

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

[The Region 4 report had not arrived in time for this issue—The Editor.]
(Spring Report on Page 244)

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Many people often made the comment that we finally had an old-fashioned summer. Obviously, they meant that conditions were hot, hazy and humid. None the less birders forged ahead under trying circumstances and recorded 195 species for the period.

The average temperature for June and July was two degrees above normal, while August had an average slightly below the norm. Twelve days had maximum temperatures in the 90's with a 97° high on 17 August surpassing the 91° set in 1965. Record low temperatures of 49° and 48° were set in early morning hours of 29 July and 12 August. Precipitation for June was 1.41 inches above normal, but July and August proved to be much drier with a combined total of 4.28 inches, far below the normal 7.53 inches. In fact, a seventeen day period from 10-26 August witnessed only .35 inch of moisture.

Positives for the season include increasing numbers of Double-crested Cormorants on Lake Ontario, Oneida and Onondaga Lakes. These birds are now breeding on Wantry Island in Oneida Lake, where 4 nests were found last summer and at least 18 nests were found this summer, for the first nestings ever in the Region. The fall shorebird flight has been fair, but lower in variety and very poor in juveniles. Expanding numbers of Caspian Terns and a mini-flight of Forster's Terns at Sandy Pond are very promising for the Lake Ontario littoral and inland. Populations of Mourning Doves and, surprisingly, Rock Doves are on the rise, attracted to the abundance of foods in plowed bean fields. Black-capped Chickadees seemed to be everywhere, possibly because of an early irruption or a population expansion. Two species of mimids, namely Catbird and N. Mockingbird, are indicating substantial increases in their numbers. House Wren, Robins and Cedar Waxwings continued their rise in population along with many of the icterids except E. Meadowlark. The ever-expanding House Finch is being observed more frequently at higher elevations and Am. Goldfinch numbers remain on the increase.

Negatives for the season include the extreme scarcity of Pied-billed Grebe. American and Least Bittern numbers remained low and no white herons were found anywhere. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal continued their decline in local waterways. The onset of an early haying season may be contributing to the decline of Upland Sandpiper. Common Nighthawks were almost nonexistent; very, very few birds could be heard calling over our cities this summer. Almost no Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported, with one observer commenting on how he had not seen one during the breeding season in Oswego Co. The population of territorial adult warblers seemed near normal, but as the nesting season came to a close, numbers of young birds were very low. Grassland sparrows remained on the decline with the abundant Savannah Sparrow becoming scarce in appropriate habitat.

Highlights for the season include the first summer appearance of an Oldsquaw in the Region. Observers were delighted in seeing the first successful nesting of an Osprey in the Three Rivers Game Management Area, Onondaga Co.; hopefully many more nesting sites will be established in the future. Eleven Short-billed Dowitchers observed feeding along the banks of the Mad River in Camden on 6 June by Marge Rusk were late spring migrants. The Whimbrels at Sandy Pond Inlet 16 July and at Poppleton Road 24-25 August were the first summer records in three years. Little Gull and Forster's Tern appeared at Sandy Pond, with a report of the latter from the east end of Oneida Lake on 23 August the first ever there. A Clay-colored Sparrow, singing to the delight of many observers, made its second summer appearance for the Region in five years. Finally, a Western Meadowlark, the Region's first record since 1983, and a male Orchard Oriole round out the summer's outstanding notables.

Contributors: Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Jane Kidney, Jeanne Lally, Gary Lee, Sheila Pebbles McCombie, Belle Pebbles, Robert L. Post, Bill Purcell, John Rogers, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Magdalena Stooks, Elba Van Dresar.

Abbreviations: CV - Camillus Valley; CM - Clay Marsh; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; HIGMA - Howland's Island Game Management Area; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; NPT - northern Pompey Township; SPd - Sandy Pond; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park; SVB - Sylvan & Verona beaches; TRGMA - Three Rivers Game Management Area, Onondaga Co.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Stillwater Res 28 Jun, one South L, Onei, 5 Jul. Pied-billed Grebe: four SPd 30 Aug. **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**: *intro*; record max 593 SPd 20 Aug, 34 near Erieville high so far inland. Am. Bittern: two SSP 18 Jun, one at Caughdenoy 16 Jul. Least Bittern: four birds for the season. Green-backed Heron: max 11 CM & Biddlecum 31 Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one FH 2 June, only report. Canada Goose: max 175 Caughdenoy & CM 23 Aug. Wood Duck: max 45 Poolsbrook 5 Jul. Am. Black Duck: max 12 Otisco L 3 Jun, SVB, OnonL 19 Jul. N. Pintail: three SPd 20 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: max 55 Delta L 22 Aug. Gadwall: three CM 18 Aug, only report. **OLDSQUAW**: one in summer plumage on L. Ontario off Pleasant Pt 29-30 Aug (JK), first Regional summer record. Hooded Merganser: four-five/day. Com. Merganser: max 12 Nine Mile Creek near Holland.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: im SPd 23 Aug. N. Harrier: 12 birds reported for the period. Red-shouldered Hawk: four reports of one or two birds each. Ruffed Grouse: max nine/day Oswe. Wild Turkey: max 16 Holland Patent 27 Aug. Virginia

Rail: five Poolsbrook 14 Aug. Sora: very scarce, two at Poolsbrook 14 Aug. Com. Moorhen: five SPd 30 Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr OnonL 5 Aug. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr SPd 29 Aug, max 24 Poppleton Rd 29 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr OnonL 11 Jul, max 25 Delta L & SVB 22 Aug. Killdeer: max 195. Greater Yellowlegs: arr SPd 16 Jul, max 17 Delta L 22 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr. OnonL 11 Jul, max 87 Delta L & SVB 22 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Poolsbrook 30 Jul, max four Delta L 22 Aug. Upland Sandpiper: max 16 near SVB 16 Jul. Whimbrel: *intro*. Ruddy Turnstone: arr SPd 23 Jul. Red Knot: arr OnonL 9 Aug. Sanderling: arr SPd 16 Jul, max 22 OnonL & SPd 29 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr SPd 16 Jul, max 117 Delta L, SVB and OnonL 22 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr OnonL 11 Jul, max 50 Delta L, SVB and OnonL 22 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr SPd 29 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: arr OnonL 29 Aug, max three SPd 30 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr SPd 23 Jul, max 43 Delta L, SVB and OnonL 22 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: arr 19 Jul SVB, singles only. Short-billed Dowitcher: *intro*. max 14 Delta L SVB and OnonL 22 Aug. Com. Snipe: max 14 CM 29 Aug. Red-necked Phalarope: one SPd 23 Aug. Little Gull: max three SPd 29, 30 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SVB 12 Jul, max 145 SVB 9 Aug. Great Black-backed Gull: max 27 SVB 1 Aug. Caspian Tern: arr SPd 16 Jul, max 70 SPd & OnonL 23 Aug. Com. Tern: max 235 SVB 23 Aug. Forster's Tern: one SPd 9 Aug, two-five there 20-29 Aug; *intro*. Black Tern: max eight SSSP 18 Jun.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 354 per day. Black-billed Cuckoo: max three per day, with 15 reported for the season. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: two reports, singles near W. Monroe and near Oneida. Barred Owl: one N. Willmurt and one Penn Mt. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*; 63 migrating at SVB 30 Aug. Red-headed Woodpecker: reported in scattered locations. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one to four per day. Black-backed Woodpecker: one near N. Willmurt 25 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 6, arr near SVB marshes 30 Aug. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Wood's L. Bog, n. Herk, 27 Jun; arr SPd 23 Aug. Alder Flycatcher: max 18 near Rome & Alder Creek 13 Jun. Willow Flycatcher: max 25 TRGMA & near Circero 14 Jun. E. Kingbird: max 46 SVB & n shore of Oneida L. Horned Lark: max 17 Paris Hill uplands 30 Aug. Purple Martin: max 24 SVB 12 Jul, very low. Tree Swallow: max 245 SPd & SSSP 16 July. N. Rough-winged Swallow: max eight near Alder Creek 13 Jun. Bank Swallow: max 300 SPd & SSSP 16 July. Cliff Swallow: max 95 n Oswe 19 Jul. Barn Swallow: max 400 Oswe 29 Aug. Com. Raven: four present Old Forge dump all season. Black-capped Chickadee: max 72, unusual for mid Jul. Sedge Wren: one to three near Clay 26 Jun-7 Jul. Marsh Wren: max 11 CM 26 Jun. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr SPd 30 Aug. E. Bluebird: ten pairs near Old Forge. Veery: max 38 per day. Hermit Thrush: max 29 n Herk 27 Jun. Wood Thrush: max 39 per day. Gray Catbird: max 47 per day. N. Mockingbird: a pair continue to appear on a regular basis at Old Forge. Brown Thrasher: max 12 per day. Cedar Waxwing: max 103 per day.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: max 18 n Herk 27 Jun. Warbling Vireo: max 18 per day. Philadelphia Vireo: arr Redfield 30 Aug. Blue-winged Warbler: one to three per day. Golden-winged Warbler: max three per day, less frequently reported than the previous species. Tennessee Warbler: one FY Echo L, Onei, 5 Jul (FGS), most probable Regional nesting record to date; arr 9 Aug. N. Parula: one singing at Toad Harbour 7 Jul (BP), most unexpected. Yellow Warbler: max 81 CV & Cicero Center 14 Jun. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 44 McKeever & n Herk 27 Jun. Cape May Warbler: arr SPd 29 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 13 n Herk 27 Jun. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 27 per day. Black-throated Green Warbler: max six Penn Mt & Echo L 15 Jul, very low. Pine Warbler: max three SSSP 27 Jun. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Echo Lake, Onei, 5 Jul (FGS). Am. Redstart: max 31 per day. Ovenbird: max 39 HIGMA, SSSP & near Pulaski 18 Jun. N. Waterthrush: arr SPd 30 Aug. Louisiana Waterthrush: two CV 14 Jun, only report. Mourning Warbler: max 15 per day. Com. Yellowthroat: max 82. Hooded Warbler: one near N Victory 3 Jun, first record for this BBS. Wilson's Warbler: arr SPd 20 Aug. Canada Warbler: max 18 n Herk 28 Jun. Yellow-breasted Chat: one CV 13 Jun, only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Chipping Sparrow: max 61 n Herk 28 Jun. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: singing male NPT 5-7 July (mob). Savannah Sparrow: max 16 per day, very low. Grasshopper Sparrow: one near N Willmurt 25 Jun, only report. Henslow's Sparrow: very scarce, only three sites reported, max three. Lincoln's Sparrow: max 15 Wood's L Bog, n Herk 28 June. Bobolink: max 60, last 31 Aug. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one near Amboy Center, Oswe, 29 Jun- 16 Jul (JR, mob). Orchard Oriole: male near nest CV 14-15 Jun. House Finch: max 102 per day. Red Crossbill: one near N Willmurt 25 Jun, two near Penn Mt & Echo L 5 Jul. Pine Siskin: one at a feeder Hastings 17 Jun. Am. Goldfinch: max 88 per day.

CORRIGENDA: Vol. 37: No. 3; p. 153; "two adult **Sandhill Cranes** flew by Derby Hill on 16 Apr." should read: one adult **Sandhill Crane** flew by Derby Hill on 15 April with two additional birds on 16 April, appearing there for the third consecutive year.

1065 Westmoreland Avenue, Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

June weather continued the trend of warm temperatures from the spring. Temperatures in the Region averaged a degree or two above normal, with the lowest readings in the upper 30's occurring on 6 June. With the exception of northern St. Lawrence Co., precipitation was about an inch above normal. July was hot and humid with mean temperatures about two degrees above normal. Because of localized showers, rainfall varied from below normal in Watertown to well above normal in Canton, where 4 inches fell on July 12. Although statewide this was the hottest and wettest August of the century, both temperatures and rainfall were generally below normal in the North Country, with fields looking parched by the end of the month. Lee Chamberlaine reports that birds were restricted by the hot dry weather but that the fruit crop is excellent. Departure dates and comments indicate that the fall migration started two weeks early.

K. Griffith reports relative numbers of waterfowl from Upper and Lower Lakes and Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Areas, respectively: Canada Goose: 150, hundreds continued increases!; Wood Duck: 40, 25; Mallard: 125, many; Blue-winged Teal: 25, 0; Gadwall: 0, 6; Am. Widgeon: 2, 12; Redhead: 0, 10; and Ring-necked Duck: 8, 0.

Lower water levels in the Great Lakes produced better conditions for shorebirds than have existed for several years but, according to Gerry Smith, the flight was only slightly above average. His detailed observations at Eldorado Preserve will be deferred to the Fall Report. However, a Parasitic Jaeger there on 23 August deserves mention. Other rarities for the season were a Merlin and a nesting Short-eared Owl.