

WESTERN MEADOWLARK was singing on territory thru the end of July, though no better evidence of breeding was obtained. Orchard Oriole fledged young at PB (four imm. 4 Aug.) and Webster (two young July). Rusty Blackbird: one BB 28 Aug. was early. Probable breeding of Evening Grosbeak was reported from several high country atlas blocks. House Finch is expanding all through the Region. There is much probable evidence of breeding among the Pine Siskins left from the huge spring flight, though only one confirmed record to date. Examples include: Pine Siskin: two to 14 Greece thru 31 July; two Honeoye Lake 14 June; one to two Webster, Greece, Irondequoit, Livonia June-July. Among the grassland sparrows, Grasshopper and Vesper were scarce, Henslow's locally in good shape, and Savannah abundant. Dark-eyed Junco: one Hilton 5, 19, 25 July, was unusual for the lakeplain in summer. **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**: one BB 5 July (MD), was a very rare summer occurrence.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Temperatures this summer averaged about normal with the hottest spells, 85°-90° F., at mid-month in June and July. As often happens in the summertime, rainfall varied from place to place. Most of the Region was a bit on the dry side.

For the second year, and with increased interest and intensity, the Breeding Bird Atlas project took over activities of the Region's birders. The fruit and nut crop of the season varies considerably with the species and the locality. Mountain ash berries are abundant with nuts and wild grapes scarce and other species average.

Because extensive mudflats are no longer available at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge through the fall migration period (1 July until freezeup), shorebirding in Region 3 is drastically different. Formerly the statistics from Montezuma, because of the sheer number of species and individuals found there, tended to dominate the Region 3 shorebird report. Now we have only reports from small ponds and marshes. This year most of the common, but very few of the less common species, have been reported.

An interesting observation comes from Elmira where a pair of Cedar Waxwings was observed building a nest in a cottonwood tree on 5 June, a very early date for that species. Later the same observer returned to the site and found two Eastern Kingbirds working on the nest and the female eventually sitting on it.

Seasonal positives: 1) more reports of nesting accipiters. Are there really more or is the increased atlas activity just finding more?; 2) the successful nesting of the Osprey at MNWR for the second year; 3) continued spread of the Turkey; 4) more widespread reports of Upland Sandpipers—again, atlas activity?; 5) both Am. Coot and Black Tern bred in good numbers at MNWR; 6) an excellent E. Kingbird migration; 7) continued and more widespread sightings of Com. Raven in the Region's southern hills; 8) the continued presence and nesting of the Fish Crow at Ithaca; 9) Carolina Wren numbers picking up; 10) a really en-

couraging year for the E. Bluebird except for the reduced use of the nesting boxes at the Seneca Army Depot; 11) the continued annual appearance of such southern species as Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo and Kentucky Warbler; 12) Ring-necked Pheasant and Vesper Sparrow were reported in slightly larger numbers than in recent years. This increase may be more apparent than real. When a species gets almost to the vanishing point as these species had, there is a tendency for everyone to report every sighting which does not occur when the bird is more abundant. Also, here again, the atlas work may have simply ferreted out more individuals.

Seasonal negatives: 1) few reports of either species of bittern; 2) few hummingbird reports; 3) continued scarcity of E. Phoebe; 4) extremely few Rough-winged or Cliff Swallows.

Rarities: Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Ruff, Acadian Flycatcher, Com. Raven, Fish Crow, White-eyed Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Western Tanager.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; Conn—Connecticut; FWBBS—Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey with Cayuga on 19 June, MacDougall 18 June, Orleans 17 June, Romulus 17 June and Trumansburg 14 June; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk—Park; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; Sen—Seneca; Tomp—Tompkins; * (starred)—details on file.

Contributors and compilers: W. E. Benning, John Confer, Vernon Dewey (MNWR), Bernice Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard; Steve Kahl (Auburn), Herbert & Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Judie McCormick, Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca), Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Double-crested Cormorant: up to 15 at MNWR thru the period. LITTLE BLUE HERON: imm. Ithaca 28 July (D. Sibley). Great Egret: max six MNWR. SNOWY EGRET: Dryden 25 July (D. McCrimmon). Least Bittern one MNWR 5 Aug. only report. Brant: seven were still on Sen L at the mouth of Reeder's Creek on 1 June.

Waterfowl numbers as reported by the Montezuma Refuge personnel:

Mallard	4,000	Aug. 31	Northern Shoveler	700	Aug. 31
Black Duck	125	Aug. 31	Wood Duck	900	Aug. 31
Gadwall	2,000	Aug. 31	Redhead	50	Aug. 31
Pintail	75	Aug. 31	Canvasback	25	Aug. 31
Green-winged Teal	900	Aug. 31	Ruddy Duck	35	Aug. 31
Blue-winged Teal	400	Aug. 31	Hooded Merganser	50	July 31
American Wigeon	270	Aug. 31			

Pintail: two females Ithaca 22 July. Bufflehead: female Elmira into early July. Hooded Merganser: two females with young at Ithaca and one with four young at Elmira. Com. Merganser: a male at MNWR at the unusual date of 19 July.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: fledged young E. Corning and Ithaca; one Moravia July. Sharp-shinned Hawk: in Tomp. Co. adults with food seen on Conn. Hill, a female around Twin Glens and a report of a successful nest on Ellis Hollow Rd., in Cay Co. birds seen at Moravia and Owasco in July and at Niles and Locke in Aug. Cooper's Hawk: nested Moravia; three young fledged east of Ithaca where they nested last year; singles at Corning Glass works and Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. Red-shouldered Hawk: in Tomp. Co. one to three Conn. Hill to 12 June and one at Ringwood, Marsh Hawk: one SAD 13 June and 10 July. Osprey: three young fledged at MNWR; one at Penn Yan Aug. Am. Kestrel: many reports of family groups especially in the no. part of the Region. Ruffed Grouse: female with six chicks Moravia July. Bobwhite: one whistling south of Breesport thru June. Ring-necked Pheasant: improving slightly at Penn Yan; numerous calling males in the Owasco Valley; on five FW

BBS's 33 birds were recorded at 30 stops; two Junius Ponds 14 June. Turkey: increasing in Yates Co. particularly around Bluff Point; nested west of Elmira; two families Conn. Hill June, two birds Moravia. Com. Gallinule: many young Elmira. Am. Coot: max 650 MNWR 31 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: small numbers at Sen L Pk, Waterloo Dump and Peruville Marsh. Upland Sandpiper: agitated behaviour by adult at Etna but no nest found; 17 Horseheads 19 July, two adults and an imm at Waterloo 19 July; also reported from Phelps, Auburn and Ithaca. White-rumped Sandpiper: one MNWR 19 July. RUFF: a male still in partial breeding plumage at MNWR 3 July (WB*). Sanderling: four to eight Sen L Pk 26 July-12 Aug; three to eight Ithaca July. Wilson's Phalarope: a female MNWR 7-10 June. Great Black-backed Gull: fall birds returned to Ithaca and Owasco L in mid-July. Bonaparte's Gull: two to three Sen L Pk 29 July-12 Aug.; singles Ithaca 22 and 31 July. Caspian Tern: two to six Ithaca 31 July to 3 Aug.; two to five MNWR 13-15 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos: numerous reports of both species. Barred Owl: the two young reported in the Spring report at Elmira were seen thru early July. Saw-whet Owl: one Conn Hill, Tomp. Co. 1 June. Com. Nighthawk: at Penn Yan in June; big increase in birds over Auburn; 75 passing silently over Elmira 4 Aug. Very early migrants? Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nest with young Schuyler Co. Belted Kingfisher: nests north of Lake Ridge and Salmon Creek in Tomp. Co. and at Owasco L Inlet and Outlet, Dutch Hollow Brook and Fillmore Glen in Cay. Co. Pileated Woodpecker: three young fledged near Moravia. Red-headed Woodpecker: reports, including several of young birds, from all over the Region.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: a good southerly movement in early Aug. with groups of up to 30 birds observed. E. Phoebe: continues scarce with many previous nesting sites abandoned. Yellow-billed Flycatcher: in Tomp. Co. one was located on Conn. Hill 1 June and one at Ringwood 6 Aug.; one banded Penn Yan Aug. **ACADIAN FLY-CATCHER:** a singing bird in Bear Swamp near Niles on two dates a week apart (SK). Alder Flycatcher: found on the Romulus and McDougall FWBBS's. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Conn. Hill 1 June; one Elmira 29 June. Tree Swallow: at SAD 74 pairs fledged 229 young (JMc); decreasing at MNWR as the dead trees with nesting holes topple over. Bank Swallow: the Junius Ponds colony down drastically; max 1200 Ithaca 20 July. Rough-winged generally very scarce; nested at Fall Creek and Salmon Creek, Tomp. Co. and in a drainpipe at Emerson Pk. on Owasco L. Purple Martin: very good numbers of nesting birds at the north end of Cay L, including MNWR, but scarce elsewhere. **COM. RAVEN:** reported from Conn. Hill and Arnot Forest. **FISH CROW:** a pair with three young was seen in Ithaca 7 Aug. but the nest was not located. Tufted Titmouse: fledged young at Sapsucker Woods. House Wren: 18 pairs fledged 25 young SAD (JMc). Carolina Wren: continues to nest in a garage in Phelps; present in at least six locations, Ithaca; two MNWR 19 July. Mockingbird: 20-25 Ithaca; nested Benton, Auburn and Myers. Hermit Thrush: nest in Elmira "inches from a rattlesnake den"; six singing males Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. 1 June; also one Bear Swamp near Niles. Swainson's Thrush: banded Penn Yan 16 and 22 Aug. E. Bluebird: at SAD only four pairs occupied the 82 boxes but they fledged 18 young; three young fledged at Moravia; several successful nests in Tomp. Co., also at Waterloo and MNWR; "doing nicely" at Penn Yan. The second encouraging year in a row for this beleaguered species. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: young birds noted at MNWR; reported from Phelps, Reeder's Creek, Sen. Co. and Ithaca. Golden-crowned Kinglet: five juvenals in two groups on Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. 6 July. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Vireos: **WHITE-EYED:** one seen and heard at Sapsucker Woods 10 July (C. Smith *et al.*). Yellow-throated: well-reported from much of the Region. Solitary: six singing on Conn. Hill 26 June; adult feeding young Bear Swamp, Niles. Philadelphia: three Moravia 19 Aug.; one MNWR 26 Aug. Warblers: Black-and-white: four Tomp. Co. locations with adult male and juvenal at Ringwood 6 Aug. Worm-eating: three locations Elmira. Blue-winged: max 15 Ithaca including two families 15 July; singing male Moravia;

banded at Penn Yan Aug.; three Vine Valley 14 Aug. "Brewster's" hybrid: one Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. 1 June; one Elmira 11 July; male paired with Blue-wing Ithaca. "Lawrence's" hybrid: male paired with a Blue-wing feeding a "Blue-wing" with Golden-wing traces Ithaca. Nashville: three singing Ithaca 13 June; male Bear Swamp near Niles and one at Moravia 19 Aug. No. Parula: one Elmira 29 June. Yellow: up to 40 Ithaca late July. Magnolia: four-five per day Conn. Hill; banded at Penn Yan Aug. Cape May: banded at Penn Yan Aug. Black-throated Blue: four singing males Conn. Hill; singing males at Moravia and Bear Swamp. Yellow-rumped: five singing males Conn. Hill 6 July. Black-throated Green: in Tomp. Co. a family at Ringwood and seven Conn. Hill 26 June; adult feeding young Moravia; present Bear Swamp near Niles. Cerulean: reported at two locations east of Phelps, Junius Ponds, Camp Barton on Cay. L. MNWR, Salmon Creek north of Ithaca, and Bear Swamp near Niles. Blackburnian: singing males Ithaca 9 and 11 June, and up to four on Conn. Hill; three Moravia 19 Aug. Chestnut-sided: one east of Phelps 14 June; max Conn. Hill 25 on 12 June; many singing males in Bear Swamp and two near Moravia; banded at Penn Yan Aug. Ovenbird: max 20 Conn. Hill 5 June. No. Waterthrush: in Tomp. Co. eight singing males at Ringwood, two at Sapsucker Woods and four plus an adult carrying food at N. Lansing. Louisiana Waterthrush: one Watkins Glen 25 June; singing male Moravia; pair feeding young in Bear Swamp near Niles. KENTUCKY: one Conn. Hill, Tomp. Co. (DS & JW). Mourning: one Elmira 29 June; at five Tomp. Co. locations; many singing males Bear Swamp near Niles and a few near Moravia. Yellow-breasted Chat: singing male Conn. Hill 1 June and one north of Ithaca 6-21 June; one Waterloo 16 June and one Moravia 19 Aug. Hooded: singing male in Bear Swamp. Canada: max 14 Conn. Hill 26 June; banded Penn Yan Aug.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: ORCHARD ORIOLE: nest with young Town of Varick, Sen. Co. (BH); nest Romulus (W. Warne); one Ithaca 8 July; female Elmira 17 July and 17 Aug. No. Oriole: nested in the same tree as the Orchard Oriole mentioned above in the Town of Varick; 21 banded 1 and 2 Aug. Penn Yan (ML). WESTERN TANAGER: a male and possibly a female spent the summer at Vine Valley, Yates Co. (R. DeVinney, R & S Gilmour). Efforts to verify the record on 14 Aug. failed to find the bird but the descriptions given by those who observed the bird were very good. Reportedly the bird was in the same area in 1979. Indigo Bunting: max 25 Conn. Hill 5 June; many at Phelps in late July. Purple Finch: max 26 Conn. Hill 12 June; nested Bear Swamp near Niles. Pine Siskin: last winter's birds lingered on with three at SK's feeder in Auburn 1 June; two on Conn. Hill 5 and 12 June; and one Ithaca 12 July. Red Crossbill: male Conn. Hill 6 July (DS). Grasshopper Sparrow: one Waterloo 16 June; one Elmira July; three to five singing in the Ithaca airport area and four on Conn. Hill; a male singing and an adult carrying food at Locke, Henslow's Sparrow: singles near Ithaca airport 3 and 10 July; max eight north of Ithaca 26 July and three singing there 10 Aug. Vesper Sparrow: more reports than in some time. Max 11 Orleans FWBBS. Dark-eyed Junco: 40 Conn. Hill half of them juvenals; three nests Guyanoga Valley, Yates Co.; singing male Bear Swamp. White-throated Sparrow: one singing Conn. Hill 10 July; singing male Bear Swamp.

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

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The early part of June was rather cool, and not until late July and August was there any really hot weather to speak of. The whole season was rather dry with respect to total accumulation, although light rains were reasonably frequent.