

SA Aug 2 (JJD). White-rumped Sandpiper: two late stragglers at SA Jun 25 (WCL). Dunlin: two very early fall migrants at a cattle pool near Fairport Aug 3 & 4 (AEK, TET). Short-billed Dowitcher: a flock of 40 flying over OBP Aug 17 (HSM, RTO). Stilt Sandpiper: two at a cattle pool near Fairport Aug 4 (AEK). Western Sandpiper: a few "peep" sandpipers showing the field marks of this species have been reported—longer, decurved bills, a little larger size, rangier appearance and some rufous in the plumage were all noted at close range in direct comparison with the commoner species; max three at OBP Aug 6 (JJD, HSM). *MARBLED GODWIT*: one in a pasture in Parma Jun 3 (WCL, RTO et al)- rare in the fall and the writer knows of no spring records in our area. *WILSON'S PHALAROPE*: two in a rainwater pool near SA Jun 3 (AEK). Great Black-backed Gull: an imm at the WL Jul 22 (GOS hike)- usually one or two summer here. Black-billed Cuckoo: eight along the WL Jul 22 (GOS hike).

Barn Owl: a pair nested in a silo in Rush (JC). They hatched two young but the young birds disappeared when partly grown, perhaps taken by raccoons. Another pair nested in a silo in Parma. They hatched *TEN* young which at last accounts were thriving (WCL et al). Barred Owl: one near Newark Jul 8 (ES). Long-eared Owl: two in a pine grove near Newark Jul 8-14 (ES).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Rough-winged Swallow: 40 along the WL Jul 22 (GOS hike)- a rather high count. Mockingbird: scattered single birds reported from Webster; also reported from Perinton (June Feder). Loggerhead Shrike: six at SA Jun 24 (WCL) and six in Parma the next day (WCL). In both cases, the six birds were seen close together and probably represented a pair of adults and four young.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Nashville Warbler: a late straggler at Manitou Jun 22 (WCL). Palm Warbler: a late bird at SA Jun 2 (TM). Hardly any fall movement except for Yellow Warblers to the end of the period.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: *ORCHARD ORIOLE*: a pair nested at Pt Breeze (WCL). The male was found dead Jun 20, apparently struck by a car. The nest was found two days later, with the female feeding young birds. The species has been reported as present in summer in this area previously. Except for an old record, this is the Region's first nesting report. The species is an occasional spring migrant and has been recorded in June. Purple Finch: six in Webster Jun 10 (JM, TM). The suspicion is this was a pair of adults and four young. *CLAY-COLORED SPARROW*: a singing bird in Webster Jul 29-Aug 6 (AEK, WCL, MS)- the Region's fourth record in six years. White-throated Sparrow: three in Bergen Swamp Jun 11 (GOS hike). This is the only place in our Region where the species has been known to nest. A late migrant in Island Cottage Woods Jun 24 (RM).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

In marked contrast to the last several years, the summer of 1967 was wet, and following a moderately hot June, it was cool. Precipitation was sufficient to bring about a partial restoration of the normal water table level in the Finger Lakes. The price of rain is usually the loss of some nests, but this did not seem to be serious this year, perhaps because winds were not high, and temperatures not too low.

While heavy rains produced so much vegetation that suitable shore-bird areas were reduced in the Elmira area, a different situation prevailed at Montezuma. Draining of the Main Pool in mid-June, to encourage cat-tail growth, resulted in mud flats and lots of shorebirds. Even after the pond refilled, and plant growth became luxuriant, there was enough mud exposed to continue to attract the waders, which by mid-August numbered over 2000 of almost 20 species. Distances involved made accurate counts almost impossible.

The breeding bird census taken as usual in early June in Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary produced only 58 species this year, contrasted with 61 species in 1966. I have at hand the results of three of the Fish and Wildlife "25 mile runs". One was a new count taken by members of the Keuka Park Conservation Club, in the Italy Hills to Branchport area. Totals were 839 of 55 species. The East Dryden run was repeated by Sally Spofford, with 948 of 57 species, compared with 1073 of 58 species in 1966. Dorothy McIlroy took the west Ithaca (Trumansburg) run again, which produced 831 of 51 species, compared with 740 of 54 species in 1966.

No report was received for this issue from the Hornell area.

Observers cited: LB—Leslie Bemont; WEB—Walter E. Benning; JB—Jamesine Bardeen; JBr—Jack Brubaker; FG—Frank Guthrie; CH—Clayton Hardy; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; BBS—Betty and Barrie Strath; JW—Jayson Walker; MPW—Mary P. Welles; RW—Ruth Williams.

Area compilers: Jamesine Bardeen, Walter E. Benning, Frank Guthrie, Clayton Hardy, Jayson Walker, Mary P. Welles.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Schuy Co—Schuyler County; Sen L—Seneca Lake; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: no reports this period. Pied-billed Grebe: breeding records few again this year; three broods only MNWR (CH). Great Blue Heron: while considered scarcer on Keuka and Sen Ls, reported in good numbers MNWR, also nesting at Marengo Swamp (WEB). Green Heron: scattered nesting reports. Cattle and Snowy Egrets: none. Common Egret: seven Jul 13 MNWR (DM); max 12 Aug 9 (WEB); still lower numbers than 10 years ago. Black-crowned Night Heron: max 14 MNWR Jun 11, contrasted with max 27 in 1966 (WEB). Least Bittern: two Jul reports in Schuy Co. (JB); only two sightings reported to me at MNWR for period, WEB remarked on seeing none. American Bittern: two seen MNWR periodically; no nesting birds known around Ithaca. Mute Swan: one regularly from Jul 19 on, MNWR (WEB); unconfirmed report of breeding n. end Cay L; singles on Dryden L and on Song L Jun 26 (PMK). The Dryden L bird seen regularly. Whistling Swan: one Jul 12 on. MNWR, probably not same bird seen Sen L Jul 20 on. Canada Goose: 125 raised MNWR, in contrast with 140 in '66. Snow Goose: unusual is the appearance of four second year birds Jun 7–13 MNWR.

Clayton Hardy, Manager at MNWR, reported the following numbers of ducks raised there, the symbol in () indicating increase (+), decrease (–) or same (s) in comparison with the '66 season: Mallard 67 (–), Black Duck 75 (+), Gadwall 434 (–), American Widgeon 12 (–), Pintail 87 (+), Green-winged Teal 18

(-), Blue-winged Teal 361 (-), Shoveler 0 (-), Wood Duck, 1,191 (+), Redhead 89 (+), Hooded Merganser 13 (+). Total waterfowl produced, 2,862 in comparison with 2,375 in 1966. The decrease in Widgeon, Shoveler, Gadwall and Green-winged Teal appeared to represent only one or two broods, but the drop in Mallards and Blue-winged Teal was marked. On the other hand, Wood Duck production was almost triple.

Elsewhere, two Green-winged Teal at Watkins Marsh all summer were unusual (JBr). At SSW, Mallard broods numbered 13 (same), Wood Duck broods 10, double that of last year. No indication that Blue-winged Teal or Hooded Merganser nested there this year, in spite of periodic sightings.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: pair in Marengo Swamp again hatched one young: max 18 Jun 19 MNWR (WEB). Goshawk: imm seen in Jul a few miles east of Ithaca in same area as several previous sightings of adult birds and near place dead bird found in Nov '65 (PMK). This suggests breeding near Ithaca. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one sighting, Aug 12 Sugar Hill area near Watkins Glen (JBr). Cooper's Hawk: one seen occasionally near Odessa (BS); one seen occasionally n.e. Ithaca as last year, no nest found. Red-tailed Hawk: normal numbers — perhaps a pair for every 10 square miles in suitable habitat. Red-shouldered Hawk: no successful nestings known; Sapsucker Woods pair which nested just outside the sanctuary, hatched three young which disappeared before fledging time. Broad-winged Hawk: scattered sightings in hills south of Ithaca. Bald Eagle: one sighting reported at MNWR, no details. Marsh Hawk: only four sightings all summer in entire Region, three of those at MNWR, the other on the Italy Hills-Branchport F&WBBS (FG). Osprey: one, late, Jun 17 MNWR (WEB). Sparrow Hawk: locally more abundant than last year, except around Odessa. JW reports seeing eight on short trip near Waterloo Jul 16, which may mean two broods; two broods raised in the six miles between Etna and SWS (SHS). It might be noted that paucity of breeding raptor reports is partly due to absence from Region of at least two raptor specialists this summer.

Ruffed Grouse and Pheasants seemed little affected by the wet season. Scattered Bobwhite reports. Virginia Rails and Soras: almost no sightings. Common Gallinule: eight broods, MNWR; elsewhere fewer than last year but I have no exact figures, just impressions. American Coot: two broods, thus continuing poor production in contrast with, for example, 52 broods in 1961.

Shorebird reports below were contributed by WEB from MNWR unless otherwise noted. Semipalmated Plover: Jul 19 (first) MNWR, Jul 30 Watkins Marsh (JBr), max 9 Aug 13. Killdeer: all reports indicated successful breedings and abundant; 300 + MNWR from early Jul on. Black-bellied Plover: one only, Aug 5. Common Snipe: first, three Jun 21, regular thereafter, peak 43 Aug 2 (DM). Upland Plover: present all previous locations around Ithaca; two near Michigan Hollow s. of Ithaca mid-Jul (RW); two young reared Zwick Rd near Geneva (JW), where absent last year or two. Spotted Sandpiper: various observers reported good breeding success; several pairs at SWS where usually only one; max 74 Jul 4 MNWR. Greater Yellowlegs: first, three Jul 15. Lesser Yellowlegs: first, one Jun 21 MNWR, one Jul 29 Watkins Marsh (JBr); 259 max Jul 30 MNWR. Pectoral Sandpiper: 34 max Jul 30 MNWR (no count for Aug submitted, possibly higher numbers?) White-rumped Sandpiper: eight, Jun 10 A & P plant Elmira (WH); no other reports. Least Sandpiper: max 80 Jul 13. Dunlin: one Jun 21, possible late or non-migrant, only report. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 45 Jul 30, higher than usual. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1000 (est) Aug 9 is twice the max in '66. Western Sandpiper: no reports. Hudsonian Godwit: one Aug 5, only report in period. Sanderling: one Aug 9, only report. Wilson's Phalarope: one Jul 30, only report.

Up to 1000 gulls Jun 24 MNWR, mostly Ring-bills, rest Herring (WEB), Bonaparte's Gull: up to 30 MNWR during whole period, unusual in summer there; four Sen L Jun 10, one Jun 11 (JBr) may have joined the MNWR birds. Common

Tern: small flock on Sen L Jul 14, no breeding known; 33 max Aug 13 MNWR is good count; an occasional one seen s. end Cay L, no breeding and probably won't ever again with enormous increase in power boats. Black Tern: max 50, lower than in past years. Caspian Tern: first Aug 6, several thereafter MNWR. Cuckoos: both species reported seen slightly more often this year than last. Screech Owl: almost no reports anywhere. Great Horned Owl: satisfactory in numbers. Barred Owl: SWS pair raised two young again; one young Marengo Swamp Jul 22 (WEB). Barn Owl: one report of one bird, silo on Welles farm, Big Flat Elmira Jul 3, first time there since '63.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one heard in Ludlowville, Jun 11; this is new location and may not represent breeding pair. Common Nighthawk: reported as very scarce by all observers, with very few sightings in usual places. Yellow-shafted Flicker: seems to remain in good numbers, with breeding success. Pileated Woodpecker: one or two new nesting locations reported, continuing the overall slight increase of this species. Red-bellied Woodpecker: scattered local reports, including one on breeding bird census in Keuka Pk area (FG). Red-headed Woodpecker: rare around Ithaca, it is called "fairly common" near Geneva (JW); four sightings at Keuka, two pairs known near Watkins Glen. Eastern Kingbird: good numbers; 11 seen Jul 28 in short distance on road s. of Waterloo (JW). Traill's Flycatcher and Wood Pewee: good numbers. Least Flycatcher: again reported as scarce. Swallows: Tree, Rough-winged and Purple Martin seemed less abundant both as nesters and in flocking in early August. Bank: abundant, peak 8000 Jul 30 MNWR (WEB). Cliff: 70 nests on Voak farm, Benton Township, Yates Co (WEB)- new location?

Blue Jay: observers commented on increase everywhere. Long-billed Marsh Wren: following scarcity in spring, numbers seemed to have picked up at MNWR, where sightings of two or more were made regularly. Short-billed Marsh Wren: two sightings only, of two birds, Aug 9 and 13 MNWR. Mockingbird: pair raised two young n. of Hector (BS); no other breeding reports. Catbird: good numbers, good breeding success. Thrushes: Robins and Wood Thrushes abundant: e.g., 17 singing Wood Thrushes on SWS breeding bird census compared with 10 in '66; FG reported 23 on the Keuka Pk F&WBBS. Hermit Thrush: scarce everywhere. Bluebird: no increase noted. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Interlaken Aug 13, new location (LB).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: continue to be generally less common than ten years ago though no decrease this year over last. Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos: normal numbers, perhaps slight increase. (15 pairs Red-eyed SWS in contrast with 11 in '66.) Of breeding species of Warblers, Yellow and Yellowthroat were the most common and in normal numbers. Few observations reported to me of other species due to lack of coverage in areas where they should be found. Prothonotary Warbler: noted this year at MNWR, on "Unit 17" by Dan Thompson. Cerulean Warbler: nesting pair again noted at Mills Rd, Waterloo (JW), rare. Ovenbird and Am. Redstart: fairly good numbers in Sen L area, below normal at Ithaca. Hooded Warbler: very rare in Region, seen feeding young at Waterloo Aug 15 (JW).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: At north end of Cay L, blackbirds seemed less abundant, with smaller flocks at end of summer; elsewhere as abundant as ever, with crop damage reported in Watkins Glen area. A Blackbird roost at Interlaken in '66 was empty this year (LB). Bobolinks were locally abundant, but scarce around Geneva. Orchard Oriole: one, identified by song and quick glimpse in flight only, SWS Jun 6 (SHS); the Campbell Ave. Ithaca pair seen regularly and apparently bred. Baltimore Oriole: successful breeding season. Summer Tanager: reports of three sightings near Hector by two observers; no supporting details supplied. Car-

dinal: continue increase, 12 on Keuka Pk F&WBBS. Indigo Bunting: locally abundant, less so around Keuka. American Goldfinch: reported as "very abundant" by several observers. Rufous-sided Towhee: 18 Keuka F&WBBS is indicative of abundance in that area; eight on SWS is more than in '66. The various meadow sparrows seemed less abundant, especially Henslow's and Grasshopper. Around Ithaca, Henslow's were missing from several usual stations, and were difficult to find. Song Sparrows: abundant everywhere.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

June was warm and muggy, but the frequent light rains added up to appreciably less than normal precipitation. July was close to normal in temperature and only slightly below in precipitation, but again rainfall was frequent rather than heavy. Temperatures during the first two weeks of August averaged close to normal but rainfall was well above largely because of a heavy thunderstorm August 3.

After the first year of substantial coverage of the Region by Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys this writer's reaction is "Why haven't we been doing something of this kind before this?". A systematic but relatively random sampling of this type is really the only way we can arrive at a realistic idea of the relative yearly abundance of a species, particularly of the commoner species. Because they fit in so nicely with one of the objectives of our regional reports the species totals for the eight counts presently available are included below. They are in parentheses following the name of each species recorded on at least one such count. The first number is the total number of individuals recorded on all eight surveys and the second number, after the slash, is the number of surveys on which the species was recorded. It is hoped that others who have conducted these surveys within the Region will be willing to submit their species totals, both for this year and for future years.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; Can Res—Cannonsville Reservoir; Chen—Chenango; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir.

Observers: LB—L. Bemont; MC—Mitchell Cubberly; C, JD—Carleton & Jeanne Davis; M, AD—Marilyn & Anna Davis; JAG—John A. Gustafson; J. MH—Jeffrey & Mark Harris; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; JS—James Shuler; MS—Mary Sheffield; WS—William Sutliff; DW—Don Weber; MW—Mildred White; R, SW—Ruth & Sally White; RW—Ruth Williams; SW—Stuart Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Jul 2, 13, 22 (2) and 23 and Aug 7, Pep Res (MC), all in imm plumage. Pied-billed Grebe: (1/1), Jun 28, Newark Valley F&WBBS (RW). Great Blue Heron: (3/3); at least six nests in good repair and seemingly active at Andes heronry (MC); only three active nests at Candor heronry compared to five last year and 17 two years ago (DW). About 20 active nests in heronry south of Rte. 79 just west of Richford (Warren Dean *vide* Sally Spofford)—first report of this site. Green Heron: (2/2). Common Egret: Aug 5, 6 and 7, Conklin, just east of Bing (L. Stockton); no others. Black-crowned Night