

Annotated List of the Birds of Oneida County, New York

Centennial edition

The 2011 Update of Egbert Bagg's 1911 Bird List

Introduction:

August 12, 2011

It's probably a good idea to update a county's list of resident and transient bird species at least once every one hundred years – or more often if it can be managed! In 1886, Mr. Egbert Bagg II of Utica, teamed up with Dr. William L Ralph of Holland Patent and provided us with Oneida County's first ever published list of bird species. Their original list was called "An Annotated List of the Birds of Oneida County, N.Y. and its Immediate Vicinity". This Oneida County bird list was one of several that were popping up throughout Central New York in the latter part of the 19th century. These early county and area lists represented the first scientific documentation of precisely where bird species were occurring in Upstate New York. In these lists, the birds were organized in the prescribed taxonomical order of the time, as laid out by the American Ornithologists Union. Some lists included notes on certain aspects of the species' habits and physiology, as well as the dimensions of their eggs and nests. The most important component of these lists was the documentation of where and when a species was observed or obtained. This information was included in a brief summary that followed each bird's common and scientific name.

It's certainly true that a bird list of this kind is outdated as soon as it's committed to print, since there is always new data coming in as well as old sources that must be verified and incorporated into the list. When comparing our new updated list with Bagg's 1911 version, one will immediately notice that the nomenclature has changed substantially over time. As the science of zoology is continually refined, bird names and the species' taxonomical order are continually adjusted, and after a period of 100 years, the accumulated changes have dramatically altered the way a new list must appear. Many of us think of a species' scientific name as being immutable, however, one of the most notable changes between Bagg's era and ours is the dramatic alteration of bird Latin names.

The Dawn of Bird Conservation

In the second half of the 19th Century, the importance of environmental conservation was just dawning across New York State and the Country. Nature Clubs, Audubon Chapters and other conservation minded organizations were being formed, and among the membership of these groups was a growing awareness of the importance of keeping records on local wildlife – and not just in terms how each species benefited (or hindered) people. This environmental awakening was in part fostered by the Writings of Henry David Thoreau and by the naturalist writer, John Burroughs. Theodore Roosevelt was among those so inspired, and was himself one of the early contributors to the knowledge of New York State's bird life. As a young man in the 1870's, Roosevelt co-wrote a bird list called "The Summer Birds of the Adirondacks in Franklin County, N.Y." It's important to know that these early bird enthusiasts were not trained Ornithologists. Many of them were avid outdoorsmen who tried to emulate John James Audubon and, the lesser known, though just as important to American Ornithology, Alexander Wilson. Those men approached bird study with a gun in their hands and so would their followers. Conservation laws that protected migratory birds were still decades away in the future, and none of these men (and they were virtually all men), had any compunction about shooting whatever specimens presented themselves, no matter how rare they were thought to be. Their goals were to collect bird specimens and nests and eggs, to obtain details of each species' physiology and habits, and to obtain verifiable proof that a species occurred in a given region. Collecting specimens was the mode of operation for naturalists of that time. It was typical for a naturalist who

found a nest tree, to shoot the parent birds, chop down the tree and collect the nest, eggs and/or young. Many of these men were also skilled taxidermists and their individual collections might contain hundreds of stuffed specimens, often a great many more. It's important to note here that the data collected by these men was more that partially responsible for getting laws passed against the indiscriminant killing of birds and other wildlife.

The extent of the exploitation of birds in the 19th Century is difficult for us to comprehend today. It wasn't just naturalists who were procuring specimens; many private citizens had their own bird and egg collections as well. So popular were these collections that entrepreneurs set out into the wild in order to fill the demand for more birds and eggs. Market hunting of game was also considered a legitimate business in most areas of the Country. We could easily compare this unregulated harvest of game to the contemporary trade in "bush meat" in parts of Africa. In our own country, groups of hunters would try their best to take entire flocks of waterfowl, wild pigeons and shorebirds, and shipped the meat off to market (usually in the cities). This type of commercial exploitation of wildlife is largely responsible for the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, a bird that in the first half of the 19th Century would literally fill the skies of Central New York during their annual migration. Before the Civil War, much of the pigeon meat that was procured by market hunters was shipped to the Southern States where it was used as slave provisions.

Market hunting didn't represent the only organized exploitation of our American birds. Another potent threat was driven by a fashion craze that started in the 1880s. Feathers, both exotic and domestic were considered a fashion necessity and the demand for them was high. The "Plume Trade" (as it is known), nearly led to the extinction of several birds including the Snowy Egret, whose long white delicate feathers were highly coveted. It also seriously threatened the existence of many colony-nesting heron, gull and tern species. Few bird species, escaped the insatiable drive to adorn lady's hats with the beautiful feathers of breeding birds. During this period, the National Audubon Society reorganized itself and became a leading voice in the fight to stop the Plume Trade. It was no coincidence they chose the Snowy Egret as their organization's symbol.

Birds were also threatened by a popular tradition called the "side hunt" in which sportsman organizations all over the country would split into sides and compete over who could shoot the most birds and other small game. The Audubon Societies' Annual Christmas Bird Count came about as a protest to the traditional Christmas Side Hunt. The Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 and it still continues to this day. Regulations to limit the harvest of birds and other wildlife began appearing at the turn of the 20th century (but the first law that offered real protection to the majority of American native migratory birds was the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, first enacted in 1916.

The Area Covered by these Bird Lists

The original version of the Egbert Bagg's Annotated List, was presented at the Oneida County Historical Society in 1886. Bagg's 1911 updated list was also presented to that body and was included in the Society's published transcripts for that year. It's important to note here that neither of Bagg's lists were limited to birds found in Oneida County. The title of the original publication reads, "Annotated List of the Birds of Oneida County, N.Y. and its Immediate Vicinity". Furthermore, in the 1911 updated version of the list, Bagg includes bird species that were found in the West Canada Creek Valley, which included Herkimer and Hamilton Counties. In other words, his lists were comprised of many species that were *not found in Oneida County*, but in several adjacent counties. It is clear that Bagg assumed most birds found in the counties immediately adjacent to Oneida would likely also occur in Oneida County. Now, with the benefit of a hundred more years of data from the entire Central New York region, we know that many species that breed in Herkimer and Hamilton counties *do not* in fact breed in Oneida County, and some of them rarely, if ever, have been known to come across our border. We also know that many of the sea birds that regularly are seen in adjacent Oswego County (on Lake Ontario) have rarely if ever been documented in Oneida County. The new 2011 list I am introducing here and publishing on the Internet will include only those bird species that have been documented as occurring in Oneida County. The species that Bagg included on his list that have not been verified in Oneida County will not be included in our official tally, though they will be noted.

Comparing the Bird Tallies

Bagg and Ralph's original 1886 publication listed 224 birds. The revised list called "Annotated List of the Birds of Oneida County, N.Y. and the West Canada Creek Valley" was published in 1911 and featured a list of 257 Birds. Our newly revised list of strictly Oneida County birds contains a total of 304 bird species. We've also included, but not officially counted, hybrids and some exotic species that are suspected to be of captive origin.

Major Changes in the Bird Community

Many changes have come about over the past century, changes that have greatly impacted bird numbers and their distribution across our State and region. For the most part, these changes developed so gradually they may have escaped the notice of much of the general public. But over the course of many decades, these accumulative changes have had a tangible effect. For instance, during the last 50 years, some particularly visible southern birds have expanded their ranges to the north and into Oneida County. Among these now familiar species are the Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Turkey Vulture and Red-bellied Woodpecker. It is interesting to think that today these four common species were either completely absent, or in the case of the vulture and the woodpecker, listed only as extremely rare visitors on Bagg's 1911 list. Now of course, it would be hard to imagine our yards and landscapes without them. All four of these species (and many more) came into the area to take advantage of a newly emerging landscape that suited their habitat needs. Important factors that impelled these range expansions include a warming climate, the proliferation of bird feeders (Cardinal and Titmouse), the re-growth of forestlands (Red-bellied Woodpecker), and the abundant supply of fresh road-kill (Turkey Vulture). All of these things played a role in luring new birds to our area.

Waterfowl numbers have positively exploded over the last several decades, particularly the number of migratory and resident geese in our area. Formerly, the Canada Goose was known only as a migrant. They would fly over the County, but rarely in impressive numbers. Now the Canada Goose is often a year-round resident; they breed at ponds, lakes and marshlands throughout the region and their migrating flocks, which sometimes number in the tens of thousands, can be seen throughout the County.

The Snow Goose was not found on Bagg's list and remained completely absent from the region until recent decades; now, they too regularly migrate over our region, occasionally in great numbers. The Mallard was only a transient species in Bagg's time. Now they've become our most common breeding duck species, displacing the closely related, Black Duck.

Many raptor species that were once rare have become familiar (if not common) sights in the region. Red-tailed Hawk have become our most common species of raptor, displacing the smaller Red-shouldered Hawk that was more prominent in Bagg's day. The banning of the pesticide DDT in the early 1970s has led to the return of Osprey and Peregrine Falcon throughout the State and in Oneida County. Also, a greater understanding and appreciation of the raptors' role in nature has led to fewer being shot as malicious "chicken-hawks" or more generally, as pests. It is worth noting here that there is a limit to how common any raptor can be in a given habitat. The number of predators in an area is always dictated by the abundance of available prey. In fact, a population of prey species *must* always greatly outnumber their predators. Fierce territoriality in raptors also serves to limit how common they will become in a given area, particularly during the breeding season.

Big Changes on the Landscape

Over the past century, the single most significant factor influencing the composition of our avian community has been the alteration of the Central New York landscape from primarily an agricultural one, to a mainly forested and residential one. Grassland birds like the Eastern Meadowlark and the Vesper Sparrow that were once common fixtures, began disappearing in the past century when their preferred habitat, hay fields and pastures, were altered. Many farm fields were abandoned and left to grow into brushy meadows and woodlots, or were planted instead with row crops such as corn and soybeans. As farmers commonly adopted the practice of mowing early in the year in order to boost their yield further doomed these ground nesting birds as they often became unable to finish raising their broods before harvesting began. Most interestingly, these grassland species would have been very rare on the original landscape that the American colonizers found when they first settled this region in the

late 18th and early 19th centuries. These people, in a very short time, effectively cleared the forest that for thousands of years had dominated Central New York. It was this massive conversion of virgin forest to agricultural land that originally enticed grassland bird species into Oneida County and the region.

Other birds have significantly retracted from their breeding ranges during the 20th Century, as abandoned fields began to revert to forest. Birds like the Red-headed Woodpecker and the Loggerhead Shrike, that required large open areas for their habitat, began to disappear as those open areas started to close in with new tree growth. At the same time, many woodland nesting birds were lured back to the area by the returning forest after having been forced to abandon the region when the original forest was felled. The always impressive, crow-sized Pileated Woodpecker was one of the many species that returned to Oneida County when forests became mature enough to suit their habitat needs.

The Importance of Wetlands

The protection of wetlands has been one of the most important factors in safeguarding populations of many uncommon and threatened bird species. More than a century and a half of draining swamps and destroying flood plains had taken a large toll on wetland birds. It is now generally accepted that preserving wetlands not only helps wildlife, but also aids human communities by reducing the severity of flooding events and by naturally filtering fresh water. The return of the beaver to New York State has significantly increased the amount of available wetland habitat. By creating water impoundments (and when those ponds are abandoned, open meadow habitat), beavers create and maintain habitat for scores of wetland birds like the Wood Duck, Herons and Kingfisher. These beaver ponds also flood out trees, which die and then provide woodpeckers and other cavity nesting species with more nesting opportunities. For this reason, species such as the increasingly rare Red-headed Woodpecker have been shown to benefit from the presence of beavers in areas throughout New York State.

How to Help Birds in Oneida County

What can you do to help birds in Oneida County? First of all you can inform yourself regarding the many pressing conservation issues that affect birds locally, nationally, and internationally. Global climate change, acid rain, mercury and lead contamination, invasive species in the environment and forest fragmentation are just a few of the serious challenges facing birds and all of nature today. Study the habitat needs of the birds that have traditionally nested in the region and help to preserve or help to create those types of habitat. Collecting data is very important in the cause of bird preservation. In this modern era, citizen collected data has become increasingly important in the field of ornithology. People from all across the Country, in all walks of life, most with no formal scientific training, are involved in the collection of valuable data about bird populations and species distribution. The New York State Ornithological Association has been collecting data on New York State birds since 1950. Much of that data is published in a quarterly journal called "The Kingbird". In this publication, documented sightings of all bird species are listed in regional reports. The region 5 reporting area in New York State contains Oneida County and is responsible for some of the data that was used to create this new Oneida County list. Unfortunately, when compared to some of the other counties contained in region 5, (namely Oswego and Onondaga Counties) Oneida County has fewer bird watchers that report their findings. It's clear, at least to me, that birders and conservationists in Oneida County must become more proactive and start regularly checking local birding hotspots (and elsewhere) for recent bird occurrences. For the sake of future and present bird conservation, it's crucial for us to provide a continuous supply of empirical data from all around the State. One way we can move in the right direction is to report our bird observations to the New York State Ornithological Association. For more information on how to get involved, please contact me at mperry63@roadrunner.com.

The New List of Oneida County Birds

This new list of Oneida County Birds has been designed so that it can be easily compared with the revised list that Egbert Bagg completed in 1911. That list can be downloaded or viewed online in several different formats by following this link:

[Annotated list of the birds of Oneida County, N.Y. and of the West Canada Creek Valley](#)

My intention is to keep this new list updated and to periodically post revised versions of it on the Internet where it can remain generally available. I am determined that we will not have to wait another one hundred years before we see the next revised list of the birds of Oneida County.

I thank Amy Roth from the Utica Observer-Dispatch for reminding me of Bagg's historic list in the year of its centennial. More than anything else, being reminded of the local significance of this list led me to create and make available this updated list. I also thank Debbora Quayle for her input and support while I devoted countless lunch hours and evenings to researching this topic. Finally, I'm most grateful to Spring Farm CARES, whose dedication to and support of regional conservation issues has enabled me undertake this project.

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A Guide for Using This List

I've avoided using ornithological jargon in this list so that it can be readily understood by anyone who has even a passing interest in birds.

A single asterisk (*) appearing after a species' Latin name indicates that a bird breeds in Oneida County. Two asterisks (**) appearing after the Latin name indicates there is insufficient evidence of breeding in the County, but that breeding is suspected. A bullet point (•) appearing before a species' common name indicates one of the following possibilities:

- There is not enough evidence the species occurs in the County
- The bird is a hybrid species
- The bird is an exotic species of suspected captive origin
- The species is extinct

The letter "B" in parenthesis refers to Bagg, and specifically to his 1911 list. The number that follows the "B" in parenthesis references the number assigned to the species in Bagg's 1911 list. If the letter "X" appears after the "B", then that species does not appear in Bagg's list and may be new to Oneida County.

Family Anatidae — Geese, Swans, and Ducks

1. Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* (B # X)

Greater White-fronted Goose: An uncommon to rare straggler. This species has been seen in Oneida County on several occasions. In recent years it has been found in Verona, Sauquoit (twice), Sangerfield, Boonville (2 were found together in the fall of 2004) and at the Utica Marsh.

2. Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens* (B # X)

Snow Goose: A very common to abundant migrant that is seen throughout Oneida County and the region. Often, very large flocks are found on Oneida Lake during migration. In Bagg's time this species was unknown in the region. Both the dark phase (blue goose) and the typical white form of this species began to become increasingly common during the 1990s. In recent years, flocks in the 10s of thousands are not unusual on our largest lakes. Many hundreds of them can also be seen far inland as they migrate during the spring and fall. On December 18th 1999, 1060 were counted flying over the greater Utica area. 6,000 were counted in Durhamville on March 31st, 2002. An astounding 50,000 Snow Geese were reported from the Sylvan/Verona area on March 29th, 2005. Flocks adding up to a total of 5,000 birds flew over Clinton on January 7th 2007.

3. Ross's Goose *Chen rossii* (B # X)

Ross's Goose: An uncommon to rare migrant in Oneida County and the region. Individuals of this small version of the Snow Goose are most often seen together with flocks of Snow Geese. In recent years individuals have been found in Sauquoit and at Oneida Lake.

4. Brant *Branta bernicla* (B # 46)

Brant: A not uncommon migrant that is seen on (or flying over) larger lakes in Oneida County and in the region. Brant are much less frequently found inland. A flock of 300 flew over Kirkland in the spring of 2000. This species is most commonly found at Oneida Lake.

5. Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii* (B # X)

Cackling Goose: An uncommon to rare migrant in Oneida County. During migration, individuals of this species are sometimes found mixed in with larger groups of the very similar, but noticeably larger Canada Goose. In recent years this species has been observed locally in Sauquoit (multiple sightings in the last few years), Boonville and Verona. Additionally, 3 were seen on March 25th at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area. Generally, sightings of this species appear to be increasing in Oneida County.

6. Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* * (B # 45)

Canada Goose: An abundant migrant and now a common summer resident. They breed throughout Oneida County and the region. They are an occasional winter resident, especially in early winter when agricultural fields are not yet covered with snow, and some open water remains. 12,000 of them were reported in the Sylvan/Verona Beach area on March 24th 2004. A respectable 10,000 were reported at Lake Delta on December 8th 2004.

7. Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (Exotic) * (B # X)

Mute Swan: An exotic introduced species. They have been confirmed as breeding in several locations in Oneida County. They are often a year-round resident as long as open water remains available to them. The local and regional population has been increasing in recent decades.

8. Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus* (B # 47)

Tundra Swan: An increasingly common migrant in our County and in the region. They are most often seen on the larger lakes. According to Bill Purcell, the region 5 (which contains Oneida County) editor of the "The Kingbird", (A New York State Ornithological Association Publication) said that in modern times, observing 100 Tundra Swan on Oneida Lake would not be considered unusual. 53 were seen on Oneida Lake in the fall of 2005. When this species is encountered inland, it is usually only in small numbers.

9. Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator* (B # X)

Trumpeter Swan: A very rare migrant in Oneida County. There are indications that this species, which is only now bouncing back from the brink of extinction, is being found more frequently in recent years. Hopefully, we will see number of local sightings begin to increase in future seasons. 8 were observed in Barneveld on January 1st, 2007.

10. Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* * (B # 32)

Wood Duck: A common migrant that breeds in wetlands and small ponds throughout the County and the region. Surveys indicated that New York State's Wood Duck populations have been increasing in recent decades. This species has benefited from the increasing number of beaver ponds that have been created throughout the State.

11. Gadwall *Anas strepera* (B # 26)

Gadwall: A regular migrant, but always found in small numbers in Oneida County. The species breeds at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and a few other places in New York State but not in our local area.

12. Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* (Exotic) (B # X)

Eurasian Wigeon: An uncommon to rare migrant. There are recent records of this species being seen during migration at Oneida Lake. One was observed at the Utica Marsh in the spring of 1997.

13. American Wigeon *Anas americana* (B # 27)

American Wigeon: A common migrant that shows up at medium sized to large bodies of water and at marshy areas throughout Oneida County and the region. They do breed in some areas in New York State, but not locally.

14. American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* * (B # 25)

Black Duck: An increasingly uncommon species of waterfowl in Oneida County and in New York State. They are still regularly found during migration and some still do breed locally. The Black Duck sometimes hybridizes with the much more common Mallard.

15. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* * (B # 24)

Mallard: Our most common duck species as both a migrant and summer resident breeder. They can be abundant in wetlands, ponds and lakes throughout the area. The Mallard occasionally hybridize with the Black Duck.

- **Mallard x American Black Duck Hybrid *Anas platyrhynchos x Anas rubripes* * (B # X)**

Mallard x American Black Duck Hybrid: A rather uncommon hybrid of 2 closely related species that have overlapping summer ranges. Only several hybrids have been found in Oneida County in recent decades. It's likely that they actually occur more often than they are identified.

16. Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* * (B # 29)

Blue-winged Teal: a fairly common migrant in some years. They breed within Oneida County but they are declining. There are some records indicating that the species formerly bred at the Utica Marsh.

17. Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* ** (B # 30)

Northern Shoveler: A common Migrant at the Utica Marsh and a few other local areas. In recent years, high counts of this species in any one day could reach up to 15 individuals. They rarely breed in Oneida County, but there is recent evidence of the species breeding around Oneida Lake.

18. Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* * (B # 31)

Northern Pintail: A common migrant found at the Utica Marsh, where it's not unusual to find a dozen or more mixed in with other waterfowl species. There is some good evidence that the Pintail has bred in Oneida County.

19. Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* ** (B # 28)

Green-winged Teal: An abundant migrant, occurring in wetland habitats – large and small. There is some recent evidence that the species may breed in Oneida County.

20. Canvasback *Aythya valisineria* (B # 34)

Canvasback: An uncommon migrant at Oneida Lake and rarely encountered elsewhere in the county.

21. Redhead *Aythya Americana* (B # 33)

Redhead: An uncommon migrant at Oneida Lake and rare elsewhere in Oneida County. Sometimes they occur on Oneida Lake in large numbers. 122 were observed there on March 17th 2007. There is some evidence that the species has bred in adjacent counties.

22. Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (B # X)

Ring-necked Duck: A very common migrant seen widely throughout Oneida County on ponds, lakes and wetlands. On larger stretches of open water they can often be found in groups numbering in the hundreds. There are records of this species breeding in neighboring Herkimer County.

23. Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (Exotic) (B # X)

Tufted Duck: An exotic species and a rare straggler in Oneida County and the region. To my knowledge, this species has been found only once at the Utica Marsh in the mid 1990's.

24. Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* (B # 35)

Greater Scaup: An uncommon migrant in most parts of Oneida County. They sometimes occur on Lake Delta and more regularly occur on Oneida Lake. At the latter location they have been known to show up in large groups numbering in the 100s. On March 24th 2007, 370 Greater Scaup were recorded at Oneida Lake.

25. Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (B # 36)

Lesser Scaup: This species is much more commonly found than the similar, Greater Scaup. The Lesser Scaup is most often found at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. A flock of 600 were found at the former location on one day in the spring of 2007. Small numbers of this species are sometimes found along with other migrant diving ducks at the Utica Marsh and other area wetlands

26. King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (B # 40)

King Eider: This species only uncommonly occurs on Lake Ontario. And I have found no information on recent sightings of this "sea duck" in Oneida County. For now we will include the King Eider on our new list – based on the specimen evidence from Bagg, but if the species is not observed again within the next few decades, it should probably be dropped from the Oneida County list.

27. Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (B # 43)

Surf Scoter: An uncommon migrant. This "sea duck" is primarily seen on the region's large lakes including Oneida Lake. A total of 34 were found on Oneida Lake on April 30th 2007 – a rare high count for this species in spring. A single individual was found at the Utica Marsh in 1976. Another was found near Utica on the Mohawk River during the Clinton/Utica Christmas Bird Count on December 18th 1999.

28. White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca* (B # 42)

White-winged Scoter: A not uncommon migrant that is most often found on the regions large lakes - like Oneida Lake. This species is rarely found at other locations in Oneida County. 62 White-winged Scoter were seen at Oneida Lake on one day in May of 2001 and 123 were counted there on May 7th 2007. At that same location, 157 were seen on May 24th 2008 – this represented a later than usual migration movement.

29. Black Scoter *Melanitta americana* (B # 41)

Black Scoter: A not uncommon migrant that is most often found on the regions large lakes like Oneida Lake. They are rarely encountered elsewhere in the County. 7 were observed at Hinckley Reservoir on October 8th 2001.

30. Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* (B # 39)

Long-tailed Duck: In some years this species is a fairly common migrant on Oneida Lake. They have been found a few times at the Utica Marsh and at other area lakes and wetlands.

31. Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* (B # 38)

Bufflehead: A fairly common migrant in Oneida County and around the region. This small diving duck shows up usually in small groups at area lakes and wetlands. They are regularly found at the Utica Marsh, particularly in the spring.

32. Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (B # 37)

Common Goldeneye: A common migrant at Oneida Lake. However, they are less common in most other areas including at the Utica Marsh. A group of 450 were seen at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area on November 20th, 2007. This species is known to breed in northern Herkimer County. They are occasionally found during the winter on open water.

33. Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* (B # X)

Barrow's Goldeneye: A rare straggler from western North America. Sometimes individuals are seen on Oneida Lake – most often mixed in with flocks of Common Goldeneye. One was observed on Oneida Lake on April 8th, 2007.

34. Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus* * (B # 23)

Hooded Merganser: A common migrant and an uncommon summer resident. This species breeds at Utica Marsh and in a few other locations in Oneida County. Occasionally, they are found in the area during the winter, but only when there is open water available. This species may be increasing locally.

35. Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* * (B # 21)

Common Merganser: A fairly common year-round resident in Oneida County. This species is often seen on local rivers, large streams, ponds, lakes and marshes. They breed widely throughout the region in wetland habitat. A high count of 2,400 was seen on Oneida Lake on January 9th 2006.

36. Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* (B # 22)

Red-breasted Merganser: A migrant that is sometimes found in fair numbers on Oneida Lake. They are less commonly seen in other areas around the County. There are no recent records of this species breeding in Oneida County or the vicinity. A group of 100 were observed in one day at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area in the fall of 1999.

37. Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* ** (B # 44)

Ruddy Duck: A common migrant that is seen at the Utica Marsh and other area marshlands and lakes. There is some recent evidence of this species breeding in the vicinity of Oneida Lake.

Family Odontophoridae — New World Quail

38. Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* ** (B # 22)

Bobwhite: This remains a rare resident in Oneida County. Attempts are still made to introduce captive bred birds in the area, but they rarely survive harsh winters. There is some evidence of breeding in a few neighboring counties.

Family Phasianidae — Partridges, Grouse, and Turkeys

39. Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (Exotic, Introduced) * (B # X)

Ring-necked Pheasant: An introduced exotic species. Formerly, they were common in Oneida County, but in recent decades they've become increasingly uncommon. They are more often seen in rural agricultural areas, but have been declining even there. Some programs of captive breeding and release continue in the region, primarily for the purposes of hunting. Bagg did not include the Pheasant on his 1911 updated list because of the species' exotic origins.

40. Ruffed Grouse *Bonasa umbellus* * (B # 91)

Ruffed Grouse: A common but declining year-round resident in Oneida County. They breed throughout the region in woodlots and overgrown meadows.

41. Spruce Grouse *Falcapennis Canadensis* (B # 90)

Spruce Grouse: An uncommon year-round resident of only the most northerly parts of the Central New York region. In recent decades there have been no confirmed instances of breeding in Oneida or even in Herkimer County. In New York State, this species is rarely found outside of the Adirondack Mountains. This species is currently on New York State's Endangered Species List

- **Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus* (B # 92)**

Willow Ptarmigan: Unknown in the region. No historical records of this species occurring in New York State have ever been verified. It's thought that the specimen that Bagg speaks of in his 1911 bird list was most likely a partial albino Spruce Grouse and not the Willow Ptarmigan.

42. Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* * (B # X)

Wild Turkey: A very common year-round resident. They now breed widely throughout the region and in all sections of Oneida County. Efforts to reintroduce this native species in New York State in the latter part of the 20th Century were very successful. They began colonizing Oneida County from the south in the 1980's.

Family Gaviidae — Loons

43. Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* (B # 5)

Red-throated Loon: This species is an uncommon migrant in Oneida County. They are occasionally seen on the region's larger lakes and ponds. One landed in a Clinton parking lot during an ice storm in the late winter of 2009. That bird was later released on the West Canada Creek.

44. Common Loon *Gavia immer* * (B # 4)

Common Loon: An uncommon summer resident that breeds in the northeastern part of Oneida County. Breeding in New York State is mostly limited to Adirondack lakes. The Common Loon can be found during spring and fall migration on lakes and reservoirs throughout Central New York. A count of 145 Common Loon were observed on Oneida Lake on April 13th 2008. This species has been found rarely in early winter on the Mohawk River and the Barge Canal. The Common Loon is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

45. Yellow-billed Loon *Gavia adamsii* (B # X)

Yellow-billed Loon: An extremely rare straggler. There is only one known occurrence of this species on record for Oneida County. An individual was found in an ice-free area below the dam at Hinckley Reservoir. The Loon remained at that place from January 18th to February 1st 1999.

Family Podicipedidae — Grebes**46. Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* * (B # 3)**

Pied-billed Grebe: A fairly common migrant and an uncommon summer resident. Occasionally found on lakes, ponds, and wetlands. They breed at Utica Marsh and few other places in Oneida County. This species is currently on New York State's Threatened Species List.

47. Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* (B # 2)

Horned Grebe: An uncommon migrant that occasionally visits area lakes, ponds and marshlands including the Utica Marsh. They are only rarely found in winter. One was seen in the normally frozen Hinckley Reservoir in January of 1998.

48. Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (B # 1)

Red-necked Grebe: An uncommon migrant in Oneida County. The species occasionally occurs on large lakes like Oneida Lake and wetlands including the Utica Marsh. A count of 7 was seen on a single day at Chittning Pond in Sangerfield in the spring of 1982.

Family Procellariidae — Fulmars, Shearwaters and Petrels**49. Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma hasitata* (B # 18)**

Black-capped Petrel: Very rarely seen in the region. The identification of the 1893 specimen taken at Oneida Lake (Bagg) was verified in recent decades, but there have been no known recent sightings of this bird in Oneida County. However, it has been reported that 2 individuals of this species showed up on Lake Ontario in Oswego County within the past decade.

Family Phalacrocoracidae — Cormorants**50. Double-crested Cormorant *Phalacrocorax auritus* ** (B # 20)**

Double-crested Cormorant: A relatively common migrant. Sightings have been on the increase in recent decades as this species frequents area lakes and wetlands during migration. They breed on Oneida Lake in counties adjacent to Oneida County. There are some indications that they have bred in Oneida County.

- **Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (B # 19)**

Great Cormorant: I know of no record of this species occurring in Oneida County, but the Great Cormorant is a rare accidental visitor at Lake Ontario where it's been seen several times in recent decades. I'm not including this species in our official count because of the lack of detail in single occurrence that Bagg sites.

Family Pelecanidae — Pelicans

51. American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (B # X)

American White Pelican: A rare straggler. There have been multiple appearances of this species in recent years on Oneida Lake, usually just outside of Oneida County. Recorded occurrences took place at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area for 2 consecutive summers in 1991 and '92.

Family Ardeidae — Bitterns, Herons, and Allies

52. American Bittern *Botaurus lentiginosus* * (B # 48)

American Bittern: An uncommon migrant and a less common summer resident in much of Oneida County. This secretive species has become increasingly uncommon in recent years. However, they are more common in wetlands in the northern sections of the region where they remain a reliable breeder. Historic breeding records are widespread throughout the County. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

53. Least Bittern *Ixobrychus exilis* * (B # 49)

Least Bittern: This species is an uncommon to rare summer resident. They rely on the presence of large cattail marshes for their breeding habitat. Records dating back to the mid 1970s indicate that this Robin sized bittern breeds at the Utica Marsh and very few other locations within Oneida County. This species is currently on New York State's Threatened Species List.

54. Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias* * (B # 50)

Great Blue Heron: A common summer resident. This species is likely the most common of all the heron species that occur in Oneida County and the region. They have been confirmed as breeding in several locations around the County. They are occasionally found during the winter months as long as there remains some open water.

55. Great Egret *Ardea alba* (B # 51)

Great Egret: A not uncommon migrant. This species can be found at wetlands and lakes throughout the area. Sometimes they occur in small flocks of 10 or 12 birds. An unprecedented 22 Great Egret were observed at Lake Delta on a single day in September of 1998. There are some indications of this species breeding in an adjacent county.

56. Snowy Egret *Egretta thula* (B # X)

Snowy Egret: A rare straggler in Oneida County. This species has been seen several times in recent decades at Oneida Lake, Rome and at the Utica Marsh. In the spring of 1979, 3 Snowy Egret were found at the latter location.

- **Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (B # 52)**

Little Blue Heron: I know of no local occurrences of this species, though they sometimes show up as accidentals in the western part of the State. After considering the description that Bagg relays in his account, I can't safely rule

out that this wasn't in fact another heron species. For that reason, I'm not including this species in this updated list.

57. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (Exotic) (B # X)

Cattle Egret: An exotic species and an uncommon to rare visitor in Oneida County. Sightings seem to be increasing in recent years. It has been found at several locations including: Sauquoit (2010), Vernon (1984), Rome (1978), Holland Patent (1976 and in '87), and Utica (1976). It has been observed at least once at the Utica Marsh.

58. Green Heron *Butorides virescens* * (B # 53)

Green Heron: A common summer resident that is found at nearly every wetland and pond. This crow sized heron breeds throughout Oneida County and the region.

59. Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* ** (B # 54)

Black-crowned Night Heron: An uncommon migrant at Utica Marsh and Oneida Lake. They may continue to be an occasional summer resident at the latter location. They are only rarely found in other parts of the County. One was observed in Kirkland in the summer of 1996. 2 were seen at the Utica Marsh on April 25th 2000. One was found at that same location on August 30th 2006. There is some evidence that the species may have bred in Oneida County in recent years.

60. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea* (B # X)

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: A quite rare migrant in our area. Usually, it's only juveniles of this species that are encountered. A few individuals have been encountered at the Utica Marsh in recent decades. Local data on this species is sparse.

Family Threskiornithidae — Ibises and Spoonbills

61. Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (B # 3)

Glossy Ibis: A rare straggler. There are only a few records of this species occurring in Oneida County. Individuals have been seen at the Utica Marsh (spring of 1977) and in Sangerfield in recent years.

Family Cathartidae — New World Vultures

62. Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura* * (B # 95)

Turkey Vulture: Formerly, this species was rare, but now they are a common migrant and summer resident in Oneida County. The species first began spreading into the region in the mid 1970s. And by the 1990s, they'd become quite common. They breed widely throughout Oneida County and the region.

Family Pandionidae — Osprey

63. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* * (B # 109)

Osprey: A not uncommon migrant and summer resident around larger bodies of water, rivers and wetlands. They breed around Oneida Lake and in other several other areas in Oneida County. The Osprey has staged a remarkable recovery in recent decades and the species continues to increase in number. After a long absence, the first confirmed modern instance of breeding took place at North Bay on Oneida Lake in the summer of 1983. Since that time, the Osprey has become a regular breeder in the County. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

Family Accipitridae — Kites, Eagles, Hawks, and Allies

64. Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* ** (B # 105)

Bald Eagle: Now a relatively common sight, particularly around the area's northern rivers and at Oneida Lake, Lake Delta and Hinckley Reservoir. The species has been on the increase throughout New York State in recent years. Bald Eagles are also increasingly found during the winter along the areas' rivers and large creeks. Also in winter, they are occasionally spotted feeding on animal carcasses in open fields. There is some evidence that the Bald Eagle breeds within Oneida County. This species is currently on New York State's Threatened Species List.

65. Northern Harrier *Circus cyaneus* * (B # 96)

Northern Harrier: A not uncommon migrant and a less common summer resident. They breed in large open fields and marshlands throughout Oneida County and the region, though in recent years, they are becoming increasingly difficult to find. A few are sometimes seen flying low over open fields during the winter months. This species is currently on New York State's Threatened Species List.

66. Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* * (B # 97)

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A fairly common migrant as well as both a winter and summer resident. The species also breeds widely throughout Oneida County in forested areas. They have bred for 6 successive seasons in Hamilton College's Kirkland Woods beginning in the spring of 1996. This species, along with the similar Cooper's Hawk, are best known for hunting around bird feeding stations – mostly during the winter. Their taste for doves and other small songbirds has earned them a bad reputation with some bird lovers. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

67. Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii* * (B # 98)

Cooper's Hawk: Like the preceding species, the Cooper's Hawk is a fairly common migrant as well as both a winter and summer resident. They breed widely throughout the County in forested areas. Also, like the smaller Sharp-shinned Hawk, the Cooper's Hawk is a well known predator at feeding stations – often making off with doves and other songbird types. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

68. Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* * (B # 99)

Northern Goshawk: An uncommon migrant, winter and summer resident in Oneida County. This species has been found breeding in a number of locations around the County, especially in larger tracts of forest in more Northern sections. One nest was confirmed in the Town Of Remsen in the spring of 1999. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

69. Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus* * (B # 101)

Red-shouldered Hawk: Formerly (in Bagg's time), the most common local hawk; now they are an uncommon migrant and an uncommon summer resident through the much of our area They are moderately more common in the northwestern section of Oneida County where they continue to breed. This hawk breeds most often in swampy woodland settings. One of the most reliable places to find the Red-shouldered Hawk is at the Rome Sand Plains. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

70. Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus* * (B # 102)

Broad-winged Hawk: A not uncommon summer resident. Breeds in forested landscapes, especially, but not limited to the northern portion of Oneida County.

71. Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis* * (B # 100)

Red-tailed Hawk: Our most common resident species of raptor. It is found in Oneida County and throughout the region in all seasons. They usually nest in large trees located close to agricultural fields or open areas, but they will occasionally make their nests deeper in a wooded area. They breed all over Oneida County except in the most densely forested parts.

72. Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus* (B # 103)

Rough-legged Hawk: a not uncommon winter resident in some years. In other years they can be completely absent. This species is found most commonly in large open fields. In recent decades the most reliable area to find them has been Verona, but they've also been found in many other rural towns. A high count of 9 was found in the Verona area during the Oneida Christmas Bird Count on January 1st 2006

73. Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (B # 104)

Golden Eagle: An infrequent migrant that has been seen in recent years in several locations in Oneida County. One was observed in Remsen in December of 1995. Two were seen separately as they flew over Kirkland in April of 2000. Another one flew over Kirkland in November of 2002. One was seen in Verona on March 17th 2006. Outside of Oneida County, numerous Golden Eagle are observed every fall at the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch near Oneonta. They are also regularly seen at the Derby Hill Hawk Watch near Lake Ontario. There are some indications that the species may breed in some adjacent counties. The Golden Eagle is currently on New York State's Endangered Species List.

Family Falconidae — Falcons**74. American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* * (B # 108)**

American Kestrel: A relatively common small falcon of the rural countryside that has been somewhat declining in recent decades. Doubtlessly, contributing to the Kestrel's decline has been a decreasing amount of open land that it needs for hunting and the loss of farm buildings that the species often utilizes for nesting.

75. Merlin *Falco columbarius* ** (B # 107)

Merlin: An uncommon species of falcon seen mostly during migration in a variety of habitats from wetlands, to agricultural fields, to urban areas. Occasionally they are found during the winter. Sightings of this species have greatly increased in recent years. There are some indications that breeding may be taking place within Oneida County.

76. Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* (B # X)

Gyrfalcon: A rare visitor from the far north. The single verified Oneida County record comes from Rome on the October 11th 1998. This species has been observed several times around the eastern edge of Lake Ontario.

77. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* * (B # 106)

Peregrine Falcon: An uncommon migrant and year-round resident in Oneida County. This species, though still on New York State's Endangered Species List, has definitely been on the increase in recent years. There was a confirmed nest in Downtown Utica in 2008 and 2009. That nest was located on M&T Bank's Gold Dome building. Only 4 stories high on a ledge under a large overhanging roof, this nest was determined to be by far, the lowest of

any urban nesting Peregrines in New York State. Single Peregrines were observed in Utica for about a decade before a nesting attempt was finally confirmed. This species is not uncommonly found hunting ducks and shorebirds during fall migration at Delta Lake and Oneida Lake. In recent years, a relatively few number of documented sightings have taken place around the County. One was seen on July 19th 2002 as it flew over Spring Farm CARES' Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland.

Family Rallidae — Rails, Gallinules, and Coots

78. Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis* (B # 58)

Yellow Rail: Very rarely found in the region. There have been no recent sightings of this species in Oneida County that I can find good records for.

- **Black Rail *Laterallus jamaicensis* ** (B # X)**

Black Rail: Very rare in the region and in the State. There has only been one possible sighting in Oneida County in recent years. This was made by an experienced observer who located an adult with young at the Utica Marsh. Though this single encounter might be considered adequate proof of the Black Rail's presence in the County, since this is a listed Endangered Species in New York and its presence in Upstate New York is nearly unprecedented, I will wait for further evidence before including this species on our new Oneida County list.

79. Virginia Rail *Rallus limicola* * (B # 56)

Virginia Rail: A fairly common summer resident found in several parts of Oneida County where large cattail marshes exist. The most persistent colony may be found at the Utica Marsh where the species is known to breed. Another breeding location for this rail is at Verona Beach State Park.

80. Sora *Porzana carolina* * (B # 57)

Sora: A summer resident. This rail species is not as common as the Virginia Rail, but they do share the same preference for cattail marshes as that species. They breed in at least several locations around Oneida County including at the Utica Marsh. They are rarely found in winter. One was discovered at the Utica Marsh in January of 1997.

81. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* * (B # 59)

Common Moorhen: A fairly uncommon summer resident that is found in few locations around the County. They breed reliably at Utica Marsh. Recent Surveys indicate that the species is declining in New York State. The maximum number recorded of this species locally was 70 found at the Utica Marsh on one day in the summer of 1977. A high count of 20 was found on one day at that same location in the summer of 1999.

82. American Coot *Fulica americana* * (B # 60)

American Coot: A relatively common migrant in some years – most often appearing on Oneida County's larger lakes. Breeding of this species has been confirmed at the Utica Marsh since at least 1977, when 3 pairs were found with young on one day in summer. An unprecedented flock of 300 were seen at the Utica Marsh in the fall of 1994 – undoubtedly, most of those were migrants.

Family Gruidae — Cranes

83. Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis* (B # 55)

Sandhill Crane: A rare migrant in Oneida County. They breed in small numbers at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and a few other locations in Western New York. An individual Sandhill Crane was found in Vernon in October of 1987. Singles were found in Verona in the spring of 1988 and in 2001. One unusual summer

observation (not during migration) took place Paris in 2006 and in that same year, one crane lingered in Sauquoit from September 19th to the 28th.

Family Charadriidae — Lapwings and Plovers

84. Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (B # 83)

Black-bellied Plover: Not uncommon, especially during fall migration. Found most often at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta along with other migrant shorebirds. A total of 66 were counted at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area on the May 30th, 2008 – this is a particularly high number for modern times.

85. American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica* (B # 84)

American Golden Plover: An uncommon to rare migrant. Before Bagg's time, this species would move through the region in large numbers. This was noted by The Reverend John Wicks (1836-1915) of Paris Hill who was an avid bird watcher and nature writer. Over-hunting in the 19th Century caused the population of American Golden Plover to fall sharply. In the twentieth century, their numbers have increased somewhat, but they are only rarely found in large numbers. Infrequently, they can be found during migration at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. Away from those locations they are rare. A flock of 50 was found in Sherrill in the fall of 1951; a flock of 24 was seen near Verona in the fall of 1987; a flock of 60 was seen at Verona/Sylvan beach area in the fall of 1988. In Sauquoit, a flock of 20 was seen on October 4th, 2005.

86. Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* (B # 87)

Wilson's Plover: A very rare migrant. There have been no known recent sightings of this species in Oneida County, but they do occasionally occur at Lake Ontario. I'm still considering whether we should be including this species on our new Oneida County list based only on Egbert Bagg's historic record. For now it will remain.

87. Semipalmated Plover *C. semipalmatus* (B # 86)

Semiplamated Plover: A common migrant at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. This plover is most often seen flocking together with other species of migrant shorebirds.

88. Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (B # X)

Piping Plover: A rare straggler in this County. One found at Sylvan Beach in the fall of 1978 and in the fall of 1983 in the same location. This species is currently on New York State's Endangered Species List.

89. Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* * (B # 85)

Killdeer: A very common migrant and summer resident. They are found far from the shore during the summer breeding season – especially in large open pastures, large lawns and ploughed fields. They breed widely throughout the County and the region. During spring and fall migration they are often seen together along with other shorebird species.

Family Scolopacidae — Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies

90. Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius* * (B # 80)

Spotted Sandpiper: This species remains a fairly common migrant and summer resident in Oneida County. They breed mostly along larger streams and around ponds in open country. According to bird survey data, the resident population of this sandpiper appears to be declining.

91. Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (B # 78)

Solitary Sandpiper: A common migrant that is found at large and small bodies of water. They occur throughout Oneida County and vicinity. They are sometimes found together with other shorebirds, but often individual Solitary Sandpiper are encountered alone.

92. Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca* (B # 76)

Greater Yellowlegs: A fairly common migrant shorebird. They are mostly found at larger lakes and wetlands in Oneida County and the region. They often occur with the similar Lesser Yellowlegs species.

93. Willet *Tringa semipalmata* (B # X)

Willet: An uncommon to rare migrant in Oneida County. This species has been found at both Oneida Lake and Lake Delta in recent years. A flock of 7 was observed at the former location in the spring of 1989. One was observed at the Sylvan/Verona beach area in the summer of 1999.

94. Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (B # 77)

Lesser Yellowlegs: A common migrant shorebird. They are mostly found at larger lakes and wetlands in Oneida County and the region. They often occur in mixed flocks of shorebird species.

95. Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* * (B # 79)

Upland Sandpiper: An uncommon summer resident of upland agricultural fields. Formerly, they were much more commonly found throughout the County in rural settings. The species still breeds in Oneida County, but they are limited to only a few holdout areas in Steuben, Rome, Remsen, Holland Patent, Durhamville (possibly) and Verona. A high count of 22 was observed in Holland Patent on July 23rd in 1998. Bird survey data from recent decades shows a steady decline of this species throughout New York State. This sandpiper is rarely found around lakes or wetlands. The Upland Sandpiper is currently on New York State's Threatened Species List.

96. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (B # 82)

Whimbrel: A rare migrant in Oneida County. They are more commonly found in areas west of our region. One immature was found at Sylvan Beach in the fall of 1983.

- **Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus* (B # 81)**

Long-billed Curlew: There have been no known confirmed occurrences of this species in the region. The 1880 encounter that Bagg recounts is somewhat compelling, but it's not solid enough evidence for me to include this rare species on our updated list.

97. Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* (B # 75)

Hudsonian Godwit: An uncommon to rare migrant. Seen in recent years at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta, where most often, a single individual will be found among a flock of other shorebird types.

98. Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa* (B # X)

Marbled Godwit: A rare migrant in Oneida County. In recent decades this species has been seen several times at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. One was observed at Delta in the fall of 1987 and one was seen in the summer of 1991 at that same location. An individual was seen at Sylvan Beach in the summer of 1997 and another was seen at Lake Delta in the fall of that same year.

99. Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* (B # 88)

Ruddy Turnstone: An uncommon migrant in Oneida County and vicinity. Individuals and sometimes even small flocks have been encountered on the shores of Oneida Lake.

100. Red Knot *Calidris canutus* (B # 88)

Red Knot: An uncommon to rare migrant at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta.

101. Sanderling *Calidris alba* (B # 74)

Sanderling: Formerly more common and occurring in larger flocks. Currently, they are considered to be a not uncommon migrant at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta where they usually occur in small flocks.

102. Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (B # 73)

Semipalmated Sandpiper: A common migrant at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta, where sometimes large flocks may occur. Often this species can be a major constituent of larger mixed flocks of small shorebirds. This sandpiper occasionally shows up at wetlands and smaller bodies of water around the region.

103. Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (B # X)

Western Sandpiper: A rare straggler that has been found on Sylvan Beach and at Lake Delta on multiple occasions in recent decades. Individuals of this species (or pairs on occasion) are most often seen in larger mixed flocks of shorebirds.

104. Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* (B # 71)

Least Sandpiper: A common migrant that is regularly found at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. The Least Sandpiper often contributes more than their share in creating larger mixed flocks of “peeps” or small shorebirds. This species occasionally shows up at wetlands like the Utica Marsh and even around smaller bodies of water.

105. White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (B # 69)

White-rumped Sandpiper: An uncommon migrant in Oneida County. They are sometimes found at Oneida Lake, Lake Delta, and Hinckley Reservoir. This species is usually found only in small numbers, but in September of 2004, an unprecedented flock of 68 were seen in Verona.

106. Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (B # 70)

Baird's Sandpiper: An uncommon migrant in Oneida County. Individuals or small numbers are sometimes found at Oneida Lake, Lake Delta, and Hinckley Reservoir.

107. Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* (B # 68)

Pectoral Sandpiper: In some years they can be a common migrant, especially during fall migration around the County's larger lakes. Flocks of over 25 are not uncommon.

108. Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* (B # X)

Purple Sandpiper: An uncommon to rare migrant. They have been found a number of times at Oneida Lake in recent decades. Most often they are seen late in the fall migration season.

109. Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (B # 72)

Dunlin: A fairly common late season migrant at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. Flocks of up to and even exceeding 75 are not unusual.

110. Stilt Sandpiper *Calidris himantopus* (B # X)

Stilt Sandpiper: An uncommon migrant in Oneida County. They are occasionally seen at Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. This species is more often found in fall than in spring. One was seen in Paris in the fall of 1997.

111. Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (B # X)

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: A rare migrant in Oneida County. Several have been seen at Lake Delta in recent years. One was found there in the summer of 1998 and another was observed in the summer of 2005, at that same location.

112. Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus* (B # 66)

Short-billed Dowitcher: A fairly uncommon migrant in Oneida County. They usually only occur at Lake Delta and Oneida Lake. In past decades, records show that this species occurred in greater numbers. In the summer of 1979, a flock of 25 were seen at Sylvan Beach.

113. Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (B # X)

Long-billed Dowitcher: Much less commonly found than the Short-billed Dowitcher. This bird is a rare to uncommon migrant in Oneida County. In recent decades individuals or small flocks have been recorded occurring at Lake Delta and Oneida Lake. The largest number recorded at one time in the County was a flock of 10 – found at Lake Delta in the fall of 1998.

114. Wilson's Snipe *Gallinago delicata* * (B # 65)

Wilson's Snipe: A not uncommon migrant and a not uncommon summer resident in the region. They breed in pastures and wet meadows throughout Oneida County, but are more commonly found in the northern half. Holland Patent and Steuben are reliable areas to find this species.

115. American Woodcock *Scolopax minor* * (B # 64)

American Woodcock: A common if declining summer resident species. They breed widely throughout the County and the region. Males are often heard calling in early spring as they perform their courtship flight displays over their breeding territories.

116. Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* (B # 63)

Wilson's Phalarope: An uncommon migrant. They are only infrequently found on Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. Rarely, they might be encountered at the Utica Marsh, but none have been found there in recent times. One was found there in the spring of 1976 and again in 1977.

117. Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (B # 62)

Red-necked Phalarope: This species is an uncommon migrant. They are only infrequently found on Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. This Phalarope was seen at both locations in the fall of 1983. Another individual was found at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area in the fall of 1991.

118. Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* (B # 61)

Red Phalarope: An uncommon migrant in Oneida County. They are sometimes found on Oneida Lake. One was found at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area in the fall of 1983. Additionally, two were found at that same location in the fall of 1991.

Family Laridae — Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers

119. Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (B # 8)

Black-legged Kittiwake: A rare accidental migrant that typically only occurs inland when it is pushed off course by powerful storms. One was found at Sylvan Beach in December of 1983. This species is more often observed at Derby Hill Hawk watch in Oswego, near Lake Ontario.

120. Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* (B # 13)

Bonaparte's Gull: A common migrant at Oneida Lake. It is only rarely found at other locations like Lake Delta and the Utica Marsh.

121. Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* (B # X)

Little Gull: There have been several instances of this rare species occurring at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area. Sightings occurred there in 1976 (2 immature birds seen in summer), 1985 (1 or 2 seen in fall), 1990 (1 in fall), 1992 (1 in summer) and 2007 (2 in spring). Finally, one was seen at Sylvan Beach on August 15th 2011.

122. Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla* (B # X)

Laughing Gull: A rare accidental in Oneida County. One was found at Sylvan/Verona Beach area in the fall of 1985. Another was observed in the Spring of 1990 at the same location. The appearance of one at Lake Delta in the fall of 1996 was blamed on the effects of Hurricane Fran.

123. Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* (B # X)

Franklin's Gull: A rare straggler. A single bird that showed up at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area in May of 2002 is the only known record for Oneida County.

124. Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* (B # 12)

Ring-billed Gull: By far, this is now the most common resident gull species in the Oneida County. They breed in some adjacent counties. This species is frequently found in large open places including parking lots and grassy fields.

125. Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* ** (B # 11)

Herring Gull: Relatively common around our biggest lakes, but not nearly as common as the Ring-billed Gull in this County. Some breeding likely takes place in Oneida County, but instances of breeding have been confirmed in adjacent Adirondack counties.

126. Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* (B # 9)

Iceland Gull: An uncommon to rare winter visitor in Oneida County. They are most often found with other gull species on the shores of Oneida Lake. One was found at Sylvan/Verona Beach area in the fall of 1985. Other individuals were found at that same location in December 1997, December 2001 and November 2006.

127. Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (B # X)

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A rare migrant that has been found on Oneida Lake on several occasions. One was found well away from Oneida Lake – in Boonville in the spring of 2002.

128. Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* (B # X)

Glaucous Gull: A rare migrant that has been found several times on Oneida Lake. One was observed at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area on December 24th 1997 and another was seen in December of 2001 at that same location.

- **Nelson's Gull (Hybrid species) (B # X)**

Glaucous X Herring Gull (Nelson's Gull): A hybrid species of the rare Glaucous Gull and the much more common Herring Gull. The only known occurrence for Oneida County took place at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area in December of 1999. As a hybrid, this bird will not be counted in the official Oneida County Species List, but only noted as a hybrid type that occurs here.

129. Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* (B # 10)

Great Black-backed Gull: Much more common now than formerly. They can be relatively common around large lakes like Oneida Lake. They are only uncommonly found at other inland wetlands and lakes during migration. There is some evidence of this species breeding around Oneida Lake in the adjacent counties to the west.

- **Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* (B # 15)**

Least Tern: I know of no records of this species occurring in Oneida County. Bird experts have deemed Bagg's record of this species to be unverified. In his write up, Bagg himself points out the common error made in mistaking juvenile Black Tern for this species. The Least Tern is currently on New York State's Threatened Species List.

130. Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* * (B # X)

Caspian Tern: An uncommon migrant that is irregularly encountered at Oneida Lake, Lake Delta and the Utica Marsh.

131. Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* ** (B # 16)

Black Tern: An uncommon and irregular migrant on Oneida Lake and formerly at the Utica Marsh. One was found at Lake Delta in the summer of 1988. 2 were observed in Sangerfield on May 17th, 2008. 22 migrants were found on Oneida Lake on May 23rd, 2008. Some evidence does exist of this species having bred in Oneida County. This species is currently on New York State's Endangered Species List.

132. Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* ** (B # 14)

Common Tern: a relatively common migrant at Oneida Lake, but only rarely seen at others lakes and wetlands. Some evidence exists of this species breeding in Oneida County. The Common Tern is currently on New York State's Threatened Species List.

133. Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* (B # X)

Arctic Tern: A rare migrant. The only local records of this species have come from Oneida Lake.

134. Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* * (B # X)

Forster's Tern: A rare accidental in Oneida County. All reported sightings have come from the Sylvan/Verona Beach area. One was observed in the summer of 1987. An immature of this species was seen in the fall of 1988. Individuals were seen in both 1990 and 1991. And finally, two were found in the summer of 1993.

135. Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger* (B # 17)

Black Skimmer: Very rarely seen in Central New York. The 1893 specimen (mentioned by Bagg) may represent the only occurrence in Oneida County. There was however, a recent occurrence of this species on Lake Ontario. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

Family Stercorariidae— Skuas and Jaegers**136. Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus* (B # X)**

Pomarine Jaeger: A rare accidental visitor in Oneida County. The only known occurrence was in the fall of 1986 at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area.

137. Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* (B # 7)

Parasitic Jaeger: This species is a rare and accidental migrant. For the most part, this species only occurs inland when it has been pushed off course by powerful storms. This Jaeger is occasionally observed at the Derby Hill Hawk Watch off of Lake Ontario. A few have been seen at Oneida Lake. One was observed at the Sylvan/Verona beach area in the fall of 1997.

138. Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* (B # X)

Long-tailed Jaeger: A rare accidental in Oneida County. The only one known to occur locally was found dead in the Verona/Sylvan Beach area in the fall of 1985.

Family Alcidae — Murres, Puffins, and Allies

- **Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* (B # 6)**

Thick-billed Murre: The New York State Avian Records Committee doesn't recognize this species as occurring in New York State. In recent decades there have been no known local claims of this species having occurred anywhere in the County. For the time being, I'm not including this species in our updated Oneida County list.

Family Columbidae — Pigeons and Doves**139. Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (Exotic, Introduced) * (B # X)**

Rock Pigeon: Very common in both rural and urban areas. Because this bird is an introduced exotic species, it wasn't included in either Bagg's original or updated list. The Rock Pigeon breeds commonly in urban and rural settings throughout the Oneida County and region. The presence of this species in urban areas has proved to be a major factor in luring Peregrine Falcon and other raptor species into metropolitan areas. A large congregation of prey species in a habitat will often lead to an influx of predator species.

140. White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica* (B # X)

White-winged Dove: A rare straggler. The only documented sighting in Oneida County took place in Durhamville, in June of 2000.

141. Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura* * (B # 94)

Mourning Dove: a very common year-round resident throughout Oneida County and the entire region. They breed in a wide variety of habitats, but tend to avoid heavily forested land.

- **Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius* (Extinct) (B # 93)**

Passenger Pigeon: Formerly both a migrant and a breeding species in Oneida County. They've now been extinct for nearly 100 years. The last known captive individual, named "Martha" died in captivity at the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914. The Passenger Pigeon were colonial breeders with individual pairs producing only one offspring each. When their numbers were decimated by relentless hunting, breeding colonies became too small for the species to remain viable; the pigeons couldn't produce enough young to adequately compensate for their continuing losses. To Central New Yorkers who remembered back to the 1840s, and to the movement of massive flocks containing many millions of pigeons, their extinction came as a great surprise.

Family Cuculidae — Cuckoos

142. Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* * (B # 120)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A relatively common summer resident of brushy meadows and forest habitat. Breeding has been confirmed in Kirkland and in other areas around Oneida County. The species tends to be more common in years when there is a large outbreak of tent caterpillars. Both of our resident cuckoo species are among few songbirds that will eat these hairy caterpillars.

143. Black-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* * (B # 121)

Black-billed Cuckoo: A relatively common summer resident mostly of overgrown meadows and brushy marshes. Breeding has been confirmed in Kirkland and in many other areas around the County. As is the case with the preceding species, the Black-billed Cuckoo tends to be more common in years when there is a large outbreak of tent caterpillars.

Family Tytonidae — Barn Owls

144. Barn Owl *Tyto alba* ** (B # 110)

Barn Owl: Very rare. There have been no known local sightings of this species in the past several decades in Oneida County. Evidence exists of this species breeding locally in the remote past.

Family Strigidae — True Owls

145. Eastern Screech-Owl *Megascops asio* * (B # 116)

Eastern Screech Owl: A relatively common and widespread year-round resident. They are known to breed in Oneida County and both of the owl's color phases (the gray phase and red phase) regularly occur. In recent years this small nocturnal species has been heard and seen in Utica, Kirkland, Sauquoit and Waterville. One made its nest in a nest-box at Spring Farm CARES' Nature Sanctuary (Kirkland) in February of 2003.

146. Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus* * (B # 117)

Great Horned Owl: Probably the most widespread and common of all our Owl species. They breed in a variety of habitats from wetlands to forest, to open country. There is evidence of this species breeding in areas located all around the County. In recent years, confirmed nesting has taken place in New Hartford, Kirkland, Lake Delta and Marcy.

147. Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (B # 118)

Snowy Owl: An uncommon winter visitor that shows up at irregular intervals. They are most often found in large agricultural fields. Before they were protected by law, many were shot whenever they appeared around the State, including in Oneida County. In the winter of 1901-02, 15 Snowy Owls were stuffed by one local taxidermist; in the winter of 1905-06, a further 15 were stuffed and mounted by another local taxidermist. In recent decades, this Arctic Owl has been found in a number of rural areas including: Verona (multiple finds in recent decades), Rome, Remsen, Deansboro, Sherrill and Sauquoit (multiple finds were reported here).

148. Northern Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula* (B # 119)

Hawk Owl: A rare winter visitor in Central New York. The last confirmed occurrence in Oneida County was in Vernon in the winter of 1974-'75. The Hawk Owl occurs more frequently in far northern regions of the State.

149. Barred Owl *Strix varia* * (B # 113)

Barred Owl: A relatively common owl that most often inhabits wooded swampland. They breed in many areas around Oneida County including in New Hartford and Kirkland.

150. Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosa* (B # 114)

Great Gray Owl: This species is a very rare straggler from the far Northwest. The most recent verified local sighting occurred in New Hartford in 1996. The bird stayed in the area from February 22nd to March 18th. On that last day it was struck by a car and killed.

151. Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* * (B # 111)

Long-eared Owl: Uncommon and difficult to locate. There is good evidence that the species did breed in Oneida County during Egbert Bagg's time. Data from recent bird surveys is somewhat lacking when it comes to secretive and nocturnal species like owls. But the fact that juvenile birds have showed up at a wildlife rehabilitator's facility in Oneida County, tells us that the Long-eared Owl continues to be a breeding species here. Adults are more often found during spring migration. In recent decades Long-eared Owl has been confirmed as breeding in Rome (summer of 1983) and in New Hartford (summer of 1997). One was found in Kirkland in the spring of 1999.

152. Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* * (B # 112)

Short-eared Owl: Uncommon and apparently on the decline. They are seen more often during the winter as they hunt for small rodents over agricultural fields. During the past decade there has been some good evidence of breeding within Oneida County. The species has been found more often in the western parts of the County—many sightings come from the Verona area. Other sightings have taken place in Rome, Vernon, Holland Patent and New Hartford. Six were found in the vicinity of Utica in the winter of 1985-'86. Eight to 12 were observed in the Verona area during the winter of 1990-'91. Six were found in Verona in the winter of 1991-'92. A total of 14 were found in the Verona area on January 1st 2002. This species is currently on New York State's Endangered Species List

153. Boreal Owl *Aegolius funereus* (B # X)

Boreal Owl: A rare winter visitor outside of the Adirondacks. Only one known Oneida County record came from February 1893 (this sighting was not included on Bagg's list).

154. Northern Saw-whet Owl *Aegolius acadicus* * (B # 115)

Northern Saw-whet Owl: An uncommon and hard to find summer resident and migrant. In recent decades, evidence of breeding has been detected in several places around the County, including in Holland Patent, New Hartford, Waterville and Kirkland.

Family Caprimulgidae — Goatsuckers

155. Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor* * (B # 133)

Common Nighthawk: An increasingly uncommon to rare summer resident. They breed in Oneida County, but have been declining. Nests are sometimes found in urban settings – this species is known to use the rooftops of city buildings as nest sites. This secretive and nocturnal bird is most often seen during fall migration, when they travel south alone or in groups. Several were found during the breeding season at the Rome Sand Plains in the summer of 1983 and three were found in Utica in July of 1989. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

156. Eastern Whip-poor-will *Chordeiles vociferus* * (B # 132)

Whip-poor-will: An increasingly uncommon to rare summer resident. They are only rarely encountered during migration in our region. Their breeding range is for the most part limited to the northern portion of Oneida County. This nocturnal species prefers woodland clearings for its habitat. The Whip-poor-will has been found during the breeding season in areas to the north and east of Rome and in the vicinity of Hinckley Reservoir and Holland Patent. Three were found at the Rome Sand Plains on July 6th 2006. More reports came from that same area in the summer of 2008. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

Family Apodidae — Swifts

157. Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* * (B # 134)

Chimney Swift: a common summer resident. They most often breed in urban areas where they utilize chimneys as nest sites. Survey data indicates that this species is declining in New York State.

Family Trochilidae — Hummingbirds

158. Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* * (B # 135)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The only hummingbird species that normally occurs in the Northeastern United States. This is a relatively common bird in Oneida County. Breeding has been confirmed in many areas including: New Hartford, Waterville, and Kirkland. In recent decades, Ruby-throated Hummingbird numbers have been increasing throughout New York State. This species usually builds its nest in woodlands and suburban yards.

Family Alcedinidae — Kingfishers

159. Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon* * (B # 122)

Belted Kingfisher: A relatively common summer resident in Oneida County. They occasional can be found in winter when open water is available. They breed around rivers, large creeks, lakes and marshes. Survey data indicates that this species is decreasing in New York State.

Family Picidae — Woodpeckers and Allies

160. Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* * (B # 129)

Red-headed Woodpecker: An increasingly rare summer resident. Currently, they mostly reliably breed in the western parts of the region (Verona area). In recent times the species has been encountered in Paris, Clinton, Waterville, Sauquoit, Kirkland, Vernon and Verona. This woodpecker has been confirmed as breeding for 2 consecutive years in Verona (2008 and 2009). A steady decline of this species is indicated by bird surveys conducted in New York State. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

161. Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* * (B # 130)

Red-bellied Woodpecker: A remarkable increase in numbers over the last several decades. The species moved into Oneida County from western New York during the late 1970's and the early 1980's; and now it's a common year-round resident. The species breeds widely throughout the area in forested habitat.

162. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* * (B # 127)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A common summer resident in Oneida County and throughout the region. They commonly breed in forest habitat. Survey data shows that this species has been increasing in population during the past few decades, which is most likely the result of a reforested landscape. The Sapsucker was only rarely found in winter until recent years, when it has been found for several consecutive winters. A high winter count of 5 Sapsucker was found in the greater Utica area on December 15th 2007.

163. Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* * (B # 124)

Downy Woodpecker: A very common year-round resident. They breed throughout the County and the region.

164. Hairy Woodpecker *Picoides villosus* * (B # 123)

Hairy Woodpecker: A common year-round resident. This species breeds throughout Oneida County and the region.

165. American Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides dorsalis* (B # 126)

Three-toed Woodpecker: Very rare in Oneida County and even quite uncommon in the adjacent Adirondack counties where it breeds. They are not normally found in New York State outside of the Adirondacks. There are 2 known Oneida County records for this species – one from Waterville in 1914 and one from New Hartford in 1978.

166. Black-backed Woodpecker *Picoides arcticus* ** (B # 125)

Black-backed Woodpecker: Uncommon to rare, but not as rare as the Three-toed Woodpecker. There are some indications that the species has bred in the far Northeastern part of Oneida County. This species, like the preceding one, is not normally found in New York State outside of the Adirondacks.

167. Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* * (B # 131)

Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted Flicker): A common summer resident that breeds widely throughout the area. According to recent survey data, the Flicker is somewhat declining in New York State.

168. Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* * (B # 128)

Pileated Woodpecker: An increasingly common year-round resident. Also a breeding species throughout the region wherever there is woodland habitat. In Bagg's time, this species was rarely found outside of the Adirondacks, but following the re-growth of forests during the 20th century, the Pileated Woodpecker was able to re-colonize this County.

Family Tyrannidae — Tyrant Flycatchers**169. Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* * (B # 139)**

Olive-sided Flycatcher: An uncommon migrant in this area. They breed mostly in the adjacent counties of the Adirondacks. There are some records that indicate this species does breed in the far northern parts of Oneida County. There are no known recent records of the Olive-sided Flycatcher breeding at Oneida Lake, as was

apparently the case in Bagg's time. Surveys indicate that this species has been declining in New York State in recent decades.

170. Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* * (B # 140)

Eastern Wood-Pewee: A common summer resident and breeder in forested areas around Oneida County and the region.

171. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris* * (B # 141)

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: An uncommon migrant and a rare summer resident. This species reliably breeds in the adjacent counties of the Adirondacks. There are some breeding records in the far northeastern part of the Oneida County.

172. Alder Flycatcher *Empidonax alnorum* * (B # 142)

Alder Flycatcher: After Bagg's time, the Alder Flycatcher was split into two separate species – the Alder Flycatcher and the Willow Flycatcher. These closely related species can only reliably be told apart in the field by their differing songs. Both are relatively common summer residents in Oneida County where they can be found breeding in brushy meadows and open brushy marshland.

173. Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii* * (B # X)

Willow Flycatcher: A relatively common summer resident in Oneida County. They breed widely throughout the area. Formerly the Willow Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher were considered to be the same species.

174. Least Flycatcher *Empidonax minimus* * (B # 143)

Least Flycatcher: A relatively common species in forested habitats. They are more commonly found in the northern parts of Oneida County, but they do breed throughout the region. The Least Flycatcher is known to breed in a dense grove of young trees at the Utica Marsh.

175. Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* * (B # 138)

Eastern Phoebe: A very common summer resident. They often make nests on ledges under the eaves of roofs. They also regularly nest inside barns and other out-buildings. They breed throughout Oneida County and the region. They only rarely occur in winter. One was found near the Oriskany Creek in Kirkland in December of 2000.

176. Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus* * (B # 137)

Great Crested Flycatcher: A fairly common summer resident in Oneida County and the region. They breed in forested areas, most often utilizing former woodpecker holes as their nest sites.

177. Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* (B # X)

Western Kingbird: This species breeds in western North America. In the east, it is a very rare accidental visitor. The only known sighting in Oneida County took place in the fall of 1951 near Sherrill.

178. Eastern Kingbird *Tyrannus tyrannus* * (B # 136)

Eastern Kingbird: A common summer resident in Oneida County and throughout the region. They live in open country, building nests available bushes and shade trees. This species has been declining in New York State partially due to the re-growth of forestland.

Family Laniidae — Shrikes

179. Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* ** (B # 200)

Loggerhead Shrike: Rare and declining. In the first several decades of the Twentieth Century, this species was fairly common in Oneida County and was found to breed in at least 6 different localities. In recent decades there have been only a very few confirmed local sightings. One was observed in New York Mills in the summer of 1983, and another was found in New Hartford in the spring of 2001. The reasons for the decline include the loss of agricultural fields which were the birds' preferred habitat. Also, the decline of hawthorn trees is thought to have deprived this predatory songbird of the long thorns it required to impale its prey on. Another factor contributing to this species decline may be the increase of motor vehicle traffic in the 20th Century. It's thought that since the shrike often swoops low into roads in pursuit of insects, collisions with vehicles became very common. This species is currently on New York State's Endangered Species List.

180. Northern Shrike *Lanius excubitor* (B # 133)

Northern Shrike: An irregular winter visitor to Oneida County. In some years they occur more commonly than in other years. A specimen of this species was originally obtained in the Utica area by Alexander Wilson (the father of American ornithology) as he passed through the region in the winter of 1804 on his walking journey from Niagara Falls to Albany (!).

Family Vireonidae — Vireos

181. White-eyed Vireo *Vireo griseus* (B # X)

White-eyed Vireo: A rare straggler. Only a few known occurrences in Oneida County have been recorded. The first one was encountered in Utica in the spring of 1976 and another was found singing in Proctor Park (Utica) in the spring of 2002.

182. Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons* * (B # 204)

Yellow-throated Vireo: This bird remains a not uncommon summer resident and breeder in wetland areas around Oneida County and the region. They are fairly reliably found around the wetlands near Oneida Lake and at the Utica Marsh.

183. Blue-headed Vireo *Vireo solitarius* * (B # 205)

Blue-headed Vireo: A relatively common migrant and a not uncommon summer resident in larger tracts of mixed evergreen and deciduous forest. This species more commonly breeds in the northern half of the County, but is also present in the forests located in the extreme southern portion of the County.

184. Warbling Vireo *Vireo gilvus* * (B # 203)

Warbling Vireo: A fairly common migrant and summer resident in Oneida County. It most often breeds in trees bordering streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and open wetlands. Survey data indicates an increase of this species in New York State in recent decades.

185. Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* (B # 202)

Philadelphia Vireo: An uncommon migrant throughout the region. They are known to breed in some adjacent Adirondack counties.

186. Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* * (B # 201)

Red-eyed Vireo: This species is a very common summer resident that mostly inhabits forested areas. It breeds widely throughout the County and the region. Recent survey data indicates that this species is increasing in population in New York State. The Red-eyed Vireo is commonly the victim of brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird. As a result many Vireos raise cowbird chicks instead of their own young during the breeding season.

- **Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus* (B # 206)**

Plumbeous Vireo: There are no known sightings of this species in Oneida County or even any verified sightings in New York State. This is a species of the far Southwest United States. Several decades ago, the preserved specimen from 1893 that Bagg mentioned in his account of this species had been reexamined by experts and their conclusion was that it was in fact an aberrant form of the Blue-headed Vireo. In light of this, the Plumbeous Vireo will not be counted in this updated Oneida County list.

Family Corvidae — Jays, Magpies, and Crows

187. Gray Jay *Perisoreus Canadensis* (B # 147)

Gray Jay: This species is rare in New York State outside of the Adirondacks. It breeds in a few adjacent counties to the northeast of Oneida County. One was observed in Remsen in the winter of 1993-'94. I know of no other recent record of the Gray Jay occurring in Oneida County.

188. Blue Jay *Cyanocitta cristata* * (B # 146)

Blue Jay: This is a very common year-round resident. They breed mostly in forested areas and in suburbs throughout Oneida County and the region.

189. American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos* * (B # 149)

American Crow: An abundant year-round resident. This species breeds widely throughout Oneida County – mostly in rural and suburban settings. In winter, thousands join together into roosting flocks that most often congregate in urban areas like Utica. This is a relatively recent phenomenon. As recently as 20 years ago, Crow roosts were for the most part, limited to rural areas. In 2001, over 10,000 were counted in the Utica area on a single day in December. Interestingly, by the winter of 2004-'05, roost sizes in several Upstate cities including Utica, were decreasing. West Nile Virus (which also infects many other bird species) is blamed for this drop in the crow population.

- **Fish Crow *Corvus ossifragus* ** (B # X)**

Fish Crow: Uncommon to rare in the County and in the Central New York region where it tends to be primarily a winter resident. There are indications that this species has bred within Oneida County. In the mid to late 1980s, a small group of Fish Crow were regularly found in winter time in the vicinity of the Mohawk River and around the Utica Dump. In the late 1980's through the mid 1990's, small numbers of this species were also found at the Oriskany Dump (winter). One was observed in New York Mills in April of 1989 and on the 14th of December 2005, one was observed in Boonville. The Fish Crow's strong resemblance to the American Crow has likely let it to be overlooked in some places where it may occur.

190. Common Raven *Corvus corax* * (B # 148)

Common Raven: Relatively common in northern parts of Oneida County where they have become reliable breeders. Surveys show that the Raven population is generally on the rise in New York State. In recent decades sightings of this species have been on the increase in many areas, including in the southern portion of the

County. For some time they have been regularly seen in Remsen, Stueben and Rome. They are now being increasingly found in Sangerfield, Verona and Kirkland. This bird prefers large forested tracts for its habitat and as forests return to the landscape of Central New York, so may the Common Raven.

Family Alaudidae — Larks

191. Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* * (B # 144)

Horned lark: An uncommon summer resident and winter resident in Oneida County. This species is most often found in wintertime feeding in agricultural fields. They are less frequently found in summer, where they breed in large open fields throughout the County. As is the case with most grassland nesting species, surveys indicate a decline for this bird in New York State. Bagg had included 2 separate species of Horned Lark on his 1911 list. In modern times the “Prairie Horned Lark” is no longer considered to be a distinctly different species from the Horned Lark. The Horned Lark is currently on New York State’s Special Concern Species List.

Prairie Horned Lark: (Included on Bagg’s 1911 list as a separate species from the Horned Lark) Now not recognized as a separate species – but as one of 3 races of the Horned Lark that occur in the Northeastern United States.

Family Hirundinidae — Martins and Swallows

192. Purple Martin *Progne subis* * (B # 191)

Purple Martin: Now in most of Oneida County this species is an uncommon to rare summer resident. Once they were common breeders throughout the area, even nesting in the city of Utica. The Purple Martin formerly made their nests in nooks and crevices of buildings just as non-native Starlings and House Sparrows do today. Now the Purple Martin is only reliably found breeding around the Oneida Lake area and just a very few other places in the Northern half of Oneida County. Recent bird surveys have indicated a decline of this species throughout New York State.

193. Tree Swallow *Tachycineta bicolor* * (B # 194)

Tree Swallow: A quite common summer resident that breeds throughout the County and the region. They have done particularly well utilizing nest boxes that were erected to help in the recovery of New York State’s Eastern Bluebird population.

194. Northern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* * (B # 196)

Rough-winged Swallow: A relatively uncommon summer resident, except for in areas close to its nesting grounds. They breed throughout the County and the region. They often build their nests under bridges and near water. During spring migration, this species joins together with other swallow species in wetland habitat where they can be seen flying low over the water and catching insects.

195. Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* * (B # 195)

Bank Swallow: A fairly uncommon summer resident. They are relatively common in the limited number of areas where nesting habitat is available. They nest in holes that they themselves excavate in banks of sandy or clay soil. They can often be found nesting in the large sand mounds that are stored by various local municipalities for treating winter roads. These swallows are colony nesters, so often many nest holes can be discovered in a single location. According to recent survey data, numbers of Bank Swallow are decreasing in New York State.

196. Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* * (B # 192)

Cliff Swallow: A relatively uncommon summer resident. They have become increasingly uncommon in rural areas during the last couple of decades. This is another swallow species that nests in colonies. Cliff Swallows build gourd-shaped nests out of mud – affixing them under the eaves of barns and other structures. In modern times, as the area’s old barns collapse and are either not replaced, or are replaced by unsuitable (from the swallow’s perspective) metal pole-barns, the Cliff Swallow has an increasingly difficult time finding nesting opportunities. Currently, the species breeds mostly in the northern half of the County.

197. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* * (B # 193)

Barn Swallow: A relatively common summer resident in rural areas. They breed throughout the County and the region – usually nesting in barns and other outbuildings. According to State-wide surveys, this species has been declining in numbers in recent decades – probably due to the loss of available nesting sites.

Family Paridae — Chickadees and Titmice**198. Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus* * (B # 246)**

Black-capped Chickadee: A very common year-round resident. They breed widely throughout the region. New York State bird surveys show that the population of this species is on the increase – likely due to the increase of suitable forest habitat and the proliferation of bird feeding stations.

199. Boreal Chickadee *Poecile hudsonicus* (B # 247)

Boreal Chickadee: Rarely found outside of the Adirondacks, though southward irruptions of this species have been known to occur. The only report that I am aware of from Oneida County was a remarkable observation of 15 individuals recorded in Westmoreland in 1965. There have been no known records of this species breeding in Oneida County, though it does breed in adjacent Adirondack counties.

200. Tufted Titmouse *Baeolophus bicolor* * (B # X)

Tufted Titmouse: A common year-round resident. They breed widely throughout the region, but they are more common in the southern half of Oneida County. They first began colonizing Oneida County from the west in the late 1960’s and by the 1980s the Tufted Titmouse could be found throughout most of the County. Evidence of breeding in the County was first found in the 1970s. According to bird surveys, this species continues to increase its breeding range in New York State.

Family Sittidae — Nuthatches**201. Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis* * (B # 245)**

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A common year-round resident, particularly where conifer trees dominate the landscape. In some years they are much more common than in others. This species has greatly expanded its range in Oneida County since Egbert Bagg’s time.

202. White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis* * (B # 244)

White-breasted Nuthatch: A quite common year-round resident. This species breeds widely throughout the County and the region.

Family Certhiidae — Creepers

203. Brown Creeper *Certhia americana* * (B # 243)

Brown Creeper: A not uncommon year-round resident. They breed mostly in medium-sized and large woodland tracts throughout the County and the region.

Family Troglodytidae — Wrens

204. Carolina Wren *Thryothorus ludovicianus* * (B # X)

Carolina Wren: a relatively uncommon year-round resident. They mostly occur in the Southern half of the County where they regularly breed. The Carolina Wren is found fairly regularly in Clinton, Kirkland, New Hartford and Utica. This species was not on Bagg's list and it remained a rarity in Upstate New York until the 1950's.

205. House Wren *Troglodytes aedon* * (B # 239)

House Wren: A very common summer resident. They breed throughout Oneida County and the region. They tend to avoid denser forested habitat.

206. Winter Wren *Troglodytes hiemalis* * (B # 240)

Winter Wren: A not uncommon summer resident that is found in wooded ravines and large tracts of swampy forest. This wren species occurs widely in the County and the region. They are occasionally encountered locally during the winter.

207. Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis* ** (B # 241)

Sedge Wren: An increasingly rare summer resident and migrant. Only a small number of this species were found in Oneida County during the first New York State Breeding Bird Atlas project that was conducted in the 1980's. Additional sightings include: one found in Rome in the spring of 1983, three were found in Vernon in the fall of 1985, three were also found at that same location in June of 1992. One was seen at the Utica Marsh in the fall of 1997, and another single bird was located there in the fall of 1999. This species is currently on New York State's Threatened Species List.

208. Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris* * (B # 242)

Marsh Wren: An uncommon summer resident that was formerly more common. In recent years this species has suffered a decline throughout its range in New York State. They breed in some of Oneida County's larger cattail marshes, such as the Utica Marsh. The alien invasive plant, "Purple Loosestrife", has likely had a negative effect on this species as it has supplanted native cattails in open marsh habitat.

Family Polioptilidae — Gnatcatchers

209. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea* * (B # X)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: A fairly uncommon summer resident that mostly breeds in riparian groves or in other types of semi-forested wetland habitat. They breed mostly in the middle section of Oneida County. In Bagg's time this species was unknown in the County or as a breeding species in the State. The Gnatcatcher originally came into to the region from the south and from the west. The first confirmed Gnatcatcher nest in New York State was found in Chautauqua County in 1943. They expanded into Oneida County along the Mohawk River during the mid 1970s. In recent years, they've been found breeding at the Utica Marsh, Verona and in Kirkland along the Oriskany Creek.

Family Regulidae — Kinglets

210. Golden-crowned Kinglet *Regulus satrapa* * (B # 248)

Golden-crowned Kinglet: A not uncommon year-round resident. They are most frequently seen during spring and fall migration. They breed in coniferous forest – most often in the higher elevations in both the northern and extreme southern portions of Oneida County. As conifer plantations mature around the County and the State, more nesting habitat becomes available for this species.

211. Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Regulus calendula* (B # 249)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: A common migrant that is often found together with Golden-crowned Kinglets during both spring and fall migration. This species is rarely found in Oneida County during the summer months, though one was found in early July at Sangerfield in 1998. They are also only rarely found locally during the winter. They regularly breed in some adjacent counties to the north.

Family Turdidae — Wheatears, Bluebirds, and Thrushes

212. Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis* * (B # 257)

Eastern Bluebird: A not uncommon year-round resident that breeds in open country in most of Oneida County. The introduction of Bluebird nesting boxes along nest box trails throughout the region has demonstrably increased this species population over the past several decades. The Bluebird is frequently found in the region during winter.

213. Veery *Catharus fuscescens* * (B # 251)

Veery: A relatively common summer resident in Oneida County and throughout the region. This thrush species breeds in a variety of different types of forest. Bird surveys conducted in New York State indicate a general decline in population for this species.

214. Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (B # 257)

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Rarely encountered during migration in Oneida County. The species breeds in the heart of the Adirondacks at very high elevations. Individuals and sometimes even small groups have been found in recent years in Kirkland and Rome.

- **Bicknell's Thrush *Catharus bicknelli* (B # 253)**

Bicknell's Thrush: A very rare migrant in New York State. I know of no record of this species being seen in Oneida County. In summer, it rarely occurs outside of its limited breeding range in the heart of the Adirondacks. Since the specimen of this species that Bagg mentioned on his list is from Lewis County, we will not be counting the Bicknell's Thrush on this Oneida County revised list. The Bicknell's Thrush is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

215. Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* * (B # 254)

Swainson's Thrush: An uncommon migrant and a not uncommon summer resident of forests located in the northern part of Oneida County. This species has been found during the breeding season at Lake Julia in Remsen and at Penn Mountain in Steuben. The Swainson's Thrush is more commonly found in the Adirondacks.

216. Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* * (B # 255)

Hermit Thrush: A relatively common migrant and summer resident in Oneida County, where it is found in a variety of forested habitat. Occasionally, they can be found over-wintering in the area. Survey data shows that this species is increasing in New York State.

217. Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina* * (B # 250)

Wood Thrush: A relatively common but declining summer resident. They breed mostly in deciduous forest throughout the County and the region, but their breeding is more successful when it takes place in larger and more mature forest tracts. A high count of 47 Wood Thrush were found at Hamilton College's Kirkland Woods on a single day in June in 1999.

218. American Robin *Turdus migratorius* * (B # 256)

American Robin: A very common to abundant summer resident. Also, this familiar species is an increasingly common winter resident. The Robin breeds throughout the County in a variety of different habitat types including woodlands, pasture, brushy wetlands, golf courses and suburban yards. They often build their nests on and inside of man-made structures.

Family Mimidae — Mockingbirds, Thrashers, and Allies**219. Gray Catbird *Dumetella carolinensis* * (B # 237)**

Gray Catbird: A very common summer resident. They breed widely throughout the County and the region. They are a common staple in suburban yards and brushy meadows. They occasionally occur in our region in winter.

220. Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* * (B # X)

Northern Mockingbird: An uncommon year-round resident in Oneida County. They are found in brushy meadows where they breed. This species occurs in many upland rural places throughout the area, though often not in the same location for several years in succession. In recent years, one surprising place of continuous habitation has been behind Union Station in Utica. This species was not known as a breeding resident in New York State until the third decade of the Twentieth Century.

221. Brown Thrasher *Toxostoma rufum* * (B # 238)

Brown Thrasher: A not uncommon but declining summer resident that breeds in brushy meadows throughout the County and region. Egbert Bagg mentions encountering large flocks of this species – in modern times, this would be considered highly unusual. According to State-wide surveys, this species has been declining for the last several decades. They are very rarely found in winter. One was found in Kirkland on December 2nd 1995.

Family Sturnidae — Starlings**222. European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (Exotic Introduced) * (B # X)**

European Starling: A very common year-round resident that is primarily found in rural and urban areas, and to a lesser extent, in the suburbs. This introduced exotic species breeds throughout the County and the entire region. After being introduced into New York City in the 1890's, the species rapidly expanded through the State, reaching Utica in 1914 (3 years after Bagg's updated Oneida County Bird list was first published).

Family Motacillidae — Wagtails and Pipits

223. American Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (B # 236)

American Pipit: Usually an uncommon migrant, but is rather unpredictable, and can in some years be relatively common. Sometimes this species occurs in quite large flocks in places like Oneida Lake and Lake Delta. A flock of 110 were seen at Lake Delta on September 24th 2005.

Family Bombycillidae — Waxwings

224. Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulous* (B # 197)

Bohemian Waxwing: An uncommon and irregular winter visitor in Oneida County and throughout the region. In some years this species appears in large flocks – containing up to and even exceeding 100 individuals, but in most years none or only a handful are encountered. A flock of 300 were found in Kirkland at Spring Farm CARES' Nature Sanctuary on one day in March of 2000. Additionally, 150 were observed on a single day in the Town of Paris in April of 1996.

225. Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum* * (B # 198)

Cedar Waxwing: A very common year-round resident that breeds widely throughout Oneida County and the State. This species is one of the latest breeders of all of our native songbirds – sometimes nesting as late as October. They also build their nests in a variety of habitat types. In summer, they can be found catching insects over various types of wetland habitat.

Family Calcariidae — Longspurs and Snow Buntings

226. Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* (B # 168)

Lapland Longspur: An uncommon to rare winter visitor in Oneida County and the region. Usually, individuals or small groups of Longspur are found in agricultural fields, mixed in among large flocks of Snow Bunting.

227. Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* (B # 167)

Snow Bunting: A relatively common winter resident in rural landscapes throughout Oneida County and the region. Flocks congregate in large agricultural fields. Sometimes they occur in large numbers of up to and surpassing 100.

Family Parulidae — Wood-Warblers

228. Blue-winged Warbler *Vermivora cyanoptera* * (B # X)

Blue-winged Warbler: A common summer resident. This species breeds widely throughout the County, but is more common in the southern half. They nest in brushy meadow habitat. In Bagg's time this species was very rare in Upstate New York. They moved in from the south and west, following a similar path, but a few decades behind the Golden-winged Warbler – a species with which they commonly interbreed.

229. Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* * (B # X)

Golden-winged Warbler: An uncommon to rare summer resident. Bird surveys in New York State show a sharp decline of this species across the State in recent decades. The Golden-winged Warbler nests in brushy meadows – usually in upland areas. This species is not on Bagg's list for Oneida County, since it didn't come up from the south and establish itself here until the middle part of the 20th Century. The main reason for the decline of this

species is the increasing frequency of which it interbreeds with the closely related Blue-winged Warbler. The Golden-winged Warbler is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

- **Blue-winged Warbler x Golden-winged Warbler Hybrid *Vermivora cyanoptera x Vermivora chrysoptera complex* * (B # X)**

Brewster's Warbler and Lawrence's Warbler: There are 2 named hybrid types that occur when Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers interbreed. Both types occur in Oneida County, but the **Lawrence's Warbler** is by far the rarer type and few specimens have ever been observed in the region. On the other hand, the **Brewster's Warbler** type is relatively common and has been seen in many parts of the County. Instances of the Brewster's hybrid breeding with Blue-winged Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers and other Brewster's have all been documented in the County during the past 2 decades. Lawrence's Warbler has been recently found in Verona and in Rome (2001, 2011). In recent decades, the Brewster's Warbler has been found in many locations including Sangerfield, Kirkland and New Hartford. As hybrid species, both the Lawrence's Warbler and the Brewster's Warbler will not be officially counted on our Oneida County list.

230. Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrina* (B # 210)

Tennessee Warbler: A not uncommon migrant in Oneida County. Surprisingly, one was found during the breeding season at Penn Mountain in 1998. Small numbers of this species breed in the northern portion of neighboring Herkimer County.

231. Orange-crowned Warbler *Oreothlypis celata* (B # 209)

Orange-crowned Warbler: An uncommon to rare migrant in Oneida County. Individuals of this species have occurred in Kirkland, New Hartford and Verona at least several times in recent years.

232. Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* * (B # 208)

Nashville Warbler: A common migrant and a not uncommon summer resident. They breed reliably in more northern parts of Oneida County. The Rome Pitch Pine Bog is an exceptionally good place to find this species during the breeding season.

233. Northern Parula *Parula americana* ** (B # 211)

Northern Parula Warbler: A not uncommon migrant. Possibly also an uncommon to rare summer resident in far northern parts of the County where there are some indications of this species having bred. They are reliable breeders in the Adirondacks.

234. Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* * (B # 213)

Yellow Warbler: A very common summer resident in Oneida County and the region. They breed mostly around wetland areas, but are also found in brushy meadow habitat that is relatively far from water.

235. Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica* * (B # 218)

Chestnut-sided Warbler: A fairly common summer resident and migrant. This species breeds widely throughout Oneida County and all over New York State in woodland gaps and along forest edges.

236. Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia* * (B # 216)

Magnolia Warbler: A fairly common migrant and a not uncommon summer resident. They breed in coniferous forest in both the northern and extreme southern parts of Oneida County.

237. Cape May Warbler *Dendroica tigrina* (B # 212)

Cape May Warbler: A very uncommon to rare migrant in this area. Usually only single individuals are encountered – sometimes in any given entire season. In the fall of 1990, five Cape May Warbler were found at the Sylvan/Verona Beach area. In recent decades Individuals have occurred in New Hartford and Kirkland only several times.

238. Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens* * (B # 214)

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A not uncommon summer resident in larger tracts of forest. Mostly found in areas in the north and to a lesser extent, in the extreme southern parts of Oneida County. They can be a relatively common migrant especially in the spring. In recent years this species has disappeared from some of its traditional breeding sites in the central part of the County.

239. Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata* * (B # 215)

Yellow-rumped Warbler: A very common migrant and fairly common summer resident in Oneida County. They are only occasionally found locally during the winter. They breed in larger tracts of coniferous forest, primarily in the northern and extreme southern portions of the County. New York State surveys show that this species is increasing in population within the State.

240. Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens* * (B # 222)

Black-throated Green Warbler: A common migrant and a not uncommon summer resident. They breed widely throughout the area especially in larger tracts of mixed deciduous and coniferous forest.

241. Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca* * (B # 221)

Blackburnian Warbler: A relatively common migrant and a not uncommon summer resident especially in larger tracts of coniferous forests in both the northern and extreme southern parts of Oneida County. As the conifer plantations on New York State land have matured, more breeding habitat has become available for this and several other warbler species. A count of 22 Blackburnian Warbler were found in the woods around Lake Julia on June 11th in 1997.

242. Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus* * (B # 223)

Pine Warbler: An uncommon migrant and summer resident. This species is rarely found in winter. They breed in tracts of coniferous forest, and mainly in the northern half of Oneida County. One was observed frequenting a bird feeding station in Vernon in the winter of 1999-2000.

243. Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor* ** (B # X)

Prairie Warbler: An uncommon migrant and rare summer resident. There is some data indicating that this species has bred in Oneida County. Locally, they have been found in Rome, Kirkland and New Hartford – primarily only during migration.

244. Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum* (B # 224)

Palm Warbler: A not uncommon migrant that is found in Oneida County and throughout the region. In New York State, breeding for this species is limited to the Adirondacks.

245. Bay-breasted Warbler *Dendroica castanea* * (B # 219)

Bay-breasted Warbler: An uncommon migrant – though more common in some years than in others. In New York State, breeding is typically limited to the Adirondacks, though there have been some indications of breeding within Oneida County in recent decades. One instance of a pair of adults with a fledgling was reported in a stand of Spruce in Westernville (July 1986). One adult female was found at Penn Mountain in July of 1998. State wide surveys indicate a decline in population for this species.

246. Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* * (B # 220)

Blackpoll Warbler: A not uncommon migrant in Oneida County. They are noticeably more common in some years than in others. In New York State, breeding is limited to the high peaks of the Adirondacks and the Catskills.

247. Cerulean Warbler *Dendroica cerulea* * (B # 217)

Cerulean Warbler: an uncommon and declining species in Oneida County and the region. Formerly found in several locations in the central part of the County – including in Kirkland where they were once found in limited numbers along the Oriskany Creek. A few are known to still breed in the Verona area in the forest bordering a wetland near Oneida Lake. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

248. Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia* * (B # 207)

Black and White Warbler: A not uncommon summer resident in open forest areas. They are found primarily, but not exclusively in the northern half of Oneida County. The species is a fairly reliable breeder in and around the Rome Sand Plains and generally around the Oneida Lake area.

249. American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla* * (B # 235)

American Redstart: A fairly common summer resident in most parts of Oneida County. They breed in open forest, forest edges and riparian grove habitat. This species is reliably found at the Utica Marsh.

250. Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* * (B # X)

Prothonotary Warbler: A rare summer resident. The most recent instance of confirmed breeding within Oneida County comes from Lake Delta in the summer of 1982. Two were observed in Verona in the spring of 1988 and one was found in a New Hartford swamp in the summer of 1998. There continues to be an established, if small breeding population of this species in an adjacent county to the west.

251. Worm-eating Warbler *Helmitheros vermivorum* (B # X)

Worm-eating Warbler: A rare straggler. This species has been found several times in Kirkland in recent years. One sighting took place in there on May 25th 2005. The last documented occurrence was on May 15th 2007 in Durhamville. Some reports show that the Worm-eating Warbler has bred in an adjacent County to the south.

252. Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla* * (B # 225)

Ovenbird: A quite common summer resident. They breed in forested tracts and woodlots throughout the County, region and State. Recent state-wide surveys show an increase in population for this species.

253. Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis* * (B # 226)

Northern Waterthrush: A not uncommon summer resident in forested swamps throughout the Oneida County and the region. They are seen only infrequently during migration.

254. Louisiana Waterthrush *Parkesia motacilla* * (B # 227)

Louisiana Waterthrush: A not uncommon summer resident that breeds in forested ravines in many parts of Oneida County. In recent years they have been found in New Hartford, Kirkland and Marcy. Surveys indicate a decline in population over recent decades

255. Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus* (B # X)

Kentucky Warbler: A rare straggler in Oneida County. One was found in Kirkland in May of 2011 – this was the only report of this species.

256. Connecticut Warbler *Oporornis agilis* (B # 228)

Connecticut Warbler: A rare migrant. Individuals of this species have been observed in Kirkland on several occasions in recent years.

257. Mourning Warbler *Oporornis philadelphia* * (B # 229)

Mourning Warbler: A not uncommon summer resident in Oneida County. This species breeds in the thick underbrush that grows in forest openings – most often within medium and larger size forested tracts. In this County they are primarily found in the higher elevations in the northern and extreme southern portions.

258. Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas* * (B # 230)

Common Yellowthroat: A very common summer resident in Oneida County. They only rarely occur in winter. This species breeds widely throughout the entire County and the State.

259. Hooded Warbler *Wilsonia citrina* * (B # 232)

Hooded Warbler: A not uncommon summer resident that most often occurs in medium to large forested tracts. They are particularly common in the southern part of the Oneida County where they reliably breed. They typically inhabit woodlands that contain lots of brushy forest clearings. These clearings are often the result of blow downs and selective logging. Surveys indicate that this species is increasing in population across New York State.

260. Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla* (B # 233)

Wilson's Warbler: A not uncommon migrant species in Oneida County. Individuals and small numbers are seen often mixed together with other migrant warblers and vireos.

261. Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis* * (B # 234)

Canada Warbler: A not uncommon summer resident and migrant. Formerly, they were more common – now they breed mostly in the northern and extreme southern parts of Oneida County. This species prefers wooded gorges, wooded swamps and damp open forest. They are reliably found during the breeding season in the Rome Pitch Pine Bog.

262. Yellow-breasted Chat *Icteria virens* (B # 231)

Yellow-breasted Chat: A rare straggler in Central New York. One recent record comes from Kirkland in the summer of 2004. Surveys show that this species is declining in New York State. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

Family Emberizidae —New World Sparrows and Allies

263. Eastern Towhee *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* * (B # 186)

Eastern Towhee: A not uncommon summer resident that breeds in brushy meadows throughout Oneida County. Occasionally, they occur in winter. Surveys from recent decades show a steady decline of this species in New York State.

264. American Tree Sparrow *Spizella arborea* (B # 178)

American Tree Sparrow: A very common winter resident throughout Oneida County and the region.

265. Chipping Sparrow *Spizella passerina* * (B # 179)

Chipping Sparrow: A very common summer resident in Oneida County and throughout the State. They breed in conifers in suburban yards and in forested areas. The Chipping Sparrow is only rarely found locally in winter.

266. Clay-colored Sparrow *Spizella pallida* * (B # X)

Clay-colored Sparrow: An uncommon migrant in Oneida County, though there is at least one recent record of the species breeding here. They more regularly breed in some adjacent counties. In Bagg's time this species was only a rare visitor to New York State. The species expanded its breeding range from the west and into this State during the mid 20th Century.

267. Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla* * (B # 180)

Field Sparrow: A relatively common summer resident that breeds in overgrown meadows. State wide surveys indicate a steady decline for this species over the last few decades. This species is only rarely found locally during the winter.

268. Vesper Sparrow *Pooecetes gramineus* * (B # 170)

Vesper Sparrow: An uncommon and declining species of rural open country. They breed in most parts of Oneida County, but are currently more common in the southern half. A century ago this species was one of the most common sparrows in Central New York. This is yet another bird species that has suffered from a change in regional agricultural practices. In recent years small numbers of Vesper Sparrow have been found in Clinton, Kirkland, Paris, Vernon and Rome. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

269. Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus* (B # 175)

Lark Sparrow: This species formerly bred as far east as New York State, but has suffered a sizable range contraction in the last century. There have been no known occurrences of this species in Oneida County during the last 100 years, but there have been some accidental occurrences in regions to the west. For now, I will accept the verified record from Boonville that Bagg sited in his list, but without another verified occurrence, the Lark Sparrow will probably disappear from this list the next time it gets updated.

270. Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis* * (B # 171)

Savannah Sparrow: A relatively common, but steadily declining grassland species. They breed throughout most of Oneida County in hay fields and grassy meadows.

271. Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum* * (B # 172)

Grasshopper Sparrow: An uncommon summer resident in Oneida County. Bird Surveys in New York State indicate a sharp decline of this species in recent decades. Most recent sightings and/or breeding confirmations were in Holland Patent, Remsen, Durhamville, Kirkland, Boonville and Westmoreland. This species is currently on New York State's Special Concern Species List.

272. Henslow's Sparrow *Ammodramus henslowii* * (B # X)

Henslow's Sparrow: A rare and declining grassland species in New York State. It was probably never common in Central New York, but now they've become especially rare in Oneida County. One was found in Remsen in the summer of 2002. Another was found in Verona during that same time period. There is evidence that the species has bred within the County, but perhaps that's becoming less likely to happen again in the near future. This species is currently on New York State's Threatened Species List.

- **Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii* (B # 174) ?**

Le Conte's Sparrow: I'm reasonably sure that the "Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow" as it appears in Bagg's list, is the species now referred to as "Le Conte's Sparrow". There is no recent record of this Central Canadian species visiting Oneida County, but they have been recorded as accidental visitors in some adjacent counties. Bagg's account refers to a specimen that was obtained in Madison County, so there is of course, no compelling reason to include it on our Oneida County list.

- **Nelson's Sparrow *Ammodramus nelson* (B # 173)**

Nelson's Sparrow: No known occurrences of this species in Oneida County. The specimens "taken" in Bagg's account were from neighboring Madison County, so there's no need to consider its inclusion in this list. In recent decades this species has been known as an accidental visitor in some adjacent Central New York counties,

273. Fox Sparrow *Passerella iliaca* (B # 185)

Fox Sparrow: A not uncommon migrant. They occur regularly throughout Oneida County and the region. This species is only rarely found locally in winter.

274. Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia* * (B # 182)

Song Sparrow: An abundant summer resident that breeds throughout the County and the State. This species is able to breed in a variety of habitat types, such as suburban yards, brushy meadows and hay fields. They typically avoid nesting in more mature wooded habitat. Individuals or small numbers of Song Sparrow are not infrequently encountered locally during winter.

275. Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni* * (B # 183)

Lincoln's Sparrow: An uncommon but regularly occurring migrant. In summer they are rarely found outside of the Adirondacks. They have been confirmed as breeding in the far northeastern corner of Oneida County. A pair was found during the breeding season in the vicinity of Hinckley Reservoir in 1985.

276. Swamp Sparrow *Melospiza georgiana* * (B # 184)

Swamp Sparrow: A not uncommon summer resident. They most often breed in cattail marshes like that which is found at the Utica Marsh. Only infrequently do they occur in winter.

277. White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* * (B # 177)

White-throated Sparrow: A common migrant, winter and summer resident throughout many parts of Oneida County. It is particularly prevalent in the northern and extreme southern parts of the County, where it reliably breeds in large tracts of medium aged open forest. This species began expanding its breeding range into southeastern Oneida County in the late 1970s.

278. White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (B # 176)

White-crowned Sparrow: A not uncommon migrant throughout the region. Some years they are much more common than in other years.

279. Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* * (B # 181)

Dark-eyed Junco: A common to abundant winter resident and a relatively common summer resident near its breeding grounds. They most often breed in wooded gorges throughout much of Oneida County and the region. The Slate-colored Junco is the race of the Dark-eyed Junco most commonly found in the eastern United States, but two of the western races of this species (the Oregon Junco and the Pink-sided Junco) have on rare occasion occurred in this County.

Family Cardinalidae — Tanagers, Cardinals and Allies**280. Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* * (B # 190)**

Scarlet Tanager: A not uncommon summer resident that breeds in much of Oneida County wherever the appropriate forest habitat exists. The tanager does best in larger and more mature tracts of mixed deciduous forest. State wide surveys show this species to be suffering a steady decline in population in recent decades.

281. Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis* * (B # X)

Northern Cardinal: A very common year-round resident of suburban yards and brushy meadows. The species breeds throughout Oneida County, but remains most common in the southern half. This species is well represented everywhere in New York State except for the higher elevations of the Catskills, Adirondacks and the Tug Hill Plateau. In Bagg's time the Cardinal was limited to a few counties in extreme southern New York State. They rapidly expanded throughout the State during the 20th Century – entering into Oneida County from the west in the 1950s and '60s.

282. Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus* * (B # 187)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: A fairly common summer resident. The species breeds in forested areas throughout Oneida County and the State. Survey data has indicated a slow decline of this grosbeak in recent decades.

283. Blue Grosbeak *Passerina caerulea* (B # 188)

Blue Grosbeak: Very rare. There have been no known recent local sightings of this species in Oneida County, though it has been an accidental visitor to some adjacent counties in recent times. Normally, I wouldn't be apt to accept an un-detailed second-hand account of a species sighting – such as the one that Bagg sites. However, in this case, I'm very familiar with the identification abilities of his primary source. His source, Rev John Bartlett Wicks, was an experienced bird observer who published 2 books and many articles about the bird life on Paris Hill in Oneida County.

284. Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea* * (B # 189)

Indigo Bunting: A relatively common summer resident. They breed widely in brushy meadows, forest edges and forest clearings throughout Oneida County and the State.

285. Dickcissel *Spiza americana* (B # X)

Dickcissel: A rare straggler. The last known occurrence of this species in Oneida County was in Oneida Castle in the winter of 1999-2000. The only other documented sighting took place in New Hartford in spring of 1995.

Family Icteridae — Blackbirds, Meadowlarks, and Orioles**286. Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* * (B # 150)**

Bobolink: A not uncommon, but declining grassland species. They breed throughout Oneida County primarily in hay fields and pastureland, though they've become harder to find in recent decades. This species tolerates a somewhat wider variety of grassland habitat conditions than do some of the other grassland species, and perhaps this comes some way in explaining why the Bobolink population hasn't fallen quite as quickly.

287. Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus* * (B # 152)

Red-winged Blackbird: A very common summer resident and migrant in Oneida County. They most often breed in cattail marshes and grassy fields. State wide surveys show a slow and steady decline of this species in recent decades. They are only occasionally found in winter in this area.

288. Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna* * (B # 153)

Eastern Meadowlark: A once common but now increasingly uncommon summer resident in Oneida County. This and other grassland birds have suffered dramatic declines due to altered agricultural practices in the State. Around the region there are far fewer actively grazed pastures as well as fewer fields devoted to Hay and Wheat production. These were the types of fields that best met the nesting requirements of several different grassland birds including the Meadowlark. Even where ideal grasslands still exist, more efficient and earlier seasonal mowing often destroys nests before the young birds have fledged. As more and more acreage is devoted to row crops like corn and soy beans, there are decreasing opportunities for Meadowlarks and other grassland species to even begin to breed. In modern times, a few still breed around Oneida County – most are found in northern and western portions. The Meadowlark is occasionally found locally in winter.

289. Rusty Blackbird *Euphagus carolinus* (B # 156)

Rusty Blackbird: An increasingly uncommon migrant in our area. They are occasionally found locally in winter. They breed in some adjacent counties to the north and northeast. During the breeding season, they are seldom found outside of the Adirondacks. New York State surveys indicate that this species is declining.

290. Common Grackle *Quiscalus quiscula* * (B # 157)

Common Grackle: An abundant migrant and common summer resident. They breed in Oneida County and throughout the State.

291. Brown-headed Cowbird *Molothrus ater* * (B # 151)

Brown-headed Cowbird: An abundant summer resident. They breed throughout the County and the State with the exception of the higher elevations in the Adirondacks and the Tug Hill Plateau. This species lays its eggs in the nests of many different species of songbird. In this County there has been a great amount of evidence found of this species' "brood parasitism". Among the host birds that have been found raising cowbird fledglings in Oneida County are: Yellow Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo (many examples), Blue-headed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Ovenbird, Song Sparrow and Alder Flycatcher. The Brown-headed Cowbird is becoming increasingly common in winter.

292. Orchard Oriole *Icterus spurius* * (B # 154)

Orchard Oriole: An uncommon summer resident, but it appears to be on the increase in Oneida County. In recent years, this species has been confirmed as breeding at the Utica Marsh (1996), also in New Hartford and Kirkland (2007 and 2009).

293. Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula* * (B # 155)

Baltimore Oriole: A common summer resident and breeder in Oneida County. They are only rarely found locally in winter. Formerly, this species most often hung their basket-like nests from the long overhanging branches of American Elm Trees. Now, with the loss of most Elms to Dutch Elm Disease, the Baltimore Oriole is adapting to using other species of trees.

Family Fringillidae — Finches and Crossbills**294. Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* (B # 159)**

Pine Grosbeak: An irregular winter visitor in Oneida County. When they do show up, they are most often found in pinecone-laden conifer trees. They may also be found feeding on crab apples and the seeds of White Ash Trees.

295. Purple Finch *Carpodacus purpureus* * (B # 160)

Purple Finch: A relatively common summer resident and occasional winter resident in many parts of Oneida County. They prefer areas with lots of coniferous trees. They are more often found in higher elevations in the northern and extreme southern parts of the County.

296. House Finch *Carpodacus mexicanus* (Introduced) * (B # 157)

House Finch: A common to very common year-round resident in Oneida County. They breed in urban areas as well as in suburban and rural setting. Through the 1980s and the mid 1990s they became especially abundant, with some flock sizes reaching into triple digits; but the species is very susceptible to a form of conjunctivitis which (after the mid 1990's) served to seriously limit the size of their population. In modern times it has become unusual to find a large flock of these birds. In Bagg's time, the House Finch (which is native to the far western US) was not found in New York State at all. The species only became common in the northeast after it was inadvertently introduced from Long Island in the early 1940s. The species spread north and west, reaching Oneida County in about 1970.

297. Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* * (B # 161)

Red Crossbill: An unpredictable and irregularly occurring summer and winter resident in coniferous forests. They generally become more numerous in years when the local pinecone crop is large, and correspondingly, when the pinecone production in the far north is poor. They are more often found in higher elevations in the northern parts of Oneida County where they have been known to breed. As pine plantations (mostly on State Land) have matured, both crossbill species have been able to expand their breeding ranges in the County. This species often occurs in conjunction with the similar White-winged Crossbill. In recent years the Red Crossbill has been found in Remsen, Sangerfield, Kirkland and Verona. In the spring of 1997, one was found building a nest in Remsen.

298. White-winged Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera* * (B # 162)

White-winged Crossbill: This, like the preceding species, is an irregularly occurring, mostly winter resident in coniferous forests. They generally become more numerous in years when the pinecone crop is large. They are more often found in higher elevations in the northern parts of Oneida County where they have been known to breed. In some years they are more widespread across the County than in other years. A flock of 25 was found at Tassel Hill in Sangerfield in the spring of 1990. Additional locations of recent sightings include Verona, Remsen and Kirkland. Often this species is found in conjunction with the similar Red Crossbill.

299. Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* (B # 163)

Common Redpoll: An irregular winter resident. Some years this species is completely absent, while other years can produce large flocks of over 100 birds in any given place. The Common Redpoll is easily attracted to bird feeders, especially those stocked with thistle seed.

300. Hoary Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni* (B # 164)

Hoary Redpoll: A rare, but not as rare as formerly, winter visitor. This species usually occurs in conjunction with flocks of the similar Common Redpoll. In recent years, in Oneida County, the Hoary Redpoll has been seen in Kirkland, Paris, Waterville, New Hartford and Rome.

301. Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus* * (B # 166)

Pine Siskin: An irregular winter and summer resident. They are sometimes found in relatively large flocks especially in winter and in early spring. They breed in Oneida County, but usually only in the northern and extreme southern portions.

302. American Goldfinch *Spinus tristis* * (B # 165)

American Goldfinch: A common to abundant year-round resident. The population may vary greatly from year to year depending upon the quantity and availability of food. They are reliable breeders in Oneida County and in virtually all of New York State. This species is one of the latest to begin nesting in the summer.

303. Evening Grosbeak *Coccothraustes vespertinus* * (B # 158)

Evening Grosbeak: Formerly, this species was a not uncommon winter resident and migrant throughout Oneida County and the region. In recent decades, sightings of this species have been declining. They are now mostly found only in northern parts of the County where there are large tracts of coniferous forest. Occasionally this species is a summer resident and they've been known to breed. In Bagg's time, the Evening Grosbeak was considered a very rarely occurring visitor from the west. During the early part of the 20th Century, sightings across the State began increasing, and by mid Century, the species was confirmed as a breeder.

Family Passeridae — Old World Sparrows**304. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (Exotic Introduced) * (B # 169)**

House Sparrow: An abundant year-round resident that is primarily found in urban and rural landscapes, but can be found nearly anywhere in Oneida County. They accept a wide range of nesting situations and have been known to use tree cavities, nest boxes, traffic lights, lamp-posts and crevices in building. This alien species was first introduced into the New York City area in the 1850s and from there it rapidly spread throughout the State.

The following is a list of rarely occurring exotic bird species in Oneida County. In all likelihood they were all escaped captive birds, so none of them will be added to the official Oneida County bird list.

- **Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*: An exotic species of Asian origin. This species is closely related to our native Wood Duck. Undoubtedly, those found in this area have escaped from captivity. Two males were observed at Woodhaven Wildlife Sanctuary in Chadwicks in January of 2008. Subsequently, several additional sightings of individuals came from that same place.
- **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*: An exotic species from the Old World. So far, most New World sightings of this species are attributed to birds that have escaped from captivity. Individual Ruddy Shelduck were found at the Verona/Sylvan Beach area in the fall of 1983 and in the fall of 1993.
- **Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis*: An Asian species that probably escaped from captivity. One showed up in Vernon in the spring and summer of 1997.
- **Great Tit** *Parus major*: An Old World species that was undoubtedly an escaped captive bird – seen at a feeding station near Ava in April of 2000.