

I had seen many along the roads in the West last summer and could identify him immediately.

He remained all that day and the next, but was last seen the evening of May 13th. He fed constantly, either on the window feeder or at the edge of a juniper near the window. Redwings, Grackles and Cowbirds were also present, and when they frightened the Bunting, he would disappear under the juniper with crown feathers uplifted, to reappear almost at once and go back to feeding.

This appears to be the first verified record of a Lark Bunting in Dutchess County. It was seen by many members of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club during its brief visit.

Paul and Thelma Haight, Stanfordville, New York 13581.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Effective with the January, 1971, issue of *The Kingbird* a change in policy with regard to the publication of Regional Reports will be put into effect. New, and later, deadlines for the receipt of the Reports will be established, and these new deadlines will *not* be extended. Reports received after these deadlines will *not* be published in later issues.

I therefore urge all members to see to it that information goes to Regional Editors promptly and that Regional Editors send in their reports on time.

J. W. T.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

FRITZ SCHEIDER

The most obvious observation about the summer's birding is about observing—a lot of it was done. Counts in many areas range from backyard tabulations to singing male counts to surveys of colonial nesting species (Region 10) to the highly specific and detailed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys. The fund of data springing from the last is utilized in 50% of the regional reports at hand and demonstrates how rapidly and effectively such data can be accrued if a good system is devised and applied.

In waterbirds there is growing evidence of many Canada Goose colonies expanding in most major marsh areas of the state. Would that rising populations in hawks could be similarly reported but this is not the case—Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks among the Accipiters and Red-shouldered Hawk in the Buteos are virtually gone throughout the non-montane sectors of upstate New York. Marsh Hawks similarly are gone with most sectors reporting singles only—only Region 6 reports the species with regularity. Osprey production seemed improved on Gardiner's Island (Region 10) but down on the rest of Long Island where nest disturbance will undoubtedly ensue and increase, even if pesticides are brought under control.

Most striking was the contrast in cuckoos—reported in numbers from downstate areas (Region 9) but extraordinarily scarce in Regions 2, 3, and 5 upstate. Even more striking—and disturbing—is what appears to be a statewide decline in Whip-poor-wills despite some few more noted in Region 5. This species should be checked for next summer and it might be advisable to do “night runs” for counting of same. Paralleling the drop in Whip-poor-wills is a sharp drop in Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in central and western New York (Region 3 and 5), a situation definitely not so in the Tug Hill Plateau and the Adirondacks.

Tree Swallows were remarkably low in Regions 3 and 5 and may be similarly so in the Adirondacks (report not in as of this writing). Quite in contrast both Bank and Barn Swallows have done quite well (Regions 3, 5, & 9). Bluebirds across the state seemed very scarce and the only tallies of note involved specific bluebird nesting box projects.

Cedar Waxwings were noted as being up on both Region 2 and 5, and various Adirondacks counts suggest this may be true in that sector also.

Golden-winged Warbler was proven to breed near Gouverneur (Region 6) confirming the recently discovered expansion of 1969 in Region 5. Redstarts appear down sharply on breeding bird surveys in both Region 3 and 5, but Region 2 indicated some evidence of recovery from previous low numbers there.

Rarities for the season include the first New York state record of breeding Cattle Egret (Region 10), a Goshawk nesting in Dutchess Co. (Region 9), an out-of-season Sabine's Gull (Region 10), a Chuck-will's-widow (Region 10), a Kentucky Warbler (Region 3), and evidence of breeding House Finch in Elmira (Region 3) and summering House Finch in Syracuse (Region 5).

It is regretted that reports from Regions 1, 4, 7, and 8 were not available for this summary.

417 South Main Street, North Syracuse, New York 13212

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

Report for period April 1—May 31.

The weather for the first twenty-five days of April was about normal with average temperatures but the last five days brought unseasonal heat and averaged eighteen degrees above normal. Precipitation was approximately one half inch below the long-term average. The ice on Chautauqua Lake did not break up until mid-April, two to three weeks later than usual. May was a pleasant month with both temperature and precipitation somewhat below average.

Observations and trends noted were: (1) the best flight of loons (both species) in at least fifteen years, (2) a slight improvement in the showing of the herons and related forms, (3) average or below average numbers of nearly all species of