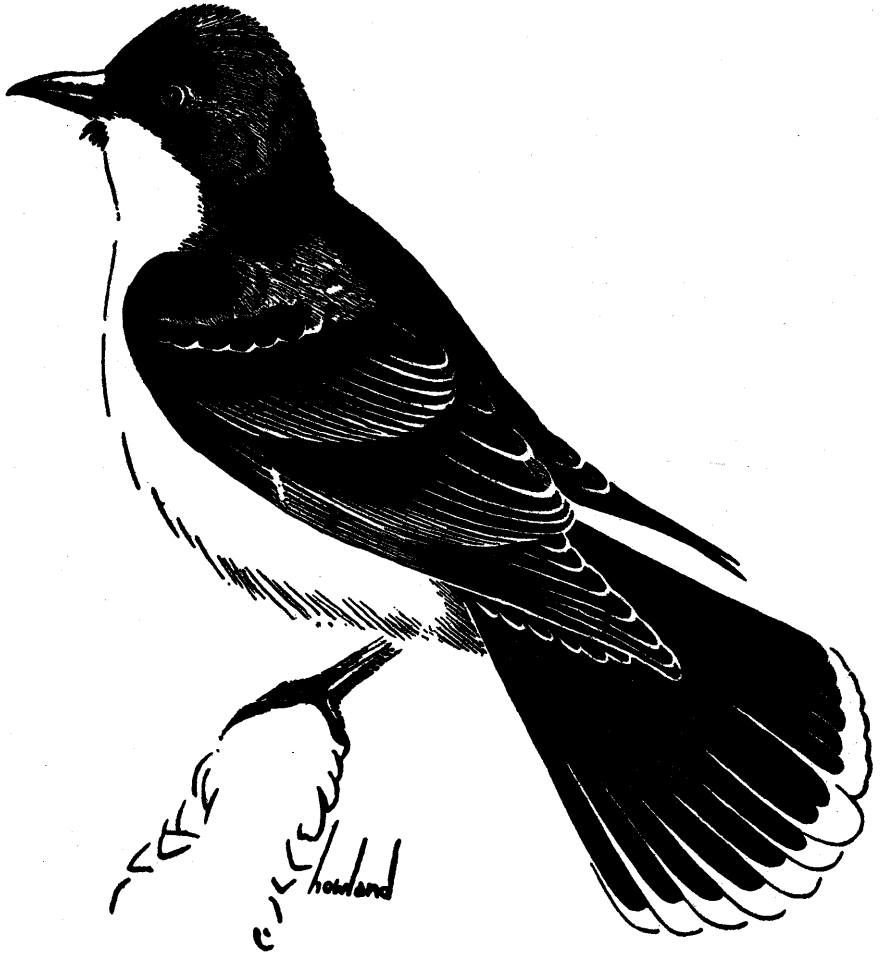


The **KINGBIRD**



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The KINGBIRD

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JONES BEACH — BARRIER TO THE ATLANTIC

John J. Elliott

Jones Beach, lying along the Atlantic Ocean on the western third of Long Island, is about 17 miles long. Like most barrier beaches it is narrow and its maximum width, except near the causeways, is about three-quarters of a mile. It is an island situated between Jones Inlet on the west and Fire Island Inlet on the east and is connected to Long Island by three causeways: Meadowbrook, Wantagh, and Captree. It was named after the widely known Jones family, the first, Major Thomas Jones having settled across the bay at Massapequa in 1696. For many years it lay isolated, approachable only by boat and undeveloped except for a few clusters of houses. Today over two-thirds of Jones Beach comprises State Park lands. The largest is Jones Beach State Park: this extends from the Town of Oyster Bay Lands at the well known Jones Beach Sanctuary Pond (Salt Pond on some maps) westward six miles to Jones Inlet, including Short Beach. Gilgo and Captree State Parks take up most of the eastern sector.

Its topographical formation bordering the ocean is caused by wind and sea erosion; its substance is made up almost entirely of white quartz sand, pulverized by the sea and piled by the wind into sea-edge dunes. Ocean Parkway, a concrete boulevard varying from four lanes to two lanes in width, extends down the center of the Jones Beach strip between the dunes and the marshes to about one half mile from either end. This parkway was built upon sand sucked from the bay and, being raised, has modified the terrain in much of its length by producing sandy stretches that slope away on both sides. Beyond this sandy slope on the north side, the inner edge facing the bays is marshy and extends out in a small neck into the State boat channel which separates Jones Beach proper from the adjoining archipelago of marshy islands.

The climate, tempered by the ocean, is somewhat less foggy than on extreme eastern Long Island and in some winters there is less snow. Prevailing winds are usually mild and from the southwest or west. Land and sea breezes help keep summers comfortable, the temperature seldom over the high eighties; and in winter, although bitterly raw and damp at times, zero is seldom reached. Summer thunder-showers on some occasions follow the water by running around to Long Island Sound on the north and to the bay and Jones Beach on the south thus missing the main island. Northwesterly winds drive the tides down to abnormal levels, often exposing bay flats. North-easters flood the low meadows and, when severe, in many areas transform the bays from segregated land-marshes to open bodies of water from the mainland to the beach.

Snow melts rapidly on the loose sand, especially on the sunny slopes of the dunes. The highest elevations consist of sand dunes which range to about 20 feet above sea level, the great majority somewhat flattened below this by wind or human agencies. Large concrete parking fields front the ocean; several others are back of the play areas in the State parks. Other weedy and grass bordered dirt parking fields, such as at Tobay (Town of Oyster Bay Lands), occasionally attract Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings in late fall and early winter.

About six miles from the western end lies Jones Beach Sanctuary Pond, famed for its water birds. This is part of the protected land belonging to the Town of Oyster Bay. Permits are issued to interested nature students by the township. Entrance is not permitted during the hunting season.

Overland south-bound bird flights directly across Long Island in the fall must terminate at the outer barrier beaches, or else the migrants find themselves over the ocean. In fact this frequently occurs so that sometimes in the early morning many land birds (up to the size of Flickers) may be seen from some vantage point, as atop a breakwater, flying toward land. This occurs most frequently during times of offshore northwest winds. If such winds are strong, small birds such as warblers encounter difficulty in regaining land and may visit fishing craft some miles outward where they appear exceedingly tame and bewildered. These may often alight on fishing poles, even though in use, or in the scuppers to feed on small flies which are attracted by the smelly refuse or rejected bait. Southward migrating land birds, however, normally avoid the perils of the ocean and therefore pocket in favorable tracts. These migrants often occur in hundreds along the strip. They later use a convenient path down the extent of western Long Island and across lower New York Bay to the New Jersey coast. In spring shore birds travel up the barrier beaches of New Jersey to the northeast through Jones Beach and across eastern Long Island to Rhode Island and Cape Cod. They make use of the shallow sand and mud flats along the coast, but pass northward to breed rapidly, compared to their fall lingering. Occasionally, a few non-breeders fill the interval between north and south-bound migrants, usually through late June and very early July.

Because of the park status of Jones Beach, there has been little increase in resident human population; only an occasional private residence is added, generally in the present colonies: West Gilgo, Gilgo and Oak Beach.

Plant life comprises a few sycamore and other deciduous trees and extensive groves and clumps of Japanese black pine. Dominant shrubbery includes many acres of bayberry (*Myrica*) bushes and large tracks of shrub poison-ivy; numerous beds of Russian olive grow around the cultivated areas. There are many beds of wild roses and numerous blackberry thickets; great stretches of Phragmites line the borders of salt marsh and upland. Crab grass (*Digitaria*) grows on the strips bordering the ocean boulevard. On the sandy stretches, as well as on the dunes, beach-grass (*Ammophila*) is the dominant cover, beach goldenrod is abundant and clumps of beach pea occasional. On the upper marshes in places bulrush (*Scirpus robustus*) offers shelter for some wintering species such as Long-billed Marsh Wren. Here also grow Juncus, sedges and marsh elder (*Iva*), the latter four or five feet in height and dominating the undergrowth. On the marshes salt grasses (principally *Spartina patens* and *Distichlis*) occupy the damp areas and *Spartina alterniflora* ditch edges and wetter tracts.

Migration

Spring migration usually begins in February with small flights of Song Sparrows and blackbirds; singing Meadowlarks and the tinkling song of the resident Prairie Horned Lark even earlier, sometimes proclaim spring's advance prior to this. In late March or early April the plaintive notes of

the Piping Plover sound along the beach dunes; about this time some years floods of Song and Tree Sparrows, Juncos and occasionally a few Ipswich and Vesper Sparrows throng the grassy strips and pine clumps along Ocean Parkway. About this time also, large rafts of American, Surf and White-winged Scoters assemble offshore in the ocean and their mellow whistling is a characteristic sound then as one stops off at the ocean-front parking fields. (Incidentally, parking along the boulevard, except in parking fields, is strictly prohibited.)

Loons and grebes usually pass through in fair numbers. Occasionally Gannets migrate in numerous small flocks near the surf line against strong northeasterly winds, but normally pass farther offshore. Long strings of Cormorants fly coastwise in late April and early May; the Sooty Shearwater and Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers occasionally put in a brief offshore appearance around very early June. The spring shorebird flights go through with fair numbers of Black-bellied Plovers, Knots and Turnstones into early June, with occasional Willets along the beach. Land birds vary in numbers from spring to spring. Warblers usually are not very plentiful, yet the Cape May, Kentucky and Mourning have been recorded in May.

Good late-summer records for Jones Beach Pond include the Avocet, Ruff and Curlew Sandpiper; Wilson's and Red Phalaropes have been found also. About a decade ago drainage produced large tracts of exposed pond edge providing excellent shorebird numbers. The more flooded conditions of recent years appear to be less attractive.

Fall usually provides a birding assortment: a falcon flight down the outer strip, several Western Kingbird records, some half-dozen of Dickcissel and Lark Sparrow and a few of Blue Grosbeak, although these vary from year to year. Usually for a few days each fall Juncos and White-throated Sparrows flood the brush and grassy areas and White-crowned Sparrows are fairly common. During the past few years both Red and White-winged Crossbills have been fairly abundant, the latter after an absence of about a half century. Two years ago an immature Golden-crowned Sparrow wintered near Jones Beach Tower to April; and in fall a Saw-whet Owl or two may turn up in the pines in the same area. A location well worth visiting at Jones Beach is the fishing station to the north of Parking Field No. 4. Here for a couple of years the Western Tanager appeared and put in several weeks on one extended visit.

Sporadic visitors in winter include, during invasions, a fair number of Snowy Owls on the dunes and an occasional Gyrfalcon about the pond. Rough-legged Hawks hunt over the Gilgo marshes some winters, especially snowy ones. Occasionally Sparrow Hawks perch on the light poles; the Duck Hawk, as a wintering bird, has been rather rare in recent years. Red-breasted Nuthatches often winter in the pines. Pine Siskins usually migrate in great abundance in November and on occasions up to 1000 have been counted before 9:30 a. m. when coming through in the early morning in flocks up to 50 or 60. Best flights are associated with clear fall days with northwest winds, the same weather which produces the best falcon counts along the coast. Winter finches, even Siskins and Goldfinches, are very irregular and erratic in their movements and their presence cannot be pre-

dicted. Late October often brings Snow Buntings and soon afterward the Lapland Longspur. Snow Buntings may occur by the hundreds in severe winters, but congregate more abundantly on eastern Long Island. Longspurs usually leave in late fall or early winter.

Good opportunities are offered in mid-October to attract Common and Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Seaside Sparrows by squeaking them up out of the tall *Spartina* growth in the marshes where they feed upon the luxuriant grain (somewhat oat-like in appearance). Gilgo is a good place to look for these. The Ipswich Sparrow occasionally winters at Short Beach; Audubon Christmas Counts usually record two to five and on one November day ten were counted at Gilgo. Myrtle Warblers flood the countryside in mid-October and many remain to winter on bayberries and, in late winter, on poison-ivy berries. Tree Swallows prefer the former berries and sometimes remain through to spring. Almost every winter Alcids are reported; dead or oiled Dovekies may be picked up along the beach after severe storms; more rarely Murres or Razor-billed Auks, also sometimes oiled, appear along the beach. A decade ago a Black Guillemot was seen outside the breakers at Gilgo.

At Jones Beach the little Sanderling, familiar to bather, fisherman or beach-stroller as it dashes up and down the surf-line following each receding wave and racing each advancing one during heat of mid-summer or in icy slush of winter, is, in this writer's opinion, of all Long Island birds the most symbolic of the wild, restless sea.

Breeding

The current trend of population is an advancement of southern species into the area, principally involving herons. The American Egret was recorded breeding for the first time in 1955 and an increase, estimated at 30 adults, was noted in 1956. A large increase of nesting Snowy Egrets also was recorded in 1956 after occurring about five or six years in the vicinity. The increase of Yellow-crowned Night Herons last summer also indicated a northern trend. Proportionately, the Black-crowned Night Heron appears to have declined and the Green Heron, not as gregarious, is about holding its own. In late summer, Snowy Egrets, where once rather rare, have become abundant, whereas the Little Blue Heron, once fairly common, appears less plentiful.

Other nesting colonies on Jones Beach include about 200 breeding Herring Gulls at Captree (extreme eastern end of Jones Beach); fairly large numbers of Common Terns, lesser numbers of Least Terns and Black Skimmers, and occasionally Roseate Terns are reported around these colonies. On the marshes, Clapper and Virginia Rails are found at Oak Beach and an unusual record of a nesting Black Rail came from there about 15 years ago. Among ducks omnipresent Blacks and Mallards constitute the breeding population except for a small number of Gadwall. The last has nested around the sanctuary pond for about a decade with varied success.

Fluctuation in nesting success is perhaps due to predators which are well

distributed over Jones Beach in the form of cats, rats, mink, Marsh Hawks, and, probably, an occasional fox. There appear to be no reports of snapping turtles around the pond area; the only reptiles are a pale, sandy colored hog-nosed snake (sometimes locally called "beach adder"), and an occasional black snake. Another presumable deterrent to nesting is the continual chemical fogging of the play areas, including tracts of shrubbery. These are around Jones Beach Tower at the end of the Wantagh Causeway and include agricultural plantations on loam fill formerly brought across the bay from the main island. Birds affected by the chemicals are Catbirds, Thrashers, Robins, Yellow Warblers, Red-wings, and Song Sparrows.

There appears to be no infiltration of more northern species of either land or water birds, and from all indications Jones Beach could never boast of a widely diversified list of breeding land birds, at least not in recent years.

Jones Beach is easily approached by three causeways. Two parking fields, one on the east and one on the west, afford good viewing of ocean birds in winter. Several more provide additional observation posts in summer. Parking Field 4 at the Tower is surrounded by fairly good migrant land bird tracts, including the fishing station to the northwest. Parking Field 9, another ocean fronting area good for ocean observing, provides the stopping-over place to visit the pond sanctuary over one-half mile distant. Nesting Herons and Egrets are in low trees and thickets behind the sanctuary pond. Visitors wishing to see large Herring Gull colony should stop at nearby Captree Parking Field from which the gulls may be seen at their nests. To view Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows enter Gilgo Parking Field, walk eastward one-half mile to the Gilgo Marshes. Tern colonies may often be seen in the June-July nesting season from Ocean Boulevard. Any road map shows the three causeways and Ocean Boulevards and many mark off State Park lands, bay islands and other topographical features sufficient to identify specific areas.

3994 Park Avenue, Seafood, Long Island

CALL FOR PAPERS

The tenth annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs will be held at Schenectady on May 24-26, 1957. All members of the Federation are hereby invited to submit titles for inclusion in the "Papers" section of the program.

Papers may concern any phase of ornithology in New York, and will be limited to twenty minutes in length. Popular papers in previous years have included discussions of field techniques, birding in areas of particular interest, unusual occurrences of birds, studies of nesting, behavior, or other aspects of bird life, and general ecology. Papers illustrated with slides or moving pictures are of special interest to many members.

It is not too early to make plans to present a paper at this writing. A postal card or letter to the chairman of the papers committee will bring a form to be filled out by the speaker. The deadline for papers will probably be set at about May 1, but there is no reason to put it off until then. We want to continue to present the best in educational entertainment at our next annual meeting.

*Allen H. Benton, Chairman, Papers Committee
N. Y. S. College for Teachers, Albany*

FOLK NAMES OF NEW YORK STATE BIRDS: II

W. L. McATEE

Hooded Merganser. Fish duck (from its food habits, though it depends less upon fishes than do the other mergansers); flying-fish (although a bird, its flesh has such a fishy flavor that it may well be called a fish, for this species an exaggeration); hairy-crown, hairy-head (in reference to its ample crest); Injun (or "Indian"), this term also refers to the crest or "scalp-lock"; little fish duck; little sawbill (the bill is provided with prominent serrations); little spikebill (the beak is narrow and stick-like, not broad as in most ducks); pied sheldrake (a tautonym as sheld-pied; the plumage of the male has much contrasting black and white); pond sheldrake (more often seen in small waters than are the other mergansers); sawbill (the bill is provided with prominent serrations); sheldrake (see note on little sheldrake); shel-duck (the feminine of sheldrake, but applied to the species as a whole); spikebill, spiky (see note on little spikebill); swamp sheldrake (a good name as it is seen in swamps more than are the other mergansers); water pheasant (as a showy bird of the waters); whistler; wood sheldrake (it frequents wooded swamps and nests in tree cavities).

Common Merganser. Arctic sheldrake (sheldrake is applied to all mergansers; "arctic" indicates a cold-weather bird); fish duck; flying-fish (see notes under the preceding species); gony (applied to the albatrosses, often as "gooney", this term alleges stupidity; but is a misnomer for the alert merganser); goosander (this name, applied to the European subspecies and transferred to ours, means goose-duck); pied sheldrake (the male is pied, green and white); sawbill; shelduck (see notes under the preceding species); sheldpeg (with allusion to the pied coloration and the peg- or stick-like bill); sheldrake; shelduck; spike (from its "spike" bill); swamp sheldrake (less suitable for this species than for the hooded merganser); tweezer (possibly from the form of the bill, but the name is used in the same region as, and may be related to, "weaser", the meaning of which is unknown); weaser, weaser sheldrake, wheezer, woozer.

Red-breasted Merganser. Common sheldrake; fish duck; flying-fish, pied sheldrake (see notes under hooded merganser); red breast, red-breasted sheldrake (the lower neck and upper breast are pale cinnamon); salt-water sheldrake (keeps more to salt water than do the other mergansers); sawbill; sheldrake (also in British provincial use); shelduck; spike; swamp sheldrake (see under the preceding species); trolling spoon (the motion of the wings in flight giving the suggestion of a whirling movement like that of the object specified); whistler, whistler duck (there seems no accounting for these names except by confusion with other species which do produce a whistle, either by voice or wings).

Turkey Vulture. Buzzard (soaring hawks were known as buzzards in England (and by related terms in most of Europe) but in America the name came to be applied to the vultures).

Goshawk. Chicken hawk (poultry was found in 116 of 243 stomachs examined (McAtee, 1935) so the name is well bestowed).

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Blue darter (adults are chiefly dark bluish-gray above, "darter" from its pouncing mode of attack); chicken hawk (remains of poultry were found in only 2 of 944 stomachs examined (McAtee, 1935); hence the allegation in this name is greatly overdrawn); little blue darter; pigeon hawk (it seldom takes a bird as large as a pigeon).

Cooper's Hawk. Chicken hawk, hen hawk (poultry in 32 of 261 stomachs (McAtee, 1935), names fairly well justified).

Red-tailed Hawk. Chicken hawk, hen hawk (domestic fowls represented in 60 of 754 stomachs or in about 1 out of 12 (McAtee, 1935), the bird is not as bad as reputed); redtail (the tail of adults is chestnut above and that color shows through to the observer below when the bird is in strong light).

Red-shouldered Hawk. Chicken hawk, hen hawk (remains of chickens in only 8 of 391 stomachs (McAtee, 1935), this species not to be classed as a serious poultry enemy).

Broad-winged Hawk. Hen hawk (no remains of poultry were found in 145 stomachs (McAtee, 1935), name a misnomer).

Rough-legged Hawk. Black hawk (a color phase is largely black, but most birds

are dark grayish-brown above, with the base of the tail white).

Bald Eagle. American eagle (as the National emblem); bald eagle (the head of adults is white but not bald); brown eagle, gray eagle (bird in immature plumage); sea eagle; white-headed eagle.

Marsh Hawk. Harrier (an English name traceable to Turner, 1544, meaning one that harries or ravages); hen harrier (has the same history). Remains of poultry were found in 20 of 601 stomachs examined (McAtee, 1935) — one in thirty, not enough to condemn the whole race); long-tailed hawk; marsh harrier; marsh hawk (it is most often seen quartering open grasslands); mouse hawk (mice in 173 out of 601 stomachs).

Osprey. Fish eagle; fish hawk; osprey.

Peregrine Falcon. Chicken hawk (the peregrine is fully capable of taking poultry but does not do so as often as might be expected; chicken remains were found in 3 of 57 stomachs (McAtee, 1935); duck hawk (that is predator upon wild ducks, 9 of which were represented in the 57 stomachs); eagle; goose hawk; hen hawk; pigeon hawk (peregrines wintering on high buildings in cities prey largely on pigeons; the species doubtless was one of those called pigeon hawks in earlier days when they followed and harried flights of the wild or passenger pigeon).

Pigeon Hawk. Bullet hawk (from its speed in flight); chicken hawk (poultry, except when young, are too large for the pigeon hawk to conquer; remains of a chicken was found in only one of 727 stomachs (McAtee, 1935); pigeon hawk (this name seems to refer to the bulk of the bird, not to its preying upon pigeons, the record for which in stomach analyses is the same as for the chicken. The bird, however, probably was among the camp-followers of the wild pigeon, young or disabled individuals of which it could overcome).

Sparrow Hawk. Killy hawk (from its notes); sparrow hawk (a generally used name, but as descriptive of its predation, grasshopper hawk would be a better name. Grasshoppers and their allies in 491, and sparrows in 26, of 703 stomachs (McAtee, 1935).

Spruce Grouse. Swamp partridge.

Ruffed Grouse. Partridge (often partridge); pheasant (formerly "partridge" was well restricted to the north and east, while "pheasant" prevailed in mountains and the south. While traces of this usage remain, the tendency is for the lines to break down. Moreover, in many localities the pheasant is now the introduced ring-neck); silvertail (the gray color phase); wood-pile quawker.

Heath Hen. Now extinct. Grouse, heath hen, prairie chicken, and prairie hen were names used for it in New York.

Bob-white. That name is in rather general use, but partridge and quail also are heard.

Common Pheasant. Fennix (possibly a corruption of phoenix, its bright coloration being deemed appropriate for a sacred bird); gray pheasant (the female); pheasant; ring-neck (generally there is a conspicuous white collar about the neck of the adult male).

Wild Turkey. That name and simply turkey, as well as gobbler for the male, were in general use.

King Rail. Fresh-water meadow-hen; king rail (from its large size and bright coloration); marsh hen; red-breasted rail (the foreparts below are reddish-brown).

Clapper Rail. That name is in use (a common cry is "a harsh, clattering cackle"); marsh hen; meadow clapper (Pennant, 1785); meadow hen; mud hen; salt-water marsh hen; salt-water meadow-hen.

Virginia Rail. Fresh-water marsh-hen; fresh-water mud-hen; little mud-hen; mud-hen.

Sora. English rail (the term "English" in such names usually means the best of its kind from a sporting or gustatory point of view); little rail; marsh chicken; meadow rail; mud-hen; rail bird; sora (thought to have been derived from an Indian name of the bird).

Yellow Rail. Kicker (from its notes).

Common Gallinule. Blue water-hen (the forward underparts are slaty-gray); marsh chicken; mud-hen; red-billed mud-hen (the base of bill and the frontal plaque

are sealing-wax color); Virginia water-hen (as a distinguishable and probably southern kind of water-hen).

American Coot. Blue Peter (the general plumage color is bluish-slaty. "Peter" has Biblical reference; in treading on the floating leaves of aquatic plants, it appears to walk, and spattering along in its take-off into flight, to run, on the water); coot; crow duck (from its dark color and perhaps also from the shape of its bill, "duck" as a sizable water bird); henbill (the bill is much more like that of a hen than of a typical duck); meadow hen; Mother Carey's chicken (by strained transfer from the small petrels (see note on Leach's petrel), probably in recognition of the distinctness as a "chicken" of this somewhat chicken-like bird); mud-hen; sea coot (a misnomer, as the bird has little to do with the sea); sea crow ("crow" from its dark color; see also the preceding note); water hen; whitebill.

American Oyster-catcher. Flat-foot snipe.

American Ringed-Plover. Little ringneck, ringneck, ring-necked plover (the neck has a broad white collar, below which is a narrower black ring).

Piping Plover. Beach bird; beach flea (as a small creature inhabiting the beach); beach plover; butter-bird (because sometimes very fat); quill-toot (from its notes); ringneck (collaring much as in the preceding species, but due to the general pale coloration of the bird, the white band is less conspicuous; the black ring is sometimes incomplete); stone-runner (it inhabits gravelly as well as sandy beaches).

Killdeer. That name, in imitation of a cry, is universal; killdeer plover; killdeer snipe; ringlet, ringneck, ringneck plover (there are two white and two dark bands on the neck and throat).

Golden Plover. Big frostbird (from being seen in cold weather in fall); bullhead (that is bighead); frost bird; frost plover; goldback, golden-back, golden plover (the upper parts are speckled with yellow); gray plover (birds in immature or fall plumage); greenback (from the yellowish spotting); toadhead (bighead).

Black-bellied Plover. Beetle, beetle-head, beetle-head plover (having a beetle- or maul-like, that is big, head); black-belly, black-breast, black-breasted plover (in adult plumage, the lower parts from throat to belly are black); bullhead (meaning big head, also in British provincial use); bull-head plover; bull plover; frost bird; gray plover (for the last two terms, notes under the preceding species apply. Grey plover is the standard British name of the species and is of ancient usage); whistling plover (some of its notes are clear, ringing whistles, also in British provincial use).

Common Turnstone. Beach bird; beach robin (as a familiar, full-throated bird of the beach; its ruddy coloration is, however, on the upper, not on the lower parts as in the robin); blackheart (the upper breast is marked with black); brant bird, brant plover, brant snipe (from apparent association with the brant); calico-back, calico bird, calico plover (the back is particolored); heart bird (from the dark marking on its upper breast); horse-foot, horse-foot bird, horse-foot snipe (from feeding on the eggs of the horsefoot or king crab); Jinny (a familiar or "pet" name); maggot snipe (maggots are seen in beach debris and birds rummaging that flotsam are supposed to eat them); rock bird, rock plover (as frequenting ledges); sea quail (latter term from its plump form and particolored plumage); streaked-backed plover.

American Woodcock. Big-eyes; blind snipe ("it's sight is noticeably dull in the full sunlight" (Trumbull, 1888); cock (a nickname); snipe (in early days this was the general name of the bird, which only later became widely known as the woodcock); timber-doodle (a fanciful appellation); woodcock, wood snipe (it frequents woodland more than does any other of the shore bird alliance).

Wilson's Snipe. Blind snipe (its close sitting, almost allowing it to be stepped on, is attributed to poor eyesight); English snipe (meaning the best of its kind); grass snipe (as an inhabitant of sappy grassland); jacksnipe (in such terms, "jack" means small, but in this case the name probably is a transfer from the English jacksnipe, a miniature of the European common snipe, to which our bird is closely related); snipe (a universal nickname).

Long-billed Curlew. Big curlew (the largest of the three American species); sickelbill, sickelbill curlew (the bill is long and curved).

Hudsonian Curlew. Creeker (from its frequenting "creeks" or guts in salt marshes); crooked-bill marlin (marlin, from marlinspike, compares the bird's bill to

the traditional tool of a boatswain; in this species, as in all the curlews, it is curved); jack, jack curlew (as being smaller than the long-billed, or big, curlew); jacksnipe; short-billed curlew; sickle-bill curlew (see note under the preceding species, to which this name is more appropriately applied).

Eskimo Curlew. Doughbird (have "a much thicker layer of fat than is usually seen in other birds, hence their local name . . . from the saying 'as fat as dough'). (Mackay, 1892); English fute ("English", the best of its kind; fute probably from the obsolete verb of that spelling, meaning to whistle); fute; marlin (see note on crooked-bill marlin under the preceding species). Certainly a very scarce bird; indeed often deemed to be extinct.

Upland Plover. Field plover; frost snipe (an inappropriate name as the bird's stay in New York almost coincides with the frost-free period); grass plover (it is an inhabitant of grasslands); gray plover (the general tone of the plumage is brown and buffy, rather than gray; but these color terms are not well differentiated by hunters); humility, humillet (such names, applied to numerous shore birds, appear to refer to their bowing or curtesying habits); lapwing (a common gesture is to raise the wings straight upwards, where perhaps they touch, as it alights); plain plover (that is of the plains or barrens of Long Island); upland plover.

Spotted Sandpiper. Peeper (a common note sounds like peet-weet); peet-weet; potato snipe (as frequenting potato fields); steel-yard bird (in allusion to its balance-like movements); tator snip (potato snipe, which see; possibly a corruption of teeter snipe, which explanation would then cover this series of terms); teeter, teeter bird, teeter, teetering snipe, teeter snipe, teeter-tail, tilt, tilter, tip-up (from its bobbing movements).

Solitary Sandpiper. Jacksnipe (at some time or place almost any shore bird may be called a snipe or jacksnipe); teeter-tail, tip-up (from its bobbing movements).

Willet. Brown teeter (the general color above is brownish-gray; "teeter" from its bowing movements); frost snipe (the bird is scarcely present during the frosty season); humility (from its bowing or "curtesying" movements); oxide (a corruption of ox-eye; various shore birds, with full, round eyes, are called ox-eyes); willet (from its notes).

Greater Yellowlegs. Big yellowleg; great tell-tale, tattler, tell-tale (its wariness and shrill cries give all wildlife notice of the presence of intruders); winter yellowlegs (as being present in colder weather than is the summer, or lesser yellowlegs); yellow-leg, yellow-leg snipe; yelper (from its vociferousness).

Lesser Yellowlegs. Little yellowleg; summer yellowleg (as being seen in milder weather than is the winter, or greater, yellowlegs); water plover; yellowleg, yellow-legged plover; yellow-leg snipe; yellowshanks; yellow-shanks tattler (see note under great tell-tale, for the preceding species); yelper (see under the last species).

American Knot. Grayback, gray snipe (in fall plumage); red-breasted snipe (from its brownish-red underparts in the breeding plumage; any shore bird may be called a snipe); robin, robin snipe (in allusion to its plump figure and brownish-red underparts); white robin-snipe (in fall plumage).

Purple Sandpiper. Winter snipe (occurs only from fall to spring).

Pectoral Sandpiper. Brownback; fat bird; grass bird, grass snipe (it is usually seen in soppy, short grass or grass-like plants); jacksnipe (a small snipe or shore bird); kriecker (this spelling retained from Trumbull, 1888, who derived the term from the German, kriecker, a cringing one, in reference to the crouching and squatting habit of the bird; other theories are reflected in the spelling "creeker", alluding to its notes, and "creeker" from its frequenting creeks or channels in marshes); meadow snipe; shortneck.

White-rumped Sandpiper. Big oxeye (latter term is applied, both in this country and in Great Britain, to various shore birds, in reference to their prominent eyes); peep (a name given to numerous shore birds, that is sonic for some of them, but may also have the significance of "chick", in reference to their small size); white-rump.

(to be continued)

CENSUS GRID ON BEAVER MEADOW WILDLIFE REFUGE

W. A. ALMENDINGER

In 1954 the Buffalo Audubon Society laid out a grid of approximately 21 acres on its property in Java, Wyoming County. This grid comprises about one-third of the 68-acre tract owned by Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc., about two miles east of Java Village. It is a rectangle 1650 feet long and 550 feet wide subdivided into 20 rectangles 165 feet by 275 feet (the smaller rectangles 1.04 acres). This grid has been censused once a week for the six week period from mid-May through June each year since 1954.

The vegetation on the census area is climax woods, the dominant trees being hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), yellow birch (*Betula lutea*), and wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) with lesser numbers of many other species. The understory consists chiefly of speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*), maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), American yew (*Taxus canadensis*) and many other species of shrubs. 19 ferns and 13 Orchis species are among the ground plants. The plant life correctly indicates a wet woods. (For a more complete cataloging of the botany see Almendinger, 1955, Audubon Field Notes 9 (6): 419.)

The basic object of a breeding bird census is to determine territorial males. Here is a summary of the results of the first three years of the study:

Year	Total Species	Territorial Males	Males Per 100 Acres
1954	32	56	201
1955	23	23.5	107
1956	28	43	172

More interesting to this author, however, is the compilation of the yearly observations during the census period of individual species. It seems to give a more graphic picture of the conditions observers found in the sanctuary. In the following list after each species is recorded the number of observations 1954 to 1956 in that order.

Red-shouldered Hawk 8, 3, 2; Ruffed Grouse 7, 7, 1; Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1, 1, 0; Black-billed Cuckoo 7, 0, 0; Great Horned Owl 2, 0, 1; Flicker 5, 7, 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1, 1, 1 (all in the same area); Downy Woodpecker 9, 0, 1; Crested Flycatcher 21, 10, 7; Alder Flycatcher 3, 0, 1; Wood Pewee 7, 6, 5; Olive-sided Flycatcher 0, 0, 2; Blue Jay 33, 14, 5; Black-capped Chickadee 21, 11, 0; House Wren 2, 2, 2; Catbird 6, 2, 4; Brown Thrasher 0, 2, 2; Robin 0, 5, 1; Wood Thrush 36, 9, 8; Veery 27, 7, 12; Cedar Waxwing 23, 1, 0; Red-eyed Vireo 21, 16, 15; Yellow Warbler 4, 3, 0; Magnolia Warbler 4, 3, 0; Black-throated Green Warbler 17, 9, 9; Blackburnian Warbler 7, 0, 1 feeding young; Chestnut-sided Warbler 4, 5, 3; Oven-bird 14, 3, 0; Northern Water-thrush 25, 9, 9; Mourning Warbler 5, 0, 3; Common Yellowthroat 15, 10, 12; Hooded Warbler 0, 0, 3; Canada Warbler 21, 14, 13; Redstart 9, 4, 2; Scarlet Tanager 23, 12, 13; Goldfinch 3, 3, 2; Eastern Towhee 5, 1, 4; Field Sparrow 3, 1, 3; Song Sparrow 10, 9, 5.

An interesting sidelight is the fact that some individuals are returning to the same two or three acres each year.

Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc., Buffalo Museum of Science, Humbolt Park, Buffalo 11

NATIONAL GRANGE BACKS HAWK AND OWL PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION

A letter from H. Everest (Hi) Clements of Rochester tells of his recent important work in the field of conservation. Although many Federation members are probably already acquainted with the contents of his "blue letter," it will be summarized here. It is well that we all know of this work.

Directed by Grange Master Herschel D. Newsom of Columbus, Indiana, Mr. Clements took the matter of hawk and owl protection to the Grange's National Welfare Committee. On November 13, he appeared before this committee and with the help of George A. Spidel of Lincoln, Nebraska secured passage of a resolution supporting such protection. In closed session on November 21, this resolution was passed by delegates of the Grange without change or opposition:

Resolution — Hawk and Owl Legislation

The National Grange endorses the principle of Model Hawk and Owl Laws which are in effect in the States of Connecticut, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Utah.

Under such State Game Laws, all hawks and owls are protected except provision is made that the owners or occupants of land may kill hawks or owls when in the act of harassing or destroying poultry or other property on the land of such owners or occupants.

The National Grange feels such legislation improves law enforcement and better protects this valuable wildlife resource.

Quoting directly from the Clements letter: "We, who are particularly interested in the conservation and protection of hawks and owls and in State Model Hawk and Owl Laws, now have the approval and support of the important and respected organization, The National Grange. This Hawk and Owl Resolution is now National Grange policy on behalf of its over 850,000 members.

"With this backing, may each of us in our various states and with the help of interested conservation organizations work for support and passage of Model Hawk and Owl Laws in the remaining forty-three states and Alaska (all wild birds are protected in Hawaii).

"In my opinion, one of the first things to do is to contact your State Grange, Farm Bureau, your State Legislators and Legislative Conservation Committees and your State Fish and Game Department so that proper bills can be drafted and introduced in your State Legislature at the earliest possible moment." GRR

NOTES

A Clay-colored Sparrow summers in the Adirondacks. — It couldn't be, but it was! There it sat on a small spruce branch day after day, singing (?) its most unmusical song, "buzz buzz buzz" all day long. So on this Sunday afternoon after dinner, Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury and I took our binoculars and Petersons and went to examine the bird. We were able to get very close, to within about ten feet.

The bird did not have the big head and very short tail of the grasshopper sparrow. The song was also quite dissimilar. It was small, not much over five inches in length, pale in color, and had a very definite brown ear patch outlined in black. Its back was striped black and light brown, its pale breast unmarked. And it kept on singing the unmusical rasping, "zee, zee, zee, zee, zee." Independently we concluded that the bird was a Clay-colored Sparrow. Continued examination tended to confirm our judgment.

The location was the shrub nursery on the Sunmount Hospital grounds. This Veterans Hospital is on the outskirts of Tupper Lake, Franklin County. It is situated on a large plateau and none of the grounds are heavily wooded. The nursery is three-fourths acre in size, contains small tamaracks, spruces, pines and some flowering shrubs. It is just off a private road in a clearing of forty or fifty acres. This clearing is mostly grassland, outlined with evergreens and maple trees. Horned Larks seek out this area for nesting as do a few Meadowlarks. In winter occasional but large flocks of Snow Buntings feed on its weeds. All in all, the whole plot resembles a prairie.

All during the month of June and on until after July 4, 1956, this sparrow was perched on top of one of the spruces, singing its monotonous song. He never seemed to stop even to feed. No other sparrow was seen in the immediate vicinity, and we are quite certain that he found no mate. At the end of the first week in July the bird stopped singing and we saw no more of him.

Volume II of the National Geographic Book of Birds states that this species does wander from its migration routes and may be discovered in the most surprising places. Dr. Kingsbury and I both surmise that none could be more surprising than this — Agnes Amstutz, Sunmount Veterans Administration Hospital, Tupper Lake.

New York State Museum publications now available. — A new list of sales publications has been compiled by the New York State Museum and is available without charge on request to the Museum at Albany 1, New York. The revised list includes a considerable number of zoological bulletins, circulars, handbooks, etc., that were formerly considered out of print and have been available only through dealers. The stock of some of these items is small; in such cases, preference will be given to orders from libraries and universities, foundations and other organizations. —Victor H. Cahalane, Assistant Director, New York State Museum and Science Service, Albany 1. (Ed. Note: Perhaps the best example of the publications on this list is Eaton's two volume "Birds of New York," which has for some time been available only at inflated prices from bookstores.)

A late nesting record for the Short-billed Marsh Wren on Long Island — Fifteen years ago Cruickshank (1942, "Birds around New York City," p. 333) stated that the Short-billed Marsh Wren "must be considered a very uncommon to rare local summer resident. . . . There are nesting localities very thinly sprinkled . . . along the South Shore of Long Island from Idlewild to Mastic. . . . There are undoubtedly two broods, local egg dates ranging from May 19 to August 20." Since publication of this account all but possibly one of these localities have been abandoned or destroyed. Therefore, it appears worthwhile reporting the discovery of a new nesting locality for this species — a record made doubly interesting by the extreme lateness of the date.

On September 15, 1956, I was walking with (the well-known Long Island ornithologist) Gilbert S. Raynor and my 16-year-old son Dennis through a damp grassy meadow at the head of Fish Creek, a tidal tributary on the east side of the lower Carmans River, Brookhaven, Long Island. This meadow lies between a cattail marsh and the extensive dry oak and pine woods west of Mastic. Suddenly two very small dark birds flushed from under our feet and fluttered weakly off into a blackberry tangle about 20 feet away. At that moment we heard an unfamiliar scolding note, and we saw an adult Short-billed Marsh Wren watching us from a point close to where the two birds had disappeared.

We all had excellent views of the adult wren as it remained in the open, perched on a mallow stem for about a half-minute, permitting us to obtain positive identification. It was obviously distressed by our presence, and continued to scold at intervals with a ticking note. When it eventually disappeared, we started to move forward again, flushing two more small birds. This time we had good views of them: one permitting us almost to catch it with our hands before it dived into the rank grass. These were unquestionably young Short-billed Marsh Wrens, not yet fully fledged so that they were unable to flutter more than a few feet. From the weakness of their flight and their small size it would have been impossible for them to have traveled more than 100 yards from their nest, but we were unable to locate it in the heavy grasses. Bent (1948, U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull 195:269) gives 12-14 days in the nest after hatching. These birds, therefore, were hatched about September 1, indicating an egg date about ten days later than that previously recorded by Cruickshank.

In early June 1954, Raynor and I located an adult bird about a quarter of a mile away from the location reported above, but we found no evidence of its being a breeding bird. According to the records of John J. Elliott, the last summering area for this species on Long Island other than this was at Massapequa about five years ago, except for one or two summer records from Springfield at the extreme eastern end of the Jamaica Bay marshes. — Dennis Puleston, Brookhaven, Long Island.

Cattle Egrets on Long Island — On May 21, 1954 a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus Ibis*) was observed in an East Moriches, Long Island poultry farm, the first record for this species in the State. The bird was seen by many naturalists, including the writer; it remained in the vicinity for almost a week, spending most of its time inside the wire netting pens with a flock of white turkeys. It was a mature specimen with a touch of buff on head and back and with yellow legs.

A second bird was recently seen in Brookhaven, also on the South Shore of Long Island. It was reported to the writer on last October 20. I watched the bird on this date and on every subsequent day until its departure on the 25th. It was seen on the west bank of the lower Carmans River, in the vicinity of the public boat landing. Although cars and boats were frequently moving around it, it was quite tame and permitted approach to within 25 feet, affording excellent opportunities for photography. I notified the well-known Long Island naturalist, Leroy Wilcox, who obtained some good close-ups. It spent most of its time near the water's edge, hunting the plentiful crickets, grasshoppers, mantids and other insects in patches of rank weeds. A local fisherman, William Englehardt, informed me that he had tried to tempt it with small river fish (*Fundulus*), but it was not interested. However, on several occasions he caught large numbers of crickets under boards, and fed them to the bird by tossing them in its direction.

This specimen was an immature, having dark blacking-brown, instead of yellow legs; the eyes and bill were bright yellow, and the plumage pure white. It can be assumed that this bird was hatched last spring, probably in this country.

Although the bird spent most of the day along the river bank, it made several flights into the woods to the north, presumably to a roost. Several times I saw it perched on stakes out in the river, an unusual choice for this species. The last it was seen here was the first day of a severe cold wave, which would have reduced the insect supply and is presumed to be the reason for the bird's departure.

Due to the remarkably rapid increase of this species in the United States since its first appearance a few years ago, and the reported extension of its breeding range

as far north as the Carolinas, we can expect more frequent occurrences of the Cattle Egret in New York State in the coming years. — Dennis Puleston, Brookhaven, Long Island.

Information requested on color marked birds. — Two requests for assistance in tracing the movements of color marked birds have been received. Although both requests indicate a stress on fall reports, this tardy notice may help provide some information on late winter and spring records.

The first request comes from Tom Barry of Cornell. He would like reports of observations of neck-banded Brant. Several hundred of these birds were banded in this fashion by a group sponsored by Cornell University and the Canadian Wildlife Service on Southampton Island. The yellow plastic bands are fastened by a slip-proof falconer's knot, with a four-inch streamer that is usually seen when the bird is at rest hanging down in front or when in flight sticking out in back. The brilliant yellow is usually visible with binoculars at long range. Sight records should include: (1) date, (2) number with neck-bands, (3) total number in flock, (4) location, and (5) additional observations of unmarked Brant. Information should be sent to Thomas W. Barry, Conservation Department, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Contributors will receive a summary of the information received.

The second request is from the Fish and Wildlife Service, kindly forwarded by Lawrence S. Smith, Refuge Manager of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Smith's letter tells of cooperation of Montezuma personnel in color marking Icterids. A gold lacquer has been sprayed on the upper surface of Red-wings and Grackles banded in Tyre Township (vicinity of Montezuma). In similar projects silver lacquer has been used in New Jersey and red plastic neck bands in Delaware. Information on observations of any of these birds should be sent to Bird Banding Office, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland. Mr. Smith notes that within two weeks of the initiation of the project in July reports were received of Montezuma birds in New Jersey. GRR

Caspian Tern in Fulton County. — On October 3, 1956, game warden Mark Putman picked up a dead immature Caspian Tern at Canada Lake, Fulton County, in the southern part of Adirondack State Park. Local residents told Putman that they had seen the bird in the area for two or three days prior to October 3 and that the bird was obviously in a weakened condition. Putman took the specimen to Amsterdam where identification was made by Margaret Fitzgerald and Esly Hallenbeck. The Caspian Tern is normally considered a coastal species, but it does breed sporadically in the Great Lakes region. The last previous report of the Caspian Tern from Region 8 was in September 1944, a sight record of two individuals at a reservoir just south of Schenectady — J. K. Meritt, 16 Ellen Lane, Scotia 2.

1957 FEDERATION OFFICERS

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REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL MIGRATION

August 15 to November 30, 1956

1956 did have some fine days. A delightful Indian Summer broke into this atrocious year, but the season under consideration could not entirely escape the rigors of 1956. Much of the fall migration was ruined by short and early, but intensely cold spells which swept through a great many migrants. Frost and snow hit Region 1 on September 20. The Indian Summer in western New York then proved a void for land birds. Fortunately the eastern part of the state was not so hard hit and the mild weather along the Hudson provided some notable late records, notably a December 5 Kentucky Warbler in Region 9. Late-hatching insects helped to hold over some birds who braved the early cold.

Failure of the hurricanes of recent years to develop cut down the number of long-distance wanderers, but did not preclude some notable appearances: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (in Region 8) from the South and Rough-legged Hawks (in 3, 4, 5, 6) and Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers (in 1, 2, 4, 7) from the North. GRR

SUMMARY OF TREE AND SHRUB CROP

Region	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Red Pine	—	—	—	F	P	P	F	G	F	—
White Pine	P	F	—	G	P	F	G	G	P	FP
Pitch Pine	—	—	—	F	P	—	G	P	P	FP
Larch	—	G	—	—	F	G	F	G	F	—
White Spruce	—	—	—	G	F	P	—	—	F	—
Black Spruce	—	—	—	G	—	P	—	—	F	—
Red Spruce	—	—	—	G	—	—	—	—	F	—
Balsam Fir	—	—	—	F	F	F	—	—	F	—
Hemlock	G	G	G	F	F	G	G	P	G	—
Arbor-vitae	F	—	G	G	G	P	G	F	F	F
Red Cedar	F	G	—	F	—	F	F	—	F	F
Bayberry	—	G	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	FG
Ironwood (Ostrya)	G	G	G	G	—	F	F	—	—	—
Blue Beech (Carpinus)	G	G	—	G	—	P	—	—	F	—
Yellow Birch	P	P	—	G	F	G	G	G	G	—
White Birch	—	—	—	G	F	G	G	G	F	—
American Beech	GF	P	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	—
White Oak	P	P	—	P	P	G	F	G	F	G
Red Oak	P	G	—	P	P	G	G	G	G	F
Cucumber Tree	F	F	—	—	F	—	—	—	—	—
Mountain Ash	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	—
Thornapple	GF	G	G	F	G	P	G	G	G	—
Wild Black Cherry	P	G	F	F	F	G	F	G	F	G
Box Elder	F	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	—
Sugar Maple	GF	F	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	—
Grey Dodwood	G	G	G	G	G	—	—	—	F	F
Red-osier Dogwood	G	G	—	G	G	—	—	F	—	—
White Ash	GP	G	—	F	F	F	F	G	G	—
Black-berried Elder	GF	G	G	F	F	G	G	G	G	—
General Crop Estimate	GF	G	—	GF	—	G	Imp.	G	F	F

*Reports from Harold H. Axtell (N and NE of Buffalo) and S. W. Eaton (Cattaraugus Co.) combined.

This summary is perhaps more meaningful to persons living in forested areas such as the Southern Tier, Adirondacks and Catskills. It does not pretend to be an exact survey but may help in future analyses of fall and winter bird populations.

This year, for instance, Turkeys fed mainly on beechnuts from October through December. While watching these noble birds scratching the ground for beechnuts, one could also predict and soon see large Blue Jay and Chickadee flocks come by feeding on the nuts still on the trees. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers have been eating these too but the most interesting forager in the beech forests of southern Cattaraugus County has been the Tufted Titmouse — as many as six birds on a two mile hike.

In all regions where beech is plentiful the crop has been reported as good. This is also true of sugar maple and mountain ash. Yellow birch seeds are generally low in western New York, but in the east this crop and the white birch appears to be generally good.

Except for regions 4, 5 and 8 the hemlock seed crop is good. The spruce-fir-larch crop in the Adirondacks and Catskills appears to be generally from fair to good. From Long Island Mr. Elliott reports good black alder seed production at Montauk and at Jones Beach the firethorn was loaded. The pepperidge (*Nyssa*) crop was good and popular with thrushes in September. —S. W. Eaton.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

The three-and-one-half month period under review exhibited a pattern of weather which had a very definite effect upon the birds of Region I. The first six weeks were cold and wet, with frost and snow being recorded on September 20. A very large proportion of our migrants hurried through with hardly a pause, with the result that fewer swallows, vireos, warblers, and thrushes were reported in October than in the average year. October, on the other hand, must have broken all records for beautiful weather, being continuously mild and sunny. It would have been an ideal month for late records if it had followed a better September. The feature of the period was the start of an unprecedented invasion of Arctic Woodpeckers.

Loons — Ducks: First record of RED-THROATED LOON was of three at Wilson Oct 27 (Mitchell et al.). The Axtells supplied a splendid record, — an EARED GREBE in the gorge at Niagara Falls on Sep 20; the bird was seen there by others until the 27th. Mrs. McMurtry reported an AMERICAN EGRET near Wellsville during the period from Aug 25 to Sep 13; Mitchell found another on Grand Island Sep 5. First authentic records of CANADA GOOSE were a flock of 11 Oct 6 (Buffalo, Brockner et al.) and a flock of ten Oct 13 (E. Eden, Mitchell et al.). First GADWALL was reported Oct 21 (Perry Center, Rosche). GREATER SCAUPS were first seen off Wilson (20 on Oct 27 by Schaffner et al.). A better than average BUFFLEHEAD population has been a constant on the river throughout late fall, and all three SCOTERS have been on view in better numbers than usual.

Hawks — Owls: TURKEY VULTURES have not been reported since the B. O. S. fall count on Oct 14, when 22 were seen. Eaton noted a GOSHAWK near Vandalia Nov 15, while our first ROUGH-LEG record was provided by Brockner, who observed two at Medina Oct 22. McMurtry saw an OSPREY at Wellsville Aug 18 and Bourne another south of Buffalo Oct 14. The only PIGEON HAWK recorded during the period was one near Batavia on Oct 14 (Pixley et al.). TURKEY records were fewer

than last year, being reported only by McMurtry and Eaton, but the latter's observations would indicate, though not prove, that the birds had a successful breeding season. Eaton also reported GROUSE in good numbers in the Olean area. Last FLORIDA GALLINULE record was of one bird on Nov 4 (Grand Island, Beardslee). Two COOTS were in the Niagara Falls gorge Nov 25 (Schaffner, Braunberns). GOLDEN PLOVER were first seen Sep 1 and 2 (L. Chautauqua, Parker et al.); largest number reported was 84 on Oct 20 (Grand Island, Nathan, Schaffner). GOLDEN PLOVER were not seen after that date, but BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were reported as late as Nov 4 (three on Grand Island, Beardslee). SNIPE was last seen Nov 17, when Nathan and Schaffner found four at Wilson. Rosche had our latest records for both GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS, the former of two birds at Grand Island Oct 28, the latter of five individuals at L. LaGrange Oct 21. Beal found a single KNOT at Barcelona Aug 26, and Beardslee reported three PECTORAL SAND-PIPERS present at Grand Island as late as Nov 4. A NORTHERN PHALAROPE was reported from Mayville Sep 21 (Nelmses). These shorebird reports are culled from B. O. S. records which show a great preponderance of observations from Canada. ICELAND, KUMLIEN'S, and LITTLE GULLS were observed in the Niagara gorge Nov 25 (Beardslee, Scheider et al.). GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were unusually scarce up to the end of the period under review — more may come in later. One FRANKLIN'S GULL was noted by Mitchell and Wright off Bird Island, Buffalo, Sep 20, and from Oct 9 to 27 from one to five individuals could be found in the gorge. Normally October is an in-between month for BONAPARTE'S GULLS, with a very low total population throughout; this year they have been plentiful at all times, as many as 2500 having been seen in the lower river alone on Oct 14 (Beardslee). In addition to the above record of the LITTLE GULL, another is supplied by Mitchell and Greene, who saw one near the Peace Bridge Sep 14. COMMON TERNS had a poor breeding season, were present in greatly reduced numbers, and were not seen after Oct 14. FORSTER'S TERNS were not reported at all. OWL records were disappointing, but not enough so to support any definite conclusions.

Swifts — Shrikes: A dead WHIP-POOR-WILL was brought to Heather Thorpe at the museum Oct 15 (late, no pun intended). SWIFTS were last seen Sep 23 (two at Jamestown, Mealy) and HUMMINGBIRDS Sep 22 (two at Mayville, Parker). The Axtells found an ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER at Wilson Oct 20; it was seen there later by many observers, and on at least one occasion two individuals were seen there. On Nov 24 another was well seen and described by a hunter east of Olean (Summers, rep. Mitchell). Subsequent to the period under review other reports have come to us; it looks as though the present incursion of the species would prove to be the greatest on record. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS were reported Oct 14 at Batavia (Pixley) and Nov 25 at Castile (Thompson). Eaton thought YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS were more numerous this fall than usual. We have no late SWALLOW records whatever this year; apparently September's cold weather hurried them on their way. Schaffner did find 475 TREE SWALLOWS in Canada Oct 14, but in western New York we have no records of any swallows in October, not even Rough-wings. Beal estimated 50,000 PURPLE MARTINS in the Jamestown roost Aug 31; Eaton was much pleased with a fine invasion of TUFTED TITMICE from Oct 18 to the end of our period, with no less than six seen in one day. He also felt that goodly numbers of BROWN CREEPERS were staying in his area. On Sep 1 he collected a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER at Vandalia. Eaton also expressed the opinion (in which I concur) that there was an excellent flight of GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS. Three GRAY SHRIKES were reported, the first a very early one observed south of Buffalo by Rew on Oct 14.

Vireos — Warblers: No exceptionally late dates were reported for any of the vireos. Very few warblers, excepting of course the MYRTLES, tarried into October, and these were ones which normally do. I find not a single noteworthy date for a warbler. To draw a comparison, on Oct 14 the B. O. S. census (including a portion of Ontario) resulted in a count of 25 warblers of nine species exclusive of Myrtle, while on Oct 16 last year the count was 88 individuals of 13 species. Such a dearth of warblers in such a mild October points up the severity of September's weather.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Eaton reported a BOBOLINK near Olean Sep 18 (very late). Latesc SCARLET TANAGER date was Oct 1, when Schaffner found one in Buffalo's Delaware Park and another on Grand Island. ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAKS left early, the latest record being Sep 22 (Mayville, Parker). The first EVENING GROSBEAK was found by Nathan near his home in Buffalo Oct 28. Nine

COMMON REDPOLLS were observed Nov 23 at Frewsburg by McIntire (rep. Parker). Eaton found GOLDFINCHES abundant this fall. He observed his first RED CROSS-BILLS at Vandalia Nov 15. Last reported CHIPPING SPARROW was seen at Chestnut Ridge Park Nov 4 by the Brockners, last FIELD SPARROW at Wilson, Nov 17 by Nathan. An early WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW was noted by Mrs. Bacon at Hamburg Sep 27. First SNOW BUNTING record was of a flock of 14 at Barcelona Oct 25 (Nelms).

132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore

REGION 2—GENESEE

LEO J. TANGHE

The cool weather of 1956 continued through the fall except during the last three weeks of October which was a delightful period of Indian Summer. Waterfowl migration was good, but the migration of flycatchers, thrushes, warblers and sparrows was very poor. Unusual records during this period were the Eared Grebe, Common Eider, Kittiwake and Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker.

Loons — Ducks: There was a heavy migration of COMMON LOONS, beginning on Oct 14 and reaching a peak towards the end of the month. Several counts of over 100 were reported. RED-THROATED LOONS were present in much smaller numbers; maximum count, 6. HORNED GREBS first appear on Oct 12 and from then on were present in good numbers. A single EARED GREBE was seen by the Kemnitzers Oct 27-30 at Webster Park. They had ample opportunity to study this bird at close range and compare it with the numerous HORNED GREBS. There was no definite record of HOLBOELL'S GREBE and only one of the DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. There was an exceptionally good migration of BRANT, beginning Oct 20, and reaching a peak of 1850 on Oct 24 (Listman). All observers were on the alert for birds with yellow neck-bands, but none was seen. A high count of 400 MALLARDS was reported at Mendon Ponds Park on Oct 27 by the Whites. What appears to have been an albino MALLARD was seen by Raetz at this same place on Nov 26. This completely snow-white duck with an orange bill was with a flock of about 60 MALLARDS and 15 BLACK DUCKS. Since it was slightly smaller than the regular mallards and maintained an even flight with them, it was probably an albino rather than a domestic white duck. Diving ducks, including all three SCOTERS appeared during the latter part of October. WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS are normally seen here during the fall and winter, but this season's counts were higher than usual (maximum of 175, by Listman, Oct. 24). Both SURF and AMERICAN SCOTERS were seen on several occasions during this season. The maximum counts were 90 American by Listman on Oct. 24, and 18 Surf Scoters by Kemnitzers on Oct 28. Two COMMON EIDERS were seen on Nov 10, the first at Lighthouse Point by O'Hara, Miller and Listman, and the second at the Russell Station Outlet by Listman alone.

Hawks — Owls: There were no outstanding hawk records during the fall. Only one OSPREY was seen, and there were no Goshawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Bald Eagles, Duck Hawks or Pigeon Hawks. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS appear on Oct 20. Hunters reported RING-NECKED PHEASANTS scarce except in stocked areas, and RUFFED GROUSE plentiful in the hill country south of Rochester. One RUFFED GROUSE was seen by Mrs. Davis at her home within the city limits of Rochester on Nov 14. Shorebird migration was normal except for low counts in a few species. There were only three records of GOLDEN PLOVERS, on Sept 19, Oct 14 and Nov 17, all by Listman. One bird was seen on each of these days. The KNOT was seen only twice during the fall. A PURPLE SAND-PIPER was seen at Braddock's Bay on Oct 27 by Listman and a WESTERN SAND-PIPER on Sept 9 on a GOS hike. RED-BACKED SANDPIPERS and BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS continued until late in November. BAIRD'S and WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS appeared in small numbers. None of the Phalaropes were reported. Two immature jaegers were seen; one was at such a distance that it could only be called a jaeger, and the other was seen under better conditions and from its flight pattern was judged to be a PARASITIC JAEGER (Listman, Oct 24). Two rare gulls

appeared this fall. An immature KITTIWAKE was seen at the mouth of the Genesee River on Sept. 9 on a GOS hike. A LITTLE GULL changing from immature to adult plumage was seen at the Russell Station Outlet by Listman on Sept 19. Two FORSTER'S TERNS were reported at Braddock's Bay on Oct 22 by Listman and O'Hara. This is considerably less than numbers reported during recent years. The SCREECH and GREAT HORNED and SHORT-EARED OWLS have been reported regularly, and the SNOWY OWL once.

Swifts — Shrikes: The ARTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER made its appearance Nov 18 at 1105 Monroe Ave., Rochester, N. Y. A week later, Nov 25-26 two male birds were seen by Stutz, Rising, Taylor, Klonick, Listman, Moon and Davis. The fall migration of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS was light, and there were no other outstanding woodpecker records. The last TREE SWALLOWS were seen on Oct 27. A CAROLINA WREN was reported by Mrs. Haller at Avon on Nov 4, and a MOCKINGBIRD by Rising on Sept 1. First dates of migrants in this group were: WINTER WREN, Oct 12; HERMIT THRUSH, Oct 27; OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH, Sept 8; GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, Sept 15; GOLDEN and RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS, Oct 12; AMERICAN PIPIT, Sept 22, and NORTHERN SHRIKE, Oct 20.

Vireos — Warblers: The warbler migration was much poorer than a year ago, and insignificant compared to the wonderful migration last spring. A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER on Aug 18 (McKinney) and a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT on Aug 20 (White, Dakin) are unusually late dates for these species. The end of August and early September brought most of the warblers normally appearing at that time, but warblers whose normal migration dates normally extend into October were scarcely seen at all. There were only a few low counts of MYRTLE WARBLERS, only one BLACKPOLL and no Palm Warblers. A NORTHERN YELLOWTHROAT was seen on Nov 24 at Braddock's Bay by Listman.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: RUSTY BLACKBIRDS appeared on Oct 12. PURPLE FINCHES have been present regularly in small numbers and GOLDFINCHES were abundant. Other finches, grosbeaks and crossbills have not yet been reported this fall. JUNCO, TREE SPARROW and SNOW BUNTING appeared on Oct 20. Migrations of WHITE-CROWNED, WHITE-THROATED and FOX SPARROWS were light. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was reported at Albion by Lippert and Weeks on Sept. 16.

852 Stone Road, Rochester 16

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

Although there was some unseasonably warm weather in late October and early November, the fall in general has continued the cool, wet pattern of the summer. A few local cold spots had a freeze in early September (my thermometer in Etna was 27° on Sept 10) but in most places the freeze was delayed until the end of October. Migration was poor: no sizeable warbler waves reported, and flocks of migrating sparrows were absent. Winter finches had not appeared by the end of November, but Rough-legged Hawks were unusually abundant and Northern Shrikes were reported from various points.

Loons — Ducks: A COMMON LOON in emaciated condition was picked up on the Main Street of Freeville Nov 18 and died two days later. A HOLBOELL'S GREBE was seen on west side of Keuka Lake Oct 29 (A Robinson); HORNED GREBES were in good numbers at south end of Cayuga and north end of Seneca, where 60 were seen on Nov 4 (R. Rosche). There were fewer CANADA GEESE at the Montezuma Refuge than in some years (500 there Oct 14-27, Smith) but various observers called me concerning large flocks going over Ithaca throughout the season, including one "very large" flock early on Nov 23 (M. Kraft). 250 plus BRANT flew over the Montezuma storage pool on Nov 4 (R. Rosche) and there were scattered reports of them all fall. Two joined a small flock of Mallards at Stewart Park around Nov 17 and remained for ten days, able to be closely approached but anticipating all attempts to net them for banding and color-marking. A flock of

close to 100 SNOW GEESE flew low over a hilltop south of Dryden on Nov 26 (Sweetland), and 4 BLUE GEESE were at Montezuma Nov 4-10 (L. Smith).

On Oct 21, a count was made by Smith of waterfowl at Montezuma as follows: 10,000 MALLARDS; 4000 BLACK DUCKS; 150 GADWALLS; 15,000 BALDPATES; 5000 PINTAILS; 1200 GREEN-WINGED TEAL; 2000 BLUE-WINGED TEAL; 2000 SHOVELLERS; 200 WOOD DUCKS; 50 REDHEADS; 250 RING-NECKS; 20 CANVASBACKS; 20 SCAUP; 10 BUFFLEHEAD; 100 RUDDY DUCKS; 50 HOODED MERGANSERS; 400 AMERICAN MERGANSERS. Notes on ducks from elsewhere include a flock of 200 MALLARDS and BLACKS, with a few PINTAIL, feeding nightly on the pond at Sapsucker Woods; a female RING-NECKED DUCK on the Brick Pond at Elmira Nov 11 (K. Fudge) and a female GADWALL, very rare on Keuka Lake, was shot on the east branch near Hickory Pt. the end of November by H. Purdy. OLD SQUAWS were being reported the end of November on Seneca and Cayuga. AMERICAN SCOTERS appeared early near the south end of Cayuga (first report Sept. 17, Davis), and five SURF SCOTERS were first noted by R. Rosch at north end of Seneca Oct 19 and reported later also by Loren Ward.

Hawks — Owls: Only one TURKEY VULTURE report in the Region this fall — over Ithaca on Oct 20 (C. Tucker). One GOSHAWK at Avoca Nov 10 (Atwood). RED-TAILED HAWKS seemed plentiful throughout the Region, and RED-SHOULDERS also, although the latter were scarce at Avoca (Atwood). Reports of ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS began coming in during October and increased through November. Around Ithaca one or more could be seen almost daily. Seven, mostly dark phase, were seen at the Seneca Ordnance Depot on Dec 1. It remains to be seen if snow cover will drive them further south in search of rodents. The most western portion of the Region does not seem to have as many ROUGH-LEGS as the Ithaca area, I might add. No BALD EAGLES were seen around Montezuma during the fall, one reported over Chemung River on Sep 15 (K. Fudge) and one on Aug 26 and again on Sep 8 at Avoca (Atwood). MARSH HAWKS seem plentiful. An OSPREY stayed around the south end of Cayuga in late September, and was observed on Sep 29 circling for some time with a large goldfish in his talons (Hoyt). An OSPREY was over the Chemung River Oct 3 (Smith). A DUCK HAWK was seen by various observers on different days the last week of September at the storage pool at Montezuma. One was seen at Newfield on Nov 29 (Hellewell).

RUFFED GROUSE seemed to be in good numbers this year. Flocks of COOT appeared early in the fall at the south end of Cayuga, and Guthrie reported them numerous also on Keuka with 100 at Brandy Bay and 100 at Branchport. Shore-birds were reported scarce everywhere — even with mudflats on Keuka and good conditions at south end of Cayuga. Groesbeck reported the water too high along the Canisteo for shorebirds. Six WILSON'S SNIPE were seen by M. Wells near Elmira on Nov 12. A late SPOTTED SANDPIPER was reported by Walker along Cayuga on Nov 17. During a sudden storm, five GREATER YELLOWLEGS dropped into a pond behind the Welles farm near Elmira on Nov 8.

The only ICELAND GULL report so far is from Avoca, on Nov 30 (Atwood). Two points have reported large flocks of MOURNING DOVES the last of November: about 50 at the Darling farm at Watkins Glen and 40 or more at Arthur Lane's at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca.

Several areas reported SCREECH OWLS as scarcer than usual. An adult SAW-WHET OWL, the seventh in 50 years for the Eaton Bird Club was captured, banded and released at Waterloo on November 6 (Walker).

Swifts — Shrikes: A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER was seen in the storage pool woods at Montezuma Nov 4 (Rosche). Few reports of RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS this year — one seen at Avoca on Sep 17 (Atwood). 200 NORTHERN HORNED LARKS reported by L. Bemont near Interlaken Nov 25. A migrating flock of 35 CHICKADEES observed at Montezuma Nov 4 (Rosche). CAROLINA WREN reports included two at Elmira, one at Montour Airport feeder during November, "only one" at Dresden this fall, and one at Freeville, a new station (Hoyt). A MOCKINGBIRD appeared at a feeder the last week in November at Ludlowville (Shepherd). ROBINS were reported everywhere in October in unusually large flocks, and lingered to the middle of November many places. Many observers indicated seeing more BLUEBIRDS this fall than in recent years, so some areas must have had a higher nesting population than we saw in the Finger Lakes this summer.

Vireos — Sparrows: Larger flocks of STARLINGS than any previous fall were observed everywhere. WARBLERS slipped through almost unnoticed, except for Myrtles, which were everywhere. MEADOWLARKS were seen in good numbers, and at Elmira there seemed to be an unusual amount of song this fall (Welles). More REDWINGS than ever around Watkins-Montour area, RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were scarce at Keuka (Guthrie), abundant around Ithaca, particularly at Sapsucker Woods. COWBIRDS very abundant at Elmira (Welles). Huge flocks of blackbirds, mostly REDWINGS and GRACKLES, flew over Ithaca on Nov 5 (T. Merrill). It would be interesting to tie this in with departure of the flocks from Montezuma, but I do not have this information.

CARDINALS are reported absent from feeders all around Ithaca, and the Etna birds are missing too (Hoyt). L. Ward reports Cardinals feeding young at a feeder the first week in October in Geneva. EVENING GROSBEAKS are not staging an early invasion; one pair was seen at Montour Falls on Dec 1 (Mrs. L. Beardsky). Few reports of PINE SISKINS — 3 were seen with goldfinches at Montezuma on Nov 4 (Rosche). SAVANNAH SPARROWS were absent all fall at Geneva (Walker); VESPER SPARROWS seemed abundant around Hornell (Grosbeck). Many areas reported a scarcity of WHITE-THROATS and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS all fall, but from Oct. 6-8 a large number of White-crowns fed in the fields at Sapsucker Woods; however, I trapped none of either species at my banding station this fall, and almost no Song Sparrows during migration. Scattered early reports of LAPLAND LONGSPURS and SNOW BUNTINGS in late October and early November (A. A. Allen). A flock of 30 Snow Buntings near Avoca on Nov 7 (Atwood).

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The weather has been predominantly cold and wet all during the period. The only appreciable stretch of pleasant weather lasted a little more than a week in the middle of October when we had a real Indian summer. The warbler migration was practically non-existent or else passed unobserved, but to blame the weather for that would be pure speculation. Several of our more active observers were unable to be out for three weekends in a row in the middle of September and in addition fewer reports were received from outside the Triple Cities area than usual so that reduced coverage would be as logical an explanation for the small number of warbler reports as the weather.

Loons — Ducks: 16 HORNED GREBES at Norwich Nov 18 (Whites) were the only ones reported. There were PIED-BILLED GREBES at Norwich as late as Oct 10 (Whites). GREAT BLUE HERONS have been quite common around Binghamton and Norwich this fall. GREEN HERONS were pretty well gone after Sep 25 but one was still at Norwich Oct 7. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were found at Sherburne until Oct 7 (Whites). A LEAST BITTERN was seen catching minnows close to one of the busiest bridges across the Susquehanna River in the heart of Binghamton Sep 14 at about 10 a. m. (Goodnough). Several flocks of CANADA GEESE were noted migrating over Oxford from Oct 9 to Oct 22 and one more flock of over 175 birds passed Nov 13 (Stratton). BALDPATES were less common than usual. Five GREEN-WINGED TEAL were found at Boland's Marsh Aug 19 (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club), a month earlier than usual. Our last two WOOD DUCKS were at Chenango Valley State Park Oct 21 (TCNC). Three AMERICAN MERGANSERS were at Norwich from Nov 14 to Nov 18 (Whites).

Hawks — Owls: During the last week of October a TURKEY VULTURE was shot just south of the Binghamton city limits by a young hunter. The event was duly recorded in one of the local papers with a picture of the victim, wings spread, and the victor. A call to the game protectors' office revealed that the matter had

already come to their attention and was being handled in the best possible manner. The Triple Cities Naturalists' Club was able to place a statement in the two largest newspapers in the area, one of which had published the picture, asking that hunters be careful not to shoot hawks and other large birds while hunting and warning them that most of the birds of prey are protected by law. This is the only record we have of a Turkey Vulture in the immediate vicinity of the Triple Cities. On Nov 29 a school boy brought the carcass of an immature RED-TAILED HAWK to a class conducted by a Naturalists' Club member and stated that it was a "chicken hawk" and had been shot by his father the day before (Carter). These two instances seem to be rather typical in this area and point up the need for a public education program such as that being carried out by the Naturalists' Club. The writer has recently had the opportunity to spend four week ends at Interlaken, in the Finger Lakes Region and the contrast between the hawk population of that area and Broome Co. was startling. In the four week ends about 12 hours were spent in the field and thirteen hawks were found. From Aug 15 to Nov 30 thirteen hawks, including the dead one, turned over to Miss Carter, were reported by all observers in the Triple Cities area. It would be of interest to know whether it is the Finger Lakes Region or Broome County that is normal in this respect.

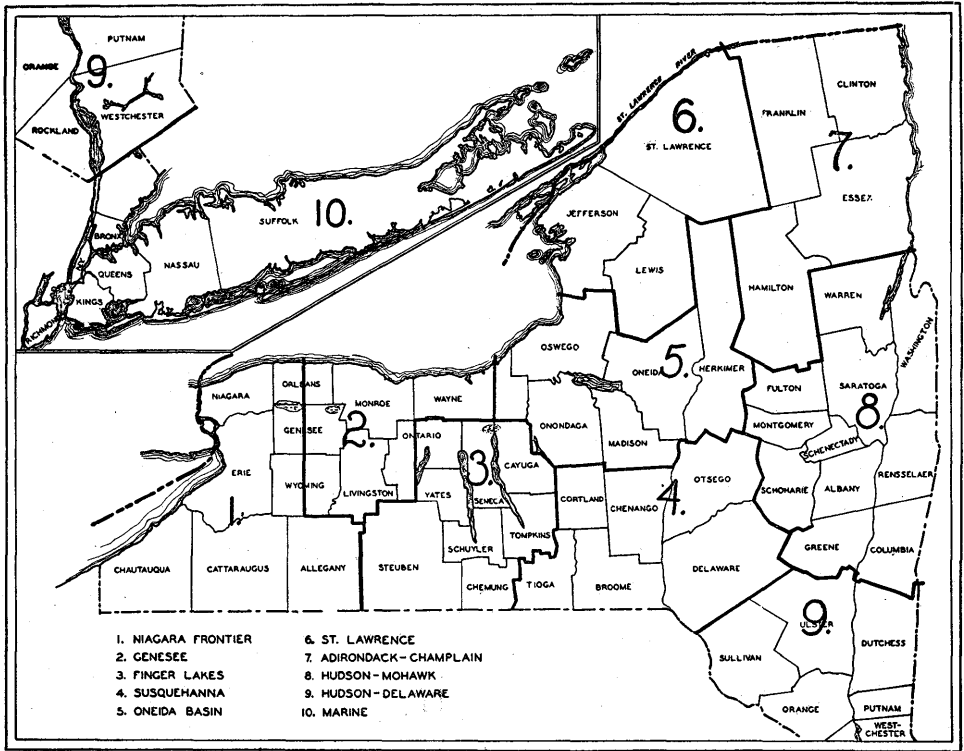
There have been four ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS reported so far this fall; one at Center Lisle in Broome County Oct 28 (Sheffields, Saunders, Mayville), one near Coventry in Chenango County Nov 4 (Nodecker), one at Oxford Nov 22 (Stratton) and one in the Cortland area sometime in Nov (Thurber). A rather late OSPREY was at Oxford Nov 17 (Stratton). SPARROW HAWKS seem to be abnormally low in numbers throughout the region.

The beaver dam that flooded a number of acres at Boland's Marsh north of Binghamton has been deteriorating for the last two years since the beavers were trapped. This has lowered the water level to the extent that a fairly large expanse of mudflat has been exposed. This has brought about the best "shore-birding" in several years. Among small numbers of SPOTTED and SOLITARY SANDPIPERS, GREATER YELLOWLEGS, LEAST, SEMI-PALMATED and PECTORAL SANDPIPERS and SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER two BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were found Aug 19 and again Aug 26 (TCNC). One or two WILSON'S SNIPE were seen at Sherburne Aug 19 to 28 and a late one was at Norwich Nov 16 (Whites). A couple of PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were at Norwich Sep 11 and Sept 12 (Whites).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: NIGHTHAWKS were seen in their usual numbers over Binghamton until Aug. 29 when flocks numbering more than 200 were seen, but none were reported after that (TCNC). CHIMNEY SWIFTS disappeared just as suddenly after Sep 2. The last HUMMINGBIRD was at Norwich Sep 18 (Whites). A SAPSUCKER Oct 3 at Endicott (Carter) and another at Norwich Oct 5 (Whites) were the only ones reported all fall. Two ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS, both males, were found at Chenango Valley State Park Oct 11 (Saunders, Whitson, Wiegiers). A detailed report was submitted and is on file. PHOEBES were being reported regularly until Oct 14 from several areas. An OLIVE-SIDED FLY-CATCHER was near Binghamton Aug 25 (Sheffields). BANK SWALLOWS were around until Aug 21 (Sheffields) and BARN SWALLOWS until Aug 26 (TCNC).

Mrs. Stratton noted the presence of five or six BLUE JAYS daily all during Nov except on Nov 23 when over 20 were in evidence perhaps indicating a wave of migrants. Not a single RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH was reported all fall, and no BROWN CREEPERS until Oct 7 at Endicott (Bemont). HOUSE WRENS were present in the Binghamton area until Oct 13 (Sheffields). The first WINTER WRENS of the season were at STATE PARK near Binghamton Oct 21 (TCNC) and there have been several reported since. ROBINS were seen in flocks of 20 or more until Nov 3 at Oxford (Stratton) and Nov 4 in the Binghamton area (TCNC). Small numbers were present at Oxford until Nov 20 (Stratton), two were at Norwich Nov 27 (Whites) and the last one so far was between Johnson City and Endicott Nov 29 (M. Washburn). A WOOD THRUSH was at Camp Evergreen near Binghamton Nov 4 (Hannans). A rather encouraging number of BLUEBIRDS have been heard migrating over until Oct 14 at Oxford (Stratton) and Nov 4 around Binghamton. On Oct 14 a total of 23 were counted by two widely separated groups around Binghamton. On several other days in October the total was almost as high with incomplete counting.

REPORTING REGIONS



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

A BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was at En-joie Golf Course Sep 2 (TCNC). GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS arrived Sep 30 around Binghamton but their numbers didn't reach a peak until the latter half of Oct. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS didn't arrive until Oct 7, reached their peak Oct 21 and were last seen Oct 28 (TCNC).

On Oct 28 two AMERICAN PIPITS were seen at Guilford and two more at Afton, both in Chenango County (Stratton). No more were reported. CEDAR WAXWINGS were noted in the Triple Cities area in small numbers all through the latter half of Aug and all of Sep but were not apparent during Oct. Then Nov 4 a flock of over 400 was found feeding on honeysuckle and other berries at the Vestal Cemetery (Bemont, R. Sheffield). At Oxford Oct 29 to Nov 3 was a period of increased abundance (Stratton). A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was at Cincinnatus in Cortland County Oct 14 (Whites).

Vireos — Warblers: Our last YELLOW-THROATED VIREO was at En-joie Golf Course Sep 2 and the last BLUE-HEADED VIREO was at State Park Oct 21 (TCNC). The last RED-EYED VIREOS were seen in the Binghamton area Sep 2 (TCNC). The last WARBLING VIREO was at South New Berlin in Chenango County Sep 15 (Whites). A late CAPE MAY WARBLER was at Oxford Oct 17 (Stratton). MYRTLES were the only warblers noted in any numbers. They first appeared at Roundtop in Endicott Oct 7 and were last seen at Norwich Oct 23 (Whites). A BAY-BREASTED WARBLER at Roundtop Oct 7 and another near Endwell Oct 14 were the only ones reported and a BLACK-POLL WARBLER at Boland's Marsh Sep 30 was likewise the only one reported (Bemont). A PALM WARBLER was at Choconut Center Oct 13 (Sheffields).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: BOBOLINKS were last reported Aug 26 from Boland's Marsh (TCNC). MEADOWLARKS were seen regularly but in small numbers, until Nov 4 in the Binghamton area (TCNC) but four were at Guilford Nov 25 (Whites). They were heard singing in two different places Oct 14. REDWINGS were still around at the end of Nov. Several large flocks of BRONZED GRACKLES were seen around Endwell during the last few days of Sep and after that there was a sharp drop in their numbers but a few were seen until Nov 4 (TCNC). A flock of 2500 COWBIRDS was seen on the IBM Country Club fairways Sep 2 and from Sep 22 to 30 flocks numbering in the hundreds were seen flying over Endwell, away from the Country Club in the morning and towards it in the evening (Bemont).

Twelve EVENING GROSBEAKS seen just north of Binghamton on Oct 10 or a day or so earlier are the only ones reported from the whole region so far (Kent). A flock of 30 or more REDPOLLS was found at Oxford Nov 22 (Stratton) but no others. A few TOWHEES stuck it out until Oct 14 when the last ones were seen in the Binghamton area (Marsi). SLATE-COLORED JUNCOS arrived Oct 13 in the Binghamton area (Sheffields) and TREE SWALLOWS Nov 14 (Marsi). The last CHIPPING SPARROWS and FIELD SPARROWS were at Vestal Cemetery Nov 4 (R. Sheffield, Bemont). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS arrived Oct 14 in the Binghamton area (Bemont) and were last seen there and at Norwich Oct 21 (Whites). They were not very numerous. WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS showed up Oct 7 and were gone after Nov 4 (TCNC). They seemed fairly common in the Binghamton area but were not reported from other areas. A few FOX SPARROWS were seen from Oct 28 to Nov 1 in the Binghamton area (TCNC).

710 University Ave., Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

The latter half of Aug and all of Sept continued the wet, cool weather experienced through the summer. Oct and Nov alternated long, soggy stretches with the haze and warmth of days of classical Indian Summer weather. The exceptions to this pattern were severe frosts and freezing spells in three distinct periods — Oct 9-11, Nov 8-12, and Nov 18-25; the first ended the warbler watching, as poor as it was, the second eliminated the late shortbirds, and the third terminated the excellent dabbling duck variety and counts.

The abundant wet weather of Aug and Sept created hundreds of pasture pools which attracted good numbers but produced widespread scattering of the "mud" sandpipers (both Yellow-legs, Solitary, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers, and Wilson's Snipe). Earlier high water plus later poor feeding conditions at Sandy Pond and Oneida Lake account for the low numbers seen at those places. The fall landbird flight was notable chiefly for its absence. All observers, particularly daily watchers, noted a great paucity of migrant landbirds, most marked in the warblers, vireos, thrushes and some of the sparrows. In contrast, the waterfowl flight with the exceptions of Canada Goose, Scaup, and Bufflehead was the finest noted in six years; and an equally good flight of some sparrows was reported. The numerous NYS Conservation Dep't. marshes and ponds have greatly enhanced the waterbird potential of northern Onondaga and Oswego Cos.

The latter Nov records show a remarkable collection of late-staying semi-hardies and a veritable flood of Rough-legged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and Harriers. (Mice are present in great abundance thru northern Onondaga and southern Oswego Counties). Winter finches are to date unreported except for a few Pine Siskins.

Loons — Ducks: COMMON LOON: only fair numbers; first reported on Aug. 31 (early), Shackleton Pt., Oneida Lake. RED-THROATED LOON: three records, all in Nov and from Lake Ontario. RED-NECKED GREBE: one report only, Oct 25, Muskrat Bay, Oneida Lake (Evans). AMER. EGRET: last seen on Sept 23, Oneida Lake. LITTLE BLUE HERON: an immature of this species was seen in the last week of Aug at a Conservation Dept. pond near Parish, Oswego Co. (Weeks). CANADA GOOSE: fall flight very poor; highest count before me is 500, Nov 11, near Selkirk; last reported Nov 30, Oneida Lake. BRANT: flocks of 40 to 500 reported from Oct 15 to Nov 11; the first week of Nov saw many flocks (up to 100) on Oneida Lake (Laible). SNOW GOOSE: one adult on Oct 14, Otisco Lake (Burt); two were shot there in late Oct.

Dabbling ducks: Fall counts show numerous flocks of 100-500 of BLACK DUCK, MALLARDS, BALDPATE, and BLUE-WINGED TEAL; numbers of GREEN-WINGED TEAL and PINTAIL, though lower, were particularly widespread — reported from Otisco Lake, Phoenix, Texas, and Clay in numbers. Other than the counts, the noteworthy features were 13 records of SHOVELLERS, two on Nov 22 as the latest; 5 records of GADWALL from early Oct to Nov 11; BLUE-WINGED TEAL: last reported on Nov 18 — quite late (Weeks, Richardson). WOOD DUCK: the one exception to the fine dabbling flight; highest count before me is 100, Oct 6, Three Rivers Game Management Area, Onon. Co.

Diving ducks: RING-NECKED DUCK and REDHEAD: both abundant at Mud Lake, Onon, Co. until the freeze-up there Nov 25; both very scarce on Oneida Lake where hunting pressure was quite heavy this fall; REDHEAD arrival date is Sept 26, Mud Lake. CANVASBACK: first date is Oct 13, Mud Lake; a flock of two to five thousand has been staying off Shackleton Pt., Oneida Lake, from the last week of Oct to the end of the period. SCAUP: particularly poor flight thru Oct and mid-Nov; by the third week of Nov flocks of 500 to 1500 were being reported, about a third of the usual counts. SCOTERS: a fine fall flight and widely reported with WHITE-WINGED a numerical first by far (in the hundreds); AMERICAN SCOTERS were next in line (groups of 3 to 6) and a few SURF SCOTERS (Sept 30 to Oct 13) reported, the last only from Lake Ontario and Mud Lake.

RUDDY DUCK: widespread flight noted; flocks of 10 to 50 (high count of 75) reported from Ontario, Oneida, and Mud Lake and single birds, mostly females, showed up at various farm ponds in the area. HOODED MERGANSER: fall arrival date is Aug 18 (early), Texas; the high fall count is 11, Nov 18, a time when one can usually see 70 to 80 with no difficulty. RED-BREADED MERGANSER: an enormous flight (10,000 birds) passed north just offshore along Sandy Pond, Oct 28 (Griffin).

Hawks — Owls: 13 migrating singly south, Sep 26, over Three Rivers GMA (Sabin). On Sept 29, R. Wayland-Smith saw a small hawk flight (25 birds in 20 minutes) passing east along the north shore of Oneida Lake; this lake ordinarily does not prove to be a collecting barrier for hawks. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: first reported on Oct 12, Three Rivers GMA; seen in profusion since (up to ten/day), mainly from the mouse-riddled farmlands south, west, and northwest of Oneida Lake. FALCONS: remarkably poor flight (one PEREGRINE, Sept 26, Selkirk, E. Evans; two MERLINS, Sept 29, Sylvan Beach, the Whites); late Nov counts of Kestrels strikingly low with two or three the usual tally for a full day of birding. FLORIDA GALLINULE: last date, one on Nov 4, north of Euclid.

Shorebirds: The rain pools and farm ponds in Aug and Sept lured and held flocks of shorebirds, notably both YELLOW-LEGS (mainly numerous small flocks of 10-12), KILLDEER (100-190/flock), SOLITARY (flocks of 6 to 14), PECTORAL (flocks up to 25), and WILSON'S SNIPE (flocks ranging from 6 to 35); however, early (Aug. 15 - Sept 15) counts of SNIPE were usually 1-3/day. GOLDEN PLOVER: five reports, flocks of two to ten, Sept 5 to Sept 22. RUDDY TURNSTONE: small numbers but with a date range from Jul 1 to Oct 17. KNOT: only one reported, Oct 15 (late), Sandy Pond (Evans). BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: one to three reported regularly from Sylvan Beach from Aug 16 to Sept 22 (Paquettes, Ackleys, Whites); reported only once, Sept 8, from Sandy Pond where the shorebirding was in general poor. LEAST SANDPIPER: unprecedented were the counts of this sandpiper which

at times (mid-Aug to mid-Sept) outnumbered the SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER: only fairly common numerically but quite widespread dates (Sept 23 to Nov 11). NORTHERN PHALAROPE: one, Oct 10-12, Sylvan Beach (Evans, Whites); also 5 (sp?), Aug 31, middle of Oneida Lake (Wright). Counts of BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, SANDERLING, and DOWITCHERS were very low (high counts of 4, 25, and 3 respectively) throughout the entire period. Noteworthy last (and late) dates are: SOLITARY SANDPIPER Oct 4, GREATER YELLOW-LEGS Nov 18, SPOTTED SANDPIPER Oct 14, and SANDERLING Nov 18.

JAEGER: an immature was seen on Sept 8 at the Sandy Pond Inlet; the large size, slow flight, and heavy bill noted by all the observers (Listman, Schaffer, Scheider) would seem to indicate an immature POMARINE. ICELAND GULL: first report is a first year bird at Phoenix, Nov 24; quite unusual to have it so far up (south) on the Oswego River so early in the season. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: first fall date (adult) is Sept 16, Sandy Pond. BONAPARTE'S GULL: very scarce all fall, especially along Lake Ontario; high count is 50, Sylvan Beach. COMMON TERN: flock counts from Oneida Lake, Oswego, and Sandy Pond about 50% of similar '55 figures; last date is 3, Oct 12, Sylvan Beach. SHORT-EARED OWL: extremely interesting is a report of one near Pennellville, Aug 3 (Weeks) as it suggests a possible breeding station.

Swifts — Shrikes: NIGHTHAWK: last seen on Oct. 4 (late), Syracuse. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: last date, two Sept 23, Sandy Pond. FLICKER: Very poor Sep counts along the Sandy Pond dunes (high count is a sparse 12); several noted in late Nov (Nodecker, Chamberlaine) attempting to winter. SAPSUCKER: reports show this to be numerically a rare migrant this fall. HAIRY and DOWNY WOOD-PECKERS: a distinct flight noted along the Sandy Pond dunes and a marked local increase in the 4th week of Oct and the first two weeks of Nov; numbers dropped in late Nov and winter populations appear below normal at present. Flycatchers in general: a very poor flight and, with the exceptions of WOOD PEWEE and PHOEBE, numerically about 10% of the expected fall counts; departure dates, PHOEBE, Oct 15 (early) and WOOD PEWEE, Oct 7 (late) at Rome (Mrs. Aspinwall). BANK and CLIFF SWALLOW: last reported, one each, on Sept 16 near Texas. BLUE JAY: many flocks (5-60) flooded the region (Aspinwall, Paquette, Minor) from late Aug to mid-Nov; late Nov saw a sharp drop in the flocks and counts reported.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: a fairly common migrant in the last week of Sept and the first two weeks of Oct around Oneida Lake; no flight observed at Sandy Pond. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: a rare migrant this fall; total of reports is four, total number of individuals is eight. CAROLINA WREN: appears to be continuing its spread; one, Sept 3, Morrisville (Carter); one, last two weeks of Nov, Hamilton, are both new stations.

ROBIN: many reports of large migrating flocks; the abundant wild grape and berry crop appears to be holding smaller flocks in the area beyond the usual departure dates for such numbers. BLUEBIRD: this (and the ROBIN) were the only thrushes reported in numbers; many observers (e. g. Nodecker, Spofford) commented on the many migrant flocks (4-20) of BLUEBIRDS this fall; it appears that the breeding season north of us was very successful as local breeding success could not account for such numbers. PIPIT: fall arrival date is 100, Aug 31, near Texas (Evans); very early! Northern Shrike: first reported on Oct 28; one to two/day since with a 2:1 adult: immature ratio.

Vireos — Warblers: Numbers of these two groups were very poor all fall; the few birders who saw any warblers noted small tight concentrations of 20 or 50 birds of 8 to 12 species and then "acres of birdless woods." The most noteworthy reports are the departure dates, many of them being "latest ever" for the area. BLACK AND WHITE: two, Oct. 18, Camillus. GOLDEN-WINGED: one male, Sept 9, Bridgeport (Wright). YELLOW: one, Sept 26, Three Rivers GMA (Sabin). CERULEAN: four, Sept 1, Camillus (Evans, Bitz). YELLOW-THROAT: one, Nov 4, Selkirk (Evans). CANADA: one, Oct 3, Selkirk (Evans). CHESTNUT-SIDED: one immature, Oct. 6, Three Rivers FMA (Wangell). BAY-BREASTED: first fall arrival, one, Aug 18, Sandy Pond. Only CANADA and WILSON'S WARBLERS came within 50% of normal fall counts. Particularly scarce were BLACK-THROATED GREEN,

CAPE MAY, MYRTLES, and REDSTARTS. No reports of ORANGE-CROWNED or CONNECTICUT.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: BOBOLINK: last date, one Sept 30, Sandy Pond (Sabin). MEADOWLARK: like the Flicker, many are attempting to winter (flocks up to 20). A blackbird-starling roost at Clay Swamp, Onondaga Co. increased from 30,000 in mid-Sept to 80,000 in mid-Oct (40% RED-WINGS, 40% STARLINGS); the sharp mid-Nov drop in numbers came with the Nov 8-12 freezing spell.

PURPLE FINCH: fall counts very low (2-5/day) and no late Nov records. GOLD-FINCH: the late Sept to early Nov movement was numerically impressive (flocks up to 150+ and was commented on my many. Fall sparrows can be nearly divided into two major groups: (1) excellent fall numbers of SONG, SWAMP, FIELD, VESPER, and WHITE-CROWNED in that order of abundance; (2) below par were CHIPPING and SAVANNAH SPARROWS and especially low were WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS and SLATE-COLORED JUNCOS; high flock counts of the last two are 30 and 25 respectively! Late Nov reports of JUNCO are sparse. FOX SPARROW: first fall arrival on Sep 26, Selkirk; fall numbers scant. LINCOLN'S SPARROW: small flight (three to six/day) Sep 26 to Oct 5 at Selkirk (Evans).

151 Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8, New York

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

Loons — Ducks: HORNED GREBES were first seen Oct 5 and were found along Lake Ontario until the end of Nov. LEAST BITTERN—Sep 10 at Russell. RUDDY DUCK—12 at Black River Bay Oct 19. OLD SQUAW—several off Cape Vincent and Stony Point in late Nov.

Hawks — Owls: ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK—at Madrid Oct 17, an early date for St. Lawrence County. Belknap says it was the best flight in several years. They seem to keep close to the lake while moving south. They were seen to the end of Nov. BALD EAGLE—near Redwood (J. Blake). On Oct 3 a DUCK HAWK was seen sitting on a rock in Grasse River near Madrid. PIGEON HAWK—at Stony Point Sep 13 (Belknap). COOT—Nov 13 at Red Mill and several hundred at Lakeview Marsh near Ellisburg Oct 29 and one still there Nov 20. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER—several the first half of Sep and one at Stony Point Sep 8. VIRGINIA RAIL—Oct 3 at Madrid. GOLDEN PLOVER—one at Stony Creek Outlet Sep 9. Among the birds seen by David Gordon on Sep 8 and 9 at Stony Point were: HUDSONIAN CURLEW, DOWITCHER and RUDDY TURNSTONE. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER—one in marsh at Perch Lake Refuge. SOLITARY SANDPIPER Oct 3 at Madrid. With other species nearby for comparison Nichols saw four WESTERN SANDPIPERS on mossy rocks in the Grasse River at Morley, and one at Madrid the next two days. KILLDEER and MOURNING DOVE—Nov 28 at Waddington. LEAST SANDPIPER—Sep 1 at Madrid. WILSON'S PHALAROPE and NORTHERN PHALAROPE—at Perch Lake Refuge Aug 19 (Gordon). A PARASITIC JAEGER was reported by Harold Evans at Point Peninsula Sep 9. BONAPARTE'S GULL—one at Point Peninsula Sep 9, and 20 at Southwick's Beach Nov 20 which it late (Belknap). BLACK-BACKED GULL—first Sep 18 and several at Chaumont Bay in late Nov. CASPIAN TERN—ten at Stony Point Outlet Sep 5. No Snowy Owls were reported. SHORT-EARED OWLS—late Nov near Philadelphia.

Swifts — Shrikes: YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER—Sep 10 at Madrid. LEAST FLYCATCHER—Sep 19 at Madrid. HOUSE WREN—Sep 29 near Carthage. LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN—Oct 3 at Waddington. One of the most interesting records is that of a MOCKINGBIRD which appeared at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Coppernoll near Morristown on the St. Lawrence River on November 25. This was first reported by Louise Blake of Potsdam. The identification was confirmed by John Belknap who saw the Mockingbird at close range at the feeder Dec 9. There were a few BLUEBIRDS seen this summer. Three were near Watertown Nov 21 (Nelson). NORTHERN SHRIKE—first seen Oct 29.

Warblers — Sparrows: WARBLING VIREO—Sep 19 at Madrid. MYRTLE WARBLERS were seen only in small numbers at Madrid from Sep 28 to Oct 17, but were common at Watertown. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER—Oct 3 at Waddington. OVENBIRD—Sep 29 near Carthage. CANADA WARBLER—Sept 10 at Madrid. MEADOWLARKS—late November at Potsdam and Watertown. WHITE-CROWNED and WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS stayed near Potsdam for more than two weeks. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS stayed around Watertown for only a short time. Two large flocks of EVENING GROSBEAKS have been seen near Potsdam and eight were at Madrid Nov 14, but none since. No Evening Grosbeaks have been reported in Jefferson County. TREE SPARROWS came early to Potsdam and to Madrid Oct 3 also early. They were common in Nov (Belknap).

173 *Haley St., Watertown*

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

In a year which will no doubt set records for unseasonable weather, the ebbing months held true to form. September, October and early November were on the average warmer than July and August. Late insect hatches held over large flights of insectivorous species that normally would have been forced farther south. Warblers and thrushes were rather unmelodiously trying to repeat their spring songs. Many of the common species were still present when we hunted during the last week of October. Maximum for November was 70 degrees, minimum 5 degrees; the drop coming at the end of the month. There were 18 totally clear, balmy days in November, but successive snows at the end of the month accumulated to six inches.

Loons — Ducks: COMMON LOONS were not as conspicuous this fall, probably due to the very dry summer which depleted smaller ponds and lakes to an alarming extent. HORNED GREBES, migrants not affected by local conditions, were in greater numbers. Contrary to early reports, ducks were in this locale in only average numbers. CANVASBACKS and BALDPATES for the first time came through in sufficient numbers to make the record. Few REDHEADS were reported, against last year's good populations. In order of abundance, puddle species were: BLACK, BLUE-WINGED TEAL, PINTAIL, MALLARD, WOOD DUCK and BALDPATE; divers: GOLDEN-EYE, GREATER SCAUP, BUFFLEHEAD, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, and CANVASBACK. Both CANADA and SNOW GEESE were very common from early Nov. Smaller numbers of SNOWS continued until last reported Dec 9 at Au Sable Point.

Shrikes — Sparrows: Both SHRIKES have been common in this area, especially in the vicinity of the larger marshes. The first record of CANADA JAY in this immediate area comes from Upper Jay. First report of ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER Dec 8, when a friend brought me a specimen. PILEATED, HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKERS common, CREEPERS, NUTHATCHES fairly common, BLUE JAYS ever present. PURPLE FINCHES and GOLDFINCHES have been very common. TREE SPARROWS have not been as evident as other years.

Keeseville

REGION 8 — MOHAWK-HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The fall weather in the Schenectady area was generally quite mild. Although September temperatures were a bit below normal, those for the following two months were above average. Precipitation was relatively light throughout the period.

The fall migration did not measure up to the almost incredible flight of last spring. Possibly because of the relatively warm weather, the waterfowl migration was late and poor. The warbler migration was fairly good, but short, the bulk of these birds passing through during several days in mid-September. Reports of northern finch species were scarce or absent.

From the standpoint of individual records, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Tomhannock Reservoir on November 4 is unquestionably of the most interest. Other good records include a Little Blue Heron, a Caspian Tern, and a Dickcissel.

Loons — Ducks: COMMON LOONS appeared down in numbers in comparison to last year. A RED-NECKED GREBE, the first reported locally this year, was present at Saratoga Lake from Nov 15 to at least the end of the month (Esly Hallenbeck and others). American Egrets departed early, the last report being of a pair along the Hudson below Albany on Sep 16. From Aug 19 through 26 an immature Little Blue Heron, the first reported locally in four years, was present at Watervliet Reservoir, just south of Schenectady. As previously stated, the waterfowl migration was late and below average in numbers. During October the New York State Conservation Department reported a decline in numbers in the Hudson valley, although it reported increases elsewhere. However, all species that could reasonably be expected locally were represented. Several small flocks of CANADA GEESE were observed between Oct 10 and 18 (Brother Austin, Hazel Bundy, Marjorie Foote, Virginia Sampson). During November CANVASBACK, LESSER SCAUP, AMERICAN GOLDENEYE, and BUFFLEHEAD were present in fair numbers at Saratoga Lake. Some 30 WOOD DUCK were seen at Crescent Reservoir on Oct 21. On Oct 13 a SURF SCOTER was seen at Tomhannock Reservoir (Byron Hipple, Howard Malone), and on Nov 4 three were observed there (Schenectady Bird Club). This is a rare species locally. Several WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were seen during October and November.

Hawks — Owls: Some 12 RED-TAILED HAWKS were seen migrating high overhead at Tomhannock Reservoir on Nov 4. On Oct 27 a ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was observed near Rotterdam (Carrington Howard), and on Nov 11 a black phase individual was seen at Voorhesville (E. Hallenbeck, James Meritt). On Sep 15 a good count of seven TURKEY VULTURES was made at East Chatham (Eleanor Radke). There were no BALD EAGLE reports. RUFFED GROUSE and PHEASANTS were relatively scarce throughout the period.

There were several interesting shorebird reports. A LESSER YELLOW-LEGS was present at Watervliet Reservoir on Aug 19 (SBC), and on the latish date of Oct 6 two were seen at Vischer Ponds (J. Merritt). There was a nice grouping of shorebirds at Tomhannock Reservoir on Sep 23. Included were six RED-BACKED SANDPIPERS, two SANDERLING, a PECTORAL SANDPIPER, and several YELLOW-LEGS of both species (Brother Austin, B. Hipple). The RED-BACKS were the first reported locally since 1952, and the SANDERLINGS were the first seen in this area since 1953.

On Oct 3 an immature CASPIAN TERN was picked up dead at Canada Lake in Fulton County. The bird had been noticed by residents there on Oct 1 and 2 because it was obviously in a weakened condition. This was the first local report for this species in twelve years. CUCKOOS were inexplicably almost completely absent during the fall. The **only** report was of a BLACK-BILL at East Chatham on Oct

14 (E. Radke). OWL reports were few, there being only a few scattered records of the resident SCREECH and GREAT HORNED.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: NIGHTHAWKS departed early, the last report being Sep 6 (Guy Bartlett). Two RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS were seen in Amsterdam on Oct. 2 (Margaret Fitzgerald). PILEATED WOODPECKERS were very widely reported during the fall, all but one record submitted being of an individual bird. SAPSUCKERS were scarce.

On Nov 4 a SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER was seen at Tomhannock Reservoir (SBC). The bird was observed closely and well, in good light, by several participants on a scheduled field trip. Attempts to relocate the bird that afternoon and subsequently in vain. This constitutes a first record for Region 8. On Oct 6 three extremely late KINGBIRDS were seen near Berlin, Rensselaer County (SBC). An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was observed at Vischer Ponds on Sep 3. On Sep weather, over 300 land birds, 272 of them warblers, crashed into the Albany airport (see viroo-warbler section). A latish group of nine BARN SWALLOWS was seen near Crescent Reservoir on Sep 15 (J. Merritt). A CAROLINA WREN was recorded at Amsterdam on Oct 14 and Nov 15 (M. Fitz), and another was reported from Scotia on Nov 8 (E. Hallenbeck). Both species of KINGLETS were recorded in good numbers during October. A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was observed at Mohawk View on Oct 14 (Walt Kasha). On Nov 19 a NORTHERN SHRIKE was seen at Amsterdam (M. Fitz), and another was observed at Burnt Hills on Nov 25 (William Foote).

Vireos — Warblers: The warbler migration was at its height during the period Sept 15 through 18. On the night of Sept 15, when there was foggy and rainy weather, over 300 land birds, 272 of them warblers, crashed into the Albany airport ceilometer. About two thirds of these birds were killed outright, and several others picked up alive later died. Guy Bartlett, who happened to hear the many "chips" of low flying migrants during the night, called the airport on a hunch and was informed that birds were abundant around the ceilometer light. He drove out at once and was a witness to much of the destruction that took place. The following is the count of warblers either picked up or seen alive but in a stunned condition: BAY-BREADED 73, MAGNOLIA 35, TENNESEE 23, YELLOW-THROAT 21, BLACKBURNIAN 21, OVENBIRD 20, BLACK-THROATED GREEN 8, REDSTART 7, CANADA 6, BLACK-THROATED BLUE 6, CHESTNUT-SIDED 5, BLACK AND WHITE 4, BLACK-CAPPED 4, NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH 1, MYRTLE 1, BLACKPOLL 1, PARULA 1, and CAPE MAY 1. Thirty-four other warblers could not be further identified. The NASHVILLE WARBLER, which was observed on several occasions between Sep 9 and 29, was the only warbler species reported which was not also recorded at the airport. Reports of the PARULA and CAPE MAY WARBLERS were limited to the airport disaster. At Loudonville the BLACK-CAPPED WARBLER was observed on four occasions between Sep 12 and 27 (Mabel W. French), and there was a report from Amsterdam on Sep 21 (M. Fitz).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The last report of Bobolinks was of three near Vischer's Ferry on Sep 15 (J. Merritt). In the Burnt Hills region on Oct 21 a huge flight of REDWINGS was noted (M. Foote); numbers were probably in the hundreds of thousands. A SCARLET TANAGER was observed at Loudonville on Oct 1 (M. French), and on Oct 21 a late ROSE-BREADED GROSBIEK was seen at Amsterdam (M. Fitz). From Oct 19 through 23 a Dickcissel, the first reported locally this year, was present at an Amsterdam feeder and seen by several observers. There were several Cardinal reports, but apparently only two, or at the most three, individual birds were involved. A female EASTERN TOWHEE appeared at a Niskayuna feeder on Nov 28 (Novak).

At this early writing it does not appear as though this will be another "northern finch" winter. There have been no local reports of PINE GROSBIEKS, SISKINS, REDPOLLS or CROSSBILLS. Purple Finches have been scarce. The only EVENING GROSBIEK report of which I know is of a pair present at Vail Mills, just north of Amsterdam, in mid-September. By this date last year and in 1954 EVENING GROSBIEKS were swarming around area feeders. Their arrival this year has been much awaited, but so far in vain.

The WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW migration was reasonably good, the extreme dates being Sep 27 and Oct 24. JUNCOS were late in arriving and were definitely

not present in above average numbers. TREE SPARROWS were first reported on Oct 20. In Niskayuna the CHIPPING SPARROW was last seen on Oct 28 (Hazel Eddy). The only LINCOLN'S SPARROW report was from Amsterdam on Sep 28 (M. Fitz). Reports of the SNOW BUNTING indicated the species arrived early, although not in large numbers. On Nov 4 a small group was seen at Galway Lake (Mildred Crary), and on Nov 6 a small flock was seen at Thacher Park (Mary Johnson). There were at least two mid-November reports from Saratoga Lake.

16 *Ellen Road, Scotia 2*

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Unlike the unpleasant, backward weather of last spring our fall period has given us no similarity in a reversal of that condition. Following a moderate summer, fall weather continued to be pleasantly normal throughout most of its duration. This continued weather stability was reflected in the rather normal, unexciting way the migration progressed through our region during its early and middle stages. Nothing seemed to be in a great hurry. As a matter of fact, an aftermath of lingering migrants occurred following the peak of migration and as a result of this several late departure dates were recorded. It may be of interest to mention here that the prolonged fair weather also extended the activity of many insects. While all of this was going on, time came for our Northern winter visitors to arrive and except for a variety or two, this aspect of the migration gave us little.

Loons — Ducks: A RED-THROATED LOON was spotted on the Hudson near upper Nyack on Oct 14 (David Hill). Only a few local records have been made of this species. The last report of the AMERICAN EGRET in our region was made on Nov 4 at Lake DeForest, Rockland Co. (Robert Deed). On Sep 2, Mr. and Mrs. William Grierson carefully identified a LOUISIANA HERON near the Reservoir in Katonah, Westchester. This Southern species rarely wanders above the latitude of New Jersey. Good October and November flights of CANADA GEESE were reported from the Ulster and Rockland areas. No reports have been received on the AMERICAN EGRET. Ducks were scattered and generally scarce in the northern part of the region but in contrast were much better in the lower half. A BALDPATE appeared on Lake DeForest Sep 22, an early date (Morton Isler). Mr. Isler also saw a PINTAIL at the same place on Oct 7, three weeks earlier than any recorded date. An early REHEAD was found on Orange Lake, Orange Co., Oct 7 by Ed Treacy. On the same date at Cornwall, Treacy observed a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER on the Hudson. This date seemed early for this species. Some examples of the unusually abundant RUDDY DUCKS in the lower half of the region are shown by the following reports: first, Oct 7 at Orange Lake (Treacy); off Grand View, Oct 14 (Hill); 25 at Tomahawk Lake, Orange Co., Oct 25 (Martha Earl); 44 on Congers Lake, Rockland, Nov 3 (Marjorie Hopper); an amazing number of over 500 on the Hudson below Nyack on Nov 28 by Robert Deed.

Hawks — Owls: Much of the hawk flight through the lower Hudson Valley was considered normal and usual. BROAD-WINGED HAWKS received chief mention. Stanley Grierson reports seeing about 350 on Sep 19, migrating over Katonah. A BROAD-WING was shot by a hunter near Lake Mohonk, Ulster Co. last September and had as its stomach contents this interesting variety of fare: 1 smokey shrew; 1 common blarina; 2 peromyscus; 1 katydid; 1 horsefly; tomato worms (Heinz Meng). The ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK appeared in the Stone Ridge area of Ulster on Nov 27 (Fred Hough). While leading a Rockland Audubon Society field trip, Nov 11, Tom Dow flushed a KING RAIL in the Piermont Marsh. This makes Rockland's second record. On Sep 18 Conrad Rahe found a FLORIDA GALLINULE that had been killed by hitting a power line near Granite Springs, Westchester (Ident. by S. Grierson). COOT were unusually plentiful in the lower Hudson area (Bob Deed; Leslie Pearl). Three

Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Lake DeForest Aug 28 (Mr. and Mrs. Steffens). The owl status for the region seemed to be normal.

Swifts — Shrikes: The reports showed a good flight of NIGHTHAWKS over many sections of the region during latter Aug and early Sep. On Oct 8, a hybrid RED-SHAFTED X YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER, killed by a cat, was found at Truesdale Lake (Lewisboro Township, Northern Westchester Co.), by young Kathy Sumner, 5th grade student in the Lewisboro school. The bird has a typical head of the female Yellow-shafted Flicker with conspicuous red spot. Both wings are about 1/3 Red-shafted feathers, the remainder typical Yellow-shafted; tail mostly Red-shafted (Mrs. Wm. Grierson). The FLICKER is now in the study collection of Stanley Grierson. Eight RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS were seen near Purgatory Swamps, Orange Co., Oct 3 (M. Earl). Bob Deed found one still in the vicinity of Nyack on Nov 23. Bob says the chief occupation of this bird for the past few weeks has been to stuff acorns into a hole in a telephone pole. There's also a hole on the other side where most of the acorns fall out to the ground; he picks them up from the base of the pole and sticks them back in the first hole. Perpetual motion? A rare find, was the ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER discovered in the Mianus Gorge, Bedford Village, Westchester Co., on Oct 20. It was studied closely by Douglas Orbison, Mabel Little and Gerald Wood. An ALDER FLYCATCHER was heard singing in Katonah on Sep 9 (Wm. Russell).

Two BANK SWALLOWS appeared in Rockland on the late date of Oct 20 (Morton Isler). BARN SWALLOWS appeared to have nested late in some instances in Sullivan Co. (Wilbur Carr) and in Orange Co. (M. Earl). In Ulster, the CROW movement was extended over a longer period than usual (Hough). The TUFTED TITMOUSE seems to be well established in many sections of the region. Not a single report was received on the RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. A MOCKINGBIRD was seen at Croton Point, Westchester on Oct 14 (Joseph Malone; Wm. Fennell; Lewis Bowen). A young ROBIN under the attention of Mr. Wilbur Carr was not able to forage for itself until the last week in Sep (Sullivan Co.). Oct 12, late departure date for the WOOD THRUSH in Rockland (Eugene Brown). The OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH found on Nov 7, near New City, by Mrs. Frank Steffens is a late date for that species in Rockland. Some observers felt that the BLUEBIRD might have suffered considerable decimation as a result of last Spring's poor weather but, judging from the comments received, the returning numbers have been gratifying. A BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER appeared at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Steffens in New City, Aug 30, making a first fall or late summer record for Rockland. Martha Earl said she saw three BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS in a flock of about 50 Cedar Waxwings on Nov 24, at Cornwall, Orange County. This is a rare bird in the Northeast and should be studied very carefully.

Vireos — Warblers: The vireo-warbler migration in our region was quite normal and unspectacular during the height of their movement, with most of the concentrations occurring down around Rockland and Westchester. The continued fine weather of late October and most of November must have influenced some of the warblers to linger longer than usual. The elusive PHILADELPHIA VIREO was found and carefully studied by William Russell at Brewster, Putnam Co., Sep 11. Robert Deed was pleasantly surprised when an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER put in an appearance about his home in Nyack on a late date of Nov 17. Earlier, one was seen by Frank Steffens, Oct 6, at his home in New City. On Nov 20 Mrs. Steffens saw a NASHVILLE WARBLER in New City—latest Rockland record by a month. Considering their general rarity more CAPE MAY WARBLERS were seen this fall in the lower counties than usual. In Ulster, more November MYRTLES were seen than usual. Singularly, the most exciting find in Ulster County this Fall was the discovery of a male KENTUCKY WARBLER at Stone Ridge on Dec 5, by Hough. It was seen again on Dec 10. This date is almost two months later than the latest fall departure date for this species in Northeastern U. S. recorded in Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 203, 512-513). The bird seemed happy to have found a dense honeysuckle vine that was growing against the porch of the house — a bit of leafy summer green and a touch of home! Three reports on the CONNECTICUT WARBLER: one in Steffens' bird bath in New City, Sep 4, one in Katonah, Sep 14 (Wm. Russell); while in Ulster, Robert Pyle reported one on Sep 13 and another on Sep 29, both at New Paltz. A very late YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was found near New City on

Nov 6 by Mr. and Mrs. Steffens. This is Rockland's only fall record and a late one!

Blackbirds — Sparrows: In Nyack, Mrs. Hopper found a late staying BALTIMORE ORIOLE on Nov 6. GRACKLES seem to converge or concentrate in the lower Hudson area. Mrs. William Irving estimated about 8,000 of them at West Nyack on Oct 27. To date only one EVENING GROSBEEK has been reported in the whole region. A single bird was seen near the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster, Oct 28 by Henry and Ilse Dunbar. Only a few PURPLE FINCHES have been seen. No fall flight of the PINE GROSBEEK. The only PINE SISKIN report came from Mrs. John Kelly; she saw about a dozen at Amawalk, Westchester on Oct 9. No evidence of either CROSSBILL. A lingering VESPER SPARROW was found by John Orth and RAS field trip party at Bear Mountain on Nov 17. An immature CHIPPING SPARROW remained about a feeding station at Mohonk Lake, Ulster until mid-November (Dan Smiley). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were in fair numbers during the latter half of October. Mrs. Earl reports more in Orange and Bob Deed more in Rockland. FOX SPARROWS showed good November numbers for the region. Several observations on the LINCOLN'S SPARROW were recorded: Bulls' Mills, Orange Co., Sep 29 (Martha Earl); New City, Rockland Co., Oct 14 (Steffens); Kripplebush, Ulster Co., Oct 14 (Hough); Lomontville, Ulster Co., Nov 6, a late date (Henry and Ilse Dunbar). SONG SPARROWS sometimes nest late. In Ulster, near Stone Ridge a female Song Sparrow was found caring alone (the male had gone) for her nestlings which she brought off the nest on Sep 15! (Hough). This is our latest known record. The October song period of the Song Sparrow was more intensified this year in Ulster, and probably in other areas too, extending into early November (F. Hough). The first SNOW BUNTING reported in the region was seen near the Ashokan Reservoir, in Ulster on Oct 24 (Henry & Ilse Dunbar).

Accord 1, N. Y.

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Fall migration progressed gradually with practically no hurricane weather to bring infiltration of southern species into the region. With the exception of a few frosty mornings, mild weather prevailed into mid-Nov (the end of the period) which perhaps accounts for the presence of late stragglers and four or five American Egrets at Jones Beach with several present also at Jamaica Bay. The first part of Sep brought good flights of warblers, representing the "Southern Tier" counties, to Long Island. Present, on Sep 4, at Woodmere Woods were a Kentucky, a Worm-eating, numerous Canada Warblers and an estimate of 75 Redstarts (A Penberthy). Several observers, including the writer, noticed an apparent scarcity of such warblers as Nashville, Tennessee, Black-poll and Blackburnian. This aroused some speculation as to whether their ranks had been somewhat decimated by the cold spring and insect shortage. However, in Oct northeasters were prevalent and may have had an adverse effect on Long Island land-bird distribution. Apparently these winds were not sufficiently strong, however, to force Golden Plover landward on eastern Long Island and reported counts were comparatively light. Highlights of the period among pelagic and water birds were: local abundance of Cory's Shearwaters and Gannets, appearances of Kittiwakes in Nov, and late straggling sandpipers and terns to the end of the period.

Concerning land-birds, the Tree Swallow flight this fall did not appear to equal former ones. Also down in numbers were Hermit Thrushes and Red-breasted Nuthatches. The hardy Myrtle Warbler appeared in large

numbers in early Oct, especially on the outer beaches; and a remarkable flight of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs moved along Fire Island beach in mid-Nov.

Loons — Ducks: Fair number of LOONS were passing through in early Nov at which time HORNED GREBES increased in numbers. An estimated 300 SHEARWATERS were milling around with about 400 GANNETS and a smaller number of BONAPARTE'S GULLS at Montauk, Oct 25 (R. Grant, Dr. and Mrs. R. Chamberlain). Included among the SHEARWATERS were some 50 CORY'S, and 30 were also counted Nov 6 along with both CORMORANTS in the same area (J. Mayer, G. Rose). An estimated 200 GANNETS an hour flew along the breaker-line Nov 3 for several hours into a stiff northeast wind at Jones Beach (Elliott, Grant). AMERICAN and SNOWY EGRETS remained late; one or two LOUISIANA HERONS, but very few LITTLE BLUES into Oct. A CATTLE EGRET appeared at Brookhaven Oct 20 and remained several days for the second record on Long Island (A. Bolt, D. Puleston); and a late YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON was noted at Jones Beach, Nov 24 (Miss M. Clark, E. Treacy). Waterfowl: six WHISTLING SWANS, Montauk, Nov 6 (Mayer, Rose); 10 SNOW GEESE, Nov 17 at Fire Island (H. Darrow); several BLUE GEESE at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, early Nov (Brooklyn Bird Club, Linnæan Society). Among duck rarities are included three AMERICAN EIDER one HARLEQUIN DUCK, Montauk, latter Nov; and two EUROPEAN WIDGEONS at Jones Beach, Nov 3 (J. Bull). Goodly numbers of ducks were found on western Long Island, but there appeared to be a scarcity of RED-BREADED MERGANSERS and HOODED MERGANSERS in the early part of Nov.

Hawks — Owls: Buteo flight very light; several ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK reports, first, Nov 3, at Jones Beach (P. Post); a few DUCK and PIGEON HAWK records. Among rails, two FLORIDA GALLINULES at Wantagh, Oct 9 (Miss H. Sullivan, Mrs. E. W. Teale); SORA at Moriches, Oct 7 (Puleston); YELLOW RAIL at Lawrence, Nov 12 (J. Bull). Good flights of shore birds appeared, with both GODWITS present for several weeks at Moriches. Light GOLDEN PLOVER flight, maximum, Mecox, Sep. 19, four (Mrs. G. G. Fry, Mrs. M. Ingersoll, Mrs. W. Walter). Several PHALAROPE records: Northern at The Raunt, Sep 22, with two birds present and one WILSON'S, same place Aug. 25 (numerous observers). Interesting were lingering WHITE-RUMPED and BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS in three areas: three WHITE-RUMPED and two BAIRD'S at Mecox, Oct 31 (Puleston, G. Raynor); one Baird's, Jamaica Bay Sanctuary to Nov 15 (Brooklyn Bird Club); one WHITE-RUMPED, one BAIRD'S and one SEMIPALMATED at Montauk on Nov 15 (Elliott). Latest GODWIT, Jamaica Bay, Nov 10, one HUDSONIAN (Mayer, Rose); apparently the MARBLED GODWIT left in early fall.

An ambitious gull count of the Brooklyn area in early Nov totaled 23,309 HERRING GULLS, 246 RING-BILLS, 566 GREAT BLACK-BACKED, 60 LAUGHING and 55 BONAPARTE'S GULLS (P. Buckley, R. Clermont, N. Smith). A very early KITTIWAKE appeared at Mecox, Sep 16 (Mr. and Mrs. C. McKeever); 65 were counted at Jones Beach, Nov 12 (Bull), KITTIWAKES were present at Montauk, Nov 6, also Nov 15, and 12 at Riis Park, Nov 17. One KUMLIEN'S GULL was seen at Gilgo, Oct 14 (Darrow) and two CASPIAN TERNS at Fire Island, Oct 7 by the same observer. Apparently a movement of the latter passed through about that time, as Raynor and Puleston had eight at Mecox, Oct 6. A presumably sick SOOTY TERN was almost caught at Fire Island, Sep 30 by John Bull at which time he saw a LONG-TAILED Jaeger following a fishing boat inside the inlet. A POMARINE JAEGER was seen at Fire Island, Oct 7 (Darrow) and one or two other records of jaegers came in. Very late were eight COMMON, 30 FORSTER'S and three ROSEATE TERNS at Rockaway Jetty on Nov 4. No reports of alcids to date; no late cuckoo reports as of several years ago; several BARN OWL records, one from Jones Beach, one from Fire Island; two SNOWY OWL reports at Jones Beach at end of period; singles, SHORT-EARED OWL, Fire Island, East Hampton; one SAW-WHET OWL, Far Rockaway, Nov 12 (Bull).

Swifts — Shrikes: Migrating NIGHTHAWKS came through West Hills in early Sep and were noted at Riis Park, Sep 25. There was a flight of SAPSUCKERS Sep 30 at Fire Island. Three RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS appeared at Riis Park Sep 23 (Smith); large numbers of flycatcher, Far Rockaway, Sep 3-15; most records

of OLIVE-SIDED — late Aug to Sep 5. Five or six records of WESTERN KING-BIRD, mostly from Jones Beach and Riis Park, Sep to early Nov. Six CLIFF SWALLOWS were seen at Far Rockaway, Sep 3 (Bull). The young of SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN were found Sep 15 at Brookhaven (Puleston, Raynor), and a second nesting of a MOCKINGBIRD this year, two juveniles, Mecox, July 28 (see future issues of The Kingbird for details of these). A MAGPIE was present at Montauk Sep to mid-Nov; KINGLET flight rather light. A NORTHERN SHRIKE was seen at Mecox, Nov 4 (Puleston).

Vireos — Warblers: Several VIREO reports, few of BLUE-HEADED; several records of WORM-EATING, GOLDEN-WINGED, ORANGE-CROWNED and KENTUCKY WARBLERS. One Bay-breasted, end of period at Riis Park. Early October warbler flight very light; few late CHATS; one CAPE MAY at Gilgo, Oct 20 and a late BLACK AND WHITE at Jones Beach, Nov 3 (Baldwin Bird Club, O. Dunning); MOURNING WARBLERS scarce; TENNESSEES and NASHVILLE less common than usual; two CONNECTICUT WARBLERS were found at Woodmere, Sep 15 (Elliott).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD at Mecox, Sep 19 (Mrs. Fry, Mrs. Ingersoll, Mrs. Walter); ORCHARD ORIOLE at Prospect Park, Sep 22 (Smith); one or two reports of WESTERN Tanager, western Long Island; two BLUE GROSBEAKS, Riis Park, Sep 22 (numerous observers). Several DICKCISSELS, Riis Park, Sep 8; three IPSWICH SPARROWS were found at Fire Island, Nov 12 (H. Darrow). LARK SPARROW and HARRIS'S SPARROW reported at Fire Island, Sep 30 (Bull). Good flight of WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, early Oct, but FOX SPARROWS scarce to end of period. The CLAY-COLORED SPARROW comes off New York State's hypothetical list of birds with the capture of an immature male at Riis Park on Oct 12 (P. Buckley, N. Smith, et al). A phenomenal flight of 70 LAPLAND LONGSPURS and 400 SNOW BUNTINGS was noted at Fire Island State Park, Nov 12 by Harry Darrow, who also reported a lesser flight of 12 LONGSPURS and 120 SNOW BUNTINGS three days later.

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