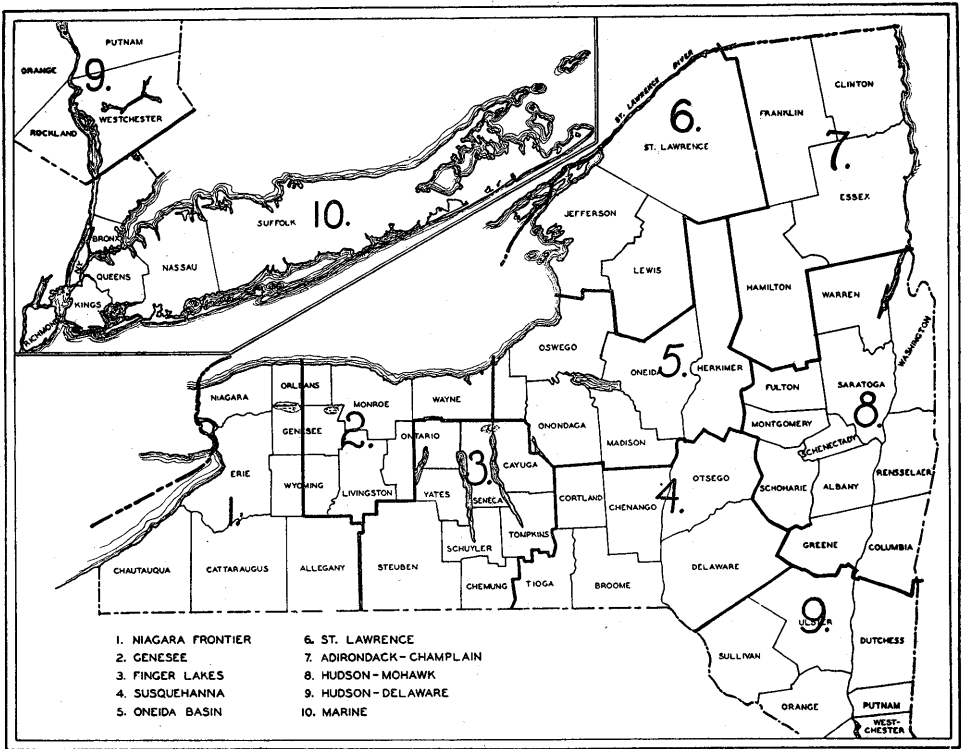


REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see *Kingbird* Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

The latter half of June was hot. July and August had normal or slightly sub-normal temperatures. The Finger Lakes escaped the drought which plagued much of the rest of the state and north-east, as rainfall was above normal in July. However, August was dry, and in general the circumstances of the spring and summer seem to have combined to hinder the development of an abundant or even normal fruit and nut crop, although weed seeds seem plentiful.

Breeding birds were below normal in all species, and there was unusually high mortality among nestlings. Even Starlings and Redwings raised few young, although Grackles had their usual success. In most areas of the region, warblers were very scarce. There were few broods of Mallards at the head of Cayuga this year.

The storage pool at Montezuma was drained for millet seeding, volunteer growth of smartweed, and carp control.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebes were observed commonly and nested successfully at the Montezuma Refuge this summer. Mr. Smith, the manager, estimated a high count of 110 Great Blue Herons and there were several reports of one melanistic one. It is not known if this was true melanism or some staining of the plumage. Along with 40 American Egrets at Montezuma, at least 10 Snowy Egrets and 7 immature Little Blue Herons occurred. (Smith, F. Scheider) 5 Snowy Egrets were also seen at the Horseheads dump for three days, May 30, and June 1. (C. Runey) The Black-crowned Night Heron colony in Elmira appears to be doomed. Area residents have secured permission to eliminate the 'nuisance.' A Whistling Swan was on the Hobart College pond from late May to June 9 (L. Ward). The Canada Geese raised one young at Sapsucker Woods.

Mallards and Wood Ducks raised young at Sapsucker Woods pond. Black Ducks nested as usual near Avoca (Atwood). Manager Smith reports the following counts for the waterfowl at Montezuma for the summer, June 1 through Aug 15: Canada Goose 11; Mallard 1500; Gadwall 250; Pintail 25; Green-winged Teal 120; Blue-winged Teal 400; American Widgeon 10; Shoveller 30; Wood Duck 400; Red-head 25; Ruddy Duck 10; Hooded Merganser 30 (this count must include some late spring migrants.) A crippled immature Golden-eye was found on Sugar Creek, a mile north of Branchport on July 7 (F. Guthrie).

Hawks — Owls: Hawks generally seemed scarce this summer. A Sharp-shinned at Breeseport and one at Big Flats on Aug 4 (M. Welles) were the only ones of this species seen in the Elmira area, and other observers noted their scarcity. A pair photographed by AAAllen raised but two young. The two pairs of Red-shouldered Hawks were much less in evidence this summer around Sapsucker Woods and apparently did not bring off any young. A pair of Marsh Hawks hatched and raised but one young from 4 eggs. The adult Eagles were seen all summer at Montezuma, and an immature was observed there in July, but it is not believed that this bird was hatched at Montezuma. The nest was inaccessible as reported in the last issue, but no one saw a young bird in it at any time, although incubation was observed throughout the spring. Mrs. York reported a flight of Buteos over her hill in Elmira on Aug 18. An Osprey was noted at the south end of Cayuga Lake on July 15, Aug 19 and 23 (PPKellogg).

Ruffed Grouse raised young again in Sapsucker Woods, and another brood was seen about a mile north of this sanctuary in late July (SFHoyt). Ring-necked Pheasants seemed fairly successful around Ithaca, were scarce at Avoca (Carter). Soras nested successfully at a marsh pool in N. Hornell (Groesbeck). Soras were scarce and Virginia Rails absent at Keuka (Guthrie). There were more Florida Gallinules at Montezuma this year than in recent years. Two broods were seen at Mitchelville (ten miles from Avoca) in a newly-established marsh area (Carter). The Coot population at Montezuma was estimated to be 310 (L. Smith).

Good mud flats at Montezuma through July and the first week in August resulted in good shore-birding there. Some appeared early. On July 7, Scheider reported Pectorals, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers and a Dowitcher. On July 22, Rush and Scheider reported 12 species of shorebirds at the refuge, including Stilt Sandpipers and Dowitchers. Contrasting with the early appearance of the 'fall' migrating shorebirds, 200 Semi-palmated Sandpipers were still at the Refuge on June 2, on their northward trip. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen on July 20 at Newton Bridge in Horseheads (K. Fudge). One Western Sandpiper at Montezuma Aug 10 (Scheider). A Wilson's Phalarope was observed at Montezuma on July 27 by Rush and Scheider, in an intermediate plumage between breeding and fall. The Keuka area, on the contrary, had a scarcity of shorebirds because of high water over mud flats, and the filling in of Hollister's Swamp (Guthrie).

Fewer Common Terns nested at the Montezuma Refuge this year (Smith) but more Black Terns than usual. Caspian Terns appeared in early August at Montezuma (Scheider) and on Cayuga (Kellogg). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were extremely scarce throughout the region. The Great Horned Owl nested again in Stewart Park in Ithaca, but other reports of them were scarce. A flight of 75 Nighthawks was observed over Hornell on Aug 23 (Groesbeck).

Swifts — Shrikes: For the first time Chimney Swifts nested at Montezuma Refuge — in the office chimney. Flickers seemed in good numbers. Pileateds are gaining ground at Avoca (Carter) and were more conspicuous than usual at Montezuma this year. The Red-bellied Woodpeckers were not at their usual station at

Montezuma and in fact there were no summer reports of them. Red-headed Woodpeckers, however, were frequently seen at the refuge, and a pair spent the summer at the Welles farm at Elmira, nesting there. Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were more common this year. They were seen at four separate locations at Cornell's Arnot Forest near Newfield (Sheffields), young ones were brought to a tree at the Beck home in Freeville the week of Aug 15, and an adult appeared in my yard in Etna several times early in July. Hairy Woodpeckers continue to be scarce at Avoca, and Downies are down in numbers too.

Eastern Kingbirds were abundant at Avoca and at Montezuma Refuge; they were scarce around Ithaca early in the summer, but more common by mid-August. There were fewer Crested Flycatchers and fewer Alders around Waterloo and Montezuma (Walker), while Alders were in good numbers at Avoca (Carter). Hundreds of Tree Swallows and Bank Swallows were seen on the wires near Canoga on Aug 2 (McIlroy, Hoyt). Barn Swallows on the Welles farm (Elmira) had a third brood of nestlings on Aug 6 — the nest having been added to for the second and third nesting. Purple Martins were new at Hornell and Almond, there being 16 pairs in the latter colony. Blue Jays were scarcer around Avoca (Carter) but from most other localities I've heard nothing but complaints of their increasing in numbers to the point of being a real nuisance.

Carolina Wrens, often not seen at Keuka in summer, occurred in three areas there, and one appeared on July 20 at Mrs. York's hill at Elmira for the first time. Scheider found Short-billed Marsh Wrens at three locations at Montezuma. The Mockingbird at Avoca remained there through June (Lyons). Robins had poor nesting success early in the season, but seemed to be raising youngsters in August. Veeries were scarce in the Geneva-Waterloo area (Walker) and all Thrushes scarce at Avoca. Wood Thrushes were scarce at Sapsucker Woods. Cedar Waxwings were abundant in the Watkins-Montour area (Bardeen).

Vireos — Warblers: Resident vireos were low in numbers everywhere, especially Yellow-throated. Walker reported that there seemed to be the usual numbers of nesting warblers in the Geneva area, but around Ithaca Yellows and Redstarts were scarce and almost no Magnolias or Black-throated Greens were to be found. Blue-winged and Mourning Warblers were found this year in the Guyanoga Valley near Branchport, but nests were not located (Spiker). The Eaton Bird Club found the Prothonotary at its station in Montezuma on June 2. Nashvilles nested at the marsh pond at the Arnot (Sheffields).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks were scarce at Avoca, in good numbers around Geneva. Redwings, Baltimore Orioles and Grackles were also abundant at Geneva. Fewer Cowbirds at Avoca. After an absence of two years, a male Cardinal appeared at the Hornell Reservoir again. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were scarce around Ithaca and Etna, but in mid-August they brought young to feeders in Etna, a most unusual occurrence which probably reflects a scarcity of natural food. Purple Finches seemed somewhat more common this summer, flocks being seen at Elmira on Aug 10 (York), many around Hornell all summer (Grosbeck), and young being brought to a feeder at Geneva on July 13 (Ward). Late White-crowned Sparrows were seen and heard singing in Avoca on June 16.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

It has been a pleasantly mild summer with one heat wave in June and another, lasting only a few days, around July 20. At times the coolness made it difficult to believe that it was summer at all. Rain has fallen fairly regularly so that growing conditions have been good, although the coolness has probably retarded the ripening of fruits and seeds to some extent.

Loons — Ducks: A Great Blue Heron was at Sherburne June 15 (Whites). Another was seen flying over Whitney Point July 31 (Bemont, R. Sheffield) and Aug 3 perhaps the same one was seen wading in the Tioughnioga River nearby. Also on