

n.w. corner (SE); on breeding surveys there were six on BBS and eight on Abbs and one to five were reported from Alfred, Alfred Sta. and Amity Twp. A pair of White-throated Sparrows nested near Alfred (EB), and others, also out-of-season, singles, were found in Somerset July 11 (Brock) and near Alfred Sta. Aug. 30 (CK). A Song Sparrow nest in Amity Twp. was later by two days than the New York State record, with two eggs Aug. 13 (VP).

ADDENDA: The Allegany County Bird Club is to be commended for action in late May in giving a life membership to Doris and Lou Burton in recognition of their untiring service to the club. The Burtons have long been faithful contributors to this magazine as well as willing respondents to special requests from near and far.

News of two impressive rarities at Fredonia, both banded and released by Morgan Jones: 1) female **WILSON'S WARBLER** on Nov. 4, 1979, a first November record for upstate, 2) a one year old male **SUMMER TANAGER** on May 10, 1980—rare “even 100 miles north of New York City.” (Bull, 1974).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

Another season of weather contrasts. June was cool, 3.8° F (2.1° C) below normal, and wet, nearly 7 in. (17.7 cm) of rain fell. The impacts on both bird-song and birder activity were both noticeable and negative. There were some reports of nesting failure, particularly for Tree Swallow. July, by contrast, was hot, 1.7° F (0.9° C) above normal, and dry, only 1.9 in. (4.8 cm) of rain, 0.94 in. (2.4 cm) below normal, and 1.03 in. (2.6 cm) of that on one day. A hot and dry August, about 3° F (1.7° C) and .76 in. (1.9 cm) of precipitation above normal, completed the summer. In addition, August weather patterns featured stagnation with few fronts to move migrants.

This season saw observer activity at a very low ebb. The weather of June discouraged many observers and few seemed to return afield in July and August. There was little interest shown in either the annual breeding bird census in the Conesus-Hemlock area or in the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. The few observers reporting listed numbers of species exceeding recent averages for each month with a few interesting dates and species, but with a volume of data really insufficient to draw many conclusions relative to population trends.

Breeding bird survey reports showed very few changes from long-term averages. Trips afield in cool, cloudy June graphically illustrated the effects of sun and temperature on records. On cooler or cloudy days, some species simply don't sing, particularly some flycatchers and warblers. If records are based on too few surveys through their breeding habitats, these birds may appear absent where really there has been little or no population change.

There are a number of more generally interesting observations which can be drawn from the season's records. Among the positives are: local waterfowl enjoyed a good breeding season; the hawk flight total reached a new high, once

again, with most species increased or stable; another substantial summer flight of immature Red-tailed Hawks was noted; Marsh Hawk apparently attempted nesting at Braddock Bay; Ring-necked Pheasant is rumored increasing, though local bird reports don't support this; Common Nighthawk was a bit more numerous over Rochester; swallows gathered in their typical huge concentrations over the lakeshore marshes in mid to late summer; a new Short-billed Marsh Wren breeding location was noted; House Finch is spreading and booming; and several thriving Henslow's Sparrow colonies were reported. Negatives include: few wandering "southern" herons; fewer accipiter nesting reports than in the past several years; Red-shouldered Hawk still very low; very little shorebird habitat, again very high Lake Ontario levels; much reduced peak counts for the August tern flight; substantial Tree Swallow nestbox mortality; Yellow-throated Vireo missing from some usual nesting sites; fall migrant passerines scarce and at generally late arrival dates; only a single Prairie Warbler at the colony site and the area is for sale; and Vesper Sparrow still low.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Sandhill Crane, Hudsonian Godwit, Glaucous Gull, California Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Barn Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven, Prairie Warbler, Western Meadowlark, and Dickcissel.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay State Park area; Ch—Charlotte area, including Ontario Beach Park; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; LP—Letchworth State Park; and WL—west lakeshore area.

Observers: Doug Bassett, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Anne Clarridge, Roger Clark, Bill Colman, Mike Davids, Fritz Davis, Gertrude Davis, Robert & Frank Dobson, Jeff Dodge, Jim & Kay Doris, June Feder, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Harold Griffen, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Doug Keim¹, Allen Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Jim Lenhard¹, Dorothy Leuze, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Mike McKeon, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Mike & Tom Peter, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Diana Royal, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhäuser, Harriet Stride, Brian, Allan, Dan, David & Grace Strong¹, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Steve Taylor, David, Mike, & Tom Tetlow, Bob Thomen, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Kinsley Whittum¹, and Munro Will. 1 = P.O.S.

LOONS—DUCKS: The only loon record for the season was Com. Loon: one BB Aug. 20 (PR). Grebes were also few and represented only by Pied-billed. Double-crested Cormorant was recorded each month as one or two birds at BB. Among the "herons," the event of the season **WHITE IBIS**: one imm. BB July 17-18 (MD), observed carefully at close range. This is at least a first upstate record in this century. There is an 1895 county record which apparently is not accepted by all. Additional interesting heron records include: it was a good season for Great Blue Heron; **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: one Kendall July 18 (WL, mob); **SNOWY EGRET**: one BB Aug. 11 (NH); Great Egret: one Greece July 3; and one WL July 29; **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: one imm. BB June 11, 19 (RS, mob); Am. Bittern: 12 Buck Pond July 17, an improvement in numbers; Least Bittern: five WL July 3, a good count; and **GLOSSY IBIS**: one imm. Hamlin June 3-4 (MD, KG). Waterfowl provided few records of note. Few birds lingered from spring and few summer vagrants were noted. Rare for summer were Pintail: one WL July 18; and one Carlton Aug. 31. Redhead: five Carlton Aug. 29 thru, many for that early. Lesser Scaup: one Kendall thru, summered. Also very early was Com. Goldeneye: one female Carlton Aug. 30 thru. Bufflehead: 1-2 BB June, tarried; and one female Carlton Aug. 24 thru, returned early. Oldsquaw also lingered: one

male BB June 4-21. Unusual dates for Ruddy Duck locally were: one Kendall June 12; and three WL July 29. For Com. Merganser: one male BB June-July, was unusual; a female was also seen there thru June 7; and six LP June 30, led to breeding speculation for the latter area.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The accompanying table summarizes the complete totals compiled by Laura and Neil Moon with the aid of numerous other observers at the Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout thru June 30. The totals for the past four years of daily coverage from late Feb. thru June are presented for comparison. In comparing with other hawk watch data, it should be noted that in three of the four years only 1-5% of the final total occurred in June (less than 1,000 birds in each case) and that after June 10 there have been no 100-bird days and even few 20-bird days. A general extension of coverage at other watches to June 10 would appear certain to cover any potential late surge of immature Broad-winged Hawks; eg. this year just missed a large June total as 4,056 passed on May 30 & 31.

HAWK WATCH TOTALS - BRADDOCK BAY

Species	1977	1978	1979	1980
Turkey Vulture	858	1,150	1,638	1,626
Goshawk	8	39	43	22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	923	6,271	4,879	7,714
Cooper's Hawk	59	74	133	142
Red-tailed Hawk	1,156	1,763	2,687	2,823
Red-shouldered Hawk	265	181	436	283
Broad-winged Hawk	16,919	8,300	22,142	24,204
Rough-legged Hawk	174	442	419	231
Swainson's Hawk	0	0	1	0
Golden Eagle	4	14	16	8
Bald Eagle	3	14	26	14
Marsh Hawk	182	360	570	437
Osprey	40	96	218	107
Peregrine Falcon	1	6	6	3
Merlin	0	4	8	6
American Kestrel	109	683	702	536
Unidentified Accipiter	48	15	46	17
Unidentified Buteo	737	453	828	581
Unidentified Eagle	1	2	0	0
Unidentified Falcon	2	8	3	2
Unidentified Hawk	77	18	45	44
Totals	22,566	19,893	34,846	38,800

Additional raptors of note were: Goshawk: one Greece June 1; Red-tailed Hawk: 514 BB Aug. 31, two hr. count, mostly imm.; and 300+ BB Aug. 31, a non-overlapping continuation of the count; Red-shouldered Hawk: one Honeoye Lake area June 15; Rough-legged Hawk: one BB Aug. 31 (WL, mob), very early; Osprey: one Buck Pond July 26; and one BB-Durand Eastman Aug., unusual dates for recent years; and Bald Eagle: one BB June 7; one H June 14, and one East Bay July 7, all three immatures. A **SANDHILL CRANE**: BB July 16 (NH), provided a first summer occurrence for the Region. Rails and other marsh birds received too little attention to yield any information of note. As noted earlier, shore-bird habitat was severely limited, yet visits to field puddles early and Lake Ontario beaches and, finally, plowed fields later yielded many interesting records. Most notable were: Am. Golden Plover: one Carlton Station July 25 (MD), very early; Black-bellied Plover: max. 32 Kendall Aug. 20; Whimbrel: four BB July 18 (mob); Upland Sandpiper: 26 Monroe Co. Airport Aug. 4, a good count; Red Knot: one Aug. 24, 29, the first of the year; Least Sandpiper: 47 Perinton July 12; Western Sandpiper: one BB Aug. 21; and one Ch Aug. 24; Baird's Sandpiper: two H July 27 (MD, KG), a very early date; Buff-breasted Sandpiper:

4-5 H Aug. 31 (RBA, mob); HUDSONIAN GODWIT: one Ch Aug. 29 (MD, KG—photo, mob); and Wilson's Phalarope: one H June 1; one Chili June 11; and five separate individuals scattered across the Region Aug. 14-16. Following the pattern of the past few years, large numbers of Ring-billed Gulls gathered along the lakeshore from late June on. With their arrival a number of other interesting gulls were reported: GLAUCOUS GULL: one imm. Parma June 20 (MD), a very rare summer record; CALIFORNIA GULL: one Kendall June 17-18 (WLi, MAS, RT, mob), a first regional record, acceptance based on current expert opinion, submitted to NYSARC; LAUGHING GULL: one imm. Ch July 28, 30 (MD, KG, PR); and one ad. Ch Aug. 2 (MD, RCI); FRANKLIN'S GULL: one ad. BB June 11-13 (MD, RS, WLi, mob); one imm. H June 20 (MD); and one imm. Ch Aug. 23 (WLi, RBA); and Little Gull: one imm. BB June 6-27 (mob). Terns were present in much lower numbers than usual this year. Their usual large influx to BB in late Aug. failed to occur.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: After last year's major surge, cuckoos dropped back to normal numbers. Finally a summer BARN OWL: Chili July 4 (JSk, mob), certainly a regular, though rare, breeder. Barred Owl appeared where expected, plus: two LP June 7; and one Carlton Aug. 30, new locations. The increase in Com. Nighthawk over downtown Rochester was encouraging.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Again this year ACADIAN FLYCATCHER was found nesting: 2-3 & nest Bergen Swamp June 1-July (mob). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one IC June 2-4; and one H Aug. 23, represent typical occurrences. Bank Swallow: max. 50,000+ BB July 18 (WLi, MAS), was a typical peak concentration. Cliff Swallow enjoyed a good nesting season on the Elmheart Hotel at BB, but all nests have since been removed. COMMON RAVEN: one H-Kendall Aug. 16 thru (CP, mob), is unusual both for occurrence and length of stay. The bird frequented a small woods on the shore of Lake Ontario at the west end of Hamlin Beach State Park and ranged over a large area of orchards and farmland to the south and west. Winter Wren: one Cobb's Hill, Brighton June-July (MW, AW), singing; and one West Barre June 29 (CP, RCI), were rare summer occurrences. Carolina Wren was seldom reported this season, but this is probably more from the failure to visit the right places or send in records than from any significant change in population. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one singing Mendon July 14-Aug. 2 (AC, mob), represents a new, probable breeding location. Very early thrushes were: Hermit Thrush: one WL July 29; and Swainson's Thrush: one Mendon July 28 (AC, SaT). E. Bluebird nesting in the Region was apparently very successful. Golden-crowned Kinglet was recorded as a probable breeder in both LP and H.H. Spencer Park (above Honeoye Lake). Ruby-crowned Kinglet was observed both early and late: one LP June 1; and one IC Aug. 29 (NH). Water Pipit: one Perinton July 13 (F & RD, mob), was a new early arrival date for Fall. Loggerhead Shrike: one Pt. Breeze June 25; two Kendall Aug. 16; and one Sodus Aug. 24, lend some hope of continued breeding in the Region.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Among the vireos, only the lack of Yellow-throated Vireo at a few normal nesting localities and an early Philadelphia Vireo: one Sodus Aug. 24, were noteworthy. Warblers, once again, saw 24 species recorded in proper season and habitat to suggest breeding, but little work to provide confirmation. Fall migration was quite late with few early dates and small numbers for most species by season's end. The more interesting warbler reports included: Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Pt. Breeze June 6; one IC June 1-13; and one BB July 1, all unusually late dates for lake plain sightings; Pine Warbler: two Parma Aug. 17, one IC Aug. 19; and one Durand-Eastman Aug. 31, usually scarce at this season; PRAIRIE WARBLER: one male Canadice thru June 15, the only singing male at the colony site this year; and Yellow-breasted Chat: one Sodus July (TT), never a common breeder.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: This year Bobolink seemed particularly abundant both breeding in fields early and in feeding flocks or through calls overhead in late July and August. WESTERN MEADOWLARK: one Pt. Breeze June 4-14 (WLi, AK, mob), was found near where a bird summured last year; and one Williamson June 28 (WLi), may represent a move

of about a mile by a pair sighted in the spring following early mowing of the original site. Orchard Oriole bred successfully again at Pt. Breeze, but there were no other summer records. DICKCISSEL: one male LP thru July 7 (mob), sang on and on and vigorously defended a territory, but there was no sign of a mate. Evening Grosbeak: one Durand-Eastman Aug. 10 (RS); and one Webster Aug. 17 (RS), were rare occurrences. Aside from widespread reports of House Finch, there were no other finch reports of particular interest. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows seem to be holding their own, while reports of Vesper Sparrow, particularly on the lake plain, fell to near zero following an encouraging number this spring, Lingering White-crowned Sparrow was: one BB June 15, 25-30.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

June was a bit on the cool side but July and August were hot. Drought conditions in early July were relieved in some sections by spotty rains in late July. August rainfall was below normal.

The big activity of the summer in birding circles was participation in the Breeding Bird Atlas project. The summer months often become the ornithological doldrums of the year, but not so this year as the wealth of records which poured in on the Regional Editor will attest. The Atlas survey took birders away from their favorite birding spots into new areas, and surprisingly some of them found new birding spots with unexpected species.

Seasonal Pluses: 1) more white herons with small numbers spread widely over the Region, 2) increased numbers, including nesting, of Red-shouldered Hawks, 3) development of a small hawk migration during the closing days of the period with Ospreys migrating at Elmira the last half of August, two Marsh Hawks gliding south along the drumlin ridges northwest of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge August 21 and a movement at Corning on August 31 which included two Turkey Vultures, two Sharp-shinned Hawks, three groups of Broad-winged Hawks within an hour and an Osprey, 4) continuation of the Bald Eagle hacking experiment at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge with eight eaglets hacked and released. Although it did not occur in Region 3, the nesting and successful production of two young eaglets near Watertown by the first pair of eagles hacked at Montezuma Refuge in 1976 was of considerable interest here for it proved that the experiment was a success, 5) probably the most exciting ornithological news in the Region was the successful fledging of two Ospreys from the nest at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge which was reported in the last issue of *The Kingbird*. This would appear to be the first successful nesting of the species in central or western New York during *this century*, 6) a slight increase in Ring-necked Pheasant reports. This could be more illusory than real. When a species becomes rare, observers tend to report every sighting, whereas, when the species is abundant, only the unusual sightings are reported, 7) increasing Eastern Phoebe numbers after a five year low, 8) more Eastern Bluebird reports. This