

(H). Wilson's Warbler 54(M+). Canada Warbler 95(M+). American Redstart 288(M+).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow 3635(M). Bobolink 906(M-). Eastern Meadowlark 623(L). Red-winged Blackbird 9688(M-). Orchard Oriole 1(M) (Lowbanks, Ont.). Northern Oriole 862(M-). Rusty Blackbird 48(M). Common Grackle 6954(M-). Brown-headed Cowbird 1932(M). Scarlet Tanager 196(M+). Cardinal 687(H+). Rose-breasted Grosbeak 546(M+). Indigo Bunting 255(H). Evening Grosbeak 58(M). Purple Finch 208(M+). Pine Siskin 236(M+). American Goldfinch 3399(M). White-winged Crossbill 6(H).

Rufous-sided Towhee 494(M-). Savannah Sparrow 278(M). Grasshopper Sparrow 8(M). Henslow's Sparrow 4(L-). Vesper Sparrow 76(M-). Dark-eyed Junco 120(M). Chipping Sparrow 953(M). Field Sparrow 444(M). White-crowned Sparrow 182(M-). White-throated Sparrow 173(M). Lincoln's Sparrow 4(M). Swamp Sparrow 140(M-). Song Sparrow 2331(M-).

REGION 2 — GENESSEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

Summer has been a pleasant season in Rochester this year although weather patterns have seemed somewhat erratic. Precipitation has remained well above normal and almost 8 inches ahead of last year in spite of a 3 week drought in mid-July. We have had only a few days above 90° and there have been many pleasant, sunny days with much lower temperatures. Marshes and lakes remain filled to overflowing, including Lake Ontario.

Spring migration continued well into early June. When some noteworthy reports of herons, shorebirds, hawks and flycatchers came from the lakeshore and elsewhere. More field work than usual took place during the nesting season especially in the Bristol Hills region south of Rochester. This continues a recent trend and has produced some of the most interesting reports noted below.

Returning shorebirds occurred in very early July and the variety of species has been quite good although numbers are generally small. Suitable habitat is limited again due to high water so far this year. Such areas as Irondequoit Bay, the West spit at Braddock's Bay and Shore Acres have all been non-productive. Passerines have shown very little movement to date (Aug. 15th) although the usual swallows and early warblers i.e., Yellow, Northern Waterthrush, have been noted on the west lakeshore since August 1st.

Most nesting birds appear to have done well although some species were present in very reduced numbers as noted below — (see Nighthawk, Redstart, Vesper Sparrow).

Positive trends are noted for most Herons, Mallards and some other puddle ducks, accipiters (slight) Common Snipe, Mourning Dove, Carolina Wren, and Kingfisher.

Negative tendencies involve Ring-necked Pheasants, (although there are some reports of good breeding success) Common Tern, Nighthawk, Redstart, Hooded Warbler (except at Letchworth Park) and Vesper Sparrow.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Goshawk (nesting) Whimbrel, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope. Long-eared Owl (nesting), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Red Crossbill, Tree Sparrow.

OBSERVERS: BA—Beatrice Anderson; MC—Mike Carlson; JC—Julie Claffey; J&JC—Jack and Joyce Connor; RF—Robert Folker; NH—Norman Henderson; B&AK—Bea and Al Kemnitzner; WL—Walter Listman; AM—Al Maley; J&TM—Joe and Thelma McKett; BM—Barbara Molyneaux; L&NM—Laura and Neil Moon; RO—Richard O'Hara; BO—Bernard Olin; GP—Glenn Perrigo; NF—Neil Prosser; RR—Ruth

Reid; J&JS—Jeanne and Sharon Skelly; ST—Sarah Talpey; JT—Joseph Taylor; TT—Thomas Tetlow.

LOCATIONS: BB—Braddocks Bay; HL—Honeoye Lake; IC—Island Cottage; RM—Rose's Marsh; WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS—DUCKS: A Common Loon was flying low over Canandaigua Lake on July 7 (RO). Pied-billed Grebe was noted widely and apparently has increased as a local breeder with the higher water levels. An immature Double-crested Cormorant was seen June 6 at Oak Orchard (BM&RR).

Heron's really seem to be prospering, especially at RM and BB. Cattle Egrets bred here for the first time. (5 nests) TT *et al.* The degree of success is not known. A single Great Egret was noted all summer in the same area by mob. A Snowy Egret was at Summerville on Aug. 7 (MC) and what may have been the same bird was at Manitou on Aug. 12. Both immature and adult Yellow-crowned Night Herons were noted from July 6 to August 7 at RM (J&SS *et al.*) as well as other nearby marshes. There is a possibility of breeding but no positive evidence. Black-crowned Night Herons were present in good numbers all summer and were also nesting at RM. The best count was 36. (JS) Both American Bittern and Least Bittern were noted regularly and appear to be increasing. Glossy Ibis—no reports.

A few Canada Geese appeared at BB during July (WL) Mallards are really booming all along the Lakeshore. While Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks are doing well too, Black Ducks do not seem to be included in the prosperity. Both Gadwall and American Wigeon were present at RM July (TT). Green-winged Teal was also reported throughout the summer and a single Ring-necked Duck was seen in Kendall on 7/21 (WCL).

HAWKS—OWLS: The region's first Goshawk nest produced 2 young near HL (GP *et al.*). A Cooper's Hawk was at Mendon Ponds on 6/21 & 6/22 (ST) and an immature appeared in the same place on July 17 & 18. This may well be the first evidence of breeding in recent years. Another Cooper's Hawk was seen in Fairport 7/14. (TT). Broad-winged Hawks were nesting at Letchworth Park on 6/13, 2 nests (GP). Several observers also noted this bird in the HL region but no nest was found. An adult Bald Eagle was flying along the lakeshore on June 4 (JC *et al.*). Single Ospreys were seen on June 16 (J&JC) and July 26 (NH) at BB. Marsh Hawks appeared to be breeding at least 2 places on the WL Marshes. (mob).

An adult Ruffed Grouse with 10 young was noted on June 17 near HL (GP). A single Grouse was at Mendon Ponds June 15 (ST): this is an area where this bird has seldom been reported in recent years.

A pair of Virginia Rails had 2 young at Buck Pond 7/16 (NP). This bird and the Sora were not too often noted this summer but Gallinules seem to be doing as well as usual.

Among the shorebirds 21 species were noted. This includes every species which had been seen during the spring flight except Black-bellied Plover. The only fall birds which had not been seen in the spring flight were Red Knot and Sanderling. Obviously, therefore, few really unusual species were recorded in either flight so far. Among regular species noted only in reduced numbers this summer are Semipalmated Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper. Reduced habitat no doubt accounts for most of this situation. Nevertheless there have been a few interesting records including 2 Whimbrel at Manitou, July 24, (RF *et al.*) and a good count of 8 Solitary Sandpipers in one place on 7/19 (MC).

Common Snipe appear to be increasing as a breeding bird in this region. An early Red Knot appeared at Summerville on 7/24 in company with an unusually large group of 125 Sanderlings and 5 Ruddy Turnstones (R&SO *et al.*). A very early Wilson Phalarope was near Geneseo on July 1 (RO). The last spring date for this species was June 5 in company with the last White-rumped Sandpiper of the spring

WL (J&TH et. al.). Of all shore birds the best record of the fall to date is a Willet at the east spit of BB on Aug. 13 (NH&RL).

Gulls have been very ordinary this summer. Most notable perhaps has been the relative scarcity of Bonaparte's Gulls although counts of 100 were made on July 30 (MC), and Aug. 5 (NH). Terns, especially Common Tern, have also been rather scarce. Black Tern numbers have been only fair. The best count of Caspian Tern was 15 on Aug. 10, mostly at Summerville (R&SO). The highest number of Common Tern to date is a very sad 8! None at all were reported in June or early July.

Mourning Doves are continuing to increase and seem to have done well again this year. The usual small number of reports came in for both Cuckoos. Barn Owl is unreported to date. Barred Owl was reported only from Honeoye Lake area. Long-eared Owl nested near Brockport (4 young on the 16th of June (AM). There are only a very few other records of breeding here.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Whip-poor-will was reported only from its usual breeding station in Bergen Swamp. Nighthawks seem to be reduced to less than 25% of former numbers in the city of Rochester; they are absent entirely from many parts of the city where they could formerly be seen every evening. Chimney Swifts may also be declining as old chimneys go down and new buildings are heated in more modern ways. Hummingbirds and Kingfishers were both well reported this summer.

Woodpeckers showed no essential changes although no reports of breeding sap-suckers were received this year while Pileated, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers were all noted regularly in small numbers in normal areas.

It was a good summer for flycatcher records. An unusual report of a Kingbird nest on the ground came in from Honeoye Falls; it failed (BA). We are still learning about the pattern of distribution of Willow and Alder Flycatchers; it appears the former is dominant along the lakeshore while the latter is the more common inland especially at higher elevations. Early June showed many migrants still passing. An Acadian Flycatcher was seen on the 3rd and 7th at IC and an Olive-sided Flycatcher also on the 3rd was in the same place (MC). Another Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted in the same place the next day. (JC&NH). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were well reported in early June — maximum 4 on June 3 (JS&MC) — mostly from the WL. Most unusual was a report of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on July 30 at RM (MC). It is not known to breed in this Region.

Swallows appear to have had a successful breeding year including the Purple Martins which had many young out in late July and early August. The best concentration of Bank Swallows noted was 950 on July 30 WL (MC et. al.).

A Brown Creeper was seen in Webster on July 30 (B&AK). This is not a normal breeding location. Winter Wren was reported from a new area, Cumming Natue Center near HL on July 21. (L&NM). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was present in Perinton on June 4 (JF&LM).

Mockingbirds apparently bred on Jane's Rd. in Greece this year (mob.); this is a new location for this species. Hermit Thrushes were singing regularly at the Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area south of HL (mob). Bluebirds seemed almost common at Seneca Point on Canandaigua Lake — several nesting boxes had pairs in early July (RO); an adult male was on another box on WL where the bird has been absent as a breeder for many years, July 24 (RF et. al.). Golden-crowned Kinglets were noted regularly at HL (max. 3) (J&JC); this is the nearest to Rochester this species is known to be present and probably nesting. Loggerhead Shrike was unreported during this season.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: These species were well reported from their usual nesting areas but there were no very unusual records either for location or numbers. Solitary Vireo was evidently breeding at HL at about 1,500 ft. elevation (J&JC et. al.)

Prothonotary Warbler was noted at RM 6/16 (AM); this is a possible nesting

area. Some species seemed less common than usual at least in certain locations. Fewer Golden-winged Warblers were noted at Powder Mill Park and at Leroy while the Blue-winged Warblers may be spreading in the high country south of Rochester where it seems to be present at higher elevations than previously noted (JT). Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian Warblers were particularly well reported from HL by mob. A Cerulean Warbler at IC on 7/11 was unusual for the location (MC). Hooded Warblers were reported only from Letchworth Park where 5 birds were present on June 13 (AM) and their usual station at Pellet Road in Webster; many previous breeding areas are presently abandoned. At least 3 Yellow-breasted Chats were at the usual Leroy station on July 1st (R&SC) Redstarts seemed sharply down almost everywhere; the highest report for any June day was only 51; many reports contained only 1 or 2 and sometimes none. Observers are urged to give numbers rather than just a check mark so that trends for all species can be reported accurately.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Most species in this group were reported in normal numbers and expected locations. The Orchard Orioles must have raised more than one brood at Point Breeze this year where 7 young were reported in late summer (WL). House Finches have not been reported since May and apparently did not breed in this region. Pine Siskins on the contrary were reported present all during June in Fairport and may have bred (BO). Two male Red Crossbills were seen and one heard singing on July 11 at Payne Beach (MC). this lakeshore area is not a suitable breeding location and the record is abnormal.

In some areas the short-tailed Sparrows, i.e. Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's still seem scarce but in other places they seem to be recovering from recent low numbers. Probably these species are always shifting in abundance as habitat changes dictate. Vesper Sparrow seemed to be especially down in numbers to many local observers. Dark-eyed Junco was frequently reported this summer from HL (mob). An extremely late Tree Sparrow was well observed near Scottsville on June 3rd. This is the latest report ever for this northern visitor (J&SS).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The summer was a little cooler and a little wetter than usual with no marked extremes.

On the 25 mile Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys the following significant changes were noted. There were increases on the Trumansburg survey for Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Goldfinch and Grasshopper Sparrow while decreases occurred in Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee and Savannah, Field and Song Sparrows. The Rushville count showed increases in Wood Duck, Horned Lark, Starling and Common Grackle with decreases in Ring-necked Pheasant, Barn Swallow, Common Crow and Brown Thrasher. On the Branchport run the species showing a gain were Black-capped Chickadee, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Redwinged Blackbird, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting and Henslow's Sparrow. Decreases were found for Bank Swallow, Common Crow, American Robin and Common Yellowthroat. Increases on the Romulus survey included Red-tailed Hawk, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Wood Thrush and Vesper Sparrow. Species showing decreases were Ring-necked Pheasant, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern (Baltimore) Oriole and Indigo Bunting.

As expected breeding populations of ducks and marsh breeding birds continue