

EDITORS' NOTE

This issue marks the "changing of the guard" for Regions 1 and 3. After a decade of selfless and unstinting labor as regional editors, both Vivian Mills Pitzrick and Walter E. Benning have decided that it is time for somebody else to have a chance at the job. The editors will certainly miss them. They met their deadlines right on the nose. Their successors will have a hard act to follow as both did a full and comprehensive account of the regions' activity that season. Again we wish to emphasize the fact that the Federation owes Vivian and Walt a tremendous debt of gratitude as the editors could never put out this publication without the hard work and devotion of such people. We therefore are saying "thank you" for the Federation and "happy birding."

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

When it was hot, it was very very hot and when it was cold, it was horrid, this enervating summer of '83. The unwelcome cold weathr of May continued nine days into June with temperatures five degrees below normal and a killing frost the 9th. Then the capricious Jet Stream shifted far to the north over Hudson Bay, ushering in the heat that persisted, with little respite, through the period. Temperatures every month averaged above normal, June by .6°, July by .9°, and August, very hot, by 2.3°. The 8 August marked the 29th successive bone-wearying day of temperatures 80° or above. Although breeding birds apparently suffered little harm from the cooler time at the end of the first week in July, the cold, cloudy, drizzly two days of 11 and 12 August were fatal to nestlings, such as bluebirds and Purple Finches, that happened to be at the tender age when wings were just out of sheath and adults had stopped brooding them.

As usual, summer precipitation varied greatly across the Region. For Allegany County, with most of it coming at the end of each month, rainfall was near normal for June and August and one inch below normal for July. However, during June and July, southern Chautauqua County averaged 1.5 inches below normal, but *four* inches fell in the Fredonia area on 29 July. A final bit of violence closed the season with a tornado at Lewiston 30 August.