

bird appeared uniformly dark to him.) The question was now raised: Could it actually have been an immature Bald Eagle?" I now had my own second thoughts, for it occurred to me that a Golden, showing any light in the wing, should show some light in the tail—and this bird definitely had an all-dark tail.

When my four pictures returned from processing, my husband, Dr. Walter Spofford, examined them—and on the basis of the first picture identified the bird as a Golden Eagle. But after looking at the other three shots, he was able to identify it definitely as an immature Bald Eagle, from head and tail shape as well as plumage.

This was a valuable experience for all of us, emphasizing the need for caution and the difficulty of identification under some lighting conditions and at certain distances or from a single picture. And as D. B. Peakall pointed out in *Kingbird* 15(4) p. 219 subsequent observers often accept too readily an identification by a first observer—in this case myself! Photographs can be of great value in such circumstances.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

June 1–August 15

DAVID B. PEAKALL

One of the most important events of the summer was the launching, on a nation-wide basis, of the Breeding Bird Survey. These surveys are organized by Chandler Robbins of the Migratory Bird Populations Station at Laurel, Maryland (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). In these surveys observers drive 25 miles with stops of three minutes every half-mile. At each stop the numbers of all species seen or heard are recorded. This summer 586 survey routes were completed in the 26 states east of the Mississippi and in four Canadian Provinces. In all 518,176 birds of 274 species were recorded. The most abundant species recorded were Common Grackle, Starling, House Sparrow, Redwing and Robin. Several of these surveys were carried out in this state, but more observers are needed and it is vital that these surveys are repeated annually. This program should complement the information obtained from the Nest Record Card Program. For example, losses on the wintering grounds would show up by a decrease in numbers on the Breeding Bird Survey although breeding success would remain normal. Conversely, with pesticides a decrease in breeding success shown by the Nest Record Card Program would be expected to precede a decrease in the numbers on the Breeding Bird Survey. These transits of the Fish and Wildlife Service study are the mechanized successor of the line transits of Gross and Ray in their Illinois survey referred to in a previous summary (Vol. 15:226) and of the singing warbler counts that Scheider has been carrying out for several years in the Tug Hill.

The Willet was added to the list of breeding birds of the state by the

discovery of three nests on Long Island. In view of the discontinuous range of this species (it breeds in Nova Scotia and from New Jersey south and has bred in Mass. and Conn.) the discovery on Long Island is not completely unexpected. There were other interesting breeding records from that area, including further documentation of the increase of the Great Black-backed Gull and the Glossy Ibis.

Three visits to Gardiner's Island showed the nesting failure of the Osprey; only two nests out of twenty-four contained young on June 18, when young would be expected in all nests that would raise young. The expansion of the Goshawk into lower altitudes has not been sustained this summer. No nests were found in Regions 5 & 6 compared to 2-3 nests in each of the last three years. A single nesting of the Cooper's Hawk was noted in the state (Region 3) and an unsuccessful attempt by Bald Eagle (Region 2). Otherwise the general hawk situation was similar to the usual dismal picture with only the Redtail and possibly the Broadwing holding their own.

Two other breeding records of note are the finding of the nest of the Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Tug Hill and the trapping of a juvenile Saw-whet Owl on Long Island. Henslow's Sparrows were noted as absent from many usual breeding areas in Regions 5 & 8 but this species had a good season in Region 3.

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Abbreviations used in regional reports: arr-arrival, arrived; 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

ALICE E. AND EDWARD C. ULRICH

A deficiency of rainfall and a rise in temperature that brought an excess of 2.6 degrees above the average made June a warm and dry month. Continued increased warmth in July and August eliminated a minus degree temperature and at the end of August, there was an excess of 50 degrees for the ending of the period. Rainfall, exceptionally heavy in July, and slightly so in August raised the yearly total for the year nearly to normal. These weather records are from the U.S. Weather Station at the greater Buffalo International Airport. Other parts of the area missed the rainfall and suffered from almost drought conditions.

There are reports of good duck nestings from the ponds and marshes of Western New York. Frances Rew records 180-200 Wood Duck, mostly immatures, at the Riverside Marsh near Jamestown. There are reports of good concentrations of mixed flocks of Mallards and Wood Ducks from