

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks appear to be holding their own and Red-winged Blackbirds are still abundant. Northern Oriole: "More abundant" at Waterloo (JW); down on TBBS; no reported change elsewhere. Common Grackle: abundant. Brown-headed Cowbird: fewer MNWR, Waterloo. RBBS and BrBBS. Cardinal: counts up on all BBS's. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: generally down (LOSS). Indigo Bunting: "Usually plentiful" in Keuka area (FG); down on BRBBS; also on TBBS but still in good numbers. Purple Finch: "More feeder reports and reports of young this year" in Watkins area (JB). Pine Siskin: many Jun reports up to Jun 18, in Schuyler County (JB). American Goldfinch: doing well in all areas. Red Crossbill: 2 males near Watkins Park Jun 9 (JB). Rufous-sided Towhee: normal counts on BBS's.

Sparrows: in general all sparrows were reported down in the northern part of the Region; in the rest of the Region the BBS's indicate more nearly normal numbers; exception is Song Sparrow which is abundant everywhere. Grasshopper: reported at Ithaca Airport (LOSS); Waterloo (JW); 3 reports from Keuka area (FG): Dark-eyed Junco: seen through the summer in Guyanoga Valley with 2 half-grown young (FG); 1 on TBBS; also reported from Michigan Hollow (LOSS).

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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The early part of June, just when the impact on nesting birds would presumably be the greatest, was rather wet but the rest of the summer was on the dry side. Temperatures were generally mild but averaged a little on the warm side.

Breeding Common Mergansers continue to be recorded in Delaware County, as they have been for the last 20 years, even though that is appreciably south of their recognized breeding range. Breeding Goshawks also continue to be recorded in the Region while Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks remain low in numbers. Another continuing trend is the increase in House Finches, particularly in the Triple Cities area.

Abbreviation: BBS—Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey.

Observers initials: MB—Margaret Bowman; MD—Mary Dobinsky; D.M.L.—Dwight and Margaret Lynch; CW—Cora Wellman; R.,SW—Ruth and Sally White; KW—Kathryn Wilson.

As for the past few years, a summation of the results of the BBSs available at the time this report was prepared has been included in parentheses following the name of each species recorded on at least one survey. The 2 numbers, separated by a comma, are the total number of surveys on which the species was recorded, respectively. Surveys available were: Lisle, Jun 9, Robert Pantle; Whitney Point, Jun 23, Robert Pantle; Coventryville, Jul 1, Les Bemont; McDonough, Jul 1, Claude Howard.

LOON-DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Jul 3 Goodyear Lake, near Oneonta (Irene Wright). Great Blue Heron: (1,1). Green Heron: (1,1). Great Egret: Aug 11 Milford (CW, KW, MD), very few have been reported in the Region in the last few years. Canada Goose: a pair nested on Pepacton Reservoir, near Margaretville (MB). Wood Duck: (1,1). Hooded Merganser: 1 Jul 18 Sherburne (R,SW). Common Merganser: 20 half grown juveniles with 1 adult on Beaverkill Jul 24 and 25 (MB).

HAWKS—OWL: Goshawk: Jun 16, at a nest under observation for the previous 2 weeks, 1 young close to the nest and another found dead nearby (CW, KM, MD, John New). Sharp-shinned Hawk: Jun 1 Newark Valley (Louise Hover), the only report. Red-tailed Hawk: (1,1). Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Jun reports. Osprey: 1 Aug 3 Milford Center (L. Stevens). American Kestrel: (3,2). Ruffed Grouse: (1,1). Bobwhite: 1 June 5 Oneonta (L. Stevens); Jun 30 Milford (CW, KW, MD). Ring-necked Pheasant: (2,2). Killdeer: (23,4). Spotted Sandpiper: (2,2). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Aug 13 Norwich (R,SW). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 Aug 11 South Otselic Fish Hatchery (R,SW). Herring Gull: 3 Jul and Aug reports, usually absent for summer. Ring-billed Gull: 12 Aug 7 Pepacton Reservoir (MB); Black Tern: Jul 22 Whitney Point (Mary Sheffield). Mourning Dove: (36,4). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (1,1). Black-billed Cuckoo: (3,3) Barred Owl Jun 29 Berkshire (,ML); Jul 7 Binghamton (Eugene Kirch, Gail and Warren Corderman).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: 1 Jun 12 Oneonta (KW). Chimney Swift: (12,2). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1,1). Belted Kingfisher: (39,4). Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Jun 2 New Berlin (KW); Jul 8 Berkshire (D,ML); 2 Aug 10 Sherburne (R,SW). Hairy Woodpecker: (2,1). Downy Woodpecker: (16,3). Eastern Kingbird: (22,4). Great Crested Flycatcher: (14,3). Eastern Phoebe: (26,4). Traill's Flycatcher: (6,3). Least Flycatcher: (48,4). Eastern Wood Pewee: (8,3). Horned Lark: (1,1). Tree Swallow: (8,3). Bank Swallow: (7,2). Barn Swallow: (33,4). Cliff Swallow: Newark Valley in Jun (Louise Hover, D,ML) and also East Branch in Jun (MB). Blue Jay: (48,4). Common Crow: (132,4). Black-capped Chickadee. (30,4). White-breasted Nuthatch: (1,1). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 reports from Otsego and Delaware Counties. Brown Creeper: 5 reports from Otsego and Delaware Counties. House Wren: (38,4). Winter Wren: reported only from East Branch (MB). Carolina Wren: 1 singing at East Branch from Jul 18 to end of period (MB). Mockingbird: 1 singing 4 nights in early Jun in west side Binghamton (Elinor Whitson); 1 Jul 20 Norwich (R,SW); also reported from Endwell and Newark Valley. Gray Catbird: (44,4). Brown Thrasher: (19,4). Robin: (243,4). Wood Thrush: (97,4). Hermit Thrush: (1,1); 5 other reports. Swainson's Thrush: 1 Jun 10 Pharsalia, in Chenango County (R,SW). Veery: (28,4). Eastern Bluebird: (5,3). Blue-grey Gnatcatcher: (1,1). Lisle BBS. Cedar Waxwing: (30,4); "many this year" in Tioga County. Starling: (381,4); at East Branch "tremendous numbers" and eating sumac berries in absence of small fruits (MB).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (6,3); seemed more numerous than usual. Solitary Vireo: 7 reports, all from Otsego and Delaware Counties. Red-eyed Vireo: (56,4). Warbling Vireo: (4,2). Black-and-white Warbler: (3,2). Golden-winged Warbler: 1 Aug 14 East Branch (MB), the only report after Jun 23. Brewster's Warbler: 1 Aug 14 Newark Valley (D,ML). Blue-winged Warbler: Jun 9 Berkshire (D,ML). Nashville Warbler: singing Jun 2 East Branch (MB). Yellow Warbler: (75,4). Magnolia Warbler: 4 Jun 10 Pharsalia (R,SW); 7 other reports from Otsego and Delaware Counties. Black-throated Blue Warbler: present in several areas during summer, as usual. Yellow-rumped Warbler: (1,1), McDonough BBS; 3 at Pharsalia Jun 10 (R,SW); 5 other reports from Tioga, Otsego and Delaware Counties. Black-throated Green Warbler: (2,1). Cerulean Warbler: Jun 2 Bear Spring Mountain, Delaware County (Shirley Hartman, 12 others in party). Blackburnian Warbler: (1,1); 9 Jun 10 Pharsalia (R,SW). Chestnut-sided Warbler: (34,4). Blackpoll Warbler: spring migrants until Jun 7 at Chenango Forks (Anna and Marilyn Davis). Ovenbird: (14,4). Northern Waterthrush: (1,1). Louisiana Waterthrush: adult with 4 young out of nest Jun 26 East Branch (MB). Mourning Warbler: (2,2); at least 5 Jun 2 Bear Spring Mountain (Shirley Hartman, et. al.). Common Yellowthroat: (118,4). Canada Warbler: usual small summer numbers. American Redstart: (13,4).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (100,4). Bobolink: (55,4). Eastern Meadowlark: (67,4). Red-winged Blackbird: (556,4). Northern Oriole: (26,4). Common Grackle: (104,4). Brown-headed Cowbird: (25,4). Scarlet Tanager: (14,4). Cardinal: (18,4). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (4,2). Indigo Bunting: (27,4). Purple Finch: (1,1). House Finch: 5 or more from Jun 2 for about 10 days Bovina Center, near Oneonta (Tom Ryder); 3 young being fed at feeder by parents Jun 5 Endwell where 8-10 brightly colored males at the same time was not unusual (Florence Linaberry); about 2 miles west in Endwell 16 banded thru Jul 21 (L. Bemont) although never more than 3 seen around feeder at a time; as many as 8, at least 4 young, at Vestal thru Jun (Gail and Warren Corderman). American Goldfinch: (63,4). Red Crossbill: 16 Jun 4 Norwich (R,SW). Rufous-sided Towhee: (28,4). Savannah Sparrow: (33,4). Grasshopper Sparrow: (2,1). Henslow's Sparrow: only 2 reports. Vesper Sparrow: (4,2). Chipping Sparrow: (50,4). Field Sparrow: (61,4). White-throated Sparrow: (10,1); 11 other reports. Swamp Sparrow: (8,2). Song Sparrow: (123,4).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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June was cool and wet, July warm and wet, August hot and dry. Extreme high water at Onondaga Lake and Lake Ontario precluded any tern nesting and protracted high water at Oneida Lake undoubtedly delayed the nesting of gulls and terns there. Widespread thunderstorms in late June must have caused havoc with landbird nestings but the wet season, which somewhat retarded the hay cutting, may have helped Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, and Savannah Sparrow broods. The paucity of marsh birds in the larger permanent marshes may be a reflection of the extensive nest and brood destruction of the June '72 flooding or the current mosquito spraying program (aerial in Oswego County, ground only in Onondaga County) — or both.

Extensive local counting hikes and breeding surveys amassed a wealth of data; most significant is the accumulating fund of figures coming from the US Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS hereafter), sic—Kasoag (MSR), Clinton (R&J Van Scoy), Old Forge and Oriskany Falls (CGS), Oneida (B&S Peebles, D. Ackley), North Wilmurt, Cicero Center, and Pulaski (FGS). The data from Alder Creek and McKeever BBS, though the surveys were accomplished, were not available.

Positives for the summer season include 1) increased broods of Canada Geese and Mallards; 2) an early and varied fall shorebird flight, although numbers were only fair; 3) a strong influx of both species of cuckoos; 4) increased numbers of Great Crested and Willow Flycatchers and Eastern Wood Pewee; 5) good breeding success in certain swallows, particularly Tree Swallow and Purple Martin; 6) increases in Golden-crowned Kinglet in southern highland conifer plantations; 7) increases in Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos; 8) better tallies of some warblers, most notably of Parula, Magnolia, and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Ovenbird, and Yellowthroat; 9) further spread of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers (q.v.); and 10) a residuum of winter finches (Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Red Crossbill) into June.

Negatives for the same period are unfortunately many—1) a marked loss of breeding Pied-billed Grebes; 2) continued scarcity of white herons and Black-crowned Night Heron; 3) reduced numbers of broods of Black Duck and Blue-