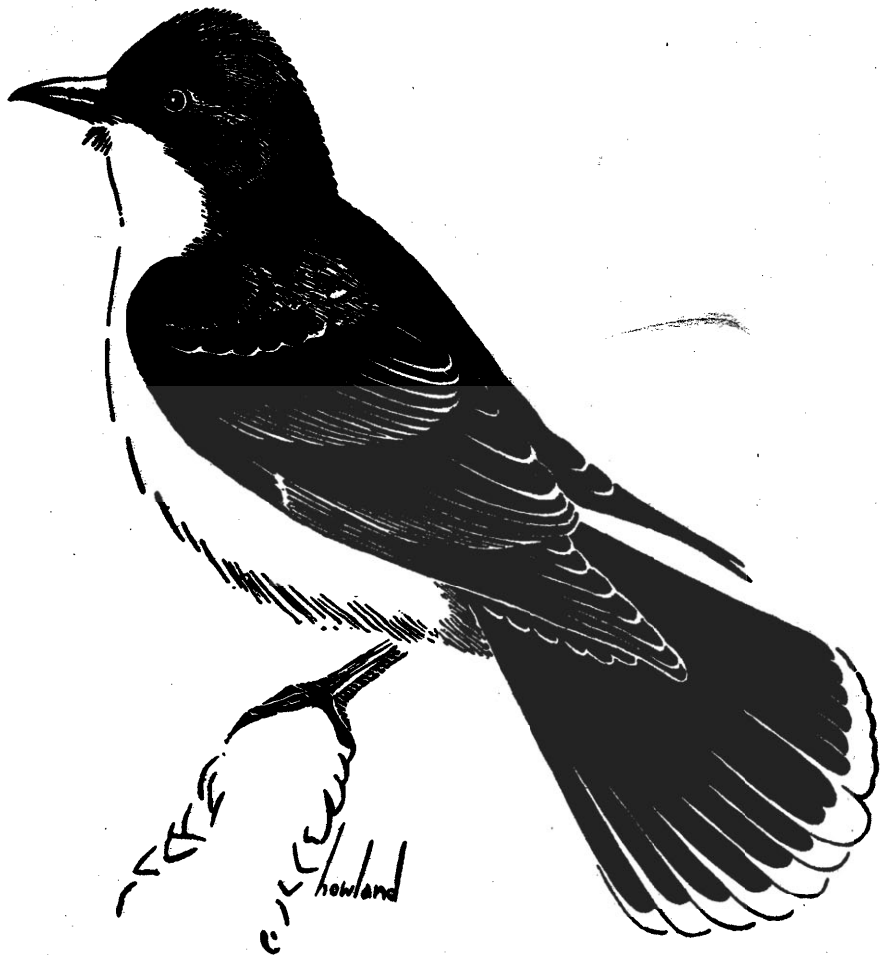


# The **KINGBIRD**



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.



# The KINGBIRD

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## The EDITOR'S Page

The publishing of The Kingbird, although on a quarter year basis, is in fact a continuous year to year job.

Our treasurer, Mrs. Lillian Stoner, very expertly keeps the financial record in excellent order.

To fill the required pages with the proper materials takes hours of preliminary time, work and effort. The editorial staff always is receptive to materials from authors on the status of species, other projects and observations of birds in New York State.

There have been comments that are favorable and some that are controversial, sometimes, both, on the same article. In these matters the whole staff takes an active interest.

The requests for reprints are constant. Our printer supplies reprints only on request from the editor at the time when the final proof is returned to the printer for printing. In the matter of economy, will each author of articles let the editor know at the time that he submits his paper, if he wishes reprints of his article.

A wrong or undeliverable postal address triples the mailing costs and also brings a delay in delivery of the journal to the subscriber. Return delivery postage and postage due have been doubled, recently. Can you please, promptly, notify the editor or the Treasurer, Mrs. Stoner, of any change of name or address. It is especially important that we know of a change in the delivery address of each club copy of The Kingbird.

A recent gift of Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) from the Schenectady Bird Club has been specifically applied to the The Kingbird fund. I am sure all members appreciate this gift and we hereby extend a very sincere thanks to the Schenectady Bird Club, Inc for this donation.

Your editor expresses her appreciation and thanks to all who in any way helps keep our magazine as an active, alert and informative journal.

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## SHARP-TAILED AND SEASIDE SPARROWS ON LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

To the yachtsman or bayman, the Common Sharp-tailed (*Ammospiza c. caudacuta*) and the northern Seaside Sparrows (*Ammospiza m. maritima*) are probably better known as "salt-marsh sparrows", or "meadow chippies", as they rise up out of the salt-grass onto some stub to observe the passersby, in such places on Long Island's south shore, as among the bay islands and along the state boat channel around Oak Beach, Gilgo and westward. Perhaps the human interest aroused as the birds come up out of the grass often ends then and there as they drop back into the greenery; for to pursue their subjects further the observer would be required to make consistent efforts to invade wet, mucky terrain, often at the expense of many exhaustive hours of searching the marshes, through heat of summer or cold of winter, to acquire knowledge of their life history and behavior throughout the year. Such life history and behavior studies, watching salt marsh elimination and gaining knowledge of fluctuating Seaside and Sharp-tailed populations, have long held the interest of this writer. Acknowledgment is here given to Roy Latham of Orient, Roy Wilcox of Speonk, John Mayer of South Ozone Park and Edmund Morgan, Curator of Tackapausha Museum, Seaford, for their kind assistance in accumulating nesting data and population counts at Orient, Shinnecock Bay, Idlewild and at Oceanside.

### GENERAL HABITAT

Three grasses principally make up the vegetation of the salt marshes. *Spartina alterniflora* (thatch) covers the wetter places; *Distichlis* and *Spartina patens* vegetate the dry area. Seaside Sparrows generally occupy the damper locations, although both may be found together at times, especially when nesting.

Long Island's south shore is particularly well fitted for large and expansive breeding grounds for these two species of sparrows. The long gradual slope of the uplands down into the bays permits wide marginal lands that gradually lower into *S. patens* and further grading yields into lush *S. alterniflora*. Marginal lands on the Long Island Sound shore in places are often less than a dozen feet between salt marsh and upland. Cedars and other trees have their roots washed by the high tides in some areas and matted thatch stems are spread around into the edges of the woods and frequently deposited into compact heaps from the broken-up *Spartina* beds. Such conditions no doubt account for the absence of Sharp-tails in late fall, because of the lack of marginal lands suitable for these birds, when driven out of the salt grass by high swirling waters of flood tides.

The entirely different terrain of the south shore marginal lands, adjoining the extensive marshes such as at Gilgo, back up in many cases into heavy beds of four or five-foot-tall, standing thatch, interspersed with occasional dense beds of *Scirpus robustus* (sedge family). This entire mass is further protected as one progresses upland by a backdrop of high-tide bushes (*Iva*) and eight to 10-foot-tall *Phragmites* beds. It was in such an area at Gilgo that my winter studies were made.

## HABITS

Northern Seaside Sparrows, the Acadian and Common Sharp-tailed Sparrows congregate together in migration, especially in the fall. Here, grain of the seedtops of the sometimes six-foot *Spartina alterniflora* must be abundant in order to find the birds. In such an area at Gilgo about an acre of deeply silted sand grew a tremendous crop of luxuriant *Spartina* grasses and seeds, which formed a nucleus of strong growth on the north side of the ocean boulevard, one-half mile east of the large former life-saving station at Gilgo on Jones Beach.

A favorable growing season produced maximum conditions for the fall and winter of 1940-41 when principal studies were made. The Gilgo area produced shelter that year for more Long Island wintering Sharp-tails and Seasides than I can find any record of. A great many hours were spent studying the birds that fall, winter and spring alone, both in the nucleus and over dozens of acres of nearby Gilgo marsh land which they infiltrated to feed during good weather. My interest in the area continued, but seasonal variations brought less optimum conditions; and, although the Gilgo marshes continue productive, fill for the divided ocean parkway a few years ago obliterated that particular winter quarters that provided a haven for the wide-ranging sparrows; especially during snowy periods, in the study tract east of Gilgo life-saving station.

## SPRING

The sparse normal over-wintering population of the few populated tracts in the suitable marshes are swallowed up in the deluge of Seaside and Sharp-tails arriving from the south. During the studies, Seaside arrivals appeared abundantly in latter April; the Sharp-tails came later, some in early May, but apparently were not in full breeding numbers in one large Idlewild area before May 16-20, and on the Long Island Sound at Loyds Neck before May 18. The Sharp-tails are particularly silent into the first third of May which might partly account for their apparent scarcity compared to the singing Seasides. Acadian Sharp-tails are about the last of the migrating sparrows, appearing around May 30 and trickling through into early June.

In spring, when the *Spartina* is flattened and sparse, both Sharp-tailed and Seasides may fly into *Phragmites*, or into high-tide bushes (*Iva*) and even bayberry (*Myrica*), about as upland as they may go, but almost always with salt grass beneath covering the ground surface. They apparently spend the night in the thick growth near the uplands where they are found in early morning before spreading out into the marsh.

## COURTSHIP, NESTING

With Seaside Sparrows singing all over the marshes by late April one year at Idlewild, the first mating was seen on April 28. It took place at 7:55 p. m. in the twilight on a clear windless evening. The female flew to a flat, matted clump of salt hay, the male following silently. Coition followed immediately, the male maintaining his position by a moderately-fast flapping of his wings, disclosing the plain gray wing-linings. After a few

seconds the birds flew off and resumed normal activities. The action took place with no excitement evinced by any other individuals.

The Sharp-tails showed little concern for nesting and singing in early May. Birds were seen pursuing others in threes on various occasions, but no early mating was observed. Nests are usually built within the salt-marsh, sometimes near the border in a high-tide bush (*Iva*), and often in a bent-down clump of salt hay (*S. patens*). One Seaside sparrow's nest in a high-tide bush at Jones Beach had three eggs, May 25; one nest, June 8, containing three very young birds, was robbed. The easterly most nest of the Seaside Sparrow on Long Island was recently found at the east end of Shinnecock Bay by Roy Wilcox. It contained three eggs on June 6, 1962.

The Seaside Sparrow makes a bulky cup lined with finer grasses. The Sharp-tailed usually selects a dry area and builds in a clump of the finer *S. patens*. Edmund Morgan, who found a few dozen nests of Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows in the now filled-in marshes at Oceanside, says that a decade ago the Sharptail occupied the upper edges of the meadow and the Seaside nested nearer the bay. Most of the nests were found in the dense salt hay (*patens*).

Morgan stated that the Seaside Sparrows nests were sometimes found under such objects as floating masses of grassy debris, and once under a couple of thin boards with attached tarpaper. The nests were concealed under such debris which had drifted, during extreme high tides, up on the tops of large clumps of salt grass a foot or two above the grass roots. He discovered such nests as the startled birds flew rapidly out, thus revealing the location.

Three or four speckled eggs are laid as spring advances, resulting in much exciting chipping, as their breeding duties comprise of the hatching and raising of young in July and August. Rarely, juvenile Sharp-tailed Sparrows are found in the plumage bordering that of nestlings into October, sometimes confusing the observer. Undoubtedly, such birds would comprise a very late hatching, perhaps into September.

## FOOD

The food of the Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows is quite similar. In the fall it consists largely of the luxuriant oat-like grain of the tall *Spartina alterniflora*. Here fair numbers of both Common and Acadian Sharp-tails and Seaside Sparrows congregate in heavily-seeded, local tracts and feed up on the stalks, swaying back and forth as if playing hide-and-seek with the observer. Squeaking draws them closer for observation. Later in cold weather the seed falls off the ripened heads and accumulates in tiny tidal rifts, sometimes thick enough to hide the mud. This provides some of the winter food in cold weather as the birds go under dense cover during the snowy rigors of winter. Here also, under cover, they feed on such small marine and insect-life as may be found around the muddy root stalks of the dense growth.

They also search abroad on the marshes in milder winter days, and were

in evidence around the creek edges when studied. In spring, summer and fall, they range widely even out on the extreme peninsulas and points which extend into the bay. Here they get much animal matter as indicated by their vegetation-free excreta during the summer months. On one occasion, in October, I saw a Sharp-tailed Sparrow swallow a sand worm, about two inches long, which it had withdrawn from the mud. Occasionally they pull away submerged grasses and pick up small objects coming to view. Occasionally, little depressed paths are made in the soft silt by their continually passing back and forth in their search for such marine life at low tide. I have found the Seaside Sparrow in August take small insects from the stems while up on the *Spartina* stalks scolding. They have suitable bills, well adapted to feed in wet places. The Sharp-tail's bill averages as long and the Seaside's longer than that of the Fox Sparrow, a much larger bird; and the Ipswich Sparrow, usually a bird of the dry, hard sand, has a bill only two-thirds as long as that of the Seaside.

### VOICE

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** A rather uncommon call, employed when slightly alarmed, is a light Chipping Sparrow-like "chip", used both in the breeding season and at other times of year. It may be used alone or alternated with a mild, Savannah Sparrow-like "tsip". This latter is much more frequently used in autumn, being often heard from all directions after the observer squeaks to attract the unseen birds, hidden in the tall, seed-bearing *Spartina*.

In winter both Seasides and Sharp-tails, if almost stepped upon, respond with a very sharp "zit, zit", usually uttered as an alarmed bird flies out of the thick growth. During breeding season the common note is a scolding chip, uttered almost constantly as long as the observer remains in the vicinity of the nest. Occasionally, in migration and even in late fall, such scolding may be aggravated by the harsh "ca, ca, ca" of an excited Long-billed Marsh Wren, and in one case at Gilgo, confusion reigned as both Seasides and Sharp-tails came fluttering in from all directions to the scene of the Wren's habitat in a large bed of rushes (*Scirpus robustus*) where they remained, constantly chipping, until the excitement subsided.

In deep winter, both Sharp-tails and Seasides are almost completely silent. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow's song is a poor vocal effort. Roger T. Peterson well describes it "a gasping buzz, tuptup sheeeeeeeee". Singing comes late compared to the Seaside Sparrow, and no singing was heard one year until May 12, and the sing is infrequent until the middle of the month, but later quite frequently given. In fall it may utter the weakest song of any sparrow that I know of — a rather rarely uttered intermittent mouse-like squeaking barely audible for 25 feet. It was heard during mild fall weather at Gilgo from an inconspicuous perch in the six-foot-tall, oat-like *Spartina*.

**Seaside Sparrow:** the first singing of the Seaside Sparrow was heard at Gilgo in the study area on March 29, and four or five were singing on April 12! The March 29 individual was a wintering bird, as no migrants had come in at that time. These appeared about the middle of April. The Seaside's song is a cheery, reedy performance resembling a little Red-winged

Blackbird. It is more enthusiastically uttered than that of the Sharp-tailed, perhaps due to the much more limited prenuptial molt.

During the height of the nesting season the song is uttered in flight, as the birds flutter above the marsh, and is quite pleasing. The first flight song was heard at Gilgo, May 4.

No singing was heard by the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow on Long Island. Both the call-notes in autumn and the song, when heard by the writer on the marshes of Minas, New Brunswick, Canada, in June and July, resembled those of the Common Sharp-tailed.

### ALBINISM

I can recall seeing only one partly albinistic Sharp-tailed away from the 1940-41 study area in many years association with these birds: one at Idlewild with large white wing patches in the late 1930's. Part albinism at Gilgo in the fall and winter of 1940-41, however, proved rather high for the limited population of several hundred Sharp-tails and Seaside Sparrows observed, both migrating and wintering.

In the fall of 1940 I found three Sharp-tails and four Seaside Sparrows partly albinistic — no Acadians. The Sharp-tails were all affected around the head and upper back. In one, the white feathers were almost entirely confined to the superciliary line on one side of the head, and one had a white nape. In two of the more extensively marked of the four Seaside Sparrows, one had an entirely white crown, while the other appeared quite Junco-like in flight, except that it had three lateral bars of white extending along the entire length of the tail instead of two. These were about equal in width to the dark natural gray feathers. The white-tailed Seaside showed a reverse migration to the natural east and west fall movement down the coast of Long Island, and was found in the Gilgo marshes in December, 10 miles eastward from where first located near Jones Inlet in early November! Likewise, the white-crowned bird, first found at Gilgo, turned up three miles eastward at Oak Beach marshes a week later and was seen there for about 10 days.

This apparent reverse migration was not, in the case of the white-crowned bird, a search for better wintering quarters, because the area entered was far inferior to that vacated at Gilgo.

In early January, I found the white-tailed and another partly albino Seaside, along with the white superciliary-line Sharp-tailed, on the same marshy point at Gilgo, and I believe all the albinistic birds seen in the fall wintered. The Junco-like Seaside was last seen in mid-April of the following spring. It showed no plumage change, the prenuptial molt of the Seaside being minor, quite the opposite to the drastic and complete spring molt of the Sharp-tailed.

### PLUMAGE, RANGE

The bluish-gray-backed Sharp-tailed Sparrows of autumn become brown-backed, with a complete prenuptial molt in March and April. Strangely, although subjected to the same cutting edges of the marsh grasses, the Sea-



side Sparrow has a very limited prenuptial molt. I know of no described spring molt of the Sharp-tailed on Long Island in the literature, so offer the following: On March 29, 1941, in the study area of Gilgo, Sharp-tails were undergoing a drastic molt. One bird shook itself and a large back feather fell out. One's wing lacked at least two primaries, and several tail feathers were missing. On April 4, one was seen lacking numerous breast feathers; and on April 12, the most drastic molt of all was seen. This bird's tail was limited to one feather, the primaries were mostly gone and the wings folded away from the body as if making room for new ones. The brown wing feathers of the lesser coverts of spring plumage and the buffy feathers around the throat and breast were coming in.

Other birds were seen in various stages of molt from late March into late April. On April 20 one Sharp-tailed showed a half-grown tail, and on April 25 incoming feathers on the sides of the head in one bird were noted. Occasionally, Sharp-tails with yellowish rumps are found in September while still in the brown plumage; this is apparently a brief transitional change before complete postnuptial molt. My attention was first drawn to this by Fritz Scheider of Syracuse, a few years ago, while he was on a Long Island visit. I find no mention of this interesting plumage transition in the literature.

In fall, both the migrating Acadian and the resident Sharp-tails are seen in grain-bearing *Spartina* areas in the marshes, the Acadian often intermingling most commonly in mid-October. John Bull, of Far Rockaway, points out the fact that among museum specimens some birds are confusing. Typical Acadians, however, are more yellowish on the breast and on the eye-line (superciliary), and the blurry gray-streaked underparts separate it from the ochraceous underparts and broad black-streaking of the typical Common Sharp-tailed. A minor proportion — the intermediates — over-lapping the nesting range in southern Maine, however, are hard to identify.

I found several Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Gilgo in late December, 1940, and one on March 29, 1941, in which no plumage molt was evident; but one found on April 19 showed slight evidence of molt, particularly on the back which was browner than in winter and irregularly marked. A. D. Cruickshank, in "Birds Around New York City", 1942 (American Museum of Natural History Handbook Series, No. 13) writes: "Careful studies at Jones Beach in 1940-41 indicated that a few Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrows remained throughout the winter (J. Elliott). In addition there are records for Baychester, Bronx County, December 15, and 22, 1935 (Hickey, et al.)."

Cruickshank continues with Long Island records: "Jones Beach, Long Island, December 26, 1933 (Vogt); Millneck, Long Island, February 17, 1940 (Cruickshank). A record of one at Oak Island Beach, Long Island, April 25, 1937 (Carleton and Sedwitz) must represent a bird that wintered locally or just to the south of us." All these records come from Region 10. This is a long upward northern extension to Chapman's 1932 Handbook, where he gives the winter range of the Acadian as on coasts of South Carolina, Georgia and northwestern Florida.

Another subspecies, the Hudson Bay Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza*

caudacuta altera) is a rare migrant on Long Island. It is officially declared unidentifiable unless collected. Now apparently all Long Island specimens are relegated to the Hudson Bay subspecies, where about 30 years or more ago all such birds were supposed to be Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

Richard B. Fischer, of Cornell University, took a couple of specimens some years ago, perhaps the most recently collected on Long Island. To my own satisfaction, I feel that I have seen the Hudson Bay bird on two occasions — one in December, 1940 and one about five years ago at Jones Beach. The first bird was in the salt marsh at Gilgo, the second, of all places, in a holly tree on the south embankment to the underpass just east of the tower! Both birds were finely streaked below, had the golden buff of the typical museum specimens, which I have reviewed so often, and were definitely Sharp-tails. Although these sight identifications are open to some doubt and unofficial, the latter was the first Sharp-tailed Sparrow I ever found out of the salt marsh, the nearest being a good half-mile away! This would perhaps suggest an overland migrating Sharp-tailed — the altera — rather than the coastal birds which habitually resort salt marshes only. The Gilgo suspect also entered upland growth, a peculiarity not shared by some 15 other Sharp-tails and Seaside attracted that morning by squeaking. If found constant, such a practice might assist predetermination of suspects for collection in this difficult-plumaged subspecies.

## WINTER

In winter the Seaside Sparrow is almost, if not quite, as shy as the Sharp-tailed. They permitted no familiarities at Gilgo in the severe weather on the study area, but spent much of their time down under the thick *Spartina* growth. It is difficult to rush these places, because of exhaustive energy used in tramping around through the heavy thatch and sinking into the oozy mud. Even abrupt approach failed to flush them; and I have had them on one occasion utter sharp call notes instead of flying, as they scampered into the thick grasses, now about three feet high, remnants of the tall, six-foot autumn growth. During mild weather they left their grassy tangles, and here I found them even out on the points of land projecting into the bay, generally near heavy, tufted grass. As the tide rose they retreated inland and if abnormally high were forced into the bordering uplands. Both in February and in March in the study area at Gilgo, in the winter 1940-41, flattened areas where the *Spartina* was broken off a few inches above the sandy mud and crushed flat after a heavy snowfall, sometimes extended 30 to 40 feet across with barely an upright stalk standing.

While approaching such an area one February day, a Sharp-tailed flew ahead of me as if to cross it, but instead darted down into the center and disappeared into the thick matting. I rushed over and ran in all directions, but failed to dislodge the bird or find it on the bordering edges. On a similar occasion in late March, I shied a stick at a singing Seaside Sparrow as it sat on a stake over a large patch of flattened thatch. To my amazement it too dropped off its foot-high perch, uttered a sharp "zit" and ran under the matted flattened carpet of grasses, disappearing before my eyes and was seen no more in that vicinity, although diligently searched for. Such action caused me to call them "mice birds" as they pursued their beaten runways,

somewhat resembling the even more secretive but scarcely more elusive meadow mouse.

A heavy concentration of both species wintered through into 1941, and on January 18, I found 16 Seaside Sparrows, this being equal to the late December, 1940 count. It was a mild windless morning and because of this birds came up freely. The four or five Sharp-tails, as usual, were shier and less willing to be seen above the grass than the Seasides, and there were undoubtedly more than those found. The birds were well spread over the marshes and in one case a Seaside scolded me from a distance of over 100 feet in response to my squeaking. Mild windless weather, however, is very essential for good observation, and even the Seaside sparrows show little inclination to be attracted out of the matted grasses in cold, windy weather; nor are they then inclined to respond to squeaking or any other noise to arouse their curiosity.

### ENEMIES

I have found mink tracks intermingled with those of autumn birds at Jones Beach, and minks themselves in such places on several occasions, but no sparrow fatalities. There are occasionally cats left on the beaches; and also cats, rats and weasels along the mainland marshes which, with the mink, probably get a few birds, especially in nesting season.

Marsh Hawk pellets occasionally contain sparrow remains and these low-couraging hunters were found quartering the marshes; but from progressive seasonal observations in the study area, there appeared to be no great loss of birds during the winter of 1940-41, as the sparrows, usually partly concealed, moved with great rapidity on their strong legs and in a flash they were gone. At Gilgo, during the study period, they were strongly entrenched in the upland border-lands which bade well for winter survival.

At the Jamaica Bay sanctuary marshes, upright stalks of *Spartina* may extend to several feet and in any but severe winters the birds appear to winter well also.

### DISTRIBUTION

Being strictly coastal, their only habitat salt marshes, both the Seaside and the Sharp-tailed (both Common and Acadian) are almost entirely restricted to Long Island in New York state, especially in recent years with continual elimination of salt marshes on Staten Island and in the Bronx, New York's other coastal areas.

Roughly, three intermittent strips of salt marsh extend down Long Island in addition to bay islands and Peconic Bay areas. These are: marshes bordering Long Island Sound, those inside the Atlantic Ocean barrier beach, and the dryer marshes north of the bays on land margins bordering south shore villages (now fast disappearing).

Seaside Sparrow: This species is unknown as a breeding bird around Long Island Sound and on Long Island marshes anywhere east of Shinnecock Bay. Eastward from Brooklyn it is fairly well distributed around Jamaica

Bay (including a small colony in the bird sanctuary in The Raunt) and eastward to Rosedale. It reappears on the north side of the bays at Freeport and along Meadowbrook and Wantagh Causeways, being fairly common at Cedar Creek, Wantagh, but no further eastward anywhere on the village-bordering marshes to Moriches. It has its greatest numbers on the ocean beach marshes. These range from Lawrence and Lido eastward to Oak Beach with an abundance at Jones Beach, Gilgo and eastward to the vicinity of Captree. West of Captree it is distributed on many bay islands. It is absent from the two Fire Islands (out in Great South Bay, east of Captree), and for about 20 miles eastward (for lack of marshes) to Long Cove on the ocean beach south of Patchogue. On a survey, a few pair were found on Ridge Island and on the small marshes on Pattersquash Island (near Mastic).

East and west of Moriches Inlet rather large marshes are productive with numerous nesting birds. Their range terminates some 10 miles eastward where Roy Wilcox finds the species on the eastern end of Shinnecock Bay, their most eastern breeding place on Long Island. Roy Latham of Orient claims that it disappeared from that area around the turn of the century when burning of the dry marsh grasses became customary.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Turning to this species, we find it by far the greatest sufferer from the loss of large tracts of salt marsh on the landside of the western bays, from Spring Creek to Lindenhurst in particular. For hundreds of years these marshes stood high above normal tides with a heavy growth of *Spartina patens*, or *Distichlis* — the salt hay used by farmers to winterize drafty buildings. These marshes were very desirable for breeding Sharp-tails, but too dry a habitat for the Seaside. Continual waterfront real estate developments obliterated hundreds of acres. The fill for the Idlewild airport obliterated the finest known colony of Sharp-tails on Long Island, in the old Cornell Creek section bordering Jamaica Bay. John H. Mayer, of South Ozone Park, estimated its nesting population at over 200 individuals. Other large filled-in meadow tracts are present in Oceanside, Bellmore, Wantagh, Seaford, Massapequa, Copaigue and Lindenhurst. Therefore, the almost continuous nesting habitat for the Sharp-tails of four decades ago has been so completely filled, that there are but few remaining colonies along the north side of the bays in Queens and Nassau counties. Intermittent nesting areas occur from Islip to Mastic. From there they are found on the dryer marshes on both sides of Moriches Bay. They are fairly abundant east of Moriches Inlet and in the Shinnecock area. Further east a few were noted at Montauk (Napeague) marshes and in several areas near Shelter Island and on the Peconic Bay side of the North Fork.

Sharp-tailed Sparrows were also seen in small numbers on the Sound, especially at Crab Meadow, and locally west to Mill Neck and beyond for a few miles. They are still fairly common around Jamaica Bay, breed at the bird sanctuary at The Raunt, and are abundant along the ocean beaches where associated with Seaside Sparrows eastward to Gilgo and Captree and I have found them on a survey on one of the two Fire Islands to the east of Captree.

3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, L. I.

## A COUNCIL OF NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

In October of 1960, the Audubon Naturalist Society was host to representatives of fifteen Audubon and Natural History Societies at their second annual council meeting. Two and a half days of spirited discussions took place, with talk about a wide range of the problems and projects common to the groups.

The Council of Natural History Societies originated in 1959, formally, after several years of casual talk of such an arrangement. Whenever representatives of such groups have met, often at scientific meetings, we had found ourselves spending more time in the corridors comparing notes of our own plans and activities than we did in the proper sessions. There was so much practical information to share, and so much inspiration to be gained from the knowledge of others' achievements. Why, we kept saying, couldn't we meet sometime, with nothing else to do but talk together? Finally more and more people were urging this step, and in 1959 several suggested that it would be convenient to gather in Washington for a preliminary session. So it was that the first meeting was held here in October of 1959. Nineteen organizations were represented then, and proposals were drawn up for a type of Council to continue the meetings. The sessions in 1960 voted on a definite form of organization and by-laws.

The plan is very simple. We want only one thing: the chance to hold a town-meeting kind of session annually, where representatives of local, state and regional natural history societies can share experiences and define new goals. The Council will have no authority to speak for the member groups — it is purely a clearing house. Between meetings, a simple newsletter will keep up communications between us, and give a place for particular topics to be discussed and summarized. Expenses, and thus cost to members, are to be kept at an absolute minimum. Only organizations, not individuals, may join. The Council will exist solely as a service organization for its members, who may act as they determine on the information gained through the Council. No existing organization is designed to fill this need, and it should be a helpful supplement to national conservation programs. It's chief merit may be in the fact that it is a means for us all to help raise ourselves by our bootstraps, self reliantly, and without sacrificing any local vigor or authority to another organization. Several types of groups have shown an interest in the idea, from state Audubon and ornithological societies to museums and more specialized organizations. They range from those with less than 100 members to one with about 10,000. Some have large staffs and budgets, most operate by volunteer help and a pittance. With all stages of development on hand, much can be learned of the ways of reaching up to the next level of membership and usefulness.

The geographic span of the groups represented has been broad, bounded by Hawaii, Florida, Maine, Ontario, and Oregon. It has been an inspiration to meet the many capable and delightful people who are undertaking the same sort of work as we are in conservation and natural history education.

We have greatly enjoyed being host to the first two meetings, and look forward to attending future sessions, which will be held at various locations from year to year.

Irston R. Barnes

At a meeting held at the time of the A. O. U. meeting in Washington in October 1961, representatives of Council groups established the rates of dues. These had been under discussion since the first meeting, and it was felt that they should be held to minimum levels. We should prefer to have many groups belong, each paying just the cost of the proceedings and occasional newsletters. The publication of the proceedings of these meetings has been generally accepted as a major service of the Council, and if it is done at all thoroughly, it is a fairly expensive business. The most economical means of reproducing these proceedings is used, but the transcribing and typing is still a considerable job, which must usually be done professionally.

These are the dues now in force:

<i>Size of Organization</i>	<i>Annual Dues</i>
Up to 300 members -----	\$10.00
300 to 1,000 members -----	15.00
Over 1,000 members -----	25.00

Peter C. Peterson, Jr. of Davenport, Iowa, was chosen Chairman at the October meeting. It was the recommendation then that we supplement the general meetings with those of a more regional nature, so that people unable to travel to a more distant meeting could have the first-hand experience of these discussions. Accordingly, a meeting was held this past April 14-16 at the Morton Arboretum near Chicago, Illinois. Midwestern groups were the main participants, although the Florida Audubon Society was also represented.

The course which the Council will take will be determined by the interests and suggestions of member groups. We who have participated in the meetings so far have found them of great value, and we anticipate even more stimulating discussions as the scope of the Council increases with new members.

Officers of the Council of Natural History Societies, 1962 are:

Chairman: Peter C. Petersen, Jr.  
Vice Chairman: C. Russel Mason  
Secretary: Shirley A. Briggs  
Treasurer: Robert J. Watson

Shirley A. Briggs

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Note: Dr. Barnes has given his permission to use his article, printed in the Jan.-Mar. 1961, *Atlantic Naturalist*, to inform the club members of the Federation on the organization of the Council of Natural History Societies, its aims, and the benefits of membership.

The additional facts were supplied by Miss Shirley Briggs, to bring the information up to date.

We sincerely thank Dr. Barnes and Miss Briggs for this information.—Ed.

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

Report of Treasurer

MRS. DAYTON STONER

For JANUARY 1 through DECEMBER 31, 1961

Balance — January 1, 1961 ----- \$ 606.69

Receipts:

Clubs -----	\$ 387.80	
Individuals all classes -----	1,206.00	
3 First Installments -----	75.00	
Kingbird Subscriptions -----	53.50	
Kingbird Sales -----	33.00	
Advertising—Canada Soc. -----	25.00	
Sale of Bibliography -----	10.00	
Receipts from article reprints -----	43.53	
		1,833.83
Gift by Treasurer -----		75.00
Small Gifts -----		.75
Bequest from John P. Bruck Estate rec's 5/29 -----		1,000.00
Interest on Savings Account -----		50.95

Gross Total ----- \$3,567.22

Expenses:

Kingbird: Vol. X 4 \$584.40 (96 pg. — 675 copies)		
Vol. XI 1 525.25 (72 pg. — 525 copies)		
Vol. XI 2 407.00 (56 pg. — 525 copies)		
Vol. XI 3 348.00 (48 pg. — 550 copies)		
Total -----	\$1,854.65	
Editor Scotland -----	127.50	
Editor Ulrich card file -----	4.24	
Kingbird Envelopes -----	21.29	
		\$2,007.68

President's Expenses 1960 & 1961 ----- 43.87

Recording Secretary (\$32.25 & \$5.26) ----- 37.51

Treasurer — Postage, Typing, & Telephone ----- 75.00

Annual Meeting:

Announcements -----	\$ 34.42	
Envelopes, Supplies and Addressed -----	7.29	
		41.71

Bank Charge on Checking Account:

1 check returned uncashed -----	\$ 2.50	
Collecting & exchange on Canada Ck. -----	1.24	
		3.74

State Bird Material Express and Telegrams

H. Mitchell to B. Arbib -----		11.08
B. Plates and Editing -----		25.60
3M Member Cards -----		31.00
Reprints from Kingbird -----		31.53

To Savings Account:

Transfer John P. Bruck bequest .....	1,000.00
Transfer 3 Life Members first instalment .....	75.00
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$3,383.72</b>

Balance in Checking Account 12/31/61 .....

(National Commercial Bank and Trust Company, Albany, N. Y.)

Savings Account:

1/1/61 — Balance on Hand .....		\$ 900.00
4/1/61 — Interest .....	\$ 7.87	907.87
4/5/61 — 3 first installments Life .....	75.00	982.87
6/1/61 — Interest .....	8.37	991.24
6/6/61 — Bequest, John P. Bruck .....	1,000.00	1,991.24
6/6/61 — Interest withdrawn .....	16.24	1,975.00
12/1/61 — Oct. 1 and Dec. 1 Interest .....	34.71	2,009.71
12/1/61 — Interest withdrawn .....	34.71	1,975.00

Balance in Savings Account as of 12/31/61 .....

(The Community Savings Bank, Rochester, N. Y.)

This Financial report is respectfully submitted,

LILLIAN C. STONER, *Treasurer*  
399 State Street, Albany 10, N. Y.

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS  
Conservation Bulletin No. 7  
OCTOBER 29, 1962

*Golden Eagle Bill Passed*

The Golden Eagle is now a protected bird.

President Kennedy on October 25 signed into law the bill that called for protection of the Golden Eagle. Only exception will be for permits issued by the Secretary of the Interior for areas where Golden Eagles are found to be preying on livestock — if they can be so found.

The bill halts the airplane hunting that was proving so destructive of these birds.

The members and clubs of the Federation can take pride in the effective support and help they gave.

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., *Chairman,*  
*Conservation Committee*

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## THE JAMESTOWN BIRD ROOST

CLARENCE M. BEAL

For many years I had observed large flocks of blackbirds and starlings flying over my home each evening, without knowing where they went, until I learned, from Claude Parker and Phillip Lenna, of the existence of a large bird roost about two miles distant. In 1956 I first visited the roost, and was astounded to find an estimated 50,000 Purple Martins. Since then I have visited the area frequently, making, for instance, ten visits during August, September and October 1960.

The roost is located only a mile east of the center of Jamestown, bounded by Allen, Buffalo and Benedict Streets, and Pratt Avenue. The block is 44 acres in extent and is largely city owned. The altitude varies from 1297 feet at the Chadokoin River to over 1500 feet at a point near Benedict Street. Overlooking the River, along Allen Street, are cliffs up to 150 feet high, formerly a quarry of the Jamestown brickyard, but the edge of the cliff is too far from the roosting area to be a good vantage point. There are a few houses on Benedict St., and a few on Buffalo, with several business buildings. To the north, and through the valley numerous factories line the Erie Railroad.

The majority of the birds roost in 10 or 15 acres, of Hawthorne (*Crataegus* sp.), interspersed with apple and Crab-apple, averaging about 25 feet in height. The undergrowth is sparse, there being a few Elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.) bushes. This central area is surrounded by a dense growth of Panicked Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), Southern Arrow-wood (*Viburnum dentatus*), Pin Cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*), hawthorne and crabapple. Near Buffalo Street there are some Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) trees, 30-40 feet in height.

The best place from which to observe the birds coming into the roost is a steep cinder path beginning at the intersection of Allen and Buffalo Streets and ending at Eagle Street Extension.

My interest has been primarily in the Purple Martins, but observations have also been made on other species using the roost, and will be included here. At the height of the Martin concentration — late August, flights may be observed in late afternoon, spread out over Chautauqua Lake, heading toward Jamestown. Before they enter the roost Starlings will have come, in great swirling flocks, milling around for ten or fifteen minutes, then dropping down. The Purple Martins pour into the area, circling overhead from great heights to just over the trees, finally plunging into the branches just before darkness falls. The Starlings are quiet, the Martins noisy while in the air. Grackles, Cowbirds, Redwings and Robins seem to dive into the trees without the preliminary overhead milling, noticed in the Starlings and Martins.

In 1960, my estimates of the numbers of Martins at this roost were as follows:

August	29	100,000	September 14	15,000
August	30	50,000	September 18	5,000
September	2	75,000	September 23	200
September	9	30,000	September 30	1

On October 1, 1960, I visited the roost, to observe the pattern after the Martins had all left. Seven Red-winged Blackbirds were the first to appear, at 6:15 P. M. DST. Starlings began to come in at 6:45, and the number increased to about 25,000 in just a few minutes. Shortly there were perhaps 125,000 circling through the air in two large clouds of precise formation, some high, some low, but each cloud several hundred feet high. Closer birds headed one way, farther birds the other, in a great whirlpool motion, occasionally forming a great funnel, until just before 7:00 when they dropped into the trees. After this more Starlings, along with Cowbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds kept arriving, dropping into the roost immediately without circling. A few more birds, including Robins, came in, until 7:20, when darkness fell. I estimated a total of 150,000 Starlings, 7000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 600 Cowbirds, 100 Rusty Blackbirds, 200 Robins, a few White-throated Sparrows and one Towhee. No Grackles were seen, but one observer could not cover all approaches.

In 1959, the first frost was September 16; in 1960 it was not until October 1, and the Martins left earlier in 1959. Very few Barn Swallows were seen in 1960, in contrast with 1959 when hundreds were present.

While Comparative figures are not available for 1961, because of my inability to visit the roost in September and October, it might be of interest to describe the pattern I found there, when I varied my routine and checked the area six minutes before dawn (6:20 A.M., DST) on Aug 29.

The Martins were already pouring out of the roost, flying in a broad path westward toward Chautauqua Lake, with little circling about in contrast with their evening performance, keeping at an altitude of 100-300 feet. Robins were leaving at the same time, flying lower, and in ten minutes, the first Starlings left. About 6:35, Grackles, Starlings, Cowbirds and Redwings were rising in noisy mixed flocks and heading west, at an altitude of about 75 feet. At 6:40, the rest of the Martins rose into the air and headed west. At 6:50, there was a mass exit of thousands of Starlings, to the west and southwest, which continued over five minutes. At 6:55 the Martins were nearly all gone, a few hundred remaining Redwings headed northwest, and small numbers of Starlings left. By 7 A. M., the roost was deserted.

It is interesting to notice that the Martins, last to descend in the evening, are the first to leave in the morning. Robins are also in this category. Starlings arrive later than Redwings in the evening, and leave before them in the morning. In the case of both Martins and Starlings, the characteristic milling of the evening flight is absent in the morning.

On this visit, I estimated the following numbers of birds involved:

Purple Martins	- - - - -	75,000
Starlings	- - - - -	75,000
Redwings	- - - - -	7,500
Cowbirds	- - - - -	3,500
Grackles	- - - - -	3,500

In 1962, observations were made on August 13, September 9, 12, and 21. Although coverage was therefore spotty, it did seem apparent that the Martins were in smaller numbers at this roost. Whether this indicates an actual decrease in the population, or that the birds have gone to other roosts, is not known. There were approximately 15,000 on August 13, 6000 on September 9, but only 25 on the 12th and 21st. This early drop in numbers may be correlated with early frosts, on September 6 and 7.

Detailed observations were made on August 13th. At 7:45 P. M. DST, small numbers of Robins were coming in, a few Grackles in small flocks of Redwings, and a few small flocks of Starlings. By 8 P. M., 7500 Martins were sailing overhead, left, and reappeared later. At 8:15, 200 Barn Swallows, 300 Martins and 25 Cowbirds were to be seen, and by 8:20, there were 5000 Martins. Robins kept arriving in small numbers. At 8:25, Starlings were overhead in flocks of hundreds and thousands, flying low over the trees, while 7500 Martins sailed from 100 to 500 feet in the air. As the moon rose at 8:30, the air was filled with the activity of the circling birds, the Starlings still below the Martins. At 8:35, the Martins, now numbering 15,000, began dropping into the trees, while Starlings continued to arrive by the hundreds. Most of the Martins were in the roost before 8:45.

Almost no spring observations of this roost have been made, except for the notation, by Elmer Jones, of large flocks of blackbirds and Starlings at the area in late March of 1962. I myself saw flocks flying toward the roost throughout the spring.

Unanswered questions about this roost are many. How extensively is it used in spring? What about the winter months — after October? Would the numbers involved be found to be even higher, if observers manned the other approaches? What is the future of the roost? If the city clears the area for residential purposes, where will the birds go? From how extensive an area do the birds come, that utilize the roost? Would netting and banding operations answer some questions?

It is hoped that others will visit this roost, make observations and counts, in an attempt to answer the questions.

North Main Ext., Jamestown

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Note: Portions of this article have been reprinted from the Prothonotary and the Outlook.



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## UPSTATE NEW YORK FIELD TRIPS OF THE THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

MARGARET S. RUSK

The quadriennial International Ornithological Congress met, for the first time in the United States, under the secretary-generalship of Dr. Charles Sibley at Cornell University June 17-23, 1962. Cornell's Shackleton Point biological station on the south shore of Oneida Lake was selected as headquarters for upstate New York field trips of the Congress, for the weeks immediately preceding and following the Cornell meetings.

In charge of these excursions was Dr. Gustav Swanson of the Cornell Department of Conservation. On the second Week's trips Mrs. Swanson was also present, and contributed her knowledge of regional history. Acting as local guides, Mrs. Dorothy Ackley, Mr. Paul Paquette, Dr. David Paekall, Mrs. Jean Propst, Dr. Walter Spofford, and I had the great pleasure and privilege of showing our Upstate birds and habitats to internationally known ornithologists from Britain, the Scandinavian countries, Germany, the Netherlands, Curacao, and western U. S.

Congress members on the first week's trips were: Miss Ella Adelholt of Denmark, known for her work on banding recoveries; Mrs. Enid Austin of California; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Booth of the Cleveland Audubon Society; Dr. Mary Erickson of the University of California; Mrs. Keresten Hadding of Sweden and New York City; Mr. Eric Hosking, England's best-known bird photographer, with Mrs. Hosking; Dr. James Monk, Editor of *The Ibis*; Mr. Guy Mountfort, Secretary of the British Ornithologists' Union, with Mrs. Mountfort; Mr. Niels Preuss, one of the most active students of migration in Denmark; Dr. Gustaf Rudebeck of the State Museum of Natural History in Stockholm; Dr. William Serle, authority on nest ecology and the taxonomy of West African birds; Mr. Robert Spencer of the British Museum (Natural History); and Mr. P. A. van der Werf of Curacao, expert on distribution of West Indian birds. Participants the second week were: Dr. G. A. Brouwer of the Netherlands, active in the International Council for Bird Preservation, with Mrs. Brouwer; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Craw of England; Mrs. Bertha Hartmann-Muller of Germany; Mr. Bernt Loppenthin, Editor of the Danish checklist; Mr. Sven H. Mathiasson of the Goteborg Natural History Museum; Dr. Gunther Niethammer, Editor of *Journal fur Ornithologie*; Dr. Ernst Schuz, best known for his experimental work on migration of White Storks; Sir Arthur Landsborough Thomson, past President of the British Ornithologists' Union, with Lady Mary Thomson; and Mrs. Eleanore Waldhoer, whose film of the life history of the Wallcreeper delighted Congress audiences.

Despite a gray morning, the first of the Monday trips, to Sandy Pond and Selkirk Shores State Park, got off to a cheery start with tea served by Dr. W. D. Bulger of the National Wildlife Federation beside his wildlife pond in Pulaski, where the group examined the pond-side skyscraper Purple Martin apartments. At Sandy Pond two Short-billed Marsh Wrens jumped out of the grass marsh in response to my stone-clicking, so everyone had a glimpse of this uncommon wren. The Hooded Warbler that nests at Selkirk sang in circles amongst the maple undergrowth, but perched in the

open momentarily for the second week's group. This day, June 25, the Pine Warbler, Cardinals, and Purple Finches all were feeding young in the grove of great white pines at Selkirk. On the way home a detour was made to look for the elusive Prothonotary Warblers in the maple swamp of Muskrat Bay on Oneida Lake.

In addition to the gay-colored Wood Ducks and other breeding waterfowl at Howland's Island, the group saw both a Common Egret and a Black-crowned Night Heron there on June 12. Turkey Vultures hanging in the summer sky were a new world ornithological specialty of this more southern habitat. The Tuesday excursions also visited Camillus Valley, with its maidenhair-covered limestone ledges, where the Europeans admired the brightly-plumaged new world finches, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings, and the instantaneous flash of a Hummingbird. On the first Camillus trip Dr. Swanson suggested "spishing up" some Chickadees, as the foreign visitors had been asking about "American tits". To everyone's surprise, the first bird to respond was a Tufted Titmouse, a new bird to the Valley; our more southern "tit" was also there for the group two weeks later, along with a unique northern woodpecker — a Sapsucker. Other special Camillus birds on view were Cerulean Warblers feeding young in the nest the first week, and the second week a family group of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and the Chat.

On June 12 the Hoskings, accompanied by the Mountforts, Mr. van der Werf and Dr. Spofford made a special photographic trip to a Goshawk nest in the hill country near Norwich.

Highpoint both weeks was the overnight Adirondacks trip. Near East Lake, exploration of a spruce bog yielded such northern species as Ruby-crowned Kinglets singing their wiry song, Olive-sided Flycatchers carrying nesting material, and Bay-breasted Warblers feeding young. The Ornithologists were guests overnight of Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Bowes at Covewood Lodge on Big Moose Lake. On Wednesday evening the Bowes guided a canoe trip to visit a beaver dam across the lake and glimpse Gray Jays which slipped silently down through the pines, to the great delight of Mr. Mountfort, for whom they were "a lifer". After a night filled with cries of Loons and Barred Owls, the groups climbed Blue Mountain where they saw breeding Blackpoll Warblers. The Europeans recognized the lovely wild trills of their only Wren, our Winter Wren. Just at the foot of this Adirondack peak with its Canadian birds, Mr. Mountfort made the surprising discovery of a Tufted Titmouse!

The Friday excursions were to Whetstone Gulf, a precipitous gorge which unexpectedly cuts through the north edge of the Tug Hill Plateau. Dr. Serle demonstrated his uncanny ability to locate nests, by spotting a Red-breasted Nuthatch as it darted into its pitch-daubed hole in a dead snag. Parula Warblers buzzed in the tree-canopy of our picnic spot; other breeding warblers were more visible in the lower second growth, while one looked down upon the Canada Warblers along the gorge walls.

Saturday morning trips to Rome Sand Plains provided opportunities to see new species typical of that unique area. Bank Swallows were feeding

young in a colony in an abandoned sand pit. Hermit Thrushes gave their flute songs from the blueberry-carpeted ground, and Ovenbirds herded their young through the bracken. Black-throated Green and Nashville Warblers darted among the white and pitch pines. A Scarlet Tanager sang near its nest in a white oak. Overhead a Red-shouldered Hawk circled, and from the wetter sphagnum bog areas White-throated Sparrows whistled. "Damn fine birds! Jolly nice birds!" exclaimed Dr. Rudebeck as he spotted his first pair of Bluebirds. The second group glimpsed a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers near the Sand Plains, and both groups visited a Cliff Swallow colony under the eaves of a barn. Near Verona, Mr. Mountfort gathered up a handful of Upland Sandpiper chicks from the roadside while the parents with uplifted wings worriedly gave their purring calls and mournful whistles.

Mr. and Mrs. Craw and Mrs. Waldhoer stayed for a final Saturday afternoon and evening to see showy orchids at Pumpkin Hollow and the beaver dam at Gully Road near Marcellus, and the Montezuma Eagle nest.

There were dawn trips to Clay Swamp and Steven's Pond where both bitterns were heard; Bobolinks burred over the pastures, and the pair of Canada Geese with their six goslings sailed regally across the pond. On evening trips to Cicero Swamp our International visitors heard Henslow's Sparrows, Whip-poor-wills calling in a three-part round, and the thrush vesper chorus.

At the Shackleton Point headquarters, where they lived in charming lakeside cottages and a luxurious converted barn, newly readied by Mr. Paul Laible and his staff, the field trippers could hear the Warbling Vireo in an elm outside the dining hall, watch Tree Swallows at their nest boxes, and listen to a screech Owl in the evenings. There one of our guests, impressed with the size of our Robin, dubbed it the "Imperial Thrush"; many had first views of some typical northern New York birds in these surroundings.

114 Standard Street, Syracuse 10.

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Alfred A. Starling, 26 Clinton Ave. S., Rochester 4, N. Y.

Mr. John Elliott, President  
New York Federation of Bird Clubs  
3994 Park Avenue  
Seaford, Long Island, New York

Dear Mr. Elliott:

I wish to express my personal appreciation and that of the National Audubon Society to the New York Federation of Bird Clubs for your federation's active and timely support of the Golden Eagle Bill, not only through Senator Keating, one of the sponsors of the bill and other members of the New York delegation in Congress, but also in connection with the recent Senate Committee hearings. The response to the request by John Alderman for assistance in bringing a key witness to the hearing from Texas was most gratifying.

This is the kind of teamwork that wins conservation battles.

We are quite optimistic that this important bill will become law before the present session of Congress is adjourned.

Sincerely,  
Carl W. Buchheister  
President

#### INFORMATION WANTED

I am interested in obtaining information on the current status and spread of the Great Black-back Gull in New York State. I would be grateful for any counts made this winter and for any unpublished or obscure data from past years especially the period prior to 1950.

D. P. Peakall, Upstate Medical Center,  
766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10, N. Y.



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## CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

I would venture to say that not too many members of the Federation have seen a Golden Eagle. Certainly, there have been few opportunities to see one gracing the skies above New York State. So I consider this all the more a measure of the great conservation spirit that prevails among our membership. The support that has been forthcoming from the clubs and individual members for federal protection of the Golden Eagle has been an important force in the progress that has been made — and has been an inspiration as well.

I can report that a number of clubs and members had a definite role early this summer in bringing a rancher from Texas to testify in behalf of Golden Eagle protection at the hearings conducted by the Senate Commerce Committee. It was a good thing that this man, Mr. Clay Miller, testified because the Texas sheep herders had three witnesses speaking against the bill. It turned out that one of them was a neighbor of Mr. Miller's. Thus a rare opportunity had presented itself to refute some of the claims made against this predator bird. Mr. Miller did effectively call into question many of the assertions made by his neighbor and the other witnesses, according to John Alderman, leader in the fight, who also appeared before the committee. Dr. Walter Spofford of Syracuse, a member of the Federation conservation committee, and Carl Buchheister, president of the National Audubon Society, also testified.

Not the least in the support received from the Federation were the many letters and telegrams — not only at the Senate hearings, but for the House Committee hearings this spring and those that were sent earlier when we first were trying to interest our legislators in taking affirmative action.

The bill was passed by the House, and at this writing had come out of the Senate Committee. The bill had been tagged with an amendment designed to pacify the sheep ranchers. But the Golden Eagle bill leaders were accepting it as an assurance of passage.

According to Mr. Alderman, the amendment provided that a rancher, believing he had an eagle problem, could apply to the governor of his state for permission to institute control measures. However, the governor in turn would have to apply to the Secretary of the Interior. It was felt that this process was cumbersome enough to be almost prohibitive. The bill in the form in which it was approved by the Senate Committee would prohibit the massive killing by airplane hunters that has been so threatening to the Golden Eagle population.

In view of Miss Rachel Carson's new book "Silent Spring", the letter we received from James H. Bush, Record Chairman of the Greene County Bird Club, is certainly timely. Mr. Bush quoted from a story appearing last May in the Catskill Daily Mail:

"Four little bluebirds were found dead in their nest Friday by Miss Emmy Rusack of Catskill. As everyone knows, the bluebirds are becoming extinct (Editor's note: If not yet nearly extinct, their numbers certainly have been dangerously low) and the loss of these four rare little birds is really distressing to all bird lovers. Although the actual cause of death is not known, Miss Rusack said she couldn't help but feel that it was due to indiscriminate spraying of trees. . . ."

I feel that this is the juncture to slip in a commercial on behalf of Miss Carson's book which is a study of the pesticide problem and a work that has not made the chemical companies too happy. For Miss Carson, author of "The Edge of the Sea", deals not only with the possible affect of pesticides on wildlife, but on the health of humans.

You can readily determine the connotation of the book's title, "Silent Spring", as far as wildlife is concerned. It has been published by Houghton Mifflin Company and sells for \$5.00 — surely at your own bookstores.

Miss Carson's detailed treatment includes incidents of particular interest to Federation members — the fight led by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy to prevent spraying on Long Island five years ago, and the Dutch Elm Disease programs in Buffalo, Syracuse and Westchester Counties.

We have received a communication which warns that the wild character of large roadless areas of the Forest Preserve is being endangered by the indiscriminate use of motor vehicles. D. L. Newhouse, Chairman of the Conservation Committee of



the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., warned that lack of control could lead to more serious attempts in the Legislature to break through the now existent constitutional clause protecting the Preserve as 'forever wild'.

The report from Mr. Newhouse reads in part:

Recent studies by the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources, conducted with the assistance of the Conservation Department, have shown that the wild character of the large roadless areas of the Forest Preserve is in danger of being destroyed by the indiscriminate use of motor vehicles. Although it is now clear that the Conservation Department has the authority to prohibit such use, it has become evident that the Department has no general policy on this subject, only a few isolated regulations covering specific situations. Furthermore, Mr. Newhouse charges, "it appears that the present administration of the Department has no interest in or desire to prohibit use of motor vehicles, but instead desires authority to permit their regulated use in most of the Preserve."

Robert Snyder, member of the Federation and of the Baldwin Bird Club has been in the forefront of an effort to establish a national seashore in New York State — namely on Fire Island instead of a highway that Robert Moses, chairman of the Long Island State Park Commission, wants to run nearly lengthways on this narrow strip of barrier beach on the south shore of Long Island facing the Atlantic Ocean. Mr. Snyder is secretary of the Citizens Committee for a Fire Island National Seashore.

The Committee has been conducting an educational campaign to arouse the support of citizens for this park which, if established, would be operated by the Department of the Interior. By summer's end, two bills had been introduced in Congress calling for such a park. The sponsors were Rep. John V. Lindsay (Rep., New York) and Rep. William Fitts Ryan (Dem., New York).

Secretary Stewart Udall's assistant, Walter Pozen, told the Committee at a meeting in Washington, D. C., that "Fire Island represents one of the last great opportunities to preserve an invaluable natural resource". He pointed out that "Fire Island is of extreme importance because of its natural features and its close proximity to large centers of population".

The 20-mile, four-lane ocean highway has been backed by the Temporary State Commission on Protection and Preservation of the Atlantic Shoreline, of which Speaker of the Assembly Joseph Carlino is chairman and Mr. Moses is secretary. Speaker Carlino presided over public hearings this summer that were marked by bitterness on the part of residents and summer residents of 18 communities on Fire Island (many of them of long years standing) and of other Long Island resident recreational and conservation leaders opposing the proposal.

Although the Commission subsequently unanimously endorsed the highway project, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, who had appointed the members following the now famous battering March storms of last winter, had not himself taken a stand as of the end of September.

Mr. Snyder said that the seashore committee hopes to get support from conservation organizations throughout the state to give further backing to the bills pending in Congress.



APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Mrs. Donald Radke, East Chatham.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS is handled by the Treasurer, Mrs. Dayton Stoner, 399 State Street, Albany 10; EXCHANGES, BACK COPIES, and REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED COPIES by Allan S. Klonick, 901 Sibley Tower Building, Rochester 4, N. Y.



## BIRDS OF THE BIG MOOSE AREA

ANNE LABASTILLE BOWES

For the past seven summers, 1956 to 1962, my husband and I have owned and operated Covewood Lodge on Big Moose Lake in Herkimer County. Usually, we arrive from our winter quarters in Florida in late April or early May and stay until snow flies in November or December. Despite our preoccupation with hotel matters, we keep an eye out for birds and maintain three active bird feeders. Once or twice during the season, we manage an all-day field trip and several times each week one or the other of us is in the woods hiking, or on the lake and marsh boating with our guests. This gives us the opportunity for more or less continual observations.

The following list has been compiled over the seven year period and gives, generally, the first date at which the species was seen. Year dates are not mentioned except in unusual cases since most of these birds recur yearly. The general area circumscribed by these field observations include the villages of Old Forge, Beaver River, and Big Moose Station with Big Moose Lake as a central point. The habitats include Beech, Birch, Maple and Hemlock climax forest, polewood stands, tamareck swamp, marsh and beaver meadows, stream bottomland, open fields and lake shore between the elevations of 1650 and 2200 feet.

The following abbreviations are used: B—breeding; PB—possibly breeding; M—migrant.

Common Loon	B	May 3
Pied-billed Grebe	B	June
Great Blue Heron	M	June
American Bittern	PB	May 10
Canada Goose	M	Apr. 19 & Oct. 4
Brant	M	May 1956
Mallard	PB	Sept.
Black Duck	B	May 13
Blue-wing Teal	PB	Sept. 20
Wood Duck	B	July 30 & Nov.
Old Squaw	M	May 13, 1956
Hooded Merganser	PB	May 5
Common (American) Merganser	PB	May 12
Goshawk	B	May 5
Cooper's Hawk	PB	Sept.
Red-tailed Hawk	M	July 18, 1960
Red-shouldered Hawk	PB	July
Broad-winged Hawk	B	Apr. 8
Bald Eagle	M	May 31 & Nov. 1960
Osprey	B	June 5
Ruffed Grouse	B	May 10
Woodcock	PB	July 30
Snipe	PB	July
Spotted Sandpiper	PB	May 15
Solitary Sandpiper	PB	May 15
Herring Gull	B	May 12
Mourning Dove	M	July 21, 1961
Black-billed Cuckoo	B	June 7
Saw-whet Owl	M	Dec.
Barn Owl	M	Aug. 1961
Horned Owl	B	July 27
Snowy Owl	M	Feb.
Barred Owl	B	May 20
Chimney Swift	B	May 20
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	B	May 15
Belted Kingfisher	PB	May 8
Flicker	PB	Apr. 25
Pileated Woodpecker	B	May 6
Red-headed Woodpecker	M	Aug. 1962
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	B	Apr. 18
Hairy Woodpecker*	B	Apr. 18
Downy Woodpecker*	B	Apr. 18
Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker	B	July 30
American Three-toed Woodpecker	?	July 30
Eastern Kingbird	B	May 20
Phoebe	B	May 3

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		July 20, 1961
Alder Flycatcher		July 24, 1962
Least Flycatcher	PB	May 13
Olive-sided Flycatcher	B	June
Pewee	B	June 27
Tree Swallow	B	May 15
Bank Swallow	M	July 12, 1960
Cliff Swallow	B	June, 1962
Barn Swallow	B	May 12
Canada Jay*	B	Apr. 18
Blue Jay*	B	Apr. 18
Crow	B	May 6
Black-capped Chickadee*	B	Apr. 18
Brown-capped Chickadee	PB	June 7
White-breasted Nuthatch*	B	Apr. 18
Red-breasted Nuthatch*	B	Apr. 18
Brown Creeper	B	June
Winter Wren	B	Apr. 25
Catbird	PB	May 15
Brown Thrasher	PB	May 15
Robin	B	Apr. 18
Wood Thrush	B	May 8
Swainson's (Olive-backed) Thrush	B	June 27
Hermit Thrush	B	July
Veery	PB	May 31
Bluebird	M	May 31
Golden-crowned Kinglet	B	May 8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	B	May 8
Cedar Waxwing	B	Aug. 26
Gray Shrike	M	May
Starling	B	Apr. 30
Red-eyed Vireo	B	May 12
Solitary Vireo	PB	Aug. 5
Yellow-throated Vireo	?	July
Warblers:		
Black and White	B	May 15
Tennessee	M	May 15
Nashville	M	July 21
Parula	M	July 21
Magnolia	B	June 2
Black-throated Blue	B	May 15
Black-throated Green	B	May 15
Cape May	M	May 15
Blackburnian	B	June 2
Chestnut-sided	B	June 13
Bay-breasted	PB	June 2
Blackpoll	PB	June 13
Myrtle	B	May 3
Ovenbird	B	May 13
Yellowthroat	B	May 15
Canada	B	July
Redstart	B	May 29
Bobolink	M	May
Meadowlark	M	May
Red-winged Blackbird	B	May 15
Rusty Blackbird	B	Apr. 18
Grackle	B	Apr. 18
Cowbird	B	June 1
Scarlet Tanager	B	June 4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	B	May 27
Cardinal	M	July
Indigo Bunting	M	May 29
Evening Grosbeak	M	Aug. & Nov.
Purple Finch	B	May 3
Redpoll	M	Dec.
Pine Siskin	M	Nov.
Goldfinch	B	Aug. 30
Red Crossbill	B	June 13
White-winged Crossbill	B	June 13
Savannah Sparrow	PB	June
Slate-colored Junco	B	Apr. 18
Chipping Sparrow	B	May 3
White-crowned Sparrow	M	May 5
White-throat Sparrow	B	May 3
Fox Sparrow	M	Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow	PB	July
Swamp Sparrow	B	June 7
Song Sparrow	B	June 7
Snow Bunting*	M	Apr. 18

Note: As noted in the text, no observations were made during the period Nov. — to Apr. 18. Some of the species with \* therefore, winter visitors. These are marked with a \*

## FIELD NOTES

**Clay-colored Sparrow near Tupper Lake Village in the Adirondacks:** On the evening of July 5, 1962, my wife and I were returning along the Pitchfork Pond road toward the town of Tupper Lake in the Adirondacks, when we stopped our car by an abandoned golf course for a photograph of the distant mountains. As we stopped, an unfamiliar song was heard consisting of five to seven, usually seven, flat penetrating insect-like buzzes, all on one pitch. Walking across the grassy field which had recently been planted with young pines, I found a Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella Pallida*) singing from the outer branches of an open grown spruce. The unmarked breast, pale median stripe, grey nape and well outlined dark cheek-patch were all well seen. The bird sang repeatedly, but at no time that evening or the following day did we see any female of the species. The bird did not permit close approach, flushed often and sang from a number of perches.

Although we were taken aback by this mid-western sparrow it was not without precedent as a summering bird in this area since Miss Amstutz reported a singing male in June and July of 1956 in the Tupper Lake area about three miles from the above mentioned location. (*Kingbird VI* (4):117). In addition, Ralph Friedman whose property lies along the Jordan River, north of Tupper Lake called to report a male and a female in his area, July 8th. No nesting data mentioned.

The possibility that this species may be breeding in the area certainly bears further investigation. The terrain here greatly resembles the bird's breeding habitats in Wisconsin and Michigan. The field in which the Clay-colored was found contained at least seven other sparrow species including Vesper, Field, Savannah and Chipping. Then again, the potential "sparrow fields" are not intensively covered because of the size of the Northern Adirondacks and the lack of observers. The three observations of this species mentioned here were quite casual. Miss Amstutz's above mentioned location (*Kingbird VI* (4):117). In addition, Ralph Friedman where he vacations, and my own, only, because of a penchant for recording mountain scenery and the distinctive song of the Clay-colored Sparrow.

A more intensive approach by interested birders may prove the species is extending its range eastward.

Richard Cohen, 72-10 37th Avenue, Jackson Heights, 72.

Attention is called to another record of the Clay-colored Sparrow in New York State which is fully described by Mrs. Malcolm McIlroy in her article, "Possible Hybridization between a Clay-colored Sparrow and a Chipping Sparrow at Ithaca" (*Kingbird XI* (1):7). It may be as Mr. Cohen suggests that this species may be in similar areas of New York State which are not now covered by intensive field work. — Ed.

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**Evidence of Nesting of the Tufted Titmouse in Rensselaer County:** For several years the Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) has been moving northward in New York State. The progress of this invasion has been reviewed by Eaton (*Kingbird, IX*(2):59-62) and the spread of this species has continued since his paper appeared.

An interesting aspect of this invasion, however, is that few breeding records have been obtained in areas where the titmouse is common as a winter bird at feeding stations. The first record of which I have knowledge of a nesting of this species in the upper Hudson valley occurred in 1961.

Mrs. Ethel M. Cornwell, of Troy, Rensselaer County, has had titmice at her feeders through several winters, and has become very familiar with the species. In August, 1961, two adult titmice appeared at her feeder with four young. At their first appearance the young were barely able to fly, so that the nest must have been nearby. The six birds remained regular attendants at the feeder until the young were fully independent. The record came to my attention as a result of my position as a columnist on birds for the Albany Knickerbocker News. I am grateful

to Mrs. Cornwell, for the information here presented, and to Mrs. Beverly Waite, who brought the matter to my attention.

Allen H. Benton, Dept. of Biology, State College, Fredonia, N. Y.

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**An Albino Slate-colored Junco:** While birding in the Hart Lake area on August 17th we were traveling on the shortcut which begins near the Olympic ski jump, follows the Ausable River for three or four miles and meets the main east-west artery to Lake Placid from Wilmington and Whiteface Mountain. This area has always been productive of a variety of birds during late August and September. In the thick brush on the river side of the road were Grackles, Red-w. Blackbirds, Tanagers, Indigo Bunting and innumerable warblers. On the opposite side of the road after passing the farm land, the mountain, covered with typical cold country, spruce and and balsam, sweeps down abruptly to the road. Many small groups of typical Slate-colored Juncos, flew into the conifers as the car approached and as promptly flew back again to the edge of the road after the car had passed.

The road, where it most closely approaches the river, rounds a sharp bend. Here a flock of Juncos (12-15), taking alarm at our approach, flew into the thick spruce-balsam cover. Among them was a snow white individual which had alighted on a balsam bough about seventy-five feet from the car which had stopped.

The bird, which was perched near a normal Slate-colored Junco, matched it for size, perching stance, and characteristic outline. It left the tree and joined in feeding with part of the flock which had flown back to the roadside.

Subsequent collection and identification proved the bird was a white Slate-colored Junco without any dark feathers, with white feet, nails, legs and bill. The eyes however were normal, taking it out of the category of a true albino. This specimen will be mounted and placed in the collection which I am preparing for the new ornithological room at State Teachers College of Education, Plattsburg, N. Y.

T. A. Lesperance, Keesville

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**Cape May Warbler Breeding in the Adirondacks:** On June 23, 1962 the writer accompanied by Mrs. Dorothy Ackley, Mr. Paul Paquette, and Miss Margaret Rusk, observed a female Cape May Warbler feeding a fledgling young (apparently incapable of flight) in the Madawaska Pond area of western Franklin County, about ten miles due west of Meacham Lake, in the Adirondacks. The observers first noted the persistent food-begging cries of the young bird (an insistent lisp "tsee-tsee) plus the hard "chip" note of the female bird. The female was apparently collecting small insects and spiders from the outer branchlets and twigs of the adjacent 30-40 foot black and white spruces, then hurrying back to the noisy fledgling. At one point it was thought there might be two fledglings present, but only one was noted for certain. An attempt at "spishing" to attract the male produced only intense alarm and a barrage of "chip" notes on the part of the female. The area where this observation was made consists of mixed second growth (post-lumbering) black and white spruce forest on the periphery of a 20-acre bog of sphagnum, leatherleaf, blueberry, and Labrador tea.

The Cape May Warbler has been previously recorded as breeding at North Elba (Bent, q.v.) but to my knowledge the species is not known as a breeder from the lower northwestern Adirondack areas. It is of interest that these lower areas contain a good population of other boreal species (Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, Bay-breasted Warbler); search of the many similar situations thereabouts may produce more records of the Cape May's breeding in that sector.

Reference: Bent, A. C. "Life histories of North American wood warblers." **United States National Museum Bulletin** no. 203, 1953, p. 222

Fritz Scheider, 151 Seventh North St., Syracuse 8, N. Y.

**A Sight Record of a Greenshank in Central New York:** On the shores of Onondaga Lake on August 30, 1962 Mrs. Jean Propst noted a strange shorebird feeding with some Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*). In general appearance it was similar to a yellowlegs, appearing somewhat larger and more heavily built than a Lesser Yellowlegs. The bill was distinctly upturned, heavier than that of a Lesser Yellowlegs, shorter and more upturned than that of a Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleucus*). Upperparts greyish, with white margins to the feathers but the white markings were far less conspicuous than in the yellowlegs. Center of the throat clear, but definite grey speckling on the sides of the neck and breast. Rest of the underparts white, legs greenish-grey. In flight the pattern was similar to a yellowlegs but the white of the rump appeared to extend further up the back.

The bird was observed at a range of about 40 yards in excellent light using a 20x balscope. It appeared in all respects to be a Greenshank (*T. nebularia*). One of us (D.B.P.) had had considerable experience of this species in Europe.

This species was recorded by Audubon from the Florida Keys (Bent, Life Histories of North American Shore-birds, Part 1, p. 309, 1927) but this record is not accepted by the A.O.U. list committee in the 5th section of the Check-list of North American Birds (1957). Thus there appears to be no accepted record for this species for North America.

Jean Propst; David B. Peakall, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10

**Turkey Vulture Nesting in Cattaraugus County:** In southern New York, in unglaciated parts of Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties, there are several placés 1900 to 2350 feet above sea level where thick beds of Conglomerate Rocks outcrop. These usually weather out in blocks as big as an average-size house and produce what are commonly called, in this area, "Rock Cities." Among these outcroppings, weathering forms many shallow caves and crevices.

We have had indirect evidence that these rocks were being used as nesting sites by Turkey Vultures. On July 27, 1957 Eugene H. Donahue found a molted secondary among the rocks near Knapp Creek, N. Y. Terry L. Moore, in August 1960, found two Turkey Vultures near a conglomerate rock outcropping about six miles south of the N. Y.-Pa. line and about 5 miles west of Bradford, Pa. The behavior of these birds indicated immaturity.

Direct evidence of Vulture nesting was obtained on June 23, 1962 when George Charles of Allegany, N. Y. found two young covered with white down, six and one half miles NNW of Allegany (Cattaraugus Co.) on Chapel Hill among conglomerate boulders. Charles guided Eaton to the nest site July 8. At this time we estimated the young to be about the size of Leghorn pullets (perhaps two pounds), white except for the black remiges which protruded from the down on the wings. When a pole was pushed into the cave to flush them into a net, they hissed vehemently. The cave at this time was oderiferous, but not as much as it was a month later. One bird was photographed.

On Aug. 5 the contour feathers were erupting and visible beyond the down. The flight feathers were perhaps two thirds their full length. One bird was caught, banded, and again photographed on this date.

On Aug. 15 the other bird was caught and banded. The wing spread measured 63 inches. The birds had moved to a new cave about 100 feet from the original cave and appeared to be about ready for flight.

On Aug. 19 Charles visited the area and saw one young bird (now indistinguishable from the adult except for black skin about its head) jump up on a large rock and glide away, disappearing through a hole in the tree canopy.

On Sept. 2 Charles saw four vultures soaring along the hill in the vicinity of the nest.

According to the literature, Turkey Vultures, along with other Carolinian species, began invading New York in the 1920's and early 1930's, particularly in the lower Hudson Valley (Deed, F. F.—Proc. Linnaean Soc., N. Y. Nos. 58-62, 1951), and near

Naples, N. Y. (Wetmore, Alexander — Auk 47:81). Evidence of nesting in western N. Y. in the Oak Orchard Swamp region was established by William A. Smith (1927 Oologist 44 (11):151 Turkey Vulture nesting in New York). Through the kindness of Harold Mitchell we learned of another nesting record in the Oak Orchard Swamp (Orleans Co.) when young were found by E. W. Jameson in June 1938.

Today the Turkey Vulture is no longer a scarce bird over much of New York except in the Adirondacks. The advance of the species in New England and eastern Canada has been reviewed by Aaron M. Bagg and Henry M. Parker (1951)—Auk 68: 315-333).

In western Pennsylvania, W. E. Todd (1940 Birds of Western Pa. p. 123) has said that there were originally two centers of dispersal of the species in his region. One was east of the main Allegheny divide in the Potomac and Susquehanna drainage; this is perhaps the origin of the Naples, N. Y. and Oak Orchard birds. The other center Todd spoke of was in the Ohio River drainage; this is perhaps the source of the breeding population in Cattaraugus County. As hypothesized by G. M. Sutton (1928 — Auk 45; 501), this plateau population of northwestern Pa. advanced due to the presence of a dependable food supply in the form of deer carcasses, rather than to any change in climatic conditions. To these ideas must also be added nest sites. Rock outcrops or undisturbed areas of mature timber are also important to the spread of this species.

The population building up in Cattaraugus County has probably come from the high plateau country of northern Pa. and the Ohio River drainage. Its success in southern Cattaraugus Co. is probably due to the rock outcrops in the unglaciated portion in close association with winter-killed deer in April and May.

On checking W. Bryant Tyrrell's notes in Bent (Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, part 1:17-18), we surmised that the young found by Charles probably came from eggs laid between the first and fifteenth of May.

Stephen W. Eaton, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure: George Charles, R. D., Allegany.

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**Observations of Hummingbirds Nesting at Erlen Acres:** In June, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus Colubris*) nested in a maple tree close to our house where I had a splendid opportunity to make almost constant observations. The nest was built on the east side of the tree at a terminal fork of a branch one half inch in diameter. It was eighteen feet from the trunk and about six feet from the ground, a most unsteady homesite.

It took the bird four days to construct the nest. During the nest building, the wind blew almost constantly and I wondered how two eggs could ever remain in the nest.

While the hummer was incubating and after a terrible blow, when the nest swayed back and forth and over, I went to look at it. I was fearful that I would find no eggs in the nest but instead I found two eggs, both immovable to my touch. They were wedged into one side of the nest as if glued there. I had previously noticed the bird collecting cobwebs after the nest was completed and the eggs laid. Could it be she had secured them with cobwebs?

Two babies were hatched. Five days after the young left the nest, the female started the second nest in the same tree in a similar position but on the west side of the tree. This nest, also, was completed in four days and on the sixth day she began incubating. I observed again that she added lichens and cobwebs to the nest which already contained eggs. A sad ending came to this nest as a chipmunk took the eggs.

I saw the female later carrying nesting material into an apple tree but I did not locate the nest.

Mrs. C. Paul Erlenbach, R. D. #1, Ghent

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**A Collection of Chats:** The Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), according to John Bull and John Elliott, is a rare and local breeding bird on the north shore of Long Island. It is therefore of interest to report a large breeding group of this species about one mile northeast of the Village of Northport. There are at least ten breeding pairs which have been observed annually for about fifteen years in a 100-acre area of overgrown fields on an abandoned golf course. The habitat is ideal chat country, dense brushy tangles, predominantly briar, sumac, poison ivy,

bayberry, viburnum, bush honeysuckle, high-bush blueberry, bittersweet, wild grape, red cedar, dogwood, and sassafras, with an occasional stunted apple tree. The terrain is sandy and hilly.

About mid-May when the birds are present in good numbers, they are relatively easy to observe from any of the jeep trails which criss-cross the area. As breeding proceeds, they become increasingly secretive but can be located up to mid-July by the series of loud mews, toots, gurgles and grunts which are characteristic of this large noisy warbler. After the breeding season, the Chats vanish. It may be of interest to note that the dominant singers in this area in mid-August are species which could not be found here twenty years ago, Cardinal, Carolina Wren, and House Finch. Two pairs of another recent invader, the Yellow-crowned Nigh Heron, were discovered on the edge of this area a year ago, nesting in the upper story of oaks at least 75 feet above ground.

Eugene T. Mudge, RFD 1, Box 316, Northport, L. I.

**Adventure with an Oriole:** A small miracle occurred in my kitchen last summer. It started when a neighbor's boy brought me a tiny fledgling bird that he had found abandoned in the woods ten miles away.

All maimed or orphaned wildlife in our neighborhood comes to me but I had never raised a Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). He perched wobbly on my finger, a fluffy round ball, while I examined him. Just a wisp of yellow showed through the olive green down on his breast and at the tail ends. Two white bars crossed the immature studdy black wings and traces of a baby clown mouth were at the sides of the slender beak. He showed no fear and submitted to a cardboard box on the kitchen table. When he chirped tentatively and opened his mouth, I fed him from the tip of my finger with a commercial mixture that I give my Mynah bird and Troupials.

By morning, the fledgling had fluttered to the edge of the box and was ready for a large cage. From the first, I tried to follow the pattern he might have had in the wild state, knowing I must release him later. Each morning I lined his cage with dewy branches, heavy with ripe, red berries, from the honeysuckle bush so he could have cover and places to explore. Perches were forsythia and apple twigs. I used a clothes dampener to sprinkle water on the branches and the baby bird. When he was older he drank water from the leaves but I never saw him bathe.

From the first day, he refused food while caged so I put more green branches on the top of the cage and fed him there. He graduated to hard cooked egg yolk which I gave him from a blunt-tipped stirrer or the tip of my small finger. He also liked bits of sweet berries and fresh fruit. Then I began to spread the egg mixture on leaves and branches in an effort to teach him to feed himself.

The little bird grew sleeker each day, his pinfeathers showing, the yellow becoming more pronounced and the tail feathers lengthening. He tried his first flight, ending disastrously on the kitchen floor. It seemed time to give him more freedom, so I let him flutter through the crab apple tree outside the kitchen door. This excited him very much and he would slip and scramble and call. He was so responsive and anxious to communicate that it was difficult to resist teaching him tricks. I used a short whistle to bring him to me when he was in the apple tree. He often ignored this and I usually ended up scrambling after him, whistling madly, a dish of egg yolk in one hand and a rake in the other with which to pull branches down.

Eventually, he became unhappy in his cage except at night and then, head tucked under wing, he slept quietly until six the next mornig, undisturbed by lights or sounds.

Finally, he had been with me three weeks and had become a beautiful young bird, not fully feathered but with a long yellow tail, slender long black beak and a flickering white tongue that lashed across leaves like lightning. His three perching toes in front and one longer one in back enabled him to turn over leaves and span tangled branches. He had developed a variety of calls; a whirring throaty low whistle when he was impatient or hungry, a sleepy cheep at bedtime and a series of sharp three-notes used frequently when outdoors.

I drove him to a wooded area of tall oak trees not far from where he had been found. There were no birds in sight. He flew to a scrubby laurel bush, examined the leaves and called to me. I took him deeper into the woods and let him go again. I turned and walked quickly away. As I drove off I looked for a flash of yellow but did not see anything.

Alice Vee Sweeny, 25 Meadow Lane, Syosset



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON  
JUNE 1 — AUGUST 15  
DAVID B. PEAKALL

The main feature of the summer weather was a prolonged dry spell in June and July which amounted to a drought in many areas. Regional editors varied in their opinions of the effect of this dry spell and I find myself echoing Leslie Bemont's plea for more information on this important season. Certainly each season brings its surprises, one's sense of zoogeography receives a shock at the information that a singing Pine Grosbeak and a singing Tufted Titmouse were recorded within two days of each other in the central Adirondacks.

One of the most interesting features of the breeding season was the nesting of Evening Grosbeaks outside the Adirondack area. At Pittsford, near Rochester, two pairs of adults accompanied by three young just out of the nest appeared at a feeder. Around Ithaca there were six reports of the species in June, in two instances young were observed being fed; as many as 12-15 birds were present in July. The feeding of young was observed at Stissing in Dutchess county in early July and there were other reports of summering adults in the lower Hudson valley. Two summered at Schenectady and a free-flying young was seen being fed in July. The range of this species has been expanding in recent years. The first breeding record for the Adirondacks was in 1946 (George, *Kingbird*, 7(2):50-51 and) by 1957 it was breeding there in numbers (Nichols; *Audubon Field Notes* 11(5):394). The extension of its range in other parts of the north-east has been commented on by Bagg (*A.F.N.* 15(5):452). 1962 appears to be the first year of a major spread of the Evening Grosbeak from the mountainous areas.

The Bluebird picture is mixed but, on balance, encouraging. Further decreases were noted in the Finger Lake region; in the Hudson Valley it remained scarce but good breeding success was noted in the Capital district and increases were noted in Dutchess county. Detailed figures from region four are encouraging and to the northward in the Oneida area the position is described as a little better than last year. There was at least one good breeding group present in the Adirondacks. The good nesting success in, at least, some areas gives reason for hope. If James (*A.F.N.* 16(3):308-311) is correct in his correlation of decreases with bad weather on the wintering grounds we may expect the losses to be made up rapidly if only the winter weather will give the Bluebird a break.

After the unprecedented spring invasion of Cattle Egrets there was only one report during this period. This record came from the Adirondacks where the species was unreported during the spring and it is, in fact, a regional first. It is apparent that the Cattle Egret does not summer in New York State nor for that matter in the north-east. The Bagg (*A.F.N.* 16(4):383-386) in their detailed account of the spring invasion of this year speculate that the birds may have retreated to the south-west. The summer flight of Common Egrets was again light, the only notable concentration being at Montezuma. Several of the southern herons were noted in the lower Hudson Valley, perhaps a result of the increase of these species breeding on Long Island.

The warbler family produced a number of notable records. The Cape May Warbler was found breeding in the Adirondacks, the only previous record of this species breeding in the state was in 1947 (Carleton, Auk 65(4):607). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen in Westchester county. This was the second occurrence of this western species in the state this year. The rare recessive hybrid, the so-called Lawrence's Warbler, was found breeding with a Blue-winged Warbler, also in Westchester county. The Cerulian Warbler was recorded on Long Island where it is rare.

The shorebird migration was well underway by the end of the period. The migration was extremely poor at Rochester but seemed normal elsewhere with the lower water-levels improving 'shorebirding' in areas where the family is normally absent. These conditions produced the second record of a White-rumped Sandpiper for Rockland county. A Ruff turned up for the third year running at Syracuse and, more normally, it was recorded on Long Island. Hudsonian Godwit, also scarce upstate, was recorded at Syracuse. Wilson Phalarope was noted in regions 3 and 10.

A pair of Canvanbacks bred at Montezuma; they were free-flying but presumably originated from a nearby game management area where clip winged birds are reared. Wigeon near Massena had their best ever breeding season. This species is only known to bred in a few areas and apparently the Massena area was the only one in which it was successful this year.

To mention a few other notable records: Brown Pelicans were seen on Long Island, Black Rail apparently bred in region 4. The occurrence of Gray-colored Sparrows this summer in the Adirondacks is detailed in the field note section. This adds another item to the strange occurrence of this species well outside its normal range. This species has been known to hybridize with Chipping Sparrows (Storer, Wilson Bull 66,143; McIlroy, Kingbird 11 (1):7) although there was no evidence of hybridization in the Adirondack record this summer.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

Although most weather elements averaged about normal during the period according to official Weather Bureau records at Buffalo, the word "normal" is hardly appropriate or applicable in describing conditions in most areas of Western New York. Precipitation, usually occurring in scattered showers at this time of the year, was generally scarce in most sections. Drought was the rule rather than the exception, especially in early summer, and numerous agricultural activities suffered continuous and serious setbacks. Numerous outbreaks of cool Canadian air during June and July resulted in an unusual number of relatively cool nights and comfortably warm days. In general, the temperature-humidity index was low throughout the period. The frequent periods of hot, sultry days, so characteristic of summer in this region, were very few and of short duration.

The nesting season, greatly aided by the exceptionally warm and pleasant month of May, was termed very successful by a number of field observers. Waterbirds — herons, ducks, rails, etc. — appeared to have experienced the most successful nesting season of the past several years. Brood success of most species appeared to be high. During late July and early August there was some evidence of exceptionally early "migration" or "wandering" among several small passerine species typical of areas farther to the north. Unfortunately records from the New York State areas of the territory covered by local field observers do not indicate this trend that was probably induced by the earlier than usual completion of nesting

activities coupled with favorable weather conditions to bring them southward, i.e. large masses of polar air moving southward.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area.

Contributors: KPA — Kenneth P. Able; HHA — Harold H. Axtell; NB — Nina Bates; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; WWB — Winston W. Brockner; LB — Lois Buck; SWE — Stephen W. Eaton; AH — Axel Heilborn; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; EP — Elizabeth Pillsbury; RWR — Mrs. R. Williams Rochester; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; AS — Arthur Schaffner; WAS — William A. Smith; GGW — Gertrude G. Webster.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: late birds — 1, Jun 17, Attica Reservoir (KPA et al) and 1, Jun 25, Niagara Falls (AS). Great Blue Heron: previously unreported nesting location — Coes Road, Town of Stockton, Chaut. Co., seven nests containing young Jun 9 (LB, NB et al). Common Egret: 1, June 17, OOGMA (RCR et al); no other reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: 1, Jul 8, near Hamburg (HDM et al). Green-winged Teal: good numbers of summering birds for second consecutive year at OOGMA — 5 (maximum count), Jun 17 (KPA et al). American Widgeon: 1, Jun 16, Langford (few summer records for Southern Erie County) (TLB). White-winged Scoter: 1, Jun 17, Lake Ontario at Shadigee (RCR) — an extremely late date according to existing records but non-nesting individuals probably would be found regularly during summer on Lake Ontario shores if they were less disturbed and with regular and systematic coverage by observers. Hooded Merganser: female with brood of 4 downy young, Jun 9, Beaujean Road near Mayville, Chaut. Co. (new nesting location) (EP et al); 1, Jun 17, OOGMA (KPA et al); 1, Jul 18, Hamburg (TLB).

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: nest containing 2 young in cave formed by conglomerate outcropping in deciduous woodland, early Jul, Town of Humphrey, Catt. Co. (Fide SWE) — first known nest for southern tier counties and first for region since the late 1930's. Bald Eagle: 1 adult, Jun 27, over Busti, Chaut. Co. (EP) — only report. Upland Plover: flocks of 12, Jul 7, Town of Lancaster (GGW) and 10, Jul 23, Town of Marilla (RCR et al) seem indicative of good nesting success. Lesser Yellowlegs: 150, Jul 20, Tiffit St., Buffalo (KPA et al) — roosting on cinder flats at dusk; three Greater Yellowlegs and four Pectoral Sandpipers were also included in this shore bird concentration. Common Tern: about 750 pair, Jun 18, nesting on rock jetty in Niagara River off Buckhorn Island State Park (AS) — a new nesting location this year. Caspian Tern: 1, Jul 18, Lake Erie at Hamburg (rare on south shore of Lake Erie in summer) (TLB). Barn Owl: 4 young at nest, Jul 7, Hamburg (TLB et al).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: 1, Jun 18, Hamburg (TLB) — rare in summer in this region. Red-headed Woodpecker: more common and widely distributed than during past several years. Acadian Flycatcher: 1, Jun 16, Cattaraugus Indian Reservation at Versailles (KPA) — rare in summer. Tufted Titmouse: 1, Jun 29, Wanakah (KPA et al) — only report. Caroline Wren: 2, Jun 2, Cattaraugus Indian Reservation (KPA); 1, Jul 16, Hamburg (TLB); 2, Aug 12, Point Gratiot (RCR et al) — these records seem to indicate a slight comeback into the region along the south shore of Lake Erie. Short-billed Marsh Wren: more abundant and widely distributed than during the past several years; 6 (Maximum count), Jul 1, Morton Corners (WWB). Mockingbird: a pair successfully raised two broods at Lewiston, Niagara Co.; the first brood of 4 young left the nest Jul 2; second brood of 2-3 young left Aug 2-3 (AH). Another nest contained 4 eggs Jun 4 at Shadigee, Orleans Co. (WAS). A nest containing one young was located at Eden, Erie Co. Jul 22 (RWR et al). The recent influx of Mockingbirds into the region is reflected in this unprecedented number of nesting pairs. Eastern Bluebird: no noticeable change in abundance over the past two seasons. Loggerhead Shrike: 1, Jun 4, Hamburg (TLB); 1-2 noted throughout the period at Derby (WWB) — rare summer nesting species.

**Vireos — Warblers:** "Brewster's" Warbler: one bird observed Jun 3, 6 and 16 at Cattaraugus Indian Reservation (RCR, KPA). Reports of this hybrid become increasingly more infrequent each year. Myrtle and Pine Warbler: a nest containing two young cowbirds (?) was being tended by an apparent male Myrtle Warbler and an apparent female Pine Warbler Jun 3 at Aellegany State Park. The nest, which was later collected, appears to be that of a Myrtle Warbler (HHA et al).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Western Meadowlark: a singing bird, first found May 20 in the Town of Marilla, Erie Co. remained there throughout the period (GGW et al). Orchard Oriole: 1, Jun 21 and Jul 19, Hamburg (TLB) — rare during summer in this region.

**Corrigenda:** Cattle Egret: 1, May 6, three miles south of Batavia, Genesee Co. (Masons) — first record for this region.  
48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for the first month of the period were about normal, but thereafter were constantly below normal. Rainfall for June and the first half of August was above normal, but July was a relatively dry month. At no time did drought conditions prevail in our area.

Outstanding birds recorded included Whimbrel, Little Gull, Forster's Tern and Dickcissel. The area had its first record of nesting Evening Grosbeaks. Green-winged Teal, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-breasted Nuthatch were present during the summer.

Initials of regular observers: JF — John Foster, AEK — Allen E. Kemnitzer, WCL — Walter C Listman, WL — Warren Lloyd, JM — Joseph McNett, TM — (Mrs.) Thelma McNett, HSM — Howard S. Miller, RTO — Richard T. O'Hara, AES — Alfred E. Starling, MS — (Mrs.) Maryann Sunderlin, TET — Thomas E. Tetlow, PW — Dr. Paul Weld. G.O.S. — Genesee Ornithological Society.

Initials of places regularly used: BB — Braddock's Bay, EAM — Elmwood Avenue Marsh, M — Manitou, PMP — Powder Mill Park, SA — Shore Acres, SB — Sodus Bay, Y — York (Linwood).

**Loons — Ducks:** A Common Loon was on Canadice Lake Aug 5 (Al Maley) Either this bird or another of the same species spent the summer of 1961 on this lake. Only one bird has been present and there is no evidence of nesting. Herons of all species have seemed scarce this summer. A brood of young Least Bittern were banded at Ling Pond (Robert McKinney). A pair of Pintail were at EAM Jun 9 (AES). They were not seen subsequently. A pair of Green-winged Teal were in the same place from Jun 1 into Jul (JF et al) and were probably nesting.

**Hawks — Owls:** An adult Broad-winged Hawk was at PMP Jul 7 (AES). This bird is very rare or absent in summer in our area. Bald Eagles were unreported but an Osprey was at SB Jul 23 (Dwight Chamberlin et al). Ruffed Grouse are reported to have had a successful nesting season in the hill country south of Rochester. At least three Bobwhite that were released at Y last fall were heard there Jun 17 (GOS hike).

Seventy-five Ruddy Turnstones, 200 Semi-palmated Sandpipers, and 30 Sand-erlings were migrating past BB June 2 (GOS hike). The fall flight of shorebirds was almost nonexistent in the Rochester area due to unfavorable feeding conditions. Single Whimbrel were at SB Jul 24 and Aug 3 (JF). A Little Gull was at M Jul 28 (WCL, TET), and a Forster's Tern was at the same place the previous day (WCL). One hundred Mourning Doves were at Bushnell's Basin Jul 7 (AES). An Adult and two young Long-eared Owls were at Y Jun 17 (GOS hike).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** A Pileated Woodpecker was near SB Aug 5 (JF). It had not been reported from this area previously. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported during the period from Summerville, Irondequoit, and SB; as well as from the more usual range south of Rochester. An adult and two young Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at PMP Jun 30 (RTO et al) and seven adults and immatures were there Jul 8 (AEK, WL). This is the only place in the Rochester area where this bird is known to nest regularly, and the above numbers may indicate an increase in the nesting birds.

About six Cliff Swallows were attempting to nest on a barn near Bergen Jun 10 (Robert McKinney). We have no further reports as to the success or failure of the nesting. A pair of Tufted Titmouse brought their young to the TM and MS feeders in Webster early in July, and another family group appeared near the Militz feeder in Penfield Aug 4. Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were in Durand-Eastman Park Jul 4 (HSM, AES). While a nest has not actually been found, it seems that this species has nested in this area for the last couple of years.

A singing Brown Creeper was at Zurich Bog Jun 9 (WCL et al), and another was at SB Aug 5 (JF). Both these records may indicate nesting birds. A singing Carolina Wren was at Y Jun 10 (GOS hike). Subsequently, they were reported to have raised two broods. This is the only record for this species in our area in over a year. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from several localities northwest of Rochester.

Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, scarce around Rochester this year, were at PMP Jun 24 (T&JM).

**Vireos — Warblers:** A Brewster's Warbler was in the Avon area during June (Jeanne Miller) and another was in PMP Jun 24 (T&JM). A singing male Tennessee Warbler was carefully identified in Irondequoit on the remarkable date of Jul 9 (Dr. Neil Moon). A singing Blackburnian Warbler was at Y Jun 17 (GOS hike). Two Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Conesus Lake Jun 23 (James Doherty & Frank Schmanke), and four were in the same area Jun 30 (RTO et al). This species is regular in this area. Yellow-breasted Chats were reported during the nesting season from Greece (PW), Fischers (AES), Mendon Ponds by the same observer, near Honeoye Lake (Laura Moon et al), and LeRoy (RTO et al).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** A singing male Dickcissel was in West Rush from Jul 12 until at least Jul 21 (Jeanne Haller et al). There was no indication of another bird being present, or of any possible nesting. One or two birds have been reported yearly from our region but most of the reports have been from feeders in the late fall or early winter. A pair tried unsuccessfully to nest in Mendon in 1955.

On Jun 25, two pairs of adult Evening Grosbeaks, accompanied by three young just out of the nest appeared at the John W. Jordan feeder in Pittsford. They were seen by several observers and good pictures of the adults feeding the young birds were obtained. Later, the young birds became able to feed themselves and, at last accounts, the birds were still there. This, of course, is the first breeding record for our area. A very belated White-crowned Sparrow was at M from Jun 25-Jul 4 (WCL).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

### REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES SALLY F. HOYT

The entire Region suffered from a lack of rain, which followed the unusually dry winter. Rainfall figures do not give the true picture, for rain, when it came, was often local, and concentrated in a day or two — some of it ran off the dry, baked earth; what was absorbed penetrated only a half inch or inch. In Ithaca, July was the driest since 1890, and the "growing season" the driest in the history of local weather records. Oddly enough, in some areas the fruit crop seemed good — apples, chokecherries, Mt. Ash, Arbor Vitae and mulberry did well in spite of the weather. Ground nesting species were favored by the drought, and "meadow sparrows" had successful nestings. Insect life suffered — which was a boon to humans, a problem for the insect-eating birds. Suet feeders were unusually well patronized, people reported.

Warblers started migration somewhat early — around Waterloo migration was noted by the end of July, and on Aug 11, Randy Little found many migrating warblers in Stewart Park, Ithaca. Goldfinches remained in flocks and few nests were found.

A Canvasback nesting at Montezuma Refuge, White-throated Sparrows carrying food north-east of Ithaca, and Evening Grosbeaks with young make three additions to the region's list of breeding species.

Abbreviations used: SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; L — Lake; CHIGMA — Connecticut Hill Game Management Area.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: one, Cayuga, L. various observers, through Jul. Apparently injured bird. Great Blue Heron: increased numbers, Keuka L, decreased elsewhere in the Region. Common Egret: 28, Jul 14, MFWR (David Peakall-DP); 30, Aug. 2 (peak) MFWF (DP). Black-crowned Night Heron: 15-20, MFWR, several observers, a high count. Also more reported this year at s. end

Cayuga L than usual. Least Bittern: adults and yng., MFWR (W.R. Spofford — WRS). Canada Goose: two, s. end of Cayuga L, Jun & Jul, probably the pair raised the year before at SWS. Mallards: eight broods, SWS (A.A. Allen — AAA), increase of two broods over last year. Black Ducks: first returned to SWS on Aug. 9. Wood Duck: total of 40 at SWS, first week of Aug, result of six broods, increase of two over last year. Canvasback: first breeding record for the Cayuga L Basin, six raised at MFWR. No captive birds of this species on the refuge (J. Morse). Hooded Merganser: attempted unsuccessfully to nest at SWS; one, Jun 9, CHIGMA (R. Sandberg — RS). Red-breasted Merganser: one, Jul 8, Myers Pt., Cayuga L (Julian Shepherd), rare summer resident.

Manager J. Morse reports another increase in duck broods observed at MFWR this year: Total of 131, as compared with 105 last year, 84 in '60. 19 Mallard, 16 Black, 23 Gadwall, two Green-winged Teal, 41 Blue-winged Teal, eight Shoveler, eight Wood Duck, eight Redhead, one Canvasback, three Ruddy Duck, two Hooded Merganser. Note that Widgeon did not raise young.

**Hawks — Owls:** Sharp-shinned Hawk: one successful nesting, near Ithaca. Red-tailed hawks: good numbers, MFWR, (E. McDougall). Bald Eagle: one (adult), regularly, MFWR; one imm. SWS, Aug 10-11, numerous observers. Osprey: one, Jul 18, MFWR, unusual in summer, (DP). Ruffed Grouse: "plentiful around Keuka Lake" (F. Guthrie — FG); a pair raised young, SWS, first time in five years. Bobwhite: two coveys seen near Elmira in early Aug, very tame. No coveys seen during period, Ithaca. Turkey: three broods, Chem. Co. Rails: no reports, drought may have reduced nesting success in these species. Semipalmated Plover: three Aug 11 (first Hog Hole, Cayuga L. (R. Little — RL). Black-bellied Plover: one May 20 (first), Hog Hole (P. Kelsey — PK); nine Jun 1 (late) Tyre (A. Ulrich); one Aug 11 (first fall), Hog Hole, Cayuga L. (PK). Ruddy Turnstone: one Jun 6 (late) Hog Hole (J. Gutsell — JG); one Jul 29 (first fall), Hog Hole. Woodcock: driven out from dried up meadows and woodland edges to lawns and pond edges, by drought. Upland Plover: one (new station) Caswell Road, n.e. of Ithaca. Greater Yellowlegs: four Jul 14 (first) MFWR (DP). Lesser Yellowlegs: two Jul 18 MFWR (DP). Pectoral Sandpiper: one Jul 14 (first) MFWR (DP). Least Sandpiper: one Jul 18 (first) Route 31 w. of Montezuma village (DP). Dowitcher: one Jun 11 (last) Hog Hole, (JG); two Jul 14 (first fall) MFWR (DP); two Jul 29, Hog Hole (PK). Stilt Sandpiper: two Jul 22, three Jul 23, Rte. 31 w. of Montezuma village (DP); one Jul 22 MFWR (M. Rusk — MR). Semipalmated Sandpiper: Jul 18, Rte. 31 w. of Mont. Vill. (DP). Sanderling: none during reporting period. Wilson's Phalarope: one Jul 22, Rte. 31 w. of Mont. Vill. (WRS, MR, and other observers in next few days), rare.

Great Black-backed Gull: one imm. seen irregularly all summer s. end of Cayuga L. Common Terns: probably nested s. end of Cayuga Lake, and at Myers Pt. Caspian Tern: three Aug 12 (first) Cayuga L (P. P. Kellogg — PPK; three Aug 15, Seneca L (B. Strath — BS). Mourning Doves: generally considered abundant; One flock near Elmira in June, one flock near Geneva, In July-time of year when they should not have been in flocks. Cuckoos: scarce everywhere. Screech Owl: scarce at Ithaca and Geneva.

Saw-whet Owl: one Jun 19, Six Mile Creek gorge in E. Ithaca (Darwin Warner), first summer record since 1942. Whip-poor-will: one Jun 30, Johnson Hollow Rd., near Elmira, (Elmer Brimmer), calling west of Altay, Schu Co., all summer (FG).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Chimney Swift: newly hatched yng. brought to Lab. of Ornithology, Aug 7, late date. Hummingbird: scarce everywhere. Flicker: plentiful everywhere. Red-bellied Woodpeckers: raised young, King Ferry (Thatchers). Red-headed Woodpecker: successful nestings, King Ferry (Thatchers); Ludlowville (Saltontall); Auburn (Coalson, Allison). Hairy and Downy Woodpecker young, brought to my feeder in Etna, Jun 13, very early date. 22 Downies, all immatures but six, were trapped and banded Jul 16-24, and at least three remained un-banded, a high count for one feeding station.

Kingbirds: abundant; 22 in  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile stretch, Aug. 8, Elmira (Mary Smith — MS). Crested Flycatcher: good numbers, Waterloo (J. Walker — JW). Phoebes: continue scarce, Ithaca and Waterloo. Traill's Flycatcher: scarce, Waterloo (JW.) Olive-sided Flycatcher: one, Jun 22 (rare summer record), Monkey Run e. of Ithaca (PPK); one Aug 15 (first fall) near Aurora (K. Thorp); one sep 2, Ithaca (RL).

Cliff Swallow: 148 nests, Jun 20, Sweetland farm s. of Dryden (Dorcas Ward); one Aug 11 (last) SWS (RL). Purple Martin: late in reaching Hornell — 2nd week in June (W. Groesbeck — WG); Aug 16 (last date) SWS (AAA). Blue Jays: very abundant, returned earlier than usual to feeders. Red-breasted Nuthatch: several individuals, late June, Monkey Run e. of Ithaca, indicates nesting again this year. Brown Creepers: two nestings, SWS (AAA). Winter Wren: one singing, June, Texas Hollow n. of Elmira (BS). Carolina Wren: scarce at Ithaca; "usual locations near Watkins Glen" (J. Bardeen — JB).

Long-billed Marsh Wren: ten, Jul 22 (high) MFWR (MR). Short-billed Marsh Wren: two, Jun 13, near Upper Endfield, s. of Ithaca (new station (E. Gates). Mockingbird: one, late Jun, Northview Road, Ithaca (B. Cotts). Catbird: less abundant than some years. Robin: up in numbers everywhere. Nesting success evident, in spite of drought. Veery: still down in numbers. Bluebird: lowest in numbers in any recent year, at Hornell, Ithaca, Watkins Glen, Keuka and Geneva. No figures available this year, for nesting success, in Ithaca area, but Hartshorne says this species is missing from even more stations. Golden-crowned Kinglet: present in June near Slaterville (J. Cope) but no nest found. Cedar Waxwing: Jun 5, gathering nesting material, Elmira (early). No reports of Loggerhead Shrikes.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Vireos: all species seemed scarce to all observers. Red-eyed: at SWS, 11 pairs. Prothonotary Warbler: one, Aug 4, in yard in Waterloo (rare bird) (J. S. Bodine). Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers: scarcer at Ithaca stations (Collecting?). Cerulean Warbler: one, Jun 11, Camp Comstock on Cayuga L. (new station) (JG). Prairie Warbler: (rare bird in region) Jun 9, Connecticut Hill, s.w. of Ithaca (RS); two Jun 29, Sullivan's Monument, Elmira (MS). Louisiana Waterthrush: unusually scarce. Canada Warbler: five pairs, SWS (AAA) (no change). Redstarts: the only common warbler in Schu. Co. (JB); low numbers at Waterloo and Ithaca.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Redwinged Blackbird: few comments received indicated lower numbers than last several years. Cowbird: smaller flocks in fields in w. part of Region. Fewer insects? Orchard Oriole: one, Jun 10 (rare bird), Penn Yan (V. Whitaker). Baltimore Oriole: unusually abundant, Hornell (WG); average numbers elsewhere. Cardinals: abundant at Waterloo (JW), where they have been common only a few years. Evening Grosbeak: six reports of the species in June and July, two instances of young being fed — Jul 9, Ithaca (F. Stone); Jul 13, Hook Place, Ithaca (Mrs. Millard); 12-15 seen in flight, Jul 19 (O. Hewitt); would seem to establish this as a breeding species. Goldfinch: fewer nests than most years, birds seeming to remain in flocks throughout the season.

White-throated Sparrow: a pair seen, late Jun, Dill Woods (n. end Sapsucker Woods Road) carrying food. No nest found. First breeding record in Ithaca area — anticipated for several years. Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

### LESLIE E. BEMONT

July was a little cooler than normal on average, but June and the first half of August averaged close to their norms. There were few really hot days. Only twice was the temperature as high as ninety in Binghamton. The main weather news was the dryness. 6.32 inches of rain were recorded at Binghamton versus the norm of about 8.7 for the period and 25% of that fell August 9 and 10. There were no reports of the dry weather having a direct effect, either good or bad, on bird populations although it doubtless did. It is unfortunate that the summer months, so very important in the life cycle of many birds, receive the least attention from most observers. As a consequence we not only get few reports of abnormal weather affecting birds directly but we have only a poor idea of the norm during this period for many of the most interesting species.

There was at least one instance of fish dying off in large numbers in the Susquehanna River which could have been related to low water levels. The dead fish lying along the river banks seem to have been the attraction for the Bald Eagle reported Jul 24

The Black Rail record, a breeding record at that, was certainly the most interesting obtained during the period. (See record under Hawks-Owls). Three Bald Eagle records, a Peregrine Falcon, Long-eared Owls, a Raven, a Mockingbird and Swainson's Thrushes were also of special interest. The number and distribution of Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow records were also interesting. Bluebird nesting reports were encouraging and Cedar Waxwings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Purple Finches were a few of the species that seem to have enjoyed peak years.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: one at Highland Lake, in nearby Penn., until at least Jul 7 (S. Lincoln); the only one reported during the period. Great Blue Heron: ten young raised in three nests in the small colony s. of Owego (D. Bendle — DB); Whitney Pt. colony not checked and only occasional reports from the rest of the region. Common Egret: Aug 10, Campville (DB); the only record during the period. Canada Goose: 15, Jul 31, flying over Endwell (L. Bement — LB); Aug. 5, small flock heard flying over Owego (G. Kirk); the dates suggest a locally raised brood of semi-domesticated birds. Blue-winged Teal: Jun 2, Whitney Pt. (M. Sheffield — MS); two, Aug 12, Whitney Pt. (MS), very tame, apparently young; none between. Wood Duck: six pair known to be nesting in Cortland area at beginning of the period. (J. Gustafson), but few reported the rest of the period.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: Jul 5, Owego (DB); the only one reported. Broad-winged Hawk: Jun 6, Chenango Forks (M & A Davis — M,AD); last of the spring migrants; no fall migrants before the end of the period. Bald Eagle: Jun 6, Owego (A. Evelin — AE); Jun 30, Owego (DB, R. Williams — RW); Jul 24, Susquehanna R. at Endwell (H. Marsi — HM, F. Linaberry — FL). Peregrine Falcon: one, Aug. 5, along a back road between Owego and Endcott (C. Gerould — CG, M. White — MW), seen at fairly close range both perched and in flight, facial markings clearly seen. Bob-white: Jul and Aug at Newark Valley (L. Dean — LD); also reported s. of Owego (AE). Virginia Rail: Jun 10, Vestal (MS); Jul 22, Sherburne (R & S White — R,SW), an adult with two downy young; only records. Sora: Jun 10, Vestal (MS); only record. Black Rail: Jun 14, Bainbridge (E. J. Smith — ES), an adult was seen running across the road, "followed by at least a dozen black chicks," in front of the car in which the observer was riding. In a phone conversation Mr. Smith compared the size of the adult to that of a sparrow, noted that it was feathered rather than downy and remembered the bill as being about the same length as the head. There were no prominent white markings noted. Despite the fact that the white markings on the back and undersides were not noted, it seems from the feathering and bill length of the larger bird that the possibility of a mixed brood of another species is unlikely.

Semi-palmated Plover: three, Jun 2, Whitney Pt. (MS), only ones in the period. Killdeer: Jul 6, Cortland (C. Wilkins — CW), nesting, no doubt a second time. Woodcock: adult with four young, Jun 4, Ingraham Hill s. of Binghamton (C. Howard — CH); one, Jul 15 Sherburne (R,SW); these were the only ones but the species is not often reported during the summer. Solitary Sandpiper: two, Jul 15, Sherburne (R,SW); Aug 9, Marsh Pond near Windsor (HM,FL). Greater Yellowlegs: four, Aug 12, Lounsberry (RW). Lesser Yellowlegs: Aug 15, Owego (MW). Pectoral Sandpiper: one, Aug 5, Sherburne (R,SW). Least Sandpiper: one, Aug 4, Sherburne (R, SW). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 20, Jun 2, Whitney Pt. (MS), last spring migrants; three, Aug 4, Sherburne (R,SW), first fall migrants. Black Tern: Aug 13, Owego (MW,CG), not often reported in the region in the fall. Mourning Dove: "good numbers" around Owego (RW) but somewhat scarce around the Triple Cities (Naturalists' Club) and Oneonta (R. Burland). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: rather scarce.

Black-billed Cuckoo: reported rather frequently. Screech Owl: an adult with four young, Jun 14, Binghamton (P. Slocum); regularly at Newark Valley (LD) but not many other reports. Long-eared Owl: three, Jul 5 and 6, Norwich (R&SW), beside a city street, one sat on a wire under a street lamp.



**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: heard during Jun and Jul at Owego (RW) and Candor (D. Weber-DW). Red-headed Woodpecker: one, Jun 3, Sherburne (R&SW); seen repeatedly during the period at Owego (AE). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: family raised at Cortland left nest about Aug 1 (L. & F. Newman—L&FN); seen at Newark Valley all summer "as always" (LD); also one at Guilford, Jul 1 (R&SW) and near Whitney Point Aug 12 (MS). Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher: both seemed very common. Phoebe; numbers continue to improve towards peak of several years ago. Traill's Flycatcher: reported from Deposit (S. Wilson — SW), Newark Valley (LD) and the Triple Cities area. Least Flycatcher and Wood Pewee: both seemed more common than in recent years.

Bank Swallow: a colony nested in a bank freshly cut in connection with the construction of new route 17 near Deposit (SW) demonstrating that man's works are not always detrimental to desirable forms of wildlife; Aug 10, Chenango Forks (M&AD), last report. Cliff Swallow: the established colony at Greene was active (C. Davis). A pair successfully raised young at a new location on Ingraham Hill (CH), hopefully the beginning of a thriving new colony. There were several other reports not associated with known colonies, the last Aug 12 at Whitney Point (MS). Purple Martin: there are now three known active colonies in the Owego area (RW). Raven: one, Jul 1, Ingraham Hill (CH), size and voice were compared with Crows in sight at the same time, the difference in the shape of the tail was also noted. Tufted Titmouse: reported at Deposit (SW) and Endwell (E. & N. Washburn — E&NW), at the latter place returning periodically and in Jul bringing young ones with them. Brown Creeper: one, Jun 30, at Cranberry Lake in nearby Pennsylvania (E&NW); Aug 15, Cortland (CW). Long-billed Marsh Wren: at Vestal (MS) and Sherburne (R&SW). Short-billed Marsh Wren: Jun 24 and Jul 7, Sherburne (R&SW).

Mockingbird; one, Jul 20, Newark Valley (M. Hills). Brown Thrasher: Jun 19, Oxford (A Stratton — AS), bringing young to suet feeder. Hermit Thrush: reported during the period at Chenango Forks (M&AD) and in the French Tract s. of Binghamton (CH, HM). Swainson's Thrush: two, Jun 2 and one, Jul 15, singing at Pharsalia in Chenango Co. (R&SW). Bluebird: a nesting count in the Owego, Candor, Newark Valley area tallied 76 adults and 83 young during the period (Tioga Bird Club); a similar population density extends into the area between the Triple Cities and Whitney Point; there were quite a few reports of second nestings; at Cortland the first brood of a pair left Jun 3 and the second brood left Jul 14 (L&FN). Cedar Waxwing: seemed particularly numerous this summer.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary Vireo: Jun 2 and Aug 12 (singing), Whitney Point (MS); one at Owego in Jul and Aug (RW); the only reports. Golden-winged, Blue-winged and Brewster's Warblers all present and apparently nesting in a brushy hillside area s. of Binghamton (HM). Golden-winged Warblers: in many areas around the Triple Cities and also at Deposit (SW). Magnolia Warbler: pair with two young, Jul 14, south of Owego in nearby Pennsylvania (RW). Myrtle Warbler: Jun 12, Cortland (CW); one, Jul 1, Guilford in Chenango Co. (R&SW). Blackburnian Warbler: an unusually large number of summer records in the Triple Cities area; also present throughout the period at Owego. Blackpoll Warbler: a last spring wave went through Jun 2 and 3, reported at Deposit (SW), Norwich (R&SW) and three areas around the Triple Cities (MS, CH, LB). Louisiana Waterthrush: one, June 21, in an Endwell backyard (E&NW). Mourning Warbler: two, Jun 2, Whitney Point (MS), singing males; Jun 2 and Jul 15, Pharsalia (R&SW). Yellow-breasted Chat: reported at two localities near Binghamton (MS, CH) and at Brisben (R&SW).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Scarlet Tanager: more reported than in most years. Cardinal: nesting success reported at Greene (J. Gray) and Deposit (SW) and numerous reports elsewhere. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: have seemed particularly numerous, especially in the latter part of the period. Purple Finch: especially common until the middle of Jul in much of the region; at Deposit over 100 birds of the year coming to a feeder, most of which have been banded (SW). Slate-colored Junco: present during the period at Candor (DW), Owego (RW), Ludlow and Oxford (AS), Cranberry Lake (E&NW), Choconut Center (MS) and Castle Creek (B. Burgher). White-throated Sparrow: one, Jun 20, French Tract (CH); Jun 24 and 25, two locations near Lake Ludlow at East MacDonough (AS); eight, Jun 30, Bowman Lake at MacDonough (R&SW); all singing.

710 University Ave., Endwell

## REGION 5 — ONEDIA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

June and most of July, like May, were exceptionally dry Months. The total precipitation from early May to July 20 was 2.4 inches or about a third of normal. From the third week of July to the end of the period a considerable amount of rain fell. June was warm, July and early August rather cooler than average. The dry conditions adversely affected the breeding ducks on the smaller ponds.

The occurrence of the International Ornithological Congress excursions for two separate weeks in June had some interesting effects on local birding. A more detailed account of these excursions is given by M. Rusk elsewhere in this issue. One result was the exploration of part of Herkimer County, an area long neglected by local birders. A check-list of the birds of the Big Moose area prepared by Mrs. A. Bowes is included in this issue. Normal local birding was a bit slighted, which may explain the absence of any records of late migrant shorebirds.

The early southbound shorebird flight was good, especially in variety. The Ruff appeared for the third successive year and Hudsonian Godwits were also recorded.

The following abbreviations are used: GLSP — Green Lake State Park; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; IOC — International Ornithological Congress Oneida Lake field trips; Onon L — Onondaga Lake; RSP — Rome Sand Plains; SP — Sandy Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; THP — Tug Hill Plateau; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area, L—Lake; Herk. Co. — Herkimer County; Syr — Syracuse; Yng. — young; imm's. — Immatures.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: unreported outside Herk. Co.; pair, Jun 13, Little Moose, and pairs at East L and Big Moose L, Jun 13 and 27 (IOC); no definite evidence of breeding. Common Egret: up to 20 reported HIGMA in early summer (R. Nevinger — RN); scarce in late summer. Black-crowned Night Heron: one HIGMA Jun 12 (IOC) and SP Jun 25 (IOC), only records. Least Bittern: same as 1959, low water levels appeared to contribute to the visibility of this species; thus, more were seen than usual.

Canada Goose: 50 pairs nested at HIGMA (RN); bred for the 2nd year at Steven's Pd. nr Phoenix, six young reared. Dabbling ducks breeding populations at HIGMA were very similar to last year's. Brood counts supplied by R. Nevinger are as follows: Mallard 70, Black one or two, Gadwall three, Pintail 15, Green-winged Teal four, Blue-winged Teal ten, Shoveler two, and Wood Duck 20. Green-winged Teal seen several times at Stevens' Pd but no evidence of breeding. Counts of Mallard, Black, and Wood Duck flights into Tully were well below average, especially for the first two species (J. Propst — JP). Numbers at Gully Rd. and Stevens' Pd were also low, suggesting that the low water levels had adversely affected breeding on the smaller ponds. No records were received of migrant dabbling ducks or any diving ducks.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: noted during the summer at HIGMA and Centerville. Very few records of accipitrine hawks; the only nesting record was of a Goshawk — nest found with three young nr Greenboro in w. part of THP (D. Bulger — DB, M. Weiskotten — MW). Nest of this species was previously found in THP in 1957. Broad-winged Hawk: twice from THP and three times in Herk. Co. Bald Eagle: two adults, several times in early Aug at SP (DB). Marsh Hawk: for the first time, no summer records, despite good coverage of several recent breeding areas.

Bobwhite: no breeding record at HIGMA (RN), one seen there Jun 12 (IOC); one at Phoenix (Pendergast Rd) Jul 10 (E. Evens — EE). Turkey: one brood HIGMA (RN).

Upland Sandpiper: good number of reports, including — six adults and two Yng. Rt. 31 nr Verona Jun 15 (IOC); three adults and two yng. Rt. 365 nr Sherrill Jun 22 (F. Scheider — FS); pair between Port Ontario and Pulaski Jun 25 (IOC) and

three there Jul 25 (EE); one n. of Taberg Jun 1, one s. of Steuben and three s. of Pt. Rock Jul 4 (H. Aspinwall-HA); seen several times nr Illion (R. Wood) — RW); Rt. 5 nr Chittenango (L. Chamberlaine, fide B. Burt — BB); between Oriskany and Clinton (A. Carter); Bridgeport Jun 10 (IOC).

Arrival dates of migrants and maximum counts (to Aug 15) of shorebirds are as follows — Semipalmated Plover: arr Jul 20 Onon L; 25-40 from end of Jul. Killdeer: max 80 Onon L Jul 19. Ruddy Turnstone: arr Jul 24 SP. Black-bellied Plover: arr Aug 6 Onon L. Whimbrel: two Oswego Jul 18 (T. Georgia) only record. Spotted Sandpiper: max 40 Onon L, late Jul. Solitary: arr Jul 23 nr Weedsport. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Jul 18 HIGMA. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Jul 4; rather scarce, with max 20, Onon L Aug 8 and 40 Oneida L Aug 2. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Jul 20 Onon L, scarce, Max eight, Aug 7. White-rumped: two Aug 10 and one Aug 13 Onon L (D. Peakall — DP, JP) only records. Baird's: one Aug 13 and four Aug 15 Onon L (DP, JP), only records. Least Sandpiper: arr Jul 4 (early) Onon L, max 106 Jul 27; numbers fell sharply in early Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Jul 27 Onon L; seven Onon L, Jul 28, thereafter one-two to end of period. Semipalmated: arr Jul 19; numbers at Onon L low (max 50) to Aug 7 when 250 were present; other good counts 150 SP, Jul 26 and 300 Oneida L, Aug 2. Western: two Onon L Aug 11 (W. Listman), rather early. Hudsonian Godwit: three Aug 6, Onon L (DP, JP), fourth regional record in ten years. Ruff: one Aug 6 (DP, JP), considered to be a male in a late stage of moult; this is the 3d. record from the same area, in successive years, an amazing series of occurrences, considering the small number of upstate records, even if all refer to the same bird. Sanderling: arr Onon L Jul 19; present in fair numbers — 45, SP by Jul 22; max 100 SP Jul 24.

Mrs. M. Woolley demonstrated what can be done with shorebirds in a limited time within the city of Syracuse by finding Spotted and "peep" sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs behind McArthur ball park.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Verona Beach Aug 2 (D. Ackley-DA). Common Tern: apparently bred successfully at Onon L, as 25-30 free-flying yng. were seen there in late Jul. Caspian Tern: 20 (good count) Aug 9, Oneida L. (DA). Barn Owl: one pair, Sandy Creek which had five yng., good sized by Aug 1 (fide BB). Barred Owl: one Jul 30 Plainville (M. Bitz — MB) a new locality; in view of the number of new areas for this species, it appears to be increasing or being increasingly observed.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: three heard simultaneously at Cicero Swamp, Jun 25; again present at RSP — one wonders whether the deciduous — white Pine swamp and the dry pitch and white pine — white oak sand plains have some ecological factor in common; frequently found n. of Oneida L; one s. of Fayetteville (fide BB). Chimney Swift: 30 or more in THP e. of Redfield and in n. Herk. Co., Jun and Jul; apparently they utilize hollow dead standing trees in this chimneyless area. Hummingbird: reported by most observers; 8 (highest day's count), THP, Jun 22.

Flicker: 35 (high count for a limited area on such an early date) Aug 11, HIGMA. Pileated Woodpecker: quite widely reported — S. Onondaga; Fish Gulf e. of Otisco L; Bucktail Falls at s. end of Otisco L (yng. being fed Jul 15); n.w. side of Otisco L. (two seen twice); Tully; HIGMA, nr Pulaski; GLSP, Kenwood and Sherrill; also n. Herk Co. Red-headed: D. Ackley has listed all reports from an area roughly bounded by Canastota, Vernon, Munnsville and Oneida — four separate places where an adult or bird of undesignated age was sighted, an additional pair, a single immature bird, a group of four probably all imm's., and a group of two adults and two imm's., totaling nine locations, which she summarizes with this comment — "It appears that we have a small stable population . . . on the hills on both e. and w. sides of Munnsville Valley, plus scattered . . . between Oneida L and Rt. 5, and e. toward Rome and Vernon;" no other section of the Region is known to have this high concentration; L. Ontario reports are a pair each at Hickory Grove and Ramona Beach (I. Stone), both nr s.e. corner of the Lake, and one farther w. at Lakeview (M. Mathis), but none at former locations at SP or SSSP; none in s. or w. sectors; one Seneca R. n. of Syr. Jul 18 (MW); Big Moose (C&A Bowes — C, AB). Sapsucker: pair carrying food into nest hole, Jun 9 Fish Gulf (D. Dawley et al); pair feeding three fledged yng. July 13, GLSP (W. R. Spofford — WRS), et al) where a female and food-begging yng. were found in 1961; all summer, two locations, Tully; one still at Camillus Jun 26; pair Jul 30, Plainville (MB) — all these places are low and at the latitude of Syr or s. of it, one wonders whether it is the yellow birch with which Sapsuckers are often associated or some other factor which causes their presence in

these areas. Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker; pair with three yng. seen in Jul. nr Big Moose (Bowes).

Phoebe: six, good count, SSSP Jun 25 (IOC), common at HIGMA where two nests were found Jun 12 (IOC). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two Jun 13, Little Moose (IOC); one THP Jun 22 (FS et al); probably breeds both places. Least Flycatcher: quite common (the most common Empidonax) in the taller deciduous woods of THP, counts of 30, Jun 22 and 15 Jul 21 nr Redfield. Olive-sided: six in n. Herk. Co. Jun 27 (IOC), including a pair carrying nesting material, which establishes breeding there.

Horned Lark: imm's in Jul in sandy fields around Steven's Pd and on Onon L flats. Bank Swallow: active colonies in sand pits nr Oneida R (the largest 200 holes), a sand pit in RSP (30 holes) and in banks of Fish Creek n. of Oneida L (150 holes). Cliff Swallow: small colony about eight nests nr Pulaski Jun 25; ten or so nests at Churchville nr Oneida; occasionally at Stevens' Pd, no colony; the Cicero Center one was inactive; birds nr Shedd's on Jul 14, indicate that they are probably fairly common in higher areas s. of Syr; "all over hill - barns n. of Rome" (HA). In THP and Herk. Co., they occur in numbers comparable to Barn Swallows.

Gray Jay: family of two adults and three imm's., Big Moose Jun and Jul (C, AB). Blue Jay: 100 adults and imm's feeding at a dump in n. Herk. Co. Jul 21 (DP) indicates their commonness in the deciduous Adirondacks. Brown-capped Chickadee: three, Jul 21 in n. Herk. Co. (DP). Tufted Titmouse: continues to spread, but fewer new locations noted this period, probably because they are more easily spotted at feeders in winter; one, Camillus Valley Jun 12 and 26 (IOC) — a new site but to be expected in view of their other locations in the Seneca R. basin; one, Port Byron Aug 11 (M. Estoff — ME, JP) nr HIGMA where recorded this spring; colony still at Baldwinsville (Bisdee). Red-breasted Nuthatch: breeding status similar to last year, but absent from 1961 location e. side of Skaneateles L. (C&E Farnham — EF). Brown Creeper: again at White L. nr Syr, two, Jul 22; one Plainville Jul 30 (MB); they probably breed in any deep moist deciduous woods around Syr.

House Wren: successful season in local areas. Carolina Wren: none reported, in contrast with last year. Short-billed Wren: typically, present at a couple of stations, not all the same ones as the previous year; one Toad Harbor on n. shore of Oneida L Jul 1; two SP Jun 11 (IOC) not found subsequently; none in Deard Creek marshes nr Baldwinsville this year. Mockingbird: one was at Palermo ne. of Fulton, singing from regularly-used perches during Jun; Jul 27, a fledged young was seen there (F. McNett). Bluebird: eight pairs noted around Sherrill (fide DA) of which three are known to have nested, but one brood was destroyed; 2nd best area is the Rome environs with two or three pairs at one location utilizing a martin house as well as a bluebird box, six nestings at Taberg, and another pair at Lee Center Jul 4 (fide HA); a pair raised yng. at Altmar (DB) but searches of likely places and known former breeding stations s. and w. of there (New Haven, Fulton, Pennellville) revealed none; at Ilion (RW); brood of five raised in Syr in May — the female disappeared, then the male deserted fledglings (cared for by N. McGowan); another brood Syr. (fide BB); brood raised at Lafayette (fide BB) where they were formerly regular — one and two seen several times in two places nr Lafayette, late Jul and first half Aug (ME, JP) may be of this nesting; yng. raised, Jamesville (fide BB); two pair at Eaton (G. Church); at least one pair at Bernhard's Bay which raised yng. (fide BB); the Bluebird situation is little better than last year.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: family of apparently two adults and three imm's., Camillus Jul 17 (DP); one, and possibly two, seen once, Oneida (M. Felle) — perhaps migrants from an unknown location n. of there (Mrs. A. Lewis reports one e. of Redfield this May when snow was still on the ground!). Golden-crowned Kinglet: four, including an imm., THP Jun 22 (FS) indicates breeding, first established for that area in 1960; three (two imm's ?) Brookfield Jul 7 (R&S White) where the species has been noted previously but breeding not definitely confirmed. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two singing, Little Moose Jun 13 & 27 (IOC), suggests breeding. Loggerhead Shrike: one (late) Jun, Churchville (H. Noddecker); one nr HIGMA Aug 11 (ME, JP).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Warbling Vireo: several observers remarked on their abundance, no high counts per day, but one could be heard singing over almost any tree-shaded village street. Black-and-white Warbler: nine (high), Centerville (where they occur regularly) Jul 16 (EE). Prothonotary: heard and seen this spring in three stations a mile or more apart in Muskrat and Short Point Bay area on Oneida L.; none outside this colony. Brewster's Warbler: nr Baldwinsville Jul 16 (MB) where it

bred last year in the small colony of Golden-winged. Nashville: one, Tully Aug 5 (ME, JP), very possibly a breeding location but the bird could have been migrating. Parula: three at Little Moose, Jun 13 (IOC) and again in low numbers (two noted) THP Jun 22. Magnolia: three singing males at the regular Centerville location. Black-throated Blue: one, Jun 3 Fish Gulf (ME, JP), a new location but one where, because of the steep gorge with low deciduous growth, the species was to be expected; feeding fledged yng. THP Jun 22. Myrtle: only one, RSP, Jun 3. Black-throated Green: one Jun 9 Bucktail Falls, where it doubtless breeds. Cerulean: One, May 28 and Jul 1 singing in tall oaks at Toad Harbor (M. Rusk — MR), a first for the n. shore of Oneida L, but habitat here resembles other locations of the species more than it does the hilly country just a few miles farther north; yng. in nest high in a sycamore in Camillus Valley being fed by parent Jun 12; H. Nodecker trapped and banded a pair late in May, s. of Sherrill — the female had a brood patch; three or more summered nr Cross L (MB); one summered again at Tully (JP); this year two instead of one nested e. side of Skaneateles L (EF); one seen singing s. of Marcellus Aug 5 (MR) may have bred nearby.

Blackburnian: singles Jul 16 Centerville (EE) and Jul 17, Labrador Pd (JP), both areas where they might be expected. Chestnut-sided: two, on bushy slopes along Fish Gulf, Jun 9 and one above Bucktail Falls Jul 15. Bay-breasted: notable is two carrying food Jun 27 Little Moose (DP). Blackpoll: late migrants, six Oakwood (Syr.) Jun 1 and two SP Jun 11. Pine: five feeding yng. at SSSP colony Jun 25 (IOC). Louisiana Waterthrush: new locations, a fledged yng. being fed Jul 15 Bucktail Falls (MR, WRS) and one at Cedarvale Jun 5 (MR); old locations — a pair at Fish Gulf Jun 3 and two stations (one bird at each) on streams feeding Tully Lakes (all ME, JP) — five occupied locations is a good count, but at two other known stations s. and w. of Syr no bird was found; one, late May in a glen nr Utica (E. Curtis) seems more unusual, but less is known about that area. Mourning: one at each of two sites Plainville (MB); four singing males along Fish Gulf, Jun 9 (MR); regularly at Camillus and Centerville locations. Yellow-breasted Chat: regular site s. of Camillus occupied; one, Jun 9 Fish Gulf (H. Ives). Hooded Warbler: singing males at the regular Camillus and Martisco locations and one at a new site nr Mud L. w. of Baldwinsville Jul 4 (MR); two singing Jun 6 at SSSP where A. Fudge photographed an active nest in June.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: observers in most parts of the Region considered them common; reported from HIGMA as well as more northern areas; highs include ten, Stevens' Pd, Jun 6 and a moulting flock of 20 nr GLSP, Jul 13; fewer on the hill of Skaneateles (EF). Cardinal: another new high, the southern location is Labrador Pd, Jul 17 (JP); at the bottom of Bucktail Falls; "Now quite common at Rome" (HA); nested at Catfish Creek nr L. Ontario n. of New Haven; a family at SSSP; a pair at SP Jun 25 (IOC), and one each at Victory and Fair Haven July 4; regular now along the Ontario L plain. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: quite successful — two nests at Fish Gulf Jun 9; one HIGMA Jun 12 (IOC); family groups at Camillus Jun and Jul, at GLSP, and s. of Marcellus, Jul. Purple Finch: One Baldwinsville Jul 13 (MB); in dooryards with spruce plantings Syr.; two Jun 28 and six Jul 29, Tully; five feeding yng. Jun 25 SSSP (IOC); nested at Rome (HA), not unusual away from higher coniferous areas; small numbers in Cicero Bog spruces in Jul, as is to be expected. Crossbills: 20 Red Jul 21 and five White-winged Jun 27 Big Moose (DP).

Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows: as last summer, found in most of the likely habitats where one listened for them, — Grasshopper at two sites nr Sherrill, at Stevens' Pd and at TRGMA, and Henslow's at Cicero (high, seven, Jul 30), Stevens' Pd, Fish Gulf, Lafayette, and Sterling — widely scattered places in the region. Junco: one, SSSP Jun 25 (IOC) is indication of breeding there; one all summer along a wooded slope nr Tully (ME, JP) where they may well breed; two regularly at Bucktail Falls — a very likely breeding place with its steep wooded slopes and high elevation. White-throated Sparrow: five Centerville Jul 16 (EE) indicates breeding; especially as one was also heard singing there May 26; heard for third successive year in White L woods (MR); several in a white pine-white cedar-yew-deciduous swamp nr Cazenovia (MR-WRS) and one heard in a similar location nr Sherrill Jun 23 (FS, et al) — none of these places is high, suggesting that moisture and vegetation determine their presence at our latitudes, regardless of altitude, especially in view of their presence in numbers in Cicero Bog and RSP. Lincoln's Sparrow: four n. Herk. Co. Jun 27 (DP) is indicative of breeding.

SUNY Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10

## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

June was cool with little rain, and for three weeks in July the weather was much the same. In Watertown the rainfall on July 25-26 was 3.43 in. and the total for the month was 2.5 in. above normal. The July temperature averaged 3.5 degrees below normal. There were frequent and heavy rains in August. The Ranger School at Wanakena reported the heaviest rains in this region. The rainfall there was 15.89 in. for two months, July and August. This is the heaviest rainfall on their records which go back 42 years.

Some early crops like hay were very light, but plants grew well after the rains came late in July. The growth of late berries and wild fruits seems to be good. Birds should find plenty of food during the late summer and fall. Abbreviations — PRGMA — Perch Lake Game Management Area, WHGMA — Wilson Hill Game Management Area.

**Loons — Ducks:** Great Blue Heron: several seen at PRGMA and WHGMA. No Common Egrets or Cattle Egrets were reported. Canada Goose: about 125 young at WHGMA and some at PRGMA. Geese were not stocked at PRGMA this year after the experience of last year when the geese were so tame that they were easily killed at the start of the hunting season. American Widgeon: more young produced at WHGMA than in previous years. Shoveler: seen at WHGMA Jun 27. The nesting season for ducks in this region was average to good.

**Hawks — Owles:** On Aug 11 Belknap found 15 Turkey Vultures not far from Somerville which is on U.S. Route 11. This is the third year they have appeared in this area. Allen reports fewer hawks this summer, but believes that Cooper's Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks nested near Edwards. Bald Eagle: reported at PRGMA.

El Dorado continues to be one of the best places to see the shore birds. At least ten parties visited El Dorado Jul 22 to Aug 15. Reports were received from Belknap (Gouverneur), Allen (Watertown), Rusk (Syracuse) and Starling (Rochester). Birds seen at El Dorado include: Semipalmated Plover: Jul 22, (first), 25 (most) Aug 12; Killdeer: 4-15; Black-bellied Plover: Aug 12; Ruddy Turnstone: 3 on Jul 22 and 5 in Aug; Common Snipe: Jul 27 and Aug 12; Whimbrel: Jul 25 (Allen, Belknap); Spotted Sandpiper: 12 to 20, Jul 22 and Aug 12; Solitary Sandpiper: not often seen there, but one on Aug 12; Greater Yellowlegs: two, Jul 27 and Aug 12; Lesser Yellowlegs: 10-16 Jul 22 to Aug 12; Pectoral Sandpiper: Jul 22 to Aug 12; White-rumped Sandpiper: two Aug 12 (Rusk); Least Sandpiper: 10-30 seen after Jul 22; Short-billed Dowitcher: 10 Jul 22; Stilt Sandpiper: one Jul 29 and Aug. 12; Semipalmated Sandpiper: 500 Jul 22-29, 150-250 in Aug; Sanderling: 12 Jul 22 and Aug 4.

Great Black-backed Gull: one Aug 12; Bonaparte's Gull: 20 Jul 22; Caspian Tern: 3 in Aug; Black Tern: six Jul 22. Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo: not reported except near Edwards in late Jun. Barred Owl: one found dead near Wanakena Jun 23.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Crested Flycatcher and Traill's Flycatcher: near Edwards and Whetstone Gulf in late Jun. Least Flycatcher: at Wheatstone Gulf. Horned Lark: at Whetstone Gulf in Jun. Bank Swallow: no heavy rains to damage their nests. Cliff Swallow: seen Jun 23 in the village of Star Lake trying to repair their nests which had been torn down the previous day by the owner of a building who did not want the birds nesting there. Tufted Titmouse: none. Winter Wren: at Edwards in Jun. Mockingbird: one seen and photographed near Lafargeville Jun 16 to Jul 8, but not seen after Jul 8. Swainson's Thrush: at Whetstone Gulf in Jun. Loggerhead Shrike: at Highmarket Jun 24.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary Vireo: at Edwards and Whetstone Gulf in late Jun. Warbling Vireo: near Edwards. Warblers seen at Whetstone Gulf Jun 24 included Black-and-white, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackburanian, Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Canada Warblers. Warblers seen by Allen Jun 28 — Jul 1

near Edwards included Black-and-white, Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Canada Warblers and Northern Waterthrush. In an area where Nashville Warblers were numerous two years ago he found only two pairs. The Chestnut-sided Warblers were numerous instead.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Cardinal: seen and heard singing in Thompson Park, Watertown in Jul. Evening Grosbeak: heard by a soldier at Camp Drum in late Jun. Slate-colored Junco: a nest with four eggs found near Wanakena Jun 23, also seen at Whetstone Gulf Jun 24, and one in our yard Aug 3. This was the first we have seen in Watertown in the summer. White-throated Sparrow: seems to have increased in numbers in St. Lawrence County.

173 Haley St., Watertown

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

The early part of the reporting period was cool and dry. There were no marked waves of any species in the Champlain Basin. From the second week of July to mid-August it was a time of almost continuous rain with much cool weather. Temperatures as low as 40 degrees were recorded. The latter part of August was more normal weatherwise and this trend continued until the end of the reporting period.

A super abundance of mast was produced. Aided by the prolonged rainfall and by the cooler weather which kept insects injurious to plant life to a minimum, Wild Plum, Raspberries, Elderberries, Grape and Hawthorne among the soft fruits and Acorn, Black Walnut, and Hazelnut among the hard fruits, had a good season. The conifers are loaded with cones in nearly all areas.

Parasitism by cowbirds was high as noted by those observers checking on nesting results. It was a peak year for Vireos and they could be found nearly everywhere; all members being represented except the White-eyed. Indigo Buntings also were more numerous than usual. Probably due to the unusually long extension of cool weather, some Boreal species nested locally, and reports of young Evening Grosbeaks and Brown-capped Chickadees and a summering Pine Grosbeak, make this assumption creditable.

The highlights of the reporting period are: another sighting of the CLAY-COLORED SPARROW this time by Richard Cohen of Jackson Heights, L. I.; the sighting and collecting of an albino JUNCO and the nesting of the CAPE MAY WARBLER, all these occurrences are detailed in the field-note section. A CATTLE EGRET at Crown Point is the first record for the region; the continued presence of BLACK TERNS at Tupper Lake, reported by Mrs. Delehanty whose notes regarding their arrival during the last reporting period were somehow omitted from the Kingbird; a singing Tufted Titmouse at Blue Mountain Lake; an increase of nesting of the BROWN THRASHER throughout the area; and the discovery of what almost amounts to a colony of BLUEBIRDS nesting in the confines of the Sullivan lumber mill property at Keesville.

Many thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Sheffield and to Mr. Cohen for their notes which were very comprehensive and much appreciated.

Initials of contributors: Miss Amstutz (A), Mrs. Delehanty (D), Keji (K), T. Lesperance (L), Miss Rusk (MR), Dr. Scheider (FS), Sheffields (S).

**Loons — Ducks.** Great Blue Herons: common in all areas reporting. Appears to be increasing at Valcour Is (L. Champlain) where there were 40 active nests this summer. Active nest, Tupper L, Jun 1 (D). Green Heron: common throughout the area. Am. Bittern: lower in numbers at Sunmount (A). Least Bittern: one seen at a beaver dam along Rt 9 between Keeseville and Clintonville, Aug 29. Canada Geese: 75 wing-clipped at the so-called waterfowl refuge at Ausable Pt marsh. Black Duck: Hart L (FS), Valcaur Is (L) and Sunmount (A). Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Duck at Valcour Is (L). Ring-necked Duck at Sunmount (A). Hooded Merganser: with young at Raybrook (K) and Sunmount (A).

**Hawks — Owls:** Red-tailed Hawk: Madawaska, Jul 6 (MR). Red-shouldered Hawk: Keeseville (L). Bald Eagle: 1, Jun 3; 2, Jun 6 at Tupper (D) and another Aug 2 (Avery's fide D). Osprey: observed on nest Jun 21, 22 & 26 (D). At Raybrook, observed fishing Jun 2 and Aug 16 (K). Several seen at Sunmount.

Male Spruce Grouse, Madawaska (FS) Jun 23. Snipe: observed at Sunmount (A); 2 winnowing, Madawaska, Jul 6 (MR). Solitary: Raybrook (Keji).

Black Tern: Still present, Tupper L Jun 23 (D). Horned and Barred Owls in Mt. Marcy area. (S).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** The Sheffield's list for the Mt. Marcy-L. Placid area from Jun 26-29 is as follows: Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Kingfisher, Sapsucker, Hairy and Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied, Traills, Least, and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Wood Pewee, Tree, Bank, Rough-wing and Barn Swallows, Black and Brown-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Catbird, Robin, Wood, Hermit, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Veery, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Cedar Waxwing. In the Tupper L area from Jun 1 — 21 (D) recorded Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Bank and Cliff Swallows, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush and Cedar Waxwing.

At Sunmount (A) observed Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Wood Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Brown Thrashers were noted as nesting in the Sunmount area, and many Swainson's Thrushes were seen along the trail to John's Brook on Jul 8. Along this trail Hermit Thrush and Veery seemed abundant and both Black and Brown-capped Chickadees were noted, as were many Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Bluebird: At Keeseville no less than 7 nests were found in about 10 acres at the Sullivan Lumber Mills (L). One was located by (A) at a burn near Sunmount and another two were reported to (A) from Fort Covington.

At Raybrook Keji noted Flicker, Kingbird, Traill's Flycatcher, many Tree Swallows, Purple Martins, Brown Thrasher, and Cedar Waxwing. Keji also had the nest of Boreal Chickadee under more or less continuous observation throughout the period. Tufted Titmouse: singing bird located by Guy Mountford at Blue Mountain Lake, June 14 during the International Ornithological Field trip.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Scheider gives the following counts for the Madawaska area, June 23. Solitary Vireo 2, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Warblers: — Black and White 2, Nashville 30, Parula 2, Magnolia 16, Cape May 1 (carrying food, the begging note of young heard), Myrtle 26, Black-thr. Green 1, Blackburnian 12, Chestnut-sided 10, Bay-breasted 1, Ovenbird 4, Yellowthroat 20, Canada 2, and Redstart 10.

The Sheffield's list for the Mt. Marcy - L. Placid area, Jun 26-29 is Solitary, Red-eyed and Philadelphia Vireos, Black and White, Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Black thr. Blue, Myrtle, Parula, Black thr. Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, Mourning, Yellowthroat, Canada and Redstart.

At Keeseville Yellow-throated, Red-eyed, Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos were fairly common from Aug 1-20. Black and White, Yellow, Magnolia, Myrtle, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Mourning, Canada, Warblers and Yellowthroat were noted. Less common was the Black-thr Green Warbler. Single Blackpoll on Aug 30. Blackpolls were common above 3000' on Blue Mountain, Jun 14 and 28. At Tupper L. Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Myrtle, Black-thr. Green, Chestnut-sided, Mourning Warblers and Yellowthroat (D) and (A). At Raybrook, Chestnut-sided, Mourning and Redstart early in the period and later Myrtle, Blackburnian and N. Waterthrush.

At Seventh L, E. Farnham saw a Golden-winged Warbler, Aug 1; a most unusual locality for this southern warbler.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** The Sheffield's list for the Mt. Marcy-L. Placid area, Jun 26-29 is Bobolink, Red-Winged Blackbird, Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, Savannah, Chipping, White-thr., Swamp and Song Sparrows. Scarlet Tanagers were very common in the Keeseville area; also



noted at Tupper L, Raybrook, Madawaska and Blue Mountain L. Cardinal: 1, Aug 4, nr Sunmount. Rose breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting very common at Keeseville; Purple Finch nesting in the editor's back yard, with young singing third week of Aug even during the rains. Indigo Bunting, Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch noted as fairly common at Tupper (D). Indigo Bunting and Evening Grosbeak at Raybrook (K). Quite a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and two Evening Grosbeaks came to a feeder at Sunmount (A).

Pine Grosbeak: singing male nr Tupper L Jun 16 (A). This is the third time this observer has recorded this species in the summer. Red Crossbill: 5, nr Tupper L Jul 7 (MR). White-winged Crossbill: observed feeding in Sunmount area (A).

Clay-colored Sparrow: singing bird seen nr Tupper L — Jul 25 (R. Cohen) and pair along the Jordan River north of Tupper L Jul 28 (R. Friedman fide Cohen). White-crowned Sparrow: 1, Aug 30, Keeseville again on the next day and not seen since. White-thr. and Song Sparrow numerous (A). Lincoln's Sparrow: Madawaska, June 23 and Jul 6 (MR, FS) and at Raybrook (K).

Keeseville.

**Corrigendum:** It is regretted that the title Saranac-Tupper Lake slipped through in printing the spring report from region 7, in the July issue, instead of, Saranac **Lake** - Tupper Lake area. There were no records in this report from the village of Saranac, N. Y. Interesting to note that there are two Post Offices, namely, Saranac, N. Y. and Saranac Lake, N. Y., both in this area and about 40 miles apart.

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

The most striking feature of the weather during the period was the protracted drought. The May-June-July total for rainfall was the second lowest for the area in records dating from 1826. The lack of moisture led to poor crop yields, and trees, lawns and gardens became prematurely brown as the summer proceeded. June temperatures averaged 68.1°, less than a degree above the normal, with a high of 91° on the 17th and a low of 45° on the 4th. Precipitation totalled 1.15 in., 2.10 in. below normal. Aside from some rain on June 5-6, it was negligible. July was a cool, dry month, with temperatures averaging 69°, 3.1° below normal. The highest reading was 95° on the 8th; the lowest were 46° on the 4th and 47° on the 6th (both record lows). Precipitation totaled 2.12 in. for the month, 1.37 in. below normal. The first part of the month was particularly dry, so that most rain, when it came, late in the month, simply ran off. The first fifteen days of August brought 2.41 in. of precipitation, somewhat over the average, which granted some relief to parched areas. Nevertheless, water levels remained extremely low in streams, marshes and reservoirs.

Most breeding birds fared extremely well during the summer. The lack of severe storms during the period probably was of great help to developing young birds. No real "waves" of the autumnal landbird migration developed during the period although a few advance migrants were seen. Because of the low levels of water in marshes and reservoirs, larger numbers of shorebirds than usual congregated in some areas from late July through the remaining part of the period. Some marsh birds which normally breed, however, appeared rare or absent, perhaps in part due to this factor. Rare, unusual, or uncommon species reported during the period included Least Bittern, Green-winged Teal (breeding), Black Vulture, King Rail, Connecticut Warbler and Evening Grosbeak.

**Loons — Ducks:** Pied-billed Grebe — one immature July 14 and subsequently at Vischer Ferry (Esley Hallenbeck — EH) is the only record for the area (very low). Great Blue Heron: at Vischer Ferry throughout period and at Black Creek Marshes during latter part, max. 6 Jul 25 at Vischer Ferry (EH). Common Egret: two Jul 25 at Vischer Ferry (EH) only record. Green Heron and American Bittern: recorded widely. Least Bittern: one Jun 16 at Vischer Ferry (EH, Phil Clark — PC); subsequently two, Jul 4 (Peter P. Wickham — PPW) — the birds remained throughout the period. Green-winged Teal: several, with young, Jun 24 at Coxsackie (C.

Thorne — CT, E. Rusack — ER). Blue-winged Teal: two Jun 6 at Vischer Ferry (EH, PC) and two Jun 9 at Niskayuna (Schenectady Bird Club — SBC) probably breeding birds. Wood Duck — widely reported. Redhead: two apparently feral adults which could fly, Jul 1, 4, and 14 at Vischer Ferry (EH, PPW). Hooded Merganser: one Jun 15 and 26, Canaan (A. Gokay — AG) and one Jul 4 at Vischer Ferry (PPW).

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: widely reported over higher elevations in the south part of the area. Black Vulture: one, Aug 6 over Old Chatham was carefully identified (Eleanor M. Radke — EMR). No accipiter reports. Red-tailed Hawk: widely reported, but not many. Hed-shouldered Hawk: fewer, one Jun 9 near Niskayuna (SBC), and a pair, breeding, Jenny Lake (Guy Bartlett — GB). Broad-winged Hawk: only records from northern Saratoga and Warren Counties (GB, Walton B. Sabin — WBS, Robert Korn — RK, PPW). Marsh Hawk: very scarce — one Jun 9 near Niskayuna (SBC) the **only** record received. Duck Hawk: one Jul 4 over the Helderberg escarpment (EH) — the species bred there some years ago. Sparrow Hawk: widespread. Bob-white: regularly near Athens, where some young were raised (James H. Bush — JHB), and in the Guilderland-Altamont area (Mary Johnston — MJ, Beverly Waite — BW). King Rail: two adults Jul 17 at Niskayuna (EH, Hazel Eddy — HE). Virginia Rail: adults with young — Jun 23, Black Creek Marshes (WBS; Donald J. Tucker — DJT, PPW) and Jul 17, Niskayuna (EH, HE). Sora: conspicuously absent — the birds may not have nested because of the low water conditions in their usual habitat. Common Gallinule: reported from several areas, with young. Woodcock: regularly, from northern sections. Common Snipe: one Jun 6 at Stony Creek Reservoir (EH, PC) and two, Ghent, Jul 22 (Georgia Erlenbach — GE). Solitary Sandpiper: early migrant Jul 23 at Summit (WBS). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs: one of each Aug 1 at Stony Creek Reservoir (EH, PC). Pectoral Sandpiper: two Jul 28 at Watervliet Res. (EH, PC). Semipalmated Sandpiper: six Jul 28 at Watervliet Reservoir (EH, PC). Sanderling: one Aug 12 at Black Creek Marshes (EH). Both species of cuckoo seemed common. Screech Owl and Great Horned Owl: recorded throughout the area. Barred Owl: pairs bred at Jenny Lake (GB) and at Pottersville (Marcia Kent — MK).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: nested in many regions, with as many as 12 at Jenny Lake (GB). Pileated Woodpecker: seen irregularly throughout period in all sections. Red-headed Woodpecker: a pair nested in Jun at Athens (Greene County Bird Club — GCBC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: seemed very common in the usual breeding areas. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Jul 15 at Berlin (PPW) — a southerly location, yet at high elevation where it might breed. All swallows reported. Purple Martin: known colonies at Burnt Hills (2), Corinth, Niskayuna and South Albany. Tufted Titmouse: two, Jul 1-7 at Ghent (GE) only record for period. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one pair, breeding, Old Chatham (Allan Devoe Bird Club — ADBC) and one pair making nest hole and singing persistently Jun 2 at Tomhannock Reservoir (PPW) aside from those farther north. Brown Creeper: three, singing, Old Chatham, Jun 10 and 15 (ADBC) — the bird may breed there. Carolina Wren: apparently has not recovered from recent disastrous winters — none were reported Short-billed Marsh Wren: none were reported during the period. Mockingbird: one Jun 3 near Glenville (EH), one Jun 22 at East Chatham (H. Barton — HB), and two July 11 at Ghent (GE). Hermit Thrush: breeding, many locations throughout area at higher elevations. Swainson's Thrush: three, singing Jul 15 near Berlin (PPW). Bluebird: from all accounts, what few Bluebirds there were had a good nesting season; the locations of at least fifteen pairs are known to the writer in Rensselaer, Albany and Columbia Counties. Almost all of these raised two broods, and in some cases, when the second nesting was disturbed, a third nesting was attempted. Cedar Wax-wing: numbers built up towards the end of the period with 75 at Pottersville Aug 15 (MK) the high count.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary Vireo: one June 14 as far south as Berlin (ADBC). Blue-winged Warbler: successfully fledged three young, Altamont (BW). Parula Warbler: one Jun 14 at Berlin (ADBC) — a southerly record for the area; others bred near Jenny Lake (GB). Pine Warbler: two or three pairs Jun 2 at Tomhannock Reservoir (PPW) besides the usual nesting area at Karner. Prairie Warbler: breeding at Catskill (JHB). Bay-breasted Warbler: a very early migrant Aug 3 in Colonie

(John Fuller — JF). Northern Water-thrush: first fall migrant Aug 12 at Black Creek Marshes (EH). Connecticut Warbler: two late records of males seen well — one Jun 2, Meadowdale (EH) and one June 16 at Vischer Ferry (EH, PC). Mourning Warbler: one Aug 18 at Jenny Lake (GB). Yellow-breasted Chat: three Jun 2 at Meadowdale (EH) and one, from Jun 15 on, enar Altamont (BW).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Orchard Oriole: one, a second year, at Catskill (JHB), and in Castleton three — a first year, a fully adult, and a female appeared (Juanita Cook — JC); after the first nest built had been abandoned, the younger male and the female raised one young bird in a new location. They were last seen Aug 18. Evening Grosbeak: two spent the summer at a feeder in Schenectady and were joined in July by a third with ruffed feathers which allowed itself to be fed (Mr., Mrs. W. T. Cooke, fide GB) — there is a possibility the grosbeaks may have nested there, but the nest was not found and this third bird could fly; four appeared Aug 7 in Troy (fide BW). Purple Finch: flocks of up to 50-60 were reported in Columbia Co. through June and July, but not so common elsewhere (ADBC). Henslow's Sparrow: one, Meadowdale, June 10 (EH) and one, Summit, July 14 (PPW); other usual species of sparrows seemed relatively common.

Box 465A, R.D. 4, Troy

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

### EDWARD D. TREACY

The most significant weather factor of the season was the drought. The weather bureau lists the summer of 1962 among the four showing the least amount of rainfall. As far as temperature was concerned, the season was largely normal with no exceptionally extended periods of hot weather.

The effect of the drought was not noticeable on the bird population throughout the summer, but undoubtedly it reduced the abundance of weed seeds and will surely effect the fall and winter population. Lowered reservoirs and streams lured shorebirds to their exposed flats, and the month of August saw some good "shorebirding" in an area that rarely has it.

Abbreviations used in this report are: each county — first four or five letters, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester; Reservoir — res; Waterman Bird Club — WBC; Mearns Bird Club — MBC.

**Loons — Ducks:** The two Common Loons reported on Highland Res. Oran. in the spring report continued on throughout the summer, and were repeatedly heard by nearby residents (Iris Dean — ID). Investigation revealed that this species has been observed there for several summers now, and there is good indication that nesting has occurred. Pied-billed Grebe: An adult with ten young at Basher Kill Jun 6 (Margaret Dye — MD). Great Blue Heron: Population generally normal, one pair nesting at Tamarack Swamp, Dutch. (WBC). Common Egret: Four birds Aug 4 Brown's Pond, Newburgh (M&JD). Snowy Egret: One bird at Cornwall Bay Jul 29 (Paul Jenneber — PJ & Ed Treacy — ET), and another at Piermont, Rock. Aug 30 (Louise and Bob Deed — L & BD). The latter was the third record for Rock. Little Blue Heron: An immature bird at Lake DeForest, Rock. Aug 4 (Dr. Marjorie Hopper — Dr. MH). Yellow-crowned Night Heron: One in Town of Ramapo, Rock. Jul 6 (Jack & Eleanor LeMaire). Fourth record for Rock and first since 1957. Least Bittern: Best year at Cornwall Bay since 1956. Seen frequently by several observers, as many as three birds at once. Whistling Swan: One at Rondout Creek near Kingston, Ulst. during early Aug. (Henry & Ilse Dunbar). Ducks: Mallard and Black Duck were normal throughout the district, but Wood Ducks seemed to be up in numbers. Green-winged Teal: One on Brown's Pond, Newburgh Aug 11 (M&JD), and a male at Pine Plains, Dutch. Jun 9 (Otis Waterman — OW). Blue-winged Teal: A pair, last seen on Jun 4 near Pine Plains, (V. Parkhurst); a male was seen several times with a male Green-winged Teal before that date.

**Hawks — Owls:** Most resident species of hawks were reported in normal numbers throughout Dutch., but seemed to be down in numbers in Oran. Reports

seemed to increase toward the end of the period. Four Broad-winged Hawks were observed moving in a sw direction over Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary, West, on Aug 12. Although the years have produced Bald Eagle records for every month, summer reports are always rare. This species was observed on Aug 12 over New City; Aug 19 at Stillwell Res. USMA (FS), and at Tomahawk Lake, Oran, on Sept 5 (Martha Earl — ME). (Stan Grierson — SG) reported a "dark headed" Eagle at Katonah, West, on May 31, but could not determine whether it was the Bald or Golden species. Bobwhite: All but dropped from sight; four observed in Dutch, during July (F. Germond). Virginia Rail: Reported at Todd Sanct. Katonah, West., Jun 25; and four to six nesting pairs known in Dutch., (WBC). Sora: Two observed at Hawthorne West., on Aug 30 by (Bob Augustine — BA) and (Marshall Howe — MH). Unreported elsewhere. Common Gallinule: One pair nested at Stissing, Dutch. (Paul & Theima Haight — P & TH). Killdeer: Normal to above throughout the district. Ruddy Turnstone: This species is rarely reported and yet may well pass down the Hudson Valley each August. It was found at Cornwall Bay on Jul 29 and Aug 26 (PJ & ET), and at Brown's Pond, Newburgh on Aug 11 (M & JD). Common Snipe: Reported at Brown's Pond on Jul 29 (J & MD) and again on Sept 8 (MBC). Upland Plover: One near Kripplebush, Ulst. on Jun 20 (Fred Hough — FH). May have nested but not verified. Sandpipers: Exceptionally good flock season, first fall flock seen in Dutch, on Aug 4 at Amenia contained Spotted, Semipalmated, Least and Solitary (William and Trixie Strauss). The above species and the Pectoral were found regularly in numbers at Brown's Pond, Newburgh from late July throughout the month of August (M & JD, ET & PJ). White-rumped Sandpiper: One bird at Lake DeForest, Rock, on Aug. 5 was the second record for the county (Dr. MH). Mourning Dove: Population lower than usual. Cuckoos: Both species reported in very low numbers when compared with other years. Owls: All reports from Dutch. No Great Horned, five Screech and five Barred.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: Well reported throughout region. Nighthawk: Began moving south on Aug 12, and a big flight occurred on Sept 1 when roughly 150 were counted along the Taconic and Saw Mill River Parkways in Rock, by Joe Malone. Resident birds seemed to be low in numbers throughout the summer. Hummingbird: Numbers normal to below normal. Kingfisher: Heavy nesting population in Dutch. Two interesting records from West; six young were unearthed by a steamshovel near Cross River Res., and a substitute hole was dug by Stan Grierson. The adults took over successfully, and within a few days the young were ready to fly. Six other young were not so fortunate in the Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation, the bank in which their nest was located slumped and they were killed (Don Whitman). Woodpeckers: All resident species normal to better. Martha Earl reports the Red-headed Woodpecker not having increased as was erroneously reported last year. She states that it has maintained good numbers over the past several years; on Aug 11 with several companions she counted over 20 birds in two and a half hours. Although this may be normal for the Blooming Grove area of Oran., it is not typical of the rest of the region where the bird is rare. Flycatchers: The Crested was the only resident species that showed reduced numbers; the rest were above normal with the Kingbird showing a marked increase. Swallows: Population of all species normal to slightly above. Cliff Swallows were scarce as usual, but were back in their nest sites of last year in about the same numbers. Purple Martin colonies are holding their own, with no marked change in breeding population. Brown Creeper: More summer reports than ever before; feeding young at Basher Kill Jun 16 (MD); one on Little Tor Mt. on Jul 15 (Dr. MH); one singing at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall on Jul 4 (MD); one during mid-June at Sterling Gardens (ME); and another in Pound Ridge Reservation, West, on Jul 27 (SG). House Wren: Reported heavy in Dutch, early in the season but unaccountably scarce later. Winter Wren: Three birds observed singing in West, during June. One of these apparently found a mate at Westmoreland Sanct. Mt. Kisco, as on Aug 16 four fledglings were observed by Scott Dearolf, naturalist at the Sanctuary. Long-billed Marsh Wren: Growing more scarce in recent years; areas which formerly supported dozens now have few. Mockingbird: One remained in the Pearl River area of Rock, for most of the summer (Emily Paulson); a new breeding site for this species was reported at New Hempstead in Ramapo Township (FS). Thrushes: Normal to slightly below. Hermit Thrush: nested near the village of Stissing (elev. 700 ft.) in June (TH); and another was heard in Washington Hollow (elev. 600 ft.) by Marion Van

Wagner on Jul 1. Both locations are in Dutch. Bluebirds remain scarce but showed definite increase in Dutch. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One at Pocantico Lake Aug 20 (BA & MH). Cedar Waxwing: About normal, large numbers reported in the Hawthorne area of West. on Aug 15 (BA). Loggerhead Shrike: One reported in West. during Aug 23-30 (BA).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Resident vireos near normal. Warbling better than usual. Solitary Vireo: One at Innisfree, Dutch. Jun 16. Warblers: Generally normal, Redstarts in fewer numbers, and Prairie generally up. Lawrence's Warbler: This hybrid (accidentally omitted from last report) was discovered nesting in the Hawthorne area of West. Female was a Blue-wing who brought off three young and a Cowbird. Observed on Jun 9 by (SG, BA & MH). The Lawrence's was found again in the same area on Aug 11 and 12 (BA & MH). **Black-throated Gray Warbler:** William Russel of Katonah, West observed this species at his home near Cross River Res. on Aug 6. He has observed this species both at Cape May, N. J., and extensively in the west; and is quite familiar with the bird. BA and MH reported the following warblers in West.: Black-throated Green Aug 8, Blackburnian Aug 27, Wilson's Aug 21 and 30. Northern Waterthrush: A pair suspected nesting at Sterling Gardens in June (ME). Canada Warbler: One at Lake Waccabuc West. Aug 13 (SG).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: Numbers up this year. **Western Meadow-lark:** A male bred with an Eastern female near Bangall, Dutch. Five young and the adults collected on Jun 26 by Dr. Wesley Langan of the American Museum of Natural History and are now being raised alive in a flight cage. Another of this species was seen and heard by Tom Gilbert on Jun 7 at East Park, Dutch. Orchard Oriole: One pair breeding at Sterling forest during June (ME). Appeared at Stone Ridge, Ulst. during June, but did not remain to breed (FH). Scarlet Tanager: Noticeably lower in numbers. Cardinal: Normally plentiful. Indigo Bunting: Lower in numbers. Evening Grosbeak: This species did forget to leave this year after all; a female was at the feeder of Mr. & Mrs. John Remensnyder in Saugerties Ulst. on Jul 11 and subsequent dates; two fed at the home of Mrs. A. P. Ziesing near Suffern on Jul 2; a female with one young bird was observed feeding at Stissing Jul 4 (TH); a male was last observed at the latter location on Jun 17. Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows remained usual to better in numbers. Chipping, Field, Swamp and Song Sparrows remain unchanged this season.

**Addendum:** The following notes were omitted accidentally from the spring report, and are mentioned here. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: One in a swamp near Hawthorne, West, on Apr 3-4 (MH & BA). Cattle Egret: Two near Neversink Dam, Sull. on May 1 (H. Wright); and another at Monticello on May 16 (Ken Niven). Pellwood Lake, Highlands Falls

## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

June was hot and dry. Farmlands were parched, until by early July disaster areas were about to be declared. Adequate rains on Long Island and surrounding areas, however, about this time brought relief, and the summer to the end of the period was refreshing with the coolest July since 1957 and the coolest August in 16 years.

Early June migrants were insignificant in numbers compared to other years — the stragglers, if any, passing through rapidly in the dry heat.

Both Egrets arrived early and were well on their way toward nesting by early June at Jones Beach and vicinity, where a great increase of Snowy Egrets has been noted in the past few years. The large flock of Wood Ibises and 50-60 Cattle Egrets reported this spring on Long Island went entirely unlisted later, even regarding the individuals. The Jamaica Bay Sanctuary was again prolific with breeding water birds. The early June shorebird migration terminated early. Gulls and Terns were nesting in abundance and the Herring Gull colony at Oak Beach, estimated at 1,500 birds, now occupies practically all available territory for about one-quarter mile surrounding the Cape Tree boat basin.

No doubt the most phenomenal occurrence in Region 10 was the sighting of five Brown Pelicans flying over the dunes at Bellport Coast Guard Station, Fire

Island. The birds were heading eastward towards Moriches Inlet at 10 a.m., Jul 6, and were observed by Irvin Alperin and Richard H. Schaefer.

As for breeding land birds: Bluebirds were reportedly nesting around Mill Neck; a Tufted Titmouse was recorded in summer at Northport and the Orchard Oriole again nested at Syosset, with four young in the nest in late June. A survey showed the Least Flycatcher to be found in two locations at Oyster Bay and in this location the Yellow-throated Vireo was present in reduced numbers. No Warbling Vireos, however, were found where several were noted until three years ago when destruction by Dutch Elm disease killed at least a dozen or more giant elms. One particular old English Elm was a favorite habitat of one of these Warbling Vireos (J. Elliott, N. Ward, M. Wheat).

**Loons — Ducks:** Pied-billed Grebe: several pairs nesting, Jamaica Bay (W. Morse — WM, H. Johnson — HJ). Several records of Sooty Shearwater, maximum six, June 6, Shinnecock (R. Wilcox — RW) and 24 Jun 10 (G. Raynor — GR). Brown Pelican: Fire Island, five, Jul 6 (I. Alperin — IA, R. Schaefer). Both Egrets and Yellow-crowned Night Heron nesting in several locations: easternmost Yellow-crown, two, Jul 7, Stony Brook (GR). Least Bittern nested at Bayport (IA); also believed nesting at Jamaica Bay and Jones Beach. Latest reported Brant, one, Jul 4, Jamaica Bay (WN). Glossy Ibis again back at Jamaica Bay (probably bred), 10 on Jun 9 (WN). The breeding duck count was phenomenal at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, summer of 1962, with several broods of Gadwall; one of Pintail; at least one of Green-winged Teal and several of Blue-winged Teal. Others were: two broods of Redhead, one with nine young; and several broods of Ruddy Ducks. An American Widgeon summered but was not believed to have bred (HJ, WN). Other duck records: Gadwall nested at Jones Beach; three Wood Duck, Manorville, Jul 1 (GR); four at Mill Neck, Aug 1 (J. Elliott—JE); White-winged Scoter, East Marion, 46, Aug 12 (GR).

**Hawks — Owls:** Broad-winged Hawk seen at Inwood, Mill Neck and Northport; no western Suffolk records of Red-shouldered or Red-tailed Hawks. Marsh Hawk and Sparrow Hawk, common along south shore. Sora and Virginia Rail were present and probably bred at Jamaica Bay. At least three pairs of Common Gallinule bred there and many pairs of Coot, with over 200 birds counted in early Aug at the Sanctuary (WN). Two adult Oyster-catchers were present at Moriches again, with three young about two weeks old, banded Jun 15 (RW). Piping Plover: good nesting report from Moriches with 40 returns from other years, oldest a 13 yr. old bird (RW). A shorebird concentration at Cedar Beach, Jul 22 included six Whimbrels, four Willets, six Knots and 150 Dowitchers (IA). Knot, maximum, Great Meadow Island, Jones Beach, Jul 20 (estimated) 1,500 (M. Levine). Ruff: one, Jun 9, Jamaica Bay (J. Mayer — JM, G. Rose).

Several Stilt Sandpipers at end of period. Hudsonian Godwit: seven, Jul 21, Moriches (D. Puliston — DP, GR). Wilson's Palarope: one, Jun 10, Jamaica Bay (WN, P. Post, JM, HJ); Jun 10, one, same location (DP). Pomarine Jaeger: Shinnecock, two, Jun 10 (GR); one Aug 5 Jones Beach (H. Darrow — HD). Glaucous Gull: one (Imm. with injured foot) Jul 14, Jamaica Bay (DP). Gull-billed Tern: two, Jun 9, Morishes (no nest found) (DP). Roseate Tern: good nesting colonies at Jones Beach and Moriches. Royal Tern: one, Jul 8, Moriches (HD). Sooty Tern: one adult, Jul 21, Moriches Inlet (GR, DP). Caspian Tern: five, Jun 6, Mecox (RW). Screech Owl: Jul 1, Freeport (A. Dignan); Manorville, Jun 1 (GR).

**Goatsuckers — Shirkes:** Whip-poor-will scarce on western Long Island. Night-hawks: no nesting reports on Long Island. Chimney Swift: Aug 2, Pelham, some 50 were seen to attain altitude and fly into the southwest, apparently southward bound (HD). Southbound Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Inwood, Aug. 10. Alder Flycatcher again reported from Jones Beach (AD, NW). Least Flycatcher: reduced numbers on north shore and especially at Syosset and Woodbury over past five years — two at Oyster Bay in late June (JE, NW). Several reports of Bank and Rough-winged Swallows. One or two Tufted Titmouse reports. House Wren increasing in Suffolk Co. No reports of Short-billed Marsh Wrens from Long Island. Mockingbird: Remsenburg, present from May 5 to Jun 24 (same place as last year) (RW); three young in nest, Jun 6, Ft. Salonga (D. Cranford); two Jul 5, Brookhaven, both males singing within 200 yds. of each other (DP). Hermit Thrush: two pairs, Jul 29, back at Coram (JE). Bluebird: seven, Jul 30, Manorville (GR). Gnatcatcher: one (southbound) Aug 13, Inwood (WN).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Several reports of White-eyed Vireo nesting. Yellow-throated Vireo bred at Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor. Red-eyed Vireo is becoming slightly more common with decline of spraying. One or two records of Warbling Vireos, very scarce in several old hunts around Oyster Bay. Good nesting reports for Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Ovenbirds and Yellow-throats. Eight to ten pairs of Yellow-breasted Chat estimated to be nesting at Northport this summer (E. Mudge). Five or six Redstarts were heard singing in Jun at Laurel Hollow (JE, NW). Female Cerulean Warbler: Jun 20, Noyack (GR), a rarity there.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Orchard Oriole: adult and first year males singing, Ft. Salonga, Jun 3 and on Jun 9 (EM); bred at Syosset with young banded in Jun; an adult male was later seen in this area (J. Taylor). Bobolinks very scarce, no Babylon records. The Scarlet Tanager had a good season, being abundant around the north shore. According to Walter Terry of Bluepoint, six or seven Brazilian Cardinal escaped from a Bayport caged-bird fancier, probably resulting in an adult feeding three young in Jun at West Sayville (Mrs. G. Vander Klay). Wilcox also banded a Yellow-billed Cardinal (*Paroaria capitata*) at Middle Island and a Brazilian Cardinal at a Bohemia feeding station. House Finch: two, Jun 24, Remsenburg; also a pair and three young, Quogue, same date, for easternmost range, formerly at Brookhaven (RW). Seaside Sparrow: Nest and three eggs, Jun 6, east end of Shinnecock Bay (easternmost record on Long Island) (RW). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Crab Meadow (L.I. Sound) several pairs, Jun 10 (EM). Swamp Sparrow, very rare as a breeding bird on Long Island; two singing through Jun and Jul and into Aug, Manorville, probably nested, for first summer record in the area (GR). This summer the usual fair number of Grasshopper Sparrows again resorted in the hilly, cattle country at Montauk (Mrs. R. Boomhower).

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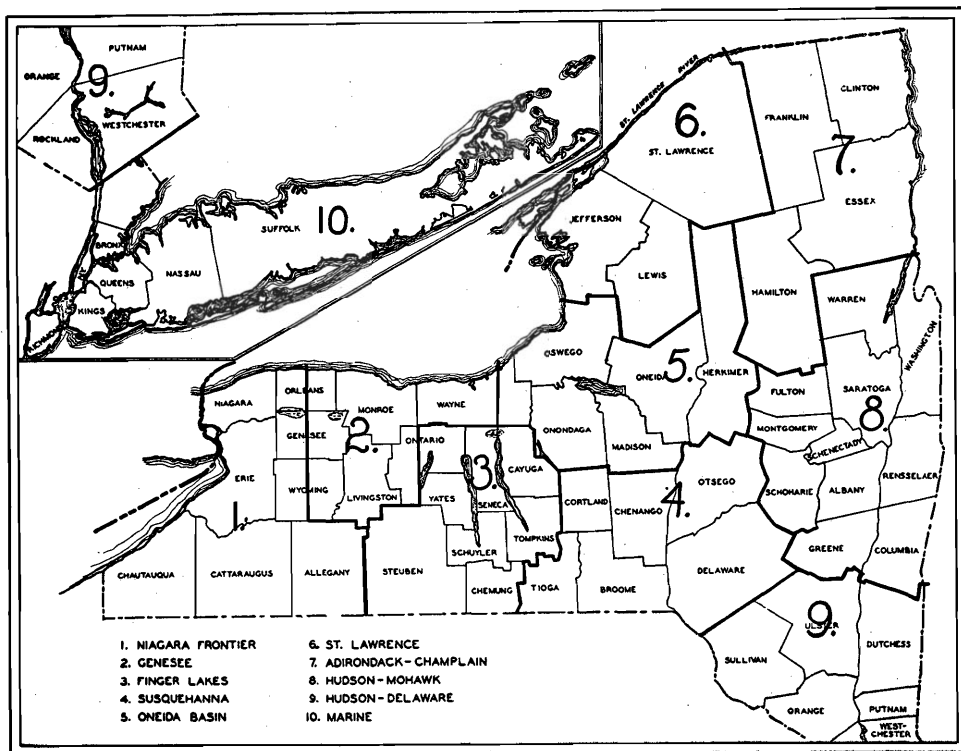
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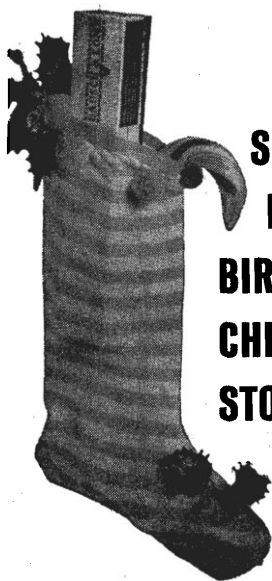




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