

Barker (Klabundes), Jun 19 Vernal Corners, Wyoming County (RA) and Jun 25 Hamburg Township (RA).

Although the Savannah Sparrow continues to maintain its numbers, Grasshopper and particularly Henslow's Sparrows seem to be declining with more regular stations abandoned each summer; both are practically absent now from the Southern Tier counties. A pair of *CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS* nested in a Scotch pine plantation at Foster Lake near Alfred; the nest with 3 young was found Jun 15 with the young fledging Jun 20; the male was still singing Jul 22 (EB et al); photographs and tape recordings have been obtained verifying this as the first confirmed nesting for the state. The White-throated Sparrow was noted in several probable breeding locations including near Alfred, the Kinney Swamp at Birdsall and in Allegany State Park.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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The summer has been somewhat cooler and wetter than usual this year, but there have also been generous amounts of sunshine. The local weather service credits this tendency to the fact that most storms or cold fronts have passed farther to the east than usual.

Rainfall was an inch above normal for June and almost three inches above in July. The first half of August was dry, but rainfall for the year remained over two inches above normal at mid-month. There were several unusually cool days and nights but only four days of 90° or over.

Water levels remained high on the lakeshore, but some mud flats were available on the edges of ponds west of Rochester where shorebirds had begun to gather by late July.

Most local observers did not seem as active this summer as last, but some fine reports have been received nonetheless. It was encouraging to note a wide range of area coverage away from Lake Ontario during the breeding season which provides a better balanced view of our local populations of several species. Local observers are again encouraged to submit their observations regularly, even those which produce only routine results. These provide the best basis we have to note trends which a single observer or scattered observations cannot detect.

Among the more interesting tendencies revealed by this summer's observations are: (1) improvement in numbers of some herons and marsh birds; (2) indications of breeding success for local duck populations; (3) increase continues for Mourning Doves; (4) good reports of both Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls; (5) increases for several species of woodpeckers, swallows and sparrows; (6) apparent scarcity of cuckoos, Barn Owl, Nighthawk, Phoebe, marsh wrens, and perhaps some vireos, i.e., Red-eyed, and warblers, i.e., Ovenbird and Canada.

Rarities: Ring-necked Duck, Bald Eagle, Carolina Wren, Brewster's Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, House Finch.

Abbreviations: BB Braddocks Bay; BS Bergen Swamp; EP—Ellison Park; MB—Manitou Beach; MP—Mendon Ponds; PM Pk—Powder Mill Park; RP—Round Pond; WP—Webster Park.

Observers: JC—Jack Connors; MC—Michael Carlson; GD—Gertrude Davis; JF—John Foster; RF—Robert Folker; JH—June Haller; WL—Walt Listman; AM—Al Maley; J&TM—Joe and Thelma McNett; m.ob.—many observers; BO—Bernard Olin; RO'H—Richard O'Hara; BP—Betty Perrigo; GP—Glen Perrigo.

LOONS—DUCKS: Only one report of Pied-billed Grebe was received, a single bird on June 20 (J&TM). This is somewhat in contrast to last summer when several

were noted but may only indicate somewhat reduced observations. Great Blue Herons were rather scarce on the Ontario lakeshore but may again be breeding at Oak Orchard where 15 were noted on July 7 (MC & RO'H). Least Bitterns remained unusually common, especially at RP where one or two were noted regularly (m.ob.). No Egrets of any species were reported this summer in the region.

Several observers noted duck broods common. A single Gadwall along with one American Widgeon was noted at BB on July 2 (RF & RO'H), and a most unusual Ring-necked Duck was seen at MP on July 13 (GP). One Hooded Merganser was reported at RP on July 13 (RO'H). Our regular breeding ducks were noted in normal numbers and apparently have had a good breeding season with ponds and marshes well filled with water.

HAWKS—OWLS: A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen in the Hemlock Lake area on June 20 (AM); this bird has always been scarce as a breeder in this region. Red-tailed Hawks and Sparrow Hawks appear to be present in about the same numbers as last year. While Marsh Hawks remained scarce, this species may have bred at Round Pond and Braddocks Bay where single birds were occasionally noted. Turkey Vultures were well represented, especially at BS where many birds were seen going to roost. A single adult Bald Eagle was near the local nesting site on June 7 (JF), and another, an immature, was noted on July 28 on Nations Road, Genesee (BP).

A single Ruffed Grouse was near Canadice Lake on June 22 (AM). Pheasants seem to be doing well with 25 reported on June 19 on one list from Penfield (GP). A Sora Rail was seen June 13 near Avon (JH), and another was at Reed Road on July 28 (JC). Gallinules were common in local marshes, but Coot were unreported this summer.

Among the shorebirds, the more common species appeared in normal numbers and dates in the limited habitat available. 5 Semipalmated Plover were at RP on August 7 (RO'H). 5 Upland Plover were near Avon on June 13 (JH); none were seen at the usual airport nesting site. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen July 31 at (RP) along with 4 Pectoral Sandpipers, 6 Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 Short-billed Dowitchers and other common species. 12 Sanderlings were on the Charlotte Beach July 25 (JC). By mid-August, water levels were beginning to drop and local observers were hopeful that the fall season would be more productive for these interesting species.

A few Bonaparte's Gulls remained through the summer near BB and RP but were apparently non-breeders. A Caspian Tern was at MB on June 30 (WL), and 3 were there on August 7 (RO'H). Common Tern were scarce again this summer until early August, while Black Tern seemed normal in numbers.

Mourning Doves are still increasing locally with good numbers reported everywhere. Cuckoos, on the other hand continued scarce, although both species were noted in June near Fairport (BO).

Great Horned Owls were reported from EP several times in July (GD) and also on June 12 from Hemlock Lake (JF). Screech Owls were noted occasionally with a maximum count of 4 at MP on July 8 (GP). No other owls were noted this summer.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: At least 2 Whip-poor-wills were calling in Bergen Swamp on July 7 (MC & RO'H). Nighthawks seemed very scarce over Rochester this summer continuing a downward trend of recent years. On the other hand, Chimney Swifts and Hummingbirds were noted regularly, although usually in small numbers. Kingfishers were not reported very frequently either.

The Woodpeckers were all reported in good numbers from the usual breeding stations. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers apparently bred again at both Ellison and Powder Mill Parks where they were present all summer. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is now being reported from more places and more often than is the Red-head. Downy Woodpeckers were everywhere in very good numbers.

Flycatchers, too, were common as breeding species, except perhaps for the Phoebe

which was infrequently noted this summer. There were no reports of late lingering Spring migrants in early June this year as we usually note among these species.

Most Swallows have apparently enjoyed good success this summer and very large numbers of Tree, Barn, Bank Swallows and Purple Martins are to be seen on the lakeshore at this writing (late August). An unusual report of 10 Cliff Swallows on June 20 came from Hemlock Lake (AM).

An observation worthy of future follow-up is the record of 7 Red-breasted Nuthatches at MP on July 8 (GP); there are no definite nesting records in the immediate Rochester area. Brown Creepers are definitely breeding more commonly than we were ever previously aware of here; reports of 1-4 birds were obtained from several areas including MP and PM Pk as well as Honeoye Lake (JF).

A single Carolina Wren was noted on June 12 at Avon, New York (JH). Long-billed Marsh Wrens still appear to be at a low ebb locally and Short-billed Marsh Wrens are unreported for the period.

A report of 6 Swainson's Thrushes on June 13 at Avon is very late, especially for this year (JH). Otherwise, the thrushes and allied species appear in normal numbers and localities. Bluebirds may have been reported a bit more frequently than usual this year but not enough so to be very significant.

A record of 8 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on June 20 at PM Pk no doubt indicates successful breeding there (J&TM). 2 or 3 records of Loggerhead Shrike came in indicating that this bird retains its status as an uncommon and local breeder here, although they seemed very scarce as a migrant this spring.

VIREOS—WARBLERS The Yellow-throated Vireo was well-reported this year and may be increasing, while Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos still seem reduced in numbers, especially the former. A maximum count of 15 Yellow-throated Vireos was made at MP on July 8 (GP), while the maximum for Red-eyed this year was 10 at two different localities.

Eighteen species of Warblers were noted in this region during the breeding season. This does not include either the Black-throated Blue or Blackburnian which have occasionally been reported in past years, but does include the Prothonotary, the female of which was seen feeding young, Louisiana Waterthrush, although it is much scarcer than a few years ago in the lakes region south of Rochester, and Hooded Warbler, noted at Avon (JH) and MP (GP) as well as the regular Pellet Road location. Three hybrid Brewster's Warbler's were seen at Canadice Lake (AM) and others at Leroy and PM Pk. The Blue-winged Warbler is being reported increasingly and the Golden-winged less frequently south of Rochester; this may be primarily due to habitat change in the areas we have covered frequently in the past. Ovenbirds were only noted occasionally this year. Canada Warblers seemed very much scarcer than they used to be in the gullies around Conesus and Canandaigua Lakes.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolinks were well represented here this season continuing an upward trend of recent years. Some local lists now are showing Common Grackles outnumbering Redwings in areas where the reverse had always been true; while there is certainly no shortage of Redwings, the Grackle population now seems to be growing faster. Cowbirds no longer seem to be multiplying so rapidly either, as no doubt the natural factors which limit a species numbers apply themselves; after all, there are only just so many small birds nests for them to use. Cardinals continue to prosper and delight people with their brilliant plumage and loud whistles, even well into the inner city areas, Purple Finches seem to have nested in several areas this year with a maximum report of 5 at MP on July 8 (GP). Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common, but Indigo Buntings were rather scarce. Both Goldfinches and Towhees were very common.

The House Finch noted regularly in May on St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, continued to come regularly to the feeder and finally brought one young bird thus establishing the first breeding record for Region 2.

The short-tailed sparrows, Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's are definitely on the upswing locally, especially near MP, but also in other areas near Rochester, they were seen in the best numbers in several years.

Another report of the Clay-colored Sparrow came in this summer; this time a singing male was noted in a spruce plantation two miles east of Honeoye, New York on June 22 (AM); this is perhaps the 4th or 5th record in recent years for this relative newcomer to our region. The remaining sparrows all appeared to be normal or somewhat above normal in abundance.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Temperatures were near normal in June, with one real heat wave at the end of the month, below normal in July and somewhat on the cool side in early August. The western part of the Region had heavy rains in June, followed by drier conditions amounting to drought in late July and August. The rest of the Region was fairly dry throughout the period.

Both editors were absent during much of the breeding season but have had fine cooperation from others in compiling information. There was, perhaps, more of a spread in breeding dates of some species, related to the lateness of migration commented on in the last report.

There was little of great interest. Walter Benning commented on shorebird conditions at MNWR as follows: "Up to mid-July, the area exposed (by lowering of water in Main Pool after Storage Pool was drained) was within reasonable viewing distance of the dike and not too extensive so that shorebirds were concentrated in an area where fairly accurate counts and identification were possible. Since mid-July extensive mudflats have developed in areas too far away to make accurate identification and counts even with a 30X scope." Benning also felt that counts made represented only 10-15% of shorebirds present.

Again this year reports were received from four of the 25-mile Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in the Finger Lakes. Highlights are as follows: The Rushville count had 48 species, same as in 1970 (ML) while the Branchport count (ML) was 49 species, down 13 from last year. On the Dryden East count (MS) the total was 61 species, compared with 62 in '70. Pheasants, Mourning Doves, Chimney Swifts, Kingbirds, Wood Pewees, Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, Yellow Warblers, Bobolinks, Baltimore Orioles and Towhees showed an increase while Killdeer, Veeries, Yellowthroats, Cowbirds, Savannah and Chipping Sparrows decreased. On the Trumansburg count (DM) there were 55 species (down from 59 in '70). Pheasants, Traill's Flycatchers, Catbirds, Bobolinks and Baltimore Orioles showed definite increases while Flickers, Starlings and Field Sparrows were low. It is suggested that the Field Sparrows may not have been singing at that point in the breeding cycle.

The breeding bird census of Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary was taken on June 17 (JT). As this was almost two weeks later than taken in all previous years and as census methods were slightly different, comparisons are not fully valid. However, 52 species were tallied (56 in '70), and it was evident that Killdeer, Downy Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches had increased, Chickadees, House Wrens, Catbirds, Starlings and Yellow Warblers had decreased.

Area compilers and observers: BA—Betty Ammerman; DGA—David G. Allen; WEB—Walter E. Benning; JBr—Jack Brubaker; FE—Frank Edminster; FG—Frank Guthrie; WMG—William M. Groesbeck; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul M. Kel-