

Of course, Barrow's Goldeneye, whose eggs are similar to those of the Common, is a possibility to be considered because it breeds in tree cavities and is kept in captivity. However, its extreme rarity in this area would seem to make very remote the chance of a wild individual laying these eggs. Whatever the circumstances, it seems clear that a goldeneye, probably a Common Goldeneye, laid five eggs in this harbor in 1970, most likely in April or early May. To my knowledge, this is the first record of such an occurrence in the Niagara Frontier Region. Godfrey (*The Birds of Canada*, p. 70, 1966) states that the Common Goldeneye breeds south in southern Ontario at least to Orillia, about 210 km north of Buffalo. The species is also known to breed in the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. John Bull, author of the forthcoming book on New York State birds, knows of no authentic breeding record for this species in the state outside of these mountains, and is unaware of its eggs ever having been taken in the wild in New York State. Therefore, I have reported what is known of this occurrence for the sake of the record.

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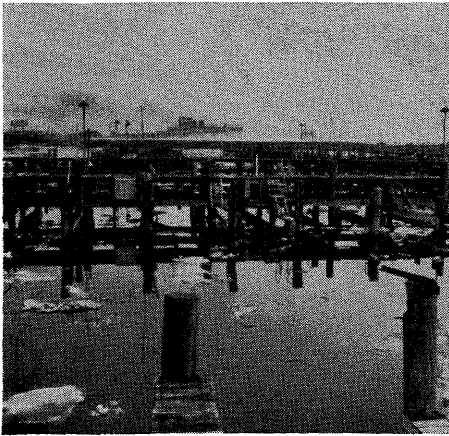


Figure 1. Left: goldeneye nest location in Buffalo harbor (nest box in center of picture); right: interior of box with nest and eggs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

F. G. SCHEIDER

Summer was wet, wet, wet,—how much wetness depended on whether your sector was hit by the various east coast storms but upstate areas had every marsh and pond brimming and streams in July ran like April freshets. Most areas suffered from excessive heat also and the absence of cold fronts in early August undoubtedly accounts for the lack of any appreciable fall migration prior to August 15. The U.S. Fish and Wild-

life Breeding Bird Surveys have in a few years revolutionized summer birding and provided an amazing fund of hard data in a hurry. I would strongly urge that participants continue these surveys and, if possible, to run the counts as close to the same date year after year. A summer project of statewide proportions is shaping up—a careful surveillance of all the 1931–36 CCC conifer plantations across the state could be extremely productive re breeding of species of northern affinities, i. e., Red-breasted Nuthatch (1,2,3), Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet (1,4,5), Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler (1,5), Blackburnian Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow(1).

Pied-billed Grebe numbers seemed down in 2 and 5 and were unreported in 7. Multiple records of summering Double-crested Cormorant (5,9) might suggest early dispersal of unsuccessful nesting birds from their colonies. An absence or scarcity of most herons, but especially white herons (1,2,5,8), seems evident and the rarity of Common Egret upstate is increasing. Note the careful tabulation of the breeding colonial species in the Region 10 report with evidence of increases in breeding Louisiana Heron and Glossy Ibis. Western and central New York marshes appeared to have good numbers of duck broods but Blue-winged Teal may be in decline (cf 5). A pot-pourri of summering diving ducks are mentioned (1,5,10) and documented breeding of Red-breasted Merganser (6,10) is reported.

Local breeding of Red-tailed, Broad-winged, and Sparrow Hawks seemed as good as heretofore, but all Marsh Hawk sightings specifically mention singles, not pairs, and Red-shouldered Hawks are still incredibly scarce, even in the Adirondacks.

Common Tern has become scarce in 2, started marsh nesting in 3, and has declined markedly as a breeding species in 5; at the present decline in the last the species will be extirpated in a decade. Mourning Doves continue to increase in western New York (2,3) and I suspect that they are now common enough in most sectors to not merit much comment.

Cuckoos, extraordinarily scarce in 2 and 3, have shown a slight increase in 5 and continue in high numbers in 9, perhaps secondary to the abundant food supply provided by the various gypsy moth outbreaks there. The Caprimulgids appear to be going downhill with lower tallies of Common Nighthawk in many sectors and Whip-poor-will in decline in both western New York (1) and the Adirondacks (7).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers have increased in 2 and 5 and are now breeding in both 9 and 10, where formerly only a rare southern vagrant. More Yellow-bellied Sapsucker breeding stations were noted (2,3) and Adirondack and TugHill numbers (5,7) seemed good. Brown Creeper reports are now widespread (2,3,4,5,10); it will be interesting to see if this species persists in numbers after the Dutch Elm disease runs its course. Carolina Wren reports are up (1,2,3,5) but Long-billed Marsh Wren numbers have nosedived (2,3,5,8,9), even in marsh areas where

no habitat change has ensued. The Eastern Bluebird shows no evidence of significant increase but most editors indicate no further decline—it has been over seven years now that they have been extremely scarce.

Yellow-troated Vireos were reported as decreased in 1,3,5, but somewhat increased in 2. Several sectors report sharp reduction in Red-eyed Vireos (1,2) but numbers still see quite good further east (3,5,6,7,8). Most impressive in warblers is the continued spread of Blue-winged Warbler (2,5) with virtually no concomitant advance of Golden-winged Warbler. If this continues, most of the upstate New York “winged” warbler range will be Blue-winged Warbler occupied, as Ithaca is currently, and Golden-winged Warbler will be a peripheral species at best. Other warbler tallies appear in reasonable numbers although some decline in Cerulean Warbler (3), Chestnut-sided Warbler (3), Ovenbird (2), Canada Warbler (2), and Redstart (5) is mentioned. Undoubtedly the Adirondack sector is the bastion for breeding warblers in the state but consistent, careful counting there to ascertain changes is going to be a long time coming. Why not devote one weekend of June every year to warbler counting the same place in the Adirondacks?—and mail your tallies to the editor there!

House Finch continue to spread (3,9) with documented breeding in 2,4,5. However, three other Fringillids, Indigo Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow, appear to be declining in western and southern New York but the two sparrows may be showing some recovery in numbers on the Ontario Lakeplain (2,5). Vesper Sparrow may be joining the declining species group in central New York as land use shifts from crop farming to suburban sprawl.

Seasonal rarities include Yellow-nosed Albatross (1), Audubon's Shearwater (10), White pelican (9), Cattle Egret (6), Willet, (5), Wilson's Phalarope (1,3,5), Franklin's Gull (10), Acadian Flycatcher (1), White-eyed Vireo (1,8,9), Lawrence's Warbler (3,5), Kentucky Warbler (9), Connecticut Warbler (10), and Clay-colored Sparrow (1,2) with proven breeding of the last in Region 1.

Congratulations, mazaltov, wunderbahr—ten out of ten reports! Keep it up! Send the fall period observations (15 Aug to 30 November) to your regional editor on the last day of the period. Data in means reports out.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

June showed temperatures nearly three degrees above the average and precipitation about one and a half inches above normal. July was slightly cooler than average but also showed above average precipitation; more than half (nearly two inches), however, came during a daylong rain on July 24. The first half of August was hot