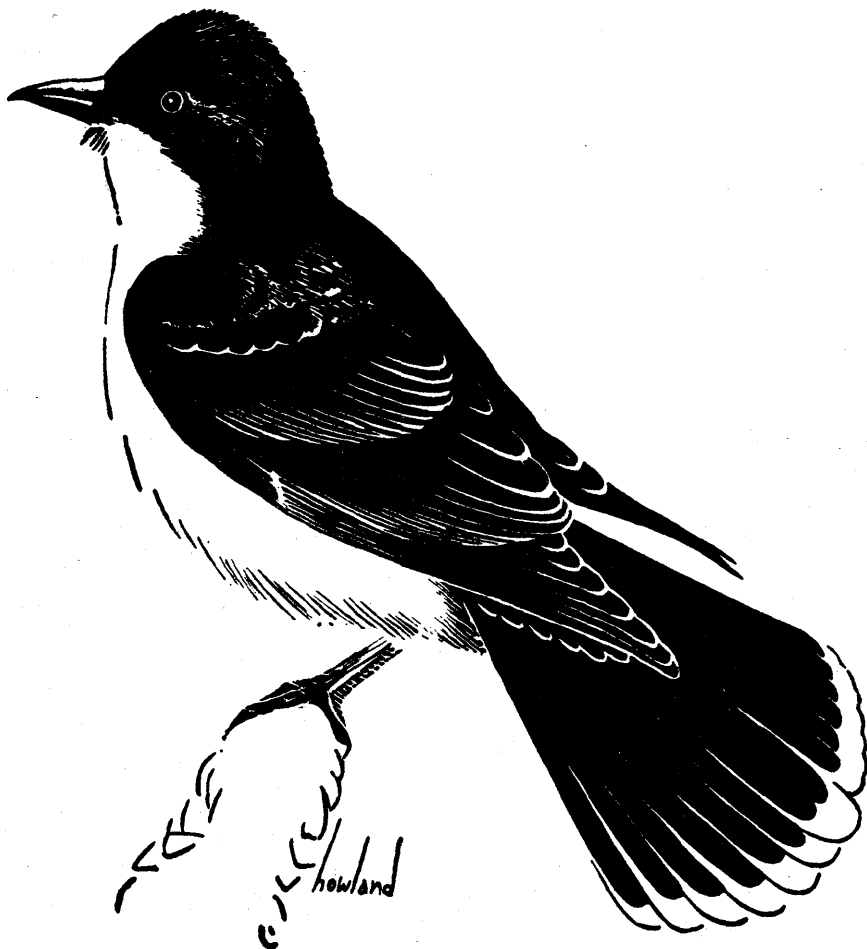


The **KINGBIRD**



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REPORT FROM RICHARD A. SLOSS, PRESIDENT 1976-77

This fall, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs celebrated its 30th birthday, appropriately at the same location that New York State chose to celebrate its 200th birthday a few days later—the magnificent Albany Mall. Delegates from more than 30 Member Clubs attended and while the minutes of the Annual Meeting will be published in a future issue of *The Kingbird*, I believe a brief report from your outgoing President is appropriate.

During the past year, our membership has had a net growth of almost 20%, the largest annual increase that I can recall since my association with the Federation. Counting Family Memberships as two individuals we have over 685 members. Most of this increase has been due to an effective and intensive program of solicitation by Gordon Meade and he is to be congratulated. However, I am sure that he would be the first to agree with me that we cannot be complacent. When one considers that the total membership of our 41 Member Clubs approximates 10,000 New York State birders, it is evident that there is much more to be done. I'm sure that as the programs and services of the Federation continue to be more meaningful, we can look forward to an expanded membership.

Two years ago at Oneonta, Paul DeBenedictis proposed the establishment of a New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC). After a long and sometimes heated debate the delegates to that meeting, by a margin of *one vote*, referred the proposal to the Executive Committee of the Federation for further study. Since then, bylaws and guidelines for NYSARC were drafted by two consecutive committees, modified by the Executive Committee, and submitted to each Member Club of the Federation. At the Delegates Meeting in Albany, on Saturday morning, the proposed bylaws were examined in full, further amended and then *unanimously* adopted. With the appointment of five committee members, the New York State Avian Records Committee will become a reality. The Federation will have accomplished and at the same time embarked upon a significant and meaningful project for New York State ornithology. Recognition is due to all those who contributed their time and expertise: Robert Andrie, Paul DeBenedictis, Allen Benton, John Farrand, Robert Spahn, William Vaughan and particularly Morgan Jones, for his initial enthusiasm and groundwork, and Edgar Reilly, Chairman of Committee 2, for guiding the project to its completion.

The Nominating Committee presented, and your delegates have elected an excellent slate of Officers for the coming year: Stephen B. Dempsey, President; Alice D. Jones, Vice-President; Martin Borko, Corresponding Secretary; Dee DeSimone, Recording Secretary; John W. Forness, Treasurer. I am confident that under their guidance and with the help of the Executive Committee, the fortunes of the Federation will continue to prosper. And as we salute our new Officers let us pay tribute to two whose terms are expiring, Mary Ann Sunderlin and Lona Coates. Not many people have devoted as much time and effort to our organization as Mary Ann—Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Co-Editor of *New York Birders*, organizer of the popular Adirondack weekend. These are some of the many contributions for which we owe her a debt of gratitude. Lona arrived on the scene as Recording Secretary two years ago, a freshman to our group. She retires as a battle-scarred veteran of no less than ten Annual and Executive Committee meetings, all of which have been faithfully recorded for our archives. Her enthusiastic and capable pursuit of a sometimes difficult responsibility deserves our warm thanks.

On Friday afternoon, after the Delegates Meeting, while Gordon Meade and I were walking back to the hotel, he said, "Well, Dick, it's been a busy four years." It certainly has! But it has been rewarding and a lot of fun. Rewarding because I believe these years have been productive ones for the Federation. Fun because of the good times working and playing together with a great bunch of people. When I turned over the gavel to Steve Dempsey someone asked me whether it was with a feeling of relief. To my surprise I realized that it was with a feeling of regret, just because it had been busy and rewarding and fun. After all, isn't that what it's all about?

See you in Rochester, at the next Annual Meeting.

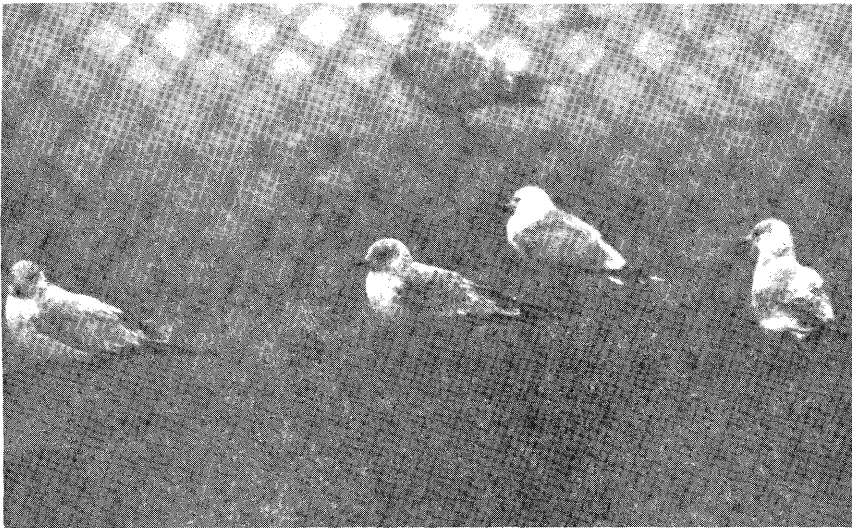
PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES
26. MEW GULL
A FIRST FOR NEW YORK STATE

ANTHONY J. LAURO

On 19 February 1977, I observed a first-year Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) on a baseball field adjacent to Argyle Lake Park, Babylon, Suffolk County.

The bird was in a group of about 100 Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). Ring-billed Gulls are quite common in winter on Long Island, the birds favoring grassy areas adjacent to bodies of water. Several hundred birds frequent the Argyle Lake area and for years I have checked this field seeking *L. canus*.

On the day of the observation, I noted that one individual was unique. Its bill was not only very dark, but was also quite short. Since the day was foggy and damp with strong northwest winds, the birds were sitting with their heads drawn into their bodies, making it difficult to judge the size of their heads.



MEW GULL (*Larus canus*)
Argyle Lake Park, Babylon, Suffolk County, N.Y.
19 February 1977 Photo by Anthony J. Lauro

As the birds were somewhat stationary in their hunched up positions, I rushed home to get my camera equipment, as well as my daughter Brook Lauro for assistance. We stopped at a store for some bread, which Brook threw over the fence surrounding the field, to induce the gull to come closer. The bird, which when seen initially, was about 60 meters away, now approached to within 15 meters, at which point I photographed it. I was also now able to see that not only was the bill very short and dark, but that the head of the bird was distinctly smaller than those of the surrounding Ring-billed Gulls. The photograph was taken with a Minolta SR-7 equipped with a 400mm lens.

The following day, 20 Feb., the Mew Gull was seen by Barbara Spencer and Tom Davis.

This is the first record of this bird for New York State. The consensus of those verifying this record is that it is a member of an Old World population of this species, which breeds in Europe and Asia, with some birds breeding as far west as Iceland. The reason that the bird is not of the western North American race (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*) is the shape of the bill, which differs in the two birds.

Two Mew Gulls of the western North American race were collected on the Canadian side of the Niagara frontier area in the fall of 1967, (Andrle and Axtell, *Wilson Bulletin*, Vol. 81, No. 2; June 1969). An adult Mew Gull was reported at Hammonasset State Park, Conn., in Nov., 1973. Another adult has been reported from the Merrimack River, Newburyport, Mass., for the past few winters.

I wish to thank the following persons who examined the slides and confirmed the identity of the bird: Mr. Guy McCaskie, San Diego Natural History Museum; Mr. Will Russell, Seal Harbor, Maine; Mr. John M. O'Sullivan, Rarities Committee, British Birds, RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire, England. Also, thanks to Dr. Robert F. Andrle, Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, for his helpful comments and assistance.

9 DeSoto Rd., Amityville, New York 11701

HYBRIDIZATION AND INTERACTION BETWEEN BLUE-WINGED AND GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS

JOHN CONFER and KRISTINE KNAPP

INTRODUCTION

Hybridizing populations have been intensively studied due to their evolutionary and ecological significance. The extent of hybridization will determine if the two populations can remain distinct (Mayr 1963), and if they remain genetically distinct, the degree of ecological overlap will determine if the two populations can coexist (Lack 1971). Blue-winged Warblers (*Vermivora pinus*) and Golden-winged Warblers (*V. chrysoptera*) are of particular interest partly due to the historically recorded increase in the frequency of hybridization between them, and partly because they are beautiful creatures with strikingly different phenotypes. The two species have somewhat different ranges: the Golden-wing ranges farther north and to higher altitudes, the Blue-wing extends farther to the southwest. Both species are extending their ranges northward, with the Blue-wing expanding its range more rapidly. Blue-winged Warblers now occupy areas which were first occupied by Golden-winged Warblers early in this century (Bull 1974). This large expansion of the range of the Blue-wing has produced a broad zone of sympatry. Despite the great differences in plumage, wherever these birds occur together there is extensive interbreeding (Short 1962). Our study was designed to help elucidate the consequence of this interbreeding and competition.

Ithaca, in Tompkins County, is located within the zone of sympatry and many studies have been done locally on the behavior, territory size, and introgression of the two species (*e.g.*, Ficken and Ficken 1967, Short 1962). In this paper we will compare the degree of hybridization in this area today to that observed by Short 18 years ago. In addition we will discuss several aspects of the birds' behavior.

STUDY AREA

Three colonies were observed near Ithaca with the main study area located adjacent to the Ithaca College campus. This field of secondary growth vegetation measures about 360 x 400 m. The vegetation consists mainly of *Viburnum*, hawthorn, Red-panicked and Red-osier Dogwood, with occasional Pin Cherry, White Ash, Red Maple, and White Pine. Small parts of the field are wet and swampy (about 5%).

Some of it is open with tall grasses and scattered hawthorn and dogwood (about 35%). Much of the area (about 45%) is covered with dense shrubby growth of 2 to 4 m height. The remaining area (about 15%) is covered with some taller trees of about 10 m height and an understory of shrubs.

METHODS

The study began 7 May 1977 and continued with almost daily field trips until 5 July 1977. Field trips were usually taken twice a day, when the birds were most active, around sunrise and before sunset. About 50 trips were made and about 140 hours were spent in the field by each of us.

The birds were watched until the center of their territory was roughly estimated. The birds were caught with mist nets to which some were attracted by a tape recording of their song provided by the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. Each bird was banded with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife aluminum band on one leg and a colored plastic band on the other. We code-named the birds, so that a Blue-wing with an aluminum band on his left leg and a white, plastic band on his right leg would be called B-AW.

The field was mapped by running seven east-west transects, placing a marker every 20 m. The transect rows were 40 m apart. Territory sizes were estimated by marking on a map where each bird was seen each day and connecting the peripheral dots. The territory shapes were traced onto paper, cut out, and weighed on a Mettler balance. The weights were then compared to the weight of 1 square hectare drawn to the same scale as the territories. Areas were estimated using the maximum territory used during the whole breeding season and do not reflect slight shifting or shrinking of the defended territory due to nesting, feeding, or arrival of an adjacent territorial bird. Occasionally a bird was seen far outside the estimated boundaries of his territory. Such rare instances were not included in the mapping of territories. We estimate that at least 8 hours were spent, and 15 trips were made by each of us to each territory before we were confident of its boundaries. Some territories were not mapped because of uncertainty about parts of the boundaries.

The degree of hybridization of each bird was measured according to the scale devised by Short (1962). Wing bars, nape, back, rump, and chest were each given a number from zero to four; zero for an idealized Blue-wing character and four for an idealized Golden-wing character. The value for each of the five characters was added and a

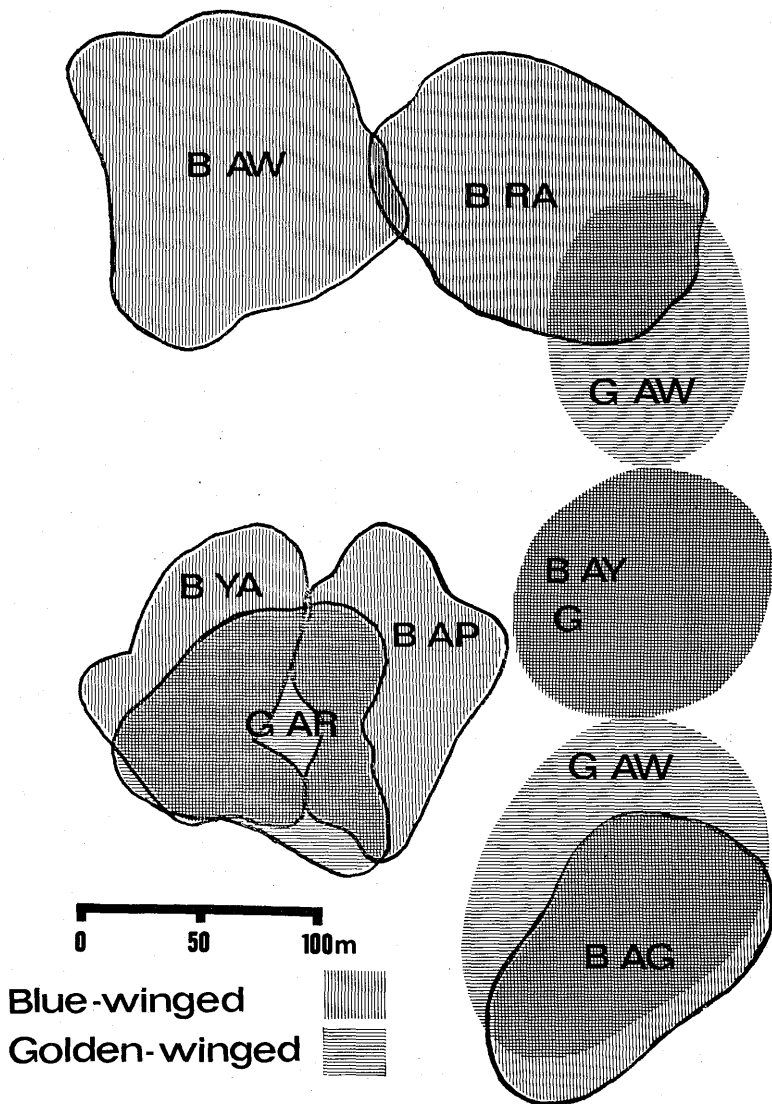
score from 0-20 was obtained. To familiarize ourselves with Short's scale we studied all the skins in the collection of Cornell University whose scale values had been reported by Short. We made slight modifications of Short's scale, scoring wing-bar width and wing-bar color separately, and counting the merest trace of Blue-wing and Golden-wing characters as .5 and 3.5, respectively, instead of 1 and 3 as had been done by Short. In order to adjust our data for comparison to Short's, we averaged the values obtained for wing-bar width and wing-bar color.

RESULTS

Out of ten territories in our study field we are confident of six boundary estimates (Fig. 1). Five of these are territories of Blue-winged Warblers ranging from 1.0 to 2.0 hectares and averaging 1.3 hectares (3.2 acres). The one Golden-wing territory that we measured was 1.1 hectares (2.7 acres). Color banding of the birds aided the certainty of our estimates.

Other estimates of the territory size of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers have been published. Our territory sizes were larger than those of Ficken and Ficken (1968) who studied a colony at Varna, Tompkins Co., about 5 miles from our intensively studied colony. Our estimates are within the ranges found by Murray and Gill in Michigan (1976). Ficken and Ficken did not color band their birds and therefore had no way of visually distinguishing one bird from another. We visited the Fickens' colony in Varna and feel that the density of territorial males was obviously much greater than in our study area. It thus appeared to us that the territory sizes at the Varna colony were about the same as had been estimated by the Fickens 15 years before. The differences in territory size between these three areas suggests that the habitat of each colony influences the size of the area defended by each male.

Passerines that carry out courtship, feeding, nesting, and food-gathering all within one area usually do not tolerate another male of the same species within their territory. Male Blue-winged and female Golden-winged Warblers recognize each other as suitable mates and *vice versa*, as is evidenced by the frequency of hybrids. It is interesting to see if male Blue-wings recognize male Golden-wings as competitors and *vice versa*. If so, then one would expect all the territories to be mutually exclusive. In our colony we had four cases where Blue-wing and Golden-wing territories overlapped. Golden-wing AR shared territories with two different Blue-wings, YA and AP. An un-



banded Golden-wing overlapped territories with Blue-wing AY. Golden-wing AW began sharing territories with Blue-wing RA and then either shifted his territory or merely expanded it so as to include the territory of Blue-wing AG. There was no sharing of territories between one Blue-wing and another nor between any two Golden-wings. These observations support the previous reports of several

workers, including Ficken and Ficken (1968) and Murray and Gill (1976).

Territorial boundaries are usually fluid, influenced by competition, the ability of a bird to defend a given area, and seasonal in behavior. Blue-wing AW's eastern boundary was pushed slightly west due to the arrival of Blue-wing RA. Golden-wing AR's territory shrank considerably after apparent damage to its wing. After the bird's flight appeared to return to normal, the territory expanded to its original size.

INTROGRESSION

In our sample this summer, 1977, 37 different birds were caught with mist nets or studied with binoculars. Those that were only seen with binoculars were considered to be different birds when they were found in areas separated by several miles, or when a bird was repeatedly seen in a particular territory. By the criteria used in the standard field guides there were 23 Blue-wings, 2 Brewster's, 1 Lawrence's, 2 distinct hybrids that weren't like either Brewster's or Lawrence's, and 9 Golden-wings. That is, 62% of our sample were Blue-wings, 14% were hybrids, and 24% were Golden-wings.

To put this present condition in perspective, Blue-wings first appeared in Tompkins County in the early 1940's. By 1949 only four sightings had been reported (Parkes 1951), but by the mid 1950's Blue-wings were common. Short (1963) collected 29 birds during 1957 and 1958. By field guide criteria there were 15 Blue-wings, 8 hybrids, and 6 Golden-wings. That is, 52% of his sample would be recognized as Blue-wings, 28% as hybrids, and 21% as Golden-wings.

Our percentage of Blue-wings (62%) is higher than that reported by Short (52%). However, when we statistically tested our field guide criteria sample against Short's sample there was no statistically reliable difference (Chi-square 2 by 3 test comparing the distribution 23:5:9 to 15:8:6; Chi-square value equals 3.65). This means that the observed differences between these two samples could result solely from random variation, without any real change having occurred.

Use of Short's scale allows us to detect hybrids that would not be detected by applying the criteria of field guides. According to Short (1963) birds whose scale value range from 3 to 17 are "definite hybrids." However Short did not present any statistical analysis of his data to support his contention that allopatric populations would range only from 0 to 2 or 18 to 20. Fortunately, there are now 5 Golden-wing skins in the Cornell collection that were collected be-

tween 1918 and 1930 from Howland's Island near Syracuse. At that time and place this colony of Golden-wings was certainly allopatric (Bull 1972, Scheider 1959). Following Short's method, the scale values of these birds range from 15 to 20. Since this sample is so very small it is quite possible, even probable that a larger sample would show even wider variation.

While pure Golden-wings can score from 20 down to as low as 15, Brewster's or other hybrids that have back-crossed with Golden-wings can score as high as 19, or very rarely 20 (Short 1963). Unfortunately, many skins studied by Short fall in the range of 15 to 20, where it is not possible to determine whether they are pure or hybrids. Tentatively, we suggest that only the following plumage types should be considered as definite hybrids: Brewster's and Lawrence's and other mixtures of Blue-wing and Golden-wing plumage characteristics that can be readily detected in the field with binoculars, and those birds which upon hand examination score between 3 and 14.5 on Short's scale.

Of the hand-examined birds, using our more restricted range for definite hybrids, eight (47%) were Blue-wings; five (29%) were hybrids; and four (24%) were indistinguishable from pure Golden-wings. Applying our more restricted range for definite hybrids to Short's sample he found 11 (38%) Blue-wings, 12 (41%) hybrids, and 6 (21%) birds indistinguishable from pure Golden-wings. Our hand-examined birds show a slightly higher proportion of Blue-wings now than did Short's sample in 1958-59. But once again there is no statistically reliable difference between Short's sample and ours. (Chi-square 2 x 3 test, Chi-square value equals 0.67).

Considering all the information for Tompkins County, there was clearly a major influx of Blue-wings between 1949 and 1959. From 1959 until 1977 the proportion of Blue-wings to Golden-wings has not changed to a statistically significant degree. Clearly the rapid rate of increase in the proportion of Blue-wings in the 1950's has either greatly slowed down in the last 18 years or has stopped completely. Perhaps with a larger sample size, which we hope to accumulate next year, we may be able to say with a greater degree of confidence whether the proportion of Blue-wings has stabilized, or is slowly continuing to increase.

BEHAVIORAL INTERACTIONS

The following brief discussion only supplements the extensive observations of Murray and Gill (1976), Ficken and Ficken (1968,

1969), Gill and Lanyon (1964) and Meyerricks and Baird (1968).

Despite the mutual tolerance of male Blue-wings and male Golden-wings, which allows some birds to establish overlapping territories, it is our experience that some aggression is shown between the males. This level of aggression is slightly more intense than that shown by males of either of these species to males of other warbler species. For instance, Blue-wings and Golden-wings pay almost no attention to Common Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*), and we frequently observed a male Golden-wing or male Blue-wing sitting in a treetop with a singing male Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) without any display of aggression between the birds. However, we did observe a low level of aggression between male Blue-wings and male Golden-wings. One example of this degree of aggression is described below.

Within the territory of Blue-wing B-AW there is a row of dead elms frequently used by B-AW as singing perches. One of us observed a new Golden-wing singing from one of these perches on 17 May, two weeks after B-AW had established his territory. After the Golden-wing sang for about two minutes, B-AW was heard singing (Type 1 song as defined by Gill and Lanyon 1964) about 40 m from the Golden-wing. After singing four or five typical songs, in about half a minute, B-AW flew silently into the bottom of the tree with the Golden-wing. When B-AW hopped higher into the tree the Golden-wing flew out of the territory. No Golden-wing was heard in B-YA territory on the following day.

On 19 May a Golden-wing (the same one?) was observed singing for about one minute from one of the top perches in the same row of elms. Again Blue-wing B-AW began singing (Type 1 song) from about 40 m away, and then flew silently into the tree with the Golden-wing. After several seconds the Golden-wing flew further down the row of elms and again began to sing from a tree top. B-AW flew into the bottom of the tree with the Golden-wing after which the latter flew away. Both birds were then lost from sight and remained silent for about five minutes. At the end of this time the Golden-wing and the Blue-wing repeated this sequence in a virtually identical manner. Finally both birds became silent and they were last seen foraging, both within the boundary of B-AW territory.

On the following day a Golden-wing was singing repeatedly throughout the territory of Blue-wing B-AW using many of the same high perches used by B-AW without any pursuit by B-AW, who remained hidden. This was the last day that a Golden-wing was seen

within this territory, while B-AW was seen on many subsequent occasions.

This low level of aggression contrasts with the occasionally observed attacks between two Blue-wings which were non-stop, fast-flying, noisy with Type 2 song, and included direct pursuit. There is no doubt that Blue-wing to Blue-wing aggression was much more intense than the aggression shown between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers.

DISCUSSION

None of our results provide statistical support for the belief that Blue-winged Warblers can replace Golden-winged Warblers. Yet we suspect that this may be occurring, and certainly believe that this is a possibility worth consideration. The following discussion of this possibility is highly speculative and should not be taken as documented, experimental evidence.

There are two lines of reasoning that lead us to suspect that Blue-wings are displacing Golden-wings, or at least that the two species cannot continue to coexist in the same area. The first is highly theoretical and is derived from the Competitive Exclusion Principle. This principle states that no two species that have the same ecological needs and that are limited by the same resource can coexist in a stable environment. Since so much about the ecology of the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers seems identical, it would appear that the principle might apply to them. For instance, the territories of these birds seem to be located in identical habitat. We could not discern any consistent difference in the habitat chosen by the two species for their territories. Murray and Gill (1976) found that Golden-wings chose slightly wetter habitats, while Short (1963) found both Blue-wings and Golden-wings occurring in wet and dry habitats with about equal frequency. The only consistent ecological difference between these birds noted by us, and by Murray and Gill (1976), is that Blue-wings tend to arrive a week or two earlier than Golden-wings. Whether this difference or some other difference is sufficient to exempt these birds from the Competitive Exclusion Principle is unknown.

If this principle does apply to these birds, there must be some resource in such low supply that it limits the abundance of both species, but limits one species more than it does the other. This resource is not likely to be suitable nesting sites since the birds can set up overlapping territories. Food supply is believed to limit many

animal populations, but since the territories of these species are larger than the average for warblers, we have some doubt that food availability within the territory is the limiting factor for these birds. To stimulate further field observations and comments we suggest the possibility that the Competitive Exclusion Principle might apply in the following manner. We saw at least four transient male Golden-wings but no such Blue-wings. These birds were presumably looking for territories or mates. As described earlier, one of these transient male Golden-wings did succeed in establishing singing posts, but did not stay and apparently did not succeed in attracting a mate. With this bird and other transient male Golden-wings it seemed as if the "resource" in limiting supply was available females.

There is some weak empirical evidence that suggests that Blue-wings are replacing Golden-wings. On Long Island the arrival of Blue-wings was followed by the disappearance of Golden-wings. (Short (1962) makes this statement, although Bull (1974) states he could not find the original source of this information.) However, this sequence of events does not prove that Blue-wings caused the disappearance of Golden-wings, since the two events may be due to some other factor. In Tompkins County our sample this year showed a higher frequency of Blue-wings than in Short's sample in 1957-58. While this might mean that Blue-wings are continuing to increase, we must stress that with the small size of our sample we could not show that this increase in the proportion of Blue-wings was statistically real.

Obviously the above data are not convincing. We are unaware of other areas like Long Island where the arrival of Blue-wings has been followed by the virtual disappearance of Golden-wings. Nor are we aware of any long-term studies on the relative abundance of these two species at any particular locality. Unless this kind of circumstantial evidence can be consistently documented from a variety of locations, the ultimate balance between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers can not be estimated. We would appreciate receiving correspondence about Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers. Hopefully, such correspondence would allow us to assess the historical changes and current status of these two species in New York.

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Dr. John L. Confer teaches biology at Ithaca College. During undergraduate and graduate studies at Earlham College, Washington State University, and the University of Toronto, he specialized in ecology and particularly in aquatic biology. A long-term interest in ornithology has led to his current activities, including banding and the chairmanship of the Cayuga Bird Club.

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NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1977

This year's Federation Waterfowl Count period, from January 8 to January 16, 1977, was colder than 1976. In addition to many smaller lakes and most other bodies of water, all of Lake Erie within the count area except for Dunkirk Harbor was completely frozen over, as was Otsego Lake in Otsego County, part of the Niagara River and between 50% and 75% of the lower Hudson River. Long Island was also hard hit, in that many of the salt-water bays as well as Long Island Sound were considerably frozen. If the weather of the last week in January had occurred three weeks earlier, the waterfowl count in upstate areas would have been a disaster. As it was, the total count was 212,699 individuals, an increase of 6.1% over 1976.

The Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count was from January 3 to January 18, 1977, and yielded a total of 202,461 birds, a whopping 27.9% higher than 1976. This was attributed to much larger numbers of mergansers and scoters, even though Canvasbacks were down by 40%, Bufflehead by 56% and American Coots by 86%.

A direct comparison of the most abundant species, by ground count and aerial survey, is given below.

| | Upstate | | Long Island | |
|------------------------|---------|--------|-------------|---------|
| | Aerial | Ground | Aerial | Ground |
| Canada Goose | 4,370 | 7,662 | 4,092 | 4,443 |
| Brant | 0 | 1 | 13,622 | 3,438 |
| Mallard | 4,782 | 10,551 | 2,321 | 7,274 |
| Black Duck | 7,052 | 2,765 | 18,506 | 15,285 |
| Am. Wigeon | 215 | 78 | 24 | 1,193 |
| Redhead | 8,710 | 8,205 | 15 | 154 |
| Canvasback | 6,929 | 5,153 | 1,498 | 5,399 |
| Scaup (both) | 6,067 | 1,681 | 29,745 | 82,427 |
| Am. Goldeneye | 5,671 | 9,019 | 4,271 | 1,949 |
| Bufflehead | 60 | 760 | 931 | 2,457 |
| Oldsquaw | 98 | 751 | 3,180 | 1,214 |
| Scoters (all three) | 1 | 67 | 32,891 | 20,080 |
| Mergansers (all three) | 41,026 | 10,173 | 4,739 | 1,334 |
| Am. Coot | 355 | 1,692 | 15 | 393 |
| Totals | 85,336 | 58,558 | 115,850 | 147,040 |

GROUND SURVEY – JANUARY 1977
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

| | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| Common Loon | | | | | |
| Red-throated Loon | | | | | |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | | | |
| Horned Grebe | 1 | | 66 | | 4 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 3 | | 31 | | 2 |
| Great Cormorant | | | | | |
| Mute Swan | | | | | |
| Canada Goose | 25 | | 7,113 | | 31 |
| Brant | | | | | 1 |
| Snow Goose | | | | | |
| Mallard | 2,151 | 2,430 | 2,378 | 115 | 1,205 |
| Black Duck | 458 | 331 | 686 | 16 | 176 |
| Mallard x Black Duck | | | 21 | | |
| Gadwall | 54 | | 27 | | 39 |
| Pintail | 13 | | | | 1 |
| Green-winged Teal | | | | | |
| American Wigeon | 65 | | 5 | | |
| No. Shoveler | 1 | | | | |
| Wood Duck | 1 | | 3 | | 1 |
| Redhead | 173 | 30 | 6,939 | 1 | 1,062 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 4 | | 4 | | 7 |
| Canvasback | 2,216 | 5 | 553 | | 226 |
| Scaup (both species) | 1,368 | 592 | 192 | | 1,965 |
| Common Goldeneye | 4,554 | 1,703 | 292 | 48 | 1,293 |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | | | | | 1 |
| Bufflehead | 254 | 232 | 84 | | 166 |
| Oldsquaw | 457 | 35 | | | 259 |
| Harlequin Duck | | | | | |
| Common Eider | | | | | |
| King Eider | | | | | 1 |
| White-winged Scoter | 4 | 4 | | | 54 |
| Surf Scoter | | | | | |
| Black Scoter | | 4 | | | |
| Scoter (sp?) | | | | | |
| Ruddy Duck | | 1 | | | |
| Hooded Merganser | 3 | | 35 | | 2 |
| Common Merganser | 3,295 | 142 | 88 | 42 | 803 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 35 | 9 | 10 | 3 | 54 |
| Duck (sp?) | | 2,022 | | | |
| Am. Coot | 12 | | 1,565 | | 10 |
| TOTALS | 15,147 | 7,540 | 20,092 | 225 | 7,363 |

GROUND SURVEY – JANUARY 1977
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

| <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| | | | | 102 | 102 |
| | | | | 6 | 6 |
| | | | | 2 | 2 |
| | 2 | | | 192 | 265 |
| | 1 | | 1 | 39 | 77 |
| | | | | 70 | 70 |
| | | 1 | 15 | 459 | 475 |
| 1 | 34 | | 458 | 4,443 | 12,105 |
| | | | | 3,438 | 3,439 |
| | | | | 9 | 9 |
| 70 | 26 | 645 | 1,531 | 7,274 | 17,825 |
| 308 | 56 | 461 | 273 | 15,285 | 18,050 |
| | | | | | 21 |
| | | | | 360 | 480 |
| | | | | 176 | 190 |
| | | | | 81 | 81 |
| | | | 8 | 1,193 | 1,271 |
| | | | | 302 | 303 |
| | | | 2 | 3 | 10 |
| | | | | 154 | 8,359 |
| | | 2 | | 86 | 103 |
| 27 | 2,050 | 6 | 70 | 5,399 | 10,552 |
| 12 | 7 | 1 | 47 | 82,427 | 86,611 |
| 820 | 277 | 5 | 26 | 1,949 | 10,967 |
| | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 6 | | 16 | 2,457 | 3,217 |
| | | | | 1,214 | 1,965 |
| | | | | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | 30 | 30 |
| | | | | 6 | 7 |
| | | | 1 | 11,534 | 11,597 |
| | | | | 947 | 947 |
| | | | | 214 | 218 |
| | | | | 7,385 | 7,385 |
| | | | 1 | 273 | 275 |
| | 4 | | | 38 | 82 |
| 5,101 | 139 | 26 | 364 | | 10,000 |
| 4 | 6 | | 8 | 1,296 | 1,425 |
| | | | 68 | | 2,090 |
| | | | 105 | 393 | 2,085 |
| 6,345 | 2,608 | 1,147 | 2,994 | 149,237 | 212,698 |

AERIAL SURVEY – JANUARY 1977
STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

| | Upstate | Long Island | Totals |
|------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Mute Swan | 5 | 547 | 552 |
| Canada Goose | 4,370 | 4,092 | 8,462 |
| Brant | 0 | 13,622 | 13,622 |
| Snow Goose | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Mallard | 4,782 | 2,321 | 7,103 |
| Black Duck | 7,052 | 18,506 | 25,558 |
| Gadwall | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Green-winged Teal | 2 | 44 | 46 |
| No. Shoveler | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| American Wigeon | 215 | 24 | 239 |
| Redhead | 8,710 | 15 | 8,725 |
| Canvasback | 6,929 | 1,498 | 8,427 |
| Scaup (both species) | 6,067 | 29,745 | 35,812 |
| Common Goldeneye | 5,671 | 4,271 | 9,942 |
| Bufflehead | 60 | 931 | 991 |
| Oldsquaw | 98 | 3,180 | 3,278 |
| Scoters (all three) | 1 | 32,891 | 32,892 |
| Ruddy Duck | 0 | 106 | 106 |
| Mergansers (all three) | 41,026 | 4,739 | 45,765 |
| Am. Coot | 355 | 15 | 370 |
| Totals | 85,343 | 117,118 | 202,461 |

I would like to thank all who participated, especially the regional coordinators who are:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Region 1—Dr. Alan H. Reckhow | Region 6—Lee B. Chamberlaine |
| 2—Walter Listman | 7—John Peterson |
| 3—James Gibson | 8—Paul Grattan |
| 4—Leslie E. Bemont | 9—Edward D. Treacy |
| 5—Dr. Fritz G. Scheider | 10—Stephen B. Dempsey |

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Corrections or omissions should be called to the attention of the Bibliography Committee: Sally Hoyt Spofford, Chairman; John B. Belknap, Allen H. Benton and Kenneth C. Parkes. Local newsletters and journals with noteworthy articles should be sent to the Chairman, first class mail.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

To the Editors,

Some comments regarding the Summer 1977 issue:

- (1) The Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Sandy Pond, Oswego Co. May 28-30, 1977, cited in DeBenedictis' "Notes and Observations" and Scheider's regional report was *not* the first spring record for New York State. A May 18, 1974 sighting at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co. by Charles F. Young was published in *The Kingbird* 24: 161.
- (2) Robert Spahn's Region 2 report cites a maximum of 1210 Red-necked Grebes April 10 at "WL" (West Lakeshore area). This count is unprecedented in New York State, exceeding any previous maximum by far, a fact that is not mentioned, nor is this extreme number mirrored by counts from other regions bordering Lake Ontario. Further, I am left wondering *exactly what area* is represented by the term West Lakeshore—were there birds distributed along 10, 20 or 40 miles of shoreline?
- (3) The highlighted Baird's Sandpiper cited in Walter Benning's Region 3 report is included without the date or any details. John Bull's *Birds of New York State* recognizes no spring reports, citing the lack of specimen (or photographic) evidence to support such claims. Surely this bird deserved to be reported with some detail or in the "Notes and Observations."
- (4) The highlighted European Wigeon and Sandhill Crane cited in Theodore Mack's Region 7 report are included without mention of date or place!

The varying styles of the regional reports leave a lot to be desired; there ought to be more standardization, more "readability." The Region 6 report reads like an incomprehensible computer printout—PRWMA, WHWMA, ULLWMA, etc. I suggest that PRWMA (Perch River WMA) be referred to as Perch R., WHWMA (Wilson Hill WMA) as Wilson Hill, . . . The introduction should spell out terms used, including the town or county in which the areas are situated. I do not suggest that locality abbreviations be eliminated, but merely curtailed, and reserved for widely-known areas such as MNWR (Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge), JBWR (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge). When an observer's name is cited three or more times it should be initialed, preferably including the middle initial. When an observer's name is spelled out in the report it should include only the first

initial. Whenever a rarity has been photographed this should be stated, including the photographer's name. If the photo has been filed at some institution, mention this also—John Bull maintains a New York State rarities photo file at the American Museum of Natural History.

In 1961 Sally F. Hoyt stated that “in general, the Regional Editors will give a reason for most items they include—which enables a reader from another region, another part of the country, to see the significance of the mention of a species” (*Kingbird* 11: 181). Please inform me then what is significant about three Surf Scoters at Elmira April 28th? Was this early? late? a high count? unprecedented? or what?! Was the Ruby-throated Hummingbird May 14 at Owego noteworthy?

Finally, the reporting seasons for *The Kingbird* reports should coincide with *American Birds*, making life simpler for contributors and compilers alike.

Sincerely,
Thomas H. Davis
9446-85 Road
Woodhaven, New York 11421
October 16, 1977

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Long-tailed Jaeger at Derby Hill, Oswego County: At about 5:15 p.m. EDT on 10 September 1977, the writer and Eric M. Freeman of Syracuse, were standing on a bluff overlooking Lake Ontario at Derby Hill, Oswego County, observing the movement of a large number of water birds. At the time, there were sustained winds at 20 to 30 mph from the west-northwest, a mostly cloudy sky, no precipitation, and a slowly rising barometer, conditions in large part generated by an intense low pressure area located over southwestern Quebec, and a high over central Canada, which were both moving slowly eastward. The cold front, extending south from the low, had passed over Derby Hill at about 10:30 a.m. The frontal passage and its accompanying strong, westerly winds had contributed to a substantial gull and tern flight, with small numbers of waterfowl and a few Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). Prior to 4:00 p.m., only three Parasitic Jaegers had been seen, but thereafter several flocks of from two to nine each were noted.

At about 5:15 p.m., a flock of nine jaegers was observed moving southward along the east shore of Lake Ontario, into the southeast corner of the lake. Then the flock turned west and proceeded toward the observers. As the birds approached slowly, into the teeth of the gale, I watched them through a Bushnell 20X telescope; it soon became obvious that one of the birds was strikingly different from the rest. The following characters were noted as this bird flew in close association with three adult, light-phase Parasitic Jaegers: the bird was slighter-bodied, and had a much more buoyant tern-like flight, than the Parasitics; whereas the Parasitics were generally a dark brown on the back, this bird was much lighter, with the back and upper surface of the wings gray rather than brown. As the bird turned parallel to the observers, its greatly elongated tail feathers could clearly be seen. During these observations the jaegers were visible for about five minutes, and were within 75 yards of the observers at the closest point. It was obvious that the smaller, grayer bird was an adult, light-phase Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). The conditions of observation were about as close to perfect as one could ask.

During the period of observation the flock moved steadily southward, and then westward past the lookout, without interacting with nearby gulls. There was some interaction within the flock, as the Long-tail was pursued briefly on two occasions by nearby Parasitics.

I have been observing the fall waterfowl and water bird flights at Derby Hill since 1968, and have had experience with Parasitic Jaegers, which are regular fall migrants usually associated with weather conditions like those described here. Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 267) lists three confirmed records of the Long-tailed Jaeger from upstate New York, all of which are specimens; these include an immature found dead by Chris Spies on 31 October 1971 at Sandy Pond, about seven miles due northeast of Derby Hill, and now preserved

as a skeleton in the American Museum of Natural History. It thus appears that our sighting is the first record of a live individual for upstate New York.

It is interesting to speculate on the reasons for this being the first occurrence of the species at Derby Hill, in view of the regular occurrence of the other two species of jaeger. Paul DeBenedictis (pers. comm.) indicates that Long-tails leave the breeding grounds much earlier than the other two species. The strong frontal systems that probably play a part in the appearance of jaegers in our area do not usually occur early in the season, and thus Long-tails are less likely to be drifted into our area. The rarity of the species in eastern North America suggests that the birds breeding on the west coasts of Hudson Bay and James Bay migrate westward along the coast of the Arctic Ocean. Since it appears that a portion of the Parasitic Jaegers nesting in the same area move south regularly through Lake Ontario, and then overland to the coast, it may be that the Long-tail seen on 10 September 1977 had simply migrated with Parasitic Jaegers. It may also be that the strong low pressure area was instrumental in displacing the Long-tailed Jaeger eastward. Whatever the reasons, the occurrence of this striking bird was ample reward for the large number of days spent in early July, August and September by the writer at Derby Hill, during which nothing more exciting than Herring and Ring-billed Gulls was seen. In closing it must be emphasized that the day's total of 29 Parasitic Jaegers and one Long-tailed Jaeger is extraordinary for so early in the season. Such a count of Parasitics would be excellent even during the peak of the season between 5 and 25 October. If this trend continues, 1977 may prove to be a banner year for jaegers on eastern Lake Ontario.

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"Kumlien's" Gull in Essex County: On 3 July 1977 the author, Esther Ann MacCready, Gerald Rosenband, and Carole Slatkin, traveled by boat to the Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain, located in the Town of Willsboro, Essex County. Acquired in January, 1977, by the University of Vermont, the Four Brothers are "Resource Management" land within the boundaries of the Adirondack Park. Approximately six acres in area, the four islands lie about two miles east of Willsboro Point, at lat. 44°25' W., long. 73°20' N. Surrounded by rocky and shingle beaches, the islands are low plateaus with open areas of stinging nettle, wild mustard, grasses, raspberries, stands of conifers and hardwoods, and tangles of dead cedars. The individual islands have been unofficially designated "A," "B," "C," and "D" by the Vermont Fish and Game Department.

Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) have nested on the islands at least since late in the last century, Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) since 1949, and Great Black-backed Gulls (*L. marinus*) since 1975. During 1977 the islands supported

approximately 7500 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls, 250 pairs of Herring Gulls, and one pair of Great Black-backed Gulls.

We were banding young Herring Gulls on "Island B," the southeast island, while the adults circled overhead when Rosenband called our attention to an unusual gull, similar in size to the Herring Gulls, but lacking the black wing tips. As the bird passed over repeatedly, often harassing a Herring Gull or immature Black-crowned Night Heron in flight, it was easily recognized by the lighter color of the underwing. As it wheeled above, the mantle was lighter than the other gulls. Seen in good light with 10 x 40 and 8.5 x 44 binoculars for over 15 minutes of study, the bird showed touches of dark gray on the ends of the outer primaries and white tip on the tenth primary. The iris appeared light to two observers. Several 35 mm. color slides, taken with a 135 mm. lens and 2x extender, verify the light mantle and lack of intensity to the gray wing spots, eliminating Thayer's Gull.

The bird is identified as an adult Iceland Gull of the subspecies known as "Kumlien's" Gull (*Larus glaucoides kumlieni*), breeding in low-arctic eastern Canada. An immature Iceland Gull at the Lake Placid dump, Essex County, May 28-31, 1975, probably represented the same subspecies, but the present report is apparently the first record verified with photographs for inland New York State between 22 May and 16 August; even in coastal regions of the state it is very rare in summer (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 269). For additional information see: Godfrey, W. E. 1966. *The Birds of Canada*. Nat. Mus. Canada Bull. 203, p. 176; and Gosselin, M. and David, N. 1975. Field identification of Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) in eastern North America (*American Birds*, vol. 29, no. 6 (Dec.), pp. 1059-1066).

The slides were examined by Geoffrey Carleton, who concurs in the identification.

John M. C. Peterson, P. O. Box 300, Essex, New York 12936

Common Loon breeding in the St. Lawrence River Valley: The breeding status of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) in the St. Lawrence River area is poorly documented. Eaton (1910, *N.Y. State Museum Memoirs*, no. 12, Pt. 1, p. 100), stated that this species had previously nested near Lake Ontario but was by then restricted to the Adirondacks. Hyde's report (1939, *Roosevelt Wildlife Bull.*, vol. 7, no. 2, p. 99) indicated that the St. Lawrence region was "unsafe as breeding grounds for the loon." He went on to relate a local resident's account of a pair nesting on an island in the river near Chippewa Bay. In his thorough review of the literature of New York bird distribution Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, Doubleday, N.Y., pp. 49-51) did not present any evidence of the species' breeding in the St. Lawrence region. Since this area is used a great deal

for recreation, and since the Great Lakes watershed receives a variety of industrial pollutants, it is essential that we have accurate breeding information on loons and other water birds in the region.

Our experience in the St. Lawrence-Thousand Islands region is that the Common Loon is a regular breeding resident there. One of us (ADH) has visited the area and recorded bird sightings since 1957. In the ensuing years, loons have been observed regularly during the summer months. While these may occasionally be non-breeding transients, less frequent observations of loons with young and one sighting of a loon on a nest confirm their breeding there. The following records will document the species' breeding status:

Aug. 29, 1959—Two adults and two immatures seen swimming and feeding near Sugar Islands Flats

May 28, 1961—One adult observed sitting on a nest on a rocky islet in Lake of the Isles, Wellesley Island

May 19, 1963—One adult and (downy?) young seen swimming near Grindstone Island

July 4, 1969—Adult pair and two young observed swimming near Picton Island

July 3, 1976—Adult pair and downy young observed swimming in inlet on north side of Lake of the Isles, Wellesley Island

These records are only representative observations of loons, selected as documentary evidence. Similar sightings of loons with non-flying young have been made in other years.

Over the past twenty years, Common Loons have been seen regularly in three specific areas near Clayton, New York. These are: Eel Bay on Wellesley Island, the waters near the northern tip of Grindstone Island, and the area between Howe and Black Ant Islands, Canada. The nearly annual sightings of adult loons with young in these areas indicate that these are probably regular nesting locations. No effort has been made to locate the actual nests. Since loons have extended life spans (McIntyre, J. M., 1976, *Loon* 48 (3): 126-127), it is conceivable that these might be the same birds nesting at habitual sites.

These observations should not be interpreted as evidence of a recent expansion of the loon's breeding range into the region. Undocumented sightings indicate that this species has nested regularly in the St. Lawrence Valley for several decades. Thus it appears that Common Loons, never densely distributed in any of their breeding areas, have been overlooked as regular breeders in the St. Lawrence region.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT W. SMART

The Summer Season is probably the hardest, if not impossible, to summarize on a state-wide basis. Everything becomes much more "local" at this season. Weather conditions in one region may differ greatly from those in a neighboring region. Conditions which are good for one area will produce poor results in another. As a case in point note that Region 1 called June "cold with normal rain" and Region 2 called it "warm and dry." Region 5 called August "cool and very wet" and Region 9 was "warm and dry." The effects of these variations produced equal variations in the reports of birdlife. Please read with particular care the introductory remarks by the editor for Region 2, Robert Spahn, on the interaction of weather and habitat as it affects the numbers of birds. Also note his comments on the changing pattern of the observations. The reported numbers do not by any means tell the full story of fluctuations in the real populations. As an extreme case, Region 7 reported killing frosts in all three months.

The unusual weather patterns created a chaotic summer, a season normally thought to be rather stable with birds breeding where they should and few surprises to be expected. This was a summer of migration. Dr. Scheider in Region 5 says that there was no week without migrants present in the Region. This was true for nearly all of the state. A particularly obvious example was the shorebird migration in which spring migrants and fall returnees overlapped each other on the same flat. It was often impossible to know if a certain individual was on his way north, on his way south, or was just resting there saying to hell with this migration nonsense. Which way was the White-rumped Sandpiper going in Region 5 on June 30?

This same problem occurs with the northern land birds. Migration continued so late that in many cases it was very hard to determine whether an individual species was remaining as a nesting bird or merely very tardy on his northward journey. This question casts some doubt on the results of the Breeding Bird Surveys as was mentioned last year. There is no doubt that a number of the more northerly breeding species are breeding further and further south—flycatchers, both kinglets, vireos, some warblers, *etc.*—but a singing bird in the proper habitat in late June could well be a migrant. As Ludlow Griscom once pointed out, it still takes two birds of opposite sex to

produce a breeding record. Note the increases of boreal species in the upstate areas however.

Another anomaly in this "breeding" season is the protracted hawk migration. At Braddock's Bay in Region 2, the hawk lookout was manned throughout the month of June and small numbers of birds were recorded throughout the period. Two Broad-wings were migrating over Derby Hill as late as July 7. On August 13, Region 2 recorded a remarkable movement of immature Red-tails with 317 moving west at Kendall and 74 moving east at Braddock's Bay. This type of Red-tail movement in mid-August has been reported before from the area and greeted with scepticism by many including your Highlights Editor; apologies are in order. A real effort should be made to determine the source and pattern of this flight. What are we to think of the Merlin on Aug. 4 in Region 7 and on Aug. 16 in Region 3? I wish that we had details on both of these observations.

The effect of the severe winter is rather difficult to assess. The one point of general agreement is that the Carolina Wren population was very hard hit, to the extent of being wiped out in some areas. This is a classic pattern for the species—slow gains to the north and then everything is lost during a hard winter. Other southerners seemed to make out somewhat better but most were lower in numbers in many areas. One of the winter effects noted was the decline of species that winter in the southern United States compared to little change in those that winter in South and Central America. Oddly enough, in spite of the very heavy snow cover, the Gray Partridges in Region 6 have increased. It is hard to pinpoint the cause of decreasing bird populations. The loss of the Black Rails from Long Island was almost certainly not due to the previous winter.

Several regions reported Bald Eagles during the summer. This is most encouraging and the source of these would be interesting to determine. I doubt very much that they represent the northern breeding population. Southern birds have been captured in the Northeast after post-breeding dispersal. It would be nice to think that at least some of these are the result of the active breeding program which is being continued.

Ravens are expanding rapidly in northern New York and have now become well established in their usual areas and are spreading to others. Increasing numbers of breeding Barn Owls are being reported from many areas to the great horror of the rodent population. Ospreys had a good season on eastern Long Island and adjacent islands.

Goshawks are nesting in increasing numbers and there were over 30 Red-tail nests found in the Millbrook-Stamford area of Dutchess County. Some very fine work is being done on the breeding hawks of eastern Dutchess County, and contiguous areas of northwestern Connecticut, by a group of dedicated young men who spend most of their time in the woods searching for hawk nests. The results have been astounding. Turkey Vultures seem to be increasing and spreading. Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks still are in deep trouble.

Passerine fluctuations do not show many clear statewide trends. Acadian Flycatchers continue their remarkable range extension, gnatcatchers are increasing and House Finches seem to be actually replacing the House Sparrow in some areas—Good Luck! Many birds, however, were reported to be up in some areas and down in others. Examples of these are Eastern Bluebird, American Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Nighthawk, and Black Tern.

A word of caution on some of the cuckoo reports. It is becoming more and more well known that the Black-billed Cuckoo can give a call which is, to most ears, nearly identical to that of the Yellow-billed. There are short call notes of both which are indistinguishable. A definitive paper on these vocalizations is badly needed, but until one is readily available, great care should be exercised in identifying cuckoos by note alone.

Many of the other comments have been made in these pages so often that it is no longer necessary to repeat them in detail, or at all. The plight of the Black Duck, the troubles of the grassland sparrows, the hybridization of the "winged" warblers, *etc.*, are all documented in the following pages. There is also not enough space for a complete listing of all of the "goodies" from the various regions but the editors have highlighted them in each report, both in their introductions and in the bodies of the reports. Search them out—you will find them exciting, with your particular attention directed to the Anhinga in Region 10, which record will now appear on the Hypothetical List for New York State.

Millbrook School, Millbrook, New York 12545

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Rain fell on 46-count 'em—46 days this summer, 14 in June, 18 in July, 14 in August, with four days the longest period without rain in the last two months. However, June, though cold, had near normal precipitation. In July, an oppressive heat wave held sway the third week and rainfall over the Southern Tier was 5.4 in. (13.7 cm) above average with flash floods the first week but the Buffalo area was normal. In August, with near average temperatures, over 10 in. (25.4 cm) rain deluged the Buffalo area, but the Southern Tier received only 1.8 in. (4.6 cm) above normal.

The cold, frequent rains killed some nestlings by exposure, or by starvation in the case of Phoebes and Barn Swallows. Vegetation, stunted by the dry May, quickly burgeoned when the rains came, and the usual late-August defoliation was absent. As for the wild food crop, a Pied Piper's population of mice, in addition to a bounty of black cherries, apples, berries and filling cones, should carry into fall and winter.

This 11th year of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys—BBS hereafter—recorded 18,253 individuals and 116 species from 18 out of 19 routes. Below, status for a species is noted as (H+) = highest ever, or tied, (H) = one of top 3 totals, (S) = stable, (L) = one of low 3 totals, or (L-) = lowest ever, or tied. From 16 out of 17 routes of this 8th year of the Allegheny Co. "Mini-Run" Breeding Bird Surveys—Abbs, hereafter—7,896 individuals and 96 species were counted (See *Kingbird*, Vol. XX, No. 4). Below, status for a species is indicated as (H+) = highest ever, (sd+) = above one standard deviation, (S) = stable, or (sd-) = below one standard deviation.

On the bright side are: 1) an excellent showing of Turkey Vultures and most hawks, 2) the Turkey population increasing beautifully, 3) an *exciting* shorebird flight, 4) discovery of a better mouse trap, 5) Chimney Swifts, and Pileated, Red-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers more than holding their own, but Downies down, 6) high counts of Black-capped Chickadees, 7) fair breeding population of E. Bluebirds with varied success, 8) a slow but promising warbler movement beginning in mid-August, 9) low—way low—numbers of House Sparrows and Starlings, a favor from the rough winter, and 10) an abundance of Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings.

On the summer's dark side are: 1) low numbers of Green Herons, 2) fewer Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks on BBS, 3) low breeding survey counts of Ring-necked Pheasants, Com. Gallinules, Com. Snipe, Upland Sandpipers (habitat lost to maturing tree farms, Cattaraugus Co. [SE]), and Spotted Sandpipers, 4) a flying success for Rock Doves, 5) hint of replacement of Black-billed Cuckoos by Yellow-billed—not all bad—, 6) general low status for Purple Martins, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows and for flycatchers, with many E. Phoebes missing from usual sites, 7) Horned Larks still weak but slightly better on Abbs, 8) Tufted Titmice, Mockingbirds and Carolina Wrens nearly wiped out by the hard winter, 9) some House Wrens missing or producing barren nests—but the usual terror at Tree Swallow and E. Bluebird boxes, 10) fewer Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers and most thrushes, 11) continuing steady decline of E. Meadowlark populations, 12) increased Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism, and 13) most sparrows still doing poorly.

Summer rarities are: Cattle Egret, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Barn Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, "Brewster's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and House Finch.

Abbreviations: GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; SF—State Forest; SP—State Park; Twp—Township.

Contributors: Robert Andrie, Elizabeth Brooks, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Ed Curtis (Weather Data, Wellsville), Stephen Eaton, John Forness, Mary Forness (MFr), David Freeland, Harriette Klabunde, Walter Klabunde (BBS Compiler), Clarence Klingensmith (Abbs Compiler), Harold Mitchell, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Bruce A. Smalley, Ann Scott (AnS), Robert Sundell, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy; and Observers: Dorothy Danner, Alice McKale, Willard McKale, John Morse, Arthur Schaffner, and Robert Wagner.

LOONS—DUCKS: Single Com. Loons were still seen at Buffalo Harbor June 2 (RA) and at Amity L June 12 (VP, RP). Single **CATTLE EGRETS** were at Alabama June 8 (JM) and very late at Clarence July 31 (DF). A Black-crowned Night Heron appeared on BBS (H) with no other reports except one at Times Beach June 1, 2 (RA) and Aug. 29 (DF). A Least Bittern was noted at Iroquois NWR June 22 (JM). This species was found nesting, 3 eggs, at Tift Farm June 11 where an Am. Bittern nest, 3 yg + 1 egg, was also located the same day (RA+). A late Whistling Swan was at Oak Orchard WMA June 11 (AS+). Although the resident pair of Canada Geese spent the summer at Farmersville Sta. (DC, JC), the family near Hume disappeared early this season (M. Hodnett); singles were at Wellsville June 23 and at Belmont June 24-Aug. 30 (DB, LB) (same bird?) Choice duck sightings include: Gadwall: 4 at Iroquois NWR June 11 (AS+) and 2 at S. Buffalo July 7 (DF); Am. Wigeon: at Times Beach, max 5 until July 22 (RA+) and max 25 on Aug. 24 (DF), as well as at Iroquois NWR, 4 on June 11 (AS+); a N. Shoveler at Iroquois NWR June 11 (AS+); 60 Wood Ducks, Hume Twp, Aug. 16 (DB, LB, Palmer); 1 late Redhead at Times Beach June 16 (RA); one oddball Ruddy Duck on Amity L July 2 (VP); and Hooded Merganser June fledglings: 7 at Farmersville Sta. (DC, JC) and 11 near Alfred (EB).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Hawks with status other than "S" on breeding surveys were: Turkey Vulture: 7 on BBS (H+); Sharp-shinned: one on BBS (H); Cooper's: one on BBS (H+); Red-tailed: 11 on BBS (L); Red-shouldered: 2 on BBS (L); Broad-winged: 5 on BBS (H+); and Am. Kestrel: 23 on BBS (H). Other Turkey Vulture reports were: one at Farmersville Sta. July 19 (DC) and max 20 at Salamanca July 3-31 (JF, MFr). A **GOSHAWK** was found in Allegany SP June 5 (RS); two Allegany Co. **GOSHAWK** nests produced a total of 3 yg, banded in June (Shriver *vide* DB). Sharp-shinned Hawks totaled only 6 from 4 areas. However, a Cooper's Hawk nest with two 2-day old chicks and 2 eggs "hammering" was located in Ward Twp June 12 (Shriver *vide* DB) and 4 other birds were identified from 3 locations. In Allegany Co. a total of 6 yg. in 2 Red-shouldered Hawk nests and 2 yg. in that of a Broad-winged were banded June 12 (Shriver *vide* DB). An adult **BALD EAGLE** appeared near Olean July 6 (JF, MFr). Although Ruffed Grouse were absent this year for the first time on Abbs, they were well reported with max 16 at Allenberg Bog July 2 (Knox, Nutting); 10 yg. were found near Alfred in June (EB, CK). On BBS were 141 Ring-necked Pheasants (L-). A Com. Gallinule's nest was found with 7 eggs at Tift Farm June 11 (RA+). The pick of the plover and sandpiper reports includes: Am. Golden Plover: one at Prendergast Pt. Aug. 19 (Sundells) and 6 at Clarence Aug. 25 (DF); Black-bellied Plover: one at Times Beach June 3 (RA) and 14 at Shadigee Aug. 20 (DF); Upland Sandpiper: 6 on BBS (L) but no less than 26 others counted from 6 locations, including 4 nesting pairs in Cattaraugus Co. (SE); Solitary Sandpiper: one at Burgeson Sanctuary July 2 (RS, Kibler), and 6 at Iroquois NWR Aug. 9 (DF); Greater Yellowlegs: early at Times Beach, one on June 30 (RA) and a max 10 on July 7 (RA, DF+); Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 at Buffalo Harbor July 28 (AS) and one at Times Beach Aug. 29 (DF); Baird's Sandpiper: one at Times Beach Aug. 29 (DF); Dunlin: one again 3 weeks early at Times Beach July 7, 10 (DF, RA+) and another there Aug. 29 (DF); Short-billed Dowitcher: an early invasion, with 3 at Times Beach June 30 (RA) and a max 74 here July 7 (DF+), the same day 10 were at Buffalo Harbor (DF); Stilt Sandpiper: one early at Buffalo July 7 (DF) with 6 others totaled from 3 areas; Semipalmated Sandpiper: one early at Times Beach June 30 (RA); **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** two at Clarence Aug. 27 (Freelands); **AMERICAN AVOCET:** one at S. Buffalo Aug. 12 (Heyer, Wheaton, DF, FR)—*extremely rare but expected* (see *Kingbird* XXIII July 1973, p. 138);

and WILSON'S PHALAROPE: one at Iroquois NWR Aug. 9 (DF). 'Twas a lackadaisical larid summer but for: Franklin's Gull: singles at Prendergast Pt. Aug. 19-21 (Sundells, Kibler) and at Buffalo Aug. 30 (DF); Bonaparte's Gull: max 3,000 at Buffalo Aug. 21 (DF); Little Gull: one on Aug. 6 and 2 on Aug. 30 at Buffalo (DF); Forster's Tern: one at Times Beach Aug. 24 (DF); and Caspian Tern: only 2 all season.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: A BARN OWL was located at E. Amherst June 17 (DF). This species, a superb ratter, is being brought into Satellite Beach, Fla., for rodent control. (*Wellsville Daily Reporter*, Aug. 29, 1977)—Can the rats who shoot owls and hawks be controlled?—Great Horned Owl July fledgling reports were: 2 at Farmersville Sta. (DC, JC, SE) and 2 at Scio (VP). A Long-eared Owl was noted at Killbuck July 3 (JF, MFr), and 3 yg were banded in the nest near Birdsall June 12 (Shriver *vide* DB). Three Whip-poor-wills were found on Potter Rd., Chautauqua Twp, June 6 (RS, Moe) and one at Java Aug. 8 (DF). A big flock of early migrating Com. Nighthawks appeared over Olean July 31 (F. Meyer, *Olean Times Herald*, Sept. 1, 1977), and 50 were seen in Tonawanda-Amherst area Aug. 27 (Freelands); other reports were: 3 at Olean July 27 (JF, MFr) and one at Belmont Aug. 26 (DB, LB). Two adult Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers fed yg. in hole June 11 by Conewango Creek, Cattaraugus Co., at 1,285 ft. elevation, lowest to date in the county (SE).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Noteworthy flycatchers on breeding surveys were: E. Phoebe: 20 on BBS (L-), and 62 on Abbs (sd-); Least Flycatcher: 40 on BBS (L-); E. Wood Pewee: 32 on BBS (L-). Two E. Kingbird nests near Amity L produced 5 fledglings (VP). E. Phoebe nestings reported from Cattaraugus Co. resulted in only 2 out of 8 prs successful with poor 2nd nestings (SE). In Allegany Co. out of 21 E. Phoebe nestings, 10 succeeded, producing 36 yg; near Scio one nest failed when owner closed barn doors and the yg in nest starved. There were 4 Alder Flycatcher nestlings near Alfred July 20 (EB), and Least Flycatchers fledged 4 yg at Amity L July 13 (VP). The only report of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was one at E. Amherst Aug. 19 (DF). Single ACADIAN FLYCATCHERS were spotted at Randolph June 4 (RA+) and near Barcelona July 4 (RS). An Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared at Newstead Aug. 19 (DF). A new colony of Cliff Swallows was discovered near Randolph (SE), and 4 yg Rough-winged Swallows fledged at Scio July 4 (VP). The Tufted Titmouse, on BBS for the past 2 years, was missing this year and a total of only 10 birds was reported from 6 areas. Counted from scattered locations were 6 Red-breasted Nuthatches and 10 Brown Creepers. Noteworthy wren reports are: Winter: total 3 birds from 2 areas; Carolina: one on BBS (H) plus *only one other report*: 2 at Chestnut Ridge Park June 30 (O'Dell); Long-billed Marsh: 2 on BBS (H); and Short-billed Marsh: total, only 5 birds in 2 areas. The Mockingbird, on BBS for the past 2 years, was missing on this survey; the only reports were singles at Varysburg June 22 (DF) and at Belmont June 27 (VP, RP). 59 Veeries on Abbs rated "H+." Swainson's Thrushes were found at E. Amherst, one on Aug. 19 and 3 on Aug. 26 (DF). E. Bluebirds tallied 3 on Abbs (sd-); near Alfred one pair had poor breeding success (CK), but in Amity and near Bolivar, 5 pairs fledged over 18 yg (VP); a total 12 other birds appeared in 7 locations. A single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen at Times Beach Aug. 24 (DF). Still going strong are Regional Golden-crowned Kinglets and 5 yg were seen near Alfred in late July (EB). A max 6 Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared off and on in Allegany SP June 4-July 24 (mob) and one arr early at E. Amherst Aug. 19 (DF). A single Loggerhead Shrike was found at Porter Ave., Buffalo, Aug. 6 (Freelands).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Single Philadelphia Vireos were at E. Amherst Aug. 19, early, and at Clarence Aug. 25 (DF). Extraordinary breeding survey warbler ratings were: Chestnut-sided: 18 on BBS (L-) but 37 on Abbs (H+); and Com. Yellowthroats: 241 on BBS (H+) and 206 on Abbs (H+). A PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was in old haunts at Iroquois NWR again June 11 (AS+), and a "BREWSTER'S" WARBLER appeared at Amity L July 11 (VP). In August over 8 migrating Tennessee Warblers were counted from 4 areas. Nashville Warbler was seen on and off in 2 Alfred areas July 1-18 (CK, EB). Late again were max 3 N. Parulas in Allegany SP June 4, 5 (DF, RA, RS+). 3 yg Yellow-rumped Warblers were

noted near Alfred July 28 (EB) and one yg was found at McCarty Hill, Ellicottville, July 24 (RA+). Other noteworthy warblers were: a Cerulean Warbler on BBS (H); a max 2 Pine Warblers in Phillips Creek SF June 7, 12 (CK, EB, RA+)—very late; late **PRAIRIE WARBLERS**: one in Carroll June 4 (RA+), and max 9 intermittently near Alfred June 2-24 (EB, CK, RA+); and Yellow-breasted Chat: one on BBS (H)—the only report.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Noteworthy on breeding surveys were: House Sparrow: 919 on BBS (L-) and 287 on Abbs (sd-); and E. Meadowlark: 330 on BBS (L-) and 74 on Abbs (sd-). **HOUSE FINCHES**, widely reported, were seen in two new areas: Angelica, with 2 on June 4-6 (R. Wesche); and Jamestown, with 2 at the Community College June 13, as well as max 8 at a feeder June 18-Aug. 12 which includes 2 yg July 17 (RS); June fledgling reports were 3 at Cuba (AnS) and 2 at Belmont (DB, LB). In Allegany Co. from 24 Am. Goldfinch nests, the 11 successful fledged at least 45 yg (VP). Sparrows in the desperate "L-" status on BBS were 13 Vesper and 147 Field, and rated "sd-" on Abbs were 63 Savannah and 3 Grasshopper. An interesting White-crowned Sparrow was found on BBS, but not counted as a nester. The White-throated Sparrow nested again near Alfred (EB), and late birds were found as: max 4 in Phillips Creek SF June 7, 12 (EB, CK+), max 3 near Alfred July 3-19 (CK, EB), and one near Petrolia June 21 (VP, RP).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

The season began with an exciting, yet at times confusing, extension of the spring migration. Shorebirds, several of them very rare for the region, continued to move through the Northrup Creek area during the month of June. By June 25, the numbers of yellowlegs and peep gathering, indicated probable fall returns. Gulls and terns finally arrived in numbers in mid-June accompanied by several rare visitors. Hawks and eagles continued to straggle over Braddock Bay's Hawk Lookout through the month. June also saw area birders scattering away from the lakeshore with very interesting results; numbers of normally more northerly nesting species were discovered in the hill country to the south. July brought a number of interesting reports amid generally hot, dull birding. The eagerly awaited August shorebirding failed to materialize. The passerine passage was generally normal and unspectacular.

June stretched the warm, dry spell through to the last week. The first half of July was very hot, highs often near or above 90-95° F (32-35° C), and humid with occasional heavy rains. The last half of July moderated to more normal temperatures and rainfall. August saw heavy rains cut into the year's deficit. The succession of cold fronts brought a few record and near record low temperatures early in the month, but no waves of birds until some major pushes in the final ten days.

True trends for the season are difficult to separate from weather, habitat, and observer fluctuations. The water bird picture is clouded by weather/habitat interactions without any real population changes. Early low water levels resulted in few reports of waders, yet by August with high water, good numbers were reported, particularly of Great Blue Herons. Early warming of Lake Ontario waters moved the ducks along early with fewer than normal late Spring and Summer lingerers. The combination of dry fields and isolated good shoreline habitat produced exciting June shorebirding, but then allowed the marsh grasses to expand their holdings so that with the rising waters later there were few observable resting places for fall migrants. The raptor picture is complicated by observer trends. This year the

hawk lookout was watched to the end of June (LM) with small numbers of hawks moving throughout this period. This has been reported previously, but not well documented. Likewise, late this season more observers apparently peered upward and a start was made toward study of the local fall hawk migration. The bulk of the movement is immature Red-tails and the patterns are confusing at best. The passerine scene was one of a general feeling of scarcity. The normal variety of species was represented, but breeding populations seemed low, the dawn chorus diminished. There were actually sizeable tracts with little bird song at the height of the breeding season. There was a definite upward trend in reports of birds generally associated with breeding at higher latitudes. This is undoubtedly due in large part to much better coverage of the higher altitude areas in the southern part of the region. Unfortunately, there are almost no reports of actual nesting studies in the region; breeding records being essentially all presumptive, based on the presence of singing birds during the breeding season.

Noteworthy specific trends for the season include the nearly complete absence of Loggerhead Shrike and very low numbers of Pied-billed Grebe and Com. Nighthawk. Positives for the season include increased breeding populations of Green-winged Teal, Cliff Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Golden-crowned Kinglet, and a good late summer showing of terns.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Ruff, Franklin's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Common Raven, "Lawrence's" Warbler, and Western Tanager.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; HL—Honeoye Lake; LO—Lake Ontario; LP—Letchworth Park; NC—Northrup Creek, Long Pond, Greece; WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Mike Carlson, Julie Claffey, Roger Clark, Bill & Rhea Colman, Jerry Czech, Jean & Neil Dilley, Bob & Frank Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, Joan Esley, June Feder, John & Arleen Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, William Gordon, Kevin Griffith, Norm Henderson, Allen & Bea Kemnitzner, Allan & Sandy Klonick, Jim, Joan & Walt Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Al Maley, A. & B. Mahan, Frank & Mary Mattei, Bob & Margaret McKinney, Jane Morris, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Neil Prosser, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Steve Smith, Robert & Sue Spahn, Anne Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, David Tremmel, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, Doris Wilton.

LOONS—DUCKS: The Spring's EARED GREBE stayed for one sighting: 1 IC June 3 (D, M & TT, mob). Double-crested Cormorants lingered well into the season: 2 BB June (mob); and 1 BB July 31 (KG). "Southern" herons were sparse in the region with only Great Egret reported, 5 records. Least Bittern was only frequently observed after water levels rose in July and August. The most interesting of the few lingering ducks were: Pintail: 2 Kendall July 30 (RBA); Redhead: 1 Pt. Breeze June 25 (CP); 1 BB Aug. 6-15 (mob); Ruddy Duck: 1 Carlton July 3-4 (F&BD, BS, mob); and Red-breasted Merganser: 1 fem. BB July 17-21 (PR, JCL, mob); 1 WL Aug. 23 (KD, mob).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Hawk records of interest include several summer accipiter reports: Goshawk: 2 ad. & nest HL June 12 (AM, mob); 1 ad. & 1 imm. HL July 3 (CP); 1 imm. Webster Aug. 23 (WLI, MAS); Cooper's Hawk: 2 ad. & nest LP June 11 (CP, RBA); 1 Canadice Lake June 11 (JF, RS); 1 Hemlock Lake July 9 (RO); 1 Livonia Aug. 29 (HM). The peak of the August hawk flight was Red-tailed Hawk: 317 imm. headed west Kendall Aug. 13 (BS, mob), and 74 imm. headed east BB Aug. 13 (JSK, mob). Bald Eagle records were: 1 imm. NC June 1 (CP); 2 ad. Hemlock Lake June 11 (WLI, mob); 1 ad. Buck Pond June 21 (B & FD); 1 ad. Long Pond June 21 (M & TT, NH); 1 imm. Clarkson June 25 (RC); and 1 imm. Webster July 16-17 (JCz, mob), later found dead, diagnosed massive pesticide concentrations. This season brought the first sightings of Turkey families in the region in recent

years: Cumming Nature Center Aug. 13 (MW); LP Aug. 14 (BS, RC). The shorebird records for the season include: Whimbrel: 1 NC July 8 (NH); 1 Charlotte Aug. 13 (NH); 1 Lakeshore Golf Course Aug. 26 (CD *vide* RS); **MARBLED GODWIT**: 3rd regional Spring record 1 photo NC June 6-7 (TT, BS, B & FD, mob); possibly same bird 1 NC June 13 (FD, mob); **WILLET**: 1 NC June 12-14 (mob); 1 Kendall Aug. 29 (BS); Lesser Yellowlegs: max. 44 NC June 30 (M&TT); Ruddy Turnstone: 1-2 NC June 17-21 (mob); **RUFF**: 1 male displaying NC June 21 (FD, mob); 1 Charlotte Aug. 31 (RS); Wilson's Phalarope: 1 fem NC June 1 (TT); 2 fem. NC June 14-27 (mob); 1 fem. Kendall June 18 (WLi); 2 imm. Kendall July 19-31 (WLi, mob); 1 Greece Aug. 9 (NH); and 1 Perinton Aug. 24 (MT, DS). The most interesting gull records occurred with the mid-June build-up at NC and included: **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: 1 sub-ad. NC June 18 (CP, mob) and **BLACK-HEADED GULL**: 1 ad. NC June 14-16 (FD, mob). Little Gull finally appeared Aug. 28: 1 Charlotte (RBA). Forster's Tern was reported in small numbers at BB throughout the season with numbers soaring with increases in the other species in late August. Seasonal maxima include: Forster's Tern: 6 BB Aug. 31 (NH); Common Tern: 25 BB Aug. 31 (NH); Caspian Tern: 60 Manitou Aug. 13 (RO); and Black Tern: 60 WL Aug. 4 (NH).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Of note in this grouping is Short-eared Owl: 1 Pt. Breeze Aug. 27 (BS), possibly from a breeding colony a short distance west. Other observations within this group were normal for the season except for the near absence of Com. Night-hawk in Rochester.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Flycatcher records include the observation that most of the *Empidonax* along the ridge between Honeoye and Canadice lakes were Alder, while most in the valleys at lake level (and near Rochester) were Willow. Two Acadian Flycatcher nesting sites were documented: Honeoye Lake (at 2100 ft.) June 5 (RBA) and Bergen Swamp June 18 (RBA). There were at least 6 distinct August records of Olive-sided Flycatcher. Vying for bird-of-the-season for the region was a **COMMON RAVEN** closely observed and well documented: 1 Webster July 11 (JCz). Carolina Wren, while hard hit by the cold winter, has been reported nesting in at least 3 scattered locations in the county. Mockingbird appears to have fared even better. There was an interesting report of a taped Screech Owl call attracting 11 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers from the roadside woods over a short stretch: Murray Aug. 5 (B & FD). A **WATER PIPIT** appeared at a record early date for the state, posing for photos: 1 BB July 23 (WLi, RBA). Loggerhead Shrikes were also seen: 2 Sodus Bay Aug. 22 (M & TT).

VIREOS-WARBLED: The story here is the number of species potentially breeding in the high country south of Rochester and in Letchworth Park. These include as many as 22 species of warblers and Solitary Vireo. Among the records received are: Pine Warbler: 4 LP June (RBA); Prairie Warbler: 1 LP June 11 (RBA); many Louisiana Waterthrush pairs in gorges off the Finger Lakes; and "**LAWRENCE'S**" **WARBLER**: 1 Canadice Lake June 11 (JF, mob). The full story of warbler breeding in this region needs a great deal more study and documentation in future years. The fall passage of this group has been normal (dull) to date this year.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: The Orchard Oriole colony near Pt. Breeze was observed closely through the season with a max. of 1 ad. & 3 imm. July 30 (CP) and a last sighting of 1 imm. Aug. 10 (WLi). Joining the regional race for bird-of-the-season in August was a briefly, but clearly, observed male, breeding-plumaged **WESTERN TANAGER**: 1 Pittsford Aug. 21 (WG). It sat briefly above a thistle feeder, apparently attracted by the commotion of feeding Am. Goldfinches. The area House Finch colonies are thriving with two in Brighton and a third now reported: 5-17 Rochester (Arnett Blvd.) July (*vide* JSk). Red Crossbill once again summered on a local golf course with extensive pine plantings: 1-2 Brook-Lea CC Aug. (RS).

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

June was a cool month averaging four degrees F (7.2° C) below normal. July and August were about normal. Thru mid-month, July was hot but finished up cool. August started hot, went to very cool from the 20th-25th and ended warm. Rainfall was about normal in the southern part of the Region. In the north, June and July were very dry, followed by frequent rains in August.

This weather pattern had a direct effect on shorebirding at MNWR. By July 1 the water level had dropped enough to expose some mudflats and the early fall migrant shorebirds came in. They increased in number and variety thru July as the mudflats widened. The August rains reversed the process. By mid-month, the mudflats were gone as were the shorebirds. At the end of the period, almost no shorebirds were present compared to last year's fantastic display on the partially drained Tschache pool.

The Trumansburg Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Census produced the highest number of Cardinals ever. Eastern Wood Pewee, Common Yellowthroat, Common Grackle and Dark-eyed Junco came in with the second highest totals in the 12 year history of the count. On the other side of the coin, no Eastern Kingbirds or Cedar Waxwings were found for the first time.

Among the positive trends of the season were the best numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons and Least Bitterns at MNWR since 1972; excellent numbers of Wood Ducks; increased Upland Sandpiper reports; continued high population of Mourning Doves; though still few in number, a small increase in sightings of both cuckoos; an abundance of House Wrens and American Goldfinches; the continued expansion in the range and numbers of House Finches.

Negatives include but one Great Egret report; very few Rough-winged or Cliff Swallows; fewer White-breasted Nuthatches; drastically reduced numbers of Carolina Wrens; the absence of Short-billed Marsh Wrens from their recent haunts at MNWR; continued low numbers of Savannah and, especially, Vesper Sparrows. Malcolm Lerch comments that at Penn Yan all species seem to be down.

Rarities: Golden Eagle, Long-billed Dowitcher, Ruff, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, a possible Western Tanager.

Corrigendum: *The Kingbird* (Vol. XXVII, No. 2, page 100) under Golden-crowned Kinglet, place a period (rather than a semi-colon) after "1 at Penn Yan feeder thru Feb" and insert Ruby-crowned Kinglet before "1 eating suet at Clifton Springs Jan. 7-16."

Abbreviations: arr—arrival date; dep—departure date; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen—Seneca; SBC—Summer Bird Count sponsored by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs preceded by G for Geneva (June 12) or I for Ithaca (June 18) and each count covering the corresponding Christmas Bird Count circle; TBBS—Trumansburg Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Census 12th Year (June 12); WD—Waterloo dump; * (starred)—details on file.

Compilers and contributors: W. E. Benning, Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen), James Gibson, Bernice Hilfiker, Gene Hocutt (MNWR), Wilifred Howard, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Dorothy McIlroy, William Ostrander, Steve Sabo (Ithaca), Jeffery Walters, Mary P. Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 GSBC; 1 Keuka L thru. Horned Grebe: 1 Sen L Jul. 16-17 (BH). Pied-billed Grebe: 65 MNWR Aug. 16; no longer nests at Penn Yan marsh. Great Egret: 1 MNWR Aug. 13 only-sighting. Black-crowned Night Heron: best season since

1972 at MNWR. Least Bittern: best numbers at MNWR since the Agnes wipeout in 1972 with 8 sighted Aug. 13. Canada Goose: observers at Clifton Springs, Branchport and Elmira report seeing flocks in late Aug. Early migrants or are the local birds at MNWR moving out?

Ducks: the maximum counts reported by the MNWR personnel are as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| 5,000 Mallard | Aug. 31 | 2,200 Blue-winged Teal | Aug. 31 |
| 350 Black | Jul. 31 | 150 Am. Wigeon | Jun. 30 |
| 2,000 Gadwall | Aug. 31 | 375 N. Shoveler | Jul. 31 |
| 250 Pintail | Aug. 31 | 2,000 Wood Duck | Aug. 31 |
| 1,000 Green-winged Teal | Aug. 31 | 100 Hooded Merganser | Aug. 31 |

Redhead: 3 GSBC. Hooded Merganser: 7 ISBC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 4 GSBC; numbers up at Penn Yan. Goshawk: young banded at nests at Dresden and 3 at Brooktondale June 6. Sharp-shinned: nested at Camp Dittmer south of Phelps (PT). Broad-winged: 2 Elmira Jun. 28 (WH); 2 E. Corning Jun. 30 (T. Bates); 2 Watkins Glen State Park Aug. 19 (JB). Bald Eagle: in a continuation of last year's program, 5 young eagles were raised at MNWR. These were flying by the end of the period. One of last year's birds returned in Aug. In addition, an unmarked immature bird was seen. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** immature E. Corning Aug. 25 (SS)*. Marsh Hawk: 2 GSBC. Osprey: 1 ISBC. Merlin: 1 Savannah Mucklands Aug. 16, no details (SS). Am. Kestrel: doing well. Semipalmated Plover: late spring migrants 2 ISBC and 3 MNWR both Jun. 18; first fall birds 4 MNWR Jul. 19; max 15 MNWR Jul. 31. Killdeer: 64 GSBC. Am. Woodcock: successful nest near Clyde. Upland Sandpiper: absent at Penn Yan for the first time in many years but otherwise well reported with 25 at Horseheads Jun. 27. Solitary Sandpiper: 3 MNWR Jul. 5; 3 Ithaca Aug. 25. Greater Yellowlegs: arr fall 1 MNWR Jul. 5 max 18 Jul. 13. Lesser Yellowlegs: dep spring 1 MNWR Jun. 19; arr fall 1 MNWR Jul. 1 max 86 Jul. 19. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr fall 1 MNWR Jul. 13 max 10 Jul. 31; 8 Aurora Aug. 16. White-rumped Sandpiper: dep spring 6 MNWR Jun. 8; arr fall 2 MNWR Jul. 26. Least Sandpiper: arr fall 3 MNWR Jul. 1 max 13 Jul. 31. Dunlin: dep spring 1 MNWR Jun. 8. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr fall 4 MNWR Jul. 3 max 26 Jul. 29; 1 Horseheads Aug. 7. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** 1 Corning Aug. 4 (MW)*; 1 MNWR Aug. 13 (Genesee Ornithological Society). Stilt Sandpiper: arr fall 2 MNWR Jul. 8 max 6 Jul. 13 all in reasonably good breeding plumage. Semipalmated Sandpiper: dep spring 150 MNWR Jun. 1; arr fall 43 MNWR Jul. 13 max 118 Jul. 22. **RUFF:** 1 WD Aug. 12 (JG)* and seen again Aug. 13 by Genesee Ornithological Society and believed to have been a female (Reeve). Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR Jul. 31 and 1 WD Aug. 12 both (WB). Ring-billed Gull: 1,500 WD Aug. 12. Common Tern: 4 adults 1 young MNWR Jul. 26. Black Tern: fewer at MNWR and gone by Aug. 11.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 MNWR Aug. 11; 1 Ithaca Aug. 16; nested near Orleans (Paris Trail). Barn Owl: 1 near Chemung probably nested in an old barn (WH); 5 Painted Post Aug. 4 (MW). Barred Owl: 1 Ithaca Aug. 22 (SS). Common Nighthawk: 1 ISBC; 1 Clifton Springs late June; 1 Reeders Creek, Sen Co. Aug. 20; 75 flying over Southport Aug. 26 and 150 Aug. 27. Pileated Woodpecker: 3 young raised at Stewart Park, Ithaca; 2 ISBC; 1 GSBC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 GSBC; 2 ISBC. Red-headed Woodpecker: 10 GSBC; widely reported from all parts of the Region with at least 7 nesting pairs in the Clifton Springs-Phelps area.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: 43 ISBC; 21 GSBC. Great Crested Flycatcher: 14 GSBC; 35 ISBC. Eastern Phoebe: back to normal on the TBBS but still down in some areas; 23 ISBC; 11 GSBC. **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** 1 Union Springs Aug. 16 (SS)*. Willow Flycatcher: 6 GSBC; 15 ISBC. Alder Flycatcher: 3 ISBC. Least Flycatcher: numerous reports; 9 GSBC; 31 ISBC. Eastern Wood Pewee; 22 GSBC; 39 ISBC. **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** 1 MNWR Aug. 20 (WB). Bank Swallow: few reports; colony at Tyre abandoned but new colony at Junius Ponds. Rough-winged Swallow: very scarce; 9 ISBC; pair apparently nesting south of Dundee late June. Cliff Swallow: a pair at

Penn Yan and 5 ISBC are the only reports. Purple Martin: mixed reports; good, but under 1976, at MNWR; 3 houses well occupied at Phelps; scattered pairs elsewhere. White-breasted Nuthatch: harder to find than usual. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 ISBC; 4 Union Springs Aug. 16; 1 Watkins Glen Aug. 19; fewer at Tanglewood, Elmira. Carolina Wren: 2 ISBC; 1 singing at Phelps only reports. Mockingbird: 2 TBBS; 2 GSBC; 14 ISBC. Eastern Bluebird: fewer reports of sightings or nests than last year. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 GSBC; 1 ISBC; nested at Reeders Creek, Sen Co.; 1 MNWR Aug. 16. Golden-crowned Kinglet: present all summer at Tanglewood (WO). Cedar Waxwing: at Phelps a pair built a nest on top of last year's Am. Goldfinch nest. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: reported from Ithaca area only. Philadelphia: 1 Ithaca Aug. 25. Warbling: 31 GSBC; 21 ISBC. No waves of warblers had come thru but by the end of the period the expected species had been found in small numbers. Yellow-rumped Warblers were at Tanglewood, Elmira all summer. Resident Yellows and Common Yellowthroats were in good numbers.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: 1 ISBC. **WESTERN TANAGER:** a possible sighting Ithaca Aug. 21 (JG)*. Cardinal: 32 TBBS; 60 GSBC; 125 ISBC. Purple Finch: 22 ISBC and many scattered reports. House Finch: expanding at an accelerated rate in most of the Region; 30 found roosting in a spruce tree in Elmira. Am. Goldfinch: abundant, even non-birders were asking where all the "wild canaries" came from. Savannah Sparrow: 22 GSBC; 31 ISBC; several commented on reduced numbers. Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 TBBS; 1 GSBC; 3 ISBC; numbers up at Horseheads. Henslow's Sparrow: 8 ISBC. Vesper Sparrow: continues to be reported very sparingly; 3 GSBC; 1 King Ferry Aug. 16, 3 Penn Yan. Dark-eyed Junco: 15 ISBC. White-throated Sparrow: 1 singing thru July at Tanglewood, Elmira. Song Sparrow: back down to normal on TBBS after last year's extreme high; ML had banded very few by the end of the period compared to last year's abundance; generally still found in good numbers.

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REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Again a substantial portion of the data available for the summer season was contained in the results from the Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes run in the Region. With the help of Danny Bystrak, the data from 12 of the 13 routes are available at this writing with the Vestal Center route the only one missing. 10,389 individuals of 103 species were recorded on these 12 routes, compared to 11,288 individuals of 109 species on 13 routes in 1976. After a simple arithmetic adjustment to compensate for the missing route, there was a decrease of only 0.3 per cent in individuals.

Using the same adjustment on a species by species basis, but only considering species that had counts of 30 or more one year or the other, 4 species decreased and 8 species increased by a third or more. The losers (and per cent loss) were Eastern Phoebe (42), Killdeer (38), House Wren (36) and Rufous-sided Towhee (33). Gainers (and per cent gain) were Purple Finch (225), Bank Swallow (95), Yellow-throated Vireo (87), Tree Swallow (62), Black-capped Chickadee (44), Scarlet Tanager (36), Chimney Swift (35) and Downy Woodpecker (34). No claims of statistical significance are being made for any species, but the colonial nature of Bank Swallows makes that result highly questionable. Only the Purple Finch and Yellow-throated Vireo increases were noticeable in other reports received for the period.

The composite results for each species found on at least one of the 12 routes is reported in the form "(54,11)", meaning 54 birds reported on 11 surveys.

The Federation sponsored Breeding Bird Censuses also produced a goodly portion of the useable data, but the less disciplined method of data collection makes mathematical treatment inappropriate. Two censuses were run in the Region, the Delaware-Otsego Breeding Bird Census (DOBBC), which includes counts from an intensive nesting census conducted by Bob Miller (RM) and students, and the Binghamton Breeding Bird Census (Bing BBC).

Other observers: Jeanette and Cutler Baldwin (J, CB), Reynolds Bennett (RB), Gail Corderman (GC), Warren Corderman, Anna and Marilyn Davis, Louise and Warren Dean, Mary Dobinsky, Cynthia Dropp, Becky and Eugene Kirch, Evelyn Meade, John New, Robert Pantle (RP), Mary Sheffield (MS), J. Trevitt (JT), Donald Weber (DW), Cora Wellman, Ruth and Sally White (R, SW), Kathryn Wilson, Irene, Gerald and Wayne Wright.

LOONS-DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: (9,6); 1 Bing BBC; 8 DOBBC; 8 at Upper Lisle Jul. 31; 7 other reports. Green Heron: (4,2); 1 Bing BBC; 1 DOBBC; only 4 other reports, numbers have been low for 2 or 3 years. Mallard: 1 Bing BBC; 16 DOBBC. Black Duck: 1 DOBBC. Wood Duck: 4 DOBBC. Hooded Merganser: 1 female Oneonta area Aug. 4.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Sharp-shinned Hawk: 4 reports. Cooper's Hawk: (1,1) Meridale BBS; 3 other reports. Red-tailed Hawk: (6,4); 3 Bing BBC; 9 DOBBC. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Bing BBC; 1 DOBBC (RM); Candor Jul. 29 (DW); no others. Broad-winged Hawk: (1,1) Coventryville BBS; only 5 other reports, all from Oneonta area. Marsh Hawk: Aug. Owego (RB); Oneonta Aug. 29 (KW); no others. American Kestrel: (14,7); 15 Bing BBC; 8 DOBBC. Ruffed Grouse: (1,1); 3 DOBBC. Bobwhite: 1 DOBBC (RM). Ring-necked Pheasant: (10,1); 1 Bing BBC; no others, numbers thinning since stocking program curtailed. Turkey: 1 DOBBC (RM); sporadic reports continue, some rather close to suburban residential areas. Virginia Rail: Owego Aug. 20. Sora: Owego Aug. 25. American Coot: 1 Whitney Point Jun. 19. Killdeer: (54,11); 22 Bing BBC; 13 DOBBC. American Woodcock: (2,2); 1 DOBBC. Common Snipe: 1 Sherburne Jul. 28. Spotted Sandpiper: (7,5); 4 Bing BBC; 3 DOBBC. Solitary Sandpiper: 12 Wilber Lake Oneonta area Aug. 4; 1 South Otselic Fish Hatchery (SOFH) Aug. 24; Candor Aug. 25. Greater Yellowlegs SOFH Aug. 24. Lesser Yellowlegs: Owego Aug. 10; 2 SOFH Aug. 24. Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Wilber Lake Aug. 4; Owego Aug. 23. Baird's Sandpiper: 1 SOFH Aug. 24 (R, SW). Least Sandpiper: 2 Jul. 28 Sherburne; 5 Aug. 24 SOFH. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 5 Sherburne Jul. 28; 10 SOFH Aug. 24; 6 Wilber Lake Aug. 4. Common Tern: 1 Whitney Point Jun. 19.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: (140,10); 35 Bing BBC; 14 DOBBC. Mourning Dove: (99,10); 34 Bing BBC; 20 DOBBC. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (2,2); 1 DOBBC; only one other report. Black-billed Cuckoo: (1,1); 1 Bing BBC; 4 other reports. Horned Owl: (2,2); 2 Bing BBC; 1 DOBBC. Barred Owl: 2 DOBBC; Candor (DW). Saw-whet Owl: 1 Vestal Jun. 22 to 24, a juvenile spent nights under shrubs near a suburban driveway (JT). Whip-poor-will: at Candor (DW). Common Nighthawk: 2 DOBBC. Chimney Swift: (69,8); 13 Bing BBC; 8 DOBBC. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (4,4); 4 DOBBC. Belted Kingfisher: (9,6); 3 Bing BBC; 5 DOBBC. Common Flicker: (72,12); 33 Bing BBC; 28 DOBBC; a "Red-shafted" x "Yellow-shafted" hybrid banded Aug. 22 Vestal. Pileated Woodpecker: (4,3); 4 DOBBC; 6 other reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: at Owego during period. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (5,4); 4 DOBBC; 11 other reports, 6 of them Jul. 28 in the Oneonta-Portlandville area. Hairy Woodpecker: (6,5); 1 Bing BBC; 6 DOBBC. Downy Woodpecker: (31,11); 10 Bing BBC; 7 DOBBC.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: (38,10); 16 Bing BBC; 33 DOBBC. Great Crested Flycatcher: (33,11); 9 Bing BBC; 16 DOBBC. Eastern Phoebe: (46,12); 4 Bing BBC; 28 DOBBC. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Vestal Aug. 25, banded. Willow Flycatcher: (22,9); 1 Bing BBC; 2 DOBBC. Alder Flycatcher: (4,2); 1 DOBBC. Least Flycatcher: (77,12); 8 Bing BBC; 20 DOBBC. Eastern Wood Pewee: (34,12); 8 Bing BBC; 13 DOBBC. Horned Lark: (2,2); 1 Bing BBC; 1 DOBBC. Tree Swallow: (78,11); 42 Bing BBC;

58 DOBBC. Bank Swallow: (101,1); 203 DOBBC. Rough-winged Swallow: 1 Bing BBC. Barn Swallow: (299,12); 148 Bing BBC; 133 DOBBC. Cliff Swallow: (3,1); 32 DOBBC. Purple Martin: (4,3); 1 Bing BBC. Blue Jay: (138,12); 52 Bing BBC; 50 DOBBC. Common Crow: (435,12); 103 Bing BBC; 85 DOBBC. Black-capped Chickadee: (102,12); 46 Bing BBC; 52 DOBBC. Tufted Titmouse: (2,2); 1 Bing BBC; other reports in Broome and Tioga Cos. White-breasted Nuthatch: (11,6); 3 Bing BBC; 10 DOBBC. Red-breasted Nuthatch: (2,2); 5 DOBBC; Oneonta-Portlandville Jun. 4; 2 Pharsalia Jun. 27. Brown Creeper: 2 DOBBC. House Wren: (140,12); 75 Bing BBC; 39 DOBBC. Winter Wren: (1,1); 2 DOBBC. Carolina Wren: 2 Broome Co. and 1 Tioga Co. reports. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 10 or more South Edmeston Jun 29, "regular chorus." Short-billed Marsh Wren: 2 or more South Edmeston on Jun. 29, singing. Mockingbird: (2,2); 5 Bing BBC; 7 other reports. Gray Catbird: (160,12); 61 Bing BBC; 45 DOBBC. Brown Thrasher: (37,9); 14 Bing BBC; 5 DOBBC. Am. Robin: (645,12); 206 Bing BBC; 173 DOBBC. Wood Thrush: (214,12); 49 Bing BBC; 30 DOBBC. Hermit Thrush: (6,4); 1 Bing BBC; 3 DOBBC; 1 Laurens, near Oneonta, Aug. 9; also at Owego. Swainson's Thrush: 1 DOBBC; 1 Norwich Jun. 14, singing, and 2 Pharsalia Jun. 27 (R, SW); 1 Oneonta-Portlandville Aug. 31; the only reports so far this year in Region. Grey-cheeked Thrush: 1 DOBBC (RM). Veery: (116,12); 34 Bing BBC; 35 DOBBC. Eastern Bluebird: (6,4); 1 Bing BBC; 8 DOBBC. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 DOBBC (RM); Owego Aug. 30. Golden-crowned Kinglet: (1,1) Corbettsville BBS; 3 Pharsalia Jun. 27 (R, SW). Cedar Waxwing: (66,11); 16 Bing BBC; 46 DOBBC. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Maryland, east of Oneonta, Aug. 19, good details. Starling: (1410,12); 484 Bing BBC; 295 DOBBC.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: (31,9); 9 DOBBC; more frequent reports than in past years. Solitary Vireo: (5,4); 3 DOBBC; no more until 4 reports of 11 birds after Aug. 13 in Oneonta-Portlandville. Red-eyed Vireo: (208,12); 41 Bing BBC; 63 DOBBC. Warbling Vireo: (34,12); 5 Bing BBC; 9 DOBBC; 4 more Jun. reports, then none until Aug. 31. Black-and-white Warbler: (5,3); 2 Bing BBC; 3 DOBBC. Golden-winged Warbler: 1 DOBBC; 1 Oneonta area Jun. 4. Blue-winged Warbler: (2,2); 2 DOBBC; 1 Oneonta area Jun. 4; also reported from Owego. Tennessee Warbler: Aug. 13 Crumhorn area e. of Oneonta, regular reports from Oneonta area and Vestal thru month. Nashville Warbler: (1,1); 3 Bing BBC; 5 DOBBC. Northern Parula: Owego Jun. 12 (C, JB), late. Yellow Warbler: (217,12); 24 Bing BBC; 43 DOBBC. Magnolia Warbler: (3,3); 1 DOBBC. Aug. 19, the first of 3 reports from Oneonta area and the first of 9 banded at Vestal; also reported at Endwell. Black-throated Blue Warbler: (4,3); 6 DOBBC; 3 Pharsalia Jun. 27. Yellow-rumped Warbler: (2,2); 2 DOBBC; 2 Oneonta-Portlandville Jun. 4; 1 banded Aug. 12 Vestal. Black-throated Green Warbler: (12,7); 1 Bing BBC; 11 DOBBC. Blackburnian Warbler: (2,1); 1 Bing BBC; 2 DOBBC. Chestnut-sided Warbler: (44,9); 1 Bing BBC; 39 DOBBC. Bay-breasted Warbler: Portlandville Aug. 13; 2 banded Aug. 21 Vestal. Blackpoll Warbler: Owego Jun. 12. Prairie Warbler: (1,1) Corbettsville BBS; Candor in Jun. (RP); 2 Choconut Center Jul. 10. Ovenbird: (64,9); 17 Bing BBC; 18 DOBBC. Northern Waterthrush: 3 DOBBC. Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 Bing BBC; 8 DOBBC. Mourning Warbler: 7 DOBBC; also at Candor. Kentucky Warbler: (2,1) McDonough BBS, no details. Common Yellowthroat: (362,12); 108 Bing BBC; 69 DOBBC. Yellow-breasted Chat: at Candor (RP); Jul 10 at Choconut Center (MS). Canada Warbler: (8,4); 15 DOBBC. American Redstart: (41,9); 1 Bing BBC; 23 DOBBC.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (444,12); 207 Bing BBC; 159 DOBBC. Bobolink: (134,12); 31 Bing BBC; 23 DOBBC. Eastern Meadowlark: (106,11); 17 Bing BBC; 11 DOBBC. Red-winged Blackbird: (1706,12); 278 Bing BBC; 820 DOBBC. Orchard Oriole: (1,1) Oneonta BBS. Northern Oriole: (120,11); 16 Bing BBC; 38 DOBBC. Common Grackle: (461,12); 320 Bing BBC; 260 DOBBC. Brown-headed Cowbird: (77,12); 24 Bing BBC; 147 DOBBC. Scarlet Tanager: (79,11); 12 Bing BBC; 41 DOBBC. Summer Tanager: (1,1) Laurens BBS, no details. Cardinal: (57,9); 46 Bing BBC; 11 DOBBC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (65,12); 8 Bing BBC; 34 DOBBC. Indigo Bunting: (101,11); 35 Bing BBC; 58 DOBBC.

Purple Finch: (33,9); 12 Bing BBC; 10 DOBBC; noticeably more common for the whole season than in the previous few years. House Finch: 6 Bing BBC; 2 DOBBC; 149 banded at Vestal in Jul. and Aug. (GC) and another 20 banded at Endwell. American Goldfinch: (205,12); 43 Bing BBC; 110 DOBBC. Rufous-sided Towhee: (64,11); 21 Bing BBC; 26 DOBBC. Savannah Sparrow: (83,11); 14 Bing BBC; 14 DOBBC. Grasshopper Sparrow: (6,5); 1 DOBBC; Jul. 13 and 14 at Choconut Center; no others. Henslow's Sparrow: (6,2); 1 Bing BBC; no others. Vesper Sparrow: (7,4); 2 DOBBC; only 4 other reports. Dark-eyed Junco: (14,5); 23 DOBBC; 5 Pharsalia Jun. 27. Chipping Sparrow: (186,12); 61 Bing BBC; 55 DOBBC. Field Sparrow: (136,11); 45 Bing BBC; 20 DOBBC. White-throated Sparrow: (25,6); 23 DOBBC; 11 Pharsalia Jun. 27. Swamp Sparrow: (19,6); 5 DOBBC. Song Sparrow: (416,12); 137 Bing BBC; 89 DOBBC.

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ G. SCHEIDER

"And summer's lease hath all too short a date." This year the lease was broken in the first week of August. A wet but pleasant June ended the spring drought; July was hot and humid and actually seemed like summer; August entered—and left—cloudy, cool, and so wet that many lakes, marshes, and ponds were back to early spring water levels. Ponds that normally sported muddy margins for Solitary Sandpipers and various rails were so full only Great Blue Herons could successfully wade them. Shorebird habitat was minimal as were shorebirds. The various Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) produced a wealth of figures documenting numerous impressions re numbers of nesting species. Ten were accomplished this year—Alder Creek June 5, Cicero Center June 12, Clinton June 5, Kasoag June 14, McKeever June 17, North Wilmurt June 15, Old Forge June 21, Oneida June 15, Oriskany Falls June 4, and Pulaski June 4. Most passerines appeared to have had excellent breeding success but water bird reproduction seemed quite variable—compare terns vs. Canada Goose and Wood Duck. And though everyone recognizes summer as the breeding season for birds, this year's summer had both amazingly late vernal migrants (*cf* Broad-winged Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, various warblers) and equally incredibly early autumnal passage birds (*cf* various shorebirds, Swainson's Thrush, warblers). In fact, there was no estival week when migrants, either coming or going, could not be found some place in the region this year.

Positives for the summer include 1) good production of Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Duck; 2) expansion of the local range of Turkey Vulture; 3) good numbers of breeding Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel; 4) new station for American Coot; 5) remarkably early shorebird migration and a splendid incursion of Wilson's Phalarope; 6) improved numbers of breeding Red-headed Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; 7) an Adirondack explosion of Red-breasted Nuthatch; 8) excellent tallies of Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Northern (Baltimore) Oriole, and American Goldfinch; 9) above average numbers of Common Yellowthroat, Mourning Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and American Redstart; and 10) further range expansion of White-throated Sparrow.

Negatives include 1) low numbers of breeding Pied-billed Grebe and continued decline in Black Duck; 2) very low numbers of both bitterns; 3) continued poor breeding success for Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks and Marsh Hawk; 4) poor reproduction in Ruffed Grouse; 5) low tallies of many July-August shorebird migrants; 6) continued decline in Black and Common Terns; 7) further decline in both local *Caprimulgids*; 8) marked reduc-

tion in numbers of many intracontinentally wintering species—Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, virtually all wrens, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow; 9) continued low numbers of Northern Parula and Cerulean and Canada Warblers; 10) further decline in Horned Lark and all grassland sparrows, probably secondary to both the harsh winter and the changing farming practices, *i.e.*, increasing corn monoculture; and 11) marked reduction in the resident southerners, mainly Carolina Wren but to a lesser extent in Tufted Titmouse and Mockingbird also.

Rare or unusual species for the period are Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Bald Eagle, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Observers: D. Ackley, W. & A. Brosseau, G. Church, K. Coyle, B. & D. DeSimone, G. Huggins, R. E. Long, G. Maxwell, D. & J. Muir, B. & S. Peebles, M. S. Rusk, S. Sabo, F. G. Scheider, M. Stooks, J. & E. Van Dresar. Compiler: G. Huggins.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; DH—Derby Hill near Texas; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; SP & SPI—Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; THP—Tug Hill Plateau.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: pair with one young Little Safford L. Herkimer Co. Jul. 5, one of the few definite local breeding records. Pied-billed Grebe: only reported breeding is a pair with four young Utica Marsh Jul. 5; appears to have been extirpated from other local marshes and ponds. Double-crested Cormorant: 22 Aug. 7 SPI, a large number for Aug.; also two Jul. 3 on Long Island, Oneida L, probably summering birds but perhaps a prelude to colonization of the lake. SNOWY EGRET: ad Jun. 2 SP marshes, eleventh regional report. CATTLE EGRET: ad in cow pasture DH Jun. 2, only summer report. American Bittern: extremely scarce—one-two/day, usually from the smaller marsh areas; numbers may have been severely depressed by last winter's severe cold weather. Least Bittern: two pair at Utica Marsh, a pair at DeWitt Marsh, singles at Woodman's Pond, HIGMA, and near Lower South Bay—scarce; unreported from Clay Marsh, Scott Swamp, or SP. GLOSSY IBIS: a molting adult Aug. 15-16 near Canastota, first Aug. regional record and only the second fall record. Canada Goose: HIGMA breeding colony expanding—171 Jun. 26; also an expanding population near Scott Swamp with 27, both ad and young, noted Aug. 27. Black Duck: now swamped by Mallard—max only 12 near Rome June 17. Gadwall: female with six ducklings Long Island, Oneida L—first breeding record for the lake. Blue-winged Teal: 200 Aug. 27 Sylvan Beach and 66 Sylvan Beach-Bolivar Aug. 14—appears to have had good production this summer. Wood Duck: excellent breeding success—Jun. counts, 38 HIGMA, 20 Fox Ridge; in Jul, 20 CV; in Aug. 30 Utica Marsh. Hooded Merganser: hen with ten ducklings near North Steuben Jun. 15, one of the few local breeding records. Common Merganser: two females June 13 at Otto Mills, THP are suggestive of possible breeding there—to date there is no proven breeding of this species anywhere in the Tug Hill Plateau.

HAWKS—ALCIDS; Turkey Vulture: expanding—present in southern Oneida Co. and thru northern Oswego Co; however, still peculiarly absent from the low country along the south shore of Oneida L. Cooper's Hawk: nest at Marcellus unsuccessful—?? of raccoon or Great Horned Owl disturbance?? Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel: numbers holding up well on virtually all BBS. Red-shouldered Hawk: only summer report—one Kasoag Jun. 14. Broad-winged Hawk: the third most common breeding raptor, primarily from the Adirondacks and the THP; inexplicable are two passing over DH Jul. 7—probably immatures in delayed migration but they are certainly not making ripples on the gene pool this year. BALD EAGLE: imm. Aug. 7 near LaFayette—?? returning imm. from Florida population or product of a Canadian nesting?? Marsh Hawk: summer reports—singles near Hamilton,

SP, and Salmon R Reservoir; first fall migrant Aug. 18 Oneida Lookout (very early). Ruffed Grouse: only four broods reported, averaging five chicks/brood—low incidence and poor production. Common Gallinule: max 70 Aug. 9 Utica Marsh, excellent numbers. American Coot: three pair with young noted Utica Marsh Jul. 5, first breeding for Oneida Co. and possibly for the Mohawk River Valley. American Golden Plover: first fall arr two ad Aug. 25 near Mexico; one-seven/day thereafter. Common Snipe: apparently hard hit by last winter's cold—many sites unoccupied; occupied sites with only a half to a third the expected number; one drumming Jun. 29 Brookfield is latest local "song" date. **WHIMBREL**: total of nine individuals Jul. 26-Aug. 28 LOL and Vienna. Both Greater Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper extraordinarily scarce as Jul.-Aug. migrants—max are five Greater Yellowlegs Aug. 4-6 Sylvan Beach and eight Pectoral Sandpiper Jul. 31 Onondaga L. White-rumped Sandpiper: an ad in winter plumage Jun. 30 SPI—?? coming or going?? Returning shore-birds were very, very early—Short-billed Dowitcher one, and Lesser Yellowlegs sic, both Jun. 25 Onondaga L; Least Sandpiper three, and Semipalmated Sandpiper two, both Jun. 29 Onondaga L; Black-bellied Plover, one Jun. 30 SPI; Stilt Sandpiper, three Jun. 30 Onondaga L; Wilson's Phalarope, one Jun. 19 Utica Marsh—do these extremely early returning dates suggest nesting failure or inhospitable breeding conditions on the tundra perhaps? **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: some 17 observations involving at least ten birds, Jun. 19 to Aug. 20, the best local flight of this species ever recorded. Great Black-backed Gull: present Jun. 30 one SPI and Jul. 3 one Oneida L north shore; also Jul. 9 nine north side of SPI—definitely summering—?? when and where will the first local breeding record be?? Ring-billed Gull: populous Oneida L colony—max 1025 Sylvan Beach Aug. 20, probably with some admixture of L Ontario birds. **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: an imm Aug. 17 Sylvan Beach, unusually early and also unusual away from L Ontario (S. Sabo). Common Tern: Oneida L colonies reduced and the SP colony down to nine pairs—probably will be extirpated in another five years. Black Tern: local breeding now reduced to two small colonies (four-six pairs) at SP and Salmon R estuary.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: good production in Ontario Lakeplain—in Aug. 12-28/day reported. Rock Dove: breeding range increasing—now breeding on nearly every overpass on Interstate 81, 690, and 481—the steel bridge girders are practically fool-proof protection from mammalian predators. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: continues very scarce—four individuals for the summer! Whip-poor-will: max 13 Camden area Jun. 4. Common Nighthawk: now the "uncommon" nighthawk—R. E. Long's survey of Syracuse sites revealed only 14 birds for the entire city; will be gone in another three years at the present rate of decline. Chimney Swift: the R. E. Long count is 110 for Syracuse, almost the same as last year. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: extremely scarce on Ontario Lakeplain—usually only one/day but much better counts in THP and the western Adirondacks—seven-nine/day. Common Flicker: down by 30-50% on five of the ten BBS. Red-headed Woodpecker: may be increasing—12 localities around Oneida (D. Ackley) and more surprising 11 individuals noted Jun. 19 west of Camillus; favored sites are dead elms in pastures or at swamp edges. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: summer max 22 Old Forge BBS Jun. 21 and 28 Jun. 27 THP; may be recovering from the low tallies of past several years. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: female carrying food Woods Lake Bog, Herkimer Co. Jul. 4, undoubtedly nesting nearby.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Phoebe: down on eight of the ten BBS, certainly hard hit by the severe winter weather of '76-'77. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: one in vigorous song Jun. 12-16 north of Williamstown is the fifth local record and a most unlikely place for same as it was vocally competing against not Willow, but Alder Flycatchers. Willow and Alder Flycatchers: evident via BBS most of the population not on territory until Jun. 8-12. Least Flycatcher: up on majority of BBS but down by a third in both Adirondack BBS; max 65 in 4.4 miles of lumber roads in Otto Mills, THP. Horned Lark: max of four Aug. 28 near Mexico—nearly gone in the head-high growing greenery of the "corn desert"—this and the Vesper Sparrow will be extirpated as breeders in another five-seven

years at the present rate of decline. Tree Swallow: down on 50% of the BBS; surprisingly the high country (Western Adirondacks and THP) counts look better than the Ontario Lakeplain figures. Rough-winged Swallow: still not recovered from its 1972 hurricane losses—most counts one-four/day; max only six Jun. 19 CV. Cliff Swallow: three small colonies (six-ten pair/colony) at Texas, Sandy Creek, and Pulaski; numbers in THP, upper Black River Valley, and the western Adirondacks appear stable. Blue Jay: reduced on seven of ten BBS, in some cases by 50%—?? cold winter, deep snow?? **COMMON RAVEN**: two adults with a free-flying young near Old Forge Jun. 21 (FGS, P. Paquette); also one seen and heard Jul. 17 CV (J. Spencer)—expanding, formerly only a casual visitant. Red-breasted Nuthatch: prepare for an invasion—59 in 3.2 miles in Herkimer Co. Jul. 4—and they seemed to be everywhere, even in the marginal habitat of the Ontario Lakeplain spruce plantations and spruce-rowed cemeteries; in the southern highlands, breeding noted in spruce plantations on Tassel Hill, Town of Marshall, Oneida Co. House Wren: tallies down on eight of ten BBS (50% down on Oneida BBS), probably a winter kill reduction, much as Winter Wren. Winter Wren: a profound drop on all tallies—BBS, THP and Adirondack walking counts—with the most dramatic a fall from 38 in '76 to 6 in '77 on the Old Forge BBS. Carolina Wren: nearly wiped out—only one reported for entire region, this at SPI. Long-billed Marsh Wren: decimated—summer max only eight Scott Swamp Jun. 25; many cattail marshes with none! Gray Catbird: unlike wrens, seems to have survived the '76-'77 winter quite well—three BBS with all-time highs (20-24/BBS) and other tallies show only minor changes. Brown Thrasher: down on five of ten BBS, the most marked drops in the Ontario Lakeplain counts. Hermit Thrush: down strikingly on most BBS with the most notable on McKeever BBS—21 in '76, 4 in '77; extremely scarce on all Adirondack counts. Veery: up on 50% of the BBS, in some cases double previous tallies—it looks like you do better if you winter out of the country when bad winters show up! Eastern Bluebird: only two individuals for all ten BBS—pitiful; seems to be helped somewhat by nest box projects—29 young in Brookfield, 11 (perhaps more) in Eaton (GC), 60 in Oneida (DA, H. P. Nodecker); also five nestings in dairy country east of Pulaski and north of Rome. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: expanding locally—now regular in wooded areas along Mohawk River, Utica on the eastern edge of Oneida Co. Golden-crowned Kinglet: four new sites in western THP in Oswego Co.; also at Tassel Hill reforestation projects in southern Oneida Co.; it will be interesting to see if this species plus the expanding Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) and Magnolia Warblers tolerate the current pulp harvesting of these spruce plantations. **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET**: a very agitated bird in dense spruce at Littlejohn Rd., THP Jun. 27; also one singing SSSP Jun. 26—?? of breeding attempts or delayed migrants?? (v.i., vireos and warblers). Cedar Waxwing: all time high on four of ten BBS—they seemed everywhere in early summer; most amazing were 21 migrating by DH on Jul. 7—do these birds contribute to the gene pool, and if so, in what summer? Loggerhead Shrike: singles Aug. 14 near Mexico and Aug. 25 near Lairdsville are surely fall migrants as there was no evidence of this species nesting anywhere in the region this year.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO**: one persistently singing CV Jun. 18-19—?? prelude to eventual breeding locally?? Solitary Vireo: down on Adirondack tallies—18 to 11 McKeever BBS '76 to '77 and 15 to 10 on Old Forge BBS. Red-eyed Vireo: definitely up—highest tallies ever (24-115/BBS) on six of the ten BBS, second highest on three of the four others. **PHILADELPHIA VIREO**: one Jun. 23 Otto Mills, THP probably a delayed migrant as it was not found there in subsequent checks. Golden-winged Warbler: down on all BBS that regularly record them—absent from N. Wilmurt and Alder Creek BBS altogether. Four "Brewster's" and one "Lawrence's" Warblers reported—definitely abundant hybridization here. Nashville Warbler: down on all the BBS that report them—?? why?? Northern Parula: very low counts on Adirondack surveys (two-three/BBS)—formerly numbered sixteen/BBS. Magnolia Warbler: high counts (26-27/day) in western Adirondacks and THP; increasing in spruce plantations in southern highlands, e.g., four at Tassel Hill, southern Oneida Co. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: expanding in southern highlands spruce plantations and in THP larch bogs; beginning to appear in low-elevation spruce-pine plantations

at the western periphery of the THP in Oswego Co.; counts on BBS, however, seem down and this species may have suffered some winter losses but not as severely as the various wren species. Black-throated Green Warbler: down somewhat or even absent from those BBS that regularly have them. Cerulean Warbler: increasingly scarce—max only six CV Jun. 19; a singing male near Lacona Jun. 20 is far from any local breeding colony. Chestnut-sided Warbler: summer numbers excellent—33 on N. Wilmurt BBS, 46 on McKeever BBS; however, numbers definitely lower in southern highlands (one-three/day). **BAY-BREASTED WARBLER**: singing male Jun. 26 Otto Mills, THP is probably a delayed migrant but it was pursuing what might have been a female Bay-breasted. Blackpoll Warbler: singing male Jun. 30 Lacona undoubtedly a delayed migrant—but why should this cluster of late passerines show up this year? Pine Warbler: two pair nesting at SSSP; also birds persisting (?breeding?) in Scots Pine plantations near Boonville. Louisiana Waterthrush: one on Muddy Brook—actually a clear stream—east of Redfield, Oswego Co.;—this bird is extraordinarily rare any place in the THP; one-three/day in shaded ravines off Otisco and Skaneateles L—appears to have recovered from its 1972 hurricane losses rather well. Mourning Warbler: ten singing males in 3.2 miles of lumber road THP, Oswego Co. Jun. 24—this species benefits nicely from the many two-bit lumbering operations throughout the THP. Common Yellowthroat: BBS tallies excellent—counts of 35-74/BBS approach the record tallies. Hooded Warbler: three at CV Jun. 19—back as an apparent breeder after an absence of several years; five singing males noted in hardwood stands selectively lumbered for beech and birch five to six years ago at Otto Mills, THP. Canada Warbler: quite scarce—one-nine/day (low) with the better tallies only from the THP and western Adirondacks. American Redstart: new record tallies for five of the ten BBS; in THP, counts very good—73 singing males in 4.4 miles of lumber roads Otto Mills Jun. 23; 55 in 3.2 miles Littlejohn Rd., both THP. Fall migrant warblers arrived unbelievably early, *sic*—Tennessee Warbler five Jul. 31 SP dunes; Nashville Warbler one Aug. 6 Nedrow; Northern Parula one Jul. 31 SP; Yellow Warbler one Jul. 10 N Syr.; Magnolia Warbler one Aug. 14 near Colosse; Cape May Warbler one Aug. 14 SP; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler one Aug. 6 SP. Black-throated Green Warbler one Aug. 6 Nedrow; Blackburnian Warbler one Aug. 7 SP; Bay-breasted Warbler seven Aug. 14 SP; Ovenbird one Aug. 14 SP; Northern Waterthrush four Jul. 31 SP; Canada Warbler two Jul. 31 SP; and American Redstart 17 Jul. 31 SP dunes. Out of checklist order but in this subset of early birds is a Swainson's Thrush Jul. 31 near Colosse. These numerous early dates could suggest many interrupted or abandoned nestings and one wonders about next year's population numbers.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: up strikingly on Ontario Lakeplain BBS; also counts of 76 for Alder Creek BBS, 47 on Oneida BBS. Eastern Meadowlark: down somewhat on seven of ten BBS but apparently not severely hit by last winter's weather. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: imm male at feeder Jul. 5-6 Cicero (DiNardo *vide* KC, GH, FGS). Northern (Baltimore) Oriole: highest ever on three BBS and the other BBS tallies very close to previous peak counts. Scarlet Tanager: some improvement in numbers on Old Forge BBS—22 in '75, two in '76 (after the May snowstorm), nine in '77. Cardinal: summer numbers excellent—15-20/day on Ontario Lakeplain and in Finger Lakes valleys; appears to have weathered the past winter much better than Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, or Mockingbird. Indigo Bunting: high tallies only on BBS taken in late Jun.—evident that this species often not on territory before Jun. 10, much like Willow and Alder Flycatchers, Eastern Wood Pewee, and Mourning Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee: down moderately on five of ten BBS—seems not to have had the severe losses of many intracontinentally wintering species. Grassland sparrows continue to decline locally—max are 18 Savannah Sparrow Jun. 4 Oriskany Falls BBS and again Jun. 27 Syr Airport, three Grasshopper Sparrow Jun. 29 Syr Airport, two Henslow's Sparrow Canastota Jun. 29, and four Vesper Sparrow Jun. 12 Williamstown—all of these species have decreased as hay farming and row crops (beans, carrots, strawberries) give way to the advancing acreage of the local "corn desert"—corn is KING but, aside from *Icterids*, birdless. White-throated Sparrow: expanding in the southern highlands—now breeding to southeastern edges of both Oneida and Madison

Co.; present for first time on Cicero Center BBS; THP tallies rather low—eight-ten/day. Swamp Sparrow: summer max only 16 in grassy marsh northwest of Cicero Jun. 18; somewhat scarce generally—major marshes (Clay Marsh, Scott Swamp, HIGMA) with very low tallies—only four-six/day. Song Sparrow: down, in some cases by a third or more, on eight of the ten BBS.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Summer of 1977 was an improvement over the previous year but the weather was very changeable. Temperatures fluctuated through the period—highs were in the 90s (33° C) while lows got into the 50s (10° C). June was normal—July was hot and very dry while August was wet and cool.

Waterfowl looked better than last year. Raptors showed very minor improvement. Shorebirds were excellent and land birds were mixed—some way down—others up.

Rarities during the period included Red-throated Loon, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Yellow-throated Vireo and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Region 6 has lost two excellent birders but Region 3 has gained them. Good luck to Tom and Cathy Carrolan in their new location and Tom's new career.

Contributors: Richard Brouse; Lee B. Chamberlaine (LBC); Frank A. Clinch; Robert Goodrich; John Green; Ken Mellon; Gerald A. Smith (GAS); Joe A. VanRiet; Louis Wallace; Robert & June Walker (RCW); Harold Wiley.

Abbreviations: ED—Eldorado; LWMA—Lakeview Wildlife Mgt. Area; PRWMA—Perch River WMA; RMPD—Robt. Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robt. Moses State Park; SLR—St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA—Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; WHWMA—Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 1 SLR June 12 & 23; 2 Coles Crk Aug. 8, 9 & 11. RED-THROATED LOON: 1 June 10 (GAS). Double-crested Cormorant: 2 July 1; 1 Aug. 13; 1 Aug. 25, all ED; an increase in numbers in Stony Pt. and vicinity (LBC). Great Blue Heron: new rookery location Town of Edwards, St. Lawrence Co.—65+ nests in about 10 beech trees July 1 (JAV); numbers in lake plains up. Green Heron: numbers in Henderson and vicinity up. Black-crowned Night Heron: numbers in Henderson Harbor and vicinity up from previous three years (LBC). Least Bittern: 1 Dexter Marsh Aug. 21 (Brouse & Wiley) 1 St. Regis Indian Reservation July 7 (JAV). Am. Bittern: in excellent numbers at LWMA and PRWMA (LBC). Canada Goose: gosling production up from last years PRWMA; WHWMA about the same; ULLWMA some goslings from flock started 4 years ago. Brant: 13 SLR June 1; 1 SLR June 1; 1 SLR, June 4; 2 SLR June 5—all (JAV); seldom reported but must pass thru Region in fair numbers. Mallard: a very successful nesting year regionwide; 250 ED July 1. Black Duck: numbers down. Black x Mallard hybrid increasing at PRWMA—5 banded in Aug. Gadwall: 3 WHWMA banded Aug. Pintail: a few at WHWMA Aug. Green-winged Teal: a few banded at WHWMA Aug. Blue-winged Teal: 60+ pairs LWMA June (LBC); 30 ED Aug. 19. Am. Wigeon 1 ED Aug. 13. No. Shoveler: none reported. Wood Duck: production up from last year in southern portion of Region—production on ULLWMA was down?—birds appeared on this area in late August—produced elsewhere? Redhead: none reported. Ring-necked Duck: no reports from ULLWMA. Canvasback: none. Greater Scaup: 1 male WHWMA June 23 (JAV). Com. Goldeneye: 2 males WHWMA June

10 (JAV & GAS). Ruddy Duck: 1 WHWMA June 23 (JAV). Hooded Merganser: none reported—status of population questionable—not reported as in past years? Com. Merganser: 2 WHWMA June 10; 8 SLR July 2.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Adams July 11; Theresa Aug. 8. Goshawk: no reports. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Glen Park Aug. 31 (LBC). Cooper's Hawk: possible nest Adams area (Ken Mellon). Red-tailed Hawk: numbers about the same. Bald Eagle: 3 reports may be same bird? 1 adult Five Falls Reservoir Raquette River June 13 (L. Wallace); 1 adult Five Falls July 25 (L. Wallace); 1 adult 3rd flew up river from So. Colton-Raquette River July 31 (J. Green). Marsh Hawk: none reported. Osprey: numerous reports but no successful nestings known. Am. Kestrel: regular. Ruffed Grouse: high numbers still holding. Gray Partridge: 1 adult 10 young Three Mile Bay Pt. July 3 (RCW); 19 Rt. 26 between Alex Bay and Redwood Aug. 22 (RCW); a slight increase in numbers this year! Semipalmated Plover: 2 June 1; 6 June 8; 5 Aug. 23 SLR Croil Isl.; 4 ED July 19. Black-bellied Plover: 2 Croil Isl. June 1; 1 Croil Isl. June 8. Ruddy Turnstone: 16 Croil Isl. June 1; 2 same Aug. 5; 1 same Aug. 14—all (JAV). Am. Woodcock: production may be a little above last years? Upland Sandpiper: 4 Haverstock Rd. June 14; 1 Limerick July 2; 4 Sackets Hbr. July 19; numbers above past 4 years in So. Jefferson County. Spotted Sandpiper: 12 ED July 19. Solitary Sandpiper: 1 ED Aug. 19. Greater Yellowlegs: 1 ED July 1; 8 ED July 19 (RCW) 1 Croil Isl. July 30. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 36 ED July 19 (RCW). Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 ED July 19. Least Sandpiper: 1 Croil Isl. June 7; 6 ED July 19; 8 Croil Isl July 30; 40 Aug. 19 & 30 Aug. 23 Croil Isl. (JAV). Dunlin: 1 Croil Isl. June 6; 1 same loc June 12. Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 June 8; 1 ED July 19; 1 Aug. 4; 1 Aug. 14. **STILT SANDPIPER:** 1 ED Aug. 19 (RCW). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 51 June 1; 16 June 7; 60 June 8; 75 ED July 19; 77 July 19 (JAV). 148 July 30 (JAV); 60 Aug. 19. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** 2 Burnt Rock Rd. 3 Mile Bay Aug. 21 (Robt. Goodrich). Sanderling: 20 ED July 19 1 Aug. 19; 1 Aug. 30.

Ring-billed Gull: very high numbers in Henderson area; evidence of high die-off—starvation suspect?—no alewife die-offs in summer months. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 ED July 19; 1 ED Aug. 19; 45 RMPD Aug. 30 (JAV). Com. Tern: 80 pair nesting SLR-Massena June 12 (JAV). 4 ED July 19—seems scarce this summer (RCW). Caspian Tern: 3 July 19; 5 Aug. 13; 9 Aug. 19; 2 Aug. 25 all ED. Black Tern: 1 pair nesting SLR off Long Sault—not successful (JAV); nesting at LWMA way up (LBC).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: not as high numbers as last year—but plentiful. **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** 1 Dry Hill June 16, 20 & 21; 1 Dry Hill Aug. 8 both (RCW). Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Dry Hill June 19 & 21; 1 July 6 & Aug. 8 (RCW); Walkers feel both species nest on Dry Hill across road from their house. Chimney Swift: not in previous numbers in Henderson area (LBC). Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Raymondville July 16; 1 June 25 Rices. Red-headed Woodpecker: no reports? Hairy Woodpecker: almost nonexistent in Henderson area (LBC). Downy Woodpecker: somewhat better than Hairy but down.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: everywhere in late August. Willow Flycatcher: 1 RMSP June 10 (GAS). Alder Flycatcher: 1 RMSP June 10 (GAS). Horned Lark: none reported—not seen on lake plain as in past years (LBC). Barn Swallow: numbers in Henderson area down? (LBC). Cliff Swallow: + 600 nests RMPD—+ 240 nests at Long Sault Cofferdam—July 5 not necessarily occupied (JAV). Purple Martin: numbers in Henderson vicinity down (LBC). Blue Jay: a general upswing in numbers (LBC). White-breasted Nuthatch: almost nonexistent in Henderson and vicinity. Brown Creeper: not reported. House Wren: about normal numbers. Carolina Wren: none in previous locations—Whites Bay Henderson Harbor. Long-billed Marsh Wren: excellent numbers LWMA (LBC). Mockingbird: none reported. Gray Catbird: numbers up slightly. Am. Robin: must have had a good year—migrants in 100s each day late Aug. Water Pipit: 1 SLR Aug. 21 (JAV). Cedar Waxwing: more observable or numbers up? Good berry crop. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports—status in Region?

VIREOS—WARBLERS: YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: 1 Coles Creek June 14 (JAV). Nashville Warbler: 1 Coles Creek June 22 (JAV). Yellow Warbler: more numerous than usual in Henderson area. Canada Warbler: 2 Brasher Iron Works June 3.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: very high numbers thru late August. Northern Oriole: more in Henderson than previous 2 years. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: numbers up in much of Region. Purple Finch: abundant all summer on lake plain. Savannah Sparrow: down—down—down (LBC). Vesper Sparrow: a few more than last year but down. Chipping Sparrow: seemed above normal numbers? **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 1 ED Aug. 7 (F. Scheider).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

Lake Champlain was lower than normal which encouraged shorebirds to stop. Much of the country seemed to complain of drought but perhaps all their rain fell in our mountain areas. If this was a drought year, I believe I'll tie my canoe to the back porch when they predict a rainy spell. It rained day after day during much of the period. Apparently the mountains caught the rain before it could reach the more eastern regions.

One week of July was hot, but there were killing frosts in some areas at some time during each of the three months of the period, as those trying to raise squash in their gardens can verify. This probably had little effect on migrant birds but the overabundance of rain may have adversely affected some breeding birds. Some ground nesting species such as White-throated Sparrow and Winter Wren were greatly reduced in numbers. A cheerful note was the fair numbers of Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, and Osprey. Two late Wilson's Warblers were noted and hopes for a breeding pair were expressed. Gadwall was added to the Essex county list of breeding birds. The good finds also included Long-tailed Jaeger.

Abbreviations: Aus. Pt—Ausable Point on Lake Champlain in Clinton County; E'town—Elizabethtown; Four Bros—Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain; Ham—southern Hamilton County; PS—Paul Smiths; Platts—Plattsburgh; NBBS—Newcomb Breeding Bird Survey June 30 Alice Jones & Helen Manson; Spec BBS—Speculator Breeding Bird Survey June 14 Fritz Scheider & Dorothy McIlroy; Underwood Breeding Bird Survey June 27 Alice Jones & Helen Manson.

Contributors: BA—Bud Albee; KB—Ken Berlin; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; DCa—David Capen; DC—Dewey Clark; JC—Joan Clark; CD—Charlcie Delehanty; DeS—Dr. & Mrs. Bruno DeSimone; BD—Bonnie Drinkwine; LE—Lang Elliott; RH—Robert Hagar; BH—Betty Hedges; HK—Hal Klein; FLa—Ferdinand LaFrance; ES—Esther MacCready; KM—Ken McDermott; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; GM—Gordon Meade; JP—John (Mike) Peterson; WP—William Peterson; JR—Jerry Rosenband; WR—William Rutherford; FS—Fritz Scheider; R&MS—Robert & Mary Sheffield; CS—Carole Slatkin; PT—Pat Tabor.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 32 reported, with 5 noted as immatures. In addition BH found a dead immature at Raquette Lake. This species has not been faring well in New York because of increased human activity on area ponds and lakes. Write to Judy McIntyre, Dept. of Biology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210 for report forms if you see loons and wish to help by submitting needed observations. Double-crested Cormorant: 45 Four Bros. June 11 (mob) but not nesting. Green Heron: 3 empty nests Aus. Pt. July 3 with 2 dead young on ground (PW); 2 Chubb River July 31 (KM) plus several at usual places.

Great Blue Heron: 12 nests Arietta (*vide* DM). Cattle Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron at Four Bros (mob); 1 of latter at Lewis July 27 (GC) was an immature. American Bittern: widely reported. Canada Goose: Tupper Lake resident flock now stands at 19. Brant: 8 flying north over Keene June 3 (GC). Mallard: one female with 14 young Spec BBS. Gadwall: mated pair Chazy Landing June 11 (PW); pair with young Four Bros June 18 (DCa) constitutes a new nesting species for Essex County. Wood Duck: female with 20 young Platts June 5 (PW, HK); several others with young reported. Ring-necked Duck: max 6 Saranac River Aug. 15 (GM). White-winged Scoter: 1 Four Bros June 11 (mob). Hooded Merganser: female and 9 young PS June 25 (PW, TM); female and 4 young St. Regis Pond July 15 (JP, WP); number of breeders is low this year. Common Merganser: female with 9, female with 5, female with 21 Piseco Lake July (DM); each family distinguishable by size of young. Several other reports of good broods.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 13 Essex July 7 (JR, CS); 1 Madawaska Aug. 7 (GM) was unusual. Several Sharp-shinned Hawks but only 2 Cooper's Hawks which were a pair Ham (DeS). Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 noted, one of which was eating a Veery atop a power pole NBBS. Bald Eagle: 2 Northway Exit 33 June (BD); 2 adults Essex July 10 (BA); 1 immature Ham Aug. 13 (DeS); 1 adult Franklin Falls Aug. 15 (Richard Carden). Marsh Hawk: 1 Whallonsburg Aug. (CS); 1 Madawaska Aug. 3 (KM). An adult Merlin tried for a sandpiper at Westport Aug. 4 before crossing the lake (JP, JR, CS). This species is regular in the Champlain Valley which may be used as a travel route. Virginia Rail: 1 Raquette Lake July 11 (BH). Sora: 1 Lake Alice (PW); 1 Essex Station (GC); both June 11. Ruddy Turnstone: 2 Platts June 5 (PW, HK); 1 Westport Aug. 2 (EM, JP). Upland Sandpiper: 13 in one field Platts Aug. 6 and good numbers elsewhere. Spotted Sandpiper: 23 together Platts July 14 (PW). Red Knot: 1 Westport Aug. 30 (CS, EM, GC, JP) a good find. Baird's Sandpiper: 2 Westport Aug. 22-24 (GC, EM, JP, PT). Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 Westport July 30 (GC, EM, JP); 2 there Aug. 22 (GC). **LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** George LaBar of University of Vermont sighted it June 7 from a research vessel near Four Bros. It was 100 feet away and had dark back and top of head but light under chin. Two tail feathers were half the length of body. It flew low to water and finally settled on it. **ICELAND GULL** (*Larus glaucooides kumlienii*): July 3 at Four Bros a Herring Gull sized gull with no black wing tips was harrassing a Herring Gull. Iris was light. Good color slides show the light mantle with small amount of dark gray on ends of outer primaries and white tip on tenth primary (JR, photos EM). Bonaparte's Gull: all summer Platts (PW); 1 in summer plumage St. Regis Pd. July 18 (JCa, EM, JP). Black Tern: 3 Tupper Lake July 2 (CD), only report.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 June 7 hit by a car at Gabriels and fed caterpillars a few days during convalescence but died after release (LE); 1 Port Douglas June 20 (RH); 1 Wadhams July 21 (DA, PT). Long-eared Owl: DeS had one early in season Ham, a good find. Juvenile Saw-whet Owls at Auger Lake (DC, JC); Essex (JPa); and E'town (GC). Whip-poor-will: good numbers at Malone (LE). Common Nighthawk: 1 Tupper Lake July 31 (KM); 1 on ground at Brandon Burn July (WR); 20 migrants PS Aug. 29 (WR); 1 migrant PS Aug. 31. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: male feeding young at nest NBBS; 1 Little Clear Pond July 18 (WP); plus usual places. Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: pair nesting at Ferd's Bog (FLa); pair July 27 Chubb River (KB) is good because they seem to have been absent there for a decade.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: a few noted. Alder Flycatcher: excellent numbers. Gray Jay: a few at usual places. Common Raven: 5 nests located now and more birds being seen at new locations. One of the St. Regis Mtn ravens has been daily coming within four feet of a jogger for some reason. This is near the Rockefeller gate (Kirk Peterson). Clinton County seems to have a first record for the species with one croaking just north of Ausable Forks Aug. 7 and 13 (Charles Mitchell). Warren County is in Region 8 and can claim a raven (SBBS). Eaton lists it as a rare winter visitant there. GC saw 3 Tahawus and 2 Aiden Lair July 23 while PT had 1 Schroon Lake July 30; max 7 Underwood BBS. New York now has ravens. Boreal Chickadee: plentiful. Winter Wrens are lowest

in at least 8 years, really down. Chipmunks kill the young and wet weather doesn't help either. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Ham (DeS)—scarce inland. Mockingbird: 1 Tupper Lake June 13 (CD). Swainson's Thrush: numbers greatly improving. Eastern Bluebird: 2 PS early June; a few Brandon Burn; pair at Piseco Lake where not seen before (DM). Two houses at Tupper Lake taken from bluebirds by Tree Swallows (CD). Several reports from Newcomb. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 with fledged young Platts July 2 (PW); pair with 3 young Westport (Richard G. Sherman *vide* GC); a cheerful note.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 Ham (DeS); 1 migrant Platts June 5 (PW); 1 SBBS; 1 all summer Lake Alice (mob). Philadelphia Vireo: 1 NBBS; 1 Saranac Inn Aug. 5 (KM); rare but occurs every year and has nested. Warbling Vireo: 1 Keene June 3 (GC) was unusual there. Tennessee Warbler: 1 St. Regis Pond July 16 (EM, WP); 1 early migrant E'town Aug. 11 (GC). Nashville Warbler: numbers very low for this rather common breeder. Northern Parula: scarce except R&MS had several Middle Saranac Lakes. Pine Warbler: 2 Lake Pleasant June 14 (FS, DM); 2 Saranac Inn Aug. 2 (KM). Wilson's Warbler: 1 male Brandon Burn June 26 was singing (GM); 1 NBBS. These are more often seen as Champlain Valley migrants in May. There was a major flight of fall warblers in mid-August with about 100 in one group Raquette Lake Aug. 16 (BH).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird: scarce. Red Crossbill: 1 Lake Kiwassa Aug. 7 (GM). Rufous-sided Towhee: a few, one Tupper Lake breeding area is down to one bird (CD). Lincoln's Sparrow: plentiful.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

The weather through the summer of 1977 was rather variable, tending, however, to be on the cool side. Temperatures ranged from a low of 37 F (2.8 C) on June 9 to 96 F (35.5 C) on July 19 & 21. With rain falling on eight of the twelve weekends, some people are wondering if there ever was a Summer of 1977 at all.

Rarities were rare indeed. They include Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a couple of Bald Eagles, and nesting Barn Owls. More importantly, however, is the continued monitoring of breeding populations through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys. Ten such surveys are reported here as follows:

| Route Name | County | Date | Observer |
|---------------|-------------|---------|------------|
| Catskill | Greene | June 5 | J. Bush |
| Plattecove | Greene | June 8 | J. Bush |
| Duanesburg | Schenectady | June 18 | R. Guthrie |
| North Creek | Warren | June 21 | R. Guthrie |
| Hope Falls* | Hamilton | June 27 | R. Stone |
| South Horicon | Warren | June 28 | R. Stone |
| South Berne | Albany | June 30 | K. Able |
| Warrensburg | Warren | July 1 | R. Stone |
| Medusa | Greene | July 2 | J. Bush |
| Cobleskill | Schoharie | July 4 | K. Able |

*Although actually a few miles outside of Warren County, Hope Falls is within the same physiographic ecosystem and is included here for comparisons.

Contributors to this report include: Ken Able, Jim Bush, Paul Connor, Juanita Cook, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Richard Guthrie, Chris Ketcham, Tom Palmer, Walt Sabin, Rudd Stone, and Robert Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: only report—1 Ghent June 5-11 (BHG). Double-crested Cormorant: 3 Hudson River Aug. 22 (RPG). Great Blue Heron: 1 S Berne BBS. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** 1 Albany Aug. 10 (WBS). Canada Goose: 14 thru period—Smith's Pond (Columbia Co.); nests at Greenville (CK) and 5-Rivers. Blue-winged Teal: 40 Coeymans Aug. 21. Wood Duck: 18 S Berne BBS.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Old Chatham, June 11 & Aug. 13-18 (KD); 1 Palmer's Ravine Aug. 21 (TP). Red-tailed Hawk: 18 reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Old Chatham Aug. 5, 26 & 30 (JC, KD). Broad-winged Hawk: 3 reported thru period. **BALD EAGLE:** 1 imm. Hudson River (Castleton Island) June 17, joined by another imm. June 19. Both present at least thru June 21 (RPG). Osprey: 1 Castleton June 16, 19 & Aug. 8 (JC). American Kestrel: 20 reports thru period. **TURKEY:** a few scattered reports from creek bottoms around New Baltimore and Coeymans. Common Gallinule: 5 Rensselaer July 5 (PC). American Coot: only reports—Castleton June 29 and Aug. 5 (JC). American Woodcock: 1 adult and 3 young Aug. 2 Stuyvesant (RD, BL). Upland Sandpiper: early June, Palmer's Ravine (TP); up to 15 thru July, Coxsackie Flats (RPG). Spotted Sandpiper: 1 each—Duanesburg, H Falls, Warrensburg BBS's.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 each—Medusa & Cobleskill BBS; 1 New Baltimore Aug. 30 (encouraging). Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 each—S Berne & Warrensburg BBS; 2 Cobleskill BBS; 1 road-kill June 16 (KD). **BARN OWL:** heard regularly incl. 1 juv. seen thru Aug, Athens (JB); nest with 3 young, Coxsackie Aug. 15 (RPG). Barred Owl: 1 S Horicon BBS. Common Nighthawk: appears much reduced, especially August's south-bound flights. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: reported on only one BBS (Warrensburg) and Palmer's Ravine. Red-headed Woodpecker: thru June, Stuyvesant (JC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 S Berne; 2 H Falls; 3 S Horicon & 3 Warrensburg BBS; also 1 Ghent June 21 (BHG).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Great Crested Flycatcher: 38 total of 9 BBS, incl 13 Catskill. Willow Flycatcher: 1 Cobleskill BBS; 6 Duanesburg BBS; 12 singing July 5, Rensselaer (PC). Alder Flycatcher: 2 Warrensburg BBS. Least Flycatcher: max. BBS counts—19 Hope Falls; 18 Warrensburg; 14 S. Berne; and 9 Plattecove. Eastern Wood Pewee: 11 Catskill BBS; 8 Cobleskill BBS. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 Hope Falls BBS. Cliff Swallow: max 11 S. Berne BBS. Purple Martin: 50-100 pairs, Kinderhook (BL, RD). Tufted Titmouse: only report—8 Catskill BBS. Perhaps they were just overlooked elsewhere? Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 Warrensburg BBS. 9 S. Horicon BBS; 17 Hope Falls BBS and 1 Schodack Center July 16 (PC). Winter Wren: 1 S. Horicon BBS; 2 Hope Falls BBS. Carolina Wren: no reports vs 8-12 in recent years. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Warrensburg BBS. Veery: 87 total of three Warren Co. BBS. including 40 Warrensburg BBS; 10 total of three Greene Co. BBS. Eastern Bluebird: 12 total of three BBS; 11 banded Palmer's Ravine & vicinity July 5 (WBS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 Hope Falls BBS. Cedar Waxwing: max. 41 Hope Falls BBS.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 Castleton Island June 11; 1 Cobleskill BBS. Red-eyed Vireo: max. 78 S. Horicon BBS; 65 Warrensburg BBS & 55 Hope Falls BBS. Warbling Vireo: max. 10 Duanesburg BBS. Tennessee Warbler: 1 each—Warrensburg BBS & Hope Falls BBS. Northern Parula: 1 Hope Falls BBS. Magnolia Warbler: max. 17 Hope Falls BBS & 2 Schodack Center June 2 (PC). Yellow-rumped Warbler: max. 14 Hope Falls BBS. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** 2 singing males Castleton Island June 11 (RPG *et al.*). Blackburnian Warbler: max. 9 Warrensburg BBS; 1 Old Chatham July 25 (KD). Blackpoll Warbler: 2 Catskill BBS (probably late migrants). Prairie Warbler: 1 each—Catskill BBS and Medusa BBS; also, Old Chatham June 3 thru Aug. 12 (KD). Ovenbird: max. 44 Hope Falls BBS followed by 42 Warrensburg BBS and 31 S Horicon BBS. Mourning Warbler: 1 Warrensburg BBS.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: max 48 Duanesburg BBS. Red-winged Blackbird: 673 total of four BBS (Cobleskill, S Berne, Duanesburg, & Medusa). Common Grackle: 101 Cobleskill BBS. Scarlet Tanager: max 11 Warrensburg BBS; also, "male feeding young cow-bird" Aug. 20 (TP). Cardinal: 18 Cobleskill BBS; 10 Catskill BBS. Indigo Bunting: max 15 S Horicon BBS. Evening Grosbeak: 3 Catskill BBS; 2 Tribes Hill Aug. 17 (TP). Savannah Sparrow: max. 19 Duanesburg BBS. Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 Stuyvesant June 2-4; 1 E. Greenbush July 3 (PC). Vesper Sparrow: 1 each—Duanesburg and Cobleskill BBS; 1 thru period at Castleton (JC) and at Ghent (BHG). Field Sparrow: numbers seem down; max only 5 each—Medusa and Duanesburg BBS. Swamp Sparrow: max 20 Rensselaer July 4 (PC).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

June was normal as far as temperatures were concerned, but was very dry. A severe hot spell covered the region during the second and third weeks of July with temperatures approaching 100° F. Rains were few and minimal, continuing the drought conditions of June. Only 3½ in. were recorded when the average for the month is 6½ in. August continued dry, but temperatures were more moderate.

Warbler movements started in early Aug. and continued well through the month. Perhaps the highlight of the breeding season was the explosion of Acadian Flycatchers in the area, with several birds reported in each of Orange, Sullivan, Westchester, and Dutchess counties. Goshawks also continue to increase, but slowly.

The new summer bird counts where local bird clubs follow Christmas Count routes in mid-June will undoubtedly add important information to our knowledge of summer residents. Only two clubs ran counts this season, but surely more will follow their lead in the future.

The discovery by Benton Seguin of Stewart Airport as a mecca for migrating fall shore-birds has local birders wondering if this is an isolated phenomenon, or was it really overlooked all these years. You can be sure it will be searched from now on.

Contributors and observers cited: Alison Beal, Al Brayton, Lysle Brinker, Gene Brown, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Florence Germond, Thelma & Paul Haight, Mary & Jim Key, Ken McDermott, Al Merritt, Frank Murphy, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Benton Seguin, Nick Shoumatoff, Robert Speiser, Marion VanWagner.

Abbreviations: the first four or five letters of each county; GSBD—Greenwich-Stamford Summer Bird Count, June 19 (inc portions of West. Co.); MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; WBC—Waterman Summer Bird Count, June 11, Dutchess Co. (Pkpsie area).

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: a pr of imm summering at Ashokan Res. was a repeat of last summer (AB, FM). Horned Grebe: 1 full-plumaged bird Ashokan Res. Aug. 11 (AB, FM). Double-crested Cormorant: single birds on Hudson R at Cornwall Jun 2, Jul. 21, and Aug. 23. Common Egret: regular thru summer. Arr Kingston Pt. Marsh Jul. 28. Snowy Egret: usual few. 4 Kingston Pt. Marsh Jul. 27. Black-crowned Night Heron: 3 Kingston Pt. Marsh Jul. 27. 1 imm Cornwall Aug. 29. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: continues to breed at MC with 2 nests this year. Least Bittern: obs regularly thru season at Cruger's I. American Bittern: 1 Salt Point, Dutch and another Moodna Marsh, Cornwall Aug. 21. **GLOSSY IBIS:**

1 irregularly at MC dur July (TB). Brant: a late flock of 53 moving off PL Jun 16. An injured bird at MC Jun 29. Blue-winged Teal: single birds at PL Jun 15 and Jul.17. 1 MC Jul 20. A pr nested at Stissing, Dutch dur Jun (T, PH). American Wigeon: 2 at Kingston Pt. Jul 29 are unusual in summer. (AB, FM). Wood Duck: GSBC produced 28. Common Merganser: 24 Askokan Res. Jul 30. (AB, FM). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 at PL most of June.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: unprecedented numbers of breeding birds. At least 1 downy young was in nest at Surebridge Sw, Harriman Pk Jun. 26 (RS). 3 young in nest at Pound Ridge (NS). 1 young at Pond Gut, Dutch in Jun, and a single ad at Salt Point dur Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: nest discovered near Island Pd Harriman Park Jun 3 (RS). 1 imm with broken leg found on Storm King Mt. dur July and taken to Trailside Nat. Mus., Bear Mt. Pk. Cooper's Hawk: 1, Cornwall Aug. 29, obs at close range in back yard (AM). Red-tailed Hawk: in good numbers. At least 30 nests obs in Millbrook-Stamford area. Albino female nested near Verbank. Red-shouldered Hawk: only 1 report, a resident near Surebridge Sw. thru June and into July (RS). Broad-winged Hawk: nest found Jun 22 near Little Sterling L., Sterling Forest. Obs (RS) attacked by adult. Bald Eagle: 1 imm at MC Jul 3 (TB, AB). Osprey: more summer reports than ever before. Singles at Cornwall Bay Jun 4 and Aug. 21. 2 at Cruger's I. Dutch Jul. 27. There again Aug. 28. Summer residents? No evidence of breeding. 1 west end of Rondout Res. Aug. 9 (Ab, FM). Turkey: only 1 Wawarsing Jun. 12 (JO). King Rail: bird of spring at Millbrook School remained thru Jun. 8. Clapper Rail: breeding at MC but in lower numbers than previous years. Black-bellied Plover: 1 Aug. 20 Cornwall Bay. Northward migrants were gone from Westchester by June 7, and returning in small numbers by Jul. 23. Ruddy Turnstone: 2 Cornwall Bay Jul. 25. 2 Kingston Pt. Jul. 29 were still there Aug. 10. Whimbrel: 3 at MC briefly Jul. 25 (LB). Upland Sandpiper: first migrants, 8 birds at Stewart Airport Aug. 14. Inc to 22 by Aug. 28, and reduced to 6 by end of period (BS). Blue Chip Farm at Wallkill had a maximum of 5 thru the breeding season (KM). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Washington L. Newburgh Aug. 14. Greater Yellowlegs: 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 23. Another there Aug. 31. Lesser Yellowlegs: 5 at MC Jul. 4. Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Pine Plains Aug. 11. Least Sandpiper: 3 Cornwall Bay Jul. 25, and 3 there again Aug. 21. Semipalmated Sandpiper: peaked at MC Jun. 4 with 110. Sanderling: single birds at Cornwall Bay Jul. 25 and Aug. 22. Laughing Gull: major influx in L.I. Sound area Jun. 17. GSBC count was 294 in contrast to only 1 bird the previous year. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Kingston Point Light House Jul. 17 (AB, FM). **LEAST TERN:** 1 Cornwall Bay Aug. 22 (BS). Caspian Tern: 3 Cornwall Bay Jun. 1 (AM). **BLACK SKIMMER:** appeared at MC Jul. 2 with 2 more 2 days later at PL.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos: very few reports. 1 Yellow-billed at Millbrook Aug. 6-28 (FG). Black-billed: 3 reports from Dutch in late Aug. Barn Owl: 2 ad with 3 imm at nest in Beacon Jun 21 thru period (mob). Screech Owl: 1 Cornwall Aug. 28-31. Barred Owl: bred again this year in Pound Ridge. Com. Nighthawk: excellent movement from mid-Aug. on. Max 34 Aug. 31 Pleasant Valley (MVW). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: more reports than last three years put together. M, JK had 13 Aug. 19 passing overhead at Vassar Farm. AB & FM, while canoeing thru North Bay, Cruger's I., counted 18 feeding on jewelweed and were sure that many more might have been observed in areas they did not cover. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 on WBC and another at Salt Point thru Jul. Red-headed Woodpecker: obs in 3 locations in Oran Jun. 12 (BS).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 on WBC, and 3 at Carey Arboretum Aug. 31. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** in at least 3 different locations at Bashakill. 1 in Oran and 2 in Sull. 1 of the Sull locations had 2 ad with 3 imm being fed (BS). Dutch had 5 known nests in the Deep Hollow and Pond Gut areas in Jun., with another bird being observed at Blodgett's in Fishkill (Myrna Hemmerick). A singing bird was reported at Purchase, West Jun. 5, and other birds were obs in 3 nearby areas in Conn. 1 carrying nesting material (TB). 2 observed a half mile apart at Surebridge Sw., Harriman Park, Oran by GB on Jun. 11. 1 singing boldly under the Goshawk's nest. Willow Flycatcher: 1 Bashakill thru Jul. 23 (BS). Sev others from E West. Alder Flycatcher: 1 singing near Rye L Jul. 9.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: first Aug. 15 at Wawarsing. Obs there thru Aug. 25, with 2 present on Aug. 17. 2 Carey Arboretum, Aug. 31. Swallows: several reports of early migrating Bank and Cliff in Jul. Tree Swallow: normal. 600-700 swallows obs over Kingston Marsh Aug. 24 were mostly Bank, but all 5 species were represented (AB, FM). Fish Crow: resident family at Highland Falls from Apr. thru end of period. Red-breasted Nuthatch: first Wawarsing Aug. 10. Cornwall Aug. 28 were early migrants. 2 Sterling Forest July 20 may well have been residents (RS). Brown Creeper: 1 Sterling Forest July 20 and 1 Harriman Pk (no date). Carolina Wren: numbers near L.I. Sound low after winter kill, but normal to better inland. 8 or more observed thru period at P'kpsie (M, JK). Several reports of single birds from other locations thru region. Eastern Bluebird: FG reports 20 successful broods in 17 nests dur Jun. Still 1 nest with young at end of period. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a pr at Pound Ridge was the only known breeding site reported in West. Numbers good for rest of region. Golden-crowned Kinglet: nest site at Kensico Res for last two years was not used this year. **WATER PIPIT:** 2 Cornwall Bay Aug. 21, and 1 there Aug. 23 were unprecedented records (BS). Extremely early migrants. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** 1 Kingston Point Marsh Aug. 10 (FM, AB).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: a singing male, and a pr with female carrying nesting material at Sterling Forest Jul. 20 (RS). 1 on WBC. **PHILADELPHIA VIREO:** 1 Vas-sar Farm Aug. 18 (M, JK) was very early. Warbling Vireo: reappeared at Nyack's Memorial Park this summer after several years absence. A good movement of warblers was reported from Aug. 10 on with the best date Aug. 19. Worm-eating Warbler: 1 regularly at Bashakill from Jun. 16-July 17 (BS). Tennessee Warbler: first Aug. 17 at Wawarsing, with 4 there on Aug. 21 (JCO). **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** 1 P'kpsie Aug. 20 at bird bath, early (MJK). Nashville Warbler: first Wawarsing Aug. 18. Black-throated Blue Warbler: at least 2 singing males at Cedar Pd. area of Sterling Forest thru Jun. into July (RS). 1 pr with nest of 4 eggs along Appalachian Trail west of L Tiorati Jun. 11. Nest in Mountain Laurel at 1,250 ft. (GB). Cerulean Warbler: 1 Jun 15 Goshen was a new location (BS). Blackburnian Warbler: first migrant Aug. 15 in Dutch. Breeding pair obs Surebridge Sw. Jun. 4 (RS). Pine Warbler: only 1 Carey Arboretum Aug. 31, early. Prairie Warbler: 1 Jun. 28 Iona I. First returning migrant Wawarsing Aug. 16 (JCO). Louisiana Waterthrush: about 15 birds in the vic of Surebridge Sw. Jun. 11. Years ago Northern Waterthrush were prevalent in this area and probably bred. Mourning Warbler: male and female carrying food on Balsam L. Mt. in the Catskills Jun. 23 (AB, FM). Obs again Aug. 6. Male on West Kill Mt. in Catskills Jul. 23. 1 Dutch on WBC. Yellow-breasted Chat: a surprising 5 territorial males discovered in Jun. between Rye and Purchase in West. 2 at MC, 1 at West Co. Airport, and 2 at Manhattanville Coll. campus. Hooded Warbler: on GSBC in Bedford, and at Butler Sanc and Pound Ridge. Canada Warbler: 1 Doodletown Aug. 16, came to Screech Owl imitation (EDT). 8 on GSBC were split evenly between Butler Sanctuary in Bedford, and Pound Ridge. Dutch had 8 reports in Aug.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: House Sparrows continue to decline as House Finches continue to increase. Bobolinks: traditional Purchase breeding area down to 1 pr this year compared to 7 pr last year, and 20 the year before. Good migration obs in Dutch and Ulst last week of Aug. Eastern Meadowlark: numbers quite low in E. West. GSBC had 8 spread over 3 locations. Orchard Oriole: male and female at Walden last June continued there thru Jul. 17. No young obs. 1 at Rye dur Jun. was missed on GSBC. Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 Galeville Airport Jun. 3-16 was a new location (KM). 1 Dutchess Hill P'kpsie Aug. 20 (MVV). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: at least 3 pr in marsh at MC. **DARK-EYED JUNCO:** nest with 3 imm obs Jun 3 at Island Pd. Mt., Harriman Pk (RS).

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

ANTHONY J. LAURO

The summer season was unremarkable climatologically, with average temperatures and rainfall: June, 70.2 F, 3.83 in.; July 78.9 F, 1.60 in.; August 75.9 F, 4.57 in. The birding was however, above average with interesting rarities and equally interesting breeding trends noted.

Dennis Puleston reported a continued general increase in numbers of Ospreys in the Peconic Bay and Gardiners Bay area, with new nesting slowly spreading westward from these two fountainheads. He counted the following active nests: Gardiners Island (30), Shelter Island (13), North Fork (8), South Fork (7), Carmens River (3), Connetquot (1), Quogue (1). It is heartening to hear that he could not find one cracked egg from which one could analyse the DDT content. The DDT content as of last summer was down to 1.3 parts per million, as opposed to 13.8 parts in 1967, the nadir of breeding for this magnificent bird on Long Island.

The continued expansion of breeding of American Oystercatchers can probably be attributed to a decrease in pollution. With the construction of the outfall sewer pipe through South Oyster Bay in Nassau County, the bay has become less polluted, which has caused a notable increase in Blue Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) and the Ribbed Mussel (*Modiolus demissus*), the main food locally of oystercatchers, which corresponds with the continued increase of the oystercatcher. Up to 40 pairs were counted in the area north of the Jones Beach strip this summer, and in late summer, one flock on North Line Island contained 75 birds.

With few exceptions the tern colonies from Jones Beach to Great Gull Island did quite well with many correspondents noting that Least Tern did exceptionally well. Gil Raynor, however, noted that Least Terns in the central Suffolk area had decreased in numbers.

Still another bird seemingly making a slow recovery, is the Peregrine Falcon. A pair was noted for over a month in the canyons of midtown Manhattan, no doubt feeding on the teeming Rock Dove colonies which for so many years have gone unmolested. No evidence of nesting was discovered, however.

BREEDING BIRD CENSUSES

NORTHERN NASSAU June 12th: 114 Species, about 14,000 individuals. Highlights: 464 Canada Geese (high), 4 Long-eared Owls (breeding record in Muttontown Preserve), 5 Acadian Flycatchers (no breeding evidence), 12 Red-breasted Nuthatches (2, possibly 3 breeding locations), 1 Carolina Wren (down from 9 last year, presumably due to hard winter), 4 Worm-eating Warblers (2 breeding locations), 211 Mockingbirds (high), 341 Cardinals (up from 225 in 1976), 142 Yellow Warblers (high).

CAPTREE June 12th: 106 Species, about 12,578 individuals. Highlights: Canada Goose 266 (high), 26 Bobwhite (low), 9 Killdeer (high), 140 Barn Swallows (6 year low).

CENTRAL SUFFOLK June 18th: 130 Species, about 15,755 individuals. Highlights: Species showing significant increases over previous years were Wood Duck (42), Red-tailed Hawk (13), American Kestrel (21), American Oystercatcher (15), Willet (18), Great Black-backed Gull (123), Common Tern (1324), Downy Woodpecker (31), Great Crested Flycatcher (64), Purple Martin (151), Common Crow (230), Tufted Titmouse (34), Brown-headed Cowbird (175), Cardinal (134), House Finch (282). Species showing significant decreases were: Black Duck (72), Bobwhite (116), Killdeer (9), Least Tern (32), Black Skimmer (106), both cuckoos (19), Belted Kingfisher (12), House Wren (37), Long-billed Marsh Wren (17), Wood Thrush (52), Hermit Thrush (1), Veery (20), E. Meadowlark (5), Purple Finch (2), Sharp-tailed Sparrow (61), Seaside Sparrow (7).

Rarities for the period include: Audubon's Shearwater, Anhinga, White Ibis, Bar-tailed Godwit, Franklin's Gull.

Observers: THD—Thomas H. Davis; AJL—Anthony J. Lauro; ROP—Robert O. Paxton; GSR—Gilbert S. Raynor.

LOONS—DUCKS: 12 Sooty Shearwaters were seen June 5 quite close to the jetty at Democrat Point (AJL). An **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** was seen very well at Cox's Ledge on August 13, when blue-green Gulf Stream water drifted close to the mainland (R. Dietrich, S. Emmons). **ANHINGA:** (AJL, THD) had a male bird soaring over Middle Line Island in a thermal on July 23. This is the first state record for this species and details concerning this record will be covered by a separate article which will appear in the next issue of *The Kingbird*. Two Least Bitterns were seen, one by GSR at Manorville June 18, the other Aug. 23 Oak Beach Marsh (ROP). Birders on Long Island were treated to a post-breeding dispersal flight of **WHITE IBIS**. The sightings all took place on the North Shore which was unusual in that most of the Glossy Ibis on the island are noted on the South Shore. Julius Hastings spotted five of these great birds flying over Mount Sinai Harbor on July 15 and the birds lingered until at least mid-August. They established a set pattern of feeding in Mount Sinai Harbor and roosting in Stony Brook Harbor, a few miles to the west. Glenn Quinn found another White Ibis on July 19 at Sands Point, Nassau County, but this bird only stayed for a day. Feral Canada Geese continue to breed prolifically all over Long Island. The NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation has been forced to relocate many of these birds "elsewhere" as their food needs are rapidly outstripping the available sources. R. Smith *et al.*, had a lingering King Eider at Montauk on July 11.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Peter Post had a Turkey Vulture over Jamaica Bay on July 18. Peregrine Falcon, see remarks in introduction (*vide* THD). No Black Rails were found either calling or breeding in the Oak Beach Marsh this summer. Whether this sad news can be attributed to this year's harsh winter or human disturbance is unknown. Harry Darrow counted over 1,500 Black-bellied Plovers on North Line Island on August 28. Am. Golden Plovers were found by several observers in low numbers scattered along the South Shore in late August. One group of residents evidently not complaining about jet noise is the thirteen pairs of Upland Sandpipers nesting along side the jet runways at JFK International Airport, NYC. Sam Chevalier banded 45 young there this summer. Two Baird's Sandpipers and one Buff-breasted Sandpiper were found in fresh water rain pools at West End, Jones Beach on August 23 by Harry Darrow, who obtained good photos. On August 25 he located four more Baird's at the same place, and also had 4 White-rumped Sandpipers on the Line Islands in mid-August. BS had 3 White-rumped on July 27, Sands Point. Additional Buff-breasted records were: 1 Aug. 18-23 Jones Beach (W. Wilkens *et al.*), 4 (J. Ash) Sagaponack Aug. 26, 1 Aug. 27 (J. Ash, Tom Burke *et al.*), 1 Moriches Inlet (L. Schore) Aug. 30, 35 Aug. 31 (GSR), 1 Cedar Beach Aug. 31 (W. Williams). A fading-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was present from Aug. 6 to Aug. 14 at Jamaica Bay (THD, T. Burke *et al.*). A maximum of 50 Western Sandpipers was noted from July 23 to August 2 at JBWR (J. Bull *et al.*). Whimbrels were in fine numbers with a maximum of 36 noted over Middle Line Island on August 9 by Harry Darrow, who also on the same day and place counted 12 Hudsonian Godwits. Marbled Godwits were present in lower numbers with a maximum of 3 seen on North Line August 6 (mob). P. J. Buckley and M. Gochfeld had another Marbled on June 3 at Moriches Inlet. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT:** Aug. 23 Oak Beach Marsh, all field marks noted (ROP). A Long-billed Dowitcher was seen at JBWR July 23 (J. Bull). A maxima of 1,000 Short-billed Dowitchers was seen on August 14, North Line, with a maximum of 500 Red Knots the same day (mob). One American Avocet was present at JBWR from August 4 to the end of the period with an additional bird present from August 13 to August 20. There were at least 8 reports of Wilson's Phalaropes from early July to the end of the period, all records coming from JBWR and the Line Islands with a maximum of 15 on Aug. 13 at JBWR. 3 Northern Phalaropes were reported from JBWR Aug. 4-5 (C. Young *et al.*). Parasitic Jaeger, Captree, June 12th BBC. Western Long Island was visited in spring by many breed-

ing-plumaged Laughing Gulls which by the beginning of summer had left the area without apparently nesting. This year's visitors showed inclinations to breed; perhaps next year they will actually breed. Barbara Spencer found a sub-adult **FRANKLIN'S GULL** in Hempstead Harbor on the North Shore on July 13 and it lingered until July 22 where it was seen by THD and P. Cioffi and photographed by them. Paul Gillen counted 88 Bonaparte's Gulls at North Line Island on July 6, an unprecedented count for this bird in summer. Gull-billed Terns were seen at: JBWR 2 (mob) through June 15, 2 Meco June 4 (J. Ash), 2 North Line Island June 27 (P. Gillen). No breeding evidence was found. Jim Ash reported 2 Royal Terns feeding each other baitfish in a courtship manner at the south end of Sagaponack Pond on June 18. Again no evidence of breeding. A Caspian Tern was noted at JBWR on July 24 by THD and F. Scheider. An immature Forster's Tern was seen on Oak Beach Marsh on August 10 (ROP).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: THD reports a pair of Barn Owls was discovered raising 5 young at N. Ozone Park, Queens, in a heavily urbanized neighborhood. Residents claimed that the owls have inhabited towers atop several small factories for as long as they could remember. The birds nested in a water tower and the manager of the property wants to encourage the birds to continue to nest, an opinion shared by residents living across the street. They cited a recent TV program "Wild Kingdom" which showed how beneficial Barn Owls are and how uniquely they are adapted to hunting at night. The residents anticipated the owls' appearance at twilight. It is certain that Barn Owls are capable of being unobtrusive to all but a few in a populated area. This portends well for the species' continuing survival in New York City. It may even increase in numbers with the steady increase of nest sites available in abandoned buildings. A Red-headed Woodpecker apparently nested in the same place in Flanders in eastern Suffolk County that it had used last year, June 24 (GSR).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: There were two reported breeding occurrences of Red-breasted Nuthatch this summer: 1 pair feeding young in Douglaston, Queens (F. Smythe *et al.*). 2 pair with young at an estate in Greenvale (J. Doran *et al.*). These records, along with 2 other verified breeding records since 1973, perhaps indicate that this bird will be a regular nester in the region. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Aug. 18 to 20 JBWR (L. Schore *et al.*).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Blackpoll Warbler, 14 Captree BBC June 12th, late for so many. Normal warbler migration took place late in period.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: No reports of significance during period.

PELAGIC TRIPS: 15 miles off Jones Beach June 11 (THD, AJL, L Schore *et al.*) 8 Sooty, 3 Manx Shearwaters, 1 Wilson's Storm-petrel, 1 Gannet, 2 Northern Phalaropes, 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 1 Black Tern.

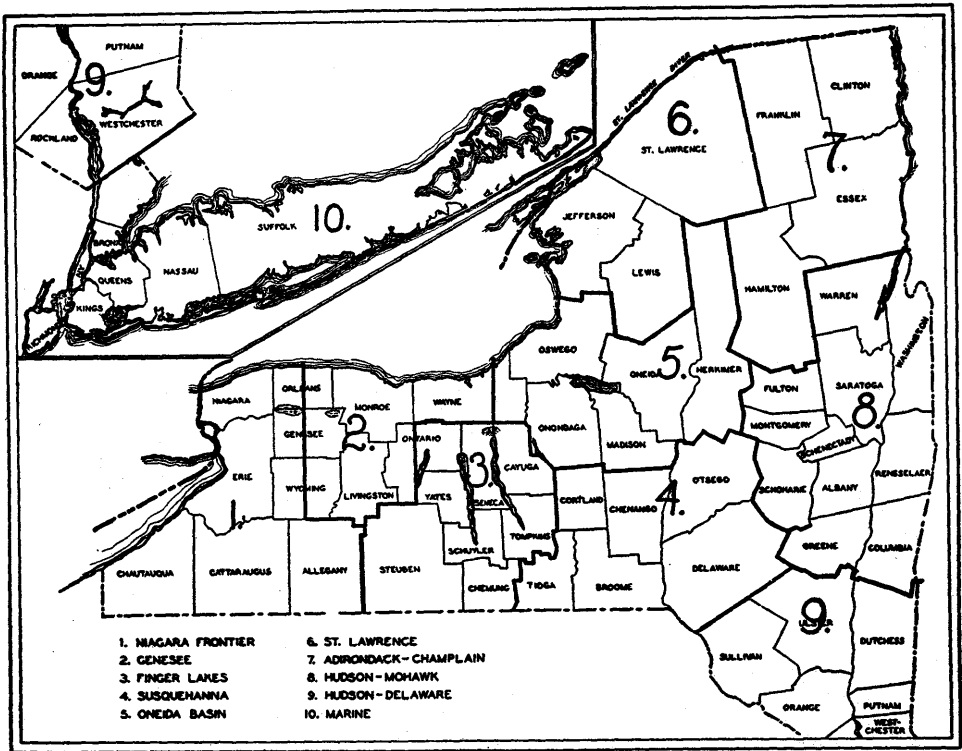
Cox's Ledge June 4 (GSR, Rusica, Larsen) 40 Sooty, 8 Greater Shearwaters, 12 Wilson's Storm-petrels, 10 Northern Phalaropes, 1 Pomarine Jaeger.

Cox's Ledge August 13 (R. Dietrich, S. Emmons) 1 **AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER**, 1 Sooty, 50 Greater, 100 Cory's Shearwaters; 2 unidentified "black & white" shearwaters, 150 Wilson's Storm-petrels, 4 Parasitic, 1 unidentified jaeger.

Southeast of Block Island August 27 (J. Ash, T. Burke, *et al.*) 475 Cory's, 105 Greater, 6 Manx Shearwaters, 115 Wilson's Storm-petrels, 3 Northern Phalaropes, 1 Pomarine Jaeger, 5 unidentified jaeger, 2 immature Black-legged Kittiwakes.

9 DeSoto Road, Amityville, New York 11701

REPORTING REGIONS



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

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February
Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is December 7

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