

Five Red-breasted Nuthatches were in DEP June 25 (ST). While no nest has actually been found, it seems probable that this species nests in the extensive coniferous groves planted in this park. Three Hermit Thrushes were at CL June 3 (AM). This species nests regularly in this high country. High counts of Eastern Bluebirds were eight at CL June 3 (AM) and 10 at PMP June 19 (AAS et al). The species seems to have continued its modest increase this year, both as a breeder and migrant. Eight Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported from PMP June 19 (AAS et al). This species is increasing locally. A very out-of-season Water Pipit was seen at the WS on Aug 2 (WCL).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A singing male Brewster's Warbler was in PMP June 19 (JB, ST). A Parula Warbler was in Letchworth Pk June 5 (WCL). A Blackburnian Warbler was in PMP July 16 (TM, MS). While the species is not known to nest there, it does nest fairly close by. A belated Blackpoll Warbler was at Manitou June 22 (WCL).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: A high count of 30 Grasshopper Sparrows was made at HBP June 6 (MF, MM). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow was found just west of Shore Acres on Walker Rd south of the Parkway July 4 (JD, Michael Doherty, William Doherty & HSM). It was present until at least July 10 and was carefully studied by several other observers. This is our area's third record of this species, all within the past five years. A very late White-crowned Sparrow was at Manitou June 11-13 (WCL).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

The drought continued (some light rains, but accumulation sub-normal) and temperatures averaged below-normal. There was no period of extreme heat. Ground nesters seemed fairly successful, but there were many reports of failures of nests of insect-eaters, for which there may be several explanations, possibly inter-related. Fruit production appears to be below that of last summer, though reasonably good. Except for Red-tailed Hawks, the raptors were almost absent as breeding birds.

Montezuma Refuge had a slight increase in over-all productivity of waterfowl, although not as many Canada Geese, nor Redheads. Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary had an increase in numbers of broods of Mallards and Wood Ducks, but the broods averaged smaller, 2-5 ducklings. The breeding bird census of Sapsucker Woods showed a slight increase in Wood Pewees, Catbirds, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Ovenbirds, Yellowthroats and Grackles, with a decrease in Tree Swallows, Wood Thrushes, and Veeries.

Montezuma produced excellent shore-birding again this year, beginning July 1. I am indebted to Walter Benning for the following description: "The birds were mostly concentrated on the Main Pool near

headquarters, with some on the Mays Pt Pool. The water level was low and steadily dropping, and by 1 Aug I estimated 1000 shorebirds on the Main Pool. The management then began filling these pools and draining the storage pool, and this resulted in a dispersment of the shorebirds to other areas, some to Black Lake. By Aug 15, the Main Pool, Black Lake and Mays Pt Pool were almost lacking in shorebirds . . . while extensive flats on the storage pool were becoming alive with them—15 species represented and over 1000 individuals.”

There were few field observers in the Region this summer, and I am primarily indebted to Dr. and Mrs. Fred Ransom for their daily observations, impressions of over-all abundance and comparisons with the last two seasons, to John Morse for his summary of waterfowl production at Montezuma, and to Walter Benning for his notes on shore-birds.

Contributors: JB—Jack Brubaker; WEB—Walter E. Benning; FG—Frank Guthrie; WG—William Groesbeck; JM—John Morse; FR—Fred Ransom; BS—Betty Strath; MPW—Mary P. Welles.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; Sen L—Seneca Lake; Can L—Canandaigua L; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: four pairs, Jun 13, n. end Sen L (John Dye et al), late date for Finger Lakes. One, ill or injured, spent summer near Horseheads, died Aug 14, shortly after being stoned by children. Great Blue Heron: no colonies located; max at MNWR, 89, late July, (Harry Recker). No reports of Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret or Snowy Egret in Region. Common Egret: max 16, Aug 1, MNWR (Vernon Dewey). Black-crowned Night Heron: observers generally reported more sightings MNWR this year than last. Least Bittern: one to three seen regularly, MNWR; one, Jun 30 through July, Penn Yan Marsh (FG). Mute Swan: five (probably same family group previously reported), Jun 10, Cay L near Cay State Pk, (WEB). White-fronted Goose: what appeared to be this species was reported Jun 6, Chemung R near Wellsburg but verification report not yet filed.

Figures for production of waterfowl at Montezuma are as follows, with symbol indicating if increase or decrease over '64 (JM): Canada Goose, 88 (—); Mallard, 900 (+); Wood Duck, 600 (+); Blue-winged Teal, 810 (—); Black Duck, 100 (—); Shoveler, 115 (+); Green-winged Teal, 44 (+); Gadwall, 800 (+); Pintail, 12 (+); Am. Widgeon, 24 (+); Hooded Merganser, 15 (—); Redhead, 90 (—); Canvasback, 6 (+); Ruddy Duck, 100 (+). The most serious decrease was in Redheads. The total production for the Refuge was 3,600 ducks, as compared with 3,200 last year. At SWS 15 broods of Mallards, 10 broods Wood Ducks, were produced, but broods averaged small.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reported as 'fairly common' at MNWR; max 13, July 4, opp. Seneca Pt on e. shore Can L (D. Chamberlain). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one seen Yellow Barn Rd, Town of Dryden in June; only one pair known to nest, near Ithaca, and that failed (W. R. Spofford). Cooper's Hawk: one sighting of what was believed to be this species Aug 15 near Burdett (E. Bishop). Red-tailed Hawk: in good numbers everywhere. Red-shouldered Hawk: decreasing, one successful nesting, one failure, near SWS. Broad-winged Hawk: nest reported in July issue successful; sightings at two other areas near Ithaca; one imm Jun 22, near Watkins Glen (JB); this species appears to be moving into Region as a breeding bird. Bald Eagle: one imm seen fairly regularly, MNWR; one there on Jun 14 was a

different individual, with much white in head; one imm Jun 20, Montour Falls (Barrie Strath). Marsh Hawk: no known nestings; sightings regularly w. of MNWR, and also w. of Watkins Glen (JB). Osprey: irregular in summer; seen July 3 and Aug 15, MNWR (WEB). Sparrow Hawk: few sightings except in Keuka area (FG); few successful nestings known near Ithaca.

Wild Turkey: at least one successful nesting on Conn. Hill. Virginia Rail: good numbers everywhere; new nesting location, small marsh near Lowman, on Rt. 17 near Elmira (K. Fudge). Common Gallinule and Am. Coot; abundant, MNWR.

Shorebird migration started in early July. It is difficult to place in proper category a breeding-plumaged Wilson's Phalarope seen at MNWR, Jun 26-27 (WEB). Semipalmated Plover: three, July 1, MNWR (WEB). As I have no reports of shorebirds except a few at Ithaca's disappearing Hog Hole, other than the Montezuma reports, all following will be there. American Golden Plover, one, and Black-bellied Plover, six, on Aug 14. Woodcock and Common Snipe: again driven into open and along shores by drought, so many sightings, and possibly false impression of abundance. Lesser Yellowlegs: from Jun 20 on; max 176, July 31, (WEB). Short-billed Dowitcher: two (first) Jul 14; max 15, Aug 8 (WEB); one, Jul 19, Horseheads Bridge over Newton Creek (MPW). Stilt Sandpiper: one (first), Aug 13 (FR). Hudsonian Godwit: four, Jul 14-18. Sanderling: one (first), Aug 15. Wilson's Phalarope: one, Jun 27, breeding plumage; two, Aug 11 and 15, fall plumage.

Ring-billed Gull: numbers began building up last week July. Bonaparte's Gull: four, July 28, MNWR, one breeding plumage, one imm, two changing (WEB). *Least Tern*: second record for Region, first for Cay Basin in many years, July 3, Mays Pt pond at MNWR (F. Scheider et al, see Field Notes section). Caspian Tern: scattered reports mid-Aug various localities; Black Tern: good breeding success. Both Cuckoos scarce throughout Region. Owls scarce, except Great Horned. Barred Owls brought off two young successfully at SWS.

CAPRIMULGIDS-STARLING: Whip-poor-will: heard in the usual two or three stations, plus Piper Road, s.w. of Ithaca—new station. Nighthawk: seemed less common this year.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: less abundant than in former years. Yellow-shafted Flicker: seemed abundant everywhere but in Elmira area. Pileated Woodpecker: brought off young in SWS and in Stewart Park, Ithaca; also on Stasche property at Caton, s. of Corning; many other sightings. Red-bellied Woodpecker: no nestings reported. Red-headed Woodpecker: except around Ithaca, this species is showing a slight increase. Of the Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds and Traill's Flycatchers were in good numbers (at SWS, both varieties of Traill's nested close together), while Phoebe and Least Flycatchers were scarce. Tree Swallows were scarcer at SWS and some other locations; Barn and Bank Swallows were in better than usual numbers. Cliff Swallows left the Dryden-Harford Rd colony in late July (early) after successful nesting but only one brood this year. Of interest also, a single nest on top of an outside light fixture at the J. Gregory home, Elmira, attracted much attention; young left nest Jun 26. Purple Martin: left the Montezuma Headquarters house on Jul 28, left SWS early August.

Blue Jays and Crows common everywhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: apparently nested on Conn. Hill again; no other reports. House Wren: continued less abundant than in former years. Long-billed Marsh Wren: on increase at Penn Yan marsh (FG) and at MNWR (at least 9 locations there). Short-billed Marsh Wren: only reports were from MNWR (3 sightings). Mockingbird: reported from Elmira, Esperanza, Ithaca, and a single bird on a dairy farm at Stephens Mills, town of Fremont (WG). Catbird: common everywhere; In Dryden a Catbird nest, in which the first of four eggs was laid on June 1, was taken over by a Robin which incubated the four Catbird eggs and raised two young to successful fledging, continuing to feed the

young out of the nest (fide Patch, McIlroy, FR)—see Benton, Nest sharing by robin and catbird, *Kingbird* XI: 81 and 137, 1961 for report of Robin and Catbird using same nest in which both laid eggs. Brown Thrasher continues to increase as breeding bird. Robins abundant, Veeries better except at SWS, Wood and Hermit Thrushes in usual numbers. Bluebirds in better numbers in some scattered localities.

Imm Starlings in flocks were a nuisance to cherry-growers in Burdett area in July (J. Bardeen).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos are still reported as scarce, but Red-eyed and Yellow-throated seemed in better numbers than a year ago. Warbling Vireos reported as absent at Odessa (BS) and rare at north end of Cay L. Two reports of breeding Solitary Vireos.

Among the warblers: Yellow, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Northern Waterthrush and Yellowthroat were reported in normal numbers; Black-throated Green, Cerulean, La. Water-thrush and Redstart were scarcer. Black-and-white Warblers nested at Texas Hollow this year. Ovenbirds had increased (4 prs in '64 to 10 prs in '65) at SWS. Several previously unreported stations for Prairie Warbler at Elmira. Two Prothonotary Warblers were seen on two occasions at Texas Hollow (E. Bishop).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolinks were only locally common. Meadowlark: abundant. Redwings and Grackles were abundant, Baltimore Orioles in good numbers, with successful nestings. Scarlet Tanagers, Cardinals and Indigo Buntings appear to be increasing. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were somewhat scarcer this year, except around Keuka, where they were reported commonly; around Ithaca, they seemed scarce during June, but by mid-Aug much more common. Goldfinches, Savannah, Vesper and Song Sparrows seemed abundant, Field and Chipping Sparrows in slightly sub-normal or normal numbers, Henslow's, Grasshopper and Swamp Sparrows, not too common.

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Along with the rest of the northeastern part of the country the Susquehanna Region experienced its fifth dry summer in a row. Rain fell fairly frequently, but rarely in any substantial quantities. Temperatures averaged on the cool side and in early June there was scattered frost one night.

The late summer influx of southern herons was light, but did produce our first Snowy Egret. There was also an interesting assortment of ducks that normally go further north remaining in the Region during the breeding season, some of them, no doubt, as a result of stocking efforts. The fall shorebird migration that normally starts in early July was hardly noticed. A Yellow-headed Blackbird report is of particular interest.

Contributors: LB—L. Bemont; AC—Al Christopher; GC—G. Corderman; C, JD—Carleton and Jeanne Davis; M, AD—Marylin and Anna Davis; RD—Robert Dirig; JD—Jean Doren; CG—Clinton Gerould; BH—Betty Hewlett; CH—Claude Howard; MH—M. Humphries; P, PK—Paul, Sr. and Paul, Jr. Kalka; FL—Florence Linaberry; HM—Harriet Marsi; MM—Mary Middaugh; R, JS—Robert and Jean Saunders; MS—