

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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Weather records indicate that this was the coldest June since 1927 and that July was quite wet, 10 or 20 per cent more precipitation than normal, but that the summer was otherwise normal. Somehow the averages don't reflect the fact that only once, July 1, was the temperature above 90 degrees at the weather station in downtown Binghamton and on only fourteen other days did the temperature reach 85 degrees. July and the first half of August also seemed cool in spite of the averages. On June 7 some areas had a killing frost.

The adequate moisture and coolness proved ideal for producing wild fruit so there was an excellent crop of thornapple, blackberries, and elderberries. Bird life in general, however, seemed somewhat reduced, evidently a carried over effect of the severe weather here and in the South last winter. The most obviously affected species were Phoebe, Bluebirds, and Black and White Warblers, but even Robins were influenced. The large Bank Swallow colony that was just south of Boland's Marsh received the final eviction notice when bulldozers completely levelled the sand bank. Part of the colony that attempted to relocate in a nearby cinder pile met with disaster when the cinders collapsed after nesting was rather advanced.

The continuing "northern flavor" of many of the reports from Chenango County provided much of the interest during the period.

Loons — Ducks: There were only two reports of Great Blue Herons all summer, one at Boland's Marsh, a few miles north of Binghamton, Jul 13 (Bemont), and another at Sherburne Jul 27 (Whites). There are no known breeding records from the region for the last six years. Six Common Egrets seen in the Delaware River below Deposit Jul 31 (Wilson) were the only ones reported during the period. Mallards and Black Ducks were the only ducks reported all summer and there were few of them.

Hawks — Owls: Three Turkey Vultures were seen near Deposit Jul 19 (Wilson). Few accipiters or buteos were reported except for Red-tailed Hawks. A Bald Eagle was seen near Deposit Jul 21 (Wilson) and again on Aug 11 and 12. A female Marsh Hawk and a Red-tailed Hawk were seen having an aerial disagreement near Deposit July 20 with the Marsh Hawk the apparent aggressor. Neither Marsh Hawks nor Sparrow Hawks have been very plentiful.

Two Virginia Rails were found in a swamp near Sherburne Aug 8 (Whites). A Common Snipe was found in the same swamp July 23 and there were three of them there Jul 29 (Whites). An Upland Plover was still near German, in Chenango County, Jul 13 (Whites) but none were located near Guilford this year. An early Solitary Sandpiper was at the Sherburne Game Farm Jul 23 (Whites). Two Lesser Yellowlegs and two Baird's Sandpipers were at the South Otselic Fish Hatchery Aug 10 (Whites).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos have been scarce, especially since the middle of June, but Black-billed Cuckoos have been rather common. A Barred Owl was seen at Sherburne Jun 15 being chased by Crows (Whites). Just at sunset Jun 7 a Short-eared Owl was seen flying over near Choconut Center, north of Johnson City (Buckley, Saunders, Sheffields).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers apparently nested just outside Unadilla (Wisner). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found near Norwich June 22 (Whites). Phoebe have been very scarce all summer — less than half their normal numbers. There were "lots of Traill's Flycatchers calling" in the Norwich area until Aug 1 (Whites). Least Flycatchers were somewhat less common than usual in the Binghamton area (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club). An Olive-

sided Flycatcher was seen and heard in a swampy spot in the Norwich area on Jun 1, Jun 19, Jul 3 (Whites) and Jul 4 (Whites, Sheffield, Bemont). A previously unreported colony of Cliff Swallows, consisting of over 20 individuals, was found near German Jun 7 (Whites). The birds didn't arrive at the colony in Newark Valley until Jun 1, but they were there in full force for the breeding season (Dean). Near Richford, where there was a thriving colony two years ago but no birds at all last year, six Cliff Swallows were seen Jul 25 (Bemont). Another colony of Purple Martins was found in Hillcrest, on the east side of the Chenango River north of Binghamton, on Jul 14 (Sheffield). At Homer a male and four female Purple Martins occupied a newly erected martin house. They raised several broods so that as many as 22 individuals were counted at one time later in the season. The nearest previously established colony is two miles away at Little York Lake (Gustafson).

Five Red-breasted Nuthatches, some of them young birds, were counted near Norwich Jul 4 (Sheffield, Whites, Bemont) and two Brown Creepers were seen at another spot in the Norwich area Jun 22 (Whites). In a marshy place near Pharsalia a Winter Wren was found singing Jul 8 and again on Jul 12 (Whites). No Carolina Wren reports came in during the period. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were again present in the Sherburne area (Whites). There was a noticeable, although not drastic, drop in the number of Robins since last year around Binghamton (TCNC) and in the Oxford area (Stratton). Hermit Thrushes were found at the French tract, south of Binghamton, Jun 8 (Sheffield), at Windsor Marsh Jul 5 (Sheffield) and on state land near Sherburne Jun 26 (Whites) but none were at the spot near Choconut Center where they have been in past years. A Swainson's Thrush was seen singing near Pharsalia Jul 12 (Whites). Bluebirds were missing or diminished in several areas. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were still at Ely Park, in Binghamton, Jun 7 (Sheffield) and one was reported at Newark Valley, a new location, Aug 14 (Dean). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were found on state land near Sherburne Jun 27 (Whites). On Jul 1 three Golden-crowned Kinglets were found near Norwich (Whites) and about a mile away three or more were found Jul 4 (Whites, Sheffield, Bemont). Cedar Waxwings have seemed more common than usual in the Triple Cities area (TCNC).

Vireos — Warblers: Black and White Warblers have continued to be less common than in other years in the Triple Cities area (TCNC). A pair of Blue-winged Warblers was still in the area near Binghamton that they have occupied for the past two years Jun 12 (Hevey). Two or more Blackburnian Warblers were at Windsor Marsh Jul 5 (Sheffield). Mourning Warblers were found at three different stations in the Norwich area (Whites, Sheffield, Bemont).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Mrs. Stratton reports seeing a Song Sparrow stuffing two Cowbird fledglings with nipped off sunflower seedlings on Jun 23. The pair of Cardinals at Deposit has been coming to a feeder occasionally but there is no sign of progeny (Wilson). A Cardinal was seen at Cortland Aug 1 (Gustafson). After a dozen or so were banded there were still unbanded young Purple Finches coming to a feeder at Deposit (Wilson). Slate-colored Juncos were found in the Norwich area Jun 19 (Whites) and again Jul 4 (Whites, Sheffield, Bemont). A White-crowned Sparrow was at Norwich Jun 22 and a White-throated Sparrow was in the same general area Jul 3 (Whites). White-throated Sparrows were found singing in five different spots around Pharsalia Jul 8 and on Jul 12 two were found on state land near Sherburne (Whites).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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June stormed through its thirty days, wet, cool, and incredibly bug-laden. July was wet and cool in its first half and, birdwise, disappointing in its remainder. Aug 1-15 is best left unmentioned for the birding doldrums were severe. As in the past two years, summer birding explorations revealed several "proven" breeding records (see Green-winged Teal, Hooded and