

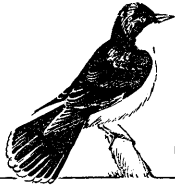
# The **KINGBIRD**



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.



# The KINGBIRD

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## SPARROW ASSOCIATIONS

JOHN T. NICHOLS

From their behavior at my feeding and banding station in the village of Garden City, I have recently become interested in sparrow associations, and herewith present certain observations of them and conclusions drawn therefrom, with special reference to our three species of *Spizella*.

Changes I have noticed over a period of years in the numbers of resident birds, permanent, summer or winter, in a given Long Island locality, most often have been attributable to changes in the habitat. It is not necessarily the immediate habitat. If there is a sufficiently favorable area to act as a base for a species within an accessible distance, its elimination will be felt over the surrounding region, and the numbers of that species therein decrease, if the bird does not disappear. For such a base to be effective at a given locality, its area, size of its bird population, and its nearness depend on the species in question. *That is one reason why every acre or less of ground left wild and undeveloped, is of so much importance to birds and to bird-lovers.*

Between the World Wars, no more than a half mile east of Franklin Avenue, which runs north and south a little east of us and is the main thoroughfare of Garden City Village, there was still a considerable area of vacant land grown to grass, bushes and small trees, where the edge of the Hempstead Plains had earlier been. It was a base for flocking Tree Sparrows in winter and singing Field Sparrows in summer, but has now been almost completely swept away by the mounting tide of small houses.

In winter flocks of Tree Sparrows were found irregularly but not infrequently in the formalized yards about the houses west of Franklin Avenue, such as ours, which are still little changed. But the last time I remember them there in any number was in the winter of 1944-45. That season the Keith Henneys banded one on Fifth Street, January 30, 1945 (No. 4335472). There were fewer the following winter, but this same individual came back to Garden City and was trapped by the Heathcote Kimballs (also bird-banders) on Fourth Street, around a quarter mile west-southwest, December 29, 1945.

In recent years there have been apt to be a few winter Tree Sparrows wherever a bit of favorable cover, however small, remained east of Franklin Avenue. I dare say (and hope) others have been more fortunate, but the winter and spring of 1956 to 1957 are the first I can remember that I have neither seen a Tree Sparrow or heard a Field Sparrow sing in Garden City.

The common ground-feeding sparrows associate in mixed flocks, wherein the individuals take their behavior pattern from one another irrespective of species. They tend to fly up into adjacent trees or bushes or drop down to feed together. This is so familiar that I had not realized here was a useful form of intercommunication, which cut across species lines, until the fact was pointed up to me by an out of season Baltimore Oriole that dropped down on my trap December 3, 1953, interested in the bait it contained. The trap was surrounded by a group of sparrows, not afraid of it, and picking up what they could take safely, but so conditioned to the trap and its danger line, that one was very rarely caught. The Oriole may have been attracted by seeing them feeding, but it was definitely not one of the group, an out-

sider to which the behavior of sparrows meant comparatively little. It went about the trap trying to get at the bait, and when it came to the entrance and that problem was solved, immediately and deliberately went inside, was taken out, banded and released.

Seven species commonly found in mixed groups are the Fox, White-throated, Song, Tree, Field, Chipping Sparrows, and Junco. Which are most frequently in company seems to be a good deal a matter of light and shade preferences, though size and closeness of relationship also play a part. The Fox Sparrow is mostly a bird of shaded woods and thickets, Tree and Field Sparrows of the sunlit open areas. The White-throated Sparrow ranges from shaded to partially shaded, Junco from open to partially shaded ground. Both being plentiful winter residents, they are often found together, though there is little cohesion between them, they tend to mix for a while and then drift apart. The Song Sparrow is the most catholic in the matter of light and shade, frequently found with the Fox Sparrow at one end of the line, and any considerable flock of Tree Sparrows at the other usually has a few Song Sparrows with it. The Song Sparrow is relatively independent, intolerant, aggressive, and does not like to be crowded. It will sometimes drive individual House Sparrows out of its way, and take its own departure when there are too many to be gotten rid of. By contrast Juncos are playful. Much of the pleasure they seem to find in one another's society is chasing one another about.

It is interesting to note that Field Sparrows in summer and Tree Sparrows in winter replace one another in the same habitat. It follows that in fall when both are present, the less numerous of the two are often found in groups of the more numerous. Migrant Field and Chipping Sparrows are also sometimes found together, and presumably from being of the same size, make a homogeneous group that acts more in unison. There is little indication that its members notice the species difference, and one has to look at each one carefully to be sure which it is.

I was interested in the behavior of a few Chipping Sparrows in a group of White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, or both, flying up into nearby trees and shrubbery, and down to feed with them. But the larger birds scattered over the grass, and the Chipping Sparrows assembled at the edge of a bordering road, where they probably found a fare more to their liking.

A less expected association than that between Field and Tree Sparrows, but rather comparable therewith, is that between the Chipping Sparrow and the Junco. Delayed migrants of the former species in the fall are more often than not found in flocks of the latter. On September 18, 1921, my first two or three Juncos of the fall at Garden City, dull-colored individuals, were in a flock of Chipping Sparrows. The behavior and temperament of the two is not unlike, both are "dooryard birds" at home in suburban areas, the one in summer the other in winter, before these became unsuitable for nesting Chippys.

Comparatively few Field and almost no Chipping Sparrows actually overwinter on Long Island, and when they do so, they seem to go into winter quarters, their association with other species casual.

In the winter of 1919 to 1920, a vacant lot at the end of our block in Garden City was grown with a tall dry grass (*Andropogon virginicus*). On

Christmas morning, 1919, after blizzard conditions the night before, there were a half dozen Field Sparrows feeding there, and with them at least one Tree Sparrow. No great amount of snowfall was badly drifted, and the sparrows were clinging to the grass or reaching it from the snow under which it was partially buried. I frequently found several Field Sparrows (usually less, and never more than six or eight) in this lot later in the winter, the last time on Washington's Birthday, 1920. Sometimes there were other species in larger numbers, if less regularly; on January 18 a flock of 15 or 20 birds, Tree Sparrows and Juncos in about equal number; January 22, about 4 Field Sparrows with 2 or 3 Tree Sparrows feeding on the grass which projected above the snow; February 8, about 40 Tree Sparrows — three or four Juncos and two or three Field Sparrows noticed among them. On February 23, 1920, I came upon three Field Sparrows together at Amityville, Long Island, and these also were feeding on *Andropogon virginicus*.

In the season of 1954-55 an unusually dull-plumaged Chipping Sparrow overwintered among a line of small thick bushes along the platform of the Garden City railroad station where I took the train for town. It doubtless partook of feed that had been thrown out there as did a number of House Sparrows and Starlings, was cognizent of and correlated its movements with theirs to some extent within this limited area, but seemed to pay them little attention. I saw it first on December 24, 1954, definitely identified it three times in February and twice in March 1955, the last time March 8. On January 10 a Chipping Sparrow in company with Juncos visited my yard over a quarter mile away. It did not look like and probably was not this same individual, and likely had not yet gone into winter quarters. The very occasional Chipping Sparrow I remember coming across in previous winters had been rather solitary, and not associated with other species.

Before the 1920's, the Chipping Sparrow was an omnipresent summer resident on Long Island. At Garden City the first singing males were a season marker which I looked for in the end of March, though they may have appeared more often in early April. They were as common in the suburbs as Robins still are, and probably bred there in larger numbers per acre than in more rural areas. In early fall one saw them feeding on lawns in considerable flocks, prior to the arrival of White-throats and Juncos to join them. Now but a small fraction of their then number remains anywhere on Long Island. They are not uncommon, and a few pairs still nest about the two country places with which I am most familiar, one at the North, the other at the South Shore. But their suburban habitat is changed, its population reservoir of this sparrow is gone, its roads are crowded with automobile traffic. And where is the plentiful horse-hair there with which they used to line their nests?

*American Museum of Natural History, New York 24*

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## CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

The Niagara Frontier Region suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Clark Beardslee on September 26, 1957. He served with distinction as regional editor from our area for five successive years, and had also acted as local chairman of the midwinter waterfowl survey. Though a very busy man, Clark always felt that his bird study activities should be given prime attention, and therefore, he was usually very prompt in completing these painstaking assignments.

A native of Connecticut and a graduate of Yale University, Clark had come to Buffalo in 1921 and lived here ever since. He was one of the founders of the Buffalo Ornithological Society in 1929, and served as its president on three separate occasions. He was one of the Society's statisticians for over twenty years. Clark Beardslee conducted a number of courses in bird study at the Buffalo Museum of Science. He also served on the board of managers of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences since 1948.

In observing birds, Clark kept careful notes which are of considerable scientific value and he often aided others to become more proficient in ornithology. He was an expert on bird songs and I was often amazed at his wonderful powers of hearing. I recall that on Goat Island in the Niagara River, in spite of the noise from the cataracts and the rapids, he pointed in the direction of a Brown Creeper which he had heard calling. We walked over 100 yards, on this and several similar occasions, before finding the bird. I look back with pleasure on the many field trips which Clark and I had together. On these I was always impressed by his knowledge of all the factors that enter into field identification.

Clark Beardslee and I have been working for years on an annotated check list of the birds of the Niagara Frontier Region and were awaiting the publication of the new A O U check list in order to finish our own check list so as to use the proper bird names. I am working hard to finish this, following the same style as we decided on in completing the bulk of the work which has already been finished.

No problem seemed too difficult for Clark to proffer his aid in solution, and he gave freely of his time to help others. His ready wit and keen sense of humor, plus the fact that he was loved by all, made his presence at our meetings an inspiration. It will indeed be hard to carry on without him.  
—Harold D. Mitchell

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## THE VERIFYING ACCOUNT IN ORNITHOLOGY

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

Editor's Note: *The Federation has lost one of its finest members. Clark Beardslee, regional editor for The Kingbird since 1952, died this past fall. Although I can speak of Clark only from my short association with him on this magazine, it was with a great sense of personal loss that I learned of his death from Harold Mitchell. As readers will agree after reading his summary of the verification problem, Clark represents care and thoughtfulness. Conservative by nature, but consistent and thorough, he has been a mainstay of this publication.*

*Departing from a rule against reprinting articles published in other*

*journals, as a tribute to Clark Beardslee the following article is taken from The Prothonotary for May 1957 (XXIII (5):25-27.)*

The following are the thoughts of one who was for twenty-one consecutive years one of the two censors of records for the Buffalo Ornithological Society; who after a rest of six years finds himself back in the same office, after the adoption by the Society of a new concept in the submission of significant records.

Historically, I think it would be true to say that up until the turn of the century the sight record, as we use the term today, was accorded little attention and no respect. Unquestionably the ornithologists of those days had good reasons, and we can assume that these were:

1. Very few "observers" were equipped with binoculars, even of inferior quality. Since the unaided eye is not capable of forming accurate impressions of small objects at distances at which birds may ordinarily be approached, this was a very serious weakness.
2. Almost all men had guns, and there were few laws limiting their use. Most identifications were therefore made by examination of freshly killed specimens.
3. The few bird books of the time were poorly illustrated, and the word descriptions were based upon the assumption that the bird was in the hand. Such phrases as "second primary shorter than first" and "tarsus longer than hind toe" filled the "Description" section, and one looked in vain for "Field Marks".

There were a few observers who studied birds without guns back in the nineteenth century; I came uncomfortably close to being one myself. But consider the changes which have come to field observation since 1900. The number of bird watchers has grown amazingly; superb books, designed to help the amateur, are available; automobiles and good roads have greatly enlarged the scope of an individual's birding; and bird clubs welcome the beginner with helpful programs, both in-door and out-of-door.

Today there are two schools of thought in respect to the sight record. One school, which includes, I think, most professional ornithologists, still clings to the old belief that sight records are of no value. The other school is the one which I wish to discuss.

Axtell has recently written four most significant papers: What Constitutes Adequate Verification? (Prothonotary, April, 1954). Can a Sight Record be Scientific? (Prothonotary, Feb., 1955). An Analysis of the Reasons for Writing Detailed Verifying Accounts of Unusual Sight Records, (Prothonotary, March, 1955). How to Write Verifying Accounts of Unusual Sight Records (Prothonotary, April, 1955).

Wrapped up in all these papers, and part and parcel of the program of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, is the serious belief that **SIGHT RECORDS CAN BE OF REAL VALUE**. It is of importance that ornithologists who study Axtell's papers should appreciate that he is suggesting only that all observers should make certain that their records *are* of scientific value. If the study of birds is worth anything, it must be worth that. I use the term "scientific." That is a word used by other people and other units.

We should recognize that if we *are* going to be scientific we must meet at least the minimum requirements of the term as it is used by others who are scientific.

If a really valid sight record is to carry conviction, it certainly must have a tag of some sort attached to it. I remember a visit I made many years ago to a meeting of a long-established bird club. A portion of the meeting was given over to reports of recent observations, and one member rose to tell of a trip she and a friend had taken about ten days earlier. The date of the outing must have been about April 20, yet among the birds these two observers were sure they saw were Red-eyed Vireo and Wood Pewee. No comment was made by any other member during the meeting. Later I asked their foremost authority whether records of such obvious invalidity did not have to face censorship; he replied with much embarrassment that they had never adopted a program of censorship and feared to initiate one. *Must we not agree that a good record from that bird club, surrounded by obviously bad records which carry the same stamp of acceptance, must unfortunately be considered to be worthless?* Yes, it lacks a tag of some kind to set it apart from invalid records.

The Buffalo Ornithological Society has given a great deal of attention to this important subject of a tag. At our first meeting on November 13, 1929 it was decided to keep "scientific records", and to elect two "statisticians", of officer status, whose duties would include the absolute power of censorship. Thus it might be said that every observation which found its way (and many did not) into our permanent records carried a tag saying, "This record was submitted by a person whose qualifications are well known to us. We have examined the record in all phases, and we feel certain of its validity".

So far as we know, we were as careful as any bird club in existence in our examination of member records. Our files contain many reams of correspondence with out-of-town observers, and I think the acceptance of every significant record was based upon either such correspondence or upon oral examination of the observer by both statisticians. This represented our policy throughout the first twenty years of the society's existence, when Harold Mitchell and I were statisticians. When we finally resigned, we were requested to name one of us to continue for another year in order to "break in" another incumbent. Thus the twenty-first year saw Harold Axtell and myself acting as statisticians, and we followed the policy outlined above. For the next six years Axtell and Nathan were statisticians. It was during this period that Axtell began to formulate his theory of *written* verifications for *all* significant records.

Why the necessity for a change? It is not a reflection on the care which we have taken in the past; briefly, it is that in the future a *written* record should be available for any student to examine, no matter how remote that future may be. Let me cite an example of one kind of tag. I quote two passages from Bergtold's "Birds of Buffalo and Vicinity":

1. "The names of no species have been submitted when the least shade of doubt existed as to the authenticity of their occurrence. In order to be authentic a bird must either have been taken and identified by competent persons, or if seen alive and not taken, must have been



of such easy recognition as to exclude the slightest uncertainty regarding its determination." (from the introduction)

2. "*Parus carolinensis*, R. 42, C. 47. Carolina Chickadee. Rare, Straggler, Lancaster, N. Y. — E. P. Van Duzee." (one of species listed.)

Here is a record with a tag. The tag states, in effect, "This record has been carefully examined by W. H. Bergtold, and carries his stamp of unqualified approval". Up until our present program was inaugurated, our own tag might similarly be taken to indicate, "This record has been carefully examined by (insert names of statisticians), and carries their stamp of unqualified approval." Just what will that mean when our record, like Bergtold's, is seventy years old? In many cases it will be capable of substantiation by the correspondence upon which its acceptance was based, but in those instances where the examination was oral, the researcher of the future will be forced to guess that equal care was taken, — and no good scientist will be satisfied to guess.

Axtell's conclusion is, let's furnish written verifications for all unusual records, and let's set standards for such write-ups which shall satisfy our desire for certainty. Then our ideal tag will contain such incontrovertible evidence, for researcher after researcher to examine in detail, that it will be as convincing as a tag attached to the leg of a specimen!

Here is a new concept, and I think it may be the beginning of a new era in field observing. As such it should command the attention of all groups of amateur bird students. As a matter of fact, a good many eyes have already turned in admiration toward the Buffalo Ornithological Society and its program.

Our program is not easy. It requires a modest contribution of time and effort to write up a careful and complete verifying description of all phases of an observation. It is true that we have lightened the burden by spelling out, in our Date Guide, those dates which will be considered by the statisticians as not requiring a write-up. But several times per year an active observer will find himself faced with the requirement that he furnish written substantiation for a record. He may feel at first that the task is a burden, and recall that formerly it was not required; but further thought brings to him the realization that he was fortunate enough to make a very important observation, and that his written account of it, if conscientiously made, will insure its validity and its recognition for all time. It then becomes a real satisfaction to write it, submit it, and note its acceptance.

A serious program of this nature may well be too great a challenge for some bird clubs. But careful study will, I think, convince anyone that in this direction lies success for amateur ornithology. After all, is it not worth while to place observation of living birds on a higher plane, — a scientific plane, — on a plane where the efforts of bird observers are circumscribed by universal standards of excellence?

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

The eleventh annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs will be held at Rochester on May 2-4, 1958. Federation members are invited to participate in the Saturday program of short papers.

Papers should be concerned with New York State ornithology or should consider problems closely related to those of New York State. Although most papers in past years have dealt with field activities and ecological studies, it is appropriate to include talks on club activities which could be copied in other regions. Of particular interest are papers illustrated with slides, motion pictures or tape recordings.

Members willing to present a paper at this meeting should contact as soon as possible the chairman of the paper committee. This communication should include the subject of the proposed talk, its approximate length, and whether or not there will be pictures. Arrangements can be made for blackboards and projection equipment.

In the past a few clubs and a few individual members have borne the "burden" of presenting these programs. It is sincerely hoped that other members especially from new clubs in the Federation will describe their activities.

*Gerald R. Rising, Chairman, Papers Committee,  
72 Allen's Creek Road, Rochester 18*

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### A REPORT TO READERS

This issue marks my completion of two volumes. Although I will edit the next issue also, volume eight really belongs to the new editor, Dr. Minnie Scotland of the Schenectady Bird Club. It seems appropriate at this time then to report to Federation members on my tenure in office.

One thing is certain: editing this magazine is a demanding task. I can really appreciate the fine work of Allan Klonick and Steve Eaton after having tried to cope with the many problems of publication. Much of the work is tedious, painstaking, and most of all lonely. There is a great deal of worry for despite hundreds of pages of correspondence each issue brings with it a crying need for more material. No one of us who has served as editor has ever had enough material for two issues at any one time.

On the other hand, serving as editor has been one of my most rewarding experiences. It has been pleasant to receive exchange copies of ornithological publications and to correspond with ornithologists interested in our publication and Federation from all over the world. But most of all it has been a pleasure associating with those who have contributed to the magazine. Many readers have no idea how much time and effort some of our contributors have put into their work; none of you realize how willing to cooperate they have been. It was wonderful to be able to print McAtee's lengthy paper on folk names of birds, a paper representing many years of research. It was wonderful too to be able to print a note by Randolph Little, a keen observer just now going into high school.

Special note should be taken here of two most important groups, the regional editors (who provide material for half or more of each issue) and the members of the editorial board (whose supply of material has kept the magazine going). An examination of the staff will show that several are serving in both capacities. From these, all of whom have made major contributions to the magazine, I should like to single out three. Sally Hoyt has not only done fine work in accumulating notes for the magazine, but she

has also been encouraging when encouragement was most needed. John Elliott and Fritz Scheider each represents to me the finest combination to be found in amateur or professional ornithology: splendid field observers, they are also willing and able to do the necessary research and to organize their material in interesting form for publication. To these people should go credit for the stature of this journal.

Much was undertaken during the last two years: the studies in New York State ornithological history by Allen Benton and John Belknap, the systematic descriptions of areas in the state which provide excellent birding by Fritz Scheider, the short notes on bird behavior by Sally Hoyt, all have been made a part of the magazine. But much is still to be done. Several projects which I hoped to take up were deferred and are now still not done: among these are systematic indexing of the journal and a reworking of the introductory material about the journal and the Federation. Failure to accomplish these goals is solely the responsibility of the editor because at least in the case of the indexing Mrs. William English volunteered to do the work.

Where do we go from here? There is no question in my mind but that this magazine is as always in critical condition. This can only be improved by the cooperation of many members of the Federation. Much more material must be delivered to the editor by many more people. It was with this idea in mind that the "Notes" section was introduced. This section was designed not only to give observers a chance to record their experiences, but also to give writers a place to break in with none of the anguish of the longer paper. Virtually every birder in the state could search his experience for an interesting record which would make a good note. Writing such a note is not tedious and the author would receive every assistance in preparation from friends, local regional editors or the editor himself. If each person who reads this article would write a note and send it to me or to Dr. Scotland, it would make her job much more satisfying.

One final comment seems appropriate at this time. To my family and especially to my wife, Muriel, must go much credit, for without their cooperation and their willingness to overlook the many jobs around the house I have left undone, there would have been no journal for these two years.

GRR

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## NOTES

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**Purple Martin colonies in central New York State.** — Believing that it may be of interest at some date in the future to know the numbers and approximate location of colonies of Purple Martins in past years for comparative studies, I have attempted to collect such information for the central New York area for the years 1956 and 1957. When possible I have also indicated the length of time the colony has existed at the particular location. It is emphasized that this is only a partial list, but it is hoped that its publication will elicit additional data and that other areas of the state will compile similar material.

The area included is roughly bounded on the west by a north-south line through Canandaigua, on the east by a similar line through Oneida, on the north by Lake Ontario and Pulaski, on the south by the state line.

It would take too much space to list all of those who have cooperated by sending me information on colonies. I hereby express to them my sincere appreciation.

BINGHAMTON: Willow Point, small colony; across from Vestal, small colony; three or four miles north of city, 6-10 pairs. BRANCHPORT: Earl Benjamin residence; Miss Ila Cook's residence, five miles south of Branchport. CANANDAIGUA: Roseland Park several houses full. CAYUGA LAKE: At cottage near Wire's Point, north of Sheldrake, several pairs; on route 89, a few miles south of Canoga. CENTRAL SQUARE: East Street, 50 adults in two houses; Main Street. CORTLAND: Little York Lake, north of city near route 281, two houses. DRESDEN: two established colonies. ELMIRA: Riverside Avenue, about 20 pairs for the last ten years; Magnolia Street, eight pairs; Janowski residence, Estey Street, 12 pairs, new in 1957; Koski residence near Big Flats, five birds observed on house. ITHACA: Stewart Park, two houses for more than 20 years. NEWARK: two colonies. ONEIDA LAKE: Eagle Park. OSWEGO: Smith residence, Ontario Street, three houses full; "a block away," two houses full. OWASCO LAKE: Osborne residence, Buck Point, three houses full, one since 1928. PENN YAN: Scherer residence, Town Line Road; Orcutt residence, R. D. 5, 15-20 pairs; Newcomb residence R. D. 4, up to 75 birds, 1956 was first year; "neighbor 3/4 mile from Newcomb's." PULASKI: Selkirk Pond, 24 apartments full, active 15 years; across street, one house. RED CREEK: West residence, 16 pairs; Taber residence; Crowell residence. SENECA FALLS: Barben residence, Cayuga Street, 12 pairs; Weart residence, Clinton Street, eight pairs; Wayne residence, Bayard Street, 20 pairs; Paine residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 52 pairs; Gibbs residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 8 pairs; Anderson residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 25 pairs. Withers residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 5 pairs; Wayne residence, Cayuga Lake Road, 72 pairs. SENECA LAKE: Sampson, 25 pairs; Riggs residence, south of Sampson, ten pairs. SKANEATELES: Park on lake front, colony for many years, missing in 1956. SYRACUSE: Erie Boulevard, 15 pairs since before 1890. TULLY: Dorothy residence, about 15 pairs, six or seven years. TULLY VALLEY: Smith residence, 12 birds, first time in 1956. — Sally F. Hoyt, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca.

**The Western Meadowlark in Monroe County.** — A Western Meadowlark was collected near Braddock Bay in 1948. After this an occasional single singing individual would appear in the spring, remain for a short time and then disappear. In the spring of 1956, however, a singing male appeared late in April and remained for over a month, at which time it was lost sight of. This bird was seen and heard by the members of the ill-fated and almost drowned Wilson Ornithological Club field trip that was taken to this area in the vain hope of witnessing a hawk flight.

This spring (1957) the local observers were on the lookout for this bird and on April 19 the flute-like notes were heard again. The rest of this note is a summary of observations during this year.

Just to the west of Braddock Bay and just south of the new parkway, the bird first observed in April established his territory. Another bird was seen frequently in his company which gave only the typical calls of the western species. No nest of this pair was found because of the desire not to disturb the birds, but on August 25 a Meadowlark, giving only the calls of the Western, was observed in this same territory feeding young out of the nest.

Also west of Braddock and just north of the parkway another Meadowlark appeared and established his territory. While this second bird usually sang a somewhat short and imperfect Western song, he was occasionally heard to give both song and call notes which were those of the eastern species. A nest was found in this bird's territory containing small young, but it was disturbed by some prowler, possibly an opossum, and it is doubtful if any young were reared at this time by this pair. Whether the male of this second pair was a hybrid or a young bird which had picked up some of the call and song notes of the alternate species is unknown.

At no time was any song or call note heard from the first pair of birds which we could regard as anything but typical of the Western Meadowlark. No attempt was made to collect any of the birds because of the desire not to disturb apparently nesting birds, one pair at least being typical of the Western Meadowlark.

We are eagerly awaiting next year's developments. — Howard S. Miller, 61 Richland Street, Rochester.

**Little Gull at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, Long Island.** — Being one of those bird-watchers who has traversed the New York harbor many times by ferry in search of the Little Gull (*Larus minutus*), I was delighted to find a sub-adult Little Gull sitting on the shore of the West Pond of the Jamaica Bay Wild Life Sanctuary. The date was July 27. I observed it again on the 28th, Aug. 3, and Aug. 10.

When first observed, the winter plumage exhibited a confusing combination of immature and adult characteristics. The mantle showed the remnant of the inverted V pattern of the immature, while the under wing linings were shot through with the white which is characteristic of the immature bird. The tail showed an incomplete black band, with only half the tail feathers being tipped with black, the central portion showing the white of the adult.

The following week, there was no longer any suggestion of the mantle pattern, and the under wings were completely dark. However, the outer tail feathers were still tipped with black. The week after that the black had gone completely from the tail. The bird was now in its new plumage. At all times during the period observed, the tiny bill was black.

Due to the transition which took place in this individual some observers assumed that two birds had been present, an immature and an adult. However, having been fortunate to observe this bird at close range and in excellent light over a period of two weeks, I believe it can be safely stated that only one bird was present.

I did not observe the bird feeding at the West Pond. When flushed, it would simply fly further down the shore and alight again. Evidently the West Pond was merely the resting area for this Little Gull. — Emanuel Levine, 585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, Long Island.

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**Mating Display of the Vesper Sparrow** — While I was listening to late evening (9:10 P. M., E. D. T.) singing of Grasshopper Sparrows along Hoyt Road, Skaneateles on June 27, 1957, two Vesper Sparrows (*Poocetes gramineus*) appeared in the dirt road, neither of them singing. Suddenly one bird, in the middle of the road, lowered his head and the wrists of his half spread wings nearly to the ground, and with his tail and wing-tips almost vertically above his head ran mouse-like across the road and hopped for a fraction of a second upon the back of the crouched second bird. Then he ran, in the nearly vertical display position, in a small circle about the second bird and mounted again, repeating this performance four times in quick succession, each time circling in the vertical display position. After this the birds separated and disappeared in the gathering dusk. I have found no account of such behavior display in a limited search of available literature, so feel it worth reporting. — Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10.

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## REGIONAL REPORTS

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### THE FALL MIGRATION — August 16 - November 30

Weatherwise the fall was pleasant, too pleasant. In the Rochester area precipitation for the year was almost a half foot below normal. Shorebirding was excellent in many areas due to the low water levels. Food crops as indicated in the summaries are generally poor, but Fritz Scheider reports an excellent crop of weed seeds.

Briefly some points of interest: The flight of buteos appeared heavy, but few Snowy Owls appeared. Egrets showed a marked decline possibly corresponding to their troubles in breeding colonies in the south. The influx

of southern species continues with Titmice increasing in several regions. Watertown had Cardinals and a Mockingbird. On Long Island and along Ontario the flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was heavy, and late fall brought back winter finches for the first time in two years. GRR

### SUMMARY OF TREE AND SHRUB CROPS

Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Red Pine	—	F	—	P	P	F	P	F	P	—
White Pine	P	F	—	P	P	F	F	F	P	F
Pitch Pine	—	F	F	—	P	—	F	F	P	F
Larch	—	G	—	—	G	G	P	P	P	—
White Spruce	—	—	—	P4	F	P	P	P	P	—
Black Spruce	—	—	—	P	F	P	P	F	P	—
Red Spruce	—	—	—	P	F	—	P	F	P	—
Balsam	—	—	—	P	F	F	P	F	P	—
Hemlock	P	P	F	F	G	G	P	P	P	—
Arbor-vitae	—	F1	P	F	P	P	F	P	P	—
Red Cedar	—	F1	F	P	F	P	F	P	—	F
Bayberry	—	G1	P	—	—	—	G	—	—	P14
Ironwood (Ostrya)	P	F	F	—	P	G	G	P	—	—
Blue beech (Carpinus)	P	F	P	P	P	F	P	P	—	—
Yellow Birch	F	F	—	P5	F	G	F	F	—	15
White Birch	—	F	—	P	P	G11	G	F	F	—
American Beech	P	P	P	P6	P	P	P13	P	F	—
White Oak	F17	F	P	P	P	G	F	P	F	G
Red Oak	P	G	P	P	P	G	F	F	F	G
Cucumber Tree	P	—	—	—	—	—	P	—	F	—
Mountain Ash	—	G1	P	P	P	G	—	G	P	—
Thornapple	—	F	P2	P	G	F	G	F	P	—
Wild Black Cherry	G	G	F	F7	G	G	G	P	P	G
Box Elder	—	G	FP	G	G9	G	G	G	P	—
Sugar Maple	P	F	P	P	F	F	G	P	P	—
Grey Dogwood	—	G	P3	F	F	—	F	—	—	F
Red-osier Dogwood	—	F	P	F	F	—	F	F	—	—
White Ash	P	G	—	P	G	G	F	P	—	—
Black-berried Elder	F	G	—	G	G	G	F	G	—	—
General Crop Estimate		F	P	P8	F10	G12	F	P	P	16

Notes: 1—mostly cultivated forms; 2—worst in years; 3—no dogwoods did well; 4—good at Deposit; 5—good at Endwell; 5—very poor everywhere; 7—varied; 8—others in Region 4: apples, bittersweet, wild grape poor, staghorn sumac fair, nannyberry, barberry, multiflora rose good; 9—very, very abundant; 10—ornamental evergreens, especially spruces appear to have a fair cone crop; wild apple and wild grape very good; wild seeds very abundant; 11—heavy; 12—except pines; most information from Art Walrath; 13—no beechnuts at all, wild apples poor, dry season; 14—barberry one of worst recent years; 15—Long Island birch good; 16—some other Long Island crops affecting winter birds: Japanese black pine: FG, Russian olive or silverthorn: very good, favorites with fall thrushes and in some years Western Tanagers; 17—Cattaraugus Co. only by Steve Eaton.

## REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

The latter half of August was warm and excessively dry while September's temperature and rainfall, being near normal, did not do much to alleviate the dryness in the area. Water levels remained low into October as this month's temperatures were near the mean and precipitation was considerably below the average. Aside from a paucity of rainfall, no unusual weather conditions occurred up to November but this month, although having a normal average temperature, showed a marked change as severe storms on the 8th and 9th and the 21st and 22nd brought high winds and locally heavy snow (three feet) to the area. Tufted Titmice and Carolina Wrens continued to be reported more frequently in widespread areas. Pronounced movements of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins have been noted during the period. Northern Shrikes appeared earlier than expected and in late October and November good flights of northern finches were observed, perhaps indicating a major incursion for the winter. The diving ducks began to come in October and by mid-November were observed in good numbers. The Niagara River in late November was the scene of an unprecedented congregation of gulls, a conservative estimate being over 25,000 individuals between Niagara Falls and the river mouth.

**Loons — Ducks:** Although Common Loons and especially Horned Grebes were plentiful after late September, no Red-necked Grebes were noted throughout the period. Two Eared Grebes Nov 24 and one on Nov 28, (Axtells, et al) on the Niagara River for the second year indicate more care should be taken in watching for this species. American Egrets were not reported for the area in late summer. The first flock of Canada Geese was noted at Wellsville on Sept 23 (McMurtry) and 700 were seen at Oak Orchard Swamp and on Lake Ontario on Nov 3 (Mitchell, et al). On Oct 13 good numbers of pond ducks were at Oak Orchard Swamp — American Widgeon 1250, Mallard 736, Blue-winged Teal 156 (Ulrichs, Lovelace). 700 Canvasbacks on Nov 17 on the Niagara River (Mitchell) marked the first influx of this species. Two adult male Harlequin Ducks Nov 30 were at Niagara Falls (Axtells, Andries). This rare species is quite partial to the swift water of the rapids. Ruddy Ducks seemed to be fewer in number than usual while Scoters appeared in normal abundance except for the Surf Scoter of which only a few were noted.

**Hawks — Owls:** Rough-legged Hawks were observed in fair numbers after the first noted at Batavia Oct 13 (Pixley, et al). There were few reports of Ospreys or Eagles during the period. Turkeys appear to be increasing and extending their range to the east and west in the southern part of the region. Mrs. McMurtry reports flocks of five at Shongo and 20 at York's Corners on Oct 7 and on Oct 8 Elderkin saw seven between Frewsburg and Onoville. On Nov 3 Eaton at Olean reports Turkeys beginning to feed on wild black cherries, their principal food during November. Golden Plovers were not seen in normal abundance in the area this fall; two on Grand Island Sept 7 (Norths) are the only ones reported in an excellent locality for them. Shorebirds were not very much in evidence in the region, partly due perhaps to little coverage and because flooded areas were at a minimum. A late Ringed Plover occurred at East Eden Nov 5 (Bourne). 43 Snipe were noted at various scattered points on the census of Oct 13. Mrs. Pixley reported 25 Lesser Yellowlegs in the Batavia vicinity Oct 13, a good number for an inland station. Mitchell observed a Franklin's Gull at Bird Island in Niagara River Nov 23 and another was noted on the 28th and 30th at Niagara Falls (Axtells, Andries). A Little Gull Nov 9 at Niagara Gorge (Axtells) marked the first record of a species which usually first occurs in September. Also interesting was a Laughing Gull, accidental in our area, at Lewiston on the Niagara River Nov 28 (Klabundes). The expected Snowy Owl invasion did not materialize, only three being noted in November. A Barred Owl at Chestnut Ridge Park Nov 12 (Bourne) is noteworthy as few are reported near Buffalo. Of interest is a Saw-whet Owl at Fredonia Oct 18 (Stanley).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** A late Nighthawk was noted at Buffalo Oct 14 (Andrle). 200 Horned Larks were observed by Axtells on Oct 13 moving westward along the south shore of Lake Ontario near Point Breeze, an excellent migration route for a number of water and land birds. At Jamestown on Sept 1, Beal reported a great roost of 15,000 Purple Martins and several other species, which was reduced to 1000 Martins on Sept 15. Blue Jays seem to be more numerous than usual in the region this fall. A Catbird on Nov 17 at Ellery Center (Mealy, Robinson, Randell) is a late occurrence. Several Mockingbirds were still present at Westfield on Oct 4 (Mrs. Bentley), after a successful breeding cycle there.

**Vireos — Warblers:** A Solitary Vireo on Nov 5 at Lewiston (Klabundes) is considerably later than normal. Warblers began to arrive as usual in late August but apparently their migration through September was fairly regular with no unusual waves reported. They remained fairly late into October, six species being recorded on the 13th and several later in the month. Mrs. Smith reported a Brewster's Warbler at Gainesville on Oct 10 and 11, an important record of a hybrid which nests in our region but has been little noted in migration.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** 1000 Rusty Blackbirds at Jamestown on Sept 27 (Beal) is an exceptional number for that date. Evening Grosbeaks first were noted near Vandalia on Oct 1 (Eaton) and numerous scattered flocks were reported throughout the period after that date. Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills and Snow Buntings appeared in late October and early November and were seen in many localities. Outstanding was the report of a Harris' Sparrow at a feeder in Jamestown through November (Brolins, Mealy, Parker, Beal). Three exceptionally late White-crowned Sparrows were observed, one at Hamburg Nov 23 and 24 (Avery) and two at Buffalo Nov 27-30 (Fisk). A fine record was the immature Dickcissel at Mrs. Avery's feeder at Hamburg on Nov 23 and 24. Eight Lapland Longspurs near Point Breeze on the south shore of Lake Ontario (Axtells) was the only report of this species during the period.

193 Woodward Ave., Buffalo

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## REGION 2—GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The first month of this period continued the very dry weather which had persisted since about the tenth of July. Mid-September brought general moderate rains which lessened but did not break the drought. October was dry, so dry in fact that there was talk of again closing the woods. November brought more than the normal amount of snow, but even so there is a deficiency of well over five inches in precipitation since early July. This has resulted in low water levels which made for good shore birding but reduced the areas available for the dabbling ducks. Temperatures were close to average throughout the period except for a hot spell about the middle of September and a very cool spell the last part of the same month.

The greatest difference birdwise from last year has been in the relative number of winter finches present. Last year there were exactly *none*, while this year all six species have been reported. There was a very heavy migration of Red-breasted Nuthatches and the fall migration of warblers was much better than a year ago.

**Loons — Ducks:** The loon flight this fall seemed about normal with the maximum count of Common Loons being 50 on Oct 20 along the west lakeshore (Haller, Listman). A Holboell's Grebe was seen Oct 5 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer) and a high count of 14 was made there Nov 30. The high count of Horned Grebes was 150 birds along the west lakeshore Oct 5 (Kemnitzer). The number of Double-crested Cormorants seemed somewhat less than usual. Three of these birds were seen migrating over Durand-Eastman Park Oct 26 and one bird was seen the same day at Manitou (Listman). A rather late Green Heron was seen at Braddock Bay Oct 5. There were **no** reports of any of the southern herons including the American Egret



in our area this year. The Whistling Swan which has been spending most of the summer at Braddock Bay was seen again on both Sept 29 and Oct 5. There was a good flight of Brant along the lakeshore with 2500 being reported Oct 19 at Hamlin Park (Kemnitzer) and 1000 at Manitou Oct 25 (Listman). A single late straggler was at Braddock on Nov 30. There were no reports of Gadwalls this fall and most of the other puddle ducks seemed down in numbers. A flock of 15 Wood Ducks were seen Sept 15 at Mendon Ponds (Whites).

A flock of 100 Canvanbacks was seen Nov 3 off Durand (Tanghe, Mitchell). The flock of Scaup usually present in the same area had built up to an estimated 2500 birds on Nov 11. This flock moves into the Genesee River later in the season and is composed mostly of Greater Scaup, although some other species such as Baldpates, Redheads, Ring-necks and Buffleheads are found in it. An estimated 3000 Old Squaws were seen Nov 30 well off the Irondequoit Bay outlet (Kemnitzer). An immature Harlequin Duck was seen Nov 9 at Webster Park by Kemnitzer but was not observed subsequently. No Eiders have been reported for the period. There was a good Scoter flight this fall, with the peak numbers being 1000 White-winged, 10 Surf and five American off Lighthouse Beach Oct 19 (Listman). One Surf Scoter was seen east of Summerville Nov 23. Hooded Mergansers seemed rather common.

**Hawks — Owls:** No Goshawks were reported this fall. An immature Red-shouldered Hawk was seen Oct 15 in Genesee Valley Park (Schmanke) and an adult Broad-winged Hawk was seen Sept 29 over Durand (Miller). Both of these species are seldom reported in the fall here, although the former is fairly common and the latter very common during the spring hawk flights. The Red-tailed Hawk has seemed less common than usual this fall, while the opposite is true of the Rough-legged Hawk; six or more of the latter birds were seen on many trips west of Rochester during November. An immature Bald Eagle which had been frequenting the parkway west of Rochester was shot and seriously wounded by a hunter. The bird is now in the Seneca Park Zoo, probably crippled for life. A migrating Peregrine Falcon was seen over Shore Acres on Oct 12.

A single Piping Plover was seen Sept 16-17 at Manitou (Listman) and the same or another bird was again present Sept 23 in the same place. The first Golden Plover was seen Aug 25 at Shore Acres and a fair number were present there until well into October. A very late straggler was seen at Salmon Creek on Nov 30 (Listman et. al.) The Black-bellied Plover occurred in fairly good numbers all fall both at Braddock and Shore Acres and two birds were still present at Braddock Nov 23. Up to 15 Knots were observed in one day along the west lakeshore during September. Fairly good numbers of both White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers were present from late August to mid-October, 10 of the latter being recorded Sept 1 along the west lakeshore by Listman. An apparently partly crippled Lesser Yellowlegs was seen Nov 30 at Salmon Creek. 500 Red-backed Sandpipers were seen Nov 5 along the west lakeshore (Listman). Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers were also more common than usual. A Long-billed Dowitcher was carefully identified by appearance and call notes in direct comparison with Eastern Dowitchers on Sept 1 at Manitou (Miller, Rising). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at Braddock Sept 1 (Listman) and two more birds of this species were seen Sept 5 along the parkway by the same observer. This is our first record in four years of this species. A Hudsonian Godwit appeared at Salmon Creek Oct 26 (Listman). This bird shortly moved to the mud flats at Long Pond where it remained until Nov 4, being seen by several observers. This is also our first record in four years. A Northern Phalarope was seen at Shore Acres Sept 1 (Miller, Rising) and another bird of the same species was observed at Charlotte Pier Nov 19 (Schmanke).

The Parasitic Jaeger was recorded eight times this fall at Manitou (Listman): the extreme dates being Sept 14 and Nov 24, a single bird being seen on each occasion. The first fall report of the Glaucous Gull was of one bird at Summerville Nov 29 (Listman). One of the most noteworthy records here in a long time was that of an adult **Black-headed Gull**, first seen under favorable conditions on the east spit of Braddock Bay Sept 25 by Listman. This bird was again seen under excellent conditions Oct 5 in the same place and another observation was Oct 20 at Webster Park (both Kemnitzer). We are indeed fortunate to have had two such experienced observers record this bird independently and each time under very favorable conditions. (The writer missed the bird — cuss the luck!) A Franklin's Gull was seen Sept 1 at Braddock Bay (Listman) and another was seen Aug 26 at Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer). A Little Gull was seen at Charlotte Oct 12 (Starling, O'Hara,

Miller) and another was seen at Braddock by Listman Oct 31, and again at the Irondequoit Bay outlet Nov 23 by Kemnitzer. Forster's Terns have been more numerous here this fall than in most years, four being seen on Braddock Bay Sept 16 (Listman). 500 Common Terns were present the same day on Braddock (Listman). A Snowy Owl was seen Nov 27 at Braddock (Listman) and was again seen Nov 29-30. A Long-eared Owl was seen near the Rochester airport Oct 27 by Listman.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** A flock of about 20 Chimney Swifts was seen at Durand Sept 29 (Miller). An Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at Durand Nov 7 (L. Moon) and has been seen two or three times since, but up to now at least the wide-spread invasion of last fall has not been repeated. As last fall, this bird is feeding almost entirely in recently killed elms. Another interesting sidelight on this elm disease is the change in the relative numbers of the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. Before this disease became widespread the Downy was much the commoner of the two birds in the city during the winter. Now the reverse is true, there apparently being some factor involved which makes the dead elms more attractive to the Hairy.

Three Eastern Kingbirds along the lakeshore Sept 29 constitute a rather late date for these birds. A very late Rough-winged Swallow was reported at Shore Acres Oct 20 (Listman). Four Tufted Titmice were seen Nov 30 at Durand, and this species seems to be slowly establishing itself in our area, especially along the east lakeshore. The first fall Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported at Manitou Aug 17 (Listman) and for a while in early September the bird fairly swarmed through this area in contrast to its relative scarcity a year ago. By the end of the period the numbers had been reduced to the usual wintering individuals present in the coniferous growths. Reports of Carolina Wrens have increased this fall, and single birds have been reported from several new localities. The Mockingbird nested at Webster this year and the three young birds raised were present for some time in the general area (Kemnitzer). A single bird was seen Nov 28 at Sea Breeze (Miller).

A very late Wood Thrush was carefully observed at Mendon Oct 27 (Whites) and a still later Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Manitou Nov 24 (Listman). Two Bohemian Waxwings were seen Nov 17 at Durand (Starling) and three birds were recorded in the same place the next day (Listman). At least one bird was still present Nov 28 (Miller). There has been a good flight of Northern Shrikes again this fall, three or four being recorded in one day west of Rochester.

**Vireos — Sparrows:** The Philadelphia Vireo which strangely was not recorded during the whole spring migration finally was recorded Sept 7 near Manitou when two birds were seen by Listman. The fall warbler flight was much better than a year ago, when it was very poor. On some days this fall warblers were abundant but most of the time these days did not come on weekends. An Orange-crowned Warbler was reported Oct 5 in Irondequoit (Miller). About 15 Myrtle Warblers were still present in Durand Nov 28 (Miller). A very late Ovenbird was seen Oct 26 in Durand (Miller). A dead Yellow-breasted Chat was found Nov 11 in Fairport (Zeitler).

The Western Meadowlark was last seen and heard at Manitou Sept 7 (Listman). The first Evening Grosbeaks reported this year were a flock of about eight birds seen Oct 13 at Durand (Miller). Scattered reports have come in since that time, the largest flock reported consisting of 28 birds on Nov. 16 at Webster (Kemnitzer). Pine Grosbeaks first appeared in late October and were well distributed by the end of the period; 100 being present on Nov 11 in Durand alone (Haller, Listman). Four Redpolls were reported Oct 20 and flocks of about 50 birds were seen Nov 10 and 16 in Durand. Smaller groups have been observed during the last month in scattered localities. Pine Siskins were first reported Sept 14 (Listman) and were fairly well distributed in small numbers for about a month. They became very scarce toward the end of the period. A single Red Crossbill was seen at Durand Nov 18 by Listman and one White-winged Crossbill was seen in the same place on Nov 5 and 11 by the same observer. The rather poor cone crop makes the stay of these two species uncertain.

Our only record this year of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow was of one bird seen at Manitou Sept 23 (Starling, Miller). Three very late Field Sparrows were seen in Durand Nov 18 (Listman). The Lapland Longspur first appeared Oct 12 when eight birds were seen at Shore Acres (Listman). Good numbers were seen for about a month with the maximum count being 55 birds Oct 26 at Webster (Kemnitzer). They

had decreased very sharply by the end of the period. Snow Buntings also first appeared Oct 12 when three birds were seen around Braddock. They were present in rather small numbers for the rest of the period, no large flocks being reported.

61 Richland Street, Rochester 9

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

Although November brought some rain and snow, in general the Region shows the effects of the long drought. Many small ponds have been dried up, and mud flats exposed in other places, yet in the Keuka area, for example, shore-bird populations did not seem to increase any.

Everyone has remarked to me that natural food is extremely scarce. "What are the birds going to do later in the winter, when they are already eating 'emergency foods' such as barberry?" is the frequently-asked question. Even sumac is scarce. Weed seeds are abundant, but will soon be covered or gone.

The most striking feature of the season has been the early arrival, in numbers, of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. Other winter finches are slow in showing up. Rough-legged Hawks are having their second big season locally, in succession.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loons have been scarce, or perhaps just slow in showing up. Keuka Lake has more Horned Grebes than usual this fall (Guthrie), and they are in good numbers on Cayuga. An immature Double-crested Cormorant spent two weeks in October in the Branchport Basin (C. Spiker). Great Blue Herons were in usual numbers at Montezuma Refuge, and 11 were seen flying over Elmira on Oct 16 (K. Fudge). The final early fall count of American Egrets at Montezuma showed approximately 100, somewhat below last year's number. One appeared at Stewart Park and on the south shore of Cayuga Lake on Nov 7 and stayed for almost a week. It had a broken upper mandible. Four Black-crowned Night Herons remained in Elmira on Oct 19 (Harvey), and one Sept 16. Numbers of Green Herons were seen at the Brick Pond (K. Fudge). American Bitterns and Green Herons were in better than usual numbers at Montezuma Refuge (J. Morse).

Canada Geese passed through the area somewhat early and in lower numbers. The last ones left Montezuma on Dec 4, where the count had been much lower this year than in the past (see below). American Brant continue to increase in this area in the fall migration. Flocks of up to 200 were reported passing over Ithaca, with smaller groups stopping briefly on the lake. Three were killed at the north end of Cayuga on Oct 23 (Walker). Five appeared at Lakeside Park at the south end of Seneca on Oct 30 (H. Mitchell, L. Helfer). One individual has joined the tame Mallards at Stewart Park, Ithaca, again this year. Six Blue Geese, which kept to themselves (3 ad., 3 imm.) were at Montezuma from Oct 2 into December.

Baldpates and Canvasbacks were in fair numbers at the north end of Cayuga in November (Walker). Six Blue-winged Teal appeared on the Rhodes Pond at Elmira on Sept 15 (M. Welles) and five Green-winged Teal at the Horseheads Dump on Oct 9 (K. Fudge). Four Ring-necked Ducks were on the Chemung River on Oct 27 (K. Fudge). A female King Eider was shot on Oct 24 on the north end of Cayuga, taken to Montezuma, and then turned over to the Cornell collection. Few Scoters of any species have been reported this fall.

John Morse, Assistant Manager of Montezuma Refuge, has been making careful counts of the waterfowl there this fall, and his report seems worthy of lengthy quotation or excerpting.

From a count of 11 geese and 3810 ducks on Aug 17, the numbers increased

to 7725 ducks on Sept 13, which included 2500 Mallards, 1500 Black Ducks, 600 Pintail, 900 Blue-winged Teal, 800 American Widgeon and 500 Shovellers. By Sept 28, the Mallards had increased to 2600, the Pintails to 1200, the Green-winged Teal to 400 and the American Widgeon to 4000, while the Blue-winged Teal had dropped to 100. (All of the latter left shortly, although one pair was seen on Oct 26).

The peak number of waterfowl on the Refuge was reached on Nov 7, with 116 Geese and 10675 ducks present. By that date, the Mallards had reached 3500 and the Black Ducks 2800. At the end of November there were still 1500 Mallards, 2000 Blacks, 25 Gadwalls, 100 Green-winged Teal, 25 American Widgeon, 25 Shovellers, 150 Ring-necked Ducks, 10 Canvasbacks, 100 Hooded Mergansers, and 300 American Mergansers. The peak number compares very unfavorably with the last two years. In the fall of 1955 there were 3000 Geese and over 100,000 ducks. A contributing factor was undoubtedly the lack of water, for the storage pool had been drained for carp control, and did not fill up because of the dry fall. But the numbers of geese should not have been affected by this.

The pond at Sapsucker Woods was used again this fall by small groups of Dabblers which dropped in to feed with the captive waterfowl each afternoon at dusk. The appearance of Wood Ducks in numbers was particularly gratifying. On the afternoon of Oct 17, 87 Wood Ducks, only 15 of which were captive, filed slowly out of the woods to feed on the corn under the office windows. It was a stirring sight.

A late November afternoon brought an unusual sight to observers on the Inlet at the south end of Cayuga, where 300 Hooded Mergansers gathered to rest awhile. A. A. Allen reported it to be by far the largest flock he'd ever seen, and some Super-scochromes he took are evidence of the numbers.

**Hawks — Owls:** A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen by K. Fudge on Harris Hill on Oct 22 in the act of picking a Red-breasted Nuthatch off a pine cone on which it had just landed. Cooper's Hawks have been more in evidence than usual in the Elmira area (Welles), and several individuals of the species have heckled the birds in the outside aviary at the Research Center at Sapsucker Woods. It has been a good fall for Buteos, ever since Aug 18 when Mrs. York watched a small flock of Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Broad-wings pass over her hill. Other good hawk days were Oct 29 when numbers of Rough-legs and Red-tails were seen by a group I took to Montezuma, and Nov 17, when Dr. Spofford drove from Montezuma to Ithaca and saw 16 Red-tails, 12 Rough-legs and 3 Harriers. It's the second winter in succession that Rough-legs have been abundant in the fall and early winter in the Finger Lakes. The first one at Montezuma Refuge was seen Oct 4, the first one near Sapsucker Woods was Oct 8 and they are reported as abundant near Keuka and Seneca Lakes. Mrs. Bardeen reports one attempted to take one of their fancy pigeons at Burdett, which is certainly unusual for a Rough-leg. Marsh Hawks were abundant at Montezuma Refuge all fall. An Osprey appeared over the Chemung River on Sept 15 (K. Fudge, M. Smith). The two adult Bald Eagles were a common sight at Montezuma through the reporting period. Sparrow Hawks were scarce around Avoca.

Sora Rails remained at Montezuma Refuge until Sept 20, Virginias until Oct 5. The Florida Gallinules also left Oct 5. Coots are abundant at the south end of Cayuga Lake, and also on Keuka.

There were five Golden Plovers at Montezuma Refuge on Sept 23 (Morse), one Black-bellied on Sept 8. A Wilson's Snipe spent two weeks in September at Rhodes Pond in Elmira, and A. A. Allen saw them at several locations near Ithaca. Both Yellowlegs were seen in usual numbers throughout the Region. Pectoral Sandpipers seemed slightly scarcer, while there were more reports than usual of White-rumped. There were the usual flocks of Red-backed Sandpipers at Montezuma Refuge, and small flocks were on the exposed mud flats of Keuka Lake and along the Watkins inlet. Dowitchers occurred in good numbers at Montezuma from Aug 27 to Oct 18 (Morse) and some were still present there on Oct 29 (Hoyt). Three Western Sandpipers, not always noted, were seen on the beach at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on Oct 22 (N. Case).

Prof. Guthrie saw a Northern Phalarope in the Branchport Basin on Sept 27. A Parasitic Jaeger was seen briefly at the south end of Cayuga on Nov 10 (I. Nisbet).

Great Black-backed Gulls continue to appear early in the Finger Lakes. One

was seen at the north end of Cayuga on Sept 21 (Walker). The first one at the south end of Cayuga appeared on Oct 10 (Case) and one was seen on Seneca on Nov 15 (Bardeen).

Mourning Doves are scarcer than last year at Keuka, Geneva and in the Ithaca area. Snowy Owls have been spotted at different locations: at the Branchport Basin on Nov 18 (Spiker), in downtown Geneva on Nov 30, on Snyder Hill near Ithaca Dec 1 and a picture of one in Auburn appeared in the newspaper there on Nov 23. I have probably overlooked other reports. A Short-eared Owl was caught Oct 30 at the Cornell Turkey Farm, and is under observation at the Laboratory of Ornithology Research Center.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** There were several reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds remaining until mid-October in the Finger Lakes (Ness, Shepherd).

A migrating flock of over 100 Flickers was seen at Breeseport from Sept 13 to 19 (Brimmer). The Pileated Woodpecker has been found at two new stations near Geneva (Ward). Although three nesting pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers were known in the vicinity of Elmira, no juveniles were seen, and in September four adults were seen on the Welles farm. All Flycatchers, except Phoebe and Pewee, were scarce at Geneva. Blue Jays and White-breasted Nuthatches are up in numbers around Geneva, Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees are abundant around Keuka, and Chickadees also are in good numbers at Geneva. Three Tufted Titmice have put in an appearance on the Keuka College campus (Guthrie) and at least one other station near there. Spiker reports that his only previous records around Keuka were of single birds Aug 1936 and May 1947. While this species has been resident for some years at Ithaca, it rarely appears in the higher elevations of the area. K. Fudge saw 2 adults and 3 juveniles in her yard in Elmira on Sept 30. While there have been very few reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches at Ithaca, and none at Watkins, many were seen around Elmira after Oct 4, on the higher elevations where pitch-pines have seeds. One has been at the Carter feeder in Avoca since Nov 18, and one at Walker feeder in Romulus from Sept 9 on. Several pairs of Carolina Wrens seem established at Keuka now. A Carolina was seen Sept 9 by Mrs. Munford at Clifton Springs, and on Sept 29 at Geneva (Gambrell). Six Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen on Sept 18 near Horseheads (Raabe). The Mockingbird reported last year near Ludlowville at the Shepherd home put in its appearance again on Nov 16. Catbirds seemed to leave Geneva early, but remained in Etna through the first week of October.

J. Walker reported good numbers of Bluebirds in migration, and the same seemed true around Ithaca. During a heavy rain on Sept 16, 100 Bluebirds came down in Horseheads and were still there the next morning (rep. Welles).

Northern Shrikes have been reported from several areas, and one heckled the English Sparrows at the Research Center feeder on Nov 18.

**Vireos — Sparrows:** Following a heavy rain on Oct 1, the yard of K. Fudge in Elmira was filled with migrating Vireos, Red-eyed, Blue-headed and Yellow-throated, as well as Nashville, Magnolia, and Cape May Warblers. The birds remained for about three hours. Black-throated Green Warblers were seen in numbers the previous day in Elmira by Smith, and Bay-breasted Warblers were seen on Harris Hill in numbers on Oct 9 (K. Fudge). No other areas reported migrating Warblers. Malcolm Lerch trapped a Connecticut and a Mourning Warbler on Sept 14, near Penn Yan, and another Connecticut the next day. These often slip by us without being observed.

Jayson Walker reports that the largest flock of Redwings and Grackles he ever saw passing over the village of Cayuga on Oct 26. It took an hour to pass, and was three levels high, the top level being larger than the other two combined. Grackles have been unusually abundant around Elmira and stayed late (Welles). Rusty Blackbirds, in all plumages, have been daily visitors at the feeder at the Research Center at Cornell since Sept 27, remaining into December. Large flocks of Cowbirds gathered around Elmira in late September and early October.

There were two Dickcissel reports. Lerch banded one on Oct 5 at Penn Yan, and W. Spofford saw one in a flock with English Sparrows near Aurora on Nov 17.

Evening Grosbeaks made an early arrival, being seen first at Hornell on Sept 29 (Groesbeck) and at Ithaca on Sept 30 (DGAllen). Small flocks have been reported from most towns in the Region, in most cases still feeding on box Elder, but they

found my feeders in Etna in midOctober and I'm feeding up to sixty daily, and had banded 100 by Dec 1. This early arrival at stations has made it possible to do some studies of first-year plumages, as bill color gave clues to age. Much remains to be learned. Purple Finches have been abundant at Elmira this fall.

Reports of Pine Grosbeaks have poured in, especially during the hunting season when flocks, small and large, were spotted in woodlots. Others have been feeding on frozen apples, but the sumac crop is so poor that search of sumac thickets has not produced these birds. The earliest report was from Harris Hill where four were seen on Oct 9 (K. Fudge). On Dec 4, a female Pine Grosbeak was seen at Montezuma, making a new species for the Refuge. There have been a few scattered reports of Siskins and Redpolls, but none of Crossbills in this Region.

Two **Lark Sparrows** were reported from a field just north of Ithaca on October 22 by Neil Case, who has just come to Ithaca from the mid-west, where he was familiar with the species. This may be a first record for the Cayuga Basin. Slate-colored Juncos are not very abundant. Tree Sparrows are certainly scarce so far and were late in arriving. Chipping Sparrows migrated in numbers the third week of September in Horseheads (Welles). Apparently White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were in local concentrations, since reports from part of my Region said "Never had so many," while others said they were extremely scarce. I banded more White-throats and fewer White-crowns than usual at Etna. Song Sparrows do not seem to be wintering here this year. Scattered reports of Lapland Longspurs, the first coming from Big Flats on Oct 2. Snow Buntings appeared at Geneva on Oct 3, two weeks early (Ward).

Correction: In the July, 1957 issue, page 58, 4th line from top, read "25 years" instead of "2 years".

*Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca*

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## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The whole period, from August 16 to November 30, has been fairly dry. Precipitation averaged 75 to 80 per cent of normal for the period. In no month was the precipitation total as high as normal, although November, as dry as it was, was the wettest in three years. The heaviest rains were recorded Sep 22 and Oct 8 with other appreciable rains coming Aug 25-26, Oct 24 and Nov 18-19. The first appreciable snowfall came Oct 27, with the next Nov 27 and another Nov 30, but at no time was there a significant amount of snow on the ground for more than a few hours.

The latter part of August was cool, September was about normal, October the coldest in five years and November the warmest in four years. The first period with frost or near frost at night came during the last four days of September.

**Loons — Ducks:** Our latest Green Heron report was from Sherburne Sep 15 (Whites). A late Black-crowned Night Heron was at Sherburne Nov 10 where one or two have been seen several times during the period (Whites). An American Bittern was at Boland's Marsh north of Binghamton Aug 18 (Bemont) and another at Sherburne Sep 2 (Whites). This species is reported rather infrequently in the region. A number of flocks of Canada Geese have been reported, usually with rather indefinite dates. The earliest, a flock of 34 at Deposit, were seen Sep 6 (Wilson). The latest, so far, were in the Unadilla area about Nov 15 (Wisner). The pair of Egyptian Geese reported from the Whitney Point area in the last issue suddenly disappeared before the hunting season but no one has been found who admits knowing what happened to them. A farm where they are raised has been found near Deposit and it seems likely that this is where the two "wild" ones came from (Loomis). There are few reports of migrating ducks, perhaps because observers are reluctant to be around marshes and ponds where hunters are apt to be.

Another contributing factor may be the drying up of a number of the smaller and shallower ponds and marshes. A Bufflehead was on the Susquehanna River at the Binghamton-Vestal line Oct 24 (Hannan). 12 Hooded Mergansers were at Norwich Nov 10 and six American Mergansers were at Chenango Valley State Park north of Binghamton Nov 28 (Sheffields).

**Hawks — Owls:** There were a number of Red-tailed Hawks reported from various parts of the region, but no Red-shouldered or Broad-winged Hawks at all. At Oxford a Rough-legged Hawk was seen repeatedly during October, but no more until one appeared Nov 29 (Stratton). Another was at Unadilla Oct 28 (Wisner) and still another was at Kinney Gulf, in Cortland Co., Nov 16 (Mulholland). An Osprey was at Johnson City Sep 9 (Bemont, H. Marsi) and two were at Unadilla Sep 19 (Wisner). Ruffed Grouse have been plentiful in the Binghamton and Deposit areas, but there is cause to wonder what they will eat in late winter and early spring, because they were already eating food normally left until then in mid November (Van Kuren).

A Sora, another infrequently reported species, was found at Sherburne Aug 16 (Whites). Killdeer were seen frequently in the Binghamton area until near the end of October but the last one so far was at Unadilla Oct 31 (Wisner). A Common Snipe was at Sherburne Aug 22 and five were at the same place Sep 1 and Sep 2 (Whites). Our last Solitary Sandpiper was at Sherburne Sep 1 (Whites) and our last two Greater Yellowlegs at Campville, west of Endicott, Oct 27 (Bemont). A Lesser Yellowlegs was at Sherburne Aug 18 (Whites). Two Least Sandpipers at Norwich Aug 22 (Whites) were the last of the "peeps" reported. The first Herring Gull of the season was at Endicott Oct 3 (N. Washburn). The highest count so far is 17. No Ring-billed Gulls have been reported yet. A flock of over 50 Mourning Doves was seen lined up on the utility wires Sep 7 at Choconut Center, north of Johnson City (Sheffields). Screech Owls and Horned Owls have both been reported more than usual this fall. A Barred Owl was at Ludlow, in Chenango Co., Sep 1 (Stratton) and the usual reports were received from the Deposit area (Wilson).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** The large flock of Nighthawks usually seen over Binghamton in late August was not reported this year. The last one reported was at Deposit Sep 11. Hummingbirds seemed more common during September than earlier in the summer. The last one was at Binghamton Oct 1 (Greene, H. Marsi). A Red-headed Woodpecker was near Willet, in Cortland Co., Aug 24 (Sheffields, Washburns) and a family of four, two adults and two young, were seen feeding on blackberries near Sherburne Sep 7 (Carter). No Kingbirds were reported after Aug 25 and the last Crested Flycatcher was near Binghamton Sep 1 (Bemont, H. Marsi). There were several late Phoebe reports, the last one coming Oct 27 near Binghamton (Bemont). Three Boreal Chickadees were found at Chenango Valley State Park Nov 3 (Whites). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Sherburne Aug 22 (Whites), another was at Binghamton Sep 1 (Bemont, H. Marsi) and another was at Choconut Center Sep 15 (Sheffields), but that's all. A Brown Creeper at Skylake, east of Windsor in Broome Co., on Sep 1 (H. Marsi, Sheerer) was quite early. There were several Winter Wren reports, the first one Sep 21 at Choconut Center (Sheffields). Carolina Wrens seem to be making a strong come back in the Binghamton area. There have been quite a number of reports, all from an area several miles long south of the Susquehanna River (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club). A Carolina Wren was also found at Oquaga Lake in eastern Broome Co. Aug 27 (Wilson) only the second in that area in a number of years.

A Mockingbird came to a feeder in Endwell Nov 26 (N. Washburn). The last time Robins were seen in numbers was Oct 28 in the Binghamton area (H. Marsi). At Oxford Robins found food so scarce they turned to eating "woolly bear" caterpillars and were seen handling them gingerly (Stratton). Golden-crowned Kinglets were first seen at Choconut Center Sep 27 (Sheffields) and at Deposit were reported to be much more plentiful than last year (Wilson). Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared Sep 28 and a few were still here Nov 24 and even singing a little on the latter date (Sheffields). There were several Water Pipit reports, the first Sep 15 of two at Norwich (Whites) and the last Nov 15 of a flock of 25 at Oxford (Stratton). There have been several reports of Northern Shrikes from the Binghamton area starting Oct 25 (Sheffields) and one was seen at Oxford Nov 27 (Stratton).

**Vireos — Warblers:** The last Blue-headed Vireo was at Skylake Oct 6 (H. Marsi, Saunders) and the last Red-eye was near Vestal Oct 5 (Marsis). The warbler

migration was very poor. Many species were not seen at all and those that were were in small numbers. The last Nashvilles were seen Sep 28 at Choconut Center (Sheffields) and the last Magnolias Sep 24 at Ely Park in Binghamton (Bemont). Cape Mays were reported twice, Sep 8 and Sep 21, both times at Choconut Center (Sheffields). Myrtles were the only species seen in any numbers and only until Oct 27 at Norwich (Whites) and Choconut Center (Sheffields). A Palm Warbler was at Choconut Center Oct 5 and 6 (Sheffields). A Yellow Palm was at Norwich Oct 5 (Whites) and another was at Choconut Center Oct 12 (Sheffields). A Mourning Warbler was found near Binghamton Sep 17 (H. Marsi).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** On Oct 24 a flight of Redwinged Blackbirds about a mile long and numbering "probably millions" was seen flying south against a strong headwind over Oxford (Stratton). Not many were seen after Oct 27 but a male came to a feeder at Unadilla Nov 11 and returned regularly to the end of the month (Wisner). A flock of six to ten Baltimore Orioles spent a week, starting Aug 20, at Oxford living on blackberries (Stratton). A Scarlet Tanager, in full color, was at Norwich Aug 22 (Whites).

After their absence last year Evening Grosbeaks appeared early this year. Two at Hillcrest, north of Binghamton, Sep 30 (Hubbard) were the first. There have been a number of scattered reports from all parts of the region since, but only at Homer (Gustafson) and Deposit (Wilson) do reports indicate they have settled down and been seen in the same area regularly. At Deposit they appeared Nov 8 and by Nov 30, 41 had been banded and two foreign retraps taken. On Oct 26 a banded female Evening Grosbeak killed itself bumping into a picture window. The Banding Office reports the bird was banded 18 months earlier at State College, Penna. On Nov 3 a single Pine Grosbeak was found near Binghamton (Saunders, E. Washburn). Since then there have been scattered reports from all over the region. Most reports of this normally flocking bird are of one, two or three individuals. Pine Siskins were at Choconut Center Nov 10 (Sheffields). A Red-eyed Towhee was still near Binghamton Nov 17 (Bemont). A flock of over 100 Vesper Sparrows was found in the Binghamton area Oct 27 (Bemont). Tree Sparrows arrived in the Triple Cities area Oct 27 and several times during November have been heard singing a song not usually heard until spring (Sheffields). White-crowned Sparrows were first seen at Oxford Oct 9 (Stratton) and most were gone after Oct 15, but an immature was still coming to a feeder in Choconut Center Nov 17 (Sheffields). White-throated Sparrows arrived Sep 16 (Carter, Marsi) and haven't been reported since Nov 11. Fox Sparrows were first seen Oct 8 at Oxford (Stratton).

710 University Ave., Endwell

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

Late August and windy September produced a mediocre flight of warblers, thrushes, and vireos, but this was more than compensated for by a superb shorebird flight. The warbler-vireo migration terminated abruptly with the severe frosts of 26-29 Sep. However, shorebird numbers and variety held up well thru this frosty period. Late September and October saw a heavy waterfowl migration (literally *all over*), poor only in Canada Geese, Scaup, Buffleheads, and Red-breasted Mergansers. Most notable in October, however, were the many early-arriving "northerners", very marked in the winter finches; this despite the fact that Oct was not a harsh month weather-wise in central New York. November easily made up the cold and wet that October lacked, but this only intensified the southward movement of the "northerners" and the waterfowl. On 25-26 Nov a cold snap quickly sealed off many marshes and small lakes, and Sandy Pond was two-thirds frozen over in one night. Aside from this severe spell, the approaching winter has been open and relatively snowless.

Across the Region weed seeds are enormously abundant, but the tree



seed crops and winter berries are only fair. A "mouse count" at the Cornell Biol. Station, Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake showed 125 mice/acre; this finding probably explains the recent large number of hawks and owls along Oneida Lake's south shore. (Ed.: But contrast with 10,000/acre plague in western U. S. now).

Though in fall one almost expects the unexpected, this season has produced an unusual flurry of rarities, e. g. Pacific Loon, all three Phalaropes, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: fall arrival date is Sep 5, one, Sandy Pond; numbers very low (5-8/trip) with a fall high of 25 on Oct 26. Red-throated Loon: one to four seen from Sep 28 (early) to Nov 28, all from Lake Ontario (Evans, Rusk, Scheider). **Pacific Loon:** a winter-plumage bird of this species was carefully studied in comparison with a Common Loon at Sandy Pond, Nov 24; the size, straight bill, even color of upper parts with slightly lighter head, head shape, and back markings were carefully noted (Nisbet, Spofford, Scheider, et al). Horned Grebe: arrival date is Sep 15 (very early), two, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. (Evans); heavy flight (100-200/day) on Lake Ontario and Oneida Lake with a high of 275 on Nov 16.

American Egret: last report is Oct 21, ten, Howland's Is. GMA (Ernst). Green Heron: high of 45 on Sep 5; departure date is Oct 15, one, Clay Swamp. Black-crowned Night Heron and American Bittern: both very scarce this fall; last Bittern seen Nov 16, one, Sandy Pond.

Canada Goose: a late, low-count flight; first birds on Oct 1, high of 280 on Nov 10 with departure date Dec 7, 15, Beaver Lake; a Canada Goose X Snow Goose hybrid stayed at Howland's Is. GMA thru Oct and early Nov. Brant: fall arrivals noted Oct 13, 60, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. (Evans); the peak count is 2000, Oct 26, Derby Hill, east of Texas; one Nov 24, Sandy Pond, is the last; reported in flocks of 300-500 at Oneida Lake (Laible) and Howland's Is. GMA (Ernst) in late Oct and early Nov; five on Nov 9 at Sylvan Beach (Whites).

Mallard, Black Duck, Baldpate: very heavy, widespread flight with highs of 3000, 3200, and 3500 respectively on Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA (Rusk, Scheider). Gadwall: high of 25, Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA; **unrecorded** from other areas. Pintail: arrival date is Sep 5; in contrast to the other dabblers, fall counts were low (high of 550); two still present, Dec 15, Oswego. Green-winged Teal: date range Aug 2 to Nov 24, with an all-time high of 415, Oct 13, Clay Swamp. Blue-winged Teal: last is Nov 28, two, near Oswego (Weeks). Shoveler: scattered reports, the most unusual, Sep 15-24, from eastern Onondaga Co. where previously unrecorded; high of 31, Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA. Wood Duck: fall high count is 257, Oct 13, Clay Swamp; six appear to be wintering with the breeding stock at Howland's Island GMA.

Redhead, Canvasback, & Scaup: arrival dates are Sep 15, Oct 12, and Oct 12 respectively; a mixed flock of 50,000 — mostly Canvasbacks and Scaup — spent the last week of Oct off Shackleton Point, but in mid-Nov either shifted on the lake or left entirely; late Nov counts there were very low (a few 100/day). Golden-eye and Old-squaw: first fall migrants noted on Oct 12; a flight of 350 Old-squaw were noted moving west past Derby Hill near Texas, Dec 1. Bufflehead: fall high count is 40, Oct 26, in a very large merganser-golden-eye-scooter flight at Sandy Pond; all other reports less than 15/day. Harlequin Duck: one female seen Nov 23, off Sandy Pond (Spofford, Nisbet) is an exciting fall find. Eider (sp?): a flock of six noted flying low over Sandy Pond, Nov 23 (Spofford, Nisbet). White-winged Scoter: first noted Sep 21; heavy flight along Sandy Pond with peak of 270 on Oct 12; this and Surf Scoter were present until Dec 1. American Scoter: present along Lake Ontario from Oct 12 to Nov 16 with four/day as the best count. Red-breasted Merganser: greatly reduced flight — peak was 2000 (1/5 of normal), Nov 28 — along Sandy Pond and Selkirk Shores St. Pk. Hooded Merganser: encouraging numbers on many ponds this fall; a count of **330**, Nov 17, at Howland's Is. GMA and Beaver Lake is a record high.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: last noted Nov 22 (very late), two, near Cato (Ernst). Goshawk: singles, mostly immatures, reported Oct 14 and Nov 24, Sandy Pond, Oct 25, Euclid, Nov 10, Port Byron. Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk: sharp rise in reports (8-10 total/week) in last two weeks of Nov. Red-tailed Hawk,

Rough-legged Hawk, and Harrier: wintering numbers very high (20, 20+, 15+/day respectively in late Nov) most concentrated about Bridgeport and Baldwinsville. Rough-legged Hawk: one seen Oct 4 Howland's Is. GMA is a record early arrival date (Bauer); small numbers (1-5/day) through Oct with a sharp increase in early Nov. Osprey: one, Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA is the latest ever recorded here (R&S). Peregrine: an adult and an immature, Oct 6, Sandy Pond, are the only ones noted this fall. Merlin and Kestrel: two and 3, respectively, seen in an hour migrating south on brisk northwest winds along the Sandy Pond dunes, Sep 8.

Virginia Rail and Sora: both reported regularly from muddy pools near East Syracuse and Skaneateles; at Skaneateles a high of 17 Rails (9 Virginia and 8 Sora) in view at once on Sep 8 (Spofford); departure dates are Sep 28, Skaneateles, and Oct 9, East Syracuse, respectively. Coot: one Aug 18 E. Syracuse is a very early migrant; fall numbers consistently low.

From mid-Aug on, the shorebird flight proved progressively more and more exciting. Sandy Pond and Sylvan Beach enjoyed unremitting lowering of water levels and consequent high numbers of shorebirds. Drying marshes and receding farm ponds suited many migrants; a small (10 acre) muddy pool near E. Syracuse attracted flocks of shorebirds (20 species from 15 Aug to 30 Sep) — and birders! Delta Lake near Rome and Onondaga Lake, however, had extremely poor shorebirding because of high water and poor food, respectively. Evidence of the flight's volume are the high counts and last dates, many record-breaking (see below).

Piping Plover: last date is Aug 21, one, Sandy Pond Inlet (Goodwin). Ringed Plover: high count is 38, 9/8, Sandy Pond; last date Oct 26, one, Sylvan Beach, (Whites). Killdeer: high of 270 on Sep 14; last noted Nov 30, three, Oneida Lake. Turnstone: fall numbers up considerably (peak at 15, Sep 8, Sandy Pond) but a sharp drop in late Sep with a last date, Oct 3 (early), one, Sylvan Beach. Black-bellied Plover: fall arrival date is Aug 14 (late), but departure date of Nov 30, four, Oneida Lake, is latest ever; high is 23, Oct 26, Sandy Pond. Golden Plover: date range is Aug 29 to Oct 29 (Evans); however, numbers quite low with high counts of 3 on Sep 21 and Oct 12.

Snipe: largest number reported is 21 on Aug 22; however, reports are so widespread —practically every damp spot from Rome to Port Byron — that the total number moving through the area must have been very great; last date is Nov 12, one, Clay Swamp. Upland Sandpiper: departure date is Sep 7 (late) one, E. Syracuse (R&S). Solitary Sandpiper: late Aug numbers very good; last date is Sep 28, one, Skaneateles. Willet: singles reported on Aug 5 and 27, Sandy Pond (Howland) are firsts for the new Region. Greater Yellowlegs: greatest number is 24, Howland's Is. GMA, on Oct 27; the departure date of Nov 22, one, is a trifle early considering the other late-staying shorebirds. Lesser Yellowlegs: 40 on Aug 21 is the peak count; last reported on Oct 27 (late), Howland's Is. GMA. Knot: reported from Aug 21, Sandy Pond (Goodwin), to Oct 26, Sylvan Beach (the Whites); peak number is 9, Sep 21, at Sandy Pond. Pectoral Sandpiper: almost as widespread as the Snipe and seen on a number of occasions in dry fields with Killdeers; high of 50, Sep 13, E. Syr.; last date is Nov 7, nine, Howland's Is. GMA. White-rumped Sandpiper: this bird, usually seen singly or at the most in twos or threes, was present in unusual numbers at Sandy Pond this fall; 30 on Sep 8, 24 on Sep 21, with three, Oct 26, as the last; also reported from Sylvan Beach (Whites) and E. Syracuse (Evans) in Sep.

Baird's Sandpiper: date range is Sep 3, one, E. Syr. to Sep 21, one, Sandy Pond, with a high of nine at the latter place on Sep 5 (Listman). Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers: numbers of both were high, but the normal 3 or 2:1 ratio of Semipalmated to Least was present; remarkably late dates are Oct 27, two Least, Howland's Is. GMA (R&S) and Nov 1, ten Semipalmated, Sandy Pond (Evans). Red-backed Sandpiper: arrival date is Sep 14 (early), E. Syr; peak number is 190, Oct 26, at Sandy Pond; last date Dec 1 (late) three, Sandy Pond Inlet. Dowitcher: 12 on Sep 4, Sandy Pond, is the fall high count; very late are 5 on Oct 19, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. (Evans). Long-billed Dowitcher: one present from Sep 21-24, E. Syr, the object of numerous and careful observations (Scheider, Spofford, Evans, etc.). Stilt Sandpiper: first date is Aug 2, one, Sandy Pond; high of nine, Sep 7, at E. Syr; two at the same place on Oct 4 were record late birds (OAS). Western Sandpiper: singles reported regularly thru Sep at Sandy Pond (R&S) and Sylvan Beach (Whites); last report is Oct 13, two, Sandy Pond (Spofford et al).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: two at Sandy Pond on Sep 5 (Listman) and Sep 6

(Goodwin) are **regional firsts**; Sanderling: very scarce in Aug but early Sep showed good numbers (high of 250 on Sep 5) at Sandy Pond; Sylvan Beach numbers were lower (80+) but well above average; departure date is Nov 28 one, Sandy Pond Red Phalarope: 2, both in winter plumage, were seen Nov 24 at Sandy Pond (Spofford, Nisbet, et al); they were seen there again on Dec 1, not ten yards from where they were found on the 24th (Listman et al). Wilson's Phalarope: one in fall plumage present Aug 26 and 27 at Sandy Pond (Goodwin) is first Regional report but is in keeping with increasing fall reports further west (Region I and II). Northern Phalarope: two reports: one, Aug 30, E. Syr (Seaman); two, Sep 5, Sandy Pond (Listman).

Parasitic Jaeger: a burst of records this fall from Sandy Pond; one each on Sep 5 (Listman), Sep 20 (Evans), Sep 21 and Oct 12 (R&S); one on Nov 24, east of Texas, is phenomenally late (Spofford, Nisbet).

Great Black-backed Gull: first fall arrivals are 8, Sep 1, at Sandy Pond; low counts (5-10/day) thru Oct and Nov with a sharp upswing (60+/day) with the cold weather of late Nov. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: consistently low counts (500/day) at Sandy Pond and Oneida Lake, but marked numbers (8,000 and 15,000 respectively) on Dec 1 at Oswego following a snowstorm. Bonaparte's Gull: very low numbers; high count for the entire fall is 24, Sep 21, Sylvan Beach.

Forster's Tern: first reported Sep 8, four, at Sandy Pond; a high of 7 there Sep 14 and five regularly seen there thru Oct; extremely late (latest ever, in fact!) is one on Nov 24, Sandy Pond Inlet (Spofford, Nisbet, Scheider et al). Common Tern: last date is Oct 13, 20, Sandy Pond; late for so large a number). Caspian Tern: high of ten, Aug 17 and 26, Sandy Pond; departure date is Sep 29, four, Sandy Pond; one seen Sep 21, Sylvan Beach, where it is irregular (Whites); also two, Aug 10, Howland's Is. GMA, on stumps in a wood-rimmed pond are unusual.

Cuckoos: practically absent thru the fall migration; many observers have not seen a single individual of either species this season. Screech Owl: reports of 2-4/evening from Clay Swamp and Bridgeport; this increase over the past two years marked low counts is probably due to the abundant mouse population and more observers. Snowy Owl: one on Nov 16, Sandy Pond dunes, is the first report; no other Nov records. Short-eared Owl: first reported Oct 12, one near Euclid; in the next three weeks singles or "a few" were seen at Pompey, Howland's Is. GMA, and Skaneateles high count is six, Nov 17 and 30, over one field near Bridgeport.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Red-bellied Woodpecker: up to four/day (Nov 17) reported from Howland's Is. GMA thru Oct and Nov (Ernst). Red-headed Woodpecker: an immature present Nov 16-30 near Manlius (Maxwell) is very late. Sapsucker: fall flight very poor with best count two/day at Sandy Pond. Hairy and Downy Woodpecker: marked flight of both down Sandy Pond dunes in first two weeks of Oct; this compressed flight period is in contrast to the extended date range there for Creepers, Nuthatches, and Chickadees (early Sep - Mid-Nov). Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker: one female seen near Big Moose Lake, Herkimer Co., in the first week of Nov; a pair of American Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen in the same area in the third week of Nov (Farnham).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: date range Aug 17-Sep 21, singles only, Sandy Pond and Selkirk Shores St. Pk. Empidonax flycatchers were scarce — and silent — in the fall flight at Sandy Pond, Oneida, and Rome. Horned Lark: flight of 900+ on Nov 16, Sandy Pond; fall counts prior to that were low, although beginning migration was indicated by 60, Sep 8, Sandy Pond Inlet.

Swallows: enormous flights moved south along the Sandy Pond dunes thru Aug and early Sep; some days the sandflats were black with resting Swallows; high counts at Sandy Pond are: Tree Swallow—11,000, Aug 11; Bank Swallow—15,000, Aug 11; Barn Swallow—9,000, Aug 17; Purple Martin—1,000, Aug 11; last dates are: Tree—Oct 5, six, Peterboro; Bank—Sep 15, two, Sandy Pond; Barn, Oct 2, eight, Howland's Is. GMA; Cliff: Sep 21, two Sandy Pond.

Blue Jay: protracted flight (early Aug to Nov 24) along Sandy Pond; comments indicate widespread numbers from late Sep to early Nov with a sharp drop in the second week in Nov. Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch: flights of dozens of these birds as early as 17 Aug with 100's of Chickadees and 10's of Nuthatches in Sep and Oct along Lake Ontario; inland numbers of migrating Chickadees appeared to be equally high, but date ranges are less readily determined. Red-breasted Nuthatch: first date is Aug 17, one, Selkirk Shores St. Pk.; reported

from **everywhere** thru Sep; numbers dropped off sharply in the first two weeks of Oct, and reports later than that are exclusively single birds, usually at feeders (Aspinwall, Evans).

Carolina Wren: two each reported regularly from Stokes-Lee Center area north of Rome (Aspinwall) and from Oneida (Nodecker) none since mid-Aug along Lake Ontario. Winter Wren: very high is a count of 15, Oct 6, Sandy Pond. Catbird: last date is Nov 4 (late), one, Selkirk Shores St. Pk. Robin: heavy flight thru Rome (Aspinwall) with major numbers gone from there by Oct 13 (early). Large flights of Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Veeries were noted passing over Syracuse (up to 20 call notes/min.) at night, Sep 17 and 18. Bluebird: fall counts up by 2 and 3 times with flocks of 15-20 birds reported widely (Spofford, Nodecker, Ackley, Scheider).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arrival date is Sep 21, one, Sandy Pond; high count of 125 there Oct 12; **very scarce** thru Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arrival date of Aug 29 (two weeks early), one, Morrisville (Bergner); high of 115, Oct 12, Sandy Pond. Pipit: first reported Sep 8, one, Sandy Pond; reported widely thru late Sep and Oct with a high of 350, Oct 27, Beaver Lake Area; last reported Nov 16, Sandy Pond. Northern Shrike: this is the fourth winter running that these birds have shown up in numbers; first seen Oct 18, Westernville (May); seen in small numbers (one-three/day) since to the end of the period.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Vireos with the exception of Red-eyed Vireos continued scarce thru the fall migration. Philadelphia Vireo: one banded Sep 13, Oneida (Nodecker).

The warbler movement began early with the first unquestionable migrants (two Bay-breasted) on Aug 11. Numbers were quite low but variety was good and birds widespread (Nodecker's banding and daily records, Aspinwall's garden observations). Notably scarce were Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, and Blackburnian. Numbers of Bay-breasted, Black-poll, Myrtle, and Wilson's (10 on Sep 15) Warblers were above average. The late Sep frost pushed most species south hurriedly, but there were a few late departure dates.

Golden-winged: six migrating south along Sandy Pond and Selkirk Shores St. Pk., Aug 17, may indicate breeding stations north of these areas. The same day hundreds of Yellow Warblers were moving south thru the dune woods at Sandy Pond. Tennessee: date range, Aug 17, Sandy Pond (R&S), to Oct 27, Marcellus (Spofford). Orange-crowned: one, Sep 15, two, Sep 21, both Sandy Pond, are the only reports. Myrtle: early are two, an adult and a young bird still begging food, Aug 17, Sandy Pond; reports of singles in late Nov from Westernville (May) and the south side of Syracuse (Chamberlaine). Connecticut: three records this fall; an adult, Sep 8, and an immature, Sep 22, both from Sandy Pond; an immature, Sep 21, at Beaver Lake (R&S).

Late dates are: Palm, Oct 25, one banded, Oneida (Nodecker); Mourning, Oct 6, one female, Sandy Pond (Scheider et al); Bay-breasted, Oct 4, three, Oneida; Yellow-throat, one, Nov 16, Clay Swamp.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Clay Swamp held an enormous roost of blackbirds thru Sep and Oct; high counts are: Red-wing—120,000, Oct 13; Grackle—30,000, Oct 13; Starling—140,000, Oct 15; Cowbird—12,000, Oct 6. The major blackbird movement came in the last week of Oct, unusually early in view of the mild weather. Rusty Blackbird: peak is 400, Oct 12; last seen Nov 16.

The winter finch flight to date has been the landbird counterpart of the excellent waterfowl and shorebird migrations. Small numbers of Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Pine Grosbeaks, and Snow Buntings appeared very early. In approximately two to three weeks, large numbers of these species flooded the area, and all but the Siskin have remained in good numbers until the end of the period. In contrast, the Evening Grosbeaks came south like a "spring-warbler-wave" in reverse and have dropped off irregularly since.

Cardinal: up to seven reported at Oneida; seen twice in Nov in high (1600+ foot) elevation near Pompey (Maxwill); two at Rome, Nov 23 (Remmell); two females at Lakeport, Oneida Lake, Nov 30 (the south shore of Oneida Lake is notoriously deficient in Cardinals); all of the above would indicate new ground gained in the spread of this species. Indigo Bunting: one banded Oct 15, Oneida, (Nodecker) is late. Evening Grosbeak: first report is Sep 29 (earliest ever!), seven, Morrisville

(Carter); within one week reported by almost every active birder (flocks of 4 to 60); the majority of Oct reports mention many immatures and subsequent reports show an erratic decline thru late Oct and early Nov with many at feeders by Nov 10.

**Pine Grosbeak:** Nodecker reported the first (four) on Oct 16 (earliest known date!) at Oneida; late Oct and early Nov saw frequent small flocks (3-12) at Rome, Oneida, Sylvan Beach, Highmarket, and Sandy Pond; however, they were not reported around Syracuse until the second week of Nov and small flocks remain the rule. **Redpoll:** the first were two, Oct 27, Port Byron; by mid-Nov hundreds were reported at Sandy Pond, Howland's Is. GMA, and Bridgeport; there are no reports to date east of Oneida Lake, quite in contrast to the numerous Siskin and Pine and Evening Grosbeak records there. **Pine Siskin:** two on Sep 7, Verona Beach, were the heralds to the heavy flight thru Oct! a noticeable increase at the time of the mid-Nov Redpoll flight; numbers have dropped off sharply since Nov 20. **Goldfinch:** heavy migration with the early Oct sparrow flight (100+/day) and the late Oct Junco - Tree Sparrow movement (200+/day). **Red Crossbill:** two, Aug 18 (very early), Camp Woodland, Constantia (R&S); one, Oct 6, Sandy Pond (Scheider et al).

**Junco:** arrival date is Sep 18, Rome, and Sep 28, Cato (Whitman); high numbers (400+/day) thru Oct but a sharp drop from Nov 14 to Nov 21. **Tree Sparrow:** first seen on Oct 22, Skaneateles; fall numbers low (10-90/day) to the end of the period. **Field Sparrow:** up to 35+/day, Oct 5-14, at Three Rivers GMA. **White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows:** arrival dates of Sep 28 (late) and Sep 1 (early) respectively; flocks of 30-100 of these birds were reported widely; along with Swamp and Song Sparrows, a profusion of wintering White-throats noted. Last White-crowns on Oct 27, Howland's Is. GMA and Skaneateles. **Fox Sparrow:** singles seen from Oct 12, Sandy Pond, to Nov 22, Westerville (May). **Lapland Longspur:** one on Oct 6 near Fernwood, Oswego Co. is early; two in the large Horned Lark flight, Nov 16, at Sandy Pond. **Snow Bunting:** arrival date is Oct 12 (earliest ever!), four, Sandy Pond; flocks of 10-85 birds reported widely since then, primarily along Lake Ontario; not reported "inland" (away from Lake Ontario) until Nov 3.

151 *Seventh North Street, Syracuse 8*

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

There were early indications that this would be a very interesting time for birders. In September Evening Grosbeaks were seen in St. Lawrence County and they reached Watertown early in October. Pine Grosbeaks came in November and there have been a few Snowy Owls. A European Widgeon was shot at Perch Lake, and a Mockingbird was positively identified in Watertown. After a lapse of some time a Cardinal appeared in Watertown. So with birds coming from the north and others from the south November was a wonderful month to watch birds.

**Loons — Ducks:** Several Northern Loons were seen in November and a Red-throated Loon was seen in Black River Nov 29 (Belknap). Horned Grebes were numerous along Lake Ontario from late October to the end of November, and there was a Red-necked Grebe at Sherwin's Bay Nov 29. The European Widgeon shot at Perch Lake late in November was identified by John Wilson, district game manager. Green-winged Teals were noted near Madrid Oct 8. The duck migration was described as very good by Wilson. The Conservation Dept. airplane survey along the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario from Massena to near Oswego placed the number of ducks at a little over 100,000. There were good numbers of Scaup, Eiders were observed Nov 27 in Lake Ontario near Henderson (Wilson). Surf Scoters as well as both the other scoters were present near Morristown Nov 14. Old-squaws appeared along Lake Ontario late in November. J. Blake found fewer broods of the Red-breasted Merganser.

**Hawks — Owls:** There was a good flight of Rough-legged Hawks between Oct 23 and the end of November. A late Marsh Hawk was observed near Ogdensburg Nov 14. Gordon reports an Osprey at Perch River marsh Sep 28. Hungarian Par-

tridge had a good season. They are found in parts of Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties. A late date for Solitary Sandpipers Oct 8 near Madrid. Six Knots appeared at Stony Point Sept 7 (Gordon et al). Belknap found a Willet at El Dorado Aug 28. On Aug 25 Gordon saw Black-bellied Plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs and Sanderlings at Stony Point and on Sept 7 an Eastern Dowitcher still in spring plumage. A very late date for Greater Yellowlegs was Nov 29 at Sherwin's Bay (Belknap). Great Black-backed Gulls were reported twice, Nov 9 at Adams Cove, Lake Ontario and Nov 14 near Morristown. A few Snowy Owls have been seen, two reported from St. Lawrence County the second half of November, one at Chaumont Nov 22 and two north of Watertown very early in December. In Lewis County a Barred Owl was seen near Natural Bridge Oct 16 (Gordon). J. Blake found a Long-eared Owl near Clayton on Sept 20, and Hickok and Nichols saw a Short-eared Owl on Nov 26 near Waddington.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** A late date for Phoebe is Oct 17 at Waddington (Nichols). Tree Swallows along the St. Lawrence River were estimated at 2,000 near Red Mills on Aug 16, and Cliff Swallows resting on wires at Cranberry Lake village Aug 17 numbered about 800 (Nichols). Gordon found Winter Wrens near Belfort, Lewis County on Sept 8, and at Great Bend Oct 14. On Nov 24 a Mockingbird was discovered in Watertown where it was seen by several persons including some who know the bird very well. It was also seen Nov 27 and Dec 2 at the same place. American Pipits were at Stony Point Oct 6. Belknap saw eight Northern Shrikes Oct 25 to the end of November.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Rev. Nichols did not see a Yellow-throated Vireo in 1957, Gordon saw a Blue-headed Vireo at Perch Lake Sept 28. He also reports Wilson's Warbler Sept 21 and a Black-throated Blue, Sept 22, both near Watertown. Nichols observed the Tennessee Warbler at Cranberry Lake Aug 17, and Myrtle Warbler at Madrid Nov 22. J. Blake noticed many unidentified warblers Oct 29, but they probably included Canada and Magnolia Warblers.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Three Rusty Blackbirds were seen Aug 17 in a wild swamp near Wanakena where they may have nested, and a flock of 200 was seen at Lafargeville Oct 29. For several months there have been vague reports or rumors of Cardinals being seen near Watertown, but on Nov 16 Art Allen called my attention to a male Cardinal in his back yard. Many small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks have been reported, and by the end of the period larger groups have been seen. There were six at Madrid Spt 23 with scattered observations since. They were said to be plentiful near Potsdam (L. Blake). They first appeared in Watertown Oct 9, and have been seen many times since. Banded birds have been noticed near Potsdam and at Watertown. Last year there were no Pine Grosbeaks, but this year they have been reported often in St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties from Nov 14 to early December. Redpolls are being seen more often than a year ago. The first record is Oct 31 near Red Mills. Belknap says they were common the latter part of November. Allen found Pine Siskins Oct 4 at Felts Mills and Red Crossbills at Camp Drum Nov 18. One Lapland Longspur was seen near Philadelphia Oct 27 (Belknap).

173 *Haley St., Watertown*

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

Due to the very dry summer and late fall season there were very few birds locally, and hardly any migratory birds stopped over at all. Many trees actually shriveled and died, maple trees colored prematurely and streams that had never before been known to have dried were completely waterless. They tell us that the water table has dropped 18 feet in the past 57 years. With the beaches bordering Lake Champlain becoming ever wider with each dry summer, one wonders why they now want to dredge the Richelieu River deeper.

**Loons — Geese:** Here in the North Country we now have a new problem, which has given the local population grave concern. We never realized the additional

pressure that would be applied to the local duck population by the personnel of the Plattsburg Strategic Air Command Base. Duck shooting here is a thing of the past, as after the first day of the open season there were no ducks to be seen from Plattsburg south to the Willsboro Bay area. Many were probably driven off to other grounds, but the hunter take was staggering for such a small area.

In their order of abundance: Black, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Pintail, Mallard, Ring-neck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Goldeneye, Oldsquaw, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Shoveler, Canada Goose, Blue Goose. Mergansers are always plentiful, and Hooded were exceptionally prominent this fall. Large broods of Blacks were at Wickham's and Ausable Marshes during the late summer, and Amstutz notes broods of Black, Ringnecks and Mergansers at Sunmount.

**Hawks — Owls:** Many Goshawks were about this year, a number brought in by hunters to be mounted. Sparrow Hawks still noted in early December. Great Horned Owls were heard "booming" along the river, and three Barred Owls were killed by cars along the upper reaches of Ausable Marsh.

**Woodpeckers — Warblers:** One Arctic Three-toed seen at Sugarloaf Mountain Nov 18. Many Pileated, Hairy and Downy, mostly in the heavy timber area. Robins seen until Nov 8 at Keeseville and at Sunmount by Amstutz until Sept 28. Many Bluebirds were around until late October and a Hermit Thrush was at Sunmount Oct 6. Crested and Alder Flycatchers, Wood Pewee and Phoebe were noted in Wickham's Marsh until the last week of October. At Keeseville there were no interesting warbler waves, but at Sunmount Miss Amstutz noted good waves.

**Finches — Sparrows:** Pine and Evening Grosbeaks have been noted in good numbers in the Plattsburg, Sunmount and Pok-o-Moonshine areas. Goldfinches seem to be in every wooded area, feeding on white birch seeds. Siskins have also been noted with Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers. Sparrows seemed to mass in numbers and move out all at once. Large numbers of Grasshopper, Savannah, Song, White-crowned and White-throated mixed with Field and Tree Sparrows were recorded in the Keeseville and Tupper Lake areas until the third week of October. Miss Amstutz noted a Fox Sparrow also.

### *Keeseville*

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## REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

JAMES K. MERITT

The fall months were relatively warm and dry. Most observers in the Mohawk-Hudson region thought the fall warbler migration was a good one, certainly better than that of the spring. Undoubtedly because of the warm weather, there were many late warbler departure dates. The waterfowl migration, on the other hand, was not as conspicuous this fall as might be expected.

The dry weather had a direct effect on the number of shorebird reports. Normally, there are few spots in this inland area where any shorebirds — other than the very common ones — can be found with any degree of certainty. However, the low water level this fall left flats exposed at many local lakes and reservoirs, and thirteen varieties of shorebirds were reported.

The influx of certain southern birds continued. There was a continuing increase in the number of reports of the Cardinal and Carolina Wren, and no less than six Tufted Titmice were reported. These are the first in this region in several years. We also had visitors from the north. Following three late September observations of Evening Grosbeak, there were many reports thereafter. There were scattered observations also of the Redpoll and Pine Siskin and more than just a few of the Pine Grosbeak.

**Loons — Ducks:** A Holboell's Grebe was seen at Tomhannock Reservoir on Nov 3, and on the 17th two were at Saratoga Lake (Schenectady Bird Club). The high count of Horned Grebes was the 300 or so seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov 23

(Hallenbeck, Meritt). A count of 24 American Egrets was made at Vischer Ponds on Aug 25 (Angst); the last report of these birds was of a pair there on Sept 21. Two Least Bitterns, a rare species locally, were along the Mohawk at Niskayuna on Sept 1 (Yunick).

In general, the waterfowl migration was light, although most of the expected species were represented. A lone Ruddy Duck was at Red Rock on Sept 1 (Smilow). Two Hooded Mergansers were at Stockport along the lower Hudson on Sept 29 (Alan Devoe Bird Club). Two Red-breasted Mergansers and a good group of 17 Hooded Mergansers were at Tomhannock Reservoir on Nov 3 (SBC). The two Red-heads at Saratoga Lake on Oct 23 were the only ones to be reported (Foote, Hallenbeck). An American Scoter was on the Mohawk near Vischer Ponds on Oct 13 (Hallenbeck), and three were at Saratoga Lake on Nov 10. One was still there a week later.

**Hawks — Owls:** A Turkey Vulture was at Red Rock on Sept 10, and on the 14th two were there (Smilow). Other reports included one at Livingston on Oct 6 (Munson) and one at Hudson on Oct 13 (Brown). The Cooper's Hawk was reported at Schenectady on Sept 1 and 22 (Yunick). A flight of Broad-winged Hawks was observed at East Chatham during the week beginning Sept 17. Almost 150 of these birds were seen, with the high count for one day being 72 (Radke). On Sept 2 an adult Bald Eagle was seen at Vischer's Ponds, and on the 14th two birds, one an immature, were there (Hallenbeck, Meritt). Present at the same locality on Sept 21 was a Pigeon Hawk, the first reported locally in several years. A Duck Hawk was at Loudonville, near Albany, on Sept 6 (French). No Rough-legged Hawks were observed.

Ruffed Grouse appeared to be present in average numbers, but in the vicinity of Schenectady Pheasants were definitely scarce. There were two reports of the Virginia Rail in early September, but none of Soras.

A Semipalmated Plover was at Crescent Reservoir on Aug 25 and again on Sept 21. The Black-bellied Plover (maximum number was three) was at Saratoga Lake from Oct 23 until the late date of Nov 17. Wilson's Snipe were reported in good numbers. Five Red-backed Sandpipers were at Saratoga Lake on Oct 27, and two were still there on Nov 17. Five Pectoral Sandpipers were at Tomhannock Reservoir on Nov 3. There were scattered reports throughout the period of the two Yellow-legs and the two common "peeps". The best shorebird find was the two White-rumped Sandpipers, the first locally in three years, at Tomhannock Reservoir on Nov 3 (SBC). Two Bonaparte's Gulls and a Common Tern were at Saratoga Lake on Oct 27, and three Bonaparte's Gulls were at Tomhannock on Nov 3.

The Saw-whet Owl was reported on several occasions from Jenny Lake during September and October (Bartlett). At Burnt Hills a Saw-whet Owl, apparently injured by a cat, was picked up on Oct 15 (Foote); the bird was released a day or so later. A Long-eared Owl was discovered in downtown Schenectady on Oct 3, and an excellent photograph of this bird appeared in a local newspaper the following day. Screech and Horned Owls were reported with relative frequency. No Snowies were observed.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** A very late Chimney Swift was seen near Saratoga on Sept 22 (SBC). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at Schenectady on Oct 5 (Yunick), and another was at Amsterdam on Oct 7 (Fitzgerald). Pileated Woodpeckers were quite frequently reported. On Sept 18 an adult Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at Brookview (Reilly); this bird is apparently a resident there inasmuch as it had been seen on several earlier occasions.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported only sporadically. The sudden appearance of apparently six Tufted Titmice is certainly a matter of interest. A pair of these birds appeared at a Niskayuna feeder on Oct 14, and they were still present on Nov 30 (Simpson). Another appeared in Hillsdale during the latter part of October and was still present on Nov 30 (Fremd, Green). Another was at Schenectady feeder from Nov 17 to 21 (Jennings). One was at Troy during the week of Nov 18, and this bird was photographed on the 22nd (Kaiser). Still another paid frequent visits to neighboring Alplaus feeders from Nov 15 until at least month's end (Lundy).

The Carolina Wren was again reported in relatively good numbers. The high count was the three seen at a Schenectady feeder only on Nov 26 (Mabb). A pair of these birds was present at Amsterdam during October and November (Fitzgerald). The species was reported on several dates from Scotia (Hallenbeck). One was at



Gallupville on Oct 26 (Zimmer). One was at Troy on several days in mid-November (Kaiser), and another was at Saratoga Lake on Nov 23 (Hallenbeck, Meritt). Still another was at Rotterdam on Nov 28 (Stone, Yunick).

The thrush migration was generally poor, and few Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported. There were three reports of the Northern Shrike. One was at Round Lake on Nov 17 (SBC); one was near New Scotland on Nov 23 and 24 (Grace), and one was at New Concord on Nov 24 and 27 (Turner).

**Vireos — Warblers:** A Philadelphia Vireo was seen at Watervliet Reservoir on Aug 18 (SBC). This species was reported from Loudonville on Sept 1, 3, and 22 (French), and another was seen near Saratoga on Sept 22 (SBC).

The fall warbler migration was generally a good one, and several of the rarer species were represented. The Bay-breasted Warbler was quite commonly reported during late August and September. The Tennessee Warbler seemed quite common until mid-September; it was last reported at Amsterdam on Sept 20 (Fitzgerald). A Cape May Warbler was at Scotia on Aug 31 (Meritt), and another was at Red Rock on Sept 1 (Smilow). The species was last reported from Loudonville on Oct 5 (French). The only local report this year of the Mourning Warbler was the one seen at Amsterdam on Sept 12 (Fitzgerald). Several Nashville Warblers were observed at Loudonville, the late date being Oct 19 (French). Also very late were the two Northern Water-thrushes seen near Alcove Reservoir on Oct 15 (Eddy, Zimmer).

A Connecticut Warbler was at Vischer Ponds on Sept 2 (Hallenbeck, Meritt). On Aug 20 two Wilson's Warblers were at Amsterdam, and another was there on Sept 23 and 24 (Fitzgerald). This species was also recorded at Loudonville on Sept 11 and 24 (French), at East Chatham on Sept 9 and 11 (Radke), and at Castleton on Sept 18 (Cook). A latish Bay-breasted Warbler was at Nassau on Oct 3 (Turner).

An Orange-crowned Warbler was reported from Amsterdam from Sept 23 through Sept 30 and again on Oct 6 and 7 (Fitzgerald). A rarity was a Brewster's Warbler clearly seen and closely studied at Loudonville on Sept 5 (French). Also of interest are two separate reports of the Hooded Warbler from the East Chatham area, the dates being Sept 13 (Smilow) and Sept 21 (Radke).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolinks were last observed along the lower Hudson on Sept 7 (SBC). The first Rusty Blackbirds of the season were the four seen at Vischer Ponds on Sept 28, and these birds were definitely not common thereafter. Purple Finches were quite common early in the period, but numbers dwindled considerably during November.

The first fall report of the Evening Grosbeak was the one seen at East Chatham on Sept 24 (Radke). One was at Crescent Reservoir on Sept 28 (Meritt), and an initial vanguard of these birds appeared at Mrs. Grace's New Scotland feeder also on Sept 28. There were many October and November reports, quite a few of these from feeders, and I see no point in listing these. Suffice it to say that the general opinion is that the flight is fully as heavy, and definitely earlier, than those of 1954 and 1955.

Pine Grosbeaks were recorded quite frequently. Between Oct 26 and 28 this species was reported at three Columbia County localities (Radke, Shineman, Smilow). Eight were at Middle Grove on Nov 1 (Hennig). On Oct 27 three pairs of Pine Grosbeaks were seen near Rotterdam (Howard). Four were at Defreestville on Nov 16, and one was at Troy the following day (Kaiser). A group of about eight was in Thacher Park on Nov 13 (Hallenbeck), and three others were in the Glenville area on Nov 17 (fide Foote). At Oppenheim, Fulton County, nine Pine Grosbeaks were seen on Nov 23 (Murphy). This same number was seen at Wolf Hollow on Nov 28 (Stone, Yunick).

Pine Siskins were reported on several occasions, the high count being the 24 at Loudonville on Oct 7 (French). Redpolls were scarce, the ten at Wolf Hollow on Nov 23 (Yunick) and the three near Schenectady on Nov 28 (Stone, Yunick) being the only reports received. Crossbills were unrecorded.

Cardinals were observed in ever-increasing numbers; the number of reports of female birds indicates how well this species is now established locally. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Gallupville on Oct 15 (Zimmer), and another was at Amsterdam as late as Oct 22 (Fitzgerald). Mrs. Fitzgerald had a rare treat on that day when she saw three species of the Grosbeak family together at her feeder — the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a female Cardinal, and a male Evening Grosbeak.

At Scotia Chipping Sparrows were last reported on Oct 22 (Hallenbeck). White-

crowned Sparrows were at Livingston until Nov 10 (Munson). Fox Sparrows were quite commonly reported, the high count being about 30 at New Concord on Nov 1 (Radke). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were at Amsterdam on Sept 23 and Oct 8, and on Oct 20 no less than six were there (Fitzgerald). A lone Snow Bunting was at Crescent Reservoir on Oct 20 (SBC). On Oct 17 there were other reports of single birds from Nassau (Shineman, Turner) and Schodack (Turner). One was at Livingston on Nov 23 (Munson).

I would again like to urge observers, both transient and resident, to send in records. Two areas in particular — Lake George and the northern Catskills — need better coverage.

16 Ellen Lane, Scotia 2

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

Summer gave way to the Autumnal equinox with little upset in the weather stability pattern, with the result that our region had less than normal rainfall for most of the period and with correspondingly above normal temperatures.

Migrant birds flowed through in a rather normal fashion exhibiting wave concentrations along certain areas and dribbling erratic species here and there about the region in general. The unprecedented early move on the part of certain of the Northern Finches, especially the Evening Grosbeak, gave rise to some speculation that wintering populations would run high but unhappily the chances of this happening is greatly lessened by a season of rather poor seed crop among many trees and shrubs that would normally provide winter fare.

The Fall Season produced such rare visitants as: *Harlequin Duck*; *Golden Plover*; *Am. Three-toed Woodpecker* and others of lesser rarity but just as interesting.

**Loons — Ducks:** Some early Green-winged Teal arrived Sept 29 at Iona Island near Bear Mountain (John Orth). Martha Earl found several Canvasbacks inland at Tomahawk Lake, Orange Co., Oct 30 & Nov 1. At Mohonk Lake, Ulster County on Nov 6, an Old Squaw male was discovered and after remaining for several days the bird was found dead (Nov 12). Dissection by Heinz Meng found no apparent cause for the death (Dan Smiley). A male **Harlequin Duck** was seen on the Croton Falls Reservoir, Putnam County, Nov 17 by Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly and son Edward, making what is probably the first record of this duck for our region. John Orth reports both the White-winged and American Scoters in the Bear Mountain area during the fall migration. A flock of about 75 Ruddy Ducks was seen on Tomahawk Lake, Orange County, Nov 3 (Martha Earl).

**Hawks — Owls:** Hawk flights through the region seemed quite normal. A Goshawk was observed near Carmel, Putnam on Oct 19 (Mabel Little). As is often the case in dry years the extensive mud flats exposed by low water in our various reservoirs and ponds proved to be an attraction to the migrant Shorebirds. Records this year have proved varied and interesting. The Semipalmated Plover appeared at the Piermont area of Rockland on Aug 16 (David Hill). This Plover is seldom reported by Shorebird observers here. A lone **Golden Plover** appeared on the mud flats of Lake Maratanza, Ulster County on Sept 28 and 29 and was carefully studied by Chandler Young and Henry and Ilse Dunbar. This is another county first. Also on Lake Maratanza mud flats with the Golden Plover were Pectoral Sandpipers, an Upland Plover and two White-rumped Sandpipers. The White-rumps are first records for Ulster Co. This same species was found earlier in the season (Aug 31) in the Lake DeForest area of Rockland County by Mr and Mrs. Frank Steffens and Ed Treacy. This is also Rockland's first record. Steffens and Treacy also made

the second Rockland record that day for the Western Sandpiper found also at Lake Deforest. A small number of Caspian Terns were again seen on the Ashokan Reservoir, Ulster Co., Aug 20 (Al Feldman).

**Swifts — Shrikes:** A rather late Hummingbird was seen at Mohonk Lake, Ulster on Oct 2 (Dan Smiley). Martha Earl believes the Red-headed Woodpecker may be more common in Orange County. One of this species was seen near Lyonsville, Ulster County, Oct 2 (F. H.). A rare downstate find was a pair of **American Three-toed Woodpeckers** discovered in the vicinity of the home of Blanche Edwards, Waterbury Manor, Peekskill, Westchester. The birds were also seen by Helene Olandt. Martha Earl records six Barn Swallows on Oct 1 and one on Oct 7 in migration near Washingtonville, Orange County. In Ulster it was another year of high Blue Jay migration, the flights occurring chiefly during the last week in Sept and the first week in Oct. An **American Magpie**, vagrant visitor from the West, appeared at the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. John Madden of Kent, Putnam County on Oct 21. Large crow flights occurred during latter October. Wandering Tufted Titmice would indicate that the bird has become increasingly more common in our region. It was a lesser flight year for the Red-breasted Nuthatch. A Mockingbird was seen near Stone Ridge, Ulster County, Nov 4 and for a few days thereafter before disappearing (Fred Hough; Milford Van Demark). The Mockingbirds that nested near Lake De Forest, Rockland are reported to be still in the area (Bob Deed). A late Wood Thrush was found on Oct 26 near Stony Point, Rockland (Irving Kennedy). On Sept 14 and 15 Fred Hough and Dan Smiley spent the night on Slide Mountain in the Catskills and were surprised to find Bicknell's Thrush still there and **singing!** Birds were heard both in the evening and at dawn. The visit to Slide in August of the previous year found Bicknell's completely silent, so with the information gathered so far it seems to indicate that on the eve of its departure south this Thrush renews its singing following the period of late summer silence. Happily, the Bluebird flights were in most cases considered good.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Bob Deed and Mrs. William Grierson report good concentrations of warblers in the lower Hudson area of Rockland and Westchester. Bob says the wave that occurred in latter September and early October in his county (Rockland) was a late one and of good numbers. Many reports indicate the Blackpoll Warbler was one of the most common warbler migrants seen during the Fall migration. On the Sept 14 & 15 trip to Slide Mountain the Blackpoll was still to be heard singing a little (F. H.; D. S.) A Cerulean Warbler was seen Oct 3 at West Nyack by Frances Irving. A Mourning Warbler was seen at Paponach, Ulster County on Oct 1 (Chandler Young). A rather late Wilson's Warbler was killed upon hitting a picture window in the home of John Colgan, Upper Nyack, Rockland, Oct 18.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** The Dickcissel appeared in New City, Rockland, Nov 19 (Frank Steffens). Evening Grosbeaks moved into the region exceptionally early this year with the earliest date of arrival occurring near High Falls, in Ulster County on Oct 5 (Henry & Ilse Dunbar) and a little later, on Oct 10, in Katonah, Westchester (Stanley Grierson). Purple Finches were abundant throughout the region during September and October but dropped off in November. Small flights of Pine Grosbeaks came in during early November but show little promise of large wintering flocks. A spectacular find was made by Emily Paulson upon discovering a Common Redpoll near Pearl River on the early date of Oct 10. This is a first fall record for Rockland County. The Pine Siskin abounded in numerous small flocks throughout the Hudson Valley during latter September and October. One solitary Red Crossbill was spotted near Lomontville, Ulster County, on Oct 13 by Henry Dunbar. Most of the above Finches show a decided dropping off during latter November and this may be correlated with the poor seed crop. This may also be an opportunity for the bird feeders to attract wandering birds to their feeding stations. Lincoln's Sparrow showed up near Washingtonville, Orange County on Sept 29 and four were ultimately banded by Martha Earl. A small number of Snowflakes arrived in the Region at the end of October.

*Accord 1*

## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

By mid-August birds were migrating in force, with the Golden-winged, both hybrids, Worm-eating, Bay-breasted and Blackburnian Warblers all noted at Far Rockaway by Aug 11. Also 13 species of warblers were listed at Idlewild and Jamaica Bay on Aug 17, including Prothonotary, Cape May and Wilson's. The Olive-sided Flycatcher was on the move downward at Massapequa Aug 13, yet a week later this writer saw an adult feeding young in northern New Hampshire and others came through Long Island in early September. Likewise Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared Aug 10 and has been common since, quite unlike the two preceding years.

No spectacular storms brought southern vagrants this fall. No freezing weather arrived until Nov 11, so late warbler migrants lingered and eight species of warblers were counted at Jones Beach, Oct 26 (Baldwin Bird Club). The heron population left early, ducks came in force in October and November. With increasing cold weather for several days around Nov 10 and 11, land bird migration tapered off sharply. A tremendous October flight of Goldfinches and Siskins along the barrier beaches caused small flocks to linger. A good flight of Snow Buntings came through in early November.

**Loons — Ducks:** Loons came through regularly with 30 Red-throated at Rockaway Nov 9; also present were two Common Loons, 12 Horned Grebes and 18 Gannets. Shearwaters appeared off Montauk in early fall and there were two, too far off for identification, on Nov 5 at Moriches (Elliott), these were the latest reported. 14 Wilson's Petrels were seen in the vicinity of Ambrose Light Ship, Aug 19 (E. Mudge). There was an excellent flight of Cormorants. Great Blue Herons were seen circling and ready to leave in late October; latest American Egret (two) and one Snowy Egret, Nov 9, at Jamaica Bay; good fall flight of American bitterns, few of Least; one or two records of Louisiana Heron on western Long Island. Mid-summer reports showed lesser numbers of American Egrets at Moriches (J. T. Nichols) and slightly fewer elsewhere. Several large flocks of Canada Geese came through; and by mid-November hundreds of American brant were on our western bays. Several reports of European Widgeon, none of European Teal. Canvasback showed up at South Haven, late Oct; eight Redheads at Westhampton, Oct 31 (R. Wilcox); Baldpates were very numerous by Nov 1; Ruddy Duck: two, possibly three, broods at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, five small young, Aug 25 (Mayer, Rose); 1320 Ruddy Ducks at Mecox, Oct 31, were reported by Wilson as the largest flock he ever saw.

**Hawks — Owls:** Fair numbers of Accipiters; no Goshawk records received; poor Buteo flight; late Ospreys into Nov; good Pigeon Hawk movement into late Oct; several Duck Hawk records; Sparrow Hawks abundant.

Two Clapper Rails at Moriches; at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, one Yellow Rail, Oct 26 (Mayer, Rose) and one Black Rail, Sept 28 (N. Smith). Fewer records this year of Florida Gallinule. Concerning shorebirds: Oystercatcher nested on south end of Gardiners Island (Wilcox); several hundred Black-bellied Plover at Shinnecock in late Sept; and an estimated 70 Golden Plover near Mecox around mid-Sept. Shorebirds came through regularly. On Sept 14, at Jamaica Bay with commoner species were: one Golden Plover, Curlew and Baird's Sandpiper (Mayer, Rose). There were several records of Northern Phalaropes, one at Jamaica Bay, Sept 1 (N. Smith). Both Godwits continue to migrate regularly with an estimated nine Hudsonian and two Marbled Godwits, Aug 23 (E. Mudge). Large numbers of Herring Gulls nested on Gardiner Island. Few white-winged gulls to date. A Little Gull was at Jamaica Bay for several weeks and seen to mid-August (E. Levine, M. Jacobson). Fair numbers of Laughing Gulls were at Montauk into Sept; one Nov 29 at Cold Spring Harbor (Nichols). Numerous records of Forster's, Roseate and Black Terns came in; a few of Royal and Arctic. Only one report to me of southern rarity: Sooty Tern, west

island of Fire Islands in Great South Bay, Aug 23, two (I. Alperin). At both Moriches and Shinnecock bays there were an estimated 200 Black Skimmers (Elliott).

So far no reports of Alcids; fairly good numbers of Mourning Doves; very poor cuckoo migration again this year, as it has been since hurricane distortion of fall flight in 1954. Early Nighthawk, Mastic, Sept 1, one flying west (Nichols); flight of 14 over home of Geo. Rose at Mineola, Sept 15. Owls: no Snowy to date; several records of Barn Owl young out of nest at Westhampton, Aug 15 (Wilcox). Two records of Short-eared, one of Long-eared Owls. Five or six Saw-whet Owls seen: three at Jones Beach in late Oct, early Nov.

**Swifts — Shrikes:** Swifts left early and were later unreported. Several Red-headed Woodpecker reports; fewer than usual Western Kingbird records; there was a good early Sept flight of small flycatchers; Olive-sided — Aug 13 and Sept 8 at Massapequa (Elliott). No Crested Flycatcher records after Sept 15. On Sept 24 a Cliff Swallow, and an estimated 3,000 Tree Swallows, were noted at Jamaica Bay (Mayer, Rose). A heavy flight of Bluejays passed through western Long Island in Oct, crossed the city line and presumably left the island. With the early invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatch in mid-Aug, fair numbers of them are still present, especially at Jones Beach. Carolina Wren: two at Mastic (Nichols) Sept 7; three at Moriches, Nov 5 (D. Puleston). There were two Short-billed Marsh Wrens at Speonk, Nov 2 (Wilcox).

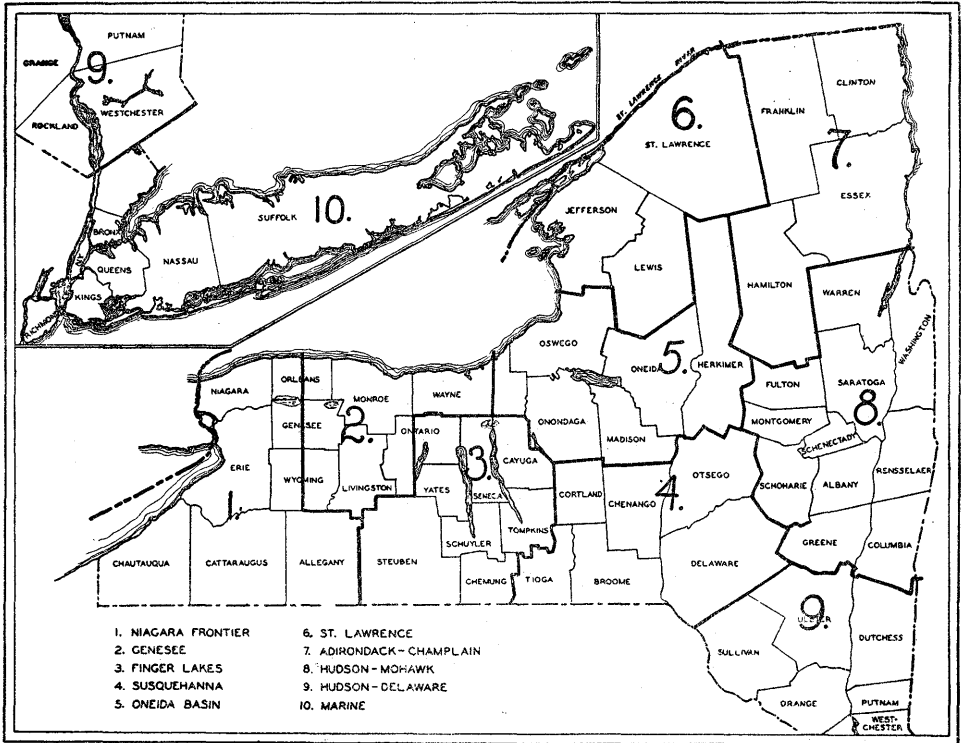
Two summer records of Mockingbird — pair feeding two young at Ft. Tilden, Rockaway; one reportedly nesting at Southold (VanCleaf); a fall bird at Riis Park, Sept 28 (N. Smith). There was a large late Sept flight of Olive-backed Thrushes on eastern Long Island; maximum Bluebirds, 15 at Far Rockaway, Oct 27 (Bull). Good flight of Golden-crowned Kinglets at Brookhaven, 40 between Oct 12 and Oct 16 (Puleston). Practically no fall records of Gnatcatcher; a Pipit appeared at Moriches Inlet, Oct 26 (Puleston). Cedar Waxwings were plentiful along the shores of Peconic Bay in late Sept. Several Migrant Shrikes reported at Far Rockaway and eastward.

**Vireos — Warblers:** Yellow-throated Vireo, Aug 23 one at Brookhaven (Puleston). Several reports of Blue-headed and Philadelphia early to late Sept. After the mid-Aug warbler flight numbers tapered off, increased again in early Sept and again around Sept 28, 29, when there was an excellent movement along eastern Long Island, especially along the north and south shores. Present in fair numbers were Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue and Green, Black-poll, and Palm. Almost the same species were seen as stragglers along the south shore of western Long Island around Oct 26. First Myrtle Warbler: Idlewild, Aug 17 (Mayer). There were several reports of Orange-crowned Warblers; a Kentucky and two Connecticut Warblers were seen at Idlewild Sept 14 (Mayer, Rose). A definite movement of Northern Water-Thrushes came through in late Sept; four at Massapequa in damp depressions of a dried up pond Sept 30, and two or three elsewhere around that date (Elliott). First Northern Water-Thrushes, generally in Aug, announce the fall migration. Stragglers: Magnolia Warbler, Far Rockaway, Nov 2 (Bull); Chat, Baldwin, Nov 20 (Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Teale); Hooded Warbler, Gilgo, Oct 20 (E. Levine, R. Priesick).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Last Orchard Oriole, Far Rockaway, Aug 18; little of note came in on Tanagers; the Cardinal has made news by its spread on eastern Long Island; besides a couple of pairs which have occurred at Noyac and Southampton in the past few years, Puleston had four at his feeder at Brookhaven in early Dec, Roy Wilcox one at Speonk, Oct 27, for the first record. He reported a first record for East Quogue last winter. Another first report, just in, tells of a pair at Oak Beach (Dr. and Mrs. H. Kimball). Rarities were Blue Grosbeak, Riis Park, Sept 21 (R. Grant, E. Daly); Far Rockaway, Sept 25 (Bull); half dozen reports of Evening Grosbeak, one or two Pine Grosbeak; Red Crossbill at Jones Beach, Sept 28 (N. Smith); White-winged Crossbill, Orient, Nov 24 (R. Latham). There were a few Dickcissels in late Sept; one at Riis Park, Oct 20 and a Lark Sparrow, same day. Maximum of three Ipswich Sparrows on a short search at Gilgo, Nov 23; good flight of White-crowned Sparrows; very few records of Clay-colored or Lincoln's. Several flocks of Snow Buntings and two reports of Lapland Longspur, singles each.

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