

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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From mid-June until the end of July, the Region experienced hot, dry weather, though not record-breaking. August saw a decided change to cool and rather wet conditions, which slowed fruit production.

The nesting season produced little that is worthy of comment — no new species, nothing extreme. Slight gain was noted in waterfowl nesting success at Montezuma, and in the breeding population of some of the flycatchers and thrushes. Wrens, warblers and most sparrows continued relatively scarce, however. The beginning of August was marked by unusual numbers of shorebirds at Montezuma. Some of the abundant Purple Finches of the spring season remained to nest and feeding stations were well patronized by these, and by Woodpeckers, Orioles, Catbirds and Towhees. From reports reaching me (or rather, from the scarcity of such) I would say there had been fewer man-hours in the field in Region III than in most years. Consequently there are few definite figures to support the impressions of scarcity or abundance.

Abbreviations used in report: Cay L: Cayuga Lake. MFWR: Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge. SWS: Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

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Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Herons: increase over last few years, MFWR; scarcer, Hornell and Elmira. Several on SWS pond all summer, and roosting in Sanctuary for first year. Little Blue Heron: one, piebald, Jun 11 and later, MFWR (JM). Cattle Egret: none reported. Common Egret: 25-30 (peak), end of Jul, MFWR, (WB); one, Jul 23, s. end of Cayuga where rarely seen, (LC). Black-crowned Night Heron: 38 (peak), Jul 4, MFWR (WB). Almost double peak of last year. American Bittern: one seen regularly early Aug at SWS; generally fewer noted each year in Region. Glossy Ibis: Jun 4, MFWR (JC); Jul 17, MFWR (WB).

Whistling Swan: Two (one imm.) Jun 19, Indian Pines at head of east branch Keuka L., (FO); ten imms., Jun 21-Jul 7 when 9 left, Hulbert's Pond on Woodhull-Troupsburg Rd., (WG). Late dates and unusual records. Mallard: usual number of broods at SWS, but brood-size averaged smaller (AAA). Black: one brood, late Jul, fully grown, SWS. Wood Duck: seven broods, SWS, compared with six in '62. Brood size small. One brood hatched Aug 5, 9 weeks later than the first. Hooded Merganser: pair seen Jun and Jul, SWS, but no nesting success.

At Montezuma, total waterfowl production increased 16% — from 2550 in 1962 to 2957 in '63. Production figures will be given this year and in the future, as being more significant than number of broods. (Figures courtesy of John Morse, Manager.) The first number given will be '63, the second '62: Canada Goose: 95, 90. Mallard, 672, 345. Black Duck: 180, 290. Blue-winged Teal: 720, 740. Wood Duck: 192, 240. Gadwall: 480, 550. Redhead: 204, 80. Shoveler: 120, 80. Green-winged Teal: 48, 30. Ruddy Duck: 90, 75. Baldpate: 72, 5. Pintail: 54, none. Canvasback: none, 6. Hooded Merganser: 30, 25. It will be noted that Blacks, Woods, Blue-winged Teal and Gadwall decreased this year.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: one, Jun 16, Almond, (WG) first in several years; one, Jun 16, Barnhill area, Newfield, feeding on dead fox in road. Red-shouldered Hawk: nested, Sapsucker Woods. Broad-winged Hawk:

three, Jul 1, Danby-Beaver Pond area (JK); several, Caroline Hills areas s.e. Ithaca; one, Aug. 6, Mark Twain Golf Course, Elmira (KF). Species is on increase as summer bird in Southern Tier. Bald Eagle: one, Jun 11, over South Elmira flying north-east (ER); Two, one ad. and one imm, (not this year's bird) various observers at MFWR, in period between Jun 8 and Jul 17. Marsh Hawk: very scarce. Four, fledged young, Jul 25, near town of Montezuma, (WS). Sparrow Hawks: unusually abundant at Keuka (FG). Ruffed Grouse: poor nesting. Bobwhite: Broods reported at Ithaca, Keuka and Burdett, but certainly not in hoped-for numbers. (Only one brood of four at SWS, for example.) Ring-necked Pheasant: good numbers at Keuka (FG). Turkey: four half-grown young, Aug 6, Catlin (WW), New Station. Woodcock: abundant. Snipe: abundant. Upland Plover: definitely on increase in Region: At usual stations, plus several; two young, Jun 16, Etna (SH); two young, Jul 2, n. of Tompkins Co. airport (AAA); nesting, late June, King Ferry (Mrs. Tom Donly). Greater Yellowlegs: one, Jul 12, MFWR (WB), first. Other dates: Jul 20, Hog Hole, Ithaca; Jul 21, Elmira. Lesser Yellowlegs: one, Jul 3, MFWR (MR) first; 12, Jul 4, MFWR (WB); 16, Jul 7, MFWR (WB). Pectoral Sandpiper: one, Jul 17, Mays Pt. Pool MFWR (WB), first; one Jul 25, Hog Hole, Ithaca, (LC). Baird's Sandpiper: one, Jul 23, Hog Hole (LC) first. Short-billed Dowitcher: four, Jul 14, MFWR, spring plumage. Semi-palmated Sandpiper: Jul 17, MFWR, first. Wilson's Phalarope, one, Jul 17, Mays Pt. Pool MFWR (WB) Rare. No summer Great Black-backed Gull reports. Common Tern: absent at Keuka. Nested n. end of Cay L. (EM). Mourning Doves: abundant everywhere Cuckoos, both species: normal numbers, and abundant at Waterloo, where there were many tent caterpillars (JW). Screech Owl: scarce everywhere.

Goatsucker — Shrikes: Hummingbirds: scarce at Ithaca early in season, but apparently good nesting success. Hummingbirds and Kingfishers reported in good numbers at north end of Cay L. Red-headed Woodpecker: still no appreciable gain, but successful nestings at Keuka, Hall, and Ithaca. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested SWS and Coy Glen. More Imm. Hairies, fewer imm. Downies at Etna this year than last. Good Kingbird migration beginning mid-Aug. Traills' Flycatchers and Phoebe were in better numbers; Crested Flycatchers and Pewees had not gained appreciably. All Swallows: except Tree; normal success, flocking by end of July. Purple Martins: approx. 12 pairs nested SWS; last ones left about Aug 15. Blue Jays: abundant everywhere. Tufted Titmice: continuing slight increase, except in Keuka area, where are gone except at Dresden. House Wren: continues scarce in comparison with six or eight years ago. Carolina Wren: no successful nests at Ithaca; a well-documented nesting at Seneca Lake Camp, s. of Dresden. Yg. fledged Jul 11 (PZ). Long-billed Marsh Wren: good numbers north end of Cay L. Short-billed: very scarce. Mockingbird: gone from Esperanza after several years; one, Jun 27, n.e. of Carter Creek Road at junction Rte. 13 (SH); one singing steadily, Cayuga Hgts section Ithaca, during last week Jul.

Brown Thrashers: increase this year — many reports of having them as residents for first time. Robins: better numbers this year than for several years. Wood Thrushes: slightly more abundant. Hermit Thrushes and Veeries: scarcer than ever. Bluebirds: all areas except Ithaca, where the count was the worst yet, reported some increase this year. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nested Stewart Park, Ithaca, and near Dryden. Loggerhead Shrike: one only, late July, Interlaken (LB). Starlings: seemed somewhat less abundant.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireos: no reports of nesting birds. Red-eyed Vireo: scarce everywhere. Nesting birds at SWS dropped to 13 from 18 in '62, and 25 in 1960. Prothonotary Warbler: one, Jul 28, Stewart Park, Ithaca (JN) rare here. Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers: both scarcer. Chestnut-sided Warblers: normal numbers this year. Prairie Warbler: one only, early July, Conn. Hill where there has been a small colony in recent years (AAA). Yellowthroats: abundant, more so than Yellow Warblers this year. Yellow-breasted Chat: only two or three reports. Canada Warbler: 4 pairs, in contrast with 7 in '62 and 10 in '61, SWS (AAA). Redstarts: still scarce, missing from various usual localities.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks: scarce. Meadowlarks on increase, along with Grackles and Redwings. Western Meadowlark: one, n. of Penn Yan, Jun and Jul, (FG). Baltimore Orioles: successful nestings, more reports than usual of Orioles patronizing suet feeders and hummingbird feeders. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks: seemed scarce early in season, but more in evidence by early August, although Dunham found approximately the same number of territories in Renwick (Stewart Park) this year as last year. Evening Grosbeak: one, male, Jul 6, Sunset Park, Ithaca, (AW). Purple Finch: increase in number of breeding birds. Young at feeders by late July. Goldfinch: one taking cotton, Jun 4, Etna (SH), unusually early nesting record. Breeding population good. Grasshopper Sparrows and Henslow's Sparrows: hard to find all summer. Clay-colored Sparrow: one, Jun 2, Cayuga Hgts. $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. from location of past four years. Disappeared shortly thereafter. No reports of White-throated Sparrow this summer. Song Sparrows: abundant, good nesting success.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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The weather during the period was quite variable from one location to another and the two weather stations in Broome Co. confirm this by reporting some monthly averages on opposite sides of the norm. At the Binghamton Post Office, in the river valley, June was warm and dry, July averaged close to normal in temperature and was on the wet side and August quite cool and dry. At Broome Co. Airport, up on a hilltop, June was warm and wet, July was cool and dry and August even cooler than it was in the valley, as compared to the norm, and dry. In Binghamton the temperature was 90 or above on ten different days but up on the hilltop it never did get that warm. Precipitation was quite spotty, more than half of it falling on six widely separated days, the two weather stations not even agreeing on which six days.

The closest thing to a rarity during the period was the Acadian Flycatcher in Tioga County. It is the only known one in the region in the last ten years, but they are listed as irregular summer residents at Ithaca. The other most notable departure from normal was the large population of Purple Finches.

There were what seemed like a large number of reports of unsuccessful nestings. This may well have been a result of the new attention focused on nesting records as a result of the nesting record cards distributed by the Laboratory of Ornithology, but some of the Bluebird results, at least are known to be a change from previous years. In one interesting, although probably not abnormal, case of milk snake found dead on a road was observed to have had a nestful of young birds for its last meal.

As usual there was a sharp decrease in observer activity during the summer months. So large a decrease, in fact, that conclusions about reduced numbers must be viewed with caution.

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Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: six nests counted in a colony at Candor (DW) and seven in a colony in nearby Pennsylvania south of Owego (DB); reportedly scarce at Newark Valley (LD) and Oneonta (RB) but otherwise they were reported in normal numbers. Green Heron: Jun 7, Sidney (FQ), a nest with 4 young; seemed less plentiful than usual in the