

EDITORS' NOTE

In a supplement to the July 1982 issue of *The Auk*, the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union published a list of the English and scientific names of North American birds that will be adopted officially in the Sixth Edition of the A.O.U. *Checklist*, which is scheduled to appear in 1983. This list was arranged according to the sequence of species and the arrangement of families, subfamilies, and genera that will be followed in the new *Checklist*.

Although this new list has become widely available, the names and sequence contained in it will not be adopted in *The Kingbird* until the next issue, which will be the first issue of Volume 33, 1983. To adopt these names before the end of the current volume would result in a confusion of names in a single volume, and would greatly complicate the task of preparing an index to this and previous volumes.

— The Editors

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"To every thing there is a . . . time," and it was the time in June for an earthquake along the Onondaga escarpment to rattle the Clarence area, pulling the plug on Newstead Sinks, completely draining it. This was favorite habitat for ducks, swans and shorebirds. Then, it is time, if the Recreation Forest Resource Management Plan is to be followed, to schedule logging, with some possible clear-cutting of mature timber in Allegany State Park. Following this operation should be an opportune time to study changes in bird life.

With the jet stream consistently flowing far south of its usual summer pattern, temperatures averaged below normal every month: June by 2.8° F (1.6° C), July by 3.8° F (2.1° C) and August by 8.2° F (4.6° C), making this July and August the coldest in sixteen years. An early frost blackened local areas of the Southern Tier on August 28. Since precipitation for June was 3.2 in. (8.1 cm) above normal, it raised the water table, compensating for the last two months when rainfall measured 1.3 in. (3.3 cm) less than normal.

Hacking news is both good and bad. The Bald Eagle program, begun last year at Oak Orchard WMA, was continued this summer and 21 more young birds were successfully released in late August (Balmas). However, this year there could be no Osprey hacking for the project begun in 1980 on the Seneca Indian Reservation in Cattaraugus County. Previously, the young birds have been obtained from

Long Island nests, but a severe storm in June decimated more than half of the nestlings there, making it inadvisable to take any this season. Although good numbers of Ospreys came through in migration near this hacking site, none with bands was noted (Forness).

Findings from 15 of the 18 routes of the Allegany County "Mini" Run Breeding Bird Survey (Abbs) were about average with unusually *high numbers* of Ruffed Grouse, Turkey, Mourning Dove, Great Crested Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, Com. Yellowthroat, Am. Redstart, Bobolink, Purple Finch and Indigo Bunting, and with very *low numbers* of Killdeer, Am. Robin, House Sparrow and No. Oriole; missing were Spotted Sandpiper and Rough-winged Swallow (Klingensmith). Below, status for a species is indicated by: sd+ or sd- = above or below the standard deviation, and no letter = stable. Regretfully, with no new volunteers this year for the several routes in our region lacking workers, too few of the runs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey could be carried out for a meaningful summary to be made (Klabunde).

Summer positives include 1) more record-breaking nests; 2) Great Blue Herons holding their own, and good Mallard, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Duck production; 3) fair numbers of Turkey Vultures; Cooper's Hawks on the upswing for three years (Forness) and Am. Kestrels holding steady; 4) healthy grouse and turkey populations, the latter nesting late, and here and there a Ring-necked Pheasant; 5) Black-billed Cuckoos doing well with one worker documenting several nests; 6) many Great Horned Owls, paralleling the abundance of rabbits, and fine numbers of Screech Owls (Forness); 7) many, many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and several Red-headed Woodpeckers; 8) Least and Great Crested Flycatchers locally abundant; 9) slightly better numbers of Cliff Swallows and many Barn Swallows; 10) generally splendid success with Eastern Bluebirds; and unusually abundant Cedar Waxwings taking advantage of a bumper berry crop; 11) good numbers of Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Ovenbirds and Common Yellowthroats; 12) Orchard Oriole expanding its territory in Chautauqua Co.; 13) many Purple Finches: two to 25/day; House Finches apparently taking over the House Sparrow niche; and a great goldfinch season with many nests documented; 14) a stable Savannah Sparrow population, but only two to five/day; and Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows more numerous in northern Chautauqua Co. than suspected before Atlas work (Jones, Sundell).

Summer negatives include 1) no loons, Black-crowned Night Herons or Black Ducks, and almost no bitterns; 2) few Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks; 3) disappointing shorebirding with poor habitat—but some exciting finds; and low numbers of Killdeer, Spotted Sandpipers, Am. Woodcocks and Upland Sandpipers; 4) no Black Terns, Barn or Short-eared Owls, Whip-poor-wills or Common Nighthawks; and almost no Yellow-billed Cuckoos, "except along the Lake Erie plain where they may be as common as the Black-billed" (Sundell); 5) slightly fewer Belted Kingfishers, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Common Flickers, chickadees and nuthatches; 6) scarcity of Willow Flycatchers and Horned Larks; 7) low numbers of Bank and Rough-winged Swallows and Purple Martins; and a poor Tree Swallow nesting season; 8) Winter and Carolina Wrens almost absent; 9) few Golden-crowned Kinglets: one to six only, in Keeney Swamp, Alfred and W. Almond areas to mid-July (Brooks); 10) almost no Golden-winged Warblers; 11) only the usual very few Eastern Meadowlarks—

one to 10/day and reduced numbers of cowbirds; and 12) hardly any Grasshopper, Henslow's, Vesper or Swamp Sparrows.

Rarities: Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Laughing Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Breeding was confirmed for the Pied-billed Grebe when an ad with ten yg was seen near Alfred 24 July (EB). The late imm Double-crested Cormorant in Alma Twp. 12 June (SB, EB) was unusual. At Iroquois NWR two Great Egrets appeared 18 July with max four there 5-30 Aug (JM), and here also an injured Least Bittern fledgling was recovered 15 Aug, but died (JM). The only Am. Bittern was one near Fredonia 6 June (JB, NB). Summering Canada Geese include about 250 at Iroquois NWR (JM), and other flocks: about 60 in Hume Twp. (KP), up to 22 at Farmersville Sta. including one ad banded at Pymatuning, Pa (DC, JC), and max 41 near Forestville and E. Mud Lake (Smith *fide* JGtz, AB+). About 4000 ducks, mostly Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks, were estimated at Iroquois NWR 18 July (JM), and small broods of these were also noted in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties (FR, DC, KP+). A single Pintail was found at Iroquois NWR 19 Aug (OO). Two Hooded Mergansers were at Farmersville Sta. 1-15 June (DC) but apparently moved on, and a Com. Merganser was raised at Hawk Hideaway, near Cuba, this summer (MF) while a max 11 of the latter species were found at Belmont 23 and 24 Aug (DB, LB, MJ).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: A total 15 Turkey Vultures were spotted in five locations. The only GOSHAWK this season was an ad over Chautauqua Co. Airport, no. of Jamestown 13 June (RS, Cordosi). The Sharp-shinned Hawk was scarce, with only reports: one on Abbs, and singles at Farmersville Sta., where it was banded 21 Aug (DC), and in Amity Twp. 10 June and 30 Aug (VP). Of three Cooper's Hawk nestings in Allegany Co., one fledged four yg while two failed because of woodcutting nearby (VP, EB, ES); a bird was sighted on Abbs and only three others were reported. Other raptor news is sparse: Red-shouldered Hawk, one on Abbs plus a dozen others, all from Allegany Co.; Broad-winged Hawk, good numbers; BALD EAGLE, one in Amity Twp. 9 Aug (W. Burton); Marsh Hawk, one on Abbs and one near Alfred 13 and 25 June (EB); and Osprey, singles in Amity Twp. 15-29 Aug (DB, LB, MJ, JJ) and at Tonawanda WMA 28 Aug (JM). Record late for N.Y. State were two Turkey nests: one with 15 eggs near Alfred 20 July (EB), record late by 11 days, and the other with 11 eggs near Wellsville 15 Aug (NI)—*six weeks* record late. Both were deserted. Two ad SANDHILL CRANES frequenting cornfields two mi. n.e. of Frewsburg 15-18 June (Leichner, RS, DG+) were photographed by Jim Yaich and watched in "their characteristic courtship dance" by Yvonne MacIssac; this is the second authentic Chautauqua Co. record

(RS). In late June a pair of Virginia Rails appeared on territory near Cherry Creek (FR, LBK), an ad was at Main St. Pond, Dunkirk, 24 June (PB, TM) and an imm was seen at the latter pond 26 Aug (NB). An ad Sora was spotted at W. Mud Lake, Chautauqua Co., 8 June (AB, PB, TM). Two broods of the Com. Gallinule were seen in Aug, one of an ad with five yg in Cherry Creek Twp. (FR, LBK) and the other of an ad with eight yg near Dunkirk (NB). Noteworthy shorebirds include: Ruddy Turnstone, four at the mouth of Canadaway Creek 1-2 June (RS, TM+); Upland Sandpiper, one regularly near the Dunkirk-Fredonia Airport all June and July (MVJ) and eight at Clarence 16 July (Hess); Willet, two in winter dress at Canadaway Creek NS 14 Aug (JK, PK, AB, TM)—a great find; Pectoral Sandpiper, two at Buffalo Harbor 16 July (Hess); Baird's Sandpiper, a splendid flight and seen at Canadaway Creek NS with both Least and Semipalmateds for easy comparison; max six imm and three ads 31 July-5 Aug (NB, TM) as well as two ads on 27 Aug (NB); Short-billed Dowitcher, one at Buffalo Harbor 7 July (Hess); and Stilt Sandpiper, one at Burgeson Sanct. 28 Aug (RS). Uncommon in summer were the two Great Black-backed Gulls at Canadaway Creek NS 2 June (TM) and another on the Niagara R. 25 July (KB), but a rare find were the two **LAUGHING GULLS** at Canadaway Creek NS 2 June (JB, NB, TM+). An imm Bonaparte's Gull arrived at Amity L. 7 Aug (VP, RP); 15 were seen at Canadaway Creek NS 15 Aug (JK, PK) and four more were migrating west at Barcelona the same day (RS). Max of Caspian Terns was six migrants moving west at Barcelona 15 Aug (RS) while a total of at least a dozen others were noted in five areas.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Except for the note that they are common in Chautauqua Co. on the Lake Erie plain (RS), only six Yellow-billed Cuckbos, including two on Abbs, were reported. Of five Black-billed Cuckoo nests documented near Alfred, four were successful (EB). In addition to the "fine numbers of Screech Owls" mentioned above, the only other report was one at Farmersville Sta. 17 June (DC). For the Com. Nighthawk, too, the only report was one at Belmont 23 and 29 Aug (DB, LB, MJ). An interesting nest by an obliging Ruby-throated Hummingbird just outside a living room window at Fillmore fledged two yg in late Aug (KP). Three noisy yg Com. Flickers were watched in a nesting hole at Amity L, Allegany Co., 26 July to 1 Aug (VP)—record late by a week for N.Y. State. It is encouraging that the Red-headed Woodpecker is flourishing in the Fredonia-Dunkirk area (TM); one to three birds were seen near Sheridan, in Amity Twp., in Angelica Twp., at Iroquois NWR and in the Town of Sheldon. The only Hairy Woodpeckers reported were three on Abbs, and three other birds, total from two locations, while the Downy Woodpecker tallied 11 on Abbs (sd-).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: In Scio and Amity Twps., Allegany Co., 17 pairs of the E. Phoebe fledged 99 yg from 33 nestings of which 27 were successful (VP), about normal production, and there were 51 birds on Abbs (stable); however, at Farmersville Sta. this is the "first year without Phoebe's around" (DC). Single **ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS** were noted at Hamburg 12 June (RA, Leonard) and in Sawmill Run, s.w. Cattaraugus Co. 12 June (RS, Cordosi). Willow Flycatchers were scarce with four on Abbs, max three near Alfred 8-18 June (EB) and two in Amity Twp. 28 June (VP). It was a rough season for Tree Swallows. At Amity L., out of 42 nestings 15 failed because of House Wrens, blowfly larvae and various other causes, but some nestlings may have died for lack of insect food due to the cold, wet June; two pairs renested successfully (VP). Near Alfred, of 18 nestings only six were successful (EB). Cliff Swallows numbered 38 on Abbs (sd+) and colonies were reported at Scio, Wellsville and Alfred. Two **COMMON RAVENS** were identified in Ward Twp., Allegany Co., 1 July (EB). A Tufted Titmouse was found in Wales Twp. 21 June (Hein) and one to two were seen irregularly at Little Genesee 14 July thru 29 Aug (FD). Although the outcome of neither is known, two Allegany Co. nests were exciting discoveries: 1) a Red-breasted Nuthatch 26 ft. up in a dead maple near Alfred and 2) a Brown Creeper 18 ft. up under bark of a dead tree at Alma Pond (both by EB). The only Winter Wrens reported were singles at Swain 24 June (EB) and at Little Valley 1 Aug (Rosches), and Carolina Wrens were almost as scarce with max two at Barcelona 14 and 15 Aug (RS) and one at Iroquois NWR 6 Aug (OO, Schrader). Although Am. Robins tallied 626 on Abbs

(sd-), it is suggested that this low figure may be a reflection of the cold mornings when surveys were taken and the robins were quiet (CK). News of the E. Bluebird is mostly good although it is reasonable to suppose that many go unreported; the Amity Lake Bluebird Trail, Belmont, fledged 77 yg from 14 pairs (VP), but the trail at Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center had no bluebirds this season (DJ *vide* KB); in 12 other locations, 27 pairs are known to have nested but few results were noted; five additional areas reported a total of at least 18 birds. Early in June ads were feeding yg in the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest reported in spring at Canadaway Creek NS (JB, NB); another of this species was seen at Amity L 20 June (VP) and four migrants appeared in the Barcelona area 15 Aug (RS).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Two **WHITE-EYED VIREOS** were heard and seen near the Allegheny Res. in the Town of Cold Spring 12 and 27 June (RS, Cordosi, Roger Sundell);—as yet breeding is unconfirmed. Single Yellow-throated Vireos appeared on Abbs, at Canadaway Creek NS 8 June (JK, PK) and at Keeney Swamp 1 June (EB), while a Philadelphia Vireo was seen, also at Canadaway Creek NS, 22 Aug (FR). Single Golden-winged Warblers were found during June near Alfred (EB), and in Amity Twp (VP) in last year's nesting area. Appearing for the third successive year, a "**LAWRENCE'S**" **WARBLER** stayed at Holland until mid-July (EsB+). Other noteworthy warblers include: Nashville Warbler, up to six in each of Alfred and Amity Twp. areas all season; No. Parula, a male in Allegany SP 6 June; Yellow Warbler, 27 nestings in Amity Twp., with 17 successfully producing a probable 60 fledglings (VP); Magnolia Warbler, an active nest with five eggs 29 Aug (EB)—record late for N.Y. State where the previous latest egg date was 11 July; and Black-throated Blue Warbler, singles near Dunkirk thru 3 July (NB) and in Amity Twp. 12 June (VP). Ten Yellow-rumped Warbler nests were documented in Allegany Co. (EB, VP) with only one successful and outcome unknown of one with three yg near Angelica, a new area (VP); as in previous years, late eggs were found in mid-July in the county; three of this species were found singing in Allegany SP 6 June (RS). A Blackpoll Warbler was discovered 11 days early in the Town of Charlotte 8 Aug (FR). A **PRAIRIE WARBLER** appeared on Abbs and of the four Allegany Co. nests found this year, three near Alfred (EB) and one near Amity L. (VP), only one was successful. However, nine other birds, total, including a fledgling, were found in the County in Twps. of Ward, Andover and Angelica (EB, VP). More warbler notes include: No. Waterthrush, one near Alfred regularly (CK); Louisiana Waterthrush, one near Alfred 15 July (EB); Hooded Warbler, one at Keeney Swamp 1 June (EB), one near Limestone 20 June (RV, JV), and two ads feigning injury and the female carrying food near Amity L. 4 and 5 July (VP) confirming breeding for the Atlas block; and Canada Warbler, a nest with two eggs and another on the ground, plus a cowbird egg, near Amity L. 12 June (RP)—deserted probably because of woodcutting nearby:

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: A **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** was singing and calling at the Chautauqua Co. Airport, no. of Jamestown, 12 June to 4 July (RS, Cordosi) and a tape recording was made of the song for verification. One was last noted in the county 12 years ago e. of Fredonia (RS). Breeding was confirmed for the **ORCHARD ORIOLE** at three Chautauqua Co. locations: 1) in Maple Grove Cem., Frewsburg, with an imm male and a female feeding yg in a nest 13 June (RS, Cordosi), 2) in Westfield Cem., Westfield, with two ads feeding fledged yg 27 June (JGtz, JF) and one still here 29 June (TM), and 3) with a male feeding yg on Berry Rd., Fredonia, 3 July (JF, JGtz). Up to 2000 Com. Grackles were noted on the way to roost each night near Farmersville Sta. in Aug (DC, JC). Purple Finches are doing well: 24 on Abbs (sd+), 16 (!) nests discovered near Alfred for the season (EB) with nine probably successful, and 39 birds banded at Farmersville Sta. in Aug (DC). House Finches tallied 13 on Abbs with max for the season 42 on Colden 23 July (ARC); 28 were banded at Farmersville Sta. in Aug (DC), and of the 415 (!) banded at Fredonia during the period, about 90% were yg of the season. Several Pine Siskins stayed late, well into June with max seven near Alfred 25-30 June (Chapman, EB) and one to two reported in Amity Twp (VP, RP), Belmont (DB, LB), Fredonia (TM) and Jamestown (DG). The 73 Am. Goldfinch nests discovered and documented near Amity L. this season, all by one observer, produced a probable 123 fledglings with more than half of the early nests lost to predation but

86% of the later, successful; success in *finding* the nests is attributed to many acres of excellent shrubby habitat, kind land owners and great good fortune (VP). Interesting sparrow reports include: Grasshopper Sparrow, four on Abbs, singles in four Allegany Co. areas and ads feeding fledglings at the Chautauqua Co. Airport, no. of Jamestown 23 July (RS, Anderson); Henslow's Sparrow, two on Abbs, singles near Alfred 8 June to 16 July (EB) and at Chestnut Ridge Pk. 13 and 21 June (O'Dell), and three singing males in Villenova Twp. 8 June (AB+); Vesper Sparrow, three on Abbs, and up to two near Alfred 27 June to 19 July (EB), the only reports; **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**, one to two irregularly near Alfred 14 June to 14 July (EB), where they nested several years ago, and a male, singing, at the Dunkirk-Fredonia Airport 13 June to late July (MVJ, AB, RS, TM+)--the second record for Chautauqua Co.; White-throated Sparrow--many reports--three on Abbs, a nest on Reddy Rd., Belmont, fledging 6 yg about 31 July (VP), max five ads near Alfred 21 June to 16 July (EB) where they have nested in previous years, a very agitated pair on Coe Rd., Town of Stockton 2 July (FR, LBk), a singing male on Munger Rd., also Town of Stockton the next day (FR, LBk), and a pair with two imm on state lands, Town of Charlotte, 4 July (FR, RA); and Lincoln's Sparrow, one, a week early, banded at Farmersville Sta. 27 Aug (DC).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 -- GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

As usual, this summer season was a mixture: the end of spring migration, the bulk of the breeding season, and the start of fall migration. There were the usual late migrants straggling into June, with a few waterfowl even tarrying well into summer. Breeding activity is well summarized now by the Breeding Bird Atlas data sheets, a mixed blessing, as they arrive late for this report and have apparently resulted in less quantitative data with fewer field trip reports being submitted. Fall migration began typically with shorebirds, with the first in late June and most species well reported through July and August. However, the passerine migration was very slow, with no substantial movements until the latter half of August. A strong cold front passing on the last weekend of the month then provided many early dates for waterfowl and passerines normally associated with mid-September.

A weather summary provides some tentative explanations for some of the phenomena. The overall season probably averaged as close to long-term norms for temperature and precipitation as we will ever see, though it seemed cold for vacationers as the usual peaks in temperatures were neither as high nor as prolonged as in many summers. On a finer scale, June followed the normal high/low temperature band tightly, *i.e.* seemed cool, and brought much rain, 3.92 in. vs. a normal of 2.99 in. The response to this, particularly in our higher elevations which may provide many of our very early passerine "migrants" later, was an absence of many species from territories, occupied in early June for many previous years, until late June when virtually all were singing loudly just where expected. As one might expect, these birds were still feeding young in late July and early August when other years would have seen them on their way. July was average, with temperatures seesawing about the norm lines and rainfall at 3.13 in., just