

10 meters for about 8 minutes. Field Sparrow: (137,13). White-throated Sparrow: (32,5); of 6 other reports max 12 Milford area Jun 28. Swamp Sparrow: (19,7). Song Sparrow: (459,13).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Region 5 birders may soon be recognized instantly in other sectors of the state—just check for their webbed feet. June was wet and hot and wet, July was the second wettest July on record, and August was wet and hot too. Local plant life developed jungle-like luxuriance, lawn growth constantly trapped birders into weekend mowings, and vegetable gardens with ragweed trim burgeoned. The berry and tree seed crops have grown hugely and bumper bounty awaits both fall transients and winter visitants.

The incessant rain kept most marshes at springtime water levels and the usual August rail and gallinule watching was a dud—you were lucky to see over the head-high cattails. Most local breeders seemed to achieve good production, particularly the serial nesters—House Wren, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Red-winged Blackbird, and such later breeders as Cedar Waxwing and American Goldfinch. Aerial insectivores, especially Common Nighthawk and Chimney Swift, are definitely declining at Syracuse (see below) and may be doing so in other sectors of the Region.

The majority of breeding bird data accrues from the seven U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter, BBS)—Cicero Center, Kasoag, North Wilmurt, Old Forge, Oneida, Oriskany Falls, and Pulaski. Trends from these surveys seem to back up impressions from the many summer reports—such positives as 1) steady numbers of some swallows; 2) improved numbers of certain nesters (see above); 3) rising numbers of icterids including Northern Oriole; 4) continued increases in the “southerners”—Turkey Vulture, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Tufted Titmouse, and Cardinal.

Negatives seemed as abundant as the local rain—1) virtually no breeding Pied-billed Grebes; 2) few herons and only one white heron for the season; 3) continued decline in Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Red-shouldered Hawks; 4) further reductions in Ring-necked Pheasant numbers; 5) paucity of both cuckoos and of aerial insectivores; 6) continued decline of Horned Larks and Vesper Sparrows; 7) a peculiar absence of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers south of Syracuse, a previous redoubt for them; and 8) minimal gain in Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows.

The two most prominent features of the July and August fall migration include 1) the miserable numbers and poor variety of fall shorebirds, undoubtedly due to minimal available habitat secondary to the rain-sustained high water; and 2) the numerous early fall arrival dates, many record breaking, not just for the Region but for the state.

The seasonal rarities include Snowy Egret, Hudsonian Godwit, Red and Wilson's Phalaropes, breeding Loggerhead Shrike and Orchard Oriole, and a persistent Western Meadowlark.

GMA—Game Management Area; Onon—Onondaga; SP & SPI—Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; Syr—Syracuse.

My thanks to Bill Brosseau, Gene Huggins and Jean Propst for help in compiling this report.

LOONS-DUCKS: The only white heron for the season is a **SNOWY EGRET** Aug 11 Sylvan Beach (DWackley, mob).

Mallard: only concentrations at local anatine feeders—many broods at Howland's Island but not elsewhere. Migrant ducks came very early—Pintail Aug 14, Green-winged Teal Aug 15, American Wigeon Aug 19, Northern Shoveler Aug 9, Ruddy Duck Jul 31, all at Onondaga Lake where none of the above breed.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: still spreading locally—2 June 17 Taberg and 1 Aug 11 Little Falls (both B & S Peebles). Goshawk: nestings at New Haven and Fabius produced two and three young respectively. Sharp-shinned Hawk: only one reported for entire period—terrible. Red-shouldered Hawk: two sightings for entire summer—no nestings known. Marsh Hawk: three on Pulaski BBS, singles at Oswego and Camillus—perhaps a few birds are still holding on. American Kestrel: one—ten/BBS, numbers holding up well.

Ring-necked Pheasant: numbers down on every BBS that has had pheasants. Sora: incredibly scarce—total of four individuals for entire summer—what happened to them?

The only June spring shorebirding of note was June 1 at SPI—250 Ruddy Turnstones, nine Red Knots, 98 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 35 Sanderlings.

Fall shorebirds with arrival dates and maxima respectively—Semipalmated Plover two Jul 15 Onon L and 15 Aug 16 Oneida L; Am. Golden Plover two adults Aug 17 Onon L, both arr and max; Black-bellied Plover 2 Aug 4 and five Aug 18 both Onon L; Solitary Sandpiper 1 Jul 17 Fabius and 6 Jul 30 Bolivar; Greater Yellowlegs 1 Jul 10 DeWitt Marsh and 4 (very low) Jul 22 Bolivar; Lesser Yellowlegs 1 June 27 Onon L and 67 (low) Aug 7 Onon L; Red Knot 2 Aug 17 SPI and 4 Aug 21 Sylvan Beach; Pectoral Sandpiper 1 Aug 8 (late) and 6 Aug 18-25, all Onon L; Baird's Sandpiper 1 Aug 6 with singles thereafter Onon L; Least Sandpiper 5 Jul 10 and 60 (low) Jul 15 both Onon L; Short-billed Dowitcher 13 Jul 14 Onon L and 27 Aug 29 Sylvan Beach; Stilt Sandpiper 2 adults Jul 19 Onon L, both arr and max (low); Semipalmated Sandpiper 11 Jul 14 Onon L and 325 Aug 18 Sylvan Beach; Sanderling 3 Jul 14 Onon L and 77 Aug 17 SP—Onon L.

Rarer shorebirds include **HUDSONIAN GODWIT** 1 adult Aug 24-25, **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** 1 Aug 17-19, and **RED PHALAROPE** an immature Aug 31, all at Onon L.

Caspian Tern: excellent counts at both SPI and Onon L—max 31 Aug 31 SPI. **Black Tern:** incredibly scarce—max only 10 Aug 10 SP—SSSP.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: increased on six of seven reporting BBS. Both cuckoos very scarce—Yellow-billed total 9 individuals and Black-billed total 19 from twelve observers. Barred Owl: new location—one calling near Williamstown Jun 26 (MSRusk).

Common Nighthawk: Syracuse survey by R. E. Long revealed 18 sites with total of 75 birds; some 33 sites located three years earlier—species definitely reduced locally; max of 145 Aug 25 Syr are certainly migrants. Chimney Swift: similar survey (REL) produced 86 individuals—formerly recorded in the hundreds; max 220 (migrants) Aug 25 Syr.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: reduced on every BBS where it occurs regularly—a victim of the early April cold and snow?

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: normal or increased on BBS; max 32 Aug 17 SP—SSSP. E. Phoebe: down sharply on five of seven BBS. Alder Flycatcher: reduced, in some cases by 80%, on five of seven BBS.

Horned Lark: continues to grow ever more scarce—summer max only four at Euclid Jun 16; if corn becomes the local cropland king, it will disappear altogether as a breeder here.

Tree Swallow: BBS show some modest drops but two have above average tallies. Bank Swallow: decreased (in some cases even absent) on the seven BBS. Rough-winged Swallow: very scarce locally—max only 6 Oswego Jun 7 (Wernicks). Barn Swallow: increased on all BBS. Cliff Swallow: just the reverse—reduced on majority of BBS. Purple Martin: virtually the same tallies as before on the BBS—apparently the local birds were not decimated by the April snow and cold. Fall maxima are Tree Swallow 1200 (low) Aug 31 SP, Bank Swallow 13,500 Aug 17 SP, Barn Swallow 3200 (low) Aug 3 SP, Cliff Swallow 60 Jul 5 West Monroe, and Purple Martin 370 Aug 16 Sylvan Beach.

Tufted Titmouse: individuals in summer at Chittenango, Skaneateles, Syracuse, and Camillus, in two cases with young being noted. Red-breasted Nuthatch: first migrants Aug 3 SP dunes; reported widely thereafter but no large numbers thru period.

House Wren: increased on four BBS, stable on the other three. Carolina Wren: thru August, now known to be present at 32 separate sites in the region—an amazing expansion from their extreme scarcity six to seven years ago. Short-billed Marsh Wren: four sites located involving eight singing birds—a definite increase.

Mockingbird: two new stations—DeWitt and Euclid; increasing here but slowly, certainly much more slowly than Carolina Wren. BBS showed increases in Gray Catbird (six out of seven) but decreases in Brown Thrasher (six out of seven).

Wood Thrush: increased on BBS with 12-34/survey. Hermit Thrush: increasing, in some cases numbers doubled, on BBS—12-32/survey. Eastern Bluebird: five individuals from seven BBS, up just a shade (sky blue).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: record departure date—1 June 1 SP dunes (PADeBenedictis, FGS); breeding confirmed at spruce plantations at Morgan Hill near Fabius—6 young Jul 21.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: nest with four eggs June 1 near New Haven (PADeBenedictis).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: summer max 13 Jun 19 Old Forge BBS; 1 Aug 17 SP dunes is a record fall arrival date but is in keeping with the numerous very early fall arrivals of migrant warblers. Red-eyed Vireo: max 151 June 19 Old Forge BBS; ten migrants Aug 3 SP dunes. Philadelphia Vireo: departure date June 1 two and first fall migrant one Aug 10, both at SP dunes. Warbling Vireo: good numbers on BBS on Ontario Lakeplain but decreased numbers on all counts away from that sector.

Golden-winged Warbler: decreased on Kasoag BBS and missed altogether on both the Cicero Center and North Wilmurt BBS; many sites south of Syracuse apparently abandoned as breeding localities despite numbers there this spring—why? Yellow Warbler: decreased tallies, in some cases by half, on most surveys, the exception being 47 (up sharply) on the Oneida BBS. Magnolia Warbler: dep date Jun one Three Rivers GMA; sharp drop on Old Forge BBS—21 in 1974, 9 in 1975. Yellow-rumped Warbler: a singing bird in a white pine plantation at Three Rivers GMA may indicate breeding there which would be a first for the Ontario Lakeplain sector of Onondaga County. Black-throated Green Warbler: reduced numbers on all BBS that regularly have them. Ovenbird: increased numbers (11-40/BBS) on four of seven surveys. Louisiana Waterthrush: still present to Aug 13 Fish Gulf—very late as this is one of the earliest of all local warblers to depart.

Yellowthroat: increased numbers—21-63/BBS; as expected few present (9) on Old Forge BBS where habitat is virtually solid woods. Canada Warbler: scarce on surveys—only one-six/BBS. American Redstart: small reductions on four of seven BBS.

An amazing array of early fall arrival dates for migrant warblers—Tennessee Aug 3, Nashville Aug 3, Magnolia Aug 10, Cape May Aug 10, Black-throated Blue Aug 17, Yellow-rumped Aug 3, Black-throated Green Aug 10, Blackburnian Aug 1, Bay-breasted Aug 3, Ovenbird Aug 3, Canada Aug 3, and American Redstart Jul 17, virtually all from the Sandy Pond dunes.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: increased on Oneida and Cicero Center BBS but all other BBS reported declines, in some cases over half; first migrants Jul 6 N Syracuse. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** One at Syracuse persistently singing to late July. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** pair at Camillus Valley raised two young.

Scarlet Tanager: numbers up on five of seven BBS (two-22/survey).

Indigo Bunting: a sharp drop from previous surveys—down, in some cases by 50% on six of seven BBS. Pine Siskin: 14 on Old Forge BBS June 19—none thereafter. A. Goldfinch: everywhere this summer—counts of 30-60/day and from all sectors but the Adirondacks; in Pompey, 30 nests fledged 107 young (DWCrumbs), the highest fledging rate to date.

Savannah Sparrow: numbers seem stable (five-45/BBS) locally—apparently those hard-pressed, cold, wet, miserable roadside Savannahs of early April were destined for further north. Grasshopper Sparrow: only four locations (Syracuse, Oriskany Falls, Kasoag, Mexico) totaling seven individuals. Henslow's Sparrow: nine locations involving 22 birds—up slightly but not by much. Vesper Sparrow: increasingly scarce—six individuals for entire summer; will undoubtedly vanish as a breeder just like the Horned Lark and for the same reasons.

White-throated Sparrow: first fall arr Aug 10 (very early) SP dunes; high country BBS show moderate increases with the best tally 30 on Old Forge BBS. Swamp Sparrow: rather scarce (5-7/day) but noted in small brushy marshes in areas of southern highlands (Tully, Pompey, Fabius) where not present two or three years ago.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

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Summer of 1975 was a dry, hot one with rain coming at infrequent intervals but heavy when it did come. Temperatures ranged from the high 90's (99°F in Massena—37.2°C) to the mid 60's (15.6°C) for lows.

Noticeable trends were excellent waterfowl production; increase in Turkey Vulture sightings; raptors in the main continue in trouble; fantastic shorebirding with low water levels; excellent vireo and warbler observations; and early winter finch sighting which may indicate a regular north country winter to come.

Among the rarities for Region 6 were Least Bittern; Northern Phalarope; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Philadelphia Vireo and Blue-winged Warbler.

Localities: DH—Dry Hill; ED—Eldorado Shores; LWMA—Lakeview Wildlife Management Area; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Management Area; WHWMA—Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area.

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Corrigenda: *KINGBIRD* XXV No 2 May 1975 p 106 **NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** 1 fem Jan 28 & 30 DH (RCW); 1 fem Feb 2 Cagwin Rd (RCW)—Regional Editor's omission.