

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: For the first time, the **ORCHARD ORIOLE** appeared on BBS with two seen feeding yg. in the nest! A new location for the **HOUSE FINCH** is Canasaraga where three were watched during June (L. Harvey). Pine Siskins tarried well into June with two at Belmont June 1-24 (DB, LB) and nine at Allegany SP June 4 (DF+). Although the Am. Goldfinch registered "L-" on both BBS (316) and Abbs (95), 89% of the 19 nests found near Amity L successfully raised 65 yg.; one of these nests was earlier by nine days than the previous N.Y. State record, having four nestlings July 24 which fledged Aug. 8 (VP). With the exception of the expanding White-throated Sparrow population, with three (H) on BBS and five (S) on Abbs, all sparrows were scarce on breeding surveys. Noteworthy sparrow reports other than breeding surveys include: Grasshopper, three tallied from two areas; Henslow, 14 noted from four locations; Vesper, one at Newstead June 9, the only report; and a **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** at Grand Island June 16 where one was seen in late May (DF).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

Excepting a few bright flashes, this season may be characterized as dull, certainly by comparison to many of the recent seasons in this Region. June began on a cool, showery note, but then in the last week slipped into the start of a long, hot, dry spell; by the third week of July only .17 inch (.43 cm) of rain had been recorded since June 10. Much of the first three weeks of July was also very hot, temperatures in the 90's. During the final ten days of July the official rainfall total rose to 2.1 inches (5.3 cm), very nearly normal for the month. However, most of this occurred as widely scattered thunderstorms with local amounts highly variable. August passed as "summer idyllic"; showers were well-spaced, temperatures moderate, and weekends near perfect. Unfortunately, while the last third of the month saw many periods of northerly winds, there were no major fronts and only one notable push of migrants was documented.

Observer trends generally followed the long-established summer pattern—most simply took a long vacation from the drudgery of filling out or filing field trip reports. Those who did venture afield, or at least those reporting such ventures, did contribute many good records. Once again this year, increased coverage in the hills south of Rochester was very fruitful. A potential baseline for future documentation in this area was the first annual breeding bird census covering a circle only slightly shifted from the Little Lakes CBC circle. The first few hours of this were covered using standard breeding-bird-census-route techniques, with additional coverage as area leaders desired. The two parts were separately totalled. On June 18, 99 species were recorded. As they did last summer, observers began hawk-watching in mid-August and again noted a good number of immature Red-tailed Hawks migrating.

Once again this summer, several observers commented on the low volume of the dawn chorus even by early June. Numbers of species were still high, but numbers of individuals seemed low. It remains to be seen over succeeding years whether this trend is cyclic or long-term. Species definitely noted as scarce were: both bitterns, Black-crowned Night Heron, Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Nighthawk, Least Flycatcher, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows. The brighter side was a bit dim, but good numbers were reported for both cuckoos, Common and Caspian Terns, and August's migrant Tree, Bank and Barn Swallows. There were excellent numbers of Blue-winged Warblers at Letchworth Park; elsewhere in the Region this type of influx has been at the expense of the Golden-winged Warbler and has given rise to a boom in Brewster's hybrids.

Rarities: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Whistling Swan, Willet, Northern Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Thayer's Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Prairie Warbler, Evening Grosbeak. Details (verification report forms) are on file with the Genesee Ornithological Society for the Northern Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, and Prairie Warbler.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; LP—Letchworth State Park; PB—Point Breeze; WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Mike Carlson, Julie Claffey, Roger Clark, Bob & Dottie Coffee, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, James & Gertrude Davis, Jean & Neil Killey, Frank & Robert Dobson, Kay Doris, Mike Ehlers, June Feder, John Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Tom Griswold, Bill Hartranft, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Allen Kinnitzer, Walter & Harriette Klabunde, Ray Ladwig, Edith Lank, Jim Lenhard, Walter & Jim Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Bob & Margaret McKinney, Joe & Thelma McNett, Mike Menuhin, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, B. & E. Molyneaux, Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Betty Perrigo, Chip Perrigo, Mike & Tom Peter, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Virginia Skuse, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhäuser, Harriet Stride, William Symonds, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Steve Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, David Tremmel, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, Doris Wilton.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon was reported well into June on Lake Ontario: last record, one BB June 17. Single Horned Grebes were reported in both June and July. As usual, Pied-billed Grebes were scarce this season. Single Double-crested Cormorants were noted at BB June 5-13 and July 10-17. Notable among the herons were: Great Egret: one Kendall June 16-17; Cattle Egret: one Hamlin June 8 (NH); and **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: one adult Carlton July 22 (RBA). Black-crowned Night Herons and both Least and Am. Bitterns were notable by their scarcity.

A very rare summer occurrence of **WHISTLING SWAN**: two PB Aug. 6 (AS) was reported. Fewer lingering and non-breeding waterfowl were sighted on the "borrow" pits along the Lake Ontario Parkway west of Hamlin Beach State Park than has been typical of the past several years, but June and July records included: Pintail, Am. Wigeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Greater and Lesser Scaup, and Bufflehead. Most of those records were singles. In addition, both Com. and Red-breasted Mergansers lingered at BB to June 19.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The spring hawk flight watch continued at BB thru June with Laura Moon, *et al.*, on hand daily. Significant additions to the count in June were: 91 Turkey Vultures, 635 Broad-winged Hawks, mostly immatures, two Golden Eagles, and 14 Ospreys. The last date of significant numbers of bird passing was June 12. Other interesting raptor

records included: Goshawk: one imm. Perinton Aug. 6; one imm. Webster Aug. 15-16; one imm. Webster Aug. 24; and one Irondequoit Aug. 27; Cooper's Hawk: one LP June 24; one Hamlin Aug. 26; and one imm. Webster Aug. 28-30; Red-tailed Hawk: 83 BB Aug. 16; 263 BB Aug. 17; and 267 BB Aug. 19, nearly all of these being immatures and the dates match well with a similar movement noted last summer; Red-shouldered Hawk: one LP June 24; Bald Eagle: one imm. Hamlin June 6; one imm. Clyde July 2; one imm. BB Aug. 17; and one imm. PB Aug. 18, wing-tagged; and Osprey: one Greece Aug. 27. In addition, the Bald Eagles of the Hemlock Lake nest were checked periodically thru the season. A single Turkey: LP June 4 (TT), was recorded. Rails were a bit easier to find than last year, but still not abundantly reported. Good numbers were: Virginia Rail: 11 Chili July 20; and Sora: 14 Chili July 20. Shorebird habitat was very scarce this season; lake levels were still very high and fields and ponds dried up. A few beaches and the borrow pits in the west lakeshore area provided the bulk of the records. Of note were: Black-bellied Plover: one imm. PB July 8 (CP); Whimbrel: one Kendall Aug. 4; one Charlotte Aug. 26; and one Kendall Aug. 31; Upland Sandpiper: max. 16 PB June 23; Short-billed Dowitcher: max. 75 PB & Kendall July 8; Stilt Sandpiper: two Kendall July 8; and one BB July 14; Spotted Sandpiper: max. 50 WL June 17; WILLET: one Carlton July 14-16 (WS, mob); Baird's Sandpiper: one PB July 23; Western Sandpiper: four WL June 4 (WLi); two Kendall June 17 (J & WLi, CP); one Charlotte Aug. 6-8 (F & RD, RO); and two Chili Aug. 9 (NH); NORTHERN PHALAROPE: one Perinton June 3-4 (MT, mob); and Wilson's Phalarope: seven records scattered thru the season. The premier local record of the season was an adult, light morph POMARINE JAEGER: BB & Charlotte June 19-26 (JCl, WLi, mob, photo NH). Gulls provided additional excitement with: Great Black-backed Gull reported each month; THAYER'S GULL: one adult PB June 17 (photo KG); Ring-billed: max. 10,000 WL June 17 (WLi, mob); LAUGHING GULL: one adult Kendall June 4 (WLi) and BB June 11 (M & RM), probably the same bird; and FRANKLIN'S GULL: one Hamlin Aug. 31 (WS). Tern records were typical with a late Aug. peak. Maxima included: Forster's Tern: 42 BB Aug. 25 (NH), an unprecedented number, otherwise, one to five thru the season; Com. Tern: 91 BB Aug. 30 (NH); and Caspian Tern: 27 BB Aug. 14.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: A Region-wide infestation of tent caterpillars has proved attractive to cuckoos. Highest counts, reportedly associated with a gypsy moth outbreak, were: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: six, Penfield June; and Black-billed Cuckoo: five, Penfield June. Subsequent spraying reduced the moths and dispersed (hopefully) the cuckoos. A lone summer Whip-poor-will: Irondequoit June 30, was heard calling. Given the sad state of Com. Nighthawk in Rochester, a large migrant flock was encouraging: 100+ Rochester Aug. 30 (B & EM). Good evidence of breeding of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the Region was: three imm. LP July 15 (RBA).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Some of the flycatchers seemed scarce in the dawn chorus in habitat where they were expected, e.g. Great Crested, Least, and Eastern Phoebe. However, there were several records suggestive of breeding Acadian Flycatchers: two males and one female Bergen Swamp June 17 (RBA); one Bergen Swamp June 17 (ME,DT); one LP June 3-22 (RBA, mob); one Honeoye Lake June 18 (RS); one (separate individual) LP June 18 (M&TT); and one LP July 15 (RBA). Additionally, there was a good count of Alder Flycatchers: 25 Little Lakes June 11 (F&RD); and Olive-sided Flycatcher was well-reported with eight early June and three late Aug. records. Very scarce in passage the past two years, a probable breeding Winter Wren was noted: Bergen Swamp July 1. Reports indicate that Carolina Wren was truly decimated in the Region this past winter; only one breeding pair reported: Brighton Aug (MW); and one probable migrant: Maplewood Park June 8 (NM). Short-billed Marsh Wren: two Chili June 1-23, July 7 (Jsk, mob), was also very scarce. Mockingbird fared similarly to Carolina Wren. Indicative of a breeding population in an expected location was Hermit Thrush: three Honeoye Lake June 10 (RBA); and one east of Honeoye Lake June 18 (RM). A late Water Pipit passed: Charlotte June 7 (RS); and an early flock returned: 23 Greece July 31 (MP). Finally, breeding of Loggerhead Shrike was again

confirmed with a family group of one to three Carlton July 19-Aug. 6 (FD, mob).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: A very high count of Red-eyed Vireo was: 93 LP June 7 (JCI, JSk). Among the many warblers reported from the higher elevations of the Region in June, most interesting were: Blue-winged Warbler: 25 LP June 3 (TT); 31 LP June 7 (JCI, JSk); and an incredible 72 LP June 30 (RC, WS); and N. Parula: one LP June (mob). Suggestive of a return to breeding in the Region were **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** two singing males Honeoye Lake June 18 (RS); one Mendon Ponds Park June 19-20 (SaT); and one LP June 23 (W & HK). A Yellow-breasted Chat pair was frequently monitored: Greece June 27-Aug. 23. There were no early fall warbler migration dates of particular interest.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Orchard Orioles were, as usual for the last few years: one to four PB June-Aug. 3; plus a singing male Webster July 1 (CP). A very rare summer record was **EVENING GROSBEAK:** one Ellison Park July 12-13 (J & GD), a female visiting a feeder. House Finch has reached the stage where few observers go out of their way to find or report it. The usual colonies were reported, but only for June. Late, vagrant or breeding? Pine Siskin records were: to a max. of 11 Irondequoit June (ME); two BB June 30 (F & RD, RO); and one Webster July 25. The high count for Vesper Sparrow was: four Hamlin July 31. In the higher elevation part of the Region Dark-eyed Junco was reported: one Canadice Lake at 900' (270m) June 10 (RBA). Late migrant sparrows were represented by White-crowned Sparrow: one WL June 6 (KD, mob); and White-throated Sparrow: one Greece June 6 (KG).

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The summer was a bit on the cool side until mid-July when it turned hot and continued generally warm thru August. At Ithaca, August 1978 was the warmest August in five years. It was a generally dry and sunny summer with the rainfall coming in the early days of each month.

Probably the outstanding feature of a rather quiet season, ornithologically speaking, was the continued presence of three White Pelicans at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Southern herons visiting the Region were limited to a single Great Egret and an immature Glossy Ibis, both at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Good numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos were reported. No reports of Carolina Wrens were received. Eastern Bluebirds appear to have slipped back again. House Finches continued to increase and spread. They are now a well established part of the avifauna of the entire Region.

The period closed with a huge flight of Common Nighthawks at Elmira on the evenings of August 27 and 28. Also at Elmira, there was an audible movement on the nights of August 30 and 31, with thrush notes heard on the 31st.

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, normally the principal shorebirding area in the Region, had only a limited amount of mudflats. About a dozen species used the area, all common except for the Long-billed Dowitcher and the