS), three still present 19 July. Rough-winged Swallow: five young being fed by ad Wurtsboro on 3 July. Cliff Swallow: five nests in Wassaic, Dutc, on 27 May (BW) still active 6 July; more than 50 nests were on buildings of the dividing weir at Ashokan a few years ago but now these "messy and unsightly" nests have been reduced to less than 15 by Water Supply personnel. Barn Swallow: down in Dutc in June and July, numbers somewhat better in Aug. Fish Crow: heard regularly along the Hudson to n border of Region thru; young at New Hamburg 6 July and more than 40 birds at KP 4 Aug. **COM. RAVEN**: flying by Wittenburg Mt 24 Aug, now seen there regularly. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Kensico Res 16 June and exceptionally numerous in Sull, Ulst and Oran this summer (BW); a good migration was underway by late July, with the first at Rye 11 July and excellent numbers thru Aug; up to eight reports from Dutc in Aug. Carolina Wren: two pairs with three young at Red Oaks Mill in July (MK). House Wren: of 20 boxes placed in the Trivoli Bay area by DEC, 18 had nests with a total of 52 eggs and 10 young on 11 June. Winter Wren: five on Waterman Club trip to Deep Hollow 19 June and present thru July. Golden-crowned Kinglet: spring birds at Kensico Res present thru and a female and singing male at a new site at Meyer Sanct, Mt Kisco, on 11 June (BW); breeding in BRF on 23, 31 June (RS). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: very numerous and spreading in Sull (BW). E. Bluebird: Morton Miller's bluebird trail near Kripplebush expanded to 55 boxes, of which 38 were successful with 283 young fledged by 15 Aug; FG banded 400 young from her 217 boxes in Dutc by late July and feels that she missed at least half that number. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Westkill Mt 30 June and two Slide Mt 7 July. Hermit Thrush: four HSP 14 June; found BRF 5 and 22 June. Am. Robin: 30 Aug is unusually early date for a flock of more than 500 near Pleasant Valley (MVW). Brown Thrasher: numbers very low thru Region. Cedar Waxwing: excellent numbers, especially in late Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: five reported regularly thru at Chappaqua; one near Pawling 10 June, and another near Amenia for the third year on 10 Aug. Solitary Vireo: several in high ground of HSP 14 June; nest with three young at Pound Ridge Res 29 June. Yellow-throated Vireo: one in a mixed warbler flight at Ashokan 25 Aug. Warbling Vireo: at least three sites in Nyack where they formerly nested were occupied by Red-eyed

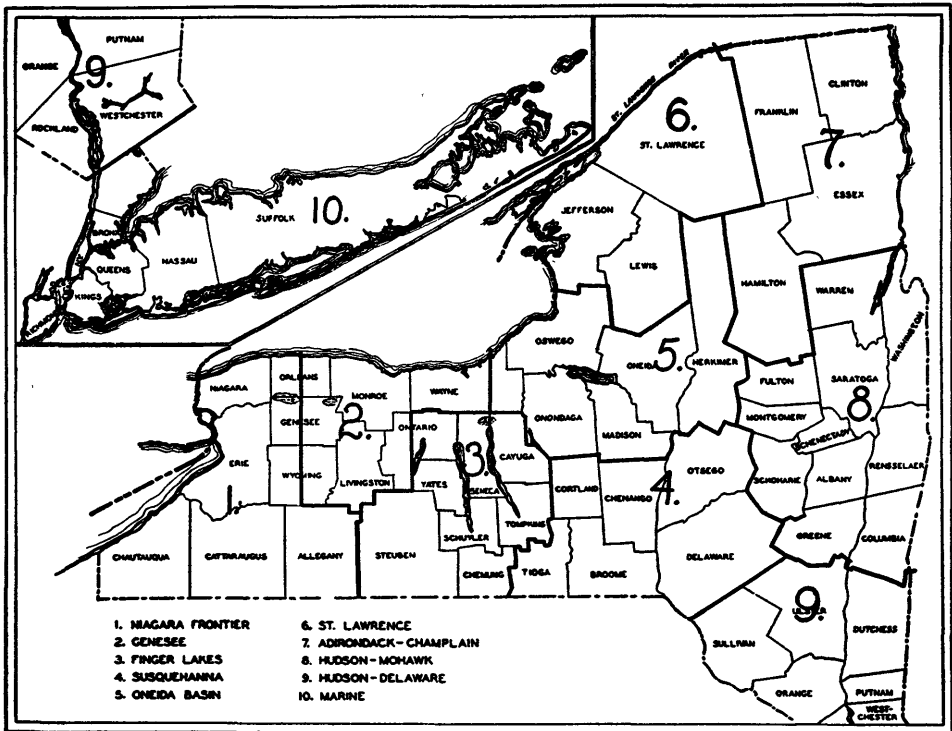
Vireos this summer, but still present in two other sites near the commercial area; numbers down in Dutc in July. Philadelphia Vireo: one near Haight Hill, Dutc, 22 Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: OW and EP feel they are down in Dutc. "Lawrence's" Warbler: male at Bedford 9-16 June. "Brewster's" Warbler: male at Pound Ridge 30 June. N. Parula: male singing at Kensico Res 16 June and another at Long Eddy, Sull, 27 June. Magnolia Warbler: only species with numbers up; found BRF on four dates spanning June (RS); first migrant Doodletown 18 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: four in the high country HSP on 14 June, another at BRF from 26 May to late June. Pine Warbler: breeding confirmed at Cross River Res in early July; singing male still at Titicus Res, West, 9 July. Cerulean Warbler: Rye Lake 16 June; breeding at BRF 21 June; one near Burroughs Sanct, West Park, 29 June. Am. Redstart: RFD had a juv at his home in S. Nyack in early July, not in suitable habitat. Worm-eating Warbler: although known from the Hudson Valley for years, BW also found them in the Delaware Valley for a short distance above Port Jervis. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** a pair at a probable nest in Kakiat Park, Town of Ramapo, 10 June (Sally Gall and Nancy Bristow) "very active, chipping madly and raging at us until we left"; one at Rye Lake 16 June and another at West Point 16 May-24 June. Mourning Warbler: two at MC were well studied for two hours on 31 Aug. Com. Yellowthroat: pair feeding a cowbird at Pleasant Valley 23 July. Hooded Warbler: up to ten at Pound Ridge on 15 June, another at Westmoreland Sanct and one at Butler Sanct same date; breeding at BRF 23 June; male carrying food at Doodletown 6 June and another singing west of Dunderberg Mt the same date. Canada Warbler: found breeding at BRF 5-23 June, and on Schunemunk Mt 30 June; five at Butler Sanct and one at Meyer Preserve, West, 15 June; one Westkill Mt 30 June; four singing males at different sites near Quaker Hill, Dutc, 19-25 June; and a migrant at Ashokan 25 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one at the usual site in Purchase in June and another at PL to 16 June.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: common at Ashokan and reported in excellent numbers Dutc thru July; one on Slide Mt above 3500 ft on 7 July. Savannah Sparrow: excellent numbers Westchester Airport again this summer. Henslow's Sparrow: nesting again at Galeville Airport thru July, numbers not determined. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: up to six at MC thru. Seaside Sparrow: up to five at MC thru. Dark-eyed Junco: three in high country of HSP 14 June. Bobolink: 60-75 migrants at WSF 23-25 Aug. Orchard Oriole: pair at WSF 23 June, two males and an imm there 24 June; at least two pairs nesting Dutc in June. Northern Oriole: female **BULLOCK'S** carefully compared to "Baltimore" and Orchard Orioles at WSF 29-30 June (JS, NYSARC). Purple Finch: four in high country of HSP 14 June; good numbers Dutc may indicate a better fall for them than usual. House Finch: flocking like swallows during the post breeding season near New Paltz (SS); FG seeks information on usurpation of bluebird boxes by this species. **RED CROSSBILL:** family group (pair and one juv) moving near Neversink Res 4 Aug (BW). Am. Goldfinch: particularly abundant in Ulst with groups to 50 feeding in weedy fields (SS). **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** Pete Derven had a banded bird at his Nyack feeder last Feb. Evening Grosbeak: female at Ulster Heights 30 Aug was most unusual.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

There is no **Region 10** report as it has not arrived in time for this issue.

REPORTING REGIONS



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

REPORTING DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

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