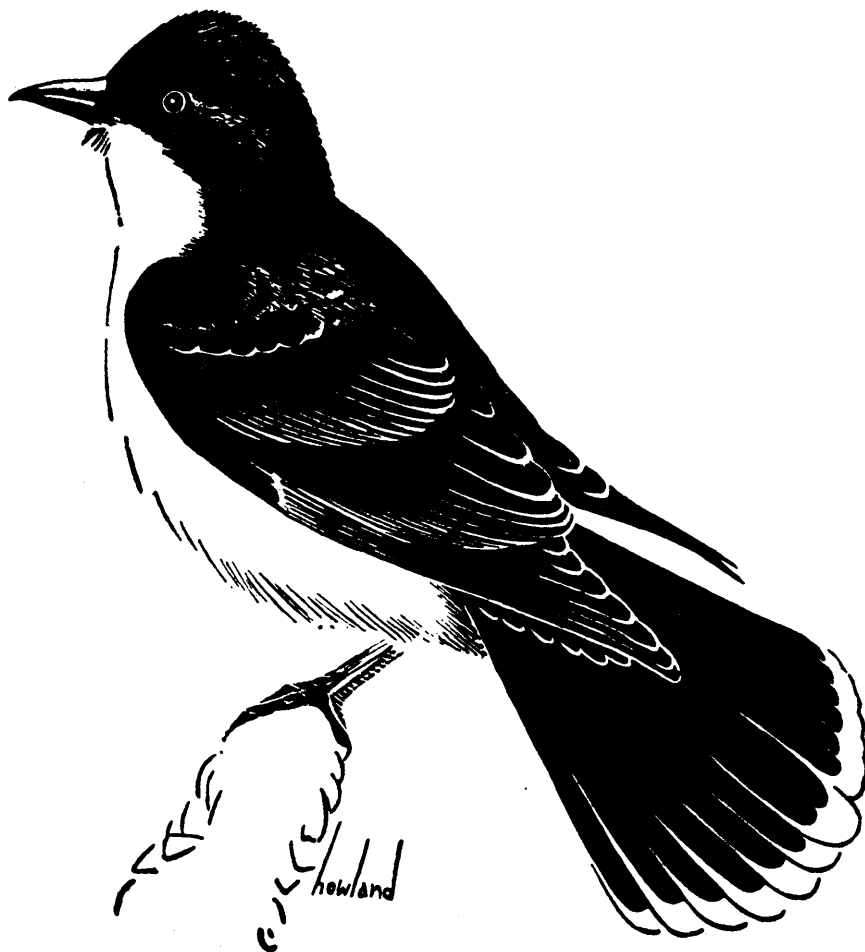


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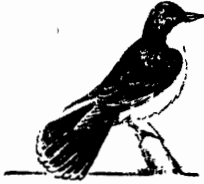
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*Highlights of the Season*

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*Fig. 1. Double-crested Cormorant young in a low nest*  
22 July 1986 *Photo by David Künstler*

# HUCKLEBERRY ISLAND: PREMIER WATERBIRD COLONY OF WESTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND

DAVID S. KÜNSTLER<sup>1</sup> and PETER CAPAINOLO<sup>2</sup>

Huckleberry Island is about 1.2 km off the shore of Davenport Neck in New Rochelle, Westchester County, and 1.3 km from the Bronx (Fig. 2). It supports the largest colonial waterbird rookery of western Long Island Sound, is one of the largest and least known colonies in coastal New York (Peterson *et al.*, 1986; David MacLean, *pers. comm.*) and was only discovered in 1975 (Buckley and Buckley, 1980). Since then, many hundreds of birds of seven species have nested there, including the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*), Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), Green-backed Heron (*Butorides straitus*), Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) and Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*).

## Background

Huckleberry Island is about 5 ha in size and is fairly level. It mostly is covered by deciduous forest. The rocky shoreline, most extensive on the east side, especially toward the northern part of the island, occupies about 15% of the island's area. At the west end of Huckleberry is a dock, an out-door bar, a small cabin burned down by vandals and a small area of manicured lawn and shrubbery. This is the only developed part of the island although several small deteriorating buildings are located elsewhere. The island has been owned by the Huckleberry Indians, a fraternity of the New York Athletic Club (NYAC), since 1927 (Edward Norris, *pers. comm.*).

The deciduous forest is composed of Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Chestnut Oak (*Q. prinus*), hickory (*Carya* sp.), Black Locust (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) and Ailanthus (*Ailanthus altissima*). Most basswood (*Tilia* sp.) was present as low bushy specimens along the edge of the woods. However, most younger trees that have regenerated are Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*). A few living and dead conifers, such as Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) are present. There are virtually no shrubs nor herbaceous growth under the forest canopy (and under the birds). There is some brush at the north end of the island which contains a good deal of Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*).

Huckleberry Island was visited on 15 July and 22 July 1986 by David Künstler and Mark Furman, and on 17 June 1987 by David Künstler, Peter Capainolo and Gregory Owens. Peter Capainolo returned 25 June 1987 with John Piñero of the Queens College Center for Environmental Teaching and Research and Jay Williams of Deer Park to band nestlings.

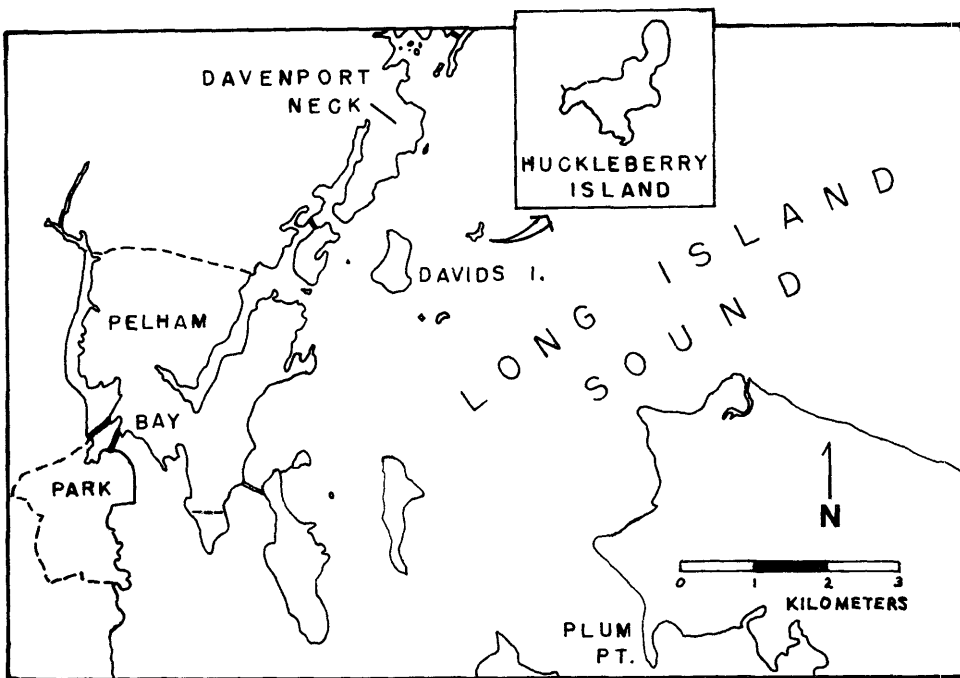


Fig. 2. Huckleberry Island in western Long Island Sound  
Map by David Küntler

Surveys were accomplished entirely on foot. For censusing egrets and gulls, we assumed that each adult seen represented one nest (Buckley and Buckley 1980), to account for pair members away foraging.

#### Double-crested Cormorant

The visit on 15 July 1986 was the first ornithological survey taken there since that of Paul A. Buckley and Francine G. Buckley in 1983 (*pers. comm.*, Table I). Although 15 July was late in the season and many of the birds were gone, Double-crested Cormorants were found nesting, making this the sixth known colony in New York State (Fig. 1). Ten active nests were counted on that day and about 20 were counted on 22 July 1986, but this certainly did not represent all nesting pairs. A fairly thorough count on 17 June 1987 yielded 92 cormorant nests. Buckley and Buckley (1984) had called Huckleberry Island "especially promising" as one of the next possible cormorant breeding sites in the Long Island area.

The majority (about 63) of cormorant nests were located in the upper and outer branches of small trees, largely basswood, along the northeast forest edge. Many, though, were in the small, upper branches of the forest canopy, including some of the largest and tallest trees on the island. Table 2 shows which trees had how many nests. Most of the predominantly forest interior nests south of the larger concentration of nests are recorded in Table 2. Mark Furman (*pers. comm.*), who pilots boats in the area, stated that he first started noticing cormorants in 1983 or 1984. About 34 cormorants were swimming just offshore 22 July 1986. Two flocks swimming just off the island on 17 June 1987 totaled 86 adults mixed with numerous birds in immature plumage. All young seen in nests were small and far from fledging at this time. A cormorant apparently regurgitated a large Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) head 17 June 1987. An adult female found dead of unknown cause on the rocks 15 July 1986 was deposited in the Queens College Center Museum (QCCM 116).

### Egrets, Herons and Gulls

Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets were estimated at 10 pairs and 30 pairs respectively on 17 and 25 June 1987. The 1986 count revealed about 8 adult Great Egrets and 36 adult Snowy Egrets, or the same numbers of breeding pairs. Nest site selection and distribution on Huckleberry Island seems to be quite similar for these two species. Most of these birds nest in the very tops of densely crowned trees of moderate height, including some conifers, some of which were dead. Most nests are clumped on the eastern or southern parts of the island.

A Green Heron was flushed from its nest in a shrub near the edge of the northernmost woods on Huckleberry on 17 June. Although Green Herons do not often nest colonially, one or a few pairs may locate within a heronry. A Green Heron pair nested in 1977 (Erwin, 1979).

The largely abandoned nests of the Black-crowned Night-Herons were identified on 15 July 1986 by their small size and flimsy construction. One hundred nests were estimated on that trip. The count on 17 June 1987 was 127. These were mostly in the crotches formed by small branches against the bole of the young Norway Maples at or below the lower extent of the forest canopy. The cormorants and night herons were vertically segregated in the forest interior. The larger cormorants nested higher up, as might be expected from the findings of Burger (1979). The increase in numbers from 1986 to 1987 undoubtedly reflects the way in which night-herons were counted and is not a real increase in the size of the nesting population. Fifty pairs were estimated by Erwin (1979) for 1977 using a conversion factor to account for nests that were undetected by the observers. A food item, apparently regurgitated by an immature night-heron on 15 July 1986, was a 3.6 + dkm American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*).

Table 1. Nesting pairs from surveys of Huckleberry Island 1975-1987.

	P.A. & F.G. Buckley ( <i>pers. comm.</i> )					This study	
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1983	1986	1987
Double-cr. Cormorant	--	--	--	--	--	20	92
Great Egret	3	5	10	14	23	8	10
Snowy Egret	5	30	30	44	30	36	30
Little Blue Heron	--	--	P*	--	--	--	--
Green Heron	--	--	1*	--	--	--	1
Black-cr. Night-Heron	8	25	20	31	35	100	127
Herring Gull	--	4	10	27	260	300	1000
Gt. Black-backed Gull	--	--	1	2	8	3	400
Total	16	64	72	118	356	467	1660

\*Erwin, 1979; Little Blue Heron "possible"

Table 2. Number of cormorant nests per tree by species, 1987.

	Nests per tree				
	1	2	3	4	5
Hickory sp.	2			1	1
White Oak	1	1	1		
Basswood sp.				1	
Black Locust			1		
Chestnut Oak		1			
Sassafras	1				
Total	4	2	2	2	1

Table 3. How species' numbers on Huckleberry Island (1987) rank compared to those of other coastal New York waterbird colonies (1986).

Double-cr. Cormorant*	4th	of	4	colonies
Great Egret	7th	of	12	"
Snowy Egret	8th	of	13	"
Black-cr. Night-Heron	3rd	of	22	"
Herring Gull	4th	of	36	"
Gt. Black-backed Gull	2nd	of	28	"

\*All 1987 data for this species





*Fig. 3. Herring Gulls and rocky shoreline,  
looking toward north end of Huckleberry Island*

25 June 1987

*Photo by Peter Capainolo*

Most gulls nest in the low vegetation near the edge of the rocks along most of the island's perimeter, some nest on the rocks, and a few even nest in the woods. The heaviest concentration of nesting gulls is located on the north end of the island (Fig. 3). On 15 July 1986 the north end was not well censused. Due to that and to the late date, few gulls were seen. Three hundred Herring Gulls, assumed to represent 300 pairs, were estimated and three nests found. No Great Black-backed Gulls were sighted until about three were seen a week later. We estimated 1000 Herring Gulls and 400 Great Black-backed Gulls, and the equivalent number of pairs, on 17 June 1987. Most appeared to be nesting. Buckley and Buckley (1980) found four pairs of Herring Gulls in 1976 and one

pair of black-backs in 1977 during what was probably these species' first year nesting on the island (Table 1). The Black-backed Gull chicks were older and hid more effectively under rocks or logs and were harder to find for banding in the limited time available.

### Additional Observations and Relative Importance

The Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) was listed as "possible" in 1977 (Erwin, 1979) but no details were provided.

Few other birds were noted during our visit of 17 June 1987. These included a flock of 79 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) which walked into the water when we arrived. A few crows (*Corvus* sp.), and Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) were seen. European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were nesting in a tree.

A cause of mortality for at least some species is fishing line or string. A dead cormorant and an adult Great Egret were found suspended from one of these on 15 July 1986. Two cormorants were hanging together in similar fashion 17 June 1987 and a mass of line or string dangling next to an active nest threatened others.

Huckleberry Island is the only waterbird colony within a large area. The next colony to the west is South Brother and North Brother islands, a sizeable colony 16 km to the southwest in the East River. Great Captain Island in Greenwich, Connecticut, is a small, new heronry (Jane Moffatt, *pers. comm.*) 15 km to the east in Connecticut. Stony Brook Harbor, 49 km to the east, is Long Island's only north shore heronry. Closer sites having no species which nest on Huckleberry Island include Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax violaceus*) at the Marshlands Conservancy, 8.2 km east in Rye (Alison Beall, *pers. comm.*), Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) colonies active in 1987 6.2 km to the south on Plum Point in the Village of Sands Point, Nassau County (Fig. 2), and on Lloyd Neck in Caumsett State Park, 23 km to the east in the northwest corner of Suffolk County (William Kolodnicki, *pers. comm.*).

Data from Huckleberry Island for 1987, when a more thorough count was made, may be compared with other Long Island area colonies. The last year for which data is available (excepting 1987 cormorant data) is 1986 (MacLean, *pers. comm.*). Of 169 waterbird colonies in coastal New York in 1986, only four others had seven species, 158 had fewer species and only six had more species. Table 3 gives the rank of the population size of each colonial species nesting on Huckleberry Island relative to other coastal New York colonies of the same species. In addition, one or a few pairs of Green Herons were recorded nesting in 14 waterbird colonies in 1986 (MacLean and Litwin 1987). If wading birds (egrets, herons, ibises) are singled out, 168 pairs of waders put this site at fifth among 27 such colonies. Similarly, for diversity of wading bird species,

16 of the 1986 colonies had fewer species and seven colonies had more. Compared to 1985 data (Peterson *et al.*, 1986), Huckleberry's relative colony size is even greater.

### **Rocky Shoreline**

The birds are not the only unusual natural feature of Huckleberry Island. The rocky, indented shore of the submerged coastline (Fig. 3) is a geological formation typical of the New England coast but which, for the most part, does not extend farther south or west than nearby Pelham Bay Park. It consists of predominantly Fordham gneiss and is part of the Manhattan Prong of the New England Upland physiographic region. This shoreline provides the substrate for the "marine rocky intertidal" community, so named by the New York Natural Heritage Program, which keeps track of the rare plants, animals and natural communities of the state. The Heritage Program has given this community the uncertain rating S1S2 for the state, which is because of inadequate study. The highest rating, S1, generally means one to five occurrences in the state and S2 six to 20 occurrences. Although the number of occurrences of this community type in New York is certainly a subjective matter, the relative quality of Huckleberry Island's rocky intertidal community probably is quite good. The species diversity, a good general measure of that quality, is high on Davenport Neck on the mainland. Its fauna is not as likely to be as diverse as is Huckleberry Island's due to greater human visitation. This also partly would be due to proximity to pollution sources. On the other hand, Davenport Neck is more diverse than Pelham Bay Park's rocky shores because of its more easterly location and, hence, greater salinity (Stephen Young, *pers. comm.*).

### **Conservation and Recommendations**

There are not many threats to the continued well-being of Huckleberry Island and its inhabitants. Though vandalism claimed a cabin on Huckleberry in 1986, it may not pose a great threat to the bird colony. Expected threats would include water pollution entering the birds' feeding grounds and the island's intertidal zone. Habitat destruction of the island does not appear likely in the foreseeable future. The island has been under the same ownership for 60 years and the Huckleberry Indians are not looking to sell it. Destruction of the birds' feeding grounds is an indefinite threat due to the unprotected nature of many small, widely scattered feeding areas which remain largely unknown. However, the Marshlands Conservancy and vicinity in Rye contain roughly 50 ha of salt marsh and mudflats which provide food

for at least some of the Great and Snowy Egrets of Huckleberry (Alison Beall, *pers. comm.*). All of the waterbird species of Huckleberry Island are regularly seen in Pelham Bay Park (Fig. 2; Künstler and Feller, 1987) in the Bronx, 2.0 km away, which is probably the most important feeding area for at least the herons and egrets by virtue of its proximity to Huckleberry and its quantity of suitable habitat—about 165 ha of salt marshes and mudflats of 1119 ha total. The park is presently protected from further development. Wetland area has been directly correlated to numbers of nesting wading birds in general in the Northeast (Erwin, 1979). On the other hand, the Black-crowned Night-Heron, Herring Gull (Erwin, 1979) and undoubtedly the Great Black-backed Gull, as well, respond more to coastline length. Thought is now being given within the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to give not only the undeveloped parts of Pelham, but the rest of some 2800 ha of city-owned natural lands, permanent protection, immune from future politics.

The New York Department of State has designated nearly all of Huckleberry Island and the Marshlands Conservancy as Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats, which should give some measure of protection to the island community at the federal, state and local levels. The actual boundary is not critical and possible external threats to the designated area would be reviewed as well as threats from within.

Unfortunately, a \$1 billion development proposal for Davids Island, 0.7 km to the southwest, covers all threats mentioned above except direct destruction of the island. Dredging, sewage, 20- to 50-story buildings, a bridge the length of the Brooklyn Bridge, an 800 slip marina and 3700 new residents in an already stressed ecosystem are not expected to help the western sound in general.

A potential threat from within the colony is the possibility of the birds killing off trees and subduing regeneration. There is virtually no vegetation under the canopy now and the cormorant nest trees have greatly reduced foliage already. If the birds (other than the gulls) ultimately make their colony site unsuitable for nesting, they must have alternative nesting areas. If the Davids Island proposal does not go through, that island might make a good "second home" in a region with exceedingly few other potential sites of this kind. Actually, Davids Island is likely the only other possible site for a large waterbird colony in this part of Long Island Sound. Another possible barrier to the birds' colonization here is the raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) population.

We hope that this report will generate more interest in the birds of Huckleberry Island and their ecology. The island is ideally suited for a monitoring team or research project, although limited time should be spent in the colony by a few people only. As many of the young trees

on the island are the aggressive and exotic Norway Maple that pose a threat to the mix of native trees now forming the canopy, a good project may be to experiment on a small scale with the notion of eventually ridding the island of Norway Maple or controlling it. However, this must be done carefully and slowly, since these trees are very important to the night-herons. It may be difficult to replace them owing to the stressed conditions on the island. A diversity of tree species along with a similar diversity of potential nest sites may suit the needs of several species of tree-nesting birds better than a forest of mostly one species. More species also may provide a more stable habitat. The owners have expressed interest in such a project and in managing the island for the birds.

### **Summary**

For the first time since 1983, five ha Huckleberry Island, just off New Rochelle, Westchester County, was surveyed for its colonial waterbirds in 1986 and 1987. The sixth known Double-crested Cormorant colony in New York was discovered here in 1986, which numbered about 92 active nests in 1987. Also found here in 1987 were 10 pairs of Great Egrets, a low count, and 30 pairs of Snowy Egrets, which seemingly have remained stable in numbers since the 1970's. The 127 pairs of Black-crowned Night-Herons, in one of their largest regional colonies, have increased substantially and a pair of Green Herons were found. Since Herring Gulls started nesting here in 1976, they have grown to an estimated 1000 pairs. Great Black-backed Gulls first nested in 1977 and now, at about 400 pairs, form one of the biggest colonies in coastal New York. This makes Huckleberry Island the major waterbird colony of Long Island Sound west of the Norwalk Islands in Connecticut and one of the larger rookeries in coastal New York State. Furthermore, its shoreline supports a marine rocky intertidal community, rare in the state. There is potential for research and management here, for which the owners are quite receptive. While the owners presently show little interest in developing or selling the island, the major threat is a development proposal for Davids Island, probably the only suitable alternate nesting site in this part of Long Island Sound.

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## AN APPARENT PREFLEDGED COMMON LOON CHICK FOUND AT MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

KARL E. PARKER

Unusual occurrences of birds outside their normal range are important to the ornithologist, if only to retrospectively trace range expansions, shifts in habitat use, or changes in patterns of migration or movements. The importance of documenting such occurrences cannot be understated since even firmly-based observations by competent observers quickly enter the realm of the anecdotal as important details and dates are forgotten.

A survey recently completed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) suggests that New York's Common Loon population may be increasing in numbers (Parker *et al.* 1986). This, combined with increased popular interest in loons, may foster reports of loons breeding outside what heretofore has been regarded as their traditional range. Details of the following incident are presented both to document its occurrence and also to provide increased awareness of Common Loon biology.

On Monday, 14 July 1986, the Nongame Unit of the DEC received a report via Ron Dodson of the National Audubon Society's New York Regional Office that a Common Loon chick had been found on Route 89 in Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR), Seneca County. He provided the name of Mark Nicholas, a volunteer at the refuge, who had further information.

I contacted Nicholas and Anne Marocchini, an assistant refuge manager, on Monday afternoon and learned that the bird had been found the previous day, Sunday, 13 July, on Route 89 near North Spring Pool. It was identified as a Common Loon by a number of refuge staff. Color photos of this bird were examined by Nongame Unit staff and are on file at the Nongame Unit. I have pieced together the following description of the bird. It was 2/3 adult size, with poorly feathered wings. Its primaries were still in their shafts. Its plumage was likened to "typical winter plumage" and it still had brown down present on its back. This description, combined with an assumed nest initiation date of 1 May (early for loons, Bull 1974), would put the bird at a maximum of 6 weeks of age, more than a month short of fledging (McIntyre 1975). The bird appeared healthy and in good condition but was perhaps a bit emaciated, particularly around the sternum. It was banded, fed, and held overnight by Barbara Olds, a Canandaigua wildlife rehabilitator, and subsequently released in the Main Pool of MNWR on

Monday morning, 14 July. Upon release the bird commenced preening and did several short dives.

The Main Pool at MNWR previously has been used by adult loons as a resting place during migration. The last time that adults were observed at MNWR previous to this incident was in late April, when a single bird was sighted. The refuge staff conducts periodic bird surveys and, had the refuge been host to a breeding pair of loons, it certainly would have been noted.

A visit to MNWR on Tuesday, 15 July, confirmed my recollection that North Spring Pool is full of standing dead timber and could not possibly have been used as a nesting site by loons. I was unable to locate the chick although I spent more than an hour inspecting the Main Pool from the dike with a spotting scope and about 1-1/2 hours canoeing around its perimeter. The pool offers thousands of hiding places so it is probable that the bird was still there.

In light of my visit and conversations with various people, there is no evidence of loons having bred at MNWR and the shallow, turbid water there makes this extremely poor loon habitat.

The origin of the bird is unknown. The discovery of the bird on the road is highly suggestive of either an accidental grounding or an intentional release by someone unfamiliar with loon biology. The former can be ruled out since the bird apparently was flightless. The date suggests that someone may have captured the chick elsewhere over the July 4th weekend, tried to keep it as a pet, and then released it.

The possibility of local origin, either at MNWR or in nearby canals or Finger Lakes, is rejected for a number of reasons. The habitat limitations of the refuge have already been described. In spite of the recent Breeding Bird Atlas project, there has been no recent documented loon breeding outside the general Adirondack/St. Lawrence region. Bull (1974) describes several extralimital breeding records and there is always the possibility that another may occur. However, descriptions I have received of "loons" with broods of 4 to 5 chicks on Cayuga Lake and other nearby waters add little current support to this possibility.

The ultimate fate of the chick is not known, as it was not observed subsequent to its release. However, even under the best of conditions, young loons are inefficient predators (Barr 1973) and continue to receive supplemental food from their parents until at least 7-8 weeks of age and sometimes beyond (Parker 1985). The highly eutrophic and turbid waters of the Main Pool would make foraging even more difficult for this visually-oriented predator. Since the loon was flightless, it would have been unable to move from the Main Pool to other waters more favorable for feeding.



Only 20 Common Loons, a species of "Special Concern" in New York, have been banded in the state since 1957 (Parker *et al.* 1986). There is a great need to capitalize on incidental captures of this species in New York in order to obtain data on its longevity, causes of mortality, and movements. Thanks to the persons involved, this bird was banded and color photographs were taken prior to its release. Though the fault on no one, the Nongame Unit, which would have been very interested in examining this bird and in providing information concerning release sites to optimize its chances of survival, did not learn of the incident until after the loon's release.

Persons concerned about increasing our scientific knowledge of this interesting bird can immediately advise the Nongame Unit of any future recoveries of dead or living loons, as well as provide details of unusual observations.

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Wildlife Resources Center, Delmar, N.Y. 12054*

## NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1987

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held the 1987 winter Waterfowl Count from 10 January through 18 January, with 11 January as the target date. All regions completed their counts within the established dates.

The count period this year was back to normal. Most bodies of water that usually are open were open and available to waterfowl. Exceptions are frequently at or near Lakes Erie and Ontario, where snowfall and/or icing conditions may occur to the exclusion of virtually all other areas. A couple of the Regional compilers felt that their reports were less than expected because of weather conditions such as snowing or other visibility limitations. The grand total count of 258,210 (Table I), was down 13.8% from 1986, but still 21.8% above the fourteen year average (1973-1986) of 212,074. Even though decreases from 1986 to 1987 seem of concern, these are partially ameliorated by the fact that only the diving ducks (Canvasback, Redhead, scaup and goldeneye) plus American Wigeon and American Coot showed decreases from the 1973-1986 averages. Overall in 1987, for species listed in Table III, there was a 16.8% increase over the 1973-1986 average even though there was a 13.8% decrease from 1986 to 1987.

Comparing 1987 to 1986 count figures (Table II), the commoner species showed a 9-7 split in favor of decreases. When comparing 1987 count figures with the 1973-1986 fourteen year average (Table III) we find a 9-6 split but this time in favor of increases.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were down 14.2%. The Canada Goose decline of 17.7% greatly offset the increases of 0.2% and 2.3% for Atlantic Brant and Snow Goose respectively. The dabbling ducks showed an overall decrease of 11.4%, in contrast to the 12.2% increase of a year ago. All species were down with the exceptions of Wood Duck, which was the same as in 1986, and the American Wigeon, which was up a respectable 15.1% even though it is still 16.1% below the most recent 10-year average. Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an overall decline of just under 1% compared to 1986, but a significant 15.1% decrease below their 1977-1986 average. American Coot, on the other hand, showed a 107.3% increase over 1986 and a 70.9% increase above the most recent 10-year average. Most American Coot, 86.6%, again were wintering in Georgia and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway were up 3.3% over 1986, but down 3.7% from the 1977-1986 average.

The Department of Environmental Conservation 1987 aerial survey was conducted from 4 January through 27 January. Unfavorable flying conditions delayed completion of the survey on time. The results are presented in Table IV. Table V compares 1986 to 1987 aerial survey results.

The 1988 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 9 January through 17 January, with Sunday, 10 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. Region 1 again has a new compiler, Wavel Barber. Pleased to have you aboard! The Region 9 compiler, Ed Treacy, has retired after 29 years of service. At this time we are looking for a new compiler to fill his shoes. The regional compilers were:

Region 1 - Wavel Barber

2 - Warren Lloyd

3 - Eric Donohue

4 - Leslie Bemont

5 - Fritz Scheider

Region 6 - Lee Chamberlaine

7 - John Peterson

8 - Paul Grattan

9 - —

10 - Stephen Dempsey

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

Table I. Regional totals for 1987 Waterfowl Count

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Total
Red-throated Loon										4	4
Common Loon	1	5	13		4		1			75	99
Pied-billed Grebe	6		6	1						33	46
Horned Grebe		1	8		9		3		1	182	204
Red-necked Grebe				1	4		2			2	9
Great Cormorant										263	263
Double-cr. Cormorant		1			1				2	202	206
Tundra Swan		3	22								25
Mute Swan								9	247	1,317	1,573
Snow Goose	1		2					1		143	147
Brant										15,054	15,054
Canada Goose	2,284	355	11,450	62	424	3,244	334	1,048	5,234	38,717	63,152
Wood Duck		8	3				2			1	7
Green-winged Teal					2	1				3	305
American Black Duck	460	218	1,526	45	354	59	119	1,392	669	22,892	27,734
Mallard	5,107	2,451	3,369	300	2,469	173	504	810	1,787	7,881	24,851
Mallard X Black Duck	6	1	2		1	6	2				28
Northern Pintail	2		1		1			6	2	230	242
Blue-winged Teal					1						1
Northern Shoveler					1					308	309
Gadwall	11	11	14		33				9	862	940
Eurasian Wigeon										3	3
American Wigeon	37		4						3	1,869	1,913

Table I. Regional totals for 1987 Waterfowl Count

Canvasback	56	18	1,457		16			201	2,079	4,259	8,086
Redhead	78	40	3,861		10	200		4		97	4,290
Ring-necked Duck	2	5	24						192	318	541
Tufted Duck											0
Greater Scaup	1,809	1,091	156		1,892	330			11	29,770	35,059
Lesser Scaup	151	2			9				670	906	1,738
scaup, species	43	596	1,478			155		1		2,029	4,302
Common Eider										48	48
King Eider	1									9	10
Harlequin Duck										9	9
Oldsquaw	5,029	63			60	154			1	507	5,814
Black Scoter										612	612
Surf Scoter	2									209	211
White-winged Scoter	423	50			1	41	2			11,527	12,044
scoter, species										3,000	3,000
Common Goldeneye	2,228	897	301	2	835	925	821	40	63	1319	7,431
Barrow's Goldeneye	3										3
Bufflehead	267	89	272		59	6	18	1	71	4,930	5,713
Hooded Merganser	4	15	20		18		1	6	12	352	428
Common Merganser	13,357	223	623	42	2,162	481	270	282	4,635	40	22,115
Red-br. Merganser	105	127	12		13	4	3		6	4,831	5,101
Ruddy Duck	1								582	1,937	2,520
American Coot	34	2	614						109	665	1,424
unidentified			86						102	370	558
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,508</b>	<b>6,272</b>	<b>25,324</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>8,379</b>	<b>5,779</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>3,801</b>	<b>16,491</b>	<b>158,121</b>	<b>258,210</b>

**Table II. Comparison of 1987 with 1986 for all species totaling over 1,000 individuals in 1986.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>% change from 1985</b>
Mute Swan	1,573	1,555	1.2
Brant	15,054	7,603	98.0
Canada Goose	63,152	87,555	-27.9
American Black Duck	27,734	22,488	23.3
Mallard	24,851	33,920	-26.7
American Wigeon	1,913	1,501	27.4
Canvasback	8,086	11,959	-32.4
Redhead	4,290	7,841	-45.3
scaup (both species)	41,099	42,708	-3.8
Oldsquaw	5,814	3,986	45.9
scoter (all species)	15,867	25,173	-37.0
goldeneye (both species)	7,434	10,997	-32.4
Bufflehead	5,713	5,036	13.4
Common Merganser	22,115	21,227	4.2
Red-breasted Merganser	5,101	6,406	-20.4
American Coot	1,424	1,506	-5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>251,220</b>	<b>291,461</b>	<b>-13.8</b>

Table III. Comparison of 1987 count with 1973-1986 average for all species totaling over 1,000 individuals in 1987.

Species	1987	Average	% change
Brant	15,054	11,107	35.5
Canada Goose	63,152	33,461	88.7
American Black Duck	27,734	18,763	47.8
Mallard	24,851	22,465	10.6
American Wigeon	1,913	2,106	-9.2
Canvasback	8,086	11,766	-31.3
Redhead	4,290	6,508	-34.1
scaup (both species)	41,099	59,977	-31.5
Oldsquaw	5,814	3,470	67.6
scoter (all species)	15,867	11,027	43.9
Common Goldeneye	7,431	11,720	-36.6
Bufflehead	5,713	4,468	27.9
Common Merganser	22,115	13,058	69.4
Red-breasted Merganser	5,101	1,959	160.4
American Coot	1,424	1,859	-23.4
Total	249,644	213,714	16.8

**Table IV. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Aerial Count, 4-27 January 1987. All species of 1,000 individuals or more.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Upstate</b>	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mute Swan	73	1,271	1,344
Brant		16,144	16,144
Canada Goose	69,447	7,460	76,907
American Black Duck	4,521	8,134	12,655
Mallard	10,930	1,787	12,717
Canvasback	6,021	4,262	10,283
Redhead	7,110		7,110
scaup (both species)	11,443	15,852	27,295
Oldsquaw	3,136	483	3,619
scoter (all species)	75	5,150	5,225
goldeneye (both species)	6,059	770	6,829
merganser (all species)	15,029	1,415	16,444
Ruddy Duck		1,601	1,601
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,844</b>	<b>64,329</b>	<b>198,173</b>



**Table V. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
1986 and 1987 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1986  
for all species with 1,000 individuals or more in 1987.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>% change</b>
Mute Swan	1,344	1,222	10.0
Brant	16,144	4,503	258.5
Canada Goose	76,907	45,065	70.7
American Black Duck	12,655	14,698	-13.9
Mallard	12,717	9,828	29.4
Canvasback	10,283	7,123	44.4
Redhead	7,110	3,774	88.4
scaup (both species)	27,295	16,217	68.3
Oldsquaw	3,619	4,847	-25.3
scoter (all species)	5225	427	1123.7
goldeneye (both species)	6,829	5,089	34.2
merganser (all species)	16,444	22,792	-27.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>196,572</b>	<b>135,585</b>	<b>45.0</b>

## REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

As a body, NYSARC has been resuscitated, circulation to its members has increased, and a prognosis of robust health and full function has been rendered.

There have been several changes in Committee membership since our last report. Ken Able resigned because of professional commitments and was replaced by William Vaughan, who served as acting chairman from 1985 until August 1987. Steven C. Sibley was appointed to fill the remainder of his term. The committee elected F. G. Scheider Chairman in October 1987.

A summary of the 1985 and the 1986 reports reviewed follows. First, several comments concerning these reports are in order:

1. The majority of reports not accepted almost uniformly suffered from insufficient details regarding physical description (shape, size, plumage pattern and color) and behavior to be judged acceptable. Some of the reports had few details because of the brevity of the observations, but just as no woman can be too thin or too rich, so no report submitted for review can be too detailed.

2. Legibility of reports continues to be a problem. If possible, type or print the information given.

3. Since all reports whether accepted or not are archived, please be very specific as to the locality where the species sighting occurred by including the name of the site, nearest community, town and county.

Future reports of species requiring review by NYSARC should be sent to:

NYSARC  
c/o Richard G. Evans  
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road Ithaca, NY 14850

Three reports from 1985 and three others antedating that year remain under review. Decisions on these will be published pending circulation of the relevant documentation and/or comments to the NYSARC members. All 1986 reports have been reviewed and none remain unresolved.

### 1985 Accepted Reports

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). 1985-1-A one near Ditch Plains, Montauk, Suffolk County, 12 January (AM). This is the 13th record of an *Aechmophorus* grebe for the state; most prior records have not been allocated to species but the one substantiated record also is of this species.

- Western or Clark's Grebe** (*Aechmophorus species*). 1985-14-A one on Lake Ontario off Route 272, town of Morton, Monroe County, 19 May (C&RL). The details of the report clearly indicate one of the above species but the facial/loral pattern and bill coloration was not described clearly enough to know which species was present; future sightings of Western type grebes must include sufficient details to ascertain which species is involved.
- Northern Fulmar** (*Fulmarus glacialis*). 1985-43-A one Chappaqua, Westchester County, 30 September (EDT). This record comes three days after the passage of Hurricane Gloria. There are about 15 prior records from New York, some of large numbers of individuals seen off Long Island.
- Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*). 1985-25-A adult, Manitou Beach, Monroe County, 24 May (ROH). One of a dozen Upstate records, most of which are spring birds observed along Lakes Erie and Ontario.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax violaceus*). 1985-16-A adult at South Park Lake, Buffalo, Erie County, 4 August (RFA). There are about a dozen prior Upstate records.
- Barnacle Goose** (*Branta leucopsis*). 1985-3-A adult with two immatures, both of which were suspected to be hybrid Canada X Barnacle Goose, Church Road, Hamlin, Monroe County, 11-15 March (SS, R&CL). The identification of the adult was accepted, but the provenance of these birds is not determinable. An adult Barnacle Goose associated with two hybrid (Canada x Barnacle) young and an apparent Richardson's Canada Goose were seen together in New Haven County, Connecticut, 22 November 1984 - 10 January 1985 (*Connecticut Warbler* 5:16-18). This is about the twelfth record from New York.
- American Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*). 1985-26-A one over Palisades Parkway, Rockland County, 24 June (JA). This bird, the fourteenth record from New York, probably was displaced by a storm, as the date seems much too late for a spring overshoot.
- Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). 1985-22-A one, Bird Swamp, Town of Machias, Cattaraugus County, 20 April (TB). This is the second record for the state.
- Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*). 1985-4-A,B one light morph, Derby Hill, Town of Mexico, Oswego County, 14 April (GAS, FGS). 1985-6-A one light morph, Derby Hill, Town of Mexico, Oswego County, 22 April (GAS). 1985-30-A immature, Warren's Sod Farm, Pine Island, Orange County, 15 September (JCS); a photograph appears in *American Birds* (Vol. 40:88; 1986). These are the tenth through twelfth

records from New York. This is a rare and irregular migrant in hawk flights along Lake Ontario, usually in mid to late April; to date only light morphs have been detected.

**Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*). 1985-39-A,B "white morph" south of Bridgeport, Onondaga County, 21 December (FLaF, PR). The white morph is the rarest form in New York State. There are about 45 prior reports from New York, some of which are poorly documented.

**Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*). 1985-7-A one flying over Derby Hill, Town of Mexico, Oswego County, 22 April (GAS). 1985-35-A two near Mt. Sinai, Suffolk County, 21 November (SBD). These two records neatly demonstrate the present pattern of appearances, either in the spring flights along Lake Ontario (usually in April) or in late fall - early winter anywhere in the state but usually associated with open agricultural sectors. There are about 20 prior records from New York.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*). 1985-18-A one, Bay Park, East Rockaway, Nassau County, 5 June (MRL). This is only the fifth record for the state.

**Marbled Godwit** (*Limosa fedoa*). 1985-33-A one in a field on North Hamlin Road, Monroe County, 21 September (MR). There are about two dozen prior Upstate records. Although extremely rare away from the coast, its distribution and numbers on the coast suggest that birds of this species must pass over Upstate areas regularly.

**Rufous-necked Stint** (*Calidris ruficollis*). 1985-20-A,B one in breeding plumage Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens County, 27-28 July (AM, RBC). Report dates as above but apparently this bird stayed until 11 August; see *The Kingbird* 36:3-5; 1985 for a full account of this record. This is the first record for the state but is in keeping with the increasing numbers of Eurasian stints being identified along the East Coast.

**jaeger species** (*Stercorarius sp.*). 1985-41-A one Braddock Bay, Monroe County, 22 December (RGS). Submitted as a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), this report was accepted as a jaeger but details were insufficient to ascertain which species was involved.

**Long-tailed Jaeger** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). 1985-32-A immature found dead at Sylvan Beach, Town of Vienna, Oneida County, 3 September (SH); specimen retained in collection of Rice Creek Field Station, SUNY at Oswego. An addition to the half dozen Upstate records of this species, all too often, as in this case, a dead bird.

**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*). 1985-21-A immature (Basic I) on the Oswego River at Oswego, Oswego County, 21 March (FGS). The date

is somewhat late but in the correct habitat and at one of the more likely areas along the Oswego River.

**Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*). 1985-34-A,B one, Pawling, Dutchess County, 9 October (JCM, SG). The date is appropriate for a fall migrant but this species rarely is seen away from the outer coastal areas at this season. There are about 22 prior Upstate records.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Dendroica dominica*). 1985-29-A,B one, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Monroe County, 7 June (RGS, AS). 1985-36-A one showing the characteristics of *D. d. albilora* at a feeder in Dryden, Tompkins County, 26 November - 8 December, 1985 (SCS). The first record undoubtedly is a spring overshoot but quite late, as the species is often on its breeding grounds by late March or early April. Birds of this species should be observed and, if possible, photographed closely to determine if they are from *D. d. dominica*, the Atlantic coastal race, or *D. d. albilora*, the race found in the central U.S. and Appalachians, populations. There are about 40 prior Upstate records, including two nesting records in 1984.

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*). 1985-37-A,B one, Croton Point, Westchester County, 7-14 December (BW, JA). This is about the twentieth record from New York.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*). 1985-12-A immature male at feeder, Staten Island, Richmond County, 18-20 May (HF). A spring overshoot kind enough to remain long enough to be seen by multiple observers and to be photographed. This is about the twentieth record from New York.

#### 1985 Reports Not Accepted

**Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*). 1985-8-A one, Cayuga, Cayuga Lake, Cayuga County, 12 May.

**Tricolored Heron** (*Egretta tricolor*). 1985-11-A one, El Dorado Beach, Jefferson County, 18 May.

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). 1985-23-A one, Bailey Road near Bradock bay, Monroe County, 21 April.

**Western Sandpiper** (*Calidris mauri*). 1985-2-A one, Tschache Pool, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca County, 11-19 May. This species requires very careful documentation in New York State in the spring.

**Baird's Sandpiper** (*Calidris bairdii*). 1985-10-A,B two, Hogan Point Road, Monroe County 22 May. This species requires very careful documentation in New York State in the spring.

- Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*). 1985-9-A immature, Oswego River, Oswego, Oswego County, 23 March. 1985-42-A one at Robert Moses State Park, St. Lawrence County, 28 December.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*). 1985-5-A one, Town of Washington, Dutchess County, 18 June. 1985-19-A one along Mohawk River between Herkimer & Little Falls, Herkimer County, 28 July.
- Gray Jay** (*Perisoreus canadensis*). 1985-28-A one, East Springwater, Livingston County, 27 June.
- Wood Thrush** (*Hylocichla mustelina*). 1985-45-A one, Gardiner's Bay County Club, Suffolk County, 29 December.
- Black-throated Gray Warbler** (*Dendroica nigrescens*). 1985-13-A one, Forest Park, Queens, Queens County, 19 May.
- Connecticut Warbler** (*Oporornis agilis*). 1985-15-A one, Town of Champion, Jefferson County, 25 July.
- Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melancorys*). 1985-17-A three briefly at a feeder Craine Lake, north of Earlville, Madison County, 4 March.
- Rusty Blackbird** (*Euphagus carolinus*). 1985-40-A eight, East Springwater, Livingston County, 30 June.
- Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1985-24-A one, Brick Schoolhouse Road, Monroe County, 19 May.
- Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus galbula bullocki*). 1985-27-A one, Warren's Sod Farm, Pine Island, Orange County, 29-30 June. This report was accepted as a Northern Oriole but not as the subspecies *bullocki*.

Twelve 1985 reports submitted pertained to species which are not currently reviewed by NYSARC and were filed without being reviewed by the committee.

#### 1986 Accepted Reports

- Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). 1986-35-A one on Lake Ontario, East Manitou Road, Town of Greece, Monroe County, 6 December (RGS). 1986-34-A,B one east of Ditch Plains, Montauk, Suffolk County, 5 December (BT, ROP). See the comments under the 1985 accepted reports.
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanites oceanicus*). 1986-23-A. One on Tappan Zee north of Piermont Pier, Rockland County, 18 August (PD). See *The Kingbird* 36:207; 1986 for an account of this bird, apparently displaced by tropical storm Charlie from offshore to this upriver site on the Hudson. This is about the fifth inland record from New York.
- Northern Gannet** (*Sula bassanus*). 1986-31-A,B immature, Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery, Town of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County 27-28 October (JWK, MCK). There are about 40 prior Upstate records.

- American White Pelican** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). 1986-20-A. One, Hamlin Beach State Park, Town of Hamlin, Monroe County, 29 May (RFE). There are about three dozen prior records from New York.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nycticorax violaceus*). 1986-11-A. One near Hamlin, Town of Hamlin, Monroe County, 13 April (D&DT). See the comments under the 1985 accepted report.
- Barnacle Goose** (*Branta leucopsis*). 1986-32-A,B one with Canada Geese on Montezuma area marshlands, Route 31, Town of Tyre, Seneca County, 27 November (JR, TL). The identification was clearly correct but the provenance of any specific Barnacle Goose in the state is problematical. See the comments under the 1985 accepted report.
- hybrid teal** (*Anas discolor* X sp.?) 1986-9-A one, Parma, Monroe County, 29 March (TD). Submitted as a Cinnamon Teal or possible hybrid, this bird was accepted as a hybrid between Blue-winged Teal and another species, the latter indeterminate.
- Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*). 1986-2-A one, Pound Ridge Reservation, Westchester County, 28 April (THM). There are about 30 prior records, about half from upstate New York. This species may appear in any month of the year but records concentrate in the spring or early winter.
- American Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*). 1986-12-A one, Dansville Reservoir, Steuben County, 25 April (DB). Probably a spring overshoot as are most of the prior Upstate records. See the comments under the 1985 accepted report.
- Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). 1986-4-A one, Rye, Westchester County, 17 May (RL). 1986-21-A one, Braddock Bay, East Manitou Road, Town of Greece, Monroe County, 1 June (FN, JD, MD). An account of the former record appears in *The Kingbird* [this issue]. These reports constitute the third and fourth records of the species for New York State, all in the last 8 years.
- Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*). 1986-13-A one, Manitou Road, Lake Ontario Parkway, Town of Hamlin, Monroe County, 19 April (RGS). This is the thirteenth record from New York. The most likely place and time, in New York State, to encounter a Swainson's Hawk is along the Lake Ontario shoreline in mid to late April when the heavy Broad-winged Hawk migration is in progress; however, any sighting anywhere of this rare-in-the-state raptor deserves a very careful write-up. All the records since 1950 have been of light morph individuals.
- Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). 1986-5-A one, Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, Westchester County, 9 June (BW). A record away from Long Island - just barely - but still in a saltwater associated habitat.

- Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*). 1986-10-A one, Braddock Bay area, Town of Greece, Monroe County, 29 March (RGS). See the comments under the 1985 accepted reports.
- Lesser Golden-Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*). 1986-8-A one, Zach's Bay, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, 5 January (BB, MS). This is the record late date for the species in the state.
- Mew Gull** (*Larus canus*). 1986-27-A adult in winter plumage at Saunders-Moses Dam on the St. Lawrence River, St. Lawrence County, 4-5 October (ILJ). An addition to the New York species list but note that this species was predicted as one of the top ten most likely species to be added to the states avifauna by 4 of the 5 prognosticators of state species possibilities (*Kingbird* Vol. 33: 11; 1983). The report filed with the NYSARC is outstanding as a model of detail.
- Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*). 1986-38-A one in Basic I plumage at Oswego River, Phoenix, Town of Schroepfel, Oswego County, 21 December (FGS).
- Ross's Gull** (*Rhodostethia rosea*). 1986-36-A one in Basic I plumage on the jetties of Montauk Harbor, Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, 11 December (JR). Another first for New York State, it should be checked for wherever winter aggregates of smaller gulls, particularly Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*), collect.
- Boreal Owl** (*Aegolius funereus*). 1986-7-A-D one near Manitou Beach Road, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 3-4 March (MR, RGS, RFB, D&DT). This is the 22nd record from the state. In late February and March isolated pineries along the Lake Ontario shoreline seem to have the best potential for harboring this species.
- Black-backed Woodpecker** (*Picoides arcticus*). 1986-1-A one, Happy Valley Game Management Area, Towns of Albion & Parish, Oswego County, 15 April (PJT).
- Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*). 1986-30-A one, north dunes at Sandy Pond, Town of Sandy Creek, Oswego County, 23 October (FGS). This is the ninth record for the state.
- Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*). 1986-22-A one south of Dryden, Tompkins County, 6 August (RGE). 1986-25-A one, Edgemere Drive, Town of Greece, Monroe County, 12 September (KCG). Both records are unusual as to inland locality and the date for the first report is early. See the comments under the 1985 accepted report.
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus savana*). 1986-6-A one, Jackson Street, Brooklyn, Kings County, 17 July (JF). Another addition to the New York State list. Previous reports have lacked sufficient details required for admittance to the state avifauna.



**Rock Wren** (*Salpinctes obsoletus*). 1986-33-A,B one, Fredonia, Chautauqua County, 29 November - 3 December (FMR, TDM). See *The Kingbird* (37:55; 1986) for a full account of this record, the first from New York. This species has been reported previously in both Massachusetts and Ontario.

**Northern Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). 1986-26-A one, Jones Beach, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, 25 September (AW). This sighting, the 23rd record from New York, fits into the very narrow time frame (approximately 20 September to 5 October) that accounts for the majority of the state's Northern Wheatear records.

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*). 1986-37-A one, McNulty Road, Town of New Berlin, Chenango County, 20 December (CC). This is only the third report of this species for the state, the last prior one in 1953. Apparently late fall 1986 was an incursion year for this species.

**Audubon's Warbler** (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*). 1986-3-A one, Saunders Pond near Belmont, Town of Amity, Allegany County, 26 April (VMP).

**Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Dendroica dominica*). 1986-15 A,B one, Ellison Park, Towns of Brighton & Penfield, Monroe County, 3 May (MR, CTC.) If possible, loral color should be described; the suspicion is that upstate birds are primarily *D. d. albilora* and downstate birds *D. d. dominica*, but the precise data on individual birds are not being reported to determine this. See the comments under the 1985 accepted reports.

**Connecticut Warbler** (*Oporornis agilis*). 1986-17-A one, Hamlin Beach State Park, Town of Hamlin, Monroe County, 16 May (WCDA).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). 1986-28-A three individuals, one described with photographs, along Salmon Creek, Monroe County, 4 October (BWK). This species must migrate regularly from its inland nesting areas through upstate New York but the scarcity of sightings there attest to the species ability to remain, like the Scarlet Pimpernel, damned elusive.

### 1986 Not Accepted Reports

**Black Vulture** (*Coragyps atratus*). 1986-16-A one, Dewey-Latta Park, Town of Greece, Monroe County, 7 May.

**Thayer's Gull** (*Larus thayeri*). 1986-18-A one, Manitou Beach west of Braddock Bay, Town of Greece, Monroe County, 17 May.

**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*). 1986-19-A one, Braddock Bay, Town of Greece, Monroe County, 20 May.

**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*). 1986-24-A one, Wells College Campus, Aurora, Town of Ledyard, Cayuga County, 29 August.

**Boreal Chickadee** (*Parus hudsonicus*). 1986-14-A one, Braddock Bay Park, Town of Greece, Monroe County, 30 April.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*). 1986-29-A one, Canajoharie, Montgomery County, 20-23 October.

Nine 1986 submitted reports pertained to species which are not currently reviewed by NYSARC and were filed without being reviewed by the committee.

The Rufous-necked Stint in 1985 and the Mew Gull, Ross's Gull, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, and Rock Wren of 1986 all constitute additions to the New York State avifauna list, which now stands at 433. These five species should be added to the list of species which require submission of written reports for NYSARC review when sighted in the state.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Robert O. Paxton  
Fritz G. Scheider (Chairman)  
Steven C. Sibley  
Barbara Spencer

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Red-eyed Vireo attacks young Chipping Sparrow:** On Monday, 22 June 1987, Martin Borko was out for a bike ride around the City of Middletown's reservoir system in the Town of Walkill, New York. It was 4:00 in the afternoon and begging fledglings and group feeding sounds could be heard in the roadside tree canopy of planted Norway Spruce and Scot's Pine. Parking the bike on the side of the road and checking the sounds he observed feeding chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, and begging Chipping Sparrows with 7x25 Bushnell binoculars. One of the latter was on an open Scot's Pine branch and was being attacked repeatedly by a Red-eyed Vireo. The young Chipping Sparrow would attempt to retreat and in two instances was seen hanging from the underside of the branch. The young sparrow flew to the opposite side of the pine and was again attacked by the Red-eyed Vireo. In neither of the two attacks did the parent bird appear, but between attacks there was one parental feeding. The observations lasted about 10 minutes; each of the two witnessed attacks lasted about 30 seconds.

*Martin L. Borko, Biology, Orange Co. Community College,  
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**Mississippi Kite in Westchester County, New York:** At 6:15 PM on 17 May 1986 I observed a Mississippi Kite gliding over Rye, Westchester County. I was birding in a forested setting on an estate, and was standing at the edge of an opening. Attracted by a motion in the sky, I glanced up to see a gull-sized bird gliding from south to north. The bird was in full sunlight to the east of me, over the forest, at an angle of elevation of perhaps 40 degrees, at a distance of around 60 yards. Using 7x35 binoculars, I observed the bird for roughly seven seconds as it sailed north out of sight behind the trees, without ever flapping. As soon as I had the bird in binoculars I realized that it was a Mississippi Kite, a bird I have seen on many occasions in North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arizona. I observed a long slender sooty black tail, a gray body, and similarly shaded gray undersurface of the wings. The head was quite small and pale. I could not see it well because the bird was already a bit past me when I first saw it. The wings were a bit darker toward the primaries, but there was no obvious line of demarcation. I could not see the upper surface of the bird. Besides the falcon-like shape, the most distinctive gestalt factor was the very straight boundary across the trailing edge of the wings. As soon as the bird was gone, I ran to get my wife. We quickly drove out of the wooded estate and into Port Chester, hoping to find the bird again, but to no avail.

*Bob Lewis, 33 Redfield St., Rye, N.Y., 10580*

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Early Nesting of a Virginia Rail in New York:** During the spring of 1987 I was studying the breeding birds in the tidal marshes of the Hudson River. On 7 May, Bryan Swift and I were performing standard censuses in Constitution Marsh, an extensive tidal wetland directly across from West Point. It consists mainly of emergent vegetation, primarily Narrow-leaved Cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Our census techniques incorporated the use of recorded calls played back through hand-held tape players. During this census round we were using a 10-minute tape of Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*), and Sora (*Porzana carolina*) calls. I was standing at one of the census points playing the tape when I noted a very immediate and agitated response to the Virginia Rail "grunt" on the tape player. Unlike the grunt call that we normally heard from this species, or the less frequent "kid-ick", this call was sharp and piercing and was repeated many times over the course of the 10-minute census period. Kaufmann (*Wilson Bull.* 95:42-59, 1983) refers to this call as a "kiu." It is an alarm call used by nesting birds. As the calls seemed to come from a pair of birds, and as the two birds consistently called from the same general area, I decided to check that spot for a nest after the tape was over.

I was rewarded almost immediately by finding the nest and was quite shocked when two black, downy chicks scurried out of it, leaving two unhatched eggs. According to the life histories I have found pertaining to rails, the unfledged chicks in this nest were at least 15 days ahead of the previous earliest dates for New York State. Bull (*Birds of New York State*, Cornell Univ. Press, 1985, p. 218-19) and Meade ("*Breeding Season Tables*", February 1981) both cite 22 May as the earliest date for unfledged young. Using a 20-day incubation period (Meade, *op. cit.*), the most probable date for egg laying would have been 17 April, again a full 18 days ahead of the earliest egg dates. However, Burtch (*Bird Lore* 19:243-248; 1917) reports on a Virginia Rail nest in western New York with a hatching date of 11 May. There may have been more chicks in the nest than the two I saw, for most clutches are reported to be of at least six eggs. The two remaining eggs were very different in color, one being a buff blue with some speckling and the other being light tan with the same speckling pattern. At first we thought that another bird had parasitized the nest, but both eggs were later verified to be those of a Virginia Rail by Jim Rod of the National Audubon Society. On 11 May both eggs were still in the nest, and on closer inspection we found that the eggs had been piped.

The nest itself was located on the crown of a tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) approximately 30 cm above ground level. Nesting material was mainly bits of dead cattail leaves of varying length, and some pieces of dead sedge arranged to make a shallow depression on the top of the tussock. Above the nest adjacent leaves of dead cattail had been pulled across to make a loose canopy. The nest was located in an area of dense loosestrife and some woody vegetation of alder (*Alnus* spp.) and Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*). Arrow Arum (*Peltandra virginica*), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), and Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*) were also conspicuous plants in the immediate vicinity of the nest.

S. Orman and B. Swift - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Wildlife Resources Center, Delmar, New York, 12054.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Willet assaults Least Sandpiper:** On 7 July 1987 at 11:45 A.M. the authors were counting and observing shorebirds in the South Marsh at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, New York. Berland was observing a Willet on its usual perch: an abandoned boat. This bird was one of a pair which had been seen defending three young on territory for more than a week. Farther along the path Morris was searching for a Least Sandpiper which had alighted, fed briefly, then disappeared among clumps of marsh grass. Berland saw the Willet leave its perch, calling. As Berland proceeded towards Morris he saw the Willet on the ground, its head bobbing rapidly. Upon further observation he noticed that the Willet was holding a sandpiper "peep" by the nape in its bill while pounding it against the ground. The "peep" tried to escape but was overtaken within a few feet by the Willet. The Willet grasped the "peep" again as Berland alerted Morris to the attack. The Willet pommelled the "peep" several more times. Both authors saw the Willet holding the "peep" like a rag doll. One wing hung limply and the "peep" appeared dead. The Willet then slammed the "peep" to the ground one last time before releasing it. After plucking some feathers from the "peep's" upperparts, the Willet returned to its perch, while the "peep" lay motionless. Through our spotting scopes, at a distance of less than fifty yards, we identified the "peep" as a Least Sandpiper. After a few minutes, the "peep", which had been dazed, struggled across the shore and disappeared into the marsh, its fate unknown. A juvenile Willet, still showing down on the head, was seen near the boat moments after the attack. In the next twenty minutes the adult Willet was seen chasing a Common Tern and a crow from its territory.

We would appreciate hearing from any observers who have witnessed other examples of extremely aggressive behavior by Willets.

*Arthur Berland, 84-42A Kew Gardens Road, Kew Gardens, N.Y., 11415 and  
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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Although this season provided a strong contrast in temperatures with last summer, there were many similarities in the reports of birds. Last summer was cold. This summer, all Regions reported hot spells, with highs over 90°F in either July or August. June and July were wetter than average in all but Region 7, though in many of the Regions much of this rainfall came in brief bursts. Except in Region 10 August averaged cooler and a bit drier than the rest of the season, with Regions 3 and 5 both recording days with record low temperatures. Regional commentary generally suggested that this was a good breeding season and a good summer to be out birding, yet as the fall migration progressed there were comments on the low numbers of juveniles reported for both shorebirds and warblers. Upstate, concern over very high water levels along the Great Lakes this spring was followed by a rapid drop which eventually produced the best habitat for shorebirds there in at least 10 years.

Reporting of the breeding season once again suffered from the lack of an Atlas driving force. Only Regions 1 and 3 provided substantial, quantitative reports. Summaries of Vivian Pitzrick's nest finding efforts, made more difficult this season by particularly lush foliage, and of Walter Klabunde's compilation of the results of the Region's breeding bird surveys are in the Region 1 report and a summary of waterfowl nesting success at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge appears in the Region 3 report. Apparently only in Region 1 do clubs regularly conduct mini breeding bird surveys, and no one seems sufficiently interested or motivated to gather, analyze, and summarize results of other efforts such as the USF&WS Breeding Bird Routes run each summer in New York.

Additional noteworthy reports of breeding birds include a report of the progress of the Osprey hacking program in Region 1, where birds have returned to the hack site but have not yet nested and from which a hacked bird has nested well to our south, and a new Bald Eagle nest in Region 3, with a puzzling three adults in attendance. Large numbers of Great Blue Herons are now nesting at Montezuma NWR. Interesting comments about nesting terns are in Region 10's report. A Barn-Owl nested in Region 1 but no Fish Crows were reported from Region 3. Good nesting success for Eastern Bluebird was indicated in 7 of the 8 Regions reporting, with some losses during a cold snap from 14-17 July in Region 1 emphasizing that breeding success depends both on *what* and also precisely *when* during the nesting cycle critical events occur.

Once again only three Loggerhead Shrike nests were located, in spite of an intensive search effort coordinated by Paul Novak. An interesting warbler collection in Allegany State Park in Region 1 again included a singing male Yellow-throated Warbler. Grassland sparrow declines were again flagged in Regions 2, 3 and 5. Possible nesting of Pine Siskin in Regions 1 and 2 perhaps was a result of increased niger seed feeding. Finally, crossbill reports are suggestive of successful nesting in Region 7 and of a possible crossbill winter to follow.

While this season contains a part of both the spring and fall migrations, there were few notable reports of tardy spring migrants. There were few really late spring migrants other than the typically late-migrating flycatchers, thrushes, and warblers. Late (*i.e.*, June) records of special note included only a Common Goldeneye and a White-crowned Sparrow in Region 2 and a Wilson's Phalarope in Region 1. There also was an especially large variety of "winter waterbirds" tarrying through the summer in Region 10. By contrast, fall migrants elicited much more commentary. Shorebird observations were up, with interesting reports from the continuing survey at Jamaica Bay NWR in Region 10 and from the upstate Regions with improved habitat this year. Particularly early fall migrants included Horned Grebe in Region 8, Pectoral Sandpiper in Region 10, Red Phalarope in Region 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Region 3, Philadelphia Vireo in Region 1, Fox Sparrow in Region 2, White-winged Crossbill in Region 2, and Evening Grosbeak in Region 2. The first impressions of the fall food crop were mixed, with Region 3 suggesting it would be "good" and Region 9 indicating that it was so poor that birds already were eating the multiflora rose hips. Reports of several highly successful pelagic trips from Region 10 through the season are hard to assign to migration period.

There were many more negatives than positive notes and comments on specific species. Particularly high counts are nearly all from Region 10 and are of birds which inhabit the seashore, including 1015 Semipalmated Plovers on 16 Aug, 360 American Oystercatchers on 30 Aug, 46 Willets on 17 Aug, 634 Semipalmated Sandpipers on 6 Jun, 6000 pairs (5000 banded) Common Terns, and 50 Royal Terns on 12 Aug. Notable high counts elsewhere include 34 Forster's Terns on 30 Aug in Region 1 and 500 Chimney Swifts in one school chimney from late July to early August in Region 3. Additional positives of note include Common Loon in 7 of 8 Regions. Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase inland with nesting now confirmed in Region 5. Good numbers of Great Egret were in Regions 1, 2, 9 and 10 and Wood Duck numbers were good all across the state. Possible slight increases were reported for N. Harrier and Red-shouldered Hawk numbers. Cuckoo



numbers were ok in Regions 1, 5, 8 and 9. Common Raven was found in Regions 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9. A few more Sedge Wren were reported than usual. Some encouraging comments on the grassland sparrows appear, and crossbills were widely reported.

The list of species with substantial negative commentary is not consistent from year to year. Of 17 species or groups suggested as worthy of special attention in these pages last year, just 11 were even mentioned in less than half of the Regional reports and only three appear in at least 6 of the 8 reports received before this writing. Species with significant negatives from many Regions or over a number of seasons, and which deserve better reporting in these pages, include Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Green-backed Heron, American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler (no reports), Ring-necked Pheasant, Spotted Sandpiper!, dowitchers, Black Tern (*e.g.* maximum in Region 1 was 60 this season *vs.* 3500 in 1951-52), Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will (except Region 10?), Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Region 5, Purple Martin, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart, grassland sparrows, Eastern Meadowlark, and many other blackbirds(!) in Region 1. There are **many** other species with negative notes from a single Regional report, but not enough data to really assess their status. Your comments are always welcome, either by me or by any of the Regional editors.

As usual, there are buried gems, which may differ in value to different readers, to be found among the Regional reports. Here are a few to whet your appetite. From Region 7 we have note of the bane of the Regional editors, the intriguing and potentially exciting but unverified, second- or third-hand reports, this season including a albino possible Spruce Grouse called various things by different observers and reinforcing one possible explanation of historical "ptarmigan" reports from New York. Region 8 reports a long-term decline in Chipping Sparrow numbers observed in banding data, not even hinted in other regional reports over the years. The interesting, long-term effects of a beaver impoundment are described in Region 9. Finally, we are reminded that Region 10 is a world apart from the rest of the state by such tidbits as a Willet bashing a poor Least Sandpiper, a Ruddy Turnstone defending feeding territory against a Starling, and note of stray, escaped parrots, which formerly were reported most frequently in good variety from Region 9.

Typical of most summer reports, the rarity list is neither as long nor as heady as those from the migration seasons. The best reports from across the state are: Region 1 - Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Peregrine Falcon, and Western Meadowlark; Region 2 - Snowy Egret, Little Blue

Heron, Willet, Red Phalarope, Laughing Gull, "Bullock's" Oriole, and White-winged Crossbill; Region 3 - Common Raven; Region 5 - Clay-colored Sparrow and Western Meadowlark; Region 7 - Stilt Sandpiper, and Little Gull; Region 8 - Fish Crow (breeding) and White-winged Crossbill; Region 9 - Black Skimmer, Connecticut Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow; and Region 10 - Audubon's Shearwater, South Polar Skua, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Sooty Tern, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. The BOTS Award selection was difficult this season. It fell to sorting out the best of the marine rarities from Region 10 and finally fell to the Brown Pelicans, with the potentially rarer species eliminated by the "no details received" notation which, at least temporarily, relegates them to the dust bin of exciting rumors, not really even records.

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Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters; months are shortened to their first three letters; ad - adult; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; CO - nesting confirmed; FL - fledgling; FY - adult feeding young; I - Island; im - immature; *intro* - see introduction to report; juv-juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P - Park; Pd - Pond; ph - photographed; Pt - Point; Rd - Road; Res - Reservoir; SP - State Park; subad - subadult; T-Town of; Twn - township; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

## REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

June continued the string of warmer than normal months which began in December 1986. It was the fifth warmest June since records began in Buffalo, with an average of 68.9°. Lake Erie's temperature rose to 71° on 30 June. Although Buffalo received 8.36 inches of rain, most of it came on 22 June. The southern tier counties had near normal rainfall. The combination of good bud production in 1986, warm temperatures and well distributed rain during the growing season produced such lush foliage that Vivian Pitzrick termed nest-finding a nightmare. July continued warmer than normal, with an average temperature of 74.2° at Buffalo and 64.6° at Jamestown. Lake Erie's temperature reached 79°, the warmest ever recorded, and instead of cooling Buffalo, Lake Erie kept her warmer than normal. However, Vivian Pitzrick noted that in Allegany Co., a cool stretch from 14 to 17 July killed several nestling bluebirds in late broods. A tornado on 30 July, Erie County's first in 26 years, caused damage in Cheektowaga (Greater Buffalo). Temperatures returned to normal (68.9°) in August at Buffalo. Jamestown averaged 59.3° and Wellsville averaged 0.8° above normal. Rainfall was about normal. Lake Erie cooled to 70° by the end of the month.

Several interesting breeding bird stories unfolded. Six additional young Osprey were hacked successfully along the Allegheny River on the Seneca Indian Reservation by Mary and John Forness under DEC direction and Seneca Indian Nation sanction. This concludes the hacking program but they will continue to monitor the birds. Thirty-six young were hacked from 1981 to 1987. One of those birds, a female hacked in 1983, paired with a male near his hack site at Percy Priest Lake, Rutherford Co., Tennessee, 560 miles southwest of the Allegheny Reservoir. They raised one young which was not successfully fledged. At least two hacked birds returned to the Allegheny Reservoir this breeding season but so far no successful nesting there has occurred.

A successful nesting by Barn-Owls in Allegany Co. was described by Vivian Pitzrick (*Allegany Co. Bird Club News* XXI No.7). Although Beardslee and Mitchell (1963) documented 20 nestings in the Region from 1929 to 1960, this was only the second recent nesting in Allegany Co. The first was in 1979. Most previous nestings are from lake plain localities. The birds nested in a silo on the Jim Thomas farm, Town of Centerville. Because the silo had to be cleaned for the new silage the young birds and the adult female (which had been trapped and banded) were removed to a barn 30 feet away. The birds accepted their new home and all five young owls were banded by Mary and John Forness on 18 July.

Reports of Whip-poor-will in June or July, after the migrants pass through, are rare in the Region these days. Saunders (*NYS Mus. Handbook* 16, 1936) estimated that ten pairs nested in that valley in 1930 and 1931. None were found nesting there in 1983 and 1984 when Tim Baird repeated the study, and the last records of birds seen or heard during the nesting season in the Region were in 1969 and in 1981. Thus, it was of great interest when Joe Gulas Sr. and Jr. located a singing bird on 22 May off Webster Road between Fredonia and Brocton on the Lake Erie Plain. On 11 June they heard four birds calling from separate areas

in Pomfret Township. Possibly a breeding area has been located. Maybe this species, like some others, will return as a nesting species.

Some interesting observations of warblers were made in Allegany State Park. A Northern Parula nest, the first nesting documented in many years, was located in a tall spruce along the maintenance road near the visitors center by Bob Sundell and Bill Seelen on 13 June, where they watched it feed two or three young. The Joe Gulas and Robert Peterson visited the site on 21 June after a heavy rain and found what was thought to be the nest on the ground. It will be placed in the Buffalo Museum of Science collection. On the same road in the Park at least five Yellow-rumped and two Pine Warblers were also nearby, giving the area an Adirondack-like character. A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, a southern species which nested at Science Lake in 1984 (*Kingbird* 34:221-223), returned to sing 5-25 June as in 1985 and 1986, but no female or nest was located.

Pine Siskins showed up at niger seed feeders in Erie (Wales 3 June), Chautauqua (Amity L. 6 June; Dunkirk 13-14 June), Cattaraugus (one Farmersville Station 17-18 June, two 11, 15 July) and Allegany (Rawson Rd. between Cuba and Rushford 29 June-23 July) Cos. in June and July. At three of these feeders, they brought juveniles to feed nearby and a juvenile in Busti Township, Chautauqua Co., on 10 June was brought to Jamestown veterinarian Bill Seelen, who noted it to be in Juvenal plumage with the gape just past the everted stage. It was rehabilitated and released. It appears that niger seeds may be having a similar effect on Pine Siskins that wildbird and sunflower seeds are having on other winter finches and sparrows, holding them near a food source and producing nestings of unusual character. However, like other cardueline finches this species is erratic in nesting, responding to abundant native food sources such as hemlock seed.

Vivian Pitzrick reported her bluebirds had an unusually successful season due, she thought, to the exceptionally good weather during early nesting the last half of April and the first half of May. On her bluebird trail at Amity Lake 58 of 125 boxes were used by bluebirds, of which 37 pairs fledged 177 young. Nesting success was 55%. In 1986, 49 nestings by 29 pairs fledged 121 young with a nesting success of 63%. She also sent nest-record cards on 527 nests of 49 species to Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology. All but six nests were found near Amity Lake. She found the nests of 5 Mourning Dove, 5 N. Flicker, 7 Least Flycatcher, 31 E. Phoebe, 7 E. Kingbird, 5 colonies Purple Martin, 72 Tree Swallow, 2 colonies of Cliff Swallow, 36 Barn Swallow, 8 Black-capped Chickadee, 33 House Wren, 37 Am. Robin, 39 Cedar Waxwing, 7 Yellow Warbler, 10 Chipping Sparrow, 11 Field Sparrow, 14 Song Sparrow, 6 Brown-headed Cowbird, 15 House Finch, and 32 Am. Goldfinch.

Walter Klabunde has summarized data on 16 of the 18 Breeding Bird Surveys usually taken in the Region, which Charlie Smith has urged us to continue as important baseline data to monitor certain roadside populations. This year 118 species and 16,193 individuals were reported on the sixteen 25 mile routes. Based on his ranking system of 20 years duration, the populations of 20 species were considered in the high category, 44 in the medium rank, and 24 low, very similar to last year's data. Those populations which were low were Mallard, Ring-necked Pheasant, Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, N. Flicker, E. Kingbird, Purple

Martin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Canada Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, E. Meadowlark, Com. Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, N. Oriole, Purple Finch and House Sparrow. One of the most interesting changes was for Vesper Sparrow, of which only 5 individuals were located in 1986 but 20 were reported on 8 of 16 routes in 1987.

Abbreviations: ASP - Allegany State Park; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; BWS - Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary; fr - feeder; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; TFNP - Tiffit Farm Nature Preserve; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: 29 Aug Porter Twn (BOS). Double-crested Cormorant: one Amity L 14 Jun, becoming more regular in spring; arr four DH 26 Aug; one Lewiston Res 27 Aug; one Porter Twn, 29 Aug. Am. Bittern: singles TFNP 7 Jun, INWR 19 Jul, still scarce as breeder and migrant. Least Bittern: singles TFNP 7 Jun, INWR 19 Jul. Great Egret: two TFNP 3 Jun; max 14 INWR 28 Jun, some still present 30 Aug. Snowy Egret: two INWR 20 Jun, first for year BOS. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON**: one TFNP 2 Jun (Johnson). Canada Goose: max 180 + Farmersville Station 29 Aug, still on increase as breeder. Com. Merganser: one Allegheny Res 20 Jun; one Canadaway Cr NS 14-31 Aug, perhaps birds near nesting habitat.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one TWMA 25 Jul (DE), still no documented recent nesting; arr two TWMA 29 Aug; *intro*. Bald Eagle: im INWR 21 Jun, 4 and 19 Jul, ad, im there 9 Aug, im 16, 27 Aug; two im BWS 12 Aug. N. Harrier: one Alfred twn 4, 20 Jun; one Charlotte Twn 7 Jun, two 29 Aug; one INWR 30 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: probable breeders Cold Spring Twn 5 Jun, Scio Twn 2 Jul, Eden Twn 2 Jul, Amity Twn 3, 20 Jul. Cooper's Hawk: one Keeny Swamp, Alle, 20 Jun; one Alfred Twn 30 Jun; two Amity Twn 29 Aug; two BWS 30 Aug. N. Goshawk: four y banded in two nests Alle by Earl Schriver (CK). Red-shouldered Hawk: doing fairly well in S.Tier Cos - one Alfred Twn 5 Jun, 26 Jul, two Ward Twn 13 Jun, four Almond and W. Almond Twns 24 Jun, one Arkwright Twn 4 Jul, one Amity Twn 23 Jul, one BWS 30 Aug, one Carrollton Twn through period. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one Buffalo 24 June (RA). Lesser Golden-Plover: arr Alabama Twn 27 Aug (BOS); one BWS 30 Aug. Willet: one TFNP 24 June, especially unusual in spring (WB); one Times Beach, Buffalo, 11 Aug (RA). Upland Sandpiper: one Chautauqua Twn 7 Jun; two Andover 20 Jun; max 11 Batavia Twn 31 Jul; five Chau Twn 5 Jul; two Villanova Twn 11 Jul. Western Sandpiper: arr INWR 30 Aug (Watson). Baird's Sandpiper: arr two Pomfret Twn 25 Aug (FR); one DH 29 Aug (T&JM). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 54 Batavia Twn 2 Aug, seven other reports in Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: arr INWR 25 Jul. Com Snipe: ad, 4 y Stockton Twn 10 Jun (TM, mob). Wilson's Phalarope: two INWR 28 Jun (D&DS!), unusual date. Parasitic Jaeger: one Buffalo 15 Aug (RA, MF). Little Gull: arr Buffalo 15 Aug. Caspian Tern: max five DH 27 Aug. Forster's Tern: arr Buffalo 15 Aug; max 34 DH 30 Aug (DG), unprecedented number. Black Tern: three INWR 28 Jun, 19 Jul; three Oak Orchard WMA 14 Jun; max 60 Buffalo 22 Aug (hardly compares with max 3,500 on 23 Aug 1951-52).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: seven reports Jun BOS; one Amity Twn 3-29 Jul. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: three Cold Spring Twn 5 Jun; one Arkwright Twn 4 Jul; reports of both cuckoos tapering off with decrease in Gypsy Moth. Com. Barn-Owl: *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: max 60 Niagara Falls 29 Aug. Whip-poor-will: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Charlotte Twn, Chau, 12 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Tonawanda Twn 23 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: two nestings documented - two ads, two y one egg Pomfret Twn, Chau, (RA, JG), pair & 2 y incapable of sustained flight ASP 5 Jul (TB), along same 1.6 km hemlock bordered stream with five singing males; reported in Jun and Jul from seven other localities BOS. N. Raven: one ASP 19 Jun (RA, JG); max three Ward Twn, Alle, 23 Jun (EB); two Andover Twn, Alle, 15 Jul (EB); one ASP 26 Aug (TB); becoming regular in Alle and Catt. Carolina Wren: one Hamburg 19 Jul; one Vandalia, Catt, through period. E. Bluebird: *intro*. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two Tonawanda Twn 7 Jun, late. Swainson's Thrush: one Tonawanda Twn 8 Jun, late on lake plain; one Red House 5 Jun, two ASP 19 Jun, and seven ASP 5 July probably nesting birds.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr TWMA and TFNP 23 Aug. N. Parula: *intro*. Yellow-throated Warbler: *intro*. Pine Warbler: *intro*. Prairie Warbler: five singing males Carroll Twn, Chau, 5 Jun (TM, mob), two singing males Andover Twn, Alle, 4-29 Jun (EB); one singing male Grove Twn, Alle, 24 Jun (CK, mob); one singing male Carrollton Twn, Catt, 7 Jun, not heard later (SE).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: four reports Niag and Alle 4-29 Jun (BOS); singles Andover, Alle, 15 Jul and Alfred Twn 15 Jul (BOS), only reports. Grasshopper Sparrow: ten reports BOS 4-24 Jun; one Villanova Twn, Chau, 1-10 Jul; one Oakfield Twn 4 Jul; two Pomfret Twn 5 and 26 Jul; two Andover Twn 15 Jul. Henslow's Sparrow: one Andover Twn, Alle, 19 Jun; max five Amity Twn 31 Jul, one 8 Aug; two Pomfret Twn 5 Jul; two Hanover Twn 11 Jul; two Batavia Twn 3 Aug; one Westfield Twn 11 Aug. White-throated Sparrow: reported from 4 localities Alle in Jun; one Holland Bog Jun. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one Villanova Twn, along Prospect Road 6-10 Jul (TMA, RS), heard and "closely observed;" seventh record for Chau. Orchard Oriole: two males and one female Red House Entrance ASP 13 Jun (RS, mob). House Finch: two y left nest Buffalo 2 Aug (AG). Pine Siskin: *intro*.

Ten Mile Road, Allegany, NY 14706

## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The summer 1987 was wet and warm, with varied observations and highlights. June had an average temperature of 67.9°, 1.2° above normal. Precipitation amounted to 3.94 inches, 1.6 inches above the norm. July continued warm with an average 1.4° above norm of 72.7°. The precipitation, at 5.85 inches, was a full 3.37 inches above the average monthly total. August temperatures were 2.2° below the normal average of 67.3°. Precipitation remained high with a total of 3.92 inches, 0.72 inches above normal. The warm temperatures were conducive to a good nesting season. The rainfall was consistent and not overly violent,

which allowed for good growth of food crops, good populations of food insects and good nesting conditions. Multi-brooded species such as American Robin and Mourning Dove had much success.

The nesting season had both successes and failures. With the breeding bird atlas field work no longer in operation, it seems like fewer hours of observation and study of nesting birds are being carried out. This can probably be viewed from two angles. First, there may have been less disturbance to nesting birds, which is desirable. On the other hand, this year's effort gives a somewhat uneven picture of the nesting season. Field work seemed to be concentrated on uncommon or locally rare nesters. While this provided some valuable data, it may not represent the total Region.

The highlights were quite interesting. Some of the many Short-eared Owls that frequented the Region this winter apparently stayed on to nest. There was an attempted nesting along Bennett Road in Parma that met with failure when the farmer plowed the field being used by these owls. A second nesting attempt occurred along Sawyer Road in Kendall. This appeared to be more successful, with the presence of suspected juveniles later in the season. There was even speculation that there may have been a second pair in the general vicinity of the Kendall pair. Also of interest were the increased number of Prairie Warblers. This species is uncommon at best, yet there were 2-4 singing males on the east side of Letchworth State Park until 4 July. A singing male also was observed early in the season at Mendon Ponds Park on 10 June. This is more reports than usual. Letchworth was also the site for an apparent nesting of Sedge Wren, where up to four were found between 20 June and 4 July. This once more common species has been difficult to locate in recent years.

Lake Ontario levels were well below the long term average. This not only provided some good and much desired shorebird habitat, but also gave the marsh nesting species a break. Sora and Virginia Rail seemed to enjoy a banner season, with observation being easy and quite consistent through the season. One wonders whether this is a product of their secretive behavior being abandoned somewhat or if it was a sign of a good nesting season. This trend was true also for Least Bittern. Buck Pond held its traditionally good population and reports of good numbers came from other locations. The number of reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron was also up. Immature birds as well as adults were seen regularly along the lakeshore ponds and marshes. Five nests of Green-backed Heron were active around Crusoe Lake in Wayne County. This species, while seen regularly, keeps its nests well hidden, so this is an interesting concentration. Mallard and Wood Duck also appeared to be doing well. There were many broods of both species visible during the season.

There were some positive aspects for upland birds as well. Three or four new Cliff Swallow nesting locations were reported. Numbers of both Carolina Wren and N. Mockingbird appeared to be greater than usual. The bluebird trails that have been established in recent years seemed to have a very positive effect on that species. Reports from trail managers indicated a very healthy and successful nesting season. Grassland areas in the Region this year seemed to hold an increased number of Grasshopper Sparrows. Suitable habitat was located throughout the Region and hence so were the sparrows.

Among the negative trends evident this season were the minimal number of Blue-winged Teal seen, and few broods were observed or reported. There were few Whip-poor-will reports. This species has been scarce in recent years and this season was no exception. There was some concern voiced over the Purple Martin population. Reports along the lakeshore indicated a poor season. Nesting groups seemed to be down and consequently the number of offspring was down. This is a species we'll need to monitor in upcoming nesting seasons. What seemed like a promising sign eventually turned into an disappointment. A Loggerhead Shrike frequented a known historical nesting sight during late May, but the bird disappeared shortly after and was not reported again. This species has all but disappeared as a nester in the Region. The Golden-winged Warbler seemed to be down again. This may correlate with the increased number of Blue-winged Warblers now here.

The nesting season also raised some questions. An unsubstantiated report of Mute Swan nesting came from Irondequoit Bay during August. Is this species moving into our Region as a nester? What was the status of Northern Harrier, a threatened species in New York? This summer some individuals exhibiting nesting behavior were noted. How are some of the grassland sparrows doing? Henslow's Sparrows were scattered yet stable in some locations. How did the Vesper Sparrows do? Quite a few individuals were found in various locations throughout the Region, yet their status remains uncertain in the minds of some observers. Reports came in of nesting Pine Siskins. This occurs sporadically in years when the numbers during migration are high. This was just such a year, but how widespread was nesting this season? The only reports were two possibly nesting at Manitou Beach 1-3 June and one there on 21 July.

The summer season also overlaps with the migration period of some species. Some late spring migrants were found during early June. Shorebirds started arriving in July, and the warbler migration was evident by August. The low lake levels left some exposed mudflats in Irondequoit Bay. This provided the Region with something that had been sorely lacking in recent years - shorebird habitat. Both the north and south ends of the bay were productive. A check of the shorebird accounts will attest to this. Early phalaropes were just one of the highlights. The banding operation at Manitou Beach, now in its third full season, has begun to produce some early arrivals. Philadelphia Vireos were the case in point this year. An early Swainson's Thrush also was among the bandees. The puzzling August Hawk flights were prominent again this summer. They occur under the same conditions as do good spring flights and follow a very similar pattern. Of course, the volume is no where near as great but good numbers are counted. The birds are primarily Red-tailed Hawks, but there is a smattering of accipiters as well as an occasional Broad-winged Hawk or American Kestrel. What is the significance of these late summer flights? The question remains unanswered.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; CL - Crusoe Lake; HB - Hamlin Beach; IBN - Irondequoit Bay north; IBS - Irondequoit Bay south; LSP - Letchworth State Park; MB - Manitou Beach.

LOONS - DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: last Canadice Lake 13 Jun. Com. Loon: arr three HB 23 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: good numbers along the lakeshore. Great Egret: two IBS 1-31 Aug, better than in recent years. Snowy Egret: one Perinton 10 Jun (BK,DT), not very many reports in recent years. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: one Mt. Morris 7 July (RC). Mute Swan: *intro*. N. Pintail: max 13 HB 23 Aug. Oldsquaw: one BB 1 Aug, very unusual in summer. White-winged Scoter: arr "several" HB 21 Aug. Com. Goldeneye: one Hemlock 13 Jun, unusual. Bufflehead: ad Kendall 5 Jun, unusual. Red-breasted Merganser: arr nine HB 8 Aug. Ruddy Duck: one Kendall 17 Jun, late.

HAWKS - ALCIDS: Osprey: one BB 11 Jun, five reports in July from separate locations, a good sign? Bald Eagle: multiple sightings each month, primarily im. N. Goshawk: im MB 16 and 21 Aug. Peregrine Falcon: ad Greece 1 Aug, only report this season. Black-bellied Plover: arr HB 1 July, quite early. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr three Savannah Flats 28 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr three IN 2 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr three IBN 12 July. Willet: one IBN 2 Aug (BK), few reports in recent years. Whimbrel: two IBN 23 Jul (BK) early arrival, one there 8 Aug (BK), one Greece 22 Aug (KG), uncommon. Red Knot: arr two Charlotte 24 Aug. Western Sandpiper: arr BB 12 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr four BB 13 Jul. Baird's Sandpiper: arr IBN 18 Jul. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr BB 20 Jul. Dunlin: arr three HB 18 Aug. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr IBS 30-31 Aug, unusual location. Red-necked Phalarope: arr one-three IBS 28-31 Aug. **RED PHALAROPE**: one IBS 28-29 Aug (CC, MR, mob), very early and unusual at that location. **LAUGHING GULL**: im IBN 18-31 Aug (RS, mob). Bonaparte's Gull: arr four Charlotte 18 Jul. Glaucous Gull: 2nd year bird MB 5 Jun, late. Caspian Tern: 24 IBN 18 Aug, good total. Com. Tern: max 23 IBN 3 Aug. Forster's Tern: arr two BB 18 Jul. Black Tern: last ten Salmon Creek 30 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: one Webster off and on Jul, scarce this season.

FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last MB 3 Jun; arr MB 28 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: one Bergen 20 Jun; one Mumford 21 Jun, new location; one LSP 17 Jul. Purple Martin: max 200 Ontario 4 Jul. Carolina Wren: one - three MB all season, new location. Winter Wren: one Webster 1-30 Jun (MAS), quite unusual there at this season. Sedge Wren: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush: arr MB 8 Aug.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: five banded MB 5 Aug, very early and a very good total. "Lawrence's Warbler": one Powder Mill Park 7, 9 Jun, unusual. N. Parula: arr IBS 29 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr MB 28 Aug. Prairie Warbler: *intro*. Bay-breasted Warbler: singing male Irondequoit 21-24 Jul, very unusual. Wilson's Warbler: arr MB 26 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: four LSP 14 Jul, good total.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS: Fox Sparrow: one Springwater late Aug (HH), unusually early, exact date still undetermined, near record early. Lincoln's Sparrow: last MB 1 Jun. White-throated Sparrow: one Kendall 13 Jun, very late, nesting on lake plains? White-crowned Sparrow: one Island Cottage Woods 16 Jun, quite late. **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE**: one MB 21 Aug (MD, CC). White-winged Crossbill: three MB 28 Aug (BB,WS), very early. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: one MB 12 Aug, very early.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

Temperatures for the summer were above normal, with average amounts of sunshine. Thanks to the seasons adequate rainfall and above normal temperatures, fruit and vegetable crops were rated as excellent. Hay, oat, and wheat harvests were all ahead of normal this year. The sweet corn crop this season was so large that processing plants have not been able to handle it all.

Thunderstorms associated with passing cold fronts were common in the Region from 1-9 June. Except for a severe thunderstorm on 13 June, the weather was sunny and warm through 20 June. A weak cold front, stalled from 20-23 June, brought up to 3 inches of rain to the Region. The remainder of the month was sunny, hot and humid, with temperatures in the 80s and 90s. A stalled cold front brought another 3 inches of rain between 30 June and 4 July. Julys weather was dominated by two distinct periods of sunny, hot, and humid weather, making this the warmest July since 1964. Julys first heat wave began on the 6th and continued through the 13th. After a few days of cooler, rainy weather brought by a passing cold front, a second heat wave persisted from 18-25 July with record high temperatures in the 90s. Following a cold front and associated thunderstorms on 25-26 July, temperatures were closer to normal for the remainder of July. After five consecutive months of warmer than normal temperatures, August 1987 brought cooler than normal temperatures to the Region. This was the first time since 1976 that August was cooler than June. The first days of August were seasonable, with hot, humid weather and occasional rains until 9 August, when a strong cold front brought heavy rains. Following this front, temperatures were chilly and low temperature records (in the 40s) were set. Temperatures then rose steadily, and became seasonable by 17 August, when a cold front brought heavy rains, up to one inch, and damaging winds were reported in Seneca & Cayuga Counties. A third cold front on 22 August was followed by unseasonably cool temperatures in the 60s for the remainder of August.

At Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, it was an interesting and productive season for birds and birders alike. At Tschache Pool, over 200 Great Blue Herons hatched. After three consecutive years of nest blowdowns and other problems, two Osprey chicks were hatched and fledged. A breeding population of about 87 Wood Duck produced an estimated 529 young. Approximately 222 Canada Geese were produced, and by 25 August a total of 1200 Canada Geese were counted on the Refuge. An average of 30-60 Black Duck used the Refuge this Season, with a peak of 180 on 16 June. Other waterfowl maxima at Montezuma for the season were: 20 Gadwall, 40 Green-winged Teal, 110 Blue-winged Teal, and 20 American Wigeon. There were three Hooded Merganser on 2 June and eight Common Merganser on 25 August.

Bald Eagles were known to be on territory at the Refuge but, despite many hours of observation from March through June, no nesting attempt could be confirmed. The surprise came on 8 July when a local farmer reported seeing a nest. Inspection of the site on 9 July disclosed not only the nest but the presence

of two nearly grown eaglets. Due to the advanced age of the eaglets (approximately 11 weeks), no attempt was made to climb to the nest and band them for fear they might prematurely jump or fall. During the early morning of 10 July, one of the eaglets fledged. The second eaglet was presumed to have fledged the next day. The exact parents of the eaglets could not be determined. This is because three adult eagles — a marked male eagle released in 1978 at Montezuma, a second bird presumed to be a male (wearing a leg band but otherwise unmarked), and a marked female bird released in 1982 at Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area — have frequented the same areas of the refuge since summer 1986.

Late in August, Mays Point Pool was drained, and by 29 August sixteen species of shorebirds were reported feeding and resting on the mudflats. Maximum numbers of 10 Killdeer, 12 Pectoral Sandpiper, 30 Least Sandpiper, and 50 Semipalmated Sandpiper were reported. There were 5 individuals or fewer of Semipalmated Plover, Common Snipe, Lesser Yellowlegs, White-rumped and Bairds Sandpipers, and Sanderling. Single birds reported were Lesser Golden-Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Western Sandpiper, and Wilsons and Red Phalarope. One immature Peregrine Falcon was observed swooping at the shorebird flocks.

Birders were active during the seasons hot and sunny weather, and a wide variety of species were reported. Large woodland species such as Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawks, Pileated Woodpecker, Ruffed Grouse, and Wild Turkey were widely reported, with many reports of successful breeding. Birds often associated with agriculture, such as Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, and American Crow were widely reported and increasing in numbers. Song and Chipping Sparrows were common all season. However, reports of grassland sparrow species, except for Savannah Sparrow, continue to be scarce.

There were many single reports of warbler species, and virtually all resident warbler species were reported, including the conifer specialists such as Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian Warbler from various State Forest areas. There were no reports of Worm-eating, Prothonotary, or Hooded Warbler. By mid August, transient species were reported, including Tennessee, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warbler.

Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Rufous-sided Towhee were widely reported and common all season. Also common all season were Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Finch. The following woodpeckers were reported throughout the Region: Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Northern Flicker.

There were few reports of Eastern Kingbird and Alder, Least, and Willow Flycatchers. Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Barn Swallow and Cedar Waxwing were widely reported all season. Purple Martin were reported near the shores of Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Tree Swallows nested frequently in bluebird nest boxes. Except for a new Cliff Swallow colony in Big Flats, both Bank and Cliff Swallow colonies appeared nonexistent. Since both these colonial species are highly localized during the nesting season, a concentrated observer effort during summer could lead to greater reports of colonies and a better idea of the true distribution of these species from one breeding season to another (CRS).

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**Abbreviations:** AF - Cornell University's Arnot Forest Teaching & Research Facility; CGP - Corning Glassworks Ponds; FB - Frenchman's Bluff Nature Conservancy Preserve; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; HHSF - Hammond Hill State Forest; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; WGSP - Watkins Glen State Park.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Com. Loon: two Seneca Lake during Jul & Aug; also 2 Keuka Lake 28 Aug. Pied-billed Grebe: no reports. Great Egret: one MNWR 24 Jul. Black-crowned Night-Heron: im Watkins Glen 9 Aug. Turkey Vulture: seen regularly all season along Seneca Lake shores, landing on cliff walls, nesting suspected but not confirmed.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Osprey: *intro*; also singles Old 600 Ithaca 27 Jul, Watkins Glen 24 Aug. Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier: present FLNF 10 Jun & 25 Aug, one Varick 31 Aug, im Mt. Pleasant during Aug. N. Goshawk: nest with y early Jun, Schu. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Shindagin Hollow 23 Aug, im HHSF 25 Aug. Ring-necked Pheasant: max ten Trumansburg 7 Jun, also reported nesting near Phelps. Virginia Rail: two ad with three chicks CGP 15 Aug, only report. Sora: two ad with three chicks CGP 15 Aug, only report. Spotted Sandpiper: locally common at Seneca Lake shores, Canandaigua Outlet, Elmira area. Solitary Sandpiper: arr two Six Mile Creek Ithaca 9 Aug. Bonapartes Gull: im Seneca Lake shores throughout Aug. Great Black-backed Gull: two Stewart Park 22 Aug, one Seneca Lake 31 Aug. Caspian, Common, and Forsters Terns: no reports. Black Tern: one Elmira 3 Jul, only report.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Spencer all season, observed feeding y 16 Aug; one AF 4 Jun. Barred Owl: present AF 1 & 5 Jun, two fledged young SWS July. E. Screech-Owl: one L St. Ithaca early Jun & again late Aug. Com. Nighthawk: three Ithaca 8 Jun, 30+ Elmira 21 Aug. Whip-poor-will: present and nesting FB but few details, one Ithaca 27 Jul. Chimney Swift: present all season, ca. 500 Ithaca 21 Jul through 24 Aug using a public school chimney.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Fish Crow: no reports. Com. Raven: one Yates Co 14 Aug. Carolina Wren: not reported outside Ithaca. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Italy Hill 21 June, one AF 11 Aug, both presumed to be transients. E. Bluebird: several nesting attempts reported in Ithaca & Phelps. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: four Salmon Creek 21 Aug. Golden-winged Warbler: one Spencer 12 Jun, only report. Tennessee Warbler: three FLNF 21 Aug. Prairie Warbler: only report, five King Rd, Ithaca, 16 Jun. Cerulean Warbler: present Salmon Creek June, FY S Creek 20 June. N. Waterthrush: three Ringwood Preserve 13 July, only report. Louisiana Waterthrush: four reports AF 1-5 Jun, also Taughannock Park 13 & 31 Jul. Yellow-breasted Chat: one pair FB, few details, no other reports.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Vesper Sparrow: only two reports, max 12 Orleans 6 Jun. Grasshopper Sparrow: max 4 AF 1-5 Jun. Henslows Sparrow: max 3 AF 1-5 Jun, no other reports. Bobolink: widely reported all season, max 6 singing males AF 1 Jun. E. Meadowlark: several reports of singles, max 2 AF 1 Jun. Purple Finch: max 4 AF 1-6 Jun, no other reports. Red Crossbill: one WGSP 11 Jun.

84-A Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

*[The Region 4 report had not arrived in time for this issue—The Editor.]*  
(Spring Report on Page 244)

## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Many people often made the comment that we finally had an old-fashioned summer. Obviously, they meant that conditions were hot, hazy and humid. None the less birders forged ahead under trying circumstances and recorded 195 species for the period.

The average temperature for June and July was two degrees above normal, while August had an average slightly below the norm. Twelve days had maximum temperatures in the 90's with a 97° high on 17 August surpassing the 91° set in 1965. Record low temperatures of 49° and 48° were set in early morning hours of 29 July and 12 August. Precipitation for June was 1.41 inches above normal, but July and August proved to be much drier with a combined total of 4.28 inches, far below the normal 7.53 inches. In fact, a seventeen day period from 10-26 August witnessed only .35 inch of moisture.

Positives for the season include increasing numbers of Double-crested Cormorants on Lake Ontario, Oneida and Onondaga Lakes. These birds are now breeding on Wantry Island in Oneida Lake, where 4 nests were found last summer and at least 18 nests were found this summer, for the first nestings ever in the Region. The fall shorebird flight has been fair, but lower in variety and very poor in juveniles. Expanding numbers of Caspian Terns and a mini-flight of Forster's Terns at Sandy Pond are very promising for the Lake Ontario littoral and inland. Populations of Mourning Doves and, surprisingly, Rock Doves are on the rise, attracted to the abundance of foods in plowed bean fields. Black-capped Chickadees seemed to be everywhere, possibly because of an early irruption or a population expansion. Two species of mimids, namely Catbird and N. Mockingbird, are indicating substantial increases in their numbers. House Wren, Robins and Cedar Waxwings continued their rise in population along with many of the icterids except E. Meadowlark. The ever-expanding House Finch is being observed more frequently at higher elevations and Am. Goldfinch numbers remain on the increase.

Negatives for the season include the extreme scarcity of Pied-billed Grebe. American and Least Bittern numbers remained low and no white herons were found anywhere. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal continued their decline in local waterways. The onset of an early haying season may be contributing to the decline of Upland Sandpiper. Common Nighthawks were almost nonexistent; very, very few birds could be heard calling over our cities this summer. Almost no Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported, with one observer commenting on how he had not seen one during the breeding season in Oswego Co. The population of territorial adult warblers seemed near normal, but as the nesting season came to a close, numbers of young birds were very low. Grassland sparrows remained on the decline with the abundant Savannah Sparrow becoming scarce in appropriate habitat.

Highlights for the season include the first summer appearance of an Oldsquaw in the Region. Observers were delighted in seeing the first successful nesting of an Osprey in the Three Rivers Game Management Area, Onondaga Co.; hopefully many more nesting sites will be established in the future. Eleven Short-billed Dowitchers observed feeding along the banks of the Mad River in Camden on 6 June by Marge Rusk were late spring migrants. The Whimbrels at Sandy Pond Inlet 16 July and at Poppleton Road 24-25 August were the first summer records in three years. Little Gull and Forster's Tern appeared at Sandy Pond, with a report of the latter from the east end of Oneida Lake on 23 August the first ever there. A Clay-colored Sparrow, singing to the delight of many observers, made its second summer appearance for the Region in five years. Finally, a Western Meadowlark, the Region's first record since 1983, and a male Orchard Oriole round out the summer's outstanding notables.

Contributors: Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Jane Kidney, Jeanne Lally, Gary Lee, Sheila Pebbles McCombie, Belle Pebbles, Robert L. Post, Bill Purcell, John Rogers, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Magdalena Stooks, Elba Van Dresar.

Abbreviations: CV - Camillus Valley; CM - Clay Marsh; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; HIGMA - Howland's Island Game Management Area; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; NPT - northern Pompey Township; SPd - Sandy Pond; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park; SVB - Sylvan & Verona beaches; TRGMA - Three Rivers Game Management Area, Onondaga Co.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Stillwater Res 28 Jun, one South L, Onei, 5 Jul. Pied-billed Grebe: four SPd 30 Aug. **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**: *intro*; record max 593 SPd 20 Aug, 34 near Erieville high so far inland. Am. Bittern: two SSP 18 Jun, one at Caughdenoy 16 Jul. Least Bittern: four birds for the season. Green-backed Heron: max 11 CM & Biddlecum 31 Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one FH 2 June, only report. Canada Goose: max 175 Caughdenoy & CM 23 Aug. Wood Duck: max 45 Poolsbrook 5 Jul. Am. Black Duck: max 12 Otisco L 3 Jun, SVB, OnonL 19 Jul. N. Pintail: three SPd 20 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: max 55 Delta L 22 Aug. Gadwall: three CM 18 Aug, only report. **OLDSQUAW**: one in summer plumage on L. Ontario off Pleasant Pt 29-30 Aug (JK), first Regional summer record. Hooded Merganser: four-five/day. Com. Merganser: max 12 Nine Mile Creek near Holland.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: im SPd 23 Aug. N. Harrier: 12 birds reported for the period. Red-shouldered Hawk: four reports of one or two birds each. Ruffed Grouse: max nine/day Oswe. Wild Turkey: max 16 Holland Patent 27 Aug. Virginia

Rail: five Poolsbrook 14 Aug. Sora: very scarce, two at Poolsbrook 14 Aug. Com. Moorhen: five SPd 30 Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr OnonL 5 Aug. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr SPd 29 Aug, max 24 Poppleton Rd 29 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr OnonL 11 Jul, max 25 Delta L & SVB 22 Aug. Killdeer: max 195. Greater Yellowlegs: arr SPd 16 Jul, max 17 Delta L 22 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr. OnonL 11 Jul, max 87 Delta L & SVB 22 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Poolsbrook 30 Jul, max four Delta L 22 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: max 16 near SVB 16 Jul. Whimbrel: *intro*. Ruddy Turnstone: arr SPd 23 Jul. Red Knot: arr OnonL 9 Aug. Sanderling: arr SPd 16 Jul, max 22 OnonL & SPd 29 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr SPd 16 Jul, max 117 Delta L, SVB and OnonL 22 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr OnonL 11 Jul, max 50 Delta L, SVB and OnonL 22 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr SPd 29 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: arr OnonL 29 Aug, max three SPd 30 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr SPd 23 Jul, max 43 Delta L, SVB and OnonL 22 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: arr 19 Jul SVB, singles only. Short-billed Dowitcher: *intro*. max 14 Delta L SVB and OnonL 22 Aug. Com. Snipe: max 14 CM 29 Aug. Red-necked Phalarope: one SPd 23 Aug. Little Gull: max three SPd 29, 30 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SVB 12 Jul, max 145 SVB 9 Aug. Great Black-backed Gull: max 27 SVB 1 Aug. Caspian Tern: arr SPd 16 Jul, max 70 SPd & OnonL 23 Aug. Com. Tern: max 235 SVB 23 Aug. Forster's Tern: one SPd 9 Aug, two-five there 20-29 Aug; *intro*. Black Tern: max eight SSSP 18 Jun.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 354 per day. Black-billed Cuckoo: max three per day, with 15 reported for the season. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: two reports, singles near W. Monroe and near Oneida. Barred Owl: one N. Willmurt and one Penn Mt. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*; 63 migrating at SVB 30 Aug. Red-headed Woodpecker: reported in scattered locations. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one to four per day. Black-backed Woodpecker: one near N. Willmurt 25 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 6, arr near SVB marshes 30 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Wood's L. Bog, n. Herk, 27 Jun; arr SPd 23 Aug. Alder Flycatcher: max 18 near Rome & Alder Creek 13 Jun. Willow Flycatcher: max 25 TRGMA & near Circero 14 Jun. E. Kingbird: max 46 SVB & n shore of Oneida L. Horned Lark: max 17 Paris Hill uplands 30 Aug. Purple Martin: max 24 SVB 12 Jul, very low. Tree Swallow: max 245 SPd & SSSP 16 July. N. Rough-winged Swallow: max eight near Alder Creek 13 Jun. Bank Swallow: max 300 SPd & SSSP 16 July. Cliff Swallow: max 95 n Oswe 19 Jul. Barn Swallow: max 400 Oswe 29 Aug. Com. Raven: four present Old Forge dump all season. Black-capped Chickadee: max 72, unusual for mid Jul. Sedge Wren: one to three near Clay 26 Jun-7 Jul. Marsh Wren: max 11 CM 26 Jun. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 30 Aug. E. Bluebird: ten pairs near Old Forge. Veery: max 38 per day. Hermit Thrush: max 29 n Herk 27 Jun. Wood Thrush: max 39 per day. Gray Catbird: max 47 per day. N. Mockingbird: a pair continue to appear on a regular basis at Old Forge. Brown Thrasher: max 12 per day. Cedar Waxwing: max 103 per day.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: Solitary Vireo: max 18 n Herk 27 Jun. Warbling Vireo: max 18 per day. Philadelphia Vireo: arr Redfield 30 Aug. Blue-winged Warbler: one to three per day. Golden-winged Warbler: max three per day, less frequently reported than the previous species. Tennessee Warbler: one FY Echo L, Onei, 5 Jul (FGS), most probable Regional nesting record to date; arr 9 Aug. N. Parula: one singing at Toad Harbour 7 Jul (BP), most unexpected. Yellow Warbler: max 81 CV & Cicero Center 14 Jun. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 44 McKeever & n Herk 27 Jun. Cape May Warbler: arr SPd 29 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 13 n Herk 27 Jun. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 27 per day. Black-throated Green Warbler: max six Penn Mt & Echo L 15 Jul, very low. Pine Warbler: max three SSSP 27 Jun. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Echo Lake, Onei, 5 Jul (FGS). Am. Redstart: max 31 per day. Ovenbird: max 39 HIGMA, SSSP & near Pulaski 18 Jun. N. Waterthrush: arr SPd 30 Aug. Louisiana Waterthrush: two CV 14 Jun, only report. Mourning Warbler: max 15 per day. Com. Yellowthroat: max 82. Hooded Warbler: one near N Victory 3 Jun, first record for this BBS. Wilson's Warbler: arr SPd 20 Aug. Canada Warbler: max 18 n Herk 28 Jun. Yellow-breasted Chat: one CV 13 Jun, only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Chipping Sparrow: max 61 n Herk 28 Jun. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: singing male NPT 5-7 July (mob). Savannah Sparrow: max 16 per day, very low. Grasshopper Sparrow: one near N Willmurt 25 Jun, only report. Henslow's Sparrow: very scarce, only three sites reported, max three. Lincoln's Sparrow: max 15 Wood's L Bog, n Herk 28 June. Bobolink: max 60, last 31 Aug. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one near Amboy Center, Oswego, 29 Jun- 16 Jul (JR, mob). Orchard Oriole: male near nest CV 14-15 Jun. House Finch: max 102 per day. Red Crossbill: one near N Willmurt 25 Jun, two near Penn Mt & Echo L 5 Jul. Pine Siskin: one at a feeder Hastings 17 Jun. Am. Goldfinch: max 88 per day.

CORRIGENDA: Vol. 37: No. 3; p. 153; "two adult **Sandhill Cranes** flew by Derby Hill on 16 Apr." should read: one adult **Sandhill Crane** flew by Derby Hill on 15 April with two additional birds on 16 April, appearing there for the third consecutive year.

1065 Westmoreland Avenue, Syracuse, New York 13210

## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

June weather continued the trend of warm temperatures from the spring. Temperatures in the Region averaged a degree or two above normal, with the lowest readings in the upper 30's occurring on 6 June. With the exception of northern St. Lawrence Co., precipitation was about an inch above normal. July was hot and humid with mean temperatures about two degrees above normal. Because of localized showers, rainfall varied from below normal in Watertown to well above normal in Canton, where 4 inches fell on July 12. Although statewide this was the hottest and wettest August of the century, both temperatures and rainfall were generally below normal in the North Country, with fields looking parched by the end of the month. Lee Chamberlaine reports that birds were restricted by the hot dry weather but that the fruit crop is excellent. Departure dates and comments indicate that the fall migration started two weeks early.

K. Griffith reports relative numbers of waterfowl from Upper and Lower Lakes and Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Areas, respectively: Canada Goose: 150, hundreds continued increases!; Wood Duck: 40, 25; Mallard: 125, many; Blue-winged Teal: 25, 0; Gadwall: 0, 6; Am. Widgeon: 2, 12; Redhead: 0, 10; and Ring-necked Duck: 8, 0.

Lower water levels in the Great Lakes produced better conditions for shorebirds than have existed for several years but, according to Gerry Smith, the flight was only slightly above average. His detailed observations at Eldorado Preserve will be deferred to the Fall Report. However, a Parasitic Jaeger there on 23 August deserves mention. Other rarities for the season were a Merlin and a nesting Short-eared Owl.



Fewer species were observed on both the Parishville and Waddington BBS; numbers of Common Snipe and Killdeer were up, and Common Crow, European Starling and House Sparrow also were up on the latter. In Parishville in late June, KG turned up a good warbler list, including six Nashvilles, eight Yellows, three Chestnut-sideds, two Magnolias, 12 Yellow-rumped, six Black-throated Greens, four Blackburnians, two Pines, six Black-and-whites, eight Am. Redstart, six Ovenbird, six Common Yellowthroat, and three Canadas a nice list, but no Waterthrush!

With regard to species expanding their ranges, only one observer bothered to mention Northern Cardinal or Turkey Vulture. House Finch is abundant in Jefferson Co, but its increase seems to have slowed in St. Lawrence Co. Red-bellied Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse show no change and are probably limited by winter conditions.

No Endangered species were reported. Four of the six Threatened species in the state were reported, with numbers of Northern Harrier strong. Among Special Concern species, Common Loon and Upland Sandpiper and Eastern Bluebird were stable; Short-eared Owl may be increasing; Black Tern seems weak; Com. Nighthawk was down, and there were no reports of grassland sparrows other than Savannah.

The Regional Editor is pleased to include reports from both transient and summer resident birders as the numbers of resident observers has been depleted severely in the past year. A total of 132 species including 17 waders and waterfowl, 14 shore and marsh birds, 11 raptors, 15 other non-passerines and 75 passerines was reported.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Carol Budd, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Stephanie DeGhett, William Gordon, John Green, Kevin Griffith, Tony Leukering, Gerry Smith, Mike Torbe, John Walsh and Brian Watson.

Abbreviations: EDB - El Dorado Beach Preserve; LV - Lakeview WMA; PR - Perch River WMA; ULL - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WH - Wilson Hill WMA; SLR - St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two ULL and two ad plus two im WH on 3 Jul (KG); apparent nesting at WH and ULL suggests that loons are shifting to more productive lowland areas. Pied-billed Grebe: 15 ULL 3 Jul is encouraging in light of the new management regime of lower water levels. Double-crested Cormorant: 400 at barrier beach of LV 20 Jul; one Cranberry Lake 26 & 29 May (WG) indicates dispersal from breeding areas in St. Lawrence Valley. Am. Bittern: singles from ULL and WH seem low. Great Blue Heron: very few nests remain in formerly large colony at ULL. Mute Swan: 13 PR all summer is astonishing!

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: pair carrying fish between Morley and Woodbridge Corners, Canton (BW). N. Harrier: many ims in Jeff. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Parishville 29 Jun. Red-tailed Hawk: nest on Rte 81, Watertown appears intact, but nesting tree used for several seasons on US 11 in LeRay was cut. **MERLIN**: female Town of Fine 1 Aug (TL, MT, JW). Ruffed Grouse: a good brood year. Upland Sandpiper: numbers up, but much habitat near Watertown for sale due to Fort Drum expansion -- a frightening spectacle. Am. Woodcock: may have suffered from Aug drought. Parasitic Jaeger: *intro*. Ring-billed Gull: on increase throughout region. Com. Tern: seven WH 3 Jul. Black Tern: only three ULL 3 Jul; "still holding on but down at LV, about same at PR, also in Black River Bay -- nesting?" (LBC).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: contrast "not in expected numbers with the number of tent caterpillars" (LBC) with one Clifton and one Colton 1 Aug, "I didn't see any cuckoos in my 2 months of working on Atlas in 85" -- are you having a tent caterpillar outbreak? (TL); M. Badger observed one of each species of Cuckoo in Louisville in June. Barred Owl: one Parishville 29 Jun, interesting in this foothill location. Short-eared Owl: nesting pair fledged one y on Grenadier I., SLR (GAS); also one Chaumont late Jun suggests breeding in this traditional wintering ground. Com. Night-hawk: none breeding on rooftops of Clarkson University, Potsdam, for second year; crows on roofs in good numbers probably destroy eggs and young (SC); only one or two in Watertown; three Massena 29 Aug; last Potsdam 23 Aug. Chimney Swift: down 50% in Jeff. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: abundant throughout. Red-bellied Woodpecker: just one Watertown all summer.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Wood-Pewee: six Parishville 29 Jun is a good count. Willow Flycatcher: two WH 3 Jul (KG) is a significant sighting. E. Phoebe: numbers back up. E. Kingbird: down from last year (LBS); last Louisville 29 Aug. Horned Lark: pair rte 56 near Massena 18 Jun and 20 Aug, an uncommon breeder in StLa Co. Purple Martin: 30 Louisville 12 Jun; down in Henderson; last mid Aug, early departure. Tree and Barn Swallows: last Massena 27 Aug. Cliff Swallow: good numbers at Louisville and Potsdam shopping center all summer. Tufted Titmouse: three Henderson entire period. Brown Creeper: eight Kendrew Corners in Beaver flow. Golden-crowned Kinglet: four Parishville 3 Jul. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Louisville 23 Aug, early migrant? Hermit Thrush: three Louisville 17 Jun, two Parishville 29 Jun, an uncommon breeder. Wood Thrush: abundant. Cedar Waxwing: "everywhere".

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: MB reports Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird and Com. Yellowthroat "everywhere."

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: none Parishville BBS, but two Parishville 29 Jun (KG). Dark-eyed Junco: 20 Parishville late Jun, surprising at this elevation. Bobolink: overhead in late Jul, migrating? N. Oriole: a productive season. Am. Goldfinch: a good year with bumper thistle crop. White-winged Crossbill: male S. Colton 1 Aug. Evening Grosbeak: two males and six females eating grit in Cranberry Lake Inn parking lot 1 Aug.

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## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

A long-awaited shorebird, interesting open-country species, and a disproportionate number of tantalizing secondhand reports marked the summer of '87. The season was generally warm and dry, with several hot spells in midsummer. The first heat wave started 9 July and the continuing Bermuda high pushed thermometers to 91°F at Plattsburgh on 13 July, but by 15 July temperatures in the same city had dropped to 63°F. In the midst of this heat wave, Anne Hungerford and Jan Trzeciak found two *Stilt Sandpipers* in Basic plumage on a mudflat

pond where the abandoned D&H RR crosses Wolf Pond Road south of Mountain view on 12 July. This was a first record for the Adirondack-Champlain Region and Franklin County. Highs again reached 95°F at Elizabethtown 23-24 July.

On 17 August Plattsburgh reached 90°F, and much of the month was windy, making patrols of the Four Brothers Islands difficult. When rain finally arrived on 29 August, Elsbeth Johnson, Mike Peterson, and later Geoffrey Carleton, found seven shorebird species at Westport beach, including a **Stilt Sandpiper** in juvenile plumage. This second regional record was a first for the Adirondack Park and Essex County. On the same morning, Carleton found five larids there, including a **Little Gull** at the marina.

The rewards of "birding the border" are considerable, yet few observers are familiar with the expanses of extreme northern New York neighboring Quebec. Near Hogansburg, the two singing male **Clay-colored Sparrows** previously reported had been joined by a *third* singing male by 26 June. The following day, Joe VanRiet and Hollis White found *three* **Sedge Wrens** on the St. Regis Indian Reservation (plus one more in Quebec). White also watched the five previously reported Short-eared Owlets being fed by their parents 28 July.

Bird-banding operations were conducted on the Four Brothers Islands 6 and 20-21 June, with totals of 1,000 Ring-billed Gulls, 140 Herring Gulls, and one Great Black-backed Gull chicks banded. A Snow Goose was on Island "D" 10 June; this was the sixth record at the islands since 1954, between the extremes of 13 May-16 June. A Sanderling arrived at the islands 11 August.

Near Elizabethtown, a total of 72 individuals of 22 species were banded between 24-31 August, and included a dozen Black-throated Green Warblers.

Secondhand reports with few, if any, details are always frustrating, but this summer there were more than usual. We heard of the "great white heron" (great egret?) at Willsboro Point, the "yellow-crowned night-heron" (=Black-crowned?) at Monty Bay, the "golden eagles" (=Bald Eagles or Turkey Vultures?) at Paradox, the "eared owl" (Long-eared?) making strange calls at Westport, the "northern shrike" (Loggerhead, surely, if a shrike) near Teboville, and the "yellow-headed blackbird" near Lake Titus reported to a Syracuse columnist (B. Burtt). Most intriguing was the apparent albino male Spruce Grouse along the Blue Ridge Road, Essex County; the bird was pure white with red combs above the eyes. Perhaps this further clarifies the "willow ptarmigan" collected in Lewis County in May 1876 (cf Bull, *Birds of New York*, p. 209; 1974). Another observer disagreed, identifying the bird as a white domestic turkey, apparently out for a stroll in boreal forest. And so it went in the summer of '87. Something like 164 believable species, a dozen more than last summer, were reported.

Contributors: Merry Baker, Thomas & William Barber, Geoffrey Carleton, Ann & Walter Chapman, Dick Clements, Charlcie Delehanty, Greg Furness, Art Gingert, Stanley Gratton, Mark Gretch, Betty Hedges, Anne Hungerford, Peter Hunn, Elsbeth Johnson, Kirk Jackson, Brian Keelan, Gary Lee, Tony Leukering, Theodore Mack, Dorothy McIlroy, Robert McKinney, Gordon Meade, James Merrit, John Peterson, William Robbins, Lou & Sheila Rosenburg, Fritz Scheider, Oliver Scott, Dennis Slate, Langdon Stevenson, Betsy Tisdale, Jan Trzeciak, Margaret Tsuda, Joe VanRiet, Hollis White, Christie & Larry Yox.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: reports from 8 lakes and pds. Pied-billed Grebe: female with sixy Owls Head Pd 29 Jun-27 Jul. Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad Mt View Jul, unusual. Snow Goose: *intro*. Canada Goose: 125+ northbound Ticonderoga 15 Jun (KJ), late, 12 low over Chasm Falls, Fran, 23 Jul (SG), unexplained. Ring-necked Duck: only reports from Owls Head Pd and Tupper L.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: ad Owls Head first week Aug. Peregrine Falcon: ad male Moriah 13 Jun, two y Chapel Pd (one ad killed by auto), Henderson L 2 Aug. Wild Turkey: 11 eggs Cedar R Rd (coyotes got eggs c. 1 Aug). Semipalmated Plover: arr Point au Roche 20 Aug, last three Westport 29 Aug. Killdeer: max nine Westport 30 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: few Point au Roche 20 Aug only report. Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 Hulls Falls, Ausable R 26 Aug, Westport 27-29 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: n Fran 6 Jun, last Whallonsburg 28 Aug. Sanderling: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr two Westport 28 Jul, max six there 29 Aug. W. Sandpiper: Westport 8 Aug (GC) a good find. Least Sandpiper: 2 arr Westport 2-8 Jul, max six there 27 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Point au Roche 20 Aug, max two Westport 29 Aug. **STILT SANDPIPER**: *intro*. **LITTLE GULL**: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: arr two Westport 28 Jul, max 16 there 30 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*.

PIGEONS- WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: four reports suggests rebound from recent lows. Short-eared Owl: *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: ad, juv Willsboro 25 Aug, only report. Three-toed Woodpecker: nest with young Ferd's Bog 19 Jun, juv with orange crown patch Adirondak Loj 14-16 July. Black-backed Woodpecker: two Brown's Tract Pd 4 Jul, nest Ferd's Bog where there were two ad and a juv 2 Aug; two Bloomingdale Bog 10 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Gray Jay: three y Ferd's Bog; ad Sabattis Rd 2 Aug. Com. Raven: max eight S. Meadow Brook 27 Jul, many reports. Boreal Chickadee: pair returned Newcomb feeder with y 2 Aug; many reports. **SEDGE WREN**: *intro*. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only reports Pillsbury Mt, Wakely Mt. Wood Thrush: late nest fledged Heart L 3 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: Speculator BBS unusual. Philadelphia Vireo: banded Elizabethtown 25 Aug. Golden-winged Warbler: two pair arr Essex 9 Jun. Tennessee Warbler: arr Elizabethtown 11 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Cheever 24 May, apparently late transient (GC). Black-throated Green Warbler: *intro*. **BAY-BREASTED WARBLER**: Bloomingdale Bog 9 Jun, Elk I 11 Jun, Sunrise Mt 16 Jun, and Moose R Plains 25 Jul probably all represent breeding birds; Boreas R Aug and Adirondak Loj 23 Aug are probable migrants.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: *intro*. House Finch: inland reports from Speculator and Tupper L. Red Crossbill: June reports from Elk L, Paul Smiths area, Speculator, and St Regis Falls a good showing. White-winged Crossbill: a few juv Owls Head 26 Jul, plus reports from Algonquin Mt, Bloomingdale Bog, Boreas R, the Cobbles, Ferd's Bog, Moose R Plains, Mt View, Rock L, Sabattis Rd Bog, and South Meadows reflect a good spruce cone crop; Christmas Bird Counters can anticipate a crossbill winter.

Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

One hundred and sixty species were reported during the summer months. However, this figure reflects just a few locales in Region 8, since only a small number of dedicated birders were active here. The specific places in the Region covered were Amsterdam, Berne-Knox, Cherry Plain-Stephentown, Clarksville-Delmar, Embough Bay-Coxsackie, Hague, Jenny Lake and Schenectady. Overall species' lists and numbers therefore may not adequately represent Region 8 as a whole. However, the reports received were thorough and contained interesting information. This was not a season for rarities, so birders occupied themselves with the delights of watching Robins as they produced one clutch after another, sometimes reusing the same nests, Bluebirds successfully rearing young from nest boxes, lots of Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and all of our other nesting species.

We certainly had a warm season for being out and about. According to the NE Regional Climate Center, temperatures were quite hot in June. Anyone not away on vacation during July easily can recall the high number of above 90°F days that month. August had mostly normal temperatures, but of course normal temperatures for August are still quite hot. Precipitation was approximately one half the norm in June and above normal in July. As much as Region 8 residents might complain about summer heat, the mid month reversal that took place in August captured everyone's immediate attention. Summer left in a rush as temperatures plummeted and cool rain began. By 22 Aug our swimming days were over. A two day rain storm with unusual NE winds heralded the beginning of fall.

Now on to the birds that kept our phones ringing and our binoculars swinging. Least Bitterns "popped" up and Kevin McGrath in particular woke up Black Creek Swamp with his excitement one early morning when he saw two fly in. This swamp is a place which birders always suspect harbors Least Bitterns but the species is seldom even heard there. Great Egrets began appearing on the Hudson near the Rip Van Winkle Bridge at the very end of August; indications are that the species will make news in the fall report also. Hawk lovers had ample reason to be looking up into the sky, since eight species could be found in the Region. Birders had to be lucky to see some while others spent the season and were quite visible. Northern Harriers bred in Knox, Paul Connor found Red-shouldered Hawk in Pine Swamp, Broad-winged Hawks treated golfers at the Ballston Spa Country Club to aerial displays and Red-tailed Hawks circled commonly above fields.

Seven species of flycatchers were found in the Region. Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested and Eastern Kingbirds were seen commonly. Eastern Bluebirds seem to continue to increase. Tom Palmer watched one pair produce three broods from one nest box with a total of twelve young successfully fledged. The sweet song of many a thrush rang throughout the Region. Veerys were reported from five areas, Swainson's from one, and birders thrilled to the melody of Hermit Thrushes from Hague. The "ee-o-lay" of Wood Thrushes

announced their presence around many of our homes. Ken Able extended our usual sparrow list this season by reporting Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

The fall warbler movement began in August. Clarksville alone had eleven species in one day including Northern Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, Palm, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, American Redstart and Wilson's.

Contributors: Ken Able, Linda Armstrong, Joseph Bach, Geoffrey Carleton, Paul Connor, Donald Davis, Clifford Decker, Dorothy Goodfellow, Becky Holberton, Jane Lape, Bill Lee, Kevin McGrath, Laura Meade, Tom Palmer, Elton Rising, Mike Serdinsky, Elaine Smith, Shirley Smith, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: CGCC - Columbia Green County Community College.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Hague Jun then Aug. Pied-billed Grebe: one Cherry Plain Jun, one Stephentown Center Jul, two Basic Res Aug, only reports. Horned Grebe: arr L George 25 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: last Hague 4 Jun; arr six Embough Bay 23 Aug, three Athens 29 Aug, three Basic Res 29 Aug. Least Bittern: two reports, one Tomhannock Creek Marsh, two Black Creek Marsh. Great Blue Heron: max 14 Embough Bay 23 Aug, one Hague all season. Great Egret: two Athens 29 Aug only report. Wood Duck: numerous reports all summer from most reporting locales. Com. Merganser: only report Hague 6 Jul.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: entire period Hague, Clarksville, Thacher Park. Osprey: max four Athens 29 Aug, two Tomhannock Creek 23 Jul, one Cherry Plain 7 Aug. N. Harrier: entire season Knox. Sharp-shinned Hawk: sporadic at Amsterdam, CGCC, Cherry Plain and Middlegrove. Cooper's Hawk: singles reported in Cherry Plain, Schodack Center and Niskayuna. N. Goshawk: unusually high number reported, one pair courtship flight Knox, one Hadley Mt 30 Aug, one Catskill 5 Aug, one Embough Bay 23 Aug, one Cherry Plain 5 Jul. Red-Shouldered Hawk: seen regularly at Cherry Plain, W Stephentown, ads and im Pine Swamp 26 Aug. Broad-winged Hawk: seen all season in Ballston Spa, Schodack Center; one W Taghkonc 10 Jul, Hague 28 Jul and 14 Aug, scarce at Jenny L with one heard 16 Aug. Red-tailed Hawk: numerous reports from throughout season in Amsterdam, Clarksville, Catskill. Am. Kestrel: family group Pine Swamp 2 Jul, regularly seen in Ballston Spa, Clarksville, Delmar, Amsterdam. Ruffed Grouse: with young Hague and Clarksville. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 35 Cocksackie Flats 29 Aug (BC). Killdeer: max 60 Cocksackie Flats 29 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: two reports, one Cherry Plain 16 Jul through Aug, Amsterdam 13 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: one Clarksville 29 Aug only report. Upland Sandpiper: reported breeding Town of Florida, one Tomhannock Creek 23 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr four Cocksackie Flats 29 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: throughout season Hague Bay, one Stockport 5 Jul, 23 Embough Bay 23 Aug. Herring Gull: two reports, one Rip Van Winkle Bridge 4 Aug, two Athens 29 Aug. Great Black-backed Gull: single area, nine Catskill Jul through Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-backed Cuckoo: numerous sightings throughout period Berne, Cherry Plain, Schodack Center, also seen sporadically Amsterdam, Catskill, Thacher Park. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: single report, one Athens 28 Jun. Barred Owl: two heard Jenny L Jun, occasionally Aug. Cherry Plain 14 and 28 Jun. Whip-poor-will: single reporting area, Hague during Jun, early Jul and then 15 Aug. Chimney Swift: regularly throughout period Amsterdam, other reports from Claverack, Catskill, Clarksville. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: all season in Clarksville, Amsterdam, Jenny L, Hague, max six Catskill 23 Aug. Red-headed Woodpecker: ads and im Pine Swamp 26 Aug, also nesting Amsterdam, West Berne. Red-bellied Woodpecker: no reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Alder Flycatcher: two Cherry Plain 6 Jun and three there 5 Jul, only location. Willow Flycatcher: nesting in Amsterdam, max eight Castleton 1 Jul. Least Flycatcher: reported as widespread Cherry Plain area, uncommon Amsterdam and Clarksville. Horned Lark: successful breeding reported T Florida, individuals seen Town Knox 17 Jun, 8 Jul in past breeding area. Purple Martin: Hague through Jun and Jul. Tree Swallow: nesting in numerous locations Jun, Jul, migration seemed to begin late Jul, max 40 Catskill 23 Aug. Bank Swallow: max 150 Catskill 23 Aug. Fish Crow: breeding reports from Castleton and probable in Schenectady; one Berne 30 May (KA) is second local record. Black-capped Chickadee: unusually high numbers of breeding birds noted at Jenny L. Carolina Wren: two reports, one Amsterdam 9 Aug, one Clarksville 30 Aug. Winter Wren: all season Jenny L, Cherry Plain Jun & Jul, Hague Jul & Aug. E. Bluebirds: numerous successful nestings reported from many areas.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: breeding Jenny L, throughout season Cherry Plain. Yellow-throated Vireo: reported from five locations throughout season. Warbling Vireo: throughout season Cherry Plain, three to five at a time singing Jenny L Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: species noted in each locale included in this report. Blue-winged Warbler: nested Amsterdam, max four L Taghkonik 9 Jun. Golden-winged Warbler: one Catskill 12 Aug only report. Tennessee Warbler: arr male Berne 6-12 Jul; one Athens 29 Aug. Nashville Warbler: three reports, two Cherry Plain 5 Jul, Catskill 12 Aug. N. Parula: reported from Hague. Magnolia Warbler: max eight Cherry Plain, seen throughout season. Cape May Warbler: three Feura Bush 28 Aug (LA). Black-throated Blue Warbler: two locales, Jenny L, Cherry Plain. Black-throated Green Warbler: one report, eight Cherry Plain 14 Jun. Blackburnian Warbler: two breeding females Jenny L 28 Jun. Am. Redstart: breeding Amsterdam, Clarksville. Ovenbird: below average Jenny L, only seven im banded by Robert Yunick; reported from L Taghkonik, Cherry Plain, Hague.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common Amsterdam, all season Hague, scarce Clarksville, low numbers Jenny L. Indigo Bunting: common Amsterdam, present in Clarksville and Hague. Chipping Sparrow: scarce at Jenny L, Robert Yunick reports species continuing long term decline, seen commonly in Clarksville, Amsterdam, Hague. Field Sparrow: three locations Hillsdale, S Schodack, Amsterdam. Vesper Sparrow: max four Brookview 1 Jul, FY? Savannah Sparrow: common Amsterdam, others at Chatham, Brookview. Grasshopper Sparrow: three males on territory Schodack 1 Jun, one pair breeding Altamont. Henslow's Sparrow: two males Meadowdale 6 Jun, one pair Altamont, breeding groups T of Knox. White-throated Sparrow: male singing Jenny L 31 Jul, one juv 1 Aug, then at feeder later in Aug, nested Hague. Dark-eyed Junco: max 20 Cherry Plain throughout, numerous Thacher Park Aug, extremely scarce Jenny L where species is typically an abundant breeder. Bobolink: common Amsterdam, Castleton, Clarksville Jun and Jul. Orchard Oriole: single report, first year male E Greenbush 9 Jul. Purple Finch: Robert Yunick banded 234 at Jenny L since April, lowest total in 17 years; two Amsterdam 22 Aug, five Cherry Plain all season, Hague all season. Red Crossbill: one location, one or two Jenny L at various times. White-winged Crossbill: first seen in 18 years at Jenny L during summer season (RY).

ADDENDA: Stilt Sandpiper: one NE L George (Chapmans), additional report from last summer when Region 8 was without an Editor.

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## REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

June arrived with cool nights and warm days. Small amounts of rain fell during the early part of the month. By mid-month it was summer, very warm with beautiful clear days and by month's end it was dry. July came in clear with a little but much needed rain. By mid-month we were sweltering in 95° days and hot nights with lots of humidity. A thunderstorm, doing some damage to the north, relieved the dryness. Then July leveled off with beautiful clear, cool days. The katydids started calling 20 July, much too early it seemed. August was, as usual, hot and humid with a few cool days at mid-month, followed by temperatures in the mid 80's. The season cooled off during the last week to 38° some mornings, with near frost to the north. Rain came at the end of August, reviving flowers, gardens and plants and filling low ponds and streams.

The resident birds settled in: nesting Goshawk in both Dutchess and northern Westchester Cos.; Hooded Merganser with young in Dutchess Co. and Henslow's Sparrow in Orange and Ulster Cos. Eastern Bluebirds continue to increase in both Dutchess and Westchester, a real success story. Caspian Tern and **Black Skimmer** were observed at Croton Bay and the Hawk watch started at Butler Sanctuary with a Peregrine Falcon observed. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** appeared in Ulster Co.

Humpo Marsh, west of New Paltz in Ulster County, is the result of Beaver activity about three years ago. The Beaver have left but the impoundment of water remains. This new area is attracting many species of birds. Tree Swallow and bluebirds are nesting in the dead trees. Sora, Virginia Rail and many herons and egrets are observed here. The road passes close by giving good opportunities for observation. This area will prove to be fruitful over the next few years. It will be interesting to watch the development of this site.

Once again the Gypsy Moth population peaked along the Shawangunk Ridges and the oaks and maples were defoliated, thus releasing the forest floor which came alive with new growth. Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos flourished on the caterpillars.

The fruit and berry crop seems not quite so abundant this year. The Multiflora Rose, that all important food crop for wintering birds, looks plentiful but already is being eaten. It will be interesting to see how the winter birds fare and how well the winter food lasts.

Contributors: John Askildsen, Tim Baird, Barbara Butler, Sibyll Gilbert, Florence Germond, Alice Jones, Jed Kiel, Stan Lincoln, Helen Manson, Tom Myer, Frank Nicoletti, D. Panko, Vivian Parkhurst, Jim Rod, P. Rothstein, Seldon Spencer, John P. Tramontano, Marion VanWagner, Berna Weissman, Mary Yegella.

Abbreviations: BuS - Butler Sanctuary; WBC - Waterman Bird Club; SCAC - Sullivan County Audubon Society.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: noted at Dutc where known to breed. Double-crested Cormorant: observed from boat in Hudson R. Am. Bittern: one Dieterichs 11



Aug. Least Bittern: pair nesting Constitution Marsh (JR). Great Blue Heron: seven nests, eight young Tamarack Rookery (WBC). Great Egret: seven reported in Dutc during Aug. Snowy Egret: Humpo Marsh (SS). Green-backed Heron: several in Dutc; family of four Haight Hill Marsh 29 Aug (MVW). Black-crowned Night-Heron: Humpo Marsh (SS). Mute Swan: nesting several places in Dutc. Wood Duck: female with 12 y e Dutc, 15-20 ads and y Stissing. Am. Black Duck: several pairs with y (WBC), numbers seem low. Blue-winged Teal: five Tamarack 29 Aug (HM). Hooded Merganser: female with five y Dieterichs 25 Jun (VP).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Osprey: one Verbank 12 Aug (BB); one Wassaic 16 & 18 Aug. Bald Eagle: ad Constitution Marsh 5 Jun (JR), three sightings BuS 24-30 Aug. N. Harrier: pair Galeville Airport mid Aug (SS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Green Haven 8 Jul (BB); one Millerton-Wassaic 12 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: nesting pairs Garrison, Pound Ridge; one Lake Walton 24 Jun. N. Goshawk: pair nesting Mianus Gorge, pair nesting Mack Rd, Dutc, observed with two y watched from downy stage until well feathered and out of the nest (HM, BB). Red-shouldered Hawk: pair nesting S Salem; pair Town of South East (FN). Broad-winged Hawk: occasional in Dutc; pair Hollow Rd 6 July (HM). Merlin: ad BuS 30 Aug. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** ad BuS 31 Aug. Ruffed Grouse: several females with y Dutc. Wild Turkey: two breeding pair Pound Ridge; two females, 15 y Stissing; well reported in Dutc. Virginia Rail: one Haight Hill Marsh 29 Aug (MVW); Humpo Marsh (SS). Sora: one heard occasionally Stissing June; Humpo Marsh (SS). Com. Moorhen: one found on front lawn Putnam Valley 9 Jun, exhausted and emaciated, died the next day. Semipalmated Plover: three Amenia Landfill 5 Jun. Greater Yellowlegs: one Stanfordsville 2 Jun, one Tamarack 7 Jun, one Tamarack 10 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: one Pleasant Valley 7 Jun, one Millbrook 27 July, one Amenia 12 Aug, two Pawling 16 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: nesting several places Dutc. Pectoral Sandpiper: two Pawling 16 Aug. Com. Snipe: one Stissing 22 Aug. Am. Woodcock: two Kidd Lane, Tivoli 10 Jun; one Turkey Hollow 26 Aug (WBC). Caspian Tern: two in full plumage Croton Bay 16 Aug (JA). **BLACK SKIMMER:** im Croton Bay 30 Aug. (BW, SL).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: one Stissing 2 Jun, one n Dutc 25 Jun (BBS); appeared to flourish on gypsy moth caterpillars Ulst. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: also thrived on the gypsy moth caterpillar (SS); one Vassar Farm 11 Jun; several others Dutc. E. Screech-Owl: heard several places in Dutc. Barred Owl: two pair with y in Poughkeepsie area. Com. Nighthawk: two or three heard in Poughkeepsie 5 Jun, appears to be recovering after a gradual but steady decline as it migrates through area in late summer (SS). Whip-poor-will: one month of June Slate Quarry Rd, Dutc. Chimney Swift: flocks around chimneys in central Dutc; moving all day 26 Aug (AJ). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: reported up in Putn and w West, four to six daily in Jun, up to twelve birds using two quarts of syrup a week in Jul (FG); male performing loop courtship over female Dover Plains 28 Jun-9 Jul (MY). Red-bellied Woodpecker: pair with young 16 Jul Rhinebeck; several successful nestings in Sull, spreading northward (SCAS).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Canoe Hill, Millbrook, 29 Aug, two same area 30 Aug; one Pond Gut, where they appear the same time each year 31 Aug (WBC). E. Wood-Pewee: many reports, still feeding young in nest Thompson Pd 19 Aug (WBC). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Turkey Hollow 26 Aug; two Haight Hill Marsh 29 Aug (WBC). Acadian Flycatcher: two Turkey Hollow 3 Jun (WBC). Alder Flycatcher: one Pawling 5 Jun (SG). Willow Flycatcher: several places throughout Dutc. Great Crested Flycatcher: nested in two different dooryards in Dutc, one successful, the other incomplete nest and the stub fell in a storm. Purple Martin: at four colonies in Dutc. Com. Raven: one over Bear Mt 30 Jul, observed well at 50-75 yards as it was harassed by five crows (WF). Cliff Swallow: 19 active nests Apollo Mall, Monticello 19 Jun (SCAS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Mack Rd 19 Jun (WBC); 25 Hyde Park 26 Aug,

moving all day with other swallows (AJ). Brown Creeper: Mack Rd 14 Jun, two 19 Jun (WBC). Carolina Wren: seem to be spreading in Dutc. Winter Wren: pair Mianus Gorge, pair Pound Ridge; singing Deep Hollow, Dutc, 3 Jun and 1 Jul. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one Meyer Preserve, Armonk (JA), pair Kensico Res (BW, SL). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two Turkey Hollow 26 Aug (WBC). E. Bluebird: nesting in dead trees Humpo Marsh, excellent nesting n West, 471 banded by FG, 200 more fledged in Dutc, some had three broods; this is a happy success story! Hermit Thrush: pair Mianus Gorge, 14 Jun, three Overlook Rd, Mohonk Preserve mid Jul (SS); one Verbank 9 & 12 Aug (BB).

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** Solitary Vireo: one Wampus Pd, Armonk (BW SL), three Mianus Gorge, one Wildcat Hollow. one Mack Rd, Dutc, 12 Jun; several other places in Dutc. Yellow-throated Vireo: good numbers in Dutc. Warbling Vireo: abundant in Oran-Sull, doing well in Dutc. Blue-winged Warbler: seem to be nesting well. Golden-winged Warbler: two males, possibly one female Pound Ridge, one N Salem 7 Jun (BW), none Dutc. Brewster's Warbler: one Bedford 15 Jun. Lawrence's Warbler: one near Pound Ridge 14 Jun. Tennessee Warbler: arr Amenia, Pleasant Valley 12 Aug (HM EP). N. Parula: one Armonk 14 Jun (DP) Magnolia Warbler: one Pond Gut 24 Aug (HM), one Turkey Hollow 26 Aug (WBC). Cape May Warbler: one Pleasant Valley 29 Aug (MVW), two Tamarack 30 Aug (WBC). Yellow-rumped Warbler: two Mack Rd 19 Jun (BB HM). Blackburnian Warbler: two Cold Spring 7 Jun, two Canoe Hill 29 Aug. Pine Warbler: nesting again in pine groves near local Reservoir, West. Kentucky Warbler: two Coony Hill Rd, New Castle, 14 June (PR). **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one well observed for five minutes in tree by window Pleasant Valley 14 Aug (EP). Mourning Warbler: one BuS 26 Aug (TM). Hooded Warbler: one Westmorland Sanctuary 14 Jun; up to eight around Siskowit Reservoir all summer, 2 pair Briton Brook Sanctuary. Wilson's Warbler: one Pond Gut 24 Aug (HM). Canada Warbler: one Pound Ridge, one BuS 14 Jun, one 26-27 Aug (MVW). Yellow-breasted Chat: one (SL).

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Indigo Bunting: good numbers. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one singing Walkill (TB). Vesper Sparrow: four Haight Hill 26 Aug. (MVW). Savannah Sparrow: one Haight Hill 24 & 26 Aug (MVW). Grasshopper Sparrow: one Woodstock Rd, Dutc, 27 July (MVW). Henslow's Sparrow: singing bird Galeville Airport all summer (JPT, SS). **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** one "nelsoni" type Constitution Marsh Sanctuary 5 June (JR), seen and heard. Swamp Sparrow: good numbers in most swamp areas, 12 Great Swamp, Pawling, 30 Jun. Bobolink: nesting well in Dutc and Galeville Airport; 20 all in golden fall plumage Tamarack 20 Aug (WBC). E. Meadowlark: did fairly well in Dutc. N. Oriole: still singing end of Aug. Purple Finch: scattered reports throughout Dutc. Pine Siskin: one Rhinebeck area 9 Jun, one at window feeder Stissing 14-15 Jul.

**ADDENDA:** a few late spring reports from West-Putn. Am. Bittern: one Turner Swamp 26 Apr (JA). Glossy Ibis: flying along Hudson River 22 Apr. Brant: flying n at Tappen Zee Bridge 28 Apr (JA). **BLACK VULTURE:** one Ossining 23 Apr (JK). Osprey: arr BuS 7 Mar (JA), very early. Peregrine Falcon: ad Constitution Marsh 25 Apr (JR). Wild Turkey: two breeding pairs Pound Ridge. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one West 23 May (JK). Acadian Flycatcher: up to four Mianus Gorge. Alder Flycatcher: two Town of Bedford.

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## REGION 10 - MARINE

TONY LEUKERING AND JOHN WALSH

Hot. Wet. Humid. These are the only words necessary to describe the Season. And the weekends seemed to get more than their share of bad weather. There were approximately 20 days with highs of 90° or above and more than 20 with humidity over 75%. The 12.94 inches of rain was nearly two inches above normal.

Despite the heat, many species of water birds normally thought of as winter visitors were seen during the Season. The list includes Common Loon, Great Cormorant, Snow Goose, Brant, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Common Eider, King Eider, all three scoters, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Little, Common Black-headed, and Bonapartes Gulls.

Pelagic trips this summer were very successful at finding rare birds. An Okeanos Foundation trip south of Montauk on 9 June recorded many pelagic species including **South Polar Skua**. This species probably has been under reported in the past due to the lack of trips at the proper time. In recent years it has been seen regularly off New Jersey and Long Island in late May and early June. Adamo reported on the highlights of three pelagic trips taken off Montauk, though in what states waters the boat sailed is not clear. Manx Shearwater was seen on each trip, but the 2 August trip stole the show with an **Audubon's Shearwater** and a **Sooty Tern!** Unfortunately, no details were received by us for the three rarities covered by NYSARC. We encourage contributors to send us a copy of their reports submitted to the NYSARC.

In recent years **Brown Pelicans** have staged large incursions into New Jersey without benefit of hurricanes. This year, they finally made it to New York where there were two separate sightings on the south shore of Long Island. The first was of two flying west off Breezy Pt. on 11 June. On 16 August five were seen flying east past Oak Beach.

There were several notable nesting records. The Osprey nest found near Hempstead was the first for this species in the area in recent memory (*vide* R. Paxton). In addition to their regular nesting site at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Upland Sandpipers may have nested near Calverton as they were seen there in late June (NYRBA). McKeever reported active Purple Martin colonies at Water Mill, Easthampton, and Amagansett, but stated that the species did not return to the Quogue Wildlife Sanctuary which was formerly a thriving colony. He also noted four pairs of E. Bluebirds along a 15-box trail in a recently burned section of Hither Hills State Park.

On 7 July, while conducting the Jamaica Bay shorebird survey, Arthur Morris and Arthur Berland observed an adult Willet, with young nearby, seize a Least Sandpiper "and hit it against the ground many times." The peep was "left for dead," but in a few moments it recovered and disappeared into the marsh (see page 212 of this issue). Large numbers of Willets were found in many places on the South Shore with a new maximum for Jamaica Bay of 46 on 17 August. Other notable concentrations (probably local breeders) include 35 at Eastport on 4 July and 45 at East Inlet Island on 1 August.

The hiatus between northbound and southbound shorebird migrations was shorter than usual this summer. There were 634(!) Semipalmated Sandpipers at Jamaica Bay on 6 June and scattered White-rumped Sandpipers into late June. Early southbound birds included the first-ever adult Baird's Sandpiper at Jamaica Bay on 25 July and a very early Pectoral Sandpiper there on 5 July. The last week of August saw a big push of juvenile Baird's along the South Shore with at least seven individuals at five sites. It was good season for finding large migrant shorebirds. Whimbrel and Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits were reported often from Jamaica Bay, Line Islands, and Mecox and Shinnecock Bays. Arthur Morris observed a Ruddy Turnstone defending a feeding territory against a European Starling at Jamaica Bay on 7 August. He also reported two Argentine-banded Sanderlings at Jamaica Bay in mid August. Wilson's Phalarope were widely reported from 6 June to 30 August with a minimum of 11 individuals sighted. The only other phalarope reported was Red Phalarope.

In contrast to the decline of breeding Roseate Terns in the Region, Com. Terns continue to increase. The estimated 6000 pairs (5000 of which were trapped on the nest) of Commons at Great Gull Island this summer was the highest count since the inception of the banding project there. Kolodnicki, reporting that Least Terns nested at Caumsett State Park and at Sands Pt., states, "it appears that a lot of the old sites were used this year." Fifty Royal Terns at Great Peconic Bay 12 August was the highest count ever made by Gillen of the species at that location.

Species reported (including a Patagonian Conure from 26 June in the Calverton area and a female Cockatiel at Montauk Pt. on 6 June) in the Region and otherwise not mentioned totaled 131 for a grand total of 212. Rarities included: **Audubon's Shearwater**, **Brown Pelican**, **South Polar Skua**, **Little Gull**, **Common Black-headed Gull**, **Sooty Tern**, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

Abbreviations: AMNH - American Museum of Natural History; CP - Central Park; CSCBBC - Central Suffolk County Breeding Bird Census (13 June, compiled by JC and JJR); GGI - Great Gull Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI - Long Island.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, Jim Clinton, Sr., Paul Gillen, Bill Kolodnicki, Anthony Lauro, Brook Lauro, Tony Leukering, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society (R. Cioffi - field notes ed.), Chris McKeever, Arthur Morris, New York Rare Bird Alert (Thomas Burke - ed.), Queens Co. Bird Club (Lore Schore - field notes ed.), John J. Ruscica.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two CSCBBC 13 Jun. Corys Shearwater: 35 off Fire I 3 Jul (NYRBA). Greater Shearwater: max 177 off Fire I 3 Jul (NYRBA). Sooty Shearwater: two S of Montauk 29 Aug (NYRBA); last report. Manx Shearwater: *intro*. **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER**: *intro*. N. Gannet: arr one S of Montauk 29 Aug (NYRBA). **BROWN PELICAN**: *intro*. Great Cormorant: one Napeague 14 Jun, one Montauk 18 Jul (both NYRBA); rare but increasing in summer. Little Blue Heron: one to two JBWR most of season (mob); uncommon summer visitant. Snow Goose: during Jul at Jamaica Bay (mob). Brant: one CSCBBC. Green-winged Teal: two CSCBBC. N. Pintail: female JBWR late Jul (TL), uncommon in summer. N. Shoveler: 6+ JBWR late Jul (TL), uncommon in summer. Eurasian Wigeon: arr JBWR 7 Aug (NYRBA). Canvasback: arr male JBWR 7 Jul (AM). Greater Scaup: male JBWR throughout season (mob); uncommon summerer. Com. Eider: one to two females and an im male Montauk all summer (mob). King Eider: im male Montauk all summer (mob); ad male Montauk 6 Jun (CMcK). Black Scoter: at

Montauk all summer (mob). Surf Scoter: at Montauk all summer (mob). White-winged Scoter: at Montauk all summer (mob). Com. Merganser: male Shinnecock Bay 4 July (JJR). Red-breasted Merganser: female East Inlet Island, Moriches Bay 1 Aug (JJR).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Black Vulture: one over Quogue Wildlife Sanctuary 26 Jun (*vide* CM); rare visitant. Osprey: *intro*. N. Harrier: arr one GGI 2 Aug (AM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one CSCBBC; one Montauk Pt. 18 Jul (JJR); uncommon nester. Peregrine Falcon: arr JBWR 19 Aug (AM). Sora: one Brookhaven National Lab. 31 Aug (R. Santkulis *vide* JJR) only report. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 20 St. Charles Cemetery 16 Aug (NYRBA). Semipalmated Plover: max 1015 JBWR 16 Aug (JJR). Am. Oystercatcher: record max 360 N Line I 30 Aug, ca. 20% juveniles (AL, BL). Am. Avocet: one to two JBWR 19-23 Aug (AM, NYRBA), rare visitant. Willet: *intro*. Upland Sandpiper: max 30 St. Charles Cemetery late Aug (NYRBA); *intro*. Ruddy Turnstone: *intro*. Sanderling: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: *intro*. W. Sandpiper: arr three N Line I 18 July (TL, S. Drennan et al.), max 25 Mecox 30 Aug (NYRBA). White-rumped Sandpiper: max six JBWR Aug (JJR). Baird's Sandpiper: *intro*. Pectoral Sandpiper one JBWR 5 Jul (AM); poss record early date. Stilt Sandpiper: arr JBWR 5 Jul (NYRBA), max 15 JBWR 9 Aug (NYRBA). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one St. Charles Cemetery 29 Aug (NYRBA); only report received. Long-billed Dowitcher: max 27 JBWR 13 Aug (NYRBA). Wilson's Phalarope: *intro*. Red Phalarope: 3 off Montauk 24 Aug (RA), only report. **S. POLAR SKUA:** *intro*. **LITTLE GULL:** E Moriches Bay in early Jul (RA, JC, JJR). **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL:** E Moriches Bay in early Jul (RA, JC, JJR). Bonaparte's Gull: E Moriches Bay in early Jul (RA, JC, JJR). Black-legged Kittiwake: arr one S of Montauk 29 Aug (NYRBA). Royal Tern: *intro*. Com. Tern: *intro*. Forster's Tern: arr JBWR 18 Jul (NYRBA), max 20+ JBWR late July (AM). Least Tern: *intro*. **SOOTY TERN:** *intro*. Black Tern: max four Shinnecock 22 Aug (JJR).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Chuck-will's-widow: max eight between Amagansett and Acabonack 20 Jun (NYRBA). Whip-poor-will: max 29 CSCBBC. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Connetquot R SP on Captree Summer Count (NYRBA), one Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary 21 Jul, rare in summer.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Acadian Flycatcher: present Amagansett and Easthampton in June (NYRBA), rare in summer; first reported migrant one CP 11 Aug (TL). Purple Martin: *intro*. Tree Swallow: max 2200 Mecox 30 Aug (JJR). E. Bluebird: *intro*.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Philadelphia Vireo: arr JBWR 30 Aug (NYRBA). Magnolia Warbler: one Kissena Pk, Queens 7 Jun (QCBC) is late. Louisiana Waterthrush: one Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary 21 Jul (BK); rare on N Shore and first reported migrant. Kentucky Warbler: one JBWR 11 Aug (NYRBA), rare migrant. Connecticut Warbler: one JBWR 25 Aug (NYRBA), very early. Mourning Warbler: one JBWR 30 Aug (NYRBA), early. Yellow-breasted Chat: one on Captree Summer Count (NYRBA), two Easthampton 24 Aug (NYRBA); rare in summer.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Summer Tanager: one CSCBBC, male Brookhaven Natl Laboratory 3 Jun (JJR), second-year male found dead GGI early Jun (*vide* P. Cane; spec to AMNH); rare in summer. Vesper Sparrow: only reports one CSCBBC 13 Jun (JJR, JC), one near the Hamptons 28 Jun (NYRBA). Grasshopper Sparrow: only reports four CSCBBC, one Manorville 4 Jul (JJR). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** im male JBWR 30 Aug (I. Cantor, M. Sohmer). Orchard Oriole: only report two CSCBBC.

**ADDENDA: YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** female Amityville 19 Jan (AL, BL).

TL-*c/o American Birds*, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

JW-33 Second St., Brooklyn, NY 11231.

*[This report is the last to be co-authored by Tony Leukering and John Walsh, who now will assume sole Editorship of Region 10. On behalf of the Federation, thanks to Tony for his contributions to **The Kingbird**. Reports for Region 10 should be sent to **John Walsh, 33 Second Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231** —The Editor.]*

## **REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA**

**JAY G. LEHMAN**

*[This report arrived too late to be included in the previous issue. Arrival dates marked with an asterisk in the accounts of species are corrections to the list of arrival dates tabulated in the previous issue - The Editor]*

March started out wintry in Binghamton with 2.9 inches of snow in the first few days. Then the weather abruptly changed to sunny and dry with normal to above normal temperatures. Snowfall for the month was well below the norm of 14.6 inches, and precipitation was almost two inches short of the average 3.19 inches. Only one day, 10 March, had a mean temperature significantly below the norm while record breaking high temperatures of 62°F, 64°F, and 67°F were recorded on 7, 8, 24 and 25 March, respectively. For the last ten days of March temperatures were ten to twenty degrees above the norm. The weather faucet turned back on to produce the expected April showers but then turned off for May. April was wet, with an above average 1.13 inches of rainfall, and warmer than normal, with only eight days of mean temperatures moderately below normal. May was quite sunny and dry with 1.9 inches of rain less than the average. May seemed warmer than normal with at least ten days in the last three weeks with temperatures in the seventies and eighties, but mean temperatures were nearly normal.

Despite the mild weather which caused an early thaw of our lakes and created good conditions for sighting waterfowl, the species list tied the low of twenty one. Apparently the good weather caused an early migration. Gadwall, Canvasback, Redhead, and Ruddy Duck, which have been reported in roughly half of the spring reports since 1979, were not reported again, and its not clear why. Greater Scaup was not seen for the first time since 1979. On the bright side Surf and Black Scoter occurred for the first and third times in nine years. Snow Geese in excellent numbers were reported for only the fourth year in nine. Apparently, observers have discovered the secret; keep looking up to see the flocks flying over in early March and April.

It is encouraging that American Bittern was reported from three locations, the second highest count since 1979. Unfortunately, Least Bittern reports continue to be discouraging. This season's report is only the third since 1979. There must be more out there somewhere! About every third year since 1979 a rare long-legged wader has been reported in the region: Snowy Egret in 1979, Glossy Ibis and Little Blue Heron in 1981, and Great Egret in 1984. This year **Cattle Egrets** were seen in April and May. Perhaps the mild weather caused migration overshoot. Any suggestions on what will be reported in 1990?

Raptors are well represented. Turkey Vulture reports are high again indicative of their continued northward expansion. Rough-legged Hawks stayed late; one at Cortland on 23 April is the second latest report in nine years. A Merlin, considered by some to be rare here, was reported for the sixth year in nine. There were two interesting observations of behavior. Shirley Hartman observed Bald Eagles feeding on dead deer on the ice on Cannonsville Reservoir in early March. Mary Dobinsky saw an Osprey feeding on a fish on a log under the watchful eye of two Turkey Vultures, who did not interfere.

Turkey hunters bemoaned the mild weather. The gobblers starting early this year, and poor hunting characterized the second season after mid May. Birders and turkeys rejoiced! Consequently, on the early date of 25 May Joe Sedlacek saw two hens with fifteen poults at North Colesville. There was good variety of shorebirds and other waterbirds. Common Moorhen and Virginia Rail were seen for only the fourth and third year, respectively in the past nine. Eight species of sandpiper ties the previous high count since 1979. Dunlin and Semipalmated Sandpiper were reported for only the third time since 1979. Upland Sandpiper was seen for only the fourth time in nine years. Whip-poor-wills apparently are still doing poorly. Perhaps we should be encouraged that there have been single reports for the third year in a row and in six of the last nine.

Southern birds expanding northward are still doing well. Good numbers of Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens, Cardinals, and Mockingbirds suggest that the mild winter aided their survival. Acadian Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler, and Orchard Oriole were reported for the second consecutive spring. Since the weather patterns this year were similar to those of last spring, its difficult to distinguish migration overshoot from range expansion. However, the former may be a mechanism for the latter. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were widely reported this season, indicating continued movement northward. In addition, Louise Dean saw a pair building a nest near Nichols.

Cliff Swallows, somewhat unusual in northern and western parts of this Region, are still present in good numbers at the bridges over the Susquehanna River near Otego where they have bred in the past. There were encouraging and discouraging signs for our rarer species. Marsh Wren was seen for the first time in nine years, but again there were no Sedge Wrens. Purple Martin reports are still low.

All the expected migrant and resident flycatchers, vireos, and warblers occurred in reasonable numbers. We missed only Palm Warbler. Pine Warbler was reported for only the fourth spring in nine. The mild weather caused record early reports

for Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Rufous-sided Towhee apparently overwintered at Finch Hollow Nature Center (Winter Report) so the early report there is understandable. The Northern Waterthrush in March was an especially early and isolated "early bird". There were no major migration movements reported.

All the sparrows appeared this season, including a Henslow's, which is unusual. The numbers of Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows reported are encouraging. Pine Siskins, Redpolls, and Red Crossbills malingered through the period after the good winter flight. Evening Grosbeaks stayed rather late. A Dickcissel, rare here, was reported on the Cortland County Bird Club Spring Count on 9 May but was not included in the species list because no details were provided.

The list of 188 species plus two hybrids is the second highest list since 1979. Least Bittern, Cattle Egret, Surf Scoter, Whip-poor-will, Acadian Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Lawrence's Warbler, and Orchard Oriole are great rarities. Other more frequently reported rarities are Black Scoter, American Bittern, Common Moorhen, Virginia Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Pine Warbler. Much of the species account uses field records of Mary Dobinsky and Kathryn Wilson (OPM), Joe Sedlacek (Windsor, NCol), and Jay Lehman (Norwich, Chen, PTT). It is with mixed feelings that I report that Kathryn Wilson has moved to South Carolina. We hope that she finds good birding there, but we will miss the excellent reports that she provided with Mary Dobinsky for all those years.

Observers: Juanita Angle, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Les Bemont (LBe), Reynolds Bennett, Lois Bingley, Cheryl Boise, Mildred Clark, Sally Carey, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Louise Dean, Delhi Bird Club, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Carl Eastwood, Nancy Emerson, Margaret Ferranti, Finch Hollow Nature Center, Walt Gardner, Polly & Earl Getkin, Shirley Hartman, Jack Knapik, Doug Kibbe, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Saul Levin, Ray Marchand, Bud & Evelyn Mead, Bobbi Monroe, Soini OConnell, Dick Parker, Marie Petuh, Mr. & Mrs. Halliday Pierce, Marion Pratt, Bob & Jean Saunders, Joe Sedlacek, K. Stalter, Tioga Bird Club, Elizabeth Titus, Elizabeth Washburn, Anne Whitaker, Kathryn Wilson, Don Windsor.

Abbreviations: CCBCSC - Cortland County Bird Club Spring Count; ChBr - Chenango Bridge; CRes - Cannonsville Reservoir; DOASSC - Delaware Otsego Audubon Society Spring Count; JCity - Johnson City; NCol - North Colesville; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PTT- Pharsalia Truck Trail; TBC-Tioga Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr L Ludlow 26 Apr (CC); last DOASSC 16 May. Pied-billed Grebe: only one CCBCSC 9 May. Horned Grebe: arr U Lisle 12 Apr (MDv). Am. Bittern: singles N Norwich 16 May (JL) and Tiog, high. Least Bittern: only one near Endwell 24 May (ML,JK). Great Blue Heron: arr Coventryville 29 Mar (JS). **CATTLE EGRET**: arr Deans Pd 12 Apr (MDv); one Cort 11 May (BM), rare. Green-backed Heron: arr 11 Apr\*; five more sites May, high. Snow Goose: arr Tiog 7 Mar (C&JB,B&EM); unusually many with two large flights Oxford 3 Mar (JA) and 65 Norwich 5 Apr (DW). Canada Goose: arr and max 120 NCol. Wood Duck: arr Tiog 19 Mar. Green-winged Teal: last two OPM 10 Apr. Am. Black Duck: max 12 Delhi 27 Mar (MC); last two Dela 8 May (DBC). Blue-winged Teal: arr Tiog Mar, early\*; two other sites May, high. N. Shoveler: only one OPM 9 Apr. Am. Widgeon: arr Tiog 7 Mar (B&EM); unusual count of two U Lisle 29 Mar (JL) and one OPM 4 May. Ring-necked Duck: arr ChBr 19 Mar (MDv); max



37 U Lisle 29 Mar (JL); last four Oneonta Res 29 Apr (MD). Lesser Scaup: arr one U Lisle 29 Mar (JL); last two CRes 29 Apr (M/M HP,NE). Oldsquaw: only one CRes 29 Apr (M/MHP,NE). Black Scoter: arr five Dela 23 Apr; last Dela 28 Apr (DBC). **SURF SCOTER:** only one Dela 27 Apr (DBC). Com. Goldeneye: arr ChBr 7 Mar (MDv); only other Tiog Mar. Hooded Merganser: arr eight Delhi 3 Mar (MC). Common Merganser: max 11 Whitney Pt Res 29 Mar (JL); last Dela 10 May (TBC).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: arr singles Dela, OPM, Hawkins P 24 Mar; wide-spread Apr-May, increasing. Osprey: arr 7 Apr \*. Bald Eagle: max five CRes 6 Mar (SH); last there 29 Apr (M/M HP,NE). N. Harrier: arr Tiog Mar (C&JB); good count of four sites Apr-May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles widespread Mar-May. Cooper's Hawk: singles at seven sites, max three DOASSC 16 May. N. Goshawk: only one Tiog Mar (LD). Red-tailed Hawk: max five mid Apr. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Am. Kestrel: max six OPM 16 Apr. Merlin: only one Tiog Apr (C&JB). Ring-necked Pheasant: three sites, unusual. Wild Turkey: max *ca* 40 OPM early Mar; several/week thereafter. Virginia Rail: only two Norwich 6 May\*. Com. Moorhen: only one U Lisle 9 May\* (MDv). Killdeer: common after 8 Mar; max 13 U Lisle P 29 Mar (JL). Greater Yellowlegs: max two OPM 4 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: only report Norwich 17 May (DW). Solitary Sandpiper: arr 27 Apr\*; last two DOASSC 16 May. Spotted Sandpiper: common after 4 May. Least Sandpiper: max four Sherburne 16 May (JL); last Vestal 31 May (MP,SL). Semipalmated Sandpiper: only three Vestal 31 May (MP,ME,EW). Dunlin: only one Vestal 31 May (MP, *et al.*), unusual. Com. Snipe: *ca* four each Apr & May. Bonaparte's Gull: arr CRes 29 Apr (M/M HP,NE); last two OPM. Ring-billed Gull: max 30 Otsego L 28 May (MD). Herring Gull: max 10 OPM 9 Mar (RM); last DOASSC 16 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: max 42 Delhi 5 Mar (MC). E. Screech-Owl: only one Tiog (C&JB). Great Horned Owl: singles at *ca* four sites each month. Barred Owl: four sites Apr-May, high. Com. Nighthawk: Norwich 26 May (DW) and Tioga May, scarce. **WHIP-POOR-WILL:** CCBCSC 9 May, rare. Chimney Swift: arr Tiog 12 Apr\* (D&JB), record early since 1961, regular after 3 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 11 May\*. Belted Kingfisher: arr 24 Mar OPM. Red-bellied Woodpecker: only Tiog Mar-May and CCBCSC 9 May. N. Flicker: arr Norwich 22 Mar. Pileated Woodpecker: at 12 sites, high.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: only one Delhi 28 May\* (MC). E. Wood-Pewee: arr Tiog 30 Apr\* (C&JB), record early since 1961; common after 11 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only Smyrna 16 May (WG). Acadian Flycatcher: only Tiog 18 May (C&JB). Willow Flycatcher: several Tiog May (TBC). Alder Flycatcher: only four reports after 17 May. Least Flycatcher: one Windsor 18 Apr, record early since 1961. E. Phoebe: common after 27 Mar. Great Crested Flycatcher: Tiog Apr\* (no date, LD), record early. E. Kingbird: arr 2 May\*. Horned Lark: only scattered reports Mar-May. Purple Martin: only two sites May, still low. Tree Swallow: max 100 Norwich 29 Mar. N. Rough-winged Swallow: weekly after 24 Apr. Bank Swallow: max 20 Vestal 12 May; then weekly at three sites. Cliff Swallow: regular after mid May; max 70 Otego 22 May (MD). Barn Swallow: regular after 20 Apr. Tufted Titmouse: widespread Southern Tier at 12 sites, high. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max six Chen 16 May. Brown Creeper: two to five/month. Carolina Wren: one to two at three sites, good winter survival. House Wren: arr Tiog Apr\*, early; regular after 2 May. Winter Wren: only four May reports at three sites. **MARSH WREN:** only one DOASSC 16 May\*, rare in spring. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Norwich 8 Mar; max ten PTT. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Norwich 17 Apr; last CCBCSC 9 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 8 May\*; one to two at five sites to 16 May, high. E. Bluebird: arr 4 Mar\*, widespread after 8 Mar. Veery: regular after mid May. Swainson's Thrush: one to two at three sites, normal. Hermit Thrush: regular after 18

Apr. Wood Thrush: arr Tiog 19 Apr\* (TBC), record early since 1961; common after 7 May. Am. Robin: arr three sites 7 Mar. Gray Catbird: arr 4 May\*. N. Mockingbird: at seven Southern Tier sites, high. Brown Thrasher: several/week after 3 May. Water Pipit: arr Tiog 19 Apr (C&JB); only one more CCBCSC 9 May. Cedar Waxwing: arr 12 Unadilla 7 Mar (MD). N. Shrike: only one Trux 1 Mar (DP), died there.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr 26 Apr\*; max 14 PTT 16 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: max four OPM 22 May. Warbling Vireo: max 12 OPM 28 May. Red-eyed Vireo: widespread after 10 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Vestal 6 May (LBe); regular thereafter. Lawrence's Warbler: arr Tiog 7 May (D&JB), rare. Brewster's Warbler: singles at four sites after 16 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr two Windsor 10 May; singles Vestal 17-31 May and max three DOASSC 16 May, high. Tennessee Warbler: max four PTT 16 May; last Vestal 28 May (LBe). Nashville Warbler: at five sites after 1 May. N. Parula: singles at three sites 13 & 16 May, high. Yellow Warbler: arr Tiog 27 Apr (D&JB); widespread after 2 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max ten Chen 16 May. Magnolia Warbler: max 22 Chen 16 May. Cape May Warbler: arr 15 May\*; only other PTT 16 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 13 May\*; max six PTT 16 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Delhi 13 Apr (MC). Black-throated Green Warbler: max 14 Chen 16 May. Blackburnian Warbler: max 13 PTT 16 May. Pine Warbler: only one DOASSC 16 May (CB,DK), unusual. Prairie Warbler: arr Vestal 7 May (LBe); singles at four sites Chen-Broo to 24 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: ChBr 24 May (B&JS), low. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Tiog 17 May (D&JB); singles at three sites Broo to 24 May. Black-and-white Warbler: regular after 10 May. Am. Redstart: regular after 10 May. Ovenbird: max 20 Chen 16 May. N. Waterthrush: one Walton 29 Mar (SH), very early; max five Chen 16 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr OPM 2 May. Mourning Warbler: arr 14 May\*; singles thereafter. Com. Yellowthroat: common after mid May. Hooded Warbler: arr Norwich 16 May. Wilson's Warbler: arr Tioga 11 May (D&JB); singles Norwich 16 & 19 May. Canada Warbler: one to four at three sites 16 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr Vestal Center 26 Apr (SD), earliest since 1961; one to five/week six sites after 13 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Vestal Center 26 Apr (SD), earliest since 1961. Indigo Bunting: widespread but scarce after 12 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Finch Hollow Nature Center 8 Mar, probably overwintered nearby. Am. Tree Sparrow: max 17 Delhi 5 & 9 Mar (MC); last there 12 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: one Pittsfield 28 Mar (CC) very early; widespread after 18 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr Tiog 28 Mar (B&EM). Vesper Sparrow: to five/week six sites 12 Apr-16 May, high. Savannah Sparrow: to five/week six sites after 18 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr two Windsor 10 May; one or two at five sites after 16 May, high. Henslow's Sparrow: only one near Endwell 24 May (ML,JK). Fox Sparrow: arr Chen Forks 24 Mar (MDv); ten more until last OPM 12 Apr, high. Lincoln's Sparrow: only report 7 May\*. Swamp Sparrow: arr OPM 20 Apr. White-throated Sparrow: max 30 OPM 29 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: max seven; at seven sites until 16 May, high. Dark-eyed Junco: max 40 OPM 14 Apr. Bobolink: max 20 four sites Broome 13 May. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Delhi 6 Mar (MC). E. Meadowlark: arr U Lisle 7 Mar (MDv). Rusty Blackbird: arr Tioga 22 Mar (D&JB,LB); last CCBCSC 9 May. Com. Grackle: arr Norwich 6 Mar (DW). Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Delhi 6 Mar (MC). **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** only one CCBCSC 9 May, unusual. N. Oriole: common after 8 May. Purple Finch: arr four Wells Bridge 7 Mar (MD). House Finch: max 75 J City 1 Mar (MP). Red Crossbill: max 25 PTT 8 Mar and four 15 Mar; three Norwich 16 Apr; max 30 DOASSC 16 May. Com. Redpoll: max 75 J City 1 Mar (JS); last Endwell 12 Apr (ML). Pine Siskin: max ca. 40 OPM 29 Apr; last J City 24 May (JS). Am. Goldfinch: increase at feeders to 35 OPM 12 Mar then decrease. Evening Grosbeak: max 150 OPM 20 Mar; last one J City 22 May (MP), late.

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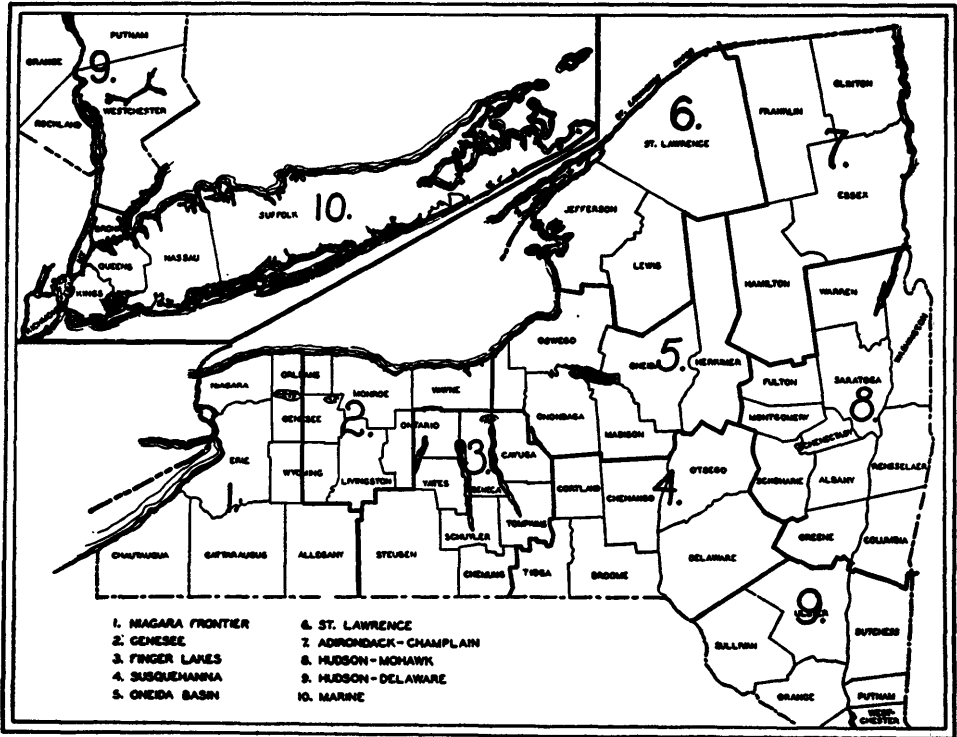
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## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. XXXVII No. 1, p. 9-10.

## 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