

By July 30th, the young were independent, and after this both they and the adults came to the trap, singly. Several were caught and banded. Both this year, and in 1968, it appeared that the males brought the young to the feeder, and no females were seen at this time.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

June 1—August 15

DAVID B. PEAKALL

The Icterids, like the poor, are always with us. Three years ago I mentioned that there was some evidence that bird life was becoming less diverse and quoted the work of the Grabers in Illinois. They found that although the total number of breeding birds in that state had changed little from early this century, the numbers of many species had declined seriously whereas the population of only a few had markedly increased.

The Icterids are successful not only from the viewpoint of their numbers but also when judged by their recent range expansion. Three western species have been moving eastwards in the last few decades. These are the Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Brewer's Blackbird. The Western Meadowlark spread rapidly across Ontario after the first nesting in 1929. The first specimen for New York was obtained near Rochester in 1948. Evidence suggestive of breeding in the Rochester area was obtained in 1957 and in the Niagara Frontier in 1960. In 1962 nesting was definitely established near Poughkeepsie, in this case hybridising with an Eastern Meadowlark. It seems likely that the Western and Eastern Meadowlarks, formerly separated ecologically, are now coming together again. The Yellow-headed Blackbird first nested in Ontario in 1931 but its spread has been slower than that of the Western Meadowlark. However, recently it has bred in south-western Ontario. Brewer's Blackbird moved into Michigan in the late 1940's; there were only two records before 1943 but a decade later it was locally common in the Upper Peninsula and south-western Michigan. In Ontario it first bred in 1945 at Port Arthur, reached Sunbury by 1962 and southern Ontario (Wellington County) by 1967. It is now within a hundred miles of New York State. So far there have been few records of this species in the state; two sight records in 1953 and the first specimen in the winter of 1966. Even so, the remarkable range extension of this species suggests that it would be worth looking for breeding in this state.

The markedly increased production of young from the Osprey colony on Gardiner's Island is most encouraging. It suggests that there is still hope of reversing the downward path before breeding ceases completely. The rate of decline over the last fifteen years had suggested that this would occur within a few years. The correlation with the halting of the

spraying of Suffolk county with DDT for mosquito control is unproven scientifically but is certainly suggestive. The halting of this spraying was brought about by the Environmental Defense Fund. This organization is working through court actions to limit the spraying of persistent pesticides.

The nesting report of Black Rail on Long Island seems rather like black magic, but I have to admit I wish I was in on the magic. The first nesting of the House Finch in Region 8 represents further documentation of the spread of this species. Few state-wide changes were noted in the abundance of any species. Most of the changes noted by regional editors were local; Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows seem to be on the upswing, the Hooded Warbler is now a scarce bird throughout the state.

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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.

All numbers given are numbers of individuals unless otherwise stated.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

No report. This report period will be included in the January issue.

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for June were slightly below normal, for the rest of the period about average. Rainfall for June was slightly above average. July was very dry with only one-half the normal amount. The first half of August was very wet, with double the average rainfall.

A large number of late May migrants remained into early June in direct contrast to a year ago. A few ducks and shorebirds were recorded well into June. The few spots for migrant shorebirds dried up by late July and the early fall flight was almost nonexistent, the high lake level preventing even small mud flats.

Among the few noteworthy records may be mentioned the Glossy Ibis, Franklin's Gull and Western Meadowlark.

Observers cited in text: JJD—James J. Doherty; JF—John Foster; AEK—Mr. & Mrs. Allen E. Kemnitz; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WLL—Warren L. Lloyd; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; HSM—Howard S. Miller; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; FHP—Frank H. Phelps; MS—Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow.

Locations: BB—Braddock's Bay; DEP—Durand-Eastman Park; LS—Lake Shore; SA—Shore Acres.

LOONS—DUCKS: Black-crowned Night Heron: apparently a slight increase, max eight Jun 18 BB (WCL). Am. Bittern: occasional bird around BB and SA (several). Least Bittern: at least one pair present at SA until Aug 11 (ST *et al*). GLOSSY IBIS: one until Jul 1 at BB (WCL).