

Cardinals are becoming more common each year at the north end of Cayuga. (Walker). Indigo Buntings, which I reported in the last issue as being very scarce, finally arrived in early June in good numbers everywhere except in the Watkins Glen area. Goldfinches were abundant. Savannah Sparrows, still down in numbers around Ithaca, were abundant in Walker's area. Vesper and Song Sparrows were down in numbers at Avoca, and Vespers had unsuccessful nestings around Watkins Glen (Bardeen).

An unusual record is that of a White-throated Sparrow which spent several hours at the home of Miss Louise Helfer in Watkins Glen on 7/3.

Avianna, Etna, N. Y.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

With the exception of the first week or so of June, the weather has been extremely dry and what little rain has fallen has been the form of scattered showers. In Bainbridge the drought was serious enough so that quite large shrubs were wilting and appeared dead according to a letter from Mr. E. J. Smith. Judging from incoming reports the birds have not been affected by the dryness.

LOONS — DUCKS: There were several reports of Great Blue Herons from the Binghamton area during June and July (TCNC). This in contrast to their complete absence from all reports during the same months of '53 and '54. Seven Am. Egrets were seen on the East Branch of the Delaware a few miles below Hale Eddy 7/29 (Wilson).

A lingering flock of 15 or more Canada Geese was at Sherburne 6/ (S. White). Nesting Wood Ducks fared well on Boland's Marsh at least. 21 were counted 7/17, mostly young (TCNC).

Three Am. Mergansers were on the Beaverkill below Cook's Falls 6/3 (Wilson). A definite breeding record was obtained from this general area last year, so that it is entirely possible these birds were breeding.

HAWKS — OWLS: Four Upland Plover were found at Guilford, at an elevation of about 1700 ft., 6/16 (R. & S. White). One, which may have been a young bird, was at the same place 6/19 (Sheffields & Whites). Another bird was seen 6/30 at about the same elevation but about 10 miles away (Whites). Miss White writes that the presence of this species was suspected last year but it was impossible to get a positive identification then. Greater Yellowlegs were at Chenango Bridge 7/26 and again 7/29 (Bemont), the beginning of the fall migration.

Both Cuckoos were very much in evidence during the early part of June in the Binghamton area. They then returned to their normal secretive ways and have been much less common in reports.

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: A 6/8 follow up on the Whip-poor-will reported from a few miles south of Vestal 5/29 produced only negative results. However, one was heard along a little traveled dirt road near Norwich 7/1 and again 7/6 (R. & S. White).

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7/3 at Norwich (S. White) is an unusual summer record.

Kingbirds have been especially common in the Binghamton area during July, apparently due to an especially successful nesting season. Some observers say they have never before been so numerous. Reports from other areas don't report the same abundance. Alder Flycatchers were found at Whitney Point for the first time (TCNC). They seemed more common than usual at Norwich early in June during migration (S. White).

The Bank Swallow colony at Boland's Marsh showed further enlargement over last year to nearly 500 pairs. Colonies were also found near Ithaca and Chenango Valley State Park (TCNC) and a small colony of twenty or more birds was found near Norwich (S. White). A few pairs were still occupying burrows at the Boland's Marsh colony 7/31 (Bemont). Barn swallows have been especially common in the Binghamton area (TCNC) and at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith). The Cliff Swallow colony near Richford appeared to be lower in numbers than last year (Bemont).

A Short-billed Marsh Wren was found at North Norwich 7/20 (Whites).

At least 5 Hermit Thrushes were heard singing near East Windsor 7/24 (TCNC).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: One of the Brewster's Warblers reported in the last issue was at exactly the same spot 6/5, but the following week the area had been graded with a bull-dozer to make a back yard for a new house, so the nest was never found. A Louisiana Waterthrush was seen feeding a young one near Norwich 7/ (S. White). Mourning Warblers have been present at two different stations around Norwich and seem to be nesting, although no direct evidence was found (Whites & Sheffields). One station has been occupied for the last two years.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Observations in this area bear out Mrs. Hoyt's comments in the last issue about the Redwing becoming more and more of an upland bird.

A Cardinal was heard singing at COOK'S Falls again 6/4 (Wilson). Savannah Sparrows seem quite common around Norwich this year, especially at higher elevations (S. White). A Slate-colored Junco was seen, and several more heard at Norwich 6/30 and two more at Guilford 7/7 (R. White).

710 University Ave., Endwell, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

With the advent of another summer, further explorations for breeding birds in unworked areas of the region have been undertaken. On 12 June, a group of Onondaga Audubon Society birders in conjunction with the Oneida group visited the Rome Sand Plains, an area of pine (white, pitch, and red)—oak sand barrens, (which proved fascinating in its unexpected avian-botanical associations) between Sylvan Beach and Rome (centering on New London). Another trip (19 June) thru reforestation plantations and high altitude hemlock swamps in southern Onondaga and Madison Counties brought to light some interesting "northerners", previously only suspected as summer residents.

A small flurry of reports of western icterids in June is interesting, not because of the species in question, but because of the lack of weather conditions that might cause such strays.

As to weather, both June and July were hot and dry with the oppressive weather of July apparently acting as an even greater silencer of bird song than the prolonged, dry weather of July '54. Tent caterpillar damage was very extensive in the Selkirk-Sandy Pond area with severe but lesser damage north of Onedia Lake.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loon — 1 on 6/7 at Sandy Pond (Schaffner) is no doubt a summering bird. American Egret — no June or July reports. Canada Goose — 2 present thru June on Three-Mile Bay, north shore of Oneida Lake, may be summering birds or possible breeders. Brant — last date — 2, 6/9, Oswego Harbor (M. Rusk). Green-winged Teal — an adult on 6/10, Clay Swamp is late. (Is this bird a result of the N.Y.S. Conservation Department's duck-stocking program?) Wood Duck — reports indicate good brood success (eg. 1 with 11 young, Oneida — H. P. Nodecker).

HAWKS — OWLS: Bald Eagle — the newly discovered nest (March '55 — W. R. Spofford) along Lake Ontario produced no young this season. Ruffed Grouse — very, very few reports; no reports of nests or young. Florida Gallinule — judging by the number of immature birds, this species had a very good season, especially at Selkirk and Sandy Pond, Oswego County. Piping Plover — 1 on 6/2, Sandy Pond was prelude to the discovery (6/5) of a nest (a scrape in the sand) with 2 eggs on the North Spit, Sandy Pond Inlet. (M. R., H. P. N., F. S.) Woodcock — the sighting of 4 birds in 1 week in July at Camp Woodland, Constantia, an area where one normally sees 1/summer, seems to indicate general nesting prosperity for this species. Upland Sandpiper — the great increase in reports (Hoyt, Merritt, Aspinwall, Nodecker) of this bird is more likely due to increase in observation, not reproduction, but may be from both; an interesting account of a successful (and widely publicized) nesting of this Sandpiper comes from Mrs. H. W. Aspinwall, Rome. Solitary and Least Sandpiper — 4 of the former and 7 of the latter ushered in the fall shore-