

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

Wrens were spotty. One summer Mockingbird report keeps alive the hope that the species will follow the lead of the Cardinal.

There were also pleasing numbers of several northern forms, the most notable, perhaps, Myrtle Warblers, the others being regulars or near regulars in the Region in the summer. Of these northern species adequate evidence of nesting was reported only for the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, but Hermit Thrushes, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Slate-colored Juncos and White-throated Sparrows almost certainly nested, too.

A Western Sandpiper was the only real rarity, although it is suggested with some reluctance, that the Marsh Hawk could almost be considered in this category, too.

Observer abbreviations: MC—M. Cubberly; M, AD—M. & A. Davis; PK—P. Kalka, Jr.; FL—F. Linaberry; FQ—F. Quick; MS—M. Sheffield; AS—A. Stratton; MW—M. White; R, SW—R. & S. White; RW—R. Williams.

Other abbreviations used: Chen—Chenango; CC—Choconut Center; Conk—Conklin; Del—Delaware; Ox—Oxford; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir; Phar—Pharsalia; Sher—Sherburne; Sid—Sidney.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: at least two colonies active in Del Co, one near Andes and the other in the southern part of Colchester Township (MC). Mute Swan: the one reported in the previous issue remained at Owego all summer. Blue-winged Teal: two Aug 7 Sher (R, SW), only summer report. Ring-necked Duck: one adult male on Susquehanna R at Owego Jun 7 (MW). Common Merganser: a female with seven downy young along a road close to L Del in Del Co Jul 1 (MC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: present during breeding season at three localities in Tioga and Chen Cos (P. Kelsey, via W. Spofford). Red-shouldered Hawk: only two summer reports, both in Jul. Broad-winged Hawk: six summer reports, but no successful nestings noted. Bald Eagle: two adults and one imm around the Pep Res during the period (MC) and one imm Jul 7 at Halsey Valley, Tioga Co (RW). Marsh Hawk: one male Jun 11 near the center of Homer (W. Spofford), the only one reported during the period which is in keeping with the species' extreme scarcity for a number of years. Virginia Rail: one Aug 6 Sher (R, SW). Common Snipe: in a large grassy swamp near Sher over a dozen could be seen at a time during Jul (R, SW). Upland Plover: one Jul 6 McGraw (S. Spofford), the only one. Solitary Sandpiper: Jul 14 Ingraham Hill (C. Howard), first of several reports. Greater Yellowlegs: Aug 8 Owego (MW, RW). Lesser Yellowlegs: six Jul 24 Sher (R, SW). Pectoral Sandpiper: one Aug 7 Sher (R, SW). Least Sandpiper: three Jul 23 Sher Game Farm (R, SW), first of several reports. WESTERN SANDPIPER: one Aug 8 Binghamton (C. Howard), with Leasts—slightly larger with black legs and bill—bill dipped at tip, clear breast and slight rustiness at wing joint—call not heard. Black- and Yellow-billed Cuckoos: both in moderate numbers in Jun but few later reports. Horned Owl: two young with down still showing Jul 5 Pep Res (MC). Long-eared Owl: two seen and heard frequently during Jul and Aug Norwich (R, SW).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpecker: one coming to a feeder in Sher Jun and Jul (R, SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: known nestings—two at Chen Valley State Pk (M, AD) and one Norwich (R, SW); also reported at Phar (R, SW) and Sid (FQ). Wood Pewee: seemed particularly abundant at Owego (RW). Tree Swallow: numbers noticeably lower than normal at Owego (RW) and CC (MS). Cliff Swallow: Jul 10, 151 nests in good repair counted in colony under the Shavertown bridge across Pep Res (MC). Common Crow: an interesting account

received of flock behavior when one of a nesting pair was shot near Ox (AS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: present at Chen Forks until Jun 18 (M, AD); at Endwell Jun 4 (FL) and Conk Forks Jul 14 (PK). House Wren: particularly good breeding success at Chen Forks (M, AD), but below normal at CC (MS). Long-billed Marsh Wren: Jun 4 and Aug 6 at Sher, imm on the latter date (R, SW). Mockingbird: one at Chen Bridge Jul 14 (FL). Hermit Thrush: singing males: one at Phar Jun 5 (R, SW), two Ludlow Jun 10 and 23 (AS) and two Jul 2 Conk Forks (PK); also at Windsor in early Jul (PK). Gray-cheeked Thrush: Jun 4 Chen Bridge (S. Gorton). Eastern Bluebird: at Owego 23 boxes produced 84 young (MW, C. Gerould); at CC six nests produced 22 young, including three raised by male alone from shortly after hatching (MS). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: "seemed more abundant" at Owego (RW). Starling: a large roost at Endwell was already well populated Jul 7.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Warbling Vireo: heard singing at Sid until Jul 13 (FQ). Golden-winged Warbler: frequent reports at Owego and in Triple Cities area. Myrtle Warbler: Jun 3, Jul 23 and 24 Chen Forks (M, AD); Jul 2 Conk Forks (PK). Black-throated Green Warbler: Jun 21 Sid (FQ); also reported at Owego during period. Blackburnian Warbler: reported near Owego. Northern Waterthrush: Jun 23 Ludlow (AS). Louisiana Waterthrush: Jun 3 and 13 Sid (FQ); Jul 14 Conk Forks (PK). Mourning Warbler: singing male at Phar Jun 5 and 19 and Jul 2 (R, SW); a singing male at Whitney Pt Reservoir in mid Jun (P. Buckley); the only reports. Yellow-breasted Chat: Jul 31 Endwell (L. Bemont).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: fairly frequent reports to Jun 27, then none. Orchard Oriole: one Jun 15 sitting on clothesline at Ox (AS). Purple Finch: known successful nestings at Endwell (FL) and Ox (AS); also constantly present at Sid most of period (FQ) and reported at Conk Forks (PK). Slate-colored Junco: apparently nesting in several areas around Owego (RW) and at Conk Forks (PK). White-throated Sparrow: 15 Jun 5 and two singing Jul 7 thru Aug 11 Phar (R, SW); Jun 21 Sid (FQ); early Jul Conk Forks (PK); Jun 5 at Smyrna Hills and Jun 12 Ludlow (AS).

710 University Ave., Endwell, New York, 13763

REGION V — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

A cool June and a hot dry windy July seemed to presage good breeding success for the later arriving resident birds. However, several species, notably both cuckoos, Nighthawk, Least and Traill's Flycatchers, Tree Swallow and Long-billed Marsh Wren were very scarce thru the summer and an absence of semi-rare local breeders, i.e. Hooded Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, from known sites was obvious. The marshes of the area seemed to have adequate water but marsh birds continued very scarce.

Extensive explorations in the Oswego County sector of the Tug Hill Plateau and of the lower-elevation but similarly northern woods along the north shore of Oneida Lake yielded a wealth of breeding bird data, most numerous re thrushes and warblers.

Shorebird migration (q.v.) began in early July as anticipated but counts were low and variety poor.