

by atlassers. Bank Swallow: max 5,000 Manitou 26 Aug. Cliff Swallow: colony at B active again. **FISH CROW:** one H 28 July (MD, KG), calling bird was studied at close range, second record for region. Carolina Wren: fewer reports than in recent years. Winter Wren: found in a number of possible nesting locations. Sedge Wren: scarce once again with only two reports; one Hamlin thru June and July; one Huron 15 July, new location. E. Bluebird: nested along the lakeshore this year. No. Mockingbird; increase along WL. Loggerhead Shrike: one H 17 Aug. (WS), only report for this struggling species in the region.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: no reports, change from recent trends. Yellow-throated Vireo: excellent year, atlassers found them often in suitable habitat. Philadelphia Vireo: two I 2 June, last spring report. Atlassing produced some noteworthy warbler reports as did the arrival of birds in late Aug. Blue-winged Warbler: still increasing, many reports in various locales. Golden-winged Warbler: seems to be declining due to spread of Blue-winged. Tennessee Warbler: arr one Wayne Co. 12 Aug. No. Parula: two L 8 June. Magnolia Warbler: breeding in higher elevations south of Rochester. Yellow-rumped Warbler: two Harriet Hollister Spencer Park 9 June, nest found; one Canadice Lake 10 June. Pine Warbler: one I 26 Aug., fall arrival. Prairie Warbler: one I 20 Aug., fall arr; not found in previous nesting areas this season. Cerulean Warbler: found in excellent numbers in suitable habitat. Louisiana Waterthrush: max five L 3 June. Mourning Warbler: widespread breeding in the region. Wilson's Warbler: arr one WL 25 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: not as numerous as in previous seasons but were found nesting at Letchworth and Mendon.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: numbers down slightly. Indigo Bunting: were found widespread by atlassers. Vesper Sparrow: they were quite easily located by atlassers in suitable habitat. Henslow's Sparrow: holding on in the region. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Wayne Co. 26 Aug., fall arrival. Dark-eyed Junco: found in higher elevations as a relatively common nester. W. Meadowlark: thru June and July at the traditional Pt. Breeze site. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** one Hamlin 14 Aug., rare fall record. Orchard Oriole: successful nester at Pt. Breeze and Blind Sodus Bay. Evening Grosbeak: one W thru end of June; one H 4 Aug.; possibly a result of tremendous spring flight.

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

"Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head" would be an appropriate theme song for the summer period. June started out normal in all respects until mid-month when temperatures reached the nineties. Fears of another hot dry summer lasted for only two weeks when June-like temperatures and precipitation returned. July began wet, went dry for two weeks and ended with a cold fall-like rain which measured over two inches in some areas.

In August the faucets were on full force as over eight inches of rain were recorded. Your editor had five inches of rain within a few days. Total rainfall in the Elmira area was 16 inches, seven inches above normal. According to meteorologists, precipitation eventually evens out over the year. Could this

mean an extremely dry fall and winter? Snowfall is sparse enough in the Southern Tier without this added dimension.

The last year of the Atlas project yielded new breeding data for elusive species such as Sedge Wren, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron and Henslow's Sparrow. Many of the new sightings came from western Steuben County where 55 new or incompletely atlased blocks were surveyed. This area is still relatively unbirded as we receive no reports from there.

It was a very uneventful summer as far as rarities go, with only Laughing Gull, Common Raven and Clay-colored Sparrow visiting our area. Shorebird sightings were few, no doubt because of high water levels. A new construction project along Route 17 in Horseheads has created several drainage ponds which have already attracted some shorebirds and could possibly be a stop-over for migrating waterfowl.

Seasonal negatives include: 1. Swallow count way down. Walter Benning reports, "In place of the hundreds, even thousands, that lined the telephone wires in previous years, the maximum this summer has been but 100 and usually far less." 2. The continued demise of Common Moorhen, Pied-billed Grebe and Black Tern at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. 3. Few rail reports. 4. Waterfowl count at Montezuma way down from last summer. 5. Gypsy Moth damage at south end of Hector Land Use area so extensive many trees such as White Pine, Aspen and willow will not survive.

In the Elmira area certain events occur that tell us that it's late August and fall is approaching. They are as follows: 1. Flocks of Common Nighthawks ranging from 25-1,000 birds migrating over the Chemung River around dinner time. 2. Eastern Screech-Owls' haunting calls piercing the darkness outside your bedroom windows. 3. Blue Jays hollering in the wee morning hours so loudly as to try the patience of the most dedicated bird lover and make alarm clocks unnecessary. 4. Starlings and other birds raining cherry pits on your car, house, head, etc. 5. Brown streaked "darts" and blah yellow "flits" compel one to blow the dust off his field guide and turn to the sparrow and warbler pages to nail them down. 6. Optimists, noting the abundant spruce cone crop, predicting a massive winter finch invasion. Pessimists stating that it will be too cold to go out and look for them.

Abbreviations: Cay-Cayuga; Co-County; L-Lake; MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; R-River; Sen-Seneca; SP-State Park.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: seen on Keuka L. thru; Hornell Res. 20 June; Owasco L. 14 Aug. Pied-billed Grebe: a few MNWR in late June but unseen again until end of period. Horned Grebe: two Branchport thru but no evidence of breeding. Double-crested Cormorant: present MNWR thru with a max 16 late June; one Chemung R. 19 Aug. Am. Bittern: max six MNWR late June; one Cohocton area; no other reports. Least Bittern: none observed. Great Blue Heron: nesting in Steuben Co.; doing very well in reporting areas. Great Egret: max six MNWR Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: only reported from MNWR. Mute Swan: two MNWR late June.

Maximum waterfowl numbers at MNWR as reported by the Refuge personnel:			
Wood Duck	300	27 July, 31 Aug.	No. Shoveler 300 31 Aug.
Green-winged Teal	350	27 July, 31 Aug.	Gadwall 90 27 July
Am. Black Duck	80	thru	Am. Wigeon 300 31 Aug.
No. Pintail	20	thru	Redhead 10 thru
Blue-winged Teal	200	thru	Hooded Merganser 12 31 Aug.

Nesting Success of Waterfowl and Other Selected Species at MNWR

Species	Young Produced	Species	Young Produced
Am. Bittern	4	Blue-winged Teal	16
Great Blue Heron	59	Green-winged Teal	6
Green-backed Heron	6	Osprey	3
Black-crowned Night-Heron	30	Red-tailed Hawk	4
Canada Goose	176	Am. Kestrel	4
Wood Duck	313	Virginia Rail	4
Mallard	66	Eastern Screech-Owl	12
Gadwall	26	Great Horned Owl	4

No. Pintail: three Corning Pd. 13 Aug. Gadwall: young observed north of Addison. Hooded Merganser: nested west of Bath. Com. Merganser: confirmed breeder near Addison. Red-breasted Merganser: one Cohocton R 6 June and two 13 July.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Elmira 25 Aug. Bald Eagle: two MNWR 30 June; occasional there thru; one Keuka L SP 17 June. No. Harrier: aerial food exchange between adults witnessed at Penn Yan with subsequent breeding confirmed there and at two other locations near Branchport and Owasco L. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two fledglings near Hammondsport 23 and 24 July. Cooper's Hawk: a few scattered reports. No. Goshawk: two young fledged Hammondsport area early July. Red-shouldered Hawk: successful nesting west of Hammondsport early July. Red-tailed Hawk: numbers seem to be holding steady. Am. Kestrel: good numbers of fledged young (W.E.B.) Wild Turkey: a report that birds are being trapped in Yates Co. because of too dense a population (ML). Virginia Rail: adults and imm. Dryden L. 14 Aug.; two imm. Michigan Hollow 18 Aug. Sora: imm. and adults Dryden L. 14 Aug. Com. Moorhen: more bad news from MNWR concerning the virtual disappearance of this bird; nested Corning Pond. Semipalmated Plover: one Elmira 18 July; four MNWR early Aug. Killdeer: two broods perished atop school roof for second consecutive year. Lesser Yellowlegs: max ten Horseheads late Aug. Upland Sandpiper: two areas west Steuben Co.; Holding Pt. Horseheads. Semipalmated Sandpiper: present thru MNWR with max 35; three Seneca L. SP 18 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: present MNWR and Horseheads Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: one MNWR early Aug. Long-billed Dowitcher: one Corning Pond 27 July (MW). Com. Snipe: Jubertown Swamp, Corning Pond Aug. **LAUGHING GULL:** two juv. Seneca L. SP 17 Aug. (Czaplak). Caspian Tern: observed at Keuka, Sen, and Cay Ls and MNWR. Black Tern: one Jennings' Pond 3 June; adult 26 June, imm. 17 Aug. MNWR, only sightings "where there used to be scores." (WEB)

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: singing various locations Chemung Co; confirmed breeder in four locations, Steuben Co. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: feeding young near Elmira 24 June. E. Screech-Owl: doing well in all reporting areas with several breeding confirmations. Great Horned Owl: young calling in July and Aug. Big Flats. Barred Owl: one confirmed breeding area in Steuben Co. Com. Nighthawk: migrating flocks of 25-75 Elmira late Aug.; eggs laid atop Elmira school roof between beer bottle and lighter fluid can. Whip-poor-will: calling Brooktondale 5 June. Chimney Swift: hundreds used abandoned school's chimney as nightly roost late Aug. Belted Kingfisher: very conspicuous along Cohocton R. Red-headed Woodpecker: extremely scarce; missing from usual nesting area Pine City. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: down in Yates Co. Red-bellied Woodpecker: calling Elmira area; two locations Steuben Co. Pileated Woodpecker: commonly seen or heard but no reports of breeding.

FLYCATCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: seemed to be everywhere in Chemung and Steuben Co. with several breeding confirmations. Acadian Flycatcher: singing West Groton and East Lansing areas June; confirmed nester near Addison. Alder Flycatcher: found in 24 new Atlas blocks Steuben Co. with four confirmed nestings. E. Phoebe: nested in abandoned house Wellsburg; feeding young Elmira late July. E. Kingbird: very common in all reporting areas. Purple Martin: scattered reports of very few individuals. Tree Swallow: down in Ithaca, Chemung Co. and MNWR; delayed nesting in several areas; nested in horizontal portion of metal clothes line pipe. Bank Swallow: several hundred Seneca L. SP 18 Aug. Cliff Swallow: nested near Hornell. **COMMON RAVEN:** one Sapsucker Woods 4 July (Smith, Sibley). Red-breasted Nuthatch: nested south of Hornell. Winter Wren: nested Addison area. Sedge Wren: defending territory Jubertown Swamp; one Prattsburg Aug. Marsh Wren: singing Dryden L 14 July; nested Jubertown Swamp. E. Bluebird: mixed reports, most being favorable; nested in 22 of 39 Atlas blocks Steuben Co. Veery: feeding Brown-headed Cowbirds Wellsburg. Swainson's Thrush: none reported. Hermit Thrush: nested Steuben Co. Am. Robin: one pure white albino Elmira late Aug. Cedar Waxwing: nested Pine City late July; a dozen plus mobbing Blue Jays in nesting area.

VIREOS-WABLERS: Solitary Vireo: feeding young Wellsburg early July. Yellow-throated Vireo: singing in several areas Elmira thru. The "blockbusting" in Steuben Co. confirmed the nesting of the following warblers: Blue-winged; "Brewster's"; Nashville; Yellow; Chestnut-sided; Yellow-rumped; Black-throated Green; Blackburnian; Prairie; Black-and-white; Am. Redstart; Ovenbird; No. Waterthrush; Louisiana Waterthrush; Com. Yellow-throat; Hooded; Canada. Other regional warbler reports: Golden-winged: nested Wellsburg. "Brewster's": three sightings Penn Yan area. Chestnut-sided: very common with many confirmations. Prairie: nesting again in Pine City. Cerulean: none reported. No. Waterthrush: feeding three young Wellsburg early July. Hooded: returned to nesting grounds near Hammond Hill Rd.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: very common in Steuben, Tompkins and Chemung Co. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** two singing males south of Branchport 7 thru 11 July (Buckelew). Vesper Sparrow: 39 locations Steuben Co. with eight confirmed breeding sites. Grasshopper Sparrow: breeding in 17 Atlas blocks Steuben Co; numbers up in Yates Co. Henslow's Sparrow: more than usual in Steuben, Tompkins and Yates Co.; breeding Pine City.

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REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

On 1 June, after one of the coldest, wettest Mays on record, it was as if Those in Charge of Weather suddenly realized they had forgotten to turn up the thermostat so in panic set it to its highest reading. For the first two weeks of the month, Region 4 sweltered and steamed adjusting to record-breaking heat! In fact, by combining the two extremes analyzers of spring temperatures from 21 March to 21 June came up with "normal, average for the period!" After mid-June, fortunately for atlassers, the June/July months produced classic seasonal weather — highs in the 80's, lows in the 70's. Rainfall was plentiful, but was scattered thru, mostly in summer showers with only a few thunderstorms.