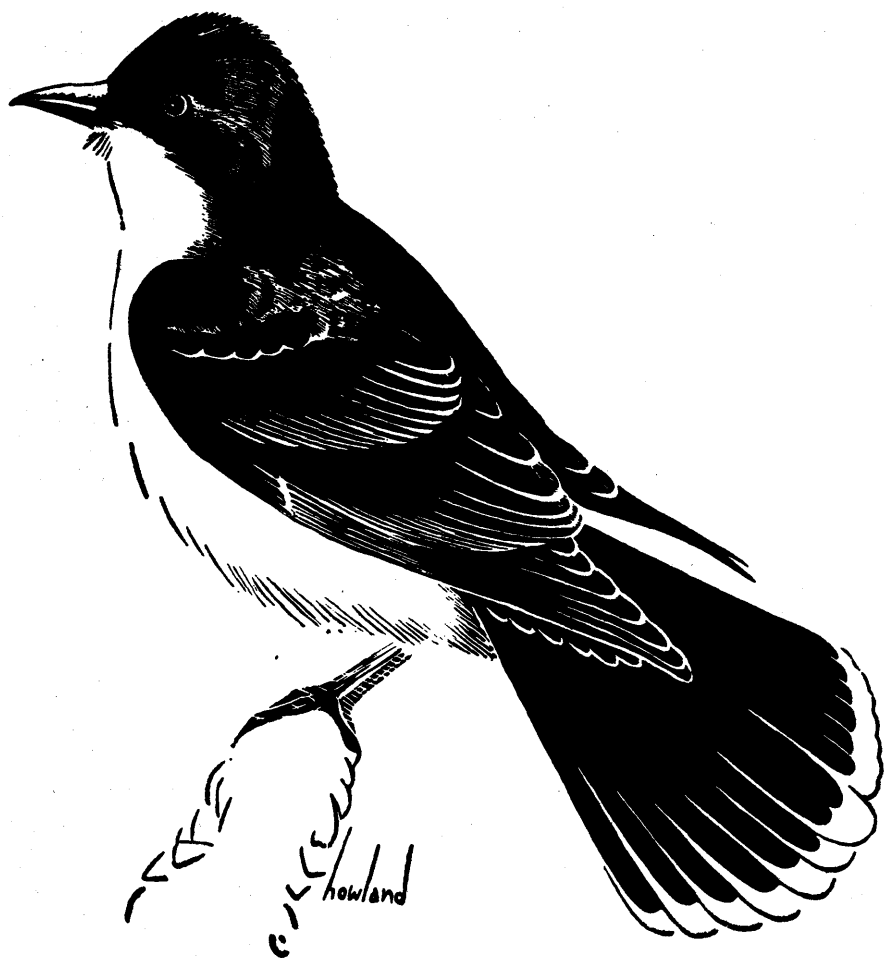


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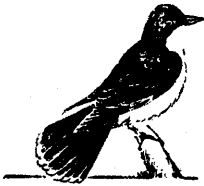
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Editor — Paul A. DeBenedictis
Highlights of the Season Editor — Robert Spahn
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Figure 1. Broad-winged Hawk nest in a Gypsy Moth defoliated mixed oak-pine stand. The nest is approximately in the center of the photograph.

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF GYPSY MOTH DEFOLIATION ON BROAD-WINGED HAWK REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS

SCOTT CROCOLL

The Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) can defoliate large tracts of forest, thereby dramatically altering the breeding habitat of many species of birds. Some populations of breeding birds have increased or remained unchanged during large-scale insect defoliations (Magee 1971a; Moseley 1971; DeGraaf and Holland 1978). DeGraaf (1987) found no significant difference in breeding species richness between foliated and Gypsy Moth defoliated forest stands in central Pennsylvania. Alternatively, entire local avifaunas (DeWire 1972) or particular species may decline (Magee 1971b; DeGraaf and Holland 1978) during these insect outbreaks. The reasons for these declines were not clear, but Palmer (1972) speculated that open-nesting species might suffer decreased nest success due to increased exposure to nest predators and parasites. I report the nest failure of a Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) in a defoliated portion of the pine barrens of central Long Island, New York.

On 22 June 1981, I observed an active Broad-winged Hawk nest in a mixed oak (*Quercus* sp.)-pine (*Pinus rigida*) forest along a county road near Middle Island, Long Island, New York. All hardwoods in the vicinity had been completely defoliated by Gypsy Moth larvae. The nest, approximately 37 meters from the edge of the road, was in a fairly typical situation for Broad-winged Hawk (Titus and Mosher 1981; Crocoll and Parker 1989). Both the nest and incubating adult were clearly visible from the road as I drove by (Fig. 1).

The nest, visited five times, was 7.8 m up a Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). When I first climbed to the nest on 29 June, it contained only one nestling. The nestling was judged to be between 13 and 15 days old based on the author's previous experience with aging Broad-winged Hawk nestlings in western New York (Crocoll 1984 and unpubl. data). The nest was next visited on 14 July and the nestling still had a predominantly downy (white) head. On 16 July the nestling was gone. By this time the nest tree had partially refoliated but the nest was still easily observable from any location on the ground. The nestling would have been between 29 and 31 days old on 16 July and could possibly have fledged. For the following reasons, however, the nestling probably died before it could fledge.

In western New York Broad-winged Hawk nestlings took their first flight from the nest at about 31 days of age (Crocoll and Parker 1989). Most of these nestlings were well feathered and, in particular, had mostly feathered heads.

No nestling fledged with a predominantly white downy head. Also, as is common for many raptors (Newton 1979, 1986), newly fledged Broad-winged Hawk were always found on and around the nest several days after fledging. This was not observed at this nest in the defoliated area. Newton (1979) indicated that predation is one of the factors that influences raptors' choice of nest sites. That predation can have considerable impact on breeding success has been observed in several studies (e.g., Parker 1974; Gates and Gysel 1978; Crocoll and Parker 1989). Many open-nesting species rely on the foliage of the forest canopy or shrub layer partially or completely to conceal their nests from predators or parasites. Broad-winged Hawk nests suffer predation from species such as Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) (Crocoll and Parker 1989) and probably Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) (Rosenfield 1984). Great Horned Owl did nest within a 0.25 km of the defoliated nest in 1981 (Crocoll pers. obs.). Thus, reduction or elimination of tree and shrub foliage by Gypsy Moth is likely to have reduced significantly the chance for reproductive success of the particular Broad-winged Hawk nest observed in this study by increasing its visibility to predators.

Removal of foliage would also have exposed the nest to increased weather stress in the event of severe weather conditions. Removal of foliage might also result in a decrease in potential prey (especially open-nesting avian species) over the course of the breeding season. This could lead to starvation of some or all young. The observation of a single nestling at this nest is suggestive of food supply problems (Crocoll and Parker 1989), but a quantitative study of the effect of Gypsy Moth defoliation on food supply should be conducted.

Thus, although a Gypsy Moth infestation may cause an increase in breeding numbers of certain species that use its larvae for food, a more thorough study of the effect of defoliation on breeding success and nestling growth needs to be undertaken to measure the moth's potential negative impact on open-nesting avian species.

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**CHARACTERISTICS OF BLACK TERN (*CHLIDONIAS NIGER*)
NESTING HABITAT AT LAKEVIEW WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA,
NEW YORK**

MELINDA G. KNUTSON

The Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) has been declining over most of its range in North America and is on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of Migratory Non-game Birds of Management Concern. Black Tern is considered endangered in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and is of special concern in Ohio, Iowa and Wisconsin (Carroll 1988, Hands *et al.* 1989). Rates of decline on USFWS Breeding Bird Surveys were 4% per year between 1966 and 1987 in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin (Hands *et al.* 1989). In Canada, the rate of decline over the period 1966-1985 was 7.9% (Carroll 1988). The Black Tern currently is listed as a bird species of special concern in New York State (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1987) and has been recommended for re-listing as endangered (Carroll 1988) due to population declines during the last 25 years. For example, the population at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge has declined from 2000 birds in 1958 to no breeding birds in 1990 (Carroll 1988, Novak 1990). The number of Black Tern observed along the upper Niagara River during fall migration declined from 5500 in 1965 to 60 in 1987. The causes for Black Tern population decline are not well understood. However, lack of proper breeding habitat, organochlorine contamination of food sources, predation, competition, disease or parasites, adverse weather conditions and human disturbance all have been proposed as contributing factors (Hands *et al.* 1989).

I examined the possibility that breeding habitat conditions are limiting Black Tern populations in New York. The objective of this study was to identify microsite characteristics near nest sites which may be different from characteristics of the interior open water/marsh edge in general. Previous studies have described habitat conditions within Black Tern nesting areas in qualitative ways; few have tried to quantify these variables. Cuthbert (1954) stated that nests were located where the vegetation was low and thin, in bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.), mixtures of cattails (*Typha* spp.), bulrush and Yellow Pond Lily (*Nuphar luteum*), or Bur-reeds (*Sparganium eurycarpum*). Dunn (1979) reported that preferred nest sites were in dispersed cattail growth and were rare in dense old stands of cattail. Bailey (1977) found

most nests in and around large beds of Great Bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*). Others have found Black Tern nest sites mainly associated with Broad- and Narrow-leaved Cattail (*Typha latifolia* and *Typha angustifolia*) (Bergman *et al.* 1970, Bailey 1977, Hands *et al.* 1989, Novak 1990). Wetland size and configuration also may be important. For example, Black Tern appeared to prefer a 50:50 ratio of vegetation to open water (Weller and Spatcher 1965), and Brown and Dinsmore (1986) reported that Black Tern in Iowa was not found in wetlands < 5 ha in extent and was found in wetlands 5-10 ha only when they were within a larger wetland complex.

STUDY SITE

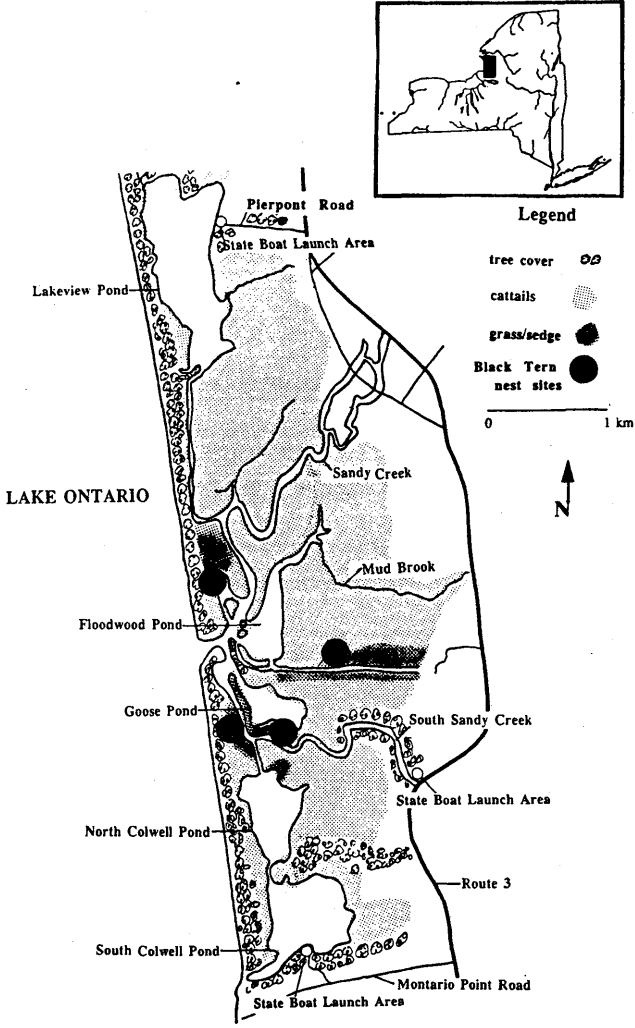
Lakeview Wildlife Management Area (WMA), located in the Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County, New York (43° 51'N, 76° 11'W), is a 1376 ha marsh separated from eastern Lake Ontario by a 7.24 km long barrier beach (Figure 1). Lakeview WMA contains both deep emergent and shallow emergent marsh, and sedge meadow. Approximately 90% of the marsh vegetative cover consists of deep emergent marsh (cattails) with some floating-leaved aquatics (*Nuphar luteum* and *Nymphaea odorata*) and bulrushes. Shallow emergent marsh occurs on the edges of the closed cattail stands and contains grasses (*Calamagrostis canadensis* and *Phalaris arundinacea*), bulrushes and sedges (*Carex* spp.). The sedge meadow is dominated by tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*). Approximately 20-25% of the marsh is open water.

METHODS

A thorough search for Black Tern nest sites was conducted at Lakeview WMA on 22 June 1990 as part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1990 Black Tern nesting survey. To quantify differences in habitat variables between the nest sites and the interior open water/marsh edge, 25 random 1 m² plots of interior marsh vegetation found along the open water/closed marsh edge were compared to plots ≤10 m from Black Tern nest sites identified during the above survey. Data were collected on 8 and 13 July. Interior marsh sites surrounded by vegetation were not sampled because they were inaccessible.

Depth of the water at the center of the plot and maximum height of the vegetation above water were measured to the nearest 0.1 m. The percent cover of vegetation and percent exposed water and mud were estimated and

the dominant plant species within each plot recorded. Unpaired t-tests were used to compare differences between habitat variables near the nest sites and the marsh in general.



adapted from Ellisburg and Henderson, NY USGS Quadrangle Map

Figure 1. Black Tern nest sites at Lakeview WMA during 1990 and location of the study site within New York State.

RESULTS

Black Tern nested at four sites at Lakeview WMA in 1990 (Figure 1), with an estimated total of 19 nests there. Sixteen nests at four locations were marked by flagging. Nests conformed to previous descriptions of size, composition and substrate (Goodwin 1960, Bailey 1977, Hands *et al.* 1989). The nests were built upon stable, floating mats of vegetation, predominantly Wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*), sedges, bulrush and smartweed (*Polygonum* spp.), grasses and some cattails. The nesting materials included cattail, sedges and grasses.

Water depth of the marsh edge was deeper (mean=0.6 m; $p < 0.01$) than at Black Tern nest sites (mean=0.4 m) (Table 1). The vegetation was also taller (mean=1.6 m; $p < 0.01$) in the marsh than in the nesting areas (mean=1.0 m). Black Tern nest sites had more mud exposed (mean=6%; $p = 0.01$) than the marsh edge in general (mean=1%). The marsh edge had more water exposed between the vegetation (mean=22%) than the nest sites (mean=16%), although the difference was not statistically significant ($p = 0.14$). There were no significant differences in percent vegetative cover between the marsh edge (mean=77%; $p = .75$) and the nest sites (mean=78%). Dominant plant species near nest sites included Wapato and sedges. The sampled interior open water/marsh edge was dominated almost exclusively by narrow-leaved cattail. A list of aquatic and emergent plant species found at Lakeview WMA is found in the Appendix.

Table 1. Comparison of habitat variables between Black Tern nest sites and the interior water/marsh edge in general.

habitat variables	mean values				t	p-value
	marsh (n=25) S.E.		nest site (n=25) S.E.			
water depth (m)	0.6	0.03	0.4	0.03	6.01	0.0001
max. height of veg. (m)	1.6	0.08	1.0	0.06	6.25	0.0001
% exposed water	22	3.9	16	2.2	1.52	0.14
% exposed mud	1	0.6	6	1.9	-2.66	0.01
% vegetative cover	77	3.8	78	2.1	-0.32	0.75

DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that Black Tern at Lakeview WMA prefer shallow emergent marsh/sedge meadow rather than deep emergent cattail marsh for nesting. Comparison sampling of the water/closed marsh edge rather than of interior sites surrounded by vegetation was done because of accessibility. It was beyond the limits of this study to access marsh sites surrounded by vegetation, due to the inability to walk or canoe to such sites. However, at Lakeview WMA Black Tern appears to prefer nesting sites near open water (Figure 1), so this study helps define characteristics of the interior open water/marsh edge which may be important.

Although the measurements were taken mid-season rather than at the beginning of the season when terns were selecting nesting sites, the location of the cattail and grass/sedge plant communities did not change during this short interval. Water depth, height of vegetation, and percent exposed water and mud likely change during the season. Water levels would be expected to be lower over the whole marsh as the season progresses. Percent exposed water and mud would also be expected to be lower. Whether there is a differential effect between the two plant communities is not known. Plant height in the grass/sedge community never reaches the height of the cattail community. Therefore, these results should be interpreted as showing a general preference of Black Tern for shallow emergent marsh/sedge meadow, with the measurements representing mid-season average values for these plant communities. Repetition of this study early in the nesting season and at other locations is recommended to define a range of values for the measured variables early in the nesting season.

It appears that Black Tern is already using most areas of shallow emergent/sedge meadow vegetation within Lakeview WMA (Figure 1). Constriction of these habitats may lead to continued declines in the number of nesting Black Tern at Lakeview WMA or its possible extirpation at this site. Could loss of shallow emergent marsh habitats be partly responsible for the decline of the Black Tern in New York and elsewhere? What processes maintain these habitats within a cattail-dominated marsh complex?

The composition of wetland vegetation is directly influenced by water level changes (Gilman 1976) as well as other environmental influences such as ice and snow cover in winter (Geis 1985). Perhaps natural water level fluctuations in Lake Ontario prior to 1960 and the beginning of water level control at the Moses-Saunders Power Dam near Massena provided enough

disturbance to set back succession and maintain a larger area of shallow emergent vegetation than is present now. Inland freshwater wetlands are often associated with rivers and streams and subject to disturbance from flooding and seasonal water level changes. The hydrologic regime of many of these wetlands has been changed due to agricultural and urban drainage and filling, channeling of streams, and construction of ponds and reservoirs which decrease or eliminate flooding. While wetland vegetation may continue to be present in these areas, the type and configuration of vegetation could be different than in the past.

Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*) has been suggested as a key species in maintaining the habitat necessary for Black Tern nesting (Carroll 1990). It maintains open water pools within the marsh by eating marsh vegetation. Their mounds and feeding areas provide platforms for nesting Black Tern. No Muskrat were seen during this study; one mound was present but did not appear to be occupied. Absence of these mammals may also contribute to deterioration of appropriate Black Tern nesting habitat.

Habitat requirements for Black Tern may be defined at four levels: the immediate nest site, the colony, the marsh, and the regional landscape. The immediate nest site requires the right combination of vegetative cover (for chicks to hide in) interspersed with open water, vegetation height, and suitable nest sites (tussocks, floating materials). There must be enough of this habitat to support a colony, although it can be somewhat scattered as Black Tern is a "loose" colonial nester (Cuthbert 1954). The marsh must support not only the physical nest, but the nutritional needs of the adults and developing chicks, and provide energy stores for the fall migration. Adequate insects, crustaceans, and fish must be available at the critical times in chick development which requires adequate open water area. Lakeview has approximately 20-25% open water, probably less at the height of seasonal vegetative growth. Other studies have shown that 50% open water is required (Weller and Spatcher 1965). Also, the marsh must be a relatively clean environment, free of toxic chemicals. In New York, most of the large Black Tern colonies are located adjacent to Lake Ontario. Lakeview WMA is part of a complex of marshes and bays extending along the entire eastern shore of Lake Ontario. This complex represents a distinctive landscape pattern.

Any one of the above habitat requirements may be limiting the Black Tern population in New York and elsewhere. This paper attempts to define habitat qualities of the immediate nesting site selected by Black Tern. Characteristics

of interior open water/marsh edge habitats may be important factors in nest site selection and maintenance of the population.

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Appendix. Aquatic and emergent plants found at Lakeview WMA 1990.

Scientific name	English name
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> L.	Swamp Milkweed
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i> Gmel.	Water-shield
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> (Michx.) Beauv.	bluejoint grass
<i>Carex crinita</i> Lam.	sedge
<i>Carex stricta</i> Lam.	tussock sedge
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> L.	Coontail
<i>Decodon verticillatus</i> (L.) Ell.	Water-willow
<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i> (Torr.) Torr.	spikerush
* <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> L.	Frog's-bit
* <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> L.	Yellow Iris
* <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> L.	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i> L.	Tufted Loosestrife
<i>Myriophyllum exalbescens</i> Fern.	water milfoil
<i>Nuphar luteum</i> (L.) Sibth. & Sm.	Yellow Pond-lily
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i> Dryand. ex Ait.	water-lily
<i>Panicum rigidulum</i> Bosc ex Nees	panic grass
<i>Pontederia cordata</i> L.	pickerel-weed
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i> L.	pondweed
<i>Potamogeton natans</i> L.	pondweed
<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> L.	Sago Pondweed
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i> (Benn.) Rydb.	Red-head Pondweed
<i>Ranunculus longirostris</i> Godr.	White Water-crowfoot
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i> Willd.	Wapato
<i>Scirpus fluviatilis</i> (Torr.) Gray	River Bulrush
<i>Scirpus tabernaemontanii</i> Gmel.	Soft-stem Bulrush
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i> Engelm. ex Gray	bur-reed
<i>Typha angustifolia</i> L.	Narrow-leaf Cattail
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i> L.	Common Bladderwort

Names follow Mitchell (1986).

*naturalized, non-native species

REVERSAL OF LIFE ZONES IN THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS, WITH REFERENCE TO THE AVIFAUNA

ROBERT E. SPEISER¹ AND THOMAS BOSAKOWSKI²

The New York City Area, as delineated by Bull (1964), encompasses a rich avifauna due to its diversity of habitats. Adding significantly to this abundance is the Hudson Highlands and its southern extension, the Ramapo Mountains. These are a series of rugged, rolling hills and ridges rising from near sea level to approximately 430 m elevation, enough to increase precipitation and locally modify climate. Southeastern New York and northern New Jersey have been problematical for biogeographers, because the fauna and flora of this region do not precisely fit into a regional categorization. Rather, they are a mixture of species from the north, south, and west together with typical eastern species.

The life zone concept was proposed by Merriam (1898), who hypothesized that the distribution of biota could be organized into zones based on temperature, especially minimum temperatures. He coined the now familiar terms Hudsonian, Canadian, Transition, and Upper Austral for life zones. Eaton (1906) criticized Merriam's work, suggesting that bird distributions are better described by vegetation type than by zones based on temperature. Dice (1922) felt that the best way to characterize faunal or biotic areas is by noting the dominance of particular habitats. Dice later (1943) chose the term *biotic province*, defined as a continuous unit reflecting climate, physiography, and soil type similarities, but most importantly, a center of biotic differentiation. He placed the Hudson Highlands in the Carolinian province (equivalent to the Upper Austral Life Zone) and delineated the Canadian province a short distance to the northwest (Catskills-Pocono plateau areas). Fables (1955) regarded assignment of all of New Jersey to the Carolinian province as an oversimplification of a complicated area which contains three life zones. Studies by Robichaud and Buell (1973) suggest that climax vegetation for all of northern New Jersey is Beech-Sugar Maple forest (northern hardwoods), perhaps indicating that a more appropriate status of the area northward from the fall line (the geological boundary between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain) would be Canadian. It is interesting that Nichols (1935) suggested that Eastern Hemlock forms a northern extension of the deciduous forest formation and may be an ecological unit distinct from the northern coniferous forests. Charney (1980) noted the expansion of hemlocks into deciduous forest in the Hudson Highlands.

The most accurate map of "life zones" in the New York City Area may be the work of Pitelka (1941), who related avian distributional data to major biotic communities. He stressed the importance of avian ecological niche requirements, and noted that there was a consistent correlation of birds with life form of plants rather than with specific dominants. Pitelka somewhat diplomatically placed the Hudson Highlands in the Deciduous Forest, and outlined a Coniferous-Deciduous Forest Ecotone and Oak-Pine Ecotone lying short distances to the north and south, respectively. The Hudson Highlands clearly contains many elements from both, so in effect, he may have delineated an ecotone between two ecotones. Shelford (1945) placed the New York Area in the "Oak-Wild Turkey" Biome.

In a typical life zone, the vegetation and fauna become more boreal with increasing elevation. However, in the Hudson Highlands the reverse occurs, with northern and southern elements juxtaposed. In great part this probably is not due to juxtaposition of northern and southern forest stands by shifting post-glacial climates (Braun 1938), but rather to various edaphic and topographic factors. Ridge tops and upper slopes in the area have a thin layer of topsoil, and rainfall tends to run off the steep slopes rather than infiltrate. Furthermore, intense sun and wind exposure serve to magnify this xeric condition. Thus, the relatively sterile soils of high elevations are dominated by the more drought adapted plants such as Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*), Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*), and Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*). Sometimes admixtures of Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*) or Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) occur. Shrubs such as lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.) and Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) frequently occur in the under story or in openings. Good examples of this more southern community can be found at the summits of Bear Mountain, Ramapo Torne Mountain, and Storm King Mountain, where Rufous-sided Towhee, Ovenbird, and Red-eyed Vireo are common. Frequently observed also are Great Crested Flycatcher, Northern Flicker, and, in burned areas, Eastern Bluebird.

A different plant community, descending 100-200 meters into the valleys, coves, and ravines, thrives in areas of deeper, richer, more mesic soils. Here are found the northern hardwoods — Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), along with Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and a host of other tree species. Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) frequently occur as co-dominants. Birds with northern affinities,

such as Blackburnian Warbler, Solitary Vireo, and Canada Warbler, often breed in this boreal-like community. Northern Goshawk has nested since at least 1964 (Speiser and Bosakowski 1984), preferring secluded, mature or old growth tracts of mixed forest. Some other northern species typically found here include Veery, Brown Creeper, and Winter Wren. Black-throated Blue Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco are somewhat scarce but regular breeders, and White-throated Sparrow may nest (Speiser 1981). Plantations of Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*), European Larch (*Larix decidua*), and Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) have been important in attracting numbers of breeding Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet (Kane *et al.* 1974; Speiser *op. cit.*).

Biogeographers have been somewhat confused by the area of southeast New York and northern New Jersey and, perhaps, so are some birds. Populations of northern and southern birds are not strictly segregated. For instance, Hermit Thrush is sometimes found on ridge tops where Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and lowbush blueberry form a substantial understorey. Acadian Flycatcher, a poorly named southern species, favors nesting along streamsides shaded by beech and hemlocks. Black-throated Blue Warbler and Hooded Warbler, northern and southern species respectively, sometimes sing and nest on the same hillside draped with Great Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) and Mountain Laurel under an open forest canopy. A vivid example was during June 1979, when Speiser observed singing Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, Prairie, and Yellow-throated Warblers in the same area of the southwest corner of Sterling Lake in Orange County. We also have noted Acadian Flycatchers singing in an active Northern Goshawk nest tree, Red-bellied Woodpecker in the same forest with Brown Creeper, and White-eyed Vireo singing within earshot of Solitary Vireo.

Deed (1976) suggested the importance of the lower Hudson Valley as a route for the northward spread of southern species such as the Carolina Wren and Northern Cardinal. Origins of northern bird species in the Hudson Highlands are more obscure, with northwestern Connecticut and northeastern Pennsylvania perhaps serving as significant sources. All this adds up a great diversity of bird species just a short drive from downtown Manhattan.

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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE 1989

In 1990 the Federation and the New York State Avian Records Committee lost another valued member in the passing of Richard G. Evans. Richard was an enthusiastic person who was acting capably as the Committee's Secretary. Only 15 reports were received in 1989, a low number as in the previous year. If you observe a species that is on the list of reviewable species, record a new breeding species for the state or a species new to New York (for a list see *The Kingbird* 38:227-228; 1988 and 39:142-146, 1989), please write up your observation and send the report to our new Secretary:

Todd A. Culver
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

By preparing and submitting reports of significant observations, Federation members and others can contribute to the important work of the Federation by adding to our knowledge of New York State birds and to its base of reliable data on them. This summary covers 13 reports representing 11 separate records from 1989, and three reports from 1988. One report, of a possible hybrid, from 1989 is not reviewable, and another is not yet resolved.

1988 ACCEPTED REPORTS

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*). 1988-16-A one male on Lake Champlain, Crown Point, Town of Crown Point, Essex Co., 25 Mar (NM).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). 1988-18-A one juvenile at Lake Champlain, Crown Point peninsula-Port Henry area, Town of Moriah, Essex Co., 29 Oct (NM).

Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). 1988-17-A one adult at Lake Champlain, Port Henry, Town of Moriah, Essex Co., 29 Oct (NM).

1989 ACCEPTED REPORTS

Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*). 1989-5-A one found on school lawn, Town of Horseheads, Chemung Co., 25 Sep (WO); specimen

deposited in Cornell University Vertebrate Collections. This bird was one of several carried to the northeastern United States by hurricane Hugo. Full details appear in *The Kingbird* 40:19-20; 1990.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). 1989-4-A,B one near Wappinger Creek, Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., 12 Sep (FG, WC).

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). 1989-13-A two about 5 miles north of Phoenix, Town of Schroepel, Oswego Co., 28 Mar (DC).

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). 1989-12-A one 4 miles northwest of Baldwinsville, Town of Lysander, Onondaga Co., 20 May (DC). A full account of this record, with a photograph, appears in *The Kingbird* 39:194-196; 1989.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). 1989-7-A one on the Niagara River at Buffalo, Erie Co., 12 Nov (GR).

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*). 1989-10-A one at Montauk Point, Suffolk Co., 25 Sep (WP).

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). 1989-8-A one at feeder, Dunkirk, Chautauqua Co., 8 Dec (GR).

1989 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). 1989-3-A,B one at Dover Plains, Town of Dover, Dutchess Co., 21-22 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). 1989-9-A one at Wappinger Creek, Salt Point, Town of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., 12-13 Sep. This report was intended to be for a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, but the observer made an error in writing the species' name.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). 1989-2-A one at Pelham Bay Park, Bronx Co., 27 Aug.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). 1989-6-A one at Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo, Erie Co., 16 Apr.

No additions were made to the New York State List, which stands at 435 species, in 1989.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth P. Able
Robert F. Andrie (Chairman)
Thomas W. Burke
Robert O. Paxton
Barbara J. Spencer

Observers submitting records cited in this report: William Consiglio, Dorothy W. Crumb, Robert DeCandido, Dorothy M. Fleury, Florence T. Germond, Marguerite Guernsey, Nancy L. Martin, William Ostrander, William A. Purcell, Gerald R. Rising, Mary W. Yegella.

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1991

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held the 1991 winter Waterfowl Count from 12 through 20 Jan, with 13 Jan as the target date. All Regions completed their counts within the established dates. Weather was almost balmy through the count period. This accounted for birds being "all over." By the same token there were few or no weather-related problems of coverage. Very few bodies of water were not open. As a result none of the Regional compilers mentioned areas that were not covered.

The grand total count of 345,942 (Table 1) was up a modest 9.3% over 1990, and a great 51.9% above the eighteen year (1973-1990) average of 227,773. Five of the six species showing downward trends last year have reversed themselves. However, four species that showed upward trends last year are, sad to say, in a downward slide this year. Some of the more notable declines occurred in American Black Duck, Redhead and Bufflehead. It was nice to record increases for (Atlantic) Brant, Canvasback, scaup, Oldsquaw, scoter, goldeneye, Common Merganser and Red-breasted Merganser. This year Canada Goose experienced a slight decrease, a welcome word to those experiencing nuisance problems from the species. Region 10 reported several unusual species this year: Pink-footed Goose — 1; Ross's Goose — 1; and Bar-headed Goose — 2!

Comparing 1991 to 1990 count figures (Table 2), the commoner species showed a 10-4 split in favor of increases, although some different species changed as compared to 1990. When comparing 1991 count figures with the 1973-1990 eighteen year average (Table 3), there is a 11-2 split, strongly in favor of increases.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were down 4.2% from 1990, including a decrease in Canada Goose of 3.6%. However, Atlantic Brant showed a 9.1% increase. The dabbling ducks again showed an overall increase of 20.6% over 1990, even after the 14% increase recorded last year. All species were up, with the exceptions of Gadwall (down 2.1%) and Blue-winged Teal (down 32.0%). Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an overall increase of 26.5% compared to 1990. A 29.9% decrease in Redhead, Canvasback and goldeneye was offset by a 70.9% increase in all sea ducks. American Coot also showed a 17.2% decrease from 1990 and a 52.3% 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 10.9% over 1990, and 12.0% over the 1981-1990 ten year average.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1991 aerial survey was conducted from 2-8 Jan 1991. The results are presented in Table 4. Table 5 compares the 1990 to 1991 aerial survey results. As in most years, the 1991 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count did not at all resemble the Federation's ground count total.

The 1992 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 11 through 19 Jan, with Sunday, 12 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. Contrary to what appeared on the 1990 report, the new compiler for Region 2 was, and is, Thomas White. Welcome, Tom! The Regional Compilers were:

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

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Table I. Regional totals for 1991 Waterfowl Count

Species \ Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Loon, Red-throated		3								29	32
Common	1	5	14		8	1	3			455	487
Grebe, Pied-billed	1		9		1					38	49
Horned	2	3	11		8		23			438	485
Red-necked										5	5
Cormorant, Great										237	237
Double-crested	2		2		3					189	196
Swan, Tundra	1	7	14								22
Mute	3	1				4		76	217	1,463	1,764
Goose, Snow	1		1				4		20	518	544
Brant										21,086	21,086
Canada	976	1,251	74,770	77	1,150		2,032	2,134	13,464	33,394	129,248
Wood Duck	1	44	4		2					37	88
Green-winged Teal					23					340	363
American Black Duck	152	348	3,513	91	425	24	189	948	247	15,900	21,837
Mallard	5,503	6,098	14,883	532	4,359	202	1,442	696	1,562	10,772	46,049
Mallard X Black Duck	26	1			1					41	69
N. Pintail			6		1			2	2	108	119
Blue-winged Teal										2	2
N. Shoveler		1								199	200
Gadwall	21	12	45		12			2		691	783
Wigeon, Eurasian										2	2
American	17	3	11		2				14	1,154	1,201

Canvasback	3,430	4	2,145		3			1	3,130	4,108	12,821
Redhead	121	12	7,249		11				2	24	7,419
Ring-necked Duck	15	2	23		21			4	75	268	408
Tufted Duck										1	1
Scaup, Greater	3,579	1,838	804		1,460	13	1		1	25,268	32,964
Lesser species	159	9	369		8		3		1	313	862
Eider, Common		508	921							3,335	4,764
King		1								5	5
Harlequin Duck		1			1					27	28
Oldsquaw	4,915	798			93	7	1			5	7
Scoter, Black		1					1			1,113	6,927
Surf										463	465
White-winged species	151	164			19					2,951	2,951
Goldeneye, Common	2,534	3,669	692	24	1,169	622	1,682	68	18	7,588	7,922
Barrow's							1			57	57
Bufflehead	191	321	311		202		41	2		2	5,709
Merganser, Hooded	7	6	49	12	18	7			29	367	6,777
Common	4,288	1,879	135	52	3,353	513	850	270	2,420	59	495
Red-breasted	699	251	395	3	61		2			5,668	7,079
Ruddy Duck	1		6						5	788	800
American Coot	43	5	337		4				27	225	641
unidentified	132		30							1	163
TOTAL	26,972	17,246	106,749	791	12,418	1,393	6,275	4,203	21,234	148,661	345,942

Table II. Comparison of 1991 with 1990 for all species totaling over 1000 individuals in 1991.

Species	1990	1991	% change from 1989
Mute Swan	1,091	1,764	61.7
Brant	14,391	21,086	46.5
Canada Goose	139,333	129,248	-7.2
American Black Duck	22,691	21,837	-3.8
Mallard	45,374	46,049	1.5
Canvasback	4,538	12,821	182.5
Redhead	8,099	7,419	-8.4
scaup (both species)	31,712	38,590	21.7
Oldsquaw	3,754	6,927	84.5
scoter (all species)	10,176	11,395	12.0
goldeneye (both species)	8,541	13,699	60.4
Bufflehead	7,079	6,777	-4.3
Common Merganser	8,423	13,819	64.1
Red-breasted Merganser	5,252	7,079	34.8
Total	310,454	338,510	9.0

Table III. Comparison of 1991 count with 1973-1990 average for all species totaling over 1000 individuals in 1991.

Species	1991	Average	% change
Brant	21,086	12,560	67.9
Canada Goose	129,248	46,235	179.5
American Black Duck	21,837	19,581	11.5
Mallard	46,049	24,936	84.7
Canvasback	12,821	10,611	20.8
Redhead	7,419	6,542	13.4
scaup (both species)	38,590	54,858	-29.7
Oldsquaw	6,927	3,986	73.8
scoter (all species)	11,395	13,153	-13.4
Common Goldeneye	13,699	11,070	23.7
Bufflehead	6,777	4,961	36.6
Common Merganser	13,819	12,707	8.8
Red-breasted Merganser	7,079	2,692	163.0
Total	336,746	223,892	50.4

**Table IV. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Aerial Count, 2-8 January 1991. All species of 1,000 individuals or more.**

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	77	1,544	1,621
Brant	5	21,920	21,925
Canada Goose	58,424	17,122	75,546
American Black Duck	6,858	16,851	23,709
Mallard	19,209	3,080	22,289
Canvasback	9,217	3,601	12,818
Redhead	2,065		2,065
scaup (both species)	7,212	37,430	44,642
Oldsquaw	1,504	797	2,301
goldeneye (both species)	760	2,181	2,941
Bufflehead	40	1,209	1,249
merganser (all species)	10,809	4,026	14,835
Total	116,180	109,761	225,941

**Table V. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
1990 and 1991 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1990
for all species with 1,000 individuals or more in 1991.**

Species	1990	1990	% change
Mute Swan	1,362	1,621	19.0
Brant	18,950	21,925	15.7
Canada Goose	112,369	75,546	-32.8
American Black Duck	24,852	23,709	-4.6
Mallard	14,546	22,289	53.2
Canvasback	6,928	12,818	85.0
Redhead	6,690	2,065	-69.1
scaup (both species)	33,094	44,642	34.9
Oldsquaw	1,621	2,301	41.9
goldeneye (both species)	7,313	2,941	-59.8
merganser (all species)	16,681	14,835	-11.1
Total	244,406	225,941	-93.9

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Black Tern Counts From Eastern Lake Ontario: On 29 July 1991 the authors had the opportunity to go out on Lake Ontario with Jerry Spaziani, New York State Conservation Officer for Region 6, on the *Searcher*, a twenty-six foot grady white. Our goal was to locate the areas where Black Tern were grouping before they migrated south. With Jerry's knowledge of Lake Ontario and a little perseverance, we were successful. Off the southwest tip of Cherry Island, Town of Lyme, we spotted a large group of Black Tern. Due to the motion of the boat, it was hard to get an accurate count, but we estimated there to be over 170 present, as well as some Common and Caspian Terns. We would have to come back on a calmer day for a more accurate count. Continuing our search along the shoreline of Lake Ontario we were pleased to find another group of Black, Common, and Caspian Terns gathered on a shoal just off the shoreline of Luff Shores Road, Town of Lyme. We estimated over 100 Black Tern to be here. On the following days, we made several attempts to return to both sites and count the Black Tern. The group at Cherry Island moved on, but the high count at the Luff Shores Road on 15 Aug 1991 was 479 Black, over 100 Common, and over 50 Caspian Terns. On 28 Aug 1991 we went to Luff Shores Road to get one last count, but the Black Tern already had departed.

Irene Mazzocchi and Sandy Muller, Bureau of Wildlife, State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

This summer season was generally hot and dry in all Regions. Rainfall was spotty among Regions and local within Regions, and drought was a concern in several areas. Hurricane Bob brought heavy rain and some pelagic and southern species to Region 10, primarily eastern Long Island, but elsewhere it only pushed rainfall to nearly normal monthly averages in Regions 3, 8 and 9, and no birds of interest were found inland. Some speculated that the season should have been good for nesting birds, with the possible exception of grassland species hurt by early mowing. The most obvious effects of the early warmth, continuing from the spring, were early plant growth and early nesting. This must be taken into account in assessing the results of Breeding Bird Surveys, as crop land coverage and nesting were both far advanced relative to normal at typical route-running dates. As the season progressed, many noted abundant crops of wild fruits, nuts, and berries, though not especially good cone crops. There was some evidence of an early onset to fall migration with early August arrival dates for a few species, though numbers and variety at that point were again poor in most Regions.

Let us look more carefully at the three regular events of this season, beginning with the tail end of spring migration. I can still recall years with a solid week of good spring birding in June; late flycatchers, thrushes, and warblers, large numbers and good variety of shorebirds, and hawk flights. Again, this was not the case this spring. Winds were consistently "wrong" in western New York, so neither the Braddock Bay nor Derby Hill hawk watches observed any substantial flights in June. There was no mention good numbers or variety of shorebird, only a few individual stragglers in mid June, headed north, south, or summering? It's often an open question. Among these were mid June records of Semipalmated Plover and Solitary Sandpiper in Region 9. Other notable early to mid June stragglers included Brant in Regions 8 and 9, Rough-legged Hawk in Region 2, White-eyed Vireo in Region 2, and Am. Pipit in Region 8. Perhaps this paucity was to be expected, given the very advanced spring and summer experienced this year.

The heart of the period, the breeding season, was a bit more interesting. The many positive notes included: Common Loon breeding at outlying locales in Regions 1 and 5 and first successfully using an artificial nesting island in New York in Region 7; Am. Bittern up a bit in several Regions,

noted in six; 1000+ Great Blue Heron nests in the Ironsides Island colony in Region 6; Am. Wigeon continuing to breed and/or summer in Regions 1 and 2; Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon breeding recovery efforts continuing to bear fruit in several regions; Common Moorhen numbers improved a bit; cuckoos, particularly Black-billed, locally numerous in Regions 4, 6, 7 and 8; Barn Owl reported in good shape in Region 10 and at least present in Region 4; Ruby-throated Hummingbird noted by six Regions, many with increased summer presence; Red-headed and Red-bellied woodpeckers doing well at the edges of their range; Olive-sided Flycatcher in good numbers in boreal habitat in Regions 6 and 7; Willow Flycatcher expanding in Regions 6 and 7; Least Flycatcher at a new post-Atlas location in Region 10; Carolina Wren exploding in numbers both breeding and post-breeding across the state; Eastern Bluebird nestbox trails doing well, so long as managers pay attention to predator exclusion (see notes from V. Pitzrick in the Region 1 report); Red-eyed Vireo particularly abundant in Region 4; Golden-winged Warbler in good numbers in Region 6; Cerulean Warbler at several sites in Region 6; and a decrease in Common Grackle in Region 1. Mixed signals were noted for quite a few species, including Pied-billed Grebe, E. Wood-Pewee, Purple Martin, and Golden-winged Warbler. Unfortunately, the negative notes match or exceed the positives. In many cases these are red flags from a single or a very few Regions. Region 4 provided a large number of these this season. Summarizing, we find the continued increase of Double-crested Cormorant; low numbers of Green-backed Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron; the spread and increase of Mute Swan upstate in Regions 2, 5 and 6; few nesting Blue-winged Teal in three Regions; few reports of N. Goshawk; few nesting Red-shouldered Hawk; Am. Kestrel in trouble in Region 10; continued problems for Spotted and Upland Sandpipers and for Black Tern; Great Crested Flycatcher scarce in Region 1; Blue Jay down in Region 8; House Wren down; only two reports of Sedge Wren, both from Region 5; concern for Veery, Wood Thrush, and Brown Thrasher in several Regions; only single Loggerhead Shrike present in Regions 3 and 6; Chestnut-sided and Black-and-white Warblers flagged in Regions 4 and 10 and Northern Waterthrush also in Region 4; only two single Yellow-breasted Chat noted (Regions 3 and 10); Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak flagged; Rufous-sided Towhee and all the grassland sparrows noted of concern in multiple Regions; and red flags for Song Sparrow in Region 1, Swamp Sparrow in Regions 1 and 10, and Dark-eyed Junco in Region 8.

You can find other breeding notes of interest. In the Region 1 report is a summary of the summary of their 18 BBS route results by Walter Klabunde and commentary on Vivian Pitzrick's nest finding efforts. In Region 2, Wood Duck was found saddled with Hooded Merganser eggs to hatch and raise. Drought impact on duck production, bridge-repair-work impact on nesting N. Rough-winged and Cliff swallows, and House Sparrows evicting Cliff Swallows are noted in Region 4. Common Raven was noted in many Regions, but were a real nuisance in Region 5. The Region 7 report summarizes the annual Four Brothers Islands banding visit and notes a record late date for Black-backed Woodpecker feeding young. The Region 10 report includes a summary of breeding trends and a report of field birds at Floyd Bennett Field. Finally, nest predation was noted in several Regional reports, with Osprey and Eastern Bluebird hit by Raccoon in Region 1, Wood Duck and Am. Kestrel by Raccoon in Region 2, Eastern Bluebird by unidentified enemies in Region 6, Tree Swallow by Raccoon in Region 8, and a large Purple Martin colony targeted by Great Horned Owl in Region 9. Fledging a brood is not easy.

In addition to breeding notes, the heart of the breeding season often sees a collection of summering birds and post-nesting wandering. This year was no exception. Among the more interesting of these reports were Horned Grebe in Regions 3 and 10; wandering herons included Great Egret rare in Region 7 and up to 17 in Region 8, Snowy Egret in Regions 5, 8 and 9, and Cattle Egret in Region 7; Greater Scaup in Regions 2 and 9; White-winged Scoter in Region 9; Common Goldeneye in Region 5; a rare summer Turkey Vulture in Region 10 and **Black Vulture** in Regions 9 and 10; a first regional summer record for Golden Eagle in Region 10 as well as another bird in Region 2; a first mid summer record for **Bohemian Waxwing** in Region 2; and a few crossbills, Red in Region 1 and White-winged in Regions 6 and 7.

The third regular happening of this season is the start of fall migration. Shorebirds come first, some as early as late June. This season, the hot, dry weather left suitable habitat everywhere. Given those conditions, the results are disappointing at best. Arrival dates were generally relatively late. Region 3 notes a front in the third week of July which dropped the first significant groups. In addition to the widespread breeders noted in trouble above, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Stilt Sandpiper were flagged as very scarce in passage this early fall. Significant highlights did include some excellent peak counts for Willet, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, and Short-billed Dowitcher in Region 10, and a rare occurrence of Marbled Godwit inland in

Region 5. Normally coastal in distribution, Laughing Gull appeared in Regions 2, 3 and 9. There was sparse reporting of Common and Forster's Terns away from Region 10. Moving to land birds, several Regions noted a slow start to the fall migration, although this impression contrasts with Region 6's comment on movement two weeks early. In fact, there are a scattering of very early fall records across many Regions, but little overall sign of significant numbers pushing southward anywhere. Among the more interesting of the early migrants were Merlin in Regions 5 and 8, Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Region 2, Philadelphia Vireo in six Regions, N. Parula, Blackpoll and Connecticut Warblers in Region 5; and Rusty Blackbird in Region 4. Additional migrants of interest in this period included Common Nighthawk scarce everywhere excepting good late August flights in Region 9; a good count of Chimney Swift in Region 1; a relatively late report for Cerulean Warbler in Region 9; and the season's only Yellow-throated Warbler in Region 10.

The special event, or non-event depending on where you live of the season, was Hurricane Bob. As noted earlier, it brought rain but no unusual birds away from Long Island. On Long Island, the "bird of the storm" was **Sandwich Tern**, with at least a record 12 seen. Those able to bird during the storm produced a list similar to that from a pelagic trip and additional sightings trickled in over the next several days. The Region 10 report does an excellent job of summarizing this event, with species, numbers, locations, and commentary.

As usual for this season, the list of rarities is relatively short. The best were: a possible Brown Pelican in Region 1; Common Raven and **Bohemian Waxwing** in Region 2; **Am. White Pelican**, Franklin's Gull, and Loggerhead Shrike in Region 3; Barn Owl, Fish Crow, and "Lawrence's" Warbler in Region 4; **Am. White Pelican**, Snowy Egret, Willet, **Marbled Godwit**, and Little Gull in Region 5; Loggerhead Shrike and **Blue Grosbeak** in Region 6; Great Egret and Clay-colored Sparrow in Region 7; Red-necked Phalarope and "Lawrence's" Warbler in Region 8; Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 9; and **Brown Pelican**, **Brown Booby**, **Golden Eagle**, **Sandwich Tern**, **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, and Summer Tanager in Region 10. The Bird of the Season Award goes to the state's second **White-winged Tern** seen and photographed by a lucky few in Region 2.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

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

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

June was the fourth warmest and eighth driest in 123 years of record keeping in Buffalo and the ninth consecutive month with above normal temperatures. Temperatures in June averaged just under 70°, more than 3° above normal. Precipitation was only 0.86 inches, about a third normal, and 0.7 inches at Amity Lake on the upper Genesee Valley. The percent of sunshine, 73% (65% is normal), exacerbated the dryness. Weather over the Region was dominated by a huge high pressure system. Water tables, particularly on the Allegheny Plateau remained low, and only deep rooted trees, shrubs and herbs remained green. This was the first year in twenty that I harvested honey in June. July temperatures averaged 71.9°, just over one degree above normal, making it the tenth month in a row above normal. Temperatures reached the 80's on 22 days. Rainfall at Buffalo totaled 3.34 inches. Sunshine averaged 69%, essentially normal. Lake Erie water temperature reached 75°. August temperatures continued above normal at 71°, nearly 2° above normal. The 2.84 inches of rainfall at Buffalo was more than an inch below normal. Total rainfall for June, July and August was just 7.04 inches at Buffalo, the least since the summer of 1957.

The Allegheny Reservoir Osprey are still in business, according to Tom Jurczak of the Region 9 DEC office. The pair at the hack site near Route 17 fledged three young. The pair at Bone Run raised one young which was found dead below the nest. The suspected predator was Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). A new pair of Osprey joined the two established pairs by adding sticks to a nest platform at Pierce Run, but did not lay eggs. The male of this pair was banded (at an unknown location), while the males at the two established sites were hacked here in 1985. All three females were unbanded. Evidence is accumulating that male Osprey are more site faithful than are females.

The pair of Bald Eagle at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge successfully fledged one eaglet according to Eric Derleth of the Refuge. It was banded about 4 June by the DEC. They could find no evidence of another egg or young. Eric also reported that two immature Bald Eagle, which appeared to be paired, remained around the Refuge during June and July.

Vivian Pitzrick documented the finding of 347 nests of 39 species, which brings her grand total of nests to 7,820 of 102 species. Over the twenty years

of running her Eastern Bluebird Trail, she has watched the fledging of 1,584 young bluebirds. These records are all available at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. This year 33 bluebird pairs fledged 138 young, down about 19% from 1990. Mortality was mainly from Raccoon predation. Vivian recommends nailing to the top of the bluebird boxes a piece of 1/4 inch plywood which is 1 to 1 1/2 inches wider than the box and extends seven inches beyond the front of the box. This, in addition to the normal raccoon guard around the hole, has worked successfully for her to deter these predators.

Walter Klabunde has summarized the 18 Fish and Wildlife Service breeding bird surveys conducted for 25 years in the Region. Forty-eight species were tallied in higher than average abundance; 38 species were about average and 25 species were below average. The species which were much below normal in abundance were Spotted Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Savannah Sparrow, and Common Grackle. Seven other species, Northern Flicker, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Song Sparrow and House Sparrow, were below normal in abundance. For the second time in 25 years Henslow's Sparrow failed to be tallied.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the persons who have contributed information about the birds of the Niagara Frontier for the past six years and to wish your new Regional editor, **Gerald R. Rising, 295 Robinhill Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221**, the best. Monitoring trends in bird abundance will certainly become even more important indicators of deteriorating environmental conditions as the occupants of this planet continue to increase and are bent on depleting its energy resources.

Abbreviations: AmL - Amity Lake, ALLE; ASP - Allegany State Park; BIP - Bird Island Pier, Buffalo; BISP - Bird Island State Park; BOS- Buffalo Ornithological Society; Chaul - Chautauqua Lake; DH - Dunkirk Harbor; GI - Goat Island, Niagara Falls; INWR- Iroquois National Wildlife Refuges; LESP - Lake Erie State Park; MI - Motor Island, Niagara River; NF - Niagara Falls; OWMA - Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area; PTwn - Pomfret Township CHAU; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve; TIR - Tonawanda Indian Reservation; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrie, Nancy Bowser, Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Don Cordosi, William D'Anna, Eric Derleth, Flory, Michael Galas, Holms, Jamestown Audubon Society, Tom Jurczak, Walter Klabunde, Lake Erie Bird Club, Terry & Judy Mosher, Tom Polinski, Vivian & Raymond Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, David Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Regina & Jim VanScoy, William Watson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: pair in Alt plumage ChauL 3 Jul. Pied-billed Grebe: one DH 18 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: five Allegheny Res 2 Jun, max 310 NF 31 Aug. Am. Bittern: one TWMA 8 Jun; one INWR 7 Jul; one OWMA 22 June. Least Bittern: three TNP 10 Jul. Great Egret: two TNP 26 Jul, one 15 Aug; one TWMA 31 Aug. Green-backed Heron: total 18 on 18 BBS routes. Black-crowned Night Heron: two TNP 16 Jun, 27 Aug; three Buffalo 10 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: 80 INWR 4 Aug. Am. Wigeon: 18 BISP 27 Jun, two 1 Jul; four NF 2 Jul; six MI 10 Jul; five Times Beach, Buffalo 31 Aug. Red-breasted Merganser: one Westfield Twn CHAU 16 Jun, 26 Jul; two BIP 26 Jul; one LESP 29 Jul, two 16 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one-two DH throughout Aug; *intro*. Bald Eagle: imm with green and white tag on right wing INWR 8 Jun, *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two reports Jun (BOS); six reports Jul; six reports L Erie Plain and TWMA Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: ten reports TIR and s Buffalo Jun; four reports s Buffalo Jul; one-three Aml 7-15 Aug. Ruffed Grouse: fair reproduction Allegany Hills. Wild Turkey: many large multiple hen flocks Southern Tier Cos (TJ). Com. Moorhen: ad with y 1.5 mi s of Fredonia CHAU 29 Jul (NB), first record n CHAU in 6-7 years. Black-bellied Plover: last INWR 8 Jun, late. Semipalmated Plover: arr INWR 10 Jul; max 11 OWMA 20 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs - one INWR 10 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs - max 60 OWMA 31 Jul, 3 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr E. Aurora ERIE 9 Jul, max six OWMA 12 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: max six Clarence Twn NIAG 22 Jun; one Fredonia 30 Jul. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 80 OWMA 31 Jul. Least Sandpiper: arr two INWR 29 Jun; max 90 OWMA 3 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: one PTwn 3 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: one DH 20 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 140 OWMA 3 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: four OWMA 26 Jul, six on 3 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr INWR 29 Jun; one OWMA 26 Jul. Wilson's Phalarope: one OWMA 3 Aug. Franklin's Gull: one BIP 29 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: one NF 24 Jun; 250 NF 24 Jul. Great Black-backed Gull: 250 NF 24 Jul. Caspian Tern: max four ChauL 17 Aug. Black Tern: ten INWR 8 Jun; seven LaSalle P, Buffalo 29 Jun.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 463 BBS, a little above average. Black-billed Cuckoo: arr TNP 17 Aug. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr TNP 31 Aug. Com. Nighthawk: max 110 Tonawanda and Town NIAG 25 Aug. Chimney Swift: max 500± BIP 21 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 50-60 Nickel Inn feeders Bone Run, South Valley CATT 31 Jul, where drought may have made nectar scarce (DC *vide* RS). Belted Kingfisher: 13 on BBS, about average. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one South Valley CATT 1 Jun; one at feeder Wales ERIE 1, 16 Jul; one Dayton Twn CATT 23 Jun. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 11 BBS, much above average.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: 38 BBS, low. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last TIR 1 Jun, late; arr Alfred Twn ALLE 21 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: two ad and nest with two y Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 23 Jun (RA). Purple Martin: 31 BBS, average but very scarce Allegany Hills; max 400± Buffalo and Tonawanda 21 Aug. Tree Swallow: 75 pairs Aml Bluebird Trail (150 boxes all types, VP) *intro*; ten pairs successful Carrollton Twn CATT (24 boxes; SE). Bank Swallow: 580 Grand I. Cliff Swallow: 12-15 with 5 nests Grand I 4 Jul, not known NIAG during Atlas period; 28 BBS, above average. Barn Swallow: 486 BBS, average number. Com. Raven: two ads, two y Ward Twn ALLE 26 Jun (EB). Carolina Wren: nine Westfield 26 Jul, seven 25

Aug; 9 reports throughout Region Jul, seven Aug. House Wren: 145 BBS, below average. Golden-crowned Kinglet: continues breeding in spruce plantations on Allegheny plateau; 14 INWR 31 Jul, arrived since Atlas. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two with y AmL 16 Jun (TP *fide* VP). E. Bluebird: *intro*. Wood Thrush: 120 BBS, below average. Brown Thrashers 10 BBS, low count.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one-two Stockton CHAU 22 Jun; one INWR 31 Aug. Philadelphia Vireo: arr TNP 30 Aug. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Bourne's Beach CHAU 24 Aug. Golden-winged Warbler: arr TNP 31 Aug. Pine Warbler: one Franklinville CATT 29 Jun (WD, BP). Cape May Warbler: arr GI 15 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr GI 22 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr two GI 22 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: arr TNP 28 Aug. Black-and-white Warbler: arr TNP 17 Aug. Am. Redstart: arr TNP 17 Aug. Mourning Warbler: arr two NF 31 Aug. Wilson's Warbler: arr E Aurora 21 Aug. Canada Warbler: one INWR 20 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr TNP 31 Aug. N. Cardinal: 156 BBS, above average. Indigo Bunting: 162 BBS, above average. Rufous-sided Towhee: 31 BBS, below average. Field Sparrow: nine BBS, below average. Savannah Sparrow: 289 BBS, much below average. Grasshopper Sparrow: four BBS, below average. Henslow's Sparrow: *intro*. Song Sparrow: 868 BBS, below average. White-throated Sparrow: four ALLE and one ERIE reports June. Red Crossbill: two Ward Twn ALLE 6 June (EB). Pine Siskin: one ASP 1 Jun (WD, BP).

Uncorroborated report: Brown Pelican reported by people in three different boats off Chautauqua Institution ChauL 21 Jul, but unfortunately not verified.

Ten Mile Road, Allegany, New York 14706

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

June had good, maybe even excellent weather. There weren't any periods of heavy rain or any real dry spells. It made for a good nesting season. The late spring weather systems that ground migrants were weak and provided a typical late spring total. July turned hot, sunny and dry, although the rainfall total was a scant 1/4 inch below average. The temperature reached 94° and 96° on 19 and 20 Jul. August was much the same. Rain was at a premium, with about an inch and a half less than usual.

How did this impact the breeding season? It seemed to be a plus for the birds. Some species were able to rear multiple broods. Storms were infrequent and didn't damage or destroy nests. This was certainly helped Mourning Dove, which is well-known for its poorly constructed nest. The

prolonged dry may have affected insect populations. There were fewer mosquitoes in some locations than usual. Other insect species less reliant on standing water seemed to do okay. The wild food supply was generally good. Berries were plentiful even with the dryness. Apparently there was enough precipitation to produce a good crop.

This season always features the both end of the spring migration and the beginning of the fall migration. This year's late spring flight was about on par with other years. There were the usual late hawks and passerines. Waterfowl counts were down and shorebirds were mediocre due to lack of habitat. The best bird of the season occurred in June but may not be a late migrant. A **White-winged Tern** was discovered by Brian Keelan on 19 Jun while he was studying Black Tern with Sharon Skelly and Eileen Keelan along Salmon Creek off Manitou Road. The bird was active for quite a while until early evening. About twenty birders were able to see and photograph it. Unfortunately it didn't stay for the observers who sought it the following day.

The hawkwatch at Braddock Bay continued into June, when few birds were seen. Winds were predominantly from the north and didn't provide good hawkwatching. The only June highlights were a Rough-legged Hawk and a late Golden Eagle. The seasonal totals for the spring season were: **Black Vulture** - 1; Turkey Vulture - 4,885; Osprey - 297; **Mississippi Kite** - 1; Bald Eagle - 79; N. Harrier - 768; Sharp-shinned Hawk - 3346; Cooper's Hawk - 397; N. Goshawk - 25; Red-shouldered Hawk - 736; Broad-winged Hawk - 26,596; **Swainson's Hawk** - 1; Red-tailed Hawk - 3,263; Rough-legged Hawk - 478; Golden Eagle - 33; Am. Kestrel - 363; Merlin - 24; Peregrine Falcon - 9; unidentified raptors - 94. The total was 41,396 birds of prey.

The most interesting feature of the summer nesting season was the timing. The growing season was extremely advanced. As a result there was some indication of early harvesting which may have caused some difficulty for field nesting species. On the whole there were few real surprises. Mute Swan nested again at Braddock Bay, continuing the controversy over this often aggressive breeder and its potential displacement of local waterfowl. Canada Goose continued sporadic breeding along Lake Ontario. Wood Duck did well near Lake Ontario and fairly well at Genesee Country Nature Center until Raccoon disrupted the project. There were scattered reports of Green-winged Teal and Am. Black Duck from around the Region. Mallard had a good season, but Blue-winged Teal numbers continued to appear to

dwindle. There were scattered sightings of Am. Wigeon but no confirmed nestings were noted. Hooded Merganser once again nested at Genesee Country. In some cases the eggs were tended by Wood Duck. Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel remained somewhat stable during the summer. Young were observed in traditional nest sights. Raccoons continue to be a problem with the kestrel nests. Northern Harrier was noted at a few summer locations. Wild Turkey continues to be well reported. Ring-necked Pheasant, on the other hand, was scarce and may have leveled off from some recent increases. The drier conditions in the marshes made it easier for some of the low nesting marsh birds like rails. Both Virginia Rail and Sora were well reported, and Com. Moorhen seemed to have a very successful season. Locally nesting shorebirds were few as usual. Upland Sandpiper was harder to find than in recent years, with fewer broods in the more traditional locations. Com. Snipe continued what appears to be a downward trend. Black Tern colonies were surveyed once again by Sharon Skelly along Lake Ontario.

Gypsy Moth populations may have contributed to the good totals of cuckoos reported. Passerines as a whole seemed to do fairly well. On the plus side, Carolina Wren and N. Mockingbird had a good summer, with continued reports of young and new nesting locations. A bad winter might bring this back to earlier levels. Acadian Flycatcher continues to be reported in new locations. A Common Raven report once again raising the possibility of its nesting in the Region. E. Bluebird did fairly well, with some good reports from the caretakers of bluebird trails south of the city. Am. Robin raised as many as three broods and had a booming population. Brown Thrashers had a good breeding season in certain locations, like Genesee Country Nature Center. The report of a **Bohemian Waxwing** was unprecedented. Two reports of White-eyed Vireo in June were very interesting but breeding was not confirmed. Warblers had few real surprises. Louisiana Waterthrush was found farther north than usual, and Hooded Warbler was noted in a number of locations on their move northward.

Less happily, House Wren and Wood Thrush numbers, while not reaching panic levels, continued to decline. There were a few good House Wren concentrations, but levels still seemed down along the lakeshore and other locations. Golden-winged Warbler continued its population slide. Some of this has been attributed to Blue-winged Warbler increases, yet habitat changes may also be a factor. Woodland warblers also showed slim totals. Numbers in general were mediocre. This seems to be echoing the overall

decline of northeastern woodland nesters. Sparrows of the fields and weedy areas did not have a great year. Vesper Sparrow was scattered and only two reports Henslow's Sparrow were submitted. Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows seemed to be at least holding their own.

Early fall migrants were scarce this year. The very dryness left very little shorebird habitat, but regardless of the shorebirds, other migrants were scarce. Highlights included Whimbrel and W. Sandpiper in July, and Little Gull and Lesser Golden-Plover in August. Warblers were found but in extremely low numbers. The August hawk flights turned out to be rather good this year. Excellent numbers of Red-tailed Hawk were counted with a smattering of others, including Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle and accipiters.

Contributors: Doug Bassett, Sue Boettger, John Bounds, Jeff Bouton, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosletti, Julie Claffey, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Paul Conklin, Mike Davids, Jim Doherty, June Feder, Roy Grau, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Greg Hartenstein, Diane Henderson, Brian Keelan, John Lehr, Walt Listman, Connie Mace, Bob Marcotte, Bob McKinney, Nancy Miller, Diana Miner, Brian Mongi, Joan Myers, Mary Beth & Richard O'Hara, Bill & Betty Powell, Martha Reinhardt, Helen Rice, Pat Seager, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, William Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Cathy & Kristin Spahn, Jeff & Paul Spindler, Allison Stewart, Harriet Stride, David Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Dave Tetlow, William Thompson, Dan & Ada VanDorn, Mary Jane & Paul Weld.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; DEP - Durand Eastman Park, Rochester; HB - Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; LSP - Letchworth State Park; SB - Sodus Bay; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario w of Rochester).

LOONS-DUCKS: Am. Bittern: in expected numbers at known locations. Green-backed Heron: numbers perhaps down slightly. Black-crowned Night-Heron: numbers perhaps down slightly. Canada Goose: broods noted Cranberry Pd, Greece. Redhead: one Kendall 5 Jun, late. Greater Scaup: one Charlotte 22, 27 Jul, uncommon in summer. Lesser Scaup: one Perinton 5 Jul (MT), uncommon in summer. Com. Merganser: two LSP 5-9 Jun, uncommon summer nester. Red-breasted Merganser: last five Manitou 1-6 Jun; 18 WL 25 Aug, good total for Aug. Ruddy Duck: one Greece 2 Jul, uncommon.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one IB 18 Jun, late; one Greece 10 Jul, very unusual in Jul. Broad-winged Hawk: two LSP 23 Jun, uncommon nester; eight Greece 17 Aug, part of fall movement. Red-tailed Hawk: max 100+, primarily imm, 18 Aug. Rough-legged Hawk: one BB 10 Jun (CC), very late. Golden Eagle: one Fairport 22 Jul, unprecedented date; with single observer and no photo must go down as probable. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 25 HB 31 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: last WL 1 Jun; arr Charlotte 22 Jul. Solitary Sandpiper: arr IB 31 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: max five Batavia 7 Aug. Whimbrel: arr two Charlotte 13 Jul (KG); one DEP 26 Aug (MD).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr HB 25 Jul. Sanderling: arr Charlotte 13 Jul. W. Sandpiper: arr Charlotte 27 Jul. Baird's Sandpiper: arr Charlotte 22 Jul. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Charlotte 14 Jul. Laughing Gull: one SB 12 Jul (DT), one Charlotte 28 Aug (MD), both second year birds, uncommon species. Little Gull: one Charlotte 10 Aug (DS), uncommon in summer. **White-winged Tern**: *intro*. Black Tern: only Salmon Creek seemed to have good numbers, numbers down at Buck Pd; two± pairs nested BB; last Greece 31 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: good numbers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: found regularly. Com. Nighthawk: good numbers downtown Rochester and Kodak P only. Whip-poor-will: no nesting reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: returned to Roots Tavern Road between Avon and Geneseo.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last LSP 9 Jun. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Manitou 3 Jun. Acadian Flycatcher: four Leroy 16 Jun (R&SS), new location. **Com. Raven**: two Honeoye L 9 Jun (JF). Carolina Wren: max five Highland P 20 Jul. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Webster 21 Aug (B&BP), very early. Swainson's Thrush: last Manitou 4 Jun. N. Mockingbird: max nine Avon 10 Jul. **Bohemian Waxwing**: one near Retsoff 5 Jul (GH, NYSARC).

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one LSP 1 Jun (MR), one Leroy 16 Jun (R&SS). Philadelphia Vireo: arr ICW 31 Aug. Nashville Warbler: arr Brighton 12 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: arr Greece 14 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr Greece 18 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Thousand Acre Swamp 20 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Greece 19 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Greece 29 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: last Leroy 16 Jun. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Manitou 19 Aug. Prothonotary Warbler: one DEP 25 Aug (MD), very interesting location. N. Waterthrush: arr Greece 14 Aug. Louisiana Waterthrush: four+ Leroy 16 Jun, new location. Hooded Warbler: four Huron 22 Jun, new location; max 13 LSP 1 Jun. Wilson's Warbler: last one ICW 1 Jun; arr Greece 14 Aug. Canada Warbler: arr Greece 18 Aug.

TANAGERS-OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Henslow's Sparrow: one Avon 6 Jul, two Greece 11 Jul, poor total. White-throated Sparrow: one Pittsford 7 Jun (AS), very late. White-crowned Sparrow: one Pittsford 7 Jun (AS), very late.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN AND C. R. SMITH

Hot, dry weather characterized the Finger Lakes Region for the months of June, July, and August. August concluded as the eleventh month in a row with above average temperatures. June saw temperatures 2° to 4° above normal, precipitation 2 to 3 inches less than normal, and less than 50 percent of the normal monthly precipitation reported for most of the Region. July

was seasonably hot and dry, with continued high temperatures and low precipitation nearer to normal values for the Region, though precipitation was not sufficient to make up for the June deficit. Drought conditions, measured by the Palmer Drought Severity Index, increased in severity from mild drought conditions in June to moderate drought conditions in July. Temperatures 3° to 4° above normal characterized August, with precipitation nearer to normal for the month. Although severe drought conditions persisted in Steuben County, other parts of the Region reported mild to moderate drought conditions. Hurricane Bob brought widespread showers to the Region on 19 and 20 Aug (weather information provided by the Northeast Regional Climate Center, Cornell University).

The unseasonably dry weather caused lowered water levels, producing exposed areas along stream banks that provided additional foraging areas for migrating shorebirds. A good variety of shorebirds was reported from Montezuma NWR, especially after a cold front from Canada moved through the Region the third week of July, perhaps bringing the first migrating shorebirds with it. Hurricane Bob probably was responsible for the appearance of at least two **Laughing Gull**.

Both Bald Eagle and Osprey produced young at Montezuma NWR. Noteworthy observations of breeding species from the Region include two Common Merganser broods, and nesting records of Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Wild Turkey, Bank Swallow, Worm-eating Warbler, and Pine Warbler.

Though no definite evidence of breeding activity was noted, Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in June and July. For the second summer in a row, **American White Pelican** was reported. A single **Loggerhead Shrike** also is noteworthy.

Contributors: Gladys Birdsall, Sue Boettger, Ned Brinkley, Jack Brubaker, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Dick Clements, Karl David, Eaton Birding Society, Bill Evans, Bill Gruenbaum, Bernice Hilfiker, Schuyler County Bird Club, Cathy, Kristin & Susan Spahn.

Abbreviations: CL - Cayuga Lake; CWMA - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; QCM - Queen Catharine Marsh (Watkins Glen); SL - Seneca Lake; StP - Stewart Park (Ithaca); SSW - Sapsucker Woods.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: reported SL throughout summer. Pied-billed Grebe: ad with five y Big Flats Marsh 2 Jun. Horned Grebe: one-three n end SL all summer (Fred Bertram). **Am. White Pelican**: two MNWR 7 Jun. Great Egret: two MNWR 14 Jul, one Elmira 29 Aug, three-four MNWR through end of Aug. Least Bittern: one near Dryden 2 Jun. Great Blue Heron: max 220 MNWR 16 Aug. Com. Merganser: ad

with seven y Chemung R near Big Flats early Jun; one with five recently hatched y Seneca L 31 Jul.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three FL Watkins Glen SP 16 Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: ad with two y w SCHU 15 Jun; also nesting near Painted Post. Wild Turkey: one with five y near Montour Falls 11 Jul. Virginia Rail: several reports from different locations, including MNWR, QCM (max six 4 Jul), and small marsh off Melvin Hill Road Phelps. Sora: one QCM 2 Jul, one MNWR 5 Jul. Com. Moorhen: MNWR and "several" nesting Big Flats Marsh. Semipalmated Plover: max 44 MNWR 31 Aug. Killdeer: max 30 MNWR 31 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: max seven MNWR 31 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 15 MNWR 31 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: max seven MNWR 18 Jul. Spotted Sandpiper: max 25 MNWR 18 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: several reports including ad with chicks near Ithaca, one juv near Aurora 18 Jul. Sanderling: one Myer's Pt CL 31 Jul. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 39 MNWR 31 Aug. W. Sandpiper: one MNWR 15 Aug. Least Sandpiper: max 50 MNWR 25 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: two MNWR 25 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 165 MNWR 31 Aug. Long-billed Dowitcher: max two MNWR 31 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: max nine MNWR 31 Aug. Com. Snipe: one MNWR 31 Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: max three MNWR 31 Aug. **Laughing Gull:** ad StP 26 Aug, juv StP 27 and 31 Aug (NB, mob, NYSARC). Bonaparte's Gull: one MNWR 21 Jul, two Myers Pt CL 9 Aug, three MNWR 31 Aug. Black Tern: one MNWR 21 Jul, only report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: two nests in Geneva, one with three young and another with two young. Com. Nighthawk: several summer reports, first migratory flocks noted on 12 Aug, max 100 Elmira 22 Aug. Red-headed Woodpecker: at least one Sutton Road Geneva 17 Jul. Downy Woodpecker: female using bluebird box for roosting after enlarging entrance hole for access on 30 Jul (BH).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one singing FLNF 6 Jun and two birds together 9 Jun; one CWMA 10 Jun; one Cornell Univ. Campus 29 Jul, early migrant or unmated wanderer?; one SSW 27 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: one Michigan Hollow near Ithaca 14 Aug. Purple Martin: 300-400 MNWR 16 Aug, with Rough-winged, Bank, Barn, and Tree Swallows, the combined total 2000± birds (NB, GB). Bank Swallow: several nest sites along Chemung R between Corning and Elmira. Com. Raven: one CWMA 7 Jun, one near Ithaca 19 Jul, and present Elmira mid Aug. Carolina Wren: nesting Tyre. Marsh Wren: max 24 MNWR 18 Jul. Brown Thrasher: only reported from Elmira area. **Loggerhead Shrike:** one Riland Road just off County Road 5 between Route 5 and 20 and T Hall ONTA (CS, KS, SS).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Blue-winged Warbler: one near Lansing 26 Aug. Pine Warbler: feeding recently fledged y near Ithaca 14 Jun. Prairie Warbler: singing male near Enfield 18 Jun, one near Watkins Glen 11 Jul; one with migrating warblers Lansing 26 Aug. Worm-eating Warbler: FY 2 Jul (CVAS). Hooded Warbler: four-six singing males FLNF in Jun. Yellow-breasted Chat: singing male near Watkins Glen 26 Jun.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: FLNF Jun and Jul. Henslow's Sparrow: two-three singing males FLNF Jun and Jul; singing male near Lansing 20 Jun. White-throated Sparrow: singing male CWMA 19 Jul. Purple Finch: two CWMA 7 Jun.

449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, New York 13068

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

Summer 1991 was sunny, hot and dry. Especially, it was dry! National Weather Service statistics from Broome County's Link Field indicated average temperatures nearly 3.5° higher than normal in June and about 2° above average in July and August. A record high of 93° was set 20 Jul, preceded by a tie of 91° records on 17 and 19 Jul. Serious drought problems developed as summer progressed. Precipitation was about 1.5 inches below normal in both June and July, continuing May's dry weather. Broome had no measurable precipitation from 12 Jun until 2 Jul. Good soaking rains never came and the precipitation that did fall was sporadic. Timely showers left many communities and farms in good shape. Less fortunate neighbors were missed completely. Water evaporated faster under the continuous hot sun adding to the dryness. Finally, August precipitation of 3.78 inches was slightly above the normal 3.53 inches but did little to raise the water table. Meteorologists blamed the continuous warm, dry weather on a persistent high pressure ridge in the upper atmosphere which settled over the eastern United States and Canada through most of the season.

Rivers ran low all summer. Deeper lakes, though lower, looked normal, but creeks dried up. Reservoirs and sizable ponds kept shrinking until by late August they were reduced to shallow pools. Rick Marsi, in one of his weekly newspaper columns, pointed out that the drop in water levels also affected fish and crustaceans, confining them to ever smaller areas. To the numerous Great Blue Herons, it was "easy pickings." The pickings may be what attracted good numbers of uncommon Great Egret and other water birds to stop as they moved south. Ducks, however, which had poor counts all summer, were further squeezed for habitat. Mud-loving shorebirds arrived early and many remained the rest of the period.

We were fortunate to have a total of eight Breeding Bird Surveys run this year, compared to only four last year. These, plus June reports from our regular, faithful observers, afforded a very representative account of the birds present and probably nesting in Region 4 this season. However, many species widely recorded in June were not heard of again, and for others, there were only a few reports. The scarcity was not for lack of active birders, even if there were fewer than had been out in June. All indications were that breeding success was only fair this year, especially for swallows, thrushes and most warblers. Cutler and Jeannette Baldwin, reported from Owego,

"We had only four nesting pair of Tree Swallows in our boxes this year compared to the usual 14 to 20. We also found three adults and one nestling dead in the boxes." Additional stress for N. Rough-winged Swallow and Cliff Swallow was caused by New York State's bridge improvement projects, which disturbed areas for weeks. I only saw four Cliff Swallows in June at an Otego bridge where normally at least 25 would be diving under the span to feed young in their nests. Harriet Marsi, who complained of the same problem, also reported that "English Sparrows, driven out to the country by House Finches, were evicting Cliff Swallows, especially where the nest was a single or the colony, small." Harriet was concerned for woodland species in Broome County where "The heavy gypsy moth infestation continued into June. This brought in both species of cuckoo, but it also thinned foliage making it easy for predators to spot nests. Did it impact on fledgling success?" she asked. Certainly, it might have been an added reason for low counts of Veery, Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Lack of water may have been a problem for nesters and their young, but food was not. It was a banner year for bugs of all kind. Wildflowers and weeds, seemingly unaffected by scant rain, bloomed abundantly and set their seed earlier than usual. Berries too were plentiful.

Breeding Bird Census run were Corbettsville, Downsville, Dryden (mostly Cortland County), Lisle, McDonough, Milford, Oneonta and Whitney Point. Robert Miller, who does the Milford BBC, submitted a five-year comparison of species counted. Data was not conclusive, but he was concerned that this year, for the first time, he had no Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler or Northern Waterthrush. Interestingly, the winter range of all three species includes the United States! The Eastern Kingbird was one species with a really good breeding record this year, according to an *Oneonta Star* story. A total of 109 kingbird nests were found in the Oneonta area by Michael Murphy, assistant professor of biology at Hartwick College, and his students, as part of an ongoing study of the kingbird's genetic background. A new dimension in our reports was a canoe trip 15 Jun down the Tioughnioga River from Marathon to Chenango Valley State Park by Greg Butcher and Dryden Boy Scouts.

There were no rarities this Summer, but good sightings included possibility of Pied-billed Grebe breeding (two confirmed during Atlas years, but only one other mid summer in 12 seasons), successful nesting for N. Harrier and Upland Sandpiper, and reports of both hybrids of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler. Misses included Common Loon, Blue-winged Teal, N.

Goshawk, Am. Coot and Swainson's Thrush. The total of 148 species was average for summer.

Contributors: Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Reynolds Bennett, Bruce Bozdos, Greg Butcher, Anna Casselberry, Mary Ann Cuff, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, John Fritz, Elva Hawkin, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Harrier Marsi, Andy Mason, Evelyn Mead, Robert Miller, Susan Moran, Robert Pantle, Marie Petuh, Steven Rice, Joseph Sedlacek, Julian Shepherd (JSh), Tom & Norene Tasber, Don Windsor, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: ChFk - Chenango Forks; CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; JC - Johnson City; NNM - North Norwich Marsh; OnRes - Oneonta Reservoir; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; TRCT - Tioughnioga River canoe trip; UL - Upper Lisle.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: three JC Swamp 1 Jul, two Pendell Swamp in Lisle 15 Jul (MP); arr Sanford 28 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: one UL 6 Jun (MDv); one NNM 11 Aug, first for CHEN (DW); two Lounsberry 12 Aug (HM, BB, GK); four Goodyear L 14 Aug (IW), continued range expansion. Am. Bittern: only one Goodyear L 6 Aug (IW). Least Bittern: one TIOG Aug (RB), no details. Great Blue Heron: *intro*. Great Egret: arr and max three Port Crane 26 Jul; five BROO and three OTSE reports Aug including three together and two reports of birds remained week; high count. Green-backed Heron; max six Susquehanna R Vestal 29 Aug (MP). Black-crowned Night-Heron: four Susquehanna R near Goudy Station remaining a week late Aug (HM, BB, GK), only report. Canada Goose: six on three BBS; pair with five y CHEN 8 Jun (JS); two pair 15 y BROO 15 Jul. Wood Duck: only nine reports of hens with y; max 12 Oneonta 12 Aug; scarce. Am. Black Duck: only one CHEN 12 Aug (DW). Mallard: max 42 JC Swamp 29 Jul. Com. Merganser: six ad plus 1 hen with 13 y TRCT 15 Jun; BROO 15 & 29 Jul & 30 Aug (HM, BB, GK), only reports. Hooded Merganser: only one Morris OTSE Jun (JF),

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 13 Goodyear 13 Jul; 7-10 reports/month. Osprey: arr Susquehanna R OTSE 24 Jul (MD), early; one 24 and 30 Aug (HM, BB, GK), only reports. N. Harrier: bred successfully (two y) same area Milford as last three years; one BROO 14 Jun and 28 Aug; one TIOG Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only one Jun-Jul; five scattered Aug reports, scarce. Cooper's Hawk: two/three month BROO, OTSE, TIOG. Red-shouldered Hawk: two singles 15 Jun TRCT (GB) and State land off Hammerle Rd CHEN (DW); one BROO 25 Jun (HM, BB, GK), only reports. Broad-winged Hawk: seven widespread Jun reports; ad and imm OPM 23 Aug. Red-tailed Hawk: four on three BBS; max four OPM 13 Aug (one with snake). Ring-necked Pheasant: three BROO, TIOG Jun, only reports. Ruffed Grouse: max nine (safely) crossing Route 45 OPM 8 Aug; few reports after Jun. Wild Turkey: four hens with three broods Windsor 19 Jun (JS); two ad 12 y TIOG 9 Jul (MP). N. Bobwhite: only one BROO 27 Jun (MP) "called about 10 times." Sora: only one Portlandville Marsh 1 Aug. Killdeer: one with FL OPM 15 Jul; max 42 four OPM sites 23 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: NNM 11 Aug (DW), only report. Solitary Sandpiper: arr BROO 12 Jul; max 10 OnRes 15 July; one-three OTSE through period. Spotted Sandpiper: max eight TRCT 15 Jun. Upland Sandpiper: Edwards Hill Rd in Lisle 14 Jun (HM, BB, GK);

family of four walking shoulder of that road 3 July (MP) where seen in this area since 1986. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr BROO 29 Jul; NNM 11 Aug, only reports. Least Sandpiper: arr OnRes 15 July; max six there 23 Aug; two BROO sites 10 and 17 Aug (SR). Com. Snipe: only one NNM 11 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: 11 "breeding" Downsville BBS 10 June (JSh), no details; post breeding max 60 Otsego L 31 Aug. Herring Gull: mostly singles through period.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 109 on 8 BBS. Black-billed Cuckoo: five on three BBS, good numbers June. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one OTSE 18 Jun; one BROO 4 Jul; two TIOG Aug, good count. E. Screech-Owl: singles BROO 26 Jul (SR), 13 Aug (LB) and 15 Aug (MDv), good. Great Horned Owl; five BROO, one TIOG sites. Barred Owl: max two "chased by crows" TRCT 15 Jun (GB); one Corbetsville BBS 16 Jun (JL); one BROO 29 Jun-21 Aug (SR), high. Barn Owl: only one TIOG Jul-Aug (RB). Com. Nighthawk: max four at two JC sites 11 Jul; four-six month BROO, OTSE through period; no Aug migration, unusual. Chimney Swift: 21 on five BBS; max 14 JC 11 Jul; three BROO sites still 31 Aug, good count. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: high counts. Belted Kingfisher: max five 1 Aug OPM. Red-bellied Woodpecker: two TRCT 15 Jun; two irregularly TIOG, numbers stable. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: seven on 3 BBS; "down this year" (HM). Pileated Woodpecker: four on two BBS.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: only one Lisle BBS 21 Jun (BP), uncommon. E. Wood-Pewee: 33 on eight BBS; few reports Jul-Aug. Alder Flycatcher: 20 on 5 BBS, including max nine on Mil BBS; five OPM 29 Jul; last there 24 Aug. Willow Flycatcher: 10 on four BBS; six TRCT 15 Jun; "several" BROO 8 Jun (MP); three sites Jul; one TIOG Aug. Traill's Flycatcher: one banded Vestal 9 Aug and two 18 Aug. Least Flycatcher: max 65 on 8 BBS; last three banded Vestal 30 Aug. Great Crested Flycatcher: max 27 on seven BBS; several OPM sites through period. E. Kingbird: *intro*. Horned Lark: one FY Lisle 9 Jul (MP), only one. Purple Martin: occupied house IBM Golf Course BROO 19 Jun "at least 10 flying" (MP); two sites TIOG (C&JB) and (D&JB); one BROO 12 and 15 Jul (HM, BB, GK), excellent. Tree Swallow: *intro*. N. Rough-winged Swallow: *intro*. Bank Swallow: max 50 Otego 20 Jun; last BROO 29 Jul. Cliff Swallow: *intro*. Am. Crow: 347 on eight BBS. Fish Crow: five "appeared to be a family" CVSP 15 Jun (GB). Tufted Titmouse: singles on four BBS and BROO, OTSE, TIOG through period. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max six OPM 17 Jul, low. Brown Creeper: pair CORT 17 Jul, only three other reports, low. Carolina Wren: one "scolding near nest" Windsor 8 Jun (JS); continued good counts. House Wren: 98 on 9 BBS. Winter Wren: five on 4 BBC; eight sites OTSE June. Marsh Wren: only two Boland Pd BROO 2 Jul (MP). Golden-crowned Kinglet: one CRBVL BBS 16 Jun (JL); one FHNC 7 and 19 Jun, low. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Binghamton 8 Jun (SR); one Chenango Bridge 7 Aug (mob), only reports. E. Bluebird: three pair with y CHEN 18 Jun (JS), counts down. Wood Thrush: 81 on eight BBS; several 27 Jul (JS); nine banded Aug (GK), good. Gray Catbird: high counts through period. N. Mockingbird: four-six singles/month BROO, DELA, TIOG, good. Brown Thrasher: 11 on six BBS; four BROO 20 Jun; one banded Vestal 8 Aug, scarce. Cedar Waxwing: max 80 OTSE 28 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: four on 2 BBS; last of only three Aug reports one 30 Aug, low. Warbling Vireo: 23 on six BBS; 10 TRCT, good Jun count.

Red-eyed Vireo: 187 on 8 BBS, very high. Blue-winged Warbler: four Corbetsville BBS 16 Jun; max seven ChFk 6 Aug (MDv), early migration? Golden-winged Warbler: max four Corbetsville BBS, high. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Brewster's" type Morris through Jun (JF); "Lawrence's" type Triangle 1 Jun (T&NT) and ChFk 15 Aug (MDv), excellent. Tennessee Warbler: one BROO 3 Jun (HM, BB, GK), late. Nashville Warbler: singles BROO, CHEN and two OTSE Jun, hopefully breeders; arr OPM 24 Aug. Yellow Warbler: very high Jun counts; last BROO 30 Aug. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 51 on 3 BBS, down. Magnolia Warbler: max 10 Downsville BBS 10 Jun (JSh); three McDonough BBS 4 Jun (EH), otherwise poor Jun and Jul; five OPM 29 Aug included one recently fledged. Black-throated Blue Warbler: three Dnsvl BBS and CHEN 18 Jun (JS) only reports, scarce. Yellow-rumped Warbler: nesting Candor area Jul (RP). Black-throated Green Warbler: 18 on six BBS plus several BROO Jun; migration max eight OPM 29 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: 15 on four BBS; last and only other report four OPM 29 Aug, low. Prairie Warbler: one BROO 3 Jun and 26-27 Jun; last banded BROO 27 Aug. Black-and-white Warbler: scarce. Worm-eating Warbler: only one n OTSE 25 Aug (MM). Ovenbird: 136 on eight BBS (36 on Mil BBS), high. Louisiana Waterthrush: four on 3 BBC; only three other reports, low. Mourning Warbler: six on three BBS; singles BROO 2 Jun and OTSE 3 Jun; female with food and scolding OPM 26 Jul; last banded Vestal 26 Aug. Com Yellowthroat: 258 on 8 BBS. Canada Warbler: singles BROO, CHEN, OTSE Jun; family of four OPM 13 Aug; last banded 26 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: 28 on 7 BBS; post breeding max 10 OPM (three sites) 28 Aug, low. Indigo Bunting: 75 on eight BBS. Rufous-sided Towhee: scant all season. Field Sparrow: 59 on eight BBS. Vesper Sparrow: one Dryden BBS 4 Jun (GB); one BROO 29 Jul (HM, BB, GK) scarce. Savannah Sparrow: 37 on seven BBS; "several" BROO Jul (JS) but down most areas. Grasshopper Sparrow: two Crbtsv BBS 16 Jun; four on three BROO reports Jun; two n Long Pd CHEN 26-27 Aug "latest date yet" (DW). Henslow's Sparrow: only one n Long Pd CHEN 26-27 Aug (DW). Swamp Sparrow: 10 on five BBS. White-throated Sparrow: max seven McDonough BBS 13 Jun (EH); 10 reports Jun; two Aug, scarce. Bobolink: 100 on eight BBS; last four OPM 25 Aug; "early spring haying did not seem to have a noticeable effect on Bobolink or Meadowlark populations" (HM). Rusty Blackbird: one Brick Pd Owego 5 Aug (C&JB). N. Oriole: 60 on eight BBS; male feeding two y 23 Jun (MP). Purple Finch: four on three BBS, scarce. Evening Grosbeak: one Afton 5 Jun (SM *vide* DW), very late.

ADDENDA: N. Parula: one SUNY Nature Preserve 7 May (JS), only report for 1991.

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, New York 13820

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The summer 1991 can best be described as being hot and very, very dry. The average temperature for the three month period was 2.1° above the norm of 68.7°. Fourteen days had maximum temperatures in the 90's, with a 96° high on 20 Jul. A low temperature of 48° was recorded on 6 Jun, with an accompanying late frost in the Adirondacks on the same date. Precipitation was well below normal for the first two months with only a total of 2.86 inches compared to the 7.36 inches normally expected. Rainfall for August was slightly above normal, attributable to a heavy downpour of 1.96 inches received on 9 Aug.

With favorable weather conditions, local birders were able to find 201 species and one hybrid, a notable contrast to the 176 observed the previous summer under wet skies. In terms of nesting success, Common Loons were successful in their nesting attempts for the first time in recent memory at Big Moose and Grey Lakes. Osprey successfully fledged two young each from two nests at the Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area. Other locations where Osprey were successful included Moss, Big Moose and Gull Lakes in the Adirondacks. The nest site adjacent to the Little Salmon River Reservoir in Oswego Co. remained inactive for the summer. For birds whose diet consists primarily of flying insects, it was an exceptional season. Two pairs of Eastern Phoebe had double nests, one at Limekiln Lake Campsite with four young each time and one at the Old Forge Airport with four young and three young. John Rogers reported that 580 E. Bluebirds were successfully fledged from the 453 boxes that he maintains on a trail in Oswego Co. A successful third brood of E. Bluebird was confirmed for the second consecutive year.

Unfortunately, the late spring migration of raptors did not occur over Derby Hill due to winds prevailing from the north during the first ten days of June. The only late spring migrant reported was an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Erieville on 3 Jun.

With the lack of rainfall, mudflats were more exposed, providing several localities that were suitable for migrant shorebirds. One outstanding area was found along the banks of the Seneca River at West Dead Creek Road a few miles west of Baldwinsville. Despite the unpredictable rise and fall of water levels, fourteen species of shorebirds were found there. Each year Delta Lake with its receding water level affords an opportunity to see a good variety of shorebirds. Sixteen species were observed at this site including the Region's fourth record of **Marbled Godwit**.

Other highlights include the region's second and third records for **Am. White Pelican** and a Snowy Egret. More Ruby-throated Hummingbird were reported — 49 compared to the 21 reported last year. A seldom seen Sedge Wren was reported for the second consecutive year. Adjacent to the extensive pine plantations near Erieville MADI, an unseasonal but carefully observed Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noted outside the home of Ginny Skoglund on 3 Jul. Record early arrivals for N. Parula on 2 Aug and Blackpoll Warbler on 1 Aug were observed by Elva Hawken at Erieville, too. Later and in the same locality Elva had thirteen species of warblers on 19 Aug. Finally, a colony of Henslow's Sparrows persisted until mid summer near the north shore of Oneida Lake.

Negatives for the season include low numbers of Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, N. Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Com. Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue-winged Teal, Nashville Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee and all grassland sparrows.

One final and interesting note was the difficulty ski tow operators had with Common Raven this summer at Mc Cauley Mtn, near Old Forge. The birds were landing on the switches located on the towers, thereby shutting down the tow unexpectedly. Imagine the consternation felt by vacationers.

A special thanks to Gary Lee for his contributions to the introduction of this report.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Carol Adams, Sue Boettger, David Cesari, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, William T. Gruenbaum, John Hanyak, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Gary Lee, Kay McIntyre, Ferne F. Merrill, David Nash, Belle Peebles, Bill Purcell, John Rogers, Margaret S. Rusk, Tom Shuman, Ginny Skoglund, Maureen Staloff.

Abbreviations: Adks - Adirondacks; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, CAYU; LOL- Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; SPd - Sandy Pond, OSWE; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, ONEI.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: four pair Stillwater Res; FL at Big Moose, Moss, Nick's and Grey Lakes. Pied-billed Grebe: singles Clay Marsh 6 Jun-31 Jul, Howland's I 22 Jun. **Am. White Pelican**: two Cross L 1-5 Jun, one Oneida L 13, 14 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: max 1800 SPd 31 Aug. Am. Bittern: two Toad H 2 Jun, one FH 8 Jun, one Third L 5 Jul. Least Bittern: singles Clay M 5 Jun, Sterling 14 Jun, Rome Marsh 29 Jul. Great Egret: singles Baldwinsville 11 Jul, OnonL 15 Aug. **Snowy Egret**: imm OnonL 14 Aug (BP). Green-backed Heron: max 22 OnonL, Clay M 31 Jul. Mute Swan: imm Rome 25-29 Jun, one Delta L 29 Jul-30 Aug, origin uncertain. Wood Duck: max 80 Delta L 18 Aug. Green-winged Teal: max 20 Delta L 25 Aug. Am. Black Duck: twelve Delta L 20 Aug. N. Pintail: two Delta L 8 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: max 20 Delta L 30 Aug. Gadwall: two SPd 16 Aug. Com. Goldeneye: female Twitchell L Adks 2 Jul. Com. Merganser: max 20 Delta L 30 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: two imm Delta L 8 Aug; single imm

Third L 5 Jul, Delta L 19 Aug. N. Harrier: nine reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Old Forge 7 Jun. Broad-winged Hawk: six reports. Merlin: one Rome-Delta L area 30 Aug. Virginia Rail: two Rome M 29 Jul. Sora Rail: four Rome 29 Jul. Com. Moorhen: five reported, one Sangerfield Marsh ONEI 25 Jun, new location. Black-bellied Plover: arr Delta L 2 Aug, max there five 19 Aug. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr Delta L 19 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr Baldwinsville 17 Jul, max 35 Delta L 25 Aug. Killdeer: max 147 Oneida L 23 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Cicero 16 Jul, max ten Delta L 24 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Baldwinville 8 Jul, max 50 Delta L 19 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Baldwinsville 11 Jul, max eight there 27 Jul. **Willet**: one SPd 20 Aug (EH & KMcl). Upland Sandpiper: max nine Alder Creek BBS 8 Jun, nine Smith Ridge 9 Jul. Whimbrel: one SPd 24 Aug. **Marbled Godwit**: one Delta L 29-31 Aug (D Cesari & M Staloff). Ruddy Turnstone: arr SPd 4 Aug, max two there 24 Aug. Red Knot: one SPd 25 Aug, only report. Sanderling: arr SPd 4 Aug, max 68 there mid Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Baldwinsville 18 Jul, max 100 Delta L 25 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr Baldwinsville 8 Jul, max 50 there. White-rumped Sandpiper: singles OnonL 7 Aug, Delta L 20 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: arr Baldwinsville 29 Jul, max six SPd 31 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Baldwinsville 27 Jul, max 30 Delta L 19 Aug. Dunlin: ad in Alt plumage SPd 4-31 Aug (mob), early or perhaps present all summer. Stilt Sandpiper: arr Baldwinsville 29 Jul, last there 27 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Baldwinsville 15 Jul, max eight Delta L 24 Aug. Com. Snipe: four Wood's L Adks 7 Jun. Wilson's Phalarope: imm Baldwinsville 25-29 Aug. Little Gull: two-three ads SPd 4-25 Aug, one imm 16-25 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SPd 4 Aug, max 297 Oneida L 23 Aug. Caspian Tern: max 45 SPd 4 Aug. Com. Tern: max 133 Oneida L 23 Aug. Black Tern: max 13 LOL 22 Jun.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 70 LOL 22 Jun. Black-billed Cuckoo: seven reports for the period. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Camillus Valley 12 Jul, only report. Barred Owl: ad with two y Beaver L 17 Jun. Com. Nighthawk: max breeding population four Syracuse in July; max 34 migrating Syracuse 22 Aug. Whip-poor-will: four Constantia 9 Jun. Chimney Swift: max 50 Rome 14 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: three W Monroe 6 Jul; *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: two Erieville 1-22 Jul, one Nichol's Pd 23 Jun. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max seven McKeever BBS 9 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: max five Twn of Webb 29 Jun; *intro*. E. Wood-Pewee: max 11 SVB 22 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max three Old Forge, Wood's L 7 Jun, arr Erieville 16 Aug. Alder Flycatcher: eight Old Forge, Wood's L 7 Jun. Willow Flycatcher: max 19 Clay Marsh 5 Jun. E. Kingbird: max 12 Rome 29 Jul. Purple Martin: max 31 Oneida L 9 Jul. Tree Swallow: max 600 SPd 16 Aug. N. Rough-winged Swallow: max nine Alder Creek BBS. Bank Swallow: max 300 SPd 4 Aug. Cliff Swallow: max 180 Oneida L 11 Aug. Barn Swallow: max 160 SPd 16 Aug. Gray Jay: one n branch Moose R. Com. Raven: eight Third L 4 Aug; *intro*. Boreal Chickadee: one Rockdam Rd Moose R area 28 Jul. Carolina Wren: at least five Syracuse-DeWitt mid-summer. House Wren: max 19 Alder Creek BBS 8 Jun. Sedge Wren: one Twn of Clay 15 Jun, 6 Jul; *intro*. Marsh Wren: max 25 Clay Marsh 5 Jun.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: three Toad Harbor 2 Jun. E. Bluebird: *intro*. Veery: max 24 Kasoag BBS 8 Jun. Swainson's Thrush: four Wood's L 29 Jun. Hermit Thrush: max 13 McKeever BBS 9 Jun. Wood Thrush: max 37 Alder Creek BBS 8 Jun. Brown Thrasher: three SPd 24 Aug; twelve reports for season. Am. Pipit: arr SPd 25 Aug. Cedar Waxwing: max 70 Oneida L area 18 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr Noyes Sanctuary 31 Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: max 94 McKeever BBS 9 Jun. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Brewster's" Toad H 2 Jun (BP). Golden-winged Warbler: two's Toad H 2 Jun, N. Victory BBS 6 Jun. Tennessee Warbler: one singing Bald Mt Adks 3 Jul; arr Erieville 12 Aug. N. Parula: two Carter Station, Twitchell L 12 Jul; *intro*. Yellow Warbler: max 62 Sterling, N. Victory BBS 6 Jun. Cape May Warbler: arr Erieville 19 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr SVB 22 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SVB 15 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: arr SPd 24 Aug. Pine Warbler: arr SVB 22 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: six s branch Moose R 23 Aug; arr Erieville 19 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: two s branch Moose R 23 Aug; *intro*. Cerulean Warbler: four w Oswego Co 15 Jun. Black-and-white Warbler: arr SPd 4 Aug. Am. Redstart: arr SPd 4 Aug. Ovenbird: max 24 Kasoag BBS 8 Jun. N. Waterthrush: arr SPd 31 Aug. Connecticut Warbler: one SPd 22 Aug (JH & TS), early. Com. Yellowthroat: max 44 Alder Creek BBS 8 Jun. Hooded Warbler: max 14 Noyes S 20 Aug. Wilson's Warbler: arr Erieville 19 Aug; max five SPd 25 Aug. Canada Warbler: arr SPd 25 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: seven W Monroe 6 Jul. Field Sparrow: eight Carpenter's Brook ONON 19 Jun. Vesper Sparrow: five reports. Savannah Sparrow: max 14 Erieville 15 Aug, low. Grasshopper Sparrow: eight reports from five localities. Henslow's Sparrow: three W Monroe 2 Jun-20 Jul, one Erieville 4 Jul. Lincoln's Sparrow: ten Wood's L 29 Jun. Swamp Sparrow: max 31 Clay M 4 Jul. E. Meadowlark: max 18 Alder Creek BBS 8 Jun. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 76 N. Syracuse 7 Aug. Purple Finch: nine Erieville 4 Jul. White-winged Crossbill: Moose R area 28 Jul. Am. Goldfinch: max 75 w Oswego Co 15 Jun.

Corrigenda: *Kingbird* 41:115, 117 There are reports for Long-eared Owl from 1986 to 1989 instead of two reports for Long-eared Owl being the first in six years; 41:115 account of N. Harrier should read: four SVB 22 Dec-1 Jan, Oneida R area 23 Feb.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

Summer weather continued the trend of above average temperatures, although not to the same extent in Region 6 as further south. Precipitation was only slightly below normal. June temperatures were either side of normal, while rainfall was 2 inches lower than expected. July continued dry and warm. August was the warmest month, with temperatures 2° to 3° above normal. Water levels were low by late summer. Fruit and mast, but not cone, crops were good. Breeding began two weeks early, as did migration in late summer.

Observers commented on low numbers of both individuals and species. With regard to listed species, the only Endangered species reported was Bald Eagle. Osprey numbers seemed down, and there was only one Red-shouldered Hawk report. All three accipiters were reported. There were no reports of Sedge Wren or Grasshopper Sparrow. Both Least and American Bittern were reported. Lee Chamberlaine found no Upland Sandpiper at previously occupied sites in JEFF, but a pair was observed in Louisville on 1 Jun and in Lisbon on a BBS and a subsequent day, and Mary Wood saw two pair displaying near Cape Vincent. Both Black Tern and Com. Nighthawk numbers were down. Bluebird nesting was up, but if boxes are not well protected against predators, all is for naught. Golden-winged Warbler was widespread in appropriate habitat in northwestern StLA.

Numbers were up for both Green-backed and Black-crowned Night-Heron. There were also good reports for Black-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Eastern Wood-Pewee. Numbers of Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting were fair, with three to four reports. Peter O'Shea found Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers and Am. Redstart abundant in southern StLA, but Kevin Griffin found few in Parishville and Stockholm, where Yellow-rumped Warbler was by far the most abundant wood warbler.

A total of 148 species was reported, including five heron, 12 waterfowl, ten diurnal raptor, five galliform, four rail, ten shorebird, five gull, three tern, three owl, five woodpecker, eight flycatcher, six swallow, eight thrush and mimid, five vireo, 21 wood warbler, nine sparrow, and five blackbird species. Confirmed breeding records of interest were obtained for Great Blue Heron, Ring-necked Pheasant, Horned Lark and N. Oriole. My neighbor, Carol Streit, accomplished a successful cross-fostering of an orphaned E. Bluebird nesting by a Tree Swallow. Reports of species with expanding ranges were received for Mute Swan, Willow Flycatcher, **Carolina Wren** in JEFF, and N. Mockingbird.

The best rarity this season was a Regional first **Blue Grosbeak**, which on really blue days was seen in the same field with Blue Jay, bluebird, and Indigo Bunting. In addition to the **Carolina Wren** mentioned above, **Cerulean Warbler** was reported this season. A **N. Bobwhite** was seen and heard for several days in Potsdam 2-6 July. While undoubtedly an escape, the bird has probably overwintered for a year or two. A second N. Bobwhite was reported from Morley.

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Abbreviations: CV - Cape Vincent; EDB - El Dorado Beach Preserve, T. Adams; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; ULL - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; SLR - St. Lawrence River; TMP - Three Mile Pt, Brownville.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: pair with one y ULL 2 Jul. Double-crested Cormorant: max 400 TMP. Great Blue Heron: approximately 1000 active nests Ironsides I. Least Bittern: five ULL 3 Jul. Am. Bittern: three ULL 3 Jul. Black-crowned Night Heron: max six CV 19 Jun. Mute Swan: two on Grasse R at Louisville 12-16 Aug, unusual and unwelcome in STLA. Com. Merganser: female, six y EDB 10 Aug; three Massena Pt 5 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: imm with orange wing tag ULL 2 Jul; two imm vicinity of T. Star Lake. Red-shouldered Hawk: Clifton 30 Aug. Ring-necked Pheasant: nest with 13 eggs Louisville. **N. Bobwhite**: *intro*. Little Gull: ad Bas MSD 25 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: 150 with three j MSD 5 Aug. Caspian Tern: daily TMP in Aug. Com. Tern: max 135 MSD 5 Aug. Black Tern: max three ULL 3 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 24 EDB 10 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: low numbers, max three EDB 24 Aug. Red Knot: one EDB 24 Aug, only report.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Barred Owl: several reports in St Law. Com. Nighthawk: max three Ogdensburg.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: common in boreal habitat s STLA. Willow Flycatcher: now regular ULL. **Carolina Wren**: "migrant" Henderson 14 Aug; singing male Lorraine 12-20 Aug. Winter Wren: singles Stockholm 30 Jun, Parishville early Jul. Horned Lark: two pair with y CV 5 Jun. Purple Martin: 40 pair Massena; 5-10 CV after fledging 15 Jul; otherwise sparse. N. Mockingbird: one Henderson 2 Jun, one Louisville early Jun. E. Bluebird: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one Lorraine 31 Jul. Philadelphia Vireo: arr ULL 24 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr CV 29 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler**: one singing South Woods Road, T Macomb, (MG), local on mainland STLA; found regularly in the Thousand Ids on Oak I (SA).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Blue Grosbeak**: male n Lyons Falls 19 Jun-*ca* 4 Jul (Dean Ditomaso, DWC, PDeB, NYSARC). Indigo Bunting: three reports in STLA. Vesper Sparrow: one Parishville early Jul, only report. N. Oriole: nest with mother and four y brought down by a severe rainstorm 13 Jul, all perished.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

As lovely as the summer was, the season was marked by a severe drought. June, for example, had only 1.28 inches of rainfall (about a third normal). Temperatures were generally moderate in June, with the last frost at Moose River R.A. on 6 Jun, although Owls Head dropped to 24° on 9 Jun. Peru received 1.2 inches of rain on 12 Jun, but the rest of the Region saw only a trace, at best. Similarly, Malone had a 1.26 inch shower on 6 Jul, while only 0.37 inches fell at Elizabethtown and Plattsburgh that day. By the end of July, monthly rainfall was only 2.62 inches, and three inches below the annual average. The drought continued through August, with thermometers at times climbing above 100°, although 25 Aug saw an overnight low of 47°. By the end of the season, Lake Champlain stood just over 94 feet, approaching the low record of 92.17 feet set in fall. The summers of 1970, '75, '78, and '82 were as low as 1991, however, and such low levels were more common early in this century. The low levels exposed mudflats along the Champlain shoreline, bringing the first migrant shorebirds in as early as 15 Jul. Overall diversity was fair, with 156 species reported, up from 142 last summer, but still far short of the 200 found at the height of the Atlas effort in 1984.

Restoration successes continued. Common Loon successfully nested on one of two floating nest platforms placed in Upper Ausable Lake by the St. Hubert's Club: the first known use of such artificial islands in the Adirondacks or the state. The platforms were tried after the pair failed due to a rising lake that flooded their nest in 1990. Ospreys reared two young on a new nest platform erected in Ausable Point G.M.A. by the NYS DEC, and a similar experiment at Sand Bar Refuge, VT, also was reportedly successful; these appear to be the first recorded Osprey nestings on L. Champlain. Elsewhere in the Region, the DEC found Osprey success was about the same as last year. All three Franklin Co. Bald Eagle eyries were again active, producing a total of five eaglets, two more than last year, but the same as 1989. Three of the five Essex Co. Peregrine Falcon sites fledged a total of six young, one less than last year: Elizabethtown (3 fledged), Keene (2 chicks, 1 fledged), Keeseville (active, but failed), Westport (territorial pair), and Wilmington (2 fledged). Although the sites remain active, productivity remains below the ten young in 1988 and again in 1989.

A total of 1 nestling Double-crested Cormorant, 7 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 1,000 Ring-billed Gull (plus 2 adults), and 143 Herring Gull chicks were banded on the Four Brothers Islands on 15-17 Jun. Wardens Rachel

Hopkins and Rich MacDonald counted 445 Double-crested Cormorant nests, up 10% from 404 last year. Other interesting species at the islands included two Common Loon on 10 Jun, six Cattle Egret on Island "B" on 15 Jun and 13 Aug, a Brant on 15 Jun, three-four Canada Goose 10-15 Jun, a maximum of 15 Gadwall on 10 Jun and a pair 15-17 Jun, a drake Red-breasted Merganser found dead on Isl. "D" 17 Jun, and an estimated seven pairs of Great Black-backed Gull. A dead Ring-billed Gull found on Isl. "C" 15 Jun had been banded there as a chick on 12 Jun 1982, the first day of banding under High Peaks Audubon management.

Low lake levels, as noted, produced excellent shorebirding on the mudflats at Plattsburgh and Westport, with 15 species recorded. The season also was enlivened by two reports of **Great Egret**.

Near Elizabethtown, even sapling wild cherry trees were bent over by the weight of their fruit, while blackberries, highbush cranberries, and dogwoods also fruited heavily. From Hamilton Co. Gary Lee reported, "Much wild food: berries, cherries, nuts, cone crop on balsam fir, white pine, and red spruce," adding that Evening Grosbeaks were feeding cherries to their young in Blue Mountain Lake on 21 Jul. Bob McKinney noted about 40 Evening Grosbeaks in HAMI between 15-20 Jul, commenting, "Great summer for these birds. I can't recall seeing or hearing more, in summer, than I did in July. Only 4 in August." These reports, as well as White-winged Crossbill at Moose River R.A. 7-28 Jul and at Ferd's Bog 1-21 Aug, bode well for an interesting winter ahead.

Observers: Steven Arras, Sharon Bennett, Geoffrey Carleton, Russell Cole, Dorothy Crumb, Charlcie Delehanty, Frannie Elder, Betsy Franz, Richard Guthrie, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candy & John Hess, Rachel Hopkins, Hal Kline, William Krueger, Gary Lee, Rich MacDonald, Robert McKinney, Laura Meade, Charles Mitchell, John & Susan Peterson, Atea Ring, Elton Rising, Harold Silver, Pat Taber, Jim Throckmorton, Langdon Stevenson.

Abbreviations: FB - Ferd's Bog; FBI - Four Brothers Islands; GBBS - Gabriels Breeding Bird Survey; HFBBS - Hope Falls BBS; MRRA - Moose River Recreational Area; SRFBBS - St. Regis Falls BBS; TL - Tupper Lake

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two Corlear Bay and two Schuyler 1 10 Jun; still on eggs Bug L 13 Jul, but eggs rolled out of nest 5 Aug by river otter GL believes; pair with chick Putnam Pd, ESSE, 12 Aug, unexpected; *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: Cedar R Flow 19 Jun; pair with 4 y there 16 Jul a good find. Double-crested Cormorant: imm Westport 6 Aug; 12 TL 21 Aug; *intro*. Least Bittern: Ausable Marsh 2 Jul (SB), rarely reported. **Great Egret**: one Westport 24-29 Jul (GC); one Seventh L HAMI 26 Jul (GL). Cattle Egret: *intro*. Black-crowned Night-Heron: *intro*. Brant: *intro*. Canada Goose: nine Westport 15-29 Jul unexpected; 70 TL municipal beach Aug doing well; *intro*. Mallard: 4+ pair FBI. Gadwall: *intro*. Red-breasted Merganser: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 2 MRRA 22 Aug unusual boreal location. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: imm Wickham Marsh 3 Jun (JP); *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Spruce Grouse: Forestdale Rd, CLIN, 28 Jun (WK). Virginia Rail: Ausable WMA 26 Jul only report. Sora: ad and yg Brown's Tract Stream 2 Jul a good find. Black-bellied Plover arr Plattsburgh 30 Aug. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr Plattsburgh 16 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr Plattsburgh 30 Jul. Greater Yellowlegs: on Westport 29 Jul, Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Plattsburgh 30 Jul. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Plattsburgh 18 Aug, Cedar R 19-23 Aug unexpected location. Red Knot: arr Plattsburgh 29 Aug. Sanderling: arr Plattsburgh 18 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Plattsburgh 30 Jul. Least Sandpiper: arr Westport 15 Jul, max five there 29 Jul. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Westport 15 Jul; max three Westport 29 Jul & 6 Aug. Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Westport 6 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 arr Westport 29 Jul. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*. Herring Gull: *intro*. Great Black-backed Gull: *intro*. Black Tern: one TL Marsh 10 Jun (CD), only report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: two Hogansburg 15 Jun; GBBS 30 Jun; HFBBS 4 Jul; Cedar R 15-20 Jul; Cedar R Flow 30 Jul; an excellent showing. Com. Nighthawk: one-two TL village 3-8 Aug (CD); Terry Mt CLIN, 30 Aug (C&JH). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: apparent disappearance TL Jun, but three-five at feeders there Jul-Aug. Hairy Woodpecker: one with full orange cap Ausable Pt 11 Jun (LS). Three-toed Woodpecker: FB 14 Jul, 1 Aug. Black-backed Woodpecker: Chubb R 8 Jun; FB 12-16 Aug, FY there 21 Aug, late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: transient Elizabethtown 6 Jul (JP), yet breeding birds at Chubb R by 8 Jun and still at FB 12 Jul, MRRA 28 Jul. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Chubb R, FB, SRFBBS. **Willow Flycatcher**: one-two singing males Ausable Pt 11 Jun (LS); "fitz-bew" still there 26 Jul (WK), little known in Region. Gray Jay: FB from 12 Jul, chasing Am. Kestrel there 21 Aug (GL); three L Lila 1 Aug (RC). Boreal Chickadee: FB; MRRA. Tufted Titmouse: two locations Elizabethtown Jul. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Lyon Mt (3,830') CLIN 13 Jun (LS); young bird banded Cedar R Jul (RM), both "Bicknell's." N. Mockingbird: imm Westport 17 Aug (AR, PT).

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: singing male Crown Pt peninsula 29 Jul, rarely reported. Philadelphia Vireo: Terry Mt CLIN 29 Aug (C&JH), only report. Red-eyed Vireo: max 72 HFBBS. Tennessee Warbler: GBBS 30 Jun. Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 20 in flock along Bug L trail 5 Aug (GL), more than usual. Pine Warbler: Speculator 4 Jul (BF, RG) only report. Bay-breasted Warbler: HFBBS only report. Blackpoll Warbler: Chubb R 8 Jun; Lyon Mt CLIN 13 Jun; West Canada L 31 Jul where Bay-breasted Warbler was found in 1983 (see Atlas); several singing males in 2 mi stretch by Cellar & Bradley Brks. Ovenbird: max 22 HFBBS. Mourning Warbler: Cedar R; two SRFBBS.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: four HFBBS (RG); "a lot" (GL); "good year" (CD). **Clay-colored Sparrow**: singing male GBBS FRAN 30 Jun (MK, TM), an excellent find. Lincoln's Sparrow: nest with 4 eggs FB 3 Jun (GL); widely reported.

Bobolink: male on a "little sort of island" in the middle of FB 27 Jun (DC). Rusty Blackbird: FL Wilson Pd 5 Jun. Purple Finch: four reports of 28 individuals, probably underestimate of actual numbers. House Finch: three Cedar R; eight HFBBS, but hordes along lakeshore at Essex. White-winged Crossbill: *intro*. Pine Siskin: Chubb R 8 Jun; Raquette L 15 Jul may also bode well for winter. Evening Grosbeak: 4 GBBS 30 Jun; 5 SRFBS 3 Jul; TL feeder from 13 Jul; Chubb R & FB 16 Jul; *intro*.

ADDENDUM: **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: "Brewster's" type with full yellow cap, black eye stripe, blue to blue-gray upper parts, two broad yellow wing-bars, white throat, chest, and belly, lacking any yellow band Blue Mountain Rd and Balsam Cr FRAN 30 May (WK), first Regional record.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

KENNETH P. ABLE

The nesting season was generally warm, dry and uneventful. Observers did not report any unusual bird activity, but the very dry weather must have had an effect on breeding in some species. At Albany, June, July, and August comprised the twelfth thru fourteenth straight months with above normal temperatures. Runs like this are not likely to represent random fluctuations around long-term averages. June and July were both dry, with rainfall 1.6 and 1.35 inches below normal, respectively. Farmers began cutting hay early and by the end of June the alfalfa harvest was 94 percent complete (versus an average of only 64 percent). Early cutting probably adversely affected some grassland species. The dry weather stunted regrowth of hay fields and by the end of June many fields looked like August. During that month, rainfall returned to near normal thanks to Hurricane Bob on 19 Aug. Apparently it brought only rain to the Region.

Reports further documented a number of continuing trends. As populations of Double-crested Cormorant grow, numbers of non-breeding summer reports are increasing. Common Raven is firming up its foothold in the Region, and Carolina Wren continues to pop up in new places. Wood Duck seems to have had a very productive season and for some reason there was a flurry of N. Bobwhite reports (releases?). Observers are alert to the status of grassland species. They seem to be holding on in the few places in

which they have bred over the last five years or so. This season, very substantial numbers of Upland Sandpiper and Grasshopper Sparrow were found on three potential landfill sites in the Town of Northumberland, SARA. Unusual species reported during the period included **Red-necked Phalarope**, **American Pipit** and "Lawrence's" Warbler.

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Abbreviations: FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar; HudR - Hudson R; SBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historical P; SaraSpa - Saratoga Spa SP.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: nest with egg Jabe Pd WARR 20 Jun (KPA), fate unknown; one Springhill Pd WARR 6 Jun (ER); two pair Thirteenth L WARR all summer, no sign of nesting. Pied-billed Grebe: RENS 9,30 Jun (JC), locally very scarce in summer. Double-crested Cormorant: dozens present HudR and Mohawk R after mid July. Least Bittern: two-three Carter L WASH 28 Jul (JS). Great Blue Heron: 102 Vischer Ferry Aug. Great Egret: up to 17 Vischer Ferry July-Aug. Snowy Egret: two HudR COLU 23, one 29 Aug (WC). Black-crowned Night-Heron: singles Collins L SCHE 18 Jul, Vischer Ferry 18 Aug (BP); rare locally. Mute Swan: nested Vosburgh Marsh GREE, raising eight y (*fide* RPG). Brant: 20 Petersburg 10 Jun (AGR), very late. Wood Duck: six broods totaling >40 y FiveR (AM), three broods was previous max; good success Carter L (JS); numerous broods RENS; 25 Pine Swamp RENS 25 Aug (PFC). Ring-necked Duck: male Pine Swamp, Nassau, 24 Jun (PFC), very unusual. Hooded Merganser: two ad, six y SaraSpa 13 Jul (BP).

HAWK-ALCIDS: Osprey: 10 reports. Bald Eagle: 7 reports, two ad, three imm, two unknown. N. Harrier: pair, apparently not nesting, T Northumberland June (KPA, RLH). Cooper's Hawk: 7 reports. N. Goshawk: four y fledged Battenville (RR *fide* JS); pair Grafton 4 Jul (PFC). Red-shouldered Hawk: three y fledged Jenny L SARA (RPY); bred Pine Swamp RENS (PFC). Merlin: one Niskayuna 26 Aug (BB ,KB), early. N. Bobwhite: reported Hoosic Falls, Cambridge, Schodack Landing. Com. Moorhen: apparently breeding Carter L WASH (JS). Upland Sandpiper: two Argyle WASH 1 Jun (BP); three WASH 25 Jun (BG *fide* BP); eight pair T Northumberland SARA (KPA,RLH); several including pair with one y Minaville MONT 9 Jun (BB,KB). Least Sandpiper: arr RENS 30 Jun (JC), early. **Red-necked Phalarope**: one Goeffroy's Pd COLU 24 Aug (WC, RLH, AL ,KD, EG), related to hurricane Bob? Caspian Tern: one Catskill 23 Aug (WC).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: continues to increase Jenny L SARA (RPY). Black-billed Cuckoo: seemed numerous SCHO (AMa), but scarce elsewhere. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: three SCHO (AMa) only report. Barred Owl: abruptly scarce Jenny L (RPY). Com. Nighthawk: many over downtown Schenectady 2 Aug (BB,KB), unreported elsewhere. Belted Kingfisher: three FL Pine Swamp RENS 24 Jun, early. Red-headed Woodpecker: RENS 17 Jun (JC); pair Towpath Rd WASH (BG *fide* BP).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Goeffroy's Pd COLU 24 Aug (WC), rarely reported in Region. Tree Swallow: very good productivity at colonies monitored by RPY, but raccoons preyed upon 18 of 37 nests at North Broadalbin. Blue Jay: low for fifth year Jenny L (RPY). Com. Raven: reported from Berlin, Thacher SP (ALBA); nine Stephentown Center 15 Jul (PFC). Carolina Wren: *intro*. Winter Wren: reports in SARA and Petersburg, Grafton, Stephentown Center where not known regular breeder. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Cambridge WASH 29 Jul (JS). E. Bluebird: 47 fledged FiveR (versus 13 last year), including third broods (AM). **Am. Pipit**: one RENS 3 Jun (JC), very late. Cedar Waxwing: abundant throughout.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Golden-winged Warbler: singles Argyle WASH 1 Jun (BP), Cambridge 23 Aug (JS). Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: one "Lawrence's" Old Chatham 3 Jul (KD); single "Brewster's" Thacher SP 10 Jul (BB, KB), Berne ALBA 5 Aug (KPA). N. Parula: one Castleton I SP 22 Jun (WC). Cerulean Warbler: NY Castleton I SP 22 Jun (RPG). Ovenbird: 39 hatching year birds banded Jenny L, third best year in 22 (RPY). Mourning Warbler: singing male Petersburg Pass RENS 23 Jun (AGR). Wilson's Warbler: arr FiveR 25 Aug (AM).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: down at Jenny L (RPY). Vesper Sparrow: on territory at two sites in RENS (PFC), several Fonda MONT (BB, KB), two males T Northumberland SARA (KPA, RLH). Grasshopper Sparrow: good numbers SBNHP at least 12 territorial males on potential landfill sites T Northumberland SARA (KPA, RLH), the highest known local densities. Henslow's Sparrow: at least two SBNHP; male on territory Altamont (BJ). Dark-eyed Junco: another poor year Jenny L; only five HY birds banded (50-90 was typical in years prior to 1985-86 - RPY). Orchard Oriole: down in usual areas (RPG). Pine Siskin: scarce. Evening Grosbeak: two Saratoga Springs 15 Jul (CF).

Errata: In the winter season report I inadvertently moved Castleton and Schodack Center from RENS to COLU. Delete the record of Little Blue Heron on 5 and 27 Apr in COLU.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

HELEN C. MANSON

June was hot and sunny with very little precipitation. Flowers and plants, following the trend set by warm weather early in May, were two weeks ahead of schedule. Once again we broke the record for high temperatures. July was the hottest on record, with many days above 90° and three consecutive days when it reached the 100° mark. A bit of rain at the end of the month brought some relief. Katydid, following the same trend, began to sing on 18 Jul. August brought more relief, with up to five inches of rain and cooler days. Precipitation was below normal for the period in spite of a wetter than average August.

Even with the hot dry summer the fruit and berry crop seemed to be in good supply. Getting an early start may have helped. Corn that was planted early was well above "knee high by the 4th of July," but corn planted late suffered a setback and did not grow much. Acorns and nuts seem in good supply for turkeys, deer and squirrels. Wild grape and wild cherry did well. Dogwood, viburnum, bittersweet, Poison Ivy as well as Multiflora Rose are abundant and should see the birds through the winter. There are also an abundance of weed seeds for sparrows, finches and visiting Snow Bunting.

Birds, as usual, had a busy summer feeding their quickly growing young. A Purple Martin colony near New Paltz reported to have a maximum of 30 pairs lost most of the young to a Great Horned Owl. Carolina Wren seems to have exploded all over the Region, and many nests and young were reported. Bluebirds again did well. Early fall migration was dull except for a good Common Nighthawk flight. Some good birds were found at Marshlands and elsewhere in the Rye area.

I want to thank all of the contributors who have worked with me these past years. The new Region 9 editor, effective the next report, will be **Mr. John Askildsen, 202 Millertown Road, Bedford, New York 10506.**

Contributors: John Askildsen, Frank Brown, Barbara Butler, Jeff Daly, Valerie Freer, Florence Germond, Thelma Haight, David Hayes, Alice Jones, Jim & Mary Key, Sandy Koonce, Helen Manson, Barbara Michelin, Ken McDermott, Jack Orth, Eleanor Pink, Selden Spencer, John P. Tramontano, Edward Treacy, Marion Van Wagner, Mary Yegella.

Abbreviations: JBNHS - John Burroughs Natural History Society; MSBC - Marshlands Summer Bird Count 16 Jun; WBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: one Fallkill P 9-17 Jun. Double-crested

Cormorant: few along Hudson R Jul-Aug. Am. Bittern: one calling Stissing Jul, only report. Least Bittern: one MSBC. Great Blue Heron: six known heroneries in DUTC all produced many young. Great Egret: 90 MSBC; one-two DUTC throughout Jul and Aug, max nine West Branch Res due to low water level (FB), two Bashakill 23 Jul, three together 20 Jul, five Washington L 25 Jul (ET). Snowy Egret: 100 MSBC. Little Blue Heron: one Marshlands 28 Jul. Black-crowned Night-Heron: ad flying down Hudson R past Conn's Hook 9 Jul (ET), imm feeding on mat of Water Chestnuts Cornwall Bay 23 Aug (ET). Glossy Ibis: three MSBC. Brant: seven off Rye MSBC. Wood Duck: seems to be doing well, max 30 Dieterich L Aug (HM). Am. Black Duck: reported from several areas DUTC. Gadwall: one off Rye MSBC. Greater Scaup: six MSBC; four Playland 13 Jul. White-winged Scoter: one Playland 6-13 Jul. Bufflehead: five MSBC.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** two Warwarsing 22 Jun (JO), two Ellenville 17 Aug (KMcD), one Phillipstown dump 11 Jul-31 Aug. Osprey: four sightings DUTC Jun, two regularly Bloomingburg SULL through mid Jun. Bald Eagle: two of four pair nested SULL, success unknown. N. Harrier: two Waterbury Hill Jun (BB HM); one Marshlands 19 Jul; one Haight Hill 22 Aug (MNW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one hunted three-four times a week Hartwood Club SULL mid Jul, few DUTC. Cooper's Hawk: nested Bangall Road DUTC; imm Doodletown Road 29 Aug (ET). N. Goshawk: pair with two y Mianus Gorge. Red-shouldered Hawk: heard and seen Liberty Jun (VF); three y fledged from nest (JMK), two fledged from nest L Walton DUTC. Broad-winged Hawk: two y at Shunpike (FG). Am. Kestrel: max 20 at two Sod Farms ORAN, ten in one dead tree Pine I (ET). Ruffed Grouse: ad with five y n DUTC. Wild Turkey: many with y DUTC, SULL, max three hens with 31 y 29 Aug (AJ). Clapper Rail: nine MSBC. Virginia Rail: one calling at noon with 98° temperature Iona Marsh 20 Jul (ET). Sora: one Iona Marsh 13 Jul, one Cruger I 20 Jul, three Marshlands 31 Aug, one Stissing 17 Aug. Com. Moorhen: pair with seven y late Jul through Aug walking and feeding on mat of Water Chestnut Dieterich L, Millbrook (HM); Marshlands 30 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: six MSBC. Solitary Sandpiper: Marshlands 15-16 Jun. Willet: one Marshlands 30 Jun. Upland Sandpiper: three Warren Sod Farm 3 Aug. (ET). Least Sandpiper: two imm Conn's Hook 24 Aug. W. Sandpiper: several Marshlands 19-20 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: max four Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: one Marshlands 18 Jul, few Aug. Am. Woodcock: one ad, two y Cary Arboretum, seldom seen in summer; few others all in Jun. Laughing Gull: arr ad Conn's Hook 2 Aug (ET), right on time. Herring Gull: first juv arr Conn's Hook 22 Jul (ET). Com Tern: 99 MSBC; ten Rye coast frequently. Least Tern: ten Rye coast.

PIGEON-WOODPECKER: Black-billed Cuckoo: noticeably low throughout Region. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: ad Beaverkill Campground 15 Jun (VF), one heard and seen mid Jun and 31 Jul (FG). E. Screech-Owl: three answered call, downy FL seen, Doodletown Road 18 Aug (ET). Great Horned Owl: a few noted but no nests. Barred Owl: calling nightly Jul, Aug (JMK), one Val Kill 10 Jun (DH), two MSBC. Com. Nighthawk: number of good flights 20-28 Aug. Whip-poor-will: one Dover Plains 1 Jun, four still calling sporadically Eldred 10 Jul (AJ). Chimney Swift: max 75

Millbrook 20-21 Aug (FG). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: higher than usual numbers, more people putting out feeders. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Val Kill 7 Jun (DH).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided flycatcher: arr Warwarsing 12 Aug. (JO), Pond Gut 25 Aug (HM). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Stony Kill 11 Aug (SK), singing Rye Nature Center 18 Aug, one Canoe Hill 24 Aug and one Pond Gut 27 Aug (EP, MVW). Acadian Flycatcher: 14 in five locations MSBC. Purple Martin: at least four pair nested Milewood Road, ten noted 29 Jul, some y (HM); *intro*. N. Rough-winged Swallow: noted in single pairs around many bridges DUTC. Cliff Swallows: max 50 around bridge Skinner Falls 7 Jun, nesting well in SULL; two feeding over Nellie Hill 21 Jun; max 25 with Tree Swallow Millerton, one noted feeding y; no nesting evidence DUTC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers most areas. Brown Creeper: few noted. Winter Wren: reported from Deep Hollow and Pond Gut, where they are known to breed. Marsh Wren: four noted from large marsh Route 199 n DUTC Jul; probably more around then noted, needs more coverage. Golden-crowned Kinglet: five Kensico Res and Meyer Res MSBC. Swainson's Thrush: one 30 Aug (MVW); also at Hartwood Club SULL.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one or two reported from Vassar Farm, Nellie Hill and Haight Hill through the period. Solitary Vireo: three Eldred 19 Jul (AJ). three DUTC mid Jul, one Dennings Road ULST 20 Jul, two Mianus River Gorge MSBC. Tennessee Warbler: arr 26 Aug. (BM); one Doodletown 29 Aug (ET). N. Parula: one L Walton 26-27 Aug (BM), one 29 Aug (ET). Magnolia Warbler: male FY Beaverkill 16 Jun (VF); arr 14 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr 21 Aug (MVW). Black-throated Blue Warbler: one Brace Mt 28 Jul. (BB), one Dennings Road ULST 20 Jul. Yellow-rumped Warbler: two pair nesting Hartwood Club early summer, singing Liberty 25-26 Jun, feeding on the ground in yard near Eldred 19-31 Jul (AJ). Blackburnian Warbler: arr Canoe Hill 21 Aug (MVW). Pine Warbler: two singing near Eldred 19-31 Jul (AJ); 19 MSBC. Blackpoll Warbler: two Eldred 31 Jul (AJ); one Verbank 8 Jun (BB); one Balsam L Mt 29 Jun (JBNHS), one Rye MSBC. Cerulean Warbler: pair Doodletown 18 Aug (ET), rarely seen after Jun. Worm-eating Warbler: one Stony Kill 8 Aug (SK), one Pawling 3 Jul, one Nellie Hill DUTC 28 Jul. N. Waterthrush: one Val Kill 24 Jul (WBC), one Balsam L Mt 29 Jul (JBNHS). Kentucky Warbler: three MSBC. Hooded Warbler: max 12 Doodletown Road Jul, ten still there 18 Aug (ET); three fledged from nest of four eggs Lake Ellis Road, Dover Plains; pair observed West Clove Mt Road DUTC through Jun; ten MSBC. Wilson's Warbler: arr Marshlands 18 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Wiccopee 21-23 Jun (KMCD-JMK).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Field Sparrow: frequently reported from open farm areas. Vesper Sparrow: two near Eldred 19 Jul (AJ), one Bulls Head Road 3 & 21 Jun, only DUTC report. Savannah Sparrow: few reported DUTC., observed Blue Chip Farm 15 Jun. Grasshopper Sparrow: still found Blue Chip Farm ULST, none DUTC. Henslow's Sparrow: none. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: ten MSBC. Seaside Sparrow: one MSBC. Swamp Sparrow: max five 25 Jul Marshall Farm Verbank (HM). Dark-eyed Junco: three Bog Hollow DUTC Jun, five pair nested Hartwood Club early summer, observed Balsam L Mt and Denning Road ULST 20 Jul. Bobolink: several y with flock

Waterbury Hill, where they breed. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: female Marshlands 23 Aug. Orchard Oriole: 28 MSBC. N Oriole: ad with two y mid Aug, still singing at end of month. Purple Finch: pair with y 10 Jul, reported from several areas DUTC. Am. Goldfinch: max 100 all over field and road feeding Waterbury Hill (HM), feeding y Aug.

Late spring report: **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: ad Jefferson Valley 21 May (Teresa Calamari, George Thompkins), at pond edge with Red-winged Blackbird.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLINS

The warm weather of the prior winter and spring reporting periods continued into the summer. Again there were heat records. This year has the dubious distinction of having had the most days over 90°, with the high for the season 102° on 21 Jul. The three summer months averaged 1.0° to 2.7° above normal while rainfall also was somewhat above normal.

On 19 Aug, at the end of the period, Hurricane Bob arrived. This storm skirted the outer banks of North Carolina and then hit the eastern half of Long Island and New England, causing extensive damage. It also produced avian records. During and immediately after the storm the most visible and "common" bird associated with it was the **Sandwich Tern**. Tony Lauro accumulated and sorted the sightings. He concluded that a total of twelve separate birds were seen from Georgica Pond on the east to Jones Beach on the west as a result of the storm. Reports to Tom Burke, the voice of the NYRBA, included four on 19 Aug, nine on 20 Aug, eleven on 21 Aug including seven seen at Jones Beach West End by Al Wollin, four on 24 Aug and two on 25 Aug. These counts do not include five seen by Joe DiCostanzo on Great Gull Island after the storm. This total surpasses the previous high of nine reported from Long Island after the passage of Hurricane Donna on 12 Sep 1960. During the storm a group consisting of Tony Lauro, Andy Baldelli, Paul Buckley and Bob Kurtz spent the day birding in a four-wheel-drive vehicle at the east end of Long Island, including spending some time within the eye of the storm. Their list of birds

sounds like the results of a pelagic trip. Those sightings of interest are: shearwater, species - 3; Wilson's Storm-Petrel - 12; **Leach's Storm-Petrel** - 2; **White Ibis** - 1; Hudsonian Godwit - 41, in the eye; Pectoral Sandpiper - 80, in the eye; phalarope, species - 1; **Sandwich Tern** - 2; **Sooty Tern** - 1; Black Skimmer - 35. On 20 Aug, the next day, John Fritz was at Sagaponack Pond and saw one Gull-billed Tern, five Royal Tern, two **Sandwich Tern** of which one remained to 24 Aug, six Roseate Tern, six Forster's Tern and one Black Tern. Although the hurricane track was mainly east of the Region, on its extreme west at Great Kills Park, Staten Island, Henry Flamm reported that all was calm on 19 Aug. However, the next day he saw 88 terns as follows: Caspian Tern - 2; Royal Tern - 57; Common Tern - 24; Forster's Tern - 2; Least Tern - 3. On 22 Aug there were 14 Royal, approximately 600 Common, six Forster's and one Black Tern. Two Royal Tern were still present on 25 Aug. In his experience, Caspian and Royal Terns are uncommon on Staten Island and until then he had seen only single birds of each species at any given time.

Another record which might be associated with the storm is a possible **White-winged Dove** discovered by John Askildsen, Andrew Baldelli and Scott Rea on 24 Aug, a few days after the passage of the hurricane. The record has been submitted to NYSARC for review.

In a more mundane vein, population trends for the Region appear to be unusually consistent considering how scattered the contributors are and the extent of the territories covered. In general Red-tailed Hawk is more numerous, while American Kestrel counts are down. Peregrine Falcon nesting in the Region was all within New York City. Nine pairs laid 22 eggs in 6 nests, 15 eggs hatched in five nests and all appeared to have fledged (compiled by Saul Frank). Among the water birds Double-crested Cormorant and Laughing Gull populations are expanding and these species are seen every where they might possibly be encountered. The land birds which have been increasing include Red-bellied Woodpecker and Carolina Wren, whereas Green-backed Heron, Wood Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow seem to be fewer in number or are entirely absent. The Least Flycatcher in Mary Laura Lamont's yard noted in the spring report set up a territory and sang for a mate; it was last seen and heard on 29 Jun. One especially ominous note comes from the Central Suffolk Co. Breeding Bird Census. Whereas three to seven of the ten parties usually see Purple Martin, this year only one party saw this species, a group of a mere six birds. Missing this year were three colonies, including one of 200 birds. There were similar

accounts from other areas. On a more positive note there was a report of an active colony in Islip.

The amount of rain was much less than last year and there were few and smaller rain puddles at the beach areas. As a consequence there were fewer quantities and variety of shorebirds at the beaches than last year. Following the trend of recent year, Brown Pelican made a strong showing this season.

Reports of pelagic trips from Montauk on 23 Jun were received *fide* NYRBA. James Clinton, Sr. reported sightings from the Finback II on several trips out of Montauk, and Peter Martin reported sightings 25-30 miles out of Fire Island Inlet. To summarize these reports, more of the common species and less of the uncommon ones were seen this period.

Jean and Ronald Bourque reported on this summer's events at Floyd Bennett Field. This area with extensive grasslands lies within the New York City borders and harbors a number of birds that one normally associates with rural areas. Among raptors there were four successful American Kestrel nests, a successful Peregrine Falcon nest on the nearby Marine Parkway bridge and one successful and five other occupied Barn Owl boxes, whose nesting success was unknown. Among grassland birds, seven Grasshopper Sparrow territories were established after the May mowing of the area. From here, one has to go all the way to east central SUFF to find another nesting area for this species. Migrant Upland Sandpiper and Bobolink were seen in spring and late summer but were not breeders. Forty Bobolink spent most of August in the field.

The beginning of the Fall migration was sporadic, uneven, and without too much excitement both before and after the hurricane. The first warblers arrived on Staten Island 6 Aug, but later elsewhere.

Contributors: John Askildsen, Howard Boltson, John Bull, Andy Baldelli, Jean & Ronald Bourque, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, James Clinton, Sr., Barbara Conolly; Lester Feldman, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Ken Fuestel, Paul H. Gillen, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Al Lindberg, Peter Martin, Drew Panko, John J. Ruscica, Glenn Quinn, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: BNL - Brookhaven National Laboratory; CB - Cedar Beach; CSCBC - Central Suffolk Co. Breeding Bird Census (John Ruscica and James Clinton, compilers); FI - Fire Island; FBF - Floyd Bennett Field; GKP - Great Kills Park, Staten Island; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch - Jones Beach; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LnIs - Line Islands; LI - Long Island; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert (Thomas W. Burke); Pkwy - Parkway; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: 12+ imm or non-breeding ad s shore of LI from MPt to JBch all season (mob), more than in recent years although 16 were reported in

1939. Horned Grebe: male in Alt plumage MPt 28 Jun (JF). Cory's Shearwater: 10 MPt 23 Jun (NYRBA); 30 off MPt 22 Jul 30 there 29 Jul, and 1 on 7 Aug (JC); present 25-30 mi off FI Inlet 27 Jul (PM). Greater Shearwater: 18 off MPT 23 Jun (NYRBA); 20 there 22 Jul, eight there 29 Jul (JC); and present 25-30 mi off FI Inlet 15 Jun (PM). Sooty Shearwater: four off MPT 23 Jun (NYRBA); present 25-30 mi off FI 15 Jun (PM). Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 15 off MPT 23 Jun (NYRBA); 25 there on 29 Jul (JC); present 25-30 mi off FI Inlet 15 Jun (PM); *intro*. **Leach's Storm-Petrel:** *intro*. **Brown Booby:** one off Democrat Pt FI 14 Jul (AJL), second sighting this year. **Brown Pelican:** three FI inlet 29 Jun; one JBWE 2 Jul (EL); 40 off Atlantic Beach 1 Aug (Burt Pettit) in morning and 24 in the afternoon (J.Talmidge *vide* JB); one East Moriches 2 Aug (JC); 16 JBWE 2 Aug (AJL); seven JBWE 6 Aug (TB); 24 Moriches Inlet 6 Aug (AB); one JBWE 16 Aug (Stan Lipkin); one JBWE 24 Aug (Rich Kelly). Great Cormorant: one, apparently injured, on e jetty L Montauk 4 Aug and 29 Aug (PM). Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*, 650 LnIs 17 Aug (AJL, AB). **White Ibis:** *intro*. Mute Swan: 153 JBWS East Pond 11 Aug (SS), almost twice the number seen there last year. White-winged Scoter: several e LI all season (mob). Hooded Merganser: one Basic plumage JBWS all summer (mob). Red-breasted Merganser: birds lingered into early summer.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** one MPt 28 Jun (JF). Turkey Vulture: one flying over New Hyde P and Northern Pkwy 12 Jul (LS, Cherita Stark), one ShIn 11 Jul (JF). Bald Eagle: ad summered in the Montauk area. Broad-winged Hawk: one BNL early Jun-24 Jul (JC, JR). Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*. **Golden Eagle:** one BNL **9-10 Jul** (found by Richard Sautkochis, identified by JC), first summer record in the Region. Am. Kestrel: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Ruffed Grouse: one CSCBC 15 June, 26 Aug (JF). Black Rail: four Capsauge Co P (Moriches Inlet) 28 Jul (AB). Sora: JBWS 5 Aug to end of period. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr Riverhead 2 Aug, max 36 on 30 Aug (JC). Am. Oystercatcher: two GKP 3 Jul (HF). Am. Avocet: one JBWS 1-25 Aug (mob). Willet: 750 non-breeders on mud flats LnIs 14 Jul (AJL, AB). Upland Sandpiper: *intro*; bred in Calverton (JC); migrants in Aug, max 26 Riverhead 17 Aug (JC, JR). Whimbrel: one GKP 13 Jul (HF), one CB 10 Jul (JF), several reports from 10 Aug to end of period. Hudsonian Godwit: *intro*, several other reports; 20 LnIs 3 Aug (AJL, AB). Marbled Godwit: one JBWS 1 Jun, another during the first three weeks Aug (mob); one to two LnIs during Aug (AJL, AB); two Sagaponack Pd 22 Aug (JF). Sanderling: 4000+ in a single flock JBWE 23 Aug (EL). W. Sandpiper: few seen compared to last year, which was a banner year for this species. White-rumped Sandpiper: 105 CB 24 Aug (NYRBA), while a goodly number, much fewer than last year. Baird's Sandpiper: one-two JBWS to MPt (mob) 10 Aug to end of period. Curlew Sandpiper: one JBWS 28 Jul-18 Aug (mob); one LnIs 3 Aug (AJL, AB). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr Riverhead 6 Aug, max ten at end of period (JC). Ruff: female JBWS 21 Jul (NYRBA). Short-billed Dowitcher: 900 LnIs 4 Jul (AJL, AB). Wilson's Phalarope: one to two LnIs 3 to 25 Aug (AJL, AB); one to three JBWS 4 to 17 Aug (NYRBA), four JBWS 25 Aug (JF). Red-necked Phalarope: one JBWS 19 Aug (NYRBA). Parasitic Jaeger: present 25-30 mi off FI Inlet 8 Jun (PM). Lesser Black-backed Gull: one Pt Lookout 19 Aug (SW). Caspian Tern: *intro*. Royal Tern: *intro*. **Sandwich Tern:** *intro*. Roseate Tern: *intro*. Com. Tern:

intro; 1800± at Sand Pt 21 Aug (GQ). Forster's Tern: *intro*. Black Tern: *intro*; Sand Pt 4 Aug (GQ). **Sooty Tern**: *intro*. Black Skimmer: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **White-winged Dove**: *intro*. Chuck-will's-widow: at CB and Riverhead. Whip-poor-will: one in backyard in Rockaway 12 Jul (John Bull), one Riverhead 14 Aug (JF). Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*.

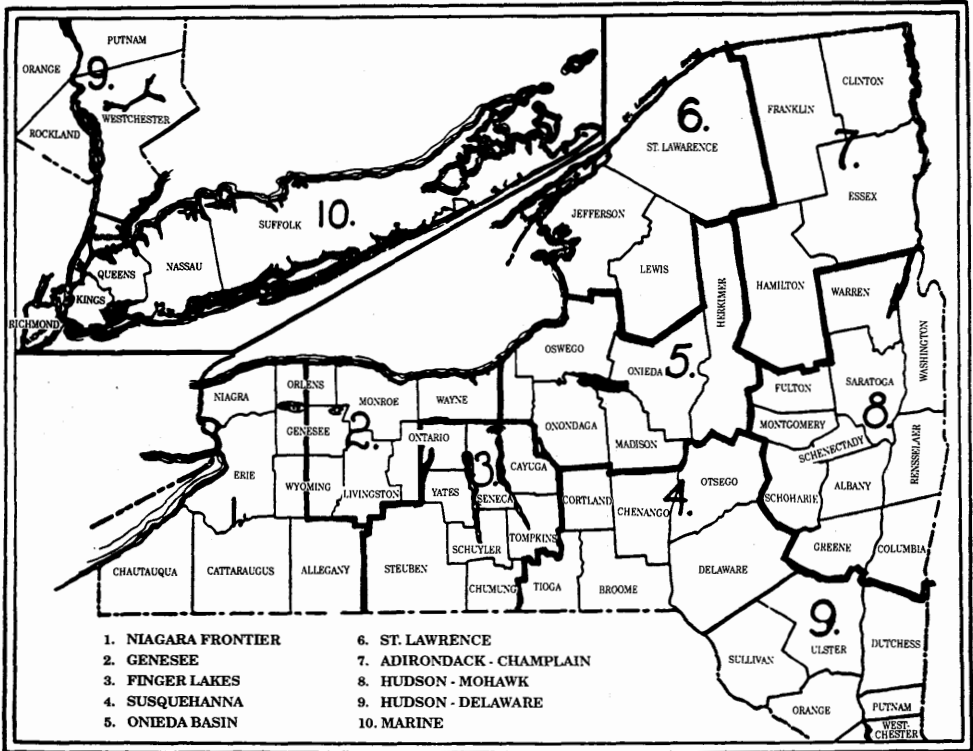
FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Least Flycatcher: *intro*. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: one reported n Manhattan 16 Jul (Star Saphir). Purple Martin: *intro*. E. Bluebird: pair with four y from two broods Iselin Preserve 20 Jul (Dave Allen), others Suffolk Co. Loggerhead Shrike: one RMSP 15 Sep (mob).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one BNL 12 Jun (JR), 24 Aug (JC). Warbling Vireo: ad FY Mill Neck 25 Jun (BC). Philadelphia Vireo: one MPt 31 Aug (NYRBA). Nashville Warbler: one Democrat Pt 17 Aug (AJL). Yellow-throated Warbler: one Clodin Woods, MPt 31 Aug (AJL, AB). Prothonotary Warbler: one Oyster Pd 24 Aug (AB, JA). N. Waterthrush: arr Rockville Centre 23 Jul (LF), hit plate glass window. Hooded Warbler: one Muttontown Preserve 11 July (AL).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: female BNL 28 Aug, another Wading River 29 Aug (JC). Dickcissel: one JBWE 3 Aug (EL). Clay-colored Sparrow: singing bird discovered Welwyn Preserve 1 Jun (RC). Vesper Sparrow: bred at Calverton (JC); male singing Calverton 4 Jul, also seen 17 Jul (JR). Lark Sparrow: one JBWE 29 Aug (Star Saphir). Grasshopper Sparrow: *intro*, bred at two locations Calverton (JC). Boat-tailed Grackle: common at JBWS. Orchard Oriole: one in female plumage singing with a mulberry in its beak Mill Neck 26 Jun (BC).

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, New York 11550

REPORTING REGIONS



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

REPORTING DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

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