

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 If a field note on an unusual occurrence is not to be published, I hope that regional editors will give a description of the bird in a few lines in the text of their report.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.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: five nests containing nine young, Jul 9, Hood Hill, Belmont, Alleg Co (LDB)—the only nesting report. Common Egret: one, Jun 13, over Hamburg (TLB)—only report. Black-crowned Night Heron: one, Jun 16 and three, Jun 23, Lancaster (CM)—only reports. Least Bittern: one, Jun 14, Eden (TLB)—only report. Green-winged Teal: female with brood of nine downy young, Jun 27–28, North French Road, Amherst, Erie Co (RDR)—last previous nesting report was in 1961. Hooded Merganser: two, Jul 30, Belmont (LDB)—the only report of this species which has been increasing as a nesting bird in recent years in the southern tier counties.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 26, Aug 8, OOGMA (WHK)—a noteworthy concentration. Goshawk: a pair nested for the second consecutive year near Vandalia, Catt Co (SWE); an observer was attacked by an ad near former nesting sites in Alleg State Pk (KTK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: scarce; one, Jun 7, 25 and Jul 9, McCarty Hill (RFA); one, Jul 14 and Aug 12, 13, Belmont (LDB); one, Jul 25, New Albion, Catt Co (HDM et al). Cooper's Hawk: scarce; an ad and two imm ("off nest"), Aug 4, Wellsville (LDB)—only report. Red-tailed Hawk: nest with three young, Jun 1, Belmont and nest with one young, Jul 11, Andover, Alleg Co (LDB). Red-shouldered Hawk: scarce. Broad-winged Hawk: probably the only hawk that is increasing as a nesting bird; one, Jun 7, Wellsville and one, Jun 22, Belmont (LDB); one, Jun 24, Chestnut Ridge Pk, Erie Co (AF); one, Aug 10, Athol Springs, Erie Co (TLB). *Rough-legged Hawk*: four, Jun 9, near Shadigee, Orleans Co (HDM, GMS, WAS) where a large concentration occurred last winter; one remained there until Jun 26 (HDM et al); the possibility of nesting was investigated but nothing was found; this is the latest spring record for the Region. Bald Eagle: one, Jun 28, Lyndonville, Orleans Co (GMS, WAS). Osprey: one, Aug 12, Scio, Alleg Co (LDB)—early.

Shorebirds: Polluted L Erie with its dense growth of algae together with poor weather (few people on the beaches) caused one veteran observer to state, "Never have I seen so many shorebirds along the south shore of L Erie as I have this season. The peak came on Aug 3 following heavy rains" (TLB). The shore at Dunkirk was visited by an exceptional number and variety of shorebirds as were the mudflats at Prendergast Point on Chaut L. Nineteen species of shorebirds were reported from these areas this season, the largest since this writer has been preparing these reports. Arrival dates were: Semipalmated Plover, Jul 29; Black-bellied Plover, Aug 1; Ruddy Turnstone, Aug 3; Solitary Sandpiper, Aug 1; Greater Yellowlegs, Aug 8; Lesser Yellowlegs, Jun 25; Knot, Aug 26; Pectoral Sandpiper, Jul 29; White-rumped Sandpiper, Aug 7; Baird's Sandpiper, Aug 2; Least Sandpiper, Jul 3; Short-billed Dowitcher, Aug 4; Stilt Sandpiper, Jul 29; Semipalmated Sandpiper, Jul 3; Western Sandpiper, Aug 3; Sanderling, Jul 29. *Piping Plover*: one, Aug 10, L Erie at Athol Springs, Erie Co (TLB)—no recent reports for Region. Upland Plover: flock of 16, Aug 9, Lancaster, Erie Co (CGW et al)—noteworthy concentration. Caspian Tern: one, Aug 12, L Erie at Woodlawn (TLB)—only report.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one, Jul 15, Wellsville (LDB); one, Aug 9, Hamburg (TLB). Common Nighthawk: 40, Aug 9, over Tonawanda, Erie Co (JG)—migratory movement. Eastern Phoebe: a number of nest sites used in 1963 and 1964 in the southern tier were unoccupied this year; this is probably

indicative of a poor nesting year for this insectivorous species (RDR). Purple Martin: 1000 (est), Aug 13, roost in Eggertsville, Erie Co (HDM). Tufted Titmouse: one, Jun 6-7, Hamburg (TLB)—only report. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one, Jun 7 and 25, and three, Jul 9, McCarty Hill (RFA et al). Mockingbird: one, Jun 19, Hamburg (TLB)—only report.

Robin: A study of the data gathered from observing some 30 Robin nests reveals several noteworthy contrasts: 1) in suburban Bflo the average number of eggs per nest was four; however, most of the pairs under study successfully fledged only 2-3 young; 2) in areas away from suburban Buffalo the average number of eggs per nest was three and most of the pairs studied successfully hatched and fledged all their eggs. It seems apparent from this small-scale study that some factor is present which is preventing eggs from hatching in suburban Bflo (Spraying with insecticides?) (RDR). Swainson's Thrush: one (dead), Jul 25, Snyder, Erie Co (RB)—species is not known to nest within many miles of this locality, hence it is best considered a straggler. Eastern Bluebird: fairly successful this nesting season, with the gradual increase of recent years still evident. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two summering individuals, Jun 7 and 25 and one, Jul 9, McCarty Hill (RFA et al). Loggerhead Shrike: one, Jun 13, Lyndonville (WAS, GMS)—only report. Starling: 200 (est), Aug 13, Eggertsville roost (HDM).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Myrtle Warbler: one summering individual, Jun 5 (RDR et al) and Jul 9 (RFA), McCarty Hill. *Prairie Warbler*: one singing male, Jun 25 and 27, McClure Hollow, Catt Co (RFA et al). Yellow-breasted Chat: two, Jul 29, Belmont (LDB).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Common Grackle: 1000, Aug 11, over Hamburg (TLB); 2500 (est), Aug 13, Eggertsville roost (HDM). *House Finch*: ad male, often heard singing, came to a feeding station for sunflower seeds at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Armstrong on Burbank Drive, Snyder (suburban Bflo), Jun 18-late Jul; during Jul it was observed by most of the active field observers of the Region (RFA, HDM, RB et al) and it was photographed on Jul 8 (HDM); this is the first known record for the Region.

Erratum: Vol. XV, No. 3, p. 164—Harris' Sparrow: this bird was last seen on May 12 (HDM).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Temperatures for the whole period averaged below normal, with July showing the greatest deviation, more than 4 degrees below normal. The summer, especially the early part, was very dry. June had less than one-quarter of the average rainfall; July a little over half, while the first half of August had somewhat less than normal rainfall. Moderate drought conditions prevailed during the whole period.

The most outstanding birds reported included Wilson's Phalarope, Little Gull, Barn Owl and Clay-colored Sparrow.