

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Western Meadowlark: a singing bird, first found May 20 in the Town of Marilla, Erie Co. remained there throughout the period (GGW et al). Orchard Oriole: 1, Jun 21 and Jul 19, Hamburg (TLB) — rare during summer in this region.

Corrigenda: Cattle Egret: 1, May 6, three miles south of Batavia, Genesee Co. (Masons) — first record for this region.

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for the first month of the period were about normal, but thereafter were constantly below normal. Rainfall for June and the first half of August was above normal, but July was a relatively dry month. At no time did drought conditions prevail in our area.

Outstanding birds recorded included Whimbrel, Little Gull, Forster's Tern and Dickcissel. The area had its first record of nesting Evening Grosbeaks. Green-winged Teal, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-breasted Nuthatch were present during the summer.

Initials of regular observers: JF — John Foster, AEK — Allen E. Kemnitzner, WCL — Walter C Listman, WL — Warren Lloyd, JM — Joseph McNett, TM — (Mrs.) Thelma McNett, HSM — Howard S. Miller, RTO — Richard T. O'Hara, AES — Alfred E. Starling, MS — (Mrs.) Maryann Sunderlin, TET — Thomas E. Tetlow, PW — Dr. Paul Weld. G.O.S. — Genesee Ornithological Society.

Initials of places regularly used: BB — Braddock's Bay, EAM — Elmwood Avenue Marsh, M — Manitou, PMP — Powder Mill Park, SA — Shore Acres, SB — Sodus Bay, Y — York (Linwood).

Loons — Ducks: A Common Loon was on Canadice Lake Aug 5 (Al Maley). Either this bird or another of the same species spent the summer of 1961 on this lake. Only one bird has been present and there is no evidence of nesting. Herons of all species have seemed scarce this summer. A brood of young Least Bittern were banded at Ling Pond (Robert McKinney). A pair of Pintail were at EAM Jun 9 (AES). They were not seen subsequently. A pair of Green-winged Teal were in the same place from Jun 1 into Jul (JF et al) and were probably nesting.

Hawks — Owls: An adult Broad-winged Hawk was at PMP Jul 7 (AES). This bird is very rare or absent in summer in our area. Bald Eagles were unreported but an Osprey was at SB Jul 23 (Dwight Chamberlin et al). Ruffed Grouse are reported to have had a successful nesting season in the hill country south of Rochester. At least three Bobwhite that were released at Y last fall were heard there Jun 17 (GOS hike).

Seventy-five Ruddy Turnstones, 200 Semi-palmated Sandpipers, and 30 Sand-erlings were migrating past BB June 2 (GOS hike). The fall flight of shorebirds was almost nonexistent in the Rochester area due to unfavorable feeding conditions. Single Whimbrel were at SB Jul 24 and Aug 3 (JF). A Little Gull was at M Jul 28 (WCL, TET), and a Forster's Tern was at the same place the previous day (WCL. One hundred Mourning Doves were at Bushnell's Basin Jul 7 (AES). An Adult and two young Long-eared Owls were at Y Jun 17 (GOS hike).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Pileated Woodpecker was near SB Aug 5 (JF). It had not been reported from this area previously. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported during the period from Summerville, Irondequoit, and SB; as well as from the more usual range south of Rochester. An adult and two young Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at PMP Jun 30 (RTO et al) and seven adults and immatures were there Jul 8 (AEK, WL). This is the only place in the Rochester area where this bird is known to nest regularly, and the above numbers may indicate an increase in the nesting birds.

About six Cliff Swallows were attempting to nest on a barn near Bergen Jun 10 (Robert McKinney). We have no further reports as to the success or failure of the nesting. A pair of Tufted Titmouse brought their young to the TM and MS feeders in Webster early in July, and another family group appeared near the Militz feeder in Penfield Aug 4. Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were in Durand-Eastman Park Jul 4 (HSM, AES). While a nest has not actually been found, it seems that this species has nested in this area for the last couple of years.

A singing Brown Creeper was at Zurich Bog Jun 9 (WCL et al), and another was at SB Aug 5 (JF). Both these records may indicate nesting birds. A singing Carolina Wren was at Y Jun 10 (GOS hike). Subsequently, they were reported to have raised two broods. This is the only record for this species in our area in over a year. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from several localities northwest of Rochester.

Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, scarce around Rochester this year, were at PMP Jun 24 (T&JM).

Vireos — Warblers: A Brewster's Warbler was in the Avon area during June (Jeanne Miller) and another was in PMP Jun 24 (T&JM). A singing male Tennessee Warbler was carefully identified in Irondequoit on the remarkable date of Jul 9 (Dr. Neil Moon). A singing Blackburnian Warbler was at Y Jun 17 (GOS hike). Two Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Conesus Lake Jun 23 (James Doherty & Frank Schmanke), and four were in the same area Jun 30 (RTO et al). This species is regular in this area. Yellow-breasted Chats were reported during the nesting season from Greece (PW), Fischers (AES), Mendon Ponds by the same observer, near Honeoye Lake (Laura Moon et al), and LeRoy (RTO et al).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A singing male Dickcissel was in West Rush from Jul 12 until at least Jul 21 (Jeanne Haller et al). There was no indication of another bird being present, or of any possible nesting. One or two birds have been reported yearly from our region but most of the reports have been from feeders in the late fall or early winter. A pair tried unsuccessfully to nest in Mendon in 1955.

On Jun 25, two pairs of adult Evening Grosbeaks, accompanied by three young just out of the nest appeared at the John W. Jordan feeder in Pittsford. They were seen by several observers and good pictures of the adults feeding the young birds were obtained. Later, the young birds became able to feed themselves and, at last accounts, the birds were still there. This, of course, is the first breeding record for our area. A very belated White-crowned Sparrow was at M from Jun 25-Jul 4 (WCL).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

The entire Region suffered from a lack of rain, which followed the unusually dry winter. Rainfall figures do not give the true picture, for rain, when it came, was often local, and concentrated in a day or two — some of it ran off the dry, baked earth; what was absorbed penetrated only a half inch or inch. In Ithaca, July was the driest since 1890, and the "growing season" the driest in the history of local weather records. Oddly enough, in some areas the fruit crop seemed good — apples, chokecherries, Mt. Ash, Arbor Vitae and mulberry did well in spite of the weather. Ground nesting species were favored by the drought, and "meadow sparrows" had successful nestings. Insect life suffered — which was a boon to humans, a problem for the insect-eating birds. Suet feeders were unusually well patronized, people reported.

Warblers started migration somewhat early — around Waterloo migration was noted by the end of July, and on Aug 11, Randy Little found many migrating warblers in Stewart Park, Ithaca. Goldfinches remained in flocks and few nests were found.

A Canvasback nesting at Montezuma Refuge, White-throated Sparrows carrying food north-east of Ithaca, and Evening Grosbeaks with young make three additions to the region's list of breeding species.

Abbreviations used: SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; L — Lake; CHIGMA — Connecticut Hill Game Management Area.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one, Cayuga, L. various observers, through Jul. Apparently injured bird. Great Blue Heron: increased numbers, Keuka L, decreased elsewhere in the Region. Common Egret: 28, Jul 14, MFWR (David Peakall-DP); 30, Aug. 2 (peak) MFWR (DP). Black-crowned Night Heron: 15-20, MFWR, several observers, a high count. Also more reported this year at s. end