

winged Warbler: Chem Co seems to be the best place to find these birds. "Lawrence's" Warbler: feeding young Pine City early July. Tennessee Warbler: adult banded Penn Yan 19 July. N. Parula: one Elmira 30 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: two new locations in Schuy Co. Black-throated Green Warbler: scarce throughout our Region. Pine Warbler: feeding young Hammondsport. Prairie Warbler: feeding young Pine City 16 July. Cerulean Warbler: still another new location in Chem Co. Louisiana Waterthrush: three nestings Penn Yan area. Hooded Warbler: probable nesting near Watkins Glen. Canada Warbler: feeding young Elmira 16 July.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: plentiful Ithaca and Elmira. Rufous-sided Towhee: reduced numbers Ithaca area due to "urban sprawl." Vesper Sparrow: common Bath area; lower numbers Penn Yan. Grasshopper Sparrow: nested in Schuy and Chem Co. Henslow's Sparrow: continued nesting success Pine City; down Yates Co. White-throated Sparrow: found in two areas Steuben Co. Orchard Oriole: nest with eggs south of Willard. N. Oriole: prolific nester along Chem R. Red Crossbill: young at feeder Ithaca area 13 June. Evening Grosbeak: nested near South Danby.

989 Mountain View Drive, Pine City, New York 14871

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

Only one group of people in Region Four found June 1985 ideal. Not children, who would have preferred more sunshine. June had overcast skies almost two-thirds of the time. Not farmers, who desperately needed more rain. The 2.64 inches that fell was 0.74 inches below average. The cloud cover brought dampness but not rain. Home gardeners had similar complaints: little rain, little sun. The average citizen found June cold. Only twice did the high go over 70°. Only one group really loved this cloudy, cool, damp-but-not-wet month. They were the atlasers! The overcast skies kept birds singing late into the day, the cool temperatures kept the gnats and blackflies down, and the lack of rain kept the birders dry.

Atlasers also loved July. More normal weather came at a time when bird song was decreasing and atlasers were concentrating more on spotting fledglings or parent birds feeding young. The brighter, warmer, sunnier days made this more pleasant. Temperature highs were between 70° and the mid-80's. Rainfall, 0.42 inches above normal, fell mostly as cloudburst thundershowers, hard but of short duration.

With the added pressure of knowing that 1985 would be the last year of the program, the atlasers really poured it on. Block after block was covered. Records piled up. Data was accumulated, valuable data which will prove significant for future research. However, it is impractical to compare such data with previous

years. Most reports came from blocks not previously covered. The birds found there may have been present for years but had not been discovered before. Likewise, there was little time for birding in blocks covered in previous years. Hence, this year's reports could be misleading. For example, an atlaser (JL) commented that Blackburnian Warblers were "more common in western Otsego County than expected . . . I suspect that [Blackburnian Warbler] is increasing but have no proof because I haven't been there before." However, a contrary opinion came from a birder (MC) who lives on the farm where she grew up: "This is the first year I can remember when our farm forests had NO Blackburnian Warblers—not one! I am concerned!" So reports for this season will be simply that: not comparisons, just a base for future evaluations.

As might be expected the increased atlasing effort produced many interesting discoveries, especially of birds not usually presumed to breed in Region Four. Some were just possible breeders but others were confirmed nesting. Among these were: PIED-BILLED GREBE, CANADA GOOSE, HOODED MERGANSER, COMMON MERGANSER, COMMON MOORHEN, UPLAND SANDPIPER, N. SAW-WHET OWL, WHIP-POOR-WILL, SWAINSON'S THRUSH, N. PARULA, CERULEAN WARBLER and HOODED WARBLER. A PEREGRINE FALCON seen during this period was presumed not to be nesting. All in all, it was a grand finale to an inspiring program. Our thanks to all who participated.

As for August, it too was normal. Reports showed a definite let-down after the tremendous energy expended in June and July, but they did reflect the usual light shorebird migration and the expected start of the general songbird migration. August also produced a number of unusual reports: GREAT EGRET, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, and PAINTED BUNTING. Our thanks also to those who didn't let the anticlimax stop them.

Contributors: D. & J. Bell, L. Bingley, A. Borst, B. Bozdos, D. Burgin, R. Burgin, S. Carey, A. Carpenter, C. Carpenter (CCa), M. Clark, C. Covey (CC), L. Dean, M. Dobinski, G. & D. Dropp, B. Evans, D. Gagne, C. Hart, S. Hartman, M. Hodges, W. Hufraigle, C. Jordan, H. Kingery, U. Kingery, G. Kirch, C. & K. Knapp, J. Lehman, F. Linaberry, S. Lincoln, E. Lockwood, E. Mabon, W. Malpass, H. Marsi, R. Marsi (RM), L. McDowell, D. Messineo, E. Monroe, R. Mostart (RMo), D. Newby, M. O'Brien, M. Russell, J. Sedlacek, K. Stalter, B. Webster (BrW), B. Weissman, F. Whitcomb, K. Wilson, D. Windsor, A. Zimmerman.

Abbreviations: Br—Broome County; Chen—Chenango County; Del—Delaware County; locs—locations; OPM—Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford area; Ots—Otsego County; res—reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Lake Canadarago 7 July (JL). **PIED-BILLED GREBE:** four young in a beaver pond near Lordville, 26 June (SL, BW). Great Blue Heron: over 50 birds thru. **GREAT EGRET:** four birds Chen 20 July (WH), one killed probably by an electric fence, two remained until 16 Aug (MR, BrW, CC). Green-backed Heron: over 40 birds thru. **CANADA GOOSE:** "pair in secluded pond" thru (DM). Wood Duck: over 65 birds thru. Am. Black Duck: 15 Br (mob), singles Chen (JL) and Tioga (LD) Cos. Mallard: over 50 birds thru. **HOODED MERGANSER:** singles Chen 1 June and Ots 20 June (JL). **COM. MERGANSER:** two Chen 11 June (JL), one Ots 24 June (JL), and 29 Delhi 29 Aug (C & KK).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: over 40 birds thru. Osprey: two birds several days in early June around Finch Hollow Nature Center Pond, Br (CE); singles Br 17 (AC, CCA) and 27 (FL, HM) Aug. Bald Eagle: imm Chen June (JL); adult Greene 27 Aug (AB, BE, MO). N. Harrier: one Chen early June (DN), two Chen July (DM), two Ots July (JL), one Delhi 25 Aug (MC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 18 birds thru, mostly Br, Chen and Ots. Cooper's Hawk: singles Ots 18 June (MD) and 26 July (JL), Br June (FL) and July (FL, HM), Chen 5 July (JL) and Oneonta 20 Aug (MD, KW). N. Goshawk: singles S. Otselic 2 June (DM), Ots 17 June (JL), Chen 7 July (JL) and Ots (MH, WM). Red-shouldered Hawk: singles Br (FL, HM) and Chen (BB, FL, HM), eight Chen (JL). Red-tailed Hawk: over 100 thru. Am. Kestrel: over 100 thru. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one bird "we saw it zip over a small bay/marsh on the edge of Otsego Lake . . . I have no reason to think the bird was nesting . . . it simply went quickly across the marsh" (HK). Ring-necked Pheasant: 12 reports scattered locs thru. Ruffed Grouse: over 75 birds thru. Wild Turkey: over 80 birds thru. Virginia Rail: one Tioga Co Aug (LD), one "seen twice carrying food (worm) from a lawn back into marsh" Chen (JL). **COM. MOORHEN:** pair with eight young Tioga Co. (LB, D & JB, LD). Killdeer: common thru. Greater Yellowlegs: one Br 12 Aug (FL, HM), two Oneonta Res 20 Aug (MD, KW). Lesser Yellowlegs: singles Br 12 and 29 Aug (FL, HM). Solitary Sandpiper: 16 birds scattered locs late July, Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: over 40 birds thru. **UPLAND SANDPIPER:** two Ots early June (DN); nine "about ¼ mi e of Springfield [Ots, 16 July] . . . including one young bird. I saw them on 7/17 and 7/20, two both days. They were in a poor cornfield—corn about 6 to 10 [inches] high with lots of grass between the rows (corn 2 ft tall grew on the other side) . . . a strip about 50 ft wide with another crop, behind the corn, maybe alfalfa—not too tall" (U & HK). Semipalmated Sandpiper: six Cannonsville Res 7 Aug, singles Br 12, 20 and 25 Aug (FL, HM). Least Sandpiper: five OPM 20 Aug (MD, KW). Com. Snipe: one displaying S. Otselic June (DM), nine birds Ots (JL), one Br 28 Aug (FL, HM). Am. Woodcock: over 20 birds scattered locs thru. Ring-billed Gull: seven Lake Canadarago 13 July (JL), 60 Otsego Lake 30 Aug (MD), one Cannonsville Res 7 Aug (MC, SH), singles Br 12 and 20 Aug and two on 29 Aug (FL, HM). Herring Gull: singles Lake Canadarago 13 July (JL) and Tioga Co July, Aug (LD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: singles OPM 13 Aug (MD, KW), Del 1 July (MC), Tioga Co Aug (LD) and Ots 21 July (JL); six birds Chen June (DM). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: two Ots early June (DN), one Tioga Co June (LD). E. Screech-Owl: singles Chen 27 June, Ots 23 June and 25 July (JL), Del 17 June (MC), Tioga Co thru (LD), Br 9 Aug (GK), and S. Otselic "began calling in Aug" (DM). Great Horned Owl: ten Ots (JL), 12 Br (BB, FL, HM); singles Del 26 July (RB) and thru Aug (C & KK), Tioga Co thru (LD), Chen July (DW) and S. Otselic July (DM). Barred Owl: two each Chen and Ots (JL), one Br (BB, FL, HM). **N. SAW-WHET OWL:** one heard singing Br 9 June, 15, 17, 19 July, 1, 8, 25, and 29 Aug (GK, HM). Com. Nighthawk: six Norwich June (DW); several heard regularly Binghamton all season (CJ); one downtown Oneonta 4 June was first of year where "heard one again on 1 July and Kathryn (KW) heard one later in July. This was the first year you wouldn't hear one most any night downtown" (MD). **WHIP-POOR-WILL:** one Delhi 19 June (EM). Chimney Swift: over 200 birds scattered thru; only Oneonta reported "two or three occasionally—not common as other years" (MD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: over 75 birds thru. Belted Kingfisher: over 110 birds thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Br 24 June (BB, FL, HM). Red-bellied Woodpecker: regular at Newark Valley (LD). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: over 90 birds thru. Downy Woodpecker: over 150 birds thru. Hairy Woodpecker: over 100 birds thru. N. Flicker: common thru. Pileated Woodpecker: over 45 birds thru.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** one Oneonta Res 20 Aug (MD, KW). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one banded Br 24 Aug (GK), singles Delhi June (MC) and Tioga Co July (LD). Alder Flycatcher: over 75 birds thru. Willow Flycatcher:

over 80 birds thru. Least Flycatcher: over 180 birds thru. E. Phoebe: over 150 birds thru. Great Crested Flycatcher: over 130 birds thru. E. Kingbird: over 300 birds thru. Horned Lark: one Br June (FL, HM) and Ots June (JL), two Chen July (JL) and S. Otselic all period (DM). Purple Martin: three locs Br (FL, HM), one report Tioga Co (LD). Tree Swallow: common thru. N. Rough-winged Swallow: over 60 birds thru. Bank Swallow: regular thru. Cliff Swallow: eight locs Ots (JL, MD, KW), one location Chen (HM), three locs Br (FL, HM). Barn Swallow: common thru. Blue Jay: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: two Ots Co., singles Chen (JL) and Tioga Co (LD), ten Br (FL, HM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one S. Otselic (DM), five Del (MC), 28 Ots (JL), one Chen (JL). White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: seven Br, 61 Chen and Ots (JL), one S. Otselic (DM). Carolina Wren: two Norwich (JL), four Br (FL, HM). House Wren: common thru. Winter Wren: 14 Ots (JL, HK), two Br (FL, HM). Marsh Wren: one Tioga Co. July (LD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 20 birds Ots (JL). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: singles Chen 5 July (JL), Delhi 26 July (MC), OPM 5 Aug (MD, KW) and Tioga Co July (LD). E. Bluebird: over 140 birds thru. Veery: over 100 birds thru. **SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** four Pharsalia Game Management Area, 12 North Rd. to E. Pharsalia, all singing and calling at "known locations from last year" (JL). Hermit Thrush: over 60 birds thru. Wood Thrush: common thru. Am. Robin: common thru. Gray Catbird: common thru. N. Mockingbird: one Ots (JL), 12 Br (FL, HM), three Tioga Co (LD). Brown Thrasher: over 50 birds thru. Cedar Waxwing: common thru. European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: over 65 birds thru. Yellow-throated Vireo: over 100 birds thru. Warbling Vireo: over 140 birds thru. Philadelphia Vireo: one banded Br 11 Aug (GK). Red-eyed Vireo: common thru. Blue-winged Warbler: 49 birds thru, mostly Chen and Ots. Golden-winged Warbler: four birds Chen (JL, HK). Tennessee Warbler: adults Vestal banding station 12, 15, 18, 19 (two) and 23 Aug (HM). Nashville Warbler: 11 breeding reports Br and Ots; seven Ots (MD, KW) and four Br (HM) in Aug. N. **PARULA:** two locs Del (SL, BW). Yellow Warbler: common thru. Chestnut-sided Warbler: common thru. Magnolia Warbler: over 100 birds Chen and Ots, three Br. Black-throated Blue Warbler: over 40 birds, mostly Br, Chen and Ots. Yellow-rumped Warbler: over 130 birds Chen and Ots, three Br, four Del and one Tioga Co. Black-throated Green Warbler: over 115 birds Chen and Ots, seven Br. Blackburnian Warbler: over 88 birds Chen and Ots, two Del, one Br. Prairie Warbler: two Ots (JL), five Br. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** one Glimmerglass State Park 1 July (HK). Black-and-white Warbler: over 80 birds thru. Am. Redstart: common thru. Ovenbird: common thru. N. Waterthrush: over 50 Chen and Ots. Louisiana Waterthrush: over 46 birds Chen and Ots. Mourning Warbler: 114 birds Chen and Ots, one banded Br 19 Aug (GK). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru. **HOODED WARBLER:** "a singing male at same place where they nested last year, north of Cherry Valley" 15 June (HK), one Pepacton Res, Del, 22 June (SL, BW). Wilson's Warbler: one Del 16 July (MC), one banded Br 28 Aug (HM). Canada Warbler: over 65 Chen and Ots, one Br.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: over 200 birds thru. N. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: over 200 birds thru. Indigo Bunting: over 275 birds thru. **PAINTED BUNTING:** one Afton 15 and 16 Aug (EL) identified by HM after very detailed description on telephone: "small saddle of green on back; red breast and rump, blue head, conical bill, square tail, size of Indigo Bunting," seen in a tree right outside her window where it stayed about 10 min each day. Rufous-sided Towhee: over 175 birds thru. Chipping Sparrow: abundant thru. Field Sparrow: over 220 birds thru. Vesper Sparrow: 26 birds, all Chen and Ots. Savannah Sparrow: over 250 birds thru. Grasshopper Sparrow: eight Chen and Ots, 26 Br (JS, FL, HM). Swamp Sparrow: over 200 birds thru. White-throated Sparrow: over 120 birds Chen and Ots, three Br. Dark-eyed Junco: over 175 birds Chen and Ots, 19 Br. Bobolink: over 300 birds thru. Red-winged Blackbird: abundant thru. E. Meadowlark: over 170 birds thru. Com. Grackle: abundant thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: over 200 birds

thru. N. Oriole: over 175 birds thru. Purple Finch: over 125 birds thru. House Finch: common thru. Red Crossbill: 25 birds, last Chen 19 June (JL, DM). White-winged Crossbill: about 15 birds, last Chen 19 June (JL, DM). Pine Siskin: about 11 birds, last Chen 19 June (DM, JL). Am. Goldfinch: abundant thru. House Sparrow: abundant thru.

Box 1, H.C. 61, Powderhouse Road, Binghamton, New York 13903

[Editor's note: With this report Harriet Marsi steps down as Region Four editor to assume the Presidency of the Federation. Beginning with the Fall 1985 season, she is replaced by Jay Lehman. Contributors should send their reports to: Dr. Jay Lehman, R.D. 2, Box 68, Norwich, New York 13815.]

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

The past several reports have noted the similarity between the weather this year and last. This pattern continued through the summer of 1985. June averaged nearly 4.3 degrees below normal, and both July and August were slightly cooler than average. All three months were dry, June being the wettest at only 0.8 inches below normal. There was virtually no rain at all for a six week period from mid-July to late August. At the end of the season total annual precipitation was nearly six inches below normal in Syracuse. The summer also was quite cloudy.

These weather conditions did not seem to interfere with the nesting season. Rain in June frequently inconvenienced planned birding expeditions, but the combination of dryness and coolness kept biting insects to a minimum. July was positively pleasant, when one could bird watch in central New York with neither insect repellant nor cold weather clothing. There seemed to be good numbers of baby birds about by late summer as well, so the dryness apparently had little effect on nesting populations. However, most observers felt that bird song, parent birds feeding young and fledgling birds disappeared sooner than usual. Work on the Breeding Bird Atlas in early August was much less rewarding than in past years.

In this final year of the Breeding Bird Atlas, workers added no less than six species to the list of confirmed Regional nesters. The two crossbills were noted in the previous report. This season Acadian Flycatcher, Carolina and Sedge Wren, and Bay-breasted Warbler were added to the list. All of these are species last proven to nest in the Region at least twenty years ago! The only half-way cooperative Least Bittern disappeared before its nesting status could be ascertained, and at this writing we were still trying for Whip-poor-will. Only these two species kept workers from confirming nesting for every avian species thought to breed in the Region annually.