

Jul, max 55 at Float Bridge Aug 12 (HSM, AAS). A pair of Barn Owls attempted to nest in a silo in Parma (TET) but abandoned the nest when the silo was filled. Screech Owls continued scarce with only two reports.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpecker: 11 in Avon area Jun 19 (GOS hike). Red-breasted Nuthatch: three in Durand-Eastman Pk Jul 31 (MS, ST); the species nested there earlier in the year. Brown Creeper: seven in PMP Jul 12 (AAS, ST); this probably represents a pair of adults and their brood. Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were in typical habitat at BB Jul 16 and probably nested (HSM, AAS, ST). Mockingbird: two seen in Newark Jun 25 (JF, ES, TET) where they nested; also nested in Penfield (James J. Doherty); single birds observed in Fairport Jun 6 (June Feder), PMP Jul 12 (AAS, ST) and near Mendon Jul 22 (TET). Eastern Bluebird: max only six near Avon Jun 19 (GOS hike)—a pair of adults and four young. Loggerhead Shrike: uncommon locally, one near Avon Jun 19 (GOS hike).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Golden-winged Warbler: nine in PMP Jun 9 (ST). Blue-winged Warbler: scarce this year; two near Hemlock Jun 12 (GOS hike). Two pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats probably nested in Fairport (BO et al) and one was seen in Mendon Ponds Pk Jun 12 (TET). Canada Warbler: one at Manitou Jun 19 (WCL)—the species is not known to nest in this area, although it nests regularly south of the city.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Grasshopper Sparrows were uncommon and Henslow's Sparrows were still scarcer locally. A White-throated Sparrow was present in Bergen Swamp Jun 12 (GOS hike). This is one of the few locations in our area where this species is even suspected of nesting.

2080 East Main Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

The drought continued, but in the Ithaca area was somewhat less severe this summer than last, with a few hard rains easing the situation. There were two or three periods of above-normal temperatures. The absence of any prolonged cool wet periods favored nesting success of most species.

Purple Martins, Tree Swallows and Phoebe's showed the effects of the severe weather conditions in early May—these species were scarce. Most later arriving species of insectivores seemed in normal numbers.

I fail to see any improvement in the Bluebird population in Region 3 and cannot help feeling that we need more interest locally in establishing Bluebird trails. Certainly those areas which have put out scores of nest boxes are showing results.

All hawks except Redtails and possibly Broadwings continued their decrease as breeding birds, and I learned of no Screech Owl nests this summer. Other species that seemed scarce include both Cuckoos, Night-hawks, Chimney Swifts, Hummingbirds, Least Flycatchers, Crows, Red-starts, and Black-throated Green Warblers. Those that seemed abundant

include Mourning Doves, Flickers, Catbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings and Rufous-sided Towhees.

The breeding bird census at Sapsucker Woods produced 61 species. There were 14 Mallard broods and 5 Wood Duck broods, as compared with 15 and 10 last year; however, brood size averaged larger. Red-eyed Vireos and Ovenbirds showed a decided drop; House Wrens, Robins, Field and Song Sparrows an increase.

At Montezuma, Canada Goose production had almost doubled, while there were fewer broods of ducks. This last was probably due to the drainage of the Storage Pool, which, according to the Manager, "reduced our brood habitat by about a third." A severe storm on June 9 probably drowned out many nests, and definitely cut down on Coot success, and possibly Black Tern.

High vegetation on the drained Storage Pool flats has cut down on shorebird sightings there, but the recent exposure of mud in the Mays Point Pool has provided an interesting variety of species. Most of the shorebird reports in the body of this summary will be those of Walter Benning. There is a sad lack of suitable habitat throughout the rest of the Region, and Ithaca's "Hog Hole" is now a thing of the past.

Several 25 mi. breeding bird surveys, as proposed by the F. and W. Service, were run in the Region this year, and it is hoped that more of these 'random samplings' will be taken next year.

Observers cited: WEB—Walter E. Benning; JBr—Jack Brubaker; PAB—Paul A. Buckley; FG—Frank Guthrie; WG—William Groesbeck; EH—Ernest Hemphill; PK—Paul Kelsey; JM—John Morse; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; FO—Francis Orcutt; BS—Betty Strath; JS—Joseph Smith; SHS—Sally Spofford; WRS—Walter Spofford; NW—Newell Washburn.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; Conn Hill—Connecticut Hill; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen L—Seneca Lake; Steu Co—Steuben County; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; THS—Texas Hollow Sanctuary.

LOON—DUCKS: Common Loon: three late June records are of interest: five still in winter plumage Jun 25 Aurora (DM); one, plumage not mentioned Jun 26 Indian Pines on Keuka L (FO); two, last week in Jun, Sen L (BS). Pied-billed Grebe: poor breeding success MNWR (JM). Double-crested Cormorant: one Jul 10 Ithaca; one Jul 26 MNWR (WEB). Great Blue Heron: max 132 Jul 4 MNWR (WEB); new colony, 12–15 nests, w. of Elmira in Steu Co. Common Egret: max less than 20, down from most years MNWR; none at Hornell this year (WG). Black-crowned Night Heron: max 27 Jul 20 MNWR (WEB); many observers commented on their abundance at the Refuge this year. They nested in the reeds. Least Bittern: few sightings at MNWR; one sighting, late Jul, Penn Yan Marsh (Mrs. Leo Cunningham). American Bittern: absent from some former locations around Ithaca; absent from Hornell for 3rd year. Canada Goose: 28 broods, as opposed to 16 in 1965, MNWR (JM).

The following figures are numbers of broods of ducks at MNWR, the symbol in () indicating increase(+), decrease(-) or same (s) in comparison with the '65 season. Figures are courtesy of John Morse. Mallards 28 (-), Black Duck 4 (-), Gadwall 20 (-), American Widgeon 2 (s), Pintail 0 (-), Green-winged Teal 2 (s), Blue-winged Teal 24 (-), Shoveler 1 (-), Wood Duck 16 (-), Redhead 6 (-), Canvasback and Ruddy Duck 0 (-), Hooded Merganser 3 (-). Decreases believed due to

decrease in nesting habitat this year, and severe storms in June. At SWS, Mallards raised 14 broods, Black Ducks 1, Wood Ducks 5. Hooded Mergansers were present and may have been successful, but no brood actually seen.

HAWKS—OWLS: Sharp-shinned Hawk: no sightings, no known nestings. Cooper's Hawk: one sighting Jul 15, near Hornell (WG); three young fledged near Ithaca (EH & WRS), first known nest in several years. Red-tailed Hawk: normal numbers. Red-shouldered Hawk: decreasing everywhere. Broad-winged Hawk: pairs seen three or four locations, including Conn Hill (JBr), Bald Hill Rd s. of Jennings Pond (DM), Arnot Forest; no actual nests located, but species seems to be increasing as breeding bird. Bald Eagle: imm Jun 1 SWS (mob); imm changing to adult Aug 7 MNWR (WEB); one, age not stated, Jun 20 over Horseheads (JS). Marsh Hawk: pair regular MNWR. Sparrow Hawk: sev. more previous nesting spots unoccupied this year, but sev. new ones located in Ithaca area; reported scarcer around Hornell with 8 sightings only (WG). Bobwhite: scattered reports of those surviving from recent releases, one Jun Waterloo (JW). Ring-necked Pheasant: abundant. Rails: few sightings all summer. Common Gallinule: excellent breeding success MNWR. American Coot: relatively poor breeding success MNWR.

Shorebird reports below were contributed by WEB from MNWR unless otherwise noted. Because of difficulties of viewing early season at MNWR, some first dates cited may not be firsts. Semi-palmated Plover: first Jul 15, max 19 Aug 10. Killdeer: max 130 Jul 17. Black-bellied Plover: three Aug 10. Common Snipe: 14–28 during period Jul 1-Aug 15. Upland Plover: two broods of two each near Etna (SHS); new location near Trumansburg, late June (NW); scattered others noted. Spotted Sandpiper: fewer young noted MNWR. Solitary Sandpiper: two Jul 17 THS (JBr), probably non-breeders, or early migrants; same date MNWR. Greater Yellowlegs: first Jul 30, 11 max Aug 10. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Jul 1, max 39 Aug 10. Pectoral Sandpiper: first Jul 20, max 19 Aug 10. White-rumped Sandpiper: one only Aug 2. Least Sandpiper: first Jul 13, max 50 Jul 20. Short-billed Dowitcher: six Jul 10, 14 max Aug 14. Stilt Sandpiper: first Jul 21 (PAB). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: first and max 500 Jul 20. Hudsonian Godwit: one Aug 6 and 7. RUFF: one Aug 7–10, carefully identified by sev. observers. Wilson's Phalarope: two Aug 10. Northern Phalarope: two Aug 13.

Caspian Tern: one-three seen regularly MNWR Jul 13-Aug 13. Black Tern: though some early nestings were broken up, this species seemed in good numbers, 100 or more, to mid-Jul MNWR, left early and only one seen after Jul 13, on Aug 14. Mourning Dove: abundant everywhere. Both Cuckoos scarce everywhere except Waterloo.

Barn Owl: nest with 2 nearly grown young near Havana Glen, Montour Falls Aug 14 (JBr). Barred Owl: seen and heard SWS through summer, present Hendershot Gulf near Alpine Jul 24 (JBr).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: very scarce. Chimney Swift: relatively scarce. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: definitely scarce. Belted Kingfisher: normal numbers. Yellow-shafted Flicker: good numbers, bred successfully. Pileated Woodpecker: not known to have raised young in Sapsucker Woods or Stewart Park, Ithaca this year, though present. Red-headed Woodpecker: continues scarce in Region. New location: nested at George Junior Republic Freeville and brought young to feeder at Stralem House in early August. Eastern Kingbird: locally abundant. Great Crested Flycatcher: increase noted around Keuka; locally abundant, Ithaca area. Least Flycatcher: scarce. Wood Pewee: not too numerous early in season, obviously successful nestings, so abundant later. Horned Lark: good numbers. Tree Swallow: all reporters mentioned scarcity. Bank Swallow: several colonies had marked success, and increases were noted; peak of 5500–6500 on wires at MNWR third week Jul (WEB). Cliff Swallow: some decrease noted. Purple Martin: no drastic effect of spring kill noted in this Region. Blue Jay: very abundant. Common Crow: decrease

noted. Both Marsh Wrens very scarce for example only one sighting of Long-billed at Keuka and at Elmira, and WEB noted decrease at MNWR; short-bills found at two locations MNWR only. no other sightings. Mockingbird: first definite nesting record for Ithaca area: two young out of nest being fed, Hopkins Rd. Aug 5, Olesen home, verified by DM; unverified report of breeding at Ovid. Catbird: abundant. Brown Thrasher: better numbers than usual. Robin: good breeding success. Wood Thrush: fairly good numbers reported everywhere. Hermit Thrush: absent from several stations. Veery: improvement in numbers noted. Eastern Bluebird: except for Ithaca area, a slight increase has been noted. Cedar Waxwing: abundant everywhere. Loggerhead Shrike: absent from Region.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Decrease noted in Yellow-throated Vireos. Red-eyed Vireos in fairly good numbers with increase in song noted as season progressed. Golden-winged Warblers scarce, with increase in Blue-wings in some of their former breeding areas. Decrease noted in Yellow and Black-throated Green Warblers, Ovenbirds, both Waterthrushes, Yellowthroats and Redstarts. Few reports of Canada Warblers. Cerulean Warbler: it is rare to find a nest of this species. One was found by Jayson Walker on Mills Rd, feeding young Jun 12. Species probably nested in Stewart Park Ithaca again, but few sightings. Mourning Warbler again noted singing on Star Stanton Hill Jun 14 but as yet the species has not been found nesting (PK).

Red-winged Blackbird: very abundant. Baltimore Oriole: seemed relatively scarce early in season, but following nesting many young noted. Scarlet Tanager: good numbers; 11 singing males at SWS in comparison with six in '65. Cardinal: good breeding success. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: some reports of scarcity, but young much in evidence by mid-Aug. Indigo Bunting: continued their recent upward trend. Evening Grosbeak: unconfirmed but seemingly good report of a female or immature bird on Jul 23 at Laubengayer residence in Cay Heights, Ithaca. American Goldfinch: abundant everywhere. Rufous-sided Towhee: many reports of young in early Aug, so apparent nesting success in area. Of the meadow sparrows, Henslow's and Vesper seemed in good numbers, Savannah and Grasshopper less so. On one half-mile stretch of Baker Hill Road, at least five Henslow's were heard. Slate-colored Junco: undoubtedly a breeder on the high hills, but few nests are found. W. J. Hamilton, Jr. found a nest with two eggs being incubated on Aug 11 off Bald Hill Rd. s. of Brooktondale, a very late date; nest deserted on Aug 17. Song Sparrow: abundant.

Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

As summer progressed precipitation fell further and further below normal so that by the end of August the year to date totals were also below normal. Drought conditions, however, did not seem as severe as they have been for the last couple of years. Temperatures were above normal, the Binghamton weather station recording 90 degrees or above eight different days.

Again the most noticeable trend in the summer bird data is the decrease in observer activity following the end of the spring migration, the writer being as guilty as anyone else. For that reason breeding success can be evaluated for only a few species. Bluebirds seemed to do quite well in areas where they were already established, but Tree Swallows, evidently, did not recover from the cold spring weather too well. House