

good year in nearly all areas. Purple Finch: Ithaca thru July 8; 1 Clifton Springs July 25; immature male Waterloo July 22-23; Cohocton. House Finch: Ithaca colony increasing. Am. Goldfinch: abundant. Rufous-sided Towhee: 6-7 pairs Ithaca; Cohocton.

Savannah Sparrow: 10 CayBBS; scarce in most areas. Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 Ithaca locations; usual number Penn Yan; 1 MacBBS. Henslow's Sparrow: scarce Penn Yan; 2 RBBS. Vesper Sparrow: pair thru July Clifton Springs; Cohocton; generally scarce. Dark-eyed Junco: 1 Caroline Aug 15 (JG). Chipping Sparrow: low numbers Ithaca and Waterloo. Field Sparrow: low to average numbers reported. Swamp Sparrow: "fairly dense numbers" Ithaca; low MNWR.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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The first two weeks of June were cool and rainy but from then to the middle of August, the end of the reporting period, the usual warm temperatures prevailed.

As usual in this Region during the summer months there was a marked decrease in observers' activity, leaving the breeding bird surveys as far and away the best and almost the only information about population levels during the period. This year all 13 surveys run completely or predominantly within the Region were available. Their composite results are reported for each species found on at least one in the form "(15,7)", meaning 15 birds reported on 7 surveys.

The only rarity reported was a Clay-colored Sparrow found on one of the surveys. Also of interest were summer reports of both kinglets, a Pine Warbler, and Baird's Sandpiper.

Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys used: Cooperstown, Jun 14, Cora Wellman; Corbettsville, Jun 20, Paul Kalka; Coventryville, Jun 27, Les Bemont; Dryden, Jun 10, Margaret Shepard; Laurens, Jun 11, John New; Lisle, Jun 21, Robert Pantle; McDonough, Jun 21, Claude Howard; Meridale, Jun 10, Mildred Clark; Newark Valley, Jun 10, Elizabeth Washburn; Oneonta, Jun 10, John New; Oxford, Jul 2, Danny Bystrak; Vestal Center, Jun 16, Elizabeth Washburn; Whitney Point, Jun 14, Robert Pantle.

Other contributing observers: Donald Bemont; Gail Corderman; Warren Corderman; Anna and Marilyn Davis; Mary Dobinsky; Sadie Dorber; Cindy Kirch; Eugene Kirch; Mary Sheffield; Robert Sheffield; Louise Viglione; Ruth and Sally White; Kathryn Wilson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: (6,5); scattered reports throughout. Green Heron: (3,3). Am. Bittern: 1 Sherburne Aug 2, no others. Canada Goose: Chenango Forks Jun 10. Mallard: (9,2).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: none reported, surprisingly. Goshawk: Choconut Center Jun 28 (MS, RS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: (1,1) Laurens BBS; only 1 other report. Cooper's Hawk: none reported. Red-tailed Hawk: (7,5); reasonably common; nest south of Binghamton, 2 young able to sustain flight by Jun 14. Red-shouldered Hawk: (1,1) Oxford BBS, no others. Broad-winged Hawk: 2 fledged young Chenango Bridge Jul 14; one other report, Oneonta Jun 21. Marsh Hawk: none. Am. Kestrel: (9,7); 2 adults and 6 fledged young Endwell Jun 27. Ruffed Grouse: (1,1); 6 young south of Binghamton Aug 16. Bobwhite: (3,2) Newark Valley BBS, Cooperstown BBS. Ring-necked Pheasant: (16,4). Turkey:

2 adults, 3 immatures Portlandville area Aug 2. Common Gallinule: 1 Norwich Jul 12; no others. Killdeer: (79,12). Common Snipe: 1 Choconut Center Jun 15; 2 Portlandville area Jul 15. Spotted Sandpiper: (4,3). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Sherburne Jul 5; 2 Sherburne Aug 2; South Otselic Aug 12. Greater Yellowlegs: Endwell Jul 14, night flying migrant. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: 3 South Otselic Fish Hatchery Aug 12 (LB, DB), "scaly" back, buffy breast, blackish legs and inconspicuous wing stripe in flight—noticeably larger than accompanying Leasts on a later date. Ring-billed Gull: 2 or 3 Whitney Point Jul 27; no other report.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: (91,10). Mourning Dove: (75,13). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (1,1), only 4 other reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: (1,1), 3 other reports. Screech Owl: (1,1), 2 others. Great Horned Owl: (2,2). Barred Owl: (1,1) Meridale BBS; all summer south of Binghamton. Chimney Swift: (35,8). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (2,1). Belted Kingfisher: (10,5). Common Flicker: (90,13). Pileated Woodpecker: (4,2), 6 other reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (9,5). Hairy Woodpecker: (10,5). Downy Woodpecker: (12,8).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: (57,13). Great Crested Flycatcher: (33, 11). E. Phoebe: (46,11); at Emmons fewer than in past years. Willow Flycatcher: (19,6). Alder Flycatcher: (7,3). Least Flycatcher: (80,12). E. Wood Pewee: (23,10). Horned Lark: (1,1), Whitney Point BBS. Tree Swallow: (56,10). Bank Swallow: (15,2); colony at Upper Lisle—"not as many as some years." Rough-winged Swallow: (3,2); 12 to 15 fledged young Upper Lisle Jul 6. Barn Swallow: (267,13). Cliff Swallow: (13,2). Purple Martin: (1,1). Blue Jay: (150,13). Com. Crow: (461,13). Black-capped Chickadee: (61,12). Tufted Titmouse: (1,1), Whitney Point BBS; reasonably frequent reports in Triple Cities area. White-breasted Nuthatch: (20,7). Red-breasted Nuthatch: (1,1), Oxford BBS; 4 Portlandville area Jul 28. Brown Creeper: (4,3) the only reports. House Wren: (183,13). Winter Wren: (1,1), Laurens BBS; 4 reports Portlandville area Jul and Aug. Carolina Wren: thru Jun in Vestal. Mockingbird: (2,2); Greene Jul 13, the only other report. Gray Catbird: (185,13). Brown Thrasher: (55,13). Am. Robin: (864,13). Wood Thrush: (232,12). Hermit Thrush: (8,2), McDonough BBS, Oxford BBS; 4 reports Portlandville area Jul and Aug. Swainson's Thrush: 1 Vestal Aug 15, banded. Veery: (109,13). E. Bluebird: (1,1), not many others. Golden-crowned Kinglet: (1,1), Corbettsville BBS. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Sherburne Jun 16 and Jul 14 (R,SW), singing. Cedar Waxwing: (42,10). Starling: (1581,13).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (23,10). Solitary Vireo: (7,4). Red-eyed Vireo: (199,13); 1 Emmons Aug 10 feeding 2 cowbirds. Warbling Vireo: (27,10). Black-and-white Warbler: (11,5). Golden-winged Warbler: (1,1). Blue-winged Warbler: Corbettsville BBS. Nashville Warbler: (1,1). Yellow Warbler: (213,12). Magnolia Warbler: (8,4). Black-throated Blue Warbler: (1,1). Yellow-rumped Warbler: (2,2), Cooperstown BBS, Oxford BBS; Chenango Forks Jul 5, 12 and 23 (A,MD). Black-throated Green Warbler: (17,7). Blackburnian Warbler: (4,3). Chestnut-sided Warbler: (46,11). **PINE WARBLER**: (1,1), McDonough BBS. Ovenbird: (59,12). Northern Waterthrush: (1,1). Louisiana Waterthrush: (3,2). Mourning Warbler: (3,2); 2 Milford area Jun 28. Yellowthroat: (402,13). Canada Warbler: (7,4). Am. Redstart: (37,12).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (515,12). Bobolink: (134,13). E. Meadowlark: (116,12). Red-winged Blackbird: (1718,13). N. Oriole: (128,13); nest in pine with bottom resting on branch below Jun 7 Choconut Center. Com. Grackle: (456,13). Brown-headed Cowbird: (49,10). Scarlet Tanager: (59,12). Cardinal: (57,12), missing from Coopers-town BBS. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (74,13). Indigo Bunting: (75,11). Purple Finch: (21, 9). House Finch: continued present at 3 Triple Cities area feeders during Jun and 1 or 2 feeders in Jul and Aug. Am. Goldfinch: (205,13). Rufous-sided Towhee: (95,13). Savannah Sparrow: (63,10). Grasshopper Sparrow: (3,3); also Choconut Center Jul 5. Henslow's Sparrow: (2,1), Dryden BBS; also Choconut Center Jul 8. Vesper Sparrow: (4,2). Dark-eyed Junco: (8,4); several other reports, max 8 Portlandville area Aug 2. Chipping Sparrow: (214,13). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: (1,1), Oxford BBS, watched singing from about

10 meters for about 8 minutes. Field Sparrow: (137,13). White-throated Sparrow: (32,5); of 6 other reports max 12 Milford area Jun 28. Swamp Sparrow: (19,7). Song Sparrow: (459,13).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Region 5 birders may soon be recognized instantly in other sectors of the state—just check for their webbed feet. June was wet and hot and wet, July was the second wettest July on record, and August was wet and hot too. Local plant life developed jungle-like luxuriance, lawn growth constantly trapped birders into weekend mowings, and vegetable gardens with ragweed trim burgeoned. The berry and tree seed crops have grown hugely and bumper bounty awaits both fall transients and winter visitants.

The incessant rain kept most marshes at springtime water levels and the usual August rail and gallinule watching was a dud—you were lucky to see over the head-high cattails. Most local breeders seemed to achieve good production, particularly the serial nesters—House Wren, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Red-winged Blackbird, and such later breeders as Cedar Waxwing and American Goldfinch. Aerial insectivores, especially Common Nighthawk and Chimney Swift, are definitely declining at Syracuse (see below) and may be doing so in other sectors of the Region.

The majority of breeding bird data accrues from the seven U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter, BBS)—Cicero Center, Kasoag, North Wilmurt, Old Forge, Oneida, Oriskany Falls, and Pulaski. Trends from these surveys seem to back up impressions from the many summer reports—such positives as 1) steady numbers of some swallows; 2) improved numbers of certain nesters (see above); 3) rising numbers of icterids including Northern Oriole; 4) continued increases in the “southerners”—Turkey Vulture, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Tufted Titmouse, and Cardinal.

Negatives seemed as abundant as the local rain—1) virtually no breeding Pied-billed Grebes; 2) few herons and only one white heron for the season; 3) continued decline in Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Red-shouldered Hawks; 4) further reductions in Ring-necked Pheasant numbers; 5) paucity of both cuckoos and of aerial insectivores; 6) continued decline of Horned Larks and Vesper Sparrows; 7) a peculiar absence of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers south of Syracuse, a previous redoubt for them; and 8) minimal gain in Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows.

The two most prominent features of the July and August fall migration include 1) the miserable numbers and poor variety of fall shorebirds, undoubtedly due to minimal available habitat secondary to the rain-sustained high water; and 2) the numerous early fall arrival dates, many record breaking, not just for the Region but for the state.

The seasonal rarities include Snowy Egret, Hudsonian Godwit, Red and Wilson's Phalaropes, breeding Loggerhead Shrike and Orchard Oriole, and a persistent Western Meadowlark.

GMA—Game Management Area; Onon—Onondaga; SP & SPI—Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; Syr—Syracuse.