

Northern Waterthrush: (5/3); one Aug 9 Norwich (R, SW), the only one reported after Jun 25. Louisiana Waterthrush: Jun 1 and 15 Sidney (F. Quick). Yellowthroat: (151/8). Canada Warbler: (6/30). American Redstart: (25/6).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (218/8). Bobolink: (128/7), an unexpectedly high total. Eastern Meadowlark: (137/8). Redwinged Blackbird: (1046/8); 111 nestlings banded at Deposit (SW). Baltimore Oriole: (90/8). Common Grackle: (183/8), an unexpectedly low total. Brown-headed Cowbird: (111/8). Scarlet Tanager: (24/6).

Cardinal: (37/6); earlier this year the first one to be noted in Elk Creek Valley, near Delhi, in 38 years of residence was reported (Mrs. L. Clark) and only "a few" are present in the village of Delhi. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (17/6). Indigo Bunting: (63/8). Purple Finch: (8/4); imm coming to banding traps "later than usual and lesser numbers than most years" Deposit (SW); "many" at Endwell (F. Linaberry). Pine Siskin: one Aug 3 German (DM), very unusual during a summer not preceded by a good spring flight. American Goldfinch: (182/8). Rufous-sided Towhee: (111/8). Savannah Sparrow: (55/8). Grasshopper Sparrow: (11/5); "only a couple found" all summer Owego (RW). Henslow's Sparrow: (5/2); only three other reports, all in Jun. Vesper Sparrow: (13/4). Slate-colored Junco: (7/1) Jun 17 Oxford F&WBBS (H. Marsi, C. Gottschall); also at Candor (R. Pantle) and Oquaga L in Jun, at Scott (JAG) and Norwich (R, SW) in Jul and at Greene Aug 4 (C, JD). Chipping Sparrow: (120/8). Field Sparrow: (85/8). White-throated Sparrow: (18/3); one on F&WBBS near Delhi (Mrs. L. Clark), the rest plus eight other reports, one of ten birds, all from Chenango and Cortland Cos. Swamp Sparrow: (2/2). Song Sparrow: (249/8).

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ED. NOTE: The Region 4 report in the July issue was by Leslie Bemont. I regret that his name was omitted.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

If you were interested in birds, it was a very dull summer; if a weatherman, an interesting one; if a frog, you were in heaven. Water, water, and more water prevailed throughout the summer, with three and one half inches excess in July alone. Cooler temperatures persisted, and few days ever achieved the hot, gummy levels of typical central New York July or August. Either the coolness of the summer or the frequent windstorms triggered many renestings, so that late broods and fledglings were widely reported after August 10.

A fair amount of information on breeding birds was achieved, both by specific area investigations, e.g. Tug Hill Plateau, Sangerfield Swamp, and by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys.

Abundant berry crops and weed seed stands presage a food-rich autumn; hopefully the local cone crop will attract winter finches.

Notable positives include 1) increased number of Kestrel sites; 2) high tallies of most flycatchers; 3) breeding American Widgeon, Tufted Titmouse, and Mockingbird; 4) a veritable wealth of Robins; 5) a rash of Purple Finch nestings.

Negatives are 1) the absence of any white herons; 2) the continued decline of most raptors; 3) a very poor early shorebird flight; 4) a scarcity of certain spring-disaster insectivores—Whip-poor-will, Hummingbird, some swallows; 5) no Prothonotary and almost no Hooded Warblers; 6) a paucity of breeding Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

Rare aves include: Ruff, Black-headed Gull, and Western Meadowlark.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; FR—Fox Ridge sugar beet settling impoundments s. of Howland's Island; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park; Syr—Syracuse; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.

Observers: DWA—D. W. Ackley; J&BB—J. & B. Barker; GLC—G. L. Church; EJF—E. J. Fisk; FLF—F. LaFrance; KGH—K. G. Hanson; SM—Stephen Morgan; PRP—P. R. Paquette; DBP—D. B. Peakall; B & SP—B. & S. Peebles; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; RJS—R. J. Smith; CGS—C. G. Spies, Jr.; WT—W. Thurber.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: three at Big Moose L, Herkimer Co, Jul 4 (MSR, CGS); two in winter plumage summering at Oneida L Aug 20 (CGS et al). Pied-billed Grebe: scattered pairs nested successfully in Pompey Twshp (FLF) and at Woodman's Pond in Madison Co (GLC); multiple pairs noted at Scott Swamp near Phoenix. Clay Swamp, and FR (mob). Great Blue Heron: at Scott Swamp 22 nests with 31 young (CGS, MSR); at Cross L 40 nests with 33 young (DBP *et al*); new sites include Old Fly in Pompey Twshp with six nests (FLF) and Morrisville Swamp with two (B&SP). No reports of white herons, not even Common Egrets. Green Heron: seemed more common—most small marshes had one-two pairs and the larger marshes (Clay and Scott Swamps) had more; six nests at Pompey (FLF); an intensive search for roosts produced impressive evening flight tallies—90 Aug 14 Horseshoe Island near Phoenix (CGS) and 77 Aug 17 Clay Swamp (SM, CGS). Black-crowned Night Heron: this formerly fairly common species *unreported!*

Mallard and Black Duck: many broods reported from small ponds and marshes north of Syr and around Baldwinsville; 49 Mallards and four Blacks Aug 10 Pompey (FLF); nesting recorded on Oneida L islands (CGS); significantly, there appear to be many more Mallards than Black Ducks—even in the Black Duck-rich area at HIGMA—FR, Mallards regularly exceeded Blacks, e.g. 200:50 Jul 29 (MSR). Green-winged Teal: six+ young at FR Jul 29 (MSR, F. & E. Ranson); scattered adult groups (one-five/day) noted at FR, HIGMA, SP, and SSSP, but not at Stevens Pond near Phoenix, a formerly regular haunt. Blue-winged Teal: summer max 175 Jul 12 FR (MSR). American Widgeon: brood of three, Jul 18-Aug 2, FR (MSR) first Regional breeding record. Ruddy Duck: one male summered at FR (SM). Hooded Merganser: two imm Jul 26 Wampsville (*fide* DWA); one brood at HIGMA. Red-breasted Merganser: one summering Oneida L (CGS et al).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: noted only at HIGMA; not present in latter part of summer at Scott Swamp and around Mexico, previously regular sites. Goshawk: an adult pursued by a begging young Jun 29 THP (FGS)-only report. Two Sharp-shinned Hawks seen but no Cooper's Hawks. Red-shouldered Hawk: singles only—Williamstown (MSR), near Parish (CGS), Pompey (FLF), and Eaton (GLC); no successful nestings known, despite checking of several recently active sites. Broad-winged Hawk: migrant Jun 2 Pompey; multiple sightings (nine

birds by five observers) from THP and n. shore of Oneida L, with two nestings near Constantia. Bald Eagle: adult SP Aug 5 (CGS); an adult frequenting n. shore of Oneida L (*fide* PRP) thru late Jul and early Aug; no imm noted. Marsh Hawk: a pair reared three young in s. Madison Co (GLC), the first successful nesting in two years; one near Cazenovia Jun 15 (C. & E. Farnham); single males near Parish Jun 24 and at Sangerfield Swamp Jul 8 (both MSR). Osprey: building nest at Big Moose L in Jun (*fide* EJF). Sparrow Hawk: this and the Red-tailed are the only two local raptors holding up — JWP had 14 sites with pairs, mainly around Syr, Tully, and Pulaski; also 16 other pairs reported — actually appeared to be on the increase.

Ruffed Grouse: hen with chicks noted Jul 4 near Oneida (PRP); two broods in THP Jun 22; scarce in Ontario lakeshore woodlots and notably so in SSSP, a favored site. Virginia Rail and Sora: scattered singles from the larger permanent marshes (Scott and Clay Swamps), but the smaller marshes, only recently filled with water, do not have any yet.

Breeding shorebirds — Woodcock: five Jun 4 Cicero Swamp (MSR); six Jul 12 Westmoreland (SM); lesser numbers, one-three/day, in THP, Horseshoe Island, and FR. Common Snipe: singles thru Jun at Pompey (FLF), Toad Harbor Rd in West Monroe Twship (MSR), and THP; six near Eaton (GLC); no breeding evidence. Upland Plover: noted near North Western (R. Williams), at Pompey (FLF), Little Falls (KGH), near Frankfort (CGS), and s. of Oneida, the last with two young (DWA) — all hill-country locations; several pairs with callow young (i.e. downy Uppies) at Syr Airport (FGS); pre-migration flocking, 23 at Oneida Co Airport Jul 12 and 51 at Syr Airport Aug 1.

Migrant shorebirds — high water levels, the leftover of a wet cold spring, plus persistent summer rains and a markedly high L Ontario level combined to produce the absolute minimum of local shorebird habitat; shorebirds were quite scarce and variety poor thru all of Jul and Aug. Arr dates include Semipalmated Plover Jul 20; Golden Plover, one Jul 22 Oneida Co Airport (RJS), very early; Black-bellied Plover Aug 8 Onon L and Liverpool; Ruddy Turnstone Jul 29 SP; Solitary Sandpiper Jul 10 Fox Ridge; Greater Yellowlegs Jul 23; Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 1 Long Island, Oneida L; Pectoral Sandpiper Jul 18; Baird's Sandpiper, one Aug 8; Least Sandpiper Jul 10; Short-billed Dowitcher Jul 8; Stilt Sandpiper Jul 21; Semipalmated Sandpiper Jul 18; Sanderling Jul 22; Wilson's Phalarope Jul 30. Most tallies seemed very low, the only good counts 20–35/day for Lesser Yellowlegs, 100–160/day for Semipalmated Sandpiper, 20–35/day for Least Sandpiper; Short-billed Dowitcher had a fair flight with three-12/day, but Stilt Sandpiper were quite scarce with one-two/day. *RUFF*: an imm male Jul 28 at Onon L (JWP, MSR), and three (WT) and one (T. M. Riley) imms Jul 29 also at Onon L — welcome back!

Herring Gull: nesting (two young and one,? two nests) on Long Island, Oneida L (CGS). Ring-billed Gull: the Spies survey of Oneida L larids on Jul 1–2 (too late for full counts) found six nests on Long Island and 11 nests on Wantry; total young on both islands 88. *BLACK-HEADED GULL*: red-billed nearly adult bird SP Jul 22 (MSR, CGS) and Aug 5 (FLF) — first Regional record — see field note. Common Tern: no colonies on the SP beaches; 40 nests on marsh debris at Carl Island at SP Jul 8 (CGS); on Jul 1–2 at Oneida L three small islands held 300+ nests (eggs and young) and 181 young-out-of-the-nest. (CGS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: very scarce, summer total seven birds (mob). Black-billed Cuckoo fared little better with 17 for summer. Screech Owl: eight reported for entire summer, with four from one observer (GLC) at Eaton. Long-eared Owl: one near Utica Jul 12 (MSR); not known to have bred this year.

SWIFTS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: scarce — only two at Cicero Swamp; max five Jun 18 McConnellsville, Oneida Co (B&SP) and five Jun 20 Boonville (KGH); one at Morrisville Jun 17 (A. Carter) is first record for that locality. Common

Nighthawk: max 12 counted by car thru Syr on Jul 30 (MSR *et al.*); usual counts three-four/evening; unreported in natural habitat. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: scarce at Tully and Syr (one-two/day), but in good numbers (five/day) in THP. Belted Kingfisher: eight in seven miles of Ilion Gorge (MSR, CGS); scattered pairs about Clay Swamp and Tully; scarce at Oneida L.

Pileated Woodpecker: bred at Liverpool—one adult and one young Jul 14 (DBP). Red-headed Woodpecker: the thirty+ pairs around Oneida (*vide* DWA) appear to be thriving; three reports from hickory-oak groves along L Ontario; successfully nested Liverpool—adult with four young Aug 20 (DBP). Red-bellied Woodpecker: local range extension, in Peppermill Gorge at South Onondaga (JWP), probably from the colony at n. end of Otisco L. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 15 in THP Jun 25; seven Kasoag F&WBBS Jun 24; scattered pairs at Pompey (FLF), Tully (JWP), and Beaver L (F. Dittrich). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: adult female at Big Moose Jun 1 (EJF).

Most species of flycatchers seemed to be in better-than-average numbers thru summer—max include Crested five, Phoebe 50 near Boonville (KGH), Traill's seven and eight. Least 42, Wood Pewee 12; the exception was E. Kingbird, frequently missed in a full day of birding in the Syr-Tully-Mexico area; returning E. Kingbirds noted as early as Jul 7 N Syr. Olive-sided Flycatcher: pair returned to 1966 nest site at Littlejohn Game Management Area in THP but was apparently unsuccessful (FGS). Tree Swallow: breeding concentrations developing in the dying maple-elm swamps along s. shore of Oneida L and at HIGMA. Barn Swallow: appeared very common thru Jun with abundant nesting success (many broods of three and four on country telephone wires); found nesting on rock ledges near Nine Mile Pt on L Ontario (CGS); late nesting Aug 14 Big Moose (EJF). Cliff Swallow: small colony on Smith Ridge near Bridgeport (MSR) and seven nests near Wampsville (B&SP)—the first reports on Oneida L s. shore in five years. Purple Martin: reduced numbers in colonies but most had excellent breeding success (Oneida L shore and SP colonies).

Gray Jay: imm on Big Moose-Stillwater Rd Jun 25 (MSR, CGS). Tufted Titmice brought young to feeder at Sherrill (S. Schultz). Red-breasted Nuthatch: at Nelson Swamp in Madison Co; again at SSSP and Rome Sand Plains. Brown Creeper: noted repeatedly in dying elm-maple swamps at HIGMA, Tully, Oneida L, and Pompey; nest with two young at Carpenter's Pond in Pompey (FLF). House Wren: on increase—six-ten/day in most areas about Syr, Victory, and Eaton; as usual, uncommon in THP (two-three/day). Winter Wren: brood of four at Littlejohn Jun 29 for a definite breeding record; also present at Carpenter's Pond, Ilion Gorge, Sangerfield Swamp, and Nelson Swamp (CGS, MSR). Carolina Wren: singles near Nedrow (FLF) and at Fish Gulf near Otisco L (JWP); may be recovering from decimation of four winters ago. Long-billed Marsh Wren: max ten/day at Scott and Clay Swamps (low) and even lower (three-four/day) along L Ontario. Short-billed Marsh Wren: four locations this summer—SP, SSSP, Morgan Rd in Clay Twshp (SM), and at Toad Harbor, involving at least ten birds.

Mockingbird: Jun 14 and 16, two Munnsville (A. Raynsford); Jul 2 one above w. shore of Otisco L (E. M. Starr); two broods reared at DeWitt (*vide* B. P. Burt). Brown Thrasher: one at Littlejohn Jun 29 (FGS); reported in Boonville area (B&SP) with 18 there Jul 1 (KGH); and four on Kasoag F&WBBS—all THP locations where the species is scarce. Robin: 74 Victory and 63 Cicero Ctr—higher than last year—F&WBBSs (JWP), counts 20–65/day widely reported and from all sectors. Hermit Thrush: six-ten singing males Tully Forest, Onon Co (WT); ten in North Bay area Jun 11 (B&SP). Swainson's Thrush: low tallies (one-six/day) all from THP sites. E. Bluebird: 11 successful nestings with 39 young banded at Oneida (H. P. Nodecker); five pairs in Rome area (*vide* H. Aspinwall); three known pairs in Oswego Co; seven birds Jul 14 Eaton—still a very scarce breeder. Golden-crowned Kinglet: single pairs in plantation Norway spruce at Littlejohn, but not in

the few remaining stands of native red spruce there. Cedar Waxwing: 150 at Boonville (KGH); 20-30/day on THP; six-16/day in Syr-Tully area. No Loggerhead Shrikes reported.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one along Mad R and a pair in maple woods on s shore of Salmon R Reservoir, both THP locations where species is scarce; one-three on F&WBBSs. Red-eyed Vireo: numbers in THP stable (50-60/day) but far fewer in woodlots in TRGMA, HIGMA, and CV.

Spring warbler last dates—three Wilson's Jun 1, three Blackpolls Jun 3 (FLF).

Breeding warblers—Prothonotary: unreported for the first time in 15 years. Golden-winged: 17 singing males located in the drumlin country of n. Onon-n. Cayuga-w. Oswego Co Jun 13-20 (JWP, MSR): two-three at two sub-THP sites (MSR, CGS)—the abundance of habitat (overgrown brushy pastures near small creeks) in the Williamstown vicinity should presage more from that area; single males at Chestnut Ridge e. of Bridgeport, previously a blank for the species, and at a newly-found site on the Cicero Swamp periphery (both MSR). Blue-winged: in contrast to May, scarce thru Jun and Jul in known sites—most likely reduced singing rather than actual reduction in birds; a Blue-winged and Brewster's were regularly spishable at CV (FGS). A Brewster's with Golden-winged Jun 23 near Parish (CGS) indicates some Blue-winged genes already in this formerly pure Golden-winged area. Nashville Warbler: at Pompey (FLF), and Nelson and Sangerfield Swamps (both MSR). Cerulean Warbler: again at s. end of Otisco L. and at Short Point Bay and Lewis Pt Rd—the last two on Oneida L s. shore; newly found in Whiskey Hollow near Baldwinsville; nest photographed in CV (J&BB, CGS). Ovenbird: either vocally unenthusiastic or very scarce this summer—max 12 for a full day's birding Jun 17 and Jul 11 (B&SP) on n. shore Oneida L; three-nine on F&WBBSs. Northern Waterthrush: scarce around Syr, Tully, and SSSP—max three/day—*poor!* Louisiana Waterthrush: repeated reports from gulfs on both sides of Otisco L; again at Ilion Gorge (CGS), and at Graffenburg and Willowvale Gorges—i.e., probably to be found in all the north-flowing gorges which empty into the Mohawk R (J&BB). Mourning Warbler: one of the few warblers increasing locally—six sites around Tully (JWP) and four near Pompey (FLF); four+ pairs at CV; six singing males in n. Onon-n. Cayuga Co. Yellowthroat: max 40 along three miles of R.R. track in Sangerfield Swamp (MSR). Hooded Warbler: two Nedrow Jul 30 (CGS, SM) a new site; *unreported* at Camillus, Marcellus, Labrador, Tully, SSSP, or other L Ontario sites—this species is fast disappearing locally. American Redstart: scarce in woodlots around Syr—ten-15/day, compared with 30-40/day in other years.

THP-breeding warblers—Black-and-white: two-five/day thru Jun. Nashville: scarce, though several noted in sub-THP bogs Williamstown-Constantia. Magnolia: max 22 but usually ten-12/day in spruce-larch plantations; pair feeding young Jul 26 Oneida L n. shore (B&SP). Black-throated Blue: three-13/day. Myrtle: three-nine/day—like Magnolia, dependent on either conifer plantations or spruce bogs three at Dibbletown, Oneida Co, new location (MSR). Black-throated Green: scarce this summer, two-14/day. Also scarce were Blackburnian with three-11/day—reduced because of spruce-larch pulping operations? Chestnut-sided: *the* THP warbler, 35-73/day; 19 on Kasoag F&WBBS. Another species, like Chestnut-sided benefiting from the frequent logging and pulping in THP, is the Redstart, ten-40/day. Ovenbird: max 40, a whopping tally, Boonville (KGH). Mourning: one-seven/day, low. Hooded: three singing males again on s. shore of Salmon R. Reservoir. Canada: max 25 on Jun 4 Boonville (KGH).

Adirondack-breeding warblers—Parula: only one-three/day at Big Moose, low. Similarly scarce were Black-throated Green, max six, and Blackburnian, max eight.

Fall migrant arrivals—Golden-winged, Blue-winged, and Yellow-breasted Chat Aug 10 Otisco hill (JWP); Nashville Aug 7 Pompey (FLF); Blackburnian Aug 4 SSSP; Chestnut-sided Aug 3 SSSP. Yellow: arr Jul 10 N Syr; max 125 Aug 5 SP to Nine Mile Pt (MSR).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 22 on Victory and 39 on Cicero Ctr F&WBBS (JWP). WESTERN MEADOWLARK: present at Tully to Jul 23 (JWP, RJS) Baltimore Oriole: summer max 25 in n. Cayuga-w. Oswego Co; rather scarce still (one-three/day) in N Syr, Liverpool, Pompey. Rusty Blackbird: four in spruce bog on Big Moose-Stillwater Rd Jun 25. Brown-headed Cowbird: one successfully reared by a Golden-winged-Brewster's pair at CV—drat! Scarlet Tanager: quite scarce, two-five/day, max ten Jun 17 Oneida L n. shore.

Indigo Bunting: 19, eight, 14, seven on Victory, Cicero Ctr, Kasoag, and Oriskany Falls F&WBBS; 30 in 60 miles in n. Cayuga-w. Oswego Co (MSR). Evening Grosbeak: adult with young at feeder Big Moose-Old Forge (EJF). Purple Finch: many nestings with pairs noted widely thru Syr, N Syr, n. Cayuga Co; successful nestings at Tully (JWP); abundant in THP—14–20/day. Red Crossbill: 14 on Jul 25 at Big Moose is only report before Aug 12 when J&BB had groups of three-12 frequently in Big Moose-Old Forge thru end of period. Rufous-sided Towhee: seemed up slightly—25 at Boonville (KGH), 12 at North Bay (B&SP), 40 on n. shore of Oneida L Jun 17, 19 on Kasoag F&WBBS.

Grasshopper Sparrow: after the wretched spring showing, 20 at Syr Airport was a fine surprise; four on Kasoag F&WBBS; still scarce in suitable habitat around Phoenix, Baldwinsville, and Pulaski. Henslow's Sparrow: nine known sites in 1967 (only half of normal number) with usually one-two/site but max seven at Mud Mill Rd, Brewerton. White-throated Sparrow: reported repeatedly at Carpenter's Pond; 15 at Sangerfield Swamp Jul 8; ten-55/day in THP with greatest concentrations in spruce plantations or at spruce-bog edges. Song Sparrow: 70 Victory, 78 Cicero Ctr, 64 Oriskany Falls, and 38 Kasoag F&WBBS.

Hearty thanks are due the compilers Mrs. J. W. Propst, C. G. Spies, Jr., and Stephen Morgan.

CORRIGENDUM: Vol 17, No. 3 (July 1967), p. 169, last line omitted, sentenec should read: Veery Apr 15 DH (JRH) and Wood Thrush Apr 21 Fayetteville (Mrs. A. Friedel)- both record arr.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

DAVID C. GORDON

The first half of June was very warm and humid with a cooling trend and some rain the last half of the month. July was much warmer than usual with many nice sunny days but the last half of the month typically started overcast and cool in the morning with clearing and warm temperatures in the afternoon. This pattern continued generally thru the first half of August. July rainfall varied in Jefferson County from 1 to 4.3 inches with a little over three inches in Watertown which is more than last year but below normal. Except for one good rain of nearly 1.5 inches on the 9th, the first half of August continued the generally dry conditions of July.

Conditions for fall migration of shorebirds at El Dorado were the poorest in several years. On July 24 there was little exposed mud and Aug 13–14 there was practically no beach anywhere. Shorebirds were perched on floating debris. The maximum counts of shorebirds — less