

A singing Brown Creeper was at Zurich Bog Jun 9 (WCL et al), and another was at SB Aug 5 (JF). Both these records may indicate nesting birds. A singing Carolina Wren was at Y Jun 10 (GOS hike). Subsequently, they were reported to have raised two broods. This is the only record for this species in our area in over a year. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from several localities northwest of Rochester.

Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, scarce around Rochester this year, were at PMP Jun 24 (T&JM).

Vireos — Warblers: A Brewster's Warbler was in the Avon area during June (Jeanne Miller) and another was in PMP Jun 24 (T&JM). A singing male Tennessee Warbler was carefully identified in Irondequoit on the remarkable date of Jul 9 (Dr. Neil Moon). A singing Blackburnian Warbler was at Y Jun 17 (GOS hike). Two Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Conesus Lake Jun 23 (James Doherty & Frank Schmanke), and four were in the same area Jun 30 (RTO et al). This species is regular in this area. Yellow-breasted Chats were reported during the nesting season from Greece (PW), Fischers (AES), Mendon Ponds by the same observer, near Honeoye Lake (Laura Moon et al), and LeRoy (RTO et al).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A singing male Dickcissel was in West Rush from Jul 12 until at least Jul 21 (Jeanne Haller et al). There was no indication of another bird being present, or of any possible nesting. One or two birds have been reported yearly from our region but most of the reports have been from feeders in the late fall or early winter. A pair tried unsuccessfully to nest in Mendon in 1955.

On Jun 25, two pairs of adult Evening Grosbeaks, accompanied by three young just out of the nest appeared at the John W. Jordan feeder in Pittsford. They were seen by several observers and good pictures of the adults feeding the young birds were obtained. Later, the young birds became able to feed themselves and, at last accounts, the birds were still there. This, of course, is the first breeding record for our area. A very belated White-crowned Sparrow was at M from Jun 25-Jul 4 (WCL).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The entire Region suffered from a lack of rain, which followed the unusually dry winter. Rainfall figures do not give the true picture, for rain, when it came, was often local, and concentrated in a day or two — some of it ran off the dry, baked earth; what was absorbed penetrated only a half inch or inch. In Ithaca, July was the driest since 1890, and the "growing season" the driest in the history of local weather records. Oddly enough, in some areas the fruit crop seemed good — apples, chokecherries, Mt. Ash, Arbor Vitae and mulberry did well in spite of the weather. Ground nesting species were favored by the drought, and "meadow sparrows" had successful nestings. Insect life suffered — which was a boon to humans, a problem for the insect-eating birds. Suet feeders were unusually well patronized, people reported.

Warblers started migration somewhat early — around Waterloo migration was noted by the end of July, and on Aug 11, Randy Little found many migrating warblers in Stewart Park, Ithaca. Goldfinches remained in flocks and few nests were found.

A Canvasback nesting at Montezuma Refuge, White-throated Sparrows carrying food north-east of Ithaca, and Evening Grosbeaks with young make three additions to the region's list of breeding species.

Abbreviations used: SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; L — Lake; CHIGMA — Connecticut Hill Game Management Area.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one, Cayuga, L. various observers, through Jul. Apparently injured bird. Great Blue Heron: increased numbers, Keuka L, decreased elsewhere in the Region. Common Egret: 28, Jul 14, MFWR (David Peakall-DP); 30, Aug. 2 (peak) MFWR (DP). Black-crowned Night Heron: 15-20, MFWR, several observers, a high count. Also more reported this year at s. end

Cayuga L than usual. Least Bittern: adults and yng., MFWR (W.R. Spofford — WRS). Canada Goose: two, s. end of Cayuga L, Jun & Jul, probably the pair raised the year before at SWS. Mallards: eight broods, SWS (A.A. Allen — AAA), increase of two broods over last year. Black Ducks: first returned to SWS on Aug. 9. Wood Duck: total of 40 at SWS, first week of Aug, result of six broods, increase of two over last year. Canvasback: first breeding record for the Cayuga L Basin, six raised at MFWR. No captive birds of this species on the refuge (J. Morse). Hooded Merganser: attempted unsuccessfully to nest at SWS; one, Jun 9, CHIGMA (R. Sandberg — RS). Red-breasted Merganser: one, Jul 8, Myers Pt., Cayuga L (Julian Shepherd), rare summer resident.

Manager J. Morse reports another increase in duck broods observed at MFWR this year: Total of 131, as compared with 105 last year, 84 in '60. 19 Mallard, 16 Black, 23 Gadwall, two Green-winged Teal, 41 Blue-winged Teal, eight Shoveler, eight Wood Duck, eight Redhead, one Canvasback, three Ruddy Duck, two Hooded Merganser. Note that Widgeon did not raise young.

Hawks — Owls: Sharp-shinned Hawk: one successful nesting, near Ithaca. Red-tailed hawks: good numbers, MFWR, (E. McDougall). Bald Eagle: one (adult), regularly, MFWR; one imm. SWS, Aug 10-11, numerous observers. Osprey: one, Jul 18, MFWR, unusual in summer, (DP). Ruffed Grouse: "plentiful around Keuka Lake" (F. Guthrie — FG); a pair raised young, SWS, first time in five years. Bobwhite: two coveys seen near Elmira in early Aug, very tame. No coveys seen during period, Ithaca. Turkey: three broods, Chem. Co. Rails: no reports, drought may have reduced nesting success in these species. Semipalmated Plover: three Aug 11 (first) Hog Hole, Cayuga L. (R. Little — RL). Black-bellied Plover: one May 20 (first), Hog Hole (P. Kelsey — PK); nine Jun 1 (late) Tyre (A. Ulrich); one Aug 11 (first fall), Hog Hole, Cayuga L. (PK). Ruddy Turnstone: one Jun 6 (late) Hog Hole (J. Gutsell — JG); one Jul 29 (first fall), Hog Hole. Woodcock: driven out from dried up meadows and woodland edges to lawns and pond edges, by drought. Upland Plover: one (new station) Caswell Road, n.e. of Ithaca. Greater Yellowlegs: four Jul 14 (first) MFWR (DP). Lesser Yellowlegs: two Jul 18 MFWR (DP). Pectoral Sandpiper: one Jul 14 (first) MFWR (DP). Least Sandpiper: one Jul 18 (first) Route 31 w. of Montezuma village (DP). Dowitcher: one Jun 11 (last) Hog Hole, (JG); two Jul 14 (first fall) MFWR (DP); two Jul 29, Hog Hole (PK). Stilt Sandpiper: two Jul 22, three Jul 23, Rte. 31 w. of Montezuma village (DP); one Jul 22 MFWR (M. Rusk — MR). Semipalmated Sandpiper: Jul 18, Rte. 31 w. of Mont. Vill. (DP). Sanderling: none during reporting period. Wilson's Phalarope: one Jul 22, Rte. 31 w. of Mont. Vill. (WRS, MR, and other observers in next few days), rare.

Great Black-backed Gull: one imm. seen irregularly all summer s. end of Cayuga L. Common Terns: probably nested s. end of Cayuga Lake, and at Myers Pt. Caspian Tern: three Aug 12 (first) Cayuga L (P. P. Kellogg — PPK; three Aug 15, Seneca L (B. Strath — BS). Mourning Doves: generally considered abundant; One flock near Elmira in June, one flock near Geneva, In July-time of year when they should not have been in flocks. Cuckoos: scarce everywhere. Screech Owl: scarce at Ithaca and Geneva.

Saw-whet Owl: one Jun 19, Six Mile Creek gorge in E. Ithaca (Darwin Warner), first summer record since 1942. Whip-poor-will: one Jun 30, Johnson Hollow Rd., near Elmira, (Elmer Brimmer), calling west of Altay, Schu Co., all summer (FG).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Chimney Swift: newly hatched yng. brought to Lab. of Ornithology, Aug 7, late date. Hummingbird: scarce everywhere. Flicker: plentiful everywhere. Red-bellied Woodpeckers: raised young, King Ferry (Thatchers). Red-headed Woodpecker: successful nestings, King Ferry (Thatchers); Ludlowville (Saltontall); Auburn (Coalson, Allison). Hairy and Downy Woodpecker young, brought to my feeder in Etna, Jun 13, very early date. 22 Downies, all immatures but six, were trapped and banded Jul 16-24, and at least three remained un-banded, a high count for one feeding station.

Kingbirds: abundant; 22 in $\frac{3}{4}$ mile stretch, Aug. 8, Elmira (Mary Smith — MS). Crested Flycatcher: good numbers, Waterloo (J. Walker — JW). Phoebe: continue scarce, Ithaca and Waterloo. Traill's Flycatcher: scarce, Waterloo (JW.) Olive-sided Flycatcher: one, Jun 22 (rare summer record), Monkey Run e. of Ithaca (PPK); one Aug 15 (first fall) near Aurora (K. Thorp); one sep 2, Ithaca (RL).

Cliff Swallow: 148 nests, Jun 20, Sweetland farm s. of Dryden (Dorcas Ward); one Aug 11 (last) SWS (RL). Purple Martin: late in reaching Hornell — 2nd week in June (W. Groesbeck — WG); Aug 16 (last date) SWS (AAA). Blue Jays: very abundant, returned earlier than usual to feeders. Red-breasted Nuthatch: several individuals, late June, Monkey Run e. of Ithaca, indicates nesting again this year. Brown Creepers: two nestings, SWS (AAA). Winter Wren: one singing, June, Texas Hollow n. of Elmira (BS). Carolina Wren: scarce at Ithaca; "usual locations near Watkins Glen" (J. Bardeen — JB).

Long-billed Marsh Wren: ten, Jul 22 (high) MFWR (MR). Short-billed Marsh Wren: two, Jun 13, near Upper Endfield, s. of Ithaca (new station (E. Gates). Mockingbird: one, late Jun, Northview Road, Ithaca (B. Cotts). Catbird: less abundant than some years. Robin: up in numbers everywhere. Nesting success evident, in spite of drought. Veery: still down in numbers. Bluebird: lowest in numbers in any recent year, at Hornell, Ithaca, Watkins Glen, Keuka and Geneva. No figures available this year, for nesting success, in Ithaca area, but Hartshorne says this species is missing from even more stations. Golden-crowned Kinglet: present in June near Slaterville (J. Cope) but no nest found. Cedar Waxwing: Jun 5, gathering nesting material, Elmira (early). No reports of Loggerhead Shrikes.

Vireos — Warblers: Vireos: all species seemed scarce to all observers. Red-eyed: at SWS, 11 pairs. Prothonotary Warbler: one, Aug 4, in yard in Waterloo (rare bird) (J. S. Bodine). Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers: scarcer at Ithaca stations (Collecting?). Cerulean Warbler: one, Jun 11, Camp Comstock on Cayuga L. (new station) (JG). Prairie Warbler: (rare bird in region) Jun 9, Connecticut Hill, s.w. of Ithaca (RS); two Jun 29, Sullivan's Monument, Elmira (MS). Louisiana Waterthrush: unusually scarce. Canada Warbler: five pairs, SWS (AAA) (no change). Redstarts: the only common warbler in Schu. Co. (JB); low numbers at Waterloo and Ithaca.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Redwinged Blackbird: few comments received indicated lower numbers than last several years. Cowbird: smaller flocks in fields in w. part of Region. Fewer insects? Orchard Oriole: one, Jun 10 (rare bird), Penn Yan (V. Whitaker). Baltimore Oriole: unusually abundant, Hornell (WG); average numbers elsewhere. Cardinals: abundant at Waterloo (JW), where they have been common only a few years. Evening Grosbeak: six reports of the species in June and July, two instances of young being fed — Jul 9, Ithaca (F. Stone); Jul 13, Hook Place, Ithaca (Mrs. Millard); 12-15 seen in flight, Jul 19 (O. Hewitt); would seem to establish this as a breeding species. Goldfinch: fewer nests than most years, birds seeming to remain in flocks throughout the season.

White-throated Sparrow: a pair seen, late Jun, Dill Woods (n. end Sapsucker Woods Road) carrying food. No nest found. First breeding record in Ithaca area — anticipated for several years. Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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July was a little cooler than normal on average, but June and the first half of August averaged close to their norms. There were few really hot days. Only twice was the temperature as high as ninety in Binghamton. The main weather news was the dryness. 6.32 inches of rain were recorded at Binghamton versus the norm of about 8.7 for the period and 25% of that fell August 9 and 10. There were no reports of the dry weather having a direct effect, either good or bad, on bird populations although it doubtless did. It is unfortunate that the summer months, so very important in the life cycle of many birds, receive the least attention from most observers. As a consequence we not only get few reports of abnormal weather affecting birds directly but we have only a poor idea of the norm during this period for many of the most interesting species.