

# The **KINGBIRD**

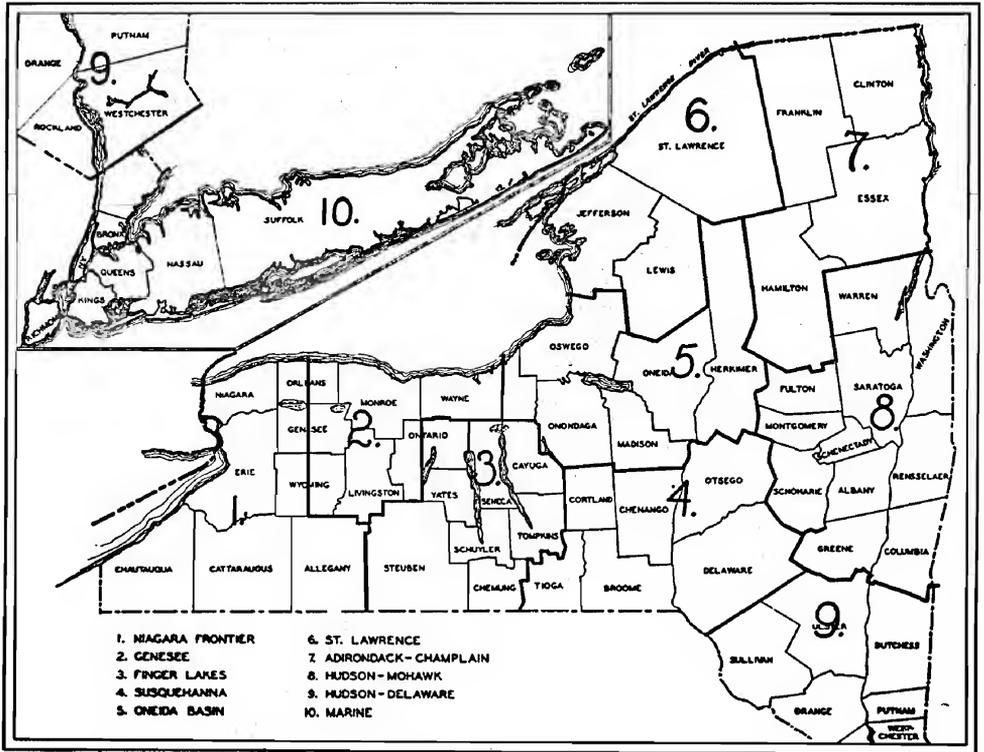


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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

## REPORTING REGIONS



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

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# The KINGBIRD

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Editor — ALICE E. ULRICH

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## The Editor's Page

The response to my request for articles and field notes for the October issue of the Kingbird was most gratifying. There is enough material for the current issue and a start on the December one. Several persons expressed willingness to prepare something for a future Kingbird. This wholehearted cooperation makes the editor's work a pleasure.

To you readers, who have not contributed materials for our periodical, here is an invitation to write and share your birding experiences and ornithological findings with others.

Your editor believes there are enough people who are willing and want to write to maintain a Kingbird of 64 to 80 pages. May we have as many pages of articles, field notes and information as we have of regional records. Until we can increase our income, the editor will be restricted by the budget allowance to limit the size of the Kingbird.

There are two immediate possible methods of increasing our annual income; (1) advertising in the Kingbird (Clubs will hear more about this matter from Mr. Starling later) and (2) by increasing membership. As editor, I urge each club to obtain at least ten new memberships, one life membership (\$100-payable over a four-year period in equal instalments), 2 supporting memberships at \$10 each, 2 sustaining memberships at \$5 each and 5 individual memberships at \$3 each.

In New York City, at the recent State Federation meeting, the delegates suggested that each club appoint a chairman or a committee to tell the members of their club about the Kingbird and encourage their subscription to our periodical.

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### CORRECTION CONCERNING CLUBS AND AREA

Rockland Audubon Society's area is Rockland County, not Nyack.

| Number | Issue    | Deadline | Period Covered in Regional Report |
|--------|----------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1      | May      | April 20 | Winter Season: Dec. 1 - March 31  |
| 2      | July     | June 20  | Spring Season: Apr. 1 - May 31    |
| 3      | October  | Sept. 20 | Summer Season: June 1 - Aug. 15   |
| 4      | December | Dec. 20  | Fall Season: Aug. 16 - Nov. 30    |

Let me remind you, that all materials should be double spaced and typewritten.

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The Kingbird is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources, and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas. Individual member's dues are \$3.00 annually, and all individual members receive the Kingbird. A member wishing to make an additional contribution may become a Sustaining Member (\$5), a Supporting Member (\$10), or a Life Member (\$100—"payable over a four-year period in equal instalments until the full amount is paid", if member so desires.) For all classes of membership contact the treasurer, Mrs. Dayton Stoner, 399 State Street, Albany 10, New York.

## RECENT HISTORY OF THE BARROW'S GOLDENEYE IN NEW YORK

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Three important treatises on the Barrow's Goldeneye (*Glaucionetta islandica*) are to be found in the literature of the past 20 years. Erwin M. Hasbrouck (1944) made a rather extensive summarization of the known records of this species east of Duluth, Minnesota. The late Ludlow Griscom (1945) while giving credit to Hasbrouck for publishing a good listing of records for Rhode Island reevaluated that portion of his paper dealing with Massachusetts, as did Kenneth C. Parkes (1951) for New York State.

Previous to 1944, Elon H. Eaton (1910) accumulated many of the records for New York State and Allan D. Cruickshank (1942) supplied most of the Long Island listings for both Parkes and Hasbrouck. Since Parkes' review of New York State in 1951, Thomas A. Lesperance (1955) dealt locally with the Lake Champlain area and brought the records of The Kingbird up to the year 1954 from Parkes' 1951 listing. Other New York State records since are to be found principally spread through the field notes and the regional reports of the Kingbird.

The shooting of an adult drake Barrow's Goldeneye on Great South Bay off Oakdale, Long Island, December 6, 1959, was most unusual as this species is generally only an irregularly reported winter visitor in the Marine Region on the eastern Long Island forks of Orient and Montauk. It was shot by John Strong of Sayville from a blind situated on the bay edge of the La Salle Military Academy grounds a short distance east of Heckscher State Park. As a record it would have gone unreported, except that the mounted specimen was found by Cornelius Ward, of Roosevelt, in the taxidermy studio of James Hagenmayer of Albertson, who later kindly permitted Ward and this writer to examine both this splendid specimen and one of a Common Goldeneye (*Glaucionetta americana*). Ward's discovery of the Oakdale bird, and several subsequent interesting records of sight identification produced an incentive to write this paper dealing with the Barrow's Goldeneye as to habits, identification, status on the northeastern seaboard with general remarks on changing populations, the tabulating of all known Long Island records and bringing those of The Kingbird up to date for New York State.

### *Habits*

On Long Island the Barrow's Goldeneye is a habitue of salt water in practically all instances. John Bull of Far Rockaway, in supplying me with a couple of old records, however, states that Dr. Helmuth of East Hampton recorded it once from Georgica Pond (near the ocean), presumably taking shelter from severe southeastern gales.

According to observers, it does not mix with the Common Goldeneyes to any degree. Such was the case with Strong's bird as he writes: "It was alone although other Goldeneyes were in the area". He said that it appeared rather tame, and both he and Roy Latham, of Orient, claim that it resembles the Bufflehead in its behavior. Strong remarked about its rather bewildering actions, for after he fired one shot, the bird, instead of flying off, came directly toward him as he sat in his blind on the shore and was about to fly over his head when he killed it.

An adult male Barrow's Goldeneye, seen by this writer on February 22, 1961, was also well separated from 40 to 50 Common Goldeneyes on Gardiner's Bay. It did considerable diving, repeatedly surfacing for several seconds, but after five or six such dives it would spend a short interval afloat offering an opportunity for better observation; then diving would be resumed.

Roy Latham, of Orient, who has spent much time in winter around Gardiner's Bay since the early 1900's, writes that, in this location, the only area in Region 10 where more than one Barrow's are likely to be found at a time, he has seen what he presumed were Barrow's Goldeneye females because of their close association in small groups with one or more adult males away from Common Goldeneyes. This also seems to be the criterion for acceptance of Barrow's females by the late Griscom and others in Massachusetts waters where this northerly species is more frequently found and where one to several accompanying females may be involved.

#### *Field Identification*

The head of the Barrow's Goldeneye in Hagenmeyer's studio showed a rich, dark, purplish black from every angle; the head of the Common Goldeneye was greenish when viewed at various angles as the bird faced the observer, but Ward and I were surprised to find a purplish tinge if the Common Goldeneye's head was viewed at an angle from the rear, at which point it was noticed that the greenish glint, or sheen, did not show. The dark of the head also appeared to extend further down the neck of the Barrow's, although this is perhaps not diagnostic. The perpendicular rise of the forehead behind the shorter bill of the drake Barrow's offered a low, long and evenly rounded crown when compared to the longer bill and sub-triangular crown of the Common Goldeneye. The much darker-sided Barrow's with its row of white on the jet-black wing is an aid to single out this species from the Common which has a great deal of white on the sides. If seen at close enough range the much longer, white crescent of the Barrow's appears well above the eye and across the base of the bill to about an equal distance below the eye. The round spot of the Common Goldeneye approaches, or is slightly below, a horizontal line from eye to bill.

Griscom warns observers of haphazard and over-simplified identifications of the adult male in the field. He has often refused November and April records, especially from inland fresh water areas, claiming that the male Common Goldeneye occurs annually in November and December and again in April in an eclipse or transitional plumage. This has a row of white spots on a dark wing. This dark wing may be confusing to the inexperienced or careless observer who may not notice that it is dingy gray instead of the diagnostic jet-black always present in the male Barrow's wings and sides. In such changing birds he warns that he has even seen Common Goldeneyes with the round white head spot coming in, making it appear crescent-shaped. Such a bird with incoming round spot was present in a flock of wintering ducks in March, 1961, on the Great South Bay at Babylon. It, however, was seen at close range and was readily identified as a Common Goldeneye.

As for females, in breeding season the Barrow's has an all yellow bill; the Common's yellow-tipped, a field note not much good in our region. Roger T. Peterson, (1947) says that "in winter it is not safe to tell females except by the males they are with". He mentions, however, the bill is "shorter and deeper; forehead is more abrupt". Griscom (op cit) states

that out of six Massachusetts areas harboring Barrow's, five were entirely unsuited because of distance for recognizing females. He claims that under normal circumstances there was no use in speculating on females or immatures, but acknowledges that at very close range the females accompanying the male Barrow's differs from the adjacent female Common Goldeneye "in just those respects which are well known to constitute the external specific characters of minor importance between the two species", without describing those characteristics.

Under such reasoning, coming in during the past winter, we have two brown-plumaged birds recorded in our New York State records in The Kingbird — an immature male at Atlantic Beach, L. I., February 11, and a female at Pultneyville, N. Y., March 12, both seen at close range in comparison with Common Goldeneyes by veteran observers who feel that their identity is correct.

Frank M. Chapman (1934) offers an aid to tell the dead female goldeneyes apart: look for the nostril in the middle of the bill of the Barrow's, and nearer the tip than the base in the Common Goldeneye.

#### *Status*

The occurrences of the Barrow's Goldeneye have interested all those who have written about it, yet we are partly in the dark regarding the true status of this duck. Lesperance, in his northeastern New York records remarks "I believe that many Barrow's are shot by hunters along Lake Champlain, but . . . a lack of interest and knowledge prevents these occurrences from coming to light". This, also, may be applicable to many other well-hunted areas in the state.

Lesperance's records come from Ausable Point on Lake Champlain where he writes of a single male Barrow's seen several days in late March, 1953, and two males and a female, November 10, 1954 (Male and female collected). He also remarks: "future records may establish some yearly continuity of occurrence for this species in the Lake Champlain area".

James K. Merritt (Kingbird, vol. 9, no. 1, p. 46) writes of a second area in Region 8 for the regular occurrences of the Barrow's: "This marks the third winter in the last four that the Barrow's Goldeneye has been seen along the Hudson above Albany. I would doubt that there is any other spot in the state that could boast of such regularity". With no record for 1960, but occurring again in 1961 the score now is four out of six years for Merritt's Hudson River area. A third area of recent production is the Niagara River area where the bird was seen in both 1959 and 1960, and a hybrid between Barrow's and Common was picked up dead in 1956. Perhaps the largest flock reported in recent years (1960) were two males and two females (male and two females shot) at Stony Point, Lake Ontario.

As for Long Island, the last few years has shown an increase which might include it as a fourth area to find a few widespread Barrow's Goldeneyes, with records not confined to eastern Montauk and Orient. Cruickshank (1942) says that on Long Island a scarcity of local records indicates that the species belongs with our list of very accidental winter visitants, but after giving these records, remarks: ". . . further investigation may well reveal that the species occurs annually at the extreme eastern end of Long Island".

Parkes echoes this, quoting the above, with "my expectations have been fulfilled, and today the only portion of New York where the observer is

justified in a reasonable hope of finding Barrow's Goldeneye is along the rocky fingers of Orient and Montauk Points which reach out into the Atlantic".

Aside from an increase of reports since 1959, a search of our long Island records and inquiry by letter shows no great confidence by our veteran observers of seeing it; for reports show long intervals of absence with sporadic appearances. It would appear that Orient State Park is the most likely place to find it, yet Roy Latham of Orient, reporting from there had but one observance since 1926 (1959), an absence of 33 years: Yet this is the one Long Island area which is the most productive as to flocking individuals with one report of nine — six males and three females — in a single group many years ago.

Griscom in 1945 wrote of four formerly good Barrow's Goldeneye locations north of Boston, two remaining: Lynn (none since 1934); Beverly for eight years until 1942; two areas are still productive — Newburyport Harbor and St. Ann (Gloucester and Rockport). Griscom also relates that he, with John T. Nichols, in 1925 went up into Massachusetts waters to see for "the first time the Barrow's Goldeneye alive". The reason for forsaking Long Island waters is that evidently they were pretty sure of their success northward. Long Island has not developed into such an area so far as to produce with certainty; and we still have our midwinter observers who after visiting Massachusetts's rocky capes generally report success upon their return.

#### *Records*

Because additional changes and corrections are necessary to clarify some old reports, all known Long Island records will be reviewed. Apparently those records for the rest of the state have been more carefully screened and recently compiled by Parkes through the year 1951 and Lesperance to 1955, so these will be brought up to date — 1956 to 1961.

Long Island: Only one specimen in our collections — a female, many years ago; see Dutcher, *Auk*, 10: p 270, 1893. This bird was reported by both Cruickshank and Hasbrouck as being in the collection of the Long Island Historical Society. It is now in the American Museum of Natural History, N. Y. C. The next oldest but rather indefinite record, and one hitherto unpublished, is that of a Barrow's male shot on Gardiner's Bay by an unknown hunter "back around 1900" (Roy Latham). The next four sight records also come from Latham, all from Gardiner's Bay at Orient. Cruickshank mentions these birds collectively, without numbers or sex; Hasbrouck lists numbers only. These are six males and three females, January 5, 1909; one male, February 16, 1918, and three — one male and two females, March 3, 1918; one male, February 11, 1926. Cruickshank, like Griscom, remarking on the rather similar plumages between males of Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes claims that "many sight records by inexperienced observers of the rarer bird are not worth much consideration". He, therefore, gives but two Long Island records besides Latham's, both at Montauk: February 1, 1937 (Pangborn) and January 23, 1939 (Helmuth).

Next is a record by Hasbrouck of a male from Smithtown, seen March 18 and 25, 1940, reported by "J. J. Elliott". Actually this bird should be credited to Richard B. Fischer of Flushing, now a professor at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Chronologically, the next two records (furnished by John Bull of Far Rockaway) are one at Montauk, March 15, 1945, and one on Georgica Pond, East Hampton, December 31, 1948, both records by Helmuth. Interspersed between these two dates was a drake seen on Lower Carman's River, South Haven, April 3, 1947 (D. Puleston) previously unreported. Apparently there was a fairly heavy infiltration in the banner year of 1959, which produced three Long Island records with five individuals and, incidentally, one each in region 1 and Region 7 in the rest of the state.

Long Island's 1959 records are: a male, Shinnecock Bay, January 10 (Dan Schaeffer); three —one male, two females, February 17 and February 19 at Orient (Latham) both unpublished records, and a male shot December 6 at Oakdale (Kingbird, vol. 10, no. 1, p. 43). Two 1961 records conclude the Long Island list: a male, Gardiner's Bay at Orient, February 22 (Elliott); Atlantic Beach, an identified immature male seen under extraordinarily good circumstances, (Mayer, Rose, et. al.) (Kingbird, vol. 11, no. 1, p. 70).

New York State, except Long Island: In 1956 James Meritt reported in Region 7, a male Barrow's seen four miles south of Mechanicsville on the Hudson, January 21 through February 4 (K. Hart, Schenectady Bird Club) (first seen by the club since 1952). Two records in 1957: again, one by Meritt on the Hudson, a few miles above Albany, January 13-19 (Schenectady Bird Club) (Kingbird, vol. 7, no. 1, p. 30). The second was a hybrid between a Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, found dead, Niagara Gorge, in March (Muma, reported by Baillie) found in Clark S. Beardslee's Region 1 (Kingbird, vol. 7, no. 1, p. 16). There was one record for 1958, a Barrow's seen at Pt. Byron, Region 3 by a Mr. Dewey in early January, reported by Mrs. S. Hoyt, regional director (Kingbird, vol. 8, no. 1, p. 15). Again in 1959 for the third year out of four, Merritt reported a male Barrow's on January 18 on the Hudson river above Albany (Kingbird, vol. 9, no. 1, p. 46). Andrie, Coggeshall and Axtell also found a male Barrow's at Niagara Falls, January 3, 1959 (Kingbird, vol. 9, no. 1, p. 29). The following year two records came in: a male on the west branch of the Niagara River, January 1, 1960 (Dr. Axtell), last seen February 21 (H. Mitchell) (Kingbird, vol. 10, no. 1, pp. 18, 19); Stony Point, Lake Ontario, November 27, two males and two females, all but one male shot, from Field Notes, "Barrow's Goldeneye in Jefferson County" Frank A. Clinch (Kingbird, vol. 10, no. 4, p. 166).

Three 1961 records conclude those of New York State to date: A female, closely observed and compared, Pultneyville, Region 2, March 12 (Foster, Miller) (Kingbird, vol. 11, no. 1, p. 45); one above Troy on Hudson River, February 2 (Austin) (Kingbird, vol. 11, no. 1, p. 65); one male and a probable female, Fischer's Bay, Oneida Lake, March 31 to April 5 (D. Peakall, J. Bart, F. Scheider), Field Notes, "Barrow's Goldeneye on Oneida Lake" (Kingbird, vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 34, 35).

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### W. O. S.

The Audubon Society of Canada, The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and The Royal Ontario Museum sponsored the forty-second annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society on the weekend of June 8-11, 1961.

As a meeting place they chose the Hotel Britannia at Huntsville, Ontario with ideal hotel accommodations and convenient meeting places joined under one unit.

A northern lake at the hotel site and the whole expanse of Algonquin Park within convenient driving distance, gave the members excellent opportunities for field observations. At the paper sessions, participants covered bird songs, migration, bird behavior and other related topics. They all combined to make a very balanced program.

Three members of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. gave papers at the meeting. Dr. Walter R. Spofford talked about and showed slides of "White Epulettes in some Appalachian Golden Eagles". Fred T. Hall of the Buffalo Museum of Science, showed a color film entitled "Birds of the Border", and Dr. Lawrence I. Grinnell of Ithaca gave an account of his visit to the South Pacific with a talk and color film under the title of "Australia Outback".

On the night field trips, the members experienced the thrill of hearing calling Loons and a few fortunate individuals heard wild wolves call as they responded to sound reproductions.

On Friday evening, Roger Tory Peterson, very informally, presented the color films of his recent African trip. These pictures were taken just before the start of the troubles which now beset that country.

Again, on Saturday night at the annual dinner, Roger Peterson gave a talk entitled "A Gathering of the Storks". — Edward C. Ulrich

### 1962 FEDERATION WATERFOWL COUNT

The date of the federation waterfowl count will cover the two weekends Mr. Leonard McWilliams was elected President of an Association member—Leo Tanghe and will compile the records for the 1962 count. Write to him at 345 Concord Drive, Rochester 16, for information.

### WINTER EAGLE COUNT

The Research Division of the National Audubon Society has chosen the same general time, January 5 to 15, for an eagle count and through Dr. Walter P. Spofford have asked our help. For forms to use on this count write to Research Division, Audubon Society, Tavernier, Fla.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGY 1910-1952

ALLEN H. BENTON AND STEPHEN W. EATON

The bibliographic committee now has available an author list of titles on New York State Ornithology 1910-1952. This was assembled to help people interested in New York's birds and to fill a gap existing between E. H. Eaton's *Birds of New York* and the yearly bibliographies in the *KINGBIRD* started in 1953.

The price of the 71 page mimeographed list is one dollar and may be purchased from Stephen W. Eaton, Dept. of Biology, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, New York.

Omissions to the list may be sent to members of the bibliographic committee (A. H. Benton, S. W. Eaton, Geoffrey Carlton, Allan Klonick). Your help in making the list more complete is requested.

#### NEST SHARING BY ROBIN AND CATBIRD: AN ADDENDUM

In the last issue of *The Kingbird* (July 1961:81-82) I reported a nest shared by a pair of robins and a pair of catbirds at Loudonville, Albany County, New York. Unfortunately, the end of the nesting cycle coincided with my long-planned vacation, so I was unable to be on hand to witness personally the final stages. Through the kindness of Mr. Edgar Pitkin, however, I have secured the following information.

The three young birds present on June 22 (Figure 1) were all successfully fledged. The single catbird left first, followed a day or two later by the two young robins. Mr. Pitkin examined the nest and found that it contained no mud whatever. Since the catbird did most of the carrying of nesting materials, and the robin did most of the actual building, the nest had the shape of a robin nest with the materials of a catbird nest.

—Allen H. Benton, State University of New York  
College of Education, Albany, New York



Three not of a kind: the two birds facing left are robins, the smaller bird facing almost directly into the camera is a catbird.



Located just inside Cayuga County, northwest of Port Byron, it can be reached by following route 38 north out of Port Byron about one mile beyond the village limits until the Owasco Lake Outlet is crossed, and then immediately turning left on Howland Island Road. Taking the "line of least resistance" at the one junction,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles of macadam road ends at the only bridge leading onto the island.

In 1931, the New York State Conservation Department bought the island from its private landowners to establish a wildlife refuge. Beginning in 1934, the area was managed primarily for waterfowl with particular attention given to the planting of food patches for migrating geese. This also was the era of the C. C. C. Camps; and it was one of these camps, located on the island, which created most of the 300 acres of pond and marsh, which are now the basis for the current waterfowl program.

During the 40's, the major emphasis was switched from waterfowl to a game farm for rearing pheasants. This was during the first major pheasant decline, and the state pheasant stocking program was pushed to the 100,000 birds per year level. As the pheasant population began to recover and more was learned about the value, or lack of value, of indiscriminate stocking, the pheasant propagation program was drastically curtailed.

Pheasant rearing was discontinued in 1951; and at that time, plans were made to take advantage of the water area made during the C. C. C. days to develop the island for waterfowl. A major item in this program was to establish a study center and investigate the possibility of introducing, through artificial propagation and liberation, ducks that were not native breeders in New York State. The feasibility of such a program had been demonstrated by our experience with mallards and through banding studies, particularly those carried out at the Delta Waterfowl Station in Manitoba.

Before the war, there were indications that the mallard duck was extending its nesting territory toward the east. The Conservation Department gave this move a hand by producing and releasing mallards. New York's banding studies, and those at Delta and elsewhere, revealed that young hens returned to the area where they had been reared the following spring. Young drakes, on the other hand, followed their hen back to her home territory. Artificially reared ducks released before they could fly, had responded in the same manner with the release site being their home ground.

The attempt to introduce new nesting species of duck was not to give the waterfowl hunter a more colorful game bag, but rather as one means of increasing the carrying capacity of New York's marshes, and, therefore, the production potential of our wetlands. For some reason, mated pairs of ducks have a very limited tolerance for other ducks of their own kind, while they can live in harmony with ducks of other species in close proximity. For instance, a small marsh which would only produce one brood of black ducks and a brood of wood ducks, under native conditions, now will also support a brood of mallards. If others could be introduced to nest on this marsh, it might be possible to more than double its production without even touching the area.

Initially, duck eggs collected at Delta were hatched and the young released; but this method was only scratching the surface. The few returns,

however, gave further backing to the principle and encouraged the Conservation Department to attempt to establish breeder flocks to make large liberations possible. Before such a rearing program could be a reality, many problems faced the game farm and research personnel. The two biggest were those of getting eggs from breeders and improving the hatchability of the eggs obtained.

Under the old mallard program, they were happy when they got 65 percent hatchability from their fertile eggs. Based on this, the 25 percent hatchability of redhead eggs was discouraging. As evidence of the time and effort put into this phase, the redhead hatchability has been increased to 88 per cent and mallards have been boosted to 90-95 per cent.

Several techniques were modified to bring this about, but the most striking is one which recreates the effect of the hen leaving the nest to feed. Each day the eggs are cooled for 15 minutes and sprinkled with luke warm water before being returned to the incubator.

Even before hatching problems can be solved, egg production must be achieved. Egg production in redheads was all right, but the pintails had been dragging their feet in this activity for some time with a production rate of about one egg per hen. This year, Bob Bauer, the island's foreman, moved 20 pair into a covered holding pen where they would not be bothered by the coming and going of wild ducks. This one change, from open to closed pens, jumped egg production to about 17 eggs per hen. As a result of this, a second covered holding yard is currently being constructed and will be ready for use next spring.

This jump in egg production made possible the first release of pintails in New York since the Delta ducks in 1951 and 1952. Three hundred fifty 5-week old pintails were put out this summer. Evidence that pintails should establish themselves under New York conditions is the fact that in 1960, 15 pair nested on the island. This past summer, in addition to the nearly 20 broods raised, 280 wild pintail eggs were collected and run through the incubator with the eggs collected from pen reared birds.

The method of raising young ducks from hatching to 5 weeks at Howland Island represents a major change from former techniques. Old hands at duck rearing assured the Department their new ideas wouldn't work. Traditionally, wild ducklings had been kept away from water for their first three weeks. This method had created two problems. First, being kept away from water, their oil glands do not develop properly and their down will quickly soak up the water. It is necessary to keep chasing them out of the water until their post-weting preening gets their oil glands functioning properly. The other problem was that without water, there was nothing to do. The ducklings just sat around and were not in good physical condition. Where they now have water, they are extremely active and develop into sturdy well-conditioned ducks. The old system had a mortality rate of about 5 per cent at 3 weeks. Under the Howland Island technique, this has been cut to 1 per cent.

The Howland Island brooder house is located right on the bank of Breeder Pond where it is visible from the road leading across the main dike. The concrete floor of this long building gives way to water along the east side of the building where it actually extends several feet into the pond. Sliding doors along the back of the building permit access to outside yards



where grass resting areas and more water are available. The partitions, separating each little unit, run across the brooder house from the pond to the back wall. They are only about 18 inches high, so the catwalk running across them and the length of the building gives good visibility and access to all units.

As the ducklings come into the brooder from the incubator, they are kept in confinement near the brooder lamp the first 24 hours to learn where home is. For the first couple days, a white sheet is placed over the wood chip litter and the food pellets placed on it. They quickly learn that the pellets are edible. When the ducklings were placed directly on the chips, rather than on the sheet, it was found that they were dying of thirst even while swimming in water. They had picked up bits of wood fiber, which had impacted in their throats, preventing them from taking either food or water.

Each week, the ducklings are moved toward the far end of the brooder to make room for the weekly hatch. At the end of three weeks, they graduate from the brooder house and move to the large outside holding pens, where they remain two more weeks before they are given Fish and Wildlife Service bands and liberated on suitable marshes around the state by Conservation Department personnel.

One little oddity that strikes visitors to the brooder house is that each swimming pen in the brooder has several bullheads. Bob Bauer explains that these are his sanitary engineers, and they are placed there intentionally to help keep the pool clean.

While the department's waterfowl biologists feel that the range for the redheads is mainly limited to large areas like Montezuma, Oak Orchard, Perch River and Wilson Hill, it is felt that the pintail has possibilities of nesting where one now finds mallards. Since breeding populations of redheads have been established on these major waterfowl areas, the purpose of raising this species has been accomplished. Stocking waterfowl for the

gun is a highly impractical procedure, and so hunting regulations must be maintained with the idea that waterfowl hunting is dependent on natural reproduction, not stocking. Current regulations, protecting the canvasback and redhead and reducing the pressure on other species, recognizes the importance of returning breeders in the spring. The mission of establishing the redhead as a breeding duck in New York has been basically accomplished. It is planned to cease their production following the 1964 season and place time and energy on other species, particularly gadwall. Also, in the future, there may be ring-necked ducks for the Adirondacks and baldpates to supplement the dabblers on the downstate marshes.

This summer 900 5-week-old redheads were released, with the remaining 500 to replace breeders next spring, and to go out as spring breeders on our marshes. The wild birds on the island did well too, producing 9 broods.



Agricultural operations on the island include 150 to 200 acres of grain each year, which makes a real contribution to the feed used by the state game farms. Like farmers everywhere, the grain production is subject to federal control; but unlike other farmers, additional acreage may be planted and left standing for wildlife. To help feed the migrating waterfowl that utilize the area in the spring and fall, the planting of food grain patches is an important activity.

The southwestern edge of the island appears to lend itself to the development of a 500 acre open water marsh by constructing a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mile long dike along the river bank. Including the additional wooded area that would be flooded, this would be more than double the present water area on the island. Plans are in the mill for this operation, which it is hoped can be started in the next year or two.

Though waterfowl are the main concern on the island, turkey and quail have both been released. This summer, there were 3 known broods of quail on the management area. The turkeys drifted across the Seneca River and brought off two broods on the far shore.

Like every refuge where deer exist, they became a problem. The area has been open to gunners on 3 occasions, first in 1950 when they harvested 359 deer, and again in 1952 and 1955 when a total of 305 more were removed. Since 1955, archers have had an annual hunt under careful control and have brought the total number of deer removed to over 1,000. It is presently estimated that the deer herd numbers around 100, a much more reasonable figure than what existed in 1950 when  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times that were actually removed. One trained in reading the story of deer from signs left on the vegetation can still see the deer line on the apple and other favored trees, dating back to the old refuge days.

Future plans for Howland Island will continue to stress the waterfowl program. Controlled hunting will be needed to keep the deer herd in check. Agricultural activities will continue to furnish feed for local and migrating waterfowl and grain for other needs of the Conservation Department. In line with present thinking of multiple use of all state lands, the public is encouraged to enjoy the pleasures of observing wildlife on this interesting area.

For those in more distant sections of the state, a trip to Howland Island can be conveniently combined with one to the Fish & Wildlife Service's Montezuma Waterfowl Refuge, a scant 10 miles away.

District Game Manager, 21 Clinton Ave., Cortland.

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## CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

**Forest Preserve:** After you have vigorously attacked a conservation bill for offering too little protection, you are likely to slap a hand against your mouth as if to cry "what have I done?" when you hear a developer jump to his feet to whack at the same measure for providing too much sanctuary.

The developers, worried that they may not be able to gain eventual access to all the Forest Preserve, are condemning the bill that would set aside two thirds for possible multiple use leaving the rest as wilderness. They charge that the bill is just for the few who are willing to "play at being an Indian". Yet many conservationists have praised it for leaving some lands in the Adirondacks and Catskills that would be recognized by the old Iroquois. So all this would seem to leave you in that proverbial 'foot in mouth' predicament.

Except that the bill, introduced by Assemblyman Robert Watson Pomeroy, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Conservation, has been obscured by a cloud of confusion and misconception.

For one thing, many assume it will be several years before the bill can possibly be passed. Not so! Many think that the wilderness areas to be set aside will be "new". Not so! It is becoming a widely held view that the Preserve's chief function has come to be that of recreation. Absolutely not so!

If you are able to ascertain the correct basis on which to form your attitude you may wish to testify at one of the public hearings yet to be held: 8 p. m., December 8, State Office Building, Buffalo; 1:30, Dec. 9, Country Squire Motel, Rochester; 3:30, January 11, American Museum of Natural History, New York City; 1:30, Jan. 13 Assembly Chamber, Albany. Those wishing to testify can apply to Mr. Pomeroy's committee, care of the Assembly Chamber, Albany.

What has caught many of us by surprise is the fact that the measure can be given final approval at the legislative session this winter. One would have thought that such an important proposal would have required amendment of the 'forever wild' clause of the state constitution which has safeguarded the Preserve all these years. This would have necessitated the longer, more cautious process culminating in voter approval.

Proponents have been able to avoid this by presenting the bill as something of

an interpretation rather than an alteration of the constitution. However, the opening of two thirds of the Preserve to the possible development of concentrated recreational facilities and perhaps for other uses would seem to siphon off considerable meaning from the words 'forever wild'.

A lot of people have been supporting this so-called "Wilderness Bill" because they think it is going to protect areas that heretofore have not been protected. On the contrary, the 16 proposed "wilderness areas" are portions of the Preserve and already protected as 'forever wild'. They cannot be assigned any more protection than that. The bill's opponents assert that it is a question of enforcement under this authority.

The bill's supporters argue that they need the designation of the 16 areas for purposes of enforcement. Apparently they feel they could then concentrate their efforts on halting the "invasion" of these wilderness lands with jeeps, tractors, aircraft, boats, and "doodlebugs". But it must be remembered that the other purpose of the bill is to allow use of much of the Preserve for more 'civilized' recreation facilities. I question whether there could be enough manpower left over from policing picnic grounds to patrol the wilderness lands.

Furthermore, what guarantee is there that the legislators will not reduce these wilderness areas in future years? If the precedent is established for them to draw lines around certain areas in the Preserve and call them "wilderness areas", what is to prevent the law makers from later drawing the lines tighter until there is nothing left of the wilderness except bits and scraps?

Joseph A. Blake, Jr., chairman of the Federation conservation committee, holds little hope for the wilderness under this zoning proposal. "I fear," he declares, "that in spite of special protection, the wilderness areas will not remain 'wilderness' very long. Tinned tagged trails and opened camps will be constructed for the convenience of those penetrating these areas. Roads will be constructed, ostensibly for fire protection. But they will be used by hunters, because of strong political pressure if for no other reason. In short, I have no doubt that politics will destroy the 900,000 acres set aside as wilderness within a few years at the most."

Mr. Blake further points out that "The Forest Preserve was established primarily for watershed protection, not primarily for recreation." A former New York Commissioner of Conservation, Sharon J. Mauhs of Cobleskill, has asserted that "the legislature ought to reject any bill which says that the primary use of the Forest Preserve is recreation." This is exactly what the bill says.

For one thing, Mr. Mauhs doubted that the Preserve could become the center of outdoor recreation in the state as has been implied. He cited the 88 other state parks plus the myriads of man-hours devoted to boating and salt water fishing outside the Preserve.

But more crucially he asserted "The most important reason for protecting these wilderness areas, is that by so doing, we preserve a great water resource . . . That it has and continues to accomplish its basic purpose of watershed protection is shown by the fact that the rivers of the state, which take their rise in the Preserve, continue to flow as copiously and to fulfill their part in public welfare as they did a hundred years ago. There are few states in America which can say as much about their own water courses."

He had in mind two vital rivers nourished by the Preserve, the Hudson and Delaware. The former is fed by the Mohawk River rising in the Adirondacks then flowing south and the Schoharie issuing from the Catskills but going north. The Delaware, which drains the western area of the Catskill Preserve is important to the people of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Mr. Mauhs also cited the 8 million persons in New York City besides those in other communities whose water supply depends on the water storage capacities of the Preserve.

"Earlier civilizations", Mr. Mauhs declared, "which have passed away, lost too many forests such as this one. People all over the world are paying, and will for centuries continue to pay, a tragically high price for the loss of their watershed forests."

**Golden Eagle:** Legislation to protect the Golden Eagle failed to get out of committee this year. Efforts to get it passed will be renewed when Congress meets in 1962. The bill introduced in the Senate and co-sponsored by Senator Kenneth B. Keating of New York would amend the Bald Eagle Act of 1940 to include protection of the Golden Eagle. Companion bills have been introduced in the House

by Representatives John Dingell of Michigan, Silvio O. Conte of Massachusetts and Peter H. Dominick of Colorado. New Yorkers could help effectively now by writing their Congressmen in the House of Representatives.

**National Wilderness Bill:** You could also add a plug for the Bill to Establish a National Wilderness Preservation System. By some miracle this bill passed the Senate and now awaits action in the House. Do not confuse the intent of the Federal "Wilderness Bill" with that of the state's. The Federal bill would provide 'forever wild' protection to government owned wilderness areas whereas the state bill would essentially reduce the acreage so protected.

**Great Horned Owl:** Removal of the Great Horned Owl from the list of birds protected in New York State was urged in a resolution approved at the 20th annual. The council also recommended an open season on Mourning Doves.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
New York City

SEPT. 29 — OCT. 1

Minutes of the Council Meeting (Condensed)

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., was called to order by the President, Mrs. William G. Irving, at 9:50 a. m. The meeting was held in the Roosevelt Memorial Lecture Room of the American Museum of Natural History. Twenty-eight delegates representing 19 clubs answered the roll call.

The minutes of the 1960 Council meeting were read and accepted.

Mrs. Dayton Stoner, Treasurer, read her report for the year Jan 1, 1960 to Dec 31, 1960.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Balance — Jan 1, 1960 .....             | \$ 333.37  |
| Receipts — 1960 .....                   | 1,916.98   |
| <hr/>                                   |            |
| Gross total .....                       | \$2,250.35 |
| Expenses — 1960 .....                   | \$1,643.66 |
| Balance, checking account, Dec. 31 ---- | \$ 606.69  |
| Balance, savings account, Dec. 31 ----  | 900.00     |

The proposed budget for 1962, totaling \$1,905, was also presented by Mrs. Stoner. It was accepted by the Council.

Reports of appointed committees:

*Kingbird Finance*

Following the resignation of Mr. Winston Brockner as chairman of the committee, Mr. Alfred Starling has assumed the chairmanship. The committee expects to contact each member club of the Federation in the near future to create local interest in finding advertisers for the *Kingbird*.

*Conservation*

Mr. Joseph A. Blake, Jr., chairman, related the two areas of Federal legislation that are of interest to members: (a) The Wilderness Bill, which has now passed the Senate and awaits action by the House of Representatives. It was suggested that letters of support from individual members to their representatives would be of value. (b) The protection of the Golden Eagle — proposed legislation which is framed as an amendment to the law

protecting the Bald Eagle. If such legislation is not forthcoming, the Golden Eagle may soon be exterminated in continental United States. Members of the Federation were urged to write their Congressmen supporting this protection.

State issues of importance at present are: (a) The Hunter Mountain proposal. Although this legislation, which would lease Forest Preserve land to a private ski development, was defeated in the State legislature, it is important to be alert to future efforts of private enterprise to lease portions of the Forest Preserve. (b) Two resolutions before the current meeting of the N. Y. State Conservation Council — the removal of the Great Horned Owl from the protected list, and opening a season on Mourning Doves in New York State. Mr. Blake has written to the chairman of the resolutions committee expressing the Federation's reasons why such proposals are ill-advised. (c) The proposed amendment to the State Constitution which permit widening of Route 10 within the Forest Preserve. Mr. Blake recommended that Federation members make every effort to defeat Amendment No. 7 this November. (d) The Hempstead, Long Island, wetlands. These areas, under town ownership, are threatened with development for recreational purposes. Mr. John J. Elliott moved that the Federation go on record in support of the Hempstead Town Council on Wetlands Resources in their effort to save the wetlands and bay islands of the town of Hempstead for biological purposes. Motion carried. (e) The Wilderness Area Bill, sponsored by Mr. Pomeroy. Its advantages, its dangers for present and future, were discussed. The Federation's Conservation Committee, with one dissenting member, believes the Wilderness Area Bill to be undesirable. Both viewpoints were set forth in a recent Conservation Bulletin. It was urged that Federation members attend the state-wide hearings on the Bill, to be held in the next few months. Mr. Eugene Eisenmann moved that the Federation go on record in opposition to the Pomeroy Bill on the grounds that the Federation holds that the entire Forest Preserve should be kept forever wild. Motion carried with one dissenting vote.

#### *Membership*

Mr. Albert W. Fudge, chairman, reported that 101 new applications for individual membership were received from the annual meeting in May, 1960, to September 30, 1961. Applications for club membership were received from the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club of Orange County and the Adirondack Bird Club. All membership applicants were accepted by the Council.

The brochure, which will set forth the advantages of membership in the Federation, its history, aims and activities, is in the process of publication. Distribution will be carried out through the local organizations.

#### *Publications and Research*

The chairman, Mr. Harold D. Mitchell, stated that a Bibliography of New York State Ornithology from 1910 to 1952, prepared by Dr. Allen Benton and Dr. Stephen Eaton, is now available. Copies may be obtained, at a dollar each, by writing Dr. Stephen W. Eaton, Department of Biology, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, New York.

Mr. John L. Mitchell will be coordinator for the Waterfowl Census for the coming year.

Mr. Robert Arbib, Jr., chairman of the State Book sub-committee, reported reorganizational and reappraisal activities for the past year. He expects rapid progress for the future.

Any club or individual interested in cooperating on a Spring or a Fall Hawk Watch, or a Spring or Fall Census, should contact Mr. Harold Mitchell.

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland was commended for the splendid Tenth Anniversary Issue of the *Kingbird*. The new editor of the *Kingbird* was introduced and commended for the first issue which she has published.

The auditing committee report, finding the Federation books in order, was read by the Recording Secretary. Report accepted.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 1962:

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| President               | John J. Elliott, Seaford         |
| Vice-President          | Robert S. Arbib, Jr., Mamaroneck |
| Corresponding Secretary | Mrs. Southgate Hoyt, Etna        |
| Recording Secretary     | Watson B. Hastings, Dobbs Ferry  |
| Treasurer               | Mrs. Dayton Stoner, Albany       |

The slate was elected.

The question of the Federation becoming an associate member of the New York State Conservation Council was tabled for another year.

The proposed amendment to the By-Laws relating to the increase in annual dues from \$2.50 to \$3.00 was approved unanimously by the delegates. If ratified by two-thirds of the member clubs, the new rate will take effect January 1, 1962.

Mr. Guy Bartlett and Mr. Samuel Madison were elected auditors for 1962.

Elected to serve as a nominating committee for 1962 were Mr. Otis Waterman, Mr. Edward Ulrich, and Mr. Richard Sloss.

The Council accepted the invitation of the Alan Devoe, Greene County, and Schenectady Bird Clubs to hold the 1962 annual meeting in Albany in May.

Mr. Winston Brockner moved that consideration of membership in the Council of Natural History Societies of Washington, D. C., be tabled for another year. Motion carried.

The delegates unanimously commended the outgoing Federation officers for a tremendous job done during their term of office. They expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the Linnaean Society, and especially to Mr. Emanuel Levine, Mr. Richard Sloss and Miss Helen Hirshbein, for their splendid arrangements for this meeting. — Eleanor L. Radke, Recording Secretary.

## FIELD NOTES

**Gyr Falcon in Westchester County:** On February 7, 1961, I observed a white Gyr Falcon at Katonah, Westchester County. The bird was flying fairly low and was dwarfed by the crows which were quick to mob it. The huge size, white color, long pointed wings and tail, and the distinctive slow wing beats were all carefully noted as the bird passed over in a north-to-south direction. Insofar as I can ascertain, this is the first county record since 1879 (Allan D. Cruickshank, **Birds Around New York City**, 1942, cites the latter record, and I have heard of no local records since publication of his book).

It is interesting to note that the winter of 1960-61 witnessed a substantial movement of Gyrfalcons south from their normal wintering range into Newfoundland, where they were described as fairly common (**Audubon Field Notes**, Vol. 15, No. 3). There were also several reports last winter from coastal Massachusetts — William Russell, Katonah.

**Baltimore Oriole nests in Norway Spruce trees:** While Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) have been known to nest in a variety of types of trees, elms, maples and oaks are chosen most often. In any case, deciduous trees seem to be preferred over evergreen, and in fact there are few records of nests of Baltimore Orioles in evergreens, although Eaton (**Birds of New York**, 1914: 241) indicated that he had found Oriole nests in Norway Spruce and Hemlock. Therefore I was extremely interested to have two come to my attention in June, 1961, both in Norway Spruce.

On Lower Creek Road on the western edge of the village of Etna, Tompkins County, New York, Mr. Ralph Dickinson called my attention in mid-June to an Oriole nest eleven feet up on the northern side of his Norway Spruce in front of his home. The young birds left this nest the first week in July. Mrs. Genevieve Kelsey, of Candor, New York, wrote me that she located the nest of her pair of Baltimore Orioles on June 12, 35 feet up in a spruce. These young left the nest about June 25. Mrs. Kelsey had noted that at the time the Orioles were nest-building, some of the nearby deciduous trees had not yet leafed out, and it occurs to me that this may be a factor, at times, in the birds choosing an evergreen. A late season, such as was experienced in spring of 1961, might result in scanty leaf covering in deciduous trees in the territory selected by the Orioles. Comments or additional observations on this would be welcomed by this writer.

Sally F. Hoyt, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

**Observations On Nesting Killdeer:** A pair of nesting killdeer was observed in a field adjacent to the campus of the State University College of Education at Potsdam. The nest was discovered on May 17, 1961 and contained four eggs. From previous actions of the parent birds, the nest and eggs had probably been present for at least two days prior to this.

The nest was a shallow indentation in the soil next to a large rock. It was lined with grass and a few twigs.

Upon the approach of an observer, the incubating bird quietly left the nest. When ten or fifteen feet distant from it, the adult bird would attempt to lure the invader away. This was done either by feigning injury or by circling in the air or running along the ground and uttering the characteristic alarm note.

The nest, eggs and adult birds, were observed regularly through June 3. On June 5, one parent was found dead at the nest with a wound in the chest, evidently the victim of a predator. One egg was missing, one broken and two were intact. The other adult bird was not in evidence.

It was felt that the surviving adult probably would not successfully incubate the remaining eggs, and so they were removed and placed in an incubator. The surviving bird was not observed to return to the nest area.

Incubation was carried out at 35° C, and the eggs were turned once per day. Both hatched on the night of June 11.

The young birds were fed a mixture of powdered milk, water and deca vitamin drops. Both appeared to be thriving, but on the morning of June 16, one was found dead.

In order to avoid loss of the survivor, it was decided to determine whether other adult killdeer would adopt it. Accordingly, this bird was taken to an area where

killdeer were known to have nested. Leaving the young bird in a container, I hid nearby. The calls of the young bird soon attracted a pair of adults, which exhibited great interest in the container. Upon my appearance to free the captive the adults became very agitated and acted similarly to nesting birds or birds with young. They refused to approach the newly found bird, until I had retreated a great distance.

Upon subsequent visits to this area, these birds have exhibited the great agitation of parents but the young bird has not been seen.

It must be stated that this incident cannot be considered a proven successful adoption, although the indications are that it may have been. Unfortunately, time did not allow the procurement of a band so that the young bird could be marked. — Robert H. Cerwonka, State University College of Education, Potsdam.

**Chuck-will's-widow in Monroe County:** Late on the afternoon of June 1, 1961, Dr. Gerhard Leubner was netting and banding birds in a hedgerow just west of Braddock's Bay, and a short distance away Walter Listman was observing late spring migrants which were still passing along this narrow strip between two fields. Listman's attention was suddenly drawn to an unknown bird which arose from the ground almost underfoot, flew a short distance, and soon settled down again in thick cover. It appeared rather owl-like, but the brownish color and the long, squarish tail puzzled the observer.

By a combination of skill and luck the bird was driven into one of Leubner's nets. It then was seen to be a goatsucker of large size, with a general buffy appearance and brownish throat. Measurement showed the bird to be 12½ inches in length. Several colored pictures were taken of the bird, and these turned out very well in spite of the dull, overcast day.

The bird remained in this rather restricted area until at least July 2, when it was last seen by Warren Lloyd. The bird seemed partial to a low, horizontal limb of a pear tree and was often seen perched there. When driven off, it frequently circled around and returned to the same perch.

The area where the bird was found is a long, narrow strip of land about ⅓ mile west of Braddock's Bay and about the same distance south of Lake Ontario. The immediate area is an abandoned pear orchard, well grown with vines and tangles and somewhat swampy. The area north of it is similar brushy thickets with some cultivated land and summer cottages along the lakefront.

In addition to the two original observers the bird was seen by Margaret Foley, John Foster, Warren Lloyd, Ruth MacRae, Al Malley, Tom Tetlow, and myself.

On May 19, 1959 Joseph Taylor reported having heard a Chuck-will's-widow near his home in Brighton (Ed — see **Kingbird**, Vol. 9, No. 2, p. 78). The bird called persistently for a considerable length of time, even answering a recording of its call on one of the bird records. Mr. Taylor is familiar with the bird as a result of much time spent in its regular range in the South.

Insofar as I know, these are the only two records for the Chuck-will's widow in New York State. — Howard S. Miller, 54 Luella Street, Rochester 9.

**Albinism in a Catbird:** Notes an albinism in the **Kingbird** have always been interesting; since this is a comparatively rare occurrence, the following may be of additional interest.

On May 31, 1961, with Mrs. Helen Muhleman of Bronxville, I visited the Audubon Nature Center at Greenwich, Connecticut. Shortly after our arrival, we noticed several Catbirds calling near the entrance to the Center, and as we watched, a strange looking bird appeared in an open space, hopping around on the ground and in low bushes. We watched it with binoculars at about 25 feet.

The outstanding effect was a pale, ghostly grey, with white wing and tail feathers. The only color we could see was the chestnut of the under-tail coverts, confirming our identification of the bird, based on shape, size and actions, as a Catbird (**Dumetella carolinensis**). This is another example, therefore, of shades of red or brown being the last color to be lost, when partial albinism occurs . . . i.e. partially albino Robins usually having varying amount of red on the breast, and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak pictured in A. A. Allen's **Stalking Birds with Color Camera** (page 90) retained its rose breast.

The bird shortly disappeared into the bushes with other Catbirds. None of the Nature Center Personnel had seen it at that time. A subsequent visit of Mrs. Muhleman gave her a brief glimpse of the bird in approximately the same place which has a large tangled mass of briars nearby and is the favorite nesting place of Catbirds. At this date (May) it could not have been a bird of the year, so had escaped predators for at least a year. We will keep a close watch and try to find whether this bird raised a brood and produced others with the same trait. —

Mrs. Margaret Cornwell, 8 Hanfling Road, Scarsdale.

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**Crows Hunting mice:** In late winter crows find their supply of food greatly diminished by the blanket of snow and the cold weather. Corn and other grains are hidden under the snow or held captive by the frozen ground. Insects have long since disappeared and crows often resort to animals that are killed on the highways or other sources of food. In late February crows sometimes find food by catching mice in the fields. I observed one phase of this during the winter of 1960 - 61.

While out hunting for rabbits I noticed a flock of ten or twelve crows perched in a hedgerow. After watching them for some time, I saw two crows fly out over the field and land on the snow. Closer observation revealed the crows had spotted two mice running around on top of the snow. One proceeded to run and half fly and caught one of the mice. After picking it up two or three times and tossing it like a cat would, it picked up the mouse and flew back to the hedgerow. While this was going on the second crow watched, but after the first crow had left, it proceeded to catch the other mouse in the same manner.

A second phase of mouse hunting engaged in by crows involves the location of nests as they become visible through the melting snow. I have found crow tracks in the snow near exposed nests. The nests were completely torn apart and the contents spread around on the snow. The locating of nests was very thorough for I could not find a single nest left untouched in the two fields I searched. I found no evidence that any mice were caught in this manner, or that it was the exposed nests that attracted the crows. Since the snow was melting, the possibility arises that the crows sighted the mice on the snow and chased them to the nest before the nest was destroyed and the mouse caught. — Howard E. Baer, Graduate Student, College of Education, State University of New York, Cortland.

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**Herring Gulls Catching Flying Ants:** During the last two weeks of August, 1961, a large number of Herring Gulls attracted attention by their unusual antics. They were observed on several consecutive evenings about 6:00 P.M. flying in tight very low circles almost to the "stalling" point at about 200-300 feet altitude. Their necks were extended, and their heads would turn from side to side. Their legs were also extended, and their heads would turn from side to side. Their flight. Some were observed to suddenly dart their heads out, mouth open wide, and catch some object unseen by the naked eye. This activity continued from one-half to three-quarters of an hour, and when binoculars were used it was seen that the gulls were catching insects, in much the same fashion as swallows but of course without their fleet-winged finesse. It was impossible to identify the type of insects being caught; however, it is reasonable to suppose that the bulk of them were ants, since at this time there were myriads of winged ants emerging from our lawn and from other lawns in the immediate area. Being very familiar with the soaring antics of Herring Gulls I can accurately state that during the incident mentioned they were actively engaged in catching insects.

By the first few days of September the mystical ant flights had ceased and no further ant pursuit by the gulls was noted. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the object of interest was the ants, an items not heretofore mentioned as part of their diet. — Thomas Lesperance, Keeseville.

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**Correction:** A Scarlet Tanager was present at Short Beach through Dec 10, in field note in May issue, should read unidentified tanager.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

JUNE 1 — AUGUST 15

JAMES K. MERITT

The summer season, as defined for regional reporting purposes, was not an abnormal one from any weather standpoint, but then neither could it be classified as average. For upstate areas it was a generally cool season. Buffalo, for example, did not once have an official temperature reading above 90°. In New York City, however, temperatures soared into the upper nineties on at least one occasion in mid-June, and then in late July the city suffered through its worst heat wave in several years. Rainfall was a bit heavier than normal, primarily because of a wet July; in most areas this rainfall did not come in prolonged steady doses, and so flooding conditions, and damage therefrom, were minimized. There were no tropical storms during the period.

Most regional editors commented on a generally good, although somewhat late, breeding season. Waterfowl benefited by the additional rainfall, and land birds did not appear to be adversely affected to any great degree. The Long Island heron and egret colonies appeared to do very well. Reports on nesting Phoebes, House Wrens, and Hermit Thrushes were encouraging, certainly a distinct improvement over a year ago. Reports on the Bluebird varied, but at least they were not all pessimistic. In the case of the common blackbirds, there was universal agreement; all enjoyed another banner year. In the last several years these birds have increased alarmingly in many areas. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were described as numerous throughout the Hudson River Valley, although scarcities were noted elsewhere. Also of interest is the apparent slow but steady increase of breeding areas of the Yellow-breasted Chat, particularly in central and western portions of the state.

Long Island produced several noteworthy nesting records. Three Glossy Ibis nests were found there, the first for New York State. The occurrence of these birds as breeders is perhaps not unexpected since in the last decade or so they have been spreading rapidly up the Atlantic seaboard. These birds have nested in southern New Jersey since 1955, and so the Long Island records represent a breeding range extension of well over 100 miles. The Oystercatcher also took up housekeeping on Long Island this summer. While this is not a first breeding record, it is apparently the first, at least in recent years, in which young (if only one) were successfully reared out of the nest. A pair of American Wigeon bred at Jamaica Bay for the first time, the third known locality in which these birds have nested in New York State.

While our typical "winter" birds were not in the forefront of our summer birdlife picture, they were most certainly a part of it. The remnants of the heavy Red Crossbill flight of last winter and spring were still in evidence in the early part of the period; there were reports from six of the ten regions. There was an early June report of White-winged Crossbills in Region 1. Pine Siskins were observed in limited numbers in half of the reporting regions. Quite unusual was the flock of Evening Grosbeaks observed in Region 9 at the end of the period; this is considerably south of the birds' Adirondack breeding range. A few were also seen in Regions 5 and 6. In the Adirondacks themselves there was an above-average number of reports of Evening Grosbeaks at feeders, in many cases with young. There

were June reports of single Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, the former in Region 3, the latter in Region 8. Also in Region 3 a Boreal Chickadee turned up at a feeding station, as though it had its seasons reversed. And on Long Island there were mid-summer reports of King Eiders and a purple Sandpiper.

The northward post-breeding movement of Common Egrets was extremely light this year. The number of these birds reported upstate could be counted on the fingers of both hands. After the several reports of Cattle Egrets last spring, these birds were inexplicably unrecorded during the summer. While it is true that summer observations are not normally as extensive as those in the spring, it appears unlikely that this is the complete answer to the lack of Cattle Egret records. It will be interesting to see how other northeastern states fared during the summer.

The northward migration was, of course, not completely over by June 1. Practically all the northbound landbird transients had departed by the end of the first week of June, although there were late Blackpoll Warblers observed in three regions. Except perhaps in the case of the swallows, there was virtually no evidence of any southbound landbird migration as of the end of the period.

High water levels in many inland areas put a damper (if I may use that word) on shorebirding, but there was good variety at favored Lake Ontario spots, such as El Dorado, and on Long Island. Wilson's Phalaropes were observed in four regions. A ruff was seen in Region 5, and another one of these rare wanderers was noted on Long Island. Both varieties of godwits were also spotted on Long Island.

A record of especial interest is that of the Chuck-will's-widow observed over an extended period of time in Region 2. This is the second occurrence of that bird there in the last three years, and these two records, in fact, constitute the only state records. Howard Miller's field note in this issue supplies full details.

Ithaca's Clay-colored Sparrow apparently did not engage in nesting activities this year. It was last reported on July 1. This bird was seen by many Federation members this year, although I was unsuccessful in my own search for the bird on June 30. A Lark Sparrow, one of our earlier and more or less regular rare fall western transients along the coast, was seen in Region 10 during the first week of August.

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

A cool, wet summer was the general rule throughout the period. Less than the normal amount of sunshine and unusually high number of thundershowers, together with a small tornado Jul 7 near Buffalo, added something more to a rather disappointing summer season — weatherwise. It was one of those rare summers when the maximum temperature failed to reach a 90 degree reading at Buffalo.

Although one might have expected an unusually large number of late migrants during the first several days of June because of the retarded spring season, the records below do not indicate this. With only a few exceptions, Jun 3-4 appears to be the latest during which landbirds were moving through the region. Nesting populations of some of the later spring arrivals, i.e. cuckoos, nighthawk, Traill's Flycatcher, etc., did not reach their maximum until the first week of this period.

Unlike the past two years, there was no reported migratory movement of small passerines during the last week of this report period.

The nesting season, as characterized by several observers, was somewhat "dull". The song period of most passerines never seemed to reach its height. During June and early July singing among open field birds was about normal, but the wooded and brushy habitats, even at dawn, were noticeably more quiet than usual during the peak of the nesting season. On the other hand, territorial singing among several species extended much later into the summer than in most years. In fact, a study of records kept for Wyoming County by the writer, show that a few species, i.e. Traill's and Least Flycatchers, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Northern Waterthrush, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows, and Slate-colored Junco, were regularly singing on territory up to two weeks later this year than ever before. Also indicative of a late nesting season are the nests containing eggs of Hermit Thrush and Slate-colored Junco reported by Dr. Stephen W. Eaton (details below).

As one of its projects this year, the Research Committee of the Buffalo Ornithological Society undertook a general survey of the breeding birds of the Oak Orchard Game Management area. This area was comparatively well known ornithologically some twenty years ago. Results of the survey made this year compared with known population densities and distribution in the earlier years are extremely valuable. Observations made by members of this committee on three trips to this area comprise a large percentage of this report. It is hoped that other organizations and/or small groups of individuals would be encouraged to initiate and continue similar surveys, not only in this region, but in all sections of the state.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: BOSRC — Buffalo Ornithological Society Research Committee; JAS — Jamestown Audubon Society; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area.

**Loons — Ducks:** Two Common Loons were present Jun 11-12 on Lake Ontario at Shadigee and another was noted at OOGMA Jun 12 (Schaffner et al). A single bird remained in the gorge at Niagara Falls until at Least Jul 21 (Schaffner et al). One Red-throated Loon was reported Jun 11 on Lake Ontario at Shadigee (Able). Two Horned Grebes were observed Jun 12 in the gorge at Niagara Falls and one apparently remained there through the end of the period (Schaffner et al). Another was present Aug 14 at Chautauqua Lake (Pillsbury). The obvious increase of nesting Pied-billed Grebes over most years might be termed "explosive". Hardly a pond containing emergent vegetation lacked at least one pair. Brood success was good, even though many pairs commenced nesting activities much later in the summer than usual. Great Blue Herons successfully reared young in three heronies: 150 nests at Grand Island (Schaffner), 13 nests at OOGMA (BOSRC), and ten nests in the town of Attica (Rosche). Nests at OOGMA and Attica still contained young at the unusually late date of Jul 14-15 — a good indicator of a retarded season. Common Egrets were very scarce, there being only two reports: one Jul 14 at OOGMA (BOSRC). Several Black-crowned Night Herons were observed in June; none were reported during July or August. It is extremely doubtful whether this bird nests in the region now. Careful searching in several of its major previous nesting sites proved fruitless this year. The Mute Swan and Whistling Swan noted in the previous report remained at Langford Pond until Jun 4 (Bourne et al). One Whistling Swan remained near the north end of Chautauqua Lake all summer and was observed by several JAS members. At least three broods of Canada Geese were observed during June and July at OOGMA (BOSRC). Apparently pinioned birds released there by the state have attracted a small but regular breeding population of wild birds. A maximum count of 46 occurred Jun 27. A single Brant was reported Jun 11 as it flew past Shadigee (Able). Populations of dabbling ducks, with two exceptions, appeared to be about normal and nesting success was generally good. Black Ducks were less abundant than during most recent years whereas, summering Green-winged Teal populations reached an unprecedented high. All Green-winged Teal observations came from OOGMA: six on Jun 15, 15 on Jun 27, and two Jul 14 (BOSRC). A female and young were banded there (details unknown) by Ollie Meddaugh (rep. Mitchell). Several Pintail, American Widgeon and Shoveler were noted at OOGMA during the period (BOSRC et al). Two Ruddy Ducks were observed Jun 27 and three Jul 14 at OOGMA (BOSRC). A brood was noted Aug

14 in the same area (Meddaugh rep. Mitchell). This is the first known nesting record for the Oak Orchard region. The Hooded Merganser nested, for the first time since 1952, at Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge near North Jave (Mitchell et al). A record number of immature birds was observed at various inland locations. This indicates the possibility of a much larger breeding population in this region than previously recognized. Three Common Mergansers were present Jun 12 at Niagara Falls (Schaffner et al) and a single Red-breasted Merganser was observed Jul 24 on Lake Erie at Athol Springs (Able). There are usually few observations of these species on the American side of these waters during summer.

**Hawks — Owls:** The increases of Turkey Vultures this year, as noted in several of the Regional Reports in the last issue, has not been apparent in this region. In fact, none were noted on one of three trips to the Oak Orchard area during this report period — a locality where one usually does not have to look for them (BOSRC). Several observers commented on the infrequency of their observations of this species in other areas. All hawks, with the possible exception of the Broad-winged, were obviously down in numbers. Only one report of an accipiter, two Cooper's Hawks observed Jul 30 at Deer Lick Sanctuary, town of Persia (Brockners), was received. Immature individuals comprised a small part of the total number of Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks noted in late summer. The number of summer Broad-winged Hawks reported, especially from the southern tier, increased greatly compared with previous years and indicate a continuing range expansion in the region. Nests were located at Jamestown and near Onoville (Kibler), and two young were noted Jul 27 at Allegany State Park (Brockner). Two rather late migrants were observed Jun 3 over Buffalo (Thompson). The Bald Eagle was not reported. One Osprey was noted Aug 6 over Attica Reservoir (Rosche). A single Bobwhite was observed near Yates, Orleans County, Jun 1 (Lippert) and another was heard and seen well Jul 15 near Attica Center (Rosche). Most encouraging was a newspaper report appearing in the **Niagara Falls Gazette** (July 9, 1961), describing the finding of three Chukar nests containing eggs in the Lewiston-Youngstown region. It is not known whether these nests were successful but the possibility of this bird establishing itself in a wild state seems more likely now than it did a few months ago (Heilborn). There were few reports of rails throughout the period. Noteworthy were two adult and three young Soras observed several times in late July and early August at Clay Pond near Falconer (Pillsbury et al). Unusually late spring shorebird migrants included one Least Sandpiper and one White-rumped Sandpiper observed Jun 15 at OOGMA (BOSRC). Nesting scolopacids apparently fared quite well. Upland Plover were far less abundant and widespread than a year ago. Most autumn migrant shorebird reports, with the exception of only a few scattered individuals, came from two localities. Both Predergast Point on the west shore of Chautauqua Lake and some shallow mudflats bordering Tiff Street in South Buffalo held good numbers of a variety of species from late July through the end of the period. Perhaps most noteworthy were two Stilt Sandpipers Aug 12 at Tiff St., Buffalo (Schaffner) and eight Baird's Sandpipers reported Aug 6 at Predergast Point (Pillsbury). The recent influx of Caspian Terns was reflected in the number of June reports from the south shore of Lake Erie. Four were noted Jun 1 and two were reported Jun 23 at Hamburg Town Park (Able). Three birds occurred Jun 6 at Sturgeon Point (Bourne). Both species of cuckoos were scarce as were the tent caterpillars that so often attract them. Seldom are Barred Owls noted as often and as numerous as during this nesting season. Young were noted on at least two occasions at Deer Lick Sanctuary, town of Persia (Bacons et al) and several young and adults were observed at OOGMA during late June and early July (H. Miler et al). High counts of nine Jul 28 and 13 Aug 3 were reported from Allegany State Park (Thompson). Four Long-eared Owls Jul 12 and one Jul 13 at Allegany State Park (Brockners) and one Jul 25 near Hamburg (Bourne) were the only reports.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** A single Whip-poor-will was reported Jun 18 near the base of McCarty Hill near Great Valley (Klabundes) and another was heard Jul 20 near Hamburg (Bourne). Red-headed Woodpecker reports were few but there is increasing evidence that this species is probably most common as a nesting bird now on slopes of the Allegheny Plateau as it leaves the plains of Lakes Erie and Ontario. However, more data is needed from all areas in order to test this hypothesis. Eastern Kingbird populations appeared to be lower than in most years

while Eastern Phoebes were more abundant and widespread than in the past three years. The last Yellow-bellied Flycatcher migrants occurred Jun 3 at Buffalo (Thompson et al). An Acadian Flycatcher was reported Jun 22 at Chestnut Ridge Park (Bourne). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted Jun 7-8 at Albion (Lippert). Fall migrants were not reported before the end of the period. Nesting success among the swallows was good. Cliff Swallows were more abundant than usual in some sections of Chautauqua County (Kibler) but much less common in Wyoming County (Rosche). Two small colonies were located during June in the OOGMA region (Mitchell et al). This species is not regular as a nesting bird anywhere on the lake plains. At least a dozen young adult Tufted Titmice were coming regularly to a feeder near Lakewood, Chautauqua County (Babath rep. Pillsbury). These were the only individuals reported. A number of Brown Creepers were regularly observed in Allegany State Park throughout the period. In addition a single bird was observed Jun 15 at OOGMA (BOSPC). A pair of Carolina Wrens successfully raised a brood of six young at Springbrook; a second nest containing five eggs Jul 11 was abandoned Aug 4 (Danner). Another nest containing four eggs was located inside a rural paper box Aug 5 at Versailles (A. Ulrich et al). Single individuals were observed Jun 2-3 at Hamburg (Bourne), Jun 27 at Pt. Breeze, Erie Co. (Webster et al), Jul 26 at Allegany State Park (Brockners), and Aug 12 at Niagara Falls (Heilborn). Few, if any, have been known to occur at the latter two locations. Several attempts by a number of observers to locate Short-billed Marsh Wrens in the Oak Orchard-Wolcottsville Sink region were unsuccessful this year. Reports were sparse about these most unpredictable among our presumed regular nesting passerines. A small colony of about three singing males was located Jul 4 near Dayton, one was noted Jul 21 near Farmersville Station and another sang regularly Jul 21-Aug 12 near Wethersfield Springs (Rosche et al). One Mockingbird Jun 1 near Langford was the only report (Bourne). Hermit Thrushes were noted at Allegany State Park, Waterman Swamp, Alma Hill and McCarty Hill. A nest containing three eggs was located Jul 22 in oak woods near the top of a dry ridge near Seneca Junction (Eaton). The last migrant Swainson's Thrush was recorded Jun 4 at Buffalo (Thompson). Summer reports came from Allegany State Park and Alma Hill. The status of the Eastern Bluebird still remains alarming. While there is more information available this year than last, one cannot safely assume that populations have increased in the past year. In fact the almost complete lack of the usual early August flocks indicates the opposite situation. In the Jamestown region, 13 young were fledged in three boxes erected by the JAS. There were at least six other known nesting sites in that area (Pillsbury). Six were noted Jul 22 near West Clarksville, Allegany County (Webster et al). These probably were nesting individuals attracted to that area by nesting boxes. In addition, there were several known nesting sites near Hamburg (Bourne et al) and at least two broods were successfully reared in boxes near Cherry Creek, Chautauqua County (Rew). A single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed Jul 14 at OOGMA (BOSRC).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Observers at OOGMA were surprised to find that the Yellow-throated Vireo was probably the most common vireo in that area during June and July. The Warbling Vireo was a close second. One Red-eyed Vireo was heard singing Jul 14 in this area — the first and only individual recorded on three trips to that area (BOSRC). The Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos were somewhat less common than in most years in other areas. This was especially true in the Hamburg region (Bourne). Solitary Vireos were more numerous in the southern tier than last year. A single bird Jun 1 at Chestnut Ridge Park (Freitag) and two Jul 30 at Deer Lick Sanctuary, town of Persia (Brockners) were of special interest. Prothonotary Warblers were observed at OOGMA on several occasions through mid July. A maximum count of ten singing males Jun 15 (BOSRC) almost equals a comparable count taken in the 1930's, shortly after this species was discovered there. Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler reports were fewer than usual. Because Blue-wings seldom reach elevations much above 2,000 feet in this region, a singing male noted Jul 1 at about 2100 feet along Pierce Run Road, town of South Valley, is noteworthy (Schaffner). A Blue-winged Warbler nest was found near Holland (James) and a singing male Golden-winged Warbler was noted several times during June at Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge near North Java (Csont et al). These are both locations from which these species have not

been regularly reported in past years. A "Brewster's Warbler", the only hybrid reported, occurred through Jun 12 at the Tonawanda Indian Reservation (Schaffner et al). Migrant Bay-breasted Warblers were last observed Jun 3 at Buffalo (Thompson et al) and the last Blackpoll was heard Jun 4 at Allegany State Park (Rosche et al). Although they were late arriving in numbers, Mourning Warblers were more abundant and widespread than in about the last three years. Single Yellow-breasted Chats were observed Jun 6 at Sturgeon Point (Bourne), Jun 15 and 27 at OOGMA (BOSRC) and Jul 22 near West Clarksville (Webster et al).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** The continuous upswing in icterid populations took a distinct jump again as a result of a very excellent nesting season. Young grackles and cowbirds especially, but meadowlarks, red-wings and Baltimore Orioles to a lesser extent, were abundant. Several observers commented that they never recalled seeing and being able to catch and handle as many young icterids in previous years. Another observer remarked that perhaps the noticeable lack of birds of prey, especially hawks, contributed to a larger than normal number of grackles being successfully fledged (Axtell). Bobolinks, on the other hand, appeared to just hold their own, if not decrease somewhat, probably as a result of increased competition with the Red-winged Blackbird for nesting sites. The Western Meadowlark in the Town of Niagara, noted in the previous report, was again observed Jun 12 (Schaffner et al). This was the only report. A male Orchard Oriole was observed Jun 27 at OOGMA (BOSRC). Outstanding was the observation of a Rusty Blackbird along the Sour Springs Road near the hamlet of Alabama Jun 25. Being somewhat injured, this male allowed close approach and enabled both observers to study it carefully (Axtells). Another was reported Jul 9 at Chestnut Ridge Park (Brockners). Nesting records submitted indicate that parasitism by the cowbird occurred in the following species: Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow and Canada Warblers, and Chipping and Field Sparrows. This year's unprecedented siskin-crossbill flight extended into the first part of June. Many observers attending the Second Annual Allegany State Park Nature Pilgrimage Jun 3-4 watched maximum counts of 12-15 Pine Siskins and about 125 Red Crossbills. Two siskins were identified Jun 25 (Axtells) and another was observed Jun 27 (BOSRC) at OOGMA. A call note heard Jul 4 from a hemlock area at Waterman Swamp near Napoli was independently identified by two observers as that belonging to a siskin. However, the bird could not be located for positive identification (Nathan, Rosche). One to three Red Crossbills remained at a feeder at Springville until Jun 13 (True) and eight individuals were studied Jun 11 at Tonawanda Indian Reservation (Webster et al). Five individuals were reported daily through Jul 2 in the village of East Aurora (rep. Reuther). A flock of seven White-winged Crossbills was found Jun 7 in the village of Hamburg by a Junior Audubon Club member and later verified by his group leader (R. Passinault Jr., Csont). Many observers commented on the increased abundance of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows this year. A very late nest of the Slate-colored Junco containing one egg was found Aug 3 in Ten Mile Hollow near Vandalia (Eaton). A singing White-throated Sparrow occurred through Jun 28 at Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge near North Java (Rosche). Another singing bird was heard Jul 25, 30 and 31 at Allegany State Park (Thompson). Unfortunately, the bog at Jave Lake, where a pair successfully nested last year, was made inaccessible to birders this year. Hence, little information is available relative to the establishment of this area as a regular nesting location.

**Addenda:** The following noteworthy records could not be included in the previous report (Vol. 11, No. 2) at the time it was written. One adult Bald Eagle observed May 20 at Chautauqua Gorge (Rew et al) and one Worm-eating Warbler studied May 6 at Point Gratiot near Dunkirk (Stanley et al).  
48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 15

## REGION 2—GENESEE

### HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for the period were moderate, with only two days of 90° or above, and with most nights comfortably cool. Rainfall for June and August was above normal, with that of July below average.

A late spring migration saw large numbers of shorebirds migrating into June and above average numbers of late spring migrant land birds present until well after their usual departure dates. On the other hand, the southward shorebird migration was comparatively dull and uninteresting, with small numbers of the regular transients and none of the rarer species. The high water level in many areas was probably responsible for most of this lack of shorebirds. No worthwhile southbound flights of land birds had been recorded by the end of the period.

The outstanding find of the summer was, of course, the Chuck-will's-widow, and details on this record are furnished in the field notes section of this issue. Other interesting birds observed included the Little Gull, Forster's Tern, Long and Short-eared Owls, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

**Loons — Ducks:** A Common Loon was reported to Al Malley on Jul 23 as having been present all summer on Canadice Lake. He saw the bird himself on Aug. 13. There seemed to be but one bird present, and there was no evidence of nesting. The only report of the Common Egret was a single occasionally at Groveland (Tetlow et al). None of the other rarer herons were recorded.

Thirty Black-crowned Night Herons were observed at Braddock's Jun 3 (Listman), and a female Gadwall was noted in Parma, also on Jun 13 (Listman). A small flock of Pintail was present at Braddock's much of the summer. Some of the birds were banded, and all were probably recently released birds. Three American Widgeon were at Groveland Jul 3 (Listman). A drake Redhead was seen at Braddock's Bay Aug 11 (O'Hara et al); this also may have been a released bird. A female Bufflehead was seen on a small pond in Parma Jun 10 (Tetlow et al), and there was a female Hooded Merganser at Braddock's Bay Aug 11 (O'Hara et al). The latter record may indicate nesting in a nearby area.

**Hawks — Owls:** A Cooper's Hawk was observed at Groveland Jul 9 (GOS hike). Both this species and the Sharp-shinned Hawk have seemed scarce this year. Twenty-five Broad-winged Hawks were seen migrating past Braddock's Bay Jun 3 (Listman). This late flight composed mostly if not entirely of immature birds is a regular occurrence in this area. Two Rough-legged Hawks were seen migrating past Braddock's Bay on the same day (Listman). Late stragglers of this species are regular at this time along this flightway. A late Osprey was noted at Braddock's Jun 8 (Listman).

Four semipalmated Plovers were seen in Parma Jun 8 (Foley et al), and 50 Black-bellied Plover and 100 Ruddy Turnstones were noted migrating past Braddock's Bay Jun 1 (Listman). A Greater Yellowlegs was observed in Parma Jun 3, and two Lesser Yellowlegs were at Manitou Jul 2 (Listman). A rather early Baird's Sandpiper was seen west of Manitou Aug 8 (Listman). Four White-rumped Sandpipers, 75 Dunlin, and 1000 Semipalmated Sandpipers migrating past Braddock's Bay Jun 1 (Listman) were all good counts. A Sanderling, a very uncommon spring migrant, was seen in Avon Jun 4 (Haller), and a female Wilson's Phalarope in full breeding plumage was seen in Parma Jun 10-11 (Foster et al).

With its recent increase, a few immature Great Black-backed Gulls spend the summer in the mixed gull flocks at Braddock's Bay. A maximum of three was seen there Jun 1 (Listman). A maximum of three Little Gulls was reported at Braddock's Bay Jun 25 (Lloyd, MacRae). One or two birds were reported regularly during the early summer with the last bird being reported Aug 4 (Listman). At this time the Bonaparte's Gulls had virtually disappeared. Single Forster's Terns were reported from Braddock's Bay from Jul 4 on (Listman et al). The maximum count of Caspian Terns was 30 at Braddock's Bay Aug 10 (Listman).

A pair of Long-eared Owls nested near Jean Haller's home near Avon and raised four young. These owls and resident Screech Owls were reported by the observer as flocking to the porch to listen and call to the music of a guitar. The writer has heard of dogs serenading a bagpipe, but this owl-guitar relation is new. A Long-eared Owl was seen just west of Braddock's Bay Jul 6, and a Short-eared Owl had been recorded in the same locality the previous day (Listman).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** A Chuck-will's-widow was present west of Manitou from Jun 1 to Jul 2, and full details of this rarity are given elsewhere in this issue. Fifteen Common Nighthawks were observed migrating past Braddock's Bay Jun 3 (Listman). Four Red-haeded Woodpeckers were seen in Periton Jul 29 (Malley, Tetlow). A female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was observed in Powder Mill Park Jul 2-4 (Starling et al). Several small trees in the area showed fresh typical Sapsucker workings, and the birds probably nested in the area, as they have done more or less regularly in the past. Another bird of this species was observed in Periton Jul 29 (Tetlow et al).

A rather late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen west of Manitou Jun 11 (Miller), and an Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed in the same area Jun 8 (Listman et al). Two hundred Blue Jays were noted migrating past Braddock's Bay Jun 10 (Listman). Black-capped Chickadees seemed very common late in the period, but the Tufted Titmouse was unrecorded. Red-breasted Nuthatches were generally distributed in numbers by the end of the period. A Brown Creeper was noted at B.A.N.C. Jul 31 (McKinney). There was a Carolina Wren at Holley Jul 17 (Listman), and the Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported from the Parkway just west of Dewey Avenue (O'Hara et al) and from the Webster area (Kemnitzner).

A Swainson's Thrush was reported from Manitou Jun 10 (Listman). Listman also reported a Gray-cheeked Thrush from the same area on Jun 8. Ten Eastern Bluebirds were seen in the Fisher's area Jul 1 (Starling). Other lists, however, showed either one or no birds. Bluebirds are known to have raised young in the Webster, B.A.N.C., and LeRoy areas. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen in Periton Jul 29 (Tetlow et al). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was noted in the heavy spruce growth near Inspiration Point in Letchworth Park Jul 9 (GOS hike). Two adult and two young Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in Parma Jun 25 (Lloyd, MacRae).

**Vireos — Warblers:** A Blue-winged Warbler was seen during early June near Avon (Haller). Among late spring warbler dates at Manitou (Listman) were singing male Tennessee Jun 16, Black-throated Green Jun 17, and Blackpoll Jun 17 and 25. A pair of Louisiana Waterthrushes feeding young was seen at Conesus Lake Jun 17 (Tetlow et al), and a young bird was noted in Wheeler's Gully near Avon Jun 18 (GOS hike). Three birds were seen near Naples Jul 23 (Starling). A Yellow-breasted Chat was noted near LeRoy Jun 11 (Lloyd, MacRae), one was seen in Webster Park Jun 17 (Lloyd), and a pair successfully raised young near Avon (Haller). Four Hooded Warblers were seen in Webster Aug 11 (O'Hara).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Four Pine Siskins were observed near Manitou Jun 10 (Listman), and a single bird was noted there the next day (Miller). Five Red Crossbills were observed moving west near Manitou Jun 11 (Foley et al). A very late White-crowned Sparrow was seen at Manitou Jun 21 (Listman), and a late Lincoln's Sparrow was banded at the same place Jun 1 (Leubner).

**Addendum:** Twenty-three Blue-winged Warblers were seen by Rosche in Letchworth Park on May 13. This report was omitted from the spring summary.

**Corrigendum:** The date of the all-time record count was shown as May 22 (Vol. 11, No. 2, p. 99); this should read May 21. Richard Rosche's record of 15 Bay-breasted Warblers at Letchworth Park should read May 20, not May 13, and the record of three Rusty Blackbirds by the same observer should read Apr 29, not May 29. — 54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

### SALLY F. HOYT

Summer continued the pattern set by spring — wet and cool, temperatures averaging several degrees below normal. In the area around Ithaca, there was only one day in the entire month of July (the 28th) on which rain did not fall somewhere in the county, and total precipitation for that month was twice normal. Nesting success was not materially affected, however, judging by the numbers of young birds around in early August. In Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, the fifth annual breeding bird census, taken by A. A. Allen in early June, produced 232 nesting pairs of birds, up 36 over 1960, and 55 species represented this year, compared to 51 in 1960. Conspicuously absent were Redstarts, and the Pileated Woodpecker — the latter apparently moving to an adjoining woodlot to nest.

Weather conditions reduced insect life, and Swallows left early. But earthworms thrived on lawns and golf courses, and Robins had a field day. High water interfered with Region 3's hopes for shorebirds.

Myrtle Warblers, Prairie Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Hooded Mergansers, relatively new on our breeding bird lists, were found again this year, and an addition to the Cayuga Basin breeding bird population is the Golden-crowned Kinglet.

**Loons — Ducks:** A late Common Loon was noted on Cayuga Lake Jun 11-13 (fide M. Welles). While some observers thought Pied-Billed Grebes were scarce, they certainly were abundant at Montezuma Refuge where 20 broods were raised. Paul Kellogg reported fewer Great Blue Herons about Cayuga Lake than some years; a count of 40 was made at Montezuma on Jul 26 (Mrs. O. Evans). The peak count of Common Egrets at Montezuma was 41 (W. Benning). After Jul 24, 3 or 4 Black-crowned Night Herons were conspicuous at the south end of Cayuga Lake, as in past years.

Three Canada goslings were raised on Sapsucker Woods pond this year, the product of two nests. Ten broods were observed at Montezuma, all the result of the release of 14 mated pairs raised on Delmar Game Farm by the N. Y. State Conservation Dept. (J. Morse). Mallards seemed to have a successful season everywhere. Six or 7 broods were raised on Sapsucker Woods pond, 21 at Montezuma. Wood Ducks, too, enjoyed a good season according to reports from Elmira and Sapsucker Woods. Five or six broods were raised at the latter area, one of 11 ducklings.

Manager Morse reports that Montezuma was fortunate in having a very good waterfowl production season, the best to date. A total of 105 duck broods were observed, compared to 84 last year, the previous high. These broods consisted of 28 Blue-winged Teal, 21 Mallard, 19 Wood Duck, 13 Redhead, 11 Gadwall, 5 Black Duck, 4 American Widgeon (Baldpate), 1 Shoveler, 1 Hooded Merganser, 1 Green-winged Teal and 1 Ruddy Duck. This was an increase, over 1960, for Redheads, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck and Widgeon, a decrease for Blacks and Ruddies. Two other Hooded Merganser nestings were reported in the Region, one of which was mentioned in the last issue.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures continue their increase: eight were seen at one time over Italy Hills in the Keuka area (F. Guthrie). First one of the season was over Hornell on Jun 16, 12 were seen there most of the summer. Around Avoca all hawks were scarce. Sharp-shinned Hawks nested and laid eggs about two miles from Sapsucker Woods, but the nest was broken up. The Montezuma Bald Eagles raised no young and have not been much in evidence. One Eagle was seen near Wayne on June 2 (F. Orcutt) and one near Havana Glen (south of Montour Falls) on Aug 14 (B. Strath). Marsh Hawks have been very scarce everywhere. Of interest are two summer reports of the Osprey on Fall Creek (e. of Ithaca). This could have been an early wanderer or a bird that remained here after spring migration.

Ruffed Grouse appeared to hold their own this summer, but certainly were not overly abundant. A brood of Bobwhites appeared near Keuka, and one was seen at Breesport on Jun 20 (Brimmer). One nest of 21 eggs near Sapsucker Woods hatched 20 young, the camera recording the event. Other small broods have appeared at the Sanctuary feeder. Wild Turkeys nested on Connecticut Hill South of Ithaca and there were several reports of sightings around Keuka Lake, seemingly recently released birds.

Rail reports were very scarce, but coverage of suitable habitats was inadequate. Gallinules and Coots had a fine season: 29 Common Gallinule broods at Montezuma, for example, and 52 Coot broods. The first Semi-palmated Plover was seen Jul 31 at Horseheads (M. Welles). Killdeer were considered scarce in some sections, in others abundant. The wet season may have cut down their nesting success slightly. Ruddy Turnstones had a short summer: Paul Kellogg saw lingering northward bound migrants on Jun 3 on Cayuga, the first southward-bound, probably non-breeders, on Jul 30. Common Snipe which rarely summer here, were heard all summer near Tompkins Co. Airport. No new stations reported for Upland Plover this year, but they were present (and elusive for some of us!) at the usual places. Pectoral Sandpipers returned a little early: 1 seen Jul 19 on the Elmira-Ithaca road (M. Smith), eight at Montezuma on Jul 26 (Mrs. Evans). A Dunlin and a Western Sandpiper were seen at Montezuma on Aug 4 (K. Thorp) but at this Refuge, as at most places in Region 3, high water cut down on shorebird habitat. A fine discovery was that of three Wilson's Phalaropes at Montezuma on Jun 4 (W. E. Benning) — birds rarely seen, especially in spring, in this Region.

Unusual is the report of Glaucous Gull in early June, off Long Point on Cayuga Lake (Lincoln Kelsey). It flew strongly, but may have been injured earlier. Common Terns were evident all summer at the south end of Cayuga and probably nested in the grass of the city airport (PPK). The species also nested on duck blind platforms at the north end of Cayuga (McDougall). The first Caspian Terns appeared Jul 30 on Cayuga (PPK).

J. Walker felt there were fewer Mourning Doves around Waterloo this summer, but they were plentiful at Ithaca. Near Elmira, Mrs. B. Strath found a Barn Owl nest in August in a deserted silo. No Barn Owls reported elsewhere. This bird seems to be a casualty of barn-modernization, church-steeple repairs, water-tower replacement, and dead tree removal. A Long-eared Owl was found in Mitchell Hollow near Odessa (B. Strath) and another was flushed from a pine thicket on the farm of Carleton Sturdevant near Keuka. These are rare summer finds.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Randolph Little heard Whip-poor-wills at five locations near White Church (south of Brooktondale). Another was heard near Altay, all through June. Chimney Swifts were abundant at Waterloo.

Flickers enjoyed good success, apparently, as many young were seen. Four young Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen feeding on green apples on the edge of Potter Swamp (near Keuka) by M. Lerch on Aug 13. This species has been known to eat apples — but there is always the possibility, too, of insects in the fruit. Reports of Redheads slowed up as summer advanced, but one was seen north of the Sapsucker Woods Laboratory on Jun 5, by Weske; three were seen at Waterloo by J. Walker. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was known to nest in several places near Ithaca, and a new station is Bear Swamp near Skaneateles Lake, where a bird was found on Jul 9, by Seaman, Rusk, et al. It has been some time since the area has been checked, and Sapsuckers have probably been there right along. A nest was also found near Potter Swamp, Keuka.

Kingbirds were reported as normal to abundant, everywhere. Most flycatchers were in better numbers this year, except Phoebe, in certain localities. Rather surprising is a summer record of an Olive-sided Flycatcher near Breesport (Brimmer). Rather unusual behavior on the part of Swallows was reported from several localities: the birds pulled out early, immediately after the young were fledged, apparently from an acute food scarcity. The wet, cool weather may have reduced the insect population in such spots. This was noted particularly in Tree Swallows and Purple Martins, but was noted also in a Bank Swallow colony at Elmira. Here, Mrs. Welles noted that the Swallows did not appear until Jun 12, and left on Aug 7. Purple Martins are increasing around Keuka, with more housing available. The Sapsucker Woods colony of six pairs, unusually late in arriving, also left abruptly in July. Cliff Swallows, which had early losses at Keuka, were still feeding young on Aug 13.

Blue Jays seemed very abundant. A most unusual report is that of a Boreal Chickadee at a feeder for several weeks in July in Seneca Falls (fide H. Barben, Loren Ward). The Region has fewer than five **winter** reports of this species. The Barbens are familiar with this bird in the Adirondacks. Reports of summer Red-breasted Nuthatches are on the increase, and most of these are probably breeding birds. One was found in early June on Star Stanton Hill (R. Sandberg) one at Bear Swamp Jul 9 (Rusk), three at Monkey Run Jul 1 (F. Scheider), and a pair was feeding young at Conn. Hill on Jul 1 (Scheider, Hoyt). House Wrens are still scarce though somewhat better at Waterloo this year. Two nestings of Carolina Wrens were successful near Watkins Glen (Beardsley, Darling). Few reports of Short-billed Marsh Wrens, but a new station is a wet meadow behind Paul Kelsey's home near Dryden where one sang continuously in July. Most encouraging is the increase in Mockingbird reports, once found in Region 3 only in winter, if at all. The nest at the Larzelier residence near Branchport produced two young this year (Whitaker); three were raised on W. Broad Street in Horseheads, and belatedly we learn that two were raised there last year (Fudge)! A Mocker, possibly the same one seen in Cayuga Heights in Ithaca last winter, turned up in July in the "Clay-colored Sparrow field." (D. McIlroy). One was seen on Troy Road on Jul 1. (F. Eldridge) and one at Montezuma on Jun 5 (F. Orcutt). Robins have staged a fine come-back, aided by a good nesting season, in spite of the rain and cold. Increases were reported at Keuka, Elmira, Waterloo and Ithaca. A large number roosted in two Norway Maples at the end of July, in Elmira. Wood Thrushes have picked up slightly at Jasper, Geneva and Ithaca. Hermit Thrushes are still scarcer than five years ago, but may be heard regularly on Connecticut Hill south of Ithaca, at Bear Swamp — and one was

heard once, in June, in Sapsucker Woods. Veeries were heard more frequently this year than last in Sapsucker Woods and Stewart Park.

As in several recent years, the time for second nestings of Bluebirds brought more reports of the species than earlier in the season. A comparative figure cannot be given this year for the Ithaca area, as personal circumstances necessitating a long absence interfered with the time which could be devoted to his studies by Jim Hartshorne. Bluebirds were found for the first time in several years near Almond Jul 9, (W. Groesbeck), and at Jasper (Margeson). A nest was under observation by B. Strath this year at Odessa. A new breeding record for the Cayuga Lake Basin is that of the Golden-crowned Kinglet. A recently fledged youngster was observed by Fritz Scheider in the Monkey Run area on Jul 1, near the spot where adults had been seen in early June by J. Weske. Cedar Waxwings were abundant everywhere but at Jasper. No Shrike reports all summer.

**Vireos — Sparrows:** Yellow-throated Vireos were scarcer around Keuka (Guthrie), slightly better at Ithaca. The only report of a solitary vireo was at Bear Swamp Jul 9 (R. Seaman). Red-eyed vireos were missing from some unusual locations and all Vireos were scarce at Waterloo (Walker).

A new location for the Worm-eating Warbler is the Myrtle Hill Cemetery in the Watkins Area, the last of June. The Carter Creek hillside south of Newfield, along the road to the Connecticut Hill Manager's residence, bears watching. Here a song greatly resembling that of this species was heard on Jul 13 (Rusk, Hoyt). A Golden-winged Warbler was found in Texas Hollow on Jun 11 (Bardeen). The species seemed scarcer around Ithaca this year. Myrtles were found again on Connecticut Hill on Jul 1 (Scheider) and on the same date, near Monkey Run, by the same observer, possibly indicating another nesting area. Al Starling reported a Yellow-throated Warbler at Taughannock Falls on Jun 3. (See July KINGBIRD for earlier reports of this species). Two singing Prairie Warblers were still in evidence on Conn. Hill in July, and one unoccupied nest was found. A straggling Prairie was noted on Troy Road on Jul 1 (F. Eldridge). Ovenbirds, which had seemed relatively abundant early in the season, were much scarcer in June and July. A Mourning Warbler nested near Freeville (D. Allen). A male Hooded Warbler, a species often missed at Ithaca, was singing in a woods on Hanshaw Rd. Extension, near Etna, Jun 1-3, and found by several observers (Weske, McIlroy). A male Canada was found for the first time in Texas Hollow (Strath). Redstarts were scarce everywhere — for example, none found in Sapsucker Woods this year.

Bobolinks were reported more common this year than last at Jasper, Montour Falls and Ithaca, but scarcer around Waterloo and Geneva. Everywhere, Baltimore Orioles had picked up in numbers. The trend in increase and destructiveness of Common Grackles continues. Scarlet Tanagers were difficult to find this year. Singing males at Sapsucker Woods, for instance, numbered only five. Cardinals, however, were increasingly conspicuous in those areas to the west and north in the Region, where their appearance has been relatively recent. They seemed to enjoy good nesting success. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, on the other hand, were down in numbers. Indigo Buntings turned up in places where they had never been noted before — numerous calls, describing this 'new bird' were received at the Laboratory of Ornithology, as the species apparently moved closer to human habitation than normally.

Red Crossbills continued to be seen in the Ithaca area — the first summer records of them in many years — throughout June and into early July, but no evidence of nesting was found, and they were still in a flock of 25 - 30 when seen around Jul 10. (D. G. Allen). Most Sparrows had picked up in numbers around Waterloo, according to observers there. Observers in other areas noted no particular change from last year. The Ithaca Clay-colored Sparrow was last seen on Jul 1, but may have still been in the field. Cessation of song, and high grass makes it difficult to find after mid-June. There was no indication of nesting this year, nor did the pattern of behavior change as it did last year. (See KINGBIRD for May, 1961, article by D. McIlroy). There was only one report of a summering White-throated Sparrow — one heard near the Groton Rod and Gun Club grounds on Aug. 1 (D. Dunham).

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The whole period was close to normal with respect to both temperature and precipitation. There were five days when the official temperature in Binghamton reached 90 degrees or more, but there was also one day, June 16, when it went down to 39 degrees.

The late spring migration didn't end until June 7 when the last Blackpoll Warblers were seen and barely five and a half weeks later, the return fall migration had started with the appearance of Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers. Speaking generally, local breeders had a very successful nesting season. Young Robins, for example, haven't been as conspicuous in several years as they were in late July and early August. Killdeer and House Wrens, two species that have been somewhat scarce in recent years, made giant strides back towards their old abundance. The one major disappointment has been Bluebirds. Although distribution of the species was spotty, they were reported breeding in a number of places. However, the frequency of second broods was down.

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a Brown Creeper, Slate-colored Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows in Chenango Co. and Myrtle in Otsego Co. represented the "northern" breeders. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets that were reported in previous summers were missed, perhaps only because the access roads to their areas are becoming so overgrown as to be impassable.

Preliminary fruit and seed crop estimates don't seem too encouraging. Berries seem plentiful enough and will doubtless provide plenty of food during the fall, but of the cold weather foods only box elder and some of the oaks seem to have produced heavy seed crops in most of the region. We can only hope this is translated into a heavy winter finch invasion.

**Loons — Ducks:** Great Blue Herons were reported a little more often than in most recent summers, while Green Herons were quite a bit more common than usual. No Common Egrets. The first Black-crowned Night Heron reported in the region this year was at Endicott Jul 17 (V. Misner, H. Marsi). A Least Bittern that was first found May 21 in a small cattail marsh near Vestal was seen regularly at the same place all summer (H. Marsi, V. Misner, G. Corderman). Two adult and seven young Blue-winged Teal seen near Owego during Jul and Aug (R. Williams) constitute the first definite breeding record for the species in the region on file in the last ten years. It seems unlikely the species is that rare a breeder here, though. Breeding Wood Ducks were noted in several areas.

**Hawks — Owls:** A turkey Vulture at Owego Jul 31 (R. Williams) was the only one reported during the period. Red-tailed Hawks seemed common in several areas. A Broad-winged Hawk was at Owego Aug 11 (C. Gerould). On Jun 11 a Bald Eagle was seen flying over Johnson City (F. Cosgriff). There were only two reports of Marsh Hawks in the region all summer. Sparrow Hawks were quite plentiful in Tioga, Broome and Chenango Counties. On Jul 30 Bobwhites appeared near Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield), an area where birds were released by the Broome County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs two and three years ago. It is possible these birds are a result of a more recent private release, but since we know of no such release we can hope they are survivors, or better yet descendants, of those released two years ago. Virginia Rails were again present at Sherburne and a Sora was at Norwich Jul 23 (R. & S. White). Common Gallinules bred at the same small marsh near Vestal where the Least Bitterns were (H. Marsi, V. Misner, G. Corderman).

Three Semipalmated Plover were at Sherburne Jul 29 (R. & S. White). Killdeer continued to be below numbers early in the season but seemed to make a strong recovery this breeding season. A Common Snipe was at Sherburne Jul 22 (R. & S. White). Upland Plover were observed in two spots near Cortland (Wilson). A Solitary Sandpiper was at Sherburne Jul 22 (R. & S. White) and a few more were at Whitney Point Aug. 13. A Greater Yellowlegs arrived at Boland's Marsh, a few miles north of Binghamton Aug 5 (H. Marsi, V. Misner). The species was also reported from Owego. Three Lesser Yellowlegs were at Endwell Jul 16 (L. Bemont). They were at Sherburne Jul 22 and 30 (R. & S. White). Two Pectoral Sandpipers were at Endwell Aug 6 (L. Bemont) and three Baird's Sandpipers were reported at Sherburne Jul 29 (R. & S. White). Least Sandpipers were at Endwell Jul 16 and Semi-palmated Sandpipers were at the same place Aug 6 (L. Bemont). Ring-billed

Gulls were present in the Triple Cities area in small numbers all summer, which is not usual. Black-billed Cuckoo reports outnumbered Yellow-bills as has been usual in recent years. During the latter part of the period Screech Owls became a little more common than in the past few years. Two Barred Owls were seen near Norwich Jul 4 (R. & S. White). Long-eared Owl squawks were heard regularly at Norwich for about a month before one of the birds was finally seen Aug 10 (R. & S. White).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** A Whip-poor-will was heard calling in the Sidney-Unadilla area Jun 7 and again Jun 9 (G. James). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have seemed scarce at Newark Valley (L. Dean) but in the Triple Cities area and at Greene and Norwich they have been at least as common as usual. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported nesting in the same area as last year at Cortland (Wilson). One was at Sherburne Jul 9 (R. & S. White) and another was at Endwell Aug 6 (L. Bemont) in an area where they probably bred last year. A fourth report came from Owego Aug 14 (A. Alford). Few enough for the whole region, but still encouraging in comparison with previous years. There were reportedly several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers around Norwich (R. & S. White). They were also reported at Owego Jun 8 (Oliver) and Newark Valley in Aug (L. Dean). Great Crested Flycatchers seemed scarce at Owego but in the Triple Cities area there seemed to be more than usual. Phoebe numbers continue to improve but they are still not the "every day" bird they used to be. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was found in a large marsh at an elevation of over 1700 ft. about 10 miles west of Sherburne Jul 8 (R. & S. White). Traill's Flycatchers continue to be found in more areas. Jul 22 a "swamp full of them", eight, were found singing near Norwich (R. & S. White). Wood pewees have seemed scarce most of the period. On Jun 4 a Tufted Titmouse was at Ely Park in Binghamton (M. Sheffield), a station where they have not been reported in the last few years. There was also one at Owego Aug 14 (D. Bendle). Red-breasted Nuthatches were not reported from Chenango County this summer, but a Brown Creeper was found Jul 8 at the same marsh as the above mentioned Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (R. & S. White). House Wrens seem to be just about back to normal after the recent lean years. A Hermit Thrush at Oneonta Jun 5 (R. Burland) could conceivably have been a late migrant but the ones at Owego Jul 2 (C. Gerould, M. White, R. Williams) and at Choconut Center Jul 22 and 23 (R. & M. Sheffield) were probably breeders. Bluebirds appeared to be absent from Cortland Co., for the second year running, and at Oxford, but there were breeding records from Owego, the Triple Cities — Whitney Point area and Pharsalia. They were also reported at Greene, Guilford and Norwich. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found at Owego Jul 27 (M. White). No Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in Chenango Co. this summer.

**Vireos — Warblers:** A Philadelphia Vireo was still at Newark Valley Jun 5 (L. Dean). A Worm-eating Warbler was found at IBM Glen, between Endwell and Johnson City, Jun 6 (L. Bemont), a spot where they were seen two years ago but not last year. A Golden-winged Warbler near Unadilla Jun 3 was a new species for Mr. Wisner's property. The species was recorded regularly at Deposit (S. Wilson) and around the Triple Cities. A Lawrence's Warbler was reported, and well described, near Chenango Valley State Park Aug 3 (A. Davis). With Brewster's Warblers being reported so frequently in the past few years it was almost inevitable that a Lawrence's Warbler would turn up eventually. A Tennessee Warbler was still at Unadilla Jun 2 (H. Wisner). Another was seen singing its spring song at Newark Valley Aug 14 (L. Dean). Myrtle Warblers were heard singing throughout the summer in several areas around Oneonta (J. New). A Cerulean Warbler was at Deposit from Jun 11 to at least Jun 14 (S. Wilson). Spring migrant Blackpoll Warblers were still present in the Triple Cities area in some numbers as late as Jun 7. Two Northern Waterthrushes and a Mourning Warbler were near Sherburne in the same marsh as the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Jul 8 (R. & S. White). A late spring Wilson's Warbler was at Endwell Jun 1 (N. & E. Washburn).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks were abundant near Owego in the later part of July (R. Williams) and at Norwich "the meadows were full of singing birds" (R. & S. White). Scarlet Tanagers have seemed a little more common than usual. Purple Finches remained quite common until the middle of July, but were reported less often thereafter. Red Crossbills were still at Binghamton Jun 4 (M. Sheffield). Slate-colored Juncos were reported at Owego in July and August (R. Williams) and at Pharsalia six were counted Jul 23 (R. & S. White). White-throated Sparrows

were also at Pharsalia Jul 23, singing in three different locations (R. & S. White).  
**Late Reports from Last Period:** A nesting colony of Great Blue Herons has been discovered in Cortland Co., about 2½ miles from Otisco Lake (Spencer, J. Gustafson). This is only the second known colony in the region. There were two reports of Upland Plovers in Cortland Co. in late May (Bowers, R. Haines). One involved a nest broken up while Mr. Haines was plowing his farm near McLean. A Common Tern at East Homer Apr 26 (J. Gustafson) was the only one reported all spring. A third Mockingbird report for the spring concerned one in the village park at Little York (J. Gustafson). A Great Crested Flycatcher May 6 and four Hermit Thrushes Apr 15 in the Cortland area were both earlier than the previously reported firsts (J. Gustafson). — 710 University Ave., Endwell.

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

### DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

This is the first report under new management. In the departure of Fritz Scheider the Region has lost not only its recorder but also its most active observer. Fritz has been Regional Editor since the new regions came into being in 1954, and happily his absence is not permanent. It is characteristic that in a brief visit back to the Region 5 he found the rarest bird recorded this quarter — a Ruff!

June was cool; appreciable rain fell on ten days, but the amount was exactly normal. July was wet; precipitation was up 50% over normal, and rain fell on twelve days; the first half of the month was cooler than normal and the second half warmer, with a high of over eighty every day but one. July rainfall kept swampy woods wet and produced a high mosquito population; high water levels were favorable for breeding grebes and ducks but prevented formation of extensive shorebird flats at Sandy Pond. August precipitation (slightly more than half the normal) had not reversed the water level picture by the 15th. August temperature averaged about normal.

Explorations of the Tug Hill Plateau continued. A considerable body of comparative data has now been accumulated for one area, and other areas are being examined. To the south of Syracuse, Labrador Pond has been visited several times, explorations of Highland Forest and Brookfield State Reforestation Area have been continued, trips were made to the high-altitude Morrisville and Peterboro Swamps, and the vicinity of Otisco Lake was investigated more extensively and intensely than for several years.

In addition to the Ruff already referred to, unusual records include the Northern Phalarope, Forster's Tern, Saw-whet Owl, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole and the confirmed breeding of the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

A most striking and interesting trend has been the increase in breeding sites of Yellow-breasted Chats and their expansion into new, though neighboring, areas.

The following abbreviations are used in this report: HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron, SP — Sandy Pond, SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski, THP — Tug Hill Plateau, TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.

**Loons — Ducks:** No records of Loons. Pied-billed Grebes had a successful season, broods being reported from HIGMA, SP, and Stevens' Pond near Phoenix. Great Blue Heron was noted as especially common at HIGMA with 37 on one pool (Bauer). Common Egret: one or two present irregularly at HIGMA throughout the period, much smaller numbers than last year (Bauer). No records of Cattle Egrets this summer.

Canada Goose: a pair reared one young at Stevens' Pond, a new location (Rusk); 50 pairs bred at HIGMA. Brant: a few still present at Sandy Pond as of Jun 4.

Breeding ducks: — the HIGMA figures are the most reliable index: Mallard 65 broods, Black one (extremely low), Gadwall three, Pintail 20, Green-winged Teal one, Blue-winged Teal 10, Shoveler one, Wood Duck 10, Redhead nine (Bauer). Delta Lake was in good condition for breeding ducks due to high water levels; two pairs of Mallard and one or two pairs of Wood Duck bred successfully (Aspinwall). Wood Duck were also reported as breeding at Stony Pond Conservation Area (Felle), Rome (Aspinwall), Camillus (Spofford), Verona Beach (Whites), and Clay Swamp (Peakall).

There were several reports of Hooded Mergansers but no definite nesting records. It would be interesting to have more information on this species. A female was

seen at different places in THP on Jun 3, 18, and 24; one was at TRGMA Jun 28 (Scheider); a pair was present at HIGMA during the summer.

Migrating ducks: — Two Green-winged Teal were seen at Stevens' Pond Jun 2 and a single bird was there Jun 13 (Rusk) — they may have bred again; first fall record was Aug 5, SP; Pintail arrival date was Aug 10, SP.

American Widgeon summered at HIGMA and eight Greater Scaup were present there throughout June (Bauer).

**Hawks — Owls:** The previously suspected breeding of the Sharp-shinned Hawk near Marcellus was confirmed this year; young were banded (Spofford). Cooper's Hawk summered at HIGMA (Bauer); an interesting record of this scarce species was one in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, Jun 19 (Rusk). Marsh Hawks were scarce as a nesting species. Despite careful searching they were not found in many former nesting areas — Clay Swamp, Manlius, Pleasant Valley near Marcellus, SP, SSSP. A nest was found near the Seneca River (Peakall) and the species was recorded during the summer at HIGMA (Bauer). It was present in the breeding season near Utica (Curtis) and a male was seen at Highland Forest Jun 25 (Rusk).

There were no summering records of the Bald Eagle. The old nest of the Lake Ontario pair was destroyed two years ago, and no new site has been located. Osprey: only record was a single bird summering at HIGMA.

Bobwhite: one at Camillus Jun 9 (Scheider); three at TRGMA Jul 8 (Rusk); at least three broods at HIGMA (Bauer). Turkey: two broods at HIGMA (Bauer).

Breeding shorebirds — Common Snipe: nest with eggs found at Manlius (Bart) and photographed by Armstrong; this is a new location for this unusual Regional breeder. There were several reports of Upland Plovers present in the usual areas: Verona, Rome, Cicero, and Stevens' Pond; also a sighting near South Onondaga (Propst) a new location.

Departure dates of shorebirds — Semipalmated Plover Jun 4, Ruddy Turnstone Jun 4, Knot Jun 6, White-rumped Sandpiper Jun 4, Least Sandpiper Jun 6, Dunlin Jun 6, Sanderling Jun 19.

Arrival dates and maximum numbers recorded to Aug 15 are — Semipalmated Plover Aug 1, 50 on Aug 13; Black-bellied Aug 5, max. of three on several dates; Ruddy Turnstone Aug 2 (late); Greater Yellowlegs Aug 11 (late) when four were seen; Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 8, 75 on Jul 23, 60 on Aug 6 and 9; Pectoral Jul 15, low counts with the highest 12 on Jul 23; White-rumped Aug 13; Least Jul 15, 70 on Aug 13; Short-billed Dowitcher Jul 15, seven on Jul 21; Stilt Sandpiper Jul 15; Semipalmated Jul 15, 370 on Aug 13; Sanderling Jul 18, 100 on Aug 9.

Unusual shorebird records — Pride of place goes to the Ruff, second Regional record and the first in breeding plumage. This fine bird, with black ruff but no ear tufts was found by Scheider on Jul 15 on Onondaga Lake and was last seen on Jul 20 (Peakall). In Europe the Ruff is seldom seen in breeding plumage away from its nesting area. It seems possible that this bird crossed the southern Atlantic on the way to or from its African wintering grounds and spent the summer in New York State.

A Piping Plover was still present at SP on Jun 4 (Scheider) but there was no evidence of breeding. A Dunlin in breeding plumage was at Onondaga Lake Aug 1 (Peakall). Northern Phalarope: two Onondaga Lake Aug 3 (Allen and McChesney) and one Aug 13 (Rusk and Spofford).

Two Great Black-backed Gulls at SP on Aug 9 are unusual (Starling). Two Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on Onondaga Lake Jun 2 (Rusk), unusual location and late; first fall date Aug 5. Forster's Tern, a species not always recorded during the year in this Region, was seen at SP Aug 10 (Listman). Common Terns bred successfully this year at Ononadaga Lake; early eggs were taken, but forty young were present in Jul (Thomases).

Barred Owl: two, again present, Jul 25, Labrador Pond (Rusk). An unusual record is of a Short-eared Owl caught in a trap and later released at HIGMA in the first week of Aug (Bauer). A Saw-whet Owl was found dead at Pixley Falls near Boonville Jun 12 (Aspinwall).

**Goatsucker — Shrikes:** Red-bellied Woodpecker: only record was at HIGMA Jul 22. Red-headed Woodpecker: seemed to have had a somewhat more successful season than in recent years, with a nesting at SP (an immature seen there near the nesting holes Jun 4 and three present Aug 9), two adults seen regularly near Skaneateles at two different sites (Seaman), three separate sightings from an auto in one day (Jul 2) around Oneida, two others seen near Oneida, one noted near Rome

Jul 12, and another Jul 4 at Chittenango. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a female with food-begging immature at Green Lakes State Park near Fayetteville Jul 12 (Rusk) is noteworthy in view of the location, neither northern nor high-altitude. Sapsuckers were present during the period near Redfield (immatures, and female at nest hole feeding young), Brookfield, Labrador Pond, and Tully (thru summer at least to Aug 12); the last is particularly interesting too, as it is not a high location, but Sapsuckers definitely bred there in 1959 and 1960, and probably did so again this year.

Eastern Phoebe: called "common" at HIGMA (Bauer), and Felle reports "a pair everywhere, in contrast to last year". Traill's Flycatcher: again quite common pan-regionally, in suitable habitat; high of 40 in THP Jun 24, with two Yellow-bellied and 35 Least Flycatchers there the same date. Olive-sided Flycatcher: two-five/day noted in various parts of THP Jun 3, 18, and 24; one Jul 13 at Rome (K. Thorp); it has not been found in the high-altitude bog areas south of Syracuse despite the presence of birdwatchers there on the alert for it.

Swallow colonies — Bank Swallow colonies not previously reported are in two sand banks near Rome (Aspinwall, and Ackley et al) and one near Phoenix (Rusk). Cliff Swallows appear on the upswing, with colonies not only in the Tug Hill country where they are usually common, but also at Cicero, near Skaneateles (Seaman), northeast of Rome — 90 nests on one barn east of Westerville (Aspinwall), and near Tully (50 birds observed Jul 16). Purple Martins occupied houses around Sandy Pond; the Erie Blvd. (Syracuse) house produced broods, and new houses erected in Baldwinsville "were pretty well filled" despite House Sparrow competition (Richardson).

Migrations — High counts of 1500 Bank Swallow Jul 23 at one time around a barn at HIGMA with a few Tree, Rough-winged, Barn, and Martins, and 1000 Bank Aug 6 at SP in three hours with lesser numbers of Barn and Martins, (both counts made on days of south breeze, the former nearly calm, whereas northwest winds produce the best counts) are not quite as high as last year's totals.

As last year, Tufted Titmice used the Bisdees' feeder in Baldwinsville thru the summer, and adults have been seen feeding young there for the second successive year (fide Richardson). Red-breasted Nuthatch, quite scarce during winter 1960-1961 and on the spring 1961 migration, were frequently noted in numbers from one-four in conifer areas this summer, as follows: THP, Rome Sand Plains, Brookfield, Bear Springs near Fulton (where they have been regularly found in winter), SP (Aug 13, possibly early migrants, as they are not known to have been there thru the summer), and at SSSP where a brood was raised in the nest hole discovered this spring, confirming the supposition that they breed at Selkirk. The SSSP nest, and a nest hole found again this year in the Rome Sand Plains, were both in aspen. Red-breasted Nuthatches have not been found recently at Labrador Pond, which appears a likely location for them except for the lack of much spruce. Brown Creepers were also noted again in the Rome Sand Plains, where they probably breed, as well as at Labrador Pond, TRGMA, and White Lakes near DeWitt (Rusk).

House Wrens appear to have had a successful season. Winter Wrens were as usual common in all areas of THP, even as far south as the Camden Woods. They were also noted in Morrisville and Peterboro Swamps. But most notable is one singing Jul 6 in the low-altitude white cedar swamp in the White Lake Woods (Rusk) where they winter; this location is comparable to the Camillus Valley one where the bird, however, was not noted this summer. The northern Winter Wren and the southern Carolina may soon be defending territories within earshot of each other, as the latter was noted this summer at Camillus Valley (where it probably bred); near Baldwinsville (Evans); at Ram's Gulch and at Clark's Reservation, Probably two different birds — these adjacent spots are both near White Lakes (Rusk); and even at SSSP (Evans); — all of which indicates that the Carolina Wren may again be becoming established in the Region, after the setbacks thought to be due to recent severe winters. The erratic Short-billed Marsh Wren was on location in the grass marsh at Sandy Pond — three singing males there (Scheider), and in the Dead Creek marshes near Baldwinsville — at least one bird (Rusk).

No Mockingbird was reported for the summer. Catbirds were again very common this year, and Brown Thrashers, never abundant, were present in the usual locations, including HIGMA (Bauer), Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse, Labrador Pond.

Hermit Thrush numbers in the Rome Sand Plains were better than last year's with about 20 heard there Jul 2. Only 15 were noted in THP Jun 24 in comparison with 40 Swainson's there the same date, an unusual ratio for the area. Hermit Thrushes were reported from Brookfield Jun 25 and Jul 16 (Whites) but not from any

of the other high areas southeast of Syracuse. The last spring migrant Swainson's was at Syracuse Jun 5 (late) (Rusk), and a notable report of this northern bird is one at Brookfield, in the southeast corner of the Region, Jun 25 (Whites). Still alarmingly scarce is the Bluebird: a request by Dr. Burt, thru his Syracuse newspaper column, for information, turned up only four nesting reports — from Syracuse, Bernevelde, Camillus, and Mt. Vision; in addition, five nestings are reported from around Oneida, a good Bluebird area (Ackley); there were ten birds from two boxes at Rome (Aspinwall) and one nest at Taberg, a usual location (Aspinwall); a male was seen carrying food at SP on Jun 4; and Bluebirds have been sighted at Marcellus and Skaneateles.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** two noted Jun 10 at Camillus Valley, where they breed, and one the same date at Pumpkin Hollow near Marcellus in willows along a creek, (Rusk), a location similar to the Camillus site; one noted in May HIGMA was unrecorded during the present period. **Loggerhead Shrike:** a pair at Skaneateles raised a brood (Seaman); the bird seen May 27 near Churchville, Oneida County, was not found subsequently, and this erratic species was otherwise unrecorded.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Counts of Yellow-throated Vireos were low, as last year, with highs of only four on Jun 10 and six on Jul 23 (the latter, at SP, possibly early migrants). Solitary Vireos summered at Brookfield, and at Redfield and other THP locations with a high count of 16 on Jun 24, THP. Red-eyed and Warbling vireos seemed normally common with highs of 38 of the former and 20 of the latter Jun 4 at SP.

**Resident Warblers —** In the following summary of locations and counts it is of note that most of the high counts of southern warblers are from Camillus Valley, long known to be one of the best local warbler areas, and that nearly all the maxima for northern warblers (all but the Nashvilles at Highland Forest) are from the Tug Hill Jun 24, when three observers walked 15 miles of tracks. The high tallies are certainly due to the intensive coverage there; nevertheless the experience of observers is that such high counts are not obtained elsewhere, given equal coverage. These 1961 THP maxima are comparable with the 1960 figures and those in the Field Note "Some Brief Tug Hill Plateau Observations" by Fritz Scheider, **Kingbird**, Jan. 1959, p. 110. Summering warbler locations and maxima follow.

**Black-and-White:** at Camillus Valley, SSSP, Camden Woods, Redfield, Marrisville Swamp, Brookfield, Sherrill, Rome Sand Plains, White Lakes, Labrador Pond (a pair), with high count of 18 on Jun 24, THP — making it one of the most widely distributed local warblers. **Prothonotary:** at least two singing males at Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake; the bird noted in May at HIGMA was unrecorded thereafter. **Worm-eating:** the Camillus Valley bird was not found after May 20, despite subsequent searches for it. **Golden-winged:** males found at two new locations in THP where it is extremely unusual — Boanville in the Mohawk River Gorge Jun 3 (Scheider) and near Redfield Jul 15 (Rusk) — as well as on the western outskirts of the Tug Hill near Centerville, where it has been noted other years — a pair thru the summer (Evans); also at the more expected locations of Camillus Valley and Cedarvale near Marcellus, at Mud Lake near Baldwinsville (Evans), and Jul 1 near Fairdale (Rusk), the last spot being a less distant extension from its usual Camillus — TRGMA area; numbers were down at Camillus Valley, with a high of only seven there Jun 10 (Scheider), where up to 25 singing males have been counted. **Blue-winged:** none seen at Camillus Valley. **Brewster's:** adult was seen feeding a young near Baldwinsville (Evans), a notable record. **Nashville:** one-three/day, THP; an unusual record of one in pine plantations on Nose Hill, Camillus, Jun 10 (Scheider) — unfortunately breeding was not subsequently confirmed; two at the Rome Sand Plains again this year; high of nine in the growing pine plantations of Highland Forest Jun 25 (Rusk); also near Centerville (Evans) and at Brookfield (Whites). **Parula:** again noted in THP (Scheider) — one on Jun 3 in the lower part of the THP (Scheider) is unusual; high of 50 in the Otisco Lake vicinity Jun 10.

**Magnolia:** at Highland Forest, Centerville, Brookfield, Redfield, Labrador Pond, and Cedarvale (an interesting location, in a white cedar grove); high counts of 55 Jun 3 and 24 THP. **Black-throated Blue:** common along a lumber road in Camden Woods Jun 11; also noted at Rome Sand Plains, Redfield, Centerville, and Brookfield: a pair with an immature at Labrador Pond Jul 16 (Estoff, Propst) establishes breeding there; high count of 60 Jun 24 THP. **Myrtle:** two at the Pine Grove, SSSP, Jun 4 (Rusk) and one there Aug 5 (R. Williams) points to breeding in this non-high but coniferous location; an adult with two immatures Jul 16 Brookfield (Whites)

confirms breeding there, previously suspected; also noted near Boonville, in Highland Forest (where breeding was established in 1958), and in the Rome Sand Plains where they also probably breed (five on Jul 2 is a good count); high of 15 Jun 24, THP. Black-throated Green: widely recorded — at Brookfield, SSSP, Camillus, Ram's Gulch, Camden Woods, Morrisville Swamp, Highland Forest, Rome Sand Plains, Labrador Pond; high of 85 on Jun 24, THP. Cerulean: high of 20 in Camillus Valley; also at Pumpkin Hollow, three, Jun 10, and HIGMA — all sites in the Finger Lakes drainage axis; away from this area, a singing bird was noted at Tully Jun 10 and in Aug (Propst), the probable breeding location at Sherrill (of. Oct. 1960 **Kingbird** report) had two singing males this year, and a pair with one young was observed in the Canaseraga Creek Valley Jul 9 (Felle).

Blackburnian: one-four at Camillus Valley and the Rome Sand Plains; "more than usual" were at Brookfield (Whites) — Is this as the plantations grow taller? — None were noted in a day's warbler searching Jun 25 at Highland Forest where there aren't many tall spruces; Jun 24 THP high of 60. Chestnut-sided: to be found in suitable habitat just about everywhere in the Region, with notably high counts from all THP locations, the maximum 90 there Jun 24. Pine: only one per day noted at Rome Sand Plains — no evidence of breeding there this year; at least two pairs were at the Pine Grove, SSSP, this year, and young were being fed there Aug 5 (R. Williams). Ovenbird: high of 25 THP Jun 24, for this pan-regionally common breeder. Northern Waterthrush: one-six noted in wet low woodlands at Camillus Valley, Morrisville Swamp, Cicero Swamp, around Plainville, Rome Sand Plains, White Lakes, Green Lakes State Park, Labrador Pond, and SSSP; high count is 18, Jul 24 THP. Louisiana Waterthrush: a pair was found at Fish Gulf near Otisco Lake Scheider) and another pair along the stream at the Gully near Skaneateles (Seaman), both probably nesting; the Camillus Valley bird was not in evidence after this spring; careful searching of swift creeks and limestone glens south of Syracuse would probably discover more sites for these interesting warblers and establish breeding records.

Morning Warbler: noted at Centerville, Brookfield, south of Pixley Falls near Rome, at Hannibal, Labrador Pond, the usual Camillus Valley location, Morrisville and Peterboro Swamps, Sherrill, Highland Forest, and White Lakes — in fact, a singing male was delightfully present this season on a tangled slope in almost any local woods, and they were thought by several observers to be unusually common; the high count was 22, Jun 24 THP. Yellowthroats were ubiquitously common as usual, with the high 50 on Jun 24 THP, showing this area to be preferred locale for this numerous bird as well as for the less common northern breeding warblers.

Yellow-breasted Chat, present at Camillus since 1956, has apparently spread this year to new locations (though this observation may be partly artifact — the effect of more thorough searching for them by birdwatchers): in 1961 there were **five** Camillus stations (two nests found — Peakall and Spofford) and one each (singing males) at Marcellus (Spofford), Nedrow (fide Burt), and Plainville (Evans). Hooded Warbler: present at two locations at SSSP, in the western section of Camillus Valley, and at two sites near Martisco above Nine Mile Creek, one of which was also occupied in 1960.

Canada Warbler and Redstart were present in the usual numbers; a quantitative picture of their commonness in various parts of the Region can be given by citing several high counts: 45 and 30 respectively Jun 3, THP; 22 and 46 Jun 4, SP (may include some migrants); 16 and 25 on Jun 10, Camillus Valley; 28 and 24 on Jun 24, THP.

Migrant warblers — Last spring migrants in Jun: Tennessee Jun 4, Syracuse; Backpoll Jun 10, Camillus. First fall arrivals: Golden-winged Aug 14 SSSP. This species is seen annually in early Aug there but they have not been found in Jul. Are they local breeders?; Bay-breasted Aug 14, four, SSSP.

**Backbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: considered "common" at HIGMA (Bauer), north of Rome (Aspinawall) and near Boonville (Rusk) with 60 in about 10 miles at this last location Jun 18. The Western Meadowlark found by Scheider near Phoenix was still present there thru Jun, but no definite evidence of breeding was obtained. An Orchard Oriole was seen at HIGMA Jun 5 (Orcutt). At one home-garden bird sanctuary Cowbirds were noted to have parasitized Wood Pewee, Yellow Warbler, and Song Sparrow (Felle).

Cardinal: now a common bird around Syracuse and in most parts of the Region, it definitely bred at SSSP this year — immature present (Evans) where breeding last year was suspected; the pair at Sherrill raised young for the second successive year, and a pair at Rome raised one young; a Cardinal was noted Aug 9 on the SP

dunes where it has been seen from time to time in the past year. Indigo Buntings were noted to be exceptionally common around Syracuse, with up to 20 noted in Oakwood Cemetery in early Jun, and 40 in the Otisco Lake vicinity Jun 10. Evening Grosbeaks were noted Jun 25 near Trenton, Herkimer County, feeding in cut grass along the roadside (Farnham) this is interesting as the location is not within the known Adirondack breeding range. Purple Finch: a male feeding an immature on the Forestry College campus, Syracuse, definitely established breeding (Rusk); these birds can probably be found breeding at a number of other locations not northern nor high, if there are spruce plantations as at the above site: they were noted during the period in numbers from one-ten at SSSP, Rome, Sherrill, Redfield, Labrador Pond, Morrisville, Boonville, and Highland Forest, with a THP high count of 36 on Jun 24. Pine Siskins, so numerous pan-regionally in late winter and spring 1961, were noted during the present period only in THP: four on Jun 3 and ten Jun 24. The last spring date for Red Crossbill, the other northern finch which appeared in flight numbers in the Region in early 1961, was Jun 9, one, Oakwood Cemetery (Rusk); no summering birds were noted in the Region this year.

Grasshopper and especially Henslow's Sparrows seemed quite widespread and in good numbers (though this is partly due to diligent listening for them in likely locations) — with eight and seven respectively noted in a few acres of dry weedy fields near Phoenix Jun 23 (Propst); both species were also present at TRGMA thru the summer, with an immature Grasshopper noted there Aug 12 (Rusk). Grasshopper Sparrow was also reported from near Skaneateles (Seaman) and Henslow's from Oneida (Rusk).

An immature Junco and an immature White-throated Sparrow were both seen at SSSP on Aug 12 (Rusk); these are probably locally reared birds. But a White-throated on the SP dunes Aug 13 is probably an early migrant. A White-throated present in Solvay in early Aug (McChesney) is hard to place. Noteworthy is that White-throateds (one-two/trip) were heard singing for the second successive year in the white cedar swamps at White Lakes, a low area four miles from Syracuse (Rusk). A few comparisons of Junco and White-throated numbers in summering areas are interesting: both occur widely in THP but on average seven-eight times as many White-throateds as Juncos are heard, due to the predominance of brushy over mature woods; a similar ratio was found at Morrisville Swamp, a boggy swamp with yew hummocks, the swamp bordered by mixed woods on steep slopes; at Highland Forest (high, with conifer plantations of various ages, grassy fields, and some wooded ravines) the ratio was reversed; finally at the Rome Sand Plains, mostly flat pitch pine-white oak woods with dried-up bog areas and a deep hemlock-bordered ravine, about 20 White-throated/day are tallied but no Juncos were noted on four trips this summer. It will be worthwhile to make further comparative counts in these areas to try to discover what is the critical factor in each case.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE FRANK A. CLINCH

June and the first half of July averaged somewhat cooler and wetter than normal. The last part of the period was warmer and drier than the earlier portion.

Reports indicate that the place visited most often by persons who wished to see birds was El Dorado. This is on the shores of Lake Ontario and is in the southern part of this region. El Dorado was visited by several persons on many days, especially during the first two weeks of August.

We were very pleased to receive one report from Rochester and others from Syracuse of observations made at El Dorado. We hope to receive more information from Region 5 observers and to be of help to the new regional editors there.

**Loons — Ducks:** Loons and Great Blue Herons began to appear at Lake St. Lawrence about the middle of June. No egrets of any kind were seen. Black-crowned Night Herons, both adults and immature, were at Perch Lake Game Management Area the last half of July, but it is not known that they nested there. There were Mallards and Black Ducks at several places, including Perch Lake and El Dorado. Six Green-winged Teal and 20 to 50 Blue-winged Teal were at El Dorado early in August.

**Hawks — Owls:** One Osprey nest was located in St. Lawrence County and another near the eastern edge of Lewis County, or perhaps in Herkimer County. One of these birds was shot. Wild Turkeys have been released in this region. One place

is on Wellesley Island where they can be seen at the State Park. These birds were reared in captivity and are anything but wild. However, it is said that the next generation will be wild.

The following birds were seen at El Dorado, except where another place is given: Semipalmated Plover (Jul 26 to Aug 13), high count 75; Black-bellied Plover (Aug 5 to 13), high 3; Ruddy Turnstone (Jul 25 to Aug 13), high 25, Aug 12-13; Common Snipe, one, Aug 12; Spotted Sandpiper (Jul 19 to Aug 13), high 150, Aug 8; Greater Yellowlegs (Jul 19 to Aug 10), high 50, Aug 10; Lesser Yellowlegs (Jul 26 to Aug 13), high 80, Aug 12; Pectoral Sandpiper (Jul 25 to Aug 13), high 80, Aug 8; White-rumped Sandpiper, one, Aug 13; Baird's Sandpiper, one, Aug 8; Least Sandpiper, high 300, Aug 8; Dunlin (Jul 26 to Aug 9); Short-billed Dowitcher (Jul 29 to Aug 8), high 2; Stilt Sandpiper (Jul 26 to Aug 13), high 4 on Jul 29; Semipalmated Sandpiper (Jul 25 to Aug 13), high 700 on Aug 10; Sanderling (Jul 19 to Aug 13), high 200, Aug 8; Wilson's Phalarope Aug 10 (Gordon, Listman) and Aug 12 (Rusk); Northern Phalarope Aug 10 (Starling, who gave detailed description). Miss Elitharp reported what may have been a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on Jul 25. Upland Plovers nested in suitable habitats in Jefferson and Lewis Counties.

Among other El Dorado birds were Bonaparte's Gull, 80 on Aug 13; Forster's Tern, one on Aug 10; Caspian Tern, Jul 25 to Aug 13; and Black Tern, six on Aug 13. There were large breeding colonies of Black Terns at the Wilson Hill and Perch Lake Game Management areas.

Allen and Belknap estimated the number of shorebirds at El Dorado on Aug 9 to be about 2,500 and so the totals for some species must have been greater than the figures given above. By the middle of August the mudflats along the shore had become dry in many places and there were not so many birds.

A few Black-billed Cuckoos were seen near Watertown. We saw four dead on the road which is more than we saw alive. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported in Watertown and at El Dorado, both in August.

**Goatsuckers — Sparrows:** Allen found several Whip-poor-wills near Edwards, St. Lawrence County. There were several Red-headed Woodpeckers, probably about the same as last year. Two birds nested near the Perch Lake Game Management Area, and one pair was seen feeding two immatures out of the hole on Jul 18. Traill's Flycatchers seemed common at breeding areas on Page Road, Tug Hill, on Aug 3. Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen at regular breeding stations near Michigan Mills, Tug Hill, Jul 12 and Aug 3 and 6.

Gordon and Mayhood found Short-billed Marsh Wrens near Beaver Meadows, south of Watertown, Jul 30 and believe they breed there. Gordon saw a Mockingbird near Watertown Jun 26. Local residents had seen one there several times. There were very few Bluebirds. Some were found feeding young in northern Lewis County. Several, perhaps a family group, were seen near Rices, south of Watertown on Jul 30. Mourning Warblers, seen Jul 12, again nested near Michigan Mills, Tug Hill. The only report of Cardinals came from near Henderson Harbor. Allen found a male and a female Evening Grosbeak near Wanakena Jul 12. Mayhood and Gordon saw Henslow's Sparrows near Watertown July 30. Swamp Sparrows appeared in regular breeding habitat, Page Road, Tug Hill, Aug 3.

Allen spent Jul 3 and 4 near Edwards and found the following birds in that area apparently nesting again this year: Crested Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. White-throated Sparrows and perhaps Juncos also breed in the Tug Hill section.

173 Haley Street, Watertown

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

Summer started late if warmth is used as the criterion. Nesting started as usual, but many birds were forced to brood almost continuously due to the prolonged rainy spell. Because of the late warming, insect life was in short supply and competition was keen. Lake Champlain maintained good levels for the first time in many years. Local duck populations were good, but scattered due to the availability of nesting sites with the increased rainfall.

I continue to receive, and I am very grateful for, notes sent by birders visiting during the summer months. I have some at hand from Mr. Alfred J. Malley, but I regret I cannot use his notes since areas are not mentioned nor dates given.

The Adirondack Bird Club is off the ground and headed, I am sure, for higher goals and ideals. At our organizational meeting at the Sunmount Veterans Hospital in July the following officers were elected: Dr. M. Kingsbury, Pres.; Mrs. J. Delehanty, Vice President; Miss Agnes Amstutz, Secretary-Treasurer. Fifteen members were present. Another meeting was held at Chatagquey Lake at the Bruce McGregor camp in August. At this meeting it was stated that 25 interested birders had requested membership. A final meeting for this year is a field trip scheduled to start from Keeseville on September 24 to cover the AuSable and Wickams Marsh area.

It is hoped that in the future we obtain that greater regional coverage that the area so greatly deserves. An increased club membership will make this possible.

**Loons — Ducks:** Several Horned Grebes were seen at Point Au Fer and Rouses Point Aug 13-15 (Lesperance). Amstutz reported fewer Loons in the Tupper Lake area and reported shooting of this species on Little Tupper Lake.

She noted two at Bridgebrook Bay off Tupper Lake and five at Horseshoe Pond in migration Aug 10. Keji did not report Loons or Grebes at Raybrook. Loons were reported on Aug 9 at Duck Pond (Delafield). A Green Heron nest was found with the female incubating eggs on Jun 7 at Tupper Lake (Delehanty).

Canada Geese were unreported throughout the area. Downy young Black Ducks were noted at Saranac Lake on Jun 1 (Delafield), and Mallards and Blacks were at AuSable Point and Rouses Point on Aug 15 (Lesperance). Two Blue-winged Teal were at Tupper Lake on Jun 1 (Delehanty). An adult male Ring-necked Duck was at Green Pond on Jun 9 (Delafield). Several ducks nested at Osetah Lake, with the following being reported there by Hart: Green-winged Teal, 2 broods; Wood Duck, 3 broods; and Ring-necked Duck, 19 broods. Several broods of Blue-winged Teal were noted at AuSable Point from late July until the end of the period, and several birds were seen at Stillwater on Aug 10.

**Hawks — Owls:** Two Bald Eagles were "seen about every two weeks" at the Follensby section, but a previously reported nest "has not been used for two years (Amstutz)." Another Eagle was seen at Raquette Pond, frequently in the evening hours (Amstutz). Broad-winged Hawks were noted in several areas throughout the period, and at Saranac Lake Marsh Hawks were first observed coming through on Aug 14 (Delafield). Red-tailed Hawks and Sparrow Hawks were common in the Keeseville area (Lesperance).

One Black Rail was seen at AuSable Point on Jun 11 (Lesperance), and the Common Snipe was reported at Tupper Lake on Jun 1 (Delehanty). Herring Gulls were common at Tupper Lake and at ponds in the same general area (Delehanty). At least two pairs of Herring Gulls were on the Lower Saranac, with one pair known to have brought up young (Delafield). Ring-billed Gulls were very common in the Lake Champlain basin, and several small flocks of Common Terns were noted in the same area (Lesperance).

Cuckoos were quite common in the Keeseville area (Lesperance), but they were unreported elsewhere. A Screech Owl was heard early on the morning of Aug 13 at Saranac Lake (Delafield).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawks were common in the Keeseville area (Lesperance). At Saranac Lake a bird was observed on its roof-top "nest" on Jul 28, and young were noted on Aug 14 (Delafield). Whipoorwills were reported as nesting commonly at Tupper Lake (Amstutz). All woodpeckers were reported in normal numbers.

Several observers reported that all the expected flycatchers were common to numerous in their respective areas. All swallows except the Cliff were found at Keeseville (Lesperance), but there were good numbers of the latter, including a flock of 75 on Aug 12, at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Rough-winged Swallows were missing at the latter locality. Both species of nuthatch were reported normal at Saranac Lake (Delafield).

House Wrens were reported as numerous in the Sunmount V.A. grounds and approaches to Tupper Lake village (Amstutz). Winter Wrens were reported as normal (Amstutz). A pair of Bluebirds was seen on Jun 1, but not subsequently, at Tupper Lake (Delehanty). Three pairs of Bluebirds nested at Keeseville (Lesperance), and four birds, including two immatures, were noted along the Northville Trail Road (Delafield). Hermit Thrushes seemed to be present in normal numbers at Saranac Lake (Delafield). Veeries were quite generally common. Ruby-crowned Kinglets nested around Floodwood (Delafield).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary Vireos were reported as less plentiful this year in the Saranac Lake area (Delafield). At Raybrook young Solitary Vireos were molested and killed by Blue Jays (Keji). Red eyed Vireos were generally common. Keeseville area a pair of Red-eyed Vireos nested. In the lower branch of a box alder over a driveway, but the nesting was unsuccessful due to parasitism by Cowbirds. In a late migrant wave on Jun 8 at Saranac Lake a Philadelphia Vireo was carefully indentified by Delafield and Mrs. R. Cooper of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds.

Warbler reports by Delehanty at Tupper Lake on Jun 1 and 4 included Blackpoll, Black and White, Redstart, Yellowthroat, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Yellow. Amstutz reported the following nesting species from the same general area: Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Canada, Ovenbird, Yellowthroat, Myrtle, Wilson's, Blackburnian, Parula, Mourning and Redstart. Delafield reported the following at or near Saranac Lake: Black and White, Nashville, Parula, Yellow (nested Denny Park), Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, Canada, and Redstart.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks were found nesting on Mt. Pisgah on Jun 15, and ten immatures were seen at Norman's Ridge on Aug 6 (Delafield). Bobolinks were also reported from Tupper Lake on Jun 7 (Delehanty). Redwings were numerous along the Saranac River through July, and numbers of Grackles in the same general area appeared to be growing (Delafield). Scarlet Tanagers also appeared to be in good numbers there. At Keeseville Baltimore Orioles were common as nesters, but Amstutz reported them as infrequent nesters in Tupper Lake and Sabattis Road.

At Saranac Lake Evening Grosbeaks were present throughout the summer, and there were many feeder reports in numbers from two to ten or more (Delafield). The same situation was reported at Tupper Lake, where young Evening Grosbeaks were seen at feeders (Amstutz). A few nesting pairs of Pine Siskins were noted at Saranac Lake, and Purple Finches were in normal numbers there (Delafield). These Two species were reported from Tupper Lake on Jun 8 (Delehanty).

Several small groups of White-crowned Sparrows were seen, and others were noted singly. The usual sparrows were present in their normal good numbers.

Keeseville

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

The summer up until Aug 15 was primarily in name only. Temperature-wise it was close to normal. This would have been fine but July, when most vacations start, was a whopping 1½ inches above normal rainfall, at 4.78 inches. This, as a result, spoiled many outdoor activities, including birding. August was quite dry, in contrast, and slightly cooler. All in all it was far from a pleasant summer. There were no outstanding observations made during the period.

**Loons — Owls:** Two Pied-billed Grebes were observed at Niskayuna Widewaters on Aug 1 (Eddy, Hallenbeck) for the only report of this species. Great Blue Herons were seen: one Jul 15 (Clark, Hallenbeck), four on Aug 6 and two Aug. 13 (Hallenbeck) all at Vischer Ferry. No Common Egrets were noted during the period of this report. Two American Bitterns were seen at Vischer Ferry on Aug 6 (Hallenbeck). Mallards and Black Ducks were widely reported. Green-winged Teal were reported on Jun 19 at Canaan (Pool) and on Jul 14 (3) also at Canaan (Gokay). Reporters did not say if they thought this species might have nested. On Jul 8, one adult and 10 immature Blue-winged Teal were seen at the Black Creek Marshes (Clark, Hallenbeck). Wood Ducks were also widely reported, many with birds of the year. The only Hooded Merganser report was of one seen on Jun 13 at Canaan (Gokay). The only Turkey Vultures reported was of a group of seven seen on Jul 27 at Old Chatham in a field feeding on dead woodchucks (Alan Devoe Bird Club record). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed Aug 12 near Westerlo (Kent) and a couple of Cooper's Hawks in Columbia County during August (ADBC records). Red-tailed Hawks apparently nested near Westerlo (Kent). Broad-winged Hawks were seen on Jun 17 (2) at Canaan (ADBC record), Jul 4 (2) again at Canaan (Gokay) and Jul 14 (1) at Ghent (Erlenbach). The only Marsh Hawk report comes from near Pottersville on Aug 4 (Kent). An Osprey was observed Jul 31 also near Pottersville (Kent). A Duck Hawk was seen on Jul 22 at the Black Creek Marshes (Hallenbeck). Could this species have nested on the Helderberg escarpment nearby? It did years ago. As

many as six Virginia Ralis and four Common Gallinules were reported from the Black Creek Marshes during the period (Hallenbeck) while a single bird of the former species was seen on June 12 at Chatham Center (Shineman). Killdeer, Woodcock, Common Snipe and Spotted Sandpipers were widely reported. Two Upland Plovers at Germantown first half of July were suspected of having nested (Miller). A Least Sandpiper was seen on July 31 near Pottersville, on the Schroon River (Kent). This probably was a southbound migrant. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were both reported. Mourning Doves and both species of cuckoos were commonly reported as being quite numerous. The Screech and Great Horned Owls were the only species in this group that were reported. Both of these species, of course, are permanent residents.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whippoorwills were present to at least August 10 near Pottersville where it is a summer resident (Kent). Nighthawks were seen migrating July 23 when 15 were noted at Pottersville (Kent). Chimney Swifts and Hummingbirds were still present at the close of the period. A Red-headed Woodpecker spent the month of June at Chatham Center (Knoll). Kingbirds, Crested Flycatchers, and Wood Pewees were widely reported. The last Traill's Flycatcher reported was on August 13 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenbeck). Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported as nesting near Pilot Knob on Lake George in July (Holmes) No Least Flycatchers were reported after July 6 at Wolf Hollow (Hallenbeck). All swallows except Rough-winged which were not reported were still present on August 15. Tufted Titmouse reports were wholly from Columbia County. Two were present all the month of June at West Ghent, but noted only once in July in the same area on the 14th (Erlenbach). In August two birds were present to the 15th at Hudson (Thompson). Red-breasted Nuthatches again nested at Chatham (Reilly), near Pottersville (Kent), and at Warrensburg (Hallenbeck). A Brown Creeper on July 17 near Pottersville is probably a summer resident (Kent). No Carolina Wrens were reported. The uncommon Short-billed Marsh Wren was noted on July 22 at the Black Creek Marshes (Clark, Hallenbeck) for the only report. Mockingbirds are scarer this year. One during the first week of July at Castleton (Cook) was the only one reported. Bluebirds are reported a little bit more often. Several broods were raised near Westerlo this summer (Kent). The nomadic Cedar Waxwing was seen in several areas throughout the latter half of the period.

**Vireos — Sparrows:** No unusual vireos reported. All resident species were still with us at the close of the period. The Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers were again present in Columbia County. Among the hybrids, however, only the Lawrence's Warbler was reported. Singles were reported throughout June from Nassau (Shineman) and West Ghent (Erlenbach). A Nashville Warbler at Chatham on June 20 (Reilly) may have been a summer resident. One on August 12 at Black Creek Marshes (Hallenbeck) was most certainly a fall migrant. Worm-eating and Black-throated Blue Warblers nested at Indian Ladder in the Helderbergs (Waite) as did both Blackburnian Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush at Red Rock and Chatham (Smilow, Radke). Blackpoll Warblers, on their way north, lingered to June 17 in several places in Columbia County (Radke, et al). A Pine Warbler at Red Rock on August 10 was most certainly a southbound migrant (Smilow). Yellow-breasted Chats were reported as follows: 1 - June 24 at Chatham (Reilly), 1 - July 22 at Black Creek Marshes (Clark, Hallenbeck), and 1 August 8 and 15 at Old Chatham (Barten). There were no real warbler waves of southbound migrants prior to August 15. Last reported Bobolinks were on August 5 at Black Creek Marshes (Hallenbeck). Large flocks of blackbirds of all species were beginning to build up at the close of the period. Orchard Orioles were reported from just one area Castleton, this summer. From July 1 to 14 a first year male was seen and heard (Cook); on July 26, three olive-green plumaged birds (probably a female and two immatures) were observed (Cook, Radke), and on August 7 an immature plumaged male bird was seen (Cook). Cardinals appear to be pretty well established in the Region below the Mohawk River. There have been a few reports also in southern Saratoga County and northern Rensselaer County. An erratic Pine Siskin was seen at Canaan on August 2 (Gokay). Henslow's Sparrows were observed up to August 5 at the Black Creek Marshes (Hallenbeck). Junco was a summer resident again at Indian Ladder, Thacher Park (Sabin).

**Addendum:** Editor's note — the following additional summer records were received from Mr. Sabin just at press time: Common Egret and Least Bittern at Vischer Ferry on August 6; Iceland Gull and Bonaparte's Gull just north of Albany on June 21. — 652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Weather for the period was close to normal and quite like last summer in that showers helped to hold down any severe draught. Again, summer birding activity was at low ebb, but from the appearances gathered it was near normal season for our nesting species. Bluebirds still continued on the scarce side, and such birds as the Starling and Grackle were in many instances a downright nuisance with their immense numbers. The greatest concentration of these birds seems to follow the lowland and river-bottom areas. This, of course, makes the Hudson Valley ideal.

**Loons — Ducks:** Mr. and Mrs. John Dye found a Pied-billed Grebe with six young on Jul 8 in an area of Orange Co. known as the Cornwall Bay Marsh. The species nests sparingly in the region and is an interesting bird to study. Least Bitterns were found at the Tri-Loba Hill Sanctuary, Katanah, Westchester Co., on Jul 21 (Mr. and Mrs. Hersh Rogosin; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Grierson). Another record came from Dutchess Co. where E. Pink and E. Skidmore saw one at Thompson Pond on Jul 26. To find nests requires a bit of stamina and care.

The Canada Goose was reported nesting in the Bear Mt. area of Orange Co. (Ed. Treacy fide Dye), and it was also seen on the Rondout Res. in Ulster Co. during July (C. Young, W. Claire).

**Hawks — Owls:** Hawks seemed to be about in their usual summer numbers. Wandering Caspian Terns were seen in the region during June. One was seen at Crugar's Island, Dutchess Co., on Jun 18 (Br. Michael), and another was over the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster Co. on Jun 30 (Al Feldman).

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo showed a good population in Ulster County this year, and we suspect it may have been the same in other areas too. There were no reports on the Barn Owl from this region.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-wills were heard throughout the summer near Kripplebush, Ulster County (F. Hough). Members of the Edgar Mearns Bird Club of Orange Co. feel there is an increase in the number of nesting Red-headed Woodpeckers in this area. Ned Kurtz found the species nesting also near New Paltz, Ulster County. Harned Larks were found nesting on the grounds of two IBM plants in the region, one at Kirgston in Ulster Co. (Jeanette Dunn, H. Dunbar) and one at Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County (W. Claire). Henry Dunbar wonders whether IBM supplies nesting Harned Larks at all its plants.

A pair of Cliff Swallows nested again at Bull's Mill, Orange Co., (Martha Earl), and the colonies at the Ashokan Reservoir were apparently successful (Al Feldman). Purple Martins have occupied about six houses erected along the Hudson River area in Dutchess Co. (Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen along parts of the Shawangunk range in Ulster Co. during various times in the nesting season, which makes us suspect they are occasionally nesting here (F. Hough, D. Smiley). No one reported any abundance of Bluebirds. One pair showed up at Mahank Lake, Ulster Co., briefly during early summer, and Dan Smiley states that this was the first time he had seen Bluebirds in the vicinity of the Mountain House. He speculates that the species might be gradually adapting to remoter areas for nesting.

**Vireos — Warblers:** A White-eyed Vireo was seen by Stanley Grierson near Armonk, Westchester County, on Jun 7.

Little is ever reported on the nesting population of Yellow-throated Vireos in this Valley. We wonder just how much change might be occurring in its status.

Most of the warblers were about in their usual numbers. A Kentucky Warbler was found near Pomona, Westchester County, during early June (H. Kelsey), but no evidence of nesting was found. In a study of the birds of the Catskills the Yellow-throat's nesting territory was again found to range high on the slopes of some of the mountains checked (Hough, Smiley).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** The House Sparrow continued in its predation on Japanese beetles.

The most unusual report of the season was that of Mr. and Mrs. Jamie King made through Robert Deed. They reported about 40 Evening Grosbeaks in the yard

of their home in Valley Cottage, Rockland County, on Aug 15! They submitted a feather as evidence, and we certainly hope that others were lucky enough to see these birds somewhere. Another unexpected find was made by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Smiley at Mohonk Lake, Ulster County, where they saw a small flock of Red Cross-bills on Jun 13; the birds appeared to be eating aphids concentrated in curled leaves of an elm tree. Martha Earl again found the Purple Finch nesting near Newburgh, Orange County. They were also found in certain lowland areas of Ulster County, obviously attracted to planted spruce.

Man and Nature are constantly changing the face of the land, and because the Henslow's Sparrow has rather restricted nesting site requirements the bird is seldom static for long. The grassy, weedy, bush-studded field is the favorite habitat, but these are not overly common in our region. Apparently one or two or more such places have returned into being in Rockland County for two Henslow's reports came from that area. One bird was found near Stony Point during July (H. Kelsey) and another with young near Blachard Road in northern Rockland Co. during the same period (Ed. Treacy, P. Jeheber, Margaret and John Dye).

**Corrigendum:** The Western Grebe reported in the previous summary and mentioned in James Meritt's covering summary was in error; the bird was a Red-necked Grebe.

Accord 1

## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Again, similar to last year, *Panicum virgatum* (switch grass), *Agrostis*, and *Digitaria sanguinalis* (crab grass) grew abundantly during June and July, which were hot and humid with plentiful rainfall. This speaks for a good seed supply for wintering sparrows and other ground-feeding birds. There were no southerly storms of importance to drive stragglers up the coast and no strong northeastern winds to flood the salt marshes or affect the colonizing terns and skimmers in their sandy, hollowed nests on the beaches. The weather was also favorable to nesting ducks, with well-maintained water levels causing prolific broods both at Jamaica Bay and Jones Sanctuary pond. A lack of prolonged damp periods proved favorable to Tree and Barn Swallow populations, and young Purple Martins were a-wing in early August in fair abundance. A tremendous crop of web-worms hatched in June, almost devastating our Long Island oak woods and leaving many trees almost as devoid of foliage as in winter. With plentiful food provided, aphids, leaf hoppers, etc., in the middle of nesting, land and song birds had a good season and cuckoos were fairly plentiful.

With the spread of herons and egrets northward in recent years, Long Island's nesting colonies are mostly reported from the western end. A newcomer, the Glossy Ibis, bred this summer at Jamaica Bay. There were also first breeding records for American Widgeon and Redhead, although presumably the latter are from young brought to the sanctuary last summer (see **Kingbird**, Vol. 10, No. 4, p. 169).

More encouraging reports came from nesting warblers on eastern Long Island, but records of Carolina Wrens are scarce since the severe snows of last winter. There have been a few records of imported Cardinals from several locations on central and eastern Long Island (Puleston); undoubtedly these were captive birds which had been released. Early fall migration to August 15 was in the doldrums with extremely hot weather and practically no north winds to bring down the few migrants usually appearing around that time. Therefore, only one record of Olive-sided Flycatcher and several of Northern Waterthrush came in before the end of the period.

**Loons — Ducks:** One or two Common Loons summered. A Horned Grebe was seen at Great Meadow Island, Jones Beach, Jul 11 (Levine) and from Jul 23 to Aug 13 (Buckley); another was seen at Gilgo Jun 21 (Buckley, Gill, Futuyama) and a Gannet same place and date. Pied-billed Grebes brought off two broods at Jamaica Bay, with the first young being seen Jun 4 (Post, Norse, and Heath). There were very few records of shearwaters except for one Sooty off Mecox on Jun 24 (R. Wilcox). Five Wilson's Petrels were seen off Gilgo on Jun 21 (Buckley, Gill, Futuyama). The last spring record of Double-crested Cormorant was three May 30 at Shinnecock; two at Moriches on Aug 12 was the first fall record (G. Raynor).

Both egrets were rather scarce on eastern Long Island. In the Jones Beach colony, south of the sanctuary pond, there were 40-50 Common and 100 Snowy Egrets, 20-25 Black-crowned Night Herons, and about five pairs of Green Herons in early June; among white herons, young ranged from one-fourth grown to practically full-grown, the latter hopping from branch to branch with partial use of wings (Elliott). At Lawrence marsh there were eight pairs of Common Egrets, four pairs of Snowy Egrets, 40 pairs of Black-crowns, ten pairs of Yellow-crowns, and eight pairs of Green Herons (Levine, Post). A Glossy Ibis nest containing three eggs was found at Canarsie on Jun 25 (Post); this constitutes the first New York State breeding record. Another nest with four eggs was discovered on Jul 1 (Post, Buckley, Heath, Horowitz, and Schaffer). On Jun 29 a nest with three eggs was found at the east pond, Jamaica Bay Sanctuary (Johnson). Besides the Ibis at Canarsie there were six pairs of Common Egrets, 25 pairs of Snowy Egrets, one pair of Little Blue Herons, 35 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons, one pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons, and a Least Bittern (Post). A Little Blue Heron was at Freeport Aug 5 (Elliott, Ward, Wheat). Four Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen at Jones Beach Aug 4 (Alperin), and a maximum Snowy Egret count for eastern Long Island was 30 on Aug 12 at Moriches Inlet (P. Connor).

There were six Snow Geese at Spring Creek, Jamaica Bay, Aug 12 (Buckley), and on Jun 4, 500 Brant were seen flying over the surf at Mecox (Raynor). Eight broods of Gadwell were reported from Jones Beach totaling about 50, with about a dozen adults seen; they were found on the sanctuary pond.

A female American Widgeon and six young were seen at Jamaica Bay on Aug 6, and two broods were noted later, a first for the New York City area (Buckley, Horowitz, Norse, and Phelan) (Ed — see **Kingbird**, Vol. 10, No., 3 p. 94 for an account of other Widgeon breeding records in New York State. As Sally Hoyt notes, American Widgeon also bred at Montezuma this summer). A Blue-winged Teal was seen Jun 4 (Raynor), and there were four at Jamaica Bay Aug 15 (Ward). Two Wood Ducks were at Manorville on Jun 12 (Raynor) and three at Jamaica Bay on Jul 9 (Norse, Post). A Redhead and four young and a Green-winged Teal with young were found in mid-summer by Caretaker Johnson and Wm. Norse. Shovelers did not breed this year. A female King Eider was seen at the sanctuary east pond, Jamaica Bay, on Jul 6 and photographed (Buckley); there were three at Great Gull Island (eastern Long Island) on Jul 31 (Post, Kallman, Eisenmann). Twenty-six White-winged Scoters were seen by Peter Post on Block Island Sound on Jul 16. There were several broods of Ruddy Ducks at Jamaica Bay this summer.

**Hawks — Owls:** Single Red-tailed Hawks were at Manorville Jul 2 to Aug 13 (Raynor), and there were also singles at Neapeague and Flanders during June and July (Connors). A Broad-winged Hawk probably nested around Hampton Bays; it was seen carrying food in June and July. Raynor reports Broad-winged Hawks very scarce for the past six years. One was at West Hills in mid-July (Elliott). A Pigeon Hawk was at Jamaica Bay Aug 13 (Buckley).

There was a single Virginia Rail at Manorville from Jun 14 to 17. American Coot nested at Jamaica Bay, and Common Gallinules had four or five broods of young in the same marsh with Least Bittern.

Three Oystercatchers were seen and a pair nested at Moriches; one young about a week old was found dead on Jun 23, and another was banded on Jun 29. The latter was flying by Jul 11. This believed to be the first successful nesting record (i.e. in that at least one young successfully left the nest) for Long Island (Wilcox). There were three or four records of Oystercatchers on eastern Long Island. A 14-year old Piping Plover was caught Jun 5 at Shinnecock, perhaps "the oldest shorebird in North America" (Wilcox). There were several other reports of Piping Plover colonies. Golden Plover: Great Meadow Island, Aug 5, one (Levine, Hirschbein). There were several reports of Upland Plover, Aug 9 to 13. Whimbrel: Meadow Island, Aug 5, four (Elliott, Ward, Wheat); five were at Shinnecock Jul 17 (Connor). First Stilt Sandpiper: Jul 16 at Jamaica Bay (Norse). Willet: Jun 4, one at Mecox (Raynor); Jun 11, Jones Beach, one (Norse, Post). Ruff: Jamaica Bay, Aug 12, one (Norse, Post). Knot: 500 at Moriches Aug 12 (Connor). Dowitcher: 400 at Jamaica Bay on Jul 4 (Norse). Purple Sandpiper: one at Short Beach, Jul 4, for an extremely late date (Post, Buckley, Eisenmann, and Ward). Marbled Godwit: Moriches, Jul 15, one (Dignan). Hudsonian Godwit: Jamaica Bay, Aug 19, one (Ward); Moriches Inlet, Aug 12, six (Puleston, Raynor). Wilson's Phalarope: four on Aug 12 at Moriches Inlet (Puleston, Raynor).

Gull, tern, and skimmer colonies: Moriches Inlet, two colonies; first colony — 10,000 Common Terns, 50 Roseate Terns, and 200 Black Skimmers; second colony — 400 Common Terns, 40 Least Terns, and one pair of Skimmers. Cedar Beach: 3,000 Common Terns, 60 Roseate Terns, and 10 Black Skimmers. Meadow Island, Jones Beach: 750 Common Terns, 75 Skimmers. Captree State Park: 300 Common Terns, 1,000 Herring Gulls, six Great Black-backed Gulls, and 20 Black Skimmers. Gull Island (east of Orient Point): 1,500 Common Terns, 300 Roseate Terns (increase of Roseate from 200 last year). Shinnecock Bay, two colonies: 500 Herring Gulls and two Great Black-backed Gulls in one, in the other 700 Herring and six Great Black-backed Gulls. Gardiner's and Cartwright Islands: tremendous numbers of nesting gulls depleting the Ospreys in this, the largest Osprey colony in the world (Wilcox). Two Caspian Terns were at Mecox Jun 3.

Both cuckoos were reported normally present at Manorville and eastern districts this summer (Raynor). Screech Owl: reportedly scarce, one Jul 27 and two Aug 7 at Manorville (Raynor). Great Horned Owl: Flanders, Aug 5 and 11 (Connor, Miller); one at Speonk on Jul 2, trapped and banded (Wilcox).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawks nested in upper Manhattan, two pairs on roof-tops (Norse, Post). Hairy Woodpecker: Oyster Bay, Jun 23, two (Elliott, Ward). Troill's Flycatcher: Northport, Jun 3, one (Elliott, Mudge, Ward); Port Washington, one, Jun 9, 16 (Mrs. A. Dove); absent this year at East Moriches where nesting previously; Westchester County Airport, one, Jun 18 (Post, Phelan, Norse, and Heath); ten reported at Jones Beach to Jun 17 (Post). Acadian Flycatcher: Riis Park, singing bird (Post, Norse, Heath). Least Flycatcher: Oyster Bay, Jun 23, two (Elliott, Ward). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Northport, Jun 3, latest (Elliott, Mudge, Ward); first southern migrant reported, Massapequa, Aug 12, 13, one (Elliott). A Prairie Horned Lark's nest was found at Short Beach on Jul 2, N/one egg, two young (Post).

Rough-winged Swallow: Lawrence Morsh, Jul 20, one (Buckley). Migrating Tree Swallows drifted through from the first week of August on. There was a good breeding population of Purple Martins in Manorville, with the last one leaving the Mortin house on Aug 2 (Raynor). Fifty flocking Blue Jays at Montauk on Jun 6 were unusual (Connor), as were two Red-breasted Nuthatches near Flanders and one near Moriches Inlet (eating ophids in phragmites in July) (Connor, Miller). Wilcox found a Catbird's nest with two eggs on Aug 5 (late). Hermit Thrush: five singing near Flanders in June and July (Miller). Veery: Mill Neck, Jun 24, one singing (Elliott, Ward). There were seven Cedar Waxwings at Manorville Jun 3 (Raynor).

**Vireos — Warblers:** The White-eyed Vireo was at Calverton Jun 3 (Raynor); fairly common westward. Yellow-throated Vireos were singing at Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor. A pair of Warbling Vireos nested at Huntington (Raynor). A singing male Prothonotary Warbler was near Manorville on Jun 10 and 11. (P. Gillen, Lyman Langdon Aud. Soc., W. Terry, G. Raynor, R. Wilcox). There was a late Blackpoll in upper Manhattan Jun 13 (Post). Parula Warbler: singing mole, Hither Hills, Jun 28-30; Flanders, Jul 17 (Connor, Miller). Hooded Warbler: Inwood, Jul 25 (Norse). There were five or six pairs of Yellow-breasted Chats at Northport Jun 3 (Elliott, Mudge, Word); two at Jones Beach Jun 17 (Post). Louisiana Waterthrush: Port Washington, Jul 18, one (Dove). First Northern Waterthrush: Jones Beach, Aug 4 (I. Alperin); four records later to Aug 15.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Orchard Oriole: Brookhaven, Jul 31, young not long out of nest (Puleston). Good numbers of Baltimore Orioles and Scarlet Tanagers nested, but no Bobolink reports. Several House Finches were seen at Center Moriches and East Moriches Jun 25 (Wilcox). Large broods of Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen at south Freeport, Brookhaven, and Moriches (Elliott, Ward, Puleston). The easternmost record of Seaside was at Shinnecock Bay, Jun 2 (Wilcox). A Lark Sparrow was in Central Park on Aug 4 (Post). Breeding Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from Hither Hills, Neopeague, and Shinnecock Hills. Two singing Swamp Sparrows were at Flanders Jun 2 and 17, and two were at Sag Harbor on Jul 1 (Connor, Miller).

**Correction:** The earliest Scarlet Tanager was at Orient May 17 (Latham), in spring report, should read **Apr 17**.

3994 Park Avenue., Seaford, Long Island

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