

ported all during June (GP); this is a record high count for this region. A late Wilson's Warbler was noted on June 14 at SL (JE).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: The pair of Orchard Orioles which nested at PB last season returned to nest again (WL). Indigo Bunting seemed a bit more common this summer than last, although they were late in arriving on territory. Purple Finches were noted regularly during June and early July in several residential areas. An immature Red Crossbill was picked up in mid-August at MB (WCL); this may represent a second breeding record for the region. A Clay-colored Sparrow was present in Brighton from June 6 to 17, but no evidence of nesting was obtained (Julie Claffey). Regular nesting species of sparrows were generally well-reported except Henslow and Vesper Sparrows were somewhat spotty in distribution; probably habitat changes account for most of this variation.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Certain seasons — certain months — make history. June 1972 was such a month. According to the official weather bureau report it was not only the wettest June on record, but also one of the wettest months ever recorded in the Finger Lakes area at any time of the year. The amount of sunshine was a record low for a summer month; it was cloudy and unusually cool. In the Caroline hills southeast of Ithaca it was in the 20's June 9–11. From June 20–24 the worst floods in history struck the Finger Lakes — apparently the result of two storm fronts coming together, one the remains of Hurricane Agnes sweeping up the east coast, the other coming from the west. In this storm 6–10" of rain fell, the heaviest being in Steuben County, and the month's total was 8½–13", about 3 times normal. Cayuga Lake went to 2½ feet above flood stage and did not drop below flood level for four weeks. July and August had fairly normal rainfall and cloud cover, somewhat cool except for the period of July 11–25 when it was hot and humid.

For Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge it was a "terrible summer." Flood damage was extensive — the main dike was closed for over a month and Mays Point Pool dike has not yet (mid Sept) been able to be repaired. Waterfowl production was almost zero (see body of report). Early nesting had been upset by pool drainage, only to have later nestings subjected to flooding after the pool was re-filled. Also hit were other marsh-nesting species.

Throughout the Region birds suffered — except those for which delayed haying was a help, or those that got first broods off before high water. Not only did the high water cover nests, but cold and rain cut down on insect food availability; hole nesters suffered from fallen trees, where rain and flood weakened root systems. Actual losses are not documented and the toll will never be known, for certainly no one was out checking birds or nests during the catastrophe! As Mary Welles, my Elmira correspondent, put it: "The rest of the summer, everyone was too busy cleaning up, shovelling mud, or helping neighbors and friends, to go birding. We fell into bed exhausted each night."

Montezuma reports are scanty for one additional reason: Walter Benning, our usually inexhaustible source of weekly — sometimes daily — reports on shorebirds as well as waterfowl, spent the summer in Alaska. The Finger Lakes report reflects his absence!

A small migratory wave was noted at Turkey Hill east of Ithaca Aug 3, which included 5 hummingbirds, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Golden and Blue-winged

Warblers. Black-and-white Warbler, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (NC). A Gray-cheeked Thrush sighted at Taughannock Aug 10 was undoubtedly a migrant.

Reports were received this year from 6 of the 25-mile Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in the Finger Lakes. Highlights are as follows: the Rushville count (ML) had 42 species, down 6 from 1971, while the Branchport count (ML) had 48 species, down 1 from last year. On the Dryden East count (MS) the total was 61 species, same as in '71. A drop was noted in Chimney Swifts, Eastern Kingbirds, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallows and Catbirds, an increase in Barn Swallows, House Wrens, Yellowthroats, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Chipping Sparrows. On the Trumansburg count (MS) there were 59 species, up from 55 in '71. Except for Bobolinks and Cowbirds there were no significant decreases, while Wood Pewees, House Wrens, Wood Thrushes, Starlings, Warbling Vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Savannah and Field Sparrows showed a significant increase. The Romulus route (NC), newly reported this year but run for the second time, had 49 species, up 3 from '71 and showed increases in Pheasants, Traill's Flycatchers, Tree Swallows, Robins, Grackles, Savannah and Field Sparrows. The MacDougall route count, also newly reported (NC), had 53 species, up 1 from '71 and showed increases in Pheasants, Traill's Flycatchers, House Wrens, Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Bobolinks and Baltimore Orioles; decreases in Tree and Barn Swallows, Wood Thrushes, Horned Larks, Grackles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Chipping Sparrows.

The breeding bird census of Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary was again taken late this year, last week of June instead of first, (SHS) and produced 57 species, up from 52 in '71. Increases were noted in Mourning Doves, House Wrens, Catbirds, Robins, Wood Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireos, Baltimore Orioles, Chipping and Song Sparrows, decreases in Traill's Flycatchers, White-breasted Nuthatches, Veeries and Ovenbirds.

Area compilers and observers: BA—Betty Ammerman; JBr—Jack Brubaker; NC—Noel Cutright; FG—Frank Guthrie; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; ML—Malcolm Lerch; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; MRP—Montezuma Refuge Personnel; FER—Fred and Elizabeth Ranson; BS—Betty Strath; MS—Margaret Shepherd; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; JT—James Tate, Jr.; JW—Jayson Walker; MW—Mary Welles; VW—Vireo Whitaker.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 in June, 2 in July Keuka Lake (FG). Pied-billed Grebe: 3 nests at Tompkins Co. airport pond early July produced 22 young (FER); peak count 14 early Aug MNWR as opposed to 250 last year and 75 nests. Double-crested Cormorant: no reports. Great Blue Heron: locally abundant, "much more numerous in Bath area this year, before flood" (BA); peak 40 early Aug MNWR compared with 96 last year (MRP); however, 75–80 seen Jul 29 on MNWR Storage Pool (NC). Green Heron: not abundant, but pairs seen in usual places. Cattle Egret: 2 (NC), 15 Jul 11 MNWR (MRP). Common Egret: max 15 MNWR (MRP). Least Bittern: one report only. American Bittern: in Ithaca area they have decreased to point that I no longer know where to find one. Canada Goose: most had hatched before flood. Mallard: one brood of 5 definitely known lost in flood at Waterloo (JW), undoubtedly others but no definite reports. Other waterfowl simply reported as scarce following flood, throughout Region.

Peak numbers of waterfowl at MNWR occurred during the first part of Aug. The high waters following the tropical storm Agnes eliminated approximately 75% of the normal waterfowl production for the area, as may be seen from the following table. Figures include young and adults, and no mention is made of broods produced be-

cause a total of only 14 broods of all species were noted! This compares with 145 broods in '71 (MRP).

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Number</i>
Canada Goose	450	American Widgeon	95
Mallard	900	Shoveler	20
Black Duck	425	Wood Duck	900
Gadwall	625	Redhead	30
Pintail	25	Ruddy Duck	25
Green-winged Teal	360	Hooded Merganser	20
Blue-winged Teal	725		

These figures show very little increase over the peak counts in May, reflecting the lack of production. Other waterfowl reports from MNWR include: European Widgeon 1 June 10 (A. H. Barben); Ring-necked Duck 5 max early Aug; Common Merganser 20 max early Aug.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: fate of Marengo Swamp nest unknown; 15 max early Aug MNWR (MRP). Goshawk: 2 young banded June 9 in first known Schuyler Co. nest (WRS); 1 mid-Jul Gobbler's Knob between Naples and Prattsburg (B. McKinney), first Keuka area report since Oct '60 (fide FG). Cooper's Hawk: nest near SWS Ithaca, early failure; one other nest reported Tompkins Co. Red-tailed Hawk: no decline noted, usual nest sites occupied. Red-shouldered Hawk: one nest near SWS, early failure; nest near Tompkins Co airport, young disappeared; 1 early June Guyanoga Valley near Keuka (ML) first record since Sep '58 (fide FG); no sightings Elmira area. Broad-winged Hawk: 1 early June Lower Creek Rd northeast of Ithaca lowest elevation yet noted (1,000') (WRS). Bald Eagle: 1 imm June 2 over Culver Rd Ithaca (P. Allan); 1 fairly regular all period MNWR (mob). Marsh Hawk: absent. Osprey: 1 Aug 7 MNWR, an early date; possibly an Adirondack non-breeder. Sparrow Hawk: appeared scarce at Elmira late summer, many favorite nesting trees (dead elms) felled by flood waters (MW); fewer broods noted Ithaca area than in '71.

Ruffed Grouse: probably little affected by flooding as on higher ground; 1 adult with only 1 half-grown chick seen Jul 30 near Waterloo (fide JW). Ring-necked Pheasant: fewer at Keuka, no reports Waterloo, but in good shape at Ithaca where haying was delayed by heavy June rains until 80% of broods had hatched as compared to 20% most years (PMK). Turkey: three records Keuka-Penn Yan area (FG); some late hatching success Ithaca area (PMK), brood of 10 young Jun 25 Arnot Forest southwest of Ithaca (fide NC). **SANDHILL CRANE:** 1 Jun 7 over Rte. 13 northeast of Ithaca (JT), call and description carefully verified. Virginia Rail: apparently very scarce as only one reported—Aug 11 MNWR (NC). Sora: 4 early Aug MNWR (MRP). Common Gallinule: flooded out, only 40 early Aug MNWR as opposed to 50 young produced in 20 nests in '71. American Coot: 144 max early Aug as opposed to 200 young produced in '71.

Killdeer: little flood affect noted, good reproduction. American Woodcock: more than usual noted at Keuka, numbers good elsewhere, apparently nested before flood or on higher ground. Common Snipe: also normal numbers. Upland Plover: aided by late haying, usual sites occupied and several new reported; at Elmira, favorite nesting area now covered with mobile homes for flood evacuees, will be checked next year. Spotted Sandpiper: little information—probably many nests lost in high water. Ruddy Turnstone and **WILLET:** 1 each Jun 11 MNWR (J. Stewart), no verifying details. Little information on late Jul, early Aug shorebirds MNWR (see introduction). A trip with Kellogg class Aug 11 did produce 3 Black-bellied Plover, 5 Snipe, 10 Greater and 50 Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 Pectoral and 10 Least Sandpipers, 8 Short-billed Dowitchers, 60 Semipalmated Sandpipers (NC). Common Tern: very

scarce, nests destroyed MNWR, 2 adults and 2 imm Aug 6 (JW). Black Tern: 40 max early Aug MNWR, contrasted with 100 young produced '71 (MRP). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Jun 26 Waterloo Cemetery (JW). Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Jul 30 Church St Waterloo (JW), few other reports. Great Horned Owls in good numbers. Report of Barred Owl in Jul, Guyanoga Valley, Keuka area (ML), first there since 1955.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: No Whip-poor-will reports. Common Night-hawk: all observers said scarce; 1 only in Penn Yan Jul (VW). Chimney Swift: reported abundant; I would have expected nests to be destroyed by heavy rains but no evidence. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: few reports early summer, more early Aug. Belted Kingfisher: undoubtedly some nests destroyed by flooding and bank collapse. Yellow-shafted Flicker: numerous everywhere. (Why weren't their nesting trees felled?) Red-bellied Woodpecker: no reports of nests. Red-headed Woodpecker: more reports at Keuka than last year; some '71 sites Ithaca area not occupied this year. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: no nest found SWS, but adult seen in June (FER), young birds present Aug 9 (NC); scattered sightings of species Jun, Jul Etna, 1000' elevation (SHS).

Eastern Kingbird: reported in good numbers everywhere; no marked migrating flights before Aug 15, however. Great Crested, Traill's (down from 4 to 1 SWS), Least Flycatchers and Eastern Phoebe all reported low in numbers. Phoebe, except early first broods, suffered in flood; a pair with half-grown young high in a culvert in Etna struggled pitifully to reach their nest as water lapped at it from below (SHS). August song of Wood Pewee seemed normal. Horned Lark: no definite nesting records reached me.

All swallow species except Barn scarcer than usual, undoubtedly affected by prolonged rainfall which reduced insect food. Early nesting Tree Swallows got first broods off. Bank Swallow colonies suffered from lack of food and bank collapse. Cliff Swallow: only a few remain at the colony south of Dryden and I know of no other Tompkins Co. colonies. Purple Martin: numbers continued low; several pairs at Brixey house Freeville; a few at north end Cay L; at Hector 2 of 3 pairs abandoned a house which had to be moved when high water tipped it (BS).

Blue Jays and Crows continue to be abundant everywhere. Tufted Titmouse: no increase noted. White-breasted Nuthatch: few successful nestings noted, but possibly just overlooked. Brown Creeper: continues to increase as breeding species in Region, including at lower elevations—four known nests at 1000' in Ithaca area. House Wren: certainly this species has made a come-back from low point reached a few years ago; 12 on SWS census, 5 in '71. Carolina Wren: only two or three reports; 5 eggs early Jun Lutz home Taughannock Blvd north of Ithaca. Marsh Wrens: both species apparently suffered from rain and high water, no reports of broods. Mockingbird: continued increase in reports, several new nesting sites Ithaca area, young seen out of nest Jun 7 Cay Heights Rd Ithaca. Brown Thrasher: certainly less conspicuous this summer than last. Robin: good breeding success, becoming more of a woodland bird than 15–20 years ago. Hermit Thrush and Veery continue to decline, only 2 Veeries on SWS census. Wood Thrush: good numbers, 17 SWS census, 10 in '71. Eastern Bluebird: no increase noted, but Lerch banded 50 young at Penn Yan; two pairs known Baker Hill Rd east of Ithaca, successful breeding. Cedar Waxwing: abundant everywhere, flocks remaining together into mid-July, nesting seemed delayed. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 only Aug 11 Guyanoga Valley near Keuka (FG). Starling: fewer young noted; possibly some loss from flood-felled trees containing favorite nesting holes.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: On the 25-mile breeding bird census the following were recorded:

<i>Species</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	0	0	1	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	9	4	1	0	1	3
Warbling Vireo	6	7	1	0	3	7
Black-and-white Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0
Blue-winged Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yellow Warbler	23	21	2	5	15	16
Magnolia Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0
Black-throated Green Warbler	2	1	0	0	0	0
Blackburnian Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ovenbird	2	2	0	0	0	0
Yellowthroat	17	15	4	2	12	5
Redstart	2	2	0	0	0	1
A. Dryden	C. Branchport		E. Romulus			
B. Trumansburg	D. Rushville		F. MacDougall			

Yellow-throated Vireo: one nest mid-June Lower Creek Rd west of Ithaca, survived rains (WRS); nest Jul 12 at Arnot Forest (NC); otherwise almost no sightings. Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos: normal numbers. Black-and-white Warbler: only 1, on T'burg F and W census. Yellow Warbler: very good numbers throughout Region. No recent breeding records Nashville or Myrtle. Magnolia Warbler: 1 only T'burg census. Black-throated Blue Warbler: very scarce. Black-throated Green Warbler: scarce, but found on Dryden and T'burg censuses. Cerulean Warbler: this marginal species has decreased. Prairie Warbler: none reported from Conn Hill but new station Jul 5 Michigan Hollow Rd south of Ithaca at Cayuga Beagle Club (NC et al). Ovenbird: down from 7 to 3 at SWS. Mourning Warbler: again several reports of these at lower elevations than used to be the case; 2 Jun 4 Mills Rd Waterloo might have been migrants (JW), as may have been 1 same date Bostwick Rd Ithaca (NC), but 1 singing entire month of June Lower Creek Rd west of Etna was on territory. Yellowthroat: good numbers; increased from 7 ('71) to 9 at SWS. Yellow-breasted Chat very scarce, no record at Keuka; several at Reading Center (A.Kopp). Wilson's Warbler: 1 dead Aug 13 Elmira TV tower—first fall migrant kill reported (WH). Canada Warbler very scarce. American Redstart still hard to find.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: almost no records at Waterloo after flood; locally abundant around Ithaca—three nests in one large field north of airport (FER), all fledged in July. Eastern Meadowlark: may have been some renesting or late nesting, or possibly this species benefited by late haying—abundant in July. Redwinged Blackbird: poor breeding success, numbers low in Aug. Baltimore Oriole: certainly locally numerous, but less song than usual. Brown-headed Cowbird: numerous Keuka and Ithaca, scarce Waterloo area. Orchard Oriole: 2nd year male observed carrying food to nest in a spruce, late June Odessa (BS), a rare nester in Region. Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting: good numbers. *EVENING GROSBEAK*: 1 male Jul 21 Steege Hill across Chemung R south of Big Flats, heard, then seen cracking cherry pits (Mrs. Cecile Kennedy, fide WH); another Aug 12 near Elmira (WH). Purple Finch: unusually high number breeding reports, in suburban areas; observers commented "abundant," "Everywhere." American Goldfinch: abundant, seemed late in starting to nest, Aug rather than mid-July. *RED CROSSBILL*: 1 male, 1 female Watkins Glen Jul 30 (JBr); 2 imm (deceased) brought to BS in Odessa Aug 13; small flock at Dilger Tree Farm near Freeville mid-Aug; it may be noted that once in a while this species breeds in the Finger Lakes. Savannah, Chipping and Song Sparrows were reported in good numbers. Grasshopper Sparrows nested northeast of Tompkins Co. airport

and 2 more pairs were on territory close by (FER). Henslow's, Field and Swamp Sparrows varied in abundance from one locality to another. Vesper Sparrows were scarce — at least few were heard singing in Ithaca area.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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It was a cool wet summer with the major meteorological event the heavy rains deposited by the outskirts of tropical storm Agnes June 21 and 22. Although conditions here were nowhere near as severe as in counties to the west of us, the high watermark along rivers and streams and particularly in the catch basin behind the Whitney Point flood control dam make it obvious there must have been considerable damage to nesting birds, at least locally. However, no direct evidence appears in the reports received.

Observers initials used: MB—Margaret Bowman; A,MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis; MD—Mary Dobinsky; FL—Florence Linaberry; MS—Mary Sheffield; CW—Cora Wellman; R,SW—Ruth and Sally White; KW—Kathryn Wilson.

Other abbreviations: BBS—Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys; CF—Chenango Forks; EB—East Branch, along the Beaverkill; WP—Whitney Point.

Numbers in parentheses following some species names are the totals for the available BBS. (4,2 would indicate 4 of the species were found on 2 of the surveys. Surveys available were: Coventryville, run Jul 8 by Les Bemont; Lisle, run Jun 3 by Robert Pantle; McDonough, run by Claude Howard Jun 17 and WP run Jun 17 by Robert Pantle.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Jun 14 Pepacton Reservoir (MB) in immature plumage, last seen Jul 17. Pied-billed Grebe: Jul 1 and 28 Portlandville (KW, MD,CW). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Jun 4 WP (MS). Great Blue Heron: (4,2). Canada Goose: 4 at Margaretville on Pepacton Reservoir (MB). Gadwall: 4 Jun 4 WP (MS). Wood Duck: (2,2). Bufflehead: 1 male WP Jun 4 (MS). Common Merganser: a female with young on Beaverkill at EB Jun 25 (MB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: at German in Chenango County Jun 4 and several other times (R,SW), as well as the usual Otsego and Delaware County reports. Goshawk: 1 Aug 6 and 2 Aug 8 at Oneonta (KW). Broad-winged Hawk: "young" Aug 5 Milford (CW,KW,MD). Osprey: 1 Jul 30 WP (MS). Sparrow Hawk: (2,1). Ring-necked Pheasant: (5,3). Killdeer: (24,4). Upland Plover: (2,1), McDonough BBS. Spotted Sandpiper: (1,1). Solitary Sandpiper: Jul 28, Oneonta (CW,KW,MD); Aug 6 Otselic Fish Hatchery (R,SW). Greater Yellowlegs: 3 Jul 8 Sherburne (R,SW). Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 Aug 6 Otselic Fish Hatchery (R,SW). Ring-billed Gull: 20 or more Jun 4 WP (MS), late. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Aug 13 WP (MS), seldom reported in Region in late summer or fall. Rock Dove: (26,4). Mourning Dove: (18,4). Monk Parakeet: no longer seen at Conklin, but possibly the same bird now regular in Binghamton southside; one in early Aug at Owego (Mrs. Hill); a late Feb record has come to light, with photographs, from the Broome-Tioga line, west of Vestal. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (2,2); scarce. Black-billed Cuckoo: (2,1); scarce. Screech Owl: 4 Jul 20 Norwich (R,SW), an adult and 3 immatures. Barred Owl: Aug 5 Milford (CW,KW,MD).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: 1 Jun 2 Oneonta (Irene Wright). Common Nighthawk: 1 Aug 12 (E. and F. Vermilya), on lawn at 8:30 a.m. Chimney Swift: (41,4). Belted Kingfisher: (6,3). Yellow-shafted Flicker: