

clude: **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**, one at Iroquois NWR June 3, 10 (AM, WM, DF); Blue-winged Warbler, three fledglings in Amity Twp, June 11 (VP), five days earlier than the previous N.Y. State records; "**BREWSTER'S**" **WARBLER** (hybrid), one on the BBS (H+) and one in Amity Twp. June 22 (VP, MP); N. Parula, one, late, in Allegany SP June 17 (RA+); Yellow-rumped Warbler, four at McCarty Hill, late, June 16 (RA+), four nests found in old breeding territory near Alfred (EB), and discovery of three active nests in a new area, on Reddy Rd., Amity Twp. (VP); Cerulean Warbler, three in Iroquois NWR and two in Allenberg Bog in June; Pine Warbler, one with food for yg. and singing in mature Red Pine, Quaker Run, Allegany SP July 10 (SE); **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, one in E. Aurora June 5 (AM, Ruhls, AU), max four in Amity Twp through July 25 (VP, MP), and two active nests near Alfred in June, one predated, the other abandoned July 1 (EB).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: An **ORCHARD ORIOLE** was identified at Point Breeze June 10 (DF). The first Scarlet Tanager nest to be documented for Allegany Co. was found near Amity L, Amity Twp. 8.5 ft. up in a *Crataegus* with three nestlings June 17, but it failed due to predation (VP). Three late Evening Grosbeaks were tallied on the BBS. Three House Finches were found for the Abbs, a new species this year, and three yg. were noted at Egbertsville during the summer (AM, WM). Single Pine Siskins stayed late at Amity L June 1 (VP, RP) and at Cuba L June 21 (ASc). From 89% of 26 Am. Goldfinch nests near Amity L, 101 yg. fledged successfully (VP)—good production for one area. Sparrow reports of special interest include: Grasshopper Sparrow, an ad. with yg. at Clarence July 27 plus 16 others counted from eight locations; Henslow's Sparrow, a max ten (!) at Clarence June 8 (DF) and five more totaled from four areas; Vesper Sparrow, one yg. at Charlotte June 24 (FR) and four other scattered singles; and White-throated Sparrow, nine on old breeding grounds near Alfred during June and July (EB). In late July a Gray Catbird was seen near Alfred Sta. carefully constructing her stick-nest; however, a Song Sparrow took it over, adding her own materials, and in late Aug. fledged four yg. (EB).

Addenda: Among noteworthy records received too late for the spring report were: one very early **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** at Bethany May 28 (Kellor, Masons+); 1777 migrating Blue Jays near Hamburg May 8 (ARC, AS); a **VARIED THRUSH** in W. Seneca May 3 (Kitka); max two **PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS** in Iroquois NWR May 14 thru 23 (Daniels+); a single Yellow-breasted Chat in S. Buffalo May 8, 11 (O'Dell); and House Finches nesting in N. Buffalo, May 2, 7 (RA).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

Weatherwise, this season was a bit wetter and cooler than average; both highs and lows for each month averaged 1-2° F (1° C) below normal, June was pleasant with well-spaced rainfall on eight days and with two spells of cold nights, the second setting two record lows, which reduced the blood-sucking insect population to near zero to the benefit of human outdoor activities. The latter cold and lack of flying insects (June 23-26) may have adversely affected breeding birds with young nestlings at that point, otherwise it should have had little effect. July provided a good long hot spell, though again cooler than the peak heat of the past several years. Rainfall was again well-spaced and moderate until a very heavy storm on July 31. August saw the jet stream swing south, resulting in a series of

rapid frontal passages with good migrant birding after several of them. In summary, there were five nights with temperatures 50° F (10° C) or less, eight days with showers, and no really oppressively hot periods.

There was the usual summer decrease in observer activity aggravated to some extent by the gasoline shortage. Some of the farther afield areas of the Region received reduced coverage, e.g. the hill country south of Rochester, but Ontario lake plain coverage was increased with some exciting finds. There was sufficient activity in the Bristol Hills and Letchworth Park areas, including the second annual Breeding Bird Census in the Hemlock/Conesus CBC circle, to record again nearly all of the probable breeding birds of generally more northerly associations located in the past several breeding seasons. The census showed very little change in numbers of species or individuals over last year's count. The more intense lake plain birding resulted in, among other things: confirmed nesting of Acadian Flycatcher, probable attempted nesting of White-eyed Vireo, numerous reports of Orchard Oriole in the orchards of Orleans county, and another fuzzy, though fledged, immature Wilson's Phalarope, plus a number of unexpected vagrant reports and several very early fall migrants. All in all, the breeding season seemed to be very successful. The June dawn chorus was much improved over the past two years. With the several August frontal passages, fall migrant birding was good for those able to venture afield on the "right" days. However, shorebirding has been generally poor due to very limited habitat caused by high lake levels.

Among the seasonal trends, we find Mallard exploding with many double nestings, and by contrast, few pairs of nesting Black Duck. Other locally nesting waterfowl had a good breeding season, too, especially Wood Duck, Turkey continues to expand its breeding localities. Summer gull records boomed; a plus or a minus? A new feeding behavior was observed as Ring-billed Gulls were observed gleaning waste cherries on the wing from picked orchards. Is this a forewarning of a serious future agricultural problem? Additional positive notes were: Cedar Waxwings everywhere, an expanding Prairie Warbler colony above Honeoye Lake, the several lake plains breeding records noted above, and several good sized colonies of Henslow's Sparrow. The negative notes are mostly repeats of past lows: Black-crowned Night Heron, both bitterns, Ring-necked Pheasant, Common Nighthawk, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Vesper Sparrow. The *Empidonax* flycatchers were all down a bit on local breeding bird surveys, possibly only cyclically. Shorebird habitat is a continuing problem combining the effects of draining wet areas for agriculture and high water levels on Lake Ontario.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Mute Swan, Whimbrel, Willet, Franklin's Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Western Meadowlark, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

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

Observers: Bill Barlow, Jean Browning, Mike Carlson, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Julie Clafey, Roger Clark, Bob & Dottie Coffee, Bill Colman, Mike Davids, Fritz Davis, Frank & Robert Dobson, Jeff & Joan Dodge, Jim & Kay Doris,* Arlieen & John Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Bill Gorman, Kevin Griffith, Bill Hartranft, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, John Koopmans, Edith Lank, James Lenhard, David &

Jane Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee,* Frank & Mary Mattei, Robert & Margaret McKinney, Mike McKeon, Gordon Meade, Mike Menuhin, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian,* Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale,* Al & A. Shea, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhauer, Harriet Stride, Allen, Brian, Dan & David Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Sarah Talpey, Steve Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Bob Thomen, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld,* Paul Weld, Kinsley Whittum, Munro Will, Doris Wilton,* and Peter Zachmann. (*=Tuesday Group).

LOONS-DUCKS: The lone loon record was Com. Loon: Canandaigua Lake July 25. A late migrant grebe was Horned Grebe: BB June 14. **EARED GREBE:** ad. in breeding plumage K July 28 thru Aug. 12 (RBA, mob), put in an unprecedented summer appearance contentedly dabbling away among the local ducks over a two-week period. Double-crested Cormorant was recorded sporadically thru the season in small numbers, one to three at BB, Heron records saw Great Blue Heron back to normal; Great Egret scattered thru the season in numbers of one to four in the BB and K areas; and Black-crowned Night Heron and both bitterns still scarce. There was a single report of **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** one imm. BB Aug. 1 (NH). The waterfowl picture included good breeding success by the usual local breeders and a few noteworthy additions including: **MUTE SWAN:** seven BB June 20 thru 26 (mob); and five BB Aug. 7 (TG); very few Black Ducks; Wood Duck: max 90 WL Aug. 25; Greater Scaup: one male BB Aug. 18-19; Com. Goldeneye: one ad. male Canandaigua L June 19 (HSte); possible Barrow's Goldeneye: imm. male BB June 25 (MD); Com. Merganser: 3 males LP June 2 (HM, TT); Red-breasted Merganser: one fem. BB June 25; and Ruddy Duck: one PB July 1 (CP).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout was staffed thru June 30 with 3628 hawks added to bring the season's total to 34,846. June 10 was the last day with over 100 birds, though counts of up to about 50 Broad-winged Hawks were noted to the end. The bulk, 3413, of the June records were immature Broad-winged Hawks. Also of interest were: 107 Turkey Vultures; 31 Sharp-shinned Hawks; one Rough-legged Hawk; four Bald Eagles; 14 Marsh Hawks; 14 Ospreys; and one Peregrine Falcon: imm. June 10. Other seasonal raptors of note included: Goshawk: two nesting Honeoye Lake June 9 (RBA, GOS); and one Hamlin Aug. 5; a scattering of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk records thru the season; the summer movement of migrants along the lakeshore with Red-tailed Hawk: max 133 WL Aug. 24; Red-shouldered Hawk: one imm. K Aug. 19; and one imm. BB Aug. 29; and Bald Eagle: one wing-tagged imm. Greece Aug. 30 (NH). Turkey was reported thriving with one large brood seen: 8 to 12 LP July 21. Rail records were too spotty to draw any conclusions on populations. While shorebird habitat was poor, there were a number of good records: Am. Golden Plover: max. 33 Aug. 24; **WHIMBREL:** one K July 4 (R & SH), very early; one K July 29 (CP, BS); and one K Aug. 5 (WL1, mob); Upland Sandpiper: eight Avon June 24; max 14 Carlton Aug. 9; and max 20 Monroe County Airport July 20; **WILLET:** five K Aug. 18 (CP); Lesser Yellowlegs: max 37 Canandaigua July 24; Red Knot: one Charlotte July 27, early; White-rumped Sandpiper: two Perinton July 29, early; Baird's Sandpiper: one Greece July 30, early; and Wilson's Phalarope: one fem. Perinton June 10 thru 12; one fem. K June 12; 1 to 3 PB Aug. 9 thru 26; and one imm. PB July 29 (RBA). Gull numbers increased dramatically in late June with large counts and a few rarities including: Great Black-backed Gull: 40 WL June 26 thru 28 (MD, BS); Herring Gull: 8000 WL June 28 (BS); Ring-billed Gull: 40,000 WL June 28 (BS); and 25,000 WL July 29 (CP, BS); **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** two ad PB June 25 (WL1, mob). While Black Tern appeared to have a good breeding season, peak numbers of the other tern species never reached the levels of the past several years. Forster's Tern was present thru, but peaked at ten BB July 28. Com. Tern peaked at eight and Caspian Tern at 21 BB Aug. 25.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Additional evidence for local breeding of **SAW-WHET OWL** was provided by: one juvenal Hamlin July 29 (JK), found dead along Lake Ontario

Parkway. Com. Nighthawk may be up a bit in numbers in Rochester, but still is very scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one to two Cumming Nature Center June 9 thru 23, nested.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: The premiere event of this grouping was a confirmed nesting of **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: four ad., two building a nest, Bergen Swamp June 16 (KBA); two ad. & two yg. in nest Bergen Swamp July 7 (RBA); there were two additional migrant records: one IC June 1 (RS); and one BB June 3 (HM). Willow, Alder, and Least Flycatchers seemed a bit low from breeding bird counts, hopefully cyclically. Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared at the usual early June and late Aug. dates with an excellent count: five WL June 3 (MC, CP, HM). Bank Swallow: 5000+ BB July 23 thru 29, is typical of local concentrations of fall migrant swallows in both date and number. Carolina Wren was very low with only one reported: IC Aug. 19. Short-billed Marsh Wren was recorded at three locations: one Greece thru June 1; two Chili thru June, surely nested; and one to two BB June 25 thru July 1, breeding status unknown. Mockingbird reports were few. Early thrush returns were: Hermit Thrush: IC Aug. 8 (NH); Swainson's Thrush: IC July 29 thru 30 (NH); and Gray-cheeked Thrush: IC Aug. 28 (NH). E. Bluebird was a species incurring some losses due to the June cold spell—unfledged young found dead in nesting boxes. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was widely reported as a successful breeder, often in close association with Yellow-throated Vireo and Cerulean Warbler. Golden-crowned Kinglet was reported only from LP. Record early Ruby-crowned Kinglet migrants were: one Penfield (Thousand Acre Swamp) Aug. 14 (TG); and one WL Aug. 28 (TG), no details. Another unprecedented vagrant was Water Pipit: one BB June 28 (MD). Suggestive of nearby nesting among the orchards and hedgerows was Loggerhead Shrike: one PB June 11 thru 13 (WLi); four PB July 5 (WLi); and two PB Aug. 18 (CP).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Most exciting was the location of **WHITE-EYED VIREO**: two, male & fem., near BB June 3 thru 25 (CP, mob), in ideal nesting habitat, though no concrete evidence of nesting success was found. Solitary Vireo was recorded as a probable breeder in Bergen Swamp as well as at the higher elevations south of Rochester. Twenty-three species of warblers were reported as at least possibly breeding in the Region with the most interesting: Nashville Warbler: one Canadice Lake June 17 (RS, GM), defending territory; Yellow-rumped Warbler: one to two above Honeoye Lake June 17 thru 23 (GOS, RBA); and two LP June 2 (RBA); Pine Warbler: several locations in the higher country; and **PRAIRIE WARBLER**: one to six singing males Canadice June 2 thru July 7 (R & SS, mob); and one Rush June 14 to 15 (SaT). Migrant warbler records of note include: **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: IC Aug. 24 (NH); **WORM-EATING WARBLER**: two IC Aug. 24 (NH); Tennessee Warbler: Hamlin July 29 (CP, BS); and IC Aug. 5 (WLi, mob), both very early; Nashville Warbler: IC July 28 (RBA), early; Yellow Warbler: max. 1000+ WL July 28 (NH, mob); Magnolia Warbler: IC Aug. 16 (NH), early; Yellow-rumped Warbler: BB Aug. 11 (SH), early; Bay-breasted Warbler: four WL Aug. 5 (WLi, mob), early; Palm Warbler: IC Aug. 19 (RD), very early; and Yellow-breasted Chat: Hamlin Aug. 9.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** was present most of the season: one singing male PB thru Aug. 5 (mob). A surprise find was **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: one fem. near BB June 25 thru 28 (CP, MD, mob). Orchard Oriole appears to be increasing with several counts of five reported from the PB area June 8 thru Aug. 21. Far out-of-date was Rusty Blackbird: one Perinton July 7 (R & SS). An albino Com. Grackle: Perinton Aug. 11 (J & JD, StT), was an unusual find. House Finch reports continue in good number and widespread distribution. The lone Pine Siskin of the season was: BB July 8 thru 11 (PR). Dark-eyed Junco: BB Aug. 4 (NH), was an early migrant. Encouraging maxima for local sparrow colonies were: Grasshopper Sparrow: eight Avon July 4; and Henslow's Sparrow: 14 Greece July 7. White-throated Sparrow was reported from several potential breeding locations: Canandaigua L June 20 (KD, mob); above Honeoye L June 17 (RS); and Brighton July 4, Aug. 7 (CC).

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