

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.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

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

species operates like a yo-yo. Just when it seems to be picking up, it crashes. Last year is was down but 1980 was definitely an "up" year.

Seasonal Minuses: 1) all reports indicate very poor shorebirding with two exceptions. First, a patch of mudflats at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge during the first half of July attracted the usual early migrants but this area soon dried up. Second, there were reports of many shorebirds at Seneca Lake State Park on Aug. 22, 2) few reports of Rough-winged or Cliff Swallows, 3) Eastern Meadowlarks and Rufous-sided Towhees were down, 4) continued low numbers of Vesper Sparrows.

Rarities: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Marbled Godwit, probable Ruff, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Fish Crow, Orchard Oriole, Dickcissel, Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey, (Trumansburg June 1, Romulus June 17, MacDougall June 18); Cay—Cayuga; GJC—Geneva June Count which covered the Christmas Count Circle on June 15; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk—Park; Sen—Seneca; * (starred)—details on file.

Contributors and Compilers: W. E. Benning, Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen), John Confer, Vernon Dewey (MNWR), Bernice Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard, Eleanor Jones, Herbert and Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca), Dave Sibley, Jeffery Walters, Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: one flying over Sen L Pk June 18; present on Keuka L all summer. Horned Grebe: a bird in breeding plumage at Stewart Pk was probably the first mid-summer record for Ithaca. Double-crested Cormorant: one at Slaterville, an unusual location (Marie King); up to four at Ithaca and up to 14 imm. at MNWR. Great Egret: three MNWR from mid-July on; three Watkins Glen July 24-Aug. 8; four Elmira July 28-Aug. 8; one Cornell fish hatchery pond Aug. 13; four Corning late Aug. SNOWY EGRET: two Ithaca Aug. 3; two near Auburn Aug. 3 (T. Riley); three MNWR Aug. 23 on (WB). YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Imm. bird well described and illustrated Stewart Pk, Ithaca, July 10 and 13 (DS* *et al.*). Least Bittern: one MNWR July 14 only report. Whistling Swan: one MNWR June 22 (S. Kahl). Canada Goose: about 500 birds summered at MNWR with 58 pairs fledging 335 young. Snow Goose: a blue morph individual was at Phelps June 2-11.

Duck numbers at MNWR as furnished by Refuge personnel:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Broods</u>	<u>Young</u>
Mallard	4,500	Aug. 31	18	132
Black Duck	100	Aug. 31	3	12
Gadwall	2,000	Aug. 31	18	123
Pintail	100	Aug. 31	2	?
Green-winged Teal	850	Aug. 31	3	18
Blue-winged Teal	300	Aug. 31	6	33
American Wigeon	2,500	Aug. 31		
Northern Shoveler	700	Aug. 31		
Wood Duck	800	Aug. 31	57	464
Redhead	125	Aug. 31	2	18
Canvasback	35	Aug. 31	2	8
Hooded Merganser	35	Aug. 31		

Other communities reporting nesting ducks were: Black: Ithaca, Elmira, Penn Yan; Wood: Auburn, Shortsville, Penn Yan, Corning; Hooded Merganser: Ithaca, Elmira.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: two Ithaca nesting sites were not active this year and one at Brooktondale, while active early, was abandoned after May 17. Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported from Brooktondale, Ithaca, Corning, Geneva. Cooper's Hawk: nested near Elmira and Ithaca with three young fledged at Ithaca. Red-shouldered Hawk: a report of one near Townsend Apr. 13 was received too late for inclusion in the last issue. Three successful nests near Ithaca compared to one last year; one sighted Hornell July 29. Broad-winged Hawk: nesting reports from Elmira and Rexville. Bald Eagle: one adult Lansing Aug. 3 and one Cay Heights Aug. 31. Osprey: the nesting pair at MNWR fledged two young. Ruffed Grouse: up to 14 sighted at Cohocton; nesting noted at Ithaca, Rexville, Elmira. Ring-necked Pheasant: six near Shortsville, one Clyde, ten GJC; 14 Romulus BBS; eight Trumansburg BBS; two broods at MNWR produced 16 young. Turkey: nest with nine eggs at Mt. Zoar, Elmira; the population on Italy Hill, Yates Co. is being harassed by coyotes. Virginia Rail: female with young Corning July 27. Sora: one imm. Corning. Com. Gallinule: six broods produced 26 young at MNWR; also nested at Corning. Am. Coot: max. 600 at MNWR where 29 broods produced 105 young. Am. Golden Plover: a bird at MNWR July 9 was five weeks early. Upland Sandpiper: more than the normal number of reports. Two south of Waterloo June 17; two south of Phelps June 22; two adults and two flying young King Ferry July 26; max. 14 Horseheads Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: eight Ithaca airport pond July 26. Lesser Yellowlegs: 36 MNWR July 11. Baird's Sandpiper: one MNWR five weeks early on July 14 (DS)*. Least Sandpiper: 49 MNWR July 18. Short-billed Dowitcher: 20 MNWR July 14. Stilt Sandpiper: three in breeding plumage July 15. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Elmira June 4; nine MNWR July 15; nine Ithaca July 28. **MARBLED GODWIT:** one Cay Inlet, Ithaca, Aug. 12 (DS)*. **RUFF:** a probable female or an imm. MNWR July 14 (DS)*. **LAUGHING GULL:** two juvenals Ithaca lighthouse Aug. 3, 5, 9 and one Aug. 8 (DS)*. **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** sub-adult Ithaca July 13-18 and a winter adult on July 24-27 and two probable juvenals July 28 (DS)*.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: singles on the Trumansburg BBS, Elmira June 24, Clyde July 13, MNWR July 30, Clifton Springs late July and Aug. Black-billed Cuckoo: nested Ithaca and Rexville. Screech Owl: two nests Elmira. Barred Owl: one Elmira July 1. Short-eared Owl: two on Zwick Rd., Sen Co. June 14 and three another day. Whip-poor-will: six calling on Harris Hill, Elmira, July 2. Com. Nighthawk: fledglings seen at Ithaca; 25 migrating over Southport Aug. 10 and 16 over Elmira Aug. 23. Red-bellied Woodpecker: nested at Ithaca, Auburn and Clyde; found on the Trumansburg BBS for the third time since 1966; 15 GJC. Red-headed Woodpecker: nested at Clyde, Auburn and Ithaca. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two nests at Ithaca.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: Trumansburg BBS had the highest count since 1966. Eastern Phoebe: slowly recovering from the severe decimation of the Apr. '76 blizzard. **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** one singing south of Newfield June 3 (P. Kelsey). **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** one calling intermittently Cay Inlet July 23-Aug. 1 (DS *et al.*). Willow Flycatcher: 20 singing males at the Ithaca airport ponds July 23; at seven locations near Shortsville; showing up well on the BBS's. Alder Flycatcher: seven singing males Ithaca airport ponds. **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** two at different locations near Elmira July 3 (WH). Horned Lark: feeding young along Reed Rd., Ontario Co. Bank Swallow: three colonies in the Ithaca area, one with 150 holes; colonies near Phelps, Tyre (100 holes), Junius Ponds (230 holes) and E. Corning. Rough-winged Swallow: bred successfully at Clifton Springs. Cliff Swallow: nested on a building at Corning Community College. Purple Martin: had one of their best years at MNWR but reported to be very scarce at Penn Yan. **FISH CROW:** three pairs at Ithaca all summer but no known nesting. Red-breasted Nuthatch: a probable family group of three near Phelps June 15; one feeding fledgling east of Ithaca Aug. 28. Brown Creeper: one singing near Phelps June 15 (JW). Winter Wren: one singing in swamp east of Ithaca (M. King, D. Brann). Carolina Wren: five Tompkins Co. locations including fledged young near Taughannock; an agitated bird was carrying food at Shortsville June 23. Mockingbird: nested Ithaca and Elmira; for the third summer a pair was seen taking food into the bushes in the Town of Varick, Sen. Co.; seen at three locations

near Penn Yan. Am. Robin: had an excellent summer everywhere as evidenced by the 530 found on the GJC. Hermit Thrush: one singing thru July near Taughannock but scarce at Penn Yan and none in previously occupied sites at Brooktondale. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Mt. Zoar, Elmira, June 16 (WH). Eastern Bluebird: eleven pairs reported in the Ithaca-Trumansburg area. Ten attempted nesting and at least four were successful; three nestings at Elmira; a good year at Penn Yan; fledglings seen at Junius Ponds June 15. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pair feeding two fledged young at Shortsville June 23. Golden-crowned Kinglet: singing male Dryden in June (J. Confer); female seen feeding a young cowbird at Camp Dittmer near Phelps (JW). Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: four each at Clifton Springs and Shortsville late June. Warblers: Black-and-white: nested Elmira. Golden-winged and Blue-winged along with both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" hybrids were found on Coddington Rd. south of Ithaca and at Brooktondale. At Elmira a "Lawrence's" hybrid was being fed by a Golden-winged. No. Parula: one singing at MNWR July 14 was the first summer Cay. L Basin record since 1950 (DS). Yellow: 150 migrants at Stewart Pk, Ithaca, July 22. Yellow-rumped: one singing southwest of Dryden in June; nested at Elmira. Black-throated Green: nested Ithaca. Cerulean: one singing north of Milliken Station June 24; two pairs east of Phelps; one at a new location June 15 Elmira. Blackburnian: nested Rexville. Chestnut-sided: Auburn and Elmira; two pairs showing territorial behaviour east of Phelps. Prairie: singing bird previously reported at Branchport on May 18 remained until June 3 (ML); one singing at a new location south of Ithaca reservoir (Shepherd *et al.*); nested Elmira. No. Waterthrush: nested Ithaca. Louisiana Waterthrush: nested Ithaca and Elmira; one Corning Aug. 31 (T. Bates). Mourning: nested Ithaca; several at Brooktondale. Yellow-breasted Chat: juvenal at Ithaca airport pond July 31-Aug. 1 where a singing male was heard and seen in late May; one Elmira June 14; two singing males Brooktondale. Hooded: singing males south of Dryden. Canada: nested Rexville and Elmira.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: ORCHARD ORIOLE: two imm. or females north of Ithaca Aug. 30 (DS). **DICKCISSEL:** imm. male Elmira Aug. 24 (Runey *et al.*). Evening Grosbeak: male at Strath feeder, Odessa, Aug. 14 for one day only. Rufous-sided Towhee: reduced numbers noted at Phelps, Junius Ponds and on the Trumansburg BBS. Grasshopper Sparrow: several in the Ithaca airport area with one seen carrying food; three locations near Shortsville. Henslow's Sparrow: male singing into June north of Ithaca airport. Vesper Sparrow: reported from Cohocton, Geneva and on the MacDougall BBS. Dark-eyed Junco: nested at Dryden, Elmira and the Guyanoga Valley in Yates Co. **HARRIS' SPARROW:** one imm. Elmira June 23 (WH, M. Wingert)*. White-throated Sparrow: nested Dryden and Elmira; imm. at feeder south of Clyde July 30-31.

R.D. 2, 793 Tyre Rd., Clyde, New York 14433.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The first half of June was decidedly cold. Records, kept by Don Weber for a hill top area west of Candor show that from mid-day of June 8 to mid-day of June 12 the temperature was never as high as 60 degrees F (15.6 degrees Celsius) and dropped into the 30's three of four nights with a recorded minimum of 32 degrees F (0 degrees Celsius) at daybreak on the 9th. At least part of the time, the low temperatures were accompanied by 25-30 mph winds out of the northwest, and on the 10th, rain and sleet.