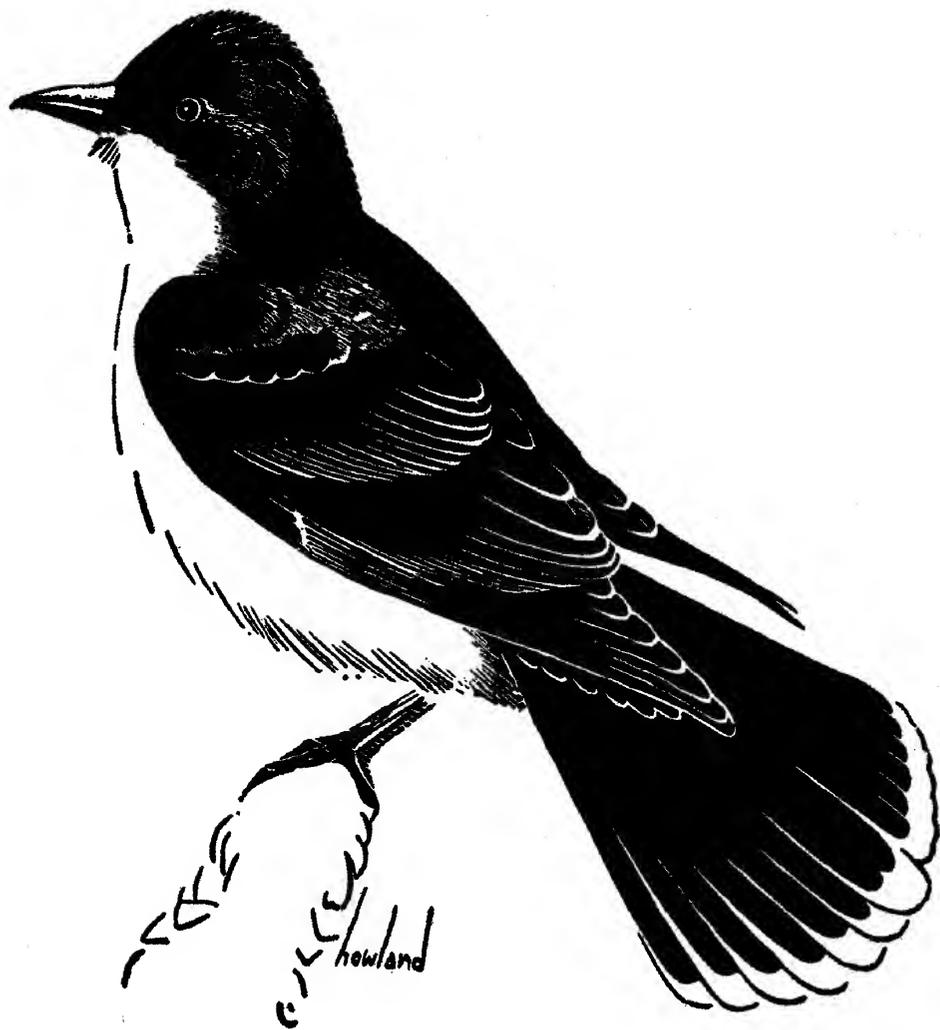


The KINGBIRD



VOL. XV, NO. 4

OCTOBER • 1965

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

**BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA
FRONTIER REGION: AN
ANNOTATED CHECK-LIST**

**By Clark S. Beardslee and
Harold D. Mitchell**

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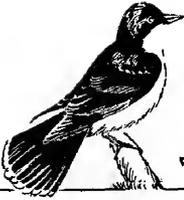
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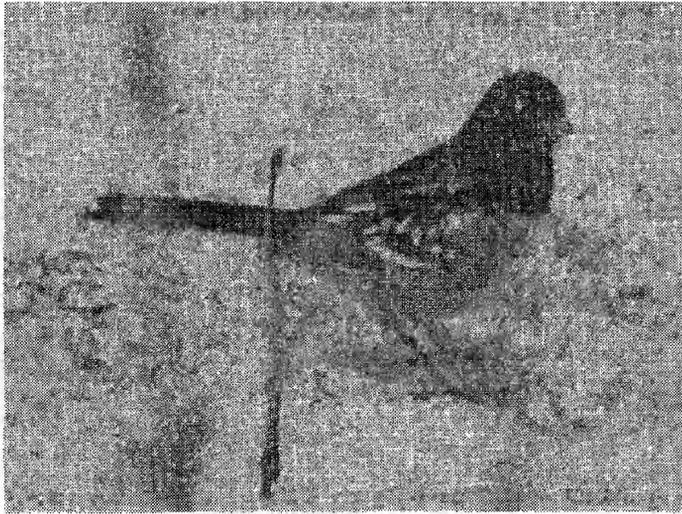
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PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

3. "Spotted" Towhee



Photograph by Dennis Puleston

Formerly considered a separate species, *P. maculatus*, the several western races of the Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), in contrast to the eastern races, are characterized by rows of white spots on the back and scapulars.

The male bird in the above photograph was identified and photographed by Dennis Puleston who writes:

"It was first reported to me on 3 December 1964 by Mrs. Harvey Wegner of Bellport, Suffolk Co., who had been observing it at her feeder for about three weeks previously. She was certain it was not a Rufous-sided Towhee, as she had several of the latter also coming to her feeder. I went to her house on the afternoon of 5 December, and soon after my arrival observed it feeding on seeds scattered to the ground by other birds. Since the day was overcast my photographs were poor, but on 7 January the light was good and I obtained a number of color photographs.

The bird appeared to be in excellent condition. Although a little smaller than the other towhees it was quite aggressive and generally chased them away when they approached too close. It was last seen on 24 January 1965."

There are two other "Spotted" Towhee reports from the state, both substantiated by specimens, and both identified as *P. e. arcticus*: (1) a female discovered by Robert H. Grant at Jones Beach, Nassau Co., on 28 December 1956. Seen by numerous observers, it was collected on 16 February 1957 by Paul A. Buckley, and is now No. 19019 in the New York State Museum (Buckley, *Auk*, 76: 517-520, 1959); (2) a female discovered by Ted Peszell on 30 November 1958 in Bronx Park, Bronx Co., collected by Buckley on 23 December 1958, and now No. 707778 in the collection of the Museum of Natural History (Buckley, *op. cit.*).

In addition, two other "Spotted" Towhees have been taken in the east, also referable to *arcticus*: (1) a female taken at Metuchen, New Jersey, 24 December 1952 (Baird, *Condor*, 59: 401-402, 1957; Buckley, *op. cit.*), and a male taken at Fayetteville, North Carolina, 14 February 1957 (Hauser, *Chat*, 21: 46-47, 1957).

According to the A.O.U. Check-list (5th ed., 1957), the subspecies *arcticus* breeds in the northwestern Great Plains and northeastern Rockies, in winter extending south to northern Mexico and southern Texas, and east to Kansas; casually east to Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. Thus far, *P. e. arcticus* is the only member of *maculatus* group which has been collected in the east.

Peter W. Post, 575 West 183 Street, New York 10033; Present address: Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF 1966 ANNUAL MEETING

As a Long Island resident for some 31 years, I have always hoped that some day our annual meeting could be held somewhere in that famous and most productive birdwatching area. Two meetings have been held in New York City with Long Island field trips, but none has ever been held on the Island. More than two years ago, I began negotiations with several member clubs on Long Island. Those negotiations have finally borne fruit, for in 1966 we will hold our meeting in a truly maritime setting. Our hosts will be the Baldwin Bird Club, Queens County Bird Club, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society, and Huntington Audubon Society.

From advance information, we believe this meeting promises to be one of the most memorable and pleasurable of all our meetings. The site is unexcelled—the handsome and beautifully appointed Lido Beach Hotel, directly on the ocean at Long Beach, Long Island. Members will be able to watch birds over the ocean from their rooms, or step outside and be on the beach itself. The hotel provides us with every convenience: meeting

and banquet rooms and accommodations enough for our biggest gathering, which we anticipate. Special rates have been granted us (this is a luxury resort hotel). It is centrally located for field trips to some of Long Island's most productive areas, such as Tobay, Jones Beach, Hempstead, and Jamaica Bay. A pelagic (offshore) trip is planned with upstate members in mind. Jaegers, shearwaters, and petrels are possible. Full details will be sent you in due time. This is just advance notice to reserve the week-end of May 21-22, 1966, for this unusual event.

Robert S. Arbib, Jr., 226 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck, N. Y. 10543.

NEST CARD PROGRAM

The North American Nest Card Program is winding up the 1965 nesting season, and many cards have already been returned. There are still many cards in the hands of the individual recorders, however, and these should be returned to us as quickly as they are completed. We are preparing the data for transferral onto IBM cards, and a large bulk of material is needed for the first run, to be started soon.

Regional Centers may determine for their members whether their cooperators should return the cards to the center first, in order to complete local records, or whether they may be sent directly to us as they are completed.

Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

As many readers are aware, the nest record card program has now been launched on a continent-wide basis. This does not mean, however, that the program is any less important within New York State. Mr. Robert Arbib, President of the FNYSSBC, announced at the recent annual meeting in Syracuse that the Federation has high hopes that the long-projected state bird book will soon be started. In this the nest record card program will play an important role; the more so because, thanks to the assistance of Mr. Donald McChesney, the data is being transferred to punched cards wherefrom rapid analysis can be made. It is therefore urged that members of the Federation support the program by returning completed cards on all nests found. Cards and instruction sheets can be obtained from the secretary of your local club or direct from the Laboratory of Ornithology.

David B. Peakall

NETTING BIRDS ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

TIANA STATION 1958-1964

LEROY WILCOX

For centuries man has been fascinated by the uncanny ability of birds to migrate great distances twice a year, mainly north and south, even birds of the year that have never been over the route before. I believe the Creator has placed within each individual bird a highly developed instinct known as a "sense of direction" enabling them to cover thousands of miles over land and water and return to the approximate spot where they nested or were hatched the previous summer. Banding has been the best means of research in the study of bird migration. Banding has shown that birds can also return to specific areas east to west across the United States. In the winter of 1962-63, 660 Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows were trapped on their wintering grounds at San Jose, California, transported 3860 miles by plane to the headquarters of bird banding in the United States at Laurel, Maryland, and released. A year later 15 of these birds were recaptured at San Jose. On Long Island there is an east-west migration in the fall, not only of birds but also Monarch Butterflies and dragonflies. The amazing thing is that these small creatures know that to reach New Jersey where they turn south they must fly west, not only along the outer beaches and the bays which are a natural migration route but also out in the center of Long Island with no noticeable landmarks. It has also been observed that a few species, mostly shorebirds, instead of following the coastline fly southwest from Democrat Point at the west end of Fire Island apparently heading directly for the New Jersey coast between Sea Girt and Beach Haven (Darrow, H. N., *Kingbird* XIII:4, 1963).

Various types of traps have been used to capture birds for banding. In September 1951, 1952 and 1953, capture of birds by using Japanese mist nets was tried at Cape May, New Jersey. These very fine nets were strung along narrow lanes in low trees or shrubs across the path of migration. This preliminary trial was so successful, yielding large numbers of individuals and species almost impossible to capture by any other means known at present, that in September 1955 the first concerted effort was made to band birds during fall migration at strategic points along the Atlantic Coast. This project, capturing birds by mist nets, was named "Operation Recovery" and in 1955 at 7 coastal stations from Massachusetts to Virginia 1500 birds were banded. In 1956 at 15 stations

5400 birds were banded, in 1957 at 22 stations 11613 birds were banded and in 1958 over 20000 (Baird, Robbins, Bagg and Dennis, *Bird Banding* XXIX:137, 1958 and Baird, Bagg, Nisbet and Robbins, *Bird Banding* XXX:143, 1959). In 1960 over 35,000 birds were banded along the coast (*EBBA*, 24:129, 1961).

Tiana Bird Banding Station

There was no station in New York prior to 1958, when I was urged by Chandler Robbins of the Bird Banding Office and Mrs. Stanley Dickerson, leader of the largest station along the coast at Island Beach, New Jersey, to start a station on the south shore of Long Island. Although I had been banding birds on Long Island since 1927, I had never used mist nets. At Mrs. Dickerson's invitation, my wife and I spent four days at Island Beach studying this system of capturing birds.

After searching the outer beach at Shinnecock Bay, I decided that the most promising site appeared to be from one-half mile west to one-quarter mile east of the former Tiana Coast Guard Station. This is about 7 miles west of Southampton. My first attempt at netting there was in the late afternoon of September 19, 1958. It became a full-scale operation the following morning when Walter Terry of Blue Point started as my assistant. For six years during the months of September and October, we started netting and banding operations each morning by daylight except on Sundays and windy and rainy days. In 1964 I operated the nets alone as Mr. Terry had his own station at Brookhaven.

At Tiana Station the barrier beach is only 180 yards wide from bay to ocean. The best location is "West Pines" about 2000 feet west of the Tiana Station in a clump of low pines (maximum height 10 feet) covering an area about 90 by 100 feet, where the nets are 225 yards from the ocean. The rest of the dunes between the pines and the ocean is covered only by short beach grass and widely scattered clumps of low beach plums. The easternmost area used for netting was a small clump of pines, "East Pines," about 1000 feet east of the Tiana Station, with an area of about 50 by 75 feet. This was entirely destroyed on September 5, 1962 when a large parking lot for cars was built. Other lanes were cut through low bushes and the westernmost lane was an old road running south from dune road to the ocean. The distance between the easternmost and westernmost nets was about 3960 feet. All net lanes ran north and south because, as mentioned before, the birds migrate west along this outer beach. Due to flooding of "West Pines" with salt water by very high tides, more than half of these pines were dead by the fall of 1964. Probably in a few years this entire area will no longer be an effective banding station.

Because of the narrow width of this barrier beach and the very low vegetation, this station proved to be one of the best along the coast. At Tiana 26055 birds were caught in 17953 net hours. The average for Tiana for the 7 years was 1.45 birds per net hour. The average for all stations during 1957 and 1958 was 0.38 bird per net hour. Net hours are computed by multiplying the number of nets by the number of hours in use.

Nearly all the species of land birds that migrate westerly through the mainland of Long Island also migrate along the outer coastal strip, although some like the Blue Jay and Chickadee are very scarce. Shinnecock Bay is about 1.5 miles wide at Tiana and very few birds fly across it, nearly all continue west along this outer strip. Three miles west of the Tiana banding station the mainland of Long Island extends down to the outer beach at Quogue, as it does also at Southampton 7 miles to the east. When the birds reach Quogue some tend to go inland. For example, a male Flicker netted at Tiana October 15, 1959 at 8:40 AM was caught stunned after hitting a large window the next morning at 11:30 at Riverhead more than 8 miles north of Quogue. A Swamp Sparrow netted at Tiana October 13, 1961 at 10:45 AM was trapped and released at 7:00 AM the next morning by Gilbert Raynor at Manorville, 9 miles north of the outer beach and 16 miles northwest of Tiana.

A greater percentage of birds are flying west in the first few hours of daylight than are moving east. Average flying west for all 7 years by hours is as follows: 6-7, 66%; 7-8, 63%; 8-9, 62%; 9-10, 60%; 10-11, 56%. By afternoon about as many are moving east as west. However, on large flight days a greater percentage are moving westward, as can be seen from the average for the three highest days of each of the 7 years: 6-7, 75%; 7-8, 80%; 8-9, 77%; 9-10, 68%; 10-11, 58%.

Table 1 is a composite weekly summary of all bandings for the 7 years from 1958 to 1964 inclusive. The total number of days of banding was 327, with the actual number of days for each weekly period as follows: Aug. 25-Sept. 2, 17 days; Sept. 3-9, 35 days; Sept. 10-16, 32 days; Sept. 17-23, 36 days; Sept. 24-30, 39 days; Oct. 1-7, 37 days; Oct. 8-14, 41 days; Oct. 15-21, 34 days; Oct. 22-28, 37 days; Oct. 29-31, 19 days.

For the 7 years there were 1209 repeats out of 26055 birds banded (see Table 1). These repeats are the number of individuals that remained one or more days after banding. Of all birds banded 4.6% remained one or more days. It is noteworthy that of the 262 Goldfinches banded none repeated but all moved westward after being released. Some warblers remained up to 19 days, but of course the local nesting birds remained much longer, such as Song Sparrow for 53 days, Catbird for 31 days, Brown Thrasher for 22 days and Yellow-throat which are about the only nesting birds there.

TABLE 1. COMPOSITE SUMMARY OF BIRDS BANDED AT TIANA 1958-1964

	August-September					October				Total	Repeats	Maximum Days Remained	Recoveries											
	25-2		3-9		10-16		17-23		24-30					1-7		8-14		15-21		22-28		29-31		
Least Sandpiper.....	3	10	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-
Yellow-billed cuckoo.....	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-
Black-billed Cuckoo.....	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	2	4	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-
Flicker.....	4	4	53	97	187	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	671	31	25	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	-	-	1	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	-
Hairy Woodpecker.....	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	4	8	1
Downy Woodpecker.....	2	4	6	11	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114	22	15	-
Phoebe.....	-	-	1	12	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	2	4	-
Empidonax Flycatcher.....	13	18	24	15	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97	3	2	-
Wood Pewee.....	2	1	4	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-
Tree Swallow.....	-	-	3	59	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	-	-	1
Barn Swallow.....	-	15	15	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	3	6	1
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	3	5	12	6	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	137	14	6	1
Brown Creeper.....	-	1	3	4	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	267	10	3	-
House Wren.....	-	-	1	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-
Winter Wren.....	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-
Long-billed Marsh Wren.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	1	-
Mockingbird.....	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-
Catbird.....	4	12	7	15	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	133	23	31	1
Brown Thrasher.....	14	12	20	46	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	299	29	22	4
Robin.....	2	11	10	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	328	1	6	3
Wood Thrush.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush.....	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9	-
Swainsons Thrush.....	-	1	31	35	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	214	3	13	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	-	1	4	2	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	4	2	1
Veery.....	3	3	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	5	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	-	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	883	20	5	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	-	2	8	7	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	321	14	9	-
Cedar Waxwing.....	1	11	16	14	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	603	15	10	1
Starling.....	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	207	3	1	-
																					20	-	-	-

	August-September					October					Total	Repeats	Maximum Days Remained	Recoveries
	25-2	3-9	10-16	17-23	24-30	1-7	8-14	15-21	22-28	29-31				
White-eyed Vireo.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3	1	2	-
Solitary Vireo.....	-	-	-	3	7	3	7	1	-	-	21	-	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo.....	2	7	10	34	46	18	4	3	1	-	125	1	2	-
Philadelphia Vireo.....	-	2	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Black-&-white Warbler.....	4	3	8	12	9	8	4	2	-	-	50	1	1	-
Tennessee Warbler.....	-	2	2	3	11	5	3	3	-	-	29	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	1	1	-	11	1	1	-
Nashville Warbler.....	-	-	9	6	8	12	4	9	1	-	49	2	2	-
Parula Warbler.....	-	-	1	5	8	8	1	9	-	-	32	2	1	-
Yellow Warbler.....	4	14	11	7	3	3	-	-	-	-	42	2	3	-
Magnolia Warbler.....	2	2	16	15	30	10	5	1	-	-	81	4	1	-
Cape May Warbler.....	3	9	35	29	67	25	20	2	-	1	191	10	11	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler..	1	2	4	9	10	19	8	3	-	-	56	1	2	-
Myrtle Warbler.....	-	-	2	17	92	673	2192	1633	937	280	5826	335	19	8
Black-throated Green Warbler..	-	1	3	2	7	16	17	3	4	1	54	-	-	-
Blackburnian Warbler.....	2	1	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	1	4	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-
Bay-breasted Warbler.....	-	3	10	7	10	6	1	2	-	-	39	1	2	-
Blackpoll Warbler.....	-	1	13	61	107	67	56	21	4	-	330	5	1	-
Prairie Warbler.....	6	7	3	8	6	2	-	1	-	-	33	1	1	-
Palm Warbler.....	-	9	59	132	256	224	144	77	52	10	963	26	10	-
Ovenbird.....	3	3	7	4	5	4	3	3	-	-	32	1	1	-
Northern Waterthrush.....	7	11	18	8	8	6	5	1	-	-	64	8	11	1
Connecticut Warbler.....	-	-	2	2	3	2	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-
Mourning Warbler.....	1	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Yellowthroat.....	31	43	36	41	76	37	26	8	4	-	302	24	13	9
Yellow-breasted Chat.....	3	13	8	24	18	11	10	2	3	1	93	3	9	-
Wilson's Warbler.....	1	4	1	4	6	-	1	-	-	1	18	-	-	-
Canada Warbler.....	2	1	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-
Redstart.....	11	48	55	85	59	30	11	1	3	-	303	8	6	-
House Sparrow.....	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	2	9	1	19	-	-	-
Boblink.....	-	1	2	3	1	2	4	1	-	-	14	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	1	1	10	-	-	-
Baltimore Oriole.....	12	22	20	19	6	1	7	1	1	-	89	6	3	-

	August-September					October					Total	Repeats	Maximum Days Remained	Recoveries
	25-2	3-9	10-16	17-23	24-30	1-7	8-14	15-21	22-28	29-31				
Rusty Blackbird.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	3	-	7	-	-	-
Cowbird.....	-	-	2	-	-	3	1	1	1	-	8	-	-	-
Scarlet Tanager.....	2	1	10	3	8	4	10	-	-	-	38	-	-	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	-	-	4	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-
Indigo Bunting.....	-	-	1	1	13	10	13	1	1	1	41	1	1	-
Dickcissel.....	-	-	2	-	-	3	3	1	1	1	11	-	-	-
Purple Finch.....	-	1	2	6	6	7	12	33	13	8	88	5	8	-
House Finch.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	16	6	23	1	15	3
Goldfinch.....	-	-	-	1	-	33	63	46	62	57	262	-	-	-
Towhee.....	2	2	8	10	22	49	142	52	12	3	302	22	14	4
Savannah Sparrow.....	-	21	73	96	179	213	307	122	70	20	1101	24	8	3
Grasshopper Sparrow.....	-	-	1	1	1	3	13	5	7	-	31	1	1	-
Sharp-tailed sparrow.....	-	2	6	1	9	3	11	1	1	-	34	-	-	-
Vesper Sparrow.....	-	-	2	-	-	1	6	15	12	4	40	-	-	-
Slate-colored Junco.....	-	-	-	6	43	396	1075	1554	1024	584	4682	137	12	5
Tree Sparrow.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	10	-	-	-
Chipping Sparrow.....	-	1	3	1	11	17	35	35	20	13	136	1	1	-
Field Sparrow.....	-	-	-	-	2	14	77	67	58	21	239	7	6	-
White-crowned Sparrow.....	-	-	-	-	1	3	51	45	8	5	113	7	5	1
White-throated Sparrow.....	-	-	1	9	76	294	608	342	157	144	1631	71	16	5
Fox Sparrow.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	11	7	20	-	-	-
Lincoln's Sparrow.....	-	-	3	2	11	17	10	-	-	-	43	2	17	-
Swamp Sparrow.....	-	-	1	5	18	75	181	95	65	20	460	13	12	1
Song Sparrow.....	48	115	78	103	173	343	787	619	374	143	2783	272	53	53
Other Species (below).....	3	7	11	9	14	10	11	6	9	2	82	-	-	-
TOTALS (132 species).....	202	482	795	1167	2156	3507	7292	5575	3371	1508	26055	1209	-	116
NET HOURS.....	241	1080	1338	1921	2411	2496	2937	2329	2082	1118	17953			

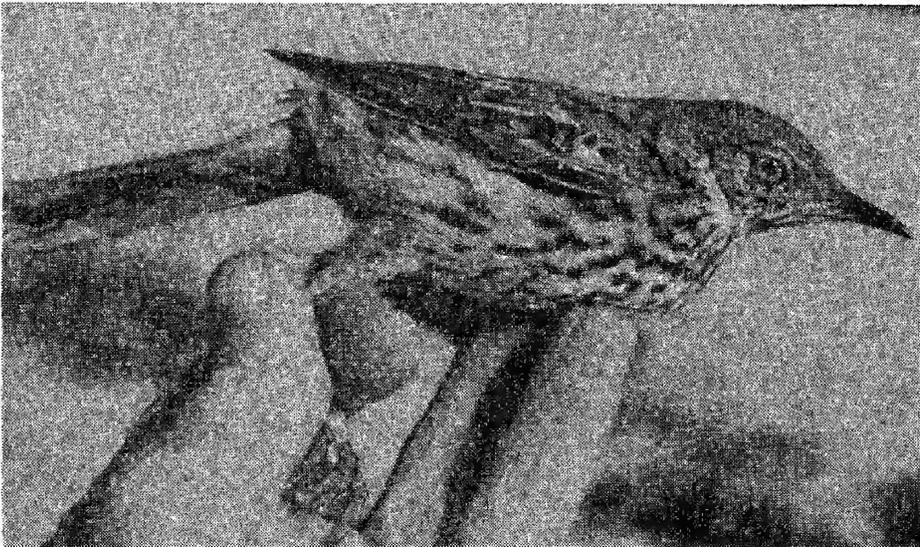
Green Heron (1), Pigeon Hawk (5), Sparrow Hawk (4), Clapper Rail (2), Black-bellied Plover (1), Common Snipe (1), Greater Yellowlegs (1), Dunlin (1), Semipalmated Sandpiper (1), Mourning Dove (5), Night-hawk (1), Kingfisher (5), Red-headed Woodpecker (4), Kingbird (3), Crested Flycatcher (2), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (1), Cliff Swallow (1), Blue Jay (6), Sage Thrasher (1), Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (1), North. Shrike (3), Loggerhead Shrike (1), Bells Vireo (1), Yellow-throated

Vireo (1), Warbling Vireo (2), Prothonotary Warbler (1), Yellow-throated Warbler (1), Pine Warbler (2), Hooded Warbler (1), Meadow-lark (2), Cardinal (1), Blue Grosbeak (1), Pine Siskin (4), Ipswich Sparrow (4), Henslow Sparrow (1), Seaside Sparrow (4), Lark Sparrow (1), Clay-colored Sparrow (1), Lapland Longspur (1), Show Bunting (1), Hybrid Sparrow (1).

Rarities

I believe more rare and unusual birds follow the outer barrier beach than migrate through the mainland of Long Island. As Table I does not show the date of banding rare birds captured, the following are listed more or less in order of rarity with measurements and weights:

	BANDED	WING (mm.)	TAIL (mm.)	WEIGHT (grams)
Sage Thrasher.....	Oct. 18, 1958	96	86	—
Bell's Vireo.....	Sept. 25, 1959	56	44	—
Yellow-throated Warbler.....	Oct. 6, 1962	65	48	8.2
Prothonotary Warbler.....	Sept. 13, 1962	—	—	—
Clay-colored Sparrow.....	Sept. 10, 1963	60	61	10.5
Blue Grosbeak.....	Oct. 22, 1962	86	67	30.3
Lark Sparrow.....	Sept. 19, 1962	86	62	26.7
Cliff Swallow.....	Sept. 12, 1962	—	—	—
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	Oct. 3, 1964	51	47	6.4
Lapland Longspur.....	Oct. 4, 1960	91	59	—
Henslow's Sparrow.....	Oct. 9, 1963	51	47	10.8
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	Sept. 27, 1958	—	—	—
" ".....	Sept. 20, 1963	141	81	69.0
" ".....	" " "	138	82	69.5
" ".....	Oct. 28, 1964	132	74	71.0
Ipswich Sparrow.....	Oct. 16, 1963	75	54	21.5
" ".....	Oct. 23, 1963	74	58	24.3
" ".....	Oct. 25, 1963	76	58	25.0
" ".....	Oct. 19, 1964	76	52	24.2



Photograph by LeRoy Wilcox
Sage Thrasher Banded at Tiana Oct. 18, 1958

The Sage Thrasher, shown in the accompanying photograph, was the first to be banded east of the Mississippi River and I believe was only the second record for the East. The Bell's Vireo is the first definite record for the New York City-Long Island area. One was netted and collected at Island Beach, New Jersey, on September 15, 1959 which was the only definite record for New Jersey.

Recoveries

It would take too much space to list all 116 recoveries. The following are some of the more interesting recoveries of birds banded at Tiana.

BANDED	RECOVERED
Northern Waterthrush . . . Sept. 27, 1958	Nov. 29, 1958, Caracas, Venezuela
Red-breasted Nuthatch . . . Oct. 13, 1959	Mar. 8, 1960, Hampton Bays, L.I., 3 Miles NE
Myrtle Warbler Oct. 17, 1959	Nov. 1959, Newfoundland
Myrtle Warbler Oct. 28, 1960	Oct. 2, 1961, St. Simeon, Quebec, Canada
Myrtle Warbler Oct. 24, 1963	Nov. 4, 1963, Riverhead, L.I., 11 Miles N
Slate-colored Junco Oct. 30, 1958	Feb. 27, 1959, Huntington, L.I., 44 Miles NW
Robin Oct. 30, 1959	Mar. 9, 1960, Tarboro, N.C.
Song Sparrow Oct. 31, 1959	Dec. 19, 1959, Speonk, L.I., 8 Miles W
White-crowned Sparrow . Oct. 10, 1960	May 10, 1961, West Coxsackie, N.Y., 130 Miles NW
Slate-colored Junco Oct. 27, 1960	Dec. 17, 1960, Arcadia, Mass., 97 Miles N
Slate-colored Junco Oct. 25, 1961	May 6, 1962, Castle Creek, N.Y. 175 Miles NW
Slate-colored Junco Oct. 28, 1963	Dec. 4, 1963, Greenwich, Conn., 58 Miles NW
White-throated Sparrow . Oct. 27, 1960	Oct. 30, 1960, Huntington, L.I., 46 Miles NW
Gray-cheeked Thrush Sept. 29, 1961	Oct. 6, 1961, Conn.
Flicker Sept. 25, 1962	Nov. 23, 1962, Hephzibah, Ga.
Cape May Warbler Oct. 2, 1963	Mar. 12, 1964, West Raleigh, N.C.
Cedar Waxwing Oct. 4, 1962	Mar. 9, 1964, Reavestown, Ala.
Hairy Woodpecker Oct. 21, 1963	Mar. 18-28, 1964, Speonk, L.I., 8 Miles W
Savannah Sparrow Sept. 26, 1964	May 1, 1965, Oakdale, L.I., 32 Miles W
House Finch Oct. 23, 1964	Mar. 6, 1965, Atlantic Beach, L.I., 65 Miles W
House Finch Oct. 28, 1964	Apr. 1, 1965, Blue Point, L.I., 27 Miles W

The above recovery of the Northern Waterthrush was only the second for the species and the first for South America. It was netted and released by Paul Schwartz, the tropical wildlife photographer. Reverse migration will be noted in two of the birds above; for example, the Myrtle Warbler that returned to Newfoundland a month later and the Junco that went back to Arcadia (Easthampton) Massachusetts 51 days later.

Only three birds caught at Tiana had been banded elsewhere.

BANDED	RECOVERED
White-throated Sparrow . . . Nov. 27, 1957, Ardmore, Pa.	Oct. 30, 1958
Myrtle Warbler Sept. 17, 1959, Penobscot, Me.	Oct. 13, 1959
Myrtle Warbler Sept. 19, 1959, Algonquin Park, Ontario, Canada	Oct. 15, 1959

Best Flight Days

It apparently takes good weather conditions to "trigger off" the large flights, such as clear skies, no wind or light wind (preferably north) and the passage of a cold front. Perhaps more important than the weather conditions at Tiana would be the weather at a point about 200 miles north of Tiana the evening before a big flight. The best flight days of each year are listed below along with weather conditions and temperature in degrees at daylight (about 6 AM) when netting operations began each day.

BIRDS NETS WEATHER TEMP.				BIRDS NETS WEATHER TEMP.				
1958				1962				
Oct. 31	344	9	Clear, Light NW	Oct. 11	651	13	Cloudy, No wind	52
Oct. 18	303	9	" " "	Oct. 12	464	16	Clear, " "	60
Oct. 30	296	7	" " "	Oct. 18	349	20	" " "	41
			38	Oct. 13	339	12	Cloudy, Mod. N	54
1959				Oct. 2	331	16	Clear	44
Oct. 5	391	14	Clear					63
Oct. 16	313	12	" " Light NE					38
Oct. 13	244	15	Pt. Cldy. " W	Oct. 17	416	18	Clear, Light N	55
Oct. 15	227	15	Cloudy, Mod. NE	Oct. 5	347	18	" " NE	40
Oct. 19	164	9	Clear, Strong N	Oct. 16	258	18	" No wind	48
				Oct. 9	232	19	" Mod. NE	50
1960				Oct. 1	222	20	" Light NE	40
Oct. 18	415	15	Clear, Mod. N					
Oct. 10	409	13	" Light S					
Oct. 12	322	15	" Mod. N	Oct. 19	314	6	Clear, No wind	46
Oct. 13	311	15	" No wind	Oct. 12	301	10	" Light W	32
Oct. 27	266	15	Cloudy " "	Oct. 15	278	10	" No wind	44
				Oct. 28	266	10	" " "	42
1961				Oct. 20	215	10	Cloudy, Light W	47
Oct. 17	390	17	Clear, Light NW					
Oct. 10	355	11	" " "					
Oct. 13	320	17	Cloudy, " SW					
Oct. 7	271	15	Fog, No wind					
Oct. 9	236	16	Cloudy, No wind					

Weight Increase

By having the birds in hand one can measure wing and tail and obtain weights. I have hundreds of measurements and weights, too many to include in this paper, but I might mention that most birds take on weight after their flight to Tiana when they have remained there a few days. A few examples are given below.

	BANDED WEIGHT (grams)	RECAP- TURED	WEIGHT (grams)	% IN- CREASE	
Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	Oct. 1, 1964	9.0	Oct. 3	10.3	14.5
Cape May Warbler.....	Sept. 25, 1964	9.1	Sept. 30	10.3	13.2
Yellowthroat.....	Aug. 29, 1964	10.6	Sept. 4	12.1	11.4
Lincoln's Sparrow.....	Oct. 5, 1963	16.4	Oct. 7	17.6	7.5
Swainson's Thrush.....	Sept. 28, 1962	28.1	Oct. 11	29.4	4.6

Subspecies

Also by having birds in hand, in some cases subspecies can be identified, such as Labrador Savannah Sparrow, Bicknell's Thrush, Acadian and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Western and Yellow Palm Warblers.

Out of 1101 Savannah Sparrows netted four were Labradors as follows: Oct. 27, 1959; Oct. 13, 1961; Oct. 28, 1963 wing 66, tail 50, weight 17.9 grams; Oct. 13, 1964 wing 66, tail 46, weight 17.5 grams.

Out of 66 Gray-cheeked Thrushes banded only 53 were measured. Of these I consider only six to be Bicknell's, netted as follows: Oct. 5, 1960 wing 88, tail 60; Sept. 30, 1961 wing 91, tail 68; Sept. 29, 1961 wing 95, tail 65; Oct. 9, 1961 wing 95, tail 64; Sept. 25, 1964 wing 96, tail 62, weight 28.1 grams; Sept. 28, 1963 wing 97, tail 62, weight 24.0 grams.

Out of 34 Sharp-tailed Sparrows netted one was Nelson's, Oct. 8, 1963 wing 55, tail 45, weight 11.4 grams. Three were Acadian: Oct. 27, 1959; Oct. 13, 1962; Oct. 9, 1962 wing 58, tail 47, weight 17.6 grams.

Out of 671 Yellow-shafted Flickers four appeared to be hybrids (cross between Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted) as follows: female Oct. 6, 1959, tail all red, fourth and fifth primaries in each wing red; female Sept. 27, 1961, tail all red, first four primaries in each wing red; female Sept. 21, 1962, sixth primary in each wing red; male Sept. 25, 1962, tail all red, second, third and fourth primaries in each wing red.

Other Observations

The Dickcissel a few years ago was a rarity on Long Island. One which I caught in a banding trap at Speonk on Oct. 16, 1929 was the first Long Island record since 1890. The bird has increased as a fall migrant in recent years; for example, eleven were caught at Tiana as follows: Oct. 24, 1958; Oct. 8, 1960; Oct. 7 and 13, 1961; Sept. 12, 1962 wing 76, tail 54, weight 24.2 grams; Sept. 10, 1962; Oct. 2 and 18, 1962; Oct. 5, 1963 wing 80, tail 55, weight 26.2 grams; Oct. 13, 1963; Oct. 29, 1964 wing 78, tail 50, weight 6.7 grams.

Three bats were netted in bright sunlight and possibly others that were not recorded. A Red Bat was caught Sept. 12, 1959 at 7:50 AM, a Red Bat on Sept. 6, 1961 at 8:10 AM and a Hoary Bat on Sept. 3, 1964 at 7:45 AM.

A hybrid (?) sparrow was netted on Oct. 10, 1961 with wing 75 and tail 59, forked tail but no white in tail. It bore a general resemblance to Vesper Sparrow and Savannah Sparrow and was possibly a hybrid of these two species. It was compared and photographed in hand with Song, Savannah and Vesper Sparrows and I have several close-up Kodachromes of the bird.

Many birds land on trawlers out in the ocean 10 to 30 miles offshore, mostly warblers but also others as Flickers and sparrows. Some are so exhausted they remain on board all the way back to shore. A Short-eared Owl was caught on a trawler at 12 noon on Oct. 13, 1961, ten miles offshore, was brought ashore and I banded it.

Spring Netting

The Tiana station was started as a fall project as part of "Operation Recovery" with the hope that some birds banded at other stations might be caught at Tiana or that some of the Tiana birds might be caught at other coastal stations. In the spring of 1964, while working on the Piping Plovers at the Shinnecock Bay area, I decided to do a little netting at Tiana to compare it with the fall netting. I netted for ten days from May 9 to 26 and banded 123 birds in 112 net hours for an average of 1.09 birds per net hour. The average for seven years in the fall was 1.45 birds per net hour. The surprising thing about this spring netting was the large number of recoveries (14) for so few birds handled, whereas in the fall there were only 116 recoveries out of 26055 birds banded in the seven years of operation.

Conclusions

The results of this netting at Tiana have been very surprising to me. Although I had birded on this outer strip for a great many years, I did not imagine there were so many birds present. Nets reveal in a much better way the numbers and species present than does observation just by eye. Of course, the nets only get a small segment of the actual number of birds present. Some birds were rarely seen before capture or after they were released; for example, although 43 Lincoln's Sparrows and 93 Yellow-breasted Chats were captured in the nets, I do not recall seeing any Lincoln's Sparrows and have seen only a couple of Chats. They stay secluded and close to the ground. Also, none of the leading rarities was seen before or after banding.

Much still remains unknown about the migration of birds along this outer beach. If there were several stations spaced about five to ten miles apart on the south shore of Long Island, we would obtain much more valuable data on their movements. For example, I would like to know how far individuals of each species move west along the beach during daylight hours and at what speed.

Oceanic Duck Farm, Speonk, Long Island, New York

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It is with mixed feelings of regret and relief that I approach the end of my term of office as your President. My service began two and one half years ago in sad circumstances, but with high hopes and resolves. Thrust into the Presidency prematurely, without the counsel and guidance of my predecessor, and with a small nest of loose ends to ravel up, the first months were confused and uncertain. But gradually, with the willing assistance and advice of officers and members from all parts of the state, the problems began to ease and solutions appear.

In these months we have seen some of these hopes and goals reached, others come close to fruition, while still others, regretfully, remain for my successor; I suspect it shall always be thus.

The Federation has prospered and grown in individual membership, in member clubs, and in total membership as our clubs themselves grow larger. We now number 38 clubs, and few indeed are the areas of the state unwatched by members of a Federation club. Ideally, every square mile of New York State and its waters should be under ornithological surveillance, and every club joined with us in mutual endeavor. We failed to induce the one club in the state which has remained a "holdout," after a long colloquy, but perhaps some day it too will join the fold. Individual membership has not grown as swiftly as we had hoped. With our fine quarterly journal and our many worthwhile activities, there would seem to be only one reason why: not enough recruitment activity. With more individual memberships, we will be able to afford a much more ambitious program of publication and research. Surely one thousand members is not beyond the realm of possibility for the near future.

We are delighted with the development of the *Kingbird*. Transition to the new editor was smooth and efficient, and in Dorothy McIlroy we have a dedicated and capable editor. We have a streamlined editorial board, brimming with ideas, and an active, efficient *Kingbird* Business Manager. A minor triumph was acquiring a second-class mailing permit for the *Kingbird*, an appreciable economy. A new printer has been engaged, and the handsome appearance of this issue is evidence of our progress. In brief, we are well on the way to producing the finest regional journal in American ornithology. Its success, however, continues to depend on the quality and quantity of the manuscripts submitted by the membership. Finally, we have recently revised our advertising rates to a more realistic, and profitable, scale. We are still in need of someone to solicit advertising.

During our term the John J. Elliott Memorial Fund was established to provide an annual award for the best paper published in the *Kingbird* during the previous year. The first recipient (of a \$40 cash award and a

handsome scroll) was Stephen W. Eaton, for his paper on the status of the Wild Turkey in New York State. We believe this prize will be a lasting memorial to our late President, and an added stimulus to would-be authors. The fund, now over \$1000, remains open for further contributions.

In the field of conservation, we have been extremely active; successfully in some of our causes, less so in others. Eternal vigilance is the requirement of the conservationist these days. There are so many attacks upon our areas of interest that all of us could devote full time to these activities, this journal could be filled with this subject alone, and still we would not do them all justice. We need a Conservation Committee of far more widespread participation; the Chairman no matter how diligent, cannot do it all himself.

Our most important project, the State Book, has progressed slowly. For the work to begin in earnest, we must find funds to sponsor our editor, John Bull, during his period of authorship. We may be prematurely optimistic, but as these words are written we appear to be close to that long-awaited day. A sponsor of great resources and prestige is actively interested, and we will be making presentations to its officials soon. Meanwhile two books which will be of assistance in the preparation of the state book have been published in New York State. Both are by our members, and while neither was sponsored by the Federation, many Federation members gave assistance in their preparation. They are John Bull's *Birds of the New York Area*, and *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, by Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell.

Your Federation has progressed in other ways. A needed dues increase, while it may not seem to be progress, will put our finances on a sound footing again, and seems assured of ratification this fall.

The site of the 1966 Annual Meeting has been confirmed, and we are hopeful that the location for 1967 will be announced soon.

A book of standard practice for officers and chairmen is in preparation, and will make for continuity in all our operations.

The nest card program which we initiated has been turned over to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, where it has grown into a national effort. Our annual waterfowl count has continued to flourish.

One thing the Federation badly needs is more active participation by its members. Attendance at recent annual meetings has been disappointing considering the interest and value of these meetings, and the considerable preparation they entail. Most of our committees, although they are composed of long lists of names, are actually the dedicated work of the chairman alone, except for a single meeting each year. One of the biggest problems we face is that of communications. A letter or communication from your President or a committee chairman, intended to be disseminated among all the members of our member clubs, often

is seen only by the addressee—the President or Secretary—and is never passed along. The *Kingbird* itself, where announcements are made and bulletins issued, is seen by only a fraction of our members. This is another reason why an increase in individual memberships would be worthwhile.

Looking to the future, I am tempted to restate our hopes and goals for the Federation. But a capable new President, Allen Benton of Fredonia, is about to take over, and we will leave the course of our good ship for him to determine henceforth. We wish him and his administration, and the Federation, every success.

I take this opportunity to thank all those officers, chairmen of committees, club officers, and members who have helped make these years fruitful and rewarding. It has been a most pleasurable experience.

Robert S. Arbib, Jr., 226 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

JANUARY 1966 WATERFOWL CENSUS DATES

In the hope of increasing participation by member clubs, the dates of the Federation's annual waterfowl census have been set far enough in advance so that it can be scheduled as a regular field trip. The census will be taken January 15–23, 1966. If the weather is good on Sunday January 16, as many as possible should make their counts that day. If the weather is very bad, the preferred alternate is January 23. If neither date is possible for your club, the census may be taken any time during the period. Please send the report, giving the date the census was made, area covered, and number of individuals of each species of waterfowl seen, as soon as possible after the census to John L. Mitchell, 345 Conrad Avenue, Rochester. He will again compile the summary and the comparison with the Conservation Department's aerial census for publication in the *Kingbird*.



Available at: A & P, Wegmans, Bohack and many fine independent food markets—no doubt there is one of the fine markets near your residence.

Recommended by Roger Tory Peterson

THE VERIFICATION OF SIGHT RECORDS

This account presents the position of the editorial board of *The Kingbird* with regard to the acceptance of sight records. All but a minute fraction of records of unusual occurrences are now sight records, as few of us are prepared to collect specimens. Thus if the acceptance of rarities is based on specimens alone, the picture is distorted by the exclusion of the vast majority of occurrences. However, in order to give sight records permanent validity it is necessary to set high standards in the printed record.

The heart of any field note is a detailed description *taken on the spot*, preferably including sketches. It is unsatisfactory to view the bird in the field, taking insufficient or no notes, and then, after finding its supposed picture or description in a book, to proceed to write up a description or make a sketch. The on-the-spot description should be reasonably complete, not merely a listing of one or two distinctive features. An illustration of an acceptable field description is given in the field note in this issue "Least Tern at Montezuma." Obviously the amount of detail needed varies a good deal; a field description of a rare shorebird or sparrow is likely to be a good deal longer than that of an adult male Painted Bunting.

In addition to the detailed description, the ideal field note should include whether the bird was associated with other species, habitat, distance of observer from the bird, optical equipment used and the conditions of light, whether the bird was seen both in flight and at rest, date and duration of observation, previous experience with same and/or similar species, names of other observers if any.

Obviously a good deal of reliance must be placed on the reputation of the observer. It would be helpful if observers not known to the editorial board would mention in their letter to the field-note editor the name of an ornithologist or field birder known to the editors to whom reference could be made if necessary. The fact that a well-known observer has seen the rarity obviously adds support to it, but it does not preclude the necessity for a detailed, *on the spot* description. Harold Axtell, of the Buffalo Museum of Science, wrote an article "Authorities make too many mistakes" (*Kingbird* 5:37, 1955) illustrated with a number of striking examples. Although the fact that there were many observers adds support to the record, it should be remembered that the bird is often not critically examined by subsequent observers. They come expecting to see, for example, a certain rare sparrow and see what they expect to see. It is necessary to be critical about repeat observations, too.

In summary, we consider that field notes giving accounts of rarities (either in time of year or in locality) should only be accepted for publication in this journal if they contain a detailed description of the bird written in the field which confirms the identity beyond reasonable doubt. Readers interested in more detailed information are referred to articles by the late Clark S. Beardslee (The verifying account in ornithology, *Kingbird* 7:109, 1958) and the late Josselyn Van Tyne (What constitute scientific data for the study of bird distribution?, *Audubon Field Notes* 19:390, 1965) in addition to the article by Axtell mentioned above. For those who believe that the specimen is the only reliable record the account of the Hastings rarities (Nicholson and Ferguson-Lees, *British Birds* 55:299, 1962) is a 'must'.

FIELD NOTES

Least Tern at Montezuma NWR, Seneca Co.: On July 3, 1965 while watching for marsh birds from the dike of the May's Point Pool at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, the writer along with Mrs. Ruth Williams, Mr. Walter E. Benning, and Mr. Jon R. Bart observed an adult Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*). The bird initially was flying over about 20-30' above the open strip of water adjacent to the dike, and made several short, steep plunges into the water, passed directly in front of the observers at a distance of 30-40' and worked gradually up the waterway, and in five minutes passed out of sight westward over the marsh area. Observers were using 7X to 10X binoculars and one observer (JRB) was able to follow the bird closely with a B&L Zoom Scope mounted on a gunstock. Time 1800 EDST; light excellent. Details of the observation taken at the time are as follows:

Small white tern, markedly smaller than the local Black Terns, with very fast, fairly deep wingstroke, rapidity of wingstroke increased when hovering just prior to plunging into the water; body totally white as was moderately forked, rather short tail; upper back and wing surface very pale pearl gray with dark gray along outer primaries from wrist to tip; crown and line from eye to bill black but forehead white, in a pattern like a boomerang with thickest portion near bill-base; a few white feathers in anterior portion of black crown; thin, sharply pointed bill yellow with black tip; leg color not seen (bird never alighted); single "zeet" notes heard several times, but whether from Least Tern or adjacent food-begging young Black Terns not determinable.

The day of the observation a strong SW wind was blowing and had been so for the day prior. In view of this direction of origin of the wind and the inland location, the bird was probably from the Mississippi Valley population, but definition of this point demands collecting. Both the writer and Mrs. Williams are familiar with the species from observations on the Maryland-Virginia coast.

F. G. Scheider, 427 South Main Street, North Syracuse 13212

Winter Wren Nest in Delaware County, 1964: Nests of the Winter Wren are notoriously difficult to find and there are few records of them in New York State outside the Adirondacks and higher elevations of the Catskills. Therefore, the

following observations made in Delaware County, April through June 1964, may be of interest.

The nest was discovered on April 18. It was located in a clearing in the midst of a grove of birches, giant hemlocks and rhododendron bushes in a large wooded swamp near where I live. In this clearing a yellow birch had been partly blown over and was fixed at an angle of about 70 degrees, caught and held in the branches of a nearby tree. The roots were partly pulled up, forming a small cave-like recess beneath them. There were several fairly large openings between the roots through which one could see into the semi-darkness of the interior. The nest was constructed on a shelf-like place on the inner wall of this little cave, about 2½ feet above the ground over a bare space of oozy muck beneath the tree.

On April 18 I was birding in the swamp and heard a bird song that I had heard on a previous occasion without being able to identify it. I traced the song to its source—a tiny wren about 4 inches long with a very short tail which it tilted sharply upward over the back, barrings on the sides and belly, and a buffy stripe over the eye. I identified it as a Winter Wren. While identifying the bird I noticed that it was carrying pieces of sphagnum moss in its bill and disappearing between the roots of the partly upturned tree, into the dark interior. It would emerge without the moss, and repeated the process several times. My curiosity aroused, I peered into the little cave. It required only a brief examination to disclose the nest. It was in the shape of a ball with a circular opening in the side and was constructed of tiny hemlock twigs, clods of earth, mud, and moss, all woven together. It contained neither eggs nor young, as construction was still in progress, but it had the same general shape and appearance as at a much later date. On the basis of a careful description of the song it has been suggested that this was the female singing and carrying nesting materials.

For several weeks I watched the nest without noting further developments, although the birds were still singing in the swamp. On May 22, while showing the nest to a friend, I discovered the female sitting on the nest and there were four eggs! The eggs were pure white without markings. The literature indicates that Winter Wren eggs may sometimes be almost clear white. A fifth egg was laid later.

Two eggs had hatched on June 3, but there were eggs in the nest for the next few days, although all five eventually hatched. The young were flesh-colored and naked at first, appearing completely helpless. On June 18 I went to check the nest and as I bent down to look in, the young popped out—all five of them—and scurried away through the grasses and cinnamon ferns, each in a different direction. The young were fully feathered, resembling the adults in every respect, except for a somewhat blotched appearance and shorter tails.

The eggs hatching over a period of several days suggests that incubation began before the clutch was complete. This would explain what would otherwise be a 12 day incubation period, rather short for this species. The young left the nest 15 days after the first ones hatched, although they may have been forced out early by my visit.

Robert E. Dirig, R.D. 1 (French Woods), Hancock, New York, 13783

A Roof-nesting Upland Plover: The Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*) is generally regarded as nesting in concealed grass or among grass tufts in the open areas that it frequents. In the Schenectady area its nesting is of extremely local occurrence. In recent years the plovers at Craig School on Balltown Road in Niskayuna near Schenectady have drawn considerable interest. On June 21, 1965 I went to Craig School hoping to band young plovers which I had been told were seen on the school lawn.

Craig School is in open, semi-rural country atop a grassy knoll. The building is

mostly one story and has a tarred, pebble-covered, flat roof. In the immediate area of the school are several acres of cut lawn and further away some houses and hay-fields, some of which are cut annually. That evening when I was talking to the two custodians, asking for permission to roam the school ground, they told me that these "long-legged and long-necked" birds had a nest on the roof last year. I asked if they really did not mean a nighthawk and described the nighthawk. They said that neither this nor the killdeer which I described were the birds with the nest. The bird was streaked above and below, brownish, had long legs, a long thin neck and a small head. The nest was in a hollow among the pebbles on the roof and had two eggs. The birds gave the broken-wing display whenever anyone walked near the nest on the roof. Both custodians were within 10-15 feet of the birds on the roof. Since both of them have worked at the school since 1956-57, they are familiar with the plovers that frequent the school ground, even though they do not know the birds by name. They told me that the birds on the roof were the same as the ones seen commonly on the lawn.

Later when I went to the back of the school and was photographing the two young that I had caught, one of the custodians came and pointed over my head to a bird atop a power pole, saying that that bird was one of the same kind that nested on the roof last year. Atop the pole was one of the nervous-looking parents of the two young I held. I am convinced that their story is authentic.

That evening, three adults and two young were seen. On June 30, 1965 only one banded young and at least five adults were seen. Only the one adult that defended the banded young gave any inclination of parental responsibility. The other four adults were shy and wary. They may have nested elsewhere nearby and had come to the school lawn to feed on the abundant insect life that attracted about a dozen other species of birds.

Robert P. Yunick, 1527 Myron Street, Schenectady, New York, 12309

An Unusual Downy Woodpecker Plumage: On Feb. 27, 1965 a partially albino Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus pubescens*) was observed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Fearnside of Fishers, N.Y. The bird, a female, appeared normal about the head and neck but the wings, back and tail were brown where the color is normally black. In addition, the tips of the primaries were nearly all white. In flight the bird appeared quite bizarre, flashing a great deal of brown. It was observed by the Fearnside, Allen Kemnitzer of Webster and myself, and photographed by Mr. Fearnside.

Robert G. McKinney, 198 Parkview Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14625

Winter Food of Long-eared Owls: In the winter of 1964-65 four Long-eared Owls (*Asio otus*) roosted in a small pine-spruce grove north of Liverpool, N.Y. They were first discovered on 6 March 1965 and were seen subsequently by several observers. Because we could find little published material relating to the winter food habits of the Long-eared Owl, we collected and dissected all the pellets we could find in the grove on 24 and 25 June 1965. The skulls found in the pellets were identified by Professor LeRoy C. Stegeman of Syracuse University.

In the pellets were the remains of at least 156 different animals: 1 small passerine (probably *Spizella* or *Junco*), 1 Short-tailed Shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*), 1 Southern Bog Lemming (*Synaptomys cooperi*), and 153 Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*). Also found in the grove were the remains of a Blue Jay and a Common Grackle, but it could not be determined whether they were prey of the owls.

Stephen H. Morgan, 4467 Buckley Road West, Liverpool, N.Y. 13088

Christian G. Spies, Jr., 7708 Morgan Road, Liverpool, N.Y. 13088

Male Townsend's Warbler in Dutchess County: On April 24, 1965, Marion Van Wagner and I went to Thompson's Pond, Pine Plains, to look for early warblers. A strong wind kept the birds up against the mountain as we started along the path, and right away we saw Palm and Myrtle Warblers. We were looking over each bird when we both noted a different warbler. It had a black cap, bright yellow cheeks and breast with a large black triangle thru the eye, wing bars, and black streaks down the side similar to the Prairie Warbler. The lower belly to under the tail was white. We did not recognize the bird, although we are familiar with all Dutchess County's 38 warblers. We were sure it must be a rarity or hybrid.

Later we verified that it was not pictured in Peterson's Eastern Field Guide, but found it in "The Warblers of America" by Griscom and Sprunt. It was unmistakably a male Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*). We had seen all field marks except his back and tail spots.

Our alert went out and the next morning 8 of us hunted for two hours before locating it within 40 feet of the previous sighting. No leaves were on the trees at this time, so visibility was good. The first day he was 25 to 35 feet from the ground. This time he ranged from 8 to 15 feet from the ground, and we were able to see the tail spots. The others who saw the bird were Mary and James Key, Florence Germond, Thelma and Paul Haight, Dorothy Lloyd and Alice Jones.

Records of Townsend's Warbler in the east are very scarce. I could find only three positive records prior to 1964. However, *Audubon Field Notes* Vol. 18, No. 4, August 1964 lists three records in 13 months for the New York City area. The date we saw this warbler appears to be the earliest date one has been seen.

Eleanor Pink, Main Street, Pleasant Valley, N.Y. 12569

Chimney Swifts Bathing: On June 12, 1965 at North Camillus I noted two Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) bathing in a peculiarly stereotyped manner. Some eight or ten Chimney Swifts were flying about, apparently feeding over a small wildlife marsh and pond just north of Devoe Road. I had twice heard a fluttering rattle before I realized that it was being made by two low-flying swifts. The swifts would circle about the pond briefly, then set the wings for a long glide, strike the water momentarily with the anterior portion of the breast, glide steeply upward 25-35 feet, then quickly flutter the wings in deep, rapid strokes below body level, producing a spurt of fine droplets and a loud, brief wing clatter. The two birds—and as far as I could determine there were only two birds involved—performing in this fashion did so repeatedly (some eight to ten passes each) and each pass was exactly like the first observed. At no time was any other sound than the fluttering rattle heard; the birds were not seen to open their bills even minutely, and no in-the-air preening of feathers occurred. When the two birds appeared actually black-breasted from the continual wetting, they circled a few times and flew away.

F. G. Scheider, 427 South Main Street, North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212

Redwinged Blackbird Nests 6 Inches Apart: In our pond in the spring of 1965 (exact date not noted) a Redwinged Blackbird female built a nest about 18 inches above water level in cat-tail residual from last year's growth, then appeared to abandon this and built another nest approximately six inches away and at the same level. The two nests almost touched and were in plain view of one another. We had seen this happen in previous years, except that the nests were farther apart.

The female laid 4 eggs, and always flushed noisily from the nest when we

approached within 20 feet. Once, to my surprise, two females flushed, and upon investigation we found 5 eggs in one nest and 4 in the other. Upon each of our subsequent visits, the two birds flushed, in opposite directions, and then challenged our approach in a seemingly combined effort. Although males in the area were seen to chase one another, I never saw these two females in conflict, and even observed them feeding close together, apparently on dragonfly larvae in the shallow water's edge.

Not having known such behavior of Redwings before, I watched daily developments, until unfortunately grackles plundered both nests and left empty shells on the pond bottom along a small log where the eggs were carried and eaten. I found no evidence that the birds rebuilt nearby.

It is impossible for me to say whether the extra female simply appropriated abandoned property or whether the two nests were actually built by different birds. It may be significant that only a very small clump of cat-tails was available here, perhaps six feet in diameter.

Howard W. Thomas, R.D. #4, Oak Hill Road, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901

Ed. Note: The late Arthur A. Allen remarked that late-arriving females, if they do not locate unmated males, may move in with a mated pair, and polygamy is practiced in this species. However, I can find no reference to nests as close together as those described by Mr. Thomas.

Corrigendum: Vol. XV, No. 3, p. 158—date for Little Gull at Montezuma May 16, 1965.

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NO BORDERS IN CONSERVATION

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

I would like to indulge in a few personal impressions from two months of camping this summer. Such feelings occasionally belong in a column like this because conservation isn't just a matter of bill numbers, organizations, telegrams to legislators. Its impellent comes somehow from within one's self. It is motivated by experiences of such exhilaration that they are not recalled without again feeling something of the speechless intensity that accompanied them.

My wife, Ginger, has as much fun describing my gestures and articulations of excitement once this summer as I have in describing their cause—an Osprey which, having come into view from behind a thick growth of trees, dropped a nice-sized, squirming fish. I couldn't think why, when suddenly there whirled into view a magnificent Bald Eagle, its dark coat contrasting dramatically with its ermine-white head. The fish plopped into the shallow water. The eagle casually dropped down, seized the Osprey's abandoned dinner, and flew off to the limb of a nearby tree to enjoy the ill-gotten repast. How often I had read about this, but never dreamed to ever, *ever* actually see this performance. Experiences like this make one eager to halt the decline of eagles and Osprey, to cling to any of our wild life and wilderness that is left.

I can't report that this experience occurred during the two weeks we camped in the Adirondacks. But is my rekindled motivation and interest any less applicable to the problems in our own state? The answer, of course, is no.

Does a conservationist or naturalist really care where political borders are? It occurs to me that the conservationist is perhaps the greatest overlooker of borders that there ever was. He's the person who can be as alarmed over that proposed dam in Alaska as he is over the prospect of a defaced Storm King Mountain on our Hudson River; the person who is as compelled to rush to the rescue of the Nene in Hawaii, the Condor in California, and the leopard in Africa as he is to redress the loss of the Peregrine Falcon in his own New York State. If ever the phrase "One World" had any meaning, it is with the conservationist who looks upon the whole wilderness world as his—and everybody's.

I camped in the woods and along the lakes of two members of that One World: United States and Canada, including national parks in both. I think I can be just as concerned as a Canadian, if necessary, for the great Nova Scotian spruce forests which hike straight to the rims of the huge cliffs that have set down their rocky feet in the salt waters swirling around the edges of Cape Breton Highlands National Park. I lay as much claim to the flat, peaceful marshes and beaches of Prince Edward Island

National Park or the woods-surrounded lakes of Fundy National Park. But Canada need not take alarm at my claim, need not man again the old border fortifications that have become museum pieces. For the conquest is already Canada's—the claim on my affection, for example, of those lakes in Fundy around whose shores Boreal Chickadees and Pine Grosbeaks chattered and flitted by day and in whose evening-tinted waters beaver swam and saucily slapped the surface with their powerful, paddle-like tails.

I hope that every naturalist—and I hope someday everybody is one—anywhere in the world will claim and be claimed by the magnificent and tranquil sights of our own America, not the least being the mountains that roll like soft green swells for miles across the Adirondacks, the inspiring views (although fast being defiled) of the Hudson River and the waving green fields of the spartina on our salt wetlands of Long Island.

I only hope that enough of our citizens will be conquered by the beauty of their own wild land to save what is left of this precious heritage before the chances are lost forever.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

June 1 – August 15

DAVID B. PEAKALL

At the summer seminar at Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology observers from several areas of the central part of the state compared notes on which species were up and which were down in numbers. Although these are only impressions, with enough observers a reasonable idea is obtained. The overall impression that I received was that common birds are becoming commoner and the less common scarcer. That this may be more than a mere impression is shown by the study made by the Grabers in Illinois (A comparative study of bird populations in Illinois 1906–1909 and 1956–1958. *Illinois Natural History Survey Bulletin*, Vol. 28, Article 3, 1963). In this they compared the census data of Gross and Ray (1906–1909) with their own recent studies. They found that although the total number of breeding birds in Illinois had changed little, the numbers of many species had declined seriously whereas the population of only a few had markedly increased. The increases (population more than doubled) were Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Starling, House Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Savannah Sparrow. The decreases (population more than halved) Turkey Vulture, Sparrow Hawk, cuckoos, Flicker, Red-headed

Woodpecker, Kingbird, Blue Jay, Crow, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Orchard Oriole, Lark Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow. The introduced Starling was credited with the reduction of the two most open-country-loving woodpeckers, the Red-headed and Flicker. The other changes were due, largely, to the creation of huge monocultures in place of more diversified habitat. There is no data for this state on which to make such a comparison but to judge from the status given in Eaton the Flicker, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird and Baltimore Oriole have decreased in the last fifty years. The authors pointed out that the acreage sprayed with pesticides has increased five fold between 1958 (the last year of the survey) and 1962. Another survey in a few years may well provide one of the best documentations we have on the effects of these materials.

There is little to add to last year's dismal picture of the breeding status of hawks. Rosche comments "the continuing scarcity of hawks prompts this writer to begin summarizing nesting data for all species in so far as space permits." The only species currently requiring much space are the Red-tail and Sparrow Hawk. Both of these species should be watched closely. There were no records of Cooper's Hawk or Marsh Hawk nesting. The report on the Osprey colony on Gardiner's Island is of interest. It is unfortunate that no definite conclusions can be drawn from the absence of any young. Based on the work of Ames and Mersereau (*Auk* 81:173, 1964) the peak period for hatching would be May 25—June 15, thus the absence of young on June 5 and 6 is inconclusive. The herons, with the exception of the Green Heron, appear to have declined, although for details we must await Benning's report on the second year of the heronry census.

The first occurrence of the House Finch in western New York is of interest but not surprising in view of the recent expansion of the range of this species (see summary, Spring 1964). The number recorded on Christmas counts on Long Island increased from 801 in 1963/64 to 1545 in 1964/65. Observers should check carefully Purple Finches, especially at feeders, for House Finches. The House Finch is not illustrated in the Eastern Field Guide but a description can be found in the Western Field Guide and also in an article by Cant (*Kingbird* July 1962).

The expansion of range of the Mockingbird referred to in the last summary is further documented by nesting in Regions 8 and 9. The Bluebird continued to make modest advances in the central and western parts of the state and some range expansion of the Blue-gray Gnat-catcher was noted in the same areas.

This issue contains the last report by Frank Clinch, who retires after twelve years of service. The *Kingbird* has been fortunate in length of service and dedication of its regional editors. The ten regional editors responsible for the reports in this issue have a total of sixty-three years of service, four (Sally Hoyt, Leslie Bemont, Fritz Scheider and Frank Clinch) having served since the present regions were formed in 1954.

Elsewhere in this issue is a note on the verification of sight records prepared by the Editorial Board. It is hoped that this will be of value to observers submitting field notes on rarities. If a field note on an unusual occurrence is not to be published, I hope that regional editors will give a description of the bird in a few lines in the text of their report. This will give future readers a chance to judge the record for themselves.

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210

Abbreviations used in regional reports: ad—adult; Co—county; imm—immature; L—Lake; max—maximum one-day count; mob—many observers; Pk—Park; Pt—Point; R—River; Rd—Road.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

Summer 1965 was cool and wet. Temperatures were below the long term averages during all three months, and precipitation was above except for the month of June which was drier than usual. However, total precipitation for the year continued to be below normal; the drought was less pronounced and severe than in the eastern sections of the state.

The material below might be summarized in the following fashion to accent the trends of the season based on available data: 1) Some insectivorous species like the Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow and Barn Swallow appeared to be less successful in rearing broods than during the average nesting season; 2) The continuing scarcity of hawks prompts this writer to begin summarizing nesting data for all species in so far as space permits; 3) A study of Robin nests indicates that there is probably some factor present that prevents normal-sized broods in suburban Buffalo; 4) An interesting variety of "northern" nesting birds (Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Myrtle Warbler) spent the early part of the summer near the summit of McCarty Hill, Cattaraugus County, a state reforestation area containing extensive plantings of spruce and other conifers; 5) Much available habitat resulted in a better-than-average season for shorebirds; and 6) Other highlights of the season included the observation of Rough-legged Hawk, Piping Plover, Prairie Warbler and House Finch.

Abbreviations: Alleg—Allegany; Bflo—Buffalo; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; est—estimated; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Andrie; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; SWE—Stephen W. Eaton; AF—Arthur Freitag; JG—Joe Grzybowski; WHK—Walter and Harriette Klabunde; KTK—Karol T. Klonowski; HDM—Harold D. Mitchell; CM—Carl Mrozek; RDR—Richard and Dorothy Rosche; GMS—George M. Smith; WAS—William A. Smith; CGW—Gertrude G. Webster.

LOONS—DUCKS: Great Blue Heron: five nests containing nine young, Jul 9, Hood Hill, Belmont, Alleg Co (LDB)—the only nesting report. Common Egret: one, Jun 13, over Hamburg (TLB)—only report. Black-crowned Night Heron: one, Jun 16 and three, Jun 23, Lancaster (CM)—only reports. Least Bittern: one, Jun 14, Eden (TLB)—only report. Green-winged Teal: female with brood of nine downy young, Jun 27–28, North French Road, Amherst, Erie Co (RDR)—last previous nesting report was in 1961. Hooded Merganser: two, Jul 30, Belmont (LDB)—the only report of this species which has been increasing as a nesting bird in recent years in the southern tier counties.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 26, Aug 8, OOGMA (WHK)—a noteworthy concentration. Goshawk: a pair nested for the second consecutive year near Vandalia, Catt Co (SWE); an observer was attacked by an ad near former nesting sites in Alleg State Pk (KTK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: scarce; one, Jun 7, 25 and Jul 9, McCarty Hill (RFA); one, Jul 14 and Aug 12, 13, Belmont (LDB); one, Jul 25, New Albion, Catt Co (HDM et al). Cooper's Hawk: scarce; an ad and two imm ("off nest"), Aug 4, Wellsville (LDB)—only report. Red-tailed Hawk: nest with three young, Jun 1, Belmont and nest with one young, Jul 11, Andover, Alleg Co (LDB). Red-shouldered Hawk: scarce. Broad-winged Hawk: probably the only hawk that is increasing as a nesting bird; one, Jun 7, Wellsville and one, Jun 22, Belmont (LDB); one, Jun 24, Chestnut Ridge Pk, Erie Co (AF); one, Aug 10, Athol Springs, Erie Co (TLB). *Rough-legged Hawk*: four, Jun 9, near Shadigee, Orleans Co (HDM, GMS, WAS) where a large concentration occurred last winter; one remained there until Jun 26 (HDM et al); the possibility of nesting was investigated but nothing was found; this is the latest spring record for the Region. Bald Eagle: one, Jun 28, Lyndonville, Orleans Co (GMS, WAS). Osprey: one, Aug 12, Scio, Alleg Co (LDB)—early.

Shorebirds: Polluted L Erie with its dense growth of algae together with poor weather (few people on the beaches) caused one veteran observer to state, "Never have I seen so many shorebirds along the south shore of L Erie as I have this season. The peak came on Aug 3 following heavy rains" (TLB). The shore at Dunkirk was visited by an exceptional number and variety of shorebirds as were the mudflats at Prendergast Point on Chaut L. Nineteen species of shorebirds were reported from these areas this season, the largest since this writer has been preparing these reports. Arrival dates were: Semipalmated Plover, Jul 29; Black-bellied Plover, Aug 1; Ruddy Turnstone, Aug 3; Solitary Sandpiper, Aug 1; Greater Yellowlegs, Aug 8; Lesser Yellowlegs, Jun 25; Knot, Aug 26; Pectoral Sandpiper, Jul 29; White-rumped Sandpiper, Aug 7; Baird's Sandpiper, Aug 2; Least Sandpiper, Jul 3; Short-billed Dowitcher, Aug 4; Stilt Sandpiper, Jul 29; Semipalmated Sandpiper, Jul 3; Western Sandpiper, Aug 3; Sanderling, Jul 29. *Piping Plover*: one, Aug 10, L Erie at Athol Springs, Erie Co (TLB)—no recent reports for Region. Upland Plover: flock of 16, Aug 9, Lancaster, Erie Co (CGW et al)—noteworthy concentration. Caspian Tern: one, Aug 12, L Erie at Woodlawn (TLB)—only report.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one, Jul 15, Wellsville (LDB); one, Aug 9, Hamburg (TLB). Common Nighthawk: 40, Aug 9, over Tonawanda, Erie Co (JG)—migratory movement. Eastern Phoebe: a number of nest sites used in 1963 and 1964 in the southern tier were unoccupied this year; this is probably

indicative of a poor nesting year for this insectivorous species (RDR). Purple Martin: 1000 (est), Aug 13, roost in Eggertsville, Erie Co (HDM). Tufted Titmouse: one, Jun 6-7, Hamburg (TLB)—only report. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one, Jun 7 and 25, and three, Jul 9, McCarty Hill (RFA et al). Mockingbird: one, Jun 19, Hamburg (TLB)—only report.

Robin: A study of the data gathered from observing some 30 Robin nests reveals several noteworthy contrasts: 1) in suburban Bflo the average number of eggs per nest was four; however, most of the pairs under study successfully fledged only 2-3 young; 2) in areas away from suburban Buffalo the average number of eggs per nest was three and most of the pairs studied successfully hatched and fledged all their eggs. It seems apparent from this small-scale study that some factor is present which is preventing eggs from hatching in suburban Bflo (Spraying with insecticides?) (RDR). Swainson's Thrush: one (dead), Jul 25, Snyder, Erie Co (RB)—species is not known to nest within many miles of this locality, hence it is best considered a straggler. Eastern Bluebird: fairly successful this nesting season, with the gradual increase of recent years still evident. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two summering individuals, Jun 7 and 25 and one, Jul 9, McCarty Hill (RFA et al). Loggerhead Shrike: one, Jun 13, Lyndonville (WAS, GMS)—only report. Starling: 200 (est), Aug 13, Eggertsville roost (HDM).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Myrtle Warbler: one summering individual, Jun 5 (RDR et al) and Jul 9 (RFA), McCarty Hill. *Prairie Warbler*: one singing male, Jun 25 and 27, McClure Hollow, Catt Co (RFA et al). Yellow-breasted Chat: two, Jul 29, Belmont (LDB).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Common Grackle: 1000, Aug 11, over Hamburg (TLB); 2500 (est), Aug 13, Eggertsville roost (HDM). *House Finch*: ad male, often heard singing, came to a feeding station for sunflower seeds at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Armstrong on Burbank Drive, Snyder (suburban Bflo), Jun 18-late Jul; during Jul it was observed by most of the active field observers of the Region (RFA, HDM, RB et al) and it was photographed on Jul 8 (HDM); this is the first known record for the Region.

Erratum: Vol. XV, No. 3, p. 164—Harris' Sparrow: this bird was last seen on May 12 (HDM).

2200 North French Road, Getzville, New York 14068

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for the whole period averaged below normal, with July showing the greatest deviation, more than 4 degrees below normal. The summer, especially the early part, was very dry. June had less than one-quarter of the average rainfall; July a little over half, while the first half of August had somewhat less than normal rainfall. Moderate drought conditions prevailed during the whole period.

The most outstanding birds reported included Wilson's Phalarope, Little Gull, Barn Owl and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Observers: JB—John Brummer; JD—James Doherty; MF—Miss Margaret Foley; JF—John Foster; WH—William Hartrampf; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; BK—Mrs. Beatrice Kemnitzer; ML—Mrs. Mary Lairn; GL—Dr. Gerhardt Leubner; WCL—Walter C. Listman; MM—Mrs. Margaret McGee; TM—Mrs. Thelma McNett; AM—Alfred Maley; HSM—Howard S. Miller; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; AAS—Alfred A. Starling; MS—Mrs. Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow.

Place abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay; CL—Canadice Lake; EL—East Lakeshore; HBP—Hamlin Beach Park; PMP—Powder Mill Park; WLS—West Lakeshore; WS—West Spit.

LOONS—DUCKS: A Common Loon was on Hemlock L June 1 (AM) and one was on Sodus Bay from July 2–21 (AEK). There is absolutely no indication of nesting in either case. Eleven Black-crowned Night Herons were seen along the WLS June 25 (ST). With the recent decrease of this species, this may be considered a good count. There were several reports of out-of-season ducks. These included a Gadwall at BB June 22 (WCL), an American Widgeon at BB June 26 (WCL), a Shoveler at Shore Acres July 29 (WCL), a Hooded Merganser, which may nest locally, at Webster July 26 (AEK) and another at Shore Acres July 29 (WCL), a Common Merganser along the EL June 6 (AEK). Max for Wood Duck were 24 along the WL June 25 (ST) and 11 at Palmyra June 30 (WH).

HAWKS—OWLS: A Red-shouldered Hawk was at CL June 12 (GOS hike) and three Broad-winged Hawks were seen at Letchworth Pk June 5 (WCL). Nesting in these two areas is to be expected. An albino Killdeer was in Fairport July 31 (AEK, BK). Several late straggling shorebirds were recorded. These included a Black-bellied Plover on the WS June 24 (WCL), two Knots on WS June 11 (WCL), a White-rumped Sandpiper at Sodus Bay June 6 (AEK); a Dunlin June 30, five Western Sandpipers June 13, and a Sanderling June 1, all on the WS (WCL). Sanderling: four on the East Spit of BB July 25 (WCL); 15 July 27 and 25 Aug 4 at Sodus Point (AEK). A Wilson's Phalarope was at a small pond near Fairport July 12 (JF, TET). A sub-adult Great Black-backed Gull was at BB June 20 (JD, HSM). Usually several, mostly imm, are reported during a summer. A large concentration of Ring-billed Gulls, estimated at 20,000 birds, was reported from near Shore Acres Aug 5 (WCL). One to four Little Gulls, including an ad in breeding plumage, frequented the WS for much of the summer but disappeared early in August when most of the Bonaparte's Gulls which they were associating with left.

A pair of Barn Owls nested in a silo in Parma and hatched six young. However, the two ad birds were killed early in July by some unknown person or persons. Three of the young birds were found dead and the three remaining young were given to Mrs. Sarah Telpey in an attempt to raise them. Two died but the third bird was thriving at last accounts. Another Barn Owl was seen in an old barn near Mendon from June 8 (JD, HSM) to July 29 (HSM, RTO). The structure was in such dilapidated condition that it was impossible to investigate but there is a good possibility that the bird had young. They have been reported from this location for the last three years.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Three Whip-poor-wills were heard in HSP June 5 (MF), and one was heard in Bushnell Basin June 14 (ML). Twelve Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were netted and banded at Manitou June 6 (GL), and one was seen and heard in the Bristol Hills July 11 (AEK, BK). While there are no nesting records for our area, this last record could possibly refer to a breeding bird as this location is in high country. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at CL June 3 (AM). Seven pairs of Cliff Swallows were found nesting on a small storage building near CL early in June (AM).

Five Red-breasted Nuthatches were in DEP June 25 (ST). While no nest has actually been found, it seems probable that this species nests in the extensive coniferous groves planted in this park. Three Hermit Thrushes were at CL June 3 (AM). This species nests regularly in this high country. High counts of Eastern Bluebirds were eight at CL June 3 (AM) and 10 at PMP June 19 (AAS et al). The species seems to have continued its modest increase this year, both as a breeder and migrant. Eight Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported from PMP June 19 (AAS et al). This species is increasing locally. A very out-of-season Water Pipit was seen at the WS on Aug 2 (WCL).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A singing male Brewster's Warbler was in PMP June 19 (JB, ST). A Parula Warbler was in Letchworth Pk June 5 (WCL). A Blackburnian Warbler was in PMP July 16 (TM, MS). While the species is not known to nest there, it does nest fairly close by. A belated Blackpoll Warbler was at Manitou June 22 (WCL).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: A high count of 30 Grasshopper Sparrows was made at HBP June 6 (MF, MM). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow was found just west of Shore Acres on Walker Rd south of the Parkway July 4 (JD, Michael Doherty, William Doherty & HSM). It was present until at least July 10 and was carefully studied by several other observers. This is our area's third record of this species, all within the past five years. A very late White-crowned Sparrow was at Manitou June 11-13 (WCL).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

The drought continued (some light rains, but accumulation sub-normal) and temperatures averaged below-normal. There was no period of extreme heat. Ground nesters seemed fairly successful, but there were many reports of failures of nests of insect-eaters, for which there may be several explanations, possibly inter-related. Fruit production appears to be below that of last summer, though reasonably good. Except for Red-tailed Hawks, the raptors were almost absent as breeding birds.

Montezuma Refuge had a slight increase in over-all productivity of waterfowl, although not as many Canada Geese, nor Redheads. Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary had an increase in numbers of broods of Mallards and Wood Ducks, but the broods averaged smaller, 2-5 ducklings. The breeding bird census of Sapsucker Woods showed a slight increase in Wood Pewees, Catbirds, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Ovenbirds, Yellowthroats and Grackles, with a decrease in Tree Swallows, Wood Thrushes, and Veeries.

Montezuma produced excellent shore-birding again this year, beginning July 1. I am indebted to Walter Benning for the following description: "The birds were mostly concentrated on the Main Pool near

headquarters, with some on the Mays Pt Pool. The water level was low and steadily dropping, and by 1 Aug I estimated 1000 shorebirds on the Main Pool. The management then began filling these pools and draining the storage pool, and this resulted in a dispersment of the shorebirds to other areas, some to Black Lake. By Aug 15, the Main Pool, Black Lake and Mays Pt Pool were almost lacking in shorebirds . . . while extensive flats on the storage pool were becoming alive with them—15 species represented and over 1000 individuals.”

There were few field observers in the Region this summer, and I am primarily indebted to Dr. and Mrs. Fred Ransom for their daily observations, impressions of over-all abundance and comparisons with the last two seasons, to John Morse for his summary of waterfowl production at Montezuma, and to Walter Benning for his notes on shore-birds.

Contributors: JB—Jack Brubaker; WEB—Walter E. Benning; FG—Frank Guthrie; WG—William Groesbeck; JM—John Morse; FR—Fred Ransom; BS—Betty Strath; MPW—Mary P. Welles.

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

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: four pairs, Jun 13, n. end Sen L (John Dye et al), late date for Finger Lakes. One, ill or injured, spent summer near Horseheads, died Aug 14, shortly after being stoned by children. Great Blue Heron: no colonies located; max at MNWR, 89, late July, (Harry Recker). No reports of Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret or Snowy Egret in Region. Common Egret: max 16, Aug 1, MNWR (Vernon Dewey). Black-crowned Night Heron: observers generally reported more sightings MNWR this year than last. Least Bittern: one to three seen regularly, MNWR; one, Jun 30 through July, Penn Yan Marsh (FG). Mute Swan: five (probably same family group previously reported), Jun 10, Cay L near Cay State Pk, (WEB). White-fronted Goose: what appeared to be this species was reported Jun 6, Chemung R near Wellsburg but verification report not yet filed.

Figures for production of waterfowl at Montezuma are as follows, with symbol indicating if increase or decrease over '64 (JM): Canada Goose, 88 (—); Mallard, 900 (+); Wood Duck, 600 (+); Blue-winged Teal, 810 (—); Black Duck, 100 (—); Shoveler, 115 (+); Green-winged Teal, 44 (+); Gadwall, 800 (+); Pintail, 12 (+); Am. Widgeon, 24 (+); Hooded Merganser, 15 (—); Redhead, 90 (—); Canvasback, 6 (+); Ruddy Duck, 100 (+). The most serious decrease was in Redheads. The total production for the Refuge was 3,600 ducks, as compared with 3,200 last year. At SWS 15 broods of Mallards, 10 broods Wood Ducks, were produced, but broods averaged small.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reported as 'fairly common' at MNWR; max 13, July 4, opp. Seneca Pt on e. shore Can L (D. Chamberlain). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one seen Yellow Barn Rd, Town of Dryden in June; only one pair known to nest, near Ithaca, and that failed (W. R. Spofford). Cooper's Hawk: one sighting of what was believed to be this species Aug 15 near Burdett (E. Bishop). Red-tailed Hawk: in good numbers everywhere. Red-shouldered Hawk: decreasing, one successful nesting, one failure, near SWS. Broad-winged Hawk: nest reported in July issue successful; sightings at two other areas near Ithaca; one imm Jun 22, near Watkins Glen (JB); this species appears to be moving into Region as a breeding bird. Bald Eagle: one imm seen fairly regularly, MNWR; one there on Jun 14 was a

different individual, with much white in head; one imm Jun 20, Montour Falls (Barrie Strath). Marsh Hawk: no known nestings; sightings regularly w. of MNWR, and also w. of Watkins Glen (JB). Osprey: irregular in summer; seen July 3 and Aug 15, MNWR (WEB). Sparrow Hawk: few sightings except in Keuka area (FG); few successful nestings known near Ithaca.

Wild Turkey: at least one successful nesting on Conn. Hill. Virginia Rail: good numbers everywhere; new nesting location, small marsh near Lowman, on Rt. 17 near Elmira (K. Fudge). Common Gallinule and Am. Coot; abundant, MNWR.

Shorebird migration started in early July. It is difficult to place in proper category a breeding-plumaged Wilson's Phalarope seen at MNWR, Jun 26-27 (WEB). Semipalmated Plover: three, July 1, MNWR (WEB). As I have no reports of shorebirds except a few at Ithaca's disappearing Hog Hole, other than the Montezuma reports, all following will be there. American Golden Plover, one, and Black-bellied Plover, six, on Aug 14. Woodcock and Common Snipe: again driven into open and along shores by drought, so many sightings, and possibly false impression of abundance. Lesser Yellowlegs: from Jun 20 on; max 176, July 31, (WEB). Short-billed Dowitcher: two (first) Jul 14; max 15, Aug 8 (WEB); one, Jul 19, Horseheads Bridge over Newton Creek (MPW). Stilt Sandpiper: one (first), Aug 13 (FR). Hudsonian Godwit: four, Jul 14-18. Sanderling: one (first), Aug 15. Wilson's Phalarope: one, Jun 27, breeding plumage; two, Aug 11 and 15, fall plumage.

Ring-billed Gull: numbers began building up last week July. Bonaparte's Gull: four, July 28, MNWR, one breeding plumage, one imm, two changing (WEB). Least Tern: second record for Region, first for Cay Basin in many years, July 3, Mays Pt pond at MNWR (F. Scheider et al, see Field Notes section). Caspian Tern: scattered reports mid-Aug various localities; Black Tern: good breeding success. Both Cuckoos scarce throughout Region. Owls scarce, except Great Horned. Barred Owls brought off two young successfully at SWS.

CAPRIMULGIDS-STARLING: Whip-poor-will: heard in the usual two or three stations, plus Piper Road, s.w. of Ithaca—new station. Nighthawk: seemed less common this year.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: less abundant than in former years. Yellow-shafted Flicker: seemed abundant everywhere but in Elmira area. Pileated Woodpecker: brought off young in SWS and in Stewart Park, Ithaca; also on Stasche property at Caton, s. of Corning; many other sightings. Red-bellied Woodpecker: no nestings reported. Red-headed Woodpecker: except around Ithaca, this species is showing a slight increase. Of the Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds and Traill's Flycatchers were in good numbers (at SWS, both varieties of Traill's nested close together), while Phoebes and Least Flycatchers were scarce. Tree Swallows were scarcer at SWS and some other locations; Barn and Bank Swallows were in better than usual numbers. Cliff Swallows left the Dryden-Harford Rd colony in late July (early) after successful nesting but only one brood this year. Of interest also, a single nest on top of an outside light fixture at the J. Gregory home, Elmira, attracted much attention; young left nest Jun 26. Purple Martin: left the Montezuma Headquarters house on Jul 28, left SWS early August.

Blue Jays and Crows common everywhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: apparently nested on Conn. Hill again; no other reports. House Wren: continued less abundant than in former years. Long-billed Marsh Wren: on increase at Penn Yan marsh (FG) and at MNWR (at least 9 locations there). Short-billed Marsh Wren: only reports were from MNWR (3 sightings). Mockingbird: reported from Elmira, Esperanza, Ithaca, and a single bird on a dairy farm at Stephens Mills, town of Fremont (WG). Catbird: common everywhere; In Dryden a Catbird nest, in which the first of four eggs was laid on June 1, was taken over by a Robin which incubated the four Catbird eggs and raised two young to successful fledging, continuing to feed the

young out of the nest (fide Patch, McIlroy, FR)—see Benton, Nest sharing by robin and catbird, *Kingbird* XI: 81 and 137, 1961 for report of Robin and Catbird using same nest in which both laid eggs. Brown Thrasher continues to increase as breeding bird. Robins abundant, Veeries better except at SWS, Wood and Hermit Thrushes in usual numbers. Bluebirds in better numbers in some scattered localities.

Imm Starlings in flocks were a nuisance to cherry-growers in Burdett area in July (J. Bardeen).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos are still reported as scarce, but Red-eyed and Yellow-throated seemed in better numbers than a year ago. Warbling Vireos reported as absent at Odessa (BS) and rare at north end of Cay L. Two reports of breeding Solitary Vireos.

Among the warblers: Yellow, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Northern Waterthrush and Yellowthroat were reported in normal numbers; Black-throated Green, Cerulean, La. Water-thrush and Redstart were scarcer. Black-and-white Warblers nested at Texas Hollow this year. Ovenbirds had increased (4 prs in '64 to 10 prs in '65) at SWS. Several previously unreported stations for Prairie Warbler at Elmira. Two Prothonotary Warblers were seen on two occasions at Texas Hollow (E. Bishop).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolinks were only locally common. Meadowlark: abundant. Redwings and Grackles were abundant, Baltimore Orioles in good numbers, with successful nestings. Scarlet Tanagers, Cardinals and Indigo Buntings appear to be increasing. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were somewhat scarcer this year, except around Keuka, where they were reported commonly; around Ithaca, they seemed scarce during June, but by mid-Aug much more common. Goldfinches, Savannah, Vesper and Song Sparrows seemed abundant, Field and Chipping Sparrows in slightly sub-normal or normal numbers, Henslow's, Grasshopper and Swamp Sparrows, not too common.

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Along with the rest of the northeastern part of the country the Susquehanna Region experienced its fifth dry summer in a row. Rain fell fairly frequently, but rarely in any substantial quantities. Temperatures averaged on the cool side and in early June there was scattered frost one night.

The late summer influx of southern herons was light, but did produce our first Snowy Egret. There was also an interesting assortment of ducks that normally go further north remaining in the Region during the breeding season, some of them, no doubt, as a result of stocking efforts. The fall shorebird migration that normally starts in early July was hardly noticed. A Yellow-headed Blackbird report is of particular interest.

Contributors: LB—L. Bemont; AC—Al Christopher; GC—G. Corderman; C, JD—Carleton and Jeanne Davis; M, AD—Marylin and Anna Davis; RD—Robert Dirig; JD—Jean Doren; CG—Clinton Gerould; BH—Betty Hewlett; CH—Claude Howard; MH—M. Humphries; P, PK—Paul, Sr. and Paul, Jr. Kalka; FL—Florence Linaberry; HM—Harriet Marsi; MM—Mary Middaugh; R, JS—Robert and Jean Saunders; MS—

Mary Sheffield; AS—Anne Stratton; DW—Donald Weber; MW—Mildred White; R & SW—Ruth and Sally White; EW—E. Williams; RW—Ruth Williams; SW—Stuart Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one, Aug 1 thru 8, Owego (MW, CG). Common Egret: one, Jul 30 and two, Aug 3, Endwell (LB); last seen Aug 9 (P, PK); the only other one, Jul 31, Owego (MH). *Snowy Egret*: one, Aug 9, Endwell (P, PK), half the size of Common Egrets seen at the same time—dark legs and yellow feet seen clearly; first record for Region. Black-crowned Night Heron: Jul 31, Campville (MW, CG); 3 imm, Aug 9, Endwell (P, PK); no others. Canada Goose: the scattered reports in the Owego and Triple Cities area were possibly strays from the flock released on the lake behind the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam. Pintail: 3 imm, Aug 7, Candor (DW). Blue-winged Teal: 6, Jul 27, Campville (MW, CG); only report. Wood Duck: Jun 7, 10 ducklings walked into AC's store in Homer. Redhead: a male in eclipse, Jul 11, Owego (RW, MW). Hooded Merganser: Jul 27, Lounsberry in Tioga County (MW, CG). Common Merganser: 3, Jun 6 and an ad with 5 young, Jun 17, Deposit (SW); one, Jul 6 and off and on to the end of the period, Campville (RW). Red-breasted Merganser: a female remained at Candor until Jul 4 (DW); excellent close-up color photos were obtained.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: reported regularly from Hancock and occasionally from Deposit, but from nowhere else in the Region. Goshawk: there was activity around the nest at Hancock until at least Jul 20 (RD). Broad-winged Hawk: at a nest at Hancock the first egg of 3 hatched Jun 5 and the last young flew Jul 8 (RD); also reported at Owego and Binghamton fairly frequently. Bald Eagle: an ad and an imm, Jun 5, Candor (DW). Marsh Hawk: scarce all summer. Bob-white: one Jun 28, Oxford (AS); Jul 10, Owego (EW); also reported at South Owego (MW, CG), a new locality. Wild Turkey: two ad with 6 young, Jul 20, Dry Brook (MM); 3 broods of 6, 10 and 7 observed at Candor (DW). Common Gallinule: 4, Jul 25, Sherburne (R & SW), no other reports. Common Snipe: one, Jun 20, Norwich; one, Jul 30 and 3, Aug 15, Sherburne (R & SW); nowhere else. Upland Plover: one, Jul 5, Freetown Corners (JD). Solitary Sandpiper: Jul 21, Five Mile Point near Binghamton (HM, FL). Lesser Yellowlegs: 6, Jul 6, Campville (RW). Black Tern: Jul 1, Greene (C, JD), rarely seen in this Region during the summer. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: scarce. Black-billed Cuckoo: reasonably numerous around the Triple Cities and Greene, but otherwise reported scarce. Screech Owl: not many. Barred Owl: heard fairly frequently at Hancock (RD).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: Jun 4, Hinman's Corners (R, JS); heard off and on all summer at Candor (DW). Red-headed Woodpecker: one, Jul 25 and an ad feeding a full size imm Aug 15, Sherburne (R & SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: reported during the period at Hancock, Deposit, Norwich, Greene and Binghamton; imm seen at Deposit (SW) and Binghamton (CH). Great Crested Flycatcher: few reported from Jun 1 on. Tree Swallow: low numbers and poor nesting results reported in the Owego area (RW), but they seemed normal elsewhere. Purple Martin: 49 nests in a 78 compartment house at Owego produced 147 young (RW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: one, Jul 18, Norwich (R & SW); Aug 14, the first of the year in the Binghamton area (MS). Brown Creeper: a few seen in Tioga Co during the period (RW). Winter Wren: Jul 12 and 16, Hancock (RD). Short-billed Marsh Wren: one, Jul 24, Sherburne (R & SW). Robin: 15 nests on 2½ acres at Oxford, counting second and third nestings, most of which were successful (AS); one ad learned to get suet from a feeder much like a woodpecker to feed to its young during the dry weather. Hermit Thrush: 5 nesting locations reported around Tioga Co (RW); heard frequently at Hinman's Corners, particularly in late

Jul (R, JS). Swainson's Thrush: two, heard Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW); one, Jul 12, stunned flying into a window at Hancock (RD). Eastern Bluebird: good numbers and nesting success reported from Cortland, Owego and some localities around Binghamton but human intervention was required in some cases to control blow fly larva. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4, Jul 27, Owego (MW); several nesting pairs along Candor Creek (DW).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Golden-winged Warbler: common locally in the Triple Cities area as usual, but not reported elsewhere. Blue-winged Warbler: Jun 6, Endwell (GC). Magnolia Warbler: 12, Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW). Black-throated Blue Warbler: fairly frequent reports from Hancock during Jun and early Jul (RD). Myrtle Warbler: two, Jun 12, seen at Pharsalia (R & SW). Black-throated Green Warbler: reported from most parts of the Region during the summer. Blackburnian Warbler: one, Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW); also at two localities around Owego. Northern Waterthrush: a nest with 3 eggs, Jun 19, Hancock (RD). Louisiana Waterthrush: "several along Candor Creek" (DW); another pair near Owego (MW, RW). Mourning Warbler: two, Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW). Yellow-breasted Chat: Jun 16, Owego (MM).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: *Yellow-headed Blackbird*: one, Jun 23, Owego (BH), with a flock of Redwinged Blackbirds; observed from a window at about 30 feet in late morning light for about 10 minutes; yellow head, dark body and white wing patch seen clearly. Redwinged Blackbird: had a good year. Cardinal: a male banded 2/8/62 and recaptured 2/6/65 at Deposit was found dead at Cohecton, N.Y. Jun 2 (SW). Purple Finch: "much less evidence of nesting success this year than last" at Deposit (SW); at Oxford, of four nests of three pairs three were broken up by predators leaving two young known to have fledged successfully (AS). Slate-colored Junco: summer residents at Hancock, Norwich, Owego and Greene; appeared at Deposit Aug 13 (SW). White-throated Sparrow: 14, Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW); 2 or 3, Jul 14 to Aug 8, Norwich (R & SW); one ad with 3 imm, Aug 12, Chenango Forks (M, AD) and regular thereafter.

710 University Ave., Endwell, N.Y., 13763

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ G. SCHEIDER

By June 7, the last tardy traces of spring migration had disappeared. June was cool (cold at times), very dry, and interrupted by windy rainstorms at critical times, i.e., in the midst of landbird nesting peaks and the June 13, 1965 FNYSBC convention field trip. July continued the long, dry summer; local marshes and farm ponds dried out quickly, and what meager mud was exposed soon grew over to annual weeds, hopefully richly productive of seeds for fall and winter birds. Similarly, Otisco Lake, which supplies much of the para-Syracuse suburban water, developed acres of mudflats with advancing weed growth. The marshes

along Lake Ontario became rejuvenated, however, after the lake level began to slowly rise in late May; at present little but open beach is available for shorebirds, but the marsh areas look especially good for migrant waterfowl and marsh birds. Early August persisted hot and dry except for occasional thundershowers.

Local nest productivity seemed excellent. However, all herons with the possible exception of Green Herons seemed down strikingly. Common Snipe, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Alder Flycatcher, House and Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, and Black-throated Green Warbler appeared scarce; Flicker, Crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, and the ubiquitous "black" icterids all seemed to be increasing. The hawk picture is dismal—not one nesting of Cooper's Hawk or Harrier (Marsh Hawk); not one successful Red-shouldered Hawk nesting south or west of Oneida Lake, and the local Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk) population seems to have sagged badly.

Exploratory trips and singing male warbler tabulations were again taken in the Tug Hill Plateau (eastern Oswego, northern Oneida, and southern Lewis Counties), the Moscow and Quaker Hills sectors of southeastern Madison County, and the botanically unique Rome Sand Plains (N. B., the bogs in the last area are now completely dry after four drought years).

Fall migration in shorebirds was evident by July 1, in landbirds (Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warbler) by July 10; however, as of 15 August, no major movement of northern landbirds had occurred, but the Sandy Pond dunes swarmed with the usual early August migrant Warbling Vireos, Eastern Kingbirds, and swallows.

Rarities for the season include Little Blue Heron, nesting Goshawk, Ruff, Wilson's Phalarope, and Barn Owl.

Place abbreviations: HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; HVGMA—Happy Valley Game Management Area near Parish; Onon—Onondaga; RSP—Rome Sand Plains; SB—Sylvan Beach at east end of Oneida Lake; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; THP—Tug Hill Plateau sector; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.

Observers: DA—Dorothy Ackley; J & EB—J. & E. Barker; BPB—B. P. Burt; SH—S. Hosler; DBP—D. B. Peakall; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; CGS—C. G. Spies; FGS—F. G. Scheider; WRS—W. R. Spofford; IS—I. Stone; RT—R. Thomas.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: breeding noted at Nick's L Jul 3 (two young) and Chub Pond Jun 26 (two young) in central Herkimer Co. (J & EB). Pied-billed Grebe: pair with young HIGMA Jul 25–26 (DBP, JWP); one, Jun 5, Stevens Pond near Phoenix (MSR); unreported as a breeder from SP and Oneida L. Great Blue Heron: max 21, HIGMA, Jul 25 (DBP). No Common Egret noted in entire period. Little Blue Heron: an imm in mottled blue and white plumage Jul 25 HIGMA (DBP); no other summer white herons noted. Green Heron: max 30, Jul 26, Clay Swamp (DBP); 38, Aug 4, Clay Swamp; 61, Aug 9, Scott Swamp near Phoenix (MSR, JWP)—concentrated by drought or early flocking preparatory to migration? American Bittern: max for summer *two* (very low), Jul 25, HIGMA. Least Bittern:

reported from Clay Swamp and several nests in Wilson's Swamp west of Oswego (J. Weeks); unreported at HIGMA, Scott Swamp, and SP—drought? pesticides?

Canada Goose: max 200, Jul 25, HIGMA; not nesting at Oneida L or Stevens Pond this year. Dabbling ducks: 80 Mallards and 80 Wood Duck at HIGMA Jul 25 are undoubtedly the regular late-summer post-molting flocks (DBP). Green-winged Teal: 20, HIGMA, Jul 25; Catfish Creek, Oswego Co, Jun 6 (IS, RT), SP Jun 3, and Stevens Pond Jun 5. *No diving* ducks reported on larger lakes of area—most unusual, especially in view of the many late birds in Apr and May.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: three young banded from two nests in Oswego Co Jun 17 (WRS, MSR); last noted in nest vicinity Jul 18 (FGS et al); three ad in THP Jun 27. Sharp-shinned Hawk: nest with one free-flying young about, Jul 15, RSP (DA, FGS). Cooper's Hawk: *no nestings*. Red-tailed Hawk: 30 young banded from 16 nests (BPB) May 16—Jun 21, two weeks late. Red-shouldered Hawk: two nests on n. shore of Oneida L produced young (MSR, BPB); nests at Pleasant L (near Phoenix) and Oneida unproductive, with no evidence of hatching. Broad-winged Hawk: three young banded Jun 17 (BPB, J. Spencer) on Oneida L n. shore. Marsh Hawk: summer records consist of a male Jun 10 Altmar (MSR, WRS), one Jul 4 Brookfield (MSR), a male Deer Creek marshes (Oswego Co) Jul 10; no pairs, no young sighted—a dismal picture!

Sora and Virginia Rails found at HIGMA, Bridge St. marsh (E Syr), Boliver Swamp, and Clay Swamp; unreported from Scott Swamp and SP marshes (reduced population in last two areas—why?).

Shorebirds—fall arrival dates: Semipalmated Plover Jul 1, Onon L; Golden Plover Aug 17, Syracuse airport; Black-bellied Plover Aug 10, SB (B. Peebles); Ruddy Turnstone Jul 31, SP (MSR); Solitary Sandpiper Jul 1, Morrisville Swamp (M. Felle, B. Peebles); Greater Yellowlegs Jul 3, Onon L (JWP); Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 1, Onon L; Knot Jul 18, Onon L; Pectoral Sandpiper Jul 1, Onon L; White-rumped Sandpiper Aug 1, Oneida L (DA); Baird's Sandpiper Jul 31, SP (MSR), an ad which is an unusual migrant locally; Least Sandpiper Jul 1, Onon L; Short-billed Dowitcher Jul 3, Onon L (JWP); Stilt Sandpiper Jul 8, Onon L; Semipalmated Sandpiper Jul 10, SP (MSR); Sanderling Jul 19, Onon L (JWP). Wilson's Phalarope: singles at Onon L Jul 19 (DBP) and Aug 11 (JWP, MSR).

Common Snipe: reported from HIGMA, TRGMA, Scott Swamp, and SP; unreported from the now-dry grass bogs of the Oneida L n. shore. Upland Plover; first flocking at Syracuse airport, four Jul 4; by Jul 6, 19; 35 on Jul 8, 41 Jul 17, 50 Jul 22, and 91 Jul 25 (max). Spotted Sandpiper: counts of 70–75/day Jul 1–8 Onon L attest to the early flocking and migration of this local breeder; no count after Jul 8 above 45.

Max for migrant shorebirds include: Semipalmated Plover 50 Jul 31, SP (MSR); Ruddy Turnstone 15 Aug 7, SP (MSR); Solitary Sandpiper two (very low) Jul 29, Oneida L (DA); Greater Yellowlegs two (very low) Aug 10–11, Onon L; Lesser Yellowlegs 45–50 Jul 16–19, Onon L (DBP, JWP); Pectoral Sandpiper six (low) Aug 12, Otisco L; White-rumped Sandpiper, singles only; Least Sandpiper 35 Jul 19, Onon L (JWP); Short-billed Dowitcher eight Jul 17–18, Onon L; Stilt Sandpiper seven Aug 8, SB (MSR); Semipalmated Sandpiper 500 Aug 7, SP (MSR), 200 Aug 8, Oneida L (DA), 204 Aug 10, Onon L (JWP), a very sharp peak for this, the most common migrant shorebird; Sanderling 100 Aug 7, SP (MSR)—Sanderlings were rather scarce (four-six/day), however, in other areas, particularly at the heavily-populated Sylvan and Verona Beaches.

Ruff: at least five (two ad male, one ad female, one imm male, one imm female), perhaps seven, different individuals noted between Jul 1 and Aug 11 at Onon L (JWP, DBP, MSR, FGS)—full details to appear later in field note.

Paucity of summering Herring Gulls at Onon L and SP. Max Ring-billed Gull 1700, SP Jul 10; scarce at Oneida and Onon Lakes—why? Bonaparte's Gull: 50,

mostly ad, Jul 31, SP, is early—breeding failures? Common Tern: max 350, Aug 1, Oneida L, are undoubtedly locally reared birds. Caspian Tern: max 19, Jul 31, SP (MSR).

Black-billed Cuckoo: nesting noted Jun 5 Pennellville (CGS) and Aug 7, Catfish Creek area (IS, RT). Barn Owl: pair nested in Crouse College, Syracuse University; success in nesting unknown as site inaccessible to both roofers and banders (thank God for gingerbread architecture). Horned Owl: 11 young banded from seven nests Apr 22—May 15 (BPB), about two weeks later than average. Barred Owl: Chub Pond Jun 26 (J & EB).

SWIFTS—STARLING: Nighthawk: max six, Jul 31 and Aug 14, Utica (J & EB); Syracuse counts two-five/night; scarce thru entire summer. Belted Kingfisher: five, Jul 25—26, HIGMA; otherwise ones and twos only. Flicker: max 20, HIGMA Jul 25, two pairs bred successfully in Big Moose area (Bowes), these and single nesting last year are the only known for this area. Red-bellied Woodpecker: still present Jun 12, Camillus (FGS). Red-headed Woodpecker: 24 sites, a phenomenal concentration, located in Oneida area (DA); also reported from Catfish Creek (two pairs), Mexico Point, and in the West Canada Creek area near Prospect. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 30, THP, Jun 27 (MSR) and 12, Jul 1, Redfield to Osceola (FGS); 14, Chub Pond, Jun 26 (J & EB). Black-backed Three-Toed Woodpecker: Two reports in the Big Moose area (Bowes). Eastern Kingbird: migration first noted Jul 10, N Syracuse; counts of 22, Jul 18, SP; 28 and 20, Jul 25 and 26, HIGMA; 25, Jul 31, SP; and 35, Aug 7, SP give a rough idea of their migration locally. Phoebe: 14, Jul 25, HIGMA, is an unusual number for the date. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Jun 5, Woodmancy Rd, Vesper (JWP) late; none reported in THP this year. Traill's Flycatcher: very scarce, with most marked fall-off in THP; max six, Jun 13, THP, and six, Jun 5, Phoenix area; where are they?—is the drop locally secondary to the severe four-year drought? Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Jun 13 and three Jun 27, THP; species confined to spruce-rimmed bogs; none in the Oneida L n. shore country—again, drought?

Cliff Swallow: colonies of 50, Salisbury, Herkimer Co, Aug 8 (breeding birds?) and large colony on Jug Point Rd near Verona Beach (DA). No major swallow flights detected in early Aug at SP, although small numbers of Tree, Bank, and Barn Swallows and Purple Martins were regularly observed passing south along the dunes. Barn Swallow: 5000 in a roost Jul 26, Clay Swamp (DBP).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: four ad in a hemlock-lined gorge in RSP, Jul 15 (DA, FGS); noted repeatedly in central Herkimer Co (MSR, J & EB); at Brookfield Jul 4 (MSR); unreported from previous known sites at SSSP, Sandy Creek, and certain bogs of the THP, although one was found there Jun 27. House Wren: max 25 Jul 3 in n. Oneida Co and s. Herkimer Co (MSR), but otherwise rather scarce, especially around Oneida L, SP, and SSSP. Winter Wren: scarce; max four, Jun 27, THP in s. Lewis Co and n. Oneida Co; Adirondack max three/day; missing from many swampy woods of the Oneida L n. shore, and unreported at SSSP. No Carolina or Short-billed Marsh Wren reported. Long-billed Marsh Wren: max count 20 (very low) Jul 18 from both Scott and Clay Swamps. Mockingbird: nest with three young reared Jun 8, Camden (Mrs. Mahan fide MSR).

Hermit Thrush: max six in THP, Jun 27; remarkably scarce at RSP, two, Jul 15, quite in contrast to their apparently high numbers there this spring; still extremely scarce at Pleasant L, SSSP, and Oneida L n. shore. Swainson's Thrush: max 41, Jun 27, THP (s. Lewis Co and n. Oneida Co) and 11, Jul 1, western THP (Redfield-Osceola); this is matched only by Veery (55, Jun 27; ten, Jul 1); no Swainson's reported from the southern hill country of Madison Co. Bluebird: scattered pairs at 14 sites in Oswego Co (IS, RT, FGS, MSR); at Westernville, Holland Patent, Prospect, Rome, Taberg, Lee Center and Oneida in Oneida Co (H. Aspinwall, DA,

Mrs. W. Lynes, Mrs. J. Van Dresar); Brookfield in Madison Co (MSR); virtually unknown in Onon Co, with a single pair at Lafayette (fide BPB); must still be considered a rare bird locally, certainly more so than the Upland Plover or Red-headed Woodpecker.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pairs located Jun 12 at TRGMA (SH) and n. end of Otisco L (R. Seaman); also three fledglings food-begging at Scott Swamp Jul 8 (JWP, MSR); usual birds at Camillus Valley. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two in tall spruce-pine plantations and natural white cedar-and-balsam fir bogs in Brookfield township Jul 4 (MSR); unreported from THP despite repeated forays there—drought?; also unreported from Chub Pond Jun 26 (MSR, J & EB). Loggerhead Shrike: *unreported* entire summer!

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: several discovered in stands of larger beeches in THP, both in s. Lewis Co and e. Oswego Co Jun 27 and Jul 1; formerly thought to be extremely scarce in this, the core area of the THP.

Singing male warbler counts at Chub Pond, Jun 26 (MSR, J & EB): Black-and-white three, Nashville one, Magnolia 14, Black-throated Blue 11, Myrtle six, Black-throated Green four, Blackburnian two, Chestnut-sided 15, Ovenbird six, Mourning three, Yellowthroat four, Canada four, and Redstart five, in four miles. Such data will be extremely valuable in ascertaining warbler populations and changes therein.

THP warblers—bog and stream conditions in the Tug Hill Plateau were persistently dry; most roads, normally automotive adventures at best, were dry throughout and, in some cases, annoyingly dusty. The bog-frequenting warblers, especially Canada, Nashville, and Northern Waterthrush, seemed down strikingly (max of 20 Canada Jun 27, three Nashville Jun 13, and 19 Northern Waterthrush Jun 27) but Chestnut-sided Warblers in the dry brush (85, Jun 27, n. Oneida Co and s. Lewis Co) and Redstarts in the post-lumbering sapling woods were very abundant (90, Jun 27, same section). The most notable decrease, however, was in Black-throated Green with max of 14, Jun 27 (50 would have been nearer normal)—see comments in paragraph below. Other THP singing male warbler counts on Jun 27, n. Oneida Co and s. Lewis Co, include seven Black-and-white, one Parula, 53 Magnolia, 29 Black-throated Blue, nine Myrtle, 20 Blackburnian (down very markedly), 20 Ovenbird, five Mourning (way down), and 65 Yellowthroat (the one bog-brush warbler that seemed to fare reasonably well); on Jul 1, 18 Mourning Warblers (all but one a singing male) were noted in the Redfield-Osceola sector (M. Pastel, FGS). Golden-winged Warbler: single singing males discovered in larch-brush stands Jun 13 near Redfield-Osceola (FNYSBC convention trip) and in sparse dry brush in HVGMA Jun 15 (MSR)—local range extension?

Other warblers—Golden-winged: five-six/day noted in brushy valleys s. of Syracuse (Onondaga Indian Res., Pleasant Valley, Fish Gulf, Camillus) along with modest numbers of Blue-winged (one-two/day); no Blue-winged Warblers noted in the various Golden-winged locations around Baldwinsville, Euclid, Plainville, and HIGMA (M. Bitz, MSR, FGS). The Blue-winged-Brewster's pair watched so closely at Camillus Valley produced only a Cowbird Jun 12—drat! Nashville Warbler: unusual is a singleton reported in a small ravine near Oneida Jun 6 and 20 (fide DA); while regular at RSP it is quite scarce in the immediate Oneida area. Black-throated Green: present in very reduced numbers (one-nine/day) at SSSP, Altmar, Constantia, Littlejohn GMA (Oswego Co), and Highland Forest near Fabius, Muller Hill, and Brookfield (s.e. Onon Co and s. Madison Co); either drought conditions prompted early song cessation or the local population has dropped drastically, as normally one can hear dozens in the various conifer stands, both natural and planted, in these two sectors; comments—and counts—from other areas would be appreciated. Louisiana Waterthrush: three (six?) pairs in Gas Gulf, w. shore of Otisco L (MSR); three pairs in Fish Gulf on e. side of Otisco L; at Fellows Falls in southern Onon

Valley. Pine Warbler: none in RSP this year. Canada Warbler: max 12, Jun 22, in a mile in Cicero Swamp (MSR) and in the wetter bogs of central Herkimer Co (J & EB), but many small woodlots (normally with one-two pairs) in Oswego Co and Onon Co had no evidence of them—again the question—pesticides, drought, what?

Migration—Yellow Warblers were migrating in numbers Jul 31 (60) and Aug 7 (80) along SP dunes (MSR).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird: a pair and a single female at two separate black spruce bogs Jun 27, THP (FGS); unrecorded heretofore in the summer in that sector. Purple Finch: regularly noted at Catfish Creek (IS, RT), N. Syr (FGS), Utica (J & EB) thru the summer; common in THP with 27, Jun 27 (s. Lewis Co and n. Oneida Co) and 11, Jul 1, Redfield-Osceola. Red Crossbill: one Jun 27, THP (MSR, FGS), the only record from that sector; however, a Red Crossbill and 19 White-winged Crossbills were noted Aug 8 at Salisbury (J & EB) on the periphery of the Adirondack country—are these few birds prelude to another crossbill winter?

Savannah, Vesper, and Grasshopper Sparrows may have profited slightly from the drought, as numbers were noted in various short grass fields at Altmar, Sandy Creek, Pineville, Pulaski, and Pleasant L in Oswego CO; also at TRGMA, Beaver L, Camillus Valley in Onon Co; a small but vocal population of Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows at the Syracuse airport succumbed to the mid-Jul mowings of the weed fields (the management calls them lawns) adjacent to the runways. Slate-colored Junco: 13 (very low) Jun 27 THP, in 13 miles; on Jul 1, nine in 3 miles of primarily deciduous woods, Redfield to Osceola, a higher bird/mile ratio but still very low for the area. White-throated Sparrow: max 16, Jun 26, Chub Pond (MSR, J & EB); extremely common in THP—58, Jun 27, and nine, Jul 1; lower numbers regularly reported at HVGMA, Constantia, Pineville, and Altmar, in the Oneida L n. shore country (actually a southward slope of the THP); one near SP Jul 10 may represent a local breeder or only post-breeding wandering from the THP—Oneida L n. shore population.

427 South Main Street, North Syracuse N.Y. 13212

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The rainfall during June and July was much below normal, but temperatures were also low. The lack of hot drying weather seemed to lessen the harm of the lack of rain. It began to rain August 2; and by the middle of the month we had received more rain than during all of the previous two months. By Aug 15 the fields in Jefferson and Lewis Counties were green again, showing little evidence of drought. Water began to flow again in the small streams and the water level in ponds and lakes began to rise a little.

PRGMA is used for Perch River Game Management area near Watertown.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: pair with young at Yellow L Aug 12. Great Blue Heron: about 20 near dam at PRGMA Aug 8; an estimated 25 nests at PRGMA. Probably about as many as other years at Ironsides Island in the St. Lawrence R. It was difficult to count the nests, but probably more than one hundred. There were 8 to 14 in several of the trees, but it is not known how many were active this year. Black-crowned Night Heron: about 45 seen flying at Calf Island Jul 16; also seen at Stony Island, Henderson Harbor and PRGMA. Glossy Ibis: near Adams Jun 2 (Stevens). Canada Goose: for the second year at PRGMA and Wilson Hill Game Management Area flightless birds, young and ad, were driven into nets, caught and banded. At Wilson Hill there were more birds this year and 395 were banded. At PRGMA the number declined this year and 35 were banded. One goose banded last year at PRGMA was taken at Wilson Hill this year. The size of the duck broods this year was very good.

HAWKS—OWLS. Turkey Vulture: at least four around Oxbow Aug 11, and an imm at El Dorado same day. Bald Eagle: ad seen at PRGMA several times, an imm at El Dorado Aug 14. Osprey: none at Yellow L where they have nested the last few years, but seen at Butterfield L near Redwood. Virginia Rail: 6 imm and one ad at Beaver Meadows near Watertown Jul 26 and also in early Aug; also seen at PRGMA. Sora Rail: two imm at Beaver Meadows Jul 26.

Shorebirds were numerous at El Dorado the first half of Aug and the following were seen there unless another place is given. Semipalmated Plover: Aug 9–15. Black-bellied Plover: first Aug 14 when 3–4 were seen, late for first fall date. Ruddy Turnstone, first Jul 31, 26 in one concentration Aug 11 (Gordon). Common Snipe: more numerous the last two years at PRGMA; seen at El Dorado. Whimbrel: Aug 11 (Gordon). Upland Plover: five at Scotchbush near Ogdensburg Jul 4 (Doren); several noted in fields east of Watertown the first half of Jul; eleven seen at one time in one field. Solitary Sandpiper: first in fall migration Jul 20 at Brookside Cenetery near Watertown, max 8 there on three ponds Aug 4 (Gordon). Greater Yellowlegs: Aug 9–15. Lesser Yellowlegs: Aug 9–15, about 100 Aug 15 (Allen). Knot: Jun 1 in spring migration, Aug 11 in fall migration (Gordon). Pectoral Sandpiper: Jul 12 and Aug 9–15. White-rumped Sandpiper: Aug 9, 11, 14 and 15. Least Sandpiper: several in Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: Jul 12, Aug 9, Aug 15. Dunlin: Aug 13. Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 on Jul 12 and 19; one Jul 24 and 31; Aug 9, 13 still in partial spring plumage. Stilt Sandpiper: Aug 13, still in partial spring plumage. Semipalmated Sandpiper: very numerous in Aug. Sanderling: first Aug 9. Northern Phalarope: Aug 13. Bonaparte's Gull: max 24 Aug 14. Ringed-billed Gull: thousands, both ad and imm around Little Galloo, Calf and Stoney Islands in L Ontario in July. Caspian Tern: none in July but several in Aug.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpecker: at Allen's feeder in Watertown Jul 8; two ad and an imm near El Dorado Aug 11. Olive-sided Flycatcher: Jul 7 near Michigan Mills in Tug Hill section. Bank Swallow: breeding colonies near Watertown seemed to be successful. Cliff Swallow: several nests under eaves of barns in towns of Rodman and Lorraine in southern Jefferson County. Bluebird: young raised in Black River and Adams.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warbler: in Jul in Washington Pk in southern Jefferson Co. Blackburnian Warbler: Washington Pk and young seen in St. Lawrence Co in Aug. Chestnut-sided Warbler: Washington Pk in Jul. Louisiana Waterthrush: Jul 29, 30 and 31 in Washington Pk (Gordon)—field note in later issue. Mourning Warbler: near Michigan Mills, Tug Hill section. Yellow Throat, Canada Warbler and Redstart: all at Washington Pk in Jul.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Several flocks in fall plumage appeared to be migrating in early Aug. Cardinal: two pairs brought five young to Allen's feeder in

late Jul. Purple Finch: nesting near Watertown and several seen with young. Grass-hopper Sparrow: PRGMA Jul 11. White-throated Sparrow heard east of Watertown in Jul. Swamp Sparrow: feeding young Aug Watertown Center.
173 Haley St., Watertown 13601

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK — CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

The weather picture for the nesting season is always hard to focus. Local weather men are too busy with tourist ventures to give summaries and, for some reason beyond my ken, the NY State Conservation Department does not keep weather records. As I was away from the area from June 15 to July 13 I have no complete record of my own.

The early drought is the only outstanding feature on which comments are made. This slowed down all growing and caused the blueberry crop to be almost non-existent. Our bird population, however, seems to have been much as usual, except along Piseco Lake shore where extensive spraying has interfered with ecology.

I am grateful to Frank Schetty for his reports from Elk Lake from June 26 thru Aug 10. Robert McKinney's observations were made between June 25 and July 1, Dorothy McIlroy's June 16-18 except for a few July records. Margaret Rusk and Scott Goodfellow had a fabulous north country day on July 17 with 68 species recorded between Paul Smiths and Santa Clara.

Hermit thrushes seem to have made a comeback but Wood Thrushes and Veeries were down. The Golden-winged Warbler at Jay was an unusual find, also the Carolina Wren at Essex and an Evening Grosbeak nest at Piseco.

Observers: AA—Agnes Amstutz; EA—Elizabeth Anderson; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; HD—Harriet Delafield; M & JD—Margaret and John Dye; JH—Joseph Hart; RH—Robert Hagar; GK—Grace Kains; JK—Joseph Keji; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; JM—James Meritt; MM—Marion Mason; RM—Robert McKinney; MR—Margaret Rusk; FS—Frank Schetty; DY—David Young.

Abbreviations: GMA—game management area; Mad—Madawaska; P—pond; RB—Ray Brook; SL—Saranac Lake; TL—Tupper Lake.

Addendum: In July issue contributor MK is Marguerite Kingsbury.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one June 18 L Colby (GK); pair Sabattis June 19 (MR); nest Elk L two eggs June 1, one young *July* 29, second set of eggs? (FS); two McKenzie P June 11, one ad and two juveniles Duck P July 28 one Little Long P Aug 8 (JH). Pied-billed Grebe: one TL June 10 (AA); one nest three young Elk L (FS). Great Blue Heron: one June 10 TL (AA); three July 17 (MR); one

Bloomingtondale July 26 (EA, HD); nine July 29 Ausable GMA (JH); one Aug 4, 5, 13 RB (JK). Green Heron: one Ausable R, L Placid (RM); one July 5 and Aug 11 RB (JK). Common Egret: Willsboro, early Aug (Mrs. Wick fide GC). Black-crowned Night Heron: one L Alice June 10 (JH). American Bittern: one June 10 TL (AA); pair frequented floating bog Elk L (FS); three young Litchfield Pk July 16 (RH); two Aug 4, 5, 11 RB (JK).

Canada Goose: probably returns of birds put out by Conservation Dept. family of five TL June 12 (AA); four, Mad, June 18 (MR). Black Duck: small numbers reported from all areas. Blue-winged Teal: three young with one female Stony Creek P July 4 (AA). Wood Duck: one June 12 TL (AA); six males, one nest, three young Elk L (FS); nests Barnum P, Saranac R and L Flower, broods July 10 (RH); Jones P July 23 (DY). Ring-necked Duck: three Sabattis June 19 (MR); female with five young Barnum P July 6, many broods up to ten young Jones P and Saranac R (RH). Common Goldeneye: two females July 14 Litchfield Pk, female with four young July 15 TL (RH). Hooded Merganser: one Sabattis June 19 (MR); one nest two young Elk L (FS); adults and three young Litchfield Pk July 16 (RH); four July 23 RB (JK). Common Merganser: female with 20 young TL July 4 (AA); three broods, seven, eight and four young, Elk L (FS); breeding Piseco L (DM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: Elk L—Mrs R Sheffield writes enthusiastically of June 20, "One beautiful adult dive bombed me repeatedly screaming like mad all the time." The nest and pair were observed June 27 but, disappointingly, birds left area June 30 (FS); nest with three young June 19 Jay (GC, RH). Cooper's Hawk: RM reported one on Franklin Falls Rd not far from Whiteface Mt. tollgate, "The bird flew in front of my car, in the same direction I was traveling for 5 to 10 seconds so I could observe it very well." Red-tailed Hawk: two nests, adults and imm "widely different spots" Elk L (FS). Broad-winged Hawk: three Sabattis, one Debar June 19, two Boreas R July 25 (MR); three, one ad carrying 3 ft garter snake Elk L (FS); one thru period RB (JK); one Debar July 28, three Raquette R truck trail Aug 2 (JH); one Piseco, one Fawn L (DM). Marsh Hawk: female Aug 2 SL (EA, HD); all summer L Clear outlet (DY). Osprey: one June 3 RB (JK); one on nest South P June 1 (M & JD); two at nest Quebec Brook at St Regis R July 16 (JH). Sparrow Hawk: four July 17 (MR); two ad, three young Elk L (FS); one Wilmington (RM); one SL July 26 (HD); one RB Aug 5 (JK).

Ruffed Grouse: three, Mad, July 28 (JM); adults and young Elk L (FS); family of five July 31 and Aug 12 SL (GK); ten eggs hatched June RB (JK); one Aug 2 Raquette R truck trail (JH). Killdeer: one Cadyville June 4 (EA, HD). American Woodcock: one ad Elk L (FS). Common Snipe: June 12 TL (AA); one July 17 (MR). Spotted Sandpiper: one with four young Elk L (FS); two June 17 RB (JK); Piseco L (DM). Herring Gull: nesting Litchfield Pk, young July 15 (RH); occasional elsewhere. Ring-billed Gull: three with nest Sabattis June 19, present near Keeseville July 24 and 25 (MR). Black Tern: two June 12 (AA), eight June 14 (GC), three June 25 (RM), all TL. Mourning Dove: one Normans Ridge Aug 7 (HD). Screech Owl: calling Elk L (FS). Great-Horned Owl: calling several nights Elk L (Sheffields, FS). Barred Owl: pair June 10 Ausable Marsh (JH); calling RB June 21 (JK); calling Barnum P, Gabriels and Long L (DY); one seen Piseco (DM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: one June 5 TL (AA); two seen July 22 SL (GK); five Upper Jay between June 25 and July 1 (RM). Common Nighthawk: SL July (GK) and Aug (HD). Chimney Swift: several to common all areas, over 40 Aug 9 RB (JK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers all areas. Belted Kingfisher: June 12 TL (AA); one, Mad, June 18, one Boreas R July

25 (MR); pair with young Elk L (FS); June 15 and several times in July SL (HD, GK); three July 15 RB (JK). Yellow-shafted Flicker: good numbers all areas. Pileated Woodpecker: one Sabattis June 19 (MR); one Elk L June 18 (Sheffields); one Goldsmiths June 24 (JH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: much more common than past few years in most areas; JK reports three nests at RB, "Also many sap bars on various trees. Sometimes at these bars are nuthatches, Downy Woodpecker, hummingbird, red squirrels and butterflies;" HD noted a hummingbird at sapsucker holes near Ampersand Bay. Hairy Woodpecker: normal all areas. Downy Woodpecker: normal; on increase since logging Elk L (FS). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: female feeding fledged young Elk L (FS); one Chubb R July 26 (GC) and 27 (HD); one RB Aug 4 (JK); two Boreas R June 15 (JH).

Eastern Kingbird: good numbers all areas. Great Crested Flycatcher: Piseco (DM); one Sabattis June 19, two July 17, one Ausable Forks July 24 (MR); one July 7 SL (GK); one Aug 11 RB (JK). Eastern Phoebe: normal except for a high count of 12 near Keeseville July 24 (MR). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Sabattis June 19, one July 17 (MR); five, trail to Sunrise Mt. near Elk L (FS); Mad and Chubb R (RM); nests Keene, Litchfield Pk, SL (RH) and Gabriels (DY). Traill's Flycatcher: one or two reported from all areas. Least Flycatcher: all areas except Piseco; abundant Elk L (FS). Eastern Wood Pewee: normal. Olive-sided Flycatcher: normal, except down SL (HD); most common of all flycatchers Elk L (FS). Tree Swallow: common. Bank Swallow: colonies all areas. Rough-winged Swallow: two Piseco July 18 (DM); one RB June 14 (JK). Barn Swallow: common. Cliff Swallow: colonies Sabattis railroad station (MR), SL, Franklin Falls and Normans Ridge (HD), RB (JK); several on wires Piseco July 18 (DM). Purple Martin: July 24 Ausable Forks.

Gray Jay: one ad with one full-grown young Chubb R July 6 (GC); one, Mad and one Sabattis June 19, six July 17 (MR); June 10 Hopkinton, July 15 Litchfield Pk, July 17 five—three young—Long L (RH). Blue Jay: common. Common Crow: normal. Black-capped Chickadee: normal except "perhaps down" Piseco (DM). Boreal Chickadee: late June, Mad (RM); July 28 Mad (JM); one July 17 (MR); three small flocks, less than '64 Elk L (FS); small numbers June 22 Keene and July 16 Litchfield Pk (RH). White-breasted Nuthatch: down Piseco (DM); up Elk L (FS); normal elsewhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers. Brown Creeper: one Debar June 19, one July 17 (MR); one nest found, five others probable Elk L (FS); one seen and heard June 5 thru Aug 7 RB (JK).

House Wren: scarce, only 5 reports. Winter Wren: two Simon P Rd, TL June 12 (AA); one Sabattis June 19, one Debar June 19, six July 17, two Boreas R July 25 (MR); 22 singing males on trails around Elk L (FS); one singing July 26 Chubb R (HD); several, Piseco area (DM). Carolina Wren: one Aug 13 Essex—Mrs. Mason had this species in 1952 near her Essex house. This year she heard it frequently before she saw it. She says "There is no doubt in my mind but that it is a Carolina Wren." Long-billed Marsh Wren: Jones P July 23 (RH, DY). Catbird: a few reported all areas; young out of nest July 13 RB (JK).

Brown Thrasher: one, Mad, June 18, one Ausable Forks July 24 (MR); one SL June 11, one Keeseville to Port Kent June 15 (HD); July 14 thru Aug 13 RB (JK). Robin: good nesting season all areas. Wood Thrush: seemed a little down from '64; two nests with young Elk L (FS); small numbers other areas. Hermit Thrush: decidedly up from last three years; "many Adirondack Loj in June" (AA); "very abundant" Elk L (FS); and so on, though DM had none near Piseco while she was there. Swainson's Thrush: eleven singing males Elk L (FS); small numbers Mad, Debar, Keeseville and Boreas R, four July 17 (MR); more Piseco (DM). Gray-cheeked Thrush: three 1,000 feet below the summit of Whiteface singing at dusk (RM); present on top of Sunrise Mt. (FS). Veery: "very scarce" Piseco (DM);

down in numbers other areas also; ten July 17 (MR). Eastern Bluebird: one July 17, three Keeseville July 25 (MR); nesting RB (JK); one of five young survived June 15 brood, second brood hatched July 13 Vermontville (Tyler fide HD); three imm July 16 to Aug 17 SL (HD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: "families observed along trails" Elk L (FS); eight July 17 (MR); one Chubb R July 27 (HD); nesting Gabriels (DY); one RB Aug 7 (JK). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one, Mad, June 18, one Sabattis June 19 (MR); singing male Mad (RM). Cedar Waxwing: normal. Starling: common all areas.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one male "in same place as previous years" Elk L (FS). Solitary Vireo: good numbers. Red-eyed Vireo: fewer reports than usual except "extremely common" Elk L (FS). Black-and-white Warbler: small numbers all areas. Golden-winged Warbler: one June 5 Jay "probably late migrant" (RH). Nashville Warbler: June 10 & 12 TL (AA); three Sabattis June 19, five July 17 (MR); three carrying food at separate sites Elk L (FS). Parula Warbler: a few all areas. Yellow Warbler: TL (AA); SL (HD); Piseco (DM). Magnolia Warbler: seems up all areas except Piseco. Black-throated Blue Warbler: numerous Elk L (FS); four July 17 (MR); Fawn L trail and Piseco (DM). Myrtle Warbler: most common warbler at Elk L (FS); first young seen July 13 RB (JK); 20 July 17 (MR); scarce Piseco (DM). Black-throated Green Warbler: small numbers all areas. Blackburnian Warbler: numerous Elk L (FS); one male, Mad, July 24 (MR); Piseco (DM); thru Aug 9 RB (JK). Chestnut-sided Warbler: good numbers all areas; 12 July 17 (MR). Bay-breasted Warbler: two ad males seen by Scott Goodfellow but not, unfortunately by MR on their great July 17. Blackpoll Warbler: common June Elk L (Sheffields); five singing males Elk L (FS). Ovenbird: eleven singing males Elk L (FS); small numbers other areas. Northern Waterthrush: one June 10 and 12 TL (AA); one, no young seen, Elk L (FS); one July 29 RB (JK); one July 17 (MR); singing Piseco (DM); one June 10 SL (HD). Mourning Warbler: 18 Elk L (FS); one July 17 (MR); one June 6 to 26 RB (JK); Piseco (DM). Yellowthroat: common all areas; 25 July 17 (MR). Canada Warbler: nine singing males Elk L (FS); small numbers other areas; six July 17 (MR). American Redstart: small numbers all areas.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: one until June 22 SL (GK); June 11 and 19 RB (JK). Eastern Meadowlark: few SL (HD, GK); one July 17 (MR). Redwinged Blackbird: 17 males Elk L (FS); common RB (JK) and SL (HD); many Piseco (DM); but none reported by MR July 17. Baltimore Oriole: one Elizabethtown June 15 (Sheffields); one Port Kent June 15 (EA, HD); one female thru period Ray B (JK); one July 16 SL (GK); three pairs with young Elk L (FS) scarce. Rusty Blackbird: several in swampy outlet of Fawn L (DM); two Chubb R (RM); one, Mad, June 18 (MR); one family Elk L (FS). Common Grackle: numerous. Brown-headed Cowbird: common. Scarlet Tanager: two June 7 Jay (GK); one Debar June 19, three July 17, one Keeseville July 25 (MR); June 1 thru Aug 9 RB (JK); nineteen singing males Elk L (FS); imm Aug 4, ad male Aug 9 SL (HD); Piseco (DM). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: good numbers all areas. Indigo Bunting: one singing male Elk L (FS); one RB (JK); one Blue Ridge (RM); one Bloomingdale July 13 (HD); one Keeseville July 24 (MR). Evening Grosbeak: this species no longer a rare nesting bird in the northern and/or higher Adirondacks; nest 40 feet up in white pine over edge of road with pair feeding one young June 17 Piseco (DM). Purple Finch: good numbers all areas. Pine Siskin: small flocks Elk L (FS); nine July 26 RB (JK). American Goldfinch: eight pairs, no young seen Elk L (FS); few RB (JK); several SL (EA, HD); only one July 17 (MR); common Piseco (DM). Red Crossbill: FS particularly notes that none were seen at Elk L; two to four June 3 to July 12, 18 July 23 RB (JK). Rufous-sided Towhee: Spy L

"not remembered previous years" (DM); one Port Kent June 15 (EA, HD); two reported from Wilmington (RM); one female Keeseville July 25 (MR). Savannah Sparrow: nests SL (HD) and RB (JK); one July 17 (MR). Vesper Sparrow: six July 17 (MR,) only report for period. Slate-colored Junco: happily "too many to keep track of" Elk L (FS); otherwise very small numbers in all areas. Chipping Sparrow: good numbers all areas. Field Sparrow: one June 10 SL (HD); one Sabattis June 19 one July 17 (MR); Spy L (DM). White-throated Sparrow: abundant all areas. Loncoln's Sparrow: two, Mad, June 18, one July 17 (MR); five, Mad (RM); one, Mad July 28 (JM); nesting RB (JK); Barnum P July 6 (DY). Swamp Sparrow: small numbers all areas. Song Sparrow: good numbers all areas.
Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983

REGION 8 — MOHAWK — HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

June was another dry month, with precipitation totalling 1.91 in., 1.34 in. below average. Despite a cool period from June 1-5, temperatures averaged 66.9°, only 0.4° below normal. Temperatures in July averaged 68.9°, 3.2° below normal. The precipitation, 3.52 in., was essentially normal, and afforded some relief to the drought-stricken Region. Precipitation averaged greater than usual in August.

For most observers, the season was a disappointing one. Most warblers seemed to be nesting in reduced numbers throughout the Region. Nesting marsh birds continued their decline, with no reports of nesting Marsh Hawks, Pied-billed Grebes, Gallinules, Least Bitterns or Coot, and only one or possibly two of Virginia Rail and Sora. Herons were also quite uncommon, with only four American Bitterns and no night herons reported. In addition, the nesting birds of prey continued to be scarce, with very few reports of owls and only a scattering of records of hawks other than the Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawks. After two good years, the shorebird flight this summer was quite disappointing—probably due to a combination of late-summer rain and an accumulation of grass in some long-dry sections of local reservoirs.

On the other hand, a number of unusual species were reported. This list is prefaced by the Scarlet Ibis (although possibly an escaped bird). Mockingbirds are becoming much more widespread in the Region, with two local nestings reported this year and many additional records. Other unusual species included Bald Eagle, Sanderling, Barn Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cape May Warbler and Cerulean Warbler.

Abbreviations used: ADBC—Alan Devoe Bird Club; SBC—Schenectady Bird Club; BCM—Black Creek Marshes; JL—Jenny Lake; Nisk—Niskayuna; Res—Reservoir; SCR—Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG—Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WR—Watervliet Reservoir.

Observers: JHB, BB—James and Barbara Bush; EH—Esly Hallenbeck; WBS—Walton Sabin; BRS—Benton Seguin; RS, MLS—Robert and Mary Lou Shedd; DJT—Dr. Donald Tucker; BW—Beverly Waite; PPW—Peter Wickham; RPY—Robert Yunick; bsh—Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin and Barry Havens.

LOONS—DUCKS: Herons were decidedly scarce. Great Blue Heron: few—reported only from BCM, Castleton, Tomhannock Res and VFG, with no known nests. Common Egret: one Jul 22, VFG (BRS) and one Aug 17–18, Tomhannock Res (M. Kilcawley et al.) the only reports. Green Heron: fairly numerous and widespread. No reports of night herons. American Bittern: reported only from BCM, Castleton and VFG, very scarce. *Scarlet Ibis*: a bright scarlet individual with a decurved bill was at JL and Efner L Aug 3–8 and another (probably the same individual) was at Thompson's L Aug 16–18 (bsh, WBS and many others). Although no escaped ibises have been reported in this area, it seems likely the bird was liberated or escaped from captivity. No unusual species of ducks were reported, although adults and young of Mallards, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teal were seen occasionally.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: unreported in early summer, with flocks of up to six appearing in the Chatham area in Aug (ADBC) and one at Nisk Aug 11 (DJT), scarce. Cooper's Hawk: one, JL, mid-Jul (bsh), the only accipiter seen. Red-tailed Hawk: decidedly uncommon. Red-shouldered Hawk: only records—one, Voorheesville, Jun 12 (PPW); one, Consalus Vly, Jun 20 (SBC); one near Saratoga L Jul 23 (SBC). Broad-winged Hawk: one, Crane Mt., Jul 11 (SBC) and one, Glenville, Jul 26 (EH)—only reports. *Bald Eagle*: an ad flew over the New Scotland dump Jul 3 (RS, MLS). Marsh Hawk: no reports. Osprey: none known nesting in Region 8; reappeared at VFG Jul 31 (BRS). Pheasants and Ruffed Grouse seemed in good numbers. Virginia Rail: two reports—one pair with young in North Troy (Robert and Nancy Brown); one at WR Aug 3 (BW). Sora: an imm at WR Aug 3 (BW). Common Gallinule: none reported.

Semipalmated Plover: one at SCR Jul 31 and Aug 8 (BRS, EH); one at WR Aug 5 (BW). Killdeer: rather common, congregating in late Jul and Aug. Woodcock: few reports. Common Snipe: at BCM June 19 (RS, MLS); at WR Aug 2 (BW). Upland Plover: at least six at a Nisk locality in Jun and early Jul, including 1–2 imm birds. (RPY). Solitary Sandpiper: four reports, Jul 31–Aug 11. Greater Yellowlegs: two at VFG Jul 18 (PPW) and one at WR Aug 2 (BW)—only records. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Aug 2, WR (BW), and one, Aug 11, Vly (JHB, BB). Least Sandpiper: last spring Jun 5, near Scotia (RPY); up to 25 at SCR and VFG Jul 26–31 (BRS, DJT); at WR Aug 2 (BW). Semipalmated Sandpiper: last spring Jun 5, near Scotia (RPY); first fall Jul 28, SCR (DJT), max 20 Aug 8, SCR (EH). *Sanderling*: one at WR Aug 2 (BW). Herring Gulls were the only summering gulls reported. No terns were seen. Both species of cuckoo widely reported. *Barn Owl*: one near Cossackie Jul 15–Aug 12 (Molly White). All owls seemed very scarce.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: reported to Jul 16 (EH). *Red-headed Woodpecker*: one at Hudson in early Jun (ADBC); a pair with at least one imm (which was fed by one ad, but which could fly) was seen in a large grove of diseased elms near Gansevoort in mid-Jul (PPW, F. W. Gubitz et al.) *Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*: appeared common in known nesting areas at Berlin Mt., North L, JL, and Crane Mt. *Yellow-bellied Flycatcher*: one seen and three heard at JL in mid-Jul and very likely bred in the vicinity (bsh). *Olive-sided Flycatcher*: a late spring

migrant at Central Pk, Schenectady Jun 4 (BRS); a fall migrant at WR Aug 14 (PPW). Bank Swallow: 901 banded at a colony near Scotia compared with 828 last year; an additional 130 returnees were recovered; good nesting success—apparently partly due to a lack of interference with the cliff nesting area during the breeding season—resulted in an earlier exodus than last year, peaking about Jun 25 (RPY). Cliff Swallow: appeared as common as the Barn Swallow in the Warrensburg-Thurman area Jul 11 (SBC); quite uncommon in most lowland areas. Purple Martin: a colony of four pairs located in the Poestenkill area (M. Kilcawley), a new location.

Boreal Chickadee: one seen and heard in the spruce area at the top of Crane Mt. (ca. 3200 ft. elevation) in northern Warren Co Jul 11 (PPW). Tufted Titmouse: reported from several localities throughout period. Red-breasted Nuthatch: fairly common in usual upland nesting areas. *Mockingbird*: two conclusive breeding records—a pair nested in South Schodack and was seen with 2–3 young birds (ADBC), and a pair was seen in Altamont with two young just ready to leave a nest on Jul 8 (BW). This nest, surprisingly, was located in a forty-foot tree about 8 ft. off the ground. There were several additional reports indicative of the influx noted this spring. Hermit Thrush: common in the usual nesting areas, with 15 heard at Crane Mt. Jul 11 (SBC). Eastern Bluebird: about as common as in 1964. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a pair on Schodack Island near Castleton Aug 1 (PPW). Swainson's Thrush: at Berlin Mt. Jun 27 and at Crane Mt. Jul 11 (SBC). No shrikes were seen.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: reported only from JL (bsh). Black-and-white Warbler: few reports—seemed unusually scarce. No Parula Warblers were reported. *Cape May Warbler*: one seen in the northwestern corner of Saratoga Co Aug 1, very early (WBS). *Cerulean Warbler*: a singing male was one of a pair observed Aug 1, Schodack Island near Castleton in a grove of tall poplar a few feet from the Hudson R. (PPW). Northern Waterthrush: in mid-Jul at JL (bsh). Mourning Warbler: at least three pair with young in the JL area Jul 15–17 (bsh). Yellow-breasted Chat: at least two heard in the Meadowdale area during Jun (SBC).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: holding its own as a nesting species; migrants noted from Aug 1 on. Evening Grosbeak: a flock of 15, containing male and female birds, near Lock 7 on the north side of the Mohawk R June 4 (BRS)—a most unusual record; nested in the JL area as usual. Purple Finch: seemed widespread and unusually common during Jun and Jul. Grasshopper Sparrow: very scarce, only report from the Catskill area (JHB). Henslow's Sparrow: no reports. White-throated Sparrow: reported from Consalus Vly and from upland areas just south of Saratoga L in Jun and Jul as well as from the usual nesting places farther north or at higher elevation.

12 Columbia Drive, East Greenbush, N.Y. 12061

REGION 9 — DELAWARE — HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

About half of the usual number of contributors have forwarded notes to your reporter and, with the usual lack of birding in summer, this report is quite brief. Several active birders have remarked that numbers seemed

to be at low ebb for a number of species. Such birds as the usually common Red-eyed Vireo and Redstart were quite uncommon; some trips produced none.

Temperatures were normal. June was warm with July somewhat cooler. The drought continues well into its fourth year. In June and July there was about one third of the expected average precipitation, but a few good thunderstorms in August made the first half of the month more normal. Surprisingly, foliage is in very good condition and berries and seeds seem to be in abundance.

Contributors: WBC—Waterman Bird Club; EA—Ethel Abrams; GD—George Decker; R, LD—Robert & Louise Deed; M, JD—Margaret and John Dye; FG—Florence Germond; SG—Stanley Grierson; P, TH—Paul & Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; PJ—Paul Jeheber; MK—Mary Key; FK—Fran Kniep; Dr. HM—Dr. Heinz Meng HM—Helen Manson; EP—Eleanor Pink; F, RS—Frank & Ruth Steffens; TS—Trixie Strauss; JT—James Todd; ET—Edward Treacy; SU—Sarah Uhelyi; OW—Otis Waterman; BW—Barbara Whitcomb.

Abbreviations: Dutch—Dutchess County; Oran—Orange County; Rock—Rockland County; Ulst—Ulster County; West—Westchester County.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: one young riding parent's back at Tomahawk L, May 31 (BW)—unusual in southern part of Region in summer; one where the Moodna meets the Hudson at Cornwall, Jul 8 (MD, EA). Great Blue Heron: single birds sparingly reported throughout period; only breeding report, nine active nests in the Tamarack Swamp area of Dutch where 17 were found last year. Green Heron: numbers better than usual. Little Blue Heron: max six at Brown's Pond, Newburgh on Aug 9; Rock had its only record for the past three years—one at L DeForest, Jul 23 (F, RS). Common Egret: no reports in Dutch, and comparatively few elsewhere; max four near Newburgh, Aug 3 (MD, EA); first, Jul 28–30 at Middletown (FK). Snowy Egret: usual summer wanderers failed to appear—not a single bird reported. *Yellow-crowned Night Heron*: first record for Ulst, one at New Paltz Jul 27 (Dr. HM). Least Bittern: reported regularly at Moodna Marsh, Cornwall throughout period. American Bittern: two young at Briarcliff Farms, Pine Plains Jul 22 (FG). Mute Swan: unreported outside of Rock, where as many as 60 were found; Rockland L had about a dozen nests (RD). Canada Goose: more nesting birds reported this past spring than usual, survival through the summer good, but some mortality was noted; 66 on L DeForest Aug 10 (F, RS). Resident population of ducks fared well. In Aug more than 50 Blacks and Mallards were feeding in the Hudson at Cornwall, with 20–30 Wood Ducks nearby in Moodna Creek. Numbers were up elsewhere as well; 40 young Wood Ducks were reported feeding nightly near Pine Plains throughout Jun. No teal reported.

HAWKS—OWLS: Most species of hawks were holding their own, but several species did show some fluctuation. Turkey Vulture: down in numbers throughout Dutch, but generally normal elsewhere. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one at Cornwall Aug 12 (MD, EA). Red-tailed Hawk: numbers down in Dutch, but normal elsewhere. Broad-winged Hawk: sparingly reported, but believed to be normal. *Bald Eagle*: usually unreported in summer; one ad along the Hudson south of Haverstraw on Jul 18, observed several times in that vicinity during the next several weeks. (F, RS) Sparrow Hawk: scarce throughout Region. An interesting incident of a young one falling from a nest at South Salem, West. Since it was impossible to replace the bird,

it was put into another nest containing four young at Katonah. Apparently the bird was accepted and survived (SG). Rails: no reports. Common Gallinule: two young at Amenia, Dutch in Jul (TS). Semipalmated Plover: about a half dozen were to be found at the north end of L DeForest by Jul 23 (F, RS); only a few single birds reported elsewhere during Aug. Killdeer: normal. Common Snipe: only report, one at Newburgh Aug 3 (MD, EA). Spotted Sandpiper: numbers good throughout Region. Greater Yellowlegs: max 57 at Brown's Pond, Newburgh Aug 9 (MD, EA)—unprecedented number for one location. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Jul 23 (early) at L DeForest (F, RS). Least Sandpiper: first, Aug 3 (MD). Short-billed Dowitcher: record number of 28 at the n. end of L DeForest Aug 10 (R, LD). Numbers of gulls were higher than usual. Ring-billed Gull: very numerous. Great Black-backed Gull: about 15 throughout the period in the Cornwall area. Laughing Gull: numbers better than usual. Both species of cuckoos reported down except in the Mohonk area of Ulst where they seemed to be better than normal. Mourning Dove: numbers normal to better. Owls: normal numbers; Al and Barbara Merritt had a Great Horned in their backyard at Cornwall on Aug 4 & 5, another was found at West Point on Aug 15 (M, JD).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Pileated Woodpecker: regularly observed feeding on the ground at the home of E. Finch in South Salem, West. Flycatchers: numbers good, especially Kingbird. Traill's Flycatcher: returned to the usual nesting area at Moodna Marsh, Cornwall (MD). Wood Pewee: down in Dutch, but normal to better elsewhere. Olive-sided Flycatcher: very early migrant on July 29 at Chester (SU). Horned Lark: only reports, two at Salt Point, and six to eight at Pine Plains, Dutch during July. Tree Swallows: numbers excellent; 112 young banded in Dutch during Jun and Jul by TH. Birds were occupying Bluebird houses. Thousands of swallows flocked in late July. Several hundred were on the wires at Tri-Loba Sanctuary, Katonah Jul 26 (SG), and all species except the Rough-winged were seen at Clove Valley, Dutch Jul 29 (GD, HM). Cliff Swallow: seven pairs nested at Upton L, Dutch (FG). Purple Martin: one bird at Rondout Res. Jul 18 (FH).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: one June 26 near Standfordville (FG et al)—first summer record for Dutch since 1929, previous late spring record Jun 5. Brown Creeper: nesting records for the southern part of Region are scarce, and usually restricted to the higher elevations of the Palisades Interstate Pk. Two records merit mention: A pair nesting at South Salem, West on June 12 (SG); nest with five eggs destroyed Jun 24. Another pair nesting at Centenary, Rock, May 10 (F, RS); an undetermined number of young left the nest on Jun 8. Winter Wren: unreported. Carolina Wren: reported from Rock and Ulst; numbers very low, but better than in recent years. Mockingbird: continues to increase, now noticeably in the northern part of the Region, with several breeding reports for Ulst, and at least eight pairs nesting in Dutch. Robin: first breeding record for the summit of Slide Mt., Ulst (FH). Hermit Thrush: four at Bald Mt. near Wingdale, Dutch June 19, and another at Standfordville were the only reports. Bluebird: about 140 young in WBC Bluebird houses, 100 banded; 32 houses were used once, and 11 had a second nesting. Cedar Waxwing: unusually abundant along the Hudson at Cornwall where they fed on assorted berries.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: Vireos and warblers seemed at low ebb throughout most of the Region. Red-eyed Vireo: numbers lower than any year remembered. Black-throated Green Warbler: unusual number of ten singing birds, Deep Hollow Rd, Dover Plains, Dutch, Jun 26 (OW, FG). Blackburnian Warbler: six, same location as above (EP et al); one there Jun 26 (OW). Northern Waterthrush: singing at Tamarack Swamp thru June 27; nesting still not confirmed (WBC). Yellow-breasted Chat: only report, one pair, Dover Plains thru Jun 26; continues to be unusually scarce.

Orchard Oriole: nested at Bedford, West (JT); sang daily in South Nyack "for a couple of months" till Jul 10 (RD). Baltimore Oriole: a wandering group observed on the summit of Slide Mt. Jul 11 (FH). *Bullock's Oriole*: One reported at Ridgebury, Oran Jul 22 by Mildred Arfmann. She observed the bird in good light for 30 minutes at a range of 40 feet. It was a male in breeding plumage. It had clear white wing patches, black stripe on the throat and a smaller stripe near the eye. Unfortunately the bird left before confirmation could be made by other observers. Scarlet Tanager: noticeably scarce all spring and summer. *Summer Tanager*: one observed by Dr. Heinz Meng and his class at New Paltz on Jul 20, first record for Ulst. Cardinal: nested well; two males were feeding young cowbirds at the feeder of John and Margaret Dye in Cornwall. Purple Finch: singing birds at Cornwall on June 9 (MD); between 10 and 20 young being fed in the vicinity of Pleasant Valley and Standfordville, Dutch (EP, FG). House Finch: several birds feeding regularly through the period in Mt. Kisco, West, and heard singing in South Nyack, Rock; pair observed thru Jun and Jul at Poughkeepsie; no breeding reported. Rufous-sided Towhee: plentiful. Slate-colored Junco: two Jul 22 at Dover Plains (MK).

CORRIGENDUM: Canvasback reported on Indian L in July *Kingbird* were actually on the Hudson R, and not inland as reported.

Autumn notes are due no later than Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS and FRED HEATH

"Nearly all species . . . seemed in below-normal numbers." "Breeding birds (were) exceptionally scarce." These comments, Raynor's and Puleston's respectively, describe another poor breeding season on eastern Long Island. Very few observers reported increases of landbirds, several blamed the severe drought for the general decrease.

Gardiner's Island, seldom visited, was the subject of a two-day stay by Wesley Lanyon on June 5 and 6. He writes that "a conservative estimate of the Osprey population is 30 to 40 individuals. A number of ground nests were found to contain eggs, and several adults were observed to be incubating. No young were observed." John Bull's book mentions 21 Osprey nests in 1962, a severe decrease from the more than 150 nests reported in 1908. Lanyon also saw a number of Wild Turkeys. This species was apparently first introduced in the early 1940's and has been quite successful. They were observed in a variety of habitats, including mowed fields. A number of White-eyed Vireos and Yellow-breasted Chats, as well as two pairs of Cardinals were also seen on this visit.

Again this August both temperature and precipitation averaged below normal. This weather may have been the cause of the lack of extremely

early dates and large numbers as occurred last year. The only species seemingly unaffected were thrushes; Hermit Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush set new arrival records. Norse said that numbers of migrants at Inwood Hill Park were low, especially Redstarts. The daily banding records at Huntington showed no appreciable number of migrants.

Several observers have predicted a finch invasion this coming winter. The 1965 cone crop was exceedingly poor throughout the regions to our north. As of this writing (in early September) a number of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches have been reported in our Region. Aaron Bagg writes from New England that Evening Grosbeaks and both cross-bills were reported in August south of their usual range.

A Magnificent Frigate-bird was the only outstanding rarity this season. Of great interest is the discovery of what may be a Long Island breeding colony of Willets. Also recorded was a Leach's Petrel and an early Pigeon Hawk.

Abbreviations: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Contributors frequently cited: JB—John L. Bull; TD—Thomas Davis; FE—Frank Enders; LE—Leonard Epstein; RF—Robert Fisher; FH—Fred Heath; HH—Helen Hays; RL—Roy Latham; WL—Wesley Lanyon; LM—Lee Morgan; WN—William Norse; DP—Dennis Puleston; PP—Peter W. Post; RP—Richard Plunkett; GR—Gilbert Raynor; LW—LeRoy Wilcox.

LOONS—DUCKS: Horned Grebe: one in breeding plumage spent the summer at East Rockaway Inlet (JB, et al). Pied-billed Grebe: again, only one pair breeding at JBWR (HH, WN). Leach's Petrel: a freshly dead bird was found at Westhampton Beach on Jul 3 (TD, LE); the specimen is now preserved in the AMNH alcohol collection. Wilson's Petrel: 1000 plus at the "acid grounds" Jun 29 and Jul 13 (D. Rafferty). Gannet: one, Jul 25, off Great Gull Island (R. Sutton, D. Cooper). *Magnificent Frigate-bird*: July 3, imm observed from as close as 40 feet with gulls at Montauk Pt lighthouse from about 3 to 4 PM, and later for 20 min. at Montauk Harbor (TD, LE), sixth record for Region. LE had seen species previously in Florida and Dry Tortugas. Very large size, white head and underparts and brownish wing coverts of immature plumage, and fact that right fork of tail was missing were noted.

Heron colonies with numbers of breeding pairs: Canarsie Pol (HH, JB, H. Johnson): Common Egret, 20; Snowy Egret, 150+; Black-crowned Night Heron, 125; Glossy Ibis, 20 (four pair last year). The total heron count represents a three-fold increase over last year at this colony. Lawrence Marsh (PP, TD, LM): Common Egret, two; Snowy Egret, 75; Little Blue Heron, five; Green Heron, two; Black-crowned Night Heron, ten; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, two; Glossy Ibis, 13 (three pair last year). Jones Beach—barrier beach west of the Jones Beach Tower (TD): Common Egret, 18; Green Heron, eight; Black-crowned Night Heron, 57; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 14. East Moriches: "The heronry at East Moriches where Common and Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons nested the last two years was routed by construction of a ball field with flood lights and night games across the street. The egrets apparently didn't even return to the colony. The Night Herons started to nest but none were successful. Later in the summer the usual roost failed to materialize in the grove. One evening, six Common Egrets were watched

trying to come in, but were too nervous because of the game in progress to settle down and finally departed" (GR)—in 1964, two to four pairs of Common Egrets, 20 pairs of Snowy Egrets and 30 to 40 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons bred at this now-abandoned colony.

Louisiana Heron: imm at Moriches Inlet, Jul 24 (DP, GR)—rare on eastern Long Island. Little Blue Heron: an imm was seen sitting in a tree alongside a Great Blue Heron on Aug 10 at Van Cortlandt Pk (J. & R. Gera). Glossy Ibis: up to nine at Tobay Pond through the summer (mob); no definite evidence of breeding was found.

The following species of non-breeding waterfowl either summered or were present on date indicated at JBWR: Canada Goose (up to three); Brant (two); Snow Goose (Jun 3); Pintail (Jul 17); Green-winged Teal (three); Baldpate (up to four); Wood Duck (Jul 12); Canvasback (Jun 3); scaup sp. (up to 21 individuals, Jul 17); White-winged Scoter (male, Jun 27); Hooded Merganser (two females); American Merganser (female—early July); Red-breasted Merganser (female).

Breeding ducks at JBWR (HH, WN, FE): Mallard, 60 ad plus three broods on Jul 7; Gadwall, 122 ad plus 18 broods on Jul 18; Blue-winged Teal, at least four broods; Redhead, ten broods with 70 young on Jul 10, 51 birds three to four weeks old were present on Aug 7—compare this total to last year when no young survived; Ruddy Duck, 20 pairs, six or more broods averaging five young.

Brant: six, Jul 18, Orient (RL). Pintail: pair summered at Tobay Pond (mob). Blue-winged Teal: one, possibly two pairs bred at Lawrence Marsh (WN, RF, et al); one pair probably nesting at Brookhaven (DP). White-winged Scoter: 37 summered at Orient Harbor (RL et al). Red-breasted Merganser: seven, Jul 24 to Aug 14, Moriches Inlet (GR).

HAWKS—OWLS: Osprey: of three separate nesting attempts near Orient only one young was raised (RL), see introduction for remarks on the Gardiner's Island population. Peregrine Falcon: imm seen several times through summer at Van Cortlandt Pk swamp (J. & R. Gera). Pigeon Hawk: one, chasing Starlings at Brookhaven on the unusual date of Jul 27 (DP)—this might represent a summering individual. Clapper Rail: Robert Johnson, of Cornell University, is writing a thesis on the ecology of the Clapper Rail. This summer he began his field research on 191 acres of marshy islands north of Tobay Sanctuary. His preliminary data shows a density of approximately one pair per 2.7 acres, a total of about 60 to 70 pairs on these islands. Common Gallinule: two pairs, possibly three at JBWR (HH, LE). American Coot: 15 to 20 pairs at JBWR (HH).

Oystercatcher: single pairs bred at Shinnecock Inlet and Cartwright Island (LW); non-breeding pair present through summer at Moriches (LW, et al); pair present on marshy islands north of Tobay, nest and young not searched for (R. Johnson). Woodcock: one pair bred at JBWR for fourth consecutive year (TD, PP, LE); also reported from Greenport and Montauk. Upland Plover: three, flying over Inwood Hill Pk, Aug 14 (WN). *Willet*: Robert Johnson reports a total of 20 individuals on the marshy islands north of Tobay. They were present for the entire summer and four individuals (three on one island, one on another island) were observed defending territories. Nests and young were searched for, but not found. Willets have extended their range in recent years: in New Jersey they now breed north to Beach Haven and Tuckerton, and Aaron Bagg (verbal comment) states that they also seem to be increasing in Nova Scotia. This range extension seems to be mirrored in our Region by this summer's occurrences. John Bull's book states that this species formerly bred in Massachusetts and Connecticut and it is quite conceivable that it might do so on Long Island in the very near future, if it has not done so already. Lesser Yellowlegs: ten, Lawrence Marsh, Jun 26 (PP, TD, LM)—early. White-rumped Sandpiper: two, Lawrence Marsh, Jun 26 (PP, TD, LM)—date unusual. Marbled Godwit: 11, Moriches Inlet, Jul 24 (DP), one present at JBWR from mid-July on

(mob). Northern Phalarope: two, JBWR, Jun 1 (J. Carleton). Wilson's Phalarope: one, JBWR, to Jun 10 (mob); one, JBWR, from Aug 7 on (mob). Pomarine Jaeger: one, a mile west of Great Gull Island, Jun 28, (LW, LM). Parasitic Jaeger: dark individual, off Westhampton Beach, Aug 14 (RF, RP).

Gull, tern and skimmer colonies, with numbers of pairs breeding; Canarsie Pol (TD): Herring Gull, about 1500—a fire in May destroyed most of the island's cover (phragmites, bayberry) creating new nesting habitat, this might explain the sharp increase over last year when less than 500 pairs bred. Gardiner's Island, vicinity of Great Pond (TD): Great Black-backed Gull, 30; Herring Gull, 1200; "several thousand" Herring Gulls were nesting at two other localities on Gardiner's (WL). Great Gull Island (mob): Herring Gull, one, nesting on the edge of a tern colony—first record for the island. Meadow Island, Long Beach (PP, TD, LM): Common Tern 100; Least Tern, 30; Black Skimmer, 70. Cartwright Island (PP, TD, LE): Common Tern, 400; Roseate Tern, ten; Black Skimmer, three.

Bonaparte's Gull: one, JBWR, from Jul 26 on (LE et al). Forster's Tern: one, Moriches Inlet, Jul 10 (RF)—very early. Roseate Tern: JBWR, Jul 27 (WN). Royal Tern: three, JBWR, Jun 20 (L. Black et al)—earliest record for the Region; two, Moriches Inlet, Jul 10 (RF). Black Tern: Great Gull Island, Jul 25 (R. Sutton, D. Cooper). Barn Owl; Orient, Jul 9 (RL).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Traill's Flycatcher: two pairs of the "wee-bee-o" song-type bred at Westchester Co Airport (J. Zupan); five pair bred at Van Cortlandt Pk swamp (J. & R. Gera); at least two pairs breeding at JBWR (WN); also bred at Tobay Sanctuary—numbers not known. Olive-sided Flycatcher: "lower than normal, only one through mid-Aug in Inwood Hill Pk" (WN); Barn Swallow: 400, Orient, Aug 1 to 4 (RL). Purple Martin: Far Rockaway, Jul 24 (WN, PP). Black-capped Chickadee: three pair (one feeding young), Ocean Beach, Fire Island, Aug 1 (PP). Red-breasted Nuthatch: Inwood, Aug 14 (WN). Carolina Wren: imm netted at Tobay, Aug 15 (TD). Mockingbird: 14, Point-O'-Woods to Ocean Beach, Fire Island, Aug 1 (PP).

Thrushes—early movement: Wood Thrush, Trinity Churchyard, Aug 6 (TD); Hermit Thrush, single birds at Central Pk, Aug 3 and 11 (RP)—earliest records for Region; Gray-cheeked Thrush, Inwood, Aug 4 (WN)—earliest record for Region by three weeks; Veery, one netted at Huntington, Jul 29 (WL).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: Central Pk, Aug 7 (RP)—early. Warbling Vireo: singing male at Easthampton, Jun 5 (GR). Worm-eating Warbler: single individuals netted at Huntington, Aug 11, 12, 14 (WL); Cape May Warbler: imm netted at Huntington, Aug 12 (WL). Louisiana Waterthrush: imm netted at Huntington, Aug 4 (WL), one netted at Brookhaven, Aug 4 (DP)—very rare migrant on s. shore of Long Island. Mourning Warbler: imm netted at Huntington, Aug 11 (WL). Hooded Warbler: imm male netted at Huntington, Aug 12 (WL). American Redstart: Great Gull Island, Jun 28 (HH)—unusual date.

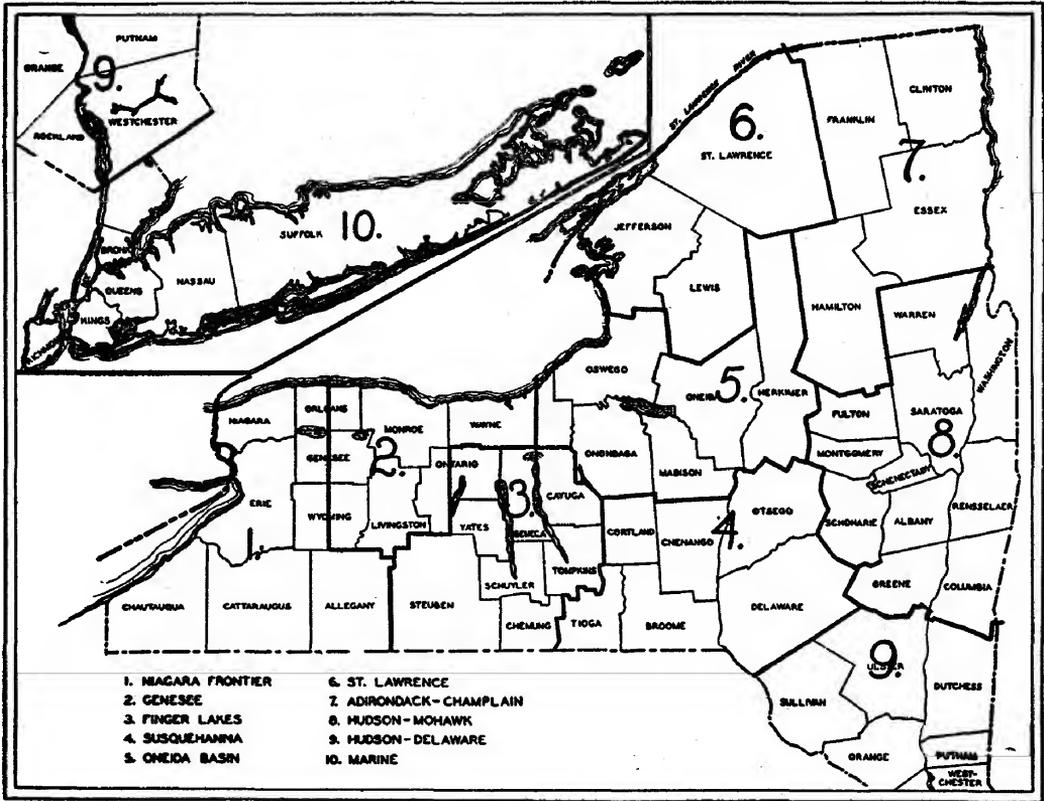
BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: singing ad male, Calverton, Jun 1 (GR); singing imm male, Brookhaven, Jun 19–28 (DP). Baltimore Oriole: eight, Fire Island, Aug 1 (PP)—note trend toward early August movement since Cruickshank's time. Cardinal: three pair (one feeding young), Point-O'-Woods to Ocean Beach, Fire Island, Aug 1 (PP). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: a pair raised four young at Noyack, photographs obtained (DP), rare breeder on Long Island. Purple Finch: Orient, Jul 8 (RL); Inwood, Aug 14 (WN)—early. White-crowned Sparrow: JBWR, Jun 3 (R. Koepfel)—very late. Song Sparrow: two pairs used Redwing's nests to raise their young at Van Cortlandt Pk swamp (J. & R. Gera).

Note: Please have fall reports in by Dec. 7.

T. Davis, 8613-85 Street, Woodhaven N.Y. 11421 or

F. Heath, 11-15 F.D.R. DR., N.Y.C. 10009

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