

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The warm sunny days of June were the best days of the summer. Both temperatures and rainfall were a little above average. July thru mid-August was cloudy, cool and wet. The temperature rarely rose into the 80's ($29\pm^{\circ}\text{C}$). Ithaca's 8" (20.3 cm) of rainfall in July was twice the normal. The latter half of August was warm, dry and sunny with the temperature reaching the mid-80 degrees F ($29\pm^{\circ}\text{C}$). The month closed with fall weather moving in and the temperature dropped to the mid-30 degrees F ($1.6\pm^{\circ}\text{C}$) on August 31 bringing a wave of migrants—flycatchers, vireos, warblers, orioles—to Montezuma Refuge that day.

On the plus side, June weather was generally favorable to nesting success. Purple Martins have made an excellent recovery from their recent lows. At Montezuma Refuge all species except Black-crowned Night Heron and Least Bittern seem to be back to normal after the 1972 Agnes disaster. Canada Geese there had an excellent season and the ducks, excepting Wood Duck, did well. Good numbers of many species of shorebirds used the mudflats at Montezuma. The efforts to re-establish the Bald Eagle there are being watched with interest. Cardinals continue to increase, Indigo Buntings had an excellent year and there were more reports of Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows than in recent years.

Negative aspects of the season included the failure to hatch of 50% of the Wood Duck eggs at Montezuma Refuge. Eastern Phoebe continues a disaster species. Cliff Swallows are very hard to find and Rough-wings not much better. Vesper Sparrows continue at a very low level. The fruit and berry crop is below last year.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Censuses: The Trumansburg count showed 11-year highs for Gray Catbird, Am. Robin, Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Cardinal, Savannah and Song Sparrows and a 9-year high for House Sparrow. Only one N. Oriole was found in contrast to a 10-year high of 26 in 1975. On the MacDougall count Willow Flycatcher, House Wren, Warbling Vireo, Com. Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, Com. Grackle, Savannah and Field Sparrows were up with Am. Goldfinch down. Increasing on the Romulus run were Yellow Warbler, Com. Yellowthroat, Bobolink, N. Oriole and Cardinal. Decreasing were E. Kingbird, Willow Flycatcher, Crow, Starling and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Rarities: Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Fish Crow, "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers, Yellow-throated Warbler.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; Ith—Ithaca; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; SP—State Park; * details on file.

Compilers and contributors: W. E. Benning, Mike Braun, Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen), James Gibson, Robert Gustafson (MNWR), Bernice Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard, Eleanor Jones, Morgan Jones (SAD), Richard and Sally Jorgensen, Elaine Kibbe (Ithaca), Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Robert and Lisa Lewis, Dorothy McIlroy, Steve Sabo, Jayson Walker (Waterloo), Jeffery Walters, Mary P. Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 1 MNWR Jun. 6-10; 10 Seneca L Jun. 20 (BH). Horned Grebe: 1 MNWR Jun. 6. Pied-billed Grebe: reported only from MNWR max 80 Jul. 30. Double-crested Cormorant: 4 MNWR Jun. 4; 1 dead Lansing Jul. 7. Great Blue Heron: widespread; max 400 MNWR Aug. 31. Green Heron: numerous reports; nested Cohocton. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: adult Waterloo dump Aug. 14 (RSS). Cattle Egret: 13 Phelps Jun. 5 (Mrs. H. Fella); 1 Clyde Jun. 11; 1 MNWR Jun. 23. Great Egret: 1-5 MNWR thru. **LOUISIANA HERON**: immature MNWR Aug. 25 thru (EK,SS *et al.*)*. Black-crowned

Night Heron: 30 MNWR Jun. 30. Least Bittern: 1 MNWR Aug. 20 only report. Am. Bittern: max MNWR 60 Aug. 31. **GLOSSY IBIS**: 1 MNWR Jun. 6 (EK).

The Aug. 31 MNWR duck population figures are as follows (RG). Aug. 15, 1975 figures in parenthesis.

Mallard	4000 (1700)	Blue-winged Teal	2200 (750)
Black	350 (300)	Am. Wigeon	140 (150)
Gadwall	300 (350)	N. Shoveler	375 (100)
Pintail	60 (150)	Wood Duck	1700 (1200)
Green-winged Teal	1500 (400)	Hooded Merganser	80 (100)

Black Duck: 200 Hopewell Aug. 28 (JW). Bufflehead: 1 MNWR Jun. 27 and Aug. 20. Ruddy: 1 MNWR Jun. 27. Common Merganser: adult with 5 young Keuka L 1 mile south of Branchport (Earl Donaldson *file* ML).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Shindagin Hollow Ith (mob); 1 W Danby Aug. 24 (JG). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Connecticut Hill Jun. 18.(EK). Broad-winged Hawk: pair seen carrying nesting material near Six Mile Creek, Ithaca, later screamed at intruders but no nest found (MB); 1 on Wilson Society field trip Jun. 5 at Monkey Run, Ith; 2 W. Danby Aug. 24 (JG). **GOLDEN EAGLE**: probable immature Big Flats Jun. 4 (Dr. and Mrs. Notman *file* MW). Marsh Hawk: reported from Waterloo, MNWR, W. Danby, Cohocton. Osprey: 1 Geneva Aug. 23. Am. Kestrel: reporters comments, "plentiful," "another excellent year." Ruffed Grouse: nested Cohocton. Turkey: 2-3 family groups one with 13 young Shindagin Hollow, Ith. Virginia Rail: many young and adults MNWR Aug. Sora: young and adults max 50 MNWR Aug. Com. Gallinule: good breeding success MNWR and Waterloo dump. Am. Coot: 500 MNWR Aug. 31 (RG).

Semipalmated Plover: max 9 MNWR Aug. 20, Killdeer: max 120 MNWR Jun. 30. Am. Golden Plover: 1 MNWR Aug. 19, 28. Black-bellied Plover: 1 MNWR Aug. 28 thru. Ruddy Turnstone: Watkins Glen Aug. 1 early. Am. Woodcock: 40 MNWR Jun. 30; nested Cohocton. Com. Snipe: 30 MNWR Aug. 28. **WHIMBREL**: 1 Horseheads Aug. 7 (MW,WH,mob). Upland Sandpiper: 2 Waterloo dump Jul. 2; 5 Ith Jul. 7; 19 Elmira Jul. 7. Spotted Sandpiper: 15 MNWR. Solitary Sandpiper: 4 Spencer landfill Jul. 28-Aug. 9. Greater Yellowlegs: 100 MNWR Aug. 27. Lesser Yellowlegs: 120 MNWR Aug. 28; 2 Etna Jul. 17; 1 Clifton Springs Jul. 19-20. Pectoral Sandpiper: 50 MNWR Aug. 29. White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 MNWR Jun. 1; 5 MNWR Aug. 29. Least Sandpiper: several MNWR Jun. 1; 40 MNWR Aug. 29. Dunlin: 1 MNWR Jun. 24. Short-billed Dowitcher: 15 MNWR Aug. 27. Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 MNWR Aug. 17 (SS) no confirming details, very early. Stilt Sandpiper: 8 MNWR Aug. 18, 27. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 300 MNWR Aug. 18-20. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: 1 MNWR 28 (WEB)*. Wilson's Phalarope: 6 MNWR Aug. 7. Northern Phalarope: 4 MNWR Aug. 28-29.

Great Black-backed Gull: 2 MNWR Jun. 1. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Myers Point Aug. 4; 1 MNWR Aug. 19. **FORSTER'S TERN**: 1 MNWR Aug. 31 (WEB)*. Common Tern: 2:3 MNWR thru; 2 Myers Point Jul. 13, 26. Caspian Tern: 2 Myers Point Jul. 26-Aug. 4; 6 Ith Aug. 1; 5 MNWR Aug. 3 thru. Black Tern: 150 MNWR Jul. 15.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Barn Owl: nest at Ovid photographed by M. Hopiak in Aug.; nest with 3 young at Odessa Aug. Saw-whet Owl: 1 calling Ith Jun. 1 (EK). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reported from Reeder's Creek, MNWR and W. Danby. Black-billed Cuckoo: reported from Newark, Clifton Springs, Ithaca; nested at Cohocton. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 banded SAD Aug. 18 (MJ).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: down everywhere; at SAD MJ had a 4 year low of 26 pairs fledging 97 young from 150 eggs. **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER**: at Penn Yan ML banded 3 in Aug. against 11 in 1975 and 9 in 1974. On the Federation's Summer Bird Count at Ith Willow Flycatchers outnumbered Alders 4 to 1. **OLIVE-SIDED**

FLYCATCHER: 1 Big Flats Jun. 18 (T. Bates *fide* MW).

Tree Swallow: "population exploding" at SAD; "hundreds" at MNWR and Ith. Bank Swallow: 1,275 SAD Jul. 16-23; colonies at Myers Point and Odessa; down at MNWR. Rough-winged Swallow: scarce. Barn Swallow: "hordes everywhere." Cliff Swallow: "very hard to find." Purple Martin: widespread good reports. **FISH CROW:** 2 seen and heard Jun. 28-Jul. 21 Ith (EK,JG). House Wren: everywhere in good numbers. Carolina Wren: holding its recent gains in all parts of the region. Short-billed Marsh Wren: encouraging reports; pair on territory Seneca Falls; seen and heard at Ith Airport; 2 W. Danby Jul. 30. Mockingbird: reported from all parts of the Region; nested in "evergreen" tree at Elmira. Swainson's Thrush: 1 banded Penn Yan Aug. 3. Eastern Bluebird: at SAD 16 pairs raised 44 young in MJ's boxes for a fledging rate under 50% of last year; 1 Ith Jul. 4; 1 Clifton Springs Jul. 17; 2 Buttermilk Falls SP Aug. 15. Golden-crowned Kinglet: nest with 3 young Ith Jun. 12 (EK); reported Hector Land Use Area Jun. 27; 1 Dryden Jul. 4; several Tanglewood forest Elmira where young were found in 1974. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Alpine Aug. (JB).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Warblers: Black-and-white: 1 Michigan Hollow Jul. 30. Blue-winged: 1 Buttermilk Falls SP Aug. 15. **BREWSTER'S:** 1 Ith Jun. 5 (Wilson Society field trip); singles Burdette and Reading Center (JB); 1 netted Penn Yan Aug. 23 (ML)*. **LAWRENCE'S:** 1 banded Penn Yan Aug. 21 (ML)*. Nashville: 1 Elmira Jun. 6; 1 Waterloo Jul. 26. Magnolia: singing male Ith Jun. 6, 23. Black-throated Blue: a new addition to the Trumansburg Breeding Bird Census; 1 Ith Jun. 23. Yellow-rumped: adult with young Tanglewood forest Elmira Jul. 4 (Ostrander *fide* MW). Cerulean: new locations Phelps and Mt. Zoar Elmira. **YELLOW-THROATED:** seen and heard Ith Jun. 13 (Don Gray *fide* EK). Chestnut-sided: 1 Trumansburg Breeding Bird Census. Blackpoll: 1 Burdette Jun. 18. Prairie: 1 Connecticut Hill Jun. 17. Louisiana Waterthrush: feeding young Ithaca Jun. 23. Mourning: singles Connecticut Hill Jun. 18, Waterloo Jun. 20. Yellow-breasted Chat: reports from Ith, Reading Center and Burdette. Hooded: 1 Ith Jun. 4. Canada: 1 Reeder's Creek Seneca Co. Aug. 18.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: 50 Ith Airport Jul. 28. Indigo Bunting: "everywhere," "excellent numbers," "more abundant." Evening Grosbeak: female at feeder until Jun. 11 in Ith. Purple Finch: reported at Clifton Springs, Ith, Etna, Cohocton. House Finch: regular at feeders in Odessa and Watkins Glen; 10 netted Penn Yan Aug. (ML). Red Crossbill: 2 at Strath feeders at Odessa until mid-June and again for one day early Aug.

Sparrows: Savannah: 32 in 3 acres Ith Airport Jul. 6. Grasshopper: 7 in one acre Ith Airport Jul. 7; singing near Ith College campus; nested Cohocton. Henslow's: immature Ith Airport Jul. 20. Vesper: several reports but still low. Dark-eyed Junco: reported as "everywhere" in Engleslons Gully on the east side of Keuka L. White-throated: 4-5 singing males Connecticut Hill Jun. 6-18 (J. Kellar and C. Smith *fide* EK). Song: ML netted 314 in Aug. at Penn Yan compared to 154 in 1975 and 117 in 1974.

R. D. 2, Clyde, New York 14433

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The rainy season was very cool this year. After a few really hot days in mid-June the highest recorded temperature in July was 81° F (27° C) and in August 84° F with respective lows of 48° and 42° F (9° and 5.5° C). It rained 20 days in July and 11 in August.