

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.

From mid-June on, temperatures, although averaging on the cool side, were reasonably seasonable, with some really hot weather in early August. Precipitation was, at most, average leaving rivers and ground water at the low levels that date back to our nearly snowless winter and spring.

The early June cold weather, coming at perhaps the peak of the breeding season, inevitably had its effect on fledglings. The mortality at a Tree Swallow colony in Candor, the highest by far since close surveillance of the colony has been possible, is reported below. It seems likely that similar mortality rates occurred among nestlings of other insectivorous species, particularly those that also depend on flying insects, such as the other swallows and flycatchers.

A sharp hail storm at Candor July 11 also caused casualties. Hailstones almost the size of baseballs were saved in freezers by several people to convince skeptics. Recorded casualties in the wake of that storm were an injured Great Blue Heron, a dead American Robin, a dead Ruffed Grouse and a nestful of dead Cedar Waxwings.

Results from nine of the thirteen Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey routes (BBS) completely or mostly within Region Four were available at this writing. In addition the results from two locally concocted similar routes were also available. Those eleven routes produced 8549 individuals of 109 species. Eight of those routes are directly comparable to results from last year and produced 6631 individuals of 102 species compared to 6495 and 93 last year, a two percent increase in individuals and a nine percent increase in species. Considering only species for which thirty or more individuals were recorded at least one of the two years, the five species showing the greatest percentage increases were: Bank Swallow (442%, probably meaningless), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (166%), Killdeer (59%), House Sparrow (50%) and Eastern Meadowlark (44%). Likewise the species with the greatest decreases were Rufous-sided Towhee (80%), Northern Oriole (65%), Common Flicker (42%), Chimney Swift (26%), Eastern Kingbird (26%) and Red-eyed Vireo (26%). Of those eleven species, the flicker, swift and kingbird were on the opposite list last year. Only the oriole was on the same list last year, although both the grosbeak and towhee numbers shifted in the same direction last year as this year, but to a lesser degree. The totals for every species found on at least one of the routes are recorded below in the form (11,8) to be read eleven individuals on eight routes.

The eleven surveys available were: Whitney Point, June 25, Robert Pantle; Coventryville, June 15, Leslie Bemont; McDonough, June 22, Claude Howard; Oxford, June 1, Harriet Marsi; Lisle, June 27, Robert Pantle; East Newark, June 26, Elva Hawken; Dryden, June 8, Margaret Shepherd; Vestal Center, June 24, Elva Hawken; Milford, June 19, Mary Dobinsky; Castle Gardens (local) June 22, Julian Shepherd; New Ireland (local), June 29, Mary Sheffield.

Rarities during the season included Fish Crows and a Kentucky Warbler, both for the second consecutive year.

Other contributors: Bruce Bozdos; Mildred Clark; Gail Corderman (GC); Glenys Curran; Anna & Marilyn Davis; Janis Dickinson; Mal & Sadie Dorber; Polly Getkin (PG); Fred Leff; Florence Linaberry (FL); Booth Perkins; Joe Sedlack; Robert Sheffield; Cora Wellman; W. Wenokor; Kathryn Wilson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: (8,5); 30 Delhi June 24, the only report of more than two birds, but reported fairly frequently. Green Heron: (3,3); only about a half dozen other reports. Great Egret: one at Portlandville and at least three at Windsor in early Aug., but no others. Black-crowned Night Heron: two Aug. 3 Goodyear Lake and one Aug. 21, also in the Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford area, the only reports. Canada Goose: five June 4, flying over Choconut Center; no others. Mallard: (12,4); regular reports from the Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford area all season, max of 22 Aug. 25 Portlandville. Blue-winged Teal: one Portlandville Aug. 4, the only report. Wood Duck: (1,1); four Aug. reports; eight Aug. 21 max. Com. Merganser: a female and seven young at Emmons, near Oneonta, Aug. 23 to 25.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two to ten all season Delhi; five at Meridale, in Delaware Co., Aug. 2; also three June reports at Oneonta, Vestal Center and Skinner's Falls, on the Delaware River. Sharp-shinned Hawk: five reports. Red-tailed Hawk: (8,6); well distributed; an albino July 27 at Barton, in Tioga Co. Red-shouldered Hawk: (1,1); no other reports. Broad-winged Hawk: (1,1); only a half dozen reports. Bald Eagle: one seen once at West Windsor the third week of July. Marsh Hawk: none reported during the summer. Am. Kestrel: (11,6); common and well-distributed. Ruffed Grouse: (2,2); a one day count of nine at Vestal Center Aug. 2, max of nearly a dozen summer reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: (10,3); no other reports. Turkey: (1,1); Aug. 10 Vestal Center, a female and nine young on a rural lawn; Aug. 8 another report of ten from Vestal Center; an adult with several young on the outskirts of Oneonta for a few days in early June; four adults with 21 imm. Aug. 28 Oneonta. Killdeer: (72,10); common all summer, as usual. Am. Woodcock: (1,1). Com. Snipe: (3,2); the only reports. Spotted Sandpiper: (4,4). Solitary Sandpiper: two Portlandville Aug. 25. Ring-billed Gull: one Portlandville Aug. 16, the first report since May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: (147,11). Mourning Dove: (127,11); everywhere. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (5,3); at Choconut Center and Chenango Forks in early June, but that's all. Black-billed Cuckoo: (4,3); eight other reports. Screech Owl: Aug. 26 Chenango Forks; Aug. 31 Choconut Center. Barred Owl: (1,1), New Ireland BBS. Com. Night-hawk: (1,1); reported over Endicott, Binghamton and Oneonta during period; 30 or more at Vestal Aug. 22. Chimney Swift: (40,8). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (5,4); reported from Binghamton, Chenango Forks, Apalachin, Vestal, Oneonta and Portlandville. Belted Kingfisher: (6,5). Com. Flicker: (28,10); common; a yellow-shafted x red-shafted intergrade banded at Vestal Aug. 29. Pileated Woodpecker: (5,5); three others reported. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (7,6); five more June reports; three Aug. 16 Portlandville. Hairy Woodpecker: (4,4); regularly reported in four different localities and about twenty other scattered reports. Downy Woodpecker: (34,10).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: (48,11); common all summer to at least Aug. 25 Portlandville. Great Crested Flycatcher: (47,11); seemed more common than in recent years but BBS totals show only a modest increase; an apparent family group of four or five still together at Choconut Center Aug. 24. Eastern Phoebe: (77,11); still increasing. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Aug. 23 Port Dickinson; Aug. 27 Chenango Forks; no others. Alder Flycatcher: (7,3); one other report June 10. Willow Flycatcher: (13,8); also June 1 Choconut Center, one in Delhi area June 6 and one June 26 in Portlandville-Milford area; one at Candor that stopped calling in late July was the only one reported after June 27. Least Flycatcher: (60,11); five Aug. 16 Portlandville. Eastern Wood Pewee: (31,10). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Aug. 14 Port Dickinson, the only report. Horned Lark: (1,1), the only report, but surely more common in the open fields at higher elevations in the Region than that would suggest. Tree Swallow: (130,9); 181 young found dead in 43 of approximately 100 nests examined in Candor at the end of the June 8 to 12 cold snap. Bank Swallow: (65,3). Rough-winged Swallow: (3,2); no other reports. Barn Swallow: (242,11); Aug. 24 three adults feeding six young at Emmons. Cliff Swallow: (25,1), Milford BBS and the species still in the same general area Aug. 16; reported nowhere else in the Region. Purple Martin: (3,1), Castle Gardens BBS; at Choconut Center July 8, but no others. Blue Jay: (134,11). Com. Crow: (414,11). **FISH CROW:** about a dozen seen and heard Apr. thru

Aug. in the Willow Point section of Vestal, just as reported last year (GC). Black-capped Chickadee: (104,11). Tufted Titmouse: (7,4). White-breasted Nuthatch: (22,10); 14 on seven of eight routes compared to five on three of those same eight routes last year. Red-breasted Nuthatch: (1,1), McDonough BBS; 13 counted at two stops Aug. 4 Portlandville-Milford, max; three July 6 Bowman Lake; four other reports, three of them after Aug. 23. Brown Creeper: two singing June 14 Bowman Lake and one singing in the same general area July 26; a "family" July 19 Candor; also at Chenango Forks and Delhi in June and Portlandville Aug. 21. House Wren: (159,11). Winter Wren: (1,1), Milford BBS; two June 26 Portlandville-Milford. Carolina Wren: all season at Port Dickinson, but nowhere else. Mockingbird: (3,2); one June 16 Oneonta; the other half dozen June and July reports all from Binghamton-Vestal area. Gray Catbird: (180,11). Brown Thrasher: (25,8). Am. Robin: (599,11). Wood Thrush: (190,11). Hermit Thrush: (3,1), McDonough BBS; June 13 and one or two singing all July at Bowman Lake; one near Bainbridge June 29; on June 26 and July 15 Portlandville-Milford. Swainson's Thrush: (1,1), McDonough BBS; Aug. 3 Candor. Veery: (75,10). Eastern Bluebird: (6,3); several breeding pairs at Vestal during June; one to four present "throughout" at Delhi; one to four per field trip at Portlandville in July and Aug. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Aug. 1, 26 and 27 at Chenango Forks. Golden-crowned Kinglet: several Bainbridge June 29; at Bowman Lake two singing July 4 and 12; then small flocks seen July 26 and 27. Cedar Waxwing: (99,11). Starling: (836,11).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (22,7); feeding young July 25 Bowman Lake. Solitary Vireo: (4,2); the usual scattered small numbers all season; five Aug. 21 Portlandville, max count, but could include migrants. Red-eyed Vireo: (127,11). Warbling Vireo: (23,7); one or two regularly at Delhi all season; one or two each field trip Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford. Black-and-white Warbler: (1,1); East Newark BBS; ten other reports during the season from Delhi, Portlandville-Milford and Port Dickinson. Worm-eating Warbler: June 19 Vestal, the second consecutive year in the same locality. Golden-winged Warbler: (4,4); four other June reports, but none later. Blue-winged Warbler: (5,3); still at Chenango Forks and Port Dickinson in late Aug. Tennessee Warbler: ten Aug. 25 Portlandville, no others. Nashville Warbler: (2,2). No. Parula: one Aug. 25 Portlandville, the only report. Yellow Warbler: (176,11); common as usual. Magnolia Warbler: (2,1); ten more reports of up to three birds, mostly from Portlandville-Milford and Bowman Lake. Cape May Warbler: three Aug. 25, Portlandville area, the only report. Black-throated Blue Warbler: (1,1), Milford BBS; three other June reports, the max five June 26, Portlandville-Milford; Aug. 29 Chenango Forks, probable migrants. Yellow-rumped Warbler: (3,2); at least a dozen other reports during the season, and still singing at Bowman Lake July 12 and Candor in late July. Black-throated Green Warbler: (11,5); over a dozen reports from all parts of the region, with counts as high as six June 26 and Aug. 25 Portlandville; within memory has always been a regular summer resident in heavily wooded areas of the Region. Blackburnian Warbler: (2,2); nine other reports; also a regular summer resident in deeper woods. Chestnut-sided Warbler: (39,7); fairly common regular summer resident in pre-climax second growth. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Aug. 25 Portlandville, the only report. Prairie Warbler: (1,1); Castle Gardens BBS; one June 1 and an imm. Aug. 20 Port Dickinson; one banded Aug. 22 Vestal. Ovenbird: (84,9). No. Waterthrush: (2,2); 7 other reports. Louisiana Waterthrush: six reports, max of five Berkshire July 5, and none after July 20. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one singing June 14 and again June 19 Vestal, the second consecutive year in that locality. Connecticut Warbler: one banded Aug. 31 Vestal. Mourning Warbler: (2,2); three other reports, all in June. Yellowthroat: (376,11). Wilson's Warbler: Aug. 22 Vestal, the first of four late Aug. reports. Canada Warbler: (3,1); eleven other reports. Am. Redstart: (24,7).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (369,10). Bobolink: (149,11); one Aug. 25 Portlandville, the only report after July 13. Eastern Meadowlark: (117,11); only "three times during summer" at Delhi; a little more frequent in other areas with elevation, perhaps, a factor. Red-winged Blackbird: (936,11), so far always the most common species in BBS route results in the Region. No. Oriole: (79,10). Com. Grackle: (406,11). Brown-headed

Cowbird: (71,11). Scarlet Tanager: (65,10). Cardinal: (80,10). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (77,11). Indigo Bunting: (87,11). Evening Grosbeak: Aug. 3 Endwell (FL) and Aug. 18 Apalachin (PG), probably the earliest fall dates ever, but no other reports so far. Purple Finch: (7,4). House Finch: (15,2); 332 banded during the month of Aug. at one location in Vestal; seen regularly at a number of Triple Cities area locations, but not evenly distributed in the area by any means; also seen fairly regularly in Oneonta and Delhi, but only one to six at a time. Am. Goldfinch: (137,11). Rufous-sided Towhee: (54,10); quite possibly on a real decline. Savannah Sparrow: (83,11). Grasshopper Sparrow: (5,3); no other reports. Henslow's Sparrow: (2,1), Lisle BBS; one June 6 on trial run of Castle Gardens BBS; no others. Vesper Sparrow: (5,2); Lisle and Vestal Center BBS routes; no other reports. Dark-eyed Junco: (15,6); twelve Aug. 25 Portlandville, max of about a dozen reports. Chipping Sparrow: (195,11). Field Sparrow: (107,11). White-throated Sparrow: (20,2); about a dozen other reports. Swamp Sparrow: (8,5). Song Sparrow: (381,11).

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL DeBENEDICTIS

What a great summer! Three months of average or above average sunshine and temperatures, almost consistently dry weekends, and a scarcity of biting insects made summer 1980 one to enjoy out of doors. Indeed, the lack of rain was developing into drought conditions by late August and severely restricted the opportunities for waterbirding. No matter, birds appeared to do well too, as attested by the numbers and variety found by observers in the Region.

The spring migration ended with a thud in early June. Gerald A. Smith saw the final hawk movement of about 200 birds of five species, mostly Broad-winged Hawks, pass Derby Hill on 6 June. The only early June shorebird migrants reported were four Semipalmated Plovers at Sandy Pond on 2 June. Here the mild weather was a disadvantage in that the conditions which bring down these migrants were absent. A few tardy migrants were detected later in June, as noted in the species account below.

The Breeding Bird Atlas Project was off to an encouraging start in Region 5. Dorothy W. Crumb (3983 Gates Road, Jamesville, NY 13078), our Regional coordinator, reports that data were obtained from 72 blocks, 32 of which were the important "A" blocks, mostly in Onondaga and Oswego counties. Contributors reported a total of 156 species, of which 135 were confirmed as breeding in at least one block. Virtually all who participated enjoyed atlasing greatly. Dorothy put much effort into the block that contains the highest point in Madison County. She found 94 species there and confirmed 52 as nesting; her list included seven hawks (four confirmed) and 16 warblers (11 confirmed) attesting to the ornithological diversity of the area. Even less spectacular blocks yielded surprises. Your editor was surprised to discover Willow Flycatchers a common breeder within walking distance of his house, and confirmed Ruffed Grouse as a nester in suburban Syracuse where only pheasants were to be expected. These examples only hint at what the full project has in store for us! Even if the Atlas