

two were present there on Jul 19 (Listman). Some 100 Herring, 2000 Ring-billed, and 100 Bonaparte's Gulls were also there on the latter date. A Franklin's Gull was carefully observed at Manitou Jun 14 after a northeast storm (Schaffer, Listman). The last observer recorded two birds of this species there on Jun 20. An immature Little Gull was seen at Manitou on Jul 19 (Listman). A very early Forster's Tern was observed Jun 14 at Manitou (Schaffner, Listman), and another was there on Aug 7. A Caspian Tern was seen Jul 11 at Manitou, and two were there on Jul 25 (O'Hara et al). Three Yellow-billed and two Black-billed Cuckoos were recorded Jun 6 in the Powder Mills Park area (G.O.S. hike).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The Pileated Woodpecker was reported from Avon (Haller) and from the Webster area Jul 8 (McNeth, Sunderlin). Five Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen Jun 20 near Avon (G.O.S. hike). Three were noted Jul 4 at Ling Road (Starling), and one was occasionally seen at Webster Park in Rochester (Miller). Some 1000 Bank Swallows were seen Jul 11 east of Irondequoit Bay (Starling, Miller). A Carolina Wren was observed on Jul 27 and 28 near Webster (Kemnitzer), and two birds appeared near Forest Lawn on Aug 11 (McNeth, Sunderlin). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported Jun 25 near Long Pond (Listman). Scattered pairs of Bluebirds were reported in the area, and several pairs nested successfully. Four pairs of nesting birds were reported in the Webster area, (McNeth, Sunderlin).

Vireos — Sparrows: Two Black and White Warblers were seen Jul 16 in Mendon Ponds Park (Starling). Ten Golden-winged Warblers were noted in the Fisher's area Jun 6 (G.O.S. hike). A Blue-winged Warbler was seen there on Jun 6 and 27, and two Blue-wings were seen near Avon (Haller). A singing Brewster's Warbler was recorded at BANC station June 6, two were seen near Avon (Haller), and one was noted in Letchworth Park (Haller). A Northern Waterthrush was seen Aug 8 at Manitou (Listman). Two Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen near Avon Jun 20 (G.O.S. hike), and one bird was observed Aug 6 near Hemlock Lake (Listman). Two Yellow-breasted Chats were seen near LeRoy Jun 20 (G.O.S. hike), and two were seen in the same area on Jul 9 (Corcoran et al). Five Canada Warblers were seen Jun 6 near Fisher's (G.O.S. hike). This area was well populated by Golden-wings plus a few Blue-winged Warblers, which pointed up a puzzling ecological situation.

A Western Meadowlark was seen and heard in Webster Jul 11 (Starling, Miller); this bird had been in the area since late April. A very late White-crowned Sparrow was observed at Manitou Jun 13 (Listman), and an even later record was of a bird seen Jun 15 in Webster (Kemnitzer).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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This summer contrasted remarkably with last. While June's temperatures were near normal, July and early August had above normal readings — 13 of the 76 days had above 90 degree temperature. On the other hand early August produced some unusual minimum readings; temperatures were in the mid-thirties on the 2nd and 3rd at Etna. The whole period was very dry. Following a few light rains in June, there was a general rain on July 6 and then almost none until early August. Small local areas got drenching downpours, which tended to run off the surface, but general rains just did not occur.

The dry conditions probably favored the ground-nesters. Insect-eaters may have suffered (while humans rejoiced) at the decrease in some forms of insect life.

Highlights were the increase in duck broods this year, a small upsurge in the Bluebird population around Ithaca, and continuing scarcity of Phoebe's, Tree Swallows, Veeries, and some of the warblers.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebes had considerable nesting success at Montezuma, and Great Blue Herons were in usual numbers there. Common Egrets increased this year; there was a high count of 62 at the Refuge, according to Manager Morse. No other egrets were seen. While Black-crowned Night Herons were in normal numbers at Montezuma, they were hard to find around Ithaca. K. Thorpe saw one immature at the Hog Hole (southwest corner of Cayuga Lake) on Aug 11. Reports from Elmira indicate that these birds have been permanently banished from their old roost in the city, but their new location has not been found. Both American and Least Bitterns nested at Montezuma. A pair of Least Bitterns was seen fairly regularly at a marsh just northwest of the county airport at Ithaca, but no nest was found. A Glossy Ibis was again seen at Montezuma on Jun 17 (W. Brockner).

Partly because of favorable weather conditions and partly because of the closing of the dikes to visitors during the nesting season, Manager Morse reported an encouraging increase in waterfowl broods this summer. The number jumped from 18 last year to 77 this year. Blue-winged Teal showed the greatest increase: from two broods last year to 26 this year. The following is the brood count: Blue-winged Teal 26; Mallard 22; Black Duck 7; Wood Duck 6; Redhead 4; Ruddy Duck 4; Gadwall 3; Pintail 2; American Widgeon 2; and Shoveler 1. Thus twice as many species nested as last year, and the American Widgeon is a new refuge breeding record. Refuge personnel suspect that the Green-winged Teal also bred. Blue-winged Teal were reported to have marked success in nesting in regional conservation ponds (Hewitt).

The first brood of Wood Ducks appeared at the Sapsucker Woods feeding area in mid-June. Three other broods followed, the last being a group of five very small ducklings in mid-July. At least three Mallard broods were raised also.

Nine Canvasbacks and two Redheads were seen at the north end of Seneca Lake on Jun 22, undoubtedly cripples (W. Brockner).

Hawks — Owls: An immature Goshawk, unusual in the region, was shot at Phelps on Aug 11 as it was preying on chickens. Red-tailed Hawks seemed scarce at the north end of Cayuga Basin (J. Walker). Mrs. Carter reported that the species had success in nesting in the 12-mile Creek Valley near Avoca, where in a ten mile stretch she counted six immature birds plus several adults. The Montezuma Bald Eagles had a third nesting failure in three years. An immature bird (non-resident) was seen over the refuge the end of July. On Aug 2 an adult Bald Eagle was observed over Pinnacle Hill, a half mile east of Branchport, by Kirk Burtch, the first there since April 1957 (fide Guthrie). An Osprey was seen regularly from Jun 1 to mid-July over Keuka Lake, three miles south of Branchport, by Miss Ida Cook — an unusual summer report. Sparrow Hawks were in slightly improved numbers around Geneva this year (Walker), but they were scarce at Avoca where only one could be located in a three-hour search (Carter).

Paul Kelsey reported that the Conservation Department considered nesting conditions excellent for Ruffed Grouse this year and that the Department was accordingly puzzled at the poor nesting success. These birds are usually seen regularly in Sapsucker Woods, but Art Lane reported the first one at his feeding area on Aug 8, after a lengthy absence. Pheasants, on the other hand, had nesting success everywhere. Rails again were not seen around Keuka, but Virginias and Soras were present at Montezuma. The former were noted with young on several occasions (Morse). Common Gallinules and Coots again had a very successful season, and Coots were noted breeding at Spencer Marsh this year for the first time (O Hewitt).

Killdeer were abundant everywhere. Two Golden Plover were seen at Montezuma on the exceptionally early date of Jul 17 (fide Scheider). The four Common Snipe noted there on Aug 11 by Loren Ward were probably transients. Upland Plover seem to have had a slight decline in our region. Walker found none around the Geneva area, and Kelsey reported fewer at the Dryden station, where last year he had noted a decided increase over the previous year.

It was a "short summer" at Sapsucker Woods. Thirteen northward bound White-rumped Sandpipers (a first spring record for the region) appeared briefly on Jun 9 (A.A.A.), and an early southward bound Solitary turned up on Jul 1. The lowering of the pond there attracted shorebirds at the same time that it discouraged ducks. The Greater Yellowlegs appeared Aug 15, the Lesser on Jul 30, Pectoral Sandpiper on Jul 25, Least Sandpiper on Jul 30, and Semipalmated Sandpiper on

Jul 25. Pectorals were also seen at Mitchellville on Jul 17 (Carter). At Montezuma Refuge Morse reported only the two Yellowlegs and Dowitchers (in addition to the resident Spotted Sandpipers) before the end of the reporting period. Three Caspian Terns were spotted at the south end of Cayuga on Aug 10 (P. P. Kellogg). A Black Tern was seen frequently over the marsh opposite the northwest corner of the county airport at Ithaca, but there was no evidence of nesting (N. Case).

Cuckoos, though present, were not too conspicuous, although a Black-bill was quite noisy at Etna in mid-July and both species seemed quite vocal in August. There were only two Barn Owl reports. One was in the Wellington barn at Geneva (Ward), and on Jul 2 the species was noted at Spencer (Hewitt).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: On Jul 8 a whip-poor-will was heard along Deputron Road, about a mile off Coddington Road southeast of Ithaca (fide Scott), a most unusual report. Hummingbirds continued scarce. Yellow-shafted Flickers seemed to have a good season. The Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Montezuma deserted the area where they used to be found and were located instead at the far northwestern storage pool area. Only one Red-headed Woodpecker was noted around Forest Home in Ithaca during the summer, but there were two pairs at Mile Point near Geneva, and Mrs. Bardeen noted one near Wells College in June. There were two reports of breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, on Star Stanton Hill south of Dryden (Kelsey), and a pair seen feeding young at elevation 1500' in 12-Mile Creek Valley (Carter). An immature, probably a wanderer, was seen in Sapsucker Woods on Aug 11 by Mrs. Whitaker. Hairy Woodpeckers were much more obvious at the feeders at Sapsucker Woods this year than Downies, a reversal.

Kingbirds were migrating conspicuously from Aug 10 on. It appeared as though Phoebe's have not yet staged a comeback; they were reported as scarce everywhere. An Olive-sided Flycatcher, probably an early migrant or wanderer, was heard at Marcham's Woods near West Dryden on Aug 9 (P. Kelsey). Tree Swallows, while occupying every box at Sapsucker Woods, raised few young and departed early and abruptly the first week in August. Other swallows appeared in normal numbers. The Purple Martin colony at Stewart Park, Ithaca, decreased considerably, but the new ones on Warren Road and at Sapsucker Woods increased. An albino Barn Swallow was noted at the McIntyre home on Danby Road, south of Ithaca, on Jul 21.

At least two pairs of Tufted Titmice nested at Stewart Park (M. Ficken). Brown Creepers were found nesting in Texas Hollow north of Odessa (A. Fudge), at Summit Marsh south of Ithaca, and young were seen on Jul 6 in Sapsucker Woods (D. Allen). House Wrens were still low in numbers, but those present seemed to raise two broods successfully. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were up in numbers at Montezuma, and two different groups of Short-bills were found there in early August by Scheider. While two Mockingbirds were present all summer at the Larzelere home a mile north of Branchport and one bird was singing, no nest was found. Robins had a good season. Walker estimated two immatures to one adult in the Waterloo area, and he noted as many as 100 daily at the cemetery from mid-July on. Hermit Thrushes and Veeries were still scarce everywhere. Hartshorne's studies of the Bluebird around Ithaca bore out his earlier belief that there were more this year than last, and he banded over 100 young and adults. Elsewhere in the region the picture was blacker. At Avoca only two pairs were seen all summer (Carter). None were noted around Waterloo, and there only two at Geneva (Walker). Cedar Waxwings seemed to start nesting early. Several nests were noted the end of the third week in June, and young were seen everywhere by early August. Loggerhead Shrikes were unreported.

Vireos — Warblers: The absence of the song of the Yellow-throated Vireo around Ithaca (and at Etna) was conspicuous, and Guthrie noted that those present around Keuka earlier were gone by Aug 1. Red-eyed Vireos were likewise scarce as breeders, in comparison with three or four years ago, and the same holds true of the Warbling. Walker, too, noted all vireos scarce around Geneva.

The Pronthonotary Warbler was again at Montezuma, the one place in the region where we can depend on finding it. The region's usual nesters seemed scarcer this year than last: Yellow, Chestnut-sided, the waterthrushes, and Redstarts particularly. The Pine Warbler was absent as a breeder in the region — we no longer find them at Taughannock Falls Gorge. Another Brewster's Warbler was located, by Paul Kelsey, surprisingly enough on Connecticut Hill, near a singing Blue-winged Warbler. The Prairie Warblers located there and reported in the last issue were still present in early June, but not checked later. There were very few reports of

Yellow-breasted Chats. Guthrie noted that in the Keuka area he could find only one where 7-9 used to be, and suggests that change of cover in the area is responsible.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks were spotty — noted as normal or above normal in some areas, considerably below normal in others. Meadowlarks were very abundant everywhere, as were Redwings. This writer feels that the less said about the tremendous increase in Grackles the better! Only Bob Ficken, doing graduate research on their behavior, was happy about it. Elsewhere observers bemoaned the way they took over feeding stations, heckled smaller nesting species, and at Sapsucker Woods they were several times seen chasing smaller birds and knocking them to the water or ground — even a Spotted Sandpiper on one occasion (Hoyt). Cardinals increased around Geneva and Waterloo. Rose-breasted Grosbeak families were certainly not conspicuous in early August, as they are some years. Indigo Buntings were more plentiful at Watkins Glen and around Geneva in normal numbers in the Ithaca area. There were scattered reports of resident Purple Finches, including a "first" in the 12-Mile Creek Valley, where one was noted singing on Jun 24 (Carter). The bird has not been known there before in summer. Goldfinches seemed unusually abundant. Rufous-sided Towhees were in lower numbers around Waterloo (Walker), and field-nesting sparrows continued scarce throughout the region, except for Field Sparrows which had picked up in numbers this year at Geneva. Fudge reports Juncos nesting near Elmira. The Clay-colored Sparrow was still singing in the same vacant lot in Ithaca the end of July.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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The weather for the whole period has averaged warm and dry. The dryness was especially pronounced from June 28 to July 29, but serious drought conditions were averted by a fairly heavy rain July 30. There were eleven days when the temperature in Binghamton reached 90 degrees or higher in contrast to only one such day last year. There is considerable doubt about what effect, if any, the weather had on the bird population but it is perhaps reasonable to blame the warm weather for one of the worst cases of "summer doldrums" to affect the bird watchers of the region in the last few years.

Northern species were again fairly well represented in the reports from Chenango County but not quite as well as last year. Instead the Oneonta — Cooperstown and Deposit areas produced their own northern records, the former Red breasted Nuthatch and Sapsuckers and the latter Loon and White-throated Sparrows. Those species that showed the sharpest population losses last year showed only a moderate recovery. New Yellow-breasted Chats have joined the list of species at a low ebb for reasons that are not apparent on a local basis. The beginning of fall migration was signalled by a few shorebird records and an Olive-sided Flycatcher, but perhaps the most interesting and significant report was that of a King Rail near Sherburne.

Loons — Ducks: An immature Common Loon spent most of July on Oquaga Lake, near Deposit, and became quite sophisticated about motor boats, water skiers, etc. (S. Wilson). There have been more than the usual number of summer records of the Great Blue Heron and from several widely separated parts of the region. At two localities, Oxford (A. Stratton) and Sherburne (R. & S. White), they were seen repeatedly but only one at a time and no breeding record. A Common Egret was at Boland's Marsh, north of Binghamton, Jun 28 (R. & M. Sheffield), and there was an undated record of five or six feeding along the Susquehanna River at Owego (M. White). Green Herons seemed low in numbers and there were no Black-crowned Night Herons reported at all. Two broods of Mallards were produced on a small marsh at Endwell that is dissected by two busy highways and a railroad and is