

## REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

The summer months were close enough to normal, in respect to both temperature and precipitation, so that there was little in the weather pattern to affect the nesting or (later) the migration of western New York birds. Observers spent many hundreds of man-hours in the field; however, at this season so many of our trips are taken to adjacent Ontario areas that over 60 per cent of our noteworthy records come from that excellent extra-territorial region. This makes it difficult for us to make any representative report on the shore birds particularly, since there are almost no exposed shorelines on our side of either Lake Erie or Lake Ontario, nor mud flats in the interior.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Only a few American Egrets were reported this summer, the maximum being five at Oak Orchard. A few ducks had arrived in our waters before the end of September; a single American Scoter was present for a few days in late August off Squaw Island in the Niagara River, and two early Gadwalls were reported from Grand Island on September 27. Wood Ducks apparently had a good season at Burnt Ship Creek on Grand Island, 75 being counted there on September 24 by the Heilborns. Since the Buffalo Ornithological Society will be permitted to act in an advisory capacity to the state's park commission in respect to this area, it is hoped that the many new homes which will be provided for the Wood Ducks will produce a large population of this beautiful species.

**HAWKS — OWLS:** Turkeys nested successfully in Allegany State Park. King Rails were found breeding north of Akron for the second year. Good flocks of Golden Plover were reported from Grand Island, beginning September 8. A most unusual record of three young Killdeer on the roof of an office building in downtown Buffalo on June 22 was reported by Mitchell. The upper Niagara River lived up to its reputation as a headquarters for gulls and terns. One or two Little Gulls were present throughout September; a Sabine's Gull was seen off Squaw Island on September 20 (Nathan, Schaffner, et al.) and on the 22nd (Axtell); and a Franklin's Gull was reported in October. From the 12th of September on, many records of Forster's Tern were received, with a maximum of ten individuals; and three Arctic Terns were observed on September 13 at Bird Island by Nathan, Schaffner, et al., constituting the first record of this species for many years. Among the other species, Common Terns reached their peak in mid-September (3000 individuals), and Black Terns a few days later (5000 on the 19th). A family of Barn Owls was reported from Buffalo by Axtell.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** Purple Martins, in large numbers along with Robins and Grackles, again joined the starling roosts which still plague our cities. Carolina Wrens were reported from Lewiston for the first time by the Klabundes. A nest of ten Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found in the Tonawanda Indian Reservation on May 31 (Nathan, Schaffner, et al.). The first nesting record of the Mockingbird from western New York was given us by Mrs. Pixley. Actually there were two successful nests by a pair of these birds near East Bethany, Genesee Co. (near Batavia). Two young were raised in the first, and three in the second.

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** Warblers were late in getting their fall migration under way, but all through September they were present in good numbers. In fact, it was one of the best migrations in recent years, and lasted well into October for several species.

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** There was little of the unusual about these families this summer and fall, numbers and dates being for the most part normal. White-throated Sparrows were late in arriving, but after they did come, they and the Juncos overflowed into the city residential areas in greater than usual numbers.

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## REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER — PART 1

Except for a short rainy period in August, this has been one of the driest summers on record, following a wet spring, and heat records fell the end of August and first week in September. No particular effect has been noticed, however, on the bird life, except that more areas were exposed for shore birds, because of low