

to Nov; max 55 JCity 20 Nov, abundant at feeders! Am. Goldfinch: increasing at feeders in Nov; max 20 OPM 18 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr Norwich 3 Nov, late; max 20 New Berlin 19 Nov, very scarce.

RD2, Box 68C, Norwich, New York 13815

[The following report arrived too late to be included in the previous issue of the Kingbird]

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

Hot! Hot! Hot! This summer was hot, but it began cool and dry. At Binghamton the average daily mean temperature was 1.3° below the norm of 63°F, and only 1.05 inches of rain fell, which is 2.6 inches below normal. Daily temperatures were like a roller coaster ride. The eight days through 11 Jun had mean temperatures averaging 8 below normal; a record low of 39°F equaled the previous low for 10 Jun. An abrupt heat wave followed for eleven days with record highs of 91, 90, and 91°F on 14, 15, and 22 Jun, respectively, then the temperature plummeted. From 24 Jun to 2 Jul there were eight days with mean temperatures averaging almost 10° below normal. Record lows of 48, 46, 47, and 44°F were recorded from 28 Jun through 1 Jul. Immediately thereafter the temperature roller coaster zoomed upward. Between 6 and 16 Jul there were eight days with high temperatures between 88 and 98°F. Record highs of 92, 91, 95, 94, and 98°F were reported for 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 16 Jul, respectively, the last record being the highest temperature at the Link Field weather station since records have been kept there. This July was the hottest since 1955 with average high temperatures of 84.1°F, 5.7°F above the norm. The only respite from this heat was the rain that started about mid-month, ending the drought, and which totalled 4.94 inches by the end of month, nearly 1.5 inches above normal. August was very similar to July, hot and dry at the beginning and wet after 23 Aug. There were ten days with daily highs of 87 to 91°F until 15 Aug. Record highs of 90, 88, 89, 87, and 91°F were reported on 2, 10, 11, 12, and 13 Aug respectively. The month ended with more normal temperatures and 5.22 inches of rain, well above the average of 3.35 inches.

In view of the hot weather it was surprising that a Common Loon, which normally spends summers in the cool north, stayed in Chenango County through the summer. Perhaps, loons are crazy! Pied-billed Grebe was reported for only the fifth time since 1979. Common Mergansers are doing well in Otsego and Delaware Counties. We missed American and Least Bittern as usual, but Atlas data suggest that we probably are not covering the proper habitat in our normal birding. On the positive side there are reports of northward vacationing long-legged waders. Two **Great Egrets** were reported. The one seen at Brick Pond near Owego 20 Jun by Jack Knapik and Margaret Layton was probably the same bird reported by Rick Marsi on 6 Aug along the Susquehanna River near Owego and by Dick Clements near Nichols on 25 Aug. A second report at Delhi on 29 Jun was probably a different bird. A well-described **Glossy Ibis**, only the third report for the Region, was seen by Dick Clements near Apalachin on 25 Aug. Since the

ibis and the egret were both seen from Route 17, I vote for Route 17 roadside as the Region's best birding spot for the summer! Because both species were seen in the spring near the same locations, these may have been young non-breeding birds "hanging around" for the summer.

All the expected raptors were seen, including N. Goshawk which is often missed. A bedraggled Goshawk was apparently driven into downtown Norwich by a storm where it was seen by Fred Von Mechow and Laura Carey on 29 Aug. Northern Harrier apparently nested near McGraw. Turkey Vultures are still expanding into the northern parts of the region, especially in Cortland and Chenango County. The bad reputation of Great Horned Owls continues. Jay Lehman reported a Belted Kingfisher harassing a young Great Horned Owl at North Norwich Marsh in August. Bill Toner reported approximately a fifty percent "success" rate for American Kestrel nest boxes that he set up this year in Cortland County. All three contained four eggs but were lost due to predation. Starlings are the suspected culprits in two cases while racoons are the suspects for the third.

This summer good marsh habitat was drastically changed at North Norwich by humans. Apparently, a group of children destroyed the beaver dam which created ideal habitat for Virginia Rail, Sora, and Marsh Wren. Consequently, no Virginia Rails were reported there this year. Sora was reported there just before the marsh was drained but not after, and the number of Marsh Wrens also decreased. However, shorebird habitat was improved by the lowered water level. Elsewhere the drought created good conditions for migrating shorebirds along the edges of reservoirs and lakes. Consequently, the shorebird list of nine species is the second best since the summer of 1979. The only uncommon shorebird was an Upland Sandpiper, apparently migrating, which was heard by Jay Lehman giving its quivering call flying over Norwich in the fog on 27 Jul. This species has been reported in only five of the last ten summers.

While one might expect higher numbers of species expanding their range from the south after two consecutive hot summers, the results were mixed. Carolina Wren reports were more frequent while Red-bellied Woodpecker reports seemed fewer. As usual, Hooded Warbler and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were seen in low numbers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports seemed much higher than normal for the season; perhaps they did notice the very hot weather or perhaps they were delayed in migration by the cold in early June. The variable weather in June, cold at first followed by heat and then cold again, apparently decreased the nesting success of Tree Swallows at two nest box trails operated by Bill Toner at McGraw and Homer. However, Eastern Bluebirds were more fortunate and were affected less by June's temperature extremes, apparently owing to the different timing of their nesting.

As in the two previous summer reports, the species accounts utilize US Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey data because these data represent a standardized effort in the same locations. Results are compared to BBS data for the past four years. The following US Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey Routes were used for this report: Corbettsville, 19 Jun (Jay Lehman); Coventryville, 19 Jun (Les Bemont); Lisle, 29 Jun and Whitney Point, 22 Jun (Bob Pantle); Oxford, 20 Jun (Harriet Marsi); East Newark, 20 Jun (Jack Knapik); Milford, 8 Jun (Bob Miller); and Downsville, 14 Jun (Richard Andrus). Unless otherwise noted, summaries of numbers from these surveys in the species accounts are approximately average. Unlike the previous two summers, no effort was made to monitor state

land habitat, including conifer stands, and as a consequence, low numbers of Swainson's Thrushes are reported. No species appear to have been missed due to this lack of effort, but numbers conifer-belt warblers and other birds may be lower than in the previous two summer reports. Purple Martins are still uncommon and reported in low numbers. Whip-poor-will, Horned Lark, Henslow's Sparrow, and Sedge Wren were missed again. Apparently, no effort was made to visit Horned Lark habitat. We almost always miss Whip-poor-will and Sedge Wren due to the general decline of these species in New York State. However, the one reliable spot in Chenango County for Henslow's Sparrow has been irreversibly changed by the planting of conifers in mowed strips. Most unfortunate! We'll have to look elsewhere.

A breeding plumage Evening Grosbeak with a green bill was seen in South Otselic by Dave Messineo through late July. At least one similar report was received from Chenango County during the Atlas Project. Significantly, both reports are from locations near large conifer stands. Pine Siskins stayed late enough at several locations to suspect breeding.

There were several indications of spring migration extending into this season. Philadelphia Vireos were reported in early June. Two Blackpoll Warblers, usually one of the latest migrants here, were reported by Les Bemont on 19 Jun on the Coventryville BBS. A very late Tennessee Warbler was heard singing at Center Lisle on 1 Jul by Harriet Marsi, Bruce Bozdos, and Florence Linaberry, but apparently this is not unusual for this species.

There were 152 species plus one hybrid reported this summer, which ties 1985 as the second highest summer list since 1979. **Glossy Ibis** and **Great Egret** are the only rarities, while Upland Sandpiper, Philadelphia Vireo, Blackpoll and Tennessee Warblers, and Evening Grosbeak are unusual for the period. A large part of this report is made up of field records of Mary Dobinsky (Oneonta area), Mildred Clark (Delhi), Hugh Kingery (Cherry Valley), and Jay Lehman (Norwich, North Norwich, and Pharsalia Game Management Area).

Observers: Richard Andrus, Rich Anthony, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Les Bemont (LBe), Bruce Bozdos, Bill Breidinger, Laura Carey, Mildred Clark, Nate Clark, Dick Clements, Peter Colverson, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Mary Dobinsky, Margaret Ferranti, Finch Hollow Nature Center, Shirley Hartman, Hugh Kingery, Gail Kirch, Jack Knapik, Marge Lafayette, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Dave Messineo, Robert Miller, Robert Pantle, Marie Petuh, Joe Sedlacek, Ed Sidote, Bill Toner, Fred Von Mechow, Anne Whitaker, Kathryn Wilson, Don Windsor.

Abbreviations: BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BCC - Broome Community College; ChFk - Chenango Forks; CVal - Cherry Valley; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; JCity - Johnson City; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; ORes - Oneonta Reservoir; PGMA - Pharsalia Game Management Area; REEC - Rogers Environmental Education Center; WPRes - Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: singles Chenango L (DN) & Guilford L (RA) to mid Jun; two Chenango L from mid Aug (PS fide CC); unusual. Pied-billed Grebe: only one OPM 13 Jul, uncommon. Great Blue Heron: increasing to ten reports at four sites Aug, max five. **Great Egret**: *intro*. Green-backed Heron: at three sites Jun & Aug, max two, low. **Glossy Ibis**: *intro*. Canada Goose: at two sites Jun-Jul, nested Lisle, max three; 20 Nichols 25 Aug (DC), early migrants. Wood Duck: at two to three sites/month; max 21 OPM 26 Aug, post-breeding dispersal. Am. Black Duck: only ten Lisle 30 Jul (MP).

Blue-winged Teal: only one N Norwich 20 Aug. Hooded Merganser: only single reports/month OPM; max five ORes 22 Aug. Com. Merganser: six Delhi 18 Jun; female + seven imm Oneonta on Susquehanna R 24 Jun-20 Jul, breeding?; six ORes 17-18 Aug; very high.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: up to ten reports at six sites/month Jul; max 14 S Oxford 27 Aug (ES *fide* DW), high and increasing in CHEN. Osprey: arr one OPM 5 Aug; singles two sites CHEN Aug. Bald Eagle: only one imm Millbrook Res 20 Aug (NC *fide* CC). N. Harrier: singles two sites Jun; one to two at five sites Aug; max pair + imm McGraw 25 Aug (BT), good count. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only singles at two sites Jun & Aug; singles at three sites Jul, fair count. Cooper's Hawk: two singles Delhi & Milford 8 & 16 Aug; max two Milford 25 Aug. N. Goshawk: three singles at three sites CHEN, very good. Red-shouldered Hawk: only one Whaupanaucan SF 30 Jul (DW). Broad-winged Hawk: one Oquaga Creek SP 27 Jul; five singles at three sites 16 to 21 Aug. Red-tailed Hawk: up to 14 reports at three sites Jun, max four; decreasing slightly thereafter. Am. Kestrel: up to 12 reports at five sites Jul, max three; max six OPM 22 & 27 Aug, early migrants?. Ring-necked Pheasant: only one Homer 2 Jun (BT). Ruffed Grouse: up to six reports at four sites Jul, max two; max five Delhi 25 Aug. Wild Turkey: at three sites Jun-Jul, seems low; at three sites Aug, max 30 OPM 1 Aug. N. Bobwhite: only TiOG (D&JB), uncommon. Sora: only one N Norwich 4 Jul. Com. Moorhen: max three N Norwich 5 Jun (DW); TiOG, N Norwich, Bainbridge Jul-Aug, good report. Killdeer: max 68 Otsego L 11 Aug (HK), post breeding flock. Greater Yellowlegs: seven reports at three sites Aug; max four Otsego L 16 Aug (HK), high. Lesser Yellowlegs: five reports at Vestal & Otsego L 7 to 17 Aug; max three Otsego L 11 Aug (HK). Solitary Sandpiper: arr Preston 7 Aug (DW); singles N Norwich (DW) & ORes to 30 Aug. Spotted Sandpiper: several at two sites Jun-Jul; nine reports at five sites Aug, max & last two ORes 30 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: only TiOG Aug (C&JB). Least Sandpiper: only four ORes 30 Aug. Com. Snipe: singles N Norwich 19 Jun, Norwich 20 Jul (DW), & Otsego L 16 Aug (HK). Am. Woodcock: only ad + y McGraw 27 Jun (BT). Ring-billed Gull: max 200-300 Cooperstown Aug (HK). Herring Gull: singles Norwich twice in Jun (DW), TiOG Aug, & WPres 19 Aug; max three Vestal 7 Aug (MP).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: 102/eight BBS's; max 26 Delhi 27 Jul. Black-billed Cuckoo: up to four singles at three sites/month, max 2 Delhi 24 Jul. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: eight/four BBS's; singles Windsor 20 Jun, ChFk 24-28 Jun (MDv), & Delhi 4-5 Aug, high. E. Screech-Owl: only singles REEC 31 Aug (JL) & TiOG Aug (C&JB). Great Horned Owl: two Coventryville BBS; singles six sites Jul-Aug; max three McGraw 31 Aug (BT), high. Barred Owl: singles Downsville BBS & Delhi 16 Jul. Com. Nighthawk: singles Oneonta 27 Jun & JCity 6 Jul; seven/six reports at four sites from 13 Aug; max ten JCity 24 Aug (MP), good count. Chimney Swift: 35/five BBS; max 25 Norwich mid Jul; last ten there 27 Aug. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: almost daily at up to five sites/month; max seven Delhi 14 Aug. Belted Kingfisher: at four sites Jul, max nine OPM 28 Jul; decreasing thereafter. Red-bellied Woodpecker: only TiOG (D&JB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 21/seven BBS; at six sites Jun decreasing to four at three sites Aug, max several. Downy Woodpecker: 19/eight BBS; at up to five sites/month Jun, max several; decreasing thereafter. Hairy Woodpecker: only two/two BBS, lowest since 1985; reports decreasing to three at two sites Aug, max two. N. Flicker: 11/six BBS; peak at six sites Jul; max four OPM 30 Aug. Pileated Woodpecker: singles OPM 2 Jul & CVal 27 Aug; max two Delhi 31 Jul, quite low.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: only singles Lisle 30 Jul (MP) & Norwich 28 Aug (DW). E. Wood-Pewee: 30/eight BBS; 12 reports at seven sites Jun decreasing to nine reports at three sites Aug, max 5 OPM 26 Aug. Alder Flycatcher: 17 / four BBS; singles Jun & Jul; at two sites Aug; max four; last OPM 17 Aug. Willow Flycatcher: 11/five BBS; at three other sites Jun; max three N Norwich 4 Jul; last Delhi 18 Jul. Least Flycatcher: 45/eight BBS; decreasing to singles at three sites Aug, last one Norwich 21 Aug. E. Phoebe: 55/eight BBS; at four to five sites/month, max three. Great

Crested Flycatcher: 22/five BBS; max four Windsor 20 Jun; up to five sites/month; last Valonia Springs 20 Aug (JS). E. Kingbird: 27/six BBS; at about four sites/month; max & last 13 OPM 30 Aug. Purple Martin: two North Colesville 23 Jun & 24 Jul (JS); only TiOG Aug (C&JB), few. Tree Swallow: 53/eight BBS; max 60 OPM 29 Jun; last eight there 26 Jul. N. Rough-winged Swallow: four/four BBS; three reports/month at three sites, max four; last two Milford 11 Jul. Bank Swallow: 52/three BBS; at three sites Jul-Aug, max 15 Norwich (DW); last three N Norwich 20 Aug. Cliff Swallow: 13/two BBS; two to four sites/month; max 50 Norwich 19 Aug, migration; last two OPM 22 Aug. Barn Swallow: 201/eight BBS; max 300 OPM 29 Jun; 15-50/flock three sites 9 to 25 Aug, migration flocks. Tufted Titmouse: three/two BBS; at three to four sites/month, max four BCC 22 Aug. Red-breasted Nuthatch: increasing to three sites/month; max seven PGMA 28 Aug. White-breasted Nuthatch: seven/five BBS. Brown Creeper: two Oxford BBS; singles at two sites Jun-Jul & at three sites Aug. Carolina Wren: singles Norwich Jun & Aug, Greene 25 Jul (MDv), and TiOG Jul-Aug, high. House Wren: 99/eight BBS. Winter Wren: up to five reports at three sites/month, max two; ad + several y CVal 18 & 22 Aug; last two PGMA 28 Aug, good count. Marsh Wren: max seven N Norwich 4 Jul; last one there 20 Aug. Golden-crowned Kinglet: only one/eight BBS; ad + imm Norwich, late breeding?; max & last seven PGMA 28 Aug. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max two BCC 22 Jul (FHNC staff); last TiOG (C&JB). E. Bluebird: three/three BBS; at up to five sites/month, max 12 OPM 25 Aug. Veery: 80/eight BBS, somewhat low; at up to seven sites/month, max 12 OPM 1 Jun. Swainson's Thrush: only one PGMA 28 Aug, low but low effort. Hermit Thrush: 12/eight BBS, high; only two others PGMA 3 Jul (DW). Wood Thrush: 116/eight BBS; at up to nine other sites/month, max eight OPM 14 Jun. Gray Catbird: 99/eight BBS. N. Mockingbird: at up to three sites/month in Southern Tier; only one in north at McGraw 27 Jun (BT). Brown Thrasher: 13/six BBS, high. Cedar Waxwing: 59/ seven BBS, low; max 65 OPM 30 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: three/two BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max four OPM 24 Jun. Yellow-throated Vireo: seven/three BBS, at up to three other sites/month, max two; last one OPM 27 Aug. Warbling Vireo: 19/seven BBS; at up to four other sites/month, max five OPM 8 Jun; last one Delhi 30 Jul. Philadelphia Vireo: one PGMA 4 Jun (DW,PC), late migrant?; TiOG Jul (C&JB), unusual; arr singles REEC 31 Aug (JL), & ChFk 30 & 31 Aug (MDv), unusually high. Red-eyed Vireo: 220/eight BBS, very high; at up to six other sites/month, max 11 CVal 27 Aug. Blue-winged Warbler: 12/four BBS, highest since 1985; at up to five sites/month, max two; last singles OPM & CVal 27 Aug. Brewster's Warbler: only one PGMA 4 Jun (DW,PC). Golden-winged Warbler: only one Oxford BBS. Tennessee Warbler: one PGMA 19 Jun (DW), late migrant; *intro*; arr & max four PGMA 28 Aug (JL). Nashville Warbler: two Oxford BBS; only two other singles PGMA 17 Jul (DW) & 28 Aug (JL). Yellow Warbler: 170/eight BBS, highest since 1985; last two OPM 22 Aug. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 53/seven BBS, highest since '85; at up to seven sites/month, max seven OPM 10 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: four/four BBS; at up to four other sites/month, max six PGMA 28 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr REEC 31 Aug (JL). Black-throated Blue Warbler: six/four BBS, rather high; singles at up to two sites/month; last one CVal 27 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 15/five BBS; at up to six other sites/month; max six OPM 22 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: 15/four BBS, highest since 1985; at up to four other sites/month, max four CVal 27 Aug; ad + two FL REEC 31 Aug (JL), late breeding?. Blackburnian Warbler: eight/two BBS; singles at up to two other sites/month; max three OPM 10 Aug. Prairie Warbler: two/two BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max four Norwich 11 Jun; last BCC 22 Jul. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr & only one banded Vestal 21 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: *intro*. Black-and-white Warbler: 18/two BBS, high; at up to five other sites/month, max two. Am. Redstart: 47/five BBS; at up to seven other sites/month, max two. Ovenbird: 93/eight BBS; at up to six other sites/month, max eight OPM 13 Aug. N. Waterthrush: three/two BBS; at only one other site OPM, max two Jun & last one 27 Jun. Louisiana Waterthrush: three/two BBS; singles at three other sites, last CVal 15 Aug. Mourning Warbler: one/one

BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max three Norwich 11 Jun & OPM 2 Jul. Com. Yellowthroat: 245/eight BBS, high. Hooded Warbler: only two males Norwich 11 Jun. Canada Warbler: one/one BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max two.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: 54/eight BBS, high. Cardinal: 55/eight BBS, high; at up to five other sites/month, max three. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 57/eight BBS, high; at up to seven other sites/month; max seven CVal 27 Aug, migrants. Indigo Bunting: 79/eight BBS, high; at up to five other sites/month, max six OPM 4 Jun. Rufous-sided Towhee: only 12/five BBS, lowest since 1985; at up to six other sites/month, max seven CVal 27 Aug. Chipping Sparrow: 144/eight BBS, highest since 1985; max 30 OPM 30 Aug. Field Sparrow: 58/eight BBS; at up to six other sites/month. Vesper Sparrow: at up to five sites/month, max five CVal 17 Aug; last OPM 25 Aug, good count. Savannah Sparrow: 48/seven BBS; at up to six other sites/month, max nine. Grasshopper Sparrow: seven/three BBS, fairly high; at up to four other sites/month, max four; last two Lisle 30 Jul (MP), good count. Song Sparrow: 260/eight BBS, highest since '85. Swamp Sparrow: 11/eight BBS, below average. White-throated Sparrow: nine/three BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max four Norwich 11 Jun. Dark-eyed Junco: 42/seven BBS, fairly high; at up to four other sites/month; max 10 CVal 27 Aug. Bobolink: 111/eight BBS, highest since '85; at up to six other sites/month, max 40 OPM 14 Jun. Red-winged Blackbird: 427/eight BBS. E. Meadowlark: 52/seven BBS. Com. Grackle: 153/eight BBS. Brown-headed Cowbird: 50/eight BBS. N. Oriole: 66/eight BBS; last four Delhi 26 Aug. Purple Finch: 10/two BBS; at up to three other sites/month, max four OPM 8 Jun. House Finch: 65/five BBS, highest since 1985. Pine Siskin: regular at four sites until 11 Jun, max two; through late Jun Truxton (BB fide BT), late. Am. Goldfinch: 73/eight BBS, lowest since 1985. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*.

RD2, Box 68C, Norwich, New York 13815

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBenedictis

The fall 1988 migration is best summarized as uneventful. Just about everything we would expect to happen on an average year happened, and little more. There were almost no great rarities, few unseasonal records and few exceptional numbers or misses as well. The weather may have contributed to this. The fall was generally mild, temperatures running somewhat on the cool side but seldom cold, precipitation just below average in total and rather uniformly distributed. The first killing frost in Syracuse came late in October, extending the growing season by about 10 days at the end, and the only significant snow fall came in early November, and soon melted.

A mediocre waterbird flight continued in the same vein all fall. Shorebird numbers were very unimpressive after mid September, suggesting that many of the high arctic species that pass through this area after that date had a poor nesting season. Waterfowl numbers were low, with no large concentrations of geese reported, few big days for divers at Derby Hill, and only one rarity, a **Greater White-fronted Goose**, reported. Gull numbers were low, and the two white-winged species didn't arrive until the end of November, with single reports of each species. Single Great Egret and Cattle Egret were the only wandering herons reported. The only misses were rare but annually detected species: Hud-