

Forks 17 June "took down the feeder. That's the last we saw of them" (A, MD). Pine Siskin: two PO. Am. Goldfinch: (55, 5); nine CO, 35 PR, 22 PO. Rufous-sided Towhee: (22, 4); seven CO, 24 PR, 14 PO. Savannah Sparrow: (21, 5); five CO, nine PR, five PO; 17 counted at Portlandville 1 Aug. Grasshopper Sparrow: (6, 3); one CO, two PR, two PO. Henslow's Sparrow: one New Ireland MBBS; one CO, one PR, one PO; found in five different places in central Broome Co. (MS). Vesper Sparrow: one 18 June a couple of miles south of Center Lisle (LB); the only report all period. Dark-eyed Junco: (3, 3); five CO, 12 PR, nine PO; five Portlandville-Milford 13 June. Chipping Sparrow: (93, 5); 36 CO, 16 PR, 12 PO. Field Sparrow: (53, 5); 19 CO, 20 PR, 11 PO. White-throated Sparrow: (22, 2) McDonough (16) and Milford BBS; one CO, 12 PR, 12 PO. Swamp Sparrow: (5, 2); one CO, ten PR, three PO. Song Sparrow: (198, 5); 33 CO, 20 PR, 16 PO.

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The summer 1981 had exceptionally fine weather and at best average birding. At Syracuse, temperatures averaged slightly above normal for all three summer months, and the drought of the early year continued through August. Precipitation in Syracuse was 2½ inches below average for the summer and 7½ inches below average for the year at the end of August. It had become apparent that the early thaw and subsequent frosts would greatly reduce seed crops, especially of oaks, maples and early flowering cherries, apples and similar fruit bearing trees.

Involvement of your editor and the Regional Breeding Bird Atlas coordinator in hosting the annual meeting of the Federation precluded a summary of the Breeding Bird Atlas results as was possible last year. A preliminary survey of these data indicates continued progress, trends in the abundance of species similar to last summer, and few exceptional finds. More interesting birding areas continue to be uncovered as workers venture farther afield and into seldom worked blocks.

The nesting season, having little cool weather or rain to hinder it, appeared to be quite successful, especially for swallows and warblers. No species seemed to show the explosive reproductive effort that characterized the previous summer. Several observers commented on late (i.e., August) song by several species, notably Willow Flycatcher and Northern Oriole, though the significance of this is unknown.

As always, the fall migration was underway in July with the return of shorebirds and the passage of Yellow Warblers. Neither exceptional numbers nor much variety of shorebirds was seen, especially given the numerous muddy ponds created by the drought conditions. Tuscarora Lake, near Erieville, Madison County, was drained for dam repair and accounted for a number of locally unique records, such as Ruddy Turnstone, Baird's Sandpiper, dowitcher and Northern Phalarope. This phenomenon is well-known from other similar happenings. Most observers felt that juvenal shorebirds were late in arriving and few in

number. The land bird migration was generally unimpressive.

A total of 193 species plus two hybrids was reported this season. The only real rarity was a migrant Prothonotary Warbler, but several other locally unusual species were reported and appear in the account that follows.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; max—maximum; NPT—northern Pompey Township; NYS-ARC—details to New York Avian Records Committee; Onon—onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: ten Howlands Island Game Management Area, a known nesting area, and one Onon. L. in mid-Aug. were the only reports. Double-crested Cormorant: regular along Lake Ontario after 4 July, max 39 on 13 Aug. Great Egret: Tuscarora Lake, Madison Co., 19-27 Aug. Black-crowned Night Heron: present all summer without evidence of nesting Snake Swamp, Oswego Co.; singles Peter Scott Swamp on 20 June and Amboy on 5 July. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: possible imm. Pompey, 21 June (FLaF, NYSARC). Least Bittern: reported from Pools Brook Marsh, town of Manlius; and SP only. Am. Bittern: none reported after early June. Pintail: arr 5 Aug. Onon. L. Am. Wigeon: arr 29 Aug. SP. No diving ducks reported except Hooded and Com. Merganser at known nesting localities.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: possible migrant SP 23 Aug., though nesting confirmed nearby last summer. Red-shouldered Hawk: two singles, town of Florence 13 June and Camillus 18 June, only reports. Marsh Hawk: none nesting this season; arr SP 23 July. Osprey: arr 30 Aug. SP. Semipalmated Plover: arr 19 July Onon. L., max 20 Sylvan Beach on 30 Aug. Am. Golden Plover: arr 27 Aug. Tuscarora L. Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 Aug. Onon. L. Ruddy Turnstone: arr 8 Aug. SP. Whimbrel: one SP after 8 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: migrant Onon. L. 5 July; no large counts from Oneida Lake plain. Solitary Sandpiper: arr 11 July Onon. L., max 26 Pools Brook Marsh 19 July. Greater Yellowlegs: arr 10 July Onon. L., no counts above four. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 July Onon. L., max only 40 on 10 Aug. Red Knot: arr 10 Aug. SP. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 12 July Onon. L., max 28 Pools's Brook on 18 July. Baird's Sandpiper: adult Onon. L. 24 July (FGS), imm seen regularly after 16 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr 2 July Onon. L. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 July Onon. L., max about four, most adults showing characters of *hendersoni*. Stilt Sandpiper: arr Onon. L. 14 July, adult max nine on 9 Aug., imm max 17 on 31 Aug., same spot. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 July Onon. L., max 195 there on 23 July. Western Sandpiper: one SP on 30 Aug., another Onon. L. the next day. Sanderling: arr SP 13 July, max there only 16, very low. Wilson's Phalarope: two Onon. L. 2 Aug., two Bolivar 8 Aug. No. Phalarope: single Onon. L. 27-31 Aug., another Tuscarora L. 29 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SP 23 July, max about 35 there and about 135 Sylvan Beach in Aug. Little Gull: juvenal, SP 29-30 Aug. (FGS, DWC). Forster's Tern: one SP 29 Aug., another Onon. L. 29-30 July (both FGS), the second consecutive year there away from Lake Ontario. Caspian Tern: arr 11 July Onon. L., max 35 there and 20 SP in mid-Aug.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only two reports all summer. Com. Nighthawk: 21 birds at ten localities in Syracuse, comparable to 1979 (REL).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Lark: 28 at Onon. L. 10 Aug. were migrants or post-breeding dispersals. Tree Swallow: no large counts. Rough-winged Swallow: last one Aug. early departure. Bank Swallow: to 2500-2800 SP in mid-Aug. Barn Swallow: max 12,000 Clay Marsh on 1 Aug. (FGS). Tufted Titmouse: only one report this summer. Red-breasted Nuthatch: first migrants by mid-Aug., but numbers not very high. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one to three, Victory, 1-7 June, one Clay 18 July, and another SP 30 Aug. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Mexico Point, Oswego Co., 13 Aug. either early migrants or from a nearby lakeshore conifer plantation.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr 9 Aug Tug Hill Plateau, only report. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** migrant female Mexico Pt. 8 Aug. (FGS) is first confirmed Regional report since 1969. Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 Aug. SP. No. Parula: arr 29 Aug. SP. Yellow Warbler: max 130 SP 2 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: arr 26 Aug. NPT. Cape May Warbler: arr 16 Aug. Tug Hill Plateau. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 29 Aug. SP. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 17 Aug. Onon. L. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 29 Aug. SP. Cerulean Warbler: last 2 Aug. Oswego Co. Blackburnian Warbler: arr 15 Aug. SP. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 8 Aug. SP. Blackpoll Warbler: 1 near Stillwater, Herkimer Co., 19 July, no evidence of nesting; arr 26 Aug. NPT. No. Waterthrush: arr 30 Aug. SP. Mourning Warbler: arr 2 Aug. SP. Yellow-breasted Chat: transient Lafayette early July was only report. Wilson's Warbler: arr 29 Aug. SP. Canada Warbler: arr 8 Aug. SP.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: one at Holland Patent remained to 11 June (RLE); breeding confirmed Camillus mid-July (JH). Rusty Blackbird: arr 13 Aug. SP. Evening Grosbeak: green-billed male at feeder NPT 6-7 Aug. (DWC); what was he up to? Pine Siskin: one on North Wilmot Breeding Bird Survey 24 June (FGS) and family group NPT on 14 June (DWC) were last reports from the winter season. Grasshopper Sparrow: only one report, making it scarcer than Henslow's Sparrow this summer.

Corrigenda, Kingbird Vol. 30, Fall 1980, p. 35. Sterling Township is in Cayuga, not Oswego Co.; p. 36. Peregrine: early date and eighth report was on 20 Sept.; p. 37. Pomarine Jaeger: one seen 15 Nov. was at Fair Haven, almost certainly not the bird seen 16 Nov. at SP; Bohemian Waxwing: three seen 22 Nov. were in Oswego, not Syracuse. Vol. 31, Spring 1981, p. 101. Mallard X Gadwall hybrid was at Baldwinsville, not Cayuga Lake; p. 102. Savannah Sparrow seen 31 Dec. at Howlands Island Game Management Area, not DeWitt. Vol. 31, No. 3, Summer 1981, p. 174. "Blue" Goose: last Sterling Township on 16 May (MSR); p. 175. Bonaparte's Gull: arr 5, not 6 Apr., last SP 23 May; Black-legged Kittiwake: comment should end "first spring report since 1967."; Caspian Tern: two SP on 26 Apr. and four there 10 May double the total reported; Tree Swallow: arrival date should read 26 March; p. 176, raptor table: Goshawk total is 39. The data for Osprey were inadvertently omitted; they are: arr 29 Mar., max 70 5 May, last 2 June, 90% date range 18 Apr.-26 May, total 327.

My thanks to MSR for calling these errors to my attention.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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The summer of 1981 was indeed a strange one. Temperatures were on the cool side to say the least. On 1 June a low of 38° F. was recorded followed by a 39° F. reading on 8 June. July started out warmish with some 80° F.+ readings and the temperature on 24 July was a record low for that date in Watertown.

Rainfall was lacking early in the period and semi-drought conditions developed. As the period progressed we made up for the lack of water when Watertown and vicinity experienced a four-inch rainfall on 8 August. Other sections received less rainfall but still in the half to inch range. Toward the end of the period it looked like we would make up in a hurry the lack of rain in June and July.