

The **KINGBIRD**



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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EDITOR'S PAGE

Nearly four years ago, I took over the editorship of *The Kingbird* and have completed fourteen issues. Miss Minnie Scotland did the May 1961 issue before I could take up the work of the editor and in 1962 the October and December issues were combined to make the four issues, January, May, July and October fall within one calendar year.

Editing *The Kingbird* was a challenge, which required much more time and effort than I had ever expected. In spite of all the tasks of soliciting articles and field notes, compiling the materials, proof reading galley sheets and preparing the dummy, checking the files and mailing, I have had a great deal of satisfaction in the fourteen issues which I have edited. Much of my satisfaction lies in my association with and the co-operation of the many contributors and coworkers.

The Kingbird has steadily grown in increased subscriptions and size in the last four years. In my specific request for longer articles, I have found the contributors most generously willing. The regional record reports were in the hands of capable coeditors. Enough unsolicited field notes came in to balance that section with the other features of the magazine.

I wish to thank all who have through their contributions of articles and field notes and other efforts aided me during my period of editorship; to Dr. Sally Hoyt and Dr. David Peakall for their most generous council and help in clearing out the technical details of the submitted papers and to Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner for her ever ready advice and comments.

At this time, I am glad to introduce your new editor, Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy, Ithaca, N. Y. To Mrs. McIlroy, I extend my sincere wishes for her success in her new endeavor and ask that those who have favored me so generously extend their very ready support to her.

I have only one final request. There are missing from our reserve files, copies of the January 1963 and 1964 issues. If you have no further need for your copy please donate it to The Federation (*Kingbird*) by mailing it to Mr. Alfred A. Starling, 75 Brooklawn Drive, Rochester, N. Y. 14618. Requests for these numbers are still coming in and we have none.

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APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Mrs. Donald Radke, Box 138, R. D. #1, East Chatham.

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Your President regrets to announce that the Editor of the *Kingbird*, Alice E. Ulrich of Buffalo, has been forced to submit her resignation as of the current issue, conforming to a long-range plan, made suddenly necessary by a persistent eye ailment. It is with the gratitude of the entire Federation that Alice Ulrich lays aside her arduous and often thankless task. She has presided over a continuously proved *Kingbird* for four years, 16 issues, and roughly 720 pages. In this period no one has put in more hours for the Federation or achieved more lasting results than she has. We thank her for her great service; we wish her speedy recovery; we will find her hard to replace. We hope to see her continue as an active member of our Federation for years to come.

In the last issue of the *Kingbird*, your President suggested immediate steps that should be taken by member clubs to organize their field records, to prepare them for use by the editor of the State Book. (A recent letter from the Schenectady Bird Club reports that it has, in response, done just that.) As a further aid to this project, he would like to submit for the consideration of the member clubs, a suggested order, or agenda, for the discussion and reporting of field observations at local club meetings. As a longtime participant in bird club meetings, he has often felt that almost all the emphasis and interest in the field report sessions at meetings is on rarities, unusual dates, etc. Often, a stranger to the area, at one of our meetings, would get a totally erroneous picture of the bird life of the season, from the reports made. Actually, for the numbers present, and future editors, to get a panoramic picture of the previous period's bird activity, it is far more important to report on the dominant arrivals, departures, breeding species, and concentrations of birds.

To this end your President submitted to his own local bird club a suggested agenda, which might be considered by other clubs. It is to be admitted that the only occasions on which it worked, he himself conducted the session. But it can work with some interested and informed leader, and with the membership familiar with the procedure. Members at first might find it hard to contain themselves with that wonderful accidental until the proper moment, but the consensus of those who took part when this agenda was tried agreed that it added greatly to their enjoyment of field reports, and made them more meaningful. The agenda:

1. *Weather Review*. Previously assigned to some member. A review of the weather pattern in the period since preceding meeting. No more than five minutes.
2. *Dominant new arrivals*. In generalized terms, but giving dates and numbers of the most prevalent species to change their status during the period. Comments on waves, movements, incursions. No mention of rarities here. This is the big picture.
3. *Dominant Departures*. Last dates for wintering, summering, and migrant species. Birds that noticeably dwindled or disappeared during

the period. Birds that went through briefly, in numbers. This is part of the big, changing picture. No rarities.

4. *Noteworthy Concentrations.* Breeding colonies, roosting flocks, anything to do with interesting abundance notes.
5. *Noteworthy distribution notes.* New locations for breeding, changes in status of breeding species (appearance, disappearance, decrease, spread, etc.)
6. *Rarities.* Records noteworthy from the point of view of rarity, date, place, plumage, etc. With supporting evidence.
7. *Behavioral notes.* Any notes of unusual or previously unreported bird behavior.

Your President would be happy to hear from clubs who have experimented with this agenda, including any and all improvements to it.

Elliott Memorial Fund. A last minute report from the fund Treasurer, Adrian Dignan of Freeport, lists a total fund at hand, as of September 17, 1964, of \$763. This is roughly half the total sum we seek for this fund, and surprisingly some of the Federation members and clubs closest to John Elliott have not been heard from. Remember that in addition to memorializing our late friend and President, the fund will serve to encourage and reward the publication of papers in *The Kingbird*, a most worthwhile purpose. Make checks payable to Elliott Memorial Fund, and send to Adrian Dignan, 98 Hillside Avenue, Freeport, N. Y. The first prize award will be made at the 1965 meeting.

Robert S. Arbib Jr.

This will be the fourteenth and last issue of "The Kingbird" under the present editor. Unfortunately due to eye-trouble, Mrs. Ulrich is unable to continue her fine work with the state journal. The new editor will be Mrs. Dorothy McIlroy, 419 Triphammer Rd., Ithaca, N. Y.

Assisting the new editor will be three associate editors

Field Notes — Dr. Sally Hoyt

Photographic editor — Mr. David Allen

Regional reports — Dr. David Peakall

The details of this arrangement will be given later; but field notes should be sent direct to Dr. Hoyt at the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca and all other material to the new editor.

David B. Peakall

BIRDS AND GEOGRAPHY IN NEW YORK STATE

E. M. REILLY, JR.

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

When the Europeans first started occupying the area which is now New York State it was predominately woodland. Unfortunately there were no trained naturalists with the first colonists, and even if there had been the state of knowledge of the science of ornithology was inadequate for the task of naming and listing the birds of that time. The meager natural history notes left by the settlers and explorers are only tantalizing and seldom voluminous or accurate enough to do as much as indicate things about the avifauna.

We can infer that woodland-loving species predominated. We can identify with certainty a few species which are no longer found in the State such as the Heath Hen, Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet and Eskimo Curlew. We can be sure that some birds are more common today than in colonial days and that some are more rare. We are certain that some species have changed their way of life and we may be equally certain that there are some species new to the State since 1609, excluding those introduced by man. The startling changes have been mainly proportional — population increase in meadowland species and a population decrease in woodland species.

Whenever farms are deserted in the State they revert to woodlands in a comparatively very short time. This indicates that soil, climate, and biological factors are ideal, and have been in the last millennium at least, for a continuous stretch of forest over the vast area. Naturally in such an area the fauna and flora would have to be predominately of woodland types.

Even at their greatest growth and extent the woodlands of the State were broken in many places by grasslands of rather small size caused by natural destruction of portions of the forests through fire, windfall, local blights, droughts, and flooding, and local peculiarities of soil and climate. When the lands were further opened up by extensive farming the avifauna restricted to these small oases expanded tremendously. Populations of woodland species, once widespread and united became smaller and discontinuous. When some farmlands, especially the poorer lands in the mountainous districts, were allowed to revert to a wild state the forests reclaimed their own with some minor differences.

The birds which have disappeared from New York State are primarily those which have become extinct. The four species mentioned above had the misdirected, but highly efficient, help of man. It must be pointed out however, that many many species have become extinct without any assist from man due to evolution, aided and abetted by geological and hence climatic change. Man has changed some of the natural features of the State and certain of these and other activities of *Homo sapiens* has caused some species to alter their ranges within the State and even to depart temporarily. The Common Egret and the Black Skimmer are examples of birds which deserted us for a while but are now returning as natives.

Species formerly less common which have increased enormously are those which adapted to the urban and suburban areas built by man. These ecological niches, certainly new to American birds, might be described as semi open bushy areas with rather high plant food content and nerve-racking activities in the case of suburbs and in the cases of the cities even higher activities, but special feeding opportunities in the waste products and overflow of the wasteful feeding habits of man. The Wood Thrush, a forest bird by natural aptitudes, has done remarkably well as a bird of the suburbs; it is almost certainly more numerous today in New York than it was 300 years ago. The Robin has even adapted to city life and the lawns and shrubbery of the suburbs are now the primary niche of the bird. The same sort of population increase is true of the Killdeer, Red-eyed Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, and others.

In a somewhat different category are the Red-winged Blackbird, Meadowlark, Song Sparrow, Junco, Woodcock and others. These increased because man's agricultural activities made more open area, which they favored, available. The addition of cultivated plants, particularly the grains, to the "flora" of the State, merely by adding to the total volume of food available allowed some species to increase their numbers if not their total range. This would be true of many of the sparrows and blackbirds. The addition of cultivated fruits to the diet helped orioles, catbirds, thrushes and many others to expand their ranges and population.

The change in the way of living is perhaps most notable in the Robin whose visible adaptations mark it as a forest species. The appearance of shaded, well-watered lawns with surrounding shrubs and trees helped increase the earthworm population (some of these worms, indeed, were probably accidentally introduced from Europe) and the Robin found himself admirably "pre-adapted" to feed on these now abundant creatures. Today we can study the transition of the Red-winged Blackbird from a strictly marsh-dwelling bird to one found in almost any partially open, moist habitat. We might profitably study the food habits, past and present, of this species to find the cause of this really sudden change.

Those species new to the State are surprisingly few. Most of them might better be classed as species which probably retreated from the State because of climatic changes before the advent of civilized man and are now re-occupying the State because the climate is ameliorating again in their favor. Such species were here in small numbers in south or southeast New York in early colonial days, possibly to the present, and are now moving northward. The most noticeable of these is the Cardinal; others, not quite as spectacular, include the Tufted Titmouse, Mourning Dove, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Kentucky Warbler and others.

We can, of course, study all the available data on each species in chronologic order and identify easily those species which have become rarer and we will find that many of these have retreated northwards because they prefer cooler climates than we are now experiencing or because the type of habitat they prefer has been reduced by man's activities. A list of these species would include the true forest dwellers such as the Pileated Woodpecker and other members of his family unable to adapt to the noise, dirt,

and "nervous" activities of man. The Loon, the grebes, some of the thrushes, some owls, the Bald Eagle and many shore birds and some game birds have to be included in this list. The reasons for alteration of range in any species are many and usually complex; only a few general rules may be briefly noted.

Climatic changes may alter ranges slowly as the plant cover or food may not establish itself in the newly opened area for quite a few years. Birds, like all animals, are dependent on the availability of proper amounts of their food. Before they move into new areas their population in the old areas must increase so that some individuals of the species must search for and find less crowded breeding areas or perish. Increasing populations lead to increased ranges — but not always as the species concerned may merely have occupied different niches within the same general range. Most birds will not cross barriers merely to see what's on the other side. A few species are vagrants and apparently wander from region to region quite readily. Such species as the Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Mockingbird are apt to appear anywhere and change their breeding localities frequently. There is, in short, no range change without a reason. The reason may be psychological in that the species is ultraconservative and will not take chances crossing a barrier unless forced to, or crosses them readily because they live that way. Population pressures or competition intra-specific is the strongest force for range expansion. Physical ability to cross the barriers must be present. The food and other ecological requirements of the species must be met on the other side of the barrier or the species will not survive there. Vagrant individuals or accidental strays do not survive long because mates are not available or in too few numbers to establish a breeding colony.

The major factors affecting the numbers of species of birds occurring in New York State are diversity of habitats available, the convenience of the routes available to migrants and non-residents, and exposed marine coastline. The advent of the Europeans did not alter the diversity of habitats only their ratio.

Geological changes are slow; climatic changes are comparatively rapid; and biotic distributional changes usually lag considerably behind the climatic changes. Forests help maintain their own "micro-climate" and extensive woodlands, because they act as moisture traps, will survive long periods of drought which would have killed any individual of the tree species concerned quite rapidly.

In the Mohawk Valley are numerous White Cedar swamps and bogs of little practical use to man. These are relicts from somewhat cooler geologic times and relicts left by man's cultural activities. The shade furnished by the trees, the moisture retaining capabilities of the bog mosses, and the cooling effects of plant respiration and shade have combined to conserve these oases. The seeds of the plants have fallen on suitable soil in a suitable microclimate and have furnished new self-sustaining growth.

For the birders these swamps furnish convenient local exhibition areas of Canadian forms usually seen only in higher lands. The average temperature of the surrounding area is higher and were such birds as the Junco and White-throated Sparrows controlled mainly by temperature factors they

would have moved out of the region as nesting species long ago. In the midst of plant associations of familiar and favored combination the birds will put up with small discomforts caused by really slight temperature differences. Relict stands of Black Spruce, Red Spruce, Pitch Pine — almost any species of major forest trees — will also be islands of habitation for animal species and other plant species associated with such pure forests in their more "normal" climate and altitude.

Migrants must be considered in a different way than breeding populations or resident species. The geography of New York offers pathways for these migrant species which carry many of them over the more populated regions. The opening of the Mohawk Valley by farming activities has probably made this route more attractive to species nesting in central Canada than before. Many of the water birds which moved south from the breeding grounds to the Great Lakes Region found a relatively easy route through this Valley and the Hudson River Valley to the sea. The Champlain-Lake George Valleys offer similar "easy" routes to birds from eastern Canada and the Gulf of St. Lawrence Region.

Western species, driven out of the more normal flyways are very apt to follow the Mohawk-Hudson lines because of the available food, the low altitude, and the flow of other migrating land birds. It is not surprising to me, that many western species such as the Oregon Junco, the Chestnut-collared Longspur, Clay-colored Sparrow, Brewer's Blackbird, Townsend's Solitaire, and others are observed and collected in this natural "funnel".

Some species prefer to fly across this valley from the Adirondacks to the Catskills and on down the mountain chain. During migration birds must rest and eat; if they are able to live on the bounty offered only by coniferous forests their routes account for this idiosyncrasy and since our mountains are the coniferous regions of the State certain species will fly over the, to them, barren deciduous-plains areas. Some species, of course, change their diet during travel, like good children on a trip, and, probably because it takes less energy, fly down the protected valleys and over the flatter lands.

We are just beginning to learn some of the details of the geography of New York State Birds. We may only plot the ranges, past and present, as carefully as possible to learn more about the birds. The ranges change or remain static only because each species must follow the rules and its own inclinations, not because we want them to be here. As we plot more and more accurate ranges we find that no two species will have precisely the same range and that it is a fallacy to describe a bird's range in the terms of the range of a plant or certain temperature ranges. The more accurately the ranges are plotted the more we will know about the species concerned and the more we will realize that the range of the bird tells much of the biology of the bird.

Albany

Some Comments on Avian Biotic Districts in New York

The Federation has been struggling for years with a districting problem. The cultural aspects of our civilization in the form of road and telephone communication systems seldom take any cognizance of natural areas. Divisions of the State into administrative units such as counties and townships obliterate natural divisions from our minds, such as the transition from high coniferous forests to lower mixed woods, because our road signs mention only the cultural divisions. Much of our culture is focused on contacts with other humans in their communities rather than on natural communities developed by plant and animal life. Such areas exist and are real; we need only to make some modifications based on the distribution of birds to arrive at a solution which would allow us to describe bird ranges within the State more simply.

Smith, 1954, outlines the history and present status of the changing vegetative cover of N.Y. and introduction of new foods for wildlife. Webb, 1963, published a map of avian biotic districts for the State based on Smith's work. Such districts are only very generally useful and should not be sharply delimited on such factors as altitude, average temperature, yearly rainfall, soil types, plant cover, and animal types. On bird distribution alone, it might be pointed out here, that Webb's first district, the Lake Plain, extends too far south generally and especially in the Finger Lakes Region as only the northern tips of Lakes Seneca and Cayuga are related avifaunally to the Lake Plains. The Hudson Valley District is much too broad, particularly in its northern reaches; it is amazing how close to the river one must get in Columbia County before birds typical of the Hudson Valley Biotic District appear as one soon realizes on examining the records of the Alan Devoe Bird Club.

The districts proposed by Webb make more biological "sense" than the "reporting" districts of the Federation, but changing our districts to coincide with natural areas could only be accomplished by compromise with communication arteries and geometric, but arbitrary, boundary lines of townships and counties. The reports from area 9 of Webb (and all his other areas) would still include species from relict areas related to other biotic districts and the data thus included would certainly *not* help delimit his districts at all *unless* these relict areas were accounted for by plotting and recognition by local observers.

Much of the data presently available about our birds is not reliable enough to accurately plot the breeding range of any species in New York. Arbib, 1963, has come closest in his attempts to plot the range of the Common Loon. With this species, it is most apparent that the Adirondacks are too sparsely populated with humans interested in birds and competent enough to gather and assess the information as to actual regular breeding and migration. Even in the densely populated areas of the State we find, after sorting out misconceptions and faulty observations, that with only a few species would we be able to state the biological status unequivocally.

The data available are plotted on a "grid" of observers very unevenly distributed in space, time, and quality. Definitions in many cases have not

been clearly drawn. Local lists often simply state that a bird "breeds" in the area, but is this assertion based on scientific data? Many times the status is merely copied from earlier works which may have been in error or the terrain so changed that the statement is no longer true. John Bull, the recently chosen Editor-Author of the projected State bird book established criteria (1964) for the breeding category which must be followed in compiling records for the new book. Criteria have been established for relative abundance (Arbib 1957) although some work remains to be done in relation to abundance within the species. For example: 20 Kirtland Warblers in one place in N.Y. at one time would be "abundant" because of the rarity of the species; two pairs of nesting Scarlet Tanagers per acre of second-growth deciduous trees is not as "abundant" as two pairs nesting in an acre of mature mixed forest. Obviously, in the case of breeding species the best terms we could use relative to the abundance of the species would be a comparative list of the average number of pairs per 100 acres in the different types of cover used by the birds.

Migration routes may be even more difficult to plot accurately or even to establish criteria for. We will find it difficult to tell whether an individual bird reported during migration is on the regular route or has strayed because of weather or other factors. Some species we "know" cross the State only by inference: there are available "resting stops", food, and opportunity and the species occurred north and south of us. The Greater Snow Goose was recorded only very rarely in the State, but the most "logical" course for the thousands resting in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the north, was down the Champlain-Lake George-Hudson River valleys. We now know that they fly on that course overnight at high altitudes. Even the goose, capable of flying over the mountains of New England and New York, prefers to save its energy by flying through the valleys where cross-winds are less prevalent and at lower altitudes where oxygen requirements could be filled more easily.

We know the Common Loon is not a practiced long-distance or high-altitude flyer and that its migration must be made in rather short flights from one body of water to another until the marine wintering range is reached. Some are seen in the silt- and chemical-laden Hudson River, but the chances are that it prefers the clearer, small lakes and ponds dotting the foothills and terraces east and west of the Hudson.

The geography of our State in relation to other areas of the continent and to the seas indicates that the Lake Plains-Mohawk-Hudson River "route" is an avenue through which many shore bird species breeding in central Canada must pass to reach the sea coast. Birds from eastern Canada have the Champlain-Lake George-Hudson route available. Small birds breeding in the large coniferous forest areas to the north may hop down the evergreen-clad Adirondacks to Catskills route or may simply adopt to feeding in the deciduous forests while on migration.

The key to biotic districts is most likely to be found in plotting the ranges of the permanent residents and populations or subspecies of these forms. Properly evaluated districts will be helpful in describing the ranges of bird species within the State but only by the use of qualifying adjectives such as:

"higher, spruce-clad mountains of central Adirondacks" — and this, unknown to us now perhaps, may not be literally true at the height of winter or in the post breeding season when increased population may force younger birds into new habitats.

Webb's proposal is an excellent one. We should be aware that our reporting districts are highly artificial and we should be aware that there are more natural districts. By the means of breeding bird censuses, properly taken and assessed, we will be able to plot better boundaries to the natural districts and to know the location of relict populations outside the districts where they more normally occur. The aim should be to know more about the biology of the birds occurring in New York so that the ranges in the State may be described in fewer words of more biological significance as: "higher coniferous forests areas of Tug Hill District with small populations found in Mohawk Valley District". This saves mentioning districts 5 and 6 in addition to Tug Hill. We should know the natural areas occurring in our unnatural districts.

It may be suggested here that the Federation appoint a committee, with John Bull's approval and participation, to make a more detailed map of the State on which could be plotted at least the major relict areas known to the birders of New York as well as the major avian "districts". This map would be for reference only, since the cost of reproducing a large scale map would be prohibitive. Smaller scale maps for use in the State Bird Book could be designed from the finished map.

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Aerial view of Lake Mohonk area

THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF BIRD OBSERVATION AT MOHONK LAKE, NEW YORK*

DANIEL SMILEY

Mohonk Lake is both a body of water and a geographical area for this paper. The lake is in the center of a 7,500 acre property which saddles the Shawangunk Mountains for 8 miles. The elevation of the high point is 1550 feet, about 1,200 ft. above the valleys. The top and upper slopes are second-growth woods, while fields and pastures are found on the lower slopes. Conglomerate cliffs are a spectacular part of the scene. Fifty miles of roads for horses only and 40 miles of foot trails give good access to different habitats.

Many of the observations reported here are from the lake ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile long), gardens, lawns and groves within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the Lake Mohonk Mountain House. This 95 year old institution accommodates up to 475 guests. I feel that this area may be of some interest because it is an island of "civilized" bird habitat surrounded by at least a mile and a half of woods. Thus, fluctuations in kinds and numbers of birds may be a sort of control for observations in other areas.

Briefly, the habitat outside the garden area is quite varied, but certain types are lacking completely. The lake is deep and cold, with little shore vegetation, and water birds are an exception. The several artificial ponds and reservoirs are not suitable for most waterfowl. Streams are small and the swamps too far advanced to woods to be wetland habitat. The wooded areas are diverse, ranging from old fields with the beginnings of pioneer succession (these are getting less) through cove hardwoods, hemlock filled ravines to the scrub oak association on thin soil at the tops of rock outcrops. The farm fields are mostly managed as grasslands.

I have personally been observing birds at Mohonk for 33 years and others supplied me with records for 5 years before that. These are written records on cards. I am outdoors for a short time almost every day of the year, but do not have time for a "bird walk" each day.

After trying different systems, starting with an estimate of numbers of each species every day, I have settled for recording:

- a) first arrivals — spring and fall
- b) departure dates (this tends to be less reliable than daily lists would be)
- c) out-of-the-ordinary occurrences
- d) nesting dates
- e) observations of food habits, interrelationships, dead birds, etc.

My card records are summarized quarterly for the local enumerator for the Kingbird. Yearly for the past 14 years, I have taken part in the Audubon Christmas Census, covering my area.

Banding birds adds considerable information on local species. For instance, in early May 1964 3 to 5 Blue Jays were banded and a return taken on 6 days in succession. I believe that this represents the height of the

* In Ulster County opposite Poughkeepsie

spring migration, and that I would *not* have noticed the slight increase in Blue Jay numbers by casual observation.

In 33 years we have recorded 169 species for the Mohonk property and banded 9,500 birds of 78 kinds. The ridge is just high enough to be within what we used to call Canadian Zone. The Slate-colored Junco is one of the commonest breeding species, and Winter Wrens nest here. Seventeen kinds of warblers breed on the mountain.

I feel that the following factors have had some influence on the apparent fluctuations of birds that I am about to report:

- 1) the population of a species in the Hudson Valley and elsewhere
- 2) the interrelationships of bird species, or of birds with predators or disease
- 3) weather and weather cycles
- 4) changes in habitat, such as old field to forest
- 5) human influences — farm practices (grass ensilage is cut early), Christmas tree plantations, bird feeders
- 6) inconsistent observation — time in field, and pure chance
- 7) a combination of two or more of the above or some unknown cause.

On the west side of the Hudson River the John Burroughs Natural History Society is the active birding group. It has published "Christmas Bird Count Summary — Eleven Years, 1950-1960" — compiled by Fred Hough and Dan Smiley. This reports year by year numbers for 86 species and gives our analysis of the changes that have occurred. This report and other publications of the John Burroughs Natural History Society are available from the author:

In 1954 I made a 30 Year Summary of Spring Arrival Dates for Mohonk Lake. This covered 32 species. The records for each species were "averaged" by 3 ten-year intervals. Chandler Robbins has since pointed out to me that a better comparison can be made by determining "median" dates. The several species for which I have applied the latter method show a trend similar to that by averages — the 1945-54 period arrival dates were a few days *earlier* than the previous 10 years, which in turn were earlier than 1925-34.

The following 19 birds have shown a change in status in the vicinity of Mohonk Lake, which may have significance beyond normal year-to-year fluctuations. They are grouped according to *my estimate* of the previously mentioned causative factors.

1. *Population changes of the species over wide areas*

Peregrine Falcon

Heinz Meng has supplied records of this bird. 1930-1952 up to 4 nested. 1959- 1 nested. Since then none known to nest. There are 2 theories on this change of status — cycles and pesticides.

Blue Jay

* Up to 1957 I had never banded a Blue Jay. In 1963 32 were banded and in 1964 29, to date May 18th.

Since 1952 they seem to have become more common than the average of the fluctuations previous to that.* As an aside, one banded in September was shot 2 months later in Mississippi.

Tufted Titmouse

In 1950 first recorded at foot of mountain. It has been slowly moving up the slope. Two records at summit in the last three years.

Carolina Wren

L

One record in 1927. From 1950 to 1962 intermittent visitations from a few days to nearly a year.

Eastern Bluebird

To 1957, it was recorded regularly as a migrant flying over. Few have been noted since then. I personally believe that our changing farm field habitat in Ulster County and Starlings have as much to do with the decrease of this species, as other factors such as pesticides and winter storms.

Starling

In 1952 it first nested at Mohonk. Since then it has increased in spite of our yearly control measures.

Myrtle Warbler

A common migrant and regular nester through the 1950's. Since then, few either in migration or nesting.

Cardinal

1954 first recorded at the edge of the property in the valley. 1959 we started to get casual winter records in the Mohonk Lake area. This spring, 1964, nested for the first time — 3 pairs.

2. *Interrelationships*

Domestic Pigeons

Five years ago they began nesting on the Mountain House and on the cliffs of Sky Top. I wonder if the Falcons had previously been the control.

3. *Human Influences*

Turkey Vulture

1930 to 1955 the population seemed stable. Several nesting records. 1955 to the present I have the impression of fewer vultures, though more widespread in Ulster County. I wonder if fewer farm animals disposed of in the woods under present day agriculture may be a factor.

Black-capped Chickadee

In the 1930's, an average of 5 Chickadees were banded per winter. In 1962-63 — 176 were handled and in 1963-64 — 148 individuals were caught (81 of them returns). I suspect that this winter population explosion may be due to the increase in winter feeding stations on the mountain.

Evening Grosbeak

About 1917 John Burroughs recorded a flock at Riverby with the comment, "none in the previous 44 years". Since 1955 a regular winter visitant at Mohonk. Have bird feeding shelves changed their habits?

6. *Inconsistent Observation or Chance*

Saw-whet Owl

The first record at Mohonk was July 1960 — an *immature* bird found in a guest's room on the 6th floor! Others recorded fall and winter — 1961, '63, '64.

7. *Unknown factors*

House Wren

For 20 years about 6 pairs nested. In 1951 fewer than normal bred on the mountain. From 1952 to 1956 none nested. In 1957 one pair was found and in a couple of years the breeding population was back to normal.

Brown Thrasher

Up to 5 pairs once regularly nested in the garden area. In 1937 none were seen during migration or nesting season. It was 1958 before they again nested. Now they are as common as ever.

Pine Warbler

A regular migrant and nester 1926 to 1934. Six records in 1940's, 2 in 1950's none since 1953.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Not recorded on the mountain before 1930. Up to 1962, 1 or 2 banded per year. 1962 — 12 banded or returned. 1963 — 86 banded or returned. 1964 — 72 already banded or returned. Little change in numbers noted in the valleys on either side of the mountain.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Since 1955 nested in vicinity every year. Previous to 1955 known only as a migrant.

I would like to conclude with my own opinion of the value of bird watching, such as I have been discussing. Observing birds may be mostly for fun — without written records or with elaborate scoring by day, month, year and a life-list. This is a worthy pastime, but should not be considered as ornithological research. At the other extreme would be planned bird observation directed toward a specific scientific study.

My 33 years of bird observation falls somewhere between the above. I do not have time to be truly consistent in observation. Nor do I start out with an objective for study. Bird data is recorded at random. After a few years, review of the records brings to light information that seems to have significance. One strives for perfection, but should not take oneself too seriously. It has given me much satisfaction.

Mohonk Lake, New Paltz

NEW YORK STATE CROW ROOST SURVEY

The well-known winter roosts of the Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) present an opportunity to estimate on a year to year basis the population changes of a bird which is hunted throughout the year without season or bag limit. Furthermore, the communal night roosts seem an excellent subject for study of both group behavior in general and special behavior of crow roosts.

The following account of the 1963-1964 roosts in New York State is based upon both personal and volunteer observations, and the observations of others solicited by a letter of inquiry sent to regional editors of *The Kingbird*

Crow roosts are used for perching at night during the winter months, the population appearing to build up during the fall, to be maximal during December and January, and the birds dispersing as spring approaches. The roost may be in coniferous or deciduous woods or groves, and are often in protected sites such as cemeteries, wildlife refuges, and hospital grounds where shoot-outs may not be conducted. A roost used for many years may be abandoned entirely without apparent cause, and another roost may or may not then appear in the region.

Crows approaching their evening roost are a familiar winter sight as from early afternoon until hours later they pass from one field or another to approach their final roost. Eventually many thousand may occupy a small grove. Not only do crows perch in trees in close communion but also have been seen to perch on the ground under some conditions. The reader is referred to Bent (1946) for a general account of roosting by crows, and to Eaton (1914) for observations in New York State.

The following table is a summary of a region by region count and estimates by a number of contributors:

Kingbird Region	Location	Date	Numbers
1	Niagara Falls (near)		1,000
2	Rochester	22 Dec., 1963	17,148
	Wayland	24 Feb., 1964	1,200
	Batavia	2 Feb., 1964	3,500
	Geneseo	4 Apr., 1964	500
3	Ithaca	16 Dec., 1963	500- 3,000
	Ithaca	28 Jan., 1964	250
4	Binghamton		800- 1,000
	Owego		170- 175
5	Syracuse	4 Jan., 1964	10,750
	Cuyler		("hundreds")
6	Watertown (no roost, Xmas count only)		51
7	Saranac Lake (no roosts)		
8	Hudson		2,000
	Voorheesville		(no figures given)
9	Poughkeepsie	28 Dec., 1963	4,733
	Beacon	Jan., 1964	1,000
10	Long Island (no known roosts)		

Since the above figures range from rough estimates to fairly reliable counts and by no means represent all the rookeries in New York State, no precise total figure can be given, but it is clear that the winter survey is somewhere around 40,000 to 50,000 crows. It is of interest that the well-known winter roost at the Montezuma Refuge in use for over ten years was

vacant in 1963-1964. This was counted in the previous year as about 25,000 and perhaps a few of them were responsible for a several thousand increase in the Rochester roost this year over the 1962-1963 count. (from 14,000 to 17,000)

A half century ago Eaton (1914) recorded roosts of from 20,000 to 40,000 in New York State, and it would appear that a census made at that time on a state-wide basis would have shown substantially higher numbers. It is also of interest that Bent (1946) lists congregations in more southern states (Virginia, Washington, D. C., Pennsylvania) of an order ten times as great.

The present count confirms previous observations that Central New York is at the northern border of the winter range in New York State, although some crows are known to inhabit the province of Ontario during the winter. It may be further noted that there may be some connection between the crow shoots under the migration lines along Lake Ontario, roost shoots generally, and the *apparent decline* in total New York State winter populations.

It is hoped that observations upon behavioral aspects of community roosting may be presented at another time.

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Dwight R. Chamberlain, Draper's Meadow Terrace Apts. #Q12, Blacksburg, Va.

"OPERATION BLUEBIRD" Warren County, Pennsylvania Eighth Report — 1964

W. L. HIGHHOUSE

1964 will go down in record as the best in the 8 years of operation of my Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow nesting box project.

The production of bluebirds in the boxes which I have been checking for the past 8 years increased from 316 in 1963 to 474 in 1964 — an increase of 50%.

The second best year on record was 1962 when 432 bluebirds were fledged.

In addition to 474 bluebirds fledged from my boxes a very handsome stock dividend was declared as the nesting boxes on the adjacent H. Cook Anderson project produced a total of 146 bluebird fledglings.

Thus the sum total of the two projects was 620 Eastern Bluebirds — and at this writing, August 10, we also had 21 bluebird eggs in boxes being incubated.

One can only conclude that the weather during the month of May is the determining factor as to production of Eastern Bluebirds. The month

of May 1964 was very pleasant with a number of sunny, warm, and dry days. This same type weather held during May 1962 when we had our second best year for production of bluebirds.

In direct contrast the weather during May 1963 was not as favorable and the bluebird production suffered accordingly.

Data — Eastern Bluebirds						
Boxes	Nests	Initial Occupancy		Fledged	Dead	Young
		Eggs	Young			
Operation Bluebird Project						
109	71	327	285	269		16
H. Cook Anderson Project						
41	26	121	109	88		21
Second Occupancy of Nesting Boxes						
Operation Bluebird Project						
109	61	252	221	205		16
H. Cook Anderson Project						
41	19	85	62	58		4

Thus we had 97 pairs of Eastern Bluebirds occupying the nesting boxes initially and 80 pair using the boxes for a second nesting. This means that 83% of the first nesting pairs renested. This is way above the usual average figure of 50%.

Tree Swallows

1964 was a good year for Tree Swallows when 33 initial nesting pairs produced 120 young. This is an increase of 6 pairs from 1962 and 1963. The number of young produced in 1963 was 102. Thus 1964 showed an 18% increase.

After an apparent failure in 5 boxes at the first nesting, subsequent attempts at a second nesting produced 17 Tree Swallows.

Since the Tree Swallows nest in the latter part of May and are not as subject to the weather of early and mid-May their nesting success is on a much more consistent basis.

Again the project of H. Cook Anderson paid big dividends with 14 pairs of Tree Swallows producing 81 young.

Data — Tree Swallow Initial Occupancy						
Boxes	Nests	Eggs	Young	Fledged	Dead	Young
Operation Bluebird Project						
109	33	180	125	120		5
H. Cook Anderson Project						
41	14	87	84	81		3
Second Occupancy — Operation Bluebird						
109	5	23	17	17		0

The "No Vacancy" signs went up early in 1964 as of 150 boxes available only 2 went unoccupied. One box was occupied by chickadees producing 7 young. Several boxes were occupied by House Wrens.

One pair of bluebirds produced 7 young in the first nesting and followed with 6 young in the second nesting for a total of 13 for this year.

On occasion woodpeckers enlarge the 1½" opening making it possible for larger birds to enter the box. This year the first time a cowbird entered one of the boxes and laid two eggs.

In checking the total production on the 150 boxes which were under management for the entire year we find:

620 Eastern Bluebirds Fledged
218 Tree Swallows Fledged
7 Black-capped Chickadees Fledged
20 House Wrens, estimated

855 or an average of 5.7 birds per box per season.

I wish to thank the following people for their help during the 1964 bluebird season:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neel and Mr. Charles Kidder for checking the Cherry Grove area of 32 boxes (checked 14 times) which produced 141 bluebirds and 37 Tree Swallows. The Neels banded 200 Eastern Bluebirds.

Mr. H. Cook Anderson for his fine work in managing the boxes which Wayne Yonkie had built and located in 1962 and 1963.

Mr. Ted Grisez for checking one area and assisting in other areas. He banded 80 Eastern Bluebirds.

Mr. Harrison Johnson for use of his jeep and his help during the early part of the nesting season.

8 Fourth Street, Warren, Pa.

CONSERVATION NEWS

BY MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

The fortunate outcome of a mosquito DDT spraying controversy in the upstate town of Fulton was apparently due in considerable part to the warnings of four Federation members who traveled to hearings in the community's town hall last July. Recently, the Board of Health ordered a halt in the use of DDT.

I have to say "apparently" because no one could dash around with questionnaires and tape recorders to efficiently measure the effect of Dr. Sally Hoyt, Dr. Walter Spofford, Dr. David Peakall and Hubert Ives, former president of the Onondaga Audubon Society, all of whom spoke. But they felt that some spraying adherents showed a more questioning attitude following the knowledgeable explanation of the dire effects of DDT.

There are probably many communities in this state where there is a demand to rid backyards of mosquitoes and other pests and where there is no one in the area who has seriously studied the risks that are involved in using poisons. Thus, residents who support spraying programs are exposed through their own ignorance, to the hazards of pesticides.

For instance, in Fulton one earnest advocate rose to say that although the spraying had been going on for some time he had not noticed ill effects on birds or other wildlife. It may well have been his good fortune that

the Federation experts were there to explain that often the pesticide destruction is not visible, and that in the case of such long-lived compounds as DDT the destruction can take place at a later time and even in an area distant from the actual site of spraying. If the insecticides are carried away by run-off they could pass into a stream, killing the trout that perhaps that advocate likes to catch.

As though we were expecting some stealthy attack from the enemy, conservationists apparently have had to patrol the beaches to prevent further losses of our natural resources. Members of the New York State Federation of Women's Club pledged themselves to such duty to prevent the filling in of the state's underwater lands. The resolution passed at their state convention condemned this filling-in and cited, among several incidents, the gradual filling-in of marshes at the foot of Conesus Lake and the construction of a boulevard bisecting the 500-acre Irondequoit wetlands, "The Everglades of Monroe County."

The two Rochester Federation clubs, the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and the Genesee Ornithological Society of Rochester, along with the Women's Federation and other organizations protested the filling-in of underwater land in Saw Mill Cove, a part of Sodus Bay by Lake Ontario. This was to be done so that a marina could be constructed.

However, the application to fill-in this area was rejected by the State Office of General Services. Conservation Commissioner Harold G. Wilm himself opposeded it saying that "We find the shallow lands under water along the shore line in this part of Sodus Bay constitute important spawning grounds for bass, pike, and sunfish, and also consists of some of the finest waterfowl feeding grounds to be found in the entire Sodus Bay area. In our opinion, very severe damage would result to the fish and wildlife resources of Sodus Bay if the filling proposed in this application would be carried out."

Two bills by Assemblyman S. William Rosenberg passed by the Legislature last year would have prevented such fill-ins. They were vetoed by the Governor. However, Dwight R. Chamberlain, vice president of the Genesee Ornithological Society and a new member of the Federation conservation committee, who has been keeping a close watch on this problem expects similar legislation to be introduced at the next session.

Between Apalachin and Owego there is a marsh over which the State Department of Public Works contemplates implanting a highway. The Department claims that wreckage of the marsh will be minimal. However, Mrs. Frederick Marsi, president of The Naturalists' Club in Binghamton expressed it well when she said "With big equipment thrashing around in there, four or five times the damage will be done than shows up on their maps of the completed road."

If citizens have to patrol the beaches to prevent destructive filling-in of underwater lands, others have taken to their boats — an armada of cruisers, outboard runabouts, sailboats, etc. sailing down the Hudson River — to protest the 160 million-dollar gashing of scenic Storm King Mountain.

Consolidated Edison Company has been given approval by the Federal Power Commission to build a hydroelectric power project there. Water

would be pumped into a reservoir on top of the mountain area and allowed to pour back into the Hudson River to provide electric power for New York City during peak use periods of electricity.

The flotilla of 50 pleasure craft, led by the handsome 79-foot Westerly, flagship of the New York Yacht Club, carried huge lettered signs, "Save Storm King," "Clean Up the Hudson," etc.

This fight has bluntly had injected the role aestheticism should play in the thoughts of the men and even government officials who have parts in the consideration of such a project. Should aesthetic values be considered by the Federal Power Commission in determining whether to grant a license? In this case Consolidated Edison said no. The company maintained that under the law the FPC has no right to consider aesthetic values.

The FPC in approving the multi-million-dollar project said that economic values outweighed any others. But it did not rule specifically on its right to weigh aesthetic values. The Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference filed a brief asking the Commission to rule on this point. This then has made the question of aestheticism a legal question.

Think what interesting changes might be effected. A positive decision could at least encourage an agency like the FPC to consult persons versed and sensitive even to the natural beauty. It could elevate in the public mind the importance of beauty in considering a big-money and 'practical' project such as that proposed for Storm King Mountain.

It might even force the engineers and builders into a modern approach, which they may think they have with all their big, mechanical equipment. Marston Bates in his book, "The Forest and the Sea", has said that the Romantic Movement of the early 1800's to which we trace the modern aesthetic interest in nature has not yet caught up with the engineers and builders.

But all these battles, discouraging as some may be individually, are being fought within the context of great conservation successes. New York State is now to have a equivalent of a national park, this being the Fire Island National Seashore which is now on the law books.

After years of struggle the Wilderness Bill was passed. It wasn't all that conservationists wanted. But it and the principles it involves are on the law books. We can fight for improvements.

In fact the 88th Congress has been heralded for its remarkable conservation record which included approval of a new national park in Utah and passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to provide funds for further land acquisitions.

I'm sure that part of all this success is due to the rising interest in these matters by citizens. This is certainly aided in part by publicity, especially columns in newspapers like that of Beverly Waite, Federation conservation committee member. She devoted two of her columns in the Albany Knickerbocker News, "On the Wing" to reports of the Federation's conservation resolutions passed at the meeting last May. Also Mrs. Margaret Dye of Cornwall-on-Hudson, another committee member, covered the Federation's conservation activities in her local newspaper column.

333 Bedell St., Freeport, Long Island

FIELD NOTES

Grackles Decapitate Sparrows: My next door neighbor consistently has fed the birds on her open lawn both winter and summer, with bread and seeds. The usual bird gathering included quite a few sparrows, some doves, a flicker, Catbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds and an occasional Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*).

About the middle of June the body of a sparrow was discovered at the feeding place neatly decapitated. For a few days there would be one here and there, and then we began to find them by twos and threes, always sparrows and always decapitated. Finally a Barn Swallow fell prey. So we instituted a careful watch one morning when the feeding was the busiest. There was a sudden flurry amongst the birds and I noticed one of the grackles picking viciously at something and small feathers flying. Running out to investigate I saw a fresh "kill", but the head of the sparrow victim was still intact. Further watching disclosed that the grackle returned to the "kill", tried to carry off the victim several times in its claws but was unable to move the body but a few inches. Failing at this, it then proceeded to pick at the neck of the sparrow until it had detached the head, whereupon it seized this in its beak and flew off, leaving the body behind.

After about two or three weeks of this behavior the sparrow raids ceased, leading one to surmise that the sparrow heads were being fed to young grackles.

Jeanne M. Cassidy, Hidden Springs, Glen Head, Long Island

Ed. Note. Harold Mayfield, in the December 1954 issue of *The Wilson Bulletin*, p. 271, describes a somewhat similar incident involving a grackle and an English Sparrow.

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) Nesting in Jefferson County: In the breeding season this species is found mainly in the Mississippi drainage basin. Its range has extended into our state and it is locally common in parts of western and central New York, although little is known of its occurrence in northern New York. There are a few scattered records, mainly in the spring migration period.

During May 1964 Cerulean Warblers were seen in three areas near Watertown. Later, two singing males were found in an area of mixed hardwoods a few miles north of the city. Identification was facilitated by familiarization with the song as reproduced on the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Records. Although the birds followed their customary behavior of keeping to the treetops, occasionally a good view could be obtained. Careful watch was kept and finally on July 8 a Cerulean Warbler nest was located in an elm, approximately thirty feet above the ground. At this time one of the adults was observed coming to the nest with food. Three days later indications pointed to the nest being empty, although a singing male was nearby.

The nest was located at the junction of two small branches and appeared to be composed largely of bark fibre. The area is typical mixed hardwood — maple, elm, ash, basswood, black cherry and shagbark hickory. The location is in the town of Pamela not far from the crossroads hamlet of Knowsville.

A. W. Allen and J. B. Belknap, Watertown.

Blue Grosbeak at Port Kent: On June 17, as I started in to the unoccupied D & H Railroad Station at Port Kent, I saw a flash of blue fly up from the ground — Bluebird or Indigo Bunting? I stopped the car and in a moment the bird flew down to the place where it had been feeding before.

Size much larger than a bunting, figure and plumage not at all bluebird. He was in excellent light about eight or ten yards from me so that I hardly needed glasses to see the cinnamon wing-bars and a large grosbeak bill on this all blue bird. I observed him for at least fifteen minutes, most of the time through 7 x 35 binoculars.

The grosbeak fitted Peterson's picture perfectly except that the sun made his blue coloration brighter. I feel that there can be no doubt that this was a male Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea*, in perfect spring plumage.

Because of circumstances beyond my control I could not check all records in the area on this species but this record is "very rare" according to Reilly & Parkes.

Harriet L. Delafield, Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

Least Flycatcher "assists" at Chipping Sparrow nest: On June 22, 1964, my wife and I were photographing the feeding activities at a nest of Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*) located about three feet up in a small tree near a dirt road in Broome County, New York. The parent sparrows were feeding on an average of once every 10 minutes — sometimes one adult came and sometimes the other, but on at least three occasions we were able to photograph both at the nest at the same time.

In between feedings, we noted that another bird would slip in, sometimes to feed the four nearly-grown young and sometimes just to sit on the edge of the nest and look at them. To our surprise, we identified it as a Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*). We had our camera set up at the nest for about four hours while the unusual situation unfolded, and made the following observations.

The parents approached the nest from across the road, while the flycatcher came in from the opposite direction. At first the interloper would wait until both parents had fed and then slip in as soon as they had gone, usually feeding and leaving before they returned. But the sparrows must have become suspicious, for they began coming in together, then one would leave and the other remain at the nest. When the flycatcher came in, a battle would ensue and the sparrow would drive off the intruder. This continued all the while we watched. When we left, the flycatcher was becoming bolder and, on several occasions, drove away the sparrows. Since a friend had photographed this same nest four days previous and had noted nothing unusual, I must assume that the action had started shortly before we observed it.

Eight days previous we had seen a flycatcher nest about a hundred yards from this location. Only one of the young had survived to leave the nest, having been seen on the floor of the wood nearby. Whether the bird at the Chipping Sparrow nest was one of that flycatcher pair, I have no way of knowing.

The accompanying photographs show the Chipping Sparrow and the Least Flycatcher feeding the young Chipping Sparrows.

Donald D. Burgess, 116 Rosedale Drive, Binghamton

Red Crossbill Nesting in Como Park, Erie County: While birding in Como Park, Lancaster, N. Y. on March 23, 1964, I observed a female Red Crossbill busily occupying herself in a spruce tree. She slowly eased her way to the center of the tree to a spot about twenty feet up where she placed a twig among a few others loosely arranged. The bird repeated this process at intervals during the time I was present.

During this period of observation, I had ample opportunity to observe the black wings as they contrasted with the dingy yellowish underparts and the noticeably brighter rump.

Later, a male appeared, sang and enacted a flight song which included a weak trill and a slight warble. This male and the subsequent nesting males took no part in nest-building but perched at the tips of nearby spruces, from which point, I had excellent views of their drab red ventral and dorsal areas and the rump which appeared appreciably brighter. Also their bills appeared lighter than their black wings.

The doubts of my observations were removed when, during a telephone conversation, on April 1, with my birding companion Joseph Grzybowski, he stated that he had located two additional nests in the park. Being very



Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) bringing food to its young in the nest.



Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*) feeding the young Chipping Sparrows.

much excited by his discovery, I hurried to the park the next morning and not only found Joe's two nests but discovered another, the fourth, nest being constructed. The nests ranged from eight to thirty feet up and were situated more or less near the trunk of the tree.

After nest-building had been completed, both birds seemed to ignore the nest, although the males continued to sing on territory. On April 11, I discovered that one egg had been laid in the last nest. By April 13 all the nests, except the first one, contained three eggs.

Unfortunately, however, on April 17 it seemed apparent that only one of the nests had a chance of ultimate success, since the high winds on the sixteenth upset one nest, another was pillaged, and the first seemed abandoned. On this day Mr. Harold D. Mitchell and I collected two of the nests and the eggshells from one nest.

April 25, twelve days after the first eggs were laid, was an eventful day since the female on the remaining nest seemed uneasy and very much pre-occupied with something beneath her body, which Mr. Mitchell and I believed to be newly hatched young. On May 3, I climbed the Norway Spruce to the nest, after I was certain that both parents had left, and discovered two young crossbills about one week old, whose pinfeathers had pretty much appeared and whose bills were not yet crossed.

Eight days later, on May 11, after two days of high winds I discovered the nest lying on the ground beneath the tree. Although, I did not see any immature birds later, it is possible that the young survived for later, after a diligent search neither Mr. Mitchell, Joe nor I could find any remains of dead birds on the ground in the area of the nest tree.

Carl Mrozek, 5250 Broadway, Lancaster

Ed note: Some of these nests are the same as those shown by Harold D. Mitchell during his talk on nesting Red Crossbills at the paper session of The State Federation meeting at Poughkeepsie on May 23, 1964.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON JUNE 1 - AUGUST 15 DAVID B. PEAKALL

Although the vital nature of the breeding season would not be denied by any ornithologist it is certainly the poorest documented. The regional reports are almost without exception shorter and a good deal of the space is devoted to late departures and early arrivals of migrants.

The decline of the population of raptors has shown no signs of halting. It seems likely that the widespread use of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides are forcing a new balance in which hawks will occur in New York almost exclusively as migrants. The Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Harrier have reached the status of rare breeding birds throughout the state. The Kestrel appears to have had a poor season in many areas and although observations as detailed as those of Austing in Ohio (Audubon Field Notes 18 (4):455, 1964) where sixty eggs did not produce a single young, are lacking the general picture may be similar. The Red-tailed Hawk appears to be maintaining its population in most areas although detailed accounts of its breeding success would be of interest. An interesting and difficult to explain observation is that of an increase of Goshawks outside the mountainous areas. Perhaps they are moving into the now empty niche of the Cooper's Hawk, it will be of great interest to follow this trend.

The position of the fish-eaters is difficult to evaluate. Several regions

report a decrease of some species, as always there are anomalies. For example two reports state that there were decreases of all herons except the Green Heron. Walter Benning (P.O. Box 72, Clyde) is undertaking a state-wide census of heronies. This project will give a baseline to work from and it is hoped that all persons with information will contact Mr. Benning.

If the position of large birds such as hawks and herons is difficult to evaluate that of passerines is even harder. However there were enough comments on low numbers of warblers to cause concern. The hallmark of pesticides is abnormally low hatching of eggs. In all cases studied egg-laying is about normal but the eggs are infertile. Under normal conditions losses, of both eggs and young, due to predators are heavy but the percentage of eggs that are infertile is small. Such a point could be noted by the nest record card program if it has widespread support.

The northward movement of southern species — Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse and Mockingbird — has been a feature of the last decade or so (Beddall, *Wilson Bulletin* 75 (2):140, 1963). This summer only the Mockingbird appears to have made fresh progress; the Carolina Wren does not show any signs of recovery.

In reverse, northern species moving south, the Evening Grosbeak has not repeated its nestings outside the Adirondacks such as occurred in 1962. The White-throated Sparrow is mentioned in several reports as breeding or summering in new localities, suggesting a range increase of this species.

An immature Saw-whet Owl was found near Rochester in early July suggesting local breeding. There appear to be few breeding records of this species for the state. Yet Bent (*Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey* Volume 2 p. 230) quotes a Dr. Ralph who found five nests, mainly in Oneida County, in the 1880's. It is an interesting question as to whether a first-rate nest finder could repeat that feat today.

Five different male Ruffs and a single immature were recorded from Onondaga Lake near Syracuse. This is a series of occurrences that taxes the imagination and the possibility of breeding of this species in North America, perhaps even in this state, should not be discounted. A full account will be published in a subsequent issue.

The Laughing Gull, a species rarely reported away from the coast, was noted in two localities (Region 3 & 5) in central New York in mid-June. Following hurricane Hazel in 1954 there were many reports but since then there have been few records.

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 13210

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

The weather pattern this summer season was much the same as a year ago. June was a very agreeable month followed by a sunny and warm July. The first half of August, like last year, was generally chilly and wet. These favorable weather conditions provided for a successful and uninterrupted nesting season for most kinds of birds.

Highlights of the season include a new nesting location for the Goshawk in the region and the first known nesting of Red Crossbills.

Abbreviations used below are: Alleg. — Allegany; Catt. — Cattaraugus; Chaut. — Chautauqua; Co. — County; Gen. — Genesee; Nia — Niagara; N. — North; opp. — opposite; TGMA — Tonawanda Game Management Area.

Contributors: CA — Cook Anderson; RFA — Robert F. Andrie; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; WWB — Winston W. Brockner; RB — Richard Brownstein; LDB — Mr. and Mrs. Lou L. Burton; SWE — Stephen W. Eaton; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; KS — Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Swanson.

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: 19 active nests, Jul 12, heronry about four miles NNW of Vandalia, Catt. Co.; young one-two weeks from leaving nests (SWE). Least Bittern: one, Jun 6, Langford, Erie Co. (TLB); one, Jul 3, 18, N. Cuba Marsh, Alleg. Co. (RCR); one, Aug 2, Mayville, Chaut. Co. (KS). Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*): one, Jun 16, Oak Orchard Area (RFA et al)—captured earlier in spring; specimen now in Buffalo Museum of Science. Gadwall: one, Aug 30, Mayville, Chaut. Co. (KS)—early. Pintail: three, Jun 16, TGMA (RFA et al); one, Jun 20, over Alma Pond, Alleg. Co. (RCR et al). Green-winged Teal: one, Jul 18, N. Cuba Marsh, Alleg. Co. (RCR) — an extremely early migrant individual for the southern tier. Bufflehead: one, Aug 8, Nia. River opp. Buffalo (RB et al) — an extremely early migrant (?) in one of the favorite wintering areas of this species on the Nia. River. Hooded Merganser: brood of seven downy young, Jun 14, Riverside Sanctuary, Town of Kiantone, Chaut. Co. (CA); broods of three, seven and eight young, Jul 4, Alma Pond, Alleg. Co. (RCR) — a previously unreported nesting locality for this species in the region.

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: two young that had recently left nest observed July 27 about fifty yards from nest in southern Catt. Co. near Vandalia (SWE) — a few grouse, flicker, blue jay and starling feathers at nest. This is the second known nesting locality in that part of the region. Sharp-shinned Hawk: a pair successfully raised two young in Chestnut Ridge Park, Erie Co. (RFA et al). Cooper's Hawk: two young left a nest about Jul 18 near Vandalia, Catt. Co. (SWE). Osprey: one, Aug 2, near Stannards, Alleg. Co. (RCR) — an early migrant or summering bird. Bobwhite: the number of reports, especially from southern tier counties, probably indicates that more birds were released this year by sportsmen's groups than usual; unfortunately most of the birds seem to have been introduced into areas where they are the least likely to survive the winter climate. Upland Plover: a pair successfully reared two young near Belmont, Alleg. Co. during June where as many as four adults were noted (LDB) — this is an uncommon species in the southern tier and the first known nesting record for Alleg. Co. Lesser Yellowlegs: 23, Jul 6, Beaver Island State Park (RB) — a noteworthy early concentration. Franklin's Gull: one, Aug 12, Nia. River opp. Buffalo and Aug 15, Front Park, Buffalo (RB) — early. Little Gull: one, Aug 8, Nia. River opp. Buffalo (RB) — early. Caspian Tern: one, Jun 1, Hamburg Town Park (TLB).

Goatsuckers — Starling: Tufted Titmouse: one, Jul 3, 11, 23, Derby, Erie Co. (WWB) — only report. Red-breasted Nuthatch: probably the same pair that visited a feeder all winter and spring near Vandalia, Catt. Co. was seen Jun 1-29 near a hole in a Yellow Birch (SWE); one, Jul 18, Kinney Swamp, Town of Birdsall, Alleg. Co. (RCR); this species is unreported in

this region during most summers. Winter Wren: one, Jul 9, Alleg. State Park (WWB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: two, Jul 2, Darien, Gen. Co. (WWB); one, Jul 3, 18 and Aug 8, N. Cuba Marsh, Alleg. Co. (RCR); one, Jul 18, Kinney Swamp, Town of Birdsall, Alleg. Co. (RCR). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two, Jun 14, Catt. Indian Reservation at Taylor Hollow, Erie Co. (WWB).

Vireos — Warblers: Nashville Warbler: a fairly common summer bird in reforested-aspen habitat in Kinney Swamp area, Town of Birdsall, Alleg. Co. this year (RCR). Yellow-breasted Chat: one, Jun 15, near Onoville, Catt. Co. (KS); one, Aug 14, Belmont, Alleg. Co. (LDB).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Orchard Oriole: one, Jun 1, Pt. Stockholm, Chaut. Co. (KS et al). Red Crossbill: During the first half of June there were still small flocks regularly visiting feeding stations in the Hamburg-East Aurora area. They seemed to be attracted by sunflower seeds. After mid-June all seem to have disappeared. At East Aurora, Mr. and Mrs. William Budington and family watched two-four young feed at their tray during early June. When the young first came, down was still present on the crown and forehead. By Jun 10, no down was present and the heavily streaked juveniles, still being fed by adult birds, could fly well (RCR). Evidence indicates that two broods of two young were involved. At Belmont, Alleg. Co., two juvenile birds accompanied by two adults were observed Jun 12 (LDB). This is the first year on record when this bird has nested in the region. White-throated Sparrow: one-two singing males on territory, May 17-Jul 18, Kinney Swamp, Town of Birdsall, Alleg. Co. (RCR) — a previously unreported summering locality.

Addenda: Cattle Egret: one, May 5, near Vandalia, Catt. Co., just south of Allegany River at Russell Farm (SWE). Cerulean Warbler: one, May 30, Sunfish Run, Catt. Co., near Red House (SWE).
48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 14215

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for June were about normal. July was the hottest comparable month in nine years and the first half of August was the coolest on record.

Rainfall for the period was only about one-half of normal and a mild drought prevailed since early July.

The Franklin's Gull and Western Meadowlark were the most outstanding birds reported.

Names of regularly reporting observers: JB — John Brown; JF — John Foster; JH — (Mrs) Jean Haller; AEK — Allen E. Kemnitz; WCL — Walter C. Listman; LL — (Miss) Linda Ludwig; AM — Alfred Maley; JM — Joseph McNett; TM — (Mrs) Thelma McNett.

Names of places used in report: BB — Braddock's Bay; WS — West Spit.

Loons — Ducks: No Pied-billed Grebes were reported. While the numbers of Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons picked up somewhat toward the end of the period, herons in general remained relatively scarce, except for Green Herons and Least Bitterns. The latter seemed generally distributed, with a high count of four at Shore Acres Aug 2 (WCL). It was also seen around BB several times.

Stragglers of several species of ducks not suspected of nesting locally were occasionally reported. Among the more interesting of these reports was a Gadwall at the WS Jun 15 (WCL), two Shovelers at BB all of June (WCL), a Canvasback at Pultneyville Jul 19 (JF), and seven White-winged Scoters at Manitou Jul 4 (WCL). Thirteen Green-winged Teal (mostly drakes) were seen at BB Jun 28 (WCL). While the species is suspected of nesting regularly locally, this number is unusual.

Hawks — Owls: All diurnal birds of prey seemed scarce.

Thirty-nine Knots were seen on the WS Jun 1 (WCL) and seven White-rumped Sandpipers were seen in the same area Jun 12 by the same observer. Stragglers of several other species of shorebirds such as Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin and Semipalmated Sandpiper remained around BB until well after the middle of June. The fall flight of shorebirds has been far from awe inspiring. One Baird's Sandpiper was at the East Spit from Jul 28-Aug 1 (WCL et al). Short-billed Dowitchers were generally distributed and a few Stilt Sandpipers were present from Jul 26 on.

An adult Franklin's Gull was seen flying over the WS Jun 10 (WCL). One to two Forster's Terns were at BB during the whole period (WCL et al). An immature Saw-whet Owl was seen at Scottsville Jul 7 (JB). Another immature of this species was seen by Dr. Leo Tanghe during the summer several years ago at Ling Road so that it would seem this species is a very rare local breeder.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Winter Wren was seen in Webster Jul 19 (AEK). The Carolina Wren was unreported, and the Short-billed Marsh Wren was completely missing since one or two were reported in the late spring. Five Mockingbirds were reported from Webster Jul 14 (AEK). These were probably a pair of adults and three young. This species also bred successfully in Irondequoit and probably in Scottsville (JH). A bird was seen near LeRoy Jun 21 (GOS Hike).

Vireos — Warblers: The Blue-winged Warbler was reported from Powder Mill Park (JM, TM). A Parula Warbler and 15 Blackburnian Warblers were reported from Letchworth Park Jun 23 (LL, AM). If the former was a nesting bird, it is very unusual. While the latter is known to nest regularly in this area, the count is high. Seven Louisiana Water-thrushes were seen at Conesus Lake Jun 20 (Howard Miller and Alfred Starling), and at least three Yellow-breasted Chats were in the LeRoy scrub area Jun 21 (GOS Hike). The two latter species are regularly found in these respective areas.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A singing Western Meadowlark was present all of June at Retsof (JH & Mrs. Seldon). A White-throated Sparrow was reported from Scottsville Jun 30 (JB) and another was seen at Manitou Jul 19 (WCL). These are both unusual dates as the species is not found locally in summer except possibly at Bergen Swamp.

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

Part of the Region had the driest summer in many years, but there were localized heavy showers. A two week period in late June and early July had above normal temperatures, while early August had sub-normal readings. In spite of drought and heat, the fruit crop was heavy. Honeysuckle berries were huge and plentiful, yet hardly touched by birds. Mulberries were abundant, and later-bearing trees were heavy with green fruit by early August.

In general, nesting success was somewhat above that of last year. Few unusual birds turned up. Shorebirds began coming to Montezuma the first week in July, and gave promise of a good shorebird year — but this is not the case, as of the end of the reporting period. Low water levels in early summer resulted in growth of vegetation to water edge, so there were no exposed mudflats in late summer, when the level usually drops. Rails (Sora and Virginia) were forced out of dry cover to seek food in more exposed areas, and were seen easily and frequently. The situation also accounted for many sightings of Woodcock and Snipe.

Contributors: JB — Jack Brubaker; WEB — Walter Benning; JB — Jamesine Bardeen; AG — Alfred Graham; FG — Frank Guthrie; WG — William Groesbeck; BS — Betty Strath; JW — Jayson Walker; RW — Ruth Williams.

Locality abbreviations: Cay L — Cayuga Lake; Sen L — Seneca Lake; MNWR — Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: raised young, Texas Hollow Sanctuary, Odessa (BS). No other nestings reported. No Cormorant reports. Great Blue Heron: almost no reports of active heronries — three or four have ceased being used in last two years. **Cattle Egret:** five, Jun 14, and later dates, pasture on Rte. 90 north of Rte. 5 (AG). Black-crowned Night Heron: eight (max), Aug 16, MNWR (WEB). Least Bittern: one or two seen fairly consistently during summer, MNWR.

Figures for production of waterfowl at Montezuma are as follows: Canada Goose (152); Mallard (792); Black (144); Gadwall (630); Baldpate (18); Pintail (0); Green-winged Teal (24); Blue-winged Teal (870); Shoveler (79); Wood Duck (360); Redhead (198); Ruddy Duck (50); Hooded Merganser (28), for a total of 3,193 as compared with 2,860 last year and 1,701 four years ago. Geese, Mallards, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Ducks showed an increase over last year; Blacks, Baldpate, Pintail, Shoveler and Ruddy had decreased.

Last Scaup were seen at Montezuma Jun 20, last Common Merganser on Jun 21, until Aug 16 when one female appeared. At Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, 11 broods of Mallards were evident by early June, several more later in summer — final one the first week in August. One brood of Blue-winged Teal, six (at least) of Wood Ducks. (See last issue for Hooded Mergansers.) Elsewhere — two broods Wood Ducks, Texas Hollow Sanctuary, Odessa (BS).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: nine (max), Jul 5, MNWR (WEB). Down in frequency and numbers. Usually up to 25 may be seen. No nests of Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawks found in Ithaca area, only two sightings of Cooper's. Red-tails in normal numbers, and at Keuka reported as common, with 4-5 pairs seen in short trips (FG). Red-shoulders: fewer than normal. One pair at SWS raised 3 yg. Bald Eagle: no reports after Jun 1. Marsh Hawk: no nests reported, scattered sightings. Sparrow Hawk: extremely poor nesting success around Ithaca. Four pairs known personally to me were unsuccessful this year. Walker, however, found a few near Waterloo.

Bobwhites: scattered reports of small coveys in later summer, including vicinity of Clyde. Turkey: one nest with more than 12 eggs, Bostwick Rd., Ithaca, June. Virginia Rail: many more reports than usual from MNWR, but while drought may have contributed to successful nestings, it also forced birds more into open. Reports of 12-15 some days in late July. Soras: five, (max), Jul 12 (WEB). Common Gallinule: 64 (max), Jul 4, MNWR (WEB). Coots: apparently very successful, no figures available until after Aug 15.

Semi-palmated Plover: two, Jul 5 (first 'fall' date) MNWR; 50, (max), Aug 16, (WEB). Black-bellied Plover: one, Aug. 16, (first) MNWR (WEB). Killdeer: 148 (max), Jul 19, MNWR (WEB). Woodcock: reported frequently, but probably no actual increase. Forced into open in search of food, along shores, etc. Spotted Sandpiper: 27 (max), Jul 12 & 29, MNWR (WEB). Solitary Sandpiper: two (first) Jul 4, MNWR (WEB). Greater Yellowlegs: two (first) Jul 19. Lesser Yellowlegs: one on Jun 28; 19, Jul 1 (last of spring or first of fall??) MNWR (WEB). Pectoral and Least Sandpipers: first arrivals Jul 1. Short-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper, first arrivals Jul 19. Fifty Short-billed Dowitchers (max), Jul 24 (WEB). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 300 (high) Aug 16. No Phalaropes prior to Aug. 15. One unidentified Phalarope, prob. Wilson's, on Aug 16 (WEB). Great Black-backed Gull: one summered on Cay L. **Laughing Gull:** one imm, Jun 12, Sen L (BS & JB). Rare in Finger Lakes. Bonaparte's Gull: two, breeding plumage, Jul 14, Sen L (BS). Rare in summer in state; one, Aug 16, MNWR (WEB). Cuckoos, both species: few reports. Screech Owl: only one or two records all summer. No nesting birds located.

Caprimulgids — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: one heard, June and July, west of Odessa. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: some increase over last summer. The low number of reports of Red-bellied and Red-headed Wood-

peckers hopefully may not mean a complete absence of the birds but a scarcity of observers at the right place at the right time. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: raised young in Sapsucker Woods. One young found dead, late July. All Flycatchers showed some increase over last summer. Tree Swallows: still decreasing. Only two pairs nesting at SWS, in contrast with 5 pairs in '63 and 10-12 pairs in former years. Bank Swallows: known colonies seemed full to capacity. Est. 10,000 (max) at MNWR, Jul 10 (WEB). Purple Martins: left mid-August. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one, late Jun, Watkins Glen (JB), only summer report. House Wren: some increase in Geneva area, no change noted elsewhere. Carolina Wren: one, only, at Keuka. Both Marsh Wrens, scarce in Keuka. Long-billed in fairly good numbers at Montezuma. Mockingbird: one report of three young out of nest, Jul 11, near Hector (BS); one report of 3 birds age not specified, Esperanza, Keuka Lake (Larzelere). Catbirds and Brown Thrashers: noticeable increase in numbers this year. Robins and Wood Thrushes: all observers report some increase. Hermit Thrushes and Veeries: still on decrease. Eastern Bluebird: some definite improvement in numbers throughout the Region, though still far below 'normal' of ten or twelve years ago. Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers: absent at Keuka, where have been breeding in last few years. No nests found at Stewart Park, Ithaca, though birds present earlier. Cedar Waxwings: abundant, successful nestings. Loggerhead Shrikes: no summer reports.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: (rare in Region as nesting bird) raised two Cowbirds in eye-level nest, Texas Hollow, Odessa (BS). Red-eyed Vireos: continue decline in most sections. Nesting Warblers: fewer everywhere. No nesting Ceruleans found at Stewart Park, Ithaca, where have been in recent years. Ovenbirds and Canada Warblers down as SWS — only one Canada nested; only 4 Ovenbirds. Around Geneva, Walker felt that some species (Yellow, Ovenbird, Cerulean, Redstart and Yellowthroat) were in usual numbers.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks: observers at Keuka and Geneva felt their numbers had increased this year, after decline of recent summers. Little increase noted at Ithaca. Baltimore Orioles, Meadowlarks, Redwings, Grackles and Cowbirds had all increased throughout the region. Scarlet Tanagers seemed to be maintaining their numbers — six breeding pairs at SWS this year, and 7 last year. Indigo Buntings were plentiful everywhere. Dickcissel: two, Aug 9, MNWR (RW). Most previous records of this species have been fall or winter birds. Purple Finches: more than usual at Keuka (FG). Goldfinches: very abundant — as was anticipated in spring. Red Crossbills: several seen on west side of Watkins Glen hill in late June. Rare in summer, but after invasion of last winter, to be expected. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: one, Jul 19, MNWR (WEB). Chipping Sparrows, Field Sparrows and Song Sparrows showed some increase.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

It's been a long dry summer. The drought that started at the beginning of May was still going strong August 15. Weather records show that well over half of the rain that fell between June 1 and August 15 came in July but the records were strongly influenced by a couple of hard storms that covered relatively small areas. July was warmer than normal but temperatures were otherwise about average.

Only a report of a Woodcock in shrubbery next to a well watered lawn in a thickly populated suburban area suggests that dryness worked any hardship on birds. On the other hand nesting success was generally good. There were a few reports of nests broken up by predators but not as many as last year.

Among the more interesting reports were Swainson's Thrushes singing through June and breeding records of Long-eared Owls and White-throated Sparrows. It was particularly satisfying to hear of Goshawk nesting success. A probable Saw-whet Owl, Whip-poor-wills, Brown Creepers and more than the usual number of Sapsuckers, Hermit Thrushes and Slate-colored Juncos helped to give a northern flavor to the season. One Mockingbird record represented the southern influence.

Contributors: TNC — The Naturalists' Club, LB — Leslie Bement, RB — Robert Burland, GC — Gail Corderman, M, AD — Marilyn and Anna Davis, RD — Robert Dirig, CG — Clinton Gerould, JG — John Gustafson, CH — Claude Howard, FL — Florence Linaberry, HM — Harriet Marsi, R, JS — Robert and Jean Saunders, MS — Mary Sheffield, RS — Robert Sheffield, AS — Anne Stratton, EW — Elizabeth Washburn, NW — Newell Washburn, MW — Mildred White, R, SW — Ruth and Sally White, EW — Evelyn Williams, RW — Ruth Williams, SW — Stuart Wilson.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: Aug 2, Whitney Point (MS), the first since Apr. Great Blue Heron: an active colony near Whitney Point (MS, EW) and another near Charlotteville, along the Otsego-Schoharie county line (RB), in addition to the three colonies reported last time. Common Egret: 1, Jul 26, Hancock (RD); also at Whitney Point (MS, EW) and Owego (MW, CG). Black-crowned Night Heron: 1, Aug 5, Tioga Center (RW) and an immature Aug 9, Owego (MW, CG, RW); the only reports so far this year. Canada Goose: 4 at Owego, Jun 30, Jul 9 and Aug 14 (MW) but no information about possible domestication. Mallards, Blacks and Woods were the only dabbling ducks reported breeding. Green-winged Teal: 1, Jul 5, Whitney Point (MS). Blue-winged Teal: Jul 5, Whitney Point (MS) and 6, Aug 9, Owego (MW, CG, RW). Ring-necked Duck: a male on a pond near Owego from Jun 1 to Jul 16 (RW), apparently sick or injured. Common Merganser: a female with 7 young, Jun 11 and again Jul 9, Deposit (SW).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: reported once at South Owego (MW, CG) and once in nearby Penna. south of Binghamton, Jun 20 (CH) but fairly frequently at Hancock (RD). Goshawk: Dr. Spofford found two nests in the Pharsalia area, 6 young were hatched and 5 flew. Red-tailed Hawk: "quite a few young seen in Aug", Cortland area (JG). Red-shouldered Hawk: the only reports during the period were from Cranberry Lake in nearby Penna. (EW, NW). Broad-winged Hawk: one on nest Jun 26, Ingraham Hill (CH); some other summer reports without evidence of nesting. Bald Eagle: an immature, Aug 4, Owego (RW). Marsh Hawk: Jul 9, Windsor (HM, FL), the only report during the period.

Bob-white: one heard at East Homer (Frances Newman). Turkey: one male and five females were released near Hancock in Mar and about 30 poults have been observed in the area during the summer (newspaper clipping via RD). Virginia Rail: reported only at Norwich and Sherburne (R, SW). Common Gallinule: Jun 6, Apalachin (TNC), the only report. Woodcock: 1, Aug 11 and again Aug 15, Endwell (LB), in suburban back yard, apparently because of dryness elsewhere. Common Snipe: 2, Jul 26, Sherburne (R, SW); 9, Aug 2, Whitney Point (MS). Upland Plover: on high hill near Homer (Mary Steinbeck). Solitary Sandpiper: July 7, Hinman's Corners (R, JS); the first fall migrants. Greater Yellowlegs: Jul 11, Owego (MW); then none until Aug 9. Lesser Yellowlegs: Aug 9, Endwell (HM, GC). Least Sandpiper: Jul 20, Binghamton (Ray Short) and fairly often from then on. Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 2, Aug 2, Whitney Point (MS), the only ones so far. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls both present in the Cortland area during the summer. Common Tern: 1, Jul 5, Whitney Point (MS). Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo: "This has been our best cuckoo year in quite a few", Cortland area (JG). Long-eared Owl: 1 adult and 2 young, Jun 6, Apalachin (TNC), seen clearly from about 10 feet by several observers — noted long "ears", lengthwise streaking on breast with no white on throat of adult — young had blackish facial disks and were very fuzzy around head, "ears" just beginning to be noticeable. Barred Owl: Jun 12, Hancock (RD),

4 or 5 "talking back and forth." Saw-whet Owl: Jun 19 and 20 and Jul 7, Hinman's Corners where they were reported in Feb and Mar (MS, RS, R, JS), giving what is believed to be the "saw" call described in the books.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: at least 3, Hinman's Corners (MS, RS, R, JS), seen occasionally and heard calling regularly all during Jun, frequency decreasing in Jul and to the end of the period. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1, Aug 6, Hancock (RD), poking bill into the base of an unoccupied Cooper's Hawk nest, perhaps gleaning lice and mites. Red-headed Woodpecker: nested at Endwell as in the last few years, young leaving the nest Jul 7 (FL); "a nesting pair at Cortlandville, as usual" (JG). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: summer reports from several different areas in the region but no nesting record. Downy Woodpecker: 1, Jul 31, Choconut Center (MS), feeding from hummingbird feeder. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2, Aug 5, Ingraham Hill (CH) and again Aug 10. Traill's Flycatcher: reported at Marathon (L. Holmes), Homer (G. Field, J. Griffin), Deposit (SW) and the Triple Cities area.

Bank Swallow: none since Aug. 5. Cliff Swallow: "not so numerous as usual", Cortland area (JG). Purple Martin: "down in numbers some from 1963", Cortland area (JG). Tufted Titmouse: 1, fairly regularly from Jun 8 to 23, Oxford (AS), a new location. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Jun 27, Candor (TNC); 2, Jun 28, Pharsalia (R, SW); no other reports. Brown Creeper: Jun 26 and 27 and Aug 13, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Winter Wren: reported regularly in Jun at Hancock (RD); 1, Jun 14, Pharsalia (R, SW); Jul 7 and 8, Deposit (SW). Long-billed Marsh Wren: reported at Sherburne all summer (R, SW); also at 2 locations in the Triple Cities area in Jun and Jul (TNC). Short-billed Marsh Wren: Jun 5, Hinman's Corners (R, JS); 2, Jul 25, Sherburne (R, SW). Mockingbird: 1, Jun 11, Ingraham Hill (CH), "much harried by redwings and other birds — even barn swallows". Robin: Jul 9, Deposit (SW), "banded 2 albinos, just out of nest". Hermit Thrush: Jun 20, nest with 3 young that had left by Jun 23, Ingraham Hill (CH); 1 other nesting record at South Owego (EW); quite a few other reports from most parts of the region; still singing at Center Valley in Otsego County Aug 10 (RB). Swainson's Thrush: 2, Jun 14, singing at Pharsalia, 1 was seen (R, SW), heard again Jun 28. Eastern Bluebird: in Cortland area, 148 nesting boxes produced 110 young in 34 broods (JG); at Choconut Center, 12 boxes produced 5 broods (MS); at Ingraham Hill, Jul 21, 21 young and 3 adults (CH); at Charlotteville, "as many as 20 on the lawn at one time — dozens of them along Center Valley road" (RB); apparently a successful breeding season. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2, Jun 13, Chenango Valley State Park (MS, R, SW); Aug 14, Owego (MW). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1, Jun 27, Ingraham Hill (CH). Water Pipit: 2, Jun 2 and again Jun 5, Ingraham Hill (CH).

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: 1, during Jun, Oxford (AS); Jul 16 to 20, Ingraham Hill (CH). Warbling Vireo: infrequent reports; "singing again in Aug", Cortland (JG). Worm-eating Warbler: 1, Jul 7, Hancock (RD). Golden-winged Warbler: fairly common in the Triple Cities area; also reported at Deposit (SW). Brewster's Warbler: Jun 28, Hinman's Corners (MS). Blue-winged Warbler: 1 at Chenango Forks during Jul and Aug (M, AD); Jun 30, singing at Deposit (SW). Yellow Warbler: common until Aug 7. Magnolia Warbler: a few at Pharsalia (R, SW) and in the Triple Cities area in Jun. Black-throated Blue Warbler: seen off and on during Jun and Jul at Hancock (RD); also reported in the Triple Cities area. Myrtle Warbler: a straggler at Chenango Forks until Jun 11 (M, AD); 1, Jun 14 and 28, Pharsalia (R, SW). Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers: the usual few summer birds throughout the region. Bay-breasted Warbler: 1, Aug 4, Owego (RW). Blackpoll Warbler: to Jun 3, Endwell (LB). Louisiana Waterthrush: Jun 26, Chenango Forks, with young (M, AD). Mourning Warbler: 1, Jun 14, Pharsalia (R, SW), singing, the only report during the period. Yellow-breasted Chat: Jun 27, Candor (TNC); Jun 28, Hinman's Corners (MS); only the second and third locations this year.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: 30, Jul 20, Hancock (RD), the first report of flocking. Cardinal: still moving into new territory at Hancock (RD). Purple Finch: common through Jun and Jul, almost disappearing in Aug; about average number of breeders at Deposit (SW). Savannah Sparrow: "many noted" at Cortland (JG). Grasshopper Sparrow: not many reports. Slate-colored Junco: many more summer reports than usual, including quite a few nesting records, from almost all parts of the region. White-throated Sparrow: 1, Jun 14 and 8, Jun 28, Pharsalia (R, SW); Jun 26, Ingraham Hill (CH), an adult with 4 young barely out of the nest, adult and 1 young still in the area at the end of the period: Jul 9, Windsor (HM, FL).
710 University Ave., Endwell 13763

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

June and most of July were hot and dry, and the rest of the period rather cool and wet. Heat and drought may have been responsible for the early cessation of song. Edges of some ponds became too dry and weed-grown to be good shorebird habitat, but other bodies of water developed extensive damp mudflats as the water level lowered more than usual. Frosts late in May were blamed for low production of some species of waterfowl at HIGMA.

The breeding status of the raptors continues to be a dismal picture. The last five-year period has shown a very noticeable, if poorly documented, decrease of the Cooper's, Red-shouldered, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks. Only the Red-tailed Hawk can still be considered a reasonably common breeding bird. In view of the possibility of the water-birds also being affected by pesticides, a full listing of sightings during the breeding season is given.

In the line of rarities, the numbers of Ruffs recorded at Onondaga Lake stole the limelight. Other unusual records were Laughing Gull and King Rail.

Further exploratory trips were taken into northern Herkimer County, the Tug Hill Plateau, and the "southern highlands" — the high ridges of southern Onondaga and Madison Counties — to fill in a bit more the picture of bird distribution in these outlying parts of the Region.

This is the last report of the present editors. Before returning the job of Regional editor to Fritz Scheider, we would like to thank all those observers whose notes have made these reports possible.

Abbreviations: GMA — Game Management Area; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; Onon — Onondaga; RSP — Rome Sand Plains; SP — Sandy Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; Skan — Skaneateles; Syr — Syracuse; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area; VBSP — Verona Beach State Park.

Regular Observers: DA — Dorothy Ackley; HA — Hazel Aspinwall; JB — Jon Bart; G, MC — Gerald and Marge Church; ME — Meredith Estoff; GG — George Gage; KH — Kenneth Hanson; DP — David Peakall; JP — Jean Propst; PP — Paul Paquette; MR — Margaret Rusk; AS — Alfred Starling; BS — Betty Starr; CS — Christian Spies; FS — Fritz Scheider; WS — Walter Spofford; R, SW — Ruth and Sally White.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: six broods at HIGMA; single broods noted at Stevens Pd and SP; present during the breeding season at Bolivar and the Salmon R. Great Blue Heron: WS flew over the Cross Lake heronry Jun 30, and estimated 60-75 nests, with 80-90% having at least one young; at Scott Swamp, 12-15 nests seen in Mar, some, at least, occupied. Common Egret: three, Stevens Pd Jun 6 (CS). Green Heron: evening flight into Scott Swamp, 24, Jul 30; this may be a good way of counting this species. Black-crowned Night Heron: several seen during summer at HIGMA but no

evidence of breeding (GG). American Bittern: recorded from HIGMA (one nest found); Clay Swamp (several booming), Scott Swamp, and Bird's Nest Pd nr Skan. Least Bittern: recorded from Scott Swamp and SP.

Canada Goose: 38 nests at HIGMA produced 187 eggs and 120 young; good population of sub-adult birds present; five young raised at Stevens Pd. Black Duck: six broods HIGMA, two broods Stevens Pd. Pintail: four broods HIGMA. Blue-winged Teal: five broods HIGMA. Mallard and Wood Duck: data from HIGMA not available. American Widgeon: a male, Stevens Pd Jun 17 and 21 (MR). Redhead: excellent season at HIGMA; first natural production, with at least 20 nests. (All information on HIGMA from GG).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: seen during the summer at HIGMA, Scott Swamp, Hastings, and near Parish. Goshawk: one site in the SP area occupied — female was a first-year bird, three eggs laid, none hatched (WS); nest found near Constantia with three young — none flew (WS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: adult carrying food, late Jun, near Lafayette (WS) is the only record indicating nesting. Cooper's Hawk: no records suggestive of breeding. Marsh Hawk: several sightings of a pair in the Parish area; no other records indicating nesting.

King Rail: imm, Bird's Nest Pd near Skan Aug 9 (MR), first record of the year.

Ringed Plover: one at Onon L Jun 17 (JP, MR) is outside the normal date range; arr Jul 10, early, HIGMA; first two imms noted Aug 15 Onon L (MR). Golden Plover: arr Syr airport Aug 10, record early date (MR). Black-bellied Plover: arr Jul 30, record early, Onon L. Turnstone: arr Aug 5, late, SP. Upland Plover: one Pompey, where previously unrecorded, Jun 28; six, Syr airport Aug 2, with unprecedentedly high counts of 63 Aug 3 and 71 Aug 10 there. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Jul 28, Bolivar (MR). Greater Yellowlegs: arr Jul 13, early, Onon L. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Jul 1, fairly early, Onon L; max 50 Onon L Jul 15.

Knot: one, breeding plumage; Onon L Jul 30, record early date and second record for this well-watched area. Sandpipers: Pectoral: arr Jul 16, Onon L. Baird's: first, Aug 13 Onon L. Least: arr Jul 1, early, Onon L; max 140 Onon L Jul 20. Short-billed Dowitcher: first, Onon L Jul 15; max ten Onon L Jul 26. Stilt: first, Onon L Aug 2, late; max five Onon L Aug 9. Semipalmated: arr Jul 13 Onon L; max 200 Aug 14 VBSP. Western: two Onon L Jul 13 (FS).

Ruff: numbers at Onon L were unprecedented, with six or seven different individuals sighted over the period Jul 1-Aug 13 (a detailed field note is being prepared). Sanderling: arr Jul 26, Onon L; max 85 SP Aug 5. Wilson's Phalarope: one, Onon L Jul 1 (JP, MR) — species has not previously been reported until end of July. Northern Phalarope: female, Aug 12-13 Onon L (JP).

Laughing Gull: adult, Jun 17 Onon L (JP, MR), first Regional record in ten years. Bonaparte's Gull: one in breeding plumage Aug 5 SP, first fall record. Caspian Tern: first, Jul 15, Onon L (JP, MR). Common Tern: count of 50 adults and 15 young in mid-Jul at Onon L suggests poorer season than last year.

Goatsuckers — Vireos: Whip-poor-will: counts of up to four during Jul at Boonville (KH). Kingfisher: highest Regional concentration at Boonville — six-eight/day (KH), and at sand quarries and mudbanks around Otisco and Tully Lakes with two active burrows near Otisco (BS). Pileated Woodpecker: one active nest and a second pair present (nesting?) in an eighth-mile-square maple woodlot at Martisco, seems a surprising concentration (fide BS); three birds seen regularly at Tully L (JP). Red-headed: 17 known active sites around Oneida, mostly in the hills to the south of there (DA), and one active nest near Morrisville — Madison Co. (A. Carter) has by far the most nesting pairs of any part of the Region; only one other definite nesting — two young raised n. of New Haven on L. Ontario (I. Stone and R. Thomas); sightings of an adult with an imm in May at Liver-

pool (S. Morgan), two adults near Eaton (G, MC), and three adults in a high-lying deadwoods swamp on Marcellus-Skan townline (BS), a site which should be checked in future for breeding. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: an adult with at least one imm Jul 13 in mixed swampy woods near Oneida (DA), another neither high nor northern location; three imms again at Tully L (ME). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: regularly present at Big Moose (C. Bowes).

Kingbird and Phoebe: good numbers up to 20 and 15 per trip respectively in late Jun and Jul at Boonville and also in southern Onon and Madi Counties. Traill's Flycatcher: the "webeo" form heard at several places on the western edge of the Tug Hill, at a location in TRGMA (flatlands between the Oswego and Seneca Rivers) where "fitzbews" are the more common, and in s Onon and s Madi Counties — "webeo's" apparently are the common form in the "southern highlands" as in the NE part of the Region. Two Yellow-bellied and three Olive-sided Flycatchers noted at Big Moose Jun 20.

Bank Swallow: at least 500 holes in the Fish Creek (near NE corner of Oneida L) colony, a high percentage occupied; a previously unreported active colony of 80 holes near Otisco L. Rough-winged: a pair nesting in an old Kingfisher burrow at Fish Gulf near Otisco L (BS); two sighted at Pixley Falls near Boonville (FS) rather far north for them — do they nest in the stonework of the old canal there? Cliff: noted as usual in the NE but only one report from the "southern highlands" — nine at Eaton (G, MC); a colony of 31 active nests near Westernville where there were 90 two years ago; a newly-discovered colony of about 60 nests just east of Oneida L (DA). Swallows and Martins flocking Aug 9 near Oneida L where there were swarms of an insect similar to the eel fly (DA); Aug 2 and 3 flocks at SP counted by AS of 100 Tree Swallows, 1000 Bank, 10-25 Rough-winged, 1500 Barn, and 100 Martin; at least 500,000, perhaps over a million swallows, mostly Bank and Barn, over Clay Swamp the evening of Aug 3 (JP, MR).

Gray Jay: found near Big Moose in Jun (DP). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one at Pratt's Falls, a steep gorge in mixed woods, native beech and hemlock with spruce plantations, in S Onon Co, newly found location (JB); numbers not notably high, as might be expected from the good wintering concentrations, in the regular summering areas. Brown Creeper: group of about three fledglings being fed by two adults at Muskrat Bay, Oneida L Jun 28 (MR), where they regularly summer; found at Scott Swamp, at Toad Harbor in the NW quarter of Oneida L, and in a mixed woods near RSP. Winter Wren: one found, singing in a hemlock gorge, for the first time in RSP, a locale of Tug Hill affinities; noted near DeRuyter and in the Littlejohn GMA in the Tug Hill country. Long-billed Marsh Wren: none noted in a week at SP in early Aug (AS) — due to disturbance by boating or destruction of habitat through dredging and making channels in the cattail marsh?; several could be heard from one spot in both Scott and Bolivar Swamps this summer. No reports of Carolina or Short-billed Marsh Wren.

A Brown Thrasher was singing from the cottonwood-covered low dunes at SP May 31, an indication of how the outer half of the spit is becoming suitable for brush-loving species. Two Mockingbirds were seen together on a hillside south of Oneida Jun 27 and 28 by DA and A. Raynsford; one bird was singing, and the two were observed in what appeared to be courtship feeding, as the bird being fed looked like an adult. Robin: abundant the latter part of the summer, with 40 feeding in the mud of Stevens Pd. Aug 14 when it had become too dry for shorebirds. Hermit Thrush: frequently heard in suitable habitat (pine plantations and mixed woods with pine) in the RSP vicinity, SW fringes of the Tug Hill area, and Brookfield area. From the reports received it appears that the Bluebird is doing as well as or better than last year; active nest box programs help — seven broods were raised by six pairs in the Rome area, nestings again at Lafayette and Onon Hill, and two adults with two imms seen at Tully; a Pulaski nesting was unsuccessful; occasional sightings at Boonville and near Pulaski; however, no birds seen around Eaton or Baldwinsville where they have nested in recent years.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: present in Scott Swamp from May 26, nest found there Jun 17, young being fed in the nest the 24th, and at least one fledgling being fed Jul 1 (JP, MR) — another new breeding area, but seemingly ideal, the nest in willows bordering the marsh; Jun 28 a Gnatcatcher was feeding probably a well-feathered fledgling rather than another adult, at Short Point Bay, s shore of Oneida L, about eight miles from the 1963 nest site (MR). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two or three heard singing but not seen well enough to identify as to age, feeding in a Norway spruce plantation in deciduous woods in Littlejohn GMA Jul 11 (MR). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: singing at two places near Big Moose Jun 20. Loggerhead Shrike: only report, one seen near Pulaski (a few miles from where they were repeatedly sighted in 1963) Jun 21 (FS).

Warblers: Even common species such as the Yellow seemed strangely scarce around Tully (ME); perhaps the drought caused early cessation of song there. Elsewhere numbers appeared normal. The summering locations mentioned below do not imply breeding unless definite evidence is cited.

Black-and-white Warbler: at Happy Valley GMA on SW edge of the Tug Hill region Jun 27. Golden-winged: one again singing at Oak Orchard on the s bank of the Oneida R in May; one singing in Happy Valley GMA, a new Tug Hill location, in Jun. Brewster's: again two males distinguishable by plumage, in the brushy field near Camillus. Nashville: seemed to be an increase at Boonville (KH); fewer at Brookfield as the plantations grow taller (R, SW); unusual is one at TRGMA, in a deciduous-bushy area, Jun 21 (FS). Magnolia: found on every trip to the spruce-planted areas of the "southern highlands". Black-throated Blue: good counts in the Tug Hill vicinity — six at Panther L Jun 25 (DA) and 12 around Boonville Jun 28 (KH). Myrtle: found again near Redfield, two Jul 11.

A number of new locations for Cerulean — at Pleasant L (FS) and Schroepel's Bridge (JB) — two additional locations in the Oneida R vicinity; a new Otisco L location (BS); one at Sherrill again, singing Jun 13 and 14 (PP); one or two warblers (almost certainly this species, not Black-throated Blue) heard singing but not seen, in mixed oak-pine-hemlock woods NE of Oneida L Jul 4 (MR); at least two singing Jun 14 at the Toad Harbor site, the only other known site on the n shore of Oneida L; finally, an imm (local bird or migrant? — no known summering location nearby) at SSSP Aug 15 singing an abbreviated whisper song (MR). Blackpoll: one singing Jun 20 near Big Moose (FS) — unusual as this was in mixed coniferous-deciduous woods at 1500 feet. Northern Waterthrush: four in as many miles Aug 5 along the SW shore of Oneida L — the swamp there is a good area for them. Louisiana Waterthrush: a pair feeding a fledgling Jun 20 in a steep side gorge of Pixley Falls, unusually far north (FS); also present again at three of the streams or side-gorges which empty into Otisco L — five birds at four spots in one mile of such a gorge on Aug 8 is a good concentration; two birds at Cedarvale again; a probable imm at Fellows Falls, one of the Tully locations, Jul 25; Pratt's Falls, where two singing males were present May-Jul, is a new location (JB). Yellowthroat: high counts of up to 50/trip at Boonville.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: a large flock of 40, in winter plumage, Aug 13 at Delta L near Rome (HA). Rusty Blackbird: total of six adults at several places near Big Moose Jun 20.

A male Cardinal feeding a young Cowbird at Rome (HA) where Cardinals were a rarity a few years ago, and a Cardinal heard Jul 5 in Morrisville Swamp where Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and White-throated Sparrows are typical fringillids. Indigo Bunting: high numbers — up to 30/day (Otisco L, Jul 26). Evening Grosbeak: a male with a female Jun 20 at Big Moose (PP). Purple Finch: came daily to feeder for sunflower seed in Jun and Jul at Rome (HA); two separate reports of young at Skan (fide B. Burtt): through the summer at Eaton (G, MC) and Syr (D. Dawley); four in spruce areas at Pratt's Falls Jun 28; but also sightings at two apparently spruceless places immediately n of Oneida L Jun 14. Three crossbills, thought

to be White-winged, seen in poor light in a swamp at Brookfield Jul 20, sang "a trill on different pitches" (R, SW); SW believed the song was that of the White-winged, which she has heard in Maine.

Sparrows: Grasshopper: a new Baldwinsville location is near Dead Creek; most recently-found locations again occupied. Henslow's: four heard Jul 26 in the Cicero-Boliver area, but none calling in the same places Aug 10; if this is early for song to stop, it may be due to the drought. Vesper: seen regularly in sw Onondaga County, with ten around Otisco L Jul 26; total of 12, probably family groups, at Pleasant L Jul 29 and Aug 15. Junco: seen again in high country near Tully (JP). Field Sparrow: numbers rose at Boonville to 50/trip by Aug 14 (KH). White-throated: fledglings being fed at two s Madi Co locations Jul 5. Lincoln's: two near Big Moose Jun 20 behaving as though they had a nest close by; another bird seen in the area that day (FS).

SUNY Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

June and July were very warm and dry. The first half of August was cooler with some rain, but there were no really heavy rains until the third week in August. The water level in many streams and lakes was low. Lake Ontario was several inches below normal. As the water became low or dried up completely during the latter part of the period, waterfowl became more numerous than usual in places where there was water. Some areas became more attractive than usual for the shore birds.

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: 20 at PRGMA (Perch River Game Management Area) Aug 9. This is near a breeding colony. Common Egret: at Wanakena Jun 6 (Walton). This is the first for this region for several years. Canada Goose: A good breeding season at PRGMA. 57 resident birds, young and adults, were banded by driving them into nets. There were about a third more young raised at Wilson Hill Game Management Area than last year. 200 resident geese were banded there. It was a fairly good breeding season for ducks at PRGMA. Green-winged Teal: 10 at El Dorado Aug 3. Blue-winged Teal seen frequently at PRGMA and 15 at El Dorado Aug 3.

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: one young in a nest in northern Lewis Co. near the nest which had 3 young a year ago. Sharp-shinned Hawk: southern St. Lawrence Co. late June. Broad-winged Hawk: northern Lewis Co. and southern St. Lawrence Co. late June. Bald Eagle: only one, an adult at El Dorado Jul 30. Osprey: successful nesting at Yellow Lake, St. Lawrence Co. Common Gallinule: a brood of young that looked only a couple of days old at PRGMA, seems rather late. Virginia Rail: young chicks at PRGMA July 26.

Four different parties visited El Dorado, one group each day, on Jul 30, Aug 1, 2 and 3. The count of many species varied greatly from day to day. The shorebirds listed below were seen at El Dorado except when another place is given. Semipalmated Plover: 30 Jul 30, 18 Aug 13. Killdeer: probably several all summer, high 25 Aug 1. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 to 5 Jul 30 to Aug 13. Upland Plover: 4 Aug 3. Greater Yellowlegs: 22 at PRGMA Jul 26, 100 at El Dorado Jul 30, only one Aug 3. Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 at PRGMA Jul 26, 20 at El Dorado Jul 30, 4 to 8 there Aug 1-13. Pectoral Sandpiper: Jul 30 and Aug 13. Least Sandpiper: several Jul 30 to Aug 13. Dunlin: 2 Jul 30. Short-billed Dowitcher: 4 Jul 30, 6 Aug 13. Stilt Sandpiper: still in partial spring plumage Jul 30, a count of 12 (Rusk) on Aug 1 seems to be a record high. Semipalmated Sandpiper: several during Aug. Sanderling: 200 Jul 30. Wilson's Phalarope: one Aug 13. Bonaparte's Gull: 6 Aug 2. Caspian Tern: 15 Jul 30, 13 Aug 13. Black Tern: 8 Aug 3. Black-billed Cuckoo: at South Edwards and El Dorado.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Red-headed Woodpecker: two immature at PRGMA where they seem to breed every year. Bluebird: successful nesting at Brownville and at Black River where a pair raised two broods of five each. Yellow-throated Vireo: near Watertown Jun 13. Cerulean Warbler: three or more found singing in June and a nest discovered Jul 8 (see Field Note section). Northern Waterthrush: northern Lewis Co. Jun 27 and at South Edwards in St. Lawrence Co about Jun 30. Red Crossbill: a male at a feeder in Watertown Jun 10 and again Jul 19. Slate-colored Junco: seen for the first time in late June near South Edwards. White-throated Sparrow: continues to increase in southern St. Lawrence Co.
173 Haley St., Watertown 13601.

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

HARRIETT L. DELAFIELD

The nesting season of 1964 seems to have run pretty close to normal in areas of District 7 reporting.

There was a drought in June followed by an excess of rain in late July and early August. A moderate frost occurred on the nights of July 30 and 31 which did severe damage to the berry crops — blueberries, raspberries, blackberries — almost non-existent! A bear was reported on one of the main streets of Saranac Lake.

Some bird species such as the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Catbird were encountered more often than last season; whereas others such as Wood Thrush, Slate-colored Junco and Bluebird were encountered less often. The one species which seems to show a definite downward trend over a short period of years is the Hermit Thrush.

A few unusual birds; Blue Grosbeak at Port Kent, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers at Big Moose L and Constable L and Common Terns at Crown Point; mark the period but mostly it was quite routine.

Observers and initials: AA — Agnes Amstutz; EA — Elizabeth Anderson; GC — Geoffrey Carleton; ED — Ethel Dyer; HD — Harriet Delafield; JH — Joseph Hart; JK — Joseph Keji; MK — Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; DMcl — Dorothy McIlroy; DP — David Peakall; GY — Gladys Young.

Abbreviations: L — Lake; P — Pond; R — River; Co — County.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: pair, no evidence of breeding, Jun 17, Chubb L (DP); pair Weller P, nesting, (AA); pair with two young Jul 10, Duck P (JH). Pied-billed Grebe: "heard regularly" Tupper L and Raquette P marsh areas (MK). Great Blue Heron: June 21 and Aug 10, one, "seems scarce" Ray Brook (JK). Green Heron: late Aug Tupper L (AA). American Bittern: one or two reported from Tupper L (MK). Black Duck: three Aug 7 Ray Brook (JK); few Tupper L (MK). Blue-winged Teal: brood of thirteen hatched Saranac R (HD); seen Aug 23, no numbers, Tupper L (AA). Wood Duck: few seen Aug 23 Tupper L (AA). Hooded Merganser: few seen July 7, 11 and Aug 3 Ray Brook (JK). Common Merganser: female with nine young Jun 28 Sucker Bay, Raquette L (Hasler & Richardson of Baldwinsville); female with five young, Piseco L, 2nd week in July (DMcl). Red-breasted Merganser: "anxious female" Constable L Jun 17 (DP).

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: Jun 30 at occupied Yellow-shafted Flicker hole, Elizabethtown (GC). Red-tailed Hawk: Jul 4 Elizabethtown "first I ever saw here in summer" (GC). Broad-winged Hawk: throughout period, two nests widely separated, young, Jul 30, Ray Brook (JK). Osprey: Ray Brook, one Jun 23 thru Jul 17, "at least three active nests" Tupper L area (W Frenette). Sparrow Hawk: one Jul 17 Keene cemetery (EA). Ruffed Grouse: "robin-sized young" Ray Brook Jun 14 (JK); two immature Saranac L Aug 11 (EA). Killdeer: one No Clinton Co Jun 22 (HD); Tupper L (MK). Common Snipe: nesting in marsh Tupper L (AA); nesting Saranac R marsh (HD). Upland Plover: one, Jun 20 Bradford Rd near West Chazy

on top of telegraph pole, another calling in field, possible pair ? (EA, HD). Solitary Sandpiper: one Aug 10 Ray Brook (JK). Least Sandpiper: two Westport Jul 13 (GC). Herring Gull: very few reported. Ring-billed Gull: Port Kent beach Jun 12, four L Colby Aug 8 (EA, HD). Common Tern: two Crown Point jetty Jul 25 "First county record as far as I recall." (GC). Black Tern: L Alice Jun 26, as many as 12 earlier in Jun (JH). Mourning Dove: Pair Normans Ridge Aug 7 (EA, HD), this pair is said to have stayed on the ridge several summers, no nest found. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Jun 19 Elizabethtown (GC). Black-billed Cuckoo: one Jul 4 Ray Brook (JK).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Chimney Swift: throughout period, Aug 7 ten Ray Brook (JK); Piseco L Jun 23 (DMcI); two Jun 14 Fish Creek (HD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: courtship flight Jun 3 and 4, chasing a goldfinch Jun 24 Ray Brook (JK); Piseco L June and July (DMcI); very good numbers Saranac L (HD). Belted Kingfisher: reported from all areas. Yellow-shafted Flicker: all areas. Pileated Woodpecker: one Jul 26 McKenzie P (JH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: young out of nest July 8 Ray Brook (JK); reported from all areas. Hairy Woodpecker: normal Saranac L, Ray Brook and Piseco L. Downy Woodpecker: same as Hairy. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: male Big Moose L inlet Jun 14, female Constable L inlet Jun 17 (DP). Eastern Kingbird: Ray Brook throughout period (JK); more than usual in area, four Aug 14 Saranac L (HD); "rare" Tupper L (MK). Great Crested Flycatcher: nested Ray Brook (JK); Jun 23 Piseco L (DMcI). Eastern Phoebe: all areas; young out of nest Aug 7 Saranac L (HD). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: in swamp through June at Gabriels, carefully studied by David Young. Traill's Flycatcher: Jun 19-Jul 27 Ray Brook (JK); Jun 23 Piseco L (DMcI). Least Flycatcher: all areas. Eastern Wood Pewee: all areas. Olive-sided Flycatcher: reported from Ray Brook, Saranac L and Piseco L. Horned Lark: five Normans Ridge, Aug 7 (HD); "none seen since '59" Tupper L (MK). Tree Swallow: good nesting numbers all areas. Bank Swallow: Jun 2-Aug 10 Ray Brook (JK); immature mid-July Piseco L (DMcI). Rough-winged Swallow: Jun 17-Jul 17 Ray Brook, no numbers given (JK). Barn Swallow: all areas. Cliff Swallow: young Aug 1 Ray Brook (JK); six Aug 7 Normans Ridge (HD); mentioned Tupper L (MK) and Piseco L reports. Purple Martin: one mid-July Speculator (DMcI). Blue Jay: good nesting season all areas. Common Crow: no great numbers reported. Black-capped Chickadee: first young Jun 17 Ray Brook (JK); nesting all areas. White-breasted Nuthatch: "scarce" Piseco L (DMcI); normal other areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: all areas. Brown Creeper: one or two Jun 14 & 30 Ray Brook (JK); one mid-July at Faun L (DMcI); one Fish Creek Jun 14 (HD). House Wren: one Jun 15 Tupper L (AA). Winter Wren: "usual places" July Piseco L (DMcI); heard Tupper L (MK). Long-billed Marsh Wren: Jun 12 Tupper L (MK). Catbird: this bird, while still not common was seen more frequently throughout period, Ray Brook (JK) and Saranac L (HD) than past few years; Jun and July at Piseco L (DMcI). Brown Thrasher: one Jul 24 Ray Brook (JK); pair Saranac L and singing male L Clear (HD); "fewer, did not nest in usual place" Tupper L (MK). Robin: good breeding season. Wood Thrush: only fair reports from all areas. Hermit Thrush: all reporters seem to agree that this species is on the decline. Swainson's Thrush: reported in small numbers from all areas. Veery: the only thrush which seems to be holding its own or even increasing. Eastern Bluebird: one Jul 11 Gabriels, one Aug 7 Saranac L, discouraging numbers (HD); pair first seen Jun 6 Tupper L brought off two broods (AA). Golden-crowned Kinglet: five Aug 5 "scarce" Ray Brook (JK). Cedar Waxwing: "few and late" Tupper L (MK); other reports echo this statement. Loggerhead Shrike: early Aug Tupper L (AA). Starling: normal.

Vireos — Warblers: Solitary Vireo: Jun 3-Jul 9 Ray Brook (JK); June Piseco L (DMcI); "fewer" Tupper L (MK). Red-eyed Vireo: all areas. Black-and-white Warbler: Jun 2-Aug 13 Ray Brook (JK); one Jun 14 Fish

Creek (HD). Nashville Warbler: June near Speculator (DMcI); Jun 3-Aug 1-3 Ray Brook (JK); two Jun 14 Fish Creek (HD). Parula Warbler: one Jun 10 Ray Brook (JK); Jun Piseco L (DMcI); three Jun 14 Fish Creek, one Ross Park Jul 11 (HD). Yellow Warbler: one Jun 12 Port Kent station (HD). Magnolia Warbler: Jun 18, Aug 1 & 4 Ray Brook (JK); June and July Piseco L (DMcI). Black-throated Blue Warbler: nesting female played wounded Fish Creek Jun 14 (HD); nested Ray Brook (JK); June and July Piseco L (DMcI). Myrtle Warbler: all areas; fledglings Aug 4 Ray Brook (JK). Black-throated Green Warbler: Jun 2-Aug 10 Ray Brook (JK); June and July Piseco L (DMcI); two Jul 11 near Madawaska (HD). Blackburnian Warbler: Jun 2-Aug 11 Ray Brook (JK); June and July Piseco L (DMcI); one Fish Creek Jun 14 (HD). Chestnut-sided Warbler: "commonest warbler" Ray Brook (JK); nesting Saranac L (HD); June and July Piseco L (DMcI). Ovenbird: young Jun 23 Ray Brook (JK); June and July Piseco L (DMcI); one Jun 12 Forestdale Rd (HD). Northern Waterthrush: Jul 27, Aug 5 & 6 Ray Brook (JK); June Piseco L (DMcI). Mourning Warbler: seen six days in June Ray Brook (JK); one singing male June Piseco L (DMcI). Yellowthroat: all areas. Wilson's Warbler: Jul 25, one Tupper L (AA). Canada Warbler: throughout period Ray Brook (JK); two young at nest July Faun L (DMcI); two Jun 14 Fish Creek (HD). Redstart: "less" Ray Brook (JK); June and July Piseco L (DMcI); pair Jun 14 Fish Creek (HD).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: pair in fields Ray Brook Jun 18 (JK); five No Clinton Co. Jun 22 (HD). Eastern Meadowlark: five young Jul 5 Ray Brook (JK); flock of ten Jul 14 Saranac L (HD). Red-winged Blackbird: common all areas. Baltimore Oriole: one Jun 12 Port Kent (HD); one Aug 9 Saranac L (ED); poor numbers. Common Grackle: common all areas. Brown-headed Cowbird: Keji noted young being fed by Slate-colored Junco, Blackburnian Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo at Ray Brook. Scarlet Tanager: nesting Ray Brook (JK); July Piseco L (DMcI); one Jun 14 Fish Creek, one Jul 11 Saranac L (HD); one Saranac L Aug 11 (Mrs. Schwartz). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: very good numbers reported by many people in all areas. **Blue Grosbeak:** one Jun 17 Port Kent Station — see field note section (HD). Indigo Bunting: pair Jul 9 Ray Brook (JK); one Jun 1 Mt Pisgah (HD); pair Aug 11 Saranac L (ED). Evening Grosbeak appeared to be nesting in all areas including Piseco L (DMcI). Purple Finch: good nesting season in all areas. Pine Siskin: June Piseco L, no numbers given (DMcI). American Goldfinch: nesting in small numbers in all areas. Red Crossbill: one or two flying over Jun 14, 15 & 18 Ray Brook (JK). Savannah Sparrow: nesting Ray Brook (JK) and Saranac L (HD). Slate-colored Junco: nesting in small numbers all areas. Chipping Sparrow: common all areas. Field Sparrow: June and July Piseco L (DMcI); one Jul 17 Saranac L (HD). White-throated Sparrow: nesting all areas. Lincoln's Sparrow: Jun 2-Jul 4, "food in bill" Jun 18 Ray Brook (JK). Swamp Sparrow: Ray Brook (JK) and Piseco L (DMcI). Song Sparrow: normal all areas.

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

Region 8 experienced its third successive dry summer — and the driest of all three. Rainfall at Albany during June was the lowest since records were started there (1826), and totalled only 0.65 in. (2.60 in. below normal); the May-June total, also the lowest on record, was only 1.29 in. Temperatures in June averaged 66.5°, 0.8° below normal. July was a hot month, averaging 74.4° at Albany, 2.3° above normal, but drought conditions worsened with precipitation of only 1.29 in., 2.20 in. less than normal. Early Aug was cooler than usual, with practically no precipitation.

The lack of rainfall definitely seems to have decreased the number of nesting marshbirds in Region 8. Very few rails and gallinules were observed this summer. Pied-billed Grebes, Marsh Hawks, Bitterns and Great Blue Herons were virtually absent from observers' reports during June and July, although a few of these appeared in Aug. Few hawks were seen. Many other landbirds — especially some of the flycatchers and many of the warblers — seemed very low in numbers in usual breeding habitat. Swallows and blackbirds, on the other hand, seemed more abundant than usual, with large flocks, especially of the latter, appearing in many sections by the end of the period.

Low water in marsh, lake and reservoir areas again are attracting a wide variety of shorebirds to this region; the vanguard of these appeared during this period. Rare or unusual species occurring during the period included Little Blue Heron, Least Bittern, Mute Swan, Black Vulture, White-rumped Sandpiper and Orchard Oriole. Perhaps the most interesting report is that of the nesting of a pair of Goshawks about 20 miles west of Albany.

Abbreviations used: ADBC — Alan Devoe Bird Club; SBC — Schenectady Bird Club; Am — American; br — breasted; com — common; cr — crowned; imm — immature; L — Lake; nr — near; Res — Reservoir; SC Res — Stony Creek Reservoir; thr — throated; TR — Tomhannock Reservoir; VFG — Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; w — winged.

Observers: HB — Hortense Barton; JHB, BB — James & Barbara Bush; HE — Hazel Eddy; PE, GE — Paul & Georgia Erlenbach; AG — Aden Gokay; EH — Esly Hallenbeck; MK — Marcia Kent; MDM — Mary Mickle; JP, EP — John & Eloise Payne; EMR — Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.; DJT — Dr. Donald Tucker; RW — Robert Wernick; PPW — Peter Wickham; RPY Robert Yunick.

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: only one reported in the region during Jun; an influx occurred after mid-Jul, although less reported than usual. Com Egret: one was at VFG from Aug 1 on (EH) and another appeared at Tuttle's Marsh Aug 6-9 (PE, GE). **Little Blue Heron:** an adult of this species appeared at a pond in Old Chatham Aug 22 (EMR). Green Heron: widely reported as usual, with a noticeable influx in Aug. Black-cr Night-heron: five reports, all of imm birds at VFG, Jul 15 (PPW) through end of period, max 3 Jul 27 (HE). Am Bittern: only four reports. **Least Bittern:** two were at VFG Jul 18 (EH, PPW). **Mute Swan:** two were at Emboght during Jun, then suddenly disappeared (JHB); another was at Basic Res Aug 8 (MK); this species has not become established in this area thus far. Canada Goose: reported Jun 6, SC Res (EH) and at Canaan through Jul (AG). Am Widgeon: one male was at SC Res Jul 18 (PPW). This may have been a bird observed there late in May. Green-w Teal: no nesting reports; three were at SC Res Jul 15 (PPW). Blue-winged Teal: reported throughout summer, several areas. Hooded Merganser: one female was at SC Res Jun 6 (EH). The species has been known to breed nearby (rarely).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: mostly reported from southern sections at higher elevations, max 24 Aug 7, Preston Hollow (MK). **Black Vulture:** two reported in a flock of Turkey Vultures at Old Chatham Aug 23 (EMR). **Goshawk:** a nest containing three imm birds, fiercely defended by the adults, was found in early Jun in Thacher Park at an elevation of about 1200 feet. Two of the imm birds had left the nest by Jun 14 and disappeared by Jun 16. The other was still in the nest Jun 16, although it appeared almost ready to leave (Walton Sabin, Beverly Waite, Mary Lou Shedd). Sharp-shinned Hawk: the only report Aug 9, Rexford (DJT). Cooper's Hawk: no reports. There were few reports of Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Broad-w Hawks. Marsh Hawk: nr Albany Airport Jun 2 and 5 (RW) and at Canaan Jul 18 (AG) the only records. Osprey: four were at VFG Jun 3 (EH) and one in Colu Co in Jun (ADBC), but there was no evidence of nesting in the region. One appeared at VFG Aug 10 (DJT). Bob-white: observed at Meadowdale, Coxsackie, Athens, Chatham Center and Ghent during period. Virginia Rail:

a report of three young at Canaan in Jul (JP, EP) and of an adult at VFG Aug 15 (EH) the only summer reports. Com Gallinule: reported Jun 6, SC Res (Stephanie Podrazik) and VFG (EH), and Aug 15, VFG (EH) — the only reports. No soras or coots reported. Semipalmated Plover: last spring migrant, Jun 6, VFG (EH); several reported during Aug at VFG and SC Res, first Aug 6 (DJT). Killdeer: many congregated on the mudflats in the region towards the end of the period. Woodcock: a few reports during the summer. Upland Plover: observed at Glenville in Jun (EH). Solitary Sandpiper: first Jul 25, VFG (EH) with many appearing in Aug. Greater Yellow-legs: first Aug 1, VFG (EH). Lesser Yellowlegs: first Jul 15, SC Res (PPW). This species was at least twice as common as the Greater Yellow-legs at SC Res and VFG during Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: first Aug 1, VFG (EH). Least Sandpiper: last spring migrants Jun 9, Emboght (JHB, BB); first fall Jul 27, Glenville (RPY). Dunlin: a late spring bird was at Glenville Jun 1 (RPY). Semipalmated Sandpiper: last spring migrants Jun 3, Glenville (RPY); first fall report Aug 6, VFG (DJT). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one observed at close hand at Emboght Jun 9 (JHB, BB). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were occasionally seen throughout the period. Black Tern: no evidence of breeding in the region. 1-2 were at Round L Jul 26 and Aug 2 (Gus Angst) and VFG Aug 13 (EH). Cuckoos seemed fairly common to several observers with about equal numbers of each species reported. Very few owls were reported.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: reported to Jul 12 (EH); no late-summer reports. Kingfisher: a pronounced influx occurred during late Jul and Aug. Pileated Woodpecker: few reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: one was nr Colonie May 29 (fide MK), another at Meadowdale Jun 3 (EH), a third nr Palatine Bridge Jun 28 (RPY) and another at VFG Jul 18 (EH, PPW) — more than usual. Sapsucker: reported from Berlin and Jenny L, nesting. Many of the flycatchers seemed fewer in number this summer — especially the Wood Pewee and the Traill's and Least Flycatchers. Traill's Flycatchers were still singing Aug 1 nr Castleton (PPW). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one — probably a late migrant — was heard at Indian Ladder Jun 6 (PPW). Swallows began migrating towards the end of July. Mixed flocks of several hundred Tree and Bank Swallows were observed at VFG through Aug 15 (DJT). Bank Swallow: most young fledged at a large colony nr Glenville Jul 1-10 and left the colony almost immediately (RPY). No second broods were attempted. Purple Martin: two were still at a Niskayuna breeding area on Aug 8 (RPY). Tufted Titmouse: a few reported during the summer, although fewer seen than at other times of year. Red-br Nuthatch: reported from probable breeding areas at TR, Jenny L, Warrensburg and Red Rock. Brown Creeper: probably bred at Lisha Kill, where it was seen throughout the summer. Carolina Wren: no records. Mockingbird: reported at Chatham (MDM) and Norton Hill (fide MK). Brown Thrasher: a few reports each month; surprisingly uncommon. Hermit Thrush: reported from Thacher Park Jun 6 and 16 (SBC) and from Old Chatham Jun 3 (HB) as well as from Jenny L where it usually nests. Bluebird: fewer reported than last year. The species also had less success in nesting. Cedar Waxwing: became very common late in the summer.

Vireos — Warblers: **Brewster's Warbler**: one was reported from Canaan in Jul (JP, EP) — the lone report. Magnolia Warbler: a late migrant was reported nr Albany Airport Jun 2 and 3 (RW). Black-thr Blue Warbler: reported during Jun and Jul from Indian Ladder and Berlin Mountain, as well as from further north. Myrtle Warbler: a male and a female were seen Jun 14 at TR about four miles apart (PPW) — at least 40 miles south of (or 2000 ft lower in elevation than) known nesting areas. Prairie Warbler: regularly reported from Ghent through the summer (PE, GE). Northern Water-thrush: an early fall migrant was at Watervliet Res Aug 8 (RPY). Louisiana Water-thrush: only 2 or 3 reports this year. Yellow-br Chat: one was at Meadowdale Jun 3 (EH), but there was no evidence of nesting.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: seemed rather scarce this summer

throughout the region. Migrants were passing through in early Aug. **Orchard Oriole:** two pair nested at Castleton (Juanita Cook). Other birds were reported at Ghent (PE, GE) and Athens (JHB) in Jun without evidence of nesting. **Evening Grosbeak:** again remained at Jenny L throughout summer, but in fewer numbers than last year (Guy Bartlett). No crossbills were reported. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** only one reported nr Catskill, probably nesting (JHB). **Henslow's Sparrow:** no reports. **White-thr Sparrow:** one was singing nr Nassau Jul 4 (PPW) and another was at Loudonville Aug 9 (Mabel French) (both locations below 400 feet in elevation, near Albany), besides being reported from the usual breeding areas. Song and Swamp Sparrows seemed in good numbers.

Box 465A, RFD #4, Troy

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Your reporter never ceases to be amazed at the lack of birding that occurs during the summer months. Most active birders do the greater part of their birding out of the region, leaving very few notes to be reported. This is the reason why this report is so brief.

The major topic of conversation this season was the lack of rain. The drought that we thought might have come to an end last spring was even more intense this summer, with August producing no measurable rainfall in many areas. Not even the occasional thunder shower that might have been expected occurred. Seed and fruit production cannot help but be affected, with berries withering on the branches of many shrubs.

Temperatures throughout June and July were warmer than average, but August brought a cooling trend that continued to the end of the season.

Most area reporters said nesting appeared to be largely normal with only minor variations.

Contributors: BA — Bob Augustine; HA — Helen Alexander; M, JD — Margaret and John Dye; ME — Martha Earl; JG — Joe Grossman; WG — Mr. & Mrs. William Grierson; FH — Fred Hough; TH — Thelma Haight; THo — Tom Howe; AJ — Alice Jones; PJ — Paul Jeheber; M, JK — Mary & Jim Key; JL — Jack LeMaire; HM — Heinz Meng; EP — Eleanor Pink; VP — Vivian Parkhurst; DS — Dan Smiley; ET — Ed Treacy; HT — Henry Thurston; MVW — Marion VanWagner; OW — Otis Waterman; WBC — Waterman Bird Club.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: found sparingly in Ulst during the nesting season; a pair in the Black Creek area on Jun 28 made another record for that county (DS). Great Blue Heron: the few nests reported last summer at Tamarack Swamp, Dutch, increased to seven this year (WBC). The numbers this summer were slightly better than the poor showing last spring. The species still seems to be far below normal however. Green Heron: more than plentiful throughout the region. Little Blue Heron: as to be expected; immatures of this species invaded the region in sparing numbers and were reported from Harmon, West (2 imm & 1 ad) on Aug 13 (HT); Poughkeepsie (1 imm) from Aug 14 to 16 (MVW); and Newburgh (4 imm) Aug 8 and 13 (M, JD). Common Egret: first noted July 23 at Briarcliff Farm near Pine Plains, Dutch (VP); later increased to two birds; four near Wappinger Falls on Aug 2 & 3 (M, JK); one near Goshen, Oran on Aug 5 (ME). Snowy Egret: one at Cornwall Bay Aug 4 increased to seven by the end of the period (PJ); three were at Pocantico Res, West on Aug 19 (BA). Black-crowned Night Heron: unreported from most areas; at Cornwall, two imms from Aug 4 to Aug 13 (MD); and at Suffern, several times throughout the season (JL). Least Bittern: one at Cornwall in Moodna Marsh on Aug 6 (PJ, ET); single birds observed there thru the summer. American Bittern: three June reports in Dutch (AJ). Canada Goose: Nesting pair at Pine

Plains and another with eleven young at Queensboro Lk. in Bear Mt. Pk. (JG). Ducks: populations normal. Blue-winged Teal: nested again this summer at Briarcliff Farms, Dutch. Wood Duck: numbers better than average.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: numbers normal to below in Oran, but normal to better elsewhere. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only reports those of three Aug birds from West and Oran. Bald Eagle: one headed southwest over Kripplebush, Ulst on Aug 16 (FH). Marsh Hawk: only one, a mature male at Pleasant Valley, Dutch on Jun 27 (AJ). Osprey: six late birds on Jun 6 over Pleasantville, West (TH); one, July 17 at Pine Plains, made the first summer record in Dutch in ten years (AJ). **Chukar Partridge:** one, an injured bird, was found at Cornwall on July 2; it was nursed back to health and released (MD); no reports of any being released in the area. Bobwhite: only one report, a bird heard at Newburgh on Aug 6 (ET). Virginia Rail: observed at Moodna Marsh Aug 6, and with three young on Aug 7 (PJ). Sora: none! **Golden Plover:** one at Brown's Pd., Newburgh on Aug 2 (M, JD); and another at Cornwall Bay on Aug 13 (MD, HA). Black-bellied Plover: one, Brown's Pd., Newburgh, Aug 5 (MD). Common Snipe: Martha Earl has observed this species in courtship at her home in Blooming Grove for many years. This summer she saw an adult cross her yard trailed by three young, and feed at a stream nearby; one was at Pocantico Res on Aug 3 (BA); and ten or more were to be found at Briarcliff Farm, Dutch throughout the summer (VP). Upland Plover: One was observed in late May in the Wallkill area of Ulst (HM); Martha Earl found several pair **nesting** at Hamptonburgh, Oran. Solitary Sandpiper: very early migrant at Browns' Pd. Newburgh on Aug 2 (M, JD). Lesser Yellowlegs: this, the rarer of the two species, was the more numerous this Aug. It outnumbered the Greater by three to one in West (BA); six to eight birds were present at Briarcliff Farm from Aug 1 to 15 (WBC). Pectoral Sandpiper: numbers good throughout the region; earliest Jul 31 in Dutch (WBC). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** rare; a report of two birds at Brown's Pd. Aug 5 (MD). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** very rarely recorded in the region; one at Briarcliff Farm on Aug 15 (VP, TH fide OW); this is the first record for Dutch. Gulls: all resident species maintained good numbers, with Laughing Gull better than usual. Common Tern: expected during July and Aug on the Hudson; this rare species is often missed in the central Hudson area; one was at Conn's Hook on July 27 (ET). Cuckoos: numbers appeared to be lower than usual in Ulst, but normal elsewhere. Yellow-billed outnumber Black-billed three to one in Dutch (WBC). Owls: area reporters did not mention most species. Screech Owl are up in numbers.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Ulst had its first record in late May near the North Trapps in the Schwangunks (HM). Red-headed Woodpecker: maintaining its numbers in central Oran in the Town of Blooming Grove. Eastern Kingbird: plentiful throughout the region. Phoebe: low in the Blooming Grove area; no comments from elsewhere. Barn Swallow: seems to be a good season for this species throughout the region. Cliff Swallow: a new breeding area for Oran; at the U S Military Academy's summer camp, Camp Buckner (PJ). Purple Martin: Normal nesting where established; departed Dutch on or about July 25 (WBC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one late migrant Jun 5 north of Poughkeepsie (AJ). House Wren: absent from many sites where it previously nested in Oran (ME). Winter Wren: WBC reports a probable nesting in Turkey Hollow near Dover Plains, no verification was made. Mockingbird: this species has reached the northernmost reaches of the region. A pair nested near Lamontville, Ulst (FH), the young were lost in the first attempt, but it is believed (not certain) that a second brood survived. Catbird: many. Hermit Thrush: the four or five reports of last year in Dutch contrast with none this year (WBC), only report was of one bird found singing on Jul 1 at the home of Betty Gerken in Cornwall. Swainson's Thrush: one bird at Mt. Kisko Aug 10 ((WG). Bluebird: no increase in numbers in the Blooming Grove area of Oran, but the WBC had twelve pairs nesting in houses they provided,

these birds brought off about 40 young which were banded. Cedar Waxwing: ME reports numbers low in central Oran with very few nesting birds. No comment from other areas.

Shrikes — Sparrows: Loggerhead Shrike: Martha Earl spent so much time tracking down breeding Upland Plover that she wasn't able to investigate the breeding of this species. She did see it in the vicinity of where she found it nesting last year, but no evidence of breeding was found. Yellow-throated Vireo: numbers seem down when compared to last year. Solitary Vireo: one summer record on Jul 17 near Pine Plains (AJ). Warbling Vireo: numbers better than last year. Warblers: population generally diminished. Blackpoll movements were observed as late as Jun 5 & 13 at Crugars Is. and Pleasant Valley, Dutch (EP, MVW, AJ). Northern Waterthrush: present at Tamarack Swamp, Dutch Jun 1-Jul 15, two birds constantly found in one small territory. Yellow-breasted Chat: the complete absence of birds last spring continued throughout the summer, none were reported. Orchard Oriole: known to be nesting in three places in Ulst (FH); and in two places in Dutch (FG, EB). Common Grackle: numbers quite high. Some very prominent roosting places established throughout the region this summer. Purple Finch: nesting pairs in Blooming Grove and Middle Hope, Oran (ME); and a singing male at Cornwall thru Jul and into Aug (MD). Savannah Sparrow: nesting numbers high in the Blooming Grove area (ME). Grasshopper Sparrow: nesting in the same location as last year in the town of Blooming Grove, and an additional pair nesting at Oxford (ME). White-throated Sparrow: Bob Augustine has received reports of singing males in the Pleasantville area on Jul 4 and Aug 19.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls

REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST AND GUY A. TUDOR

June was warm and dry while July was cooler and wetter than normal. "Most small land birds seemed scarcer than normal during the breeding season, even such common species as Red-eyed Vireo and Ovenbird. Scarlet Tanagers were definitely down from recent years in the Manorville-Upton area. Chipping Sparrows were also low. Few Cuckoos were seen or heard" (Raynor). "It seemed to be a generally poor breeding season, with such species as Yellow Warbler, Prairie Warbler and Black and White Warbler much scarcer than previous years, even taking into account the serious drops in breeding populations since the notorious gypsy moth campaign some years ago" (Puleston).

In addition to the remarks of Raynor and Puleston, a number of active observers remarked on the scarcity of such fish-eating species as Black-crowned Night Heron and Belted Kingfisher, continuing a trend of recent years. Among the few species which seem to be increasing steadily in numbers are Blue-winged Warbler and Indigo Bunting.

The cool and dry trend during July continued during the first half of August. As a result, a number of migrants appeared earlier than they have in the past few years. Among these were Black and White and Blue-winged Warblers (Inwood, Jul 17); Canada Warbler (Huntington, Jul 10), and Magnolia Warbler (Huntington, Jul 25). Although such individuals as these appeared during July and early August, the first good landbird movement of the fall was reported from Inwood Hill Park on Aug 4, when numbers of Orioles, Waxwings, and seven species of Warblers (including Nashville and Blackburnian) were recorded (Norse).

A Manx Shearwater was the only outstanding rarity of the season. Also recorded were Leach's Petrel, Cattle Egret, Ruff and Royal Terns.

Abbreviations used: Max — maximum one day count during the period; mob — many observers; LLASB — Lyman Langdon Audubon Society Bulle-

tin; JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LBT — Linnaean Boat Trip; in the following locations only the first word is used — Jones Beach and Inwood Hill Park.

Contributors frequently cited: IA — Irwin Alperin; BC — Barbara Conolly; FE — Frank Enders; RF — Robert Fisher; MG — Michael Gochfeld; HH — Helen Hays; FH — Fred Heath; KK — Klaus Kallman; MK — Michel Kleinbaum; RL — Roy Lathan; EL — Emanuel Levine; WL — Wesley Lanyon; LM — Lee Morgan; WN — William Norse; RP — Richard Plunkett; PP — Peter Post; DP — Dennis Puleston; DR — Daniel Rafferty; GR — Gilbert Raynor; TR — Tom Robben; SS — Si Stepinoff; GT — Guy Tudor; CW — Cornelius Ward; LW — LeRoy Wilcox.

Loons — Ducks: Red-throated Loon: two, Jun 7, five miles off Jones (LBT). Pied-billed Grebe: only one pair bred at JBWR this summer (FE). Sooty Shearwater: 17, Jun 4, Cedar Beach (PP, TR, B. Feldman); six-seven, Jun 7, off Jones (LBT). Manx Shearwater: Jul 19, ½ mile SSW of Plum Is (PP, KK, FH, et al) — well observed within 40 ft.; observers cited above previously familiar with species in life. Leach's Petrel: Jun 7, off Jones (LBT, SS, et al) — well seen and carefully indentified. Wilson's Petrel: three, Jun 7, off Jones (LBT); 12, Jul 12, off Montauk (MK). Gannet: two, Jun 7, off Jones (LBT); Jul 12, off Montauk (MK); Jul 19, Short Beach (MK) — uncommon in summer. Double-crested Cormorant: 20 adults (migrating), Jun 4, Cedar Beach (PP, TR).

Heron colonies with numbers of pairs breeding: Canarsie Pol (PP, MG, DP, GR): Common Egret: six; Snowy Egret: 50-60; Louisiana Heron: one — in same clump of bushes as last year; Green Heron: one; Black-crowned Night Heron: 20-25; Yellow-crowned Night Heron: one; Glossy Ibis: four. Lawrence Marsh (PP, RP, LM); Common Egret: two; Snowy Egret: 80; Little Blue Heron: five; Green Heron: five; Black-crowned Night Heron: 15; Yellow-crowned Night Heron: three; Glossy Ibis: three — new breeding location for Ibis (only other known site is at JBWR). Jones Beach (PP, TR): Herons are now nesting in many scattered locations along the Jones Beach strip from Cedar Beach to Meadowbrook. The only counts available are from the barrier beach west of the Jones Beach Tower: Common Egret: 30; Snowy Egret: three; Green Heron: two; Black-crowned Night Heron: 120; Yellow-crowned Night Heron: two. Centre Island, Cold Spring Harbor (BC, et al fide LLASB): Green Heron: 12 nests; Black-crowned Night Heron: 131 nests. East Moriches (GR): Common Egret: two-four — one non-flying young, first definite breeding east of Jones Beach aside from Fisher's Island; Snowy Egret: 20; Black-crowned Night Heron: 30-40.

Snowy Egret: 40, Aug 4-8, Orient (RL). Cattle Egret: Jul 30, East Norwich (BC fide LLASB). Louisiana Heron: Jun 4, Tobay (PP, TR). Black-crowned Night Heron: only two seen all period in Orient area (RL) — reflects the current decline on eastern L.I. Glossy Ibis: Aug 14, Tobay (CW).

The following species of non-breeding waterfowl either summered or were present on date indicated at JBWR: Snow Goose (immature); Pintail (Jun 7); Cinnamon Teal — bird mentioned in last report was last seen on July 18 when going into eclipse; Baldpate (Jun 5); Wood Duck (pair — Jun 5); Canvasback (two males); Greater Scaup (20); Lesser Scaup (one male); Common Goldeneye (female — Jul 6); Bufflehead (female — Aug 8); Hooded Merganser (female); Red-breasted Merganser (female).

Breeding Ducks at JBWR (FE, WN): Mallard and Black Duck: no specific information; Gadwall: 20 pair; Green-winged Teal: at least two pair, one brood on Jul 10; Blue-winged Teal: at least four broods; Shoveler: two pair — no broods; Redhead: at least five pair — four broods totaling 23 young, not one of which survived. Apparently extensive predation by snapping turtles and/or night herons. Ruddy Duck: no specific information.

Mute Swan: two adults, Aug 15, JBWR (FE). Brant: 30, June 7, 72nd

St. and Hudson River (PP, GT, TR) — flying south low over water. Gadwall: female with small ducklings, Jul 11, Captree Island (IA) — may be new breeding site; 14 adults, July 11, Tobaccot Pond, Gardiner's Is (PP, KK); 10-15 broods, Tobay Pond (IA). Common Goldeneye: male, Jun 30, Orient (RL). Old-squaw: Jun 13, Orient (RP). White-winged Scoter: 100+ summered between Orient Harbor and East Marion (IA).

Hawks — Owls: Broad-winged Hawk: six, Jun 2, White Plains (DR) — migrating immatures; nested at Oakdale, adults with young (IA) — very rare breeder on south shore of L.I. Bobwhite: Jul 4, Tobay (PP, TR). Oystercatcher: one pair nested, one young raised, Moriches (LW fide LLASB); one pair with two flightless young, plus three-six adults, Jun 27, Cartwright Is (GR, P. Stoutenburgh); one pair with three young, Jul 11, Gardiner's Is (PP, KK); four adults, Aug 1, East Moriches (DP); four, Aug 15, Jones (CW, EL). Woodcock: one pair bred for third consecutive year at JBWR (WN). Upland Plover: Aug 18 and 23, Orient (RL). Willet: Jun 4, Tobay (PP, TR); max eight, Aug 8, JBWR (MG, PP, A. Small). Knot: max 400+, Aug 1, Moriches (RP, RF). Stilt Sandpiper: max 18, Aug 14, JBWR (MG). Hudsonian Godwit: three-eight, Jul 11 thru period, Moriches (mob); two, Jul 12 thru period, JBWR (mob). Ruff: Aug 11-12, Freeport (CW) — partial breeding plumage. Wilson's Phalarope: one pair present all summer at JBWR, seen copulating in early Jun; max five, Aug 14, JBWR (MG).

Pomarine Jaeger: light adult, Jun 7, off Jones (LBT). Parasitic Jaeger: seven adults (one dark), Jun 7, off Jones (LBT). Glaucous Gull: Jun 1, Brookhaven (DP). Herring Gull: a breeding colony on Swinburne Island, lower New York Bay, was visited by Howard Cleaves on Jun 3 and 6. It contained 105 active nests, 51 chicks and 192 eggs, many of them pipped. This two-acre island was found to be infested with rats. Bonaparte's Gull: Aug 15, Moriches Inlet (GR) — early.

Tern colonies for which there is available information, with numbers of pairs breeding: Meadow Island, Long Beach (PP, RP, LM): Common Tern: 55; Least Tern: 15; Black Skimmer: 70. Cartwright Island (GR): Common Tern: 400; Roseate Tern: 20; Black Skimmer: three. Great Gull Island (J. Bull, RP, HH, et al): Common Tern: 750; Roseate Tern: 900.

Forster's Tern: max five, Aug 1, JBWR (TR). Royal Tern: two, Jun 23, JBWR (FE); Jul 11, Shinnecock (RP, RF); Jul 12, JBWR (RP, LM) — photographed in color. Caspian Tern: three, Aug 14, Tobay (CW). Black Tern: five, Jun 7, off Jones (LBT) — up to 12 miles offshore; Jun 14, Great Gull Island (HH, et al); two, Jun 27, Cartwright Island (GR).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Jun 7, five miles off Jones (LBT). Belted Kingfisher: "only two recorded all period at Orient" (RL) — reflects recent decline throughout the region. Red-headed Woodpecker: one pair, early Jun, Forest Park (J. Von Glon) — going in and out of nesting hole, but did not remain. Traill's Flycatcher: six pairs bred in Van Cortlandt Swamp (FH, J. Zupan). Olive-sided Flycatcher: three reported from Aug 4-15, Inwood (WN). Purple Martin: 75 pairs are now breeding at Lemon Creek, Staten Island (H. Cleaves); male, Jun 23, JBWR (WN). Blue Jay: three, Jun 7, eight miles off Jones (LBT) — late migrants. Brown Creeper: singing bird, Jun 18, Shu Swamp, L.I. (BC fide LLASB). Carolina Wren: one pair, Inwood (WN) — first breeding record here since severe winter wiped out resident population four years ago. Mockingbird: continues to increase as a breeder; successful nesting reported in pine barrens between Westhampton and Riverhead (P. Stoutenburgh); individuals seen at Shinnecock, Quogue, Manorville and Wildwood. Cedar Waxwing: seven or eight pairs nesting in a small colony in locust grove at Noyack, Jun 14 (DP, GR).

Vireos — Warblers: Yellow-throated Vireo: singing male, Jun 14-21, Manorville (GR) — no evidence of nesting. Warbling Vireo: 2 pairs breed-

ing at Pelham Bay Park (TR); with respect to our statement in the last issue of **Kingbird**, Alperin writes: "mostly overlooked, but breeds along the north fork (Southold, etc) every year (for the past eight or ten at least) and a pair nested at the Southside Sportsmen's Club, Oakdale this year." Worm-eating Warbler: max five, Aug 9, Central Park (RP). Blue-winged Warbler: max 10, Aug 9, Central Park (RP). "Brewster's" Warbler: Aug 8, Orient (RL). Nashville Warbler: Aug 4, Inwood (WN) — early. Magnolia Warbler: three netted at Huntington: adult Jul 25, adult Aug 3, immature Aug 12 (WL) — early movement. Cerulean Warbler: singing male, Jun 6, Noyack (DP) — third consecutive year. Blackburnian Warbler: Aug 4, Inwood (WN); Aug 15, Inwood (WN) — both early. Chestnut-sided Warbler: eight netted at Huntington between Aug 7 and 15 (WL) — early movement. Northern Waterthrush: 13 netted at Huntington between Jul 26 and Aug 15 (WL). Louisiana Waterthrush: singing bird, Jun 8, Brookhaven (DP); two netted at Huntington between Jul 24 and Aug 15 (WL). Mourning Warbler: Jun 7, Port Washington (A. Dove fide LLASB); Aug 10, Inwood (WN). Canada Warbler: 55 netted at Huntington between Jul 10 and Aug 15; peak (27 individuals) on Aug 13 (WL). Redstart: 28 netted at Huntington between Jul 30 and Aug 15 (WL).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Orchard Oriole: pair nested for fourth consecutive year at Syosset (J. Taylor); immature male, Jun 10-28, Brookhaven (DP). Baltimore Oriole: flock of 25, Jul 11, Napeague (PP, KK). Blue Grosbeak: specimen, moulting male, Aug 9, Captree (IA) — extremely early. Evening Grosbeak: Jul 3, Orient (RL) — apparently only Jul record. White-throated Sparrow: one summered at Orient (RL).

Note: Please have fall reports in by Dec 7. Post, 575 W. 183 St., NYC 33; Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, NYC 25.

REVIEWS

The World of Birds. By James Fisher and Roger Tory Peterson. Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1964: 9½ x 12½ in., 288 pp., illustrated with many reproductions of Roger Tory Peterson's superb paintings and many excellent black and white photographs. \$22.95 (T.W.O.B. pre Christmas price \$17.95).

In recent years there have been published "Living Birds of the World" by E. Thomas Gilliard (1958) and "Birds of the World" by Oliver L. Austin (1961) and now, in 1964, Roger Tory Peterson and James Fisher have produced a book "The World of Birds." There is similarity in name in the last mentioned book with those of the former and while the text covers much of the same material, the authors have in their latest book presented an introduction to ornithology with a very appealing approach.

The subject matter in this book is divided into four parts, the first section covered by chapters one through six discusses the biological features of ornithology — such as, variety and variety distribution; anatomical structures which fit birds to live in definite niches, to secure food, to defend themselves and by which they are classified into special groups; origin and development through the geological periods; evolution and relationship of birds and the development of the many species as shown on the unique avian tree-of-life diagram; bird faunas, faunal areas of the world, zonation of birds and many, many other topics.

Each of these features is well described by an informative and pleasing

text and with colorful pictures of at least one species of each of the several families to illustrate these facts.

Much good advice is given in section two or ch. 7, under the title of "Bird watching" in the discussion of — keeping records, field glasses and bird guides, photography including equipment and hints for better pictures, recording bird voices, banding, attracting birds, etc.

One of the unique features of this book is the colored maps showing the distribution of the 199 families of our avifauna. This number includes the fossil birds, the lately extinct and the living birds of today. The locations where fossil remains of birds have been found are also indicated on certain ones of these maps.

The final section (ch. 9) deals with the relations of birds to man from their use as food by aboriginal man to our present day problems of conservation.

Sections two, three and four are illustrated with many excellent black and white photos, most of which are by the authors.

Drs. Peterson and Fisher have listed in their book all rare or vanishing birds (red list) and all extinct birds (black list). They have also added here an extensive bibliography which should be very helpful to researchers.

Through-out the book, the instructive text is substantiated by detailed colored maps and diagrams as well as the many fine photographs and the great numbers of bird pictures of Peterson quality and style.

"The World of Birds" is a desirable book for its beauty and for the authoritative information it contains. Alice E. Ulrich.

Birds Over America, New and Revised Edition. By Roger Tory Peterson. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. 1964: 7 x 10 in., 330 pp., 100 excellent black and white photographs by the author. \$7.50.

In *Birds Over America*, first published in 1948, Roger Tory Peterson portrays his many experiences and observations which he has made during his many years of watching and photographing the birds.

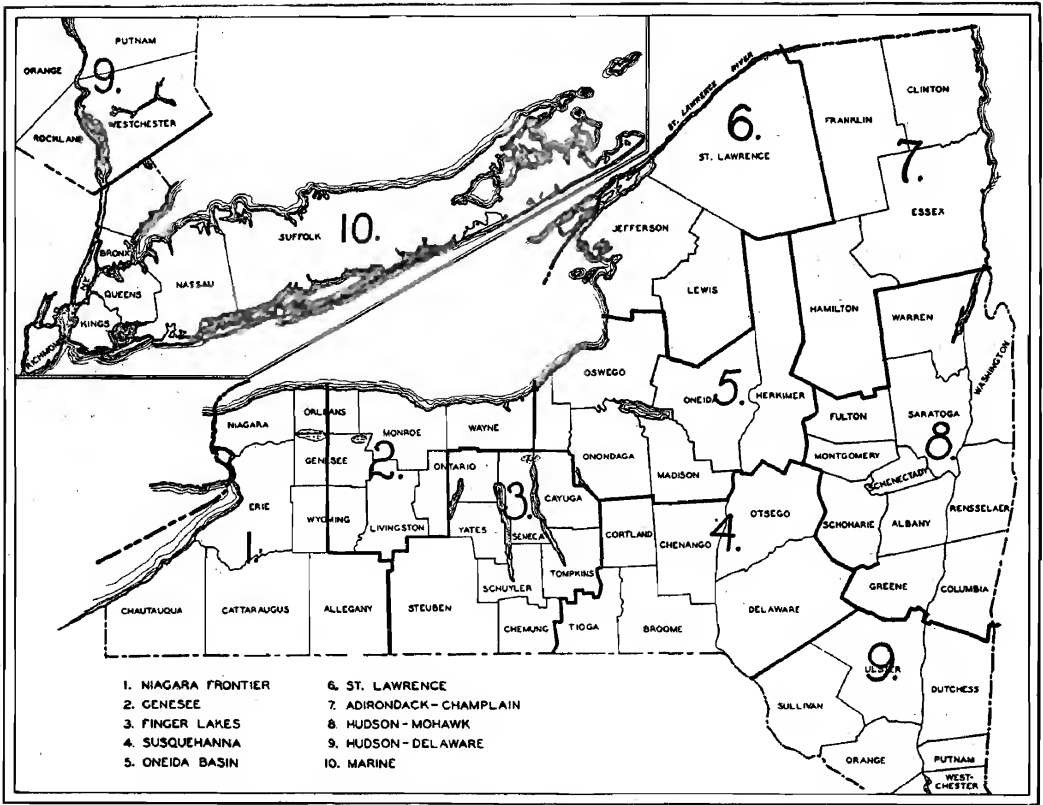
Since 1948, Dr. Peterson has extended his travels over America, enjoying new adventures and gaining new data. This material has been added in the present revision of the original book.

In order to gain space for the additions, he has made limited changes, as rewording some sentences and condensing certain paragraphs.

The book has not the austere style of a scientific treatise on ornithology but rather presents in a pleasing but accurate way the many related and associated facets of birdlife in America. He introduces the many angles of human enjoyment that accounts for the rapid increase in the popularity of bird watching.

It may be well stated that within the pages of this book he has presented every angle of satisfaction which he during his life has sought for and attained. Alice E. Ulrich

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