

atlassing. Yellow-rumped Warbler: two locations Br. Co.; 21 locations Chen. Co.; 26 locations Del./Tioga Cos.; three 21 June OPM (MD, KW); one 26 June OPM (MD, KW). Black-throated Green Warbler: over 75 reports: regular thru. Blackburnian Warbler: 47 reports from Br., Chen., Del./Tioga Cos.; increase due to atlassing?. **PINE WARBLER:** one 12 July Del. Co. (PH). Prairie Warbler: four sites Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); six sites Chen. Co. (JL); seems to be expanding its range somewhat. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** one Del. Co., feeding young (SH, BO). Black-and-white Warbler: regular thru. Am. Redstart: regular thru. Worm-eating Warbler: one Del. Co. (PH, JD, BO). Ovenbird: regular thru. No. Waterthrush: 17 reports; three sites Br. Co.; 11 Chen. Co.; three Del./Tioga Cos. Louisiana Waterthrush: 34 reports scattered thru. Mourning Warbler: 28 reports scattered thru. Com. Yellowthroat: common thru. Wilson's Warbler: one 28 Aug. Vestal banding station, Br. Co. (GK). Canada Warbler: 28 reports scattered thru. Yellow-breasted Chat: once June, once July Vestal (JSh).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: regular thru. No. Cardinal: regular thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: regular thru. Indigo Bunting: regular thru. Rufous-sided Towhee: regular thru. Chipping Sparrow: common thru. Field Sparrow: common thru. Vesper Sparrow: 15 reports; two Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); nine Chen. Co. (JL); three Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO); one OPM (MD, KW). Savannah Sparrow: regular thru. Grasshopper Sparrow: nine Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM, JS); five Chen. Co. (JL, DM); five Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). Henslow's Sparrow: three Chen. Co. (JL); five Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). Song Sparrow: common thru. Swamp Sparrow: regular thru. White-throated Sparrow: over 60 reports scattered thru; increase due to atlassing? Dark-eyed Junco: over 90 reports; increase probably due to atlassing especially in Southern Tier. Bobolink: regular thru. Red-winged Blackbird: common thru. E. Meadowlark: regular thru. Com. Grackle: common thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru. Orchard Oriole: one Br. Co. (JL); one Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). No. Oriole: regular thru. Purple Finch: regular thru. House Finch: common thru. **PINE SISKIN:** two birds, possibly a pair, Del. Co. (PH, DJ, BO). Am. Goldfinch: common thru. House Sparrow: common thru.

Friendsville Stage, Box 1, Binghamton, NY 13903

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

The summer of 1984 closely paralleled the summer of 1983 just as the spring season did. The season began cool and wet, then abruptly turned hot and dry in mid-June and remained that way, except for an intense rainstorm after 4 July, until early August. By the end of July many areas were experiencing near drought conditions in spite of the plentiful spring rains. August was quite wet (the third wettest on record at Syracuse) and notable for alternating hot and cold spells. The threat of drought was ended; many of our shorebird localities were flooded.

In general this was a very good nesting season. During the past winter your editor compiled long term means for each of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in the Region. There is considerable year to

year variation in all of them, and only large changes consistent over most surveys are meaningful on an annual basis. Almost all species were found in average numbers. Two species, Mourning Dove and Warbling Vireo, were at or near record highs on the majority of surveys while two others, Wood Thrush and Red-winged Blackbird, were at or near record lows on most counts. Of the rarer species, less well indexed by the breeding bird surveys, cuckoos and Henslow's Sparrow were scarce this season, and Sedge Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat and Pine Siskin were not recorded. House Finch continues its explosive increase in the Region.

Work on the Breeding Bird Atlas was as intense as last season. As of mid-September data had been received from over 300 blocks, but over 50 blocks still have grossly inadequate coverage. The best coverage is from Oneida Lake west, but great strides were made in filling out Oneida and Herkimer Counties this season. Four species were added to list of confirmed nesters in the Region — American Coot, Ring-necked Duck (an addition to our nesting avifauna), Three-toed Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Additionally, a pair of Piping Plovers was present on the south spit of Sandy Pond until late August and fledged at least two young, one of which was later found dead. This is the first Regional nesting record since 1959, and was made possible by the high level of Lake Ontario that prevailed until mid-July and which kept motorized vehicles off the beach during the critical nesting period. Perhaps not coincidentally, the dead juvenile was found after the beach had been opened to traffic. Much new data on the status of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers in northern Cayuga, Oswego and Oneida Counties was obtained. As always several very unusual records were obtained. Extralimital records of Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Acadian Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Parula and Kentucky Warbler were all in the possible breeding category, and one of our few records of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nesting in the lowlands of Onondaga County was obtained this season.

After five years of Atlassing, only the following species are known to have nested in the Region but have not been confirmed for the Atlas: Least Bittern, Mute Swan, No. Pintail, No. Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, Redhead, Gray Partridge, Spruce Grouse, No. Bobwhite, Passenger Pigeon, Whip-poor-will, Carolina Wren, Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Bay-breasted Warbler, Prairie Warbler and Red Crossbill. Least Bittern was confirmed at Sandy Pond, which reports to Region 6, and the waterfowl (except the more widespread Gadwall) have nested only sporadically at Howland's Island, which reports to Region 2. Mute Swan records are of feral, short-persistent pairs. Gray Partridge, No. Bobwhite are extirpated from the Region; and of course, the Passenger Pigeon is extinct. The status of Spruce Grouse (contrary to the 1983 summer report) remains unclear. Carolina Wren and Loggerhead Shrike nesting were last confirmed in 1975, Bay-breasted Warbler in 1962, and Prairie Warbler has not been confirmed since 1943. Red Crossbill may have nested in 1973, but no modern reports are fully satisfactory. Only Whip-poor-will and Sedge Wren probably nested in the Region during this five year period.

A fair variety of migrant warblers was reported from Syracuse at the start of the period and record late Ospreys and White-crowned Sparrows were found. All of the migrant shorebirds reported appeared to be southbound. While a very

good variety were found, numbers generally were slightly below long term averages. Black Tern numbers again were quite high along Lake Ontario in August. Migrant Yellow Warblers were conspicuous after early July and a good variety of migrant passerines, especially flycatchers, thrushes and warblers, were found in August.

A total of 208 species plus two hybrid forms were reported this season, more than usual. The great rarities and novelties were Ring-necked Duck, Piping Plover, Acadian Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike and Kentucky Warbler. Slightly less unusual species include Great and Snowy Egrets, Peregrine Falcon, Whimbrel, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Forster's Tern, No. Saw-whet Owl, Three-toed Woodpecker, Common Raven, "Lawrence's" Warbler and Orchard Oriole. Several other unseasonable and/or out of place records are mentioned below. We were saddened this summer by the loss of two contributors, Lorraine Aust and Bruno DeSimone.

Contributors: Dorothy K. Ackley, David J. Cesari, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Lynn Hemink, Gene Huggins, Ruth Knight, Jeanne Lally, Gary Lee, Robert L. Long, George Maxwell, Robert L. Post, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Magdalena Stooks.

Abbreviations: arr--fall arrival; last--last of spring; LOL--Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NYSARC--report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon--Onondaga; SP--Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; StMc--Saint Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onon Co.; SVB--Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr--Syracuse; twsp--township.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one in a Beaver Pond, town of Florence, 9 June not found later in season. Pied-billed Grebe: only at three sites, confirmed Howland's Island. Double-crested Cormorant: pair Stillwater Res during June; arr SP 3 July, max 194 SP 25 Aug. Least Bittern: nesting confirmed SP, one nearby at The Elms Golf Course 25 July is a new site. Great Egret: one SVB 21-23 July, probably the same bird Delta Lake 27 July. Snowy Egret: one Poolsbrook 17 June (JL) is rather unseasonable. Black-crowned Night-Heron: singles Poolsbrook 17 June and SVB 16-19 Aug. Mute Swan: seven at Lyons Pond after 17 Aug (MS) of uncertain status. Brant: last 75 Central Square 3 June. Canada Goose: groups of 50+ after mid-Aug, none obviously migrants, included a group at Pennellville originally neck-ringed in Maryland (DWC). No. Pintail: arr SP 14 Aug. Gadwall: arr 25 Aug SP. **RING-NECKED DUCK**: female with young n. Herkimer Co. (DEC block-busting team) is first Regional nesting record. Greater Scaup: arr SP 25 Aug. White-winged Scoter: arr SP 23 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: singles Otisco Lake 4 June and Baldwinsville 18 June (PDeB, ties record late) probably late migrants; arr SVB 19 July. Bald Eagle: near adult Delta Lake 18 Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: more reports than usual north of Oneida Lake, a known stronghold. Peregrine Falcon: arr s. of Verona Beach 30 Aug. Ruffed Grouse: numbers low all season. Wild Turkey: reports from Chittenango 5 June and Holland Patent 31 Aug. are rather far north in the Region. No. Bobwhite: two reports central Cayuga Co., including four young n. of Duck Lake, are of uncertain provenance. Sora: very scarce, reported only from two sites. Am. Coot: nesting confirmed Sterling Twsp late Aug., first for Regional Atlassing effort. Black-bellied Plover: arr Delta Lake 27 July. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr s. of Verona Beach 19 Aug., max 25 there 30 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr Onon Lake 19 July. **PIPING PLOVER**: see introduction (mob, NYSARC). Whimbrel: singles SP 26 July and 23 Aug., s. of Verona Beach 16-20 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr SVB 13 July. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Onon Lake 28 June. Solitary Sandpiper: arr SVB 13 July. Ruddy Turnstone: arr SP 23 July, max 8 SVB 30 Aug., high for recent years. Red Knot: arr Onon Lake 18 July. Sanderling: arr SP 18 July. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 8 July, max 165

SVB 4 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 29 June, max 26 SVB 13 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr SVB 4 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: arr SP 4 Aug. Dunlin: arr SVB 19 Aug (RK), early and only report. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr SP 28 July. Stilt Sandpiper: arr SVB 17 July. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Onon Lake 18 July. Wilson's Phalarope: arr SVB 4 Aug., two later reports in Aug. Parasitic Jaeger: five LOL 23 Aug. and one SP 25 Aug. somewhat early. Little Gull: adult and juv. SP after 16 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SVB 13 July, max 185 SP 23 Aug. plus 75 Onon Lake 21 Aug., very high at both sites. Great Black-backed Gull: present along n. shore Oneida Lake all summer, nesting status not established. Caspian Tern: arr Selkirk Shores State Park 3 July; up to four SVB after 23 Aug., where very unusual. Com. Tern: SP colonies limited by high water; max 235 SP 23 Aug. and 197 SVB 8 Aug. Forster's Tern: up to three reported SP after 16 Aug. Black Tern: no new nesting sites but max 46 SP 16 Aug. continues encouraging numbers from last year.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: generally scarce; one singing Yellow-billed Cuckoo song Whiskey Hollow 28 June (FGS, JH) also responded to tape of that species and ignored its own song. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only two reported. No. Saw-whet Owl: one Nick's Lake 15 Aug. but none Oswego Co. lowlands this summer. Com. Night-hawk: about 100 at two sites Syr. 30 Aug. were major exodus but a few local birds still present later suggest those were of Canadian origin. Red-bellied Woodpecker: second brood young in a nest n. Pompey twsp 30 Aug. (DWC) are exceptionally late. Red-headed Woodpecker: somewhat scarce this season. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: following spring reports from Camillus, pair n. end Otisco Lake during summer (RP) and female with fledged young s. end Cross Lake 20 July (PDeB) are at unusually low altitude nesting sites. Three-toed Woodpecker: nesting confirmed two sites n. Herkimer Co. are first recent verified Regional nesting records.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 19 Aug. Poolsbrook. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Sheds 4 June; nesting finally confirmed n. Herkimer Co. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** one Mayfield 5 July (FGS) in atypical habitat (FGS) is eighth Regional record, from same site as fifth. Cliff Swallow: numbers reduced at lower elevations, more typical at higher elevations. Com. Raven: present Old Forge dump all season. Tufted Titmouse: family group Cross Lake 20 July is new nesting site. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Town of Florence 17 June (FGS) not found later. E. Bluebird: max 21 Town of Florence 7 June. No. Mockingbird: one still present Old Forge all season. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** migrant near Canastota 20 Aug. (DWC).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: arr LOL 25 Aug. Blue-winged Warbler: adult feeding juv Golden-winged n. of Duck Lake 22 July (MSR); family group w. of Altmar and territorial male s. of Sandy Creek 3 July are northernmost Regional nesting reports. Golden-winged Warbler: found to greatly predominate over Blue-winged Warblers Cayuga Co. n. of Hannibal. "Brewster's" Warbler: two reports including one feeding a "Lawrence's" Warbler Town of Florence 21 July (FGS). Tennessee Warbler: last Syr. StMC 1 June, arr Tug Hill Plateau 14 July. No. Parula: female in mixed hemlock/hardwoods s. of Little Falls 9 July (PDeB) most unexpected; arr Selkirk Shores State Park 25 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: last StMC 1 June; arr SP 15 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr town of Webb 25 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SP 23 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: last Syr, StMC 1 June. Blackburnian Warbler: last StMC 1 June. Pine Warbler: juv Maple Hill 22 July is new nesting site. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SP 25 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: last Syr, StMC 1 June. Black-and-white Warbler: arr SP 1 Aug. Am. Redstart: last Syr 1 June. No. Waterthrush: arr SP 28 July. Louisiana Waterthrush: adult feeding young Point Rock fills gap between s. Tug Hill and Adirondacks populations. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** male patrolling large area w. of Camillus 21 June (FGS, PDeB, JH) not found next week, first Regional summer record. Mourning Warbler: arr SP 25 Aug. Hooded Warbler: good numbers LOL. Wilson's Warbler: arr SP 23 Aug. Canada Warbler: last StMC 1 June, arr SP 23 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Henslow's Sparrow: very scarce, only five sites reported, most

singles and only one site (n. of Little Falls) new. White-throated Sparrow: one near Jordan 28 June out of place. White-crowned Sparrow: Sheds 3 June (RK) record late. Orchard Oriole: nesting confirmed at new site n. of Skaneateles 28 June. Red Crossbill: four widely scattered reports of singles after 8 July.

Educational Communications and Studies, Upstate Medical Center,
766 Irving Ave., Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

Once more regional reports seem to have been eclipsed – and rightly so – by heroic efforts to complete the Atlas. Thus much of our summer report consists of shorebird and waterfowl sightings from ElDorado Beach Preserve. In addition, we boast of one provisional regional first, one second sighting, two first breeding records, two species normally restricted to the Adirondacks, and two species well out-of-season. Weatherwise, in our Region, June was glorious. Temperatures ran a few degrees above normal and precipitation was one-third lower than normal. There were, however, two periods when night temperatures in the 30's and 40's must have had a severe impact on nesting. Monthly low temperatures (low 30's) occurred 1 June, followed by four cool days. Then ensued a week of warm weather with monthly highs reaching the high 80's on 8-11 June. The last third of the month was cool, especially 20-23 June. The Region was spared the flood-producing rains which fell elsewhere 17-18 June, but a front the 24-25th brought 1-2 inches of rain. July temperatures were about normal with monthly highs in the mid-80's occurring the 14-16th and lows in the mid-40's falling on the 25-26th. Precipitation was as much as two inches below normal. There were only three to six rainy days in July, with maximum rainfall of over an inch falling on 5 July. August was warm and rainfall was about normal with measurable precipitation falling on 18 days. On 11 August some localities received a cloudburst of almost three inches of rain.

Water levels were very high in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in June and July, adversely affecting nesting of Common Terns and early migrant shorebirds. Flights in July were late and numbers low for most species. With receding water levels in August, flights were stronger and exceeded the poor ones of 1983. There were substantial movements of early migrants such as Eastern Kingbirds, *Empidonax* flycatchers and Yellow Warblers at ElDorado the last half of July. In addition to shorebird and waterfowl data compiled by Gerry Smith, detailed notes from Marilyn Badger in the Louisville-Massena area and Kevin Griffith for nine days (27 June to 4 July) in Canton, Clare, and Pierrepont allow comparisons of relative abundances of species which may be used in determining trends. Such comparisons will be made in the species accounts. A total of 161 species was reported for the period. With regard to species expanding ranges, we are alarmed at the breeding of Mute Swan in Jefferson Co. and the continued increase in Canada Goose populations. First nesting of House Finch in Massena