

A Short-billed Marsh Wren was at Sherburne June 15 and still there July 6 (Whites). Long-billed Marsh Wrens have continued to be scarce in the Binghamton area all summer (TCNC). There were several July reports of singing Hermit Thrushes from the Binghamton area (TCNC) and one from Sherburne July 28 (Whites). On July 7 two Golden-crowned Kinglets, one singing, were found near Norwich in a thick stand of 20 foot spruce (Whites). The song had been heard, but not recognized, July 3 and July 5. A Migrant Shrike was seen hanging around the Whitney Point Dam July 22 (Kelsey), perhaps the same bird that was seen there in April.

Vireos — Warblers: A Blue-headed Vireo was at Sherburne June 22 at a high elevation (Whites). Worm-eating Warblers were still at Ely Park June 2 (Sheffields) but have not been checked on since. Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers were still singing on adjacent territories near Binghamton June 2 (Bemont, H. Marsi). A Myrtle Warbler was seen at Norwich July 11 and Aug 10 (Whites, Sheffields) and at Guilford July 26 (Whites). Two Blackburnian Warblers were at Windsor Marsh June 2 (Sheffields). Chestnut-sided Warblers have seemed less common than in other years around Binghamton (TCNC). Two Mourning Warblers, one singing, were at Sherburne June 1 (Whites). The one at Peakville in Delaware Co. was still singing June 5 (Wilson) and two were still at Norwich June 14 (Whites). A Hooded Warbler was found singing at Norwich July 3, and another, a female or immature, was at the same place July 5 with the still singing male.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: At Bainbridge, in an area usually occupied by several pairs of Scarlet Tanagers and several pairs of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, there were none of either species (E. J. Smith). A pair of Cardinals is still at Deposit but they are almost completely silent (Wilson). A Cardinal was at Oxford Aug 9 (Stratton). Purple Finches have been more common than usual at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith). About 20 adults, later augmented by the young, hung around until July 27, or as long as the feeder offered sunflower seeds. Four or five pairs were around Deposit all summer, but of the two nests found one was abandoned and the other was broken up by a predator (Wilson). Two Slate-colored Juncos were at Guilford July 26 and were found at Sherburne several times during the summer (Whites). Several White-throated Sparrows were at Pharsalia June 2 (Whites) and an adult male was singing a "partial song" at Deposit until June 13 (Wilson). Another one was found at German, near Oxford, July 6 (Stratton).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

June ran its usual hot, muggy course and punctuated its ending with strong protracted SW winds (29-30 June) that worked havoc on the Oneida Lake and Sandy Pond tern colonies. July was equally hot but dry, and terminated with a terrific cloudburst (30 July) that caused extensive flooding in eastern Onondaga, Madison, and Oneida Counties and was ruinous to such creekside species as Phoebe and Rough-winged Swallow.

This summer's reports have been uniform in remarking notable increases of Green Herons, Upland Sandpipers, Mourning Doves, House Wrens, and Bluebirds.

Summer expeditions to gather information on breeding birds have continued: some areas visited this year include the black spruce bog (Cicero Bog) between North Syracuse and Bridgeport, and the Pleasant Valley sector near Marcellus, both in Onondaga County, and Howland's Island Game Management Area in Cayuga County. Most rewarding of all, however, was a trip along 14 miles of lumber roads in the Tug Hill Plateau area of northern Oneida and southern Lewis Counties. Noteworthy finds of this

particular trip were a remarkable profusion of northern forms (e. g. White-throated Sparrow, Olive-backed Thrush) and warblers (see section on warblers) and the paucity of hawks and woodpeckers. Continued work in regularly visited areas (Camillus, Plainville) produced several "first-proven" nestings of southern species.

The July to early August shorebird flight was low in numbers, poor in variety, and on the whole, tardy.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: this species has benefited markedly from the N. Y. S. Conservation Dept. wildlife marsh program, as practically every marsh built supports a pair; however, it is scarce at Clay Swamp this year where aquatic plants have grown over the open water areas following a drop in the muskrat population (disease, trapping??). Double-crested Cormorant: one seen June 4, Sandy Pond, is probably from the Henderson Harbor colony. American Egret: reported in small numbers from Howland's Is. GMA and Oneida Lake near Bridgeport with singles at Phoenix and Three Rivers GMA (JW); on the whole, scarce this summer. Little Blue Heron: an immature, Aug. 10, Howland's Is. GMA, is a rare summer visitant (MR, FS).

Whistling Swan: the group of five that lingered near Skaneateles in late May stayed until June 6 (RS). Mallard, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal: reports indicate a very successful nesting season with little or no harm from the dry July. Green-winged Teal: a nest of this species was discovered in mid-June at Howland's Is. GMA (SE) and there is evidence that this species probably bred at Stevens Pond near Phoenix and at Clay Swamp. A spate of records of summering ducks is notable: Lesser Scaup and Golden-eye, July 28, Greater Scaup, Aug 17, all at Sandy Pond; Ruddy Duck, Aug 10, Howland's Is. GMA; most surprising is a female Red-breasted Merganser, Aug 8, on a small marsh near East Syracuse.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: two were captured in a duck-banding trap, banded, and released, early June, Howland's Is. GMA (SE). Goshawk: three young were banded and both young and adults were sound-recorded, June 10, in a remote section of the Tug Hill Plateau (PPK, BB). Red-tailed Hawk: the young: nest ratio this year around Syracuse was two: one with a total of 32 banded (BB). Bald Eagle: the Lake Ontario nest again produced **no** young, the second year of failure. Harrier: growing steadily scarcer in the flatlands south of Oneida Lake; several pairs, however, have been located in small marshes at the Lake Plain mouths of the hill-country valleys.

Ruffed Grouse: many reports of nest and chicks from various areas (Constantia, Manlius, Jamesville, Tug Hill Plateau) indicate a peak or near-peak year. Bobwhite: apparently the bird has become established at Three Rivers GMA as "natural" broods were noted there in June; one seen at Manlius, July 28, (AC) is unusual. Virginia Rail, Sora, and Florida Gallinule: like the Pied-billed Grebe, these have taken readily to the N. Y. S. Conservation Dept. wildlife marshes, partially offsetting their losses from natural marshes destroyed thru drainage (parts of Clay Swamp) and dumping (Onondaga Lake marshes).

Shorebirds thru July and early Aug were scarce at both Sandy Pond (lack of food) and Sylvan Beach, Oneida Lake (continued high water). Piping Plover: nest discovered, May 30, Sandy Pond Inlet (the Burdicks); five adults there June 16; a juvenile there on July 28 would indicate partial nesting success despite the late June windstorms flooding over the sand flats. Ringed Plover: one, June 29, Sandy Pond, is a very early arrival date. No records of Black-bellied Plover to end of the period. Ruddy Turnstone: spring departure date, June 7, three; fall arrival date, Aug 3, one, both at Sandy Pond. Wilson's Snipe and Least Sandpiper: fall arrival dates are July 21 and July 14 respectively, both late.

Great Black-backed Gull: last date is June 29, two immatures, Sandy Pond. Ring-billed Gull: early June numbers at Sandy Pond were impressive with a high of 6000 on June 7. Common Tern: the strong winds of late June apparently washed out many nests at Sandy Pond and Oneida Lake; the Oneida Lake birds may have recouped some of their losses as weak-flying, food-begging young were seen into early Sept. Caspian Tern: two on June 29, Sandy Pond, are hard to allocate — ?? summering birds, early migrants. Black Tern: a small colony of eight pairs (first

colony known east of Rt. 11) found near Cicero Center, Onondaga County; these may explain the few late Jun birds seen on Oneida Lake as none are known to breed there. Cuckoos: many observers (HPN, EE, MB, RS) commented on the abundance of cuckoos, especially the Black-billed.

Swifts — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: several birds along the north shore of Oneida Lake, July 15-21; birds in active song until mid-July at Cicero Bog. Nighthawk & Chimney Swift: late was a brood of two Nighthawks hatched Aug 5 and a brood of two Chimney Swifts hatched the first week of Aug and banded on Aug 13, both at Syracuse (BB); a flight of 16 Nighthawks was migrating west over Syracuse, Aug 21.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: one seen July 7, Howland's Is. GMA; two adults and a juvenile seen June 23 to July 7, Plainville (MB), is our first breeding record. Red-headed Woodpecker: a new location, much photographed, found near Skaneateles (WS, H); however, the two Bridgeport sites have been abandoned. Sapsucker: two pairs with young seen at Camp Woodland, Constantia in mid-July and in mid-Aug; a single Sapsucker seen, June 10, in the Tug Hill area reflects the general scarcity of this entire family there.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two found, June 10, in spruce bogs of the Tug Hill country are probably breeders. Alder Flycatcher: literally a flood of these birds this summer; highest count is 55, June 10 along the roads of the Tug Hill Plateau. Least Flycatcher: this species continued scarce along the North Shore of Oneida Lake (Cleveland, Constantia) despite a slight increase in other areas (Camillus, Phoenix). Olive-sided Flycatcher: four on June 10 in spruce stands of the Tug Hill Plateau were a good find, but a pair at Camp Woodland, Constantia, July 14-21, is the first July — and probably breeding — record for that area in a 13-year period (FS).

Bank and Rough-winged Swallows: in late June - early July Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Nodecker of Oneida had a successful banding season, largely by mist-netting — totals were 449 Bank, 11 Rough-winged, well above last year's. Cliff Swallow: the colonies along the North Shore of Oneida Lake (FS) and those at the south end of Skaneateles Lake (HH) appeared to be on the increase, the first cheering note to offset four years of dismal decline; however, Mrs. Aspinwall at Rome notes several colonies in northeastern Oneida County abandoned and suspects recent barn-painting as the disturbing factor.

Brown Creeper: the presence of one at Muskrat Bay, South Shore of Oneida Lake, July 7, probably indicates a new breeding station. House Wren: a greater increase noted (Rome, Syracuse, Marcellus) this year than last; apparently still increasing from the striking low of the summer of 1955. Carolina Wren: another late summer explosion of this species has occurred; one, July 6, Oneida (HPN), two records near Rome, July 23 and Aug 16-18 (HA), one, Aug 25, Plainville (MB), two, Aug 17, Selkirk Shores State Park (MR, FS), and one, Aug 18, Camp Woodland, Constantia (MR, FS), the last a first record for the North Shore of Oneida Lake. **Short-billed Marsh Wren:** a pair and nest found Aug 2 near Euclid is the only regional record and the first recent nesting record!

Wood Thrush: a slight increase noted at Plainville and a marked increase at Camp Woodland, Constantia. Olive-backed Thrush, Hermit Thrush, and Veery: counts of 38, 32, and 30 respectively, June 10, give an approximation of their relative abundance in the Tug Hill Sector; in contrast, at the same time and place, only three Wood Thrushes were noted. Hermit Thrush: new stations are a small pine-oak barrens near Phoenix, June 13, and in Cicero Bog, June 8.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a recently fledged young, July 7, Howland's Is. GMA, established this species as a breeder there (MR, FS). Loggerhead Shrike: a nest with three young found June 9, west of Camillus (PPK, DA): young birds flying by June 15. Starling: two pairs were observed nesting in enlarged, grass-lined holes in a Bank Swallow colony near DeWitt, Onondaga County, July 13.

Vireos-Warblers: Blue-headed Vireo: a count of 38 birds, June 10, Tug Hill Plateau, shows the prevalence of the northern forms there. Warbling Vireo: two nests located; one at Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake, and another at Sandy Pond (RS); for the first time in several years, a pair stayed thru the summer at Morrisville (AC).

The trip to the Tug Hill Plateau on June 10 was keynoted by an abundance of warblers, particularly about the periphery of the numerous spruce bogs and along the

many small creeks; the following figures are the number of singing males counted along fourteen miles of lumber road in southern Lewis County: Nashville — five; Parula — two; Magnolia — 75; Black-throated Blue — 58; Myrtle — 18; Black-throated Green — 78; Blackburnian — 65; Chestnut-sided — 145; Northern Waterthrush — 52; Mourning — 24; Yellow-throat — 75; Canada — 64; Redstart — 46; the complete absence of Yellow Warblers and the presence of the Parula and Myrtle Warblers reflects the Adirondack-like character of this sector.

Prothonotary Warbler: a new site complete with nest and two successfully fledged young was located, June 5 to July 10, at Muskrat Bay, Oneida Lake, two miles west of the regular station which was also occupied. Golden-winged Warbler: more reports than ever before; found at Pleasant Valley and Plainville, Onondaga Co., near Phoenix, Oswego Co. (in oak-pine barrens with Hermit Thrush!), and at Otter Lake, Cayuga Co. Blue-winged Warbler: a group of four, Aug 25, at Otter Lake (DW) probably represents a family group raised nearby. Nashville Warbler: four singing males were discovered in the Cicero Bog, June 8, scattered about the edge of a large blueberry burn (JW). Parula Warbler: practically every summer produces one "off-date" Parula; this year it was a female, June 30, Plainville (MB); any known central New York breeding records?? Yellow Warbler: a male singing a "prothonotary-perfect" song was noted, June 13, at Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake (WS). Cerulean Warbler: three nests discovered this summer: one, Gully Road near Swanateles, June 23, produced a single Cowbird; nest building was seen June 2 at both Camillus and Howland's Is. GMA (RS); the species was noted regularly thru the summer at Plainville (MB). Mourning Warbler: singing males were seen in mid-June in ravines near Canastota (DA) and at Howland's Is. GMA, July 7; a pair carrying food noted June 22-23 near Plainville. Yellow-crested Chat: a nest with five young found, June 23, at Camillus (RS); **first regional nesting record!** Hooded Warbler: a new station located at Pleasant Valley, southeast of Marcellus, July 4.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Cowbird: most observers reported one or more examples of nest parasitism with Red-eyed Vireos, Chipping Sparrows, and Yellow Warblers most heavily victimized.

Purple Finch: this species was feeding young, July 14-21, at Camp Woodland, Constantia; a single male at Borodino, July 25, may indicate nesting there. Tallies of 46 Purple Finches (also one nest), 85 White-throated Sparrows, and 36 Juncos, June 10, again attest to the northern element of the Tug Hill Plateau. A pair of Juncos and a separate juvenile were observed, July 14-21, at Camp Woodland, Constantia; despite a 13 year history of Winter Wren, Sapsucker, and Blue-headed Vireo in that sector, this is the first summer Juncos have been noted there. White-throated Sparrow: several pairs noted in Cicero Bog, June 8; many heard and seen north of Constantia and in the Rome Sand Plains where they are regular summer residents.

OBSERVERS: DA — David Ackley; HA — Mrs. H. Aspinwall; MB — Maude Bitz; BB — Dr. Benjamin Burtt; AC — Ada Carter; SE — Stan Ernst; EE — Mrs. E. Evans; HH — Harris Hiscock; PPK — Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg; HPN — Harmon P. Nodecker; MR — Margaret Rusk; FS — Fritz Scheider; RS — Roberta Seaman; WS — Dr. Walter Spofford; JW — John Weeks; DW — Douglas Whitman.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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In general the breeding season has been a fairly good one. In July the rainfall was a little above normal, but there was little rain in August. In St. Lawrence County this summer has been described as being too dry for birds.

Loons — Ducks: A flock of Cormorants was seen at Black Lake on July 25 by Rev. Nichols, his first summer record for St. Lawrence County. No Egrets were reported. A Least Bittern was at Perch River Marsh Aug 1. Jim Merritt sent the information that on July 8 Hallenbeck saw a Turkey Vulture at Lake Brantingham,