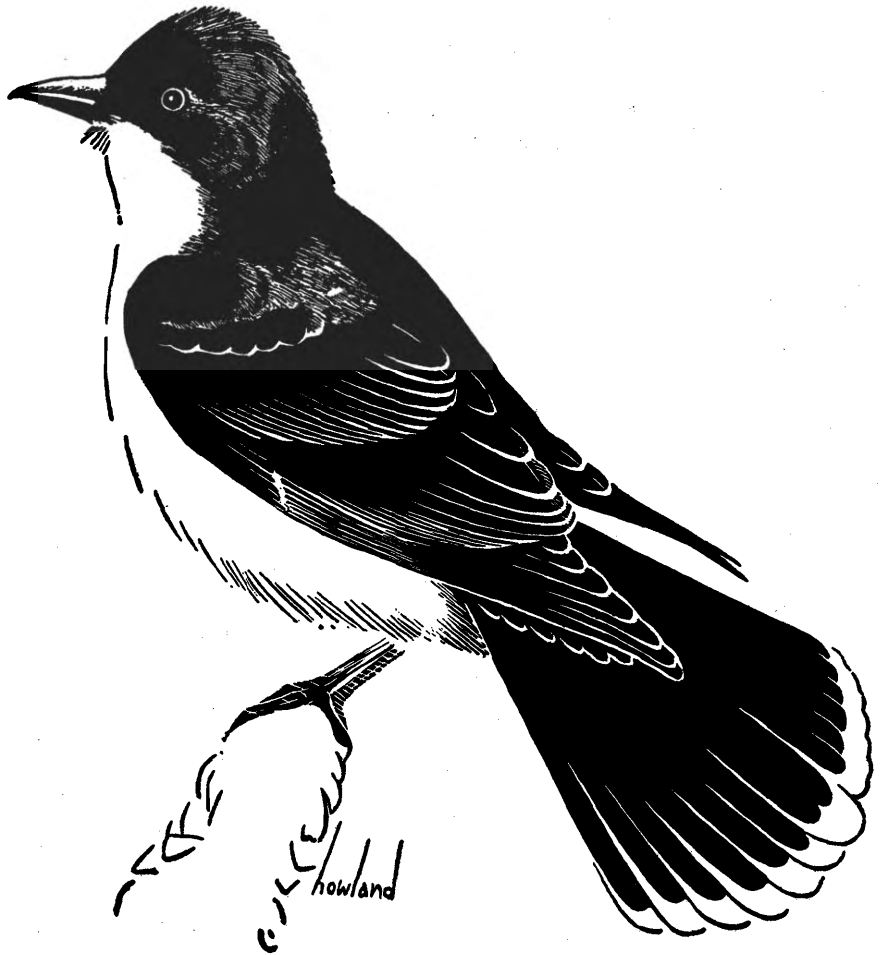


The **KINGBIRD**



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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(Signed) Dorothy W. McIlroy
Editor



The KINGBIRD

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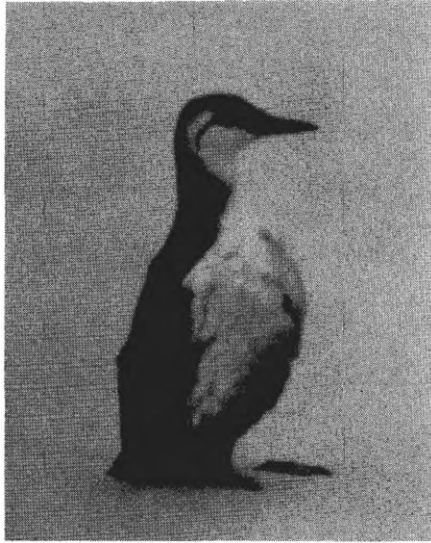
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PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

7. Common Murre



Photograph by Daniel Rafferty
Short Beach, Nassau Co., 26 January 1965

The Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) is Holarctic in distribution. In the New World the nominate subspecies breeds south to southern Newfoundland and the Magdalen Islands, Quebec (Tuck, *The Murres*, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, 1961). There may also be a resident population breeding off the coast of Maine or on islets in the Bay of Fundy (Fisher, *Linn. News-letter*, vol. 18, no. 5, Oct. 1964 & vol. 19, no. 4, Sept. 1965).

An offshore species, the Common Murre regularly winters south to Maine, but rarely to Massachusetts. The species is unknown south of New Jersey except for the proximal portion of a left humerus from a Florida Indian midden dated at about 1000 B.C. (Brodkorb, *Auk*, 77:342, 1960).

New York State records have recently been summarized by Bull (*Birds of the New York Area*, Harper & Row, N.Y., 1964, p. 261) who lists eight Long Island reports from Montauk Point, Suffolk Co. to Long Beach, Nassau Co. All, except one seen offshore, were of oiled birds, most either caught alive or found dead. Dates of occurrence range from 23 December to 4 April. None is prior to 1936.

The only other records I have to add are: 1) a bird observed in perfect light at a distance of about 50 yards on 22 February 1946 in Reynold's Channel, back of Long Beach, by Dr. Edward Fleisher, Malcolm A. Jacobson, and Walter W. Sedwitz (Sedwitz, *in litt.*), and 2) the bird in the above photograph, seen on 26 January 1965 by Daniel Rafferty and Walter Friton at Short Beach, Nassau County (*Kingbird*, 15(2):130, May 1965). Mr. Rafferty kindly supplied the following details for this report:

"January 26, 1965 was a cold day with a strong southwest wind. As we left the West End parking field, heading for Jones Inlet, we noticed a penguin-like figure standing on the beach about 200 yards ahead of us. At 100 yards we could clearly make out the black line on the white cheek of a Common Murre. The bird was preening an oil stain which covered its breast and belly. As we approached to take some photographs the bird backed into the water, eventually skimming out over the waves and dropping into the surf. It apparently had difficulty keeping afloat.

A few moments later the bird was back on the beach. Looking back we saw a runner in a hooded sweatshirt trotting along the shoreline. This time, however, the murre did not take flight. The runner stopped directly in front of the bird, bent over with his hands on his knees, and was obviously talking to it. After a couple of minutes, the runner continued on his way, the murre still standing its ground.

This was the last we saw of the bird. An extensive search the next day failed to reveal any trace of it, either dead or alive."

According to Bull (*op. cit.*) apparently none of the New York Common Murre specimens are extant. However, the species has been photographed in the state on at least two other occasions. The Common Murre photograph taken by Dr. Heathcote M. Kimball, at Oak Beach, Suffolk Co., on 16 January 1938 was published in *Bird-Lore*, 40:300, 1938, while numerous local observers have seen George Komorowski's 16mm footage of a bird present at Jones Beach, Nassau Co., 23 December 1951.

Peter W. Post, 575 West 183 Street, New York, N.Y. 10033.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The life of the dedicated lover of nature is never an idle one. So long as the doctrine of exploitation is held to by our politicians and industrialists, so long our natural resources will be threatened.

It is inconceivable to me that *anyone* would propose to dam the Grand Canyon, or indeed to alter it in any way other than the natural processes of erosion. Yet such a proposal has been made, widely accepted, and by the time you read this may even have become law.

I have never seen the Grand Canyon, and perhaps I never will. That is not the point. If this National Park and National Monument can be desecrated, no acre of American ground is safe from exploitation. The very cornerstone of any successful program to save scenic and recreational areas must be absolute inviolability. Any weakening of this cornerstone threatens the whole structure. If a weak Congress, or an ambitious secretary, or an unscrupulous president, or any other politician or group of politicians, can threaten our park system at any time, the whole system is doomed. Surely some bright industrialist can dream up a scheme for utilizing the heat energy from the springs of Yellowstone. Certainly the Great Falls of the Yosemite can be harnessed for hydroelectric power. Certainly some practical use can be found for every park, everywhere. With increasing pressures of population, someone is sure to try it, sooner or later. It's only a matter of time.

I don't know how this one will come out; but I know that unless *all* of us stand fast, hold to our convictions, and let everyone, especially our political representatives know about it at every opportunity, we will lose our precious natural heritage of beauty.

This is every body's problem, not just the domain of your Conservation Committee. We believe ourselves to constitute an educational organization. Whom do we educate? Only those whom we meet, or speak to, or write to, or otherwise contact with the message that our natural resources and our natural beauty are a national birthright, not to be sold for a mess of pottage.

Allen H. Benton

NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM

Now that the breeding season is over, contributors are requested promptly to complete and return their nest record cards to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

Last year over 25,000 completed cards were returned and from the response so far it seems that the 1966 total will better that figure. Papers using data from the nest record card program were presented at the Wilson Society Meeting at Pennsylvania State University. It is hoped that the use of this program by research workers will increase.

DATA GATHERED FROM THE REDPOLL FLIGHT OF 1966

ROBERT P. YUNICK

Introduction

In a recent issue of *The Kingbird* (1), regional editors described what was an outstanding 1966 winter influx of redpolls in New York State. Similarly *Audubon Field Notes* (2) described this flight on a continental basis. Large winter flights offer unique opportunities to study irregular, nomadic species from the North and it seems advisable to gather as much banding data as possible to augment published field notes, and possibly to establish differences in the flights from year to year. This paper deals mainly with the Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea flammea*) as observed at a banding station in Niskayuna, a suburb of Schenectady, New York, during February to April, 1966 with special attention devoted to the weekend of March 19-20, 1966.

Description of Banding Station

The banding station consisted of the confines of a backyard encompassing about 50 by 75 feet and bordered on three sides by similar yards in a well wooded, residential area which for the most part was developed 15-25 years ago. Hardwoods, shrubs and some conifers abound, as do numerous bird feeders on the typical 75 by 125-foot housing lot. However, of chief concern to the Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) and American Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*) found in this area in winter is the grey birch (*Betula populifolia*) on which these birds feed. In the yard and the ten or so in sight from it, there are about 50 or more grey birches. Several feeders in the yard were constantly stocked with suet, sunflower seed and cracked corn. During January and most of February, banding was strictly a weekend pursuit. By the fourth week of February, there was sufficient light and bird activity before 0730, when I left for work, to allow capturing birds. Up to the first week of March, almost all capturing was done with three traps. During the second and third weeks of March, three traps, three 12-meter and two six-meter Japanese mist nets were used. After that time, nets were used almost entirely. Over 95 percent of the redpolls banded were netted. After about the first week of April there was sufficient light after work (1645) to allow evening banding. Within these dates and times, birds were banded at every opportunity, weather permitting, until mid-May.

Scope of the Winter Finch Flight

For comparative purposes, Table I gives a summary, by ten-day periods, of the numbers of winter finches banded.

Briefly, these banding results quantitatively verified observations at the

Table I
Winter Finch Banding Totals, 1966

Date	AGF	PS	EG	CRP	HRP	PF
Jan. 1-10 (2)	4		2			
11-20 (1)	9		16			
21-31 (2)	4		56			
Feb. 1-10 (1)	22	10	106			
11-20 (2)	2	4	47			
21-28 (1)	1	2	58	1		
Mar. 1-10 (1)	12	2	—	26		
11-20 (2)	53	6	37	286	1	
21-31 (1)	4	—	2	29		
Apr. 1-10 (2)	3	1	3	4		
11-20 (1)	10	3	38			3
21-30 (1.5)	27	18	16			1
May 1-10 (1.5)	25	10	33			22
11-20 (1)	13	7	12			9
Total	189	63	426	346	1	35

The numbers in parentheses beside the dates represent the number of weekends in that period. Abbreviations used: AGF, American Goldfinch; PS, Pine Siskin; EG, Evening Grosbeak; CRP, Common Redpoll; HRP, Hoary Redpoll; PF, Purple Finch.

feeder. In early February there was a marked influx of goldfinches, siskins and grosbeaks. The grosbeaks were present in numbers up to 50-70 birds at one time and dominated the scene. A 17-18-inch snow storm on February 25 caused a very rapid decrease in their number and with this exodus the goldfinches returned to the feeders. Grosbeaks were not common again until mid-April and lingered well into May. After the initial influx of siskins, the number of new siskins banded was unimpressive; however, many of the banded birds were continually recaptured. They became common in late April and early May. There were no Purple Finches at the feeder during most of the season.

By comparison, in 1965 the banding totals for the same period were: AGF, 107; PS, 0; EG, 0; CRP, 0; HRP, 0; PF, 303; and in 1964: AGF, 177; PS, 134; EG, 176; CRP, 1; HRP, 0; PF, 2. These figures are not directly comparable to those in Table I, because improved traps and trapping methods resulted in greater capture in 1966 over 1964. However, the trends, i.e., Evening Grosbeaks were more common in 1966 than 1964, are valid. To say the grosbeaks were two to three times more common, however, would be grossly misleading.

Redpoll Occurrence

Common Redpolls were first heard in flight over the yard in early to mid-January. Apparently an abundance of food elsewhere satisfied the birds and none was seen feeding in the immediate area. On February 27, the first redpoll appeared at the feeder and was captured for banding. After that, their numbers increased gradually and by mid-March redpolls

were common, and getting more numerous in the birches, but were uncommon at the feeder. On the weekend of March 19-20, 1966 a heavy concentration of redpolls combined with proper snow conditions brought hordes of redpolls into the yard. Observation of the birds' feeding habits confirmed what was noted to a very limited extent in 1964 when the first redpolls were seen in the yard on March 19, maximum numbers were 25-30, and only one bird was banded. In both 1964 and 1966, the big attraction to the redpolls at this particular time of March was the winter's collection of seeds beneath the birch trees on the bare ground exposed by the newly melted snow. Very few redpolls fed in the birches when the ground first became bare. They also ate cracked corn on the ground and crushed sunflower seed at the feeders, but their primary concern was the concentration of birch seeds.

The Weekend of March 19-20, 1966

On the weekend of March 19-20, one Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) and 271 Common Redpolls were banded in an unforgettable fashion. The flocking of the redpolls to the ground to feed coupled with their attraction to the calls of redpolls already in a net led to the capture of large numbers.

It began at 0830 on March 19. The nets, but no traps, had been in place as of 0700. Perhaps four or five redpolls were in the yard feeding when one caught in a net. I watched disbelievingly as redpolls, answering the captive's calls, poured into the yard. Many hit the nets, some bounced off and gave another try. A great number scurried about the ground feeding. At 0845 redpolls continued to come, but I had to start emptying nets. Birds continued to hit the nets as I worked. In 20 minutes I had removed 56 redpolls and began banding, measuring, weighing and noting plumages. At 1010 I went out to remove another 30 newly netted redpolls and this took ten minutes. By 1045, the last of the 0845 group was released. At 1130 the last of the 1010 group was released. Shortly after, another group arrived and at 1200 I began removing 68 redpolls. These were processed by 1400. At 1440 another group came and I had 18 more to band. The day's total was 174 Common Redpolls.

On March 20 the nets were in place shortly after 0730. At 0830 there were two redpolls in the yard. Shortly before 0900, a redpoll caught in a net. The birds came more numerous than ever. There were redpolls everywhere—on the ground, trees, shrubs, fence, net and in the net. The feeling of excitement inspired by this huge influx of birds is beyond description. I telephoned for help and waited. Although the nets had lost much of their slack and did not capture many of the new comers, I wanted to let one of these "redpoll storms" take its course. On the previous day I had gone out during the height of some of these influxes and in so doing had scared off some of the birds. Since I was going to have help any minute, I could let one of the "storms" spend itself. This one did in

about 20 minutes. When the nets were emptied, 91 redpolls had been removed! By noon these birds were processed and released and only a few more redpolls were captured to give a total of 98. Of interest was the opportunity to examine such a large number of redpolls and see the variations in them.

The week following, redpolls were still numerous, but I dared not get too involved for fear I would not get to work. By the following weekend the birds were decidedly less numerous, apparently scattered far and wide to feed. The last redpoll was banded on April 9 and very shortly thereafter they became quite scarce.

Data Collected

Of the 347 redpolls banded, the wings of 334 were measured, and of these 334, 325 birds were weighed. Weight data were correlated with the time of capture. The 334 birds were inspected for fat and their plumage noted. All data were treated according to plumage, the birds being separated into three groups: 1) birds with no rose (NR) in their plumage, 2) birds with only a hint or slight wash of rose (HR) either on the cheek or upper breast, and 3) birds that were distinctly rosy (R) on the cheek and upper breast. Records of repeat captures of these banded birds were also kept.

Wing Chord Data

Table II and Figures Ia and Ib represent the wing chord measurements of 333 redpolls (hoary excluded). These were taken on the unflattened wing using a steel millimeter ruler read to the nearest millimeter.

TABLE II
Wing Chord Distribution

Plumage	Wing Chord, mm.													Ave.	SD	Mean	
	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80				81
NR	5	10	43	33	38	40	29	12	4	3	5	—	3	1	71.4	2.5	72
HR		1	3	4	9	7	12	3	—	1					72.9	1.7	73
R					7	6	12	20	12	3	3	1	2	—	75.1	2.0	75
Total	5	11	46	37	54	53	35	16	6	9	1	5	1	1	72.9	2.3	73

Roberts (3) claims that male redpolls acquire the pink of the underparts with the first postnuptial molt. Forbush (4) describes the first nuptial plumage as resembling that of the female, but with some trace of pink. Therefore those birds which are distinctly rosy (R) are adult males in their third calendar year and those with a hint of rose (HR) are subadult males. The remainder, those birds with no rose (NR), are

Figures Ia and Ib

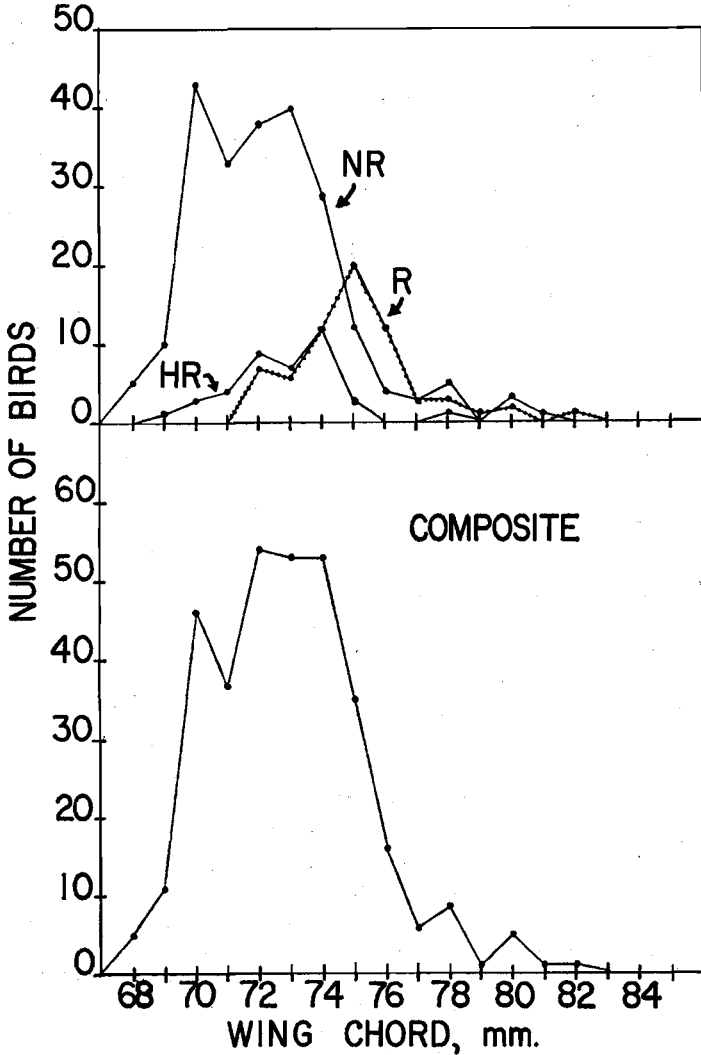


Figure Ia—Distribution of wing chord measurements according to the amount of rose in the plumage. Data for period of February 27 to April 9, 1966.

Figure Ib—Distribution of wing chord measurements for the entire Common Redpoll population banded from February 27 to April 9, 1966.

probably mostly females of all ages, but may also include some males, as indicated by Forbush.

The adult males averaged largest of the three groups and had a fairly uniform distribution. The subadult male group had a less uniform distribution favoring smaller birds. This might be expected for young birds, as the time of hatching and therefore the length of the growing period would vary and affect the hardiness and size of the young approaching their first winter. The widest spread and smallest average was found with the birds with no rose in their plumage. The irregular nature of the distribution curve suggests the existence of a group of subadult females peaking at 70 mm. and adult females peaking at 72-73 mm. The occurrence of several birds at the high end of the scale suggests the possibility of a race of larger size within the population. More data would be needed to confirm this.

Weight Data

Birds were weighed after banding on an Ohaus triple beam balance reading to 0.1 g. and estimated to 0.05 g. While being weighed, the birds were held quietly in a ventilated polyethylene bag. On the balance arm was a tare weight adjusted to the weight of the bag. Weights were recorded according to the time of capture when the birds stopped feeding. During their captivity, which in some cases lasted one to three hours, the birds were held in open ventilated cages where they had freedom of movement. The holding of these birds, therefore, gives slightly erroneous weights especially at times when large numbers were captured and held. Weights of the unbanded birds may be obtained by subtracting the average weight of a Fish and Wildlife Service band, size 0, i.e., 0.062 g., from the tallied weights.

As a whole, the weight data are difficult to treat. For this reason, the only serious treatment was given to data gathered on March 19 and 20. The averaging of weight data spanning considerable time requires extremely large data samples to be able to eliminate unwanted effects of weather, changes in sunrise, etc. Large samples are also needed to insure adequate sampling at all times of day. Even the data collected on March 19 and 20 suffer from inadequate sampling at certain times of day. Table III gives a brief treatment of the entire data and Table IV treats the data of March 19 and 20. The data from Table IV are plotted in Figures IIa and IIb.

The data in Table III are grouped over rather broad time intervals and therefore are not very specific. They do show, however, that rosy birds average heavier at all times indicated, and they gain weight more rapidly than the rest of the population. Table IV similarly shows this relationship. In plotting the data from Table IV in Figures IIa and b, two points involving only four individuals in the R and NR samples are very questionable, and all the HR data lack sufficient sampling. They are

Table III
Weight Data for All Dates, Feb. 27 to Apr. 9

Plumage	Weight, g., at Specified Time			Percent Change
	0700-0915	1000-1200	Beyond 1200	
NR	13.21/119	13.66/38	13.73/68	+3.41
HR	13.30/16	14.00/23	—	+5.26
R	13.58/39	14.65/31	—	+7.88

Subscript numbers under the slash in these Tables indicate the number of birds in the sample.

Table IV
Weight Data for Mar. 19-20

Plumage	Weight, g., at Specified Time					
	0845	0915	1010	1045	1200	1440
NR	12.95/42	13.50/58	13.27/19	14.39/4	13.72/50	13.65/14
HR	12.60/4	13.47/9	13.23/3	—	14.40/9	—
R	13.11/10	13.61/21	14.15/6	—	14.45/15	16.54/4
Total	12.95/56	13.52/88	13.46/28	14.39/4	13.93/74	14.27/18

included in order to be among the data making up the composite weight graph.

Table IV and Figure IIb shows an average weight change for the entire population of about ten percent from early mid-morning to mid-afternoon. A lack of sufficient early morning (0700) data when birds are beginning to feed, and late afternoon (1600) data just before roosting, prevents an accurate calculation of the full extent of the daily weight gain.

The weight of these redpolls over the entire banding period varied from 11.30 to 19.90 g. Within individual groups, the adult males (R) varied from 11.85 g. at 0845 on March 19 to 19.70 g. at 1440 on March 20; subadult males (HR) from 11.60 g. at 0845 on March 19 to 16.20 g. at 1200 on March 20; and the remainder (NR) from 11.30 at 1200 on March 19 to 19.90 g. at 1200 on March 19. As in the case with the wing chord measurements, the birds with no rose had the greatest range of values.

A plot of weight distribution was made by segregating weights within one-gram ranges. These are given in Table V and Figure III. Under the headings "11-12", etc. are the numbers of birds weighing 11.01 to 12.00 g., etc.

Figures IIa and IIb

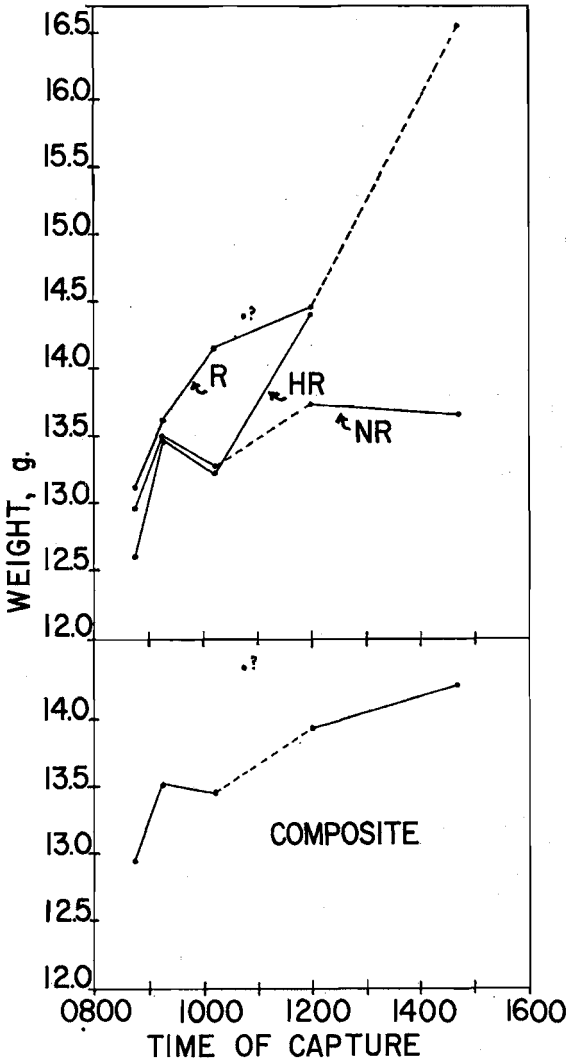


Figure IIa—Weight versus time of capture for the Common Redpolls captured on March 19–20, 1966. Weights separated according to the amount of rose in the plumage.

Figure IIb—Weight versus time of capture for the Common Redpolls captured on March 19–20, 1966. Data for all plumages collected into one graph.

Table V
Weight Data Distribution

Plumage	Number of Birds in Given Weight Range, g.								
	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
NR	26	69	47	22	7	7	4	4	1
HR	1	8	9	4	2	1			
R	1	11	25	10	4	2	2	-	1
Total	28	88	81	36	13	10	6	4	2

Fat Deposition

Visible fat deposits were looked for in the area of the furculum, lower abdomen and axilla, and assessed in terms of "0, 1, 2, 3" as recommended by the Bird Banding Office (5) with one exception. One additional fat class (FC), called " $\frac{1}{2}$ ", was used and fat class "1" modified. While fat class 0 indicates "fat not readily visible anywhere" and fat class 1 means "fat visible in furculum but does not fill it; small amounts present in other areas," fat class $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 as used here are defined as follows. Fat class $\frac{1}{2}$ indicates small amounts of fat in furculum and abdomen, and small amount or none in the axilla; while fat class 1 means furculum half to nearly full and at least some fat in both the two other areas.

Among the group of 333 Common Redpolls that were fat classed, six birds were FC $\frac{1}{2}$, six were FC1 and two were FC2. The remainder were FC0. One bird in each fat class, other than 0, was a rosy plumaged individual and the remainder had no rose. The birds with the most visible fat were not the heaviest. The heaviest birds were those with the longer (> or = 78 mm.) wing measurements as shown in Table VI.

Table VI
Birds Fatter Than FC0

Plumage	FC $\frac{1}{2}$		FC1		FC2	
	W., mm.	Wt., g.	W., mm.	Wt., g.	W., mm.	Wt., g.
NR	75	14.15	79	19.70	74	17.65
NR	71	13.20	80	19.90	72	17.35
NR	72	14.10	76	17.20		
NR	68	13.50	74	14.10		
NR	78	18.45	73	14.00		
NR			70	12.85		
Average	72.8	14.73	75.7	16.29	73	17.50

Figures IIIa and IIIb

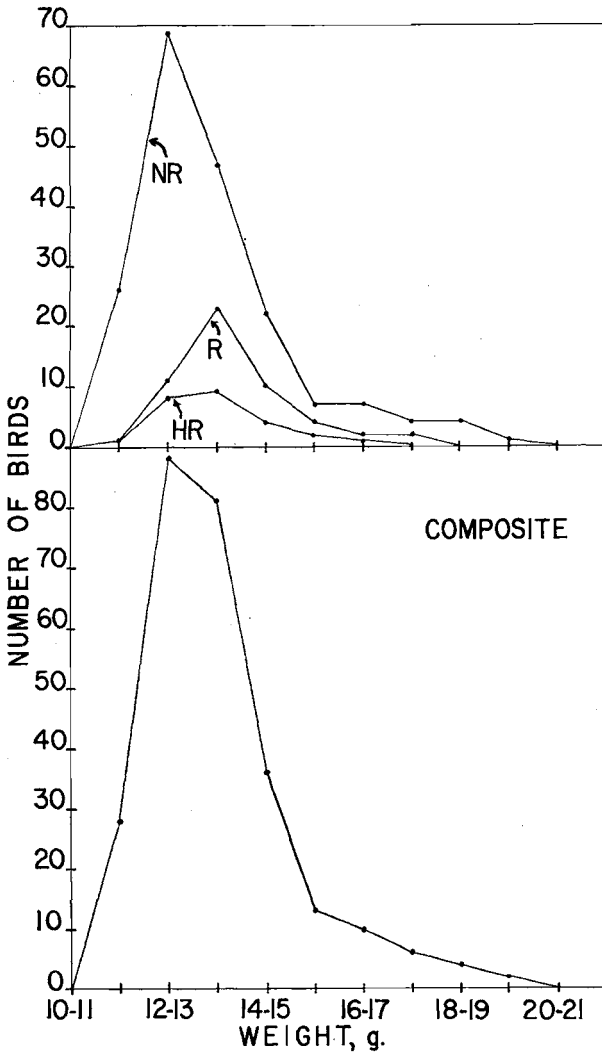


Figure IIIa—Distribution of weights by one-g. intervals according to the amount of rose in the plumage for those birds captured on March 19-20, 1966.

Figure IIIb—Distribution of weights by one-g. intervals for the entire population banded on March 19-20, 1966.

Population Composition

As already mentioned, data were segregated into three classes according to the amount of rose in the plumage. Table VII indicates the number of birds in each class for the entire banding season, as well as for the weekend of March 19-20. At least one-third of the population was male and at least one-fifth was adult male. No attempt was made to distinguish the plumage differences among the class of birds having no rose. Forbush indicates that some apparently male redpolls fall into this class lacking any rose. It is reasonable to expect that a considerable number of subadult males may also lack rose, thus giving rise to the greater population of adult males versus subadult males. The exact significance of this ratio of two-thirds of the birds with no rose and one-third with some rose is not known.

Table VII
Population Composition

	NR	HR	R	Total
1) Number (2/27 to 4/9).....	226	40	67	333
Percent.....	67.9	12.0	20.1	100.0
2) Number (3/19 and 3/20).....	188	25	56	269
Percent.....	69.9	9.3	20.8	100.0

Repeat Captures

Only five of the banded redpolls were recaptured during the banding period. No changes in fat class were observed. The results are in Table VIII. The paucity of repeat captures, compared to their occurrence with siskins and goldfinches, testifies to the wandering nature of these flocks of redpolls. The recapture three weeks later of the first redpoll banded, and another bird five days after banding indicates that at least some of the birds remained in the area for some time.

Table VIII
Repeat Captures

Date of Banding	Time	Wt., g.	Plumage	Date of recapture	Time	Wt., g.	Percent Change*
Feb. 27	0900	14.53	R	Mar. 19	1300	15.00	+3.23
Mar. 5	1315	14.05	NR	Mar. 10	0700	12.20	+23.4
Mar. 19	0845	12.10	NR	Mar. 20	0945	11.45	-5.37
Mar. 19	0845	12.00	HR	Mar. 19	1200	12.10	+1.54
Mar. 19	1010	13.00	NR	Mar. 19	1130	12.80	-0.83

* Percent change was based on the time of day, i.e., the percent change from early weight to later weight regardless of date.

Holboell's—Greater—Hoary Redpoll

The A.O.U. *Check-list* (6) states, "The validity of this race (*Holboell's* Redpoll, *Acanthis flammea holboellii*) is uncertain from present information; possibly it is not separable from *A.f.flammea*." Bull (7) claims *holboellii* to be "merely an individual variant of nominate *flammea*." Regardless of the status of recognition of this form, it is interesting to note that on March 19 two redpolls, and on March 20 one redpoll with bills matching Forbush's description of *holboellii* were examined and banded. The first bird, caught at 1010, was large and bulky to handle, quite brownish, with head and cheeks buffy, an iridescent orange, rather than crimson crown, and no rose on the breast. The bill was large measuring 10 mm., but more significant was the taper of the sides of the bill as viewed from above. Forbush describes *holboellii* as having straight sides to the bill. This bird had straight tapers to the sides of the bill, whereas the typical *flammea* has a pronounced concave taper. This bird weighed 18.00 g. at FCO and had a wing measuring 78 mm. The second similar bird was caught at 1200, weighed 17.05 g., FCO, and its wing measured 80 mm. It was a big bird with a rosy breast, the more usual crimson crown patch, and a very straight taper to the bill. The third bird was caught at 0915 on March 20 and had no rose, a crimson crown patch, was bulky and weighed 18.70 g. at FCO. Its wing measured 81 mm. and bill 10 mm. Again the straight taper of the bill was prominent. In general all three of these birds, beside having straight bill tapers and being large-sized, were grossly and diffusely marked especially in the streaking of the flank, side and upper breast. Others among the large, heavy segment of the population had markedly concave tapers to the sides of the bill.

According to Forbush, the Greater Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea rostrata*) is characterized by "large size and relatively thicker, shorter more obtuse bill; also rather darker and browner with dusky stripes on sides and flanks usually heavier and broader." Similarly the Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*) is described as having a "small, short conic" bill. The hoary caught at 0915 on March 20 indeed had a stubby bill measuring 7.8 mm. It weighed 13.30 g. at FCO and the wing measured 73 mm. The bird had no rose, the upper breast streaking was delicate and faint, the rump was white and *unstreaked* and the bird generally pale, but not as pale as expected from various bird plates. This Hoary Redpoll was the only stubby-billed redpoll in the group, indicating the absence of any Greater Redpolls.

Several days later in Pittsburgh I examined the Carnegie Museum's series of redpoll skins. No specimens were labeled *holboellii*. Some, but not all, of the specimens labeled *rostrata* had stubby bills similar to *hornemanni* and confirmed the impression that none of the large birds banded resembled the obtuse-billed form known as *rostrata*. Seeing the series of *hornemanni* confirmed the identity of the banded Hoary Red-

poll. It was interesting to see that some of the *hornemanni* had pinkish rumps rather than white rumps, which nonetheless were *unstreaked*.

Careful study of redpolls caught by banders fortunate to have them in numbers could help resolve the redpoll problem. Beside plumage notes and wing measurements, bill measurements and shape should be recorded.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank David Stoner for his help on March 20, 1966 in processing the day's catch. This was of great help to one who was weary from sitting at the balance and note pad from the previous day. In addition, his mere presence offered peace of mind every time I thought about what I would do if my gathering cages filled and another redpoll "cloud" appeared.

Thanks are also due Dr. M. Graham Netting for permission to use the Carnegie Museum collection and to Dr. Mary A. Heimerdinger for assistance in using the collection.

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JANUARY 1967 WATERFOWL CENSUS DATE

The Federation's annual waterfowl census will be taken January 14-22, 1967. It is hoped that Member Clubs will schedule this as a club event. If the weather is good, as many areas as possible should be covered on Sunday, January 15. In case of bad weather, January 22 is the preferred alternate. If neither is possible for your club, the census may be taken at any time within the period. Please send the report, giving date census was taken, area covered, and numbers of each species of waterfowl seen, to John L. Mitchell, 345 Conrad Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14616, who will compile the summary and the comparison with the Conservation Department's aerial census for publication in the *Kingbird*.

NOTES ON BEHAVIOR OF NESTING COOPER'S HAWKS

ERNEST HEMPHILL

The Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*, was once one of the more abundant diurnal birds of prey in Central New York State. In recent years, however, there has been a precipitous drop in observations of this species. The Cooper's Hawk has not been reported as a nesting bird in the Ithaca, New York region for several years. Thus, the discovery of an active nest virtually within the city limits of Ithaca was attended with considerable interest not only because of the scarcity of the birds but also because of the convenience of the nest for frequent observation.

My attention was called to the nest on the morning of April 30, 1966 by the distress calls of one of the hawks. This was followed by a spectacular defensive display as the bird screamed repeatedly from nearby trees and flew in circles over the nest site. Without the cries of the adult I would certainly have missed finding the nest; yet this was the only time in the several months of observations that the parents made any protest to my intrusions. Even when the young were banded the adults did not appear.

Inspection of the nest over the next several days indicated that incubation was already underway, as one of the adults usually flushed as I approached within 10 yards of the tree. The two adults could be distinguished from each other because one bird was brown—apparently still in immature plumage. Although the pair of hawks were never seen together for comparison, the brown bird appeared to be smaller and, thus, was probably the male.

Located in a large pine some 35 feet from the ground, the nest was built next to the tree trunk on several limbs which grew out on the same horizontal plane. The nest tree was located within mixed deciduous-conifer woods on a ridge overlooking Fall Creek and Forest Home Drive in Ithaca. Some 20 yards north of the nest was a half-acre pine plantation which, in turn, was bordered on the north by a dairy farm.

Incubation continued throughout May, but, since I did not climb to the nest, I did not learn how many eggs were in the clutch or the certain date of hatching. The first signs that hatching had occurred, were noted on June 2 when, for the first time, small droplets of white excrement were observed in the area surrounding the nest. Since no appreciable rain fell in June these droppings became one of the notable features of the nesting and eventually extended some ten or more feet from the tree. The excrement was, in fact, one of the few signs that the nest was active as bones and feathers of prey were not seen under the nest during the first month after hatching. The young were not visible, except when being fed, until the third week.

Attempts to observe the adults caring for the young were not rewarded until June 18, when I observed the presumed male (the brown

bird) return. He did not bring prey but, instead, hopped onto the nest to brood. On the morning of the 19th, I was more fortunate as the female was observed returning with prey. From my place of concealment I was able to observe only one fledgling, but it was obvious that there were more as she offered food to something in the opposite side of the nest. In feeding she tore pieces of flesh from the prey (which I could not identify) and gave this to the young. She remained at the nest for 15-20 minutes.

During the third week after hatching the presence of a second nestling was confirmed. The young hawks had become more active and frequently came to the edge of the nest to flap their wings and "slice" (defecate). Unfortunately, I never again was able to observe the adults feed the young.

On June 30, Dr. Walter Spofford banded the young which by this time were already "branchers". The fitness of this latter term remains indelibly impressed in my mind as I remember Dr. Spofford's frustrated attempts to shake the young birds from their refuge at the tips of the branches. We were pleased to find yet a third youngster that had been missed in my counts.

After banding, two of the young hawks were returned to the nest and the third was placed in another tree. A check that evening revealed two birds at the nest, but the third, which was recognized as the "runt" of the family, had disappeared. Over the next several days one or two hawks were generally seen at the nest but the third remained hidden. Finally on July 3, all three birds were found again; one flew from the nest and the others were found in trees nearby—including one perched in a small pine 5 feet off the ground. The missing hawk was found in a somewhat higher tree under which were droppings, feathers and bones. Apparently it had been hidden in this one location for some time and the parents had been feeding it there.

My observations on July 4 revealed that the two larger birds were back at the nest which indicated that the youngsters had gained the agility to move from near ground level to the nest. Over the next several days the young remained near the nest, but were rapidly gaining confidence in their ability to fly and generally didn't hesitate to fly considerable distances.

In the period between July 7 and July 14, the youngsters developed a regular schedule of activity. Checks during the day indicated that the birds were ranging some distance into the surrounding woods as they were rarely seen near the nest. However, every evening that I inspected the locality between 7:00 and 7:30 (EDT) the hawks could be found in the nest tree. They were using the nest as a feeding platform and on several occasions the youngsters could be seen standing there butchering prey. Now, for the first time a few bones and feathers were noted under the tree. An adult was seen at the nest on one of the evening inspections

and this indicated, as expected, that the adults were still supplying the food for the young. Trips to the area later than 7:30 found the nest tree vacant, and checks at dusk revealed that the young hawks did not return for the night, although it is difficult to establish whether this was natural or due to my presence in the vicinity.

On July 14 all three young birds were seen at the nest, and this was the last time any of the young were seen there. The next day the three were seen near the pasture north of the nest; this, in turn, was the last time I saw more than one bird at a time.

Sightings of single birds occurred on July 16 (a young bird sitting in a tree with prey), on July 22 (one hawk flying) and at this writing, the last hawk was seen on August 6. This latter bird was probably a youngster but it was concealed somewhat by branches. A thorough examination of the woods on August 6 and 7 revealed several fresh excrement splashes and the remains of a kill thus confirming that the hawks were still active in the area.

Apart from my interest in the rearing of the young, I tried to determine what effect these raptors had on the local birds and mammals. Naturally, considerable interest was focused on the prey of the hawks, but such information turned out to be most difficult to obtain for remains of prey were very scarce and usually unidentifiable. The remains of a Starling, a Common Grackle and a Red Squirrel were found under and on a leaning log on June 2, and remains of chipmunks, a Blue Jay and a Robin were found at other times. I searched the forest floor within a three hundred yards radius of the nest over the course of several months but except for the prey already mentioned, only occasional single feathers were found, and it was impossible to determine whether these came from prey or were simply lost in molt. It is possible that these hawks, contrary to usual practice, perched high in the trees while plucking their prey and the feathers drifted down over a considerable distance.

Although these hawks undoubtedly made large numbers of kills to maintain themselves, there was no detectable impact on the local wildlife. A pair of Crested Flycatchers raised a family very close to the hawk's nest and were seen there all summer long. Blue Jays were abundant in the nearby pine forest and a Scarlet Tanager sang all summer from the tip-top of a tree immediately below the ridge. Wood Thrushes, Catbirds, Robins, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, etc. were plentiful; this seems to have been a vintage year for Veerys. Large numbers of squirrels were seen near the nest.

The only birds I thought might have been affected were Red-winged Blackbirds. Early in the summer there were several pairs in the pasture north of the nest but they had completely vanished by late June. Since a red-wing out on a meadow might be easy prey, it is tempting to speculate on their fate, but the dry summer and mowing operations may have been the major factors in their disappearance.

The fortuitous circumstances that led me to discover the nesting Cooper's Hawks coupled with the realization of how easily I might have missed this opportunity have given me cause to consider how one might be alerted to the presence of these birds when they don't make a conspicuous display. Perhaps I can demonstrate the problem of finding the hawks with several points: (1) The area around the active nest has two other probable old nests indicating these raptors may have nested here undetected in past years—all this in a populated area only about a mile from Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary. (2) Although I often flushed the adults from the nest itself, I only saw them about a half-dozen times anywhere else but at the nest and these were always quick glimpses of the birds flying away. Most of these sightings I might have missed if I hadn't already been looking for the birds. (3) The hawks only called two or three times in the several months I searched the woods. (4) Finally, one may consider the virtual disappearance of the young once they stopped returning to the nest. I do not wish to infer from this that the Cooper's Hawk is really a common bird that is simply very shy, but it seems likely that for every nest discovered there must be some reasonable number that are missed.

After careful consideration of this problem I have come to feel that the most conspicuous clue to the presence of these birds, in lieu of seeing or hearing them, is their characteristic excrement which is widely observed throughout the nesting area. Descriptions comparing this material to whitewash are most appropriate as it does look as if someone spilled whitewash on the ground. Sometimes the size of the "wash" is rather large, but more often there are only a few drippings on the trees, vegetation, rocks or ground. This is probably due to the excrement striking branches and splattering. The "whitewash" color and the fact that it almost never contains dark or lumpy material distinguishes this excrement from that of large passerine birds.

In addition to the whitewash, observers should be alert to the presence of kills or piles of feathers. As mentioned earlier, however, I do not regard these to be as useful as the excrement because dead bodies of prey are seldom seen unless you virtually step on them while the "wash" is conspicuous at considerable distances. Finally, one should be alert for the presence of molt feathers from the hawks themselves.

Of course, such indirect sign is no replacement for the satisfaction of seeing these handsome birds, but the judicious use of such clues may at least indicate the best areas in which to look and, in turn, more frequent observation of hawks may give us a better understanding of the real status of the birds of prey in New York State.

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COURTS, CONSTITUTION AND CONSERVATION

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

It is not true, a history professor of mine once asserted, that judges necessarily squint at every dotted "i" and crossed "t" of the law when making their decisions. They can have their ears open too and detect the ripples of new breezes moving through the climate of public opinion even before the public is greatly conscious of it. The courts—particularly the higher courts—often have the uncanny acumen to swing their legal sails out in front of these freshening currents. When newspapers see these decisions by the captains of our jurisprudence they blow up streaming headlines that stir the ripples into waves of public opinion, many of which finally wash over the land as new laws.

It was just a year ago that the U.S. Court of Appeals in effect told the Federal Power Commission that it must do its homework completely before allowing Consolidated Edison Company to impose its hydroelectric pump storage operation on top and bottom of scenic Storm King Mountain that stood dramatically above the Hudson River during the days when the Americans and British were struggling along its shores in the Revolution. The court handed the approval back to the FPC and told the Commission to hold hearings where the scenic and natural interests would be given just as much consideration as someone getting cheaper power or a town gaining more jobs.

This decision was like one of those sudden puffs that makes a boat, with its sails unfurled enough, to start zipping over the waters. The momentum of the individuals and organizations fighting for saving Storm King and the Hudson carried through Congress and onto the law books last summer Rep. Richard Ottinger's bill establishing a three-way Hudson River compact between New York, New Jersey and the Federal Government.

In giving the Secretary of the Interior the right to participate in negotiations among the three, the bill implements the court's assertion that scenic, historic and conservation interests must be equally heard; also, the Secretary has the right to review any proposed construction affecting the river and its shores. However, the Secretary was not given veto power as many conservationists had wished.

Is there, then, a close relation between a court decision and subsequent legislation when both the judiciary and legislative are caught in the swirl of public momentum. Would the Court of Appeals have made this decision a few years ago when conservation was still a ripple on the national scene?

For example, nine years ago an effort led by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy was unable to win a court injunction against DDT aerial spraying on Long Island, despite the fight being taken to the Supreme Court

where it had the support of the conservationist-jurist, William O. Douglas. Yet evidence was incriminating that DDT was killing wildlife.

This stubborn, persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon has been greatly blamed for reducing the world's largest osprey breeding area—Gardiner's Island on western Long Island—to a few surviving stragglers. Dennis Puleston of Bellport said, according to a news report, that some 300 nests there in 1941 had been reduced to 48 this year, and only three young were found. He has discovered traces of DDT in the eggs and plans now to investigate eggs of other fish eaters like terns and gulls.

But now a court has ruled against the use of DDT in a suit brought by a Patchogue house wife, Mrs. Victor Yannacone, Jr., against the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission. The Federation at its meeting last spring passed a resolution urging that the Commission cease its use of DDT despite the assertion of its director, Christian T. Williamson, that "We have no record of its ever causing damage to animal life in our controlled program." The State Supreme Court issued a restraining order against the public agency's use of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons.

Why this year—and not nine years ago? Is it because of a rising conservationist public opinion? Perhaps yes. Possibly it also fits into an even wider perspective—the tremendously increased court activity in new sometimes startling decisions. Whether one agrees with them or not, the courts have been making bold, new decisions across the spectrum of American life—through civil rights to legislative apportionment. Now, is conservation—the right to enjoy a hike in an unspoiled woods or to benefit from the water or fish from natural environs—becoming part of this spectrum?

The possible use of the courts, particularly under certain effective conditions of public momentum and fervent court activity, makes it imperative that we have as much protection in our state constitution as possible for a bolster in conservation threats of the future.

The delegates elected this November are supposed to convene in April for the Constitutional Convention. They will review and possibly revise the state constitution and submit the proposals to the public.

It is vital that Article 14, Sections 1 and 4 be retained to protect the Forest Preserve as 'forever wild.' It is imperative even that the 'forever wild' be extended to other natural areas that could be included under this protection if the local communities could be so persuaded.

It is even possible for this convention to involve pollution problems in the constitution.

Indeed, this could be known as the conservationist state constitution as well as being known for its encompassing of other vital concerns of our people.

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FIELD NOTES

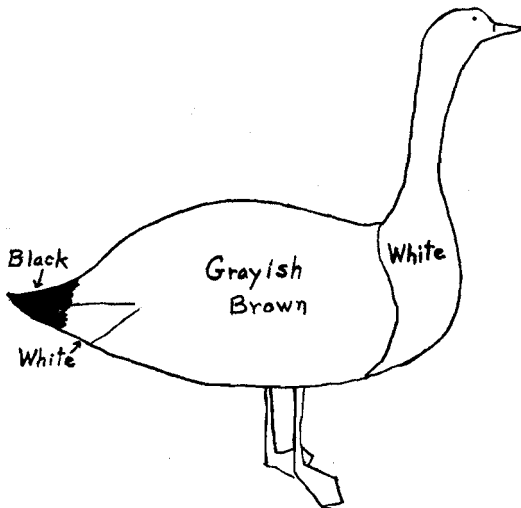
An Unusual Blue Jay Nest: While checking some old Robin nesting sites on June 17, 1965 in the Town of Friendship, Allegany County, New York, I found one of the sites had been taken over by a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). The loosely built but typical jay nest, containing two well-advanced young and one unhatched egg, had been constructed on top of a Robin nest that had been built during the 1964 nesting season. Both were located inside a small shed on a rafter under the roof about ten feet above the ground. The shed, one of several buildings in the dooryard of an old house, had a detached door, thus affording easy access to the inside. Open hay fields surrounded the building complex on all sides for several hundred yards before ending at the edges of deciduous woodland.

Bent (1964: *Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows and Titmice*, Dover, New York, Part 1:37) quotes A. D. Dubois who observed a Blue Jay nest on the roof trusses of an open pavilion at Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua County, New York. He also mentions (*ibid.*, 58, 67) several instances of nesting inside buildings by other members of the same genus. Therefore, while instances of nesting inside buildings are known for the Blue Jay and some of its close relatives, it is apparently an exceedingly rare practice. I find no reference to the fact that Blue Jays have been known to use an old birds nest as a base for their nest.

Richard C. Rosche, P.O. Box 493, Bernardsville, New Jersey 07924

A Strange Goose in Jefferson County: An unusual-looking goose was first seen by one of us (Walker) on April 13, 1966 in the flooded area of the lower flats at PRGMA (S of Rt. 12) feeding with Canada Geese. It was the same size as the Canadas and the same colors except that the head, neck and entire breast were white. (see sketch). Several hundred feet away were two Snow Geese and one definite Blue Goose. These were compared with nearby Canadas and seen to be smaller. These also remained slightly apart from the Canadas while the "white-headed" goose mingled. All were observed with a B and L "Zoom 60" telescope at 40× to 50× in good light.

The strange individual was again seen April 16 by each of us independently in the same area. Attempts to locate it after this date were unsuccessful.



A bird fitting this description was seen at about this time by Conservation Dept. Biologists Adams, Minnick and Moseltine.

Is this a Canada X Snow Goose hybrid or a case of a mutation (partial albinism) of the Canada Goose? A checklist and bibliography of hybrid birds (Cockrum 1952, *Wilson Bull* 64(3): 140-159) does not list any known Canada X Snow Goose hybrid in the wild.

Robert C. Walker, Dry Hill Rd., Watertown, 13601

David C. Gordon, 1347 Sherman St., Watertown, 13601

Ed. Note: Over the past few years, several odd-plumaged geese, either hybrids or partial albinos, have been observed on Cayuga Lake and at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

Common Grackles Catching European Chafers on the Wing: On July 2, 1966 at 9:00 p.m. EDT., Susan Howard and I noticed a flock of approximately 35 Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) alternately feeding on the ground and in the air. They were observed on the grass-covered playground of the North Rose Central School, Village of North Rose in Wayne County, New York. Ground feeding Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) were interspersed within the grackle flock.

The grackles were noted flying up from the ground in hovering pursuit of countless winged, brown beetles. I later identified their prey as the European Chafer (*Amphimallon majalis* Raz.). We watched this unusual behavior for approximately 15 minutes, noting that a single grackle successfully caught a beetle in its beak about once in every 4 attempts. In addition, several grackles were observed flying up to and plucking chafers from the leaves of small deciduous shrubs in the school yard. They captured their quarry in their beaks while hovering in flight, and never lit in the foliage. It should be noted that grackles (perching birds) generally feed on the ground or in trees, and rarely on the wing.

The adult European Chafers are flying beetles which swarm about foliage at dusk, humming like bees. They belong to the family Scarabaeidae, and were introduced into this country about 25 years ago. They are a close relative of many native species of "June Bug", as well as the Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*), and Oriental beetle (*Anomala orientalis*). The larval stage of the chafer is injurious to the roots of most grasses.

Dwight R. Chamberlain, School of Forestry and Wildlife, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blackburg, Virginia 24061

A Summer Record of Rough-legged Hawk in Jefferson County: On July 9, 1966, I observed a dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk along Interstate Route 81 near Watertown. The specific locality was about a mile northwest of Watertown, near the point where the highway crosses the Black River. The area there is open meadow, ideal habitat for this species.

I first observed the bird when I was perhaps a half mile away, and as I drew closer its identity was obvious. The black and white underwing pattern, hovering flight, and white tail base were all conspicuous as I slowed my speed while driving by. The bird was no more than thirty or forty yards from the road and about thirty yards over the meadow. The time was about noon, and there was not a cloud in the sky. I did not use binoculars as I could hardly have had better views in any case.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, this is the first summer record for this species in New York State. According to the literature, the Rough-legged Hawk breeds no further south than Newfoundland, northern Quebec (Ungava Peninsula), and extreme northern Ontario. The present record would, therefore, be several hundred miles south of this range.

While there appear to be no summer records of this species for New York State, there are some summer records of this species south of its normal range. These include one seen in the Carolinas on June 2, 1964 which was killed some time later by

a truck (Fatora, *Chat* Vol. 30(2): 50, 1966), and one seen near Boston, Massachusetts up to June 29 of this year (*Mass. Audubon Newsletter* Vol. 6(1): 3, 1966).

I am indebted to Mr. David Gordon and Dr. David Peakall for much of the information in this note.

James K. Meritt, 809 Saratoga Terrace, Blackwood, New Jersey 08012.

More Notes on Red-Headed Woodpeckers near Oneida: Following the publication of my field note on Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) in the Oneida area (*Kingbird* 13(4): 203, 1963), I have continued to check on their nesting sites each year. At that time about 15 locations were noted in this area. In 1964, 17 active nesting sites were mentioned in the regional report and 24 in 1965 (*Kingbird* 14(4): 228 and 15(4): 240).

This summer, 1966, all previous nesting sites were checked with a resulting total of 27 pairs, plus singles in six other places, which may represent 33 nestings. In addition, Mr. J. Heinz of Canastota has given me data indicating five more nesting pairs, none of which duplicate those listed above. All of these records are within ten miles of Oneida, with the heaviest concentration being south and southwest of that city. I have also had reports of one pair in Rome, one pair on the north shore of Oneida Lake at Cleveland, and two pairs near Nine Mile swamp in southeast Madison County.

In several places Red-headed Woodpeckers are coming to feeders, for both suet and seeds. Sunflower seeds are carried off one at a time, held on a branch or post while the meat is extracted, and a return trip made for another. At Palmer Drive in Wampsville, two pairs have nested near enough to use the feeders provided for them, and H. P. Nodecker in Kenwood also has two pairs using his feeders, with a third pair less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile away. The immature birds started coming independently to the feeders about Aug. 20. In both these places there is an abundance of dead trees, mostly elms, to provide suitable nesting.

It has seemed to me that fewer Redheads have been noticeable along the roads recently, in spite of the increase in numbers. The birds we have studied this year seem less likely to perch on roadside fence posts, but instead, keep well back in the fields and trees away from the roads, always preferring secluded areas.

Mrs. Willard D. Ackley, Mansion House, Kenwood Station, Oneida, N.Y. 13421

Example of Need for Caution in Publishing Reports of Rare Birds: Another example of the problems of field identification, and of the fact that even so-called "experts" can disagree, emphasizing the importance of caution in publishing positive reports of rare species, is cited below.

At 1:15 P.M. on Wednesday June 1, 1966, the attention of two graduate students of the Laboratory of Ornithology was drawn to a large falconiform bird circling over the Stuart Observatory. They alerted me, and with six or eight others I went outside to watch the bird. It was large, appearing all dark, but with a faint flash of light in the wings when it wheeled, and after a moment's observation I called out "Golden Eagle." In my own mind at that moment there was no doubt—only two months earlier I had had a number of sightings of this species and of the Bald Eagle, in the southwest, both from the ground and from an airplane. I ran for my camera and took several shots with a 240 mm lens, trying to get as good a silhouette as possible. During that time I was not observing the bird carefully, but others, two or three of whom confirmed my identification, had field glasses on it, and one telescope was also in use. We all agreed that the head seemed proportionately small and the tail rather long. The Eagle was in view about 10 minutes, circling slowly higher against a leaden sky (and also was seen a few minutes later over Mt. Pleasant by L. F. Pearsall.)

There was disagreement afterwards, among the observers, on the location of the pale under-wing areas (and in fact the observer with the telescope stated that the

bird appeared uniformly dark to him.) The question was now raised: Could it actually have been an immature Bald Eagle?" I now had my own second thoughts, for it occurred to me that a Golden, showing any light in the wing, should show some light in the tail—and this bird definitely had an all-dark tail.

When my four pictures returned from processing, my husband, Dr. Walter Spofford, examined them—and on the basis of the first picture identified the bird as a Golden Eagle. But after looking at the other three shots, he was able to identify it definitely as an immature Bald Eagle, from head and tail shape as well as plumage.

This was a valuable experience for all of us, emphasizing the need for caution and the difficulty of identification under some lighting conditions and at certain distances or from a single picture. And as D. B. Peakall pointed out in *Kingbird* 15(4) p. 219 subsequent observers often accept too readily an identification by a first observer—in this case myself! Photographs can be of great value in such circumstances.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

June 1—August 15

DAVID B. PEAKALL

One of the most important events of the summer was the launching, on a nation-wide basis, of the Breeding Bird Survey. These surveys are organized by Chandler Robbins of the Migratory Bird Populations Station at Laurel, Maryland (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). In these surveys observers drive 25 miles with stops of three minutes every half-mile. At each stop the numbers of all species seen or heard are recorded. This summer 586 survey routes were completed in the 26 states east of the Mississippi and in four Canadian Provinces. In all 518,176 birds of 274 species were recorded. The most abundant species recorded were Common Grackle, Starling, House Sparrow, Redwing and Robin. Several of these surveys were carried out in this state, but more observers are needed and it is vital that these surveys are repeated annually. This program should complement the information obtained from the Nest Record Card Program. For example, losses on the wintering grounds would show up by a decrease in numbers on the Breeding Bird Survey although breeding success would remain normal. Conversely, with pesticides a decrease in breeding success shown by the Nest Record Card Program would be expected to precede a decrease in the numbers on the Breeding Bird Survey. These transits of the Fish and Wildlife Service study are the mechanized successor of the line transits of Gross and Ray in their Illinois survey referred to in a previous summary (Vol. 15:226) and of the singing warbler counts that Scheider has been carrying out for several years in the Tug Hill.

The Willet was added to the list of breeding birds of the state by the

discovery of three nests on Long Island. In view of the discontinuous range of this species (it breeds in Nova Scotia and from New Jersey south and has bred in Mass. and Conn.) the discovery on Long Island is not completely unexpected. There were other interesting breeding records from that area, including further documentation of the increase of the Great Black-backed Gull and the Glossy Ibis.

Three visits to Gardiner's Island showed the nesting failure of the Osprey; only two nests out of twenty-four contained young on June 18, when young would be expected in all nests that would raise young. The expansion of the Goshawk into lower altitudes has not been sustained this summer. No nests were found in Regions 5 & 6 compared to 2-3 nests in each of the last three years. A single nesting of the Cooper's Hawk was noted in the state (Region 3) and an unsuccessful attempt by Bald Eagle (Region 2). Otherwise the general hawk situation was similar to the usual dismal picture with only the Redtail and possibly the Broadwing holding their own.

Two other breeding records of note are the finding of the nest of the Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Tug Hill and the trapping of a juvenile Saw-whet Owl on Long Island. Henslow's Sparrows were noted as absent from many usual breeding areas in Regions 5 & 8 but this species had a good season in Region 3.

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Abbreviations used in regional reports: arr-arrival, arrived; Co-County; imm-immature; L-Lake; max-maximum one day count; mob-many observers; Pk-Park; Pt-Point; R-River; Rd-Road.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ALICE E. AND EDWARD C. ULRICH

A deficiency of rainfall and a rise in temperature that brought an excess of 2.6 degrees above the average made June a warm and dry month. Continued increased warmth in July and August eliminated a minus degree temperature and at the end of August, there was an excess of 50 degrees for the ending of the period. Rainfall, exceptionally heavy in July, and slightly so in August raised the yearly total for the year nearly to normal. These weather records are from the U.S. Weather Station at the greater Buffalo International Airport. Other parts of the area missed the rainfall and suffered from almost drought conditions.

There are reports of good duck nestings from the ponds and marshes of Western New York. Frances Rew records 180-200 Wood Duck, mostly immatures, at the Riverside Marsh near Jamestown. There are reports of good concentrations of mixed flocks of Mallards and Wood Ducks from

the East Eden Pond and marshy areas to the north and east of Buffalo. In one section within the limits of Williamsville semi-wild Mallards have responded to the attractive environment of water and food and have successfully raised broods of young, in one case in the landscaped shrubbery of a residence.

Worthy of especial mention is the observation of four Piping Plover at Hamburg Town Park on eastern shore of Lake Erie by Thomas L. Bourne. The forty-nine Upland Plovers from scattered sections seem to indicate an increase in the numbers of that shorebird in Western New York.

Abbreviations used in this report: Alleg—Allegany; Angel—Angelica; Belm—Belmont; Bflo—Buffalo; Br—Brook; Catt—Cattaraugus; Cheek—Cheektowaga; Chau—Chautauqua; CPk—Como Park, Lancaster; CRPk—Chestnut Ridge Park; E—East; HTPk—Hamburg Town Pk; Is—Island; Lanc—Lancaster; M—Marsh; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; P—Pond; Prend—Prendergast Point; S—South; SPk—South Park, Buffalo; Tift—Tift St Marsh, Buffalo.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Anderle; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; LB—Lois Buck; GB—George Buckland; DD—Dorothy Danner (Mrs. Fred); AF—Dr Arthur Freitag; JG—Joseph Grzybowski; JK—Joseph Kikta; CWK—Clarence W. Klingensmith; WHK—Walter and Harriet Klambunde; EEO—Edwin and Edith Olmstead; FMR—Frances M. Rew; LR—Lynn Rochester; JR—Joseph Rybczynski; RS—Robert Sundell; MMW—Margaret and Marie Wendling.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one imm summered at Foster's L, Alfred (CWK). Great Blue Heron: 40 Jun 18, 50 Aug 9 OOGMA (JG); several July records of one to seven, Alleg Co (LDB). Green Heron: one Jul 10 Batavia (GB); common, max six, July 1–31 thru Alleg Co; one imm Aug 1–15 Belm (LDB); max four Aug 1–15 Spring Br (DD); 50 Aug 9 OOGMA (JG). Common Egret: one Aug 8 OOGMA (PB). Black-crowned Night Heron: four Jun reports of singles; three Jun 15 Tift (JK). Least Bittern: one Jun 30, four Jul 17, two Jul 29, all Tift (JK). American Bittern: two Jul 25, 30 Cuba M (LDB). Ducks: Mallard: several reports, max 12, Jul 1–31 Belm-Cuba M area. Black: max 24 Jul 31 Belm (LDB). Blue-winged Teal: max 50 Jul 30 Cuba M (LDB). American Widgeon: one Jul 18 OOGMA (JG). Wood: six Jul 21 S. Pk (JK); 180–200, mostly imm, Jul 24 Riverside, Chau Co (FMR); adult and eight young Aug 7 Cuba M (LDB). Ruddy: one Jun 18 OOGMA (JG). Hooded Merganser: two Jun 10 Alfred (CWK); two Jul 9 Beaver Meadow (HDM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: four Jul 22 Batavia (GB), eating woodchuck. Hawks: Sharp-shinned: one Jun 20 Hamburg (TLB); two Jul 4 E Concord (RFA); one Aug 3 Sturgeon Pt and one Aug 12 Belm (LDB). Cooper's: one Jul 20 Belm (LDB). Red-tailed: several reports of one-two Aug 1–15 Alleg Co (LDB). Red-shouldered: one Jul 22 Scio, three Jul 30 Friendship (LDB). Broad-winged: Aug 11, two Belm and one Alma (LDB). Bald Eagle: one imm Aug 11 Hamburg (TLB). Marsh: one Jul Alfred (CWK); one Aug 6 Belm (LDB); one Aug 11 Elma (DD). Osprey: one Jun 2 Belm, one Jun 13 Scio (LDB). Sparrow: one Aug 11 Wellsville (LDB).

Bobwhite: one Jun 18 OOGMA (JG). Turkey: one Aug 3 Eden (TLB). Virginia Rail: two (adult and imm) Riverside Jul 24 (FMR). Sora: one Jul 22 Belm (LDB); one adult and two downy young Jul 24 Riverside (FMR). Common Gallinule: three Jul 30 Friendship (LDB); max ten Aug 1–15 Belm (LDB).

PIPING PLOVER: four Jun 30 HTPk (TLB, LR). Ruddy Turnstone: 12 Jun 3 Athol Springs (TLB). American Woodcock: one Jul 23, 24 Lewiston (WHK); one Jul Alfred (CWK). Sandpipers: Upland Plover: 16 Jun 21 Lanc (JG); three Jul 3 Elma (JR); adult and one young Jul 5 Alfred (CWK); nine Jul 3 and two Jul 12 Grand Is (WHK); 17 Jul 9 Catt Rd (MMW). Spotted: one Jul 24 Riverside (FMR); two Jul 19-31 Alfred (CWK); two-five Aug 1-15 Spring Br (DD). Solitary: one Jul 23 Belm (LDB); four Jul 24 Riverside (FMR). Greater Yellowlegs: max 12 Jul 30 Cuba M (LDB); three-five Aug 1-15 Spring Br (DD). Lesser Yellowlegs: one Jun 4 Spring Br (DD); max 20 Jul 7 Depew (JG). Pectoral: five reports—first, one Jul 16 HTPk (TLB), max ten Jul 30 Cuba M (LDB). White-rumped: one Aug 9 HTPk (TLB). Baird's: one Aug 12 HTPk (TLB). Least: one, Jul 7 Depew (JG) and Jul 16 HTPk (TLB); two, Jul 7, 8 Prend (RS) and Jul 24 Riverside (FMR). Short-billed Dowitcher: one each, Jul 7, Athol Springs (TLB), Depew (JG), Prend (RS); one Jul 24 Riverside (FMR); three Aug 11 HTPk (DD). Stilt: one Aug 3, 4, 8 Prend (RS). Semiplumated: four Jul 16 HTPk (TLB); seven Jul 24 Riverside (FMR); two Aug 11 E Aurora (DD). Western: one, two, one Jul 19, 27, Aug 4 HTPk, Prend (TLB, RS). Sanderling: two Jul 16 and five Aug 11 HTPk (TLB, DD). Bonaparte's Gull: one Jul 1 Barcelona (RS). Little Gull: one Aug 15 Front Pk Bflo (JG). Caspian Tern: one Jul 23 Barcelona (RS); one Aug 3 Sturgeon Pt (TLB). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Jul 22 Belm (LDB). Black-billed Cuckoo: adult feeding young Jul 10 Angel (LDB); one Jul 23, 24 Angel, Belm (LDB). Barn Owl: one Jul 1, 2 Barcelona (RS); six (a family) Jul 2, 5 and three Jul 10 Alden (JG, JR). Screech Owl: one Jul 1, 2 Lewiston (WHK). Long-eared Owl: adult and imm Aug 8 Wellsville (LDB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one Jun 5 Alfred (CWK); one Jul 2 Hamburg (TLB). Chimney Swift: one-50 Jul 1-31 and eight-15 Aug 1-15, Belm; two-seven Aug 1-15 Spring Br. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one-two Jul 1-31 and four-six Aug 1-15, Belm, four Jul 31 Batavia (GB). Belted Kingfisher: four max Jul 1-31 Belm (LDB); four max Aug 1-15 Belm, Alma (LDB).

Woodpeckers: Yellow-shafted Flicker: 10 max Jul 1-31 and 12 max Aug 1-15 Belm; six Jul 25, 30 Cuba M (LDB). Red-headed: one Jul 10 Belm (LDB); imm and two adults Jul 27, 28 Belm (EEO); one Jul 30 Hamburg (JK). Hairy: two max Jul 1-31 and two-four Aug 1-15 Belm; two Jul 31 CRPk. Downy: four max Jul 1-31 and six max Aug 1-15 Belm.

Eastern Kingbird: 40 (two nests), max 16/day well distributed thru Alleg Co (LDB); many records of one-four thru period over most of Region. Eastern Phoebe: many records, max four, Alleg Co. Least Flycatcher: max eight Jul 10, 25, 30 W Almond, Cuba M (LDB); one Aug 6 Belm (LDB). Eastern Wood Pewee: one-two Jul 1-31 Belm (EEO); two Jul 14, 31 CRPk (AF).

Swallows: Tree: six-eight Jul 1-31 Belm (EEO); eight Jul 10 W Almond, ten Jul 31 Belm (LDB). Bank: 25 Jul 1-31 Belm (LDB). Rough-winged: six Jul 31 CRPk (AF). Barn: 50 Jul 1-31 (EEO), two nests with four young in each Jul 30 (LDB), 24 max Aug 1-15, all Belm; 100 Jul 31 Batavia (GB). Cliff: 11 nests, adult feeding young in nest Jul 10 Angel, young in four nests Jul 10 W Almond (LDB, EEO); 30 max Aug 1-15 Belm (LDB). Purple Martin: 30 max (four houses) Jul 1-31 and 12 max Aug 1-15 Belm (LDB, EEO).

Blue Jay: max five Jul 1-31 Belm (EEO); six Jul 31 CRPk (AF). Common Crow: max 20 Jul 1-31 Belm. Black-capped Chickadee: max, three Jul 1-31 and six Aug 1-15 Belm; 12 Aug 14 CRPk (JG). Tufted Titmouse: one-four Jul 17-31 at peanut butter feeder several times a day Lewiston (WHK). White-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 Jul 1-31 Belm. Red-breasted Nuthatch: two carrying food Jun 28 McCarty Hill (JG); one Jul 9 Beaver Meadow (JK); one Jul 31 E. Concord (RFA). Brown Creeper: two and nest Jun 11 Beaver Meadow (PB); one Aug 14 CRPk (JG).

Short-billed Marsh Wren: one Jul 22 E Eden P (TLB). Mockingbird: one Jul 8, 23 Hamburg (TLB); one Jul 23 Brocton (FMR, LB). Catbird: two adults feeding three young on honeysuckle Jul 7 Belm (LDB, EEO); max 10 Jul 25 Cuba M (LDB). Brown Thrasher: many Alleg Co records thru period, max six; one Aug 7, 10 Spring Br (DD). Robin: max 25 Aug 1-15 Belm. Wood Thrush: several Jul reports of one-three. Hermit Thrush: two-three Jul 1-31 Belm (LDB). Veery: two Jul 17 CRPk (AF). Eastern Bluebird: records from Lanc, Belm, Angel, Boston, max six Belm; nesting Jul Belm (EEO). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Jun 28 Taylor Hollow (JG); one Jul 9, 29 Beaver Meadow, Kiantone (HDM, RS); one Aug 13 CPk (JG). Golden-crowned Kinglet: one Jun 28 McCarty Hill (JG); one Jul 4 and two Jul 31 E Concord (RFA). Cedar Waxwing: many well distributed Alleg Co records, Jul max 25, Aug max 10; imm feeding on honeysuckle Jul 22, four very young being fed and one partly grown Jul 26 Belm (EEO, LDB). Loggerhead Shrike: one Aug 3 Derby (TLB).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Red-eyed Vireo: six Jul 31 CRPk (AF). Warblers: Blue-winged: one Jul 9 Beaver Meadow (JR); one Aug 14 CPk (JG). Nashville: one Aug 13, 14 CPk (JG). Yellow: max six Jul 1-31 Belm, Cuba M (LDB, EEO). Myrtle: one Jun 8, 15 Alfred, one Jun 28 McCarty Hill Belm (CWK, JG); one Jul 14 Belm (EEO). Black-throated Green: three Jul 14 CRPk (AF); one Aug 7 CPk (JG). Found quite commonly in evergreen plantations in Alfred, with some Magnolia Warblers and juncos, when trees reach 10-12 feet; in more mature stands with tree height 50 feet or more, Black-throated Green, Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers, Junco, Wood and Hermit Thrushes and Veeries occur (CWK). Cerulean: one Jul 1-8 Barcelona (RS). Blackburnian: one Aug 7F, 14 CPk (JG). Chestnut-sided: two Jul 10 Angel (LDB). Bay-breasted: one Aug 14F CPk (JG). Blackpoll: one Jun 2 S Pk (JK); one Jun 6 OOGMA (PB). Ovenbird: one Jul 4 E Concord (RFA); one Jul 17 CRPk (AF). Northern Waterthrush: one Aug 1 Barcelona (RS). Mourning: one Jul 9 Beaver Meadow (HDM). Yellowthroat: max six Jul 1-31 Belm (EEO, LDB). Yellow-breasted Chat: one Jul 22 E Eden P (TLB). Hooded: two Jul 14, one Jul 17 CRPk (AF). Canada: one Aug 13 CPk (JG). American Redstart: two Jul 24 and one adult and one young Aug 7, Alma (LDB); two Aug 7-11 Spring Br (DD).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: one Jul 31 Batavia (GB); four records, max three, Jul 31-Aug 8 Belm (LDB). Eastern Meadowlark: Belm, max 12 Jul, max four Aug (LDB). Red-winged Blackbird: 25-5000 Jul 1-31 (flocking by end of Jul) and 246 Aug 6 Belm (LDB); 200 Jul 10, 150 Jul 25, 50 Jul 30 Angel; 3000 Jul 27 and 5000 Aug 1 Belvidere Roost (EEO). Baltimore Oriole: max 10 Jul Alleg Co records; one Jul 31 CRPk (AF). Common Grackle: many average (25) Jul records Belm-Cuba area; 500 Aug 1 Belvidere Roost (EEO); 2000 Aug 4 over Hamburg (TLB). Scarlet Tanager: several singles Jul Alleg Co; one Jul 31 CRPk (AF). Cardinal: max ten Jul 1-31, two Aug 1-15 Belm (LDB); two Jul 31 CRPk (AF). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 12 Jul 1-31 Alleg Co. Indigo Bunting: many Jul records, max three Alleg Co. American Goldfinch: good Jul records; max 20 Jul 1-31 Alleg Co and max 50 Aug 1-15 Belm. Rufous-sided Towhee: max 10 Belm.

Sparrows: Savannah: one-six max Jul 1-31 and four max Aug 1-15, Belm (LDB). Vesper: five max July 1-31 Belm (EEO). Slate-colored Junco: two adults, nest, two young out of nest Jul 8 Ellicottville (PB); five Jul 17 CRPk (AF); max two Jul 1-31 Scio (EEO); nest with four eggs Jul 16, three young and one egg Jul 25, empty Aug 1, Alfred (CWK). Chipping: good Jul records, max 10 Belm-Cuba M area. Field: max two Jul 1-31 Belm: two Jul 31 CRPk (AF). Swamp: 12 Jul 3 Cuba M. (LDB). Song: 12 max Jul 1-31 Belm, Cuba M; four-ten Aug 1-15 Belm (LDB).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for June were about normal. July was consistently hot with frequent days of 90 degrees and above. The first half of August in contrast was cool. Rainfall for June was about $\frac{3}{4}$ " below normal. From June 22 to July 20, only .01" of rain fell at the Rochester weather station. A mild drought set in and almost reached moderate drought conditions by July 20. Fairly heavy rains the last ten days of the month brought total rainfall for July to almost normal. Precipitation for the first half of August was about average.

The spring migration concluded early with only a few stragglers present after June 1. The lake level remained high which made poor shore-birding.

Outstanding birds seen included Whimbrel, Franklin's and Little Gulls, and Forster's Tern.

Observers cited: JF—John Foster; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; HSM—Howard S. Miller; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; BO—Bernard Olin; AAS—Alfred A. Starling; ES—Esther Stiles; MS—Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow.

Localities: BB—Braddock's Bay; ES—East Spit; PMP—Powder Mill Park; SA—Shore Acres; SP—Summerville Pier; WS—West Spit.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: a rare breeder locally, nested at SA where eight adults and young were seen Jun 19 (WCL). Double-crested Cormorant: very rare locally in summer; two Jul 6 at Manitou (WCL). Least Bittern: at SA as usual, where two birds were seen Jun 19 (WCL). An adult male Common Goldeneye, often accompanied by a female Bufflehead, was repeatedly observed around the WS Jun 5–14 (WLC). On Jun 15 the goldeneye was still present but the Bufflehead was not seen. Neither was seen subsequently. Red-breasted Merganser: three Jun 1–15 WS (WCL).

HAWKS—OWLS: A nest of the Turkey Vulture containing a single young bird was found in a swamp near Clyde (W. E. Benning), field note in next issue. While the bird is common locally in our area, the nest is very rarely found. Red-tailed Hawk: seven in Avon area Jun 19 (GOS Hike). The pair of Bald Eagles ranging the "Little Finger Lakes" area nested this year. They were observed incubating May 10–30 but the nest was abandoned with no sign of occupancy in early Jul (Dr. W. Spofford). Osprey: one at BB Jun 5 (WCL) probably a late straggler from spring migration. American Coot: rare in summer locally; one at SA Jun 19 (WCL). WHIMBREL: one on SP Jul 27 (AEK) and another at the ES the same day (AEK); one at ES Jul 30 (SHM, Michael O'Hara, RTO). Upland Plover: 13 in the Avon area Jun 19 (GOS hike).

An adult FRANKLIN'S GULL was carefully observed on SP Jun 14 (Laura Moon, ST) and probably the same bird was observed there again Jul 12 (ST). It is unusual to record this species in summer; most of our records being in the fall. LITTLE GULL: one at BB Jun 14–15 (WCL), not seen subsequently. FORSTER'S TERN: one at BB Jun 15 (WCL) and one to two present there all of Jul (WCL et al). Caspian Tern: scarce during spring migration, appeared in good numbers late

Jul, max 55 at Float Bridge Aug 12 (HSM, AAS). A pair of Barn Owls attempted to nest in a silo in Parma (TET) but abandoned the nest when the silo was filled. Screech Owls continued scarce with only two reports.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpecker: 11 in Avon area Jun 19 (GOS hike). Red-breasted Nuthatch: three in Durand-Eastman Pk Jul 31 (MS, ST); the species nested there earlier in the year. Brown Creeper: seven in PMP Jul 12 (AAS, ST); this probably represents a pair of adults and their brood. Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were in typical habitat at BB Jul 16 and probably nested (HSM, AAS, ST). Mockingbird: two seen in Newark Jun 25 (JF, ES, TET) where they nested; also nested in Penfield (James J. Doherty); single birds observed in Fairport Jun 6 (June Feder), PMP Jul 12 (AAS, ST) and near Mendon Jul 22 (TET). Eastern Bluebird: max only six near Avon Jun 19 (GOS hike)—a pair of adults and four young. Loggerhead Shrike: uncommon locally, one near Avon Jun 19 (GOS hike).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Golden-winged Warbler: nine in PMP Jun 9 (ST). Blue-winged Warbler: scarce this year; two near Hemlock Jun 12 (GOS hike). Two pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats probably nested in Fairport (BO et al) and one was seen in Mendon Ponds Pk Jun 12 (TET). Canada Warbler: one at Manitou Jun 19 (WCL)—the species is not known to nest in this area, although it nests regularly south of the city.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Grasshopper Sparrows were uncommon and Henslow's Sparrows were still scarcer locally. A White-throated Sparrow was present in Bergen Swamp Jun 12 (GOS hike). This is one of the few locations in our area where this species is even suspected of nesting.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

The drought continued, but in the Ithaca area was somewhat less severe this summer than last, with a few hard rains easing the situation. There were two or three periods of above-normal temperatures. The absence of any prolonged cool wet periods favored nesting success of most species.

Purple Martins, Tree Swallows and Phoebe's showed the effects of the severe weather conditions in early May—these species were scarce. Most later arriving species of insectivores seemed in normal numbers.

I fail to see any improvement in the Bluebird population in Region 3 and cannot help feeling that we need more interest locally in establishing Bluebird trails. Certainly those areas which have put out scores of nest boxes are showing results.

All hawks except Redtails and possibly Broadwings continued their decrease as breeding birds, and I learned of no Screech Owl nests this summer. Other species that seemed scarce include both Cuckoos, Night-hawks, Chimney Swifts, Hummingbirds, Least Flycatchers, Crows, Redstarts, and Black-throated Green Warblers. Those that seemed abundant

include Mourning Doves, Flickers, Catbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings and Rufous-sided Towhees.

The breeding bird census at Sapsucker Woods produced 61 species. There were 14 Mallard broods and 5 Wood Duck broods, as compared with 15 and 10 last year; however, brood size averaged larger. Red-eyed Vireos and Ovenbirds showed a decided drop; House Wrens, Robins, Field and Song Sparrows an increase.

At Montezuma, Canada Goose production had almost doubled, while there were fewer broods of ducks. This last was probably due to the drainage of the Storage Pool, which, according to the Manager, "reduced our brood habitat by about a third." A severe storm on June 9 probably drowned out many nests, and definitely cut down on Coot success, and possibly Black Tern.

High vegetation on the drained Storage Pool flats has cut down on shorebird sightings there, but the recent exposure of mud in the Mays Point Pool has provided an interesting variety of species. Most of the shorebird reports in the body of this summary will be those of Walter Benning. There is a sad lack of suitable habitat throughout the rest of the Region, and Ithaca's "Hog Hole" is now a thing of the past.

Several 25 mi. breeding bird surveys, as proposed by the F. and W. Service, were run in the Region this year, and it is hoped that more of these 'random samplings' will be taken next year.

Observers cited: WEB—Walter E. Benning; JBr—Jack Brubaker; PAB—Paul A. Buckley; FG—Frank Guthrie; WG—William Groesbeck; EH—Ernest Hemphill; PK—Paul Kelsey; JM—John Morse; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; FO—Francis Orcutt; BS—Betty Strath; JS—Joseph Smith; SHS—Sally Spofford; WRS—Walter Spofford; NW—Newell Washburn.

Localities: Cay L.—Cayuga Lake; Conn Hill—Connecticut Hill; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen L.—Seneca Lake; Steu Co.—Steuben County; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; THS—Texas Hollow Sanctuary.

LOON—DUCKS: Common Loon: three late June records are of interest: five still in winter plumage Jun 25 Aurora (DM); one, plumage not mentioned Jun 26 Indian Pines on Keuka L (FO); two, last week in Jun, Sen L (BS). Pied-billed Grebe: poor breeding success MNWR (JM). Double-crested Cormorant: one Jul 10 Ithaca; one Jul 26 MNWR (WEB). Great Blue Heron: max 132 Jul 4 MNWR (WEB); new colony, 12–15 nests, w. of Elmira in Steu Co. Common Egret: max less than 20, down from most years MNWR; none at Hornell this year (WG). Black-crowned Night Heron: max 27 Jul 20 MNWR (WEB); many observers commented on their abundance at the Refuge this year. They nested in the reeds. Least Bittern: few sightings at MNWR; one sighting, late Jul, Penn Yan Marsh (Mrs. Leo Cunningham). American Bittern: absent from some former locations around Ithaca; absent from Hornell for 3rd year. Canada Goose: 28 broods, as opposed to 16 in 1965, MNWR (JM).

The following figures are numbers of broods of ducks at MNWR, the symbol in () indicating increase(+), decrease(-) or same (s) in comparison with the '65 season. Figures are courtesy of John Morse. Mallards 28 (-), Black Duck 4 (-), Gadwall 20 (-), American Widgeon 2 (s), Pintail 0 (-), Green-winged Teal 2 (s), Blue-winged Teal 24 (-), Shoveler 1 (-), Wood Duck 16 (-), Redhead 6 (-), Canvasback and Ruddy Duck 0 (-), Hooded Merganser 3 (-). Decreases believed due to

decrease in nesting habitat this year, and severe storms in June. At SWS, Mallards raised 14 broods, Black Ducks 1, Wood Ducks 5. Hooded Mergansers were present and may have been successful, but no brood actually seen.

HAWKS—OWLS: Sharp-shinned Hawk: no sightings, no known nestings. Cooper's Hawk: one sighting Jul 15, near Hornell (WG); three young fledged near Ithaca (EH & WRS), first known nest in several years. Red-tailed Hawk: normal numbers. Red-shouldered Hawk: decreasing everywhere. Broad-winged Hawk: pairs seen three or four locations, including Conn Hill (JBr), Bald Hill Rd s. of Jennings Pond (DM), Arnot Forest; no actual nests located, but species seems to be increasing as breeding bird. Bald Eagle: imm Jun 1 SWS (mob); imm changing to adult Aug 7 MNWR (WEB); one, age not stated, Jun 20 over Horseheads (JS). Marsh Hawk: pair regular MNWR. Sparrow Hawk: sev. more previous nesting spots unoccupied this year, but sev. new ones located in Ithaca area; reported scarcer around Hornell with 8 sightings only (WG). Bobwhite: scattered reports of those surviving from recent releases, one Jun Waterloo (JW). Ring-necked Pheasant: abundant. Rails: few sightings all summer. Common Gallinule: excellent breeding success MNWR. American Coot: relatively poor breeding success MNWR.

Shorebird reports below were contributed by WEB from MNWR unless otherwise noted. Because of difficulties of viewing early season at MNWR, some first dates cited may not be firsts. Semi-palmated Plover: first Jul 15, max 19 Aug 10. Killdeer: max 130 Jul 17. Black-bellied Plover: three Aug 10. Common Snipe: 14-28 during period Jul 1-Aug 15. Upland Plover: two broods of two each near Etna (SHS); new location near Trumansburg, late June (NW); scattered others noted. Spotted Sandpiper: fewer young noted MNWR. Solitary Sandpiper: two Jul 17 THS (JBr), probably non-breeders, or early migrants; same date MNWR. Greater Yellowlegs: first Jul 30, 11 max Aug 10. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Jul 1, max 39 Aug 10. Pectoral Sandpiper: first Jul 20, max 19 Aug 10. White-rumped Sandpiper: one only Aug 2. Least Sandpiper: first Jul 13, max 50 Jul 20. Short-billed Dowitcher: six Jul 10, 14 max Aug 14. Stilt Sandpiper: first Jul 21 (PAB). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: first and max 500 Jul 20. Hudsonian Godwit: one Aug 6 and 7. RUFF: one Aug 7-10, carefully identified by sev. observers. Wilson's Phalarope: two Aug 10. Northern Phalarope: two Aug 13.

Caspian Tern: one-three seen regularly MNWR Jul 13-Aug 13. Black Tern: though some early nestings were broken up, this species seemed in good numbers, 100 or more, to mid-Jul MNWR, left early and only one seen after Jul 13, on Aug 14. Mourning Dove: abundant everywhere. Both Cuckoos scarce everywhere except Waterloo.

Barn Owl: nest with 2 nearly grown young near Havana Glen, Montour Falls Aug 14 (JBr). Barred Owl: seen and heard SWS through summer, present Hendershot Gulf near Alpine Jul 24 (JBr).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: very scarce. Chimney Swift: relatively scarce. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: definitely scarce. Belted Kingfisher: normal numbers. Yellow-shafted Flicker: good numbers, bred successfully. Pileated Woodpecker: not known to have raised young in Sapsucker Woods or Stewart Park, Ithaca this year, though present. Red-headed Woodpecker: continues scarce in Region. New location: nested at George Junior Republic Freeville and brought young to feeder at Stralem House in early August. Eastern Kingbird: locally abundant. Great Crested Flycatcher: increase noted around Keuka; locally abundant, Ithaca area. Least Flycatcher: scarce. Wood Pewee: not too numerous early in season, obviously successful nestings, so abundant later. Horned Lark: good numbers. Tree Swallow: all reporters mentioned scarcity. Bank Swallow: several colonies had marked success, and increases were noted; peak of 5500-6500 on wires at MNWR third week Jul (WEB). Cliff Swallow: some decrease noted. Purple Martin: no drastic effect of spring kill noted in this Region. Blue Jay: very abundant. Common Crow: decrease

noted. Both Marsh Wrens very scarce for example only one sighting of Long-billed at Keuka and at Elmira, and WEB noted decrease at MNWR; short-bills found at two locations MNWR only, no other sightings. Mockingbird: first definite nesting record for Ithaca area: two young out of nest being fed, Hopkins Rd. Aug 5, Olesen home, verified by DM; unverified report of breeding at Ovid. Catbird: abundant. Brown Thrasher: better numbers than usual. Robin: good breeding success. Wood Thrush: fairly good numbers reported everywhere. Hermit Thrush: absent from several stations. Veery: improvement in numbers noted. Eastern Bluebird: except for Ithaca area, a slight increase has been noted. Cedar Waxwing: abundant everywhere. Loggerhead Shrike: absent from Region.

VIREOS-SPARROWS: Decrease noted in Yellow-throated Vireos. Red-eyed Vireos in fairly good numbers with increase in song noted as season progressed. Golden-winged Warblers scarce, with increase in Blue-wings in some of their former breeding areas. Decrease noted in Yellow and Black-throated Green Warblers, Ovenbirds, both Waterthrushes, Yellowthroats and Redstarts. Few reports of Canada Warblers. Cerulean Warbler: it is rare to find a nest of this species. One was found by Jayson Walker on Mills Rd, feeding young Jun 12. Species probably nested in Stewart Park Ithaca again, but few sightings. Mourning Warbler again noted singing on Star Stanton Hill Jun 14 but as yet the species has not been found nesting (PK).

Red-winged Blackbird: very abundant. Baltimore Oriole: seemed relatively scarce early in season, but following nesting many young noted. Scarlet Tanager: good numbers; 11 singing males at SWS in comparison with six in '65. Cardinal: good breeding success. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: some reports of scarcity, but young much in evidence by mid-Aug. Indigo Bunting: continued their recent upward trend. Evening Grosbeak: unconfirmed but seemingly good report of a female or immature bird on Jul 23 at Laubengayer residence in Cay Heights, Ithaca. American Goldfinch: abundant everywhere. Rufous-sided Towhee: many reports of young in early Aug, so apparent nesting success in area. Of the meadow sparrows, Henslow's and Vesper seemed in good numbers, Savannah and Grasshopper less so. On one half-mile stretch of Baker Hill Road, at least five Henslow's were heard. Slate-colored Junco: undoubtedly a breeder on the high hills, but few nests are found. W. J. Hamilton, Jr. found a nest with two eggs being incubated on Aug 11 off Bald Hill Rd. s. of Brooktondale, a very late date; nest deserted on Aug 17. Song Sparrow: abundant.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

As summer progressed precipitation fell further and further below normal so that by the end of August the year to date totals were also below normal. Drought conditions, however, did not seem as severe as they have been for the last couple of years. Temperatures were above normal, the Binghamton weather station recording 90 degrees or above eight different days.

Again the most noticeable trend in the summer bird data is the decrease in observer activity following the end of the spring migration, the writer being as guilty as anyone else. For that reason breeding success can be evaluated for only a few species. Bluebirds seemed to do quite well in areas where they were already established, but Tree Swallows, evidently, did not recover from the cold spring weather too well. House

Wrens were spotty. One summer Mockingbird report keeps alive the hope that the species will follow the lead of the Cardinal.

There were also pleasing numbers of several northern forms, the most notable, perhaps, Myrtle Warblers, the others being regulars or near regulars in the Region in the summer. Of these northern species adequate evidence of nesting was reported only for the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, but Hermit Thrushes, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Slate-colored Juncos and White-throated Sparrows almost certainly nested, too.

A Western Sandpiper was the only real rarity, although it is suggested with some reluctance, that the Marsh Hawk could almost be considered in this category, too.

Observer abbreviations: MC—M. Cubberly; M, AD—M. & A. Davis; PK—P. Kalka, Jr.; FL—F. Linaberry; FQ—F. Quick; MS—M. Sheffield; AS—A. Stratton; MW—M. White; R, SW—R. & S. White; RW—R. Williams.

Other abbreviations used: Chen—Chenango; CC—Choconut Center; Conk—Conklin; Del—Delaware; Ox—Oxford; Pep Res—Pepacton Reservoir; Phar—Pharsalia; Sher—Sherburne; Sid—Sidney.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: at least two colonies active in Del Co, one near Andes and the other in the southern part of Colchester Township (MC). Mute Swan: the one reported in the previous issue remained at Owego all summer. Blue-winged Teal: two Aug 7 Sher (R, SW), only summer report. Ring-necked Duck: one adult male on Susquehanna R at Owego Jun 7 (MW). Common Merganser: a female with seven downy young along a road close to L Del in Del Co Jul I (MC).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: present during breeding season at three localities in Tioga and Chen Cos (P. Kelsey, via W. Spofford). Red-shouldered Hawk: only two summer reports, both in Jul. Broad-winged Hawk: six summer reports, but no successful nestings noted. Bald Eagle: two adults and one imm around the Pep Res during the period (MC) and one imm Jul 7 at Halsey Valley, Tioga Co (RW). Marsh Hawk: one male Jun 11 near the center of Homer (W. Spofford), the only one reported during the period which is in keeping with the species' extreme scarcity for a number of years. Virginia Rail: one Aug 6 Sher (R, SW). Common Snipe: in a large grassy swamp near Sher over a dozen could be seen at a time during Jul (R, SW). Upland Plover: one Jul 6 McGraw (S. Spofford), the only one. Solitary Sandpiper: Jul 14 Ingraham Hill (C. Howard), first of several reports. Greater Yellowlegs: Aug 8 Owego (MW, RW). Lesser Yellowlegs: six Jul 24 Sher (R, SW). Pectoral Sandpiper: one Aug 7 Sher (R, SW). Least Sandpiper: three Jul 23 Sher Game Farm (R, SW), first of several reports. WESTERN SANDPIPER: one Aug 8 Binghamton (C. Howard), with Leasts—slightly larger with black legs and bill—bill dipped at tip, clear breast and slight rustiness at wing joint—call not heard. Black- and Yellow-billed Cuckoos: both in moderate numbers in Jun but few later reports. Horned Owl: two young with down still showing Jul 5 Pep Res (MC). Long-eared Owl: two seen and heard frequently during Jul and Aug Norwich (R, SW).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpecker: one coming to a feeder in Sher Jun and Jul (R, SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: known nestings—two at Chen Valley State Pk (M, AD) and one Norwich (R, SW); also reported at Phar (R, SW) and Sid (FQ). Wood Pewee: seemed particularly abundant at Owego (RW). Tree Swallow: numbers noticeably lower than normal at Owego (RW) and CC (MS). Cliff Swallow: Jul 10, 151 nests in good repair counted in colony under the Shavertown bridge across Pep Res (MC). Common Crow: an interesting account

received of flock behavior when one of a nesting pair was shot near Ox (AS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: present at Chen Forks until Jun 18 (M, AD); at Endwell Jun 4 (FL) and Conk Forks Jul 14 (PK). House Wren: particularly good breeding success at Chen Forks (M, AD), but below normal at CC (MS). Long-billed Marsh Wren: Jun 4 and Aug 6 at Sher, imm on the latter date (R, SW). Mockingbird: one at Chen Bridge Jul 14 (FL). Hermit Thrush: singing males: one at Phar Jun 5 (R, SW), two Ludlow Jun 10 and 23 (AS) and two Jul 2 Conk Forks (PK); also at Windsor in early Jul (PK). Gray-cheeked Thrush: Jun 4 Chen Bridge (S. Gorton). Eastern Bluebird: at Owego 23 boxes produced 84 young (MW, C. Gerould); at CC six nests produced 22 young, including three raised by male alone from shortly after hatching (MS). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: "seemed more abundant" at Owego (RW). Starling: a large rook at Endwell was already well populated Jul 7.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Warbling Vireo: heard singing at Sid until Jul 13 (FQ). Golden-winged Warbler: frequent reports at Owego and in Triple Cities area. Myrtle Warbler: Jun 3, Jul 23 and 24 Chen Forks (M, AD); Jul 2 Conk Forks (PK). Black-throated Green Warbler: Jun 21 Sid (FQ); also reported at Owego during period. Blackburnian Warbler; reported near Owego. Northern Waterthrush: Jun 23 Ludlow (AS). Louisiana Waterthrush: Jun 3 and 13 Sid (FQ); Jul 14 Conk Forks (PK). Mourning Warbler: singing male at Phar Jun 5 and 19 and Jul 2 (R, SW); a singing male at Whitney Pt Reservoir in mid Jun (P. Buckley); the only reports. Yellow-breasted Chat: Jul 31 Endwell (L. Bemont).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: fairly frequent reports to Jun 27, then none. Orchard Oriole: one Jun 15 sitting on clothesline at Ox (AS). Purple Finch: known successful nestings at Endwell (FL) and Ox (AS); also constantly present at Sid most of period (FQ) and reported at Conk Forks (PK). Slate-colored Junco: apparently nesting in several areas around Owego (RW) and at Conk Forks (PK). White-throated Sparrow: 15 Jun 5 and two singing Jul 7 thru Aug 11 Phar (R, SW); Jun 21 Sid (FQ); early Jul Conk Forks (PK); Jun 5 at Smyrna Hills and Jun 12 Ludlow (AS).

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REGION V — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

A cool June and a hot dry windy July seemed to presage good breeding success for the later arriving resident birds. However, several species, notably both cuckoos, Nighthawk, Least and Traill's Flycatchers, Tree Swallow and Long-billed Marsh Wren were very scarce thru the summer and an absence of semi-rare local breeders, i.e. Hooded Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, from known sites was obvious. The marshes of the area seemed to have adequate water but marsh birds continued very scarce.

Extensive explorations in the Oswego County sector of the Tug Hill Plateau and of the lower-elevation but similarly northern woods along the north shore of Oneida Lake yielded a wealth of breeding bird data, most numerous re thrushes and warblers.

Shorebird migration (q.v.) began in early July as anticipated but counts were low and variety poor.

Notables for the summer include Northern Phalarope, Barn Owl, Tennessee Warbler, Red Crossbill, the first nesting of the Olive-sided Flycatcher in Oswego County, and proven breeding of Long-eared Owls near Utica.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; N Syr—North Syracuse; Onon—Onondaga; RSP—Rome Sand Plains; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville, Twp—Township.

Observers: DWA—D. W. Ackley; J & BB—J. and B. Barker; GLC—G. L. Church; GG—George Gage; HPN—H. P. Nodecker; DBP—D. B. Peakall; SP—Sylvia Paquette; B & SP—B. & S. Peebles; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; RJS—R. J. Smith; JVD—J. VanDresar.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: pair with young Chubb Pond and a pair (?young) at Nick's L (both J & BB). Pied-billed Grebe: scarce, reported only from HIGMA; none noted at SP despite reflooding of the marshes there by the rise in water level. Great Blue Heron: 35 active nests, Cross L Jun 2 (DBP); eight-ten nests in use, Scott Swamp (FGS). Common Egret: max four, HIGMA Jun 14-17; a single there in early Jul; otherwise unreported. Green Heron: max reports, six-eight (low) Scott Swamp (B & SP) and Toad Harbor (MSR). Least Bittern: only reports—one Jun 30, Scott Swamp and two Aug 15, Lyons Pond, Madison Co (both B & SP)—extraordinarily scarce. Mute Swan: the source of the feral Mute Swans is a clipped pair on the Wikstrom estate, Skaneateles L; the young of each year are not clipped and will undoubtedly appear on various local lakes post flight stage; *birders, beware.*

Waterfowl production at HIGMA was especially good in Canada Geese, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, and Redhead but Mallard production was down 40% (GG). Gadwall: two pairs nested at HIGMA (GG). Green-winged Teal: a pair on a small pond Jun 8 THP is first record for that sector and may indicate breeding there. Blue-winged Teal: a female with 12 young Jun 3 near West Leyden (B & SP)—also unusual in THP. Early gatherings of Mallards (300 plus) and Wood Duck (200 plus) Jul 23 HIGMA. A count of 92 plus Redheads (nine broods) Jun 9 HIGMA exceeds the total reported last spring. Common Merganser: two pairs plus 12 young Mink L, Herkimer Co (J & BB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one May 28 near Gull L, Herkimer Co is a most unusual occurrence (J & BB. MSR) as the species is rare east of Brewerton; noted in small numbers (three-eight/day) in Cayuga and western Oswego Co.

A male Cooper's Hawk Jul 7 Pulaski (W. R. Spofford) and single Sharp-shinned Hawks Jul 12 near Florence (B & SP) and June 29 Westmoreland (J & BB) are the *total* of accipiters for the summer. No Goshawks noted despite increased THP coverage. Red-shouldered Hawk: two active nests located, both at the periphery of RSP; however, only one young bird reached flying stage (DWA); no evidence of successful breeding at TRGMA or HIGMA, both previously much favored sites. Broad-winged Hawk: three sites located in THP (one pair brought off three young); also nest with one young Pleasant L, Oswego Co (DBP et al); singles at Morrisville, Cleveland, and Constantia, plus multiple Adirondack sightings (J & BB). Bald Eagle: only report, one TRGMA Jun 1 (JWP). Marsh Hawk: three pairs on territory in Region—HIGMA, Scott Swamp, and Smartville, Oswego Co— but *none* produced young; singles at Otisco Township Jun 5 (MSR) and near Eaton Jul 21 (GLC) are undoubtedly wandering birds.

Bobwhite: singing birds at Sandy Creek Pk Jun 19 (FGS) and near Oneida Jun 28 (B & SP)—most likely recently released birds.

Breeding shorebirds—Woodcock: multiple THP sightings; six still in courtship

Brewerton Jun 6 (JWP); adult with three chicks TRGMA Jun 17 and one with a single chick Jun 25 Cicero Bog (both MSR); adult and single young Cross L Jul 2 (DBP). Common Snipe: a pair Cedarville (new location) May 30 (MSR). Upland Plover: multiple reports with most around Oneida (eight plus sites) and Bridgeport; also reported in Redfield Twp THP (FGS) and Dutch Hill near Tully (JWP), both high elevation sites; max at Syr Airport 61 Jul 30 (RJS).

Fall shorebird migration was very poor—numbers very low, especially Least Sandpiper, and the variety has been dismal. Arr dates and max for period include: Semipalmated Plover Jul 16, max 35 Aug 12; Black-bellied Plover Aug 9, max two (low) Aug 15; Ruddy Turnstone Jul 21, max four Aug 4 (DWA); Solitary Sandpiper, 12 on Jul 23 (late) is both arr and max; Greater Yellowlegs Jul 17, max two (very low) Aug 14; Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 1, max 140 (all adults) Jul 23; Knot, one sighting, two Aug 11 (A. Starling); Pectoral Sandpiper Jul 21, max 20 (low) Jul 23; White-rumped Sandpiper, one Aug 2 is both arr and max; Least Sandpiper Jul 4, max 100 (low) Jul 19; Short-billed Dowitcher Jul 10, max three (low) Aug 4; Stilt Sandpiper one adult Jul 22–23 is the only period record; Semipalmated Sandpiper Jul 7, max 350 Aug 1; Sanderling, 35 (low) on Jul 24 is both arr and max; Northern Phalarope, one only, Aug 10, Onon L.

Common Tern colony at Onon L extirpated. Black Tern: colony of 22 pairs South Bay Rd, N Syr; max 75 Jul 14 Billington Bay, Oneida L (MSR).

Cuckoos extraordinarily scarce; most observers saw less than ten of both for the entire summer; only eight Yellow-billed reported for period; first migrant Black-billed Aug 4, Onon L. Barn Owl: an apparently breeding pair Syracuse Jun 8–28 (JWP, mob). Screech Owl: one Jun 8, Toad Harbor (MSR)—only report. Long-eared Owl: successful nesting with three young raised near Utica (J & BB).

SWIFTS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: max three (extremely low) RSP (DWA) and also near Camden (B & SP) both Jul 3. Nighthawk; max six Jul 22, Syracuse; this species—like Barn and Cliff Swallows— is now totally dependent on man-made breeding habitat hereabouts and recent urban renewal projects have eliminated many downtown Syracuse rooftop breeding sites.

Pileated Woodpecker: one near Williamstown in THP Jul 21 is a rarity in that much-lumbered sector. Red-headed Woodpecker: 36 pairs noted in Canastota-Oneida-Rome area (DWA) see field note this issue; of interest is the heavy summer-time use of feeders, especially sunflower-stocked ones, by these birds (HPN, Palmer). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 28, Jun 8 THP; counts four-12/day thru Jul from THP. Eastern Kingbird: 16–30/day thru Jun in northern Cayuga Co; first fall migrants Jul 16 Onon L. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two Gull L, Herkimer Co in late May (MSR); first fall migrant Aug 8 N Syr (FGS). Traill's Flycatcher: "fitzbeu" form in valleys and "waybeo" type in hill country swamps Tully Twp (MSR). Least Flycatcher: *The* THP Empidonax with 25–30/day in four miles of deciduous woods of Redfield Twp; however, quite scarce (five-six/day) at SSSP, CV, HIGMA, and Tully. Olive-sided Flycatcher: first nesting noted Littlejohn CMA Jun 22-Jul 24 with one fledgling reared (JWP, M. Pastel, mob).

Tree Swallow: scarce thru summer with only Shackleton Pt, Oneida L and HIGMA reporting 100 plus in breeding period. Bank Swallow: colony of 2000 plus pairs east of SP; max migrants 5000 Jul 24 SP. Rough-winged Swallow: colonies now located in Frankfort Gorge (J & BB) and Canaseraga Creek Gorge (B & SP) and a solitary pair at Holland Patent (JVD). Purple Martin: Oneida L colonies down notably but surviving birds appeared to have excellent breeding success.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: noted at Camden Jul 12 (B & SP), RSP Jun 30 (DWA) and Redfield Twp Jun 19 (FGS). Brown Creeper: many sightings this summer—reported repeatedly from Sylvan Beach, Victory, south shore of Oneida L, TRGMA, HIGMA, all Ontario L plain sites; probably will increase as more and more elm swamps succumb to Dutch elm disease since these dying woods provide ideal nesting sites and superabundant food; reported regularly from THP (e.g. adult with four

young Jul 24) and Clark's Reservation near Syracuse. Winter Wren: very scarce in THP with max three/day; also noted near Cleveland in Oswego Co and at Whiskey Hollow, Onon Co, both low elevation sites. Long-billed Marsh Wren: max 20 Jun 9 HIGMA and 20 Jun 1 thru Jul 20 Scott Swamp (JWP): quite scarce (two-four/day) in SP marshes. Short-billed Marsh Wren: the only regional colony at Toad Harbor had four singing birds Jul 30 (RJS, FGS).

Mockingbird: one RSP Jun 30 (DWA, SP, FGS) was apparently the remnant of a pair breeding there the past four-five years. Brown Thrasher: numerous at Oneida (B & SP) and five separate sightings in THP Jun 8-Jul 31. Robin: max 75 THP Jul 31; increased numbers panregionally. Comparative counts for thrushes in THP are Veery 52, Wood 16, Swainson's 19, Hermit one, Jun 12; other THP counts approximate the above altho Wood Thrush numbers are greater at lower elevations and Swainson's Thrushes are usually higher in the natural spruce bog sectors. Hermit Thrush tallies are persistently low—max 14 Jul 14 THP; six Camden area Jun 26 (MSR) and six RSP Jun 30 (DWA). A single Swainson's Thrush below the 600' level near Camden Jul 10 (FGS) is most unusual as this species is almost never found below 1000' in THP. Eastern Bluebird: still low, counts only two-five/day thru summer (all sectors). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: proven nesting at CV (old site) and Otisco L (new location); also found at Island Rd, Cicero Swamp (all JWP). Golden-crowned Kinglet: four THP Jul 31 (RJS, DBP, FGS)—a scarce and local breeder there; unreported in Herkimer Co in Jun, however, Loggerhead Shrike: breeding pair Westmoreland Jul 3 (DWA, J & BB); also two other sightings, Sandy Creek and Maple View, Jul 21 thru 31.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: small numbers (one-three/day) in all sectors of THP; also noted Labrador Pond Jul 9 (JWP), where it is scarce. Solitary Vireo: THP max seven Jun 12; lesser numbers thru Jun and Jul; also reported on Morgan Hill in Fabius Twp, Onon Co, and in the low elevation northern woods Cleveland to Camden Jul 10, Red-eyed Vireo: THP max 95 Jun 12; other THP counts high (25-30/day) but counts at SSSP, CV, Oneida, Tully much lower (six-14/day).

Resident non-THP warblers—Black-and-white: four Jun 12, Moose R (B & SP); two in Cicero Swamp Jun 25; numbers down somewhat at Tully and Camillus. Golden-winged and Blue-winged: known sites for Golden-winged as before, but extensive Blue-winged invasion of this spring documented and numerous Brewster's noted; no Golden-winged noted in THP, but a Brewster's near SP Aug 15 (JWP) suggests Blue-wingeds are already in or north of that area. Nashville: scarce at RSP; noted at Kasoag bog near Williamstown, and at Nelson Bog, Madison Co and Morgan Hill, Onon Co (MSR). Black-throated Blue: two Jun 25 at Morrisville Swamp (DWA, A. Carter) and seven Jun 26 Constantia Twp (MSR). Myrtle: pair in red pines near Cleveland Jul 10; one Morgan Hill; unreported in RSP this season (formerly common there). Cerulean: two Lewis Pt Rd Jun 21 (B & SP) and one Verona Beach State Pk Jul 2 (DWA) fill in the gaps of this species' range along the south shore of Oneida L between Bridgeport and Oneida; three singing males north end of Cross L Jun 3 (DBP, MSR); pair feeding two or more young in nest Jul 6 Gully Rd, Skaneateles Twp (MSR et al). Blackburnian: ten Cleveland to Camden Jun 26 (MSR); maturing stands of spruce planted in the mid-thirties will permit this species to appear away from its normal high elevation/north shore distribution. Ovenbird: numbers down in immediate Oneida L area; RSP max six (very low) Jun 30; Tully and SSSP had none! Louisiana Waterthrush: two at Frankfort George Jun 16 (J & BB); also Ilion Gorge May 30 (MSR); noted repeatedly in the streams on the west side of Tully Valley; also at Cheese Factory Gulf, Pompey Twp and Whiskey Hollow, Van Buren Twp, both Onon Co (MSR). Mourning: seven singing males HIGMA and Duck L Jun 9; also four Otisco Twp Jun 5; definitely increasing both in Ontario Lakeplain's swamp woodlands and in heavy brush of the southern hill margins. Yellow-breasted Chat: one thru Jun Pompey Twp (F. LaFrance)—new

location. Hooded: most local sites deserted, with only single birds at SSSP and Baldwinsville; however, a new site, Labrador Pond, Jul 9 (JWP). Redstart: scarce in local woodlots—e.g. two SSSP Aug 4; counts this summer ranged four-14/day—very low!

THP warblers—the Oswego and Oneida Co portions of the THP proved a warbler bonanza thru Jun and Jul—following is a summary of max from Oswego Co area for ten trips during Jun and Jul: Black-and-white—eight Jun 19 and ten Jul 31; Nashville—two Jun 19; Yellow—eight Jun 12; Magnolia—30, Jul 24 and 31, Littlejohn GMA; Black-throated Blue—ten Jul 14; Myrtle—three Jul 14 Redfield and Jul 21 Littlejohn GMA; Black-throated Green—13 Jul 14; Blackburnian—15 Aug 14; Chestnut-sided—30 Jun 19 and Jul 14, Redfield Twp; Ovenbird—24 on Jul 14, Redfield Twp; Northern Waterthrush—six Jul 7 Salmon R Reservoir; Mourning—11 Jul 7 Salmon R Reservoir; Yellowthroat—30 on Jun 19; Canada—12 on Jul 7; Redstart—40 Jun 19 Mad R, 40 Jul 14 Redfield, and a whopping 90 Jul 31 Littlejohn GMA.

Tennessee Warbler: a singing male found Jul 24 (FGS) and two found Jul 31 both Littlejohn GMA but different sectors (DBP, RJS, FGS) suggest breeding there. Hooded Warbler: a colony with four singing males and a very agitated female Jul 14 (probably breeding) on the south shore of the Salmon R Reservoir—the species has not heretofore been recorded from the THP.

Fall migrant warblers—arr dates include Golden-winged Aug 8 N Syr, Yellow Jul 13 N Syr, Cerulean Aug 13 Tully (JWP), Blackburnian Aug 4 SSSP and Aug 11 Otisco, Chestnut-sided Aug 4 SSSP, Northern Waterthrush Aug 8 N Syr, Louisiana Waterthrush Aug 11 Tully (JWP), Redstart Aug 9 N Syr.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 15–20/day in neglected fields at TRGMA, Cicero Swamp, Toad Harbor, and Pulaski. Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle: extremely abundant and both appear to be expanding enormously in the farmland-invading suburbs. Baltimore Oriole: max 25 CV Jun 23; numbers at Liverpool and N Syr appear diminished. Scarlet Tanager: numbers in local woodlots (Tully, Liverpool, Baldwinsville) appear up slightly; max ten, Constantia to Camden.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: numerous reports with max for period 24, Aug 14, Tully (JWP); THP max eight Jun 19. Purple Finch 16–20/day Jun and Jul THP, max 24 on Jul 23 Redfield Twp (B & SP); numerous pairs at Ontario Lakeplain sites (TRGMA, Duck L, HIGMA, Baldwinsville) where ornamental conifers or coniferous plantations seem to meet the nesting requirements; numbers appear up in southern hill sectors (GLC). Pine Siskin: last, two Jun 21 (record dep date) Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse. Red Crossbill: a single imm Jul 23 Oneida (HPN) is probably an erratic wanderer from the Adirondack Mt sector. Grasshopper Sparrow: small colonies noted at Otisco, Sandy Creek, South Bay, Oneida, Pleasant L, and a thriving colony (six plus singing males) at the Syracuse Airport. Henslow's Sparrow: seven known 1965 sites deserted; a new colony near Brewerton—12 birds; adult with two buffy young near Smartville (1200') Jul 31 is a new site for THP (RJS, DBP, FGS); also noted at Westmoreland, Oneida Co Jun 5 (MSR), near Pratt's Falls, Onon Co Jun 29 (DBP) and HIGMA Jun 18.

Max tallies for THP sparrows include Chipping 30 Jul 10, Field 20 Jun 19, White-throated 30 Jul 14, Swamp 14 Jun 19, Song 30 Jul 7; also Slate-colored Junco 12 each Jul 7 and 14, and four Jul 12 near McConnellsville (B & SP); also a Junco nest with one fledgling Cowbird Jul 7 near Greensboro (FGS).

Slate-colored Junco also reported at Ilion Gorge May 30 and Morgan Hill Jun 25 (MSR) in the southern hill country. White-throated Sparrow: seven Jul 9, Labrador Pond, a new locale in the southern hills (JWP); also found regularly in wet areas of RSP (DWA, B & SP). Lincoln's Sparrow: one Safford L Jun 4 (J & BB) may be the most southern and western of the few Adirondack sites known for this species.

427 South Main Street, North Syracuse 13212.

Corrigendum: in *Kingbird* Jul 1966, p. 171, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, should read . . . arr Apr 30 TRGMA and Apr 22 Boliver respectively.

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

DAVID C. GORDON

June weather in the first three weeks alternated between warm and cool, temperature usually changing every 3rd or 4th day with some rainy interludes. A hot, dry spell began the last week of June and lasted thru most of the first three weeks of July. Rainfall in Watertown in July was a scanty 1.37 inches, over two inches below normal, temperature averaged higher than usual with 92 degrees recorded July 3 and 4. Rainfall in the region was highly varied and local; a real drought existed by the time August rains came, especially Aug. 2, 9, 12, 14, with lower temperatures.

A poor, late spring migration had no perceptible effect on most local land breeding populations and birding was as rewarding for the ardent bird enthusiast this summer as it is most years. One (Allen) deserves mention for the large number (51) of nests he studied, 16 in back of his house.

Localities: BCW—Brookside Cemetery, Watertown; ED—Eldorado; Jeff Co—Jefferson County; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; St Law Co—St. Lawrence County; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; Wash Pk—Washington Park; Wat—Watertown.

Observers: AA—Arthur Allen; JB—John Belknap; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; WM—William Moseltine; FS—Fritz Scheider; RW—Robert Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: Ironsides Is heronry 150 nests with est. 80–85 active, average two young per nest Jun 25 (RW); PRGMA heronry number of nests increased from 21 in spring to 37 Jun 28 with young standing up in most, not more than 2 or 3 seemed unoccupied (DG). Green Heron: common on most bodies of water. Black-crowned Night Heron: one adult PRGMA Jul 27 and Aug 15 (DG). American Bittern: PRGMA Jun 18 and High-market, THP Aug 14 (DG). Canada Goose: about ten nests produced about 40 young at PRGMA (WM). Low water in the marsh and swamp has affected the numbers of ducks adversely and some banded early in Aug PRGMA were in poor condition (WM). Approx 800 ducks banded Aug 1–15 PRGMA, estimated breakdown: 325 Mallards, 120 Blacks, one Pintail, six Blue-winged Teal, 350 Wood Ducks. Mallards and Blacks are down, Blue-winged Teal are the same (numerous) and there were more adult Wood Ducks this year. Green-winged Teal were gone at PRGMA after Jul 15 (WM); one ED Jul 21 (FS), both species teal numerous ED Aug 4 and 12 (DG). A Pintail and four Baldpate, ED Jul 7 (FS), unusual date. Hooded Merganser: female BCW Jul 30 (DG); it has been reported nesting in s. Jeff Co.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: seven sightings from Jun 14 to Aug 13 mostly n. Jeff Co and St Law Co (AA, JB, RW). Red-tailed Hawk: thru period. Rough-legged Hawk: dark phase near Wat Jul 9 (Meritt)—see field note. BALD EAGLE: adult Perch L first week Jul, two adults may have been seen about the same time (WM); two adults PRGMA Aug 10 (Gaskin). Marsh Hawk: thru period. Osprey: two young on nest Yellow L, St Law Co Jul 25 (AA); one still there Aug 6 (JB); nest noted near Plessis, Jeff Co early in season (WM)—no details. Sparrow Hawk: common thru period. Virginia Rail: adult Jun 19 and four imm Aug 8 near Wat (DG). Sora: one adult and three imm Aug 8, one adult Aug 15 near Wat (DG).

Common Gallinule: numerous PRGMA. Am. Coot: seemed down. Semipalmated Plover: first week Jul thru period ED. Killdeer: numerous. Ruddy Turnstone: last week Jul thru period large numbers ED. Am. Woodcock: one Aug 4, ED, (FS); one caught in mist net Aug 14 ED (Lerch). Common Snipe: ED and PRGMA increase in numbers in Aug. Upland Plover: one near PRGMA Jun 18, one near Burrville Jul 31 and Aug 2 (DG); one near Wat Aug 13 (FC). Spotted Sandpiper: common at most bodies of water. Solitary Sandpiper: three Jul 30 BCW (DG). Greater Yellowlegs: ED Aug 4 (AA). Lesser Yellowlegs: one Jun 29 PRGMA (DG)—unusual date; very common ED and PRGMA late Jul thru period. Pectoral Sandpiper: common late Jul thru period. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Jul 29 ED (DG); Aug 4 ED (AA, FS). Baird's Sandpiper: one adult, Jul 31 ED (FS, Peakall, Smith). Least Sandpiper: common. Dunlin: late one, ED Jun 4 (DG). Short-billed Dowitcher: three Jul 7, 24 & 29 (JB, DG, FS), singles Jul 21, 24 (FS), several Aug 12, 14 (JB, DG, RW), all ED, all spring plumage. Stilt Sandpiper: one spring plumage Jul 24 (JB); others Jul 21, 24, 29, 31, Aug 4, 12, 14 all ED (AA, JB, DG, FS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: abundant late Jul-Aug; max 1100, an unusually high count, Aug 4 ED (FS). Sanderling: first 45, Jul 21, ED (FS). WILSON'S PHALAROPE: one, Aug 12, ED (DG). Northern Phalarope: one adult female Jul 21 ED (FS); one Aug 12 (DG) and two Aug 14, ED (JB, RW).

Bonaparte's Gull: one Jul 29, early date;—four Aug 4, and three Aug 12 (one spring plumage) ED (AA, DG). Caspian Tern: 16 including 5 imm Aug 12 ED. Black-billed Cuckoo: nest with three eggs Jun 3 (AA); reported more common Camp Drum this year; also seem common in area s. of Wat in Towns of Rodman and Lorraine.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two young in nest Jul 27 Wat. Red-headed Woodpecker: several reports at or near PRGMA thru period including one imm Jul 27; also near Oxbow, Clayton, and elsewhere n. Jeff Co. Eastern Kingbird: seemed numerous thruout Jeff Co and top of THP by mid-Aug. Traill's Flycatcher: nest three young Wat (AA); common, Town of Lorraine. Horned Lark: often overlooked as summer resident—seen Jun 4 near Stony Cr, Jul 2 near Wat (DG). Eastern Bluebird: none at Black River or Adams Center where it nested 1965; two pair nested near Brownville (Biggers); pair seen near Harrisville; pair near Pitcairn; male several times PRGMA (AA); Jeff Co population has not recovered since decline 1960. Loggerhead Shrike: Jun 18 and later PRGMA. Starling: flocking in huge flocks with icterids Aug.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow Warbler: five simultaneous nestings in one field carefully observed, only three successful (AA). Cerulean Warbler: Jun 18 PRGMA (DG); three different singing males in PRGMA vicinity (AA). Northern Waterthrush: nest with four large young near S Edwards, St Law Co Jun 15 (AA); near Wash Pk Aug (DG). Louisiana Waterthrush: Aug 1 Wash Pk (DG). Mourning Warbler: Jul 3 Wash Pk (DG)—new station. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Jun 18 Wellesley Is (Chamberlain fide Brown); there are no verified reports for this species in Region.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle: very large mixed flocks observed early Aug. Brown-headed Cowbird: reports of eggs in nests of Field Sparrow and Hermit Thrush (AA); baby cowbirds seen begging from Chipping Sparrow and Red-eyed Vireo foster parents (DG). Cardinal: pair brought young to feeders Aug 4 (AA). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: seemed numerous this year (AA). Indigo Bunting: several seen. Purple Finch: near Wash Pk Jul 3; near Rodman Aug (DG). Grasshopper Sparrow: near Wat Aug 6 (RW). White-throated Sparrow: two ED Jul 7 (FS).

1347 Sherman St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

In looking back, the main impression of this nesting season was of heat and dampness though little precipitation fell. Heavy foliage and dense undergrowth caused Keji to remark that seeing small land birds was difficult at Ray Brook.

Bob Kampf, of the Hilltop Weather Station at Ray Brook, summarizes the period as follows: June started out cold with temperatures of 30 and 32 degrees on the 1st and 2nd. Immediately after that the thermometer blasted up to 83 degrees on June 6! The rest of June was about average though rainfall was below normal despite two severe squalls on the 14th and 29th. July was hot. Eighty-nine degrees on July 4 was a record high for the nine-year history of the weather station. The first part of August was fair and pleasant with rainfall again below normal.

Notable were the scarcity of heron and waterfowl, the absence of House Wrens, and the relatively good nesting records for warblers after their late arrival following the cold Spring.

Unusual species were Mockingbird, Golden-winged and Tennessee Warblers and Western Meadowlark.

Again I am grateful to visiting birders for their most interesting reports. Bob McKinny was at Long Lake June 24-29; Mary and Robert Sheffield were at Elk Lake June 12-19 and Frank Schetty was at Elk Lake from late June to early August.

Observers: EA—Elizabeth Anderson; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T Chase; ED—Ethel Dyer; HD—Harriet Delafield; RH—Robert Hagar; GK—Grace Kains; JK—Joseph Keji; RMcK—Robert McKinny; MRS—Mary and Robert Sheffield; FS—Frank Schetty DY—David Young.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: two Jun 12-19 Elk L (MRS), but no eggs or young found in that area for first time since 1948 (FS); heard Jun 23 TL, pair and nest with one egg Jul 17 Weller P, one adult one imm Jul 17 Middle Saranac L (RM); three Long L, late Jun (RMcK). Great Blue Heron: one Aug 4 RB (JK); one Long L late Jun (RMcK). Black-crowned Night Heron: few Kings Bay L Champlain week of Jul 25 (GTC). American Bittern: two adults, no young seen Elk L (FS); one late Jun Long L (RMcK); one Jul 25 TL (RM). Black Duck: eight adults, no young seen Elk L Jul (FS); four Aug 10 RB (JK). Wood Duck: two adult males, no young Elk L Jul (FS). Ring-necked Duck: six Long L late Jun (RMcK). White-winged Scoter: one Benz P, Santa Clara, Jun 4, studied carefully through 25x scope in good light (RH). Hooded Merganser: five Clear P near Elk L Jun 17 (MRS); one female with one young Elk L Jul (FS); female with four well-grown young Jul 25 RB (JK). Common Merganser: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); two families with eight and 14 young Elk L Jul (FS); three families Raquette R above Axton (RM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: three young in alternate nest early Jun, Jay (RH); one Jun 25 Elk L (FS et al). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one adult "seen hunting, probably breeding" Elk L Jul (FS). Red-tailed Hawk: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); one adult, one imm Elk L Jul (FS). Broad-winged Hawk: one Jun 2 and Jul 5 RB (JK); two pairs, three imm Elk L Jul (FS); one Marcy Trail Rd Jul 27 (EA, HD). Golden Eagle: adult male "Central Adirondack" (Walter Spofford). Bald Eagle: one adult Jul 4-6 Elk L (FS). Marsh Hawk: one Jun 22, one Aug 11 SL (GK). Osprey: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); one Jun 28-Aug 10 RB (JK); two adults, one imm over L Colby early Aug (GTC). Sparrow Hawk: three Jul 27 Marcy Trail Rd (EA, HD). Ruffed Grouse: drumming Mt Jo Trail, Jun 18, one Hart L Jul 27 (EA, HD); adult with two chicks Jul 14 SL (GK); six families Elk L Jul (FS). Killdeer: adult with two young Jul 1 Brookside Cemetery near Bloomingdale (HD). American Woodcock: heard Jun 11 SL (EA, HD). Common Snipe: one Sabattis RR Station, one TL late Jun (RMcK). Spotted Sandpiper: one family Elk L Jul (FS). Herring Gull: one or two Jun 24-Jul 25 RB (JK); two Long L late Jun (RMcK); one Jul 11 SL (GK). Black Tern: four late Jun TL (RMcK). Black-billed Cuckoo: one, rd to Sabattis late June (RMcK); one Jun 11 and Jul 27 RB (JK). Great Horned Owl: not heard by MRS early Jun but heard later by FS Elk L. Barred Owl: one Jun 17 Elk L (MRS); one seen, several heard Jul Elk L (FS); one Jul 30 TL (RM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: only report from TL where RM says "heard more often than ever before." Common Nighthawk: ventured to higher altitudes and further out of town in this season of plenteous insect life. Chimney Swift: quite common all areas, 20 pair Elk L (FS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very good numbers all areas. Belted Kingfisher: two adults, no young seen Jul Elk L (FS); four Aug 13 RB (JK); one Saranac R Aug 9 (HD). Yellow-shafted Flicker: large numbers all areas. Pileated Woodpecker: no reports, MRS particularly noted this absence as unusual for Elk L. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: all areas; 15 nests, one still feeding young Aug 2 Elk L (FS). Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: normal all areas. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: two males Jul 17, two females Jul 18 Elk L (FS). Eastern Kingbird: first pair in two years, island in Elk L (FS); small numbers reported other areas except TL. Great Crested Flycatcher: one Jun 19 SL (HD); one Jun 26 RB (JK). Eastern Phoebe: nesting reports all areas except TL. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Jun 2 RB (JK); one Wilmington Jun 4 (RH, DY); one summit Owl's Head Mt, Hamilton Co late Jun (RMcK); several called near on imitation of notes Elk L Jun 18-19 (MRS); one pair definite, probably more Elk L Jul (FS). Traill's Flycatcher: one RB Jun 10 and 18 (JK); one L Clear Jun 19 (HD); one Long L late Jun (RMcK). Least Flycatcher: several to common all areas. Eastern Wood Pewee: reported from all areas, eight different stations Elk L (FS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: reports from all areas except TL, 12 stations Elk L (FS). Tree Swallow: common. Bank Swallow: many all areas. Rough-winged Swallow: four Long L late Jun (RMcK); seen seven times Jun 2 to Jul 1 RB (JK). Barn Swallow: common, one wonderful day of low-flying insects, Jul 17, 100s flew over the grasses in a field behind Trudeau Rd (HD). Cliff Swallow: Long L late Jun (RMcK); one pair nesting Elk L Jul (FS); "On Jul 1 was building nest on top of old nest of Barn Swallow. On Jul 20 most of nest fell away but birds kept repairing it. Never really completed but young reared and left Aug 4" RB (JK); 100 Jul 9 Vermontville (ED); few SL and L Clear until mid-Aug (HD). Purple Martin: one Long L late Jun (RMcK). Gray Jay: one adult Moose R Plains Jul 22 (RH). Blue Jay: common all areas. Common Crow: all areas. Black-capped Chickadee: common all areas. Boreal Chickadee: one Jun 1 RB (JK); eight nests, one still feeding young Jul 27 Elk L (FS). White-breasted Nuthatch: two or three reported most areas; five pair Elk L

(FS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: common in wooded areas. Brown Creeper: several Elk L mid-Jun thru Jul (MRS, FS); Long L late Jun (RMcK); pair RB (JK). House Wren: one Old Forge late Jun (RMcK). (Ed. note: any information on this species in Region 7 would be greatly appreciated.) Winter Wren: common Elk L mid-Jun thru Jul (MRS, FS); heard RB (JK); Long L late Jun (RMcK); SL Jun (HD). MOCKINGBIRD: one Willsboro Jun 27 (GC). Catbird: one to few all areas. Brown Thrasher: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); one Jun 5 Vermontville (ED); one Jun 10 SL (EA, HD); one Jun 29 and 30 SL (GK). Robin: common to abundant all areas. Wood Thrush: Long L late Jun (RMcK); two pair with young Elk L (FS); four birds in separated areas SL (GK); heard often RB (JK); heard TL (RM). Hermit Thrush: showing a comeback Long L late Jun (RMcK); "14 singing males, two nests, one with three eggs on Jun 28, robbed and deserted on Jul 2. Other nest with four eggs on Jun 26, hatched Jul 5, two young left nest 6:30 am on Jul 16, other two at 8:15 am" (FS); heard a few times RB (JK) and SL (HD); nesting High Falls George Jun 9 (Ruth Cooper fide HD). Swainson's Thrush: the commonest Long L late Jun (RMcK); 18 singing males Elk L (FS); heard Mt Jo Jun 18 (HD). Grey-cheeked Thrush: summit Blue Mt late Jun (RMcK); one near top of Sunrise Mt Elk L (FS). Veery: small numbers all areas. Eastern Bluebird: Jun 9 L Clear, Jun 18 L Placid, Jun 24 SL (HD); Jul 5, nest with five young Bloomingdale (H Hughes); adult with two young Jul 18 near L Clear (HD); two broods first three, then Aug 3 four Vermontville (H Tyler). Golden-crowned Kinglet: several Elk L Jul (FS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: adult male L Eaton campsite late Jun (RMcK); one Jun 5 Santa Clara (RH); two singing males Elk L Jul (FS). Cedar Waxwing: good numbers all areas mid-Jun thru period. Starling: no reporter actually complained of this species for once.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: several, one nest found Elk L (FS); one RB Jun 15 (JK); one ADK Loj Jul 10 (EA); two Long L late Jun (RMcK). Red-eyed Vireo: common all areas.

Warblers: Black-and-white: all areas; eight pairs seen feeding young Elk L (FS); young seen RB (JK). Golden-winged: heard singing by GC several days late Jun, heard by HD and sighted briefly by GC Jun 20 near Lewis. TENNESSEE: pair, "much singing" Cooper Kiln P 3,000' elevation, Wilmington Jun 4 (RH), Jun 10 (RH, DY). Nashville: four singing males Elk L Jul (FS); few RB (JK). Parula: one Park Ave SL Jun 14 (HD); seven Long L late Jun (RMcK); five singing males Jul Elk L (FS). Yellow: Jul 27 TL (RM); one Thendara, one Deerland late Jun (RMcK). Magnolia: Long L late Jun (RMcK); 24 stations Elk L Jul (FS); young seen RB (JK). Black-throated Blue: Long L late Jun (RMcK); L Clear Jun 19 (HD); RB (JK); 18 Elk L Jul (FS). Myrtle: nesting Elk L, RB and SL. Black-throated Green: 11 singing males, young off Jul 18 Elk L (FS); Long L late Jun (RMcK); Jun 9 thru Aug 15 RB (JK); SL (HD). Blackburnian: 16 stations Elk L Jul (FS); Long L late Jun (RMcK); Jun 2-23 RB (JK); Jun 19 L Clear (EA, HD). Chestnut-sided: 10 singing males Elk L Jul (FS); young seen RB (JK); Long L late Jun (RMcK); Jul 28 TL (RM); Jun and Jul SL (HD, GK). Blackpoll: Blue and Owl's Head Mts Hamilton Co late Jun (RMcK); 2 pair Jun 4 (RH) and Jun 10 Wilmington (RH, DY); six males and several young Sunrise Mt Trail Elk L (FS). Ovenbird: "a beautiful hidden nest with four young" Elk L mid-Jun (MRS); reported from all other areas. Northern Waterthrush: very few reported; one Elk L Jul (FS); four Long L late Jun (RMcK); one Jun 19 SL (HD). Mourning: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); one heard until Jul 12 RB (JK); 17 singing males Elk L Jul (FS). Yellowthroat: vied with Myrtle to be most common in Region. Wilson's: none! Canada: nine males, one pair still feeding young Jul 22 Elk L (FS); Long L late Jun (RMcK); thru period RB (JK). American Redstart: not quite as common as Myrtle and Yellowthroat.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: again common everywhere but RB. Bobolink: nesting in open fields SL and RB. Eastern Meadowlark: same as Bobolink. WESTERN MEADOWLARK: a bird most probably of this species was seen and heard repeatedly singing a typical Western Meadowlark song at Santa Clara on Jun 4 by RH and William Weiss of Kinnelon, N.J.; call notes were not heard. Red-winged Blackbird: all areas. Baltimore Oriole: very few reports, only one female seen Elk L (FS); pair feeding young Jul 24 TL (RM). Rusty Blackbird: 17 Elk L Jul (FS). Common Grackle: all areas. Brown-headed Cowbird: a few all areas. Scarlet Tanager: nine stations Elk L (FS); Long L late Jun (RMcK); occasional TL Jul (RM); one Jun 1 and Jul 7 RB (JK); one SL Jun 19 (HD); one Vermontville Jun 28 (ED). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: good numbers all areas. Indigo Bunting: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); one male seen sev times Elk L (FS); one Jun 30 SL (EA, HD); one off and on Jul RB (JK). Evening Grosbeak: three Long L late Jun (RMcK); five Jun 1&2, two Jun 10 RB (JK); pair Jun 30, three birds thru period SL (HD, GK); numbers with young after Jul 12, "males seemed to do all the feeding" TL (RM). Purple Finch: few nesting pairs all areas except Elk L where they were common (FS). Pine Siskin: flock of twelve seen daily Jul and early Aug Elk L (FS); two thru period RB (JK). American Goldfinch: few all areas thru period. Red Crossbill: four Aug 5, three Aug 13 RB (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: heard ADK Loj Rd Jun 18 (HD); pair TL Jul 19 (RM).

Sparrows: Savannah: one Long L late Jun (RMcK); a few nesting RB (JK) and SL (HD). Vesper: heard near Lewis Jun 20 (HD). Slate-colored Junco: common Elk L (MRS, FS); small numbers other areas. Chipping: good nesting numbers. Field: singing Lewis and SL on some of the hottest days of late Jun (HD). White-throated: a young neighbor came over to have us identify this bird's song for him. He had walked the length of the Northville-Placid Trail on the week of Jun 13 and was grateful to this small songster for making a rather arduous hike more enjoyable than it might otherwise have been. Lincoln's: one Jun 4 Santa Clara "good song" (RH); one Jun 30 with food RB (JK); four north of Long L and Sabbatis Rd late Jun (RMcK) Swamp: four pair Elk L Jul (FS); eight Long L late Jun (RMcK); one Jun 1, 10 and Jul 23 RB (JK). Song: good numbers all areas.

ADDENDUM to May 1966 report: Brown Thrasher: one at Mrs Vivian Dupree's feeder in SL for about three weeks in late Nov and early Dec. The bird was reportedly found dead by Mrs Dupree sometime before Dec 12, on which date she took it to J Keji at RB. He identified the specimen and sent it on to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology because of the lateness of the date for Region 7.

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

June and July were surprisingly "normal" this year—a refreshing departure from recent precedent. Temperatures averaged 67.4 degrees in June and 72.2 degrees in July at Albany, very close to the normal, and precipitation totalled 2.95 and 3.88 inches, 0.30 inches below and 0.39 inches above normal, respectively. Early June was quite cool, whereas the latter part of June and the first two weeks of July produced the hottest weather of the summer. Late July and early August were again cool.

The results of eight breeding bird counts conducted in the Region for

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are included. A total of 96 species were recorded. The twenty-five most abundant: Red-winged Blackbird, 1021; Starling, 935; Robin, 565; House Sparrow, 456; Common Grackle, 361; Song Sparrow, 329; Barn Swallow, 269; Crow, 219; Chipping Sparrow, 193; Wood Thrush, 159; Goldfinch, 156; Catbird, 142; Mourning Dove, 133; Yellowthroat, 132; Veery, 128; Red-eyed Vireo, 124; Cowbird, 118; Blue Jay, 117; Meadowlark, 102; Flicker, 99; Ovenbird, 96; Rufous-sided Towhee, 94; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 83; Bank Swallow and House Wren, 82 each.

Unusual species recorded during the period included Double-crested Cormorant, Least Bittern, White-rumped Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Boreal Chickadee and Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations: Res—Reservoir; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area. Breeding Bird Counts—ABB—Austerlitz Count, Jun 25, Aden and M. H. Gokay; CBB—Cobleskill Count, Jul 3, WBS and David Rothaupt; DBB—Duaneburg Count, Jul 4, WBS and David Ellers; GBB—Ghent Count, Jul 3, PPW and Monte Gruett; NEBB—North Easton Count, Jun 11, PPW and Staffan Magnusson; NRBB—North River Count, Jun 26, WBS and Samuel Madison; PBB—Petersburg Count, Jun 18, PPW and Monte Gruett; WBB—Warrensburg Count, Jun 19, WBS and David Rothaupt.

Observers: GB—Guy Bartlett; HFB—Hazel Bundy; JF—John Fuller; MDG—Monte Gruett; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; DH—David Harrison; CK—Clarissa Ketcham; PM—Peggy McGuirk; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: only report—one Jul 25 on a pond near Galway L (DH). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: two adults and three flying imm at Alplaus on Mohawk R Jun 12–13 (HFB). Great Blue Heron: more seen this summer than last; reported from Greenville, Catskill, SCR and VFG. Common Egret: only report—one Aug 14 SCR (HFB). Green Heron: widely reported. No night herons reported during period. LEAST BITTERN: two near a nest at VFG Jun 4 (RPY) and at least four in the area Jul 23. Mute Swan: at least one remained in the SCR-VFG area through Jul 3 (EH, BRS). Canada Goose: an individual able to fly remained at a pond near Poestenkill to the beginning of Jul when excessive disturbance apparently caused it to leave (*vide* RPY). No reports of previously stocked birds. Mallards, Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks were present as breeding species. Green-winged Teal: two males at SCR Jun 20–21 (HFB). Hooded Merganser: a female and two imm (non-flying) on SCR Jun 20–21 (HFB, EH); a female seen flying along the Hudson on the NRBB.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: noted occasionally in Columbia, Greene and western Albany Cos. Cooper's Hawk: a pair near Greenville Jul 9 (CK)—only report. Sharp-shinned Hawk: no reports. Red-tailed Hawk: only about eleven individuals reported all period, with but three (plus one unidentified *buteo*) reported on the breeding bird counts. Red-shouldered Hawk: only report—one near Berlin Jun 12 (PPW, MDG). Broad-winged Hawk: only four reports during period. Osprey: a migrant at VFG Aug 14 (DH). Sparrow Hawk: still nests in area, but not common; eight breeding bird counts (200 miles of stops) produced only 13 individuals. Bobwhite: reported near Athens, East Greenbush and Meadowdale (Greene, Rensselaer and Albany Cos), Virginia Rail: reported from VFG (RPY), Meadowdale (where a chick was seen) (Robert and Mary Lou Shedd) and a small marsh near Johnsonville (NEBB). Common Gallinule: no reports.

Killdeer: widespread as breeding bird; flocks grouping at local reservoirs and mudflats, mid-Jul on. Upland Plover: reported from Niskayuna max eight Jun 24 (HFB, RPY), near West Charlton (DH) and near Esperance, where a group of 19 was seen (DBB). Solitary Sandpiper: first fall Jul 10, Basic Res (WBS), few reports. Lesser Yellowlegs: first fall—three Basic Res Jul 10 (WBS), a few thru period. Least Sandpiper: spring migrants at VFG to Jun 4 (RPY); three "peep" at Basic Res Jul 14 (PPW) and returning birds of this species at Glenville Jul 22 (RPY). Semipalmated Sandpiper: two at Glenville Jul 22 (RPY)—only record. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: two at Turner L Jun 2 (HFB, PM) the only record. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls reported occasionally. BONAPARTE'S GULL: a small gull with black head and prominent white patches on its wings was studied both at rest and on the wing at Galway L Aug 1 (DH, John Steadwell); it was not seen thereafter.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: very scarce, only four scattered reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: somewhat more frequent, but still not common. Great Horned Owl: two near East Greenbush during Jun (PPW) and two at Tomhannock Res in Jun (Robert Norton)—only reports. No Screech Owls reported. Barred Owl: at least two heard hooting Jul 16, Devil's Tombstone Campsite near Tannersville (PPW). SAW-WHET OWL: one spent Jul 13 in a power company garage in Schenectady despite considerable truck noise, but did not subsequently return (JF).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: seemed somewhat scarce as a local breeding species. Red-headed Woodpecker: at least one spent the summer near Gansevoort in an area where three were observed last year (*vide* PPW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: at least 34 observed in the Greene County Catskills Jul 15–16 (PPW). Eastern Kingbird: migration clearly under way as early as Jul 22, when 30 were observed (HFB). Traill's Flycatcher: appeared equally common in river valley marshes and in upland marshes and swamps. Least Flycatcher: much more common in northern areas or at higher altitudes than in southern valley sections; e.g., 16 and 13 were recorded on the two Warren Co breeding bird counts whereas only one and two were recorded on the GBB and NEBB respectively. Tree Swallow: RPY noted that the adverse weather of the spring had cut down numbers of birds much less in areas where food seemed abundant; most fledging at VFG occurred Jun 22–29, last about Jul 25, late. Bank Swallow: most fledged Jul 6–10 at Glenville, about ten days late. A total of 681 banded there this year, and 200–300 more could have been banded (RPY). One Cliff Swallow was also banded there. No data on Purple Martin colonies. BOREAL CHICKADEE: a pair observed at a Schroon L golf course Aug 13 and 20; on Aug 27 three young had joined them (JF). Brown Creeper: a nest found Jun 12 near Berlin (PPW, MDG). House Wren: seemed very common this summer, max 28 GBB. Winter Wren: reported Jul 16–17 in Greene Co Catskills. Carolina Wren: none. Mockingbird: several nests with young reported; one pair in Schodack raised three broods. Swainson's Thrush: seemed rather common at about 2500 feet elevation, Black Dome Mountain (Catskills) (PPW). Veery: the most commonly heard thrush in northern type habitat in Region, with 38 NRBB, 36 WBB and 27 PBB representative. Eastern Bluebird: readily recorded in rural areas, but virtually absent from the suburbs. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one at Schodack Island Jul 1 (HFB) and four at VFG Aug 14 (DH). No shrikes reported.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Brewster's Warbler: at least two seen near Guilderland during Jun (*vide* WBS). Cerulean Warbler: two males singing on Schodack Island near Castleton Jul 2 (HFB, PM) in an area in which one pair had been seen in 1965. Prairie Warbler: one singing near Kinderhook L Jul 3 GBB; also reported from known nesting areas at Ghent, Catskill and Karner. Mourning Warbler: reported Jul 30 near Ballston Spa (HFB, PM); at an elevation of about 3400 feet, Black Dome

Mountain, Jul 16 (PPW) and several in the Jenny L area (GB). Yellow-breasted Chat: reported near Glenville and at Meadowdale in Jun (EH, PPW). Redstart: seemed quite scarce, especially in lowland areas; three local breeding bird counts listed one each, and another had none.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: many colonies noted in Jun. Orchard Oriole: unreported during period, with none at former nesting sites; only report for the year—one May 8 near Castleton (Juanita Cook). Evening Grosbeak: reported from Pilot Knob in Jul (Alice Holmes) and from Jenny L (GB). Pine Siskin: one seen singing at 2200 feet elevation, Black Dome Mountain trail Jul 16 (PPW). RED CROSSBILL: about six remained at a Niskayuna feeder to Jun 12 (Frederick Klemm). No evidence was found of their nesting in the area. Grasshopper Sparrow: five GBB, surprisingly high. Sleslow's Sparrow: seems to have vanished from several former nesting areas—no reports all period.

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

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Once again the summer is characterized by a lack of birding. This report is brief due to few birders in the field, and even fewer contributing notes.

The season ranks with the hottest on record. The weather bureau reports more days of above 90 degrees temperature than ever before, and rainfall was almost non-existent. Several spring rains raised the reservoirs to their average capacities for the season and they remained there throughout the period. The drought, however, continues without sign of abating.

Several contributors commented on poor nesting results in their areas. Fred Hough says that nesting was below normal in Ulster, with a number of species showing greater than usual mortality. Several common species i.e. Starling, Grackle, etc., showed good brood success but others such as Robin, Catbird, Song Sparrow had poor survival rates.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess Co; Oran—Orange Co; Putn—Putnam Co; Sull—Sullivan Co; Ulst—Ulster Co; West—Westchester; Rock—Rockland.

Contributors frequently cited: WBC—Waterman Bird Club; PC—Pauline Cherrick; MC—Mitch Cubberley; RFD—Robert F. Deed; ME—Martha Earl; SG—Stanley Grierson; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; JK—Jim Key; MK—Mary Key; ML—Mabel Little; AM—Al Merritt; BM—Barbara Merritt; KN—Ken Niven; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; DS—Dan Smiley; B & TS—Bill and Trixie Strauss; OW—Otis Waterman.

LOONS-DUCKS: Very few of herons of any species thru season. Great Blue Heron: 12 birds and six nests reported in Tamarack Swamp, Dutch Jun 27; scattered single reports elsewhere thru period. Common Egret: first, one Jul 8 & 9 Katonah (ML); Cornwall-on-Hudson Aug 1 thru period, max two. Snowy Egret: Cornwall-on-Hudson Aug 1 thru period, max two. Least Bittern: one Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary,

Katonah Jun 5 (SG); usual summer reports from Cornwall-on-Hudson thru Aug 15. American Bittern: WBC reports one Jun record; two Pine Plains Jul 8 and one Stissing Village early Aug. Mute Swan: usual breeding in Rock and West, none elsewhere; single birds reported from Dutch and Iona Is., Rock in late Jun. Canada Goose: six at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Jul 24; six spent the better part of Jul and Aug at Roe Pk, Highland Falls. Teal: no reports. Wood Duck: seemed more scarce in Dutch, but normal to better in Oran and Sull. HOODED MERGANSER: first breeding record for Region—one female with four young at Katonah, West Jun 19 thru 25, young about $\frac{3}{4}$ grown, nest site discovered by Stan Grierson contained one unhatched egg which is at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City; a single female or imm on farm pond at Blooming Grove Aug 10 (ME).

HAWKS—OWLS: Most species of hawks appeared to be about normal. Turkey Vulture: few reported in Dutch, normal elsewhere. Red-tailed Hawk: almost no reports from Dutch, but normal elsewhere; only breeding record from Blooming Grove, where a downy young was taken from nest by two boys (ME). Red-shouldered Hawk: none reported. Broad-winged Hawk: few reports, but probably normal; one pursued by Red-tail over Katonah Jun 11. Sparrow Hawk: appears normal, but fewer Jul reports than usual. Bobwhite: call notes heard at Tomahawk L, Farmingdale, Goshen and Hamptonburgh. (ME) TURKEY: one Sacket L, Sull Aug 7 (Ken Niven). Virginia Rail: reported two places in Dutch, Jun and Jul; observed thru early Aug at Moodna Marsh, Cornwall-on-Hudson. Sora: one Jun Pine Plains, one Aug 12 Cornwall-on-Hudson. Common Gallinule: none reported. Semipalmated Plover: one Cornwall Bay Aug 3 (AM et al); six Piermont, Rock Aug 13 (RFD). Ruddy Turnstone: two Piermont, third record for Rock (RFD). Common Snipe: reported nesting Blooming Grove as last year. Upland Plover: one Jul 4 near Pine Plains (VP); three at Amenia Jul 26 (B & TS); max 18 at Hamptonburgh, Oran thru end of season (ME). Solitary Sandpiper: six thru Aug at Divine Corners, Sull (PC). White-rumped Sandpiper: three Piermont, Aug 13, fourth record for Rock (RFD). Short-billed Dowitcher: five Piermont Aug 13 (RFD). Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers: good numbers thru much of area thru first half of Aug; max 60 Semipalmated Aug 13, Piermont (RFD). Black-backed Gull: max 50, Piermont Aug 13 (RFD). Bonaparte's Gull: one imm Cornwall Bay Aug 13 (A & BM, PJ). Common Tern: max about 50, Piermont Aug 13 (RFD); one or two reported on the Hudson as far north as Cornwall. Cuckoos: both species normal in Ulst and Oran, below normal in Putn, very scarce in Dutch. Screech Owl: several reports of calling birds thru Jul and Aug. Horned Owl: only report, one calling near Carmel, Putn (ML). Barred Owl: one nest with one young, Cross River, West June 11 (David Junkin).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Nighthawk: usual nesters in large towns; no migrants at close of period. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: seemed very scarce in most areas; reported regularly along the Hudson at Cornwall. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers: did well thru most of area, no unusual changes in numbers. Flycatchers: Bob Deed says: "I have never known them to be so scarce in Rockland." Condition much the same throughout the rest of Region except for the Kingbird which was normal. Crested, Phoebe, Pewee, and Least very low in numbers. Horned Lark: nested in the same areas as last year; one adult carrying food as late as Jun 21 near Blooming Grove, Oran (ME). Tree Swallow: as numerous as ever, started flocking in early Jul, an estimated 4,000 on wires at Cornwall Jul 21 (A & BM). Barn Swallow: absent from several areas in Oran where it previously nested; good breeding population in Dutch thru Jun and Jul. Cliff Swallow: new nest site in Oran; one pair near Mt. Lodge Pk, Washingtonville (ME); one Aug 11, Cornwall (A & BM). Purple Martin: numbers seriously reduced after spring kill; nesting birds left Pine Plains area Jul 5 (VP).

Blue Jay: as many or more than ever. Common Raven: remains about Slide Mt. in the Catskills (FH, DS). White-breasted Nuthatch: numbers seem lower than normal, not many young reported. Red-breasted Nuthatch: last report Dutch Jun 9, Red Oaks Mill (MK); a group of four at Mohonk L Jun 29 (DS), known to nest in Schawangunk Mts. House Wren: failed to nest in many former sites, but numbers continue to be good. Winter Wren: one singing atop Balsam Round Top Mt., Ulst Jun 25 (MC). Carolina Wren: always scarce, but unusually so in recent years; one Jul 14 & 18 Red Oaks Mill, Dutch (M & JK). Mockingbird: nesting in usual sites; new nesting at Monticello, two young, fledged and flying, last seen Jun 22 (KN). Thrushes: most species normal. Robin: nested again this year on the summit of Slide Mt. (FH). Wood Thrush: nesting birds in good numbers. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Bicknell's var. in normal numbers on Slide Mt. Veery: few reported and heard, numbers seem lower. Bluebird: numbers about normal thru most of Region; 40 nesting pairs in Dutch brought off about 90 young, 25 found dead, not many second nestings noted. First nesting mortality probably due to cold weather and lack of food. Some increase noted in unhatched eggs. July heat may also have had an effect. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pairs reported in four locations near Nyack, and another pair reported from Rockland L (RFD). Cedar Waxwing: numbers of nesting birds low in the Blooming Grove area (ME).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Red-eyed Vireo: arr very late in May; below normal thru period. Warblers: numbers of all species below normal. Golden-winged and Blue-winged: both nesting near Tomahawk L. Brewster's: observed Jun 1 near Pleasantville (Tom Howe). Myrtle: reported nesting on Balsam Round Top Mt., Ulst Jun 25 (MC). Cerulean: Jun 15, about three pair nesting Mt. Rutsen Rd near Rhinebeck, one pair nesting Cruger's Is. Chestnut-sided: breeding in good numbers near Sterling Forest Gardens. Blackpoll: ten on Balsam Round Top Mt. Jun 25 (MC). Mourning: one singing Balsam Round Top Mt. Jun 25 (MC). Yellow-breasted Chat: unreported in most counties; three reports from Dutch—one pair Red Hook and one bird Cruger's Is. Jun 15; one bird Rock City Jul 2 (OW). Canada: one killed striking window in Bedford Hills, West Aug 5 (Lee Gargliano).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: single birds Jun 1 Hawthorne, Jun 8 Poughquog, usual residents at Kripplebush and Stone Ridge were not observed to nest; nesting was observed near Tomahawk L, Oran (ME). Baltimore Oriole: numbers down in Dutch, normal elsewhere; observed flocking on Aug 4 (50 birds) and Aug 11 (78 birds) at Cooper's Corner, Sull (Ed McBride). Common Grackle: in greater numbers than usual if possible. Scarlet Tanager: almost unreported, only two during Jul in Dutch. Indigo Bunting: numbers good after late spring arr. **DICKCISSEL:** one Jun 25, Kingston (Frank McCausland). Purple Finch: on Slide Mt. during nesting season; at least four pair feeding young during Jun at Standfordville and vicinity, a pair believed to have nested near Martha Earl's home at Blooming Grove, imm and adult birds feeding on Mulberries there; a family reported same time Gile's Rd, Rock Tavern. House Finch: Bob Deed says "I get more phone calls on House Finches than any other bird;" range extended to Dutch where they nested at Vassar College and possibly Poughquog; one banded Jan 2 at Chevy Chase, Md. was recovered at Mohonk L Mar 17, first record for that area. (A note of interest: Bob Deed reports this species nests along side Purple Finches on Cape Cod. Excellent for comparisons). Grasshopper Sparrow: well reported from Dutch, more than usual; two near Unionville, Oran Jul 2. (A & BM). Slate-colored Junco: no reports. Chipping Sparrow: a pair on the summit of Slide Mt. again this summer (FH, DS).

Autumn reports due no later than Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND FRED HEATH

This summer's weather might be summed up in one word—hot. The month of June averaged above normal and from June 27 to July 14 we were stricken with temperatures above 90 degrees F on all but two days. On four days during that period the thermometer reading rose to above 100 degrees F (to as high as 107 on July 3). Precipitation averaged near normal except for June when it was low.

This summer the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated a Breeding Bird Survey throughout the United States. At least three such counts were taken on Long Island this year. Their results have been summarized as follows, listing only most common species for each:

1. Hauppauge west to Muttontown, July 3, 42 species (F. Enders): Rock Dove-118; Common Grackle-106; House Sparrow-85; Starling-74; Redwinged Blackbird-66; next five in descending magnitude: Robin, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, Rufous-sided Towhee, Bobwhite.
2. Manorville west to Miller Place, July 3, 48 species (D. Puleston): Starling-146; Common Grackle-68; Blue Jay-51; House Sparrow-50; Robin-50; Rufous-sided Towhee, Catbird, Barn Swallow, Mourning Dove, Rock Dove.
3. Wantagh east to Oakdale, July 10, 44 species (F. Enders, T. Davis): Starling-530; Herring Gull-416; House Sparrow-399; Redwinged Blackbird-214; Common Grackle-143; Mallard, Robin, Rock Dove, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove.

Mr. Robert Gardiner's generosity in allowing three visits to his island this summer produced a wealth of data on this exciting area. For a complete account of these trips read the column under the following headings: Heron colonies, Cattle Egret, Gadwall, Oldsquaw, King Eider, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Turkey, Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, Gull, tern and skimmer colonies, Iceland Gull, Herring Gull, Black Tern, Bank Swallow and Bobolink.

Rarities recorded this summer included Black Vulture, Razorbill, five Thick-billed Murres and a juvenile Saw-whet Owl. Also, three Willet's nests were found in the vicinity of Jones Beach and Tobay Sanctuary, establishing this species as breeding in New York State for the first time. Of special interest are the continued increase of breeding Glossy Ibis and observations on three pelagic trips to Cox's Ledge off Montauk Point during July and August.

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

Contributors frequently cited: FB—Frank Bader; JB—John Bull; RC—Richard Cohen; TD—Thomas Davis; FE—Frank Enders; FH—Fred Heath; HH—Helen Hays; WH—Will Houston; RJ—Robert Johnson; DP—Dennis Puleston; RP—Richard Plunkett; FS—Fred Schaefer; BT—Benjamin Trimble; JT—Joanne Trimble, JZ—John Zarudsky.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: none seen at JBWR this summer. Cory's Shearwater: Jun 14 Jones Inlet (A. Van Sant, B Moessinger)—extremely early. Shearwaters: on Jul 2 the following numbers were seen at Cox's Ledge, SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT)—14 Cory's, six Greater, two Sooty and 18 unidentified; Aug 1 in same area, 30 Cory's and 120 Greater (BT); on Aug 13 visit to same area—44 Cory's, 11 Greater, one Sooty and 28 unidentified (BT, JT, RP, J Plunkett). Wilson's Petrel: 60 Jul 2 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT); 100 plus Aug 1 Cox's Ledge (BT); 37 Aug 13 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT, RP). Gannet: sub-adult Jul 2 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT); sub-adult Aug 13 Cox's Ledge (BT, JT, RP).

Heron-egret colonies with numbers of pairs breeding—Gardiner's Is Jun 18 (mob): Common Egret, one; Snowy Egret, five; Black-crowned Night Heron, 40–50. Lawrence Marsh, nine dates from Apr 16 to Jul 12 (TD et al): Green Heron, four; Little Blue Heron, three; Common Egret, two; Snowy Egret 115; Black-crowned Night Heron 20; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, three; Glossy Ibis 25 (13 pairs last year). Complete figures are lacking for Canarsie Pol, but at least 60 pairs of Glossy Ibis nested (20 pairs last year) and also a Louisiana Heron's nest with young was found (HH, H. Johnson, D. Cooper).

Cattle Egret: three summered at JBWR (mob); Jun 1 Gardiner's Is (JB). Glossy Ibis: up to 30 seen at Tobay from late Jul to end of period (mob). Gadwall: nest with 12 eggs, Jun 2 Gardiner's Is (JB). Oldsquaw: an oiled bird summered at Gardiner's Is (mob). King Eider: three Jun 2 Gardiner's Is (JB)—extremely late. Red-breasted Merganser: Jul 3 Mecox Bay (FB, WH, TD).

JBWR Waterfowl Count Aug 2 (HH, et al): Mallard 14; Black Duck 481; Gadwall 272; Blue-winged Teal 12; American Widgeon, one; Shoveler, one; Red-head, four; Greater Scaup 23 (non-breeders); Bufflehead, one (up to three individuals seen during season); Ruddy Duck 274.

HAWKS—OWLS: BLACK VULTURE: Jul 5 Far Rockaway (JB); injured bird Jul 8 Central Islip (*vide* I. Alperin); probably same individual, died, specimen now at AMNH. Red-tailed Hawk: two pairs bred on Gardiner's Is (JB et al). Osprey: an estimated 120–130 adults were seen at Gardiner's Is on Jun 18 (mob)—of about two dozen nests checked, only two contained young, an infertile egg which was collected and later analyzed contained a considerable amount of insecticide. Pigeon Hawk: Jul 30 Brookhaven (DP)—extremely early. Turkey: 30 adults plus young Jun 18 Gardiner's Is (mob). Clapper Rail: Jun 18 Gardiner's Is (DP). Common Gallinule: one pair bred at JBWR (*vide* HH). American Coot: 78 Aug 2 JBWR (HH et al).

American Oystercatcher: dead adult, possibly shot, and nest with two punctured eggs Jun 12, unnamed island 1.3 miles NE of Tobay Sanctuary Tower (TD, FB, RJ)—during Jul a pair of birds was seen on this same island but no nest was found; territorial pair Jun 13 Moriches Inlet (DP); 14 pairs found on Gardiner's and Cartwright Islands on Jun 18 and Jul 2 (mob)—on the latter date a pair was seen with two flightless young. An albino plover, either Semipalmated or Piping, was seen Aug 13 East Hampton (E. Gamble). Killdeer: max 40 migrating Aug 14 Atl Bch (RC). American Woodcock: Jul 3 Great Gull Is (FS); Jul 15 Atl Bch (RC)—does not breed at either locality. Upland Plover: 30 Aug 15 Farmingdale (D. Davidson, A. Van Sant)—extremely high count, probably includes local breeding birds. WILLET: nest with four eggs Jun 4 Jones (TD, FB, JZ); nest with two eggs Jun 12

Tobay (TD, FB, JZ, RJ); nest with four eggs Jun 30 Tobay (TD, FB, JZ, RJ)—color photographs taken, these are the first breeding records for New York State, further details will be published elsewhere. Hudsonian Godwit: nine Aug 12 Moriches Inlet (DP). Ruff: female Jul 17 JBWR (R. Arbib)—seen well both sitting and flying. Wilson's Phalarope: two Aug 12 Moriches Inlet (DP). Northern Phalarope: Aug 13, 30 miles SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT, RP); two Aug 14 and 15 JBWR (mob).

Gull, tern and skimmer colonies with numbers of pairs breeding—Canarsie Pol (HH): Herring Gull "about 1000". Gardiner's Is Jun 18 and Jul 2 (mob): Great Black-backed Gull 320–480; Herring Gull 3100–4000; Common Tern 80–100; Black Skimmer, one—Herring Gull numbers were below last year's, but the Black-backed Gulls have shown a tremendous increase, terns have not been known to nest here in recent years. Cartwright Is Jul 2 (TD, FB, WH): Great Black-backed Gull 10; Common Tern 150; Black Skimmer, two—last year 400 pairs of terns were found on Jul 4, about 80 percent of which had young, on this visit we were able to find only three downy tern chicks. West Meadow Is, north of Island Park, Jul 4 (TD, BT, FE.): Common Tern 400 plus; Least Tern 40 plus; Black Skimmer 60–70. Unnamed Island, 1.3 miles NE of Tobay Tower, Jun 12 (TD, FB, RJ, JZ): Common Tern 250–300; Black Skimmer, five-ten—on Jun 30 the colony was revisited and many fewer birds were found, only about 100 pairs, possibly as a result of severe rainstorms. Great Gull Is (HH et al): about 3700 pairs of Common and Roseate Terns in a 1:1 ratio; Spotted Sandpiper 15. Mecox to Westhampton Beach Jul 3 (TD, FB): four Least Tern colonies were estimated to contain 350–400 pairs.

Iceland Gull: Jun 18, Gardiner's Is (TD). Herring Gull: unhatched and pipped eggs found at Gardiner's Is on Jul 2 (TD)—latest Regional egg date. Royal Tern: Jun 4 JBWR (WH et al)—earliest Regional record; two Jul 31 Tobay (A. Dignan). Black Tern: Jul 2 Cartwright Is (FB, WH, TD). Black Skimmer: 25 nests with one to four eggs each Jun 4 (FE, FH)—earliest Regional egg date. RAZORBILL: Jul 2 an adult flew past a boat thirty miles SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT)—first Jul Regional record, the previous two summer occurrences were of birds found dead. THICK-BILLED MURRE: John Bull reports *five* specimens received at the AMNH—oiled bird Jul 25 Fire Is; sick bird Aug 7 in Bay near Westhampton Beach; dead bird Aug 15 Fire Is; sick bird Aug 24 Moriches Inlet; sick bird Aug 28 Moriches Inlet—unprecedented, previous extreme dates were Apr 2 and Nov 13. SAW-WHET OWL: a bird in juvenile plumage, with traces of natal down was found at Quogue Beach on Jul 21 (*fide* DP)—it was brought to the Quogue Sanctuary where it later died, specimen now at AMNH; after last winter's flight it would not have been too surprising if a pair bred locally, the only Long Is breeding record (1879) followed another large flight.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Yellow-shafted Flicker: Aug 13, twenty miles SE Montauk Pt. (BT, JT, RP). Eastern Kingbird: Jul 24 JBWR (mob)—early. Traill's Flycatcher: singles netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 2, 6, 9 and 11 (FS). Bank Swallow: "hundreds" of pairs nesting in the cliffs along the east shore of Gardiner's Is Jun 18 (mob). Blue Jay: last seen at Great Gull Is on Jun 6 (FS). White-breasted Nuthatch: netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 6 (FS). Brown Creeper: Aug 13, thirty miles SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT, RP)—earliest Regional record by over two weeks. House Wren: netted at Great Gull Is Jun 9 (FS). Wood Thrush: netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 4 (FS). Swainson's Thrush: netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 4 (FS).

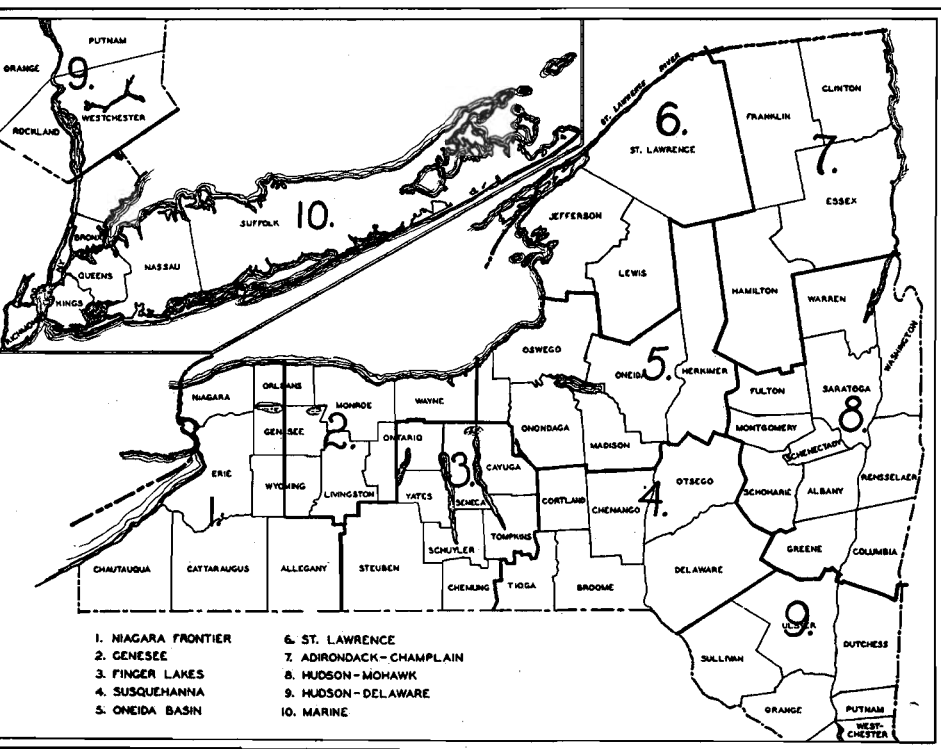
VIREOS—WARBLERS: Cerulean Warbler: singing male early Jun Noyack (DP)—fifth consecutive year with no evidence of breeding. Mourning Warbler: female netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 9 (FS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: pair at Gardiner's Is Jun 18 (mob). Redwinged Blackbird: two Aug 13, 30 miles SE of Montauk Pt (BT, JT, RP); 500 plus Aug 14 Tobay (TD et al)—early movement. Orchard Oriole: imm male Jun 18 Bayard Cutting Arboretum (A. Bell); adult male Jun 2-Jul 7 Brookhaven (DP)—singing, no evidence of nesting. Dickcissel: Aug 14 Tobay (TD). Lark Sparrow: Aug 7 Tobay (G. Rose)—early. Field Sparrow: netted at Great Gull Is on Jun 3 (FS)—late migrant. White-throated Sparrow; singing bird Jun 5-6 Atl Bch (RC)—late.

Note: Please send us fall reports by Dec 7.

T. Davis, 8613-85 Street, Woodhaven, New York 11421; F. Heath, 11-15 F.D.R. Dr., New York, NY 10003.

REPORTING REGIONS



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

BOOK REVIEWS

Getting Acquainted with Birds in Genesee Country. Edited by Paul W. Weld and Allan Klonick. Rochester Academy of Science, 1966. 73 pp., illus., maps. \$1.25 postpaid from Dr. Neil S. Moon, 25 Edgewater Lane, Rochester, N.Y. 14617

To the growing list of guides to local birding areas in New York State has been added recently this attractive booklet about the Rochester area. The editors and authors are members of the Genesee Ornithological Society. Its publication was sponsored by the Rochester Academy of Science. It is a guide to where to go and what may be seen, and should be very helpful for birders who wish to visit spots so often mentioned in Region 2 reports and for those moving to the Rochester area.

Howard Miller's introductory remarks comment on migration in the area. An overall map shows the location of places mentioned. The descriptions of the good birding spots have been written by members of the GOS who are well acquainted with the various places. Each description includes comments on, and sometimes lists of, species that may be seen there at various times of year, a photograph of typical habitat, and for most of the areas a map showing access routes and locations of trails and special observation points. Individual areas covered are: lake shore (Braddock's Bay, Island Cottage Woods); parks (Durand-Eastman, Highland, Mendon Ponds, Powder Mill, Webster); two sanctuaries (Reed Road, Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club), and somewhat farther afield. Oak Orchard and Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. A concluding section covers briefly eleven additional areas. There are two appendices for beginning birdwatchers, one on optical equipment and the other a short bibliography of field guides and reference books. (Some copies of the *Kingbird* Vol. 5, #3, October 1955 with the article by Leo Tanghe referred to in the Bibliography are still available.)

A large amount of specific information is well-presented in a small space. The GOS and the editors and authors are to be congratulated. Tuck one of these in your pocket—its 4 × 6½" size fits easily—and go visiting to see winter rarities or spring hawks at Braddock's Bay, or look for those 77 species listed as nesting in Powder Mill Park. DWM

Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification. By Chandler S. Robbins, Bertel Bruun, and Herbert S. Zim. Illustrated by Arthur Singer. Golden Press, 1966. 340 pp. Plastic coated paperback edition \$2.95, library edition \$4.95.

For the traveller who must save weight, this is the perfect guide because it covers in one volume all species of wild birds to be found in North America north of Mexico, except for extremely rare visitors for which there are fewer than five records since 1900. Information by words has been cut, information by picture has been increased.

Apparently careful thought was given to extra information that could be added in a small space. The result is several useful innovations. Including the accent on the scientific names takes no extra space and may make these less formidable for the beginning birder. Reducing the flipping of pages by having every picture opposite its text is convenient. The row of small silhouettes across the top of some of the pages, e.g. on the gull pages, should help beginners to learn to recognize the different appearance of various orders or families. Many flight patterns and various plumages are included. Helpful also are the two pages of sparrow heads and breasts, fall warblers on two facing pages instead of back to back, head patterns of spring warblers also on two facing pages for quick comparison. The addition of two intro-

ductory pages giving brief descriptions of the families of perching birds with a small illustration of a typical species of each family should encourage a beginner to learn to place a new species in its family, a most important asset if one visits areas where many of the species are unfamiliar.

The range maps should be helpful in travelling, to permit quick check of the general area where one should encounter new species. Unfortunately, space limitations have required that the size of these maps be reduced so much that some of the usefulness is lost. It is difficult to tell exactly where range limits are. Supplementary information may be needed from other guides or state bird books. For example, as nearly as I can tell, the breeding range of the Black Tern indicated on the map does not extend south of Lake Ontario or Lake Erie, and yet they breed in central New York State. The Sonagrams, too, may have been so reduced that their usefulness has been impaired. Probably most birders will have to learn how to use these, as they have not been readily available.

The illustrations are good, and the use of dull-surfaced paper is a great improvement. Color values, at least in the review copy received, are not uniformly good. For example, some of the shorebirds, such as the Yellowlegs, are too light, the buffy patch at the side of the neck of the Bay-breasted Warbler is white, and the crown of the Chestnut-sided Warbler is too green. Possibly later press runs are better.

For many birds, I suspect that this new guide will mean not just a single volume to be carried, but another one to be added.

DWM

BULLETIN EXCHANGE

The following member clubs are interested in exchanging club bulletins:

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Miss Hortense Barten
Old Chatham, N.Y. 12136

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Kingston Field Naturalists Club—**The Bluebill**
 Mrs. Betty Hughes, Post Office Box 423
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Corrections or additions should be called to the attention of Miss Elizabeth S. Manning, Bulletin Exchange Committee, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10028



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