

no habitat change has ensued. The Eastern Bluebird shows no evidence of significant increase but most editors indicate no further decline—it has been over seven years now that they have been extremely scarce.

Yellow-troated Vireos were reported as decreased in 1,3,5, but somewhat increased in 2. Several sectors report sharp reduction in Red-eyed Vireos (1,2) but numbers still see quite good further east (3,5,6,7,8). Most impressive in warblers is the continued spread of Blue-winged Warbler (2,5) with virtually no concomitant advance of Golden-winged Warbler. If this continues, most of the upstate New York “winged” warbler range will be Blue-winged Warbler occupied, as Ithaca is currently, and Golden-winged Warbler will be a peripheral species at best. Other warbler tallies appear in reasonable numbers although some decline in Cerulean Warbler (3), Chestnut-sided Warbler (3), Ovenbird (2), Canada Warbler (2), and Redstart (5) is mentioned. Undoubtedly the Adirondack sector is the bastion for breeding warblers in the state but consistent, careful counting there to ascertain changes is going to be a long time coming. Why not devote one weekend of June every year to warbler counting the same place in the Adirondacks?—and mail your tallies to the editor there!

House Finch continue to spread (3,9) with documented breeding in 2,4,5. However, three other Fringillids, Indigo Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow, appear to be declining in western and southern New York but the two sparrows may be showing some recovery in numbers on the Ontario Lakeplain (2,5). Vesper Sparrow may be joining the declining species group in central New York as land use shifts from crop farming to suburban sprawl.

Seasonal rarities include Yellow-nosed Albatross (1), Audubon's Shearwater (10), White pelican (9), Cattle Egret (6), Willet, (5), Wilson's Phalarope (1,3,5), Franklin's Gull (10), Acadian Flycatcher (1), White-eyed Vireo (1,8,9), Lawrence's Warbler (3,5), Kentucky Warbler (9), Connecticut Warbler (10), and Clay-colored Sparrow (1,2) with proven breeding of the last in Region 1.

Congratulations, mazaltov, wunderbahr—ten out of ten reports! Keep it up! Send the fall period observations (15 Aug to 30 November) to your regional editor on the last day of the period. Data in means reports out.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

June showed temperatures nearly three degrees above the average and precipitation about one and a half inches above normal. July was slightly cooler than average but also showed above average precipitation; more than half (nearly two inches), however, came during a daylong rain on July 24. The first half of August was hot

and dry to the extent that crops were adversely affected by mid-month.

Points of interest or trends are: (1) the unusual counts of Common Loons on the Allegheny Reservoir; (2) the continued decline of the long-legged waders (with the possible exception of the Great Blue Heron); (3) breeding at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge of Gadwall, possibly the young birds transferred from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in 1969 and 1970; (4) a mixed showing of the hawks; (5) a few interesting shorebirds, mostly away from Lake Erie; (6) few reports of owls (but) perhaps due to little field work; (7) continued use of conifer plantations by increasing numbers of previously rare or unknown breeders such as the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Myrtle Warbler; (8) a mixed showing by the wrens; (9) a pronounced scarcity of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows throughout the entire region including their almost complete absence from the Southern Tier; (1) at least two possible new breeding localities for the White-throated Sparrow.

Rarities recorded were the Wilson's Phalarope, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo and Clay-colored Sparrow. Of special significance is confirmation of breeding by the latter species, the first totally authentic nesting record of the Clay-colored Sparrow for New York State.

Abbreviations: Catt—Cattaraugus; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; TWMA—Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

Contributors: RA—Robert Andrie; HRA—Harold and Rachel Axtell; TB—Thomas Bourne; EB—Elizabeth Brooks; RB—Richard Brownstein; GB—Gilbert Burgeson; DC—Douglas Carlson; DDC—Douglas and Donna Carlson; OGC—Otto and Gretchen Carlson; FE—Flora Elderkin; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; AR—Archie Richardson; RS—Robert Sundell.

LOONS—DUCKS: Single Common Loons are occasionally reported during the summer months but 4 on the Allegheny Reservoir throughout the summer (RS et al) and 6 there Aug 8 (AR) are unusual. Although comparative population data for the Great Blue Heron are insufficient to draw conclusions, the other long-legged waders appear to be declining; the only reports of three species were—Common Egret, singles Jul 3 INWR (Zehr et al) and Aug 3 Prendergast Point (Charles Scofield); Black-crowned Night Heron, 2 Jun 1 TWMA (RB, Seebers) and 1 Jul 20 Lakeview (TB); Least Bittern, 1 Jun 21 Boston (TB).

Two pairs of Canada Geese were observed at the Riverside Marsh area south of Jamestown with one pair rearing 5 young (FE et al). The Brant is usually very rare in this region in the spring: 1 was seen Jun 1 at Woodlawn (TB). Young Gadwall were transferred from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge to INWR in 1969 and 1970; downy young out of the nest, 12 on June 29 (Waldstein) and 5 on Jul 7 (Morse) may be from birds so transferred (RA). Late waterfowl in the Oak Orchard area on Jun 6 included 3 Pintail, 21 Green-winged Teal, 7 American Widgeon and 3 Shovelers (RB). The Ring-necked Duck, rarely observed during the summer, was seen at Barcelona Jul 19 (RS) and Aug 24 (DDC). Lesser Scaup reports included a pair Jul 30 throughout period Chautauqua Lake at Mayville (RS) and singles Jul 14 Athol Springs (TB) and Aug 15 24 Barcelona (RS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-tailed, Broad-winged and Sparrow Hawks had good nesting success but only scattered individuals of the Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Marsh Hawks were reported. Successful nesting by the Red-shouldered Hawk was observed at five sites but region-wide data are insufficient to draw firm conclusions. The increasingly scarce Bald Eagle was noted twice—single adults Jun 29 near Bemus Point (OGC) and Jul 14 on the Allegheny Reservoir south of Steamburg (GB). An early returning Osprey was noted Aug 10 (Larry Duckwell) in the same area.

Most of the shorebirds of interest occurred at inland locations. 2 Black-bellied Plovers and 4 Ruddy Turnstones Jul 29 at Prendergast Point (OGC) were early,

and the latter species rarely occurs away from Lake Erie. A Willet was closely observed flying over Lake Erie off Point Gratiot on Jun 29, an unprecedented date (Benton, Conklin); migrants are recorded regularly in early July in the western Great Lakes. Two late Greater Yellowlegs were noted Jun 6 at the TWMA (RB) while 1 Jul 12 at Dewittville (Campbell) was early. Another shorebird rarely seen away from Lake Erie is the Knot, one of which was observed Jul 30 at Langford Pond (TB). Although regular at this location, 3 Stilt Sandpipers Jul 13 at Prendergast Point (DDC) were early. A count of 47 Sanderlings Aug 5 along the Dunkirk-Canadaway Creek shoreline was noteworthy for the southern shore of Lake Erie (DDC). A *WILSON'S PHALAROPE* was recorded Jul 26 at Athol Springs (TB).

Continuing the pattern of the past several years, a few Caspian Terns were noted, 2 Jun 11 (TB) and 1 Jul 13 (RA) at Bay View and 1 Jul 19 at Barcelona (RS).

The paucity of records of owls may reflect a lack of effort by observers rather than a scarcity of these primarily nocturnal species. Nesting of the Barn Owl is rarely noted so a nest in a silo on a farm near Johnsonburg Jul 18 is noteworthy; the last of 3 young fledged on Jul 27 (WAM et al). A Long-eared Owl was recorded at Hamburg on Jul 10 (TB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: The increasingly scarce Whip-poor-will was present at three localities—4 on Jun 4 and 2 Jun 9 in Cold Spring Township, Catt County (RS et al) and singles Jul 1–15 near Bemus Point (Danielsons) and Jul 2 at Versailles (HRA). An adult male Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen Jun 1 at Riverside Marsh (FE, Pillsbury), an unusual locality for this species. Evidence is accumulating that this region is being reoccupied by the *ACADIAN FLYCATCHER* which withdrew as a scarce breeder in the mid 1940s; individuals were carefully identified Jun 27 and Jul 2 at Gowanda and Jul 4 in Allegany State Park (HRA). An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Buffalo Jun 16 was nearly a week later than usual departure of spring migrants; the first fall bird was noted Aug 12 in Buffalo (both by Wilcove and Goodman). An unusually large Bank Swallow colony consisting of 400 birds was found Jul 2 along Catt Creek (HRA).

Red-breasted Nuthatches are being found with increasing frequency in conifer plantations; 3 young out of the nest were seen Jul 18 at the Allenberg Bog (Mitchell et al).

Winter Wrens were found in four spots, all probably breeding localities. Breeding Carolina Wrens were noted at Spring Brook (Danner) and Barcelona (RS), while pairs at Jamestown and Clarks Corners, Chautauqua County (both GB) may have nested. The disappearing Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported twice—2 Jun 6 at Clarence (RB) and 1 Jun 24 at North Collins (TB).

A Mockingbird nesting record was provided by the report of 3 young out of the nest Aug 3 near Brocton (DC). Golden-crowned Kinglets, now nesting regularly in spruce plantations, included 6 Jun 19 and 25 and 7 Jul 4 in Farmersville Township Catt County (RA). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were noted Jul 15 in Wellsville (Burtons), Jul 20 in Eden (TB) and Aug 15 in Langford (WAM).

VIREOS—SPARROWS: The rare but increasing *WHITE-EYED VIREO* was observed at two locations—1 Jun 5 (RS et al) and 2 Jun 6 (DC) in Cold Spring Township, Catt County, and a pair Jul 2 on the Catt Indian Reservation (HRA). The Yellow-throated Vireo continues extremely scarce and very local, and the Red-eyed Vireo population level is also very much depressed.

The Myrtle Warbler appears to be prospering as a new breeding species in southwestern New York; 3 or 4 breeding pairs were noted in the Alfred area in Jun and 2 active nests were located (EB et al) in a Scotch pine plantation at Foster Lake; a singing male was noted Jul 1 on Pine Hill near Randolph (AR); an early fall-migrant was recorded Aug 14 in Jamestown (RS). The always scarce Yellow-breasted Chat was reported Jun 4 in Clarksburg (TB) and Jun 17 in Falconer (RS).

Single *WESTERN MEADOWLARKS* were reported from three locations—Jun 6

Barker (Klabundes), Jun 19 Vernal Corners, Wyoming County (RA) and Jun 25 Hamburg Township (RA).

Although the Savannah Sparrow continues to maintain its numbers, Grasshopper and particularly Henslow's Sparrows seem to be declining with more regular stations abandoned each summer; both are practically absent now from the Southern Tier counties. A pair of *CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS* nested in a Scotch pine plantation at Foster Lake near Alfred; the nest with 3 young was found Jun 15 with the young fledging Jun 20; the male was still singing Jul 22 (EB et al); photographs and tape recordings have been obtained verifying this as the first confirmed nesting for the state. The White-throated Sparrow was noted in several probable breeding locations including near Alfred, the Kinney Swamp at Birdsall and in Allegany State Park.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

The summer has been somewhat cooler and wetter than usual this year, but there have also been generous amounts of sunshine. The local weather service credits this tendency to the fact that most storms or cold fronts have passed farther to the east than usual.

Rainfall was an inch above normal for June and almost three inches above in July. The first half of August was dry, but rainfall for the year remained over two inches above normal at mid-month. There were several unusually cool days and nights but only four days of 90° or over.

Water levels remained high on the lakeshore, but some mud flats were available on the edges of ponds west of Rochester where shorebirds had begun to gather by late July.

Most local observers did not seem as active this summer as last, but some fine reports have been received nonetheless. It was encouraging to note a wide range of area coverage away from Lake Ontario during the breeding season which provides a better balanced view of our local populations of several species. Local observers are again encouraged to submit their observations regularly, even those which produce only routine results. These provide the best basis we have to note trends which a single observer or scattered observations cannot detect.

Among the more interesting tendencies revealed by this summer's observations are: (1) improvement in numbers of some herons and marsh birds; (2) indications of breeding success for local duck populations; (3) increase continues for Mourning Doves; (4) good reports of both Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls; (5) increases for several species of woodpeckers, swallows and sparrows; (6) apparent scarcity of cuckoos, Barn Owl, Nighthawk, Phoebe, marsh wrens, and perhaps some vireos, i.e., Red-eyed, and warblers, i.e., Ovenbird and Canada.

Rarities: Ring-necked Duck, Bald Eagle, Carolina Wren, Brewster's Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, House Finch.

Abbreviations: BB Braddocks Bay; BS Bergen Swamp; EP—Ellison Park; MB—Manitou Beach; MP—Mendon Ponds; PM Pk—Powder Mill Park; RP—Round Pond; WP—Webster Park.

Observers: JC—Jack Connors; MC—Michael Carlson; GD—Gertrude Davis; JF—John Foster; RF—Robert Folker; JH—June Haller; WL—Walt Listman; AM—Al Maley; J&TM—Joe and Thelma McNett; m.ob.—many observers; BO—Bernard Olin; RO'H—Richard O'Hara; BP—Betty Perrigo; GP—Glen Perrigo.

LOONS—DUCKS: Only one report of Pied-billed Grebe was received, a single bird on June 20 (J&TM). This is somewhat in contrast to last summer when several