

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.

There was at least one instance of fish dying off in large numbers in the Susquehanna River which could have been related to low water levels. The dead fish lying along the river banks seem to have been the attraction for the Bald Eagle reported Jul 24

The Black Rail record, a breeding record at that, was certainly the most interesting obtained during the period. (See record under Hawks-Owls). Three Bald Eagle records, a Peregrine Falcon, Long-eared Owls, a Raven, a Mockingbird and Swainson's Thrushes were also of special interest. The number and distribution of Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow records were also interesting. Bluebird nesting reports were encouraging and Cedar Waxwings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Purple Finches were a few of the species that seem to have enjoyed peak years.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: one at Highland Lake, in nearby Penn., until at least Jul 7 (S. Lincoln); the only one reported during the period. Great Blue Heron: ten young raised in three nests in the small colony s. of Owego (D. Bendle — DB); Whitney Pt. colony not checked and only occasional reports from the rest of the region. Common Egret: Aug 10, Campville (DB); the only record during the period. Canada Goose: 15, Jul 31, flying over Endwell (L. Bement — LB); Aug. 5, small flock heard flying over Owego (G. Kirk); the dates suggest a locally raised brood of semi-domesticated birds. Blue-winged Teal: Jun 2, Whitney Pt. (M. Sheffield — MS); two, Aug 12, Whitney Pt. (MS), very tame, apparently young; none between. Wood Duck: six pair known to be nesting in Cortland area at beginning of the period. (J. Gustafson), but few reported the rest of the period.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: Jul 5, Owego (DB); the only one reported. Broad-winged Hawk: Jun 6, Chenango Forks (M & A Davis — M,AD); last of the spring migrants; no fall migrants before the end of the period. Bald Eagle: Jun 6, Owego (A. Evelin — AE); Jun 30, Owego (DB, R. Williams — RW); Jul 24, Susquehanna R. at Endwell (H. Marsi — HM, F. Linaberry — FL). Peregrine Falcon: one, Aug. 5, along a back road between Owego and Endicott (C. Gerould — CG, M. White — MW), seen at fairly close range both perched and in flight, facial markings clearly seen. Bob-white: Jul and Aug at Newark Valley (L. Dean — LD); also reported s. of Owego (AE). Virginia Rail: Jun 10, Vestal (MS); Jul 22, Sherburne (R & S White — R,SW), an adult with two downy young; only records. Sora: Jun 10, Vestal (MS); only record. Black Rail: Jun 14, Bainbridge (E. J. Smith — ES), an adult was seen running across the road, "followed by at least a dozen black chicks," in front of the car in which the observer was riding. In a phone conversation Mr. Smith compared the size of the adult to that of a sparrow, noted that it was feathered rather than downy and remembered the bill as being about the same length as the head. There were no prominent white markings noted. Despite the fact that the white markings on the back and undersides were not noted, it seems from the feathering and bill length of the larger bird that the possibility of a mixed brood of another species is unlikely.

Semi-palmated Plover: three, Jun 2, Whitney Pt. (MS), only ones in the period. Killdeer: Jul 6, Cortland (C. Wilkins — CW), nesting, no doubt a second time. Woodcock: adult with four young, Jun 4, Ingraham Hill s. of Binghamton (C. Howard — CH); one, Jul 15 Sherburne (R,SW); these were the only ones but the species is not often reported during the summer. Solitary Sandpiper: two, Jul 15, Sherburne (R,SW); Aug 9, Marsh Pond near Windsor (HM,FL). Greater Yellowlegs: four, Aug 12, Lounsberry (RW). Lesser Yellowlegs: Aug 15, Owego (MW). Pectoral Sandpiper: one, Aug 5, Sherburne (R,SW). Least Sandpiper: one, Aug 4, Sherburne (R,SW). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 20, Jun 2, Whitney Pt. (MS), last spring migrants; three, Aug 4, Sherburne (R,SW), first fall migrants. Black Tern: Aug 13, Owego (MW,CG), not often reported in the region in the fall. Mourning Dove: "good numbers" around Owego (RW) but somewhat scarce around the Triple Cities (Naturalists' Club) and Oneonta (R. Burland). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: rather scarce.

Black-billed Cuckoo: reported rather frequently. Screech Owl: an adult with four young, Jun 14, Binghamton (P. Slocum); regularly at Newark Valley (LD) but not many other reports. Long-eared Owl: three, Jul 5 and 6, Norwich (R&SW), beside a city street, one sat on a wire under a street lamp.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: heard during Jun and Jul at Owego (RW) and Candor (D. Weber-DW). Red-headed Woodpecker: one, Jun 3, Sherburne (R&SW); seen repeatedly during the period at Owego (AE). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: family raised at Cortland left nest about Aug 1 (L. & F. Newman—L&FN); seen at Newark Valley all summer "as always" (LD); also one at Guilford, Jul 1 (R&SW) and near Whitney Point Aug 12 (MS). Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher: both seemed very common. Phoebe; numbers continue to improve towards peak of several years ago. Traill's Flycatcher: reported from Deposit (S. Wilson — SW), Newark Valley (LD) and the Triple Cities area. Least Flycatcher and Wood Pewee: both seemed more common than in recent years.

Bank Swallow: a colony nested in a bank freshly cut in connection with the construction of new route 17 near Deposit (SW) demonstrating that man's works are not always detrimental to desirable forms of wildlife; Aug 10, Chenango Forks (M&AD), last report. Cliff Swallow: the established colony at Greene was active (C. Davis). A pair successfully raised young at a new location on Ingraham Hill (CH), hopefully the beginning of a thriving new colony. There were several other reports not associated with known colonies, the last Aug 12 at Whitney Point (MS). Purple Martin: there are now three known active colonies in the Owego area (RW). Raven: one, Jul 1, Ingraham Hill (CH), size and voice were compared with Crows in sight at the same time, the difference in the shape of the tail was also noted. Tufted Titmouse: reported at Deposit (SW) and Endwell (E. & N. Washburn — E&NW), at the latter place returning periodically and in Jul bringing young ones with them. Brown Creeper: one, Jun 30, at Cranberry Lake in nearby Pennsylvania (E&NW); Aug 15, Cortland (CW). Long-billed Marsh Wren: at Vestal (MS) and Sherburne (R&SW). Short-billed Marsh Wren: Jun 24 and Jul 7, Sherburne (R&SW).

Mockingbird; one, Jul 20, Newark Valley (M. Hills). Brown Thrasher: Jun 19, Oxford (A Stratton — AS), bringing young to suet feeder. Hermit Thrush: reported during the period at Chenango Forks (M&AD) and in the French Tract s. of Binghamton (CH, HM). Swainson's Thrush: two, Jun 2 and one, Jul 15, singing at Pharsalia in Chenango Co. (R&SW). Bluebird: a nesting count in the Owego, Candor, Newark Valley area tallied 76 adults and 83 young during the period (Tioga Bird Club); a similar population density extends into the area between the Triple Cities and Whitney Point; there were quite a few reports of second nestings; at Cortland the first brood of a pair left Jun 3 and the second brood left Jul 14 (L&FN). Cedar Waxwing: seemed particularly numerous this summer.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: Jun 2 and Aug 12 (singing), Whitney Point (MS); one at Owego in Jul and Aug (RW); the only reports. Golden-winged, Blue-winged and Brewster's Warblers all present and apparently nesting in a brushy hillside area s. of Binghamton (HM). Golden-winged Warblers: in many areas around the Triple Cities and also at Deposit (SW). Magnolia Warbler: pair with two young, Jul 14, south of Owego in nearby Pennsylvania (RW). Myrtle Warbler: Jun 12, Cortland (CW); one, Jul 1, Guilford in Chenango Co. (R&SW). Blackburnian Warbler: an unusually large number of summer records in the Triple Cities area; also present throughout the period at Owego. Blackpoll Warbler: a last spring wave went through Jun 2 and 3, reported at Deposit (SW), Norwich (R&SW) and three areas around the Triple Cities (MS, CH, LB). Louisiana Waterthrush: one, June 21, in an Endwell backyard (E&NW). Mourning Warbler: two, Jun 2, Whitney Point (MS), singing males; Jun 2 and Jul 15, Pharsalia (R&SW). Yellow-breasted Chat: reported at two localities near Binghamton (MS, CH) and at Brisben (R&SW).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Scarlet Tanager: more reported than in most years. Cardinal: nesting success reported at Greene (J. Gray) and Deposit (SW) and numerous reports elsewhere. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: have seemed particularly numerous, especially in the latter part of the period. Purple Finch: especially common until the middle of Jul in much of the region; at Deposit over 100 birds of the year coming to a feeder, most of which have been banded (SW). Slate-colored Junco: present during the period at Candor (DW), Owego (RW), Ludlow and Oxford (AS), Cranberry Lake (E&NW), Choconut Center (MS) and Castle Creek (B. Burgher). White-throated Sparrow: one, Jun 20, French Tract (CH); Jun 24 and 25, two locations near Lake Ludlow at East MacDonough (AS); eight, Jun 30, Bowman Lake at MacDonough (R&SW); all singing.

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