

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

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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 herony 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

Heron: Aug 2, Owego (D. Bendle); the only report. *BRANT*: one Jun 4, Can Res (E. M. Reilly, Jr., *et al*), seen at close enough range to make stumpier neck, as compared to Canada Goose, plainly visible to all four members of the party, at least two of whom are familiar with the species in other areas; seldom reported even in migration. Mallard: Jun 17 Deposit (SW), female with 11 young; believed to be a fairly common breeder in Region in spite of the small number of summer reports. Wood Duck: Jun 14 Deposit (SW), female with 16 newly hatched young — three more fertile eggs in the box that did not quite make it. Hooded Merganser: Aug 1 Homer (JAG). Common Merganser: Jun 4 Deposit (SW), female with 12 young; a few seen around Pep Res during breeding season — small flocks to end of period, max 45 Aug 5 (MC), sharp line of demarcation between the rufous head and white throat can be seen in submitted long range photograph — Mr. Cubberly, familiar with all three species of mergansers, states that Common Mergansers are present around the Pep Res during all months of the year that it is not completely frozen over.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reported once each at Owego (2), Deposit and Cortland during the first three weeks of Jun. Goshawk: the nest previously reported near Solon, in Cortland Co was broken up in early Jun — an older nest nearby indicates this to be at least the second year in the area (W. R. Spofford, P. M. Kelsey); seen regularly in three Tioga Co localities during the period. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two reports during the period, both from Tioga Co. Cooper's Hawk: three reports, two over Pep Res and one in Tioga Co. Red-tailed Hawk: four nests, seven young found in Tioga Co. Red-shouldered Hawk: no reports. Broad-winged Hawk: (2/1). Bald Eagle: an adult Jun 9, Deposit (SW); a sick adult captured on the ground near the intake tunnel of the Can Res Jul 14 by Conservation Dept. personnel and at last report it was still alive though unable to fly (MC, SW). Marsh Hawk: (1/1); Jun 4 Chen Forks (M, AD). Sparrow Hawk: (5/2).

Ring-necked Pheasant: (6/3). Bobwhite: Jun 16 Choconut Center, just north of Bing, (MS); three at Goodrich Settlement Rd near Owego during Aug (K. Hunt). Turkey: "still being seen in four different localities" in Tioga Co (RW); "I've seen no young and none reported by anyone else", Candor (DW). Virginia Rail: one Aug 6 Sherburne (R, SW). Common Gallinule: one Aug 1 Owego (RW). American Coot: one Aug 1 Owego (RW). Killdeer: (39/7), American Woodcock: two adults with five young about Jun 5 Bing (J, MH); fairly common thru Jul. Upland Plover: Jul 17 Owego (MW, RW). Spotted Sandpiper: (5/2); common. Solitary Sandpiper: Jun 1 Greene (C, JD); Jul 26 Homer (JAG). Ring-billed Gull: "conspicuous by absence this summer — none reported", Cortland area (JAG); the only other part of the Region where past reports would lead us to expect them in the summer is the Cooperstown area and none were on Otsego L Jul 10 (D. P. Peakall). Rock Dove: (29/4). Mourning Dove: (11/4). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (2/1). Black-billed Cuckoo: (9/5); much more common than spring reports would have led us to expect; one nesting record (J. MH). Barn Owl: Jul 11 Homer (C. Withy, verified by JAG); Aug 2 east of Owego (JS). Screech Owl: one report Jul 4 Homer (JAG). Barred Owl: "heard calling at four widely separated localities well into early summer" in Tioga Co — one at 3 p.m. on a hot Jul day (DW); one seen once and heard several times throughout the summer in the French Tract south of Bing (G. & W. Corderman, E. Kirch).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: Jun 4 and 6 Endicott (Mrs. E. Johnston); Jun 15 and 24 Greene (C, JD). Common Nighthawk: (2/1); scarce at Owego, only one pair. Chimney Swift: (80/5). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (5/2); "not very frequent this year" at Cortland (JAG). Belted Kingfisher: (6/3). Yellow-shafted Flicker: (112/8). Pileated Woodpecker: (2/1). Red-headed Woodpecker: a pair reported nesting at Ross Pk in Bing (L. Stockton); one Jun 1 Itaska, east of Whitney Pt, (D. Sterling); Jul 31 Johnson City (Mrs. H. DeLong); Aug 2

east of Owego (JS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (7/4); Jun 14 a pair found feeding young in a hole about 20 feet up in a beech tree at Norwich (R, SW), and seen around for two weeks; quite a few more Jun reports than usual, the several heard drumming and calling around Oquaga L during the Federation meeting being a special concentration for a special occasion. Hairy Woodpecker: (1/1). Downy Woodpecker: (17/6).

Eastern Kingbird: (28/8). Great Crested Flycatcher: (13/4). Eastern Phoebe: (53/8). Traill's Flycatcher: (8/2); Jun 17 one "way-be-o" bird at Deposit (SW), all other reports from Deposit, Owego and the Triple Cities area are the "fitz-bew" type. Least Flycatcher: (51/8). Eastern Wood Pewee: (41/8); reported to be particularly common in Tioga Co; a pair seen building a nest at Candor Aug 6 had at least one young Aug 31 (DW). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one at Ely Pk Bing Jun 1 (LB, WS). Horned Lark: (6/2). Tree Swallow: (26/6); 25 pair nesting at Greene, below normal (C, JD); 10 nests at Andes (MC); five nests at Choconut Center (MS). Barn Swallow: (138/8). Cliff Swallow: (4/2); 30 pair started nesting at Greene but some were lost during the cold spring weather (C, JD); one pair building at Andes in early Jun (MC). Purple Martin: (1/1), on Corbettsville F&WBBS (P. Kalka); six Jul 29 Choconut Center (MS); numbers much reduced.

Blue Jay: (73/8). Common Crow: (197/8). Black-capped Chickadee: (37/8). Tufted Titmouse: Jun 1 Ely Pk Bing (LB, WS)-only report, although almost certainly merely overlooked. White-breasted Nuthatch: (11/7). Red-breasted Nuthatch: (2/1). Coventryville F&WBBS (LB); one heard at Pharsalia Jul 31 (R, SW); also at Scott in Cortland Co Jul 31 (JAG). Brown Creeper: Jun 11 singing at Castle Creek in Broome Co (MS). House Wren: (64/8). Winter Wren: singing Jun 11 at Castle Creek (MS) and Jul 30 at Pharsalia (R, SW); two seen at German in s. Cortland Co Aug 3 (DM). Carolina Wren: a pair Jul 8 Owego (MW). Long-billed Marsh Wren: three Jun 25 and one Aug 6 Sherburne (R, SW), the only known regular station in the Region. Mockingbird: one Jun 8, 9 and 14 Bing (J. MH); Jul 31 at Silver L near Deposit (Mrs. H. DeLong); Aug 2 e. of Owego (JS). Catbird: (89/8). Brown Thrasher: (30/8).

Robin: (367/8). Wood Thrush: (86/8). Hermit Thrush: (11/5); two Jul 30 Pharsalia (R, SW); Aug 3 German (DM); at Candor three heard singing at one time (DW). Swainson's Thrush: singing Jun 11 and 18 Pharsalia (R, SW), in the same locality as last year. Veery: (73/8). Eastern Bluebird: (16/7); 89 nestlings banded at Homer (JAG); five families at Andes (MC); four pairs at Choconut Center (MS) where some victims of nest parasites were noted; at Oxford a second nest started by Jun 14 (A. Stratton); "lower count than last year" around Owego (RW). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Jun 1 Ely Pk Bing (LB, WS); two Jul 23 Sherburne, "second time I ever saw them in Chenango Co" (R. SW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two heard Jul 9 Norwich (R, SW). Cedar Waxwing: (43/7). Starling: (1055/8).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (3/3). Solitary Vireo: (3/2). Red-eyed Vireo: (91/8). Warbling Vireo: (11/5).

Warblers: Black-and-White: (13/7). Golden-winged: (5/4); until Aug 13 Chen Forks (M, AD). Blue-winged: Jun 11 heard at Castle Creek (MS). Orange-crowned: Jun 2 Nichols (V. Hudson). Nashville: (3/1). Yellow: (122/8). Magnolia: (1/1) Corbettsville F&WBBS (P. Kalka); a pair Jul 22 and Aug 3 German (DM); six heard Jul 30 Pharsalia (R, SW). Black-throated Blue: (2/1). Myrtle: Jun 3 Chen Forks (M, AD); three heard Jun 18 Pharsalia and two heard Jul 9 Norwich (R, SW). Black-throated Green: (11/4); twelve heard Jul 30 Pharsalia (R, SW). Blackburnian: (4/3). Chestnut-sided: (42/8). Blackpoll: Jun 3 Oquaga L for the Federation meeting. PINE: (1/1) Jun 24 MacDonough F&WBBS (C. Howard)-first summer record for Region in the 15 years of record keeping. PRAIRIE: regular at Vestal Center until Jul 21 and seen carrying food Jul 4 (E. & N. Washburn)-first summer record for Region. Ovenbird: (36/8).

Northern Waterthrush: (5/3); one Aug 9 Norwich (R, SW), the only one reported after Jun 25. Louisiana Waterthrush: Jun 1 and 15 Sidney (F. Quick). Yellowthroat: (151/8). Canada Warbler: (6/30). American Redstart: (25/6).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (218/8). Bobolink: (128/7), an unexpectedly high total. Eastern Meadowlark: (137/8). Redwinged Blackbird: (1046/8); 111 nestlings banded at Deposit (SW). Baltimore Oriole: (90/8). Common Grackle: (183/8), an unexpectedly low total. Brown-headed Cowbird: (111/8). Scarlet Tanager: (24/6).

Cardinal: (37/6); earlier this year the first one to be noted in Elk Creek Valley, near Delhi, in 38 years of residence was reported (Mrs. L. Clark) and only "a few" are present in the village of Delhi. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (17/6). Indigo Bunting: (63/8). Purple Finch: (8/4); imm coming to banding traps "later than usual and lesser numbers than most years" Deposit (SW); "many" at Endwell (F. Linaberry). Pine Siskin: one Aug 3 German (DM), very unusual during a summer not preceded by a good spring flight. American Goldfinch: (182/8). Rufous-sided Towhee: (111/8). Savannah Sparrow: (55/8). Grasshopper Sparrow: (11/5); "only a couple found" all summer Owego (RW). Henslow's Sparrow: (5/2); only three other reports, all in Jun. Vesper Sparrow: (13/4). Slate-colored Junco: (7/1) Jun 17 Oxford F&WBBS (H. Marsi, C. Gottschall); also at Candor (R. Pantle) and Oquaga L in Jun, at Scott (JAG) and Norwich (R, SW) in Jul and at Greene Aug 4 (C, JD). Chipping Sparrow: (120/8). Field Sparrow: (85/8). White-throated Sparrow: (18/3); one on F&WBBS near Delhi (Mrs. L. Clark), the rest plus eight other reports, one of ten birds, all from Chenango and Cortland Cos. Swamp Sparrow: (2/2). Song Sparrow: (249/8).

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ED. NOTE: The Region 4 report in the July issue was by Leslie Bemont. I regret that his name was omitted.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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If you were interested in birds, it was a very dull summer; if a weatherman, an interesting one; if a frog, you were in heaven. Water, water, and more water prevailed throughout the summer, with three and one half inches excess in July alone. Cooler temperatures persisted, and few days ever achieved the hot, gummy levels of typical central New York July or August. Either the coolness of the summer or the frequent windstorms triggered many renestings, so that late broods and fledglings were widely reported after August 10.

A fair amount of information on breeding birds was achieved, both by specific area investigations, e.g. Tug Hill Plateau, Sangerfield Swamp, and by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys.

Abundant berry crops and weed seed stands presage a food-rich autumn; hopefully the local cone crop will attract winter finches.

Notable positives include 1) increased number of Kestrel sites; 2) high tallies of most flycatchers; 3) breeding American Widgeon, Tufted Titmouse, and Mockingbird; 4) a veritable wealth of Robins; 5) a rash of Purple Finch nestings.