

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

After a beautiful, warm, and sunny May, June weather returned to normal. The highest temperature for June at Binghamton was recorded on 1 Jun, leaving area residents with the distinct impression that summer was here in May this year. June was wet, with 4.8 inches of rain recorded at Binghamton. But if June was wet, then July was a flood with seventeen days of rain recorded at Binghamton and a near record 7.36 (!) inches, nearly surpassing the record 7.4 inches set in 1956. July temperatures were about normal, except for two short cool periods during the first half of the month. One wonders whether all this rain in June and July had a deleterious effect on nesting success. August also seemed wet, but the 3.0 inches of rain were about 0.4 inches below normal. Perhaps, this impression was due to the seemingly higher than normal amount of cloudy weather in August. The period ended with several days of unseasonably cool weather, with mean temperatures five to ten degrees below the norm. With all the cloudy, rainy weather sandwiched between an unseasonably warm May and a cool end to August, the summer seemed short.

Now that Atlas field work is completed, reports of some species are conspicuously absent. No reports of American Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe, American Black Duck, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Sora, and Red-headed Woodpecker were received, and few Hooded Merganser, Broad-winged Hawk, Eastern Screech- and Great Horned Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Horned Lark, and Nashville Warbler were reported. Black-crowned Night-Heron, Least Bittern, Sedge Wren, and Whip-poor-will also were not reported, but these species were scarce even during the years of intensive Atlas field work. Ring-necked Pheasant and Purple Martin still are uncommon in this Region and, unfortunately, Golden-winged Warbler is still decreasing. Few cuckoos were seen even though tent caterpillars appear to be increasing in certain parts of the Region. Essentially no shorebird migration was reported, mostly due to lack of effort.

Despite these negatives, there were a number of encouraging reports. Six Common Mergansers were present on the Chenango River near Binghamton well into June. Could they be invading from known breeding sites in Delaware Co.? Turkey Vultures are continuing to expand their range into the northern part of the Region, especially Chenango Co. Bald Eagle sightings are increasing, undoubtedly due to the hacking program. Upland Sandpiper, which is rarely reported here, was found in good numbers.

Several unusual southern species which are expanding north into this Region were reported. Acadian Flycatcher from two locations in eastern Broome Co. are the second and third Regional summer records in eight years. Confirmed breeding of Orchard Oriole in Owego is the first such record for the Region in eight years. Because most previous Regional reports of Orchard Oriole come from sites close to the Susquehanna River, northward expansion along its drainage is suspected. Northern Mockingbird at three southern tier sites and three sites in Chenango

Co. during June and July also may indicate further northward expansion. Of the other southern species showing northward range expansion, Tufted Titmouse still are more common in the southern tier (reported from six sites – Oneonta and the southern tier), whereas Hooded Warbler and Carolina Wren were reported only in the north and not in the south.

Les Bemont in Vestal banded two young Common Nighthawks in the nest and still unable to fly on the rather late date of 6 Aug. He wondered "if the wet weather slowed insect procurement and their development" and if they were ready to migrate when he observed pre-migration flocking at Vestal by 28 Aug only three weeks later. The wet weather in July also may have contributed to the early flocking of Chimney Swifts at Chenango Forks on 31 Jul and to lower than normal numbers in Norwich in late August.

I made a special effort to monitor species associated with spruce plantations in Chenango Co. Golden-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-rumped Warbler remain common in appropriate habitat. Swainson's Thrush was present at four previously known sites, but spruce logging and thinning may be decreasing their numbers. One location near McDonough has been abandoned, the only apparent change being thinning, while at a second site in Pharsalia Game Management Area which was being logged, only one singing bird was found where at least four were found in previous years. A Pine Siskin reported on the Corbettsville BBS was found at Sky Lake, where spruce stands provide good habitat. I also surveyed Vesper, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows. Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrow are still present in known locations in reasonable numbers. However, Henslow's Sparrow was scarce, and several sites were abandoned this year.

The species list of 142 plus one hybrid is about average for a year without Atlas data. Snowy Egret, Virginia Rail, Black Tern and Acadian Flycatcher are rarities. Upland Sandpiper, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, and Palm Warbler are unusual but not really rare. Data from US Fish & Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys were received for the Oxford, Corbettsville, Coventryville, Lisle, Whitney Point, Downsville, and Milford routes.

Observers: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Bill Breidinger, Nancy Cannon, Mildred & Lynn Clark, John Carpenter, Chad Covey, Anna & Marilyn Davis, Louise Dean, Delhi Bird Club, Mary Dobinsky, Jane Doig, George Dropp, Pauline Grey, Marsha Guzewich, John Gustafson, Shirley Hartman, Phyllis & Eldon Keith, Hugh Kingery, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Leona McDowell, Robert Pantle, Dick Parker, Marie Petuh, Harriet Robinson, Joe Sedlacek, Julian Shepherd, Bill Toner, Kathryn Wilson, Don Windsor.

Abbreviations: bnd-banded; B&DS&G-Bailey & Dickinson Sand & Gravel; Bing-Binghamton; Clsv-Colesville, Crbtv-Corbettsville; Cvntv-Coventryville; Downsv-Downsville; End-Endwell; Norw-Norwich; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; Phars-Pharsalia; Plym-Plymouth; REEC-Rogers Environmental Education Center; Wind-Windsor, Vest-Vestal.

LOONS-DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: three nests Rum Hill, Cooperstown (HK), only CO. **SNOWY EGRET**: two Oneonta to Delhi area 30 Jul (PG); one Goodyear L 8 Aug (GD), unusual number. Green-backed Heron: one per week to late Jul; arr one Homer 23 Aug (BB). Canada Goose: max six Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM); pair & goslings Rum Hill Jul (HK), only CO. Wood Duck: max ten OPM 12 Aug (MD, KW). Mallard: six im OPM

18 Jun (MD, KW) & a pair Cvntrvl 16 Jun (JS), only CO. Hooded Merganser: one Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM) & N Clsv 28 Jun (JS), few reports. Com. Merganser: one Dela June, normal breeding site; arr two Walton 24 Aug (SH).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM) & three Mt Upton 9 Jun (JL), unusual Chen; arr three Richfield Springs 30 Aug (MD). Osprey: one Dela June, last; arr one Truxton 18 Aug (PK). Bald Eagle: im Long Pd 24 Jun (JC); arr second-year Chen L mid-Jul thru Aug (CC); one Oneonta Mt 29 Aug (HR), increasing. N. Harrier: one Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM) & one Phars 4 Jul (DW), breeding; arr one Delhi 26 Aug (SH). Sharp-shinned Hawk: three locations Jun; max two OPM 23 Jun (MD, KW); arr one OPM 20 Aug (MD, KW). Cooper's Hawk: six locations to last week Jul; nest likely Cherry Valley 10 Jul (HK), good breeding numbers. Broad-winged Hawk: two OPM 18 Jun (MD, KW), few reports. Am. Kestrel: pair & six im Cvntrvl 16 Jun (JS), only CO; max 13 OPM 12 Aug (MD, KW). Ring-necked Pheasant: one Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM) only report. Ruffed Grouse: five locations; one f & 12 im N Clsv 18 Jun (JS) & im in barn Cortland 9 Aug (JG), only CO. Wild Turkey: three f & 17 im N. Clsv 3 Aug; similar mixed flocks Chen, Tiog mid-Jul thru Aug, increasing. **VIRGINIA RAIL:** one REEC 1 Jun (MG), breeding suspected; max two calling Upper Lisle Aug (HM). Killdeer: six/BBS route; largest post-breeding flock 25 Endw 12 Aug (JS). Solitary Sandpiper: arr three N Norw 9 Aug (JL, DW). Spotted Sandpiper: only three sites; arr two Cvntrvl 26 Jul (JS). Upland Sandpiper: one each near E Springville & Salt Springville Jul (HK) & Center Lisle 6 Jul (ML, MP, NK, JB), all breeding?. Am. Woodcock: only three sites. Com. Snipe: only three sites Jun. Ring-billed Gull: max 100 Broome Landfill Jun-Aug (HM). Herring Gull: only Tiog Jun-Aug (LD). **BLACK TERN:** two B&DS&G 2 Jun (MP, OC), first Regional record in eight years.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: ten/BBS, increasing. Black-billed Cuckoo: one ad & nest Sharon Springs Jul (HK); one Truxton 19 Aug (RP), low. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only one Delhi 7 Aug (MC). E. Screech-Owl: only four sites. Great Horned Owl: only four sites. Com. Nighthawk: one Norw 7 Jun (JL), late migrant; arr 11 Oneonta 20 Aug (KW). Chimney Swift: max breeding nine Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM); sky full Chen Forks 31 Jul (A & MD), early flocking?; last flock 20 Norw 30 Aug (JL). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max three Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM). Belted Kingfisher: max three OPM 23 Jun (MD, KW). Red-bellied Woodpecker: only one Tiog Jun-Aug (LD). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: ad & im N. Clsv (JS), only CO; max three Downsv BBS 10 Jun (JSh) & Lisle BBS 23 Jun (RP). Downy Woodpecker: max six Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM). Hairy Woodpecker: only three total on five BBS. N. Flicker: max six Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM). Pileated Woodpecker: only singles six sites.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Rum Hill 21 Jun (HK), late; arr one REEC 30 Aug (DW). E. Wood-Pewee: max eight Downsv BBS 10 Jun (JSh). **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** singles Crbtvs BBS 8 Jun (JL) & Windsor 27 Jul (JS). Willow Flycatcher: 12 sites, above average. Alder Flycatcher: six sites, above average. Least Flycatcher: max 16 Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM). E. Phoebe: max nine Crbtvs BBS 8 Jun (JL). Great Crested Flycatcher: max four Cvntrvl BBS 19 Jun (LB). E. Kingbird: max breeding seven Oxford & Crbtvs BBS; max post-breeding 18 OPM 22 Jul (MD, KW). Horned Lark: only two OPM 10 Jun (MD, KW). Purple Martin: only report Tioga. Tree Swallow: max 103 bnd Homer (BT); 20-50 using bluebird houses at four sites Broo (JS). N. Rough-winged Swallow: six nestlings bnd McGraw (BT), only CO. Bank Swallow: 75 B&DS&G (MP) & 50 Norw (JL) both 28 Jun, only two colonies; eight Winds 30 Aug (JS), late. Cliff Swallow: max 14 Downsv BBS 10 Jun (JSh); ten Crbtvs BBS (JL), new site. Barn Swallow: 38 Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM), breeding max; 65 OPM 12 Aug (MD, KW), post-breeding flocking. Blue Jay: max 17 Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM). Am. Crow: max 57 Cvntrvl BBS 19 Jun (LB). Black-capped Chickadee: max 50 OPM 13 Aug (MD, KW). Tufted Titmouse: max three Oxford BBS (HM). Red-breasted Nuthatch: max seven Plym/Phars 28 & 29

Jun (JL). White-breasted Nuthatch: max three Cvntrv BBS 19 Jun (LB). Brown Creeper: five sites; max two Norw Jun-Jul (JL). Carolina Wren: arr Norw mid-Aug (JL); max three Norw Aug (CW). House Wren: max 19 Lisle BBS 22 Jun (RP); nine bnd N Coles (JS), only CO. Winter Wren: four locations. Marsh Wren: only two REEC 9 Aug (JL, DW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: six locations; max 29 four sites Chen 28 & 29 Jun (JL). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Downsv BBS 10 Jun (JSh) & pair FY Otsego Jul (HK), still scarce. E. Bluebird: bred successfully on trails four sites Broo (JS) & two sites Cort (BT). Veery: max 20 Downsv BBS 10 Jun (JSh). Hermit Thrush: max eight Downsv BBS 10 Jun (JSh). Wood Thrush: max 24 Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL). Am. Robin: max 61 Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL). Gray Catbird: max 17 Lisle BBS 22 Jun (RP) & Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM). Brown Thrasher: max three OPM 10 Jun (MD, KW). Cedar Waxwing: breeding max 40 Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM); post-breeding max 80 OPM 20 Aug (MD, KW). Loggerhead Shrike: one briefly glimpsed Pepacton Res 10 Jun (JS), in same block where one was seen during Atlas field work.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: max seven Phars 28 Jun (JL). Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL). Warbling Vireo: max five Lisle BBS 22 Jun (RP). Red-eyed Vireo: breeding max 33 Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM); migration max 26 OPM 20 Aug (MD, KW). Blue-winged Warbler: max five Norw 11 Jul (JL). Golden-winged Warbler: only two Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL) & N Clsv 20 Jun (JS). "Brewster's" Warbler: only report Norw 8 Jun (JL). Nashville Warbler: only reports Norw 8 Jul (JL) & OPM 22 Jul (MD, KW). Yellow Warbler: max 43 Crbtstv BBS (JL). Chestnut-sided Warbler: max seven Plym 29 Jun (JL). Magnolia Warbler: max 23 four sites Chen 28 & 29 Jun (JL). Black-throated Blue Warbler: max three Norw 7 Jun (JL). Yellow-rumped Warbler: max ten three sites Chen 28 & 29 Jun (JL). Black-throated Green Warbler: max 18 four sites Chen 28 & 29 Jun (JL). Blackburnian Warbler: max 25 five sites Chen 28 & 29 Jun (JL). Prairie Warbler: four sites, max four Norw 19 Jul (JL). **PALM WARBLER:** one OPM Dog Hill 13 Aug (MD, KW), very early. Black-and-white Warbler: max 12 Downsv BBS 10 Jun (JSh). Am. Redstart: max 18 Downsv BBS 10 Jun (JSh). Ovenbird: max 26 Downsvs BBS 10 Jun (JSh). N. Waterthrush: singles at six locations. Louisiana Waterthrush: only three sites; max two Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL); only nest found Candor 22 Jun (RP). Mourning Warbler: four sites; max six Phars 28 Jun (JL). Com. Yellowthroat: max 31 Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL). Hooded Warbler: pair Norw Jun-Jul (JL) & one Otsego Jul (HK), few reports. Canada Warbler: three sites; max eight OPM 18 Jun (MD, KW).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max 18 Downsv BBS (JSh). N. Cardinal: max seven Lisle BBS 22 Jun (RP) & Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 12 Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM). Indigo Bunting: max 12 Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL). Rufous-sided Towhee: max eight Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM). Chipping Sparrow: max 31 Crbtstv BBS (JL). Field Sparrow: max 12 N Clsv 14, 20 & 28 Jun (JS). Vesper Sparrow: six sites, doing well; max seven Plym 29 Jun (JL). Savannah Sparrow: at least ten birds at seven sites, excellent. Grasshopper Sparrow: seven sites, excellent; max six ad with four im Pink Hill Chen 20 Jul (JL). Henslow's Sparrow: only three sites; max four singing near Leesville Otsego 14 Jul (HK). Song Sparrow: max 45 Cvntrvl BBS 19 Jun (LB). Swamp Sparrow: max six Cvntrvl BBS 26 Jul (JS). White-throated Sparrow: max six Oxford BBS 7 Jun (HM). Dark-eyed Junco: max 11 Downsv BBS 10 Jun (JSh). Bobolink: max 35 N Clsv 20 Jun (JS). Red-winged Blackbird: max 90 Lisle BBS 22 Jun (RP). Rusty Blackbird: one Chen Valley SP 16 Aug (A & MD), very early. E. Meadowlark: max 12 N Clsv 19 Jul (JS). Brown-headed Cowbird: max 15 N Clsv 8 & 20 Jun (JS). Orchard Oriole: f feeding im Owego 17 & 18 Jun (C & JB), unusual. N. Oriole: max 20 Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL). Purple Finch: max ten two sites Chen stateland 28 Jun (JL). House Finch: max 25 N Clsv 20 Jul (JS). Pine Siskin: only one Crbtstv BBS 8 Jun (JL), uncommon. Am. Goldfinch: max 35 OPM 12, 13 & 20 Aug (MD, KW).

RD 2, Box 68C, Norwich, NY 13815