

When the gull flew to within 150 ft. of us, we noted with 9× and 7× binoculars that the underwing was partly gray, as dark as the darkest part of the mantle in the perched bird. Spies, with 7× binoculars, also saw a white triangle, like that of the Bonaparte's, on the upper wing surface.

After a few moments the gull returned to the log, where it was studied for about half an hour under a hazy-clear sky with the sun behind and to the left of the observers.

Directly we had noted the red bill, we realized this was not a Bonaparte's, but one of the other rare hooded gulls, so were watching for the other distinguishing marks, and made notes on them and sketches of the head while the bird was still under observation.

The above description fits a Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) which had hatched the previous summer. I had seen the species in Europe and — perhaps more relevant — two or three winter individuals with Bonaparte's at Newburyport, Mass., where they are regular though rare.

This is a first record for Region 5; there are about 11 other modern records (seven in Buffalo and four in the Rochester vicinity) for upstate New York.

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CORRIGENDUM: Vol. XVII, No. 2, May 1967, p. 85, Field note *Gull with Dark Slate-colored Mantle at Oswego* should begin: "On January 22, 1967..."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

JUNE 1 — AUGUST 15

DAVID B. PEAKALL

In the past I have bemoaned the fact that the information on breeding populations is much less and much vaguer than that available for other seasons. Now there is some hope that the situation will be remedied by the data from the Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Surveys. Les Bemont has made particularly good use of these surveys in his regional report and an interesting listing of the 'top 25' is given by Wickham in the summary of his report. The value of this data will increase from year to year. At the risk of boring my readers I will make an appeal for all observers to fill out nest record cards on all active nests that they found this summer.

The decline of the Henslow's Sparrow mentioned in the previous summary was well substantiated by several regional editors. The comments of those editors mentioning the species were as follows: Region 1: "absent from many previous breeding localities and the few active colonies consisted of few (two to four) pairs"; Region 2: "very scarce, being absent from most usual localities;" Region 3: "were missing from several usual stations, and were difficult to find;" Region 4: "five individuals on two breeding surveys, only three other reports;" Region 5: "a paucity of breeding nine known sites in 1967 (only half the normal number);" Region 8: "no reports for second summer in succession." The position of the Grasshopper Sparrow was more variable. Some regional editors considered it to be also decreasing but others reported good populations.

The Purple Martin population was reported to be low over a wide area due to adverse weather this spring and the previous one. Sundell comments that the population is certainly at a new (perhaps all-time) low. However Scheider, while reporting low numbers, comments on excellent breeding success. If adverse weather is the major factor, as it appears to be, then we can expect a rapid recovery. The weather conditions — cold, wet days and freezing nights — were analysed by our president and presented at the last Federation meeting.

The Western Meadowlark was reported in Regions 1, 5, & 9. This species now breeds in fair numbers in south-western Ontario. Other notable breeding records were that of the Golden-crowned Kinglet in Region 1, the Orchard Oriole in Region 2, the low numbers of Hooded Warblers in Region 5, Mockingbird in Region 6 and a summering record of the House Finch in Region 8.

Rare aves include Marbled Godwit (Region 2), Black-headed Gull (Region 5), Audubon Shearwater and Skua (Region 10). Les Bemont has pointed out to me that my comment in the winter summary on the Lark Bunting is incorrect. There are two upstate records, the first one being in Region 4 in 1960.

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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; F&WBBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 25-mile Breeding Bird Survey.

All numbers given are the number of individuals unless otherwise stated.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

June was considerably warmer than usual throughout the Region. Records of the Buffalo Weather Bureau showed an average temperature of 72.5 degrees (7.7 degrees above the mean), the hottest month ever. The first half brought two extended periods of very hot weather while the latter half was slightly cooler. Precipitation was nearly normal. In the Buffalo area, the average temperature for July was 1.4 degrees above the mean while in August it was almost normal. Violent weather, including heavy thunderstorms which produced local flooding, raked the Southern Tier on June 21–22, July 20, and August 3–4. On July 24, a tornado was observed near Ashford in Cattaraugus County. Precipitation was also near or above average for August, especially where the severe local storms occurred. The heavy rainfall eased eight years of drought or semi-drought conditions in western New York State.

Waterfowl, especially the Wood Duck, brought off many young. Successful single nest sites of the Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered Hawks