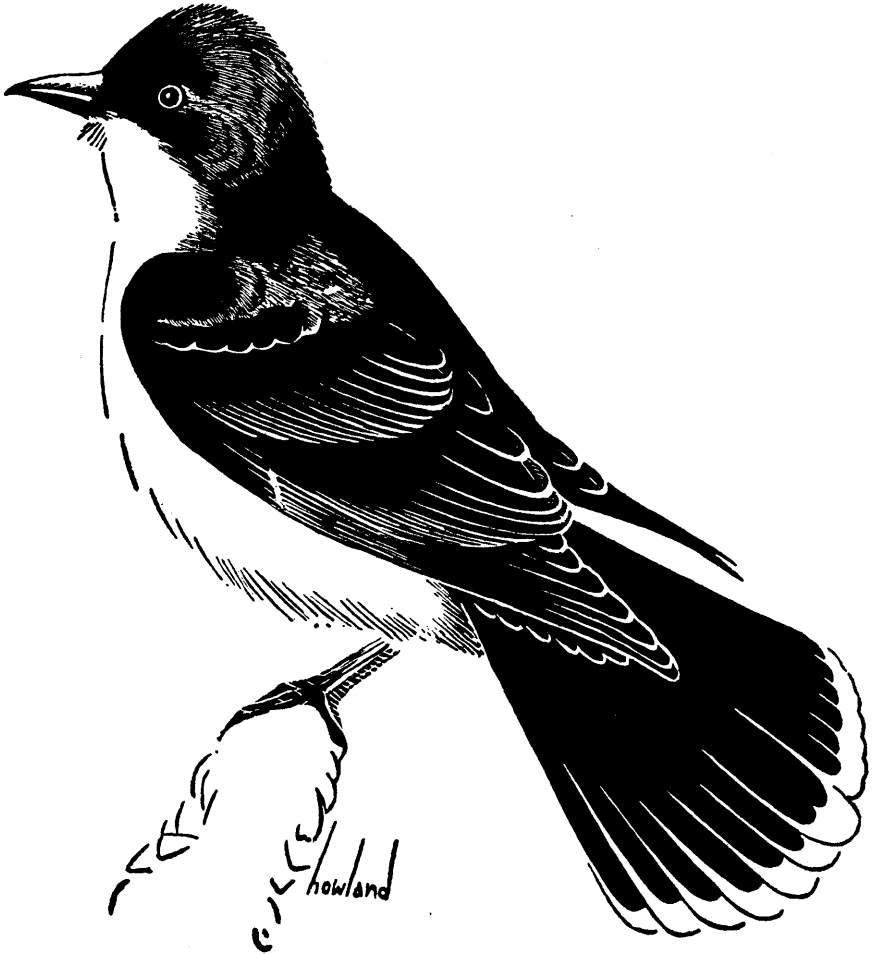


# The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XVII, NO. 4

OCTOBER • 1967

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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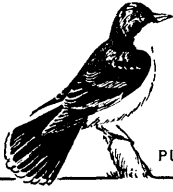
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(Signed) Dorothy W. McIlroy  
 Editor



# The KINGBIRD

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## CONTENTS

Photographs of New York State Rarities	
11. Harris' Sparrow . . . . .	Peter W. Post 190
Notice of 21st Annual Meeting of the Federation . . . . .	193
The President's Page . . . . .	Allen H. Benton 194
Poster Design Prize Winners . . . . .	194
The Identification of Winter Finches and Grosbeaks in Flight	
Dr. Harold H. Axtell	196
Food Habits of the Crow . . . . .	John B. Belknap 200
Minutes of the 20th Annual Meeting of the Federation of	
New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. . . . .	Mrs. Betty Strath 201
John J. Elliott Memorial Prize - 1966 and 1967 . . . . .	206
A Bibliography of New York State Ornithology - 1965 . . . . .	207
Conservation News . . . . .	Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. 210
Field Notes	
Notes on the Roosting Behavior of Bonaparte's Gull . . . . .	Joanna Burger 213
Migrating Flock of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Green Haven	
Enid Butler	213
Albino Kingbird . . . . .	Florence Germond 214
Odd Warbler at Caton Swamp near Elmira . . . . .	Wilifred I. Howard 214
Immature Black-headed Gull at Sandy Pond Outlet Oswego County	
Margaret S. Rusk	214
Highlights of the Summer Season	
June 1- August 15 . . . . .	David B. Peakall 215
Regional Reports . . . . .	216
Book Reviews . . . . .	246

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## PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

### 11. *Harris' Sparrow*



*Photograph by Dennis Puleston  
Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., 28 October 1966*

The Harris' Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula*, breeds in the open boreal forest zone of north-central Canada from northwestern Mackenzie to northwestern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba; casually to northwestern Ontario. The species migrates through the Great Plains, wintering from southern British Columbia, northern Idaho, northern Colorado and central Iowa to southern California, central Arizona, and southern Texas, casually further east (Various Sources).

Of the twenty-one published reports of the Harris' Sparrow from New York, listed in the accompanying table, none is prior to 1951. Fifteen of these appeared at feeders, often after snow storms. Individuals may remain only for a few days, or well into spring, allowing dozens of observers to add it to their life list. At least three of the birds which were immatures when they arrived had molted into adult plumage by the end of April.

A photograph of the Brookhaven bird, which was captured in a mist net, appears above. The species has also been photographed at Lake View and Hamburg by Mitchell and at Quoque by Puleston. The photo-

TABLE 1  
Published records of the Harris' Sparrow from New York State

Date(s)	Location	County	Feeder	Other Observer(s)	Plumage	Reference(s)
9-11 Nov 1951	Hamburg	Erie	Mrs. Charles W. Avery, Jr.	Bernard Nathan Harold Mitchell mob	immature	Avery, <i>Prothonotary</i> , 17(2): 68-69, Dec 1951 Broekner, <i>Kingbird</i> , 4(2): 38, July 1954 Beardslee and Mitchell, p. 443*
early Nov 1951	W. of Lake View, about a half-mile from Lake Erie	Erie	Mrs. Gordon Gannon	none	immature	Beardslee and Mitchell, p. 443
28 Sept 1954	Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo	Erie	No	Bernard Nathan mob	immature	<i>Kingbird</i> , 4(4): 103, Jan 1955 Beardslee and Mitchell, p. 443
29 Sept - 4 Oct 1954	Kenmore	Erie	Mrs. Carl A. Houck	Frances Rathbun M. L. Emerson Harold D. Mitchell	immature	Houck, <i>Prothonotary</i> , 20(10): 86-87, Oct, 1954 <i>Kingbird</i> , 4(4): 103, Jan 1955 Beardslee and Mitchell, p. 443
23 May 1956	City Hall Park, New York City	New York	No	Lester Walsh	adult	Bull, p. 460**
30 Sept 1956	near Fire Island Lighthouse	Suffolk	No	John Bull	adult	Bull, p. 460 <i>Kingbird</i> , 6(4): 140, Jan 1957
through Nov 1957	Jamestown	Chautauqua	Mrs. Carl Brolin	Claude Parker Clarence M. Beal William Mealy mob	immature	<i>Kingbird</i> , 7(4): 119, Jan 1958 Beardslee and Mitchell, p. 443
28-29 Jan 1958	Trumansburg	Tompkins	Mrs. C. R. Harrington	none	adult	<i>Kingbird</i> , 8(1): 17, May 1958 <i>Kingbird</i> , 8(3): 74, Oct 1958
11 May 1958	Island Cottage Woods	Monroe	No	Mr. and Mrs. James H. Barlow	adult	<i>Kingbird</i> , 8(2): 48, July 1958
15-16 Oct 1961	Dubois Road, about five miles North of Ithaca	Tompkins	No	Douglas J. Futuyama mob	adult	Futuyama, <i>Kingbird</i> , 11(4): 198-199, Dec 1961
early winter to 5 May 1964	Webster	Monroe	Jerome Hartke	Howard S. Miller Alfred A. Starling Allen E. Kemnitzer	immature - adult	<i>Kingbird</i> , 14(3): 162, July 1964

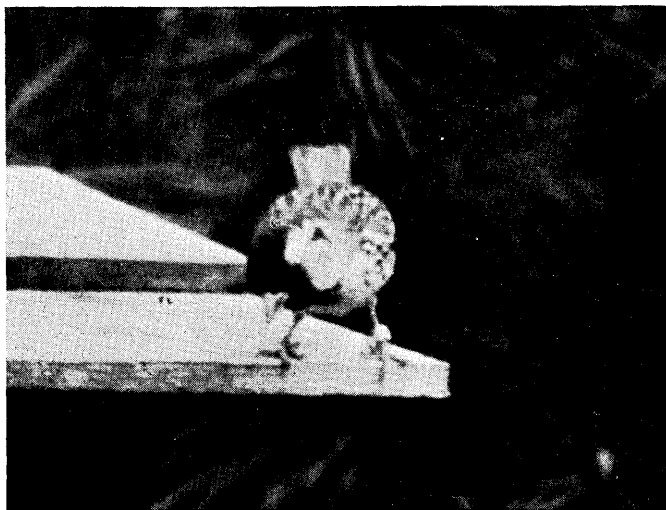
TABLE 1. *Continued*

Date(s)	Location	County	Feeder	Other Observer(s)	Plumage	Reference(s)
late fall 1964 to 24 Feb 1965	Voorheesville	Albany	Yes	Walton Sabin Hazel Eddy Donald Tucker mob	adult	<i>Kingbird</i> , 15(2): 124, May 1965
27 Jan - 3 May 1965	near Athens	Greene	Yes	Geoffrey Carleton Peter P. Wickham James Bush mob	immature	<i>Kingbird</i> , 15(2): 124, May 1965 <i>Kingbird</i> , 15(3): 189, July 1965
mid-Dec 1964 to 6 May 1965	Lake View	Erie	Mr. and Mrs. William Kranz	Robert F. Andrie Harold D. Mitchell mob	immature - adult	<i>Kingbird</i> , 15(2): 104, May 1965 <i>Kingbird</i> , 15(3): 164, July 1965
31 Oct - 3 Nov 1965	Quoque Wildlife Sanctuary	Suffolk	Mrs. Carl Helms	Dennis Puleston Gilbert Raynor Leroy Wilcox	adult	<i>Kingbird</i> , 16(1): 64, Jan 1966
15-16 May 1966	West Hill Road, Elmira	Chemung	Irving Runey	Albert Fudge Wilifred Howard <i>et al.</i>	adult	<i>Kingbird</i> , 16(3): 162, July 1966
29 Oct 1966	Brookhaven	Suffolk	No	Dennis Puleston Walter Terry Gilbert Raynor	immature	<i>Kingbird</i> , 17(1): 62, Jan 1967
7 Feb - 18 May, 1967	Kripplebush	Ulster	Fred Hough	Dan and Virginia Smiley	immature - adult	<i>Kingbird</i> , 17(2): 117, May 1967 <i>Kingbird</i> , 17(3): 186, July 1967
5 & 10-12 May 1967	Elmira	Chemung	Mrs. Robert Ruggles	Wilifred Howard Mrs. Joseph Smith mob	2 adults	<i>Kingbird</i> , 17(3): 162, July 1967
15-16 May 1967	Virgil	Cortland	Mr. and Mrs. M. Trapp	None	adult	<i>Kingbird</i> , 17(3): 166, July 1967
20-21 May 1967	Newfane	Niagara	John and Mabel Lehrer	None	adult	<i>Prothonotary</i> 33(6): 86, 91, 95 <i>Kingbird</i> , 17(3): 156, July 1967

\* *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sciences, 22: 1965.

\*\* *Birds of the New York Area*, Harper and Row, 1964.

Additional information on records from Regions 1, 3, 4 and 9 not found in the references, was supplied by Harold D. Mitchell, Robert Sundell, Sally Hoyt Spoford, John Gustafson, and Fred Hough.



*Photograph by Harold D. Mitchell  
Lake View, Erie Co., 6 May 1965*

graph of the Lake View bird clearly shows a band on its left leg. None of the published accounts mention this, nor have I been able to obtain any information as to whether it was captured and banded in New York.

*Peter W. Post, 575 West 183 Street, New York, N.Y. 10033; Present address, Columbia University Field Station, Apartado 1-U, Calama, Chile.*

## 1968 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

The 21st Annual Meeting of the Federation will be held in Rochester on May 3-5, 1968. General Co-chairmen are Dr. Gerhard W. Leubner of the Genesee Ornithological Society and Mr. Frank A. Myers of the Burroughs-Audubon Society. These are the two host clubs.

Members who wish to present a paper during the Saturday afternoon paper session should write Dr. Neil S. Moon, 25 Edgewater Lane, Rochester, N.Y. 14617, chairman of the paper session.

Save these dates and plan on coming to Rochester. There is a possibility of a good late hawk flight at that time, which can be spectacular along the lake at Rochester in the spring.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Well, Friends, my term as President is finished. This is my last President's Page. So rather than review the accomplishments of my administration (which in any case wouldn't take up much space) I would like to discuss some of the things I would *like* to have done, and which I hope will get done eventually.

1) I wish we had doubled our membership. I don't know how many New York residents are birdwatchers, but I daresay that not one in ten is a member of the Federation. We should be able to persuade more of them that the Federation is worthy of their support to the extent of \$5 per year. Which leads me to my second point.

2) I wish we had achieved better publicity. We now have a chairman in charge of publicity, so things should improve in this respect. It seems to me that if the accomplishments of the Federation were properly publicized, we would be bound to get additional members. The Annual Meeting ought to be good publicity in at least the newspapers of the city where it is held. Our activities on conservation matters should be more widely known.

3) I wish we could achieve more in research. Unfortunately, birding is fun, and many of us enjoy it so much we never get interested in serious research participation. I feel that there is room for more coordination of research in local clubs and in cooperation with the Federation.

If this seems vaguely familiar, it might be because these are more or less the same things I said, two years ago, that I hoped to do. I believe that the distribution and influence of the Kingbird has improved, though there is still room for improvement. I believe that our conservation efforts have been helpful in creating an intelligent approach to the natural resources of our state, though there remains much to do. Now let's all get behind our new President, Watson Hastings, and see if we can accomplish some of the things we have failed to do during the previous years.

*Allen H. Benton*

## POSTER DESIGN PRIZE WINNERS

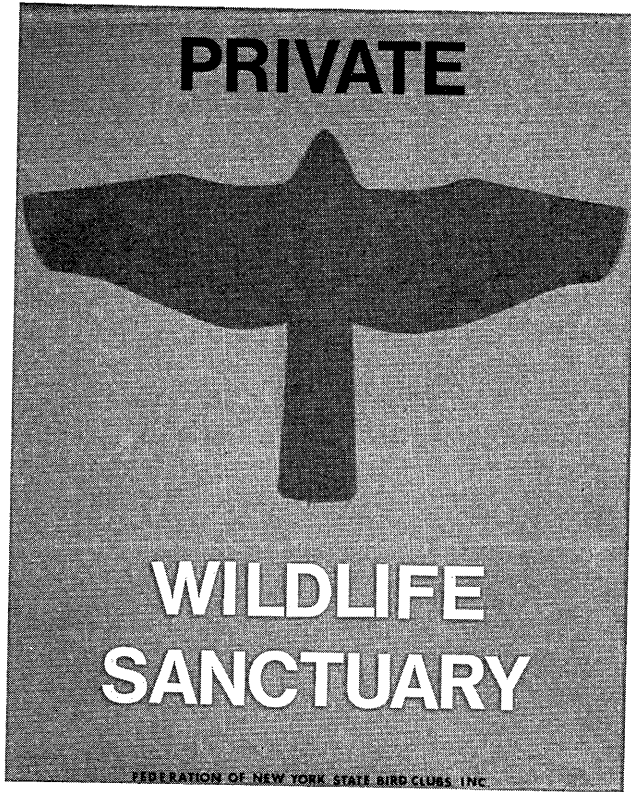
At the annual banquet Dr. Benton announced the winners of the prizes for the design of a wildlife sanctuary sign to be sold by the Federation for use by private sanctuaries.

The signs will be metal, 8 × 10 inches. The winning designs are shown on the opposite page.

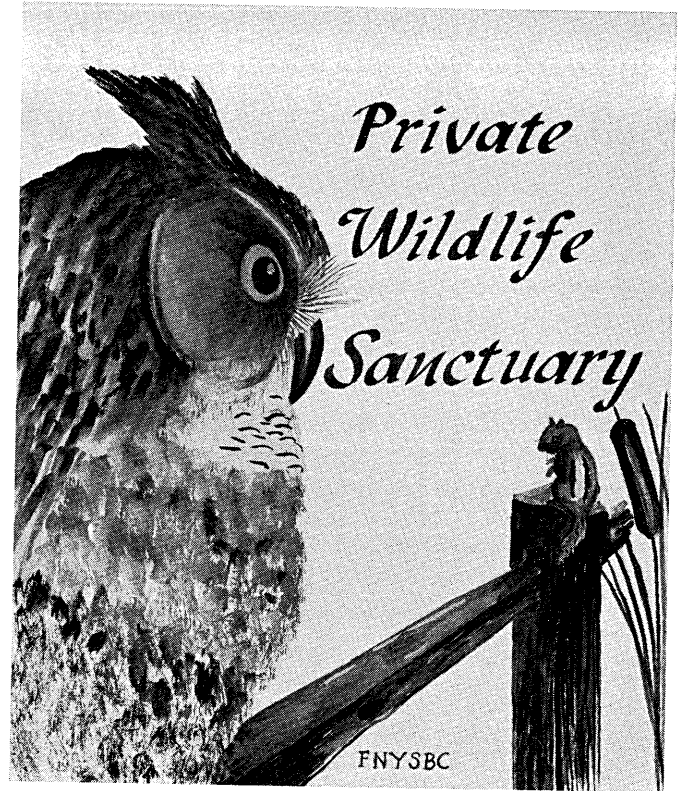
First Prize: \$10 to Thomas Riley, Syracuse

Second Prize: \$5 to Jane Pearsall, Freeville





*First Prize*



*Second Prize*

# THE IDENTIFICATION OF WINTER FINCHES AND GROSBEAKS IN FLIGHT

Dr. HAROLD H. AXTELL

Reprinted with permission from *The Prothonotary*, Vol. 32, No. 11, p. 143-146, November 1966

Many field observers of considerable experience have gaps in their knowledge when they come to the identification of winter finches and grosbeaks in flight. Most of the species can be recognized under these conditions, however, if seen fairly well, especially if one knows their characteristic flight calls. All of them have a markedly undulating flight, conspicuously-notched tails, and a blunt look at their front end because of the stubby bill.

## *Evening Grosbeak*

The Evening Grosbeak is the only bird of its approximate size so stocky and short-tailed that also has a very bouncing flight. Woodpeckers come closest, but even they are less stocky. The Grosbeak's large white wing patch is usually very conspicuous and verifies the identification. The commonest call note is surprisingly like the common chirp of a House Sparrow, especially when heard at a distance, but it is louder and more ringing in quality. It may be written variously as "chree-u," "klee-a," or "jreep."

## *Purple Finch*

The Purple Finch is easy. One needs only to hear the diagnostic call note which can nearly always be heard when a Purple Finch flies over. It can be variously worded "tsurk," "tik," or — my own preference — "turk." It is very short and sharp, but not loud. It is a rather clear hollow whistle, like blowing sharply into a small, empty rifle cartridge. Of all the species discussed here, this is the least gregarious and is the one least often seen flying in flocks.

## *Pine Grosbeak*

The Pine Grosbeak on the wing is easily identified by sight alone if its approximate size is judged correctly. It is the only winter or late autumn bird which is very nearly as large as a Robin, with the same tail-to-body proportions as a Robin, and which bounces when it flies (except for the quickly distinguished shrikes). It is commonly seen in rather small, loose flocks or groups, but is also often alone. The flight call is characteristic. Most commonly it consists of one to three notes that may be variously worded, for example, "see tyer," "ee tyi," and "ee tyi tyer." This call has a clear, musical, though very slightly squeaky whistled tone, easily imitated by whistling these syllables in a high pitch. It is often said to resemble the call of a Yellowlegs, but it is not likely

to be confused with one because the Grosbeak's second note is nearly always on a clearly different pitch from the first note (usually lower), the call seems less loud than that of a Yellowlegs, is much less forcefully emitted, and is sweeter in tone. It resembles more closely the flight calls of Goldfinch and Horned Lark, though it is not nearly so thin and squeaky as the latter, and sometimes it can be mistaken for the notes of one of these two species, especially at a distance.

### *Redpolls*

A flock of Redpolls averages considerably paler than a flock of Siskins, and grayer than Goldfinches. The rest of the finches are larger than these three. Also there is typically a very noticeable difference between the whitest and darkest individuals in a Redpoll flock; noticeable variation of this kind is lacking in winter flocks of the other small finches. A Redpoll's tail is considerably longer and a little narrower than the tails of the others. This is apparent under most conditions and with practice can be used as a means of identification. The persistently repeated flight call is the means by which most Redpolls are discovered and recognized, however. It may be syllabified variously as "chyu," "chi," or "chyer," and is usually given in groups of one to four or more staccato notes, at the rate of seven notes per second. The quality is primarily "chichy" (like saying "ch" in a loud whisper) and metallic (in this case, like hitting a bare telephone wire with a stone), with only a slight whistled quality. (See Pine Siskin and White-winged Crossbill.)

The *Hoary Redpoll* cannot safely be distinguished in flight.

### *Pine Siskin*

The Pine Siskin is like the Goldfinch in size, shape, and flight. Sometimes the long, pale yellow stripe in the wing can be seen as Siskins go by; if it can, this is diagnostic. They often form a tighter flock than Goldfinches do. This species has two kinds of common flight calls, one or both of which may be heard from a passing flock. The most distinctive one usually consists of two or three syllables very rapidly run together, so that the call is from about one-tenth to one-quarter of a second in length. The tone is a combination of nasal and sibilant (having an "s" sound) and is given with considerable emphasis. Some variations and syllabic interpretations are: "swee-a" (one of the commonest calls and one of its best syllabications), "see-i" "cheese," also three-syllabic "chsiweeyi," "tsiteeyi," "chitilit," and "tsyu-wee-yu," *all these sounds always nasal and sibilant throughout*. The accent is usually rather evenly distributed over all the syllables. A bird repeats this call every few seconds in flight. It is completely diagnostic.

The other common flight call of the Siskin somewhat resembles that of the Redpoll. It may be written "tyi," "chyu," "chi," or "jit." It has a *decided nasal or whining tone* and slight but noticeable amounts of "chichy," metallic, and sibilant tonal factors. It is reminiscent of the call

of the Brown-headed Nuthatch. There are usually two to five notes in a group, given at the rate of about seven notes per second. Sometimes a series rises slightly in pitch throughout. It is readily distinguished from the similar "chichy" calls of Redpoll and White-winged Crossbill by the very prominent nasal or whining tone factor.

### *American Goldfinch*

The American Goldfinch sometimes has to be identified in winter by visual means alone. When this is the case, it is very commonly misidentified as Pine Siskin. This may be because some birders may not be accustomed to thinking of Goldfinches as dark-looking birds, as they are in the winter. Or, it may be that these birders think of Goldfinches as inseparable from their typical flight call – as they are during late spring and summer – so that in winter when they see a flock of small dark finches flying silently or emitting only an occasional single weak note, they assume that they cannot be Goldfinches and therefore have to be Siskins. The fact is, on the contrary, that a flock of winter finches flying silently or with only an occasional scarcely audible note or two is more likely to be a flock of Goldfinches than anything else. A zealous and experienced use of binoculars on a flock of finches in flight will often reveal identification cues that a person might not expect could possibly be seen under the circumstances until he tries. Birds with undulating flight fold their wings against their body on the down-glide and then may show the same field marks they do when at rest. Thus, binoculars sometimes reveal the unstreaked bodies of flying Goldfinches. Since Goldfinches tend *on the average* to fly at less height and in less compact flocks than the other dark winter finches, one can make a tentative identification using these characteristics, preferably in combination with some others.

The usual syllabication, "per-chic-o-ree," for the Goldfinch's typical flight call is unnecessarily inaccurate and misleading. "Ti-tee-ti-ter," or "tyityee-tyi-tyer," using the "y" to indicate the quick down-slur in each note, would be an improvement. The second note is usually the highest in pitch and sounds very slightly louder than the others. There may be from one to seven notes in a group, most typically four – though, as a rule, fewer in winter. This call always has a sweet, musical, plaintive quality, unusual among flight calls of finches (but see Pine Grosbeak). In the late fall and winter, Goldfinches do not seem to have quite the spirit that they do in warmer seasons, and at this time a Goldfinch often calls much less loudly and frequently, tends to give fewer notes in its call, and may even fly past without making its call heard at all. On cold winter days I have often seen a flock fly close past me and have heard only a single weak "tee" or a scarcely audible two-note "tyi tyee," most members of the flock remaining silent. Such calls as may be heard, however weak or abbreviated, still retain enough of the Goldfinch's sweet, musical, plaintive quality to be readily recognized.

### *Red Crossbill*

The Red Crossbill is so lacking in distinctive field marks that can be seen as it flies, and its flight call is so constantly given and so completely diagnostic that one not only can, but in most cases must rely on recognizing this species in flight by its call. The note is usually syllabified as "kip," "jip," or "pip," but no syllabication represents the sound adequately. Only an unusually good ear will detect that some individuals slur the note downward, in which case "chyip" or "tsyip" are fair interpretations, and others slur upwards, for which the syllabication might be written "quit" or "prit" ("preet" when a little higher pitched). The staccato notes are unusually emphatic and loud for so small a bird, the force with which they are voiced being one of the most distinctive characteristics. Authors generally avoid describing their quality. This says a good deal about the quality, however, because the fact is that it differs from any bird sounds that do possess clearly describable tonal characters. To step in where angels fear to tread, I might venture the description that the note is a very forcefully-delivered staccato whistle, its musical tone considerably reduced by a sibilant element and a slap-like factor. This description probably does not create a vivid sound-image in the mind of a reader. Perhaps it is best to advise learning the flight calls of all the other finches and to remember simply that the quality of the Red Crossbill's is entirely different from any of them. The rhythm is similar, however, the notes typically being given in groups of one to five or more, at the rate of four or five notes per second, with intervals of about half a second or more between groups.

### *White-winged Crossbill*

The White-winged Crossbill may often be recognized in flight by the very conspicuous white wing bars combined with size and shape of the bird. Also, the bright pink color of the adult males in a flock is frequently visible at some distance.

Like the Siskin, the White-winged Crossbill commonly uses two very dissimilar flight calls, either or both of which may be heard as the bird flies overhead. Both are very different in quality from the Red Crossbill's call. One closely resembles the flight call of the Redpoll. It may be variously syllabified as "ch," "chi," or "chit." It is given at the rate of four to six notes per second, with one to four or more notes in a group and usually less than a second between groups. In quality it is a somewhat metallic "chichy" sound with a peculiar resonance. It differs from the Redpoll's call chiefly in being repeated at a speed between four and six (usually five) times a second instead of seven, in being less metallic, and in sounding louder and fuller or heavier like the note of the larger bird that it is.

The other note, a somewhat nasal and metallic whistled "wheent," "whing," or "we," closely resembles the common "pink" call of the Bobo-

link, but is quickly up-slurred, giving it a definite "w" or "wh" sound, and is enunciated with greater emphasis. Like the "chichy" call, it is given singly or in groups of notes. No other finch has a note at all similar.

In learning to identify winter finches and grosbeaks in flight, the most important factor is field experience with them.

*Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, N.Y. 14211*

## FOOD HABITS OF THE CROW

JOHN B. BELKNAP

The Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), adaptable and aggressive, has flourished in the United States since the coming of civilized man. Called a maize thief by early settlers it has long been condemned and persecuted for its damage to crops. In the absence of legal protection the crow, wary and intelligent, is able to hold its own. It is known to almost everyone, and may well be called the "All American Bird."

Dietary habits are in part responsible for the success of the crow. It is omnivorous and anything edible whether animal or vegetable in origin is considered food. Studies of the stomach contents of over two thousand crows reveal that no less than 650 different items of food are eaten. Add to this a strong, all-purpose bill and a rugged digestion and the elements of survival are present.

Food habits studies of the crow have been made for many years, often to gain information on economic status. Three methods are used: visual observation in the field, examination of stomach contents, and a study of pellets, since the crow ejects inedible material in the same manner as hawks and owls. One winter more than a hundred years ago Thoreau collected crow pellets at Concord and examined them under a microscope. In his words "they consisted of seeds and skins and other indigestible parts of red cedar berries and some barberries." A more recent study showed that in severe winter weather, when food is scarce, pellets contain no digestible material.

Although the crow is naturally carnivorous, being fond of meat and fish, animal food normally comprises less than one-third of the total intake. Large amounts of vegetable matter are eaten when animal food is not readily obtainable. Stomach analysis has revealed the presence of considerable mineral matter, particularly in cold weather. Although it does not possess a true crop, the crow utilizes sand and gravel as needed to break down hard grain and seeds with hard outer shells.

A New York State study has been made of specimens collected throughout an entire year (Paul E. Hering, *Auk* 51:470-476, 1934). Four hundred and sixty-five crows were taken in five counties covering approximately a radius of fifty miles from Ithaca and stomach contents

analyzed. It was found that buckwheat constituted a larger share of the grain eaten than did corn. This is another illustration of the adaptability of the crow, since buckwheat was, at the time, widely cultivated in central New York. The study showed that crows partake freely of food items that are abundant at any particular time. For example, May beetles constituted more than one-half of the food consumed in the month of May and wild fruit was a major item in July and August. In this connection it may be mentioned that under primeval conditions wild fruits probably formed over one-half of the annual food of the crow. Today the importance of this source is greatly reduced.

Whenever available, quantities of insects are eaten. Many of these are grasshoppers, beetles, cutworms and caterpillars. Other animal food includes reptiles, fish, crustaceans, eggs and young of other birds, amphibia, and small mammals. That the crow is a scavenger is well known, and carrion is not neglected. There have been numerous observations of crows resorting to the seashore to feed on dead fish cast up by the waves.

Carrion is eaten at all times of year, and may be an important food source during the colder months. It is difficult to judge accurately the amount of this type of food since crows kill and eat small mammals, young rabbits, mice, as well as nestling birds. The extent to which nestlings are eaten is hard to assess by stomach analysis, because the remains lose their identity rapidly once inside a crow's stomach. In this connection visual observation is of value.

In this day of high speed vehicular traffic, many small animals, both wild and domestic are killed on our highways. Crows find this a ready source of carrion, one more example of resourcefulness and adaptability. Some years ago an ornithologist travelling in the mid-south noted crows feeding on traffic-killed animals, including dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits and skunks. In northern New York crows return in numbers in March, at a time when food is scarce. At this season I have often seen them feeding on the remains of traffic killed animals.

92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur, N.Y. 13642

**20th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF BIRD CLUBS, INC.**  
**DEPOSIT, N. Y.      JUNE 2-4, 1967**

The 20th Annual Meeting of the Federation of N.Y.S. Bird Clubs, Inc. was held at Hanson's on Lake Oquaga, co-sponsored by the Naturalists' Club of Binghamton, Inc. and the Tioga Bird Club. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Federation President, Dr. Allen H. Benton, and a quorum was declared with 23 member clubs represented.

The minutes of the 19th Annual Meeting were approved as published in the July, 1966 *Kingbird*.

In the absence of Mr. Dort Cameron, the Treasurer's Report was read by Dr. Neil S. Moon:

Total receipts for 1966 .....	\$5201.29
Total disbursements for 1966 .....	3860.36
Balance on hand in checking account as of December 31, 1966 .....	1340.93

Report of Savings Account:

Balance on hand 1/1/66 .....	3815.00
Total receipts for 1966 .....	4433.24
Total interest withdrawals for 1966 .....	193.24
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1966 .....	4240.00
(principal only)	

Dr. Moon also read the Auditing Committee report, in the absence of Mr. Kemnitzer, stating that as of Dec. 31, 1966 the Federation's financial position was found to be in order by Jerome Kerner and Edward McBride, Auditors for 1966.

Mrs. Harriet Marsi, Corresponding Secretary, reported that information concerning this year's Annual Meeting was sent to member clubs 30 days prior to the meeting, as required.

Mrs. Dorothy Mellroy, Editor of *The Kingbird*, reported as follows:

"644 copies of the May 1967 issue are being sent out. This includes the extra copies sent to each author in addition to the copies to members and member clubs which receive one copy per hundred members.

We are trying a new notice for delinquent dues this time. Members who have not paid their 1967 dues will find a pink slip in the May copy stating that this will be the last copy they will receive until dues are received.

Dort Cameron got the sales tax exemption for the Federation. As this automatically exempts from the 3% Tompkins County sales tax as well as the state 2% tax, it represents a real saving in *Kingbird* printing costs.

I am pleased to report that more articles are being submitted for the *Kingbird*. There is still no real backlog, but at least the articles are being received several months in advance instead of at copy deadline. If you have any material suitable for publication, I urge you to write it up and send it in. If you know someone who has material for an article, either ask them to submit an article or send the name to me and I will write requesting an article.

Recently three sets of *Kingbird* have been assembled. Two complete sets are being bound, one to go with the editorship, the other to an associate editor. The third set is not complete, Vol. 14 #1 (January 1964) being missing. If anyone who has this issue does not want it for his file, we would appreciate receiving it." (Ed. Note: a copy has been donated.)

Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Chairman of the Publications & Research Committee reported that out of 40 questionnaires sent out last year to member clubs regarding projects and activities, he received 17 responses. Eight of these maintained a sanctuary. Dr. Reilly urged that delegates from member clubs which had not responded please urge them to do so.

Mr. Arbib, Chairman of the State Book Committee, reported that John Bull had put in his first year as full-time Editor, and that work is progressing. He stressed the importance of research on the part of individual clubs.

There was no report on the Waterfowl Count, as Mr. John Mitchell was unable to attend the meeting. This report will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Kingbird*.

Mr. James Dougherty reported next for the Membership Committee. The plea again goes out for more new members. Delegates again were asked to promote Federation Membership. Dr. Benton read the list of delinquent members. It was voted that these people be dropped from the membership roster with the understanding that they be reinstated upon payment of dues. A list of 38 new members was approved.



Since Mr. Richard Sloss, Chairman of the By Laws Committee, could not be present, the report was given by Mrs. Lillian Stoner who read the letter submitted to all member clubs on April 28, 1967 concerning the proposals for by-laws amendments:

Article II, Section 2, subsection (a)

Insert immediately before the words "payable on March 1st" the additional clause "except that the minimum dues shall be five dollars."

Article II, Section 2, subsection (b)

Under the definition for Student Member change the word "at" to "in" and add to the end of the definition "and has requested to be included in such class of membership."

The proposed amended form of subsection (b) shall read:

"A Student Member shall be defined as any member who is enrolled as a full-time student *in* an established institution of learning *and has requested to be included in such class of membership.*"

Article II, Section 2, subsection (c)

"During the installment period, payment of regular membership dues shall be waived. Upon payment in full the member receives the designation 'Life Member', and shall not be subject to any further payment of dues during his life."

Article II, Section 2, subsection (d) would read:

"Upon application to the Treasurer and with the approval of the Membership Committee an Active Member, *if not otherwise in arrears of dues, may be granted . . . . .*"

Article II, Section 5 would read in its entirety:

"Member clubs shall file with the Recording Secretary two copies of a list of name and addresses of their officers *within one month after the election of such officers*, and shall file biennially in even years with the Recording Secretary at least two copies of the names and addresses of all their members."

Proposed amendment:

"No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual, except in accordance with the corporation's purposes, and no member, director, officer of the corporation or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of the corporate assets on the dissolution of the corporation, and no member, officer, director or employee of the corporation shall receive or be lawfully entitled to receive from the corporation any remuneration except such reasonable salaries as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the corporation."

These were approved by the delegates. It was asked that member clubs vote on these and send their reports to the Recording Secretary by October 1967, as no action can be taken until amendments are ratified by member clubs.

Immediately following the coffee break, the list of nominees for Federation officers was read by Dr. Neil Moon, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and were duly elected as follows:

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT:           | Mr. Watson B. Hastings, Dobbs Ferry |
| VICE-PRESIDENT:      | Dr. David B. Peakall, Syracuse      |
| CORRESPONDING SEC'Y: | Mrs. Frederick V. Marsi, Binghamton |
| RECORDING SEC'Y:     | Miss Hortense Barten, Old Chatham   |
| TREASURER:           | Mr. Dort Cameron, Rochester         |

The Nominating Committee for 1968 was elected as follows:  
Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Albany, Chairman; Robert S. Arbib, Mamaroneck; Alice Ulrich, Buffalo.

The Auditing Committee for 1968 was reelected as follows: Allen Kemnitzer and John Foster, both of Rochester.

Mr. Maxwell C. Wheat, Freeport, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, reported next. First on his agenda was a request for a Conservation Council with a separate delegate from each member club for a special Conservation Meeting at next year's session. His reason was that since what was formerly the Conservation Meeting has now become a Conservation Forum, no time is allotted for the Conservation Committee to meet as such to discuss issues at hand. This Council would give its report at the delegates' meeting. The request was approved. It was also asked that the Conservation Committee be called to a special meeting immediately prior to any important legislation during the year.

The following issues were voted upon and approved:

#### THE FOREST PRESERVE AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

1. We support proposals for a Conservation Bill of Rights to extend 'forever wild' protection to other natural resources and to provide for proper hearings, notices and reviews before natural resources can be condemned for unrelated uses.

2. We support proposals that would have the Constitution state the State's responsibility to keep forever natural our land, water and air environment.

#### THE 1967 STATE ELECTION

1. We oppose the Blue Ridge Ski Amendment that would authorize construction and maintenance on Forest Preserve land of not more than 30 miles of ski trails, 30 to 80 feet wide, together with appurtenances thereto, on the north and east slopes of Hoffman, Blue Ridge, and Peaked Hill Mountains in Essex County.

2. With reluctance we look with disfavor on the \$2.5 billion mass transportation bond issue because of its financial support for Long Island Sound bridge building and other threats to conservation and urge its defeat.

#### IN THE NATION

1. We urge the creation of a National Redwoods Park that will properly protect the great redwoods in their natural environment.

2. We support legislation that will properly protect our coast lines and wild life from oil pollution — particularly like that of the Torrey Canyon disaster.

3. We support H.R. 7796 by Mr. Dingell to establish a Council on Environmental Quality to establish a Federal policy.

4. We support legislation that will properly maintain our land, water and air environment in their natural state to insure the life, health, and happiness of our citizens.

5. With regard to S 1025 by Senator Gaylord Nelson to prohibit the sale or shipment for use in the United States of DDT, it was voted that a letter be sent to Senator Gaylord Nelson by Mr. Wheat supporting his viewpoint but suggesting that rather than banning DDT specifically, he work toward licensing in connection with all non-degradable chlorinated hydrocarbons. (Copies of this letter should be sent to member clubs.) A further suggestion was that subsidies be granted to large users of insecticides to help defray the higher cost of 'safer' poisons.

6. We support and initiate legislation that will properly preserve natural habitat of wildlife and other measures to properly maintain wildlife.

7. Support of Everglades National Park. Send letter to Governor Kirk to let water in.

## FEDERATION ORGANIZATION

To properly consider and implement policy on conservation it is recommended that a separate Conservation Council be established to meet concurrently with the governing Council and to have its proposals ratified by the governing Council near the conclusion of its meeting. Delegates would be elected to the Conservation Council.

The Conservation Committee be empowered to take action regarding support of particular measures within the general objectives of the Federation and to submit statements to hearings and urge action by member clubs.

## A CONSERVATION BILL OF RIGHTS

A Conservation Bill of Rights was submitted to the Constitutional Convention by Delegates Levitt and Fay in Albany on May 15. It reads as follows:

### "New Article – CONSERVATION BILL OF RIGHTS

1. The conservation of its natural resources, the protection and preservation of the natural beauty of its lands and waters, and the protection of the purity of the air above such lands and waters, are hereby declared to be policies of the state and rights of the people of the state.

2. The legislature shall designate and fix by law, and from time to time add to by law, those lands and waters of the state outside of the forest preserve, now owned or hereafter acquired by the state, which because of their natural beauty or their wilderness character, or geological or ecological significance, shall constitute and forever be kept and protected as the state nature preserve. Such lands and waters constituting the nature preserve shall not be altered except pursuant to constitutional amendment specifically describing the lands or waters and the alteration.

3. No lands or waters shall be taken by the exercise of the power of Eminent Domain unless the taking authority shall first determine after giving notice and an opportunity to be heard to all persons affected thereby, including the Commissioner of Conservation, that the proposed taking is in the public interest, considering the need for such taking and the effect thereof upon the forest, wild life, light, air and other natural surroundings of the lands or waters to be taken and all other lands and waters within the state."

While this Bill strengthens Article XIV of the present Constitution it omits the two essentials – Right of Judicial Recourse and protection of irreplaceable natural resources with a stated time of review by an appointed committee.

a. Provision that a commission appointed by the legislature of which a majority of the members shall be local representatives shall meet at least once in every five years to review natural resources, maintaining the present forest preserve and adding such other lands and waters as may be necessary for conservation and preservation.

b. The right of judicial recourse to the courts if a public agency exercises the power of eminent domain affecting natural resources without consulting duly appointed commissions and providing reasonable notice and public hearings.

In connection with this, Mr. Wheat suggested a revision of the first article to read as follows: "Each individual in this state has the right to an environment of water, air, and land that is forever natural to assure his or her life, health and pursuit of peace, quiet, and happiness." This proposal was voted upon and defeated by a vote of 17-16.

It was suggested and approved that a proposal be sent to proper authorities suggesting that a State Conservation Committee be established, of similar legal status to the Education Department's Board of Regents, thus removing the Con-

servation Department from direct political control. It was asked that Mr. Wheat submit copies of letters to member clubs,

Under New Business:

1. The Allegany County Bird Club's request for membership was approved.
2. Delegates were asked to see that member clubs bring dues up to date if they have not already done so.
3. It was asked that By Laws Amendments be voted upon by member clubs and reported to the Recording Secretary before October 30, 1967.  
(This information was mailed to member clubs in April of this year).
4. Next year's Annual Meeting will be held at Rochester ,co-sponsored by the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club.
5. A Publicity Committee was established with Ed Somers of Albany as Chairman.
6. The Conservation Chairman and Corresponding Secretary, should send several copies of material to member clubs.

A proposed Budget of \$3620.00 for 1968 was read by Dr. Allen H. Benton and approved.

The following resolutions were read by Dr. Edgar M. Reilly:

1. Whereas: Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy has so nobly performed the duties of Editor of *The Kingbird* that we can well be proud of the finest and best edited bird journal in the states; Whereas the said Dorothy McIlroy has given time and tender concern far beyond the usual during her tenure, we hereby offer our deepest thanks and heartfelt congratulations for these accomplishments.
2. Whereas: We have been so nobly and pleasurably hosted and entertained at Hanson's on Lake Oquaga by the members of the Tioga Bird Club and the Naturalists' Club of Binghamton that we express our thanks and pleasure for this and for the many kindnesses shown throughout the meeting, and especially for the opportunity to see such a lovely countryside with the hopes of many happy returns.
3. Whereas: The devoted Federation members, Dr. Foster Gambrell of the Eaton Bird Club and Joseph Blake of the North Country Bird Club have passed away, we wish to express our sympathy to friends and relatives, and our own sorrow by this resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. Betty Strath  
Recording Secretary

## JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE — 1966 and 1967

"The Elliott Memorial Prize shall be given each year at the annual banquet to that author of a paper published during the preceding year, in *The Kingbird*, deemed the most worthy by a panel of judges." (President's Page, *Kingbird* for May 1964)

Due to an unfortunate oversight, names of the joint recipients of the 1966 Elliott Memorial Prize were not published in the *Kingbird*. The prize was given to Dr. Walter R. Spofford and Dr. David B. Peakall for their article "Pesticides and Wildlife" published in the January 1965 *Kingbird*.

President Allen Benton announced at the banquet June 3 that the 1967 Elliott Memorial Prize had been awarded to Robert P. Yunick for his article "Data Gathered from the Redpoll Flight of 1966" published in the October 1966 *Kingbird*.

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## "NATURAL BEAUTY" IS A 20th CENTURY PHRASE

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

Consolidated Edison Company's proposal to impose an impressively costly (\$162 million) pumped storage hydro-electric power plant on Storm King Mountain was 200 years late. The project, "thrusting its man-made might into the flanks of the mountain" on the north face where the eye focuses on the most dramatic view of the gateway to the Hudson Highlands, would probably have won a vociferous rumble of approval from the cultural autocrat of the 1700's, Dr. Johnson. He had been "astonished and repelled" by the "wide extent of hopeless sterility"



of the Scottish Highlands. In fact, Samuel Johnson (as described by James Boswell) would have made a vivid witness at hearings for the power plant, "blowing out his breath like a whale, whistling and clucking under the arguments of an opponent" (a conservationist, perhaps), if he rolled out what he said of the Scottish Highlands, "The appearance is that of matter incapable of form or usefulness. . ."

If the prevailing 18th century aversion toward nature could have been conveyed intact across two centuries at the Federal Power Commission's hearings on the power plant construction, no one would have worried about possible scenic values. For the 1700's, "The town, the Court, is Beauty's proper sphere" as they were for Fulvia in Young's "On Women:"

"Green fields, and shady groves, and crystal springs,  
And larks, and nightingales, are odious things;  
And smoke, and dust, and noise, and crowds, delight,  
And to be pressed to death, transports her quite."

The 18th century, chided author Lillian Smith from a 20th century viewpoint, was "a period that shut the door on imagination."

Today, that door has been swung open, but it's not wide enough for all the urbanites and suburbanites to get through as they press upon the Nation's limited scenic resources in escaping the "smoke, and dust, and noise, and crowds." Through the attorneys for the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference and other conservation organizations, they have pushed open the courtroom doors. December 29, 1965, the U.S. Court of Appeals nullified the FPC approval of Con Ed's project and directed that the Commission "include as a basic concern the preservation of natural beauty."

Could he define "natural beauty," Charles Callison, now executive vice-president of the National Audubon Society, was asked during the rehearings before the FPC. Thus, the rehearings through analytical testimony and sometimes stern cross-examination became a search for some delineation of what Mr. Callison said is "subjective to a considerable extent," and its application to the Hudson at Storm King. "How beautiful is Storm King" was a key question. The answers to all this could have implications for conservation.

Uniqueness was one of Mr. Callison's criteria. He declared that the supremacy of the scenic beauty of the Hudson at Storm King is directly related to a "dominant geological feature of the United States, the Appalachian Mountains." The Hudson Gorge, he explained, "is one of the very few places where the main chain of the Appalachians is broken by a river." He was backed up by the testimony of professional cartographer Richard Eades Harrison, who is also conservation chairman of the Linnaean Society of New York. He expounded on why he thought that "Storm King is uniquely dramatic and, in my opinion, the most scenic of the water gaps of the Eastern United States."

In addition to uniqueness, there also seemed to be involved an imaginative awareness of the processes of nature and an appreciation of the fact that this was not just one isolated piece of scenery but part of a mountain range extending up and down the east and dominating much of the environment. A drive from crowded New York City to view Storm King becomes a much more exciting experience when one is aware of the eons of geological time when the Hudson Highlands were formed and the Hudson waters cut through — an appreciation aided by knowledge deciphered by science and disseminated by education. Perhaps we cannot blame the 18th century lack of imagination when their explanation for mountains was, in the words of Thomas Burnett in his *Theory of the Earth*, “a punishment for sin.” He said the earth once “had the beauty of youth and blooming nature, fresh and fruitful, and not a wrinkle, scar, or fracture in all its body; no rocks nor mountains, no hollow caves, nor gaping channels, but even and uniform all over.”

No one can justify any improvement of the terrain on such theories today. But the 18th century ambition reared itself in the hearings with talk of plans for a bridge, a parking field, an information center, a park with play areas, softball fields, etc. A landscaper arguing for the project was asked;

“Have you ever in your experience found an area which you decided was so beautiful that you didn’t think that you could improve it?”

The answer:

“Personally, I think practically anything can be improved. In my past experience I have not had any area which wasn’t improved or something like that.”

If this were a play with the 20th century confronting the 18th the director would have it costumed differently — the cartographers, geologists, ecologists, biologists and some of the lawyers garbed in ties and cuffed suits, the others moving about in buckled shoes, tights, cloaks and wigs. But for any Dr. Johnsonian type character the dialogue would have to be enriched beyond the short answer given the following question:

“Did you consider, Sir, in developing the plans and the proposals for Storm King Mountain and the related area, that it may be so beautiful that you cannot improve upon it?”

The answer: “No.”

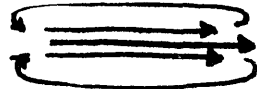
In the Storm King hearings “progress” had clearly become an 18th century word while “natural beauty” has become a 20th century need.

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## FIELD NOTES

**Notes on the Roosting Behavior of Bonaparte's Gull:** A cursory survey of the literature reveals a lack of data concerning the roosting behavior of gulls in general; and of the Bonaparte's Gull in particular. The following observations were made in Dunkirk Harbor in western New York. Dunkirk Harbor lies on Lake Erie and seems to be an area of high concentration of migrating Bonaparte's Gulls (5000 were observed there 23 April 1967, *Kingbird* 17(3): 154, July 1967).

On 27 April 1967 the author observed 1500 Bonaparte's Gulls in the inner harbor area: gulls were feeding, resting on the water, and sitting on a stone pier  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile out in the harbor. Little activity was observed until 7:10 P.M. when the 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls sitting on the pier rose in unison and flew to an area in the harbor approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile away (sunset was at 7:11 P.M.). The gulls were flying in a formation resembling a large conveyer belt. The birds flew in a manner suggested by the arrows at right. The area covered by the conveyer belt formation did not vary and was approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile. Every area indicated by the arrows was occupied by gulls. Some of the birds would occasionally land, and a few were feeding, but the majority only flew in the formation.



At 7:35 P.M. the sitting birds rose and the entire compact flock flew less than 15 feet above the water directly out into the lake. I watched the birds until they appeared to sit down in the lake  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile from the stone pier. The entire behavior pattern from conveyer belt formation to roosting took 25 minutes.

At 4:30 the following morning approximately 50 birds were sitting in the water in front of the stone pier at the harbor. Light intensity was very low as the sunrise was at 5:14 A.M. Observations were made from a vantage point at the side of the harbor. At 5:15 flocks of from 6 to 48 birds began to rise from the outer harbor area, where they had landed the previous night, and fly to the stone pier and inner harbor. Unlike the exodus of the previous night, the birds flew in loose groups and were over 50 feet above the water. The return of the birds to the inner harbor area stopped at 6:00 A.M., taking 45 minutes. A check of the inner harbor area revealed a total of 1500 birds, the same number as were there the previous evening.

The observations were made with 7x35 binoculars and a 20-30-40 power B & L telescope. Observations were made while collecting field data on the migratory behavior of Bonaparte's Gulls supported by the Mae P. Smith Fund of the American Museum of Natural History (N.Y.C.) and the Research Foundation of the State of N.Y.

Joanna Burger, Department of Biology, State University College, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. 14222.

**Migrating Flock of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Green Haven:** On the morning of May 21, 1967 a full flowering cherry tree was filled with activity. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) were feeding on the nectar from the blossoms. I was able to count 15 at a time, but I am sure there were more. They kept arriving and departing in two's and three's, generally going in the direction of a brook nearby. The remaining ones, each time, seemed to resent those coming back and would scold and chase for a moment or two, then settle to feeding once more. All made their little chattering sounds constantly as they fed from the blossoms. This happened about 9:00 a.m. and continued until about noon when they left for the day.

On the 22nd I checked again in the morning and five were feeding, and on the 23rd, only two remained.

Enid Butler, Stormville, N.Y. 12582

**Albino Kingbird:** On June 10, 1967, as we drove along Rte. 82 between Stan-fordville and Washington Hollow in Dutchess County, a completely white robin-size bird flashed to our left. After stopping and observing the bird closely (15 feet at one time), Otis Waterman and I concluded it was a Kingbird. The bird had a yellow bill and legs, and dark eyes but otherwise was pure white. It made no sound though a normal Eastern Kingbird in the area did call.

Though I made several attempts to locate the bird again, it was not until July 6 that I received a phone call from the owner of the house in the yard of which we had first observed it, asking what the all-white bird might be. From then until August 14 the albino was seen almost daily by my husband. A number of others also had an opportunity to observe it, feeding in the air over a small marshy area and perching in low branches of wild cherry trees, preening and sunning itself. The bird was photographed on July 22 by Herbert Saltford and was last seen on August 27.

At no time was there any indication of its having been a breeding bird though a single normal Kingbird was often observed close by.

Florence Germond, Shunpike, Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514

*Ed. Note:* There are not many reports of albino flycatchers, though a cream-colored Phoebe was reported near Etna Oct. 13, 1952 (*Kingbird* 2(4): 90, Dec. 1952).

**Odd Warbler at Caton Swamp, near Elmira:** On June 24, 1967, Louise Fivie and I observed an unusual warbler on the road through Caton Swamp southwest of Elmira. As we were driving along I heard the song of a Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) close to the road and stopped so that I could point it out to Louise. The warbler flew to a sparsely needled branch of a large hemlock that arched the road directly in front of us. I was surprised to see a completely yellow head and immediately consulted my Eastern Field Guide, with no satisfaction. After singing the typical Black-throated Green song for approximately five minutes, the bird flew away.

Since he was facing us, I had no view of his back, but the front view showed no green. However, there were the typical black throat and white underparts. The light was excellent for viewing with 7×50 binoculars.

Later, the only bird that I could find that closely resembled this one was the Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*) of the western coast. Perhaps the bird was a hybrid Hermit-Black-throated Green, or it may have been Xanthochroism (excess of yellow in plumage).

Wilifred I. Howard, 610 Coburn Street, Elmira, N.Y. 14904

**Immature Black-headed Gull at Sandy Pond Outlet, Oswego County:** On July 22, 1967 at about 10:30 a.m. at the Sandy Pond outlet at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, C. G. Spies and I noted, with two Bonaparte's Gulls perched on a log in the outlet channel, a similar gull with a red bill. This gull was as much larger than the Bonaparte's as these were than Common Terns also on the log. A black spot behind the eye blended into a smudgy gray hood, the gray color extending forward to the eye and up from it across the top of the crown and back to the nape, where it cut off sharply. The head was otherwise white, as were the underparts. The tail was white except for the terminal 1/2 inch (about 1/5 the length of the tail beyond the coverts) which was black. As the tail was spread in preening, the black appeared to consist of a raquet-shaped mark on the tip of each feather. The wings were the same gray as the wings of the Bonaparte's while the birds were perched. The feet were dark pink and the bill glowing dark coral red, seeming blackish on tip and ridge. The above markings were observed at about 400 ft. with 30× scope while the bird was perched, viewed against the water, part of the time preening its wings and tail.

When the gull flew to within 150 ft. of us, we noted with 9× and 7× binoculars that the underwing was partly gray, as dark as the darkest part of the mantle in the perched bird. Spies, with 7× binoculars, also saw a white triangle, like that of the Bonaparte's, on the upper wing surface.

After a few moments the gull returned to the log, where it was studied for about half an hour under a hazy-clear sky with the sun behind and to the left of the observers.

Directly we had noted the red bill, we realized this was not a Bonaparte's, but one of the other rare hooded gulls, so were watching for the other distinguishing marks, and made notes on them and sketches of the head while the bird was still under observation.

The above description fits a Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) which had hatched the previous summer. I had seen the species in Europe and — perhaps more relevant — two or three winter individuals with Bonaparte's at Newburyport, Mass., where they are regular though rare.

This is a first record for Region 5; there are about 11 other modern records (seven in Buffalo and four in the Rochester vicinity) for upstate New York.

Margaret S. Rusk, 220 Ostrom Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

CORRIGENDUM: Vol. XVII, No. 2, May 1967, p. 85, Field note *Gull with Dark Slate-colored Mantle at Oswego* should begin: "On January 22, 1967..."

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON JUNE 1 — AUGUST 15

DAVID B. PEAKALL

In the past I have bemoaned the fact that the information on breeding populations is much less and much vaguer than that available for other seasons. Now there is some hope that the situation will be remedied by the data from the Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Surveys. Les Bemont has made particularly good use of these surveys in his regional report and an interesting listing of the 'top 25' is given by Wickham in the summary of his report. The value of this data will increase from year to year. At the risk of boring my readers I will make an appeal for all observers to fill out nest record cards on all active nests that they found this summer.

The decline of the Henslow's Sparrow mentioned in the previous summary was well substantiated by several regional editors. The comments of those editors mentioning the species were as follows: Region 1: "absent from many previous breeding localities and the few active colonies consisted of few (two to four) pairs"; Region 2: "very scarce, being absent from most usual localities;" Region 3: "were missing from several usual stations, and were difficult to find;" Region 4: "five individuals on two breeding surveys, only three other reports;" Region 5: "a paucity of breeding . . . . nine known sites in 1967 (only half the normal number);" Region 8: "no reports for second summer in succession." The position of the Grasshopper Sparrow was more variable. Some regional editors considered it to be also decreasing but others reported good populations.

The Purple Martin population was reported to be low over a wide area due to adverse weather this spring and the previous one. Sundell comments that the population is certainly at a new (perhaps all-time) low. However Scheider, while reporting low numbers, comments on excellent breeding success. If adverse weather is the major factor, as it appears to be, then we can expect a rapid recovery. The weather conditions — cold, wet days and freezing nights — were analysed by our president and presented at the last Federation meeting.

The Western Meadowlark was reported in Regions 1, 5, & 9. This species now breeds in fair numbers in south-western Ontario. Other notable breeding records were that of the Golden-crowned Kinglet in Region 1, the Orchard Oriole in Region 2, the low numbers of Hooded Warblers in Region 5, Mockingbird in Region 6 and a summering record of the House Finch in Region 8.

Rare aves include Marbled Godwit (Region 2), Black-headed Gull (Region 5), Audubon Shearwater and Skua (Region 10). Les Bemont has pointed out to me that my comment in the winter summary on the Lark Bunting is incorrect. There are two upstate records, the first one being in Region 4 in 1960.

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Abbreviations used in regional reports: arr—arrival, arrived; Co—County; imm—immature; L—Lake; max—maximum one-day count; mob—many observers; Pk—Park; Pt—Point; R—River; Rd—Road; F&WBBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 25-mile Breeding Bird Survey.

All numbers given are the number of individuals unless otherwise stated.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

June was considerably warmer than usual throughout the Region. Records of the Buffalo Weather Bureau showed an average temperature of 72.5 degrees (7.7 degrees above the mean), the hottest month ever. The first half brought two extended periods of very hot weather while the latter half was slightly cooler. Precipitation was nearly normal. In the Buffalo area, the average temperature for July was 1.4 degrees above the mean while in August it was almost normal. Violent weather, including heavy thunderstorms which produced local flooding, raked the Southern Tier on June 21–22, July 20, and August 3–4. On July 24, a tornado was observed near Ashford in Cattaraugus County. Precipitation was also near or above average for August, especially where the severe local storms occurred. The heavy rainfall eased eight years of drought or semi-drought conditions in western New York State.

Waterfowl, especially the Wood Duck, brought off many young. Successful single nest sites of the Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered Hawks

were marked for annual checking. Absent from recent regular breeding stations in the Southern Tier were the Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Whip-poor-will, Short-billed Marsh Wren, and Cerulean Warbler. The Purple Martin population is certainly at a new (perhaps all-time) low for recent years. A few Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows arrived during June in some areas that formerly supported larger colonies but were absent from certain other previously occupied fields.

Nesting records of interest include Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Of special significance is the second successful breeding of the Golden-crowned Kinglet in Region 1. Two adults were observed feeding six young in the white spruce—Norway spruce plantation on McCarty Hill (2304 feet elevation) where nesting had been suspected for ten years. This location is about one and one half miles southwest of Ellicottville in Cattaraugus County. The only notable rarities observed were the Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Western Meadowlark, and Dickcissel.

Abbreviations: Bflo—Buffalo; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; Pren Pt—Prendergast Point.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Andrie; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; GB—George Buckland; JB—Joanna Burger; OGB—O. Gilbert Burgeson; JG—Joseph Grzybowski; JK—Joseph Kikta; ECP—Elizabeth C. Pillsbury; AR—Archie Richardson; RR—Robert Rybczynski; RAS—Robert A. Sundell; KOS—Ken and Ora Swanson; JT—Joseph Thill; AJW—Albert J. Wright.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: two Jun 3 Allegany State Pk (RAS *et al*). Pied-billed Grebe: absent from recent regular breeding station at Riverside Marsh (AR). Great Blue Heron: previously unrecorded heronry of six active nests June 6 near Kennedy (AR). *CATTLE EGRET*: one Jun 14 Oak Orchard (Seeber, Zuris); one Jun 18 INWR (Benhams). Common Egret: one Jun 2 Allegheny Reservoir (RAS). Black-crowned Night Heron: three Jun 11 South Pk, Bflo (JK); two Jul 8 OOGMA (GB); three Jul 22 Tift Street Marsh, Bflo (JK, RR). *YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON*: one Aug 4 Como Pk, Lancaster (JG, RB). Least Bittern: singles Jun 17 OOGMA (RR, JG), Jun 20 Langford (TLB); two Jul 22 Tift Street Marsh, Bflo (JK, RR); absent from recent breeding stations at conservation ponds near Mayville and Riverside Marsh. Canada Goose: pair (one banded) nested at Riverside Marsh (mob); four young Jun 10 (Ross Gardner), all disappeared by Jul 15 (AR) probably due to mammalian predation—third nesting record for Chaut Co.

Green-winged Teal: female with four young Jun 26 Riverside Marsh (AR)—second Chaut Co breeding record; 11 Aug 9 Riverside Marsh with 19 Blue-winged Teal and one American Widgeon (AR). Shoveler: one Jun 5, 17 INWR (JG *et al*); two Jun 14 Cheektowaga (JG). Wood Duck: broods of 3, 4, 4, 6, 7, 8 Jun 22 Riverside Marsh (OGB). White-winged Scoter: one adult male Jun 10 Allegheny Reservoir (RAS, AR)—late. Hooded Merganser: female with eight downy young Jun 22 Riverside Marsh (OGB)—regular breeding station. Red-breasted Merganser: eight Jun 2 Allegheny Reservoir (RAS); 12 Jun 20 Barcelona (RAS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Sharp-shinned Hawk: active nest with adults feeding two young just able to fly Jul 23 McCarty Hill (RAS, AR). Red-shouldered Hawk: adults feeding one young in nest and another perched nearby Jun 28 three miles southwest of Leon (RAS, ECP, OGB). Virginia Rail: two adults, two imm nearly full grown Jul 23 Randolph (RAS, AR).

Shorebirds: poor Jul flight—Semipalmated Plover: arr-one Jul 11 Hamburg Town Pk (TLB). Solitary Sandpiper: four Aug 5 Pren Pt (RAS). Western Sandpiper: one Aug 15 Pren Pt (RAS). Greater Yellowlegs: scarce-singles Jul 22 Barcelona, Jul 28 Pren Pt (RAS). Short-billed Dowitcher: four Jul 14 Pren Pt (RAS).

Great Black-backed Gull: one or two Barcelona and Dunkirk Harbor throughout period (RAS); Bonaparte's Gull: 24 Jun 17 Barcelona (RAS). Caspian Tern: one Jun 17, 21 Barcelona (RAS). Great Horned Owl: one young fledged from nest at Riverside Marsh Jun 10 (AR). Long-eared Owl: one Jul 29 Alfred (Klingensmith).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: absent from at least four previously regular breeding stations in Southern Tier; only reports from lake plains—singles Jun 3, Jul 27 Hamburg (TLB); Jun 24 Batavia (GB); Jun 29 Dunkirk (James McNallys). Olive-sided Flycatcher: last spring—one Jun 1 New Oregon (TLB). Bank Swallow: four colonies in Chaut Co (forty to two hundred nests) where birds exploited new cuts caused by heavy construction (RAS). Purple Martin: many colonies in Southern Tier areas completely deserted; very few nesting pairs could be found, max-five pairs in colony near Gerry Jun 20 (RAS).

Tufted Titmouse: pair brought two young to feeder early Aug Dunkirk (James McNallys) at a regular breeding locality. Brown Creeper: one Jun 3, 5 INWR (RFA et al). Winter Wren: one Jul 8 OOGMA (GB et al); Carolina Wren: one Aug 8 East Aurora (RB, JB); Short-billed Marsh Wren: notably scarce—singles Jun 1 Langford (TLB), Jun 14 Eden (TLB), Jun 17, 18 INWR (JG, RR, PB), three Jun 25 Bear L (KOS), habitat alteration, especially tiling of wet meadows for agricultural purposes, has eliminated most former breeding areas. Mockingbird: singles Jun 1 Chestnut Ridge Pk (Freitags); Jun 18, 19 Pendleton (Camp); Jun 20 Burt (JT). Golden-crowned Kinglet: very late—two Jun 3 INWR (RFA, AJW); two adults observed feeding six young Jul 13 McCarty Hill (RAS, AR, ECP, Flora Elderkin)—see comment in introduction; also one additional adult seen in another part of spruce plantation. Loggerhead Shrike: no summer reports—may no longer be present as breeding species in Region.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Red-eyed Vireo: present in most wooded areas, as usual, but density noticeably low, Philadelphia Vireo: last—one Jun 2 Athol Springs (TLB).

Warblers: "Brewster's": one Jun 3 McClure Hollow, Allegany (RAS et al) Tennessee: last—two Jun 3 INWR (RFA, AJW), Myrtle: two singing males Jun, Jul McCarty Hill (mob); two pairs in red pine plantation Jul 25 Alfred (Klingensmith) Blackburnian: last—one Jun 7 Bflo (Hess) Prairie: one lingered in a Scotch pine plantation five miles east of Frewsburg until Jun 4 (AR) but no evidence of breeding was obtained (nesting in western New York never has been established authentically) Louisiana Waterthrush: one Aug 15 Barcelona (RAS) Yellow-breasted Chat: singles Jun 7 Cherry Creek (JK), Jun 10 Allegany (JG), Jun 20 Deer Lick Sanctuary (RFA, JT).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: WESTERN MEADOWLARK: two at different locations (*Kingbird* 17: 156) singing and calling through Jun 21 (RAS) but sites not visited after that date; no evidence yet of breeding, but thorough search has not been undertaken. Orchard Oriole: rare on the south shore of L Erie but probably occurs regularly with a few pairs at widely scattered localities—Hanford Bay near Silver Creek, male Jun 7, pair Jun 8 (R. H. Hesselbart). DICKCISSEL: adult male closely observed and heard singing for one half hour Jun 17 two and one half miles southeast of Leon in west central Catt Co by observer previously familiar with the species in the midwest (OGB); not found on Jun 28 (RAS, ECP, OGB). Red Crossbill: immature male or female Jun 11 Jamestown (Clarence Beal)-straggler from light, widely-scattered spring flight. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows ab-



sent from many previous breeding localities and the few active colonies consisted of few (two to four) pairs— noteworthy count— 21 Henslow's Jul 27 Lancaster (JG). White-throated Sparrow: one Jun 10, 15 Allegany State Pk (mob).

ADDENDUM AND CORRIGENDUM, Vol. XVII, No. 3, July 1967, Region 1 report: Canada Goose (p. 154): the published total (103, 014) on the BOS April Bird Count April 9, 1967 (*Prothonotary* 33: 68-69) is not consistent with other counts and estimates and almost certainly includes some, perhaps considerable, overlap (Harold H. Axtell).

Golden-crowned Kinglet (p. 155) should read: "highest spring count— 648 Apr 9." Insert at this point: "Ruby-crowned Kinglet: highest MBC total for this late in May— 81 May 21." In the second paragraph of the introductory remarks on page 153, change Golden-crowned Kinglet to Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

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## REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for the period were close to normal except for August when they were somewhat below average. June was relatively dry, July was almost normal and rainfall for the first half of August was well above average. The level of the lake and ponds was very high, which made suitable shorebird habitat almost non-existent. Rails apparently were absent from some areas. The Short-billed Marsh Wren was unreported and the "meadow" sparrows, except for the Vesper, seemed down in numbers. The Henslow's Sparrow was very scarce, being absent from most usual locations.

Unusual species reported included Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Orchard Oriole and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Observers cited: JC—Jerry Czech; JJD—James J. Doherty; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzner; WCL—Walter C. Listman; TM—Ted Mack; RM—Robert McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; HSM—Howard S. Miller; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; AAS—Alfred A. Starling; ES—Ester Stiles; MS—Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow.

Localities: BB—Braddock; EL—East Lakeshore; OBP—Ontario Beach Park (just west of the Genesee River on Lake Ontario); SA—Shore Acres; WL—West Lakeshore; WS—West Spit (one of two spits at the entrance to Braddock's Bay).

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Egret: one at WS Jun 1 (ST)—the only report. Whistling Swan: one on Round Pond Jun 1 (ST); either the same or another bird was at SA Jul 22 (RM, AAS). Canada Goose: six on the Clyde R (not far from Montezuma) Jun 3 (GOS hike). A flock of 40 passed over southeast of Fairport Jun 1 (TET); the origin of this flock is unknown. Hooded Merganser: female at BB Jun 25 (WCL)—the species is known to have bred there in previous years.

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-tailed Hawk: 65 moving along the WL Aug 17 (HSM, RTO). These late summer flights are regular at about this time, moving to the east on a strong SW wind, a smaller duplicate of the spring flights. Osprey: one fishing a small creek near Bristol Aug 11 (WCL).

Semipalmated Plover: a very late straggler at SA Jun 25 (WCL). Black-bellied Plover: a late bird on the WL Jun 1 (TM). Whimbrel: six at a rainwater pool near

SA Aug 2 (JJD). White-rumped Sandpiper: two late stragglers at SA Jun 25 (WCL). Dunlin: two very early fall migrants at a cattle pool near Fairport Aug 3 & 4 (AEK, TET). Short-billed Dowitcher: a flock of 40 flying over OBP Aug 17 (HSM, RTO). Stilt Sandpiper: two at a cattle pool near Fairport Aug 4 (AEK). Western Sandpiper: a few "peep" sandpipers showing the field marks of this species have been reported—longer, decurved bills, a little larger size, rangier appearance and some rufous in the plumage were all noted at close range in direct comparison with the commoner species; max three at OBP Aug 6 (JJD, HSM). *MARBLED GODWIT*: one in a pasture in Parma Jun 3 (WCL, RTO et al)—rare in the fall and the writer knows of no spring records in our area. *WILSON'S PHALAROPE*: two in a rainwater pool near SA Jun 3 (AEK). Great Black-backed Gull: an imm at the WL Jul 22 (GOS hike)—usually one or two summer here. Black-billed Cuckoo: eight along the WL Jul 22 (GOS hike).

Barn Owl: a pair nested in a silo in Rush (JC). They hatched two young but the young birds disappeared when partly grown, perhaps taken by racoons. Another pair nested in a silo in Parma. They hatched *TEN* young which at last accounts were thriving (WCL *et al*). Barred Owl: one near Newark Jul 8 (ES). Long-eared Owl: two in a pine grove near Newark Jul 8–14 (ES).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Rough-winged Swallow: 40 along the WL Jul 22 (GOS hike)—a rather high count. Mockingbird: scattered single birds reported from Webster; also reported from Perinton (June Feder). Loggerhead Shrike: six at SA Jun 24 (WCL) and six in Parma the next day (WCL). In both cases, the six birds were seen close together and probably represented a pair of adults and four young.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Nashville Warbler: a late straggler at Manitou Jun 22 (WCL). Palm Warbler: a late bird at SA Jun 2 (TM). Hardly any fall movement except for Yellow Warblers to the end of the period.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: *ORCHARD ORIOLE*: a pair nested at Pt Breeze (WCL). The male was found dead Jun 20, apparently struck by a car. The nest was found two days later, with the female feeding young birds. The species has been reported as present in summer in this area previously. Except for an old record, this is the Region's first nesting report. The species is an occasional spring migrant and has been recorded in June. Purple Finch: six in Webster Jun 10 (JM, TM). The suspicion is this was a pair of adults and four young. *CLAY-COLORED SPARROW*: a singing bird in Webster Jul 29-Aug 6 (AEK, WCL, MS)—the Region's fourth record in six years. White-throated Sparrow: three in Bergen Swamp Jun 11 (GOS hike). This is the only place in our Region where the species has been known to nest. A late migrant in Island Cottage Woods Jun 24 (RM).

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

In marked contrast to the last several years, the summer of 1967 was wet, and following a moderately hot June, it was cool. Precipitation was sufficient to bring about a partial restoration of the normal water table level in the Finger Lakes. The price of rain is usually the loss of some nests, but this did not seem to be serious this year, perhaps because winds were not high, and temperatures not too low.

While heavy rains produced so much vegetation that suitable shore-bird areas were reduced in the Elmira area, a different situation prevailed at Montezuma. Draining of the Main Pool in mid-June, to encourage cat-tail growth, resulted in mud flats and lots of shorebirds. Even after the pond refilled, and plant growth became luxuriant, there was enough mud exposed to continue to attract the waders, which by mid-August numbered over 2000 of almost 20 species. Distances involved made accurate counts almost impossible.

The breeding bird census taken as usual in early June in Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary produced only 58 species this year, contrasted with 61 species in 1966. I have at hand the results of three of the Fish and Wildlife "25 mile runs". One was a new count taken by members of the Keuka Park Conservation Club, in the Italy Hills to Branchport area. Totals were 839 of 55 species. The East Dryden run was repeated by Sally Spofford, with 948 of 57 species, compared with 1073 of 58 species in 1966. Dorothy McIlroy took the west Ithaca (Trumansburg) run again, which produced 831 of 51 species, compared with 740 of 54 species in 1966.

No report was received for this issue from the Hornell area.

Observers cited: LB—Leslie Bemont; WEB—Walter E. Benning; JB—Jamesine Bardeen; JBr—Jack Brubaker; FG—Frank Guthrie; CH—Clayton Hardy; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; BBS—Betty and Barrie Strath; JW—Jayson Walker; MPW—Mary P. Welles; RW—Ruth Williams.

Area compilers: Jamesine Bardeen, Walter E. Benning, Frank Guthrie, Clayton Hardy, Jayson Walker, Mary P. Welles.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Schuy Co—Schuyler County; Sen L—Seneca Lake; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: no reports this period. Pied-billed Grebe: breeding records few again this year; three broods only MNWR (CH). Great Blue Heron: while considered scarcer on Keuka and Sen Ls, reported in good numbers MNWR, also nesting at Marengo Swamp (WEB). Green Heron: scattered nesting reports. Cattle and Snowy Egrets: none. Common Egret: seven Jul 13 MNWR (DM); max 12 Aug 9 (WEB); still lower numbers than 10 years ago. Black-crowned Night Heron: max 14 MNWR Jun 11, contrasted with max 27 in 1966 (WEB). Least Bittern: two Jul reports in Schuy Co. (JB); only two sightings reported to me at MNWR for period, WEB remarked on seeing none. American Bittern: two seen MNWR periodically; no nesting birds known around Ithaca. Mute Swan: one regularly from Jul 19 on, MNWR (WEB); unconfirmed report of breeding n. end Cay L; singles on Dryden L and on Song L Jun 26 (PMK). The Dryden L bird seen regularly. Whistling Swan: one Jul 12 on. MNWR, probably not same bird seen Sen L Jul 20 on. Canada Goose: 125 raised MNWR, in contrast with 140 in '66. Snow Goose: unusual is the appearance of four second year birds Jun 7–13 MNWR.

Clayton Hardy, Manager at MNWR, reported the following numbers of ducks raised there, the symbol in ( ) indicating increase (+), decrease (–) or same (s) in comparison with the '66 season: Mallard 67 (–), Black Duck 75 (+), Gadwall 434 (–), American Widgeon 12 (–), Pintail 87 (+), Green-winged Teal 18

(-), Blue-winged Teal 361 (-), Shoveler 0 (-), Wood Duck, 1,191 (+), Redhead 89 (+), Hooded Merganser 13 (+). Total waterfowl produced, 2,862 in comparison with 2,375 in 1966. The decrease in Widgeon, Shoveler, Gadwall and Green-winged Teal appeared to represent only one or two broods, but the drop in Mallards and Blue-winged Teal was marked. On the other hand, Wood Duck production was almost triple.

Elsewhere, two Green-winged Teal at Watkins Marsh all summer were unusual (JBr). At SSW, Mallard broods numbered 13 (same), Wood Duck broods 10, double that of last year. No indication that Blue-winged Teal or Hooded Merganser nested there this year, in spite of periodic sightings.

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Turkey Vulture: pair in Marengo Swamp again hatched one young; max 18 Jun 19 MNWR (WEB). Goshawk: imm seen in Jul a few miles east of Ithaca in same area as several previous sightings of adult birds and near place dead bird found in Nov '65 (PMK). This suggests breeding near Ithaca. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one sighting, Aug 12 Sugar Hill area near Watkins Glen (JBr). Cooper's Hawk: one seen occasionally near Odessa (BS); one seen occasionally n.e. Ithaca as last year, no nest found. Red-tailed Hawk: normal numbers — perhaps a pair for every 10 square miles in suitable habitat. Red-shouldered Hawk: no successful nestings known; Sapsucker Woods pair which nested just outside the sanctuary, hatched three young which disappeared before fledging time. Broad-winged Hawk: scattered sightings in hills south of Ithaca. Bald Eagle: one sighting reported at MNWR, no details. Marsh Hawk: only four sightings all summer in entire Region, three of those at MNWR, the other on the Italy Hills-Branchport F&WBBS (FG). Osprey: one, late, Jun 17 MNWR (WEB). Sparrow Hawk: locally more abundant than last year, except around Odessa. JW reports seeing eight on short trip near Waterloo Jul 16, which may mean two broods; two broods raised in the six miles between Etna and SWS (SHS). It might be noted that paucity of breeding raptor reports is partly due to absence from Region of at least two raptor specialists this summer.

Ruffed Grouse and Pheasants seemed little affected by the wet season. Scattered Bobwhite reports. Virginia Rails and Soras: almost no sightings. Common Gallinule: eight broods, MNWR; elsewhere fewer than last year but I have no exact figures, just impressions. American Coot: two broods, thus continuing poor production in contrast with, for example, 52 broods in 1961.

Shorebird reports below were contributed by WEB from MNWR unless otherwise noted. Semipalmated Plover: Jul 19 (first) MNWR, Jul 30 Watkins Marsh (JBr), max 9 Aug 13. Killdeer: all reports indicated successful breedings and abundant; 300 + MNWR from early Jul on. Black-bellied Plover: one only, Aug 5. Common Snipe: first, three Jun 21, regular thereafter, peak 43 Aug 2 (DM). Upland Plover: present all previous locations around Ithaca; two near Michigan Hollow s. of Ithaca mid-Jul (RW); two young reared Zwick Rd near Geneva (JW), where absent last year or two. Spotted Sandpiper: various observers reported good breeding success; several pairs at SWS where usually only one; max 74 Jul 4 MNWR. Greater Yellowlegs: first, three Jul 15. Lesser Yellowlegs: first, one Jun 21 MNWR, one Jul 29 Watkins Marsh (JBr); 259 max Jul 30 MNWR. Pectoral Sandpiper: 34 max Jul 30 MNWR (no count for Aug submitted, possibly higher numbers?) White-rumped Sandpiper: eight, Jun 10 A & P plant Elmira (WH); no other reports. Least Sandpiper: max 80 Jul 13. Dunlin: one Jun 21, possible late or non-migrant, only report. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 45 Jul 30, higher than usual. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1000 (est) Aug 9 is twice the max in '66. Western Sandpiper: no reports. Hudsonian Godwit: one Aug 5, only report in period. Sanderling: one Aug 9, only report. Wilson's Phalarope: one Jul 30, only report.

Up to 1000 gulls Jun 24 MNWR, mostly Ring-bills, rest Herring (WEB), Bonaparte's Gull: up to 30 MNWR during whole period, unusual in summer there; four Sen L Jun 10, one Jun 11 (JBr) may have joined the MNWR birds. Common

Tern: small flock on Sen L Jul 14, no breeding known; 33 max Aug 13 MNWR is good count; an occasional one seen s. end Cay L, no breeding and probably won't ever again with enormous increase in power boats. Black Tern: max 50, lower than in past years. Caspian Tern: first Aug 6, several thereafter MNWR. Cuckoos: both species reported seen slightly more often this year than last. Screech Owl: almost no reports anywhere. Great Horned Owl: satisfactory in numbers. Barred Owl: SWS pair raised two young again; one young Marengo Swamp Jul 22 (WEB). Barn Owl: one report of one bird, silo on Welles farm, Big Flat Elmira Jul 3, first time there since '63.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one heard in Ludlowville, Jun 11; this is new location and may not represent breeding pair. Common Nighthawk: reported as very scarce by all observers, with very few sightings in usual places. Yellow-shafted Flicker: seems to remain in good numbers, with breeding success. Pileated Woodpecker: one or two new nesting locations reported, continuing the overall slight increase of this species. Red-bellied Woodpecker: scattered local reports, including one on breeding bird census in Keuka Pk area (FG). Red-headed Woodpecker: rare around Ithaca, it is called "fairly common" near Geneva (JW); four sightings at Keuka, two pairs known near Watkins Glen. Eastern Kingbird: good numbers; 11 seen Jul 28 in short distance on road s. of Waterloo (JW). Traill's Flycatcher and Wood Pewee: good numbers. Least Flycatcher: again reported as scarce. Swallows: Tree, Rough-winged and Purple Martin seemed less abundant both as nesters and in flocking in early August. Bank: abundant, peak 8000 Jul 30 MNWR (WEB). Cliff: 70 nests on Voak farm, Benton Township, Yates Co (WEB)- new location?

Blue Jay: observers commented on increase everywhere. Long-billed Marsh Wren: following scarcity in spring, numbers seemed to have picked up at MNWR, where sightings of two or more were made regularly. Short-billed Marsh Wren: two sightings only, of two birds, Aug 9 and 13 MNWR. Mockingbird: pair raised two young n. of Hector (BS); no other breeding reports. Catbird: good numbers, good breeding success. Thrushes: Robins and Wood Thrushes abundant: e.g., 17 singing Wood Thrushes on SWS breeding bird census compared with 10 in '66; FG reported 23 on the Keuka Pk F&WBBS. Hermit Thrush: scarce everywhere. Bluebird: no increase noted. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Interlaken Aug 13, new location (LB).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: continue to be generally less common than ten years ago though no decrease this year over last. Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos: normal numbers, perhaps slight increase. (15 pairs Red-eyed SWS in contrast with 11 in '66.) Of breeding species of Warblers, Yellow and Yellowthroat were the most common and in normal numbers. Few observations reported to me of other species due to lack of coverage in areas where they should be found. Prothonotary Warbler: noted this year at MNWR, on "Unit 17" by Dan Thompson. Cerulean Warbler: nesting pair again noted at Mills Rd, Waterloo (JW), rare. Ovenbird and Am. Redstart: fairly good numbers in Sen L area, below normal at Ithaca. Hooded Warbler: very rare in Region, seen feeding young at Waterloo Aug 15 (JW).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: At north end of Cay L, blackbirds seemed less abundant, with smaller flocks at end of summer; elsewhere as abundant as ever, with crop damage reported in Watkins Glen area. A Blackbird roost at Interlaken in '66 was empty this year (LB). Bobolinks were locally abundant, but scarce around Geneva. Orchard Oriole: one, identified by song and quick glimpse in flight only, SWS Jun 6 (SHS); the Campbell Ave. Ithaca pair seen regularly and apparently bred. Baltimore Oriole: successful breeding season. Summer Tanager: reports of three sightings near Hector by two observers; no supporting details supplied. Car-

dinal: continue increase, 12 on Keuka Pk F&WBBS. Indigo Bunting: locally abundant, less so around Keuka. American Goldfinch: reported as "very abundant" by several observers. Rufous-sided Towhee: 18 Keuka F&WBBS is indicative of abundance in that area; eight on SWS is more than in '66. The various meadow sparrows seemed less abundant, especially Henslow's and Grasshopper. Around Ithaca, Henslow's were missing from several usual stations, and were difficult to find. Song Sparrows: abundant everywhere.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

June was warm and muggy, but the frequent light rains added up to appreciably less than normal precipitation. July was close to normal in temperature and only slightly below in precipitation, but again rainfall was frequent rather than heavy. Temperatures during the first two weeks of August averaged close to normal but rainfall was well above largely because of a heavy thunderstorm August 3.

After the first year of substantial coverage of the Region by Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys this writer's reaction is "Why haven't we been doing something of this kind before this?". A systematic but relatively random sampling of this type is really the only way we can arrive at a realistic idea of the relative yearly abundance of a species, particularly of the commoner species. Because they fit in so nicely with one of the objectives of our regional reports the species totals for the eight counts presently available are included below. They are in parentheses following the name of each species recorded on at least one such count. The first number is the total number of individuals recorded on all eight surveys and the second number, after the slash, is the number of surveys on which the species was recorded. It is hoped that others who have conducted these surveys within the Region will be willing to submit their species totals, both for this year and for future years.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; Can Res—Cannonsville Reservoir; Chen—Chenango; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir.

Observers: LB—L. Bemont; MC—Mitchell Cubberly; C, JD—Carleton & Jeanne Davis; M, AD—Marilyn & Anna Davis; JAG—John A. Gustafson; J. MH—Jeffrey & Mark Harris; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; JS—James Shuler; MS—Mary Sheffield; WS—William Sutliff; DW—Don Weber; MW—Mildred White; R, SW—Ruth & Sally White; RW—Ruth Williams; SW—Stuart Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Jul 2, 13, 22 (2) and 23 and Aug 7, Pep Res (MC), all in imm plumage. Pied-billed Grebe: (1/1), Jun 28, Newark Valley F&WBBS (RW). Great Blue Heron: (3/3); at least six nests in good repair and seemingly active at Andes heronry (MC); only three active nests at Candor heronry compared to five last year and 17 two years ago (DW). About 20 active nests in herony south of Rte. 79 just west of Richford (Warren Dean *vide* Sally Spofford)—first report of this site. Green Heron: (2/2). Common Egret: Aug 5, 6 and 7, Conklin, just east of Bing (L. Stockton); no others. Black-crowned Night

Heron: Aug 2, Owego (D. Bendle); the only report. BRANT: one Jun 4, Can Res (E. M. Reilly, Jr., *et al*), seen at close enough range to make stumper neck, as compared to Canada Goose, plainly visible to all four members of the party, at least two of whom are familiar with the species in other areas; seldom reported even in migration. Mallard: Jun 17 Deposit (SW), female with 11 young; believed to be a fairly common breeder in Region in spite of the small number of summer reports. Wood Duck: Jun 14 Deposit (SW), female with 16 newly hatched young — three more fertile eggs in the box that did not quite make it. Hooded Merganser: Aug 1 Homer (JAG). Common Merganser: Jun 4 Deposit (SW), female with 12 young; a few seen around Pep Res during breeding season — small flocks to end of period, max 45 Aug 5 (MC), sharp line of demarcation between the rufous head and white throat can be seen in submitted long range photograph — Mr. Cubberly, familiar with all three species of mergansers, states that Common Mergansers are present around the Pep Res during all months of the year that it is not completely frozen over.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reported once each at Owego (2), Deposit and Cortland during the first three weeks of Jun. Goshawk: the nest previously reported near Solon, in Cortland Co was broken up in early Jun — an older nest nearby indicates this to be at least the second year in the area (W. R. Spofford, P. M. Kelsey); seen regularly in three Tioga Co localities during the period. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two reports during the period, both from Tioga Co. Cooper's Hawk: three reports, two over Pep Res and one in Tioga Co. Red-tailed Hawk: four nests, seven young found in Tioga Co. Red-shouldered Hawk: no reports. Broad-winged Hawk: (2/1). Bald Eagle: an adult Jun 9, Deposit (SW); a sick adult captured on the ground near the intake tunnel of the Can Res Jul 14 by Conservation Dept. personnel and at last report it was still alive though unable to fly (MC, SW). Marsh Hawk: (1/1); Jun 4 Chen Forks (M, AD). Sparrow Hawk: (5/2).

Ring-necked Pheasant: (6/3). Bobwhite: Jun 16 Choconut Center, just north of Bing, (MS); three at Goodrich Settlement Rd near Owego during Aug (K. Hunt). Turkey: "still being seen in four different localities" in Tioga Co (RW); "I've seen no young and none reported by anyone else", Candor (DW). Virginia Rail: one Aug 6 Sherburne (R, SW). Common Gallinule: one Aug 1 Owego (RW). American Coot: one Aug 1 Owego (RW). Killdeer: (39/7), American Woodcock: two adults with five young about Jun 5 Bing (J, MH); fairly common thru Jul. Upland Plover: Jul 17 Owego (MW, RW). Spotted Sandpiper: (5/2); common. Solitary Sandpiper: Jun 1 Greene (C, JD); Jul 26 Homer (JAG). Ring-billed Gull: "conspicuous by absence this summer — none reported", Cortland area (JAG); the only other part of the Region where past reports would lead us to expect them in the summer is the Cooperstown area and none were on Otsego L Jul 10 (D. P. Peakall). Rock Dove: (29/4). Mourning Dove: (11/4). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (2/1). Black-billed Cuckoo: (9/5); much more common than spring reports would have led us to expect; one nesting record (J. MH). Barn Owl: Jul 11 Homer (C. Withy, verified by JAG); Aug 2 east of Owego (JS). Screech Owl: one report Jul 4 Homer (JAG). Barred Owl: "heard calling at four widely separated localities well into early summer" in Tioga Co — one at 3 p.m. on a hot Jul day (DW); one seen once and heard several times throughout the summer in the French Tract south of Bing (G. & W. Corderman, E. Kirch).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: Jun 4 and 6 Endicott (Mrs. E. Johnston); Jun 15 and 24 Greene (C, JD). Common Nighthawk: (2/1); scarce at Owego, only one pair. Chimney Swift: (80/5). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (5/2); "not very frequent this year" at Cortland (JAG). Belted Kingfisher: (6/3). Yellow-shafted Flicker: (112/8). Pileated Woodpecker: (2/1). Red-headed Woodpecker: a pair reported nesting at Ross Pk in Bing (L. Stockton); one Jun 1 Itaska, east of Whitney Pt, (D. Sterling); Jul 31 Johnson City (Mrs. H. DeLong); Aug 2

east of Owego (JS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (7/4); Jun 14 a pair found feeding young in a hole about 20 feet up in a beech tree at Norwich (R, SW), and seen around for two weeks; quite a few more Jun reports than usual, the several heard drumming and calling around Oquaga L during the Federation meeting being a special concentration for a special occasion. Hairy Woodpecker: (1/1). Downy Woodpecker: (17/6).

Eastern Kingbird: (28/8). Great Crested Flycatcher: (13/4). Eastern Phoebe: (53/8). Traill's Flycatcher: (8/2); Jun 17 one "way-be-o" bird at Deposit (SW), all other reports from Deposit, Owego and the Triple Cities area are the "fitz-bew" type. Least Flycatcher: (51/8). Eastern Wood Pewee: (41/8); reported to be particularly common in Tioga Co; a pair seen building a nest at Candor Aug 6 had at least one young Aug 31 (DW). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one at Ely Pk Bing Jun 1 (LB, WS). Horned Lark: (6/2). Tree Swallow: (26/6); 25 pair nesting at Greene, below normal (C, JD); 10 nests at Andes (MC); five nests at Choconut Center (MS). Barn Swallow: (138/8). Cliff Swallow: (4/2); 30 pair started nesting at Greene but some were lost during the cold spring weather (C, JD); one pair building at Andes in early Jun (MC). Purple Martin: (1/1), on Corbettsville F&WBBS (P. Kalka); six Jul 29 Choconut Center (MS); numbers much reduced.

Blue Jay: (73/8). Common Crow: (197/8). Black-capped Chickadee: (37/8). Tufted Titmouse: Jun 1 Ely Pk Bing (LB, WS)-only report, although almost certainly merely overlooked. White-breasted Nuthatch: (11/7). Red-breasted Nuthatch: (2/1). Coventryville F&WBBS (LB); one heard at Pharsalia Jul 31 (R, SW); also at Scott in Cortland Co Jul 31 (JAG). Brown Creeper: Jun 11 singing at Castle Creek in Broome Co (MS). House Wren: (64/8). Winter Wren: singing Jun 11 at Castle Creek (MS) and Jul 30 at Pharsalia (R, SW); two seen at German in s. Cortland Co Aug 3 (DM). Carolina Wren: a pair Jul 8 Owego (MW). Long-billed Marsh Wren: three Jun 25 and one Aug 6 Sherburne (R, SW), the only known regular station in the Region. Mockingbird: one Jun 8, 9 and 14 Bing (J. MH); Jul 31 at Silver L near Deposit (Mrs. H. DeLong); Aug 2 e. of Owego (JS). Catbird: (89/8). Brown Thrasher: (30/8).

Robin: (367/8). Wood Thrush: (86/8). Hermit Thrush: (11/5); two Jul 30 Pharsalia (R, SW); Aug 3 German (DM); at Candor three heard singing at one time (DW). Swainson's Thrush: singing Jun 11 and 18 Pharsalia (R, SW), in the same locality as last year. Veery: (73/8). Eastern Bluebird: (16/7); 89 nestlings banded at Homer (JAG); five families at Andes (MC); four pairs at Choconut Center (MS) where some victims of nest parasites were noted; at Oxford a second nest started by Jun 14 (A. Stratton); "lower count than last year" around Owego (RW). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Jun 1 Ely Pk Bing (LB, WS); two Jul 23 Sherburne, "second time I ever saw them in Chenango Co" (R. SW). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two heard Jul 9 Norwich (R, SW). Cedar Waxwing: (43/7). Starling: (1055/8).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (3/3). Solitary Vireo: (3/2). Red-eyed Vireo: (91/8). Warbling Vireo: (11/5).

Warblers: Black-and-White: (13/7). Golden-winged: (5/4); until Aug 13 Chen Forks (M, AD). Blue-winged: Jun 11 heard at Castle Creek (MS). Orange-crowned: Jun 2 Nichols (V. Hudson). Nashville: (3/1). Yellow: (122/8). Magnolia: (1/1) Corbettsville F&WBBS (P. Kalka); a pair Jul 22 and Aug 3 German (DM); six heard Jul 30 Pharsalia (R, SW). Black-throated Blue: (2/1). Myrtle: Jun 3 Chen Forks (M, AD); three heard Jun 18 Pharsalia and two heard Jul 9 Norwich (R, SW). Black-throated Green: (11/4); twelve heard Jul 30 Pharsalia (R, SW). Blackburnian: (4/3). Chestnut-sided: (42/8). Blackpoll: Jun 3 Oquaga L for the Federation meeting. PINE: (1/1) Jun 24 MacDonough F&WBBS (C. Howard)-first summer record for Region in the 15 years of record keeping. PRAIRIE: regular at Vestal Center until Jul 21 and seen carrying food Jul 4 (E. & N. Washburn)-first summer record for Region. Ovenbird: (36/8).



Northern Waterthrush: (5/3); one Aug 9 Norwich (R, SW), the only one reported after Jun 25. Louisiana Waterthrush: Jun 1 and 15 Sidney (F. Quick). Yellowthroat: (151/8). Canada Warbler: (6/30). American Redstart: (25/6).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (218/8). Bobolink: (128/7), an unexpectedly high total. Eastern Meadowlark: (137/8). Redwinged Blackbird: (1046/8); 111 nestlings banded at Deposit (SW). Baltimore Oriole: (90/8). Common Grackle: (183/8), an unexpectedly low total. Brown-headed Cowbird: (111/8). Scarlet Tanager: (24/6).

Cardinal: (37/6); earlier this year the first one to be noted in Elk Creek Valley, near Delhi, in 38 years of residence was reported (Mrs. L. Clark) and only "a few" are present in the village of Delhi. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (17/6). Indigo Bunting: (63/8). Purple Finch: (8/4); imm coming to banding traps "later than usual and lesser numbers than most years" Deposit (SW); "many" at Endwell (F. Linaberry). Pine Siskin: one Aug 3 German (DM), very unusual during a summer not preceded by a good spring flight. American Goldfinch: (182/8). Rufous-sided Towhee: (111/8). Savannah Sparrow: (55/8). Grasshopper Sparrow: (11/5); "only a couple found" all summer Owego (RW). Henslow's Sparrow: (5/2); only three other reports, all in Jun. Vesper Sparrow: (13/4). Slate-colored Junco: (7/1) Jun 17 Oxford F&WBBS (H. Marsi, C. Gottschall); also at Candor (R. Pantle) and Oquaga L in Jun, at Scott (JAG) and Norwich (R, SW) in Jul and at Greene Aug 4 (C, JD). Chipping Sparrow: (120/8). Field Sparrow: (85/8). White-throated Sparrow: (18/3); one on F&WBBS near Delhi (Mrs. L. Clark), the rest plus eight other reports, one of ten birds, all from Chenango and Cortland Cos. Swamp Sparrow: (2/2). Song Sparrow: (249/8).

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*ED. NOTE:* The Region 4 report in the July issue was by Leslie Bemont. I regret that his name was omitted.

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

If you were interested in birds, it was a very dull summer; if a weatherman, an interesting one; if a frog, you were in heaven. Water, water, and more water prevailed throughout the summer, with three and one half inches excess in July alone. Cooler temperatures persisted, and few days ever achieved the hot, gummy levels of typical central New York July or August. Either the coolness of the summer or the frequent windstorms triggered many renestings, so that late broods and fledglings were widely reported after August 10.

A fair amount of information on breeding birds was achieved, both by specific area investigations, e.g. Tug Hill Plateau, Sangerfield Swamp, and by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys.

Abundant berry crops and weed seed stands presage a food-rich autumn; hopefully the local cone crop will attract winter finches.

Notable positives include 1) increased number of Kestrel sites; 2) high tallies of most flycatchers; 3) breeding American Widgeon, Tufted Titmouse, and Mockingbird; 4) a veritable wealth of Robins; 5) a rash of Purple Finch nestings.

Negatives are 1) the absence of any white herons; 2) the continued decline of most raptors; 3) a very poor early shorebird flight; 4) a scarcity of certain spring-disaster insectivores – Whip-poor-will, Hummingbird, some swallows; 5) no Prothonotary and almost no Hooded Warblers; 6) a paucity of breeding Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

Rare aves include: Ruff, Black-headed Gull, and Western Meadowlark.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; FR—Fox Ridge sugar beet settling impoundments s. of Howland's Island ;HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park; Syr—Syracuse; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.

Observers: DWA—D. W. Ackley; J&BB—J. & B. Barker; GLC—G. L. Church; EJF—E. J. Fisk; FLF—F. LaFrance; KGH—K. G. Hanson; SM—Stephen Morgan; PRP—P. R. Paquette; DBP—D. B. Peakall; B & SP—B. & S. Peebles; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; RJS—R. J. Smith; CGS—C. G. Spies, Jr.; WT—W. Thurber.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: three at Big Moose L, Herkimer Co, Jul 4 (MSR, CGS); two in winter plumage summering at Oneida L Aug 20 (CGS et al). Pied-billed Grebe: scattered pairs nested successfully in Pompey Twshp (FLF) and at Woodman's Pond in Madison Co (GLC); multiple pairs noted at Scott Swamp near Phoenix. Clay Swamp, and FR (mob). Great Blue Heron: at Scott Swamp 22 nests with 31 young (CGS, MSR); at Cross L 40 nests with 33 young (DBP *et al*); new sites include Old Fly in Pompey Twshp with six nests (FLF) and Morrisville Swamp with two (B&SP). No reports of white herons, not even Common Egrets. Green Heron: seemed more common – most small marshes had one-two pairs and the larger marshes (Clay and Scott Swamps) had more; six nests at Pompey (FLF); an intensive search for roosts produced impressive evening flight tallies – 90 Aug 14 Horseshoe Island near Phoenix (CGS) and 77 Aug 17 Clay Swamp (SM, CGS). Black-crowned Night Heron: this formerly fairly common species *unreported!*

Mallard and Black Duck: many broods reported from small ponds and marshes north of Syr and around Baldwinsville; 49 Mallards and four Blacks Aug 10 Pompey (FLF); nesting recorded on Oneida L islands (CGS); significantly, there appear to be many more Mallards than Black Ducks – even in the Black Duck-rich area at HIGMA—FR, Mallards regularly exceeded Blacks, e.g. 200:50 Jul 29 (MSR). Green-winged Teal: six+ young at FR Jul 29 (MSR, F. & E. Ranson); scattered adult groups (one-five/day) noted at FR, HIGMA, SP, and SSSP, but not at Stevens Pond near Phoenix, a formerly regular haunt. Blue-winged Teal: summer max 175 Jul 12 FR (MSR). American Widgeon: brood of three, Jul 18-Aug 2, FR (MSR) first Regional breeding record. Ruddy Duck: one male summered at FR (SM). Hooded Merganser: two imm Jul 26 Wampsville (*fide* DWA); one brood at HIGMA. Red-breasted Merganser: one summering Oneida L (CGS et al).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: noted only at HIGMA; not present in latter part of summer at Scott Swamp and around Mexico, previously regular sites. Goshawk: an adult pursued by a begging young Jun 29 THP (FGS)-only report. Two Sharp-shinned Hawks seen but no Cooper's Hawks. Red-shouldered Hawk: singles only – Williamstown (MSR), near Parish (CGS), Pompey (FLF), and Eaton (GLC); no successful nestings known, despite checking of several recently active sites. Broad-winged Hawk: migrant Jun 2 Pompey; multiple sightings (nine

birds by five observers) from THP and n. shore of Oneida L, with two nestings near Constantia. Bald Eagle: adult SP Aug 5 (CGS); an adult frequenting n. shore of Oneida L (*vide* PRP) thru late Jul and early Aug; no imm noted. Marsh Hawk: a pair reared three young in s. Madison Co (GLC), the first successful nesting in two years; one near Cazenovia Jun 15 (C. & E. Farnham); single males near Parish Jun 24 and at Sangerfield Swamp Jul 8 (both MSR). Osprey: building nest at Big Moose L in Jun (*vide* E]F). Sparrow Hawk: this and the Red-tailed are the only two local raptors holding up—JWP had 14 sites with pairs, mainly around Syr, Tully, and Pulaski; also 16 other pairs reported—actually appeared to be on the increase.

Ruffed Grouse: hen with chicks noted Jul 4 near Oneida (PRP); two broods in THP Jun 22; scarce in Ontario lakeshore woodlots and notably so in SSSP, a favored site. Virginia Rail and Sora: scattered singles from the larger permanent marshes (Scott and Clay Swamps), but the smaller marshes, only recently filled with water, do not have any yet.

Breeding shorebirds—Woodcock: five Jun 4 Cicero Swamp (MSR); six Jul 12 Westmoreland (SM); lesser numbers, one-three/day, in THP, Horseshoe Island, and FR. Common Snipe: singles thru Jun at Pompey (FLF), Toad Harbor Rd in West Monroe Twshp (MSR), and THP; six near Eaton (GLC); no breeding evidence. Upland Plover: noted near North Western (R. Williams), at Pompey (FLF), Little Falls (KGH), near Frankfort (CGS), and s. of Oneida, the last with two young (DWA)—all hill-country locations; several pairs with callow young (i.e. downy Uppies) at Syr Airport (FGS); pre-migration flocking, 23 at Oneida Co Airport Jul 12 and 51 at Syr Airport Aug 1.

Migrant shorebirds—high water levels, the leftover of a wet cold spring, plus persistent summer rains and a markedly high L Ontario level combined to produce the absolute minimum of local shorebird habitat; shorebirds were quite scarce and variety poor thru all of Jul and Aug. Arr dates include Semipalmated Plover Jul 20; Golden Plover, one Jul 22 Oneida Co Airport (RJS), very early; Black-bellied Plover Aug 8 Onon L and Liverpool; Ruddy Turnstone Jul 29 SP; Solitary Sandpiper Jul 10 Fox Ridge; Greater Yellowlegs Jul 23; Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 1 Long Island, Oneida L; Pectoral Sandpiper Jul 18; Baird's Sandpiper, one Aug 8; Least Sandpiper Jul 10; Short-billed Dowitcher Jul 8; Stilt Sandpiper Jul 21; Semipalmated Sandpiper Jul 18; Sanderling Jul 22; Wilson's Phalarope Jul 30. Most tallies seemed very low, the only good counts 20–35/day for Lesser Yellowlegs, 100–160/day for Semipalmated Sandpiper, 20–35/day for Least Sandpiper; Short-billed Dowitcher had a fair flight with three-12/day, but Stilt Sandpiper were quite scarce with one-two/day. *RUFF*: an imm male Jul 28 at Onon L (JWP, MSR), and three (WT) and one (T. M. Riley) imms Jul 29 also at Onon L—welcome back!

Herring Gull: nesting (two young and one,? two nests) on Long Island, Oneida L (CGS). Ring-billed Gull: the Spies survey of Oneida L larids on Jul 1–2 (too late for full counts) found six nests on Long Island and 11 nests on Wanry; total young on both islands 88. *BLACK-HEADED GULL*: red-billed nearly adult bird SP Jul 22 (MSR, CGS) and Aug 5 (FLF)—first Regional record—see field note. Common Tern: no colonies on the SP beaches; 40 nests on marsh debris at Carl Island at SP Jul 8 (CGS); on Jul 1–2 at Oneida L three small islands held 300+ nests (eggs and young) and 181 young-out-of-the-nest. (CGS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: very scarce, summer total seven birds (mob). Black-billed Cuckoo fared little better with 17 for summer. Screech Owl: eight reported for entire summer, with four from one observer (GLC) at Eaton. Long-eared Owl: one near Utica Jul 12 (MSR); not known to have bred this year.

*SWIFTS—SHRIKES*: Whip-poor-will: scarce—only two at Cicero Swamp; max five Jun 18 McConnellsville, Oneida Co (B&SP) and five Jun 20 Boonville (KGH); one at Morrisville Jun 17 (A. Carter) is first record for that locality. Common

Nighthawk: max 12 counted by car thru Syr on Jul 30 (MSR *et al.*); usual counts three-four/evening; unreported in natural habitat. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: scarce at Tully and Syr (one-two/day), but in good numbers (five/day) in THP. Belted Kingfisher: eight in seven miles of Ilion Gorge (MSR, CGS); scattered pairs about Clay Swamp and Tully; scarce at Oneida L.

Pileated Woodpecker: bred at Liverpool—one adult and one young Jul 14 (DBP). Red-headed Woodpecker: the thirty+ pairs around Oneida (*vide* DWA) appear to be thriving; three reports from hickory-oak groves along L Ontario; successfully nested Liverpool—adult with four young Aug 20 (DBP). Red-bellied Woodpecker: local range extension, in Peppermill Gorge at South Onondaga (JWP), probably from the colony at n. end of Otisco L. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 15 in THP Jun 25; seven Kasoag F&WBBS Jun 24; scattered pairs at Pompey (FLF), Tully (JWP), and Beaver L (F. Dittrich). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: adult female at Big Moose Jun 1 (EJF).

Most species of flycatchers seemed to be in better-than-average numbers thru summer—max include Crested five, Phoebe 50 near Boonville (KGH), Traill's seven and eight. Least 42, Wood Pewee 12; the exception was E. Kingbird, frequently missed in a full day of birding in the Syr-Tully-Mexico area; returning E. Kingbirds noted as early as Jul 7 N Syr. Olive-sided Flycatcher: pair returned to 1966 nest site at Littlejohn Game Management Area in THP but was apparently unsuccessful (FGS). Tree Swallow: breeding concentrations developing in the dying maple-elm swamps along s. shore of Oneida L and at HIGMA. Barn Swallow: appeared very common thru Jun with abundant nesting success (many broods of three and four on country telephone wires); found nesting on rock ledges near Nine Mile Pt on L Ontario (CGS); late nesting Aug 14 Big Moose (EJF). Cliff Swallow: small colony on Smith Ridge near Bridgeport (MSR) and seven nests near Wampsville (B&SP)—the first reports on Oneida L s. shore in five years. Purple Martin: reduced numbers in colonies but most had excellent breeding success (Oneida L shore and SP colonies).

Gray Jay: imm on Big Moose-Stillwater Rd Jun 25 (MSR, CGS). Tufted Titmice brought young to feeder at Sherrill (S. Schultz). Red-breasted Nuthatch: at Nelson Swamp in Madison Co; again at SSSP and Rome Sand Plains. Brown Creeper: noted repeatedly in dying elm-maple swamps at HIGMA, Tully, Oneida L, and Pompey; nest with two young at Carpenter's Pond in Pompey (FLF). House Wren: on increase—six-ten/day in most areas about Syr, Victory, and Eaton; as usual, uncommon in THP (two-three/day). Winter Wren: brood of four at Littlejohn Jun 29 for a definite breeding record; also present at Carpenter's Pond, Ilion Gorge, Sangerfield Swamp, and Nelson Swamp (CGS, MSR). Carolina Wren: singles near Nedrow (FLF) and at Fish Gulf near Otisco L (JWP); may be recovering from decimation of four winters ago. Long-billed Marsh Wren: max ten/day at Scott and Clay Swamps (low) and even lower (three-four/day) along L Ontario. Short-billed Marsh Wren: four locations this summer—SP, SSSP, Morgan Rd in Clay Twshp (SM), and at Toad Harbor, involving at least ten birds.

Mockingbird: Jun 14 and 16, two Munnsville (A. Raynsford); Jul 2 one above w. shore of Otisco L (E. M. Starr); two broods reared at DeWitt (*vide* B. P. Burt). Brown Thrasher: one at Littlejohn Jun 29 (FGS); reported in Boonville area (B&SP) with 18 there Jul 1 (KGH); and four on Kasoag F&WBBS—all THP locations where the species is scarce. Robin: 74 Victory and 63 Cicero Ctr—higher than last year—F&WBBSs (JWP), counts 20–65/day widely reported and from all sectors. Hermit Thrush: six-ten singing males Tully Forest, Onon Co (WT); ten in North Bay area Jun 11 (B&SP). Swainson's Thrush: low tallies (one-six/day) all from THP sites. E. Bluebird: 11 successful nestings with 39 young banded at Oneida (H. P. Nodecker); five pairs in Rome area (*vide* H. Aspinwall); three known pairs in Oswego Co; seven birds Jul 14 Eaton—still a very scarce breeder. Golden-crowned Kinglet: single pairs in plantation Norway spruce at Littlejohn, but not in

the few remaining stands of native red spruce there. Cedar Waxwing: 150 at Boonville (KGH); 20-30/day on THP; six-16/day in Syr-Tully area. No Loggerhead Shrikes reported.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one along Mad R and a pair in maple woods on s shore of Salmon R Reservoir, both THP locations where species is scarce; one-three on F&WBBSs. Red-eyed Vireo: numbers in THP stable (50-60/day) but far fewer in woodlots in TRGMA, HIGMA, and CV.

Spring warbler last dates — three Wilson's Jun 1, three Blackpolls Jun 3 (FLF). Breeding warblers — Prothonotary: unreported for the first time in 15 years. Golden-winged: 17 singing males located in the drumlin country of n. Onon-n. Cayuga-w. Oswego Co Jun 13-20 (JWP, MSR): two-three at two sub-THP sites (MSR, CGS) — the abundance of habitat (overgrown brushy pastures near small creeks) in the Williamstown vicinity should presage more from that area; single males at Chestnut Ridge e. of Bridgeport, previously a blank for the species, and at a newly-found site on the Cicero Swamp periphery (both MSR). Blue-winged: in contrast to May, scarce thru Jun and Jul in known sites — most likely reduced singing rather than actual reduction in birds; a Blue-winged and Brewster's were regularly spishable at CV (FGS). A Brewster's with Golden-winged Jun 23 near Parish (CGS) indicates some Blue-winged genes already in this formerly pure Golden-winged area. Nashville Warbler: at Pompey (FLF), and Nelson and Sangerfield Swamps (both MSR). Cerulean Warbler: again at s. end of Otisco L. and at Short Point Bay and Lewis Pt Rd — the last two on Oneida L s. shore; newly found in Whiskey Hollow near Baldwinsville; nest photographed in CV (J&BB, CGS). Ovenbird: either vocally unenthusiastic or very scarce this summer — max 12 for a full day's birding Jun 17 and Jul 11 (B&SP) on n. shore Oneida L; three-nine on F&WBBSs. Northern Waterthrush: scarce around Syr, Tully, and SSSP — max three/day — *poor!* Louisiana Waterthrush: repeated reports from gulfs on both sides of Otisco L; again at Ilion Gorge (CGS), and at Graffenburg and Willowvane Gorges — i.e., probably to be found in all the north-flowing gorges which empty into the Mohawk R (J&BB). Mourning Warbler: one of the few warblers increasing locally — six sites around Tully (JWP) and four near Pompey (FLF); four+ pairs at CV; six singing males in n. Onon-n. Cayuga Co. Yellowthroat: max 40 along three miles of R.R. track in Sangerfield Swamp (MSR). Hooded Warbler: two Nedrow Jul 30 (CGS, SM) a new site; *unreported* at Camillus, Marcellus, Labrador, Tully, SSSP, or other L Ontario sites — this species is fast disappearing locally. American Redstart: scarce in woodlots around Syr — ten-15/day, compared with 30-40/day in other years.

THP-breeding warblers — Black-and-white: two-five/day thru Jun. Nashville: scarce, though several noted in sub-THP bogs Williamstown-Constantia. Magnolia: max 22 but usually ten-12/day in spruce-larch plantations; pair feeding young Jul 26 Oneida L n. shore (B&SP). Black-throated Blue: three-13/day. Myrtle: three-nine/day — like Magnolia, dependent on either conifer plantations or spruce bogs three at Dibbletown, Oneida Co, new location (MSR). Black-throated Green: scarce this summer, two-14/day. Also scarce were Blackburnian with three-11/day — reduced because of spruce-larch pulping operations? Chestnut-sided: *the* THP warbler, 35-73/day; 19 on Kasoag F&WBBS. Another species, like Chestnut-sided benefiting from the frequent logging and pulping in THP, is the Redstart, ten-40/day. Ovenbird: max 40, a whopping tally, Boonville (KGH). Mourning: one-seven/day, low. Hooded: three singing males again on s. shore of Salmon R. Reservoir. Canada: max 25 on Jun 4 Boonville (KGH).

Adirondack-breeding warblers — Parula: only one-three/day at Big Moose, low. Similarly scarce were Black-throated Green, max six, and Blackburnian, max eight.

Fall migrant arrivals — Golden-winged, Blue-winged, and Yellow-breasted Chat Aug 10 Otisco hill (JWP); Nashville Aug 7 Pompey (FLF); Blackburnian Aug 4 SSSP; Chestnut-sided Aug 3 SSSP. Yellow: arr Jul 10 N Syr; max 125 Aug 5 SP to Nine Mile Pt (MSR).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 22 on Victory and 39 on Cicero Ctr F&WBBS (JWP). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: present at Tully to Jul 23 (JWP, RJS) Baltimore Oriole: summer max 25 in n. Cayuga-w. Oswego Co; rather scarce still (one-three/day) in N Syr, Liverpool, Pompey. Rusty Blackbird: four in spruce bog on Big Moose-Stillwater Rd Jun 25. Brown-headed Cowbird: one successfully reared by a Golden-winged-Brewster's pair at CV—drat! Scarlet Tanager: quite scarce, two-five/day, max ten Jun 17 Oneida L n. shore.

Indigo Bunting: 19, eight, 14, seven on Victory, Cicero Ctr, Kasoag, and Oriskany Falls F&WBBS; 30 in 60 miles in n. Cayuga-w. Oswego Co (MSR). Evening Grosbeak: adult with young at feeder Big Moose-Old Forge (EJF). Purple Finch: many nestings with pairs noted widely thru Syr, N Syr, n. Cayuga Co; successful nestings at Tully (JWP); abundant in THP—14—20/day. Red Crossbill: 14 on Jul 25 at Big Moose is only report before Aug 12 when J&BB had groups of three-12 frequently in Big Moose-Old Forge thru end of period. Rufous-sided Towhee: seemed up slightly—25 at Boonville (KGH), 12 at North Bay (B&SP), 40 on n. shore of Oneida L Jun 17, 19 on Kasoag F&WBBS.

Grasshopper Sparrow: after the wretched spring showing, 20 at Syr Airport was a fine surprise; four on Kasoag F&WBBS; still scarce in suitable habitat around Phoenix, Baldwinsville, and Pulaski. Henslow's Sparrow: nine known sites in 1967 (only half of normal number) with usually one-two/site but max seven at Mud Mill Rd, Brewerton. White-throated Sparrow: reported repeatedly at Carpenter's Pond; 15 at Sangerfield Swamp Jul 8; ten-55/day in THP with greatest concentrations in spruce plantations or at spruce-bog edges. Song Sparrow: 70 Victory, 78 Cicero Ctr, 64 Oriskany Falls, and 38 Kasoag F&WBBS.

Hearty thanks are due the compilers Mrs. J. W. Propst, C. G. Spies, Jr., and Stephen Morgan.

CORRIGENDUM: Vol 17, No. 3 (July 1967), p. 169, last line omitted, sentence should read: Veery Apr 15 DH (JRH) and Wood Thrush Apr 21 Fayetteville (Mrs. A. Friedel) - both record arr.

427 S. Main St., North Syracuse 13212.

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

DAVID C. GORDON

The first half of June was very warm and humid with a cooling trend and some rain the last half of the month. July was much warmer than usual with many nice sunny days but the last half of the month typically started overcast and cool in the morning with clearing and warm temperatures in the afternoon. This pattern continued generally thru the first half of August. July rainfall varied in Jefferson County from 1 to 4.3 inches with a little over three inches in Watertown which is more than last year but below normal. Except for one good rain of nearly 1.5 inches on the 9th, the first half of August continued the generally dry conditions of July.

Conditions for fall migration of shorebirds at El Dorado were the poorest in several years. On July 24 there was little exposed mud and Aug 13-14 there was practically no beach anywhere. Shorebirds were perched on floating debris. The maximum counts of shorebirds — less

than 200 on Aug 13 and less than 50 on Aug 14 — were low compared to normal high of 400–500 on this beach. Many times during the period shorebirds were harder to approach than usual before taking flight. The high water all along the Region lakeshore would seem to be more a reflection of abundant rainfall in the upper Great Lakes and in western New York State than locally. The Lake Ontario level in July was reported officially to be ten inches above level of July 1966 and 14 inches above average for last ten years.

A mockingbird nested successfully near Brownville. Art Allen continued his nest observations. He reported on 71 nests of 28 species not including cowbird eggs in eight nests; 32 nests were in an eight acre area in back of his house, seven of these were yellow warbler nests.

Localities: BCW—Brookside Cemetery, Watertown; ED—El Dorado; Jeff Co—Jefferson County; LG—Little Galloo Is.; MRW—Middle Road woods 4 mi. E. of Watertown; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; St Law Co—St. Lawrence County; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; Wat—Watertown.

Observers: AA—Arthur Allen; JB—John Belknap; DG—David Gordon; WS—William Shamey.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one ED Jun (DG). Pied-billed Grebe: seen with young PRGMA Jul 6 (AA). Double-crested Cormorant: colony about the same on Gull Is. Jun 10 as it has been for 19 years (AA). Great Blue Heron: 37 active nests at PRGMA heronry, some young able to fly still using nests as resting platforms Jul 17. Camp Drum rookery of 50 nests was checked Jul 16 and there were no herons in the vicinity at this time or any time previously this summer. There is no water in this old beaver meadow or the stand of dead trees holding the nests. The beaver dam was out five to eight years ago and the area has since dried out. There is no evidence of occupation of nests this year or in recent years (DG,WS). Green Heron: thru period. Black-crowned Night Heron: nesting colony LG as usual Jun 10 (AA); one adult PRGMA Jul 1 (DG). Least Bittern: one Payne's L near Oxbow Jun 8 (AA). American Bittern: thru period. Canada Goose: adults seen with eleven young together PRGMA Jul 1–6 (AA, DG). Fairly common nesting ducks locally were Mallard, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Duck, Pintail: nesting LG Jun 10 (AA).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: two near Pamela Four Corners Jul 17 (DG); two near Edwards Jul 23, one Edwards Jul 24 (AA), six Aug 12 north of Gouverneur (JB)—not as numerous this year; Red-tailed Hawk: thru period. Red-shouldered & Broad-winged Hawks: S. Edwards Jul 25 (AA). Marsh Hawk: thru period. Osprey: usual pair nesting Yellow L, St Law Co (AA). Sparrow Hawk: numerous thru period near Wat. Ruffed Grouse: occasional most wooded areas. Gray Partridge: eleven young found dead on road near Perch R hamlet Jul 19 (DG); about dozen young in flock near Wat Jul 30 (DG). Virginia Rail: one PRGMA Aug 10. Common Gallinule: raised young PRGMA.

Semipalmated Plover: Jul 21 thru period ED. Killdeer: usual numbers thru period; one young seen Jun 11 near Wat. Black-bellied Plover: one Jun 3 ED. Ruddy Turnstone: last three ED Jun 3; first fall migrants six ED Jul 31 (DG). American Woodcock: one PRGMA Jul 15. Common Snipe: thru period. Upland Plover: four adults Camps Mills Jun 3; pair with two young near Wat Jun 11; others thru Jul several places. Spotted Sandpiper: locally common. Solitary Sandpiper: first fall migrants three BCW Jul 24; max four Aug 13. Lesser Yellowlegs: Jul 21 thru period. Knot: two ED Jun 3 (DG). Pectoral Sandpiper: Jul 21 thru period. Least Sandpiper: Jul 21 thru period. Short-billed Dowitcher: Jul 21 thru period.

Stilt Sandpiper: two or three ED Jul 21–24 (AA, DG). Semipalmated Sandpiper: last ED Jun 3; first fall migrants Jul 21. Western Sandpiper: one ED Aug 13 (AA). Sanderling: first Jul 31.

Great Black-backed Gull: last spring, one LG Jun 10; first fall, two ED Aug 13 (AA, JB). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: locally common along L Ontario especially ED and vicinity, and along St. Lawrence R. Bonaparte's Gull: two ED Jul 31 (DG). Common Tern: locally common, same areas as Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. Caspian Tern: PRGMA Jun 11; ED Jul 24 thru period. Black Tern: usual breeding colonies at PRGMA and Ives Street Rd marsh, Wat. locally common. Mourning Dove: thru period. Black-billed Cuckoo: thru period. Screech Owl: near Dexter Jun 13. Great Horned Owl: near Wat in Jun. Barred Owl: S Edwards, heard Jul 26 (AA).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Flicker: hybrid Burrville Jul 25 (DG). Red-headed Woodpecker: still uncommon with reports from Campbells Pt Jun 15, near PRGMA Jul 1, near Philadelphia Aug 12; pair feeding young in hole PRGMA heronry Jul 17; two imm near Pamela Aug 10. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: locally common THP and St Law Co. Eastern Kingbird: seemed numerous thruout Region. Cliff Swallow: two active colonies noted in St Law Co (AA) but previously active colonies in Jeff and Lewis Co not active this year (AA, DG). *MOCKINGBIRD*: nest with two young in mockorange bush Jul 12 near Brownville, left the nest Jul 14 (mob)-first successful nesting in Jeff Co known to editor; one Wat Aug 10–12 (AA). Eastern Bluebird: several scattered localities including two known nests; seem most common on Camp Drum and near its borders. Loggerhead Shrike: seemed more uncommon during summer.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: two MRW Jul 6. Solitary Vireo: S Edwards Jun 29. Warblers: Black-and white, Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, Canada and Am. Redstart all seen commonly in usual habitats. More notable were Cerulean: Knowlesville Rd woods about 5 mi. N of Wat Jul 1. Blackpoll: last MRW Jun 3. Mourning: MRW Jul 1.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: All icterids noted in usual large numbers, most flocking in Aug. Brown-headed Cowbird: found parasitizing following species this summer: Catbird, Wood Thrush, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Slate-colored Junco: nest with four eggs Jun 29 near S Edwards was successful.

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## REGION 8 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

According to Ray Faulkener on the radio, this summer was characterized by "more haze than any other summer we can remember." It was also hot. On June 4 our thermometer registered 108 degrees in the sun at 5:08 pm! June nights rarely went below 60 degrees, the humidity was regularly in the 80s and 90s and there were many days of showers and thunder showers.

July followed much the same pattern. We could not see the mountains for days at a time. The humidity was 95% at Ray Brook on July 24.



For August 6 we have the joyous note "Clear Day: temp 54 degrees at 8:30 am, 15 degrees cooler than past muggy days." Perhaps these conditions were welcome to the insect world. We have many notes of butterflies, lady bugs, grasshoppers, beetles, crickets, caterpillars, etc. but we did not mark a corresponding upsurge in bird numbers.

A pair of Cardinals at Bloomingdale was unusual. Reports of immature Evening Grosbeaks seem to increase each year but, otherwise, there was not much of note.

Schetty determined his nest sites "either by singing males, birds with food in their bills, or actual nests found by us." He was at Elk Lake from June 24 to Aug 4.

It is interesting to compare numbers reported on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 25-mile Breeding Bird Surveys, which are included for some species. Williams and Chase took theirs June 20 at Speculator and Willsboro respectively. Meade's was taken five days later at St Regis Falls. Unfortunately, only eleven stops of the latter could be completed because of adverse weather conditions.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; EB—Elisabeth Barnet; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; HD—Harriet Delafield; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hager; DMcI—Dorothy McIlroy; JK—Joseph Keji; MK—Marguerite Kingsbury; GM—Gordon Meade; JM—James Merritt; RM—Ruth Meier; MRS—Mary and Robert Sheffield; FS—Frank Schetty; IW—Isabel Williams; RW—Ruth Williams; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: Aus —Ausable Marsh; B—Brook; P—Pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake ;TL—Tupper Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one nest, one surviving young out of two Elk L (FS); one Jun 2 Little Clear P, two adults, two imm Jul 20 Duck P (JH); pair Mountain P Jul 21 (Martin *vide* JH); two adults one imm Jul 1 L Clear (EB); two adults one imm Jul 28 Weller P (RM); one Aug 6 L Kiwassa to Pine P (GM); one calling Aug 12 RB (MK). Pied-billed Grebe: one L Alice Aug 11 (GM). Great Blue Heron: two Jun 20 (F&WBBS—RW); one Jun 13 Santa Clara Flow, Two Jun 16 Madawaska Flow, four Aus M Jun 23, the latter are regular visitors (JH); JK was surprised to see only one Aug 9 RB. American Bittern: five young on bog near Elk L (FS); one Jun 10 TL (MK); one Santa Clara Flow, one Jun 16 Madawaska Flow (JH); one Jul 30 Stony Creek P (RM).

Canada Goose: 18 L Alice Aug 11 (GM). Black Duck: one nest Elk L (FS); nest with six eggs Jun 6 Upper Saranac L brought off brood (M Muncil), one or two thru period RB (JK); one Jun 23 Aus M (JH); one or two L Kiwassa Aug 8 (GM). Blue-winged Teal: four L Alice Aug 11 (GM). Wood Duck: one Elk L (FS); one Jun 13 Santa Clara Flow, one Jun 23 Aus M (JH); six L Alice Aug 11 (GM). Ring-necked Duck: ten Madawaska Flow Jun 16 (JH); 16 Aug 8 L Kiwassa to Pine P (GM). Hooded Merganser: one or two Jun 19 & 27 RB (JK); eight over Saranac R near SL Jul 28 (HD); two L Alice Aug 11 (GM). Common Merganser: three nests Elk L (FS); adult and about ten imm Piseco L late Jul (DMcI).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: one nest, birds observed around nest site Jun 24-Jul 12 Elk L (FS); 5th year of occupancy at Jay nest site, birds observed Jun 10, 18, 24 and Jul 2, last visit "three brown full grown birds in the nest ready to go" (RH). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Elk L (FS); one Elizabethtown Aug 14 (GC). Red-tailed Hawk: two adults, one imm Elk L Jun 24-Jul 1 (MRS); one full-grown imm

Jul 3 and several days thereafter Keene (RH). Broad-winged Hawk: two nest sites Elk L (FS); four Jun 13, one or two thru period RB (JK); one near Speculator Jun 20 (DMcI). Bald Eagle: one adult Vly L Jul 29 (DMcI). Osprey: one Santa Clara Flow Jun 13, one Miller P Jul 26, two young in nest Quebec B early Aug (JH); one Jun 27 and Aug 7 RB (JK); one Little TL Aug 1 (RH). Sparrow Hawk: downy young Aug 1 "two months late", one Jun 20 Willsboro Village (GTC).

Ruffed Grouse: four nest sites Elk L (FS); "good year" Jay and vicinity (RH); five imm able to fly Jul 20 RB (JK); one Jun 23 TL, female with eight young Axton Jul 25 (RM). Killdeer: one Jun 4 SL (HD). American Woodcock: one Elk L (FS); one Willsboro Jun 20 (GTC); many broods Jay-Lewis area (RH); one TL Aug 5 (RM). Spotted Sandpiper: one nest Elk L (FS). Solitary Sandpiper: one Jul 25 RB (JK). Lesser Yellowlegs: one L Alicé Aug 11 (GM). Herring Gull: two or three RB thru period (JK); two or three Connery P Jun 4, TL Jun 10 (MK); five Ausable Forks Jul 18 (HD). Ring-billed Gull: five visitors Elk L (FS); three Jun 10 TL (MK). Common Tern: one TL Jun 6 (MK). Black Tern: one Oseetah L Jul 29 (GM). Mourning Dove: five Jun 20 (F&WBBS-GTC); four Ausable Forks Aug 11 (GM); one Aug 15 RB (JK). Black-billed Cuckoo: one Jul 9 RB (JK); one Jun 20 SL (HD); one near Vly L Jul 29 (DMcI). Screech Owl: one Elk L (FS). FS was surprised not to hear or see Barred, Great Horned or Saw-whet Owls.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one Jun 2 Rockefeller Pk (L Hart); one Jun 21 SL (HD); one Jun 2-Aug 15, heard frequently TL (RM); one Jun 20 (F&WBBS-GTC). Common Nighthawk: one Jul 15 RB (JK); one or two early Jun TL (RM, MK). Chimney Swift: three to ten Elk L late Jun (MRS); four Jun 21 SL (HD); up to 15 thru period RB (JK); nine Jun 20 (F&WBBS-RW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 11 nest sites Elk L (FS); two thru period RB (JK); two Jul 8 Bloomingdale (IW); pair, young observed SL (EB). Belted Kingfisher: one nest Elk L (FS); one or two thru period RB (JK). Yellow-shafted Flicker: one or two pairs reported from all areas but some observers thought numbers were down from recent years. Pileated Woodpecker: one Elk L (FS); one Jun 2 RB (Orcutt *vide* JH); on F&WBBS, one each Jun 20 GTC and RW. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: at Elk L, 25 possible nest sites as compared to 15 in '66 (FS); usual one or two pairs other areas. Hairy & Downy Woodpeckers: normal—one or two pairs of each from most observers, four nest sites for Hairys and two for Downys Elk L (FS); young are most likely to be seen by those who maintain feeders thru the summer, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one Elk L (FS, MRS); one Jul 25 Axton (MK).

Eastern Kingbird: one to three Elk L (FS); RB (JK); Heart L and TL (MK); SL (HD); Axton (RM); on F&WBBS Jun 20 (GTC and RW). Great Crested Flycatcher: one Elk L (FS); RB Jun 8 & 9 (JK); Jun 6 SL (HD); on F&WBBS eight Jun 20 (GTC), one Jun 25 (GM). Eastern Phoebe: one or two pairs all areas. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Elk L (MRS, FS); one Jun 3 Phelps Mt (MK); "unusually common in spruce habitats near Jay" (RH). Trail's Flycatcher: one Jun 4 Heart L, Jun 6 TL (MK); one Jun 7 and Aug 9 RB (JK); on F&WBBS, one Jun 20 (RW), three Jun 25 (GM); four nest sites Elk L (FS). Least Flycatcher: 27 possible nest sites Elk L (FS); three SL to Saranac Inn Jun 11 (HD); on F&WBBS, four Jun 20 (GTC), 15 Jun 20 (RW), two Jun 25 (GM); one or two thru period RB (JK). Eastern Wood Pewee: one or two only reported from all areas except Elk L where FS counted 13 possible nest sites. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 11 sites Elk L (FS); one Jun 1 and Jul 10 RB (JK); on F&WBBS, two Jun 20 (RW), four Jun 25 (GM); one singing Aug 3-6 SL (EA). Horned Lark: one Willsboro Jun 20 (GTC).

Tree Swallow: max 200 mostly imm on wires Piseco Jul 17 (DMcI); "at least 60" nest sites Elk L (FS); otherwise two or three pairs reported all areas. Bank Swallow: decidedly down this year—from 30 sites in '65 to six in '67 Elk L (FS); "not as

numerous" RB (JK); two to four reported other areas. Rough-winged Swallow: four Elk L (FS). Barn Swallow: 100 Franklin Falls Jul 18, 300 SL Jul 19 (EA, HD); six to 12 pairs reported other areas. Cliff Swallow: for the first time in over 20 years none at Elk L (FS); one to three Jun 1 thru Aug 7 RB (JK); two Jun 20 (F&WBBS-RW). Purple Martin: three Jun 20 (F&WBBS-GTC); three Keeseville Aug 11 (GM). Gray Jay: two adults, four imm Jun 17 Madawaska (RH). Blue Jay: normal—from two to 18 seen in a day, young brought to feeders. Common Crow: small numbers SL, RB, Elk L; 23 Jun 20 (F&WBBS-GTC). Black-capped Chickadee: normal—same as Blue Jay but more in groups than jays. Boreal Chickadee: one Phelps Mt Jun 3 (MK); one Jun 6-24 SL (EB); unusually common in spruce habitat SL and Jay (RH); nine nest sites Elk L (FS); 25 Paul Smiths Jul 30 (JM); one Jul 27, three Aug 13 RB (JK). White-breasted Nuthatch: shy in summer but there are small numbers about; six nest sites Elk L (FS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: young Jul 18 RB (MK); 15 nest sites Elk L (FS). Brown Creeper: two nest sites Elk L (FS); one Aug 7 & 9 RB (JK).

House Wren: on F&WBBS, one Jun 20 (GTC), one Jun 25 (GM). Winter Wren: 17 nest sites Elk L (FS); scattered reports of one to three other areas. Long-billed Marsh Wren: two Kings Bay Aug 11 (GM). Catbird: one or two pairs RB (JK); SL (HD); on F&WBBS, eight Jun 20 (GTC), 12 Jun 25 (GM). Brown Thrasher: one Jun 1-Aug 9 RB (JK); one Jun 4 Heart L (MK); one Jun thru Jul 27 SL (HD); one Jun 20 (F&WBBS-GTC); one Jun 1-25, young observed Jun 20 Bloomingtondale (IW). Robin: common to abundant all areas. Wood Thrush: same as past few years, scattered reports of one to four birds from various observers. Hermit Thrush: 14 nest sites Elk L (FS); 12 Jun 20 (F&WBBS-GTC); one or two reports other areas. Swainson's Thrush: nine nest sites Elk L (FS); several singing Jul 18 Piseco (DMcI). Gray-cheeked Thrush: three singing Phelps Mt Jun 3 (MK); one Elk L (FS). Veery: on F&WBBS, 17 Jun 20 (GTC), 14 Jun 20 (RW), five Jun 25 (GM); one heard thru period TL (RM); RB (JK); SL (HD); two nest sites Elk L (FS). Eastern Bluebird: first one in 27 years of birding seen one day at Elk L (FS *et al*); arr Vermontville May 18, last egg May 25, five young Jun 12 (Tyler); two Jul 29 RB (JK); two to four SL Jun 11 thru period (EA, HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: six nest sites Elk L (FS); two Aug 9 RB (JK). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two nest sites Elk L (FS); one singing male Jun 17 Madawaska (RH); one Jun 25 (F&WBBS-GM); one Jul 31 SL (HD). **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Ross Pk Aug 11 (RH). Cedar Waxwing: 50 pairs Elk L (FS); three to ten, other areas. Starling: 20 Aug 11 SL (HD); one nest Elk L (FS); few thru period RB (JK); six Jun 25 (F&WBBS-GM).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Vireos: Yellow-throated: one Elk L (FS); one Jun 20 (F&WBBS-GTC). Solitary: five nest sites Elk L (FS); one or two Jun 8 to Aug 9 RB (JK); three or four Heart L Jun 3 & 4 (MK); two Jun 20 (F&WBBS-RW). Red-eyed: 50 Elk L (FS); several Heart L Jun 3 & 4 (MK); few Jun 3 to Aug 15 RB (JK); four Jun 3 to Aug 15 SL (HD); on F&WBBS, 14 Jun 20 (GTC), 19 Jun 20 (RW), 14 Jun 25 (GM). Warbling: one Jun 10 TL (MK).

Warblers: Black-and-white: eight Elk L (FS); one Jun 8 to Aug 16 RB (JK). Tennessee: one Jun 27 RB (JK). Nashville: three Elk L (FS); one Heart L Jun 4 (MK); Jun 1-Aug 15 RB (JK); on F&WBBS, one Jun 20 (RW), four Jun 25 (GM). Parula: two nest sites Elk L (FS); one SL to Saranac Inn Jun 11, one Jul 31 SL (HD); one Jun 20 (F&WBBS-RW). Yellow: one each Jun 1 and 29 RB (JK), Jun 4 LP (MK), Jun 11 SL (HD); nine Jun 20 (F&WBBS-GTC). Magnolia: 12 nest sites Elk L (FS); one Jun thru Jul 27 RB (JK); one Heart L Jun 3 (MK); three Jun 20 (F&WBBS-RW). Black-throated Blue: ten nest sites Elk L (FS); one Jun 3 Heart L (MK); one Jun 11 SL to Saranac Inn (HD); one Jun 20 (F&WBBS-GTC), several Piseco Jul 18 (DMcI). Myrtle: 12 nest sites Elk L (FS); a few Jun 1-Aug 7 RB (JK); five Jun 25 (F&WBBS-GM). Black-throated Green:

11 nest sites Elk L (FS); one or two RB, SL and Heart L early Jun; on F&WBBS, four Jun 20 (GTC), one Jun 25 (GM). Blackburnian: 19 nest sites Elk L (FS); one RB Jun 2 (JK); one Jun 3 & 4 Heart L (MK); four Jun 20 (F&WBBS—RW). Chestnut-sided: common in most areas; nest in bracken at RB, started Jul 11, three eggs Jul 25, hatched and nest empty after Aug 4 (JK); 24 nest sites Elk L (FS). Blackpoll: seven nest sites Elk L (FS); one Jun 3 Phelps Mt and Jun 4 LP (MK). Ovenbird: 17 nest sites Elk L (FS); two or three Jun 6 thru period RB (JK); one Jun 3 Heart L (MK); three SL to Saranac Inn Jun 11 (HD); on F&WBBS, 14 Jun 20 (GTC), four Jun 20 (RW), three Jun 25 (GM). Northern Waterthrush: singles Elk L (FS), Jul 27 and Aug 7 RB (JK), Jun 20 SL (HD); on F&WBBS, one Jun 20 (RW), one Jun 25 (GM). Mourning: 15 nest sites Elk L (FS); one Jun 4 Heart L (MK); heard Jun 28 and 29 RB (JK); on F&WBBS, one Jun 20 (RW), six Jun 25 (GM). Canada: seven nest sites Elk L (FS); a few Jun 3 and 4 Heart L (MK); on F&WBBS, six Jun 20 (RW), three Jun 25 (GM); young on the wing Aug 15 RB (JK); Piseco Jul 18 (DMcI). Yellowthroat: from two to eight all areas; 23 Jun 25 (F&WBBS—GM). American Redstart: four to 14 all areas.

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: SL Jun 5 thru mid-Jul (HD); Jun 4 LP (MK); 32 Jun 20 (F&WBBS—GTC). Eastern Meadowlark: Jun 4 Marcy Trail Rd (MK); thru period SL (HD); two Jun 20 (F&WBBS—GTC). Red-winged Blackbird: proper territories well supplied, 59 Jun 20 (F&WBBS—GTC). Baltimore Oriole: one Jun 8, Jun 21, Jul 31 SL (HD); pair with one imm TL Jul 26 and 27 (RM); 13 Jun 20 (F&WBBS—GTC). Rusty Blackbird: two Elk L (FS); one Aug 9 RB (JK). Common Grackle: common. Brown-headed Cowbird: one to nine all areas thru period. Scarlet Tanager: one thru period RB (MK); nine Elk L (FS); one Jul 29 TL (RM); on F&WBBS, one Jun 20 (GTC), eight Jun 20 (RW).

**CARDINAL:** pair Jun 1-Jul 26 observed feeding, usually separately, on lawn and on porch, no imm seen Bloomingdale (IW). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 12 nest sites Elk L (FS); young Jul 23 RB (JK); young Jul 15 TL (RM); young late Jul SL (EB); on F&WBBS, 14 Jun 20 (GTC), four Jun 20 (RW). Indigo Bunting: two Port Henry Jun 27 (MK); one male Jun 28 RB (JK). Evening Grosbeak: one nest site Elk L (FS); imm being fed Jul 19 RB (MK); young seen end of Jun and mid-Jul, max 12 adults Bloomingdale (IW); young at feeder TL (RM); two pairs thru period, young being fed Jul 7 and again Aug 3 (two broods?) SL (EB); three Riverview Jul 30 (JM). Purple Finch: 25 nest sites Elk L (FS); flock of 16 adults plus a few imm SL (EB); 25 thru period TL (RM); uncommon thru period RB (JK); common thru period Bloomingdale (IW); three Jun 25 (F&WBBS—GM). Pine Siskin: three nest sites Elk L (FS); up to five thru period RB (JK). American Goldfinch: two to ten thru period most areas; young being fed SL Jun 21 (EB); on F&WBBS, 16 Jun 20 (GTC), five Jun 20 (RW), six Jun 25 (GM). Red Crossbill: one adult seen in Aug Elk L (FS); ten Jun 15, two thru period RB (JK); seven Aug 13 SL (GM). Rufous-sided Towhee: male thru period one (two?) brown ones also seen late Jul, TL (RM); singles—SL Jun 4 (EA), Ausable Forks Aug 11 (GM), Jun 20 (F&WBBS—GTC), Jun 20 (F&WBBS—RW).

Sparrows: Savannah: two pair SL thru period (HD); one Jun 4 Marcy Trail Rd (MK). Vesper: one Jun 4 Marcy Trail Rd (MK); two Jun 20 (F&WBBS—GTC). Slate-colored Junco: common Elk L (FS); otherwise no numbers larger than five Jun 20 (F&WBBS—RW). Chipping: 11 nest sites Elk L (FS); a few other areas. Field: heard Jun 17 SL (HD); on F&WBBS, two Jun 20 (GTC), one Jun 20 (RW), two Jun 25 (GM). White-throated: "at least 30 singing males Marcy Landing" (MRS); common Elk L (FS); few SL, RB, TL thru period; on F&WBBS, 11 Jun 20 (GTC), 28 Jun 20 (RW), 45 Jun 25 (GM). Lincoln's: one Jun 4 Marcy Trail Rd (MK); one well seen and heard Chubb Hill Rd Jun 25 (RH, DY); two Jul 10 RB (JK). Swamp: six nest sites Elk L (FS); one Jun 4 Heart L (MK); on F&WBBS, one Jun 20 (RW), two Jun 25 (GM). Song: 17 nest sites Elk L (FS);

our acre at SL supported two pair which should be normal (HD); on F&WBBS, 21 Jun 20 (GTC), only one Jun 20 (RW), 29 Jun 25 (GM).  
Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983.

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

Following the extremely cold spring, the months of June and July were by contrast near normal in temperature and rainfall. Temperatures averaged 69.9° and 71.6° in the two months (all data taken at Albany), 2.6° above normal and 0.5° below normal respectively. Precipitation totaled 2.85 inches in June and 3.38 inches in July, 0.40 inches and 0.11 inches below normal respectively.

Spring migration ended abruptly with the sudden onset of weather 7-8° above normal June 4. Late migrants observed June 3-4 included Brant, and Tennessee, Nashville, Blackburnian and Blackpoll Warblers. No obvious wave of fall transients occurred until August 11-12, when Traill's and Least Flycatchers, Swainson's Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Canada Warbler and Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared to be migrating at Vischer Ferry (RPY).

The results of 11 breeding bird counts conducted in the Region for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are included. A total of 104 species were recorded. The twenty-five most abundant: Red-winged Blackbird, 1253; Starling, 1166; Robin, 732; House Sparrow, 504; Grackle, 489; Song Sparrow, 478; Goldfinch, 364; Crow, 294; Barn Swallow, 291; Wood Thrush, 231; Chipping Sparrow, 207; Meadowlark, 194; Red-eyed Vireo, 192; Cowbird, 171; Baltimore Oriole, 167; Yellowthroat, 160; Veery, 153; Yellow Warbler, 138; Blue Jay, 134; Mourning Dove, 125; Catbird, 120; Bobolink, 117; Rufous-sided Towhee, 96; House Wren, 96; Ovenbird, 93. Of these 25 species, 22 repeated from last year's analagous list. New to the "top 25" are: Baltimore Oriole, Yellow Warbler, and Bobolink. Dropped from the "top 25" are: Flicker, Bank Swallow, and Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Unusual species recorded during the period included Brant, Snow Goose, Barn Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Carolina Wren and House Finch.

Abbreviations: BR—Basic Reservoir; BCM—Black Creek Marshes; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club.

Observers: MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; MK—Marcia Kent; RSM—Robert McCullough; HHS—Harvey Spivak; WBS—Walton Sabin; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: only report—two adults with young Jun 23 Lake George (*vide* MK). Pied-billed Grebe: no nesting reports; only record two Aug 6 SCR (PPW). Great Blue Heron: few reported, mostly single birds. Common Egret: only one Jul 18 NWW (HHS), very scarce. For the second summer in

succession, no night herons were reported. American Bittern: about as usual; two Salem F&WBBS Jun 17 (Paul Connor), new locality. Least Bittern: no reports. *BRANT*: two flocks heard flying north through Stony Clove near Hunter Mt. about 10:00 P.M. Jun 4 (PPW, MDG); one on BR Jun 5 (*fide* MK). *SNOW GOOSE*: the flock reported last period remained at BR through (at least) Jun 3 (*fide* MK). Mallards, Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks were present as breeding species. Common Merganser: one Jul 3 Hudson River in Warrensburg (EH)-only report.

**HAWKS—OWLS**: Cooper's Hawk: one seen frequently in West Glenville during period (RSM)-*only* accipiter report. Red-shouldered Hawk: only one—Jun 19, Austerlitz F&WBBS (Georgia Erlenbach). Broad-winged Hawk: only four reports. An immature eagle (sp) was observed being chased by an Osprey at VFG Aug 6 (PPW). Osprey: reappeared at VFG Aug 6 on. Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks were the only hawks reported regularly. Bob-white: absent from BCM; reported from Catskill (James Bush) and Jul 17 from West Charlton (Emily Halverson). Virginia Rail: pair with ten young Jul 23 BCM, and one Jul 26 at VFG (EH). Common Gallinule: reported at BCM and VFG. Common Tern: one Jun 25 NWW (HHS), and three Jul 26 at Lock 7 (EH). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only nine individuals reported, still scarce. Black-billed Cuckoo: reported two or three times as frequently as the Yellow-billed. Both species of cuckoo seemed slightly more common than in 1966. *BARN OWL*: pair nested in a silo in New Salem and raised one young (Beverly Waite, WBS). Great Horned Owl: reported at Colonie (Mrs. W. H. Enos), and West Charlton (Emily Halverson). Barred Owl: reported from usual areas.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING**: Nighthawk: two apparently feeding on the ground in the company of ten Killdeer the first part of Jul in Glenville (RSM) seems unusual. *RED-HEADED WOODPECKER*: only report—one adult Jul 25 West Glenville (RSM). Olive-sided Flycatcher: two Jun 5 Hunter Mt. (PPW, MDG); one Jun 24, North Creek F&WBBS (WBS). Tree Swallow: nest boxes at VFG produced about as many young as in 1966 (RPY). Bank Swallow: as in 1966, fledging peaked about Jul 6, about ten days later than usual; some young still remained Jul 18 (RPY). Purple Martin: despite lower number of nesting pairs this year, a colony in West Glenville more than doubled its number during the summer (RSM). *CAROLINA WREN*: one heard singing in late Jun, on the Durham F&WBBS (Owen Knorr). Mockingbird: still increasing, reported from several new localities.

Swainson's Thrush: again present in the Catskills; two imm banded Aug 12 at VFG (RPY), very early. Gray-cheeked Thrush: late migrant Jun 2, East Greenbush (William Gorman); at least eight, probably breeding, heard and seen singing around the summit of Hunter Mt. Jun 5 (PPW, MDG). Eastern Bluebird: in some areas it is locally common, but is still generally uncommon; at least 20 pairs nesting in a locality west of Ballston Spa (Don Wilkins); five pairs nesting in the West Glenville area (RSM). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: reported only from Catskill, where the nests of two pairs attempting to breed were destroyed, and nesting was not successful (James Bush); no reports from other areas where the birds have been reported regularly in the last two or three years.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Red-eyed Vireo: a decided increase in the numbers reported in breeding bird counts; this increase was largely or entirely confined to the more mountainous areas; max 71, North Creek F&WBBS (WBS). All vireos seemed scarce in valley areas. Brewster's Warbler: one adult feeding two young Jun 27, South Berne F&WBBS (Carl Parker). Cerulean Warbler: at least one still at Castleton through July (SBC). Blackpoll Warbler: most common warbler around summit of Hunter Mt. Jun 5 (PPW, MDG). Mourning Warbler: one singing Jun 5

Stony Clove, near Hunter Mt. (PPW, MDG), new locality. Yellow-breasted Chat: only one—Jun 20, Cobleskill F&WBBS (WBS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Cardinal: observed nesting in several new areas. *HOUSE FINCH*: a pair came to a Niskayuna feeder through early summer and into Aug (Gus Angst)—first summer record for the Region. Henslow's Sparrow: no reports for second summer in succession. White-throated Sparrow: a singing adult was present at VFG through Jun and Jul, but no evidence of nesting was found (RPY).

12 Columbia Drive, East Greenbush, N.Y. 12061

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The usual lack of birding encountered each summer was so marked this season that more than half of our correspondents were unable to report. Only single reports were received from Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange and Ulster Counties, with none of the others being heard from. Those reporting had much less than their usual quantity of information with a good portion of that being of no real significance. Thus the brevity of this report.

Weather took a marked turn from the drought conditions of previous years. Temperature remained near normal after a very cold May. July brought 7 inches of rainfall in the New York City area, which was three inches above normal. August rainfall was recorded as 6.9 inches, the largest since 1933, and made the sixth month of above average precipitation.

With the water came the expected increase in foliage, lush to the point of discouraging bird watching. An exception to the above was observed in the higher elevations of the Hudson Highlands where defoliation apparently by the Gypsy Moth had laid many of the mountains bare.

Contributors: WBC—Waterman Bird Club; FG—Florence Germond; SG—Stanley Grierson; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; JM—J Marsh; B, AM—Barbara & Al Merritt; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; EP—Eleanor Pink; SU—Sarah Uhelyi.

Abbreviations: C-on-H—Cornwall-on-Hudson; USMA—U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.; Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; West—Westchester Co; Putn—Putnam Co.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: only reports, three in June, one in Jul, Dutch. Double-crested Cormorant: did not summer as in last few years on Hudson R at Cornwall; two, Crugers Is., Jun 4 (FG, JM, EP). Great Blue Heron: seven nests, 21 birds inc. adults and young at Tamarack Swamp, Millbrook, Dutch Jun 27; at least two regularly reported C-on-H thru Aug. Green Heron: unusually common thru season. Common Egret: one Jun 19 and one Jul 25, C-on-H (B, AM). Snowy Egret: three Jun 9 and one Jun 28, C-on-H (A. BM). Black-crowned Night Heron: one adult Vassar College Aug 3 (WBC). *YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON*: first Dutch record—one adult Jun 28–30 Stissing Rd, Stanfordville (Donna Haight *vide* Thelma Haight, mob). Least Bittern: one regularly reported

from Jun 19 Moodna Marsh, C-on-H (PJ, A. BM). American Bittern: one Jun 6 Mine Rd, USMA (PJ). Good numbers of nesting Mallard, Black and Wood Ducks. Max at C-on-H Aug 6 were: Mallard, 42; Black, 17; Wood 21 (A, BM).

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Turkey Vulture: nothing unusual, regularly reported. Red-tailed Hawk: numbers stable. Broad-winged Hawk: none reported from Dutch, several scattered reports elsewhere, numbers probably normal. *BALD EAGLE*: very rare in summer—one adult Jun 24 flying over Stissing and Little Stissing Mt. Dutch (Otis Waterman, George Rose, John Meyer). Bobwhite: seems more plentiful in Dutch, none elsewhere. Virginia Rail: this species and the Sora were calling regularly thru Jul at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct., Katonah, West (SG); two adult and two imm at Moodna Marsh, C-on-H Aug 15 (PJ). Am. Woodcock: also heard at Tri-Loba Sanct thru July; one adult with five imm at C-on-H Jun 11 (Earl Zuill); one with three smaller young close behind flying over Kripplebush, Ulst Jul 31 (FH). Spotted Sandpiper: common as usual; max seven Aug 6 C-on-H (A, BM). Yellowlegs: three Jul 25 and regularly thereafter C-on-H. *BONAPARTE'S GULL*: very rare in summer—two Aug 3-6, C-on-H (A, MB). Black Tern: very rarely reported till this year; after the good numbers of last spring, two Jun 9 C-on-H (EDT). Cuckoos: both species very low, unreported from many areas; only reports, one Yellow-billed Jun 18-19; one Black-billed Jun 9 USMA (PJ). Owls: few specific records, but several correspondents report both Horned and Screech calling thru Aug; numbers appear to be good. *LONG-EARED OWL*: one, E. Park, Dutch, first week of Jun (Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gilbert)- unusual for this late date.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** Chimney Swift: numbers down in Ulst and Putn. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: reported scarce in both Dutch and Ulst. Belted Kingfisher: regularly sighted C-on-H; two adults and three imm there Jun 19. Eastern Kingbird: numbers lower than last year but still good; one albino caused a stir at Stanfordville Jun 10-Aug 14 (FG)-see field note. Wood Pewee: reported scarce in Dutch, but normal elsewhere; numbers increasing in the L Mohonk area of Ulst. Good season for both Barn and Cliff Swallows. The latter nesting in its usual locations. Very heavy movement of Barn, Cliff and Tree Swallows thru late Jul and Aug. Several reports of poor nesting of Tree Swallows due largely to cold and rain. Purple Martin: Very few due to cold; many former colonies not established this year; left Pine Plains about Jul 31. Black-capped Chickadee: continues scarce in some local areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only report one Jun 10, Poughkeepsie (Alice Jones). Brown Creeper: one pair Jun 11 S. Salem, West, in same location where a pair nested in 1965 (Mr. & Mrs. Donald Wood); no nesting reported this year. House Wren: normal abundance. Carolina Wren: unusually rare of late years; one report—two at Crugers Is. Jun 4 (EP, et al). Mockingbird: reported nesting in most usual locations; continues to increase. Catbird: good numbers of young, reported; late nestings at Kripplebush, with young off nest on Aug 12, another left unhatched eggs on Aug 21 (FH). Robin: usual abundance, nested again on summit of Slide Mt. in Catskills (FH). Bluebird: no noticeable increase, and very likely a decrease in numbers; WBC nesting report for 1967 shows 41 nests with 163 eggs laid, and 107 young hatched, but only 88 birds left the nest—not very good (FG).

**VIREOS—SPARROWS:** Vireos and Warblers continue scarce for fourth or fifth year. Red-eyed Vireo seemed about as plentiful as the lesser abundant Warbling. Cerulean Warbler: still nesting at Crugers Is near Barrytown and on Mt. Rutsen Rd near Rhinebeck; no accurate count made, but indications are numbers down slightly (WBC). Ovenbird: lower numbers than former years. Mourning Warbler: one killed striking window at Lewisboro School S. Salem, Jun 1 (SG); last date for good spring migration, one Jun 3 near Stanfordville. Yellow-breasted Chat: none reported; numbers must be seriously low. Bobolink: good quantities in usual nesting



areas. *WESTERN MEADOWLARK*: bird reported in spring last checked Jun 10, may have remained much later. (EDT). Orchard Oriole: one first year male Jun 12, Salt Pt, Dutch; nested again at Kripplebush; new nest site at Chester, Oran where pair observed Jun 3, with three young leaving nest Jul 6 (SU). Baltimore Oriole: reported down in Putn and Dutch. Scarlet Tanager: even scarcer than low numbers of last year. Cardinal: normal. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: no unusual change from previous years. Indigo Bunting: scarce in some areas; low in usually well populated USMA. Purple Finch: usual nesters in Putn and Dutch; about half a dozen pairs of this species and the same number of House Finch reported from Dutch. Rufous-sided Towhee: slightly less than usual. Grasshopper Sparrow: "Good population in Pine Plains area, Hyde Pk, and Dutch Co Airport" (WBC).

Autumn notes due no later than Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls 10928

## REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

The wet, cold spring gradually turned into the wet, cool summer. Precipitation throughout the period remained high (wettest summer since 1938) and temperatures remained low. As could be expected in such a situation, nesting activity averaged about two weeks later than normal. In many cases breeding birds, particularly passerines, were found to be way down in numbers. Dr. Lanyon reports that for the first time not a single Pewee, Kingbird, Song Sparrow or Chipping Sparrow bred at Kalbfleisch Research Station. It was noticed that swallows had been hard hit. Bank Swallows at Gardiner's Island being a good example (see body of report). Whether low temperatures and wet conditions discouraged nesting or caused large scale breeding population mortality is a matter of conjecture, but we can be sure the weather played a significant role.

Despite poor showings by other species, the cuckoos seemed to do extremely well. They were noted as "in high numbers" at Kalbfleisch and Heckscher State Park. The Glossy Ibis also did well this year, its breeding numbers still rising.

Again this year Mr. Robert Gardiner allowed a visit to his island by a field work team from the Linnaean Society. The island was divided into five areas with Tom Davis, Frank Enders, Fred Heath, Ben and Joanne Trimble, each taking an area. Arthur Swoger was the team's roving photographer. A large percentage of this report contains information from this interesting island.

Complete information on most of the heron, gull and tern colonies is presented as usual in capsule form.

Rarities recorded included Audubon's Shearwater, Skua, Long-eared Owl breeding record and Boat-tailed Grackle, a holdover from the spring.

Abbreviations: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Tobay—Tobay Sanctuary; Jones—Jones Beach State Park; AMNH—American Museum of Natural History; Is—Island.

Contributors frequently cited: TD—Thomas Davis; FE—Frank Enders; HH—Helen Hays; FH—Fred Heath; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; LM—Lee Morgan; WP—William Post; BT—Benjamin Trimble; JT—Joanne Trimble.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one in winter plumage Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT)—very rare in summer. Cory's Shearwater: three Aug 1 "Acid" Waters (area due south of the western end of Long Island) (MK). Greater Shearwater: one Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT). Sooty Shearwater: 22 Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT). AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: an injured bird found on the beach at Blue Pt, Fire Is on Jul 28 (C. Kessler *vide* Dr. W. Lanyon)—specimen now at AMNH, fifth Regional record. Wilson's Petrel: about 150 Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT); 300 plus Aug 1 "Acid" Waters (MK)—one flock of about 25 birds was seen sitting on the water, very unusual for this species. Gannet: sub—adult Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT). Glossy Ibis: 85 Aug 12 Tobay Pond (FE)—post breeders and immatures, highest Regional count.

Heron colonies, with numbers of breeding pairs—Gardiner's Is Jun 17 (BT, TD): Little Blue Heron, three; Common Egret, three; Snowy Egret, 25; Black-crowned Night Heron, 200 plus—almost all night heron young were fledged while all other heron's eggs had not yet hatched, this is the first known nesting of Little Blue Heron east of Oak Beach. Oak Beach, west of Captree State Pk Jun 27 (WP, FE): Little Blue Heron, three; Green Heron, two; Common Egret, 15; Snowy Egret, 40; Black-crowned Night Heron, 87; Glossy Ibis, two—a Glossy Ibis nest with one young was photographed, this is the first time this species has nested east of Lawrence Marsh. Tobay Sanctuary, three visits (FE): Green Heron, two; Common Egret, 23; Snowy Egret, 55; Black-crowned Night Heron, 63; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, one. Jones Beach St Pk, pine groves along barrier beach, six visits (HH, *et al*): Green Heron, one; Snowy Egret, one; Black-crowned Night Heron, 57; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, four. Lawrence Marsh, seven visits (TD, HH, BT, JT, *et al*): Green Heron, 26; Little Blue Heron, three; Common Egret, two; Snowy Egret, 183; Black-crowned Night Heron, 43; Glossy Ibis, 44 (25 pairs last year, only 13 pairs two years ago). JBWR, includes Canarsie Pol (HH *et al*): Common Egret, five; Snowy Egret, 100; Black-crowned Night Heron, 60; Glossy Ibis, 70 (60 pairs last year).

Snow Goose: four birds remained at JBWR through early Jun (mob); one Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Gadwall: 33 adults and nine young Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Bahama Pintail: Jul 16 JBWR (MK)—probably an escape. Green-winged Teal: male Jun 17 Gardiner's Is (mob)—breeding? Blue-winged Teal: pair Jun 17 Gardiner's Is (mob)—breeding? American Widgeon: male Jun 17 Gardiner's Is (mob)—breeding? Wood Duck: male Jun 17 Gardiner's Is (mob)—breeding? Oldsquaw: pair Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob); drake Jul 2–4 Heckscher State Pk (S. Anes, FH)—in excellent plumage. Harlequin Duck: one male and two females May 26 Jones Inlet (A. Dove, B. Conolly)—latest Regional record. Red-breasted Merganser: 14 Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob).

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-tailed Hawk: two pairs Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Marsh Hawk: one pair Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob). American Oystercatcher: eight territorial pairs plus 14 adults in two flocks Jun 17–18 Gardiner's Is (mob); deserted nest with an adult lying dead nearby Jul 15 unnamed island 1.3 miles NE Tobay Tower (BT, FE, TD); territorial pair summered on an unnamed island 1.8 miles NW Captree State Pk (FE, WP). Upland Plover: 45 plus, Aug 11 Mitchell Field (Dr. R. Wolk, *et al*)—highest Regional count, probably includes several of the birds which breed here and their young. Willet: one or more territorial pairs summered on nearly every island north of Tobay (TD, BT, FE). Curlew Sandpiper: one in spring plumage Jul 31 JBWR (R. Ryan). Unidentified

phalarope: Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT)-odd date for either Red or Northern. Pomarine Jaeger: Aug 1 "Acid" Waters (MK). Parasitic Jaeger: two light-phased individuals Jul 20 Rocky Pt (M. Cashman)-extremely rare in Long Is Sound; five Aug 1 "Acid" Waters (MK). SKUA: Jun 11 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT)-"Chunky dark bird, wingspan of Herring Gull but very thick-winged with deep powerful wing-beats; white patches in primaries on top of wing; dark head, back, tail and rest of wings; no protruding central tail feathers. Seen in good light with 7× binoculars at less than 100 yards; previously familiar with species"-fifth State record. Glaucous Gull: one remained to Jun 17 at the East River sewer outlet at 51 street (mob). Bonaparte's Gull: three Aug 13 Great Gull Is (HH *et al*)-extremely early. Little Gull: one at JBWR during Jun (mob)-photographed by A. Swoger. LONG-EARED OWL: pair with two young still in juvenile plumage Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is (mob)-first known Regional nesting since 1944.

Gull and tern colonies with numbers of breeding pairs—Gardiner's Is Jun 17-18 (mob): Great Black-backed Gull, 330; Herring Gull, 1925; Common Tern, 104. Unnamed island, 1.3 miles NE Tobay Tower (FE, TD, BT): Common Tern, about 400 on Jun 2, only 100 on Jul 15—severe weather conditions had apparently decimated the colony, on the latter visit many deserted nests were found. Unnamed island, 1.8 miles NW Captree State Pk, three visits (FE, WP): Common Tern, 600; Roseate Tern, ten; Black Skimmer, 20. Captree State Pk, many visits (TD, FE, *et al*): Great Black-backed Gull, 20; Herring Gull, 700 plus. JBWR (H. Johnson): colony nearly deserted this year, only a few pairs of Common Terns and no Black Skimmers. West End Beach (FE, FH)-Common Tern, "about 1000;" Roseate Tern, three; Black Skimmer, 30. Great Gull Island (Dr. D. Cooper, HH *et al*): Common Tern, 1400; Roseate Tern, 1200—accurate counts arrived at via nest mapping techniques.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-bellied Woodpecker: Jun 2 Fire Is (BT). Bank Swallow: 25 nesting pairs Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is, (FH, FE)-contrast this count with last year's estimate of "hundreds." Blue Jay: flock of 17 seen flying high over Gardiner's Is Jun 17 (FH)-late migrants? Carolina Wren: one pair Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is (BT). Cedar Waxwing: pair found nesting at JBWR during mid-Aug (H. Johnson)-first nesting record at JBWR, rare as a breeder on Long Is along the coastal plain.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Red-eyed Vireo: netted and banded Jun 10 Atlantic Beach (R. Cohen)-extremely late migrant. Tennessee Warbler: singing male Jun 2 Central Pk (G. Carleton)-extremely late. Parula Warbler: Jun 8 JBWR (A. Dove)-extremely late. Black-throated Green Warbler: Jun 4 JBWR (LM)-extremely late. Connecticut Warbler: singing male Jun 3 Central Pk (R. Plunkett) unquestionable details submitted, latest Regional record.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: the individual mentioned in the spring report remained at Far Rockaway at least until Aug 9 (Mrs. Jean Sorman, Mrs. Robert Berman, *et al*). Scarlet Tanager: two pairs Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Summer Tanager: adult male netted and banded Jun 3 Atlantic Beach (R. Cohen)-extremely late. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: two nests found at the Kalbfleisch Research Station near Huntington (Dr. W. Lanyon, *et al*)-probably this species nests very near in northern Suffolk or Nassau and should be considered a localized rare but regular breeder. Grasshopper Sparrow: 30 pairs Jun 17-18 Gardiner's Is (mob)-the highest breeding density noted on Long Is since the destruction of the Hempstead Plains prairie habitat in the late 1940's; nest with four eggs Aug 6 Mitchell Field (Harry Darrow)-when examined again on Aug 19, contained 4 young approximately one week old.

Note: Please send in fall reports by Dec. 7.

T. Davis, 8613-85th Street, Woodhaven, New York 11421  
F. Heath, 11-15 F.D.R. Dr., New York, New York 10009

## BOOK REVIEWS

*A Comparative Life-History Study of Four Species of Woodpeckers.* Louise de Kiriline Lawrence. Ornithological Monographs No. 5, published by The American Ornithologists' Union 1967. 156 pp, line drawings, charts and graphs. \$3.75 (\$3.00 to A.O.U. members).

Living in an area in central Ontario, in the midst of a mature second-growth mixed forest, the author of this monograph had an excellent opportunity to carry on intensive studies of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. Opportunity alone would not have been enough, and the results of this study show that it was patiently and capably handled by a competent scientist, with enough background in bird behavior to interpret what she saw, to add considerably to our understanding of this group of birds, and to correct some long standing errors of interpretation. Many life history studies of the past had scanty treatment of behavior. Some behavior studies of today concentrate on a very limited aspect of the entire life history picture. Mrs. Lawrence has thrown a new light on our past knowledge of these species, by her description and interpretation of behavior patterns throughout the annual cycle. A glance at the table of contents gives a hint of the exhaustive treatment. This publication has much of interest for anyone in New York State, where the same four species may be found (although the Sapsucker is a breeder only in the more northern parts or at higher elevations farther south). The literature cited includes over 80 publications, and will be useful to any student of woodpeckers.

Sally Hoyt Spofford, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

*Attracting Birds: from the Prairies to the Atlantic.* Verne E. Davison. Thomas Y. Crowell Co. New York, 1967. 252 pp. \$6.95.

This is an extremely useful reference book for all those interested in attracting birds to their yards or farms either by plantings or supplemental feeding.

Three short introductory sections discuss how bird food preferences have been determined, illustrate various types of feeders with accompanying lists of commercially available foods and birds of similar preferences, and describe, with specifications and sketches, bird houses and roosting boxes and their care and placement.

The major portion of the book consists of two lists — bird species and foods — both arranged alphabetically. Bird species are listed by the accepted A.O.U. common names, with alternate common names listed and cross-referenced to the name under which the information is given. Under each species are given: other common names, scientific name, seasonal occurrence, range, foods used (both animal and plant with the plant foods divided into "choice" and "fair"), nest placement, and ways of attracting when this is possible. For plants and other foods, under each species or general item, such as "bread, white", is a list of the bird species for which it is choice and fair food. Plant species are listed by common name, with other common names and scientific names included, and indication of the status, such as "Annual weed", "Introduced ornamental shrub." Other common names are listed and cross-referenced to the name under which the bird species that eat it are given.

There are also alphabetical indexes of the scientific names of birds and plants which give the common name under which the species appear in the main sections. There are several pages listing reference books on birds, both general references and books by states. With the alphabetical listing no general index is necessary. However, in the front in addition to the usual contents and listing of figures, there is a list of page references to the tables of birds of similar food preferences and birds that use similar nesting habitats.

It would appear that the answer to most questions one might have on what food to put out or what trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants to grow to attract birds could be found quickly in this book.  
DWM

*The Psychology of Birds.* Harold E. Burtt. Macmillan, New York 1967. 242 pp., illus. \$5.95.

The sub-title "An Interpretation of Bird Behavior" appears to me somewhat misleading. The book is less an interpretation than a collection of observations, collected from many sources, on the various aspects of bird behavior, without detailed discussion of any of them. The illustrations are eleven black and white drawings by Peter Parnall. It might serve as an introduction to bird behavior for a beginning birder.  
DWM

*Birds of Europe.* Illustrations by John Gould. Text by Abram Rutgers. Methuen & Company Ltd. London, 1966. Distributed in U.S. by Barnes & Noble, New York. 321 pp., illus. \$15.00.

*Birds of Australia.* Illustrations by John Gould. Text by Abram Rutgers. Methuen & Company Ltd. London, 1967. Distributed in U.S. by Barnes & Noble, New York. 321 pp., illus. \$15.00.

Each of these books consists of 160 color plates, those in the first reproduced from the lithographs in John Gould's "The Birds of Europe" and "The Birds of Great Britain", and in the second from his "The Birds of Australia." Neither includes information about John Gould (1804-1881) or his sketches and lithographs. The page opposite each picture is not the text from the original books, but has been newly written by the Dutch ornithologist Abram Rutgers. The plates make interesting browsing, the text covers very briefly range, habitat, some habits and field characters, food and nesting. Present common and scientific names are used throughout.  
DWM

*Birds of Wyoming County, New York: A Contribution to the Ornithology of the Northern Allegheny Plateau.* Richard C. Rosche. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Vol. 23, Buffalo, N.Y., 1967. 77 pp. + maps and alphabetical list \$2.75 from the Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Park, Buffalo, N.Y. 14211.

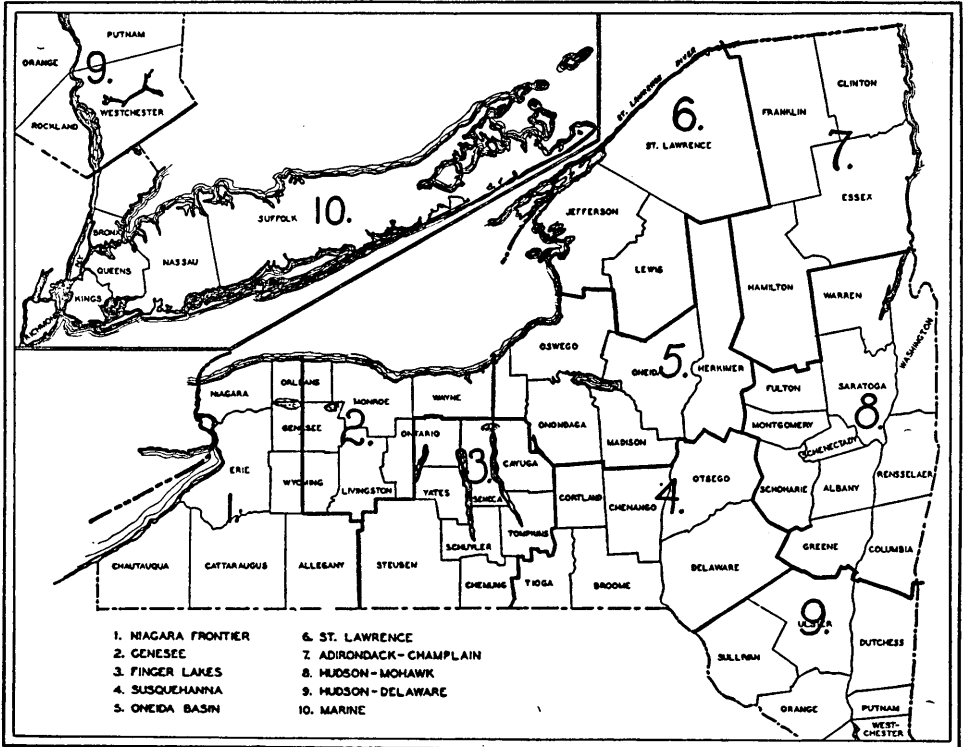
This is an excellent summary of what is known about the current geographical, ecological and seasonal distribution of birds in Wyoming County. Brief descriptions of a few localities and habitats of chief importance are followed by the species accounts. These give in compact form: abundance, frequency, seasonal occurrence, and where the species is most apt to be found; extreme dates of occurrence with number seen, locality and observer, peak dates of migration, nesting data; maximum one-day counts by a single observer; miscellaneous information of interest such as song period, changes in status.

A map indicates the location of places mentioned. As no roads are shown, a birdwatcher might need local assistance in finding some of these. Nine additional maps show the approximate summer distribution of one breeding species each.

Instead of an index, there is an alphabetical list of species which includes, on one line per species, the page reference, status, first and last dates and whether the species breeds.

Member clubs in sections which have no similar publication might look at this with a view to starting similar projects in their areas. Format is simple enough to be used by even a small group which could not consider a more ambitious project like Beardslee and Mitchell's "Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region" or John Bull's "Birds of the New York Area." Collecting all information they have in this form would show what additional information is needed and might spur some members to help fill in the gaps, thereby contributing information for the state bird book. DWM

# REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2

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