

Vesper Sparrow—Vesper Sparrows are down in Region 1, scarce in Region 2, up in Region 3 and not recorded elsewhere.

Let us hope that the "green sheets" of the Atlas project will fill in some of the missing data, if indeed it is the data that is missing and not the actual birds, and let me once again ask the regional editors to encourage their observers to report, if not all avifauna, certainly those birds on the "Blue List."

Now for some good news. Two new breeding birds have been added to the New York State list. I refer to the successful nesting of a pair of Forster's Terns on Long Island in Region 10, and the apparently successful nesting of a pair of Boat-tailed Grackles as indicated by the presence of adults feeding young birds, also on Long Island in Region 10. Breeding of Boat-tailed Grackles had been suspected for some years now, and breeding of Forster's Terns had been expected following the establishment of Gull-billed Terns and Laughing Gulls as breeders in Region 10.

Picking the "Bird of the Season" is easy for this period. It belongs to the wayward Sharp-tailed Sandpiper found by Tom Davis on 18 July at that "zoo without bars," Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. It remained through 24 July and was seen by people from many parts of the state and some from other regions of the country as the news spread.

Also, if I may institute a new seasonal award, one for the "Phrase of the Season," how about Vivian Mills Pitzrick's "end-of-May debinoculation"?

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Ah—summer! How sweet it is, but spent too soon. Although the delightful birding weather was fairly fruitful, with a long list of rarities and assiduously earned nest discoveries, it is hoped that the paucity of reports is a reflection of fervent atlasing rather than the ofttime end-of-May debinoculation. The nice warm season averaged 1.1° F. ($.6^{\circ}$ C.) above normal. However, the continued drought is worrisome for those whose springs are going dry, with precipitation again below normal, June and July by about half an inch (1.3 cm.) and August

by 2.3 in. (5.8 cm.). There was little noticeable nest loss from the warm rains, but following the bad wind storm 22 June, many waxwing nests were found abandoned (Brooks). During August, although at least a trace of rain fell on 14 days, accumulation was minimal and vegetation continued green with little defoliation to reveal late nests, goldfinches' in particular. Regionwide, capricious storms make weather generalizations difficult. During July, for example, rainfall at Wellsville was 3.03 in. (7.7 cm.), a half-inch below average, but at Buffalo it measured 5.05 in. (12.8 cm.)—2.5 in. (6.4 cm.) wetter than usual! (Data: Wellsville Water and Light and Buffalo, WGR TV, Ch. 2).

Results from 15 out of 18 runs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) were below average, but the House Finch was new this year. Findings from 14 of the 18 routes of the Allegany County "Mini" Run Breeding Bird Survey (Abbs) were below normal, with the Hairy Woodpecker absent for the first time. Below, status for a species is indicated by: H+ or L- = highest or lowest ever, or tied; H or L = above or below normal; sd+ or sd- = above or below one standard deviation; and no letter - stable.

Encouraging from the summer are 1) a beautiful recovery for the Cottontail, so long on the low phase cycle, showing favorable effects of the mild winter followed by mostly dry weather for the breeding season, 2) more record-breaking nest discoveries and at least three sightings of *Ursus americanus*, one a cub, in Allegany County (Brooks, A. Hotchkiss), 3) Great Blue Herons doing O.K., 4) territorial expansion of nesting Canada Geese, 5) many Mallards, 6) fair numbers of Turkey Vultures and most hawks, including the Marsh Hawk and kestrel, and exciting raptor news, 7) excellent grouse and turkey production but pheasant numbers on breeding surveys mixed, 8) some improvement for the Common Snipe, 9) Mourning Doves thriving from the many corn crops, 10) several reports of the Barred and Great Horned Owls, and kingfishers and hummingbirds doing very well, 11) breeding survey counts high for Pileated and Downy Woodpeckers and a strong Red-headed colony near Dunkirk (Jones), 12) Alder and Willow Flycatchers more prevalent (were the latter singing true?), 13) splendid recovery from last year's Tree Swallow disaster—with some interesting observations, 14) fair Bank, Barn and Cliff Swallow populations, 15) an occasional Red-breasted Nuthatch, and several more Carolina Wrens, 16) a good Veery count and conscientious monitoring of bluebird trails with encouraging results, 17) varying vireo results and generally high warbler counts on breeding surveys with well-established nesting territories for Yellow-rumped and Prairie Warblers, 18) lots of Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings, 19) continued large population of Purple and House Finches, a tremendous goldfinch season with some "can you top this?" tales, and 20) good reports of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, the latter on the upswing.

Discouraging for summer are 1) Red Squirrels unusually destructive of bird nests (Brooks), 2) Purple Finches feeding on Buckthorn—a starvation food—in late August (Klingensmith), 3) few loons and no grebes, 4) Green Herons decreasing on breeding surveys and near absence of American Bitterns, 5) no Black Ducks, and high mortality in Wood Duck production, 6) many shorebirds declining on breeding surveys and little evidence of the usual late summer shorebird flight, 7) the Yellow-billed Cuckoo still on the skids and the usual scanty

numbers of Screech Owls and Chimney Swifts, 8) low breeding survey counts for the Common Flicker and Red-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers, 9) several flycatchers in trouble and nest production for phoebes down, 10) no change in the Horned Lark's plight, 11) few Rough-winged Swallows and the Purple Martin population on the low cycle, 12) low findings on breeding surveys for Blue Jays, Common Crows and White-breasted Nuthatches, 13) Winter Wrens almost missing and the House Wren with lowest ever breeding survey count but with good recovery through the season, 14) low tallies for catbirds, Brown Thrashers, robins and Hermit Thrushes, and several bluebird eggs and *young* destroyed by House Wrens, 15) no Loggerhead Shrikes, 16) reduced breeding survey findings for a few warblers, and beginnings of the warbler migration delayed until late August; decreased nest production for the Yellow Warbler, 17) most icterid numbers down on breeding surveys and much early nest loss from Common Grackles, 18) subnormal counts for several sparrows and a frustrating White-throated Sparrow story.

Rarities: Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Northern Phalarope, Barn Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; OTH—*Olean Times Herald*; Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: The Com. Loon that spent all last summer in Hume Twp. arrived O.K. in April but left in mid-June (KP); the only other report was three at Derby 1-10 June (DP). Included in long-legged wader news is: Green Heron, 12 on BBS (L) and four on Abbs (sd-), an overall downward trend; Great Egret, seven, total, at three locations; Black-crowned Night Heron, one on BBS (H) and 11 others, total, from four sites, including two imm. so. of Busti 7 July (OS); and Am. Bittern, one on BBS, the only report. Canada Geese nested again in n. Allegany Co. where at least six pairs each raised from two to seven young (KP), and the flock at Farmersville Sta., Cattaraugus Co., has grown to ten (DC, JC); two nests were discovered in a new area between Elton and Arcade in June (*vide* DC), and five birds were seen at Cherry Creek 25 July (AS, FR). Noteworthy duck news is very scarce: Mallard, 29 on BBS and ten on Abbs (sd+); Lesser Scaup, one at Times Beach, Buffalo, 3 July (AS, ARC); Ruddy Duck, four at Red House L., Allegany SP, 6 June (RS); Hooded Merganser, two young, produced by a pair nesting on Wood Duck box, in Amity Twp., Allegany Co., 21 July (VP); Com. Merganser, two at Derby 1 July (DP) and 12 (females or young) in Amity Twp. 19 and 24 Aug. (DB, LB, MJ); and Red-breasted Merganser, one at Martha's Vineyard, Chautauqua L., 17-23 June (Roby).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures fledged two young from a nest near Cassadaga 12 Aug. (AR), four birds were tallied on BBS (H) and other reports totaled seven from four areas. Of the two Cooper's Hawk nests in Allegany Co. reported in spring, one fledged two young (VP) while outcome of the other (EB) and of three Cattaraugus Co. nests is unknown (SE). Of five Red-shouldered Hawk nests in Allegany Co., three successfully produced at least six young (EB, VP). Unusual news is the rearing of a young Rough-legged Hawk, hatched at Hawk Hideaway near Hinsdale where the Fornesses are conducting a study for McGill Univ., Montreal (EC). Again this year the Fornesses have worked in the Osprey hacking project, begun last year, on the Seneca Indian Reservation in Cattaraugus Co., where four young were released in Aug. (FM, EC). New for our Region is the hacking program set up in July at Oak Orchard WMA, in which 21 young Bald Eagles from Alaska were raised (FM; Fiess; OTH, 22 July) with successful releasing begun in late Aug. (CBS TV Ch. 4, Buffalo). Other raptor reports include: **GOSHAWK**: two adults and two nestlings near Randolph 15 June (Gagne, Price), and two adults near Sardinia 4 July (RA+); Sharp-shinned Hawk, one on Abbs, 16 over Derby 1 June (DP) and five others from four locations; Cooper's Hawk, one on BBS (H), one on Abbs plus six, not counting young above, from five sites; Red-shouldered Hawk, four on BBS, three on Abbs and singles from two locations; **BALD EAGLE**, one over Derby 12 June (DP), two at Allegany SP 27 June (R. Clark), an adult confronting a recently released young Osprey in Cattaraugus Co. at the hacking site, where the fledgling survived O.K. 18 Aug. (EC), and one near Alfred 22 and 23 Aug. (S. Myers *fide* CK); Marsh Hawk, two on BBS (H), two on Abbs and singles in four areas; Osprey, one, very late near Wellsville 23 June (NI *fide* EL) and one at Belmont irregularly 14-31 Aug. (MJ, JJ, DB, LB); **PEREGRINE FALCON**, an adult in Harmony Twp., Chautauqua Co., 27 June (EP, OS)—very rare; **MERLIN**, one in Stockton Twp. 29 Aug. (FR)—a thrilling discovery; and Am. Kestrel, 37 on BBS (H+). The Ring-necked Pheasant tallied 110 on BBS (L—but best count in four years) and four on Abbs. Virginia Rail adults were seen with young near Busti and Dunkirk in mid-July (OS, MVJ, Baglia) and adult Com. Gallinules appeared with two young near Dunkirk 10-19 July (MVJ, Baglia). With one exception, breeding surveys paint a dark picture for many shorebirds: Killdeer, 168 on BBS (L), and 36 on Abbs (sd-) with an overall downward trend; Com. Snipe—the exception—five on BBS, normal after four low years, and two on Abbs; Upland Sandpiper, four on BBS (L) with one in Gerry Twp. 4 July (RS)—the only reports; and Spotted Sandpiper, seven on BBS (L), and one on Abbs, steadily declining. Other interesting shorebird reports, at Buffalo Harbor (AS, ARC) unless otherwise designated, include: Greater Yellowlegs, one on 14 July; Short-billed Dowitcher, two on 14 July (Buffalo Harbor), and six at Burgeson Sanctuary 29 Aug. (Gagne); Stilt Sandpiper, early, one on 3 July; Semipalmated Sandpiper, one, also early, on 3 July; and **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**, three, early, at Chautauqua L., between Colburn and Cheney's Pt. 26 Aug. (Robys). Eleven Great Black-backed Gulls arrived at Barcelona 23 Aug. (RS), and 89 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Derby 1 July (DP). Good numbers of Caspian Terns were noted: a total of 24 from six areas.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Raising the question, "Where did it come from?" is the **BAD NEWS** of a Monk Parakeet feeding on pears at Jamestown 13 and 14 Aug. (Maggio *fide* RS). Cuckoo reports are discouraging, with only notes: Yellow-billed, two on BBS, and none on Abbs, an overall downward trend; and Black-billed, four on BBS (L-), seven on Abbs and four areas with a total of eight birds. A **BARN OWL** was found at Derby 1 June, 1 July and 2 Aug. (DP), and three **SAW-WHET OWLS** appeared at Randolph 6-7 Aug. (Hallquist). The only Screech Owl reported was one in Amity Twp. during June and July (MH). Two Whip-poor-wills were found near Wellsville 7 June (Wasserloss *fide* C. Button), and Com. Nighthawks noted were a flight of 250 over Lakewood 26 Aug. (RS) and one at Wellsville 30 Aug. (DB, LB). The Chimney Swift isn't doing so well, there being only 28 on BBS (L-) and 13 on Abbs (sd-); however, a nest near Stannards was successful (Grantier). The Red-bellied Woodpecker numbered three on BBS (H+), while the Red-headed tallied two on BBS (L) and one on Abbs, with only two of the latter reported all summer, other than the flourishing group west of Dunkirk where breeding was confirmed this summer

(MVJ). Two nests of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Alfred were successful (EB). The Hairy Woodpecker numbered two on BBS (L) and was missing for the first time on Abbs.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Rated "L" on BBS were the Great Crested Flycatcher at 25 and the E. Phoebe at 23; count of the latter on Abbs was 43 (sd-), low since 1972. In Scio and Amity Twp., from 27 nestings (14 pairs) of the E. Phoebe, 16 were successful, producing at least 45 young (VP), down 1.3 young per nest from last year. The **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** seems well established in Cattaraugus Co. where two adults were feeding two nestlings on Sawmill Run 28 June (RS, Gagne), and others were found in four more valleys west of the Allegheny Res. and also were heard two miles north of Allegany (SE). Other significant flycatcher reports are: Least Flycatcher, 29 on BBS (L-); E. Wood Pewee, 35 on BBS (L) with a nest discovered in Amity Twp. fledging two young in early July (VP); and Olive-sided Flycatcher, one in Amity Twp. 25 Aug. (VP). It was a superb year for Tree Swallows, with no second nestings necessary; of eight nests near Alfred Sta., six fledged at least 23 young (CK); of 12 nestings near Alfred, nine were successful, and here one clutch was laid in bare nest box and abandoned (EB); near Amity L., of 38 nestings, 32 successfully produced no less than 160 young, and here one new box continuously trapped adults until the inside wall was roughened below the entrance; although 50% of these last nests were infested with blow fly larvae, the young fledged O.K. Purple Martins numbered 15 on BBS (L-) and seven on Abbs, and colonies observed at Allegany, Scio and Wellsville were down at least 50% (SE, VP, DN). A pair of clever Black-capped Chickadees chose an old water pump housing for their nest near Fredonia (TM *vide* MVJ). Only six Tufted Titmice, total, were found from three locations and single Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared on BBS, Abbs, and in four areas, one in Aug. probably being an early fall migrant (MVJ). The only wren reports are: House Wren, 96 on BBS (L-), but much depredation of bluebird nests; Winter Wren, one on BBS (H); and Carolina Wren, a comeback, five young fledged from a flower-box nest near Dunkirk in July (MVJ) and five areas reporting a total eight other birds. Two Mockingbirds appeared on BBS (H) and singles were seen at Jamestown 25 July (AR) and at Derby 12 Aug. (DP). Although several E. Bluebird nests were destroyed by House Wrens, including the killing of young in two boxes, production was good; near Amity L. 11 pairs produced 45 fledglings (VP), near Alfred Sta. seven pairs fledged at least 14 young (CK) and 13 other scattered pairs raised no less than 43 young; nine other individuals were counted from four locations. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was identified in Amity Twp. 16 July (VP) and two were seen near Barcelona 23 Aug. (RS). The Golden-crowned Kinglet tallied four on BBS (L) and one on Abbs and one to four appeared near Alfred irregularly to 11 July (EB) while others, also late, were found as two near Centerville 27 June (RA+) and three in Allegany SP 28 June (R. Clark).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Unusual breeding survey results for vireos and warblers include: Yellow-throated Vireo, four on BBS (H), and two on Abbs; Solitary Vireo, eight on Abbs (sd+); Warbling Vireo, 45 on BBS (L) but 13 on Abbs (sd+); Blue-winged Warbler, 26 on BBS (H+); Magnolia Warbler, nine on Abbs (H+); Yellow-rumped Warbler, six on BBS (H+); Black-throated Green Warbler, 12 on Abbs (sd-); Ovenbird, 28 on Abbs (H+); Com. Yellow-throat, 195 on Abbs (H+); and Am. Redstart, 14 on Abbs (H+). A pair of Warbling Vireos was watched at a Scio nest in June (SB). A single **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** was seen at Iroquois NWR 6 and 14 June (RA, AM, WM+). A Golden-winged Warbler appeared on BBS (H) and the nest discovered in May near Amity L., had four eggs 3 June but was lost to predation (VP). A rare "**LAWRENCE'S**" **WARBLER** (hybrid), probably the same bird seen here in late May, was found at Holland 16 and 27 June (AS+, RA+) and another, an adult male singing the Blue-winged song, was identified on Allen St., Town of Ellicott 31 Aug. (Gagne). Among other good warbler notes are: Tennessee Warbler, one at Jamestown 18 June, "latest spring migrant ever for Chautauqua Co." (Kibler *vide* RS); Nashville Warbler, one to four frequenting four Allegany Co. areas; Cape May Warbler, one, late, at Jamestown 5 June (Gagne *vide* RS); Yellow Warbler, of 12 nestings near Amity L., nine fledged 36

young (.4 young per nest less than last year); Magnolia Warbler, five nests near Alfred with only one successful (EB); Black-throated Blue Warbler, singles in four areas; Yellow-rumped Warbler, four nests near Alfred with three fledging eight young total (EB); Blackburnian Warbler, a nest discovered in Allegany Co. but outcome unknown (EB); and Pine Warbler, late, one near Red House L. 6-7 June (RS+). In Allegany Co. the PRAIRIE WARBLER tallied one on Abbs and a max 14 birds were seen near Alfred and in Amity Twp. through early Aug. (EB, VP); near Alfred, in two breeding areas, eight (!) nests were discovered, one containing four nestlings on 24 July—*record late* by 20 days for N.Y. State—and two others, also successful, fledging seven young; between these two locations, another adult was feeding young in early Aug. (EB); a nest in Amity Twp. with four young 15 July (VP) was also *record late* for N.Y. State nestlings by 11 days. Conducive to summer birding are finds like the KENTUCKY WARBLERS of Cattaraugus Co. that were singing on territory at four songs per minute, one near Allegany and singles in two other locations near the junction of Routes 219 and 17 on 18 June (SE), as well as another singing male in the Town of Cold Spring 12 June (Kibler *vide* RS). Single Louisiana Waterthrushes were on BBS (H), on Abbs and found dead in Alfred 2 July (CK, EB). Other noteworthy warblers reported are: Yellow-breasted Chat, one near Allegany 10 June (SE), one on territory near Salamanca during June (T. Baird *vide* SE) and up to two in Newstead Twp. 23 and 27 July (AM, WM); Hooded Warbler, two near Vandalia in June (RV, JV) and up to two in Amity Twp. 12 and 16 July (VP); and Wilson's Warbler, one, late, on BBS (not counted as a breeding bird). During Atlas work in n. Chautauqua Co., breeding was confirmed for many warblers, including No. Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Canada and Hooded Warblers (MVJ).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Extraordinary breeding survey tallies include: House Sparrow: 212 on Abbs (sd-); E. Meadowlark, 229 on BBS (L-), with 64 on Abbs and only 17 other birds noted; Red-winged Blackbird, 2183 on BBS (L-); Com. Grackle, 1095 on BBS (L-) and 313 on Abbs (sd-); Scarlet Tanager, 35 on Abbs (H+), with a nest in Amity Twp. producing three fledglings in June (VP); and Indigo Bunting, 177 on Abbs (H+), steadily increasing. A male ORCHARD ORIOLE appeared in Chautauqua Twp. 12-16 June, heard singing the 15th (Moes *vide* RS). How frustrating it must have been not to find a female or nest along with that male EVENING GROSBILL spotted two miles n. of Allegany 12 June (SE). Although only 11 Purple Finches were found on BBS (L-), good numbers flocked to feeders all season; near Alfred of 15 nests documented, the first ten all failed while the last five were all successful; one of these after being robbed of the eggs was later built upon by a Cedar Waxwing (EB). House Finches have finally reached nearly every nook and cranny of the Region with two on BBS (new this year), five on Abbs, and over 150 banded at Fredonia during July and Aug. with about 85% of these this year's young (MVJ). While the four PINE SISKINS at Jamestown 1 and 2 June (Gagne *vide* RS) lingered a little, the one at Farmersville Sta. 17 July (DC) was waaaay out of season! (How about a nest next year, Don?). Of 53 Am. Goldfinch nests documented near Amity L., eight contained nestlings from two to nine days *record early* for N.Y. State; of these, 39 successfully produced at least 176 young (VP); other dramatic goldfinch news is from three of the 11 nests discovered near Alfred; one had four nestlings 20 July, also *record early* for N.Y. State by 14 days, another was found 27 July with four dead young which were "being nibbled on and tongues eaten by yellow jackets," and on a third nest in a white spruce, a male was incubating the eggs 3 Aug. (EB). The RED CROSSBILL near Alfred 5 and 31 July (EB) was over a month late (Maybe *next* summer . . .!). Sparrows with very low breeding survey tallies are: Rufous-sided Towhee, 34 on BBS (L-); Savannah Sparrow, 303 on BBS (L-) and 49 on Abbs (sd-); Vesper Sparrow, 11 on BBS (L-), with four on Abbs and only other reports singles near Alfred 8 June (EB) and near Rushford 30 July (DC); and Song Sparrow, 785 on BBS (L-) and 365 on Abbs (sd-). No sparrow rated "H+," except the Grasshopper Sparrow with six on Abbs; 14 were found on BBS (H) with a total of nine other birds from four areas being seen. Possibly on the increase near Alfred where up to four were noted during June and Aug. (EB), the Henslow's Sparrow was otherwise reported only as nine on

BBS (H) and four on Abbs. Worth the bone-wrenching hours on rough ground, the annoyance of insect hordes, and dangers from hornets and bears is the return, after several years, of a **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** to the Alfred area 23 June where it was seen irregularly through 15 July (EB); *another* was identified in Andover Twp. 10 July (EB, Chapman). A White-throated Sparrow nest was discovered 1.5 ft. up in goldenrod near Alfred 3 July; the roadside nest was abandoned when "a bus-load of kids . . . had bus trouble" nearby (EB); other summer White-throats are one on BBS, three on Abbs and one to four birds found in at least six widespread areas.

When it's all together—what a summer! Thanks to the Faithful.

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This was a quiet summer. There were few rarities to send the birding hordes flocking afield. Breeding bird surveys were typically just average runs. Many workers were afield atlasing, but the data will not be returned and analyzed in any detail until much later. As July and August wore on, shorebird habitat remained poor and the start of warbler migration was only barely evident. The receipt of field trip reports was at its lowest ebb in many years. 206 species were reported in the Region for the season.

Summer weather brought few extremes relative to the past several years. Rainfall in late July and August was well above normal and brought the year's total to very nearly average. June saw temperatures closely match long-term averages and rainfall reach 2.70" (6.9 cm.), very near the normal of 2.99" (7.6 cm.). July too averaged very near normal temperatures with the first half hot, the latter half cool. In this case, rainfall at 4.60" (11.7 cm.) was 50% above the normal of 3.09" (7.8 cm.). In August, the first half highs and lows tracked the long-term average closely. This was followed by a sunny, cool taste of fall, then an extended warm, dreary stretch of clouds, rain, and S-SE winds. Rainfall at 4.44" (11.3 cm.) was nearly double normal.

Among the general field observations we find there were few straggling spring migrants in June, early fall passerines were few and relatively late, neither gulls nor terns were present in expected numbers, very few diving ducks summered in comparison with the past several years, observers still ignore rails and owls, and shorebirding prospects remain dim with little available habitat and more being tilled and drained annually. Specific positives include: Least Bittern numbers up, Turkey Vulture nesting confirmed in Letchworth Park, a minor rebound for Ring-necked Pheasant, increased Red Knot sightings, Acadian Flycatcher still nesting in Bergen Swamp, huge Bank Swallow gatherings in late July, continued periodic sightings of Common Raven, Winter Wren and Short-billed Marsh Wren breeding, a multitude of confirmed, successful Mockingbird nesting pairs, two confirmed Loggerhead Shrike nestings, good variety in breeding warblers (24 species), Western Meadowlark on territory all summer, spreading and numerically