

REGIONAL REPORTS OF SUMMER RESIDENT AND FALL MIGRATION

REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

The summer season in western New York was both hotter and drier than normal. A drought, one of the most serious on record, was the most important feature of the period, and undoubtedly had its effect on the bird life of the area's swamps and marshes. On the other hand, the waters of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario were extremely high, influencing most of the migrant shore birds to seek inland mud flats, which in our area are few in number.

Loons — Ducks:

The incursion of southern herons was below average, with only a few American Egrets making an appearance. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was reported in both July and August from nearby Ontario, but we received no western New York record. A female Hooded Merganser with six young was found at the Audubon refuge south of Buffalo, June 7 (Nathan, Schaffner).

Hawks — Owls:

King Rails were found breeding in Cedar Road Swamp north of Akron for the first time. The shore bird migration has been sub-par. Even the extra-territorial Canadian shore of Lake Erie contributed little of note. Best record was of a Willet on the Buffalo breakwall August 23 (B. O. S. census). The Niagara River above the Peace Bridge lived up to its reputation as a favorite port of call for Black Terns, with a high count of 3500 on August 23 (Mitchell).

Swifts — Shrikes:

Cliff Swallows, rare in our northern counties, common in the southern, are being reported more frequently. Purple Martins again joined with Robins and Grackles in some of the enormous Starling roosts in Buffalo and its suburbs. These roosts continue to be a serious problem.

Vireos — Warblers:

The warbler migration was off to an excellent start, both in species and numbers. The timing was normal or slightly early for most, extremely early for some, notably Myrtle. Best waves occurred on August 13 and 23.

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REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (PART 1)

(Including some records from Region 9)

While part of August was marked by little rainfall, this section did not suffer from the drought which was noted in other areas of the state and country. Temperatures averaged a little higher than normal during the summer, but in other respects, it was an average season. Lake levels were high, and it was not until the middle of September that mud flats appeared along Cayuga, offering feeding grounds for shore birds.

Loons — Ducks:

A Common Loon was observed on Cayuga Lake the last of August by Dr. J. T. Lloyd. Two Double-crested Cormorants were seen by R. W. Robinson the middle of August and another on September 15 by Professor Kellogg, at the head of the lake.

Great Blue Herons fed on carp exposed by the draining of the main pool at Montezuma, in large numbers in early and mid-September. American Egrets were seen all summer at Montezuma, but appeared to have left early this year. An immature Little Blue Heron, unusual in this area, was seen by Prof. Oliver Hewitt just south of Spencer, N. Y. on August 11th.

Ducks appear to have had a successful nesting season. Mallards and Blacks were plentiful in September and large numbers of Wood Ducks were seen coming from the wooded areas of Montezuma. The last week in September, about 300 Baldpates were at Montezuma, and many appeared all along Cayuga, as well as Pintails, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal. Ruddy Ducks were seen at Montezuma in August (Allen) but there was no evidence of breeding. One Green-winged Teal observed north of Binghamton, June 21 (Bemont, Rising).