

The Membership List of the Federation of the New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., is planned for the May, 1960, issue of *The Kingbird*. If a correction is needed in the name and/or address of a member it should be brought to the attention of the treasurer and chairman.

The Federation solicits the aid of all members in increasing the membership. Only through concentrated effort by each one can growth be attained. Let EACH MEMBER GET A MEMBER and then send his name to the chairman.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

JUNE 1 — AUGUST 15

JAMES K. MERITT

In most sections of the state the summer was dry and hot, and generally low water levels resulted. Breeding conditions were good for practically all species, and waterfowl had marked success in such areas as the Montezuma Refuge and Jamaica Bay Sanctuary. In a year when some help was really needed, the elements cooperated.

For many varieties of small land birds the summer of 1959 was, in the words of a downtrodden football coach, a "rebuilding" year. Such birds as the Phoebe, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Bluebird and the various thrushes were generally still scarce, but in most areas not to the degree encountered the previous year. Especially encouraging was the report of over 100 Bluebirds (adults and young) banded in the Ithaca area. Breeding warblers appeared to be present in only moderate numbers at best, and there was a definite scarcity noted on Long Island. Blackbirds, on the other hand, appeared to be thriving. The northward incursion of white herons was light, but of note among this group were three Little Blues in Region 8.

In recent years the Glossy Ibis has been appearing much more regularly and frequently in New Jersey, and it is logical to expect that such will also be the case in New York State. Eleven of these birds were seen on Long Island, and the species was also observed in Region 3. Breeding King Rails were found in Regions 1 and 5, and the King Rail was also noted in Region 4. Long Island produced a record of the elusive Yellow Rail.

The Wilson's Phalarope appeared in Regions 2 and 10, and a Northern Phalarope was reported in Region 6. A Curlew Sandpiper was also noted in Region 10, and the Golden Plover was among the shorebirds observed at Montezuma. The Franklin's Gull and Little Gull were seen in Region 2.

The sporadic Red-headed Woodpecker was observed in relatively good numbers in Regions 2, 6, and 8, and Region 3 again produced a record of a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers.

The Prothonotary Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler continued to be present in Regions 3 and 5 respectively, and a Lawrence's Warbler was found nest-building in Region 8. There were the usual scattered reports of the Orchard Oriole. Even during this hot summer period our "winter finches" were not completely unrepresented — a Red Crossbill in Region 5 was one of the highlights.

The Western Meadowlark has now apparently become quite regular in

the western part of the state. It was seen in Region 2. Ithaca's Clay-colored Sparrow, first reported in the spring, continued to be present. The appearance of a Lark Bunting on Long Island created some excitement there, and this bird was seen by numerous observers.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

The weather during June was typical for the month with average temperature and precipitation deviating little from normal. Several local convective storms were the only disturbances during a generally fair and pleasant month. July continued this trend with an average temperature 2.2°F above normal and sunshine exceeding its own monthly mean by eleven percent. Precipitation was somewhat below normal and was scattered so that some sections suffered from drought. The several spectacular thunderstorms did not do much to alleviate the dryness especially in the northern part of the region. The temperature during the first week in August averaged slightly above normal and some very warm days occurred at the end of the period. No high winds or widespread severe weather was experienced through June, July and the first half of August, the fairly numerous local thunderstorms being the only interruptions in a warm and sunny summer. Water levels in ponds and streams dropped considerably and Lake Erie's level remained low for the third successive summer. Apparently breeding conditions were good for Ring-necked Pheasants and some of the ground nesting passerines. The low water in swamps and marshes attracted herons and shorebirds, especially at localities such as Oak Orchard Swamp and various inland ponds.

Loons — Ducks: A Common Loon was on the Niagara River at the Falls on Jun 14 (Brockner). The report of four Common Egrets at Oak Orchard Swamp on Jul 14 (Anderson rep Andrle) was the only one for this species during the period. This seems unusual as apparently there was a good influx of egrets in the northeast indicated by reports from several localities. Ducks appeared to have had a good breeding season in many parts of the region. A Green-winged Teal was seen near Varysburg on Aug 1 (Rosche, Krayna, Rubach). An observation of four American Widgeon at Oak Orchard on Jun 21 (Brockners) was of interest. On Jul 15 a Pintail, an uncommon nester in the region, was seen at Oak Orchard (Andrle). Hooded Mergansers were noted in a number of places, probably indicating a fairly good breeding season. From one to four individuals were reported from Ashford Hollow, Warsaw (Jun 21, 27; Rosche et al), Varysburg (Jul 19, 22; Rosche et al), and Langford (Jul 20; Bourne, Avery). On Aug 8 Rosche counted 73 Wood Ducks in Wyoming County.

Hawks — Owls: Birds of prey seemed to be generally in below normal numbers, especially Marsh Hawks. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen Jul 27 near Colden (Rosche et al), and Eaton observed a nest near Olean in June. This species nests regularly in scattered localities through the Allegheny Plateau. Individual Bald Eagles were noted on Jun 8 over East Eden Pond (Bourne), and on Jul 15 an adult was at Oak Orchard Swamp (Anderson rep Andrle). A King Rail with five young out of the nest was found in a small pond just south of Langford on Jul 19 (Bourne) and was seen by many observers until the first week in August. Some species of shorebirds remained later in June than normal and at the end of the month it was not possible to be sure whether they were stragglers from the spring migration or southward bound migrants. A Common Snipe was seen near Pike on Jun 27 (Rosche), and a maximum of five was noted in the Warsaw-Varysburg area through August by the same observer. This species is not often located in June during the breeding season in the region. The last migrant Least Sandpipers (6) were observed near Wethersfield on Jun 3 (Rosche). The lowered water level of Delaware