

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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"One of the 10 best days of the year" was the radio weather person's description of 1 Jun 1990 with its sunny skies, 80° temperatures and light breeze. It was a fit beginning for a comfortable, normal summer, much like last year's. The entire season was cooler than normal but only by about a degree. Although the mercury often climbed above 85°, especially during the last two weeks of July, it reached 90° only on the Fourth of July. Precipitation during June and July averaged an inch less than normal but came as timely showers to keep the ground from drying out. August rainfall was about an inch above normal. At month's end, rainfall for the year was about five inches above normal. As a result, some rivers and reservoirs remained high all season, especially where dams controlled water flow. The loss of exposed mudflats in those areas adversely affected early shorebird migration counts. It was an ideal growing season for wild foods, however. Grass and weed seeds ripened quickly. Fruits and berries flourished. (I can't believe black cherries or dogwood fruits ever hung heavier on the branches). Add the abundance of maturing nuts and cones and an excellent winter food supply seems assured.

Cool weather kept some insect populations down, mosquitoes for one, probably contributing to low counts for swallow species. Bank Swallow, however, got a boost at Murphy's Sand Pit in Vestal, where two colonies nested. Marie Petuh reported that in those areas, the company stopped operations from the time the swallows arrived until they completed nesting. Wood Ducks had excellent breeding success. I counted 68 immatures with 10 hens at six sites in Oneonta-Milford area 14 and 16 June. Margaret Layton and Jane Chittenden reported "many with young" at the Marshall 'B' Andrews Refuge, Bainbridge, 2 June. Wood Duck replaced Mallard as the most common breeding duck of the Region. Other duck reports were disappointing. Increasing Wood Duck populations, in part explained by the addition of duck boxes in many ponds, may be squeezing Hooded Merganser for habitat. Although never a common breeder in our area, the single Hooded Merganser report is a real low count. Discouraging also were the lone reports of Blue-winged Teal and American Black Duck. There were just two reports of Common Merganser, but an unseasonal **Black Scoter** was spotted at

Beaver Lake, Windsor, on 6 Jul by Sadie Dorber and Marie Petuh. It remained all season, but our observers learned it had died early September.

Three uncommon raptors were found nesting this summer. Halladay Pierce spotted a Bald Eagle pair at Cannonsville Reservoir in June and confirmed with the DEC that they were nesting. No check was made for breeding success. A pair of N. Harrier, seen courting along the Susquehanna River north of Milford in April, was spotted there 28 Jun with one immature. A N. Goshawk pair with three immatures was found at McGraw on 10 Jun. Several reports of immature Red-tailed Hawk indicated good nesting success.

A pair of N. Bobwhite remained near the Harry Branigan farm in Milford, for about six weeks in June and July, but no proof of breeding was found. Since bobwhite was heard last year in the same area, the Branigans keep watch. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was a rare summer resident in Broome Co. The one reported at Oquaga Creek 18 June by Sadie Dorber and the Finch Hollow Nature Center staff might be considered a very late spring migrant. However, a male was observed all season by Tom Tasber, FHNC naturalist, and his wife, Norene, at their home in Triangle. At a high elevation, their property adjoins a hemlock forest with a swampy area across the road, affording good Ruby-crowned habitat.

I would like to commend the many observers who scrambled to collect and send me their summer reports. Since I came to this job late in the season, we all had limited time to assemble a report. Some reports were missed, but the total of 148 species for the period was slightly above normal. Clay-colored Sparrow was the only real rarity. Great Egret made what has become a biannual late summer appearance. Species records for hawks and sparrows were excellent. Among warblers, reports for Magnolia and Blackburnian were scarce, Chestnut-sided and Yellow-rumped were down and Blue-winged, Yellow, Black-and-white and Am. Redstart were good. Species missed this year included Pied-billed Grebe, Am. and Least Bittern, Com. Moorhen, Am. Coot, Red-headed Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Swainson's Thrush and Golden-winged Warbler.

Abbreviations: Can Res - Cannonsville Reservoir; ChFk - Chenango Forks.; ChR - Chenango River; DBBS - Downsview BBS 13 Jun; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; JC - Johnson City; MBA - Marshall "Bud" Andrews Refuge; MSP - Murphy's Sand Pit; NNM - North Norwich Marsh; OBBS - Oxford BBS, 2 Jun; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford.

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Blood (BBI), Bruce Bozdos, Jane Chittenden, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davies (MDv), Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Carl Eastwood, M. Ferranti, Elva Hawkin, Gail Kirch, Wm. & Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason, E. Patch, Marie Petuh, Halladay Pierce, Joseph Sedlacek, Dave Sterling, Tom & Norene Tasber, Bill Toner, Elizabeth Washburn, Don Windsor, Heather Windsor, Irene Wright, J. Young.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Whitney Pt 15 Jun, two there 22 Jun (DS), only reports. Great Blue Heron: max 41 Harpersfield rookery 22 Jun (AM). Great Egret: one Preble 10 Aug; one above Chenango Bridge 11 Aug to end of period. Green-backed Heron: two ad, one imm Flood Control Dam Binghamton 7 Jul; singles at up to 16 sites, good count. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one TIOG Jun (C&JB), often missed. Canada Goose: ten (two FL) T Windsor 2 Jun (JS), six other BROO/OTSE reports. Wood Duck: *intro*. Am. Black Duck: pair Bainbridge 2 Jun, only report Blue-winged Teal: one Cole P 8 Aug, probably an early migrant. **Black Scoter:** *intro*. Hooded Merganser: ChR 16 Jun (DW), only report. Com. Merganser: six ad with four y BROO 22 Jul; two OTSE 24 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 15-20 Can Res entire season (HP); many reports BROO CHEN OTSE. Osprey: one Hawkins Pd BROO 26 Jul (FHNC staff) unusual date; seven migrating singles BROO, DELA, OTSE Aug. **Bald Eagle:** *intro*. N. Harrier: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three reports Triangle Jul; one Carr Hill, CORT and one TIOG Aug, low. Cooper's Hawk: one 27 and 28 Jun Endwell; singles at three BROO and one TIOG sites Jul and at three sites BROO, CORT, OTSE Aug, excellent count and distribution. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: a pair Lamb Rd, TIOG 18 Jul (MP); singles Whaupaucanau CHEN 3 Jul, at Pharsalia Woods CHEN 21 Jul and OPM 30 Aug, good numbers. Broad-winged Hawk: one OBBS, eight other reports, mostly BROO; one Vestal 5 Jun "was harassing two Red-tails" (MP, ML, EP); one arr Maine 29 Aug. Am. Kestrel: good breeding counts; "one picked off a Goldfinch from a flying group" JC 24 Aug (MP). Ring-necked Pheasant; max four OPM Aug (IW); one TIOG Jul (C&JB), only reports. N. Bobwhite: *intro*. Wild Turkey: max 17 (three hens with ten well developed y and a hen with four smaller y) Hamden Jul (HP). Virginia Rail: one MBA Refuge 10 Jun (MP,W&ML, JC); one OPM 6 Jun (MD), only reports; Sora: one NNM 26 Aug (DW,JL,CE), only report. Lesser Yellowlegs: one ChR 26 Aug (DW,JL); one TIOG Aug (C&JB). Solitary Sandpiper: arr ChR 30 Jul; three at three sites Aug, scarce. Spotted Sandpiper: two OBBS; max three ChR 26 Jul; last 27 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: ad feeding one y "in a medium grassy field" 25 Jun (MP, JC, EP, JY). Least Sandpiper: four ChR 26 Aug; one OPM 30 Aug, only reports. Short-billed Dowitcher: two TIOG Aug (C&JB), uncommon in Region. Am. Woodcock: one Endicott 24/25 Jun (T&NT); family walking down the middle of the road" OPM 20 Jul (HB); one N Colesville 29 Jul (JS), only reports. Ring-billed Gull: max 100 at Otsego L and Canadarago L 28 Aug, postbreeding dispersal.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one McDonough BBS 12 June, four other singles, low. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one DBBS; four other singles Jun only. Great Horned Owl: three imm FHNC 23 Jun; singles there seven other

dates: one Sherburne 29 Jul. E. Screech-Owl: one ChFk 20 Aug, one TiOG, only reports. Com. Nighthawk: breeding season max four Oneonta 2 Jun; 11 Vestal 17 Aug, "many more flocking there other years prior to migration" (LB); "large migrating flock" BROO 27 Aug (HM,BB,GK). Chimney Swift: max 12 New Berlin; daily ChFk to 27 Aug, scarce. Belted Kingfisher: max six OPM 4 sites 8 Aug. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one TiOG Aug, only report. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 11 on three BBS; ad & two imm OPM 2 Aug; last 25 Aug. Hairy Woodpecker: one/two at 12 sites, low. N. Flicker: max 10 on 3 BBS; up to four at 10 sites Aug. Pileated Woodpecker: max two in tree with three freshly dug holes OPM 6 Jun, but not there again; six singles reported.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: max 15 on 3 BBS; good counts all season. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one BROO 17 Aug (HM), only report. Least Flycatcher: max 18 on 3 BBS; last BROO 31 Aug. Great Crested Flycatcher: max 12 on 3 BBS; last 17 Aug. E. Kingbird: max 20 OPM 14 Aug. Purple Martin: one Struble P, Endwell 27 June (T&NT), only report. Tree Swallow: max 34 on 3 BBS; last two 25 Aug; "Nesting not as successful this year at TiOG" (C&JB). N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 12 OPM 18 Jul, ads feeding imm; last two 20 Aug. Barn Swallow: max 70 OPM 14 Aug. Tufted Titmouse: five imm Endwell early Jul (ML); good reports BROO/TiOG. Carolina Wren: one MSP 22 Jul, only report. Winter Wren: seven sites OTSE, two in areas of last year's timber cutting, good count. Marsh Wren: max four DPW Swamp, Binghamton 22 Jul (MP, Gw); one ad & one imm there 25 Aug; last NNM 26 Aug. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one FHNC 29 Aug, only report. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. E. Bluebird: "Most nestings since Nest Box Trail established in 1981" CORT (BT); excellent reports everywhere. Veery: max 67 on 3 BBS, excellent count. Hermit Thrush: max 9 DBBS; nine at 8 sites OPM July/Aug, good. Wood Thrush: max 46 3 BBS; last 31 Aug. N. Mockingbird: good counts continue BROO. Brown Thrasher: max seven on 2 BBS. Cedar Waxwing: max 30 on 3 BBS; postbreeding max 70 OPM 20 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: max five OPM 4 and 16 Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: max 102 DBBS, very high count. Blue-winged Warbler: max 12 on 2 Jun (four OBBS, four each Colesville & Coventry) (JS); five banded Vestal four dates Aug, last 14 Aug. Nashville Warbler: one DBBS, one Triangle 16 Jun, only reports. Yellow Warbler: max 69 three BBS. Magnolia Warbler: singles four sites OTSE Jun; one TiOG 14 Aug; one imm JC 16 Aug, scarce. Black-throated Blue Warbler: max two DBBS; 10 singles, Jun only. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max seven on three BBS; ad & imm OPM 29 Jul; scattered singles all season, scarce. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 15 on three BBS; well reported all season. Blackburnian Warbler: max five DBBS; singles OTSE & BROO; one banded Vestal 31 Aug, only reports. Prairie Warbler: max two OBBS; seven other reports Jun. Black-and-white Warbler: max 11 DBBS; good counts all season. Am. Redstart: max 29 on three BBS; three arr Oneonta 17 Aug. Worm-eating Warbler: one DBBS, first Regional report since 1984. Mourning Warbler: max six on two BBS; ad feeding y OPM 11 Jul. Canada Warbler: max four OPM 3 sites 24 Jul; one banded Vestal 14 Aug; one Triangle 26 Aug, last. Hooded Warbler: one Triangle 27 Aug; one banded Vestal 31 Aug, only reports.

TANAGER-OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: max 33 three BBS. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 21 on three BBS, good. Indigo Bunting: max 17 on three BBS; ad with y OPM 21 Jul and CHEN 7 Aug; four banded Vestal Aug. Rufous-sided Towhee: max 11 on two BBS. Vesper Sparrow: four OPM two sites 13 Jun; one BROO 12 Jun, low. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: off Dutchman Rd TiOG 7 Jun (HM, BB, GK, FL), Regional first. Grasshopper Sparrow: max seven n Long Pd CHEN 24 Jun (DW, JL, CC); one Vestal 5 Jun, only reports. Henslow's Sparrow: three n Long Pd CHEN 24 Jun (DW, JL, CC) only report. White-throated Sparrow: max 10 on three BBS; up to 4 at 14 other sites Jun/Jul. Bobolink: breeding max 50 on two BBS; migrating max and last 20 OPM 20 Aug. N. Oriole: max 21 on two BBS: last Triangle 26 Aug. Purple Finch: max six on two BBS: one banded Vestal & Binghamton; two other singles, scarce. White-winged Crossbill: three, one of the males "presented grit to the female," Lamb Rd TiOG 16 Jun (MP, EW), nesting or stragglers from last winter's incursion? Pine Siskin: two JC 16 Jun, last of four BROO/OTSE strays. Evening Grosbeak: one arr Tioga Aug (C&JB).

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