

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

.04 in. above normal. Atlassing in July was super. August brought temperatures cooler than normal and rainfall also low. The cold front at the end of the last week produced several days of record and near record lows.

A quick summary of the Regional Atlas results provides a good picture of the breeding part of the season. This report was delayed as long as possible to include as much of the Atlas data as possible. At the time of this writing, 105 data sheets have been received, representing a sample of nearly 1/3 of the Region's 332 Blocks. About 30-40 more are expected, with the end of the season expected to see about 55% of the Region's Blocks entered, though only 13-15% will be adequately covered. For the first three years of the project we have 170 breeders recorded—147 confirmed (CO), 17 probable (PR), and 6 possible (PO), though a hard-nosed review of the 23 unconfirmed to date will probably trim about half of them as really just very late migrants or summering non-breeders. This year's results show 160 breeding birds recorded—125 CO, 27 PR, and 8 PO, with no real surprises, present or missing. Two species were added to the Regional total—Bald Eagle, simply a reporting of the Hemlock Lake pair as atlassing of that Block was started, and Lesser Scaup, most likely a summering pair as no young were reported. Upgrades for the project included: Golden-crowned Kinglet to PR and Least and American Bitterns, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Sora, Long-eared Owl, Whip-poor-will, Hermit Thrush, Golden-winged, Black-throated Blue, and Prairie Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, and Evening Grosbeak to CO. In most cases, detailed analyses of distribution maps to date reflect coverage and observer competence as much as they show real breeding limits.

Particular positive notes for the season include: the increased level of Atlas work; increased numbers of Great Blue Heron; increased sightings of Bald Eagles, mostly wing-tagged immatures; widespread breeding records for Am. Kestrel; many Belted Kingfishers—CO; increases in reports of Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows; widespread and numerous reports of breeding Blue-gray Gnatcatchers; several Pine Siskin—CO; Turkey and House Finch breeding records continuing to spread; E. Phoebe well reported after the concerns expressed following the April blizzard; and reports of E. Bluebird numbers good in established breeding areas, plus a few records from the lakeplain where they have been absent in recent years.

Negative comments outnumber the positive and generally represent worries over apparent low numbers. These include: very few breeding Pied-billed Grebes, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Am. Bitterns; few Black Ducks; fewer broods of Blue-winged Teal than normal; Ring-necked Pheasant still low; very few Red-shouldered Hawk Atlas reports; only two reports of Forster's Tern; low peak numbers in the late summer gathering of Common and Caspian Terns in Braddock Bay; owls poorly reported; surprisingly few reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Whip-poor-will missing from its traditional site in Bergen Swamp, though confirmed in the hills to the south; Common Nighthawk still scarce in the Rochester area; Short-billed Marsh Wren missing from some of its very few local breeding sites; Loggerhead Shrike back to a single breeding locale with one of two young again a motor vehicle fatality; Golden-winged Warbler continuing to decrease as Blue-winged gains; Ovenbird song less than usual; and no CO for Western Meadowlark—four years on the same territory with nothing beyond song noted.

Rarities: Am. Avocet, Willet, No. Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Barn Owl, Prothonotary Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay Park and vicinity; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; ICW—Island Cottage Woods, town of Greece; K—town of Kendall; OB—Ontario Beach Park, town of Charlotte, on the west side of the mouth of the Genesee River; PB—Pt. Breeze area, town of Carlton; and WL—general west lakeshore area.

Observers: Jean Browning, Nancy Boudrie, Jim Burke, Carolyn Cass, Roberta Childers, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Kathy Disney, Frank & Bob Dobson, Kay Doris, June Feder, John & Arleen Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Tom Hampson, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Øivind Jensen, Herb & Polly Keating, David Levy, Eric Lewis, Warren Lloyd, Walter Listman, Hayward Madden, Bob & Margaret McKinney, Jim & Thelma McNett, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Mike Peter, Rochester Birding Association, Pat Reister, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Durward Skiff, Tom Slecter, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Tom, Mike, and David Tetlow, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Floyd Welke, Doris Wilton, Munro Will and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon tarried late and returned early with one BB 12 June and one H 25 Aug. Pied-billed Grebe breeding records were very few. Double-crested Cormorant continues to be reported every month along the Lake Ontario shore. Great Blue Heron is doing well as evidenced by max 80 BB 4 June feeding and numerous Atlas reports. Among the other herons, Green was well reported breeding; Black-crowned Night Heron was very scarce; and both bitterns were seldom reported, though this year both were added to the Atlas CO category, one occurrence in each case. Among the waterfowl, all expected breeders were recorded. The only particular recurring comment was the lack of Blue-winged Teal broods in the lakeshore marshes. Black Duck is in much worse shape, but has been that way so long that there are few comments. Interesting waterfowl date records included: the late—Whistling Swan: one K 1-22 June (mob); Ring-necked Duck: one K 6 June; Canvasback: one K 12, 22 June; Lesser Scaup: 1-2 K 3-5, 22 June; Bufflehead: one Carlton 12 June; Com. Merganser: two males Durand-Eastman Park 5 June; and Red-breasted Merganser: two WL 12 June; mid-summer surprises—Pintail: 1-2 WL 14-17 July; Ring-necked Duck: one male Greece 3 July; and Lesser Scaup: 1-4 BB 1-20 July; and the early—Am. Wigeon: one BB 17 Aug; Greater Scaup: two PB 24 Aug; Oldsquaw: one Morton, H, OB 2-12 Aug; and White-winged Scoter: two PB 20 Aug; and 40 H 28 Aug.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Other than the widespread Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel records, breeding hawk reports were few and generally from the hills south of Rochester. Turkey Vulture was widely reported, mostly just birds dispersing to seek food, but also three new CO reports. Two large Turkey Vulture concentrations were: 55 Scottsville 19 June; and 16-26 Carlton Station 18-22 Aug, gathered to feed on a dead calf. Goshawk breeding reports were very few; an early migrant was one imm K 19 Aug. Bald Eagle reports included: one each on BB 1, 10-13, 13, 14 and 19 June, with the 10-13 June bird carrying an orange tag on the right wing; one imm Webster 31 July; one imm (no tag) H 27-31 Aug; and one imm (yellow tag) H 27-31 Aug. A very late Rough-legged Hawk was sighted along the west lakeshore 12 June (MD). Ring-necked Pheasant continues low, while Turkey breeding records increase and spread. Rails were largely ignored, though both Virginia Rail and Sora were reported as CO this summer. Shorebirding continued to suffer from lack of habitat thru the season, but diligent checking of the few good spots and a late Aug lake watch produced good variety and even excellent numbers in some cases. The pick of the list included: AMERICAN AVOCET: one Carlton Station 4 June (WS, mob), a first Regional spring record; Whimbrel: six reports of singles along the Lake Ontario shore—13 June, 4, 17 July, and 27, 28 Aug; two WL 12 Aug; 11 H 25 Aug (MD, WL); and 12 Carlton 14 July (MD, WL, WS); WILLET: one H 14 July (J & TM); Red Knot: one Carlton 12-13 June; and 1-8 OB, H, PB 26-31 Aug;

White-rumped Sandpiper: one BB 17 June, late; Baird's Sandpiper: 1-3 WL several locations 23 July thru, typical for fall; Short-billed Dowitcher: two Perinton 29 June, apparently already headed south; Stilt Sandpiper singles: Carlton Station 9 July; PB 21, 22 July; and OB 27 Aug; Western Sandpiper: three K 2 June; 1-3 WL 9, 22 July and 15-29 Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: one Carlton Station 26 July (MD, WS); one OB 20 Aug (RO); and one Carlton Station 23 Aug (WS); and **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**: one PB 5 June (MD); and one H 26 Aug (WLi, CP). Gulls were generally uninteresting. Two exceptions were: very late Iceland Gull: one K 5 June (RS, mob); and one BB 23 June (MD); and, joining the thousands of Ring-billed Gulls in plowed fields, **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: one ad Hogan Pt. 4 June (MD); one imm and one ad Hogan Pt. 17 June (MD, PR); and one imm Hogan Pt. 20 June (MD). Migrant terns did not mass to the numbers reached in other recent years. There were only two Forster's Terns: one BB 25 June; and one BB 14 Aug. Caspian Tern peaked at 30 WL 11 Aug. Breeding Black Terns were numerous with several CO Atlas records reported.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos were below last year's levels, but both were reported in many Atlas Blocks, CO in a few. Most interesting among the owls were an Atlas report of a **BARN OWL**: Webster June (FW); and a Long-eared Owl—CO—adults and two young, town of Bethany. Whip-poor-will was scarce as a migrant and virtually absent as a breeder, though recently-fledged young were found near Naples. Com. Nighthawk continues low near Rochester; even their fall flight peaked low at max 50 Rochester 30 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird reports were down both from field trip records and Atlas work. Confirmations of Belted Kingfisher were way up. Woodpeckers simply provide little noteworthy news, the best being several more Atlas reports of breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, all in the higher country.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Among the flycatchers we had the usual few migrant Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided straggling into early June and returning in late Aug. The rest of the usual breeding flycatchers were all present in good numbers, documented by many Atlas observations, many of these CO. Reports so far record Acadian Flycatcher breeding only in Bergen Swamp this summer. Horned Lark was reported as a common breeder. The swallows massed in their usual profusion in late July and very early Aug, with Bank and Tree the most numerous. Winter, Carolina, and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported in even less than their usual sparse numbers. Again this year Mockingbird breeding reports were numerous, with many CO. The most interesting thrush reports were Atlas—CO for Hermit Thrush in one Block, PR in several others; Swainson's Thrush: one Webster 20 Aug very early; and E. Bluebird at several lakeplain locales. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was widely distributed as a breeder, with the greatest concentration six pairs feeding young along about a ¼ mi. stretch of trail at the s. end of Canadice Lake 17 July (RS). Both kinglets were reported, though not confirmed, with Ruby-crowned: one Barbutt 20 June (RCh) the more unusual. Loggerhead Shrike was found only at the Carlton location, again losing one of two young to traffic. (This is a very low traffic area, so maybe this type of loss has been a significant part of their decline, as some have suggested.)

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Breeding records among the vireos followed typical patterns with Yellow-throated and Solitary in small numbers in suitable habitat and Red-eyed and Warbling abundant, often at PR-S, but seldom CO. Philadelphia Vireo returned very early with the first fall migrant in ICW 15 Aug (RS). Among the warblers there were Atlas records for 26 of the 27 species noted in the previous two years, with 14 of these CO, including four for the first time in this period: Golden-winged, Black-throated Blue at H. H. Spencer Park; Prairie near Canadice where found for the past four years; and No. Waterthrush at Cumming Nature Center near Naples. Additional interesting warbler notes were: **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: one male ICW 22-24 Aug (mob, photos); No. Parula again at Letchworth State Park 20 June; Blackpoll Warbler: four WL 22 Aug, very early; Ovenbird fewer than usual breeding; **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one H 3 June (WS); and one Webster 18 Aug (WLi); and Yellow-breasted Chat: one pair breeding in Mendon Ponds Park June-July.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark continued singing thru much of Aug at Pt. Breeze, but, in spite of considerable effort, no proof of breeding could be found. This same general area is the center of the Regional breeding activity for Orchard Oriole, though a few Blocks along the lake east of Rochester and, surprisingly a few in the hills to the south also reported them. Evening Grosbeak-CO-FY in the Naples area was a Regional Atlas first. House Finch has spread throughout the Region as a breeder, possibly at some expense to Purple Finch. Pine Siskin was even more widely reported breeding this year than last. Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Vesper Sparrows were more widely reported as breeders than the few reports during spring migration would have suggested. A Dark-eyed Junco in Webster 20 July (DSk) was unusual for that date/location combination. Breeding White-throated Sparrows were the usual very few. Lincoln's Sparrow: one BB 21 Aug (MD), was very early.

The regional species count for the season was 222, plus one hybrid—"Brewster's" Warbler—and one probable escape—Bobwhite.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Two weeks of hot weather in mid-July gave us the only really high temperatures of summer. June was cool, cloudy and wet. July was cool at both ends and dry except for a heavy rain in the closing days. August was very cool, more like fall, and very dry. Some areas had a frost on 29 August.

Mary Welles included some interesting items in her Elmira area report:

(1) People south of Pine City purchased Mallard ducklings and put them where they had access to a pond. On 28 June a Canada Goose appeared on the pond and mothered the ducklings all summer.

(2) Several hundred sheep are pastured on the grounds of the Mt. Saviour Monastery near Elmira. Cedar Waxwings built a nest there made entirely of wool.

(3) Dick Clements reported a pair of warblers, a "Brewster's" male and a Golden-winged female, had fledged two young. One was all yellow with off-white wingbars and a trace of black around the bill. The other was "blah," a non-descript mixture of yellow and gray with no wingbars and no black. What an identification nightmare unless one was aware of the parentage!

The annual TV tower kill at Elmira was minimal up to the end of the period.

There were complaints of poor birding at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge this summer. Comparison of waterfowl counts as shown in the table below with a similar table for summer 1981 (*Kingbird* Vol. XXXI, No. 4, p. 241) shows decreases for most species. American Coots were down by one-half, Pied-billed Grebes down considerably and Common Gallinules drastically so. On the positive side all of the rarities listed below were found on the Refuge. Nine species of herons, including three rare ones, were present altho in small numbers. Great Blue Herons nested there for the first time in forty years. There were some indications of a slight decline in Killdeer and Savannah Sparrows and the Eastern Phoebe continues at a low ebb.