

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND C. G. SPIES

Hurricane Agnes and attendant flooding at the end of June was the focus of meteorological discussion; this should not obscure the facts that water levels had already been high in spring, that heavy rain occurred at end of May-beginning of June, and that there were severe washouts in mid-June. At any rate, the flood waters have provoked a flood of hypotheses as to their effect, positive or negative, on bird-life, but hard facts are surprisingly difficult to obtain. For instance, some water birds are in low numbers as noted by observers, but it may be that the floods simply dispersed them throughout an increased acreage of habitat so that there are few observable large concentrations, rather than that the population was actually harmed. George Maxwell at Oswego had solid evidence of flood damage but is cautious with long-range conclusions: "June rains washed out many nests; noted were Yellow Warbler, Redwing, Cedar Waxwing, Catbird, Song Sparrow, and other similar shrub nesters. Renesting was noted in many cases and usually successful. Nonetheless, I suspect that fledging numbers are down because of the unusual weather."

It is clear that the combination of spring's high water and June's floods precluded gull breeding on Oneida Lake islands, as there was never enough exposed land to construct nests this year. Common Tern nests were also not washed out; there was some tern nesting because the species was biologically still able to go through the breeding cycle after the water subsided. Quite certainly it was the floods that decimated Bank Swallow and, on evidence from elsewhere in the middle Atlantic states, Purple Martins failed to find food during the rains. Probably the lack of Louisiana Waterthrush at many sites was due to nest washouts.

The following additional "lows" are not necessarily related to this summer's weather and, in some cases, are part of long-term trends: scarcity of Pied-billed Grebe and Black-crowned Night Heron; low numbers of Black Duck (no Mallard x Black Duck hybrids noted in banding operations at Howland Island) and Blue-winged Teal, and no summering Pintail; continuing extreme scarcity of accipiters (with no summering record of Sharp-shinned Hawk) and Marsh Hawk; paucity of Great Horned Owl reports; and poor numbers of Common Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Tree Swallow, Horned Lark, Long-billed Marsh Wren, and Northern Waterthrush.

There are some positives: a flurry of Cattle Egret reports; high numbers of Canada Goose; widespread Turkey Vulture sightings; good counts of the regular rallines; generally increased flycatcher numbers; and high counts of Swainson's Thrush — to mention salient ones.

Rarities usually occur in the singular, but this year's seem often in bunches — this summer the 2nd 1972 Snowy Egret, the 2nd and 3rd Willet reports, and 2 Laughing Gulls following "Agnes."

Due to various vicissitudes including not hell but high water, fewer ornithological surveys were completed this year than last; these that were — the Otto Mills walk in the Tug Hill, 2 coverages of the entire Region 5 Lake Ontario shore, checks of breeding success on the Oneida Lake islands, a linear survey of a section of the Mohawk River, and 9 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys that lie in Region 5 — become, with repetition, increasingly valuable information sources. This is so even though it is premature to make many intriguing comparisons, e.g. inverse correlation of Bobolink and Redwinged Blackbird or of Eastern Meadowlark and Common Grackle, using the local federal Breeding Bird Surveys.

A note for visitors to Region 5 from elsewhere: we would very much like to have copies of your trip lists, and will be glad to send you, on request, a 31-column checklist for the purpose.

Corrigenda: *Kingbird* XXII: 3, July 1972, Region 5 report — p. 139, Golden Eagle: arr Mar 12, 1 ad near Fernwood (DWC) record early; max 2 imm Mar 31 DH (P. DeBenedictis, GAS); dep May 13, 1 imm DH (MSR, GAS, CGS) record late; ... Bald Eagle: ... max ... 2 imm May 14 FR (EMF, CGS); p. 140, Iceland Gull: ... 1 May 20 SP (F. LaFrance, RJS); p. 142, Winter Wren: very widespread arr Apr 16 with ... 2 Eaton; p. 143, Common Grackle: ... Mar max 4000 Mar 23 SRF.

Fall arrivals of maxima occurring in this period will be noted in the next report.

Abbreviations: Adir—Adirondack; BBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey(s), listed in the following manner, name, approximate location of end points, date done, number of years done, observer: Alder Creek, Alder Creek to Clark Mills, Jun 28, 5 consecutive years, KGH; Clinton, Franklin Springs to Frankfort, Jun 7, 4 consecutive years, J&RV; Kasoag, Kasoag to Taberg, Jun 17, 7 consecutive years, MSR; N Victory, N Victory to Phoenix, Jun 7, 6 consecutive years, JWP; N Wilmurt, N Wilmurt to N Western, Jun 3, 6 consecutive years, FGS; Old Forge, Old Forge to Big Moose, Jul 2, 2 consecutive years, CGS; Oneida, Durhamville to Point Rock, Jun 28, 5 consecutive years, DWC; Oriskany Falls, Oriskany Falls to Ballina, Jul 3, 6 consecutive years, CGS; Pulaski, Sandy Creek to Maple View, Jun 17, 5 years, RJS; Cam—Ninemile Creek valley SW of Camillus; DH—Derby hill, Sage Creek, and vicinity on L Ont near Texas; HIGMA—Howland Island State Game Management Area near Port Byron; Moh—16 mi of Mohawk R on foot and by canoe from Oriskany to Frankfort Jun 18-Jul 30 (VB); NM—Niagara Mohawk Visitors' Center and vicinity on L Ont near Lakeview; NPT—NW portion of Pompey Twp; Onon—Onondaga; Ont—Ontario; Otto—5 mi on roads and trails in the Otto Mills area of Redfield Twp Jul 9 (FGS); PSS—Peter Scott Swamp, Sixmile Creek, and vicinity near Phoenix; SP—North Pond, South Pond, and the sand dunes on L Ont near Sandy Pond; SRF—Seneca River flats from Montezuma to HIGMA; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park and vicinity near Port Ontario; Syr—Syracuse; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TRGMA—Three Rivers State Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.

Observers: D. W. Ackley, B. Barnum, V. Billings, G. & M. Church, D. W. Crumb, P. A. DeBenedictis, F. C. Dittrich, C. & E. Farnham, E. M. Freeborn, K. G. Hanson, G. R. Maxwell, P. W. Merritt, B. & S. Peebles, J. W. Propst, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, B. Schneckenburger, G. A. Smith, C. G. Spies, A. K. Steinbacher, R. J. Sutliff, E. & J. VanDresar, J. & R. VanScoy.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 through period Dart L near Big Moose, only Adir report; 6 other reports of 1–2 day duration from 5 non-Adir sites. Horned Grebe: 1 Jun 27 Ninemile Pt on L Ont E of Oswego—apparently 1st summering record. Pieg-billed Grebe: widely unreported; max only 5 including 1 young Jul 30 Stevens Pond near Phoenix; only other reports were singles DH and Utica—very poor. Double-crested Cormorant: 1–3 Jun 11–26 Oswego. Great Blue Heron: only heronry counts were of 3 active nests Apr 1 Maple Bay on Oneida L and 17 nests TRGMA; no count over 10 per day except 38 Jun 3 Eaton; 18 Moh is good. Green Heron: 50 Moh including 23 Jun 24; away from there no counts above 10 per day. Cattle Egret: 4 singles including at least 3 adults Jun 1-Jul 16 L Ont and Oneida L areas. Common Egret: only report 1 Aug 1 Oneida L near Bridgeport. *SNOWY EGRET*: 1 imm Jul 31 through period Oneida L near Bridgeport (JWP et al) 7th regional record. Black-crowned Night Heron: 5 Jun 25 Oswego and 1 Aug 13 PSS, only reports. Least Bittern: 4 singles, from SP, PSS, Utica. American Bittern: max 5 (2 ad plus 3 young) Jul 20 Oneida Castle; only 1–2 per day elsewhere.

Canada Goose: 65 nests at HIGMA, 13 more than last year, is the most ever noted there; 5–9 Jun 15 through period Dart L is only report of more than 1 per day away from the HIGMA-Seneca R area. Brant: 1 Jun 3 SSSP was injured, but

not noted on a subsequent survey for dead birds. Mallard: breeding numbers down at HIGMA with only 25 nests; numbers were higher to the E however with 128 Moh, including 100 Jul 30, the most ever from that particular area; at Dart L the count increased from 10 Jun 30 to 50 by Aug 6. Black Duck: no nests HIGMA; only 12 birds Moh; max 24 Jul 2 near Peterboro. Gadwall: 1 nest HIGMA; unreported away from HIGMA-Seneca R area. Green-winged Teal: no breeding in region; summering — 3 Oneida L and up to 8 SRF. Blue-winged Teal: no nests HIGMA; only 2 counts of over 10 per day, 37 Moh (Jun 24) and 19 including 3 juv Jul 30 Oneida L. American Widgeon: no breeding reports; 1-3 summering SRF. Shoveler: 1 male Jun 11 near Belgium is only summering report. Wood Duck: reportedly a good season at HIGMA; 32 Moh (Jul 5) also good. Bufflehead: late dep or summering reports were 3 Jun 4 Shore Oaks near Ninemile Pt and 1 male Jun 24 FH — usually unreported in summer. Hooded Merganser: 2 nests HIGMA; unreported elsewhere. Common Merganser: 4 Jun 3-30 Dart L is only summer report. Red-breasted Merganser: 3 singles, probably all different birds, Jun 4-26 at 3 sites on L Ont.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: numbers up in HIGMA-SRF area (elevation 390 ft) with 13 there Aug 13; 1-4 per day in a sub-THP-L Ont plain corridor with elevation 440-620 ft, including Colosse, Maple View, and S Albion; otherwise singles only from Palermo, Oneida, NPT, and NE Ava Twp, the last remarkable for the 1500 ft elevation. Goshawk: 1 breeding report of 3 young in Eaton area; 1 Aug .9 near Bridgeport is only other report. Sharp-shinned Hawk: dep Jun 3, 1 DH — late. Red-tailed Hawk: reportedly up at HIGMA; best counts were 20 Jun 3 Eaton area and 6, including 1 juv, Moh. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Jun 3-Aug 8 around Big Moose-Dart L was probably breeding; 2 Jun 14 NPT were very unusual. Broad-winged Hawk: dep Jun 14, 114 DH — late for so many; most summer reports, 1-2 per day, were in Adir, but 1 each was reported at sub-THP, S highland, and Oneida L basin sites. Bald Eagle: 1-3 (2 adults and 1 imm) Jul 16-31 near Bridgeport Marsh Hawk: dep Jun 14, 1 imm DH — very late; only non-DH report was 1 Aug 13 SRF, probably wandered from Montezuma NWR. Osprey: dep Jun 14, 1 DH and 1 NPT. Sparrow Hawk: usually only 1-2 per day; best counts were 18, including 12 juv, Eaton area and 10, including 5 juv, NPT.

Ruffed Grouse: 13 near New Hartford and 15 chicks with a hen at Cedarville; otherwise, widely reported singles. Ring-necked Pheasant: widely reported but no more than 5 per day anywhere. Virginia Rail: widespread reports of 1-3 per day from 3 L Ont sites, Oneida L, and Mohawk R; 16 Moh is very good. Sora: 1-2 per day at L Ont areas; only other reports were 11 Holland Patent and 27 Moh — both very high. Common Gallinule: widely reported 1-3 per day; 72 Moh is very good. American Coot: 2 Moh and 1 Brewerton are unusual (for summer period) but the latter may have been an injured or sick bird.

Semipalmated Plover: dep Jun 11. 1 L Ont and 1 PSS. Killdeer: no large summer concentrations noted; max 15-20 per day. Black-bellied Plover: dep Jun 9, 1 near Constantia. Ruddy Turnstone: dep Jun 4, 5 SP. American Woodcock: Federal-N.Y. State cooperative Woodcock Singing — ground Survey route near Fulton yielded 5 birds — low average; otherwise 1-2 per day from 9 other areas. Common Snipe: 3 Moh, 3 NM, 1 Bolivar, 1 PSS, and 1 FH, (NM and PSS previously known summer locations). Upland Plover: max 13 West Monroe; 1 other Oneida L site, 2 Mohawk valley sites, 2 L Ont sites, NPT, PSS, and HIGMA — fewer than usual. Spotted Sandpiper: widespread with counts of breeding birds up to 10 per day; 46 Moh and 32 on 42 miles of L Ont shore from FH to SP Jun 24-28 were good tallies.

WILLET: 1 ad molting out of breeding plumage Jul 16 NM (CGS); 11 Jul 26 Onon Hill (GAS) is the 2nd flock of this species reported in the region; with the May 30-Jun 1 NM bird, this is the 1st year for more than 2 reports. Greater Yellow-

legs: dep Jun 4, 1 NM (GAS) record late. Knot: max 3 Jun 1 NM; dep Jun 9, 1 NM (PAD) record late. White-rumped Sandpiper: dep Jun 1, 1 PSS. Least Sandpiper: dep Jun 1, 1 PSS. Dunlin: max 13 Jun 4 SP, NM; dep Jun 11, 4 SP, NM (EMF, PAD) record late. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 97 Jun 4 SP, NM, PSS; dep Jun 11, 26 SP, NM, PSS. Sanderling: dep Jun 11, 3 NM and 2 SP—late.

Great Black-backed Gull: 1-5 per day at various L Ont places, but none from Jul 13 through end of period; no non-L Ont reports. Herring Gull: no breeding at Oneida L but at least 16 summering there; no L Ont count above 75 of summering birds. Ring-billed Gull: no breeding at Oneida L but 1 nest was constructed; L Ont summering birds numbered at least 727 and Oneida L had 42. *LAUGHING GULL*; 2 adults, 1 in breeding plumage (GAS) and 1 in winter plumage (EMF) Jun 25 Oswego. Bonaparte's Gull: summering birds at various L Ont places, up to 20 Jul 16 FH—high. Common Tern: Oneida L breeding reduced by high water—only 539 eggs in 231 nests, but remarkably low mortality with only 6 addled or broken eggs and 4 dead young known from 3 visits between Jul 30 and Sep 12; summering L Ont birds numbered about 150 between FH and Oswego. Caspian Tern: some present at L Ont through summer but period max of 10 Jul 30 were probably migrants. Black Tern: probably still breeding at HIGMA, DH, FH, N Syr, SSSP, SP, PSS, but none at Eightmile Creek or Wilson swamp both W of Oswego.

Mourning Dove: counts generally low—12 Moh, 12 Eaton, only 16-18 on 2 trips through good habitat from HIGMA to FH and other L Ont areas; 70 Jul 25 TRGMA was the only large accumulation. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 23 birds from 23 observers, all low-elevation reports, generally singles but 2 Kasoag BBS, 3 Clinton BBS, and a phenomenal 13 Moh—considerably better than past 2 years. Black-billed Cuckoo: 40 birds from 23 observers, but none from Adir or high THP—slightly better than last year. Screech Owl: 5, including 3 juv, at Eaton; 2 at S Onon; 1 Cam; 1 SP; 2 juv from separate nests Syr—only reports but better than last year. Great Horned Owl: only 13 birds at 10 sites in all areas—poor. Barred Owl: 6 Jun 11 W Vienna Twp is very good, especially in contrast with only singles at 4 other sites, 1 Adir, 1 THP, and 2 L Ont plain.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: about half of past 2 years' numbers with 5 Gravesville, 5 W Vienna Twp, 2 Floyd, 1 Hinckley, 1 FH, and 1 Rice Creek, but the last 2 are less usual locations. Common Nighthawk: poor counts of urban populations were 9 Syr, 8 Herkimer, 6 Utica, 3 Rome, 2 Oswego. Chimney Swift: average numbers on most BBSs, but no Jun count above 12 per day. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1-4 per day in most areas—low. Belted Kingfisher: usually 1-4 per day; max 8 Jun 3 Eaton. Yellow-shafted Flicker: average numbers on BBSs. Pileated Woodpecker: only 9 sites, 2 Adir, 2 L Ont basin, plus Stockbridge, Holland Patent, Marcy, TRGMA, and Cedarvale near Marcellus. Red-bellied Woodpecker: only 2 reports, but both new eastern sites—Lewis Pt Rd near S Bay and Clinton. Red-headed Woodpecker: dep Jun 14, 1 DH; 16 birds at 9 sites—3 on L Ont shore, 2 in S Onon Co, plus Oneida, Moh, New Hartford, Cedarville, and Eaton. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: down on both Adir BBSs but up on Oriskany Falls BBS; 27 Jul 9 Otto is more than usual on that route. Hairy Woodpecker and Downy Woodpecker: average numbers on BBSs.

Eastern Kingbird: dep Jun 3, 3 DH; generally stable or increasing on higher-elevation BBSs while decreasing on lowlands ones. Great Crested Flycatcher: average on most BBSs but highest ever noted on N Victory and Pulaski, both in L Ont basin. Eastern Phoebe: average on most BBSs but up on the 2 northernmost and down on the 2 southernmost. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 4 Jun 2 L Ont areas; dep Jun 3, 1 DH; 2 breeding sites, Big Moose and Five Ponds area in N Herkimer Co. Traill's Flycatcher: requests for indication of song type are not always answered, but only those records which were so indicated are summarized here—"fitzbew" 9 Moh,

6 N Victory BBS, 5 Jun 4 L Ont areas and 2 Jul 25 TRGMA are low for recent years; "webeo" 5 Jun 4 THP, 9 Pulaski BBS, 2 Kasoag BBS, 2 Oriskany Falls BBS, 2 Jul 25 TRGMA and 2 Jul 12 Pumpkin Hollow near Marcellus is about average. Least Flycatcher: generally stable or increasing on BBSs; 82 Otto is up from last year. Eastern Wood Pewee: increasing on most BBSs and dropping on none. Olive-sided Flycatcher: reported from 2 Adir areas, 4 in the Big Moose-Stillwater Reservoir area and 2 at Five Ponds. Horned Lark: very scarce this summer — max 4 L Ont areas, and singles only from Kasoag BBS, HIGMA, SRF, Woodman Pond area near Eaton — the *only* other reports.

Tree Swallow: generally stable on BBSs but absent from NPT in Jul and Aug and low early flocking counts elsewhere — 60–80 per day in mid-Jul from L Ont, Oneida L, SRF, and Marcy; period max Aug 10–13 only 150 at Marcy, 200 SRF, 300 L Ont. Bank Swallow: apparently no colony counts were made this summer; at SP many pairs were able to initiate nest construction as the higher L Ont levels resulted in severe undercutting of the higher dunes, but most nests apparently failed to fledge young because the same undercutting eventually caused the collapse of most nest chambers. Rough-winged Swallow: max 18 Alder Creek BBS, 12 Eaton, and 9 Moh; otherwise only 1–6 per day from SRF, near S Onon, Cam, 1 Oneida L site, and 8 L Ont sites. Barn Swallow: found at 2 shale-cliff breeding sites with 5 nests at NM and 9 nests at Ninemile Pt, the latter previously checked for nests but none ever found before; numbers stable or increased on all BBSs except N Victory where it was lowest ever. Cliff Swallow: 2 barns with nests in Holland Patent area, 2 sites near Mexico with 1 and 5 nests, and 3 nests on a barn near Bridgeport (Oneida L S shore colonies are unusual) are the only colonies reported. Purple Martin: on Oneida L N shore Jul 30, 90 martin houses were estimated to contain 114 pairs, contrasted with 740 pairs estimated, using the same methods, in 54 houses in the same area Jul 27 and Aug 4, 1963 (*Kingbird* XIV:2 "An Oneida Lake Purple Martin census") and it is unlikely that this year Purple Martins had left the houses before the census date, as few flocks away from the houses were noted in the vicinity; there is insufficient data to tell whether L Ont population was up or down.

Blue Jty: 17 Jun 14 DH, not necessarily a true dep since it was the last date of the regular migration watch; stable on BBSs. Common Crow: stable or up on all BBSs. Black-capped Chickadee: stable or up on 7 BBSs but seems down on N Wilmurt and N Victory; 24 Jul 30 SP, SSSP, and 18 Jul 23 Georgetown are good. White-breasted Nuthatch: stable or up on 7 BBSs. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Jul 22 Five Ponds is best count of period with 1–2 per day otherwise. Brown Creeper: max 5 Jul 22 Five Ponds with no other count above 2 per day. House Wren: high on most BBSs, i.e. N Wilmurt, Alder Creek, Pulaski, Oriskany Falls, N Victory, and stable or down on the others. Winter Wren: 8 Old Forge BBS and 8 Jul 22 Five Ponds is average; 2 interesting lowland locations are Cam and near Minetto. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1–2 per day from 8 widespread sites; also 5 PSS, 7 Moh, and 10 FH — low. Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1–2 Jul 20–29 Toad Harbor near W Monroe and 1 Aug 12 near Fernwood, only reports, in contrast with last year.

Mockingbird: 3 singles, at Syr, NPT, and Deerfield. Catbird: peculiar population trends — lowest ever on Kasoag and N Victory BBSs, but highest ever on Alder Creek, Pulaski, and Oneida BBSs. Brown Thrasher: stable on most BBSs but highest ever on N Wilmurt with 16, indicating the species' increase in certain THP and Adir habitats. Robin: stable or up on most BBSs. Wood Thrush: stable or up on most BBSs; up especially on Alder Creek where 42 is almost double any previous count. Hermit Thrush: stable or somewhat up on most BBSs, with 2 on Pulaski the 1st there; 6 Otto is good. Swainson's Thrush: numbers twice normal on N Wilmurt BBS and Otto. Gray-cheeked Thrush: dep Jun 4 Shore Oaks near Ninemile Pt (PAD) record late. Veery: stable on most BBSs; 31 Otto is about average. Eastern Bluebird: 19 fledged Eaton area, but only 1–2 adults noted Dart L, near Holland

Patent, DH, Pleasant Point near Demster, near Colosse, and NPT, only sites.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: in W part of region, 11 territorial birds in about 5 miles of Old Erie Canal from Memphis E to Amboy in late May and 2 S Cam; eastern reports few but numbers better than ever with 4 Moh and 7 Jacksonburg — only 2nd summer report E of Utica. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1-2 per day THP and Adir areas; max 40 Jul 22 Five Ponds is very high. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 Old Forge BBS and 1 Jul 22 Five Ponds were only reports. Water Pipit: dep Jun 4, 2 NM (PAD et al) record late. Cedar Waxwing: 800 Jun 14 DH indicates large numbers still passing on the last date of regular coverage there; counts in Aug of 16 at Marcy and 45 NPT indicate breeding populations. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Jun 25 near Fruit Valley was only report. Starling: 70 Jun 4 DH was the last significant group of migrants; stable on BBSs.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: usually 1-2 per site from low country and THP; best counts 6 Moh and 8 Otto — note max is in THP! Solitary Vireo: Adir max 10 Jul 22 Five Ponds; THP max 3 Otto. Red-eyed Vireo: stable or up on all BBSs. Warbling Vireo: stable or up on most BBSs; interesting Dart L report of 3 Jun 11 and 1 Jun 30; 45 Moh is high.

Black-and-white Warbler: up on Old Forge and N Wilmurt BBSs; 2 low-country locations are near Colosse and Rainbow Shores near SP. Golden-winged Warbler: stable on BBSs; 3 at each of 2 L Ont sites, 1 near FH and the other near Fruit Valley. Blue-winged Warbler: 1-2 per day in previously known locations. Brewster's Warbler: 2 birds reported. Nashville Warbler: continued increase on N Wilmurt BBS with 15, the period max; 1 interesting low-country report near Volney — the species is scarce in the low country even with appropriate habitat. Parula Warbler: 6 Old Forge BBS and most other summer reports from that vicinity with max 9 Jun 30 Dart L. Yellow Warbler: very dynamic species with 3 eastern BBSs, Alder Creek, Oneida, Oriskany Falls, below normal, and 4 western surveys strikingly up, registering highest or 2nd highest tallies since they began. Magnolia Warbler: stable on BBSs; max 16 Jul 22 Five Ponds. Black-throated Blue Warbler: up on Old Forge and N Wilmurt BBSs; 22 Otto is average. Myrtle Warbler: up on Old Forge and N Wilmurt BBSs; max 13 Jul 22 Five Ponds. Black-throated Green Warbler: 23 Otto and 22 Old Forge BBS are best counts. Cerulean Warbler: max 16 Jun 5 Old Erie Canal near Warners and 7 Jun 3 Cam; 1 Jul 12 Pumpkin Hollow is interesting as it hadn't been noted there since the mid-fifties and may be related to the unusually high water there. Blackburnian Warbler: dep Jun 2, 1 DH; seems stable on BBSs but there are probably too few to be able to notice a trend; 8 Otto is less than half last year's tally; 1 notable low-country report is 1 Clinton BBS. Chestnut-sided Warbler: stable on BBSs. Blackpoll Warbler: dep Jun 14, 1 DH. Pine Warbler: probably bred at SSSP — 1 imm there Jul 30 (FGS); 1 singing male Jun 11 SP (PAD) was not found on the 28th.

Ovenbird: up on N Wilmurt, Kasoag, and Oneida BBSs and stable on the others. Northern Waterthrush: few reports and low numbers — 4 Otto, 3 near Minetto, 2 Lewis Pt Rd, 1 near Colosse, and 1 Rainbow Shores. Louisiana Waterthrush: reported from only 4 sites — Onon Hill with 2 adults and 1 young, Peppermill Gulf near S Onon with 1 adult feeding 2 young, Pratts Falls near Pompey Center, and Frankfort Gorge; not found at recently active sites — Perryville, Cowles Rd near Fabius, Fellows Falls near Vesper, and Cedarvale. Mourning Warbler: 22 Otto is much better than last year there, but usually less than 5 per day elsewhere. Yellow-throat: down on most lowlands BBSs, but up on THP and Oriskany Falls BBSs; only 26 Moh. Hooded Warbler: reported from Otto, near Lycoming, and Shore Oaks. Wilson's Warbler: dep Jun 2, 1 DH. Canada Warbler: only BBS to record it was N Wilmurt were 10 was the highest ever; only 5 Otto. American Redstart: dep Jun 14, 2 DH (GAS) very late; highest ever on N Wilmurt, Kasoag, and Oneida BBSs.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: peculiar trends — stable on 3 BBSs, Oneida, Pulaski, and Oriskany Falls, low on Kasoag, Alder Creek, N Victory, and Clinton, the latter 2 lowest ever for those routes, but highest ever on N Wilmurt. Eastern Meadowlark: highest ever on N Victory BBS, but low on N Wilmurt, Kasoag, Oneida, Clinton, and Oriskany Falls, the latter 4 lowest ever. Redwinged Blackbird: highest ever on Aller Creek, Oneida, Pulaski, and Clinton BBSs, and good numbers on N Victory. Baltimore Oriole: stable on most BBSs but high on N Wilmurt and Kasoag. Rusty Blackbird: dep June 2, 2 Demester Beach (MSR) record late. Common Grackle: highest ever on N Wilmurt, Kasoag, and Oneida BBSs and good numbers on Clinton. Brown-headed Cowbird: stable on most BBSs but lowest ever on Clinton and high on Kasoag. Scarlet Tanager: seems stable on BBSs; 11 Jul 16 Rome Sand Plains.

Cardinal: stable on BBSs. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: stable on most BBSs but high on Pulaski and Oriskany Falls. Indigo Bunting: stable or somewhat down on BBSs; 48 Moh is by far the best summer count. Evening Grosbeak: 12 Jul 22 Five Ponds and 10 Aug 14 Dart L are the only counts over 1 per day; reported only from Adir. Purple Finch: Adir max 20 Aug 14 Dart L; 1-8 per day elsewhere. House Finch: a pair Jun 13-Jul 15, and another male to Jun 8 at 2 Syr sites. American Goldfinch: 94 Jun 14 DH, the last date of regular migration watch; a survey in NPT showed successful fledging to be about 75% — 21 nests with at least 103 eggs fledged 74 young (DWC). Red Crossbill: no May or Jun reports but the following — 2 Jul 16 Rome Sand Plains, 2 Jul 22 Five Ponds, 1 dead male Jul 29 downtown Utica, 13 Aug 4 near Colosse — indicate the potential of a heavy fall migration or winter incursion.

Rufous-sided Towhee: stable on most BBSs and up on Kasoag and Alder Creek. Savannah Sparrow: stable on most BBSs but highest ever on Pulaski and Oriskany Falls. Grasshopper Sparrow: 1-2 at 10 lowlands sites, 4 NPT, and 2 THP sites. Henslow's Sparrow: 1-2 from 7 low country sites. Vesper Sparrow: low on most BBSs but numbers have been too low for much reliability; max 4 Kasoag BBS. Slate-colored Junco: max 16 Otto, 6 Jul 22 Five Ponds, and 7 Jun 11 Dart L. Chipping Sparrow: stable or up on most BBSs, and especially high on Kasoag, N Victory, and Oriskany Falls. Field Sparrow: stable on higher-elevation BBSs and highest ever on N Victory, Clinton, and Oriskany Falls — probably related to the trend of farm abandonment in these areas. White-throated Sparrow: stable on higher-elevation BBSs but none noted on Oneida or Pulaski where it usually occurs in small numbers; newly noted 1 Jun 14 and Jul 20 Cedarville where however it is to be expected in the high-elevation coniferous swamp. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1-3 per day at N Webb Twp sites. Swamp Sparrow: 19 Moh is the only decent count; species seems low. Song Sparrow: stable on most BBSs.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

The summer of 1972 was a very wet one. Hurricane Agnes as well as other storms accounted for rainfall exceeding 8 and 9 inches total rainfall for the month of July at some locations in the Region.

Temperatures for the period were below average and bright sunny days seemed few and far between.

Abbreviations: DH—Dry Hill; PP—Point Peninsula; PRWMA—Perch River