

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-

ganser family of mother duck and nine ducklings on a beaver pond near Oneonta (MD). Those birds who feed their young land-type insect larvae also enjoyed a copious larder, easy and close.

But what of those whose diet is winged insect adults? How easy is it to hunt flying bugs in the rain? For swallows, at least, not too hard, judging by the reports from most quarters. One location of 30 nestboxes reported 25 with successful fledgings, a record comparable to that of 1981. Only Otselec Township reported low nesting success "probably due to cold weather and raccoons" (DM). Conclusions on flycatchers had better wait for the fall banding age/ratio records. Nighthawks, although possibly not suffering from lack of food, must have had difficulty keeping hatchlings dry and warm. The flat rooftops—their preferred nest sites—could have been flooded the entire month. Although the usual number of birds nested, midsummer reports do not seem to reflect an increase due to breeding success. Nevertheless, Oneonta reported hundreds of birds gathering for migration (IW).

Another group that must have labored to keep young warm would be those ground nesters with precocial young, such as pheasants, grouse, Turkeys, and woodcocks. Assuming the young had hatched by June, some (woodcock, for example) would be undergoing juvenal molt, compounding the problem. The only reports of families of birds in this group were of Ruffed Grouse. Other ground nesters seemed to have coped, since August banding records show high ratios of young to adults in such species as Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat. Birds of prey had additional problems. Just at a time when late nestlings were largest, needing most food, and early fledglings were learning to catch their own prey, a major food source was severely reduced by the flooding of the nurseries of ground nesting and burrowing mammals. This may explain the scarcity of hawk listings on BBS and on some BBA reports, as well as a scarcity of reports of hawks designated as immature. Owls also must have suffered from the food supply loss. Presumably these and all predators would be forced to fill the gap with other food sources, such as nestling song birds. In fact, several localities reported nest box starts failing due to marauders. What of birds (Chimney Swifts, hummingbirds) who "glue" their nests to surfaces? Would the dampness have softened the "glue"? Possibly. Chimney Swift flocks in the cities seemed normal but BBS reports were low. In two cases usual locations were negative. Hummingbird reports were, however, numerous.

Gypsy Moths also continued to be a factor, especially in Broome Co. on the leading edge of the invasion. Reports of both cuckoos were up except from Otselec Township. Other birds observed eating the larvae were starlings, grackles, red-wings, orioles, chickadees, jays and robins. In two cases adult birds were seen banging a larva against a tree trunk, thus dehairing it, and feeding it to nestlings (FL, ML).

No real rarities but some excellent sightings. Five new locations of Henslow's Sparrows have been found, four in Broome Co. (AP) and one in Chenango Co (JL). In two of these sites six singing males were heard. In the same location in Chenango Co. singing Short-billed Marsh Wrens were discovered. Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported. Sapsuckers, Cliff Swallows and Prairie Warblers seem to be increasing.

Negatives: Brown Creepers only in Chenango Co.; Tufted Titmice low; no Red-shouldered Hawks; no American Bitterns.

Observers: Judy Bell, Leslie Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Wm. Breidinger, Nancy Brundage, Mildred Clark, Irwin Cooen, Anna & Marilyn Davis, Louise Dean, Ellen Delaney, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Louella Gridley, Claude Howard, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Joe Longtin, Harriet Marsi, Rick S. Marsi, Dave Messineo, Ron Milliken, John New, Allen Peterson, Joe Sedlacek, Mary Sheffield, Julian Shepherd, Lou Strnatka, Cora Wellman, Beryl & Tom Wilson, Kathryn Wilson, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: BBA—Breeding Bird Atlas; BBS—Breeding Bird Survey; OPM—Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford area.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: very abundant; 29 reports, seven of them more than one bird; a new rookery “discovered by DEC forester near Perkins Pond” (Pharsalia) (DM). Green Heron: abundant; 17 reports including four of families and one of a group of approximately 20, 4 Aug along the Susquehanna River between Vestal and Endwell (FL). Great Egret: one bird, 20 thru 30 Aug Delhi, “first seen beside a small farm pond about 7 miles from Delhi toward E. Meredith” (MC). Am. Bittern: none. Canada Goose: two reports, two birds; one 12 June Pharsalia Game Management Area (JL); one 24 June Corbettsville BBS (JL). Mallard: frequent thru period thru region. Black Duck: four 19 Aug Portlandville (MD). Blue-winged Teal: one bird 24 Aug Portlandville (MD). Wood Duck: 12 reports, mostly Broome Co and OPM, five included imm birds. **HOODED MERGANSER:** ten birds 21 June Hartwick, one female with nine young at a beaver pond adjacent to Beaver Valley Park (MD). Com. Merganser: one 24 June, a female below Cannonsville Reservoir (JL).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 11 reports, scattered thru period thru area, one 24 June of 16 near Deposit “roosting on power line poles” (JL). Goshawk: two, 14 June Otselic, both young birds, banded (DM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: four reports, all June, one Broome Co., three OPM. Cooper’s Hawk: three reports: 13 June Coventryville BBS (LB); last week Aug Middlefield (NB); July and Aug Otselic, “several brief glimpses” (DM). Red-tailed Hawk: 29 reports, thru period thru region; one with no date Otselic of two nests, “only one appeared successful. The other hatched, but was destroyed. Remains of adult found (most likely prey to Great Horned Owl)” (DM). Red-shouldered Hawk: none. Broad-winged Hawk: 15 reports, four June, five July, six Aug. scattered thru region. One reported, 6 July Otselic two young banded, also mentioned finding “remains of a young Broad-wing found in So. Otselic. Apparent Great Horned Owl kill” (DM). Bald Eagle: three reports, 11, 12, 18 July all in Vestal area but all from non-birders. Marsh Hawk: one 28 Aug Oneonta (KW). [Due to error, the summer 1982 *Kingbird* mistakenly listed 17 Osprey sightings as Marsh Hawks. These reports should have read “Marsh Hawk: eight reports, first 23 March, last 29 May. Osprey: 20 reports, first 28 March, last 12 May; one report Otselic R., between 13 Apr and 2 May, 17 separate sightings on 13 days” (DM).] Osprey: three reports: 1 July Portlandville (MD, KW), 24 Aug Milford (MD), 21 Aug “flying south over Otselic River” (DM). Am. Kestrel: frequent thru period thru region, five reports of parent birds feeding young, one of a fledgling. Ruffed Grouse: 13 reports; ten single sightings, three all summer at same location; three sightings of parent bird with fledglings. Bobwhite: one 13 thru 23 July Delhi. Another, maybe the same bird, heard one-and-a-half miles distant (MC). A pair 5 Aug Endwell “getting gravel along roadside” (JS). Two birds, probably same pair 31 Aug Endwell, two miles distant from pair seen earlier (FL). Ring-necked Pheasant: four, one July OPM (MD, KW), three 12 June Pharsalia (JL). Turkey: four reports, all June, all Broome Co. Killdeer: frequent thru period thru region; only two 5 June, Windsor and 29 June OPM, mentioned young. Am. Woodcock: three reports: one 15 June Chenango Co, all Aug. Vestal, Com. Snipe: one 29 June Portlandville, “feeding in meadow pools from recent rains” (MD, KW), one 29 July OPM (MD, KW). Spotted Sandpiper: nine reports, thru period thru region, two off and on all summer. Solitary Sandpiper: one 5 Aug Endwell (FL), one 17 Aug OPM (MD, KW), one 21 Aug OPM, Greater Yellowlegs: one 15 July Vestal (GK). Lesser Yellowlegs: one 27 July Vestal, one 4 Aug Vestal, one 4 Aug Endwell.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: moderate numbers thru period thru region. Mourning Dove: common thru period thru region. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 21 reports, mostly from Broome Co. and OPM. Gypsy Moth infestation heavy in Broome Co. Otselic reports "cuckoos seem down in numbers, possibly remaining in areas where gypsy moths are abundant" (DM). Black-billed Cuckoos: 19 reports, mostly Broome Co. and OPM. See above. Screech Owl: one, 1 June Broome Co (A & MD); only report. Great Horned Owl: one 26 June Chenango Co "sitting in a barn window, flew into barn. Apparently hunting in barn"; two other reports Aug. Broome Co; observation Otselic of several nests destroyed "probably work of Great Horned Owl" (DM). Com. Nighthawk: all period in Binghamton, Johnson City and Oneonta in low numbers but comparable to 1981. One observer counted five breeding pairs in Johnson City and Binghamton. On 24 Aug Oneonta "at four pm forty birds were observed by seven pm in hundreds" (IW). In Vestal 30 Aug approx. 30 migrants were counted. Chimney Swift: all period in Binghamton, Johnson City and Oneonta in low numbers but comparable to 1981; low or missing in BBS reports; Otselic "very few, down in numbers;" eight other reports. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 28 reports thru period thru region. In two instances they were apparently feeding young as there were continued beeline flights to and from a food source off in the same direction. Belted Kingfisher: common thru period thru region. Com. Flicker: common thru period thru region. Pileated Woodpecker: seven reports scattered thru period thru region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one all summer Newark Valley, "12 July brought young to feeder" (LD). **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** one 29 June Schuyler Lake "male at nest hole" (NB); one 3 July McDonough BBS (CH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 45 birds reported thru period thru region; five nest sites with young being fed; one report Delhi of 14 birds "attacking my Mountain Ash and that of my daughter-in-law next door. They were also girdling her birch tree" (MC). Hairy Woodpecker: common thru period thru region; two reports of parent birds feeding young at feeders. Downy Woodpecker: common thru period thru region; several reports of parent birds feeding young at suet feeders.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: common thru period thru region; only one report of imm birds. Great Crested Flycatcher: common thru period thru region; 6 June Windsor "nesting in natural cavity of an apple tree about 6 feet up" (JS). "19 June one pair with four eggs in nest box; 21 June moved to another box, four eggs, four one invaded by House Wren which punctured eggs" (JS). E. Phoebe: common thru period thru region; four successful nesting reported. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: six 17 Aug Vestal banding station, two adults, four imm (HM). Willow Flycatcher: ten reports scattered thru period thru region. Alder Flycatcher: 16 reports, thru period thru region. Traill's Flycatcher: ten banded Aug Vestal. Least Flycatcher: common thru period thru region; nine banded at Vestal banding station, four imm, five adult. E. Wood Pewee: common thru period thru region. Horned Lark: two reports; one 12 June Milford BBS (MD, KW); one 13 June Coventryville BBS (LB). Tree Swallow: abundant all thru region except Otselic where nest box success was low. Bank Swallow: only two reports; 24 June OPM (MD, KW); 24 June Deposit (JL). Rough-winged Swallow: five reports; Deposit, Johnson City, OPM, Otselic, Upper Lisle. Barn Swallow: common thru period thru region. Cliff Swallow: eight reports; one Deposit of "five nests under a bridge"; S. Otselic "seems to be increasing; nests on three barns this season. Started ten nests on my barn, all abandoned after spring cold (sparrows took two); two pairs re-nested in Aug. but apparently nests fell" (DM). A single nest started on a house in e. Binghamton fell "apparently just from the weight of the five young." One nestling died from the fall. The homeowner placed the nest in a small cardboard box which was attached to a window at approx. the same spot. After one full day of chicks cheeping and parents hovering trying to get up courage, the adult birds accepted the new arrangement and went back to feeding and caring for young. Three young were successfully fledged (LS). Purple Martin: five reports; all Broome Co. Blue Jay: common thru period thru region. Com. Crow: common thru period thru region. Fish Crow: one report 16 June Vestal (JS); possibly same bird last reported 27 May Vestal. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru period thru region. Tufted Titmouse: only report two birds at an Endwell feeding station several times the first

week of June (FL). None on BBS's; none BBA Chenango Co. White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru period thru region. Red-breasted Nuthatch: five reports, three OPM, one Deposit, one Tracy Creek State Land, five different dates in June. Brown Creeper: four reports; one Deposit 24 June, one W. Plymouth (Chenango Co) 5 July, one Plymouth 10 July, six Pharsalia July (all JL); no other reports. House Wren: common thru period thru region. Winter Wren: three reports; one 18 June Oneonta "he singing, she close and scolding" (MD, KW); one 9 July Norwich "singing in logged over area" (JL); one 17 Aug Oneonta "below Crumhorn Lodge" (MD, KW). Carolina Wren: one 30 Aug, imm banded Vestal (HM). **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** 7, 8, 11 Aug Plymouth (Chenango Co). "apparently one pair in one field, two other possible pairs in an adjoining field, separated by a row of trees from first field" (JL). Mockingbird: nine reports; seven Broome Co., one Tioga Co., one Otego. Gray Catbird: common thru period thru region. Brown Thrasher: common thru period thru region. Am. Robin: common thru period thru region. Hermit Thrush: 14 reports scattered thru region. Swainson's Thrush: two reports both 12 June, both Pharsalia Game Management Area but separate locations; one singing (JL). Veery: common thru period thru region. E. Bluebird: 25 reports, thru period thru area; apparently an excellent year; Otselic "best year yet for nesting attempts" (DM). Golden-crowned Kinglet: five fledglings 10 July Plymouth (Chenango Co.); one declaring territory Chenango Co (all JL). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one 21 Aug OPM (MD). Cedar Waxwing: very common thru period thru region, "most common bird during Aug along Otselic River on willows, catching flies." (DM).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: very good year; 35 reports scattered thru region. Solitary Vireo: 22 reports, mostly north, but a few in Southern Tier. Red-eyed Vireo: common thru period thru region. Warbling Vireo: 21 reports, scattered thru region, all before 4 July. Black-and-white Warbler: 42 reports, thru period thru region. Golden-winged Warbler: seven reports; all Southern Tier; two banded Vestal, both in areas where nesting had been probable. Blue-winged Warbler: 17 reports thru region, all June except for six (two adults, two imm, two age unknown) banded Vestal in Aug. Tennessee Warbler: two reports; two birds 24 Aug OPM (MD); one 26 Aug imm bird banded Vestal. Nashville Warbler: 15 reports; nine June and early July, six Aug thru region. Yellow Warbler: common thru period thru region. Magnolia Warbler: 63 birds reported 22 June-July, 41 Aug, 32 of the Aug birds were banded Vestal (30 imm, two adults). Cape May Warbler: only report, one banded Vestal 28 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 24 reports, all in northern section of region except two banded 30 Aug Vestal. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 23 reports; 19 June Broome Co, Chenango Co., OPM; two July, two Aug all OPM. Black-throated Green Warbler: 47 reports, thru period, thru area. Blackburnian Warbler: 36 reports, six Broome Co., 30 Chenango Co. and OPM; all but seven June, early July. Chestnut-sided Warbler: common thru period thru region. **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** 13 reports all Broome Co; two pairs with singing males were observed thru June and early July Vestal at a banding station when banding was suspended. Banding was resumed in Aug; two imm birds were banded 20 Aug. Ovenbird: common thru period thru region. No. Waterthrush: four reports, all Chenango Co, all June-early July. Mourning Warbler: eight reports, all June, early July, all Chenango Co., except one 31 Aug banded Vestal. Two were of confirmed breeders (JL). Com. Yellow-throat: common thru period thru region; of 330 banded Aug at a Vestal banding station 322 were imm. Hooded Warbler: only one report 24 Aug banded Vestal (HM). Wilson's Warbler: ten reports, ten banded 24 thru 31 Aug Vestal. Canada Warbler: 50 reports; 34 June, early July, all but two northern areas, two Broome Co.; 16 Aug reports, five OPM, nine Vestal. Am. Redstart: common thru period thru region.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: common thru period thru region. Bobolink: common thru period thru region. E. Meadowlark: common thru period thru region. Red-winged Blackbird: common thru period thru region. Orchard Oriole: one report July Vestal, no details. No. Oriole: common thru period thru region. Com. Grackle: common thru period thru region. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru period thru region. Scarlet Tanager:

common thru period thru region. Cardinal: common thru period thru region. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru period thru region. Indigo Bunting: common thru period thru region. Purple Finch: common thru period thru region. House Finch: common in Broome Co. thru period; absent in Chenango Co. In Oneonta a pair nested but left end of July (KW). Am. Goldfinch: common thru period thru region. Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru period thru region. Savannah Sparrow: common thru period thru region. Grasshopper Sparrow: 13 reports; seven Broome Co., two McDonough BBS, one Coventryville BBS, three Chenango Co. **HENSLOW'S SPARROW**: Banner year; five locations reported; in Broome Co. a definite search was undertaken with 35 sites carefully selected and studied; four of these produced Henslow's Sparrows. "At site 5, three singing males were observed. Two of these were seen with females. At site 29, two singing males were heard, one of which was observed. At site 30, one singing male was observed and at site 31 at least six singing males were heard, one of which was observed. A common characteristic of all four sites was 'pure or nearly pure herbaceous communities with long, unbroken view to the horizon'" (AP). The fifth location was found near Plymouth, Chenango Co. It was visited twice in July and twice in early Aug. A total of six singing males were heard. The habitat was "dry fields, for about 5 years not cut, poor quality hay, little Timothy, Bent and Orchard Grass, low blackberries and Virginia Creeper occasionally" (JL). Vesper Sparrow: 14 reports, nine OPM five Chenango Co. Dark-eyed Junco: 39 reports thru period thru region. Chipping Sparrow: common thru period thru region. Field Sparrow: common thru period thru region; of 71 banded Aug Vestal 67 were imm. White-throated Sparrow: 45 reports; three Broome Co.; 12 Chenango Co., one Coventryville BBS, six McDonough BBS, 23 OPM. Swamp Sparrow: 35 reports, thru period thru region. Song Sparrow: common thru period thru region; of 330 banded Aug Vestal 322 were imm.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

Summer 1982 was more notable for ornithological events than for its weather. June and August both were cold. June was the eleventh coldest and twelfth wettest on record at Syracuse, with lows of 47° F on 12 and 27 June and rainfall almost one-and-a-half inches above average. July was generally more favorable even though temperatures were more extreme than in June. July rainfall was about three-quarters of an inch above average at Syracuse, but almost all of it came in storms on 7, 18 and 28 July. The net result was very dry conditions by the end of the month. August, the fourth coldest ever at Syracuse, had a low of 43° F on 28 August. The month also was quite dry, with nearly an inch less rainfall than average. The cool weather did not seem to affect plant life, insects or birds adversely. Fruit and berry crops were especially heavy, a notable contrast to last summer's failure.

Work on the Atlas was much intensified. As of this writing, data from about 170 blocks had been reported, with almost 50 contributors yet to report. Now there has been some work in at least one block of every square in the Region except one square in Cayuga Co. and several in remote Herkimer Co. Onondaga and Oswego Counties are approaching the point where some data is available from every block. This effort has begun to yield some surprises, the most notable of which is the rediscovery of nesting Prothonotary Warblers in the Region. In