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## ONTARIO—WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin and Richard C. Rosche

ONTARIO — The breeding season was cool and dry, with severe drought conditions in some localities. Migration continued well into the period, with the first sightings of some warblers at Pimisi Bay



not coming until June 1-7, two to three weeks later than usual (LdeKL). Other species not appearing until June in some areas were Red-eyed Vireos and Cedar Waxwings, and there was heavy flycatcher movement occurring during the first two weeks.

Water levels were generally high at the beginning of the season, and the dry weather did not appear to influence the success of breeding waterfowl. Species favouring beaches around the Great Lakes must have found conditions difficult; Piping Plover failed to be reported from Oliphant, for example, and it is questionable if there was any suitable habitat there at all.

In the more northerly sections of the Province, and even as far s. as Pimisi Bay, early nesters may have been delayed by the cold weather and late-lingering snow, but the unusually sunny and dry conditions that prevailed through most of the period seemed to favour breeding success and

family broods and immatures were on the move again by late July.

Breeding Bird Survey (B.B.S.) routes are beginning to yield intriguing comparative material with the past two years, as well as providing an interesting counterpoint to the more usual reports. Sharp fluctuations from year to year seem to be the pattern for many species, and the data seem too inadequate at present to draw many conclusions about changes in abundance.

It was an exceptional breeding season in the rarities it yielded: readers should note particularly the records of Little Gulls, White-eyed Vireo and Lark Sparrow.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS — Com. Loons provided a mixed picture: they appeared to be holding their own in the Kingston area although being subject to harassment by boats on L. Opinicon (AK, RDW), and there were 2 pairs at Luther Marsh Aug. 13 (GWN, RC); but they were thought to be scarce in the Clay Belt (AJE), and in the Bruce area the eggs were failing to hatch (JBM). This may correspond with current studies on Ontario loons which have reported pesticide residues and eggshell thinning. There were three nesting pairs of Red-necked Grebes on Manitoulin I., but no young were seen (CB). At Luther Marsh there were several juveniles accompanied by adults Aug. 13 (GWN, RC), and a bird of this species was seen at Strathroy Aug. 17 (DF, RD). A White Pelican appeared at Luther Marsh July 17 (RHW), and possibly the same bird was at Hamilton later, July 24–Aug. 10 (GM, et al.). There were isolated Double-crested Cormorants sighted, including one on Mountsberg Reservoir Aug. 15 (JAK). There were several nests on Pigeon I. this year, but the eggs were broken, probably by fishermen (MHE); a recurrence of the problems which beset the species in the Kingston area when it formerly bred there in the 1950s.

HERONS, IBIS — The Great Blue Heron colony at Penage had 48 nests this year: this compares with 20 pairs 10 years ago (fide HP). Elsewhere 45 of 69 nests counted Apr. 18 were occupied in the Breslau heronry, the last active one in Waterloo Co. (CAC, WHS), and a newly located colony near Burwash was estimated to contain 20-30 pairs on Apr. 24 (CWh). There was an encouraging report on Black-crowned Night Herons at Pigeon I., where 23 active nests seemed to be showing much better success than last year. The visit did not reveal any Cattle Egrets, for the first time since 1966 (MHE). The heronry at Howdenville contained a Com. Egret on July 7, when a second bird was fishing nearby at Oliphant (CEG, RDU); the species has not nested as far n. as this in Ontario. Southern heron species made some appearances: a Little Blue Heron near Warwick Aug. 19 (RWS); a Snowy Egret at Toronto June 19 (RHW, DEP); and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Rondeau July 16–Aug. 4 (RS). Least Bitterns are elusive birds and usually elicit few reports; however, this year the species

was reported in good numbers from several localities, with the highest actual count being 10 at Bradley's Marsh July 4 (JPK). Additional Glossy Ibis sightings from the spring influx were two, May 30, at Owen Sound (MDK), and one, June 16, at Kemble (JBM).

**GEESE, DUCKS** — There were the usual summering records of diving ducks along the lower lakes: the numbers along the Niagara R. and in e. L. Erie were exceptional, possibly a reflection of the late breakup this year, with ice still present in late May (RFA). Canada Geese brought off several broods at Long Pt. (RC), and the Toronto flock appeared to have a very successful breeding season, with aggregations of large young in late May (CEG). A Blue Goose at Long Pt. June 12 was reported to have been present since the spring migration (fide RC), but a bird at Port Maitland June 18 was possibly an escape (RFA, et al.). Pond ducks made good showings in some areas: high counts for date and locality included 4 Gadwall at Bradley's Marsh July 17 (AR); 22 Pintail at Little Current June 11 (JN) and 7 at Strathroy Aug. 5 (WRJ); 10 Green-winged Teal at Rondeau July 17 (AR) and 38 at Chelmsford June 30; when 18 Blue-winged Teal were also seen (JN). The highest count for this species was at Brighton, with 200 Aug. 15 (ERMCD). The group also provided more direct evidence of breeding: a Pintail at Chelmsford June 26 had 8 young (JN) and there were several broods of Green-winged Teal in the Dundas Marsh, with 10 young in Hamilton Bay in June (m.ob.). A Redhead near Amherst I., Kingston, July 30 was the first in summer there (AEH, HQ). Diving duck broods included a Ring-necked Duck with 10 young on Manitoulin I. June 20 (JN) and a brood in Garrison Twp., June 26–July 2 (AJE). Com. Goldeneye were common in the Sudbury-Manitoulin area, with several broods noted (fide JN), and Hooded Mergansers bred at Strathroy, with 4 to 5 young seen during the first half of July (WRJ, et al.) A ♀ Ruddy Duck was at Chelmsford, July 11-13 (CB, CWH).

**EAGLES, HAWKS** — The news on raptors was very mixed, with the more endangered species experiencing success in some areas and failure in others. In the Clay Belt all hawks were thought to be down in numbers from 1970 (AJE). Turkey Vultures seem to be experiencing no problems: for example, a roost at Nairn had 50 birds in it Aug. 15 (ARi). There were no Red-tailed Hawks reported from s.w. Ontario (fide AHK), but the species was apparently in its usual numbers in other areas. In the Toronto region the eggs of Red-shouldered Hawks were reported to be breaking (REM) but there were successful nestings elsewhere, and 4 birds were located in Sombra and Moore Twps., Lambton Co. (DR). A nest at Sheguiandah was deserted in late May, but a pair at L. Penage had 2 well grown young on July 2 (WRL). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen in the Kingston area June 13–Aug. 11 (DC, AEH,

GW). Only s.w. Ontario had good news of Bald Eagles, with active nests at Arner and Rondeau July 4 (JAG, JPK), and 2 young fledged from the latter (RS). In the London area the pair at Komoka failed to nest—this was a new pair, since one of the original birds was killed earlier (FMW, et al.)—and no nests were reported from Manitoulin I. or Kingston (fide JN, RDW). The Osprey picture was much brighter, with 3 nests in the Kingston area, at least one of them successful (fide RDW); 2 pairs on Manitoulin I. (JN), and another in Callander Bay (CHM); and 2 adults and 2 immatures at Combermere Aug. 13 (RCL). A bird at Strathroy July 6 was the first summer record there (WRJ) and there were a number of other sightings, including one at Rondeau June 16 (RS). No report was available from the Kawartha Lakes.

**GROUSE, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — Bobwhites showed in good numbers on the Lambton Co. B.B.S. June 26, with 38 recorded (DR), and the species also continued to appear in the e., with a bird in Port Hope June 19 (KS). A King Rail was seen in the same area, the first there, at Willow Beach Aug. 14-19 (GD, RH, ERMCD); and a pair was present through the period at Pickering (REM). High water levels spelled a rather dull shorebird migration, with Strathroy providing most of the interest. It yielded the largest flock of Am. Golden Plover, with over 50 Aug. 17 (WRJ), and early Black-bellied Plover Aug. 1 (JC). A midsummer sighting of this species was at Point Pelee July 4 (JPK, JAG). Am. Woodcock were well distributed in the region e. of Matheson, and are clearly much more common in the Clay Belt than was previously thought: a paper is to be published on its status there (AJE). Both woodcock and Com. Snipe were reported in good numbers, and an early record of snipe from s.w. Ontario was 8 at Rondeau July 16 (DR). Upland Plover is another species which appears to be doing well: to the n. of its range it was present throughout the breeding season in the Blezard Valley, with a maximum count at Chelmsford of 13 on July 24 (JN); there were 20 pairs reported from the Port Hope area (ERMCD); 17 in Lambton Co. June 26 (DR); 3 pairs in Waterloo Co. this summer was "the highest count in years" (fide CAC), and several were heard migrating over Waterloo July 25 (CAC, WHS); the traditional area of abundance in the Toronto region is in the Malton area, and this year the species was widespread through the Townships of Vaughan, Chinguacousy, Toronto Gore and Mississauga (fide AD), and a bird July 11 in King Twp. was the first good record there (AD, CEG, fide DF). A Whimbrel at Rondeau June 6 provided a new late date for the Detroit survey (RS), and a Willet there July 4 (JPK, JAG) was the first recorded in July. There was also a Willet at Hamilton July 24 (GM). The rarest bird of the season—and possibly of the entire fall migration to come—was a well documented **Curlew Sandpiper** at Waverly Beach July 18-19

(RFA, et al.). Short-billed Dowitchers appeared early in July in the s.w., with the first at Point Pelee July 4, when 5 were seen (JAG, JPK), and two later reports from Rondeau. Another early arrival was a N. Phalarope at Strathroy Aug. 8-11, and 2 Wilson's Phalaropes July 18-24 were the first in July there (WRJ, et al.). The species appeared later, with up to 13 birds in all sightings, and there were appearances on Manitoulin I. in the same period.

**GULLS, TERNS, DOVES** — A late Glaucous Gull was on Pigeon I. June 1 and the visit also revealed a Greater Black-backed Gull's nest with 2 eggs, the first Kingston area nesting (K.F.N.). A little to the w. there were 10 Greater Black-backed Aug. 15 at Presqu'île Point (RH). There was a mixture of smaller gulls at Hamilton through much of the summer: a Black-headed Gull June 18-20 and July 5-10, up to 6 Franklin's Gulls with the first June 13, and 14 Little Gulls in early July (m. ob.). Only one of the Hamilton **Little Gulls** was an adult, but at Rondeau and Pickering the species nested and reared broods, the first fully authenticated successful nestings in Ontario. There were at least 2 nests at Pickering (REM) and 3 at Rondeau (RS). Full details will be published in an appropriate journal. A Bonaparte's Gull at Kingston June 13 provided one of the few June records of this species there (DC, AEH). Caspian Terns continue in good numbers: there were 100 at Presqu'île Point Aug. 15 (RH); 2 at Strathroy July 31 (SI) up to 5 there later; and several at Rondeau throughout (RS). Black Terns were present in most suitable localities in the s. section of Manitoulin I. this year, and there were up to 8 Mourning Doves seen, with a good number of reports of this species from the adjacent Sudbury area mainland (fide JN).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS, WHIP-POOR-WILL, SWIFT** — Cuckoos, particularly Black-billed, were generally common, as tent caterpillars were widespread. Black-billed Cuckoos were in good numbers as far n. as the Clay Belt (AJE). There were Snowy Owls still lingering at Joyceville June 7 (DP) and on Wolfe I. June 28 (AEH, HQ). A Barred Owl was heard at Oxenden June 11 & Aug. 5 (JBM). The Whip-poor-will populations in the Province appeared to be strong; notable was a bird singing in Rondeau Provincial Park during mid-June (CAC) and 13 heard at St. Williams June 18 (RC). Chimney Swifts appeared near the limits of their range; 3 at Haileybury, and one at North Cobalt June 10 (AJE).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen at Toronto May 9 (RHW). On Manitoulin I. a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers was feeding young July 25 (JN, RST), and one of the few nestings of **Northern Three-toed Woodpecker** ever actually located in the Province was in an area of overmature Black Spruce in Harker Twp., and contained half-grown young July 2 (AJE). An Acadian Flycatcher was heard singing June 27 in King Twp. (DF, GB),

and there were 2 nests in the Pt. Abino area, June 24-Aug. 6 (FMR, HHA, et al.). There are no published records of Horned Larks in summer for the Clay Belt, but a bird was heard singing s. of Boulé, Quebec, May 30 & July 5 (AJE). Barn Swallows were scarce in some areas, but Cliff Swallows appeared in good numbers in the n.; at Wasi Falls and Rutherglen (TCM, JMG, CHM), and in the Clay Belt, with 10 pairs at Elk Lake, 2 pairs at N. Cobalt, and one pair at Englehart, June 7-29 (AJE).

**NUTHATCHES, WRENS, MIMIDS** — Ten Red-breasted Nuthatches were an unusual number on the B. B. S. (RDW). On Aug. 2 a young Carolina Wren of the year was banded at Oxenden (JBM). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were scarce, although one was seen as far n. as Manitoulin I. July 25 (JN). Short-billed Marsh Wren distribution in Ontario is very local and it seems worthwhile to give some details on colonies reported: there were four locations in the Sudbury region (JN); another at Isaac L., Bruce Co. (JBM); one at Wye Marsh (CAC); and birds sighted at Wainfleet Bog June 24 (RAS, et al.) and in Vaughan Twp. July 4 (AD, GB). Mockingbirds appeared in surprising numbers in the Sudbury area: there were birds reported from five separate areas, with 2 at Falconbridge in June (PM, fide JN) and 2 ♂♂ at Hanmer July 16 (JN, OK).

**THRUSHES, SHRIKES, STARLINGS** — A Hermit Thrush singing in a pine plantation at St. Williams June 18 (RC) and another in similar habitat near Uxbridge June 27 (AD, CEG) suggests this species might be looked for in such areas. Reports suggested that on the whole thrushes were scarce, although Veeries were an exception to this generalization. This species again appeared at Garrison Creek, but was absent from surrounding areas, and the locality appears to be an extralimital "pocket" (AJE). E. Bluebirds had a poor nesting season around Waterloo Co. (CAC), but were in better numbers elsewhere: reports included 15 pairs on Manitoulin I. (JN), and at Harwood there were 100 birds nesting in boxes (HB). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was heard singing June 13 & July 2 at London, where it breeds only rarely (JT). The first Loggerhead Shrike nesting "in years" in Waterloo Co. was at Niu Dundee, but the nest was empty with no young in evidence in early July (CAC). Elsewhere this species continues to provide few reports, although there were birds at three locations on Manitoulin I. (JN), and a pair nested in King Twp. (GB, DF). At Ottawa, Rock Doves reverted to their original habitat, nesting in rock crevices in an old quarry (AJE).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — The first well-documented nestings of **White-eyed Vireos** in Ontario occurred near Rondeau; however, two successive attempts were deserted after cowbird eggs appeared. The first nest was located in late May but later deserted, and the second found June 3 but deserted by June 15 (WR, MF). Further details will appear

in a suitable journal. A pair of Solitary Vireos were seen at St. Williams June 26 (CW, RC). Yellow-throated Vireos, Golden-winged and Cerulean Warblers continue to expand their range in the Kingston area (RDW). Warbler sightings include a Magnolia Warbler at Hamilton June 25 and a pair of singing ♂♂ in a long-established locality at St. Williams in June (GWN, et al.); Cape May Warblers in Algonquin Park June 28–July 1 (RCL); a Black-throated Blue Warbler singing at Canoe L. June 27, the first in summer for Kingston (MJB), and an imm. Myrtle Warbler at Otter L., Kingston Aug. 8 (AEH, HQ). Black-throated Green Warblers were reported in good-to-exceptional numbers across their n. range, and birds were singing at Long Pt. June 26 (RC) and at Erbsville July 23 (CAC). At least one Blackburnian Warbler was singing in Byron Bog June 15 (JT). There were 4 singing ♂♂ Prairie Warblers in the St. Williams colony June 12; however, suitable habitat there is disappearing. A new station for this very local species is at Bon Echo, L. Mazinaw, in the Kingston area, where a colony was located this summer (MJB). There were only two records of Connecticut Warblers in Tony Erskine's study areas in the Clay Belt; it was one of the scarcest breeding warblers there. A Yellow-breasted Chat was seen at Jones Falls June 6 (WS), and at Ancaster a pair were feeding young June 28 (AW). A bird singing at Delaware July 11 was seen to July 21, and was later carrying food (BBT, RWM). Delaware also yielded a Hooded Warbler June 25 (WM, TM) and another at Dorchester Swamp July 21 (PP) brought the Middlesex Co. locality records to 3 for the year; elsewhere a bird was at Rondeau June 26 (RS).

**HOUSE SPARROW, MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS** — The crash of House Sparrow populations at Toronto over the past few years may have been caused by salmonella, and this year at Pine Grove broods with sticky white droppings, thought typical of this disease, were dying after leaving the nest (AD). Unfortunately no one apparently pays too much attention to House Sparrows, but casual reports from other localities suggest the drop in numbers is not confined to the Toronto region, and numbers were definitely down at Kingston (RDW). Single W. Meadowlarks were at Kingston June 4 (JB, AEH) and at Hawkesville July 2 (CAC), both areas away from known stations for this species. In the Clay Belt Red-winged Blackbirds are confined to marshes, and were quite scarce (AJE). No further news was forthcoming on the Brewer's Blackbird expansion, although the Sudbury area had about 40 pairs and on Manitoulin I. there was a pair near Gore Bay throughout June (JN).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Evening Grosbeaks were common from Sudbury n. to the Clay Belt (m. ob.), and in the Clay Belt itself Purple Finches were abundant around settlements from May onwards (AJE). A pair of this species also appeared at Ipperwash June 5 (AR). Six Red Crossbills were

seen n. of Gogama July 11 (CB). Henslow's Sparrows were scarce, and seemed to be replaced by Grasshopper Sparrows in some localities, although the two species favour rather different cover (GBy, RC); certainly Grasshopper Sparrows were widespread with 12 in Sombra Twp. on two dates (DR) and an increase in the Palgrave B. B. S. (CEG). The first Ontario nesting attempt in many years of Lark Sparrows occurred at St. Williams; however, the nest was located June 14 and the small young had vanished the following day (GWN, AW). There were numbers of Clay-colored Sparrow reports: possibly 10 pairs in the Sudbury–Blezard Valley area (JN); 3 singing birds at Rockton May 30 (RF, JBM); a small colony at Harwood June 10 (HB); and at least 3 ♂♂ in Beverly Twp. and 2 at Dundas in late May (RC, CW). A White-crowned Sparrow was seen at Balsam Creek June 23 (TCM). Another southerly sighting was a Fox Sparrow singing along the Obaska-Perron road, some 15 m. n.e. of Val D'Or, Quebec, June 29. The bird was also regularly seen in the area, which is some 200 mi. s. of its normal range, last year (AJE).

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**WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**. — It was another rather mild summer season throughout the Region. Temperatures were near normal and precipitation was below normal during June and early July. There were few really hot and humid days until early August. Based on these conditions, most observers felt that the nesting season was a successful one for all groups of birds.

As a result of the late spring season, some land birds and shorebirds were still passing through in good numbers well into the second week of June.

On the other hand, many shorebirds had returned by early July and there was some movement of Yellow Warblers; migrants were heard overhead at night at Erie, Pa. by the last week of July (RB). (All records below are N.Y. State unless otherwise identified).

**LOONS, HERONS** — Lingered Com. Loons included 1 on June 2, 4, 5, and 6 at Allegany State Park and 4 from June 6 through 23 on the Allegheny Reservoir, Cattaraugus Co. (RS, et al.). Active Great Blue Heron nesting areas were near Caton, Steuben Co. where 30-34 nests were estimated (WH); 4-6 nests were at Alma, Allegany Co. May 23 (DB & LB); 7 active nests were located near Watkins Glen (JB, fide DM); the Marengo Swamp nesting area near Clyde, Wayne Co. which contained over 200 nests a year ago, was active this year but no nest estimate was made (WB).

**WATERFOWL** — Noteworthy summer records of non-nesting waterfowl included the following: a Whistling Swan at Montezuma Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co. July 16 (WB); a Redhead on the L. Erie shore at Dunkirk June 21 (DC); a Ring-necked Duck on the L. Erie shore at Athol Springs, Erie Co. July 14 (TB) and 2 on Chautauqua L. at Mayville July 30 (RS) and Aug. 3 & 5 (DC); and a Red-breasted Merganser at Allegany State Park June 2 (RS).

**VULTURE, HAWKS** — The Turkey Vulture nest at Marengo Swamp near Clyde, used for at least six consecutive years, contained two eggs May 30 and one young July 11 (WB). Indicative of good nesting success among Red-tailed Hawks were 7 nests at Montezuma Refuge, all of which fledged young (DMu). While not known to presently nest anywhere in the Region, a surprising number of Bald Eagles was reported; an imm. and a sub-adult were present in the Montezuma Refuge area throughout the period (WB); 1 was at Hemlock L., Livingston Co. June 7 (JF)—an area where some field students strongly suspect nesting; another flew over Bemus Point, Chautauqua Co. June 29 (OC, et al.); and an imm. was at Geneseo, Livingston Co. July 28 (GP). A single Peregrine Falcon, perhaps a non-nesting imm., was observed well July 17 near Erie, Pa. (EB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A rather high nesting density of Killdeer was evident from 8 nests that were found within a one mile length of dirt dike at Montezuma Refuge; all successfully fledged young by early June (DMu). An early high count of 55 Com. Snipe was logged at Montezuma Refuge Aug. 14 (WB). The latest spring record for the Erie, Pa. area was 1 Whimbrel June 2 at Presque Isle (JBa); fall migrants, especially inland, are always scarce, therefore 1 at Montezuma Refuge July 25 was noteworthy (WB, et al.); also noteworthy were 6 near Horseheads, Chemung Co. July 30, where they provided only about the third known record (WH). Twenty-six Spotted

Sandpipers on the L. Erie shore in the Dunkirk-Fredonia area Aug. 5 were thought to be the highest ever recorded in Chautauqua Co. (DC). Single Willets were carefully observed off Point Gratiot, Chautauqua Co. June 29 (AB, et al.) and at Presque Isle, Pa. Aug. 1 (RB) and 4 (JBa). Remnants of the unusually large numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers that frequented Montezuma Refuge in late May remained until June 9 (WB). Unusually late was a Dunlin July 1 at Montezuma Refuge (WB). A single Hudsonian Godwit, rare but regular in recent years, was observed July 12 & 14 at Montezuma Refuge (WB, et al.). The only phalaropes were single Wilson's July 18 at Montezuma Refuge (WB) and July 26 at Athol Springs (TB).

**GULLS** — Several color marked Ring-billed Gulls from L. Michigan breeding colonies appeared at Presque Isle, Pa. during early July and early Aug. (RB). Low water levels and dead carp at Montezuma Refuge were thought to have attracted up to 200 Ring-billed Gulls throughout the period; 42 Bonaparte's Gulls were also there through July 21 when all disappeared (WB).

**OWLS, WHIP-POOR-WILL** — A pair of Barn Owls fledged 3 of 4 young in a silo at Johnsonburg, Wyoming Co. during late July (AM, WM, et al.); this was the first known nesting in that county in over 25 years and the first recent record. A pair of Barred Owls raised 2 young in the s. part of Erie, Pa. where they have been present for several years (RB). For the second consecutive year Whip-poor-wills were heard calling at Cold Spring, Cattaraugus Co. where 4 were heard June 4 and 2 June 9 (RS, et al.); on July 2 another was at Versailles, Cattaraugus Co. where they have been noted for many years (HA & RA); 2 were heard July 2 at Bergen Swamp, Genesee Co., where they had not been previously known to occur during the nesting season (RO, et al.).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — Away from the well established nesting localities in the e. part of the Region, a single Red-bellied Woodpecker was noted June 1 in Carroll Township, Chautauqua Co. (EP, et al.) and another was found dead July 10 at Eden, Erie Co. (TB). A count of 10 Red-headed Woodpeckers at Avon, Livingston Co. June 13 was the highest nesting season count in the Region for many years (fide, RO). There was an increase in the number of reports of the rare Acadian Flycatcher over the past few years; a singing bird that apparently did not stay was identified near Erie, Pa. June 12 (JBa); another occurred at Gowanda, Cattaraugus Co. June 27 and July 2 (HA & RA). There were some indications of a gradual increase in nesting Purple Martin populations in areas where they have been absent for the past few years; the colony at Montezuma Refuge had about 15 pairs, the first in about five years (DMu); however, a long established colony at Andover, Allegany Co. was still empty (CK).

**NUTHATCHES, CREEPER, WRENS**—One of the outstanding aspects of the nesting season was the number of Red-breasted Nuthatches—especially after their scarcity during the past winter and spring seasons; single birds were noted June 10 & 11 near Alfred, Allegany Co. and June 24 in the Town of Almond, Allegany Co. (CK) in areas where they have been noted in past nesting seasons but where no breeding evidence has been obtained; 2 were at Farmersville Township, Cattaraugus Co. July 4 in likely breeding habitat (RAn); 7 were found July 8 on the L. Ontario plain at Mendon Ponds Park, Monroe Co. (GP) where nesting is unknown; 2 adults and 3 young were studied July 18 in Allenberg Bog near New Albion, Cattaraugus Co. (HM, et al.), a new nesting locality in the Region. Brown Creepers were widely scattered, a trend that has been becoming more and more apparent during the nesting season each year for the past several years. The nesting distribution of Winter Wrens is spotty and largely unknown in the Region, therefore single birds June 19 at Orangeville, Wyoming Co. (RAn, et al.) and June 24 & 26, and July 10 at Gas Springs, Allegany Co. (CK) were noteworthy; the former area is a previously suspected breeding locality whereas the latter area is new.

**MOCKINGBIRD, THRUSHES, KINGLETS**—Mockingbirds were widely scattered; an adult with 3 young out of the nest were seen Aug. 3 near Brockton, Chautauqua Co. (DC) where they had been known to nest previously a number of years ago. Indicative of the very late spring migration were 6 Swainson's Thrushes at Avon, N.Y. June 13 (fide RO), and a single bird June 10 & 28 at Eggertsville, Erie Co. (AM & WM). During the 1969 nesting season the Golden-crowned Kinglet was well documented as a nester in many areas in the w. part of the Region; that they are still present in summer in some of the 1969 localities was shown by the following records; 2 were at Alfred June 6 (EBr); 2 were at the Iroquois Nat'l Wildlife Refuge June 6 (AM & WM); and at Farmersville Township 6 were noted June 19 & 25 and 7 July 4 (RAn, et al.).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—Single White-eyed Vireos were noted June 5 (RS, et al.) and June 6 (DC) at Cold Spring, where they were found a year ago; a pair was at the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation July 2 (HA & RA); there was no nesting evidence at either locality. At Foster L. near Alfred, 2 Myrtle Warbler nests were found in a Scotch Pine plantation (CK & EBr); the young in one nest and a ♂ were photographed by Lawrence Deverell; on June 16 another singing ♂ was observed in pines about a mile w. of the same locality (CK); while this species has been seen in the Alfred area in previous nesting seasons this was the first definite nesting evidence. Singing ♂ Prairie Warblers were found at eight locations in the Elmira area, the only area where they are thought to nest regularly (WH).

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK**—Single W. Meadowlarks were identified June 6 at Barker, Niagara Co. (HK & WK); 1 June 19 at Vernal Corners, Wyoming Co. (RAn, et al.) where it was the first reliable record for that county, and June 25 in Hamburg Township, Erie Co. (RAn).

**FRINGILLIDS**—In the Rochester area, the first House Finch reported was in April 1970; although there was no definite nesting established, many of the observers who studied two birds at a feeder in Rochester during early June this year thought they were nesting in the near-by area (fide RO); they continued to be frequently seen in the Elmira region (WH). In the same Scotch Pine plantation at Foster Lake near Alfred, where a pair was observed during the 1970 season, the nest of a pair of Clay-colored Sparrows was found June 15 (EBr); the nest, containing 3 young, was about two ft. above the ground close to the trunk of a 5-ft. high Scotch Pine; it was empty June 20 but the young were heard in the undergrowth; this is the first nesting record for the Region. Another singing male Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered June 22 about two miles e. of Honeoye, Ontario Co. (AMa). No fewer than 18 White-throated Sparrows were reported through July 4; all, except for 1 at Manitou, Monroe Co. June 21 (WL), were from areas in the southern tier counties where they have been previously occurring during the nesting season.

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## APPALACHIAN REGION / George A. Hall

The cold, late spring was followed by a mild but wet summer. At the Pittsburgh weather station June was quite a bit warmer than normal but was much drier than average (2.37 in. deficit in precipitation). July was cooler than usual and the early part of the month was much wetter than normal. At Pittsburgh there were 6.8 in. of rainfall and at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tenn. (called by someone in the Park Service the Great Soakies) July precipitation ranged from over 18 in. in Cades Cove to 14.7 in. at Gatlinburg and 6.1