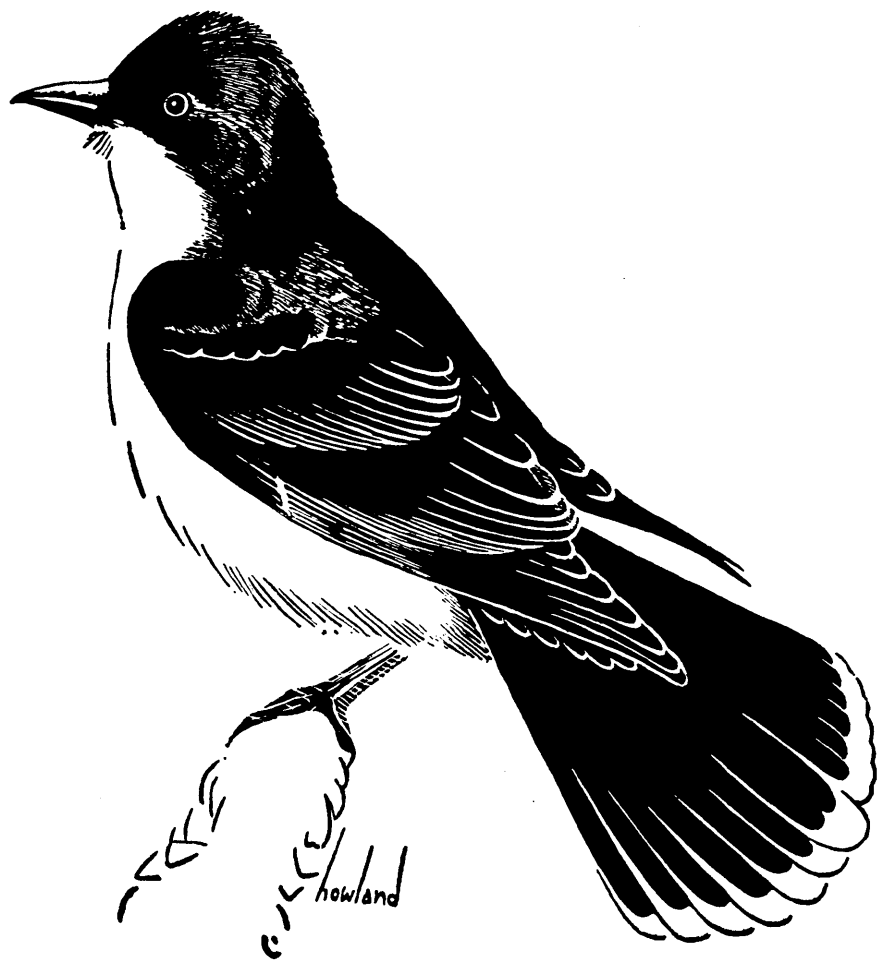


# The KINGBIRD



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FALL • 1989

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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

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*Editor - Paul A. DeBenedictis*

*Highlights of the Season*

*Editor - Robert Spahn*

*Circulation Manager - Berna B. Weissman*



*Black-necked Stilt, 20-22 May 1989, Town of Lysander, Onondaga Co., New York. Photograph by David Cesari.*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE  
RARITIES 50: BLACK-NECKED STILT  
IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

On 20 May 1989 while participating in Region's 5 annual "Big Run" with Ruth K. Knight and Susan Adair, I observed a Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* in a wet horse pasture on Lamson Road 1 mile w of Rt. 48 in the Town of Lysander, Onondaga County. The pasture has several shallow pools which attract migratory shorebirds and is checked regularly each spring. We arrived here about noon but found few shorebirds despite good conditions. While searching for sleeping shorebirds in the poolside grass, I kept hearing a call that vaguely reminded me of a Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* but I was unable to locate its source. As we were leaving, the horses in the pasture shifted position and Ms. Adair called "Black-necked Stilt!" We all quickly located the bird in a puddle surrounded by horses. After a short while, the bird took flight, circled the pasture and returned to a pool closer to us where we studied it for about 30 minutes with 10 power binoculars and 30 power telescopes under ideal lighting conditions. All three of us had had prior field experience with this species on the Atlantic coast and/or California. The bird was discovered independently later that afternoon by a party led by John Hanyak and remained until the morning of 22 May, during which time it was seen by most of the active observers in Region 5. The accompanying photograph was taken by David Cesari on 21 May. The following description is based on notes and sketches made while I was observing the bird:

a very long legged, long necked, slender shorebird approximately the height of an American Crow. The bill was dark, very slender, straight, approximately 1.5 times as long as the head; eyes dark; legs dark flesh colored. The plumage was in good condition. The bird was black on the crown and upper neck, grading to very dark gray on the back and wings; the tail, rump, underparts, forehead and a short elongate superciliary spot were white. The demarcation between the black and white was rather sharp, curving from the forehead in front of and below the eye to the lower auricular region, down the side of the neck to the shoulders where the white extended up towards the back, and then back below the folded wing. In flight the wings and back were uniformly dark above; the legs extended beyond the tail. Feeding in the water, the bird stepped very deliberately, pecking at the water. The only calls heard were an occasional sharp *peck* reminiscent of a Black Tern.

Bull (1974,1976) lists 12 records of this species from New York, and eight more (one bird photographed) have appeared in Region 10 reports in *The Kingbird* since then. None were submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee for review. The most recent prior records were in 1981 and 1985. This is the first record from the Oneida Lake Basin Region and only the second from upstate New York. The prior upstate record is of a bird photographed near Fairport, Monroe Co., on 2-3 Jun 1973 (Tetlow 1974). Records from Long Island and the New York City area, where as many as four individuals have been seen together, range from about 10 Apr to 29 Jun with a concentration in mid to late May. The species appears to be increasing in numbers along the Atlantic coast and is a potential future addition to the breeding avifauna of New York state.

My thanks to David Cesari for supplying the photograph.

306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210

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**Francis "Fritz" G. Scheider, M.D.**  
**26 Aug 1932 - 19 May 1989**

Fritz Scheider was a longtime benefactor of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs both through his many contributions to this journal and also through his many contacts with individual members of our organization, especially in upstate New York. His passing left a multitude of friends hard pressed to go afield without thinking of the wonderful times shared in common interests and pursuits. The stuff of obituaries and memorials has appeared in *New York Birders* [18(5):4-5; 1989] and in newspapers in the Syracuse area. Rather than repeat them again, his friends were asked to submit brief "Fritz stories" to commemorate the warm and lasting feelings we will have for him always. The quantity and quality of these stories is true expression of how much he was loved and respected.

*The Editor*

**First impressions**

In the early 1940s Mr. Aubrey Stevens was a letter carrier on the northwest side of Syracuse. He had a great interest in bird study and would talk to people along his route about birds he saw while delivering the mail. He took a special interest in a group of five or six boys, including me, whom he took on weekend "bird hikes." Mr. Stevens also was a hunter. He had a new shotgun which did not fit him properly. On his mail route lived a city fireman, Charles Scheider, who was also a skilled woodworker and gunsmith. Mr. Stevens asked Mr. Scheider to adjust his gun and, when visiting the Scheider home in early 1942 to pick up the gun, noticed a copy of *Birds of America* on a living room table. He asked who in the family was interested in birds and was told that it was Mr. Scheider's 10-year old son, Fritz. Mr. Stevens had been planning a "bird hike" for the following weekend and asked if Fritz would like to come. Fritz quickly accepted. In preparation for the hike, Mr. Stevens asked the other boys not to mention the number of birds they had on their annual lists because the new boy had only six species which he had seen in his back yard. Fritz more than doubled his list on his first hike, and we all carefully avoided any discussion of list size. There were many other trips with Mr. Stevens and before very long Fritz was the best informed birder in the group. He also had, by far, the largest bird list.

*Robert L. Richardson*

As I remember, Fritz became interested in birds after having been given a book on birds by his mailman. Todd and I would frequently take him birding with us when he was a student. Montezuma swamp was a favorite weekend birding location. We would either pick him up or he would ride his bike to a central pickup spot. We were always impressed by his accuracy, his thoroughness, his intensity and his competitiveness. He was always eager to be first to locate the unusual. He learned quickly and was always generous in sharing his knowledge with others.

*Terry Farnham*

Heavy snow blanketed Comstock Avenue and Oakwood Cemetery on the morning of 30 Mar 1955. We had answered an ad for birdwatching in the evening paper, which said there would be a leader to show us how to do it. We sat nervously awaiting someone to appear. Finally, a car roared up and out stepped a young man. We walked over to him and inquired if this was the Audubon Bird Walk. Since no others had shown up, he said, "Follow me," and we were off on our first bird walk. From my Life List, a shrike was the most unusual bird we saw - but that isn't what I remember best about that day. At the end of the walk, Fritz guided us to a shelter of pines behind a mausoleum. Having no idea what was to take place, I must admit I was somewhat unnerved when Fritz started to make a very odd noise - and suddenly down came a chickadee - at eye level! At that moment I decided that Fritz must be a direct descendent of John Audubon.

*(Jean W. Propst &) Ede Estoff*

As a Boy Scout in the early 50's, I went to Camp Woodland, north of Oneida Lake where Fritz was a counselor. He was teaching a merit badge called "Bird Study." Although I attended the course and went on many field trips with Fritz and my father, I drifted away from birding after a stint in the Marine Corps. My interest returned in the 1970s. Local birders mentioned a "Dr. Scheider" and I found he was the same person. He called me to go shorebirding with him. It was the start of innumerable field trips from Sandy Pond on Lake Ontario to remote Attu Island in Alaska. Without him, birding will never be the same for myself and many, many other birders and friends of Fritz. The memories of these trips and hundreds of live birds shown to us by Fritz have helped to fill the void.

*John Hanyak*



I first met him at the old Seventh North Street dump in Syracuse. I had been told that there would be shorebirds to see. Fritz was a big bonus. There was instant rapport. Had he not been holding binoculars, he would have rubbed his hands in glee: a neophyte birder who needed help! And I who needed the help had a teacher. He explained that a small shorebird with yellow legs was a Least Sandpiper. The one with a drooping brassiere was an immature Ruddy Turnstone. The crazy one spinning in circles was a phalarope. I can usually tell them apart now if they are relatively close (while Fritz could pick them out in flight a long way off). Most of what I learned about birds this past 20 years has come from Fritz—with his patience—repeating the same fieldmarks over and over. I will try to pass on some of what I have learned to other new birders, always with Fritz in mind.

*Dorothy W. Crumb*

There have been a few extraordinary people in my life and Fritz Scheider was one of them. Though looking myopic, with the air of a slightly overgrown schoolboy, I soon discovered that he had eyes like the hawks he identified so quickly and accurately and ears as sensitive as a Long-eared Owl's. He was totally dedicated and totally professional in his approach to both his medical vocation and his avocation. He became the Gilbert White of upstate New York but with a coast to coast reputation as an ornithologist. I am very glad to have known him, to have punned with him, to have envied his relish of a cup of hot water, and to have bewildered him with my Sony Walkman.

*Michael J. Thomas*

### **Personal Glimpses**

This happened on an annual junket to Cape Ann, Mass. It was the first year that the speed limit became 55 mph. After nearly three hours on the road with everything passing us - including boys on bikes - Paul Paquette, who was in the front seat with Fritz, leaned over and said, "Straight Arrow, don't you think you could up it to 57?" Because of the lovely rapport between Fritz and Paul, Fritz enjoyed it too.

*Ede Estoff*

I was always aware that Fritz had a very good and dependable sense of direction. When I asked him about it, he said he got lost once, and the experience frightened him so much that he decided never to get lost

again. He didn't tell me his system, but over time I realized that he observed and memorized landmarks, route numbers, county road numbers or letters, which way was North, the lay of the land, and I don't know what-all else. I think he started doing this when he was very young, venturing out by himself to go birding. When he got his first car, he began to drive all over Region 5. He learned the names of back roads and noted names on POSTED signs on wood lots and fields. Then he would look up the people in charge and get permission to bird there. He talked to people, he got to know them and be known. At a public place, like Montezuma, he learned the names of people in charge and told them who he was, and asked questions. He was interested in wildflowers too, and learned where and when to go to see them in bloom. I think that he never forgot their names, wildflowers or birds. After a while he began to take his friends to see some of the places he had discovered and he could name all the birds and flowers there. It seemed as though he knew them by some kind of instinct. What we - or at least I - didn't know was that he had been to such places many times alone, knew how to get there and back, and knew what to expect to see. He had developed his sense of direction and his memory. I would follow him through a soggy stand of cattails that were over my head with perfect confidence.

*Sylvia Paquette*

I began birding with Fritz in 1949, when I was just out of college and he was still in high school. On a hitchhiking trip to Toad Harbor, after seeing our third Loggerhead Shrike, I said, "We're out." Fritz took the bait and asked, "What do you mean?" "Shrike three!" I replied. It was a simple beginning that led to much distress for many. Fritz took to punning like a shrike takes to sparrows. It would have been only a matter of time until someone set off his proclivity for punning, and according to him, I was the culprit.

*William F. Minor*

You never knew when a pun would strike. Shortly after I arrived in Syracuse, during the demise of the Penn-Central Railroad, Fritz and I were birding along its main tracks in central Cayuga County. The roar of diesels and honking of horns announced the approach of an eastbound train, soon answered by an oncoming westbound. The papers had been full of stories of railroad mismanagement, so after the trains had passed, I innocently commented, "Gee, it's a wonder those trains weren't on the same track." "Not to worry," Fritz replied, "they

let a Norwegian drive the westbound and a drunk drive the eastbound." "Oh?" I asked innocently. "Yes, you know. Norse is Norse and souse is souse and never the train shall meet!"

*Paul DeBenedictis*

We were sitting on Cape Ann, Mass. There were lots of birds going by - loons, gulls and eiders. But there were lots of loons, flocks of them. Fritz got tired of keeping track of them, so he turned to me and said, "You keep track of them. You can be the loon-a-tic for the day!"

*Gordon M. Meade*

Fritz always bemoaned the commercialism surrounding the Holiday Season. On one Syracuse Christmas Bird count, our party found ourselves bogged down by the traffic of Christmas shoppers. Suddenly with an air of indignation, Fritz exclaimed "Bah Humbug. Scrooge was right!"

*Gene Huggins*

Fritz tended to overreact to adversity and was stubborn about changing his mind. Apparently as a young man, he had become seasick on a ferry boat so he swore he would never go to sea. When a group of us decided to take a trip on the Bluenose Ferry from Bar Harbor, Maine, to Nova Scotia, he declined. Well, the trip was smooth, the ferry was huge and we came back with life birds that Fritz had never seen. It took a whole year of convincing but he finally decided that new birds overruled his fear of seasickness, so he loaded up on Marezine for 24 hours before the trip and we had to escort him aboard. Well, he was so loaded with medicine that he slept in his chair for all of the trip except when a good bird came by. We would get him up to see the bird and then lead him back to the chair. Thus, he conquered his fear of pelagics.

Another quirk Fritz had concerned his choice of drinks. He never drank alcohol, he said, because he had been sick on beer once. When I first birded with him, he used to drink quarts of tea daily. (It's a good thing we birded out in the woods). When he developed high blood pressure, he suddenly switched from tea and coffee to hot water. This always produced a dialogue with the waitress in each restaurant. After a few years, they got to know him in Oswego County and he didn't have to ask. On a trip to Arizona three years ago, the waitress, in a deep southern accent, asked "What's the kick in that?" Fritz answered in a low voice with a straight face, "Ma'am, that's nature's best." I think he enjoyed being different and he prided himself on not being addicted to drink, TV or spending money.

*Robert E. Long.*

Years ago (looking back at old issues of *The Kingbird* I found it was 1961) Fritz asked me to take over writing Region 5 quarterly report. I protested that I did not know the observers well enough having only moved into the Syracuse area at the end of 1959. "Don't worry," he replied, "I'll give you a list." He produced a stack of 3x5 cards with not only the name and address but also his ranking from one to four of their ability as birders. I still have these cards, but good readers, do not fear, Canadian freedom of information laws are weak and I have left instructions that the package is not to be opened until 50 years after my death.

*David B. Peakall*

Fritz's additions to the Ten Commandments:

Know thy Region.

Fasten thy seatbelt. ("Dirt is a lot easier to clean up than blood!")

Never be separated from your lunch!

*Tom Shuman*

His willingness to share and to tell you all you needed to know was really marvelous. At first we birded in spots near Syracuse, then we expanded out to all of Region 5. As the migration and weather changed, Fritz could always find a place where the birds were. Fritz made Region 5 and its birds an adventure and lots of fun.

*Jean W. Propst*

### **Birding**

I was spending my summer vacation at Boy Scout Camp Woodland. Early one morning, before camp came to life, I went for a walk to listen to the call of the Whip-poor-will. Suddenly, I saw hawks soaring overhead. Quickly I ran to Fritz's tent, awakened him and encouraged him to come out and look at the hawks. Looking skyward, he said only one word before crawling back into his sleeping bag: "Crows." It was a humbling experience.

*Joseph Albino*

Fritz was forthright. In the early 1950's he and I went to Montezuma to look for Red-bellied Woodpeckers. At that time it was possible to drive on the dike around Tschache Pool. We walked, and at the west side of the pool noticed a parked car, occupied by a lady who was

knitting. Fritz stopped at the car window and asked, "Have you seen any Red-bellies?" I managed to stifle my laughter but the lady didn't drop a stitch. "Ask my husband," she replied, "he's out there somewhere watching birds." We didn't find her husband but we found the woodpeckers. Periodically over the years I would innocently ask Fritz, "Have you seen any Red-bellies?" and we would laugh about the incident.

*William F. Minor*

On a Christmas count a few [23] years ago, Dr Scheider [even though most friend call him "Fritz" I called him Dr. Scheider because I was just in junior high then] and I were in a semifrozen marsh woodpecker woods somewhere east of Syracuse busy running an inventory of birds. Amongst the trees we found Hairies, Downies, and lots of chickadees. I saw a woodpecker I didn't recognize, and said "What's that?" "What's that?" "What's that?!! That's an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, that's ' "What's that?"" Birds excited him. The next day he presented me with a medal for the Order of the Silver Woodpecker for sighting the most unusual bird of the count. He had cut out a cardboard silhouette of the Black-backed Woodpecker and covered it with aluminum foil. I still have it.

*Smokey Pastel*

During February 1972 a Dickcissel appeared at a feeder in south Syracuse. Jean Propst took me down several times - it would have been a life bird for me - but we never did find it. Two years later, a group of us went to Texas with Fritz. One morning we were rolling down the highway when Fritz came to a screeching stop and we all reached for our binocs. In the formal tones of a proclamation announced, "There, Mrs. Estoff, is your Dickcissel - in fact, a tree full of them." And he was right! He had seen them while driving and had remembered I needed it for a life bird! He had a remarkable memory and seemed to take enormous pleasure in getting a lifer for someone.

*Ede Estoff*

Years ago I went on my first birding trip led by Fritz. My husband had forewarned me "Fritz take birding very seriously — so you must be quiet!" A group of ten met at Cicero Swamp in the Spring around 7PM. Our goal was to see the woodcock mating ritual and maybe see a N. Saw-whet Owl as well as hear it. Fritz imitated the owl with a soft lovely whistle. All was quiet - dusk was falling. After many calls from

Fritz, the howling of a dog was heard from a nearby farm. Next to me a man replied, "Oh my god, he got a dog!" The silence was broken by many giggles — Fritz never moved nor said a word.

*Anne & Bill Brosseau*

Soon after we moved to Arizona in 1973, Fritz began appearing each year to participate on local Christmas Bird Counts. His schedule each late December was to fly to Tuscon, rent a car and drive the 150+ miles to Portal. He always arrived with arm loads of food for us, especially fruit. He made his own lunches to take in the field, usually turkey sandwiches with lots of lettuce or lettuce alone, and a sack of fruit, grapefruits, tangerines, oranges, which he peeled in the field. Shredded Wheat was always his breakfast before heading out for the day. Usually he took pleasure in contrasting the dry sunny weather in Arizona with that of upstate New York counts. "Look - no boots, no down jacket!" But one year he arose to be greeted by 12 inches of snow and was unable to make the Elfrieda census, to his dismay. His favorite Portal census area started amidst sparrows in the open desert and continued up a canyon, Sulphur Draw. Sometimes he was alone but often he had a companion. They always came up with birds seen by no other participants, such as Mountain rather than the expected Mexican Chickadee. One year he came upon a Golden Eagle in a coyote trap and was able to release it, taking great pleasure in seeing it fly off, with just an injured foot. On one Peloncillo Mountains count, he and Walter hiked five miles to reach his Skull Canyon area because the mud was too deep and the road impassible. Everyone taking part in the three censuses in which he participated eagerly awaited his reports at the compilations and delighted in his findings. It was a measure of the recognition of his ability and the affection which all felt for him that there was never any skepticism or jealousy. When he returned to Syracuse [to attend yet another count there!], usually around 4:00 AM so he could attend the Elfrieda count en route to Tuscon or catch a morning flight, he would leave a note on the kitchen table thanking us and looking forward to next year. He visited Portal other times at different seasons, but he really loved the midwinter visit, with all the different birds, his new friends and the escape from snow and ice. There are several Arizona Christmas Bird Counts which will not be the same without Fritz.

*Walter and Sally Spofford*

In May 1989 Fritz and I joined a Will Russel trip to Big Bend in Texas. Before that trip we spent several days along the Rio Grande below Falcon Dam. Fritz was especially eager to see a Red-billed Pigeon because he had not seen it and I had. We finally found a small flock across the river in Mexico. Fritz watched for an hour as they fed and flew out over the river, but all of them turned back to Mexico before they reached the halfway point. What frustration! Fritz finally gave up when they moved inland. Although he was in the U.S., they were in Mexico and he would not count them for his U.S. list until he finally saw them north of the river on a later trip.

*Dorothy W. McIlroy*

Early one Saturday, November 1989, heading home from the Regional Market, I saw a falcon I couldn't identify. Luckily, upon phoning Fritz, I found him home. As he showed great interest in a look at the bird, I took him to the same spot. Though it took about an hour to locate the bird, he needed only one good look before identifying "Merlin." A first CNY winter Merlin for Fritz. It was thrilling.

*Judy Thurber*

It always seemed to me there was something magical about the way Fritz could summon up the new or rare bird wherever he was. For instance, we were driving by a farmer's fields along Lake Ontario where perhaps 3000 or more gulls were feeding, swirling up from the ground. Suddenly, Fritz called out "Franklin's Gull!" and threw on the brakes. It took me a while to get on the bird but there it was, one bird among thousands! This sort of thing happened time after time and could only be greeted with amazement and awe by his lucky birding partners. I thought of him in these terms so often, the magician at work, although we all knew it was the combination of skill and hard work. But there was that extra something which made birding with him so much fun.

*Ruth Knight*

In March 1983 Fritz and I went to Oklahoma to see the Lesser Prairie Chicken. On the 11th we sat scrunched down, knees touching chins, in the half-sunken hut and watched their courtship for 3 hours. The next day as we headed for the Salt Plains NWR, we stopped to check some ducks on a pond in a sand pit beside the Cimmaron River. Suddenly Fritz exclaimed, "Dee, there's a male Baikal Teal in breeding plumage!" We both watched with binoculars and telescopes from 1:45-2:05 PM. Each wrote detailed notes on plumage and behavior, and Fritz drew a

sketch. Then we headed for our motel. Fritz tried to telephone George Sutton, but he was ill. Finally (it was Saturday afternoon) the Univ. of Oklahoma telephone operator found someone else for Fritz to talk to. We returned to watch the teal from 4:05-5:25, adding further plumage notes when the bird reared up and flapped its wings, then scratched its head as it preened. That evening we combined our notes into a final description which Fritz sent to Dr. Sutton. On 16 July 1982 Dr. Sutton wrote to Fritz that the two ornithologists found the bird still on the pond the next day and confirmed our identification. The director of the local zoos then checked with 30 other zoos and wildfowl breeders to find out if a Baikal Teal had escaped. None had. The record was accepted as valid for a wild bird, the first for Oklahoma, and would be published in the Oklahoma Ornithological Society bulletin. We were jubilant! At that time Marguerite Baumgartner was editing a book of Oklahoma birds, bringing records up to date. Our teal was the last record to be accepted for inclusion.

Dorothy W. McIlroy

*[Of his many exploits, Fritz perhaps was most proud of the following — The Editor.]*

From Puerto Rico, where he was stationed in the Medical Corps, Fritz wrote me often because of my interest in tropical American ornithology (and because he'd in turn receive my reports about birding in his beloved Region 5): "12 Oct [1963]...Today went...trying to see the Puerto Rican Parrot — no luck but...I also climbed El Yunque. On the way up and on the way down saw a strange warbler. Please check skins for me on this as it may be lifer #400 if it's what I think it is." There follow detailed descriptions of the bird's behavior and plumage, a diagram of the "see's" and "zeet's" of its song, and careful pencil drawings of the whole bird and its head. "I think it may be a Black-throated Gray Warbler which would be very very strange for Puerto Rico but my only picture [doesn't match some of the features seen]." On 12 Nov., after my Cornell connections had come up with no solution, back in D.C. Fritz wrote "After a careful perusal of every Black-and-white and every Black-throated Gray in the National Museum...I don't know what my crazy warbler is and never will...Probably a hybrid or a freak...Better forgotten than stewed over." But back in Puerto Rico on 25 Jan 1964 "...up to El Yunque...saw that weird Bl-thr Gray X B&W beast — and singing too! — again. It has not changed pattern one bit and I think it should be shot." By this time, I was thinking "Possible



new species; should be written up and published." But Fritz had a prescription for dealing with uncertain *Kingbird* reports: "When in doubt, throw it out." With his own records, his practice was along the more drastic lines of, if you didn't know what it is, publishing isn't worth the paper it's printed on. But I don't believe Fritz ever really "forgot" it! When I flew to Puerto Rico for spring break in 1969, a visit to Kay and Cameron Kepler, studying the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot on El Yunque was on my itinerary and "Fritz's warbler" very much on my mind. If Cam's written directions hadn't omitted one item crucial to finding their camp in the dark and the fog, they would have heard about Fritz's bird three years before (and months before their own discovery of it). When its description (Kepler, Cameron B. and Parkes, Kenneth C. 1973. A new species of warbler (Parulidae) from Puerto Rico. *Auk* 89:1-18.) finally was published, it was too late to formally acknowledge the reticent, unpublished, first observer of the Elfin Woods Warbler.

*Marge Rusk*

## NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1989

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held the 1989 winter Waterfowl Count from 14 through 22 Jan, with 15 Jan as the target date. All Regions completed their counts within the established dates.

The weather during the count period was about normal again this year. Most bodies of water were open and available to waterfowl. Very few exceptions were reported due to the rather open winter which prevailed at this time. One or two Regional compilers indicated that a few areas were not covered but that they thought that their counts were not significantly affected. The grand total count of 273,100 (Table 1) was down 3.5% from 1988, and 24.5% above the sixteen year average (1973-1988) of 219,389. Without exception, all species showing downward trends last year have reversed themselves. However, seven species that showed upwards trends last year unfortunately are in a downward slide this year. Some of the more surprising declines were seen in scaup, goldeneye and Red-breasted Mergansers. It was nice to record increases for the American Black Duck, American Wigeon, Canvasback and Redhead. The Canada Goose continues to increase, supposedly because fewer numbers are migrating to states south of New York. Region 10 reported a hybrid Greater White-fronted/Canada Goose!

Comparing the 1989 to the 1988 count figures (Table 2), the commoner species showed a 9-6 split in favor of increases. When comparing the 1989 count figures with the 1973-1988 sixteen year average (Table 3) we find again a 9-6 split, also in favor of increases.

The United States Fish & Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were down 8% from 1988, including a Canada Goose decline of 10%. However, Brant showed a 5% increase. The dabbling ducks again showed an overall increase of 16% over 1988 compared to the 12.2% increase recorded last year. All species were up with the exceptions of American Wigeon and Wood Duck, which were 67% and 58% below 1988 respectively. The milder weather more than likely caused the counters to miss Wood Duck wintering in impenetrable wooded wetlands that normally would be frozen. Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an overall increase of 14% compared to 1988. A 27% increase in diving ducks, mainly scaup, Redhead and goldeneye, was offset by a 34% decrease in all sea ducks. American Coot showed a 20%

Table I. Regional totals for 1987 Waterfowl Count

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Total
Loon, Red-throated					1					19	20
Common		4	14		2					292	312
Grebe, Pied-billed	3		14		2					37	56
Horned		3	12		2		8			321	346
Red-necked		1	1							2	4
Cormorant, Great										193	193
Double-crested					2				1	67	70
Swan, Tundra			4								4
Mute	1		1					54	275	1,039	1,370
Goose, Snow	1								22	1,033	1,056
Brant			1							20,563	20,564
Canada	1,405	1,294	41,070	116	2,165	65	326	5,444	12,538	29,583	94,006
Wood Duck	2	44			5				1	25	77
Green-winged Teal				4	9			1		283	297
American Black Duck	507	1,150	2,322	186	686	113	289	1,174	580	15,372	22,379
Mallard	4,522	4,381	4,043	397	3,769	238	810	1,159	1,064	7,849	28,232
Mallard X Black Duck					1	1		2		39	43
N. Pintail	13	3	5		2		2	6	6	172	209
N. Shoveler										216	216
Gadwall	40	2	75		11			1		582	711
Wigeon, Eurasian										1	1
American	18								1	1,056	1,075

Canvasback	1,277	75	1,189		1			1,121	763	2,838	7,264
Redhead	136	26	7,094		29					137	7,422
Ring-necked Duck		1	35		18			4	50	42	150
Tufted Duck										1	1
Scaup, Greater	2,417	2,548	463		1,229		2		1	12,389	19,049
Lesser species	52	2	132		4		6	1		542	739
Eider, King	1		714		532		1			492	1,739
Harlequin Duck										4	5
Oldsquaw	4,528	2,289	7		62	102				10	10
Scoter, Black										689	7,677
Surf		3								1,769	1,769
White-winged species	43	2,139			1					10,903	10,906
Goldeneye, Common	1,911	1,793	488	39	1,220	438	478	60	7	7,804	9,987
Barrow's										2,749	2,837
Bufflehead	233	143	183		176	12	45	1	29	1,350	7,784
Merganser, Hooded	15		37		8	90		1	9	1	1
Common	2,150	977	53	29	1,599	698	465	300	1,439	477	637
Red-breasted	29	139	4		21	5	2	3		48	7,758
Ruddy Duck										4,380	4,583
American Coot	62	4	716		2		1		1	1,882	1,883
unidentified	85		1,720		8	7			3	211	999
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,451</b>	<b>17,109</b>	<b>60,397</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>11,567</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>2,434</b>	<b>9,332</b>	<b>16,790</b>	<b>133,479</b>	<b>273,100</b>

Table II. Comparison of 1986 with 1985 for all species totaling over 998 individuals in 1989.

Species	1988	1989	% change from 1988
Mute Swan	1,909	1,370	-28.2
Brant	19,142	20,564	7.4
Canada Goose	67,301	94,006	39.7
American Black Duck	16,795	22,379	33.2
Mallard	35,889	28,232	-21.3
American Wigeon	941	1,075	14.2
Canvasback	6,387	7,264	13.7
Redhead	6,823	7,422	8.8
scaup (both species)	53,435	21,527	-59.7
Oldsquaw	5,928	7,677	29.5
scoter (all species)	30,819	25,499	-17.3
goldeneye (both species)	11,427	7,785	-31.9
Bufflehead	7,473	6,468	-13.4
Common Merganser	7,617	7,758	1.9
Red-breasted Merganser	6,092	4,583	-24.8
Ruddy Duck	1,142	1,883	64.9
American Coot	695	999	43.7
Total	279,815	266,491	-4.8

Table III. Comparison of 1989 count with 1973-1988 average for all species totaling over 998 individuals in 1989.

Species	1986	Average	% change
Brant	20,564	11,945	72.2
Canada Goose	94,006	37,431	151.1
American Black Duck	22,379	19,212	16.5
Mallard	28,232	23,453	20.4
American Wigeon	1,075	2,021	-46.8
Canvasback	7,264	11,200	-35.1
Redhead	7,422	6,389	16.2
scaup (both species)	21,527	58,388	-63.1
Oldsquaw	7,677	3,770	103.6
scoter (all species)	25,499	12,567	102.9
Common Goldeneye	7,785	11,434	-31.9
Bufflehead	6,468	4,734	36.6
Common Merganser	7,758	13,284	-41.6
Red-breasted Merganser	4,583	2,413	89.9
American Coot	999	1,759	-43.2
Total	263,238	220,000	19.7

**Table IV. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Aerial Count, 5-14 January 1989. All species of 1,000 individuals or more.**

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	106	1,729	1,835
Brant		10,873	10,873
Canada Goose	105,505	10,069	115,574
American Black Duck	11,972	17,634	29,606
Mallard	23,295	2,655	25,950
Canvasback	6,847	3,403	10,250
Redhead	6,377		6,377
scaup (both species)	6,065	26,642	32,707
Oldsquaw	2,018	351	2,369
scoter (all species)	57	9,299	9,356
goldeneye (both species)	5,325	605	5,930
merganser (all species)	19,166	1,893	21,059
<b>Total</b>	<b>186,733</b>	<b>85,153</b>	<b>271,886</b>

**Table V. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
1985 and 1986 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1985  
for all species with 1,000 individuals or more in 1985.**

Species	1989	1988	% change
Mute Swan	1,835	1,423	29.0
Brant	10,873	15,710	-30.8
Canada Goose	115,574	49,671	132.7
American Black Duck	29,606	28,942	2.3
Mallard	25,950	14,388	80.4
Canvasback	10,250	13,391	-23.5
Redhead	6,377	13,170	-51.6
scaup (both species)	32,707	36,235	-9.7
Oldsquaw	2,369	3,990	-40.6
scoter (all species)	9,356	14,916	-37.3
goldeneye (both species)	5,930	7,754	-23.5
merganser (all species)	21,059	39,529	-46.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>271,886</b>	<b>239,119</b>	<b>13.7</b>

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<b>Total</b>	<b>271,886</b>	<b>239,119</b>	<b>13.7</b>



decrease over 1988, but still was at a 69% increase above the most recent ten year average. Most American Coot again were wintering in Georgia and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway were down 1% from 1988, but up 9% over the 1979-1988 average.

The Department of Environmental Conservation 1989 aerial survey was conducted from 5-14 January 1989. The results are presented in Table 4. Table 5 compares 1988 to 1989 aerial survey results. It might be noted that the NYSDEC total aerial count matched very closely the Federation's ground count total.

The 1990 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 13 January through 21 January with Sunday, 14 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 5 has a new compiler and longtime friend, Marge Rusk. Pleased to have you aboard! Also, a special thanks to Helen Manson who substituted for Alice Jones. The Regional Compilers were:

- Region 1. Wavel Barber
- 2. Warren Lloyd
- 3. Eric Donohue
- 4. Leslie Bemont
- 5. Marge Rusk

- Region 6. Lee Chamberlaine
- 7. John Peterson
- 8. Paul Grattan
- 9. Alice Jones
- 10. Stephen Dempsey

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

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUB  
OFFICERS - 1948-1987**

The following compilation lists the officers of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs through 1987 together with a citation for the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Federation.

Gordon M. Meade, *Historian*

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
1947	Gordon M. Meade ( <i>pro tem</i> )	Winston Brockner ( <i>pro tem</i> )	
1948	Gordon M. Meade	Winston Brockner	Guy Bartlett
1949	Gordon M. Meade	Winston Brockner	Guy Bartlett
1950	Winston Brockner	Eugene Eisenmann	Guy Bartlett
1951	Winston Brockner	Eugene Eisenmann	Frances Irving
1952	Eugene Eisenmann	Harold Mitchell	Alice B. English
1953	Eugene Eisenmann	Harold Mitchell	Alice B. English
1954	Harold D. Mitchell	Guy Bartlett	H. Everest Clements
1955	Harold D. Mitchell	Guy Bartlett	H. Everest Clements
1956	Peter Paul Kellogg	Albert W. Fudge	Allan S. Klonick
1957	Albert W. Fudge	Lillian Stoner	Allan S. Klonick
1958	Allan S. Klonick	Frances Irving	Gerald Rising
1959	Allan S. Klonick	Frances Irving	Lillian Stoner
1960	Frances Irving	John J. Elliott	Lillian Stoner
1961	Frances Irving	John J. Elliott	Lillian Stoner
1962	John J. Elliott	Robert S. Arbib	Lillian Stoner
1963	John J. Elliott	Robert S. Arbib	Kenneth Niven
1964	Robert S. Arbib	Allen Benton	Kenneth Niven
1965	Robert S. Arbib	Allen Benton	Kenneth Niven
1966	Allan Benton	Warren Hastings	Kenneth Niven

<b>Year</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b><i>Kingbird</i> Editor</b>
1947			
1948	Peter Paul Kellogg	Fred T. Hall	
1949	Peter Paul Kellogg	Fred T. Hall	
1950	Reginald Hartwell	John Wolff	Allan Klonick
1951	Reginald Hartwell	Albert Fudge	Allan Klonick
1952	Louise Helfer	Albert Fudge	Allan Klonick
1953	Louise Helfer	Frances Irving	Allan Klonick
1954	Elizabeth Manning	Frances Irving	Stephen W. Eaton
1955	Elizabeth Manning	Elizabeth Feldhusen	Stephen W. Eaton
1956	Elizabeth Manning	Elizabeth Feldhusen	Stephen W. Eaton
1957	Elizabeth Feldhusen	Alice Ulrich	Gerald Rising
1958	Elizabeth Feldhusen	Alice Ulrich	Gerald Rising
1959	Sally F. Hoyt	Alice B. English	Minnie Scotland
1960	Sally F. Hoyt	Eleanor Radke	Alice Ulrich
1961	Sally F. Hoyt	Eleanor Radke	Alice Ulrich
1962	Sally F. Hoyt	Watson B. Hastings	Alice Ulrich
1963	Lillian Stoner	Watson B. Hastings	Alice Ulrich
1964	Lillian Stoner	Margaret Rusk	Dorothy McIlroy
1965	Harriot Marsi	Margaret Rusk	Dorothy McIlroy
1966	Harriot Marsi	Betty Strath	Dorothy McIlroy

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
1967	Allen Benton	Warren Hastings	Dort Cameron
1968	Warren Hastings <sup>1</sup> David Peakall	David Peakall	Dort Cameron
1969	David Peakall	Edgar Reilly, Jr.	Edward Somers
1970	Edgar Reilly, Jr.	Alice Urlch	Edward Somers
1971	Edgar Reilly, Jr.	Alice Urlch	James W. Karp
1972	Kenneth Niven	Mary Ann Sunderlin	Stephen B. Dempsey
1973	Kenneth Niven	Mary Ann Sunderlin	Stephen B. Dempsey
1974	Gordon M. Meade	Richard A. Sloss	Stephen B. Dempsey
1975	Gordon M. Meade	Richard A. Sloss	Stephen B. Dempsey
1976	Richard A. Sloss	Mary Ann Sunderlin	Stephen B. Dempsey
1977	Richard A. Sloss	Mary Ann Sunderlin	Stephen B. Dempsey
1978	Stephen B. Dempsey	Alice Jones	John Forness
1979	Stephen B. Dempsey	Martin Borko	John Forness
1980	Martin Borko	Morgan Jones	John Forness
1981	Martin Borko	Morgan Jones	John Forness
1982	Morgan Jones	Charles R. Smith	John Forness
1983	Morgan Jones	Charles R. Smith	John Forness
1984	Charles R. Smith	Harriot Marsi	William Vaughan
1985	Charles R. Smith	Harriot Marsi	William Vaughan
1986	Harriot Marsi	Berna Weissman	Stanley Lincoln
1987	Harriot Marsi	Berna Weissman	Stanley Lincoln

<sup>1</sup>. Deceased December

<b>Year</b>	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Kingbird Editor</b>
1967	Harriot Marsi	Betty Strath	Dorothy McIlroy
1968	Harriot Marsi	Hortense Knight	Dorothy McIlroy
1969	Frances Rew	Mary Ann Sunderlin	Joseph W. Taylor
1970	Ada Carter	Mary Ann Sunderlin	Joseph W. Taylor
1971	Elizabeth Feldhusen	Mary Ann Sunderlin	Joseph W. Taylor
1972	Elizabeth Feldhusen	Myrna Hemmerick	Joseph W. Taylor
1973	Elizabeth Feldhusen	Myrna Hemmerick	Joseph W. Taylor
1974	Mary Ann Sunderlin	Alice Jones	Joseph W. Taylor
1975	Mary Ann Sunderlin	Alice Jones	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1976	Martin Borko	Lona Coates	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1977	Martin Borko	Lona Coates	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1978	Martin Borko	Dee Simone	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1979	Harriet Marsi	Dee Simone	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1980	Katherine Dunham	Harriot Marsi	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1981	Constance Wilkins	Harriot Marsi	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1982	Constance Wilkins	Anne Clarridge	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1983	Constance Wilkins	Harriot Marsi	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1984	Constance Wilkins	Berna Weissman	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1985	Constance Wilkins	Berna Weissman	Emanuel Levine & John Farrand
1986	Constance Wilkins	Marilyn Schindler	Paul DeBenedictis
1987	Constance Wilkins	Marilyn Schindler	Paul DeBenedictis

### Publication of Annual Meeting Minutes

1951	<i>Kingbird</i> 1(2):14	1970	<i>Kingbird</i> 20(3):170
1952	<i>Kingbird</i> 2(1):6	1971	<i>Kingbird</i> 21(3):134
1953	<i>Kingbird</i> 3(2):27	1972	<i>Kingbird</i> 23(1):28
1954	<i>Kingbird</i> 4(3):71	1973	<i>Kingbird</i> 23(3):128
1955	<i>Kingbird</i> 5(2):41	1974	<i>Kingbird</i> 25(1):24
1956	<i>Kingbird</i> 6(2):42	1975	<i>New York Birders</i> 5(Jan ):1;1976
1957	<i>Kingbird</i> 7(2):48	1976	<i>Kingbird</i> 27(1):19
1958	<i>Kingbird</i> 8(2):39	1977	<i>Kingbird</i> 28(3):152
1959	<i>Kingbird</i> 9(2):70	1978	<i>Kingbird</i> 29(2):79
1960	<i>Kingbird</i> 10(2):48	1979	<i>Kingbird</i> 30(4):217
1961	<i>Kingbird</i> 11(3):145	1980	<i>Kingbird</i> 31(3):136
1962	<i>Kingbird</i> 12(2):72	1981	<i>Kingbird</i> 32(3):173
1963	<i>Kingbird</i> 13(3):146	1982	<i>Kingbird</i> 33(3):176
1964	<i>Kingbird</i> 14(3):146	1983	<i>Kingbird</i> 34(2):98
1965	<i>Kingbird</i> 15(3):150	1984	<i>Kingbird</i> 35(3):163
1966	<i>Kingbird</i> 16(3):137	1985	<i>Kingbird</i> 36(4):203
1967	<i>Kingbird</i> 17(4):201	1986	<i>Kingbird</i> 37(3):126
1968	<i>Kingbird</i> 18(3):127	1987	<i>Kingbird</i> 38(2):105
1969	<i>Kingbird</i> 19(4):143		

### Corrigendum

Because of a miscommunication, a critical word was omitted from the title and one line of the field note in the previous issue of *The Kingbird*. In the Table of Contents, the title of the note and the second line of the note on page 157, the word "Heron" should be followed by the word "heronry."

*The Editor*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

This summer apparently was relatively normal, with typical variations from Region to Region. Most comments were in reference to last summer. It was not another hot, dry summer like 1988. This summer saw few days above 90° in most Regions. The heavy rains of May and June eliminated any fear of drought in most areas. July and August were average to a bit on the cool and dry side over most of the state. There was less rainfall in Regions 6 & 7 during June and more rainfall in eastern and particularly southeastern parts of the state late in the season. In Region 10 rainfall was heavy through the whole season, with totals more than double normal and some locales receiving much more than that. These periods of heavy rains adversely impacted some insectivorous birds which were trying to nest in early June and marsh birds nesting along the south shore of Lake Ontario, where water levels rose significantly through most of June. The same rains produced the best conditions for shorebirding which long-time birders can recall in some parts of Long Island, where the heavy rains produced dependable pools and mudflats in places which normally have these conditions only intermittently. Generally it seems to have been a good breeding season with two relatively poor periods of migration at the start and end, typical of the past several years.

Once again late spring migrants seemed scarce. We really are talking only about some shorebirds and gulls, several warbler species, and a couple of flycatchers and thrushes, but in the past, early June field trips dependably could find some of each of these groups. Again this year such finds were few. Some of the more interesting observations were two late **Sandhill Crane** in Region 1, more spring Sanderling than normal in Regions 2 & 5; a late Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Region 2; and unusual numbers of Bonaparte's Gull in the late spring and summer along with several species often found with them, including late Franklin's and Laughing Gull and a very late or summering adult Little Gull in Region 2.

Summer is primarily the nesting season. The Regional reports contain several fairly regular features: from Region 1 a summary of the Regional breeding bird surveys and nest search efforts, from Region 3 the waterfowl production summary from Montezuma NWR, from Region 7 the report of the Four Brothers Islands visits and summaries of banding on the islands and elsewhere, and from Region 10 the Jamaica Bay WR

shorebird survey and a summary of pelagic trip results. Such regular data provide a few relatively easy comparisons among years in search of trends. Other notes which will be interesting to follow are detailed surveys in maturing pine plantations, with concomitant increase in breeding of species we normally associate with more northerly latitudes or higher elevations in New York, in Regions 1 & 3, and specific notes about the status of species of special concern at all levels from 'Endangered' to simply 'noted as of possible concern in these pages,' from Region 6. Such summaries hopefully will provoke readers to think about and investigate the questions they raise!

From these general summaries, we can move through the checklist looking for trends and notes of interest. The Region 10 report specifically asks a question which I think many have asked silently over the past several years: Is the increase in summering Common Loons outside the Adirondacks related to acid rain making many non-breeders or terminating many breeding attempts very early, or does it reflect an increase in loon numbers? We find some hope of improved Pied-billed Grebe nesting in Regions 3 and 7. All Regions mentioned Double-crested Cormorant, with very high counts in many reports. Among the herons, bitterns continue scarce, Great Egret was more widespread than typical of recent years, Cattle Egret was noted only in Regions 1 and 10, Green-backed Heron remains a question - mentioned in only four Regions, and Great Blue Heron continues to prosper. Waterfowl trends include apparent decrease in nesting Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, and Am. Black Duck; a good season for Wood Duck; continued breeding of Am. Wigeon in Regions 1 and 2 but decreases were noted in Region 6; and widespread note of summering or nesting Common and Red-breasted Merganser. Raptor notes include: increased Osprey records, including nesting in Regions 1 & 3; successful Bald Eagle nesting in Region 7, a first in decades; decreased reports of breeding accipiters, particularly N. Goshawk; continued low numbers of breeding Red-shouldered Hawk; and some notes of concern over numbers of breeding Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel. Marsh birds probably affected by the high water levels mentioned above include rails, Common Moorhen, and Black Tern. These negatives were not countered by positive reports for these species in other areas. Nesting shorebirds are few and comments fewer yet, but add Spotted Sandpiper to those which deserve monitoring. From Region 10 we have a positive note in increases for Piping Plover and Least Tern due nest site protection efforts. Gulls finally bred in Region 2, with at least 100 nests of Ring-billed Gull on a rooftop at Eastman Kodak Co. Look for more details in a future note. It is highly



unlikely that such nesting will be allowed to recur at this site because of olfactory aesthetics and potential health concerns. Tern observations of interest include Common Tern nesting on navigation aids off Region 6, excellent counts at Common Tern colonies in Region 10, and finally no nesting Black Tern at Montezuma NWR where hundreds of pairs nested not long ago. Black Skimmer was logged at a maximum of 337 pairs in Region 10.

We continue with a litany of status reports: the only good cuckoo reports came from Regions 8 & 9; there were few owl reports, only negatives for the caprimulgids, no real pluses for hummingbirds, few Red-headed Woodpecker reports, but finally a positive in notes about Red-bellied Woodpecker at the edges of its expanding range. Flycatcher notes include low counts for Olive-sided both in migration and on the breeding grounds and negatives for Eastern Wood-Pewee in Regions 6 & 7. Among the swallows, Purple Martin numbers continue to be a concern, Tree Swallow was impacted by the June rains, and a Bank Swallow colony spared from the bulldozer in Region 8 at least to this season's end. Common Raven noted in six of the nine Regions reporting is a continuing positive trend. For most other breeding passerines there is too little data to draw many conclusions, but some of the notes include: the continued success of bluebird nest box trails, e.g. over 700 fledged from one trail in Region 9; low numbers of Brown Thrasher; no breeding reports for Loggerhead Shrike; a first Franklin County nest record for Blue-winged Warbler in Region 7; continuing decreases for Golden-winged Warbler, generally; a first regional nesting of Cape May Warbler in Region 8; declines in numbers suggested for Black-throated Blue and Cerulean Warblers; pluses for Chipping Sparrow but general declines for all the grassland sparrows in spite of the note from Region 8 that their scarcity may be causing more effort from observers and somewhat more reports than their numbers actually warrant, especially for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrow. Several regions express some concern for blackbirds as diverse as E. Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, and N. Oriole. To close on a few more positive notes: Orchard Oriole records increased, House Finches multiply, and White-winged Crossbill may have nested in Region 1 or nearby.

The fall migration starts with shorebirds returning in late June and a trickle of warblers and other passerines beginning in late July. Upstate the picture was muddied by high water, though drawdowns at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 and in Region 8 provided local hotspots. In Region 10 the dune ponds noted earlier provided great shorebirding on Long Island, and the Jamaica Bay WR counts rolled up excellent

totals of early shorebird migrants. Counts of special note included: 500+ Red Knot and a record high 11 Wilson's Phalarope in Region 10; Baird's Sandpiper counts were good, Stilt Sandpiper was late, and dowitchers were very scarce except in Region 10. The passerine movement was miniscule and only Blackpoll Warbler in Regions 5 and 8 represented notably early dates. Once again, the start of the fall migration was *slow*. The typical fall flocking of swallows provided a taste of times past, with the best noted a gathering of 100,000+ in Region 10. Hard to place in this slow, late period was a Red-necked Grebe in Region 6, filling in the calendar as the state's first August record.

Rarities, typical of summer, were generally birds out of place in time or location within the state rather than species unexpected at all here. The best of the lot were: Region 1 - **Sandhill Crane**; Region 2 - **Mississippi Kite** and Laughing Gull; Region 3 - White-eyed Vireo and Barn Owl; Region 5 - Willet and Fish Crow; Region 6 - Sedge Wren; Region 7 - Carolina Wren and Blue-winged Warbler; Region 8 - Sedge Wren, nesting Cape May Warbler, and Prothonotary Warbler; Region 9 - Yellow-headed Blackbird; and Region 10 - **American White Pelican**, numerous **Brown Pelican**, American Avocet, Ruff, and Franklin's Gull. Given this list, the BOTS award also partly reflects timing and goes to the August **Mississippi Kite** from Region 10, a first for the state at this time of the year.

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Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters; ! — details seen by Regional editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; CO — confirmed; 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

The first three weeks of June continued the deluge which carried over from May. These two months, May and June, dumped 15.05 inches of rain on Buffalo and more on some areas of the Plateau; June alone supplied 7.83 inches of rain at Buffalo International Airport. It was the wettest spring in 97 years. This kept average temperatures about 1° below normal. Sunshine was 52% of possible only because the last week was sunny; normal sunshine is 65%. The soils finally became saturated in May after the previous long dry spell and storms on 9 and 22 June caused flash flooding over the Region. Vivian Pitzrick, for the first time, became an "umbrella birder." July was another turn around in a seesaw year of weather. It was the driest July at Buffalo in 66 years with 0.93 inches of rain but only 1° above average temperatures at 71.5°. The two days when temperatures reached 90° (24 and 25 Jul) were highs at Buffalo for the entire period. Sunshine was 64% of possible, a little below normal. August was cool and dry at Buffalo and across the Region as storm after storm rolled up a stationary front a little to the east swamping the east coast. July and August precipitation totaled only 2.77 inches at Buffalo, way below the normal 7 inches. Lake Erie temperatures were near normal and peaked at 75°, whereas last year they peaked at a record 80°.

The weather generally must have had a depressing effect on natality during May and June this year but conditions for renesting were good in July and August. Walter Klaubunde, summarizing 18 Breeding Bird Survey routes in the Region, noted that Eastern Bluebird was recorded in all time high numbers (35) and also were found on 72% of 18 routes, the widest distribution in 22 years. The numbers of breeding (or suspected breeding) species were, as in most recent years, in better than average numbers, except for certain cohorts of birds. Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark all were logged in low numbers. The wetness of May and the first three weeks of June appeared not only to reduce these birds' nesting habitat but also must have caused losses due to late hay cutting resulting from saturated soils, as suggested by Terry Mosher.

One of the two Osprey nests located in the Allegheny Reservoir at the mouth of Bone Run was threatened by high water in late June even though it was located on a thirty foot pole. Fred Evans, Tom Jurczak and others in NYSDEC with help from Cattaraugus County workers at the Onoville Marina turned large plastic foam dock floats into a float for the Osprey's nest. Then the nest with its unfledged young was transferred from the post to the float. The parents continued to feed the young on the float as it rode out the flood. The young successfully fledged on 31 Jul. In the nest near Route 17 the young Osprey fledged the first week in August, occasionally returning to the nest where the parents left fish until the fishing skills of the young improved. After nine years and 36 hacked birds from Long Island, our Region has breeding Ospreys thanks to the Endangered Species Unit of NYSDEC and Mary and John Forness who baby-sat the hacking Ospreys.

Results of Vivian Pitzrick's nest monitoring showed the hole nesting Eastern Bluebird to have successfully fledged 72% of 78 nestings (fledging was called successful even if only one young fledged), better than last year, but this year 32% of eggs failed to hatch and 24 nestlings died or disappeared. The insectivorous, aerial feeding Tree Swallow found the going even tougher and fledged only 2.6 young per nest (49 nests) at her Amity Lake Trail, compared to 4.8 young per nest in 1988. House Wrens there appeared to prosper with 20 nests compared to 13 in 1988. Vivian's total count of nests this year was 392 of 41 species compared to 515 nests of 51 species in 1988.

Betsy Brooks mistnetted two juvenile White-winged Crossbill on 28 Aug at her banding station near Alfred, Allegany County. This locality is at 1960 feet above sea level adjacent to a small stand of Red Pine and spruce. The crossbills were photographed, banded and released. This is not a confirmed nor even a probable nesting by Breeding Bird Atlas standards, but it is suggestive of breeding in the Region. The nearest confirmed breeding during atlas coverage (1980-85) was in Chenango County, east of the Finger Lakes. With the maturing of more and more spruce and larch plantations in the Region, crossbills should be sought breeding erratically throughout the year when good cone crops appear. One of Betsy Brooks three Breeding Bird Censuses shows which birds are invading the mixed pine-spruce-hardwood plantations on the Alleghany Plateau and also that woodland birds appeared to maintain their numbers this year. Boreal species on her 41 acre (16.6 ha.) plot were 11 Magnolia Warbler, 11 Black-throated Green Warbler, 9 Blackburnian Warbler, 8 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8 Dark-eyed Junco, 6 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Brown Creeper, 2 Solitary Vireo, 2 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 Broad-winged Hawk and 1 Winter Wren. Visitors included Common Raven and Hermit Thrush. She even added that a Black Bear and cub resided in the study area! Sounds like a plot in Essex County.

The only species seen during the period in the Region which needed documentation to NYSARC was **Sandhill Crane**. Common Merganser nesting was finally confirmed in Cattaraugus County and the Bald Eagles at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge successfully fledged two young.

Abbreviations: BIP - Bird Island Pier Buffalo; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; AmL - Amity Lake, ALLE; CRP - Chestnut Ridge Park, Erie County; FN - Fort Niagara; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF - Niagara Falls; OOWMA - Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area; TB - Times Beach, Buffalo; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrlle, Tim Baird, Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, William D'Anna, Fred Evans, Michael Galas, Joe Gula Sr. and Jr., Paul Hess, Jamestown Audubon Society, Tom Jurczak, Walter & Harriet Klaubunde, Lake Erie Bird Club, Lange, J. Lewis, James McGinnis, Terry & Judy Mosher, Vivian & Raymond Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Donald Roberson, D. & D. Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Regina & Jim VanScoy, William Watson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Double-crested Cormorant: one AmL 13 Jun; max 52 NF 4-31 Aug. Am. Bittern: one TWMA 29 Jul, only report. Least Bittern: two TNP 4 Jun; one Porter Twn 17 Jul; one INWR 17 Jul; 2 TNP 10,19 Aug; now most frequently reported bittern. Great Egret: two TWMA 4 Jun, eight 29 Jul; max nine 21 Aug, last for period. Cattle Egret: one

BISP 24 June, first of year. Am. Wigeon: two INWR 3 Jun; four 22 Jul; ten TB 12 July; nine ad, three y LaSalle P Buffalo 5 Aug, continuing to nest successfully. Com. Merganser: eight NF 3 Jun; five 30 Jul; ad with y Allegheny R near Salamanca Aug (TB), first confirmed nesting CATT. Red-breasted Merganser: one Bourne's Beach, L Erie 10-30 Jun. Ruddy Duck: two TWMA 1 Jul; three Charlotte Twn CHAU 7 Jul.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*; imm OOWMA 3 Jun, 1 Jul; imm INWR 4 Jun, 7 Aug; imm TWMA 24 Jul, 7 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: ad, two y in old Broad-winged Hawk nest Amity Twn ALLE 25 Jun. N. Goshawk: one fledged CATT 16 Jun (JM). Virginia Rail: three W Mud L CHAU 3 Jul; max seven TWMA 16 Jul; ad, two y TWMA 17 Jul. Sora: one W Mud L CHAU 3 Jul. Com. Moorhen: one AmL 27 Jun, now rare on Allegheny Plateau. Am. Coot: max 164 INWR 21 Aug. Sandhill Crane: two Wheatfield Twn NIAG 27 Jun (JL, mob). Lesser Yellowlegs: one TWMA 4 Jun, late. Solitary Sandpiper: arr TWMA 14 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: five reports Jun BOS; seven ad, nine y Clarence Turf Farm ERIE 16 Jul; five Dunkirk 23 Jul. Baird's Sandpiper: six INWR 18 Aug; two Bemus Pt 31 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr TWMA 1 Jul. Franklin's Gull: arr BIP 30 Aug. Little Gull: three BIP 30 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: max 350 NF 28 Jul. Caspian Tern: arr two TB 12 Jul. Forster's Tern: arr eight BIP 3 Aug. Black Tern: two INWR 3 Jun, five 1 Jul; four TWMA 29 Jul; one OOWMA 22 Jul; max 150 BIP 20 Aug; now seldom seen on Allegheny Plateau.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Com. Nighthawk: 140 NF to N Tonawanda 27 Aug; 139 Buffalo 31 Aug. Red-headed Woodpecker: one INWR 22 Jul; seven reports BOS Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr TNP 29 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: one Red House CATT 2 Jun; four Pomfret Twn CHAU 29 Jun; one CRP 31 Jul (all PDBA). Willow Flycatcher: two ad, four y Amity Twn ALLE 7 Jul. Com. Raven: one each in Ward, Alfred, Andover Twns ALLE 8, 12, 17 Jun; one Carrollton Twn 30 Aug. Tufted Titmouse max eight Boston Twn 22 Aug. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max five Ward Twn ALLE 2 Jul. Golden-crowned Kinglet: nine at 7 locations ALLE 3-27 Jun; two Arkwright Twn 10 Jun, all PDBA. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Porter Twn NIAG 26 Aug. E. Bluebird: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush: one Red House CATT 2 Jun, singing on Territory; three Tonawanda Twn ERIE 7 Jun, late migrants. Cedar Waxwing: 17 nests AmL area "low numbers" (VP) but more than last summer.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Pomfret Twn CHAU 1 Jul, same area as last several years (TM). Golden-winged Warbler: one Newstead Twn ERIE 1 Jul. Nashville Warbler: one outside breeding area Pomfret Twn CHAU 1 Jul; reported in three Twns ALLE Jun-Jul (PDBA). Yellow-rumped Warbler: reported from three Twns ALLE Jun-Jul (PDBA). Pine Warbler: arr Tonawanda Twn 23 Aug. Prairie Warbler: reported from four Twns ALLE Jun (PDBA); eight singing males Carrollton 18 Jun (RS). Black-and-white Warbler: one outside breeding area Pomfret Twn CHAU 1 Jul. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Andover Twn 1 Jul.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Chipping Sparrow: low numbers AmL (VP). Field Sparrow low numbers AmL (VP). Vesper Sparrow: two localities ALLE Jun and Jul; two Barre Twn ORLE 25 Jun; one INWR 1 Jul; one Clarence Turf Farm ERIE 12 Aug. Grasshopper Sparrow: three localities ALLE Jun, two localities Jul. Henslow's Sparrow: two Clarence Turf Farm ERIE 4 Jun, 6 Aug; one Amity Twn ALLE 23 Jun; two Pomfret Twn CHAU 25 Jun, one 1 Jul; one Alfred Twn ALLE 30 Jul, one 5 Aug. White-throated Sparrow: four localities ALLE Jun; one at nonbreeding area Pt Gratiot, L Erie 30 Jun; one Buffalo 1 Jul. Purple Finch: ad on nest Amity Twn ALLE 16-25 Jul, late but eggs failed to hatch. White-winged Crossbill: *intro*.

Ten Mile Road, Allegany, NY 14706

## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The summer began wet and ended dry. What started out to be a monsoon season finished much the same as last year. The birds must have been confused too. June's rainfall was more than double the average at 5.65 inches. July went the opposite direction with 0.98 inches. August rainfall improved with a total of 2.46 inches, which was still slightly below normal. Temperatures didn't deviate much from the normal range with a slightly above average 67.4° in June, an above average of 72.8° in July and a below average of 68.5° in August.

Birding in general slacked off during the summer. Reporters were few yet the number of species reported was about average. This may be attributed to the wide range of habitats covered. How did the birds fare? As usual some were helped and others were harmed. The rainy weather of June may have caused some problems for the early nesters but, on the other hand, it produced ideal conditions for insect, particularly mosquito, production. Ground nesters had some difficulty while the insect eaters profited. Those species that could continue nesting during the rainy period were rewarded with abundant food afterwards. Marsh and water birds may have been affected by the higher water levels.

June traditionally has a few records of late migrants. Some lingering waterfowl, a few shorebirds, and some warblers put in appearances. Osprey and Bald Eagle were reported frequently in June. The highlight most certainly was an immature *Mississippi Kite* sighted by Frank Nicoletti at Braddock Bay on 7 Jun. Also notable were the 60 migrating *Eastern Bluebird* at Braddock Bay on 3 Jun. Similar flights have been documented in past years, but their significance remains somewhat puzzling. We apparently have late spring flight to match our early spring movement, but from and to where these birds are going is a mystery.

There were a variety of ups and downs among avian populations. Common Loon was reported during June and July, but all were late migrants or nonbreeding wanderers. Double-crested Cormorant was noted throughout with a general increase in numbers during the season. Both bitterns were relatively scarce. Waterfowl produced some surprises. July records included a Redhead and a Ruddy Duck. American Wigeon nested on the Sawyer Road borrow pit in Carlton. Red-breasted Merganser was reported throughout the season. Local breeding Wood Duck seemed to do fairly well. Mallard numbers may have been off a bit and teal continued to be down from recent years. Turkey Vulture was noted nesting in Webster, a new location, while the population at Letchworth SP seemed stable. Northern Harrier was seen regularly throughout the season with juveniles noted in August. Accipiters were noted in fewer numbers. There were no Red-shouldered Hawk reports. Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel numbers were about average. Wild Turkey were noted in some unusual locations in their continued expansion. A bird wandering along the edge of

Route 390 in Rush was certainly a surprise. There seemed to be somewhat of a disagreement between observers on the status of the rails. Some reported fewer than usual numbers while others thought things were about average. The wet June may have increased reports of birds at marsh edges, which are generally more accessible. Nesting American Coot were scarce. Upland Sandpiper enjoyed a bit of an expansion year with a few reports from new locations, but numbers were down at some traditional breeding locations. Gulls provided some of the more interesting highlights. Bonaparte's gull totals reached unprecedented summer numbers, and June records of Franklin's, Laughing, Little and Iceland Gull made gulls a main topic of discussion. A rooftop colony of Ring-billed Gull was a first for the Region. The status of the colony may be in jeopardy because the odor and debris are close to air intake systems and may not be endearing the gulls to the proprietors. An estimate of 100 nests was obtained in a June count. There were fairly good numbers of terns arriving late. Cuckoo reports were few. Few Short-eared Owl had been seen before the nesting season and nesting was not confirmed as has been the case in recent years. Whip-poor-will was scarce again. There were plenty of bugs for the flycatchers this summer. Acadian Flycatcher remained stable with populations in Letchworth and Bergen Swamp. Swallows remained about average with a slight increase in Cliff Swallow reports. House Wren was down as was Marsh Wren, and Sedge Wren was once again unreported. Carolina Wren held its own for another season. Bluebirds were a highlight. Some observers reported them everywhere and the bluebird trails south of Rochester were quite productive. Northern Mockingbirds were well reported. Warblers were reported as being down by some observers. Golden-winged Warbler was one of the species mentioned often. Prairie Warbler was reported breeding in reduced numbers. Cerulean Warbler and the often associated Yellow-throated Vireo may have suffered from the dry July and August. Warbling and Red-eyed Vireo numbers were relatively stable with the latter still at somewhat reduced numbers from historical populations. The grassland sparrows always seem to pop up when declines are discussed. The general consensus was that once again Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows were reduced in number. Some feel that habitat changes have caused problems for the group, particularly for Henslow's Sparrow, whose habitat requirements seem to be somewhat more narrowly defined. Nations Road in Avon was one of the few consistent spots for Henslow's. Mendon also hosted a small population. Savannah Sparrow continued to be well reported. Orchard Oriole put in its expected appearance at Point Breeze; a male at Bergen Swamp was more unusual.

July and August usually produce the first migrants for the fall season. This year was not one of the banner years. Shorebird habitat, as usual, was minimal. Whimbrel at Ontario Beach was a minor highlight. Baird's Sandpiper were early and in good numbers. Migrant songbirds were few and far between. The highlight there had to be White-winged Crossbill, a harbinger of a finch winter?

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, OB - Ontario Beach, Charlotte, CH - Cobb's Hill Reservoir, IB - Irondequoit Bay, LSP - Letchworth State Park, MB - Manitou Beach, MP - Mendon Ponds, WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: last MB 5 Jun; one CH 25 Jul, unusual time of the year. Double-crested Cormorant: max 300 BB 25 Aug. Great Egret: one-two BB 1-19 Jun. Am. Wigeon: two Carlton 6 Jul, breeding again. Redhead: one IB 25-28 Aug, unusual time of the year. Ring-necked Duck: one Greece 2-10 Jun, late. Greater Scaup: two WL 22 Jun, late. Oldsquaw: one Kendall 16 Aug, not unprecedented. Red-breasted Merganser: four BB 1-19 Jun, becoming a yearly occurrence. Ruddy Duck: one Kendall 16 Aug, unusual.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one MP 17 Aug, unusual location. Mississippi Kite: *intro*. Bald Eagle: two BB 18-28 Jun, one Bristol Center 2 Jul, two BB 15-16 Aug, good summer. N. Goshawk: two Springwater 5-31 Aug, one BB 27 Aug, migrants? Black-bellied Plover: arr IB, OB 17 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr OB 21 Jul. Greater Yellowlegs: arr OB 17 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Fairport 16 Jul. Solitary Sandpiper: arr WL 15 Jul. Whimbrel: two OB 20 Jul, one Hamlin 31 Aug, usual totals. Ruddy Turnstone: arr two OB 21 Jul. Red Knot: one IB 22 Jun; which way was it going? Sanderling: 20 OB 4 Jun, unusual total for spring. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 130 OB 4 Jun, arr 12 OB 21 Jul. Western Sandpiper: arr three OB 20 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: one IB 14 Jun, unusual in spring; arr OB 21 Jul. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Fairport 16 Jul. Stilt Sandpiper: arr OB 20 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr two WL 12 Jul, numbers down. Wilson's Phalarope: arr IB 8 Aug. Franklin's Gull: one BB 23 Jun (mob). Laughing Gull: two BB 16 Jun (RO). Little Gull: one OB 30 Jun (RS), unseasonal. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Iceland Gull: one BB 1-15 Jun, unseasonal. Com. Tern: max 44 MB 29 Aug. Black Tern: last BB 25 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Whip-poor-will: one Webster 4 Jul (JCz), only report.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr MB 22 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr WL 26 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: max three LSP 4, 22 Jun. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Greece 14 Jun, very late. E. Bluebird: *intro*. N. Mockingbird: max four Avon 1 Jul, good total.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr MB 16 Aug. Tennessee Warbler: arr Greece 26 Aug. N. Parula: arr Webster 23 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Rochester 22 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr BB 26 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Rochester 22 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: arr WL 31 Aug. N. Waterthrush: arr Greece 26 Aug. Hooded Warbler: three Genesee Country Museum 24 Jun, nesting?; max 32 LSP 4 Jun, good total. Wilson's Warbler: arr two WL 31 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Avon 1 Jul, few reports.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Orchard Oriole: one Bergen Swamp 15 Jul, three Webster 14-16 Jul, away from traditional nesting sites. White-winged Crossbill: one Durand-Eastman Park 12 Aug (RS), early. Evening Grosbeak: four MB 29 Aug, only report.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612



## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

C.K. MELIN

It was the warmest June since 1976 in the Finger Lakes, with precipitation well above normal. Rainy periods from 1-6, 9-10, 12-19 and 20-25 Jun left a total precipitation of 4 to 6 inches for the month. There was no indication of the drought conditions which troubled other regions of the country. Average temperatures in the Region were 64-68° in June, 68-72° in July, and 64-68° in August. Temperatures in July were close to normal, but it was the driest July in four years, with a total precipitation of 2 to 4 inches in the Finger Lakes. Seasonal summertime thunderstorms occurred in the Region on 4-8, 10-14, 15-18 and 19-24 Jul. The hottest days of the month were from 23-27 Jul, when temperatures reached the 90's. August was drier than normal in the Finger Lakes, although there were seasonal thunderstorms from 4-7 Aug and trace precipitation several times during the month. Hottest temperatures for the month were from 4-6 August. It was fair and clear for the lunar eclipse on 17 Aug. By the end of the summer, it was evident that the cone production of Norway and White Spruce trees was the heaviest in years, and in early August I found a singing male Red Crossbill was present among spruces heavy with cones near Yellow Barn State Forest.

Most sightings of waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders were from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, as expected. Throughout the remainder of Region 3, breeding species reflect the Region's patchwork of woodlands and farmlands. There were many confirmed breeding reports of large woodland species including Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Great Horned Owl and Barred Owl. Other large woodland species, including Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Pileated Woodpecker, were scarce or absent. Birds associated with agriculture were common and widespread breeding species, including Mourning Dove, American Crow, Indigo Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird and American Goldfinch. Some Region 3 species, including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler and Purple Finch, were localized at conifer stands in National Forests or in stands of Eastern Hemlock along the Region's gorges and ravines. Eastern Bluebird and Northern Mockingbird continue to increase. Rare and local breeding birds reported this summer included Upland Sandpiper, Brown Thrasher, Cerulean Warbler, and Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrow.

Breeding birds of special note include Upland Sandpiper with five fledged young at a traditional nesting area, currently undergoing commercial development, in the Horseheads area. A colony of Ring-billed Gull nested in the Watkins Glen Creek. This colony, which fledged an unknown number of young, consisted of approximately 15 nests on 28 June, although the number of nests earlier in June had been five times that many. Predation and the heavy June

rainfalls may have adversely affected this colony, although this is not certain. Three nests of **Fish Crow** were found in Ithaca, but all failed and there was never more than one active at any one time. The nests were greater than one mile apart, and could have been produced by a single pair of Fish Crow.

John and Sue Gregoire reported 66 species of breeding birds at their home in Burdett. Their list included several species of interest, including Red-bellied Woodpecker, Black-billed Cuckoo, Cooper's Hawk, E. Screech Owl, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown Thrasher, and Chestnut-sided Warbler. The Gregoire's also noted, from their banding station records, waves of hatching-year sparrows beginning 12 Aug, and of flycatchers beginning 14 Aug.

In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, Charles Smith and two Cornell students conducted research on the 14,000 acre Finger Lakes National Forest from 1 June to mid August. The purpose of research was, in part, to survey breeding birds in general and pasture birds in particular on National Forest lands. Thirty-two pastures were surveyed, and a 12.5-mile long breeding bird survey "mini-route" was conducted in June. C. Smith and his students observed a total of 103 species of birds at FLNF this season. Among species for which breeding was confirmed using breeding bird atlas criteria were American Woodcock, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Bobolink, and Savannah Sparrow. Among probable breeders were Red-shouldered Hawk, Upland Sandpiper, Hooded Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. At least ten pairs of Henslow's Sparrows were present on FLNF pastures this season. Other birds of interest included Northern Harrier, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, six woodpecker species, six flycatcher species, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, and fourteen warbler species. A single **White-eyed Vireo** was heard singing from a brushy fence row in Pierson Pasture on 14 July. On 23 June a first-year male **Orchard Oriole** was observed associating with a pair of Northern Oriole feeding young at their nest in an apple/hawthorn grove in Tunison Pasture. The Orchard Oriole was tolerated by the pair of Northern Oriole, but was not observed assisting with care of their young. Observed in the vicinity of FLNF, although not on National Forest lands, were Prairie Warbler, Horned Lark, Vesper Sparrow, Carolina Wren, and Wild Turkey. C. Smith will continue his FLNF research next summer and plans to publish results in *The Kingbird*. John & Sue Gregoire drove through FLNF daily on their way to and from work, and on 2 Aug observed one Common Barn-Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl with young, and Northern Harrier with young. All were in the vicinity of Searsburg Road.

Many of the Region's waterbirds were present at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, as expected. Numbers were highest during August, following the breeding season. Refuge staff estimated a production of 10 Pied-billed Grebe, 181 Canada Geese, 790 Wood Duck, 319 Mallard, 50 Blue-winged Teal and 70 Hooded Merganser in 1989. Maximum numbers of waterfowl present at the Refuge during August included 2800 Wood Duck, 1300 Green-winged Teal, 2800 Mallard, 220 American Black Duck, 1100 Blue-winged Teal and 60 N. Shoveler. Also present during August were 218 Double-crested Cormorant, 710 Great Blue Heron, 28 Green-backed Heron, 50 Black-crowned Night-Heron, and 5 Great

Egret. Black Tern no longer breeds at the refuge, and only a few were present this season. The trio of nesting Bald Eagle on the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge hatched one young in 1989. The four eagles were present at the Refuge all season, near their nest atop a utility pole in a remote, inaccessible part of the Refuge. Two of the three parent birds are products of NY State's Bald Eagle Restoration Program. In addition, a pair of nesting Osprey at MNWR produced one young at their nest near the Visitor's Center at the Refuge.

For another consecutive summer, MNWR staff gradually drained the water from the 200-acre May's Point Pool, for the purpose of providing resting and feeding areas for migrating shorebirds. To minimize disturbance of the shorebirds, a portion of the dike surrounding the pool was closed; however, birding was generally excellent for pedestrians along the open portion of the dike. As in other years, the most common shorebirds at May's Point Pool were Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper. A total of fourteen species of shorebird, including **Whimbrel**, **Red Knot**, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, and Baird's Sandpiper, were observed.

Contributors: Cayuga Bird Club, Cornell Campus Bird Study Group, Chemung County Audubon Society, D. Clements, E. Domingue, T. Gingrich, John & Sue Gregoire, D. McIlroy, C. Rouse, C. R. Smith, D. Smith, J. Wells, G. Wolford.

Abbreviations: FLNF: Finger Lakes National Forest; MNWR: Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; YBSF: Yellow Barn State Forest.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: max 58 MNWR August, *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*. American Bittern: none! Great Blue Heron: *intro*. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Great Egret: *intro*. Canada Goose: *intro*. Wood Duck: *intro*; 35 young Corning Pond 11 Jun, 45 ad CP 20 Aug. Green-winged Teal: *intro*. Am. Black Duck: *intro*. Mallard: *intro*. N. Shoveler: *intro*. Gadwall: 40 MNWR June & July. Am. Wigeon: max 60 MNWR 12 Jun. Hooded Merganser: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*; present June and August along Chemung River, nesting unconfirmed. Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: sole report one Elmira 28 Jul. Cooper's Hawk: one present all Season YBSF. N. Goshawk: present all season YBSF. Broad-winged Hawk: pair present all season YBSF. Red-shouldered Hawk: *intro*; one calling 13 July Salmon Creek; ad Shindagin Hollow Aug (CKM). Ruffed Grouse: *intro*. American Kestrel: two ad with y Mt Pleasant, Ithaca, 1 Aug.; ad with four y Southport July. Virginia Rail: none! Black-bellied Plover: three MNWR Aug. Semipalmated Plover: max 40 MNWR Aug. Killdeer: max 140 MNWR Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: max three MNWR Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 146 MNWR Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: five FLNF 19 July; one MNWR 5 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: *intro*. **Whimbrel**: ten MNWR 20 Aug (CR). **Red Knot**: imm MNWR 29 Aug (GW). Sanderling: max 50 MNWR Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 250 MNWR 5 Aug (JW). Least Sandpiper: *intro*; max 100 MNWR Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: max five MNWR 29 Aug (GW, JW). Pectoral Sandpiper: max 300 MNWR Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: max eight MNWR 29 Aug (GW). Common Snipe: max three MNWR Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: imm MNWR 5 Aug (JW). Red-necked Phalarope: one MNWR Aug, no details available. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Caspian Tern: 20 MNWR 5 Aug. Common Tern: max six MNWR Aug. Black Tern: *intro*; three MNWR June, six in July, two in Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: *intro*. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: *intro*. Com. Barn-Owl: *intro*. E. Screech-Owl: *intro*. Great Horned Owl: *intro*. Barred Owl: *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: max 100 Elmira August. Chimney Swift: max 100+ Elmira August. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*. Pileated Woodpecker: *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: none.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Purple Martin: present Seneca L & Cayuga L SP. N. Rough-winged Swallow: nested Southport along South Creek. Bank Swallow: two colonies Pine City, no other reports. Cliff Swallow: nested beneath bridges Elmira. Fish Crow: *intro*. Marsh Wren: one carrying nesting material Horseheads Swamp 10 Jun. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: scarce. Veery: scarce. Hermit Thrush: scarce.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: *intro*. Yellow-throated Vireo: nested Elmira. Blue-winged Warbler: two singing males near YBSF June (CKM). Golden-winged warbler: scarce. Prairie Warbler: nested Elmira (DC). Prothonotary Warbler: none. Hooded Warbler: single report, female Ringwood Preserve, Ithaca, 30 Jul.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: present along gas & electric right-of-ways between Ithaca & Dryden (CKM). Henslow's Sparrow: *intro*. Grasshopper Sparrow: *intro*. N. Oriole: *intro*. Orchard Oriole: *intro*. Red Crossbill: *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

### GENE HUGGINS

This summer will be remembered for its less intense heat and humidity as compared to last year's excessives. Precipitation was well above average in June, preventing farmers from cutting and drying their hay. Normal weather conditions prevailed for the remainder of the season. The area's first substantial cold front arrived on 28 Jul. The only dry period occurred at the end of August.

Northern Harrier had a partly successful nesting attempt in the Town of Clay, where one young bird fledged. Unfortunately, two adults had to leave their nest site in the Town of Manlius because of human disturbance. No nesting Ospreys were reported in the Region this year.

Late spring migrants included six species of shorebirds, N. Parula and Blackpoll Warblers on a rainy and foggy 2 Jun morning at Sandy Pond. The first fall arrival of shorebirds on 22 Jul was notably later than most years; high water levels left most shorebird sites unsuitable earlier this season. Unfortunately, Delta Lake near Rome did not have exposed mudflats, but its shallow waters did provide excellent foraging for Great Egrets. Weed removal on the beaches at the end of Oneida L greatly reduced shorebird numbers there. Plowed fields south and east of Oneida Lake along with the drainage of some bait ponds in the Town of Clay were the only areas to see shorebirds inland. Although Com. Nighthawks were very scarce, an encouraging flight occurred over Syracuse on the last day of August. The same day brought an impressive flight of warblers along the eastern shore of Oneida Lake, fifteen species with Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warblers predominating.

Other notable records from the summer period include an Oldsquaw on Oneida Lake during the month of June for the region's second summer record (C.G.Spies *vide* MSR). Two Peregrine Falcons were observed from Bald Mtn.

north of Old Forge on 31 Jul. The most unusual shorebirds were **Willet**, **Whimbrel** and **Wilson's Phalarope**, and two **Little Gulls** appeared at Sandy Pond toward the season's end. Equal numbers of both cuckoo species were found at widely separate localities. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was located near Hastings, Oswego Co. on 5 Jun and a second bird observed near Erieville, Madison Co. on 11 Jul, constituting the first records since 1985. The arrival of a **Blackpoll Warbler** at Erieville in s Madison Co. on 4 Aug surpassed our old record early by six days. Abundant cones on several species of conifers were attracting good numbers of **White-winged Crossbill** in northern Herkimer Co. and smaller numbers in s Madison Co. A total of 185 species, and one hybrid, were reported during the season.

Contributors: David Cesari, Kate Coyle, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Gary Lee, Sheila McCombie, Belle Peebles, Robert E. Post, Bill Purcell, Margaret S. Rusk, Jeanne Ryan, Gerald A. Smith, Doug Trush, Elba Van Dresar.

Abbreviations: DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, CAYU; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; SPd - Sandy Pond, OSWE; SVB- Sylvan and Verona Beach, ONEI; Syr - Syracuse.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Com. Loon: single adults at Hinckley and North L, two young at Nick's L and one young bird at Moss L. Double-crested Cormorant: max 132 Oneida L 27 Aug. Am. Bittern: two FH 6 Jun, two N Gage ONEI 19 Jun, one SPd 2 Jun. Great Egret: max 5 Delta L 23 Jul, last 16 Aug with one at Verona and one at Verona Beach in the same time period. Green-backed Heron: max six Oneida L 27 Aug. Wood Duck: max 25 Delta L 6 Aug. Green-winged Teal: eight T Clay 28 Aug. Am. Black Duck: eight T Clay 27 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: arr SVB 4 Jun. Gadwall: one Long I, Oneida L 22 Jun. Oldsquaw: *intro*. Com. Merganser: max 13 Limekiln L. Red-breasted Merganser: last SPd 2 Jun.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: eight N Victory 13 Jul. Osprey: nine individuals for the season, no nesting reported. Bald Eagle: imm DH 8 Aug, Brewerton 15 Aug, and Morrisville; ad W Monroe 9 Jul. N. Harrier: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Hastings 23 Jul and Holland Patent. Red-shouldered Hawk: three Kasoag 18 Jun, two Sullivan MADI 8 Jul, one Third L HERK 2 Aug. Broad-winged Hawk: one Penn Mt 9 Jul, only report. Am. Kestrel: 11 reports, very scarce. **Peregrine Falcon:** two Bald Mt HERK 31 Jul, third summer report (BP). Ring-necked Pheasant: two N Victory 7 Jun, only report. Virginia Rail: one Dewitt Marsh 28 Jun, one Toad Harbour 2 Jul, one SVB 27 Aug. Com. Moorhen: six reports. Black-bellied Plover: last SPd 2 Jun; arr Canastota 20 Aug, max four. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr Canastota 18 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: last nine SPd 2 Jun; arr Canastota 12 Aug; max 11 SPd 27 Aug. Killdeer: max 104 Canastota 23 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Holland Patent 22 Jul; max ten T Clay 20 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr SVB 22 Jul; max 12 T Clay 14 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr SVB 12 Aug; max five T Clay 14 Aug. **Willet:** one SPd 27 Aug, first fall report since 1985 (BP). Upland Sandpiper: nine ONEI airport 25 June. Whimbrel: two SPd 28 Aug (DWC). Ruddy Turnstone: last 88 SPd 2 Jun; arr SVB 13 Aug. Red Knot: last 18 SPd 2 Jun; arr there 29 Aug. Sanderling: last 23 SPd 2 Jun; arr SVB 22 Jul; max 11 SPd 20 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 38 SPd 2 June; arr SVB 9 Aug, max 23 on 20 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr SVB 22 Jul; max 14 T Clay 20 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: arr SVB 12 Aug; max two Canastota 27 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Sullivan 6 Aug; max eight T Clay 20 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: one T Clay 19-21 Aug. Com. Snipe: six Canastota 20 Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: three T Clay 19-20 Aug, first report in two years (mob). Little Gull: two SPd 27-28 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SVB 9 Aug, max 220 there 14 Aug. Caspian Tern: max 67 SPd 27 Aug. Black Tern: two reports LOL 2 Jun; imm on the breakwall SVB 24 Aug.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Mourning Dove: max 48 Sullivan 8 Jul. Black-billed

Cuckoo: about five reports. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Kasoag 18 Jun, one near Wetzel Rd 25 Jun, two W Monroe 16 Jul, one Pompey Hollow 16-17 July. Barred Owl: two pair with two young near Old Forge. Com. Nighthawk: max breeding population three Syr in June and three Utica in July; max 81 migrating Hookway Tract Syr 31 Aug. Chimney Swift: max 100 Oneida 12 June. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: about three reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: one SVB 4 Jun-27 Aug, only report. Black-backed Woodpecker: one near Big Moose 7 Jul and one Rockdam Trail.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Hastings 19 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher:** *intro*. Least Flycatcher: max 11 Kasoag 18 Jun; arr SPd 24 Aug. Tree Swallow: max 160 SPd 27 Aug. N. Rough-winged Swallow: six Alder Creek 25 Jun. Bank Swallow: max 200 Oneida Cemetery 17 Jun. Cliff Swallow: ten at Verona 27 Aug. Barn Swallow: max 135 SPd 27 Aug. **Fish Crow:** two near Camden 10 Jul (DWC), a new location. Com. Raven: three McKeever 24 June, one Old Forge to Forestport all summer. Tufted Titmouse: two N Victory BBS 7 Jun, a first for this count. Carolina Wren: reported from Syr, T Clay and SVB. Marsh Wren: max 13 Peat Swamp 25 Jun.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** Philadelphia Vireo: arr SVB 13 Aug. Golden-winged Warbler: last Erieville 25 Aug. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: one Lawrence's type Erieville 25 Aug. Tennessee Warbler: eight Erieville 25 Aug. Nashville Warbler: arr SPd 27 Aug. N. Parula: last three SPd 2 Jun; two McKeever 24 Jun. Yellow Warbler: max 35 N Victory 7 Jun. Magnolia Warbler: arr SPd 24 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr Hastings 25 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr SPd 24 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr SPd and SVB 27 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: arr SPd 24 Aug. Pine Warbler: two near Amboy 18 Jun, a new location. Blackpoll Warbler: last six SPd 2 Jun; *intro*. Cerulean Warbler: two Phillip's Pt 2 Jul, only report. Black-and-white Warbler: arr SPd 24 Aug. N. Waterthrush: arr SVB 19 Aug. Louisiana Waterthrush: last Holland Patent 12 Aug. Wilson's Warbler: arr SPd 27 Aug. Canada Warbler: arr SPd 24 Aug.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Scarlet Tanager: max seven SVB 27 Aug. Field Sparrow: max eight Kasoag 18 Jun. Vesper Sparrow: one N Victory 7 Jun and one Kasoag 18 Jun. Savannah Sparrow: max 13 N Gage 19 Jun. Henslow's Sparrow: two Toad H 17 Jun, three Sullivan 22 Jun, two W Monroe 2-16 Jul. Lincoln's Sparrow: two near Big Moose 7 Jul. Red Crossbill: one near Big Moose 6 Jul. White-winged Crossbill: *intro*. American Goldfinch: max 25 SVB 19 Aug. Evening Grosbeak: two near Camden 10 Jul.

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## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

This summer's weather was a welcome relief from the heat of 1988, and Region 6 escaped the heavy rains which deluged much of the state. June was warm and damp. Temperatures were about 1° above normal and rainfall was 1-2 inches above average. Maximum temperatures of close to 90° were reached 23 Jun. Heavy showers on 17 Jun brought the monthly precipitation total in Norfolk, St. Lawrence Co., to 6.45 inches, with neighboring towns and Watertown reporting more than 5 inches. In contrast, levels on Tug Hill were near normal. July temperatures were about normal and rainfall below normal. Peak heat for the summer occurred 26-28 Jul with readings in the low 90's. St. Lawrence Co. received heavy rains on 10 Jul, and more than 2 inches fell on the Tug Hill on 28 Jul. August was cool and damp. The temperature dipped into the low 30's on 25 Aug, with some areas experiencing a light frost. Rainfall on 5 Aug was as much as 3-4 inches on the Tug Hill, bringing the monthly total well above average, but much of St. Lawrence Co. remained on the dry side.

In spite of the small number of contributors, coverage of the region was on a par with the last two years, netting a four-year high of 150 species, which included 20 waders and waterfowl, 11 raptors, 23 shorebirds and 79 passerines. Other than Lee Chamberlaine's regular reports, there was little coverage of Jefferson Co., including Lake Ontario. Marilyn Badger now regularly covers the Massena area while Peter O'Shea searches the woods of southern St. Lawrence Co. Summer coverage of St. Lawrence County was greatly augmented by visiting birders Bob Long and Kevin Griffith. As usual, there was little or no coverage of Lewis Co.

There were no reports of Endangered species in Region 6 nor of the Threatened Red-shouldered Hawk or Spruce Grouse. All species of Special Concern were reported with the exception of Least Bittern, Short-eared Owl and Grasshopper Sparrow. Among species indicated in recent Highlights as deserving attention, no N. Shoveler or Golden-winged Warbler were found, and few American Bittern, American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Common Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Brown Thrasher were reported. Peter O'Shea reports that Barred Owl and E. Wood-Pewee have been declining for three years throughout the towns of Clifton, Fine and Colton as judged from singing males, and the Olive-sided Flycatcher has been down for two years. There was no Sharp-shinned Hawk and only one report of Upland Sandpiper. The only Henslow's Sparrow was found dead. In contrast, there were good numbers of Wood Duck, Sora, Chimney Swift, Com. Raven, Indigo Bunting, Chipping and Savannah Sparrows and E. Meadowlark.

According to Ken Karwowski of the USFWS, virtually all nesting of Com. Tern on SLR takes place on navigation aids, where production is very high in spite of Great Horned Owl predation. It was Joe VanRiet who first pointed this out and placed vegetation on the structures to aid the terns.

Both this year and in 1987, Kevin Griffith visited ULL and WH in early July (*Kingbird* 37(4):230). Comparing the two areas and the two years, he found: Com. Loon: 1987 - ULL 2, WH 4/1989 - ULL 3, WH 3; Pied-billed Grebe: 15, —/6, 4; Canada Goose: little change; Wood Duck: 40, 25/15, 0; Mallard: 125, many/20, 45; Blue-winged Teal: 25, 0/2, 0; Gadwall: 0, 6/0, 30; American Wigeon: 2, 12/0, 10; Redhead: 0, 10/0, 0; Ring-necked Duck: 8,0/1,0. Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Duck show marked decreases.

Kevin Griffith and Bob Oswald spent parts of eight days birding in Parishville and Colton, where they logged over 30 species of woodland passerines including 15 warblers. Their sightings included five E. Wood-Pewee, eight Least Flycatcher, three E. Phoebe, five Great Crested Flycatcher, 12 Red-breasted and three White-breasted Nuthatch, two Winter Wren, ten Veery, five Hermit and two Wood Thrush, seven Red-eyed Vireo (only vireo), two unusual Tennessee Warbler, four Black-throated Blue Warbler but no Black-throated Green, six Blackburnian Warbler, eight Black-and-white Warbler, four American Redstart, 14 Ovenbird, two Northern Waterthrush, two Mourning Warbler and four Scarlet Tanager. Their findings may be compared with those of three years ago (*Kingbird* 36 (4):129). While comparisons of yield per effort are difficult, the results suggest that Great Crested Flycatcher, thrushes, especially Wood Thrush, and vireos are down, but most warblers save Black-throated Green are holding their own. Scarlet Tanager and Black-and-white Warbler were up. From the forests of southern St Lawrence Co., Peter O'Shea reports three bird species "dominating song at midday — Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, and Red-eyed Vireo, the first two species undoubtedly working on a second brood". In the Wanakena BBS, Bob Long tallied impressive numbers of some of the species mentioned above: 20 Veery, seven Hermit Thrush, two Solitary Vireo (low), 81 Red-eyed Vireo, five Black-throated Green Warbler, two Blackburnian Warbler, and 22 Ovenbird.

Numbers and distribution of Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, N. Cardinal and House Finch continue to increase. Mourning Dove is now breeding in Town of Fine, and seems to be producing two broods. One imm Red-bellied Woodpecker in Henderson on 12 and 31 August suggests breeding. A Willow Flycatcher at ULL on 5 July and another on OBBS on 18 June are of interest. These along with four Sedge Wren near Moses-Saunders Dam on 4 June were the closest thing to a rarity for the season.

There were two reports of migrating shorebirds. At Southwick Beach SP on 4 Aug, Paul DeBenedictis found the only two Semipalmated Plover, ca. 280 Semipalmated Sandpiper and 12 Sanderling. At Perch River MWA on 18-19 Aug, K. Griffith found five Semipalmated Sandpiper, one Greater Yellowlegs, four Lesser Yellowlegs, 12 Least Sandpiper, 7 Pectorals, 7 Short-billed Dowitcher and 20 Common Snipe.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Paul DeBenedictis, Bruce DiLabio, Kevin Griffith, Robert Long, Bob Oswald, and Peter O'Shea.

Abbreviations: Alex Bay - Alexandria Bay; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS 18 Jun (Bob Long); PBBS - Philadelphia BBS 29 Jun (Bob Long); PR - Perch River WMA; PvC - Parishville-Colton; SLR - St. Lawrence River; ULL - Upper and

Lower Lakes WMA; WBBS - Wanakena BBS 1 Jul (Bob Long); WH - Wilson Hill WMA. Unless otherwise stated, the following dates and observers pertain: ULL —KG and RO on 5 Jul; WH — KG and RO on 7 July; PR — KG on 18-19 Aug.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two imm and one ad at both ULL and WH indicate continued breeding in these lowland WMA's; present in usual haunts s StLA. Pied-billed Grebe: six ULL, four WH and four PR are modest numbers. Red-necked Grebe: five above MSD 13 Aug, early. Double-crested Cormorant: seen daily on SLR between Morristown and Chippewa Bay, but no breeding (RL); max 220 MSD 20 Aug. Mute Swan: 12 PR 18-19 Aug, shows continued increase. Brant: three MSD 11 Jun, late. Wood Duck: *intro*; four WH 4 Jun (MB). Green-winged Teal: two PR only report. Am. Black Duck: three ULL, five PR, low for these WMA's; max 20 MSD. N. Pintail: female ULL may indicate new breeder. Blue-winged Teal: *intro*. N. Shoveler: none PR, worrisome. Redhead: none. Ring-necked Duck: *intro*. Greater Scaup: one Alex Bay 3 Jul. Hooded Merganser: one PR only report. Com. Merganser: broods of four on Bog R and three on Oswegatchie R last week of Aug; max 20 MSD 13 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 24 at roost near Hammond Village 29 Jun. Cooper's Hawk: singles Watertown 13 Jul, Henderson 23 Jul, PR. N. Goshawk: pair nesting near Cranberry L; imm Jacques Cartier SP 6 and 13 Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Broad-winged Hawk: slightly down but good numbers s StLA. Virginia Rail: two ULL and PR; max eight WH 2 Jun. Sora: one PR; max six WH 2 Jun. Com. Moorhen: 25 PR but only two ULL. Spotted Sandpiper: four WH and two MSD 4 Jun may be breeders. Upland Sandpiper: one Potsdam 7 Jul, only report. Bonaparte's Gull: 100 MSD 13 Aug. Little Gull: ad MSD 6 Aug. Caspian Tern: regular over Henderson, probably headed for Henderson Pd; three PR; ten Southwick Beach SP 4 Aug. Com. Tern: ten Alex Bay 3 July; max 20 WH, 40 MSD 4 June, decreasing to one to three per day at WH in July and Aug. Black Tern: two PR, two ULL, one MSD 2 Aug, max four or eight Southwick Beach SP 4 Aug, very scarce.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: *intro*. Black-billed Cuckoo: one WH 1 Jun, one MSD 12 Jun; max three OBBS. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one MSD 7 Jul only report. E. Screech-Owl: one calling Henderson 31 Aug first there in two years. Barred Owl: *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: two WH 3 Jun, one WH 23 Aug, one OBBS, only reports. Whip-poor-will: max three WH 1 Jun. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: none coming to LBC's feeders in Henderson; two WH June and 10 Aug. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: *intro*. E. Wood-Pewee: *intro*. Least Flycatcher: *intro*; max 18 WBBS. E. Phoebe: numbers up (LBS). Great Crested Flycatcher: *intro*. E. Kingbird: good numbers from most observers. Horned Lark: none. Purple Martin: numbers low in Henderson; four Alex Bay; max 43 ad plus 150 imm Massena Center (MB). Tree Swallow: 3000 Henderson Pd 31 Aug. N. Rough-winged Swallow: six Parishville, several PR. Am. Crow: high numbers in lowlands. Com. Raven: expanding into foothills of Edwards and Russell. Red-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*; arr Henderson 19 Aug, early. White-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*. Winter Wren: *intro*. Sedge Wren: *intro*. Marsh Wren: eight ULL seems low; max 15 PR. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: common s StLA, but fewer than in past. Veery: *intro*. Hermit Thrush: *intro*. Wood Thrush: *intro*. Brown Thrasher: very scarce; none OBBS, two PBBS. Cedar Waxwing: good numbers, 32 PvC, increasing during period.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Solitary Vireo: *intro*. Yellow-throated Vireo: nine PBBS, rarely reported. Warbling Vireo: few reports; max 11 WH, last Massena 25 Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: *intro*. Tennessee Warbler: *intro*. Magnolia Warbler: max three WBBS. Black-throated Blue Warbler: *intro*. Black-throated Green Warbler: *intro*. Blackburnian Warbler: *intro*. Pine Warbler: small numbers s StLA. Black-and-white Warbler: *intro*. Am. Redstart: *intro*. Ovenbird: *intro*. N. Waterthrush: *intro*. Mourning Warbler: *intro*. Canada Warbler: none.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: *intro*. N. Cardinal: *intro*. Rose-breasted

Grosbeak: 18 PvC. Indigo Bunting: max ten PBBS, an eight-year high; four PR, four Parishville. Chipping Sparrow: 18 PvC; numbers up in Henderson, with heavy migration 25 Aug. Vesper Sparrow: none. Savannah Sparrow: ten ULL 5 July; ten PBBS, close to 10-year high. Henslow's Sparrow: one found dead PR 18-19 Aug. Dark-eyed Junco: two Parishville only report. E. Meadowlark: two per day PR and ULL. N. Oriole: only two PvC. Purple Finch: six PvC; numbers much reduced in Henderson. House Finch: out-numbers Purple Finch two-one in Massena. Evening Grosbeak: 14 PvC, six Wanakena 29 June.

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## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

Thanks to a revival of Breeding Bird Survey routes, several June "Big Days," bird-banding on the Four Brothers Islands and near Cedar River, and other field efforts across the region, a total of 173 species were recorded in the summer 1989, up significantly from last year's 152. In spite of the improvement, the seasonal total is still short of the 197 species in summer 1983 and 200 species in summer 1984, during the height of Atlas coverage. Surveys by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation revealed that the Adirondack recovery of nesting Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons continues.

June saw an average monthly temperature of 67.2°F, slightly above the long-term average 64.9°F. The high temperature was 92°F on 23 June, the only day of the month to break the 90° mark. The 3.6" of monthly precipitation was near average, with over an inch of that falling on 2 June. There was 54% of possible sunshine, with 19 cloudy days. Thermometers dropped to 35°F at Owl's Head on 15 Jul, but the end of the month was quite warm. Newcomb dropped to 37°F on 9 Aug and a frosty 30°F on 25 Aug. The same month saw 7.3" of precipitation that brought the yearly total to 23.4". Seasonal brooks ran throughout the summer, and shorebird hotspots along Champlain were both figuratively and literally washed out.

A number of BBS reports were received: Ellenburg (Mark Gretch), Gabriels (Ted Mack), Sciota (Gretch), Speculator (Dorothy McIlroy), and St. Regis Falls (Mack). In Clinton County, the Ellenburg BBS was last run in 1968-71 and the Sciota BBS in 1974-78. Mark Gretch found a number of significant changes in 1989. He found no Northern Flicker vs. historic averages of 8.5 and 2.71 for Ellenburg and Sciota, respectively. Nor did he have any Northern Oriole, whose averages had been 4.75 for Ellenburg and 7.29 for Sciota. Could the loss of American elms explain these declines? The abandonment of farms around Sciota is clearly reflected in the total disappearance of Bobolink on this BBS (9.14 historic average). In contrast, Ellenburg farms mostly have remained active; this is reflected in the 17 Bobolink tallied (former average 22.5). On the Sciota BBS, Gretch noted clear increases for Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Winter Wren,

Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Ovenbird, and Chipping Sparrow. Ovenbirds are sensitive to size of forest, and do not breed where woods become too fragmented. The increase to 14 Ovenbirds, from an average 7.86 further suggests the increase of forest cover in the Sciota area. Conversely, significant declines on the Sciota BBS were found in Killdeer, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Wood Thrush, European Starling, American Redstart, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird. Note that several are birds of open country or brushy areas.

On an 18 Jun Franklin Co. "Big Day" from the Quebec border near Hogansburg to Madawaska, Ted Mack and Hollis & Denise White found 115 species, including Great Egret, Sora, Virginia Rail, and Black Tern. On 25 June, Bob Hagar and Ted Mack got 123 species covering the same area, despite missing White-breasted Nuthatch.

The 19-ft. "Four Winds" carried banding teams and patrols to and from the Four Brothers during June and July. A total of 1,003 Ring-billed Gulls, 36 Herring Gulls, a hen Com. Merganser, and the first-ever Double-crested Cormorant chick were banded. There were 270 cormorant nests, up just slightly from 263 last summer. Interesting sightings included a Ruddy Turnstone and Caspian Tern on 3 Jun, 11 Red-breasted Merganser 17-19 Jun, a White-winged Scoter and six Gadwall on 19 Jun, Canada Goose and six goslings 22 Jun, a Bonaparte's Gull 27 Jun, and a pair of adult Common Loons on 1 Jul. A Ring-billed Gull banded 26 Jun 1976 on Island "C" by Dr. Robert Yunick was found dead on the same island 17 Jun, aged 13 years.

Meanwhile, Bob McKinney banded 84 individuals of 37 species near his camp along the Cedar River in July, including an imm Northern Saw-whet Owl, two Cape May Warbler, a Blackpoll Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. In Essex Co., just 26 individuals of 9 species were banded between 9 Jul and 11 Aug.

Beavers are apparently responsible for replenishing the long-dry Webb Royce Swamp between Essex and Westport during this decade. On a 30 July canoe trip into the swamp, John and Nat Parke found Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, and 40 Black-crowned Night-Heron, including a parent at a nest with young, well as Common Moorhen with young. The Parkes' second expedition on 27 Aug added Virginia Rail as well as a Peregrine Falcon (perhaps from the nearby cliff site along Champlain) being strafed repeatedly by a Northern Harrier. Such wooded swamps are scarce in Essex County and we're grateful to the beavers for this rich habitat.

The NYS DEC made flights on 9 May, 25 May, and 11 July to survey Adirondack Osprey nests. Some 46 historic sites were surveyed, and 49 nests (three new) were reviewed. Of these, 31 had parent birds on them during May. By July's flight, 18 nests were still active, producing some 33 young Ospreys, plus six (presumably infertile) eggs. This is an encouraging improvement over 20 young in 1988. Bald Eagles, meanwhile, continued nesting at three Franklin Co. sites, fledging all five young (four of which were banded), for the first confirmed successful nesting in this Region in decades. Last year's first attempts all failed, readers may recall. The five known Peregrine Falcon eyries in Essex

Co. again produced ten young: Elizabethtown (3 young, on new cliff), Keene Valley (3 young), Keeseville (3 young), Westport (none, although adults again present), and Wilmington (1 young). All things considered, this is a remarkable showing, and all those involved with the recovery efforts over the years deserve our plaudits.

Finally, an update: the previously banded second-year female Yellow-rumped Warbler netted and released on Crown Point peninsula on 14 May this year had been banded at Manomet (MA) Bird Observatory on 13 Oct 1988.

Contributors: Merry Baker, Timothy Barnett, William Boyle, John Brown, Barbara Butler, Geoffrey Carleton, Dewey & Joan Clark, Will Coulter, Ruth Cummings, Charlie Delehanty, Richard Evans, Mark Gretch, Robert Hagar, Terry Hall, Elizabeth Hedges, Anne Hungerford, Elizabeth Jones, Wesley Lanyon, Gary Lee, Theodore Mack, Mark Manske, Dorothy McIlroy, Robert McKinney, Edith Mitchell, John & Nat Parke, William Peneston, John & Susan Peterson, Tom Rivest, William Robbins, David Rutkowski, Langdon Stevenson, Joyce Thomas, Jan Treziak.

Abbreviations: AP - Ausable Point; CL - Chazy Landing; FB - Ferd's Bog; KB - King's Bay; LA - Lake Alice.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*; also Penfield Pd and Westport July unexpected. Pied-billed Grebe: *intro*; also Bloomingdale, three y LA 30 Jul, Paul Smiths excellent for this Regional rarity. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*; Seventh L 10-12 Aug unusual, Banding Lab has no record of green streamer seen Four Brothers 16 Aug (LS). Great Blue Heron: *intro*. Great Egret: *intro*; also seen from Amtrak n Westport 26 Jul (JP). Green-backed Heron: *intro*. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Canada Goose: *intro*; raised gosling Brandon. Wood Duck: max 100 LA 21 Aug. Green-winged Teal: max four CL 8 Jun. Mallard: max 100 Raquette Pd late Aug. N. Shoveler: male CL 8 Jun, 27 Jul noteworthy. Gadwall: *intro*. White-winged Scoter: *intro*. Com. Merganser: *intro*. Red-breasted Merganser: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*; also ad Little Clear Pd 29 Jul, ad & imm Indian L FRAN., ad Red R HAMI 25 Aug, two ad, two imm Eagle L ESSE 7 Aug, imm fishing near NYS Fish Hatchery Saranac Inn most of Aug, plus numerous nest area reports. N. Harrier: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Spruce Grouse: feathers found at head of FB second week Jun and male photographed Shallow L trail 6 Jul (GL) reestablish the range of this rarity in HAMI s of the previously known Atlas range. Wild Turkey: hen Cedar R all summer and hen in Tupper L yard show continued penetration of central Adirondacks. N. Bobwhite: Ironville and Chilson July (DR) probably local release. Virginia Rail: *intro*; also Blue Mt L 25 Jun (TH) and L Chazy R 15 July good for this species. Com. Moorhen: *intro*; two Ti Marsh 25 Jun (TH) and four CL 27 Jul excellent in this region. Semipalmated Plover: arr Seventh L 13 Aug, where unexpected. Killdeer: *intro*; max 20 CL 27 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr KB 21 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Webb Royce Swamp 30 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: s Rouses Pt Jun-Jul and CL 27 Jul only reports. Ruddy Turnstone: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr KB 20 Jul. Least Sandpiper: arr KB 20 Jul, max 25 CL 27 Jul. Baird's Sandpiper: juv AP 26 Aug (D&JC) an excellent find. Com. Snipe: max 20 CL 27 Jul. Bonaparte's Gull: *intro*; arr two Westport 25 Jun (TH), max 450 there 29 Aug (GC). Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*; also nest with two eggs Indian L HAMI a nice inland find. Caspian Tern: *intro*. Com. Tern: Rouses Pt 17 Jul only report. Black Tern: *intro*; once again Hogansburg is the only site reported for this tern, with no recent reports from Ti Marsh, Tupper Marsh, or other Regional marshes where it formerly occurred.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: *intro*. Mourning Dove: *intro*. Black-billed Cuckoo: Moose RRA 25 Aug only report. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Westport 15 Jul (EJ), Elizabethtown 19-20 Jul only reports, in spite of caterpillar outbreaks. N. Saw-whet Owl: *intro*; also nesting Adirondack Visitor Center Jul, atop Mt Jo July, and ad with four owlets

Newcomb 23 Jul a wide showing. Com. Nighthawk: LA and Tupper L only reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: *intro*. Three-toed Woodpecker: FB only site. Black-backed Woodpecker: nest FB, also seen at North Meadow and Adirondack Loj.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: *intro*. E. Kingbird: *intro*. Tree Swallow: *intro*. Gray Jay: reported from FB, Helldiver Pd, Sabattis Bog. Blue Jay: *intro*. Am. Crow: *intro*. Com. Raven: max 23 Gabriels BBS 30 Jun. Boreal Chickadee: reported from FB, North Meadow, Wakely Mt. Tufted Titmouse: three Wickham Marsh 31 Jul (LS) only report. White-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*. **Carolina Wren**: Elizabethtown 3 Jul (GC), rare in summer. Winter Wren: *intro*. Marsh Wren: four Rouses Pt 21 Jul, three CL 27 Jul only reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Ti Marsh 25 Jun (TH) only report. Gray-cheeked Thrush: reported from Wakely Mt and Whiteface Mt. Hermit Thrush: *intro*; also nest with three eggs n CLIN 2 Aug fairly late (MG). Wood Thrush: *intro*. N. Mockingbird: Keeseville 12 Jul somewhat expected, but quite unusual at Cedar R. Cedar Waxwing: *intro*. European Starling: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: Elk L R. 25 Jun, noisy family of four attracted by hiss of insect spray can near Owls Head! **Blue-winged Warbler**: transient Onchiota FRAN 27 Aug (JB) quite extraordinary and the first record for this county. Cape May Warbler: *intro*; also Cascade Mt, Onchiota, Madawaska. Black-throated Blue Warbler: *intro*. Yellow-rumped Warbler: *intro*. Bay-breasted Warbler: Cascade Mt, Clear Pd 25 Jun; singing male and feeding young Elk L 25 Jun, Madawaska, male South Meadow 16-18 Jun a remarkably good showing for this boreal rarity. Blackpoll Warbler: *intro*, also reported from Bear Pd s of Raquette L. 22 Jun, FB 25 Jun. Black-and-white Warbler: singing L Colby 24 Aug (TM), late. Am. Redstart: *intro*. Ovenbird: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: four y Cedar R HAMI, rare there. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: *intro*; brought young to Tupper L sunflower feeder. Rufous-sided Towhee: *intro*. Chipping Sparrow: *intro*. Field Sparrow: *intro*. Lincoln's Sparrow: *intro*. Bobolink: *intro*; reedy shore of L Durant in late Jun an unusual location within the Adirondacks. Red-winged Blackbird: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: Fiddler's L HAMI 6 Jul first seen in area by longtime summer resident and active observer (DM). N. Oriole: *intro*. House Finch: y at Indian Lake HAMI shows continued Adirondacks penetration. Red Crossbill: Paradox from 10 Jul, only report. White-winged Crossbill: flocks of 6-38 in spruce muskeg between Madawaska and McCollums FRAN all summer (TM); pair FB 25 Jul, 40 eating cherries Helldiver Pd HAMI 11 Aug with Black-backed Woodpecker (GL); three singing males Porter Mt ESSE 13 Aug (WL); and Wilson Pd HAMI 29 Aug (GL) shows a three county summer invasion. Evening Grosbeak: max 25-40 eating salt Cedar R.

ADDENDA: **Barrow's Goldeneye**: male Crown Pt, L Champlain, near W Bridgeport VT, 25 Mar 1988 (Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin). **Com. Black-headed Gull**: ad Basic plumage Port Henry, L Champlain, near Tridison VT, 29 Oct 1988 (Walter Ellison, Richard Lavallee, Nancy Martin), first for ESSE, Adirondack P and Region. **Sabine's Gull**: juv Crown Pt Peninsula, L Champlain, near Crown Pt Bridge to DAR P VT, 29 Oct 1988 (Walter Ellison, Richard Lavallee, Nancy Martin; Vermont rare bird documentation forms provided to editor and NYSARC and on file with Vermont Institute of Natural Science), second ESSE record, Adirondack P and Region. Cedar Waxwing: juv with bright orange tail tip in flock of 60 Saranac L 8 Sep 1973 (RH), details forwarded to Kenneth C. Parkes at Carnegie Museum of Natural History; see also "Probable Dietary Basis of a Color Variant of the Cedar Waxwing," by Hudson and Brush in *J. Field Ornith.* Summer 1989.

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## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

KENNETH P. ABLE

Remember the drought during the summer of 1988 and the mounting concern as the dry spring of 1989 gave way to summer? All of that became a faded memory, washed away by the rains of June and July. In Albany, May was the first wetter than normal month since November, 1988 (with rainfall 2.61 inches above normal). The trend accelerated in June when 6.52 inches of rain was recorded, most of it in the first half of the month (3.23 inches above the monthly normal), and continued in July (5.91 inches, 2.91 inches above normal). August rainfall was about normal, so by the end of the period the departure from normal for the year was +5.14 inches. Temperatures in June averaged slightly warmer than normal; July and August averages were near the long-term normals.

The persistent and heavy rains in early June came just at the beginning of nesting activities for many species. Its effects went largely undocumented, but there were substantial nest losses among grassland species such as Savannah Sparrow and Bobolink. For the latter species, which has a very short breeding season, these failures may have had a significant impact on reproductive success.

The reports received contained rather little information on actual breeding of birds within the Region. Encouraging were records of a number of grassland species that are steadily becoming rarer as their habitat is consumed by five-acre housing lots. I suspect that the reports do not trumpet good news for the species concerned, just more observer notice as they become scarcer. As Osprey and Double-crested Cormorant become more common, out of season reports are increasing. A better than usual influx of southern herons was noted and near the end of the period a substantial flight of Red-breasted Nuthatch began. Cedar Waxwing must have enjoyed a very successful breeding season as several observers noted exceptionally large numbers in August.

Near Albany, quick work by some DEC employees saved a Bank Swallow colony. The building contractor agreed to work around the birds, which fledged about 100 young. The contractor suffered no loss of work time or money, so the outcome was satisfactory for all concerned.

Basic Creek Reservoir, Albany Co, was drawn down during August, with water levels lowering and shorebird habitat increasing into the fall period. As a result, a number of species were reported that are locally rare simply because suitable habitat usually doesn't exist in the Region. Many more records will appear in the fall report.

The most notable reports during the period were the re-establishment of **Peregrine Falcon** as a Regional nesting species, the first confirmed Regional breeding by **Cape May Warbler**, one or two **Sedge Wren**, and a male **Prothonotary Warbler**. The Cape May Warbler apparently represents the first documented breeding outside the Adirondacks, and the Sedge Wren has not been seen in the Region for several years. It was in a former breeding locality,



but its nesting status was not determined.

There has been a hiatus in *Kingbird* reports from Region 8, and the number of records sent to me was not great. If you have observations that should be here, we want them and urge you to join the reporting network.

Contributors: Kenneth P. Able, Linda Armstrong, Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Barbara Butler, Thomas Cobb, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, A. Desard, Bill Graham, Richard P. Guthrie, Ron Harrower, Alan Mapes, Andrew Mason, Tom Palmer, Ray Perry, Barbara Putnam, Jim Sotis, Rob Taylor, Scott B. Terrill, Dennis Waite, Linda White, Sheryl Zink.

Abbreviations: BCR - Basic Creek Res, ALBA, SaraBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park; SaraL - Saratoga Lake.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: last Thompson's L ALBA 1 Jun (KPA); three Thirteenth L WARR all period, breeding not noted (BB, KPA). Pied-billed Grebe: present BCR all period and probably nesting (KPA) and Stony Creek Res SARA (SBT); one Schodack Landing 25 Jun (PC). Double-crested Cormorant: reported from five localities, including 15 Hudson R at Catskill (BC). Least Bittern: downy y Carter L WASH 27 Jul (JS); one Black Creek Marsh ALBA 20 Jul (RT); rare. Great Egret: ten reports during Aug. **Little Blue Heron**: Castleton COLU after 10 Aug (PC); New Baltimore 25 Aug (RPG); uncommon. Snowy Egret: four reports in Aug, uncommon. Black-crowned Night-Heron: two reports, rare. Hooded Merganser: one Pine Swamp, Nassau 27 Aug (PC), rare breeder. Com. Merganser: 11 Schoharie 9 Jul, large number (AM), breeds locally.

HAWK-ALCIDS: Osprey: Knox 25 Jun (KPA), Pine Swamp, Nassau 19 Aug (PC), Carter L WASH 28 Aug (JS), unusual dates. Bald Eagle: seven reports. N. Harrier: bred Knox (KPA); present all period near Minaville (TP); four other reports. Cooper's Hawk: nest Black Head Mt GREE 1 Jun (AD). N. Goshawk: Pine Swamp, Nassau 19 Aug (PC), uncommon recently. Red-shouldered Hawk: nested near SaraBNHP, two young fledged (LW); Cherry Plain RENS 18 Jun, 29 Jul (PC). Merlin: one Gallupville 21 Aug (BB,KB), early. **Peregrine Falcon**: fledged two y Whitehall WASH at same site where one y fledged last summer. Lesser Golden-Plover: six Coxsackie 26 Aug (RPG); one BCR 30 Aug (KPA); uncommon locally. Semipalmated Plover: 25 BCR 30 Aug (KPA), large number. Upland Sandpiper: two Knox all Jun (KPA), several all period Minaville (BB,KB); single reports SaraBNHP (BB,KB), Fonda; locally rare. Ruddy Turnstone: one New Baltimore 13 Aug (RPG), locally rare. Bonaparte's Gull: three SaraL 30 Jul (SBT), two Hudson R in GREE 22,26 Aug (BC,RPG), early. Black Tern: one Sikule Pd, Medusa 8 Jul (BB,KB), odd date; not known to breed.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Both cuckoos noted as numerous. Com. Nighthawk: large migrations 28-30 Aug (mob). Red-headed Woodpecker: pair all period Minaville (TP,BB,KB); pair Knox 14 Jul (BB,KB); rare breeder.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: bred Knox (KPA); several SCHE Airport 2 Jun (BB,KB). Fish Crow: nesting Saratoga Spa SP; continue to expand northward. Com. Raven: nest Black Head Mt GREE (AD); all period, probably nesting Thacher SP; probable family group of five S Horicon WARR 8 Jul (RPG). Red-breasted Nuthatch: *intro*. Carolina Wren: Berne after 24 Jun (KPA), high elevation locality. **Sedge Wren**: one or two Black Cr Marsh 16 Jul, 20 Aug (BB,KB); *intro*. E. Bluebird: good breeding success (LA,TC,TP). Cedar Waxwing: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: Lawrence's type hybrids near Voorheesville (RT) and Red Rock COLU 1 Aug (spm; BC). Tennessee Warbler: arr Albany 25 Jul (KPA), Loudonville 31 Jul (SBT), early fall migrants. **Cape May Warbler**: male feeding fledgling in mature spruce plantation Cole Hill SF ALBA 7 Jul (KPA). Blackpoll Warbler: arr, Cherry Plain RENS 29 Jul (PC), early. **Prothonotary Warbler**: singing male near Whitehall 7 Jun (BG,RH,BP). Mourning Warbler: singing male Berne 5-24 Jun (KPA); not known breeding locality.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: several FY SaraBNHP 17 Jul (BB,KB); one Five Rivers 25 Jun (AM); rare breeder. Henslow's Sparrow: breeding in Knox (KPA), Meadowdale ALBA (KPA), SaraBNHP (LW,SZ), several pair each site. White-throated Sparrow: singing male all period Chatham (KPA); road kill Glenco Mills COLU 8 Jul (BC); outside usual breeding range. Orchard Oriole: three to four Schodack Landing 4, 16 Jul (PC); uncommon breeding species. Evening Grosbeak: four reports in Jul, more than during past winter!

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## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

KENNETH P. ABLE

What follows is an abbreviated report covering the spring 1989 migration season. March was slightly cooler than normal and the dry conditions which we experienced during the winter persisted. Snowfall by the end of the season was over 46 inches below average, and in March and April, rainfall also was below normal. In Albany, May was the first month since November, 1988, that was wetter than normal (2.61 inches above average with 5.92 inches of rain). April was cooler than normal, May was warmer.

The beginning of migration seemed to be normal, with most species arriving on schedule. In late April and the very beginning of May there were a number of reports of species arriving on extremely early dates (some of those reports follow, but others were submitted without details or observers' names had to be omitted). In early to mid May things became stalled and erratic. Some species arrived on time or even early, but others were substantially delayed. For example, although the first Least Flycatchers arrived at the very beginning of May, as expected, breeding numbers were not in place until the middle of the month. On 19 May, the dam burst and with a great rush of both early and late migrants, things were back on schedule by 20 May. In most years, for example, loons are gone by mid May, but this year a huge movement must have taken place on 20 May.

Contributors: Kenneth P. Able, Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Margo Burrell, Paul Connor, William Cook, Sophia Dinati, Richard P. Guthrie, Rebecca Holberton, Alan Mapes, Kevin McGrath, Laura Meade, Elton Rising, Rob Taylor, Linda Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Chris O'Toole, Barbara Putnam, Jim Sotis.

Abbreviations: BICrM - Black Cr Marsh, T Guilderland, ALBA; CGCC - Columbia-Greene Community College; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; SaraL - Saratoga Lake.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Alcove 20 May, only report (KPA,RLH,SBT). Com. Loon: 48 migrants 20 May, late (KPA, RLH, SBT). Pied-billed Grebe: three Alcove 19 Mar (BB,KB). Least Bittern: one Chrysler Pd COLU 13 May (WC); one Carter L, Cambridge (JS). Great Egret: one Athens 18 May (KPA,RLH,SBT). Snowy Egret: one Catskill 18 May (SBT,KPA,RLH). Green-backed Heron: arr Berne 29 Apr (KPA). Black-crowned Night-Heron: two Berne 20 May (KPA,SBT,RLH). Green-winged Teal: one Eurasian race Vosburgh Marsh GREE 8 Apr (WC, RPG). Eurasian Wigeon: male Ft Edward 19 Apr (RH,PS,mob). Oldsquaw: one Round L 19 May (SBT), late.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Thacher Pk 16 Mar (BB,KB). Bald Eagle: 20

reported. N. Goshawk: three reports, scarce. Broad-winged Hawk: arr Sikule Pd ALBA 22 Mar (BB, KB), early. Merlin: Delmar 28 Apr, Gallupville 13 May (BB, KB). Ring-necked Pheasant: singles Livingston 4 Mar (spm CGCC, WC), Stuyvesant 13 May (PC), L Taghkanic 27 May (WC), nearly extirpated. Upland Sandpiper: one Cambridge 9 Apr (JS), early. Dunlin: one SaraL 27 May (BB,KB). Little Gull: ad Round L 7 May (SBT,LT), first Regional record. Com. Tern: 18 Round L 2 May (SBT), large number.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Com. Barn-Owl: one BICrM 20 May (KPA,SBT,RLH), only report. Long-eared Owl: one Troy 14 Mar (fide KM). Chimney Swift: arr Bell's Pd COLU 19 Apr (WC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Berne 7 May (KPA).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Least Flycatcher: arr Hannacroix 30 Apr (WC). Fish Crow: continues to increase. Com. Raven: Thacher Pk through period; three performing acrobatics Cherry Plain 4 Mar (PC). Marsh Wren: arr Castleton 27 Apr (PC). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Castleton 28 Apr (PC). Veery: one Hague 25 Apr (LM), very early. Wood Thrush: arr Schodack Ctr 30 Apr (PC). Gray Catbird: one Nassau 2 Apr, may have overwintered (PC).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Bear Swamp ALBA 30 Apr (BB,KB), early. Red-eyed Vireo: one Hague 9 May (LM), early. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: Brewster's type Gallupville 5, 15 May (BB,KB), Lawrence's type Voorheesville 25 May (RT). Nashville Warbler: arr Albany 2 May (KPA,RLH). Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Hague 21 Apr (LM), early; male Berne 1 May (KPA). Pine Warbler: arr Gansvoort 8 Apr (BP). Black-and-white Warbler: arr Cambridge 27 Apr (KPA). Am. Redstart: arr female Wilton 6 May (BP). Prothonotary Warbler: males SaraL 25 May (RPG), Whitehall 28 May (BP). Louisiana Waterthrush: one FiveR 14 Apr (BB,KB), early. Wilson's Warbler: one Vischer Ferry 7 May (BB,KB), early.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: male Livingston 2 May (WC), early. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one Amsterdam 28 Apr (SD), early. Indigo Bunting: arr Gallupville 5 May (BB,KB), early. Am. Tree Sparrow: last Gallupville 18 Apr (BB,KB). Fox Sparrow: lingered Berne until 30 Apr (KPA). Orchard Oriole: ad male at feeder Berne 2 May (KPA), early, unusual locality; pair on breeding site Meadowdale for at least third year. N. Oriole: arr Albany 5 May (CO). Com. Redpoll: one Hague 6 Mar (LM) only report. Evening Grosbeak: five reports, max 15 Hague through Mar, last 27 May (ER).

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## REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

### HELEN C. MANSON

After a very dry winter and early spring it was a relief to have the rains come, and come they did. The soggy May and June brought woe to the farmers in the Hudson Valley. It was nearly impossible to get in the crops and cut the early hay. However, it made for a lush growing season for wild plants. Even though some of the marsh birds faced loss of reproduction due to flooding, most birds produced two or three broods. The abundance of insects and worms as well as seeds and other food sources helped to feed the growing families. In the southern part of the Region there was considerable Gypsy Moth damage that

kept breeding bird populations down in that area. Late summer brought in clear cool dry days, helping the fruit and seeds to ripen and mature. The fruit, berry and seed crop is especially abundant as summer winds down. There appears to be an abundance of winter food, viburnum, dogwood, bittersweet, poison ivy; wild apple as well as weed seeds are in good supply. This plus the many well stocked feeders should see the hardy and half-hardy birds through the winter with little difficulty.

The puddle in the cornfield at the McEnroe farm in Amenia hosted some good shorebirds. Humpo Marsh in Ulster County continues to support several Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Am. Black Duck and Mallard; Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat nest around the edges and in the surrounding fields are Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and Field and Savannah Sparrow. Eastern Bluebird continues on the upswing as more and more houses are put up, although some are using natural cavities and old woodpecker holes. The Bluebird Trail in Dutchess County fledged a banner crop of over 700 young. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** arrived 3 Aug at a feeder in Pleasant Valley with a flock of Common Grackles but stayed only one day. An immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen 21-22 Aug in Dover Plains. Mixed flocks of swallows noted in many areas in late Aug. In mid August Constitution Marsh was filled to overflowing with a hundred thousand swallows. They surged over the marsh just at dusk, brushing the tops of the cattails with their wings, then disappeared into the night.

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Abbreviations: BLM - Balsam Lake Mountain; EMBC - Edgar Mearns Bird Club, WBC - Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: two DUTC 9 Jun, one 15 Jul. Double-crested Cormorant: one Norrie Pt 16 Jul, six Conn's Hook 6 Aug (ET). Am. Bittern: one 12 Jun Constitution Marsh (FB). Least Bittern: largely missed, one Chodikee L 17 Jun (EW). Great Blue Heron: abundant in most areas. Great Egret: seven reports from central DUTC Aug. Snowy Egret: one 29-30 Aug New Hamburg (PB), ad Conn's Hook 8 Aug, two Cornwall Bay 18 Aug (ET). Green-backed Heron: two Humpo Marsh (SS), good reports DUTC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: imm Cornwall Bay 18 Aug. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Glossy Ibis: one Castleton Farm, Goshen 29 Jul (BV). Wood Duck: 18 Stissing 29 Aug, these ducks had a good year and are moving into ponds and marshes. Am. Black Duck: pair with seven young, female with eight young DUTC early Jun; good reports all season. Blue-winged Teal: two Beaver Dam 7 Jul.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 23 n DUTC 19 Jun. Bald Eagle: imm Toronto Res 19 Jun (AJ). Osprey: one-two DUTC all period. N. Harrier: singles DUTC 2 Aug, 28 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one flying over Doodletown 29 Jun (ET), one 25 Aug (BM). Cooper's Hawk: nesting Wappingers Falls area. Broad-winged Hawk: few DUTC, one 25 Jun ULST. Am. Kestrel: well reported in Jun, fewer Jul and Aug. Ruffed Grouse: reports of families with y, always good to see. Wild Turkey: continues to increase. N. Bobwhite: reported from Pawling area only. Virginia Rail: one Dover Plains 8 Jun. Sora: one Stissing 11-15 Aug. Com. Moorhen: none reported. Semipalmated Plover: max nine Amenia 1 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: one-two all period Amenia. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Amenia. Solitary Sandpiper: three Amenia 1 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: observed with y DUTC. Upland Sandpiper: one Blue Chip Farm 17 Jun (SS). Least Sandpiper: max eight Amenia 1 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: one 4 Jul Amenia. Am Woodcock: three reports DUTC. Wilson's Phalarope: one Amenia 1 Jun. Laughing Gull: first birds to wander up the Hudson R after breeding season two ad on pilings below Conn's Hook 1 Aug, two imm one ad 6 Aug (ET). Bonaparte's Gull: ad in Prebasic molt same location 6 Aug (ET).

PIGEON-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: nesting Pleasant Val, very well reported DUTC. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: well reported Jun and Jul, one 8 Aug (BB). E. Screech-Owl: heard by many, seen by few. Great Horned Owl: regularly few areas DUTC. Barred Owl: one 1-2 Jun, one Poughkeepsie area 5 Jun, one 20 Jun Wappingers, heard in Jul. Com. Nighthawk: 52 SULL 28 May (AJ), one Pleasant Valley 20 Aug (MVW), only Aug report. Whip-poor-will: heard Verbank and Stissing through Jun, nightly SULL (AJ). Chimney Swift: plentiful, especially in Aug as they gather to depart. Ruby throated Hummingbird: still feeding end of Aug, many at feeders, no nests noted. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one BLM 1 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Canoe Hill 25 Aug (MVW). Acadian Flycatcher: breeding usual places e DUTC. E. Kingbird: max 25 Hopewell Junction 18 Aug, departed soon after. Purple Martin: few breeding colonies DUTC. Cliff Swallow: several colonies around Res ULST, SULL. Com. Raven: few noted in ULST and SULL. Red-breasted Nuthatch: returned in good numbers late Aug. Winter Wren: observed with y Thompson Pd 25 Aug (PB), also bred Deep Hollow. Marsh Wren: six 8 Jun in large marsh Dover Plains, also noted in Millbrook Marsh and Cruger Island. E. Bluebird: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush: found at BLM 8 Jul. Hermit Thrush: found BLM, Camby Rd, and Stissing Mt. Wood Thrush: fairly abundant, many with y.

VIREO-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Vassar Farm Jun and Jul, one Amenia 8 Jun. Solitary Vireo: nesting Mack Rd. (BB). Philadelphia Vireo: one 27 Aug, well observed (MVW). Blue-winged Warbler: nesting throughout region. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: Lawrence's type Dover Plains 11 Jun. Nashville Warbler: arr 17 Aug (BM). N. Parula: ad 29 Jun Doodletown (ET). Black-throated Blue Warbler: BLM 1 Jul, one Stissing Mt 25 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Mack Rd 25 Jun, one BLM 1 Jul, daily SULL (AJ). Blackburnian Warbler: one Canoe Hill 25 Aug. Pine Warbler: daily Eldred, SULL (AJ). Blackpoll Warbler: one 1 Jul BLM. Cerulean Warbler: one ad, one imm Doodletown (ET). Worm-eating Warbler: one 15 Aug (HM), one 16 Aug (PB). Hooded Warbler: ad with four imm Doodletown, Bear Mt 26 Jul (ET), one Chodikee L 17 Jun (EW). Wilson's Warbler: arr 20 Aug MVW. Canada Warbler: one BLM 1 Jul, one 15 Aug (HM), one 20 Aug (EP).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: three in Prebasic molt in birdbath 27 Aug (JMK). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: eating Jewelweed seeds late Aug. Vesper Sparrow: one perched and singing n DUTC 19 Jun (HM, BB), several Jul WBC; always seems scarce. Savannah Sparrow: few in most grassy areas. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Woodstock Rd 8 Jul (MVW), one Blue Chip Farm 17 Jun (SS). Henslow's Sparrow: no reports. Dark-eyed Junco: juv with streaked breast Thompson Pd 24 Jun, first report of breeding there. Bobolink: late mowing may have helped them this year, ten 10 Aug, some imm (BB). E. Meadowlark: well concealed nest with eggs Galesville 17 Jun (SS). **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: *intro*. N Oriole: some still vocalizing late Aug as they fed in wild cherry trees. Purple Finch: few Jun and Aug., one BLM. Evening Grosbeak: one BLM 8 Jul (EMBC)

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## REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

Temperatures for the reporting period were about normal with only three short spells of above 90° weather during the entire three months. Rainfall followed the pattern of the last season. A large high pressure center in the mid-Atlantic ocean caused a stream of ocean moisture to flow clockwise around the high into the Middle Atlantic states where it joined a stream of Gulf of Mexico moisture flowing counterclockwise around a large low pressure trough in the lower Mississippi Valley. This resulted in too much moisture in one place, and an unusual amount of rain. The pattern, which has been with us since April, has already produced a full year's rainfall with four months of the year yet to come. But statistics alone do not tell the whole story. Although the New York City rainfall showed 22.36 inches for the period against a norm of 11.03 inches, the center of Long Island 50 miles to the east had almost half again as much rain, just as in the previous season. Also, it wasn't how many days it rained, but how much came down each time. This weather had special significance for birding.

Because of the rain, the best action this summer was shorebirding. Jones Beach West End had an unprecedented display of shorebirds: numerous individuals, many species, some rarities, all easy to see, and a very short walk from the parking lot. This started in midsummer and continued through the period. A combination of beach topography and the overabundant rainfall caused the water to collect in a low sandy area between the first and second line of ocean beach dunes. This area usually floods and is scoured by full moon or storm high tides and then quickly drains off. This season it quickly filled with rain water. For most of the period from mid July through the end of August there was always water and extensive wet flats. The wet areas which normally persist are in the marshes behind. These marshes are flooded by the tides or catch the infrequent summer rains. In past seasons this back area often has been dry but sometimes contained wet mud flats with good shore birding. This season the back area was a lake with vegetation growing out of it. The combination was unique and its equal had not been seen in Manny Levine's 40 years of birding at Jones Beach. In all 27 species of shorebirds were seen in the above mentioned pools. Single day highs for shorebirds included 25 White-rumped Sandpiper, six Baird's Sandpiper, 25 Pectoral Sandpiper, 25 Stilt Sandpiper, two Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a Ruff and 11 Wilson's Phalarope. Days with 20 species were not uncommon. The West End produced all the shorebirds seen in Region 10 this season except for Hudsonian Godwit and American Avocet. The shore birding was probably the best ever in recent times at this location. Similar conditions and birding existed at Cedar Overlook Beach to the east. Arthur Morris and Dave Mizrahi reported on shorebirds at Jamaica Bay Wild-life Refuge. The average daily total 20-31 July was 4482 birds, more than double the 8-year average. Large numbers of adults arrived a week early. The daily average total for August was 17% above the 8-year average. There were good showings of juvenile Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers in late August and record numbers in early September.

A Queens County Bird Club trip to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on 22 Aug reported nine species of waders. This location and time is the best and

easiest way to see all the species which breed in the Region in one day. Paul Gillen reported on shorebirds on the sod farm east of Doctor's Path in Riverhead. On 31 Aug there were 34 Lesser Golden-Plover, 1 Upland Sandpiper, 2 Pectoral Sandpiper and 4 Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

Four reports of pelagic trips were reported. The first, to 25 miles s of Fire Island Inlet on 24 Jun, produced Cory's, Greater and Manx Shearwater and Black Tern; the second, to 50 miles s on 3 Jul, yielded Sooty Shearwater, skua species and jaeger species; the third, s of Montauk Pt on 19 Jul, listed seven Cory's, five Greater and one Manx Shearwater, eight unidentified shearwaters, ten Wilson's Storm-Petrel; and on the fourth, to 28 miles south-east Montauk Pt on 9 Aug, no tube-noses were seen.

Both Osprey nests in Nassau Co. reported last year were used again this year. There was also considerable interest in one of the nesting platforms at Jamaica Bay but no attempt at nesting. Peregrine Falcons continue to nest in our area on the Throgs Neck and Verrazano Bridges and on two Manhattan buildings. Three of the nests produced seven young. Hugh McGuinness reports that the efforts to protect Piping Plover and Least Tern on eastern Long Island seems to be having a positive effect. Both species were reported to be in greater numbers than in previous years. The Regional Editors found similar conditions in the Jones Beach area. Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl were again reported at Muttontown and Welwyn Preserves where both species are probably breeding. Jean Bourque reported nestings at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn. Successes included Canada Goose (first time), American Oystercatcher (three nests, the first two flooded out), Com. Barn-Owl, Horned Lark, Savannah Sparrow (first time) and Grasshopper Sparrow. Willet and Northern Harrier were unsuccessful. The number of nests in past years at this location for Eastern Meadowlark (EM) and Grasshopper Sparrow (GS) are:

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
EM	5	9	5	7	7	6	4	2	0
GS	13	16	18	12	13	12	12	5	4

There were no Meadowlark nests this summer and numbers of Grasshopper Sparrow have been drastically reduced since 1988.

Just as summer birds linger during the winter, wintering gulls again summered this year on Long Island. The Jones Beach area had as many as five Bonaparte's Gull, Staten Island had three (HFF), Cedar Beach 10-15 plus two Little Gull (Ken Feustel). There was a Common Black-headed Gull at Georgica Pond on 3 Aug.

The Fall small bird migration started mostly to the west. Warblers and flycatchers were moving in numbers at Staten Island and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary in the last week of Aug. Farther east on the South Shore, the Fall flight hadn't started. Again there were **Brown Pelican** in the New York area, although fewer than last year. Reports are from 4 Jun to 1 Aug.

At this point we would like to note that the Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy recently honored the Town of Hempstead for "its ongoing protection of 22 nesting colonies of endangered water birds".

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Mizrahi, Arthur Morris, Drew Panko, Robert O. Paxton, Herbert H. Roth, Carl Safina, Eric Salzman, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: CB - Cedar Beach, LI; CGS - Coast Guard Station, Jones Beach West End; CM - Cow Meadow Preserve, Freeport; FI - Fire Island; GKP - Great Kills Park, Staten Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch - Jones Beach; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; MeB - Mecox Bay; MN - Mill Neck; MutP - Muttontown Preserve; PBP - Pelham Bay Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: five-six in Basic plumage ShIn Jun and Jul. Com. Loon: two summered CGS, three-six in Alternate plumage ShIn Jun and Jul; increasing in the summer, is acid rain keeping these birds from their normal breeding lakes?. Cory's Shearwater: *intro*. Greater Shearwater: *intro*. Sooty Shearwater: *intro*. Manx Shearwater: *intro*. Wilson's Storm-Petrel: *intro*. **Am. White Pelican**: one flying over Queens end of Throgs Neck Bridge 3 Jul (John and Ellen Caspers). **Brown Pelican**: one off ShIn 4 Jun, 12 off Long Beach 6 Jul, six JBWE 16 Jul (SS, AW), five on a sand bar FI Inlet 30 Jul (PM). Least Bittern: two Lower Carmen R 22 Jul (BA), one CM 24 Jul (SDy), one Jun and Jul JBWR. Cattle Egret: one JBch 2 Aug (SDk, LJS), many at JBWR during the summer. Wood Duck: ad with six y MutP 10 Jul (AL). Com. Merganser: one Aspatuck Creek, Westhampton 16-18 Jun, "out of time and place" (ES).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Riverhead 12 Jun (BA). Osprey: *intro*. **Mississippi Kite**: PBP 27 Aug (R. DiCandido). N. Harrier: eight along the JBch strip e of Tobay 19 Jun (SW). Broad-winged Hawk: one Welwyn Preserve 10 Jul, one MutP 12 Jul, two MutP 24 Jul. Red-tailed Hawk: MutP 25 Jul (AL). Black Rail: Oak Beach vicinity early Jun (AJL). Lesser Golden-Plover: *intro*. Killdeer: 75+ Hempstead Harbor 16 Aug (Jeanette Doran). **Am. Oystercatcher**: GKP 23 and 29 Aug (HFF). **Am. Avocet**: one CM 10 Aug (SDy). Upland Sandpiper: seven Republic Airport, Farmingdale 12 Aug (SW), *intro*. Hudsonian Godwit: up to four JBWR after 30 Jul. Red Knot: 500+ GKP 12 Aug (HFF). Pectoral Sandpiper: 56 Bay County P 25 Aug (SW), *intro*. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: *intro*. Ruff: one in partial breeding plumage JBWE 15 Jul (DM), Reeve CM 22 Jul (EL). Wilson's Phalarope: one JBWR 30 Jul, 11 JBWE 25 Aug (EL,AW) exceptional max, one rain pool Cutchogue 15 Aug. **Franklin's Gull**: subad MeB 9 Jul (Eric Salzman!) compared to Bonaparte's and other gulls. Little Gull: *intro*. Com. Black-headed Gull: *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: 1000+ ShIn Aug ("I'm not sure this is a good thing"-HMcG). Gull-billed Tern: two in the tern colony at JBWE early in the season, no evidence of nesting (CS, SS, AW). Caspian Tern: two MeB 10 Jun, one MeB 1-4 Jul. Royal Tern: one JBch 1 and 4 Jul, 42 vicinity of Robin's I, Great Peconic Bay 22 Aug (PG). Roseate Tern: one pair nested at the e end Robin's I tern colony, 27 pair at CB (CS). Com. Tern: 2400 pair at JBWE, 5000 pair at CB (CS). Forster's Tern: a few JBWR after late Jul, 30 Georgia Pd 30 Aug (HMcG). Black Tern: two JBch 10 Jun, one JBWR 20 Jul (AM), one JBWR 22 Aug (SDk,LJS), one Great Peconic Bay 22 Aug (PG), one JBWE 23 Aug (AW), five CB 25 Aug (KF). Black Skimmer: 337 pair JBWE, 105 pair CB (CS). PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 500+ St Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale 12 Aug (SW). E. Screech-Owl: *intro*. Great Horned Owl: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: one Connetquot R SP 1 Jul (PM). Red-bellied Woodpecker: imm begging food from ad SUFF (BA). FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Alder Flycatcher: singing MutP 12 Jun. E. Kingbird: 400+ JBWE 23 Aug (AW). Bank Swallow: colony at Caumsett SP. VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: singing MN 7 Jun (RC). Warbling Vireo: MN 7 Jun (RC). Worm-eating Warbler: Garvies Pt Preserve 10 Aug (Don Thompson). Hooded Warbler: singing Garvies Pt Preserve 15 Jun (RC).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Savannah Sparrow: *intro*. Grasshopper Sparrow: *intro*. E. Meadowlark: *intro*. Boat-tailed Grackle: GKP 21 Jul (HFF) as well as the colony at JBWR. Orchard Oriole: MN 7 Jun (RC).

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