

migratory movement late July. Bay-breasted: migrants 28 Aug New Townsend and Penn Yan. Cerulean: at two new locations in the Elmira area. Am. Redstart: large numbers at Brooktondale and Lansing 14 Aug. Prothonotary: carrying nesting material M June. N. Waterthrush: at mouth of Reeder's Creek, Town of Varick, Sen Co; adult carrying food Brooktondale. Com. Yellowthroat: at Hornby TB counted 25 adults carrying food in a Christmas tree plantation with trees three feet high.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: singing at New Townsend June-July and at Rushville 24 July; at eight locations in Steuben Co. Henslow's Sparrow: two locations Steuben Co; one Valois, Sen Co. Orchard Oriole: one singing Pine City 4 June for a week or more. Evening Grosbeak: female at Odessa 13 Aug and one at Sen Falls 19 Aug.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

Summer, 1983—the year of the Big Debate. Did we or did we not live through a Heat Wave? The official weather service definition of a heat wave is "several consecutive days with high temperatures (taken in the shade) in the 90's or higher." Simple enough. Why any debate? Official National Weather Service reports from Edwin A. Link Field Station placed area temperatures 11 through 19 July—one of the hottest periods—at 88 degrees—hence no heat wave.

However, Link Field with its professional meteorological instruments, is located high atop Mt. Ettrick (elevation 1,600'). Many sweltering lowland valley dwellers (elevation $\pm$ 800') looked at their ordinary backyard thermometers and day after day noted mercury readings over the 90 degree mark. Try to tell them there was no Heat Wave!!!

Well, heat wave or no—except for a few weeks early in June, Region Four suffered one of the steamiest, stickiest, muggiest summers remembered by many. Day after day dawned "hot, humid and hazy." Morning after morning lengthened to noon and then afternoon with the mercury climbing and the haze hanging on. Perspiring wishful thinkers seemed to discern the faint outlines of cumulus clouds—the kind that could blossom into full-blown, shower-producing thunderheads. Faint heavenly rumblings often added to the illusion, but nothing ever materialized. A very few localized spots perhaps had light rain but mostly the sun sank, fire-red, viewed through the same hot, humid haze that had colored its rising. "Forty percent chance of showers tomorrow," came the pronouncement from Mt. Ettrick. Not good enough! Tomorrow after tomorrow was more of today and yesterday—"hot, humid, hazy," with a few notable exceptions—mostly violent. On 17 June, short, concentrated, intense thunderstorms ripped through the area. Three-quarters of an inch of rain fell on Mt. Ettrick in the 15 minutes between 5:45 and 6:00 p.m. A 46 mph gust of wind was reported at 5:46 p.m. Unfortunately the precipitation came so fast on the hard, dry earth

that most of it ran off, flooding streets and underpasses in Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties. Some hail damaged crops and gardens.

Also, on 21 July a short but violent windstorm, accompanied by precipitation that fell as rain in some parts, but as marble-sized hailstones in many locations, left a wake of uprooted trees, fallen limbs, damaged properties and flattened croplands. Electrical outages were common. Only on 11 and 12 August did the area enjoy a good, slow, steady rain. On those days a total of 3.42" at Greene, 3" in Bainbridge, 2.30" in Oneonta and 1.46" in Cooperstown fell on parched dairylands and burned lawns. Grateful residents longed for more, but incredibly this short respite was quickly terminated and it was back to the usual "hot, humid, hazy." Heat records continued to be broken or tied until the last day of August before relief finally came. If we did not live through a Heat Wave somewhere in there, it sure was Some Impressive Hot Spell!

And what about the birds through all of this? It would appear that aviana coped well. However, this would be hard to prove by our records for the issue became obscured by a factor totally unrelated to and existing in spite of the weather. The fourth year of the Breeding Bird Atlas Project really took off in Region Four! Not only were more birders out more often and for longer periods, but also several "block-busting" teams were covering the hinterlands. As a result we have high numbers, most of which cannot fairly be compared with previous records, and some very interesting results which may or may not indicate trends.

The only really rare birds to show were: Black-crowned Night-Herons (not related to BBA), Short-eared Owl, White-eyed Vireo, Pine Warbler (all BBA finds), and a Kentucky Warbler and an Orchard Oriole (both BBS records).

Many birds usually found only occasionally, or at best sparsely, appeared in increased numbers. Among these were Common Loon, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. Hard to tell how many, if any, of these are really extending their ranges or increasing their numbers. One thing, however, is obvious. There are many areas in Region Four that deserve deeper investigation.

Abbreviations: BBA—Breeding Bird Atlas; BBS—Breeding Bird Survey; Br.Co.—Broome Co; Chen.Co.—Chenango Co; CO—confirmed; Cort.Co.—Cortland Co; CVSP—Chenango Valley State Park; Del.Co.—Delaware Co; imm—immature; OPM—Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PO—possible; PR—probable; REEC—Rogers Environmental Education Center.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two 9 June, Susquehanna R, CVSP, one bird in eclipse plumage, one in nuptial plumage; the bird in eclipse plumage remained in one spot close to the far bank of the river from observers, the bird in nuptial plumage spent approx. 10

minutes diving in mid-river, then swam close to the far side, stayed there in one spot for about 10 minutes, then parted the reeds on the river bank and waddled through them, out of sight; an attempt to locate the spot from the far side the following day failed; there was no sign of the birds a week later; were these birds displaced from their usual Adirondack Lake breeding grounds? Was the eclipse bird a first-year male, therefore inexperienced? Was the bird in nuptial plumage simply going through instinctive nest-seeking motions? (BB, FL, HM). Pied-billed Grebe: two reports, possibly the same bird, one 25 Aug Portlandville, one 29 Aug Portlandville (MD, KW). Am. Bittern: three reports all from atlasers; one PR Chen.Co. (JL); one PO Cort.Co. (MH); one PR Cort.Co. (MH). Great Blue Heron: regular thru. Green-backed Heron: regular thru. **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON**: 13 imm 23 Aug to end of period. Susquehanna R, Br.Co., young wandering during post-breeding period, no doubt. Canada Goose: five reports; two 12 June, farm pond, Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); two Genegantslet R, Smithville Flats, Chen.Co. (RM); two July Delhi, "on a farm pond—no young" (MC); five June, Corbettsville BBS, one stop (JL). Wood Duck: several Br.Co., Chen.Co., OPM, Tioga Co.; 30 ducklings Lily Lake CVSP 15 June (BB, FL, HM); a good year. Am. Black Duck: moderately regular thru. Mallard: common thru. Blue-winged Teal: pair June Chen.Co.; a nearby resident reported to Atlasers that a pair had nested in the Rod & Gun Club sanctuary swamp but the young had fledged and were gone by time Atlasers arrived (BB, FL, HM). Hooded Mergansers: a "brood" 12 June reported at REEC, Sherburne (Chen.Co.), only one sighting (LC); three June-July Atlasing Chen.Co. (JL). Com. Merganser: pair 8 June, CVSP, flying up-river (BB, FL, HM); one June-July BBA report Del.Co. (JL); one July BBA Del.Co. (JC, DJ).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: moderately regular Br.Co., Chen.Co., Cort.Co., Delhi, OPM; 15 in one location July Del.Co. (JC, DJ). N. Harrier: four reports: one 8 June CVSP (BB, FL, HM); one 21 June Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); occasional June Delhi (MC). A pair June-July So. Otselc, "the female often observed carrying sticks and food back to one area, nest never located." (DM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 15 reports scattered thru Br., Chen., Del., Tioga Cos; one CO nesting So. Otselc (DM). Cooper's Hawk: eight reports: one 12 July OPM (MD, KW); one 6 July Afton (Chen.Co.) (HM); one 29 Aug OPM (MD, KW); during June-July Atlasing period, two Cort.Co. (HM), one Chen.Co. (JL); two Del.Co. (JC, DJ); Chen.Co. bird was "bombed in flight by a kestrel, turned over in air to fight with its talons." (JL). N. Goshawk: one 23 June n. Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM). Red-shouldered Hawk: seven reports: one 28 June n. Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); rest June-July, Chen.Co. two PO, one PR (JL), Del.Co. one PO, one CO (nest with eggs) (JC, DJ), Tioga Co. one PO (JC, DJ); an encouraging increase though probably slanted by Atlasing. Broad-winged Hawk: 24 reports scattered thru; two in Cort.Co. CO (MH), two in Chen.Co. CO (JL). Red-tailed Hawk: regular thru. Am. Kestrel: very common thru. Ring-necked Pheasant: ten reports all in the June-July Atlas period; three Br.Co., all PO; three Cort.Co. all PR (MH); three Del.Co. all PO; one Tioga Co. PO. Ruffed Grouse: common thru. Wild Turkey: common thru; definitely on the increase. N. Bobwhite: three reports; one 9 Aug Norwich (LC); one PO Chen.Co. (JL), one PR Chen.Co. (JL), both June-July Atlasing period. Virginia Rail: two 25 July REEC "seen in the same place for at least two weeks and responded to a recording of their song. No young seen." (LC); one PR Cort.Co. during Atlasing period (MH); one Del.Co., July (JC, DJ). Sora: one 2 Aug, Portlandville "saw him at edge of cattails" (MD, KW); three June-July Atlasing period records; one CO Chen.Co. (JL); one PO and one PR Cort.Co. (MH). Com. Moorhen: two 4 June CVSP (FM, HM), in reeds in typical nesting habitat; two 7 July REEC "two sitting on same log in the marsh, no nest found, no young seen." (LC). Killdeer: common thru. Solitary Sandpiper: one 20 July Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); one 23 July OPM (MD, KW); both very early records; five 26 Aug, one 27 Aug, one 30 Aug, Chen.Co. (JL). Spotted Sandpiper: common thru in June and July; first probable migrant returned to farm pond Vestal 9 Aug (GK). Upland Sandpiper: two records, both during June-July Atlasing period; one PR Cort.Co. (MH);

one PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); has been reported before in Cort.Co. but Tioga Co. record is a new one found thru Atlasing. Least Sandpiper: six 16 Aug, six 26 Aug, eight 27 Aug, four 30 Aug—all Chen.Co. (JL). Com. Snipe: six reports all during the June-July Atlasing period; four Cort.Co. (MH), one PO, one PR Chen.Co. (JL). Am. Woodcock: regular two places in Vestal, Br.Co. (GK, HM); 13 Atlas reports; Chen.Co. two PO, four PR (JL); four PO Cort.Co. (MH), three PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ). Ring-billed Gull: "several" 27 July Whitney Point Res. (FL, HM), 80 plus July Otsego Lake (MD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: moderately common thru. E. Screech-Owl: one 1 Aug, Vestal, Br.Co. (HM), one 3, 5, 22 Aug Chen.Co. (JL), one June Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). Great Horned Owl: Br.Co. occasional; Atlasing results; three CO Chen.Co. (JL); two PO, one PR Cort.Co. (MH), two PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ), two PO Tioga Co. (JO, DJ). Barred Owl: one PR 23 June CVSP (BB, FL, HM); one 9 July n. Br.Co. (FL, HM); one PO Cort.Co. (MH); one PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ). Long-eared Owl: one heard twice in June in a location where it had been seen in previous years, Delhi (NC). **SHORT-EARED OWL:** one PO July Del.Co. discovered by Atlasers (JC, DJ). Com. Nighthawk: numbers in Binghamton, Johnson City and Oneonta about the same as last year; no reports of large flocks migrating but regular sightings during the last two weeks of Aug of small bands of a dozen birds or so working the insect hatches on the Susquehanna R near Binghamton. Chimney Swift: usual numbers in Binghamton, Johnson City area; several reports on BBA blocks; one large group (80+) in Vestal mid-Aug (GK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: reported regularly by BB Atlasers and others; a good year. Belted Kingfisher: common thru in appropriate habitats. Red-headed Woodpecker: two BB Atlas reports of pairs regularly at feeders, in one case bringing in young in Aug; locations about five miles apart; both in Afton area (HM, LR); one Cort.Co. PO (MH); one REEC "nesting in elm near marsh" (LC). Red-bellied Woodpecker: Newark Valley birds nesting, regular patrons at feeding station, bringing in young; Atlas reports, three CO Cort.Co. (MH), one PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: many reports; at least ten new sites discovered by Atlasers; can now be reported as moderately common thru in appropriate habitats. Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: moderately common thru. N. Flicker: common thru. Pileated Woodpecker: here again Atlasers discovered several new locations and bird can be listed as moderately common in appropriate habitats.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: common thru. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 8 Aug adult, one 26 Aug imm, both at a Vestal banding station (HM). Alder Flycatcher: regular thru in appropriate habitat. Willow Flycatcher: regular thru in appropriate habitat. Least Flycatcher: common thru. E. Phoebe: common thru. Great Crested Flycatcher: common thru. E. Kingbird: common thru. Horned Lark: two reports: one 8 June Newark Valley (Tioga Co.) (LD), one 6 Aug Edwin A. Link Airport, Br.Co. (MS). Purple Martin: two colonies in Br.Co. (FL, MS), one colony in Cort.Co. (MH). Tree Swallows: common thru but nested late; one birder at a farm with 34 boxes banded over 100 on 28 June; last year at this same date only six were banded because the nestlings were deemed to be so advanced that a disturbance like banding would have caused them to fledge too early. N. Rough-winged Swallow: 32 locations reported; numbers up from last year but unquestionably due to Atlasing. Bank Swallow: 29 reports; numbers up decidedly from last year but definitely due to Atlasing. Cliff Swallow: 31 reports; seems to be increasing but much is due to Atlasing. Barn Swallow: common thru; still around in large numbers at period's end; a late nesting due to cold spring? Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: three reports: one 9 June Br.Co. (BB, FL, HM), one July Br.Co. (CH, HM), one 23 June Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: nine reports: three of confirmed nestings; one family of five or six 7 July OPM (MD, CW, KW), one Chen.Co. (JL), one Cort.Co. (MH). White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: 14 reports scattered thru; one 16 June "a pair

at nest under loose bark of old tree about 5 or 6 feet off ground in swampy area" OPM (MD, KW); three CO in Chen. Co. "one at a nest under loose bark of a tree, feeding young" (JL). Carolina Wren: four reports: one CO 20 July Br. Co. "bird singing loudly on barn weathervane, stopped abruptly and entered cavity in barn ventilator, remained five minutes, emerged, resumed singing on weathervane, repeated performance several times" (BB, FL HM); two PO Del. Co. (JC, DJ); one PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). House Wren: common thru. Winter Wren: 16 reports: one PO 22 June Chen. Co. (BB, FL, HM); one PR 6 July Chen. Co. (BB, FL, HM); seven Chen. Co. one CO (JL); one CO Cort. Co. (MH); four Del. Co. (JC, DJ); two birds, each in different location, 16 June OPM (MD, KW). Marsh Wren: one 23 July REEC "heard on this date and on several other occasions; no nest or young found" (LC); two CO Cort. Co. (MH). Golden-crowned Kinglet: one Corbettsville BBS (JL); one PO, two PR, three CO Chen. Co. (JL); one PO, one CO Del. Co. (JC, DJ); usually found in spruce islands. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one pair 11 June Windsor (Br. Co.) "very noisy near nest in mixed woods" (JS); two PO, one PR, one CO Del. Co. (JC, DJ); one PO So. Otselic (DM); one PO, one CO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). E. Bluebird: doing well thru. Veery: common thru. Swainson's Thrush: one 18 June Bowman's Lake (Chen. Co.) (JL); one Del. Co. (JC, DJ); the Del. Co. record might be expected as on the edge of the Catskill breeding range but the Chen. Co. record is definitely unusual and may indicate a trend to extend range. Hermit Thrush: several reports scattered thru; some new records due to Atlasing. Wood Thrush: common thru. Am. Robin: common thru. Gray Catbird: common thru. N. Mockingbird: several; new locations mostly found thru Atlasing; mostly Br. and Tioga Cos.; one in lower Chen. Co. 7 June (MD). Brown Thrasher: moderately regular thru. Cedar Waxwing: common thru. European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: one adult, one imm, late June Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); found thru Atlasing. Solitary Vireo: 33 reports; doing well thru; several new locations found by Atlasers. Yellow-throated Vireo: regular thru. Warbling Vireo: regular thru. Red-eyed Vireo: common thru. Blue-winged Warbler: regular in Southern Tier cos.; on the increase. Golden-winged Warbler: seven reports; all Southern Tier; one 19 June, Vestal (Br. Co.) "feeding young" (RM). Tennessee Warbler: one report 14 June Chen. Co., not seen after this date so probably a late migrant (JL); ten other reports of fall migrants, earliest 31 July Chen. Co. (JL). Nashville Warbler: two non-Atlas reports; one 6 June OPM (MD, KW); one June Choconut Center (Br. Co.) (MS); Atlas reports include one PO, four PR, four CO Chen. Co. (JL); six CO Cort. Co. (MH); four PO, three CO Del. Co. (JC, DJ); one PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); earliest migrant 7 Aug Vestal (Br. Co.) banded (GK). Yellow Warbler: common thru. Chestnut-sided Warbler: regular thru. Magnolia Warbler: 34 reports scattered thru Chen., Cort., Del. Cos., Delhi, OPM; earliest migrant 26 Aug, banded Vestal, Br. Co. (HM); migration apparently late. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 22 June-July reports from all cos. but Br. and Tioga; none CO. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 28 reports; four Br. Co. (MS, BB, FL, HM, JL); four PR, one CO Chen. Co. (JL), one Chen. Co. (CH), one PO, one PR Cort. Co. (MH), eight PR five CO Del. Co. (JC, DJ); one PO, one PR Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); an extraordinary explosion possibly due to range expansion as well as Atlas activity; first fall migration 27 Aug, banded Vestal (Br. Co.) (GK). Black-throated Green Warbler: regular thru. Blackburnian Warbler: 28 reports; one Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM), one Br. Co. (JL), one PO Chen. Co. (BB, FL, HM); one PO, three PR, two CO Chen. Co. (all JL); two PR, two CO Cort. Co. (MH), six PO, two PR, four CO Del. Co. (JC, DJ); two OPM (MD, KW); one PR Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); a large increase but probably due to Atlasing. **PINE WARBLER:** one PO Chen. Co. (JL). Prairie Warbler: four reports Br. Co., one CO (GK); three singing males Chen. Co. (JL); one PR Cort. Co. (MH); two PO Del. Co. (JC, DJ); two PO, one CO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). Black-and-white Warbler: 35 records scattered thru. Am. Redstart: common thru. Worm-eating Warbler: three reports: one PR Chen. Co. (JL); one PO Cort. Co. (MH); one CO Del. Co. (JC, DJ). Ovenbird: common thru. N. Waterthrush: regular in suitable habitat; earliest migrant 5 Aug Vestal (Br. Co.) banding station (GK). Louisiana Waterthrush: regular in suitable habitat; earliest migrant 18 July Chen. Co. (JL).

KENTUCKY WARBLER: one PR 12, 17, 19 June Chen. Co. (BB, FL, HM); heard singing in same location three times, could not see bird. Mourning Warbler: 13 reports scattered thru Br.Co., Chen.Co. and OPM. Com. Yellowthroat: common thru. Hooded Warbler: seven reports; two PR Chen.Co. (JL); one PO, four PR Cort.Co. (MH); all Atlas efforts. Canada Warbler: 40 reports; one Br.Co.; three PR, four CO Chen.Co. (JL); one Chen.Co. (BB, FL, HM); three PR, two CO Cort.Co. (MH); four PO, three PR, two CO Del.Co. (JC, DJ); occasionally Delhi (MC); 12 June, four July OPM (MD, KW); solid in northern area. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Br.Co. (FL).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: common thru. N. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru. Indigo Bunting: common thru. Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru. Chipping Sparrow: common thru. Field Sparrow: common thru. Vesper Sparrow: 15 reports; five PR Chen.Co. (JL); two PR Cort.Co. (MH); occasionally June Delhi (MC); five June-July OPM (MD, KW); one Tioga Co. (LB); one CO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); some improvement over last year but probably mostly due to atlas; a comment from a regular observer is sobering: "I saw only the few Vesper Sparrows in a place where I have seen them for years—no others. There used to be *lots* of them, down the lane and along the road" (MC). Savannah Sparrow: common thru. Grasshopper Sparrow: 27 reports; four Br.Co. (JS); four Br.Co. (BB, FL, HM), five PO, two CO Chen.Co. (JL); four PR, two CO Cort.Co. (MH); one PO Del.Co. (JC, DJ), five PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ). Increase probably due to atlas. Henslow's Sparrow: one 10 July, Chen.Co. "singing on fencepost" (HM); one PO, one PR, four singing males Chen.Co. (JL); two PO Tioga Co. (JC, DJ); all Atlas discoveries. Song Sparrow: common thru. Swamp Sparrow: common thru in appropriate habitat. White-throated Sparrow: 33 reports scattered thru; 25 from Atlas returns. Dark-eyed Junco: scattered thru. Bobolink: regular thru. Red-winged Blackbird: common thru. E. Meadowlark: regular thru. Com. Grackle: common thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** one Corbettsville BBS (JL). N. Oriole: common thru. Purple Finch: common thru. House Finch: common thru. Am. Goldfinch: common thru. House Sparrow: common thru.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

One would hardly have expected from the cool, wet spring that the summer 1983 nesting season would be hot, **hot, HOT!** The only significant rainfall came during the first two weeks of June and the first two weeks of August. The latter precipitation was hardly enough to compensate for the baking conditions that had prevailed earlier. Were it not for the wet spring, this summer would have been a drought-laden disaster!

There appear to have been few direct effects on bird populations from this weather. Land bird (especially warbler) nestings seemed to run eight to ten days late, perhaps due to the cool spring, but fledglings were numerous. Many shallow marshes dried by mid-July, but here the effects were difficult to assess. The temperatures were more significant for birdwatching. One had to be afield by 6 A.M., because most avian activity was over by 9 A.M., with little pickup in