

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

Early June became quickly hot and humid, hurrying along those tardy migrants that should have come in the last third of May. The hot—and wet—weather persisted to the last third of June; all marshes were brimming; summer streams continued with virtually vernal spate, and greenery and mosquitoes were luxuriant. In the last ten days of June, however, a spell of persistent (eight and a half days) of cold, rainy, windy, weather resulted in documented brood loss of swallows and undoubtedly wreaked havoc on many other species with young recently hatched in this chill period. Of interest and perhaps secondary to widespread breeding failure in the cold period is that many broods of recently fledged birds were noted in the latter two-thirds of August and even early September, when normally all breeding activity but that of Cedar Waxwing and Goldfinch is over.

July was again typically hot, much less wet in the latter half. However, the legacy of water precluded any extensive development of shorebird habitat at local lakes, so July and August shorebirding was poor in quality and low in numbers. The single exception, the rainpools and residual marsh at the Park Street dump along Ley Creek in Syracuse, will be a memory only in the coming years as the landfill there is annihilating the marsh.

Explorations for breeding birds were undertaken in multiple areas of the Tug Hill Plateau and in the southern highlands, particularly Tully, Fabius, and Pompey Townships in southeastern Onondaga County. Abundant data from such birding forays is presented in the warblers section of the report. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Surveys (total of seven taken) also provide immediate and valuable counts of breeding birds of the Region; much material from these has been used in this report.

Rarities for the season include Snowy Egret, breeding Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Whimbrel, Ruff, Wilson's Phalarope, breeding Barn Owl, and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker.

Positives include: 1) abundant Mallard and Blue-winged Teal production; 2) many rail and Common Gallinule broods evident with the rejuvenation of the area's marshes; 3) increase in woodpeckers, nuthatches, and Brown Creeper, almost certainly secondary to the abundant food supply the many dying elms provide; 4) many encouraging counts on wood warblers, particularly so after the dismal spring showing (not true of Parula or the Seiurus group); 5) an Eastern Goldfinch population explosion; 6) a rise in breeding stations for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

Negatives: 1) the almost complete absence of white herons and Black-crowned Night Heron; 2) low brood tallies on Black Duck; 3) the reduced shorebird migration—in both variety and numbers; 4) the sharp drop in Traill's and Least Flycatchers and Eastern Wood Pewee; 5) a weatherkill of young swallows (q.v.) and the continuing loss of Cliff Swallow colonies; 6) the now nearly complete loss of several formerly regular though not common species—Screech Owl, Whip-poor-will, Hooded Warbler.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; F&WBBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 25-mile breeding bird survey—Alder Creek Jun 24, Cicero Center Jul 1, Kasoag Jul 3, N Victory Jun 13, N Wilmurt Jun 19, Oneida Jun 20; FHBSP—Fair Haven Beach State Park; FR—Fox Ridge sugar beet settling impoundments S of Howland's Island; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; HVGMA—Happy Valley Game Management Area near Parish; LJGMA—Littlejohn Game Management Area near Redfield; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; Skan—Skaneateles; southern highlands—Allegheny Plateau sector of Onon, Madison, Oneida and Herkimer Co; sub-THP—area E of Rt 81, N of Rt 49, and S of Rt 13; Syr—Syracuse; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.

Observers: DWA—D. W. Ackley; VB—V. Billings; GLC—G. L. Church; EJF—E. J. Fisk; FLF—F. LaFrance; KGH—K. G. Hanson; SM—S. Morgan; BCSP—B. & S. Peebles; JWP—J. W. Propst; TMR—T. M. Riley; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; CGS—C. G. Spies; RJS—R. J. Sutliff.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: single Salmon R Reservoir (FLF) and two SP (RJS) both Jun 8; also four Jul 10, probably breeders, N Herkimer Co (KGH). Great Blue Heron: approximately 24 occupied nests at Scott Swamp near Phoenix, but progeny production not determinable (SM,MSR); 18 active nests, 25 young, Jul 2 Cross L near Baldwinsville (D.B. Peakall); four active nests at Old Fly, Pompey Twp in Onon Co (FLF); four active nests Morrisville Swamp (GLC). Green Heron: roost counts include 35 Aug 13 Horseshoe Island in Oneida R (SM,MSR) and 14 Jul 24 Onon L (JWP). Only white heron for summer is a Snowy Egret at SP Aug 5–7 (R. Goodwin), first local record in three years. Black-crowned Night Heron: only report, two Jun 2 HIGMA (RJS)—very scarce. Least Bittern: two new locations—marshes at Utica (VB) and E Syr (FLF).

Mallard: with the wet spring, Jun rains, and rejuvenation of marshes, many successful duck broods noted, with many Mallard broods S of Syr, HIGMA and FR, Old Fly, and Scott and Clay Swamps; flocking by late Jul—200 Jul 23 FR (MSR), 118 Aug 11 Old Fly (FLF). Black Duck: scarce thru summer, few broods noted; max 60 flying birds Jul 28 FR. Gadwall: two broods (five and six) Jun 1 HIGMA (G. Smith) and a female with six young FR Jul 23 (MSR). Green-winged Teal: three-four noted regularly at FR and HIGMA (mob) and Old Fly; arr (P) Jul 9 Onon L; max 65 Jul 28 FR. Shoveler: regular in small numbers (two-five) FR; two Jul 30 Onon L (FGS) are either wanderers or early migrants. Redhead: regular at FR, probably spill-over from HIGMA birds. Ruddy Duck: two-three per day FR Jul 28–Aug 10—? summering birds, nearby breeders, early migrants?

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: sighted several times N of Cato (*vide* B. Burt), and one HVGMA in Jun (L. Chamberlaine)—both areas from which there have been occasional sightings heretofore. Sharp-shinned Hawk: none in entire summer, even in Adirondacks. Cooper's Hawk: one adult with one young in SE Onon Co Jul 15–16 (RJS,FLF); one other, an adult, Jul 4 in N Oneida Co (CGS). Red-tailed Hawk: the apparently stable Buteo locally—one-four per day with majority around HIGMA and S and extreme N Onon Co (mob). Red-shouldered Hawk: singles in SE Onon Co and three THP sightings, one of an adult with imm; no records from Seneca R floodplain woodlots where formerly a common raptor. Broad-winged Hawk: seven sightings, all singles, in THP and sub-THP. Bald Eagle: adult flying over farm at Wampsville Aug 18 (B&SP, E. VanDresar), only report. Marsh Hawk: pair seen repeatedly along Mohawk R marshes (DWA, M. Stooks); singles only at HIGMA (TMR), Canastota (B&SP), near Williamstown (MSR), and near Pompey (FLF); unreported from Scott and Clay Swamps and from the open farm country along the S shore of Oneida L, all former breeding sites. Osprey: nesting in N Herkimer Co with at least two young in nest (EJF)—first recent Regional nesting record; one at FR Jun 2 (FLF,RJS) probably a late migrant. Sparrow Hawk: repeated sightings at approximately 40 sites with about six broods reported, primarily at periphery of Syr and S of Syr (mob).

Virginia Rail: adult with three young TRGMA Jul 7 (FGS). Sora: somewhat better numbers—multiple sightings of one-three per day, max three Jun 10 Lewis Pt Rd, Lenox Twp in Madison Co (DWA). Common Gallinule: two dozen including many young in Utica marsh late Jun (VB). Am. Woodcock: broods noted LJGMA and Pompey. Upland Plover: singles and pairs seen repeatedly in N Oneida Co (mob); max 56 Aug 3 Syr Airport (FGS).

Arrival dates and peak numbers for fall migrant shorebirds are summarized in the table below. The scarcity of Ruddy Turnstone, Greater Yellowlegs, and Pectoral Sandpiper is emphasized by the abundant Lesser Yellowlegs and the above average numbers of Stilt Sandpiper and Dowitcher.

	Arrival	Peak
Semipalmated Plover	Jul 13, 1, Onon L	27, Aug 10-15, Onon L
Killdeer		95, Jul 31, Syr
Golden Plover	Aug 15, 1, Park St dump	
Black-bellied Plover	Aug 6, 1, Onon L	3, Aug 10-13, Onon L
Ruddy Turnstone	Jul 28, 1, Onon L	13, Aug 4, SP
Spotted Sandpiper	Jul 2, 2, Onon L	40, Jul 28, FR-HIGMA
Solitary Sandpiper	Jul 10, 1, HIGMA	5, Aug 13-15, Syr
Greater Yellowlegs	Jul 6, 2, Syr	15, Jul 18, Onon L
Lesser Yellowlegs	Jul 2, 16, Onon L	265, Aug 11, Syr
Knot	Jul 28, 1, HIGMA	
Pectoral Sandpiper	Jul 14, 1, Syr	20, Aug 2-10, Syr
White-rumped Sandpiper	Aug 11, 1, Park St dump	4, Aug 12, Onon L
Baird's Sandpiper	Aug 14, 2, Syr	
Least Sandpiper	Jul 4, 1, Onon L	60, Jul 18, Onon L
Short-billed Dowitcher	Jul 6, 6, Onon L	11, Jul 23, FR
Stilt Sandpiper	Jul 13, 1, Syr	7, Aug 10, Syr
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Jul 14, 1, Syr	450, Aug 1-10, Park St dump
Sanderling	Jul 18, 1, Onon L	60, Jul 28, FHBSP, and Aug 4, SP
Wilson's Phalarope	Jul 4-5, ad female, Onon L	1, Aug 8-14, Syr 2, Aug 10, FR

Whimbrel: one Aug 5-6 SP inlet (R. Goodwin) the only fall record to date; becoming increasingly uncommon. Ruff: single male Jul 25-26 Onon L (D.B. Peakall, JWP) is only report—no breeding-plumage males seen.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Aug 3 (MSR), max 70 Aug 4 (FLF,RJS), both SP. Black Tern: N Syr colony successful with 15+ pairs, but in danger of oblivion from expanding shopping center; nesting farther east in Region—Utica marsh (VB); max 70 E end of Oneida L Aug 13 (DWA). Mourning Dove: many young widely reported; especially heavy concentration in HIGMA and FR (28 Jun 13), Syr Airport, and N Cayuga and N Onon Co (30 Jun 23). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 17 individuals, primarily in Jun and Jul, from 18 observers. Black-billed Cuckoo: 28 individuals, also from 18 observers, a slight increase from last year.

Barn Owl: Syr pair reared at least one young (RJS, L. Bement). Screech Owl: seven for entire summer—reduced calling, or a real population drop? Great Horned Owl: successful nestings at Utica (two, *fide* VB), Syr (one); reported regularly at Pompey (FLF), Skan (TMR). Barred Owl: pair with one young near Labrador Pond near Tully (FLF,RJS)—a new breeding site. Saw-whet Owl: dazed, chocolate-plumaged imm found at Syr Jul 9 (*fide* B. Burt), probably a locally-reared bird; only Adirondack record, dead adult Jul 6 near McKeever, Herkimer Co (CGS).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: max four Boonville (KGH); extremely scarce otherwise and many sites near Syr occupied five years ago are now without them. Common Nighthawk: max eight per evening (low) at Syr; also reported Utica, Ilion, Oneida, Rome; still none at non-urban sites. Chimney Swift: two-20 per day, primarily from Syr, Utica, and Oneida; 28 per day in early Jul around Oneida L and in N Oneida Co (CGS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one-four per day with the higher numbers from THP and N Herkimer Co.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: ten-14 per day as summer max. Pileated Woodpecker: confirmed nesting at Carpenter Pond near Pompey (FLF); new sites in S Syr, near N Victory, in Victory Twp in Cayuga Co, at Salmon R Reservoir, in Cheese Factory Gulf in Pompey Twp, and on Woodmancy Rd near Tully—increasing as woodlots mature and undoubtedly helped by large food supply created by dying elm stands. Red-bellied Woodpecker: pair with one young Camillus Aug 1 (FGS); newly re-

ported at Gully Rd near Skan (TMR)—? expansion from the colony at N end of Otisco L? Red-headed Woodpecker: individuals located in three segments of Region—open woodlots and pastures around Oneida (DWA, A. Carter), oak-hickory stands along L Ontario (SM,MRS), and farmed areas of the Onon escarpment and valleys to the south—but very scarce in majority of L Ontario lowlands; pair with young in nest Stittville, Oneida Co Aug 17 (A. Steinbaker). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: definite breeding Tully (max nine Jul 10, JWP) and THP; numerous reports from sub-THP sites, wooded areas around Pompey and Fabius (FLF) and Eaton (GLC). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: only summer record adult female in spruce swamp slashings at Old Forge Jun 16 (DWA, P. Paquette, FGS). Downy Woodpecker: down by 75% on F&WBBSs by JWP, this in spite of the increase in local food supply—this is a species to be watched.

Eastern Kingbird: first migrants Jul 11 THP; max 32 Aug 1 THP and SSSP combined (FGS). Great Crested Flycatcher: three-eight per day thru Jun and Jul, up slightly. Eastern Phoebe: still scarce thru majority of area but better numbers (11–15 per day) from N Oneida Co (SM) and central Herkimer Co (KGH). Trail's Flycatcher: summer max five "webeo" and nine "fitzbew" (MSR); actually quite scarce as five years ago one could hear 20–30 per day, particularly "fitzbews," without trying. Least Flycatcher: max 20 THP Jun 15; lesser counts (one-ten per day) in woodlots around Syr, Tully, and Pompey. Eastern Wood Pewee: incredibly scarce as breeder this summer—max a mere ten (combined tally) from CV and Otisco Jun 9 (MSR); most observers had only one-six per day. Olive-sided Flycatcher: returned to LJGMA but breeding success unknown; one-three per day in N Herkimer Co; also noted Jun 27 at Hillsboro, Oneida Co (CGS,SM) in the sub-THP where it is quite rare.

Tree Swallow: small concentrations (23–50 per day) at Clay Swamp, SP, HIGMA, Old Fly, S shore of Oneida L; the recent Martin house craze seems to be of some help to Tree Swallows (FLF) but still many former backyard sites are deserted this year; a cold weather kill of young Tree Swallows noted at Big Moose L (EJF). Bank Swallow: active colonies noted at Thendara in Herkimer Co—60 holes—and near Constantia—46 (CGS); a new small colony—30—at Pompey (FLF); 500+ holes in Clay (MSR); flocking first noted FR, with 250 birds Jul 23 (MSR). Barn Swallow: abundantly and widely noted with counts of 20–40 per day; many successful nestings reported; fate of Adirondacks broods unknown but apparently no late Jun cold weather kill as with Tree Swallows (EJF). Cliff Swallow: unreported in southern highlands where formerly there were five small (four-ten pair) colonies; in N Oneida Co 97 nests in 12 colonies and SE and E of Oneida L 35 nests in five colonies (both CGS). Purple Martin: best tally is 250 Aug 4 Rainbow Shores, Oswego Co (FLF).

White-breasted Nuthatch: summer counts of six-eight per day; max 17 Jul 7 near Big Moose (MSR); in Syr area, numbers up also—undoubtedly benefitting from the dying elm condition. Red-breasted Nuthatch: new breeding site Shackham Rd in Fabius Twp (FLF,JWP,RJS); also two new THP sites—Otto Mills and Redfield, and at HVGMA in sub-THP (FLF,RJS)—all in pine-spruce plantations. Brown Creeper: nine in a mile Jun 21 Cicero Swamp (MSR) where formerly only one-two per day. House Wren: some increase—11–12 per F&WBBS; 25 in 40 mi N Onon Co Jun 25 (CGS); 25 HIGMA Jul 10 (FLF). Winter Wren: summer max seven LJGMA Jun 20 (FGS). Long-billed Marsh Wren: 14–22 per day Scott Swamp (JWP), 15 Clay Swamp Jun 25 (CGS), and ten Utica marsh (VB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: small colonies at Toad Harbor Rd near W Monroe (CGS) and Utica marsh (VB) with three and two singing birds respectively; apparently absent from L Ontario shore marshes this year—high water? Mockingbird: one Jun 8 SP dunes (FLF,RJS), a new location, probably a post-nesting stray. Catbird: summer max 32 Clay-to-Lysander survey Jun 25 (SM), 30 HIGMA Jul 10 (FLF), 32 THP-SSSP

Aug 1 (FGS). Brown Thrasher: one-three per day regularly in THP and Ohio Twp in Herkimer Co in suitable brushy habitat.

Robin: abundant and an impressive number of broods; 105 individuals on Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH); early flocking Aug 1 with 250+ noted in THP (FGS). Hermit Thrush: only one-13 per day thru summer but with numerous locations in Pompey-Apulia area, and especially Vienna-Boonville-Forestport area with 13 Jul 4 (SM). Swainson's Thrush: one-five per day in THP of E Oswego Co; also one near Cleveland (where rare breeder) Jun 27 (FGS); 15 on Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH). Veery: abundant THP and sub-THP with 15-35 per day; 31 Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH); lesser numbers Pompey, Tully, CV. Eastern Bluebird: small numbers and families from farmed fringes of THP, mainly E Oswego and N Oneida Co; very scarce in Onon Co despite efforts to encourage them there.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: new locations Wampsville (B&SP) and Tully L (JWP). Golden-crowned Kinglet: adult feeding young Shackham Rd Aug 10-11 (JWP); one bird Cicero Swamp Jun 21 (MSR)—both notable as this species is rare away from the Adirondacks and the most boreal sectors of THP. Loggerhead Shrike: singles Apulia Station Jul 15 and Pompey Aug 11 (both FLF), and one Aug 8 Van Buren Twp in Onon Co (K. Beres)—the last two could be early migrants.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: four-seven per day in THP, usually confined to mature beech woods or maple-edged riverine areas; Finger Lakes' valleys and L Ontario lowland counts three-four per day (low). Solitary Vireo: one-four per day in THP; two HVGMA (CGS,SM). Red-eyed Vireo: high counts mostly from THP with ten-28 per day. Warbling Vireo: summer max 13 Clay-to-Lysander survey Jun 25 (CGS) and 28 (very high) S shore of Oneida L Jun 13 (MSR).

Warblers: Black-and-white: CV max two, scarce; summer max eight Big Moose Jun 1 and N Oneida Co Jul 4 (SM,MSR). Golden-winged: sighted at HVGMA Jun 27 but not where previously located; new location just S of Salmon R reservoir Jun 8 (RJS). Blue-winged: one with Brewster's mate feeding two young Blue-winged Aug 1 CV; also a Blue-winged feeding young Brewster's same area subsequently (FGS, JWP). Nashville: max five in Rome Sand Plains and adjacent Vienna Twp in Oneida Co in sub-THP; noted Shackham Rd where scarce but expected (RJS). Parula: very scarce—never more than two-four per day in Adirondacks. Yellow: 40+ Clay-to-Lysander survey Jun 25 (CGS), 45 HVGMA Jul 2 (RJS); first migrants Jul 7 N Syr (FGS). Magnolia: one-three per day in conifer plantations of Fabius Twp (JWP, FLF); eight-ten per day in E Oswego Co THP; 20+ Big Moose area Jun 1 (MSR); two fledglings being fed Jun 29 Constantia Twp in Oswego Co (CGS). Black-throated Blue: three-eight per day in E Oswego Co THP; max 22 (very good!) Jun 29 Moose R Mt. trail near Thendara (KGH); unreported from southern highlands where most other local northern warblers have been noted. Myrtle: reported in Fabius Twp along Herlihy Rd (FLF) and at Highland Forest (W.F. Minor); at least two new sites in HVGMA Jun 27 and widely reported thru THP and sub-THP but only in conifer plantations (mob); we have yet to locate natural-site breeding Myrtle Warblers in the Oswego Co section of THP. Black-throated Green: max 18 Fabius Twp Jul 20 (JWP); THP counts only four-12 per day (low); one Whiskey Hollow near Baldwinsville Jun 23 (MSR) is the only one away from Adirondacks, THP, and southern highlands.

Cerulean Warbler: singing males Oneida R and Cold Spring at N end of Oneida L. both Jun 14 (MSR). Blackburnian: one Jun 9 Gully Rd near Skan (A. Hogsholm, MSR) may be a breeder; counts of four-12 per day from Redfield and Williams-town Twps in THP; five HVGMA Jun 27 in both natural hemlock stands and conifer plantations; seven-15 per day in Old Forge-Big Moose area—seemed scarce there as it is often one of the top five warblers. Chestnut-sided: common—six-17 per day in THP and sub-THP with most counts by foot travel rather than car censusing; 24 in N Oneida Co Jul 4 (CGS); 20-25 per day in post-lumbered areas Big Moose-Still-

water; 20 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS. Ovenbird: scarce—one-seven per day in THP; 32 by car survey (50+ mi) of Oneida L N shore woods Jun 29 (CGS,MSR); only one-four per day (scarce) in southern highlands (JWP,FLF). Northern Waterthrush: like Ovenbird, very scarce with one-four per day in both the swamps of the southern highlands (FLF,MSR) and the alder thickets of THP (FGS); first migrants Aug 2 N Syr. Louisiana Waterthrush: four Frankfort Gorge Jun 4 (VB) is a good summer tally; now scarce in gorges near Tully (JWP).

Mourning Warbler: THP max eight in three and a half miles Jun 20 (FGS)—probably will increase even further with the present lumbering of deciduous woods of Redfield Twp; numerous pairs noted around Tully, CV, Whiskey Hollow, Mohawk in Herkimer Co, and HVGMA. Yellowthroat: 74 on Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH); however, most observers thought this species reduced—50% reduction on two F&WBBSs (JWP), max count of seven near Pompey (FLF); also only 26 in 40-mi Clay-to-Lysander survey (CGS) and sub-THP max 16 (low) Jun 27 (CGS); however, 34 on Kasoag F&WBBS in THP (MSR). Yellow-breasted Chat: singles TRGMA Jul 1 (JWP) and HVGMA Jul 13 (FLF,RJS), making six known sites this spring and summer. Hooded Warbler: max eight Redfield Twp Jul 11 (DWA, P. Paquette); a new site on Otto Mills Rd also in Redfield Twp Jun 20 (FGS); *unreported* at other previously known sites. Canada Warbler: max 26 (very high) in one mile of walking in Cicero Swamp Jun 21 (MSR); THP max nine (low) in two miles Jun 20 Otto Mills Rd; high counts eight-12 per day in some other locales—N shore of Oneida L, Big Moose area—but most other counts two-six per day with particularly low counts in southern highlands of Fabius and Tully Twps. Am. Redstart: rather scarce as breeding bird in wooded areas at periphery of Syr and in southern highlands, with range of only one-eight per day (mob); sub-THP and THP numbers seem to be holding up—12–31 per day with max 47 LJGMA Jun 23 (FLF,RJS), but Adirondack counts are disturbingly low—five in nine miles of walking at Big Moose and 12 (very low) Old Forge to Stillwater; however, KGH had 23 on Alder Creek F&WBBS.

ICTERIDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 30 on Alder Creek F&WBBS (KGH) and 32 on N Victory F&WBBS (JWP). Eastern Meadowlark: 12–36 per F&WBBS; scarce at Syr Airport, probably secondary to repeated mowing. Red-winged Blackbird: flocks of 10,000+ in late Jul in HIGMA-FR area. Brown-headed Cowbird: 30 per day at LJGMA Jun 15, the only icterid that can make a success of the wooded THP.

Scarlet Tanager: nine-16 per day N shore of Oneida L and sub-THP. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 Jul 10 N Herkimer Co (KGH) and Aug 10 Woodmancy Rd (JWP). Evening Grosbeak: two-ten per day thru summer at Old Forge and Big Moose (mob); no THP reports. Purple Finch: multiple pairs in ornamental spruces in and around Syr and in N Cayuga Co; occasional pairs in deciduous woods in L. Ontario lowlands; THP max ten (low) Jul 11 (FGS); 20 per day in Adirondacks (KGH,MSR). Pine Siskin: 24–30 per day in Old Forge-Big Moose Jun 1–16 (mob); none noted thereafter. Eastern Goldfinch: phenomenally abundant with 25–70 per day regularly reported panregionally; max 90 HIGMA Jul 10 (FLF).

Rufous-sided Towhee: 24 on Kasoag F&WBBS; other THP counts seven-16 per day. Grasshopper Sparrow: 21 sites; site max is six at Rome Air Force Base Jul 9 (CGS); Syr Airport numbers reduced by repeated mowings (three-four pairs). Henslow's Sparrow: 16 sites including four in Tully areas; site max six New London Jul 19 (B&SP); both this and Grasshopper Sparrow seem up from last year. Slate-colored Junco: 35 in Fabius Twp Jul 20 (JWP) is a good count; THP numbers less—eight-15 per day (mob). Chipping Sparrow: 48 along N shore of Oneida L Jun 29 and 50 in N Oneida Co Jul 4—definitely in good numbers this summer. Field Sparrow: max 98 (high) on Alder Creek F&WBBS. White-throated Sparrow: seven-14 per day in THP and five per day in sub-THP on one day; multiple sightings at Carpenter Pond and Old Fly. Lincoln's Sparrow: two along railroad track between

Big Moose and Stillwater Reservoir Jul 7 (MSR). Song Sparrow: 105 on N Victory F&WBBS, up 40 from previous tallies; however most other F&WBBSs reported numbers similar to previous years.

CORRIGENDA: Vol. 18, No. 3 (July 1968), p. 160, top line, Peak day for Turkey Vulture should be Apr 13; p. 163, Nashville Warbler peak should be May 20.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

Localities: ED—Eldorado; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; WHGMA—Wilson Hill Game Management Area; TH—Tug Hill.

Observers: JB—John Belknap; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; RW—Robert Walker.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: ED Jun 25 in winter plumage; Cranberry L Jul 5-7; and near Wellsley Is. Great Blue Heron: 21 nests at PRGMA Jul 4, only six seemed active with 12 young, numbers down appreciably from last year (DG). (This heronry is in a game management area where the depth of water has been maintained at a depth greater than normal for several years. The elm and maple trees are dead or nearly so. As the trees rot and are blown over there are less nesting sites and the area becomes more exposed, it must be less attractive for breeding herons—FC). Black-crowned Night Heron: two PRGMA Aug 1.

Canada Goose: Perch L goose drive to band flightless geese resulted in capture of 98 birds including about 35 goslings Jul 8. The WHGMA drive Jul 9 produced 924 birds including 336 goslings. Blue Goose: one captured WHGMA Jul 9, photographed. Mallard: 341 Mallards banded at PRGMA out of a total of 696 ducks banded, 20 nests at PRGMA of which 10 hatched successfully. Black Duck: 239 banded at PRGMA. Gadwall: male ED Jun 25 DG. Pintail: three banded at WHGMA, one at PRGMA; successful nesting at PRGMA. Green-winged Teal: 28 banded at PRGMA, more than usual this year; 12 at PRGMA Jun 12 (RW). Blue-winged Teal: 45 banded at PRGMA; breeding at PRGMA and Honeyville. American Widgeon: WHGMA Jul 9. Wood Duck: 42 banded at PRGMA. Greater Scaup: one ED Jul 31, perhaps sick or injured (DG). Hooded Merganser: nest in Wood Duck box, 7 eggs abandoned, Honeyville. (Most of information about ducks and geese from LC.)

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: only one at a time mostly in the northern half of Region; they seem less common than last year—no evidence of breeding. Goshawk: nest with two young at Minna Anthony Common Nature Centre, Wellesley Is. (Wakefield). Broad-winged Hawk: Wanakena and near Watertown, both Jun 8. Bald Eagle: two adults along Indian River near Theresa Jul 20-21. Gray Partridge: first broods seen Jun 5, early; appear to have a good breeding season.

Most of following shore birds were seen at ED. Semipalmated Plover: Jul 31, Aug 7-15. Ruddy Turnstone: Jul 31, Aug 7-12. Solitary Sandpiper: Aug 7 at Ed where it is seldom seen. Greater Yellowlegs: Aug 7. Lesser Yellowlegs Jul 31, Aug 7-12. Knot: Aug 12 fall plumage. Pectoral Sandpiper: Aug 1 at PRGMA and Aug 8 at ED. Least Sandpiper: Jul 31, Aug 7-12. Short-billed Dowitcher: Aug 7. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Jul 31 to Aug 15. Sanderling: Jul 31 to Aug 15. Bonaparte's Gull one at ED Jun 25 in changing plumage: nine at ED Jul 6, one ED Aug 7.