

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).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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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.

Regular observers: DA — Dorothy Ackley; HA — Hazel Aspinwall; MB — Maude Bitz; VB — Virginia Billings; EE — Emma Evans; SH — Stuart Hosler; MM — Marge Mathis; RN — Roger Nevinger; DP — David Peakall; JP — Jean Propst; FR — Frank Richardson; MR — Margaret Rusk; CS — Christian Spies; FS — Fritz Scheider; WS — Walter Spofford.

CORRIGENDA: Kingbird, July 1963, Region 5, should read: p. 170, Chimney Swift: three . . . Apr 20; p. 171, Chat: Camillus pairs **not** noted until May 26.

Loons — Ducks: No records of Loons. Great Blue Heron: rookery of 40-50 pairs at Cross Lake was visited on Jun 19 (SH, FR) when many large young were observed; Scott Swamp rookery was active but no count was made. Common Egret: unrecorded outside HIGMA; max there 11 (fide G. Gaze) in late Jun. Cattle Egret: two near Bridgeport Jun 11 (JP) — the only definitely-identified record this year. Black-crowned Night Heron: one each, Scott Swamp Jul 31 (JP, MR) and Onon L Aug 14 (WS). Least Bittern: nest found at HIGMA (D. Allen); young caught at SP (A. Starling); also noted at Clay Swamp and a small marsh near Cicero.

Canada Goose: 29 broods at HIGMA (50 last year); brood size averaged 4.4 (RN); no nesting at Stevens Pond. Dabbling duck breeding population at HIGMA were noticeably lower than the last two years (last year's figures are given in parentheses): Mallard 38 (70), Black three (one-two), Gadwall two (three), Pintail four (15), Green-winged Teal two (four), Blue-winged Teal five (ten), Shoveler none (two), Wood Duck 14 (20). Average brood size of Mallard was 7.7 and Wood Duck 10.2, somewhat lower than usual, perhaps due to freezing nights during the first two weeks of the nesting season. All HIGMA data from RN. Breeding success of ducks was much lower than previously at Tully, probably due to increased boating (JP). Gadwall: one at Stevens Pond Aug 9 (CS) — there seems to be an increasing number of records away from HIGMA. Green-winged Teal: present at Stevens Pond but no evidence of breeding; one, Cicero Swamp Jun 28.

Redhead: single brood at HIGMA (RN) compared with nine in 1961. Scaup (sp?): one Oneida L Jul 27 (MR) is one of the few summer records for this species. No reports of Hooded Merganser. Common Merganser: five, Salmon R Reservoir Aug 4 might be local breeders since this is near the Tug Hill.

Hawks — Owls: Most information on breeding hawks was given in the previous issue. One report of breeding Marsh Hawk was received: three young were raised near Altmar (C. Kaine); one seen Toad Harbor Jul 27. Broad-winged Hawk: two sightings on the SW fringe of the Tug Hill. Bald Eagle: two seen during the summer at Big Moose (Bowes).

Turkey: reported during the summer at HIGMA but no definite evidence of breeding (RN).

Upland Sandpiper, one of the census species — all records are given: two near Pulaski Jun 28 (FS); adult and three young near Cicero Jul 7 (MR); two adults and two young near the SE corner of Oneida L Aug 1 (DA); a pair near Camroden in Jun and two pairs near Rome (HA).

Arrival dates of migrant shorebirds were normal: Ringed Plover Jul 24 Onon L, Turnstone Jul 31 Onon L, Black-bellied Plover Aug 14 Onon L, Solitary Sandpiper (only two records) one Jul 18 SSSP (EE) and one Aug 14 VBSP (DA), Greater Yellowlegs Jul 21 HIGMA, Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 13 Onon L, Knot one VBSP Aug 14 (DA), Pectoral Sandpiper Jul 30 Onon L, White-rumped three Onon L Aug 14, Baird's one Onon L Aug 14. Least: arr Jul 14 Onon L; counts of 225 Jul 30 and 315 Aug 14, both Onon L, are higher than normal. Dowitcher: unrecorded. Stilt Sandpiper: one HIGMA Jul 21; two-four Onon L Jul 24-Aug 14. Semipalmated: arr Jul 19 VBSP. Western: one Aug 12 Onon L (DP, JP). Ruff: sighted for the fourth consecutive year, at Onon L on Jul 29 (JP, MR). Sanderling: arr Jul 18 SP. Wilson's Phalarope: one, Jul 29 and 31 (JP, MR) and Aug 3 (P. Buckley) Onon L; from the plumage it is considered that two individuals were involved.

Bonaparte's Gull: juvenile present at Onon L on Jul 14 (MR, WS) is early. Common Tern: 40-50 large non-flying young present in early Jul at Onon L (DP, WS) with 40-50 pairs of adults; numbers increased rapidly in Aug at VBSP; 200 being present by the end of the period. Caspian Tern: 16 SP Aug 3 ((EE) is a fair count.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: at least three males heard calling and watched displaying during May and to mid-Jun (when observations stopped) at Pleasant L, Phoenix, in a sandy oak and white pine woods, similar to the RSP location. Hummingbird: a male observed displaying — performed five U-shaped dips through the air before flying off — Tug Hill Jun 28.

Kingfisher — census: family group of four young at Salmon R Reservoir Aug 4; three birds regularly at SP; present and probably breeding at two Rome locations; several present TRGMA and HIGMA around the ponds; a bird seen along the Oneida R and one at a marshy pond in E. Syr (do they breed along the banks of the Erie Canal, where they are often seen, in E. Syr?); two or three birds seen at three different locations around Otisco L; two probable breeding locations near Skaneateles (one active burrow found); a bird at nest burrow on Tully Farms Rd. Jul 6; an adult seen feeding an imm at Tully L (M. Estoff).

Pileated Woodpecker: birds present at sites where reported in the past year or so; newly reported locations are two in southern Madison Co. Red-bellied: an imm again at Plainville, at a new site, Jul 29 (MB). Red-headed: a field note in this issue documents their status in the Oneida area, which, despite being in the eastern part of the region, certainly has more Red-headed Woodpeckers than any other sector; a pair at Oriskany (VB); single birds seen at two locations nr Baldwinsville (SH); one nr Lafayette; a pair at Skaneateles; a pair in late May and an imm in Aug at a site nr Liverpool (CS) and two young raised in a hickory tree north of New Haven on L. Ontario (I. Stone) are the only regional reports.

Least Flycatchers: the commonest flycatcher of the taller deciduous woods of the Tug Hill — a count of 35 per 7 miles there Jun 28, with five Wood Pewees the next — commonest Tyrannid. Traill's: the locally less common "webeo" form was heard, with "fitz-bews" in the same areas, at Clay and Cicero in Jun (MR). Yellow-bellied: two Brookfield Jun 8 (Whites) quite late for migrants — possibly summering birds? Olive-sided: one Big Moose Jun 1, and three Tug Hill Jun 28.

Bank Swallow: previously unreported active colonies of — 20 holes near Hinckley L, 30 Williamstown, 100 Tully Farms, and 500 (!) Sherill; the largest of the colonies in gravel pits in the sandy country near Phoenix had 450 holes; 35 holes and about as many birds present at Oswego harbor in the coal-silt pile (reported **Kingbird** Oct. 1955). Rough-winged Swallow: a few regularly nest in crevices of a stone wall along Seneca River n. of Belgium (FR); about five birds traveling to and from the reinforcing pipes in the Oswego harbor breakwaters (first reported **Kingbird** Oct. 1955); a few birds seen at Port Ontario Jul 2. Cliff Swallow: only colonies reported are of 34 nests n. of Rome, 14 near Canada Creek, 20 at Churchville, and three e. of Redfield; about 25 birds were present at Toad Harbor Jul 27 but nests were not located; no activity was seen at the former Tully and Cicero colonies. Purple Martin: a field note will report their status around Oneida L; FR writes from Baldwinsville "This seems to be a good area for this species and they are increasing with the addition of more Martin houses . . . a proper nest house . . . in a suitable location . . . is usually successful. House Sparrows often succeed in occupying a few nest holes along with the Martins . . . (Martins) migrate in mid-August. After migration House Sparrows move in for late broods. I estimate that at least 100 pairs nest in this area." Occupied houses were also noted along Onon L, Oneida R, and L Ontario; on Jul 17 the season's max of 15 adults and imms was counted at the Erie Blvd., Syr, house; this house was vacated by mid-Aug.

Tufted Titmouse: at Baldwinsville feeders again. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** pair came to feeders in Sherrill all summer (fide DA; H. Nodecker); a fuzzy imm Jun 28 in the Tug Hill (FS). **Brown Creeper:** present Brookfield; single singing birds Camillus May 26 (FS) and in a swamp near Sherrill Jul 5 (MR) indicate breeding. **Winter Wren:** considered scarce by several observers — the Whites could find none this summer at Brookfield; five birds in seven miles of Tug Hill woods Jun 28 is not high. **Carolina and Short-billed Marsh Wrens:** unreported. **Mockingbird:** one Tully Jun 8 (JP); one Baldwinsville Jul 8-9 (MM) — one was belatedly reported as having been there in late summer 1962.

Hermit Thrush: max 15 on May 30 RSP — the higher numbers of the past two-three years there are being maintained; Hermit numbers are low in comparison with the other thrushes in the deciduous Tug Hill woods — two Hermit Jun 27 and 28 to three and eight Wood, three and 15 Swainson's, and 25 Veery; a few Hermits noted at St. Mary's Bog; present at Brookfield again; none noted at either Cicero Bog or the Pleasant L pine-oak barrens, both places where they were found in 1957. **Bluebird:** nest with three young Baldwinsville (fide MM); pair feeding three young in nest with older juveniles nearby, at TRGMA (SH, FR) where nesting hadn't been observed for several years; two probable nestings Sherrill; birds present s. Madison Co., and at Rome; near Utica three nestings, one of these by a pair which raised two broods of five and three; around Lafayette at least six successful nestings, by five pairs — in sum, the status of the Bluebird is about as last year.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pair building nest n. of Bridgeport on Oneida L May 13, feeding young in nest Jun 7 and 11 (JP, MR) — first nesting record e. of Syr; pair present at North Bay into late Jun (where one was first reported Apr 27) may also have nested; these records help explain the presence of migrants at the east end of Oneida L noted several times in the past. **Loggerhead Shrike:** only reports are two sightings in the Sherrill area (DA) and one Aug 18 Texas (MR) where a bird was seen this spring.

Warblers: Tug Hill censuses: On Jun 27 a 3-mile census was made in the Littlejohn Game Management area through a section of taller deciduous second growth with yellow birch predominant, and a few scattered conifers. The census route was bisected by numerous marshy sloughs in the valleys. On Jun 28 a 7-mile census was taken in a similar area e. of Redfield. In the latter, the deciduous growth is not as tall, there is somewhat more conifer including black spruce, open boggy areas are larger, and several alder-bordered streams parallel and cross the census route. Warbler counts are as follows (not reduced to birds per mile); the first figure is for Jun 27 and the second for June 28 — Black-and-white 0, 4; Magnolia 2, 3; Black-throated Blue 9, 20; Black-throated Green 10, 20; Blackburnian 0, 8; Chestnut-sided 4, 30; Ovenbird 5, 14; Northern Waterthrush 4, 3; Mourning 9, 31; Yellowthroat 6, 15; Canada 5, 8; Redstart 30, 35. Except for Redstart, which is higher, and Mourning, about the same, warbler counts in these areas are lower than those in the brushy spruce-and alder-bog sectors of the Tug Hill. Further, Nashville and Myrtle, common in the conifers near bogs, and Parula, which occurs in low numbers there, were unrecorded above.

Other summering-warbler records: Black-and-white; noted at Cicero Bog, Pineville Bog, and a sandy-boggy area of VBSP. Golden-winged: three singing in brushy edges of Cicero Bog Jun 9; a male Golden-winged and female Blue-winged appeared together in response to spishing near E. Dead Creek, Baldwinsville, and there were at least three other birds singing the Golden-winged song, Jun 18 (MR); both a male and a female Golden-winged were at Plainville again (MB); a Brewster's sighted in the known Golden-winged location at TRGMA (SH); a brushy field near Camillus was territory for at least one Golden-winged and two Brewster's — one with yellow wing-bars and light-gray breast, the other with white wing-bars and a yellow wash on the breast (MR et al); singing Golden-winged were at two locations HIGMA; in addition, singing Golden-winged at two Jamesville sites and along the south shore of the Oneida R in late May indicate probable breeders. Parula: three

in a mile, Big Moose Jun 1. Magnolia: present RSP; two-four Cicero Bog; more unusual is a singing bird in a small spruce plantation on the Syr U. campus in early Jun (MR). Black-throated Blue; two at St. Mary's Bog. Myrtle: three singing males Jun 29 in a red pine plantation at Sandy Creek (FS) — this and the Magnolia record indicate how increased conifer planting can extend the ranges of "northern" warblers; six Myrtles RSP this year. Cerulean: the following extensions to its known summering range in Region 5 are not surprising, as all are typical habitat along watercourses and some fill gaps between previously-known sites — new sites are Oneida R, s. end of Otisco L, and Chittenango Creek s. of Chittenango (MR); also present again at Toad Harbor (one singing), a pair this year at Short Point Bay, and at two Marcellus locations again (MR); summered again at Tully (JP). Blackburnian: noted at SSSP, Sandy Creek, and St. Mary's Bog, all locations where the species is to be expected (hemlock or pine present) and where Black-throated Greens are common.

Pine Warbler: only one at RSP, May 30. Louisiana Waterthrush: a check Jul 14 of formerly-occupied gorges s. of Sherrill turned up a family group with food-begging fledglings in two of the three glens which still had flowing water (DA et al); four birds were in Ilion Gorge in May (E. Curtis) — a location which should be checked in future; last year's locations again active — a pair at Bucktail Falls, one carrying food Jun 19 Cedarvale, and singles at Gully Rd and Fish Gulf; not found at Tully location. Connecticut Warbler: one Jun 1 Jordan (banded by D. Whitman) is a most unusual spring record. Mourning: after Redstart, the most common warbler in the deciduous Tug Hill (see above); formerly thought of as a "northern" and rather scarce warbler, for the past few years it has been found in practically every deciduous woods with brushy tangles, anywhere in the Region, and is roughly as common as the Canada; several observers noted Mourning locations new this year for the first time. Hooded: a scolding male Jun 30 on L Ontario n. of New Haven (MR), the westernmost L. Ontario location known to be currently active; three singing at the Martisco location; again present Mud L; not found at former Green Lakes site. Canada: eight in the Bucktail Falls gorge (less than a mile) Jun 19 is a high count.

Blackbirds—Sparrows: Bobolink: two observers on the Ontario lake plain thought there were fewer, but immediately n. of Syr numbers seemed good — up to 20 along a few miles of suitable fields. Orchard Oriole: a nesting at Sherrill produced one young fledged about Jun 27 (E. Scheible, P. Paquette); this is the second regional nesting record, the other being at Hamilton in 1899 (Embody, in Eaton, **Birds of New York**).

Evening Grosbeak: the sighting of an imm as well as a female near Redfield Jun 28 (FS) and of adults feeding fledglings n. of Boonville Jul 9 (DA and David Ackley) indicates that their breeding range has extended into the Tug Hill; also seen at Big Moose where both crossbills were also sighted during the summer.

Purple Finch: increased number of reports from the immediate Syr vicinity as well as at Rome seems not to be an artifact — i.e. that there really are more birds, probably breeding, following the late-winter 1963 invasion; about three per mile in Tug Hill Jun 28 is approximately the same concentration as in the more coniferous areas there in previous years; one feeding a fledgling RSP Jul 5 (R. Sener). Towhee: 40 singing Jul 13 in two square miles of open blueberry bog points up the dominance of this finch in Cicero Bog.

Grasshopper Sparrow: newly reported locations includes the "sparrow fields" at Sandy Creek and the L Ontario army base; the Rome air base (HA); around Otisco L (B. Starr) and in s. Madison Co (Whites). Henslow's: locations discovered this season — Sandy Creek and the L Ontario army base, near Parish, s. Madison Co., Otisco L, Jamesville, and near HIGMA — include both hilly and flat country in widely scattered areas, further demonstrating that the Henslow's range in the Region is not limited geographically but only by the availability of suitable habitat. Junco: five plus a spotted imm in Littlejohn area Jun 27. Clay-colored Sparrow: one

singing repeatedly in a brushy field (habitat of other sparrows including Chipping) near a pine plantation, Sandy Creek, Jun 29 (FS et al) not found subsequently. The following sparrow census was made Jun 30 in a section of the L Ontario army base n. of New Haven: 35 Savannah, 3 Grasshopper, 1 Henslow's, 8 Vesper, 1 Swamp, 10 Song. Of note is the high number of Savannahs; this species, though probably present, was not noted in the Sandy Creek sparrow field, where taller bushes provided Chipping and Field Sparrow habitat. White-throated Sparrow: noted in the Pineville Bog and near Parish, both on the sw. edge of the Tug Hill; also ten VBSP Jun 23, 30 Cicero Bog Jul 13, and one SSSP Jul 18 — doubtless a nearby breeder.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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June and July were warm and dry, but August brought frequent rains, some of them heavy. It was a poor year for breeding ducks at the Wilson Hill Game Management Area (WHGMA) because the water was too deep. The Conservation Dept. plans to correct this condition. Fewer shore birds were reported this year at El Dorado.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: two adults with young at Yellow Lake Jul 1. Great Blue Heron: 15 at Mud Lake near Lake Bonaparte Jun 16, and perhaps there is a nesting colony in that area. Glossy Ibis: one at PRGMA (Perch Lake Game Management Area) for a few days in early Jun. Canada Goose: A good breeding season produced about 100 young at PRGMA, and about 135 at WHGMA. Banded geese from WHGMA cross the St. Lawrence River to the Canadian side and in Aug 50-70 could be seen in a picnic area (Chrysler Park) near Upper Canada Village. They were not afraid of cars and we stopped to let them pass. Redhead: seen early at PRGMA, but probably did not breed there this year.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: 14 near Somerville and two miles from the 1962 roost. One was seen in the town of Fowler, St. Lawrence Co Jul 11. Goshawk: three young in a nest in northern Lewis Co. banded by Ben Burt Jun 22. They were nearly old enough to leave the nest. Osprey: two young seen on a nest in St. Lawrence Co. Jul 1. This is a new nest some 300 yd from an old nest. Ruffed Grouse: Allen reports seeing a number of young and believes they had a good breeding season.

As usual the best place to see shore birds was at El Dorado and most of the following were seen there. Semipalmated Plover: Aug 1-15, Max 6. Ruddy Turnstone: Aug 1-5, max 8. Common Snipe: Jul 11 and Aug 11. Whimbrel: Aug 3 (Evans). Upland Plover: nine seen from nine miles of road east of Watertown. They may be increasing slowly in numbers. Spotted Sandpiper: at El Dorado in Jul and Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: one, Aug 1. Lesser Yellowlegs: Aug 1-15, max 5. Knot, two, Aug 15. Pectorial Sandpiper: Aug 1-11. White-rumped Sandpiper: two, Aug 15. Least Sandpiper: Jul and Aug. Dowitcher: one in Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Jul 11-Aug. 15. Sanderling: Aug 1-15, high 12. Northern Phalarope: one, Aug 15. Caspian Tern: Aug 1-15, high 16 Aug 3. Bonaparte's Gull: six, two still in spring plumage at El Dorado Aug 15. Great Horned, Barred and Long-eared Owls: all three in High Falls area near Wanakena, southeastern St. Lawrence Co. Jul 5-7.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Olive-sided Flycatcher: near Wanakena Jul 5. Traill's Flycatcher: nesting near Watertown Jun 2. Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 at PRGMA Jun 23. They are seen in this section nearly every year. One was seen on the Perch Lake Road Aug 11. Short-billed Marsh Wren: PRGMA Aug 11.

Vireos — Sparrows: Warblers seen near South Edwards, St. Lawrence Co. Jul 2-4 include: Black-and-white, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Yellowthroat, Canada and Redstart.