

Jul (R, JS). Swainson's Thrush: two, heard Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW); one, Jul 12, stunned flying into a window at Hancock (RD). Eastern Bluebird: good numbers and nesting success reported from Cortland, Owego and some localities around Binghamton but human intervention was required in some cases to control blow fly larva. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 4, Jul 27, Owego (MW); several nesting pairs along Candor Creek (DW).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Golden-winged Warbler: common locally in the Triple Cities area as usual, but not reported elsewhere. Blue-winged Warbler: Jun 6, Endwell (GC). Magnolia Warbler: 12, Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW). Black-throated Blue Warbler: fairly frequent reports from Hancock during Jun and early Jul (RD). Myrtle Warbler: two, Jun 12, seen at Pharsalia (R & SW). Black-throated Green Warbler: reported from most parts of the Region during the summer. Blackburnian Warbler: one, Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW); also at two localities around Owego. Northern Waterthrush: a nest with 3 eggs, Jun 19, Hancock (RD). Louisiana Waterthrush: "several along Candor Creek" (DW); another pair near Owego (MW, RW). Mourning Warbler: two, Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW). Yellow-breasted Chat: Jun 16, Owego (MM).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: *Yellow-headed Blackbird*: one, Jun 23, Owego (BH), with a flock of Redwinged Blackbirds; observed from a window at about 30 feet in late morning light for about 10 minutes; yellow head, dark body and white wing patch seen clearly. Redwinged Blackbird: had a good year. Cardinal: a male banded 2/8/62 and recaptured 2/6/65 at Deposit was found dead at Cochection, N.Y. Jun 2 (SW). Purple Finch: "much less evidence of nesting success this year than last" at Deposit (SW); at Oxford, of four nests of three pairs three were broken up by predators leaving two young known to have fledged successfully (AS). Slate-colored Junco: summer residents at Hancock, Norwich, Owego and Greene; appeared at Deposit Aug 13 (SW). White-throated Sparrow: 14, Jun 12, Pharsalia (R & SW); 2 or 3, Jul 14 to Aug 8, Norwich (R & SW); one ad with 3 imm, Aug 12, Chenango Forks (M, AD) and regular thereafter.

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

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ G. SCHEIDER

By June 7, the last tardy traces of spring migration had disappeared. June was cool (cold at times), very dry, and interrupted by windy rainstorms at critical times, i.e., in the midst of landbird nesting peaks and the June 13, 1965 FNYSCB convention field trip. July continued the long, dry summer; local marshes and farm ponds dried out quickly, and what meager mud was exposed soon grew over to annual weeds, hopefully richly productive of seeds for fall and winter birds. Similarly, Otisco Lake, which supplies much of the para-Syracuse suburban water, developed acres of mudflats with advancing weed growth. The marshes

along Lake Ontario became rejuvenated, however, after the lake level began to slowly rise in late May; at present little but open beach is available for shorebirds, but the marsh areas look especially good for migrant waterfowl and marsh birds. Early August persisted hot and dry except for occasional thundershowers.

Local nest productivity seemed excellent. However, all herons with the possible exception of Green Herons seemed down strikingly. Common Snipe, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Alder Flycatcher, House and Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, and Black-throated Green Warbler appeared scarce; Flicker, Crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, and the ubiquitous "black" icterids all seemed to be increasing. The hawk picture is dismal—not one nesting of Cooper's Hawk or Harrier (Marsh Hawk); not one successful Red-shouldered Hawk nesting south or west of Oneida Lake, and the local Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk) population seems to have sagged badly.

Exploratory trips and singing male warbler tabulations were again taken in the Tug Hill Plateau (eastern Oswego, northern Oneida, and southern Lewis Counties), the Moscow and Quaker Hills sectors of southeastern Madison County, and the botanically unique Rome Sand Plains (N. B., the bogs in the last area are now completely dry after four drought years).

Fall migration in shorebirds was evident by July 1, in landbirds (Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warbler) by July 10; however, as of 15 August, no major movement of northern landbirds had occurred, but the Sandy Pond dunes swarmed with the usual early August migrant Warbling Vireos, Eastern Kingbirds, and swallows.

Rarities for the season include Little Blue Heron, nesting Goshawk, Ruff, Wilson's Phalarope, and Barn Owl.

Place abbreviations: HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; HVGMA—Happy Valley Game Management Area near Parish; Onon—Onondaga; RSP—Rome Sand Plains; SB—Sylvan Beach at east end of Oneida Lake; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; THP—Tug Hill Plateau sector; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.

Observers: DA—Dorothy Ackley; J & EB—J. & E. Barker; BPB—B. P. Burtt; SH—S. Hosler; DBP—D. B. Peakall; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; CGS—C. G. Spies; FGS—F. G. Scheider; WRS—W. R. Spofford; IS—I. Stone; RT—R. Thomas.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: breeding noted at Nick's L. Jul 3 (two young) and Chub Pond Jun 26 (two young) in central Herkimer Co. (J & EB). Pied-billed Grebe: pair with young HIGMA Jul 25–26 (DBP, JWP); one, Jun 5, Stevens Pond near Phoenix (MSR); unreported as a breeder from SP and Oneida L. Great Blue Heron: max 21, HIGMA, Jul 25 (DBP). No Common Egret noted in entire period. Little Blue Heron: an imm in mottled blue and white plumage Jul 25 HIGMA (DBP); no other summer white herons noted. Green Heron: max 30, Jul 26, Clay Swamp (DBP); 38, Aug 4, Clay Swamp; 61, Aug 9, Scott Swamp near Phoenix (MSR, JWP)—concentrated by drought or early flocking preparatory to migration? American Bittern: max for summer *two* (very low), Jul 25, HIGMA. Least Bittern:

reported from Clay Swamp and several nests in Wilson's Swamp west of Oswego (J. Weeks); unreported at HIGMA, Scott Swamp, and SP—drought? pesticides?

Canada Goose: max 200, Jul 25, HIGMA; not nesting at Oneida L or Stevens Pond this year. Dabbling ducks: 80 Mallards and 80 Wood Duck at HIGMA Jul 25 are undoubtedly the regular late-summer post-molting flocks (DBP). Green-winged Teal: 20, HIGMA, Jul 25; Catfish Creek, Oswego Co, Jun 6 (IS, RT), SP Jun 3, and Stevens Pond Jun 5. *No diving* ducks reported on larger lakes of area—most unusual, especially in view of the many late birds in Apr and May.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: three young banded from two nests in Oswego Co Jun 17 (WRS, MSR); last noted in nest vicinity Jul 18 (FGS et al); three ad in THP Jun 27. Sharp-shinned Hawk: nest with one free-flying young about, Jul 15, RSP (DA, FGS). Cooper's Hawk: *no nestings*. Red-tailed Hawk: 30 young banded from 16 nests (BPB) May 16–Jun 21, two weeks late. Red-shouldered Hawk: two nests on n. shore of Oneida L produced young (MSR, BPB); nests at Pleasant L (near Phoenix) and Oneida unproductive, with no evidence of hatching. Broad-winged Hawk: three young banded Jun 17 (BPB, J. Spencer) on Oneida L n. shore. Marsh Hawk: summer records consist of a male Jun 10 Altmar (MSR, WRS), one Jul 4 Brookfield (MSR), a male Deer Creek marshes (Oswego Co) Jul 10; no pairs, no young sighted—a dismal picture!

Sora and Virginia Rails found at HIGMA, Bridge St. marsh (E Syr), Boliver Swamp, and Clay Swamp; unreported from Scott Swamp and SP marshes (reduced population in last two areas—why?).

Shorebirds—fall arrival dates: Semipalmated Plover Jul 1, Onon L; Golden Plover Aug 17, Syracuse airport; Black-bellied Plover Aug 10, SB (B. Peebles); Ruddy Turnstone Jul 31, SP (MSR); Solitary Sandpiper Jul 1, Morrisville Swamp (M. Felle, B. Peebles); Greater Yellowlegs Jul 3, Onon L (JWP); Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 1, Onon L; Knot Jul 18, Onon L; Pectoral Sandpiper Jul 1, Onon L; White-rumped Sandpiper Aug 1, Oneida L (DA); Baird's Sandpiper Jul 31, SP (MSR), an ad which is an unusual migrant locally; Least Sandpiper Jul 1, Onon L; Short-billed Dowitcher Jul 3, Onon L (JWP); Stilt Sandpiper Jul 8, Onon L; Semipalmated Sandpiper Jul 10, SP (MSR); Sanderling Jul 19, Onon L (JWP). Wilson's Phalarope: singles at Onon L Jul 19 (DBP) and Aug 11 (JWP, MSR).

Common Snipe: reported from HIGMA, TRGMA, Scott Swamp, and SP; unreported from the now-dry grass bogs of the Oneida L n. shore. Upland Plover; first flocking at Syracuse airport, four Jul 4; by Jul 6, 19; 35 on Jul 8, 41 Jul 17, 50 Jul 22, and 91 Jul 25 (max). Spotted Sandpiper: counts of 70–75/day Jul 1–8 Onon L attest to the early flocking and migration of this local breeder; no count after Jul 8 above 45.

Max for migrant shorebirds include: Semipalmated Plover 50 Jul 31, SP (MSR); Ruddy Turnstone 15 Aug 7, SP (MSR); Solitary Sandpiper two (very low) Jul 29, Oneida L (DA); Greater Yellowlegs two (very low) Aug 10–11, Onon L; Lesser Yellowlegs 45–50 Jul 16–19, Onon L (DBP, JWP); Pectoral Sandpiper six (low) Aug 12, Otisco L; White-rumped Sandpiper, singles only; Least Sandpiper 35 Jul 19, Onon L (JWP); Short-billed Dowitcher eight Jul 17–18, Onon L; Stilt Sandpiper seven Aug 8, SB (MSR); Semipalmated Sandpiper 500 Aug 7, SP (MSR), 200 Aug 8, Oneida L (DA), 204 Aug 10, Onon L (JWP), a very sharp peak for this, the most common migrant shorebird; Sanderling 100 Aug 7, SP (MSR)—Sanderlings were rather scarce (four-six/day), however, in other areas, particularly at the heavily-populated Sylvan and Verona Beaches.

Ruff: at least five (two ad male, one ad female, one imm male, one imm female), perhaps seven, different individuals noted between Jul 1 and Aug 11 at Onon L (JWP, DBP, MSR, FGS)—full details to appear later in field note.

Paucity of summering Herring Gulls at Onon L and SP. Max Ring-billed Gull 1700, SP Jul 10; scarce at Oneida and Onon Lakes—why? Bonaparte's Gull: 50,

mostly ad, Jul 31, SP, is early—breeding failures? Common Tern: max 350, Aug 1, Oneida L, are undoubtedly locally reared birds. Caspian Tern: max 19, Jul 31, SP (MSR).

Black-billed Cuckoo: nesting noted Jun 5 Pennellville (CGS) and Aug 7, Catfish Creek area (IS, RT). Barn Owl: pair nested in Crouse College, Syracuse University; success in nesting unknown as site inaccessible to both roofers and banders (thank God for gingerbread architecture). Horned Owl: 11 young banded from seven nests Apr 22–May 15 (BPB), about two weeks later than average. Barred Owl: Chub Pond Jun 26 (J & EB).

SWIFTS—STARLING: Nighthawk: max six, Jul 31 and Aug 14, Utica (J & EB); Syracuse counts two-five/night; scarce thru entire summer. Belted Kingfisher: five, Jul 25–26, HIGMA; otherwise ones and twos only. Flicker: max 20, HIGMA Jul 25, two pairs bred successfully in Big Moose area (Bowes), these and single nesting last year are the only known for this area. Red-bellied Woodpecker: still present Jun 12, Camillus (FGS). Red-headed Woodpecker: 24 sites, a phenomenal concentration, located in Oneida area (DA); also reported from Catfish Creek (two pairs), Mexico Point, and in the West Canada Creek area near Prospect. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 30, THP, Jun 27 (MSR) and 12, Jul 1, Redfield to Osceola (FGS); 14, Chub Pond, Jun 26 (J & EB). Black-backed Three-Toed Woodpecker: Two reports in the Big Moose area (Bowes). Eastern Kingbird: migration first noted Jul 10, N Syracuse; counts of 22, Jul 18, SP; 28 and 20, Jul 25 and 26, HIGMA; 25, Jul 31, SP; and 35, Aug 7, SP give a rough idea of their migration locally. Phoebe: 14, Jul 25, HIGMA, is an unusual number for the date. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Jun 5, Woodmancy Rd, Vesper (JWP) late; none reported in THP this year. Traill's Flycatcher: very scarce, with most marked fall-off in THP; max six, Jun 13, THP, and six, Jun 5, Phoenix area; where are they?—is the drop locally secondary to the severe four-year drought? Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Jun 13 and three Jun 27, THP; species confined to spruce-rimmed bogs; none in the Oneida L n. shore country—again, drought?

Cliff Swallow: colonies of 50, Salisbury, Herkimer Co, Aug 8 (breeding birds?) and large colony on Jug Point Rd near Verona Beach (DA). No major swallow flights detected in early Aug at SP, although small numbers of Tree, Bank, and Barn Swallows and Purple Martins were regularly observed passing south along the dunes. Barn Swallow: 5000 in a roost Jul 26, Clay Swamp (DBP).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: four ad in a hemlock-lined gorge in RSP, Jul 15 (DA, FGS); noted repeatedly in central Herkimer Co (MSR, J & EB); at Brookfield Jul 4 (MSR); unreported from previous known sites at SSSP, Sandy Creek, and certain bogs of the THP, although one was found there Jun 27. House Wren: max 25 Jul 3 in n. Oneida Co and s. Herkimer Co (MSR), but otherwise rather scarce, especially around Oneida L, SP, and SSSP. Winter Wren: scarce; max four, Jun 27, THP in s. Lewis Co and n. Oneida Co; Adirondack max three/day; missing from many swampy woods of the Oneida L n. shore, and unreported at SSSP. No Carolina or Short-billed Marsh Wren reported. Long-billed Marsh Wren: max count 20 (very low) Jul 18 from both Scott and Clay Swamps. Mockingbird: nest with three young reared Jun 8, Camden (Mrs. Mahan fide MSR).

Hermit Thrush: max six in THP, Jun 27; remarkably scarce at RSP, two, Jul 15, quite in contrast to their apparently high numbers there this spring; still extremely scarce at Pleasant L, SSSP, and Oneida L n. shore. Swainson's Thrush: max 41, Jun 27, THP (s. Lewis Co and n. Oneida Co) and 11, Jul 1, western THP (Redfield-Osceola); this is matched only by Veery (55, Jun 27; ten, Jul 1); no Swainson's reported from the southern hill country of Madison Co. Bluebird: scattered pairs at 14 sites in Oswego Co (IS, RT, FGS, MSR); at Westernville, Holland Patent, Prospect, Rome, Taberg, Lee Center and Oneida in Oneida Co (H. Aspinwall, DA,

Mrs. W. Lynes, Mrs. J. Van Dresar); Brookfield in Madison Co (MSR); virtually unknown in Onon Co, with a single pair at Lafayette (fide BPB); must still be considered a rare bird locally, certainly more so than the Upland Plover or Red-headed Woodpecker.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pairs located Jun 12 at TRGMA (SH) and n. end of Otisco L (R. Seaman); also three fledglings food-begging at Scott Swamp Jul 8 (JWP, MSR); usual birds at Camillus Valley. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two in tall spruce-pine plantations and natural white cedar-and-balsam fir bogs in Brookfield township Jul 4 (MSR); unreported from THP despite repeated forays there—drought?; also unreported from Chub Pond Jun 26 (MSR, J & EB). Loggerhead Shrike: *unreported* entire summer!

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: several discovered in stands of larger beeches in THP, both in s. Lewis Co and e. Oswego Co Jun 27 and Jul 1; formerly thought to be extremely scarce in this, the core area of the THP.

Singing male warbler counts at Chub Pond, Jun 26 (MSR, J & EB): Black-and-white three, Nashville one, Magnolia 14, Black-throated Blue 11, Myrtle six, Black-throated Green four, Blackburnian two, Chestnut-sided 15, Ovenbird six, Mourning three, Yellowthroat four, Canada four, and Redstart five, in four miles. Such data will be extremely valuable in ascertaining warbler populations and changes therein.

THP warblers—bog and stream conditions in the Tug Hill Plateau were persistently dry; most roads, normally automotive adventures at best, were dry throughout and, in some cases, annoyingly dusty. The bog-frequenting warblers, especially Canada, Nashville, and Northern Waterthrush, seemed down strikingly (max of 20 Canada Jun 27, three Nashville Jun 13, and 19 Northern Waterthrush Jun 27) but Chestnut-sided Warblers in the dry brush (85, Jun 27, n. Oneida Co and s. Lewis Co) and Redstarts in the post-lumbering sapling woods were very abundant (90, Jun 27, same section). The most notable decrease, however, was in Black-throated Green with max of 14, Jun 27 (50 would have been nearer normal)—see comments in paragraph below. Other THP singing male warbler counts on Jun 27, n. Oneida Co and s. Lewis Co, include seven Black-and-white, one Parula, 53 Magnolia, 29 Black-throated Blue, nine Myrtle, 20 Blackburnian (down very markedly), 20 Ovenbird, five Mourning (way down), and 65 Yellowthroat (the one bog-brush warbler that seemed to fare reasonably well); on Jul 1, 18 Mourning Warblers (all but one a singing male) were noted in the Redfield-Osceola sector (M. Pastel, FGS). Golden-winged Warbler: single singing males discovered in larch-brush stands Jun 13 near Redfield-Osceola (FNYSBC convention trip) and in sparse dry brush in HVGMA Jun 15 (MSR)—local range extension?

Other warblers—Golden-winged: five-six/day noted in brushy valleys s. of Syracuse (Onondaga Indian Res., Pleasant Valley, Fish Gulf, Camillus) along with modest numbers of Blue-winged (one-two/day); no Blue-winged Warblers noted in the various Golden-winged locations around Baldwinsville, Euclid, Plainville, and HIGMA (M. Bitz, MSR, FGS). The Blue-winged-Brewster's pair watched so closely at Camillus Valley produced only a Cowbird Jun 12—drat! Nashville Warbler: unusual is a singleton reported in a small ravine near Oneida Jun 6 and 20 (fide DA); while regular at RSP it is quite scarce in the immediate Oneida area. Black-throated Green: present in very reduced numbers (one-nine/day) at SSSP, Altmar, Constantia, Littlejohn GMA (Oswego Co), and Highland Forest near Fabius, Muller Hill, and Brookfield (s.e. Onon Co and s. Madison Co); either drought conditions prompted early song cessation or the local population has dropped drastically, as normally one can hear dozens in the various conifer stands, both natural and planted, in these two sectors; comments—and counts—from other areas would be appreciated. Louisiana Waterthrush: three (six?) pairs in Gas Gulf, w. shore of Otisco L (MSR); three pairs in Fish Gulf on e. side of Otisco L; at Fellows Falls in southern Onon

Valley. Pine Warbler: none in RSP this year. Canada Warbler: max 12, Jun 22, in a mile in Cicero Swamp (MSR) and in the wetter bogs of central Herkimer Co (J & EB), but many small woodlots (normally with one-two pairs) in Oswego Co and Onon Co had no evidence of them—again the question—pesticides, drought, what?

Migration—Yellow Warblers were migrating in numbers Jul 31 (60) and Aug 7 (80) along SP dunes (MSR).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird: a pair and a single female at two separate black spruce bogs Jun 27, THP (FGS); unrecorded heretofore in the summer in that sector. Purple Finch: regularly noted at Catfish Creek (IS, RT), N. Syr (FGS), Utica (J & EB) thru the summer; common in THP with 27, Jun 27 (s. Lewis Co and n. Oneida Co) and 11, Jul 1, Redfield-Osceola. Red Crossbill: one Jun 27, THP (MSR, FGS), the only record from that sector; however, a Red Crossbill and 19 White-winged Crossbills were noted Aug 8 at Salisbury (J & EB) on the periphery of the Adirondack country—are these few birds prelude to another crossbill winter?

Savannah, Vesper, and Grasshopper Sparrows may have profited slightly from the drought, as numbers were noted in various short grass fields at Altmar, Sandy Creek, Pineville, Pulaski, and Pleasant L in Oswego CO; also at TRGMA, Beaver L, Camillus Valley in Onon Co; a small but vocal population of Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows at the Syracuse airport succumbed to the mid-Jul mowings of the weed fields (the management calls them lawns) adjacent to the runways. Slate-colored Junco: 13 (very low) Jun 27 THP, in 13 miles; on Jul 1, nine in 3 miles of primarily deciduous woods, Redfield to Osceola, a higher bird/mile ratio but still very low for the area. White-throated Sparrow: max 16, Jun 26, Chub Pond (MSR, J & EB); extremely common in THP—58, Jun 27, and nine, Jul 1; lower numbers regularly reported at HVGMA, Constantia, Pineville, and Altmar, in the Oneida L n. shore country (actually a southward slope of the THP); one near SP Jul 10 may represent a local breeder or only post-breeding wandering from the THP—Oneida L n. shore population.

427 South Main Street, North Syracuse N.Y. 13212

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The rainfall during June and July was much below normal, but temperatures were also low. The lack of hot drying weather seemed to lessen the harm of the lack of rain. It began to rain August 2, and by the middle of the month we had received more rain than during all of the previous two months. By Aug 15 the fields in Jefferson and Lewis Counties were green again, showing little evidence of drought. Water began to flow again in the small streams and the water level in ponds and lakes began to rise a little.

PRGMA is used for Perch River Game Management area near Watertown.