

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

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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

the evening hours. During the remainder of the day, most birds sat back in the trees and undergrowth, panting silently.

Work on the Atlas moved forward. Of five Regional Atlasing goals for this season, only one was not quite fulfilled. Just over 100 new blocks were visited. There is now some data from at least one block in every square in the Region except for six in Herkimer County. Eight squares have all four blocks adequately covered and 65 other blocks have reached this same level. Coverage is best southeast of Syracuse in Onondaga County and, due almost singlehanded to F. G. Scheider, in the Tug Hill Plateau of northern Oswego County. Common Snipe, the most widespread species for which nesting had not been proven, was confirmed in two blocks; there is only one other prior modern nest record from the Region of this rather common and widespread species. In addition to Common Snipe, nesting finally was confirmed for Pied-billed Grebe, Long-eared Owl, Common Raven, Pine Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and two entirely unexpected species—Great Black-backed Gull and Spruce Grouse. A total of 162 species now have been confirmed nesting in the Region; about a dozen more species are known to have nested in the Region historically.

In addition to these new nesting species, several unusual records were obtained. For only the second time in recent years, Osprey attempted to nest this summer in the Region outside the Adirondacks. The Acadian Flycatcher mentioned in the spring report remained through the summer but did not nest. A Prothonotary Warbler returned to Delta Lake in early June, but at a site where its nesting status could not be established. A Prairie Warbler in southern Madison Co., and at least three Orchard Orioles were found but all were apparently unpaired. Other interesting distributional records will be found in the report that follows.

Two behavioral records were noteworthy. Your editor was amazed to find a begging fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird being fed by a pair of Black-capped Chickadees near Warners on 19 June. One wonders how this association, apparently never reported from New York (?or anywhere) before, arose. An equally bizarre episode took place in John Hanyak's yard in the town of Onondaga during June. A single, silent Northern Mockingbird appeared, built a nest, laid a clutch of eggs and incubated them for three weeks before discovering that reproduction requires more than just going through the motions!

The summer report is always complicated by straggling spring migrants in early June and the start of the fall migration in July. This summer only a small handful of tardy spring migrants were found, mostly warblers and no shorebirds. Both the shorebird and the Yellow Warbler migration southward was evident by July. Shorebirds, in particular, produced a number of unusual species. There was little evidence of irruptive species even by the end of the season.

A total of 202 species plus two hybrids were reported this season, more than usual. Few population trends were consistently evident. The rarest species noted were Spruce Grouse, Ruff and Acadian Flycatcher, while Great Black-backed Gull may be the most significant record.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; BBS—breeding bird survey; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NPT—northern Pompey township; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; SVB—Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr—Syracuse; twsp—township.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two Salmon River Res 19 June only report away from Adirondacks. Pied-billed Grebe: nesting confirmed two Tug Hill Plateau blocks were unexpected. Double-crested Cormorant: single Onon Lake 30 June unseasonal, arr Moose River, Herkimer Co. 4 Aug and LOL 7 Aug, max 130 there 14 Aug. Great Egret: one Minoa 18-20 Aug. Brant: one SP 7 Aug is a rare summer straggler. Green-winged Teal: arr Onon Lake 20 July. Am. Black Duck: no confirmed nesting. N. Pintail: arr Onon Lake 20 July. Blue-winged Teal: arr Onon Lake 20 July. N. Shoveler: arr Onon Lake 14 Aug. Greater Scaup: male Onon Lake 20 July-14 Aug is a rare summer record, and only diving duck (except mergansers) reported. Com. Merganser: noted Redfield twsp in June, arr SP 18 Aug. Red-breasted Merganser: single SP 7 Aug only report of summer.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: pair nested unsuccessfully North Bay, Oneida Co. (Lorraine Aust *vide* DWC), second modern Regional nesting record away from Adirondacks. Bald Eagle: imm SVB in early Aug. N. Harrier: reported from about 20 blocks this summer, by far the best showing in several years, but none confirmed. Sharp-shinned Hawk: felt to be somewhat down in numbers. Broad-winged Hawk: adult in the largest remnant woods in urban Syr 8 June could not be checked later for possible nesting. **SPRUCE GROUSE:** nesting confirmed on private lands south of Old Forge is the first modern Regional nesting record and the southernmost for the state. Virginia Rail: one responding to tape recording in Mattydale was carrying a fishing spider (*Dolomedes triton*). Sora: very few noted even in response to tape playing in apparently suitable marshes central Onon Co. Com. Moorhen: one in Tug Hill Plateau 7 July unexpected at such a high elevation. Am. Coot: single Onon Lake 17 July-6 Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr SP 14 Aug. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr near SVB 21 Aug, max 25 there four days later. Semipalmated Plover: arr SVB 17 July, max 15 there early Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Onon Lake 2 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Onon Lake 4 July, max 31 there 31 July. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Boonville 9 July. Upland Sandpiper: max 13 Bridgeport 28 Aug. Hudsonian Godwit: five SP and single Minoa 18 Aug. Ruddy Turnstone: arr and only report SP 18 Aug. Sanderling: arr Onon Lake 21 July. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 14 July, max 70 there 24 July. Western Sandpiper: two Onon Lake 26 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 4 July, max 30 there 30 July. White-rumped Sandpiper: singles Onon Lake 18 Aug and SVB 26 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 10 Aug, max 12 SVB 18 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 22 July, max five there 31 July, rather low. **RUFF:** adult male Onon Lake after 17 Aug (FGS, mob), first fall report since 1969. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Onon Lake 30 July. Red-necked Phalarope: single SP 18 Aug only phalarope noted. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SP 21 July, max 70 SVB 7 Aug. Ring-billed Gull: very conspicuous in lowlands all season. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** pair nested unsuccessfully Long Island, Oneida Lake in June (Patty Blair *vide* DWC) is the first Regional nesting record ever. Caspian Tern: arr Onon Lake 17 July, max 21 there 21 Aug and 20 SP 27 Aug. Forster's Tern: one to three SP after 17 Aug. Black Tern: max 53 SP 7 Aug is best Regional count since 1972.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: rather sparse but widely noted. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: total of nine reported, including two window kills Syr, all in June. E. Screech-Owl: one northwest of Pulaski 3 July rather far north. Barred Owl: found in almost every Tug Hill Plateau block Atlased. Long-eared Owl: nesting confirmed Rome is first for Regional breeding record since 1966. N. Saw-whet Owl: fledgling found Oswego, where reported in 1980: pair near Palermo all summer could not be confirmed (Roy Slack). Com. Nighthawk: one Whiskey Hollow 3 June a migrant or non-urban nester; several Rome Sand Plains 18-24 June very likely non-urban breeders. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max ten Redfield twsp 18 June. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: male southeast of Mexico 2 July is very low elevation for summering bird.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: single noted Tug Hill Plateau 19 June, only migrant Mexico Point 25 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Redfield twsp 14 Aug. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: male persisted evidently unpaired Whiskey Hollow through 6 July. Willow Flycatcher: seemed to be exceptionally numerous this season. E. Kingbird: arr 7 Aug, max 118 LOL 25 Aug. Purple Martin: only swallow generally felt to have been hurt by cool spring. Bank Swallow: max 2,000 SP 18 Aug. Red-breasted Nuthatch: rather widespread as nester, including NPT and the Noyes Sanctuary, but migrants after 14 Aug not especially numerous. Sedge Wren: reported from two sites including one in Tug Hill Plateau. Marsh Wren: bred in *Phragmites* on west side Onon Lake. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: much better numbers than last year. Swainson's Thrush: arr Nedrow 6 Aug. Am. Robin: max 135 Alder Creek BBS 17 June. N. Mockingbird: see introduction; one noted Old Forge through the summer is far north and up mountain. Water Pipit: arr town of Lenox 28 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Blue-winged Warbler: one carrying nest material Noyes Sanctuary in June is northernmost probable nester for Region. "Brewster's" Warbler: about four reported including male paired with Golden-winged female giving distraction display northwest of Pulaski 3 July, north of most of our Blue-winged Warblers. "Lawrence's" Warbler: single Stone Road, Oswego Co., 21 July. Tennessee Warbler: arr N. Boylston 17 July, next a month later. N. Parula: arr N. Boylston 27 Aug. Yellow Warbler: maximum 104 SP 14 Aug. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr SP 7 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: last of spring Camillus 9 June, arr SP 25 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr town of Webb 20 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: male Whiskey Hollow 3 June either late migrant or peripheral nester; arr SP 14 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SP 14 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: status of female in young spruce plantation near Pulaski 2 July hard to interpret; arr SP 7 Aug. Pine Warbler: first confirmed nesting for Regional Atlas at Community Park, a new locality in northwest Oswego Co., subsequently also confirmed in Adirondacks. Prairie Warbler: singing male Brookfield Swamp 18 June-4 July evidently unpaired; there are no modern Regional nesting records of this warbler! Bay-breasted Warbler: arr N. Boylston 7 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: last Euclid 2 June, singing male Pineville, Oswego Co., 3 July in unsuitable nesting habitat. Cerulean Warbler: rare fall migrant SP 7 Aug. N. Waterthrush: arr SP 7 Aug. Louisiana Waterthrush: fledglings Alder Creek and Redfield twsp early June are northernmost confirmed Regional nestings. Hooded Warbler: status of singing males near suitable habitat remnant in Mattydale 5 June hard to interpret; four males, nesting confirmed Whiskey Hollow, a new site n. Onon Co.; male southeast of Mexico late June-early July helps link populations in the southern highlands and Lake Ontario shore. Wilson's Warbler: arr SP 25 Aug. Canada Warbler: singing bird Whiskey Hollow 3 June not found on subsequent visit, status unclear; arr SP 25 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: one reported all summer.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr SP 17 Aug. Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from about a half-dozen blocks, none confirmed. White-throated Sparrow: arr SP 14 Aug. Bobolink: migrants after 17 Aug. W. Meadowlark: bird persisted Union Settlement into early summer. Orchard Oriole: three males reported Syr, Minoa, near Baldwinsville in June, none long persistent. House Finch: several pairs noted east of Sandy Pond on Oswego/Jefferson Co. line in early July. Pine Siskin: arr Old Forge 25 Aug. Evening Grosbeak: arr NPT 19 Aug.

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