

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

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Generally speaking, the summer weather across the state would be classified as "good", albeit a touch on the wet side. Particularly June was wetter than normal, but August was on the dry side, and everywhere were the usual short-lived very hot spells. On the positive side, the weather produced abundant vegetation for good nest concealment (Region 1) and an outstanding fruit and cone crop (Region 7). Negatively, the high water flooded some otherwise good shorebird habitat (Region 2) and ruined some nestings (Region 5—which apparently was wetter than the rest of the State.)

Heron as a whole seemed to enjoy good breeding success across the state. Particularly was this true of the Great Blue which was reported as normal (3, 4, 8) or better (1, 5, 6, 9), and even Black-crowned Night Herons, which in many areas have been very scarce, may be turning the corner (1, 2, 7, 9). There was a mild incursion of Great Egrets (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9), and Snowy Egrets occurred in 1, 2 and 9. Cattle Egrets nested for the first time in western New York (2) and for the second year in a row in 7—the Adirondack Region, on islands in Lake Champlain. Ducks were in about normal numbers, except for the Black which continues to decline, being reported as down (3), low (2, 5, 6) or non-existent (1); the exception is Region 7 where "many broods" of Black Ducks were reported.

The extent of the northward (and eastward?) movement of the Turkey Vulture is shown by the fact that they were reported from all Regions except 2 and 8. Goshawks nested in 1, 2 and 3 and were seen in 7 and 8. Of the buteos, Red-tails continued to prosper everywhere (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8), and Broad-winged apparently bred in 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9. Red-shoulders continued scarce in most areas (1, 5, 7, 8), but a few reported them in reasonable numbers (3, 4, 9). Shorebirds returned on time and in average numbers except in 2 and 5 where their presence was affected by the high water and resultant reduced habitat referred to above. Willets appeared again this summer in the western part of the state (1, 2), and two Ruffs in breeding plumage and two Reeves were reported in 3. Wilson's Phalarope occurred in 1, 2, 3 and 5 and Northern Phalarope in 5 and 6. Gulls were in normal numbers, but Terns were scarce, both Common (2, 5) and Black (2, 3 and 5). The exception in the case of the Black Tern is the Upper & Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area in Region 6 where these birds were in large numbers. Both Cuckoos were everywhere in low numbers, Mourning Doves, on the other hand, are booming.

Common Nighthawks were scarce in some Regions (1, 2, 5) and close to normal in others (3, 4, 7). With the possible exception of Rough-winged Swallow (1, 3, 5, 7) the Swallow species appear to be recover-

ing from their lows of a few years ago. Especially is this so in the case of the Purple Martin (1, 2, 3, 6, 9). Wrens were spotty. House Wrens were up in many Regions (1, 3, 4, 5, 8). Winter Wrens were found in new places or in increased numbers (2, 5, 6), and where they were reported Carolina Wrens continued to increase (1, 4, 5, 9). Conversely Long-billed Marsh Wrens were either unreported or in very low numbers in most Regions (1, 3, 5, 8), the exception being 9 where in some marshes it was reported as abundant. The Mockingbird continues to extend its range northward (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7), but, incredibly, Loggerhead Shrikes were totally unreported except for Region 6. What has happened to this bird? Warblers generally seem to have nested in normal numbers, although in the more northern counties Northern Waterthrushes were scarce (6, 7). House Finches were unreported from Regions where they had previously been seen (1, 2), but continued to increase in others (3, 4).

Rarities for the season included Mute Swan (1), Cinnamon Teal (3), Yellow-crowned Night Heron (2, 9), Swallow-tailed Kite (9), Western Sandpiper (1), American Avocet (3), Raven (3), Acadian Flycatcher (2, 5, 9) and Bewick's Wren-breeding (9).

It is exceedingly disappointing to me that we cannot get timely reports from Region 10.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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Goldilocks would have enjoyed this "not too" summer: "not too" hot and "not too" dry — but "just right". Although between June 2nd and 10th temperatures averaged 6.3° above the June normal, the average for the total summer period was close to normal. With precipitation for June, 1 inch, and for July, 2 inches, above average at higher elevations of the Region, abundant vegetation afforded optimum nest concealment even through the August period when rainfall was 1.7 inches below normal. (Meteorological data by Courtesy of Robert Place, Alfred Coop. Weather Station.)

Reports were received this year from Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in Allegany County. In 1970 a program of eighteen "mini" Breeding Bird Survey routes was initiated in the county by Doctor Clarence Klingensmith, after the plan of the Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey. Each route is 12 miles, with 25 stops, and starts a half hour before sunrise. With exception of some routes in 1972 because of the flood, all have been covered each year in June or early July. Species reported on these surveys in previous years, but absent in 1974, include; Mallard, Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Purple Martin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and Red Crossbill. Totals for this year are 8262 individuals and 93 species. Observers for 1974 were. EB, LB, Donald Clark, Christine Ferrand, CK, Erma Larson, Katherine Palmer, VP, Ronald Stubley, and Larry Wilson, with assistants: DB, Jane