

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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June was generally pleasant and dry with alternating cool and warm spells. It was the third driest June since 1871 at Buffalo, thus making it the tenth consecutive month with below normal precipitation. July averaged out about normal as to temperature but actually there were wide swings from the record breaking heat of the first day to record breaking cold on July 6th and 9th. July will long be remembered as the month when the rains finally came. Three storms each produced an inch or more of rain at Buffalo. The heavy rains continued through mid-August with near-record deluges of 3.88 inches on August 7 and 2.23 inches on August 13. These storms bypassed most southern tier areas, however, the water table continuing to be considerably low there, compared with the saturated ground conditions farther north in the region.

Fortunately, the heavy rains came after most birds had completed their nesting activities. There were no reports of casualties resulting from the storms. Shorebird habitat away from the Great Lakes was more scarce than in the average year. As a result there are fewer shorebird reports from the region this year.

In general, the nesting season was termed a successful one by most observers. The unusually mild and pleasant month of June appeared to aid good brood success throughout the region.

The Carolina Wren appears to be the only one of the southern immigrant species that is not increasing or holding its own in the region. The recent series of severe winters appears to have had an adverse affect on this bird, there being only two reports of this species since August 1962.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: Alleg. — Allegany; ASP — Allegany State Park; Catt. — Cattaraugus; Chaut. — Chautauqua; Co. — County; Gen. — Genesee; Lk. — Lake; Nia. — Niagara; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area; Wyo. — Wyoming.

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Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: about 52 nests were counted this year in the heronry near Towns Corners, Town of Arkwright, Chaut. Co. — an increase of four over 1962 (TS). Common Egret: one, June 9, OOGMA (GB); four, Jul 23, Alabama, Gen. Co. (AS et al); one, Jul 29, Hamburg (TLB) — only reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: one, July 4, Amherst, Erie Co. (WM) — only report. Canada Goose: seven adults plus three young, Jul 23, OOGMA (AS et al). Green-winged Teal: five, July 23, OOGMA (AS et al); four, Aug 3, N. Cuba Marsh, Alleg. Co. (RCR et al) — early inland migrants. White-winged Scoter: two, Jun 3, Lk. Erie at Hamburg Town Park (TLB) — late migrants. Hooded Merganser: one brood seven young, Jun 22, Riverside Marsh, Town of Kiantone, Chaut. Co. (FMR et al); one, Jun 22, near Attica Center, Wyo. Co. (RCR). Common Merganser: one, Aug. 7, Lk. Erie at Athol Springs (TLB). Red-breasted Merganser: one, Aug 9, Lk. Erie at Bay View, Erie Co. (TLB) — few summer reports of this or the preceding species on this side of Lk. Erie.

Hawks — Owls: Sharp-shinned Hawk: one nesting record, two young plus adult, Jul 10-Aug 14, Town of Orangeville, Wyo. Co. (RFA et al). Turkey: continues to spread northward in the region with apparent good nesting success this year; brood of six young, Jun 1, ASP (GAS et al); brood

of four-five young, Jun 29, Hoisington Rd., Town of Charlotte, Chaut. Co. (FMR et al); four, Jul 20, North Collins, Erie Co. (TLB). Whimbrel: one, Aug 5, Derby (TLB) — very few records for this side of Lk. Erie. Upland Plover: 12, Jul 7, South Dayton (GGW) — noteworthy concentration. White-rumped Sandpiper: two, Aug 9, Hamburg Town Park (TLB). Stilt Sandpiper: one, Jul 22 and 30, Athol Springs (TLB). Bonaparte's Gull: one, Jun 1, ASP (RCR et al) — unusual locality for this time of the year. Black Tern: two, Jul 9, Langford, Erie Co. (AM et al) — noteworthy locality during nesting season. Barn Owl: nest three young, Hamburg — young dead in nest and adults believed to have been shot (TLB); nest two young, Hamburg (TLB); nest five young and one egg, near Indian Falls, Gen. Co., last week of Jul (EAU). Short-eared Owl: two, Jul 22, Grand Island (LN) — first report in several years from this locality where it formerly nested regularly.

Goatsuckers — Starling: Whip-poor-will: one, Jun 6, near Wanakah, Erie Co. (KPA) — probably a late migrant in as much as this species is not known to nest in this part of the region; one, Jun 29, Hamburg (TLB). Pileated Woodpecker: one, Jun 9, near Somerset, Nia. Co. (RFA et al) — uncommon on Lake Ontario Plain but apparently increasing here as in other parts of the region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one, Jun 9, near Somerset, Nia. Co. (RFA et al) — one is led to wonder if this species is more common in wet Ontario Plain woodlots than records presently indicate; one young with two adults at feeding tray, July, Batavia (GB). Red-headed Woodpecker: scattered reports primarily from areas on the south shore of Lk. Erie and in the Genesee River Valley, Alleg. Co. Acadian Flycatcher: one collected, Aug 7, Hitchcock Rd., Town of Mina, Chaut. Co. (AS et al) — specimen now in collection at Buffalo Museum of Science. Tufted Titmouse: one, Jul 17, ASP (WWB); one, Aug 5, Derby (TLB). Brown Creeper: one, Jun 15, Miller Rd. near Sardinia, Erie Co. (FMR et al) — there are few known nesting localities in southern Erie Co. Winter Wren: one, Jun 5, ASP (KPA et al); one-two, Jul 8, Allenberg Bog, Town of Napoli, Catt. Co. (HDM). Carolina Wren: no reports. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one, Jun 9, OOGMA (GB); one, June 9, near Barker, Nia. Co. (RFA et al); two, Jul 7, South Dayton (GGW et al); one, Aug 3, N. Cuba Marsh, Alleg. Co. (RCR et al). Mockingbird: one pair successfully raised a brood of three young during June at Eden, Erie Co. — they were banded on Jun 16 (SB); one, July 6, Batavia (GB); one, Jul 15 and 19, Brocton, Chaut. Co. (FMR et al); one, Jul 27, Derby (WWB). Hermit Thrush: 12, Jul 17, ASP (WWB) — noteworthy count. Swainson's Thrush: 16, Jul 17, ASP (WWB) — noteworthy count. Eastern Bluebird: appears to have increased in breeding abundance and frequency over the past two-three nesting seasons.

Vireos — Warblers: Black-and-white Warbler: one, Jun 9, near Somerset, Nia. Co. (RFA et al) — unexpected as a nesting bird on the Lake Ontario Plain. "Brewster's Warbler": one, Jun 7, Bone Run near Ivory, Chaut. Co. (RS). Cerulean Warbler: one, Jun 7, near Westfield, Chaut. Co. (RS). Kentucky Warbler: two, Jun 2, ASP (RCR et al) — apparently late migrants as they were not here a week later. Yellow-breasted Chat: one, Jun 7, near Westfield, Chaut. Co. (RS); one, Jul 18, Scio, Alleg. Co. (LLB).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Western Meadowlark: the bird reported in the last issue in the Town of Marilla, Erie Co. was last reported Jul 25 (GGW). Orchard Oriole: one, Jun 24-25, Forestville, Chaut. Co. (RCR). White-throated Sparrow: two singing males and one probable female, June 8, Java Lake Bog, Wyo. Co. (RCR et al) — the third successive nesting season this species has been present here.

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