

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.

On the brighter side, Ring-necked Pheasants and Vesper Sparrows seem to be holding their own or perhaps even increasing a bit from their disastrously low levels of recent years. Both cuckoos, especially the Black-billed, were easily found.

Malcolm Lerch at Penn Yan reports banding fourteen species of warblers including Black-and-white, Blue-winged, "Brewster's," Yellow, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Ovenbird, Mourning, Wilson's and Canada. There were more reports of nesting Prairie Warblers than usual (Atlas work?); also more Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrow reports than at any time in my ten-year Regional Editor tenure (again Atlasing?).

We have been pleased with the extensive reporting over the past year from Cayuga County, an area only poorly covered before. We now need someone to fill the vacuum in Steuben County where coverage has been very minimal.

Rarities: White Pelican, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, European Wigeon, Sandhill Crane, Ruff.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers; Sen—Seneca; Tomp—Tompkins.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: three summered on Keuka L and up to nine on Sen L. Horned Grebe: one in breeding plumage on Owasco outlet 15 June; one Branchport 15 July. Pied-billed Grebe: down in numbers at MNWR; none on Keuka L July and Aug. **WHITE PELICAN:** one at MNWR 3 June, two on 5 and 7 June and one thereafter thru the period (mob). This is the third time in five years that this species has summered at MNWR. Double-crested Cormorant: up to 13, mostly imm, summered at MNWR. Great Blue Heron: had two nests on the Tschache Pool MNWR for the first time in forty years. Green Herd: 17 on Owasco flats. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** an imm chasing a Louisiana Heron at MNWR on 12 June (Steve Taylor *fide* J. W. Brown's column in the Rochester *Times-Union* 17 June); seen by others later in the day. Great Egret: six max at MNWR. **SNOWY EGRET:** one MNWR 30 Aug (VD). **LOUISIANA HERON:** see Little Blue Heron above. Third record for MNWR and the fifth for the region, all since 1970. Black-crowned Night Heron: a new nesting colony discovered at Van Cleef L in Sen Falls where ten adults and 12 imm were noted (HPK). The birds may have moved from nearby MNWR where there were relatively few this summer and where the cattails they have nested in during recent years are largely gone. Least Bittern: one MNWR 5 July; heard calling on Owasco flats. Am. Bittern: one calling on Owasco flats; two MNWR 30 Aug.

Max number of ducks at MNWR as reported by the Refuge personnel:

Mallard	2,000	31 Aug	Wood Duck	600	31 Jul
Black Duck	100	31 Aug	Redhead	20	thru
Gadwall	800	31 Jul	Canvasback	6	1 Jun
Pintail	20	31 Jul	Greater Scaup	2	30 Jun
Green-winged Teal	500	31 Jul	Bufflehead	10	5 Jun
Blue-winged Teal	700	30 Jun	Ruddy Duck	30	31 Aug
Am. Wigeon	200	31 Jul	Hooded Merganser	50	31 Jul
No. Shoveler	30	31 Aug			

Black Duck: female with young Big Flats 20 July. **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** the male bird previously reported at MNWR on 26 May remained all summer. Am. Goldeneye: a juvenal male remained at Elmira until 11 June.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Goshawk: for the third year two young were raised at E. Corning; on 8 June two young were banded at Brooktondale and one south of Danby. Cooper's Hawk: a nest was built on Mt. Zoar, Chemung Co. but later abandoned. Red-shouldered Hawk: nested Niles. Broad-winged Hawk: absent from its usual nesting site at Niles; two young were abandoned in a nest at Mt. Zoar, Chemung Co. Bald Eagle: yellow-tagged birds were seen at Union Springs in early July and north of King Ferry 16 Aug; adults at Elmira 16 Aug and at MNWR 26 Aug. Marsh Hawk: reported up in the Penn Yan area. Osprey: the nest at MNWR was destroyed last Sept. when high winds toppled the stub on which it was perched. The birds rebuilt on a nearby stub last spring. The female was observed sitting on the nest and bringing food to it. Then there was no more activity altho the old birds remained thru the period. Possibly Great Horned Owls, which are in the area, may have taken the young. It is questionable whether this nest is any more secure than the previous one, as all the trees and stubs in the pool are from a forest that was killed when the land was flooded forty years ago. Am. Kestrel: reported scarce in Cay Co but abundant near Penn Yan where 30 were seen on the wires in the 13 miles between Penn Yan and Gorham, Ruffed Grouse: female with young Moravia. Bobwhite: one at Pine Valley calling on 16 June. Ring-necked Pheasant: scarce but appears to be doing a little better. Turkey: three hens with 20 young at Caton 29 June; found at Niles, Moravia and Venice in Cay Co. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one MNWR 25 Aug (VD, R. Secatore). Sora: adult with downy young Big Flats 25 Aug. Com. Gallinule: very few MNWR but many, including small young, Big Flats 25 Aug. Am. Coot: max MNWR 350. Shorebirds: with habitat strictly limited, most observers found them hard to locate. The following more common species were seen in small numbers: Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer in reduced numbers, Am. Woodcock, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, both yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper. Am. Golden Plover: two MNWR 25 Aug (VD). Black-bellied Plover: 40 MNWR 25 Aug (VD). Upland Sandpiper: three sites Cay Co (SFK). White-rumped Sandpiper: Elmira 28 Aug (WH). Baird's Sandpiper: Ithaca 27-31 Aug. RUFF: one MNWR 25 Aug (VD). Sanderling: Reeder's Creek, SenCo 24 July; 2 Ithaca 30 July. Wilson's Phalarope: one MNWR 21 Aug. No. Phalarope: one Reeder's Creek, Sen Co 24 July. Bonaparte's Gull: one regularly at Ithaca during July and Aug. Com. Tern: a pair Owasco L 1 July. Caspian Tern: three at Ithaca 30 July with two adults and two imm there the following week; seven adults and four imm at Myers Point 11 Aug; seven at Watkins Glen 24 Aug. and three 31 Aug. Black Tern: one Owasco L 1 July; fewer at MNWR; nested at farm ponds south of Sen Falls where there were ten adults and 30 young 24 July.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: three broods raised in the same nest at Reeder's Creek, Sen Co. Cuckoos: both species abundant especially in the Gypsy Moth areas; fledging Yellow-bills at Owasco 6 June and two nests of Yellow-bills within one-half mile at Odessa. Barred Owl: a young bird calling at Elmira from 12 July on. Whip-poor-will: two calling in Tomp Co into July. Com. Nighthawk: present at Auburn thru the period; 21 migrating at Elmira 15 Aug and 40 on 24 Aug; flight of 15-20 at Penn Yan 31 Aug-1 Sept; also sighted at Sen Falls. Belted Kingfisher: nest with young near Sen Falls; fledged young at Owasco inlet. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: birds at six sites in Cay Co; raised two young at Elmira.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: raised a brood of Brown-headed Cowbirds at Venice. Bank Swallow: a colony in the riverbank opposite the Corning Country Club was drowned out in June and a similar fate probably occurred to a colony at Elmira near the monastery; Malcolm Lerch banded over 700 in a gravel bed south of Dresden where there were 1000 holes. Cliff Swallow: two nests at Freeville; nested again at Cayuta. Purple Martin: good numbers at the north end of Cay L and MNWR. Winter Wren: singing males Sempronius (SFK). Long-billed Marsh Wren: reported from MNWR only. Hermit Thrush: singing males at Sempronius and Fillmore Glen with fledglings sighted at Moravia; up in Tomp Co. Swainson's Thrush: one Owasco flats 18 Aug. E. Bluebird: the third year of increasingly good reports from all parts of the region but particularly in Sen, Tomp, Yates and Schuyler

Cos. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nested at Owasco flats; found at three locations near Penn Yan. Cedar Waxwing: several nests at Elmira; nest with young Varick, Sen Co 5 July. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: Yellow-throated: more abundant at south end of Owasco L than at north end. Warbling: fledglings at Owasco flats and outlet. Warblers: "Brewster's": mated with Golden-winged at Elmira (see opening remarks); one netted at Penn Yan. Nashville: feeding young Owasco flats; singing males Sempronius and Fillmore Glen. Magnolia: singing males Moravia and Fillmore Glen. Yellow-rumped: singing males Niles and Moravia. Cerulean: pair at Owasco flats; singing males Sempronius. Pine: singing male near Danby. Prairie: singing males Niles; several nesting areas around Elmira. Ovenbird: nested at Venice. Louisiana Waterthrush: many locations south end of Owasco L. No. Waterthrush: agitated birds at Sempronius. Yellow-breasted Chat: one sang for three weeks in June-July at Sheldrake; one heard into July at Danby. Hooded: a pair at Sempronius and at Moravia; a singing bird at Venice; one south of Elmira sang for two weeks; fewer around Dryden; one Odessa 24 Aug. Am. Redstart: many nests at south end of Owasco L.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Cardinal: young brought to Auburn feeder early July. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: up to 15 feeding on jewelweed seedpods in Aug. at Elmira. Purple Finch: pair at Niles. House Finch: there seems to be no end to their expansion. Pine Siskin: seen carrying strings from binder twine into hemlocks on 6 June at Elmira. No nests were found and the birds disappeared after the second week in June (Tim Bates). Am. Goldfinch: very abundant; an albino was seen near Benton. Savannah Sparrow: some decreases reported. Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from three spots in Cay Co; plentiful at Elmira; up at Penn Yan. Henslow's Sparrow: about 15 singing males were seen in one small area near Elmira; young also seen there. First resident record for Elmira in several years. Also more at Penn Yan. Vesper Sparrow: several reports of possibly increased numbers. Dark-eyed Junco: nested Niles, Moravia, Fillmore Glen, Summerhill. White-throated Sparrow: birds singing and carrying food at Niles. Lincoln's Sparrow: one in the Elmira TV tower kill 24-25 Aug.

ADDENDUM: The following were received too late for inclusion in the Spring report: Goshawk: pair nesting near Monterey in late May. Marsh Hawk: pair nesting near Burdett. Great Horned Owl: two nesting sites near Montour Falls. Prothonotary Warbler: one Cayuta L 16 May. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Cayuta L 20 May.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

July and August brought Region Four normal summer weather with periods of heat, humidity and haze, accompanied by sudden thunderstorms, periods of cool nights and foggy mornings and more periods of dry sunshine than farmers care for, but nothing the bird world couldn't readily handle. June was another story and one that could be told in two words—"wet" and "cold." Temperatures averaged 3° below normal and precipitation was 3½" above normal. The rivers, lakes and ponds were high, the fields and woods were soaked and soggy as in early spring; the continued cold must have appreciably impacted breeding bird success. For those birds who feed their young aquatic fare, the food supply was abundant. Nestlings could be kept warm between short foraging trips. Reports of herons, kingfishers and ducks were high. One observer spotted a Hooded Mer-