

the given season, or lack of convincing details for a very improbable record. Mistakes are certainly made in these judgments. Theoretically nothing is impossible in the birding world. Ludlow Griscom is quoted as having said, "Birds have wings and sometimes use them!" It is thought better to err on the side of caution, however, in such a journal of record as *The Kingbird*.)

Hurricane Belle, which hit the south shore of Long Island on the night of Aug. 9-10, was the source of a number of interesting records, particularly for those who observed the rule that one gets into the field as soon as it is possible to stand up after the storm's passage. Naturally the coastal region had most of the goodies but a number of inland reports are due to the storm. Least Terns were seen on the 10th in Region 8 and on the 15th in Region 6. The Black Skimmer and Royal Tern in Region 9 on the 10th were certainly storm driven but the skimmer in Region 8 on Aug. 6th must be given credit for forecasting the storm far in advance of the Weather Bureau. On the morning after the storm, 15 Cory's Shearwaters and both Wilson's and Leach's Storm-petrels were seen under a bridge over Shin-neck Bay. The best bird of the area was a Bridled Tern nearby. A Sandwich Tern was seen the following day.

By far the best bird of the storm, and the uncontested winner of the BOTS award, was seen by two observers at Croton Point on the Hudson River in Region 9 when a lengthy vigil was rewarded by the sight of an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross scaling up the river 30 feet offshore. Your envious editor offers his heartiest congratulations through a mist of tears.

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REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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Most of summer was a continual dropping, like a contentious woman: June—hot and wet—, July—lukewarm and wet—, August 1 to 13—so-so and wet—. Then at last, two hot, sunny weeks were especially sweet and spirits rose like the hawks suddenly soaring the skies. Heavy vegetation hid nests, as well as a bumper mouse population, and made rough going for the shanks' mare birder.

From 17, out of 19, of the 25-mile (40.2 km) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS, hereafter) conducted in the region for the 10th year (WK), 114 species and

16,700 individuals were recorded. For some species below, a status comparison of this year's number with others of the 10-year period is given as: (H+)=highest ever, (H)=one of top 3 totals, (L)=one of low 3 totals, or (L-)=lowest ever. In Allegany Co., the 7th annual "Mini-Run" breeding bird survey (Abbs, hereafter) was taken with 15, out of 17, of the 12-mile (19.3 km) routes reporting (CK). (See *The Kingbird*, Vol. XX, No. 4.) 100 species and 7,372 individual birds were counted. Below, status of some species is shown by (+)=increasing, (-)=decreasing, or (abs)=absent for 1st or 2nd time in 7 years. In Erie Co., the Buffalo Ornithological Society this year held a "Mini-Run" breeding bird census (Ebbs, hereafter) similar to that initiated by CK in Allegany Co. in 1970 (HK,FR,DF). The 12 routes recorded 84 species and 5,438 individual birds.

Summer positives include: (1) a very small gain for the Am. Bittern, (2) a small but interesting shorebird flight, (3) a great cuckoo summer for both species, (4) a splendid season for the Turkey Vulture, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Cardinal, (5) lots and lots of wrens, including Short-billed Marsh Wrens, (6) a "good to excellent" success of nesting forest songbirds (SE), (7) Yellow-breasted Chats doing better and better, (8) steady increase of Indigo Buntings and House Finches, and (9) proof of nesting **ORCHARD ORIOLES** and **EVENING GROSBEAKS**.

Worrisome abounding negatives include: (1) large numbers in low categories on breeding surveys (A reflection of this, as well as last, year's wet spring?), (2) almost no owl reports, (3) declines, continued from spring, of insectivores, especially swifts, swallows and flycatchers, (4) the old story of vanishing Horned Larks (Too much prolonged ice and snow for 3 consecutive springs?—Too many ground-covering crops?), (5) fewer Cedar Waxwings, and (6) many sparrows in bad shape.

Rarities, painstakingly identified, are: Cattle Egret, Mute Swan, Goshawk, Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes, Barn Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole, and House Finch.

Abbreviations: GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; SP—State Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: The Com. Loon left sooner this summer, the last one at Allegany SP June 13 (RS,RA+). Green Herons tallied 5 on Abbs(-), and a nest on Grand Is. produced 1 yg July 9 (HK,WK). 2 **CATTLE EGRETS** in breeding plumage near Barker June 6 (DK) and one at Clarence Aug 15 (DF), two months late, suggest nesting; another flew west near Barker June 7 (DK). Other long-legged waders noted were: at least 9 Great Egrets in 3 locations; a total of 3 Black-crowned Night Herons at 3 sites plus one on Ebbs; and 3 Am. Bitterns on BBS (H), one on Ebbs, and one at Cuba L July 11, 12 (AnS). A **MUTE SWAN** displayed itself at Times Beach July 27-Aug 13 (ARC,DF+) irregularly. A single Canada Goose was seen at Barcelona June 2 (RS), and 80 appeared at Burgeson Sanct. July 24 (FE).

Outstanding as the only duck nesting report is of Mallards with 10 yg in nest (from 11 eggs) at Williamsville June 1 (HM). Max, staying until late July, were all at Iroquois NWR: 15 Gadwall June 13 (DF), 6 Green-winged Teal July 5 (AM,WM), and 28 Am. Wigeon June 13 (DF). The Wood Duck was "abs" on Abbs (2nd time in 7 yrs.). Also noteworthy are a

Com. Goldeneye at Times Beach June 9 (RA+) and 3 Ruddy Ducks at Iroquois NWR June 13 (DF).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures totaled 6 on BBS (H+). **GOSHAWKS** were found in 6 locations in Allegany Co. where 4 yg were banded in 3 nests in June (Schiver, Wood *fide* LB,DB); a bird was seen in Newstead Aug. 20 (DF). The Sharp-shinned Hawk tallied one on BBS (H) with regional total 9 birds from 7 areas. Cooper's Hawks were scarce: only 2 birds reported. Further status of hawks from breeding surveys is shown by: 12 Red-tailed on BBS(L); 4 Red-shouldered on BBS(stable) and "abs" on Abbs; 2 Broad-winged on BBS (H+) and one on Abbs(new); 3 Marsh on BBS(H) and 3 on Abbs(+); and 27 Am. Kestrel on BBS(H). In June, 3 yg were banded in two of the 8 active Red-shouldered Hawk nests found in Allegany Co. (Schiver, Wood *fide* DB, LB) and single birds were noted at 4 other sites. A max of 3 Ospreys at Iroquois NWR stayed through June (DF, Morse+) and the first fall arrival was one at Belmont Aug. 19 (DB, LB). Ring-necked Pheasants tallied only 2 on Abbs(-). It took a sharp-eyed observer to spot 9 Virginia Rails at Tift Farm June 15 (DF).

A max 20 Semipalmated Plovers appeared at Chautauqua L Aug. 7 (RS). Other fine plover reports include: 2 Am. Golden Plovers at Clarence Aug. 29 (DF); a Black-bellied Plover at Times Beach July 28 (DW, PH); and 6 Ruddy Turnstones on the breakwater at Olcott Aug. 13 (DK). Quality compensates for the unspectacular sandpiper flight: Com. Snipe are gaining: 16 on BBS(H+) and 2 on Abbs(new); Upland Sandpiper: 6 on BBS(L), also on Ebbs, and max 19 at Clarence Aug. 29 (DF+); Solitary Sandpiper: a new record flock of 18 at Prendergast Pt. Aug. 9 (RS); Spotted Sandpiper: 7 on BBS(L) and "abs" on Abbs (1st time in 7 yrs.); White-rumped Sandpiper: 5 at Times Beach June 2 (RA+); Pectoral Sandpiper: max 37 at Clarence Aug. 8 (DF+); Baird's Sandpiper: again at two Chautauqua L spots, with max 2 on Aug. 22 (RS); also, 5 at Clarence Aug. 8 (DF); Dunlin: one at Times Beach July 8 (DF)—very early; Short-billed Dowitcher: total of at least 46 birds in 4 locations July 8-Aug. 31; Stilt Sandpiper: 9 individuals totaled from 3 areas July 22-Aug 14; Semipalmated Sandpiper: max only 69 at Prendergast Pt. Aug. 9 (RS); 3 Sanderling at Bemus Cr Aug. 8 (RS), an uncommon location; **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: 3 at Tonawanda WMA June 13 (WR), very early and tying the State spring record number, and another at Clarence Aug. 15 (DF); and an early **NORTHERN PHALAROPE** at Iroquois NWR Aug. 25 (DK).

'Twas a dull gull season alleviated by 11 Great Black-backed Gulls at Barcelona June 29 (RS), and a total of 6 Caspian Terns from 3 locations.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Doves numbered only 48 on Abbs(-). Widely reported all season, cuckoos tallied 8 Yellow-billed(H+) and 28 Black-billed(H+) on the BBS. As usual, summer owls were neglected, but of special delight is the discovery of two **BARN OWLS** in a silo near Barker June 10 (DK). A Screech Owl appeared on Abbs(new) and an ad with 3 fledged, fluffy yg was found near Barker June 6 (DK). Breeding surveys listed 3 Great Horned Owls on Abbs(+) and 2 Barred Owls on BBS(H).

A Com. Nighthawk was seen at Cuba L July 12 (AnS) and max of migration was 200 at Clarence Aug. 26 (DF). Breeding surveys showed: Chimney Swift at 29 on BBS(L-); 33 Com. Flickers on BBS(L-); 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers on BBS(L-), but 11 other birds in 5 locations, and none on Abbs.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Flycatchers are having a hard time of it, as shown by: 60 E. Kingbirds on BBS(L); 31 Great Crested Flycatchers on BBS(L) and 12 on Abbs(-); 30 E. Phoebe on BBS(L) and nestings down by 1/3 at Amity; 9 Traill's Flycatchers on Abbs(-); 42 Least Flycatchers on BBS(L-); and 35 E. Wood Pewees on BBS(L-). However, a total of 4 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was seen at 2 sites. Several **ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS** were found: 2 territorial males near Barker June 6 (DK), one at Pembroke June 6 (RA+), and a max 2 in S. Valley June 18-July 31 (RS, RA+). Single Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared in only 4 areas.

Horned Larks show a steady decline, with but 41 on BBS(L-) and 5 on Abbs. All of the following swallows rate an "L" status on BBS: 28 Tree, 27 Bank, 7 Rough-winged, 350 Barn, and 6 Cliff which tallied 3 on Abbs(-). Purple Martins were "abs" on Abbs(2nd time in 7 yrs.). 493 Crows were tallied on BBS(L), well below the standard deviation.

Tufted Titmice were plentiful: 2 on BBS(H), and 16 birds totaled from 5 sites, including 2 yg at Spring Brook (DD). Red-breasted Nuthatches noted were 2 on BBS(H), one on Abbs(new) plus singles in 4 areas. A count of 4 Brown Creepers is not half bad for summer. "Wrens, wrens everywhere!" someone said, and here are figures to prove it: 225 House Wrens on BBS(H+); Carolina Wren: 1 on BBS(H) and 2 on Abbs(new), one near Barker Aug. 25 (DK), a new location, plus 19 other birds, including 9 yg, counted from 7 sites; yg Winter Wrens in Cattaraugus Co. June 20 (SE); and unusual numbers of Short-billed Marsh Wrens: 1 on Abbs(new) plus 14 birds on 7 territories.

Outside normal expectation on BBS were: 4 Mockingbirds(H+), 30 Brown Thrashers (L-), 1,197 Am. Robins(L-) and 2,373 Starlings(L-). A Swainson's Thrush appeared at Eggertsville June 13 (AM,WM). Although a total 26 E. Bluebirds was spread over 9 areas (same as '75), nestings were down 25%. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Iroquois NWR June 19 (DW) and at Barcelona Aug. 22 (RS). Summering Golden-crowned Kinglets continue to expand: 7 on BBS(H+), one on Abbs, yg at 2 locations, and ad at 8 including two new: Eden and N. Collins July 8 (RA). Single Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Eggertsville June 15 (AM) and at Amity L July 29 (VP). The only Loggerhead Shrikes recorded were 2 at Clarence Aug. 12 (DF).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: 9 Yellow-throated and 10 Solitary Vireos rated "H+" on BBS. At S. Valley, a max 2 **WHITE-EYED VIREOS** were identified June 24, 26 (RS,RA+) and 5 Philadelphia Vireos were counted from 3 areas. Significant numbers of warblers, on BBS were: 249 Yellow(L), 20 Ovenbirds(L-), and 6 Mourning(L-); and on Abbs were: 5 Magnolia(+), 21 Black-throated Green(+) and 4 Am. Redstart(-). **PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS** appeared again in Iroquois NWR with max 3 on June 13, 19 (DF,DW). A rare **WORM-EATING WARBLER** was found in Allegany SP June 5 (DF). Both hybrid warblers appeared: a max 2 "**BREWSTER'S**" in Carroll June 1-26 (RS,RA+), with singles in Lancaster June 4, 5(JK) and near Clarence Ctr June 4 (DF); and a rare "**LAWRENCE'S**" at Onoville and another at S. Valley June 24, 26(RS,RA+). 2 ad Nashville Warblers were feeding 4 yg in nest in Allegany SP June 4 (RS+) and a max 4 N. Parulas there June 5 (DF) were late. A Yellow-rumped Warbler was noted at McCarty Hill June 13 (RA+), and yg were near Alfred June 17 (EB). A Blackpoll Warbler in Allegany SP June 5 (DF) and a max 2 late Pine Warblers there June 6 (DF) ended their spring migration. A Pine Warbler near Alfred (CK) was first of fall. Several **PRAIRIE WARBLERS** were identified: a max 3 in Carroll June 24-July 2 (RA,RS), near Alfred June 14-28 (EB) irregularly, and an ad carrying food for yg in Allegany SP June 11 (SE). Also at Allegany SP, a **KENTUCKY WARBLER** was found June 4, 5 (RS+). Yellow-breasted Chats numbered 2 on BBS(H+) with a total 10 birds from other reports at 6 sites.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Noteworthy, on Abbs are: 249 House Sparrows(-), 70 E. Meadowlarks(-), 1,435 Redwings(+), 348 Com. Grackles(-) (Note: Com. Grackle colonies suffered heavy losses from Crows), and 169 Indigo Buntings(+); and on BBS are: 1,218 Com. Grackles(L-), 166 Brown-headed Cowbirds(L-), 128 Cardinals(H+), 67 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks(H+), and 152 Indigo Buntings(H+). An **ORCHARD ORIOLE** appeared on BBS, but confirming breeding here was an ad carrying food for yg in Allegany SP June 11 (SE). Superabundant proof of breeding **EVENING GROSBEAKS** here was provided when one of 3 fledglings was killed at a window at Limestone July 3 (JV,RV) and is now in the St. Bonaventure U. collection (SE). During June, reports of ad Evening Grosbeaks trickled in from 7 scattered locations; soon fledglings arrived with parents at feeders: 2 yg at L. Fox home, Olean June 27-July 7 (JF); 3 yg at Limestone July 1-11 (JV,RV); 3 yg at Frewsburg July 7 (RS,Bjorks,Young); 3 yg at Belmont July 14-20 (DB,LB); and 2 yg at Cuba July 20-25,

(HW). HOUSE FINCHES produced well: one yg at D. Baker's feeder, Olean June 18 (SE), one yg at Eggertsville July 31 (AM,WM) and 3 yg irregularly at Belmont July 1-Aug 31 (DB,LB). Am. Goldfinches tallied 337(L-) on BBS; 28 nests fledged only 47 yg in Amity (VP). A total 75 Red Crossbills in 3 locations stayed through June 11.

On BBS no sparrows rated an "H+," but "L-" were: 408 Savannah, zero Henslow's (absent for 1st time), 13 Vesper, 139 Field, and 836 Song; 5 Grasshopper rated "L". Low on Abbs was Vesper Sparrow: 5(-). A White-throated Sparrow's nest watched near Alfred was abandoned (EB). A single Lincoln's Sparrow arrived early near Barker Aug. 25 (DK).

CORRECTION: In *The Kingbird* Vol. XXVI No. 3 p. 156, the "7 collared birds . . . noted in 2 areas" should read: "7 collared birds (5 Whistling Swans and 2 Canada Geese) were noted in 2 areas; and Canada Geese reported in Hume . . ." My thanks to LB for spotting this.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

Summer was cooler, cloudier, and wetter than usual. Only 2 days of 90° F (32+° C) temperature occurred while rainfall totaled more than 3 inches (7.6 cm) above average. July was especially wet and cloudy while August contained the only dry stretch from the 14th to the 28th.

Water levels remained very high so that many shorebirds were scarce. Good numbers of herons and some waterfowl seem to reflect good breeding conditions. Some species of perching birds were delayed in nesting and ground nesters may have been hurt by the damp, cool weather.

The late spring flight did not extend as far into June as usual nor did the fall warbler flight begin as early as last summer. Shorebirding was better in August than in July and by the end of the month, good numbers of migrant insectivores were being seen.

Positive trends: (1) Continued breeding success of local herons and ducks, (2) Second location for nesting Goshawk, (3) Reappearance of Acadian Flycatcher as a nesting species, (4) Prospering Cliff Swallow and Short-billed Marsh Wren colonies, (5) Good numbers of some returning warblers in late August, (6) Slight improvement in status of short-tailed sparrows.

Negative trends: (1) Few Pied-billed Grebes again, (2) No improvement in Marsh Hawks or Red-shouldered Hawks, (3) Bald Eagle nest failed again, (4) Poor shorebird habitat, (5) Local tern reports low—i.e. Common Tern and Black Tern, (6) Chimney Swift declining—Com. Nighthawk virtually gone as a breeder, (7) Damp, cool weather may have hurt breeding insectivores, (8) Vesper Sparrow only slightly better.

Rarities: Wood Stork, Bald Eagle, Willet, Ruff, Acadian Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Red Crossbill, Fox Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BS—Bergen Swamp, BB—Braddock's Bay, HL—Hemlock Lake, IC—Island Cottage, PB—Point Breeze, WL—West Lakeshore.

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