

SUMMARY OF SUMMER RESIDENT AND EARLY FALL MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

The season was characterized by unusually dry and hot weather through the months of June and July. Shorebirds appeared to return earlier than usual as did many species of Ducks.

From all regions the usual incursion of American Egrets was definitely down in numbers. Least Bitterns appear to be on the increase in the lower Hudson Valley. A Whistling Swan summered at Oak Orchard (Western New York). The St. Lawrence region reported that the northern New York duck population appeared to enjoy a good breeding year. One of the most interesting records noted was the presence of a White Pelican at Mill Neck from mid-June until late September (Long Island).

Central New York noted that most diving ducks arrived later this fall than usual in the Finger Lakes from their northern breeding areas. No large concentration of Hawks were noted on the annual census September 21st, except from the lower Hudson Valley and the Mohawk Valley in the eastern part of the State. Perhaps the most spectacular shore bird flights in years occurred at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (Central New York).

There was one report of a Red Phalarope and the slightly more common Northern Phalarope was observed at Montezuma on several occasions in numbers up to 13. A Black-backed Gull was reported September 24 on Cayuga Lake. Reports of Forester's Tern from Rochester (Lake Ontario) in late August and September and from Sandy Pond (St. Lawrence) on September 13 and 21 are noteworthy.

Again from Jefferson County come reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers extending their range with several nesting pairs being noted (St. Lawrence). In Rockland County one was observed September 21 on Bear Mountain (New York), while on Long Island a male Red-head was observed at a nest hole. It is considered a rare bird in the latter two localities.

Cliff Swallows appear to be increasing in Western New York, Southern Tier (Avoca) and Lower Hudson Valley (Rockland County). However, Central New York reported that it was a poor breeding year at the Oneida Lake colony.

An Arkansas Kingbird was seen at Sodus Bay (Lake Ontario) September 13.

Several regions reported heavy thrush flights particularly September 13, 21 (Central New York), September 23 (Mohawk Valley), September 26, 27 (Southern Tier). All regions concurred that Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked were predominate in these flights.

Warbler waves were noted from Western New York as early as August 13 and 23, and from Southern Tier on September 23, 24 and 27. A possible Kirtland Warbler, in song at Montezuma in early September, is noteworthy (Lake Ontario).

Long Island again notes an increase in Cardinal nesting activity. Evening Grosbeak has already been reported from the Watkins Glen area (Sept. 24). Mohawk Valley and Lake Ontario regions report Sharp-tailed Sparrows on Sept. 27 and August 31 respectively.

ALLAN S. KLONICK