

description so that the reader can judge whether the observer was being over-cautious, correctly questioning, or just plain wrong. Your editor tends to believe the first of these three possibilities and at the same time applauds the caution. The Sooty Tern on the other hand, while undoubtedly correct, was submitted with no details whatsoever. PLEASE include full details of all unusual records.

The BOTS award must go to the Long-billed Curlew, for several reasons. Although not a first state record, the 37-year hiatus since the last record makes it a possible first for a majority of the current birding population. It also served to call attention to that superb bit of habitat known as North Line Island. The variety and numbers of shorebirds listed in the Region Ten report show that the curlew was not the only reward for the intrepid mariner who braved the waters of South Oyster Bay.

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REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Although warm and wet, this was a perfect summer to recapture a childlike closeness with nature. Average temperature for the season was 2.6° F. (1.4° C.) above normal. Total summer rainfall was 2.9 inches (7.4 cm.) above average, mostly falling in frequent light rains. Nearly three inches of rain fell June 3, 4, and 5 causing local flooding and some loss of young in nests. No repercussions were noted in the bird world from the heat wave and smog blanket of July 29-Aug. 5.

Positive notes include: 1) Com. Loon continuing as a summer regular at Chautauqua L; 2) early but very light shorebird and warbler flights and several waterfowl lingering late into summer; 3) better numbers of the Upland Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo and Grasshopper Sparrow, and a steady increase of the Indigo Bunting; 4) surprisingly, in view of the wicked Apr '75 storm, only local variation in the status of the E. Phoebe (like the poetic cow-kicking of Nellie: it "didn't do her any good—didn't do her any harm."); 5) in Allegany Co: first documented nests of Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk and Nashville Warbler; well established breeding populations of Golden-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-throated Sparrows, with mounting evidence for inclusion of Black-throated Blue and Hooded Warblers; 6) higher numbers of avid avian observers, *all* reporting promptly; 7) in Cattaraugus Co: first report of the House Finch; and 8) a great food crop—high mouse and rabbit populations, heavy White Ash fruit, and an excellent berry supply.

Negative notes are: 1) scarcity of long-legged waders, except for Great Blue and Little Green Herons; 2) absence of Goshawk nestings and no Red-shouldered Hawks outside Allegany Co; 3) too few owls, probably a reflection of too little nocturnal birding; and 4) decreased numbers of Henslow's, Vesper and Song Sparrows.

Summer rarities were Mute Swan, Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Marbled Godwit, Ruff, Wilson's Phalarope, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler (spring record), and House Finch.

Abbreviations: BBS—Allegany Co "mini" Breeding Bird Survey initiated in 1970 by CK (see *Kingbird* Oct 1974 p. 178); BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; NP—Nature Preserve.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Once more a single Com. Loon, uncommon in summer, visited Chautauqua L June 19-30 and Aug 1-16 (RS). Always rare here, an early Double-crested Cormorant appeared at Times Beach, Buffalo, Aug 8 (Brownstein). Incomplete Great Blue Heronry reports list 5 active in Allegany Co, and one at Iroquois NWR with 140 nests (61 more than 1974!) averaging 2 yg June 13 (JM *et al.*). Other long-legged waders were very scarce: 2 Great Egrets at Tonawanda MWA July 31 (Balmas); Black-crowned Night Heron: 3 at Tift Farm NP July 8 (RA, RB) and one at Times Beach July 28 (TB, WV); a single Am. Bittern at Clarence June 3 (DF); and one Least Bittern at E. Amherst July 18 (DF).

Two MUTE SWANS were watched at Burgeson Sanctuary, Frewsburg June 18 (RS *et al.*). The Canada Goose family was noted again in Hume, Allegany Co, producing 2 yg June 16 (KP).

Lingering late and unusual waterfowl included: Gadwall: 4 at Times Beach June 27, and 3 at Iroquois NWR June 29 (RA *et al.*); singles of Redhead at Times Beach June 27, July 11, 12, 20 (RA *et al.*); 2 Greater Scaup at Niagara Falls July 13 (RA *et al.*); and singles of Bufflehead at Iroquois NWR June 3 (Minsley, Frank) and Mayville July 18-25 (RS).

Nesting reports of waterfowl were very sketchy; Wood Duck: 5 yg in Hume June 16 (KP), and 11 nest boxes with eggs hatched in July at Beaver Meadow (Bigelow); Hooded Merganser: resident birds in scattered locations, 4 nest boxes with eggs hatched in July at Beaver Meadow (Bigelow), and 3 immatures in Cattaraugus Co July 28-29 (SE).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures were exceptionally scarce, with singles noted in but 3 areas in June. There were NO NEST REPORTS of the Goshawk and the only sighting was one in Cattaraugus Co June 15 (SE). Eureka! A Sharp-shinned Hawk nest, the first Allegany Co documentation, was discovered by D. Rosa in New Hudson and reported by L. Wilson who observed 1 ad and at least 2 yg in nest July 18. Total "Sharpies" for the season was 5 ad and 2 yg in 4 areas, which is surprisingly less than the count for Cooper's Hawk of 8 ad and 4 yg in 6 areas. Two Cooper's Hawk nests, each with an ad and 2 yg were seen around July 25, one in Friendship (DB, LB) and the other at Alfred (EB).

Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks and the Am. Kestrel still seems to be out of trouble. However, a total of only 3 Red-shouldered Hawks was reported, all from Allegany Co where also a single active nest was found in Ward June 11 (EB). An ad BALD EAGLE appeared at Hamburg Aug 8 (Hauser). Two Marsh Hawks were noted on the BBS, and nests were first

documented for Allegany Co this year; one nest with 3 eggs, found in Hume by R. Wilson, and seen by DB and LB June 1 was later destroyed by predators. Another, documented from old records, was found with 3 yg in nest near Scio by RP July 16, 1944, and when last visited by VP July 23, had one yg still in nest.

The Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant are barely holding their own, according to the BBS. In Cattaraugus Co, studies by J. Glidden of Turkey hens carrying transmitters showed broods apparently larger, with first hatchings June 7 (SE). A rare **SANDHILL CRANE**, in two alfalfa fields on the H. Mathews farm near Clymer, delighted observers (including Roger Tory Peterson) June 21-July 11 (RS, FE *et al.*). An often overlooked Virginia Rail was spotted on the BBS. The Com. Gallinule was late breeding this year and 10 yg were seen at Keeney Swamp July 18 (DB, LB).

Most of the noteworthy shorebird reports, including usual large flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers (max 270 June 4 by Happ), are from Times Beach, Buffalo. A Black-bellied Plover appeared here intermittently from June 26 (late) to July 15 (early) (RA, AS *et al.*). At this same location were 4 Ruddy Turnstones June 4 (Happ), and a Whimbrel July 25 and Aug 7 (TB, Hauser *et al.*). With no reports of Upland Sandpipers last year, 12 birds from 3 areas this season is good news indeed! A Red Knot was recorded at Times Beach July 28, 31 (AS, RB *et al.*) and a Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at Prendergast Pt July 18 (RS). Less common at this time of year, a max 4 White-rumped Sandpipers appeared at Times Beach June 8 and 15 (AS, ArC). A Baird's Sandpiper was noted at 2 locations on Chautauqua L Aug 23-31 (RS) while 4 appeared in Niagara Co Aug 18 (DK). What in the world was a Dunlin (max 2)—in summer almost a *non esse*—doing at Times Beach nearly every day from June 27 to Aug 15? (RA *et al.*). Here also was a good flight of the Short-billed Dowitcher, with max 86 about July 10 (AS, RA *et al.*), and beginning of an early migration of the Stilt Sandpiper, with 5 noted July 11 (RA, AS *et al.*). A rare **MARbled GODWIT** was recorded at Times Beach July 11 (AS) and a second appeared at Prendergast Pt Aug 30 (RS, Kibler, FE). A wandering **RUFF** stopped at Times Beach July 27 and 28 (RA, HK, WK *et al.*). The **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**, always extraordinary, was noted at 4 locations: one, exceptionally early, Tonawanda WMA June 9 (Soule, LaFalce), 2 at Bay View July 22 (TB), and singles at Times Beach Aug 8 (Brownstein) and in Niagara Co Aug 18 (DK).

At Times Beach, uncommon though expected, were a max 2 Franklin's Gulls Aug 10 (early)—26 (AS, DF) and up to 10 Little Gulls, all incredibly early, July 27-Aug 15 (RA, HK, WK *et al.*). Also early were Forster's Terns, 2 appearing at Chautauqua ± July 18 (RS) and one at Times Beach July 31 (RA *et al.*). As usual a few of the less common Caspian Terns were noted with 5 in 2 locations (AS, RA, RS).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Except for one on the BBS and one at Oak Orchard GMA June 4 (DF), the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was unreported. However, Black-billed Cuckoo numbers appear to be up; an active nest with one egg was found in Amity June 3 and taken by a predator June 7 (VP).

Next summer let's all owl it a lot to present a truer picture of these fascinating nocturnal birds. Great Horned Owls were well reported including an immature at Alfred June 19 (EB), and a nest at Scio, discovered by P. Fuller, with 3 yg (more than usual) Apr 1 and 9, and apparently successful May 8 (VP). A single Long-eared Owl was noted at E. Amherst July 27 (DF).

A Whip-poor-will was recorded at Oak Orchard GMA June 4 (DF). Alleviating the otherwise bad news for the Com. Nighthawk of only one report of 6 at Little Genesee Aug 28 (FD), was a flock of 55 migrants at Amherst Aug 25 (DF). The Chimney Swift made a poor showing throughout the Region. In Birdsall and at Alfred, nesting Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted (DB, LB, CK).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Since the Apr 1975 storm, the status of the E. Phoebe varies locally: normal here but absent there. A rare **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** was discovered and song and call recorded in S. Valley, Cattaraugus Co July 16-26 (RS, Kibler, Richardson). E. Wood Pewee numbers were down on the BBS. With the exception of low Rough-winged numbers, records indicate that swallow breeding results were near normal. An interesting report of an albino Purple Martin on July 29 was received from Iroquois NWR (Balmas).

Wa-a-y down were Tufted Titmouse observations: only one at Hamburg July 13 (TB) and 2 probable nesters at Spring Brook during June (DD). 4 areas boasted Red-breasted Nuthatches with a total of 7, and probable breeding at Alfred (EB) and Spring Brook (DD). Now a regional regular, the Carolina Wren, in addition to 7 noted in 6 areas, nested 3 times, producing at Spring Brook 3 yg in May (DD) and at Barcelona 3 fledglings Aug 21 (RS).

The only report of a Mockingbird was one at Clarence June 4 (DF). Several note a decline in Am. Robins, a trend substantiated by the BBS; however, a noteworthy flock of 425 was seen moving to roost in Hamburg July 28 (RA). Although 29 E. Bluebirds were reported from 9 locations, the species was low on the BBS and absent entirely in some areas; from 11 reported nestings, at least 12 yg fledged. Only 7 territorial male Golden-crowned Kinglets (17 last year) were on nesting grounds in Ward this summer (EB). In the Loggerhead Shrike nest discovered May 22 near Lyndonville with 1 ad brooding and a second ad dead below, 5 yg were banded about June 1 when two ad were defending the nest. Later it was found empty, intact (DK).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A Philadelphia Vireo, rarely seen, was identified at Barcelona Aug 21, 23 (RS). Warbler migration began early, about July 21. A single **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** was located again this year in Iroquois NWR June 21 (HK, WK) and the "Brewster's" Warbler (hybrid) was resident once more at Amity L June 1-25 and Aug 31 (VP). Rare here in fall migration, 10 Tennessee Warblers appeared in 3 areas. The first documented Nashville Warbler's nest in Allegany Co, discovered near Scio May 25, was found empty June 3 (VP). A second Allegany Co nest of this warbler, found in W. Almond May 28 with 5 eggs was apparently abandoned June 8 (DB, LB). A max 3 Black-throated Blue Warblers in the Alfred area June 11-July 18 (EB, CK) suggests breeding there, where at least 8 pairs of Yellow-rumped Warblers also spent the nesting season (EB, CK). Two fledgling Cerulean Warblers appeared in Cold Spring July 16 (RS). Ovenbirds were scarce almost everywhere. In Cattaraugus Co 5 immature Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen July 16 in S. Valley (RS). Of the N. Waterthrush, 2 territorial males were watched near Alfred June 20-30 (EB). More than usual Yellow-breasted Chats were noted, with 5 from 4 areas. During June, 2 Hooded Warblers frequented the Alfred area (EB, CK) and one appeared at Oak Orchard GMA (DF), and in July one fledgling was seen in Cold Spring (RS).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: The **HOUSE FINCH** was first documented for Cattaraugus Co at Olean Aug 16, at the home of J. Woodard where 2 ad and 3 immatures were identified (DB, LB). Good news: Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were up on the BBS and 8 were reported from 4 areas. However, fewer Henslow's, Vesper and Song Sparrows were noted although 9 Vespers on the BBS was within the standard deviation. About 8 territorial males (twice 1974's number) of the White-throated Sparrow were seen in the Alfred area June 1-30, still their only known regional breeding ground.

Addendum: a single **SWAINSON'S WARBLER**, exceedingly rare, was netted and photographed by Richardson and also seen by FE and EP at Burgeson Sanctuary, Frewsburg, May 13. Corrigendum: in *The Kingbird*, Spring 1975, the discovery of Nashville Warbler's nest near Scio (VP) was May 25, not Apr.

Please send reports for each month by the 3rd of the following month.

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