

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Temperatures averaged near normal all summer and there were few oppressively hot days. Precipitation was near normal in June but tapered off thereafter making the season progressively drier as it went on.

Again most of the valuable information collected during the summer is a result of the Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys. The composite totals from the seven available surveys are reported below for every species recorded on at least one of them in the form "(14-5)" meaning in this example a total of 14 individuals reported on five survey routes. Comparisons with the results similarly reported in previous years should be interesting, although it should be borne in mind that the list of surveys reporting is unfortunately different from year to year.

Another Kentucky Warbler was added to the list of interesting southerners recorded during the spring migration. And Chenango County again contributed reports of species such as Swainson's Thrush and Red-breasted Nuthatch that suggest ecological affinities with more mountainous or northern areas.

An interesting situation over the past dozen years or more has been the irregular presence during the breeding season, and even some actual breeding records, of Common Mergansers in Delaware County, somewhat south of the central New York limit mentioned in the Fifth Edition AOU Checklist. This year they were again present on the Pepacton Reservoir and a breeding record was obtained from eastern Broome County.

Breeding Mockingbirds seem a little more firmly established and a few Tufted Titmouse nests were found, suggesting that that population, too, is expanding.

Abbreviations used: BBS—Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey; Bing—hamton; WP—Whitney Point.

Observers' initials: DB—Donald Bemont; LB—Leslie Bemont; LC—Mrs. Lynn Clark; GC—Gail Corderman; MC—Mitchell Cubberly; A,MD—Anna & Marilyn Davis; C,JD—Carleton & Jeanne Davis; EF—Elizabeth Feldhusen; HM—Harriet Marsi; MM—Michael Moore; RP—Robert Pantle; MS—Mary Sheffield; RS—Robert Sheffield; HS—Harvey Spivak; JT—Josephine Tuttle; DW—Donald Weber; CW—Cora Wellman; R,SW—Ruth & Sally White; SW—Stuart Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 seen regularly all summer on the Oneonta Reservoir (EF). Great Blue Heron: (3-3); 4 nests at Sharon Springs (CW). Green Heron: (1-1). Black-crowned Night Heron: (4-1), Coventryville BBS (LB), the only report in the region this year. Ring-necked Duck: 2 males Jul 20 Whitney Point (RS,MS). Hooded Merganser: young and adults Jun 10 German, in Cortland County, (S. Willcox). Common Merganser: Jun 13 Oquaga Lake, a female with at least 8 young,—“saw very clearly the white neck, reddish head, sharp line of demarcation between red and white, long cresty feathers on head, merganser bill. Also, she dived repeatedly.” (SW); 18, in a group of 15 and a group of 3, Aug 3 the high count on Pepacton Reservoir (MC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: over 20 Jul 23 perched on rocks along river between Walton and Cannonsville Reservoir (R,SW); two other reports. Sharp-shinned Hawk: (1-1), Lisle BBS (RP), the only report during the period. Cooper's Hawk: three reports. Red-tailed Hawk: (8-4); 26 other reports during the period. Red-shouldered Hawk: Jul 31 south of Bing (GC), the only one. Broad-winged Hawk: 5 reports. Bald Eagle: an immature over Pepacton Reservoir Jul 7 (MC); one at Deposit Aug 8 (SW). Marsh Hawk: (2-2), Jun 25 Cooperstown BBS (Ken Hanson); Jun 27 Oxford BBS (HM); the only ones reported. Sparrow Hawk: (13-5). Ruffed Grouse: at Delhi “much fewer” (LC). Bobwhite: Jun 30 Delhi

(LC). Ring-necked Pheasant: (2-2). Killdeer: (45-6). Common Snipe: 1 Aug 2 Sherburne (R,SW). Upland Plover: 1 Jun 29 South Plymouth, Chenango County, (LB,DB), the only report. Spotted Sandpiper: (2-1). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Jul 20 Sherburne (R,SW); Jul 31 Milford (CW). Greater Yellowlegs: 4 Aug 10 Sherburne (R,SW). Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 Aug 10 Sherburne (R,SW). Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 Aug 10 Sherburne (R,SW). Least Sandpiper: 3 Jul 20 Sherburne (R,SW). Ring-billed Gull: 6 or more at WP Jul 2 and 2 Jul 9 (LB,DB). Rock Dove: (17-2). Mourning Dove: (24-6). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (4-3). Black-billed Cuckoo: (3-1). Screech Owl: 4 reports, all in Triple Cities area. Barred Owl: Jul 13 a young bird at Bing (GC); also "heard several times" at Andes (MC).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Chimney Swift: (58-3), surprisingly missing from 4 of the 7 BBS available. Belted Kingfisher: (7-4), generally quite common. Yellow-shafted Flicker: (81-7). Pileated Woodpecker: (1-1); only two other reports all summer. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (13-4). Downy Woodpecker: (9-3). Eastern Kingbird: (60-7); 27 on the Cooperstown BBS; "great numbers" in Norwich area (R,SW). Great-crested Flycatcher: (13-6); missing from Cooperstown BBS. Eastern Phoebe: (62-7). Traill's Flycatcher: (7-2). Least Flycatcher: (47-6). Eastern Wood Pewee: (23-6). Horned Lark: (2-2). Tree Swallow: (22-5); "12 families" at Andes (MC). Bank Swallow: (1-1). Rough-winged Swallow: (14-1), Cooperstown BBS. Barn Swallow: (188-7). Cliff Swallow: (1-1); at Greene all summer as usual (C, JD); 1 banded Jun 24 Candor (RP). Purple Martin: "20 to 30 individuals" in 2 houses at Unadilla until Aug 8 or 10 (JT). Blue Jay: (88-7). Common Crow: (194-7). Black-capped Chickadee: (46-5). Tufted Titmouse: a nest found west of Endicott (MM); an adult brought 4 young to a feeder at Chenango Forks almost all Jul and into Aug (A,MD); reported at Unadilla (JT). White-breasted Nuthatch: (6-4). Brown Creeper: 3 or 4 at Cortland Jun 1 and 6 (HS); Jun 22 Endwell (LB); Aug 7 Chenango Forks (A,MD). House Wren: (69-7). Carolina Wren: Jun 21 "and earlier" Vestal (Mrs. James Putnam). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 12 Jul 13 Sherburne (R,SW). Short-billed Marsh Wren: none "tho' we searched the regular places" (R,SW). Mockingbird: (3-2), 2 Cooperstown BBS and 1 Lisle BBS; 4 records with evidence of breeding, including 2 with 2nd attempt noted after 1st attempt failed. Catbird: (78-7). Brown Thrasher: (31-7). Robin: (516-7). Wood Thrush: (131-7). Hermit Thrush: (21-4); 2 singing males at Candor in early Jun (DW); 1 singing at Pharsalia Aug 9 (R,SW). Swainson's Thrush: (1-1), Oxford BBS; singing at Pharsalia Jun 8 and Jul 12 (R,SW). Veery: (74-7); reported regularly until Jul 22. Eastern Bluebird: (2-1), Lisle BBS; at Candor "poor luck nesting-1 nest of 5 made it" (DW) and none too frequently reported in the western part of the Region-progressively better results towards the east-a 2nd nesting at Oxford (Anne Stratton); 4 pairs known to have raised families within 10 miles of Unadilla (Dorothy Sawyer); 4 families raised at Andes (MC); "quite successful this year-20 young reached maturity in nest boxes on our property-several friends had successful nestings" at Delhi (LC). Cedar Waxwing: (37-5). Starling: (654-7).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo (4-3). Solitary Vireo: (2-1), Oxford BBS. Red-eyed Vireo: (71-7). Warbling Vireo: (10-4), all in Broome and Chenango Counties. Black-and-white Warbler: (4-2). Worm-eating Warbler: (1-1), Lisle BBS, extra time taken for identification (RP). Golden-winged Warbler: (1-1); fairly common locally around Bing. Brewster's Warbler: 1 Jun 8 Endwell (LB). Blue-winged Warbler: a pair carrying food Endwell Jun 8 (LB). Nashville Warbler: (3-2); 2 nests found at Chenango Forks (A,MD). Yellow Warbler: (59-7). Magnolia Warbler: 4 heard singing Jul 12 Pharsalia (R,SW). Black-throated Blue Warbler: Jun 21 Andes (EF,MC, et al). Myrtle Warbler: Jun 21 Andes (EF,MC, et al). Black-throated Green Warbler: (8-2). Blackburnian Warbler: 6 reports. Chestnut-sided Warbler: (52-6). Blackpoll Warbler: Jun 21 Andes (EF,MC, et al), unusually late.

Prairie Warbler: regularly thru Jun to Jul 3 Vestal Center (Elizabeth and Newell Washburn). Ovenbird: (34-6). Northern Waterthrush: (1-1), Coventryville BBS; 2 Aug 10 Sherburne (R,SW). Louisiana Waterthrush: Jul 28 Delhi (LC). Kentucky Warbler: Jun 8 Endwell (LB), song and all field marks at about 30 feet—2nd one in Bing area this year. Mourning Warbler: Jun 21 Andes (EF,MC, et al), the only one all summer. Yellowthroat: (187-7). Yellow-breasted Chat: Jun 13 Bing (LB). Canada Warbler: (2-2); 6 other reports. American Redstart: (38-6).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (199-6). Bobolink: (116-7). Eastern Meadowlark: (126-7). Redwinged Blackbird: (1476-7). Orchard Oriole: the pair reported at Bing in the previous issue present to at least Jun 12 (LB, W. Sutliff, R. Smith). Baltimore Oriole: (44-7), 18 on Delhi BBS, where there were "more than the usual" (LC)—still the overall total doesn't seem up to general impressions. Common Grackle: (360-7), 225 on Cooperstown BBS, but only 5 on Delhi BBS and 7 on McDonough BBS (Claude Howard). Brown-headed Cowbird: (52-6). Scarlet Tanager: (32-7). Cardinal: (18-5), missing from Cooperstown and Delhi BBS. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (19-7). Indigo Bunting: (34-5). Purple Finch: (15-3), 12 on Cooperstown BBS; "nesting somewhere" around Candor (DW). American Goldfinch: (147-7). Rufous-sided Towhee: (139-7). Savannah Sparrow: (54-6); at Delhi "fewer than usual" (LC). Grasshopper Sparrow: (3-2). Henslow's Sparrow: (1-1), Coventryville BBS; still singing at Choconut Center, 2 miles north of Johnson City, Aug 10 (RS,MS). Vesper Sparrow: (12-2). Slate-colored Junco: (5-1), Oxford BBS; 6 at Pharsalia Jul 12 (R,SW). Chipping Sparrow: (150-7). Field Sparrow: (98-7). White-throated Sparrow: (16-3); 10 singing at Pharsalia Jun 8 and 7 Jul 2 (R,SW); at Andes Jun 21 (EF,MC, et al). Song Sparrow: (358-7).

710 University Ave., Endwell, New York, 13760

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

Early June was warm, green, and fresh with the abundant rain of April and May. An almost idyllic three weeks of decent weather ended in a five-day spell in late June of protracted cold, high winds, and chilling rain, undoubtedly ruining many nestings, particularly amongst swallows, vireos, and warblers. Early July rapidly warmed up, and muggy nights and mosquito days were common in the first two weeks. By July 10 shorebird and early landbird migration had begun. Few areas of shorebird habitat were present by July 15, but a four-week dry spell engendered a fair supply of mud-rimmed ponds and marshes by mid-August. The promise of an early landbird migration, however, was completely wiped away by the continuous hot weather and southerly winds of early August, and no migrant warblers other than Yellow Warblers and American Redstarts were detected by the end of the period.

Extensive breeding bird investigations were undertaken in the Oswego County portion of the Tug Hill Plateau, the highlands of southern Madison and Onondaga Counties, and the southwestern Adirondacks above Old Forge and Big Moose. All of the nine regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys were covered this year, and the data accruing from these and other indicated explorations produced a wealth of information in suspected but, until now, undocumented distribution.

Positives for the summer include 1) an upswing in the locations of Upland Plover; 2) spread of Red-bellied Woodpecker and increase in Red-headed Woodpecker; 3) excellent tallies of Least Flycatcher and a panregional influx of Cedar Waxwing;