

were June reports of single Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, the former in Region 3, the latter in Region 8. Also in Region 3 a Boreal Chickadee turned up at a feeding station, as though it had its seasons reversed. And on Long Island there were mid-summer reports of King Eiders and a purple Sandpiper.

The northward post-breeding movement of Common Egrets was extremely light this year. The number of these birds reported upstate could be counted on the fingers of both hands. After the several reports of Cattle Egrets last spring, these birds were inexplicably unrecorded during the summer. While it is true that summer observations are not normally as extensive as those in the spring, it appears unlikely that this is the complete answer to the lack of Cattle Egret records. It will be interesting to see how other northeastern states fared during the summer.

The northward migration was, of course, not completely over by June 1. Practically all the northbound landbird transients had departed by the end of the first week of June, although there were late Blackpoll Warblers observed in three regions. Except perhaps in the case of the swallows, there was virtually no evidence of any southbound landbird migration as of the end of the period.

High water levels in many inland areas put a damper (if I may use that word) on shorebirding, but there was good variety at favored Lake Ontario spots, such as El Dorado, and on Long Island. Wilson's Phalaropes were observed in four regions. A ruff was seen in Region 5, and another one of these rare wanderers was noted on Long Island. Both varieties of godwits were also spotted on Long Island.

A record of especial interest is that of the Chuck-will's-widow observed over an extended period of time in Region 2. This is the second occurrence of that bird there in the last three years, and these two records, in fact, constitute the only state records. Howard Miller's field note in this issue supplies full details.

Ithaca's Clay-colored Sparrow apparently did not engage in nesting activities this year. It was last reported on July 1. This bird was seen by many Federation members this year, although I was unsuccessful in my own search for the bird on June 30. A Lark Sparrow, one of our earlier and more or less regular rare fall western transients along the coast, was seen in Region 10 during the first week of August.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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A cool, wet summer was the general rule throughout the period. Less than the normal amount of sunshine and unusually high number of thundershowers, together with a small tornado Jul 7 near Buffalo, added something more to a rather disappointing summer season — weatherwise. It was one of those rare summers when the maximum temperature failed to reach a 90 degree reading at Buffalo.

Although one might have expected an unusually large number of late migrants during the first several days of June because of the retarded spring season, the records below do not indicate this. With only a few exceptions, Jun 3-4 appears to be the latest during which landbirds were moving through the region. Nesting populations of some of the later spring arrivals, i.e. cuckoos, nighthawk, Traill's Flycatcher, etc., did not reach their maximum until the first week of this period.

Unlike the past two years, there was no reported migratory movement of small passerines during the last week of this report period.

The nesting season, as characterized by several observers, was somewhat "dull". The song period of most passerines never seemed to reach its height. During June and early July singing among open field birds was about normal, but the wooded and brushy habitats, even at dawn, were noticeably more quiet than usual during the peak of the nesting season. On the other hand, territorial singing among several species extended much later into the summer than in most years. In fact, a study of records kept for Wyoming County by the writer, show that a few species, i.e. Traill's and Least Flycatchers, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Northern Waterthrush, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows, and Slate-colored Junco, were regularly singing on territory up to two weeks later this year than ever before. Also indicative of a late nesting season are the nests containing eggs of Hermit Thrush and Slate-colored Junco reported by Dr. Stephen W. Eaton (details below).

As one of its projects this year, the Research Committee of the Buffalo Ornithological Society undertook a general survey of the breeding birds of the Oak Orchard Game Management area. This area was comparatively well known ornithologically some twenty years ago. Results of the survey made this year compared with known population densities and distribution in the earlier years are extremely valuable. Observations made by members of this committee on three trips to this area comprise a large percentage of this report. It is hoped that other organizations and/or small groups of individuals would be encouraged to initiate and continue similar surveys, not only in this region, but in all sections of the state.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: BOSRC — Buffalo Ornithological Society Research Committee; JAS — Jamestown Audubon Society; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area.

Loons — Ducks: Two Common Loons were present Jun 11-12 on Lake Ontario at Shadigee and another was noted at OOGMA Jun 12 (Schaffner et al). A single bird remained in the gorge at Niagara Falls until at Least Jul 21 (Schaffner et al). One Red-throated Loon was reported Jun 11 on Lake Ontario at Shadigee (Able). Two Horned Grebes were observed Jun 12 in the gorge at Niagara Falls and one apparently remained there through the end of the period (Schaffner et al). Another was present Aug 14 at Chautauqua Lake (Pillsbury). The obvious increase of nesting Pied-billed Grebes over most years might be termed "explosive". Hardly a pond containing emergent vegetation lacked at least one pair. Brood success was good, even though many pairs commenced nesting activities much later in the summer than usual. Great Blue Herons successfully reared young in three heronies: 150 nests at Grand Island (Schaffner), 13 nests at OOGMA (BOSRC), and ten nests in the town of Attica (Rosche). Nests at OOGMA and Attica still contained young at the unusually late date of Jul 14-15 — a good indicator of a retarded season. Common Egrets were very scarce, there being only two reports: one Jul 14 at OOGMA (BOSRC). Several Black-crowned Night Herons were observed in June; none were reported during July or August. It is extremely doubtful whether this bird nests in the region now. Careful searching in several of its major previous nesting sites proved fruitless this year. The Mute Swan and Whistling Swan noted in the previous report remained at Langford Pond until Jun 4 (Bourne et al). One Whistling Swan remained near the north end of Chautauqua Lake all summer and was observed by several JAS members. At least three broods of Canada Geese were observed during June and July at OOGMA (BOSRC). Apparently pinioned birds released there by the state have attracted a small but regular breeding population of wild birds. A maximum count of 46 occurred Jun 27. A single Brant was reported Jun 11 as it flew past Shadigee (Able). Populations of dabbling ducks, with two exceptions, appeared to be about normal and nesting success was generally good. Black Ducks were less abundant than during most recent years whereas, summering Green-winged Teal populations reached an unprecedented high. All Green-winged Teal observations came from OOGMA: six on Jun 15, 15 on Jun 27, and two Jul 14 (BOSRC). A female and young were banded there (details unknown) by Ollie Meddaugh (rep. Mitchell). Several Pintail, American Widgeon and Shoveler were noted at OOGMA during the period (BOSRC et al). Two Ruddy Ducks were observed Jun 27 and three Jul 14 at OOGMA (BOSRC). A brood was noted Aug

14 in the same area (Meddaugh rep. Mitchell). This is the first known nesting record for the Oak Orchard region. The Hooded Merganser nested, for the first time since 1952, at Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge near North Jave (Mitchell et al). A record number of immature birds was observed at various inland locations. This indicates the possibility of a much larger breeding population in this region than previously recognized. Three Common Mergansers were present Jun 12 at Niagara Falls (Schaffner et al) and a single Red-breasted Merganser was observed Jul 24 on Lake Erie at Athol Springs (Able). There are usually few observations of these species on the American side of these waters during summer.

Hawks — Owls: The increases of Turkey Vultures this year, as noted in several of the Regional Reports in the last issue, has not been apparent in this region. In fact, none were noted on one of three trips to the Oak Orchard area during this report period — a locality where one usually does not have to look for them (BOSRC). Several observers commented on the infrequency of their observations of this species in other areas. All hawks, with the possible exception of the Broad-winged, were obviously down in numbers. Only one report of an accipiter, two Cooper's Hawks observed Jul 30 at Deer Lick Sanctuary, town of Persia (Brockners), was received. Immature individuals comprised a small part of the total number of Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks noted in late summer. The number of summer Broad-winged Hawks reported, especially from the southern tier, increased greatly compared with previous years and indicate a continuing range expansion in the region. Nests were located at Jamestown and near Onoville (Kibler), and two young were noted Jul 27 at Allegany State Park (Brockner). Two rather late migrants were observed Jun 3 over Buffalo (Thompson). The Bald Eagle was not reported. One Osprey was noted Aug 6 over Attica Reservoir (Rosche). A single Bobwhite was observed near Yates, Orleans County, Jun 1 (Lippert) and another was heard and seen well Jul 15 near Attica Center (Rosche). Most encouraging was a newspaper report appearing in the **Niagara Falls Gazette** (July 9, 1961), describing the finding of three Chukar nests containing eggs in the Lewiston-Youngstown region. It is not known whether these nests were successful but the possibility of this bird establishing itself in a wild state seems more likely now than it did a few months ago (Heilborn). There were few reports of rails throughout the period. Noteworthy were two adult and three young Soras observed several times in late July and early August at Clay Pond near Falconer (Pillsbury et al). Unusually late spring shorebird migrants included one Least Sandpiper and one White-rumped Sandpiper observed Jun 15 at OOGMA (BOSRC). Nesting scolopacids apparently fared quite well. Upland Plover were far less abundant and widespread than a year ago. Most autumn migrant shorebird reports, with the exception of only a few scattered individuals, came from two localities. Both Predergast Point on the west shore of Chautauqua Lake and some shallow mudflats bordering Tifft Street in South Buffalo held good numbers of a variety of species from late July through the end of the period. Perhaps most noteworthy were two Stilt Sandpipers Aug 12 at Tifft St., Buffalo (Schaffner) and eight Baird's Sandpipers reported Aug 6 at Predergast Point (Pillsbury). The recent influx of Caspian Terns was reflected in the number of June reports from the south shore of Lake Erie. Four were noted Jun 1 and two were reported Jun 23 at Hamburg Town Park (Able). Three birds occurred Jun 6 at Sturgeon Point (Bourne). Both species of cuckoos were scarce as were the tent caterpillars that so often attract them. Seldom are Barred Owls noted as often and as numerous as during this nesting season. Young were noted on at least two occasions at Deer Lick Sanctuary, town of Persia (Bacons et al) and several young and adults were observed at OOGMA during late June and early July (H. Miler et al). High counts of nine Jul 28 and 13 Aug 3 were reported from Allegany State Park (Thompson). Four Long-eared Owls Jul 12 and one Jul 13 at Allegany State Park (Brockners) and one Jul 25 near Hamburg (Bourne) were the only reports.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A single Whip-poor-will was reported Jun 18 near the base of McCarty Hill near Great Valley (Klabundes) and another was heard Jul 20 near Hamburg (Bourne). Red-headed Woodpecker reports were few but there is increasing evidence that this species is probably most common as a nesting bird now on slopes of the Allegheny Plateau as it leaves the plains of Lakes Erie and Ontario. However, more data is needed from all areas in order to test this hypothesis. Eastern Kingbird populations appeared to be lower than in most years

while Eastern Phoebe were more abundant and widespread than in the past three years. The last Yellow-bellied Flycatcher migrants occurred Jun 3 at Buffalo (Thompson et al.). An Acadian Flycatcher was reported Jun 22 at Chestnut Ridge Park (Bourne). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted Jun 7-8 at Albion (Lippert). Fall migrants were not reported before the end of the period. Nesting success among the swallows was good. Cliff Swallows were more abundant than usual in some sections of Chautauqua County (Kibler) but much less common in Wyoming County (Rosche). Two small colonies were located during June in the OOGMA region (Mitchell et al.). This species is not regular as a nesting bird anywhere on the lake plains. At least a dozen young adult Tufted Titmice were coming regularly to a feeder near Lakewood, Chautauqua County (Babath rep. Pillsbury). These were the only individuals reported. A number of Brown Creepers were regularly observed in Allegany State Park throughout the period. In addition a single bird was observed Jun 15 at OOGMA (BOSPC). A pair of Carolina Wrens successfully raised a brood of six young at Springbrook; a second nest containing five eggs Jun 11 was abandoned Aug 4 (Danner). Another nest containing four eggs was located inside a rural paper box Aug 5 at Versailles (A. Ulrich et al.). Single individuals were observed Jun 2-3 at Hamburg (Bourne), Jun 27 at Pt. Breeze, Erie Co. (Webster et al.), Jul 26 at Allegany State Park (Brockners), and Aug 12 at Niagara Falls (Heilborn). Few, if any, have been known to occur at the latter two locations. Several attempts by a number of observers to locate Short-billed Marsh Wrens in the Oak Orchard-Wolcottville Sink region were unsuccessful this year. Reports were sparse about these most unpredictable among our presumed regular nesting passerines. A small colony of about three singing males was located Jul 4 near Dayton, one was noted Jul 21 near Farmersville Station and another sang regularly Jul 21-Aug 12 near Wethersfield Springs (Rosche et al.). One Mockingbird Jun 1 near Langford was the only report (Bourne). Hermit Thrushes were noted at Allegany State Park, Waterman Swamp, Alma Hill and McCarty Hill. A nest containing three eggs was located Jul 22 in oak woods near the top of a dry ridge near Seneca Junction (Eaton). The last migrant Swainson's Thrush was recorded Jun 4 at Buffalo (Thompson). Summer reports came from Allegany State Park and Alma Hill. The status of the Eastern Bluebird still remains alarming. While there is more information available this year than last, one cannot safely assume that populations have increased in the past year. In fact the almost complete lack of the usual early August flocks indicates the opposite situation. In the Jamestown region, 13 young were fledged in three boxes erected by the JAS. There were at least six other known nesting sites in that area (Pillsbury). Six were noted Jul 22 near West Clarksville, Allegany County (Webster et al.). These probably were nesting individuals attracted to that area by nesting boxes. In addition, there were several known nesting sites near Hamburg (Bourne et al) and at least two broods were successfully reared in boxes near Cherry Creek, Chautauqua County (Rew). A single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed Jul 14 at OOGMA (BOSRC).

Vireos — Warblers: Observers at OOGMA were surprised to find that the Yellow-throated Vireo was probably the most common vireo in that area during June and July. The Warbling Vireo was a close second. One Red-eyed Vireo was heard singing Jul 14 in this area — the first and only individual recorded on three trips to that area (BOSRC). The Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos were somewhat less common than in most years in other areas. This was especially true in the Hamburg region (Bourne). Solitary Vireos were more numerous in the southern tier than last year. A single bird Jun 1 at Chestnut Ridge Park (Freitag) and two Jul 30 at Deer Lick Sanctuary, town of Persia (Brockners) were of special interest. Prothonotary Warblers were observed at OOGMA on several occasions through mid July. A maximum count of ten singing males Jun 15 (BOSRC) almost equals a comparable count taken in the 1930's, shortly after this species was discovered there. Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler reports were fewer than usual. Because Blue-wings seldom reach elevations much above 2,000 feet in this region, a singing male noted Jul 1 at about 2100 feet along Pierce Run Road, town of South Valley, is noteworthy (Schaffner). A Blue-winged Warbler nest was found near Holland (James) and a singing male Golden-winged Warbler was noted several times during June at Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge near North Java (Csont et al.). These are both locations from which these species have not

been regularly reported in past years. A "Brewster's Warbler", the only hybrid reported, occurred through Jun 12 at the Tonawanda Indian Reservation (Schaffner et al). Migrant Bay-breasted Warblers were last observed Jun 3 at Buffalo (Thompson et al) and the last Blackpoll was heard Jun 4 at Allegany State Park (Rosche et al). Although they were late arriving in numbers, Mourning Warblers were more abundant and widespread than in about the last three years. Single Yellow-breasted Chats were observed Jun 6 at Sturgeon Point (Bourne), Jun 15 and 27 at OOGMA (BOSRC) and Jul 22 near West Clarksville (Webster et al).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The continuous upswing in icterid populations took a distinct jump again as a result of a very excellent nesting season. Young grackles and cowbirds especially, but meadowlarks, red-wings and Baltimore Orioles to a lesser extent, were abundant. Several observers commented that they never recalled seeing and being able to catch and handle as many young icterids in previous years. Another observer remarked that perhaps the noticeable lack of birds of prey, especially hawks, contributed to a larger than normal number of grackles being successfully fledged (Axtell). Bobolinks, on the other hand, appeared to just hold their own, if not decrease somewhat, probably as a result of increased competition with the Red-winged Blackbird for nesting sites. The Western Meadowlark in the Town of Niagara, noted in the previous report, was again observed Jun 12 (Schaffner et al). This was the only report. A male Orchard Oriole was observed Jun 27 at OOGMA (BOSRC). Outstanding was the observation of a Rusty Blackbird along the Sour Springs Road near the hamlet of Alabama Jun 25. Being somewhat injured, this male allowed close approach and enabled both observers to study it carefully (Axtells). Another was reported Jul 9 at Chestnut Ridge Park (Brockners). Nesting records submitted indicate that parasitism by the cowbird occurred in the following species: Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow and Canada Warblers, and Chipping and Field Sparrows. This year's unprecedented siskin-crossbill flight extended into the first part of June. Many observers attending the Second Annual Allegany State Park Nature Pilgrimage Jun 3-4 watched maximum counts of 12-15 Pine Siskins and about 125 Red Crossbills. Two siskins were identified Jun 25 (Axtells) and another was observed Jun 27 (BOSRC) at OOGMA. A call note heard Jul 4 from a hemlock area at Waterman Swamp near Napoli was independently identified by two observers as that belonging to a siskin. However, the bird could not be located for positive identification (Nathan, Rosche). One to three Red Crossbills remained at a feeder at Springville until Jun 13 (True) and eight individuals were studied Jun 11 at Tonawanda Indian Reservation (Webster et al). Five individuals were reported daily through Jul 2 in the village of East Aurora (rep. Reuther). A flock of seven White-winged Crossbills was found Jun 7 in the village of Hamburg by a Junior Audubon Club member and later verified by his group leader (R. Passinault Jr., Csont). Many observers commented on the increased abundance of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows this year. A very late nest of the Slate-colored Junco containing one egg was found Aug 3 in Ten Mile Hollow near Vandalia (Eaton). A singing White-throated Sparrow occurred through Jun 28 at Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge near North Java (Rosche). Another singing bird was heard Jul 25, 30 and 31 at Allegany State Park (Thompson). Unfortunately, the bog at Jave Lake, where a pair successfully nested last year, was made inaccessible to birders this year. Hence, little information is available relative to the establishment of this area as a regular nesting location.

Addenda: The following noteworthy records could not be included in the previous report (Vol. 11, No. 2) at the time it was written. One adult Bald Eagle observed May 20 at Chautauqua Gorge (Rew et al) and one Worm-eating Warbler studied May 6 at Point Gratiot near Dunkirk (Stanley et al).
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