

The KINGBIRD



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The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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NOTICE

THE KINGBIRD is published four times a year (May, July, October and January) by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Publication office is Biology Dept., St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N. Y. Publication is sent free to all individual members of the Federation. Membership in the Federation is \$2.00 per year. Single copies: Sixty cents.

APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Miss Audrey Louise Wrede, 3109 Beverley Road, Brooklyn 26, N. Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EXCHANGES AND BACK COPIES are handled by the Treasurer, H. Everest Clements, 1116 Sibley Tower Bldg., Rochester 4, N. Y.

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS:

As the Federation enters upon its eighth year, it is well to review certain of our immediate aims.

First and foremost, we must all aid Miss Audrey Wrede, our very efficient Membership Committee Chairman, to attain a goal of 400 individual members. If this can be accomplished, our immediate financial worries will be over. We should also be on the outlook to aid in the formation of new bird clubs, particularly in areas not now represented by another club.

Secondly, we should lend our support to Stanley Grierson and his Conservation Committee by contacting our legislators on matters which the committee will bring to our attention from time to time.

Thirdly, we should give Stephen Eaton more papers for publication in the *Kingbird*. He is doing an excellent job, but must have your support. He should have many articles as a backlog to choose from for each issue.

Fourthly, we should all start to keep records with extreme care, keeping in mind the criterion for acceptance of records and other data which has been prepared by Dr. Gordon M. Meade and his State Book Committee. Remember to get all possible verification of sight records of rare species or even of common species on unusual dates. Try to plan, when possible, to take your summer vacation in areas not well covered in our State. You can help greatly by reporting on the breeding birds of such a region. In this connection it is contemplated, at the forthcoming annual meeting at Elmira, to set up at least two areas where breeding bird censuses will be taken. This will, we hope, take the veil of mystery from this type of census, and show you how relatively simple and interesting it is to aid in recording such data for use in our new State Book.

The cooperative winter waterfowl survey, under Gerald Rising's leadership, will be completed before this copy goes to press. This should be a yearly project.

Fifthly, provide notes for Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg to use in his weekly radio broadcast. Unusual bird observations, as well as conservation, refuge or club news of interest might well be acceptable. Please write to our Radio Editor, Mr. Edward Seeber, c/o Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York, who will arrange the copy to submit to Dr. Kellogg.

Sixthly, each club should contact Miss Audrey L. Wrede, 3109 Beverly Rd., Brooklyn 26, N. Y., advising her of the dates of the club meetings, also address and telephone number of Program or Field Trip Chairman or others who may be contacted by Federation members from other clubs when in the vicinity. See, for example, Buffalo Audubon Society and Buffalo Ornithological Society data in this issue.

Lastly, if you desire to participate more actively in Federation activities, as a committee member, please let me know at once.

May I take this opportunity to thank our retiring Recording Secretary, Frances H. Irving, for her outstanding work during her term of office. She has been of great help to me.

Also I wish to thank Miss Helen Foster, who recently retired as Circulation Manager of the *Kingbird*, for her selfless efforts to keep up the mailing list and to get the *Kingbird* into the mails promptly.

HAROLD D. MITCHELL.

THE IPSWICH SPARROW ON THE NORTHEASTERN SEABOARD — PART I

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

The Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*), sometimes considered a subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow, has interested this writer for many years while studying it on the barrier beaches of Long Island. It breeds only on Sable Island off the coast of Nova Scotia and winters from New England to Georgia along the coast. The width of this winter range is sometimes only several hundred yards, but its length is many hundreds of miles. Here is a species unique for the Northeast both in restriction of nesting grounds and narrowness of winter range.

HISTORY

Perhaps few birds have had such an interesting history as this species. On December 4, 1868 C. J. Maynard collected the first specimen on the dunes at Ipswich, Massachusetts (1869). Previous to this it is believed Alexander Wilson mistook this species for the male of the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*.) The residents of Sable Island for many years knew it as the island's "gray bird", and a Dr. Cilpin, in 1858, briefly mentioned a sparrow resident there.

The specimen collected at Ipswich was at first misidentified as Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) of the far west, but soon, having been recognized as a new species, it received much attention and many field notes were written concerning it in *The Auk*. Its complete winter range was unknown for many years, but records show birds collected intermittently south to Glynn County, Ga. by 1890. On April 14, 1903 Arthur H. Helme of Miller Place, Long Island, shot a female along the east shore of Cumberland Island, southern Georgia, believed to be the southernmost extremity of its range. Alexander Sprunt, Jr. (1950) calls my attention to the fact that Cumberland Island is almost within sight of Florida.

Its breeding ground was suspected by Robert Ridgway in 1884 after eggs, uniformly larger than those of the Savannah Sparrow, were found in the National Museum, Washington, D. C., and labeled Sable Island, July 1862. Soon afterward, C. Hart Merriam sent for and received a summer specimen of the Island's gray bird from Rev. W. A. DesBrisay, resident missionary of Sable Island, which proved to be the Ipswich Sparrow. In 1894 Jonathan Dwight, Jr. visited Sable Island in the spring and solved many mysteries regarding its summer home. Meanwhile in the latter part of the nineteenth century William Dutcher became much interested in the Ipswich Sparrow and had a number collected on Long Island. Shortly afterward, Dwight's and Dutcher's copious field notes, principally from Long Island, relegated the Ipswich Sparrow to the commonplace, and *The Auk's* attention was directed southward with only occasional records from the northeast.

On December 30 and 31, 1927, on an eight and a half mile stretch, Frederick C. Lincoln and Alexander Wetmore found thirty Ipswich Sparrows at Ocean City, Maryland, and Thomas C. Burleigh in 1935 found twenty near Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. A report came in also of birds seen in early January, 1933 on the sand dunes of Portsmouth, Ocracoke, and Hatteras Island, N. C.

For the past two decades Ipswich Sparrow records have been reported principally in local publications, with only occasional notes occurring in the larger ornithological journals.

FALL AND WINTER

Long Island: In fall and winter on Long Island they are seldom out of sight of the sand dunes. They usually shun barren tracts for diversified areas of small ponds, tidal wreckage, and the more luxuriant beach vegetation; however, after heavy snow storms Roy Latham of Orient, Long Island, found them perched in high tide bushes (*Iva*) feeding on the seeds. If the birds are pursued continuously they may be forced out of their favorite habitats. On one occasion in late fall I "squeaked" one into salt marsh grass (*Spartina*) where it joined Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows, but after brief investigation it flew back into a nearby sand tract. Another time I closely pursued a bird by running after it until it flew into the borders of a salt marsh. Here it perched a minute and then in a wide arc flew past me and back into the dunes. Out of their dune habitat and in the brownish marsh grasses they look strangely pallid. Some years, such as 1949 (see Aud. Christmas Count), they may be well distributed from Cape Cod to Cape May; but in other years, particularly after early heavy snowstorms, there is a tendency for the birds to retreat to more southern portions of their wintering grounds. During normal winters favorite habitat may attract four or five birds, and one year there were seven remaining regularly through the cold weather at Gilgo on the Jones Beach strip.

L. I. — Migration: November is the flight month, but often December and January prove very productive. For example, on January 2, 1954, six Ipswich Sparrows were seen perched on a piece of machinery near the construction of a breakwater at Short Beach, L. I. In autumn, Cruickshank (1942) gives his maximum as 27 individuals along the Jones Beach strip in a single day of intensive birding; and this writer with John Mayer of South Ozone Park saw 10 in a half-mile stretch at Gilgo, November 11, 1950. As to arrival in fall, apparently Roy Latham's Orient date of September 12, 1922 is by far the earliest. As a rule October birds are not plentiful on Long Island, and Roger T. Peterson (1949) informs me that on a memorable Audubon field trip, October 17, 1948, he was fortunate in finding one bird on the Moriches dunes and showed it to George Sutton, after an unsuccessful hunt at Jones Beach.

Migration proceeds three ways in the New York City region: along the Connecticut coast line and on the North and South shores of Long Island. Of the three, in winter they prefer the South Shore's more extensive dune areas, but, as stated may desert these for a more southerly distribution if early, heavy snowstorms cover their food supply.

Nova Scotia — South Carolina: W. Earl Godfrey of the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, collected an Ipswich Sparrow in Nova Scotia on February 2, 1929. This was in an area where salt water is kept out of the hay meadows by a system of dikes. Here on top of a snow-swept dike the bird was feeding on weed seeds. Sand dune country in a Canadian winter would usually be completely buried under snow, provoking in such casual individuals a wide range search for food.

High tides and flood conditions on the sandy stretches also sometimes cause a dispersal, such as near Stone Harbor, N. J., in 1940, when Julian Potter of Collingswood (1949) found 14 Ipswich Sparrows scattered for three-quarters of a mile on both sides of the Sea-gull Highway where they resorted the grassy and weedy edges. When approached they flew short distances and again alighted on the border of the road in company with Savannah and Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

It is also found in winter and on migration in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Douglas L. Kraus (1952) of Rhode Island State College has listed consecutive records showing the bird's presence there regularly. Alfred O. Gross (1952) lists three wintering Ipswich Sparrows, one Jan. 10 at Portland, one on the 1951 Christmas Bird Count (location unnamed) and one on Feb. 23 at Popham Beach. This last bird was feeding voraciously in the wet sea-weed at high water mark on a sandy beach. In this case snowstorms had placed Portland in a state of emergency and the sand dunes were completely buried, according to Wendell Taber of Cambridge, Mass., who also stated that, according to Mrs. Genevieve D. Webb, the Ipswich Sparrow is a fairly common fall and winter bird at Ocean Park, Maine. Another bird was seen at Higgins Beach, Scarborough, Maine, on Jan. 12, 1952. W. Earl Godfrey, aside from the collected February bird mentioned previously, collected one in the fall in Nova Scotia, and Robie W. Tufts (1950), former Dominion Wildlife officer, Wolfville, informs me of three others seen by Mr. Godfrey in November 1937. Interestingly, although a fair number of spring records are listed in New Brunswick, W. A. Squires (1950) of the New Brunswick Museum wrote that it apparently crosses the Gulf of Maine without reaching that province in the fall.

On the 1949 Audubon Christmas Count, from Cape Cod to Cape May, it was well distributed, but during some winters and when there are heavy, early snowstorms, there appears to be a tendency for the birds to retreat southward and casual search may prove quite unproductive. This was also noticed by Jonathan Dwight, Jr., as he searched the winter dunes on the south short of Long Island sixty or seventy years ago.

Apparently there is a fairly good migration flight down the Rhode Island coast with birds being found even on outlying Block Island. Kraus (op. cit.) of Kingston, R. I., lists 29 records of his own (most of these since 1940) and six earlier ones by the late Harry Hathaway of Quonochontaug, R. I. Twelve of these records came from Jerusalem and the next greatest number from Brigg's Marsh. His earliest date is at Jerusalem on Sept. 29, 1946 and there are good representative winter records. If Kraus's 29 records twenty are of single birds, seven of two, one of three, and a maximum of five. Of five records on Block Island, two are listed in fall and winter and three in the spring. Regarding its status in Rhode Island Kraus (op. cit.) writes, "As you know the Ipswich Sparrow is a bird which must be sought hard and my own records are scanty more because of my negligence than a real scarcity. I do know that the hurricanes of 1938 and 1944 as well as the more severe winter storms have greatly affected the habitat of the Ipswich and certainly reduced the wintering population. The influence of filling, dredging, leveling and building along the R. I. shore is also having a significant adverse effect."

North Carolina has a far greater winter population of Ipswich Sparrows than South Carolina where Arthur T. Wayne, prior to 1902, searched unsuccessfully for thirteen years from Charleston to Bull's Bay. On January 20, 1902 a male and two females were taken at Keys Inlet by D. G. Taylor, a collector for Wayne. Later Wayne, with Alexander Sprunt, Jr., became well acquainted with the bird along the South Carolina coast. They traveled many miles a day searching for it in the sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) the seeds of which Sprunt regards as this bird's mainstay in South Carolina. Sprunt related that Wayne became intimate enough with the Ipswich Sparrow to tell male and female apart in the field and proved it by collecting. Wayne reportedly could do this with other birds of like sexual color.

SPRING

Long Island: On Long Island some January appearances of this sparrow probably indicate a shifting of the winter population rather than a northward migration. For example, sometimes ten or twelve may appear in late January and normal counts of two or three continue again in the same area before the spring migration is noticed. Roy Latham at Orient, writes (1949) that he has fewer eastern Long Island records during February than for other months. He reports northern movements in March on days when there are increases in Song Sparrows. Although regarded as uncommon on Long Island by some observers, two or three Ipswich Sparrows may sometimes appear with a northern movement of Song and Tree Sparrows along the grassy strips bordering the ocean parkway at Gilgo, L. I. On April 1, 1950, I counted six in about a two mile stretch. Similarly on March 29, 1940, ten were identified in the same area. Along these border strips they, with the other sparrows, are kept in constant alarm by passing cars. Unlike many of the others, the Ipswich Sparrow will often sulk and run a few feet into deeper cover to avoid flying. Apparently this habit offers some protection from injury which might be sustained by flying across the road. I have never found one killed by a car as is quite often the case with the associated Song and Savannah Sparrows.

In a ten year search for late arrivals on Jones Beach, my records indicate a scarcity after the first ten days in April. Cruickshank (1942) listed the latest report from Long Island as Long Beach, April 25, 1926.

As winter passes into spring, snow, rain and freshening March winds which blow the sand reduce the food supply on the dunes. This results in a wider dispersal into bordering vegetation. Birds in March, therefore, are rather regularly reported from the north side of Jamaica Bay, L. I., and Latham says they may occur at Orient in grassy fields near the beach. There are also one or two records south of Long Island where birds deserted the dunes for short distances at this season.

South Carolina - New Brunswick: George B. Rabb (1949) of the Charleston Museum, South Carolina, states that the Ipswich Sparrow in this southern part of its range does not become common enough in spring migration to indicate a marked movement of more southerly individuals. Alexander Sprunt, Jr. (op. cit.) gives April 8 as South Carolina's latest spring date. This April 8th bird with Helme's female collected April 14th on Cumberland Island, Ga., indicates that stragglers remain almost as late in the southern extremity of their range as they do in New Jersey and on Long

Island. Charles K. Nichols writes (1949) that the largest numbers in New Jersey are reported in March and the flight terminates by the second week in April. Julian Potter (op. cit.), in a ten year study in New Jersey, found a fair number of individuals during February at Stone Harbour, Brigantine, Beach Haven and Barnegat.

Kraus (op. cit.) states that it is less common in the spring in Rhode Island and lists three spring records from Block Island, the latest date April 10, 1920 by a resident, Miss Elizabeth Dickens. In Massachusetts, Forbush (1929) says it is uncommon in the spring, and in New Hampshire and Maine is a rare local migrant. In Maine, Palmer (1949) lists March 20, 1875 as the earliest spring record and April 8, 1896 as the latest.

Squires (op. cit.) wrote that it was a rare transient in spring migration in New Brunswick. His records run from March 26 to May 7, the latter date being the latest known to me away from Sable Island. Records came from Grand Manan, Point Lepreaux, Saint Stephen, Saint Andrews and Kent Island, the latter producing the May 7 date. A maximum of three birds was seen at St. Stephen on April 23. These were in a marsh just above salt water.

Food

Beal examined thirty-seven Ipswich Sparrows' stomachs, sent in by Dwight (1895), and found 7.3% animal matter, 57.8% of vegetable matter and 34.9% of gravel or sand. In twenty-four of these winter specimens from Long Island and New Jersey there was no animal food or only a trace. The vegetable matter consisted largely of seeds and hulls of unrecognizable grasses, some other unknown seeds, as well as *Eragrostis*, *Elymus*, *Polygonum* and *Chenopodium*. Animal food consisted of beetles — among them scarabaeids and weevils — caterpillars and their cocoons, hymenoptera (including some ants), diptera, spider's cocoons and some snails. William Dutcher (1886) remarked that birds received April 1, 1885 had stomachs filled with small black insects and claims this to be the first instance of anything but vegetable food found in their stomachs. Forbush (op. cit.) wrote that Charles W. Townsend found the Ipswich Sparrow along the seaweed drifts thrown up on the Massachusetts beaches and saw birds actually jumping into the air feeding chiefly upon small flies and beetles.

No doubt this sparrow would fare badly in winter without beach-grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) whose elevated stems stand up fairly well in ordinary fluffy snowstorms. On one occasion I watched five Ipswich Sparrows actively feeding on this grass with an inch of snow on the ground. These jumped or reached up to pick at the seed heads as they flitted from clump to clump. Once, when a snowstorm had changed to rain, and freezing weather had encased every weed stalk and blade of grass in a heavy coat of crystal, I saw a sparrow slipping about as it leaped upward for the top-heavy seed panicles of the beach grass, an occasional one of which had escaped glazing on the underside. This meager ration was the only food in evidence.

George M. Sutton collected a grass favored by the Moriches bird in 1948. J. R. Swallen of the United States National Museum identified this as sand grass (*Triplasis purpurea*). Along the grassy strips in winter at Jones Beach I found birds manipulating the seed stalks of crab grass (*Digitaria*), picking

off the seeds as they passed through their mandibles. They have also been observed feeding on beard grass (*Andropogon*), *Agrostis* and rarely salt grass (*Spartina patens*) as well as beach golden-rod. In the south, Sprunt (op. cit.) remarks that it feeds largely on sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*).

As to artificial feeding, there is an old New England report of the Ipswich Sparrow picking up grain scattered about on the beach. At Gilgo, five years ago, I watched one feeding on cracked grain which I had spread out for that purpose.

(To be continued.)

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CRITICALLY NEEDED BIRD SPECIMENS FROM NEW YORK

KENNETH C. PARKES

Most serious amateur bird students are aware that certain factual questions about birds can be answered satisfactorily only by the collecting of specimens. In many cases the specimens which already exist in our museums are more than ample to serve our needs, especially in a relatively well-studied state like New York. The two outstanding collections of New York birds are those at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and Cornell University in Ithaca. Other museums in the state, such as those at Albany, Buffalo and Rochester, have smaller but nevertheless valuable collections. In spite of the existence of this fine New York material, some questions about distribution within the state remain, and some of these questions can be solved only by collecting specimens. In most cases these questions pertain to the subspecific status of a relatively few species, in certain special areas of the state. For example, we do not know for certain the relative distribution of two subspecies of Henslow's Sparrow in New York, primarily because of a lack of specimens from that part of the state lying south and east of Syracuse. Such questions become important when, for instance, the species' range is being described in the new edition of the A.O.U. Check-list. In such cases only the specialist will know just which birds, from which areas of the state, are needed to complete our knowledge of distribution.

There are a few species, mostly rather uncommon, which *should be collected*, at least in certain parts of the state (sometimes *anywhere* in the state) whenever the opportunity presents itself. Many readers will want this statement justified, and I hope to show that, for about a dozen species, the knowledge of bird distribution gained will amply justify the collecting of the few birds involved. Most of the species I shall discuss are quite rare in New York, and (here is the crucial point) may enter our borders from several different directions. In each of these cases there are subspecific distinctions involved which will allow us to say, after the specimen has been identified by a qualified taxonomist, from which segment of the species' geographic range this bird has come. As an example, let us take Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). There are now several good sight records of this species in various parts of New York, but no specimen has ever been collected within our borders. It would be of much interest to students of

bird distribution to know where these birds are coming from. There are two eastern subspecies of Bewick's Wren; one, *T. b. altus*, is found along the Appalachians from central Pennsylvania south to Alabama; the other, *T. b. bewickii*, is found west of the mountains from eastern Ohio west to Kansas and Nebraska. It would seem a good guess to suppose that most of the Bewick's Wrens which show up in New York would probably come from within the range of *altus*, but this is *just a guess*. It is perfectly possible that some of our records of this species, especially those from central or western New York, might represent individuals of *bewickii* which have straggled east from Ohio. The point is that we have no way of learning what these "invasion routes" are unless we are able to examine the specimens and identify the subspecific population from which they came. I would say, therefore, that any Bewick's Wren discovered in New York should be collected by a person holding the appropriate permits, and the specimen sent to a museum where it may be studied and compared with out-of-date specimens of the pertinent subspecies.

Below is a short list of those species which I feel should be collected in New York (at least in the area specified) whenever they may show up, and a summary of the problem involved in each case.

Eared Grebe (*Colymbus caspicus*). Although there are several sight records for this species in New York, it has never been collected in the state. Some of these sight records have been made by careful, conservative observers, and there is little doubt that the species does, occasionally, occur in New York. Great Lakes records are almost certainly of the North American subspecies, *C. c. californicus* (although a confirming specimen would be desirable). Along the Atlantic coast, however, there is the interesting possibility that a stray Eared Grebe might have actually crossed the ocean. Some observers on Long Island have even ventured to identify, in the field, an Eared Grebe as the Old World *C. c. caspicus*. Needless to say, such an identification is not justified without the specimen in hand, but the possibility does exist, and any Eared Grebe seen along the coast should be collected if at all possible.

Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*). This arctic species has occasionally reached our waters, but no specimen has as yet been taken in New York. There are two Atlantic subspecies to which a Fulmar along our coast might belong; the population which breeds on Baffin Island (*F. g. minor*) or that of Greenland, Iceland and northern Europe (*F. g. glacialis*). It should be of no little interest to know which route our few Fulmars have followed, but this cannot be determined without the specimen in hand to measure.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). The Hudson Bay population of this duck was named *sedentaria* by L. L. Snyder on the assumption that it was non-migratory, wintering in the open waters of Hudson and James bays. However, a specimen (one of three seen at the time) was collected on the Ontario side of the Niagara River on November 21, 1936; it is now in the National Museum of Canada. Since there are occasional sight records of Eiders on the Great Lakes, it would be of great interest to know whether there is, after all, an occasional light southward flight of *sedentaria* down from James Bay in winter. It had previously been assumed that such records were probably based on individuals of *S. m. dresseri* wandering southwest along the St. Lawrence River. Again, only examination of specimens can determine this.

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). The relative status of the two subspecies of Willet has been well worked out for the coastal portion of New York (see Cruickshank, "Birds Around New York City", 1942, p. 189). The Eastern Willet (*C. a. semipalmatus*) is the spring transient and the Western (*C. s. inornatus*) the fall transient. In the interior of the state, where the Willet is a rare bird, the status of our knowledge is far different. We may feel fairly certain that fall Willets from the interior belong to the western race, and this has been confirmed by the taking of a very few specimens. In the spring however, the Willet is exceedingly rare inland, and we do not know if these few spring birds are, like the spring Long Island migrants, *semipalmatus*, or whether they are *inornatus*, which might seem more probable on geographic grounds. To summarize: any Willet seen in New York in spring away from the coastal region should, by all means, be collected for subspecific identification.

Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus* and *L. scolopaceus*). Until the appearance of an extensive and scholarly monograph by Frank Pitelka (Univ. Calif. Pub. in Zoology, 50, 1950, pp. 1-108), the literature on the Dowitchers was a mass of confused and conflicting statements. The students of the genus could not agree on how many species or subspecies to recognize, nor on the characters of the forms they *did* recognize. It has now become clear that many (if not most) of the records in the literature of Long-billed Dowitchers (*L. scolopaceus*) in the northeastern states were based on *L. griseus hendersoni*, which is longer-billed than the well known eastern *L. g. griseus*. Since the status of the various forms was so widely misunderstood (and still is, among those not familiar with recent findings), sight records of subspecies of Dowitcher from New York and the other eastern states must be discarded as a body. Even now many specimens repose in collections under incorrect identifications, since the differentiating characteristics are incorrectly given in older literature.

The relative frequency of the three Dowitchers, *L. g. griseus*, *L. g. hendersoni*, and *L. scolopaceus*, along the coastal region of New York was worked out fairly accurately by Pitelka, since specimens may be found in good numbers in existing collections. Specimens from the interior of the state, however, are rare, and do not exist in sufficient numbers to permit a determination of the ratio of the three forms. It might be suspected that *griseus*, predominant along the coast, would show somewhat less of a numerical superiority inland, since *scolopaceus* and *hendersoni* are, respectively, far-western and mid-western breeders. Without specimens we cannot verify this.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*). Although the subspecific division of this species has not been universally supported, material I have seen shows that the two races are quite recognizable. New York records from fresh water (Great Lakes, Finger Lakes) are presumably the form which breeds in interior North America, *S. f. forsteri*, although I have seen just one specimen to confirm this (Cayuga Lake). The other subspecies, *S. f. litoricola*, breeds along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Virginia to Texas. As a species, Forster's Tern is now a regular and fairly common fall transient in the Long Island region, as many as 300 having been recorded in a single flock (Cruickshank, *op. cit.*, p. 239). It appears doubtful whether all of these birds would have come from the breeding population of the southern Atlantic

coast, although the very few Long Island specimens I have examined have, indeed, been *litoricola*. Further collecting, especially a sampling of these larger flocks, should be undertaken to determine whether a substantial number of these birds may not be migrant *forsteri* from the interior.

Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*). I know of no authentic record of this species from the interior of New York. Occurrence of Least Terns on our inland waters is perfectly possible, however. Any such bird that may appear should definitely be collected, as it would be probable that a Least Tern in western or central New York would be from the breeding population of the Mississippi and Ohio river drainages. This would add a new subspecies, *S. a. athalassos*, to the state list. There are several records from Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). In an earlier paper in *The Kingbird* (1953, pp. 4-6) I summarized the status of this species in New York, emphasizing that, despite widespread belief to the contrary, the two subspecies cannot be identified with certainty in the field. The Yellow-throated Warbler is apparently undergoing, to at least a slight extent, a northward movement like that of many other austral birds. The collecting of specimens and their identification as *dominica* or *albilora* will help to plot more accurately these "invasions" as they occur.

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) and Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*). Both of these species are subject to occasional major irruptive flights into New York. When possible, a sampling should be made from flocks of these birds, since their movements are so irregular that their geographic origin is unpredictable. There are three subspecies of the Crossbill and two of the Pine Grosbeak which may be found in New York; judicious collecting may help us to work out some sort of pattern for their movements.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta*). The four New York subspecies (one breeding, three migrant) of this species are now much better understood, after many years of confusion and conflicting statements in the literature. There is much we still need to learn, especially about the migration routes and relative abundance of the two inland forms, *nelsoni* and *altera*. We need more specimens from more localities in the interior of New York. Especially do we need spring specimens. The spring migration of the inland races of Sharp-tailed Sparrow is very poorly understood; to my knowledge, only one New York spring specimen each of *altera* and *nelsoni* has ever been taken. These birds are very rare in New York at this season, and should be collected whenever encountered.

Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER

From the excellent series of regional reports received covering the fall and early winter period many interesting events can be pieced together.

Three hurricanes, Carol, Edna and Hazel, spawned in the region of the Sargasso Sea, affected the distribution of birds in different ways depending on their paths. Carol and Edna passed east of the State for the most part and resulted in some increased counts of coastal birds on Long Island (see Region 10) and a few strays in the lower Hudson (see Region 9). Hazel cut inland near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, expending its force against hills, trees and houses, and was somewhat tamed as her storm center entered the State near Binghamton about 9 p. m. on Oct. 15 and traveled north across Regions 2, 3, 4, and 5. An exhausted Black Skimmer was found near Norwich (Chenango Co.) on Oct. 17; Laughing Gulls were seen along the Lake Ontario Shore from Hamlin Beach (western Monroe Co.) to Sandy Pond (Oswego Co.) and two were seen on Oneida Lake Oct. 16 and 17. The most interesting stranger to the State, however, was a Yellow-billed Tropic Bird which was picked up dead along the Lake Ontario shore southwest of Watertown at Southwick's Beach, Jefferson Co., on Oct. 26..

For the past two summers tent caterpillars have been unusually common in suitable areas of the State and correlated with this we have had larger numbers of both species of Cuckoos, particularly the Yellow-billed. Mild weather extending through much of October produced many late records. The Yellow-billed species was seen in unusual numbers and as late as Nov. 11 in Region 8.

A late Whip-poor-will on Oct. 4, late Nighthawks (one at Binghamton to Oct. 11), an Oct. 16 Chimney Swift at Rochester and a Nov. 10 Hummingbird at Syracuse all point out the protracted fall migration.

A large concentration of Brant (4,500 est.) on Lake Ontario at Selkirk was seen on Oct. 31 and single birds or small flocks were reported from Regions 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 from Oct. 30 to Nov. 28.

The shorebird and hawk flights were considered generally poor but of good variety. Regions 2, 3 and 5 reported single Purple Sandpipers (normally a coastal migrant). A Willet was seen at Montezuma.

The first Olive-sided Flycatcher reported south of its breeding range was an Aug. 14 bird on Long Island. Other regional dates for this never common species were Aug. 25 (Region 1), Sept. 4 (Region 2), Sept. 3 (Region 5), Aug. 29 (Watervliet - Region 8), and Sept. 13 (Region 3).

Black-capped Chickadees were on the move across the State during mid-October. Near Rochester 12,000 (est.) individuals in flocks containing more than 100 birds passed along Payne Beach on Oct. 12. Regions 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10 mention the abundance of Chickadees. Mr. Elliott says some were even seen migrating down the avenues in New York City. Apparently correlated with this mass movement was an invasion of Brown-capped Chickadees into Regions 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, and 10. A similar phenomenon occurred in

late Oct. 1951 (see *Aud. Field Notes*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 8 and 15; *Kingbird*, Vol. 2, No. 1, Regional Reports). Bluejays were reported migrating in flocks in Regions 3 and 9.

Northern species have dominated the bird picture since the fall migration. Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes have appeared in good numbers and a few Rough-legged Hawks have been seen in the agricultural regions south of Lake Ontario.

Evening Grosbeaks left the central Adirondacks in mid-Sept. and were reported from all regions of the State beginning about Oct. 14. Some appeared to be wintering, but Regions 2 and 5 reported none after the middle of Nov.

Following the influx of this species by about one to three weeks were Pine Grosbeaks. These birds have appeared in all regions — the best flight in several years.

The smaller carduline finches — Purple Finches, Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Goldfinches and Crossbills were reported from most regions but in small numbers. Their principal winter diet of birch and hemlock seeds was scarce in the central and western parts of the State but fair to good in Regions 7, 8 and 9.

Western novelties included a Lewis's Woodpecker at Ossining (Westchester Co.) Oct. 29.

TREE AND SHRUB SEED CROPS MATURING 1954

REGION	1*	5	6	7'	8	9"	10
Red Pine -----	—	poor	poor	poor	fair	fair	—
White Pine -----	poor	poor	poor	poor	fair	—	good
Pitch Pine -----	—	—	—	poor	poor	—	good
Larch -----	—	fair	poor	fair	—	good	—
White Spruce -----	—	fair	poor	good	—	—	—
Black Spruce -----	—	—	poor	good	—	—	—
Red Spruce -----	—	—	poor	fair	fair	—	—
Balsam -----	—	—	poor	poor	poor	—	—
Hemlock -----	poor	fair	poor	fair	good	good	—
Arbor-vitae -----	—	fair	poor	fair	good	—	—
Red Cedar -----	—	—	—	—	good	—	fair
Bayberry -----	—	—	—	—	—	good	good
Ironwood (<i>Ostrya</i>) -----	poor	poor	poor	—	poor	—	—
Blue Beech (<i>Carpinus</i>) -----	poor	poor	fair	CHfair	good	—	—
Yellow Birch -----	poor	poor	poor	fair	good	—	—
White Birch -----	poor	poor	poor	fair	good	—	—
Black Birch -----	poor	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amer. Beech -----	poor	poor	fair	poor	fair	poor	—
White Oak -----	fair	poor	—	CHfair	fair	fair	good
Red Oak -----	poor	poor	—	CHfair	fair	fair	good
Cucumber Tree -----	poor	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mt. Ash -----	—	fair	fair	fair	poor	good	—
Thornapple -----	fair	fair	poor	—	—	—	—
Wild Black Cherry -----	poor	fair	fair	poor	fair	good	good
Box Elder -----	good	good	fair	—	fair	—	—
Sugar Maple -----	poor	fair	—	fair	good	good	—
Grey Dogwood -----	—	good	—	Mfair	—	good	—
Red-osier Dogwood -----	—	fair	—	Mfair	—	good	—
White Ash -----	poor	fair	poor	poor	fair	poor	—
Black-berried Elder -----	good	good	—	—	good	—	good

*Highlands in southern part only; ' (M) Malone Region, (CH) Champlain Valley; " Rockland Co. only.

The northern finches and other seed eating species of late fall and winter are greeted in New York by hundreds of tons of Sunflower Seeds and cracked corn at man-made feeders, but those which fend for themselves must harvest the tree, shrub and other plant seed crops. This chart gives a fair view of the menu available in New York this year. Notice that the western Allegheny Plateau region offers little but Box Elder. The seed crop from Albany south to New York City appears to be good in general, particularly Hemlock, Birch, Cherry and Sugar Maple. The seed crop in the Adirondacks appears to be poor to fair for most species, good for White and Black Spruce. We wish to thank all regional reporters helping in this compilation, and also Mr. W. B. Petty and Mr. F. E. Judwin of the State Conservation Department. The Conservation Department has always been very helpful to us in the past and we wish to take this opportunity to give them a special "thanks".

THE EDITOR.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

The 1954 fall migration was full of unusual records. The weather pattern supplied little reason for the good birding; the one outstanding weather phenomenon, Hurricane "Hazel", had relatively little effect on western New York. Looking back, the four months, Aug., Sept., Oct., and November, seem to have been disagreeably wet throughout. Actually, October was the only month which broke all (October) records for precipitation, yet it provided most of the rarities.

LOONS — DUCKS: A cormorant at Wellsville October 12 was unusual. Egret records were few, only three (from Olean, Wellsville, and Morton's Corners) being reported. Only two Whistling Swans (at Bird Island October 30) visited us this fall. Judging by the number of records received of flocks of geese going over at night, the height of their migration was around October 20. Gadwalls were noted in late September and late October at Cuba Lake, Grand Island, and Lake Chautauqua. About 1000 Canvasbacks were on the Niagara River throughout most of November. Four Surf Scoters in Buffalo's lower harbor made our Duck Count on October 10, and Rosche found no less than fifty Ruddy Ducks at Silver Lake on October 13. A Harlequin returned to Niagara Falls November 27.

HAWKS — OWLS: Fifty Turkey Vultures were reported from Fulmer Hill (Horns, *vide* McMurtry) on September 19; the last individual was seen at Oak Orchard October 18 (Beardslee). Earliest Roughlegged Hawk was seen October 23 at Alfred by Mrs. McMurtry; we have several records in mid-November. The McMurtry's report a hen turkey with 12-15 young near Wellsville in August. King Rails again made their home at Oak Orchard. High point of the Golden Plover migration was September 26 when no less than 360 were counted on Grand Island by Nathan, Filor, and Schaffner; the latest record for the species was October 23. Bonaparte's Gulls were much more numerous during October than usual; 2000 were observed by Schaffner off Bird Island on the 17th; normally that number is not present on the Niagara until November. A Little Gull was noted at Bird Island September 25 (Nathan, Schaffner). Last dates for the terns were: Forster's October 17, Common November 13, and Black October 17. During the first half of October an entirely unprecedented number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from every corner of our territory, one of the most interesting phenomena of the entire year. A Barn Owl was seen at Fillmore November 6 (McMurtry.)

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A late Whip-poor-will was observed at Vandalia October 4 by Eaton, and the last Hummingbird at Wellsville October 12 by McMurtry. Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from Wellsville and Angola, and Red-bellies from Castile

and Wilson. An August 25 record of Olive-sided Flycatcher from Vandalia by Eaton intrigues me; we have many dates comparable to it, but all of our earlier fall dates are from the mountains in that vicinity, and I suspect some day a nesting pair will be found there. Northern Horned Larks appeared November 6. The swallows remained later than usual, though no records were broken. Chickadees, and to a lesser extent White-breasted Nuthatches swarmed over western New York in October. Brown-capped Chickadees were reported from Wilson (November 14, Axtell et al) and Chestnut Ridge Park (November 26, Coggeshalls). A goodly number of Carolina Wren records were received during September, October, and November. The last House Wren record was October 27 and the last Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported from Tiffitt Street October 18 (P. Greene). Eaton collected an Olive-backed Thrush at Vandalia October 19, and Mrs. McMurtry reported a Veery at Wellsville September 15. Perhaps the most noticeable effect of Hurricane "Hazel" was the very large number of Golden-crowned Kinglets which flooded the territory immediately afterward. Earliest Pipit record was September 25 (Grand Island, Rosche); there was an excellent October migration of the species. Gray Shrikes appeared early (October 23) and more records of their presence were received than in any previous year in my memory, as many as nine individuals being reported on one field trip.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: In this group belongs one of the most unusual records ever to be reported in western New York, viz., the occurrence of a Dickcissel and a Harris's Sparrow in one day at one feeding station (October 4, Kenmore, Rathbun, Houck, et al). Both identifications were well authenticated. Actually, Nathan found a Harris's Sparrow in Forest Lawn Cemetery on September 28, and the Kenmore bird was seen from September 29 to October 4. The Dickcissel was present only one day. Also of great interest was the start of what promises to be one of our very best years for northern finches. Evening Grosbeaks first appeared October 21, and have been reported from many areas since. Pine Grosbeaks arrived November 14, and they too are present in good numbers. Only one Red Crossbill has been reported, but we have several records of White-wings, though the flocks are small. Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins are also here.

132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore 17, N. Y.

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HARRY VAN BEURDEN

The fall migration in our area was good in several respects but poor in some ways. The land bird flight was interesting with many warblers in September and many chickadees in October. The waterfowl migration was poor due to adverse weather and the shorebird flight was also disappointing. As of Nov. 30 little snow has fallen and the weather was averaging fair.

LOONS — DUCKS: The first Common Loon was seen on Sept. 12 with a high count of 100 on Oct. 30. The first Red-throated Loon was seen on Oct. 30 with very few later records. One Holboell's Grebe on Nov. 6 and five on Nov. 7 at Payne Beach (Monroe Co.). There were several Monroe Co. records of American Egrets. One Eastern Glossy Ibis was seen Sept. 25 and 26 at Braddock's Bay (Monroe Co.) by many observers. A few Brant were seen, first date Nov. 13; maximum in one day 4 individuals. The first Pintail was seen on Aug. 14 and the greatest number (1085) was seen migrating east along Lake Ontario, urged on by strong NW winds on Sept. 11. First dates for other ducks — Ring-necked Duck Oct. 9, Canvasback Oct. 17, Goldeneye Oct. 28, Bufflehead Oct. 23, Old Squaw Oct. 17, Surf Scoter Oct. 17, Amer. Scoter Oct. 17, White-winged Scoter Sept. 12 and Ruddy Duck Oct. 16. There were 300 Lesser Scaup still present on Nov. 30 at Durand Park. An unidentified female Eider was seen at Rigney's Bluff (Monroe Co.) on Nov. 28. The diving duck and scoter flight was very poor. (Northerly winds were scarce during October and November). Red-breasted Mergansers were recorded in the thousands during the first and second weeks of November. At Hamlin Park Baldpates, Pintails, Green-winged Teals and Gadwalls were still present the last week in Nov.

HAWKS — OWLS: Bald Eagle, scarce; Coopers Hawk, more than usual — there is perhaps a small flight of this species east along the lakeshore in the fall. Red-shouldered Hawk, one late bird on Oct. 23; one early Rough-legged Hawk on Oct. 9;

last Osprey on Oct. 16; one Goshawk on Oct. 30 at Durand Park (O'Hara and Miller). Eleven Ruffed Grouse at Springwater on Nov. 30 (Jones). Sora quite common in marshes in September. There was a poor flight of shorebirds and all appear to be gone by mid-November. One Hudsonian Curlew was seen on Sept. 1 and Sept. 11 in Monroe Co. Western Sandpiper — three in August at Braddock's Bay and Shore Acres. There was a fair flight of Golden Plovers and the last Ruddy Turnstone was seen on Oct. 17. A late Woodcock was seen on Nov. 6 and a Purple Sandpiper was seen on Nov. 7 at Braddock's Bay (Beiber). The last Sanderling was seen on Nov. 7. On October 16, the morning after hurricane Hazel passed over Rochester, Laughing Gulls were seen along the Lake Ontario shore at the following points — Charlotte to Payne Beach four birds on Oct. 16 (Van Beurden and Corcoran), eight birds from Charlotte to Hamlin Park on Oct. 16 (Beiber and Listman). The majority of these birds were adults in winter plumage. Seven reports of Little Gulls from Braddock's Bay and Charlotte from Aug. 30 to Oct. 10. One immature Jaeger was seen at Braddock's Bay on Oct. 10 (O'Hara and Miller). Three Forster's Terns were reported from Braddock's Bay, Charlotte and Payne Beach from Sept. 25 to Oct. 17 (less than usual). The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen in greater numbers and later than usual — last date Oct. 16. The Barn Owl seems to be increasing. One Short-eared Owl and one Saw-whet Owl were found dead.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The last Hummingbird was seen on Sept. 22 and the last Chimney Swift on the late date of Oct. 16. One Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen on September 4; the last Crested Flycatcher on Oct. 3 and the last Phoebe on Oct. 16. An early Northern Horned Lark on Oct. 9 and two on Oct. 28. Last dates for swallows were Tree Oct. 17, Barn Nov. 3 (very late) (Listman), Bank Sept. 26 and Cliff Oct. 16. There was a large flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches. The Carolina Wren seems to be holding its own with a new location at Conesus Lake. The last date for Olive-backed Thrush was Oct. 23. The first Northern Shrike was seen on Oct. 23 and since have been reported in unusual numbers — as many as five in one day from Monroe Co. One Catbird was seen in Durand Park on Nov. 13.

The most outstanding event during Oct., beside hurricane Hazel, was the migration of Black-capped Chickadees beginning on Oct. 9. Birds in flocks containing more than one hundred individuals at times, were seen migrating east during the period from Oct. 9 to the middle of Nov. The birds moved along the Lake Ontario shore of Monroe Co. and appeared to be on the move on fair days with the wind from the west, southwest or south. (With these birds came Brown-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice in good numbers for our area). Actual counts made — Payne Beach Oct. 9, 10,500 indiv. (Listman and Van Beurden), Payne Beach Oct. 12, 12,000 (Listman) and 4,500 on Oct. 17 Payne Beach (Van Beurden). Brown-capped Chickadee — one on Oct. 17, one on Oct. 28 and one on Nov. 11 — all seen in Monroe Co. (Listman and Van Beurden). Tufted Titmice — seven reports from Oct. 2 to Nov. 25.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: There was a good flight of Philadelphia Vireos and last dates of other species were Yellow-throated Oct. 16, Blue-headed Oct. 17, Red-eyed Oct. 23, Philadelphia Oct. 3, and Warbling Sept. 17. Migrant Black and White, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Pine and Wilson's Warblers appeared in late Aug. about as usual. One Connecticut Warbler was seen at Lakeshore Country Club on Sept. 17. The last Hooded Warbler was seen Sept. 25. Two Orange-crowned Warbler records — one on Oct. 10, and one on Oct. 12, Monroe Co. Fourteen species of warblers were reported in October and a definite increase in Palm and Blackpoll Warblers was noted on Oct. 16, the morning after Hurricane Hazel. It is quite probable that these birds were blown north. The last date of Blackpoll was on Oct. 23 at Durand Park. A late Magnolia was seen on Nov. 1. A Yellowthroat spent most of Nov. at Durand Park. Three species of warblers were reported in Nov.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The last Bobolink in Monroe Co. was seen Oct. 2; last Scarlet Tanager on Oct. 10. A fair flight of Evening Grosbeaks was observed starting Oct. 23 but have not been reported after Nov. 16. There was a normal flight of Goldfinches and Pine Siskins. There have been many Pine Grosbeaks the first in two years; first date Nov. 7, up to forty in a flock and mostly seen in Durand Park. A few Redpolls have been reported, the first in two years; first date on Nov. 6. There have been very few Red Crossbills but an excellent flight of White-winged Crossbills beginning Nov. 10. The first Slate-colored Junco was quite early

on Sept. 4 and there were several reports of Lincoln's Sparrows from Sept. 4 to Oct. 16. The first dates for Tree Sparrow Oct. 23, Lapland Longspur Oct. 2, Snow Bunting Oct. 23.

246 Tremont Street, Rochester 8, N. Y.

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

MRS. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT

August and September were warm, somewhat above normal in temperature and dry throughout the Finger Lakes region. October and November were a little wetter, with two heavy wet snows, one on November 2 and one on November 21st, which were localized. The part of the region from Elmira east was hard hit by hurricane Hazel on October 15, Ithaca itself suffering most damage. Surprisingly enough, very little effect was noticed on the bird life, with few Southern or coastal birds reported; some observers reported that Song Sparrows seemed to disappear immediately after the storm. Apparently we are more affected, bird-wise, by storms to the east of us than by those which move from the south directly into the area.

The most outstanding feature of the season has been the invasion of northern birds of several species, unusually early and in much greater numbers than usual.

LOONS — DUCKS: Large flocks of migrating Loons were seen near King Ferry Nov. 30th A. M. (A. A. Allen). A Red-throated Loon was on Keuka Lake near Branchport 11/4 (Spiker). Horned Grebes appeared in normal number on all lakes.

A Great Blue Heron lingered late in November at Montezuma (Schaffner), one at Meyer's Point on Cayuga Lake (AAA) and one near Elmira (Smith, Welles). American Egrets were present at Montezuma until 10/3 (Walker) and one appeared in August at Hollister's Swamp near Branchport, second record for that area in 15 years (Guthrie). A Little Blue Heron was reported on Virgil Creek at Dryden 8/24 (Dunham). An American Bittern was rescued from a trap on Chemung River 11/22 by J. Arnesen. Least Bitterns and Black-crowned Night Herons up in numbers at Montezuma (Walker). The lone Whistling Swan was seen for the last time on 10/17 (Munfords) and was then in flight. On 11/20 there were 3 of this species at Montezuma (Walker) and 4 were on Keuka near Branchport 11/4-12 (Guthrie).

Good flights of Canada Geese all fall, an early flight seen at Avoca on 9/14 (Carter). 60 Brant at head of Cayuga Lake 11/5 (Rapalee). Several Blue Geese and 1 Snow Goose stayed at Montezuma awhile and were reported by various observers 10/23 to 11/18.

Ducks began returning to foot of Seneca Lake about 10/10 and soon there were good rafts of Scaups and Redheads there (Ward) — fewer on Cayuga this fall. Montezuma had 300 Baldpates, 150 Shovellers 10/10 (Munford). A Ring-necked Duck, irregularly here in winter, was seen at Montezuma 11/28 (Munford). A White-winged Scoter was reported killed on Cayuga 11/6 (Walker) and Mallards and Black Ducks were numerous at Brandy Bay on Keuka this fall, where they are being protected. An early Ruddy Duck at 7 Acre Pond near Elmira 9/1 (Welles), and on Cayuga 9/20 (Thorp). Two early Red-breasted Mergansers were on Cayuga Lake, 10 miles south of the foot, on 8/29 (Van Beurden).

HAWKS — OWLS: Fewer reports of Turkey Vultures in northern part, but two were seen 9/12 on Ridge Road north of Horseheads (Samson) and Grossbeck reports 22 of them circling over a sheep carcass in town of Greenwood 9/19. A Goshawk again seen at Andrus place near Catlin 11/29 (Andrus). Several species of Hawks were present at Montezuma on 11/28 (Walker, Munfords) including the Peregrine which had been around there since 10/10. Rough-legged Hawk at Etna 11/9 (Hoyt) and at Montezuma 11/17 (Munford). Two Eagles were seen frequently all fall at Montezuma. A Pigeon Hawk appeared two miles south of Branchport 9/18 (Spiker). No other area reports of it.

Ruffed Grouse are scarce around Avoca (Carter). A late Florida Gallinule was reported to W. Thurber by another observer at Montezuma on 11/14. Coots have

increased at foot of Seneca from 2 in '48 to 150 in '54 (Ward) and seem abundant at head of Cayuga Lake also, and at Brandy Bay on Keuka.

Good Killdeer migration at Clifton Springs 9/26 (Munford) and 100 of them were seen near Ithaca East Hill airport 11/3 (AAA). Black-bellied Plover at Dresden on Seneca 9/24 (Spiker) and a Ruddy Turnstone there on 8/27 was first in 8 years (Orcutt). Turnstone also at Ithaca 8/29 (Thorp). A Woodcock "not seen every year at Branchport" was reported from Hollister's Swamp 8/3 and one was flushed from the snow near the Ithaca airport 11/3 (AAA). Snipe seen in small numbers along the Canisteo River in N. Hornell on 10/5 (Grosbeck). A Western Willet was seen in company with Yellowlegs at Montezuma the middle of September by Harold Mitchell.

A Purple Sandpiper, very rare in this Region, was seen at Meyer's Pt. on Cayuga by A. A. Allen on 11/22. 4 Pectorals were still present at Montezuma on 11/14 (Thurber). A flock of 8 White-rumped Sandpipers was closely observed at Montezuma on 8/29 by the Moons and Leubner. A Baird's Sandpiper, which is not often seen locally, was at the Hog Hole, Ithaca 9/3 (Thorp and others). Two Sanderlings and 5 Red-backed Sandpipers were at Meyer's Pt. 11/4 (Allen). Larch reported a Stilt Sandpiper at Dresden 8/29, and Sanderlings were early arrivals at the Montezuma Refuge 8/1 (Walker).

Northern Phalaropes were reported from three places: the Refuge 8/29 (Moons, Rising and Leubner), Penn Yan Marsh 9/26 (Orcutt) and (late) 11/10 at the head of Cayuga Lake (AAA).

Unusual numbers of Herring Gulls returned to Cohocton River in October (Carter); Bonaparte's Gulls on Cayuga 10/6 (Walker) and 10/18 (Thorp).

A Black-billed Cuckoo was seen feeding on the ground near Horseheads 10/17 (Welles).

Several Snowy Owls have been reported, including at Dryden 11/11 (Dunham) and n. of Auburn 11/21 (McIlroy). K. Thorp saw a Short-eared Owl near Ithaca 9/24 and a Saw-whet Owl was reported 9/25 on Cornell campus by Wingate.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A Night-hawk was observed still at Elmira 10/5 (Fudge & Ryan). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds left all stations the third week in September, except one which was seen the middle of October (AAA).

Several score observers on the Federation field trip 8/29 watched a Red-bellied Woodpecker feeding young in the nest-hold at Montezuma, unusual both for the late date and for the fact that it may represent a second nesting. Red-headed Woodpeckers raised three young a mile north of Berkshire (Kelsey, Dunham) and the species was seen by 4 observers near Avoca where it has been exceedingly scarce (Carter). A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers spent the summer in Jersey Hill section near Almond at 1800' elevation and were seen until 8/12, feeding mostly on poplars (Grosbeck). Sapsuckers were seen migrating at Burdett the last two weeks in September (Bardeen).

Olive-sided Flycatcher, rarely reported in the fall in the Region, was seen at Hollister's Swamp near Branchport 9/13 (Spiker). Horned Larks are abundant in the Region and large flocks were reported near Horseheads on November 8 (Fudge).

Large Tree Swallow migration observed the weekend of 10/3 at Montezuma (Rosche) and again the next weekend (Munford).

Blue Jays seem to have increased in number and were especially numerous in migrating flocks in October.

A Raven was observed one mile south of the N. Y. State line, on Route 14 below Elmira, on 11/9 (AAA, EGA, SFH).

Black-capped Chickadees are very abundant, and it is a big year for Red-breasted Nuthatches, the earliest reported seen on the Cornell campus 8/15 (Hewitt).

Winter Wren 9/16, Ridge Road, Horseheads (MacDougall); another Bewick's Wren 8/1 at Watkins Glen (Champion); Carolina Wrens on the increase around Ithaca and Watkins Glen; a pair at the Woodward Cottage on Seneca Lake raised two broods of 4 each (Bardeen). Mali reports two Carolinas at Geneva.

A Mockingbird was seen at Jacksonville 10/16 (Graham) and one at Branchport 11/20 (Lewis, et al).

Robins seemed to leave early (Carter, Hoyt).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were abundant, and invaded Elmira in numbers 10/18 and 19. Both Kinglets abundant at Watkins throughout migration.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireos were reported at three places: near Branchport, Crescent Swamp 9/2 (Spiker); Etna 9/4 (Hoyt) and the Island 10/3 (Walker).

Warbler migration was normal, all species being reported that could be expected, but no unusual waves. A Connecticut Warbler was seen $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Penn Yan 9/7 (Lerch). There were few reports of lingering Myrtles.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Enormous Grackle flights were seen November 5 by A. A. Allen and by Sundell, with some Redwings and Starlings also. Thurber reports missing the usual large Blackbird concentrations at Montezuma; 450 bobolinks at Montezuma 8/28 (Van Beurden).

Late Scarlet Tanager at Keuka Park 10/16 (Guthrie).

I am late in reporting a Dickcissel 7/10 of this year at Ithaca, on Culver Road (Phil Allen). Flocks of Dickcissels fed on Bird's-foot Trefoil on the shore of Keuka near Penn Yan in August (Mrs. Arthur Cowell).

The fall has been particularly marked by the invasion, early and in numbers of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. The Pines have come into villages and cities, feeding on maple buds and seeds, privet and sumac. Evening Grosbeaks came to feeders in Ithaca the end of November, when box elder had not yet been exhausted. The earliest Evening Grosbeak report was 10/14 (Fischer) at Ithaca; earliest Pine Grosbeak 10/19 near Branchport (Spiker). White-winged Crossbills have also been reported, 11/9, Etna (Hoyt, Dickinson). There are few reports of Siskins or Redpolls yet.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow, often missed in migration, 9/3 and 9/24 at Ithaca (K. Thorp). Juncos are very common this fall, large flocks near Cortland 10/17 (Thurber). Early Junco report from Branchport 8/27 (Spiker) although this may have nested nearby at a higher elevation.

Flocks of migrating Chipping Sparrows 9/28 at Avoca (Carter). White-throated Sparrows seemed scarce to several observers. A late Fox Sparrow sang at Etna 11/25 (Hoyt).

Lapland Longspurs are abundant, being seen from 10/22 on (AAA). Snow Buntings also came early and in numbers, the first being seen 10/24 at Branchport (Spiker).

Aviana, Etna, N. Y.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The first two or three weeks of August, in the Susquehanna Region, were a continuation of the drought experienced during the latter part of June and all of July. Towards the end of August the weather reversed itself completely to cool and wet. September and October were the usual mixture of beautiful sunny days and an overcast drizzly one, except for October 15 when Hazel passed through. Her only calling card was a Black Skimmer, found north of Norwich two days later. November 2 brought the first heavy snowfall of the year and the next one was at Thanksgiving.

LOONS — DUCKS: The earliest Horned Grebe reported was one at Norwich 10/20 (R. White), and the last Pied-bills were 3 at Unadilla 10/23 (Wisner).

10/28 saw the last Great Blue Heron at Norwich (R. White). The lone American Egret of the season was one at Campville 9/6 (Sheffields & Bemont). The last Green Heron was noted 10/3 near Binghamton (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club). An immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron showed up in Chenango Bridge 8/22 (Bemont) and was obliging enough to return to the same spot for four other observers (Fessenden, Washburn, Sheffields) to confirm the identification. It appeared once more on 8/28 before leaving for good.

An American Brant was seen on Oquaga Lake near Deposit 11/6 (Wilson).

Three Green-winged Teal, our first of the season, were seen on Boland's Marsh, north of Binghamton 9/19 (Washburn & Sheffields) and a flock of 26, the season high were in the same place 9/25 (North & Bemont). Six Blue-wings 8/29, our first, and 15 in a flock 9/23, the season high were on the same marsh (Bemont). Our only fall Teal report in the previous two years was a single Green-wing in Nov. 1952.

HAWKS — OWLS: The first Broad-winged Hawk of the season was seen at Ely Park in Binghamton 8/20 (R. Sheffield). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen 11/27 (Hannan). The last Osprey was seen near Unadilla 10/10 (Wisner). A Duck Hawk was noted near Bainbridge 9/12 (E. J. Smith).

A Florida Gallinule with 6 small chicks was seen at Boland's Marsh 8/8 and the last one was noted at the same place 9/19 (TCNC).

A Pectoral Sandpiper at Whitney Point 10/10 (Bemont), a White-rumped Sandpiper at Boland's Marsh 8/8 (TCNC) and a Sanderling at Whitney Point 8/27 (Bemont) were the high points of a somewhat better than normal shorebird migration.

The first Herring Gull of the season was noted at Campville 9/25 (North & Bemont).

A Black Skimmer was found at Mead's Pond above Norwich 10/17 (R. S. & L. White). This was the second day after Hazel passed through and the bird still seemed exhausted as it allowed observers to approach within 15 feet and then flew only reluctantly.

There were two reports of late Yellow-billed Cuckoos — 9/26 at Norwich (R. White) and 9/28 at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith).

Screech Owls seem to be increasing in numbers around Binghamton (TCNC).

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Three very late Nighthawks were reported from the Binghamton area 10/11 (Sheffields), and the last Chimney Swifts were seen over Binghamton 10/3 (TCNC). The last Ruby-throated Hummingbird was observed at Hillcrest, just north of Binghamton, 9/27 (Mrs. R. P. Easton).

An early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found in Binghamton 9/8 (Marsi).

Crested Flycatchers were last seen near Binghamton 9/5 (Sheffields & Ohrbergs) and the last Phoebe 10/10 in Endicott (Washburn) and at Norwich (S. White).

A Brown-capped Chickadee came to a feeder in Hillcrest 11/22 (Easton). The following day two appeared and have been regular customers since. Up at Norwich a flock of 6 Brown-caps were seen 11/28 (R. White).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were first reported at Deposit 8/26 (Wilson) and at Norwich 3 or more were noted 8/29, another 9/5 and 3 more 9/6 (S. & R. White). All these reports are ahead of the usual early date. Reports from other areas indicate the bird to be definitely up in numbers.

Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found at North Norwich 7/15 (R. White). One was seen at the same place 8/14 (Sheffields & R. White).

There were two reports of late Hermit Thrushes, both in Binghamton, one 10/31 (TCNC) and one 11/13 (Carpenter).

Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Norwich 8/29 (S. White) were almost a month early. A flock of twenty or more American Pipits at Oxford 11/2 (Stratton) constituted the only report of the bird received all fall.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A Brewster's Warbler was found behind Boland's Marsh 8/8 (TCNC). This is the second report of this hybrid this year. An early Cape May Warbler 9/6 and 2 late Palm Warblers 10/20 were seen at Norwich (R. White).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The first Evening Grosbeak was a single bird at Oxford 11/12 (Stratton). Small flocks have since been reported from Oneonta and Sidney and a flock of 20-30 at Unadilla 11/17 (Atkinson).

The first Pine Grosbeaks were a flock of 12 at Chenango Valley State Park near Binghamton 11/20 (Sheffields). They have since been found in two other spots around Binghamton as well as in Bainbridge and Oxford.

The only Pine Siskins reported were a flock of 15 or more near Norwich 10/20 (R. White).

Dr. E. White of Oneonta State Teachers College writes that Slate-colored Juncos were present during the summer, although he doesn't mention any definite breeding record.

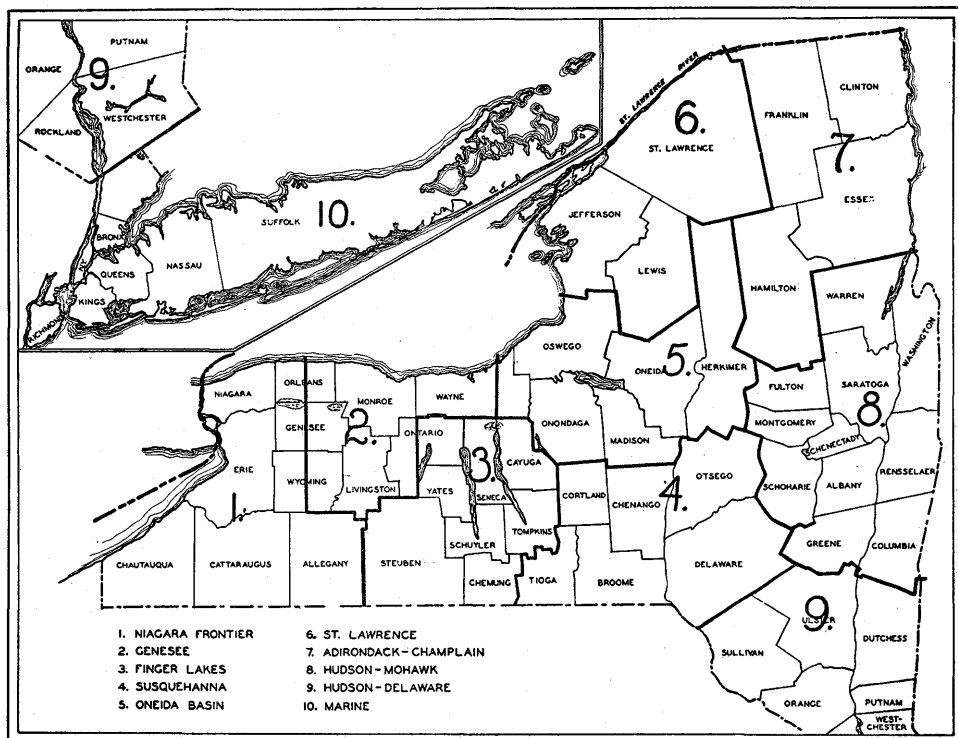
R. D. 3, Binghamton, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

The cool August was reflected in early dates for some migrants; however, the remainder of the fall was mild and warm with few sharp or prolonged

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2

weather changes; the exception to this was Hurricane Hazel on 10/15 which roared across the entire region. November had a series of small snows and cold snaps, but none of such duration to drive all representatives of half-hardy species south. As a consequence, several latest recorded dates were achieved.

In general, the fall landbird migration was excellent, especially warblers and thrushes. The shorebirds were disappointing in numbers, but variety was good. Marsh ducks were down, diving ducks up. The mouse population is quite low, and correspondingly few hawks and owls were reported in late November, a fact especially notable in the low Rough-legged Hawk figures and the complete absence of Short-eared Owls.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common loon — fair to poor flight thru region, 1st date 5 on 9/4 at Sandy Pond. Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe — 1 report of each this fall, 5 and 2 respectively on 10/20 at Selkirk Shores State Park. Horned Grebe — very common with high of 196 on 11/25, Oneida Lake. Double-crested Cormorant — 1 on 10/20, Selkirk; 2 on 11/7, Oswego. American Egret — present at only one locality in region, Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake (Aug.). Green Heron — last date, 1 on 10/12, Syracuse. Least Bittern — young bird with down on head but capable of flight on 9/4, Sandy Pond, probably indicates a late nesting. Canada Goose — poor flight, difficult to find concentrations in excess of 500 at usual places. Brant — on 10/31, 3000 (est.) were observed in a solid raft just south of Selkirk Shores State Park; all day long flocks of 50-300 joined this raft from the north; probable total count at end of day was 4,500; also 2000 were reported from Oneida Lake in 1st week of Nov.; last date 2 on 11/27 at Selkirk Shores State Park. Pintail — early flight, only fairly common. Baldpate — reverse of Pintail, late flight and very common. Shoveller — only report is flock of 17 on 9/27 thru 10/3, Selkirk. Diving Ducks — heavy flight, Scaup & Canvasback very abundant, Red-head less so; started in third week of Oct., peak in second week of Nov. Bufflehead — 1st date of 2 females on 10/10, Oneida Lake, is early. American and Surf Scoter — 10/17, Sandy Pond, Fide Listman; also 7 female Surf Scoter on 11/7, Oswego. White-winged Scoter — heavy flight (flocks of 100 or more) along eastern end of Lake Ontario; 1st date, 1 female on 9/5, Sandy Pond. Ruddy Duck — 4 reports, earliest on 9/26, Mexico. Red-breasted Merganser — 1st fall date, 1 female on 9/4, Sandy Pond.

HAWKS — OWLS: Goshawks — 2 reports, 1 adult on 10/3, Selkirk; 1 immature on 11/14 near Phoenix. On 9/6 (north wind 10-15 mph) 3 Rochester birders observed 15 Sharp-shins, 1 Red-tail, 3 Broad-wings, 5 Marsh Hawks, 3 Merlin, 8 Kestrel, and 26 unidentified falcons migrating south along the dunes at Sandy Pond. A more intensive survey of this area might show a small, but regular, fall hawk flyway along Lake Ontario's eastern end. Rough-legged — only 1 reported, light phase bird on 11/14 at Bridgeport; also W. R. Spofford saw a large melanistic Buteo, "probably Rough-leg", engaged in aerial fighting with a Red-tail on 8/15 near Fayetteville. Peregrine Falcon — 2 on 9/28, Selkirk, the only fall report. Merlin — 5 birds reported between 9/6 - 9/18; 1 on 10/9, Westernville. Gallinule — last date, 1 on 10/31, Sandy Pond. Coot — poor fall flight with no flock over 35; somewhat late too (last week of Oct. and 1st week of Nov). Golden Plover — 5 reports, 1st on 8/18, last on 9/28; all singles with exception of 2, Delta Lake. Black-bellied Plover — fairly common thru Oct.; 25 on 10/20 high count. Snipe — 35 on 10/31, Selkirk, is highest count in past 4 falls. H. Curlew — 1 on 8/27, Sandy Pond is the only report. Solitary Sandpiper — fairly common in last week of Aug. Knot — 4 reports — 1 on 10/31, Sandy Pond is our latest date. Purple Sandpiper — 1 on 10/31, Selkirk, our first for the region; observers within 3 feet of bird. White-rumped Sandpiper — very scarce, only 3 reports, all in last 3 weeks of Oct. Baird's Sandpiper — total of 6 birds reported from Sandy Pond and Sylvan Beach. Dowitcher — very scarce, only 3 reports all fall. Stilt Sandpiper — 1 on 9/1, Sylvan Beach, is our only report. Western Sandpiper — checks on 'Peep' flocks show this to be a regular bird at Sandy Pond — 1 on 8/19, 1 on 9/5. Northern Phalarope — 1 on 8/21, Delta Lake; 1 on 10/10, Oneida Lake; strangely enough, no reports from along Lake Ontario. Glaucous Gull — 1 on 9/18, Delta Lake (Mrs. May), a remarkably early date. Laughing Gull — Hurricane Hazel dropped numbers of these birds in Region 5 — 2 on 10/16, Oneida Lake; 8 on 10/17, Sandy Pond; 8 on 10/17, Selkirk to Oswego; 1 on 10/18, Selkirk. Forster's Tern — 1 on 10/17, Sandy Pond is our only report; probably a hurricane bird from coast, not one of the usual fall birds wandering from mid-West. Yellow-billed Cuckoos — several Oct. dates, 1 on 10/20, Selkirk, our latest by far. Snowy Owl — 4 birds reported so far, the 1st on 11/14, Oneida Lake. No reports of Short-eared Owls to date.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Nighthawk — last date, 1 on 9/27, Syracuse. Ruby-throated Hummingbird — last seen on remarkably late date of 11/10, Syracuse. Red-bellied Woodpecker — adult male on 11/28, south of Syracuse, constitutes our first recent (10 years) area record. Kingbird — last date, 1 on 9/29, Selkirk. Wood Pewee — heavy fall (fairly common) flight in 1st 3 weeks of Sept., last date 2 on 9/25. Olive-sided Flycatcher — several dates thru Aug. at Westernville; 2 on

9/3, Sandy Pond. Horned Lark — unusually scarce, no flock over 50 reported. Black-capped Chickadee — seem to be everywhere, but flocks never above 20 - 25 birds. Red-breasted Nuthatch — early (9/8) and heavy flight thru region; 1 present thru latter half of Nov. at Oneida (Nodecker). Carolina Wren — 2 Nov. reports from Oneida. Long-billed Marsh Wren — 1 on 10/31, Sandy Pond, is our latest date. Olive-backed Thrush — 1 dead one on 8/12 initiated the fall flight, especially heavy this year, which abruptly terminated at end of Sept.; 1 on 10/17 and 10/19 at Oneida are probably reverse migrants from Hurricane Hazel. Gray-cheeked Thrush — 3 fall reports, 1 banded on 10/7, Syracuse. Veery — 1 found freshly killed on 11/5, Syracuse. Golden-crowned Kinglet — poor fall flight; never above status of common, even in late Oct., its usual peak. Ruby-crowned Kinglet — 1 on 11/12, Oneida, is our latest. Pipit — 1 on 9/3, Sandy Pond, is quite early (about 2 weeks). Northern Shrike — definitely an irruption year with 3 (3 unidentified but probably Northerns) on 10/31, Sandy Pond, as the first; 2-3 birds every week since. Loggerhead Shrike — 1 on 9/5, near Ellisburg is the only fall report.

WARBLERS — FRINGILLIDS: Tennessee — 1 on 10/21, Syracuse, is our latest recorded date. Orange-crowned — 2 reports, both in first 2 weeks of Oct. Myrtle — down in numbers, never more than common all fall, 1 on 11/12, Oneida, our latest fall report. Black-throated Green — 2 on 10/17, 1 on 10/18, Sandy Pond, are probably more of Hurricane Hazel's reverse migrants. Chestnut-sided — very poor numbers, no late stragglers. Bay-breasted — common along Lake Ontario in first 3 weeks of Sept. Black-poll — common throughout region in last 2 weeks of Sept. and 1st week of Oct.; 1 on 10/17, Sandy Pond, and also at Oneida, are probably in same class as the Black-throated Greens. Pine — 1 on 11/26, Syracuse; it may winter. Palm — only 1 report, that of 4 on 10/16, Green Lakes State Park. Ovenbird — 1 freshly killed by cat on 11/7, Syracuse, attests to the mild fall. Connecticut — 2 on 9/12, Sandy Pond. Hooded — 1 male on 9/4 migrating with a flock of warblers down the Sandy Pond dunes might suggest a post-breeding wanderer or a more northerly breeding station, as no brooding stations are known north of Selkirk. Wilson's — 17 birds reported this fall between 9/5 and 9/12, more than last 3 years combined. Rusty Blackbird — good flights, flocks of 150-200 in last 2 weeks of Oct. and 1st week of Nov. Evening Grosbeak — first report of a single male on 10/16 at Oneida Lake, the next three weeks show many reports; however, none after 11/7. Purple Finch — remarkably scarce this fall; the exact reverse of last year's many flocks; the only reports of any numbers of this bird from Westernville in mid-October. Pine Grosbeak — certainly a flight year; 1st reported on 11/4 at Oneida Lake; scattered reports (6) of flocks (2 - 12) and singles throughout Nov. Pine Siskin — few birds reported, all in Oct., with 6 as the highest count. Crossbills — 3 Red and 1 White-winged on 11/11, Syracuse, are our only fall reports. White-throated Sparrow — 1 early migrant at Sandy Pond on 9/4.

White-crowned Sparrow — return flight was short and fast, concentrated in 1st 2 weeks of Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow — only 1 date, 1 on 10/2, Three Rivers Game Management Area. Snow Bunting — 1st bird on 10/31, Sandy Pond; seen regularly since, but no flocks over 35 birds; also surprisingly enough several single birds have been seen, an unusual fall occurrence, though not uncommon in late winter and early spring.

151 Seventh North St., Syracuse 8, N. Y.

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

LOONS — DUCKS: The most unusual record is the finding of the remains of a Yellow-billed Tropic-bird. A study is being made of other records in the state and the results are being or will be published. John Belknap who found the bird writes, "Yellow-billed Tropic-bird picked up dead Oct. 26 at Southwick's Beach, Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County. Undoubtedly blown up by the hurricane of Oct. 15. Remains at State Museum in Albany. Identification confirmed by Ralph S. Palmer, State Zoologist."

Horned Grebes were numerous along Lake Ontario in November. An American Egret was seen in the southern part of the region late in August. Least Bittern at

Three Mile Bay Sept. 9. Barrow's Golden-eye shot by Wayne Davis of Alexandria Bay in October near Grindstone Island. Specimen mounted and in his possession. About 25 Pintails were at Perch River Flats Nov. 22. A male Wood Duck was at Perch Lake Refuge on Nov. 11 which is a late date. Baldpate and Ring-necked Ducks were seen in large number this fall at the Perch Lake Refuge. An attempt a year ago to get Canada Geese to breed at Perch Lake showed no results this year. Good numbers of Scaup were noted this fall. Nearly absent or present only in greatly reduced numbers were the three Mergansers (Wilson). Immature Black-crowned Night Heron near Potsdam Sept. 12, seldom seen there other years.

HAWKS — OWLS: Rough-legged Hawk seen Oct. 25. Hunters reported the Ruffed Grouse as few and spotty, but some found them plentiful in spots where fruit was plentiful. Ringed-necked Pheasants were about the same as last with few shot near Watertown. Few Hungarian Partridge were shot as they are hard to find, but more likely to be seen when the snow is several inches deep. Conservation officials plan to trap and band them this winter (Wilson). Belknap reports the Lesser Yellowlegs on Sept. 30 and Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs and Sanderling on Nov. 9. He also saw one Bonaparte's Gull Sept. 24.

Seven Snowy Owls were reported. The first was seen by Hi Clements at his Bass Island Wildlife Refuge near Henderson Bay in Jefferson County. It was on the shore and stayed there all day, November 9. Two others were noted near Lake Ontario, one was seen from the Conservation Dept. Building near Watertown and one in Lewis County. There were two reports of Short-eared Owls, both late in Nov.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Last date for Hummingbird at Potsdam was Sept. 27, two days later than the usual time (L. Blake). Several hundred Tree Swallows were seen near Hevelton on Oct. 12. A Red-breasted Nuthatch has been visiting a feeder daily near Colton from mid-October to at least the end of November. A Northern Shrike was observed near Henderson Harbor on Nov. 27 by F. Scheider. Others reported seen Nov. 5 and 19. Bowen noted both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets in fall migration near Lowville.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A bird described as a female Oriole visited a feeder in Potsdam the third week in Nov. It was studied at close range on two days and probably was a Baltimore Oriole (L. Blake and others). A Meadowlark was seen Nov. 27. Grackles remained at a feeder near Potsdam until Nov. 18 and one was found at Limerick Nov. 27 (Scheider). A female Cardinal came to a feeder in Watertown for about a week in November. Pine Grosbeaks were seen in Colton and in Degrasse. Eight of them were in Brownville in mid-November, quickly ate the available seeds and left after two days (Walrath). One Evening Grosbeak came to a Box Elder tree at the home of Dr. Grace in Potsdam Sept. 30. By Oct. 12 there were about a dozen. Several flocks were found in St. Lawrence County from mid-October to early November, but there were fewer reported the latter part of November. About thirty of them returned to Lowville Oct. 18 and others were in Brownville about the same time, and some were in Watertown a little later. White-winged Crossbills were seen near Colton and South Colton in St. Lawrence County and twice in Jefferson County where they are seldom found. The Towhees left a feeder near Potsdam the last week in September. Four Snow Buntings were at Southwick's Beach on Oct. 26 and 18 near Henderson Harbor Nov. 27. White-crowned Sparrow at Potsdam Sept. 27 (Allison).

173 Haley St., Watertown, N. Y.

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

GORDON M. MEADE

The unusually heavy rainfall of June and July continued through August and well into September. The total for June, July, August and September was 26 inches. By September 22nd lakes and rivers were at the level of spring flooding. The first snowfall, a light and transient one, came October 6th (in 1953, October 7th). The first heavy snow came November 3rd and 4th. About November 22nd persistent snow fell on the central Adirondacks. As of December 13th there was about 8 inches at Saranac Lake.

August temperatures were average with a high of 80° (25th) and a low of 38° (27th). September averaged about 3 degrees warmer than usual with a high of 77° (30th). October was slightly warmer than usual with a high of 72° (1st) and a low of 22° (7th). November was average with a high of 63° (19th) and a low of 13° (13th). These figures are for Trudeau, N. Y.

The cone crop this year is poor in the pines and balsam; fair in larch, red spruce, hemlock and white cedar; and good only in white and black spruce. Poor fruit crop also in beech, wild black cherry and white ash. Only fair on blue beech, white and yellow birch, white and red oak (Champlain Valley), mountain ash, sugar maple and dogwoods.

Conspicuous to date has been the almost complete absence of Evening Grosbeaks during the late fall. To date (December 13th) there is also marked scarcity or absence of Snow Bunting, Siskins, Redpolls, Purple Finches and Crossbills. On the contrary, there has been the heaviest influx of Pine Grosbeaks in many years. A very interesting record is the Carolina Wren November 28th to December 13th at feeder in Saranac Lake. Heavy night flights of migrants September 11-12, 28-29, October 2-3.

LOONS — DUCKS: M. Kingsbury reports Common Loon with half-grown young on September 15th on Rollins Pond (near Tupper Lake). Dr. Kingsbury reports she has never seen Loons there before. This supports my report in October KINGBIRD that there seems to be increased breeding of this species in Adirondacks. Canada Geese present on Lake Champlain and migrating over Saranac Lake until end of November. One Snow Goose at Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, on November 24th (Thomas Lesperance); no Blue Geese seen there (T. L.). Ducks on Lake Champlain reported fewer than last year by T. L. Should be noted that among the species seen there this year is Gadwall (T. L.). A notable record is two Barrow's Golden-eye (pair) collected by T. L. on Lake Champlain on November 10th at Au Sable Point.

HAWKS — OWLS: Goshawk and Cooper's Hawk more common in Keeseville area this fall (T. L.). Golden Eagle reported at Loon Lake Mt. during first week of October (G. T. Chase). High water levels left few shore bird flats but nice record is 7 Knots at Au Sable Pt. on November 20th (T. L.). It is interesting that the shore bird flight is confined almost entirely to the Champlain Valley. The Adirondack lakes often have extensive exposed mud flats in spring and fall but shore birds are extremely rare on them. Lesperance reports 13 Bonaparte's Gull at Au Sable Point on November 2nd. This species seems to occur on Lake Champlain in small numbers each fall. Snowy Owls — one at North Hudson Nov. 2-5 (A. Amstutz) and one at Essex, Nov. 13 (M. Mason).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Heavy diurnal migration of Flickers through central Adirondacks on Sept. 30 (G. M. Meade). Hairy Woodpeckers seem more numerous than usual in Saranac Lake area as winter begins (G. M. M.). Frequent observations of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in August, Sept. and up to Oct. 2nd, at Tupper Lake (A. Amstutz) and Chateaugay Lake (E. MacGregor). Flock of 50 Northern Horned Larks at Lake Placid on November 25 (H. Bergamini, Jr.). Leo Provost reports Tree Swallows failed to flock at Plattsburgh as in past seasons. A noteworthy record is a Raven at Saranac Inn about October 15 (G. T. C.). The bird appeared to possibly be migrating. Chickadees are unusually abundant so far this fall at Saranac Lake (G. M. M.). Does this correlate with the migratory movements reported earlier in western part of the state? Have other regions noted an increase in numbers? A Carolina Wren at a feeder at Saranac Lake on November 28 (still present on December 13) is a new species for this locale (G. M. M.). Robins came through mountains in heavy flight on Sept. 30—one still present at Saranac Lake on Nov. 23 (G. M. M.). Pipits at Plattsburgh, Oct. 19 (L. P.) and Saranac Lake, Nov. 17 (G. T. C.). No Gray Shrikes yet reported.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: The warm weather of early October held warblers over in considerable numbers along Lake Champlain. Such species as Black and White, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Chestnut-sided, Pine and Redstart remained near Au Sable Point (T. L.) well into October, some as late as 22nd, at time

of first killing frost. Migrating flocks of Black and White, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided and Myrtle at Plattsburgh on Oct. 9; also a Pine on October 22 (L. P.). Warblers moved out of central parts of region earlier.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: 3 Redwings, 1 Grackle and 1 Cowbird still present at Saranac Lake on Nov. 26 (G. M. M.). Evening Grosbeaks which nested in Adirondacks in considerable numbers this year remained until mid-September. Since then they have almost entirely disappeared in Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake areas. The only report of any numbers of them at end of fall season was at Ellenburg Depot (E. MacG.) where 113 were banded Oct. 26 - Nov. 30. In this north country it has so far been decidedly a Pine Grosbeak year. The heaviest in years. They are common over the entire area. First report on October 25 at Pok-a-Moonshine Mt. (T. L.). From then to date (Dec. 13) they have been reported at Tupper, Long and Saranac Lake villages and at numerous places along Lake Champlain — Port Kent, Peru, Schuyler Falls, Ausable Chasm, Douglass and Essex. Many have been killed by cars on the roads. No Redpolls, Siskins or Purple Finches yet reported. Crossbills have moved out of central mountains after being present all summer. Only one report of Snow Bunting — at Au Sable Point on November 1 (T. L.).

Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

ALLEN H. BENTON

August was 2.5 degrees below normal temperature this year, following the trend of the rest of the summer. Rainfall was slightly above normal, but most of it came in one tremendous downpour on the 31st. September was only slightly cooler than normal, despite a 24% drop in total hours of sunshine. The clouds were not productive of rain, however, since precipitation was more than an inch below normal. In October, the trend of the season reversed, and temperature was 5 degrees above average for the month, and precipitation nearly normal. The frost-free season ended on October 8th, a temperature of about 25 degrees setting a new Albany record for that date. November was near normal in temperature, but precipitation was well above normal. Most of it, however, came as rain, and there was no accumulation of snow in the vicinity of Albany during the month. In some of the northern areas, there was some accumulation.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loon was first seen on October 2, and has been present in small numbers up to the last of November. Horned and Pied-billed Grebes have been common throughout the fall, with numbers over 30 seen on several occasions. Largest report for American Egrets was Sept. 25, when 31 were seen along the Hudson River. Last date for Black-crowned Night Heron was Sept. 21, at Scotia (E. Hallenbeck). A Great Blue Heron was seen near Catskill on Nov. 29 (S. Madison). The waterfowl migration has been good. An American Brant was seen at Saratoga Lake on November 28 (E. Hallenbeck). Most of the migrating species have been seen in good numbers, but the wintering species, mergansers, goldeneyes, scaup, etc., have been few so far.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen along the Hudson River below Albany on Sept. 25. Other hawk reports have been scanty. Few shorebirds were reported. A late Killdeer was seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov. 14. Last date for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was Nov. 11 (Mabel French). A Snowy Owl was reported at Rensselaer on Nov. 14 (Rev. Carlyle Adams).

GOATSUCKERS — SHRIKES: Last date for Nighthawk was Sept. 26 (M. French). Chimney Swift was last seen on Sept. 20 (M. French) and Ruby-throated Hummingbird on Sept. 24 (M. French). A Belted Kingfisher was seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov. 14. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen from Sept. 25 to Oct. 23. Pileated Woodpeckers are being reported more frequently, and are being seen in areas not previously occupied by this species. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Watervliet Reservoir on August 29. Red-breasted Nuthatches first appeared on Sept. 25 and were present throughout October and November. Winter Wrens were present

from Sept. 21 to Oct. 17. A Carolina Wren was seen at Amsterdam on Nov. 7 to 9 (M. Fitzgerald). Olive-backed Thrushes were seen from Sept. 21 to Oct. 11. A Northern Shrike was seen at Amsterdam on Nov. 8 (M. Fitzgerald).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A Philadelphia Vireo was seen at Loudonville on Sept. 22 (M. French). The warbler migration was generally regarded as better than the spring migration, and large numbers of many species were reported. A Myrtle Warbler was at Delmar as late as December 1 (L. Wiard).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The big news in this group is the influx of northern species. Although the winter has been mild so far, almost every expected wintering species has been recorded. Evening Grosbeaks were first seen on Oct. 17 at Slingerlands (L. Grace), but have since been seen at widely scattered points and in numbers up to a dozen or so. Pine Grosbeaks were first seen on Oct. 24 at Thacher Park (N. Harrington), and have since appeared throughout our area in flocks up to 35. A male Dickcissel was banded by M. Fitzgerald at Amsterdam on Sept. 19. Operators of feeding trays should be on the lookout for this rare species, which has been seen occasionally in flocks of House Sparrows. Redpolls were first reported on Nov. 22 (L. Wiard). Pine Siskins were seen on Nov. 25 and flocks of goldfinches have been feeding on the birch seeds throughout the fall. Tree Sparrows were first seen on Nov. 3 (M. French). Late dates include a White-throated Sparrow on Nov. 18 and a Fox Sparrow on Nov. 4, both seen at Schenectady by H. Eddy. Late Addendum: A Brown-capped Chickadee was seen in a flock of black-caps at Rensselaerville on Nov. 6 (E. Robinson).

New York State College for Teachers, Albany, N. Y.

REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

ROBERT F. DEED

A temperate August, rounding out the pleasantest summer in years, led into a mild, lingering autumn that produced in fall migrants a premature Southern languor. Even a record-breaking trio of hurricanes — Carol, Edna and Hazel — that lashed our river valleys on the backswing failed to produce any violent reaction in birdlife — a few strays but no more than occurred in lulls between hurricanes.

Again, the "white herons" shunned our region. It is hard to explain why they have missed us lately in their summer and fall wanderings while they seem to be thriving as ever in their Southern breeding range.

In contrast to the late departure of so many migrants — in Rockland County alone, 11 species of warbler either matched or surpassed old late dates going back to 1925 — the Northern finches and other drifters from the North and West came unusually early. Westchester County had its Lewis's Woodpecker and Western Tanager; Rockland had its Summer Tanager and Oregon Junco; Ulster and Sullivan had their Brown-capped Chickadees and, in Ulster, possibly a Western Tanager.

And all over the region roamed bands of Red-breasted Nuthatches, both crossbills, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, vacuum-cleaning the trees and shrubs of their heavy seed and fruit crops. Flowering dogwoods that bore a lush crop this fall were in many cases entirely stripped by migrant and immigrant birds by the time really cold weather set in, December first. The same goes for individual wild cherry trees.

LOONS — DUCKS: A Common Loon on Ashokan Reservoir, in the Catskills, on Aug. 7 was remarkable (Henry and Ilse Dunbar). So was an American Brant on the same water Oct. 30 (Dunbar, Fred Hough). This was Ulster County's first record for the species.

A few Snow Goose reports: Oct. 13, about 75 flying low over Cross River Reservoir, Westchester (Robert J. Hamerschlag); Nov. 5, an estimated 800 over the Monticello area (Kenneth D. Niven); Nov. 13, a small flock over the Hudson near

Stony Point was probably this species (Mr. and Mrs. Murl Deusing).

Two Redheads on Croton Lake rather early, Oct. 24 (Ralph Odell, Jr.). For Ring-necked Duck, a new early record for Rockland County: Oct. 16 (Dr. M. R. Hopper). Also by Dr. Hopper, Greater Scaup Duck on Oct. 21, about 10 days early for Rockland County. At Lebanon Lake, Sullivan County, Mr. and Mrs. Wilber P. Carr saw four Buffleheads on Nov. 28; a week later, after near-zero temperatures, this good-sized lake was frozen solidly.

A Green Heron at Piermont on Nov. 6 was a week later than ever before in Rockland County, (Thomas G. Dow). An American Bittern at the roadside in Monsey on Dec. 2 was more than a month later than any previous Rockland record (Frank R. Steffens).

HAWKS — OWLS: More Goshawks and Merlins (Pigeon Hawks) than in many seasons. John C. Orth, Palisades Interstate Park naturalist, noted a flight of two dozen hawks, mostly Broad-wings, in late afternoon of Sept. 6 and a fine flight of more than 400 hawks in five hours on Sept. 25, both observations at Bear Mountain. The annual hawk trip of Queens County Bird Club to the summit of Anthony's Nose, near Bear Mountain, on Oct. 23 produced limited numbers, mostly Red-tails, but an excellent close-up of a Goshawk.

Goshawks were even more numerous along the Shawangunk flight lane, where H. Meng and others reported at least three in mid-October. Meng also recorded the first Golden Eagle for Ulster County, in the same area (date not specified). Hough noted a large flight of Broad-wings over the Stone Ridge and Krippelbush areas on Sept. 17-18. A late Turkey Vulture flew near New Paltz on Nov. 4 (Dr. Robert Pyle).

A Merlin came to Piermont Pier, Rockland, on Oct. 19 (Dow, David Hill) and one to Katonah, Westchester, as early as Sept. 6 (Mrs. William Grierson).

The Ruffed Grouse populations in the Catskills (Hough) and the Hudson Highlands (Orth) appear to be stable. Dr. Pyle found a Semipalmated Plover near Ashokan Reservoir on Sept. 25 — quite unusual. Soras at Piermont Pier on Oct. 2 and Oct. 15 (Dow) and a Florida Gallinule on Nov. 6, first fall record for Rockland (Dow). On Aug. 30, an immature Florida Gallinule was found dead on top of Bull Hill, Bedford Hills, by Don Reynolds; it had apparently struck a power line. A Virginia Rail in Katonah on Oct. 10 (Ruth Grierson). Lesser Yellowlegs at Amawalk Reservoir, Somers, on Sept. 1 (Odell) and at Piermont on Sept. 4 (D. and E. Hill, James Bloor). Wilson's Snipe at Piermont on Oct. 2 (Dow, D. Hill, Bloor) and Oct. 10 (Rockland Audubon Society). Also at Piermont was a small flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers on Sept. 13 (Dow).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were uncommonly common this fall, far outnumbering Black-bills. Dates far later than usual include: in Westchester, Oct. 17 at Bedford Village (Mrs. Samuel Carter, III); in Rockland, Oct. 9 (Dow), Oct. 16 (Dr. Hopper), Oct. 22 (Ruth Steffens), Oct. 27 (Hill, Bloor). A very late Black-billed Cuckoo was seen on Oct. 28 near Stone Ridge, Ulster, by Hough, and another cuckoo was seen on Nov. 9 near Krippelbush, but species not determined.

Early in November, Meng and Dr. Pyle identified a Saw-whet Owl that had been shot by a fruit grower near New Paltz after it had raised panic among the superstitious Jamaicans employed at the orchard.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Hummingbirds lingered unusually late, with half a dozen Rockland County records in the final week of September. Pileated Woodpeckers continue to increase all over Rockland — on Oct. 23 the QCBC saw one within 20 feet of the west approach to the Bear Mountain Bridge and at Pomona, Homer S. Kelsey says he now hears this bird "twice a month instead of twice a year."

One of the great finds of the year, widely publicized, was the Lewis's Woodpecker at Ossining, Westchester, discovered by Mrs. George Dyke on Oct. 29 and later seen at Kitchawan on Nov. 6 by John, Virginia and Edward Kelly. As far as is known, this Western bird had never been recorded in the region.

Marked movements of Hairy Woodpeckers past Anthony's Nose on Oct. 23 (QCBC) and of Black-capped Chickadees a week earlier (Orth) raise questions about the mass flights of these supposedly permanent residents. Fred Hough also mentions that the chickadees were "noticeably restless during mid-September" in Ulster County. He reports the Blue Jay movement "the greatest in many years", from Sept. 23 to Oct. 5.

An Alder Flycatcher heard at Kingston Point on Aug. 21 (Hough). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on Sept. 17 in Rockland County (Dow) and Oct. 23, a quite late

date, at Amawalk, Westchester (Kelly). A late date of Oct. 15 for Wood Pewee at Nyack (Dr. Hopper) and very late dates of Oct. 8 and 9 at Stony Point for Olive-sided Flycatcher (Mr. and Mrs. Irving G. Kennedy).

An exciting feature of the season was the irruption of small bands of Brown-capped Chickadees into Ulster and Sullivan counties. On Oct. 20, they turned up in Sullivan County (Hammond) and on Oct. 30 near Ashokan Reservoir (Hough). A few more were found at Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar's, near Lomontville, on a John Burroughs Natural History Society field trip on Nov. 14, and these were still present on Dec. 1. The birds stayed exclusively in evergreen stands.

Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared in numbers that Hough compares with the fall of 1951 (in other parts of the region, many were also found last year). A remarkable occurrence was in mid-July at Bardonia, Rockland County, when Theodore B. Eiben saw one bird. In September through November, the species was as common in Nyack as the White-breasted. Few were reported from Sullivan County (Carr) or from Putnam County (Mrs. George W. Little). But Westchester County had too many to list in detail.

Brown Creepers occurred very early, Aug. 14 at New City Rockland (John M. Price) and Aug. 25 at Katonah, Westchester (William Russell). They breed at higher altitudes and more northerly locations.

In Nyack, the Catbird remained to Dec. 2 (Dr. Hopper), and Brown Thrashers in Katonah to Nov. 22 (Mr. and Mrs. Robertson Barrett) and Nov. 28 (Mrs. Frank McKown). Gray-cheeked Thrushes are not often reported in fall, but Dr. Hopper had two late dates in Nyack, Sept. 30 and Oct. 2, and one bird was found dead in Bedford Hills on Oct. 5 by Don Reynolds. Mrs. Javius Matsumoto's Bluebirds, which deserve a story in themselves, raised their fourth brood at Chappaqua in late August, with the aid of three youngsters of the third brood in feeding the nestlings after the mother had been killed.

Dr. Hopper recorded a late date for Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Nyack on Nov. 20.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A late White-eyed Vireo at Nyack on Oct. 11 (Dr. Hopper). The most notable late dates for warblers in Rockland County were: Nashville, Oct. 17 (Dr. Hopper), nine days later than ever before; Parula, Oct. 10, three days late; Magnolia, Oct. 19 (Ruth Steffens), six days; Black-throated Blue, Oct. 24, five days; Yellow Palm, Oct. 28 (Dow), four days; Northern Water-thrush, Sept. 18 (Dow), 12 days; Wilson's Black-capped, Oct. 8 (Dow, Hill, Bloor), 12 days.

Ilse Dunbar had an even more remarkable date of Oct. 20 for Parula Warbler at Lomontville, Ulster. On Sept. 1, Fred Hough and Dan Smiley heard the flight song of the Oven-bird at Leibhardt, Ulster. A Connecticut Warbler near New Paltz on Sept. 25 (Dr. Pyle) was notable, as was a Wilson's on Sept. 20 at Lomontville (the Dunbars).

In Westchester, a Cape May immature was found in Bedford Hills on Sept. 10 by Don Reynolds. An unusually tame female Magnolia visited Mrs. William Grierson in Katonah on Aug. 16, feeding on seeds spread on the ground two feet from her chair. On the extremely late date of Nov. 3, a Parula Warbler was found dead in the garage of Theodore Ramsland in Bedford Village, identification by Stanley O. Grierson.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A Western Tanager female came to Mrs. Matsumoto's feeding station in Chappaqua on Aug. 14 and again on Aug. 16 at the same time as a female Scarlet Tanager, for convenient comparison. A Summer Tanager female was identified at West Nyack by Mrs. Frances H. Irving on Sept. 5, six days after Hurricane Carol. Hough, Ilse Dunbar and Sam Hayes saw a probable Western Tanager at Kingston Point, Ulster, on Oct. 31.

A Towhee stayed late, Nov. 16, at the William Griersons' feeding station in Katonah.

The Northern finches provided a great show. Evening Grosbeaks arrived early and in numbers: Oct. 20 in Sullivan County (Hammond); Oct. 23 at Anthony's Nose (QCBC), a flock of 19; Oct. 24-25 near Nyack (Dr. Hopper); Oct. 25 in Ulster County; Oct. 27 at Carmel, Putnam (Mrs. Little), 11 males; Oct. 31 near Stony Point (John Kenney); Nov. 1 at Monticello (Niven); Nov. 5 at Amawalk (the Kellys); Nov. 7 at Mt. Kisco (Douglas C. Orbison). Pine Grosbeaks came to Sullivan County on Nov. 7 (Niven), a flock of eight; to Ulster about Nov. 10, showing a preference for maple seeds (Hough); to Katonah, Westchester, on Nov. 13 (Stanley O. Grierson) and Nov. 28 (Mrs. McKown, a flock of 10); to West Haverstraw, Rockland, on Nov. 16

(Katherine D. Dienemann), Bear Mountain area on Nov. 20 (Franklin V. Cross), and Nyack on Nov. 22 (Dr. Hopper).

Red Crossbills were even earlier — Oct. 2, Oct. 7, Oct. 9 in Rockland County (Hill, Dow, Bloor) and Oct. 22 at Lomontville, Ulster (the Dunbars). Two Rockland reports of White-winged Crossbills — Oct. 18 at Grand View (Bloor, Hill, Dow) and one trapped accidentally in a cage at Bear Mountain on Nov. 21 (Orth).

A Grasshopper Sparrow on Oct. 19, a month late (Dow, Hill) in Rockland County. Oregon Junco positively identified in Nyack for the first time on Oct. 19 by Dr. Hopper (tentatively identified three years ago by Mrs. Irving). Tree Sparrow arrived very early at Carmel, Putnam County, on Sept. 9 (Mrs. Little). Two Lincoln's Sparrow reports from Westchester, Sept. 22 and Oct. 1, both by Dr. Andrew Weir and Stanley Grierson. Many White-crowned Sparrows from Oct. 3 on.

50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 10 — LONG ISLAND

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

In the fall migration, birds came through rather regularly in late summer and about on time. A few warblers came south in late July, and on August 14, 11 species were recorded at Far Rockaway (J. Bull). A tremendous influx of rarities came with hurricanes Carol and Edna, but Hazel, on October 15 apparently produced very few unusual species, although a marked flight of both species of Cuckoos may have been the result of the latter disturbance. There was a noted increase of birds October 5-12 and again around October 20.

During the nights of October 5 and 6, an unusual meteorological condition caused the death of over 100 birds at the Empire State Building, more than 230 at Mitchell Field, and about 2,000 at Westhampton Air Base, the latter reported by Roy Wilcox who collected 596 and saved 100 of the best specimens for the American Museum of Natural History to be made into skins and skeletons. The weather was warm into November, and during late October and early November numerous late dates for birds in this region were shattered. An early influx of winter finches arrived by the middle of November when small flocks of both Red and White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks and a few Pine Grosbeaks and Redpolls were reported. Unlike last year, there was a good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches beginning in late August.

LOONS — DUCKS: Good numbers of loons, cormorants and gannets were reported into November; three European Cormorants at Montauk, November 2; late Cory's Shearwater at Montauk, November 2 (J. Mayer, G. Rose). Last record of American Egret, The Raunt, November 6; Snowy Egret, Jones Beach November 13 (G. Carleton, Brooklyn Bird Club). There was a good early fall flight of white herons, several Louisiana Herons and one or two records of Least Bittern.

Ducks arrived early, Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks were seen in mid-July at Babylon and the latter at Mecox at about the same date. At Jones Beach August 23 were five Green-winged Teal, two Blue-winged Teal and one Shoveller. First Hooded Merganser, Idlewild, September 5 and European Widgeon, Jones Beach, September 12. Irwin Alperin, aloft in a sea plane saw numerous Scoters of all three species on the Sound and South Shore with none west of Smith's Point on the south and Eaton's Neck on the Sound. This sharply cut line of demarcation tends to show that the scoter flight down the coast had not grossly reached western Long Island.

HAWKS — OWLS: There were no spectacular hawk flights reported, not even among falcons, and Buteos were practically non-existent; maximum Pigeon Hawks, September 19, ten; Jones Beach, six; The Raunt, four (Mayer, Rose). No records of more than two Duck Hawks in one day; no Goshawks and no Gyrfalcon records

to date. Several reports of Virginia Rail and Sora; very few of Black Rail and none of Yellow Rail came in. Florida Gallinules still at Lawrence where King Rail was reported nesting this summer.

Shore bird records are largely tied in with hurricanes Carol and Edna, although previously a survey of the Moriches area, August 17, by the Queens County Bird Club, showed 500 Black-bellied Plover, 100 Turnstone, one Willet, 100 Knot, one Pectoral Sandpiper, three Marbled and six Hudsonian Godwits, one Royal Tern, 15 Black Terns and 150 Black Skimmers. Maximum unusual southern birds after Hurricane Carol, September 4, Moriches to Shinnecock: three Wilson's Plovers, three Oyster-catchers, 32 Royal Terns and 17 Caspian Terns. Other shore bird records: 19 Golden Plover, Shinnecock, September 12 (Wilcox); also five at Moriches same date (Darrow); six Wilson's Plover, Baldwin, November 14 (Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Teale) and seven at Seaford, same date (E. Morgan); a few Buff-breasted Sandpipers and two flocks of Willet reported, but practically no Wilson's Phalarope; one record of Ruff, Jones Beach, August 27 (Mayer).

Departures of southern birds: Wilson's Plover, The Raunt, October 2; Oyster-catcher, Point Lookout, September 26 (Mayor, Rose). Phalarope records: 17 Red, 30 miles south of Fire Island Inlet, September 11 (Darrow); two Northern, Idlewild, September 18. There were 100 Kittiwakes at Montauk, November 20 and one Black Tern at Mecox, same day (Raynor). A good flight of Laughing Gulls came through, fewer numbers of Bonaparte's, and estimates ran up to 1,000 Black Skimmers, principally around the south shore inlets. A great flight of yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos came through very late. Two Snowy Owl records to date; few reports of Barn and Short-eared; Saw-whet Owl came through in late October.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Western Kingbird, Jones Beach, September 25, one (R. Arbib, Jr.), four in mid-November, Riis Park (numerous observers). Late Eastern Kingbird, November 14, same place; Olive-sided Flycatcher, Massapequa, August 14 (J. Elliott, A. Penberthy); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Far Rockaway, same date (Bull). A large flight of Chickadees arrived; some were even seen migrating down avenues in New York City; two Brown-headed Chickadees, North Hills, November 11 (Mr. and Mrs. Bull); The Red-breasted Nuthatch, practically absent last year, arrived in numbers; first, Far Rockaway, and Massapequa, August 22. There was also a good flight of Kinglets, but practically no Gnatcatchers, a few Pipits, scarcity of Horned Larks and only one or two Short-billed Marsh Wrens. Several Mockingbirds were reported and over half a dozen Migrant Shrikes.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: There was a late Blue-headed Vireo at Riis Park, November 8 and Red-eyed, November 9; early warblers, Inwood Park, N. Y. City, all non-breeding species: July 24, two Worm-eating, singles Black and White, Yellow and Redstart; August 7, singles, Nashville, Black-throated Blue and Ovenbird. The greatest number of birds killed of one family at Mitchel Field and at Westhampton Air Base were warblers. Of these the Black-poll was the greatest sufferer, as very often is the case. Of 596 of the estimated 2,000 killed at Westhampton, Wilcox reports 114 Blackpolls; at Mitchel Field, 230 birds picked up by Raynor contained 49. The second greatest fatalities were also among warblers: 63 Northern Yellowthroats at Westhampton and 22 Myrtle Warblers at Mitchel Field. There were numerous late-dates after warm October weather, with singles of Black and White at Baldwin, November 2; Worm-eating, Prospect Park, October 17; Cape May, Montauk, October 28; Black-throated Blue and Hooded, Northport, November 13; Ovenbird, Riis Park, November 7.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Western Tanager reported at Riis Park, mid-November and among winter finches Redpoll, November 13, five Red Cross-bills, November 11, 14 White-winged Cross-bills, November 14 (Arbib, numerous observers); increases of these winter finches showed up at Jones Beach and in city parks with all appearances of a flight year on hand. There were also several reports of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. The Ipswich Sparrow came through in fair numbers. There were half a dozen Dickcissel reports and several of Blue Grosbeak around the city parks. European Goldfinch: Welfare Island, two birds present from August 3 through September (H. and V. Bauer). There was a good White-crowned Sparrow flight and fair numbers of Fox Sparrows at the present time. Snow Buntings at Short Beach in mid-November and 30 at Montauk, November 20.

3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, Long Island, New York.

1955 BUDGET OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

as approved by the Clubs' Delegates at the Saturday, August 28, 1954
Council Meeting.

Publication of THE KINGBIRD	\$ 680.00
Work of the Conservation Committee	150.00
Work of the State Bird Book Committee	25.00
Work of the Membership Committee	20.00
Office of the President	10.00
Office of the Vice President	3.00
Office of the Corresponding Secretary	5.00
Office of the Recording Secretary	10.00
Office of the Treasurer	75.00
Annual Meeting Expense	30.00
Publications and Research	25.00
Unallocated Funds	25.00
Total	\$1,058.00

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Meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 P. M. in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Park, Buffalo 11, New York. (In summer outdoor meetings will be held.)

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or Miss Frances Rathburn, 82 Woodcrest Blvd., Kenmore, New York.
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or Miss Gertrude G. Webster, 198 Marjorie Drive, Kenmore, New York.
Phone: Pa. 7768.

Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

Meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month (except July and August) at 8 P. M. in the Humboldt Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Park, Buffalo 11, New York.

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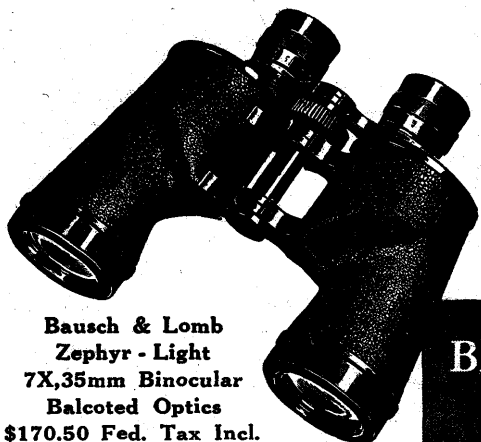


FARIDA WILEY is assistant chairman of the Dept. of Public Instruction at the American Museum of Natural History. For many years she has conducted natural science field trips sponsored by the Museum, and is an instructor at the Audubon Camp of Maine. Miss Wiley is the author of "Ferns of Northeastern United States", and compiler of "John Burrough's America" and "Ernest Thompson Seton's America".

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