

ber of rarities were observed including Avocet, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Willet, and Ruff.

Some of the other features of interest for the summer season were: (1) the first authentic breeding record of Myrtle Warblers for western New York, (2) the successful nesting of Brown Creepers behind a shutter at Geoffrey Carleton's home near Elizabethtown, (3) observations of Lawrence's Warblers and Kentucky Warblers, and (4) a Linnean Boat Trip off Jones Beach which recorded Greater Shearwaters, Wilson's Petrels, and Gannet.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

Report for period April 1-May 31.

The weather during the spring of 1969 saw a reversal of the usual pattern. April was considerably warmer and with somewhat more precipitation than average. The last five days were unusually mild. Most of May was cooler and wetter than average. A tornado caused considerable damage in the Chautauqua County village of Sinclairville on May 16.

General trends included: (1) a poor showing of herons, rails and other marsh birds, except in the Oak Orchard refuge complex, (2) low counts for most forms of waterfowl, (3) relatively small numbers of hawks moving on several days in April with a substantial flight on the 26th, (4) a poor showing of shorebirds, (5) a generally modest or poor showing by most passerine groups during April, excepting the warblers and blackbirds, (6) an excellent showing of warblers with thirteen species during April and thirty two species plus one hybrid during May, (7) continuing high numbers of icterids, except the always rare Orchard Oriole, (8) record or near-record counts of Cardinals, (9) a fine return flight of Evening Grosbeaks with a few other reports of northern finches, (10) excellent spring counts of several other fringillids including the Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

Noteworthy records include Ruff, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler (away from usual locality, Oak Orchard), Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, Oregon Junco and Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: ABC—April Bird Count; Alleg Rd—Alleganny Road, Hanover Township, Chautauqua County; Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; Chaut—Chautauqua; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; MBC—May Bird Count; Nia—Niagara; OO—Oak Orchard; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; TGMA—Tonawanda Game Management Area.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Andre; HHA—Harold H. Axtell; RA—Rachel Axtell; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; EB—Elizabeth Brooks; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; FE—Flora Elderkin; AF—Arthur Freitag; RH—Paul Hess; JK—Joseph Kikta; VL—Virgil Lunardini; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; HDM—Harold D. Mitchell; FMR—Frances M. Rew; WGS—William and George Smith; RAS—Robert A. Sundell; OS—Ora Swanson; JT—Joseph Thill; GW—Gertrude Webster.

LOON—DUCKS: Common Loon: arr 4 Apr 11 Prendergast Pt (RAS, Penoyer); max 33 Apr 19 Cuba L (LDB). Red-throated Loon: only report—1 Apr 23 Pt

Breeze (PB). Horned Grebe: max 68 Apr 8 Cuba L (LDB). Common Egret: 1 Apr 5 TGMA (PB, R. Rybuzynski). Black-crowned Night Heron: max 26 Apr 20 Nia Falls (Andrles). Least Bittern: continuing to decrease, only report—May 18 Batavia area BOSMBC.

Whistling Swan: poor flight—max 66 Apr 4 OO area (PH, Hammond). Canada Goose: max 64,612 Apr 13 BOSABC mostly OOGMA—TGMA—INWR complex (mob). Snow Goose: max 10 Apr 4 OO area (HHA,RA). Blue Goose: max 98 Apr 4 OO area (HHA,RA). Pintail: 5000 Apr 1 INWR (AF). Blue-winged Teal: good spring count—246 Apr 13 BOSABC. Surf Scoter: 6, 4 Apr 26, 29 Cuba L (LDB); 4 Apr 29 Chaut L (FMR,OS); 3 May 6 Cassadaga L (OS). Common Scoter: 2 Apr 13 Pt Breeze BOSABC; 3 Apr 17 Athol Springs (TLB); 1 Apr 29 Chaut L (FMR, OS). Ruddy Duck: 10 Apr 9 Chaut L (FE). Red-breasted Merganser: max 5394 Apr 13 BOSABC.

HAWKS—OWLS: light hawk flights along L Erie and Ont plains Apr 6, 19, 21, 27, 29—major flight Apr 26. Turkey Vulture: 31 Apr 6 over Alleg Rd (HHA, RA). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 50 Apr 26 over Alleg Rd (VL); late—2 May 28 over Athol Springs (TLB). Cooper's Hawk: 8 Apr 6 over Alleg Rd (HHA,RA). Red-tailed Hawk: 99, Red-shouldered Hawk: 42. Broad-winged Hawk: 950 Apr 26 over Alleg Rd (VL). Marsh Hawk: 15, 15 Apr 1, 29 Lyndonville (WGS). Bobwhite: 1 Apr 12 Lyndonville (WGS).

Rails: exceptionally poor showing for all species. Shorebird flight well below average for recent years. Greater Yellowlegs: 12 Apr 26 TGMA (GW, Wolfe). Lesser Yellowlegs: 25 Apr 27 Kiantone (RAS). *RUFF*: first spring record for Region 1—female photographed May 6 INWR (PB). Glaucous Gull: last—1 May 1 Hamburg Town PK (TLB). Common Tern: 1 April 13 Chaut L BOSABC. Caspian Tern: this species must now be regarded as a *regular* spring and fall migrant in small numbers along the south shore of L Erie—max 16 Apr 19 Bflo Harbor (JK); 4 May 9 Dunkirk area (FMR et al). Black Tern: arr 5 May 1 TGMA (AF).

Barn Owl: 1 May 18 Wellsville area BOSMBC. Long-eared Owl: 1 Apr 6 Elma (HDM); 1 Apr 29 Lyndonville (WGS); 1 May 14 Hamburg (TLB). Short-eared Owl: max 16 during Apr Lyndonville (WGS); 4 May 22 Ransomville (JT).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr 1 May 3 Delaware Pk, Bflo (PH); 1 May 9 Sturgeon Pt (HDM); 1 May 19 Hamburg (TLB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1 May 2 Eggertsville (WAM). Eastern Kingbird: arr 1 Apr 27 Portland (RA,JT). Eastern Phoebe: as last year, excellent counts on BOSABC and MBC—458 Apr 13 and 329 May 18. Olive-sided Flycatcher: more than usual—9 at scattered localities from May 19 through end of period.

Swallows reduced drastically over last years counts except for Barn(twice last year's high count) and Cliff (nearly same as last year). Tree Swallow: especially hard hit—639 May 18 BOSMBC compared with last year 2332 May 19. Barn Swallow: 7392 May 18 BOSMBC compared with last year 3045 May 19. Purple Martin: 754 May 18 BOSMBC compared with last year 1877 May 19. *COMMON RAVEN*: seen and heard in direct comparison with Common Crows—1 May 2 Eggertsville (A. McKale). Red-breasted nuthatch: a good suattering of migrants throughout region both months. Winter Wren: late migrants—1 May 20 Gowanda (FMR,OS); 1 May 20 Pt Gratiot (FMR,OS). Carolina Wren: singles May 5, 7 Athol Springs (TLB), May 9 Sturgeon Pt (FMR et al), May 18 Olean area BOSMBC, May 22 East Aurora (PB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: unreported—this species is disappearing from the region.

Mockingbird: 13 individuals at scattered localities. Swainson's Thrush: arr 1 May 1 Alfred (EB); 2 May 1 Belmont (LDB). Eastern Bluebird: 147 May 18 BOSMBC (138 last year, 117 in 1967). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 1 Apr 21 Elma (JK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: last 1 May 22 North Boston (Brockners). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 1 May 29 Forest Lawn Cemetary, Bflo (PH). Northern Shrike: last 1

Apr 6 TGMA (AF). Loggerhead Shrike: only report of an increasingly rare species —1 Apr 3 TGMA (PB).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: *WHITE-EYED VIREO*: 1 May 7–15 Lakeside Cemetery. Hamburg (RFA, TLB et al); May 19–27 Riverside Marsh (mob).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: early arr ad male May 1 Mayville (OS et al)—very rare away from regular breeding station at OO. "Brewster's" Warbler: 1 May 15–18 Lakeview Cemetery, Hamburg (PH et al). Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 May 13 Kenmore (GW); 2 May 18 Belfast area BOSMBC. Parula Warbler: 1 May 7 Lakeview Cemetery, Hamburg (RFA); 2 May 7 Spring Brook (Dorothy Danner); 1 May 12 Eden (TLB); 1 May 20 Dewittville (FMR,OS). Cape May Warbler: arr early 1 Apr 27 Youngstown (WAM). Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 Apr 29 Scio (LDB). Myrtle Warbler: max 200 May 7 Alfred (EB). Blackburnian Warbler: 6 Apr 27 Town of Ward (LDB). Pine Warbler: 1 Apr 17 Water Valley (TLB); 2 Apr 26 Cassadaga L (RAS et al). Prairie Warbler: 1 May 6, 8 East Eden Pond (JK,TLB). *CONNECTICUT WARBLER*: 1 May 24 West Seneca (JK). Yellow-breasted Chat: 7 at scattered points. Canada Warbler: early arr 1 Apr 29 Riverside Marsh (FMR,OS). American Redstart: arr 1 Apr 29 Riverside Marsh (FMR,OS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr early 8 Apr 28 Riverside (FE, E. C. Pillsbury). *WESTERN MEADOWLARK*: 2 Apr 20 Shadigee (Wagner, Filor). Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 Apr 26 Tonawanda Indian Reservation (GW, Wolfe). *SUMMER TANAGER*: adult male May 13, 14 Rushford (Stafford, Palmer, Brown, Hales).

Cardinal: 515 Apr 13 BOSABC. *DICKCISSEL*: imm male to adult plumage at Sondell feeder in Fluvanna with flock of House Sparrows Dec 26 to Apr 14 (RAS et al). Evening Grosbeak: large numbers through mid-Apr—675 Apr 13 BOSABC; small flocks, some at feeders, through mid-May—last 3 May 22 West Falls (Brockners). Purple Finch: high spring count 282 May 18 BOSMBC. Red Crossbill: 2 Apr 13 Findley L BOSABC. White-winged Crossbill: 1 May 16 Allegany State Pk (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: high spring count 524 May 18 BOSMBC.

Slate-colored Junco: highest count ever 6668 Apr 13 BOSABC. *OREGON JUNCO*: 1 Apr 16–24 Bflo (PH). Chipping Sparrow: 808 May 18 BOSMBC. *HARRIS' SPARROW*: imm at feeder of Tom Welch. Blanding Rd, Silver Creek Dec 7 remained until May 6 (mob; photographed). Fox Sparrow: 37 Apr 13 BOSABC. Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 May 11 Hamburg area (TLB,RFA); 5 May 18 Belmont area BOSMBC. Lapland Longspur: last 4 Apr 23 Athol Springs (TLB).

Report for period June 1-August 15.

Weather for the summer of 1969 was generally more pleasant than usual. Temperatures for June averaged one half degree below normal and precipitation was about one inch above normal. This basic pattern continued during July and August with only a few short periods of very hot and very humid days that often characterize much of the mid and late summer. On June 20 a tornado destroyed some large deciduous trees at the new Long Point State Park near Bemus Point on Chautauqua Lake. This storm and several others that were less violent killed many young nestlings.

It seems likely that, during the nesting season, storms with strong winds and periods of several days or more with moderate or heavy rain and cold temperatures may represent one of the most important natural limitations controlling population size for many, if not most, bird species. While quantitative data on this subject are not obtained easily, it would be valuable for all observers to attempt to correlate weather conditions with degree of nesting success. Trends for the summer were: (1) all herons continue occurring in small numbers, (2) marsh birds were present in only limited numbers and had minimal breeding success except for good results in the intensively managed Oak Orchard refuge complex, (3) favorable brood counts of

waterfowl with the exception of the Black Duck, (4) a slightly above average showing of early shorebirds in terms of species but the usual small numbers, (5) single breeding records of three owls uncommon during the summer months, Barn, Long-eared and Short-eared, (6) only a single report of the Whip-poor-will which has now virtually disappeared from western New York during the summer, (7) extremely small breeding populations of Tree Swallows and Purple Martins, (8) excellent numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers in Southern Tier counties, (9) an above average showing of several uncommon warblers, (10) the long-term steady increase in breeding Redwinged Blackbirds and Common Grackles continuing with dreary monotony!, (11) an unseasonal cluster of three reports of the White-winged Crossbill, perhaps presaging events of the coming winter, (12) an increase in the number of nesting Savannah Sparrows but continuing scarcity of the Hen-slow's and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Nesting records of special interest were those of the Carolina Wren—possibly only the second for western New York, Myrtle Warbler—*first authentic breeding record for western New York*, and *White-throated Sparrow*—active nests near Alfred and an incredible occurrence in downtown Buffalo. Of particular significance is the survey of spruce plantations by Dr. Robert F. Andrie of the Buffalo Museum of Science. *Golden-crowned Kinglets*, including several broods, were found at over twenty locations, and it can be stated categorically that a major extension of the breeding range for this species has taken place. A detailed report will be published elsewhere. The only rarities observed were a pair of Clay-colored Sparrows and the first summer occurrence of the White-crowned Sparrow.

Abbreviations: Alleg—Allegany; Bflo—Buffalo; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; TGMA—Tonawanda Game Management Area.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Jun 14, 16 (dead) small pond near Hamburg (RFA et al); 2 Jul 18 Chaut L. (K. Close). Pied-billed Grebe: adult with 7 young first week of July Belmont (McNinch). Double-Crested Cormorant: only spring report, late—1 Jun 2 Lake View (TLB). Great Blue Heron: colony of 15 nests at Belmont during Apr and May (LDB). Common Egret: singles during Jul and mid Aug at Beaver Meadow Refuge and Bflo area. Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 June 11 Buckhorn Island State Pk (WAM et al); 3 Aug 11 South Pk, Bflo (R. Rybczynski; JK). Least Bittern: singles Jun 9 Bflo (JK), Jun 18 Eden (TLB). American Bittern: very scarce.

Canada Goose: several broods at INWR and OOGMA on Jun 29; brood of 5 at Riverside Marsh in Jun and Jul (mob). Pintail: 2 Jul 17 East Eden (RFA, Hauser). Green-winged Teal: 2 adults with 6 young May 25 Cuba Marsh (R. Keople). Wood Duck: excellent breeding success throughout region. Hooded Merganser: female with 5 young Jun 21 Riverside Marsh (AR); 7 downy young Jun 29 INWR (HDM et al); 1 young Jul 17 North Java (RFA, Hauser). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 Jun 29 OOGMA (HDM et al).

HAWK—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 41 Jun 29 INWR (HDM et al). Goshawk: two of three nests known to be active but details unavailable. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 4 at scattered locations in Alleg Co and 1 Catt Co report during Jul undoubtedly reflect increased summer field work rather than actual increase. Cooper's Hawk: 1 Aug 11 Belmont (LDB). Red-tailed Hawk: good success at 12 nests under observation. Red-shouldered Hawk: no data to compare with known decline in breeding population of northeastern states. Bald Eagle: imm Aug 11 over Hamburg (TLB).

Sparrow Hawk: moderate success in 6 nests under observation—probably continuing slow but steady decrease. Turkey: hen with 14 young Jun 21 south of Wellsville (K. Carey). Virginia Rail: adult with 2 downy young Jul 26 Falconer (Burgeson). Sora: nest with 10 eggs May 31 TCMA (PB). Common Gallinule: 6 adults with 18 young Jun 29 INWR (HDM et al). American Coot: two broods of 5 and 3 young Jun 29 INWR (HDM et al).

Semipalmated Plover: 1 Jun 20 Bay View (TLB)—probably late spring migrant. Black-bellied Plover: arr 1 Aug 10 Prendergast Pt (RAS). Whimbrel: 1 Jul 15 Woodlawn (TLB). Solitary Sandpiper: arr 1 July 9 Prendergast Pt (AR); 1 Jul 11 Riverside Marsh (AR). Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 1 Jul 8 Prendergast Pt (AR). Short-billed Dowitcher: unusually scarce—1 Jul 19 Hamburg Town Pk (TLB); 1 Aug 8 Athol Springs (TLB). Stilt Sandpiper: arr 1 Jul 16 Prendergast Pt (AR).

Forster's Tern: early arr 1 Aug 12 Derby (TLB). Caspian Tern: 1 Jun 24 Hamburg Town Pk (TLB). *Barn Owl*: nest with 3 young Jun 14 Hamburg (RFA et al). *Long-eared Owl*: 5 young fledged by Jun 10 Evans Township, Erie Co (RFA et al). *Short-eared Owl*: 2 adults with 3 young Jun 14 Lockport (RFA et al).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: only report—1 Jul 31 Hamburg (TLB)—this species no longer breeds and is apparently only a casual summer visitor anywhere in western New York. Pileated Woodpecker: 2 young fledged from nest at Riverside Marsh Jun 21 (AR et al). Red-bellied Woodpecker: adults brought 2 young in mid-May and 2 different young in mid-Jul to Webster feeder on Bellview Rd southeast of Bemus Pt at same location as first Chaut Co breeding record in 1968. Eastern Kingbird and Traill's Flycatcher: slight increase (perhaps very local) in number of nesting birds. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: late 1 Jun 11 Chestnut Ridge Pk (TLB). Olive-sided Flycatcher: last 1 Jun 2 Lake View (TLB). Tree Swallow: very small numbers of breeding birds. Purple Martin: breeding population at very low level but successful nesting noted in most colonies, now concentrated along Chaut L and L Erie.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: individuals or pairs at 10 scattered mostly Southern Tier localities, nearly all spruce reforestation plantings. Brown Creeper: presumed breeding at 10 mostly Southern Tier locations including 2 nests located. Winter Wren: 1 Jul 20 Allenberg Bog (Axtells et al). Carolina Wren: adults with 2 young which left nest May 18 Salamanca (L. C. White); 1 Jul 29 Jamestown (RAS). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1 to 3 at four scattered localities. Mockingbird: singles at three localities. Robin: large numbers and excellent breeding success, as last year. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 21 spruce plantations, mostly on higher elevations in Chaut, Catt and Alleg Cos, had breeding pairs or families (RFA). Starling: usual high rate of breeding success with no repeat of slight downward trend in number of nesting pairs noted during summer of 1968—unfortunately!

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos continue at unusually low breeding population levels.

"Brewster's" Warbler: singles at Deer Lick Sanctuary near Gowanda Jun 12 (Wendling) and Jun 29 (WAM); Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg Jun 14, 16 (RFA) and Jul 1 (TLB); two singing males near Cold Spring, Catt Co Jun 14, 17, 18 (RAS et al). Nashville Warbler: singles Jun 6 Hamburg (TLB), Jul 27 Angelica (LDB). Parula Warbler: singing male Jun 14, 17 mouth of Pierce Run north of Onoville (RAS et al). Myrtle Warbler: first definite breeding record for western New York—male feeding newly fledged young Jun 16 in Scotch pine plantation at Foster L, Alfred (EB); adults feeding 4 young Jul 4 in red pines at same location (CWK); 1 Jun 7 Alleg State Pk (RAS et al); 2 Jun 29 McCarty Hill near Ellicottville (RFA). Cerulean Warbler: 3 including female carrying food Jun 14, 17, 18 Onoville (RAS et al). Yellow-breasted Chat: 6 individuals at widely scattered localities during Jun and Jul (mob).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Redwinged Blackbirds and Common Grackles continue to increase above record levels previously noted.

White-winged Crossbill: adult male Jun 29 Busti (RAS); 1 Jul 6 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (RFA); adult male Jul 11 Hamburg (RFA). **Savannah Sparrow:** considerable recovery from last year's slump in numbers. **Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows** continue scarce and local, as last summer. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 2 Jul 6, 1 Jul 7, 8, 12 Amherst (G. Inskip). **White-crowned Sparrow:** first summer record for western New York—1 Jul 12 Farmersville Station (D. F. Clarks). **White-throated Sparrow:** adults carrying food mid-Jun through mid-Jul Alfred (EB,CWK); 1 Jul 8 Birdsall (RFA); 2 Jul 19 North Java (RFA et al); adults and 2 young Jul 31 Bflo (RFA et al).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for both June and July averaged about 1½ degrees below normal while the first half of August averaged about 1 degree above normal. Rainfall for June was very heavy, almost 2 inches above normal. The rainfall for July was about 1 inch below normal. Rainfall for the first half of August was about normal.

The early shorebird flight was very poor, due mostly to lack of suitable habitat because of continued high water levels. Screech Owls seemed to show a slight increase. Purple Martins appear to have recovered from their very low numbers of two and three years ago. As usual, many of the late flycatchers and warblers lingered until the first week of June. There seems to have been some increase in the meadow sparrows, especially the Henslow's.

In spite of many interesting records, the only really outstanding report was of a small flock of Red Crossbills the middle of July.

Observers cited: MC—Michael Carlson; JJD—James J. Doherty; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; BK—Beatrice Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; HSM—Howard S. Miller; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; FHP—Frank H. Phelps.

Localities: BB—Braddocks Bay; BS—Bergen Swamp; WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 June 14 Canadice Lake (Alfred Maley)—while this bird has been reported here previously, there is no evidence of nesting. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 1 June 12 Irondequoit Bay (TM)—very late date. **Black-crowned Night Heron:** maximum 12 June 16 BB (WCL)—this species seems to be increasing somewhat recently.

Whistling Swan: 1 June 6 WL (RGM)—this bird was reported occasionally all summer by area residents. **Mallard:** 350 June 16 BB (WCL)—this was a flock coming into the bay at dusk; this species has mainly replaced the Black Duck as a breeding species. **Green-winged Teal:** 2 July 12 Hamlin (WCL)—this bird is known to occasionally nest locally. **Common Merganser:** 1 June 6 WL (RGM).

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 35 June 8 BS (GOS Hike). **Cooper's Hawk:** Aug 5 Henrietta (Alfred Starling). **Sparrow Hawk:** 10 June 22 Avon area (GOS Hike)—also increasing in the Rochester area, where up to 5 or 6 birds can be seen in a morning's birding.

Upland Plover: 14 June 22 Rush-Avon area (GOS Hike). **Least Sandpiper:** 1 June 29 Hamlin (WCL). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 1 June 29 Hamlin (WCL). **Sanderling:** 15 July 20 Ontario Beach (HSM,FHP)—early for this number. Bona-