

area. Some species seemed less common than usual at least in certain locations. Fewer Golden-winged Warblers were noted at Powder Mill Park and at Leroy while the Blue-winged Warblers may be spreading in the high country south of Rochester where it seems to be present at higher elevations than previously noted (JT). Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian Warblers were particularly well reported from HL by mob. A Cerulean Warbler at IC on 7/11 was unusual for the location (MC). Hooded Warblers were reported only from Letchworth Park where 5 birds were present on June 13 (AM) and their usual station at Pellet Road in Webster; many previous breeding areas are presently abandoned. At least 3 Yellow-breasted Chats were at the usual Leroy station on July 1st (R&SC) Redstarts seemed sharply down almost everywhere; the highest report for any June day was only 51; many reports contained only 1 or 2 and sometimes none. Observers are urged to give numbers rather than just a check mark so that trends for all species can be reported accurately.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Most species in this group were reported in normal numbers and expected locations. The Orchard Orioles must have raised more than one brood at Point Breeze this year where 7 young were reported in late summer (WL). House Finches have not been reported since May and apparently did not breed in this region. Pine Siskins on the contrary were reported present all during June in Fairport and may have bred (BO). Two male Red Crossbills were seen and one heard singing on July 11 at Payne Beach (MC). this lakeshore area is not a suitable breeding location and the record is abnormal.

In some areas the short-tailed Sparrows, i.e. Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's still seem scarce but in other places they seem to be recovering from recent low numbers. Probably these species are always shifting in abundance as habitat changes dictate. Vesper Sparrow seemed to be especially down in numbers to many local observers. Dark-eyed Junco was frequently reported this summer from HL (mob). An extremely late Tree Sparrow was well observed near Scottsville on June 3rd. This is the latest report ever for this northern visitor (J&SS).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The summer was a little cooler and a little wetter than usual with no marked extremes.

On the 25 mile Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys the following significant changes were noted. There were increases on the Trumansburg survey for Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American Goldfinch and Grasshopper Sparrow while decreases occurred in Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee and Savannah, Field and Song Sparrows. The Rushville count showed increases in Wood Duck, Horned Lark, Starling and Common Grackle with decreases in Ring-necked Pheasant, Barn Swallow, Common Crow and Brown Thrasher. On the Branchport run the species showing a gain were Black-capped Chickadee, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo, Redwinged Blackbird, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting and Henslow's Sparrow. Decreases were found for Bank Swallow, Common Crow, American Robin and Common Yellowthroat. Increases on the Romulus survey included Red-tailed Hawk, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Wood Thrush and Vesper Sparrow. Species showing decreases were Ring-necked Pheasant, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern (Baltimore) Oriole and Indigo Bunting.

As expected breeding populations of ducks and marsh breeding birds continue

low at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. It undoubtedly will take several years to bring them back to the pre-1972 levels prevailing before "Agnes" flooded the area. With a goodly amount of suitable habitat available all summer there was good shorebirding at Montezuma.

The ornithological high spot of the period for the northern part of the Region occurred on the first weekend in July when 2 Ruffs in breeding plumage and 2 Reeves were seen by many people at the Waterloo dump.

The first TV tower kill of the season occurred at Elmira on Aug 15 with a Northern Waterthrush and a Chestnut-sided Warbler the victims.

Rarities, in addition to the Ruff, included American Avocet, Raven, Hooded Warbler and the two hybrid warblers, Brewster's and Lawrence's.

Abbreviations: BBS—Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey (preceded by B for Branchport, R for Rushville or T for Trumansburg); CO—County; ffd—first fall date; lsd—last spring date; JP—Junius Ponds; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; Schy—Schuyler WD—Waterloo dump.

Contributors and area compilers: JB—Jack Brubaker (Watkins); WEB—Walter E. Benning; FG—Frank Guthrie (Keuka); RG—Robert Gustafson (MNWR); WH—Wilfred Howell; MJ—Morgan Jones (SAD); RSJ—Richard and Sally Jorgensen; EK—Elaine Kibbeg (Ithaca); LOSS—Laboratory of Ornithology Summer Seminar; LP—Louise Proskine; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; JW—Jeffrey Walters; MW—Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: 30 MNWR (RG) low. Great Blue Heron: normal numbers at MNWR and elsewhere. Green Heron. 40 MNWR (RG) good; also good at SAD. Great Egret: up to 3 present at MNWR all summer. Black-crowned Night Heron: very low at MNWR with only 6 reported; no other reports in the Region. Least Bittern; 2 MNWR (RG); pair fledged 2 young SAD (MJ). American Bittern: 20 MNWR (RG).

Canada Goose: resident flock at MNWR had only fair breeding success; 2 summered at Cayuta Lake (JB). Ducks: Mallard, Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser had good nesting success at MNWR. All other species normally nesting there had only fair success. Mallards and Wood Ducks did well at Watkins Marsh. At Elmira there were numerous young Mallards and Blacks but Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teal were fewer in numbers. The following table shows the waterfowl population at MNWR (RG) together with 1973 figures in parenthesis.

Mallard	1300 (750)	American Wigeon	20 (80)
Black	300 (400)	Northern Shoveler	35 (125)
Gadwall	225 (450)	Wood Duck	550 (300)
Pintail	20 (25)	Ruddy Duck	6 (15)
Green-winged Teal	175 (300)	Hooded Merganser	50 (40)
Blue-winged Teal	250 (350)		

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture. 5 MNWR (RG); scattered reports from southern Schy Co. Goshawk: 1 Jun 16 Switzer Hill Rd, Schy Co (JB); a nest south of Ithaca fledged 2 young (LOSS). Red-tailed Hawk: apparently doing well everywhere; 3 nests at SAD fledged a total of 8 young (MJ). Red-shouldered Hawk: JB reports 1 near Monterey Schy Co Jun 15 and 1 seen regularly all summer 1 mile south of Watkins Glen; 1 Jun 8 JP (WEB). Broad-winged Hawk: "many reports in many locations" Schy Co (JB). Bald Eagle: adult seen at MNWR thruout the period. Marsh Hawk: 2 MNWR (RG); 1 on RBBS. Kestrel: good breeding success (LOSS). Ring-necked Pheasant; down on the BBCs. Turkey: reports at LOSS indicate an increase in numbers. Virginia Rail: 40 MNWR (RG). Sora: 35 MNWR (RG). Common Gallinule: 4 MNWR (RG) very low; increasing numbers at WD; fewer than 1973 at Watkins Marsh; 4 pairs bred at SAD (MJ). American Coot: only 40 at MNWR against 250 last year (RG).

Semipalmated Plover: lsd June 1 WD; ffd Jul 7 WD; max 8 Aug 8 MNWR (RSJ). Killdeer: max 70 MNWR (RG). Golden Plover: ffd 1 Aug 10 WD (WEB). Common Snipe: max 30 MNWR (RG). Upland Sandpiper: D. Kibbe found a pair in June on Cuddeback Rd on the east side of Cayuga Lake near Millikin Station; 1 Jun 1 WD (WEB); 2 young seen at Etna (SHS). Spotted Sandpiper: max 20 MNWR. Greater Yellowlegs: lsd 4 Jun 3 MNWR; max 20 Aug 9 MNWR. Lesser Yellowlegs: ffd 2 Jun 29 at MNWR and 10 Jul 7 at WD; max 55 Aug 4 and 15 MNWR. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 18 Aug 11 WD. Least Sandpiper: ffd Jul 6 at WD and Jul 25 at Elmira; max 15 Jul 7 WD. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 16 Aug 2 MNWR. Stilt Sandpiper: max 54 Aug 5 MNWR. Semipalmated Sandpiper: lsd 25 at Elmira (WH) and 23 at WD both on Jun 1; max 100 estimated Aug 1 MNWR. *RUFF*: a male in breeding plumage at WD on Jul 6 and 2 males in breeding plumage at the same place Jul 7 (WEB et al); on Jul 7 a group from Rochester (W.Lloyd, M. Sunderlin et al) found 2 females in addition to the 2 males. *AMERICAN AVOCET*: 1 Jun 20 MNWR (Gary Smith). Wilson's Phalarope: lsd 1 Jun 4 MNWR; 1 Aug 2 MNWR (WEB). Northern Phalarope: 5 Aug 10 WD (RSJ).

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Aug 1 Watkins Glen (JB). Common Tern: 4 Aug 8 MNWR (RSJ); singles Jun 26 and Aug 10 Elmira (WH). Black Tern: Mar 25 MNWR very low (RG). Caspian Tern: 2 Aug 8 (RSJ); 1 Aug 14 Watkins Glen (JB). Mourning Dove: continuing to do well everywhere. Cuckoos: very few reports; only favorable report was from SAD where MJ reported Black-billed as "fairly common." Barn Owl: 5 young fledged in old silo near Fayette (Scott Sampson fide MJ). Screech Owl: D. Kibbe had 12 respond to a tape recording in a 900 acre area near Millikin Station; 6 at MNWR (RG). Great Horned Owl: 14 MNWR (RG).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: "very numerous" at Elmira first week of Aug but decreasing thereafter (MW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: few reports all indicating a general scarcity. Woodpeckers: 3 species, Red-bellied, Hairy and Downy brought young to the editor's feeder. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 noted for the first time on TBBS; seen near Clifton Springs thruout summer (JW); 2 successful nests at Dryden (P Kelsey fide D McIlroy); reported down in general. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: nested on Stasche's property in Caton (MW); did not return to Etna this summer (SHS). Eastern Kingbird: down in MNWR area (WEB); "numerous" in Keuka area (FG). Great Crested Flycatcher: way down on TBBS but reported up at LOSS. Eastern Phoebe: Small decline on the BBSs but as SAD 37 pairs making 71 nesting attempts raised 156 young from 250 eggs compared to 28 pairs, 41 attempts and 129 young from 159 eggs in 1973 (MJ). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 banded Jul 28 Penn Yan (M Lerch fide FG). Eastern Wood Pewee: way down on TBBS. Tree Swallow: numbers at MNWR continue to decline as the dead trees with nesting holes continue to blow down; MJ found them "more common" at SAD this year with 17 pairs fledging 31 young from 81 eggs with raccoon predation high. Bank Swallow: good numbers at MNWR; down on BBBS; colony of 200 nest in an abandoned quarry in woods northeast of Geneva. Barn Swallow continues abundant in all areas. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 Jun 22 Clifton Springs (JW); few at MNWR. Cliff Swallow: 7 reported from Monterey Schy Co. Purple Martin: continued recovery from recent lows at MNWR, SAD Geneva and Schy Co. Blue Jay: "a bonus year" Schy Co (JB); way up on TBBS. **RAVEN**: a hiker reported 5 birds in Monterey area Schy Co and on Jun 13 JB checked it out finding 3 birds on Switzer Hill Rd circling and calling overhead; identification made on basis of calls and silhouettes; the birds are reported to have been in the area for 4-5 years. Black-capped Chickadee: 4 attempts to nest in bird boxes at SAD were unsuccessful. Tufted Titmouse: found on TBBS for 2nd time in 9 years; young brought to feeder in Trumansburg (LP). Red-breasted Nuthatch: at 3 locations in high hills of Schy Co and 1 Jun 30 at Watkins Glen (JB) are the only reports. Brown Creeper: 2 Aug 11 Clifton Springs (JW); nested at Stasche's in Caton (MW). House Wren; reported up all over the

Region; at SAD 13 pairs fledged 36 young from 61 eggs as against 9 pairs and 69 young from 71 eggs in 1973. Winter Wren: 1 singing Jun-Aug at Cornell Wildflower Preserve (EK). Long-billed March Wren: none at Elmira; fewer at Watkins Marsh; reduced numbers at MNWR parallels the reduced acreage of cattails. Mockingbird: LOSS reported increase at Ithaca; 3 pairs at Sampson State Park and 1 near JP (MJ). Wood Thrush: continued high numbers on TBBS for the third year. Hermit Thrush: nest with 4 young about to fledge near Monterey and 3 others singing in 2 different locations in Schy Co (JB). Eastern Bluebirds: 6 pairs nesting in boxes fledged 11 young from 24 eggs at SAD with another pair successfully using a natural cavity compared to 2 pairs and 4 young in 1973 (MJ); 2 nests at Trumansburg fledged no young (LP). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: seen on Avery Rd in northern Seneca Co in Jun (Jim and Judy Stewart). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 in the usual summer location on Connecticut Hill (JB); heard but not seen in the spruce forest in Chemung Co where they were found feeding young in 1973 (MW). Cedar Waxwing: these wanderers were found at Clifton Springs (JW), MNWR, Etna (SHS), TBBS and BBBS.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: On the 25 mile BBSs the following were recorded.

	TBBS Jun 2	RBBS Jun 8	BBBS Jun 20
Red-eyed Vireo	16	2	12
Warbling Vireo	5	1	0
Black-and-white Warbler	1	0	0
Blue-winged Warbler	2	0	0
Yellow Warbler	24	11	5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	0	2
Ovenbird	2	0	0
Common Yellowthroat	18	0	7
American Redstart	0	0	2

Warbling Vireo: MJ reports an intense local concentration in the Lake Housung area of SAD.

Warblers: Blue-winged: "definitely up in numbers" in the Keuka area (FG). *BREWSTER'S*: seen in the same locale in the Keuka area as last year (FG et al) no verifying details. *LAWRENCE'S*: a singing bird described as having "white wing bars, bright yellow breast, throat and face offset by the black facial markings" was found on Turkey Hill Rd Tompkins Co by Doug Wells and Tom Goettel and remained into Jul (many observers fide EK). Nashville: young being fed Aug 9 Dutch Hill Chemung Co (WH). Myrtle: singing bird Jun-Jul Switzer Hill Rd Schy Co (JB). Cerulean: 1-2 singing Jun 25-Jul 1 Cayuta Lake (JB). Ovenbird: scarce at Elmira (MW). *HOODED WARBLER*: a singing bird seen by Chris Mullin et al in mid-Jun on Hammond Hill near Ithaca (fide E. Bibbe). Wilson's: female Jun 21 Elmira (WH). Redstart: down at Clifton Springs (JW).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 13 on TBBS was high. Indigo Bunting: up in the Clifton Springs area (JW). Purple Finch: pair present late Jul-early Aug Clifton Springs (JW); 1 on TBBS. House Finch: now reported from Painted Post (MW); continues to increase at Ithaca (LOSS). Rufous-sided Towhee: good numbers at JP (WEB); way down on TBBS. Savannah Sparrow: scarce MNWR; lowest ever on TBBS. Grasshopper Sparrow: "very scarce" at Ithaca (E Kibbe); "very numerous" at Holding Point near Horseheads (MW); singing males at 3 sites JP (Jim and Judy Stewart); up on TBBS. Henslow's Sparrow: "non-existent" at Ithaca (E Kibbe); missed for 2nd year on TBBS; present at 3 locations Schy Co (JB); 2 on Romulus BBS near Seneca Falls (MJ). Dark-eyed Junco: seen on Combs Hill Elmira Jul 16 (WH); nested for 2nd year north of Branchport (FG). Swamp Sparrow continued low numbers MNWR. Song Sparrow: still abundant but perhaps less so.

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