

Prairie Warbler: regularly thru Jun to Jul 3 Vestal Center (Elizabeth and Newell Washburn). Ovenbird: (34-6). Northern Waterthrush: (1-1), Coventryville BBS; 2 Aug 10 Sherburne (R,SW). Louisiana Waterthrush: Jul 28 Delhi (LC). Kentucky Warbler: Jun 8 Endwell (LB), song and all field marks at about 30 feet—2nd one in Bing area this year. Mourning Warbler: Jun 21 Andes (EF,MC, et al), the only one all summer. Yellowthroat: (187-7). Yellow-breasted Chat: Jun 13 Bing (LB). Canada Warbler: (2-2); 6 other reports. American Redstart: (38-6).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: House Sparrow: (199-6). Bobolink: (116-7). Eastern Meadowlark: (126-7). Redwinged Blackbird: (1476-7). Orchard Oriole: the pair reported at Bing in the previous issue present to at least Jun 12 (LB, W. Sutliff, R. Smith). Baltimore Oriole: (44-7), 18 on Delhi BBS, where there were "more than the usual" (LC)—still the overall total doesn't seem up to general impressions. Common Grackle: (360-7), 225 on Cooperstown BBS, but only 5 on Delhi BBS and 7 on McDonough BBS (Claude Howard). Brown-headed Cowbird: (52-6). Scarlet Tanager: (32-7). Cardinal: (18-5), missing from Cooperstown and Delhi BBS. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (19-7). Indigo Bunting: (34-5). Purple Finch: (15-3), 12 on Cooperstown BBS; "nesting somewhere" around Candor (DW). American Goldfinch: (147-7). Rufous-sided Towhee: (139-7). Savannah Sparrow: (54-6); at Delhi "fewer than usual" (LC). Grasshopper Sparrow: (3-2). Henslow's Sparrow: (1-1), Coventryville BBS; still singing at Choconut Center, 2 miles north of Johnson City, Aug 10 (RS,MS). Vesper Sparrow: (12-2). Slate-colored Junco: (5-1), Oxford BBS; 6 at Pharsalia Jul 12 (R,SW). Chipping Sparrow: (150-7). Field Sparrow: (98-7). White-throated Sparrow: (16-3); 10 singing at Pharsalia Jun 8 and 7 Jul 2 (R,SW); at Andes Jun 21 (EF,MC, et al). Song Sparrow: (358-7).

710 University Ave., Endwell, New York, 13760

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

Early June was warm, green, and fresh with the abundant rain of April and May. An almost idyllic three weeks of decent weather ended in a five-day spell in late June of protracted cold, high winds, and chilling rain, undoubtedly ruining many nestings, particularly amongst swallows, vireos, and warblers. Early July rapidly warmed up, and muggy nights and mosquito days were common in the first two weeks. By July 10 shorebird and early landbird migration had begun. Few areas of shorebird habitat were present by July 15, but a four-week dry spell engendered a fair supply of mud-rimmed ponds and marshes by mid-August. The promise of an early landbird migration, however, was completely wiped away by the continuous hot weather and southerly winds of early August, and no migrant warblers other than Yellow Warblers and American Redstarts were detected by the end of the period.

Extensive breeding bird investigations were undertaken in the Oswego County portion of the Tug Hill Plateau, the highlands of southern Madison and Onondaga Counties, and the southwestern Adirondacks above Old Forge and Big Moose. All of the nine regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys were covered this year, and the data accruing from these and other indicated explorations produced a wealth of information in suspected but, until now, undocumented distribution.

Positives for the summer include 1) an upswing in the locations of Upland Plover; 2) spread of Red-bellied Woodpecker and increase in Red-headed Woodpecker; 3) excellent tallies of Least Flycatcher and a panregional influx of Cedar Waxwing;

4) some increase in warblers numbers on the U.S. F&WBBS and excellent counts of same from the Tug Hill Plateau and the southern highlands; 5) an apparent increase in Baltimore Oriole and Scarlet Tanager; and 6) increasing numbers of breeding Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Lincoln's Sparrows.

Negatives are unfortunately many—1) severe losses in the largest local Great Blue Heron colony and some attrition in others; 2) no white herons or Black-crowned Night Heron for the entire period; 3) continued decline, virtually to extirpation, of Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Marsh Hawks; 4) no improvement in the dismal cuckoo situation; 5) a continued drop in both local goatsuckers and in Ruby-throated Hummingbird; 6) a sharp decline in certain marsh and swamp passerines—Traill's Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Long-billed Marsh Wren; 7) extremely low Bluebird counts; 8) the complete loss of the Ontario lakeplain Hooded Warbler colonies; and 9) a reduction in numbers of fringillids of disparate habitat—Indigo Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow.

Rare aves of the period include Rough-legged Hawk, Whimbrel, Willet, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruff, Franklin's Gull, Gray Jay, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and White-winged Crossbill.

Abbreviations: Places: CV—Camillus Valley; FHBSP—Fair Haven Beach State Park; FR—Fox Ridge sugar beet waste impoundments near Port Byron; HIGMA—Howland 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; Syr—Syracuse; THP—Tug Hill Plateau. Others: F&WBBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 25-mile breeding bird survey—Alder Creek Jul 1 by KGH, Cicero Ctr Jun 20 by JWP, Clinton Jun 21 by SM, Kasoag Jun 10 by MSR, McKeever Jul 9 by KGH, N Victory Jun 11 by JWP, N Wilmurt Jun 11 by FGS, Oneida by B&SP, and Oriskany Falls by C&E Farnham.

Observers: DWA—D. W. Ackley; VB—V. Billings; GLC—G. L. Church; DC—D. Crumb; EE—E. Evans; FLF—F. LaFrance; KGH—K. G. Hanson; GM—G. Maxwell; SM—S. Morgan; B&SP—B. & S. Peebles; JWP—J. W. Propst; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; GS—G. Smith; RJS—R. J. Sutliff.

The editors wish to thank the many observers for their data and particular thanks must be given to D. Crumb, F. LaFrance, J. W. Propst, and R. J. Sutliff for aid in the compilation of the numerous reports.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Aug 5 Oneida L (DS) is undoubtedly a summering bird. Pied-billed Grebe: new location at Rice Creek near Oswego (GM); up to ten per day at FR (RJS,FLF). Great Blue Heron: the largest Regional colony, at Cross L, was virtually wiped out this year by a tornado—only surviving young were two in one nest and one each in two others (SM); at Scott Swamp near Phoenix 19 nests had a total of 47 young (SM); at Morrisville Swamp 24 nests had 60 young (GLC); the Old Fly colony (in Pompey) was halved (from seven to four active nests) by windstorm (FLF); also a newly discovered colony of about 20 active nests at Brookfield (GLC). Green Heron: about 60 at Utica marsh Jul 27 (VB) is period max. No Black-crowned Night Heron nor white heron for entire period. Least Bittern: max 4 Utica marsh Jul 27 (VB); 1 each at FR and FHBSP, both new sites.

Canada Goose: summer max 105 Jul 30 HIGMA (RJS); nesting success there fair. Mallard: good breeding success with many eight-to-ten duckling broods at HIGMA, FR, and Old Fly; flocking by early Aug with 50 Aug 5 at Oneida L. Black Duck: definitely down as a breeder—max 32 Aug 5 Salmon R (EE); very few broods noted, even at HIGMA-FR. Gadwall: max 8 HIGMA-FR Jun 16; none away from there. Green-winged Teal: summer max 9 males and 1 female FR Jun 22; arr Aug 14, 2 Onon L. American Widgeon: max 3 FR Jul 19 (FLF,RJS); unreported elsewhere. Shoveler: 1 Aug 4 Onon L is early arr (MSR). Wood Duck: summer max 28

HIGMA-FR Aug 2 (GS): fall counts will be interesting, as breeding success seemed low this year.

Summering diving ducks include a male Ring-necked Duck at FR; Canvasback Jul 9 Torpy Pond in Madison Co (FLF) and Common Merganser Oneida L Aug 11 (DWA). Ruddy Duck: 3 males and 2 females FR Jun 16 with lesser tallies to Jul 6—are they breeding in that area or are they Montezuma NWR spillovers?

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: singles at HVGMA Jun 8 (FGS); Centerville Jun 20 (EE); and Hannibal Jul 8 (FLF); the last east of the N Cayuga Co population; there is a distinct hiatus for this species between Oswego and Pulaski on the lake plain. Goshawk: singles at Pineville, a sub-THP (i.e. S of Rt. 13 but north of Oneida Lake) location, Jun 25 (JWP); and one near Big Moose Jun 18 (FGS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one bird Navarino Jul 22 (GS)—from 20 observers—absolutely dismal. Cooper's Hawk: 2 Peterboro Jul 1 (FLF), and Jamesville Jul 14 (DC) from 20 observers—equally dismal—both small accipiters are near extirpation as breeders here.

Red-tailed Hawk: small numbers (1–4 per day) thru summer, with max 8 Jun 2 near Eaton (GLC); an ad and an imm near Big Moose are unusual as the habitat there is most atypical for this species. Red-shouldered Hawk: eight locations of 1–2 birds this summer—4 in THP; 2 in S Madison Co; 1 at HIGMA; and 1 near Utica—now unreported from all the wooded swamps of the Ontario lake plain. Broad-winged Hawk: widely reported, primarily from Adirondacks, THP, and S Onon and Madison Co; also noted at Sandy Creek, Pineville, and HVGMA. *ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK*: light-phase bird Jul 8 at Syr Airport (FGS) and the same or a second bird at Pompey Jul 21 and Aug 3 (DC) is unprecedented—first summer records! Bald Eagle: an adult Jun 21 Oneida L (Duane Morgan) is only report. Marsh Hawk: 4 reports from hill country sectors—THP and S Madison Co—and only 2 from the Ontario lake plain—Deer Creek 1 male, FHBSP a pair (MSR); like Red-shouldered Hawk, virtually gone from the L Ontario marshes and Seneca R lowlands. Osprey: Big Moose L pair returned—breeding success unknown. Sparrow Hawk: local numbers appear to be holding up with 8 plus broods reported; appears to be fairly common in sub-THP and Ontario lake plain, quite, the reverse of the other hawks.

Coot: 1 Jul 27 Utica marsh (VB) is most unusual; also 2 at FR Jul 4—this species is very scarce at HIGMA-FR in contrast to its abundance at Montezuma NWR.

Breeding shorebirds: Woodcock: 1 still sky-dancing Jun 26 Toad Harbor on Oneida L (MSR). Common Snipe: 2 near Oswego Jul 7 (GM) and 1 Jun 13 Nine Mile Pt on L Ontario (MSR) represent new locations and are most unusual on the Ontario lake plain; none noted in either the Pimpey area or the Oswego Co portion of THP. Upland Plover: widely noted and with increased frequency—new locations are on Alder Creek F&WBBS, near Salisbury, and in Onon Co at Brewerton, Jamesville, and Apulia; repeated sightings near Caughdenoy and Pompey Center, and 4 on Clinton F&WBBS at Frankfort; 1 migrating S Jun 26 (extremely early) near Jewell.

Shorebird rarities: *WHIMBREL*: 4 on Jul 27 Onon L (RJS, FGS) are most unusual. *WILLET*: 1 Jul 3–5 Onon L, a very large bird—? western race (FGS, mob). *HUDSONIAN GODWIT*: ad female in breeding plumage Jun 13 SP inlet (MSR, mob) is first Regional spring record. *RUFF*: ad male in winter plumage Aug 4–11 Onon L (MSR, mob). Wilson's Phalarope: only 1 reported, Aug 6–7 Onon L (FGS, mob).

Migrant shorebirds listel below with arr and period max as indicated: Semipalmated Plover: arr Jul 10 1 SP (FGS); max 15 Aug 11 Onon L (RJS). Killdeer: summer max 112 Aug 12 Fernwood (FGS). Golden Plover: arr Aug 10 1 Fernwood (MSR); max 11 Aug 14 Fernwood (DC, FGS). Black-bellied Plover: arr Aug 11 Fernwood (JWP). Ruddy Turnstone: arr Jul 28 2 Onon L (FGS); max 3 Aug 9 FHBSP (MSR). Spotted Sandpiper: max 33 Jul 21 Onon L (RJS). Solitary Sand-

piper: arr Jul 15 1 Bolivar (MSR); max 3 Aug 3 Bolivar (MSR). Greater Yellowlegs: arr Jul 3 1 Onon L (JWP); max 17 (large number for so early) Aug 10 Fernwood (MSR). Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Jul 2 2 Onon L (GS); max 280 Jul 18 Onon L (JWP). Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Jul 17 3 Onon L (GS); max 6 Jul 28 and Aug 8 both Onon L (FGS,FLF)—very scarce. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Aug 6 1 Onon L (GS); max 3 Aug 7 Onon L (JWP,FGS). Least Sandpiper: arr Jul 2 1 Onon L (FGS); max 174 Jul 21 Onon L (RJS). Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Jul 9 6 Nine Mile Pt, with matched max 6 Jul 19 FR (RJS)—very scarce this fall. Stilt Sandpiper: arr Jul 17 1 Onon L (RJS); max 19 Aug 9 Onon L (S. Hosler, GS)—a very high count and particularly so when compared with the scarcity of Short-billed Dowitchers! Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Jul 17 1 Onon L (RJS)—late; max 310 Aug 7 Onon L (JWP). Sanderling: arr Jul 19 1 SP (FLF,RJS); max 50 Aug 10 SP (MSR).

Ring-billed Gull: summer max 1100 Jun 17 SP inlet; almost entirely subadults. *FRANKLIN'S GULL*: an ad in breeding plumage Jun 8 Nine Mile Pt impoundment (JWP) is first Regional record in five years. Bonaparte's Gull: present thru summer at SP (max 7 Jun 13), Delta L (4 Aug 15, VB), Oneida L (20 Aug 11, DWA). Common Tern: 300+ birds in marsh-based colony at Hart Is, SP (M. Sunderlin, W. Lloyd). Black Tern: max 45 SP colony; 12 at N Syr; smaller groups (4-7) at Sage Creek and Grindstone Creek marshes on L Ontario; and 2 at Utica marsh Jun 12.

Mourning Dove: summer max 45 Fayetteville Jun 20 (MSR); many Jun nestings ruined by windstorms. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 19 individuals reported in period from 20 observers—still quite scarce. Black-billed Cuckoo: 44 from 20 observers—up slightly from last year; new sites at Smartville, Williamstown, Rome, and Boonville (mob).

Barred Owl: after two years' absence, pair at Labrador Pond in S Onon Co (JWP). Great Horned Owl: new locations for individuals near Jewell (B&SP) and Clinton (SM,GS). Long-eared Owl: 1 calling vigorously near Elpis Jun 4 (JWP, MSR)—usually undetected in summer period.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Whip-poor-will: summer counts of this apparently disappearing species are 3 Rome Sand Plains Jun 24 (B&SP); 4 Jun 4 W Vienna Twp (JWP,MSR); 4 Jul 6 Boonville (KGH); 4 Gravesville (VB); and 1 near Oswego (GM—the last is most unusual as it is rare on the lake plain. Common Nighthawk: summer max only 6 Utica (VB); down in Syr with only 1-2 per evening in downtown. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very scarce thru summer—max 4 on several occasions in THP; some active observers saw *none* thru the period.

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 new stations near Boonville probably reflect increased observations there rather than a rise in numbers; 1 at Mycenae Jul 9 (MSR) probably does represent expansion locally. Red-bellied Woodpecker: nesting confirmed in CV (M. Thomas) and 3 birds (all new sites) on N Victory F&WBBS. Red-headed Woodpecker: some 26 sites located this year in peripheral areas about Oneida (DWA); at least 10 sites in hill country of S Onon and Madison Co (FLF, GS, GLC); also new sites at Ilion and Little Falls (KGH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: widely reported with counts of 14-15 per day in THP and SW Adirondacks (mob); a pair at HIGMA Jun 16 (FGS) may indicate regular breeding there.

Eastern Kingbird: first migrants Jul 11 Onon L (FGS). Eastern Phoebe: scarce on F&WBBSs—max 12 N Wilmurt, 4 Clinton, 6 McKeever, with most counts (surveys or daily) lower. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: dep Jun 9 Herlihy Rd in Fabius (FGS). Traill's Flycatcher: numbers seem down panregionally for both "fitzbeu" and "webeo" forms—max only 11 Jun 11 Forestport-Boonville; no other count over ten per day. Least Flycatcher: THP numbers excellent—71 in five miles of trail Redfield Twp. 27 in five miles LJGMA; Ontario lake plain counts lower—2 Cicero and 4 N Victory F&WBBS. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Jun 7 Oneida (B&SP) is dep date; pair in Boylston Twp is only THP record; LJGMA pair not present this year.

Tree Swallow: summer counts strikingly low, with counts of only 45 per day from both FR-HIGMA Jun 16 and Big Moose-Stillwater Jun 18 (FGS); most counts much lower and late summer flock counts are dismal—max 70 Jul 30 Big Moose (B. Barnum). Bank Swallow: newly counted active colonies—170 holes Victory Twp, 700 holes Camillus Twp, and 250 holes Fulton (all MSR), also 65- and 70-hole colonies near Erieville, 46 holes Nelson, and 37 holes Eaton (all FLF). Rough-winged Swallow: in decline locally—summer max at CV is only 2 (FGS); a few at Caughdenoy and Phoenix. Barn Swallow: *the* local swallow—many small (6–8 nests) “colonies” reported, and large flocks reported in late Jul and early Aug (e.g. 500 in an hour Jul 20). Cliff Swallow: newly noted colonies of 20 nests at Holland Patent (J&E VanDresar) and 4 nests at Georgetown (FLF); only Ontario lake plain colony noted this year is at Cicero Ctr (MSR).

GRAY JAY: an adult Jul 22 in N Herkimer Co (FGS) is only Regional record so far this year. Black-capped Chickadee: after huge fall flight of 1968 (but they did not return spring '69) very scarce as breeder—3–4 per day Jun 18–19 at Big Moose-Stillwater, and THP nearly as low with max 10–12 per day; 12–14 per day S Onon Co; notably absent from small mixed landbird flocks in early Aug. Boreal Chickadee: 2 newly found locations, Nick's Pond and Woods L in N Herkimer Co. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 3 breeding sites in plantations in S Onon and Madison Co; 5 pairs in THP, one of them in natural habitat near Redfield (the first natural conifer location known—as opposed to plantation conifer sites—in the Oswego Co part of the THP).

House Wren: max 25 Morrisville (A. Carter); numbers seem generally to be increasing from the low of 1966 and '67. Winter Wren: THP max 9 in five miles Redfield Twp; down somewhat in THP with most counts only 3–5 per day; numerous single birds from Onon Escarpment gullies—CV, Clark Reservation, and from wooded swamps of S Onon and Madison Co. Carolina Wren: 1 at Syr Jun 30 (D. Dawley) and 1 at Oswego Jul 6 (GM)—both new locations. Long-billed Marsh Wren: counts notably down—max 10 Scott Swamp, 4 Utica marsh, 3 Selkirk Shores State Park, 3 SP, 4 Clay Swamp. No Short-billed Marsh Wren. Mockingbird: a singing bird at Jamesville, a new location. Brown Thrasher: 15 on N Wilmurt and 9 on Kasoag F&WBBS; smaller numbers (1–3 per day) in brush-plantation areas of S Onon Co.

Robin: steady increase on Cicero Ctr F&WBBS; many other counts document increasing numbers, and counts of 35–50 per day were panregional. Wood Thrush: 20 Cicero Ctr and 21 N Victory F&WBBS, counts of 15–16 per day in Big Moose-Stillwater area attest to this bird's increase there; counts of 23 Alder Creek and 24 McKeever F&WBBS are also good. Hermit Thrush: numbers still increasing—13 singing birds in ten miles HVGMA (FGS); 26 on McKeever and 17 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS; 6 in 4.2 miles around Williamstown-Redfield; small numbers at Highland Forest in SE Onon Co Jun 9 and Spafford Jun 1 (MSR), the last a new location. Swainson's Thrush: dep date Jun 7 near Jamesville (DC); approximately 7–9 per 5 miles in multiple areas of Redfield Twp (FGS), up somewhat from previous years; newly located on road to Jerseyfield L in Salisbury Twp Herkimer Co (MSR). Veery: counts thru summer fair—33 in ten miles HVGMA; 33 in five miles Redfield Twp; 22 on Kasoag F&WBBS; 10–14 per day from southern highlands wooded swamps and even from plantation situations (normally Hermit Thrush habitat) at Highland Forest, Herlihy Rd, and Georgetown (FLF). Eastern Bluebird: still very scarce—3 pairs had 5 broods at Taberg (Lynes fide H. Aspinwall); small numbers (3–5 per day) in N Oneida Co and E central Herkimer Co; 1 pair with 2 broods at Jamesville (DC) is only breeding report from S Onon Co; very scarce in THP with only 1 nesting pair reported (FGS).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: newly located at Peterboro Jul 1–2 (FLF,RJS); summer max 10 in  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile CV Aug 2 undoubtedly represents multiple broods. Golden-crowned Kinglet: pairs in four separate sites in Fabius Twp, in each case utilizing thick 30-year-old spruce plantations (JWP,FLF); also found in similar plantation

sites at HVGMA and in at least two such areas in Redfield and Boylston Twp (FGS); also found in natural spruce bog near Boonville (MSR). Cedar Waxwing: comments range from "common" to "everywhere"—summer counts of 30–75 per day thru Jun with 300 Jun 9 at Boonville (JWP); still at nests as of Aug 15. Loggerhead Shrike: three separate locations on Ontario lake plain in Oswego Co (EE, Eric Freeborn fide RJS, FGS).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: max 11 in five miles Redfield Twp Jun 10 and 12 at HIGMA Jun 16; numerous other reports, with 3 on Kasoag F&WBBS in THP, Solitary Vireo: 1–2 per day in both conifer plantations of Fabius Twp and mixed woodlands of HVGMA; max 10 in nine miles Big Moose-Stillwater. Red-eyed Vireo: really abundant in THP and SW Adirondacks with 98 on McKeever and 60 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS; numerous THP counts of 30–65 per day.

Black-and-white Warbler: 1–6 per day reported regularly in THP; now quite scarce at CV with only 1 Jun 14; 2 at Peppermill Gulf at S Onon Jun 14. Golden-winged Warbler: definitely continuing to expand—6 in HVGMA; 5 in O'Hara Rd-Williamstown area; and 3 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS; numbers appear slightly increased at CV but down in the Otisco Hill-Navarino sectors. Blue-winged Warbler: new locations at Pompey; at two separate sites in Fabius Twp (FLF); and at Spafford (MSR); expanding in the southern hill country but, interestingly, not in country previously occupied by the Golden-winged Warbler.

Nashville Warbler: summer max 8 around Boonville May 31 (MSR) and 6 in 7.2 miles Highland Forest (FGS); 1–3 per day in various bogs from Old Forge to Big Moose. Parula Warbler: small numbers (1–3 per day) in N Herkimer Co—this species is now in an ecological squeeze as it apparently requires in the Adirondacks open stands of mature red spruce with small moss clusters thereon; such stands are regularly lumbered in the forested sectors and equally regularly sprayed in the residual decorative clumps about camps and lakeshores. Yellow Warbler: 30 on N Victory and 27 on Cicero Ctr F&WBBS, both counts slightly increased; 111 in 5.4 miles HIGMA, obviously *the* warbler there; migrants on the move Jul 11 N Syr and Onon L, with max 30 Aug 3 SP dunes (FLF, RJS). Magnolia Warbler: 1–7 per day in spruce plantations in S Onon and Madison Co, and singles in natural balsam bogs in Nelson Swamp (FLF) and Sangerfield Swamp (MSR). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 16 Jun 10 and 13 Jun 13, both in five miles of different roads in Redfield Twp (FGS); also reported at Pulaski Jun 24 (EE); of interest is that *no* Black-throated Blue were reported in the southern highlands of Onon and Madison Co where they were intermittently present heretofore, this despite marked increase in observing there (FLF,RJS,FGS). Myrtle Warbler: definite breeding at Smartville in THP; numerous sightings in pine-spruce plantations of THP and 1 pair in natural pine-hemlock swamp near Redfield Jun 21 (FGS); 1–2 per day in Highland Forest and other conifer plantations of Fabius Twp (FLF); 17 in nine miles Big Moose-Stillwater Jun 18. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 33 in 7.2 miles Highland Forest Jun 9, and 26 in five miles THP Jun 10; despite these counts the general picture for this species is poor—none on Alder Creek or McKeever F&WBBS, only 8 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS, and 7 in nine miles Big Moose-Stillwater; located again at Muller Hill near DeRuyter (FLF) and at Fish Gulf near Otisco L. Cerulean Warbler: max 10 HIGMA Jun 16; newly located at Swamp Rd N of HIGMA, Scott Swamp, S end of Coss L, and FHBSP (MSR); not reported at Tully and numbers down at CV (max only 8). Blackburnian Warbler: max 25 in five miles Redfield Twp Jun 10; also 36 in nine miles Big Moose-Stillwater Jun 18; singles discovered this year in pine plantations of S Onon; o (fulfilling a 10-year-old prediction) and in mixed conifer-deciduous woods at Georgetown Jun 28 (FLF). Chestnut-sided Warbler: abundant in THP with 25 in five miles Jun 10; 32 in 4.2 miles Jun 21; and 32 in 10.4 miles HVGMA (sub-THP) Jun 8; low on Alder Creek and McKeever F&WBBS with 4 and 9 respectively, but 37 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS; counts

also much lower in southern highlands of Onon and Madison Co—only 1–6 per day. Blackpoll Warbler: dep Jun 3 CV (F. Dittrich); 1 in Woods Lake bog in N Herkimer Co Jun 18 (FGS) is an enigma—? late migrant, territorial male, possible breeder?—this area should be checked repeatedly again. Pine Warbler: new locations include at least 4 separate singing males in a mixed White Pine-Scotch Pine area E of Boonville in Jun (MSR, JWP) and 2 at Centerville E of Pulaski Jun 3 (EE).

Ovenbird: excellent counts in sub-THP and THP—71 in 10.4 miles HVGMA Jun 8 and 22 in 4.2 miles near Williamstown Jun 21; much more scarce in woods about Syr (1–6 per day). Northern Waterthrush: 9 in three miles Sangerfield Swamp Jun 21 (MSR); 15 in five miles Redfield Twp Jun 10 (FGS); only 1–5 per day in wooded swamps of Ontario lake plain and definitely decreased at Three Rivers Game Management Area where formerly a common breeding bird. Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 pairs at Fish Gulf and 1 in Peppermill Gulf; also pair located at 1800' in Highland Forest (DC)—is there an altitudinal cut-off for this bird in the southern highlands? Mourning Warbler: 14 in five miles Redfield Twp Jun 10; 3 on both McKeever and N Wilmurt F&WBBS; up to 4 in a mile CV; in all sectors appears to be on the increase. Yellowthroat: abundant!—38 Alder Creek, 33 N Wilmurt, 29 Kasoag, 13 N Victory F&WBBS; also 34 in 10.4 miles HVGMA Jun 8, 26 in 4.2 miles along O'Hara Rd near Williamstown, and 14 in three miles Sangerfield Swamp Jun 21; 3–18 per day in brushy and marshy areas around Syr and Oneida. Yellow-breasted Chat: newly located singles W of CV (FGS, Ken & JWP) and at Mycenae (MSR); however, all known 1968 sites deserted!

Hooded Warbler: both THP stations (Redfield Twp) active; *none* reported from any Ontario lake plain locations or any of the former Onon Escarpment locations. Canada Warbler: moderate numbers (5–12 per day) in THP; on F&WBBSs very low—none on Alder Creek, McKeever, or Kasoag; best counts 18 in nine miles Big Moose-Stillwater Jun 18 (FGS) and 12 in three miles Sangerfield Swamp June 21 (MSR). American Redstart: counts from woodlots and valleys about Syr very low, e.g. max 6 from CV; southern hill country counts similarly low—3–7 per day (FLF, RJS, FGS), and Adirondack tallies likewise poor—10 in nine miles Big Moose-Stillwater Jun 18; THP numbers appear stable—83 in five miles Redfield Twp Jun 10 and 50 in five miles LJGMA Jun 13; first migrant Aug 11 in a warbler "troop" near Smartville.

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: counts of 12–20 per day primarily from farm country of S Onon Co and hay country of N Oneida Co; also 23 N Victory, 20 Cicero Ctr, and 12 both Kasoag and Clinton F&WBBS. **WESTERN MEADOW-LARK:** single singing and calling bird still present near Brewerton to Jun 14 (FGS). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** brilliantly plumaged male at Lacona Jul 6–13 (Mr. M. Miller, mob), third Regional record in 15 years. Baltimore Oriole: 20 at CV and 25 at HIGMA in Jun; impressive are 20 near Stillwater area Jun 19; appears to be increasing in various creek ravines S of Syr. Rusty Blackbird: max 7 in nine miles Big Moose-Stillwater Jun 18 (FGS); none in THP. The usual hordes of Redwinged Blackbirds, Grackles, and Cowbirds received mostly check marks and such comments as "abundant," "too many," "everywhere." Scarlet Tanager: 18 in five miles Redfield Twp in THP; other counts also document THP increase; numbers at CV are also up somewhat.

Cardinal: continues to spread into available habitat, particularly so in S Onon and S Madison Co; new station near E end of L Ontario at Deer Creek; a pair at Redfield Jun 21–26 was in sharp contrast to White-throated Sparrows and Myrtle Warblers in the same woods. Indigo Bunting: numbers down 1969 compared with '67 on both N Victory (15 to 5) and Cicero Ctr (8 to 1) F&WBBS; usually only 2–10 per day with max 23 Fabius Twp Jun 22. Purple Finch: numbers down in THP with only 5–10 per day; however, high in Adirondacks with 50 per day at Big Moose (B. Barnum) and 20–25 per day at both Stillwater and Beaver R. Pine Siskin: 2

mist-netted Jul 11 Big Moose (E. J. Fisk) and many in small flocks of 4–10 in N Herkimer Co Jul 22 (FGS). Eastern Goldfinch: an “everywhere” species—counts of 20–40 per day, even in just a few hours of birding; max 100 Jun 16 Fabius Twp; still feeding young in nest first week of Sep. Red Crossbill: none in period. *WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL*: three Smartville Jul 11–13 (RJS mob)—might presage an invasion this fall or winter.

Rufous-sided Towhee: increasing in both THP and SW Adirondacks—24 in 4.2 miles on O'Hara Rd and 18 in 5.5 miles on Teachout Rd, both near Williamstown; 15 on McKeever and 21 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS; 6–30 per day from brush and plantation country of S Onon Co (FLF,FGS). Savannah Sparrow: definitely decreasing in intensively cultivated farmlands of Ontario lake plain, with almost all counts less than 10 per day; however, counts of 16–28 per day in hay and dairy areas of the hill country between Skaneateles and Cazenovia. Grasshopper Sparrow: max 8 in colony at Syr Airport (DC, E. Farnham); newly located at Spafford, Parish (3 sites), Nine Mile Point (2 sites) and N Cayuga Co (4 sites (JWP,MSR), and Jamesville (DC); also 1 at Prospect in Trenton Twp (J. & B. Barker). Henslow's Sparrow: definitely up from last two years—one in Boylston Twp in THP where very scarce (JWP); 4 different birds at Meeker Hill and 3 on Woodmancy Rd, both in Tully Twp (JWP); at least 6 birds in various areas between FR and Port Byron; newly located in Ira Twp; most impressive are 10 singing birds in N Clay-NW Cicero Twps (MSR); in all cases found in fallow farm—and grassland abandoned for one-two years. Vesper Sparrow: decreasing locally with max 4–9 per day (GLC, MSR); has virtually disappeared from sprayed agricultural lands of N Onon and S Onon and S Oswego Co. Slate-colored Junco: 18 in 7.2 miles at Highland Forest Jun 9; counts of 10–16 per day, usually in about five miles, in THP; Adirondack counts good—40 in nine miles Big Moose-Stillwater Jun 18; various pairs located at Georgetown (FLF), Boonville (J. & E. VanDresar), Spafford (MSR).

Field Sparrow: summer max 23 on Alder Creek F&WBBS. White-throated Sparrow: repeatedly located at Morrisville, Nelson, Peterboro, Georgetown, Highland Forest, and Labrador Pond (FLF, mob), all S Onon and Madison Co sites; THP counts very good—8–18 per day; Adirondack counts, of course, very high—75 in nine miles Big Moose-Stillwater and 30–40 per day in other sectors of N Herkimer Co. Lincoln's Sparrow: max 6 Woods Lake bog Jun 18 (FGS)—a thriving colony and easily the largest number located to date in Herkimer Co. Song Sparrow: abundant and definitely on the upswing—84 on N Victory, 37 Cicero Ctr, 51 Kasoag, 29 N Wilmurt, 64 Alder Creek, 37 McKeever, 60 Clinton F&WBBS; also 40 in 10.4 miles HVGMA, 20 at Fish Gulf, 45 SP.

427 S. Main Street, North Syracuse 13212

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

DAVID C. GORDON

The wettest June in 12 years was recorded in Watertown with over five inches rain. June temperatures averaged below normal. There was little rain in July with several hot and humid days. The first half of August was characterized by cool nights and daytime temperatures in the 80's with several thunderstorms and more rain than in July.

The water level at El Dorado has remained fairly high with varying amounts of exposed mudflats but, surprisingly, the usual die-off of alewives has not occurred and so the beach has not been littered with dead fish. The best bird seen during the period, a Piping Plover, was possibly blown out of its usual flyway by storms three days earlier.