

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

[The Region 4 report had not arrived in time for this issue—The Editor.]
(Spring Report on Page 244)

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Many people often made the comment that we finally had an old-fashioned summer. Obviously, they meant that conditions were hot, hazy and humid. None the less birders forged ahead under trying circumstances and recorded 195 species for the period.

The average temperature for June and July was two degrees above normal, while August had an average slightly below the norm. Twelve days had maximum temperatures in the 90's with a 97° high on 17 August surpassing the 91° set in 1965. Record low temperatures of 49° and 48° were set in early morning hours of 29 July and 12 August. Precipitation for June was 1.41 inches above normal, but July and August proved to be much drier with a combined total of 4.28 inches, far below the normal 7.53 inches. In fact, a seventeen day period from 10-26 August witnessed only .35 inch of moisture.

Positives for the season include increasing numbers of Double-crested Cormorants on Lake Ontario, Oneida and Onondaga Lakes. These birds are now breeding on Wantry Island in Oneida Lake, where 4 nests were found last summer and at least 18 nests were found this summer, for the first nestings ever in the Region. The fall shorebird flight has been fair, but lower in variety and very poor in juveniles. Expanding numbers of Caspian Terns and a mini-flight of Forster's Terns at Sandy Pond are very promising for the Lake Ontario littoral and inland. Populations of Mourning Doves and, surprisingly, Rock Doves are on the rise, attracted to the abundance of foods in plowed bean fields. Black-capped Chickadees seemed to be everywhere, possibly because of an early irruption or a population expansion. Two species of mimids, namely Catbird and N. Mockingbird, are indicating substantial increases in their numbers. House Wren, Robins and Cedar Waxwings continued their rise in population along with many of the icterids except E. Meadowlark. The ever-expanding House Finch is being observed more frequently at higher elevations and Am. Goldfinch numbers remain on the increase.