

The last Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen June 4 at Ely Park in Binghamton (Sheffield's).

The Bank Swallow colony near Chenango Bridge, Broome Co. showed some enlargement over last year, from 350-375 to 400-425 pairs (Bemont).

The Cliff Swallow colony west of Richford, Tioga Co. was noted in passing several times during the breeding season, and each time showed plenty of healthy activity, but no counts were made (Bemont).

An immature Carolina Wren was trapped and banded July 10 at Chenango Bridge and a few days later a nest containing young was found near by indicating two broods perhaps by the same pair (Bemont). Carolina Wrens were also reported breeding at Bainbridge, Chenango Co. (E. J. Smith). These are the first definite breeding records in this area in recent years that have been reported.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Blue-headed Vireos were noted at Deposit as late as June 21 but no breeding record was obtained (Wilson).

A Blue-winged Warbler was seen near Binghamton June 6 and again June 13 (L. Hevey). It has not been seen since in spite of a good deal of effort.

Yellow-breasted Chats seem to be on the increase around the Triple Cities. More have been found this year than ever before (TCNC).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: All the birds in this group seem to have enjoyed a good breeding season with no high points seeming to warrant special mention. All the expected species were present in normal numbers and there were no outsiders to cause excitement.

R. P. 3, Binghamton, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

The first week of June averaged cooler than normal, but the middle two weeks more than compensated with very warm or hot days, usually punctuated in the afternoon or evening by short thunder-showers. The last week of June produced consistently clear, warm weather with no rain, a condition which existed right up to the close of the period, producing throughout the area near-drought conditions for farms and fire hazards for woods.

On June 20, several Onondaga Audubon Society members took a trip into the Redfield-Osceola area on the southern edge of that *terra incognita*, the Tug Hill Plateau. Noteworthy was the extensive tent caterpillar damage, the abundance of warblers, and the dominance of a semi-northern avifauna, even in areas notably non-coniferous and only 800-900 ft. above sea level.

LOONS — DUCKS: Brant — 2 still present at Sandy Pond Inlet on 6/6; also 1 female Pintail, 1 female Red-breasted Merganser same place and date. Blue-winged Teal — appeared to have a very successful breeding season with many broods of large numbers. Wood Ducks — appeared to have a poor overall nesting, almost the exact reverse of the Blue-wings.

HAWKS — OWLS: Cooper's Hawk — must now be accounted as a quite rare breeding bird, at least in the southern portion of Region 5, as not one nesting was reported this year. Sparrow Hawk — departure of young from nest on 6/26. Ruffed Grouse — poor season at Camp Woodland, Constantia; **lack** of reports from other places would indicate below normal breeding success. Gallinule — despite the dry weather, excellent brood hatches and success judging from the numerous young present; 1 downy young with adult on 7/28 at Syracuse is probably the result of a late renesting. Upland Sandpiper — definitely increasing as a breeding bird in the Region; reports, however, concentrated in 3 areas: 1) just south of Oneida Lake; 2) around Pulaski; and 3) around Rome and Oneida (Mrs. Aspinwall, Mr. Pacquette, Nodecker). Knot — a flock of 30, all in spring plumage, on 6/6 at Sandy Pond along with 30 Ruddy Turnstone. Ring-billed Gull — on 7/24 Dr. B. P. Burtt banded

6 immatures, capable of flying only 3 or 4 feet, on Grassy Island in Oneida Lake; this is the first established breeding of the bird on Oneida Lake, although Stoner suspected breeding much earlier (1929). Common Tern — Burtt banded 195 young and 7 adults from colonies on 4 islands in Oneida Lake; however, the colony at Sandy Pond has been tremendously reduced from last year; on 6/6 there were 3 egg sets and about 20 scrapes, while on 6/16 only 1 egg and no scrapes were present. The increasing human and gull populations on the Sandy Pond beaches may explain this failure. Mourning Doves — had a very successful nesting season.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Red-headed Woodpecker — 3 breeding stations in the Oneida-Sherrill area (Pacquette, Nodecker). Sapsucker — 2 pair present at Westernville (Mrs. May); also in several deciduous woods in the hill country (1600-1800) southeast of Syracuse. Alder Flycatcher — spotty and apparently decreasing, despite the large quantities of available habitat. Cliff Swallow — the colonies along the north shore of Oneida Lake have deteriorated rapidly — 3 colonies deserted, 2 colonies with reduced numbers of pairs. Brown Creeper — singing birds (3) present in Short Point Swamp, Oneida Lake, on 6/19. Winter Wren — singing bird present in Camillus Valley, a stronghold for the rarer southern species, through June. Both Brown Creeper and Winter Wren present at Constantia throughout the summer. Carolina Wren — 2 June records; 1 on 6/13 at South Onondaga; 1 on 6/18 at Camillus Valley. Short-billed Marsh Wren — not one reported after 6/1; definitely a scarce bird. Brown Thrasher — surprisingly common in much of the brushy area around Redfield. Hermit Thrush — reported from several low elevation areas (New London, near Rome; Centerville, near Pulaski) through the summer. Noteworthy, and especially noticeable in the breeding thrushes, was the early song cessation, probably because of the hot, dry weather.

VIREOS — FRINGILLIDS: Golden-winged Warbler — 1 male, vigorously singing, in an alder bog in the Tug Hill country, less than a mile from several singing Myrtle and Magnolia Warblers (6/20). Blue-winged Warbler — a careful search of Camillus Valley on 6/15 found the regularly-present bird carrying food, but attempts to locate the nest were unsuccessful. Nashville Warbler — feeding young near Pulaski on 7/16 (E. Evans). Magnolia Warbler — one of the commonest warblers in the Tug Hill area visited on 6/20. Black-throated Blue Warbler — rather common in the Tug Hill area. Myrtle Warbler — 1 pair with young at Selkirk on Lake Ontario; also present in June in White pine, Gray Birch, Pin Cherry mixtures along the north shore of Oneida Lake, east of Pulaski, and around Redfield; appears to be an uncommon but regular breeding bird in these little visited areas. Yellow-breasted Chat — 1 on 6/8 at Oneida (Nodecker). Towhee — notably common on the spruce-brush bog openings in Cicero Swamp, a wet area of northern plant association where one would not expect them. Slate-colored Junco — 3 birds present at Highland Park (elevation 1800-1900 ft.) on 7/25; also 1 at Selkirk on 7/20. White-throated Sparrow — a common bird in the Tug Hill area visited 6/20; also breeding at Constantia and at Verona Beach, despite the atypical habitat in the latter area. On 7/14 one male Evening Grosbeak was seen at Barneveld (eastern Oneida Co.) by Mrs. Walter Frank, Jr.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

June temperature was near normal, but in July it was below normal. There was less than average rainfall until late July when there was a heavy rain. However, in part of St. Lawrence County there were frequent and heavy rains in July.

LOONS — DUCKS: A late American Brant was seen by Harry Van Beurden at Henderson Harbor on June 20. The colony of Double-Crested Cormorants which nest on an Island in Lake Ontario produced at least eleven young which were observed as late as the second of July. Seven of them were banded. We hope that with the protection given them since the first of July they may increase in numbers. There were more Cormorants than last year, but less than three or four years ago when many were shot at their nests, which are in elm trees. Is this their only breeding place in New York State as has been claimed?