

Warbler: arr 2 banded May 2 Riverside (ADR, CMN); 1 May 2 Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (AF et al).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr early 2 Apr 27 Point Gratiot (RB et al). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: singles Apr 12, May 17 OO area BOSAC and MC; 1 May 2 Lakeview (TLB). Orchard Oriole: 1 May 9 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (TLB); 6 May 17 Bolivar area BOSMC. Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 Apr 29 Jamestown (CB); 1119 May 17 BOSMC. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: female critically identified at close range at feeder May 16 Hamburg (TLB). Scarlet Tanager: arr 1 Apr 29 Sheridan (RB); 389 May 17 BOSMC.

Cardinal: 501 Apr 12 BOSAC; 593 May 17 BOSMC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 429 May 17 BOSMC. BLUE GROSBEAK: adult male carefully observed May 8 Riverside (ADR, CMN)—first record for region since 1950. Indigo Bunting: arr 1 at feeder May 2 Jamestown (Caney). PAINTED BUNTING: adult male photographed at feeder May 18—21 Williamsville (HDM, WAM et al)—first substantiated record for region. Evening Grosbeak: excellent early Apr flight—929 Apr 12 BOSAC; 80 May 17 BOSMC. Purple Finch: 151 May 17 BOSMC. Common Redpoll: 257 Apr 12 BOSAC; 1 Apr 25 Point Gratiot (AS); last 1 at feeder Apr 28 Jamestown (Mrs. Frank Fields). Pine Siskin: 383 May 17 BOSMC. Red Crossbill: 68 May 17 Hamburg and Alfred areas BOSMC. White-winged Crossbill: 4 Apr 12 Fillmore area BOSAC. Rufous-sided Towhee: 540 May 17 BOSMC.

Tree Sparrow: 1351 Apr 12 BOSAC; last 1 at feeder Apr 29 Lewiston (WHK). CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 adult observed and song tape recorded May 17—29 near Foster L, Alfred (Klingensmith, LDB et al). White-crowned Sparrow: 516 May 17 BOSMC. Fox Sparrow: 95 Apr 12 BOSAC; last 1 at feeder May 15 Hamburg (LR et al). Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 May 1 Spring Brook (Danner); 11 May 17 BOSMC; last 1 May 24 Hamburg (TLB). Lapland Longspur: last 12 Apr 19 Conewango Township, Catt Co (OS). Snow Bunting: last 1 Apr 7 Canadaway Creek (DC).

19 Chestnut Street, Jamestown, N.Y. 14701

REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

Except for one period of about a week in mid-July and a few days in early August when high temperatures combined with high humidity in a very uncomfortable way, it was a pleasant summer in this part of the State. Very few days of 90° weather have occurred and most nights have cooled off for good sleeping. Precipitation has continued to be above normal in both June and July so that on August 1 the deficit of the early months of this year has been entirely erased, and a surplus of a little over an inch has now fallen. Fields and lawns have remained green, and wet areas contain higher than usual levels of water. In fact, there are very few places to find even the more common shorebirds in this Region not to mention rarer species.

Several of our local observers have remained quite active this summer, and the result is a good list of species not so often observed at this season. Many of these records, listed below, do not so much indicate unusual species as they show the wide variety which occurs at least in small numbers and in limited locations within the Region. There is no reason not to expect that it has been a productive breeding season for most species unless pesticides and pollution or habitat changes have been involved. Hopefully, increased public awareness of these problems will result in improvement where it is not already too late.

In the report below, some of the more interesting items include: (1) a sharp increase in Green Heron numbers and modest improvement in some other breeding herons especially Black-Browed Night Heron; (2) a poor flight of returning early shorebirds due to poor habitat; (3) a slight improvement in reports of breeding raptors; (4) much better numbers of Purple Martins and good breeding success; (5) continuing expansion of the spring Blue Jay flight in early June; (6) continued comeback of short-tailed sparrows.

Rarities noted include: Bald Eagle, Prothonotary Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations: BANS—Burroughs-Audubon Nature Sanctuary.

Observers: JB—Dr. Joseph Barra; MC—Michael Carlson; JD—James Doherty; JF—John Foster; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society Field Trip; WL—Walter Listman; MO'H—Michael O'Hara; RO'H—Richard O'Hara; TT—Thomas Tetlow.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: somewhat improved breeding status after sharp drop of a few years ago. No southern herons reported in June or July after several spring reports. Usual few reports of Least Bittern. No known breeding colonies of Great Blue Heron which is no longer a common bird until after breeding season. Green Herons are everywhere and seem to be enjoying great success locally—the first breeding heron to show really marked improvement in years. Black-Crowned Night Heron and American Bittern: usual few reports mostly from Braddocks Bay area.

A late Canada Goose was still at Manitou on June 13 (WL). Two Canvasback were at Braddocks Bay on July 24 (RO'H). A late Greater Scaup was at the same place on June 16 (WL). In July Listman also noted the following ducks at Manitou: White-winged Scoter on the 18th; Hooded Merganser on the 28th and Red-breasted Merganser on the 6th; in August a Golden-eye and a Redhead on the 3rd and a Gadwall on the 4th. This is somewhat more than the usual small number of summer wanderers or stragglers in this Region.

HAWKS—OWLS: A Cooper's Hawk, now a rare breeder here, was noted near Dansville on July 21 (WL). The same observer and John Brown also noted Broad-winged Hawks on July 12 at two points in the hills south of Rochester-Honeoye Lake and Poka-Moonshine, near Dansville. We suspect, but cannot yet prove, they are breeding in the Region. The pair of Bald Eagles is again at the Region's only nesting site, but no one seems to be certain what success, if any, they have enjoyed. Two Osprey were reported from Braddocks Bay on June 19 (JB), somewhat late, and a good count of 12 Sparrow Hawks was made on the GOS hike to Avon on June 21. These small falcons are certainly doing somewhat better as breeders than was true a few years ago. No summer flight of Redtails had occurred along the lakeshore up to the 15th of August, but so many were noted along the N.Y. State Thruway on August 12 between Rochester and Batavia (12–15) that it seemed almost certain that they were migrating birds rather than local residents (RO'H).

Few rails were noted during this breeding season, but this may be due to high water levels rather than scarcity; these species are seen more often when mud flats are exposed along the cattail edges, a condition which exists almost nowhere this summer. Gallinules are in excellent supply everywhere.

Upland Plover seemed down at the Airport; only one was noted there on June 26 and 2 on August 10 (RO'H).

Shorebirds, as noted above, are the real weak spot on the list this summer so far. One or two Short-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpipers did appear briefly in July along with a few Least Sandpiper and Yellowlegs but found no suitable place to stay and moved on quickly. In addition, several Sanderling were at Ontario Beach on July 24 and an occasional Wilson's Snipe, Pectoral Sandpiper and Solitary Sandpiper have appeared at scattered locations. There is hope that by September conditions may be

improved at Braddocks Bay or elsewhere, but it doesn't look like much of a summer or fall for these species in Region 2.

Bonaparte's Gulls returned as usual in July and both Common and Caspian Tern are now present in some numbers along the lakeshore. Black Tern seemed to enjoy a successful breeding season again and can be seen feeding young birds in many marshes.

Numbers of Mourning Doves are excellent with a continuing increase evident everywhere in the Region. On the other hand, both Cuckoos were again this summer infrequently noted.

A Barn Owl was present at the usual breeding site in Parma in late June but had disappeared in July (JD). A Barred Owl was calling at Bergen Swamp on July 2 (MC et al), and a young Great Horned was noted calling for food the same evening a few miles away (MO'H et al). Few Screech Owls were reported again this summer, although this does not necessarily indicate any change in status.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: A Whip-poor-will was reported as present all month at Poka-Moonshine in June (fide Brown). This bird is now only a very local breeder in the region and seems to be somewhat less common as a spring migrant than it was several years back. Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts are normal and Kingfishers and Flickers are both in good numbers. Our other breeding woodpeckers are all present at the usual locations except that no reports of Sapsuckers were received this summer.

Breeding flycatchers also appear to be doing well locally with Trail's perhaps increasing after a few years of decreased abundance. Swallows, likewise, are common with high flocks of Bank Swallows along the west lakeshore in late July; estimates of flocks roosting in Braddocks Bay marshes range to 10,000 or more (WL). Tree Swallows are taking advantage of many boxes set out for Bluebirds along the lakeshore and like the Purple Martins seem to have done very well.

Crows still do not appear to be present in expected numbers in this Region; while still common and seen almost every trip, numbers are not large on most check lists. On the other hand, Blue Jays are certainly increasing as a resident as well as a migrant. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported in Durand-Eastman Park as late as June 13 and again on July 24; it seems very probable that they are breeding there, but no real evidence was found. The Brown Creeper is also reported present and apparently breeding in Fairport this summer (TT). House Wrens are now back to normal in most parts of this Region and Long-billed Marsh Wrens seem to be increasing after a recent decline—one more indication of some recovery in our marsh bird population which has only been evident for a year or so. Short-billed Marsh Wrens, 2 birds, were noted singing in a Webster field in July (O'Haras); this bird has been scarce for two or three years now; it was also noted in June at Avon (JF. TT) and at Pultneyville (Perrigos).

Both the Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher are on the increase also, with the former now noted west of Rochester as well as at older stations east and south of the city (WL). A Hermit Thrush was singing at Poka-Moonshine all through June (fide Brown); this is one of the few locations where it apparently breeds regularly in Region 2; few of our other hills reach the required 2,000 ft. elevation. There is little evidence of any improvement in the very local and scattered population of Bluebirds here. Cedar Waxwings showed up in some numbers from early June on and are now near normal numbers after being scarce in the early months of the year. Listman noted Migrant Shrike on two occasions this summer in Kendall and Carlton, west of Rochester, but otherwise this bird has been unreported.

Starling are in excellent numbers, as always!

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A Solitary Vireo was singing on July 12 at Honeoye Lake (WL, JB). This is a scarce breeder in the higher hills south of Rochester and is seldom noted at this season here. The commoner breeding vireos, Red-eyed, Warb-

ling and Yellow-throated are normal in numbers with the Red-eyed showing an upturn after recent poor years.

Among our breeding warblers, most seem in normal abundance with the Yellow-throat excellent; Redstart improving after a dip, but no reports for Black-and-white or Chestnut-sided received.

The more unusual reports include Prothonotary at Oak Orchard on July 2 (MO'H et al); and on July 11 (GOS hike); and Louisiana Waterthrush on August 6 at Canandaigua Lake (RO'H). Hooded Warblers were reported only from Pellet Road where they are regular breeders.

Late spring migrants among the warblers were noted as follows: Magnolia June 7 at Manitou (WL); Black-throated Green June 17 Webster (McNetts); Blackburnian June 6 Webster (McNetts); Wilsons June 7 Manitou (WL).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark, a regular yearly occurrence west of the city recently was also noted at Lima, south of Rochester in June this year (JF). Listman again noted the Orchard Oriole at Carlton on the west Lakeshore—an immature male in song on June 13 and 14. Although Redwings and Grackles continue abundant, the Cowbird seems less common this year—a welcome trend after the great increase of recent years.

Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are present in good numbers while Indigo Buntings appear more common than a year ago. Cardinals are everywhere, apparently still increasing as the Christmas Census seems to confirm each year.

Winter finches were still present in early June in surprising variety: Evening Grosbeak 4 June 12 Manitou Beach (WL); Pine Siskin 1 June 6 (Perrigos); Red Crossbill 1 June 8 Pittsford (Perrigos), 5 June 8 same place and observers, 2 Durand-Eastman Park June 13 (MC).

Goldfinches and Towhees are common, with the latter species increasing where formerly cultivated land is returning to brush as farms continue to decline in Monroe and surrounding counties. While the short-tailed sparrows; i.e., Savannah, Henslow's, Grasshopper, are on the upswing, they are not yet at a peak of abundance in what seems to be a fluctuating population pattern. A report of Lincoln Sparrows—1 or 2 birds-at BANC in June was accompanied by a very complete description; yet it seems so improbable as to make further observation highly desirable. Other breeding species seem normal to somewhat above normal with Chipping Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow apparently increasing after rather low points in the past few years.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. McILROY AND SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

June was moderately cool, averaging about 2° below normal temperatures and with below normal rainfall. In July, temperatures were normal, with heavy rainfall—several inches above normal in some counties. The July 3 cloudburst caused extensive damage in the Newfield and Connecticut Hill areas southwest of Ithaca and undoubtedly resulted in the loss of many nests and young birds, but actually I received few reports of such. The first half of August was warmer than normal, with sunny skies and almost no rain.

I have no report from the Hornell or the Geneva areas for this summer, but am pleased to have received some notes from Canandaigua, north-western corner of the Region, from Art Schaffner. The fact that we are losing some critical birding areas due to various types of human activity, was well pointed up by remarks from Mary Welles of Elmira, who comments especially on the filling in of the Horseheads dump,