

received of flock behavior when one of a nesting pair was shot near Ox (AS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: present at Chen Forks until Jun 18 (M, AD); at Endwell Jun 4 (FL) and Conk Forks Jul 14 (PK). House Wren: particularly good breeding success at Chen Forks (M, AD), but below normal at CC (MS). Long-billed Marsh Wren: Jun 4 and Aug 6 at Sher, imm on the latter date (R, SW). Mockingbird: one at Chen Bridge Jul 14 (FL). Hermit Thrush: singing males: one at Phar Jun 5 (R, SW), two Ludlow Jun 10 and 23 (AS) and two Jul 2 Conk Forks (PK); also at Windsor in early Jul (PK). Gray-cheeked Thrush: Jun 4 Chen Bridge (S. Gorton). Eastern Bluebird: at Owego 23 boxes produced 84 young (MW, C. Gerould); at CC six nests produced 22 young, including three raised by male alone from shortly after hatching (MS). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: "seemed more abundant" at Owego (RW). Starling: a large roost at Endwell was already well populated Jul 7.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Warbling Vireo: heard singing at Sid until Jul 13 (FQ). Golden-winged Warbler: frequent reports at Owego and in Triple Cities area. Myrtle Warbler: Jun 3, Jul 23 and 24 Chen Forks (M, AD); Jul 2 Conk Forks (PK). Black-throated Green Warbler: Jun 21 Sid (FQ); also reported at Owego during period. Blackburnian Warbler: reported near Owego. Northern Waterthrush: Jun 23 Ludlow (AS). Louisiana Waterthrush: Jun 3 and 13 Sid (FQ); Jul 14 Conk Forks (PK). Mourning Warbler: singing male at Phar Jun 5 and 19 and Jul 2 (R, SW); a singing male at Whitney Pt Reservoir in mid Jun (P. Buckley); the only reports. Yellow-breasted Chat: Jul 31 Endwell (L. Bemont).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: fairly frequent reports to Jun 27, then none. Orchard Oriole: one Jun 15 sitting on clothesline at Ox (AS). Purple Finch: known successful nestings at Endwell (FL) and Ox (AS); also constantly present at Sid most of period (FQ) and reported at Conk Forks (PK). Slate-colored Junco: apparently nesting in several areas around Owego (RW) and at Conk Forks (PK). White-throated Sparrow: 15 Jun 5 and two singing Jul 7 thru Aug 11 Phar (R, SW); Jun 21 Sid (FQ); early Jul Conk Forks (PK); Jun 5 at Smyrna Hills and Jun 12 Ludlow (AS).

710 University Ave., Endwell, New York, 13763

REGION V — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

A cool June and a hot dry windy July seemed to presage good breeding success for the later arriving resident birds. However, several species, notably both cuckoos, Nighthawk, Least and Traill's Flycatchers, Tree Swallow and Long-billed Marsh Wren were very scarce thru the summer and an absence of semi-rare local breeders, i.e. Hooded Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, from known sites was obvious. The marshes of the area seemed to have adequate water but marsh birds continued very scarce.

Extensive explorations in the Oswego County sector of the Tug Hill Plateau and of the lower-elevation but similarly northern woods along the north shore of Oneida Lake yielded a wealth of breeding bird data, most numerous re thrushes and warblers.

Shorebird migration (q.v.) began in early July as anticipated but counts were low and variety poor.

Notables for the summer include Northern Phalarope, Barn Owl, Tennessee Warbler, Red Crossbill, the first nesting of the Olive-sided Flycatcher in Oswego County, and proven breeding of Long-eared Owls near Utica.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; N Syr—North Syracuse; Onon—Onondaga; RSP—Rome Sand Plains; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville, Twp—Township.

Observers: DWA—D. W. Ackley; J & BB—J. and B. Barker; GLC—G. L. Church; GG—George Gage; HPN—H. P. Nodecker; DBP—D. B. Peakall; SP—Sylvia Paquette; B & SP—B. & S. Peebles; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; RJS—R. J. Smith; JVD—J. VanDresar.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: pair with young Chubb Pond and a pair (?young) at Nick's L (both J & BB). Pied-billed Grebe: scarce, reported only from HIGMA; none noted at SP despite reflooding of the marshes there by the rise in water level. Great Blue Heron: 35 active nests, Cross L Jun 2 (DBP); eight-ten nests in use, Scott Swamp (FGS). Common Egret: max four, HIGMA Jun 14-17; a single there in early Jul; otherwise unreported. Green Heron: max reports, six-eight (low) Scott Swamp (B & SP) and Toad Harbor (MSR). Least Bittern: only reports—one Jun 30, Scott Swamp and two Aug 15, Lyons Pond, Madison Co (both B & SP)—extraordinarily scarce. Mute Swan: the source of the feral Mute Swans is a clipped pair on the Wikstrom estate, Skaneateles L; the young of each year are not clipped and will undoubtedly appear on various local lakes post flight stage; *birders, beware.*

Waterfowl production at HIGMA was especially good in Canada Geese, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, and Redhead but Mallard production was down 40% (GG). Gadwall: two pairs nested at HIGMA (GG). Green-winged Teal: a pair on a small pond Jun 8 THP is first record for that sector and may indicate breeding there. Blue-winged Teal: a female with 12 young Jun 3 near West Leyden (B & SP)—also unusual in THP. Early gatherings of Mallards (300 plus) and Wood Duck (200 plus) Jul 23 HIGMA. A count of 92 plus Redheads (nine broods) Jun 9 HIGMA exceeds the total reported last spring. Common Merganser: two pairs plus 12 young Mink L, Herkimer Co (J & BB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: one May 28 near Gull L, Herkimer Co is a most unusual occurrence (J & BB. MSR) as the species is rare east of Brewerton; noted in small numbers (three-eight/day) in Cayuga and western Oswego Co.

A male Cooper's Hawk Jul 7 Pulaski (W. R. Spofford) and single Sharp-shinned Hawks Jul 12 near Florence (B & SP) and June 29 Westmoreland (J & BB) are the *total* of accipiters for the summer. No Goshawks noted despite increased THP coverage. Red-shouldered Hawk: two active nests located, both at the periphery of RSP; however, only one young bird reached flying stage (DWA); no evidence of successful breeding at TRGMA or HIGMA, both previously much favored sites. Broad-winged Hawk: three sites located in THP (one pair brought off three young); also nest with one young Pleasant L, Oswego Co (DBP et al); singles at Morrisville, Cleveland, and Constantia, plus multiple Adirondack sightings (J & BB). Bald Eagle: only report, one TRGMA Jun 1 (JWP). Marsh Hawk: three pairs on territory in Region—HIGMA, Scott Swamp, and Smartville, Oswego Co— but *none* produced young; singles at Otisco Township Jun 5 (MSR) and near Eaton Jul 21 (GLC) are undoubtedly wandering birds.

Bobwhite: singing birds at Sandy Creek Pk Jun 19 (FGS) and near Oneida Jun 28 (B & SP)—most likely recently released birds.

Breeding shorebirds—Woodcock: multiple THP sightings; six still in courtship

Brewerton Jun 6 (JWP); adult with three chicks TRGMA Jun 17 and one with a single chick Jun 25 Cicero Bog (both MSR); adult and single young Cross L Jul 2 (DBP). Common Snipe: a pair Cedarville (new location) May 30 (MSR). Upland Plover: multiple reports with most around Oneida (eight plus sites) and Bridgeport; also reported in Redfield Twp THP (FGS) and Dutch Hill near Tully (JWP), both high elevation sites; max at Syr Airport 61 Jul 30 (RJS).

Fall shorebird migration was very poor—numbers very low, especially Least Sandpiper, and the variety has been dismal. Arr dates and max for period include: Semipalmated Plover Jul 16, max 35 Aug 12; Black-bellied Plover Aug 9, max two (low) Aug 15; Ruddy Turnstone Jul 21, max four Aug 4 (DWA); Solitary Sandpiper, 12 on Jul 23 (late) is both arr and max; Greater Yellowlegs Jul 17, max two (very low) Aug 14; Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 1, max 140 (all adults) Jul 23; Knot, one sighting, two Aug 11 (A. Starling); Pectoral Sandpiper Jul 21, max 20 (low) Jul 23; White-rumped Sandpiper, one Aug 2 is both arr and max; Least Sandpiper Jul 4, max 100 (low) Jul 19; Short-billed Dowitcher Jul 10, max three (low) Aug 4; Stilt Sandpiper one adult Jul 22–23 is the only period record; Semipalmated Sandpiper Jul 7, max 350 Aug 1; Sanderling, 35 (low) on Jul 24 is both arr and max; Northern Phalarope, one only, Aug 10, Onon L.

Common Tern colony at Onon L. extirpated. Black Tern: colony of 22 pairs South Bay Rd, N Syr; max 75 Jul 14 Billington Bay, Oneida L (MSR).

Cuckoos extraordinarily scarce; most observers saw less than ten of both for the entire summer; only eight Yellow-billed reported for period; first migrant Black-billed Aug 4, Onon L. Barn Owl: an apparently breeding pair Syracuse Jun 8–28 (JWP, mob). Screech Owl: one Jun 8, Toad Harbor (MSR)—only report. Long-eared Owl: successful nesting with three young raised near Utica (J & BB).

SWIFTS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: max three (extremely low) RSP (DWA) and also near Camden (B & SP) both Jul 3. Nighthawk: max six Jul 22, Syracuse; this species-like Barn and Cliff Swallows— is now totally dependent on man-made breeding habitat hereabouts and recent urban renewal projects have eliminated many downtown Syracuse rooftop breeding sites.

Pileated Woodpecker: one near Williamstown in THP Jul 21 is a rarity in that much-lumbered sector. Red-headed Woodpecker: 36 pairs noted in Canastota-Oneida-Rome area (DWA) see field note this issue; of interest is the heavy summer-time use of feeders, especially sunflower-stocked ones, by these birds (HPN, Palmer). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 28, Jun 8 THP; counts four-12/day thru Jul from THP. Eastern Kingbird: 16–30/day thru Jun in northern Cayuga Co; first fall migrants Jul 16 Onon L. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two Gull L, Herkimer Co in late May (MSR); first fall migrant Aug 8 N Syr (FGS). Traill's Flycatcher: "fitzbeu" form in valleys and "waybeo" type in hill country swamps Tully Twp (MSR). Least Flycatcher: *The* THP Empidonax with 25–30/day in four miles of deciduous woods of Redfield Twp; however, quite scarce (five-six/day) at SSSP, CV, HIGMA, and Tully. Olive-sided Flycatcher: first nesting noted Littlejohn GMA Jun 22-Jul 24 with one fledgling reared (JWP, M. Pastel, mob).

Tree Swallow: scarce thru summer with only Shackleton Pt, Oneida L and HIGMA reporting 100 plus in breeding period. Bank Swallow: colony of 2000 plus pairs east of SP; max migrants 5000 Jul 24 SP. Rough-winged Swallow: colonies now located in Frankfort Gorge (J & BB) and Canaseraga Creek Gorge (B & SP) and a solitary pair at Holland Patent (JVD). Purple Martin: Oneida L colonies down notably but surviving birds appeared to have excellent breeding success.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: noted at Camden Jul 12 (B & SP), RSP Jun 30 (DWA) and Redfield Twp Jun 19 (FGS). Brown Creeper: many sightings this summer—reported repeatedly from Sylvan Beach, Victory, south shore of Oneida L, TRGMA, HIGMA, all Ontario L plain sites; probably will increase as more and more elm swamps succumb to Dutch elm disease since these dying woods provide ideal nesting sites and superabundant food; reported regularly from THP (e.g. adult with four

young Jul 24) and Clark's Reservation near Syracuse. Winter Wren: very scarce in THP with max three/day; also noted near Cleveland in Oswego Co and at Whiskey Hollow, Onon Co, both low elevation sites. Long-billed Marsh Wren: max 20 Jun 9 HIGMA and 20 Jun 1 thru Jul 20 Scott Swamp (JWP): quite scarce (two-four/day) in SP marshes. Short-billed Marsh Wren: the only regional colony at Toad Harbor had four singing birds Jul 30 (RJS, FGS).

Mockingbird: one RSP Jun 30 (DWA, SP, FGS) was apparently the remnant of a pair breeding there the past four-five years. Brown Thrasher: numerous at Oneida (B & SP) and five separate sightings in THP Jun 8-Jul 31. Robin: max 75 THP Jul 31; increased numbers panregionally. Comparative counts for thrushes in THP are Veery 52, Wood 16, Swainson's 19, Hermit one, Jun 12; other THP counts approximate the above altho Wood Thrush numbers are greater at lower elevations and Swainson's Thrushes are usually higher in the natural spruce bog sectors. Hermit Thrush tallies are persistently low—max 14 Jul 14 THP; six Camden area Jun 26 (MSR) and six RSP Jun 30 (DWA). A single Swainson's Thrush below the 600' level near Camden Jul 10 (FGS) is most unusual as this species is almost never found below 1000' in THP. Eastern Bluebird: still low, counts only two-five/day thru summer (all sectors). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: proven nesting at CV (old site) and Otisco L (new location); also found at Island Rd, Cicero Swamp (all JWP). Golden-crowned Kinglet: four THP Jul 31 (RJS, DBP, FGS)—a scarce and local breeder there; unreported in Herkimer Co in Jun, however, Loggerhead Shrike: breeding pair Westmoreland Jul 3 (DWA, J & BB); also two other sightings, Sandy Creek and Maple View, Jul 21 thru 31.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: small numbers (one-three/day) in all sectors of THP; also noted Labrador Pond Jul 9 (JWP), where it is scarce. Solitary Vireo: THP max seven Jun 12; lesser numbers thru Jun and Jul; also reported on Morgan Hill in Fabius Twp, Onon Co, and in the low elevation northern woods Cleveland to Camden Jul 10, Red-eyed Vireo: THP max 95 Jun 12; other THP counts high (25-30/day) but counts at SSSP, CV, Oneida, Tully much lower (six-14/day).

Resident non-THP warblers—Black-and-white: four Jun 12, Moose R (B & SP); two in Cicero Swamp Jun 25; numbers down somewhat at Tully and Camillus. Golden-winged and Blue-winged: known sites for Golden-winged as before, but extensive Blue-winged invasion of this spring documented and numerous Brewster's noted; no Golden-winged noted in THP, but a Brewster's near SP Aug 15 (JWP) suggests Blue-wingeds are already in or north of that area. Nashville: scarce at RSP; noted at Kasoag bog near Williamstown, and at Nelson Bog, Madison Co and Morgan Hill, Onon Co (MSR). Black-throated Blue: two Jun 25 at Morrisville Swamp (DWA, A. Carter) and seven Jun 26 Constantia Twp (MSR). Myrtle: pair in red pines near Cleveland Jul 10; one Morgan Hill; unreported in RSP this season (formerly common there). Cerulean: two Lewis Pt Rd Jun 21 (B & SP) and one Verona Beach State Pk Jul 2 (DWA) fill in the gaps of this species' range along the south shore of Oneida L between Bridgeport and Oneida; three singing males north end of Cross L Jun 3 (DBP, MSR); pair feeding two or more young in nest Jul 6 Gully Rd, Skaneateles Twp (MSR et al). Blackburnian: ten Cleveland to Camden Jun 26 (MSR); maturing stands of spruce planted in the mid-thirties will permit this species to appear away from its normal high elevation/north shore distribution. Ovenbird: numbers down in immediate Oneida L area; RSP max six (very low) Jun 30; Tully and SSSP had none! Louisiana Waterthrush: two at Frankfort George Jun 16 (J & BB); also Ilion Gorge May 30 (MSR); noted repeatedly in the streams on the west side of Tully Valley; also at Cheese Factory Gulf, Pompey Twp and Whiskey Hollow, Van Buren Twp, both Onon Co (MSR). Mourning: seven singing males HIGMA and Duck L Jun 9; also four Otisco Twp Jun 5; definitely increasing both in Ontario Lakeplain's swamp woodlands and in heavy brush of the southern hill margins. Yellow-breasted Chat: one thru Jun Pompey Twp (F. LaFrance)—new

location. Hooded: most local sites deserted, with only single birds at SSSP and Baldwinsville; however, a new site, Labrador Pond, Jul 9 (JWP). Redstart: scarce in local woodlots—e.g. two SSSP Aug 4; counts this summer ranged four-14/day—very low!

THP warblers—the Oswego and Oneida Co portions of the THP proved a warbler bonanza thru Jun and Jul—following is a summary of max from Oswego Co area for ten trips during Jun and Jul: Black-and-white—eight Jun 19 and ten Jul 31; Nashville—two Jun 19; Yellow—eight Jun 12; Magnolia—30, Jul 24 and 31, Littlejohn GMA; Black-throated Blue—ten Jul 14; Myrtle—three Jul 14 Redfield and Jul 21 Littlejohn GMA; Black-throated Green—13 Jul 14; Blackburnian—15 Aug 14; Chestnut-sided—30 Jun 19 and Jul 14, Redfield Twp; Ovenbird—24 on Jul 14, Redfield Twp; Northern Waterthrush—six Jul 7 Salmon R Reservoir; Mourning—11 Jul 7 Salmon R Reservoir; Yellowthroat—30 on Jun 19; Canada—12 on Jul 7; Redstart—40 Jun 19 Mad R, 40 Jul 14 Redfield, and a whopping 90 Jul 31 Littlejohn GMA.

Tennessee Warbler: a singing male found Jul 24 (FGS) and two found Jul 31 both Littlejohn GMA but different sectors (DBP, RJS, FGS) suggest breeding there. Hooded Warbler: a colony with four singing males and a very agitated female Jul 14 (probably breeding) on the south shore of the Salmon R Reservoir—the species has not heretofore been recorded from the THP.

Fall migrant warblers—arr dates include Golden-winged Aug 8 N Syr, Yellow Jul 13 N Syr, Cerulean Aug 13 Tully (JWP), Blackburnian Aug 4 SSSP and Aug 11 Otisco, Chestnut-sided Aug 4 SSSP, Northern Waterthrush Aug 8 N Syr, Louisiana Waterthrush Aug 11 Tully (JWP), Redstart Aug 9 N Syr.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 15–20/day in neglected fields at TRGMA, Cicero Swamp, Toad Harbor, and Pulaski. Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle: extremely abundant and both appear to be expanding enormously in the farmland-invading suburbs. Baltimore Oriole: max 25 CV Jun 23; numbers at Liverpool and N Syr appear diminished. Scarlet Tanager: numbers in local woodlots (Tully, Liverpool, Baldwinsville) appear up slightly; max ten, Constantia to Camden.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: numerous reports with max for period 24, Aug 14, Tully (JWP); THP max eight Jun 19. Purple Finch 16–20/day Jun and Jul THP, max 24 on Jul 23 Redfield Twp (B & SP); numerous pairs at Ontario Lakeplain sites (TRGMA, Duck L, HIGMA, Baldwinsville) where ornamental conifers or coniferous plantations seem to meet the nesting requirements; numbers appear up in southern hill sectors (GLC). Pine Siskin: last, two Jun 21 (record dep date) Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse. Red Crossbill: a single imm Jul 23 Oneida (HPN) is probably an erratic wanderer from the Adirondack Mt sector. Grasshopper Sparrow: small colonies noted at Otisco, Sandy Creek, South Bay, Oneida, Pleasant L, and a thriving colony (six plus singing males) at the Syracuse Airport. Henslow's Sparrow: seven known 1965 sites deserted; a new colony near Brewerton—12 birds; adult with two buffy young near Smartville (1200') Jul 31 is a new site for THP (RJS, DBP, FGS); also noted at Westmoreland, Oneida Co Jun 5 (MSR), near Pratt's Falls, Onondaga Co Jun 29 (DBP) and HIGMA Jun 18.

Max tallies for THP sparrows include Chipping 30 Jul 10, Field 20 Jun 19, White-throated 30 Jul 14, Swamp 14 Jun 19, Song 30 Jul 7; also Slate-colored Junco 12 each Jul 7 and 14, and four Jul 12 near McConnellsville (B & SP); also a Junco nest with one fledgling Cowbird Jul 7 near Greensboro (FGS).

Slate-colored Junco also reported at Ilion Gorge May 30 and Morgan Hill Jun 25 (MSR) in the southern hill country. White-throated Sparrow: seven Jul 9, Labrador Pond, a new locale in the southern hills (JWP); also found regularly in wet areas of RSP (DWA, B & SP). Lincoln's Sparrow: one Safford L Jun 4 (J & BB) may be the most southern and western of the few Adirondack sites known for this species.

427 South Main Street, North Syracuse 13212.

Corrigendum: in *Kingbird* Jul 1966, p. 171, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, should read . . . Apr 30 TRGMA and Apr 22 Boliver respectively.