

be scarce. The only two reports are one present during all of June at Webster (Kemnitzer) and one near Shore Acres Aug 9 (O'Hara, Miller).

Vireos — Sparrows: Twelve Golden-winged Warblers were seen near Fishers Jun 25 (Starling, Brummer). A singing male Blue-winged Warbler was seen at Bergen Swamp Jun 8 and at least three birds of the same species were seen near Fishers Jul 5 (Starling, Miller). A careful search of the swampy thickets in this area at the right time of year would probably uncover some interesting facts in regard to the numbers and breeding of these two warbler species. A male Brewster's Warbler was seen and heard regularly at the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Sanctuary at least until Jul 6 (Starling). Two singing Nashville Warblers were seen at Bergen Swamp Jun 8 (G. O. S. field trip). A straggling Blackpoll Warbler was seen and heard near Irondequoit Bay Jul 9 (McNetts), and a late Northern Waterthrush was seen Jun 1 near Manitou (Listman). A Louisiana Waterthrush was seen at Conesus Lake Jun 21 but was not seen one week later (Tanghe). A Yellow-breasted Chat was seen Jun 1 at Burroughs-Audubon Nature Sanctuary (McKinney), and five were observed Jun 21 near LeRoy where they are known to be of regular occurrence.

The Western Meadowlark was seen and heard regularly during all of June and July on Lake Road, Webster. The male bird was once observed with food in its bill but no nest was actually found. This species was also seen and heard Jun 4 near Spencerport (Listman). A singing immature male Orchard Oriole was seen Jun 24 on Lake Road near Webster (O'Hara). A pair of Purple Finches was observed feeding two young birds Jun 15 in Riverside Cemetery (Dobson). A White-crowned Sparrow was seen on the remarkable date of Jun 30 near Irondequoit Bay (McNetts, Kemnitzer). A White-throated Sparrow was seen Jun 8 in East Bloomfield (Allen) and three were heard the same day in Bergen Swamp.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Weather-wise the summer of '58 has followed the pattern set by the late winter and early spring: precipitation has been much above normal and the temperature below normal. However, there were few violent storms of the type that destroy nests and kill young birds, which was a help in a season when the bird population started out at a low level. But even by mid-August one is struck by the general scarcity of birds and the lack of song. This seems particularly true of the field birds. Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, Field, Savannah, Vesper, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows have been difficult to find.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebes raised more young this year than last at Montezuma (L. Smith), but did not nest at Sapsucker Woods this year. A pair appeared again in July at the preserve at Mitchellville (Carter). Great Blue Herons were in usual numbers at Montezuma, although none nested there. The Common Egret, on the other hand, did not turn up in the numbers it had reached in recent years, the highest count at Montezuma being 20 on Aug 3. One appeared on Aug 3 at the Gus Swansons' pond, south of Ithaca. One, perhaps the same individual, was spotted on Aug 7 and 9 at the Radio Astronomy Laboratory pond a half mile beyond Sapsucker Woods, and on Aug 13 paid a brief visit to the sanctuary pond — a new record for Sapsucker Woods. No Snowy Egrets or Little Blue Herons were reported this summer. Green Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, American and Least Bitterns were in usual numbers at Montezuma. The American Bittern has been absent the last few years near Avoca, perhaps because of intensive swamp drainage there (Carter). The Glossy Ibis was again seen at Montezuma on Jul 3 (Smith).

Montezuma personnel report that this year there were definite brood records for only Mallards, Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Ducks, and the Ruddy Duck

(one brood of five). Broods of Blue-winged Teal were scarce, and there were no Gadwall broods seen this year. The waterfowl population summary, for the week of July 13-19 there, was: Canada Geese 3, Mallards 600, Black Ducks 250, Gadwalls 50, Green-winged Teal 10, Blue-winged Teal 100, American Widgeon 20, Shovelers 10, Wood Ducks 125, and Ruddy Ducks 6. A female Hooded Merganser was seen on Jun 13, and a pair of Ring-necked Ducks on Jun 15. 150 Green-winged Teal were counted by Smith on Aug 8, evidently arrivals from elsewhere.

Mrs. Carter reports that Mallards, Blacks, and Wood Ducks nested in the Avoca area. Wood Ducks were scarce around Keuka (Guthrie). At Sapsucker Woods, Refuge Manager Dave Allen reported finding five Wood Duck nests, of which three were successful. The broods from these were brought to the feeding area, and one brood consisted of 16.

Hawks — Owls: The Turkey Vulture was last seen in the Geneva area on Jul 20 (Walker). In the Geneva-Waterloo and Montezuma Refuge area all hawks seemed scarce except the Sparrow Hawk, which was more numerous than in '57. Around Avoca all hawks were scarce in June, but in July and August normal numbers of Red-tails and Red-shoulders were evident. Two pairs of Red-tailed Hawks nested at Montezuma. Once again the Eagles were seen to go through normal incubation, but no young were raised. An Osprey was seen at Montezuma on Jul 15.

Ruffed Grouse were reported as scarce in several parts of the region, while the Ring-necked Pheasant seemed fairly successful in nesting, following their very rough winter. Sora and Virginia Rails were in normal numbers at Montezuma, but Soras were unreported at Keuka (Guthrie). While the Common Gallinule that nested at the Mitchellville Preserve last year did not return this year (Carter) other areas reported an abundance of Gallinule and Coot broods. At Montezuma in mid-August there were 650 coot, of which approximately 500 were young (Smith), and Common Gallinule broods were almost as abundant. One case of a Coot nearly killing a Gallinule chick that wandered into the Coot's territory was noted by Refuge personnel. At the Horseheads dump on Aug 7 all sizes of young Gallinules and Coots were noted (K. Fudge).

There were almost no shorebird reports from Montezuma because of the absence of mud flats. Two Semipalmated Plovers were seen at the Hog Hole (SE corner of Cayuga Lake) on Aug 12 (I. Nisbet). A new station for the Upland Plover in the Ithaca area was noted when the Grinnells and Mrs. M. McIlroy saw one just northeast of Freeville on Jun 26. Solitary Sandpipers began their migration somewhat earlier than usual this year. One was seen on the Welles gravel pit near Elmira on Jul 20, and two were at Sapsucker Woods on Jul 23. Two greater Yellowlegs were spotted at Waterloo on Jul 27 (Walker). At the Hog Hole, Nisbet noted one Pectoral Sandpiper on Aug 8, Least Sandpipers on Aug 8, and Semipalmateds on Aug 1.

At Montezuma Refuge 20 Common Terns and an estimated 2000 Black Terns occurred during the breeding season. A Black Tern was noted at Lowe Pond at Elmira on Jun 9 (Welles), and five were at the Horseheads dump on Jun 10 (K. Fudge). There were two Caspian Terns at the Refuge on Aug 3, and as usual they put in their appearance at the south end of Cayuga in mid-August (Kellogg).

Cuckoos were noted as absent or scarce throughout the region. Owls, too, seemed scarce everywhere, but Walker found two new locations for Barn Owls: one at Geneva on Jun 12, and a young bird being fed in a church at Seneca Falls on Aug 15.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The absence of Nighthawks was noted in Avoca (Carter) and at Keuka (Guthrie). Hummingbirds were down in numbers everywhere. Except at Avoca, all parts of the area had more reports of Pileateds, especially at Montezuma where at least one pair nested. Red-headed Woodpeckers were frequently seen at the Refuge, but not elsewhere. One of the pair that has been in Forest Home, Ithaca, for two seasons was killed by a car in mid-summer. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers continued scarce in the Avoca area. Phoebees were scarce everywhere, but Wood Pewees seemed in about normal numbers.

Although most of the nesting boxes around the Sapsucker Woods pond had Tree Swallow families, reports from elsewhere indicated this species had been hard hit too. It was the first season in ten that I had none in my yard in Etna, and they

were reported as very scarce at Avoca and Geneva. Bank and Rough-winged Swallows were down in numbers at Avoca (Carter), but Barn Swallows seemed plentiful at Avoca and in good numbers at Keuka early in the season. However, Spiker reported fewer second broods this year. Guthrie reports that there were 14 new nests of Cliff Swallows in the colony at the Carlton Sturtevant's in Pleasant Valley, and the birds were still feeding young on Aug 10. The species had less luck around Avoca where an attempt to start a new colony was defeated when the farmer destroyed all the nests. Purple Martins in the new colony at Sapsucker Woods raised young, and the flock increased to over 30 before they departed in August. John Gustafson reports a new colony at his home just off Route 281 north of Cortland.

Tufted Titmice have been reported at several new stations in the region, continuing their northward spread. The pair noted earlier in the season at Keuka did not appear, however, to raise young. House Wrens continued to be scarce everywhere and in some cases did not raise their usual second brood. Carolina Wrens were also generally scarce. One was seen in Geneva in early July (Gambrell). There were more Long-billed Marsh Wrens at the Refuge this year than usual.

An immature Mockingbird was banded by Malcolm Lerch on Aug 20 near Penn Yan — one of the region's very few records of breeding of this species. A Mocker summered at Esperanza, between Keuka Park and Branchport, having been first seen on June 14. Several parts of the region reported that while adult Robins were scarce early in the season, nesting success seemed fairly high and there were many young seen in August. A Hermit Thrush was noted at Waterloo on Jul 13, an unusual occurrence there (Walker).

Emphasis should be put again upon the tragic decrease in the numbers of the Bluebird. Some of my correspondents reported to me that they had seen none, or at most one or two, all summer. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nested successfully at Dryden this year and was photographed by A. A. Allen. Cedar Waxwings seemed to be in normal numbers. I received no reports of Loggerhead Shrikes. Starling abundance seemed to be spotty.

Vireos — Sparrows: Resident Vireos were down in numbers, and certainly song seemed to be at a minimum, but perhaps the cool weather influenced this. In this vein, Mrs. Carter noted that warblers stopped singing early at Avoca.

Al Fudge found two and possibly three pairs of Worm-eating Warblers on Mrs. York's hillside near Elmira, but nests were not located. A nest of Blue-winged Warblers was photographed in late June near Ithaca by A. A. Allen. Golden-winged Warblers were in the same area, but the nest was not located. Mourning Warblers were seen Jun 6 and 7 at Wellsburg (Smith). In general, the summer warbler population was not much below normal.

Bobolinks and Meadowlarks were down in numbers. Last summer I could count on hearing at least four Bobolinks singing along my five-mile route from Etna to Sapsucker Woods. Many days this summer I heard none. Red-winged Blackbirds seemed in normal numbers in most areas, and some of us at least were plagued with Grackles at our feeding stations most of the summer. A first year Orchard Oriole appeared at Sapsucker Woods on Jun 10. The bird obligingly sang from a perch near one of the microphones which brought its voice into the Observatory, thus announcing its presence. Baltimore Orioles were more abundant at Geneva (Walker), less abundant in some other parts of the region. Scarlet Tanagers were in good numbers at Geneva (Ward) but were less evident at Sapsucker Woods this year. Indigo Buntings seemed fairly numerous at Avoca, Geneva, and in some sections of Tompkins County. There were not many Purple Finch nesting reports, although Mrs. Carter had two pairs in her yard again. The various sparrows of the fields were quite scarce everywhere, as were Song Sparrows. The Chipping Sparrow was down in numbers at Avoca.

Correction: The word "immature" should be deleted from the report of the Canada Jay seen Jan 27 at Breesport (Vol VIII, No. 1, p. 16). I regret that this word, which did not occur in Brimmer's original report, crept in somewhere along the line.

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