

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: seven reports Jun BOS; one Amity Twn 3-29 Jul. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: three Cold Spring Twn 5 Jun; one Arkwright Twn 4 Jul; reports of both cuckoos tapering off with decrease in Gypsy Moth. Com. Barn-Owl: *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: max 60 Niagara Falls 29 Aug. Whip-poor-will: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Charlotte Twn, Chau, 12 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Tonawanda Twn 23 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: two nestings documented - two ads, two y one egg Pomfret Twn, Chau, (RA, JG), pair & 2 y incapable of sustained flight ASP 5 Jul (TB), along same 1.6 km hemlock bordered stream with five singing males; reported in Jun and Jul from seven other localities BOS. N. Raven: one ASP 19 Jun (RA, JG); max three Ward Twn, Alle, 23 Jun (EB); two Andover Twn, Alle, 15 Jul (EB); one ASP 26 Aug (TB); becoming regular in Alle and Catt. Carolina Wren: one Hamburg 19 Jul; one Vandalia, Catt, through period. E. Bluebird: *intro*. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two Tonawanda Twn 7 Jun, late. Swainson's Thrush: one Tonawanda Twn 8 Jun, late on lake plain; one Red House 5 Jun, two ASP 19 Jun, and seven ASP 5 July probably nesting birds.

VIREOS-WARBLES: Philadelphia Vireo: arr TWMA and TFNP 23 Aug. N. Parula: *intro*. Yellow-throated Warbler: *intro*. Pine Warbler: *intro*. Prairie Warbler: five singing males Carroll Twn, Chau, 5 Jun (TM, mob), two singing males Andover Twn, Alle, 4-29 Jun (EB); one singing male Grove Twn, Alle, 24 Jun (CK, mob); one singing male Carrollton Twn, Catt, 7 Jun, not heard later (SE).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: four reports Niag and Alle 4-29 Jun (BOS); singles Andover, Alle, 15 Jul and Alfred Twn 15 Jul (BOS), only reports. Grasshopper Sparrow: ten reports BOS 4-24 Jun; one Villanova Twn, Chau, 1-10 Jul; one Oakfield Twn 4 Jul; two Pomfret Twn 5 and 26 Jul; two Andover Twn 15 Jul. Henslow's Sparrow: one Andover Twn, Alle, 19 Jun; max five Amity Twn 31 Jul, one 8 Aug; two Pomfret Twn 5 Jul; two Hanover Twn 11 Jul; two Batavia Twn 3 Aug; one Westfield Twn 11 Aug. White-throated Sparrow: reported from 4 localities Alle in Jun; one Holland Bog Jun. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one Villanova Twn, along Prospect Road 6-10 Jul (TMA, RS), heard and "closely observed;" seventh record for Chau. Orchard Oriole: two males and one female Red House Entrance ASP 13 Jun (RS, mob). House Finch: two y left nest Buffalo 2 Aug (AG). Pine Siskin: *intro*.

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REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The summer 1987 was wet and warm, with varied observations and highlights. June had an average temperature of 67.9°, 1.2° above normal. Precipitation amounted to 3.94 inches, 1.6 inches above the norm. July continued warm with an average 1.4° above norm of 72.7°. The precipitation, at 5.85 inches, was a full 3.37 inches above the average monthly total. August temperatures were 2.2° below the normal average of 67.3°. Precipitation remained high with a total of 3.92 inches, 0.72 inches above normal. The warm temperatures were conducive to a good nesting season. The rainfall was consistent and not overly violent,

which allowed for good growth of food crops, good populations of food insects and good nesting conditions. Multi-brooded species such as American Robin and Mourning Dove had much success.

The nesting season had both successes and failures. With the breeding bird atlas field work no longer in operation, it seems like fewer hours of observation and study of nesting birds are being carried out. This can probably be viewed from two angles. First, there may have been less disturbance to nesting birds, which is desirable. On the other hand, this year's effort gives a somewhat uneven picture of the nesting season. Field work seemed to be concentrated on uncommon or locally rare nesters. While this provided some valuable data, it may not represent the total Region.

The highlights were quite interesting. Some of the many Short-eared Owls that frequented the Region this winter apparently stayed on to nest. There was an attempted nesting along Bennett Road in Parma that met with failure when the farmer plowed the field being used by these owls. A second nesting attempt occurred along Sawyer Road in Kendall. This appeared to be more successful, with the presence of suspected juveniles later in the season. There was even speculation that there may have been a second pair in the general vicinity of the Kendall pair. Also of interest were the increased number of Prairie Warblers. This species is uncommon at best, yet there were 2-4 singing males on the east side of Letchworth State Park until 4 July. A singing male also was observed early in the season at Mendon Ponds Park on 10 June. This is more reports than usual. Letchworth was also the site for an apparent nesting of Sedge Wren, where up to four were found between 20 June and 4 July. This once more common species has been difficult to locate in recent years.

Lake Ontario levels were well below the long term average. This not only provided some good and much desired shorebird habitat, but also gave the marsh nesting species a break. Sora and Virginia Rail seemed to enjoy a banner season, with observation being easy and quite consistent through the season. One wonders whether this is a product of their secretive behavior being abandoned somewhat or if it was a sign of a good nesting season. This trend was true also for Least Bittern. Buck Pond held its traditionally good population and reports of good numbers came from other locations. The number of reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron was also up. Immature birds as well as adults were seen regularly along the lakeshore ponds and marshes. Five nests of Green-backed Heron were active around Crusoe Lake in Wayne County. This species, while seen regularly, keeps its nests well hidden, so this is an interesting concentration. Mallard and Wood Duck also appeared to be doing well. There were many broods of both species visible during the season.

There were some positive aspects for upland birds as well. Three or four new Cliff Swallow nesting locations were reported. Numbers of both Carolina Wren and N. Mockingbird appeared to be greater than usual. The bluebird trails that have been established in recent years seemed to have a very positive effect on that species. Reports from trail managers indicated a very healthy and successful nesting season. Grassland areas in the Region this year seemed to hold an increased number of Grasshopper Sparrows. Suitable habitat was located throughout the Region and hence so were the sparrows.

Among the negative trends evident this season were the minimal number of Blue-winged Teal seen, and few broods were observed or reported. There were few Whip-poor-will reports. This species has been scarce in recent years and this season was no exception. There was some concern voiced over the Purple Martin population. Reports along the lakeshore indicated a poor season. Nesting groups seemed to be down and consequently the number of offspring was down. This is a species we'll need to monitor in upcoming nesting seasons. What seemed like a promising sign eventually turned into an disappointment. A Loggerhead Shrike frequented a known historical nesting sight during late May, but the bird disappeared shortly after and was not reported again. This species has all but disappeared as a nester in the Region. The Golden-winged Warbler seemed to be down again. This may correlate with the increased number of Blue-winged Warblers now here.

The nesting season also raised some questions. An unsubstantiated report of Mute Swan nesting came from Irondequoit Bay during August. Is this species moving into our Region as a nester? What was the status of Northern Harrier, a threatened species in New York? This summer some individuals exhibiting nesting behavior were noted. How are some of the grassland sparrows doing? Henslow's Sparrows were scattered yet stable in some locations. How did the Vesper Sparrows do? Quite a few individuals were found in various locations throughout the Region, yet their status remains uncertain in the minds of some observers. Reports came in of nesting Pine Siskins. This occurs sporadically in years when the numbers during migration are high. This was just such a year, but how widespread was nesting this season? The only reports were two possibly nesting at Manitou Beach 1-3 June and one there on 21 July.

The summer season also overlaps with the migration period of some species. Some late spring migrants were found during early June. Shorebirds started arriving in July, and the warbler migration was evident by August. The low lake levels left some exposed mudflats in Irondequoit Bay. This provided the Region with something that had been sorely lacking in recent years - shorebird habitat. Both the north and south ends of the bay were productive. A check of the shorebird accounts will attest to this. Early phalaropes were just one of the highlights. The banding operation at Manitou Beach, now in its third full season, has begun to produce some early arrivals. Philadelphia Vireos were the case in point this year. An early Swainson's Thrush also was among the bandees. The puzzling August Hawk flights were prominent again this summer. They occur under the same conditions as do good spring flights and follow a very similar pattern. Of course, the volume is no where near as great but good numbers are counted. The birds are primarily Red-tailed Hawks, but there is a smattering of accipiters as well as an occasional Broad-winged Hawk or American Kestrel. What is the significance of these late summer flights? The question remains unanswered.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; CL - Crusoe Lake; HB - Hamlin Beach; IBN - Irondequoit Bay north; IBS - Irondequoit Bay south; LSP - Letchworth State Park; MB - Manitou Beach.

LOONS - DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: last Canadice Lake 13 Jun. Com. Loon: arr three HB 23 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: good numbers along the lakeshore. Great Egret: two IBS 1-31 Aug, better than in recent years. Snowy Egret: one Perinton 10 Jun (BK,DT), not very many reports in recent years. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: one Mt. Morris 7 July (RC). Mute Swan: *intro*. N. Pintail: max 13 HB 23 Aug. Oldsquaw: one BB 1 Aug, very unusual in summer. White-winged Scoter: arr "several" HB 21 Aug. Com. Goldeneye: one Hemlock 13 Jun, unusual. Bufflehead: ad Kendall 5 Jun, unusual. Red-breasted Merganser: arr nine HB 8 Aug. Ruddy Duck: one Kendall 17 Jun, late.

HAWKS - ALCIDS: Osprey: one BB 11 Jun, five reports in July from separate locations, a good sign? Bald Eagle: multiple sightings each month, primarily im. N. Goshawk: im MB 16 and 21 Aug. Peregrine Falcon: ad Greece 1 Aug, only report this season. Black-bellied Plover: arr HB 1 July, quite early. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr three Savannah Flats 28 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr three IN 2 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr three IBN 12 July. Willet: one IBN 2 Aug (BK), few reports in recent years. Whimbrel: two IBN 23 Jul (BK) early arrival, one there 8 Aug (BK), one Greece 22 Aug (KG), uncommon. Red Knot: arr two Charlotte 24 Aug. Western Sandpiper: arr BB 12 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr four BB 13 Jul. Baird's Sandpiper: arr IBN 18 Jul. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr BB 20 Jul. Dunlin: arr three HB 18 Aug. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr IBS 30-31 Aug, unusual location. Red-necked Phalarope: arr one-three IBS 28-31 Aug. **RED PHALAROPE**: one IBS 28-29 Aug (CC, MR, mob), very early and unusual at that location. **LAUGHING GULL**: im IBN 18-31 Aug (RS, mob). Bonaparte's Gull: arr four Charlotte 18 Jul. Glaucous Gull: 2nd year bird MB 5 Jun, late. Caspian Tern: 24 IBN 18 Aug, good total. Com. Tern: max 23 IBN 3 Aug. Forster's Tern: arr two BB 18 Jul. Black Tern: last ten Salmon Creek 30 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: one Webster off and on Jul, scarce this season.

FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last MB 3 Jun; arr MB 28 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: one Bergen 20 Jun; one Mumford 21 Jun, new location; one LSP 17 Jul. Purple Martin: max 200 Ontario 4 Jul. Carolina Wren: one - three MB all season, new location. Winter Wren: one Webster 1-30 Jun (MAS), quite unusual there at this season. Sedge Wren: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush: arr MB 8 Aug.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: five banded MB 5 Aug, very early and a very good total. "Lawrence's Warbler": one Powder Mill Park 7, 9 Jun, unusual. N. Parula: arr IBS 29 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr MB 28 Aug. Prairie Warbler: *intro*. Bay-breasted Warbler: singing male Irondequoit 21-24 Jul, very unusual. Wilson's Warbler: arr MB 26 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: four LSP 14 Jul, good total.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS: Fox Sparrow: one Springwater late Aug (HH), unusually early, exact date still undetermined, near record early. Lincoln's Sparrow: last MB 1 Jun. White-throated Sparrow: one Kendall 13 Jun, very late, nesting on lake plains? White-crowned Sparrow: one Island Cottage Woods 16 Jun, quite late. **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE**: one MB 21 Aug (MD, CC). White-winged Crossbill: three MB 28 Aug (BB,WS), very early. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: one MB 12 Aug, very early.

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