

uncommonly in the heron rookeries of Cape May County in southern New Jersey. At present, that is the northernmost known breeding locality for that species in this country.

The southbound shorebird migration was, of course, well underway by August 15. Of especial note among this group were the Avocet and Hudsonian Godwit on Long Island, the Baird's Sandpiper in Region 5, and the Wilson's Phalarope in Region 3. A Gull-billed Tern was an unusual summer visitor to Long Island.

The northward post-breeding wandering of white herons was apparently even lighter than that of last summer. This would appear to be true in spite of good nesting results at known rookeries to the south of us.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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Weather conditions throughout the period were about normal. Pleasant weather with moderate temperatures and intermittent rainfall was generally the rule. At Buffalo precipitation and temperature averaged only slightly above normal. However, southern tier areas received the heaviest amount of rainfall in 25 years during mid June and this trend tended to continue into early July. A severe wind-storm on June 24 caused widespread damage.

In general, the nesting season was a successful one, although passerine birds, particularly flycatchers, thrushes, some warblers and some sparrows appeared to be nesting later than usual, perhaps a result of locally adverse weather conditions. Few late spring migrants were reported in early June. The first noticeable autumn movement of passerines occurred during the last four days of the period. Water levels at many inland ponds and lakes remained relatively high, thus exposing little shoreline or mudflats for shorebirds, or feeding areas for migrant dabbling ducks.

The first known Goshawk nest since 1908 and the first known nesting of the White-throated Sparrow were the outstanding records of the period in this region. A July Cape May Warbler and a nest involving a female "Brewster's" Warbler were also noteworthy.

Loons — Ducks: An interesting inland summer record was that of a Horned Grebe on a small stream in Allegany State Park Jul 4 (Beal). Another in nuptial plumage with an injured wing occurred Aug 12 in the gorge at Niagara Falls (Schaffner, Brownstein). Great Blue Herons nested successfully in a least four inland locations. A new heronry containing about ten nests was located near Portville, Cattaraugus County (Eaton). The heronry at Ten Mile Hollow near Vandalia was also occupied this year (Eaton). Young were leaving about nine active nests in early July at a heronry near Attica Center, Wyoming County, apparently a previously unreported site (Rosche). Near Hamlet, Chautauqua County, there were about 32 nests in a heronry that has been active for at least 10 years (Rew). Noticeable increases in abundance began to occur in early August, juveniles comprising about 75% of the individuals observed. Likewise, Green Herons increased in early August, a maximum of 17 being counted Aug 13 in Wyoming County (Rosche). Reports of Common Egrets were few. Single individuals were seen at Delaware Park, Buffalo on Jun 13 (Knox) and Aug 8 and 10 (Filor). One was observed at Oak Orchard Refuge Jul 24 (Schaffner, Brownstein), one occurred Aug 9 at Prendergast Point, Chautauqua Lake (Rappole, Bohall) and two were known to have been near Clymer in late July (Webster et al). Several Black-crowned Night Herons were reported, but this species continues to remain scarce, especially in the immediate vicinity of Buffalo. One Least Bittern Jun 13 at East Eden Pond was the only report (Bourne). After being somewhat more infrequent than usual during the spring and early summer, American Bitterns appeared in good numbers in favorable habitats in late July. When considering the Mallard and Wood Duck as nesting species in this region, one cannot overlook the importance of small ponds and wildlife marshes that have been constructed in many areas. This appeared to be especially true this year,

with broods of either or both species being of common occurrence on many of these ponds. Maximum number of Mallards was 106 in western Wyoming County Aug 6; Wood Duck, 87 in the same area Aug 13 (Rosche). Black Ducks appeared to be about normal in abundance whereas the usual mid-summer increase in Blue-winged Teal populations almost failed to materialize in some inland areas. Six immature Hooded Mergansers first appeared Jul 17 at Wethersfield Springs; 8 immatures were there Jul 24 and 2 remained until Aug 13 (Rosche et al). This species has been known to nest within five miles of this location, but these could fly well and are probably best considered as early migrants. The first migrant Green-winged Teal appeared at Wethersfield Springs Aug 13 (Rosche). Migrant Pintail, American Widgeon or Shoveler were not reported during the period. Single Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye and Oldsquaw, two Lesser Scaup and two Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from the gorge at Niagara Falls Aug 12 (Schaffner, Brownstein).

Howks — Owls: One of the most outstanding ornithological events in the region in recent years was the location of a Goshawk nest during June in a remote section of Allegany State Park by Mr. Karol T. Klonisky, Park Forester. Visiting the nest site Jun 29, Bourne, Mitchell and others observed two adults and two nearly full grown young. Photographs taken by Robert Andrie show broad grayish-white superciliary lines on the young birds. Another Goshawk was observed well at Waterman Swamp near Napoli Jun 26 (Mitchell, Nathan). A nest containing four young Sharp-shinned Hawks was observed Jul 10 near Sinclairville (Beal). Another individual at Java Lake Bog Jul 24 (Mitchell et al) was the only other report of this uncommon raptor. Cooper's, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks appeared to be about normal in abundance, the latter two species being represented by a marked increase in immature birds beginning in early August. One young Broad-winged Hawk near Holland in July was the only report (Byron). Usually there are several reports from southern tier areas. Marsh Hawks continued to be scarce, but the normal early August movement of females and/or immatures was somewhat encouraging. Sparrow Hawks appeared to be more common in the Allegheny Plateau region than usual, perhaps reflecting their unusual abundance there last winter. Ruffed Grouse seemed to have good brood success in most areas. According to the New York State Conservation Department, Turkey brood success was moderately good. There will again be a three day hunting season in Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties this year.

Rail reports were few, perhaps because of high water conditions in many marshes. However, Soras with recently hatched young were observed Jun 14 in three marshes of the Allegheny River Valley, Cattaraugus County (Eaton). Continuing a trend established in early spring, Killdeer seemed to be down in numbers. The usual increase in early August did not reach previous proportions, at least in Wyoming County (Rosche). American Woodcock and Spotted Sandpiper appeared to be about as common as usual. Common Snipe began congregating in various marshes in late July. The frequency and abundance of Upland Plover was impressive, probably indicating above normal populations, especially on the lake plains. An adult with four young Jun 12 near Freedom at about 2000 feet was an interesting record (Schaffner, Rosche). Prendergast Point on the western shore of Chautauqua Lake with its ten species of shorebirds Jul 30 (Webster et al) represents a new inland location from which previous shorebird data is apparently lacking. The following are arrival dates of migrant shorebirds in the region: Semipalmated Plover, Jul 30; Solitary Sandpiper, Jul 24; Lesser Yellowlegs, Jul 24; Pectoral Sandpiper, Jul 24; Least Sandpiper, Jul 30; Semipalmated Sandpiper, Jul 30. A Baird's Sandpiper, rare at any time in inland areas, was reported from Prendergast Point Jul 30 (Webster et al). Cuckoos were about normal in abundance, although several observers had the impression that the Black-billed was more numerous on the lake plains than in most years. A Barn Owl nest was located in the town of Hamburg (Bourne) and another was reported from the village of Brocton (Rew, Webster et al). Single Barred Owls were reported Jun 19 from Freedom Bog, northwestern Cattaraugus County (Rosche) and Jul 26 from Oak Orchard Refuge (Mitchell et al). A Long-eared Owl was heard calling Jul 30 in the village of Hamburg (Bourne), a noteworthy record of a bird whose status during the nesting season in this region is relatively unknown.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Common Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts appeared in about normal numbers in suitable location. Belted Kingfishers also seemed to be

about as common as usual, their numbers rapidly increasing in late July. Perhaps a result of the severe early spring weather conditions in this region and in areas to the south, Yellow-shafted Flickers appeared to be somewhat below normal in abundance. Records kept for certain areas in Wyoming County for 1959 and 1960, show almost a 50% reduction in breeding pairs in 1960. Only one Red-headed Woodpecker observation was brought to this writers attention — one in the town of Lancaster Jun 26 (Webster et al). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were scattered in the southern tier counties, but the absence of records from the northern part of the breeding range in the region, suggests below normal populations. All species of flycatchers seemed to be generally less common than usual during the early part of the nesting season. However, all seemed to be about normal, with the possible exception of the Eastern Phoebe, after early July when song intensity increased. Dr. Stephen Eaton reported seven pairs of Phoebe nesting in Ten Mile Hollow near Vandalia where a maximum of ten pairs had been known to nest prior to 1958. In July three Phoebe nests were found in Wyoming County containing the bodies of young that had recently died (Rosche et al). In all cases they were heavily infested with small parasites. One Acadian Flycatcher was reported from Clarence Jun 1 (Brockner). There was a good flight of Eastern Kingbirds from the end of July through the end of the period. The first migrant Olive-sided Flycatchers were observed Aug 14 near Mayville (Rew). Good numbers of juveniles among mid summer flocks of Horned Larks, indicated a generally successful nesting season. Among nesting swallows, mass fatalities because of inclement weather conditions were unknown. Cliff Swallows were unusually more widespread, small colonies being found in several locations farther north in the region than in most years. In Wyoming County peak numbers of Tree Swallows occurred Jul 10, Bank Swallow Jul 10, Barn Swallow Jul 17 through Aug 6, Cliff Swallow Aug 13 and Purple Martin Jul 31 (Rosche). The number of reports of Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren decreased during this report period, compared with those of the past eight months. On the other hand, the Brown Creeper was observed more frequently than in most years in northern type habitats in southern tier areas. Single birds were recorded Jun 5 and 18 at Eagle Bog, Wyoming County (Rosche et al), Jun 26 at Waterman Swamp (Mitchell et al) and near the top of White Hill, elevation 2500 feet, Allegany County (Eaton et al) and Aug 14 near Hermitage (Rosche et al). Two were observed Jun 29 at Allegany State Park (Mitchell et al). No change in the status of the House Wren was apparent. A rare summering bird in the region, a singing Winter Wren was observed Jun 26 at Waterman Swamp (Mitchell et al). The Long-billed Marsh Wren appeared to reach normal breeding populations in regular nesting localities unusually late. In some areas, none occurred until late June. Small colonies of Short-billed Marsh Wrens were established near Gainesville and near Wethersfield Springs, Wyoming County (Rosche et al) and at a regular station at the Wolcottsville Sinks, Genesee County (Schaffner, Brownstein). Reports of this species become less frequent each year. Probably a remnant of the major March 1960 invasion, a Mockingbird was observed Jun 20 through 24 at Lewiston (Robertson, Owen et al). During the heavy windstorm Jun 24, an injured Mockingbird was picked up in the same area. The bird, a male, died Jun 25 and is now in the collection of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. Nesting thrushes appeared to be about normal, although the song period in some areas extended later into the summer than usual, thus probably indicating a delayed nesting season. Hermit Thrushes were reported from widely scattered areas in the southern tier counties. However, they did not return for the third consecutive year to former breeding areas in Wyoming County, the northern part of the breeding range in western New York. Swainson's Thrushes occurred at several localities in the southern tier, notably at White Hill and Alma Hill, southwestern Allegany County, Jun 25 (Eaton et al) and at Waterman Swamp Jun 26 (Mitchell et al). Reports of Eastern Bluebirds during the nesting season were rather discouraging. Scattered birds were reported; a few were known to nest in boxes, but it is not possible to judge the success or failure of the nesting season in this region from the reports on hand. Somewhat encouraging were two flocks totaling 15 individuals and comprised mostly of juveniles, observed near Attica Aug 13 (Rosche et al). These probably were migrants, which usually appear with the first flocks of migrant Robins at this time of the year. Suggestive of a late spring migration, several Swainson's Thrushes were heard calling as they flew over Buffalo during the night of Jun 4 (Brownstein). A migrant Verry was reported Aug 14 from Niagara Falls (Heilborn). A Blue-gray Gnat-

catcher nest was found at the Tonawanda Indian Reservation during June (Nathan et al) and a single individual was observed at Taylor Hollow near Lawtons Aug 15 (Mitchell et al), both previously known nesting locations. Normal breeding populations of Cedar Waxwings were still moving into the region during the first ten days of June. Noteworthy was a Loggerhead Shrike nest at Freedom, Cattaraugus County, elevation about 1800 feet, Jun 18 (Schaffner, Rosche). Another Loggerhead Shrike was observed Jul 3 at Dunkirk (Krayna).

Vireos — Warblers: The Yellow-throated Vireo appeared to be re-establishing itself in this region, after a noticeable range withdrawal during the past five years. Reports of probable breeding birds came from a variety of habitats at elevations ranging from slightly above 300 feet on the lake plains to 2500 feet near the top of White Hill, Allegany County. An interesting ecological situation appears to be developing and one which warrants further investigation by the field student. Solitary Vireos were reported from several southern tier areas, but most observers thought they were not as widespread as in many previous years. The Prothonotary Warbler was not reported from its regular station at Oak Orchard during the period. The Blue-winged Warbler continued to expand its breeding range, most noticeably toward higher elevations in the central section of the region. Few observations of this species are usually reported after the song period ceases, hence two observed Aug 6 near Attica Center (Rosche et al) and two at Taylor Hollow near Lawtons Aug 15 (Mitchell et al) were of interest. A male Blue-winged Warbler x female "Brewster's" Warbler nest found May 30 at Zoar Valley, Cattaraugus County was of special interest (Kirsch, Brettle et al). Most observers agreed that the Nashville Warbler was more common and widespread than in most years. Singing males were heard and observed in many southern tier localities between about 1650 feet at Java Lake Bog and 2500 feet at the top of Alma Hill, Allegany County. A Cerulean Warbler at Taylor Hollow near Lawtons Aug 15 was the only report during the period (Mitchell et al). Louisiana Waterthrushes nested at Chestnut Ridge Park (Freitags) and near Versailles (Schaffner et al), Erie County, and it is now known to occupy eight different streams in southern Cattaraugus County (Eaton). A Yellow-breasted Chat observed Jun 30 and Jul 7 at an abandoned quarry in suburban Buffalo was of special interest (Freitags). None were reported from previous regular stations. Magnolia, Chestnut-sided and Canada Warblers appeared to be nesting somewhat later than usual. Migrant warblers, indicative of an early fall movement, were reported during the last three days of the period. An unusually early Tennessee Warbler was reported Aug 15 from Taylor Hollow (Mitchell et al). Migrant Canada Warblers first occurred at Lewiston Aug 13 (Klabundes) and at Niagara Falls Aug 14 (Heilborn). Magnolia and Chestnut-sided Warblers and American Redstarts were moving through Wyoming County Aug 13-14 (Rosche). Most unusual was an adult Cape May Warbler in spring plumage observed satisfactorily under excellent conditions Jul 3 in a mixed woodland at 1860 feet near Hamlet, Chautauqua County (Rew).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Successful nesting seemed to be the rule with all the Icterids. A good flight of Bobolinks commenced in early August. The Western Meadowlark was not reported. An Orchard Oriole, rare in the region, was seen Jul 14 in the village of Hamburg (Bourne). Some observers thought the Scarlet Tanager was far less common than usual, whereas the Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared to be much more abundant than normally. The Cardinal continued to expand its range in the region. It was found regularly for the first year in a number of locations above 1500 feet in Wyoming County (Rosche). Field nesting sparrows in some areas, especially in the southern tier, appeared to have suffered from locally heavy rains during June. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were not singing well in many regular nesting localities until mid July. Interesting was the report of a singing Grasshopper Sparrow Jun 25 at 2500 feet at the top of Alma Hill, Allegany County (Eaton). Small colonies of Henslow's Sparrows were noted in several areas at elevations bordering 2000 feet. One pair and at least two additional singing male White-throated Sparrows were found Jun 11 and 18 at Java Lake Bog, Wyoming County. One singing male was observed at the same locality periodically through Jul 18. On Jul. 24 a pair was found feeding young out of the nest by seven members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society (Rosche et al). Although there had been previous summer reports, this was the first known apparent nesting in the region.

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15