

REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS JUNE AND JULY

It is encouraging to see the increased interest in the study of our breeding birds such as were carried out on Slide Mountain and the Tug Hill Plateau. Projected work by other clubs indicates that in the future much more interesting data on our breeding birds will be collected.

The *Monthly Weather Review* (Vol. 82, No. 6 - June 1954) said, "For the third consecutive June heat and drought dominated the weather over the eastern two-thirds of the United States except for the northern tier of States . . . On the other hand, temperature and precipitation anomalies of this June were nearly opposite to those of the preceding month (May)."

The second generation of Army Worms (*Cirphis unipuncta*) became quite a menace in Tompkins, Chemung and Allegany Counties in July where control measures were necessary to save some crops. Mrs. Hoyt's report includes an interesting account of how birds helped in this control program. Tent Caterpillars were abundant in central and western areas and both the Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed more plentiful. A party from the Onondaga Audubon Society observed extensive Tent Caterpillar damage on the southern edge of the Tug Hill Plateau.

Certain southern species appeared to be continuing to expand their breeding ranges. The Carolina Wren was found nesting in Chenango Co. Chats appeared more plentiful in most areas and one was again reported from Tupper Lake. The Cardinal now occupies a greater area on eastern Long Island, being plentiful at North Sea and is now at Kripplebush (Ulster Co.) and Avoca (Steuben Co.).

Evening Grosbeaks were observed breeding more numerously at Paul Smiths, Saranac and Tupper Lakes. Adults and young were observed at Warrensburg (Warren Co.). An adult male was seen at Barneveld (eastern Oneida Co.) in July, and one was found dead June 26 at Childwold (southeastern St. Lawrence Co.).

One hundred pairs of Herring Gulls nested on Captree Island (near Jones Beach, L. I.) and the Ring-billed Gull was found nesting on an island in Oneida Lake. A Double-crested Cormorant colony on an island in Lake Ontario provided the State with 11 young — seven were banded. Upland Plovers, Mourning Doves and Henslow's Sparrows were reported increasing or having good nesting success.

Rarities were a Purple Sandpiper in Buffalo Harbour in June, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets nesting near Buffalo, a male Parula Warbler at Great River (L. I.) thru the summer, and 200 Cory and 4 Sooty Shearwaters off the south shore of Long Island.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

This year the weather of June and July had little effect on either summer residents or transients. Western New York escaped the extreme heat which enveloped most of the country most of the summer, and drought conditions,