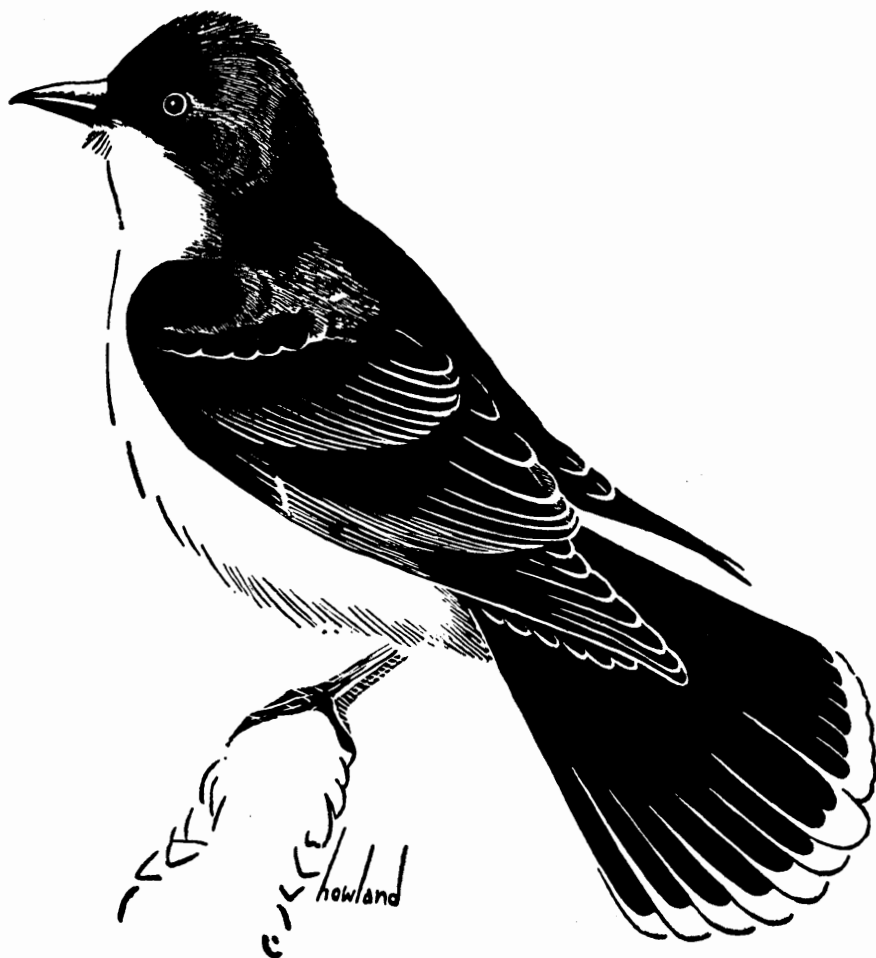


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KINGBIRD



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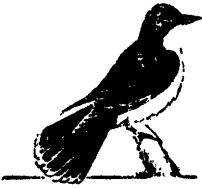
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The KINGBIRD

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Editor – Paul A. DeBenedictis

Highlights of the Season

Editor – Robert Spahn

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*Figure 1. Gray Kingbird (1987-35-D), near Savannah, New York, 1 Nov 1987.
Photograph by Brian W. Keelan.*

Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee 1987

This report marks the return to annual reporting by the NYSARC. Aside from getting this report out on time there are several positive items to mention. During 1987, after several mail ballots, a portion of the committee met and was able to resolve all past NYSARC reports so that there currently are no unresolved records. This past year was also one of stability with no changes in the committee during 1988. Finally, we are most pleased to report that progress is being made on a checklist of the birds of New York State. We hope to have the final product available within the year.

As has been the case in prior years, we were not able to document all sightings of rare birds in the state. About 40 states now have state records committees and a few, such as California, receive as many as ten times the number of reports we do. We were very happy to receive six reports on the Gray Kingbird which appeared upstate, but for a number of other unusual sightings we received no reports at all. If you see a species that's on the list of reportable species below please write it up and send your report to the NYSARC at the address given below. Although they are not required, you can get additional copies of the NYSARC reporting form from the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, or from any NYSARC committee member.

The list of species which should be reported to the NYSARC has not been printed in several years. The NYSARC will review reports of:

1. Any species new to New York State.
2. Any addition to the list of species proven to nest in New York State.
3. Any of the following species found anywhere within New York State:

Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Western Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Black-capped Petrel, Mottled Petrel, Herald Petrel, Audubon's Shearwater, White-faced Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-billed Tropicbird, Brown Booby, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, White Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Wood Stork, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Ross' Goose, "Black" Brant, Barnacle Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Smew, Black Vulture, American Swallow-tailed Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Yellow Rail, Corn Crake, King Rail, Azure Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Northern Lapwing, Wilson's Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Eskimo Curlew, Whimbrel (white-rumped races only), Eurasian Curlew, Long-billed Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Rufous-necked Stint, Little Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Long-tailed Jaeger, Great Skua, South Polar Skua, Mew Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Ross' Gull, Ivory Gull, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, Common Murre, Atlantic

Puffin, White-winged Dove, Northern Hawk-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Black-billed Magpie, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Northern Wheatear, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Fieldfare, Redwing, Sage Thrasher, Bell's Vireo, "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee, Bachman's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Baird's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Brewer's Blackbird, "Bullock's" Northern Oriole, Hoary Redpoll

as well as the following species from *upstate* New York only:

any species of shearwater or storm-petrel, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Tufted Duck, Common Eider, Black Rail, Purple Gallinule, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Royal Tern, Roseate Tern, Black Skimmer, any species of alcid, Chuck-will's-Widow, Western Kingbird, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Lark Sparrow, Savannah "Ipswich" Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Boat-tailed Grackle

the following species *away from* the Adirondacks:

Spruce Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay

and the following species for *spring* reports only:

Western Sandpiper (upstate New York only), Baird's Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull

4. Any reports of birds seen at least four weeks before early arrivals or four weeks after late departures, as summarized in John Bull's *Birds of New York State* (1974) or the *Supplement to Birds of New York State* (1976).

5. Reports of rarities should be mailed to:

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

This summary covers 58 reports representing 45 separate NYSARC records from 1987. Also included are one report from 1984, eight (four records) from 1985, and two from 1986 which were previously unresolved or were submitted in 1987. Of these 69 reports, 50 (72%) were accepted.

1987 Accepted Reports

- Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). 1987-18-A adult in Alternate plumage at Dewey Avenue, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 5 May (KG). The split of Pacific Loon from Arctic Loon has resulted in some confusion among birders. Although the description of this individual did not rule out Arctic Loon, Pacific Loon is the only species known to occur in the eastern U.S. and no North American specimens of Arctic Loon are known east of Alaska and the Pacific Coast of Canada. There is one prior New York State record based on a specimen and three prior sightings of birds in Alternate plumage appear in Bull (1974).
- Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*). 1987-17-A adult at Hook Mountain on 26 April (PF). Unusual for both inland locality and the spring date. There are about 40 prior Upstate records.
- Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 1987-28-A immature near Greensport, Columbia Co., 24 September (WC). Increasingly observations of this species Upstate involve immatures and birds outside the "normal" winter season.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*). 1987-22-A adult well studied on Tiff Farm Nature Preserve, Buffalo, Erie Co., 6 June (RA). The Upstate birds appear in a very narrow time frame between late May and mid-June and, at least in western and central New York, usually as adults. There are about a dozen prior Upstate records.
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). 1987-36-A four near Manitou Rd. and Ontario Parkway, Monroe Co., 8 November (JK).
- Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). 1987-42-A two at Mt. Peter Hawk Lookout near Greenwood Lake, Orange Co., 26 April (BW). There are about thirty prior records, about half from Upstate.
- American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). 1987-20-A adult at Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 30 May (FN, JD, MD, RM). The date suggests a post-breeding wanderer, rather than a spring overshoot. This is the fifteenth record for New York State.
- Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). 1987-19-A subadult at Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout, Town of Greece, Monroe Co., 22 May (FN, JD, RM). Now being reported biennially in the state, this represents only the fifth accepted record, all of which occurred in the past nine years.
- Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). 1987-15-A subadult at Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 12 April (FS). Now appearing almost annually in spring along the south shore of Lake Ontario. This is the fourteenth record for the state.
- Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1987-38-A, B gray morph on Salt Road, Webster, Monroe Co., 22 November (DS, MT). There are about 40 prior records.



Figure 2. Sandhill Crane (1987-33-A), Stacy's Basin, Oneida Co., New York, 13 Oct 1987. Photograph by Dorothy W. Crumb.

- ✓ Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1987-12-A two flying east at Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout, Monroe Co., 14 April (CC). 1987-13-A one at Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 15 April (DC). 1987-14-A two, Derby Hill, 16 April (FS). 1987-33-A,B one at Stacey Basin, Town of Verona, Oneida Co., 13-15 October (DC, FS; Fig. 2). The pattern of record along the Lake Ontario shore in spring and almost anywhere in agricultural land in fall still holds true. There are now more than two dozen reports for the state.
- ✓ Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*). 1987-27-A,B one at Delta Lake, Town of Western, Oneida Co., 7-8 September (DC, FS). There are about twenty-five prior Upstate records.
- ✓ Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*). 1987-26-A,B juvenile at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 2 September (CD, SH) with Least, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers for direct comparison. Only the second

report for the state. Careful searching may determine this species to be a very rare but regular migrant through the western Long Island littoral.

- ✓ Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). 1987-3-A adult on the Oswego River at Fulton, Oswego Co., 25 January (FS). Rare but regular at this site.
- ✓ Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). 1987-31-A two immatures near Peace Bridge, Erie Co., 7 October (RA). The first time in memory more than one individual has been reported at once in New York State. The NYSARC normally will not review fall reports of this species.
- ✓ Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*). 1987-25-A a juvenile at Croton Point, Westchester Co., 30 August (BW, SL). In proximity to salt water but still unusual away from either Long Island Sound or the Atlantic Ocean.
- ✓ Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*). 1987-8-A,B one at Curtin Road, Town of Parma, Monroe Co., 6-7 March (B & EK, RS), photographs on file. Another find for Rochester owlers! This is the twenty-third record for the state.
- ✓ Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). 1987-43-A one at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, Albany Co., 7-9 February (AM). This is the tenth record for the state. An account with a photograph appears in *The Kingbird* 37:73; 1987.
- ✓ Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). 1987-45-A a male at west end of Jones Beach, Nassau County, 24-25 September (JBU, AD). An account of this addition to the cumulative state list appears in *The Kingbird* 38:2-4; 1988.
- ✓ Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). 1987-35-A,B,C,D,E one at Route 89 and Armitage Road, Town of Tyre, Seneca Co., 31 October-4 November (DC, FS, RE, BK, RS; Fig. 1). Perhaps the strangest waif yet to central New York and at a very peculiar season. This is the sixth record for the state and the first Upstate.
- ✓ Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*). 1987-37-A slightly injured adult male 13 November at Three Rivers WMA, Onondaga Co. (FS). Looked for on subsequent occasions but never relocated.
- ✓ Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). 1987-24-A singing male at Science Lake, Town of Red House, Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus Co., 19 June (RA). This species nested at this site in 1984 but apparently not in 1985 or 1986. There are about forty prior Upstate records.
- ✓ Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*). 1987-39-A first fall male at Saranac Lake, Town of North Elba, Essex Co., 20-22 November (RH), photograph on file.
- ✓ Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). 1987-29-A,B multiple birds seen 3 and 10 October 1987 at various Lake Ontario marshes,

- Town of Greece, Monroe Co. (RS, BK), photographs on file.
- Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). 1987-34-A,B,C one at Zach's Bay, Jones Beach, Nassau Co., 17-18 October (JBU, EE, TB), well documented with good photographs (*Kingbird* 38:8-9; 1988). Only the second report for the state, the last being one present from 31 January to 24 April, 1954, also at Jones Beach.
- Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1987-32-A a single female at East spit of Braddock Bay, Monroe Co., 11 October (BK).
- Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1987-6-A one at feeder in Phoenix, Town of Schroepel, Oswego Co., 15-16 February (FS).

1987 Reports Not Accepted

- Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*). 1987-40-A Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., 14 September - 2 November.
- Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*). 1987-16-A,B one at Coot Hill, Port Henry, Essex Co., 26 April.
- Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*). 1987-1-A,B one near Mashomack Preserve, Pine Plains, Dutchess Co., 12-17 January. Also 1987-2-A one at Niagara Blvd. between Queenston and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario which was watched as it flew east into Niagara Co., 14 February.
- Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). 1987-10-A one at County Line and Chase Roads, Monroe Co., 15 March. 1987-11-A two at Lakeside Cemetery, Town of Hamburg, 11 April. The latter report clearly refers to some species of crane, but the details are not complete enough to be absolutely certain that these were Sandhill Cranes and not another species of crane. Sandhill Crane is by far the most likely species to occur in New York.
- Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). 1987-9-A one at Irondequoit Bay outlet (each side), Monroe Co., 15 March.
- Northern Hawk-Owl (*Surnia ulula*). 1987-4-A one near Rochester along Lake Ontario Parkway, 25 January. 1987-5-A one at Pittsford, Monroe Co., 10 February.
- Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*). 1987-21-A one at Elmira, Chemung Co., 26 May.
- Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). 1987-35-F Route 89 north of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge near the Wayne Co. line, 2 November. Probably the same individual reported in 1987-35-A,B,C,D,E but description inadequate to ascertain that the species in question was a Gray Kingbird.
- Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*). 1987-23-A one on 12 June at Honeye Falls, Monroe Co.
- Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1987-41-A date and location not specified.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1987-7-A one 10-12 March at feeder in Potsdam, St. Lawrence Co.

1986 Accepted Report

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 1985-38-E one at Summerville Pier, Rochester, Monroe Co., 1 February 1986 (D & DT). Please note that the report is in 1986 but was labelled with a 1985 code number.

Azure Gallinule (*Porphyryla flavirostris*). 1986-39-A one found dead at Fort Salonga, Suffolk Co., 14 December (BS, WK). An excellent summary of the penchant of Rallidae to wander accompanied the detailed measurements and description. Details of this first record not only for New York but for all of North America (pending decision by A.O.U. Check-list committee) appear in *Am. Birds* 42:25-27; 1987.

1986 Report Not Accepted

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). 1986-40-A a single bird near Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co., 24 December.

1985 Accepted Reports

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 1985-44-A one on Hudson River near New York, Rockland Co., 24 December (PD).

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*). 1985-46-A one, from 31 August to 3 September at Geoffroy's Pond, Town of Claverack, Columbia Co. (WC). An account of this bird, with photograph, appears in *The Kingbird*.

1985 Reports Not Accepted

Frigatebird sp. (*Fregata* sp.). 1985-31-A one on 27 September in wake of Hurricane Gloria near South Beach Boardwalk, Staten Island, Richmond Co. Accepted as *Fregata* sp. With the occurrence of three species of *Fregata* now documented in North America (see the 6th edition of A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds, 1983) one may not assume that hurricane blown birds necessarily are Magnificent Frigatebirds.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 1985-38-A,B,C,D a single bird on Lake Ontario off East Spit of Braddock Bay, Monroe Co., on 24 November. There were multiple observers but observation conditions and distances were poor.

1984 Accepted Report

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*). 1984-51-A one, 1 July in Long Island Sound between Niantic, Connecticut and Montauk, Suffolk Co. (MB). Although barely into Long Island Sound, this record was reviewed and is reported here because of the scarcity of reports of pelagic birds within the Sound.

The Azure Gallinule in 1986 and the Vermilion Flycatcher in 1987 were both additions to the New York State list, which now stands at 435.

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

Observers submitting NYSARC records cited in this report: Joanne Ackerman, Robert F. Andrle, Edwin B. Avery, Jr., Jeff Bouton, John Bull, Milan G. Bull, Tom Burke, Suzanne G. Card, Carolyn T. Cass, William E. Cook, Dorothy W. Crumb, Mike Davids, Peter Derven, Adrian Dignan, Jeffery Dodge, Carl Downing, Edith Edelbaum, Richard G. Evans, Padraic French, Art Gingert, Kevin C. Griffith, Robert H. Hagar, Steven N. G. Howell, Elsbeth Johnson, Brian W. and Eileen Keelan, Phil Kearney, John H. Kitchen, William Kolodnicki, Stanley Lincoln, Alan A. Mapes, Richard Mather, Robert G. McKinney, Dorine Morese, Frank Nicoletti, John M.C. Peterson, Fritz G. Scheider, Dominic F. Sherony, Arthur C. Smith III, Robert G. Spahn, Barbara Spencer, Paul & Jeff Spindler, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Michael E. Tetlow, Joseph F. and John J. Thill, Don and Donna Traver, Chester A. Vincent, Berna Weissman

FIRST NESTING OF THE DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT AT ONEIDA LAKE, NEW YORK

KIM CLAYPOOLE

Beginning in the mid-1970s, the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) population on Lake Ontario experienced a dramatic increase in size, growing from approximately 22 pairs in 1974 (Price and Weseloh 1986) to 3,400 pairs at six different colonies in 1987 (Carroll 1988). The marked increase in population size has been accompanied by an expansion in the range of this bird. This paper reports, for the first time, the establishment of a small colony of Double-crested Cormorants nesting inland on Oneida Lake in central New York.

A small breeding colony of fewer than 20 pairs has established itself on Wantry Island, a small island (12 x 80 m) located in the northwest part of Oneida Lake, Oswego County, New York. The first known sighting of a cormorant nest at this location was made in 1984 by Patty and Eric Bollinger (*pers. comm.*). This single nest was built in a large willow tree located on the eastern end of the island. The nest was not located until late in the season and contained only the remnants of eggshells when it was checked. The same nest was again present in 1985; however, it is not known whether the nest was used by cormorants.

During the summer of 1986, I found five cormorant nests in the same tree on Wantry Island. All of these nests were being tended by Double-crested cormorants. However, no attempt was made to determine if any fledglings were produced that year. On 28 May 1987, I observed 18 cormorant nests in the willow tree and approximately 114 adult cormorants in the immediate vicinity of the island. The 18 nests were located high off the ground and no attempt was made to examine them for eggs or the presence of nestlings. Despite additional short-term visits to the island, I observed neither nestlings nor adults feeding young. On 10 July, however, I observed young cormorants perched in the willow tree and various counts made throughout the rest of July indicated that between 20 and 30 fledgling cormorants were present at any one time in the tree.

Fledgling counts were made from a boat at least 200 feet offshore, with the aid of binoculars. As a result, I often found it difficult to ascertain whether a bird was a fledgling or an adult. Counts are, therefore, approximations. I believe, however, that this colony of 18 nesting pairs produced a minimum of 15 fledglings in 1987.

Double-crested cormorants were first documented nesting on Lake Ontario in 1938 when a colony had established itself on Scotch Bonnet Island, Ontario (Baillie 1947). The Double-crested Cormorant popula-

tion subsequently has expanded its range into eastern Lake Ontario, colonizing other islands. Gull Island, New York, was colonized in 1945 (Kutz and Allen 1947) and was the first recorded nesting of Double-crested Cormorants within New York state. Two additional New York islands in Lake Ontario have since been colonized by cormorants; Bass Island in the 1960s and Little Galloo Island in the 1970s (Price and Weseloh 1986). The potential for expansion to other islands in Eastern Lake Ontario seems high.

On 18 September 1987, observers counted between 1,000 and 1,100 Double-crested Cormorants on or near Wantry Island, Oneida Lake, New York (Richmond *pers. comm.*). These birds were not observed on Oneida Lake during the summer months, but as migrants which clearly represent a potential source of new breeders. The potential for these birds to expand their breeding effort to other islands in Oneida Lake is quite high. Observations suggest that this cormorant colony will continue to increase in coming years.

Any effects which the increasing cormorant population may have on the Oneida Lake sport fishery is unknown at this time. Double-crested cormorants are opportunistic feeders and will vary their diet according to prey availability (Pilon, Burton and McNeil 1983). Gizzard shad were abundant in Oneida Lake during the summer of 1987. Richard Colesante of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (*pers. comm.*) visited Wantry Island during the summer of 1987 and reported observing only gizzard shad in the food material regurgitated by the cormorant chicks. Further research, however, needs to be done on the Oneida Lake double-crested cormorant colony to determine what other fish the colony may be consuming, in what amounts, and what effect this consumption may have on the Oneida Lake sport fishery.

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- New York Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

A THIRD POST-1875 NESTING OF DICKCISSEL IN NEW YORK STATE

ELIZABETH W. BROOKS

Before 1870 the Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) was a common or abundant breeder in the middle states east of the Alleghenies (Eaton 1914), preferring lush grassy fields in lowland areas. Ornithologists do not know why or exactly when it disappeared from the northeast. Bull (1974) lists only two post-1875 records of the Dickcissel: a successful nesting in a hayfield in Meridian, Cayuga Co., in May 1937 reported by Benton and a June 1955 nesting near Victor, Ontario Co., that probably was destroyed by raccoons (Genesee Orn. Soc. 1985)

Although there is some evidence that this species may be trying to reestablish itself east of Ohio, New York state records are still rare, especially during the nesting season. Roy Slack and Cathie Baumgartner reported on a possible Dickcissel breeding colony in the Town of Pomfret, Chautauqua Co., where a female and from three to five males were observed during June 1975 (Slack and Baumgartner 1977). Up to ten males and five females were present in the same open field during June 1976 and Slack banded two females, both of whom had incubation patches. However, no nest was ever found. During the six-year period between 1981 and 1986 field work for the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas failed to establish the Dickcissel as a breeding species in a single block in the state (Andrle and Carroll 1988), although in 1980 a male discovered by Doug Bassett near Letchworth Park in Wyoming Co. sang and defended a territory through 7 July (Spahn 1980).

The third post-1875 Dickcissel nest was discovered at 09:30 on 29 June 1988, when the author flushed a female Dickcissel from a nest containing five unmarked blue eggs while conducting a breeding bird study census on a 26.5-acre upland managed Christmas tree farm. The nest, located two feet up in a four-foot Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*), was in a section of plantation also containing rows of Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens glauca*). The field, located at an elevation of 2170 feet in the town of Andover, Allegany Co., NY., is surrounded by fields planted to potatoes, grass and Christmas trees (Fig. 1). When I returned to the field at 16:30 on the same day the female circled and called agitatedly as I photographed the nest. She was joined by the male and continued calling and circling approximately 50 yards from the nest until I left the area.

Despite the cooperation of the owner of the plantation who marked the general vicinity of the nest, a crew of mowers and pruners worked in the field during the first week of July and the birds probably experi-



*Figure 1. Habitat surrounding the Dickcissel nest site.
Photograph by Elizabeth W. Brooks.*



*Figure 2. Dickcissel nest and eggs, town of Andover, Allegany County,
New York. Photograph by Elizabeth W. Brooks.*

enced considerable disturbance. At 10:00 on 6 July the nest and eggs were still intact but I could not find the adult birds and at no time did I hear the male sing. Since I normally do my censuses in the early morning I returned at 19:00 to see if the male might sing at a later hour. On this visit, I neither saw nor heard the adults. On 12 July, having allowed the full 14 days possible for the eggs to hatch (Harrison, 1978), I collected the nest and eggs (Fig. 2), which were covered with mites. The nest set has been deposited in the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Appreciation is extended to Lou and Doris Burton for assistance in the preparation of this paper and to Tom and Kathy Kent, owners of the plantation, for their interest and cooperation.

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1435 Waterwells Road, Alfred Station, New York 14803.

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1988

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held the 1988 winter Waterfowl Count from 9 January through 17 January, with 10 January as the target date. All regions completed their counts within the established dates.

The count period was about normal again this year. Most bodies of water that usually are open were open and available to waterfowl. Exceptions are frequently found at or near Lakes Erie and Ontario, where snowfall and/or icing conditions may occur exclusively to virtually all other areas. Regional compilers did not indicate any severe meteorological limitations in completing their counts. The grand total count of 282,973 (Table I), was up 9.6% over 1987, and 24.0% above the fifteen year average (1973-1987) of 215,150. It was nice to record gains this year for Redhead, scaup and goldeneye, but not so nice to see a continued downward trend for American Wigeon, Canvasback and American Coot. Surprising was the sharp drop in numbers of American Black Duck and Common Merganser. On the plus side Brant, Canada Goose, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser and Mute Swan recorded gains as well as Mallard. The latter's gains may be at the expense of the American Black Duck. This phenomenon bears watching, and perhaps the development of waterfowl management strategy to help the American Black Duck. Overall, in 1988, for species listed in Table III, there was a 28.1% increase over the 1973-1987 average as well as a 10.9% increase from 1987 to 1988 (Table 2).

Comparing 1988 to 1987 count figures (Table 2), the commoner species showed a 10-5 split in favor of increases. When comparing 1988 count figures with the 1973-1987 fifteen year average (Table 3) we find an 8-6 split, again in favor of increases, and the Common Goldeneye within just seven birds of equaling that average!

There are "goodies" out there just waiting to be recorded. Region 3 came up with the first ever record of an Eared Grebe for the Waterfowl Count. And Region 10 came through with a Common Moorhen, the first in a number of years.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were up 10.2% over 1987. The Canada Goose decline of 2.2% was greatly offset by increases of 18.6% and a whopping 92.7% over 1987 for Atlantic Brant and Snow Goose respectively. The dabbling ducks showed an overall increase of 12.2% over 1987 in contrast to the 11.4% decrease recorded last year. All species were up with the exceptions of Green-

winged Teal and Northern Pintail which were 8.0% and 2.2% below 1987 respectively. The Northern Pintail continues a downward trend and is now 36.8% below the most recent ten year average. Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an overall decline of just under 1% compared to 1987, but a significant 13.3% below their 1978-1987 average. American Coot, on the other hand, showed a 44.2% increase over 1987 and a huge 138.2% increase above the most recent ten year average. Most (94.4%) American Coot again were wintering in Georgia and Florida. Perhaps this trend explains their decreasing numbers in New York, as noted in Table 2. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway were up 12.8% over 1987, and 11.3% over the 1978-1987 average.

The Department of Environmental Conservation 1988 aerial survey was conducted from 31 December 1987 through 15 January 1988. The results are presented in Table IV. Table V compares 1987 to 1988 aerial survey results.

The 1989 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 14 January through 22 January with Sunday, 15 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 9 has a new compiler and longtime friend, Alice Jones. Pleased to have you aboard! The regional compilers were:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Region 1. Wavel Barber | Region 6. Lee Chamberlaine |
| 2. Warren Lloyd | 7. John Peterson |
| 3. Eric Donohue | 8. Paul Grattan |
| 4. Leslie Bemont | 9. Alice Jones |
| 5. Fritz Scheider | 10. Stephen Dempsey |

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southern border of the Region; no evidence of late nestings was found and none were reported after 4 Jul.

Eight of the 11 Regional Breeding Bird Surveys were completed this year, the missing ones all uncovered over the past ten years. The number of species found on each route generally was slightly above average, and the number of individuals also tended to higher than average though more variably so. Sampling error makes year to year comparisons of individual routes dubious, but several species showed the same trend on virtually all routes and probably reflect real population changes. Mourning Dove, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-eyed Vireo and Common Yellowthroat totals were generally well above normal, and Red-winged Blackbird counts were alarmingly below normal. The trend for Mourning Dove is a continuation from past years, and American Crow and Black-capped Chickadee may have benefited from the mild winter; a count of 184 Black-capped Chickadee in northern Oswego County on 7 Aug suggests that the species had a good season there as well, but no other counts came close to that total. It is hard to suggest a cause for the change in population size of the other species.

Other notable records from the midsummer period include Gadwall, three Bald Eagle reports, a group of Sedge Wrens, the second summer **Kentucky Warbler** for the Region, and a small number of Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows. Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay and Common Raven were reported from traditional Adirondack strongholds, and Double-crested Cormorant apparently nested on Oneida Lake again this summer. The only species surprisingly unreported was Virginia Rail, but less surprising misses included American Bittern, Northern Goshawk, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole. Few Ruffed Grouse broods were reported. Ring-necked Pheasant and the grassland sparrows continue scarce in the Region. Common Tern numbers were alarmingly low, but Black Terns seem to be holding on unchanged; only Caspian Terns did well in this Region, no doubt reflecting the successful colonies to our north on Lake Ontario. Common Nighthawks were found consistently only in downtown Syracuse, and both Chimney Swift and Barn Swallow were unusually scarce in Syracuse all summer, but variably up or down on Breeding Bird Surveys.

The fall migration began with shorebirds and Yellow Warblers in late June to early July, but never produced exceptional numbers. Both Sandy Pond and Delta Lake were fairly productive for shorebird variety but no sites produced numbers of birds. No unusual herons or phalaropes were reported. The most unusual shorebirds were Whimbrel and Hudson Godwit, and a Little Gull appeared at Sandy Pond at the season's end. The first jaeger flight produced 14 Parasitics at Derby Hill on 18 Aug. A few migrant Common Nighthawk were reported during the last week of August. Numbers of migrant swallows were generally low. Philadelphia Vireo returned early, Louisiana Waterthrush remained late, and there was only one report of Cape May Warbler for the season. A total of 186 species, and one hybrid, were reported during the season, somewhat below normal and a reflection of the general absence of rarities.

Contributors: Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Ruth Knight, Gary Lee, Robert L. Long, Robert E. Post, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Gerald A. Smith, Betty Starr, Magdalena Stooks, Elba VanDressar, Gary Webb

Table 1. continued

Canvasback	1,511	204	1,684		16	1	5	3	1,034	1,929	6,387
Redhead	90	74	6,496		47	5				111	6,823
Ring-necked Duck			20	1	4				47	89	161
Tufted Duck											0
Scaup, Greater	1,504	1,074	153		1,600	800	2	1		45,394	50,528
Lesser	33	3	20		13					58	127
species		70	381			11	250	1		2,067	2,780
Eider, Common										12	12
King					2					3	5
Harlequin Duck	1									2	3
Oldsquaw	3,758	222			135	221				1,592	5,928
Scoter, Black	2	13			1					1,567	1,583
Surf					1					5,074	5,075
White-winged	1,212	1,867	1		5					19,440	22,525
species										1,636	1,636
Goldeneye, Common	3,672	1,943	462	36	1,479	85	1,342	49	11	2,348	11,427
Barrow's											0
Bufflehead	312	69	262		83		76	3	2	6,666	7,473
Merganser, Hooded	19		27	3	19			13	5	309	395
Common	1,976	1,371	33	52	1,395	28	1,556	172	1,004	30	7,617
Red-breasted	1,250	128	6		64	5	1			4,638	6,092
Ruddy Duck	1	1								1,140	1,142
Common Moorhen										1	1
American Coot	66	1	411		1		1		4	211	695
unidentified										6	6
TOTAL	22,713	11,582	45,459	1,024	11,162	1,870	5,453	3,777	7,291	172,642	282,973

Table 2. Comparison of 1988 with 1987 for all species totaling over 1,000 individuals in 1987

Species	1988	1987	% change from 1987
Mute Swan	1,909	1,573	21.4
Brant	19,142	15,054	27.2
Canada Goose	67,301	63,152	6.6
American Black Duck	16,795	27,734	-39.4
Mallard	35,889	24,851	44.4
American Wigeon	941	1,913	-50.8
Canvasback	6,387	8,086	-21.0
Redhead	6,823	4,290	59.0
scaup (both species)	53,435	41,099	30.0
Oldsquaw	5,928	5,814	2.0
scoter (all species)	30,819	15,867	94.2
goldeneye (both species)	11,427	7,434	53.7
Bufflehead	7,473	5,713	30.8
Common Merganser	7,617	22,115	-65.6
Red-breasted Merganser	6,092	5,101	19.4
American Coot	695	1,424	-51.2
TOTAL	278,673	251,220	10.9

Table 3. Comparison of 1988 count with 1973-1987 average for all species totaling over 1,000 individuals in 1987 or 1988.

Species	1988	Average	% change from 1987
Brant	19,142	11,370	68.4
Canada Goose	67,301	35,440	89.9
American Black Duck	16,795	19,361	-13.3
Mallard	35,889	22,624	58.6
American Wigeon	941	2,093	-55.0
Canvasback	6,387	11,521	-44.6
Redhead	6,823	6,360	7.3
scaup (both species)	53,435	58,718	-9.0
Oldsquaw	5,928	3,626	63.5
scoter (all species)	30,819	11,350	171.5
goldeneye (both species)	11,427	11,434	-0.1
Bufflehead	7,473	4,551	64.2
Common Merganser	7,617	13,662	-44.2
Red-breasted Merganser	6,092	2,168	181.0
American Coot	695	1,830	-62.0
TOTAL	276,764	216,108	28.1

**Table 4. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Aerial Count, 31 Dec 1987 - 15 Jan 1988.
All species of 1,000 individuals or more.**

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	12	1,411	1,423
Brant		15,710	15,710
Canada Goose	34,577	15,094	49,671
American Black Duck	8,485	20,457	28,942
Mallard	13,099	1,289	14,388
Canvasback	9,545	3,846	13,391
Redhead	13,170		13,170
scaup (both species)	12,282	23,953	36,235
Oldsquaw	3,449	541	3,990
scoter (all species)	731	14,185	14,916
goldeneye (both species)	5,677	2,077	7,754
Bufflehead	70	1,363	1,433
merganser (all species)	29,693	9,836	39,529
TOTAL	130,790	109,762	240,552

**Table 5. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
1987 and 1988 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1987,
for all species with at least 1,000 individuals in 1988.**

Species	1988	1987	% change
Mute Swan	1,423	1,344	5.9
Brant	15,710	16,144	-2.7
Canada Goose	49,671	76,907	-35.4
American Black Duck	28,942	12,655	128.7
Mallard	14,388	12,717	13.1
Canvasback	13,391	10,283	30.2
Redhead	13,170	7,110	85.2
scaup (both species)	36,235	27,295	32.8
Oldsquaw	3,990	3,619	10.3
scoter (all species)	14,916	5,225	185.5
goldeneye (both species)	7,754	6,829	13.5
merganser (all species)	39,529	16,444	140.4
TOTAL	239,119	196,572	21.6

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

An Active Peregrine Eyrie Along the Hudson: On the morning of 3 June 1988, I observed three downy Peregrine Falcon chicks perched on the edge of a wooden nest box just below the west tower of the Tappan Zee Bridge at Tarrytown, Westchester County. This, and an active eyrie on the Cornell Medical Center building in Manhattan, would mark the first time since the 1951 nesting season that Peregrine falcons have successfully hatched a clutch of eggs in their historical territories from Manhattan north to Storm King mountain (Herbert and Herbert, 1969). Late in the winter of 1984-1985 it came to my attention that a Peregrine had been seen on the Tappan Zee Bridge on several occasions that winter. A literature review revealed that one also had been spotted there during the winter of 1983-1984. I began receiving regular reports of a single Peregrine on that bridge from the winter of 1984-1985 through the summer of 1987. These sightings were phoned in by commuters and bridge maintenance workers who caught glimpses of the bird. I saw the bird several times during that period and identified it as an adult female with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service bands. During March 1985, two Peregrine nest boxes were placed on the Tappan Zee Bridge by the Museum of the Hudson Highlands, Cornwall on Hudson, with the approval of the New York State Thruway Authority, under field work funded by the World Wildlife Fund-U.S and in cooperation with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Peregrine Fund, Inc. A year before, we also had placed nest boxes on several other Hudson River crossings. In July 1987, reports began coming in of a second, smaller Peregrine on the bridge - the male of the species. I saw this individual once briefly during a visit to the bridge that month. On that same visit I climbed to check the condition of the two nest boxes. The east box was defended vigorously by the female while the male was nowhere to be seen. The area was littered with the remains of Rock Doves, Blue Jays and Yellow-shafted Flickers.

Reports continued to come in through that next winter of two Peregrines on the bridge. They were most often seen Perched on the beacons atop the towers, just above the nest boxes. Then on 17 March 1988, Kathy O'Brien, with the NYSDEC Endangered Species Unit, and I visited the bridge and observed both birds loafing in the early afternoon, one perched near the west nest box and the other in the center of the span. The next day Kathy O'Brien returned in the early morning and observed the pair copulating three times. During early April she reported the birds were exchanging incubation duties in the west box. On 25 May Kathy O'Brien phoned in to report two chicks in the west box. She estimated their age at two weeks. On my visit of 3 June, a third chick was seen. A reliable spotter, Chuck Harten, reported that a chick had fledged and was perched with the female out on the bridge on 13 June. At least two young were seen flying well in July. Hopefully as of this writing all three young are out and doing well.

Dennis Mildner, RD 7 Box 79, Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533

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Prairie Warbler as a regular breeder at Alvar sites in Jefferson County: Bonney (1988) in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* stated the Prairie Warbler is a southern species reaching the northern limit of its range in New York. He noted the epicenter of its range in the state included the Hudson Valley, eastern Long Island and the central southern tier. North of the New York State Thruway the species is much less frequent, particularly in central and western sections of the state where atlas workers found it to be a rare breeder.

In Jefferson county prior to 1986 the species was considered a rare migrant with little evidence of breeding. The probable breeding record noted by the atlas involved two pair of Prairie Warblers observed by me during 1984 and 1985 at The Nature Conservancy's Limerick Cedar's Preserve in the Town of Brownville. This preserve is largely composed of Calcareous Pavement Barrens mixed with Limestone woodland communities. These communities are characterized by open forests of small trees containing substantial amounts of Red Cedar interspersed with areas of exposed limestone bedrock and open grassy areas. Although these Alvar type communities are rare globally, northwestern Jefferson county contains several of the best remaining examples in North America.

During the 1987 and 1988 breeding seasons, in the course of my duties as The Nature Conservancy's Central New York Land Steward, I visited several of these Alvar sites. At the newly acquired TNC 772 acre Chaumont Barrens Preserve a minimum of 10 pair of Prairie Warblers were present in 1988. Also during 1988 a minimum of 5 pair were present at Limerick Cedars. During brief visits to 3 other Alvar sites in this region singing males were found at all sites. In addition one singing male was present at the El Dorado Beach preserve located in southwestern Jefferson County. These observations indicate the species is a locally fairly common breeder on limestone barrens sites in the area. It is likely detailed surveys of suitable habitat in the towns of Cape Vincent, Lyme, Chaumont and Brownville would locate several dozen pair. In addition Prairie Warblers may occur in lesser numbers in small areas of the towns of Hounsfield and Henderson and perhaps elsewhere in Jefferson County.

This Prairie Warbler population is approximately 100 miles north of any other substantial breeding population in the state. Quilliam (1973), however, found the species to be a rare but increasing breeder in the nearby Kingston, Ontario region. This area is 20-40 miles from the Jefferson County sites. Bonney (1988) noted this species was found by Ontario atlas workers in southern Ontario and is also continuing to expand in New York. Although

the Jefferson county population may represent a fairly recent range expansion, the nearly thirty year history of the Kingston, Ontario population suggests that these birds may have been present for at least one to two decades. Competent and active field birders are in short supply in northern New York and many of the best sites for Prairie Warblers, such as Limerick Cedars and Chaumont Barrens are areas unlikely to attract birders. It is likely that these factors, combined with insufficient atlas coverage, were responsible for the previous lack of information on this population.

Northwestern Jefferson County contains a number of species, primarily plants but also birds including Clay-colored Sparrow, exhibiting western affinities. Recent work by several botanists, primarily at Alvar sites have found populations of plant species rare in New York State but more widely distributed farther west. It is interesting to speculate that similar intensive avian field work in this poorly studied area may result in species such as Western Meadowlark and Clay-colored Sparrow being more widely reported. The presence of a substantial breeding Prairie Warbler population in this region may support Bull's (1974) suggestion that this species is invading New York from the west.

Current data suggest this Prairie Warbler population is closely tied to habitats in Alvar communities. Given the slow rate of natural succession at these sites and intense interest in their observation it is likely suitable nesting habitat will be available to Prairie Warblers here for some time to come. Hopefully increasing interest on the part of birders will result in more information on this and other locally distributed species in the bird-rich but observer-poor areas of northern New York.

Gerald A. Smith, Central New York Chapter, The Nature Conservancy, RR1 Box 498, Mexico, N.Y. 13114.

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Late Nesting of Black-backed Woodpecker: On 26 Aug, 1988, Kathryn McIntyre and I were birding on a lumber road between Big Moose Station and Stillwater, Herkimer County. My attention was called to a swampy hemlock area by loud "pic" culls and a noisy assortment of rattling cries. The last sounded like young woodpeckers. We soon located two adult Black-backed Woodpeckers (*Picoides arcticus*) and at least three, possibly four young. I could see three juveniles at one time and was hearing the same noises coming

from a tree off to the right. The two adults were approximately the size of a Hairy Woodpecker with the back and upper wings shiny, solid black. The female had a plain black crown. The male had a yellow patch on the crown. Both birds had a white line above a black mustache, white belly and black and white barring on the sides. The three visible young resembled the adults but didn't appear as shiny. They were actively begging food and we saw the male pass food several times. It was difficult to see the female through the branches. Bull (1974) gives fledgling dates of 20 June to 23 July. Beehler (1978) lists egg dates through 19 June. Fledged young still being fed on 26 August may represent a late nest record for New York State.

Dorothy W. Crumb, 3983 Gates Road, Jamesville, NY 13078

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Unusual Hunting Posture of a Red-tailed Hawk: On June 12, 1985 I observed an adult Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) quartering over a large field. The bird was flying at a height of 50 m. The weather was cool and the winds were out of the southeast at 10-15 mph. The hawk circled the field three times and then began to hover at a distance of 350 m from my observation point. It held this position for 30 seconds. The hawk again flew the width of the field and back to the original hovering location. It then began to drop very slowly to the ground. Its head was held down as if hunting and its descent was totally vertical. The wings, between the body and the wrist, were held up at a 5-10 degree angle. The hand was held down at a slightly greater angle and the wing tips were at an even greater angle downward. The overall impression of the hawk as it was dropping was that of a parachute, with its wings "billowing" against the wind. It took the Red-tail approximately 15-20 seconds to descend out of view from a height of 50 m. Two minutes later the bird ascended, with no apparent prey, and flew out of view. Hunting methods previously described for the Red-tailed Hawk have included hunting from a perch, from a soaring position and by quartering flight over a field in the manner of a harrier (Bent 1937, Fitch 1946). Observations have also been made of Red-tailed Hawks hunting from a hover and kiting position (Bent 1937, Austing 1964). The hawk is described as plummeting toward the earth with pulled back wings. Brown (1976a), has depicted the Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) descending from a hover quite slowly with partly closed wings. He states that as it approaches the prey the hawk raises its wings above its head and quickly plunges to the earth. Brown has also used the term parachute to depict the descent of a hawk on its prey. He describes the hawk as dropping with its wings held upward and at the

last moment plunging rapidly toward the prey (Brown 1976b). The hunting posture observed by me appears to be extremely rare, and given the amount of time it took the Red-tailed Hawk to complete its descent it is doubtful that this is an efficient hunting method. It does illustrate, however, the diversification of hunting methods of the Red-tailed Hawk.

Roberta McDonald, 1392 East Park Rd., Grand Island, New York 14072.

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Letter to the Editor

It may be of little significance or value, but some readers of Dr. Meade's article on "The Origins Of The Federation And What Happened Then" (*Kingbird* Vol. 38(2):66-74) may want to correct certain typographical errors. I know that they are not important, but I also know that Dr. Meade would be the very first person to insist on accuracy.

On page 67, last paragraph, at the 7 Dec 1946 meeting, twelve Bird Clubs are mentioned as attending but only eleven are listed. Both the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University and the Cuyuga Bird Club were represented by Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg.

On page 68, last paragraph, the date of the First Annual Meeting in Rochester, was 13-14 Nov 1948 instead of 12-14 Dec. In the same paragraph, for the papers presented at that meeting the, "Status of the Little Gull on the Niagara Frontier", was given by Harold D. Mitchell and not F.L. Gambrel, who present a paper entitled, "Bird Activities on the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge". Also omitted was a paper "The Occurrence of Migration in the Semi-domesticated Mallard" by Dirck Benson.

On the top of page 72, the list of deceased Presidents includes Warren Hastings. His correct name is Watson B. Hastings.

Some other very important early meetings held to get the Federation off the ground were not listed. A dinner meeting was held on 22 Mar 1946 in Rochester to explore the idea of a Federation. Another meeting was held on 26 Oct 1946, and a fruitful meeting convened in Dr. Kellogg's office at Cornell on 8 Feb 1944 to finalize the Constitution for the Federation. Also, a Council Meeting was held on 28 May 1947, at the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City. All of the aforementioned meetings laid a firm foundation for a successful Federation.

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[Dr. Meade does indeed welcome these corrections. He writes that some of the early planning meetings were omitted from his account so as not to overly complicate the story of the Federation's beginnings, and notes that the official minutes of the first annual meeting do not mention the paper by Dirck Benson – The Editor.]

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Many of you may be wondering about the impact of the drought of '88 on this summer's breeding season. To dispense with that quickly, it had few effects on bird populations but was responsible for very low activity by birders during the hot spells in the middle of the season. Several Regions noted specifically that the rains came in time to save the berry crops and many stressed trees appeared to put forth a bumper crop of seeds. It may have little negative impact through this winter as well. In fact, from the standpoint of weather, our new Region 10 editors summarize it best: "... in actuality [it] wound up being pretty much just a hotter than average summer in terms of temperature and rainfall." From the standpoint of birding, the two migrations which are partly included in this season's reports were both lackluster and reports of breeding birds ranged from encouraging to continuing trends to a few new negatives. Most of the more extreme variations, positive or negative, were reported only very locally.

In a year of widespread drought across the country, we also appeared to be headed for the same. However, heavy rains in the latter halves of July and August brought the summer back to near normal precipitation totals in most of the state. Weather systems were mainly large and stable, so most of the state saw the same pattern: cool and damp for about half of June, **hot** from mid June to mid August with heavy showers and thunderstorms in the last half of July, and cool and wet in late August. Much of the rainfall occurred as locally heavy storms, with wide variation between close locales. There were very few notes of this weather appearing to have much effect on breeding success. In Region 1 landbird success in June and July was thought to be down and raccoon predation increased as a result the drought conditions. In Region 2 birds of wet woodlands were thought to have suffered, and in Region 7 Osprey nesting success was poor and several nesting attempts by Bald Eagles failed, although both problems have other possible explanations. Failure of Bald Eagle nesting is echoed in Regions 3 and 9.

Since this reporting season includes the end of spring migration, the heart of the breeding season, and the start of fall migration, I'll treat each of these events in turn rather than following checklist sequence and mixing the seasonal comments. The late spring migration was very uneventful over most of the state. The major highlight was the spring shorebird peak at Jamaica Bay on June 1 instead of in May. The few migrants specifically noted in early June were species which often linger into June. Only a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 21 Jun in Region 1 seemed

exceptionally late.

The bulk of the reports deal with breeding species. In spite of the paucity of observers afield and the early ending of song (owing to the heat?) there is much interesting information. Read the Regional Breeding Bird Census summary in Region 1, the waterfowl nesting report in Region 3, the summary of Breeding Bird Survey results in Region 5, reports of new locations covered in Regions 3, 6 and 8, the annual Four Brothers Islands banding report in Region 7 as well as other banding results from Regions 7 and 8, and the generally upbeat report from Region 9. Waterfowl reports were mixed with some species, such as Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal, apparently still in trouble, but others, such as Canada Goose, Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal (note more Green-winged than Blue-winged in Region 3!), increasing. Relatively rare breeding occurrences include Northern Shoveler in Region 1 and Canvasback in Region 7. Raptors, aside from the disturbing Osprey and Bald Eagle notes above, saw positives for Northern Harrier in seven Regions, more Red-shouldered Hawk reports than has been typical of the recent past, widespread accipiter reports though N. Goshawk was scarce, and good nesting success reported for the common species, Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel. Not much breeding data for the gulls and terns was provided this summer, except that Least Terns were down a bit in Region 10 and Black Tern generally remains very low. Among the late summer wanderers from nearby breeding areas, Caspian Tern numbers were good while Common Tern numbers were very poor. Owls yielded the usual few reports, but Common Barn-Owl breeding records came from Regions 9 and 10 and Short-eared Owls were noted in Regions 1 and 3. For the woodpeckers there was little data as well, except for a positive list from Region 9 and reports that Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were scarce at the edges of their ranges. Most of our common breeding flycatchers received good reviews if they were noted at all. Olive-sided Flycatcher added a bit of confusion with a 4 Jul appearance in Region 2. Swallow reports also were mostly positive, though red flags were posted for Purple Martin in Region 6, Cliff Swallow in Region 9, and Barn Swallow in Regions 1 and 5. Again the "little data" refrain applies to the wrens, with a plus for Sedge Wren in Regions 1, 5 and 7 offset by Marsh Wren lows in Regions 6 and 9. Thrushes elicited little comment except for Eastern Bluebird, for which a low from Region 5 contrasted to very good fledging reports for major trails of boxes in Regions 1 and 9. Vireo reviews varied between Regions, the most interesting being the increased number of White-eyed Vireo reports in Regions 1, 9 and 10. Data for the wood warblers was again rather sparse and locally variable. Golden-winged Warbler, American Redstart, and Yellow-breasted Chat

received significant calls to watch for declines, while Ovenbird and Common Yellowthroat were noted for strong showings in more than one Region. Our beleaguered grassland sparrows continue to generate much concern, with even Savannah Sparrow now apparently in trouble in many areas. Blackbird data also was sparse but of special note are very low counts Red-winged Blackbird in Region 5 and only one note of Eastern Meadowlark, a species already of some concern statewide. Finally, finches received only a scattering of comments. House Finch is still expanding, while Purple Finch remains scarce everywhere except for the large numbers banded by Robert Yunick at Jenny Lake in Region 8. Most other finches appear as scattered single reports except for Pine Siskin, which lingered late after possibly breeding in several Regions.

Among the breeding species which do not fit neatly into these larger families, we find an apparent Common Loon pair with young in Region 9; Double-crested Cormorant booming - 1000 in Region 7, 830 in Region 5; very few American Bitterns; Green-backed Heron up a bit with positive notes from 4 Regions; Ring-necked Pheasant still scarce; Wild Turkey increasing northward and eastward; cuckoos generally up, especially in Regions 1, 3, 8 and 9; Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will still both generally scarce; Chimney Swift good in Regions 3 and 9, low or not mentioned elsewhere; Common Raven noted in seven regions; most southern colonizers such as Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and N. Mockingbird, doing well; Brown Thrasher red flagged in Regions 3 and 8; Cedar Waxwing sharply contrasting, down in Region 1 and up in Region 9; Loggerhead Shrike noted only in Regions 2 and 6, with one seen lying on a road in Region 6 later found injured on that same road; Indigo Bunting down in Regions 1 and 6, good in Region 9; and White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco each red flagged in one region. Rarer summering or breeding reports included up to 31 Brown Pelicans in Region 10 virtually all season; a late June Eurasian Wigeon in Region 10; Spruce Grouse in Regions 6 and 7; Fish Crow in Regions 8 and 9 but not found in Region 3; the state's first Dickcissel nest since 1955 in Region 1; and Boat-tailed Grackle numbers increasing in Region 10. We could make much more sense of the breeding season if more attempts were made to relate a given year's Breeding Bird Survey results (or some similar compilation) to a long-term average, such as the prior 10 or 24 years of BBS data. One can obtain summaries for all the routes in a Region and one would hope that all route observers would be happy to send copies of their data each year to the Regional Editors, if there was a feeling that these data would be used.

The start of the fall migration seemed nearly as dismal as the end of the spring's movement. Shorebirds again provided the most interesting notes, with very high counts of Black-bellied Plover and Willet in Region

10 and good habitat bringing interesting variety to several other Regions. Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, dowitcher and phalarope numbers appeared somewhat low through season's end. At Jamaica Bay, July numbers were above average, August numbers below. Pelagic birds were also scarce offshore from Region 10. Away from Region 10, wandering post-breeding herons, expected in late July and August, simply failed to appear in most Regions. Great Egret was the only widespread species and the other, rarer species were noted only in Regions 1, 3, 9 and 10. Landbird migrants rated no significant comments for either arrival dates or numbers, other than being scarce - a fact probably significant in itself.

In a season noted for its paucity of good rarities, this summer did provide some interesting surprises, though no sign of a flood of travelers from the parched West. The best of the rare bird reports by region were: Region 1 - Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, American Avocet, Laughing Gull, a third summer record of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for the state, and the nesting Dickcissel; Region 2 - Willet, Marbled Godwit, and Common Raven; Region 3 - Glossy Ibis; Region 5 - Kentucky Warbler; Region 6 - Spruce Grouse; Region 7 - nesting Canvasback, Sedge Wren, and Palm Warbler; and Region 10 - Manx Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Great Cormorant, White Ibis, Eurasian Wigeon, and a possible Violet-green Swallow. Many of these are very rare or casual in New York and would be BOTS species in another year or if reported with more detail. The BOTS Award for this summer goes to the state's first verified Rufous Hummingbird, a male in Region 3.

In closing, it is good to see a Region 10 report once again; a warm welcome to the new editors, Seymour Schiff and Alvin Wollin. Accompanying this season's report they have provided a brief survey of the highlights of that Region's missing seasons. Only the Region 4 report failed to arrive in time to be included in this season's highlights; can we see 100% next season?.

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Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE; months are shortened to their first three letters; ad - adult; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; FL - fledgling; FY - adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; *intro* - see introduction to report; j - 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; Res - Reservoir; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad - subadult; T - Town of; Twn - township; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

June was pleasant with the average temperature 64°, 2° below normal, and sunshine 10 percent above normal at Buffalo. However, in some of the frost pockets of the southern tier counties, frost on 11 Jun made second plantings of gardens necessary. In contrast, temperatures rose to a record 96° on 25 Jun, a forerunner of July's weather. Only 1.56 inches of rain fell in Buffalo, 1.72 in Jamestown and 1.48 inches at Wellsville. Rain fell only five times at Buffalo during the month and Lake Erie dropped two feet from its record 1986 high. July was the fifth warmest month in Buffalo's 118 years of weather recording. Temperatures averaged 4.1° above normal, 74.5° at Buffalo, 6.9° above normal, 75.5° at Wellsville, and 72.6° at Jamestown, with highs of 99° on 8, 9 and 11 Jul. The highest temperature of the month at Buffalo was 97° on 6 July. Low humidity made life more bearable for humans but it increased the drought, lowering the water table throughout. On 17 Jul three inches of rain fell on the northern suburbs of Buffalo, and the month ended with 6.25 inches there, 5.75 inches at Wellsville and 3.29 inches at Jamestown. This was still not enough to raise the greatly lowered water table, and the Allegheny and Genesee Rivers and their tributaries all remained very low afterwards. The first half of August was hot with nine days reaching the 90's at Buffalo. From 18 to 21 Aug temperatures were near normal due to a southward sag in the jet stream, which pumped cooler air into the Region. Lake Erie reached an all time high temperature of 80° just before the big change, precipitation increased and the month ended with 2.69 inches of rain at Buffalo, 1.47 inches below normal, and just 0.38 inches below normal at Wellsville. After a hot summer, it seems amazing that frosts were reported on 23 Aug in the valleys of the Allegheny Plateau away from the moderating effect of Lake Erie, giving some areas only 83 frost free days this season.

As the summer's drought moved east it may have caused the presence of some interesting western birds in the Region. Allegany County birders have documented another new nesting species for the Region, at least in recent times. Betsy Brooks flushed a **Dickcissel** from a nest of five eggs in a Christmas Tree plantation, 2 miles NE of Elm Valley on 29 June [see note elsewhere this issue]. In the same 26 acre tree farm she also found singing **Clay-colored Sparrow**. Dickcissel was also reported in June at Wainfleet, Ontario (about 20 miles west of Buffalo: BOS Noteworthy Records) and near Tidioute, Penn., 14 June, about 25 miles south of Jamestown (Jamestown Audubon Society Newsletter, Aug, Sep.). Christmas Tree plantations which have trees five to eight feet tall and which are mowed and trimmed should be carefully watched Clay-colored Sparrows, Dickcissels, and Prairie Warblers. The two most unusual birds, other than the Dickcissel, were found in Chautauqua County: a **Sissor-tailed Flycatcher** and an **American Avocet**, two western species which, along with the Dickcissels, may have sought better conditions in the northeast away from the center of the drought.

Walter Klaubunde has summarized again the results of the 18 Breeding Bird Censuses run in the Region. Of the ten most numerous species European Starling, American Crow, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove and Barn Swallow numbers were

higher than normal; Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle and House Sparrow were lower than normal and Eastern Robin and Song Sparrow about normal. The median number of species per route was 57 (normal) and the total number of species was 121, tying with 1986 for highest in 21 years.

The drought had a depressing effect on most bird reproduction in June and July. Barn Swallows normally having second broods produced only one around Amity Lake, according to Vivian Pitzrick. She said nests of the field birds were scarce away from water sources. Vivian also thought Raccoon predation was high due to the drying of their normal feeding areas. Vivian Pitzrick noted that the drought reduced the Blackberry and Raspberry crops and may have been the reason for the low numbers of nesting Cedar Waxwings. House Wrens and Tree Swallows, the most readily monitored species, seemed to have greatly reduced success; 57% of 76 Tree Swallow nestings fledged young on Vivian Pitzrick's Bluebird Trail (142 boxes) in Amity Lake area compared to 84% in 1986 and 76% in 1987, and for House Wren 13 nestings by 12 pairs produced by only one double nesting. However, Eastern Bluebirds did even better than in 1986 (63%) or in 1987 (55%) with a fledging success of 66%, where 36 pairs fledged 184 young from 51 boxes. This might be due in part to efforts to control fly larvae. Elsewhere, seven of nine female House Wren nests were unsuccessful at Vandalia, and only five of 26 female nests at Alfred were successful.

Certain southern species continue to increase in the Region, some for the first time in recent years, others recovering from the severe winter of 1976-77. Acadian Flycatchers continue to prosper, Northern Mockingbird is being found again on the Allegheny Plateau, Carolin Wren and Tufted Titmouse are increasing, White-eyed Vireo appears to be trying to colonize, the Yellow-throated Warbler is advancing north and the one regular Prothonotary Warbler breeding area in the Region appears to be prospering.

At the same time certain northern species such as Golden-crowned Kinglet are being found in more of the maturing stands of spruce planted in the 1930's. Pine Siskins remained at feeders in the southern tier. Another northern species to be searched for nesting is the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Atlasing in Pennsylvania has reported them on territory in northcentral Pennsylvania and one was seen and heard 23 June in White-Throat Swamp at Ormsby, McKean County, about 14 miles due south of Olean, New York (Jamestown Audubon Soc. Newsletter, Aug, Sep.). Waterfowl nesting in the Region seems to be on the upswing. Perhaps the drought in the West is partly involved. N. Shovelers were found nesting at Tiff Farm Nature Preserve, where seven young were seen on 13 Jun, and American Wigeons continue to raise young at Times Beach, where up to two adults and 16 young were seen between 17 Jun and 27 Jul. Common Mergansers appear to be nesting in tributaries of the Allegheny River and Reservoir, though nesting is still unconfirmed there; 26 were on Allegheny Reservoir 15 July, but nine young at Allegany State Park on 28 Jun could not be identified to species. Canada Geese continue to increase as nesters in the Region as are the regulars Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck and Mallard. Green-winged Teal, near the southern limit of its nesting range, seem to be nesting more regularly.

Dunkirk Harbor and the Lake Erie Shore are sites where many interesting birds have been seen due, in part, to the fine monitoring by the Lake Erie Bird Club and especially the Joe Gulas, Sr. and Jr. They "turned up" an **American**

Avocet and **Laughing Gull** to mention a couple of rarities, and found many interesting land birds as well.

It appears as though the low water table produced a good show of shore birds in the Buffalo area, which is actively monitored for shorebirds in June and July and for warblers in August. It is sometimes difficult for one sequestered in the Allegany Hills to believe one regularly can see Willet, Sanderling, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes and, later in the season, many other shorebirds in this Region. Most of the shorebirds hop over this forested country without stopping.

Abbreviations: BIP - Bird Island Pier, Buffalo; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; CCWR - Canadaway Creek Wildlife Refuge; RTPI - Roger Tory Peterson Institute; TB-Times Beach, Buffalo; TFNP - Tiff Farm Nature Preserve; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrie, Tim Baird, William Bogacki, Betsy Brooks (EB), Buffalo Ornithological Society, William Burch, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Arthur Clark, Don and Jane Clark, William D'Anna, DiTommaso, Steve Eaton, Don Endres, Ted Grisez, Joe Gula, Sr. and Jr., Jamestown Audubon Society, Johnson, Lew Kibler, Walter Klaubunde, Lake Erie Bird Club, Terry and Judy Mosher, Vivian and Raymond Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Bill Robinson, David Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Regina and Jim VanScoy, Watson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Horned Grebe: one in Alternate plumage Chadakoin Rg, CHAU, mid-late Jun, late. Double-crested Cormorant: one INWR 25-26 Jun, unusual in summer away from Great Lakes; arr Bourne's Beach, Westfield, CHAU, 14 Aug. Am. Bittern: one INWR 12 Jun, only report BOS. Least Bittern: singles INWR 4 Jun, TFNP 7 Jun, TWMA 13 Jun. Great Egret: six TWMA 26 Jun, max 16 TWMA 30 Jul. Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 14 TB 27 Jul. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: one TWMA 26 Jun, two 2-24 Jul, unusual Upstate. Canada Goose: max 100 Farmersville Station Jun-Jul. Green-winged Teal: four INWR 3, 11 Jun, unusual in summer. Am. Black Duck: two INWR 26 June, becoming scarce. N. Pintail: four TWMA 12 Jun. N. Shoveler: *intro*. Gadwall: one INWR 5 Jun. Am. Wigeon: *intro*. Redhead: one DH through period, wounded? Ring-necked Duck: one TB 12 Jul, wounded? Com. Merganser: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two over Buffalo 27 Jun, emphasizes their ubiquity in Region. Osprey: two ASP 28 Jun, probably territorial; one TWMA 8 Jul, several records Aug. Bald Eagle: imm INWR 5, 25 Jun; ad INWR Jul, 5 Aug; imm TWMA 10 Aug; one INWR 14 Aug. N. Harrier: six Regional reports Jun and Aug BOS. Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles Ward Twn, ALLE, 3 Jun, Andover Twn, ALLE, 15 Jun, Eden Twn, ERIE, 21 Jun, Pomfret Twn, CHAU, 15 Aug and TWMA 27 Aug, increasing. Cooper's Hawk: singles INWR 12 Jun, 14 Aug, Amity L 13, 21 Jun, 4 Aug, Lewiston Twn NIAG 30 Aug. N. Goshawk: two Franklinville 24, 28 Jun, 2 Jul (DT, PDBS). Red-shouldered Hawk: max five Alfred and Ward Twns ALLE; one Pomfret Twn CHAU 4 Jul; two y, two ad Vandalia, Carrollton Twn CATT through period. Broad-winged Hawk: two Amity L. 29 Jul: two Ward Twn ALLE 11 Jul. Am. Kestrel: nest box trail in Warren Co. PA with 37 boxes ends up in CHAU with two boxes, 78% usage over trail. **Peregrine Falcon**: one downtown Buffalo 4 Jun, red band on right leg, USF&W band on left (ph *The Buffalo News*), probably from Canadian breeding program; one Buffalo 14 Jun (RA, AC). King Rail: one TWMA 19 Jul (GR, mob). Black-bellied Plover: arr Lewiston Twn NIAG 23 Aug; 13 max 23-31 Aug; four DH 29 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: last three TWMA 11 Jun; arr DH 11 Jul. **Am. Avocet**: one DH 11 Jul (JG, Jr., mob!). Greater Yellowlegs: arr TB 23 Jun. Lesser Yellowlegs, last TWMA 3 Jun, late; arr TB 23 Jun; max eight TB 27 Jun. Solitary Sandpiper: arr three TWMA 8 Jul. Willet: one BIP 15 Aug, first annual record BOS. Upland Sandpiper:

one Charlotte Twn CHAU 10 Jun; two Clarence Twn ERIE 19,26 Jun; three Hartland Twn NIAG 26 Jun. Sanderling: one DH 21 Jul. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last four INWR 11 Jun; arr DH 11 Jul. Least Sandpiper; arr five TWMA 26 Jun. White-rumped Sandpiper; three TWMA 11 Jun. Baird's Sandpiper: arr TWMA 8 Aug; two Bemus Creek CHAU 24, 27 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper, arr two TWMA 16 Jul. Dunlin: last TWMA 11 Jun. Stilt Sandpiper: arr TWMA 16 Jul, max six 24 Jul. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one Prendergast Pt, Chautauqua L 21 Aug (BR, ph RTP1). Short-billed Dowitcher: arr two TWMA 26 Jun;54 max 21 Jul. Wilson's Phalarope: arr TWMA 20 Aug. Red-necked Phalarope: arr BIP 26 Aug. **Laughing Gull**: one CCWR 13 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: two INWR 26 Jun, unusual date. Caspian Tern: arr TB 13 Jul. Forster's Tern, two CCWR 12 Aug. Black Tern, max 150 BIP 6 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: nine reports Jun BOS, none Jul, Aug. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: five reports Jun BOS, none Jul, Aug. Short-eared Owl: one Porter Twn NIAG 19 Jun; one Shelby Twn ORLE 24 Jun, four 4 Jul. Com. Nighthawk, max 300 Niagara R 31 Aug. Whip-poor-will: one Pomfret Twn CHAU 2 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr TFNP 24 Aug. Willow Flycatcher, nest 3 eggs Amity Twn ALLE 23 Jun. 4 eggs 28 Jun, y hatched *ca* 10 Jul, fledged *ca* 22 Jul, first confirmation ALLE (VP). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: one Ellicott Twn CHAU, Horton Rd. 4 Jun (LK, mob), Regional first. Tree Swallow: *intro*. House Wren: *intro*. Sedge Wren: two INWR 19 Jun; three max 3 July, perhaps another waif of the western drought. N. Mockingbird: one Ward Twn ALLE 11, 18 Jun, 6 Jul; one Amity Twn ALLE 21 Jun. E. Bluebird: *intro*. Cedar Waxwing: 14 nests Amity L area, "numbers very low" (VP).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Pomfret Twn CHAU (2.5 mi SW of Fredonia) singing in good habitat, carrying food 1 Aug, last 9 Aug (JG, Sr, TM); one Pomfret Twn CHAU 1.5 mi distant from first along Sage Rd 26 Jun, seen carrying food 23 Jul (JG, Jr.). Blue-winged Warbler: y hatching Amity L area 1 Jul (VP). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: ad ASP 6, 12, 28 Jun (PDBA). Prothonotary Warbler: one-two INWR Sour Springs Rd. 3-26 Jun; one TWMA 18 Jun; two INWR feeder Rd. 19 Jun, population expanding?

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: number territorial males Amity L area very low for period. **Dickcissel**: *intro*. Vesper Sparrow: 24 recorded on 18 Regional BBS routes. Savannah Sparrow: 304 on 18 BBS routes. Grasshopper Sparrow: three on 18 BBS routes. Henslow's Sparrow: two on 18 BBS routes. Pine Siskin: one-12 Amity L to 16 Jul; one Burns Twn ALLE 30 Jun: one-three Farmersville Station 6, 8, 10, 12 Jun, 8 Jul.

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REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The most talked about and publicized aspect of the summer season was the weather. While we were not hit as hard as other parts of the nation, we certainly felt the effects of this summer's heat. June was brutally dry. Recorded precipitation was a mere 1.1 inches, nearly two inches below normal. The average temperature of 64.2° was 2.5° below normal. The heat wave began about mid month, and the

high of 95° was attained on 25 Jun. Precipitation began to improve in July. Rain towards the end of the month brought the monthly precipitation total up to 4.31 inches, 1.83 inches above normal. Hot was a key word for July. On nine days the temperature was 90° or higher; the high of 98° occurred on 16 Jul. These high temperatures helped raise the July average to 73.7°, 2.4° above normal. August turned out to be about average. It was hot and dry early in the month but later became cool and damp. The monthly precipitation total of 3.81 inches just exceeded the normal total of 3.2 inches. The temperature averaged 71.1°; the long term average is 69.5°. A high of 95° was reached on 3 Aug.

What effect did this weather have on the birds and birding? Usually June presents us with some late migrant holdovers from the spring flights. This year was no exception, yet it was a different pattern of species that were observed. Did these conditions stall some species which normally pass through by June. A case in point was the late Ruby-crowned Kinglet caught at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station on 1 Jun. This species can be difficult to locate towards the end of May let alone in June. The Rough-legged Hawk there during the first week of June was equally surprising. Swainson's Thrush was reported as late as 6 Jun, and a White-throated Sparrow put in its less unusual late appearance with a report of one in Webster Park on 4 Jun. A female Red-breasted and a female Common merganser spent the summer at Braddock Bay.

Effects of the heat on the nesting season were noted by observers in a couple of areas. One would have thought that the wild food crop would be down. Sufficient rain fell in July and August to keep the food crops at near normal levels. Fruit and berry eating species didn't seem to suffer. A shortage of insects may have existed during the driest portion of the summer. This may have caused smaller brood successes or stress due to increased food gathering efforts by the adults. Major effects were not readily noticeable. There was no indication that fewer insect eating species were present this summer. One apparent result of the heat was less bird song. The birds ceased singing earlier in the day. This made some breeding surveys a bit tougher and perhaps a bit less indicative of the real populations. Another result, which is related directly to human comfort, was the lack of reports from field observers. The heat and humidity made it difficult to conduct sustained birding efforts. Conditions were much better at home amidst the convenience of air conditioners and fans. The dry conditions did expose some mudflats earlier than normal, and periods of rain in August gave us some wet fields, so shorebird habitat was somewhat improved. This affected the August shorebird totals and unusual sightings. The dry season in other parts of the country also may have caused some birds to wander our way.

The nesting season exhibited both pluses and minuses. The herons seemed to fare quite well this season. There are no major Great Blue Heron rookeries within the Region, but the local population was high. They are wandering into our area as non breeders or are feeding along the lakeshore from more distant rookeries. Green-backed Herons were reported in good numbers throughout the period with a nesting concentration at Crusoe Lake in Wayne County. Black-crowned Night-Herons were very evident during the season with a respectable number of the individuals reported as immatures. American Bittern once again was a difficult bird to find. Their numbers continue to decline, and they merit more careful monitoring.

Waterfowl nesting was varied. Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers, both cavity nesters, appeared to have been more successful in recent years. The assistance of nest box programs seems to be helping. Wood Ducks were reported in very good concentrations; and Hooded Mergansers, while not plentiful, seem to be doing well away from the lakeshore. The new Genesee Country Museum Research and Nature Center may become a center for the latter species, as their nest box program produced merganser broods this year. Green-winged Teal numbers continued the recent upward trend with respectable totals reported from later in the season. Conversely, Blue-winged Teal populations seemed on the decline. Some of the marsh birds were somewhat scarcer this summer. Reports of Sora left the impression that totals were below normal. Common Moorhen looks as though it is being squeezed out of the lakeshore by so called progress. Snipe and woodcock populations maintained their status quo as best as could be determined. Loss of habitat has been a real problem for the latter. Our usual Upland Sandpiper haunts were once again successful, yet as limited as usual. There appears to be some minor dispersal with birds being noted near these usual spots.

Hawks showed some interesting pluses. Northern Harriers once again were relatively easy to find. This species, threatened in New York State, has shown recent population increases. Nesting success has not been well documented, but the numbers of individuals present during the nesting season is a good sign. Northern Goshawk was again noted as a nesting species. The hill regions south of Rochester seem to be quite suitable for nesting. Cooper's Hawks may be nesting more regularly along the lakeshore than recently suspected. Good numbers were reported during the summer. American Kestrel, another cavity nester, seemed to fare pretty well. A number of nests were reported from along the lakeshore, and good numbers of juveniles were seen in various lakeshore locations.

Passerine nesting was typically varied. It seemed as though the birds that inhabited wet woodlands were lower in numbers. This included Cerulean Warbler, American Redstart, Mourning Warbler and Veery. Activity suggested a reduced population compared to recent years. Continuing its downward spiral, only a single Loggerhead Shrike was reported this summer season. Interestingly though, its location was near that of a spring report but no mate or nest was located. Some grassland species hinted of smaller numbers. Savannah Sparrow, while still quite common, did not appear to assume their relative abundance of recent years. Henslow's Sparrows were absent along the lakeshore; the Nations Road population remained stable. Golden-winged Warbler once again seemed to decrease. As has been documented in other areas, the Blue-winged Warbler appears to be displacing its relative. "Brewster's" hybrids were noted in two locations. Rounding out the down side was Whip-poor-will. With only a couple of isolated reports, it continues to decline in our Region. All is not doom and gloom. Prairie Warblers once again were found at Letchworth State Park. A Pine Warbler was observed in Ellison Park, a new summer location. Also included in the pluses was Grasshopper Sparrow. Most suitable locations along the lakeshore held this grassland species. Northern Orioles also appeared to have a successful summer season, and the Orchard Orioles nested once again at Pt. Breeze.

This reporting season also encompasses the outset of the fall migration.

Noteworthy was the lack of early season lake observation. As a result, loon reports were down and diver arrivals may have been missed. Local observers also mentioned the lack of wandering herons. Waterfowl reports were relatively scarce, but included some scattered reports of Oldsquaw, Redhead and mergansers. The shorebirds seemed to be about on schedule, but totals were not outstanding. The exposed mudflats at Irondequoit Bay produced some good reports including Willet and Marbled Godwit. The passerine migration was poorly reported. Indications are that the overall total were down somewhat. August movements were mediocre. Warblers and thrushes didn't pass through in the numbers expected for early in the migration season. Sparrows moved in on schedule, but their totals weren't substantial. Next month will give us additional information about the migration.

Contributors: Nancy Boudrie, Elizabeth Brooks, Steve Carlson, Julie Claffey, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Tomma Clark, Anne Clarridge, Bill Colman, Richard Coster, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Frank Dobson, Robert Dobson, John Foster, Kevin Griffith, Harriet Hamilton, Sandra Hazen, Brian Keelan, Carolyn Klinge, Allan & Sandy Klonick, Robert McKinney, Dave Miller, Betty Moore, Frank Nicoletti, Richard O'Hara, Robert Oswald, Martha Reinhardt, Marty Robinson, Don Ross, Pat Sadler, Pat Scheible, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sheron, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Don & Donna Traver, Dave Tetlow, Eleanor Weld, Doris Wilton and Alice Wood.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; IB - Irondequoit Bay; LSP - Letchworth State Park; MB - Manitou Beach; PB - Pt. Breeze; WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Green-winged Teal: three Kendall 12 Jul, probably nesting. N. Shoveler: arr IB 28 Aug. Redhead: five IB 23 Aug, unusual at this time of year. Lesser Scaup: last two BB 18 Jun. Oldsquaw: female PB 12 Aug, unseasonal. Com. Goldeneye: last BB 7 Jun. Bufflehead: last two Kendall 4 Jun. Com. Merganser: female BB all summer. Red-breasted Merganser: female BB all summer. Ruddy Duck: imm Kendall 12 Jul, very unusual.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Fishers 28 Jun, new location; one BB 24 Jul, unusual time of year. Bald Eagle: one Hogan Pt 4 Jul, unusual in summer away from Regional nest sites. N. Goshawk: two Springwater all summer, nesting. Rough-legged Hawk: one BB 5 Jun, very late. Black-bellied Plover: arr one WL 1 Aug. Lesser Golden Plover: arr four WL 26 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr two WL 6 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr two BB 12 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr two Greece 12 Jul. Solitary Sandpiper: arr two Greece 12 Jul. **Willet**: one IB 26 Aug (SC), one BB 27 Aug (RO'H), quite uncommon in the region. Whimbrel: one Hamlin 23 Jul. **Marbled Godwit**: one IB 31 Aug (RO'H, DS), first report since 1984. Ruddy Turnstone: arr 12 WL 6 Aug. Red Knot: arr one IB 22 Aug. Sanderling: max 150 PB 21 Jul, excellent total at this time of the year. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr two Greece 18 Jul. Western Sandpiper: arr IB 15 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr two Greece 12 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: arr H 15 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr one Hemlock LSP 20 Jul. Stilt Sandpiper: arr one WL 16 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 15 PB 21 Jul. Wilson's Phalarope: arr one WL 6 Aug. Black Tern: max 31 Salmon Creek 20 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barred Owl: one Camp Cutler, Naples 25 Jun, new location. Whip-poor-will: one East Lakeshore 17 Jul.

FLYCATCHER-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Greece 4 Jul, very unusual in the summer. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr MB 20 Aug. **Common Raven**: one Penfield 15 Jul (RM), uncommon, new location. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush:

intro; arr one MB 20 Aug. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one Kendall 18-19 Jun (DT, JS), only report.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: "Brewster's" Warbler: one LSP 5 Jun (AC), one Oatka Creek P 17-19 Jun (MR). Tennessee Warbler: last MB 1 Jun. Nashville Warbler: arr MB 30 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr two Greece 26 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: arr two BB 20 Aug. Pine Warbler: *intro*. Prairie Warbler: max three LSP 23 Jun, successful nesting? Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Durand Eastman Park 7 Aug. Wilson's Warbler: arr MB 20 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: White-throated Sparrow: *intro*. Orchard Oriole: one PB 6 Jul, a traditional nesting site. Pine Siskin: two ad, one imm MB 22, 24 Jun.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

The summer of 1988 was unusually hot with average to below precipitation in the Finger Lakes Region. June began with adequate soil moisture, but by the month's end this was far less than adequate. Temperatures were cool at the start of June, followed by thunderstorms and showers with pea-sized hail on 3 Jun. As this low-pressure system moved away from the N.Y. coast, a high-pressure gradient developed in the west, causing brisk northwest winds in the Region. On 5 Jun, high winds brought down power lines and tree branches. Temperatures were chilly, with lows around freezing, until 13 Jun when temperatures began to rise and some high temperature records were set on 14-15 Jun. For the rest of June, temperatures and precipitation were seasonable. During July, drought conditions intensified and temperatures were well above normal with many days in the nineties. There was little or no rainfall until 9 Jul, when severe thunderstorms brought up to two inches of rain. Power lines and trees were damaged in parts of Cayuga County following more thunderstorms on 14 Jul. Except for a third rainy period from 17-22 Jul, the weather was exceptionally hot and humid. This trend continued into the first 17 days of August, with temperatures averaging 6-10° above normal. Cold fronts and associated thunderstorms were recorded during 5-6 August, 14-18 August, and 28-30 Aug. Storms on 28 Aug were severe enough to destroy barns and uproot trees in the Region, and at Jacksonville in Tompkins County a tornado demolished trees and houses, and caused one death. However, total rainfall for August was well below normal for the Region and many days were unusually hot and humid.

Maximum numbers for waterfowl and shorebirds were reported at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. A breeding population of 49 Canada Geese produced an estimated 220 young, and the maximum number of Canada Geese at the Refuge reached 500 during June. A breeding population of 60 Wood Ducks produced an estimated 544 young, and a maximum of 610 Wood Duck were present there in June. In August, following the breeding season, the following waterfowl maxima were obtained: 1400 Mallard, 150 Am. Black Duck, 80 Green-winged Teal, and 40 Blue-winged Teal. Other maxima were: 704 Great Blue Heron, 20 Green-backed Heron, and 80 Black-crowned Night Heron. During

August, a total of 217 Double-crested Cormorant and 3 Great Egret were present at the Refuge. Osprey were present all Season, and a single breeding pair produced two young from a nest on the Main Pool. Following a series of nesting failures due to bad weather, the three Bald Eagles were not able to successfully fledge any young this Season, but were present at the Refuge throughout the season.

The waterfront at Watkins Glen State Park, and the adjacent Queen Catherine Marsh produced an impressive variety of species this season. Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Virginal Rail, Willow Flycatcher, Carolina Wren, Marsh Wren, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were all reported as breeding species. Also present were Double-crested Cormorant, Common Merganser, American Coot, Killdeer, Herring and Great Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, and more than 50 Ring-billed Gull. Purple Martin and Cliff Swallow were observed during August. Turkey Vulture were not observed along the cliffs of Seneca Lake this season, as they were a year ago when they were believed to be nesting.

Paul Novak, a former winner of the Federation's Stoner Award, worked for the Nature Conservancy at the Finger Lakes National Forest this Season. This area, formerly known as the Hector Land Use Area, uses animal grazing as a management tool for maintaining open or grassland areas. Paul reports, "The extensive pasture areas did not yield any (Loggerhead) Shrikes, but I did observe both Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows in several locations and **Short-eared Owl** as well. I saw one owl on 27 Jun, two on 19 Jul, and three on 25 Aug. Included in the third and final sighting was a . . . fledgling owl." Birders who visit the Finger Lakes National Forest during future breeding seasons are encouraged to report the breeding status of its grassland birds in the areas where grazing is employed. Other species of interest reported from there during the summer were Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, and a number of probable and/or confirmed breeding species including Golden-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo, American Redstart, and several Warbler species including Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, and Black-and-white Warbler. There was also a singing male Hooded Warbler on 11 July, a nest containing two young Broad-winged Hawks on 26 and 29 July, and a fledged brood of five American Kestrel on 29 Jul. Reports from two other areas in the Region, Shindagin Hollow and the Old 600 Preserve in the town of Caroline, closely matched FLNF in species diversity this season.

A new Region 3 contributor, Jim Leet from Painted Post, submitted a list of species he observed during the summer season at the Spencer Crest Nature Center and the State Forest lands near Corning. Although Jim included few details of breeding status with his report, there were several highlights worth noting from his list of 129 species, including Cooper's Hawk, N. Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Long-eared Owl, Whip-poor-will, Acadian Flycatcher, **Com. Raven**, Brown Thrasher, and Cerulean, Prairie, and Hooded Warblers, and Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Vesper Sparrows.

Wild Turkey were reported from many locations throughout the Region this Season, and there were many reports of successful breeding. The following flycatchers were common nesting birds throughout the Region: E. Wood-Pewee, Alder, Willow and Least Flycatchers, E. Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, and Great

Crested Flycatcher. Swallows were widely reported all season throughout the Region. However, the only reports of swallow colonies and nesting locations came from the Elmira area, where all swallow species were confirmed nesting. Purple Martin, Tree, and Bank Swallows were also confirmed nesting in Phelps. Colonies of Purple Martin, N. Rough-winged, Bank, and Cliff Swallows are not well-known in Region 3 and reports of these colonies are appreciated. Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, E. Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Am. Robin, Gray Catbird, N. Mockingbird, and Cedar Waxwing were present as breeding species throughout the Region.

During July and August, numbers of shorebirds appeared at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge with maxima obtained during August. Maxima reported were 14 Semipalmated Plover, 80 Killdeer, 40 Lesser Yellowlegs, 157 Spotted Sandpiper and 2 Short-billed Dowitcher. Other shorebirds reported at Montezuma were Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and Ruddy Turnstone. There were also peaks of 98 Ring-billed Gull, 10 Herring Gull, and 4 Caspian Tern this season at the Refuge. Montezuma was the only location in the Region where shorebirds were reported, except for a trickle of birds during mid to late August on the Chemung River in Elmira and the Corning Glassworks Pond. These two locations also produced a **Glossy Ibis** on 25 August and a **Whimbrel** on 29 Aug. [There was also a 25 Aug report of a **Glossy Ibis** along Rt. 17 near Binghamton in Region 4.]

There were no reports of N. Harrier, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, or Worm-eating Warbler. There was a single report, confirmed by S. Sibley, of a male **Rufous Hummingbird** 21 Jul at a feeding station on Perry City Road. Highlights for the summer include Glossy Ibis, Whimbrel, and Rufous Hummingbird.

Contributors: J. Brubaker, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung County Audubon Society, D. Clements, T. Gingrich, B. Hilfiker, J. Leet, D. McIlroy, Schuyler County Bird Club, S. Sibley.

Abbreviations: MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; TFSP - Taughannock Falls State Park; WGSP - Watkins Glen State Park.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Seneca Lake all summer, one Eldridge L Elmira to 6 Jun, four Seneca Lake 27 Aug. Pied-billed Grebe: nested Corning Pd. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*; eight Horseheads 23 Aug. Am. Bittern: one Evans Farm, Dryden, 25 Aug. Least Bittern: one Cayuga Marsh 28 Jul. Great Blue Heron: *intro*. Great Egret: *intro*. Green-backed Heron: *intro*. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*; one ad and 3 imm Elmira 14 Aug. **Glossy Ibis**: *intro*. Canada Goose: *intro*. Wood Duck: *intro*. Green-winged Teal: *intro*. Am. Black Duck: *intro*. Mallard: *intro*. Blue-winged Teal: *intro*. Com. Merganser: five Elmira 31 July, and reported nesting without details along Seneca L.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: widespread all Season. Osprey: *intro*; two Horseheads 25 Aug. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Cooper's Hawk: present all season Corning, none reported elsewhere. N. Goshawk: present all season Corning and Yellow Barn State Forest, breeding unconfirmed. Red-shouldered Hawk: *intro*; only reports FLNF and Shindagin Hollow. Broad-winged Hawk: *intro*; nesting FLNF, TFSP, & Elmira. Red-tailed Hawk: widespread. Am. Kestrel: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: one MNWR 27 Aug. Virginia Rail: *intro*; confirmed nesting Corning Pd. Sora: nesting confirmed Corning Pd. Semipalmated Plover: *intro*. Killdeer: *intro*. Spotted Sandpiper: *intro*. Upland Sandpiper: eight

Horseheads 29 Aug. **Whimbrel**: *intro*. Short-billed Dowitcher: *intro*. Com. Snipe: no reports. Wilson's Phalarope: none. Black Tern: single report, one Elmira 29 Aug. Com. Tern: no reports!

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: abundant everywhere. Black-billed Cuckoo: infrequent but widespread all summer. **Short-eared Owl**: *intro*. Com. Night-hawk: max 50 Elmira 24 Aug. Whip-poor-will: heard Jun-Jul on Logan Road near Burdett. Chimney Swift: reported regularly in the Ithaca area; max 275 entering & exiting chimney at Belle Sherman School; also 25 to 50 flocking daily over Chemung R after 15 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: common throughout all summer. **Rufous Hummingbird**: *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: one WGSP June 6-8 at feeder; nest with y Carter Rd, Geneva.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: only report SWS 23 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: none. Horned Lark: present in agricultural areas, but not confirmed nesting. Am. Crow: present throughout and increasing. Fish Crow: no reports. Com. Raven: *intro*. Brown Thrasher: very few reports; are they decreasing? Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: singles Old 600 7 Jun, Cayuga Nature Center 25 Aug. Prairie Warbler: nesting in Pine City, only reports. N. Waterthrush: present Old 600 6 June and 1 Aug, McLean Bog 20 June. Louisiana Waterthrush: present Old 600 6 June, 4 July, and 1 Aug. Hooded Warbler: *intro*. Yellow-breasted Chat: no reports.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: *intro*. Henslow's Sparrow: *intro*.
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[The Region 4 report had not arrived in time for this issue of The Kingbird – The Editor.]

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

Although the season began cool, June saw its four record lows offset by three record highs. Precipitation during the month was below average. July and the first half of August were hot, with many days exceeding 90°F. Periods of heavy precipitation in July, totaling nearly two inches above average, were spaced fairly evenly during the month. August ended cool, and with below average total precipitation. Birders in the Region remember mostly the nearly eight weeks of hot, humid weather, which is reflected in lower than normal, non-Atlasing birding activity. Birds, however, seem to have been less affected. There were no reports of birds affected by the heat and only one report of nestings (near Old Forge) which failed during the early July rainy period.

The last spring migrants which dribbled through in early June included Common Loon, Brant, Osprey, five species of shorebird, a record late (but not surprising) Alder Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler, Red Crossbill and Evening Grosbeaks. Following last spring's invasion, Pine Siskins lingered to late June-early July both in the Adirondacks and in the highlands on the

Table 1. 1988 Waterfowl Census

Species \ Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Loon, Red-throated		2			1					17	20
Common	1	2	6		3		1			117	130
Grebe, Pied-billed	2		6		2				3	75	88
Horned	5	7	41		24		16			410	503
Eared			1								1
Red-necked							1	1		1	3
Cormorant, Great										427	427
Double-crested					1				1	165	167
species										6	6
Swan, Tundra	13		48								61
Mute		2						19	116	1,772	1,909
Goose, Snow	1				1					29	31
Brant									84	19,058	19,142
Canada	2,106	313	25,781	255	1,538	410	561	1,693	2,710	31,934	67,301
Wood Duck		30	1		5				1	48	85
Green-winged Teal					4					54	58
American Black Duck	378	338	1,133	71	440	3	377	474	490	13,091	16,795
Mallard	4,768	3,845	8,439	606	4,269	300	1,262	1,348	1,775	9,277	35,889
Mallard X Black Duck		1			3						37
N. Pintail	11	1	2		1	1	2		4	105	127
Blue-winged Teal										2	2
N. Shoveler					2					195	197
Gadwall	12		39		3					573	627
Wigeon, Eurasian										1	1
American	9	1	6							925	941

Abbreviations: FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; SPd - Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr - Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: last migrant FH 9 Jun (MSR). Pied-billed Grebe: two ad, ten imm Clay Marsh in July. Double-crested Cormorant: high counts included 520 SPd 2 Jun and a record max of 830 in five minutes there on 31 Aug (WP); 30 Erieville Res 15 Aug (EH) is a good inland count. Least Bittern: two sites only. Brant: six FH on 5 Jun, three on 9 Jun. Green-winged Teal: only mid summer report Clay Marsh 17 Jul; arr SPd 14 Aug. N. Pintail: arr SVB 21 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: arr OnonL 7 Aug. N. Shoveler: three OnonL 25 Aug. Gadwall: last SPd 2 Jun, possibly local nester. Redhead: one Delta L 25 Aug only summering diving duck besides nesting mergansers.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: last Holland Patent 6 Jun; fate of nesting pair ONON not reported; arr SP 18 Aug. Bald Eagle: imms Otisco L 1 Jul, Fourth L Jun-Jul, SPd 17-24 Jul. N. Harrier: arr SPd 18 Aug. Am. Kestrel: max 18 n ONON 17 Jul. Merlin: arr SVB 21 Aug, early. Black-bellied Plover: last two SPd 2 Jun; arr . Lesser Golden-Plover: arr SVB 21 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: last six SPd 2 Jun. Killdeer: max 100+ SVB 21 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr SVB 5 Jul, early; max 33 Delta L & OnonL 25 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr SVB 3 Jul, max 52 Delta L & OnonL 25 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr SPd 6 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: max 14 SPd. Whimbrel: three SPd 18 Aug (FGS). Hudsonian Godwit: ad OnonL 28 Aug. (MSR). Ruddy Turnstone: arr SPd 28 Jul. Red Knot: arr SPd 20 Aug. Sanderling: arr Six-mile Creek 24 Jul. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 16 SPd 2 Jun; arr SPd 14 Jul; max 68 OnonL 1 Aug. Least Sandpiper: last SPd 2 Jun; arr Clay Marsh 9 Jul, max 22 Delta L & OnonL 25 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr SPd 31 Jul. Baird's Sandpiper: arr SPd 14 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr SPd 14 Jul, max 17 Delta L 27 Aug. Dunlin: last SPd 2 Jun. Stilt Sandpiper: eight Clay Marsh 25 Aug only report. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr OnonL 14 Jul, max five. Parasitic Jaeger: *intro*. Little Gull: second-year bird SPd 27-28 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr (if they ever left) SVB 25 Jun, max 183 there 17 Aug, high. Caspian Tern: present all summer LOL, arr OnonL 9 Jul; max 96 SPd 18 Aug. Com. Tern: max 85 SVB 20 Aug, pitiful count compared to a decade ago. Black Tern: max 9 SPd; one Delta L 21 Jun, unusual locality.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: about a dozen reports. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Victory 10 Jun, two Otto Mills in Tug Hill 17 Jun, only reports. Com. Nighthawk: max breeding population six Syr in Jul, but none in Syr Univ campus area. Red-headed Woodpecker: about five reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Hastings 20 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr SPd 20 Aug. Alder Flycatcher: last Syr 13 Jun. Least Flycatcher: arr SPd 8 Aug. Barn Swallow: max 300 SPd 28 Jul, low; *intro*. Com. Raven: max 14 Old Forge in Jun. Black-capped Chickadee: *intro*. Carolina Wren: reported Syr, Pumpkin Hollow only. Sedge Wren: three Smith Ridge Rd, MADI, 18 Jul.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: last two FH 9 Jun (MSR); arr Altmar 7 Aug, early. Tennessee Warbler: arr SPd 27 Aug. Nashville Warbler: arr SPd 31 Aug. Yellow Warbler: max 42 SPd 31 Jul, low. Magnolia Warbler: arr SPd 18 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr SPd 31 Aug, scarce. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr SPd 18 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SPd 28 Jul (if not a local bird). Black-throated Green Warbler: arr SPd 27 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: arr SPd 18 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: last Big Moose 7 Jun; arr Tug Hill Plateau 9 Aug. Black-and-white Warbler: arr SPd 18 Aug. N. Waterthrush: arr SPd 28 Jul. Louisiana Waterthrush: last Albion 7 Aug, late. Hooded Warbler: arr SPd 31 Jul. Kentucky Warbler: male netted W Monroe 21 Jun (C.G. Speis *vide* MSR). Wilson's Warbler: arr SPd 18 Aug. Canada Warbler: arr SPd 18 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: arr SPd 27 Aug. Savannah Sparrow:

max six. Henslow's Sparrow: four at two sites. Red Crossbill: last four Orwell 6 Jun. Pine Siskin: one-three in Tug Hill Plateau to 23 Jun, and remained Holland Patent to 7 Jun, Erieville to 4 Jul. Evening Grosbeak: one Old Forge 7 Jun, three Erieville 4 Jun; arr Old Forge area during Aug.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

Though not without its frosts and downpours, this will be remembered as a hot dry summer. Yet heavy rains in late July and August broke the drought and left a good crop of berries for the Fall. Beech mast looks good, but acorns are poor. June was not as dry in the North Country as elsewhere in the state but, on the heels of a dry spring, left water levels low and grasslands brown by late in the month. Temperatures bounced from below freezing readings on 10 and 29 Jun to the mid-90's on 15 and 16 Jun. Heavy showers occurred 22 Jun. What is the effect of such extremes on nestlings and fledglings? July temperatures averaged two to three degrees above normal, with even the Tug Hill Plateau experiencing the mid-90's during a heat wave the second week of the month. We escaped many of the severe thunderstorms passing through the state later in the month, and many areas ended July still deficient in rainfall. However, most locations received above average precipitation in August, with about 4 inches falling in northern St. Lawrence Co. from the 14 to 18 Aug. August temperatures were above normal, ranging from the mid-90's early in the month to the 30's on 22 Aug.

From the few reports I received, birding was ho-hum. Peter O'Shea reported a good complement of boreal species from southern St. Lawrence Co., including a male Spruce Grouse calling 22 May and 2 June in Sevey's Bog, Colton. Gray Jays were found regularly in the same location and Com. Raven as well as Winter Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were "all over" towns of Fine, Clifton and Colton. Among migrant insectivores in four woodland locations in Parishville in early July, Kevin Griffith and Robert Oswald found 16 Least Flycatcher and Yellow-rumped Warbler, 14 Ovenbird, 13 Veery and 11 Red-eyed Vireo, and a variety of other species listed below. Hermit Thrush outnumbered Wood Thrush seven to four. Flycatchers and White-throated Sparrow seemed down from previous years. By contrast, in the lowlands Doug Kibbe found Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Common Yellowthroat to be the most abundant species with 20+ near Philadelphia 21-22 Jun.

Gerry Smith's shorebird sightings from El Dorado Shores are not yet available. Marilyn Badger reported arrival of Semipalmated Plover and Semipalmated Sandpiper at Robert Moses State Park on 18 Aug. My Breeding Bird Census at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA shows marked decrease in cattail following a 3-year management policy of lower water levels. Marsh Wren decreased 90%; Ring-necked Duck seemed down, but Pied-billed Grebe was all right - Kevin

Griffith reported 35 on 4 Jul!

Concerning species increasing in numbers, Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase in eastern Lake Ontario, with a maximum of 10 at Robert Moses State Park on 1 July. Canada Goose now outnumbered Mallard at Wilson Hill and Upper and Lower Lakes WMAs. Wild Turkey, a new species on the Waddington BBS, continues to increase. Turkey Vulture was frequent in the southern St. Lawrence Co. Towns of Fine, Edwards, Pitcairn and Piercefield for entire period. There were no sightings of Red-bellied Woodpecker or Tufted Titmouse. K. Crowell found two Willow Flycatcher in his BBC at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA and K. Griffith reported another on 4 July, but they are still outnumbered by Alders two to one. Marilyn Badger saw a N. Mockingbird in Louisville on 28 Jul. Lee B. Chamberlaine reports House Finch as the most common species in Henderson and vicinity; fledged young were reported from Massena. On the downside in at least some areas were cuckoos, Purple Martin, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Warbling Vireo and Indigo Bunting.

Of the rare and endangered species, Com. Loon was reported by three observers. K. Griffith spotted a Least Bittern at Upper and Lower Lakes. Lee Chamberlaine felt Black Duck was up, but K. Griffith found only one among 100 Mallard at ULL. Two or three pairs of Osprey nested at Peach River WMA, but with low success; a nest was seen on Massawepie Lake in Piercefield and another on the upper Osegethie R. in the Town of Fine. The Bald Eagle pair in Jefferson Co. fledged one young, and an adult and an immature frequented the Hawkins Pt area in July and August, most unusual for this season. N. Harrier was strong; but no Red-shouldered Hawk or accipiters were reported. One Upland Sandpiper near Philadelphia 21 June and one near Gouveneur were only reports. Marilyn Badger found 24 Com. Tern at Moses-Saunders Dam 3 Jun through 14 Aug. Lee Chamberlaine felt Black Terns were up, possibly concentrated by dry weather. There were also several at Upper and Lower Lakes. The only reports of Com. Nighthawk was two on 3 Jun and three singles in July and August from Massena-Louisville. There were several pairs of E. Bluebird in Pierrepont, but only one other report. Two Vesper Sparrows in Louisville 6 Jun was only grassland sparrow other than Savannah. Finally, Peter O'Shea saw a **Loggerhead Shrike**, our only rarity, "lying on Rte. 3 near Wanakena" 17 Aug; it flew away when approached. On 22 Aug, the "same shrike was noted lying injured on Rte 3 about 1/2 mile from previous site" and unable to fly. Four hours later it was gone.

A total of 127 species was reported including 14 waterfowl, 9 waders and rails, 13 shorebirds and gulls, 9 raptors, and 66 Passerines, of which 22 were warblers.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, John Barthelme, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Kevin Griffith, Douglass Kibbe, Peter O'Shea, Robert Oswald, Gerald Smith.

Abbreviations: MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; Pv - Parishville; RMSP - Robert Moses State Pk; ULL - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; SLR - St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: pairs on Streeter Lake, 5 Jun and Hitchins Pd, Colton entire period; one ULL 4 Jul; three WH 18-19 Jul. Pied-billed Grebe: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*. Great Egret: one Canton 1 Jun (JB). Least Bittern: *intro*. Brant: five with Canada Geese in Louisville, no date. Canada Goose: *intro*. Wood Duck: numbers up or concentrated by drought (LBC). Hooded Merganser: brood on W Branch Osegethie R early Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: *intro*. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Spruce Grouse: *intro*. Wild Turkey: two ad and a brood of juv noted in Parishville 5 Jul; *intro*. Virginia Rail: four ad and eight juv Rod & Gun Club Rd, Louisville; six ad and 16 juv RMSP by Eisenhower Lock, no date. Am. Coot: one WH 18 Jul. Semipalmated Plover: *intro*. Spotted Sandpiper: several Louisville, Madrid, RMSP. Upland Sandpiper: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: *intro*. Am. Woodcock: 26 between HP and WH 1 Jun (MB)! Caspian Tern: flights of two or three over Henderson daily; one RMSP 3 Jul. Com. Tern: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: singles Philadelphia 21 Jun and Waddington 7 Jun, only reports. Barred Owl: two Pv 2 Jul. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: three Massena 3 Jun; two or three Philadelphia 21 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Willow Flycatcher: *intro*. Purple Martin: 43 ad and 172 juv RMSP, Louisville and ten ad and 42 juv Massena, no date (MB). Marsh Wren: 20 ULL 4 July, but see *intro*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singing males in spruce swamp, Streeter Lake, Town of Fine. E. Bluebird: *intro*. N. Mockingbird: *intro*. **Loggerhead Shrike**: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Golden-winged Warbler: one Philadelphia 22 Jun. Nashville Warbler: one Pv early Jul. Yellow Warbler: 19 Pv early Jul. Chestnut-sided Warbler: eight Pv early Jul. Magnolia Warbler: two Pv early Jul. Black-throated Blue Warbler: two Pv early Jul. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 20 Pv early Jul. Black-throated Green Warbler: seven Pv early Jul. Blackburnian Warbler: four Pv early Jul. Pine Warbler: three Pv early July. Black-and-white Warbler: five Pv early Jul. Am. Redstart: three Pv early Jul. Ovenbird: 22 Pv early Jul. N. Waterthrush: one Pv early Jul. Mourning Warbler: one Pv early Jul. Canada Warbler: three Pv early Jul.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: eight Massena 22 Jul.

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Extremes of weather during the "greenhouse effect" summer of 1988 may have resulted in Osprey nest failures as well as setbacks to Bald Eagle restoration efforts; the Peregrine Falcon recovery went well, however. On the Four Brothers Islands, Lake Champlain, there was continued expansion of the cormorant colony, and it was an excellent year for night-herons on Island "B." Around the Region there were a number of interesting breeding records for rarities.

Lake Champlain stood at 96.54' on 1 June, having dropped 6°F to a chilly 49°F. The first ten days of the month were "May weather," Newcomb falling to 47°F on 10 June. A hot spell followed, with temperatures soaring to the 90's at mid month. Parts of the Champlain Valley recorded 2" of rain 25 Jun, and the month ended with badly needed showers. Early July was hot, then hotter, so that by 8 Jul, with Plattsburgh thermometers reading 94°F, Champlain had warmed to 68°F. The first real rain in two weeks fell on 14 Jul. The month closed with Plattsburgh at 95°F on 30 July. Early August was similarly scorching, Lake Champlain reaching a tepid 77°F by 1 August. The first significant rain in over a month fell overnight 20 Aug. More rain on 27 Aug finally began to recharge depleted

groundwater supplies, with dry brooks flowing slightly by the end of the season.

The NYS DEC made flights on 13 May, 13 Jun and 6 Jul to survey Adirondack Osprey nests. Things began on a tremendous note. Some 47 historic sites were surveyed and 43 nests (four new) were found. Of these 32 had parent birds on them during May. By the July flight, however, only 13 nests were judged productive, producing just 20 young Ospreys.

Meanwhile, Bald Eagles made three nesting attempts in Franklin County. Two active nests near Franklin Falls had eggs and incubating adults, yet failed, while a pair of eagles north of Paul Smiths built three stick nests in one tree before abandoning activity. All adults were products of the "mega-hack" site established near Tupper Lake in 1983. The NYS DEC notes high, severe winds during June (70 m.p.h. gusts recorded at Plattsburgh) and the wide temperature fluctuations during the period as possible causes of the Osprey and Bald Eagle failures. Birders also presented problems by loitering near rare raptor sites. They should be aware that their simple presence may keep parent birds off the nest, resulting in the loss of eggs or young, and is thus a violation of Federal and NYS law (not to mention of common sense as well).

Peregrine Falcons fared better, with five active nests in Essex County producing 10 young. Another eight young were released into the wild from a Franklin County hack site, while a mountain in southwestern Clinton County had two adult falcons through the summer. The Essex County nests were located near Elizabethtown (1 young fledged), Keene Valley (2 young fledged), Keeseville (3 young fledged), Westport (3 young fledged, all were banded), and Wilmington (1 young fledged, nest never found). The NYS DEC is attempting to educate and to gain the cooperation of rock climbers, in an effort to insure the security of the peregrine eyries without having to close the cliffs.

Bird-banding operations were conducted on the Four Brothers Islands on 11, 16, and 19 June. A hen Common Merganser was banded on Island "C," a record total of 163 Black-crowned Night-Heron young on Island "B," the standard sample of 1,000 Ring-billed Gull chicks on Island "C," and 163 Herring Gull chicks on Islands "A," "B," and "C." None were banded on Island "D," where there were again signs of a red fox. Double-crested Cormorants built a record 263 active nests on three of the islands, nesting for the first time on Island "C." A pair of White-winged Scoters at the islands on 11 Jun were late.

No details accompanied the report of a family of 12 **Canvasback** on a thick lilypond pond along Church Pond Rd. near Lyon Mt., Clinton Co., seen 15 Aug by Jan Trzeciak. The Adirondack Conservancy's Katherine Eagleson and Mike Peterson located two territorial pairs of (**Yellow**) **Palm Warblers** in typical muskeg habitat near a tiny bog pond on Spring Pond Bog, Franklin Co., 1 and 17 June. The bog is a key component of The Nature Conservancy's Boreal Heritage Preserve, and a pair of Palm Warblers had been sighted near the same tarn during July 1986. A number of interesting species were reported from the St. Regis Indian Reservation by Hollis White, including two **Sedge Wrens** on 4-June, near where they were found along the Quebec border last summer.

Along the Cedar River, Bob McKinney banded 55 individuals of 19 species during the summer, including two Lincoln's Sparrows. Near Elizabethtown, a total of 40 individuals of 17 species were banded between 20-31 Aug, including a transient Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 25 Aug. Although 200 or more species

nest in the region, just 152 (including transients) were reported. This is consistent with totals since 1985, however, when the monumental Atlas effort ended.

High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc., will sponsor a work-in-progress on *Adirondack Birds*, being co-authored by Bruce McP. Beehler and John M.C. Peterson. Publication is expected in 1990.

Contributors: Stephen Aris, John Askiloh, Bruce Beehler, Ethel Bernard, Geoffrey Carleton, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Walter Chapman, Charlcie Delehanty, Susan Roney Drennan, Katherine Eagleson, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Elizabeth Hedges, Anne Hungerford, Elsbeth Johnson, Ken Kogut, Susan MacKenzie, Dorothy McIlroy, Robert McKinney, John Peterson, William Robbins, David Rutkowski, Langdon Stevenson, Jan Trzeciak, Hollis White.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: four Bulwagga Bay 19 Jun late. Pied-billed Grebe: 4 calling ad Cedar R Flow 27 Jun-25 Jul unexpected. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*, max 1,000+ FBI early Aug. (LS). Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*, three St. Regis R daily late Jun (HW). Canada Goose: 100 migrants Elizabethtown 8:30 p.m. 4 Jun late; yellow neck-band Sanford L 27-28 Jun. **Canvasback**: *intro*. Com. Merganser: max 200 FBI 28 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*; also ad Indian L, FRAN, early Jun (WR), 2nd yr w of Whiteface Mt. Olympic ski center 8 Jun, ad and imm Ligonier Pt. 19 Jun (EB). Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Gray Partridge: pr Hogansburg 15 Jun only report. Spruce Grouse: male BHP 1 Jun only report. Wild Turkey: max 5 ad, 19 y Ticonderoga 20 Jul. Virginia Rail: Jones Pd 22-26 Jun, BHP 11 Aug only reports. Killdeer: max 21 Westport 11 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr St. Regis R 2 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 arr Westport 9 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr three Boquet R delta 23 Jul. Least Sandpiper: arr two Ticonderoga 22 Jul, max eight mouth of Boquet 23 Jul, last 2 Westport 25 Jul. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Indian L, HAMI, 22 Jul (RM), unusual inland. Com. Snipe: arr Westport 17 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr Boquet R delta 23 Jul, max 30 Westport 17 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*. Black Tern: only report Hogansburg 8 Jul.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: racing pigeon lost training from St. Johnsbury, VT, 17 Aug found dead in pumphouse Westport 31 Aug; owner notes, "We have had a lot of sunspots this year and it raises heck with the birds' homing ability." Long-eared Owl: calling Elizabethtown 15 Jun. Three-toed Woodpecker: nest, 1 y Ferd's Bog. Black-backed Woodpecker: Ferd's Bog 11 Jun, 16 Jul; Indian L, FRAN, 4 Jul; Mt. View L dam 27 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: *intro*. Willow Flycatcher: Ausable R, Lake Placid, 11 Jun (Alder Flycatchers "everywhere" in vicinity). Gray Jay: max 12+ Madawaska 11 Jun, observer notes, "Walking backward, as you suggested, works!" (JA). Com. Raven: three Crown Point Peninsula early Aug, where there were May sightings. Boreal Chickadee: reports from Big Slide, BHP, Ferd's Bog (active nest 16 Jul), Great Gange, and Phelps Mt. Tufted Titmouse: 2 Buttermilk Falls, HAMI, 29 Jul a most unexpected location. Sedge Wren: *intro*. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Algonquin 10-12 Jun.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: Hogansburg 8 Jul (HW), Crown Point 23 Jul (EJ) only reports. Philadelphia Vireo: Marcy Dam 10 Aug (EJ) only sighting. Golden-winged Warbler: singing male Hogansburg 10 Jun. Tennessee Warbler: singing male BHP 1 Jun (JP). **(Yellow) Palm Warbler**: *intro*. Bay-breasted Warbler: banded Elk L (SRD).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Lincoln's Sparrow: *intro*, BHP to 11 Aug. Pine Siskin: "1 saw more summering birds this summer than in many years, following last winter's heavy

incursion." (RM); field observers and feeder watchers are in full agreement with this assessment.

Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

About 150 species were reported during the summer months. However, this figure is derived from just a few locales in Region 8 since only a small number of dedicated birders were active locally. The season is easily summed up, as most of the summer season it was simply too hot to bird watch! According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, this was the second driest June on a statewide basis since records began in 1890. The Center also reports that several temperature records, both maximum and minimum, were broken during the course of the month. Albany experienced a 96° on 15 Jun and a 38° on 11 Jun. The most notable storm for Albany occurred on 22 Jun when thunderstorms with hail and strong winds gusting to 46 mph dumped over an inch of rain. As was the case in June, July also had an abnormally large number of very hot days. Albany reported twelve days of temperatures over 90°. When it wasn't too hot to be out bird watching it was too wet. Although the first half of July was dry, the second half of the month contained a number of heavy rain days, certainly helping out the plants. August as a whole was warm and dry. Albany had a low temperature of 30° and a maximum of 102° that month.

One nice addition to the Region 8 report was the coverage of a marsh in Quakerstreet in the southwest corner of Schenectady Co. just east of the Schoharie Co. line. As mentioned in the individual species accounts this marsh hosted a number of shorebirds not found easily in other areas of the Region. Basic Creek Reservoir, a typical spot for shorebirds, was a dry, grassy field this summer and will continue to be so until the construction on its causeway is completed.

Woodpeckers were a confusing lot for this summer season. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were on everyone's list. Three immature Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen in Cherry Plain on 28 Jul and an immature was banded at Jenny Lake on 13 Aug. However, no Red-Headed or Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported. Northern Flickers were reported as common and Pileated were seen in Cherry Plain, Clarksville, Delmar, Schodack Island, more than usual at Jenny Lake, and Schoharie.

Five species of flycatcher were found commonly in the Region: Eastern Wood-pewee, Least, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested and Eastern Kingbirds. Alder Flycatchers were reported from Five Rivers and Willow Flycatchers were seen on Staats Island, Schodack Center, Castleton as well as Five Rivers. A birder from Indonesia visiting this country whose life's desire was to see all the swallows of the northeast would have done well to visit Region 8. Purple Martins were tough to see with only a single bird reported from Schodack, but Tree Swallows were common nesters in Bluebird boxes. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were re-

ported from four locations, Bank Swallows and Cliff Swallows were reported from Basic Res, Five Rivers, Raquette Lake and other spots, and as for Barn Swallows, a visit to any area barn turned these up of course.

Our Region's warbler report was sketchy at best. Sporadic data from June and then Aug really don't represent the Region well as far as warbler breeding and movement. The same can be said of vireos. Warbling Vireos were certainly common in Clarksville and Rensselaer Co, but data on Solitary Vireos and Red-eyed Vireos can't possibly adequately represent the Region as a whole. The only Yellow-throated Vireos were reported by Paul Connor. He noted the species as breeding along the Hudson Valley from Staats Island south to Stuyvesant.

As far as common yard birds such as American Robins, Northern Cardinals, and Gray Catbirds, observers reported these species but had no comments as to significant ups or downs in the species populations. Other widespread species such as Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow and Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstart, Com. Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Rufous-sided Towhees, Chipping and Song Sparrows and Am. Goldfinch were noted as simply 'summer breeders' by most observers.

Contributors: Malcolm Archard, Linda Armstrong, Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Norman Francher, Dorothy McIlroy, Laura Meade, Mike Peterson, Barbara Putnam, Elton Rising, Alice Ross, Jim Sotis, Hudson Winn, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: CGCC - Columbia Green County Community College; CPI - Cherry Plains; JL - Jenny Lake; Tagh - Taghkonik.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one pair with y Moss L 16 Jul. Pied-billed Grebe: single location reported, two Basic Res Jul-Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: single bird Judson Pt 15 Jul, two at JL 26 Jun, the first there in 18 years (RY). Great Blue Heron: seven occupied nests Berne early Jun, other reports of individual birds throughout period. Green-backed Heron: max more than one dozen Schoharie 13 Aug. Canada Goose: reported from seven locations, breeding populations in Black Creek Marsh, Five Rivers. Wood Duck: numerous reports all summer from most reporting locales, known to be breeding in Churchtown, Five Rivers, Cossayuna L. Green-winged Teal: only report one Basic Res 12 Jun. Am. Black Duck: numerous reports. Blue-winged Teal: single location, two Quakerstreet marsh 24 Jul, female with brood 6 and 20 Aug. Am. Wigeon: one Churchtown 27 Aug. Com. Merganser: two breeding locations, female with 14 y Shanty Brook 20 Jun, female with eight y L George Beach 4 Jul.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: two locations, Hudson R 19 Aug and Schoharie 21 Aug. Bald Eagle: single report, 2nd year bird identified as hacked in Florida at JL 17 Jul. N. Harrier: two locations, female Five Rivers 8 Aug, Quakerstreet marsh 18 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: few reports, one Schodack 15, 28 Jun, Schoharie 4 Jul. Cooper's Hawk: singles reported Kinderhook 7 Jun, Schodack Center 16 Jun. N. Goshawk: nesting pair again this season Thacher P. Red-shouldered Hawk: two CPI 26 Aug, seen and heard at JL where apparently nested for first time. Broad-winged Hawk: seen throughout season in Ballston Spa and Schodack Center, Ravena 23 Aug, exit 19 Northway 23 Jul. Am. Kestrel: family groups seen Brookview, Five Rivers, Clarksville, Slingerlands, Saratoga Battlefield. Ruffed Grouse: breeding Schoharie, Holmes L. Wild Turkey: breeding East Greenbush, Schoharie, Clarksville. Virginia Rail: ads with y Black Creek Marsh Jul. Greater Yellowlegs: only report one Basic Res 31 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: seen Quakerstreet marsh mid Jul through mid Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: max 12 Quakerstreet marsh 30 Jul. Spotted Sandpiper: reported Five Rivers throughout Jul and Aug, Basic

Res 12 Jun, Schodack 28 Jun, CPI 28 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: several along Langley Rd near Minaville 9 Jun. Semipalmated Sandpiper: sole report three Quakerstreet marsh 21 Jul. Least Sandpiper: small numbers Quakerstreet marsh 21 Jul, 6 Aug, 13 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: single report, seven Basic Res 12 Jun. Wilson's Phalarope: female feeding with Killdeer Basic Res 12 Jun. Com. Snipe: only location Quakerstreet marsh through Jul. Am. Woodcock: one Schodack 28 Jun, only two reported from Five Rivers after all seen this spring. Ring-billed Gull: sporadic reports from L George Beach, Castleton and Basic Res. Herring Gull: two reports, COLU and WASH Jul, Rip Van Winkle Bridge 23 Aug. Great Black-backed Gull: one reported Rensselaer 28 Aug

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-backed Cuckoo: three reports, Schodack Center 5 Jun-6 Aug, three CPI 28 Jul, roadkill Greenport 22 Jun, fewer than last summer. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: two reports, one Schoharie 5 Aug, two CPI 28 Jul. E. Screech-Owl: heard Clarksville, Schoharie mid Jul through Aug. Great Horned Owl: four locations Clarksville, Schodack Center, Schoharie, W. Tagh. Barred Owl: one and sometimes two calling JL Jun and Jul. N. Saw-whet Owl: one calling before dawn Schodack Center 8 Aug (PC). Com. Nighthawk: max 20 Lincoln P in Albany 30 Aug. Whip-poor-will: none reported. Chimney Swift: regularly throughout period Claverack, Five Rivers, L George, RENS. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: all season in Clarksville, Five Rivers, RENS. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: *intro*. Hairy Woodpecker: unusual report of ad with red crown extending over forehead to base of bill at Schoharie.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: sole location 12 SCHE Airport 25 Jun. Purple Martin: single bird Schodack 23 Jun. Tree Swallow: nesting in numerous locations Jun, Jul, migration seemed to begin late Jul. N. Rough-winged Swallow: pairs at Castleton and Schodack Valley Jun, occasional at Five Rivers, Basic Res. Bank Swallow: max 100 WASH 26 Jun. Cliff Swallow: *intro*. Blue Jay: reported by all observers as common except at JL where scarce for second consecutive year. Fish Crow: reported from various locations along Hudson R and at Schenectady, where a pair evidently bred in a residential neighborhood. Com. Raven: breeding pair Thacher P, one heard Buck Mt 27 Aug, four CPI 5 Aug. Black-capped Chickadee: a record number of 24 banded JL in Jul-Aug when ten to 12 is normal (BY), new FL as late as 27 Jul. Red-Breasted Nuthatch: record year at JL, 25 banded through Aug with first FL 19 Jun. Marsh Wren: common Black Creek Marsh, Papscanee Creek, Schodack Creek. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one area, CPI, four 28 Jul, seven 26 Aug. E. Bluebird: good number, but less than last year, of successful nestings reported from many areas. Veery: commonly reported from Bear Swamp Jul, FL at L Tagh 16 Jul, Poestenkill Jul-Aug, one W Tagh 8 Aug, seen throughout period RENS. Swainson's Thrush: several early migrants heard Schodack Center 26 Aug. Hermit Thrush: three locations, throughout reporting period Poestenkill, three juv banded at JL, two Jul, one Aug, fifteen CPI 28 Jul. Wood Thrush: common Clarksville, Five Rivers, RENS, Schoharie. Brown Thrasher: five locations Pine Bush, L Tagh, Saratoga Battlefield, RENS, Schoharie, Jun & Jul. Cedar Waxwing: most flocks reported during Aug, but one W Tagh 22 Jun, and flock feeding on Jun berries W Tagh 1 Jul.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Blue-winged Warbler: Five Rivers 18 Jun, several L Tagh 25 Jun, Schodack Jun-Jul. Golden-winged Warbler: none. Brewster's Warbler: three on Boehm-Beale property in Schoharie 3, 4, 23 Jul. Tennessee Warbler: arr four Churchtown 27 Aug. Nashville Warbler: two reports, Pine Bush 11 Jun, CPI 28 Jul. Chestnut-sided Warbler: residents at Moss L, Poestenkill, RENS, Schoharie. Magnolia Warbler: resident at Poestenkill, CPI. Black-throated Blue Warbler: two locations CPI, Poestenkill. Yellow-rumped Warbler: common summer resident in many locales, a record year at JL with 20 imm and 5 ad banded, first imm banded 8 Jul (BY) usually only four to eight banded in a summer. Black-throated Green Warbler: three reports, four CPI 28 Jul, one 26 Aug, Poestenkill all summer. Blackburnian Warbler: JL occasionally, Poestenkill all season, CPI 28 Jul. Pine Warbler: max five Pine Bush 11 Jun. Prairie Warbler: singing daily CGCC

1 Jun-14 Jul, five Schodack 8 Jun, two 3 Jul. Ovenbird: record year at JL with 58 imm banded Jul-Aug, previous max 25. N. Waterthrush: breeding Clarksville, Five Rivers, Quakerstreet marsh. Mourning Warbler: pair at Moss L 16 Jul. Canada Warbler: summer resident Poestenkill, one CPI 28 Jul and 26 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: most often reported Schoharie and JL, where 14 banded. Indigo Bunting: max three nesting pairs Schoharie, two nesting pairs Clarksville, seen in Jun Saratoga Battlefield, Hudson 14 Jul, RENS. Chipping Sparrow: more cheerful report from JL where a more typical number of 14 were banded; last year the species had continued its long term decline. Field Sparrow: four locations Churchtown 27 Aug (singing), L Tagh 25 Jun-16 Jul, throughout season Schoharie and RENS. Savannah Sparrow: none reported from Five Rivers, reported Gallupville in lush hay fields used for milk cow grazing, two Schodack 5 Jun. Grasshopper Sparrow: single location, Saratoga Battlefield Jun-Jul. Henslow's Sparrow: none. Swamp Sparrow: one Churchtown 24 Jun, two Copake 25 Jun, one WASH 26 Jun, Black Creek Marsh, RENS, CPI throughout. White-throated Sparrow: male singing JL all summer, newly fledged bird appeared at feeder 9 Jul; two WASH 26 Jun, six CPI 28 Jul, two 26 Aug. Dark-eyed Junco: continues to be extremely scarce JL where abundant prior to 1985; several reported from Clarksville and Thacher P Jul-Aug. Bobolink: max 80 Staats I 21 Aug. Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000 RENS 23 Aug, frequent summer visitor Schoharie, scarce at JL, none banded where previous typical numbers were 3-10. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 1000 juv males W. Tagh 27 Aug, BC remarks that if each one represents a dead warbler, how much are they be contributing to 'silent spring' syndrome. N. Oriole: reported throughout summer in Clarksville, Delmar, New Scotland, RENS, Schoharie, WASH, Westerlo. Purple Finch: single numbers reported by two observers, Schoharie 18 Jun, W. Tagh late Jun; only large numbers 171 banded at JL during Jul, 227 during Aug (RY). Red Crossbill: none. Pine Siskin: southern parts of Region report siskins at feeders until mid Jun, imms at JL until 15 Jul, with a record total of 204 siskins banded.

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REGION 9 – DELEWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

What a summer! June came in cool and damp, but by mid month temperatures were 60-80° most days and remained hot and dry well into July. Streams and ponds were low and lawns browned and withered from lack of rain. The rains, over 10 inches, finally came reviving lawns and gardens and filling the streams and ponds. This was followed by a heat wave that lasted for four weeks. Relieved by only a few small showers, the temperature ranged from 80-98°. Not only was it hot but it was muggy with little relief even at night. With the thick haze we could barely see the surrounding hills. A cool north wind finally blew in and for the first time in weeks we could see the Catskill Mountains to the west, blue sky and the stars at night. The last two weeks of August were pleasant with temperatures reading 40-45° in the morning and reaching a fresh 75-80° during the day.

Undaunted, the birds continued to nest and raise their young in spite of the heat. A long list of species were widely reported and did well in suitable habitat throughout the Region this summer: Green-backed Heron, Mallard, Turkey Vul-

ture, Red-tailed Hawk, Am. Kestrel, Killdeer, Chimney Swift, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow.

An unconfirmed report of an adult Common Loon with young came from Ashokan Reservoir, the nest not found. Perhaps this report will be confirmed another year if loons continue to use the area. At least a dozen Bald Eagles lingered through the season at Rio-Mongaup Reservoirs in Sullivan County, with a confirmed report of one territorial pair that did not breed - this year. A group of five always scarce Barn-Owls, probably a family, assembled nightly at a church in Ridgebury outside of Middletown, the first of these birds detected in several years. Once again a bumper crop of Eastern Bluebirds hatched in the Hudson Valley, especially from the Dutchess County Bluebird Trail.

Contributors: Frank Brown, Elsa Bumstead, Barbara Butler, Peggy Fasciani, Sibyll Gilbert, Florence Germond, Thelma Haight, Carol Jack, Alice Jones, Susan Joseph, Jim and Mary Key, Tom Lake, Helen Manson, Frank Murphy, Mickie and Tom Mutchler, Vivian Parkhurst, Eleanor Pink, Jim Southward, Selden Spencer, John P. Tramontano, Marion VanWagner, Dorothy Wohlbach.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: reported from Humpo Marsh, Kay's P Netherwood; one Tamarack 31 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: one Kay's P 19-22 Aug (AJ, MVW); observed on Hudson R July. Am. Bittern: one Stanfordville 20 Jul (FG); also at Humpo Marsh. Great Blue Heron: 25 Tamarack 15 Jun, 11 active nests with young; good breeding numbers along I-84 ORAN, easily observed by birders and non-birders; many birds throughout area all summer. Great Egret: one e DUTC 25 and 30 Jul (DF), several in Aug; one Humpo Marsh Jun and Aug. Little Blue Heron: one Humpo Marsh 25 Aug; one LaGrangeville 15 Jul. Black-crowned Night-Heron: Humpo Marsh Jun. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: one Dutchess Hill Marsh 11 Jun (AJ). Mute Swan: nesting many places. Wood Duck: good numbers nesting and fledging y. Am. Black Duck: several sighted but no young noted. Bufflehead: ad male Rondout Res 2 Jul (AJ, unseasonal). Hooded Merganser: female Narrowsburg 4 Jul (AJ), no young noted. Red-breasted Merganser: one SULL (AJ).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: *intro*. Northern Harrier: one Hosner Mt Rd and I-84 10 Jun. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one chased by Kingbird, Pleasant Valley 20 Jul (JMK); a few already after small birds around feeders by Aug. Cooper's Hawk: one Carmel 22 Jun (FB), two fledglings ready to fly from nest on Bangall Rd observed in and out of nest until 22 Jul; in yard Wappingers and Stormville areas. Red-shouldered Hawk: heard and seen off and on SULL (AJ). Broad-winged Hawk: ad with two y (JMK); local birds seem fewer (SS), few migrating through end of Aug. Merlin: one Hyde Park 15 Jun (JS) [*unseasonal enough to merit a NYSARC report - Ed.*]. Ring-necked Pheasant: not plentiful or not reported. Wild Turkey: many seen with y. N. Bobwhite: one Pine Plains (TH), only report. Virginia Rail: Humpo Marsh and Pine Plains. Sora: reported from Humpo Marsh and Bashakill. Com. Moorhen: Humpo Marsh. Greater Yellowlegs: one Salt Point 14 Aug (JMK), two West Bramen Res (FB). Lesser Yellowlegs: one 21 Aug (FG). Solitary Sandpiper: one Netherwood 21 Aug, two 27 Aug; two Beaver Dam 27 Aug (MVW). Spotted Sandpiper: one Dover Plains 11 Aug, three Netherwood 21 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: at least one pair nested Blue Chip Farm, family of four 3 Jul (JPT). Com. Snipe: reported from Humpo Marsh. Am. Woodcock: one 10 Jun Bog Hollow DUTC. Bonaparte's Gull: ad, one imm Hudson R 2-5 Aug (TL). Great Black-backed Gull: two Hudson R 10 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: reported in good numbers DUTC,

one feeding young 17 Jul (CJ). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: heard and seen well in DUTC, must have been a good crop of caterpillars. Com. Barn-Owl: *intro*. E. Screech-Owl: only two heard DUTC; are they scarce or just missed? Great Horned Owl: resident DUTC. Barred Owl: heard often Stanfordville; two Pawling 5 Jul. Com. Nighthawk: nest on flat roofs New Paltz, increased in recent years (SS); one over ball field Pleasant Valley 18 Aug (EP), three Vassar Farm 25 Aug (JMK); migrating flocks late Aug. Whip-poor-will: few heard Slate Quarry Rd Jun (FG). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max eight daily Jul (FG), young noted by several reporters (I think this exciting little bird is reported more often than some less exciting species). Belted Kingfisher: nesting well in DUTC, many large holes observed in stream banks. Red-headed Woodpecker: imm with ad, happy result of nesting pair, Rhinebeck (SJ). Red-bellied Woodpecker: pair with young eating mulberries Rhine Jul (MVW), eating corn at feeder accompanied by young (DW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: active nest found Kanape Brook area 19 Jun (FM). Hairy Woodpecker: with young DUTC. N. Flicker: pair 18 Jun with three young (FG). Pileated Woodpecker: pair Carmel 3 Aug, first sighting in area (FB), suspect building boom has sent them looking for new areas.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Cary Arboreug 19 Jun; arr Hopewell Junction 21 Aug (PF). E. Wood-Pewee: good numbers, bird on nest Brockway Rd DUTC 9 Jun, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Hyde Park 9 Jun, late (AJ). Acadian Flycatcher: three Kanape Brook 9 Jun (FM); bred successfully Bashakill, two y fledged (JPT) and Deep Hollow, DUTC; at least two sites where breeding was attempted, success unknown. Alder Flycatcher: one heard Separate Rd 9 & 12 Aug (MVW, HM), one Vassar Farm two dates (JMK). Willow Flycatcher: many places DUTC. Least Flycatcher: nest at Thompson Pd, last y observed leaving the nest 23 Jul (EP, HM). Great Crested Flycatcher: one came for snake skin 14 Jul (JMK). E. Kingbird: max 20 in migration 27 Aug. (MVW). Purple Martin: max twelve still around houses Milewood Rd 4 Aug (HM), two in migration 16 Aug (EB). Tree Swallow: fewer ULST (SS) seem plentiful elsewhere. Cliff Swallow: fewer than normal at Ashokan Res Dividing Weir (SS). Fish Crow: one pair noted in Middletown, nesting not confirmed, two pair nested Bashakill (JPT). Com. Raven: two near Neversink Res 16 Jul. Brown Creeper: very few reported, seems scarce. Winter Wren: usual places DUTC. Marsh Wren: no reports. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one on trail above Kanape Brook 19 Jun (FM). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: found in a few places, DUTC and ULST, no confirmed nesting. E. Bluebird: it is now possible to see this lovely bird nearly all over the Region; 609 fledged from DUTC Bluebird Trail, three quarters of these were banded by FG. Hermit Thrush: singing male Old Camby Rd 10-24 Jul (HM, BB). Cedar Waxwing: excellent breeding success SULL and ORAN (JPT), good numbers after a poor start in DUTC, already feeding on the abundant wild fruits.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: one Vassar Farm 2 & 23 Aug (JMK). Solitary Vireo: ad with food for y in nest Thompson Pd 11 Jun (EP, MVW); Deep Hollow Jul. (HM). Blue-winged Warbler: two feeding y Pawling 2 Jul (SG). Golden-winged Warbler: none. Tennessee Warbler: arr 19 Aug (EB) Yellow Warbler: abundant, ad on nest 25 Jul (CJ), last 19 Aug (MVW). Black-throated Blue Warbler: observed Kanape Brook 19 Jun (FM). Blackburnian Warbler: one Turkey Hollow 20 Aug. Prairie Warbler: perhaps not as plentiful this season but easy to identify by song. Cerulean Warbler: found several times Deep Hollow Jul, no confirmed nesting. Worm-eating Warbler: one 22 Aug (EB). Ovenbird: good reports most areas. N. Waterthrush: one Turkey Hollow 15 Jun. Louisiana Waterthrush: still singing 6 Aug (FG). Wilson's Warbler: arr 31 Aug (MVW). Canada Warbler: three 22 Aug (EB), one Kanapa Brook 19 Jun (FM).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: few noted (FB), in transition plumage 20 Aug (MVW). N. Cardinal: still with y mid Aug. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: at feeder 12 Aug (FG), many feeding on wild fruits Aug. Indigo Bunting: good reports in Jun, still singing

through mid Aug. Chipping Sparrow: in flocks along roadsides late Aug. Vesper Sparrow: sadly no reports. Savannah Sparrow: two Vassar Farm, Humpo Marsh area Jun. Grasshopper Sparrow: Woodstock Rd Jul (FG). Henslow's Sparrow: none reported, the old Airfield in SULL where they are known to be is now a Government restricted area. Dark-eyed Junco: two 7 Jun Deep Hollow where they are known to breed. Bobolink: breed well in DUTC, starting to move end of Aug. Red-winged Blackbird: gathering in flocks late Aug. E. Meadowlark: few at most farm areas. Northern Oriole: singing 28-29 Aug. Purple Finch: one in yard Aug (MVW), one young male (FG). Pine Siskin: one 18 Jul used thistle feeder and bird bath, stayed all day (MVW), daily through early Jul (MTM). Am. Goldfinch: feeding fledglings 21 Aug (HM).

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REGION 10 – MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

We wish to thank our friends and contributors for their kind words and offers of support in this new undertaking. They have made past records and present data available to us so that we can attempt to summarize the missing period. In addition, we have been able to obtain records and mail sent to the previous Region 10 editors for part of the missing period. Unfortunately, prior weather data has been mostly unavailable.

Part A: Summer 1988

The weather for the period covered by this report was remarkable in that to some prophets it signaled the much heralded coming of the "greenhouse effect," but in actuality wound up being pretty much just a hotter than average summer in terms of temperature and rainfall. However, the averages are deceiving in that some 32 days were over 90°F and the rain, when it came, varied significantly from place to place. LaGuardia Airport reported 8.6 inches in July, while MacArthur Airport received 2.4 inches. The exceedingly hot dry middle of the period was tempered at both ends by cooler, wetter weather. The position of the jet stream which produced our unusually prolonged summer heat also effects the Gulf Stream and, with that, the movement of sea birds. Although this is not necessarily the cause this year, pelagic species were few and far between during Aug in contrast to prior years, as seen from the Finback II. Shearwaters were mostly absent.

The big news was **Brown Pelican**, first reported last Dec, then in Mar (CM). Six were seen off Moriches 26 Jun (JC). Pelicans were seen in groups of 2-20 along the South Shore of Long Island as far west as Jones' Inlet on and off from then until early Aug, and. The high count was 31 at Fire Island on 31 Jul (NYRBA).

Several species have shown considerable breeding population increases or summer range extensions in recent years. A total of 399 Mute Swans were counted on the Central Suffolk Breeding Bird Census 16 June (JR) and 55 were on the East Pond at Jamaica Bay on 16 Aug (SS). Significant numbers were in the Montauk area also. Ospreys continue to increase. Quoting the DEC, 213 young are esti-

mated to have been born on Long Island and Long Island Ospreys were captured and used for an upstate hacking project. Two pairs nested successfully in Nassau Co (JZ). One nest with three birds was visible from the Jones Beach fishing piers and the other with two birds could be seen from the MNSA in Oceanside. The latter nest is farther west than the nest described by JZ in the article in this Spring's issue of *The Kingbird*. No nests of Cattle Egret were found in the bay areas of Hempstead Town (JZ), but they were more noticeable this year at Jamaica Bay with as many as half dozen feeding in the marsh at one time. Other observations in the Nassau Co. bay areas indicate that Least Tern numbers were down and Piping Plover were up from last year, but the censuses are not yet available. Common Barn-Owls continue to nest successfully on the bay islands. Reports of Red-bellied Woodpecker come from almost all areas with large trees. This is another species from the South which has continued to extend its range. Boat-tailed Grackles are being seen with greater frequency in more locations. While it is difficult to estimate totals, a definite dispersal trend continues. In addition to the birds in the Jamaica Bay area, at least two of the islands in the bay in Nassau Co had at least 5-10 pair each (SS).

Highlights of reports to the International Shorebird Surveys sponsored by Manomet Bird Observatory at Jamaica Bay by Artie Morris and David Mizrahi are as follows: Spring migration peaked on 1 Jun rather than in May with 2478 shorebirds of 11 species. Shorebird numbers were above average in early Jul but below average by late Jul, affected for the most part by weather conditions. Adult shorebirds peaked at 4907 on 5 Aug, about 25% higher than the last seven year average.

Lesser Golden-Plovers, Upland Sandpipers and Buff-breasted Sandpipers continue to frequent the sod farms in western Suffolk Co in early Aug, and American Oystercatchers have become so numerous that many observers have stopped counting them. Black Terns were reported from Jones Beach and Jamaica Bay in late Summer.

Jamaica Bay had a male Eurasian Wigeon on 27 June (NYRBA) which remained through the period. A **White Ibis** was seen flying along the Peconic River in Riverhead 2 Jul (Carl Helms *vide* JR). A possible **Violet-green Swallow** was reported at Montauk Point 17 Jul (JC), details submitted to NYSARC.

The CSCBC taken on 18 Jun gave some indication of breeding birds of interest including four Broad-winged Hawks, 13 Red-tailed Hawks, four Eastern Screech-Owls, seven Great Horned Owls, one Chuck-will's-widow, 15 Whip-poor-wills, nine N. Rough-winged Swallows, four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, eight White-eyed Vireos, two Yellow-throated Vireos and four Orchard Orioles.

Contributors: Bob Adamo, Thomas W. Burke, James Clinton, Sr., Aline Dove, Paul H. Gillen, Thomas Hook, Emanuel Levine, Hugh McGuinness, Christopher K. Mckeever, Arthur Morris, Robert O. Paxton, John J. Ruscica, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin, John Zarudsky.

Abbreviations: CSCBC - Central Suffolk Co Breeding Bird Census; DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State; FPR - Farm Pond, Riverhead; FI - Fire Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch - Jones Beach; LI - Long Island; MNSA - Marine Nature Study Area; MeB - Mecox Bay; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park.

LOONS-DUCKS: Manx Shearwater: seen near Block Island 7 Aug (BA). **Brown Pelican**: *intro*. Great Cormorant: imm Shinnecock Inlet 21 Aug through period (HMcG). Cattle Egret: *intro*. **White Ibis**: *intro*. Mute Swan: *intro*. Eurasian Wigeon: *intro*. Com. Eider: Montauk Pt 18 Jul (JC).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Shoreham 28 Jun (JC). Peregrine Falcon: successfully nested on a building e side mid-Manhattan. Black-bellied Plover: 1193 JBWR 31 Aug (AM, DM) new high for location. Am. Oystercatcher: 170 JBWR 17 Aug (Max and Nellie Larson). Willet: 70 Shinnecock 14 and 21 Aug (HMcG), increasing everywhere. Marbled Godwit: one to three JBWR 8-31 Aug (NYRBA), one Oyster Pd Montauk 21-27 Aug (HMcG). Baird's Sandpiper: three imm MeB 19 Aug (HMcG), two FPR (AD, PG). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one MeB 13 Aug, one Wainscot 14 Aug (HMcG). Wilson's Phalarope: 1-2 MeB 13 Aug to end of period (HMcG), one FPR (AD, PG). Little Gull: imm JBWR 8 Aug (AM, SW). Bonaparte's Gull: JBWR 17 Jul (SW), a very late date. Gull-billed Tern: two Cow Meadow, Freeport 17 Jul (SS). Caspian Tern: Moriches Bay 12 Aug (HMcG). Royal Tern: 29 Shinnecock Inlet 21 Aug (HMcG). Roseate Tern: 250 max Shinnecock 27 Aug (HMcG). Black Tern: *intro*. Black Skimmer: 480 JBch 16 Aug (EL).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Common Barn-Owl: *intro*. E. Screech-Owl: *intro*. Great Horned Owl: *intro*. Chuck-will's-widow: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Amagansett 28 Aug (HMcG). **Violet-green Swallow**: *intro*. N. Rough-winged Swallow: 10+ Wainscot 26 Aug (HMcG).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: *intro*. Worm-eating Warbler: Amagansett 28 Aug (HMcG);

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: one Brookhaven Lab 27 Jul to 2 Aug (JC). Grasshopper Sparrow: one singing Mitchell Field 12 Jun (SS), also reports from e LL. Boat-tailed Grackle: *intro*. Orchard Oriole: *intro*. Red Crossbill: four Ridge 11 Jun (JC).

EXOTICS: Chilean Flamingo: banded bird MeB all summer (mob).

Part B: Summary Of Recent Reports

The following covers only highlights of the period of the Fall of 1987 through Spring 1988. This interval had a number of unusual birds in the fall, most of them already reported elsewhere. A Dec report of **Brown Pelican** was followed with more pelican reports through the summer period. Reports of Christmas Bird Counts will not be included as this information is already published. Unless otherwise noted all records are from the NYRBA, supplied to us by Tom Burke, Jr.

The fall started with a remarkable 3-day pelagic trip sponsored by American Birds on 17-20 Sep which included Cory's Shearwater, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, **Audubon's Shearwater**, **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, **Long-tailed Jaeger** and **Bridled Tern** (this entire trip should be bold faced). Land birds were not neglected as the fall brought to Jones Beach a **Vermilion Flycatcher** on 24 Sep and a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** on 17 Oct. JBWR was not to be outdone with a **Swainson's Hawk** on 1 Nov and a **Little Stint** 2 Sep. Montauk produced two **Northern Wheatear** 9 Oct.

By contrast the winter was dull except for the **Brown Pelican** seen 2 Dec in Quogue and which died the next day. Another bird was reportedly seen by a photographer in Feb and photographed 6 Mar at Northwest Woods. The above information came from Christopher McKeever. To continue the pelican story see the Summer report above.

Spring was notable for a **Wilson's Plover** at Tobay 3 May (Bob Hines fide NYRBA), an **Am. Swallow-tailed Kite** 5 May at Brookhaven Laboratory (JC) and a **Mississippi Kite** 24 May at Forest Park.

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Abbreviations: HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch - Jones Beach; LI - Long Island; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PP - Prospect Park.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: small numbers e LI from late fall through Apr. Eared Grebe: one JBWR 10-16 Oct. Sooty Shearwater: one Shinnecock Inlet 15 May. Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 24 Shinnecock Inlet 21 May. **White-faced Storm-Petrel**: *intro*. Tundra Swan: several during the winter Freeport to the Hamptons. **Audubon's Shearwater**: *intro*. "**Black Brant**:" one JBWR 19 Apr (TH). Wood Duck: 56 Upton 2 Nov (TH). Eurasian Wigeon: a regular winter visitor at several locations. Redhead: 225 Big Reed Pond, Montauk 20 Feb (JR). Tufted Duck: one returned to Central P.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Southhaven Park 10 Jan (JR). Bald Eagle: scattered isolated reports of singles from HLSP to MPt during the Winter. **Am. Swallow-tailed Kite**: *intro*. **Mississippi Kite**: *intro*. **Wilson's Plover**: *intro*. Am. Avocet: JBWR 8 Aug, 4-24 Oct (AM). Whimbrel: four on an island in the bay Nassau Co 21 May, usually seen on e LI in Spring (SS). Hudsonian Godwit and Marbled Godwit: both are seen regularly both at JBWR and JBch Zachs Bay. **Little Stint**: *intro*; another (or the same?) stint was seen there 5 Sep and was reported as a Little or Rufous-necked, the birders who included Paul Buckley could not definitely establish which one. Red-necked Phalarope: one 6 Dec JBch Inlet, Atlantic Beach side (SW et al.). **Long-tailed Jaeger**: *intro*. Laughing Gull: JBch Inlet 1 Jan (SS, AW). **Bridled Tern**: *intro*. Razorbill: one MPt 9 Mar. Black Guillemot: one Jones' Inlet 13 Mar (TB).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS. Nothing noteworthy.

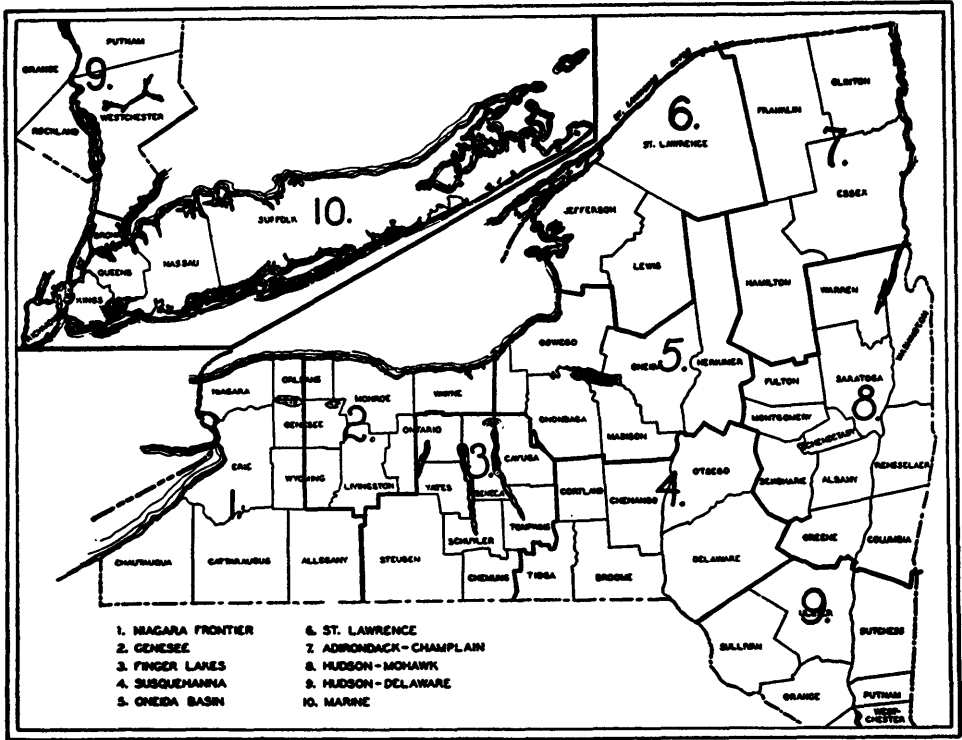
FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Vermilion Flycatcher**: *intro*. **N. Wheatear**: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: **Townsend's Warbler**: one 14 May Forest Park. **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** 18 Dec JBch (TH).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS. Dickcissel. at least three separate birds at JBch, an uncommon bird, more common recently. Clay-colored Sparrow: w end JBch 3 Oct, MPt 10 Oct, Smith Point 13 Oct, Central Park 14 Oct. **Golden-crowned Sparrow**: *intro*. Lapland Longspur: one 20 Sep MPt (HMcG). Yellow-headed Blackbird: Cedar Beach Golf Course 9 Sept. Red Crossbill: few reports, not a flight year.

603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550

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

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