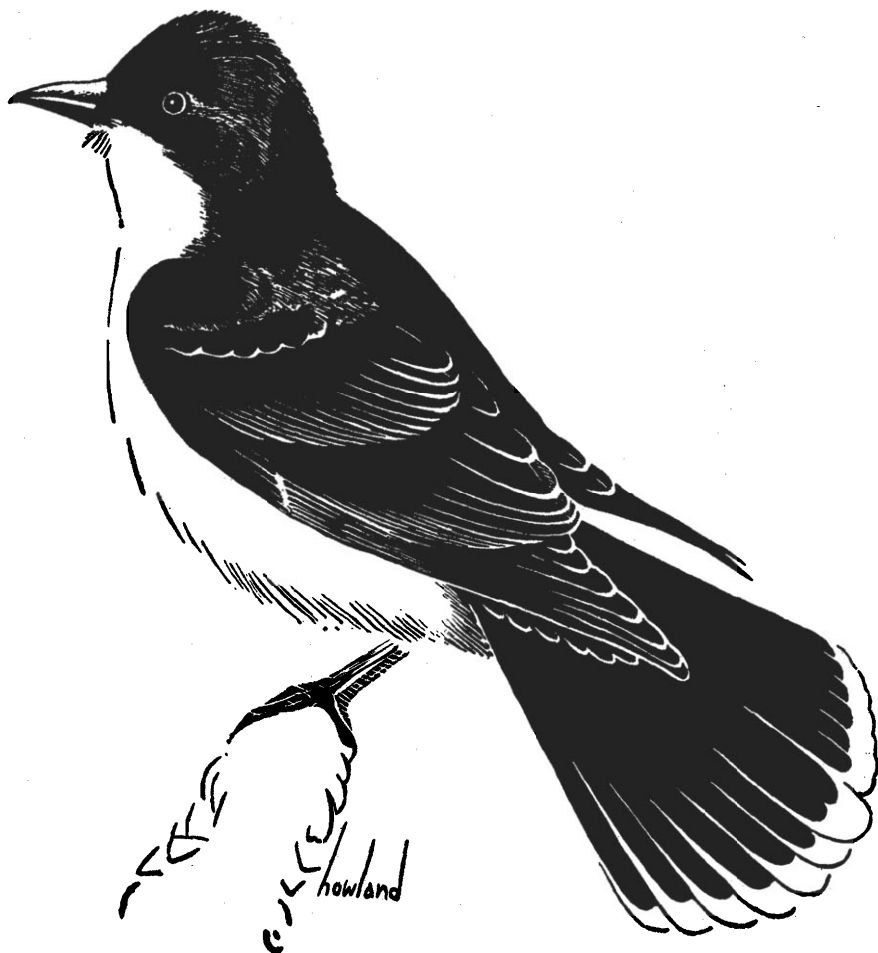


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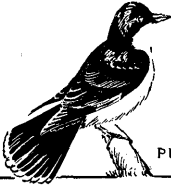
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## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

On this our last "page" I want to personally thank all the Federation officers, committee chairmen and all members of the Federation, without whose full support such successes as we have achieved would not have been possible.

And as closing note, we think the Federation has made excellent choices of new officers and wish every success to Kenneth Niven and the others. We are sure they will receive the same solid backing given us.

*Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.*

# LOCOMOTION, MAINTENANCE AND FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF THE GREAT BLUE HERON IN NORTHERN NEW YORK

JAMES R. McALLISTER AND GEORGE R. MAXWELL

## INTRODUCTION

This paper follows a preliminary study of the maintenance and feeding behavior of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias herodias*) initiated by Parker and Maxwell (1969). Maintenance behavior, as used in this paper, includes movements concerned with preening, scratching, shaking, bill cleaning, stretching, sun-bathing, defecation, sleeping, yawning, relaxation, and alert position. Maintenance activities concerning perching, alert position, scratching, shaking, bill wiping, care of the feet, stretching and throat pulsation in this colony were described previously by Parker and Maxwell.

The objectives of this study were: (1) to observe and photograph feeding and maintenance behavior; (2) to find the feeding grounds for the colony; and (3) to find the types of food being fed to young herons in the nest. Specific comparisons of the behaviors between the Great Blue Heron, the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) were made and summarized.

## STUDY AREA

On Ironsides Island (Jefferson County, New York) in the St. Lawrence River, field observations, totaling 600 hours, were made of a well-established Great Blue Heron nesting colony during the spring and summer of 1969. The island is five miles down river from Alexandria Bay, New York. The colony encompasses an area approximately  $630 \times 225$  feet (3.25 acres) on the northeast end of this 18 acre island (Fig. 1). Ironsides Island, composed of red granite partially covered with sandy soil, has vegetation exhibiting an elm-ash-oak edaphic climax. The nests were situated in the highest branches of the American elms (*Ulmus americana*), red maples (*Acer rubrum*), northern red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*). There were 44 trees with 255 nests giving an average of six nests per tree (Table 1). These trees are located in or adjacent to a swamp (Fig. 2). The maximum depth in the swamp, in early summer, was one foot when the water covered most of the land area under the trees and later in the summer was dry except for a few low lying areas.

In regard to selection of nest sites, Bent (1926) indicated the main object to be gained was security for the eggs and young in remote and inaccessible areas. Other studies on island heronies, Lahrman (1957) in Saskatchewan, Canada, and Behle (1958) in the Great Salt Lake, Utah, found Great Blue Herons nesting on the ground. Their studies indicated

that predation was minimal on island heronies. Neither predation nor its effects were found on Ironsides Island.

The colony had 255 nests, which were counted in early spring before the leaves were out. Of the 255 counted, observations were made of 130 active nests during this study. The number of young in the nest ranged from one to five giving a population of 280 in the colony. Benning (1968) reported that there were 110 active nests with 240 young in 1967.

TABLE 1

Nest trees in the 3.25 acre Great Blue Heron colony on Ironsides Island.

Species	Trees in colony	Trees with a nest or nests	Ave. tree height
American Elm .....	16	12	70 ft.
Northern Red Oak .....	13	13	65 ft.
Red Maple .....	12	5	60 ft.
White Ash .....	5	5	60 ft.
Dead (unknown) .....	10	9	70 ft.
	56	44	

#### METHODS AND MATERIALS

An elevated blind was constructed for observations. It was built atop 36 feet of scaffolding and consisted of a four by six foot plywood floor with burlap sides and roof. The blind was located on a high ridge at the southwest corner of the heronry, affording an excellent view of the colony. Photographs were taken with a 15 to 60X zoom telescope adapted to a single lens reflex camera and a super eight motion picture camera with a one to three zoom lens. Observations were also made from a 12 foot outboard motor boat powered with a 10 horsepower engine. The boat was used to find the location of the herons' feeding grounds and for observing methods of obtaining food.

#### LOCOMOTION

*Walking.* — Walking involved bringing one foot forward smoothly and unhurriedly as the heron advanced, body erect, head and neck extended. As the foot was brought forward the phalanges were relaxed and then spread before being placed down. Most of the walking observations occurred while the herons fed in the shallow waters of nearby marsh lands. Walking observed in the heronry were of both young and adults as they moved around on the tree branches and in the nests. The young nestlings walked awkwardly in a crouched position for several weeks. As they matured they assumed the movement described for the adult and sometimes flapped their wings for balance.

*Flight.* — On long flights the neck was retracted in an S-shape, with

the legs and feet extended backwards in line with the body. Bent (1926) indicated the legs act as a rudder because the tail was too short for this purpose. On short flights the Great Blue Heron was observed with its head and neck extended. The head was elevated slightly above the level of the back. This type of flight was observed when the heron became alarmed and left the nest site. In the marsh lands the heron exhibited this type of flight when scared, but the head and neck were extended for only a short time.

Attempts have been made to record wing-flap rates and speed with varying results given by different investigators. From results obtained in this study the number of wingbeats per second varied under different conditions. Motion picture film was used to determine the wingbeats per second from the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Frames/second}}{\text{Frames/beat}} = \text{beats/second (Palmer, 1962)}.$$

On long flights 2.3 wingbeats per second were recorded while on a short flight when the heron was hurried 3.2 wingbeats per second were calculated. Blake (1948) reported 2.1 wingbeats per second for the Great Blue Heron. Palmer (1962) reported a cruising speed in the range of 19–29 miles per hour, and 30 miles per hour when pressed. Palmer (1962) gave a speed range of 18–21 miles per hour with 2.6 wingbeats per second for the Black-crowned Night Heron and for the Green Heron a speed range of 20–34 miles per hour with 2.8 wingbeats per second.

After three weeks in the nest, the young started pre-flight training which consisted of repeated flapping of the wings. At this stage their underparts were almost featherless but their primaries, secondaries and scapular feathers were well developed. At about five weeks of age in the final stages of feather development the most mature nestling climbed to an adjacent limb where wing flapping continued for several hours at a time. After the first heron left the nest the others usually followed in a day or two. In about a week to ten days following their first venture from the nest, their feathers and muscles were nearly fully developed for flight. Their first flight was very awkward as they seemed to drop from the nest to become air borne. Gliding was observed not only when landing but during sustained flights and flights against strong winds. On windy days the heron approached the nest in a long spiral glide facing the wind.

*Take-off.* — Certain intention movements (see Daanje, 1960) were associated with take-off in the Great Blue Heron. Turning to one side and slight extension of the wings were obvious intention movements observed.

The following descriptions of a typical take-off and landing were made with the aid of motion picture film. Slight variations of the following

description were observed in some birds.

1. The body was brought to a semi-vertical position with the wings slightly extended.
2. Legs were bent.
3. The head and neck were somewhat withdrawn.
4. The body was thrust forward and upward by the extension of the legs as the wings extended outward and upward.
5. The head and neck were extended forward with the body.
6. The legs and feet were brought together and formed a straight line with the body.
7. The head and neck were retracted as the heron gained altitude.

*Landing.* — The Great Blue Heron appeared to execute the following movement while landing:

1. The approach was made at a long glide; the feet and legs trailed with the neck and head retracted.
2. The head and neck were then extended and elevated above the body.
3. The legs dangled down and slightly back until a few seconds before landing when they were brought forward.
4. The tail feathers were spread.
5. As the legs swung forward the wings stroked vigorously to decrease the approach speed.
6. The head and neck were retracted slightly just before the feet made contact with the perch.
7. As the feet grasped the perch the head and neck extended slightly to the perched position and the wings continued to beat until balance was established.

#### MAINTENANCE BEHAVIOR

*Alert position.* — When disturbed the Great Blue Heron assumed an alert position. Disturbances in or near the heronry from boats, planes, and humans stimulated a rapid alert response in the beginning of this study. As the adults, and later the young, became conditioned to their surroundings they reacted less intensely. Away from the island the birds were very wary and usually responded to the slightest disturbance.

*Preening.* — Preening was one of the most frequently observed activities of the Great Blue Heron. It was not found to be done at any one particular time, but was observed at daybreak, following eating, flight, feeding of the young, and usually following a period of relaxation. It occupied a large percentage of their time while in the perched position (See Table 2). During one eight hour period of observation, the Great Blue Heron was found to devote 21 percent of the time to preening. This



compared to the 20 percent of time devoted to preening in the Black-crowned Night Heron (Maxwell and Putnam, 1968). The Great Blue Heron used its bill with ease to preen all areas of the body with exception of the head and posterior neck. During breast region preening, the neck was extended and bent downward while the head and bill were brought backward perpendicular to the breast and abdominal feathers. The Great Blue Heron appeared to nibble his feathers or smooth them by holding them between the mandibles; however, he did not intentionally pull the feathers from his body.

The next most common area of preening was the underwing and side area, which usually occurred together. The wing was opened slightly and drooped; the bill was extended deep into the feathers, and nibbling was evident. The individual feathers were pulled in a stroking motion than, almost flicking them, allowed to fall back into place. The primaries and upperwing were preened by running the mandible the length of the feathers (Fig. 3). The upperwing coverts were usually nibbled and stroked first.

TABLE 2

Frequency and percentage of time devoted to preening in each major body area: A comparison of five Black-crowned Night Herons<sup>a</sup> observed 7.7 hours and six Great Blue Herons observed 8 hours.

Region	Total preening time (minutes)		Percentage of total preening time	
	GBH	BCNH	GBH	BCNH
Breast .....	30	24	29	26
Underwing and sides .	26	21	25	23
Neck .....	20	18	20	19
Upperwing .....	10	9	10	10
Primaries .....	8	9	8	10
Back .....	4	6	4	6
Head .....	2	3	2	3
Tail .....	2	3	2	3

<sup>a</sup> Maxwell and Putnam (1968).

In order to preen the back and tail feathers the head was turned to one side with the top tilted on an angle. The feathers of this area were nibbled and stroked with the bill.

The neck feathers were erect while the neck was bent, with the head

and bill pointed downward to preen individual feathers of the anterior and side neck (Fig. 4). This was done with a slow even stroke. The head and posterior neck feathers were preened by placing the head between the wing and side of the body and rotating the head in and out. This was completed in a few seconds.

Meyerriecks (1960) reported that in most cases the final act of preening in the Green Heron was the rubbing of the bill over the oil gland. This behavior was not observed in this study. However the heron's bill had a powdery down appearance following a preening bout.

Young herons, from the time they were a few days old, seemed to spend most of their waking hours preening. Their main activity appeared to be picking at the chitinous covering of the shafts of their growing feathers.

*Scratching.* — Great Blue Herons scratch the head and neck areas directly (Simmons, 1957) ("Vornherum" of Heinroth, 1930) by raising the leg straight up to meet the lowered head (Fig. 5). The Great Blue Heron used the pectinated claw on the middle toe to make contact with the scratched areas. As the heron worked on the head and neck areas, the head was rotated with the crest fully erect. Scratching appeared more often as an isolated action rather than strictly being associated with preening.

*Shaking.* — The body was moved vigorously back and forth around the anterior-posterior axis as the wings moved in and out slightly (Fig. 6). On slow motion movie film the wings appeared to drop a little with the in and out movement of the wings. The shaking ended with the wings brought in towards the body, the head and neck extended and rotated several times. Shaking sessions were observed from three to twelve seconds in length. Although a similar behavior was described of the Green Heron by Meyerriecks (1960), he also reported that at times shaking out occurred just prior to flight and that shaking out in flight was rare. Shaking out prior to and during flight were not observed in this study of the Great Blue Heron.

*Bill cleaning.* — Bill cleaning was accomplished by lifting the foot upward and forward, extending the pectinated claw of the middle toe and flicking material from the bill. After or during a preening bout tiny feathers sometimes stuck on the tip of the bill and the heron removed them in the manner described. In this study bill cleaning was observed to occur less frequently than bill wiping which was described in Parker and Maxwell (1969).

*Stretching.* — Stretching occurred during a preening bout or as an isolated incident. Two methods of stretching were observed. In one method the body was bent forward horizontally, the neck and head were placed in the perched position, weight was shifted to one leg, and then the wing and leg of the opposite side were stretched. The leg, without the weight, was bent until the femur and tibiotarsus were paral-

lel with the ilium and each other (Parker and Maxwell, 1969). Extension of the wing down and out was followed by an outward extension of the leg and fanning of the wing feathers (Fig. 7). There was no tendency for the heron to stretch one wing more often than the other or to have a set pattern of one leg then the other.

In the second method of stretching, the Great Blue Heron began from a perched position, fully extended the head and neck, in contrast to the first method, and raised the humeri above the horizontal body. Stretching in this manner was observed more often in nestlings than adults.

*Sun-bathing.* — When sun-bathing the heron stood erect with its head and neck fully extended facing the sun. The wings were opened about halfway and slightly drooped so that the tips nearly touched each other in front of the body (Fig. 8). Sunning periods lasted for several minutes. One heron was observed sunning for 22 minutes with only occasional movement of the head. Frequently the sun-bathing heron opened and closed the wings while still in the fully extended position. Hauser (1957) listed the Green Heron as a "voluntary" sun-bather, but she did not illustrate or describe the position.

*Defecation.* — The defecating bird lowered the posterior end of its body, elevated its tail, partially opened its wings for balance and then slightly raised its head and neck. Not only did defecation occur in the perched position but also in flight. Defecation sometimes occurred just a few seconds after take-off. The young nestlings voided into the nest up to fledging at which time they elevated the rump and defecated over the edge. Because there appeared to be no attempt at nest sanitation the odor became pungent. The trees and ground under them became completely whitewashed with the excrement, which is probably the cause of nest tree die-off in heron colonies.

*Sleeping.* — The sleeping heron usually rested its head on the fully retracted neck, dropped the wings slightly, and closed the eyelids for varying periods of time. Observations were made of herons sleeping on branches with one leg raised so that only one foot was visible as it protruded from the fluffed feathers. Long periods of time without moving were observed in this position. An occasional passing boat or plane would often disturb the sleeping heron. The disturbances would cause little concern since the sleeping position was assumed readily. After the young fledged, adults were seen spending most of the daylight hours sleeping or resting on islands apart from Ironsides.

*Yawning.* — This movement occurred most frequently following long periods of inactivity. The heron's bill was opened wide with the eyes opened and slightly bulged. This behavior was similar to that of the Black-crowned Night Heron and the Green Heron. The observations made indicated that yawning occurred irregularly and was apparently not influenced by external factors.

*Relaxation.* — The Great Blue Heron remained in the perched position

for extended periods of time. The only movement might be an occasional turn of the head. Observations early in the nesting season indicated that sounds from a passing boat or airplane were the stimulus for movement of the head. Later these sounds received little attention. Blinking during this period of relaxation occurred quite frequently in the perched position, but lessened when the neck was retracted. Blinking did not seem to involve the eyelid, only the nictitating membrane. The nictitating membrane covered the eye for one or two seconds at a time. The average number of blinks was sixteen per minute. These were obtained by observing ten herons on separate occasions.

Maintenance activities concerning perching, alert position, scratching, shaking, bill wiping, care of the feet, stretching and throat pulsation in this colony were described previously by Parker and Maxwell (1969).

### FEEDING BEHAVIOR

*Adult feeding.* — Three methods of securing food by adult Great Blue Herons were observed in this study. Bent (1926) stated that two methods, still hunting and stalking, were employed in deep-knee fishing areas. The third method, alighting on deep water, is considered a rare observation by most authors. Still hunting (1) was observed on exposed shoals and among cattails in a marsh. In this method, the body assumed a position upright with the head and neck fully extended at a 45 degree angle. Sometimes the body was crouched in a horizontal position with the bill almost touching the water. This position was noted prior to striking the prey. The heron struck quickly into the water with his bill, grasping the prey between the mandibles. Larger prey was positioned for swallowing and done so immediately. The stalking method (2) was very similar to walking. The body may be erect or low and horizontal. Compared to still hunting, the neck was carried lower and more forward. The heron appeared to be trying to locate prey rather than waiting for it to come to him. Meyerriecks (1960) mentioned a modification of stalking where the Great Blue Heron flicked the wing two or three times in rapid succession in order to startle prey. This type of behavior was not observed in this study. Alighting on the water (3) was seen on two occasions. A heron was flying toward the heronry when it made a circular swing and landed as a duck would in deep water. The heron was in the water but a few seconds when it took off without obtaining the prey. The movement was very slow as the wing tips hit the water before becoming airborne. Upon investigation, a small perch was found swimming on the surface where the heron had landed. The other observation was made after strong winds had stirred the water causing large quantities of material to float on top of the water. A heron flying about ten feet above the water surface suddenly dropped and made contact with the water for a few seconds.

Palmer (1962) described similar swimming, stalking and still hunting for the Black-crowned Night Heron and Meyerriecks (1960) for the

Green Heron. Drinkwater (1958) mentioned the use of bill motion by the Black-crowned Night Heron to catch prey. Meyerriecks (1959, 1966) and Hoyt (1961) cite several instances where the Green Heron stirred the water with the foot to disturb fish. Neither type of feeding behavior was observed of the Great Blue Heron in this study.

Hedeem (1967) observed two variations of deep water fishing. Either the heron was flying toward the heronry when it began searching, or it came off a perch from which it had spotted the prey.

*Feeding grounds.* — Several areas along the St. Lawrence River, in a radius of three miles from Ironsides Island, were explored as possible feeding grounds. Four areas were observed as frequented feeding grounds: (1) shallow water inlets, (2) a small stream running through a marsh, (3) shallow water around islands, and (4) shoals (See Fig. 1). There was usually at least one heron in a particular area which indicated a feeding ground, but it was difficult to determine whether the same herons returned each time.

*Feeding of the young.* — First observations of the adult Great Blue Heron feeding the young were at one week of age. At this age, in one nest observed over a five hour period, the adult was seen feeding at the nest almost once each hour. Each young nestling appeared to be fed individually at every feeding and showed very little aggression in obtaining food.

More aggression and participation began at about three weeks of age. As the adult approached the nest the young herons appeared to sense their parent by displaying an action resembling bobbing and making constant vocal sounds which increased in volume. These sounds tended to be like those of the Grey Heron "which might be written as yek-yek-yek-yek-yek, are entirely vocal and produced with the mandibles parted, yet of such a quality as to suggest bill clapping." (Lowe, 1954:86). Once the adult landed feeding might be immediate or several minutes later. The feeding procedure as described by Parker and Maxwell (1969) is in agreement with our observations.

The Great Blue Heron may regurgitate several particles of food at a feeding. In the very young nestlings the food was small and appeared to be semi-digested, but as the young matured whole organisms such as fish and frogs were observed being regurgitated by the adult. Mature young herons would jump or walk back, from nearby branches, to the nest when the adult approached. The adult then regurgitated the food directly into the nest, and the young would pick up food from the bottom of the nest. Only two feedings a day were seen at this time; one in early morning, and the other ranging from late afternoon until dusk.

Sampling of food fed to the young was attempted by causing regurgitation (Kirkpatrick, 1940). This method proved unsuccessful. The few specimens obtained were dropped by the young herons during feeding

as they picked the food from the bottom of the nest and shook it in order to align the specimen for swallowing. Although the results were insignificant the main type of food observed was fish. Specimens found included three alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), three rockbass (*Ambloplites repestris*), one perch (*Perca flavescens*), one bluegill sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*), and one pickerrel frog (*Rana palustris*).

### SUMMARY

A field study involving the locomotion, feeding and maintenance behavior of the Great Blue Heron was conducted on Ironsides Island, Jefferson County, New York, in the summer of 1969. Descriptions of the behavior patterns associated with locomotion included walking, flight, take-off, and landing; those of body maintenance included the alert position, preening, scratching, shaking, bill cleaning, stretching, sun bathing, defecation, sleeping, yawning, and relaxation. Descriptions of feeding behavior included adult feeding, feeding grounds, and feeding of the young.

Specific comparisons were made between the Great Blue Heron, the Black-crowned Night Heron, and the Green Heron where merited. A summary of these comparisons is presented in Table 3.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE BEHAVIOR CHART

The following chart compares the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias herodias* L.) behaviors with those of the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactl* L.) and the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens virescens* L.). A question mark (?) signifies that information is unavailable or that descriptions in the literature are not detailed enough for comparative purposes. Literature sources have been cited in this paper. The following abbreviations are used for the herons:

GBH – Great Blue Heron

BCNH – Black-crowned Night Heron

GH – Green Heron

Behavior	GBH	BCNH <sup>a</sup>	GH <sup>b</sup>
LOCOMOTION			
Walking	erect	crouched	crouched
Flight	neck retracted, except short flights	shortened	retracted
gliding	during landing and sustained flights	similar	upon landing

Take-off	feathers sleek with the body lowered as the head and neck extend upon lift-off then are withdrawn	similar with slight variation	similar with slight variation
intention movement	side turn and extension of wing	head rotation	tail flipping
Landing	glides to perch with extended head and neck, upon landing assumes the perched position	similar	similar plus crest erection
MAINTENANCE			
Perching	legs bent or straight with head and neck S-shaped	similar with head and neck withdrawn	similar with head and neck withdrawn
Alert position	head and neck extended vertically with body	similar	similar
Preening	entire body reached by bill except head and upper neck	similar	similar except pulling out of feathers and finishing with oiling bill
Scratching	head and neck scratched by direct method	similar	similar
Shaking	erects feathers and moves wings in and out	similar	similar but usually just prior to flight
Bill wiping	bill rubbed against an object to remove material	similar	similar
Bill cleaning	use of the foot to remove material from bill	?	similar
Care of feet	little attention	little attention	peck at feet during preening
Stretching	during preening or isolated incident	similar	similar
one wing	neck in perched position	similar	head and neck extended
both wings	neck extended with wings above back	?	similar
Sun bathing	erect with head and neck fully extended facing sun	?	similar but head and neck not as fully extended

<sup>a</sup> Maxwell and Putnam, 1968.

<sup>b</sup> Meyerriecks, 1960.

Table 3. Continued

Behavior	GBH	BCNHA <sup>a</sup>	GH <sup>b</sup>
Defecation	occurred in perched position and in flight	similar	seldom defecated upon take-off
Sleeping	head rested on retracted neck	similar	similar
Yawning	bill opened wide with eyes bulged	similar	similar
Relaxation	in the perched position with movement of nictitating membrane	?	similar
Throat pulsation	rapid in and out movement in the gular region	similar	?
<b>FEEDING</b>			
Adult	still stalking alighting on water	similar similar similar	similar similar ?
Young	grasp the adult bill and withdraw food	similar	?

<sup>a</sup> Maxwell and Putnam, 1968.

<sup>b</sup> Meyerriecks, 1960.

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This study was made possible by a grant from the State University College at Oswego through its Lake Ontario Environmental Laboratory. Research supplies were provided by the Rice Creek Biological Field Station of the State University College at Oswego. The Nature Conservancy granted us permission to use Ironsides Island as a research area.

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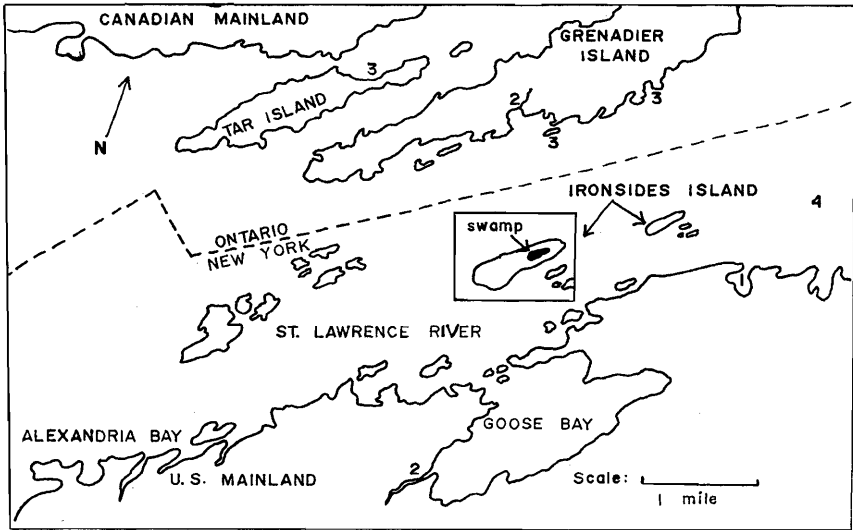


Fig. 1. Location of Ironsides Island, Jefferson County, New York. Numbers on map indicate feeding grounds for the Ironsides Island Great Blue Heron colony.

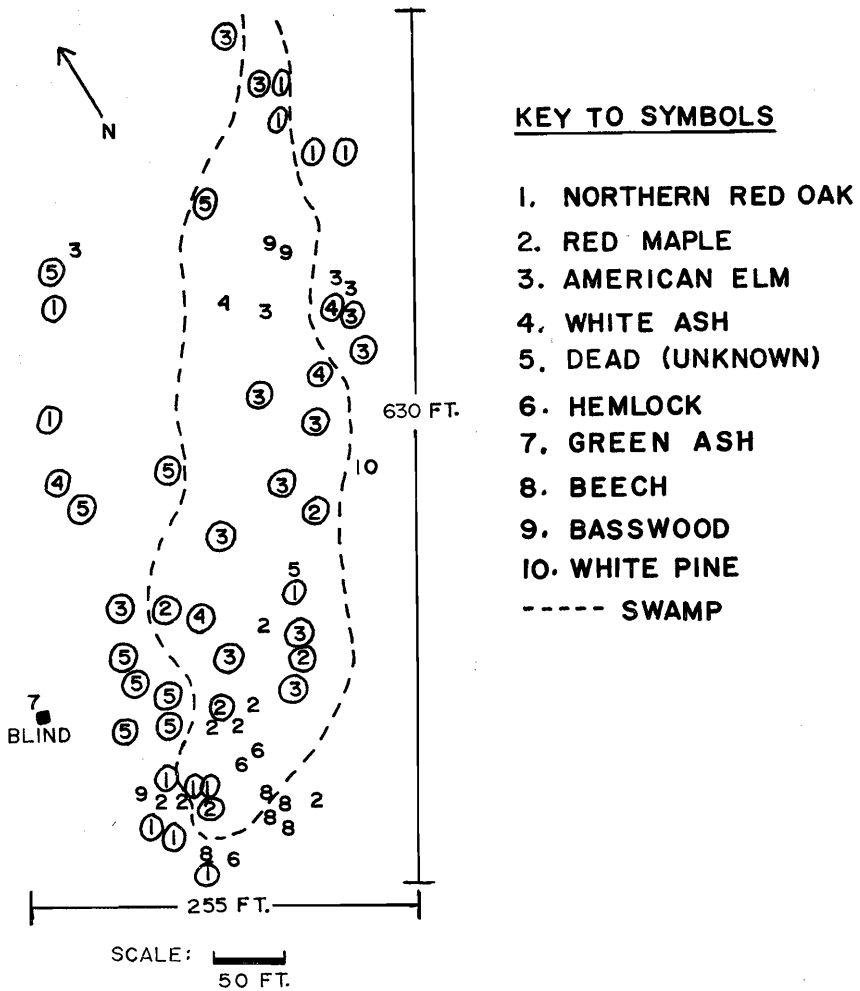


Fig. 2. Location of canopy trees in the Great Blue Heron colony on Ironsides Island, New York. Circled numbers indicate trees with nest or nests.



Fig. 3. Preening Primaries



Fig. 4. Neck Preening

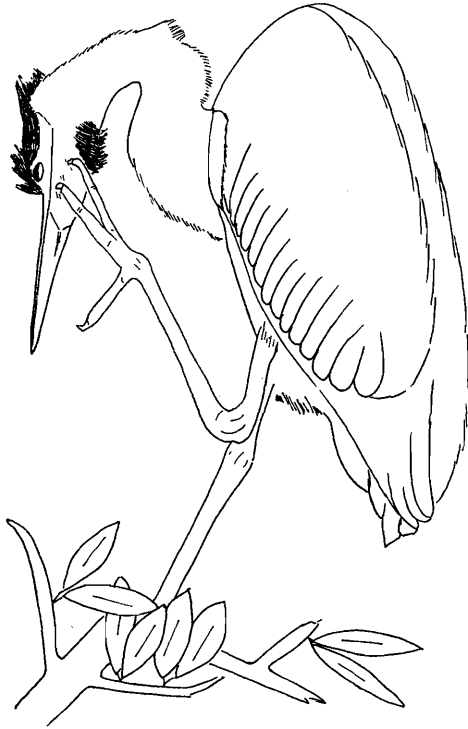


Fig. 5 Scratching



Fig. 6. Shaking

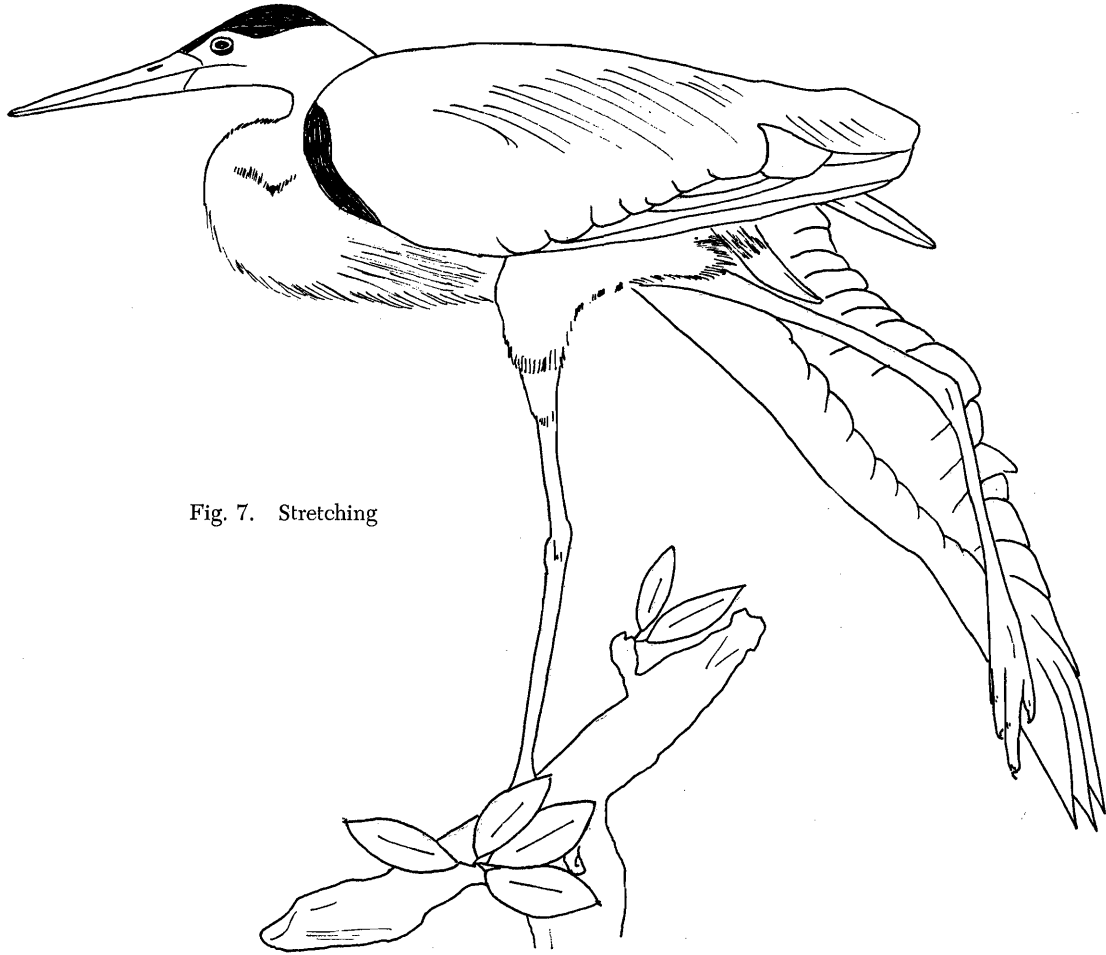


Fig. 7. Stretching



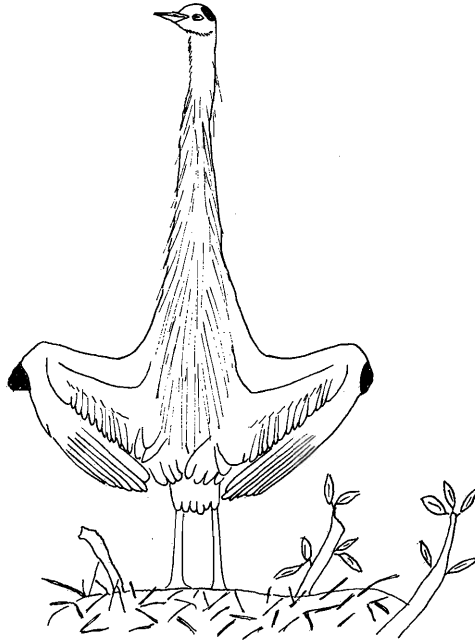


Fig. 8. Sunning

## NEW YORK STATE WILDLIFE PRESERVES

### 5. The Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary

EDGAR M. REILLY, JR.

This sanctuary is situated just one quarter of a mile south of Columbia County highway 13 which makes it exactly one and one quarter miles from the hamlet of Old Chatham. The county road runs south from New York State highway 20 at Brainerd and, after passing through Old Chatham, joins State highway 66 at Chatham Center. It is less than one half mile from the Shaker Museum and the Powell House (a country retreat of the Society of Friends, otherwise known as the Quakers, which adjoins the sanctuary) so the sanctuary thus has fine neighbors as well as added attractions for visitors. Columbia County is just south-east of Albany on the eastern side of the Hudson River with its eastern boundary on the Massachusetts border edging the beautiful Berkshires.

The lowest point on the sanctuary of 665 feet altitude is just at the outlet of the recently impounded 6-7 acre pond and the highest point is 924 feet above sea level. From Dawson's Bluff, immediately adjoining the refuge and open to our visitors by courtesy of Miss Elsie Powell, one can view much of the Hudson River Valley including the Shawangunks, Catskills, Helderberg Plateau and north past Albany and thus encompass lessons in geology. The bedrock underfoot is tortured and twisted slates and shales dating back to Cambrian-Ordovician times and the bluffs were scraped clean by the glaciers of only 20,000 years ago.

The Alan Devoe Bird Club acquired the land in October of 1958 as a gift from Mrs. Wilson M. Powell in memory of her husband, a well-known conservationist during the governorship of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Wilson Powell had been very active in reforestation efforts and planted thousands of Larch, Scotch Pine, and Norway Spruce on his property and several fine stands of these trees were included in the 100 acre gift. A small intermittent stream elbows its way between some of the hills and contributes its waters to the impounded pond and Dusky, Alleghany, and Two-lined Salamanders live and breed especially in the permanent seeps of the creek. When the club decided to build a dam to create the pond, it was found necessary to acquire about two acres from another neighboring property which was generously donated to us by the owner Mr. Bert Rosenthal. Funds for building the dam were raised by donations, profits from Audubon Wildlife Films, and trading stamps. Since many school classes use the sanctuary for lessons and it is open all year around to the public, the Chatham Township does not require the club to pay taxes.

Continued support by the public as well as club members permitted the ADBC to build adequate, if primitive, "his and her" structures and only last year a pole-shed was erected near the center of a 4-5 acre open

field. The shed will, funds and volunteer labor permitting, eventually be completely enclosed as well as equipped with a fireplace and electricity.

Mr. Edward Thompson, a semi-retired nurseryman of Kinderhook, is the present chairman of the Sanctuary Committee and, as one might suspect, has already been very active in planting activities as well as donating various ornamentals attractive to wildlife to embellish the area about the entrance and parking lot. Present plans include the establishment of a wildflower garden and, hopefully, the drilling of a well.

In return for the tax exemption status of the land the sanctuary is open at all times of the year to one and all. The land is posted as a wildlife preserve by the New York State Environmental Conservation Department. A small parking lot at the entrance is large enough for three school buses and a program of tours for school pupils has been very successful especially in winter when an active feeding program adjacent to the parking lot draws fifteen to twenty bird species to where the children can learn and identify without necessity of field glasses. The Chickadees and Nuthatches have run a campaign of their own by perching on outstretched young hands for the offerings of sunflower seeds thereby making many children bird friends for life. During walks in spring new birds are learned through resemblance to these winter acquaintances even though they might not come so close to the pupils.

The natural forest cover is dominated by Hemlock, White Pine, White Ash, Red Maple, Shagbark Hickory, White Oak, and Chestnut Oak. Occasionally an American Chestnut springing from the roots of a long dead forest giant gives hopes, so far always disappointed, of new generations, by reaching a girth of twenty inches and bearing tiny sterile nuts before succumbing to the blight. Dr. Richard B. Fischer of Cornell has referred to the sanctuary as a botanists paradise because of the great variety of shrubs and herbs growing there. Deer, raccoon, flying squirrels, foxes, muskrats, weasels and smaller mammals are common and may be seen by using a little patience; and birds aplenty.

Over two hundred species have been recorded on the sanctuary proper. The second year after the completion of the dam the impounded waters attracted flocks of Wood Ducks of over five hundred individuals accompanied by Mallards, Blacks, Blue-winged Teal, Green Herons, Great Blue Herons, Coots, American Bitterns, Pied-billed Grebes, and Canada Geese. A country road runs close to the dike and, from a small parking area, one can walk onto the dam behind a special log blind from which to observe the water animals without scaring them out of sight. From the heights of Dawson's Bluff one may observe migrating, and resident hawks soaring down Hudson's valley and over nearby fields and glens.

The Alan Devoe Bird Club feels that it has helped create a fine conservation education tool as well as an excellent varied wildlife sanctuary  
*Old Chatham. New York 12136*

# PREMATURE FEATHER LOSS — A "NEW DISEASE" OF TERNS ON LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

MICHAEL GOCHFELD

## INTRODUCTION

Along the shores of Long Island, the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) is a common breeding bird. Several large colonies with more than 1000 pairs are known, and there are no doubt quite a few smaller ones. Within a decade the origin of new colonies and the abandonment of old ones can be observed, and this change results from overgrowth of old colonies by vegetation, human disturbance, and increases in the tern population. Some colonies may exist for several years before coming to the attention of ornithologists. A few colonies have been worked annually by bird banders during the past decade and the number of young terns banded each year probably exceeded 5000. Seasons and colonies vary in productivity, and the number of young banded or colonies investigated obviously depends on the number of active observers.

When several thousand young birds are handled one would expect to find abnormalities not infrequently. It is remarkable, in fact, that abnormalities either of genetic or developmental origin have been largely encountered among young terns. Austin (1969) commenting on a young Sooty Tern (*S. fuscata*) with extra toes, noted that this was the first such abnormality he had found in over 125,000 young birds handled. It is likely that by eliminating deleterious genes from populations, natural selection has operated to minimize the number of abnormal offspring which are produced in a population. Prior to 1970 my experience with the tern colony at Short Beach, Nassau County, New York, was that abnormalities among chicks were rare and could usually be related to some traumatic incident. I assumed that a few abnormal chicks which had died and decayed would have been overlooked, and I made only a cursory examination of unhatched eggs without finding defective embryos. In 1970, however, the picture changed markedly.

## OBSERVATIONS IN 1970

During the breeding season of 1970 I encountered several abnormalities involving absence of down or defects of the feathers or bill which were new to me. Miss Helen Hays (pers. comm) reported that such abnormalities also appeared unusually common at the Bull Island Colony of Orient Point, Long Island, where they had been rarely noticed previously. The commonest abnormality I encountered involved premature loss of flight feathers. At Short Beach 18 of 1671 chicks handled dropped their primary and secondary wing feathers and tail feathers between 3 and 5 weeks of age. At the Cedar Beach colony, Suffolk Co.,

N.Y., 8 of 302 chicks developed the same condition and Hays (pers. comm.) reported this to have occurred at Gull Island for the first time in 1970, with Roseate Terns (*S. dougalli*) as well as Common Terns affected. In retrospect, I recalled that one fledgling found in 1969 at Short Beach had apparently lost the primaries and tail feathers on one side, and that bird may have been an early case of premature feather loss. I have been unable to find a report of this abnormality elsewhere, and Dr. Oliver L. Austin Jr. (pers. comm.) indicates that he did not encounter it during his extensive work with the terns of Massachusetts. At present it appears to be a new disease of the 1970's.

The condition manifested itself about the time the fledglings learned to fly. When first observed these appeared to be perfectly vigorous young birds which were flapping and jumping and trying to fly. Only belatedly did they attempt to run, the usual escape procedure of younger non-flying chicks. When captured these birds appeared normal except for the absence of most or all of the flight feathers. Examination revealed no sign of infection or parasitic infestation, and the weights of these birds were comparable to those of otherwise normal chicks at the same stage of development. The feather-loss chicks were still being fed by their parents as late as the first week in September, but when it appeared that the parents were abandoning their still flightless young, I collected those which I could find. By this time when almost all other chicks had left the colony these feather-loss birds were very conspicuous, and it seemed highly unlikely that such birds could have been overlooked in previous years. In some cases these chicks showed new primaries developing in the follicles, and it seemed likely that such chicks might eventually be able to fly if there were adequate time for feather replacement.

A few of the retained feathers were examined microscopically and the calamus was found to be thinned and deformed, and sometimes these feathers appeared to have broken off at or near the base. Although fault bars are not rare in tern feathers, none were observed in those examined.

#### SEARCH FOR THE CAUSE OF FEATHER LOSS

When considering an apparently new disease one must critically determine whether the condition might have been present in the past but overlooked. In man and no doubt most other vertebrates embryonic mortality is high during early stages of development, and estimates of fetal loss vary from 50-80 per cent of fertilized eggs. Dr. Paul A. Maderson (pers. comm.) has pointed out that the developing embryo is constantly subject to rigorous 'quality control' and is discarded when found to be unsatisfactory. Clearly defects manifest at early stages may appear only as "sterile" or unhatched eggs and are readily overlooked. Similarly the fact that defective chicks probably die early and decay quickly makes it quite likely that banders or other observers interested in live birds would

overlook them. Also banders generally do most of their field work during early July when the greatest number of bandable chicks is present, and therefore they may miss the premature feather loss which manifests itself mainly in August when most of the young have begun flying. The premature feather loss is such a conspicuous condition that even casual observers would not have overlooked it, although the significance of isolated cases might easily be missed. The first case I examined in 1970 was attributed to feather plucking by human vandals, and only when several cases were found was the significance appreciated.

Causes of diseases can be classified generally into broad categories such as traumatic, cancers, allergic, infections, genetic, nutritional, and toxic. At present the evidence regarding premature feather-loss is not adequate to allow confident diagnosis, but some observations can be made. I have found no evidence of trauma or tumors associated with the feather loss. The allergic category is most difficult to evaluate and in many instances diseases are called "allergic" only by process of elimination. My failure to isolate an infectious or parasitic agent does not really eliminate this category since a much more complete bacteriologic and virologic study would be needed. A genetic cause would be far more likely than an allergic or infectious one, but the sudden occurrence of a moderately common defect in three colonies and two species, indicates that it is probably not a genetic disease. However, it remains possible that within the populations some individuals inherit a genetic susceptibility to the unknown causative factor and that these are the birds which eventually lose their feathers.

In the agricultural and avicultural literature feather defects are most often connected with nutritional defects, and disorders involving both structure and pigment are well known. None of the disorders, however, seems equivalent to the premature feather loss of terns. Shock molt, which occurs in certain birds involving sudden loss of feathers at a time of stress, is probably not related, for those terns which retain a few feathers do not drop them when subjected to the rather extreme stress of handling and blood-taking. Riddle (1908) demonstrated experimentally how defects such as fault bars may be caused by the temporary lowering of blood pressure and consequent interference with nutrition to the developing feather. It seems not improbable that the cause of feather-loss may also act in such a manner, but perhaps at a crucial period when the calamus rather than the plume is affected. A direct nutritional deficiency seems unlikely since the 1970 season was unusually rich in the availability of fish, and in the productivity of terns; but interference with the metabolism of certain nutrients may cause diseases even when the initial intake of the nutrient is adequate.

At present the most likely category is that of exogenous poisons which causes us to examine the catch-all grouping "Environmental Contami-

nants." It appears reasonable that some such contaminant, which has increased in the terns' environment recently, may effect their development, resulting in feather-loss and perhaps in some of the other abnormalities noted as well. It is not presently apparent what such a compound might be, for none of the well-studied environmental contaminants have been previously implicated in feather abnormalities.

### MERCURY LEVELS IN TERNS

At our Environmental Laboratory at Columbia University's School of Public Health, using the method of Jacobs et al (1961), we had been doing industrial surveillance of mercury in workers for more than a decade. It seemed reasonable, therefore, to look first at mercury. The results were surprising, and the details will be presented elsewhere (Gochfeld and Hoover, in prep.). We found that all chicks had mercury present in more than trace amounts in the blood and tissues. The levels were comparable to those found in Sweden, the country where mercury has been most intensively studied, (Borg et al, 1966; Berg et al, 1967). However, we also found that four affected chicks had a mean value of 63.7 (S.D. = 19.3) micrograms of mercury per 100 c.c. of whole blood, compared with a mean of 26.8 ug/100 c.c. (S.D. = 9.7) in ten non-affected birds that had died of trauma. This relationship *does not* in any way indicate that mercury causes the feather-loss, although the differences were found to be statistically significant using both a t-test and a Rank test. More detailed analyses involving larger samples and other tissues are necessary, for it remains possible that the association will break down when more data becomes available. To adequately establish a causal relationship one would have to produce the feather-loss in birds by feeding mercury. Tejning (1967) did extensive experiments on feeding methyl mercury to chickens and did not encounter any condition suggestive of feather-loss. In most cases, however, he was working with adults, and since I have found a few adult terns with blood mercury levels in excess of 100 ug/100 c.c. (Gochfeld, unpublished data) without signs of feather-loss, it is apparent that experiments involving young birds would be desirable.

### DISCUSSION

Assuming that the apparent association between mercury levels and feather-loss is not spurious, it is possible that mercury is only an indicator of pollution which accumulates in young of certain adults which habitually fish in places that are polluted and thereby provide their chicks with a variety of exogenous compounds. Whether certain adults habitually fish in certain areas is unknown, but clearly the distribution patterns of feeding adult terns would need careful study. Dr. Ian C. T. Nisbet is presently studying this behavior in Massachusetts (pers. comm.). It is also possible that mercury may interact with one or more other factors in

a synergistic fashion to produce disease, and finally it is not impossible that both feather-loss and high mercury levels are themselves manifestations of a disease. We are presently examining preserved tissues for thallium (a compound known to produce hair-loss in humans) and a variety of other heavy metals, and specimens from Gull Island will be analyzed for chlorinated hydrocarbons by Dr. Robert W. Risebrough.

As more and more field observers become cognizant of this condition it is likely that it will be recognized elsewhere and in other species of birds, and this data will be very valuable in helping track down the cause. No doubt we will learn that such birds have been found from time to time in the past but have not been considered significant. At present we are faced with an apparently new and local, clearly defined, disease occurring in young terns, and with an unexplained statistical association between feather-loss and levels of mercury. The need for much more extensive study is evident, and the work is both slow and expensive.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank Mr. Robert Gochfeld and Miss Danielle Ponsolle for invaluable assistance in the field and I am indebted to Miss Jean Herdon for her patience and efforts in the continuing laboratory analysis of the abundant material. I thank Drs. Leonard J. Goldwater, A. Walter Hoover, and Wesley E. Lanyon for their comments on earlier drafts of this manuscript, and Mrs. Mary LeCroy and Miss Helen Hays for numerous discussions of the new abnormalities.

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#### ADDENDUM

Premature feather-loss occurred again in 1971 in the same three colonies, and in two additional smaller ones in Nassau County. At least one large colony in the same area appears to be free of feather-loss. The incidence of the disease was similar to that in 1970.

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## 1972 WATERFOWL COUNT DATES

The annual Federation Waterfowl Count will be held from Saturday, January 15 to Sunday, January 23, 1972. Target date is Sunday, January 16. Please send your count results to John L. Mitchell, 345 Conrad Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14616 as soon as possible after the count period.

## LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY PLANS SURVEY

At the top of the aquatic food-chain, the Great Blue Heron may well be an important indicator species. The Laboratory of Ornithology is planning a nation-wide survey of this species.

The first step will be to compile an inventory of heronries. To this end, we appeal to all readers with knowledge on this point to write to us. Information may be recent or old; detailed or sketchy. Even "I remember seeing a heronry as a boy" is helpful if the site is remembered well enough to locate on a topographic map.

We hope that this inventory will contain the exact locality of the heronry, a general description of the site, and as much history as possible. We hope that this stage of the program can be completed by the winter so that arrangements can be made for census work in the 1972 breeding season.

*David B. Peakall, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850*

**Correction and Addendum to May, 1971, Membership List:** Mrs. Dayton Stoner is a Patron of the Federation, its first, as well as being a Charter Member and Life Member. Our sincere apologies for this omission. — *Ed.*

## FIELD NOTES

**An apparent feeding of an eastern painted turtle on a dead Mallard:** During the late morning of 11 July 1971, John M. Burnley and I observed a dead female Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) in a small pond about 800 feet W of Tarkill Road in Brookhaven Township, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York. Something was evidently causing the carcass of the Mallard, floating breast upward in the water, to move. As we watched the body of the duck and the murky water surrounding it a turtle protruded its head above the surface of the water next to the carcass. We could not see the shell of the turtle because of the uncleanness of the water but did identify it on the basis of its head pattern as an Eastern Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta picta*).

The Painted Turtle probably came upon the duck as the bird lay dead in the pond and began eating it as the turtle would any suitable carrion. That the Painted Turtle had killed the Mallard seems quite improbable. Adult *C.p. picta* average 4-12 to 6 inches long (Conant, 1958); the maximum known size of this turtle is 7-18 inches (Conant, 1958; Nichols and DeSola, 1933). Even a maximum-sized Painted Turtle would probably be too small and weak to overcome and kill a Mallard.

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Frederick C. Schauch, 415 Clift Street, Central Islip, Long Island, New York 11722

**Wood duck presumed nesting in cliff:** I was driving south on the Thruway just south of mile 123 near Climax, N.Y. on June 2, 1971, under a high cliff on the west side. There I was surprised to see a female Wood Duck standing on the gravelly shoulder of the road with a closely packed brood of ten babies. I shooed them north several hundred feet till they found a bank they were able to climb leading into the woods. I saw a hole about 3/4 of the way up the cliff where she had presumably nested. There appeared to be no tree suitable for nesting above the cliff. Audubon mentions a cliff nesting site in Kentucky ("in the fissure of a rock": Bent, A. C. *Life Histories of North American Wildfowl*, p. 160.)

Geoffrey Carleton, Elizabethtown, N.Y. 12932

**Apparent Goldeneye nest at Buffalo New York:** On 18 May 1971, I received a telephone call from Mr. Carl Romane who asked whether we would be interested in some duck eggs in a nest that he had found in Buffalo's south harbor on Lake Erie. Mr. Romane said that he had discovered the eggs a few days earlier in his equipment box under the walkway at his dock in the small boat marina, and not seeing a duck in the vicinity, thought the nest had been deserted.

Upon investigating later that day, I found that the five greenish-colored eggs were in the rear corner on the floor of the open-ended box (interior dimensions .9 × .76 × .76 m). They were in a crude nest composed of various sized wood pieces, a small piece of wax paper, a few small bits of down, and a thin rope lying in a circle among the other objects around the eggs (Figure 1). The box is about 23 meters from shore, almost halfway out the walkway which is paralleled by two others extending into the harbor on each side. As Mr. Romane wished to clean the box, I collected the eggs. They are now in the Buffalo Museum of Science collection. On

that day and several subsequent ones the only ducks I saw in this part of the harbor were two Greater Scaup.

The eggs were fresh and well-refrigerated by floating ice cakes in the water about 1 m below the floor of the box. They measured (mm) as follows:  $57.6 \times 43.1$ ;  $59 \times 44$ ;  $60.4 \times 42.5$ ;  $59.3 \times 42.9$ ;  $58.8 \times 41.6$ ; average —  $59 \times 42.8$ . This average agrees closely with Bent's (*U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 130, p. 5, 1925) average measurements of 84 Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) eggs— $59.7 \times 43.4$  mm. Their color, Bent states, is usually a clear, pale "malachite green," varying in the darker specimens to a more olivaceous or "pale chromium green," various shades of color often occurring in the same set. He says that Common Goldeneye eggs are "easily distinguished from those of any other North American duck except . . . Barrow's Goldeneye."

The Buffalo harbor eggs are clear, essentially alike in color, and closet to the "Pale Fluorite Green" of Ridgway (*Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, published by the author, Washington, D.C., 1912). They agree well in size, shape, and color with the only Common Goldeneye egg in our collection, and differ in color and/or size from eggs of the other North American surface-feeding and diving ducks, except Barrow's Goldeneye. John Bull compared the Buffalo harbor set with eggs in the American Museum of Natural History collection and found that they matched Common Goldeneye eggs quite well in size, shape, and especially color, and differed in color from those of all the mergansers and Wood Duck, as well as Mallard and Black Duck.

According to Bent, the Common Goldeneye ordinarily lays from 8 to 12 eggs, but 5 or 6 sometimes complete the set. Although one of his sources states that this duck's nest "is composed of grasses, leaves, and moss and lined with feathers," Bent says that he has never seen anything but rotten chips and down in a goldeneye's nest, and doubts that any outside material is ever brought in. Bent also mentions that "probably the duck does not always take the trouble to clean out a cavity, but lays its eggs on whatever accumulation of rubbish happens to be there. The down is added as incubation advances. . . ." Although the Common Goldeneye usually nests in tree cavities, in several places it has been known to breed in artificial nesting boxes. The Buffalo harbor equipment box apparently such a location.

It is unfortunate that no goldeneye was seen associated with these eggs, so one can only speculate on what might have occurred. Common Goldeneyes winter on the Niagara River in varying numbers. They can often be seen courting in spring on the river and, when the ice breaks up, in Buffalo harbor and Lake Erie. The spring of 1970 was generally a late one for bird migration. May average temperature was below normal and ice remained in eastern Lake Erie until late in the month. The small boat harbor where the goldeneye eggs were located was frozen until April when some ice breakup occurred and it partially opened. During the first half of May shifting winds and perhaps currents brought numerous ice floes back into the harbor and under the walkways. It is possible that a goldeneye, perhaps influenced by the cool weather and ice conditions, found this equipment box and laid these eggs in it when the harbor was partly free of ice. In May the return of the ice might have forced the duck from the area, as it did other waterfowl I noted there earlier. Also, sporadic visits to the walkways by boat owners may have disturbed the goldeneye and caused it to abandon the eggs. Considering the fact that Common Goldeneyes are frequently kept in captivity in zoos and aviaries, and that there are many persons in this region holding permits to propagate waterfowl, it is also possible that these eggs were deposited by an escaped bird. It is interesting to note relative to this occurrence that diving ducks of several species, including Common Goldeneye, remained on Lake Erie in above normal numbers into the latter half of May in 1970; also, more individuals than usual were recorded subsequently in the summer here, including Common Goldeneye and six other species.

Of course, Barrow's Goldeneye, whose eggs are similar to those of the Common, is a possibility to be considered because it breeds in tree cavities and is kept in captivity. However, its extreme rarity in this area would seem to make very remote the chance of a wild individual laying these eggs. Whatever the circumstances, it seems clear that a goldeneye, probably a Common Goldeneye, laid five eggs in this harbor in 1970, most likely in April or early May. To my knowledge, this is the first record of such an occurrence in the Niagara Frontier Region. Godfrey (*The Birds of Canada*, p. 70, 1966) states that the Common Goldeneye breeds south in southern Ontario at least to Orillia, about 210 km north of Buffalo. The species is also known to breed in the Adirondack Mountains in New York State. John Bull, author of the forthcoming book on New York State birds, knows of no authentic breeding record for this species in the state outside of these mountains, and is unaware of its eggs ever having been taken in the wild in New York State. Therefore, I have reported what is known of this occurrence for the sake of the record.

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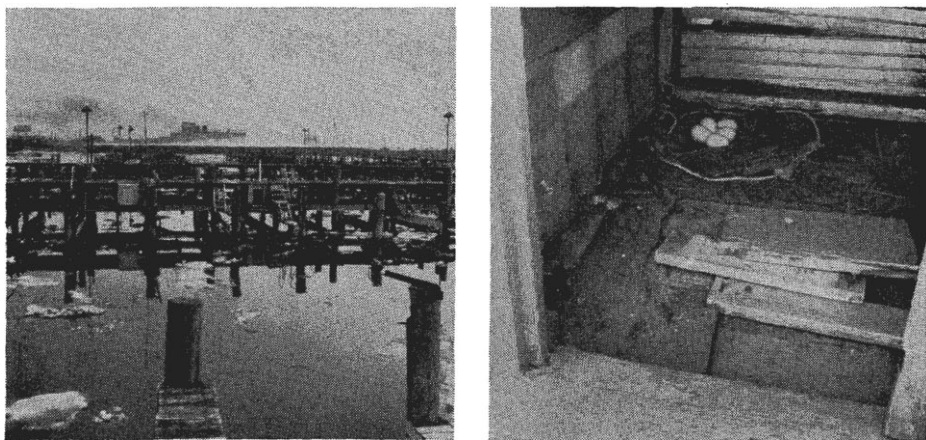


Figure 1. Left: goldeneye nest location in Buffalo harbor (nest box in center of picture); right: interior of box with nest and eggs.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

F. G. SCHEIDER

Summer was wet, wet, wet,—how much wetness depended on whether your sector was hit by the various east coast storms but upstate areas had every marsh and pond brimming and streams in July ran like April freshets. Most areas suffered from excessive heat also and the absence of cold fronts in early August undoubtedly accounts for the lack of any appreciable fall migration prior to August 15. The U.S. Fish and Wild-

life Breeding Bird Surveys have in a few years revolutionized summer birding and provided an amazing fund of hard data in a hurry. I would strongly urge that participants continue these surveys and, if possible, to run the counts as close to the same date year after year. A summer project of statewide proportions is shaping up—a careful surveillance of all the 1931–36 CCC conifer plantations across the state could be extremely productive re breeding of species of northern affinities, i. e., Red-breasted Nuthatch (1,2,3), Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet (1,4,5), Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler (1,5), Blackburnian Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow(1).

Pied-billed Grebe numbers seemed down in 2 and 5 and were unreported in 7. Multiple records of summering Double-crested Cormorant (5,9) might suggest early dispersal of unsuccessful nesting birds from their colonies. An absence or scarcity of most herons, but especially white herons (1,2,5,8), seems evident and the rarity of Common Egret upstate is increasing. Note the careful tabulation of the breeding colonial species in the Region 10 report with evidence of increases in breeding Louisiana Heron and Glossy Ibis. Western and central New York marshes appeared to have good numbers of duck broods but Blue-winged Teal may be in decline (cf 5). A pot-pourri of summering diving ducks are mentioned (1,5,10) and documented breeding of Red-breasted Merganser (6,10) is reported.

Local breeding of Red-tailed, Broad-winged, and Sparrow Hawks seemed as good as heretofore, but all Marsh Hawk sightings specifically mention singles, not pairs, and Red-shouldered Hawks are still incredibly scarce, even in the Adirondacks.

Common Tern has become scarce in 2, started marsh nesting in 3, and has declined markedly as a breeding species in 5; at the present decline in the last the species will be extirpated in a decade. Mourning Doves continue to increase in western New York (2,3) and I suspect that they are now common enough in most sectors to not merit much comment.

Cuckoos, extraordinarily scarce in 2 and 3, have shown a slight increase in 5 and continue in high numbers in 9, perhaps secondary to the abundant food supply provided by the various gypsy moth outbreaks there. The Caprimulgids appear to be going downhill with lower tallies of Common Nighthawk in many sectors and Whip-poor-will in decline in both western New York (1) and the Adirondacks (7).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers have increased in 2 and 5 and are now breeding in both 9 and 10, where formerly only a rare southern vagrant. More Yellow-bellied Sapsucker breeding stations were noted (2,3) and Adirondack and TugHill numbers (5,7) seemed good. Brown Creeper reports are now widespread (2,3,4,5,10); it will be interesting to see if this species persists in numbers after the Dutch Elm disease runs its course. Carolina Wren reports are up (1,2,3,5) but Long-billed Marsh Wren numbers have nosedived (2,3,5,8,9), even in marsh areas where

no habitat change has ensued. The Eastern Bluebird shows no evidence of significant increase but most editors indicate no further decline—it has been over seven years now that they have been extremely scarce.

Yellow-troated Vireos were reported as decreased in 1,3,5, but somewhat increased in 2. Several sectors report sharp reduction in Red-eyed Vireos (1,2) but numbers still see quite good further east (3,5,6,7,8). Most impressive in warblers is the continued spread of Blue-winged Warbler (2,5) with virtually no concomitant advance of Golden-winged Warbler. If this continues, most of the upstate New York “winged” warbler range will be Blue-winged Warbler occupied, as Ithaca is currently, and Golden-winged Warbler will be a peripheral species at best. Other warbler tallies appear in reasonable numbers although some decline in Cerulean Warbler (3), Chestnut-sided Warbler (3), Ovenbird (2), Canada Warbler (2), and Redstart (5) is mentioned. Undoubtedly the Adirondack sector is the bastion for breeding warblers in the state but consistent, careful counting there to ascertain changes is going to be a long time coming. Why not devote one weekend of June every year to warbler counting the same place in the Adirondacks?—and mail your tallies to the editor there!

House Finch continue to spread (3,9) with documented breeding in 2,4,5. However, three other Fringillids, Indigo Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow, appear to be declining in western and southern New York but the two sparrows may be showing some recovery in numbers on the Ontario Lakeplain (2,5). Vesper Sparrow may be joining the declining species group in central New York as land use shifts from crop farming to suburban sprawl.

Seasonal rarities include Yellow-nosed Albatross (1), Audubon's Shearwater (10), White pelican (9), Cattle Egret (6), Willet, (5), Wilson's Phalarope (1,3,5), Franklin's Gull (10), Acadian Flycatcher (1), White-eyed Vireo (1,8,9), Lawrence's Warbler (3,5), Kentucky Warbler (9), Connecticut Warbler (10), and Clay-colored Sparrow (1,2) with proven breeding of the last in Region 1.

Congratulations, mazaltov, wunderbahr—ten out of ten reports! Keep it up! Send the fall period observations (15 Aug to 30 November) to your regional editor on the last day of the period. Data in means reports out.

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## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

June showed temperatures nearly three degrees above the average and precipitation about one and a half inches above normal. July was slightly cooler than average but also showed above average precipitation; more than half (nearly two inches), however, came during a daylong rain on July 24. The first half of August was hot

and dry to the extent that crops were adversely affected by mid-month.

Points of interest or trends are: (1) the unusual counts of Common Loons on the Allegheny Reservoir; (2) the continued decline of the long-legged waders (with the possible exception of the Great Blue Heron); (3) breeding at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge of Gadwall, possibly the young birds transferred from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in 1969 and 1970; (4) a mixed showing of the hawks; (5) a few interesting shorebirds, mostly away from Lake Erie; (6) few reports of owls (but) perhaps due to little field work; (7) continued use of conifer plantations by increasing numbers of previously rare or unknown breeders such as the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Myrtle Warbler; (8) a mixed showing by the wrens; (9) a pronounced scarcity of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows throughout the entire region including their almost complete absence from the Southern Tier; (1) at least two possible new breeding localities for the White-throated Sparrow.

Rarities recorded were the Wilson's Phalarope, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo and Clay-colored Sparrow. Of special significance is confirmation of breeding by the latter species, the first totally authentic nesting record of the Clay-colored Sparrow for New York State.

Abbreviations: Catt—Cattaraugus; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; TWMA—Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

Contributors: RA—Robert Andrie; HRA—Harold and Rachel Axtell; TB—Thomas Bourne; EB—Elizabeth Brooks; RB—Richard Brownstein; GB—Gilbert Burgeson; DC—Douglas Carlson; DDC—Douglas and Donna Carlson; OGC—Otto and Gretchen Carlson; FE—Flora Elderkin; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; AR—Archie Richardson; RS—Robert Sundell.

LOONS—DUCKS: Single Common Loons are occasionally reported during the summer months but 4 on the Allegheny Reservoir throughout the summer (RS et al) and 6 there Aug 8 (AR) are unusual. Although comparative population data for the Great Blue Heron are insufficient to draw conclusions, the other long-legged waders appear to be declining; the only reports of three species were—Common Egret, singles Jul 3 INWR (Zehr et al) and Aug 3 Prendergast Point (Charles Scofield); Black-crowned Night Heron, 2 Jun 1 TWMA (RB, Seebers) and 1 Jul 20 Lakeview (TB); Least Bittern, 1 Jun 21 Boston (TB).

Two pairs of Canada Geese were observed at the Riverside Marsh area south of Jamestown with one pair rearing 5 young (FE et al). The Brant is usually very rare in this region in the spring; 1 was seen Jun 1 at Woodlawn (TB). Young Gadwall were transferred from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge to INWR in 1969 and 1970; downy young out of the nest, 12 on June 29 (Waldstein) and 5 on Jul 7 (Morse) may be from birds so transferred (RA). Late waterfowl in the Oak Orchard area on Jun 6 included 3 Pintail, 21 Green-winged Teal, 7 American Widgeon and 3 Shovelers (RB). The Ring-necked Duck, rarely observed during the summer, was seen at Barcelona Jul 19 (RS) and Aug 24 (DDC). Lesser Scaup reports included a pair Jul 30 throughout period Chautauqua Lake at Mayville (RS) and singles Jul 14 Athol Springs (TB) and Aug 15 24 Barcelona (RS).

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-tailed, Broad-winged and Sparrow Hawks had good nesting success but only scattered individuals of the Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Marsh Hawks were reported. Successful nesting by the Red-shouldered Hawk was observed at five sites but region-wide data are insufficient to draw firm conclusions. The increasingly scarce Bald Eagle was noted twice—single adults Jun 29 near Bemus Point (OGC) and Jul 14 on the Allegheny Reservoir south of Steamburg (GB). An early returning Osprey was noted Aug 10 (Larry Duckwell) in the same area.

Most of the shorebirds of interest occurred at inland locations. 2 Black-bellied Plovers and 4 Ruddy Turnstones Jul 29 at Prendergast Point (OGC) were early,

and the latter species rarely occurs away from Lake Erie. A Willet was closely observed flying over Lake Erie off Point Gratiot on Jun 29, an unprecedented date (Benton, Conklin); migrants are recorded regularly in early July in the western Great Lakes. Two late Greater Yellowlegs were noted Jun 6 at the TWMA (RB) while 1 Jul 12 at Dewittville (Campbell) was early. Another shorebird rarely seen away from Lake Erie is the Knot, one of which was observed Jul 30 at Langford Pond (TB). Although regular at this location, 3 Stilt Sandpipers Jul 13 at Prendergast Point (DDC) were early. A count of 47 Sanderlings Aug 5 along the Dunkirk-Canadaway Creek shoreline was noteworthy for the southern shore of Lake Erie (DDC). A *WILSON'S PHALAROPE* was recorded Jul 26 at Athol Springs (TB).

Continuing the pattern of the past several years, a few Caspian Terns were noted, 2 Jun 11 (TB) and 1 Jul 13 (RA) at Bay View and 1 Jul 19 at Barcelona (RS).

The paucity of records of owls may reflect a lack of effort by observers rather than a scarcity of these primarily nocturnal species. Nesting of the Barn Owl is rarely noted so a nest in a silo on a farm near Johnsonburg Jul 18 is noteworthy; the last of 3 young fledged on Jul 27 (WAM et al). A Long-eared Owl was recorded at Hamburg on Jul 10 (TB).

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** The increasingly scarce Whip-poor-will was present at three localities—4 on Jun 4 and 2 Jun 9 in Cold Spring Township, Catt County (RS et al) and singles Jul 1–15 near Bemus Point (Danielsons) and Jul 2 at Versailles (HRA). An adult male Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen Jun 1 at Riverside Marsh (FE, Pillsbury), an unusual locality for this species. Evidence is accumulating that this region is being reoccupied by the *ACADIAN FLYCATCHER* which withdrew as a scarce breeder in the mid 1940s; individuals were carefully identified Jun 27 and Jul 2 at Gowanda and Jul 4 in Allegany State Park (HRA). An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Buffalo Jun 16 was nearly a week later than usual departure of spring migrants; the first fall bird was noted Aug 12 in Buffalo (both by Wilcove and Goodman). An unusually large Bank Swallow colony consisting of 400 birds was found Jul 2 along Catt Creek (HRA).

Red-breasted Nuthatches are being found with increasing frequency in conifer plantations; 3 young out of the nest were seen Jul 18 at the Allenberg Bog (Mitchell et al).

Winter Wrens were found in four spots, all probably breeding localities. Breeding Carolina Wrens were noted at Spring Brook (Danner) and Barcelona (RS), while pairs at Jamestown and Clarks Corners, Chautauqua County (both GB) may have nested. The disappearing Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported twice—2 Jun 6 at Clarence (RB) and 1 Jun 24 at North Collins (TB).

A Mockingbird nesting record was provided by the report of 3 young out of the nest Aug 3 near Brocton (DC). Golden-crowned Kinglets, now nesting regularly in spruce plantations, included 6 Jun 19 and 25 and 7 Jul 4 in Farmersville Township Catt County (RA). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were noted Jul 15 in Wellsville (Burtons), Jul 20 in Eden (TB) and Aug 15 in Langford (WAM).

**VIREOS—SPARROWS:** The rare but increasing *WHITE-EYED VIREO* was observed at two locations—1 Jun 5 (RS et al) and 2 Jun 6 (DC) in Cold Spring Township, Catt County, and a pair Jul 2 on the Catt Indian Reservation (HRA). The Yellow-throated Vireo continues extremely scarce and very local, and the Red-eyed Vireo population level is also very much depressed.

The Myrtle Warbler appears to be prospering as a new breeding species in southwestern New York; 3 or 4 breeding pairs were noted in the Alfred area in Jun and 2 active nests were located (EB et al) in a Scotch pine plantation at Foster Lake; a singing male was noted Jul 1 on Pine Hill near Randolph (AR); an early fall-migrant was recorded Aug 14 in Jamestown (RS). The always scarce Yellow-breasted Chat was reported Jun 4 in Clarksburg (TB) and Jun 17 in Falconer (RS).

Single *WESTERN MEADOWLARKS* were reported from three locations—Jun 6



Barker (Klabundes), Jun 19 Vernal Corners, Wyoming County (RA) and Jun 25 Hamburg Township (RA).

Although the Savannah Sparrow continues to maintain its numbers, Grasshopper and particularly Henslow's Sparrows seem to be declining with more regular stations abandoned each summer; both are practically absent now from the Southern Tier counties. A pair of *CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS* nested in a Scotch pine plantation at Foster Lake near Alfred; the nest with 3 young was found Jun 15 with the young fledging Jun 20; the male was still singing Jul 22 (EB et al); photographs and tape recordings have been obtained verifying this as the first confirmed nesting for the state. The White-throated Sparrow was noted in several probable breeding locations including near Alfred, the Kinney Swamp at Birdsall and in Allegany State Park.

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## REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

The summer has been somewhat cooler and wetter than usual this year, but there have also been generous amounts of sunshine. The local weather service credits this tendency to the fact that most storms or cold fronts have passed farther to the east than usual.

Rainfall was an inch above normal for June and almost three inches above in July. The first half of August was dry, but rainfall for the year remained over two inches above normal at mid-month. There were several unusually cool days and nights but only four days of 90° or over.

Water levels remained high on the lakeshore, but some mud flats were available on the edges of ponds west of Rochester where shorebirds had begun to gather by late July.

Most local observers did not seem as active this summer as last, but some fine reports have been received nonetheless. It was encouraging to note a wide range of area coverage away from Lake Ontario during the breeding season which provides a better balanced view of our local populations of several species. Local observers are again encouraged to submit their observations regularly, even those which produce only routine results. These provide the best basis we have to note trends which a single observer or scattered observations cannot detect.

Among the more interesting tendencies revealed by this summer's observations are: (1) improvement in numbers of some herons and marsh birds; (2) indications of breeding success for local duck populations; (3) increase continues for Mourning Doves; (4) good reports of both Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls; (5) increases for several species of woodpeckers, swallows and sparrows; (6) apparent scarcity of cuckoos, Barn Owl, Nighthawk, Phoebe, marsh wrens, and perhaps some vireos, i.e., Red-eyed, and warblers, i.e., Ovenbird and Canada.

Rarities: Ring-necked Duck, Bald Eagle, Carolina Wren, Brewster's Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, House Finch.

Abbreviations: BB Braddocks Bay; BS Bergen Swamp; EP—Ellison Park; MB—Manitou Beach; MP—Mendon Ponds; PM Pk—Powder Mill Park; RP—Round Pond; WP—Webster Park.

Observers: JC—Jack Connors; MC—Michael Carlson; GD—Gertrude Davis; JF—John Foster; RF—Robert Folker; JH—June Haller; WL—Walt Listman; AM—Al Maley; J&TM—Joe and Thelma McNett; m.ob.—many observers; BO—Bernard Olin; RO'H—Richard O'Hara; BP—Betty Perrigo; GP—Glen Perrigo.

LOONS—DUCKS: Only one report of Pied-billed Grebe was received, a single bird on June 20 (J&TM). This is somewhat in contrast to last summer when several

were noted but may only indicate somewhat reduced observations. Great Blue Herons were rather scarce on the Ontario lakeshore but may again be breeding at Oak Orchard where 15 were noted on July 7 (MC & RO'H). Least Bitterns remained unusually common, especially at RP where one or two were noted regularly (m.ob.). No Egrets of any species were reported this summer in the region.

Several observers noted duck broods common. A single Gadwall along with one American Widgeon was noted at BB on July 2 (RF & RO'H), and a most unusual Ring-necked Duck was seen at MP on July 13 (GP). One Hooded Merganser was reported at RP on July 13 (RO'H). Our regular breeding ducks were noted in normal numbers and apparently have had a good breeding season with ponds and marshes well filled with water.

**HAWKS—OWLS:** A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen in the Hemlock Lake area on June 20 (AM); this bird has always been scarce as a breeder in this region. Red-tailed Hawks and Sparrow Hawks appear to be present in about the same numbers as last year. While Marsh Hawks remained scarce, this species may have bred at Round Pond and Braddocks Bay where single birds were occasionally noted. Turkey Vultures were well represented, especially at BS where many birds were seen going to roost. A single adult Bald Eagle was near the local nesting site on June 7 (JF), and another, an immature, was noted on July 28 on Nations Road, Genesee (BP).

A single Ruffed Grouse was near Canadice Lake on June 22 (AM). Pheasants seem to be doing well with 25 reported on June 19 on one list from Penfield (GP). A Sora Rail was seen June 13 near Avon (JH), and another was at Reed Road on July 28 (JC). Gallinules were common in local marshes, but Coot were unreported this summer.

Among the shorebirds, the more common species appeared in normal numbers and dates in the limited habitat available. 5 Semipalmated Plover were at RP on August 7 (RO'H). 5 Upland Plover were near Avon on June 13 (JH); none were seen at the usual airport nesting site. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen July 31 at (RP) along with 4 Pectoral Sandpipers, 6 Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 Short-billed Dowitchers and other common species. 12 Sanderlings were on the Charlotte Beach July 25 (JC). By mid-August, water levels were beginning to drop and local observers were hopeful that the fall season would be more productive for these interesting species.

A few Bonaparte's Gulls remained through the summer near BB and RP but were apparently non-breeders. A Caspian Tern was at MB on June 30 (WL), and 3 were there on August 7 (RO'H). Common Tern were scarce again this summer until early August, while Black Tern seemed normal in numbers.

Mourning Doves are still increasing locally with good numbers reported everywhere. Cuckoos, on the other hand continued scarce, although both species were noted in June near Fairport (BO).

Great Horned Owls were reported from EP several times in July (GD) and also on June 12 from Hemlock Lake (JF). Screech Owls were noted occasionally with a maximum count of 4 at MP on July 8 (GP). No other owls were noted this summer.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS:** At least 2 Whip-poor-wills were calling in Bergen Swamp on July 7 (MC & RO'H). Nighthawks seemed very scarce over Rochester this summer continuing a downward trend of recent years. On the other hand, Chimney Swifts and Hummingbirds were noted regularly, although usually in small numbers. Kingfishers were not reported very frequently either.

The Woodpeckers were all reported in good numbers from the usual breeding stations. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers apparently bred again at both Ellison and Powder Mill Parks where they were present all summer. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is now being reported from more places and more often than is the Red-head Downy Woodpeckers were everywhere in very good numbers.

Flycatchers, too, were common as breeding species, except perhaps for the Phoebe

which was infrequently noted this summer. There were no reports of late lingering Spring migrants in early June this year as we usually note among these species.

Most Swallows have apparently enjoyed good success this summer and very large numbers of Tree, Barn, Bank Swallows and Purple Martins are to be seen on the lakeshore at this writing (late August). An unusual report of 10 Cliff Swallows on June 20 came from Hemlock Lake (AM).

An observation worthy of future follow-up is the record of 7 Red-breasted Nuthatches at MP on July 8 (GP); there are no definite nesting records in the immediate Rochester area. Brown Creepers are definitely breeding more commonly than we were ever previously aware of here; reports of 1-4 birds were obtained from several areas including MP and PM Pk as well as Honeoye Lake (JF).

A single Carolina Wren was noted on June 12 at Avon, New York (JH). Long-billed Marsh Wrens still appear to be at a low ebb locally and Short-billed Marsh Wrens are unreported for the period.

A report of 6 Swainson's Thrushes on June 13 at Avon is very late, especially for this year (JH). Otherwise, the thrushes and allied species appear in normal numbers and localities. Bluebirds may have been reported a bit more frequently than usual this year but not enough so to be very significant.

A record of 8 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on June 20 at PM Pk no doubt indicates successful breeding there (J&TM). 2 or 3 records of Loggerhead Shrike came in indicating that this bird retains its status as an uncommon and local breeder here, although they seemed very scarce as a migrant this spring.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS** The Yellow-throated Vireo was well-reported this year and may be increasing, while Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos still seem reduced in numbers, especially the former. A maximum count of 15 Yellow-throated Vireos was made at MP on July 8 (GP), while the maximum for Red-eyed this year was 10 at two different localities.

Eighteen species of Warblers were noted in this region during the breeding season. This does not include either the Black-throated Blue or Blackburnian which have occasionally been reported in past years, but does include the Prothonotary, the female of which was seen feeding young, Louisiana Waterthrush, although it is much scarcer than a few years ago in the lakes region south of Rochester, and Hooded Warbler, noted at Avon (JH) and MP (GP) as well as the regular Pellet Road location. Three hybrid Brewster's Warblers were seen at Canadice Lake (AM) and others at Leroy and PM Pk. The Blue-winged Warbler is being reported increasingly and the Golden-winged less frequently south of Rochester; this may be primarily due to habitat change in the areas we have covered frequently in the past. Ovenbirds were only noted occasionally this year. Canada Warblers seemed very much scarcer than they used to be in the gullies around Conesus and Canandaigua Lakes.

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** Bobolinks were well represented here this season continuing an upward trend of recent years. Some local lists now are showing Common Grackles outnumbering Redwings in areas where the reverse had always been true; while there is certainly no shortage of Redwings, the Grackle population now seems to be growing faster. Cowbirds no longer seem to be multiplying so rapidly either, as no doubt the natural factors which limit a species numbers apply themselves; after all, there are only just so many small birds nests for them to use. Cardinals continue to prosper and delight people with their brilliant plumage and loud whistles, even well into the inner city areas, Purple Finches seem to have nested in several areas this year with a maximum report of 5 at MP on July 8 (GP). Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common, but Indigo Buntings were rather scarce. Both Goldfinches and Towhees were very common.

The House Finch noted regularly in May on St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, continued to come regularly to the feeder and finally brought one young bird thus establishing the first breeding record for Region 2.

The short-tailed sparrows, Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's are definitely on the upswing locally, especially near MP, but also in other areas near Rochester, they were seen in the best numbers in several years.

Another report of the Clay-colored Sparrow came in this summer; this time a singing male was noted in a spruce plantation two miles east of Honeoye, New York on June 22 (AM); this is perhaps the 4th or 5th record in recent years for this relative newcomer to our region. The remaining sparrows all appeared to be normal or somewhat above normal in abundance.

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. McILROY AND SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

Temperatures were near normal in June, with one real heat wave at the end of the month, below normal in July and somewhat on the cool side in early August. The western part of the Region had heavy rains in June, followed by drier conditions amounting to drought in late July and August. The rest of the Region was fairly dry throughout the period.

Both editors were absent during much of the breeding season but have had fine cooperation from others in compiling information. There was, perhaps, more of a spread in breeding dates of some species, related to the lateness of migration commented on in the last report.

There was little of great interest. Walter Benning commented on shorebird conditions at MNWR as follows: "Up to mid-July, the area exposed (by lowering of water in Main Pool after Storage Pool was drained) was within reasonable viewing distance of the dike and not too extensive so that shorebirds were concentrated in an area where fairly accurate counts and identification were possible. Since mid-July extensive mudflats have developed in areas too far away to make accurate identification and counts even with a 30X scope." Benning also felt that counts made represented only 10-15% of shorebirds present.

Again this year reports were received from four of the 25-mile Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in the Finger Lakes. Highlights are as follows: The Rushville count had 48 species, same as in 1970 (ML) while the Branchport count (ML) was 49 species, down 13 from last year. On the Dryden East count (MS) the total was 61 species, compared with 62 in '70. Pheasants, Mourning Doves, Chimney Swifts, Kingbirds, Wood Pewees, Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, Yellow Warblers, Bobolinks, Baltimore Orioles and Towhees showed an increase while Killdeer, Veeries, Yellowthroats, Cowbirds, Savannah and Chipping Sparrows decreased. On the Trumansburg count (DM) there were 55 species (down from 59 in '70). Pheasants, Traill's Flycatchers, Catbirds, Bobolinks and Baltimore Orioles showed definite increases while Flickers, Starlings and Field Sparrows were low. It is suggested that the Field Sparrows may not have been singing at that point in the breeding cycle.

The breeding bird census of Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary was taken on June 17 (JT). As this was almost two weeks later than taken in all previous years and as census methods were slightly different, comparisons are not fully valid. However, 52 species were tallied (56 in '70), and it was evident that Killdeer, Downy Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches had increased, Chickadees, House Wrens, Catbirds, Starlings and Yellow Warblers had decreased.

Area compilers and observers: BA—Betty Ammerman; DGA—David G. Allen; WEB—Walter E. Benning; JBr—Jack Brubaker; FE—Frank Edminster; FG—Frank Guthrie; WMG—William M. Groesbeck; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul M. Kel-

sey DAL—Douglas A. Lancaster; ML—Malcolm Lerch; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DP—David Peakall; MP—Montezuma Personnel; BS—Betty Strath; GAS—Gerry A. Smith MS—Margaret Shepherd; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; JT—James Tate; JW—Jayson Walker; MW—Mary Welles.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: production same as last year MNWR, 250 young raised from 75 nests. Great Blue Heron: 96 max Aug 13–14 MNWR (GS, WEB), numbers normal at Marengo Swamp; good numbers Schuy Co with at least seven nests nr Reynoldsville (JBr). Cattle Egrets: no report. Common Egret: max 5 Aug 13 MNWR (GS); four mid-Aug Sharon Lake nr Horseheads (E. Ruggles). Black-crowned Night Heron: nested this year Main Pool cattails MNWR, numbers comparable to recent years. Least Bittern: seen regularly by several reporters, apparently successful breeding. American Bittern: a few seen regularly.

#### 1971 Waterfowl Production MNWR (MP)

	Broods seen	Est. Total young	Comparison with '70
Canada Goose . . . . .	20	100	—
Mallard . . . . .	20	800	+
Black . . . . .	5	200	+
Gadwall . . . . .	40	900	+
Pintail . . . . .	1	5	=
Green-winged Teal . . . . .	5	50	+
Blue-winged Teal . . . . .	25	900	+
Shoveler . . . . .	1	5	+
Wood Duck . . . . .	25	600	+
Redhead . . . . .	1	10	+
Ruddy . . . . .	2	10	+
Hood Merganser . . . . .	0	20	=

Waterfowl use and production was “nearly twice that of last year” at MNWR (MP). Some peak figures, for reporting period: 1400 Mallard; 425 Blacks; 1500 Gadwall; 1500 Blue-winged Teal; 1000 Wood Ducks; Mallards reported successful at Watkins Glen Marsh (JBr); plentiful at Keuka (FG) and at SWS more ducklings reached flight age though brood numbers about the same. One Blue-winged Teal brood at Watkins Marsh (JBr). Hooded Mergansers were successful this year in raising young on airport ponds, Tomp Co; an imm or female Common Merg was seen Aug 13 on Sen L, n of Hector (BS). A late Red-breasted Merganser reported, Jun 3 Welles farm nr Elmira (MW).

Note: In the light of some later questions concerning positive identification of the female bird, it seems advisable now to delete the reference to a brood of Red-breasted Mergansers on Keuka Lake in 1970 (KINGBIRD) 20(4):191. (FG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 10 Jul 11 Marengo Swamp; 1 young raised there (had been 2 eggs in late May) (WEB); 1 seen regularly MNWR. Goshawk: 2 nests Conn Hill sw Ithaca, results unknown; 1 other nest in Tomp Co reported, unspecified location. Sharp-shinned Hawk: no record. Cooper's Hawk: 2 nests known, of which one had 3 young but 2 disappeared, eggs taken from second nest; one other sighting, Jul 2 nr Monkey Run, Ithaca (DM). Red-tailed Hawk: seemingly good breeding success from all reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: the SWS pair seen at intervals, bred outside of sanctuary, 3 large young seen in nest in June (fide)

DGA). Bald Eagle: 2 immatures (one changing into ad plumage) seen fairly regular MNWR; no sightings of adult birds here or in Region. Marsh Hawk: 1 occ seen MNWR; 1 seen fairly regularly e side Sen Lake (BS); 1 nr. Dryden (DP); no known nestings. Sparrow Hawk: apparently numerous, successful breeding.

Ruffed Grouse: good numbers (FE,PMK); brood seen Jun 12 nr Etna (Jack Austin). Bobwhite: many sightings nr Odessa, prob from a release (BS). Ring-necked Pheasants: normal number and size broods. Turkey: probably normal, though few actual sightings. Virginia Rail: few reports, though WEB felt normal at MNWR; 1 late young downy chick there Aug 14. Common Gallinule: conflicting reports of relative abundance; broods late, but few in comparison with last year; fewer adults than usual at beginning of breeding period; 20 nests with 50 young compared with 100 nests and 400 yg in '70 (MP). American Coot: 30 broods seen, 200 young MNWR (MP).

Unless otherwise stated, the following shorebird records are those of WEB at MNWR: Semipalmated Plover: max 18 Aug 8. Killdeer: most observers noted increased numbers this year, max 124 MNWR (WEB). Black-bellied Plover: first fall date and max 2 Aug 7. American Woodcock: young seen Jun 3 Bath (BA); 5 nests found and 150 yg MNWR (MP). Common Snipe: 2 nests, 5 yg (MP). max 55 Aug 14. Whimbrel: 1 July 25; 6 on lawn of Holding Point, Chemung Co July 30 (WH). Upland Plover: scattered reports, but several observers noted that fewer young seem to be produced this year. (MW, PMK). Spotted Sandpiper: normal numbers. Solitary Sandpiper: first 3 Jul 11. Greater Yellowlegs: max 11 Jul 13. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 114 Jul 14; several reporters commented that Greaters were much less common than Lessers this year. Pectoral: max 12 Jul 25. White-rumped Sandpiper: max 85 Jul 31. Baird's Sandpiper: 1 Aug 4. Least Sandpiper: max 125 Jul 17 (as compared with max 19 in '70). Dunlin: 1 seen Jul 1 was a non-breeding 'hold-over' undoubtedly, as the species does not return usually until September. Short-billed Dowitcher: first Jul 11; max 23 Aug 4; 29 Jul 25 at Waterloo (WEB). Stilt Sandpiper: max 9 Aug 13; MNWR (GS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: first 2 Jun 27, max 247 Aug 4; "350 peep on June 9 and 66 on Jun 13, too far out for positive identification, were probably this species" (WEB). Western Sandpiper: 1 on Aug 14, definitely identified, rare. Hudsonian Godwit: 1 Aug 12 (N. Cutright). Sanderling: max 3 Jul 17-25. Wilson's Phalarope: 1 Jul 18, only sighting. Occ Herring Gull during period at MNWR; up to 200 Ring-bills; scattered birds on Cay Lake. Bonaparte's Gull: up to 42 through Jul 21, 1 on Jul 25 (GS); lowering water levels and dying carp probably account for more than normal numbers of summer gulls (WEB). Common Tern: 2 nests, 4 produced at MNWR, same as '70. Caspian Tern: 1 Aug 1 Watkins Glen (BS); 2 Aug 12 MNWR (N. Cutright). Black Tern: est production 100 yg (MP). Mourning Dove: reported increasing at Watkins, Bath and Montezuma. The two species of Cuckoos were reported as scarce in the more southern parts of the Region, "fairly common" in the northern parts. Barn Owl: no reports. Screech Owl: 3 locations at Watkins Glen (JBr); scattered other reports, but not common. Barred Owl: Heard occasionally nr Dryden (DBP), Sapsucker Woods, and pair regular at Texas Hollow. No reports of Saw-whets reached me.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: very few reports; an occasional one over Hornell in June (WMC); noted Aug 5 over Bath (BA). Chimney Swift: no decline this year, but numbers still lower than a few years ago. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 successful nestings noted, 1 at Stasches nr Horseheads, 1 at Jacksonville, but in general still scarce. Yellow-shafted Flicker: plentiful everywhere. Pileated Woodpecker: good nesting success, and new locations reported. Red-bellied Woodpecker: few definite nesting records, but sightings various places; yg brought to McGuire feeder in August in Ithaca. Red-headed Woodpecker: increase noted at several places: w side Cay Lake (JT), Keuka Lake area (FG), also

reported from Hornell, Watkins Glen State Park, Clyde, and Ludlowville; still missing from several former locations (SHS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: although apparently did not breed SWS (JT), increasing number of reports of breeding birds at lower elevations (and more southerly) at Etna at Stasches nr Horseheads, at Kopp farm at Reading Center.

Eastern Kingbirds: normal numbers everywhere except Watkins Glen; apparent migrants noted Jul 30-Aug 2 (WEB) and Aug 10-15 (sev observers). A rather late Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted at Watkins Glen Jun 2 (JBr). Most flycatchers seemed in normal numbers around Waterloo (JW); but other areas reported fewer Traill's and Least. Horned Larks: few reports of breeding birds, except at Rushville where 35 were noted on the F & W breeding bird 25 mile census. Swallows were reported in better numbers this year, except Purple Martins and (in some areas) Cliff Swallows. Barn Swallows and Rough-wings migrated in good numbers on Seneca Lake in early August. In Orange Township of Schuy Co, Art Kopp noted Cliff Swallows back at a former location. The Strath Purple Martin colony, west side Sen L was quite successful this year; last young left nest Jul 31. Common Crows were somewhat up at Waterloo (JW). Brown Creeper: definitely up as a breeding species in the Region; possibly related to numbers of dead trees. Long-billed Marsh Wren: up to 11 seen at MNWR (GAS), but very few elsewhere. Carolina Wrens: few reports, but 3 broods near Watkins Glen (JBr). Mockingbirds: while by no means abundant, breeding reports increased in Ithaca area. Brown Thrasher: up in Waterloo area (JW). Eastern Bluebirds: still no marked improvement in this Region; Lerch banded 46, mostly young, fewer than in '70. Golden-crowned Kinglet: absence of reports probably means no coverage in suitable areas. Cedar Waxwing: normal numbers everywhere except MNWR and adjacent area (WEB) where scarce. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

#### VIREOS-WARBLERS

On the 25-mile breeding bird censuses the following were recorded:

	Dryden	Trumansburg	Branchport	Rushville
Yellow-throated Vireo . . . .	1	1	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo . . . . .	8	6	3	0
Warbling Vireo . . . . .	8	2	1	3
Yellow Warbler . . . . .	31	23	4	6
Magnolia Warbler . . . . .	0	0	0	0
Bl-thr. Green Warbler . . .	2	1	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler . .	2	2	0	0
Ovenbird . . . . .	1	0	0	0
Yellowthroat . . . . .	14	17	0	0
Redstart . . . . .	0	2	0	0
Yellow-br. Chat . . . . .	0	0	2	0

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos: normal numbers, perhaps slight increase over recent years. Yellow-throated Vireo: low numbers except in Watkins-Odessa area (BS). Golden-winged Warbler: few reports pair early July at Waterloo (WEB). "Lawrence's" Warbler: Jul 6 Six-Mile Creek Reservoir, Ithaca (John Brown). Yellow Warbler: seemingly good numbers everywhere; some probable migrants Aug 12-15 at Dryden (DBP). Magnolia Warbler: absent for first year in six on so-called Dryden East 25-mile census, as noted below. Cerulean Warbler: absent this year at Waterloo (JW) and Keuka (FG). Chestnut-sided Warbler: what has happened to this species? absent for first year in many from the Lower Creek Road location w of Etna, our one sure spot; absent on Branchport census this year. Prairie Warbler: none found on Conn Hill for first year in many, possible habitat change. Mourning Warbler: three locations, Jun 13 Waterloo Swamp (WEB), Jul 11 Clyde carrying food, nr Etna and Pine Woods Rd. (DAL). Kentucky Warbler: care-

fully identified Jun 8 after it hit window, recovered and flew away, Ellis Hollow Rd, e of Ithaca (Sally Norcross). Yellow-breasted Chat: bred at Bardeen farm (near Burdett) and at Kopps' at Reading Center. American Redstart: somewhat better numbers according to sev observers.

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: while some observers felt these were scarcer, highest count ever (17) on the Trumansburg count (DM). Redwinged Blackbirds: fewer at MNWR (MP). Orchard Oriole: present, but nest not found, Ithaca. Baltimore Oriole: highest count ever (23) on Trumansburg census. Common Grackle: several localities reported fewer at feeders during summer, but flocks elsewhere were large. Scarlet Tanager: normal numbers most places. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: normal or somewhat higher numbers; breeding success good judging by late summer sightings of broods on the wing. Evening Grosbeak: 1 pair lingered into June nr Ithaca (D. Brann). House Finch: continued reports of these at feeders, but no evidence of nesting yet. American Goldfinch: numerous. Rufous-sided Towhee: scarce around Watkins Glen (JBr). Reports varied on the abundance of the 'meadow' sparrows. Field and Savannah Sparrows up in some areas, down in others. Henslow's Sparrow missing from several former locations (habitat change) but there were five on Dryden census, two on Trumansburg. Vesper and Chipping Sparrows present in normal numbers, with good breeding success. Song Sparrows abundant everywhere.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

It was a cool summer, sometimes decidedly so. The unusually prolonged nesting of Bank Swallows was perhaps a result of the coolness.

The decline in Henslow's Sparrows was particularly noticeable, but bluebirds were also down. Mockingbirds and titmice seemed at best to hold their own, but House Finches continued their increase. Marsh Hawk numbers have seemed a little better than in recent years, but accipiters and Red-shouldered Hawks remain scarce. Several of the "northern" species were found fairly frequently: juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers and Winter Wrens. There were no rarities.

Observers: DB—Don Bemont, LB—Les Bemont, MB—Margaret Bowman, G,WC—Gail and Warren Corderman, A,MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis, EK—Eugene Kirch, MS—Mary Sheffield, E,FV—E. and F. Vermilya, CW—Cora Wellman, R,SW—Ruth and Sally White, and KW—Kathryn Wilson.

Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys, as usual in the summer, provide much of the more significant data. The species counts from 5 of the surveys were available. They are reported in parantheses immediately following the name of each species that was found on at least one of the five. The first number is the total individuals found and the second the number of surveys on which the species was recorded. Thus "(7,4)" indicates a total of seven individuals on four surveys. The surveys reported with the observers were Coventryville (LB,DB); Lisle (Robert and Rita Pantle), Macdonough (Claude Howard), Oxford (Harriet Marsi and Claire Gottschall) and Whitney Point (Robert and Rita Pantle).

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Great Blue Heron: (3,2); a dozen reports of 1-3 birds each during period, mostly in Delaware and Otsego Counties, but no nesting colony reports. Green Heron: (2,2); scarce at East Branch, on the Beaverkill, (MB); and



none too frequently reported elsewhere except at Norwich where there were "lots" (R,SW). American Bittern: 1 Aug 10 Goodyear Lake (Jane Wright); several at Norwich (R,SW). Canada Goose: 1 Jun 26 and Jul 12 on Pepacton Reservoir (MB). Wood Duck: a female with 4 young Jul 22 at Oneonta (Mrs. P. Dobinsky).

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Turkey Vulture: 27 Jul 10 near Hancock (MB), the maximum count. Goshawk: Jun 6 south of Binghamton (EK, G,WC) and repeatedly in same area all summer. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 Jul 12 Pepacton Reservoir (MB), the only report. Cooper's Hawk: 2 Jun 28 Oneonta (KW) and 1 at the same place Jul 23 with Barn Swallows in pursuit; no others. Red-tailed Hawk: (1,1); 14 other reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Jul 24 near Maryland (CW, KW, et. al.); Aug 7 south of Binghamton (EK, G,WC); no others. Broad-winged Hawk: (1,1); "bred" at East Branch (MB); six other reports; Jul 6 Choconut Center (MS), 1 persistently harassing a Red-tail. Bald Eagle: 1 Jun 15 at Pepacton Reservoir (John Torrey). Marsh Hawk: (1,1), Oxford breeding bird survey; 1 Jun 26 North Franklin (KW). Sparrow Hawk: (5,4); "highest counts ever along highways in Delaware County (MB). Bob-white: 1 Jul 21 Oneonta (Mrs. P. Dobinsky). Ring-necked Pheasant: (7,4). Killdeer: (28,4). Common Snipe: 1 Jul 24 and 2 Aug 4 Sherburne (R,SW). Upland Plover: 1 June 27 near Plymouth in Chenango County (LB, DB). Solitary Sandpiper: 3 Aug 4 South Otselic Fish Hatchery (R, SW). Greater Yellow: 1 Jul 18 Sherburne (R,SW). Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 Aug 4 South Otselic Fish Hatchery (R,SW). Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Aug 4 South Otselic Fish Hatchery (R,SW). Least Sandpiper: 4 Aug 4 South Otselic Fish Hatchery (R,SW). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 5 Aug 4 South Otselic Fish Hatchery (R,SW). Rock Dove: (35,2). Mourning Dove: Upland Plover: 1 Jun 27 near Plymouth in Chenango County (LB,DB). Solitary (23,5). Black-billed Cuckoo: (1,1). Screech Owl: Jun 12 and Aug 11 Chenango Forks (A,MD); Aug 8 Choconut Center (MS); no other reports. Barred Owl: Jun 7 and 10 south of Binghamton (EK, G,WC), young heard.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** Chimney Swift: (44,4). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1,1). Belted Kingfisher: (3,2). Yellow-shafted Flicker: (60,5). Pileated Woodpecker: (1,1); only 2 other reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 Jun 13 New Lisbon in Oneonta area (E,FV), no details. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (18,4); of three pairs at East Branch 1 female was red-headed and 2 were black-headed (MB). Hairy Woodpecker: (4,4). Downy Woodpecker: (333,5). Eastern Kingbird: (18,4). Great Crested Flycatcher: (22,5). Eastern Phoebe: (38,5). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Jun 5 Choconut Center (MS), first in Region this year. Traill's Flycatcher: (14,3); a dozen or more at Upper Lisle above Whitney Point (MS). Least Flycatcher: (56,5). Eastern Wood Pewee: (32,5). Olivesided Flycatcher: Jul 3 near Oneonta (CW,KW, et. al.), seldom reported in Region during summer, but not unprecedented. Horned Lark: (7,4). Tree Swallow: (23,4). Bank Swallow: (73,2); at Vestal still laying eggs in early Jul when nesting activities usually almost complete (GC). Rough-winged Swallow: (2,2). Barn Swallow: (104,5). Cliff Swallow: (2,1); "bred" in East Branch (MB). Blue Jay: (71,5). Common Crow: (179,5). Black-capped Chickadee: (27,5). Tufted Titmouse: (4,1); Jul 12 Vestal (G,WC), adult with young; seen regularly at Chenango Forks. Whitebreasted Nuthatch: (6,2). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 12 or more Aug 14 near Milford (CW, KW, Mary Dobinsky). Brown Creeper: 7 different reports in Binghamton and Oneonta areas; "bred" at East Branch (MB). House Wren: (58,5). Winter Wren: 2 Jun 19 east of Davenport in Delaware County (CW,KW, et. al.); Jul 10 in 2 areas east of Oneonta (CW,KW, et. al.); "bred" at East Branch (MB). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 2 Jun 13 and 8 or more Jun 20 at Sherburne (R,SW); Jul 25 at Upper Lisle (MS). Mockingbird: 1 seen occasionally near Union Center, north of Endicott, all summer (DB); a few other reports. Catbird: (49,5). Brown Thrasher: (28,4). Robin: (331,5). Wood Thrush: (109,5). Hermit Thrush: (3,2); 4 other reports, 1 of

a young bird Aug 8 south of Binghamton (EK, G,WC). Swainson's Thrush: 2 Jun 19 Pharsalia, in Chenango County, (R,SW) singing. Veery: (45,5). Eastern Bluebird: (7,3); not very many. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: "bred" at East Branch (MB). Cedar Waxwing: (40,5). Starling: (457,5).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: (2,2). Solitary Vireo: 1 Jun 19 Pharsalia (R,SW), singing; Jul 3 Oneonta (CW, KW, et. al.). Red-eyed Vireo: (60,5). Warbling Vireo: (6,3). Black-and white Warbler: (5,3). Blue-winged Warbler: (2,1); Jun 6 Choconut Center (MS); Aug 6 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Nashville Warbler: (8,3). Yellow Warbler: (85,5). Magnolia Warbler: 4 Jun 19 Pharsalia (R,SW); Jun 19 at 2 places east of Davenport and Jul 24 near Maryland (CW, KW); "bred" at East Branch (MB). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 5 or more near Davenport (CW, KW); 2 Jun 19 Pharsalia (R,SW). Myrtle Warbler: Jun 19 Davenport and Jul 24 Maryland (CW, KW). Black-throated Green Warbler: (6,2). Cerulean Warbler: 1 female Jul 4 at East Meredith near Oneonta (E,FV). Blackburnian Warbler: (1,1); 3 Jun 19 Pharsalia (R,SW). Chestnut-sided Warbler: (52,5). Blackpoll Warbler: Jun 3 Vestal (G,WC), the last of several Jun reports. Prairie Warbler: still present at Vestal Center in late Jun (E. Washburn). Ovenbird: (25,4). Northern Waterthrush: 8 reports. Louisiana Waterthrush: (1,1). Mourning Warbler: (1,1); Jun 6 Castle Creek, south of Whitney Point (MS); 2 Jun 19 Pharsalia (R, SW); Jun Davenport (CW, KW). Yellowthroat: (124,5). Yellow-breasted Chat: (1, 1), the only report. Canada Warbler: (5,3). American Redstart: (25,3).

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** House Sparrow: (149,5). Bobolink: (94,5). Eastern Meadowlark: (108,5). Redwinged Blackbird: (803,5). Baltimore Oriole: (63,5). Common Grackle: (166,5). Brown-headed Cowbird: (43,5). Scarlet Tanager: (27, 5). Cardinal: (20,3). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (11,4). Indigo Bunting: (18,4). Purple Finch: (5,2). House Finch: the colony at Endwell did produce an undetermined number of young—six males were seen at one time once during the summer (Florence Linaberry). American Goldfinch: (148,5). Rufous-sided Towhee: (60,5). Savannah Sparrow: (35,5). Grasshopper Sparrow: (3,2). Henslow's Sparrow: (2,1), Coventryville breeding bird survey, almost the only report. Vesper Sparrow: (4,2); reasonably common near Union Center (DB). Slate-colored Junco: (7,2); "many" Jul 18 on top of Bramley Mt. near Bloomville in Oneonta area (E,FV); 6 Aug 14 near Milford (CW, KW); 4 Jun 19 Pharsalia (R,SW); other reports of lesser numbers. Chipping Sparrow: (106,5). Field Sparrow: (60,5). White-throated Sparrow: (21,3); 8 Jun 19 Pharsalia (R,SW); 6 other reports. Swamp Sparrow: (3,1). Song Sparrow: (197,5).

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND C. G. SPIES

In Central New York it was one of the wettest and hottest summers on record. One effect of the cold snowy winter which carried over into the summer period is the late departures of spring migrants. Many species (see body of report, below) had June, even late June, last dates. These were documentable at Derby hill as the species involved were either flying over in a NE direction or simply unknown as breeders on the brushy bluff that is Derby hill. The last big migration date noted there was June 20 instead of around May 20! The late icterids passing Derby however may not have been true migrants but feeding and roosting "commuters."

Concurrent with the spring migration watch in June, nine U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys (2 of which recorded migrant Blackpoll Warbler!) were conducted in Region 5, as well as several locally organized measured walking

surveys in the Adirondacks, Tug Hill, southern highlands, and low country areas, some of which have been repeated now for four years.

Positives were: Green Heron counts; both cuckoos up somewhat; high number of Short-billed Marsh Wren sites; good numbers of Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, and Black-throated Green Warblers; continued spread of Cardinal; good counts on Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

In lowered breeding numbers were: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, Common Tern, Indigo Bunting, and Vesper Sparrow.

Rarities for the summer were Double-crested Cormorant, Willet, Black-backed and Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers, Gray Jay, and Lawrence's Warbler.

All fall migration data will appear in the next report.

Abbreviations: Adir—Adirondack; BBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey(s), listed in the following manner, name, approximate location of end points, date done, observer: Cicero Center, Cicero Center to Baldwinsville, Jun 16, JWP; Clinton, Franklin Springs to Frankfort, Jun 7, CGS; Kasoag, Kasoag to Taberg, Jun 11, MSR; N Victory, N Victory to Phoenix, Jun 10, JWP; N Wilmurt, N Wilmurt to N Western, Jun 7, FGS; Old Forge, Old Forge to Big Moose, Jun 29, CGS; Oneida, Durhamville to Point Rock, Jun 6, B&SP; Oriskany Falls, Oriskany Falls to Ballina, Jun 1, CGS; Pulaski, Sandy Creek to Maple View, Jun 5, RJS. BM-TL—15 mi on railroad and trails from Big Moose to Beaver R to Twitchell L, Jun 26 (FGS); CS—2 mi on trails in Cicero Swamp May 30 (MSR, CGS); CV—Ninemile Creek valley SW of Camillus; DH—Derby hill, Sage Creek, and vicinity on L Ont near Texas; FH—Fair Haven Beach State Park, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; FR—Fox Ridge area of Montezuma Twp; High Pk—4 mi on trails in Highland Park near Fabius Jun 12 (DWC, PAD); HIGMA—Howland Island State Game Management Area near Port Byron; HVGMA—Happy Valley State Game Management Area near S Albion; Jers—12 mi by car on Curtiss Rd and Jerseyfield Rd Salisbury Twp Jul 11 (MSR, CGS); Lab—Labrador Pond near Apulia Station; LJ—4.5 mi on Little John Dr in Redfield Twp Jun 20 (FGS); NM—Niagara Mohawk Visitors' Center near Lakeview and vicinity; Ohara—5.5 mi on Ohara Rd and Co Rt 17 in Williamstown Twp and Redfield Twp Jul 4 (MSR, CGS); Onon—Onondaga; Ont—Ontario; Otto—5 mi on roads and trails in the Otto Mills area of Redfield Twp Jun 5 (FGS); PSS—Peter Scot's Swamp and vicinity near Phoenix; SP—North Pond, South Pond, and the sand dunes on L Ont near Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park and vicinity near Port Ont; Syr—Syracuse; TRGMA—Three Rivers State Game Management Area near Baldwinsville; WBOC—W. Branch Onon Creek and vicinity near S Onon.

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Corrigenda: *Kingbird* XXI:3, July 1971, Region 5 report—p. 161, White-winged Scoter: ... latter date late for such high numbers; p. 162, all hawks no. on peak day(s) 4742; p. 163, Greater Yellowlegs: max 14 Apr 25 ...; p. 165, Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr May 12, 1 NPT ...; p. 165, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: ... 1 May 26 Oak is late ...

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: dep Jun 20, 2 DH (GAS) is record late; summer max 3 Aug 7 through period Dart L near Big Moose; only other reports 1 Jun 26 Beaver R near Big Moose and 2 Jun 28 Big Moose L. Pied-billed Grebe: very scarce with max 2 Jun 14 HIGMA; otherwise singles only at DH, NM, PSS, HVGMA Wilson swamp W of Oswego. *DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT*: dep Jun 2,

1 imm DH; summering birds were 1 imm Jul 5-9 Onon L and 1 ad Jul 25 FR—most unusual as there are no recent reports later than Jun 4 or earlier than Aug 30, and probably related to this spring's record flight or to wandering birds from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

Great Blue Heron: rookeries — Cross L near Baldwinsville with 14 young in 6 nests is only  $\frac{1}{2}$  last year's tally; TRGMA with 7 nests is up from 3 last year; Maple Bay on Oneida L near Bridgeport with 26 young in 16 nests is only slightly better than  $\frac{1}{2}$  last year's tally; 1 active nest near S Bay; 1 active nest at The Old Fly near Fabius; 1 active nest near Pompey Center; 20 nests at Morrisville Swamp is relatively stable; another rookery near Verona was not counted; and PSS remains abandoned. Green Heron: most everyone remarked that this species increased, the max away from a roost being 50 Jul 17 Utica; an early roost count Aug 8 found 124 at Horseshoe Is near Phoenix. Black-crowned Night Heron: only reports 1 through period WBOC and 1 Utica. Least Bittern: more reports than usual with max 6 Jul 17 Utica, and others reported from DH, Horseshoe Is, Wilson swamp. American Bittern: low but better than usual with max 4 Oneida Co areas.

Canada Goose: 52 nests at HIGMA is the same count as last year but together are the most ever noted there; later counts were 157 Jul 22 HIGMA and 138 Aug 22 FR which both include ad and young birds; Mallard: many broods very late near Syr, but breeding success about the same as last year at HIGMA with an estimated 400 young hatched. Black Duck: decrease continues with no definite nesting at HIGMA but 12 ad there Jul 22; broods of 6 young each noted May 22 SP and Jun 27 Rome. Gadwall: 1 brood HIGMA; 5 ad there Jun 14. Pintail: only reports 1 Jun 2 NM; 1 Jul 18 through period Onon L; 1 Jul 25 FR. Green-winged Teal: 1 brood HIGMA. Blue-winged Teal: only 2 broods HIGMA and very low elsewhere; best count was 70+, including several broods, Jul 17 Utica. American Widgeon: only report was 1 male Jun 2 NM. Wood Duck: 50 nests HIGMA and 9 young Jun 4 The Old Fly—breeding success at HIGMA thought by R. Loveless to be stable for past 2-3 years, but elsewhere was very low with early Aug max of 8 Aug 15 SSSP and 7 males Aug 7 SP (summer max in 1970 and 1969 were 55 and 28 respectively).

Bufflehead dep Jun 3, 1 male NM; only other period report was 2 females Jul 24 Oneida L. Ruddy Duck: Onon L had up to 3 males and 1 female Jul 5-6, last report there 1 male Jul 18; only other report 1 male Jul 22 HIGMA. Hooded Merganser: 2 broods in Wood Duck boxes at HIGMA; 2 broods at The Old Fly of 14 and 8 young Jun 2 reduced to 12 and 4 by Jun 11; otherwise 1-3 per day from sub-Tug Hill, Tug Hill, and Adir areas. Common Merganser: at Dart L 2 Jun 1 with 1 persistent to Jul 1; Jul 4 near N Western—it is still not known whether these are members of a small breeding population. Red-breasted Merganser: up to 7 Jun 13 Oneida L.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 4 reported at HIGMA; 5 in the Colosse-Maple View area; and singles from Jacks Reef, PSS, Palermo, NM, and Greenboro areas, the last a new, northern, location. Goshawk: 2 singles, both ad, from Tug Hill and Adir areas. Sharp-shinned Hawk: ?dep? Jun 2 and Jun 20, 1 each DH—if these are true migrants they are very late; otherwise 3 singles, all ad, 2 in Adir areas and 1 in S Onon Co. Cooper's Hawk: only report 1 ad from S Onon Co. Red-tailed Hawk: dep Jun 20, 1 imm DH; very successful breeding reported, e.g. 4 young fledged from a nest near S Onon, 2 successful nests CV. Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 singles, all ad, 2 from Tug Hill and 1 each from Adir and Mohawk Valley areas. Broad-winged Hawk: dep Jun 2, 1 ad and 9 imm, and Jun 20, 2 imm, all DH; summer reports—1-3 per day in Adir areas, up to 2 per day at Highland Park near Fabius and at New Hartford, and singles HVGMA, near Mexico, Ionia. Marsh Hawk: only 4 summer reports, 1 female Jun 13 NM, 1 Jul 18 near Fruit Valley, 2 males Jul 31 at separate sites in Sterling Twp. Osprey: dep Jun 2, 1 DH; a pair with nest in Adir and 1 Aug 14 HIGMA were the only summering birds. Sparrow Hawk: dep Jun 20,

1 DH; appears to be stable with family groups of 5 Jul 23 Syr and 10 Jul 25 Syr airport.

Ruffed Grouse: down—only 3 broods reported, 1 each from Adir, Tug Hill, and S highlands. Bobwhite: many released through summer in NW Pompey Twp areas; possibly feral birds reported from 2 sites near Camillus. Ring-necked Pheasant: appears to be stable or upon BBSs but broods of only 2-5 reported from Onon Twp, Onon L, Utica, and max in period only 15 Cicero Center BBS. Virginia Rail: a brood of 3 Jul 4 Utica; otherwise reported only from Rome, near W Monroe, near Hamilton, NM. Sora: only 2 reports, 1 Jun 3 DH and 1 Aug 14 Onon L, the latter possibly a migrant—very scarce, even for a rail. Common Gallinule: a brood Jul 4 Utica and a single chick Jul 18 SP were the only reports of young; max 35 Jul 17 Utica. American Coot: 1 Jun 20 through period FR and 2 Jul 24 Oneida L were the only reports; no breeding evidence.

Semipalmated Plover: dep Jun 20, 1 NM. Killdeer: highest BBS was Oneida with 19 and summer max 26 Jul 1 PSS area—both good pre-flocking counts. Black-bellied Plover: dep Jun 13, 1 NM. Ruddy Turnstone: dep Jun 13, 2 Oneida L (CGS) appears to be a record late date. American Woodcock: singles only except for 2 Jun 1 and 7 at Dart L and 2 young with an ad dead in the road near Constantia Jun 26—seems very poor. Common Snipe: also very low—max 4 Jul 5 NM; not present at Stillwater Reservoir near Big Moose where it was found last year; otherwise found only at DH, PSS, WBOC, Maple Hill near Williamstown, and “several places” near Holland Patent. Upland Plover: widely reported, from at least 14 sites, but not noted in N Cayuga Co, S Onon Co; max 13 night of Aug 5 flying S over Syr (JWP)—very low. Spotted Sandpiper: 141 Jul 5 by canoe around Onon L and 2 mi of nearby Seneca R were probably all local birds since many of them were non-flying young; 18 Jul 2 NM is another good count. Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Jun 3 CV may be a very late dep; an injured bird at NM Jul 4-15 may have been either N- or S-bound. WILLET: 1 Jul 5-6 Onon L (CGS, et al) appeared to be an ad in moult, and its size suggested *C.s.inornatus*, 8th Regional record. Lesser Yellowlegs: dep Jun 2, 2 NM (GAS) record late. White-rumped Sandpiper: dep Jun 3, 1 NM. Least Sandpiper: dep Jun 3, 20 NM. Dunlin: dep Jun 3, 12 NM. Short-billed Dowitcher: dep Jun 11, 1 NM—late. Semipalmated Sandpiper: dep Jun 20, 2 NM—late.

Great Black-backed Gull: 4 summer reports, 1 ad Jun 20 DH, 1 ad Jun 30 SP, 1 imm Jul 31 FH, 2 Aug 15 SP—the 1st summer with any reports in mid-season. Herring Gull: less than half as numerous at Oneida L as last year with 1 nest on Grassy Is, 7 nests plus 5 young out of nests on Long Is, and 1 young out of nest on Wantry Is; max at L Ont 60 Aug 15 NM to DH. Ring-billed Gull: 37 nests and 30 young out of nests Wantry Is, none on either Grassy Is or Long Is; L Ont max 1613 Jun 18 Oswego. Bonaparte's Gull: numerous summering birds—3 Jun 3 NM, 5-9 Jun 30-Jul 18 SP, 1 Jun 13 Oneida L. Common Tern: breeding at Oneida L with 216 nests and 3 young out of nests Grassy Is, 308 nests Long Is, and 73 nests Wantry Is, all of which are only about 60% of last year's figures; by Jul 18, when Carl Is at SP was 1st checked, all the young there had fledged; at least 4 young fledged at Onon L; max of ad and imm at SP was 101 Jul 18. Black Tern: all known breeding locations and numbers were 3 pairs in each of 2 sites near N Syr, 3 pairs at Bolivar swamp near Kirkville, 9 pairs DH, 3 pairs SP; looked for but not found at former breeding sites PSS and Wilson swamp; max at FR 67 Jul 18, at least 16 young there Jul 25 but these are thought to be from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

Mourning Dove: low—max only 19s, Jul 5 along 2 mi of Seneca R and Aug 7 Horse-shoe Is. Yellow-bellied Cuckoo: up from last year with at least 10 reports from 20 observers, all in low country areas. Black-billed Cuckoo: also up last year with 36 reports, from all areas. Screech Owl: reported from Holland Patent and SSSP. Great Horned Owl: at least 17 birds at 14 sites in all areas. Barred Owl: reported from Dart L, Nicks L near Old Forge, near Kasoag, and High Pk.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: 10 Jun 16 Gravesville; 7 Jun 21

near N Bay; also reported from another site near N Bay; near Floyd; near Salisbury; Hinckley; Cicero Swamp—fewer than last year but considerably better than the low numbers noted in the mid- and late sixties. Common Nighthawk: at least 23 pairs in Syr; 2 pairs in Rome; 6 pairs in Utica; 2 pairs in Herkimer; also reported from Oswego, Canastota, Oneida, S Onon; generally thought to be up except in Syr where urban “renewal” is eliminating many sites. Chimney Swift: dep Jun 2, 23 DH; 75+ Jun 7 Oneida is an excellent non-migration count, but otherwise no count exceeded 17 Jun 13 Syr until migration was underway. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: dep Jun 2, 6 and Jun 20, 1, both DH; more widespread than last year with Tug Hill max 6 LJ, but only 1–3 per day in Adir, S highlands, and low country areas; generally more numerous than past 3 years except in Adir. Belted Kingfisher: widely reported; max 9 Aug 2 HIGMA.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: dep Jun 20, 2 DH—very late; max 26 Aug 7 N Oswego Co areas; 17 Jun 10 near CV. Pileated Woodpecker: reported at 16 sites, mostly low country and S highlands; but 2 Tug Hill and 1 Adir sites. Red-bellied Woodpecker: at 7 sites, all in low country W of Syr except for Lab, a new location. Red-headed Woodpecker: dep Jun 20, 1 DH; reported from 13 sites—near Elbridge, near CV, 2 sites near Onon Hill, near Nedrow, Maple Bay, near Chittenango, near Canastota, Oneida, Holland Patent, near Mexiuo, near Iaton, Hatch L, near W Eaton—noticeably declining in some areas yet spreading to others. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Adir max 15 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 17 Otto; S highlands max 3 Jul 3 near Georgetown; also reported in 3 low country sites, CS, Oriskany Creek near Deansboro Jun 4, near Pulaski Jun 5. Hairy Woodpecker: Adir max 11 Jul 18 Dart L; only 1–4 per day in all other areas. Downy Woodpecker: Adir max 6 Jul 14–22 Dart L; Tug Hill max 3 Otto; 1–6 per day in other areas. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: a pair raised 3 young at Big Moose L (BB); also reported from Five Ponds area in extreme N Herkimer Co (FGS) with 1 male Jul 11 and 1 male and 1 imm Jul 18. **NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: 1 male Jun 24–Jul 18 Five Ponds (Al Maley, FGS) is the 4th Regional record.

Eastern Kingbird: dep Jun 2, 29 and Jun 20, 2, both DH; on BBSs stable or increasing in high country but decreasing in lowlands. Great Crested Flycatcher: dep Jun 20, 2 DH; on BBSs, increasing in low country but stable or decreasing in highlands; 11 CS and 9 Jun 3 CV are very good. Eastern Phoebe: max 20 Jun 20 N Oswego Co areas. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: dep Jun 3, 1 Carpenter Pond near Fabius, 1 DH, and Jun 4, 1 near Deansboro; max 5 BM-TL; also 1 Jun 30 near Hawkinsville; 2 Jul 18 Five Ponds. Trail's Flycatcher: both song types are up in the W part of the Region, but especially “webeo” in low country, while numbers of both seem to be dropping in areas E of Oneida L; “webeo” reported from many places with counts of 4 per day and max 6 Jun 20 N Oswego Co areas; “fitzbeu” max 14 Jun 3 DH; 11 Cicero Center BBS. Least Flycatcher: may 71 Otto; 48 LJ; 38 BM-TL. Eastern Wood Pewee: stable or slightly up on all BBSs except N Victory where 8 was an increase over 1–2 of past 4 years; max 14 Jun 14 HIGMA; 10 Jun 11 Navarino area; 10 BM-TL; 8 LJ. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1–2 per day in Adir areas including 1 Jers; in Tug Hill 2 LJ, 1 Otto, 1 nr Greenboro; unusual reports were 1 Jun 5 Bull Run Rd near S Albion and 1 May 29–Jun 13 Lab. Horned Lark: slightly down on BBSs; only 1–3 per day but still found in at least 10 widely scattered areas in low country and S highlands.

Tree Swallow: max 20 BM-TL; larger numbers not noted until early Jul when they are partly or entirely migrants. Bank Swallow: dep Jun 2, 33 DH; active nest hole counts were 200 SP, 60 Oswego, 200 Klocks Corners near Lansing, 350 near Euclid, 14 near S Onon, 843 near CV, 60 New Woodstock, 100 and 22 at 2 sites near Frenchville, 118 near Westernville. Rough-winged Swallow: dep Jun 2, 6 DH; summer locations and numbers were 7 near Floyd, 6 near Oneida, 5 Rams Gulch in Syr, 1–3 from the following places—near Boonville, near Hillside, Oswego, Snake

Swamp near Oswego, DH, CV, near Fabius, 2 sites near Pompey Center, Oriskany Creek near Deansboro. Barn Swallow: dep Jun 20, 21 DH; summer counts of 10-40 per day were usual with max 60 Jun 27 Woodgate to N Western; 57 Jun 1 Van Buren Twp in Onon Co; continues to nest on rock ledges facing L Ont at NM. Cliff Swallow: dep Jun 2, 35 DH; not found at 2 former sites near W Monroe this year; only 10 sites found-3 nests at Dart L, 1 nest Jers, 9 nests near Boonville, 5 nests near N Western, 1 nest Williamstown, 3 nests near Fabius, also 1 uncounted colony near N Western and 3 colonies near Holland Patent; note that none of these is in the plain S of Oneida L, but that 1 (Fabius) is in the S high country where they have been unusual in recent years. Purple Martin: dep Jun 2, 9 and Jun 20, 3 both DH; summer max 20 Jun 5 Toad Harbor near W Monroe; at least 3 pairs still using house at the Canal Museum in downtown Syr.

GRAY JAY: 1 Jul 11 and 18 at Five Ponds (FGS). Blue Jay: dep Jun 20, 161 DH; increased somewhat on all hill country BBSs; 5-15 per day was typical. Common Crow: down on some BBSs and up on others, especially N Victory and Pulaski where 3-fold increases were noted. Black-capped Chickadee: Adir max 18 BM-TL; max in all other areas 30-35 per day but all are Aug counts for which Adir comparison is not available. Boreal Chickadee: 3 Jun 27 Woods L near Big Moose (FGS) is particularly noteworthy considering how scarce they seemed to be all winter. White-breasted Nuthatch: Adir max 8 Jun 18-Aug 1 Dart L and 7 Old Forge BBS; Tug Hill max only 2 Otto; 5-6 per day in other areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Adir max 14 BM-TL; 1-4 per day in all other areas. Brown Creeper: Adir max 11 BM-TL; 2-6 per day in all other areas.

House Wren: increasing in most places, especially noticeable on BBSs where Cicero Center, Clinton, N Victory, and Pulaski had record high counts, but stable or slightly down on the others; field counts of 3-15 per day were typical with max 36 Jun 20 N Oswego Co areas. Winter Wren: Adir max 10 Jul 18 Five Ponds, 9 BM-TL, 9 Old Forge BBS; interesting lowlands locations were New Hartford with 4 Jun 10 and Rams Gulch with 1 Jul 14. Carolina Wren: 1 Aug 13 NW Pompey Twp (DWC) which, according to the plumage description, would be a bird in moult between juvenal and 1st winter plumages; no adults found and the species hasn't been seen in Syr area since summer 1969. Long-billed Marsh Wren: max 12 Jul 18 SP, 9 Jul 4 PSS seem somewhat low; otherwise counts were 1-6 per day. Short-billed Marsh Wren: unusual number of locations and all new in spite of former sites being regularly checked-1 Jun 10 near CV, 1-2 Jun 17-20 DH, 1 Jun 19 near Volney, 1 Jul 3-6 Bolivar, 1 Jul 3-17 near Whitelaw. Mockingbird: a nest in Fayetteville for 3rd consecutive year and a new nest site in N Syr (fide B. P. Burtt) only reports. Catbird: down on all low country BBSs except N Victory where it was stable, and only Kasoag showed an increase; typical daily counts of 5-15 with max 19 Ohara. Brown Thrasher: interesting locations were Old Forge with 1 Jun 26 and W side of Onon L (Allied Chemical wastebeds) with 1-2 Jul 2-Aug 7.

Robin: BBSs show a tendency to increase in W areas and decrease in E; max 133 Jun 20 N Oswego Co areas. Wood Thrush: BBSs indicate the same trend as for Robin; max 32 N Victory BBS, 27 Old Forge BBS, 25 High Pk, 24 Jul 16 near SW Oswego. Hermit Thrush: Adir max 7 Jun 29 Woodgate to Hawkinsville and 7 Jul 18 Five Ponds; 1-2 per day Tug Hill and S highlands; a newly noted location was Pine Hill near Taberg. Swainson's Thrush: typical Adir counts 3-4 per day with max 19 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 9 Otto and 7 LJ. Veery: dep Jun 2, 1 DH; Adir max 13 BM-TL and 13 Jers; Tug Hill max 38 Otto, 36, LJ, 32 Ohara; S highlands max 10 High Pk and 9 Jun 13 near Georgetown; low country max 29 CS. Eastern Bluebird: dep Jun 2, 5 DH; found at 12 sites, 4 Adir, 2 Tug Hill, 1 S highlands, 5 low country, with breeding at Salisbury, near Watervale, near Oran, and near Little France.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 9 Jun 3 CV; singles SSP, HIGMA, PSS; 3 Jun 16

Jacksonburg near Herkimer (VB) the only newly found location and the 1st report from E of Utica for any season. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Adir max 18 Jul 18 Five Ponds and 13 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 6 Aug 12 Otto Mills area near Redfield; S highlands max 4 High Pk; "widespread in spruce plantations in S Madison Co" (PAD). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 Jun 12 Dart L (BB) is the only Adir report. Cedar Waxwing: dep Jun 2, 2100, and Jun 20, 21, both DH; fewer than last year with max 22 Ohara; nest with eggs as late as Aug 15 Holland Patent. Loggerhead Shrike: 4 reports, all singles, Jun 7 near Trenton, Jun 20 DH, Jul 15-20 near Demster, Aug 6 near S Onon; no evidence of breeding at any of these sites and the last is probably a migrant. Starling: possible migrant dep Jun 20, 14 DH; pre-migration flock counts included 1800 Jul 19 Onon L and 1660 Jul 15 near Onon Hill.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: Tug Hill max 12 Otto, 6 LJ, demonstrate effect of a large stream, the Mad R, in otherwise generally unsuitable habitat; only 1-3 per day in low country and S highlands except for 7 Jun 14 HIGMA. Solitary Vireo: Adir max 8 BM-TL and 7 Old Forge BBS; Tug Hill max 5 Otto; S highlands max 2s Muller Hill and Fire Tower both near Georgetown, and High Pk; only low country report was 1 CS, the 1st report from that "boreal" area. Red-eyed Vireo: dep Jun 2, 2 DH; Adir max 105 BM-TL and 99 Old Forge BBS; Tug Hill max 98 Otto; S highlands max 25 High Pk; low country max 21 CS. Warbling Vireo: dep Jun 2, 1 DH; up, sometimes 2- or 3-fold, on all BBSs except Kasoag; 1 Adir report, 2 Jun 25 Dart L (BB) is most unusual; Tug Hill and S highlands had only 1-2 per day; low country max 24 Jun 3 CV.

Black-and-white Warbler: Adir max 13 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 6 Ohara; S highlands only report 1 Jun 7 Lab; low country max 7 CS. Golden-winged Warbler: good counts 7 Jul 14-Aug 11 near Mexico and 5 Aug 8 CV; singles noted near Lycoming, near SW Oswego, HIGMA, HVGMA, near Florence, 2 sites on N Wilmurt BBS. Blue-winged Warbler: 4 Jun 1 near Pompey Center, 3 Jun 13 near Nedrow, and singles Belgium, CV, Lab, Georgetown, Frankfort Center; the geographical distributions of this and the previous species are very different. Brewster's Warbler: total of 6 birds from 3 Oswego Co sites. LAWRENCE'S WARBLER: 1 being fed with 2 young Golden-winged by 2 adult Golden-winged Jul 14-15 in central Oswego Co (JWP, FGS). Tennessee Warbler: dep Jun 2, 1 Lab. Nashville Warbler: highest ever on Kasoag and N Wilmurt BBSs, and noted on Oriskany Falls where it is unusual; max 10 Jul 18 Five Ponds; not found in any numbers away from Adir and noteworthy was 1 CS, a lowland though "boreal" location where it is not always found. Parula Warbler: regularly up to 4 per day in Adir with max 15 Jun 7 Dart L, some of which may have been migrants since there were only 6 there by Jun 25; other high counts 8 BM-TL and 7 Jul 18 Five Ponds.

Yellow Warbler: record high tallies on all BBSs except Cicero Center which was, even so, higher than last year and Kasoag where it was the 2nd best year (after 1970); max 58 N Victory BBS, 51 Jun 14 HIGMA, 49 Jun 1 PSS area, 49 Jun 20 N Oswego Co areas. Magnolia Warbler: dep Jun 3, 1 CV and 2 DH; N Wilmurt BBS was highest ever; Adir max 46 BM-TL, 18 Jul 18 Five Ponds; Tug Hill max 10 LJ and 9 Otto; 1-3 per day S highlands. Black-throated Blue Warbler: dep Jun 20, 1 DH (GAS) is at least 3 weeks later than any previous dep; Adir max 24 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 20 Otto; 2 High Pk and 1 Jul 3 Muller Hill are unusual as none have been reported in S highlands since 1966. Myrtle Warbler: N Wilmurt BBS recorded highest ever; Adir max 41 BM-TL; S highland max 10 High Pk is very much increased over recent years. Black-throated Green Warbler: dep Jun 2, 1 DH; highest ever on N Wilmurt BBS; Adir max 32 Old Forge BBS, 27 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 19 Otto; S highlands max 35 High Pk. Cerulean Warbler: extremely good counts were 3 CS, 2 Jun 1 Erie Canal N of Camillus, 15 Jun 3 CV, 10 Jun 14 HIGMA, 6 Jun 23 NE corner of Cross L, and 2 Jul 5 Seneca R, S of Belgium, which is a new



location; singles noted at 8 new locations—near Lycoming, near N Victory, near Lysander, near Rose Hill, Maple Bay, near Deansboro and near Franklin Springs on Oriskany Creek, and near Hillside. Blackburnian Warbler: dep Jun 20, 1 DH (GAS) is record late (previous latest early Jun 1961); Adir max 47 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 18 Otto; 1-3 per day in S highlands; only 2 low country reports were 2 CS and 1 Jun 13 Shore Oaks near Lycoming. Chestnut-sided Warbler: dep Jun 3, 2 DH; Adir max 22 Jers; Tug Hill max 31 LJ, 26 Otto, 21 Ohara; S highlands max 5 High Pk. Blackpoll Warbler: widely reported in Jun with dep Jun 30, 1 SP; 2 males singing territorial song Jun 26 Woods L (FGS) the 3rd consecutive year of such observations, but still no confirmed breeding. Pine Warbler: 1 ad male Aug 11 near Colosse (JWP) may be an early migrant; no other reports.

Ovenbird: Adir max 25 Jun 1-7 Dart L, 24 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 20 Ohara; S highland max 15 High Pk; low country max 20 CS; altogether, these counts illustrate great adaptability to a variety of woodland types. Northern Waterthrush: Adir max 3 BM-TL and 2 Jul 18 Five Ponds, slightly better than last year when *none* could be found in Adir; Tug Hill max 10 LJ; S highlands max 4 Jul 4 Peterboro; low country max 20 CS. Louisiana Waterthrush: good counts were 4 pairs Pratts Falls near Pompey Center, 3 pairs Hatch Gulf near Oran, 2 pairs Willowdale or "Gas Gulf" on Otisco L, 2 pairs Rome, 1 pair Frankfort, 2 birds at different sites in Lansing Kill S of Boonville; Mourning Warbler: highest ever on N Wilmurt BBS; Tug Hill max 14 Otto, 10 LJ; only 1-3 per day in all other areas. Yellowthroat: up on all BBSs except N Wilmurt and Oneida; Tug Hill max 34 Ohara, definitely up; counts in other areas in the 20s. Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Jun 24 Nose Hill above CV (FGS). Hooded Warbler: dep Jun 3, 1 DH; 3 summer locations, up to 5 Aug 4 Shore Oaks, 1 Aug 4 near Lycoming, 4 Jun 5 and 2 others at a different site Aug 7 near Otto Mills. Canada Warbler: dep Jun 3, 1 DH; Adir max 32 BM-TL is down from last year; Tug Hill max 11 Ohara and 10 Otto are also down, even more sharply; S highlands max 8 High Pk is much better than last year; low country max 46 CS is very high. American Redstart: dep Jun 3, 6 DH; Adir max 32 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 74 LJ and 71 Otto; only 2-5 per day in S highlands; low country max 24 CS, 24 Jun 14 HIGMA, 17 Jun 3 CV; all counts slightly lower than last year.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: max 300 Aug 11-12 N Syr. Bobolink: dep Jun 2, 4 DH; for this species, BBSs seem to be a very accurate indicator of land use, with counts up in areas still heavily agricultural—Oriskany Falls, Pulaski, and Clinton—and dropping in areas cultivated primarily by land speculators—Cicero Center; max 47 Oneida BBS. Eastern Meadowlark: no trend detectable from BBSs; max 45 Oneida BBS. Redwinged Blackbird: possible migrant dep Jun 20, 40 DH; max 225 N Victory BBS; pre-migration flocking at Onon L up to 2400 Jul 19, and at Horse-shoe Is to 2611 Aug 9. Baltimore Oriole: dep Jun 20, 19 DH; max 26 Jun 1 Van Buren Twp; 25 Clinton BBS. Rusty Blackbird: reported only from Adir areas with max 19 Jun 27 in 7 mi of railroad and lumber road near Big Moose, up from recent years' counts. Common Grackle: possible dep Jun 20, 492 DH; max 235 Jul 31 FH; 118 Cicero Center BBS. Brown-headed Cowbird: possible dep Jun 20, 2 DH; down on all BBSs except Cicero Center, Clinton, Pulaski; max 80, all males, flocking to roost, Jun 6 near Deansboro and 80 Jul 31 FH. Scarlet Tanager: most BBSs showed only slight changes except N Wilmurt which noticeably increased; Adir max is higher than recent years with 19 Old Forge BBS; Tug hill max 16 Otto; S highlands max 10 High Pk; low country max of 6 CS is down from lowlands counts of last few years.

Cardinal: continuing to fill in gaps and generally increasing in the S part of the Region and in the Oneida L and L Ont plains; max 8 Jun 2 Rams Gulch and 8 Aug 8 CV. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: dep Jun 20, 1 DH; up on most BBSs, especially N Wilmurt; max 30 N Wilmurt BBS; other good counts were 17 CS, 12 Jul 18 Five Ponds. Indigo Bunting: dep Jun 20, 1 DH; down on most BBSs; max 8-12 per day

in all areas except Adir where only singles were noted. Evening Grosbeak: in spite of a very light flight, dep was Jun 20, 1 DH (GAS) record late; Adir max 14 Jun 26 at various sites in Webb Twp and 10 Jul 18 Five Ponds; not reported elsewhere. Purple Finch: Adir max 20 all summer Dart L and 16 BM-TL; max in all other areas including low country only 5-6 per day. House Finch: up to 2 pairs with 1 young at 1 site in Syr (DAD); only other reports were singles at 2 other sites in Syr. American Goldfinch: dep Jun 20, 49 DH; except for Oriskany Falls and Pulaski where increases were noted, BBSs indicate stability or slightly decreasing populations; field counts and general impressions indicate much higher numbers than usual with max 200 Aug 15 NM to DH. Red Crossbill: 1 report, 4 Jul 18 Five Ponds (FGS).

Rufous-sided Towhee: stable on most BBSs but noticeably up on N Wilmurt and down on Pulaski; interesting Adir counts were 3 Jun 29 Moose R Mt, 5 Jers, 3 Jul 18 Five Ponds—seems to be increasing in suitable Adir habitat; Tug Hill counts 14-20 per day. Savannah Sparrow: counts of 19-24 were regular in areas of suitable habitat throughout the Region. Grasshopper Sparrow: found in at least 18 sites, 8 in L Ont plain, 5 in other low country areas, 3 in Tug Hill, 1 in S highlands, 1 in Adir foothills; max 8 Jun 30 Blennes Corner area near Camden, 4 Jun 5 Toad Harbor. Henlow's Sparrow: found in at least 14 sites, 5 in L Ont plain, 7 in Seneca R, Oneida R or Oneida L areas, 2 in lower hill country; max 6 Jun 5 Toad Harbor. Vesper Sparrow: down on most BBSs and none show an increase; no count above 4 per day anywhere except 10 Jun 11 Pine Hill. Slate-colored Junco: Adir max 65 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 14 Aug 7 Otto Mills; S highlands max 15 High Pk. Chipping Sparrow: of BBSs, 3 showed noticeable increases, 3 decreases, and 2 remained the same; max 32 N Wilmurt BBS, one of those that decreased. Field Sparrow: stable on most BBSs; max 10-13 from various BBSs. White-throated Sparrow: Adir max 112 BM-TL; Tug Hill max 43 Jun 20 Redfield Twp areas; max in S highlands 6 High Pk and 6 Jul 4 Peterboro; low country max 12 CS. Lincoln's Sparrow: good counts were 7 BM-TL, 10 Jun 27 in 3 mi of railroad and lumber road near Woods L, 2 Jun 27 Big Moose dump, 2 Jul 11 Five Ponds. Swamp Sparrow: max 12 BM-TL, 12 Jul 1 PSS, and 11 Jun 10 near CV. Song Sparrow: down on all BBSs except Pulaski and N Victory, the 2 in the L Ont plain, where increases were noted; max 86 Jun 12 Watervale area.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The temperature during June and July was mild with plenty of rain. The first half of August was hot with little rain, but there was ample moisture later in the month. Growing conditions were good for plants, both wild and cultivated, so there should be a good crop of seeds and fruit this fall and winter for birds and other wildlife.

Abbreviations: BBJ—Breeding Bird Census, Jefferson County, Route 071, Watertown, Robert Walker, July 4; BBL—Breeding Bird Census, Lewis County, Route 077, Number Four, Margaret Rusk, June 28; BBS—Breeding Bird Census, St. Lawrence County, Route 101, Sabattis, Margaret Rusk, June 27, only the first 21 stops are in St. Lawrence County, starting at Long Pond and going to Grass Pond; ED—Eldorado; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area.

Observers: JB—John Belknap; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; NL—Nick Leone; TR—T. M. Riley; RS—Robert and Mrs. Sheffield; RW—Robert and Mrs. Walker; MW—Mark Wolfe.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 Aug 15 Wellesley Is (RW); 5 BBS. Cattle Egret: 1 early in Jun near Adams. Great Blue Heron: no known nests at PRGMA. Green Heron: Lakeview. Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 BBJ. Least Bittern: 1 Aug 1 PRGMA (JB). Canada Goose: annual Canada Goose drive for banding at Wilson Hill Game Management Area Jul 20, total of 620 birds handled; 10 geese banded at PRGMA. Ducks banded at PRGMA Jul 14 to Aug 13 were Mallard 128; Black 65; Green-winged Teal 7; Blue-winged Teal 3; Wood Duck 68 (all banding data from LC). Mallard: several Aug 1 at ED. Blue-winged Teal: Aug 1 ED. American Widgeon: Jul 30 PRGMA. Shoveler: pair Jul 30 PRGMA (NL). Ring-necked Duck: 3 Jun 8 PRGMA (NL). Red-breasted Merganser: adult with 8 young Jul 17 near Watertown.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Jul 1 Butterfield Lake (TR): at least a dozen in Theresa and Millsite Lake region, nesting possible, but no proof. Osprey: 1 Jul 10–11 Butterfield Lake (TR); 1 Jul 23 PRGMA (NL). Virginia Rail: 2 PRGMA. Semipalmated Plover: 2 Aug 1 ED; 7 there Aug 7. Killdeer: 6 ED; numbers in Henderson area seemed to be up over previous years (LC). Black-bellied Plover: 1 Aug 8 ED (NL). Ruddy Turnstone: 2 Aug 1 ED and 6 Aug 8. Common Snipe: 20 Aug 8 PRGMA near village of Perch River. Spotted Sandpiper: 4 Aug 1 ED. Greater Yellowlegs: 2 ED. Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 Jul 3 ED, 4 Aug 1 ED; 1 Aug 8 PRGMA.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Aug 1 ED; 4 Aug 7. Least Sandpiper: 6 Jul 10 ED. Dowitcher (Short-billed?—FC) 9 Aug 1 ED, "in bright summer plumage — just beautiful" (RS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: at least 24 Aug 1 ED (RS). Sanderling: 1 Aug 1 ED; 3 Aug 4. Great Black-backed Gull: 2 Aug 7 ED (NL). Bonaparte's Gull: 4 Aug 1 ED; 1 Aug 5 Lakeview. Caspian Tern: 1 Aug 1 ED. Black-billed Cuckoo: 7, all in Jefferson Co. Great Horned Owl: Wellesley Is and Three Mile Pt. Screech Owl: 1 BBJ.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpecker: groups of 5–6 at 3–4 locations in Henderson area; also seen at PRGMA. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 5 BBL; 5 BBS. Traill's Flycatcher: 3 BBJ; 1 BBL. Least Flycatcher: 5 BBS; 6 BBL; 1 BBJ Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 BBL. Purple Martin: 8 BBJ. Winter Wren: 2 BBL. Hermit Thrush: 4 BBS; 7 BBL. Veery: 5 BBJ; 8 BBS; 20 BBL. Bluebird: 2 males Jul 20 PRGMA (NL); no others reported. Cedar Waxwing: total of 13 birds recorded on the three censuses.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: 2 BBL. Red-eyed Vireo: 2 BBJ; 26 BBS; 30 BBL. Warbling Vireo: 3 BBJ. Black-and-white Warbler: 2 BBS; 2 BBL. Golden-winged Warbler: pair last seen Jul 7 near Watertown, female first seen Jul 5, may have nested, but no proof (NL). Nashville Warbler: 2 BBS; 4 BBL. Magnolia Warbler: 1 BBS. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 3 BBS; 2 BBL. Myrtle Warbler: 2 BBS 2 BBL. Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 BBL. Blackburnian Warbler: 1 BBL. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 4 BBJ; 15 BBS; 11 BBL. Blackpoll Warbler: 4 Jun 6 Watertown (NL). Ovenbird: 7 BBS; 15 BBL. Northern Waterthrush: 1 BBL. Mourning Warbler: 4 BBS; 5 BBL. Yellowthroat: 9 BBS; 11 BBJ; 20 BBL. Canada Warbler: 2 BBS. American Redstart: 4 BBJ; 4 BBS; 12 BBL.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Savannah Sparrow: 20 BBJ; 23 BBL; none BBS. Grasshopper Sparrow: 8 (NL); 1 BBJ. Henslow's Sparrow: at least 3 Jul 16–30 near Watertown (NL). Slate-colored Junco: 13 BBL. White-throated Sparrow: 3 BBJ; 18 BBS; 24 BBL.

173 Haley St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This summer seemed more humid and rainy than average. Three rainstorms could be classed as "gully washers" and these together with frequent rains throughout the period made a wet nesting season.

Pesticides seem to be driving many of our birds such as Whip-poor-wills and Ospreys toward extinction. Francis Singer has been conducting a study of Osprey nests in northern New York. He states that of 16 active nests 4 were successful. Reasons for low success were not entirely due to failure of eggs to hatch because of pesticide content, but this appears to be the major cause. Mr. Singer's Raven re-reports are encouraging. We may have a former resident return to build up a significant population.

Baltimore Orioles seemed exceptionally scarce. Wood Thrush numbers seemed very high. Boreal Chickadees were reported from some new low elevation areas and in greater numbers than last year. Hummingbirds and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seemed to be up in numbers from last summer and unusually common.

The Saw-whet Owl is notable. They are probably more common in the mountains than is thought, but there are too many evergreens to attempt a search, so, except for the rare occasions when one is heard calling, they are seldom noted.

Observers: GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; DC—Dorothy Crumb; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; FL—Ferdinand LaFrance; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; TM—Ted Mack; RM—Robert McKinney; JP—James Patterson; MR—Margaret Rusk; WR—William Rutherford; FS—Fritz Scheider; RMS—Robert and Mary Sheffield; FJS—Francis J. Singer.

Abbreviations: BTP—Brown's Tract Ponds; Ind L—Indian Lake; L—Lake; LL—Long Lake; LSL, MSL, USL—Lower, Middle, Upper Saranac Lake; Mad—Madawaska; PS—Paul Smiths; P—Pond; RL—Raquette Lake; RR—Raquette River; Sab—Sabattis Breeding Bird Survey, Margaret Rusk; Spec—Speculator Breeding Bird Survey, Fritz Scheider; TL—Tupper Lake; WP—Weller Pond.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: several Jun 14–22 LL, MSL, WP (RMS); one young raised St Reg L (WR); 1 Jun 26 Black P (GOS); 2 Jun 27 Sab (MR). Pied-billed Grebe: unreported. Great Blue Heron: 4 Jun 22 WP (RMS); 4 Jun 26 Mad (GOS). Green Heron: 1 Jul 3 Ind L (RM). American Bittern: 2 Jun 6 Spec (FS); several Jun 14 RR (RMS); 2 Jun 26 Mad (GOS). Canada Goose: 2 Jun 19 TL (RMS). BRANT; 31 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Black Duck: max 8 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Wood Duck: 1 Jun 6 Spec (FS); 1 Jul 3 Abanake L (RM); 1 Jul 25 Vanderwacker Stillwater (TM). Ring-necked Duck: 1 Jun 25 Saranac R (RMS). Hooded Merganser: single birds seen throughout area. Common Merganser: 1 Jun 27 passed summit of Whiteface Mtn (GOS); max 17 Jul Goodnow Flow (TM); 8 Aug Piseco L (DM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: active nest with 2 young Jun Low's Estate (FJS); 1 Jun 18 Mad (DC et al); 4 Jun 25–27 PS area (GOS); one defending nest Jul Round Mtn (GC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Jun 25 Franklin Falls (RM). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Jun 27 Adirondack Loj (GOS). Red-tailed Hawk: max 2 Jun 26 Mad (GOS). Broad-winged Hawk: max 2 Jun 28 Chubb R (GOS); single birds seen throughout area. BALD EAGLE: 2 pair Jul (FJS). GOLDEN EAGLE: 2 May & Jun (Gary Lee); 2 Jun 12 (Craig Ferris); 1 Jul 10 (WR). Osprey: several Jun 26–28 USL (GOS); 1 Jun 26 Saranac Inn (GOS). PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 Jun 17 Paradox L (FJS). Sparrow Hawk: 2 Jun 25–28 Wilmington area (RM); 1 Jun 26 Brandon Rd PS (GOS); 1 Jul 22 Brandon (JP, TM). Spruce Grouse: 3 Jun 18

Mad (DC et al); 1 Jun 26 Mad (GOS); 1 Jun 27 Mad (GOS); GTC found no brood activity this year and believed the rain responsible. Ruffed Grouse: 5 Jun 25 USL (GOS); max 6 Aug 1 L Clear (TM). American Woodcock: max 3 Jul 22 Brandon Rd PS (JP, TM). Common Snipe: several Jun 14-17 RR (RMS); a few throughout area. Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Jun 22 PS (TM); 1 Jun 25 LSL (RMS); 1 Jun 28 USL (GOS). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Jul 24 Newcomb (TM). Ring-billed Gull: max 70 Jun 27 Wilmington (GOS). Mourning Dove: pairs at Elizabethtown and Reber (GC). Great Horned Owl: a few most areas. Barred Owl: widely reported. Screech Owl: no reports. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Jul 17 Chubb R (Thomas H. Davis, Jr.).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: WHIP-POOR-WILL: 1 Jun 15-17 RR (RMS); this bird has become extremely rare and is absent from areas it frequented ten years or more ago. Common Nighthawk: breeding birds on old burns PS (TM). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers throughout area. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Jun 19 Newcomb (TM); 4 Jun 12-25 RR to MSL (RMS); 1 Jun 27 Chubb R (GOS); 1 Jun 27 Sab (MR). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: abundant throughout. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 Jun 24 WP (RMS); 1 Jun 27 Chubb R (GOS); 2 Jul 22 BTP (FL). NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: 1 Jul 22 & 23 BTP (FL). Great Crested Flycatcher: good numbers. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: June 6 Spec (FS); 8 Jun 18 Mad (DC). Traill's Flycatcher: max 6 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 13 Jun 25-27 PS area (G. Perrigo). Cliff Swallow: widely reported; max 32 Jul 22 RL (FL). Gray Jay: max 17 Jun 26 Mad (GOS); 1 Jul 23 BTP (FL). RAVEN: 7 sightings and 1 nesting (FJS). Boreal Chickadee: widely reported in good numbers and seen in several low altitude areas; common in high peaks. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 25 Jul 22 Mad (JP, TM). Winter Wren: fairly common as usual. Long-billed Marsh Wren: a few in the larger cattail marshes. Brown Thrasher: scattered reports. Wood Thrush: max 27 Jun 6 Spec (FS); numbers continue high in all areas. Hermit Thrush: scarce in some areas but not in others; 7 Jun 6 Spec (FS); 5 Jun 13-25 LL to MSL (RMS); 5 Jun 18 Mad (DC); 7 Jul 21-23 BTP (FL). Gray-cheeked Thrush: of 6 peaks over 4,000 feet climbed the first week of July each had exactly two singing birds at noon (TM). Veery: max 28 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Cedar Waxwing: max 40 Jun 6 Spec (FS), down 20 birds from last year.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: 3 to 6 a day in most areas. Red-eyed Vireo: max 81 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Black-and-white Warbler: max 15 Jun 6 Spec (FS). TENNESSEE WARBLER: 1 singing male Jul 3 Ind L (RM). Nashville Warbler: max 30 Jun 27 Wilmington (GOS). Parula Warbler: max over 10 a day Jun 13-25 LL to MSL (RMS). Magnolia Warbler: max 28 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Blackburnian Warbler: numbers seem high, max 18 Jun 6 Spec (FS). Blackpoll Warbler: abundant breeder throughout high peaks; GC found a singing male July 18 on Mt Jo at 2,800 feet, the lowest altitude record he has for this bird on territory. Ovenbird: max 23 Spec (FS), down 10 from same count last year. Northern Waterthrush: max over 10 a day LL to MSL (RMS). Mourning Warbler: 6 Jun 6 Spec (FS); 4 Jul 3 Ind L (RM). Canada Warbler: max 25 Jun 6 Spec (FS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Baltimore Oriole: max 3 Jun 6 Spec (FS); 1 Jun 18 LL (RMS); no other reports. Rusty Blackbird: max 3 Jun 26 Mad (GOS). Scarlet Tanager: common. Evening Grosbeak: a few breeding birds; 1 feeding 2 young July 3 on Cedar R (RM). Red Crossbill: 2 Jun 29 Mad (GOS). Vesper Sparrow: max 2 Jun 27 Vermontville (RM). Lincoln's Sparrow: fewer birds this year, max 5 Jun 26 Mad (GOS); one unusually far south in a tamarack bog at Ind L (RM).

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## REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

RICHARD E. PHILION

Cooler than normal weather prevailed over Region 8 during the June 1-August 15 period, thus continuing the trend established earlier in the year. The highest temperature recorded was 91° on the 30th of June, to be followed only four days later by the lowest temperature (44°) for the month of July (Albany Airport). In July alone there were 20 degree days (base 65°) accumulated where normally there are none. Precipitation for the months of June and July gave a combined total of 6.7 inches, about normal for the season.

Shorebird migration began in earnest by the third week of July while flycatchers and warblers were moving later in August. The absence of any sustained heat wave and an average amount of rainfall resulted in an unusually green landscape throughout the period—and many a wet vacation.

Seven breeding bird surveys were conducted in the region for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The counts were run between June 6 and July 3rd and a total of 95 species was recorded. This compares favorably with 1966 when 96 species were recorded from eight breeding bird surveys. The twenty-five most abundant: Starling, 909; Redwinged Blackbird, 797; Robin, 472; Grackle, 417; House Sparrow, 366; Barn Swallow, 291; Song Sparrow, 269; Crow, 213; Rock Dove, 170; Wood Thrush, 167; Goldfinch, 146; Bobolink, 116; Chipping Sparrow, 107; Meadowlark, 100; Red-eyed Vireo, 93; Catbird, 80; Cowbird, 80; Yellowthroat, 79; Yellow Warbler 72; Mourning Dove, 67; Fluiker, 61; House Wren, 61; Veery, 59; Oriole, 51; Blue Jay, 50; Cardinal, 50.

When viewed in juxtaposition with the list compiled in 1966 the similarities are more striking than not. However, dropped from the list were the Ovenbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Bank Swallow and in their place were added Yellow Warbler, Veery, Bobolink and Cardinal, the latter species having made significant gains as a relatively new arrival to the region. Starlings outnumbered the Redwinged Blackbirds, and Bobolinks not only made the list but rose to twelfth place besides.

Unusual species for the period include Bald Eagle, White-rumped Sandpiper and a White-eyed Vireo.

Observers: DA—Doug Allen; HB—Hazel Bundy; GE—G. Erlenbach; WG—William Gorman; MG—Monte Gruett; MK—Marcia Kent; EM—E. Marsell; REP—R. Philion; WBS—Walton Sabin; RPY—Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; AP—Averill Park; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFWM—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area; WM—West Mt; BBC—Breeding Bird Census.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: 1 July 3 Cobleskill BBC (WBS); Great Blue Heron: 8 Jun 11 Duanesberg BBC (WBS); max 12 Aug 7, 14, and 15 VFWM (HB) (WG). Green Heron: max 12 Aug 14 VFWM (HB). Common Egret: 3 Aug 15 VFWM (WG). American Bittern: 1 Jun 26 North River BBC (WBS); 1 Aug 7 VFWM (HB). Canada Goose: 7 Aug 7 Spencertown (EM)—unusually early migrants or released birds from near-by Delmar Game Farm? Pintail: 4 reported from May 20 to Jun 20 Canaan (GE). Blue-winged Teal: 6 Aug 7 VFWM (HB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Aug 7 Altamont (WG). Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Jun 26 North River BBC (WBS); 5 Jul 10 HMBC. BALD EAGLE: 1 adult seen perched on dead elm tree, also in flight 1/2 mile from intersection of Garner Rd and Columbia Co Route 22 (Warren & Kathy Applegate et al). Osprey: 1 Jul 24 and Aug 14 VFWM (HB). Sparrow Hawk: 5 Aug 14 WM (MK). Ruffed Grouse: 2 adults and 3 young Jul 5 Grafton (DA); 11 chicks Aug 23 WM (MK). Virginia Rail: 1 heard thru period AP (REP). Common Gallinule: 1 report in June ne Columbia Co pond (B & H Tullar); 1 Aug 15 Stony Creek (WG). Upland

Plover: 2 Jun 3 Mariaville (DA); total of 7 from BBC's, 6 on Argyle BBC (MG). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Jul 24 VFWM (HB). *WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER*: 3 Jul 17 VFWM (HB). Least Sandpiper: 1 Jul 24 VFWM (HB). Black-billed Cuckoo: only 1 report Jun 27 Argyle BBC (MG). Screech Owl: 1 Aug 15 East Greenbush (WG). Barred Owl: 3 Jul 1 WM (MK).

COATSUCKERS—STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: none reported on BBC's. Whip-poor-will: several thru Jun at SCR and Clarksville (DA). Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Aug 7 Altamont (WG). Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 adults feeding 2 young Jun 24 Mariaville (DA). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 singing July 8 Moccasinkill; and 2 singing July 14 Thatcher Park (DA). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Warrensburg BBC (WBS). Purple Martin: 2 Jun 6 No. Easton BBC (WG). Tufted Titmouse: none reported. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Aug 14 VFWM (HB). Mockingbird: increasing numbers; 1 Jun 27 Argyle BBC (MG); first in that locality. Eastern Bluebird: reported nesting in Rotterdam and Mariaville (DA); unsuccessful attempts noted in East Greenbush and Mariaville. Cedar Waxwing: first fall migrants 15 Aug 7 VFWM (HB).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: *WHITE-EYED VIREO*: 1 documented report Aug 6 Hillsdale (S&R Silverman), first record in Region 8 since 1953. Solitary Vireo: 2 Jun 27 Warrensburg BBC (WBS). Blue-winged Warbler: 2 Jun 11 Duanesburg BBC (DA). Northern Waterthrush: 2 Jun 6 No. Easton BBC (WG). Mourning Warbler: 1 Jun 26 No. River BBC (WBS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: increasing numbers from BBC's. Red-winged Blackbird: albinism noted on male seen on Ghent BBC, white tail with black outer feather on each side. Baltimore Oriole: some decline over last years BBC. Evening Grosbeak: again breeding at Jenny Lake (RPY). Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 Aug 7 Altamont (WG). Henslow's Sparrow: 1 Aug 7 Altamont (WG). Vesper Sparrow: 4 Aug 7 Altamont (WG).

Edgewood Dr. Averill Park, N.Y. 12018.

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures were close to normal during the nesting season, but precipitation was measured in the extremes. June was on the dry side and the first three weeks of July were even more dry. The last week of July brought almost the entire monthly average with about four and seven tenths inches of rain. August was very wet; with several storms, each bringing more than the monthly average.

Several areas in the region showed severe defoliation by the Gypsy Moth. No noticeable affect was observed on the birdlife, but a definite increase in Cuckoos might be attributed to the infestation. Fred Hough observes in the Ulster Co area that the plants and insects were a little late in their cycle of development. Bird numbers seemed quite normal for most of the period but in some areas the nesting populations and variety seemed better and was characteristic of a decade or more ago. He believes that this was influenced by retarded spring weather conditions on the migration movement causing more birds to exhaust their flight instinct instead of moving on.

Bob Deed reports an encouraging summer for the marsh birds, but a continuing disaster for those of the woodland areas west and south of Nyack that was sprayed aerially with DDT for Gypsy Moths a number of years ago. Birds such as the Wood Thrush and Veery are down in numbers from 50%—60%; Louisiana Waterthrush down more than 90%; Hooded Warbler down more than 90%; Black-throated Green Warbler down 75%; Phoebe down 75%; Prairie Warbler down more than 90%; Red-

eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos down 60%-70%. Chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and towhees seem unaffected. Mimids seem to be down in Rockland Co as a whole.

We have received word of the passing of Mrs. William Grierson, who for so many years has compiled and contributed records to this column from the northern Westchester area. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her husband Will and her son Stanley. She will be missed as well by many others for many reasons. Although your reporter never met her, Mildred's kindness and consideration was ever evident in her correspondence. It will be difficult for anyone to meet her standards.

Observers cited: GB—Gene Brown; JD—Jeff Daley; DD—Donald Deed; RFD—Robert F. Deed; HD—Herbert Donlan; DF—Davis Finch; SG—Stanley Grierson; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; AJ—Alice Jones; A, BM—Al & Barbara Merritt; JCO—John C. Orth; VP—Vivian Parkhurst; EP—Eleanor Pinks; DS—Dan Smiley; JT—Dr. John Tramontano; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; MVW—Marion VanWagner.

Abbreviations: RAS—Rockland Audubon Society; WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS—DUCKS: *WHITE PELICAN*: An adult bird Aug 11 on sand bar in the Hudson R off Moodna Cr, Cornwall; first discovered by a junior high school student, John Small, and confirmed by Al Merritt; the bird left at dusk but returned the next morning and remained till 8:00 a.m. when it flew up-stream; Mr. Merritt took adequate photographs of the bird. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Jul 8 Cornwall Bay (PJ); another, possibly the same bird, Jul 21 at Hyde Park (DF,AJ); 1 Aug 1 at L Tappan, Rock (GB,DD). Great Blue Heron: better numbers than usual in Rock where it has been severely reduced for the past few years; 6 Aug 3 Piermont Pier, (RFD); FG and EP visited heronry near Millbrook, Dutch Jun 9 and 29, on Jun 9 they counted 34 birds with 14 young and 6 adults still setting, on Jun 29 all were either with young or off the nest, this is an increase of 3 active nests over their best year, trees are still alive in nest area, and there seems to be plenty of room for expansion of the colony. Green Heron: in excellent numbers thru region. Common Egret: single birds observed in Rock, Oran and Dutch. Snowy Egret: RFD reports 1 Aug 3 at Piemont Pier, the fifth record for RAS and the first there since 1963 as many as 3 spent the month of Aug along the Hudson at Cornwall. Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 July 22 Tri-Loba Sanct. Katonah was the first record for that area; an imm was in Moodna Cr July 4 (EDT,HD); 2 Aug 19 Piermont Pier, Rock, (RFD). Least Bittern: sev observed thru July and Aug Moodna Cr, Cornwall; 1 heard calling June 19 at Thompson Pd, Dutch (DF). American Bittern: 2 Jun 19 Thompson Pd (DF). Mute Swan: nested this summer at Iona Is in N Rock, 3 young (JCO). Canada Goose: nesting once again in almost every small pond in the Hudson Highlands. Snow Goose: an unusual record of about 200 flying north over Cornwall Jun 3 (AM). Mallard: from 150-200 thru July and Aug on the Hudson off Cornwall. Gadwall: always very rare; a pr July 19 on the Hudson at Nyack (DD); 2 more Aug 17 on the Hudson south of Bannerman's Is, Dutuh (DF). Blue-winged Teal: very rare in summer; 6 July 29 Pine Plains (TH,VP). Wood Duck: numbers good at Wawarsing (JCO); normal elsewhere.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 1 imm flew into window in Highland Mills June 6, later died (AM). Red-shouldered Hawk: more reported this season than usual; 1 from July 4 to Aug 4 near Hopewell Jct, Dutch; observed there regularly in recent summers. (DF); 1 Aug 5 near Tiorati L, Bear Mt Park (RFD); nest site near South Salem, West destroyed by raccoons (SG); 1 ad in nesting territory of last year at Cross River West (Fred Stane). Broad-winged Hawk: no change in numbers; usual nesters observed. *GOLDEN EAGLE*: 1 ad at close range at Tompkins Cove, Rock, observed by George W. Hadelor Jr. of Pearl River, he is quite familiar with the species from long observation in the western U.S. and Alaska. Bobwhite: all reports for last few seasons from Dutch, only a few observed there this season. Ring-necked



Pheasant: none reported; would appear reduced. Virginia Rail: 1 Jun 19 Thompson Pd, Dutch (DF). Semipalmated Plover: 2 Aug 19 Piermont Pier (RFD). Killdeer: more reports than usual in the Ulst area. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 Aug 2 Cornwall-on-Hudson (A,BM). American Woodcock: 3 Jun 22 Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah (SG); reported Jul 30 from Wawarsing (JCO). Lesser Yellowlegs: first Aug 3 Piermont Pier (RFD). Least Sandpiper: about 30 Aug 3 Piermont Pier; numbers good throughout month of August along Hudson, started arriving in mid-July in the Cornwall area. Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 Jul 24 Cornwall-on-Hudson (EDT,HD); inc to 2 July 26 (PJ). Semipalmated Sandpiper: about 30 Aug 3 Piermont Pier (RFD). Laughing Gull: absent from mid-Hudson Region thru end of period, usually a few around by that time. Common Tern: 2 Aug 2 Cornwall-on-Hudson (A,BM). Mourning Dove: numbers remain high. Cuckoos: numbers up; could they be increasing because of the Gypsy Moth?; the area was heavily infested with this pest thru the season; both species reported down in north central Dutch, but this is the only locale so reporting. Barn Owl: obs a Mohonk, Ulst, in early summer, first record for that area: another thru July and Aug in a barn near Goshen until the barn burned. Screech Owl: at Kripplebush, Ulst, and at Tri-Loba Sanct, Katonah.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-por-will: in the north central Dutch area and at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah. Nighthawk: a late spring migrant Jun 2 Pleasant Valley, Dutch (JD); an early fall migrant Aug 14 over Katonah (SG). Chimney Swift: better than 100 Aug 7 over Mt. Kisco (SG). Hummingbird: reported scarce in Dutch; nested at Weyant's Pd—Jun 2 (Ruth Steffens); nesting also at Kripplebush, Ulst (FH); numbers up in the latter region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: the pair of last spring at Ridgebury, Oran were observed feeding young at the feeder of Mrs. John Arfmann. Red-headed Woodpecker: from 1-3 in the north Middletown area of Oran. (JT). Kingbird: up in Ulst. Trail's Flycatcher: more than usual after very late arr in May; all areas of region report them. Least Flycatcher: numbers less than usual; nesting at Mohonk (DS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: only report, 2 Jun 3 at Weyant's Pd, Oran, (EDT). Swallows: a large kill reported Jul 11 along Penn Central RR Tracks south of Cruger's Is, Dutch, 137 dead counted with many more in the surrounding marsh and in the river, mostly Bank with a few Trees and at least 1 Barn. (Steve Buzzanuo) Tree Swallow: heavy migration started in early July and continued unabated thru end of period; this species must be a contender for the most numerous in the nation; does not seem to be as sensitive to environmental change as other species. Cliff Swallow: very good numbers dur Jul and Aug at Wawarsing (JCO); the only known nest site in Dutch was abandoned this year, birds arr but failed to build, the reason is not known. Purple Martin: nesting in the New Paltz area (Robert Pyle); nesting in Pleasant Valley and Pine Plains, Dutch; but no increase noted, and possibly a decrease; a new nest site near Middletown, Oran, contained 8 pr (JT). Fish Crow: 1 Jun 13 Middletown (JT). Tufted Titmouse: appears to be doing well around Mohonk, Ulst (DS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: in pine woods area near Kripplebush, Ulst, thru spring and early summer, believed to have nested but not confirmed (FH). Brown Creeper: very few reported. Winter Wren: at least 2 and possibly 3 summered at the Cornwall Nature Museum, Oran; obs again in the Thompson Pd and Turkey Hollow area between Millbrook and Dover Plains, Dutch. Long-billed Marsh Wren: a definite decline in the Thompson Pd and Cruger's Is area of Dutch. Mockingbird: continues to increase thru region; almost every community has several pairs. Bluebird: numbers holding steady; no inc reported but no declines either; WBC reports 18 successful nests with 76 young, 7 not successful with 35 young destroyed. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a few reports from extremes of the region; does not appear to be increasing. Cedar Waxwing: almost absent from region thru spring, but numbers improved to common at end of summer period.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: absent from usual locations; 1 report Jun 5 Deep Hollow Rd., Dutch (MVW). Warblers: generally normal; no movements by end of period. Worm-eating Warbler: a pr observed carrying food into low shrubs at Cornwall Nature Museum, nest could not be found (AM); species obs Jul 31 at Wawarsing (JCO). Brewster's Warbler: 1 Jun 19 Turkey Hollow, Dutch (EP,MVW). Prairie Warbler: plentiful in some areas of Dutch. *KENTUCKY WARBLER*: the Dutch bird obs on May 31 left on Jun 6 (DF); 1 July 27 Butler Sanct, Mt Kisco (Tom and Bill Howe). Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Jun 6 Goose Pond Mt Park, Chester (EDT: A,BM); another Jun 26-27 at Wawarsing (JCO). Hooded Warbler: 1 at Thompson Pd, Dutch, heard singing regularly thru Jun 13. (EP,JD).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: numbers good throughout farm land. Meadowlark: down in the Wawarsing area. Orchard Oriole: none this year from Dutch; a few elsewhere. Baltimore Oriole: obs eating Gypsy Moths and a type of inch worm in Westchester. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: regularly at feeders in Dutch; adults bringing in young to feed thru season. Indigo Bunting: in good numbers after very late arrival. Purple Finch: does not seem to be affected by its look-alike relative the House Finch; resident numbers low but normal and unchanged. House Finch: nesting has spread from the city of Poughkeepsie to the outskirts; nesting widely scattered thru the rest of the county. Grasshopper Sparrow: in usual nesting locations in south and west Oran; at least 2 pr obs regularly thru Jun north of Pine Plains (EP et al); 1 Jun 19 Cold Spring Rd, Standordville (DF). Field Sparrow: up in the Mohonk area of Ulst (DS).

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Following last year's format, colonial bird data has been separated from the main body of the report. As usual, a handful of birders are responsible for this very important documentation of our changing environment. Why are the vast majority of birders—largely ecology-minded people—so loathe to document more than rarities, and so apathetic to what is not only important, but exciting. We urge our readers to read Niko Tinbergen's *The Herring Gull's World*, and to "turn-on" to the fascinating, highly-evolved social structure of one of our locally abundant colonial species.

As for rarities, they were down, the season producing only the following small list; Yellow-nosed Albatross, Audubon's Shearwater, Red-breasted Merganser (breeding), Franklin's Gull, Connecticut Warbler (spring migrant), and Canada Warbler (first breeding record).

Contributors frequently cited: TD—Thomas Davis; RG—Robert Giffen; MG—Michael Gochfeld; HH—Howard Honig; WN—William Norse; DP—Dennis Puleston; WP—Will Post.

### COLONIAL NESTING DATA

#### I. Heron Colonies

1. Jones Beach State Park, west of parking field #3 (MG): Common Egret 28; Snowy Egret 100-150; *LOUISIANA HERON*, 1 (4 young banded); Black-crowned Night Heron 50-80; Glossy Ibis 120-140 (by far the largest breeding concentration reported to date.) All the Common and a few Snowy Egrets nested in a pine grove; all other birds were in adjacent phragmites.
2. Cedar Beach (WP): A new colony situated in phragmites. Black-crowned Night Heron 60; and Glossy Ibis 100.

3. Tobay Beach, June 30 (WP): Snowy Egret 43; Common Egret 30; Black-crowned Night Heron 12 (low total may be due to nesting completed; note late date of census); Glossy Ibis 19. A new State nesting locale, this is distinct from the Jones Beach Parking Field #9 colony, again active, but not censused.

## II. Gull Colonies

1. North side Loop Causeway, near Point Lookout, Jun 13, 20, Jul 11 (TD): Great Black-backed Gull 1; Herring Gull 400-500.
2. Jones Beach State Park, west of parking field #3, (MG): Great Black-backed Gull 2; Herring Gull 400.
3. Captree State Park (D. Ford): Great Black-backed Gull 25; Herring Gull 900.
4. West Inlet Island, near Moriches Inlet, May 15 (TD, P. W. Smith): Great Black-backed Gull 10-20; Herring Gull 400-600.

## III. Tern Colonies

1. Breezy Point, Queens County (HH, F. Heath): Common Tern 1500+; Least Tern 20-30.
2. South side Loop Causeway, near Point Lookout, Jul 11, 19 (TD): Common Tern 400-600; Least Tern 60-70; Black Skimmer 50-60.
3. Jones Beach State Park, west end (MG): Common Tern 1100; Least Tern 30-40; Black Skimmer 30-40; no Roseates this year. Only about 200 Common Terns were fledged, due to unknown predation.
4. Jones Beach State Park, along Wantagh Causeway (MG): Common Tern 250-350; Black Skimmer 50. The first time terns have bred at this locale.
5. Cedar Beach (MG): Common Tern 1600; Roseate Tern 15; Least Tern 150; Black Skimmer 60.
6. Great Gull Island (H. Hays): Common Tern 5000; Roseate Tern 3000.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: Jul 8 Westhampton (M. Hemmerick)—rare in summer. *YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS*: Jun 8 Gardiner's Island (R. Hernandez)—watched for 15 minutes from 50 feet as it sat on beach; a very detailed, clinching description provided by the observer, however, unfortunately, a field note was not received for inclusion with this report. *AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER*: Jul 25 Ocean Beach, Fire Island (D. Finch)—"I saw the bird from the beach at moderate range, and was very impressed by rapid, almost erratic flight with extremely brief scales right over the water. . . I'm familiar with the usual petrels and shearwaters, in particular Manx. . ." an accidental to our area. Wilson's Petrel: 10 Jun 5 off Jones Beach (Linnaean Boat Trip)—the *only* pelagics seen offshore *all day!* Louisiana Heron: with the Jones Beach breeding report this summer, this species has now been positively recorded nesting at almost every Long Island heronry east along the shore to Oak Island; the total 1971 breeding population numbers 5-10 pairs. Gadwall: 3 broods at Oak Beach with 29 young; and 2 broods at Gilgo with 9 young (WP)—a new Long Island nesting site. Hooded Merganser: female, Jul 27 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (WN)—rare summer vagrant along coast. *RED-BREASTED MERGANSER*: a pair with 6 young was found in Jul at Ridge Island, Great South Bay (R. Rozsa, DP)—this species commonly summers in our area, but has been proven to breed but once previously since 1942.

HAWKS-OWLS: Black Rail: 5 pairs on territory into July, but no nests found, at Oak Beach marshes (WP). Virginia Rail: Only 5 pairs present at Oak Beach, down from the usual 10, (WP)—no successful nests found. Willet: 2 pairs nested for the first time on the Long Island barrier beach proper (WP); 1 pair at Tobay with 4 eggs was flooded out; however a pair at Gilgo had 2 of 4 eggs survive a 12 hour immersion due to flooding. Spotted Sandpiper: Approximately 10 nests on Great

Gull Island (H. Hays). *FRANKLIN'S GULL*: sub-adult, Jun 24 Mecox Bay (C. McKeever)—accidental; only 3 previous reports, one of which has never appeared in print was an adult specimen obtained at Shelter Island on June 2, 1940 by Roy Latham. Great Horned Owl: a pair present at Islip near the south shore was probably breeding (RG). Short-eared Owl: territorial birds were present at Oak Beach marsh and along the Meadowbrook Causeway at Jones Beach this summer (MG).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-bellied Woodpecker: found breeding at Crane's Neck and Noyack (DP). Brown Creeper: 2 active nests plus another pair with 2 young were found in Jun and Jul in the Islip area (RG). Eastern Bluebird: at least 3 pairs fledged a total of 10 young this summer in the Islip area (RG). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nesting at Mt Sinai Jun 1 (DP)—photographed.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Golden-winged Warbler: female, Aug 8 Fire Island Light (mob)—photographed; a rare migrant on the outer coast. Parula Warbler: singing male, Jun 18—mid Jul Islip (RG)—no female or young seen; has not bred on Long Island since 1938, when the *Usnea* lichen disappeared. Kentucky Warbler: netted, May 31 Islip (RG). Connecticut Warbler: female netted, Jun 4 Fire Island Light (HH)—photographed; a casual spring migrant in our area. Canada Warbler: a nest with 5 young was discovered in late Jun at Islip following the sighting of a singing male (RG)—the first breeding record for Long Island; known to breed southward to central Westchester County in hills. Slate-colored Junco: Jun 15 Islip (RG)—at feeder, a vagrant.

Addendum: Complete data from last fall's mist-netting operations at Fire Island Light has recently been compiled by Dr. Paul A. Buckley. Significant records not previously published include: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Nov 11—extremely late. Hairy Woodpecker: Aug 29—earliest known migrant date. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 8 Sep 1—ties previous high; Oct 6—collected, ties latest date. Traill's Flycatcher: max 11 Sep 1—highest count. Least Flycatcher; max 13 Sep 1—highest count; Nov 8—collected and verified by Dr. W. Lanyon at the American Museum of Natural History, latest record by a month. White-breasted Nuthatch: Aug 30 earliest fall migrant record. Red-eyed Vireo: max 59 Sep 20—very high. Philadelphia Vireo: max 10 Sep 20—highest count; 8 birds mentioned in *Kingbird*, 21 (1):43, is in error.

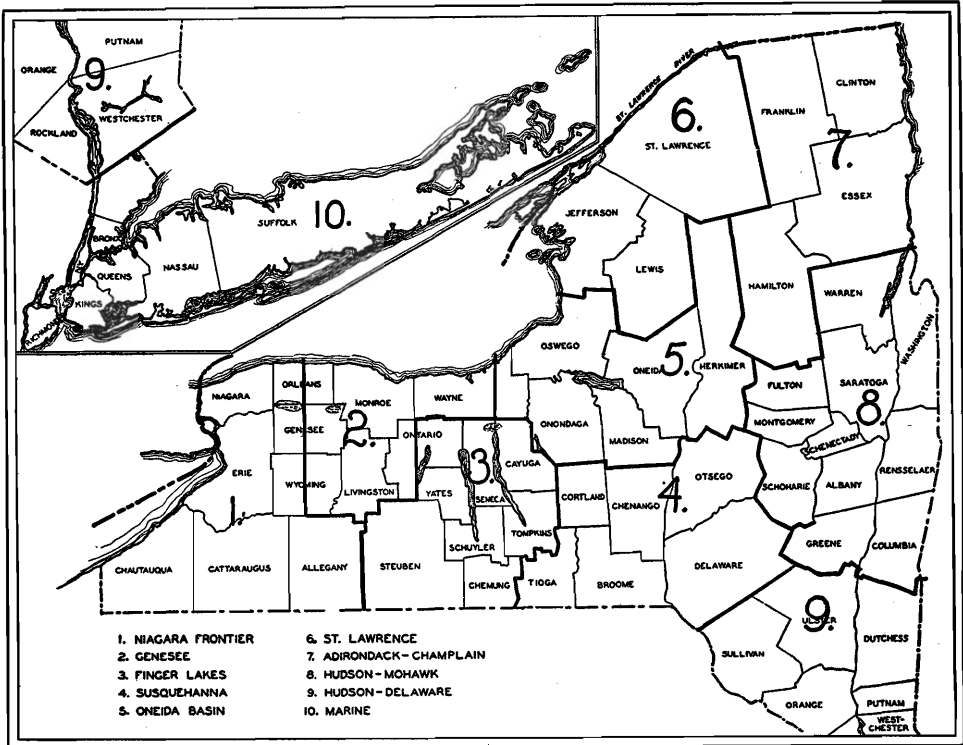
Corrigendum: the correct dates for last fall's Ash-throated Flycatcher are Nov 22–24, not Dec 5–7 (R. Arbib).

Note: Please have fall reports in by Dec 10.

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## REPORTING REGIONS



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

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