

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolinks: scarce. Meadowlarks on increase, along with Grackles and Redwings. Western Meadowlark: one, n. of Penn Yan, Jun and Jul, (FG). Baltimore Orioles: successful nestings, more reports than usual of Orioles patronizing suet feeders and hummingbird feeders. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks: seemed scarce early in season, but more in evidence by early August, although Dunham found approximately the same number of territories in Renwick (Stewart Park) this year as last year. Evening Grosbeak: one, male, Jul 6, Sunset Park, Ithaca, (AW). Purple Finch: increase in number of breeding birds. Young at feeders by late July. Goldfinch: one taking cotton, Jun 4, Etna (SH), unusually early nesting record. Breeding population good. Grasshopper Sparrows and Henslow's Sparrows: hard to find all summer. Clay-colored Sparrow: one, Jun 2, Cayuga Hgts. $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. from location of past four years. Disappeared shortly thereafter. No reports of White-throated Sparrow this summer. Song Sparrows: abundant, good nesting success.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The weather during the period was quite variable from one location to another and the two weather stations in Broome Co. confirm this by reporting some monthly averages on opposite sides of the norm. At the Binghamton Post Office, in the river valley, June was warm and dry, July averaged close to normal in temperature and was on the wet side and August quite cool and dry. At Broome Co. Airport, up on a hilltop, June was warm and wet, July was cool and dry and August even cooler than it was in the valley, as compared to the norm, and dry. In Binghamton the temperature was 90 or above on ten different days but up on the hilltop it never did get that warm. Precipitation was quite spotty, more than half of it falling on six widely separated days, the two weather stations not even agreeing on which six days.

The closest thing to a rarity during the period was the Acadian Flycatcher in Tioga County. It is the only known one in the region in the last ten years, but they are listed as irregular summer residents at Ithaca. The other most notable departure from normal was the large population of Purple Finches.

There were what seemed like a large number of reports of unsuccessful nestings. This may well have been a result of the new attention focused on nesting records as a result of the nesting record cards distributed by the Laboratory of Ornithology, but some of the Bluebird results, at least are known to be a change from previous years. In one interesting, although probably not abnormal, case of milk snake found dead on a road was observed to have had a nestful of young birds for its last meal.

As usual there was a sharp decrease in observer activity during the summer months. So large a decrease, in fact, that conclusions about reduced numbers must be viewed with caution.

Contributors initials: LB — L. Bemont, DB — D. Bendle, RB — R. Burland, GC — G. Corderman, M&AD — M. & A. Davis, C&JD — C. and J. Davis, LD — L. Dean, AE — A. Evelien, CG — C. Gerould, JG — J. Gustafson, GK — G. Kirk, FL — F. J. Inaberry, SL — S. Lincoln, HM — H. Marsi, RP — R. Pantle, FQ — F. Quick, MS — M. Sheffield, RS — R. Sheffield, AS — A. Stratton, E&NW — E. & N. Washburn, DW — D. Weber, MW — M. White, R&SW — R. & S. White, RW — R. Williams, SW — S. Wilson.

Loons — Ducks: Great Blue Heron: six nests counted in a colony at Candor (DW) and seven in a colony in nearby Pennsylvania south of Owego (DB); reportedly scarce at Newark Valley (LD) and Oneonta (RB) but otherwise they were reported in normal numbers. Green Heron: Jun 7, Sidney (FQ), a nest with 4 young; seemed less plentiful than usual in the

Norwich area (R&SW) but there were "lots" at Owego (RW). Common Egret: Aug 1 and 2, Campville (DB), only reports during the period. Black-crowned Night Heron: 1, Jun 25, Ludlow (AS); "during Aug", Owego (DB); the only reports so far this year. American Bittern: Jun 2 and 4, Oxford (AS); Jul 20, Owego (SL); "during Jul" Owego (DB); no others.

Mallard and Black Duck: a few scattered reports from Cortland, Owego and the Triple Cities area; Aug 6, Vestal (HM, GC) both species accompanied by young. Blue-winged Teal: 3 or more, Aug 11, Whitney Point (MS), the only report during the period. Wood Duck: the usual small number of reports from Newark Valley, Cortland and the Triple Cities area; Aug 6, young near Vestal (HM, GC); 12, Jul 20 at Lounsberry west of Owego (MW, CG).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: 7, Jun 26, Windsor (SW); 8, Jul 14, at Cranberry Lake in nearby Pennsylvania south of Binghamton (E&NW); other reports from Choconut Center (MS), South Owego (DB) and Masonville (SW). Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk: missed by most observers so seldom reported. Red-tailed Hawk: normal numbers. Red-shouldered Hawk: Jun 19, Tioga Center (RW); 1, Jun 23, Guilford (R&SW). Broad-winged Hawk: Owego (RW), a successful nesting observed through the summer; scattered Jun reports in the Triple Cities area but then none until Aug 4 at Chenango Forks (M&AD). Bald Eagle: 1 adult, Jul 29, Walton (Mr. & Mrs. C. Judd, via SW), the only report. Marsh Hawk: a few reports from Owego (CG) Oxford (AS) and the Triple Cities. Sparrow Hawk: abundant except at Oneonta where they were "not easy to find" (RB).

Bobwhites: 1, Jun 19, at Cranberry Lake (E & NW); occasionally during the period at Candor (AE, DW, GK). Virginia Rail: Jun 2, Homer (D. Weaver), a nest containing 9 eggs; Jun 10 (JG), the same nest contained 10 eggs; 1, Jun 15, Sherburne (R & SW); adult with 3 young, Jul 7, Norwich (R & SW). Killdeer: abundant except at Oneonta where they were "seldom" noted (RB). Upland Plover: 3, Jun 23, Guilford (R & SW). Solitary Sandpiper: 1, Jul 20, Sherburne (R & SW); Jul 21, Castle Creek (MS). Lesser Yellowlegs: Jul 20, Owego (MW, CG). Least Sandpiper: 1 Aug 3, Sherburne (R & SW); Aug 6, Vestal (HM, GC). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 4, Jul 20, Sherburne (R & SW); Aug 6, Vestal (HM, GC).

Ring-billed Gull: Jun 19, Endwell (HM, GC); Aug 6, Vestal (HM, GC); no other reports. Common Tern: Jun 10, Campville (CG). Black Tern: Jul 27, Owego (DB). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: except at Owego more commonly reported than Black-billed for a change. Barn Owl: reported nesting in a barn near Owego (J. Shuler). Screech Owl: few reports; June 17, Owego (RW, MW) a young bird. Barred Owl: 2 or more, June 25 and 1, Aug 1, Oxford (AS).

Goatsucker — Shrikes: Nighthawk: noted at Owego, Cortland, Oneonta and Triple Cities. Chimney Swift: abundant. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: "few reports" at Owego but plentiful elsewhere. Belted Kingfisher: at Owego, "believed fewer than last year" (RW); in Chenango Co. "lots and lots" (R & SW). Yellow-shafted Flicker: 3 hand-reared by C. Wilkins in Cortland, two leaving after 10 days but one "runt" still around at end of period (from Jun 11); generally abundant with good nesting success. Pileated Woodpecker: Owego (RW), "more reports of more birds seen — I had a nesting pair". Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 pair in the Cortland area (JG); seen daily at Endwell from Jun 1 to Jul 27 and once more Aug 12 (FL); 1, Jul 28, Sherburne (R&SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Jun 9, near Arena in the Catskill Forest preserve (LB); Jul 5, Cranberry Lake (E&NW), young birds; 2, Aug 15, Norwich (R&SW), 1 adult and one young; also at Cortland during the period.

Kinebird: generally plentiful. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Aug 9, Owego (RW, MW). Acadian Flycatcher: Jun 23, Goodrich Settlement (RW), identified by two part call with accent on the higher, ascending and longer second part — it was seen perched on a wire over shrubby thickets along a

railroad track, with a small swampy pasture area nearby. Traill's Flycatcher: "very plentiful" in the Sherburne—Norwich area (R & SW). Least Flycatcher: plentiful in the Owego (RW) and Triple Cities areas and southern Delaware Co. (LB) but not at Oneonta (RB). Tree Swallow: 40 pair nesting at Greene (C & JD); at Oxford latest brood left nest Jul 9 (AS). Cliff Swallow: at Greene (C & JD) 11 pair nested and all were successful in raising young; Aug 11, Whitney Point (MS), young birds. Purple Martin: est. 180-200 in 3 houses, Owego (Mrs. C. Hills); 2, Jul 19, Oxford (AS), "first here ever" at farm. Tufted Titmouse: fairly regular at Endwell during Jun and first half of Jul (E & NW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: Jul 26, Norwich (R & SW). Brown Creeper: 1, Jul 14, Cranberry Lake (E & NW); during period, Cortland (JG). House Wren: at Greene, "We had 2 pair — much less than usual". Winter Wren: Jun 8, Castle Creek (MS) and singing at the same location the next day; Jun 9, Pharsalia (R&SW), also singing. Long-billed Marsh Wren: Jun 2, Vestal (MS); at Norwich a large marsh "loaded" with them (R & SW). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1, Jul 20, Norwich (R & SW); the only report. Mockingbird: "2 unconfirmed reports," Oneonta (RB). Robin: "down". Oneonta (RB); poor nesting success, Oxford (AS); "thick around here this year", Newark Valley (LD). Wood Thrush: "lots", Norwich (R&SW); "down", Oneonta (RB). Hermit Thrush: of 9 reports, mostly designated as singing males, 4 were in nearby Pennsylvania, 2 at Owego (RW), 1 at Ludlow (AS). 1 at Unadilla (FQ), and one or more at Chenango Valley State Park near Chenango Forks Jul 7 (MS). Swainson's Thrush: 1, Jun 9, Pharsalia (R & SW) singing but not seen. Bluebird: at Cortland, 100 boxes up — 18 pair — 81 eggs — 62 young raised — 38 young and 4 adult females banded (JG); at Owego, 16 young known to have fledged, definitely lower than last year (RW); at Greene, 3 pair each had two broods and possibly a 4th pair had one late brood (C&JD); at Choconut Center, from 4 nests 7 dead nestlings and no fledglings (MS, RS). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Jul 21, Chenango Forks (M & AD); seldom reported after early Jun. Cedar Waxwing: very plentiful all summer.

Vireos — Warblers: Red-eyed Vireo: seemed normally abundant in most of the region but at Oneonta "practically non-existent" (RB). Golden-winged Warbler: Aug 8. Deposit (SW), still singing; last report Aug 10, Chenango Forks (M & AD). Brewster's Warbler: Aug 10 and 12, Chenango Forks (M&AD). Blue-winged Warbler: Aug. 10. Chenango Forks (M & AD). Nashville Warbler: almost certainly a regular and fairly common breeder through most of the region although frequently overlooked, this year reported nesting only at Owego (RW). Yellow Warbler: abundant as usual. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Jun 9, Castle Creek (MS); 1, Jun 14, Owego (RW). Myrtle Warbler: 1, Jun 23, Michigan Hollow (CG); during period, Cortland (JG). Black-throated Green Warbler: reported fairly regularly at Cortland and Owego and in the Triple Cities area. Blackburnian Warbler: Jun 17, Owego (RW) feeding young; reported fairly regularly in the Triple Cities area throughout the period. Chestnut-sided Warbler: abundant; Aug. 10, Norwich, an adult feeding 2 young (R&SW). Blackpoll Warbler: late spring migrants to Jun 4 Choconut Center (MS, RS). Ovenbird: scarce at Oneonta (RB) but otherwise normal. Northern Waterthrush: 3 singing, Jun 9, Pharsalia (R & SW); Jun 9, Castle Creek (MS); 1, Jun 25, Ludlow (AS); 1, Aug 4, Norwich (R & SW); 1, Aug 4, Westover (RP), banded. Louisiana Waterthrush: 1, Jun 9, Arena (LB); 1, Jun 25, Ludlow (AS). Mourning Warbler: Jun 14, Owego (MW); Jul 21, Castle Creek (MS). Yellowthroat: abundant as usual. Yellow-breasted Chat: Jun 9, Chenango Bridge (MS); 2, Aug 10, Westover (RP); Aug. 15, Choconut Center (MS). Canada Warbler: fairly common. American Redstart: common, especially in the Catskill Forest Preserve area in early Jun (LB).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Bobolink: in good supply in Chenango, Tioga and possibly Cortland Counties but seemed scarce around Binghamton and Oneonta. Redwinged Blackbird: flocks started reappearing about Aug 1.

Baltimore Oriole: conspicuous and abundant until about Jun 30, then conspicuous again starting about Aug 10, but a noticeable decrease in the number of reports between. Common Grackle: grossly abundant. Brown-headed Cowbird: conspicuous and abundant through Jun 12 then more retiring. Scarlet Tanager: generally in good supply.

Cardinal: "seen at Sherburne, Norwich, New Berlin and White Store" all in Chenango County (R & SW); very common around the Triple Cities. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: seemed fairly common around the Triple Cities but at Oneonta "not many" (RB); young with adults, Jul 8 and 9, Oxford (AS). Indigo Bunting: very common. Purple Finch: very many more than usual in most of the region including quite a few reports of nesting; at Endwell the bright red males and possibly the adult females disappeared about Aug 1 (FL); at Deposit, where a large breeding population is normal, "Great nesting success again this year: I have banded 106 in Jul and Aug, mostly birds of the year" (SW).

Savannah Sparrow: "fair" at Owego and around Binghamton. Grasshopper Sparrow: fewer reported than last year in the Triple Cities area; also reported at Oxford (AS) and South Owego. Henslow's Sparrow: about the same number of summer reports as last year in spite of poor numbers earlier. Vesper Sparrow: fewer reports than last year. Slate-colored Junco: Jun 8, Castle Creek (MS); 1, Jul 25, Deposit (SW); Aug 15, Endwell (FL); at Owego they "seem more abundant than last year—2 more nesting sites located" (RW); in Chenango Co., "quite a few" (R & SW). White-throated Sparrow: 1, Jun 5, Binghamton (HM); 1 singing, Jul 20, Norwich (R & SW) and 1, Aug 10, Norwich (R & SW).

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

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

Both June and July were slightly cooler than normal, although both had some hot periods. July was very dry, with less than half the normal rainfall. August was exceptionally cool, but this was too late to affect the breeding season.

As suggested at the Jamestown meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, some effort was made towards obtaining definite breeding data. Five species were selected for special examination in Region 5: Great Blue Heron, Upland Sandpiper, Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Purple Martin. Details of the resulting observations are given below.

Counts of warblers were made in tall-deciduous areas of the Tug Hill Plateau for comparison with previous counts in more scrubby, boggy areas having black spruce. Exploratory visits were made to the Pineville Bog, a tamarack bog near Pulaski, and to the vicinity of the deciduous St. Mary's Bog near Parish, both on the Tug Hill outskirts, as well as to the black spruce section of Cicero Bog.

Immature Evening Grosbeaks were seen in the Tug Hill, and more Purple Finches were noted as breeding in the Region after the February-March invasion. As usual, there were some rarities: the first regional record of a Clay-colored Sparrow, the first nest of the Orchard Oriole, a spring Connecticut Warbler, and the now almost regular Ruff at Onondaga Lake.

Abbreviations: arr — arrived; imm — immature; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; Onon L — Onondaga Lake; RSP — Rome Sand Plains; Syr — Syracuse; SP — Sandy Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area; VBSP — Verona Beach State Park.