

Park Lake in Buffalo in late July and August and the creation of mud areas brought shorebirds including Spotted, Solitary, Least, Semipalmated, and Pectoral Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs. On Jul 11, on the south shore of Lake Erie at Sturgeon Point Bourne found two Whimbrels, the first fall migrants of this species reported for the region. A maximum of 16 Solitary Sandpipers was noted by Rosche and Blowers on Aug 8 in western Wyoming County. A greater Yellowlegs at the pond near Landford on Jul 20 (Bourne, Avery) marked the first appearance of this species returning south. A maximum of 10 were counted on Aug 1 in western Wyoming County (Rosche, Krayna, Rubach). On Aug 8 a total of 34 Lesser Yellowlegs was the greatest number for this species in the same area. A Stilt Sandpiper was observed near Warsaw on Aug 1 (Rosche, Krayna, Rubach). Although this species occurs regularly in the summer and fall on the north shore of Lake Erie (Canada), it is seldom seen inland in western New York. The Barn Owls apparently were successful in raising young in North Tonawanda as four birds were seen on Jun 23 (Rosche et al) and Jul 9 (Bourne). Of interest was a Long-eared Owl found at Hamburg Jul 8 (Bourne).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Common Nighthawks appeared to be in normal numbers within the city of Buffalo, and a female with two young was successfully photographed on the roof of the Buffalo Museum of Science in July. The bird roost at Jamestown contained 10,000 Purple Martins and 1000 Barn Swallows on Aug 10 (Beal). A Tufted Titmouse was seen on Aug 12 at Jamestown (Beal) and two remained all month at Lakewood in Chautauqua County (Babath rep. Beal). A Carolina Wren stayed through the month of August at Hamburg (Avery). Three Swainson's Thrushes, an uncommon breeder in the region, were reported from Allegheny State Park on Jul 3 (Parker, Lenna, Knot). Bluebirds were apparently still low in numbers in the region. A pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets, the male singing repeatedly, was found at McCarty Hill near Ellicottville on Jun 27 (Andrle et al). An intensive search failed to discover the nest.

Vireos — Warblers: No warbler migration was noted up to the end of the period. A parula Warbler, probably a late migrant, was seen on Hickox Road in Hamburg on June 9 (Bourne). Not worthy was the observation of a Northern Waterthrush on Jun 9 in a wooded swamp near Sinclairville (Rew, Rathbun). This species is known to breed in only a few localities in the region. A thorough search in the reforested area at McCarty Hill near Ellicottville on Jun 27 failed to locate either Myrtle or Bay-breasted Warblers which had been seen the previous year.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: On Aug 12 Bourne saw 26 Bobolinks in fall plumage in the vicinity of the pond near Langford. An Orchard Oriole was seen on Jul 11 in North Evans (Bourne). There have been several records of this species south of Buffalo recently. It is hoped that this indicates an increase in their numbers in western New York. Cardinals continued to be conspicuously present in many sections of the region and are now found regularly at a number of locations within Buffalo. Chipping Sparrows appear to have decreased considerably over the past decade or more in many urban localities in the Niagara Frontier. A singing White-throated Sparrow was located in a swamp near Sinclairville in the Allegheny Plateau on Jun 5.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The weather for the period averaged much hotter and much drier than normal. The temperature reached 90° or above on twelve days; this mark was reached just once last year during the entire summer. The rainfall from June 1 to August 15 was only about 40% of normal, resulting in drought conditions during the last month of the period. The water level remained above last year's very low mark, however, although it dropped rather rapidly during the last several weeks of the period.

Birdwise, the period was marked by late lingering shorebirds of the spring migration, a rather early start of the fall shorebird flight, the rather

small numbers of most herons, and few rarities. Two Franklin's Gulls in mid-June and a Little Gull the latter part of July were probably the most outstanding. Bluebirds seem to have made a fair comeback from their low of a year ago, and the Carolina Wren is struggling to regain territory lost a year ago.

Loons — Ducks: A Common Loon was seen on Jun 8 at Manitou (Listman), and a Double-crested Cormorant was noted there June 14 by the same observer. Great Blue Herons appeared scarce until August, when they appeared in numbers, the largest count being 27 on August 11 along the west lakeshore (Schmanke and Dougherty). The same observers reported a Common Egret on Aug 11 at Long Pond. This was the only report for the period for this species which has not invaded this region in numbers for some years. A Least Bittern was observed at Braddock's Bay Jul 25 and at Long Pond Aug 1 (R. Simons). Black Ducks were reported but once during June, which was probably due more to scant observation than to that degree of scarcity of the species. A Gadwall was reported Jul 23 at Braddock's (Listman), and a Pintail was seen in the same place Aug 8 (Listman, Lloyd). A Green-winged Teal was noted at Braddock's on Jul 11 (Starling et al), and two were seen there on Jul 23 (Listman). Single American Widgeons were observed on Jun 23 at Cranberry Pond and on Jul 23 at Braddock's (Listman). Small numbers of Redheads and Canvasbacks were reported but as some are known to be banded and clipped it probably is best not to regard any of them as being positively wild birds. Three Lesser Scaup were seen Jun 14 at Braddock's, and a single bird was there on Jul 19 (Listman). A Common Goldeneye was seen in flight Jul 19 at Braddock's and a Hooded Merganser and three Red-breasted Mergansers were present there Jun 14 (Listman). One Red-breasted was seen in the same place Jul 4 (Starling and Miller), and one was at Long Pond Aug 1 (R. Simons).

Hawks — Owls: A count of 28 Turkey Vultures was made Jul 9 at Bergen Swamp (Corcoran et al). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was reported Jun 27 at Powder Mill Park (O'Hara), and an immature Broad-winged Hawk was seen Jul 5 west of Braddock's (Listman). The Marsh Hawk was reported but once in June (near Avon — Haller) and was unreported during July. Two were seen along the west lakeshore Aug 8 (Starling). Two Soras were observed Jul 4 at Buck Pond (Starling, Miller). A Semipalmated Plover was seen Jun 16 at Manitou by Listman who also saw the first bird reported for the fall migration — on Jul 17 at the same locality. Eight were observed Aug 11 along the west lakeshore (Starling). A Black-bellied Plover was at Manitou Jun 3 (Brummer, Starling), and six were seen at Shore Acres Aug 11 (Dougherty, Schmanke). Two Ruddy Turnstones were at Manitou Jun 20 (Listman), and 13 Common Snipe were seen Jul 4 at the west lakeshore (Starling, Miller). A single Whimbrel was observed Jul 31 on the east side of Braddock's Bay (McCarthy), and on Aug 8 an unprecedented flock of 26 birds was carefully observed as they flew along the lakeshore just north of Braddock's Bay (Listman, Whites). This is the largest number observed in this area in years. A single Upland Plover was noted Aug 1 at Ling Road (Listman et al), and two Solitary Sandpiper were there on Jul 4 (Starling, Miller). Two Greater Yellowlegs were seen Aug 1 at Shore Acres (Listman, Kemnitzner). The first Lesser Yellowlegs of the fall migration was seen Jul 4 at Ling Road (Starling, Miller), and 50 were observed Aug 1 along the west lakeshore (Listman, Kemnitzner). One Pectoral Sandpiper was seen Jul 11 at Ling Road, and ten were noted along the west lakeshore Jul 18. Ten Least Sandpipers were seen Jul 4 at Ling Road and Braddock's (Starling, Miller), and 30 were seen Jul 19 at Manitou (Listman).

Five Short-billed Dowitchers were along the west lakeshore on Jul 11 (Starling, Miller), and 35 were seen Jul 19 at Manitou (Listman). Four Stilt Sandpipers were observed Jul 18 at Ling Road and Manitou (Starling, Miller), and a high count of 45 was made Aug 8 from Ling Road to Shore Acres (Listman et al). Three Western Sandpipers were noted at Manitou on Jun 15, and the species was there the following day (Listman). There were several reports of Semipalmated Sandpipers. A Sanderling was seen Jul 17 at Manitou (Listman), and two were seen there the next day (Starling, Miller). A very early Wilson's Phalarope showed up at Manitou on Jul 11 (Listman et al).

Three immature Great Black-backed Gulls were seen Jun 20 at Manitou, and

two were present there on Jul 19 (Listman). Some 100 Herring, 2000 Ring-billed, and 100 Bonaparte's Gulls were also there on the latter date. A Franklin's Gull was carefully observed at Manitou Jun 14 after a northeast storm (Schaffer, Listman). The last observer recorded two birds of this species there on Jun 20. An immature Little Gull was seen at Manitou on Jul 19 (Listman). A very early Forster's Tern was observed Jun 14 at Manitou (Schaffner, Listman), and another was there on Aug 7. A Caspian Tern was seen Jul 11 at Manitou, and two were there on Jul 25 (O'Hara et al). Three Yellow-billed and two Black-throated Cuckoos were recorded Jun 6 in the Powder Mills Park area (G.O.S. hike).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The Pileated Woodpecker was reported from Avon (Haller) and from the Webster area Jul 8 (McNeth, Sunderlin). Five Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen Jun 20 near Avon (G.O.S. hike). Three were noted Jul 4 at Ling Road (Starling), and one was occasionally seen at Webster Park in Rochester (Miller). Some 1000 Bank Swallows were seen Jul 11 east of Irondequoit Bay (Starling, Miller). A Carolina Wren was observed on Jul 27 and 28 near Webster (Kemnitzer), and two birds appeared near Forest Lawn on Aug 11 (McNeth, Sunderlin). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported Jun 25 near Long Pond (Listman). Scattered pairs of Bluebirds were reported in the area, and several pairs nested successfully. Four pairs of nesting birds were reported in the Webster area, (McNeth, Sunderlin).

Vireos — Sparrows: Two Black and White Warblers were seen Jul 16 in Mendon Ponds Park (Starling). Ten Golden-winged Warblers were noted in the Fisher's area Jun 6 (G.O.S. hike). A Blue-winged Warbler was seen there on Jun 6 and 27, and two Blue-wings were seen near Avon (Haller). A singing Brewster's Warbler was recorded at BANC station June 6, two were seen near Avon (Haller), and one was noted in Letchworth Park (Haller). A Northern Waterthrush was seen Aug 8 at Manitou (Listman). Two Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen near Avon Jun 20 (G.O.S. hike), and one bird was observed Aug 6 near Hemlock Lake (Listman). Two Yellow-breasted Chats were seen near LeRoy Jun 20 (G.O.S. hike), and two were seen in the same area on Jul 9 (Corcoran et al). Five Canada Warblers were seen Jun 6 near Fisher's (G.O.S. hike). This area was well populated by Golden-wings plus a few Blue-winged Warblers, which pointed up a puzzling ecological situation.

A Western Meadowlark was seen and heard in Webster Jul 11 (Starling, Miller); this bird had been in the area since late April. A very late White-crowned Sparrow was observed at Manitou Jun 13 (Listman), and an even later record was of a bird seen Jun 15 in Webster (Kemnitzer).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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This summer contrasted remarkably with last. While June's temperatures were near normal, July and early August had above normal readings — 13 of the 76 days had above 90 degree temperature. On the other hand early August produced some unusual minimum readings; temperatures were in the mid-thirties on the 2nd and 3rd at Etna. The whole period was very dry. Following a few light rains in June, there was a general rain on July 6 and then almost none until early August. Small local areas got drenching downpours, which tended to run off the surface, but general rains just did not occur.

The dry conditions probably favored the ground-nesters. Insect-eaters may have suffered (while humans rejoiced) at the decrease in some forms of insect life.

Highlights were the increase in duck broods this year, a small upsurge in the Bluebird population around Ithaca, and continuing scarcity of Phoebe's, Tree Swallows, Veeries, and some of the warblers.