

REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF BREEDING SEASON 1955

June and July were hot and dry and the water table was lowered, in most areas, much below normal. This is the fourth consecutive June such conditions have prevailed over much of the State. Lake Ontario's high water table (the only one reported) resulted in poor shorebirding in Region 2. Energetic field personnel from the Onondaga Audubon Society, and the Oneida Area have given us a fine glimpse of the breeding birds of the Rome Sand Plains.

The unusually good spring flight of Whistling Swans across western regions was further emphasized during this period by a June 2 record near Rochester and June 19 records at Montezuma. A late flock of 15 Canada Geese was at Sherburne (Region 4) until June 4. Brant were still present on Oneida Lake until June 9. Wood Ducks and other breeding ducks seemed to have good nesting success.

The Montezuma eagles raised one young but the nest in region 5 was eagletless. Ruffed Grouse were reported as few in number in most areas. The Upland Sandpiper was found nesting in Ulster Co. and Herring Gulls nested on an island in Oneida Lake.

Cliff Swallows have gradually decreased in numbers for the basic few years in Regions 1 (Southern part), 3, 4, 5, & 7. Alder Flycatchers were noted commonly in Regions 1, 3, 4, 5 & 8.

An abortive nesting attempt by Evening Grosbeaks in Watertown was of interest. Civilization has forced the Vesper Sparrow from western Nassau Co. but seems to have aided the spread of the House Finch and Cardinal on Long Island. An unsuccessful Diskcissel nesting in Ontario Co. is a second recent attempt for western New York.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

June and July combined to give western New York one of its worst droughts. Some areas received local showers (Eaton reports that Cattaraugus County was not badly affected) but much of the area saw practically no rain between late May and July 23. It was the driest June ever recorded in Buffalo, and the first three weeks of July offered no improvement. Instead, July added extreme heat to the picture, being the second hottest July on record, with no less than thirteen days of ninety degree temperature. We may logically surmise that our locally breeding ducks and rails had a poor season.

LOONS — DUCKS: Eaton reports finding a Great Blue Heronry with eight active nests on June 23 three miles north of Vandalia; the nests were located in large beech trees in an area 2300 feet above sea level. Amadon noted a Golden-eye on July 4 near Cuba Lake, and Parker found a Ruddy Duck near Falconer.

HAWKS — OWLS: Broad-winged Hawks apparently had a good year in southern Cattaraugus County, where Eaton found immature birds in four separate areas. An interesting record is provided by a June 18 Osprey at Irving (Rew). Seven