

A Project of the  
**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE  
BIRD CLUBS**

in cooperation with  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology  
National Audubon Society  
New York State Museum

**BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
NEWSLETTER**

NUMBER 6

SEPTEMBER 1982

### ATLASING IN REGION 4 -SUSQUEHANNA

Region 4 has a variety of habitats with altitudes normally varying from about 1000' to about 2000'. However, a few areas in eastern Delaware County have altitudes of about 3000'. Woodland areas are generally comprised of mixed hardwoods and are frequently mixed deciduous/conifer, but in state reforestation areas there are large stands of spruce and pine. Swamps and bogs are relatively common and usually have different birdlife depending upon altitude (river bottom or high hills) and the types of trees present. Several large lakes and reservoirs are present in the Region, but access to their shores is somewhat restricted. Smaller lakes and ponds are quite common, but their shores are frequently privately owned. Grasslands are prevalent since dairy farming is very common.

Despite a slow start in 1980 due to the lateness of organization, we have made substantial progress in Region 4. As of this report (which includes 1980 and 1981), there are about 163 species reported for Region 4. New species reported for the 1981 season included Black-crowned Night Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, Least and American Bitterns, Canada Goose, Upland Sandpiper, Barn Owl (one confirmed, two other reports), Saw-whet Owl, Long-eared Owl (two confirmed, two other reports), Gray-cheeked Thrush (in the higher altitude area of Delaware County, approximately 3000'), Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Evening Grosbeak (several reports of birds staying into July), Pine Siskin (one confirmed and several others, probably birds that stayed over from the winter'80-'81 invasion), Henslow's Sparrow (one confirmed, several others) and three hybrids (Mallard X Black Duck, Lawrence's and Brewster's Warblers). (A small area around my home had both latter hybrids plus Goldenwinged and Blue-winged Warblers!) At least eight other species have been reported in the Region but are still classified as unverified (malingering/late migrants or erroneous green sheet/computer entries?).

More field work is needed to obtain data on marshland species such as Black-crowned Night-Heron, American Coot, Common Moorhen, American and Least Bitterns, Virginia and Sora Rails, and Marsh Wren. In general, we are lacking information about waterfowl (except for the common Mallard, Black Duck and Wood Duck) and the hard-to-find raptors such as Marsh, Red-shouldered, Cooper's, and Sharpshinned Hawks and Goshawk as well as the more unusual owls-Saw-whet, Barn, and Long-eared. Also, more data is needed for warblers since only ten species of warblers (Black-and-white, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Chestnutsided, and Canada Warblers and Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, and American Redstart) have been reported with greater than 20% frequency in the blocks covered. However, Atlas coverage by more experienced field workers indicates that if the correct habitat is visited Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Nashville, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Prairie, and Mourning Warblers and Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes can also be reported with at least the same (20%) frequency. We also need to determine whether Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers and related conifer-belt species such as Rubycrowned Kinglet, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers can be found in the high altitude (3000') areas in Delaware County. Other species for which there is limited data are Red-bellied Woodpecker, Winter, Carolina, and Sedge Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Swainson's Thrush (one report so far for 1982 at a historical location reported by John Bull), and Grasshopper, Henslow's (a small colony found in a new location for 1982), and Vesper Sparrow. Greater effort needs to be directed toward many of these species to determine if they are really as uncommon as reported.

Continued on page 5

## Atlasing for Alder and Willow Flycatchers

(Excerpted from the Massachusetts  
Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter)

Not too long ago Traill's Flycatcher was split into two species, the Alder, *Empidonax alnorum* (fee-bee-o song type) and the Willow, *Empidonax traillii* (fitz-bew song type). Since the two are maddeningly similar in plumage and behavior it is worth discussing points of difference as aids in atlasing.

**Plumage:** There are differences in coloration but these are so slight as to not be sufficient to differentiate the two species in the field.

**Voice:** Try to listen to Kellogg and Allen's "A Field Guide to Birdsong" (Houghton Mifflin, 1959, 2 records). Under Traill's Flycatcher, the first two songs are Alder, the last two are Willow. Phonetically, the Alder sings 'shee-beer' or 'vee-feel' with a gruff, burry quality, given without much feeling. By contrast the Willow's song is an explosive, sputtery 'fitz-brr', strongly accented on the first syllable, and only the second syllable has any gruff quality. Both species are most vocal shortly after arrival from the south; after eggs are laid (late June-early July) they become secretive and seldom sing.

**Habitat:** Both species inhabit wet places (streams, ponds, marshes) bordered by shrubbery and small trees. Within this framework Willow Flycatchers tend to be more choosy, and inhabit stands of willow, aspen, alder and gray birch, usually close to cattails. Alder Flycatchers are less selective, but their territories usually include greater quantities of alder and sweet gale, and seldom include cattails. Alder nests are found in a variety of shrubs, whereas Willow Flycatchers do show a strong

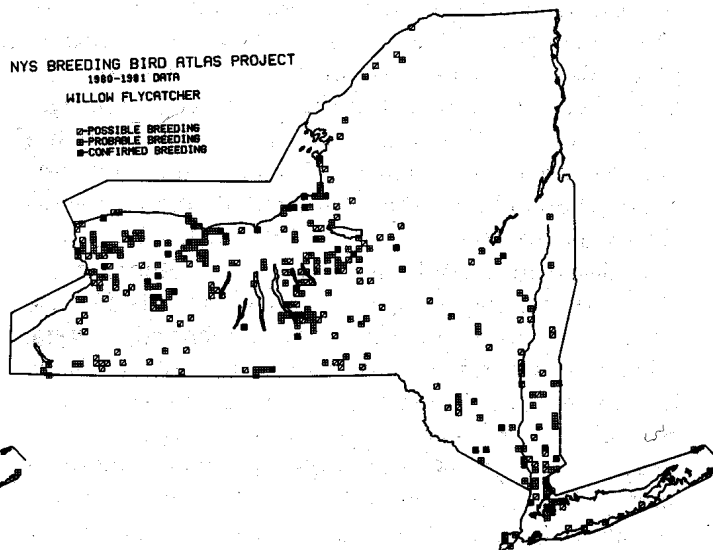
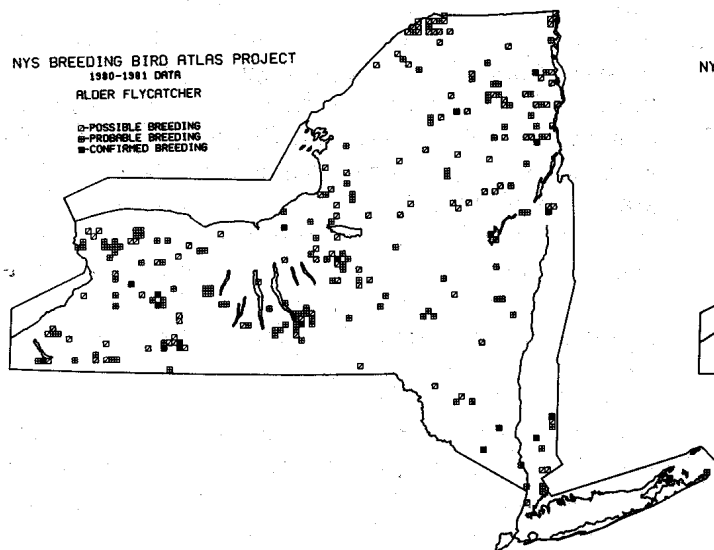
preference for nesting in willows. One can speak only in generalities as the requirements of both are similar.

**Nest:** Alder nests have been compared to those of Song Sparrows, rather loosely made and untidy. A diagnostic feature, not always present, is a number of long, narrow strips of vegetation hanging beneath the nest. Also, Alders build close to the ground, 30" being about the maximum height.

In contrast Willow nests are placed about 48" high on the average, and are much more compactly woven like those of Yellow Warblers. The outside of the nest characteristically contains bits of cottony material taken from fruits of willows, cattails or aspens. The eggs of both species are essentially alike, and only one brood is produced.

**Migration:** In Massachusetts spring migration is well defined and the bulk of the birds (both species, apparently) pass through during the first week of June. Therefore, the best time to begin looking for breeding birds is during the second week in June. By the end of that week, singing birds should be summer residents who have begun to set up territories, and they should continue singing at least until the end of the month, when eggs are laid. Unlike larger flycatchers, Willows and Alders are not conspicuous when feeding, as they make short forays within, or close to, their thickets.

NOTE: Although our Atlas data to date show a great deal of range overlap, note the absence of Alder Flycatchers from the southernmost part of the state and the Willow Flycatchers from the Adirondacks.



**BIRD Is a Four-letter Word**  
Reprinted from "Feathers"  
the Newsletter of the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club

Many Atlasers have noticed and commented about the combination of letters next to the bird species' names on the Atlas data sheet (green sheet). Some have decoded this mystery. For those who have not yet done so, let me offer this explanation.

Each of the four letter combinations is simply an abbreviation for the bird's common name. The system was devised by M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz and Chandler Robbins of the Bird Banding Laboratory. Abbreviated bird names and codes have been around for a long time and you may have even devised your own system. The problem has been that either the codes had to be memorized individually or would vary from user to user or from day to day, resulting in errors in decoding.

The system devised was a simple and workable tool that I have found to be easy to remember and fun to use. All you have to know are the five simple rules for abbreviating.

Each species' name is broken down to a four-letter code, according to its common name, in the sequence it is given in ordinary speech.

1. If the bird's common name is a single word, use the first four letters, i.e.: Canvasback-CANV; Buff lehead-BUFF; Starling-STAR; SanderlingSAN D.
2. If the common name consists of two words, use the first two letters of the first name, followed by the first two letters of the second name, i.e.: Common Loon-COLO; American Bittern-AMBI; Least Sandpiper-LESA; Pine Warbler-PIWA.
3. If the common name consists of three words (with or without hyphens), use the first letter of the first word, the first letter of the second word, and the first two letters of the third word, i.e.: Pied-billed Grebe-PBGR; Red-tailed HawkRTHA; White-rumped Sandpiper-WRSA; Great Horned Owl-GHOW.
4. If the name consists of four words, use the first letter of each word, i.e.: Great Black-backed Gull-GBBG; Black-crowned Night-HeronBCNH; Black-throated Green Warbler, BTGW.
5. Treat the very few five word names as three word names, i.e.: Black-backed Three-toed Wood pecker-BTWO.

As with all rules, there are a few exceptions; but these conflicts usually involve very rare or remote species, i.e.: Green Jay vs Gray Jay; Sharp-tailed Sandpiper vs Stilt Sandpiper; and Roseate Tern vs Royal Tern. In these cases, let the more common species prevail. In such instances I find myself writing out the more complete name anyway.

We do have a few local species that defy the system nonetheless: Barred Owl vs Barn Owl; Bank Swallow vs Barn Swallow; Prothonotary Warbler vs Prairie Warbler; Cerulean Warbler vs Cedar Waxwining; and Blackpoll Warbler vs Blackburnian Warbler. In these cases, I defer to the Atlas sheets: BDOW for Barred Owl; BKSW for Bank Swallow; and BPWA for Blackpoll Warbler. I disagree with the code for Black-andwhite Warbler, however. I think it should be BAWW rather than BAWA.

It is interesting to note, that this system is flexible enough to incorporate the anticipated name changes by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and the universal names by the American Birding Association (ABA). If the Short-billed Marsh Wren (SBMW) becomes Sedge Wren (SEWR) and Dark-eyed Junco (DEJU) becomes Northern Junco (NOJU), the system can adjust well.

Through the years I have developed a few favorites among the abbreviations. Some of these are TUTI, PUF1, BOBO, SCOW, MODO, and SORA. Now if I could only remember what I meant when I jotted down MASH, GLIB, and WROW.

Richard Guthrie

### ***Follow Your Nose***

Jeanne Kauffman of Sherman, CT, who has been helping as an Atlas observer in eastern Dutchess County, relates a 1976 experience which may help observers confirm the Turkey Vulture.

I noticed a pair flying over our house, situated on the western side of a rocky ridge of the southern Berkshires. Having heard vultures sometimes nest among rocks, I noticed with interest a Turkey Vulture come in to a clumsy landing among tumbled rocks above Candlewood Lake. I climbed up from the lakeshore to the spot and found a half-grown young T.V., still covered with white down. It looked at me, startled, and then assumed a cowering defensive stance with tiny wings partly lifted. It then ran, hissing, into a crevice in the rocks. There was a strong, bad odor at the site.

I don't remember the adult making any effort to protect its young, or even to show any agitation. Indeed, I think it took off at my approach. This took place about 7 a.m., June 21.

Any observer noticing Turkey Vultures coming and going regularly in a hilly area might look among tumbled rocks and cliff faces for a nest. Even if the nest itself, or the young are hidden, the bad smell may give away the location.

## Some Observations of Ovenbirds and Veeries

It seems that many Atlas workers who confirmed Veery also confirmed Ovenbird. Here are their reports:

**Ovenbird:** I work alone and on foot. Also have retired and can be in the woods a great deal. I hike the local area just about everyday and this extensive coverage increases my chances of running into nesting sites. This is just what happened in the case of both the Ovenbird and Veery.

The most exciting encounter came on June 3 when a friend and I were hunting for Pink Lady Slippers on South Hill where the state maintains a maturing conifer planting. We were circling a large swamp and keeping our feet dry on the surrounding slope when I spied a big patch of the Lady Slippers, just packed with gorgeous, big blooms. As I ran forward, a little bundle of dull brown fluff tumbled out of the leaves by my feet and scuttled off a few feet into some brush. At first I thought it was a mouse and I stopped dead in my tracks. Then I heard the alarm cheeps and realized it was a bird and since it had come from under the leaves it had to be the elusive Ovenbird. I carefully bent down, could see no nest so I laid down and looked into a neat little nest from a side opening. We counted six tiny eggs and then hurriedly exited so as not to alarm the parent any further. A few days later I returned with my son and showed him the nest. Mama Ovenbird scrambled off the nest and we peeked again and found all the eggs there safe and sound. I never went back because I didn't want to disturb the birds any more.

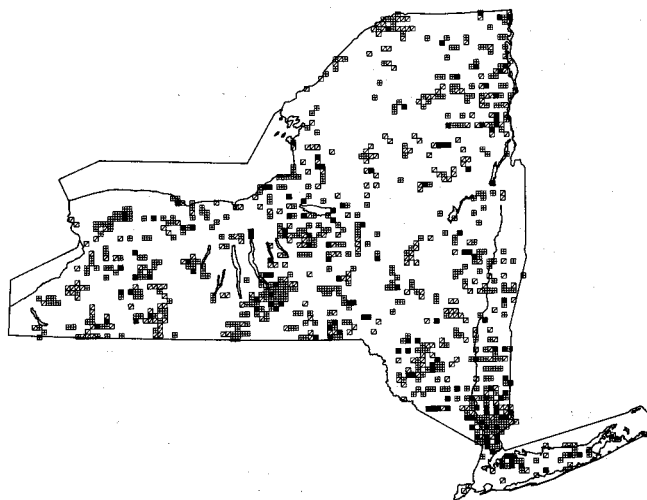
**Veery:** I ran across Veery nests at two separate locations, and discovered both by accidentally flushing the brooding parent. The first one was early, May 17, the morning after a hard freeze the night before. I was walking through a mixed deciduous woodlot atop Searles Hill when a Veery started singing fast and close by. Then another Veery flew from a clump of Christmas Ferns just in front of me. And there lay the nest with three eggs about the color of Robin eggs but smaller. I noticed one egg was cracked. I carefully retreated.

The second Veery nest sighting came on June 22. I was over on South Hill slope this time, walking through the woods in a downpour. As I followed an old grown up logging road, I was stepping from one clump of grass to another to avoid the mud, when I flushed a Veery from the top of the next tussock. Just missed stepping on it. There lay a dry, neatly woven little nest with some tiny straw-colored little bumps in the bottom. I lightly touched one bump and up popped a shaky head with big beak wide open. Meanwhile, one parent was frantically calling from the lower limb of a nearby hemlock. I gently moved on up the road and wondered to myself how the parents endured the rain and cold and protected the nest so well. It was the only dry spot in the woods and those little straw colored bumps were dry and toasty warm.

Marge Lafayette, Region 4

**Veery:** June 28th I took an 11 hour hike of great distance into my B block and was rewarded with 8 confirmations including a Veery with food for young. A little later in the month, a Veery was collecting food for young right in our cabin yard in the C block just like a robin on a suburban lawn would do.

**Ovenbird:** Confirmed in A, B and C blocks of my



6086 square. The fledglings use a persistent loud "tick-ing" call which was my means of locating the B block fledglings on June 28th. I confirmed the A block bird on June 27th (FY) after watching one collecting food from the forest floor. The C block bird was one of many FY's I've seen. It was again right in the cabin yard first seen collecting food, then about a week or so later feeding fledglings.

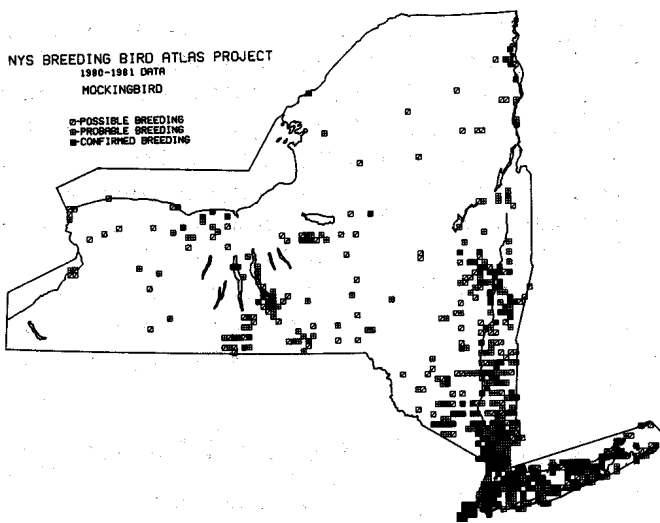
Merry Baker  
Region 7

**Veery:** One of the first species I confirmed. They produced fledglings in the wet woods near my house where they are most abundant. Be on the lookout for recent fledglings at about the time that the robins produce their first brood.

**Ovenbird:** I spent quite some futile time searching for nests, and finally decided that my time could be spent more productively at other birding. Later I concluded that the "open garage door" technique was the most effortless approach. After hours spent birding, one day, I returned home to find a recent fledgling trapped in the garage. Thinking it to be one of the numerous baby song sparrows that were all over the place at the time, I quickly caught the little fellow and was about to release him outdoors when I realized what I held in my hand. He was a pretty apricot brown and the orange crown peeked through his baby fuzz on

At the end of 1981, 172 blocks have had some work, representing about 32% of the 539 blocks in Region 4. About 70 of these blocks came from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey routes which provide only limited Atlas information (usually in the "possible" category). Only about 15 blocks have received adequate coverage (76 species, 38 confirmed), and greater efforts are needed to cover more blocks and bring more of marginally covered blocks up to adequate coverage. To aid in this effort a species list for Region 4 has been prepared and sent out in a Region 4 Newsletter showing which species are most commonly reported and confirmed. Workers have been encouraged to look for and confirm the 26 species listed as confirmed, and the 76 species reported with at least 20% frequency, as well as to look for new species. Hopefully this effort will bear fruit in 1982 and be evident in the 1982 reports.

Breeding Bird Atlas data already clearly show the range extension of the Mockingbird up the river valleys as far north as the Champlain



Valley in Clinton County.

The improved coverage at the end of 1981 was obtained with the aid of 68 active (reporting) Atlasers. About twenty more were recruited for 1982. Some "blockbusting" has been done in 1982, but more is needed in the last two years to expand our coverage. Clubs and individuals are encouraged to plan field trips of at least two-to-four well-timed visits to uncovered blocks to obtain coverage. Workers are encouraged while "blockbusting" to be alert for homes with bluebird, martin, or wren houses. Upon inquiry local homeowners with an interest in birds may be able to confirm quite a few species from their yards and gardens. Information about habitat, timing of visits, etc. is being compiled and hopefully will be available in the

fall/winter of 1982 to aid these efforts.

Despite our successes and improved coverage at the end of 1982, we still need more coverage and more active workers for the last two years of the survey. In particular we need more of our active workers to cover blocks in outlying areas especially in Tioga and Delaware Counties which have large uncovered sections. Hopefully we will be able to find the means to obtain coverage in these areas before the end of 1984.

Jay Lehman

## Reference Books for Atlas Workers

*A Complete Guide to Nests in the United States.*

Richard Headstrom, 1970

*Whose Nest Is That? Richard Headstrom, 1965.*

Published by Massachusetts Audubon Society

*A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of North*

*American Birds. Colin Harrison, 1978*

*A Field Guide to Birds' Nests in the United States East of the Mississippi River. Hal H. Harrison, 1975*

*A Guide to the Behavior of Common Birds.*

Donald W. Stokes, 1979

his forehead. The birdlet's beak was that of a thrush's. When I released the protesting mite he was immediately joined by a very anxious adult ovenbird!

Sibyll M. Gilbert, Region 9

**Ovenbird:** While walking through fairly open white pine woods an Ovenbird suddenly appeared to fly from the ground several feet in front of me. I stopped and looked carefully and found its oven-like nest with eggs on pine needles near an up-turned tree stump. Nest found in late May.

Jay Lehman  
Region

The 2-person DEC Atlas blockbusting team completed field work for the 1982 season. The team covered 36 Atlas blocks in Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Oneida, Schoharie, and Washington Counties. They observed 143 breeding bird species and obtained 2,460 breeding observations in eight weeks.

The Atlas Project complied with a request for computer system information from the State of Maryland, which is initiating a statewide Atlas project. New York's system of data storage, tabulation and mapping is the most sophisticated of the existing Atlas projects and we anticipate many such requests.

## DATA SHEETS DUE!

Don't forget to send your green data sheets to your Regional Coordinator by September 15, 1982

## Who Pays the Atlas Piper?

Through 1980 and 1981 the Atlas Project has operated and survived financially through generous

support from a number of sources. It is due and proper to acknowledge with appreciation all those who have helped us on our way to the present.

Basic and indispensable to the entire operation has been the financial and logistic support of the Department of Environmental Conservation without which it is doubtful we could have gotten into full flight. To them we are deeply indebted. And increasingly the Cornell Laboratory has been supplying us with administrative and secretarial assistance of great value.

Our Regional Coordinators and volunteer Atlasers have given freely of their time, energy and personal funds. To them our warm appreciation.

In any endeavor as large and complex as this there is an inescapable need for "spendin' money." Our continued operation has been made possible by the contributions of a number of individuals, member and non-member clubs, and corporations. To all these we formally express our gratitude.

From individuals-total gifts of \$3,452.

Ezra A. Hale, T. Spencer Knight, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Joseph W. Taylor, Clarence and Alice Wynd.

From Federation Clubs to Atlas Project-total of \$800.

Linnaean Society of New York, Moriches Bay Audubon Society, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.

From Federation Clubs to Regional Coordinator total of \$1,885.

Buffalo Ornithological Society, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club, Inc., Onondaga Audubon Society, Alan Devoe Bird Club, Sullivan County Audubon.

From Non-Federation Clubs to Regional Coordinators-total of \$575.

Bedford Audubon Society, Hudson Valley Audubon Society, Northern Adirondack Audubon Society (to High Peaks Audubon Society), Sawmill River Audubon Society, Scarsdale Audubon Society.

From Corporations-total of \$4,000

American Sponge and Chamois Co. (through Richard Sloss), Rochester Gas and Electric Company, National Lead Co., Long Island Lighting Company, Consolidated Edison of New York, American Conservation Association.

From a Federation special fund-\$1,500.

If any contributions have been overlooked, please let us know.

From this total of \$12,212, we have paid for printing of supplies and newsletters, regional expenses (in part), duplicating, phone, postage, travel and meeting expenses (in part).

A formal proposal for submission to corporations, foundations and selected individuals requesting contributions has been developed. It includes a budget

projected for the next three years based on our experience to date (exclusive of publication). It envisions

annual costs of \$19-20,000 for regional expenses, general project costs exclusive of the contributions of the DEC and Cornell Laboratory which amount to about \$38,000 per year.

A major part of this annual figure is the cost of blockbusting teams which it is clear will be needed in the coming years to survey the remote areas if our Atlas is to meet its objective of complete state coverage.

A full report of income and expenses to date will be made at the 1982 annual meeting.

### **We Need Help to "Pay the Piper"**

It is obvious that we are in need of considerable help from here on. We are in the process of seeking substantial amounts from foundations and corporations, but our members and member clubs can help significantly. We solicit your contributions and your suggestions of possible contributors. Contributions are tax deductible.

Preferably contributions should be made to the Atlas Project as a whole, but they can be made directly to Regional Coordinators for regional expenses, or specifically for "blockbusting" expeditions.

Checks should be made out to "Federation of New York State Bird Clubs-Atlas Project" and sent to Mr. Richard A. Sloss, c/o AMSCO, 47-00 34th St., Long Island City, N.Y. 11101. This should be done even for contributions earmarked for regional use for proper acknowledgement and record-keeping.

To everyone, thanks for all your help.

Gordon M. Meade, M.D.  
Chairman, Atlas  
Project

### ***Breeding Bird Atlas Workshop and Get Together***

There will be another Breeding Bird Atlas Workshop at the Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. The workshop will be held Friday evening, October 1st and the topic will be habitats. Jay Lehman and Mike Peterson, the workshop leaders will describe some productive habitats to look for in your blocks and the species found there.

Atlas workers will also have an opportunity to meet each other and talk about the summer's Atlas finds at the Annual Meeting. An informal get together will be held for Atlas workers. Look for an announcement of the time and place when you get to the meeting. See you there!

### **DATA SHEETS DUE!**

**Don't forget to send your green data sheets to your Regional Coordinator by September 15, 1982**



Beginning in 1983, taxpayers will have the opportunity to directly support wildlife conservation programs in New York through a tax-deductible "checkoff" contribution system. Legislation passed in February requires that space be provided on New York State personal income tax forms to allow direct contributions to the Conservation Fund "for fish and wildlife management purposes." The Conservation Fund, which presently consists largely of fees derived from the sale of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses as well as fines collected as a result of conservation law violations, supports the fish and wildlife activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Historically, state wildlife management programs have been oriented towards "game" species, those animals whose populations are harvested by hunters, fishermen and trappers. In recent years, the scope of wildlife management has expanded to include all wildlife-endangered, threatened, urban, and other nongame wildlife, as well as the traditional game species. The main constraint to continuing these programs has been the lack of an adequate funding base. Cuts in federal funding for wildlife programs and rising inflationary costs have required new approaches to maintaining adequate funding levels. The income tax checkoff program represents a proven system for obtaining additional funding from a segment of the public that has indicated a willingness and desire to support comprehensive wildlife management programs.

Current wildlife program activities supported by the Conservation Fund include the Department's assistance to the Breeding Bird Atlas Project, attempts to reestablish the endangered bald eagle and peregrine falcon in New York, identifying and protecting the state's significant wildlife habitats and increased consideration of the impacts of development and environmental pollution on wildlife. Programs have also been initiated to encourage an appreciation and awareness of wildlife by urban citizens and to protect

such critical ecosystems as the state's wetlands from being despoiled. Funding for these programs will be augmented by the new income tax contributions.

Robert F. Flacke, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, noted that "as a result of their contributions, New Yorkers and visitors to the state will be assured continued diverse and abundant wildlife for the future. They will enjoy greater opportunity for birdwatching, wildlife photography and study, whether at home or vacationing. These are values that many New Yorkers appreciate but few have been able to support financially. The new tax form contribution provision will allow expansion of wildlife programs to benefit and encourage enjoyment of all wildlife."

The "checkoff" concept originated in Colorado in 1977, and has since been adopted by 16 states. New Jersey's "Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Fund" produced tax checkoff revenues estimated at \$400,000 in its first year of operation (tax year 1981). Other states with tax checkoff programs for wildlife are Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

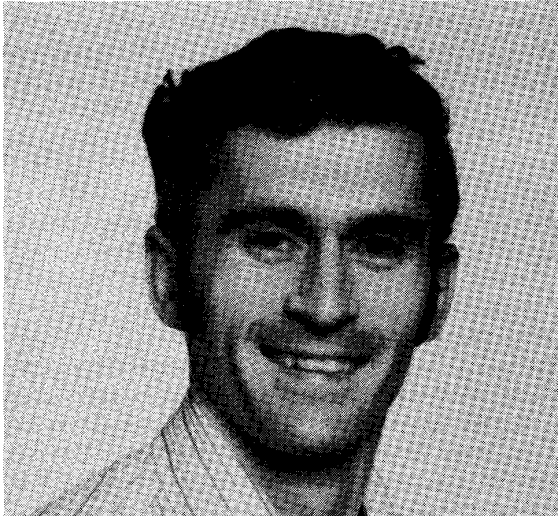
### **Help 11**

The response to our first "help" call brought in some good information. We are requesting your help again, but this time we would like information on habitat. Please tell us the type of habitat in which you have found the following species, especially as it differs from similar habitat, and where in the habitat the bird was observed or heard; i.e., edge, canopy, ground, etc. If this species has habitat requirements similar to other species, were the species usually found together? If the call of one species is similar to another species, how can each be distinguished?

Most of the species listed are either not being reported and we think they are being missed, or are hard to find.

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Long-eared Owl            | Northern Parula      |
| Saw-whet Owl              | Cerulean Warbler     |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | Pine Warbler         |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher    | Mourning Warbler     |
| Horned Lark               | Orchard Oriole       |
| Short-billed Marsh Wren   | Pine Siskin          |
| Solitary Vireo            | Grasshopper Sparrow  |
| Philadelphia Vireo        | Henslow's Sparrow    |
| Prothonotary Warbler      | Vesper Sparrow       |
| Nashville Warbler         | Clay-colored Sparrow |

Please have this information to us by October 15.



## Jay G. Lehman

Region 4 Coordinator

Jay Lehman has been interested in birds for almost thirty years. Raised in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he was about ten years old when he and his brother were presented with Pearson and Burroughs' *Birds of America* by their parents. With three friends, the boys formed a bird club to discuss species they saw, or thought they saw. Without binoculars, Jay had to chase birds down by song to get a closer look, and he frequented a nearby orchard in spring when the apple trees were in bloom to see migrating warblers. His first field guide was a Golden Nature Guide for *Birds*, plus a set of the little blue, yellow, green, and red bird books.

Interest waxed and waned in high school and college, but Jay has been seriously birding since the mid-1960's after joining the Delmarva Ornithological Society (DOS) in Wilmington, Delaware. He served as DOS field trip chairman and led trips for

beginning birders to aid in field identification. His notes articles, including several discussing white-winged gull identification and pelagic birding, have appeared in *American Birds*, *The Delmarva Ornithologist*, and *The Kingbird*. Jay has birded from Bonaventure Island, Quebec, to Key West, Florida, from Texas and Arizona to St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.

A 1964 graduate of Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania, Dr. Lehman earned his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Delaware in 1973, and taught and worked as a chemist in that state until 1977 when he moved to New York State. He is engaged in analytical research with Norwich-Eaton Pharmaceuticals. Jay lives in Norwich with his wife, Chris, who enjoys birding trips and bird photography. A lister before the Atlas project began, with lists of birds kept for every state visited and all of North America, Jay Lehman says he's now found an almost equal interest in habitat and where to find particular species.

## Computer Maps

The maps you see in this issue of the newsletter are computer generated. The production of the maps was a Department of Environmental Conservation group effort with the Atlas Coordinator Janet Carroll working with Vince Grilli of the Bureau of Information Systems Development getting the data in a usable form; John Ozard of the Significant Habitat Unit digitizing the map and providing technical assistance and Bart Guetti of the Habitat Inventory Unit doing the programming. These maps are much more accurate than those previously done by hand and obviously are done a lot faster and cheaper. For example, an average map costs about \$6.00 and takes approximately six minutes to run. (The Atlas Coordinator would spend about two days tearing her hair out while putting each little ., x. and 0 in its proper place). These maps can be readily reproduced for the final publication of the Atlas data.

**New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter**  
**625 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Albany, NY 12233-4754**