

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

DOROTHY W. McILROY AND SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

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-

sey DAL—Douglas A. Lancaster; ML—Malcolm Lerch; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DP—David Peakall; MP—Montezuma Personnel; BS—Betty Strath; GAS—Gerry A. Smith MS—Margaret Shepherd; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; JT—James Tate; JW—Jayson Walker; MW—Mary Welles.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; Conn Hill—Connecticut Hill; MNWR— Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen L—Seneca Lake; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; Schuy Co.—Schuyler County.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: production same as last year MNWR, 250 young raised from 75 nests. Great Blue Heron: 96 max Aug 13–14 MNWR (GS, WEB), numbers normal at Marengo Swamp; good numbers Schuy Co with at least seven nests nr Reynoldsville (JBr). Cattle Egrets: no report. Common Egret: max 5 Aug 13 MNWR (GS); four mid-Aug Sharon Lake nr Horseheads (E. Ruggles). Black-crowned Night Heron: nested this year Main Pool cattails MNWR, numbers comparable to recent years. Least Bittern: seen regularly by several reporters, apparently successful breeding. American Bittern: a few seen regularly.

1971 Waterfowl Production MNWR (MP)

	Broods seen	Est. Total young	Comparison with '70
Canada Goose	20	100	—
Mallard	20	800	+
Black	5	200	+
Gadwall	40	900	+
Pintail	1	5	=
Green-winged Teal	5	50	+
Blue-winged Teal	25	900	+
Shoveler	1	5	+
Wood Duck	25	600	+
Redhead	1	10	+
Ruddy	2	10	+
Hood Merganser	0	20	=

Waterfowl use and production was “nearly twice that of last year” at MNWR (MP). Some peak figures, for reporting period: 1400 Mallard; 425 Blacks; 1500 Gadwall; 1500 Blue-winged Teal; 1000 Wood Ducks; Mallards reported successful at Watkins Glen Marsh (JBr); plentiful at Keuka (FG) and at SWS more ducklings reached flight age though brood numbers about the same. One Blue-winged Teal brood at Watkins Marsh (JBr). Hooded Mergansers were successful this year in raising young on airport ponds, Tomp Co; an imm or female Common Merg was seen Aug 13 on Sen L, n of Hector (BS). A late Red-breasted Merganser reported, Jun 3 Welles farm nr Elmira (MW).

Note: In the light of some later questions concerning positive identification of the female bird, it seems advisable now to delete the reference to a brood of Red-breasted Mergansers on Keuka Lake in 1970 (*KINGBIRD*) 20(4):191. (FG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 10 Jul 11 Marengo Swamp; 1 young raised there (had been 2 eggs in late May) (WEB); 1 seen regularly MNWR. Goshawk: 2 nests Conn Hill sw Ithaca, results unknown; 1 other nest in Tomp Co reported, unspecified location. Sharp-shinned Hawk: no record. Cooper's Hawk: 2 nests known, of which one had 3 young but 2 disappeared, eggs taken from second nest; one other sighting, Jul 2 nr Monkey Run, Ithaca (DM). Red-tailed Hawk: seemingly good breeding success from all reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: the SWS pair seen at intervals, bred outside of sanctuary, 3 large young seen in nest in June (fide)

DGA). Bald Eagle: 2 immatures (one changing into ad plumage) seen fairly regular MNWR; no sightings of adult birds here or in Region. Marsh Hawk: 1 occ seen MNWR; 1 seen fairly regularly e side Sen Lake (BS); 1 nr. Dryden (DP); no known nestings. Sparrow Hawk: apparently numerous, successful breeding.

Ruffed Grouse: good numbers (FE,PMK); brood seen Jun 12 nr Etna (Jack Austin). Bobwhite: many sightings nr Odessa, prob from a release (BS). Ring-necked Pheasants: normal number and size broods. Turkey: probably normal, though few actual sightings. Virginia Rail: few reports, though WEB felt normal at MNWR; 1 late young downy chick there Aug 14. Common Gallinule: conflicting reports of relative abundance; broods late, but few in comparison with last year; fewer adults than usual at beginning of breeding period; 20 nests with 50 young compared with 100 nests and 400 yg in '70 (MP). American Coot: 30 broods seen, 200 young MNWR (MP).

Unless otherwise stated, the following shorebird records are those of WEB at MNWR: Semipalmated Plover: max 18 Aug 8. Killdeer: most observers noted increased numbers this year, max 124 MNWR (WEB). Black-bellied Plover: first fall date and max 2 Aug 7. American Woodcock: young seen Jun 3 Bath (BA); 5 nests found and 150 yg MNWR (MP). Common Snipe: 2 nests, 5 yg (MP). max 55 Aug 14. Whimbrel: 1 July 25; 6 on lawn of Holding Point, Chemung Co July 30 (WH). Upland Plover: scattered reports, but several observers noted that fewer young seem to be produced this year. (MW, PMK). Spotted Sandpiper: normal numbers. Solitary Sandpiper: first 3 Jul 11. Greater Yellowlegs: max 11 Jul 13. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 114 Jul 14; several reporters commented that Greaters were much less common than Lessers this year. Pectoral: max 12 Jul 25. White-rumped Sandpiper: max 85 Jul 31. Baird's Sandpiper: 1 Aug 4. Least Sandpiper: max 125 Jul 17 (as compared with max 19 in '70). Dunlin: 1 seen Jul 1 was a non-breeding 'hold-over' undoubtedly, as the species does not return usually until September. Short-billed Dowitcher: first Jul 11; max 23 Aug 4; 29 Jul 25 at Waterloo (WEB). Stilt Sandpiper: max 9 Aug 13; MNWR (GS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: first 2 Jun 27, max 247 Aug 4; "350 peep on June 9 and 66 on Jun 13, too far out for positive identification, were probably this species" (WEB). Western Sandpiper: 1 on Aug 14, definitely identified, rare. Hudsonian Godwit: 1 Aug 12 (N. Cutright). Sanderling: max 3 Jul 17-25. Wilson's Phalarope: 1 Jul 18, only sighting. Occ Herring Gull during period at MNWR; up to 200 Ring-bills; scattered birds on Cay Lake. Bonaparte's Gull: up to 42 through Jul 21, 1 on Jul 25 (GS); lowering water levels and dying carp probably account for more than normal numbers of summer gulls (WEB). Common Tern: 2 nests, 4 produced at MNWR, same as '70. Caspian Tern: 1 Aug 1 Watkins Glen (BS); 2 Aug 12 MNWR (N. Cutright). Black Tern: est production 100 yg (MP). Mourning Dove: reported increasing at Watkins, Bath and Montezuma. The two species of Cuckoos were reported as scarce in the more southern parts of the Region, "fairly common" in the northern parts. Barn Owl: no reports. Screech Owl: 3 locations at Watkins Glen (JBr); scattered other reports, but not common. Barred Owl: Heard occasionally nr Dryden (DBP), Sapsucker Woods, and pair regular at Texas Hollow. No reports of Saw-whets reached me.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: very few reports; an occasional one over Hornell in June (WVG); noted Aug 5 over Bath (BA). Chimney Swift: no decline this year, but numbers still lower than a few years ago. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 successful nestings noted, 1 at Stashes nr Horseheads, 1 at Jacksonville, but in general still scarce. Yellow-shafted Flicker: plentiful everywhere. Pileated Woodpecker: good nesting success, and new locations reported. Red-bellied Woodpecker: few definite nesting records, but sightings various places; yg brought to McGuire feeder in August in Ithaca. Red-headed Woodpecker: increase noted at several places; w side Cay Lake (JT), Keuka Lake area (FG), also

reported from Hornell, Watkins Glen State Park, Clyde, and Ludlowville; still missing from several former locations (SHS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: although apparently did not breed SWS (JT), increasing number of reports of breeding birds at lower elevations (and more southerly) at Etna at Stasches nr Horseheads, at Kopp farm at Reading Center.

Eastern Kingbirds: normal numbers everywhere except Watkins Glen; apparent migrants noted Jul 30-Aug 2 (WEB) and Aug 10-15 (sev observers). A rather late Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted at Watkins Glen Jun 2 (JBr). Most flycatchers seemed in normal numbers around Waterloo (JW); but other areas reported fewer Traill's and Least. Horned Larks: few reports of breeding birds, except at Rushville where 35 were noted on the F & W breeding bird 25 mile census. Swallows were reported in better numbers this year, except Purple Martins and (in some areas) Cliff Swallows. Barn Swallows and Rough-wings migrated in good numbers on Seneca Lake in early August. In Orange Township of Schuy Co, Art Kopp noted Cliff Swallows back at a former location. The Strath Purple Martin colony, west side Sen L was quite successful this year; last young left nest Jul 31. Common Crows were somewhat up at Waterloo (JW). Brown Creeper: definitely up as a breeding species in the Region; possibly related to numbers of dead trees. Long-billed Marsh Wren: up to 11 seen at MNWR (GAS), but very few elsewhere. Carolina Wrens: few reports, but 3 broods near Watkins Glen (JBr). Mockingbirds: while by no means abundant, breeding reports increased in Ithaca area. Brown Thrasher: up in Waterloo area (JW). Eastern Bluebirds: still no marked improvement in this Region; Lerch banded 46, mostly young, fewer than in '70. Golden-crowned Kinglet: absence of reports probably means no coverage in suitable areas. Cedar Waxwing: normal numbers everywhere except MNWR and adjacent area (WEB) where scarce. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS

On the 25-mile breeding bird censuses the following were recorded:

	Dryden	Trumansburg	Branchport	Rushville
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	1	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	8	6	3	0
Warbling Vireo	8	2	1	3
Yellow Warbler	31	23	4	6
Magnolia Warbler	0	0	0	0
Bl-thr. Green Warbler ...	2	1	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler ..	2	2	0	0
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0
Yellowthroat	14	17	0	0
Redstart	0	2	0	0
Yellow-br. Chat	0	0	2	0

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos: normal numbers, perhaps slight increase over recent years. Yellow-throated Vireo: low numbers except in Watkins-Odessa area (BS). Golden-winged Warbler: few reports pair early July at Waterloo (WEB). "Lawrence's" Warbler: Jul 6 Six-Mile Creek Reservoir, Ithaca (John Brown). Yellow Warbler: seemingly good numbers everywhere; some probable migrants Aug 12-15 at Dryden (DBP). Magnolia Warbler: absent for first year in six on so-called Dryden East 25-mile census, as noted below. Cerulean Warbler: absent this year at Waterloo (JW) and Keuka (FG). Chestnut-sided Warbler: what has happened to this species? absent for first year in many from the Lower Creek Road location w of Etna, our one sure spot; absent on Branchport census this year. Prairie Warbler: none found on Conn Hill for first year in many, possible habitat change. Mourning Warbler: three locations, Jun 13 Waterloo Swamp (WEB), Jul 11 Clyde carrying food, nr Etna and Pine Woods Rd. (DAL). Kentucky Warbler: care-

fully identified Jun 8 after it hit window, recovered and flew away, Ellis Hollow Rd, e of Ithaca (Sally Norcross). Yellow-breasted Chat: bred at Bardeen farm (near Burdett) and at Kopps' at Reading Center. American Redstart: somewhat better numbers according to sev observers.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: while some observers felt these were scarcer, highest count ever (17) on the Trumansburg count (DM). Redwinged Blackbirds: fewer at MNWR (MP). Orchard Oriole: present, but nest not found, Ithaca. Baltimore Oriole: highest count ever (23) on Trumansburg census. Common Grackle: several localities reported fewer at feeders during summer, but flocks elsewhere were large. Scarlet Tanager: normal numbers most places. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: normal or somewhat higher numbers; breeding success good judging by late summer sightings of broods on the wing. Evening Grosbeak: 1 pair lingered into June nr Ithaca (D. Brann). House Finch: continued reports of these at feeders, but no evidence of nesting yet. American Goldfinch: numerous. Rufous-sided Towhee: scarce around Watkins Glen (JBr). Reports varied on the abundance of the 'meadow' sparrows. Field and Savannah Sparrows up in some areas, down in others. Henslow's Sparrow missing from several former locations (habitat change) but there were five on Dryden census, two on Trumansburg. Vesper and Chipping Sparrows present in normal numbers, with good breeding success. Song Sparrows abundant everywhere.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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It was a cool summer, sometimes decidedly so. The unusually prolonged nesting of Bank Swallows was perhaps a result of the coolness.

The decline in Henslow's Sparrows was particularly noticeable, but bluebirds were also down. Mockingbirds and titmice seemed at best to hold their own, but House Finches continued their increase. Marsh Hawk numbers have seemed a little better than in recent years, but accipiters and Red-shouldered Hawks remain scarce. Several of the "northern" species were found fairly frequently: juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers and Winter Wrens. There were no rarities.

Observers: DB—Don Bemont, LB—Les Bemont, MB—Margaret Bowman, G,WC—Gail and Warren Corderman, A,MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis, EK—Eugene Kirch, MS—Mary Sheffield, E,FV—E. and F. Vermilya, CW—Cora Wellman, R,SW—Ruth and Sally White, and KW—Kathryn Wilson.

Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys, as usual in the summer, provide much of the more significant data. The species counts from 5 of the surveys were available. They are reported in parentheses immediately following the name of each species that was found on at least one of the five. The first number is the total individuals found and the second the number of surveys on which the species was recorded. Thus "(7,4)" indicates a total of seven individuals on four surveys. The surveys reported with the observers were Coventryville (LB,DB); Lisle (Robert and Rita Pantle), Macdonough (Claude Howard), Oxford (Harriet Marsi and Claire Gottschall) and Whitney Point (Robert and Rita Pantle).

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: (3,2); a dozen reports of 1-3 birds each during period, mostly in Delaware and Otsego Counties, but no nesting colony reports. Green Heron: (2,2); scarce at East Branch, on the Beaverkill, (MB); and