

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 (south-eastern 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,

while severe, affected few birds in our area. For observers who have been birding here over a long period there was more of interest than usual.

LOONS — DUCKS: A single Common Loon was observed at Allegany State Park throughout the period. Only two American Egrets were reported. Seven Lesser Scaups were still on Findley Lake on June 13, and Hooded Mergansers were seen at Buffalo Audubon Society's Beaver Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary throughout both months.

HAWKS — OWLS: Eaton provides us with a good record of a Broad-winged Hawk's nest at Vandalia; the banded young left the nest July 4. Possibly the species nested also near Findley Lake, for one individual was seen there on June 13. Wild Turkeys are reported quite regularly now, and six young were seen near Wellsville the first week of June. Very unusual indeed was the Purple Sandpiper, in dull and mottled plumage, which was discovered by Brockner at Buckhorn Island State Park (Grand Island) on June 6. It was seen by many observers, and was collected on the 8th. Short-eared Owls nested as usual on Grand Island, but were unreported elsewhere.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Sapsuckers were found nesting at Vandalia by Eaton, and were also reported from Allegany State Park, Zoar Valley, and Findley Lake. Brown Creepers were found at Allegany State Park and Clarence. These are always good finds, but even better were two records from the Hambury cemetery, whose large spruces attracted a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches and a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets, providing two very rare nesting records.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Eaton found a Blue-headed Vireo's nest with three eggs near Vandalia on July 4. A nest of male Blue-wing and female Golden-wing was located at Bone Run. Prothonotaries nested again at Oak Orchard, and single individuals were seen in both months at Findley Lake. We received five Chat records in June and one in July.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: An Orchard Oriole was observed along the Lower Lake Road, Niagara County, on June 19 (Nathan et al.) This is more unusual than it sounds. We have two routes by which Orchard Orioles reach our area. One is northeastward along the south shore of Lake Erie. The other is along the north shore of Lake Erie. Normally the former route brings an occasional Oriole as far as Silver Creek, but very seldom as far as Buffalo; the latter route provides many Orioles up to a point within fifty miles of Buffalo, after which they thin out so rapidly that only a few reach the Niagara River and almost none cross. It would be interesting to know which route produced the Niagara County bird. Grasshopper Sparrows seem less common than formerly, while Henslow's Sparrows increase in numbers.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

HARRY VAN BEURDEN

In general the summer's weather was cool and dry, according to the records of the Rochester Weather Bureau. June averaged 1.5 degrees above normal and July 1.3 degrees below normal. Rainfall in both months was below normal and this combined with a dry spring led to a drought in the counties of the region.

Little attention has been paid to the status of breeding birds of our region in the past few years but long-range plans for next year indicate more data will be collected.

LOONS — DUCKS: Last Common Loon 6/6; an American Egret at Salmon Creek (Wayne Co.) on 6/10; a few reports of Least Bitterns. A group of 13 Brant remained at Braddock's Bay (Monroe Co.) until 6/10, as did an immature Blue