

noted near Alfred July 28 (EB) and one yg was found at McCarty Hill, Ellicottville, July 24 (RA+). Other noteworthy warblers were: a Cerulean Warbler on BBS (H); a max 2 Pine Warblers in Phillips Creek SF June 7, 12 (CK, EB, RA+)—very late; late **PRAIRIE WARBLERS**: one in Carroll June 4 (RA+), and max 9 intermittently near Alfred June 2-24 (EB, CK, RA+); and Yellow-breasted Chat: one on BBS (H)—the only report.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Noteworthy on breeding surveys were: House Sparrow: 919 on BBS (L-) and 287 on Abbs (sd-); and E. Meadowlark: 330 on BBS (L-) and 74 on Abbs (sd-). **HOUSE FINCHES**, widely reported, were seen in two new areas: Angelica, with 2 on June 4-6 (R. Wesche); and Jamestown, with 2 at the Community College June 13, as well as max 8 at a feeder June 18-Aug. 12 which includes 2 yg July 17 (RS); June fledgling reports were 3 at Cuba (AnS) and 2 at Belmont (DB, LB). In Allegany Co. from 24 Am. Goldfinch nests, the 11 successful fledged at least 45 yg (VP). Sparrows in the desperate "L-" status on BBS were 13 Vesper and 147 Field, and rated "sd-" on Abbs were 63 Savannah and 3 Grasshopper. An interesting White-crowned Sparrow was found on BBS, but not counted as a nester. The White-throated Sparrow nested again near Alfred (EB), and late birds were found as: max 4 in Phillips Creek SF June 7, 12 (EB, CK+), max 3 near Alfred July 3-19 (CK, EB), and one near Petrolia June 21 (VP, RP).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

The season began with an exciting, yet at times confusing, extension of the spring migration. Shorebirds, several of them very rare for the region, continued to move through the Northrup Creek area during the month of June. By June 25, the numbers of yellowlegs and peep gathering, indicated probable fall returns. Gulls and terns finally arrived in numbers in mid-June accompanied by several rare visitors. Hawks and eagles continued to straggle over Braddock Bay's Hawk Lookout through the month. June also saw area birders scattering away from the lakeshore with very interesting results; numbers of normally more northerly nesting species were discovered in the hill country to the south. July brought a number of interesting reports amid generally hot, dull birding. The eagerly awaited August shorebirding failed to materialize. The passerine passage was generally normal and unspectacular.

June stretched the warm, dry spell through to the last week. The first half of July was very hot, highs often near or above 90-95° F (32-35° C), and humid with occasional heavy rains. The last half of July moderated to more normal temperatures and rainfall. August saw heavy rains cut into the year's deficit. The succession of cold fronts brought a few record and near record low temperatures early in the month, but no waves of birds until some major pushes in the final ten days.

True trends for the season are difficult to separate from weather, habitat, and observer fluctuations. The water bird picture is clouded by weather/habitat interactions without any real population changes. Early low water levels resulted in few reports of waders, yet by August with high water, good numbers were reported, particularly of Great Blue Herons. Early warming of Lake Ontario waters moved the ducks along early with fewer than normal late Spring and Summer lingerers. The combination of dry fields and isolated good shoreline habitat produced exciting June shorebirding, but then allowed the marsh grasses to expand their holdings so that with the rising waters later there were few observable resting places for fall migrants. The raptor picture is complicated by observer trends. This year the

hawk lookout was watched to the end of June (LM) with small numbers of hawks moving throughout this period. This has been reported previously, but not well documented. Likewise, late this season more observers apparently peered upward and a start was made toward study of the local fall hawk migration. The bulk of the movement is immature Red-tails and the patterns are confusing at best. The passerine scene was one of a general feeling of scarcity. The normal variety of species was represented, but breeding populations seemed low, the dawn chorus diminished. There were actually sizeable tracts with little bird song at the height of the breeding season. There was a definite upward trend in reports of birds generally associated with breeding at higher latitudes. This is undoubtedly due in large part to much better coverage of the higher altitude areas in the southern part of the region. Unfortunately, there are almost no reports of actual nesting studies in the region; breeding records being essentially all presumptive, based on the presence of singing birds during the breeding season.

Noteworthy specific trends for the season include the nearly complete absence of Loggerhead Shrike and very low numbers of Pied-billed Grebe and Com. Nighthawk. Positives for the season include increased breeding populations of Green-winged Teal, Cliff Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Golden-crowned Kinglet, and a good late summer showing of terns.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Ruff, Franklin's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Common Raven, "Lawrence's" Warbler, and Western Tanager.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; HL—Honeoye Lake; LO—Lake Ontario; LP—Letchworth Park; NC—Northrup Creek, Long Pond, Greece; WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Mike Carlson, Julie Claffey, Roger Clark, Bill & Rhea Colman, Jerry Czech, Jean & Neil Dilley, Bob & Frank Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, Joan Esley, June Feder, John & Arleen Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, William Gordon, Kevin Griffith, Norm Henderson, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Allan & Sandy Klonick, Jim, Joan & Walt Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Al Maley, A. & B. Mahan, Frank & Mary Mattei, Bob & Margaret McKinney, Jane Morris, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Neil Prosser, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Steve Smith, Robert & Sue Spahn, Anne Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, David Tremmel, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, Doris Wilton.

LOONS—DUCKS: The Spring's **EARED GREBE** stayed for one sighting: 1 IC June 3 (D, M & TT, mob). Double-crested Cormorants lingered well into the season: 2 BB June (mob); and 1 BB July 31 (KG). "Southern" herons were sparse in the region with only Great Egret reported, 5 records. Least Bittern was only frequently observed after water levels rose in July and August. The most interesting of the few lingering ducks were: Pintail: 2 Kendall July 30 (RBA); Redhead: 1 Pt. Breeze June 25 (CP); 1 BB Aug. 6-15 (mob); Ruddy Duck: 1 Carlton July 3-4 (F&BD, BS, mob); and Red-breasted Merganser: 1 fem. BB July 17-21 (PR, JCL, mob); 1 WL Aug. 23 (KD, mob).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Hawk records of interest include several summer accipiter reports: Goshawk: 2 ad. & nest HL June 12 (AM, mob); 1 ad. & 1 imm. HL July 3 (CP); 1 imm. Webster Aug. 23 (WLI, MAS); Cooper's Hawk: 2 ad. & nest LP June 11 (CP, RBA); 1 Canadice Lake June 11 (JF, RS); 1 Hemlock Lake July 9 (RO); 1 Livonia Aug. 29 (HM). The peak of the August hawk flight was Red-tailed Hawk: 317 imm. headed west Kendall Aug. 13 (BS, mob), and 74 imm. headed east BB Aug. 13 (JSk, mob). Bald Eagle records were: 1 imm. NC June 1 (CP); 2 ad. Hemlock Lake June 11 (WLI, mob); 1 ad. Buck Pond June 21 (B & FD); 1 ad. Long Pond June 21 (M & TT, NH); 1 imm. Clarkson June 25 (RC); and 1 imm. Webster July 16-17 (JCz, mob), later found dead, diagnosed massive pesticide concentrations. This season brought the first sightings of Turkey families in the region in recent

years: Cumming Nature Center Aug. 13 (MW); LP Aug. 14 (BS, RC). The shorebird records for the season include: Whimbrel: 1 NC July 8 (NH); 1 Charlotte Aug. 13 (NH); 1 Lake-shore Golf Course Aug. 26 (CD *fide* RS); **MARBLED GODWIT**: 3rd regional Spring record 1 photo NC June 6-7 (TT, BS, B & FD, mob); possibly same bird 1 NC June 13 (FD, mob); **WILLET**: 1 NC June 12-14 (mob); 1 Kendall Aug. 29 (BS); Lesser Yellowlegs: max. 44 NC June 30 (M&TT); Ruddy Turnstone: 1-2 NC June 17-21 (mob); **RUFF**: 1 male displaying NC June 21 (FD, mob); 1 Charlotte Aug. 31 (RS); Wilson's Phalarope: 1 fem NC June 1 (TT); 2 fem. NC June 14-27 (mob); 1 fem. Kendall June 18 (WLi); 2 imm. Kendall July 19-31 (WLi, mob); 1 Greece Aug. 9 (NH); and 1 Perinton Aug. 24 (MT, DS). The most interesting gull records occurred with the mid-June build-up at NC and included: **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: 1 sub-ad. NC June 18 (CP, mob) and **BLACK-HEADED GULL**: 1 ad. NC June 14-16 (FD, mob). Little Gull finally appeared Aug. 28: 1 Charlotte (RBA). Forster's Tern was reported in small numbers at BB throughout the season with numbers soaring with increases in the other species in late August. Seasonal maxima include: Forster's Tern: 6 BB Aug. 31 (NH); Common Tern: 25 BB Aug. 31 (NH); Caspian Tern: 60 Manitou Aug. 13 (RO); and Black Tern: 60 WL Aug. 4 (NH).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Of note in this grouping is Short-eared Owl: 1 Pt. Breeze Aug. 27 (BS), possibly from a breeding colony a short distance west. Other observations within this group were normal for the season except for the near absence of Com. Night-hawk in Rochester.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Flycatcher records include the observation that most of the *Empidonax* along the ridge between Honeoye and Canadice lakes were Alder, while most in the valleys at lake level (and near Rochester) were Willow. Two Acadian Flycatcher nesting sites were documented: Honeoye Lake (at 2100 ft.) June 5 (RBA) and Bergen Swamp June 18 (RBA). There were at least 6 distinct August records of Olive-sided Flycatcher. Vying for bird-of-the-season for the region was a **COMMON RAVEN** closely observed and well documented: 1 Webster July 11 (JCz). Carolina Wren, while hard hit by the cold winter, has been reported nesting in at least 3 scattered locations in the county. Mockingbird appears to have fared even better. There was an interesting report of a taped Screech Owl call attracting 11 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers from the roadside woods over a short stretch: Murray Aug. 5 (B & FD). A **WATER PIPIT** appeared at a record early date for the state, posing for photos: 1 BB July 23 (WLi, RBA). Loggerhead Shrikes were also seen: 2 Sodus Bay Aug. 22 (M & TT).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: The story here is the number of species potentially breeding in the high country south of Rochester and in Letchworth Park. These include as many as 22 species of warblers and Solitary Vireo. Among the records received are: Pine Warbler: 4 LP June (RBA); Prairie Warbler: 1 LP June 11 (RBA); many Louisiana Waterthrush pairs in gorges off the Finger Lakes; and "**LAWRENCE'S**" **WARBLER**: 1 Canadice Lake June 11 (JF, mob). The full story of warbler breeding in this region needs a great deal more study and documentation in future years. The fall passage of this group has been normal (dull) to date this year.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: The Orchard Oriole colony near Pt. Breeze was observed closely through the season with a max. of 1 ad. & 3 imm. July 30 (CP) and a last sighting of 1 imm. Aug. 10 (WLi). Joining the regional race for bird-of-the-season in August was a briefly, but clearly, observed male, breeding-plumaged **WESTERN TANAGER**: 1 Pittsford Aug. 21 (WG). It sat briefly above a thistle feeder, apparently attracted by the commotion of feeding Am. Goldfinches. The area House Finch colonies are thriving with two in Brighton and a third now reported: 5-17 Rochester (Arnett Blvd.) July (*fide* JSk). Red Crossbill once again summered on a local golf course with extensive pine plantings: 1-2 Brook-Lea CC Aug. (RS).

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