

There were three reports of White-throated Sparrows singing in June and July near Ithaca, but no evidence of nesting was found.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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Weather records show that on average it was one of the wettest Junes on record with temperatures near normal, July was cool and dry and the first fifteen days of August were close to normal with regard to both temperature and precipitation. There was no day during the period when the temperature reached ninety degrees in Binghamton and the wetness of June far out-weighed the dryness of July so the whole period could be characterized as wet and cool.

The weather event that stood out, head and shoulders, above all others during the period was the cloud burst that hit Endicott, Endwell, Johnson City and Vestal June 17. The weather station at Broome County Airport,, by no means at the center of the storm, recorded better than three inches of rain in one hour, 0.8 inches of which fell in the first five minutes. It was estimated that half again as much fell at Endicott and Endwell. The resulting flash flood turned streets into rivers and put all streams over their banks in a matter of minutes. In many low lying areas the water was well up the walls of first floor rooms and cars were covered or even washed away before they could be started and driven to higher ground. Such a storm at that season must have caused a considerable number of casualties among low nesting bird species. At the same time it removed practically all the evidence so that the effect on one Bank Swallow colony is all we know with any certainty. Because the storm affected only a limited area we cannot expect over all populations to be affected enough to be readily noticeable.

Goshawks and Swainson's Thrushes were the only additions to our list of known "northern" summer residents, but some others such as Winter Wrens, Slate-colored Junco, and White-throated Sparrows were found in new areas. Our first summer Mockingbird and more than the usual number of Red-headed Woodpeckers were the biggest news among our southern species.

The Whimbrels found at Oneonta were new to our regional list.

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Herons were seen more frequently than usual in most parts of the region; but were missing from one area near Oneonta where they have been found in previous years (R. Burland). The newly found colony near Whitney Point was active but no one was able to make a count of nests in use. A Common Egret near Owego Aug 10 (C. Gerould) and three second hand reports from Delancey in Delaware Co., Whitney Point and Deposit were all so far. There were no reports of Black-crowned Night Herons. American Bitterns were present at Otego, Norwich and Owego. "Lots of Mallards, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks and some Blue-winged Teal" in northern Chenango Co. (R. & S. White).

Hawks — Owls: A Turkey Vulture was at Choconut Center Jul 9 (R. & M. Sheffield) and another was over Oneonta Aug 7 (R. Burland). A letter from Paul Kelsey, District Game Manager, states that "Goshawks have been nesting in northern Chenango Co. for at least the last ten years. During the last five I have known of two nesting pairs." The nests were not located this summer but the hawks were seen in their usual places. The exact locations are not being disclosed in the interest of protecting the birds. Red-tailed Hawks did not seem up to their normal numbers except at Oneonta, but Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks were reported more often than usual. An adult Bald Eagle was at Deposit Jul 22 (S. Wilson). Marsh Hawks were very scarce throughout the region. A Peregrine Falcon was reported at Oxford Jun 6 (A. Stratton).

A Virginia Rail was seen with two downy young Jun 12 near Sherburne and Jul 17 a Sora was at the same place (R. & S. White). A Common Gallinule at a small marsh in Vestal Jun 26 (M. Sheffield, V. Misner, J. Vivier) is the only one reported so far this year anywhere in the region. Common Snipe were again present at the large marsh near Sherburne (R. & S. White). A flock of Whim-

brrels was seen near Goodyear Lake outside Oneonta around Aug 1. One of the birds was injured and about Aug 6 was picked up, still alive. It was turned over to Dr. J. New of Oneonta State Teachers College and is now in the collection there. Upland Plover were not found at Guilford this year but there were some at Sherburne (R. & S. White) and during the breeding season they were also seen in the towns of Virgil and Lapeer in Cortland Co. and Pharsalia in Chenango Co. (R. Kelsey). A Solitary Sandpiper near Johnson City Jul 15 (L. Bemont), another at Sherburne Jul 31 (R. & S. White), a Baird's Sandpiper near Choconut Center Aug 14 (R. & M. Sheffield) and Least Sandpipers at Owego were the only obviously transient shorebirds other than the Whimbrels reported during the period. A Common Tern, a seldom seen species in this region was at Norwich Jun 21 (R. & S. White). Mourning Doves seem less common than in previous years at Oneonta (R. Burland). Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed to be back to normal after last year's especially poor numbers and Black-billed Cuckoos returned to normal from their peak of last year.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-wills were reported near Owego, but no where else. On Aug 5 a large flock of Chimney Swifts, approaching 1000 in number, was seen entering the chimney of a church in downtown Binghamton about 8:15 in the evening (R. & M. Sheffield). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds seemed scarce at Owego (M. White) and Newark Valley (L. Dean). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported unusually frequently. There were five different sightings in the same area of Endwell spaced out through the period, but never more than one bird at a time (F. Linaberry, L. Bemont, R. Tuthill). The "first for years near Norwich" was there Jul 17 (R. & S. White) and a pair found nesting in a dead elm just outside Cortland was the first known nesting record there in recent years (J. Gustafson). On Aug 12 still another was at South Plymouth in Chenango Co. (P. Kelsey). The apparent scarcity of Kingbirds in some parts of the region in May seems to have been the result of a slow migration since numbers became normal later. Phoebe's continue to be somewhat scarce. At Oneonta Least Flycatchers were also scarce. Wood Pewees, on the other hand, seem to have improved in numbers over last year.

Bank Swallows were the most obvious avian sufferers from the flash flood of Jun 17. On Jun 12 one colony near Vestal consisted of about 300 active nesting holes, but on Jul 10 after some rebuilding only about 50 holes were left. Since Jun 17 is only a few days before young start leaving the nest the casualties at this colony must have been appalling. A few adults banded at this colony before the storm turned up later at other colonies (H. Marsi). A comparatively large number of Cliff Swallows flocked around the home of Dr. Gustafson in the Cortland area. 84 were counted one morning where only a handful are found in other years. There is no known active nesting colony nearby. Purple Martins — "all the houses in Cortland Co. were filled to capacity" and practically all the birds were gone by Aug 13, about a week earlier than last year (J. Gustafson). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were at the same place near Norwich where they have been present the last few summers Jul 3 (R. & S. White). A Winter Wren was singing at Choconut Center Jun 12 (R. & M. Sheffield) and another was heard singing at Deposit Jul 27 (S. Wilson). They were also reported at Owego. Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens, a species that has been scarce around the Triple Cities for the past few years, were at a small marsh near Vestal Jun 26 (M. Sheffield, V. Misner, J. Vivier). A large marsh near Sherburne continues to be "loaded" with them (R. & S. White). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was singing at Norwich Jul 31 and another was at Pharsalia Aug 14 (R. & S. White). A Mockingbird was reported at Owego during the period (Allans, L. Cole). At Oneonta the breeding population of Robins was somewhat decreased (R. Burland). A Robin at Endwell, identifiable as the same bird by some abnormal white feathers, was apparently starting a nest for a third brood by Jun 29 (F. Linaberry). Hermit Thrushes seemed to be back near normal numbers after two consecutive poor years around Binghamton. Two Swainson's Thrushes at Pharsalia Jul 6 (R. & S. White) are of some interest. Oxford (A. Stratton), Oneonta (R. Burland) and Deposit (S. Wilson) all report "no Bluebirds". But at Owego there were "several reports of nesting" (L. Cole, B. Hulbirt) and at Choconut Center there were several successful broods R. & M. Sheffield). At Norwich they "saw more Bluebirds in different localities this summer" (R. & S. White).

Vireos — Warblers: On Jun 5 four different singing male Solitary Vireos were found near Whitney Point (M. Sheffield, V. Misner). Golden-winged Warblers continue to be fairly common around the Triple Cities but unreported in most other parts of the region. Jul 17 three different Brewster's Warblers were seen, one a young bird being fed by a Golden-wing (M. Sheffield). The old Blue-winged Warbler station near the south side of Binghamton was occupied during the breeding season again and on Jun 20 one was seen in a spot about five miles north of Binghamton where they were reported about six years ago but not since (L. Hevey). Myrtle Warblers were reported to be summer residents at the Pharsalia Game Management Area (P. Kelsey). Two Black-throated Green and four or five Blackburian Warblers, all singing males, were found at Whitney Point Jun 5 (M. Sheffield, V. Misner). Ovenbirds seem to be somewhat less common than last year around Oneonta (R. Burland). A family of Northern Waterthrushes was observed at Ludlow, near Oxford, Jul 8 (A. Stratton) and another was singing at Neahwa Park in Oneonta Jul 31 (R. Burland). A pair of Mourning Warblers settled in a woodlot near Homer (J. Gustafson). They were also reported at Pharsalia (P. Kelsey, R. & S. White). Yellow-breasted Chats appear to have recovered from last year's low and are again moderately common, locally, in the Triple Cities area. A Hooded Warbler was found about five miles north of Binghamton Jun 20 (L. Hevey). It was not seen again in spite of several special efforts to find it.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: An estimated 200,000 Starlings, Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds started roosting in an abandoned orchard in Cortland, apparently for the first time, this year about Aug 10 (Wilson). Scarlet Tanagers were scarce at Oneonta after spring migration but seemed normal in other areas. The increase in Cardinal populations continues to attract attention. There are now five or six known pairs in Oneonta (R. Burland). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seemed especially common at Newark Valley, Cortland and Oneonta. At Cortland Indigo Buntings also seemed common, particularly in August (J. Gustafson). Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows all seemed slightly more common than last year in the Triple Cities area. There were more than the usual number of summer records of Slate-colored Juncoes. They were seen at Pharsalia (R. & S. White), Whitney Point (M. Sheffield, V. Misner) and Binghamton (L. Harvey) and two nests were found in near-by Pennsylvania (N. & E. Washburn) to go with the one at Candor reported in the last issue. There were also several reports of White-throated Sparrows including a nesting pair at Homer (J. Gustafson). At one point in the Pharsalia Game Management Area four could be heard singing every visit (P. Kelsey). Swamp Sparrows continued scarce at Oneonta (R. Burland).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

June, July and the first half of August were persistently cool (averaging 2° daily below normal) and dry (four inches less than normal rainfall for the period) with occasional windstorms. The extreme dryness of these months rapidly dried up many marshes and ponds that had been brim full in mid-May. Correspondingly marsh birds, particularly rails, did rather poorly, but the dabbling ducks, nesting some weeks earlier, fared quite well. There appeared to be considerable nest and brood mortality from high winds in late June and early July; nests of Robins, Vireos, Redstarts, and Baltimore Orioles were reported blown down. Early mowing of the many hayfields in the area produced some losses in Pheasant, Bobolink, Meadowlark and Savannah Sparrow. However, the most striking change in local population was the frank scarcity of the Bluebird (five known pairs in the four counties around Oneida Lake). Also markedly reduced, but less so than the Bluebird, were the Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, Hermit Thrush, and Northern Waterthrush. Some observers noted further reductions in Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows. On the positive side the increases in Common Gallinule, Traill's Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Catbird, Wood Thrush, and Warbling Vireo were particularly gratifying.

Further explorations of the Tug Hill Plateau for breeding birds occurred on June 11 and July 4 and 10. N. B. — The July 4 trip, though well organized and