

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.

Following a rather slow spring migration, it was surprising so little movement was noted in early June, although perhaps we early-rising diurnal birders should begin burning the candle at both ends in view of Bob Sundell's report of 5 June. From the evening sky between 10 and 11:30 P.M. he heard a host of calls including four Black-billed Cuckoos, 11 Gray-cheeked and 110 Swainson's Thrushes. With little change in the summer weather pattern, the shorebird and warbler migration was late and unimpressive for the fall prelude.

The Osprey hacking project, begun in 1980 on the Seneca Indian Reservation in Cattaraugus County, was resumed this year, there being none last year because of decimation of over half the population on Long Island where the young birds are obtained. Six baby Ospreys arrived here in early July, were given a month of TLC by Mary Forness and then were released for free flight with monitoring to be continued five or six weeks until they leave for Florida and South America. An adult in the area may have been one raised there in 1981.

The excellent results from the breeding bird surveys are no doubt a reflection of the finer singing weather, hence easier bird detection, of the warmer latter part of June which had 14% more sunny days than normal. Findings from the 15 routes of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Breeding Bird Census for western New York (BBC) were better than usual with *record high* counts for Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Warbling Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and House Finch, and with *record low* counts for Red-headed Woodpecker, Blackburnian Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and Eastern Meadowlark (W. Klabunde). From 16 of the 18 runs of the Allegany County "Mini" Run Breeding Bird Survey (Abbs), tallies were also above normal. Outstanding are 72 Black-billed Cuckoos, since the previous high was six. Other species with *highest ever* counts were: Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Cliff Swallow, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue-winged Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting and Bobolink, and with *lowest ever* counts were: Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Redstart, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle (C. Klingensmith). Below, status for a species is indicated by H+ or L- = highest or lowest ever; H or L = very high or very low; N+ or N- = somewhat above or below normal; sd+ or sd- = above or below one standard deviation; and no letter = normal.

This summer of many positives includes 1) continued benefit from Atlasing: growth in both number and expertise of birders as well as species turning up regularly in new localities; 2) Canada Geese summering in old haunts and breeding confirmed in the Town of Villanova, Chautauqua County; 3) near normal breeding survey numbers for the Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks and American Kestrel; 4) appearance of a few Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey families with young, the last named some-

times apparently nesting late; and more Upland Sandpipers; 5) good tern numbers; 6) slightly better Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports, and the Hairy Woodpecker up slightly on BBC but down on Abbs; 7) extension of the Acadian Flycatcher's range, and Alder, Willow, Least and Great Crested Flycatchers doing well except in northern Chautauqua County where the Alders may soon be ousted by Willows; 8) many Cliff Swallow colonies reported across the Southern Tier with several new from Atlas work, and good Tree Swallow production; 9) summering titmice in Chautauqua and Allegany Counties, a sprinkling of Red-breasted Nuthatches all season, and good wren reports; 10) Eastern Bluebirds well nurtured in Allegany County, but few other records (possibly more a reflection of neglect in reporting than scarcity of the species?); 11) low count of European Starlings on Abbs; 12) a few more Yellow-throated Vireos and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and breeding confirmed for the Yellow-breasted Chat; 13) normal numbers of Vesper Sparrows on BBC and Abbs; 14) both Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds less prevalent; and 15) House Finches popping out all over.

Summer negatives include 1) scarcity of loons and grebes, and no cormorants or American Bitterns; 2) only five Eastern Screech-Owls from four reports (well—better than none!); few nighthawks; and Belted Kingfishers and Northern Flickers down on breeding surveys; 3) low Eastern Phoebe tallies and production poor; 4) scarcity of Horned Larks (should be Blue Listed); 5) Hermit and Wood Thrushes low on BBC and Abbs; 6) no Loggerhead Shrikes; 7) poor Yellow Warbler production; 8) low breeding survey counts for the Savannah Sparrow; and a decade of decrease for the Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows in southern and central Chautauqua County (Sundell) but a few more in some other areas; and 9) very poor American Goldfinch production.

Rarities: American White Pelican, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Mute Swan, Common Black-headed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, "Brewster's" Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole.

Abbreviations: BC—Bird Club; BH—Buffalo Harbor; Cem—Cemetery; DH—Dunkirk Harbor; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res—Reservoir; Sanct—Sanctuary; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

Contributors: Allegany County BC, Mallory Adams, Mary Adams, Tim Baird, Kenneth Balmas, Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Cattaraugus County BC, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Don Cook (DCo), Lewis Day (Weather Data, Wellsville), Frances DeGroff, Harrison DeGroff, Stephen Eaton, Gordon Grantier, Helen Graves, Lake Erie BC, Doris Hurlburt, Jamestown Audubon Society, Walter Klabunde, Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Erma Larson, Terry Mosher, Katherine Palmer, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Robert A. Sundell (RS—Weather Data, s. and c. Chautauqua Co.), James Valente (JV), James VanScoy and Regina VanScoy; and Observers: Alan Anderson, Robert Andriele, Allen Benton, Nancy Bowser, Lois Buck (LBk), Douglas Carlson (DCar), Jerry Chapple, Arthur R. Clark (ARC), Willie D'Anna, Dorothy Danner, Jeanine Flory, David Gagne, Frank Gardner, Joanne Goetz, Joe Gula (JGul), Paul Hess, Morgan V. Jones (MVJ), Mary Jordan, Harriette Klabunde, Allan Lyford, Craig Lyford, Alice McKale, Willard McKale, Fred Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), Judy Mosher (JMos), Grace O'Dell, Elizabeth Pillsbury, Betsy Potter, Arthur Schaffner, Robert Schrader, Ora Stanford, Gladys Stanley, Willard Stanley, and Carol Wagner.

LOONS-DUCKS: The Com. Loon resting at Amity L, Allegany Co., in May stayed on thru 4 June, the only report. Also one of our spring rarities, three **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** were spotted from the pier at Barcelona Harbor on 23 July as they winged their way to the northeast over Lake Erie (RS). Although no Am. Bitterns were reported, a Least Bittern was found at Tonawanda WMA 20 July (BP). Other good long-legged wader reports include: Great Egret: at Tonawanda WMA, two on 18 June and one on 20 July; Green-backed Heron: four (sd-) on Abbs, max 10 at Farmersville Sta. 9 Aug (DC), and two adults with six juveniles at Stannards 14 and 15 July (HG); Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 15 at Lewiston 19 and 25 June (Miranians); and **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON**: one in the Town of Shelby 2 and 3 June, photographed by D. Cook and also seen by others including RSc. A **MUTE SWAN** appeared at Tift Farm NP 21 June (RA +) and at DH 12 Aug (TM, JF, JG +). Less common summer ducks include: Green-winged Teal: two at Burgeson Sanct. 31 July (DG)—possible breeder?; N. Shoveler: three at Iroquois NWR 28 Aug (AM, WM), the only report; Am. Wigeon: one at the beaver dam on Wall St., Town of North Harmony, Chautauqua Co., 6 Aug. (RS +), a bit late (another possible breeder?); Bufflehead: the female, apparently unable to fly, staying on from the spring season at Red House thru 24 July (TB, SE), unusual in summer; Hooded Merganser: a pair nesting again in Amity Twp, Allegany Co., and a female in Allegany SP 4 June (RS)—in "ideal breeding habitat"; Com. Merganser: three at Amity L. 3 June, but hopes dashed for CO; and Ruddy Duck: one at Iroquois NWR 28 Aug, the only report.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Max count of the Turkey Vulture was 51 at Iroquois NWR 5 Aug, and the only Bald Eagle reported was an imm at the Allegheny Res. near the hacking tower 27 Aug (RS, DG, AA) where it forced an Osprey to drop its fish. Other significant raptors include: N. Harrier: seven (H +) on BBC and one to two in Allegany and Chautauqua Counties; Sharp-shinned Hawk: two (H) on BBC, one on Abbs and one at Farmersville Sta. 3 June, the only reports; Cooper's Hawk: two (H) on BBC, none on Abbs, and 13 other scattered birds, including at least one young fledged in Amity Twp in July; N. Goshawk: an adult and imm in Allegany SP 7 July (TB), a previous breeding area, an adult in the Town of Cold Spring, Chautauqua Co., 11 and 12 June (DG, FG), near a former breeding site, and one in the Town of Charlotte 12 Aug (LBK, FR); and Red-tailed Hawk: two on Abbs (L-). With the N. Bobwhite seldom on any birder's list anymore, the one (H) on BBC was unusual. Shorebird notes of special interest include: Killdeer: an adult on eggs on the Alfred SUNY campus 26 July (EB); Mrs. Brooks found an adult on four eggs near here in 1979 on the same date, which was record late for N.Y. State; Willet: one at Niagara Falls irregularly 19-29 Aug (WD, BP), unusual but expected; Upland Sandpiper: one (L) on BBC, adults with young both west of Randolph and in the Town of Pomfret, two near Fredonia and two in the Town of Clarence; Ruddy Turnstone: one at Burgeson Sanct. 31 July (DG); Pectoral Sandpiper: max eight near Dunkirk 12 Aug; and Short-billed Dowitcher: max 15 at Burgeson Sanct. 31 July (DG). The **COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL** at Niagara Falls 19 Aug (WD) is an exciting rarity here; and the two-months-early Iceland Gull, a second-year bird identified in DH 30 July (TM), marks the first in summer for Chautauqua Co. while an adult also was here 14 Aug (AS). Summer terns showed up well: Caspian Tern: max ten at DH 30 July to 27 Aug (TM) plus at least nine, total, from two other Chautauqua Co. areas; Forster's Tern: one at Point Gratiot, Dunkirk, and four at DH 14 Aug (TM, AS, JGul) and up to three near Barcelona 20 and 22 Aug (RS), excellent numbers; Com. Tern: 500 ± at DH 14 Aug (AS), record high for the Region; and Black Tern: one at Tonawanda WMA 22 July (TM, JMos) and three at Iroquois NWR 5 Aug (AM, WM +),—better than zero for this Blue Listed species.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Single Long-eared Owls were discovered on Abbs near Alfred 12 June (EB) and at Lewiston 22 July (WD +); and four recently fledged young N. Saw-whet Owls were found at Science Lake, Allegany SP, 6 July (TB, Richard Clark). Only six areas reported Com. Nighthawks, all in small numbers, including one adult and one

young, banded, at Dunkirk 21 July (MVJ) and max of the migration: 20 going north over Jamestown 9 June and 14 headed south over Little Genesee 26 Aug. Four young Chimney Swifts fledged in Stannards in July (VP, GG). Although the Red-headed Woodpecker is still thriving along the Lake Erie shore, Dunkirk, it tallied but one (L-) on BBC and none on Abbs; one to two birds were found near Red House, Allegany SP, in the Town of Arkwright, on Grand Island and in Amity Twp.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Allegany SP 9 and 12 June was a bit late for spring departure (TB, DG, FG), and another appeared here 27 Aug (RS+), the first for fall. The **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** is evidently successfully expanding its breeding grounds, with many reports: Adults singing in three new Atlas blocks in s. Cattaraugus Co. 7 to 10 June (SE); one singing on Sawmill Run Rd. between Frewsburg and Onoville 11 June (RS, DG), old stamping grounds; one near Freedom, Cattaraugus Co. 20 June (EB, KP), a new location; two in the Town of Pomfret, Chautauqua Co., 21 June (TM, AS), also here in May; max two in the Town of Hamburg 22 and 29 June (RA, Leonards); and one at Quaker Run, Allegany SP, irregularly 21 June thru 8 July (TB). With Horned Larks so scarce, only 21 (L) on BBC and missing for the first time on Abbs (L-), the one with young near Alfred 24 June (EB) is particularly noteworthy. A Tree Swallow nest with four young near Alfred 28 July (EB), while not a record-breaker, is very late. Breeding was confirmed for the Carolina Wren at Lakewood and near Barcelona with other birds, usually singles appearing near Alfred, in the Towns of Portland and Westfield, and in Allegany SP. Other wren reports include: Winter Wren: one (H+) on BBC plus eight, total from five locations; and Marsh Wren: three in the Town of Arkwright 2 July (TM, AS), seldom reported. The Golden-crowned Kinglet tallied four (H) on BBC as well as up to six in Alfred, Ward and West Almond Twps, Allegany Co., 4-21 June with four young in a new Alfred area 1-31 July (EB); one carrying food in Thorpe Hollow, Cattaraugus Co., 8 June (TB); and eight from two sites in the Town of Ashford 7 July (AM, WM). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest with four eggs at Amity L 5-18 June (VP) was lost to cowbirds, but in a nearby area, later on 7 July, two adults were feeding five young out of the nest; singles were also found in Allegany SP 5 and 13 July (TB) and at Youngstown 31 Aug (WD, BP). Except for the Amity Lake Bluebird Trail, Belmont, that fledged 87 young from 17 pairs (VP) and nine pairs nesting near Alfred (EB), the E. Bluebird was poorly reported; other records were: nine on BBC, ten on Abbs and a total four from Hanover and Pomfret Twps, Chautauqua Co. (TM, AB). A Swainson's Thrush on BBC was probably a migrant; a large new colony was discovered w. of the Allegheny Res. 27 June (SE) and they were singing in the Quaker Run area 2-14 July (TB). Single N. Mockingbirds were seen at Houghton 21 June and near Fredonia 26 Aug; while a Brown Thrasher nest with three young in Amity Twp near Belmont 29 July (VP) was 15 days *record late* for nestlings in N.Y. State. The Yellow-throated Vireo is doing better: seven (H) on BBC, three on Abbs and singles at Jamestown 10 June, near Alfred 11-29 June and in Allegany SP 14 June-15 July. A Philadelphia Vireo appeared on BBC (N+). Single Golden-winged Warblers were seen: paired with a Blue-wing, defending territory, in Amity Twp; in Alfred and at Red House; and a male "**BREWSTER'S**" **WARBLER** was identified in the Town of Cold Spring, Chautauqua Co., 11 June (RS, DG). Other warbler highlights include: Nashville Warbler: one in Town of Portland, Chautauqua Co. 16 July (MVJ)—apparently expanding its territory to the lakeplain; Yellow-rumped Warbler: really settling in in western N.Y.: max 21 in Alfred Twp. during June and five nests documented here in July (EB), another nest in Ward Twp, Allegany Co., 2 July (VP), five birds in Allegany SP 4 and 5 June (RS+) and singles in Thorpe Hollow, Cattaraugus Co., 8 June (TB) and in the Town of Cold Spring 11 June (RS, DG); Black-throated Green Warbler: a nest with adult on in Amity Twp 7 June (VP); **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: one near the dam at Red House L., Allegany SP 4 and 5 June (RS+), studied at close range in excellent light, the second sighting of the species in Cattaraugus Co., the first being on 3 June 1979 in exactly the same area; Prairie Warbler: continued expansion in Allegany Co. with max 16 near Alfred during

June and six active nests here (EB); Cerulean Warbler: singles in Town of Pomfret and Scio Twp in June; Ovenbird: a nest with eggs on the Fredonia campus in June (AB); N. Waterthrush: two nests, each with four eggs: near Red House 17 June (TB) and e. of Forestville 17 June (AB, TM); Louisiana Waterthrush: 11 birds, total, from six areas, including an imm at Allegany SP 29 June (TB); Hooded Warbler: four (N+) on BBC and a female near Barcelona 14 Aug (RS) only reports; and Yellow-breasted Chat: one (H) on BBC; max five in the Town of Pomfret 21 June to 8 July (TM, AS, RS) and carrying food for young here 7 July (TM); and a pair and nest with three eggs near Red House 14 and 17 June, and young 26 June (TB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Although seen here in the spring, the **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** at the Dunkirk-Fredonia Airport thru 17 July (TM, AS, MVJ) apparently failed to nest. A quick look at other noteworthy sparrows includes: Grasshopper Sparrow: max eight near Alfred during July, the "most ever" (EB) and ten, total, in six other locations: Henslow's Sparrow: two in the Town of Busti and an adult with three imm e. of Bemus Pt. 13 July (RS, EP+), new location, max six near Alfred in July (EB), and one to three in Twps of Scio, Pomfret and Villenova; Swamp Sparrow: nest with four eggs near Red House 4 June (TB); and White-throated Sparrow: one (N+) on BBC; two on Abbs; one to two in Alfred, Ward, West Almond and Almond Twps, Allegany Co., during June and July (EB, CK, VP); nest with four eggs in last year's territory on Reddy Rd., Amity Twp., 2 July (VP); and nest with three eggs in swamp near Red House 9 June (TB). An **ORCHARD ORIOLE** was verified in the Town of Hamburg 11 June (ARC, AS) and a migrant female appeared at Burgeson Sanct. 31 July (DG), seldom seen after the nesting season. Although the Purple Finch tallied only 14 (L) on BBC, 78 were banded at Farmersville Sta. during the season. For the prolific House Finch, a better criterion of status than the breeding surveys, 90 (H+) on BBC and 17 on Abbs, are banding records for the season: over 500 in Fredonia with 92% this year's young (MVJ), and 96 at Farmersville Sta. (DC). Imagine, along with Terry Mosher, "500 write-ups!?" Fortunately this species no longer requires a verification report. Is winter this close upon us that Evening Grosbeaks have arrived already? One was seen in Alfred 15 Aug and two were there the next day (EB)—nearly two months early!

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The summer performed before a host of local groups. To sunworshippers and beachcombers she was the heroine, to farmers the villain, and to birders the unpredictable double agent. She produced a good breeding season with robins and doves fostering three to four broods, yet some species went unrecorded as breeders. Some new species, on the other hand, were confirmed as breeders in the region. Prevailing southerly winds brought warm, humid air to the region, but southern wanderers were nearly nonexistent. The performance ran for three months. Act One, June, was relatively normal with an average temperature of 66.7° F. Precipitation was a meager .38 inches below normal at 2.4 inches. Act