

ling and Yellow-throated are normal in numbers with the Red-eyed showing an upturn after recent poor years.

Among our breeding warblers, most seem in normal abundance with the Yellow-throat excellent; Redstart improving after a dip, but no reports for Black-and-white or Chestnut-sided received.

The more unusual reports include Prothonotary at Oak Orchard on July 2 (MO'H et al); and on July 11 (GOS hike); and Louisiana Waterthrush on August 6 at Canandaigua Lake (RO'H). Hooded Warblers were reported only from Pellet Road where they are regular breeders.

Late spring migrants among the warblers were noted as follows: Magnolia June 7 at Manitou (WL); Black-throated Green June 17 Webster (McNetts); Blackburnian June 6 Webster (McNetts); Wilsons June 7 Manitou (WL).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark, a regular yearly occurrence west of the city recently was also noted at Lima, south of Rochester in June this year (JF). Listman again noted the Orchard Oriole at Carlton on the west Lakeshore—an immature male in song on June 13 and 14. Although Redwings and Grackles continue abundant, the Cowbird seems less common this year—a welcome trend after the great increase of recent years.

Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are present in good numbers while Indigo Buntings appear more common than a year ago. Cardinals are everywhere, apparently still increasing as the Christmas Census seems to confirm each year.

Winter finches were still present in early June in surprising variety: Evening Grosbeak 4 June 12 Manitou Beach (WL); Pine Siskin 1 June 6 (Perrigos); Red Crossbill 1 June 8 Pittsford (Perrigos), 5 June 8 same place and observers, 2 Durand-Eastman Park June 13 (MC).

Goldfinches and Towhees are common, with the latter species increasing where formerly cultivated land is returning to brush as farms continue to decline in Monroe and surrounding counties. While the short-tailed sparrows; i.e., Savannah, Henslow's, Grasshopper, are on the upswing, they are not yet at a peak of abundance in what seems to be a fluctuating population pattern. A report of Lincoln Sparrows—1 or 2 birds-at BANC in June was accompanied by a very complete description; yet it seems so improbable as to make further observation highly desirable. Other breeding species seem normal to somewhat above normal with Chipping Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow apparently increasing after rather low points in the past few years.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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June was moderately cool, averaging about 2° below normal temperatures and with below normal rainfall. In July, temperatures were normal, with heavy rainfall—several inches above normal in some counties. The July 3 cloudburst caused extensive damage in the Newfield and Connecticut Hill areas southwest of Ithaca and undoubtedly resulted in the loss of many nests and young birds, but actually I received few reports of such. The first half of August was warmer than normal, with sunny skies and almost no rain.

I have no report from the Hornell or the Geneva areas for this summer, but am pleased to have received some notes from Canandaigua, north-western corner of the Region, from Art Schaffner. The fact that we are losing some critical birding areas due to various types of human activity, was well pointed up by remarks from Mary Welles of Elmira, who comments especially on the filling in of the Horseheads dump,

described now as "a beautifully levelled off" landfill. It formerly was a stop-off for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, but the water, shallow areas and cattails are all gone. A former area of willow trees and a small stream along a railroad, once good for warblers, is now a bare, level piece of ground with only a small patch of water. The Horseheads A and P ponds are now either too deep, dried up or choked with algae. Art Schaffner commented on the absence of suitable nesting places for waterfowl in the Canandaigua area. Similar situations are found throughout the Region.

Reports were received from four of the 25 mile Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in the Finger Lakes. At least two have now been run for five years. I have no report of the Orleans count for this year. Highlights of the others are as follows:

The Rushville count (FG) had 48 species, down three from 1969 while the 54 species on the Branchport count (FG) was five more than in 1969. On the Dryden East count (SHS) the total was 62 species, equalling the high of 1968 and seven above the 1969 count. Killdeer, Downy Woodpeckers, Crows, Catbirds, Cowbirds and Chipping Sparrows showed an increase, while Flickers, Traill's Flycatchers, Blue Jays, House Wrens, Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Bobolinks and Field Sparrows had decreased. On the Trumansburg count (DM) 59 species were listed, the highest in the five years. Increases were noted in Sparrow Hawks, Killdeer, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Robin, Wood Thrush, Yellow Warbler and Baltimore Oriole, and of interest was the count of five Henslow's Sparrows, only one having been recorded on previous counts. A decrease was noted in Mourning Doves, Blue Jay, Crow, Catbird, Chipping Sparrow and Field Sparrow.

The breeding bird census of Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary was taken on June 6 and 7 and with the late season additions of the waterfowl broods and late nesters, the total was 56 species this year, up three from 1969. However, numbers of individuals showed a drop, especially in such species as Tree Swallows, Wood Thrushes, Veerys and Red-eyed Vireos.

The summer fruit crop was excellent.

Area compilers and observers: RA—Robert Andrie; WEB—Walter E. Benning; JBr—Jack Brubaker; FG—Frank Guthrie; CH—Clayton Hardy; WH—Wilfred Howard; CL—Charles Leck; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; AS—Art Schaffner; BS—Betty Strath; MS—Mark Stephenson; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; JJT—James and Jean Tate; MW—Mary Welles.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Jun 17 Keuka L, late date. Pied-billed Grebe: 250 young raised from 75 nests MNWR, up considerably (CH). Double-crested Cormorant: 2, 1 ad 1 imm, present whole season MNWR (WEB). Great Blue Heron: 200 or more nests Marengo Swamp near MNWR, 75–80% occupied and successful; max MNWR 30 Jul 24 (WEB); 6 nests, 13 young Reynoldsville (BS). Cattle Egret: no reports. Common Egret: max 6 Jul 26 (WEB). Black-crowned Night Heron: 25 nests in cattails MNWR produced 25 young (CH). American Bittern: few sightings MNWR; only 2 records Keuka area (FG). Least Bittern: very few sightings all period; 2 nests produced 5 young MNWR (CH).

1970 WATERFOWL PRODUCTION MNWR (CH).

	Broods seen	Est. total young	Comparison with '69*
Canada Goose	30	130	+
Mallard	22	500	—
Black	2	60	—
Gadwall	30	600	—

Pintail	1	5	+
Green-winged Teal	2	15	+
Blue-winged Teal	15	500	-
Shoveler	0	0	-
Wood Duck	22	420	-
Redhead	1	50	+
Hooded Merganser	1	20	+

* Figures from October, 1969 *Kingbird*.

1 male European Widgeon present MNW Jun 20-Jul 3 (WEB). 1 pair Canvas-back seen occasionally MNWR throughout period (WEB). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 brood 6 Keuka L in August, unusual (FG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 raised Marengo Swamp, 24 seen there Jun 24 (WEB); 6 Jul 3 south of Rushville, Yates Co. (AS). Goshawk: 1 ad seen two different localities near Ithaca, probable nesting but not found. Sharp-shinned Hawk: none seen in most areas of Region, no nests found, 1 bird over Etna Jun 28 (SHS). Cooper's Hawk: 2 nests known Ithaca area, 3 young banded in one, young taken from other in Jun. Red-tailed Hawk: normal nesting success, many sightings. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 sighting, 2 birds SWS (MS). Broad-winged Hawk: seen occasionally over Mt. Pleasant near Etna, new location (JJT). Bald Eagle: 1 imm. seen fairly regularly MNWR and vicinity. Marsh Hawk: only a few sightings, female only, during period MNWR. Sparrow Hawk: abundant, good breeding success except in Watkins Glen area (JBr). Ruffed Grouse: seemed down in Keuka area (FG).

Virginia and Sora Rails were not abundant but water was high MNWR, sightings difficult. Common Gallinule: 100 nests produced 400 young MNWR (CH), six times last year's production; 1 brood seen Aug 15 was of still tiny young (WEB). American Coot: 50 broods, 200 young somewhat lower than in '69 (CH).

Shorebirds were scarce at Keuka, no mudflats. Last in spring (northward) migration a few Dunlin Jun 1 Ithaca (CL); Semipalmated Sandpiper present to Jun 14 MNWR (WEB). First southward migration Jul 1 MNWR (WEB). Unless otherwise stated the following shorebird records are those of WEB at MNWR. Semipalmated Plover: 1 Jul 19 max 16 Aug 15. Killdeer: max 24 Jul 25; nested roof of Mann Library, Cornell U, 4 eggs in June (RB Fischer). Black-bellied Plover: 1 Aug 12, 2 Aug 15. American Woodcock: max 20 Jul 1 (CH). Common Snipe: max 6 Aug 14. Upland Plover: max 10 Jun 28 Elmira (WH). Spotted Sandpiper: max 18 Jun 28. Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Jul 18 Waterloo dump, 2 MNWR Aug 14. Greater Yellowlegs: first 3 Jul 18, max 10 Aug 1. Lesser Yellowlegs: first 1 Jul 1, max 105 Aug 14. Pectoral Sandpiper: first Aug 8 three weeks later than usual, max 17 Aug 15. Least Sandpiper: max 19 Aug 15. Short-billed Dowitcher: first 13 Jul 8, max 15 Aug 12. Semipalmated Sandpiper: first fall migrants 4 Jul 18, max 157 Aug 15. Wilson's Phalarope: 1 Jul 26, Aug 14-15. A Yellowlegs seen in late June in town of Canandaigua is a mystery for that date (AS).

Common Tern: 2 nests produced 4 young MNWR. Caspian Tern: 2 Aug 9 MNWR, only report. Black Tern: 100 nests produced 100 young MNWR, numbers present showed definite decrease by end Jul. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Aug 1 only record for period (WEB). Mourning Doves: good numbers except Canandaigua area. Black-billed Cuckoo: several observers felt there were a few more this year, but still uncommon. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: extremely scarce. Barn Owl: it has been learned that a pair was evicted from its tower-home in Canandaigua last spring (AS); no other reports. Screech Owl: 1 successful nesting known other than Etna pair reported last issue, this one at Odessa, 3 yg raised (BS). Barred Owl: no young seen SWS this year; pair nested MNWR; single seen Birch Creek Road south of Elmira Aug 4, eating a rat (Carl Wood). Saw-whet Owl: no reports.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: only 2 records at Keuka; few noted at Ithaca; no breeding at Canandaigua. Chimney Swift: MNWR personnel report they seemed less common over Refuge this year. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: extremely scarce everywhere; in my own yard where I formerly always had three or four pairs at feeders during summer, I had only 2 sightings this season. Belted Kingfisher: seemed in good numbers, present in expected places but no summary of breeding success. Yellow-shafted Flickers: reported by all as apparently abundant. Red-headed Woodpeckers: the apparent increase mentioned in last report continued; present at half a dozen places at Keuka (FG); 1 near Watkins Marsh (Joe Kloppel); 2 sightings in Region 3 portion of Ontario County; pair on Wells College Golf Course, Aurora; at least 5 other localities nr Ithaca with 2 definite nestings.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: SWS nest broken up; 3 immatures appeared in Etna in July, (el. 1050) suspected nesting on nearby Mt. Pleasant. Eastern Kingbird: reported as down at Odessa and Canandaigua; first migrants Jul 31-Aug 5. (AS); in satisfactory numbers Cay L Basin. All other flycatchers seemed scarce. 4 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers netted and banded Penn Yan in Aug, early migrants (M. Lerch). Olive-sided Flycatcher Jun 19 Odessa is late date, non-breeder (BS). Tree Swallows: alarmingly scarce, many formerly-used nest boxes empty. Max numbers Tree and Bank Swallows flocking on wires MNWR 500, compared with 10,000 a few years ago. However, Bank Swallows in good numbers Watkins Glen (JBr) and Big Flats (MW); those in latter colony departed Jul 20. Barn Swallows doing well. Cliff Swallows: few reports, Voak colony Yates Co had 59 nests where no success in '69. Purple Martin: the decline continues; a few on west side Cay 1, small colony near Freeville, a few west side Canandaigua L (AS) where have been absent for several years; last date there Aug 11; Strath colony on Sen L produced only 7 young from 12 pairs birds.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: scattered reports as usual. Short-billed Marsh Wren: no reports. Mockingbird: increased reports of nestings in Region: At Lauferschwailers' in Elmira, 3 nestings with 4, 1 and 2 fledged; other Elmira nests also noted; 2 at Keuka, 3 nestings in Ithaca, 1 of which fledged 4 on its second attempt (DM). Brown Thrashers: seemed fairly common, no reports on nesting success. Eastern Bluebird: extremely scarce in Ithaca area; at Penn Yan, M. Lerch put up boxes, banded 54 young and 2 adults. Golden-crowned Kinglet: a pair with male singing noted in spruces nr Bennettsburg Jul 23 (JBr); 2 Jun 22 nr Summer Hill Cay Co. el 1650; 1 Jun 22 3 mi east Locke el 1680; 2 east Sempronius Jun 23 el 1580 (RA). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: although not found on breeding bird census, 1 seen Jul 27 SWS (MS). Cedar Waxwing: abundant, enjoying the fruit crop.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos scarce. Warbling Vireo in normal numbers, never abundant. No warblers could be called abundant, species (WEB). Myrtle Warbler: singing male nr Summer Hill Cay Co Jun 22 el 1650 (RA); few summer records for Region. **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER:** a bird which answered perfectly the description of this species was seen several times in late Jun in evergreens at the Mitchell Street residence of the Maurice Bonds in Ithaca; with no further verification it must remain a question, but there is a specimen of the species in the Cornell collection from Ithaca, November 1932, and another report from the state this spring (See *The Kingbird* Vol. XX, No. 3 for July 1970, p. 117) Blackburnian Warbler; a singing male Jun 26 MNWR is a late record for a place which would not seem to be suitable nesting habitat (CH). Blackpoll Warbler: banded by Lerch Aug 8 Penn Yan, an early record. Prairie Warbler: an estimated 9-10 pairs in Elmira area, apparently 1 only on Conn Hill s.w. Ithaca. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** a singing male, Monkey Run area near Varna Jun 26 (RA); no further details. Yellow-breasted Chat: scarce. Canada Warbler: it was sad to find none of this species SWS on breeding bird census, formerly such a typical bird of the Sanctuary.

Redstart: seemed in slightly better numbers than in recent years, but not up to the late 1950's.

On the 25 mile breeding bird censuses the following species were recorded.

	Dryden	Trumansburg	Branchport	Rushville
Yellow-thr. Vireo	0	0	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	9	6	0	2
Warbling Vireo	0	3	1	1
Yellow Warbler	8	30	1	9
Magnolia Warbler	1	0	0	0
Bl-thr Green Warb	1	0	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warb	0	2	1	0
Ovenbird	2	1	0	0
Yellowthroat	33	15	17	6
Redstart	1	1	0	1

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: probably nested at Keuka, though nest not found (FG); nested again West Hill, Ithaca, 2 young seen Aug 4 (V & M Hannan). Brown-headed Cowbird: reported as strangely scarce around Canandaigua (AS). Scarlet Tanager: slight increase over last few years though not found on Dryden East 25 mile run this year. Indigo Bunting: absent from some former localities—habitat change. House Finch: 1 young being fed in Elmira (Rosemary Conley), near feeder where first recorded earlier this year. Red Crossbill: last record at Keuka mid-May (FG); last date Horseheads Jun 17 (A. Klieger); however, although no nest was found in Region, there were other reports of late June sightings and of young being fed; still 27 at Barnettes in Ithaca first week June; young being fed at Shepherd home Ithaca Jun 14; 2 young being fed Watkins Glen mid-June (JBr), present there until Jul 5. Savannah and Vesper Sparrows seemed in better numbers than for several years; Henslow's, Grasshopper and Swamp Sparrows scarce.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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June and July were both wet but moderate in temperatures. August, however, turned hot and dry, and local wild fruit crops and weed seeds both advanced accordingly. The current crop of hawthorne and Black-haw fruits can only be described as impressive. Most land birds appeared to have good nesting success, but several windstorms in early July must have done some damage.

Extensive birding exploration and singing male counts were undertaken in northern Herkimer County, the Tug Hill Plateau, the southern highlands of Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, and Herkimer Counties, and in the high deciduous areas of southwestern Onondaga County. Unfortunately, woodlots local to Syracuse and broken or mixed agricultural-deciduous woodland areas of the Ontario lakeplain were somewhat neglected.

Ornithological positives include: 1) some increase in both Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will; 2) increased numbers of Eastern Phoebe and Least Flycatcher; 3) marked increase in Bank and Barn Swallow numbers; 4) a steady increase in breeding Brown Creepers; 5) increase of House Wren, Robin, and Wood Thrush, with possible local range extension of the last; 6) high numbers of Red-eyed Vireo; 7) certain warbler increases—Golden-winged, Parula, Yellow, Blackburnian, Chest-