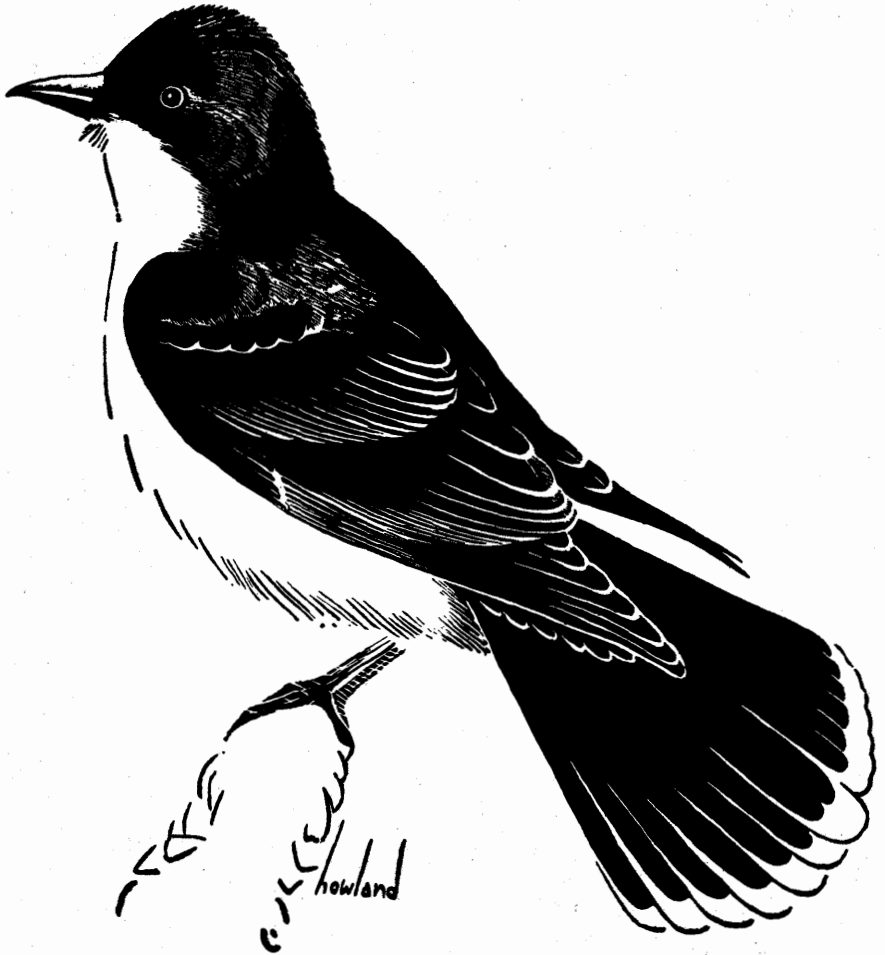


# The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. 40, NO. 4

FALL • 1990

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

*THE KINGBIRD* (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall), is a publication of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas.

Individual member's dues are \$18.00 annually (\$15.00 if paid before 31 January), on a calendar year basis only, of which \$10.00 is for *THE KINGBIRD* publication. Other membership classes are: Family (\$20.00), Supporting (\$25.00), Life (\$300.00 single, \$400.00 husband and wife payable in four equal annual installments if member so desires), Student (\$10.00). Applicants for Annual or Family Membership applying in the second half of the year may reduce payment by one-half.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP should be sent to the chairwoman of the Membership Committee: Myrna Hemmerick, P.O. Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11733.

INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *THE KINGBIRD* are \$18.00 per year on a calendar year basis only. Send orders to: Berna Weissman, Circulation Manager, P.O. Box 165, Armonk, NY 10504.

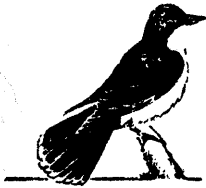
Send CHANGES OF ADDRESS, or orders for SINGLE COPIES, BACK NUMBERS, or REPLACEMENT COPIES (\$5.00 each) to: Berna Weissman, Circulation Manager, P.O. Box 165, Armonk, NY 10504.

All amounts stated above are payable in U.S. funds only.

Magazines not delivered through failure to send change of address six weeks in advance will be replaced on request at \$5.00 each.

© 1988 Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.  
All rights reserved.

**Postmaster: send address changes to: *THE KINGBIRD*, P. O. BOX 165, ARMONK, NY 10504-0165**



# The KINGBIRD

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

Vol. 40 No. 4

Fall 1990

208-279

## CONTENTS

Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee 1988.....	209
New York State Waterfowl Count, January 1990 Walton B. Sabin	213
Eastern Records of <i>Falco columbarius suckleyi</i> Peter Capainolo and Jay Pitocchelli	221
A Record Late Bald Eagle Nesting.....William Watson	226
White-winged Crossbill Breeding in Chenango- Cortland-Madison Counties 1989-90.....David Messineo	230
NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS	
Nest of Pine Siskin Found in Erie County.....Mark Gretch	232
Sandhill Crane Summers in Chemung County Richard Clements	233
Red-winged Blackbird Attacks Spotted Sandpiper William Watson	234
Highlights of the Summer Season.....Manny Levine	236
Regional Reports .....	240

Editor - Paul A. DeBenedictis

Highlights of the Season

Editor - Robert Spahn

Circulation Manager - Berna B. Weissman

*I must report with sadness the passing  
during November of the Federation's  
Historian and past President,  
Dr. Gordon M. Meade, and of the  
New York State Avian Records  
Committee's Secretary,  
Mr. Richard G. Evans.  
In behalf of the Federation, I extend  
condolences to both of their families.*

The Editor

## REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE 1988

Since the 1987 report the NYSARC has lost two valued members, 'Fritz' G. Scheider and Steven C. Sibley. Kenneth P. Able and Thomas W. Burke have been appointed to fill their places. Only 15 reports were received in 1988, a large decrease compared to the 45 received in 1987. If you observe a species that is on the list of reportable species, or a species new to New York (for a list see *The Kingbird* 38:227-228; 1988 and 39:142-156; 1989), please prepare an account of your observation and send your report to:

Secretary, NYSARC  
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

This summary covers 18 reports representing 15 separate records from 1988, two from 1987, and one from 1986.

### 1988 Accepted Reports

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). 1988-2-A eight adults and six juveniles at West Inlet Island, Moriches Bay, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., 13 July (MW). The color slide submitted shows ten of the 14 birds reported. This is the largest number of Brown Pelican ever recorded at one time in New York.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (*Nyctanassa violacea*). 1988-3-A adult at Nine Mile Point, Town of Scriba, Oswego Co., 8 April (GM, JS, TB).

**Yellow Rail** (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). 1988-8-A one at Fire Island, Suffolk Co., 13 October (DM).

**King Rail** (*Rallus elegans*). 1988-9-A one at Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, Town of Newstead, Erie Co., 19 July (GR). This species was recently added to the list of species to be reported owing to the paucity of reports in the last decade.

**Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*). 1988-10-A two in a field at Oak

Orchard Wildlife Management Area, Town of Alabama, 21 December (GR). This is one of very few winter occurrences of a Sandhill Crane in New York.

**Northern Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). 1988-12-A one at Rye, Westchester Co., 7 May (LB).

**Townsend's Warbler** (*Dendroica townsendi*). 1988-13-A adult male at Forest Park, Queens Co., 14 May (SW).

**Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Dendroica dominica*). 1988-14-A adult constructing nest at Science Lake, Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus Co., 12 June (GR). This is one of the two known nesting sites of this species in New York.

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*). 1988-15-A one on Butts Hollow Road, Town of Washington, Dutchess Co., 14 May (BB).

#### 1988 Report, Identity Accepted, Origin Questionable

**Ruddy Shelduck** (*Tadorna ferruginea*). 1988-4-A,B one at Monty Bay, Lake Champlain, Town of Chazy, Clinton Co., 18 December (RH, TM).

#### 1988 Reports Not Accepted

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). 1988-1-A four on Pepacton Reservoir, Town of Andes, Delaware Co., 1 May.

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). 1988-5-A one over Forest Park, Queens Co., 24 May.

**Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*). 1988-6-A one at the Pelham Bay Hawk Watch, Bronx Co., 24 September.

**"Western" Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis calurus*). 1988-7-A one at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Town of Shelby, Orleans Co., 24 December.

**Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird**. 1988-11-A one at Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 21 July (SS). After consultation with persons who have had

considerable laboratory and field experience with Rufous (*S. rufus*) and Allen's (*S. sasin*) Hummingbirds, it is thought best to accept this report only as *Selasphorus* species, as was the case for a previous New York report (*Kingbird* 31:210; 1981). The bird was coming to a feeder but spent most of the time perched on dead twigs in the lower canopy of a nearby woods and searching for insects along the trunks and leaves of trees.

### 1987 Accepted Report

**Ovenbird** (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). 1987-4 -A one at Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 7 December (SS). There are several prior late dates and winter sight records from both upstate and downstate New York.

### 1987 Report Not Accepted

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). 1987-36-A four near Manitou Road and Ontario Parkway, Monroe Co., 8 November. This report was previously accepted by our Committee (*Kingbird* 38:229; 1988). However, the NYSARC has changed its decision based on careful review of the details and new information received.

### 1986 Report Not Accepted

**Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). 1985-38-E one at Summerville Pier, Rochester, Monroe Co., 1 February 1986. (Note that this report, though from 1986, was inadvertently given a 1985 code number). This report was previously accepted (*Kingbird* 38: 233; 1988). However, the Committee has changed its decision based on further research, a careful reevaluation of the report, and new information received.

No additions were made in 1988 to the New York State List, which stands at 435 species.

*New York State Avian Records Committee*

Kenneth P. Able

Robert F. Andrle (Chairman)

Thomas W. Burke

Robert O. Paxton

Barbara J. Spencer

OBSERVERS SUBMITTING RECORDS CITED IN THIS REPORT: Tanya Bertram, Lysle R. Brinker, Barbara Butler, William C. D'Anna, Robert K. Hagar, John H. Kitchen, Theodore Mack, George R. Maxwell, David Mizrahi, Mike Porter, Gerald R. Rising, Jon Schneider, Steven C. Sibley, Don and Donna Traver, Murray C. Wade, Steven Walter.



## NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1990

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held the 1990 winter Waterfowl Count from 13 through 21 Jan, with 14 Jan as the target date. All Regions completed their counts within the established dates. Weather during the count period was nearly normal following about the coldest December on record. Some bodies of water were open but many were not. One or two Regional compilers indicated that a few areas were not covered but thought their counts were not significantly affected by these misses.

The grand total count of 316,594 (Table 1) was up a substantial 15.9% over 1989, and a huge 42.2% above the seventeen year (1973-1989) average of 222,548. Five of the seven species showing downward trends last year have reversed themselves. However, four species that showed upward trends last year unfortunately are in a downward slide this year. Some of the more disconcerting declines showed up in Atlantic Brant, Canvasback, Oldsquaw and Ruddy Duck. It was nice to record increases for Redhead, goldeneye, Bufflehead and Red-breasted Merganser. Canada Goose continues to increase, supposedly because fewer numbers are migrating to states south of New York. Region 2 reported three "Richardson's" race of the Canada Goose and Region 3 reported an Eared Grebe!

Comparing 1990 to 1989 count figures (Table 2), the commoner species again showed a 9-6 split in favor of increases although some different species changed as compared 1989. When comparing 1990 count figures with the 1973-1989 seventeen year average (Table 3), we find a 7-6 split, again in favor of increases.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were up 11% from 1989, including a Canada Goose increase of 22%. However, Atlantic Brant showed a 4% decrease. The dabbling ducks again showed an overall increase of 14% over 1989, even after the 16% increase recorded last year. All species were up with the exceptions of Green-winged Teal (down 4%), Blue-winged Teal (down 7%) and Wood Duck (down 2%, compared to a 3.58% drop last year). The vagaries of the weather more than likely were responsible for these slight variations. Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an over all decrease of 7.3% compared to 1989. A 17% decrease in scaup, Redhead, Ring-necked

Duck and Ruddy Duck was offset by a 56% increase in all sea duck. American Coot also showed a 25% decrease from 1989 and a 13% decrease from the most recent ten year average. Most American Coot again were wintering in Georgia and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway were up 7% over 1989, and 10% over the 1930-1989 average.

The Department of Environmental Conservation 1990 aerial survey was conducted from 2-9 Jan 1990. The results are presented in Table 4. Table 5 compares 1989 to 1990 aerial survey results. In contrast to 1989, the 1990 NYSDEC aerial count total did not come at all near the FNYSBC ground count total.

The 1991 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 12 through 20 Jan, with Sunday, 13 Jan, the target date.

I wish to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participated this year. A special thanks also to the Regional Compilers who coordinated all those volunteers. A good friend of many years, Region 2 compiler Warren Lloyd, passed away 28 Feb 1989, shortly after he had submitted his Regional report. He is sorely missed. The new compiler for Region 2 is Kevin Griffith. Welcome! The Region 9 report again was turned in by Helen Manson, which qualifies her as compiler. Thanks, Helen! The Regional Compilers were:

- Region 1. Wavel Barber    Region 6. Lee Chamberlaine
- 2. Kevin Griffith    7. John Peterson
- 3. Eric Donohue    8. Paul Grattan
- 4. Leslie Bemont    9. Helen Manson
- 5. Marge Rusk    10. Stephen Dempsey

*652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, NY 12159-0044*

Table I. Regional totals for 1990 Waterfowl Count

Species \ Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Loon, Red-throated										10	10
Common			12							68	80
Grebe, Pied-billed	3	21								21	45
Horned	4	31			2		1			242	280
Red-necked			2								2
Cormorant, Great										200	200
Double-crested			1		1					43	45
Swan, Tundra			5								5
Mute								16	132	943	1,091
Goose, Snow	1								3	217	221
Brant										14,391	14,391
Canada	458	142	92,237	172	575			2,346	12,098	31,305	139,333
Wood Duck	5	38	3		2					13	61
Green-winged Teal					7					1	45
American Black Duck	350	1,277	3,889	197	401	31	112	364	388	15,682	22,691
Mallard	6,078	7,319	16,165	662	3,048	223	910	209	2,020	8,740	45,374
Mallard X Black Duck	1	88			2						23
N. Pintail	10	2	2		3				5	93	115
Blue-winged Teal	1										1
N. Shoveler					1					76	77
Gadwall	30	5	33		3					304	375
Wigeon, Eurasian										3	3
American	4		1							592	597

Canvasback	1,303	65	542		3			80	44	2,501	4,538
Redhead	15	166	7,797		39					82	8,099
Ring-necked Duck	1		38		9			1	60	183	292
Tufted Duck										1	1
Scaup, Greater	1,241	725	165		1,214					18,135	21,480
Lesser	25	1	5		4		2			144	181
species		2,505	561	2	744			3		6,236	10,051
Eider, Common										6	6
Harlequin Duck										13	13
Oldsquaw	1,980	6	2		30					1,736	3,754
Scoter, Black										10	10
Surf										388	388
White-winged	54	12			1					6,887	6,954
species										2,824	2,824
Goldeneye, Common	2,114	1,616	557	81	1,110	250	420	15	106	2,272	8,541
Bufflehead	356	134	439		99		15		6	6,030	7,079
Merganser, Hooded	4		25	1	7					412	449
Common	391	1,688	115	96	1,408	60	572	50	3,897	146	8,423
Red-breasted	53	617	13	1	92					4,476	5,252
Ruddy Duck										1,183	1,183
American Coot	49		421		2				4	243	719
unidentified			1,120							73	1,193
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,531</b>	<b>16,458</b>	<b>124,150</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>8,807</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>3,084</b>	<b>18,764</b>	<b>126,992</b>	<b>316,594</b>

**Table II. Comparison of 1990 with 1989 for all species  
totaling over 1000 individuals in 1990.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>% change from 1989</b>
Mute Swan	1,370	1,091	-20.4
Brant	20,564	14,391	-30.0
Canada Goose	94,006	139,333	48.2
American Black Duck	22,379	22,691	1.4
Mallard	28,232	45,374	60.7
Canvasback	7,264	4,538	-37.5
Redhead	7,422	8,099	9.1
scaup (both species)	21,527	31,712	47.3
Oldsquaw	7,677	3,754	-51.1
scoter (all species)	25,499	10,176	-60.1
goldeneye (both species)	7,785	8,541	9.7
Bufflehead	6,468	7,079	9.4
Common Merganser	7,758	8,423	8.6
Red-breasted Merganser	4,583	5,252	14.6
Ruddy Duck	1,883	1,183	-37.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>264,417</b>	<b>311,637</b>	<b>17.9</b>

**Table III. Comparison of 1990 count with 1973-1989 average for all species totaling over 1000 individuals in 1990.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>Brant</b>	14,391	12,452	15.6
<b>Canada Goose</b>	139,333	40,759	241.8
<b>American Black Duck</b>	22,691	19,398	17.0
<b>Mallard</b>	45,374	23,734	91.2
<b>Canvasback</b>	4,538	10,968	-58.6
<b>Redhead</b>	8,099	6,450	25.6
<b>scaup (both species)</b>	31,712	56,220	-43.6
<b>Oldsquaw</b>	3,754	4,000	-6.2
<b>scoter (all species)</b>	10,176	13,328	-23.6
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>	8,541	11,219	-23.9
<b>Bufflehead</b>	7,079	4,836	46.4
<b>Common Merganser</b>	8,423	12,959	-35.0
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>	5,252	2,541	106.7
<b>Total</b>	309,363	218,864	41.3

**Table IV. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Aerial Count, 2-9 January 1990. All species of 1,000 individuals or more.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Upstate</b>	<b>Long Island</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mute Swan</b>	27	1,335	1,362
<b>Brant</b>		18,950	18,950
<b>Canada Goose</b>	89,853	22,516	112,369
<b>American Black Duck</b>	6,495	18,357	24,852
<b>Mallard</b>	12,944	1,602	14,546
<b>Canvasback</b>	4,000	2,928	6,928
<b>Redhead</b>	6,690		6,690
<b>scaup (both species)</b>	5,037	28,057	33,094
<b>Oldsquaw</b>	535	1,086	1,621
<b>goldeneye (both species)</b>	4,116	3,197	7,313
<b>Bufflehead</b>		1,215	1,215
<b>merganser (all species)</b>	15,062	1,619	16,681
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,759</b>	<b>100,862</b>	<b>245,621</b>

**Table V. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
1989 and 1990 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1985  
for all species with 1,000 individuals or more in 1990.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>% change</b>
<b>Mute Swan</b>	1,835	1,362	-25.8
<b>Brant</b>	10,873	18,950	74.3
<b>Canada Goose</b>	115,574	112,369	-2.8
<b>American Black Duck</b>	29,606	24,852	-16.1
<b>Mallard</b>	25,950	14,546	-43.9
<b>Canvasback</b>	10,250	6,928	-32.4
<b>Redhead</b>	6,377	6,690	4.9
<b>scaup (both species)</b>	32,707	33,094	1.2
<b>Oldsquaw</b>	2,369	1,621	-31.6
<b>goldeneye (both species)</b>	5,930	7,313	23.3
<b>merganser (all species)</b>	21,059	16,681	-20.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>262,530</b>	<b>244,406</b>	<b>-6.9</b>



## EASTERN RECORDS OF *Falco columbarius suckleyi*

PETER CAPAINOLO<sup>1</sup> AND JAY PITOCHELLI<sup>2</sup>

Four subspecies of Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) have been recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union (A. O. U. 1957). These taxa differ in color, number of tail bands, degree of barring along the anterior and posterior web of the outermost primary (P10) and some mensural characters (Temple 1972).

*Falco columbarius suckleyi* Ridgway is the darkest of the four races. Grossman and Hamlet (1964) stated, "In Vancouver, British Columbia, they are so dark they are called Black Pigeon Hawks." *Suckleyi* nests in the wet coastal forests of British Columbia and Washington (Bent 1938). Their upperparts are darker and their underparts are more heavily barred than the other subspecies (for characters see Table 1). They winter along the Pacific coast, south through California and irregularly into New Mexico (A. O. U. 1957) (Fig. 1). *F. c. columbarius* Linnaeus and *F. c. bendirei* Swann breed in the taiga biome of North America. The wintering range of these taxa includes the southern United States, Central America, the West Indies and northern South America (Fig. 1). Brown and Amadon (1968) did not recognize *bendirei* as distinct from *columbarius* and Temple (1972) suggested synonymizing *columbarius* and *bendirei*. We follow their taxonomy in this paper and treat these taxa together as *columbarius*. *Columbarius* lacks the heavy barring found in *suckleyi*. These birds are noticeably lighter than specimens of *suckleyi* (Table 1).

Although these subspecies have well defined breeding and wintering ranges, they occasionally wander and may cause problems for hawk banders. Reports of vagrants and the regularity of these wanderings also are important for understanding the migration of these taxa. We found two very dark specimens labeled *columbarius* from the east coast in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York and two in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP). The upperparts and underparts of these birds matched specimens of *suckleyi* from British Columbia (for description, see Table 2). The AMNH birds were an adult female (AMNH 156173) and an immature male (AMNH 156174) collected from New Jersey on 21 Oct 1921 (Fig. 2). One of the Academy birds (ANSP 76104) was also an

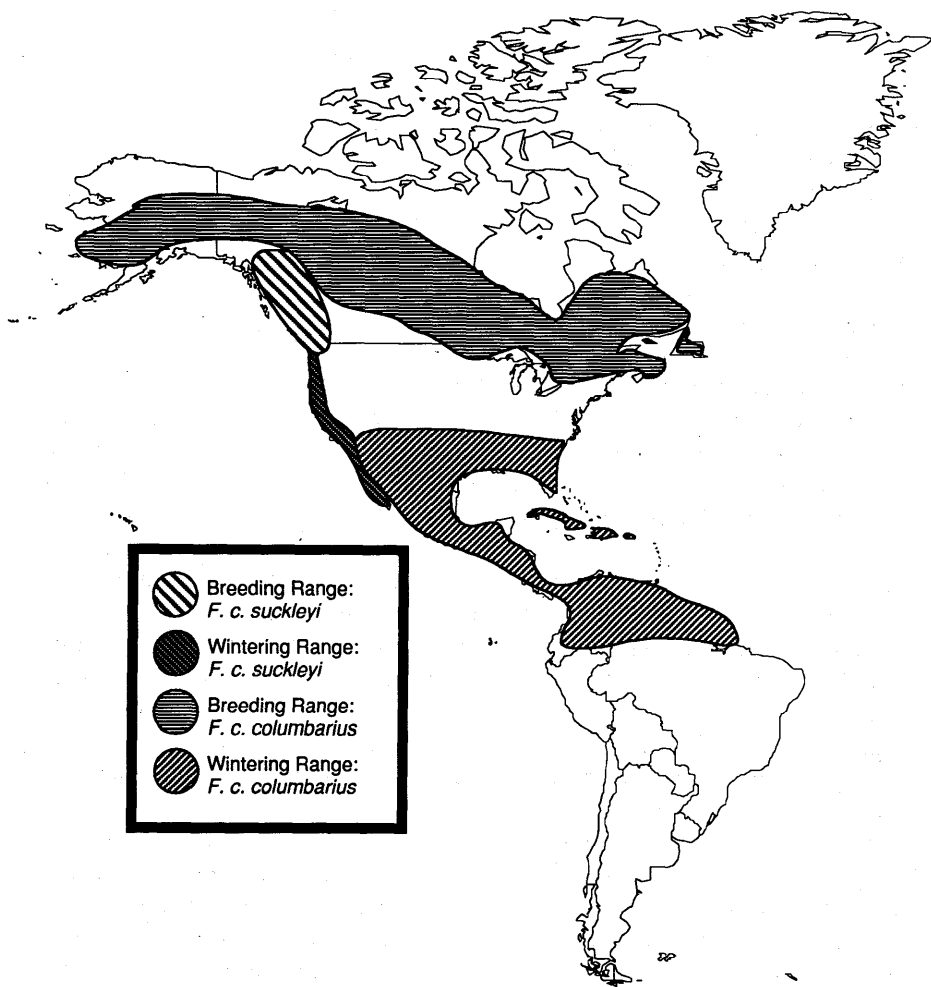


Figure 1. Breeding and wintering ranges of two North American subspecies of Merlin, *Falco columbarius columbarius*, *Falco columbarius suckleyi*.

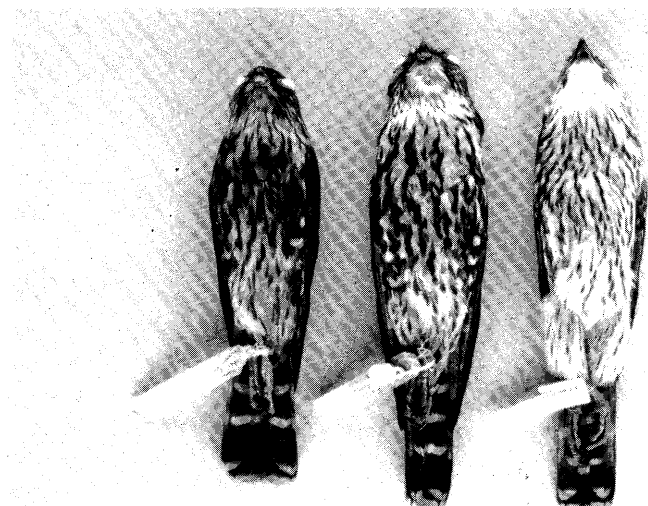


Figure 2. Ventral view of (left to right) AMNH 156174, AMNH 156173 (*F. c. suckleyi*) from New Jersey compared to AMNH 352971 (*F. c. columbarius*) from the east coast.

adult female from New Jersey, collected on 1 Oct 1883. The second ANSP specimen (ANSP 76103) was collected in Florida on 7 Dec 1889. In addition to the study skins we also have a report of an extremely dark juvenile captured and banded on Fire Island, New York in Sep 1980. Wegner (*pers. comm.* 1985) noted, "It was dark enough to be called *suckleyi*, with virtually no barring on the rectrices and generally dark all over."

We consider the banded migrant and the AMNH specimens from New Jersey to be *suckleyi* (see Figure 2 for ventral comparisons with *columbarius* from the east coast). The latter were collected in New Jersey on the same day, suggesting that they were traveling together. There is evidence that family groups may start fall migration together but it is unknown how long they remain together during migration (Cade 1982).

Characters of ANSP 76103 and 76104 are intermediate between *columbarius* and *suckleyi*. These dark birds are close to *suckleyi* and may be from contact areas with *columbarius* in central British Columbia and Alberta or dark extremes of *columbarius*. These specimens point out the difficulty identifying some specimens intermediate between these two subspecies. Temple (1972) showed that there is almost complete overlap

**Table 1. Characters separating two subspecies of Merlin.<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Characters</b>
<i>F. c. columbarius</i>	anterior web of P10-barred, posterior web of P10 - barred, lighter upperparts and underparts, crown intermediate between <i>richardsoni</i> <sup>2</sup> and <i>suckleyi</i>
<i>F. c. suckleyi</i>	anterior web of P10-unbarred, posterior web of P10 - unbarred, dark upperparts and underparts, crown predominantly black, five tail bands

1 - from Temple (1972).

2 - large, pale prairie subspecies

**Table 2. Characters of four problem specimens of *Falco columbarius*.**

<b>Specimens</b>	<b>Characters</b>
AMNH 156173 (ad. female) 4 Oct. 1921 New Jersey: Sussex Co.	anterior web of P10-unbarred, posterior web of P10-barred, dark upperparts and underparts, crown predominantly black
AMNH 156714 (imm. male) 4 Oct. 1921 New Jersey: Sussex Co.	anterior web of P10-unbarred, posterior web of P10-barred, dark upperparts and underparts, crown predominantly black
ANSP 76103 (ad. female) 7 Dec. 1889 Florida: unknown	anterior web of P10-unbarred, posterior web of P10-barred, lighter upperparts and underparts, crown predominantly black, five tail bands
ANSP 76104 (ad. female) 1 Oct. 1883 New Jersey: Beach Haven	anterior web of P10-unbarred, posterior web of P10-barred, lighter upperparts and underparts, crown predominantly black, five tail bands

between *columbarius* and *suckleyi* in mensural characters. We also had difficulty identifying intermediate specimens with the plumage characters suggested by Temple. Webbing on the anterior and posterior of P10 and barring on the rectrices are the best characters for separating most specimens but even these are equivocal for some extreme specimens.

How regular is the occurrence of western Merlins on the east coast? Apparently western Merlins (either pure *suckleyi* or intergrades from the contact areas) occasionally occur along the east coast of North America. Bird banders should be on the alert for these dark Merlins migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. Specimens from other collections should be reviewed and searched for overlooked vagrants identified as *columbarius*.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Dr. Robert W. Dickerman who carefully reviewed the manuscript. We would also like to thank Dr. Frank Gill and Mr. Mark Robbins of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Ms. Mary Lecroy of the Ornithology Department and the Photography Studio of the American Museum of Natural History have our gratitude for producing the photograph used in this paper.

- 1) Queens College Center Museum, Queens College Center for Environmental Teaching and Research, Caumsett State Park, Huntington, NY 11743, and
- 2) Ornithology Department, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York NY, 10024 and Natural Sciences Department, Baruch College, 17 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10010.

### LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1957. *Check-list of North American Birds*. 5th ed. Baltimore, Maryland.
- Bent, A. C. 1938. *Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey*. Vol. 2. Dover Publications, New York.
- Brown, L. and D. Amadon. 1968. *Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World*. Vol. 2. McGraw Hill, New York.
- Cade, T. J. 1982. *The Falcons of the World*. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca.
- Grossman, S. L. and J. L. Hamlet. 1964. *Birds of Prey of the World*. Chuck Potter Publishers, New York.
- Temple, S. A. 1972. Systematics and evolution of the North American Merlins. *Auk* 89:325-338.

## A RECORD LATE BALD EAGLE NESTING

WILLIAM WATSON

Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) give a date range of 11 Apr to 16 Jun for Bald Eagle nests "with young" in the Niagara Frontier Region. According to Bull (1974) and Carroll (1988) unfledged Bald Eagle juveniles have been found from 11 Apr to 30 Jun in New York State. Thus, it might be concluded that a Bald Eagle nest with young after 16 Jun would be a new record for the Niagara Frontier Region and unfledged juvenile eagles observed after June 30 would set a new record for New York State. Using the above dates and my personal observations, it seems that the nesting Bald Eagle on Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge have not only broken the record for the Niagara Frontier region, but have also set a New York State record late date for fledging .

Before summarizing these observations, it must be noted that there are several difficulties in observing unfledged Bald Eagle at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. First, foliage of the nesting tree often obscures the nest and eaglets. The birds were observed at a distance of 0.7 miles, and it was often difficult to observe their behavior. Although a 50 power Celestron telescope with a 20 centimeter aperture was used in observations, its field diameter of 40 arc minutes made it difficult to determine what was happening outside the nest tree area.

Since Bald Eagle is altricial rather than precocial, it might be assumed that a bird on the nest is unfledged. For the Bald Eagle this assumption is incorrect. Bald Eagle "young after their first flight are prone to return to the nest, in this they continue for a number of weeks, or for as long as they remain in the neighborhood." (Herrick 1923a). Unfortunately an eaglet on the nest does not mean an unfledged bird.

All observations were made from the parking lot next to the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge headquarters on Casey Road. A brief summary of the author's observations of nesting activity for 1989 is as follows:

22 Mar -two adults near the nest.

23 Apr -one adult near the nest.

6 May - one adult low on the nest in typical brooding position (although my feeling at the time was that this represented the beginning of incubation, records graciously supplied to me by the Refuge Manager, Don Tiller, indicate incubation behavior was observed 13 Apr, and "volunteer comments indicate eggs hatched 29-30 Apr. Biologist Mike Allen stated

"Both adults present - appear to be feeding eaglet(s) at 11:40, May 4."

24 May -adult near nest.

3 Jun - one adult at the nest was joined by a second adult carrying food. The second bird gave the food (a snake or eel) to the first, who ripped it into small pieces and fed it to the young. This feeding behavior was thought to be unique; however, research indicates that it may be common. Herrick (1924b) states: "The direct feeding observed was mainly by the female and only rarely did the male possess sufficient confidence to partake of food at the nest and serve his young," and the same behavior has been observed in Golden Eagle.

14 Jul - a young eagle on the nest. (This observation was recognized as 14 days beyond the N.Y. State record and more detailed observations were attempted).

18 Jul - the nest was observed from 6:50-8:20 and 9:45-9:50 AM. Both eaglets were eventually observed on the nest. One was actively flapping (exercising) its wings and jumping on the nest! At 7:18 AM, the other bird joined in this wing exercising activity. At 7:35 one eaglet defecated over the edge of the nest, but did not leave the nest. Both types of activity indicate that the birds are unfledged.

22 Jul - the nest was observed from 8:05-9:52 AM and from 5:55-6:00 PM. It was a calm, warm, hazy day in which the temperature rose from 25° to 31°C in the first hour and forty minutes of observation. In the first ten minutes one Bald Eagle was found in the nest tree about 15 feet above the nest and 3-5 feet from the top of the tree. At 8:55 the second eaglet was finally found halfway between the nest and the upper left edge of the tree. Both eaglets were observed stretching their wings. At 9:09, the top eaglet dropped down to the nest and later exercised its wings, sometimes jumping on the nest. Then at 9:18, there was a brief test flight from the nest lasting about 15 seconds! No noteworthy activity was observed thereafter. From 5:55 to 6:00 PM. one eaglet was observed on a branch next to the nest.

24 Jul - 8:05-9:05 AM, eventually both eaglets were seen near the top of the nest tree, and were briefly observed casually flapping their wings. One of the immatures took two test flights, the

first from 8:21 to 8:25. The same bird took off again at a low angle at 8:46 and landed at the top of the nest tree at 8:53. The other bird was observed preening between 8:58 and 9:05.

27 Jul - 8:25-10:20 AM, two circles of the nest were made by one of two immature eagles from 8:32 to 8:34. At 8:43 it left the nest into the wind and about twenty minutes later it came in from behind the nest to land into the wind. At 9:29 the light improved and the second eaglet was discovered 2 feet below the nest and 4 feet to the right of the nest preening. This nonflying eaglet later (9:42) tried to fly to the nest, but did not attain enough altitude and hit the edge of the nest and fell 3 feet to a branch. It returned to its starting position after about 20 seconds. Thirty seconds later the bird flew to a branch about 4 feet above; 40 seconds later it successfully flew to the nest. Both birds were then obscured by foliage at 9:44.

29 Jul - 8:05-9:05 AM and 2:21-3:18 PM. At 8:54 a possible wing lift was seen at the nest, and at 9:01 an eaglet left the nest to the left and down. Later at 2:21 PM, one eaglet was observed preening at the left edge of the nest and at 2:49 a second eaglet was seen flapping its wings above the right edge of the nest halfway to the top of the tree. From 2:55 to 2:59 an adult visited the nest. When the adult landed the eaglet on the left moved toward the adult and the higher eaglet moved to the middle of the nest but stayed high and flapped its wings. The three birds remained obscured by foliage most of the time.

7 Aug - 7:37-8:06 AM, 11:58 AM-12:10 PM and 1:56-2:05 PM. At 7:44, one eaglet was seen when it hopped to a branch above the nest, but by 7:49 it had disappeared. Observations later in the day were devoid of eagles or eagle activity.

21 Aug - 7:35-7:50 AM and 1:04-1:26 PM. No eagles observed at or near the nest.

It is difficult to determine an exact fledging date for the eaglets. Observations were intermittent and often difficult to interpret. It is also believed that one eaglet may have matured as much as a week or more ahead of the other. Certainly on 18 Jul both birds were showing unfledged activity. Although there was a short test flight on 22 Jul, only the 24 Jul flights by one eaglet were of sufficient duration to demonstrate independence from the nesting tree. Yet, on that same date, the other eaglet demonstrated difficulty in making short flights (or long hops) in



the nesting tree. Of course this apparent difficulty could be due to an inability to fly among branches rather than simply an inability to fly.

As late as 29 Jul, both birds seemed to demonstrate a dependence on their parent, and as late as 7 Aug, one of the young was observed on the nest. Perhaps it is safe to say that one eaglet fledged on or about July 24, and the other probably fledged some time later, probably after July 27.

Although this represents a new Regional record by about 6 weeks and a new state record by more than 3 weeks, this extremely late fledging might not be as odd or as uncommon as it seems. A check of last year's notes reveal that on 21 Jul immature eagles were observed on the "nest to 20 feet above the nest (but still in the nesting tree)...hopping and flapping their wings!" Discussions with Research Scientist Peter Nye and "Endangered Species Investigation W-166-E" indicate that July Bald Eagle fledglings in New York State are commonplace rather than exceptional in recent studies. It is unfortunate that Bald Eagle data acquired through the "Endangered Species Investigation" has not been published.

771 Fletcher Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Beardslee, C., and H. Mitchell 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sci. 22.
- Bull, J. 1974. *Birds of New York State*. Doubleday Natural History Press, NY.
- Carroll, J. C. 1988. Bald Eagle. pp 100-101 in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*. Andrie, R. F. and J. C. Carroll, eds. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.
- Herrick, F. H. 1924a. Nests and nesting habits of the American Eagle. *Auk* 41:213-231.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1924b. The daily life of the American Eagle: Late Phase. *Auk* 41:389-422.

## WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL BREEDING IN CHENANGO-CORTLAND-MADISON COUNTIES 1989-90

DAVID MESSINEO

White-winged Crossbill was present in the Chenango-Cortland County area at this writing (March 1990). Breeding was confirmed in this area in the winter of 1984-85 and breeding is again taking place. Abundant cone crops in N.Y. State plantations of Norway Spruce, White Spruce, European Larch and hemlock are apparently the critical factor in holding the crossbills in this region and in triggering breeding behavior.

The cone crops formed largely in the spring of 1989. White-winged Crossbill was first noted by this observer in August of that year. At that time males in mature plumage were seen along the edges of dirt roads. Because salt is used only in minute quantities by towns on rural roads and salt is not used at all in summer, I suspect that these birds could have been getting grit or possibly pulling grass for nest material as in 1984-85. Immediately after the first sighting, I returned to the area and played taped White-winged and Red Crossbill calls. Male White-winged Crossbill responded by taking perches on spruce tree tops and singing their characteristic trill. This behavior is characteristic in White-winged Crossbill during courtship and early nesting. No females were seen at this time and I concluded that either males had arrived before the females or that females were already on nests.

Several weeks later taped calls elicited no response and I thought that either crossbills were no longer present or nesting was advanced to a stage when they no longer respond to calls. Through the fall and winter of 1989 reports of White-winged Crossbill came in from other parts of Chenango County. White-winged Crossbill was present in spruce plantations in adjacent Madison County as well (*Kingbird* 40(2):108; 1990). In March 1990 White-winged Crossbills were heard, apparently on nests, in the spruce "jip jipping" in the Otselic area and in the Taylor Valley-Chenango Swamp area of Cortland County. On 17 March recently fledged White-winged Crossbill were seen at the Cortland location with flocking adults.

In contrast to most spruce plantations in central New York, some plantations in the Taylor-Chenango area are at low elevation on the valley floor. White-winged Crossbill breed on ridge tops at elevations of 1800-2000 feet in the Otselic area while in the Taylor-Chenango area the elevation at which White-winged Crossbill breeds is about 1100-1200 feet.

In addition to White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin was also present in large numbers and breeding. Red Crossbill, however, was absent. This differs from the invasion of 1984-85 when all three species were here in great numbers and breeding. Several other differences also stand out. In 1984-85 Pine Siskin did not visit feeders but in 1989-90 Pine Siskin visited feeders in large numbers. In 1984-85 Red and White-winged Crossbills were seen on paved roads, apparently licking road salt. White-winged Crossbill haven't been seen on paved roads and I know of no road kills. Although this area had one abundant cone crop since 1984-85 and before the present winter's cone crop, White-winged Crossbill had been absent until now. Based on collected specimens and sightings, I believe that White-winged Crossbills have been using and probably breeding in the Chenango-Cortland-Madison area since the 1940s. Cornell University has specimens of White-winged Crossbill collected in Chenango as early 1947 and 1951, which would coincide well with spruce plantations in this area reaching cone-bearing age. Sightings since then have been regular. It is my belief that the breeding of White-winged Crossbill in central New York is not unusual but is a regular occurrence, because the spruce plantations provide an important alternate breeding area for White-winged Crossbill when its regular boreal food sources fail.

*Swallow Valley Farm, South Otselic, NY 13115*

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Nest of Pine Siskin Found in Erie County:** A complete Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*) nest found has not been found in the Niagara Frontier Region since 1889 (Clark Beardslee and Harold Mitchell, *Birds of The Niagara Frontier Region*, Bull. Buffalo. Soc. Nat. Hist. 22:425; 1965). An incomplete nest was reported by L. F. Libler from Jamestown in 1961 (R. Andrle, *pers. comm.*). Statewide a total of only five nests had been found before the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas survey (Andrle, R. F., and J. H. Carroll, eds., 1988. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Now York State*, Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY, p. 494). Hence, it is appropriate to record in some detail the nesting of a Pine Siskin which I observed in southern Erie county.

The nest site was at Camp Longacres about 3 miles outside of the Village of East Aurora in the Town of Aurora. This site is along the Portage Escarpment in the foothills of the Allegheny Plateau at an elevation of 880 feet above sea level. On 28 April 1990 I was exploring a series of ridges and ravines at Camp Longacres. I stopped briefly under a large hemlock tree when my attention was drawn to chirping sounds coming from one of the branches. Stepping back, the nest came into view. Shortly after, both of the adults flew away from the nest allowing me to identify the nest as that of a Pine Siskin. Over the next few days I watched the nest for short periods of time (one-half hour at a time). I observed adults returning to the nest only twice during this period. The young fledged on 1 May. On 2 May I saw three young Pine Siskin being feed by an adult in a nearby tree. The earliest date for fledglings listed in the Breeding Season Table (Andrle and Carroll, *op. cit.*, p. 518) is 11 June. My observation now extends that date back to May 1.

The nest tree was a hemlock about 21 inches in diameter breast high. The tree stands at the edge of a shale ravine. The ravine empties into the West Branch of the Cazenovia Creek, which is about 300 feet away. The forest cover at this location is mature beech, Sugar Maple, Yellow Birch and hemlock. On the west side of the nest tree, there is an opening in the forest cover. The branch on which the nest was placed hangs into this opening. The ground cover in this opening is jewelweed, along with downy goldenrod, coltsfoot, raspberry, large flowering raspberry, a few black cherry seedlings and a small elderberry bush. The nest was at a height of 29 feet 8 inches above the ground, on a branch about 15 feet out from the trunk of the tree. The nest was placed between one of the secondary leads and two tertiary leads of a hemlock branch. A small

hemlock branch arched over the top of the nest, shading and concealing it from above. The outside diameter of the nest was about 4 inches. The cup was nearly round with a diameter of 1 3/4 inches (4.5 cm). It was 1 3/8 inches deep. The base of the nest was hemlock twigs. It was lined with dried grasses and other plant material. It also contained strips of grape vine bark and a few fine hairs. The inside edge was trimmed with soft (brown) fur and some type of synthetic fiber. The nest was collected and donated to the Buffalo Museum of Natural Sciences.

*Mark Gretch, 111 Madaline Lane, Depew, NY 14043*

**Sandhill Crane Summers in Chemung County:** An adult Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) spent the summer in the Town of Big Flats in Chemung County. The area is east of Corning and west of Elmira next to Route 17, the Southern Tier Expressway. The bird was first observed from 23 through 27 April 1990. It did not appear injured, for it flew on many occasions. It was not seen again until 15 June, and we assumed that it had migrated. It was seen by many and photographed during the summer, and remained until at least 2 Oct. It fed mostly in a pasture with cows. It could be seen regularly before 9 AM and after 6 PM. It also was seen in the heart of the adjacent wetland in tall vegetation. Since the area is in the midst of many square miles of farm land and the land owner was very protective of his property and would not allow access to the area, many observers believe that the bird never left the county after its first appearance on 23 April but that it probably visited the many farms in the area or stayed hidden in the wetland's vegetation.

The area that the bird frequented has changed drastically over the past five years. It had been pasture used by dairy cattle with an area that collected water. The water was drained through a sluice pipe underneath a railroad bed to a wetland. This wetland included the Corning Glass Pond where Wood Duck, Mallard, Common Moorhen, Virginia Rail and Sora nested every year. Beaver moved into the area and dammed the sluice pipe, creating a large wetland of about 25-30 acres. Area sportsmen erected Wood Duck boxes in the wetland. As a result of this new habitat, the area has had more Wood Duck, Common Moorhen and Pied-billed Grebe young produced as well as Canada Geese. The area has also attracted migrating birds such as Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Great Egret, many shorebirds including Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral, Least, Solitary and Semipalmated Sandpipers.

After reviewing available literature, we believe that it is most exceptional for a Sandhill Crane to spend the summer season in New York State. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who has evidence of previous prolonged stays of Sandhill Crane in New York State.

*Richard Clements, 989 Mountain View Drive, Pine City, NY 14871*

*[Recognizable photographs of this bird, most unsuitable for publication, have been placed on file with the New York State Avian Records Committee - The Editor.]*

**Red-winged Blackbird Attacks Spotted Sandpiper:** Anyone who has a bird feeder has probably observed skirmishes among birds of the same species. When birding, we often see smaller birds mobbing larger birds such as the Red-tailed Hawk and Great Horned Owl. Less often (but often with greater and more dramatic consequences) we see an attack of a larger species on a smaller species. I believe that I have observed only three territorial attacks of a larger species on a smaller species, one a Herring Gull attack on a Bonaparte's Gull, one a Common Grackle attack on a House Sparrow and one a Red-winged Blackbird attack on a Spotted Sandpiper. One of these attacks was fatal to the bird attacked and the other two appeared to be life threatening.

The most recent and perhaps least vicious of these attacks involved the Red-winged Blackbird attack in the Spotted Sandpiper seen on 30 April 1989 at Times Beach in Buffalo. As I was watching an early Spotted Sandpiper on the mud flats at Times Beach, a Red-winged Blackbird started harassing it. As the Red-winged Blackbird dove at the Spotted Sandpiper, the Spotted Sandpiper was unable to find protection on the ground. In an attempt to escape, the Spotted Sandpiper flew away from the mud flats and marsh reeds over the water in the direction of the breakwall. However, the tenacious Red-winged Blackbird continued to dive at the back of the Spotted Sandpiper until the Spotted Sandpiper was half way to the breakwall. At this point, the Red-winged Blackbird soared up about thirty feet above the Spotted Sandpiper and I thought the Red-winged Blackbird had finally given up the attack. Much to my surprise, instead of giving up the attack, the Red-winged Blackbird plunged down on the Spotted Sandpiper from this greatest of heights forcing the poor Spotted Sandpiper down into the water. The Spotted Sandpiper flew no more. The Red-winged Blackbird continued to fly

over the spot where the Spotted Sandpiper had disappeared, at times hovering five or ten feet over the fateful location as though it was doing a victory dance. Finally, after what seemed to be at least ten seconds, the Red-winged Blackbird returned to the cattails of the marsh. Then to my further amazement I saw the Spotted Sandpiper rise from the water like a phoenix and resume its flight successfully to the breakwall. I can not say what happened to the Spotted Sandpiper while it was in the water. Although I observed this event through binoculars, the distance of about 80 yards made it difficult to determine if the Spotted Sandpiper was forced under water or (perhaps more likely) it waited at the surface undetected by me until after the Red-winged Blackbird had given up its attack. Perhaps someone who has had the good fortune to observe a similar encounter but at closer range can tell me exactly what that Spotted Sandpiper was doing.

*William Watson, 771 Fletcher Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

MANNY LEVINE

When writing a seasonal "Highlights" report, one goes through the weather data presented by each editor to seek some pattern that is consistent throughout the state. This is particularly difficult in New York State because of its size and topographical variation. However, this season a common denominator is present, rain! Only Region 2 speaks of normal precipitation, while Regions 9 and 10 relate record breaking wet Augusts, and the other Regions report yearly rainfall totals above normal at the end of the period. Once a discernible weather pattern is found, one then searches for a possible impact of that pattern on New York's birds. This again is difficult because of the individual biases displayed by the Regional editors when describing the avian life in their bailiwicks. Another problem is trying to decide if the weather was more important in influencing bird populations or the time birders spent afield. It is also quite apparent that since the end of the breeding bird atlas field work, there are far fewer observers in the field during the summer, especially in the less populous Regions. Perhaps we need a continuation of Atlas "blockbusting" to get a truer picture of the breeding season.

Having said all of the above, let us see if we can make some sense out of the material on hand. The only species whose breeding success this summer seemed to be weather related are Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird. Regions 2, 4 and 5 report lowered swallow populations in periods with cold June temperatures. However, there seems to be no consistency in the reports of Eastern Bluebird, with Region 1 reporting high fledgling losses because of a cold June, but an overall hatching success greater than the previous year's; Region 2 speaks of a plus; Region 4 tells us of "most nestings since the Nest Box Trail established in 1981"; Region 5 advises that cold June weather caused a net loss of bluebirds successfully fledged, while Region 9 says, "continued widespread success." One thing, however, that does remain abundantly clear is the importance of the Nest Box program in the continuing good health and recovery of bluebirds, and the part played and still being played by certain Federation members in this program.

The other rain related factor has nothing to do with breeding birds, but everything to do with shorebirding in Region 10. There the abundant rain continued to produce the spectacular shorebirding conditions as it



did last year. Also, see Steve Eaton's note in Region 1 about the tornado that touched down in Allegany State Park!

We can glean information less closely tied to the season's weather from those reports as well. The only Regions in which Common Loon breeds in New York State are 5, 6, 7 and 8. What limited information we have seems to indicate no change in its current status. The Double-crested Cormorant marches on!! Region 2 tells us of an increase in summering birds which is may be a harbinger of future breeding there. Region 5 shows steadily increasing numbers of breeding birds in Oneida Lake. Region 5 mentions high brood success while Region 7 shows a 50% increase in active nests. Region 10 merely mentions increased numbers in beach areas but the fact remains that the species has further entrenched itself with continued increases even within the physical limits of New York City itself. The information on herons and bitterns doesn't offer much except to point out the continued scarcity of both bittern species due to reduced habitat. And just what is a Cattle Egret doing in Region 8 in mid June, which is much too early for the typical heron post-breeding dispersal. Region 2 greets its first breeding record of Mute Swan with some circumspection, as well it might. No mention of Canada Goose is made in Regions 8, 9 and 10. This omission has nothing to do with lack of breeding success, I assure you. It is simply that the species has reached the status of such ordinary species as House Sparrow and European Starling, birds to be tolerated, and perhaps if they are ignored, they might go away, and the less said the better. Regions 2 and 4 report on the continued decline of American Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal. Mary Dobinsky, the new Region 4 advises that Wood Duck has supplanted the Mallard as the commonest breeding duck in the Region! Again we have to look to a nest box program as one of the reasons for the phenomenal increase of Wood Duck numbers in the last two decades.

While not yet recorded as breeding in New York State, I am inserting the Black Vulture here to alert observers of that possibility in the near future, as occurrences increase. Region 8 had its first such record on 30 June. Osprey continues to show marvelous strides and is now nesting in areas which historically lacked them, such as western Nassau County and New York City proper. The Bald Eagle is doing well and the Peregrine Falcon is holding its own, with the success of both species attributable in large part to the hacking program administered jointly by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

While no mention is made of the Piping Plover in Region 10, it is only fair to report that this intriguing little shorebird seems to be maintaining itself well in the Region with the help of a number of dedicated nest area watchers working in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy. Make sure you read Mike Peterson's discussion of mortality in the Ring-billed Gull colonies on Four Brothers Islands. This will correct some earlier erroneous reports which appeared in various newspapers. Caspian Tern news is good. These striking larids were first found breeding on Little Galloo Island in Region 6 in 1986. The colony now numbers some 640 adults, a figure which is double what it was in 1989. As to Roseate Tern, while the Cedar Beach colony in Region 10 lost some birds, the Great Gull Island colony, also in Region 10, continues to be very healthy under the ministrations of a Federation member club, The Linnaean Society of New York, supervised by Helen Hays. However, the news on Black Tern is at best depressing.

Both Regions 6 and 7 attest to the increase of the Wild Turkey population. Several Regions point out that the Mourning Dove is flourishing. This bird isn't bright enough to build a nest that is tight enough to keep its eggs from falling through to the ground, yet that seems to make no difference to its success as a species.

The Common Raven continues its increase in the state, with new territories being established in Regions 1, 6, 8 and 9. A singing Cape Way Warbler in Region 8 on 16 June was apparently in the same spot that held a breeding pair of these birds last year. During the entire Atlas period there was no "Confirmed" breeding record in the entire state, and those listed as "Probable" were in Regions 6 and 7. White-winged Crossbill was present during the period in Regions 1, 4 and 8. Breeding was suspected but not confirmed. However, Pine Siskin did nest in Region 1, this being the third confirmed nesting record for that Region.

Since the next bird represents the very first New York State breeding record, I have moved it out of checklist order to highlight it. Long sought as a breeding bird because of the numerous spring and early summer occurrences, a pair of **Summer Tanager** was found nesting on the grounds of the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Suffolk County in Region 10.

Besides the breeding birds, each Region had some interesting birds which deserve special mention. There was a **Curlew Sandpiper** in Region 1, an **American White Pelican** in Region 2 as well as a Loggerhead Shrike which deserves mention anywhere in the state. A first for Region 4 was a Clay-colored Sparrow on 7 June. You wonder

what it was doing there on that date and perhaps look forward to a closer scrutiny of the area next year. Acadian Flycatcher is highlighted in Region 5, while a Carolina Wren in Region 6 for a first St. Lawrence County record, way out its normal breeding range in the state. I hope it was alone, for a breeding pair would never survive the winter in that frigid part of the state. An out of place Red-bellied Woodpecker was present in Region 7, while Region 8 produced the already mentioned **Black Vulture**, Cattle Egret and also a number of **Sandhill Crane**. A Caspian Tern ventured up the Hudson River for the second time in three decades in Region 9, and another Loggerhead Shrike there is worthy of mention. Region 10 had its usual share of "good" birds including **Brown Pelican**, Black Rail, **Black-necked Stilt**, American Avocet, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff and **Sandwich Tern**. However, as this is the nesting season, the BOTS (Bird of the Season) award must go to Region 10's nesting **Summer Tanager**, as that record represents a first breeding record in the state.

This Highlights report was compiled without a Region 3 report, which had not arrived in time.

*585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550*

**Standard abbreviations:** county names are shortened to their first four letters and are in UPPER case; 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 — nesting 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 weather through the period was once again erratic. We saw frost on 5 Jun in valleys of the Allegheny Hills and the Upper Genesee Valley at Amity Lake, but from 13-18 Jun, high temperatures at Buffalo were over 80° and a record 90° was set on 16 Jun. Although the rest of the month was relatively cool, the average ended up near normal at 66.7°. Rainfall was slightly above normal and sunshine was 57% possible (normal 65%). The first part of July saw frequent weather changes as a persistent northwest flow in the upper-air jet stream dominated the weather patterns. Temperatures for the month averaged 71.4° (normal 70.7°) with 80° temperatures at Buffalo on 18 days and a three day stretch, 28-30 July, when the thermometer hit 90°. Rain was well distributed during the month and totaled about three inches, a little above normal. Vivian Pitzrick commented that this weather made lush foliage to hide the birds' nests, making nest hunting more challenging than usual. In the Allegheny Hills joe-pye-weed (*Eupatorium*) and goldenrod (*Solidago*) grew to unusual heights and walking in fallow fields was difficult. Sunshine totaled 63%, just below average. August temperatures averaged 70.4° at Buffalo (normal 68.9°) and rainfall totaled 3.25 inches (4.16 inches is normal). Away from the moderating effect of Lake Erie, temperatures averaged 72° at Wellsville, Allegheny County, 4.7° above normal. On 28 Aug tornados touched down near Jamestown and in Allegheny State Park, where about 100 acres of mature Maple-Beech-Cherry forest was flattened at English Brook on the north slope of Mt. Onondaga. It is a sobering example of the energy concentrated in these funnel clouds. One wonders about the mortality to wildlife such storms must cause. One of Tim Baird's transects passed through a corner of the area. It will be interesting to follow bird population changes over the succeeding years in this natural clear-cut.

Both Osprey pairs at the Allegheny Reservoir raised two young, as these pairs continue to gain experience. The males at each site were hatched at the Rt. 17 hacking site in 1985, whereas both females are unbanded. The two young at the mouth of Bone Run fledged 25 Jul and those at the Rt. 17 site fledged 2 Aug. Tom Jurczak of Region 9 DEC monitored the nests and could find no evidence of further nesting in the area around Allegheny Reservoir during the summer. He saw five different Bald Eagle, two of which were hatching year birds. The Bald

Eagle at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge again successfully fledged two young.

The Cayuga Pool at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge was drawn down for management purposes this summer and the mud flats and shallow water with concentrated prey attracted many Great Egret, five species of noteworthy duck and eight species of shorebird, one of which was what Terry Mosher dubbed, "the bird of the year for the study area." This was an adult male **Curlew Sandpiper** in alternate plumage, first spotted by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter 30 July while enjoying nine days at the refuge with the Derleths (report submitted to NYSARC). It was present the following day as well. With water tables high over most of the Region, most sandpiper observers trekked to the north shore of Lake Erie where many noteworthy sandpiper records were logged, just outside the Federation's viewing area, but nothing matched the Curlew Sandpiper (see Rising, *Prothonotary* 56(7):89-90).

Vivian Pitzrick's Eastern Bluebird trail produced 170 young, about the same as last year, but mortality was more concentrated on the young. Nearly twice as many nestlings died in 1990 (47) as in 1989 (24). Vivian attributed this to cold temperatures beyond the time when females brood the young. In 1990 eighteen nests were deserted which also was almost twice the number deserted in 1989. Hatching success, on the other hand, was much better in 1990, when 81% hatched (3.7/nest) as opposed to 68% (2.9/nest) in 1989. These populations, this far north on the Allegheny Plateau, seem to be limited by weather for good steady productivity.

Walter Klabunde, with Gerry Rising's help on the computer, has summarized the 18 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service breeding bird surveys conducted for 23 years in the Region. Seventeen species show increasing trends for at least the last six years: Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Hooded Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and House Finch. Nine species show a decrease over the past nine years: Northern Flicker, Brown Thrasher, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Oriole and House Sparrow. These last nine species seem to reflect loss of edge habitat and fallow field habitat, as the forest returns to the Allegheny Plateau.

Nesting times of some of the cardueline finches just don't fit into our

calendar year. They nest whenever there is an abundant supply of seeds. This was documented over the 1989-1990 season as Pine Siskin responded to an abundant Eastern Hemlock seed crop and the White-winged Crossbill responded to White Spruce, Norway Spruce and European Larch seeds in plantations on the Allegheny Plateau. Mark Gretch found a nest of Pine Siskin in the Town of Aurora, Erie County, 28 April 1990 (not previously reported; *Prothonotary* 56(8):94) and the young fledged 1 May. This is the third documented nesting in western New York and was certainly just the tip of the iceberg with respect to Pine Siskin nesting. Betsy Brooks followed White-winged Crossbill from the first, two hatching year birds banded on 28 Aug 1989, through January, when she saw flocks of up to 35 individuals. By late March sightings changed from flocks of 15-35 to groups of 1 to 6 individuals, and they were more often seen in localized areas through April. Unfortunately, she moved to Rochester to band in May, so this story could not be told fully; she did see and hear the last White-winged Crossbill on 10 Jun.

Two publications of general interest to birders in Region 1 and the State appeared during this period. Timothy Baird of Salamanca published "Changes in Breeding Bird Populations between 1930 and 1985 in the Quaker Run Valley of Allegany State Park, New York." as *N.Y.S. Mus. Bull.* 477:i-v,1-41. Terry Mosher published a beautifully written description of Section 20 of the Buffalo Ornithological Society census area (Dunkirk Harbor and vicinity) in *Prothonotary* 56(7):A1-A10.

Abbreviations: AmL - Amity Lake, ALLE; ASP - Allegany State Park; BIP - Bird Island Pier, Buffalo; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; DH - Dunkirk Harbor; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF - Niagara Falls; PTwn - Pomfret Township, CHAU; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve; TIR - Tonawanda Indian Reservation; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrle, Tim Baird, Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, William D'Anna, Michael Galas, Joe Gula, Sr. & Jr., Paul Hess, Holms, Jamestown Audubon Society, Tom Jurczak, Walter Klabunde, Lake Erie Bird Club, Terry & Judy Mosher, Vivian & Raymond Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Donald Robertson, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Regina & Jim VanScoy, Judy Vernon, William Watson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two Dunkirk Twn 17 Jun; four NF 5 Jul, one 3 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: 35 Buckhorn I SP 12 Jun; 24 NF 2 Jul; max 52 Buffalo Harbor 30 Aug. Am. Bittern: two INWR 1-3 Aug, only report for period. Least Bittern: one TWMA 16 Jun, 14 Jul; one TNP 26 Jun; one INWR 30 Jun. Great Egret: two-eleven INWR 10-29 Jul, max 11 on 30 Jun; four TWMA 11 Aug; one Prendergast Pt., Chautauqua L, 19 Aug; one E Aurora 27-29 Aug. Black-

crowned Night-Heron: max 16 TNP 7 Aug; one TWMA 11 Aug. Green-winged Teal: max 10 INWR 30 Jun. N. Shoveler: five INWR 11 Aug. Gadwall: max 14 INWR 28 Jun. Am. Wigeon: 17 INWR 28 Jun., 19 Motor I, NR, 30 Jun; 20 INWR 10 Jul; one ad, six y BIP 28 Jul. Com. Merganser: two female plumaged Red House Creek above Lake ASP 3 Jun (SE); one ad, nine y Allegany R at Olean, 7 Jul; three Allegany Twn 7 Jul; four NF 12 Jul. Red-breasted Merganser: one BIP 28 Jul; male in Alt plumage Red House L ASP 27 Jun, 27 Aug (TB, ph), unusual time of molt and locality.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 35 Cayuga Pool INWR 7 Jun; 25 on 20 Jul. Osprey: *intro*; one TWMA 2, 12 Jun, 29 Jul, 11 Aug, hope it found a home; arr. DH 7 Aug. Bald Eagle: last report at INWR nest one ad, two y on 10 Jul; one and two imm INWR 21, 31 Jul; two ad, one imm OOWMA 25 Jul; one 2nd-yr imm INWR 31 Jul; two imm Rt 77 INWR 1 Aug; *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Alfred 6 Jun, carrying a y Killdeer (EB). Broad-winged Hawk: two TWMA 2 Jun, late migrants; reported through period Alfred and Amity. Black-bellied Plover: arr INWR 31 Jul. Semipalmated Plover: max 18 DH 31 Jul. Greater Yellowlegs: arr three INWR 10 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: max six Clarence Twn 21 Jul. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 50 TWMA 2 Jun; four Eden 4 Jun. White-rumped Sandpiper: two Eden 4 Jun, late. Baird's Sandpiper: arr INWR 1 Aug. **Curlew Sandpiper**: *intro*. Stilt Sandpiper: max 26 INWR 30 Jul. Iceland Gull: one in Alt II plumage DH 23 Jul (TM), third CHAU summer record (*vide* RS). Black Tern: max ten INWR 28 Jun.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: six reports BOS throughout Region Jun. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: eight reports BOS throughout Region Jun. Com. Nighthawk: two Tonawanda 30 Jun; one Wheatfield Twn NIAG 20 Jun; one Olean 7 Jul; max 20 Tonawanda Twn 29 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two nestlings Carrollton Twn 28 Aug, about to fledge, fully feathered and iridescent. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Granger Twn ALLE 2 Jun; one INWR 12 Jun; one-two E Aurora 12 Jun, 3-17 Jul and 28 Aug; four Hartfield 1 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Tonawanda Twn 30 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Alfred Twn 22 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: one Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 10 Jun; one INWR 12 Jun (DR), two l, 10 Jul, a return to old haunts where not confirmed for the Atlas, perhaps expanding from Ontario; three PTwn 4 Jul, PDBA, continues to prosper in CATT. Purple Martin: six pairs Allegany Village Jun-Jul (absent Olean); two AmL 23 Jun, still very scarce Allegany Hills. Cliff Swallow: 45 Allegheny Res 7 Jul, S. Tier Expressway bridges fueling population explosion particularly in Allegany R valley. Com. Raven: two ad and one or more FL Ward ALLE 24 Jun, 100 yards from active nest site 1988 and 1990; another possible nesting 12 mi. SE; one area PD, Alfred Twn 13 Jun (EB). Carolina Wren: one Dunkirk 17 Jun; two Bourne's Beach CHAU 4, 12 Jul; two Frewsburg 10 Jul; one E. Aurora 17 Jul, 12, 28 Aug; one NF 31 Jul, Allegany Hills population still scarce. Golden-crowned Kinglet: five (PDBA) reported BOS Jun and Jul; seven INWR 29 Jul. E. Bluebird: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush: one

Ellicottville 14 Jun, possible nester; arr Tonawanda Twn 29 Aug. Cedar Waxwing: 100+ fly-bys Golden Hill SP 10 Jun.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Alfred Twn 30 Jun (EB). Solitary Vireo: one INWR 1 Jul, unusual time and place. Blue-winged Warbler: arr TNP 7 Aug. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Brewster's" PTwn 2,10 Jun and TIR 13 Jun, 11 Aug; "Lawrence's" TIR 3-28 Jun (WD, WW, mob), Golden-winged Warbler: six TIR 2 Jun; arr E. Aurora 28 Aug. Nashville Warbler: one Alfred 5 Jun; one Andover 11 Jun, probable breeders; arr INWR 22 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: six Ellicottville 14 Jun, declining generally in overbrowsed areas. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one-four Alfred Twn 1-30 Jun, 7 Jul; one-six Ward Twn ALLE 1-30 Jun; two Wethersfield Twn WYOM 30 Jun. Prairie Warbler: one-four Amity Twn ALLE 5-30 Jun (VP); one Andover Twn 14 Jun; one-two Alfred 11-25 Jun, one 7,15 Jul; seven Carroll Twn CHAU 10 Jun (PDBA); one S Valley 25 Jun; two Grove Twn ALLE 25 Jun. Black-and-white Warbler: one AmL 22 Jun-31 Aug, uncommon ALLE. Prothonotary Warbler: one INWR 2-6 Jun, 21 Jul; arr Pt. Gratiot CHAU 14 Aug. Ovenbird: arr TNP 20 Aug. N. Waterthrush: arr Buffalo 20 Aug. Hooded Warbler: 15 near Ellicottville 14 Jun (GR), adjusting to fragmented understory? Yellow-breasted Chat: one Westfield Twn CHAU 12 Jul.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr two TNP 24 Aug. Vesper Sparrow: one Andover Twn 18, 22, 28 Jun; one Fredonia Jun- Jul. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Sheridan Twn 2 Jun; one Andover Twn 6, 14, 28 Jun; one Amherst Twn 10 Jun; one Amity Twn ALLE 13 Jun; max six PTwn 27 Jun; one Ward Twn ALLE 20 Jul. Henslow's Sparrow: two Amity Twn ALLE 13 Jun; one Ward Twn ALLE 2 Jul; one Ripley 9 Jul; one Arkwright 10 Jun; one ad, two y Clarence Twn 14-31 Jul (WW, MG); one Alfred Twn 30 Jul, 3 Aug. White-throated Sparrow: one Alma Twn 21 Jun; two Almond Twn 25 Jun; three Ward Twn ALLE 27 Jun. Bobolink: 44 INWR headquarters area 13 Jul; 300± over Jamestown 23 Aug. Orchard Oriole: one Shadigee 24 Jun, only report. White-winged Crossbill: last Ward Twn ALLE 10 Jun, *intro*. Pine Siskin: one-three Eden Twn 1 Jun-31 Aug, *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: ad male at feeder Westfield CHAU 23-25 Aug (JV).

Addenda: Wood Duck: nest of seven eggs in a cavity about 20 ft from the ground in Am. Beech tree on a hill T Allen, about 5 mi n Angelica, found by Walter Wesche 19 May 1990 after felling the tree; two eggs were saved (*vide* VP).

*Ten Mile Road, Allegany, NY 14706*



## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

Meteorologically, the summer season held no real surprises. June was the most inconsistent of the three months with an average temperature of 67.2°. Precipitation measured 2.88 inches. July was quite stable with close to average temperatures throughout the month, and precipitation was only slightly above normal at 3.05 inches. August similarly showed little, if any, real variation from the norm. These conditions should have provided a good nesting season. No surprise rain deluges caused havoc and the season certainly wasn't as dry as some years. Wild food was available and insects were not lacking. With such positive conditions one would have anticipated a banner nesting season. Of course, not all nesting success revolves around the weather and climatic conditions. Therefore, the nesting season was once again a series of positives and negatives.

A look through the summer species provides us with a picture of the season. Common Loon was reported in surprising numbers; breeding was not evident. Pied-billed Grebe was scarce. Traditional nesting sites along Lake Ontario west of Rochester produced only a single sighting. The continued increase of summering Double-crested Cormorant raises the possibility of nesting in the future if they can find suitable habitat. Nesting herons and bitterns were in short supply. American Bittern continued to be scarce, and Least Bittern showed somewhat of a decline. Its traditional stronghold at Buck Pond in Greece didn't produce expected totals. For the most part Green-backed Heron numbers seemed down except for a pocket of nesting in Wayne County east of Rochester, where they were common during the atlasing period. Black-crowned Night-Heron was uncommon. The first successful nesting of Mute Swan at Braddock Bay was met with mixed emotions. Some observers and nonbirders were thrilled with the prospect of seeing them, while others were concerned about their aggressive nature and their habit of discouraging other nesting waterfowl. Two young were seen with the adults at the end of the season. Other waterfowl that appeared to do well included Canada Goose, Gadwall and American Wigeon along the shore of Lake Ontario west of Rochester. Mallard and Green-winged Teal seemed down slightly from the last couple of years. Wood Duck seemed to be doing fairly well. Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal

continued to experience a decline, and the latter has been down noticeably for the last few years. The continued nesting of Hooded Merganser at Genesee Country Nature Center has been a real plus.

Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel reports were about normal. Accipiter totals seemed down slightly, and there were no reports of N. Goshawk as has been the case in recent seasons. Red-shouldered Hawk also went unreported as a nester. Ring-necked Pheasant was well reported, perhaps pointing to a reverse of their somewhat mercuric decline of recent years. Wild Turkey numbers continued to expand along Lake Ontario.

The marsh dwellers, Sora, Virginia Rail and Common Moorhen, appeared to experience a decline. Observations by canoe, which usually report good numbers, were considerably lower than normal. One observer commented that if the causes are not explained then we are experiencing a serious decline. Upland Sandpiper seemed to be fairly stable if not increasing slightly, although numbers are not very high. Spotted Sandpiper seemed to be down somewhat as a nester. Ring-billed Gull attempted to nest atop a Kodak building in Rochester again, but nesting was successfully discouraged by the company due to unsanitary conditions brought about by the nesting birds. Black Tern seemed to be holding their own in the areas of concentration near the lakeshore, but numbers on the whole continue to be quite low.

Cuckoos showed some promise early in the season, especially near gypsy moth infestations, but slacked off during the season and were not very plentiful. Bergen Swamp once again provided the summer highlight for nesting owls. N. Saw-whet Owl was heard calling into June. While no nests actually have been discovered, nesting has been suspected in recent years. Barred Owl also was present in the swamp as has normally been the case. The caprimulgids continued to be of concern. Whip-poor-will, for all general purposes, has been nonexistent as a breeder. Common Nighthawk was present only at a couple of locations, and breeding was not confirmed. Ruby-throated Hummingbird seemed typically active at feeders and flower beds were visited regularly as in recent years.

Acadian Flycatcher continued to appear in new locations as well as traditional nesting sites. Eastern Kingbird may have been on the plus side while Least Flycatcher and Great Crested Flycatcher appeared to be on the down side. The former was very scarce compared to recent years. The swallows were not at usual levels. Tree Swallow experienced some losses with the early season cold and wet of spring, but they did re-nest.

Purple Martin was scarce along Lake Ontario. Congregations of Bank Swallows late in the season were smaller than usual. Sedge Wren, never numerous but some usually evident, was absent again this year. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was scarce in typical habitat and traditional nesting sites. Golden-crowned Kinglet, on the other hand, continued to do well in Regional spruce plantations. American Robin and the Eastern Bluebird did well, Veery appeared down slightly and Wood Thrush was somewhat of a puzzle, generally down but with some good concentrations. Gray Catbird was at standard levels and Northern Mockingbird exhibited their usual scattering of reports. Brown Thrasher was scarce. An interesting puzzle was the **Loggerhead Shrike** in marginal habitat at Geneseo on 22 Jun. It was not found on the following day. Perhaps a repeat next year will give us something to work with.

Yellow-throated Vireo seemed to have a successful season and were widespread in typical habitat. Solitary Vireo was found at the higher elevations, and Red-eyed and Warbling Vireo numbers were about par. The warblers demonstrated a variety of situations. Overall they showed low numbers, especially for Golden-winged, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white and Mourning Warblers, N. Waterthrush and Yellow-breasted Chat. Hooded Warbler once again was quite plentiful in Letchworth State Park. Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat were easily the most abundant warbler species.

Sparrow trends were few. Vesper, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows continued to be hard to find or scarce. The usual breeding locations held some individuals yet numbers were small. Field Sparrow seemed to be down slightly in its usual locations. Dark-eyed Junco appeared to have a good nesting season in the higher elevations. Eastern Meadowlark numbers seemed to be up while Northern Oriole numbers were reduced. Purple Finch continued to be scarce. Some observers blame the House Finch for the Purple Finch's decline, but the two differ in habitat preference and Purple Finch was already declining here before the House Finch invaded. There was evidence of Pine Siskin breeding throughout the season. This is typical of years when wintering and migration numbers are good.

This season encompasses the end of the spring migration and the beginning of the fall movement. Another highlight was the possible resighting of an **Am. White Pelican** that was seen a number of times in May. Late spring highlights included Black Scoter, Willet, Western Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. A Sanderling at Ontario Beach on 2 Jun was noteworthy. Few are reported in the area during the spring

migration. Late passerines included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and a few warbler species. An unusually large flock of Cedar Waxwing was reported from Pt. Breeze in June.

Returning shorebirds were evident in July. Whimbrel headed the group with multiple sightings. More shorebirds arrived by August, with good numbers of Sanderling and a single Red Knot being highlights. The passerine migration was of little note. There was no evidence of a real push of migrants. Only a few warblers were noted towards the end of the month.

Contributors: Benton Basham, Peg Beckman, Sue Boettger, Betsy Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Julle Claffey, Anne Clarridge, R. Conns, Mike Davids, Richard DeCoster, Frank Dobson, Peter Fahey, Kevin Griffith, Andy Grimsey, Tom & Marian Griswold, Bill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Greg Hartenstein, Diane Henderson, Mike Lanzone, Walt Listman, Bob Marcotte, Owen McCarthy, Bob McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Nancy Miller, Brian Mongi, Richard O'Hara, Robert Oswald, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, Frank Skillman, Robert & Susan Spahn, Cathy & Kristin Spahn, Paul Spindler, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Dave Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver and Kinsley Whittman.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, HBSP - Hamlin Beach State Park, HH - Harriet Hollister Specer Park, ICW - Island Cottage Woods, OB - Ontario Beach, Charlotte, PtB - Point Breeze, WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two Hemlock L 1 Jul; max five Keuka L. **Am. White Pelican:** one Greece 23 Jun (RC). Double-crested Cormorant: max 150 BB 31 Aug. Cattle Egret: three Hamlin 7 Jun, unusual time of the year. Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 15 BB 31 Aug, good total. Tundra Swan: one Greece 5 Jun, late. Mute Swan: *intro*. Gadwall: four ad and y Kendall 19 Jul. **Am. Wigeon:** two Kendall 28 July. Black Scoter: one Greece 6 Jun, unseasonal. Bufflehead: on BB 17 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Greece 18 Jun, late; arr Williamson 3 Aug. Bald Eagle: ad Letchworth SP 2 Jun, from Hemlock L nesting pair?; two imm Hamlin 3 Jun; one Williamson 3 Aug; one Hamlin 5 Aug; good summer totals. Merlin: one Springwater 1-15 Aug; one Greece 20 Aug. Wild Turkey: three HBSP 20 Aug, new location. Semipalmated Plover: one Perinton 10-14 Jun, injured bird. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Perinton 3 Jun, one Manitou 3 Jun, late. Willet: one OB 2 Jun, uncommon. Upland Sandpiper: max 15 Batavia 5 Aug (CC), good total. Whimbrel: one Greece 5 Jul (ROs), one OB 12 Jul (RMa), one PtB 19 Jul (RO'H), one OB 18 Aug (CC), one HBSP 29 Aug (CC), more than usual. Red Knot: one OB 20 Aug (CC), uncommon. Sanderling: *intro*; arr OB 24 Jul; max 120 OB 20 Aug. W. Sandpiper: two OB 2 Jun, uncommon in June [*White-rumped Sandpiper is more likely - The Editor*]. Least Sandpiper: arr four OB 24 Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: one Perinton 2 Jun. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barred Owl: one Salmon Creek, Greece 16 Jul (JS), new location. N. Saw-whet: *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: max 25 Rochester 30 Aug. Whip-poor-will: one Manitou 3 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one ICW 1 Jun, one PtB 24 Jun, poor total, late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last three ICW 1 Jun. Acadian Flycatcher: one Huron 8 Jul, new location; two HH 23 Jun, continued breeding there. Bank Swallow: max 1000 Manitou 28 Jul, poor total. Winter Wren: one Irondequoit 1-30 Jun, one Webster 28 Jun, unusual locations. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Manitou 8 Jun. Swainson's Thrush: arr Greece 30 Aug. N. Mockingbird: max six Nations Road 22 July. Cedar Waxwing: max 5000 PtB 1 Jun (WL). **Loggerhead Shrike: intro.**

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr Manitou 22 Aug. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Lawrence's" Canadice Lake 23 Jun, very unusual; several sightings of "Brewster's". Tennessee Warbler: last ICW 1 Jun; arr Greece 30 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr Greece 30 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Greece 30 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: one Manitou 8 Jun, late. Wilson's Warbler: last Manitou 8 Jun; arr Greece 29 Aug. Canada Warbler: one Greece 19 Aug, early.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: White-crowned Sparrow: one Webster 4 Jun (MAS), very late. Orchard Oriole: one Hamlin 16 Jun (KG), new location; three imm Huron 8 Jul (RS). Pine Siskin: one PtB 7 Jul, one Webster 8 Jul, three (ad with y) Manitou 21 Jul; one Webster 24 Jul.

*61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612*

## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

The 1990 summer season was average for temperatures and above average for precipitation. The first week of June and the final week of August brought the coldest temperatures of the summer season, as expected. Cool spring weather with frost warnings persisted until 5 Jun, when warm unstable weather caused a rapid series of summertime storms and temperatures in the 70's. Another batch of thunderstorms brought heavy rains on 14 Jun, with a third thunderstorm outbreak following on 21 Jun. Periods of rainy weather were the pattern into the first days of July, when a severe storm system on 4 Jul damaged trees and brought down power lines. Strong thunderstorms and rains occurred on 11, 20 and 23 Jul, interspersed with hot and humid summer temperatures. The storm of 20 Jul dropped golfball-sized hail in Cayuga County near Montezuma and brought down large trees and power lines in Chemung County. There was enough rainfall during July to cause excessive flow of the Chemung River. The final period of severe thunderstorms in the Region occurred on 27-28 Aug, when a powerful system moving from west to east created lightning and funnel clouds, and caused widespread tree and building damage and cut off power service.

It was a productive agricultural growing season, with first cuttings of alfalfa, clover-timothy and grass silage underway during June, followed by excellent haymaking conditions throughout the summer. Hot weather with frequent showers helped corn grow rapidly in July, and New York's onion crop was the best in years. Wild food crops including serviceberry, Black Cherry, and chokecherry were abundant this year, as were nut crops of Red Oak and hickory. Pines and spruces had little or no cone production this year. Birds feeding upon the available wild food crops were Cedar Waxwing, American Robin and Blue Jay, which were common throughout the Region all season. Near Yellow Barn State Forest, many Blue Jay were feeding upon the abundant cherry and nut crops there late in the Season. These jays were observed imitating vocalizations of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, as well as the sharp whistle of Woodchuck (known to colonial settlers as "whistle-pigs").

Throughout the Finger Lakes Region, birds associated with

agriculture and large woodlands were common. There were many reports of Ring-billed Gull, Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker and American Crow. Other species were scarce or little reported, including Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird and Carolina Wren. The absence of summer reports may indicate a decline in Carolina Wren, though they were reported in peak numbers on 1990 Christmas Counts in the Region. Northern Cardinal and Northern Mockingbird were steady in numbers and thought to be increasing.

Public lands in the Finger Lakes Region supplied the greatest diversity of bird species, as expected. Shindagin Hollow, Connecticut Hill Management Area, Finger Lakes National Forest, and both Hammond Hill and Yellow Barn State Forests were locations of many interesting reports this season. There were five singing **Acadian Flycatcher** along creekbeds and ravines in the southern part of Connecticut Hill in June. A second visit to this location on 19 Jul produced three singing adult Acadian Flycatchers along with one adult feeding two juveniles (W. R. Evans). Also observed at Connecticut Hill during the summer were a Common Raven, and singing males of **Pine Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, and **Hooded Warbler** (W. R. Evans). Other unusual breeding species in the Region were confirmed nestings of Northern Goshawk, Sedge Wren and **Orchard Oriole** on or near the Finger Lakes National Forest. Winter Wren, Hooded Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow were also present and singing at FLNF this summer, as well as Upland Sandpiper.

For another consecutive season, water levels at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge were drawn down late in the summer to create shorebird resting and feeding habitat at May's Point Pool. A total of nineteen shorebird species were observed during the late summer. Typical sightings during August included Semipalmated Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Semipalmated, Least, Pectoral, and White-rumped Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitcher. Killdeer, Common Snipe and Spotted Sandpipers were breeding species present all season at MNWR. There were single reports of Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Dunlin and Wilson's Phalarope. There was even a report of a color-banded Semipalmated Sandpiper, which was forwarded to Manomet Bird Observatory. Other birds of interest at MNWR included **Snowy Egret**, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Egret, Double-crested Cormorant, Wild Turkey, Virginia Rail, Sora, Lesser Black-backed Gull,

Caspian Tern, Common Tern and Black Tern. Both Bald Eagle and Osprey fledged young at MNWR this Season. There was no indication of breeding by either Double-crested Cormorant or Black Tern anywhere in the Region, although there were numerous nest sites of Great Blue Heron. Heavy rains in early summer may have compromised the nesting success of Common Tern, resulting in few reports later in the summer.

Wetlands in the southern Finger Lakes Region produced additional reports of water birds. Breeding species at the Corning Glass Pond and adjacent Big Flats wetlands were Pied-billed Grebe, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Common Moorhen, Virginia Rail and Sora. Transient shorebirds there included Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral, Least, Solitary and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Osprey nesting is suspected but unconfirmed in wooded areas along the Chemung River. There was also a **Sandhill Crane** in the wetland areas in Big Flats (see Notes and Observations). The Chemung River area in Elmira and Corning also produced the Region's only reports of breeding colonies of Rough-winged and Cliff Swallow, and the sole reports of Least Bittern and Ruddy Turnstone. There was also a Bank Swallow colony at a gravel pit there. There was no evidence of nesting Upland Sandpiper this year at a traditional nesting area known as Holding Point in Horseheads. For several years, this area has been the Region's only known nesting location of Upland Sandpiper, and is currently under human development and construction projects. From nearby Southport came several confirmed breeding reports of scarce or local species for Region 3, including Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow.

Contributors: C. Cass, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, D. Clements, F. Dobson, Eaton Birding Society, William R. Evans, B. Hilfiker, B. Marcotte, C. Melin, D. Sherony, G. Wolford.

Abbreviations: FLNF — Finger Lakes National Forest (formerly Hector Land Use Area). MNWR — Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: six imm Seneca Lake near Kashong 14 Jul, three ad same location 19 Jul. Com. Merganser: seven Elmira 25 Jul. Great Egret: max 6 MNWR 30 Aug. **Snowy Egret**: MNWR 19 Aug (mob).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: bred MNWR; at least one carrying food into the woods along the Chemung R at Big Flats 24 Jul, two other reports here during the summer. N. Goshawk: two FL FLNF. Ring-necked Pheasant: several reports from Phelps area but few elsewhere. **Sandhill Crane**: *intro*. Lesser Golden-Plover: two Janius 26 Aug. Upland Sandpiper five ad in the vicinity of the Rothermich/Fish Road intersection FLNF throughout June; *intro*. Whimbrel: one MNWR; also one Charlott 18 Aug, flushed by a dog on beach. Ruddy Turnstone:



seven Elmira 5 Aug, only report. Lesser Black-backed Gull: one MNWR (no details).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Whip-poor-will: heard calling Southport until mid Aug (DC). Red-headed Woodpecker: ad s Auburn 10 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Acadian Flycatcher**: *intro*. Cliff Swallow: *intro*; nesting on bridges in Elmira, Horseheads, and Corning (Clements). Tree Swallow: up to 5000 assembling for migration MNWR 30 Aug. Com. Raven: *intro*. Fish Crow: no reports. Carolina Wren: *intro*; present Kashong Glen and Keuka Outlet. **Sedge Wren**: two singing birds with one FL, Burr Road one mi n of Searsburg Road, FLNF. Marsh Wren: one MNWR 30 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **Pine Warbler**: singing male in a Red Pine plantation off Carter Creek Road on Connecticut Hill 22 May and 19 Jul. Prairie Warbler: singing male Connecticut Hill 20 Jun. Hooded Warbler: present Connecticut Hill and FLNF. Worm-eating Warbler: none. Yellow-breasted Chat: none.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Orchard Oriole**: female with three FL FLNF. White-winged Crossbill: singing male Pine City 10 Jun. Purple Finch: scarce or absent. Pine Siskin: scarce or absent.

*449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville NY 13068.*

## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

"One of the 10 best days of the year" was the radio weather person's description of 1 Jun 1990 with its sunny skies, 80° temperatures and light breeze. It was a fit beginning for a comfortable, normal summer, much like last year's. The entire season was cooler than normal but only by about a degree. Although the mercury often climbed above 85°, especially during the last two weeks of July, it reached 90° only on the Fourth of July. Precipitation during June and July averaged an inch less than normal but came as timely showers to keep the ground from drying out. August rainfall was about an inch above normal. At month's end, rainfall for the year was about five inches above normal. As a result, some rivers and reservoirs remained high all season, especially where dams controlled water flow. The loss of exposed mudflats in those areas adversely affected early shorebird migration counts. It was an ideal growing season for wild foods, however. Grass and weed seeds ripened quickly. Fruits and berries flourished. (I can't believe black cherries or dogwood fruits ever hung heavier on the branches). Add the abundance of maturing nuts and cones and an excellent winter food supply seems assured.

Cool weather kept some insect populations down, mosquitoes for one, probably contributing to low counts for swallow species. Bank Swallow, however, got a boost at Murphy's Sand Pit in Vestal, where two colonies nested. Marie Petuh reported that in those areas, the company stopped operations from the time the swallows arrived until they completed nesting. Wood Ducks had excellent breeding success. I counted 68 immatures with 10 hens at six sites in Oneonta-Milford area 14 and 16 June. Margaret Layton and Jane Chittenden reported "many with young" at the Marshall 'B' Andrews Refuge, Bainbridge, 2 June. Wood Duck replaced Mallard as the most common breeding duck of the Region. Other duck reports were disappointing. Increasing Wood Duck populations, in part explained by the addition of duck boxes in many ponds, may be squeezing Hooded Merganser for habitat. Although never a common breeder in our area, the single Hooded Merganser report is a real low count. Discouraging also were the lone reports of Blue-winged Teal and American Black Duck. There were just two reports of Common Merganser, but an unseasonal **Black Scoter** was spotted at

Beaver Lake, Windsor, on 6 Jul by Sadie Dorber and Marie Petuh. It remained all season, but our observers learned it had died early September.

Three uncommon raptors were found nesting this summer. Halladay Pierce spotted a Bald Eagle pair at Cannonsville Reservoir in June and confirmed with the DEC that they were nesting. No check was made for breeding success. A pair of N. Harrier, seen courting along the Susquehanna River north of Milford in April, was spotted there 28 Jun with one immature. A N. Goshawk pair with three immatures was found at McGraw on 10 Jun. Several reports of immature Red-tailed Hawk indicated good nesting success.

A pair of N. Bobwhite remained near the Harry Branigan farm in Milford, for about six weeks in June and July, but no proof of breeding was found. Since bobwhite was heard last year in the same area, the Branigans keep watch. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was a rare summer resident in Broome Co. The one reported at Oquaga Creek 18 June by Sadie Dorber and the Finch Hollow Nature Center staff might be considered a very late spring migrant. However, a male was observed all season by Tom Tasber, FHNC naturalist, and his wife, Norene, at their home in Triangle. At a high elevation, their property adjoins a hemlock forest with a swampy area across the road, affording good Ruby-crowned habitat.

I would like to commend the many observers who scrambled to collect and send me their summer reports. Since I came to this job late in the season, we all had limited time to assemble a report. Some reports were missed, but the total of 148 species for the period was slightly above normal. Clay-colored Sparrow was the only real rarity. Great Egret made what has become a biannual late summer appearance. Species records for hawks and sparrows were excellent. Among warblers, reports for Magnolia and Blackburnian were scarce, Chestnut-sided and Yellow-rumped were down and Blue-winged, Yellow, Black-and-white and Am. Redstart were good. Species missed this year included Pied-billed Grebe, Am. and Least Bittern, Com. Moorhen, Am. Coot, Red-headed Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Swainson's Thrush and Golden-winged Warbler.

Abbreviations: Can Res - Cannonsville Reservoir; ChFk - Chenango Forks.; ChR - Chenango River; DBBS - Downsville BBS 13 Jun; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; JC - Johnson City; MBA - Marshall "Bud" Andrews Refuge; MSP - Murphy's Sand Pit; NNM - North Norwich Marsh; OBBS - Oxford BBS, 2 Jun; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford.

Contributors: Richard Andrus, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Les Bemont, Bob

Blood (BBI), Bruce Bozdos, Jane Chittenden, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davies (MDv), Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Carl Eastwood, M. Ferranti, Elva Hawkin, Gail Kirch, Wm. & Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason, E. Patch, Marie Petuh, Halladay Pierce, Joseph Sedlacek, Dave Sterling, Tom & Norene Tasber, Bill Toner, Elizabeth Washburn, Don Windsor, Heather Windsor, Irene Wright, J. Young.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Whitney Pt 15 Jun, two there 22 Jun (DS), only reports. Great Blue Heron: max 41 Harpersfield rookery 22 Jun (AM). Great Egret: One Preble 10 Aug; one above Chenango Bridge 11 Aug to end of period. Green-backed Heron: two ad, one imm Flood Control Dam Binghamton 7 Jul; singles at up to 16 sites, good count. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one TIOG Jun (C&JB), often missed. Canada Goose: ten (two FL) T Windsor 2 Jun (JS), six other BROO/OTSE reports. Wood Duck: *intro*. Am. Black Duck: pair Bainbridge 2 Jun, only report Blue-winged Teal: one Cole P 8 Aug, probably an early migrant. **Black Scoter**: *intro*. Hooded Merganser: ChR 16 Jun (DW), only report. Com. Merganser: six ad with four y BROO 22 Jul; two OTSE 24 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 15-20 Can Res entire season (HP); many reports BROO CHEN OTSE. Osprey: one Hawkins Pd BROO 26 Jul (FHNC staff) unusual date; seven migrating singles BROO, DELA, OTSE Aug. **Bald Eagle**: *intro*. N. Harrier: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three reports Triangle Jul; one Carr Hill, CORT and one TIOG Aug, low. Cooper's Hawk: one 27 and 28 Jun Endwell; singles at three BROO and one TIOG sites Jul and at three sites BROO, CORT, OTSE Aug, excellent count and distribution. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: a pair Lamb Rd, TIOG 18 Jul (MP); singles Whaupaucanau CHEN 3 Jul, at Pharsalia Woods CHEN 21 Jul and OPM 30 Aug, good numbers. Broad-winged Hawk: one OBBS, eight other reports, mostly BROO; one Vestal 5 Jun "was harassing two Red-tails" (MP, ML, EP); one arr Maine 29 Aug. Am. Kestrel: good breeding counts; "one picked off a Goldfinch from a flying group" JC 24 Aug (MP). Ring-necked Pheasant; max four OPM Aug (IW); one TIOG Jul (C&JB), only reports. N. Bobwhite: *intro*. Wild Turkey: max 17 (three hens with ten well developed y and a hen with four smaller y) Hamden Jul (HP). Virginia Rail: one MBA Refuge 10 Jun (MP,W&ML, JC); one OPM 6 Jun (MD), only reports; Sora: one NNM 26 Aug (DW,JL,CE), only report. Lesser Yellowlegs: one ChR 26 Aug (DW,JL); one TIOG Aug (C&JB). Solitary Sandpiper: arr ChR 30 Jul; three at three sites Aug, scarce. Spotted Sandpiper: two OBBS; max three ChR 26 Jul; last 27 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: ad feeding one y "in a medium grassy field" 25 Jun (MP, JC, EP, JY). Least Sandpiper: four ChR 26 Aug; one OPM 30 Aug, only reports. Short-billed Dowitcher: two TIOG Aug (C&JB), uncommon in Region. Am. Woodcock: one Endicott 24/25 Jun (T&NT); family walking down the middle of the road" OPM 20 Jul (HB); one N Colesville 29 Jul (JS), only reports. Ring-billed Gull: max 100 at Otsego L and Canadarago L 28 Aug, postbreeding dispersal.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Mcdonough BBS 12 June, four other singles, low. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one DBBS; four other singles Jun only. Great Horned Owl: three imm FHNC 23 Jun; singles there seven other

dates: one Sherburne 29 Jul. E. Screech-Owl: one ChFk 20 Aug, one TIOG, only reports. Com. Nighthawk: breeding season max four Oneonta 2 Jun; 11 Vestal 17 Aug, "many more flocking there other years prior to migration" (LB); "large migrating flock" BROO 27 Aug (HM, BB, GK). Chimney Swift: max 12 New Berlin; daily ChFk to 27 Aug, scarce. Belted Kingfisher: max six OPM 4 sites 8 Aug. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one TIOG Aug, only report. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 11 on three BBS; ad & two imm OPM 2 Aug; last 25 Aug. Hairy Woodpecker: one/two at 12 sites, low. N. Flicker: max 10 on 3 BBS; up to four at 10 sites Aug. Pileated Woodpecker: max two in tree with three freshly dug holes OPM 6 Jun, but not there again; six singles reported.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: max 15 on 3 BBS; good counts all season. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one BROO 17 Aug (HM), only report. Least Flycatcher: max 18 on 3 BBS; last BROO 31 Aug. Great Crested Flycatcher: max 12 on 3 BBS; last 17 Aug. E. Kingbird: max 20 OPM 14 Aug. Purple Martin: one Struble P, Endwell 27 June (T&NT), only report. Tree Swallow: max 34 on 3 BBS; last two 25 Aug; "Nesting not as successful this year at TIOG" (C&JB). N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 12 OPM 18 Jul, ads feeding imm; last two 20 Aug. Barn Swallow: max 70 OPM 14 Aug. Tufted Titmouse: five imm Endwell early Jul (ML); good reports BROO/TIOG. Carolina Wren: one MSP 22 Jul, only report. Winter Wren: seven sites OTSE, two in areas of last year's timber cutting, good count. Marsh Wren: max four DPW Swamp, Binghamton 22 Jul (MP, Gw); one ad & one imm there 25 Aug; last NNM 26 Aug. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one FHNC 29 Aug, only report. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. E. Bluebird: "Most nestings since Nest Box Trail established in 1981" CORT (BT); excellent reports everywhere. Veery: max 67 on 3 BBS, excellent count. Hermit Thrush: max 9 DBBS; nine at 8 sites OPM July/Aug, good. Wood Thrush: max 46 3 BBS; last 31 Aug. N. Mockingbird: good counts continue BROO. Brown Thrasher: max seven on 2 BBS. Cedar Waxwing: max 30 on 3 BBS; postbreeding max 70 OPM 20 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLEERS: Solitary Vireo: max five OPM 4 and 16 Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: max 102 DBBS, very high count. Blue-winged Warbler: max 12 on 2 Jun (four OBBS, four each Colesville & Coventry) (JS); five banded Vestal four dates Aug, last 14 Aug. Nashville Warbler: one DBBS, one Triangle 16 Jun, only reports. Yellow Warbler: max 69 three BBS. Magnolia Warbler: singles four sites OTSE Jun; one TIOG 14 Aug; one imm JC 16 Aug, scarce. Black-throated Blue Warbler: max two DBBS; 10 singles, Jun only. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max seven on three BBS; ad & imm OPM 29 Jul; scattered singles all season, scarce. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 15 on three BBS; well reported all season. Blackburnian Warbler: max five DBBS; singles OTSE & BROO; one banded Vestal 31 Aug, only reports. Prairie Warbler: max two OBBS; seven other reports Jun. Black-and-white Warbler: max 11 DBBS; good counts all season. Am. Redstart: max 29 on three BBS; three arr Oneonta 17 Aug. Worm-eating Warbler: one DBBS, first Regional report since 1984. Mourning Warbler: max six on two BBS; ad feeding y OPM 11 Jul. Canada Warbler: max four OPM 3 sites 24 Jul; one banded Vestal 14 Aug; one Triangle 26 Aug, last. Hooded Warbler: one Triangle 27 Aug; one banded Vestal 31 Aug, only reports.

TANAGER-OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: max 33 three BBS. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 21 on three BBS, good. Indigo Bunting: max 17 on three BBS; ad with y OPM 21 Jul and CHEN 7 Aug; four banded Vestal Aug. Rufous-sided Towhee: max 11 on two BBS. Vesper Sparrow: four OPM two sites 13 Jun; one BROO 12 Jun, low. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: off Dutchman Rd TIOG 7 Jun (HM, BB, GK, FL), Regional first. Grasshopper Sparrow: max seven n Long Pd CHEN 24 Jun (DW, JL, CC); one Vestal 5 Jun, only reports. Henslow's Sparrow: three n Long Pd CHEN 24 Jun (DW, JL, CC) only report. White-throated Sparrow: max 10 on three BBS; up to 4 at 14 other sites Jun/Jul. Bobolink: breeding max 50 on two BBS; migrating max and last 20 OPM 20 Aug. N. Oriole: max 21 on two BBS: last Triangle 26 Aug. Purple Finch: max six on two BBS: one banded Vestal & Binghamton; two other singles, scarce. White-winged Crossbill: three, one of the males "presented grit to the female," Lamb Rd TIOG 16 Jun (MP, EW), nesting or stragglers from last winter's incursion? Pine Siskin: two JC 16 Jun, last of four BROO/OTSE strays. Evening Grosbeak: one arr Tioga Aug (C&JB).

*7 Spencer Dr., Oneonta, NY 13820*

## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

For the most part it was a very wet and damp summer with yearly rainfall for this time of the year exceeding the norm by five or six inches. In the western Adirondacks eleven days of rain in June and eight days in both July and August, along with a 4.5 inch cloudburst on 23 Jul, made it almost impossible for some birds to feed their nestlings on a diet of insects. Another cloudburst hit Syracuse with 2.50 inches in less than two hours on 28 Aug. That same evening two separate tornados touched down near Big Moose L, Herkimer Co., and at the State Fair Grounds in Syracuse. Obviously, rain gear became an all important item to bring with you on field trips.

Birds are not in the habit of ending their migration on 31 May, as witnessed by one observer at Derby Hill during the first two days of June. Among raptors eight Osprey, a Bald Eagle and 579 Broad-winged Hawk were observed along with substantial numbers of Blue Jay and Cedar Waxwing. Other interesting late migrants included Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet from the southern highlands of Onondaga Co.

In terms of nesting success, only one of the two Common Loon chicks reported from Limekiln L survived the summer for the first time in fifteen years. For the last several years, the population of Double-crested Cormorant on Wantry Island in Oneida L has steadily increased. Over fifty pairs fledged young this season. Osprey was successful in fledging two young each from three nests, two in the boundaries of Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area north of Baldwinsville and the third adjacent to the Little Salmon River Reservoir in Oswego Co. One other nest found near Moss Lake in the Adirondacks remained inactive for the summer. Unfortunately, one of the nests near Baldwinsville came down in a severe storm that passed through our area on 28 Aug. Common Tern nested primarily on Little and Long Island in Oneida Lake, with approximately 550 nests successfully fledging young. With May's record rainfall and several consecutive days of wet, cold weather in June, Tree Swallow and E. Bluebird young were adversely affected. Tree Swallow was reduced in half from the northern portion of our region, while E. Bluebird suffered a similar fate by losing 100 of their young along a bluebird trail in Oswego Co. Despite the loss, John Rogers reported that 453 bluebirds were successfully fledged, down slightly from the 508

fledged the previous summer. In addition, a third successful brood of E. Bluebird was observed on 24 Aug, an uncommon event for central New York. Since the conclusion of the breeding bird atlas project, successful nesting of Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove and House Finch have been reported from the Old Forge area. Other nesting highlights for the season include a new nesting site for Cerulean Warbler along Kirkville Rd near the border of Onondaga and Madison Co's and Orchard Oriole from the north shore of Oneida L.

Positives include a Great Egret at Moss L in the Adirondacks on 2 Aug and an increased number of reports for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, with one observer reporting a female feeding young thirty feet high in a Red Maple on 4 August. A record number of approximately 1500 Cliff Swallow were observed south and east of Oneida L on 20 August by Dorothy Crumb. And lastly, a small colony of Henslow's Sparrows continued to be seen until mid Aug.

Negatives for the season include no reports of Least Bittern and a possible range reduction for Upland Sandpiper, with the only observations coming from northern Oneida Co.

Shorebird migration was not impressive due to intense recreational use of Sandy Pond, Sylvan and Verona beaches, above average rainfall and a lack of plowed fields near Oneida L. Observers having an opportunity to visit Syracuse parks witnessed a poor migration of Common Nighthawk and almost no Yellow Warbler nesting or migrating. One observer noted that Savannah Sparrow is still common, but suggested that road frontage of hay fields are being eaten up by new houses as one factor in their decline.

Observers reported a total of 176 species and one hybrid for the summer. The most unusual of these were Greater Scaup, Acadian Flycatcher and Orchard Oriole. Other notable species observed were Great Egret, Bald Eagle, Whip-poor-will, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Com. Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Sedge Wren, Henslow's Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow.

A special thanks to Gary Lee and Marge Rusk for their contributions to the introduction of this report.

Contributors: Sue Boettger, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, William T. Gruenbaum, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Gary Lee, Sheila McCombie, Ferne F. Merrill, Belle Peebles, Pete Pleniski, Robert E. Post, Bill Purcell, John Rogers, Margaret S. Rusk, Gerald Smith, Jim & Elba Van Dresar, Glenn Wolford.

Abbreviations: Adks - Adirondacks; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; SPd - Sandy Pond, OSWE; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, OSWE;



TRWMA - Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area, ONON; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, ONEI; Syr - Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: singles at Moss and Nick's L, two y at Limekiln L. Pied-billed Grebe: four Howland's I 8 Jul, only report. Double-crested Cormorant: max 475 SPd 12 Aug; *intro*. Am. Bittern: one near Port Byron 3 Aug, very scarce. Great Egret: one Oriskany Falls BBS 6 Jun; two SVB 24-31 Aug; two Delta L 31 Aug, *intro*. Green-backed Heron: max 12 Fort Bull, Rome 16 Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Fort Bull 1 Jul, 16 Aug. Wood Duck: max 70 Delta L 31 Aug. Green-winged Teal: max 15 Delta L 31 Aug. Am. Black Duck: five Delta L 31 Aug. N. Pintail: one Delta L 31 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: max 55 Delta L 31 Aug. Greater Scaup: one Erieville Res, third summer record (E Hawken). Com. Merganser: max 14 Delta L 31 Aug. Red-breasted Merganser: last Erieville Res 1 Jun, arr SPd 30 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 34 T Montezuma 8 Jul. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: imm DH 2 Jun, Hastings 24 Jun, Delta L 30 Jun, 11 Aug; ad Limekiln L 17 Jun. N. Harrier: seven reports. Broad-winged Hawk: *intro*. Am. Kestrel: twenty reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: three N Victory BSS 7 Jun, one TRWMA 8 Jul. Virginia Rail: two T Brutus 2 Jun, Utica Marsh 5 Jun, one SVB June. Com. Moorhen: max five SSSP 12 Jul. Semipalmated Plover: arr SPd 12 Aug, max there five. Killdeer: max 85 Paris Hill Uplands ONEI 31 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Holland Patent 20 Jul; max three T Clay 24-31 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Port Byron 3 Aug; max eight Delta L 31 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Erieville 23 Aug; max six T Clay 24-31 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: three Steuben 16 Jun, one Holland Patent 3 Jun to mid Jul. Ruddy Turnstone: arr SPd 20 Aug, max there two. Red Knot: one SPd 20 Aug, only report. Sanderling: arr SPd 12 Aug, max 53 there 20 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr SVB 1 Aug, max 56 SPd 20 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr SPd 12 Aug, max 77 SPd 20 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: one SPd 23 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: two SPd, one SVB 30 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr SVB 7 Aug; max four SPd 23 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: three SPd 30 Aug, only report. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Lamson Rd OSWE 14 Jul, SVB 29 Aug. Com. Snipe: three T Clay 28-31 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SPd 12 Aug; max 220 SVB 29 Aug. Caspian Tern: max 68 SPd 20 Aug. Com. Tern: max 70 SVB 29 Aug. Black Tern: eight ad, four imm SSSP 12 Jul; max 15 SPd 23 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 59 Alder Creek BBS 16 Jun. Black-billed Cuckoo: three reports for the period. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: singles Erieville 17 Aug, Otisco L 31 Aug. E. Screech-Owl: pair with y DH 16 Jun; one Erieville 21-31 Aug. Barred Owl: one Fabius 23 Jun. Com. Nighthawk: max breeding population three Syr in July and one Utica in June; max 13 migrating Syr 29 Aug. Whip-poor-will: one Hinckley L 22 Aug, only report. Chimney Swift: max 40 Rome 16 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: eight McKeever BBS 17 Jun. Red-headed Woodpecker: pair with two y fledged Erieville 1 Jun-16 Jul; one DH 2 Jun; one Paris Hill Uplands 31 Aug. Black-backed Woodpecker: male Carter Station T Webb 10 Jun; one Third L Swamp 29 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: two Labrador Pd ONON

until 23 Jun, late migrants; three Wood's L Adks 5 Jul. E. Wood-Pewee: max 18 SPd 23 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Erieville 12 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher**: one Happy Valley WMA OSWE 15 Jun (BP). E. Kingbird: max 20 n shore Oneida L 25 Aug. Tree Swallow: max 300 SPd 30 Aug. N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 40 SPd 12 Aug. Bank Swallow: max 340 SPd 23 Aug. Cliff Swallow: *intro*. Barn Swallow: max 275 SPd 23 Aug. Gray Jay: one Old Forge Airport and n branch Moose R. Blue Jay: max 275 DH 2 Jun. Com. Raven: four Wood's L 5 Jul. Boreal Chickadee: one Rockdam Rd, Third L Swamp 29 Jun. Tufted Titmouse: none. Carolina Wren: reported from Syr, Oneida and Erieville. Sedge Wren: six Black Creek Rd T Clay 9 Jul-24 Aug (DWC, mob). Marsh Wren: max 21 Peat Swamp 19 Jun. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two Highland Forest 2 Jun, late migrants. E. Bluebird: *intro*. Veery: max 36 Kasaog BBS 16 Jun. Brown Thrasher: seven reports, very scarce. Cedar Waxwing: max 305 DH 1 Jun.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: Philadelphia Vireo: arr SPd 30 Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: max 91 McKeever BBS 17 Jun. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Lawrence's" Hastings 2 Jun (BP). Golden-winged Warbler: one DH to 2 Jun, Ira 7 Jun, Alder Creek 16 Jun. Yellow Warbler: max 85 SPd 12 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: arr Syr 27 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr SPd 30 Aug, Erieville 31 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr SPd 30 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SPd 30 Aug. Pine Warbler: arr Erieville 29 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Erieville 29 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Erieville 18 Aug. Cerulean Warbler: arr Erieville 16 Aug; *intro*. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Erieville 21 Aug. Hooded Warbler: one Jones Hill 23 Jun. Wilson's Warbler: arr SPd 30 Aug. Canada Warbler: arr Rome 25 Aug.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: Field Sparrow: max 11 Oriskany Fall BBS 6 Jun. Vesper Sparrow: eight reports. Savannah Sparrow: max 11 Oriskany Falls BBS 6 Jun. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Annsville 16 Jun. Henslow's Sparrow: six pairs W Monroe to 13 Aug (mob). Lincoln's Sparrow: five Wood's L 5 Jul. Swamp Sparrow: max 59 Peat Swamp 19 Jun. White-throated Sparrow: max 76 McKeeber BBS 17 Jun. Orchard Oriole: imm W Monroe 25 Jun, two FL there late Aug. N. Oriole: max 20 N. Victory BBS 7 Jun, last heard Syr 29 Aug. White-winged Crossbill: max 25 T Webb 10 Jun. Pine Siskin: last DH 1 Jun. Am. Goldfinch: max 50 Labrador Pd 23 Jun.

1065 Westmoreland Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

Region Six includes several topographic regions, the Northern Plateau including the Tug Hill, the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence lowlands and the Adirondack foothills of southern St. Lawrence Co. Temperatures on the Tug Hill are several degrees lower and precipitation generally considerably higher than the rest of the Region. June and July were cooler than usual, 2-3° so on the Tug Hill, while August was warmer than normal. June was one to two inches wetter than usual but, unlike the rest of the State, July and August were drier than normal. Except for the first week of June, low temperatures were in the 40's while highs did not exceed 90. All three months were marked by several severe storms, especially 11-12 Jun, 23-24 Jul, and 13-14 and 28 Aug. No one commented on the weather and its effect on birds. Food crops appear fair to middlin' — few blackberries, apples or butternuts, but good beechnut and acorn crops.

Coverage this period was sparse, with only two reports from Lewis Co. and none for southern St. Lawrence Co. In spite of this lack of depth the species count of 132 was about average. It was comprised of 11 species of waterfowl, eight raptors, six waders and rails, 17 shorebirds, and 75 passerines. There were good numbers of N. Harrier, Am. Kestrel, Killdeer, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, E. Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, E. Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, and E. Meadowlark. All locally common woodpecker species but Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were reported. All flycatcher species but Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were reported, as well as all swallow species except Rough-winged. All five wren species were reported. Few thrushes were reported save good numbers of Veery and Wood Thrush near Louisville.

High brood success was noted for Great Blue Heron, Wild Turkey, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, and Com. Grackle. Populations of Double-crested Cormorant, Turkey Vulture, Mallard, Mourning Dove and House Finch continued to increase. Other range-expanding species reported (details in species accounts) included another Red-bellied Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, and N. Mockingbird. Of special note is J. Spencer's report of the presumed first recent nesting of Com. Raven in Lewis Co. on east slope of Tug Hill.

The dearth of reports made it difficult to gauge population levels of

warblers. In northern St. Lawrence Co. on 9-10 Jun, Marilyn Badger sighted a total of one Black-throated Green, one Blackburnian, and eight Black-and-white Warblers, one Am. Redstart, 64 Ovenbird, and two N. Waterthrush; she also found one Nashville on 7 Jul and a Mourning Warbler on 1 Jun. Low populations were cited for Red-tailed Hawk, Least Flycatcher, E. Wood-Pewee, Barn Swallow, Warbling Vireo, Am. Redstart, and N. Oriole. There were no reports for a number of endangered or threatened species, including Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, or the grassland sparrows.

Breeding populations of colonial waterbirds on Little Galoo I and the St Lawrence R, as counted by the NYSDEC and USFWS, were reported for the first time in several years. Nests on Little Galoo included 4072 Double-crested Cormorant, up 55 from 1989; 23 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 84,230 Ring-billed Gull, 606 Herring Gull, and six Great Black-backed Gull. Gerald Smith estimated numbers of Caspian Tern, which first bred in 1986, at 640 adults and 240 chicks, double the 1989 levels. On the St. Lawrence River there were 566 Com. Tern nests, down a little from 600 last year but up from 522 in 1986. A survey of 26 Black Tern sites showed nesting of 214 pairs at 17 sites, primarily in Region 6 with the greatest numbers at Perch River WMA and Wilson Bay, T Cape Vincent.

Several early migrants, including Red-eyed Vireo and five species of warbler, were recorded at Cape Vincent on 29-30 Aug by Mary Wood. Lee Chamberlaine reported migration starting for Am. Robin, Bobolink and N. Oriole in mid Aug and Chipping Sparrow in late August.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Lee Chamberlaine, Bob and Shiela Cerwonka, Ken Crowell, Bruce DiLabio, John Green, Lee Harper, Paul Kelly, Robert Long, Mike and Sue Sheard, Jim Spencer, Mary Wood.

Abbreviations: MSD — Moses-Saunders Dam; OBBS - Ogdensburg BBS, 17 Jun; SLR - St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: pairs at Rainbow Flow, Colton and Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; y reported at Cole's Creek (R&SC), another case of breeding in SLR Valley. Pied-billed Grebe: singles Wilson Hill WMA 9 Jun and Macomb 6 Jul only reports. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*, continued increase with "groups of 20-30" on channel markers in SLR near Chippewa Bay. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*, regular evenings Cape Vincent. Great Blue Heron: good production at Sulphur Springs rookery, T Hounsfeld. Green-winged Teal: one MSD 12 Jul, only report. Am. Black Duck: two MSD 10 Jul, 11 Aug. Com. Merganser: max 25 MSD 14 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Cooper's Hawk: two single ad JEFF June; imm pursuing House Finch Henderson 24 Aug. Broad-winged Hawk: one Louisville 1 Jun only report. Gray Partridge: many reports from Cape Vincent area including two

coveys of 12 on 28 Jul. Wild Turkey: hens with poults near Henderson and Hammond in August indicate good year. Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 MSD 12 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: one Louisville 6 Jun, only report. Little Gull: ad MSD 8 Jul. Bonaparte's Gull: max 435 molting ad and ca. 15 juv MSD 14 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*, max 3000 MSD 8 Jul. Herring Gull: *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*, max 12 MSD 14 Aug. Caspian Tern: *intro*, common off Fisher's Landing, T Alexandria Bay. Com. Tern: *intro*, max 100 MSD 14 Aug. Black Tern: *intro*.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: two OBBS, one Massena 10 Jul. E. Screech-Owl: one calling Cape Vincent 29 Aug. Com. Nighthawk: nesting on rooftops of Ogdensburg Psychiatric Center, last 15 Aug; four reports for Louisville, first and max three 8 Jun, last one 12 Aug. Whip-poor-will: at Limerick Cedars Preserve, JEFF. Chimney Swift: reported in small numbers from Henderson, Cape Vincent and Louisville. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two males and three females at Cape Vincent feeder in mid June. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Ogdensburg 25 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Willow Flycatcher: one OBBS. Least Flycatcher: numbers down, max six OBBS. Great Crested Flycatcher: abundant even in villages, ad with young Cape Vincent after 16 Jul. E. Kingbird: OBBS lowest in ten years; but LBC reports "very common". Purple Martin: "very few" in Henderson, only six to eight at Cape Vincent in Aug, 40 pair nesting in two houses owned by L. Dodge in Louisville. Cliff Swallow: max 500 MSD. **Com. Raven**: four nestlings at Whetstone Gulf, T Martinsburg (JS), first modern nesting from the Tug Hill. **Carolina Wren**: one singing Holmes Pt, Morristown, 1 Aug (RL), first STLA record. House Wren: feeding young in nest box late Aug at both Henderson and Cape Vincent. Winter Wren: one Stony Pt 2 Jul unusual location. Sedge Wren: one OBBS and two singing males same site 6 Jul. N. Mockingbird: one Cape Vincent 9 Aug; one singing Louisville July to mid Aug. Cedar Waxwing: fledged young July in Louisville, unsuccessful nesting in Cape Vincent July.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: singles Louisville 1 Jun and Massena 9 Jun suggest breeding. Warbling Vireo : outnumbered by Red-eyed Vireo near Louisville two to one. Magnolia Warbler: pair feeding three fledged y "in spruce tree in town" Louisville 10 Jun; arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Nashville Warbler: *intro*. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Am. Redstart: arr Cape Vincent 29-30 Aug. Ovenbird: *intro*. N. Waterthrush: *intro*. Mourning Warbler: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: none again. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Louisville 11 Jun. Pine Siskin: daily in Ogdensburg to 23 Jun; one Henderson 4 Jul. Evening Grosbeak: six Louisville 28 Jun; ad feeding y near Turin late July.

RD 4 Box 97, Canton, NY 13617

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

After a pause last summer, Double-crested Cormorant resumed its increase on the Four Brothers Islands, where a pre-fledging die off of Ring-billed Gull chicks was a cause for concern. Continued gains were seen in Adirondack nesting Osprey populations, and Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon held their own. If there are more Cedar Waxwing with orange tail tips being reported, there also seem to be fewer Black Tern. A decline in observer reports resulted in just 142 species being documented, far short of the 200 found in summer 1984 at the height of the Atlas effort. In spite of the reduced effort, a number of good birds were located.

Weather was fairly typical, alternating between sunny/warm and rainy/cool. There was a heat wave 17-19 July, with over ten consecutive days without rain, yet by mid August rainfall was some 5 inches above normal, and the end of the season saw some lovely days, with Lake Champlain just above the 97-ft. mark.

A total of 15 nestling Black-crowned Night-Herons, 1,000 Ring-billed Gull, and 115 Herring Gull chicks were banded on the Four Brothers Islands 9-10 June. Wardens Rachel Hopkins and Neil Rizos counted 404 active Double-crested Cormorant nests, up from 270 in last year's census. Other interesting species at the islands included Canada Goose with 3 goslings on 27 Jul, Gadwall (max. six at the islands on 2 Aug), a Sanderling on 27 Jul, four Least Sandpiper and two Pectoral Sandpiper on 9 Jun, and at least five pairs of nesting Great Black-backed Gull. The 19-ft. "Four Winds" required a \$2,000 motor repair and was out of service for almost two months.

During late July, the USF&WS and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources found numbers of dead and dying Ring-billed Gulls, mostly young birds, on Young Island (South Sister) in Vermont waters of Lake Champlain. A visit to Island "C" of Four Brothers on 23 Jul found a similar situation there. The National Wildlife Health Center in Wisconsin suspected an outbreak of Chlamydiosis, based upon preliminary necropsies done at the islands. About 1500 dead gulls were collected on Young I. and their carcasses incinerated. On 27 Jul, a team of four NYS DEC biologists and wildlife manager Mike Peterson landed on Island "C" to count and incinerate carcasses, collect further specimens, and remove bird bands as an index of mortality. Protocols

called for disposable white coveralls, high rubber boots, surgical gloves and masks, rubber gauntlets, goggles, and clorox disinfectant. About 2500-3000 carcasses were disposed of that day, and bands were removed from 25 chicks on the island between 25 Jul and 2 Aug, or just 2.5% of the thousand chicks that had been banded. To place this in perspective, similar sweeps of the island have been conducted in previous years for dead banded chicks. These searches were obviously not as diligent or thorough as this summer, when every dead bird was handled and examined. Nevertheless, here are the figures for the years when searches have been done during the past decade:

1984	46 bands	4.6%
1986	15 bands	1.5%
1987	29 bands	2.9%
1988	9 bands	.9%
1990	26 bands	2.6%

This provides an overall average rate of mortality of 2.50%, based upon the standard sample of 1,000 chicks banded each season. Thus the 1990 event seems statistically insignificant, especially if one assumes a potential year class of 45,000 chicks, based upon the 15 thousand nesting pairs on Island "C." Following the cleanup, High Peaks Audubon placed bilingual warning signs in both English and French on all four islands on 2 Aug, advising boaters not to land ("En raison d'une maladie contagieuse..."). Necropsies at NWHC in Wisconsin, the USDA laboratory in Iowa, and DEC wildlife pathology lab in Delmar showed only expected diseases, such as avian salmonellosis, aspergillosis, and nematode infestation. Some gull experts on both sides of the lake believe that regular die offs of this relative magnitude may simply be common on Champlain nesting islands, especially just prior to fledging when parents are foraging in open landfills during hot weather. Certainly, there was not — as was first reported — a loss of the entire 1990 cohort of Ring-billed Gulls on the Four Brothers.

Preliminary figures provided by the NYS DEC show that they surveyed 52 historic Osprey nest sites in the Adirondacks, finding 38 active. Of these, 20 nests produced a total of 43 young (up considerably from 20 young in 1988 and 33 young in '89). Bald Eagles again nested at three Franklin County sites. One nest failed when the male disappeared, while the other two combined to produce a total of three eaglets (down from 5 last year, but still encouraging, in view of the nest failure). Four of the five Essex Co. Peregrine Falcon eyries

yielded a total of nine young, although there were losses: Elizabethtown (two young, but both died after fledging), Keene (two young), Keeseville (none; territorial birds present, but may have been disturbed by rock climbers), Westport (one young), and Wilmington (an impressive four young). A sixth pair was also found frequenting a cliff within the High Peaks. Although the number of active Peregrine sites increased, production was below the ten young produced in each of the past two years here.

Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warbler, boreal rarities, were found at Lake Placid on land due to be "improved." Ted Mack called the APA, "and it looks like it will be protected." Mack adds: "Last year's Bay-breasted Warbler breeding site at Madawaska was improved this year. It is a log landing of an acre at least."

Cedar Waxwing with burnt-orange tail tips continue to turn up. Dirck and Mary Benson spotted a recent fledgling, incapable of sustained flight, at Moody Pond, Saranac Lake village, on 15 Aug. Lang Stevenson picked out *three* orange tail tips from a flock of Cedar Waxwing on the Styles Brook Rd., Keene, on 31 Aug.

At the request of the DEC, Charlcie and Jack Delehanty did a boat survey of the Tupper Lake marshes for Black Tern: "NONE. As far as I know, there were none last year, either, so it looks as though the Tupper Marsh population is gone — a sad story. I believe that Dibrom 14 played a part in their (I want to say extirpation) disappearance, because I watched Jeff Duflo spray the marshes." Perhaps due to hazards to birders there, no word was received from the St. Regis Indian Reservation straddling the NYS-Quebec line, the last Regional marshes known to have Black Tern. Except for a handful of projects and surveys, we seem to be losing track of the many "discoveries" of the 1980-86 Atlas period and may find that some birds will not survive to be rediscovered in the coming century.

Observers: Dirck & Mary Benson, Charlcie Delehanty, John E. Delehanty, Betsy Franz, Richard Gershon, Robert Gillis, William Graham, Evelyn Greene, Richard Guthrie, Candy & John Hess, Rachel Hopkins, Michael Kudish, Gary Lee, Theodore Mack, Richard Marrus, Robert McKinney, Fern Merrill, John Peterson, Charlotte Quist, Gerry Rising, Neil Rizos, Carole & Laura Slatkin, Ed Spoon, Langdon Stevenson, Gen Sutter, Joyce Thomas.

Abbreviations: FB - Ferd's Bog; MRRA - Moose River Recreational Area; NPT - Northville-Placid Trail; TL - Tupper Lake.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: "Doing well in the area," one-two chicks on FRAN area ponds (CD); "Doing well, with young on every [HAM] pond, except Bug L; several with 2" (GL). Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*. Black-



crowned Night-Heron: two Scotion Cr CLIN 9 Jun, uncommon in that county (C&JH); *intro*. Canada Goose: 58 in TL population; *intro*. Gadwall: *intro*. Ring-necked Duck: Indian L (MRRRA) 31 Jul, south of main range.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: Port Henry 28 Jul and imm Upper Saranac L late Aug only reports away from nesting areas; *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Spruce Grouse: Tahawus trailhead late June only report (EG). Wild Turkey: 11 y Indian L, seven y Cedar R (down to 2), one TL indicative of continued success in central Adks. Com. Moorhen: pair Scotion Creek 9 Jun (C&JH) only report. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Cedar R 31 Aug (GL). Sanderling: *intro*. Least Sandpiper: *intro*. Pectoral Sandpiper: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: arr Corlear Bay 23 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: nest Indian L, 24 West Canada L had nine y; *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*. Black Tern: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Com Nighthawk: one-two TL village 9 Aug (CD) only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: Essex 31 Aug (C&LS), rare here. Three-toed Woodpecker: nest FB, one at bog off Rt 30 s TL 14 Jun. Black-backed Woodpecker: Brown's Tract, FB, Helldiver Pd., NPT, nest with y Wilmington Notch, nest excavated and occupied at Newcomb was taken over by wrens (EG)!

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Gray Jay: with y Helldiver Pd 6 Jun; 3 NPT near Moose Pd/Chubb R 28 Jun. Boreal Chickadee: Cedar L, FB, MRRRA, NPT. Marsh Wren: 6-10 Scotion Creek 9 Jun only report. Hermit Thrush: feeding y at nest on *windowsill* of 90-year old camp Upper St. Regis L (RG). Cedar Waxwing: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Tennessee Warbler: singing male L Placid. Cape May Warbler: two singing males L Placid. Bay-breasted Warbler: singing male L Placid.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: two-three TL feeder Jun, unusual. Indigo Bunting: TL sunflower feeder, unusual. Rusty Blackbird: Lanfear and Otter Brooks; two Cedar R Flow 25 Jun new location. Purple Finch: absent, then 1-5 TL feeder late Aug. House Finch: four Cedar R Jun, two Hope Falls BBS, FY Inlet P.O. 11 Jul (all HAMI). Evening Grosbeak: 3 in breeding condition banded Elizabethtown 2 Jul; several Bog R 25 Jul.

ADDENDA: **Red-headed Woodpecker**: Newcomb 19 May, highly unusual in Adk interior (WG). Bay-breasted Warbler: early arr date 11 May.

*Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932*

## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

KENNETH P. ABLE

The weather during the earlier part of the breeding season was nearly average with temperatures at Albany just slightly above normal all three months. June and July were on the dry side, but August was very wet. June was cloudier than usual, but no one noticed effects of weather on breeding birds in the Region.

There were reports of a number of less common breeding species worthy of close monitoring. Both Pied-billed Grebe and Least Bittern were reported from two local breeding stations. The rare and elusive Sedge Wren was back in Black Creek Marsh for the second consecutive year. Northern Harrier was reported from more than the usual number of places, as was Red-shouldered Hawk. Whip-poor-will and Worm-eating Warbler are both extremely local breeders in the southern part of the Region. This year they were found in some places where they have not been reported for a number of years. Purple Martin appears to have blinked out in one locality while popping up in another. Overall, the number of colonies in the Region probably is fewer than ten. Cliff Swallow established nice colonies at two sites. The grassland quartet of Upland Sandpiper, Henslow's, Grasshopper, and Vesper Sparrows seem to be stable over the past 5-10 years.

Continuing trends were apparent in a few species. Summering Osprey continue to increase and it is only a matter of time before they nest in the Region. Following the hacking programs, both Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle were reported widely; the falcons now breed at several sites. Common Raven is increasing, especially in RENS and COLU. Cuckoos, especially Yellow-billed, were scarce nearly everywhere.

Irruptive species from last winter were still making their mark. After the explosion of breeding in late spring, Pine Siskin largely disappeared, but Red-breasted Nuthatch stayed around to breed in many places where they do not usually nest. Stunningly, White-winged Crossbill was still around in June, but evidence of nesting was not found. Evening Grosbeak did nest in RENS, well south of its usual breeding range in the State.

There was little shorebird habitat and therefore few reports of these species on southward migration.

Field ornithology in this Region has suffered a setback with the departure of Scott Terrill, who has moved (back) to California. During

his nearly ten years here he made many important contributions, including several first Regional records. In compiling this report I was somewhat handicapped by not having available the reports from the Albany Dial-a-Bird and a couple of key observers in the Region.

Contributors: K.P. Able, Austen, K. Beale, B. Boehm, C. Bracken, B. Budliger, T. Cobb, P.F. Connor, J. Cook, W. Cook, J. Dillon, K. Dunham, E. Falls, L. Frank, H. Gardina, E. Grace, R.P. Guthrie, S. Hoover, P. Ingalls, A. Long, A. Mason, L. Meade, B. Northam, J.M.C. Peterson, B. Putnam, R. Ring, E. Rising, A. Ross, J. Silvernail, J. Sotis, R. Taylor, S.B. Terrill, M. Ulmer, R.P. Yunick, S. Zink.

Abbreviations: BICrM - Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; SaraBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park, SARA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: bred Jabe Pd WARR, chick seen 16 Aug (LM, ER); four Thirteenth L WARR all season, no y seen (KPA); singles Jenny L SARA 30 Jun (RPY), Austerlitz 24-26 Jun (CB, MU) were in odd places. Pied-billed Grebe: pair Stony Creek Res SARA (SBT); one Carter L WASH (JS). Double-crested Cormorant: two Catskill 16 Jun, ten there 29 Aug (WC). Least Bittern: bred BICrM, downy y seen 5 Aug (BB, KB); Carter L all season (JS). Great Egret: 15 reports, first 28 Jul. **Cattle Egret**: one Ghent, Stuyvesant 10, 17 Jun (HG, RLH). Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Vischer Ferry 5 Aug (SBT). Wood Duck: female banded Vischer Ferry May, 1987, hit by car and released Colonie 9 Jul (RPY). Blue-winged Teal: one COLU 21-22 Jun (JC), odd date. Bufflehead: two females L George 14 Jun (LM), late. Hooded Merganser: six j Carter L 1 Jul (JS); female Thompson's L ALBA 2 Jun (KPA); one Cherry Plain 11 Jul, three on 26 Aug (PFC).

HAWK-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture**: one Medusa 30 Jun (BBu, BB, KB), first Regional record. Osprey: five Aug reports. Bald Eagle: two imm, one ad reported. N. Harrier: nested Mott Road SARA, Mahafy Road WASH (BP), Knox (KPA). Sharp-shinned Hawk: nine reports. Cooper's Hawk: eight reports. N. Goshawk: Thacher SP ALBA all season (BB, KB); singles Cherry Plain 1 Jul, Stephentown 26 Aug (PFC). Red-shouldered Hawk: bred Jenny L, one y fledged 29 Jul, the other two on 10 Aug (RPY); one SaraBNHP 5 Jun (EF); one, two Cherry Plain 11 Jul, 26 Aug (PFC). Peregrine Falcon: nest Whitehall fledged one y, two active sites L George unsuccessful (fide JMCP); three other reports of singles. N. Bobwhite: three reports Chatham (PI, A). Com. Moorhen: Carter L all season (JS). **Sandhill Crane**: one T Argyle 10 Jun, 20 Jul, 18 Aug (SH *fide* BP). Lesser Yellowlegs: 50 Cohoes 25 Jul, 90 on 28 Jul (SBT, KPA), large nos. Upland Sandpiper: six near Minaville 26 Jun (BB, KB). Ruddy Turnstone: one Cohoes 7 Aug. (SBT), rare locally. Sanderling: 12 Cohoes 7 Aug (SBT), large no. Bonaparte's Gull: ad Cohoes 25 Jul (SBT), odd date. Ring-billed Gull: many on L George (LM), Cohoes July-Aug; related to breeding failure farther north? Caspian Tern: singles New Baltimore 1,3 Jun (RPG). Forster's Tern: two New Baltimore 3 Jun (RPG), one Vischer Ferry 24 Aug (SBT) unusual dates. Black Tern: one Poolsburg COLU 22 Aug (PFC).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: noted widely RENS (PFC),

few reports elsewhere. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only three reports. Barred Owl: more numerous than in recent years Jenny L (RPY). Com. Nighthawk: apparently breeding Troy (EF). Whip-poor-will: one Ancram 8 Jun (WC); heard Coeyman's Hollow and Alcove 2 Jul (BB, KB), very local. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Knox 7 Jun (KPA); pair carrying food Minaville 26 Jun (BB, KB); one SaraBNHP 31 Aug (BP).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Purple Martin: many at Hague (LM); pair nested Fortsville Road SARA (BP); colony in Kinderhook inactive (AL); very local breeder in Region. Cliff Swallow: 35 nests Basic ALBA (BB,KB), 16 nests on boat house Silver Bay (BN fide LM). Blue Jay: scarce fourth consecutive year Jenny L (RPY). Com. Raven: three+ Cherry Plain all period (PFC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: present and probably bred in many unusual areas, viz. L Taghkanic, Kinderhook, Schodack Center, Gallupville, Berne; scarce in Jun Jenny L, many July-Aug (RPY). Carolina Wren: one Vischer Ferry 28 Jul (SBT). **Sedge Wren:** male on territory BICrM (RT). Golden-crowned Kinglet: female gathering nesting material Jenny L 28, 29 Jul (RPY); not known to nest there. E. Bluebird: three broods fledged Livingston (WC). Swainson's Thrush: one Platte Cove BBS (GREE) 16 Jun (WC). Cedar Waxwing: many everywhere; explosion throughout COLU Aug (PI).

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Tennessee Warbler: arr Schodack Center 20 Aug (PFC). Cape May Warbler: one male singing Cole Hill SF ALBA where bred last year 16 Jun (KPA). Worm-eating Warbler: two singing Coeyman's Hollow 3 Jun (BB,KB); very local breeder.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Vesper Sparrow: breeding on fruit farm Kinderhook (AL). Savannah Sparrow: reported breeding three areas COLU. Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from five localities: Ghent and Churchtown COLU (WC); Altamont (KPA); SaraBNHP (BP, EF); East Road WASH (BP). Henslow's Sparrow: usual breeding stations, Knox, SaraBNHP, Altamont. Dark-eyed Junco: for sixth consecutive year, not as common Jenny L as 1970-84. Some increase over nadir 1985-88. Purple Finch: at Jenny L scarce early, but deluged in Aug (RPY). House Finch: ad male Jenny L 24 Jun, first occurrence; bred Sacandaga Res (RPY). Red Crossbill: fly overs Jenny L 17 Jun, 17,18 Aug (RPY). **White-winged Crossbill:** 18 Knox 2 Jun (KPA); one+ Cole Hill SF 16 Jun (KPA), nesting likely but not proved. Pine Siskin: gone from Jenny L by 15 Jun (RPY); last at feeder Gansevoort 28 Jun (BP); one Chatham 12-24 Jul (JSi). Evening Grosbeak: bred Petersburg, male feeding imm 14 Jul, two imm 31 Aug-8 Sep (AR); male Cherry Plain 11 Jul (PFC).

*Department of Biology, State University of New York, Albany, NY 12222.*

## REGION 9 - DELEWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

June began cold with some nights still in the 40s, then became hot with much rainfall, violent thunderstorms, hail and wind. July came in hot and humid and August followed with record breaking rainfall, as much as 10-15 inches in some areas. This all added up to a pretty wet summer with a bumper crop of mosquitoes. Vegetation was jungle-like in many areas and gardens and lawns flourished. In most cases it was a good growing season. A good crop of winter food seems evident and should see the birds through to spring. It will be interesting to see how many half-hardies remain and whether we will host the northern finches that have been conspicuous by their absence for the past few years. The Farmer's Almanac predicts a hard winter but the woolly bear caterpillars say it may be a mild one. We shall see!

Birds seem to have nested well and produced the usual crop of young. Eleanor Pink reports "the worst August report I have ever done and that's many over the years." However Alice Jones reports that on 7 Aug at her camp near Eldred "back yard area, particularly the apple tree and the bank was loaded with warblers," many around the pan of water put out for the deer and chipmunks. She enjoyed a good variety of warblers, plus tanagers, waxwings and sparrows, over 75 birds all feeding and trying to get at the water which was too deep for them to bathe in. A very interesting observation.

Contributors: Peter Bedrossian, Barbara Butler, Dorothy Fleury, Valerie Freer, Florence Germond, Alice Jones, Stan Lincoln, Barbara Michelin, Mickie and Tom Mutchler, Selden Spencer, John P. Tramontano, Edward Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Joe Weise, Berna Weissman

Abbreviations: EMBC - Edgar Mearns Bird Club

LOONS-DUCKS: Double-crested Cormorant: two 16 Jun (BW). Am Bittern: one Pugsley Hill 4 Aug, on bank over stream (TH). Great Blue Heron: 30 y in 11 nests Tamarack 12 Jun (FG), many wanderers throughout season. Great Egret: several DUTC, ULST, ORAN. Little Blue Heron: one 4 Aug Pleasant Valley (MVW). Green-backed Heron: good numbers, some nesting evidence DUTC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one 16 Jun (BW), two pair with five y WEST, one 28 Jun Cornwall Bay, two Iona Marsh 26 Jul (ET). Wood Duck: one with y L Walton 13 Jun (BM), six Humpo Marsh (SS), many with y WEST. Am. Black Duck: many with y DUTC. Hooded Merganser: several inspecting Wood Duck boxes Bashakill. Ruddy Duck: one Washingtonville Jun (JPT).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Heritage Hills 5 Jun; one Cruger I 25 Aug. Bald Eagle: imm 25 Somers Aug (SL); two imm, one ad Swinging Bridge Res all

season, to the delight of the many fishermen; imm Bashakill Jun, Jul. N. Harrier: one DUTC Jun; one Thompson Pd 22 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: still visiting some feeders DUTC. Cooper's Hawk: few DUTC. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Amenia 18 Jul; one Tivoli 25 Jul; successful nesting Otisville; at least two fledged ORAN-SULL line (JPT); one near Eldred 7 Aug (AJ). Broad-winged Hawk: five Heritage Hills 8 Aug, four Stissing 22 Aug; two y Vassar Farm 26-27 Jul; several others throughout Region. Am Kestrel: good numbers most areas. Peregrine Falcon: imm Warren Sod Farms 2 Jul (EMBC). N. Bobwhite: scattered reports DUTC. Upland Sandpiper: 11 Warren Sod Farms 27 Aug (EMBC). Am Woodcock: one on roadside L Hartwood 4 Jul (M&MT), one 16 Jun (BW), one ad two y Wiccopee 19 Jun. **Caspian Tern**: one flying up the Hudson R near Cruger I 25 Aug (PB), second record for DUTC (first same area 18 Jun 1961).

**PIGEON-WOODPECKERS**: Black-billed Cuckoo: well reported DUTC, virtually unreported ORAN, SULL, possibly lack of caterpillars (JPT), two WEST (BW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one WEST Jun; one Jul, one Aug DUTC. Com. Nighthawk: only one pair nesting on rooftop Middletown, 23 Somers 25 Aug; good migration flight 27-31 Aug. Chimney Swift: missing from traditional places WEST, good throughout DUTC, especially Pleasant Valley. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: well reported DUTC, excellent year SULL; picking tiny insects from melting fat Eldred (AJ). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one y near Swan L 8 Aug (VF), one drumming 8 Jul (BB), two Dover 27 Jul (DF). Pileated Woodpecker: two ad, one y Pawling 25 Aug.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one DUTC 29 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: three or four pairs ORAN, nesting Deep Hollow DUTC. Alder Flycatcher: one Galesville Airport 14 Jul (SS); one Buttercup Sanctuary 5 Jun (FG). Willow Flycatcher: breeding well in DUTC. E. Kingbird: nest with large y 13 Aug (MVW). late nesting. Horned Lark: one Hunter Rd SULL 6 Jun (JW). Purple Martin: nested in two or three small colonies DUTC. Com. Raven: one recently fledged y being harassed by N. Oriole, flew to large pine only to be attacked by kingbirds, Claryville 17 Jun; has stayed in this area for the past five summers, probably two breeding pairs (JW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: many stayed through the summer feeding on suet and sunflower seeds; two ad two y near Ellenville (VF). Winter Wren: scattered reports throughout region. Marsh Wren: one e DUTC 21 Jul (BB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: one Pawling Nature Reserve 27 Aug (PB). E. Bluebird: continues widespread success. Hermit Thrush: heard singing few places DUTC. Cedar Waxwing: enjoyed excellent breeding season most areas. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one transited Campbell Hall ORAN 31 Aug (JPT), one day only.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: White-eyed Vireo: one Dover area 16 Jun; one Vassar Farm 26-27 Jul. Solitary Vireo: usual places central and e DUTC. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Brewster's" in bird bath 7 Jul (MVW), one Moonbeam Conservancy 20 Jun, one Jun (BW), two Bashakill. Golden-winged Warbler: one Buttercup Sanctuary 5 Jun. Yellow-rumped Warbler: observed Balsam L Mt 7 Jul (EMBC). Cerulean Warbler: one in song Dunderburg Mt ROCK-ORAN border 26 Jul (ET). Worm-eating Warbler: one Turkey Hollow DUTC 27 Jun;

two Dunderburg Mt 26 Jul; two Mine Rd 1 Aug (ET). Kentucky Warbler: one singing Doodletown Rd 10 Jun (ET); one flitting around a water pan Eldred (AJ), four Westmoreland Sanctuary, Bedford 16-17 Jun (BW), new site. Hooded Warbler: marked increase this year, six Doodletown Rd 10 Jun, four or five there 29 Jul (ET), pair carrying food to nest site Dover DUTC 17 Jun (MVW), ad male Nellie Hill DUTC 29 Jul (BB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: none! Savannah Sparrow: in most farm areas. Grasshopper Sparrow: very common in suitable habitat SULL, ORAN, one or two Shunpike DUTC. Henslow's Sparrow: not possible to check the colony at Galesville Airfield due to increased use of controlled area. Swamp Sparrow: good most areas. Bobolink: holding its own. Purple Finch: pairs feeding y. Pine Siskin: scattered reports at feeders.

*Moore's Mills, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569*

## REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

The weather for the months of June and July was almost a text book case of adherence to the norm. There was little deviation in either normal temperature or rainfall from daily averages. The high on 12 Jul dipping below 70° was the only exception. August also had normal temperatures, but it was the wettest August on record with 12.36 inches three times normal at New York City. As we have been discovering, weather bureau records for New York City, which continue as the basis of weather statistics for this Region's reports, do not tell the whole story. On Friday 24 Aug, showers dumped 6.8 inches of water on MacArthur Airport between 6 AM and 5 PM. This tapered off to 2.5 inches at Mineola to the west. Most of the rain came in sustained downpours. These August storms provided strong east winds and a lot of water on the ground. The combination brought shorebirds to land and provided convenient habitat for them. Consequently the end of this season was another banner year for this group.

The summer season has usually been a period of quiet and relaxation except for the various mid June breeding bird counts held each year and the summer pelagic trips for the adventurous gamblers. This quiet comes to an end with the movement of land migrants starting in mid August. This year was much like last year in that the land migrants were few, perhaps even fewer.

We received reports of about a half dozen reports of trips to Cox's Ledge on the Okeanos whale boat courtesy of Tom Burke, the voice of the New York Rare Bird Alert. Very low numbers were reported this year with the highest counts from mid to late June and again in late August.

The offsetting birding excitement was the shorebirding on the south shore of Long Island. The rains of August supplied the perfect habitat on the barrier strip at both Jones Beach West End to the west and Cedar Beach to the east. The latter location had 33 species during the period. The entire Jones Beach strip and the Line Islands in the bay behind the barrier beach had 34 species. It wasn't just a case of a lot of shorebirds and a lot of species. In some cases there were unprecedented numbers. Tony Lauro and Andy Baldelli visited the Line Islands throughout the summer. These undisturbed islands supported large summer concentrations of apparently nonbreeding Willet. They saw 475 on July 4 building to 850 on the mud flats on 15 July with 500 still there on 5 Aug.



Their counts for Short-billed Dowitcher were 200 on 4 Jul, 900 on 8 Jul, 1750 on 15 Jul, 1500 on 21 Jul, and 3275 on 8 Aug. White-rumped Sandpipers were also seen in extraordinary numbers as migrants this summer. About a quarter of the peep were this species most of the times. Usually one sees only small numbers in the flocks of Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers. Tony Lauro noted that on the peak of 26 Aug, a minimum of 1000 were counted by various observers on the south shore: 750+ at Cedar Beach, 100+ at the Line Islands, 100+ at Jones Beach West End plus large numbers at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

Killdeer have always nested in close proximity to man. Successful nests with fledged young have been found in the fields at Zachs Bay for the past several years. This year a pair raised three chicks on the Harlem Meer in Central Park.

The Osprey continues its successful movement westward with an active nest this summer on an island in Jamaica Bay (within the New York City border). Close to the city, there are now at least three active nests on the south shore of Nassau Co plus pairs nesting at Mill Neck on the north shore. This success is all due to the nest platform program of our various municipal Departments of Environmental Conservation.

This is the second year in a row that Little Gull have summered at Cedar Beach. This year's birds were an imm and a first year bird, although only one individual was seen most days. Bonaparte's Gull have also been summering together with them in the same ponds. There were almost no reports of Gull-billed Tern. This has never been a common nester, although there are usually a few pairs in the region. Nevertheless, they have been more visible over the past few years. This summer only single birds were reported, one at Moriches and the other at Breezy Point, both in June. On a more pleasant note, a **Sandwich Tern** visited the latter place from 2-6 July.

With the gypsy moths absent from the news, cuckoos sightings have also diminished. It remains to be seen as to whether this is due to fewer birds or lack of reports to your Regional editors. James Clinton reported that a pair of **Summer Tanager** apparently bred on the grounds of the Brookhaven National Laboratory. Birds were seen carrying food and subsequently a juvenile was observed being fed by the male. This is the first reported nesting of this species in New York State. Two female Boat-tailed Grackle were seen by Tony Lauro feeding young at the Cedar Beach Marina on 15 Jul. This represents an eastward expansion of nesting for this species.

As a special note, Guy Tudor, one of our own, has been awarded a fellowship by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. It is of interest that his prestigious award has been given to an ornithologist, albeit "self trained" as per the New York Times.

Contributors: Bob Adamo, Andy Baldelli; Jean Bourque; Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, James Clinton, Sr., John L. Dineen; Ken Fuestel; Henry F. Flamm; Paul H. Gillen; William J. Kolodnicki, Dave Kunstler, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Peter Martin; David Mizrahi, Arthur Morris, Drew Panko, John J. Ruscica, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: CB - Cedar Beach; CL - Cox's Ledge; CM - Cow Meadow, Freeport; CRSP - Connetquot River State Park; CSCBC - Central Suffolk CO Breeding Bird Census; CTBC - Captree Breeding Bird Census; FBF - Floyd Bennett Field; HSP - Hecksher State Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch - Jones Beach; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); LI - Long Island; Mutn - Muttontown Preserve; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PBP - Pelham Bay Park; SI - Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: a pair summered at the JBch Coast Guard Station. Cory's Shearwater: 20 CL 26 Jun, others 23 Jun to 31 Jul, ten 20 miles south of Fire I 11 Aug (PM), 190 on 18 Aug. Greater Shearwater: 25 CL 26 Jun, others to 31 Jul, 20 on 18 Aug. Sooty Shearwater: 20 CL 16 Jun, others 2 Jun to 31 Jul, five 20 miles south of Montauk Pt 12 Jul (PM). Manx Shearwater: one Rockaway Inlet 12 Jun (Louis DeMarco), singles CL 16 Jun, 23 Jun, 31 Jul. Wilson's Storm-Petrel: singles CL 2 Jun, 26 Jun, 7 Jul, ten on 31 Jul, three on 18 Aug, 30 on 19 Aug. **Brown Pelican**: one off JBch 8 Jul (SW), three in bay off Breezy Pt 14 Jul, six Moriches roosting on an island 13 Aug (AB). Double-crested Cormorant: considerable numbers in the bay areas of JBch, seemingly many more this summer. Least Bittern: apparently nested on SI, a young bird was found in a marsh in the vicinity of the Goethal's Bridge by Harry Jenkins on 13 Jul; others at JBWR. Mute Swan: over 400 in w SUFF and at least 80 at JBWR, continues to expand along with the Canada Goose. Snow Goose: single JBWR 25 Aug to end of period. Com. Merganser: four Westhampton 16 Jun, one Quogue-Brookroad Refuge all summer (JC). Red-breasted Merganser: numerous females in the bays all summer.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: imm SI 15 Jul (Harry Jenkins), one PBP 29 Aug. N. Harrier: two nests FBF (JB). Broad-winged Hawk: Mutn throughout period. Red-tailed Hawk: Mutn throughout period. Am. Kestrel: four nests FBF (JB). Peregrine Falcon: widespread reports. Wild Turkey: 27 CRSP. **Black Rail**: one Middle Line I 26 Aug (AL, AB). Com. Moorhen: one Captree I 23 Jun (AL, AB), very unusual on the barrier beach. Lesser Golden-Plover: one CB 22 Jul and afterwards, 51 Riverhead 22 Aug, two CM 30 Aug (PM). Killdeer: *intro*. Am. Oystercatcher: 150 JBWR 25 Aug (JR). **Black-necked Stilt**: one CM 1 Jun (PM). Am. Avocet: one CB 8-12 Aug (mob). Willet: *intro*. Upland Sandpiper: did not nest at FBF or HP (only migrants in the western part of the Region), two St. Charles Cemetery 12 Aug, two CB 13 Aug, 56 Sod Farm at Riverhead 22 Aug, lesser numbers through the end of the period. Whimbrel: various reports in Aug,

max 21 at CB 11 Aug. Hudsonian Godwit: max of 26 Line Ids 19 Aug (AL, TB). Marbled Godwit: one Line Ids 21 Jul-4 Aug, one CB 30 Jul-7 Aug, one JBWE 12 Aug, four JBWR late Aug. W. Sandpiper: many at CB 22 Jul, 250 CB 8 Aug, 120 Line Ids 26 Aug (AL, AB). White-rumped Sandpiper: *intro*. Baird's Sandpiper: two CB 26-31 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: 75 CB 26 Aug. **Curlew Sandpiper**: one Line Ids, one JBWR 29 Aug-3 Sep (AL, AB). Stilt Sandpiper: 59 CB 11 Aug (KF). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: various SUFF sites late Aug. Ruff: a black male CB 30 Jun-1 Jul (AL, mob). Short-billed Dowitcher: *intro*. Long-billed Dowitcher: three Line Ids 21 Jul. Wilson's Phalarope: one JBWR 10 Jul through the period, several CB 27 Jul through the period. Red-necked Phalarope: one CB 11-12 Aug (AL, AB, mob). Pomarine Jaeger: three CL 2 Jun, four on 23 Jun, one on 26 Jun. Parasitic Jaeger: one mile off Montauk Pt 3 Aug (BA). Little Gull: one CB 16 Jun to 24 Jul, a second on 1 Jul (AL); *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: 15 CB 23 Jun, eight 22 Jul, two 5 Aug. Black-legged Kittiwake: one CL 18 Aug. Gull-billed Tern: *intro*. Royal Tern: small numbers along the entire s shore of LI from mid Aug on. **Sandwich Tern**: *intro*. Roseate Tern: three on a swimmer's float with an influx of 80 Common and 3 Least Terns at Prybil Beach, Glen Cove 10 Jul (RC); 90 nests were counted at CB by Marilyn England, about 10% less than last year. Arctic Tern: one reported at Cox's Ledge [*Rhode Island? - The Editor*] on 2 Jun (NYRBA). Forster's Tern: seven JBWR 29 Aug. Black Tern: two Line Ids 14 Jul, one Moriches 4 Aug, one CB 19 Aug, one JBWR 29 Aug.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Barn Owl: box with four young FBF (jb), others in boxes on marsh islands Jamaica Bay and NASS. E. Screech-Owl: nesting again on the n shore of NASS and SUFF. Great Horned Owl: nesting again on the n shore of NASS and SUFF.

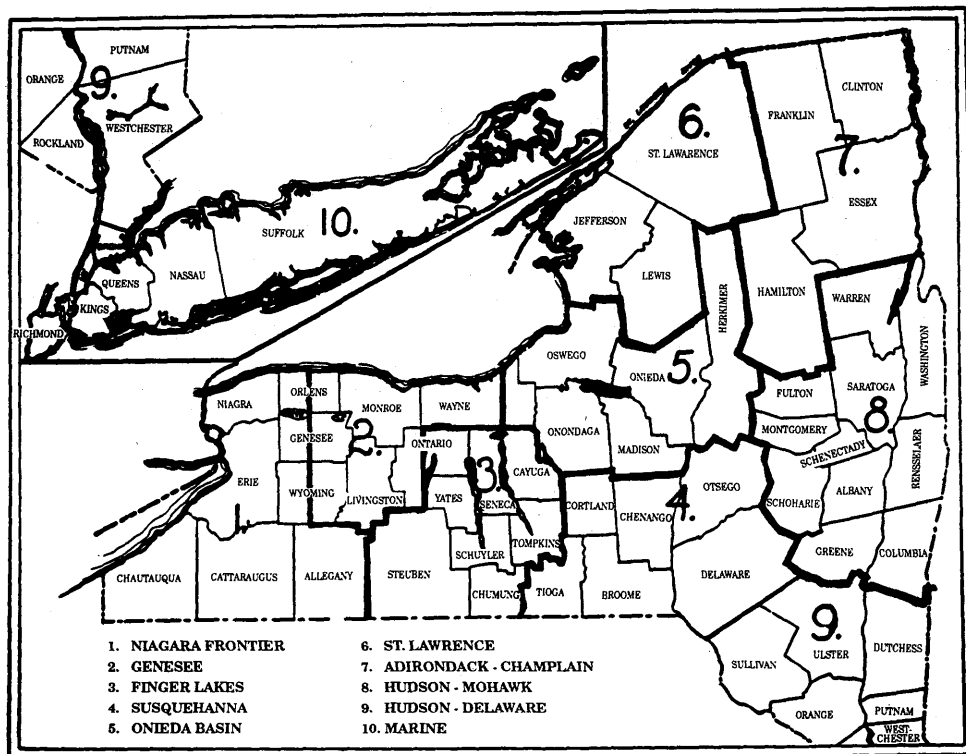
**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING**: Acadian Flycatcher: one HSP 16 Jun (AL). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two CRSP 9 Jun (CTBC), eight on 16 Jun (CSCBC).

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: Yellow-throated Vireo: one HSP 9 Jun (AL). Warbling Vireo: one singing Mutn into late June. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: one "Brewster's" with three Blue-winged Warblers Wading River 29 Jun (JC). Black-throated Green Warbler: two singing males CRSP 9 Jun (Joan Quinlan, Edith Wilson). Prothonotary Warbler: seen at Belmont L SP 11 Jun, becoming more numerous and staying later in the season in recent years. Yellow-breasted Chat: two Mt Lovetts SI 8 Jul.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: **Summer Tanager**: *intro*. Blue Grosbeak: one PBP Jun to 29 Aug (B. Candido). Savannah Sparrow: two territories at FBF. Grasshopper Sparrow: one territory at FBF, apparently not at HP. E. Meadowlark: a few scattered reports but none of nesting. Boat-tailed Grackle: bred on SI (HF) and Line Ids; *intro*. Orchard Oriole: a female carrying a fecal sac Beaver L 5 Jul (RC).

**EXOTICS**: Black-hooded Parakeet: six Whitestone 2-27 Aug (Art Scopec).  
603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550.

## REPORTING REGIONS



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

### REPORTING DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

# FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

## 1990-1991 Officers

### President

Chad E. Covey .....Box 301, RD 3, New Berlin, NY 13411

### Vice-President

Stanley R. Lincoln .....P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589

### Corresponding Secretary

Mary Ann Sunderlin .....505 Bay Road, Webster, NY 14580

### Recording Secretary

Donald A. Windsor .....P.O. Box 604, Norwich, NY 13815

### Treasurer

Berna B. Weissman .....P.O. Box 165, Armonk, NY 10504

### Editor of THE KINGBIRD

Paul DeBenedictis, 306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210

### Editor of NEW YORK BIRDERS

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell Street, Freeport, NY 11520

## *Appointed Committees*

**Membership:** Myrna Hemmerick, Ch.,  
P.O. Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11733

**Conservation:** Harriet T. Marsi, Ch.,  
Box 1, Powderhouse Road,  
Vestal, NY 13850

**Publications:** Emanuel Levine, Ch.,  
585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

**Research:** Charles R. Smith, Ch.,  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

**Finance:** Berna B. Weissman, Ch.,  
P.O. Box 165, Armonk, NY 10504

**By-Laws:** Richard Sloss, Ch.,  
1300 Seawane Drive, Hewlett Harbor, NY 11557

**Administrative:** Stanley R. Lincoln, Ch.,  
P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589

**John J. Elliott Memorial:** Paul DeBenedictis, Ch.,  
306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, NY 13210

**Lillian C. Stoner Fund:** John L. Confer, Ch.,  
RD #1, Hammond Hill Road, Brooktondale, NY 14817

**New York State Avian Records:** Robert Andrie, Ch.  
Send reports to NYSARC,

Attn: Charles R. Smith, Laboratory of Ornithology,  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

**Circulation Manager:** Berna B. Weissman, P.O. Box 165, Armonk, NY 10504

## *Elected Committees*

**Auditing:** Irving Cantor, Richard Sloss

**Nominating:** Harriet T. Marsi, Ch.,  
Box 1, Powderhouse Road, Vestal, NY 13850  
Emanuel Levine, Charles R. Smith