

National Park or the woods-surrounded lakes of Fundy National Park. But Canada need not take alarm at my claim, need not man again the old border fortifications that have become museum pieces. For the conquest is already Canada's—the claim on my affection, for example, of those lakes in Fundy around whose shores Boreal Chickadees and Pine Grosbeaks chattered and flitted by day and in whose evening-tinted waters beaver swam and saucily slapped the surface with their powerful, paddle-like tails.

I hope that every naturalist—and I hope someday everybody is one—anywhere in the world will claim and be claimed by the magnificent and tranquil sights of our own America, not the least being the mountains that roll like soft green swells for miles across the Adirondacks, the inspiring views (although fast being defiled) of the Hudson River and the waving green fields of the spartina on our salt wetlands of Long Island.

I only hope that enough of our citizens will be conquered by the beauty of their own wild land to save what is left of this precious heritage before the chances are lost forever.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

June 1 – August 15

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At the summer seminar at Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology observers from several areas of the central part of the state compared notes on which species were up and which were down in numbers. Although these are only impressions, with enough observers a reasonable idea is obtained. The overall impression that I received was that common birds are becoming commoner and the less common scarcer. That this may be more than a mere impression is shown by the study made by the Grabers in Illinois (A comparative study of bird populations in Illinois 1906–1909 and 1956–1958. *Illinois Natural History Survey Bulletin*, Vol. 28, Article 3, 1963). In this they compared the census data of Gross and Ray (1906–1909) with their own recent studies. They found that although the total number of breeding birds in Illinois had changed little, the numbers of many species had declined seriously whereas the population of only a few had markedly increased. The increases (population more than doubled) were Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Starling, House Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Savannah Sparrow. The decreases (population more than halved) Turkey Vulture, Sparrow Hawk, cuckoos, Flicker, Red-headed

Woodpecker, Kingbird, Blue Jay, Crow, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Orchard Oriole, Lark Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow. The introduced Starling was credited with the reduction of the two most open-country-loving woodpeckers, the Red-headed and Flicker. The other changes were due, largely, to the creation of huge monocultures in place of more diversified habitat. There is no data for this state on which to make such a comparison but to judge from the status given in Eaton the Flicker, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird and Baltimore Oriole have decreased in the last fifty years. The authors pointed out that the acreage sprayed with pesticides has increased five fold between 1958 (the last year of the survey) and 1962. Another survey in a few years may well provide one of the best documentations we have on the effects of these materials.

There is little to add to last year's dismal picture of the breeding status of hawks. Rosche comments "the continuing scarcity of hawks prompts this writer to begin summarizing nesting data for all species in so far as space permits." The only species currently requiring much space are the Red-tail and Sparrow Hawk. Both of these species should be watched closely. There were no records of Cooper's Hawk or Marsh Hawk nesting. The report on the Osprey colony on Gardiner's Island is of interest. It is unfortunate that no definite conclusions can be drawn from the absence of any young. Based on the work of Ames and Mersereau (*Auk* 81:173, 1964) the peak period for hatching would be May 25-June 15, thus the absence of young on June 5 and 6 is inconclusive. The herons, with the exception of the Green Heron, appear to have declined, although for details we must await Benning's report on the second year of the heronry census.

The first occurrence of the House Finch in western New York is of interest but not surprising in view of the recent expansion of the range of this species (see summary, Spring 1964). The number recorded on Christmas counts on Long Island increased from 801 in 1963/64 to 1545 in 1964/65. Observers should check carefully Purple Finches, especially at feeders, for House Finches. The House Finch is not illustrated in the Eastern Field Guide but a description can be found in the Western Field Guide and also in an article by Cant (*Kingbird* July 1962).

The expansion of range of the Mockingbird referred to in the last summary is further documented by nesting in Regions 8 and 9. The Bluebird continued to make modest advances in the central and western parts of the state and some range expansion of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was noted in the same areas.

This issue contains the last report by Frank Clinch, who retires after twelve years of service. The *Kingbird* has been fortunate in length of service and dedication of its regional editors. The ten regional editors responsible for the reports in this issue have a total of sixty-three years of service, four (Sally Hoyt, Leslie Bemont, Fritz Scheider and Frank Clinch) having served since the present regions were formed in 1954.

Elsewhere in this issue is a note on the verification of sight records prepared by the Editorial Board. It is hoped that this will be of value to observers submitting field notes on rarities. If a field note on an unusual occurrence is not to be published, I hope that regional editors will give a description of the bird in a few lines in the text of their report. This will give future readers a chance to judge the record for themselves.

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Abbreviations used in regional reports: ad—adult; Co—county; imm—immature; L—Lake; max—maximum one-day count; mob—many observers; Pk—Park; Pt—Point; R—River; Rd—Road.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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Summer 1965 was cool and wet. Temperatures were below the long term averages during all three months, and precipitation was above except for the month of June which was drier than usual. However, total precipitation for the year continued to be below normal; the drought was less pronounced and severe than in the eastern sections of the state.

The material below might be summarized in the following fashion to accent the trends of the season based on available data: 1) Some insectivorous species like the Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow and Barn Swallow appeared to be less successful in rearing broods than during the average nesting season; 2) The continuing scarcity of hawks prompts this writer to begin summarizing nesting data for all species in so far as space permits; 3) A study of Robin nests indicates that there is probably some factor present that prevents normal-sized broods in suburban Buffalo; 4) An interesting variety of "northern" nesting birds (Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Myrtle Warbler) spent the early part of the summer near the summit of McCarty Hill, Cattaraugus County, a state reforestation area containing extensive plantings of spruce and other conifers; 5) Much available habitat resulted in a better-than-average season for shorebirds; and 6) Other highlights of the season included the observation of Rough-legged Hawk, Piping Plover, Prairie Warbler and House Finch.

Abbreviations: Alleg—Allegany; Bflo—Buffalo; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; est—estimated; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area.