

REGION 2 — GENESEE

THOMAS E. TETLOW

One of the most common expressions heard this past summer was, "Hasn't this been a beautiful summer—" And that it was! Temperatures for the period averaged about 73 degrees. Rainfall in June was average, but July and the first half of August fell short of the norm by over four inches.

Although the water level of Lake Ontario remained high, there was enough drop during the period to provide a few exposed areas for returniig shorebirds.

Rarities Include: Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Marbled Godwit, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Forster's Tern, Barn Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Orchard Oriole, House Finch.

ABBREVIATIONS: BB—Braddocks Bay; Ham—Hamilin; FPT—Fairport; WLS—West Lake Shore.

OBSERVERS: J&JC—John & Joyce Connor; RD—Robert Dobson; MC—Michael Carlson; WL—Walter Listman; T&MT—Thomas & Michael Tetlow; JU—Joan Uebelacker; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society.

LOONS—DUCKS: Although no specific information was received as to the nesting success of Herons, I would have to surmise from the numbers of reports received, and my own observations, that they had a very successful year. *LITTLE BLUE HERON*: 1 June 3 BB (J&JC); this is, or I should say was, our first report of an adult in Region 2 and only the fourth bird seen since the early '40's; another report of *LITTLE BLUE HERON* was received too late for inclusion in the last issue, but, nevertheless, still noteworthy; on May 1 an adult Little Blue was observed and photographed on the Redman Road in HAM by (Frank & RD). Cattle Egret: 1-8 all June BB (J&JC et al); 4 Aug 5 BB (Jean Skelly). Black-crowned Night Heron: max 30 all June BB (WL). Least Bittern: reports were more frequent than in previous years; possibly this was brought on by the high water forcing them into more exposed areas. *GLOSSY IBIS*: 2 June 9 BB (MC). Mallard and Blue-winged Teal had a very successful year in our area.

HAWKS—OWLS: Accipiters were unreported during the entire period. For the second year in a row, the Red-tailed Hawk nesting success seems to be on the increase. Broad-winged Hawk: 7 seen on Aug 11 BB (WL); this is a good number for this often-missed fall migrant. Bald Eagle: 1 imm June 1 BB (MC&JU); 1 imm June 17 Kendall (RD); officially no reports were received on eagles at Hemlock Lake; unofficially, reports were received that the birds were still present and that an immature bird was seen in the vicinity of the new nesting site. Marsh Hawks were observed courting and carrying nesting material at BB, but the outcome of this activity is uncertain. Common Gallinule, like most other birds inhabiting the lakeshore marshes, experienced a minor population explosion. Solitary Sandpiper: 1 July 8 FPT (T&MT); max 5 July 17 same location. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 62 July 18-25 FPT (T&MT). *MARBLED GODWIT*: 1 June 9 BB (MC); this was our second report this spring of this rare shorebird. *BLACK-NECKED STILT*: 1 June 3 FPT (T&MT) — first report for Region; (Field note will appear in subsequent issue). *WILSON'S PHALAROPE*: 1 June 8 FPT (T&MT); 1 Aug 7 Greece (MC). Gulls and Terns were notable only because of their decreased numbers along the lakeshore. Ring-billed Gull: 1 Aug 11 BB (MC); this bird had a red and blue marker on its left leg; its age was not reported. A single *FORSTER'S TERN* was seen at Kendall June 9 (WL). Common Tern was reported in very low numbers and Black Tern did not seem to have had the nesting

success it experienced in previous years. All observers reported that both Yellow Black-billed Cuckoos were present in above average numbers. After an absence of 3 years the *BARN OWL* is again being reported — 1-3 adults June, July Hilton (T&MT); 1 imm July Honeoye Falls (J. Taylor). Barred Owl: 1-2 June, July Canadice (J&JC), previously unreported from this area.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Common Nighthawk: still decreasing in numbers. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 June 9 WLS (MC&JU). *ACADIAN FLYCATCHER*: 1 June 9 WLS (MC et al). 1 June 10 Avon (GOS). Brown Creeper and Winter Wren both successfully raised young in Irondequoit (N&L Moon); the latter being a new record for Monroe Co. A single Winter Wren was also heard singing in Penfield throughout June and July (G. Davis). Carolina Wren seems to have had a comeback in our area; by the end of the period, 8 individuals had been reported. Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1 June 27-30 BB (WL). Loggershead Shrike was only reported on 2 occasions, with no indication of nesting.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Most migrants had departed by the end of the first week in June. There were no reports of late departures. No reports were received pertaining to the abundance of local nesting birds, although a few of the more active birders in the area felt there was some decrease in the numbers of Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos. Yellow Warblers were very common, just the reverse of last year. Blackpoll Warblers: 20 June 1 Greece (MC&JU); this was a good count for this late in the season.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: The Western Meadowlark that has frequented an area west of Rochester in past years was unreported. (WL) reports that the *ORCHARD ORIOLE* nesting on his property in Carlton successfully raised 4 young. Rusty Blackbird: 1 June 9 BB (WL); this is a late date for our area. Evening Grosbeak: 1 June 7 Webster (J&T McNett). Purple Finch was unreported as a nesting bird. *HOUSE FINCH*: 1 male July 3 Brighton (E Lank). Red Crossbill: still present in good numbers thru the 14th June when 8 were seen in Webster (D Spier). A late Lincoln Sparrow was observed June 1 in Greece (MC).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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At Ithaca this was the warmest summer since 1959 with many warm nights. Daytime temperatures were not unusually high but many days in the 80's and a few in the 90's. Rainfall was normal in June but below after that.

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge had its second successive summer of poor birding. In the aftermath of the flooding by "Agnes" last year, the Main Pool was drained early this Spring and has remained dry all summer to kill the carp brought in by the flooding and to facilitate repairs to the dikes. The destruction of most of the broods of ducks and marsh nesters by the flood waters last year left few one year birds to return as breeders in 1973. The mudflats produced by the draining of the pool held some shorebirds at the Refuge as late as June 14. In all, nine species of shorebirds lingered into June. One other plus from the drainage was the production during the summer of an enormous quantity of rank smartweed in the Pool bed. This will supply a large amount of duck food this Fall. The "Fall" migration of shorebirds started in early July as usual. For a few days it was excellent until the mudflats dried up or were overgrown with vegetation. When the habitat was gone, the shorebirds largely disappeared. One other plus for the season was the presence of 3 Bald Eagles at the Refuge all during the summer.