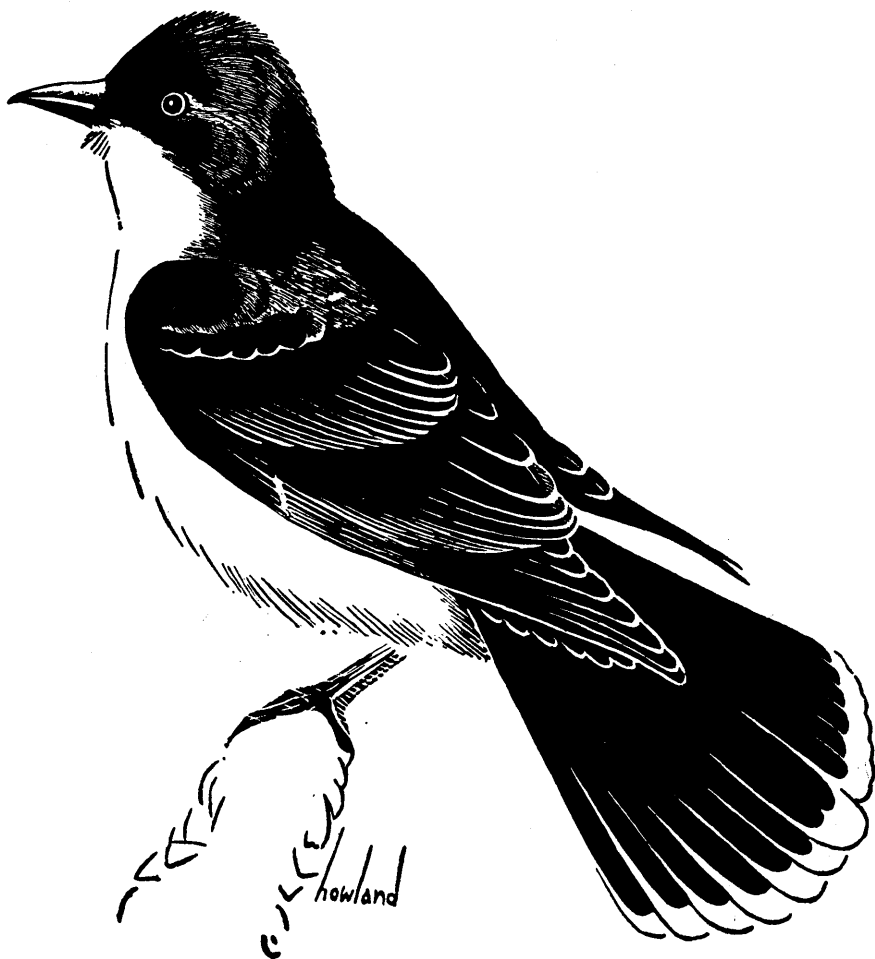


The **KINGBIRD**



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(Signed) Frederick C. Dittrich,
Circulation Manager



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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By the time this message appears in print, another annual council meeting (the 25th) of the Federation will have become history. When we think of history, we like to envision a number of actions or events, which have helped to strengthen our cause, and have added something to justify our existence.

After a possibly lethargic summer for many of us, it is to be hoped that we will all get back to work with renewed vigor and ambition. It goes without saying that complete cooperation, and understanding, and an appreciation of the other fellows viewpoint are essential to progress. Basic to these ideals is the everpresent need for education at all levels, from the individuals on up to the state organization.

Speaking of progress, I believe it would be appropriate at this time to say something about the forthcoming book, "Birds of New York State." I do not know the exact title, but it will be a completely new and up to date book on the present status of all species of birds recorded in New York State. Among other things, it will touch on new breeding birds, population trends, accidentals, and on those species which are, regrettably, declining. It might be interesting to note that the first such publication appeared in 1844, the work of James DeKay, and published by the State of New York. Sixty-six years later another such book, completely revised and updated and edited by Elon Howard Eaton was published by the New York State Museum of the Education Department. And now, after another interval of sixty plus years, we are eagerly awaiting the appearance of the new book which will be edited by John Bull of the Ornithology Department of The American Museum of Natural History. This book will be the culmination of the hopes, dreams and labor of countless numbers of interested individuals. When the book is published, hopefully in 1973, we urge all Federation members to show their appreciation and support by adding it to their libraries.

Kenneth D. Niven

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

22. *Chuck-will's-widow*



Photograph by Arthur Swoger

Central Park, New York Co., 13 May, 1972.

The Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) is a southern species whose breeding range currently extends north along the Atlantic coast as far as central New Jersey. According to D. Fables (*Annotated List of New Jersey Birds*, 1955. Urner Ornithological Club) it first appeared in New Jersey in southern Cape May Co. in 1922 where it remained rare until the early 1950s. Over the past 20 years it has expanded north to Leeds Point, Atlantic Co. (verb. comm., P. William Smith), only 70 miles south of New York State. It is a migratory species and has been recorded both spring and fall northward into Canada. Despite its closeness as a breeding species it has been recorded in New York State only 9 times, no doubt due to its nocturnal habits. Three of the 9 records (nos. 4, 5, and 6) are probably repeats of the same returning individual, possibly the forerunner of others to come. The climate and oak-pine habitat found along Long Island's south shore are quite similar to areas now inhabited by Chuck-will's-widows in New Jersey.

The New York State records are:

1. Adult female collected at Riverhead, Suffolk Co. on 2 May, 1933

- by Roy Latham (Bull, 1964. *Birds of the New York Area*. Harper and Row, New York).
2. Heard, 19 May, 1959 at Rochester, Monroe Co. by Joseph W. Taylor (*Kingbird* 9:78, 1959).
 3. Mist-netted, banded, and photographed, 1 June, 1961 at Braddocks' Bay, Monroe Co. by G. Leubner and W. Listman. After its release it remained until 1 July (*Kingbird* 11:149, 1961).
 4. Heard and recorded, 27-30 May, 1969 at Islip, Suffolk Co. by Mona Boch, et al (*Kingbird* 19:148, 1969).
 5. Heard, "second week of June" - 21 July, 1970 at East Islip, Suffolk Co. by 'mob' (*Kingbird* 20:206, 1970).
 6. Heard, "early May - June," 1971 at East Islip, Suffolk Co. by Robert Budliger, et al (*Kingbird* 21:179, 1971).
 7. Heard, 29-31 May, 1971 at Point O' Woods, Suffolk Co. by Steve Hopkins - a previously unpublished report, "Whip-poor-wills calling at same time."
 8. Observed and photographed, 13 May, 1972 at Central Park, New York Co. by 'mob' (see H. Tetrault, *Kingbird* 22:, 1972). Both Sidney Bahr and Arthur Swoger obtained recognizable photographs of this bird. Swoger's shot reproduced above) was taken with Ektachrome-X. film using a 640 mm. Novaflex lens and electronic flash.
 9. Heard, 26 May, 1972 at Easthampton, Suffolk Co. by Richard Koeppel (*Kingbird* 22: 00, 1972).

Thomas H. Davis, 8613-85 Street, Woodhaven, N.Y. and Arthur Swoger, 90 University Place, New York, N.Y. 10003

NEW YORK CITY RARE BIRD ALERT

The telephone number of the New York City Rare Bird Alert has been changed to (212) 832 6523. It will be under the general sponsorship of the National Audubon Society, but will continue to be prepared by the members of the Linnaean Society, and data for it should be directed to them.

BIRDS OF A SPRUCE PLANTATION IN THE ALLEGHENY PLATEAU OF WESTERN NEW YORK

ROBERT F. ANDRLE AND PATRICIA R. ANDRLE

Although various breeding bird censuses have been carried out in native coniferous forests in eastern North America, apparently few such studies have been made in artificially planted evergreen stands, particularly in those composed of spruces. These spruce plantations are fairly numerous in New York State and some have attained a tree maturity in which they appear to possess a rather stable bird species composition, so it seems appropriate to document their bird populations during the breeding season.

We studied a maturing spruce plantation 2 miles east-southeast of the village of Farmersville in northeastern Cattaraugus County. This is in New York State Reforestation Area 7 and is one of the stands that we visited in our investigation of Golden-crowned Kinglet range extension (*Wilson Bulletin*, 83:313, 1971). It is about 20 acres in area and lies at the top of a hill at an average elevation of 2080 feet above sea level. It is generally rectangular in shape, about 575 yards long, and varies from about 150 to 200 yards wide. Terrain within it slopes eastward from almost level near the road along the west edge to a maximum 30° slope near its eastern border. An open field is on the north side, a native deciduous woodland, chiefly of sugar maple and beech mixed with some introduced spruces, is on the east, and a partly open area of scattered spruce clumps and single large spruces and smaller pines lies on the south side. On the other side of the dirt and gravel road bordering the west edge and extending the length of the study area are, successively, a small plantation of tall spruces and pines, some scattered spruces, a small section of aspens, and a stand of medium sized pines.

The study area woodland was planted in 1932 and is composed chiefly of Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) with some White Spruce (*Picea glauca*). Trees range generally from 40–50 feet in height and most are 8–10" DBH. They are spaced from about 2–4 yards apart and form an essentially closed canopy at middle levels except for a few openings where trees have died and fallen or been removed. The lower branches of many trees have been pruned to a height of 8–10 feet above ground. Many dead fallen or wind-downed branches and trees are scattered on the needle-covered forest floor. A few Yellow Birch (*Betula lutea*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and relict apple (*Malus* sp.) trees grow in the woodland, particularly near one small spring and pool near the eastern border. Blackberries (*Rubus* sp.), ferns (*Dryopteris* sp.) and mosses (*Heterophyllum* sp.; *Atrichum* sp.) grow on the ground scattered through the tract. In places the moss forms beds covering several square yards. The interior of the forest is otherwise generally open ex-

cept where lower branches of the spruces have not been pruned. Further discussion of the characteristics and history of this type of plantation is in *Wilson Bulletin* (*op. cit.*) and *Prothonotary* (37:90, 1971) on the birds of McCarty Hill.

We first visited the study area on 1 July 1969 and subsequently in 1971 on 19 and 25 June and 4 July, on the last three dates spending from 1½ to 3½ hours each day between 4 and 7:30 AM. Calm air to light winds, temperatures ranging from 55–70° F, and clear to partly cloudy skies made these three mornings very suitable for both hearing and observing birds. We also checked the tract on 19 March 1972. During the 1971 visits we recorded a total of 16 species of birds within it. Of these we believe that 11 species were probably breeding and 5 were very likely visitors.

Following are the 11 species thought to be breeding, the first figure after each being the number of breeding pairs that we calculated were in the tract based on singing males heard or on individuals seen when determination by sound or sex was not possible. The figure following in parentheses is the number of pairs per 100 acres.

Black-throated Green		Robin	2 (10)
Warbler	8 (40)	Blue Jay	1 (5)
Chipping Sparrow	4 (20)	Black-capped Chickadee	1 (5)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3 (15)	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1 (5)
Magnolia Warbler	3 (15)	Solitary Vireo	1 (5)
Blackburnian Warbler	3 (15)	Slate-colored Junco	1 (5)

No nests were found in the tract. The Solitary Vireo was also in the spruce plantation across the road one morning, so it possibly was not breeding in the study area. The five species that we considered to be visitors are Wood Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Brown-headed Cowbird (non-territorial possible breeder), and Purple Finch. Wood Thrushes occasionally entered the study area from the adjacent mixed woodland, as did the Red-eyed Vireo on one morning. Cedar Waxwings moved about in varying numbers and did not seem to be located in the area. The Purple Finch was recorded only the first day.

Most of the birds in the tract kept to middle and upper levels in the spruces. The Robins and Slate-colored Juncos often frequented the ground and lower branches and the Black-capped Chickadee also did this to a lesser extent. Chipping Sparrows were either at the edges or just within the borders of the plantation. There was a random distribution of species and individuals within the study area, but less birds were noted in the northern part and along the western side of the tract than in the eastern and southern sectors. This may have a relation to contiguous forest on the east and south which affords continuous cover and a medium for bird movement. The fact that most of these plantations

are small in area and bordered either by open areas or various types of forest or shrub habitats increases the difficulties encountered with edge effect in assessing their breeding bird populations.

Birds noted close to the study area border in the adjacent tree habitats on the east and south are Robin, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, and Ovenbird. In the field on the north were Redwinged Blackbird and Song Sparrow. Across the road on the west in the evergreen and aspen woodlands we recorded Mourning Dove, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wood Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Ovenbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, and Slate-colored Junco. A Red-shouldered Hawk flew over the study area one morning. The visit on 19 March revealed an expected very low population of birds in the study area. Two Brown Creepers, a Blue Jay, and several Black-capped Chickadees were the only birds recorded. Since no Golden-crowned Kinglets or Red-breasted Nuthatches were found, this possibly indicates that a breeding population normally does not remain in its nesting area through the winter. These species may forage through various evergreen stands which usually make up the reforestation area. Both species occur in winter in small flocks or single individuals, so it is possible that the spruce plantations' breeding populations derive from these wandering birds.

It is interesting to compare some of the results of the Farmersville study with data for species we recorded during the breeding season of 1965 in the approximately 60 acres of Norway and White Spruces in a plantation on McCarty Hill (2320 ft. a. s. l.) near Ellicottville, Cattaraugus County (*Prothonotary, op. cit.*). This area was planted about the same time as the Farmersville tract, but the spruces vary more in height and density and the plantation is cut by several roadways, a ski tow opening, ski runs, and a fire tower clearing. In addition to these differences it has extensive pine plantations, mixed pine and spruce, and deciduous woodlands completely surrounding it. In the McCarty Hill spruce tract Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers were slightly less abundant (13 prs per 100 acres) than in the Farmersville area. However, Black-throated Green Warblers were much more numerous (40 prs per 100 acres) at Farmersville than on McCarty Hill where only 5 prs per 100 acres were recorded. Their abundance in the former area is near to that recorded in some mature pure spruce and mixed coniferous-deciduous native woodlands in other parts of the Northeast. Possibly the more variable tree size and disruption by roads and other openings at McCarty Hill are factors affecting the density of this species there. Dense Black-throated Green Warbler populations appear to correlate with mature and more uniform coniferous woodlands or with mixed woodlands having a large percentage of evergreens. Recent studies in an upland, ma-

turing, artificially planted pine stand of 38 acres in Allegany County, New York (Klingensmith, *American Birds*, 25:984, 1971) revealed a very dense breeding population of this species (58 prs per 100 acres). The pines in this tract are similar in age and height to the trees in our study area.

A study by Saunders (New York State Museum Handbook 16, 1936) of a mature 504 acre section of beech-maple-hemlock forest in Allegany State Park, a typical upland habitat in this region, showed 24.2 prs per 100 acres of Black-throated Green Warblers, considerably less than the density in the Farmersville spruce tract and in the Allegany County pine stand. Blackburian Warblers were also less dense 8.7 prs per 100 acres) in Saunders' mixed woodland than in our pure spruce plantation (15 prs per 100 acres) and the Allegany County pine stand (37 prs per 100 acres). The density of Magnolia Warblers in the mixed woodland (28.8 prs per 100 acres) considerably exceeded that in our study area (15 prs per 100 acres), and this species was not present in the pine stand, probably owing to pruning and the open character of most of its understory or merely to its known predilection for hemlock and spruce. The Farmersville plantation lacked two of the most common breeding species of the beech-maple-hemlock forest, the Red-eyed Vireo and Ovenbird, as well as various flycatchers and other warblers. Its species composition was very similar to that of Klingensmith's pine area, Ovenbird and Brown Creeper being the only two of the pine stand's more abundant species absent, while Chipping Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Magnolia Warbler were lacking in the latter area. Our study area possessed an overall density of about 140 prs per 100 acres compared to 182.2 prs per acres in the beech-maple-hemlock forest and 204 prs per 100 acres in the pine plantation. Additional studies in this region of other artificially planted pure spruce and pine plantations of varying ages to augment the few data now available on their breeding birds will perhaps allow more meaningful comparisons and lead to the acquisition of more knowledge about factors influencing their populations.

For information and assistance we wish to thank officials in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Lands and Forests District Office in Jamestown.

Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Park, Buffalo, N.Y. 14211

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RECORDS FROM GREAT GULL ISLAND — 1972

For the past four summers, intensive netting and observation has been conducted on Great Gull Island, Suffolk County (Duffy 1970, 1971; Pasquier, Poole 1972). This paper is a summation of interesting records for the spring and summer of 1972. Bull's *Birds of the New York Area* (1964) and *Supplement* (1970) were used for evaluation of status of the species mentioned.

Cory's Shearwater: 1-May 25. Seen during a day of extremely high east wind; this is the fourth record before July and the earliest sighting for the area by four days.

Great Cormorant: 2-June 5; 3-June 6; 1-June 9. Bull lists the previous spring extreme as May 3.

Common Scoter: 24-July 20. Bull lists this species as rare in summer but this flock and others seen in past summers in Gardiner's Bay indicate that it may not be uncommon in the vicinity.

Pomarine Jaeger: 1-June 21 (Hays) and 1-June 24 (Pasquier).

Parasitic Jaeger: 2-June 24 (De la Torre) Also three unidentified jaegers on June 24 and 2 on June 30. Although possibly not rare offshore (Wynne-Edwards, 1935; Alperin 1958) they are probably rather casual as far inshore as Gull Island early in the season, despite their frequency later (Pasquier, Poole 1972, Pasquier in prep.) These birds were probably the result of Hurricane Agnes, on June 21.

Royal Tern: 1-May 7 (Hays and Donaldson); 3-June 16; 1-July 1. The previous earliest spring record for this species is June 20.

Monk Parakeet: 1-June 4.

Swallow sp.: 1000-June 1. Estimated total for species: 500 Tree; 300 Barn, 200 Bank, 10 Cliff, 1 Rough-winged, 3 Purple Martins; and one Chimney Swift. Rather late for a migrating flock, the birds appeared on the day of a *Chironomid* midge swarm and vanished immediately after.

Acadian Flycatcher: 1-June 12-13, banded and keyed (Phillips et al. 1966) there seems to be a regular occurrence of this species in early June.

Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1-May 17-singing, little known as a migrant.

Philadelphia Vireo: 1-banded May 30, Bull regards it as very rare in spring.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1-banded August 13, generally rare migrant in fall.

Wilson's Warbler: 1-June 11, a late extreme by four days.

Summer Tanager: 1-July 9, an adult male banded and released, third summer record for the island.

Vesper Sparrow: 1-August 10, found freshly dead, specimen preserved. Apparently an early migrant or possibly a vagrant from the small remaining population on eastern Long Island.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the field work and netting.

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David C. Duffy, Quincy House, Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.

FIELD NOTES

Record of Late Breeding in the Hermit Thrush: During a survey of breeding bird populations in an oak-pine forest at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, Long Island, N.Y., in 1961, I discovered an unusual nest of the Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*). The nest is of interest since it represents one of the latest breeding records for the species. The population of the Hermit Thrush on eastern Long Island is a restricted and isolated one assignable to the race *faxoni* (W. E. Lanyon, per. comm.).

I found the nest containing three eggs on August 17. It was situated on the ground, embedded in the litter and well concealed from above by moderately dense, low shrub cover of *Vaccinium* spp. and *Gaylussachia baccata*. On 25 August three nestlings two-three days old were present. Estimated hatching date is 22 or 23 August. The young fledged successfully on 1 September giving a nestling period of 9 to 10 days. The estimated date of completion of the clutch is 10-11 August, depending on the exact date of hatching and assuming a 12 day incubation period (Gross in Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull., 196:147, 1949).

The date of nesting and the clutch-size suggest that this record represents either a late second brood or a re-nest. Bull (Birds of the New York Area, p. 339, 1964) gives egg dates for Long Island as May 14-June 22. But later nestings, including a few August records, are known for some northeastern populations. Gross (op. cit.) reported two nests found by F. H. Allen in New Hampshire. One was found on 1 August and the other on 9 August, 1883, both with three eggs. Saunders (Roosevelt Wild Life Bull., 5:364, 1929) gave dates of hatching for three late nests in northern New York as July 24, August 8, and August 12. Another nest contained three eggs on 22 July and two nestlings and an infertile egg on 10 August. Smyth (Auk, 64: 625-626, 1947) reported a late nest in northern New York with a nestling "starting to feather" on 31 August. Finally, Knight (J. Maine Ornith. Soc., 11:122-123, 1909) recorded young Hermit Thrushes leaving a Maine nest on September 8.

Although the present record from Long Island represents one of the latest known nestings for the species, the records reviewed above suggest that late July—early August nest starts are not altogether unusual in this highly insectivorous thrush (see also Palmer, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 102:417, 1949; Gross, op. cit.: 151).

Jon S. Greenlaw, Biology Department, C. W. Post College, Greenvale, N.Y. 11548.

Ed. note: Such late nestings, as Mr. Greenlaw implies, are the result of some interference with the normal or usual breeding period. First or second nesting may have been broken up, resulting in a delay in part or all of the cycle. Exact documentation such as this is, however, quite uncommon.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

FRITZ SCHEIDER

Torrential Hurricane Agnes brought an excess of rain to an already brimming summer scene. All reports agree it was the wettest summer in several decades and the devastation to nesting species (v.i.), though difficult to document, was probably quite extensive. Particularly severe were the losses in water birds (herons, geese, ducks, rails, gallinules, coots) at the various marshes and refuges at the north end of the Finger Lakes and the southern fringe of the Lake Ontario plain (cf Region 3). Similarly ground-nesting species, particularly such gamebirds as Ring-

necked Pheasant (2,5) and Gray Partridge (6), seemed to have fared very badly with the heavy rains. A third group sorely injured by the combination of severe rain and persistent cold includes most aerial insectivores, especially swallows — numerous Bank Swallow colonies had their nesting sites washed out, Tree Swallows (3,4,5,9) and Purple Martins (5) had loss of young or sharply reduced total counts, Cliff Swallows colonies continued to decline — ? weather or House Sparrows ? —, and the Rough-winged Swallow, basically a riverine species in central and southern New York, may have been decimated by the severe flooding and bank erosion. And like the Rough-winged Swallow, river edge and/or bottomland and ravine wall species such as Eastern Phoebe, the Waterthrushes, and Canada Warbler seemed woefully low in July counts everywhere in the storm affected area. Interestingly the counts of rails and many riverine species along the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers (5,8,9) seemed as good or better than ever. A specialized effect of Agnes was the high tide flooding-out of tern colonies along the south shore of Long Island (10) and, inland, such lake elevation that the Oneida Lake gull colonies never established and the tern colonies there were severely delayed. A spin-off of the extensive rains and high water was the virtual absence of normal shorebird habitat and almost all upstate sectors complained of very poor numbers and variety of same thru July and early August.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys have rapidly superceded all other forms of breeding bird surveillance and many reports rely heavily on these. It behooves observers then to persist in annually running these routes and preferably at the same date if possible. Most of the early June counts appeared to have very good numbers; however, numbers on the counts run in the first week of July seem markedly less than might be anticipated — ?? reduced song, flood losses, — or both??

American Bittern may be joining the parade of vanishing species across the state (3,5,8) and the presence of a few white herons (3,5,9) was only slight compensation for the dearth of Black-crowned Night Herons and Least Bitterns. The massive reproductive loss of waterfowl at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge is well described (3) and lesser losses in the western sector of 5 are parallels to that. Local waterfowl production is described as good in 2, 6, and 9, all sectors peripheral to the severe flooding. Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks have virtually disappeared as breeders across the state with only a few scattered Red-shouldered in the Adirondacks (5,7) as the last vestige of this formerly abundant handsome raptor. Ospreys continue to decline on Long Island (10); their breeding status and/or success in the Adirondacks is currently unknown.

Both cuckoos seemed scarce in the more southern sectors (3,4,9) but showed some improvement in numbers in 5, 7, and 8. Common Night-

hawks continue to decline, being specifically so noted in 2, 3, and 5. Similarly Whip-poor-will, except for 5, showed a decline and the species was unreported in the Adirondack sector. The loss of Eastern Phoebe and swallows nestings has been mentioned (cf 3,5) and the continued decline of marsh wrens was probably accelerated by the cattail-deep flooding of the local marshes upstate. Robins and Wood Thrushes seemed to be increasing but the Veery counts (3,5) continue low.

Two positives noted in this grim litany of negatives – Cedar Waxwings were everywhere (3,5,7,8,9) and both Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos appeared to be on the upswing (2,3,4,5). Warblers presented a mixed bag – increased numbers of Yellow Warblers (3,5) but strongly decreased tallies of Redstart (3,5). Sufficient tallies and numbers are not available from the Tug Hill Plateau and the Adirondack regions but there is a suggestion that Blackburnian Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and even the abundant Myrtle Warbler may be decreasing. Careful counts of the ravine-haunting Louisiana Waterthrush and the river edge Yellow Warblers in 3, 4, and western 9 next year might give some hint of the reproductive losses suffered this year.

Orchard Orioles were reported nesting in 2 and 3 but virtually absent in 9, where formerly scarce but regular. Indigo Buntings were reported up in 2 and 3 and similarly Purple Finches were increased in 3,4,5, and 7. Red Crossbills appeared in either late July or August in 2,3,5,7,8,9, perhaps presaging a major irruption this winter. Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows are noted as decreased in 2,3, and 5 but there is a suggestion that the White-throated Sparrow may be expanding in the higher elevations of 4, southern 5, and 9.

The Monk Parakeet, now reported from 4, 6, 9, and 10, appears to be expanding rapidly and I suspect another pest species is here – any chance of getting it declared a game bird?

Rarities for the summer season include Louisiana Heron (9), Yellow-crowned Night Heron (9), Sandhill Crane (3), Black-necked Stilt (10), Laughing Gull (5), Cabot's Tern (10), Acadian Flycatcher (2) – also see Region 10 report, Orchard Oriole (8), and Clay-colored Sparrow (2,6).

My compliments to the Regional Editors of 2 thru 10, particularly for the numerical data of the breeding bird censuses. The Region 1 report was not available for summary unfortunately and we are the less for it.

417 South Main Street North Syracuse, New York 13212

REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

By and large, we have had a cool, wet summer season, but there have also been contrasting periods of both heat and dry spells. No doubt the outstanding event was Hurricane Agnes and its related flooding, but few effects on local bird populations have been noted to date. June and early July were both rather cool, but late July brought many days of over 90° temperatures. The first half of August has again been cool.

Rainfall for the year is well above normal — about 2 to 3 inches. Without Agnes, however, there would be a deficit of an inch or two. Water levels are very high throughout the region and particularly along Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes. Ontario is the highest in twenty years so that good shore bird areas are almost non-existent.

Bird populations are rather good for most species, although somewhat less activity by local observers makes comparisons with recent years difficult. In fact, reports submitted for July and early August are so few that most of this report reflects June activity. There are, as always, certain exceptions to the loose generalization above on good breeding numbers which will be noted below.

The spring flight continued as usual into early June and in a few surprising cases even to mid-June. The return flight of early shorebirds seemed to get underway only slowly with few noted until late July, but most likely this is only due to poor conditions here. By mid-August Swallow numbers were very high on the lakeshore and a few Warblers were being noted in the same region.

Some of the most interesting reports of breeding species again came from little covered inland areas as a few observers again investigated these neglected regions.

Positive trends: (1) Apparent good productions of local waterfowl; (2) At least a few reports of most breeding raptors, (3) Continued increase in Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls; (4) Probable success of "southern species," i.e., Yellow-breasted Chat, Orchard oriole; (5) Possible breeding of "northern species," i.e., Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red Crossbill.

Negative trends: (1) Pheasant broods scarce; (2) Nighthawks scarcer than ever, continuing downward trend locally; (3) Scarcity of some breeding warblers, i.e., Golden-winged, Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Canada, in some suitable areas.

Rarities Include: Glossy Ibis, Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Orchard Oriole, Red Crossbill, Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddocks Bay; BP—Buck Pond; BS—Bergen Swamp; CL—Conesus Lake; HL—Hemlock Lake; IC—Island Cottage; MB—Manitou Beach; MP—Mendon Ponds; OB—Ontario Beach; PB—Point Breeze; RP—Round Pond; SA—Shore Acres.

Observers: JB—John Brown; MC—Michael Carlson; JC—Jerry Czeck; JE—Jean Esley; A&BK—Al & Bea Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; AM—Al Maley; DN—Don Nelson; RO—Richard O'Hara; B&GP—Betty & Glen Perrigo.

LOONS—DUCKS: A tardy Horned Grebe was noted on June 8 at MB (WCL). There was a single Glossy Ibis on June 4 at BB (WCL). Fewer reports of most Herons were received this year than last except for Great Blue Heron. No wandering Egrets have been noted since spring. Canada Geese now summer in this region as a result of induced breeding success nearby. Two Pintails were seen on July 2 at SA (A&BK). One wonders if these also may be the result of stocking at State or Federal refuges. Many broods of Mallards and Blue-wing Teal indicate good success in this region. Whether or not Black Ducks and Wood Ducks have prospered is less certain.

Occasional reports of scarce raptors this summer is hopeful. A Goshawk on June 3 in Webster is surprising since this is on the Lake Ontario plain rather than high country to the south. Cooper's Hawks were observed at both HL on June 3 and Honeoye Lake on June 11 (B&GP). Similarly a Sharp-shinned Hawk was in a wooded ravine at CL on June 17 (RO). A Red-shouldered Hawk was also at Hemlock Lake, June 3 (B&GP); this species may also have bred in Henrietta this year (DN). A late Broad-winged Hawk was one on June 22 in Webster (JC), while possible breeding may be indicated by 2 on June 3 at Canadice Lake and on June 11 at Honeoye Lake (B&GP). A very late Rough-legged Hawk was noted on June 11 at Geneseo (B&GP). The pair of Bald Eagles was still at the nest site on June 3 this year, but breeding success is not certain. A single Osprey was seen on June 18 at BP (A&BK).

As noted above, shorebirding is less than spectacular this summer, but most regular species are present in small numbers. Two Upland Plover in Webster on June 18 (GP) may represent a new breeding station; this bird seems to be absent at Monroe County Airport this year where they were common a few years ago. 2 Solitary Sandpipers were at Ling Road on August 4 (RO). A single Dowitcher was noted the same day at RP (RO) along with 8 other regular species. 20 Sanderling were at OB also on August 4 (RO).

No unusual records for Gulls or Terns have been received, but regular species are well represented. Black Terns apparently have had good breeding success, and many young birds are now present.

Mourning Doves are still prospering, while both Cuckoos seem a little more common than in recent summers.

Among the Owls only Screech and Great Horned have been noted except for one Barn Owl in Scottsville at a former nesting site (JB). Barred Owl seems absent at BS where it formerly nested (MC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: The Whip-poor-will was noted only from BS, the only regular breeding station in this region (MC). Nighthawks are very scarce; perhaps the extensive urban renewal in the city is part of the problem; 1 or 2 only may be noted the whole length of Main Street in Rochester where formerly they were common over most parts of the city; this bird should be watched carefully in this region.

Nothing unusual to report for Woodpeckers this season. An Acadian Flycatcher at BS on June 17 was most unusual, however (AM et al); we have very few reliable records for this species even in spring migration. Swallows are very common and seem to have had an excellent season; this includes Tree, Bank, Barn and Purple Martin.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was at MP on July 12 (RO); this seems a bit early for returning birds, although they are often back in August; we still have no definite nesting record. A few Short-billed Marsh Wrens have been noted at MP this year (GP). Another rarity here was a Golden-crowned Kinglet on June 11 at HL (B&GP).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: While Yellow-throated Vireos were reported as scarce this spring, they appear to be present in normal numbers in most breeding areas now. Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos seemed in good supply also. Golden-winged Warblers are less common than a few years ago but Blue-winged Warblers may have increased.

A Magnolia Warbler on June 19 at IC was very late (MC); this is not a likely breeding station for the species. Ovenbirds were either unusually quiet or absent in some locations. Louisiana Waterthrush and Canada Warbler were both present but in very small numbers at CL where both were considerably more common several years ago (RO). Hooded Warblers were still singing on July 26 at Pellet Road in Webster; this is a regular breeding station for the species (RO). Yellow-breasted Chats were present in good numbers at MP where as many as 8 birds were re-

ported all during June (GP); this is a record high count for this region. A late Wilson's Warbler was noted on June 14 at SL (JE).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: The pair of Orchard Orioles which nested at PB last season returned to nest again (WL). Indigo Bunting seemed a bit more common this summer than last, although they were late in arriving on territory. Purple Finches were noted regularly during June and early July in several residential areas. An immature Red Crossbill was picked up in mid-August at MB (WCL); this may represent a second breeding record for the region. A Clay-colored Sparrow was present in Brighton from June 6 to 17, but no evidence of nesting was obtained (Julie Claffey). Regular nesting species of sparrows were generally well-reported except Henslow and Vesper Sparrows were somewhat spotty in distribution; probably habitat changes account for most of this variation.

265 Carling Road, Rochester, New York 14610

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

Certain seasons — certain months — make history. June 1972 was such a month. According to the official weather bureau report it was not only the wettest June on record, but also one of the wettest months ever recorded in the Finger Lakes area at any time of the year. The amount of sunshine was a record low for a summer month; it was cloudy and unusually cool. In the Caroline hills southeast of Ithaca it was in the 20's June 9-11. From June 20-24 the worst floods in history struck the Finger Lakes — apparently the result of two storm fronts coming together, one the remains of Hurricane Agnes sweeping up the east coast, the other coming from the west. In this storm 6-10" of rain fell, the heaviest being in Steuben County, and the month's total was 8½-13", about 3 times normal. Cayuga Lake went to 2½ feet above flood stage and did not drop below flood level for four weeks. July and August had fairly normal rainfall and cloud cover, somewhat cool except for the period of July 11-25 when it was hot and humid.

For Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge it was a "terrible summer." Flood damage was extensive — the main dike was closed for over a month and Mays Point Pool dike has not yet (mid Sept) been able to be repaired. Waterfowl production was almost zero (see body of report). Early nesting had been upset by pool drainage, only to have later nestings subjected to flooding after the pool was refilled. Also hit were other marsh-nesting species.

Throughout the Region birds suffered — except those for which delayed haying was a help, or those that got first broods off before high water. Not only did the high water cover nests, but cold and rain cut down on insect food availability; hole nesters suffered from fallen trees, where rain and flood weakened root systems. Actual losses are not documented and the toll will never be known, for certainly no one was out checking birds or nests during the catastrophe! As Mary Welles, my Elmira correspondent, put it: "The rest of the summer, everyone was too busy cleaning up, shovelling mud, or helping neighbors and friends, to go birding. We fell into bed exhausted each night."

Montezuma reports are scanty for one additional reason: Walter Benning, our usually inexhaustible source of weekly — sometimes daily — reports on shorebirds as well as waterfowl, spent the summer in Alaska. The Finger Lakes report reflects his absence!

A small migratory wave was noted on Turkey Hill east of Ithaca Aug 3, which included 5 hummingbirds, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Golden and Blue-winged

Warblers. Black-and-white Warbler, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (NC). A Gray-cheeked Thrush sighted at Taughannock Aug 10 was undoubtedly a migrant.

Reports were received this year from 6 of the 25-mile Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in the Finger Lakes. Highlights are as follows: the Rushville count (ML) had 42 species, down 6 from 1971, while the Branchport count (ML) had 48 species, down 1 from last year. On the Dryden East count (MS) the total was 61 species, same as in '71. A drop was noted in Chimney Swifts, Eastern Kingbirds, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallows and Catbirds, an increase in Barn Swallows, House Wrens, Yellowthroats, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Chipping Sparrows. On the Trumansburg count (MS) there were 59 species, up from 55 in '71. Except for Bobolinks and Cowbirds there were no significant decreases, while Wood Pewees, House Wrens, Wood Thrushes, Starlings, Warbling Vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Savannah and Field Sparrows showed a significant increase. The Romulus route (NC), newly reported this year but run for the second time, had 49 species, up 3 from '71 and showed increases in Pheasants, Traill's Flycatchers, Tree Swallows, Robins, Grackles, Savannah and Field Sparrows. The MacDougall route count, also newly reported (NC), had 53 species, up 1 from '71 and showed increases in Pheasants, Traill's Flycatchers, House Wrens, Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Bobolinks and Baltimore Orioles; decreases in Tree and Barn Swallows, Wood Thrushes, Horned Larks, Grackles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Chipping Sparrows.

The breeding bird census of Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary was again taken late this year, last week of June instead of first, (SHS) and produced 57 species, up from 52 in '71. Increases were noted in Mourning Doves, House Wrens, Catbirds, Robins, Wood Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireos, Baltimore Orioles, Chipping and Song Sparrows, decreases in Traill's Flycatchers, White-breasted Nuthatches, Veeries and Ovenbirds.

Area compilers and observers: BA—Betty Ammerman; JBr—Jack Brubaker; NC—Noel Cutright; FG—Frank Guthrie; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul M. Kelsey; ML—Malcolm Lerch; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; MRP—Montezuma Refuge Personnel; FER—Fred and Elizabeth Ranson; BS—Betty Strath; MS—Margaret Shepherd; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; JT—James Tate, Jr.; JW—Jayson Walker; MW—Mary Welles; VW—Vireo Whitaker.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 in June, 2 in July Keuka Lake (FG). Pied-billed Grebe: 3 nests at Tompkins Co. airport pond early July produced 22 young (FER); peak count 14 early Aug MNWR as opposed to 250 last year and 75 nests. Double-crested Cormorant: no reports. Great Blue Heron: locally abundant, "much more numerous in Bath area this year, before flood" (BA); peak 40 early Aug MNWR compared with 96 last year (MRP); however, 75–80 seen Jul 29 on MNWR Storage Pool (NC). Green Heron: not abundant, but pairs seen in usual places. Cattle Egret: 2 (NC), 15 Jul 11 MNWR (MRP). Common Egret: max 15 MNWR (MRP). Least Bittern: one report only. American Bittern: in Ithaca area they have decreased to point that I no longer know where to find one. Canada Goose: most had hatched before flood. Mallard: one brood of 5 definitely known lost in flood at Waterloo (JW), undoubtedly others but no definite reports. Other waterfowl simply reported as scarce following flood, throughout Region.

Peak numbers of waterfowl at MNWR occurred during the first part of Aug. The high waters following the tropical storm Agnes eliminated approximately 75% of the normal waterfowl production for the area, as may be seen from the following table. Figures include young and adults, and no mention is made of broods produced be-

cause a total of only 14 broods of all species were noted! This compares with 145 broods in '71 (MRP).

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Number</i>
Canada Goose	450	American Widgeon	95
Mallard	900	Shoveler	20
Black Duck	425	Wood Duck	900
Gadwall	625	Redhead	30
Pintail	25	Ruddy Duck	25
Green-winged Teal	360	Hooded Merganser	20
Blue-winged Teal	725		

These figures show very little increase over the peak counts in May, reflecting the lack of production. Other waterfowl reports from MNWR include: European Widgeon 1 June 10 (A. H. Barben); Ring-necked Duck 5 max early Aug; Common Merganser 20 max early Aug.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: fate of Marengo Swamp nest unknown; 15 max early Aug MNWR (MRP). Goshawk: 2 young banded June 9 in first known Schuyler Co. nest (WRS); 1 mid-Jul Gobbler's Knob between Naples and Prattsburg (B. McKinney), first Keuka area report since Oct '60 (fide FG). Cooper's Hawk: nest near SWS Ithaca, early failure; one other nest reported Tompkins Co. Red-tailed Hawk: no decline noted, usual nest sites occupied. Red-shouldered Hawk: one nest near SWS, early failure; nest near Tompkins Co airport, young disappeared; 1 early June Guyanoga Valley near Keuka (ML) first record since Sep '58 (fide FG); no sightings Elmira area. Broad-winged Hawk: 1 early June Lower Creek Rd northeast of Ithaca lowest elevation yet noted (1,000') (WRS). Bald Eagle: 1 imm June 2 over Culver Rd Ithaca (P. Allan); 1 fairly regular all period MNWR (mob). Marsh Hawk: absent. Osprey: 1 Aug 7 MNWR, an early date; possibly an Adirondack non-breeder. Sparrow Hawk: appeared scarce at Elmira late summer, many favorite nesting trees (dead elms) felled by flood waters (MW); fewer broods noted Ithaca area than in '71.

Ruffed Grouse: probably little affected by flooding as on higher ground; 1 adult with only 1 half-grown chick seen Jul 30 near Waterloo (fide JW). Ring-necked Pheasant: fewer at Keuka, no reports Waterloo, but in good shape at Ithaca where haying was delayed by heavy June rains until 80% of broods had hatched as compared to 20% most years (PMK). Turkey: three records Keuka-Penn Yan area (FG); some late hatching success Ithaca area (PMK), brood of 10 young Jun 25 Arnot Forest southwest of Ithaca (fide NC). **SANDHILL CRANE:** 1 Jun 7 over Rte. 13 northeast of Ithaca (JT), call and description carefully verified. Virginia Rail: apparently very scarce as only one reported—Aug 11 MNWR (NC). Sora: 4 early Aug MNWR (MRP). Common Gallinule: flooded out, only 40 early Aug MNWR as opposed to 50 young produced in 20 nests in '71. American Coot: 144 max early Aug as opposed to 200 young produced in '71.

Killdeer: little flood affect noted, good reproduction. American Woodcock: more than usual noted at Keuka, numbers good elsewhere, apparently nested before flood or on higher ground. Common Snipe: also normal numbers. Upland Plover: aided by late haying, usual sites occupied and several new reported; at Elmira, favorite nesting area now covered with mobile homes for flood evacuees, will be checked next year. Spotted Sandpiper: little information—probably many nests lost in high water. Ruddy Turnstone and **WILLET:** 1 each Jun 11 MNWR (J. Stewart), no verifying details. Little information on late Jul, early Aug shorebirds MNWR (see introduction). A trip with Kellogg class Aug 11 did produce 3 Black-bellied Plover, 5 Snipe, 10 Greater and 50 Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 Pectoral and 10 Least Sandpipers, 8 Short-billed Dowitchers, 60 Semipalmated Sandpipers (NC). Common Tern: very

scarce, nests destroyed MNWR, 2 adults and 2 imm Aug 6 (JW). Black Tern: 40 max early Aug MNWR, contrasted with 100 young produced '71 (MRP). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Jun 26 Waterloo Cemetery (JW). Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Jul 30 Church St Waterloo (JW), few other reports. Great Horned Owls in good numbers. Report of Barred Owl in Jul, Guyanoga Valley, Keuka area (ML), first there since 1955.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: No Whip-poor-will reports. Common Night-hawk: all observers said scarce; 1 only in Penn Yan Jul (VW). Chimney Swift: reported abundant; I would have expected nests to be destroyed by heavy rains but no evidence. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: few reports early summer, more early Aug. Belted Kingfisher: undoubtedly some nests destroyed by flooding and bank collapse. Yellow-shafted Flicker: numerous everywhere. (Why weren't their nesting trees felled?) Red-bellied Woodpecker: no reports of nests. Red-headed Woodpecker: more reports at Keuka than last year; some '71 sites Ithaca area not occupied this year. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: no nest found SWS, but adult seen in June (FER), young birds present Aug 9 (NC); scattered sightings of species Jun, Jul Etna, 1000' elevation (SHS).

Eastern Kingbird: reported in good numbers everywhere; no marked migrating flights before Aug 15, however. Great Crested, Traill's (down from 4 to 1 SWS), Least Flycatchers and Eastern Phoebes all reported low in numbers. Phoebes, except early first broods, suffered in flood; a pair with half-grown young high in a culvert in Etna struggled pitifully to reach their nest as water lapped at it from below (SHS). August song of Wood Pewee seemed normal. Horned Lark: no definite nesting records reached me.

All swallow species except Barn scarcer than usual, undoubtedly affected by prolonged rainfall which reduced insect food. Early nesting Tree Swallows got first broods off. Bank Swallow colonies suffered from lack of food and bank collapse. Cliff Swallow: only a few remain at the colony south of Dryden and I know of no other Tompkins Co. colonies. Purple Martin: numbers continued low; several pairs at Brixey house Freeville; a few at north end Cay L; at Hector 2 of 3 pairs abandoned a house which had to be moved when high water tipped it (BS).

Blue Jays and Crows continue to be abundant everywhere. Tufted Titmouse: no increase noted. White-breasted Nuthatch: few successful nestings noted, but possibly just overlooked. Brown Creeper: continues to increase as breeding species in Region, including at lower elevations—four known nests at 1000' in Ithaca area. House Wren: certainly this species has made a come-back from low point reached a few years ago; 12 on SWS census, 5 in '71. Carolina Wren: only two or three reports; 5 eggs early Jun Lutz home Taughannock Blvd north of Ithaca. Marsh Wrens: both species apparently suffered from rain and high water, no reports of broods. Mockingbird: continued increase in reports, several new nesting sites Ithaca area, young seen out of nest Jun 7 Cay Heights Rd Ithaca. Brown Thrasher: certainly less conspicuous this summer than last. Robin: good breeding success, becoming more of a woodland bird than 15-20 years ago. Hermit Thrush and Veery continue to decline, only 2 Veeries on SWS census. Wood Thrush: good numbers, 17 SWS census, 10 in '71. Eastern Bluebird: no increase noted, but Lerch banded 50 young at Penn Yan; two pairs known Baker Hill Rd east of Ithaca, successful breeding. Cedar Waxwing: abundant everywhere, flocks remaining together into mid-July, nesting seemed delayed. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 only Aug 11 Guyanoga Valley near Keuka (FG). Starling: fewer young noted; possibly some loss from flood-felled trees containing favorite nesting holes.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: On the 25-mile breeding bird census the following were recorded:

<i>Species</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	0	0	1	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	9	4	1	0	1	3
Warbling Vireo	6	7	1	0	3	7
Black-and-white Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0
Blue-winged Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yellow Warbler	23	21	2	5	15	16
Magnolia Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	0
Black-throated Green Warbler	2	1	0	0	0	0
Blackburnian Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ovenbird	2	2	0	0	0	0
Yellowthroat	17	15	4	2	12	5
Redstart	2	2	0	0	0	1

A. Dryden

C. Branchport

E. Romulus

B. Trumansburg

D. Rushville

F. MacDougall

Yellow-throated Vireo: one nest mid-June Lower Creek Rd west of Ithaca, survived rains (WRS); nest Jul 12 at Arnot Forest (NC); otherwise almost no sightings. Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos: normal numbers. Black-and-white Warbler: only 1, on T'burg F and W census. Yellow Warbler: very good numbers throughout Region. No recent breeding records Nashville or Myrtle. Magnolia Warbler: 1 only T'burg census. Black-throated Blue Warbler: very scarce. Black-throated Green Warbler: scarce, but found on Dryden and T'burg censuses. Cerulean Warbler: this marginal species has decreased. Prairie Warbler: none reported from Conn Hill but new station Jul 5 Michigan Hollow Rd south of Ithaca at Cayuga Beagle Club (NC et al). Ovenbird: down from 7 to 3 at SWS. Mourning Warbler: again several reports of these at lower elevations than used to be the case; 2 Jun 4 Mills Rd Waterloo might have been migrants (JW), as may have been 1 same date Bostwick Rd Ithaca (NC), but 1 singing entire month of June Lower Creek Rd west of Etna was on territory. Yellowthroat: good numbers; increased from 7 ('71) to 9 at SWS. Yellow-breasted Chat very scarce, no record at Keuka; several at Reading Center (A.Kopp). Wilson's Warbler: 1 dead Aug 13 Elmira TV tower—first fall migrant kill reported (WH). Canada Warbler very scarce. American Redstart still hard to find.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: almost no records at Waterloo after flood; locally abundant around Ithaca—three nests in one large field north of airport (FER), all fledged in July. Eastern Meadowlark: may have been some renesting or late nesting, or possibly this species benefited by late haying—abundant in July. Redwinged Blackbird: poor breeding success, numbers low in Aug. Baltimore Oriole: certainly locally numerous, but less song than usual. Brown-headed Cowbird: numerous Keuka and Ithaca, scarce Waterloo area. Orchard Oriole: 2nd year male observed carrying food to nest in a spruce, late June Odessa (BS), a rare nester in Region. Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting: good numbers. *EVENING GROSBEAK:* 1 male Jul 21 Steege Hill across Chemung R south of Big Flats, heard, then seen cracking cherry pits (Mrs. Cecile Kennedy, fide WH); another Aug 12 near Elmira (WH). Purple Finch: unusually high number breeding reports, in suburban areas; observers commented "abundant," "Everywhere." American Goldfinch: abundant, seemed late in starting to nest, Aug rather than mid-July. *RED CROSSBILL:* 1 male, 1 female Watkins Glen Jul 30 (JBr); 2 imm (deceased) brought to BS in Odessa Aug 13; small flock at Dilger Tree Farm near Freeville mid-Aug; it may be noted that once in a while this species breeds in the Finger Lakes. Savannah, Chipping and Song Sparrows were reported in good numbers. Grasshopper Sparrows nested northeast of Tompkins Co. airport

and 2 more pairs were on territory close by (FER). Henslow's, Field and Swamp Sparrows varied in abundance from one locality to another. Vesper Sparrows were scarce — at least few were heard singing in Ithaca area.

"Aviana," Etna, N.Y. 13062

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

It was a cool wet summer with the major meteorological event the heavy rains deposited by the outskirts of tropical storm Agnes June 21 and 22. Although conditions here were nowhere near as severe as in counties to the west of us, the high watermark along rivers and streams and particularly in the catch basin behind the Whitney Point flood control dam make it obvious there must have been considerable damage to nesting birds, at least locally. However, no direct evidence appears in the reports received.

Observers initials used: MB—Margaret Bowman; A,MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis; MD—Mary Dobinsky; FL—Florence Linaberry; MS—Mary Sheffield; CW—Cora Wellman; R,SW—Ruth and Sally White; KW—Kathryn Wilson.

Other abbreviations: BBS—Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys: CF—Chenango Forks; EB—East Branch, along the Beaverkill; WP—Whitney Point.

Numbers in parentheses following some species names are the totals for the available BBS. (4,2 would indicate 4 of the species were found on 2 of the surveys. Surveys available were: Coventryville, run Jul 8 by Les Bemont; Lisle, run Jun 3 by Robert Pantle; McDonough, run by Claude Howard Jun 17 and WP run Jun 17 by Robert Pantle.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Jun 14 Pepacton Reservoir (MB) in immature plumage, last seen Jul 17. Pied-billed Grebe: Jul 1 and 28 Portlandville (KW, MD,CW). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Jun 4 WP (MS). Great Blue Heron: (4,2). Canada Goose: 4 at Margaretville on Pepacton Reservoir (MB). Gadwall: 4 Jun 4 WP (MS). Wood Duck: (2,2). Bufflehead: 1 male WP Jun 4 (MS). Common Merganser: a female with young on Beaverkill at EB Jun 25 (MB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: at German in Chenango County Jun 4 and several other times (R,SW), as well as the usual Otsego and Delaware County reports. Goshawk: 1 Aug 6 and 2 Aug 8 at Oneonta (KW). Broad-winged Hawk: "young" Aug 5 Milford (CW,KW,MD). Osprey: 1 Jul 30 WP (MS). Sparrow Hawk: (2,1). Ring-necked Pheasant: (5,3). Killdeer: (24,4). Upland Plover: (2,1), McDonough BBS. Spotted Sandpiper: (1,1). Solitary Sandpiper: Jul 28, Oneonta (CW,KW,MD); Aug 6 Otselic Fish Hatchery (R,SW). Greater Yellowlegs: 3 Jul 8 Sherburne (R,SW). Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 Aug 6 Otselic Fish Hatchery (R,SW). Ring-billed Gull: 20 or more Jun 4 WP (MS), late. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Aug 13 WP (MS), seldom reported in Region in late summer or fall. Rock Dove: (26,4). Mourning Dove: (18,4). Monk Parakeet: no longer seen at Conklin, but possibly the same bird now regular in Binghamton southside; one in early Aug at Owego (Mrs. Hill); a late Feb record has come to light, with photographs, from the Broome-Tioga line, west of Vestal. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (2,2); scarce. Black-billed Cuckoo: (2,1); scarce. Screech Owl: 4 Jul 20 Norwich (R,SW), an adult and 3 immatures. Barred Owl: Aug 5 Milford (CW,KW,MD).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: 1 Jun 2 Oneonta (Irene Wright). Common Nighthawk: 1 Aug 12 (E. and F. Vermilya), on lawn at 8:30 a.m. Chimney Swift: (41,4). Belted Kingfisher: (6,3). Yellow-shafted Flicker:

(54,4). Pileated Woodpecker: (1,1). Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Jul 29 Sherburne (R,SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (1,1); "breeding" at EB (MB) and several reports from Oneonta area. Downy Woodpecker: (13,4). Eastern Kingbird: (22,3). Great Crested Flycatcher: (14,4). Eastern Phoebe: (31,4). Traill's Flycatcher (10,3). Least Flycatcher: (30,4). Eastern Wood Pewee: (19,4). Horned Lark: (1,1). Tree Swallow: (8,3). Bank Swallow: (9,1). Rough-winged Swallow: (16,2). Barn Swallow: (70,4). Cliff Swallow: "breeding" at EB (MB). Blue Jay: (61,4). Common Crow: (155,4). Black-capped Chickadee: (27,4). Tufted Titmouse: reported from Endwell (FL) and CF (A,MD). White-breasted Nuthatch: (11,4). Red-breasted Nuthatch: (2,1); three reports from Oneonta area (CW,KW,MD). Brown Creeper: (1,1), McDonough BBS; Jun 16 CF (A,MD). House Wren: (58,4). Winter Wren: Jul 28 Milford (CW,KW,MD). Carolina Wren: (1,1), Coventryville BBS; Aug 8 Candor (Robert Pantle). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 6 Jun 13 Sherburne (R,SW). Mockingbird: 2 Endwell localities over a mile apart (Les Bemont). Catbird: (45,4). Brown Thrasher: (17,4). Robin: (300,4). Wood Thrush: (96,4). Hermit Thrush: (4,2). Swainson's Thrush: (1,1), McDonough BBS. Veery: (29,4). Eastern Bluebird: (3,2). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: "breeding" at EB (MB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 Jun 4 Pharsalia (R,SW). Cedar Waxwing: (18,3). Starling: (426,4).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (1,1); 6 Jul 8 along Chenango River from Brisben to Greene (MS); "breeding" EB (MB). Solitary Vireo: 3 Oneonta area Jul and Aug reports (MD,CW,KW). Red-eyed Vireo: (66,4). Warbling Vireo: (13,3); 8 or more Jul 9 Brisben to Greene (MS). Black-and-white Warbler: (1,1); regular at CF in Jun and Jul (A,MD). Blue-winged Warbler: Aug 5 CF (A,MD). Nashville Warbler: (2,1); at Choconut Center thru Jul 23 (MS). Yellow Warbler: (77,4). Magnolia Warbler: Jul 28 Milford (CW,KW,MD). Myrtle Warbler: 3 Jun 4 Pharsalia (R,SW). Black-throated Green Warbler: (8,3); 3 other reports. Blackburnian Warbler: Aug 5 CF (A,MD). Chestnut-sided Warbler: (30,4). Prairie Warbler: thru Jul 23 at Vestal Center (Elizabeth Washburn). Ovenbird: (21,3). Northern Waterthrush: (1,1); frequent reports from Oneonta area. Louisiana Waterthrush: Jun 3 Vestal Center (MS); Jun 25 Otego (MD,KW). Mourning Warbler: 2 Jun 4 Pharsalia (R,SW). Yellowthroat: (97,4). Canada Warbler: (1,1). American Redstart: (12,3).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROW: House Sparrow: (101,4). Bobolink: (51,4). Eastern Meadowlark: (69,4). Redwinged Blackbird: (616,4). Baltimore Oriole: (46,4). Common Grackle: (114,4). Brown-headed Cowbird: (31,4). Scarlet Tanager: (20,4). Cardinal: (15,3). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (10,3); female with young Jul 9 Oneonta (MD). Indigo Bunting: (22,4). Purple Finch: (3,3); "many" at Candor (Robert Pantle) as compared to previous years; regular reports from Endwell (FL) and CF (A,MD) and frequent reports from the Oneonta area. House Finch: bred at Endwell (FL), feeding young Jun 9; 4 at Vestal in Jun (Gail Corderman). American Goldfinch: (68,4). Rufous-sided Towhee: (40,4). Savannah Sparrow: (36,3). Grasshopper Sparrow: (3,2). Henslow's Sparrow: (1,1), the only report all summer. Vesper Sparrow: (8,2). Slate-colored Junco: 5 Jul 28 Milford (CW,KW, MD) and 3 other reports around Oneonta; "breeding" at EB (MB). Chipping Sparrow: (102,4). Field Sparrow: (54,4). White-throated Sparrow: (13,2); 7 Jun 4 Pharsalia (R,SW); several reports from Oneonta area; at EB—1 flushed from apparent nest Jun 16, singing continued to Jun 19, gone after Jun 22—"the first time I've had any indication of nesting in this area" (MB). Swamp Sparrow: (10,3). Song Sparrow: (177,4).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND C. G. SPIES

Hurricane Agnes and attendant flooding at the end of June was the focus of meteorological discussion; this should not obscure the facts that water levels had already been high in spring, that heavy rain occurred at end of May-beginning of June, and that there were severe washouts in mid-June. At any rate, the flood waters have provoked a flood of hypotheses as to their effect, positive or negative, on bird-life, but hard facts are surprisingly difficult to obtain. For instance, some water birds are in low numbers as noted by observers, but it may be that the floods simply dispersed them throughout an increased acreage of habitat so that there are few observable large concentrations, rather than that the population was actually harmed. George Maxwell at Oswego had solid evidence of flood damage but is cautious with long-range conclusions: "June rains washed out many nests; noted were Yellow Warbler, Redwing, Cedar Waxwing, Catbird, Song Sparrow, and other similar shrub nesters. Renesting was noted in many cases and usually successful. Nonetheless, I suspect that fledging numbers are down because of the unusual weather."

It is clear that the combination of spring's high water and June's floods precluded gull breeding on Oneida Lake islands, as there was never enough exposed land to construct nests this year. Common Tern nests were also not washed out; there was some tern nesting because the species was biologically still able to go through the breeding cycle after the water subsided. Quite certainly it was the floods that decimated Bank Swallow and, on evidence from elsewhere in the middle Atlantic states, Purple Martins failed to find food during the rains. Probably the lack of Louisiana Waterthrush at many sites was due to nest washouts.

The following additional "lows" are not necessarily related to this summer's weather and, in some cases, are part of long-term trends: scarcity of Pied-billed Grebe and Black-crowned Night Heron; low numbers of Black Duck (no Mallard x Black Duck hybrids noted in banding operations at Howland Island) and Blue-winged Teal, and no summering Pintail; continuing extreme scarcity of accipiters (with *no* summering record of Sharp-shinned Hawk) and Marsh Hawk; paucity of Great Horned Owl reports; and poor numbers of Common Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Tree Swallow, Horned Lark, Long-billed Marsh Wren, and Northern Waterthrush.

There *are* some positives: a flurry of Cattle Egret reports; high numbers of Canada Goose; widespread Turkey Vulture sightings; good counts of the regular rallines; generally increased flycatcher numbers; and high counts of Swainson's Thrush — to mention salient ones.

Rarities usually occur in the singular, but this year's seem often in bunches — this summer the 2nd 1972 Snowy Egret, the 2nd and 3rd Willet reports, and 2 Laughing Gulls following "Agnes."

Due to various vicissitudes including not hell but high water, fewer ornithological surveys were completed this year than last; these that were — the Otto Mills walk in the Tug Hill, 2 coverages of the entire Region 5 Lake Ontario shore, checks of breeding success on the Oneida Lake islands, a linear survey of a section of the Mohawk River, and 9 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys that lie in Region 5 — become, with repetition, increasingly valuable information sources. This is so even though it is premature to make many intriguing comparisons, e.g. inverse correlation of Bobolink and Redwinged Blackbird or of Eastern Meadowlark and Common Grackle, using the local federal Breeding Bird Surveys.

A note for visitors to Region 5 from elsewhere: we would very much like to have copies of your trip lists, and will be glad to send you, on request, a 31-column checklist for the purpose.

Corrigenda: *Kingbird* XXII: 3, July 1972, Region 5 report — p. 139, Golden Eagle: arr Mar 12, 1 ad near Fernwood (DWC) record early; max 2 imm Mar 31 DH (P. DeBenedictis, GAS); dep May 13, 1 imm DH (MSR, GAS, CGS) record late; ... Bald Eagle: ... max ... 2 imm May 14 FR (EMF, CGS); p. 140, Iceland Gull: ... 1 May 20 SP (F. LaFrance, RJS); p. 142, Winter Wren: very widespread arr Apr 16 with ... 2 Eaton; p. 143, Common Grackle: ... Mar max 4000 Mar 23 SRF.

Fall arrivals of maxima occurring in this period will be noted 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, number of years done, observer: Alder Creek, Alder Creek to Clark Mills, Jun 28, 5 consecutive years, KGH; Clinton, Franklin Springs to Frankfort, Jun 7, 4 consecutive years, J&RV; Kasoag, Kasoag to Taberg, Jun 17, 7 consecutive years, MSR; N Victory, N Victory to Phoenix, Jun 7, 6 consecutive years, JWP; N Wilmurt, N Wilmurt to N Western, Jun 3, 6 consecutive years, FGS; Old Forge, Old Forge to Big Moose, Jul 2, 2 consecutive years, CGS; Oneida, Durhamville to Point Rock, Jun 28, 5 consecutive years, DWC; Oriskany Falls, Oriskany Falls to Ballina, Jul 3, 6 consecutive years, CGS; Pulaski, Sandy Creek to Maple View, Jun 17, 5 years, RJS; Cam—Ninemile Creek valley SW of Camillus; DH—Derby hill, Sage Creek, and vicinity on L Ont near Texas; HIGMA—Howland Island State Game Management Area near Port Byron; Moh—16 mi of Mohawk R on foot and by canoe from Oriskany to Frankfort Jun 18-Jul 30 (VB); NM—Niagara Mohawk Visitors' Center and vicinity on L Ont near Lakeview; NPT—NW portion of Pompey Twp; Onon—Onondaga; Ont—Ontario; Otto—5 mi on roads and trails in the Otto Mills area of Redfield Twp Jul 9 (FGS); PSS—Peter Scott Swamp, Sixmile Creek, and vicinity near Phoenix; SP—North Pond, South Pond, and the sand dunes on L Ont near Sandy Pond; SRF—Seneca River flats from Montezuma to HIGMA; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park and vicinity near Port Ontario; Syr—Syracuse; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TRGMA—Three Rivers State Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.

Observers: D. W. Ackley, B. Barnum, V. Billings, G. & M. Church, D. W. Crumb, P. A. DeBenedictis, F. C. Dittrich, C. & E. Farnham, E. M. Freeborn, K. G. Hanson, G. R. Maxwell, P. W. Merritt, B. & S. Peebles, J. W. Propst, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, B. Schneckenburger, G. A. Smith, C. G. Spies, A. K. Steinbacher, R. J. Sutliff, E. & J. VanDresar, J. & R. VanScoy.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 through period Dart L near Big Moose, only Adir report; 6 other reports of 1–2 day duration from 5 non-Adir sites. Horned Grebe: 1 Jun 27 Ninemile Pt on L Ont E of Oswego—apparently 1st summering record. Pied-billed Grebe: widely unreported; max only 5 including 1 young Jul 30 Stevens Pond near Phoenix; only other reports were singles DH and Utica—very poor. Double-crested Cormorant: 1–3 Jun 11–26 Oswego. Great Blue Heron: only heronry counts were of 3 active nests Apr 1 Maple Bay on Oneida L and 17 nests TRGMA; no count over 10 per day except 38 Jun 3 Eaton; 18 Moh is good. Green Heron: 50 Moh including 23 Jun 24; away from there no counts above 10 per day. Cattle Egret: 4 singles including at least 3 adults Jun 1-Jul 16 L Ont and Oneida L areas. Common Egret: only report 1 Aug 1 Oneida L near Bridgeport. *SNOWY EGRET*: 1 imm Jul 31 through period Oneida L near Bridgeport (JWP et al) 7th regional record. Black-crowned Night Heron: 5 Jun 25 Oswego and 1 Aug 13 PSS, only reports. Least Bittern: 4 singles, from SP, PSS, Utica. American Bittern: max 5 (2 ad plus 3 young) Jul 20 Oneida Castle; only 1–2 per day elsewhere.

Canada Goose: 65 nests at HIGMA, 13 more than last year, is the most ever noted there; 5–9 Jun 15 through period Dart L is only report of more than 1 per day away from the HIGMA-Seneca R area. Brant: 1 Jun 3 SSSP was injured, but

not noted on a subsequent survey for dead birds. Mallard: breeding numbers down at HIGMA with only 25 nests; numbers were higher to the E however with 128 Moh, including 100 Jul 30, the most ever from that particular area; at Dart L the count increased from 10 Jun 30 to 50 by Aug 6. Black Duck: no nests HIGMA; only 12 birds Moh; max 24 Jul 2 near Peterboro. Gadwall: 1 nest HIGMA; unreported away from HIGMA-Seneca R area. Green-winged Teal: no breeding in region; summering — 3 Oneida L and up to 8 SRF. Blue-winged Teal: no nests HIGMA; only 2 counts of over 10 per day, 37 Moh (Jun 24) and 19 including 3 juv Jul 30 Oneida L. American Widgeon: no breeding reports; 1-3 summering SRF. Shoveler: 1 male Jun 11 near Belgium is only summering report. Wood Duck: reportedly a good season at HIGMA; 32 Moh (Jul 5) also good. Bufflehead: late dep or summering reports were 3 Jun 4 Shore Oaks near Ninemile Pt and 1 male Jun 24 FH — usually unreported in summer. Hooded Merganser: 2 nests HIGMA; unreported elsewhere. Common Merganser: 4 Jun 3-30 Dart L is only summer report. Red-breasted Merganser: 3 singles, probably all different birds, Jun 4-26 at 3 sites on L Ont.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: numbers up in HIGMA-SRF area (elevation 390 ft) with 13 there Aug 13; 1-4 per day in a sub-THP-L Ont plain corridor with elevation 440-620 ft, including Colosse, Maple View, and S Albion; otherwise singles only from Palermo, Oneida, NPT, and NE Ava Twp, the last remarkable for the 1500 ft elevation. Goshawk: 1 breeding report of 3 young in Eaton area; 1 Aug .9 near Bridgeport is only other report. Sharp-shinned Hawk: dep Jun 3, 1 DH — late. Red-tailed Hawk: reportedly up at HIGMA; best counts were 20 Jun 3 Eaton area and 6, including 1 juv, Moh. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Jun 3-Aug 8 around Big Moose-Dart L was probably breeding; 2 Jun 14 NPT were very unusual. Broad-winged Hawk: dep Jun 14, 114 DH — late for so many; most summer reports, 1-2 per day, were in Adir, but 1 each was reported at sub-THP, S highland, and Oneida L basin sites. Bald Eagle: 1-3 (2 adults and 1 imm) Jul 16-31 near Bridgeport Marsh Hawk: dep Jun 14, 1 imm DH — very late; only non-DH report was 1 Aug 13 SRF, probably wandered from Montezuma NWR. Osprey: dep Jun 14, 1 DH and 1 NPT. Sparrow Hawk: usually only 1-2 per day; best counts were 18, including 12 juv, Eaton area and 10, including 5 juv, NPT.

Ruffed Grouse: 13 near New Hartford and 15 chicks with a hen at Cedarville; otherwise, widely reported singles. Ring-necked Pheasant: widely reported but no more than 5 per day anywhere. Virginia Rail: widespread reports of 1-3 per day from 3 L Ont sites, Oneida L, and Mohawk R; 16 Moh is very good. Sora: 1-2 per day at L Ont areas; only other reports were 11 Holland Patent and 27 Moh — both very high. Common Gallinule: widely reported 1-3 per day; 72 Moh is very good. American Coot: 2 Moh and 1 Brewerton are unusual (for summer period) but the latter may have been an injured or sick bird.

Semipalmated Plover: dep Jun 11. 1 L Ont and 1 PSS. Killdeer: no large summer concentrations noted; max 15-20 per day. Black-bellied Plover: dep Jun 9, 1 near Constantia. Ruddy Turnstone: dep Jun 4, 5 SP. American Woodcock: Federal-N.Y. State cooperative Woodcock Singing — ground Survey route near Fulton yielded 5 birds — low average; otherwise 1-2 per day from 9 other areas. Common Snipe: 3 Moh, 3 NM, 1 Bolivar, 1 PSS, and 1 FH, (NM and PSS previously known summer locations). Upland Plover: max 13 West Monroe; 1 other Oneida L site, 2 Mohawk valley sites, 2 L Ont sites, NPT, PSS, and HIGMA — fewer than usual. Spotted Sandpiper: widespread with counts of breeding birds up to 10 per day; 46 Moh and 32 on 42 miles of L Ont shore from FH to SP Jun 24-28 were good tallies.

WILLET: 1 ad molting out of breeding plumage Jul 16 NM (CGS); 11 Jul 26 Onon Hill (GAS) is the 2nd flock of this species reported in the region; with the May 30-Jun 1 NM bird, this is the 1st year for more than 2 reports. Greater Yellow-

legs: dep Jun 4, 1 NM (GAS) record late. Knot: max 3 Jun 1 NM; dep Jun 9, 1 NM (PAD) record late. White-rumped Sandpiper: dep Jun 1, 1 PSS. Least Sandpiper: dep Jun 1, 1 PSS. Dunlin: max 13 Jun 4 SP, NM; dep Jun 11, 4 SP, NM (EMF, PAD) record late. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 97 Jun 4 SP, NM, PSS; dep Jun 11, 26 SP, NM, PSS. Sanderling: dep Jun 11, 3 NM and 2 SP—late.

Great Black-backed Gull: 1-5 per day at various L Ont places, but none from Jul 13 through end of period; no non-L Ont reports. Herring Gull: no breeding at Oneida L but at least 16 summering there; no L Ont count above 75 of summering birds. Ring-billed Gull: no breeding at Oneida L but 1 nest was constructed; L Ont summering birds numbered at least 727 and Oneida L had 42. *LAUGHING GULL*; 2 adults, 1 in breeding plumage (GAS) and 1 in winter plumage (EMF) Jun 25 Oswego. Bonaparte's Gull: summering birds at various L Ont places, up to 20 Jul 16 FH—high. Common Tern: Oneida L breeding reduced by high water—only 539 eggs in 231 nests, but remarkably low mortality with only 6 addled or broken eggs and 4 dead young known from 3 visits between Jul 30 and Sep 12; summering L Ont birds numbered about 150 between FH and Oswego. Caspian Tern: some present at L Ont through summer but period max of 10 Jul 30 were probably migrants. Black Tern: probably still breeding at HIGMA, DH, FH, N Syr, SSSP, SP, PSS, but none at Eightmile Creek or Wilson swamp both W of Oswego.

Mourning Dove: counts generally low—12 Moh, 12 Eaton, only 16-18 on 2 trips through good habitat from HIGMA to FH and other L Ont areas; 70 Jul 25 TRGMA was the only large accumulation. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 23 birds from 23 observers, all low-elevation reports, generally singles but 2 Kasoag BBS, 3 Clinton BBS, and a phenomenal 13 Moh—considerably better than past 2 years. Black-billed Cuckoo: 40 birds from 23 observers, but none from Adir or high THP—slightly better than last year. Screech Owl: 5, including 3 juv, at Eaton; 2 at S Onon; 1 Cam; 1 SP; 2 juv from separate nests Syr—only reports but better than last year. Great Horned Owl: only 13 birds at 10 sites in all areas—poor. Barred Owl: 6 Jun 11 W Vienna Twp is very good, especially in contrast with only singles at 4 other sites, 1 Adir, 1 THP, and 2 L Ont plain.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: about half of past 2 years' numbers with 5 Gravesville, 5 W Vienna Twp, 2 Floyd, 1 Hinckley, 1 FH, and 1 Rice Creek, but the last 2 are less usual locations. Common Nighthawk: poor counts of urban populations were 9 Syr, 8 Herkimer, 6 Utica, 3 Rome, 2 Oswego. Chimney Swift: average numbers on most BBSs, but no Jun count above 12 per day. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1-4 per day in most areas—low. Belted Kingfisher: usually 1-4 per day; max 8 Jun 3 Eaton. Yellow-shafted Flicker: average numbers on BBSs. Pileated Woodpecker: only 9 sites, 2 Adir, 2 L Ont basin, plus Stockbridge, Holland Patent, Marcy, TRGMA, and Cedarvale near Marcellus. Red-bellied Woodpecker: only 2 reports, but both new eastern sites—Lewis Pt Rd near S Bay and Clinton. Red-headed Woodpecker: dep Jun 14, 1 DH; 16 birds at 9 sites—3 on L Ont shore, 2 in S Onon Co, plus Oneida, Moh, New Hartford, Cedarville, and Eaton. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: down on both Adir BBSs but up on Oriskany Falls BBS; 27 Jul 9 Otto is more than usual on that route. Hairy Woodpecker and Downy Woodpecker: average numbers on BBSs.

Eastern Kingbird: dep Jun 3, 3 DH; generally stable or increasing on higher-elevation BBSs while decreasing on lowlands ones. Great Crested Flycatcher: average on most BBSs but highest ever noted on N Victory and Pulaski, both in L Ont basin. Eastern Phoebe: average on most BBSs but up on the 2 northernmost and down on the 2 southernmost. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 4 Jun 2 L Ont areas; dep Jun 3, 1 DH; 2 breeding sites, Big Moose and Five Ponds area in N Herkimer Co. Traill's Flycatcher: requests for indication of song type are not always answered, but only those records which were so indicated are summarized here—"fitzbew" 9 Moh,

6 N Victory BBS, 5 Jun 4 L Ont areas and 2 Jul 25 TRGMA are low for recent years; "webeo" 5 Jun 4 THP, 9 Pulaski BBS, 2 Kasoag BBS, 2 Oriskany Falls BBS, 2 Jul 25 TRGMA and 2 Jul 12 Pumpkin Hollow near Marcellus is about average. Least Flycatcher: generally stable or increasing on BBSs; 82 Otto is up from last year. Eastern Wood Pewee: increasing on most BBSs and dropping on none. Olive-sided Flycatcher: reported from 2 Adir areas, 4 in the Big Moose-Stillwater Reservoir area and 2 at Five Ponds. Horned Lark: very scarce this summer — max 4 L Ont areas, and singles only from Kasoag BBS, HIGMA, SRF, Woodman Pond area near Eaton — the *only* other reports.

Tree Swallow: generally stable on BBSs but absent from NPT in Jul and Aug and low early flocking counts elsewhere — 60–80 per day in mid-Jul from L Ont, Oneida L, SRF, and Marcy; period max Aug 10–13 only 150 at Marcy, 200 SRF, 300 L Ont. Bank Swallow: apparently no colony counts were made this summer; at SP many pairs were able to initiate nest construction as the higher L Ont levels resulted in severe undercutting of the higher dunes, but most nests apparently failed to fledge young because the same undercutting eventually caused the collapse of most nest chambers. Rough-winged Swallow: max 18 Alder Creek BBS, 12 Eaton, and 9 Moh; otherwise only 1–6 per day from SRF, near S Onon, Cam, 1 Oneida L site, and 8 L Ont sites. Barn Swallow: found at 2 shale-cliff breeding sites with 5 nests at NM and 9 nests at Ninemile Pt, the latter previously checked for nests but none ever found before; numbers stable or increased on all BBSs except N Victory where it was lowest ever. Cliff Swallow: 2 barns with nests in Holland Patent area, 2 sites near Mexico with 1 and 5 nests, and 3 nests on a barn near Bridgeport (Oneida L S shore colonies are unusual) are the only colonies reported. Purple Martin: on Oneida L N shore Jul 30, 90 martin houses were estimated to contain 114 pairs, contrasted with 740 pairs estimated, using the same methods, in 54 houses in the same area Jul 27 and Aug 4, 1963 (*Kingbird* XIV:2 "An Oneida Lake Purple Martin census") and it is unlikely that this year Purple Martins had left the houses before the census date, as few flocks away from the houses were noted in the vicinity; there is insufficient data to tell whether L Ont population was up or down.

Blue Jty: 17 Jun 14 DH, not necessarily a true dep since it was the last date of the regular migration watch; stable on BBSs. Common Crow: stable or up on all BBSs. Black-capped Chickadee: stable or up on 7 BBSs but seems down on N Wilmurt and N Victory; 24 Jul 30 SP, SSSP, and 18 Jul 23 Georgetown are good. White-breasted Nuthatch: stable or up on 7 BBSs. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Jul 22 Five Ponds is best count of period with 1–2 per day otherwise. Brown Creeper: max 5 Jul 22 Five Ponds with no other count above 2 per day. House Wren: high on most BBSs, i.e. N Wilmurt, Alder Creek, Pulaski, Oriskany Falls, N Victory, and stable or down on the others. Winter Wren: 8 Old Forge BBS and 8 Jul 22 Five Ponds is average; 2 interesting lowland locations are Cam and near Minetto. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1–2 per day from 8 widespread sites; also 5 PSS, 7 Moh, and 10 FH — low. Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1–2 Jul 20–29 Toad Harbor near W Monroe and 1 Aug 12 near Fernwood, only reports, in contrast with last year.

Mockingbird: 3 singles, at Syr, NPT, and Deerfield. Catbird: peculiar population trends — lowest ever on Kasoag and N Victory BBSs, but highest ever on Alder Creek, Pulaski, and Oneida BBSs. Brown Thrasher: stable on most BBSs but highest ever on N Wilmurt with 16, indicating the species' increase in certain THP and Adir habitats. Robin: stable or up on most BBSs. Wood Thrush: stable or up on most BBSs; up especially on Alder Creek where 42 is almost double any previous count. Hermit Thrush: stable or somewhat up on most BBSs, with 2 on Pulaski the 1st there; 6 Otto is good. Swainson's Thrush: numbers twice normal on N Wilmurt BBS and Otto. Gray-cheeked Thrush: dep Jun 4 Shore Oaks near Ninemile Pt (PAD) record late. Veery: stable on most BBSs; 31 Otto is about average. Eastern Bluebird: 19 fledged Eaton area, but only 1–2 adults noted Dart L, near Holland

Patent, DH, Pleasant Point near Demster, near Colosse, and NPT, only sites.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: in W part of region, 11 territorial birds in about 5 miles of Old Erie Canal from Memphis E to Amboy in late May and 2 S Cam; eastern reports few but numbers better than ever with 4 Moh and 7 Jacksonburg — only 2nd summer report E of Utica. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1–2 per day THP and Adir areas; max 40 Jul 22 Five Ponds is very high. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 Old Forge BBS and 1 Jul 22 Five Ponds were only reports. Water Pipit: dep Jun 4 ,2 NM (PAD et al) record late. Cedar Waxwing: 800 Jun 14 DH indicates large numbers still passing on the last date of regular coverage there; counts in Aug of 16 at Marcy and 45 NPT indicate breeding populations. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Jun 25 near Fruit Valley was only report. Starling: 70 Jun 4 DH was the last significant group of migrants; stable on BBSs.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: usually 1–2 per site from low country and THP; best counts 6 Moh and 8 Otto — note max is in THP! Solitary Vireo: Adir max 10 Jul 22 Five Ponds; THP max 3 Otto. Red-eyed Vireo: stable or up on all BBSs. Warbling Vireo: stable or up on most BBSs; interesting Dart L report of 3 Jun 11 and 1 Jun 30; 45 Moh is high.

Black-and-white Warbler: up on Old Forge and N Wilmurt BBSs; 2 low-country locations are near Colosse and Rainbow Shores near SP. Golden-winged Warbler: stable on BBSs; 3 at each of 2 L Ont sites, 1 near FH and the other near Fruit Valley. Blue-winged Warbler: 1–2 per day in previously known locations. Brewster's Warbler: 2 birds reported. Nashville Warbler: continued increase on N Wilmurt BBS with 15, the period max; 1 interesting low-country report near Volney — the species is scarce in the low country even with appropriate habitat. Parula Warbler: 6 Old Forge BBS and most other summer reports from that vicinity with max 9 Jun 30 Dart L. Yellow Warbler: very dynamic species with 3 eastern BBSs, Alder Creek, Oneida, Oriskany Falls, below normal, and 4 western surveys strikingly up, registering highest or 2nd highest tallies since they began. Magnolia Warbler: stable on BBSs; max 16 Jul 22 Five Ponds. Black-throated Blue Warbler: up on Old Forge and N Wilmurt BBSs; 22 Otto is average. Myrtle Warbler: up on Old Forge and N Wilmurt BBSs; max 13 Jul 22 Five Ponds. Black-throated Green Warbler: 23 Otto and 22 Old Forge BBS are best counts. Cerulean Warbler: max 16 Jun 5 Old Erie Canal near Warners and 7 Jun 3 Cam; 1 Jul 12 Pumpkin Hollow is interesting as it hadn't been noted there since the mid-fifties and may be related to the unusually high water there. Blackburnian Warbler: dep Jun 2, 1 DH; seems stable on BBSs but there are probably too few to be able to notice a trend; 8 Otto is less than half last year's tally; 1 notable low-country report is 1 Clinton BBS. Chestnut-sided Warbler: stable on BBSs. Blackpoll Warbler: dep Jun 14, 1 DH. Pine Warbler: probably bred at SSSP — 1 imm there Jul 30 (FGS); 1 singing male Jun 11 SP (PAD) was not found on the 28th.

Ovenbird: up on N Wilmurt, Kasoag, and Oneida BBSs and stable on the others. Northern Waterthrush: few reports and low numbers — 4 Otto, 3 near Minetto, 2 Lewis Pt Rd, 1 near Colosse, and 1 Rainbow Shores. Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from only 4 sites — Onon Hill with 2 adults and 1 young, Peppermill Gulf near S Onon with 1 adult feeding 2 young, Pratts Falls near Pompey Center, and Frankfort Gorge; not found at recently active sites — Perryville, Cowles Rd near Fabius, Fellows Falls near Vesper, and Cedarvale. Mourning Warbler: 22 Otto is much better than last year there, but usually less than 5 per day elsewhere. Yellow-throat: down on most lowlands BBSs, but up on THP and Oriskany Falls BBSs; only 26 Moh. Hooded Warbler: reported from Otto, near Lycoming, and Shore Oaks. Wilson's Warbler: dep Jun 2, 1 DH. Canada Warbler: only BBS to record it was N Wilmurt were 10 was the highest ever; only 5 Otto. American Redstart: dep Jun 14, 2 DH (GAS) very late; highest ever on N Wilmurt, Kasoag, and Oneida BBSs.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: peculiar trends—stable on 3 BBSs, Oneida, Pulaski, and Oriskany Falls, low on Kasoag, Alder Creek, N Victory, and Clinton, the latter 2 lowest ever for those routes, but highest ever on N Wilmurt. Eastern Meadowlark: highest ever on N Victory BBS, but low on N Wilmurt, Kasoag, Oneida, Clinton, and Oriskany Falls, the latter 4 lowest ever. Redwinged Blackbird: highest ever on Aller Creek, Oneida, Pulaski, and Clinton BBSs, and good numbers on N Victory. Baltimore Oriole: stable on most BBSs but high on N Wilmurt and Kasoag. Rusty Blackbird: dep June 2, 2 Demester Beach (MSR) record late. Common Grackle: highest ever on N Wilmurt, Kasoag, and Oneida BBSs and good numbers on Clinton. Brown-headed Cowbird: stable on most BBSs but lowest ever on Clinton and high on Kasoag. Scarlet Tanager: seems stable on BBSs; 11 Jul 16 Rome Sand Plains.

Cardinal: stable on BBSs. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: stable on most BBSs but high on Pulaski and Oriskany Falls. Indigo Bunting: stable or somewhat down on BBSs; 48 Moh is by far the best summer count. Evening Grosbeak: 12 Jul 22 Five Ponds and 10 Aug 14 Dart L are the only counts over 1 per day; reported only from Adir. Purple Finch: Adir max 20 Aug 14 Dart L; 1-8 per day elsewhere. House Finch: a pair Jun 13-Jul 15, and another male to Jun 8 at 2 Syr sites. American Goldfinch: 94 Jun 14 DH, the last date of regular migration watch; a survey in NPT showed successful fledging to be about 75%—21 nests with at least 103 eggs fledged 74 young (DWC). Red Crossbill: no May or Jun reports but the following—2 Jul 16 Rome Sand Plains, 2 Jul 22 Five Ponds, 1 dead male Jul 29 downtown Utica, 13 Aug 4 near Colosse—indicate the potential of a heavy fall migration or winter incursion.

Rufous-sided Towhee: stable on most BBSs and up on Kasoag and Alder Creek. Savannah Sparrow: stable on most BBSs but highest ever on Pulaski and Oriskany Falls. Grasshopper Sparrow: 1-2 at 10 lowlands sites, 4 NPT, and 2 THP sites. Henslow's Sparrow: 1-2 from 7 low country sites. Vesper Sparrow: low on most BBSs but numbers have been too low for much reliability; max 4 Kasoag BBS. Slate-colored Junco: max 16 Otto, 6 Jul 22 Five Ponds, and 7 Jun 11 Dart L. Chipping Sparrow: stable or up on most BBSs, and especially high on Kasoag, N Victory, and Oriskany Falls. Field Sparrow: stable on higher-elevation BBSs and highest ever on N Victory, Clinton, and Oriskany Falls—probably related to the trend of farm abandonment in these areas. White-throated Sparrow: stable on higher-elevation BBSs but none noted on Oneida or Pulaski where it usually occurs in small numbers; newly noted 1 Jun 14 and Jul 20 Cedarville where however it is to be expected in the high-elevation coniferous swamp. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1-3 per day at N Webb Twp sites. Swamp Sparrow: 19 Moh is the only decent count; species seems low. Song Sparrow: stable on most BBSs.

242 West Calthrop Ave., Syracuse 13205

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

The summer of 1972 was a very wet one. Hurricane Agnes as well as other storms accounted for rainfall exceeding 8 and 9 inches total rainfall for the month of July at some locations in the Region.

Temperatures for the period were below average and bright sunny days seemed few and far between.

Abbreviations: DH—Dry Hill; PP—Point Peninsula; PRWMA—Perch River

Wildlife Management Area; WBS—Westcott Beach State Park; WGS—Whetstone Gulf State Park.

Observers: LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank Clinch; RW—Robert and June Walker; MW—Mark Wolfe.

LOONS—DUCKS: *LEAST BITTERN*: June 3 PRWMA (MW). Canada Goose: about 90 goslings produced this year PRWMA (LC). Mallard: many, many young produced, probably due to abundant standing water this year which provided many nesting areas. Black Duck: very few successful nestings in area. Blue-winged Teal: local nesting success fairly high. Wood Duck: good reports on local nesting success.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 5 August 4, 2 adults & 3 immatures, Henderson area. Sparrow Hawk: in greater numbers than previous 3 years. Ruffed Grouse: increasing in some areas over previous years' populations. Gray Partridge: extremely low numbers, nesting success very spotty probably reflective of previous winters and wet spring conditions. Mourning Dove: very abundant this year. *MONK PARAKEET*: 1 adult June 18 and June 20 flying over Watertown Fairgrounds around 7 P.M. (MW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: June 21 (FC), July 17 DH (RW). Black-billed Cuckoo: 2 July 16 PP (RW). *BARN OWL*: 3 August 11, 1 adult, 2 immature, near Alexandria Bay (FC), first breeding record in Region. Screech Owl: heard on different dates throughout period in Henderson area. Great Horned Owl: heard throughout period.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLINGS: Whip-poor-will: heard in Theresa area throughout period. Red-headed Woodpecker: up to 6 in Henderson area, other sightings at WSP (RW), PRWMA (MW); numbers are up and more immatures are evident. Trail's Flycatcher: 6 June 3 WGS (RW). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 3 June 3 WGS (RW).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: *CLAY-COLORED SPARROW*: 2 June 3 WGS (RW).

Star Route, Adams, New York, 13605

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

June was an extremely wet month with rain on all but six days. On the 11th there was some snow at low elevations but above 4000 feet it accumulated as much as one to two inches. On the 15th and 22nd the wind reached forty miles per hour. July was the wettest in fifteen years here with twenty-six days of rain including over two inches on the night of the twenty-second. Highest winds were fifty miles per hour with the July 24 thunderstorms. August was near normal with some sun and a mean average temperature of 60.7 degrees. Our area was spared the devastation experienced this summer in other sections of the state, yet it was a wet nesting season.

Observers: JB—John Bull; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; DC—Dorothy Crumb; PD—Paul DeBenedictis; EH—Elizabeth Hedges; AJ—Alice Jones; FL—Ferdinand LaFrance; TM—Ted Mack; HM—Helen Manson; RM—Ruth Meier; RMc—Robert McKinney; WR—William Rutherford; FS—Fritz Scheider.

Abbreviations: Bl—Bloomingdale; BTP—Brown's Tract Ponds; E'town—Elizabethtown; Ind L—Indian Lake; L—Lake; LP—Lake Placid; Mad—Madawaska; MRP—Moose River Plains; New—Newcomb Breeding Bird Survey, Alice Jones and Helen Manson; P—Pond; PS—Paul Smiths; Raq L—Raquette Lake; Spec—Specu-

lator Breeding Bird Survey, Dorothy McIlroy and Fritz Scheider; TL—Tupper Lake; Und—Underwood Breeding Bird Survey, Alice Jones and Helen Manson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 Jun 10 Little TL (RMc); 2 Jun 17 St Regis P (WR); 1 Jul 15 Upper Saranac L (RM); 1 Aug 12 Raq L (EH). Great Blue Heron: 1 Jun 17 St Regis P (WR). Green Heron: 2 Jun 28 Und (AJ,HM). American Bittern: 1 Jun 17 St Regis P (WR). Mallard: 12 Jul 6 Ind L (RMc); 1 Jul 7 Mad (RMc). Black Duck: 2 Jun 10 Little TL (RMc); 4 Aug 15 Raq L (EH). Green-winged Teal: 1 male Jun 9 Ray Brook (GC); 2 Jun 29 New (AJ, HM); this is an unusual bird in these locations. Blue-winged Teal: 1 male thru Jun E'town (GC). Wood Duck: 2 Jul 6 Ind L (RMc). Ring-necked Duck: 6 Jun 10 TL (RMc); 1 Jul 7 TL (RMc). Common Merganser: about 20 Aug Piseco L (DM); 17 Aug Goodnow Flow (TM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 1 Jul 22 Raq L (EH). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Jun 12 MRP (RMc). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Jun 11 Ind L (RMc); 1 Jun 24 LP (GC). Red-tailed Hawk: 1 Jul 2 BTP (JB,FL). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Jun 3 BTP (PD); 1 Jun 28 Und (AJ,HM); 2 Aug 15 Raq L (EH). Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Jun 11 Ind L (RMc); 1 Jun 19 Saranac L (TM); 1 Jul BTP (JB,FL); 1 Jul 6 Ind L (RMc). Osprey: 1 Jun 5 Jones P (TM); 1 Jun 11 Upper St Regis L (TM). Sparrow Hawk: 1 Jul 7 Mad (RMc). Spruce Grouse: 1 Jul 7 Mad (RMc). Ruffed Grouse: widely reported including immatures. Sora: 1 Jun 9 Ray Brook (GC); 1 Jul 11 E'town (GC). Killdeer: 2 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM). American Woodcock: 2 Jun 9 Bl (TM). Common Snipe: 1 Jun 10 TL (RMc). Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 1 Jun 3 BTP (PD,FL). Herring Gull: 3 Jul 11 Essex (GC); 2 Jul 22 Raq L (EH). Ring-billed Gull: 1 Jun 10 TL (RMc); 1 Jul 6 Ind L (RMc); 1 Jul 7 TL (RMc). Black Tern: 2 Jul 7 TL (RMc). Mourning Dove: not reported. Black-billed Cuckoo: 4 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 1 Jul 16 TL (RM). Great Horned Owl: no reports. Barred Owl: fewer reports than usual. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Jun 9 Bl (TM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: not reported. Chimney Swift: widely reported. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Jun 3 BTP (PD); 1 Jul 8 Ind L (RMc). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: common but numbers down from last year. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: male and female at nest Jun 3 BTP (PD,FL); 1 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM). *NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER*: 1 Jun 10 Chubb River Swamp (Bob Walker) no details; 5 (2 pair, one with young) Jul 1 and 2 BTP (JB,FL). Eastern Kingbird: 6 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 6 Jun 28 Und (AJ,HM); 4 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM). Great Crested Flycatcher: about half as many as last year. Eastern Phoebe: max 11 Jun 28 Und (AJ,HM). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 10 Jun 3BT P(PD). Trail's Flycatcher: max 6 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). Least Flycatcher: max 26 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS).

Eastern Wood Pewee: max 4 Jun 11 Ind L (RMc). Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 3 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). Horned Lark: DM reports that E. P. Wheeler had one on fresh garden dirt at Blue Mtn L on the very late date of Jun 27. Rough-winged Swallow: 1 Jun 10 Saranac River (RMc). Cliff Swallow: numbers down. Gray Jay: 1 Jun 3 BTP (PD,FL); 1 Jul 7 Mad (RMc). Boreal Chickadee: 1 Jun 3 BTP (PD); 2 Jul 2 BTP (JB,FL). Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 Jul 6 Ind L (RMc). Brown Creeper: 3 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 3 Jun 3 BTP (PD,FL). House Wren: fairly common, especially in southern sections and about villages. Winter Wren: max 14 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM). Brown Thrasher: max 6 Jun 11 Ind L (RMc). max 14 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM). Brown Thrasher: max 6 Jun 11 Ind L (RMc). Robin: max 129 Jun 28 Und (AJ,HM). Wood Thrush: max 33 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 33 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM). Hermit Thrush: max 6 Jul 2 BTP (JB,FL). Swainson's Thrush: max 7 Jul 2 BTP (JB,FL). Veery: max 54 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). Eastern Bluebird: 4 Jun 28 Und (AJ,HM); 1 Jul 6 Ind L (RMc); 1 Jul 7 Mad (RMc).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 3 Jun 6 Coreys (RMc). Cedar Wax-wing: max 48 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: 2 to 3 a day in most areas; down from last year. Red-eyed Vireo: max 63 Spec (DM,FS), down 18 from same census last year. Warbling Vireo: 1 Jun 28 Und (AJ,HM). Black-and-white Warbler: max 8 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS), down 7 from last year; 8 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM). Nashville Warbler: 4 or 5 around most bogs. Parula Warbler: 3 Jun 3 BTP (PD); 2 Jul 1 BTP (JB,FL); 1 Jul 6 Ind L (RMc). Magnolia Warbler: max 15 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 11 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). Myrtle Warbler: numbers seem to be about half that of last year. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 7 Jul 2 BTP (JB,FL). Blackburnian Warbler: max 11 Spec Jun 2 (DM,FS). Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 39 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 16 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM). Blackpoll Warbler: 1 late migrant Jun 3 BTP (PD). Ovenbird: max 36 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). Northern Waterthrush: max 11 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). Mourning Warbler: max 7 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). Yellowthroat: max 28 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). Canada Warbler: max 23 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS). American Redstart: max 44 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Boblinks: several Jul 7 L P (RMc). Baltimore Oriole: 10 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 2 Jun 28 Und (AJ,HM); 1 Jun 29 New (AJ, HM); 1 Aug 5 TL (RM). Rusty Blackbird: 2 Jun 3 BTP (PD,FL); 1 Jun 28 Und (AJ,HM); 4 Jul 2 BTP (JB,FL). Scarlet Tanager: 9 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 10 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM); 8 Jul 6 Ind L (RMc). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common. Indigo Bunting: 1 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM); 1 Jul 12 TL (RM). Evening Grosbeak: 2 adults feeding 4 young Jul 6 Ind L (RMc); several nesting pairs brought young to feeder Jul 8-30 TL (RM). Purple Finch: 20 to 30 mature and immature at feeder Aug TL (RM). Pine Siskin: 3 Jun 2 Spec (DM,FS); 2 Jul 6 Cedar River (RMc). Red Crossbill: quite a few all summer in central and northern areas. Field Sparrow: 1 or 2 on most counts. White-throated Sparrow: max 42 Jun 29 New (AJ,HM). Lincoln's Sparrow: 7 Jun 3 BTP (PD,FL); 4 Jul 1 BTP (JB,FL).

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REGION 8 HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD E. PHILION

The month of June was unusually wet as anyone who experienced the havoc caused by hurricane Agnes can testify. Luckily Region 8 escaped the extensive flooding of the lower Hudson valley, yet rain fell on 17 days of the month for a total of 6.84 inches or 3.59 inches above normal. No major flooding occurred in the upper Hudson valley, but ponds, lakes and river beds were filled to the brim making life for the shorebirds difficult indeed.

Low temperature records for the date were set on the 11th and 12th with 37° and 38° respectively and the mean deviation from normal was -3.7° for the month of June. About normal rainfall fell during the month of July (3.10 inches) with a spate of hot weather occurring on the 12th, 15th and 19th (91°). Less than an inch of rain fell the first half of August but water levels were still above normal.

Seven breeding bird surveys a massed a total of 95 species for the period same as last year save for an exotic cage bird (*Agopornis Pullaria*) which found its way into the field reports. Population declines were noticeable among the Starlings (60%), House Sparrow (40%) and Grackles (30%). Mockingbirds appear to be more scarce than last year while Black-billed Cuckoo reports were encouraging especially after being absent in the spring report.

Highlights for the period were the flocks of Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills that apparently nested in the Jenny Lake region for the first time in several years.

Observers: GE—G. Erlenback; WG—W. Gorman; REP—R. E. Phillion; WBS—W. B. Sabin; B&HT—B & H Tullar; RPY—R. P. Yunik.

Abbreviations: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; BBC—Breeding Bird Census; HMBC—Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; WSL—West Sand Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: thru period Columbia Co (ADBC). Great Blue Heron: 1 reported Jul and Aug Columbia Co (ADBC). Green Heron: 4 Jun 18 Salem BBC; 2 Jun 20 Cobleskill BBC. American Bittern: 1 Jun 18 Salem BBC; 1 Jul 1 No River BBC. Canada Goose: 1 adult with 3 goslings Jun 8 Tunnel Hill Pond and 1 Jun 12 Chatham (B&HT); Canada Geese nesting in our area may be originating from stock released by Delmar Game Farm. Mallard: max 4 Jun 17 No Easton BBC. Black Duck: seen in usual locations. Blue-winged Teal: reported Jul and Aug Columbia Co (ADBC). Wood Duck: max 4 Jun 18 Salem BBC.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Jun 22 Johnsonville (Dorothy Crumb); scattered reports thru period (ADBC). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Aug 15 N Bethlehem (WBS). Red-tailed Hawk: 2 Jun 20 Cobleskill BBC and 1 Jun 20 Duanesburg BBC. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Jun 18 Salem BBC; 1 Aug 13 Black Mtn. (REP). Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Jun 20 Cobleskill BBC; 1 Jul 1 Petersburg BBC. Sparrow Hawk: max 5 Jun 18 Salem BBC. American Woodcock: 1 freshly killed Aug 7 WSL (REP). Common Shipe: 3 Jul 16 Reichard's Lake (REP). Upland Plover: 2 Jun 7 Duanesburg BBC. Spotted Sandpiper: 2 Jun 17 Easton BBC. Mourning Doves: abundant on BBC's. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: no reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: 3 Jun 7 Duanesburg BBC; 2 Jun 17 Easton BBC; 4 Jun 18 Salem BBC; 1 Jun 20 Cobleskill BBC. Screech Owl: 1 Aug 6 E Greenbush (WG). Great Horned Owl: 1 report in Jun ADBC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Chimney Swift: max 18 Jun 20 Cobleskill BBC. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one reported on BBC's, yet scattered reports from ADBC and HMBC members. *PARAKEET*: a small greenish bird with red face seen feeding with grackles best fit description given of "*Agorpornis Pullaria*" better known as "Red-headed Love Bird" No Easton (WG). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: no reports Eastern Wood Pewee: max 13 Jun 17 Easton BBC. Cliff Swallow: 7 Jul 1 No River BBC; 2 Jul 4 Warrensburg BBC; fl m 10 Aug 6 Tomhannock Res (REP). Purple Martin: only report 4 Jun 17 Easton BBC. House Wren: max 18 Jun 20 Cobleskill BBC. Mockingbird: only report for period 1 Jun 17 Easton BBC. Hermit Thrush: 1 Jul 4 Warrensburg BBC. Swainson's Thrush: 1 Jul 1 and 1 Jul 4 No River and Warrensburg BBC's. Veery: max 36 Jul 4 Warrensburg BBC. Eastern Bluebird: 1 Jul 4 Warrensburg BBC. Cedar Waxwing: scattered reports thru region, 8 Jul 1 No River BBC; 6 Salem BBC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 Jun 17 No Easton BBC; 1 Jul 4 Warrensburg BBC.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: 2 Jul 1 Petersburg BBC; 1 Jul 4 Warrensburg BBC. Golden-winged Warbler: 1 Jun 7 Duanesburg BBC; 1 Jul 1 Petersburg BBC. Worm-eating Warbler: 1 Jul 1 Petersburg BBC; 1 Jun 2 Ghent (GE). Blue-winged Warbler: 1 Jun 7 Duanesburg BBC. Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Jun 20 Cobleskill BBC. Mourning Warbler: 3 Jul 1 Petersburg BBC.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: max 49 Jun 7 Duanesburg BBC. Eastern Meadowlark: max 41 Jun 7 Duanesburg BBC. Redwinged Blackbird: slight increase over last year. Orchard Oriole: 1 Jun 18 Chatham believed to be first report from this location (H&BT). Baltimore Oriole: max 11 Jun 7 Duanesburg BBC. Indigo Bunting: max 5 Jun 17 Easton BBC. Evening Grosbeak: "scarcer than last year. Only 3 banded in July vs 21 in July—August '71. Last Jul 30 and departed quickly after young came to feeder" Jenny Lake (RPY). Purple Finch: fewer in

number than last year; 233 banded in month of July and 113 to Aug 15 Jenny Lake (RPY). Pine Siskin: apparently bred locally; first young seen at feeder Jul 6; 10 banded to Jul 15 then disappeared—Jenny Lake (RPY). *RED CROSSBILL*: flocks of 5-15 heard and seen thru Jun and Jul feeding on spruces in Jenny Lake area—scarce by mid Aug (RPY). Savannah Sparrow: max 18 Jun 7 Duaneburg BBC. Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Jun 17 Easton BBC.

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

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Spring continued to its end on the wet and cool side. June precipitation exceeded nine inches which is over double the mean average for that month in Ulster Co. July was dry, with slightly less than normal rainfall. There was a little over three and one half inches. Temperatures averaged near normal. The first half of August was very dry except for some shower activity in the Catskill Mountains.

The spring migration was prolonged well into June, and there was ample evidence that the cool wet weather of that month took its toll on some of the insectivores and young. Tree Swallows seemed to suffer as well as bluebirds. The Monk Parakeet continues to spread, and should pick up impetus in a few years unless something is done about it. There is ample evidence that it will be a serious pest with its love for crop plants. One can only hope that the state and national authorities are aware of this proliferating invader, and will do something about it while there is still time.

Observers cited: EB—Enid Butler; MB—Martin Borko; MBC—Mearns Bird Club; WBC—Waterman Bird Club; RD—Robert F. Deed; DG—Dick Guthrie; FH—Fred Hough; WH—William Howe; PJ—Paul Heheber; J,MK—Jim & Mary Key; AM—Al Merritt; HM—Helen Manson; JO—Jack Orth; EP—Eleanor Pink; SCAS—Sullivan Co. Audubon Society; W,TS—William & Trixie Strauss; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; MVW—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: usually unreported in summer; 1 June 6 Rhinebeck (DG). Double-crested Cormorant: 5 Crugers Is June 16 (DG); on 3 visits to Piermont Pier from mid-July to end of period. Bob Deed found not one, unusual for the lower Hudson. Great Blue Heron: Dutch rookery active as in past; 14 nests used; heavy rains made water levels impossible to approach; other scattered reports thru that Co; max in Cornwall area 6 on Aug 14. *CATTLE EGRET*: 1 Salt Point, Dutch June 12; another South Plank Rd, Town of Minisink, Oran June 4. Snowy Egret: 6 Cornwall-on-Hudson Jul 24; reduced to 4 at the end of period (PJ); 1 Croton Point Jul 28; inc to 11 by Aug 15. *LOUISIANA HERON*: rarely reported; 1 Aug 6 Ridge Rd, Town of Hamptonburgh, Oran (RD); another Aug 8 to 12 at Cornwall-on-Hudson (PJ). *YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON*: 1 imm in S P'kpsie Aug 10-16 (M,JK). Least Bittern: calling regularly at Thompson Pd, Dutch Jul 4 (OW); usual nesting numbers at Moodna Marsh, Cornwall thru end of period. American Bittern: reports from Amenia and Thompson Pd (W,TS). Canada Goose: usual nesters thru region; young seem down in numbers by end of period. Green-winged Teal: not expected in summer; 4 Cornwall Bay Aug 10 (AM); 3 Croton Pt Aug 14 (WH). Blue-winged Teal: very uncommon breeder; 1 Croton Pt Aug 14. Wood Duck: no marked change; good some areas and poor others. *RING-NECKED DUCK*: 1 male Thompson Pd June 6 (Elting Arnold); a pr was there thru May. Canvasback: 1 male June 16 Crugers Is (DG).

HAWKS—OWLS: most breeding raptors normal. Turkey Vulture: up to 11 at Stissing Mt, Dutch regularly. *BALD EAGLE*: 1 imm at Rondout Res, Sull Jul 1 (Valerie Freer); 1 ad Mongaup Res Aug 12 (SCAS). Ruffed Grouse: numbers down

in Ulst (FH); normal to less elsewhere. Bobwhite: completely unreported. Turkey: 1 hen with 7 imm Jul 30 Wurtsboro (Arlene Borko); another hen with 6 imm at nearby Bashakill Aug 8-11, could be the same group. Virginia Rail: usual reports from Amenia (W,TS). Semipalmated Plover: only report 1 Croton Pt Aug 14-15 (WH). Black-bellied Plover: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug 14; and another Croton Pt same date. Ruddy Turnstone: 3 Cornwall Bay Aug 8-9. Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Croton Pt Aug 2 and Aug 14; another Cornwall Bay Aug 10. Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Croton Pt Aug 14. Least Sandpiper: 2 Jul 29 in Dutch; 1 Cornwall Bay Aug 10; and 5 Croton Pt Aug 15. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 1 Croton Pt June 1; 150 there on Aug 2; 100 on Aug 14. Sanderling: Cornwall Bay 1 Aug 7. Great Black-backed Gull: 50 or more near Piermont Pier Aug 12; far outnumbered any other species in the area. Laughing Gull: unreported from the mid-Hudson area until mid-Aug, and then the majority were imm. Terns: also absent from the lower Hudson thru Jul and early Aug; 1 Common Tern at Cornwall Aug 8-9. Caspian Tern: 1 Cornwall Bay Jul 7 (EDT). Mourning Dove: numbers continue high. *MONK PARAKEET*: continues to spread; first Oran record at Buttonwood Tree Farm, Hamptonburgh, Aug 6 (RD); 2 Aug 13 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lynam, Green Haven, Dutch (opposite Stormville Airport), they had been there since Aug 8, feeding on sweet corn (M,JK; HM). Cuckoo: continues scarce, but somewhat improved from lows of last spring. Owls: usual few reports, and perhaps a few more. Great Horned Owl: resident near the home of JO at Wawarsing. Saw Whet Owl: heard at mid-day on 2 occasions in June on Slide Mt. (FH)

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: last northbound mig reported from Dutch on June 1, 2, 3; first southbound migrants, 2 Aug 14 (EP). Pileated Woodpecker: numbers seem down in the vicinity of Wawarsing; normal in Bear Mt Pk (JO). *RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER*: 2 ad with 3 young at the feeder of Mrs. Arfmann in Ridgebury, Oran (Iris Dean). Red-headed Woodpecker: absent from usual haunt on Ridge R, Town of Hamptonburgh for last 2 years; reappeared there on Jul 29, and again with 2 imm on Aug 6 (RD). Traill's Flycatcher: obs in 2 or 3 new areas of Dutch this season; another at Wawarsing thru period calling "fitz-bew" (JO); a pr at the nest in Moodna Marsh Aug 8 (EDT). Olive-sided Flycatcher: last spring migrant June 2 near Millbrook (MVW). Swallows: WBC reports good numbers of nesting Tree, Barn and Bank with the usual few Rough-wings; they had no known nesting of Cliff Swallow for second summer; no inc in Purple Martins, some former nest sites were abandoned, and 1 or 2 new sites found; Cliff Swallows appeared in expected numbers at Wawarsing after the nesting season had ended. Fish Crow: no reports on the "college birds" of last spring, but at least 1 pr nested at Croton Pt where 8 were found on Jul 28 (WH). Red-breasted Nuthatch: resident at Kripplebush thru nest season (FH), as was the Brown Creeper. Carolina Wren: heard singing in the Creek Locks area of Ulst thru Jul; numbers continue to improve thru region. Mockingbird: at Mohonk Jul 12, first in many years (Dan Smiley). Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 Aug 20 near P'kpsie (M,JK). Eastern Bluebird: Florence Germond's Bluebird nesting project covering a 5 mi radius in central Dutch produced 41 nests of which 18 successfully brought off 70 young, 16 were unsuccessful and 7 unknown; Tree Swallows were no problem since weather delayed their arrival until bluebirds had nested; of those that were unsuccessful, Wrens destroyed a few nests, but most were undisturbed—merely abandoned. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: highest ever in Ulst this year; widely scattered throughout that county. Cedar Waxwing: low numbers of last spring improved greatly by the end of summer; this seems to be a yearly occurrence.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: 1 June 17 Stormville (EB) was the only report. Red-eyed Vireo: less in Ulst but normal elsewhere. Warbling Vireo: 3 pr nested at Croton Pt; 3-4 pr in Pleasantville mostly along Saw Mill River. Warblers: M,JK report last north movement June 3-5; a southern movement re-

ported in Dutch Aug 14 and 20. Nashville Warbler: 1 singing continuously at Mianus Gorge, West June 14 (WH); a nest discovered at Bashakill Jun 3 by MBC contained 4-5 young on Jun 12 (MB). Parula Warbler: 1 Jun 16 Stormville (EB) not known to nest. Cape May Warbler: first Aug 16 at Greenville, Oran (Iris Dean). Blackburnian Warbler: a few nest at higher elevations; 1 Jun 16 Dutch (M,JK). Prairie Warbler: a good year in Dutch; many reports. Pine Warbler: 1 Aug 14-20 Red Oaks Mill, Dutch (M,JK). Waterthrushes: both species nested at Bashakill (MB).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: failed to return to sev expected areas; 1 Jun 11-13 Millbrook was the only summer record. Baltimore Oriole: reported less successful nesting in Ulst (FH). *BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS* 1 ad male Jun 29 at Middletown, feeding on Mulberries, obs about 5 min (Dr. John Tramontano). *EVENING GROSBEAK*: 1 adult male New Paltz Jul 1 first summer record for Ulst (Dr. Robert Pyle). House Finch: continues to spread in numbers and area thru Dutch. *RED CROSSBILL*: 6 young and 4 ad feeding on spruce cones at Glen Spey, Sull Aug 12 (SCAS). Rufous-sided Towhee: nested again on the summit of Slide Mt. (FH). Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 on Cosh Rd, Town of Minisink Jun 4 (EDT). Slate-colored Junco: 1 Harriman sect of Bear Mt Park Jul 20 (Malcolm Gardner). White-throated Sparrow: 1 Jul 24 at Spring Valley (Mrs. Fred Heckel); 2 Mohonk L gave strong indication of nesting (Dan Smiley); 1 singing near Rhinebeck Jun 10 was first record for that month (OW, Florence Germond).

Fall reports due Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Colonial Nesting Data

Hurricane Agnes was the most prominent feature of this year's breeding season. Her high winds and torrential rainfall swept across Long Island during the peak of colonial nesting activity on June 22. Terns were hardest hit of all, as the following shows:

I. Heron Colonies

No reports received.

II. Gull Colonies

1. Northside of Loop Causeway, near Pt. Lookout (TD,DF): Great Black-backed Gull, 1 pr.; Herring Gull, 250-400 prs.
2. Captree State Park (DF): Great Black-backed Gull, 36 prs.; Herring Gull, 2200 prs. — more than double the last 2 years' totals.

III. Tern Colonies

1. Breezy Point, Queens Co. (F. Heath): an early July visit found only about 6 prs. of Commons nesting in an area populated by 1500-2000 prs. the past 2 years. The nesting area "appeared to have recently been breached by high seas."
2. Jones Beach State Park, west end (DF): Common Tern, 200 prs.; Black Skimmer, 30 prs.

3. Jones Beach State Park, along Wantagh Causeway (DF): "150 prs. of Common Terns and 40 prs. of skimmers were completely wiped out by Agnes and a renesting attempt was abandoned, perhaps due to human interference.
4. Cedar Beach (DF): Common Tern, 500 prs.; Roseate Tern, 10 prs.; Least Tern, 15 prs.; Black Skimmer, 100 prs. — "about 70% loss after Agnes, but most renested successfully."
5. Great Gull Island (H. Hays): Common Tern, 2500 prs.; Roseate Tern, 1500 prs. — unchanged from last year.
6. Gardiner's Island (DP): "In early June I counted 246 nests (of Common and Roseate Terns) with eggs on the sandspit at the far end of Bostwick Point. In early July I found the entire colony had been wiped out by high seas resulting from Hurricane Agnes."

Pelagic Incursion

A concentration of baitfish close to shore between Amagansett and Hither Hills State Park from July 22 to August 6 gave land-based observers an unprecedented pelagic bonanza. These small fish (sp.?) appeared to have been driven against this 5 mile stretch of beach by predatory bluefish. A large number of terns and shearwaters followed closely behind. About 3000 terns were in daily attendance, mostly Commons, but including up to about 200 Roseates and 10 Forster's. Four species of shearwaters were noted, with the following maxima — 200 Cory's, 3 Greater, 1 Sooty, and 6 *manx* (on Aug 4 by RK). The Manx were seen daily from July 31 to August 5. They were noted flying by at close range, sitting with flocks of Cory's, and diving for food. Other pelagics noted included up to 6 Wilson's Petrels, 2 sub-adult Gannets on Aug 5, and Parasitic Jaegers (on Aug 4 and 5). Also, over 25 Common Loons were recorded on Aug 5 (RK,TD,PP), by far the highest summer maxima. We are indebted to Richard Koepfel for most of the above observations, while Barbara Spencer, Thomas Davis, and Peter Post contributed many sightings.

Acadian Flycatchers

In the introduction to our 1970 Spring Season Report (20 (3):157) we commented on the unusually high total of 14 Acadian Flycatchers for that period. We hypothesized that this total "might represent a northerly incursion, or could be a regular, but overlooked occurrence during late May — early June on the outer coast." It was the former conjecture that came true this summer, just 2 years later. This season we received reports of 7 Acadian Flycatchers, at least 3 of which were territorial calling birds. Actual nesting activity was noted by one of these 3 birds. The reports were as follows:

May 30 — July 14, Southside Sportsman's Club, Oakdale (BG, et al) — calling territorial bird.

June 6 — mid June, Port Washington (BS, et al) — calling territorial bird.

June 8, Gardiner's Island (DP).

June 12, Millneck (BS).

June 12, Great Gull Island (fide D. Duffy) — netted and banded.

June 20, Sea Cliff (BS).

June 21 — July 9, Noyack (DP) — "on June 21 I had a pair calling in deep, moist woods... one flew into an almost finished nest... I visited the area again on July 1 and 9, and on both occasions both birds were present and calling, but no more work had been done on the nest. I was unable to locate another nest. Presumably, stormy weather subsequent to my first visit resulted in some damage to the nest, which discouraged the birds from further work on it."

According to John Bull's *Birds of the New York Area* (Harper and Row, New York, 1964) the Acadian Flycatcher last bred on Long Island at about 1888. By the turn of the century it had withdrawn from much of its northeastern range. In the New York area it only occasionally bred north of New Jersey's Raritan River until 1970. According to Richard Kane (verb. comm.) Acadians began reoccupying northern New Jersey areas that year, and are still increasing in 1972.

Summer Vagrants

Each summer we receive a number of Passerine reports which cannot be assigned to either migratory season. Whether such records represent lingering, non-breeding birds (e.g., the June 20 Nashville Warbler report), prospective breeders. (e.g. the Chuck-will's-widow report), or physiologically aberrant birds (e.g., the singing White-throated Sparrow, far south of its normal range) is not always clear. Other "stragglers"—perhaps more correctly termed "vagrants"—included in this report are Red-bellied Woodpecker, Parula Warbler, Palm Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill.

Observers frequently cited: DE—David Ewert; DF—Darrel Ford; BG—Bob Giffen; DP—Dennis Puleston; BS—Barbara Spencer.

LOONS—DUCKS: Sooty Shearwater: Jun 2 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (H. Johnson) — storm-blown, first record at this locality. Canada Goose: "the breeding population is increasing on Gardiner's Island. Approximately 500 birds were present on the ponds there following the breeding season." Redhead: Jun 21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (T. Davis) 2 females with broods of 9 and 3. Common Scoter: 4 males Jun 19 on Great South Bay. Hooded Merganser: 1 female Jun 21 and 2 females Aug 8 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (T. Davis).

HAWKS—OWLS: Bald Eagle: Aug 11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (B. and W. Baumann). Osprey: "This has been an extremely bad year for the Osprey on Long Island. From 34 active nests only 5 young have been fledged on Gardiner's Island. Many eggs noted during our May visit had already disappeared or were cracked when checked in early June. In early July Paul Spitzer and I found one nest with a chick that had been blown down by Hurricane Agnes; it is also likely that some chicks died from exposure during the long extended rainy, cold period during the latter half of June. Thin eggshells, however, resulting from the presence of toxic chemicals such as DDT in the parent bird still appear to be the major problem." (DP).

American Oystercatcher: a fledgling was found at Moriches Inlet on Jun 7 (B. Wheeler, et al) — earliest egg date previously published is June 13. Black-necked Stilt: Jun 18 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (H. Johnson, et al) — see Spring report, same bird? Gull-billed Tern: Jul 8–11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (mob); Aug 1 Moriches Inlet (BS). *CABOT'S TERN*: Jun 4–5 Mecox Bay (C. McKeever, DP) — casual in our area, this earliest report. Monk Parakeet: Jun 4 Great Gull Island (fife D. Duffy) — migrating?!

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Chuck-will's-widow: heard calling May 26 Easthampton (R. Koeppl) — "Whips heard nearby." Red-bellied Woodpecker: male Jun 6 Gardiner's Island (DP) — first time recorded here. Traill's Flycatcher: 2 calling birds of the "fitz-bew" song type were noted near Tobaccot Pond at Gardiner's Island on Jun 9 (DP) — a very local breeding species in our Region, previously unrecorded in summer at this locality. Brown Creeper: 8 territorial pairs plus 2 additional singing males, Southside Sportsman's Club (BG, et al). Eastern Bluebird: 9 territorial pairs Southside Sportsman's Club (BG, C. Kessler, et al) — currently the only known breeding concentration on Long Island.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Nashville Warbler: singing bird Jun 20 Oakdale (DE). Parula Warbler: Jun 6 and 26 Oakdale (BG, et al) — singing birds at 2 locales.

Palm Warbler: Jun 3 Fire Island Light (DF) — netted and banded. Kentucky Warbler: 2 singing males Jun 9 Mianus River Gorge (L. Schore, W. Baumann); male Jul 1 Oakdale (J. Wunderle) — will this species follow the Acadian Flycatcher in reestablishing itself as a breeder in our area? Canada Warbler: pair May 30 — June 27 Oakdale (BG,DP) — nesting? (bred here last year).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Summer Tanager: sub-adult male Jun 30 Oakdale (BG); adult male Jul 9 Great Gull Island (fide D. Duffy) — netted and photographed. Evening Grosbeak: male and 4 females Jul 28 Valley Stream (A. Dignan). Red Crossbill: 5 on 23 May Oakdale (BG). White-winged Crossbill: 2 pairs Jun 3-4 Hampton Bays (DF) — unsuccessfully searched for a week later. White-throated Sparrow: singing bird Jun 19-25 Oakdale (DE).

Note: Please submit fall reports by Dec 10.

Thomas H. Davis, 8613 85th Street, Woodhaven, New York 11421

Lee Morgan, 4 Windsor Lane, East Northport, New York 11731

REGIONAL REPORTS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE PUBLISHED IN JULY

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

As in 1971 April was somewhat cooler than average and with less precipitation than usual, again by several inches. Ice again melted from the smaller bodies of water in early April, from Chautauqua Lake by April 12 and from Lake Erie by mid May (early June a year ago). While some migrants filtered through throughout April, the first significant break in the weather and hence the migration was a severe one; early in the evening of May 2 winds from 45 to 65 miles per hour ripped a narrow pathway across southern Erie and Wyoming Counties and tornadoes touched down briefly at South Wales and near Varysburg. Really mild temperatures did not persist until the third week of May so the retarded foliage, particularly in Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties, exposed normally well hidden birds. Temperatures for May were about average but precipitation was again significantly below normal.

Significant points or trends were (1) particularly poor flights of loons and grebes, (2) a mediocre showing of long-legged wading birds, (3) fair to poor numbers and also variety of waterfowl, (4) a protracted hawk flight with few significant counts, (5) another mediocre showing of shorebirds, (6) poor showings of larids and owls again, (7) most insectivorous species were observed from "on schedule" to about one week late, (8) early to average arrival of nearly all vireos and warblers, most of which occurred in moderate to rather small numbers, (9) more Bobolinks and Orchard Orioles than during most years, (10) an excellent variety of winter finches marking the end of a superb flight, (11) high counts of Tree, Fox and Song Sparrows in early April (12) late departure dates for several species, notably Northern Shrike and Tree Sparrow.

Rare species recorded were Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, White-fronted Goose,

Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Dickcissel, House Finch, Clay-colored Sparrow and Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: AC—April Count; Alleg—Allegany; Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; MC—May Count; OO—Oak Orchard.

Contributors: HRA—Harold and Rachel Axtell; AB—Allen Benton; TB—Thomas Bourne; (L)DB—Lou and Doris Burton; DC—Douglas Carlson; JG—Joseph Grzybowski; PH—Paul Hess; HM—Harold Mitchell; JM—John Morse; AR—Archie Richardson; RSM—Robert Sundell; MMW—Marie and Margaret Wendling.

LOONS—DUCKS: The spring flight of Common Loons was late and very limited with a maximum of only 9 on the BOSMC May 21. Reflecting the sparse numbers was the absence of the Red-throated Loon. Rarely noted in Catt or Alleg County, a Red-necked Grebe was reported May 2 and 3 at Wellsville (LDB, Larson). An excellent count of 400 Horned Grebes came from Foster Lake, Alfred Apr 18 (Klingensmith) and offered the exception to an otherwise poor spring flight. A Double-crested Cormorant was noted again this spring at INWR on May 6 (De-laney). A *CATTLE EGRET* was seen Apr 24 (AB,DC) and Apr 25 (RS, Otto and Gretchen Carlson) in Dunkirk Township and 2 were observed Apr 26 at INWR (HRA, PH et al). Two records of the rare *SNOWY EGRET* were received—individuals May 2 in Dunkirk Township (AB) and May 4 on Four Mile Road, Allegany (JG). A Least Bittern Apr 23 at the Tift Street marsh, Bflo (Goodman, Lewandowski et al), a week earlier than normal, provided the earliest ever arrival date.

On the BOSAC Apr 9 72,096 Canada Geese were reported, mostly from the OO refuge complex; by Apr 25 the population had dropped to 30,000, most of which departed with strong winds May 6; on May 9 1600 were seen and by May 15 all migrants had left, leaving a local population of 200 to 300 (JM). The very rare *WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE* was observed again this spring at the INWR with 2 Apr 12 (HRA et al) and singles Apr 14 (JM,PH) and Apr 16 (HRA et al). Peak numbers of the Snow Goose were 9 on the BOSAC Apr 9 and of the Blue Goose, 14 on the same date, both from the OO refuge complex. Single male European Widgeons were seen Apr 3 at the East Eden pond (TB) and May 21 (late) at the INWR (Wagner). An exceptionally high count of the Bufflehead was 3153 on the region-wide BOSAC Apr 9 (more than four times the 1961-70 average for this count). Ruddy Ducks were sparsely but widely distributed throughout the region in somewhat larger numbers than in recent years; the maximum was 17 on the BOSAC Apr 9. Nearly all other waterfowl numbers appeared moderate to low.

HAWKS—OWLS: Hawks (apparently) mostly slipped through unobserved and the numbers generally were the lowest in several years. The rarely reported Goshawk was observed Apr 1 at Ellicottville (JG) and an adult at a nest near Charlotte, Chaut County Apr 7 and 9 (JG) establishing the fifth breeding site in western New York. Sharp-shinned Hawks provided the only exception to the small numbers mentioned above with peak counts of 118 over Youngstown Apr 12 (W. and H. Klabunde), 63 over Hanover Apr 15 (HRA et al) and 101 from Youngstown to Kuckville Apr 19 (HRA). The peak of the Broad-winged Hawk migration apparently came on Apr 23 but the largest count was only 160 over Hanover (H et al). The region-wide BOSAC Apr 9 listed 68 Rough-legged Hawks. The rare Bald Eagle was noted on Apr 6 immature at INWR (HRA) and adults Apr 8 Allegheny Reservoir (JG) and May 21 over East Oak Hill Road, Frewsburg (RS)—the last two reports could represent the same individual. A Pigeon Hawk was seen May 14 at the Hickox Road, Eden Township, Erie County (TB).

Shorebirds were rather poorly represented and most species were from several days to about two weeks late. Records of particular interest are the following:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer(s)</i>
Semipalmated Plover	May 30	75	INWR	Beebe
Common Snipe	Apr 10	32	Riverside Road, Frewsburg	Pillsburg
Willet	May 2,3	1	mouth of Canadaway Cr., Lk Erie	D. Carlson; A. Benton et al
Greater Yellowlegs	Apr 23	71	Steiner Road, Clarence	Wendlings
Lesser Yellowlegs	Apr 29	11	Hanover	Rew, Buck
Knot	May 30	1	INWR	Morse, Beebe
White-rumped Sandpiper	May 29	10	INWR	Morse
Short-billed Dowitcher	May 21	11	mouth of Bemus Cr., Chaut Lk	D. Carlson

A Great Black-backed Gull at INWR Apr 2 (JM, Delaney) was the first record for the refuge, while 80 Bonaparte's Gulls there Apr 15 represented a high count for that location (JM). The Little Gull was observed Apr 29 at Dunkirk Harbor (Rew, Buck). Caspian Terns at unusual inland locations were singles May 1 at the INWR (Delaney, Olsen) and May 28 at Bemus Point, Chaut Lake (Campbell) in addition to the first records from the Allegheny Reservoir—2 on May 15 and 1 May 25 (Elderkin, Pillsbury).

On the regional BOSAC Apr 9, the following owls were reported: 2 Barn, 1 Snowy, 1 Long-eared and 18 Short-eared. A Long-eared Owl was also noted on the BOSMC May 21.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: The first report of Chimney Swifts was of 7 on Apr 19 at Olean (JG) with widely scattered observations on Apr 20. A count of 7 Red-bellied Woodpeckers along 00 Creek May 12 (Beebe) was noteworthy. An Eastern Kingbird Apr 28 at South Stockton (MMW), marked the arrival for this species. A total of 261 Crested Flycatchers on the region-wide BOSMC May 21 established a new high. Again this year an *ACADIAN FLYCATCHER* was seen and heard at Gowanda May 30 (DC). A noteworthy total of 820 migrating Blue Jays May 6 was counted over Hamburg Township (HRA). Significant counts at single locations were: 19 Winter Wrens Apr 14 at the mouth of Canadaway Creek (DC), 18 Brown Thrashers Apr 23 at the Tift Street marsh, Bflo (HM et al), 50 Ruby-crowned Kinglets Apr 17 in Forest Lawn Cemetary, Bflo (MMW), 300 Cedar Waxwings Apr 19 at Somerset (HRA). An early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was recorded Apr 20 at Riverside (AR). Later by one week than any previous departure was a Northern Shrike Apr 23 at the Tift Street marsh, Bflo (Inskip). The only Loggerhead Shrike reported was Apr 19 at Somerset (HRA).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The *WHITE-EYED VIREO* was reported again with individuals May 3 in Olean and May 9 at Allegany (JG). Other vireos arrived on dates more nearly average than during the last two years, Solitary and Warbling Vireos in late Apr and the other three species from early to mid May.

Ten species of warblers arrived during late Apr, all expected at that time. An additional 22 species and one hybrid were reported during May; numbers for most species ranged from moderate to poor. The only significant reports on the BOSMC

May 21 were: 3 "Brewster's," 33 Cerulean, 1 Prairie (Foster Lake, Alfred), 632 Yellowthroat. More Orange-crowned and Parula Warblers were observed in Southern Tier counties than during most years. An adult male Wilson's Warbler at Riverside May 2 (AR) was the earliest record for western New York by six days.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: The third highest spring total of the Bobolink was 1165 on the region-wide BOSMC May 21; an early individual arrived at INWR Apr 29 (JM). The uncommon Orchard Oriole was reported from three localities with two additional unverified reports: immature male May 3 Jamestown (Kibler), pair May 17–25 Cheney's Point, Chaut Lake (Flanders), individual May 23 Hamburg (TB). The count of 80 Rusty Blackbirds on the regional BOSMC May 21 is the largest number recorded on such a late date.

The continually increasing Cardinal population attained a regional high of 921 on the BOSAC Apr 9. A *DICKCISSEL* was observed at a feeder in Springville (S. Smith). Spectacular numbers of Evening Grosbeaks (3217) and Common Redpolls (2602) were recorded on the region-wide BOSAC Apr 9, which also resulted in the last reports of Pine Grosbeak (2) and White-winged Crossbill (17). The last Red Crossbills were 2 in southwestern Alleg County May 21 on the BOSMC. Hundreds of Evening Grosbeaks continued visiting feeders throughout Apr but departed during early May with 42 stragglers listed on the May 21 BOSMC. Two *HOUSE FINCHES* remained at a feeder in Eggertsville until Apr 30 with 1 still present May 21 (Ward). Common Redpolls left most feeders about mid Apr with a female May 3 at Rossburg (DB, Pitzrick) marking the end of the heavy winter flight. In striking contrast with last spring, the Pine Siskin was widely distributed in good numbers with the regional counts listing 343 Apr 9 and 117 May 21; the last siskin reported were 2 at Olean May 24 (JG).

An early Henslow's Sparrow was noted on the earliest normal arrival date Apr 21 in Hamburg Township (TB). A count of 2668 Slate-colored Juncos on the BOSAC Apr 9 was 10 greater than the 1961–70 average but the number of Tree Sparrows (2234) was nearly four times the count average for the decade and up from last year's high of 1558. Missing the latest regional date for the Tree Sparrow by one day was a bird at a feeder in Belmont May 11–14 (LDB). A pair of *CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS* returned again to the Scotch pine plantation at Foster Lake, Alfred where they nested last year and were observed May 11–31 (Brooks et al). The first *HARRIS' SPARROW* noted in spring migration was seen May 15 on the Sturgeon Point Road, Derby (A. Clark et al) which also provided the latest regional record by nine days. A record count of 119 Fox Sparrows occurred on the BOSAC Apr 9 while the number of Song Sparrows on the same count (5220) represented the second highest regional total ever recorded.

19 Chestnut St., Jamestown, N.Y. 14701

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Dennis Puleston and Paul Spitzer have been studying the breeding biology of the Osprey in the Northeast over the last few years. Dennis' spring report was full of gloomy comments on what they had found thus far this season— "On the mainland we can find very few viable eggs, and even on Gardiner's Island, where optimum conditions exist, nest after nest is failing, and many of the remaining eggs are suspiciously light. We will know better in early July what the final number of fledglings will be, but it will not be high, I am sure." In addition, Dennis and Paul discovered something new to plague the Ospreys — "We found several adult females

fouled on the breast with oil, and it is obvious how this has happened. The birds pick up small pieces of seaweed (chondrus and fucus) with which to line their nests, presumably to provide the proper moisture for the eggs. Due to a recent oil spill on Long Island Sound, many of these seaweed fragments are fouled with oil spots. Thus, the incubating bird gets it on her breast as well as the eggs. It is possible that eggs coated with the oil will not hatch. This is one more thing for which we can thank the petroleum industry."

A complete report on the banding activities at Fire Island Lighthouse last fall has been received from Dr. Paul A. Buckley. All told, 10659 birds of 122 species were handled. The six most numerous species accounted for over half the total—1) Myrtle Warbler—3838; 2) Golden-crowned Kinglet—633; 3) American Goldfinch—387; 4) American Redstart—379; 5) Common Yellowthroat—331; 6) Cape May Warbler—310 (!—see below). The peak number of species was mist-netted on September 25—52 species from 393 birds. The peak number of birds came on October 8—1111 birds of 49 species. Several interesting Fire Island Light records not previously published in the *Kingbird* include: Tennessee Warbler: Aug 14—extremely early. Nashville Warbler: Nov 18—late. Cape May Warbler: max 112 netted on Sept 6—over twice as high as any previously published record, see high season total above—John Bull (*Birds of the New York Area, 1964*) states that this is a "fairly common fall migrant, often common along the coast, Numbers vary considerably, however, and during some years it may even be rare" ('common' = "21—50 individuals per day per locality"). The passing years have evidently favored this species. Bay-breasted Warbler: one seen, Oct 28—very late. White-throated Sparrow: one seen Aug 7, 2 netted on Aug 14—unfortunately no age or other information reflecting whether late summer stragglers or unusually early migrants. In addition to Dr. Buckley, the following were active in this Hofstra University-sponsored project—Mona Boch, Thomas Davis, Darrel Ford, Fred Heath, Howard Honig, and Robert Paxton.

Rarities included in this report are Black-necked Stilt, Gull-billed Tern, Chuck-will's-widow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Lark Bunting. Cerulean and Hooded Warblers set new arrival dates, while a new departure date was recorded for Ipswich Sparrow.

Abbreviations: CP—Central Park; FIL—Fire Island Lighthouse; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Contributors frequently cited: PB—Paul Buckley; BC—Barbara Conolly; MK—Michele Kleinbaum; EL—Emmanuel Levine; EM—Eugene Mudge; WN—William Norse; RP—Roger Pasquier; DP—Dennis Puleston; BS—Barbara Spencer; LW—Leroy Wilcox; JY—John Yrizarry.

HAWKS—OWLS: Golden Plover: only report—three, May 19, JBWR (WN). Knot: max 1000+, May 19, JBWR (WN). Ruff: only report—female, May 19, JBWR (WN). *BLACK-NECKED STILT*: May 16, Georgica Pond (C. McKeever); May 20–24, Mecox Bay (PB, Thomas Davis et al)—only the third State record during this century. Bonaparte's Gull: max 2000+, Apr 12, Jones Inlet (BC). *GULL-BILLED TERN*: May 19, JBWR (WN)—"adult plumage, hawking over marsh...", extremely early.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Chuck-will's-widow: female, May 13, CP (mob)—see field note in this issue. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 7, Northport (EM)—extremely early. House Wren: Apr 16, Freeport (EL)—extremely early. Water Pipit: May 19, JBWR (WN)—extremely late.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Prothonotary Warbler: 4 reported—male, Apr 29, CP (RP et al); male, May 17, FIL (R. Paxton)—mist-netted, photographed; May 18, Oakdale (B. Ward); male, May 8, CP (mob). "Lawrence's Warbler": singing bird,

May 5 through period, W. Yaphank (DP) — rarely reported on Long Island. Orange-crowned Warbler: singing bird, May 10–11, CP (RP) — rare spring migrant. Cerulean Warbler: male, *Apr 23*. Bayside (MK) — photographed, earliest Regional record. Yellow-throated Warbler: 7 reported — Apr 19–23, CP (mob); Apr 21–29, Oakdale (R. Giffen, DP et al); Apr 30, Bronx Pk (E. Maguire); May 1, Brookhaven (DP); May 16, Hempstead Lake State Pk (EL); May 19, CP (RP); May 19, Rye (fide R. Arbib). Kentucky Warbler: 2 reported — “singing male,” May 7, Northport (EM); May 14, CP (B. and W. Baumann et al). Hooded Warbler: male, *Apr 8*, Port Jefferson (Cynthia Allen) — seen closely as it tried several times to fly through a window — earliest Regional record.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: *YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD*: female, Apr 27 — May 7, Staten Island (C. Kurtz, H. Cleaves, H. Fischer et al) — at feeder. *BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES* male, May 19, JBWR (WN) — “. . . size, long keeled tail, different notes than Common . . .” Summer Tanager: only 2 reported — female, May 13, FIL (D. Ford et al) — mist-netted; male, May 23, CP (fide T. Davis). Red Crossbill: 6, Apr 15, Manorville (BC,BS) — late *LARK BUNTING*: male, Apr 11 — May 5, Riverhead (H. Vail, G. Raynor, DP, LW, et al) — banded and photographed by LW, second spring record. Ipswich Sparrow; May 8, Mar 10, Fire Island (D. Finch); *Apr 26*, FIL (PB, et al) — mist-netted, latest Regional record. Seaside Sparrow: May 14–17, CB (mob) — rare away from coast.

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BOOK REVIEW

This Bright Land: A Personal View. By Brooks Atkinson. Published for The American Museum of Natural History by Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, N.Y. 1972. 201 Pages. Black and white drawings. \$5.95.

Is there some close connection between Maurice Evans delivering Hamlet's 'To be or not to be' soliloquy and a hermit thrush singing by itself in the dusk? Is there something in both the proscenium stage and earth's global stage that appeals similarly to the theatre-goer in us. The question is inspired by Brooks Atkinson's latest nature book, "This Bright Land: A Personal View."

It is not what Atkinson says that raises the question, but who he is — a man who spent 31 years as drama critic for the New York Times. This would really not be enough except that two others of the most important American dramatic critics also devoted much of their writing to nature. They were Joseph Wood Krutch and Walter Prichard Eaton.

Krutch became drama editor of *The Nation* in 1924. He served until 1950 as professor of dramatic literature at Columbia University. Then removing himself to the desert scene in Arizona he became famous for books like "The Desert Year," "The Twelve Seasons" and one of the most important works in our nature literature, "The Great Chain of Life."

Eaton started in 1902 reviewing musical and theatrical events for the New York Tribune. In 1907 he went on the New York Sun for about two years as drama critic. He spent the next decade as drama editor of the *American Magazine*. In 1933 he succeeded the great George Prince Baker (teacher of Eugene O'Neil, George Abbott, etc.) as professor of playwriting at Yale University. Besides a series of "Boy Scouts in the White Mountains," "Boy Scouts of Katahdin," etc., Eaton's nature books include "The Bird House Man" in 1916 and "Green Trails and Upland Pastures" in 1925.

But my theory received little critical acclaim during a conservation fund-raising cruise up the Hudson River a few years ago. Learning that Atkinson was aboard, I had to accost him with my insight. I expected to be grasped in his arms as he welcomed me into the literary community to further expound about my great idea. I remember that he looked like a milder version of Teddy Roosevelt as I enthusiastically promoted my theory for five minutes. But Roosevelt could not have spoken more softly nor used a bigger stick than Atkinson unknowingly did when he politely said that he did not see the connection between theatre and nature.

However, and with all that 'due respect' business, I have clung to the hunch. One reason is that both theatre and nature can be good shows. There are good scenes to describe, which these three writers do very

well. Take Eaton's nesting goldfinch in "Green Trails and Upland Pastures:"

"The lively goldfinch is brother to the butterflies in our forsaken pasture in thistle-time. There are but few thistles, and they are clustered amid wild sunflowers in a fork of an old logging road by the edge of the second growth — a pretty colour scheme of pink and gold. It seems almost as if the finches realized their own harmony with this bit of wild gardening, for they wing into the bed, seeking thistle-down for their nests. . . .

But you can sense the critic in Eaton showing itself when he attempts — successfully — to get across the effect of the Hermit Thrush's singing in this book.

"George Moore has called the songs of Schubert and Schumann 'the moonlit lakes and nightingales of music.' But what man-made music is twilight and the hermit thrush? A few of Mozart's andantes? Almost, perhaps, yet they lack the forest timbre and the dusk; they are liquid and pensive, but they were composed at sunrise, or while the sun yet lingered on the lowland meadows. Incomparable of birds, uncelebrated in classic story like the nightingale, uttering no homesick note in a warm and sentimental southland like the mocking bird, your habitat in your musical matingtime is the forests of our bleak New Hampshire hills, and on the border of an upland pasture at twilight you sing an unheard song that could ravish the world!"

The intellect's ability to detect universal significance in stage action is another reason for seeing the connection between nature and theatre. A critic who is trained to see this in the theatre can also do this in nature. There are actors in both.

A critic like Krutch can feel and sense the truth of all the ages in Hamlet and his death — if the actor "dies" well. The actor is usually always effective on nature's stage — as for example in that "slice of life" gleaned from peering through a microscope. Krutch devotes two chapters in "The Great Chain of Being" to the performance of the Volvox, which to the naked eye appears no bigger than a green speck. Watching the death of this tiny "Hamlet" under the microscope's intense beam, Krutch is led to make one of the most dramatic statements I have ever come across in nature writing:

"...What...I do find surprising is not the assumption that men have souls, but that it should ever have come to be commonly assumed that no other creature has."

It is not any possible literalness of this statement that is so remarkable to me, but the spirit, feeling, awareness and even love that has gone into that utterance. It is significant that it comes from a person who has watched

characters struggling in life's situations on the stage. He must have emotionally and intellectually identified with them and felt and saw their meaning. He was able to do this watching the characters on nature's stage, and come up with deep critical insights.

If the foregoing represent proof of the connection between nature and theatre — then Atkinson's new book is further evidence. It is in format a history of the decline of wildlife and wild areas in America. In some chapters he focuses on particular problems such as "The California Condor" and "The Florida Everglades." But it is readable and significant, laced as it is with colorful pictures of the show and of insights of emotion and intellect that must have come from his many years watching the stage action on Broadway. Examples of both show and insight are found in a chapter on the phenomenon of birding and birders entitled "The Bird Habit:"

"... The Maryland yellowthroat with his stunning black mask, would seem normal in a tropical jungle where gorgeous birds such as toucans and parrots tumble and scream through the dense foliage. But to see not one but several yellowthroats every day in the dry, dusty brush along a stretch of road and to hear their modest serenade, is to be startled by the extravagant beauty of nature — a beauty that is all the more remarkable because it is as common as the white daisy, the scrub oak, and the gray squirrel."

For insight and feeling, the following is an example:

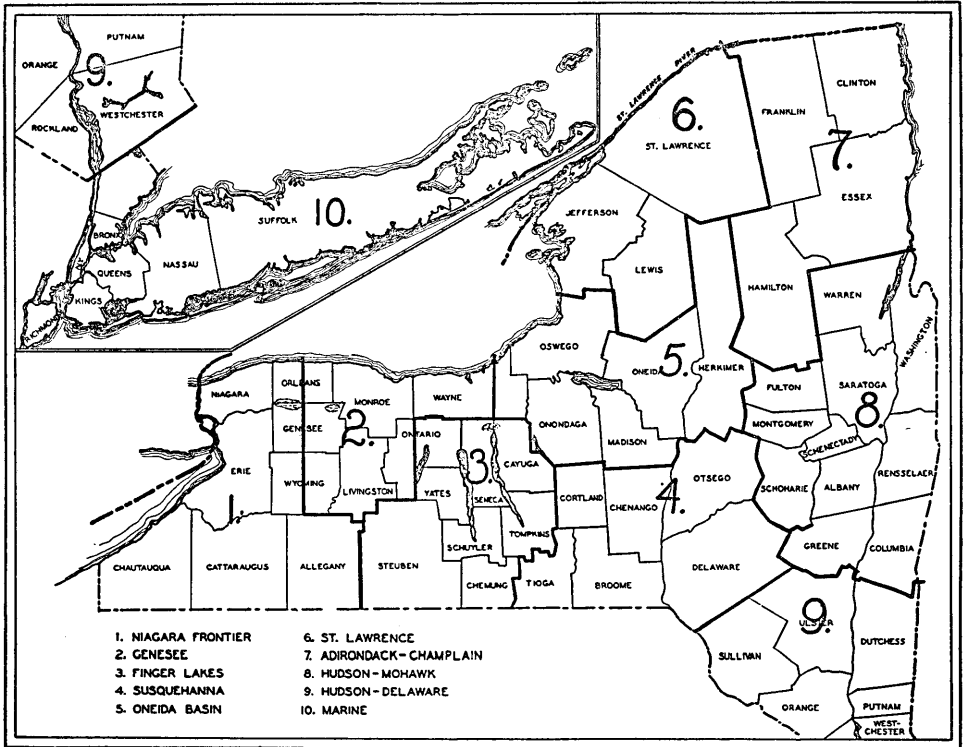
"... To hunt for birds in the field is to hear the distant, muffled ticking of the great clock of the universe. To human beings, these units of time are staggering. It is believed by some professionals that the annual migration of birds repeats every year the advances and retreats of the several glaciers of the Pleistocene age. But I doubt it. Although the Pleistocene epoch lasted more than a million years, it constituted less than a hundredth part of the age of birds. The glaciers were incidents. Bird life preceded the glaciers by millions of years."

That is the kind of speculative mathematics an amateur bird watcher is dealing with when he hears the geese going over in autumn. Something bigger than anything we know is happening."

This is a true theatre goer speaking!

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

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