

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.

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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.

Again a major share of the data available from the summer season was collected on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys and again the results from all 13 surveys taken primarily within the Susquehanna Region are available, courtesy of Danny Bystrak. Their composite results are reported for each species found on at least one in the form "(10,7)", meaning 10 birds reported on 7 surveys.

This year the first Breeding Bird Censuses, in the same areas and approximately the same format as Christmas Censuses, were run by the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society at Oneonta (DOAS-BBC, 36 party hours) and the Naturalists' Club at Binghamton (NC-BBC, 30 party hours). Species by species comparisons between the counts obtained using the two methods should be of considerable interest, particularly if the effort expended on the less rigidly planned censuses is adequately recorded in the form of party hours, time of day, etc. However, only selected results of the censuses are reported here.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys used: Cooperstown, Jun. 19, Cora Wellman; Corbettsville, Jun. 19, Paul Kalka; Coventryville, Jun. 27, Les Bemont; Dryden, Jun. 3, Margaret Shepherd; Laurens, Jun. 11, John New; Lisle, Jun. 26, Robert Pantle; McDonough, Jun. 24, Claude Howard; Meridale, Jun. 11, Mildred Clark; Newark Valley (E. Newark), Jun. 19, Elva Hawken; Oneonta, Jun. 5, John New; Oxford, Jun. 6, Harriet Marsi; Vestal Center, Jun. 20, Elizabeth Washburn; Whitney Point, Jun. 19, Robert Pantle.

Other contributing observers: Mike Bennett; Gail Corderman; Warren Corderman; Anna and Marilyn Davis; Mary Dobinsky; Sadie Dorber; Ron Enck; Seth Jacobsen; Eugene Kirch; Mary Sheffield; Robert Sheffield; Ruth and Sally White; Kathryn Wilson; Irene Wright; Wayne Wright.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Goodyear L, near Oneonta, Aug. 21. Great Blue Heron: (10,7). Green Heron: (4,4). Am. Bittern: (1,1) Lisle BBS, the only report all summer. Canada Goose: 1 DOAS-BBC. Mallard: 15 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Black Duck: 1 DOAS-BBC. Wood Duck: 1 DOAS-BBC; more common in Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: (4,1) Meridale BBS. Cooper's Hawk: (1,1) Oxford BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC. Red-tailed Hawk: (8,5); 11 DOAS-BBC; 2 NC-BBC. Red-shouldered Hawk: (2,2) Dryden BBS and Corbettsville BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC. Broad-winged Hawk: 6 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Marsh Hawk: 1 Vestal Center Aug. 22. Osprey: 1 Goodyear L Aug. 14, first fall date. Am. Kestrel: (17,10); 11 DOAS-BBC; 10 NC-BBC. Ruffed Grouse: (2,2); 6 NC-BBC. Ring-necked Pheasant: (17,6); 9 NC-BBC. Virginia Rail: 1 Portlandville Aug. 14, "sooty black immature ran across road." Semipalmated Plover: 1 South Otselic Jul. 31. Killdeer: (94,13); 16 DOAS-BBC; 34 NC-BBC. Woodcock: 1 DOAS-BBC. Common Snipe: (3,2). Spotted Sandpiper: (10,6); 1 DOAS-BBC; 4 NC-BBC; rather scarce. Solitary Sandpiper: 1 South Otselic Jul. 31; Aug. 3 Oneonta. Ring-billed Gull: 2 Whitney Point Jul. 14; Aug. 17 Goodyear L.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: (161,13). Mourning Dove: (116,13); 17 DOAS-BBC; 31 NC-BBC. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (2,2); 1 each DOAS-BBC and NC-BBC; only 2 other reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: (5,4); 1 DOAS-BBC; only 2 other reports. Screech Owl: (1,1); 2 NC-BBC; 2 Aug. reports. Barred Owl: "all summer" s. of Binghamton. Com. Nighthawk: 4 DOAS-BBC; 5 NC-BBC. Chimney Swift: (55,10). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1,1); 4 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Belted Kingfisher: (9,5). Common Flicker: (88,13). Pileated Woodpecker: (1,1); 1 DOAS-BBC; 3 other reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Sherburne Aug. 20. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (2,2); 3 DOAS-BBC, Hairy Woodpecker: (8,5). Downy Woodpecker: (25,9).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: (38,12); 19 DOAS-BBC; 5 NC-BBC. Great Crested Flycatcher: (48,12); 16 DOAS-BBC; 9 NC-BBC. E. Phoebe: (86,13). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Aug. 18 Crumhorn Mountain area, Otsego Co., the first of 5 fall migrant reports. Willow Flycatcher: (17,8); 7 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Alder Flycatcher:

(7,2). Least Flycatcher: (78,12). E. Wood Pewee: (39,11). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Aug. 7 Binghamton, the only report. Horned Lark: (5,2); 2 NC-BBC. Tree Swallow: (52,10); 52 DOAS-BBC; 42 NC-BBC. Bank Swallow: (56,3); 125 NC-BBC. Rough-winged Swallow: (5,2); 2 NC-BBC; none after Jun. Barn Swallow: (315,13). Cliff Swallow: (1,1) Meridale BBS; all summer in Milford area of Otsego Co. Purple Martin: (3,1) Corbettsville BBS; 14 NC-BBC. Blue Jay: (143,13); 62 DOAS-BBC; 49 NC-BBC. Crow: (444,13); 62 DOAS-BBC; 51 NC-BBC. Black-capped Chickadee: (77,13); 42 DOAS-BBC; 15 NC-BBC. Tufted Titmouse: (3,2) E. Newark and Lisle BBS; 1 NC-BBC; also at 3 usual Triple Cities locations. White-breasted Nuthatch: (11,7); 6 DOAS-BBC; 2 NC-BBC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: (1,1) Coventryville BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC; 8 Pharsalia Jun. 5; Aug. 14 Portlandville area. Brown Creeper: (2,2); 2 DOAS-BBC. House Wren: (238,13); 22 DOAS-BBC; 89 NC-BBC. Winter Wren: (2,2); 1 DOAS-BBC; 2 Sherburne Jul. 10, singing. Carolina Wren: 4 NC-BBC. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 5 Norwich Jun. 19, singing. Mockingbird: (1,1) Vestal Center BBS; 8 NC-BBC. Gray Catbird: (205,13). Brown Thrasher: (53,13). Am. Robin: (778,13). Wood Thrush: (184,13). Hermit Thrush: (8,4); 2 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC; Jul. 25 Choconut Center, singing; all summer s. of Binghamton. Swainson's Thrush: 1 DOAS-BBC; 2 Pharsalia Jun. 5; 1 and 2 banded Vestal Aug. 24 and 31 respectively, surely migrants. Veery: (104,12). E. Bluebird: (10,6); 4 DOAS-BBC; 6 NC-BBC; 8 e. Otsego Co. Jul. 24, the best count. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (1,1) Oneonta BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC. Cedar Waxwing: (62,10); 13 DOAS-BBC; 15 NC-BBC; common all summer, 60 Emmons, near Oneonta, Aug. 24 max. Starling: (1600,13); 307 DOAS-BBC; 1432 NC-BBC.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (18,7); Jun. 25 Oneonta, pair feeding cowbird. Solitary Vireo: (3,2); 2 DOAS-BBC; 2 NC-BBC; 5 other reports. Red-eyed Vireo: (192,13); 48 DOAS-BBC; 32 NC-BBC. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 banded Aug. 30 Vestal (EH). Warbling Vireo: (32,10). Black-and-white Warbler: (13,7); 5 DOAS-BBC; 3 NC-BBC. Golden-winged Warbler: (2,2); 1 DOAS-BBC; 3 NC-BBC. Blue-winged Warbler: (2,1) McDonough BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Tennessee Warbler: Aug. 18 Crumhorn Mt. area, first of 5 Aug. records including 3 banded at Vestal. Nashville Warbler: (5,3); 2 DOAS-BBC; 3 NC-BBC. Yellow Warbler: (235,13); Jun. 25 Oneonta, feeding cowbird. Magnolia Warbler: (3,3); 5 DOAS-BBC. Cape May Warbler: 2 Crumhorn Mt. area Aug. 18; 1 banded Vestal Aug. 31; no others. Black-throated Blue Warbler: (1,1); 2 DOAS-BBC; 4 Crumhorn Mt. area Aug. 18. Yellow-rumped Warbler: (2,2) Oneonta and Laurens BBS; 2 DOAS-BBC; 3 Pharsalia Jun. 5; 4 Crumhorn Mt. Aug. 18. Black-throated Green Warbler: (11,5); 19 DOAS-BBC; 4 Crumhorn Mt. area Aug. 18. Blackburnian Warbler: (7,3); 2 DOAS-BBC; 7 Pharsalia Jun. 5. Chestnut-sided Warbler: (51,13); 20 DOAS-BBC; 14 NC-BBC; 12 Crumhorn Mt. area Aug. 18. Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 banded Vestal Aug. 29. Blackpoll Warbler: spring migrants to Jun. 2 Endwell. Pine Warbler: (1,1) McDonough BBS, at same stop where found previous years. Prairie Warbler: (1,1) Corbettsville BBS; 3 NC-BBC; at Vestal Center again during Jun. Ovenbird: (68,10); 33 DOAS-BBC; 19 NC-BBC. Northern Waterthrush: (1,1) Oxford BBS; 1 DOAS-BBC; Aug. 7 singing near Oneonta. Louisiana Waterthrush: 6 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. Mourning Warbler: (3,2); 2 DOAS-BBC; Jun. 26 Milford area, scolding with food in bill. Common Yellowthroat: (400,13); 76 DOAS-BBC; 86 NC-BBC. Wilson's Warbler: Aug. 21 Binghamton; 1 banded Aug. 30 Vestal. Canada Warbler: (9,5); 12 DOAS-BBC. Am. Redstart: (41,11); 35 DOAS-BBC; 2 NC-BBC.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (388,11). Bobolink: (139,12); Aug. 12 Whitney Point, apparent last date. E. Meadowlark: (129,13). Red-winged Blackbird: (1816,13); 278 DOAS-BBC; 304 NC-BBC. Northern Oriole: (165,13); 52 DOAS-BBC; 31 NC-BBC. Common Grackle: (410,13); 96 DOAS-BBC; 182 NC-BBC. Brown-headed Cowbird: (109,13); 75 DOAS-BBC; 13 NC-BBC. Scarlet Tanager: (63,13). Cardinal: (57,11); 8 DOAS-BBC; 36 NC-BBC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (68,13). Indigo Bunting:

(101,12). Purple Finch: (11,6); 10 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC. House Finch: (7,1); 2 DOAS-BBC; 26 NC-BBC; Jun. 1 Oneonta, male feeding 2 young. Am. Goldfinch: (267, 13). Rufous-sided Towhee: (103,12). Savannah Sparrow: (101,12); 14 DOAS-BBC; 3 NC-BBC. Grasshopper Sparrow: (5,4); 1 NC-BBC; 1 Union Center Jul. 19; no others. Henslow's Sparrow: (3,2); Jun. 6 Choconut Center; no others. Vesper Sparrow: (6,5); 2 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC; Jul. 24, e. Otsego Co.; no others. Dark-eyed Junco: (17,5); 22 DOAS-BBC; 1 NC-BBC; 3 Pharsalia Jun. 5; reported fairly regularly all period, particularly in Otsego Co. Chipping Sparrow: (171,13). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Oxford BBS, second consecutive year. Field Sparrow: (165,13). White-throated Sparrow: (25,4); 17 DOAS-BBC; 2 Pharsalia Jun. 5. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 banded Aug. 30 Vestal. Swamp Sparrow: (29,7). Song Sparrow: (507,13).

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REGION 5 -- ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

And so ends the summer of the monsoon! June was the second wettest on record, July the wettest, and August the fourth wettest and sunshine for the summer was 20% of normal. The grass grew like an Irish jungle; farm planting was delayed severely and hay cutting was markedly retarded, commencing just when the grassland species had callow young. The persistent rain seemed especially hard on the breeding success of the aerial insectivores (night-hawks, swifts, swallows) and the ground nesters which must have had to renest over and over again, much as the lady in the limerick. The frequent rainy days delayed some of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys—hereafter BBS—but eventually ten of the eleven were accomplished—Alder Creek June 5, Cicero Center June 10, Clinton June 18, Kasoag June 8, McKeever June 6, N. Wilmurt June 18, Old Forge June 22, Oneida June 15, Oriskany Falls June 5, Pulaski June 3. These in five years have become the primary numerical data for the summer season. The fixed station-set time technique makes running one almost as challenging as a May Day Big Run but there's more paper work to it. Incidentally one BBS led the observer to a magnificent stand of Showy Lady Slipper, a beautiful botanical bonus. The early local flocking of icterids and swallows suggests that many nestings were destroyed or abandoned and the many very early arrival dates of species breeding north of here suggests it may have occurred elsewhere also.

Summer positives include 1) increased numbers of summering Canada Geese and improved Wood Duck production; 2) Turkey Vulture expansion east and south of Oneida Lake; 3) continued expansion of the "sedentary southerners," Red-bellied Woodpecker and Mockingbird, and to a lesser extent, of Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren; 4) increased numbers of Blue Jay and House Wren; 5) further expansion of Golden-crowned Kinglet with some parallel expansion of Ruby-crowned Kinglet in the Adirondack sector of the region; 6) increased numbers of Nashville, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Hooded Warblers and Common Yellowthroat; 7) record fall arrival dates for some warblers and a few other northern forest species.

Summer negatives are 1) reduction in breeding Pied-billed Grebe numbers; 2) no major push of southern white herons; 3) absence of summering diving ducks; 4) continued decline of Ring-necked Pheasant; 5) a miserable fall shorebird flight, both in variety and numbers; 6) further decline in Black Tern; 7) reduced numbers of Common Nighthawk and some swallows; 8) further losses of Horned Lark and the "grassland" sparrows; 9) very poor