

sided Flycatcher was seen and heard in a swampy spot in the Norwich area on Jun 1, Jun 19, Jul 3 (Whites) and Jul 4 (Whites, Sheffield, Bemont). A previously unreported colony of Cliff Swallows, consisting of over 20 individuals, was found near German Jun 7 (Whites). The birds didn't arrive at the colony in Newark Valley until Jun 1, but they were there in full force for the breeding season (Dean). Near Richford, where there was a thriving colony two years ago but no birds at all last year, six Cliff Swallows were seen Jul 25 (Bemont). Another colony of Purple Martins was found in Hillcrest, on the east side of the Chenango River north of Binghamton, on Jul 14 (Sheffield). At Homer a male and four female Purple Martins occupied a newly erected martin house. They raised several broods so that as many as 22 individuals were counted at one time later in the season. The nearest previously established colony is two miles away at Little York Lake (Gustafson).

Five Red-breasted Nuthatches, some of them young birds, were counted near Norwich Jul 4 (Sheffield, Whites, Bemont) and two Brown Creepers were seen at another spot in the Norwich area Jun 22 (Whites). In a marshy place near Pharsalia a Winter Wren was found singing Jul 8 and again on Jul 12 (Whites). No Carolina Wren reports came in during the period. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were again present in the Sherburne area (Whites). There was a noticeable, although not drastic, drop in the number of Robins since last year around Binghamton (TCNC) and in the Oxford area (Stratton). Hermit Thrushes were found at the French tract, south of Binghamton, Jun 8 (Sheffield), at Windsor Marsh Jul 5 (Sheffield) and on state land near Sherburne Jun 26 (Whites) but none were at the spot near Choconut Center where they have been in past years. A Swainson's Thrush was seen singing near Pharsalia Jul 12 (Whites). Bluebirds were missing or diminished in several areas. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were still at Ely Park, in Binghamton, Jun 7 (Sheffield) and one was reported at Newark Valley, a new location, Aug 14 (Dean). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were found on state land near Sherburne Jun 27 (Whites). On Jul 1 three Golden-crowned Kinglets were found near Norwich (Whites) and about a mile away three or more were found Jul 4 (Whites, Sheffield, Bemont). Cedar Waxwings have seemed more common than usual in the Triple Cities area (TCNC).

Vireos — Warblers: Black and White Warblers have continued to be less common than in other years in the Triple Cities area (TCNC). A pair of Blue-winged Warblers was still in the area near Binghamton that they have occupied for the past two years Jun 12 (Hevey). Two or more Blackburnian Warblers were at Windsor Marsh Jul 5 (Sheffield). Mourning Warblers were found at three different stations in the Norwich area (Whites, Sheffield, Bemont).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Mrs. Stratton reports seeing a Song Sparrow stuffing two Cowbird fledglings with nipped off sunflower seedlings on Jun 23. The pair of Cardinals at Deposit has been coming to a feeder occasionally but there is no sign of progeny (Wilson). A Cardinal was seen at Cortland Aug 1 (Gustafson). After a dozen or so were banded there were still unbanded young Purple Finches coming to a feeder at Deposit (Wilson). Slate-colored Juncos were found in the Norwich area Jun 19 (Whites) and again Jul 4 (Whites, Sheffield, Bemont). A White-crowned Sparrow was at Norwich Jun 22 and a White-throated Sparrow was in the same general area Jul 3 (Whites). White-throated Sparrows were found singing in five different spots around Pharsalia Jul 8 and on Jul 12 two were found on state land near Sherburne (Whites).

710 University Ave., Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

June stormed through its thirty days, wet, cool, and incredibly bug-laden. July was wet and cool in its first half and, birdwise, disappointing in its remainder. Aug 1-15 is best left unmentioned for the birding doldrums were severe. As in the past two years, summer birding explorations revealed several "proven" breeding records (see Green-winged Teal, Hooded and

Myrtle Warblers), and more data on "probables" in such areas as the Tug Hill Plateau and southeastern Onondaga County.

Regarding breeding bird numbers, outstanding, as judged by reporters' comments, were decreases in Bluebirds, Robins, House and Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, Tree Swallows, and Savannah Sparrows. Some increase was observed in Bank Swallows and Purple Martins and a notable rise in certain marsh birds (see Rails, Herons).

The fall migration was ushered in by 1) a good wave of early shorebirds (at Sandy Pond only — local marshes and Oneida Lake suffered from high water levels); 2) a springling of early dabbling ducks; and 3) a tardy, scant landbird movement. Aug 1-15 saw a sharp decline in shorebirds and a slow, uninteresting rise in migrant landbirds.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: broods noted in early Jul at Sandy Pond, Salmon River Marshes, and N. Y. S. Conservation Dep't. wildlife marshes near Euclid and Port Byron; the bizarre juvenile head patterns and the clumsy attempts at diving and wing-use by the young grebes make these birds delightful studies in late Jul and early Aug.

Common Egret: one seen Aug 3 on a beaver flow at Three Rivers Game Management Area is unusual. Green Heron: marked increase over last three years and found in almost every damp spot across the Region; high of eight adults on one pond, Jul 26, near Euclid. Black-crowned Night Heron: **unreported** over the entire summer period! Least Bittern: a pair with nest and four eggs found Jun 29 in a small cattail-grass marsh at Saint Mary's Pond near Williamstown (Durkee, Minor).

No better contrast of the weather's effects on breeding success could be found than the current production of ducks and gamebirds. Mallards, Black Ducks, and Blue-winged Teal had a most successful season (many broods of nine, ten, and 11 fledged ducklings seen), probably the result of good marsh conditions after the cool, wet May and Jun; the Blue-winged Teal had a marked upswing in the Sandy Pond-Selkirk Shores St. Pk. area and for the first time, the Mallard produced more than four or five broods there. However, Ring-necked Pheasants and Ruffed Grouse both "crashed"; roadside dead young pheasants, usually as frequent as stoplights, were notably scarce; not a nest or brood of Ruffed Grouse was recorded. Bob-white at Three Rivers GMA had a similar disastrous spring and early summer; an adult male, Aug 3, is the only evidence of the former colony there.

Pintail: a female, Jul 12, Sandy Pond, and two eclipse males, Jul 30, East Syracuse, are record early arrivals. Green-winged Teal: a brood of nine, Jul 16, at Steven's Pond near Euclid establishes this species as a breeder, long suspected, there; reports from Skaneateles (Spofford) suggest this species is breeding in a small marsh at elevation 1000 feet in an area but scantily used by the Blue-winged Teal; arrival dates are Jul 26, four, Sandy Pond, and Jul 30, five, near East Syracuse, both early. Lesser Scaup: a female, able to fly, on a farm pond near Bridgeport, Jun 1, is an odd record. Hooded Merganser: arrival date is Aug 3 (early), an immature male, Selkirk Shores St. Pk.

Bald Eagle: the Lake Ontario nest, though used, was again unsuccessful. Harrier: continues its steady decline in the flat country south of Oneida Lake; no breeding evidence of the species this year at Sandy Pond, long a favored site. Hungarian Partridge: a covey of 12 near Vernon in early Aug remain as evidence of an at-least 15 year old stocking venture.

Virginia Rail and Sora: the saturated marshes and adjacent damp meadows of this sector proved ideal for rails this year with reports from Clay Swamp, East Syracuse, Salmon River marshes, and the south shore of Oneida Lake up especially; at East Syracuse a Virginia Rail with six downy young and a pair of Sora with four downy young on Aug 7 would suggest second broods or successful recouping from earlier losses. Common Gallinule: a record count of 56 (broods of 9, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5) in view at once, Aug 2, at Stevens Pond (14 acres) near Euclid attests to the productivity of the new wildlife marshes. Coot: one, Aug 3, Sandy Pond is a record arrival date but is in keeping with the early movement of dabblers.

The early (Jul 15 - Aug 15) flight of shorebirds along Sandy Pond was particularly good in Ringed Plovers, both Yellow-legs, and the common "peep"; counts of Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, and Pectoral Sandpiper appeared reduced. Piping Plover: absent from the Sandy Pond flats this summer; airplanes, dogs, and humans unfortunately prevail there now. Golden and Black-bellied Plover: singles of both arrived Aug 16, Sandy Pond, a bit early for the former, a bit late for the latter. Common Snipe: the decline in breeding birds continues and only one-four flight birds noted by Aug 15. Upland Sandpiper: reports of more pairs from Brewerton, Bridgeport, and Oneida; a stable population (six pairs) present near Rome (Aspinwall). Solitary Sandpiper: usually one of the first returning shorebirds but very late (Aug 3) this summer. Short-billed Dowitcher: a high of 14, Jul 12 (early), Sandy Pond; smaller numbers, one to four, there until Aug 15; no "inland" reports. Stilt Sandpiper: an adult, Aug 11-12, near East Syracuse; one also, Aug 16, Sandy Pond.

Forster's Tern: first reported Aug 3 (early), Sandy Pond. Common Tern: the Sandy Pond colony is now but two pairs from extinction; the Oneida Lake colonies have suffered losses from the steadily rising Herring and Ring-billed Gull populations and the current high water; if above conditions prevail (there is no indication of their early subsiding), the Common Tern will rapidly become a most uncommon breeder in the Region. Black Tern: a pair reared one young on a small marsh south of East Syracuse and a food-carrying adult over a small marsh three miles east of Canastota in mid-Jun (Nisbet) suggests breeding and a marked extension past the "Route 11" line.

Swifts — Shrikes: Nighthawk and Chimney Swift: though present at Syracuse, numbers were but one-half to one-quarter of expected counts. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: frankly very scarce this summer until early Aug (beginning migration); many observers saw none in Jun and Jul.

Common Sapsucker: an adult with four young seen July 20, Camp Woodland, Constantia. Eastern Kingbird: Jun roadside counts near Oneida, Oneida Lake, and Port Ontario show a marked increase and late Jul counts show excellent nesting success; a count of 25+, Aug 3, Sandy Pond, indicates first migration. Phoebe: in contrast to the abundant Kingbird, this species was absent from many long-frequented bridges, especially along the north shore of Oneida Lake. Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers: three and two respectively noted in song, Jun 2, in the Tug Hill Plateau country (Nisbet, Paquette, Peakall).

Swallows as breeders presented a confusing picture. Tree and Rough-winged Swallows seemed greatly reduced; however, Purple Martins, Bank and Barn Swallows were noted by most birders as "abundant breeders". Cliff Swallow: the colonies near Rome (Aspinwall) and Munnsville (Nodecker) appear to be stable; the Skaneateles Lake colony and the few remaining colonies near Williamstown continue to decrease. Bank Swallow: Nodecker banded 616 from the Fish Creek colonies east of Sylvan Beach this year with two 1956 returns and 25 1957 returns. Rough-winged Swallow: nest with five eggs located in an old Kingfisher burrow, Jun 5, near Skaneateles (Spofford). Migrant swallows were noted in clouds at Sandy Pond, Jul 27, with 3000 Bank, 2000 Barn, and 750 Purple Martins moving along the dunes in two hours' time.

Black-capped Chickadee: a most unusual "open" nest of this species (cupped in a knothole on an upper rail of a split-rail fence, roofed over only by thick multiflora rose) located Aug 15 near Fayetteville (Spofford). House and Winter Wrens: aside from the Bluebird, no other species have shown a greater drop in breeding numbers; as indications of this, a singing House Wren was a scarce item and no Jun or Jul Winter Wrens were noted at Camp Woodland, Constantia, this summer. Carolina and Short-billed Marsh Wrens: both **unreported** panregionally! Robin and Bluebird: Regionwide decrease, approximately 50% and 80% respectively, noted by birders and non-birders alike; Robins noted flocking in early Aug. Hermit Thrush: for the first season on record, scarce in the Rome Pine Plains near New London and along the north shore of Oneida Lake; the reduction in breeding numbers of the above thrushes, the wrens, and Tree Swallows correlates well with the observed winter kill of 1957-58 in the South.

Vireos — Sparrows: Blue-headed Vireo: one singing male, Jul 20, Camp Woodland, Constantia; six singing males noted, Jun 2, along seven and one-half miles of woods road in the Tug Hill Plateau.

June warbler-hunting produced some interesting site and nest discoveries, providing proof of suspected breeding and data for eventually mapping of the central New York distribution of "fringe" warblers, i. e., those at the northern or southern limits of their breeding ranges. Prothonotary Warbler: a nesting hole with nest-building in progress located at Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake, Jun 1. Golden-winged Warbler: two new stations located between Brewerton and Euclid along the Oneida River; one irregularly seen and heard near Selkirk Shores St. Pk. may represent breeding extension of this species. Nashville Warbler: seven singing males noted along the bog edges in the Tugg Hill Plateau, Jun 2. Yellow Warbler: away from the immediate vicinity of Oneida Lake, this species appears to be somewhat reduced in numbers; a count of 35 moving south along the Sandy Pond dunes, Aug 3, is first (but late) evidence of landbird migration.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: singing males noted at Highland Forest, southeastern Onondaga County, Jul 6, and near Centerville, Oswego County, Jun 17, both places new stations for this species. Myrtle Warbler: two adults feeding a barely fledged young (no pun intended), Jul 5, at Highland Forest is proof of this species' breeding there, a suspicion of three years' duration (Scheider). Cerulean Warbler: noted in numbers at Plainville (Bitz, Evans) and seen bathing at a "warbler pool" near Oneida in mid-Jul (Paquette). Mourning Warbler: singing males of this species were noted at Highland Forest and north of Rome (fide Aspinwall), unrecorded heretofore from both sectors.

Yellow-breasted Chat: a recently vacated nest (four fledged young nearby) found Jun 22, south of Camillus (Seaman). Hooded Warbler: a nest with two eggs and two Cowbird's eggs found Jun 15, Selkirk Shores St. Pk.; a second nest with one egg and three Cowbird's eggs, Jun 29, south of Onondaga Hill is a new location and one of the two records south of Syracuse (both Spofford). Canada Warbler: comments from most reporters stress the abundance of this species this summer; the variety of habitat utilized (spruce bogs, alder bogs, hemlock glens, weedy ravines) for breeding is also noteworthy.

Common Grackle: described as "everywhere", a "nuisance", "pestiferous", and "annoyingly abundant" this season. Cowbird: nest parasitism noted on Hooded Warbler, Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Indigo-Bunting (all Spofford).

Indigo Bunting: an abundant bird this year in the brushy areas of the Tug Hill Plateau, around Rome and Selkirk Shores St. Pk., and in the Rome Pine Plains. Purple Finch: evidence of breeding (fledged young) at Highland Forest, southeastern Onondaga County, and at Syracuse (Rusk); also eight near Taberg, Aug 1 (Aspinwall). White-throated Sparrow: a single immature, Aug 3, Syracuse (Rusk) is phenomenally early if migrating, very early if post-fledgling wandering.

151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8, N. Y.

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The summer of 1958 was wet and cool. In Watertown the average June temperature was 60.7 degrees, or 4.8 degrees below normal, and the rainfall was about 1.5 inches above the average. In July and August the weather followed much the same pattern, and at no time was there any lack of moisture.

Loons — Ducks: No Common Egrets have been seen this year. Four Glossy Ibises were found on the Perch River marsh Jun 22 (Allen, Clinch). Several persons had reported seeing two before this date, but none were seen thereafter. Pintails nested at the Perch River Refuge. There has been an increase in the number of reports of the Green-winged Teal, but this could be the result of more careful observations rather than more birds. They have been seen in the Tug Hill section and near Perch River and one was found dead. Redheads also raised young at Perch Lake Refuge. One wonders whether the Redheads are not too tame for their own