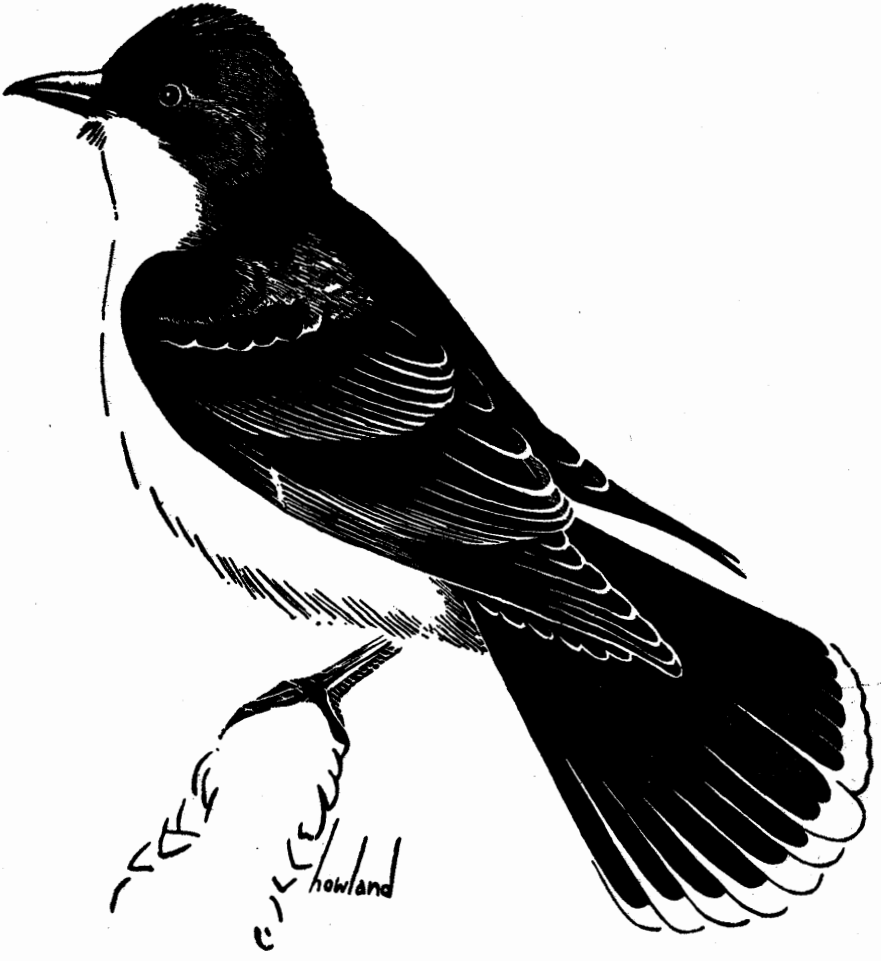


# The KINGBIRD



VOLUME XI, NO. 4

DECEMBER • 1961

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.





# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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Editor — ALICE E. ULRICH

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## The EDITOR'S Page

Using the October issue as my source of information, I found that the Kingbird is sent to 19 states other than New York, three to Canada and one to London, England. The Kingbird mailing list includes 31 member clubs, 15 Organizational and 447 individual subscriptions and 14 exchanges.

Late in November 1961, the Editor sent a questionnaire to each club to obtain certain information, which may help in better distribution and use of the Kingbird. Replies from twenty-two clubs supplied the following additional information. About one-third of the recipients of the clubs' Kingbirds were the wrong persons or incorrect addresses. Won't you please keep your editor or Mrs. Dayton Stoner informed of changes of personnel, who are to receive the magazine, and changes of address.?

The request, "How available is the Kingbird to the members of your club?", brought diversified replies: Available; not available; many, in club library; passed around at regular meetings, have tried mailing, etc. Now that the rush of the Holiday Season is past, it is hoped, that each club which did not reply, will promptly forward this information to me.

We, the editor and members of the Editorial Board, would appreciate comments and suggestions which may help improve the Kingbird.

Best Wishes to all for a prosperous and happy 1962, with good birding.

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An addition to the exchange list of local bulletins among member clubs (Kingbird, Vol. IX, No. 4, pp 152).

North Country Bird Club — Mrs. Mary Beaumont, corresponding secretary, 119 North Main Street, Black River, N. Y.

(Their bulletin is entitled "The Upland Plover").

Kenneth D. Niven, 61 Broadway, Monticello, N. Y.

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The Kingbird is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas. Individual member's dues are **\$3.00** annually and all individual members receive the Kingbird. A member wishing to make an additional contribution may become a Sustaining Member (\$5) a Supporting Member (\$10) or a Life Member (\$100—"payable over a four-year period in equal installments until the full amount is paid", if member so desires.) For all classes of membership contact the treasurer, Mrs. Dayton Stoner, 399 State Street, Albany 10, New York.

## COMMENTS ON THE PREPARATION OF FIELD NOTES AND REGIONAL REPORTS

SALLY F. HOYT

In the capacity of Regional Editor for the Finger Lakes, as well as Field Notes Editor, for *The Kingbird*, I have had the opportunity to formulate some ideas on the way material should be prepared and submitted for these sections of *The Kingbird*, and the way in which an editor can make use of such material. I stress, however, that this is just "one man's opinion" and in giving some of my own ideas, I sincerely hope to elicit some advice and suggestions from others.

"Field Note" may have several connotations, so we should begin by defining the term. In this paper, I am considering those short notes which follow the main articles in *The Kingbird* (and many other journals), which might, quite appropriately, be called simply "notes". But we use the term "field" because reports in this section of a journal ordinarily result from "field observations" rather than from laboratory or controlled experiments. The latter are not, however, excluded, and the notes section may well contain research reports of a non-field nature, too short to be an article.

With this paper, I am hoping to accomplish two things: to persuade more people to put their observations in writing and send them in, and to give a few helpful hints on writing up such notes, for those who find writing difficult, or who are uncertain about procedure in writing scientific notes. I hope, too, to reach some of those who never gave thought to the possibility that they have, in their files, material for a note.

Write-ups of observations, published in *The Kingbird* or other journals, are an important contribution to science. Don't hesitate to send in a note or article because you think you are an "amateur." Professional ornithologists (who are really quite few in number) are constantly making use of the published notes of the rest of us, who have had the opportunity to make observations in that aspect of bird study in which *they* (the professionals) are interested. That unusual bit of bird behavior, that very late nesting record, that nest in an unusual location, the strange method of feeding of a crippled bird at your feeder, roosting observations you may have the opportunity to make — such things as these, and many others, are fit subjects for short notes, to be offered to journals for publication. It does not have to be something out of the ordinary. It may, sometimes, merely emphasize the ordinary. The point of publishing a note is not to get your name in print, and editors do not view your offerings as such attempts. The point is that you have some information which it is your responsibility to share with others interested in birds. You *owe* it to your fellow birders to write it up. There are enormous gaps in our knowledge along many lines, and perhaps you may help fill a gap.

Once in awhile, the question comes up about a note concerning an observation made in another state. Should this be offered to (or accepted) by *The Kingbird*? I have used an informal rule of thumb on this. A note which describes bird behavior, a plumage, a nesting situation, for example — something which could have happened anywhere — would be fit material for our journal, or any other. But a note telling of the occurrence

of some bird, its appearance at the particular locality being the point of note — such notes, for *The Kingbird*, should be limited to New York State reports.

In writing up notes, it is advisable to study and follow the general style of the journal to which the note is to be submitted. Notes should be as brief as possible, get to the point quickly, the title or the first sentence or two telling just why the subject has been written up for publication. Flowery or "sentimental" expressions should be avoided, as should any indication of anthropomorphism. Personal interpretation of observations should be clearly pointed out as such. When possible, published references to similar behavior or situations, or to contradictory evidence, should be cited, to indicate an attempt at least to search the literature on the subject. It is usually advisable to include the scientific name of the bird in parentheses, so there is no possible doubt about the species discussed, but your editor can always add this if you do not have access to the latest A. O. U. Checklist.

Do not feel insulted if your note is turned down. Professional ornithologists have many rejection slips in their files, as do most writers. We are striving to set and maintain a very high standard for our journal. Your editors may have had the opportunity to be better acquainted, perhaps, than you with what have already been published on various subjects. Turning down your note may simply mean that there has been a lot published on this subject already, or the fact you are introducing in your paper is pretty well established without additional evidence, or you and the journal might be subject to criticism if your note is published in its proffered form. But we urge you to send us your write-ups — lots of them — and let us be the judges as to whether they should be published. Perhaps they should be submitted to another type of publication. We will be glad to tell you so, if this is the case. If you have never sent in a field note, because you feel that these are written only by experts in the field, or staff members of museums, or college professors — don't believe it. They are written by your fellow Bird Club Members, by your neighbors, and by people in scores of non-biological professions.

My colleagues and I, at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell, go through the notes in all journals very faithfully, picking up scraps of information about the species or the subjects in which we are interested. Many of these are written by amateurs or part-time ornithologists. I urge you to think about some of the interesting things you have observed, sit down, write them up in your own words, then polish, simplify, clarify, add references when you can. Send these in — editors like to have a back-log of such notes, to draw on for future issues. I urge you to look over the variety of notes in the May 1961 *Kingbird*. Some of these end with a plea for additional information or observations on the subject. A note not only gives facts — it often points out a line of thought, or an approach, to be tried by others. The September 1961 issue of *The Linnaean Newsletter* carried a short note by Dr. Dean Amadon, on an unusual location for a Blue Jay nest. This is a fine example of the simple type of subject that is crying for publication. Haven't you made observations of this type?

Turning now to Regional Reports — those summaries of observations of bird life in the various Regions of our state — I point out that there are ten Regional Editors. I am quite sure that all ten of us use different methods of preparing reports, and frankly I consider most of the others superior to my own!

We are all trying to improve our reports, each quarter, and the following remarks indicate some of the ways in which those submitting material to the Regional Editors can assist in improving the summaries. These remarks are directed at the preparation of regional reports for any ornithological publication regardless of what that section may be called in another journal.

What actually is the value of a Regional Report or Summary of the Season for an area? It is not, as I have found a few people believe, a list of *who* saw how many of what, and where. At least that is certainly not where the emphasis should be placed. The Regional Report should indicate, for now and tomorrow, *what* has been present, *where*, at what *dates* and in what *numbers*. Its value lies not in entertainment reading, the day or week you receive the *Kingbird*, not in listing the names of active birders in that Region. Its value lies in the reference material therein contained. We turn to it the following year, for seasonal comparisons. We turn to it five or ten years later, to see trends in abundance and distribution. The item which seems of little importance today, may be of great importance ten or twenty years hence, when we are suddenly concerned about the distribution or the value of a particular bird. The datum of today is the reference material of tomorrow. Furthermore, Regional reports in *The Kingbird* will be examined, not just by New York Staters, but by students of a species or a family in all parts of the country, even as I read all the regional reports (whatever they may be called) in other state publications, to collect all the information I can on Pileated Woodpeckers.

Your name may be listed, following a bird record, for one of two reasons: to indicate that the report is not just hearsay — to give you as the authority for it and thus give it weight; and to permit a reader who wants to know more about the report or the bird to get in touch with you, the actual observer. We editors run into a real problem in regard to using names of observers. Let's face it: many enjoy seeing their names in print, and using the names may encourage more people to contribute their observations. But this can be greatly overdone. On the other hand, when names are omitted, we sometimes get the complaint: "I've sent you lots of reports and you never use them." This is usually far from true. The lack of a name, the lack of use of an observation in the exact form in which you have sent it, does not mean that we have not used it. Your report of abundance, or arrival or departure dates, or peak count dates, is lumped with many others, to give us an accurate picture that we cannot obtain from one report alone or from our own impressions. If I have seen no Winter Wrens in migration, it is not significant, but if a dozen observers mention seeing no Winter Wren, my impression is corroborated, and I feel safe in publishing it.

In general, the Regional Editors will give a reason for most items they include — which enables a reader from another region, another part of the country, to see the significance of the mention of a species. An Alabaman might wonder why one of our Regional reports stated simply "A Mockingbird was sighted on May 16." But if this is followed by "The first record of the species since 1933" it is evident to anyone that here is a rare bird for this region. Or "Many Cowbirds wintered this year" might seem like an unnecessary statement to a Mississippi Valley resident, unless qualified by "This continues a recent trend of the species to winter farther north, in part of its breeding range." But this does not mean that each of you who sub-

mits material to your Regional Editor must qualify every statement. Your list of arrival dates, or departure dates, your impressions of abundance, will guide his thinking, as he sorts out what is to be included in his summary.

Numbers are important and are too often omitted. The fact that ten Indigo Buntings were found this year along a stretch of road which usually produces four is far more significant than the statement "Indigos were up in numbers." But I emphasize also that numbers can be very misleading. Unless it is known that coverage is as complete as possible, and is truly representative of the area and time period, it is better to omit numbers than to give a doubtful or false impression. To say that only ten Black-throated Green Warblers were found all season is misleading — if you were the only one hunting them and you were absent during part of the migration or only checked half of the known breeding areas. If all your reporters feel the species was scarce, the Regional Editor is safe in stating this fact, without including statistics if they are not available or fully reliable. If you were out in the field every day, your peak counts, your comparative figures are very significant and should be given.

In submitting material for Regional Reports, we urge you to include a verification report of anything unusual, or send it along promptly if you are later requested to. The request to submit one is not a case of questioning your accuracy or veracity. An unusual bird, or an unusual date for a usual bird, deserves more of a write-up than the mere mention of the fact. I recommend to you the Buffalo Ornithological Society's little *Date Guide*, the second edition of which has just appeared. In this you will find that the system of listing the birds in itself is the clue to the status of that bird in the area covered. A report of a sighting of any bird not listed, any bird with no dates given, or any bird seen outside the dates listed, is automatically expected to be vouched for by additional information and the method to write this information is also outlined for you. This applies to all observers, beginners or advanced, amateur or professionals. The point is not to check up on you and your report — the point is to have the complete information on file for preparation of future revisions of the list. More Regions might adopt this or a similar system and by means of it strengthen their reports, eliminate painlessly all questionable records, collect valuable reference material. If no verification report is available for the unusual record, it can be automatically and with no further question omitted. The Editor is not forced into the uncomfortable position of making a difficult decision. The "Suggested Criteria for the Validity of Records", published in the February 1955 issue of *Audubon Field Notes* should be read carefully by contributors and editors alike, for additional ideas about acceptance of questionable records.

I urge Regional Editors to line up more good observers (who are dependable correspondents) for all sections of their Region, rather than relying only on the few "old faithfuls." Send them reminder cards at least two weeks ahead of your deadline making suggestions as to particular information desired this time. Utilize this material to the fullest extent, working in new observers as often as possible. Keep a file of all odd notes that come to your attention during the reporting period. While it's not necessary to acknowledge every report you get, give a pat on the back now and then to those who are faithful. And pass on, to other Regional Editors, reports you pick up from the other Regions.



The use of numerals and strike lines (2/7, 12/10) for dates is not recommended because of the obvious confusion that may result, and the ease of occurrence of typographical errors. Months should be written with an acceptable abbreviation. Number (of birds) below ten should be written out; above ten they may be given as numerals. Reporters are urged to refer to the criteria of abundance as published in the February 1957 issue of *Audubon Field Notes* for terms to be used in giving counts or impressions.

To help your long-suffering Regional Editors in their often overwhelming job of sorting, evaluating and organizing a mass of material, I urge you to put your report in checklist order if at all possible. A tabular form of report is also helpful, with sparing use of comments other than truly significant ones: (In other words if you had a fascinating experience with a Kingfisher, include it in a separate letter to your Editor, not in the tabular list of species on which you are reporting). The name of the bird should appear in the left hand column — followed by a dash or colon, then the comment and any pertinent data. Be brief, but stress in some way the significance of the report. In preparing his summaries, your Editor is greatly aided if he can run his eye down your page and pick out the species he is working up at the moment. Tell him also anything which might explain a drastic change in bird population that has occurred: drained swampland, a reforested area that has had a spurt of growth, new abandoned fields, an unusually heavy seed or fruit crop.

Finally, let's have more contributors all around. We need many of you, to make our reports complete and accurate. There is no closed corporation of Kingbird writers and contributors. We have many gaps in our ranks that need filling.

Laboratory of Ornithology,  
Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION — MIGRATION OF BUFFLEHEADS

A study of the Bufflehead is under way, and information on the migration of that species is needed. Data required include first arrival dates, peak date of migration and peak numbers, and departure dates. Only birds actually believed to be migrants should be listed, but, where pertinent, other dates on wintering or summering numbers should be included. If only infrequent visits are made to areas frequented by Bufflehead, the statement "present by (date)" is preferable to "arrival (date)", and last seen (date)" to "departure (date)". Information is solicited particularly for the spring migration of 1962 but it is hoped that interested observers will report any data they may have obtained in the past; requests for fall migration data will be made later. It is planned to colour-mark some Buffleheads in Maryland, New York, and Oregon during the winter of 1961-62, and observers should take particular note of any Buffleheads bearing bright patches of red, yellow, or orange. Please send information on the Bufflehead to:

A. J. Erskine,  
Canadian Wildlife Service,  
P. O. Box 180,  
Sackville, New Brunswick,  
Canada.

## SNOWY OWLS IN NEW YORK STATE IN THE WINTER OF 1960-61

DAVID B. PEAKALL

The long expected invasion of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) occurred last winter; these invasions are cyclic, dependent on the tundra rodent population (Gross, 1931, Shelford, 1945). The regularity of the cycle is not of mathematical precision but for a natural phenomenon it is remarkably regular. For a detailed review of cycles in the animal kingdom the reader is referred to Lack (1954). The literature on four year cycles in tundra mammals has been reviewed by Elton (1942), and more recently by Chitty (1950). The reasons for the cyclic changes in the population of lemmings are obscure, but for fine reading on the subject I strongly recommend 'The Hare and the Haruspex' (Deeves, 1960).

Svardson (1957) considers that invasions should be thought of as invasion migration. He suggests that these migrations start annually, as is the case with ordinary migration, and that this behaviour is released by the same factors. However, unlike ordinary migration, the movement is usually halted early by reaching a good food supply. In invasion years the necessary food supply is not found until the species is further south than its usual wintering range. Svardson has contrasted ordinary and invasion migration in detail. The most important difference is that ordinary migration is an adaption to a seasonal food shortage, while invasion migration is a corresponding adaption to annual food fluctuations.

Rating the invasion James (1961), in Audubon Field Notes, called it 'fair', thus making it comparable with 1954-55, 1953-54 and larger than 1949-50 which was called a 'slight' invasion. The last 'large' invasion was 1945-46 (James, 1958). These ratings are for the Eastern United States as a whole and thus would not necessarily apply to any one state. However, it is difficult to understand how the invasion of 1949-50 could be called slight. Griscom (1950) called it 'spectacular' and the Audubon Christmas Count Report featured a special map in its honor.

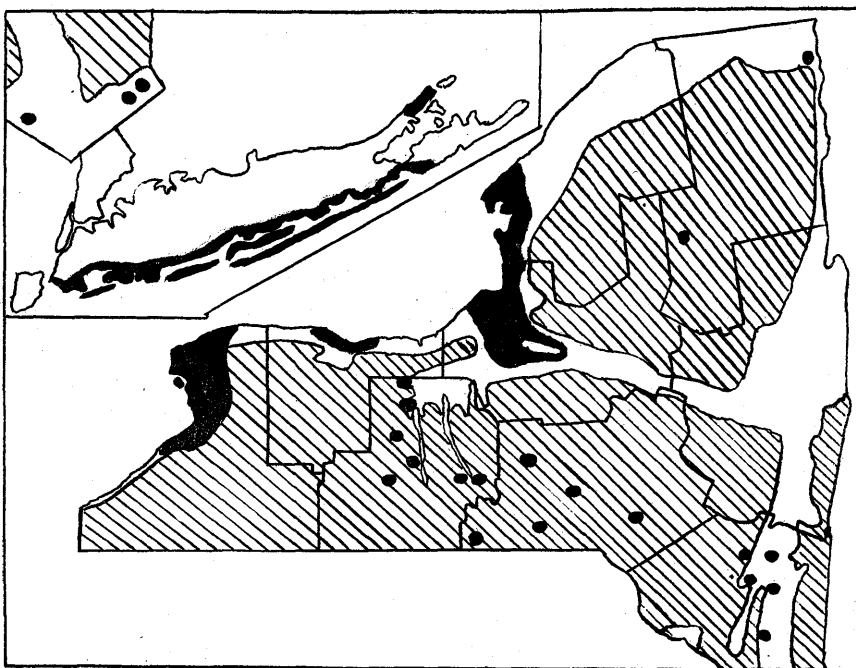
The data from Audubon Christmas Counts are given in table one. The first figure is the number of Snowy Owls reported and the second figure the number of counts for each region. The regions are those currently used for recording in 'The Kingbird'.

Table 1

Region	60-61	59-60	58-59	57-58	56-57	55-56	54-55	53-54	52-53	51-52	50-51	49-50
1	4-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	0-5	0-4	1-4	0-4	0-3	1-4	6-4
2	3-2	0-2	0-2	1-2	0-3	0-1	3-2	2-2	0-1	0-2	1-1	2-1
3	0-4	1-4	0-4	1-3	1-2	0-3	0-4	1-4	1-2	0-3	1-4	1-3
4	1-2	1-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-4	0-3	0-2	0-1	0-2	1-2
5	9-3	0-2	0-3	0-3	0-2	1-2	0-1	1-1	0-2	0-1	1-1	0-0
6	3-1	1-1	0-2	1-2	0-2	1-2	0-2	0-2	0-1	0-1	2-1	3-1
9	3-6	0-5	2-5	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-6	1-4	0-4	0-5	0-5	0-3
10	14-10	5-11	0-11	3-11	2-11	0-12	5-12	4-12	0-8	0-10	3-10	25-11
Owls per 100 counts	95	16	5	15	12	6	20	29	4	0	26	123

NOTES:

- (1) The Central Orleans counts are arbitrarily included in Region One.
- (2) The Bronx-Westchester counts are included in Region Ten as the Snowy Owls seen there in the winter of 1949-50 appear to have occurred in this region (Nichols, 1950).
- (3) Snowy Owls reported as seen in the count period are included.
- (4) Off-shore counts are excluded.



■ Principal wintering areas.

▨ Land over 600 feet.

● Isolated records.

No Snowy Owls were recorded in regions 7 and 8 on Christmas counts throughout this period. The number of counts in these areas are, however, included in the calculation of the owls per hundred counts.

It is seen that both the 1953-54 and the 1954-55 invasions were slight in New York State and the invasion of last winter was a little smaller than the one of 1949-50. The data from Christmas counts only gives information for one short period of the winter, but these conclusions are borne out by an examination of the regional accounts in 'The Kingbird'.

The first record for the state last winter was an unverified record from the central part of the state; one near Dundee on October 25th. Excluding this record, the pattern of migration shows a general invasion occurring in late October — early November. The first birds appeared in the Buffalo area in late October. At the other end of Lake Ontario the first birds were noted at Kingston, Ontario on November 9th, Sandy Pond on November 6th. The first Long Island record was Riis Park on November 13th.

The winter distribution of Snowy Owls is shown in figure one. All isolated records are shown for regions 3, 4, 7 & 9. Eleven occurrences were reported for region 8 but no details are available. It will be clearly seen that the favored areas are the coastal plains of the Great Lakes and Long Island. The three principal wintering areas are considered in turn.

1. The Buffalo area contributed the greatest number of records. Dr. Harold Axtell estimates that the reports he received during the winter referred to 100-200 individuals within fifty miles of Buffalo. He further estimates that the total number of individuals would not be more than twice this figure. There was a pronounced return movement in March; the last stragglers were observed on April 16th. In the Rochester area only a few birds were reported, but they were seen throughout the winter along the lake shore to the west of the city. Last date was April 30th.

2. In the Syracuse area, Snowy Owls were plentiful throughout the winter. The best areas being the shores of the smaller lakes, Oneida and Onondaga. They were also recorded along the shores of Lake Ontario but less regularly than in the fall. Scheider considered that 30-35 would be a conservative estimate for region 5. I think 50-60 would be more realistic. There was evidence of a return movement along the shores of Lake Oneida in late March and early April. No movement was noted along Lake Ontario. The last Snowy Owl was seen in the region on May 5th. In region 6 Snowy Owls were apparently largely confined to Jefferson county although this may represent a concentration of observers to a certain extent. They were commonest along Lake Ontario with a peak count of seven on March 25th. This may indicate a return movement.

3. On Long Island the Snowy Owls favored the barrier beaches. A few were recorded on the extreme S. W. of Long Island, several at Jamaica Bay, at least six on the west end of Jones Beach, three or more from the Moriches area, a similar number at Shinnecock, and two or more at Orient State Park. Snowy Owls were practically absent from the north shore of Long Island, the rocky Montauk Point and the Bronx-Westchester area. The numbers increased from mid-November to late December and then decreased rapidly and the birds were scarce thereafter. There was no evidence of a return passage despite good coverage of the area.

Snyder (1957) considers that most of the Snowy Owls that emigrate from the tundra do not survive to return. He quotes in support of this (Snyder, private communication) the heavy mortality due to shooting (839 out of 1,104 seen in New York State alone for the flight of 1945-46) and the idea that if most of them returned the following spring with the food supply still low, the situation would still be out of balance. Gross (1947) considers that there is probably a considerable loss due to owls overshooting into the Atlantic. Both Harold Axtell and John Elliott report that they found considerably less shooting of owls in the past winter compared with earlier invasions. This is probably due, in part, to legislation protecting the Snowy Owl in this state. We may hope never again to see a photograph like that shown by Gross (1927) of 81 Snowy Owls in a single taxidermist's window. The data from the Buffalo and Syracuse areas indicate comparatively successful wintering, although this is not true for Long Island. It will be interesting to see if decreased shooting pressure increases the 'echo' invasions following the main invasions.

Thanks are due to following for supplying information used in this article: Mr. A. Allen, Dr. H. H. Axtell, Mr. J. Belknap, Mr. F. Clinch, Mr. J. J. Elliott, Mr. F. Hough, Dr. S. Hoyt and Dr. L. L. Snyder.

Literature cited carried over to May issue. Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.

## EDGAR ALEXANDER MEARN'S

Edgar Alexander Mearns was one of several Army Medical Officers who were stationed in the west during the latter half of the nineteenth century. This group was responsible for much of the pioneer ornithological work west of the Mississippi. Mearns was also stationed in the Philippines where he engaged in natural history studies. Later he took part in two scientific expeditions to Africa. His association with New York State ornithology occurred principally in his youth.

Edgar Mearns was born at Highland Falls, N. Y. September 11, 1856 son of Alexander and Nancy (Carswell) Mearns. His interest in natural history began at an early age. He submitted articles and notes to the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club (N. O. C.) beginning in 1877, and in 1878 presented a paper entitled, "The White Headed Eagle in the Hudson Highlands" at a meeting of the Linnaean Society of New York. This was the first communication read before that newly formed society. Mearns' contributions during this period related mainly to birds of the lower Hudson Valley. An article in the January 1879 issue of the N. O. C. Bulletin entitled "Notes of some of the Less Hardy Winter Residents in the Hudson River Valley", discusses twenty species including the Myrtle Warbler, which was noted as feeding on berries of the red cedar during the winter months.

His most important contribution to the ornithology of New York State was "A List of the Birds of the Hudson Highlands" which was published in installments in the Bulletin of the Essex (Mass.) Institute, 1878-1881. This is an annotated list of 213 species. Joel Asaph Allen, then editor of the N. O. C. Bulletin, in reviewing this, commented as follows: "His own notes, even when relating to some of our best known birds, are replete with new information attractively presented, few lists having appeared which offer so much that is really a contribution to the subject in a field where so little really new is to be looked for."

Mearns obtained his medical degree at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1881 and shortly thereafter was commissioned in the Medical Corps of the Army. He was stationed at Army posts in Arizona and Minnesota and later was detailed as medical officers and naturalist of the Mexican-U. S. International Boundary Commission. In the first decade of the twentieth century Mearns served two tours of duty in the Philippines. Specimens were collected and ornithological studies carried on wherever he went. On January 1, 1909 Mearns retired from active duty in order to accompany Theodore Roosevelt to Africa. Two years later he joined the Frick expedition to the same continent, during which five thousand bird specimens were collected.

Mearns died in Washington, D. C. on November 1, 1916. A more detailed account of his life and work will be found in "Ornithologists of the U. S. Army Medical Corps" by Col. E. E. Hume (1942). — J. B. Belknap, 92 Clinton Street, Gouverneur.

## BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY — A NEW ART FOR THE AMATEUR NATURALIST

DENNIS PULESTON, BROOKHAVEN, NEW YORK

Less than one hundred years ago, with wildlife teeming on every hand, the hunting of our wild birds required little justification, other than the need to supplement the family's often scanty larder with fresh meat. But conditions have changed with tragic rapidity. Some of the species which once darkened our skies, such as the Eskimo curlew and Passenger pigeon, have vanished forever, others are dangerously close to extinction, and almost all require rigid protection if they are to survive for many more years. With a few very carefully controlled exceptions, it is doubtful whether the shooting of any of our birdlife should be permitted to continue much longer.

How, then, to meet the hunting urge which lurks deep within almost every amateur naturalist, without harming these precious, dwindling resources? The sighting and identification of birds carries a deep satisfaction, and we all enjoy adding another species to our life lists, but once these lists begin to fill up, this challenge cannot continue indefinitely. Yet we would like to have some permanent trophy to remind us of our field trips, that we can share with others. What better way to gratify this desire than through bird photography?

Here we are offered all the thrills of the stalker and his quarry, the challenges in patience and skill, and the tests of ingenuity and sometimes, in some measure, of daring. All this, moreover, in an activity which is not governed by law-enforced seasons, as in gunning; all the months of the year are open season for the camera. And the end product will last us through our lifetimes, instead of serving as a soon-digested dish of roast canvasback or grouse. Moreover, we have the constant challenge of trying for improvement, for we know there could always be a better shot. As one of the by-products of this fascinating sport (but art is perhaps a better word) we are able to learn much about bird behavior as we watch and wait for the ultimate moment when the shutter is tripped.

In these days of the new films that offer high speed and good color resolution in measures undreamed of a few years ago, together with many improvements in the cameras themselves, and the high-speed flash and other ancillary equipment, the beginner can quickly learn to obtain successful results. An initial investment of well under five hundred dollars can give him all the equipment necessary for many kinds of bird photographs under a wide variety of conditions.

On the subject of equipment, I will not presume to dictate the specific items. Everyone's taste and pocket varies, and as so many excellent cameras are available now, this must be left to individual decision. I will merely mention briefly my own preference, with which, after about five years devoted to this activity as a spare-time interest, I am currently well satisfied. I have a good Japanese reflex-type 35mm camera with a top shutter speed of 1/500 sec., and a 300mm German-made telephoto lens, which can be interchanged with the regular camera lens. I believe that this sized telephoto, which gives a magnification of 6X, is about as large as can be effectively hand-held without the danger of blurring due to hand tremor. Even with this, I recommend shutter speeds no slower than 1/100 sec. except when the camera can be tripod-mounted or otherwise steadied. I highly

recommend a reflex camera; with this, I can be in a blind with only the business end of the lens protruding, and can see, through the lens, exactly what the camera is seeing at the precise moment when the shutter is tripped. The rest of the equipment needed to get started consists of a light meter, tripod, handy carrying case, and home-made blind. Flash equipment can come later, when more difficult conditions are being met than should be attempted at first.

A good place to begin is at the feeding station. Here, the subject is easily coaxed within camera range. Our feeder is located about 10 feet from a window, so I set up my camera on the tripod, with telephoto lens attached, in front of the open window. I then draw the curtains on either side of the camera, and pin them tightly above and below the end of the lens. Then, having determined my lens opening, focus, and shutter speed, all I have to do is wait, with my finger on the shutter release. If all this sounds somewhat like shooting the proverbial fish in a barrel, I must agree that such is the case. Even under such a simple and comfortable set-up, however, one can sometimes obtain a shot of a rare visitant or an unusual pose. The superb work of Crawford Greenwalt, President of DuPont, is familiar to ornithologists; his early photography was devoted to flight studies at this feeder, using ultra high-speed flash equipment. This type of work can result in valuable scientific information on the aerodynamics of bird flight.

Photography at the feeder, however, is suggested merely as a good place to begin, to stimulate the amateur to more arduous and challenging aspects of his art. Obviously, one of the finest opportunities is afforded at the nest. Here, we have both a predestined point where the bird will return, and a chance to catch it in the intimate poses of caring for its young. But before attempting to work at tree nests, I suggest starting this phase of photography with nests built on or near the ground. For this, it is well to install the blind several days before actual photography is begun, to allow time for the parent bird to become accustomed to its presence while it is still unoccupied. It is also advisable not to set up the blind until the young are beginning to hatch, or at least until the eggs are hard set. At this juncture, the parent is not so likely to desert, provided the blind is well anchored and will not collapse or blow over. In fact, a well designed and properly installed blind will be ignored, even though the click of the shutter may cause a temporary panic.

A caution is in order in respect to nests in thick cover. Sometimes an over-enthusiastic photographer will cut away the concealing vegetation to such an extent that, while the nest is clearly revealed to the camera, it is also exposed to natural predators. I urge strongly that the photographer does not endanger the contents of the nest for the sake of his photograph — it is just not worth it, under any circumstances. It is far better to confine one's efforts to nests that do not need to be disturbed; there is more than sufficient challenge here.

For the blind itself, tastes vary. I know of professional nature photographers who swear by the kind of cardboard cartons used for shipping refrigerators. These can be folded, and are thus light and easy to transport. But their lightness presents a problem, for they require adequate guying to resist heavy winds. One of the first British photographers to use blinds devised an ingenious method for taking ground nests. From a slaughterhouse, he obtained a cowhide complete with head and horns, and stretched

it over a light wooden framework in the shape of the body. He cut a small hole in the animal's throat for the lens aperture, and a large hole in the belly for his legs. Apparently such birds as lapwings, skylarks, redshanks, and pipits did not object to the peculiar six-legged cow which stood motionless over their nests, and he obtained some splendid photographs. But strange situations sometimes developed when he was seen by farmers carrying off his cow over one shoulder, with its legs pointed stiffly skyward.

My blind is a cube-shaped tent, with burlap sides and a canvas roof. I have chosen burlap for the sides, because I am able to see fairly well through a single thickness, whereas two thicknesses are opaque. Thus, the bird on the outside cannot see what is inside. The fabric is supported at the four upper corners by uprights made of the thin iron rods used by gardeners to support plants. The lower ends of these uprights are forced into the ground for stability. Four additional rods, connected to the top ends of the uprights, provide horizontal support to the upper edges of the blind. The ends of the rods are connected by flexible wire passed through holes drilled in them. For transportation, the eight rods, still connected, can be folded into a compact bundle, and the fabric is rolled into a tight ball. The entire blind weighs only about 12 pounds. When installed, I weight the lower sides of the fabric with stones, dirt, or sand, so that the walls will not flutter in the wind.

In entering the blind, it should be realized that many birds will remain suspicious and are reluctant to return to the nest, even after the person has disappeared within the blind. But if two persons go to the blind, and shortly thereafter one person walks away, the bird is apparently satisfied, and will not hesitate to attend to its domestic affairs.

I mentioned earlier the occasional call for daring. This is often entailed when working with nests built in trees or on cliff faces. I recommend this kind of bird photography only to those who have strong nerves, some engineering skill, and great agility. Sometimes it is necessary to rig a blind in another tree near to the one holding the nest, and occasionally a tower has to be erected. For nests within fifteen or twenty feet of the ground, I suggest building a framework out of two ladders, arranged in the shape of a capital letter A, supported by guy ropes attached to nearby trees. The top ends of the ladders are lashed together and the crosspiece of the A is formed by a strong board which serves as a platform for the photographer. A burlap blind is then draped over the top of the A.

Photographing seabirds at their cliff nests is generally easier than might be expected, for blinds are not so necessary here, due to the relative tameness of most species. Gannets, for example, can be approached openly within a few feet when nesting, and birds such as murres and puffins will usually remain fearlessly within range of the telephoto. But cliffs are far more treacherous than tall trees, and the photographer must use the greatest caution in climbing amongst them. If possible, he should confine his work to the nests close to or on the upper rim of the cliffs.

In contrast to the types of photography already mentioned, where the camera is set up in advance focused on a predetermined spot, one can also indulge in the kind which I refer to as "shooting on the fly." In this case, the camera is carried around in the hand, with the hope that a suitable subject will present itself. This entails many hours of fruitless looking and hoping, but occasionally the chance arrives, and when it does the camera must be ready with lens opening, focus, and shutter speed preset, for such



chances are generally fleeting. During the peak of the spring warbler wave, I have sometimes found it profitable to wander quietly alongside a wooded stream. Here, as the warblers come close to the water to drink, and to feed on the newly-emerged insects, it is possible to catch them at close range, for they are relatively fearless. But these restless creatures are not likely to hold one position for more than a few seconds, so great speed and precision are needed to obtain good, clear pictures under these conditions. Photographs of such species as ducks taking off, landing, or passing overhead also present a challenge, but action shots of this kind, taken at 1/500 sec. or even faster, are to be greatly prized. When the hunting season is over and the waterfowl have regained a little confidence, the blind and decoys of a gunner can serve well for this purpose. The photographer can even mount his camera on a gunstock, to hold it steady and facilitate sighting.

During the spring and fall migrations of the shorebirds, when they are populating our northern sandbars and mudflats, I have discovered that I can approach them more closely from the water than from the landward side. In a rowboat or canoe, with someone to paddle me gently towards them as they feed busily at the water's edge, and by crouching in the bow as inconspicuously as possible, I can generally bring them well within range of a good shot with the telephoto, sometimes closer than twenty feet. Walking towards them on the flats, I am lucky to get within double that distance before they take alarm. The only exceptions are the small "peep" sandpipers; with them, I can squat quietly in the grass near the shoreline, and have them come within ten feet of me.

I have presented here a brief description of the major types of bird photography to which I have been devoting my efforts to date. Undoubtedly, other techniques and situations will develop in the future. I have so much to learn, and I have yet to take a photograph with which I can say in all sincerity I am fully satisfied. But I can see improvement, and each new bird species I record on film brings its own small measure of achievement. And I have found that the greatest sense of accomplishment comes with the shots that require the highest degrees of ingenuity and patience.

Then the question arises — how can one derive the greatest pleasure and value from one's work? There are, obviously, the scientific and educational aspects: color slides are valuable adjuncts to lectures on such topics as wildlife and conservation, and interested audiences, both lay and technical, young and adult, are easy to find once the lecturer becomes known in his neighborhood. He can make an important contribution toward fostering an interest in nature if he is willing to serve as a speaker. Moreover, the demand for illustrations for books and journals devoted to ornithology and wildlife in general is rising steadily, and one should not overlook the possibilities of contributing to such sources. If the amateur is too modest to have his best pictures shown in public, he can at least take pleasure in exhibiting them to his intimate friends.

I hope that I have been able to convey some of the thrills, pleasures, and lasting edification that can come from the art of bird photography. No written words, however, can fully express the triumph of the photographer crouching tensely in his blind when, after days of planning and waiting, he reaches his goal. As his subject moves into focus and the shutter clicks, he has indeed arrived at Hemingway's 'moment of truth.' Surely few other endeavors can offer this in fuller measure.

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### 15th ANNUAL MEETING OF FNYSSBC

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., will convene in Albany, May 11-13, 1962. The headquarters for the annual meeting will be the Inn Town Motor Hotel, Albany. According to tradition, committees will meet on Friday evening, May 11; the official meeting of delegates will take place on Saturday morning, May 12; the papers session will be on Saturday afternoon and the annual banquet on Saturday evening.

For those in attendance who are not delegates, there will be field trips on Saturday morning, and the general field trips will be the main order of the day on Sunday. Since the meeting is sponsored jointly by the Alan Devoe Bird Club, the Greene County Bird Club and the Schenectady Bird Club, some outstanding field trips are promised.

It's not too early to start making plans to attend the meeting; to present a paper; to hear the outstanding speaker at the banquet; and to join the field trips which, weather permitting, are always the high points of any bird club meeting. Further details will be published in the next issue of *The Kingbird*, and members will receive mailings about reservations etc. as the committees advance in their work.

Let's see YOU in '62 — at Albany on May 11, 12, and 13.

Allen H. Benton, General Chairman  
State University College of Education  
Albany 3, N. Y.

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### CALL FOR PAPERS

Those wishing to present papers at the Saturday afternoon program, please communicate with:—

E. M. Reilly, Jr., N. Y. State Museum, Albany 1, N. Y.

## CONSERVATION NEWS

### DOVES, OWLS, EAGLES AND OUR FOREST PRESERVE

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

The inability to enjoy the woods and wildlife without having to tamper with, or even take revenge on it, lies behind a couple of recent happenings that could affect conservation in New York State. One of these was an attempt by a high state official to embarrass — this time by labeling as "imitation" Indians and amateur "mountaineers" — those who prefer the State's wilderness as they find it and not with hot and cold running showers. (We are thankful that the proposed bill for rezoning the Forest Preserve has been abandoned).

The other is the New York State Conservation Council's action urging removal of the Great Horned Owl from the list of protected birds. The organization, comprised of representatives of sportsmen's clubs also called for an open season on Mourning Doves.

Man apparently cannot resist the impulse to show his mechanized muscle over what is left of America's out-o-doors. He either has to tear it down and reconstruct in his own image or else he has to go out armed like Daniel Boone.

This was inevitable in the days when the forest and its creatures were felt to be both challenge and threat to the young, woods-clearing, industrializing nation. Shouldering aside the trees and blasting the beasts and birds with those reverberating old muskets boosted the mass feeling of self confidence. Even today the lumberers, miners, and highway builders boast heartily of "man's conquest of nature", "taming the wild", and "harnessing the power of nature". This brawny simplicity may have been adequate for the pioneers with their particular problems, but it does not suffice for today's complexities.

Eight million persons in New York City may not all want to go picnicking in the Forest Preserve. But every single one of them needs the drinking water provided by the watershed of the Forest Preserve. When any state official seeks to set aside most of it for other uses, he, in effect, is putting his own priorities on the area. In elbowing aside the Preserve's chief function as a supplier of fresh water, that state official is hurting himself — and every one of us — against all reason.

So is the State Conservation Council. Their wanting to open up their guns on the Mourning Dove is obvious foolishness. There might not be any native Mourning Doves left in New York. Federation Conservation Chairman Joseph A. Blake, Jr., wrote the Council to this effect. During the hunting season in the south the native birds there are augmented by the migrants. So the shots are scattered over the whole field rather than narrowed in on the local population as would be essentially the case in this state.

In its backward stance regarding the Great Horned Owl, the Council has done an about face away from all the evidence demonstrating this bird's ecological value. Good heavens! I should think the farmers would be rushing to their Grange halls to stage protest meetings. These owls eat the very creatures the farmers complain about — mice, rats, mink, weasels, skunks, etc.

This reminds me of the incident told by Prof. James Goetz of Pace College and a member of the Brooklyn Bird Club. A wildlife photographer and lecturer, he was in Texas last year scouting an area for rattlesnakes to photograph. Not finding any he made inquiries of the unshaven ranch owner who stopped by in his pick-up truck.

"I bet you won't find any", the rancher replied. "I've been shootin' them for the 20 years I've been here." Prof. Goetz maintained a scholarly poker face. "You won't find no coyotes here either", the man bragged. "I've been gettin' rid of them. And those eagles, too". There followed one of those conversational pauses. Then the Texan looked pensive and he drawled, "But you know, I've been havin' a hell of a time with mice."

I do not know why, but predators seem to provoke an unfathomable, irrational hatred. It is so intense that it would seem to come from more than just the notion that they might be killing some chickens or lambs. It is as though man had

retained some primordial memory of an age when creatures of prey might have been a threat to life. Perhaps, somewhere, he in his subconscious man still feels he must retaliate.

Psychologists tell us that words can be keys to our subterranean emotions. Notice the word "Varmit" which is used so profusely in the sports magazines when they are talking about eagles, crows, wolves, snakes, owls, etc. This is a word that a man can spew through bared teeth.

I think the writer must have had his teeth bared when he wrote his onslaught against "The Eagle" (both of them) in the November 1961 issue of **Sports Afield**. At the very beginning he bluntly asserts that the Bald Eagle "is no good". He credits the biased stockmen and airplane hunters of Golden Eagles with testimony that only further inflames this sheer hatred.

One hunter claimed "that an eagle in the midst of plenty will eat only the hearts and drink his fill of blood." The author of this article reports a stockman saying "he roped an eagle so heavy with food that it couldn't get off the ground. The man yanked the big bird's head off and lambs' hearts tumbled out". It is true that the eagle can't always get off the ground. It is not true that it is such a fastidious gourmet. Fortunately the conservation picture is not quite as black as some have painted it. The fact that many states protect predatory creatures (including New York which currently protects all the owls) is testimony to the growing public concern for common sense in matters dealing with their out-of-doors.

Passage by the United States Senate of the Federal Wilderness Preservation Act was a triumph of an aroused citizenry expressing themselves through conservation organizations and through a deluge of letters. They can clinch this victory with another deluge of letters on the House of Representatives which will consider the bill at this session. Since the bill has mostly involved the western legislators, leaders in the fight say there is a great need for rounding up votes from among the eastern congressmen. PLEASE, write your representative.

**Forest Preserve Bill Dropped:** After the controversy stirred up in the hearings, victory came quietly when the proposed Forest Preserve Bill was abandoned a month before the Legislature opened in January. Further hearings were cancelled.

This action was announced by Assemblyman Robert Watson Pomeroy, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources which had sponsored the bill. It was dropped after the State Attorney General had ruled that the Conservation Department did have the authority to prohibit motorized equipment in the Preserve.

The ruling had been requested by Assemblyman Pomeroy. Such authority had been urged in the bill. But to have carried out such enforcement the bill had proposed setting aside 16 'wilderness areas' within the Preserve leaving the rest open for multiple use.

Interestingly this was the provision that was attached both by conservationists and developers. The latter charged that too much of the Preserve would be kept within the 'wilderness areas'.

What is going to happen now is anybody's guess. But rezoning of the Forest Preserve has been under consideration by state officials for at least a decade. It does not seem likely that it is going to be entirely given up. Assemblyman Pomeroy himself said in his statement that "The Committee will continue its Forest Preserve studies toward the development of a long-range plan to assure watershed protection, extend recreational opportunities and improve game habitat."

## FIELD NOTES

**Chickadee Migration in Monroe County:** As early as September 1, 1961, observers in the area northeast of Rochester noted Black-capped Chickadees in greater than normal numbers, but this was passed off as limited post-nesting wanderings of local birds after a successful nesting season. This theory was upset on Sept. 30 when 25 birds hit the banding nets in Dr. Leubner's back yard in Irondequoit; this almost proved that the chickadee population at this time consisted of something more than wandering local birds.

After due consideration, the observers chose Oklahoma Beach as a vantage point from which to await developments. This area is about a quarter of a mile east of the Irondequoit Bay outlet into Lake Ontario. Somewhat above the railroad the slope levels out into suburban lots which are well shrubbed. The upper slopes are rather lightly wooded.

On Friday, October 5, Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin and Miss Louise Zeitler counted 503 chickadees between 1:30 and 2:15 p. m. On Saturday Mrs. Sunderlin and Mrs. Thomas McNett counted 1,253 chickadees between 9:30 a. m. and noon. They returned at 1:20 p. m. and counted 6,297 more chickadees in the next 2¼ hours.

On October 8 they were joined by Warren Lloyd, Miss Ruth MacRae, Mrs. Ruth Shermer, Joseph McNett, Dr. and Mrs. Neal Moon, Bob Dobson, and Walter Listman. Observers were continually at the point from 7:15 a. m. to 5:15 p. m. During this time 17,166 chickadees were counted and 6,860 more estimated. On Monday, in little more than four hours of observation, 7,154 birds were counted. On Thursday an estimated 2,000 birds were observed passing this point.

Thus in the three peak days of the flight passing this point 31,870 chickadees were counted, and there must have been many thousands that passed when no observers were present.

In addition to the chickadees, at least 14 Tufted Titmice, 43 White-breasted Nuthatches, and 35 Brown Creepers were observed on the three peak days. A single Boreal Chickadee was carefully studied by Mrs. Shermer.

The combined total of the peak two days of the last great flight in 1954, which was watched from a point about two miles west of Manitou, was estimated at 20,000 birds. That migration followed a west-east direction, the opposite of this year's flight.

Where did they go? This flight seemed to turn inland just east of or over Rochester. At the peak of the flight there was no comparable flight in either direction at Manitou or other nearby points. During this time the maximum estimated count at Manitou was only 75 on Oct. 7, and these birds were moving in the usual west-east direction. Between Oct. 7 and 15 small flocks were observed passing regularly over the heart of Rochester, almost always in a southerly direction. After the flight tapered off, the number of chickadees present locally did not seem greater than usual during a fairly good chickadee year. — Howard S. Miller, 54 Luella St., Rochester 9.

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**Harris' Sparrow Near Ithaca, Tompkins County:** At 10:30 a. m. on October 15, 1961, Charles A. Sutherland, Rosemary Almendinger, and the writer, all of Cornell University, observed a Harris' Sparrow near Route 89 west of Cayuga Lake, about five miles north of Ithaca, Tompkins County. The bird was found in a large pile of brush and overturned tree stumps in the center of a large field planted in corn and pumpkin, near the corner of Doboise and Perry City Roads, in Ulysses township. It was in company with a great number of House and Song Sparrows, as well as some White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows. At about the same time of day on October 16 the writer again visited the brush pile with Paul A. Buckley, Kendall W. Corbin, and Neal G. Smith. The bird was again seen.

Observations on both days were made from a distance of 30 to 40 feet, with 7 and 8 power binoculars. There was an overcast sky on the 15th and a clear sky on the 16th. The size and bulk of the bird was apparent on the 16th when



an adult White-crowned Sparrow sat on a bare branch within about four inches of the Harris', thus providing size comparison. Most noticeable were the high crown, more rounded than that of a White-crowned Sparrow, the irregular blackish patch on the upper breast, and the extensive olive-buff color on the sides of the head and neck. Other outstanding characteristics of the bird were the pink bill, the dark slaty forehead, and the buffy-brown flanks, overlaid with dark streaks. The underparts, including the throat, with the exception of the breast-patch and the buffy undertail coverts, were off-white. The back spotting, wing pattern of two narrow wingbars, and uniformly brown tail were similar to those of the White-crowned Sparrow. The colors of the eye, feet, and legs were not noted. At no time did the bird call.

The bird was last seen about 5:00 p. m. on October 16 when the writer again visited the area with Timothy Zorach, who had a brief but recognizable look at the bird before it flew off into the adjacent cornfield, as it had done on each of the two previous occasions. Corbin is familiar with the species from western Minnesota, and Sutherland had seen one in Massachusetts in 1959.

On the basis of the whitish rather than dusky throat and the black rather than reddish breast patch, it is thought that the bird was an adult female in winter plumage. Immatures in the Cornell University collection have the throat marked with dark brown and the breast patch ruddy brown. Of the specimens in this collection, the observed bird appeared most like an adult female, No. 12055, collected on December 28, 1941, in Cleveland Co., Oklahoma.

This appears to be at least the fourth record for New York State. There is a sight record of one at Hamburg, Erie Co., on November 8-11, 1951 (Ed. — See *Kingbird*, July, 1954, p. 38). An immature was seen at Saltaire, Fire Island, in Suffolk County, on Sept. 30, 1956, and one was at a Jamestown feeder through November of 1957. There have been a number of recent records from Massachusetts, most at feeders. One was seen at Troy Meadows, N. J., May 7, 1935, and there are a few other published records for the northeast.

The fall migration route of this species is extremely narrow, encompassing a 250-mile wide strip through the central plains, just west of the Mississippi River. It winters in this same narrow belt from Kansas and Iowa south to the Texas coast. In Minnesota the bulk of autumn records fall between mid-September and mid-October; in other midwestern and central states October is the peak of migration. In this respect the Ithaca record is in accord with the migration dates in the species' normal range.

A cold front originated in central South Dakota on October 12, and this passed the Ithaca area late on October 13. The appearance of this bird may in some way be correlated with these climatic conditions. — Douglas J. Futuyma, Department of Conservation, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca.

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**Herring Gulls Catching Flying Ants:** In the October, 1961, issue of the *Kingbird* Mr. Thomas Lesperance of Keeseville cites the habit of Herring Gulls catching flying ants. While mist-netting migrating birds on the outer beach at Tiana Beach, Shinnecock Bay, Long Island, during the months of September and October, 1961, I noted numbers of Herring Gulls catching flying ants from about 5:00 to 6:00 p. m. on the consecutive evenings of Sept. 22 and 23.

The easternmost lane and the westernmost lane where the mist nets were operated are about one mile apart. On both evenings there was very little wind, and all the ants were flying west in this one mile area. This activity was apparently limited to the times specified above. The gulls were feeding on the ants at a height of about 50 to 100 feet in the same manner as described by Mr. Lesperance. There were such tremendous numbers of ants that they could be seen in this entire one mile area, and the nets, which are about five feet high, were covered with crawling ants. — Leroy Wilcox, Oceanic Duck Farm, Speonk, Long Island.

**Additional Notes on Birds Hawking Insects:** Reading Thomas Lesperance's "Herring Gulls Catching Flying Ants" in Northern New York State brings to mind a similar experience my wife and I had this past fall. At about 6:00 p. m. on a

windless evening in mid-September we were traveling to Jones Beach to count white herons on their roost. Just south of the Sunrise Highway on the Wantagh Causeway we saw roughly 100 Starlings over an open grassy area actively engaged in catching insects. They evidently were successful while zig-zagging and circling around like swallows, and were continuously performing five minutes later as we left.

Proceeding down the causeway, and just south of the Jones Beach toll booth, we were surprised to see both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, as described by Lesperance, flying in tight circles, darting here and there with necks and legs extended, and these two were under observation through binoculars and appeared very successful in their insect hunt. Their object of search was, as described by Lesperance, winged ants which were so abundant that they alighted all over our car, even entering the interior. Their rather soft bodies were sufficiently delectable to attract these large birds as well as the Starlings. Although the insects were very abundant at the fishing station on the bay side of Jones Beach, there was little action among the gulls there, and a half-dozen Common Terns present were not observed to engage in these feeding practices.

A couple of weeks earlier, on Aug. 31, at about 6:15 p. m. on Long Island's north shore at Port Washington, Mrs. Wm. Dove's daughter called her to look at 40 to 50 Laughing Gulls and five or six Nighthawks flying over their back yard hawking insects. They watched the gulls open their bills and snap at something repeatedly. These stayed over their yard for about 15 minutes and then slowly moved westward "wheeling and circling, still pursuing the insects and still in the company of the Nighthawks whose feeding habits they seemed to be emulating." — John J. Elliott, 3994 Park Ave., Seaford, Long Island.

**Albinism in a Catbird (continued):** This note is a sequel to that written by Mrs. Margaret Cornwell of Scarsdale concerning her discovery of a partial albino Catbird here at the Audubon Center of Connecticut. Mrs. Cornwell's note appeared in the last issue of the **Kingbird**.

After Mrs. Cornwell had told us that she had seen an albino Catbird last May 31, we on the staff watched carefully for it, and it wasn't too long before I discovered the bird nesting directly behind my house. The nest was in a tangle of barberry and forsythia, and as the month of June progressed and our Audubon Camp of Connecticut got under way the bird instructors at the camp watched very closely. In late June the brood was raised, and we found that all four of the young were normal gray birds. The partially albino Catbird stayed around for perhaps another month, after which we no longer saw it.

The Catbird's mate was a normally colored bird with an extremely short tail which, incidentally, grew back as the summer progressed. — Duryea Morton, Director, Audubon Center of Connecticut, Riversville Rd. & John St., Greenwich, Conn.

**More on Hybrid Flickers:** In the July, 1961, issue of the **Kingbird** Dr. E. M. Reilly, Jr. of the N. Y. State Museum mentions three recent records of hybrid Flickers (*Colaptes auratus* x *C. cafer*) in New York State. The following additional records may be of interest.

I have been operating a banding station on the outer beach at Tiana Beach, Shinnecock Bay (seven miles west of Southampton) under "Operation Recovery" — a program of mist-netting birds in the fall migration. My assistant has been Mr. Walter Terry of Blue Point.

In the past four years we have banded 12,867 birds during the months of September and October, and of this number 340 were Yellow-shafted Flickers. In 1958 we banded 31 Flickers out of 1507 birds with a peak of 13 on Sept. 20. In 1959 we banded 92 Flickers out of a total of 3170 birds with a peak of eight on Oct. 20. In 1960 we banded 62 Flickers out of 4152 birds with a peak of seven on Sept. 24 and again on Oct. 1. In 1961 we banded 155 Flickers out of 4038 birds with a peak of 16 on Sept. 30.

Among these 340 Flickers there were two hybrids. The first was a female on Oct. 6, 1959, band 643-24323, in which the fourth and fifth primaries in each wing were red and the tail was all red. On Sept. 27, 1961, a second hybrid was caught, another female, band 693-23118. Again the tail was all red and the first four primaries in each wing were all red. The balance of wing and plumage of each female was typical Yellow-shafted. — Leroy Wilcox, Oceanic Duck Farm, Speonk, Long Island.

**Early Indigo Bunting on Long Island:** On April 17, 1961, a changing male Indigo Bunting was seen at a feeding station at Huntington, Long Island. It was noticed at about 6:00 P. M. and was there all the next day. It was observed picking up millet and other small seeds on the ground in the company of a half-dozen House Finches.

The bird had large patches of blue in its body plumage. On April 20 another changing male (or possibly the same bird) was seen on the grounds of Hicks Nurseries, Dix Hills, eight to ten miles away.

According to Allan D. Cruickshank (*Birds Around New York City*, 1942) the earliest Indigo Bunting was one on April 18, 1935, at Central Park, New York City (Rich). Cruickshank also lists the second earliest as seen in East Hampton, Long Island, on April 20, 1924 (Helmuth). In 1950, according to J. J. Elliott's "Long Island Bird Notes" (a weekly bird column in *The Long Island Daily Press*), Indigo Buntings appeared on the grassy coastal strip at Gilgo, Long Island, with single birds seen April 22, 24, 26 and 29 of that year.

Aside from the Huntington bird mentioned above, only one other record apparently appears where the Indigo Bunting was apparently placed in the unique position of associating with House Finches (a far western bird introduced locally, now common on Long Island and in Connecticut). This was on April 21, 1950, at a Hewlett, Long Island, feeding station (Dr. B. Berliner).

Aaron M. Bagg of Dover, Massachusetts, has made a prolonged study of flights of early Indigo Buntings and has correlated them with meteorological conditions. He usually traces these flights from the Gulf of Mexico across through the Atlantic Coast and northward. Numerous observers have recorded this easily identified and colorful species after such favorable winds. They are usually found coastally: on Long Island, Block Island, in Massachusetts, and as far north as Nova Scotia — Earl M. Good, Seaman Neck Road, Huntington, Long Island, and Hugh F. Pemberton, RFD 4, Huntington, Long Island.

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**Notes on Some Unusual Nesting Sites:** The note by Thomas Lesperance (*Kingbird*, Dec., 1960, p. 166) on a ground nesting of the Mourning Dove calls to mind several unusually placed nests which have come to my attention.

Some years ago (I am unfortunately not certain of the date) I discovered a nest of the Mourning Dove on the ground in a wheat field on my father's farm at Ira, Cayuga County. The nest, like that reported by Lesperance, was rudimentary. A Kodachrome picture shows clearly that there were no sticks of any kind, the entire nest consisting of a few weed stems and roots loosely thrown together. There could be no question, such as was raised by Lesperance with regard to the nest he found, that this nest could have been made as a substitute after the young had fallen from a tree nest. There were two eggs in the nest at the time of the discovery. No trees were in the immediate vicinity of the nest, although there was a hedgerow and abandoned orchard some 25 to 50 yards distant. These areas offered abundant nesting sites of a more typical nature, and indeed always support a population of Mourning Doves.

I discovered another unusual nesting site on April 28, 1961, at Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County. One of my students flushed a Grackle from a nest in the metalwork of a steel bridge. The nest, which contained eggs, was hidden in a recess at the side of the bridge, and was surrounded by girders. This location was about as different from the normal nesting habitat in evergreen trees as can be imagined.

A third example of the adaptability of birds to unusual nesting sites was noted at Lake Bonaparte, Lewis County, on June 25, 1961. A boat dock, supported by two steel pipes about three inches in diameter, extended some thirty feet over the lake. A Tree Swallow had built a nest in one of the supporting pipes. Because of a small bar across the entrance to the pipe, I could not ascertain the status of the nest, but I fear that the arrival of the owner of the dock on June 26 caused abandonment of the nest. On the 25th I flushed the bird every time I walked on the dock or passed close to it in a boat, but during the week of June 27 - July 1 I did not see the bird enter or leave the pipe. — Allen H. Benton, State University College of Education at Albany.

**Correction:** A misstatement occurs in the third line of Mr. William Russell's field note (*Kingbird*, Oct., 1961, p. 148) concerning the Gyrfalcon. The words "was dwarfed by the crows" should read "dwarfed the crows." This was a typing error made by the editorial board. Our apologies to Mr. Russell.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON  
AUGUST 16 — NOVEMBER 30  
JAMES K. MERITT

The fall season was above normal in temperature, due principally to a very warm September in which Buffalo recorded its highest readings (for the month) in 60 years and New York City its highest in about 90 years. Rainfall was below average in spite of the fact that portions of the state were affected by several tropical storms. The remnants of Carla, the hurricane that did so much damage to the Texas Gulf Coast, brought heavy rains to western and central New York at the end of the second week in September. Hurricane Esther nicked the eastern end of Long Island a week later, with winds of over 100 mph being recorded at Montauk. Tropical storm Girda passed northward off the coast the third weekend in October, and although this was never officially a hurricane, it did play a major role in causing the two days of rain, strong northeast winds, and high tides that Long Island experienced. November snowfall was generally light, although the area around Malone received a substantial dosage at the very end of the period, an indication of things to come.

Unlike Donna, its counterpart of 1960, Hurricane Esther was not an ornithologically productive storm. There were apparently no observations within our boundaries of southern "exotics" attributable to it although there were a few elsewhere in the northeast. Esther's route from its spawning ground (or waters) in the tropics to the United States mainland was entirely over open ocean —this in sharp contrast to the circuitous route that Donna had taken along the Greater Antilles, across the Florida peninsula, and up the coast.

Most inland areas received quite a bit of rain in late August, followed by a monotonously long spell of dry and warm weather, with Carla's aftermath being the only serious break in the trend. The result was a generally late (up to two weeks) and somewhat dullish landbird migration among the regular transients. There were waves of transients reported in a few areas, but these were not of the strength or extent that we would normally expect and they were by no means the equal of the well-pronounced spring flights. Among the many late dates were a November Barn Swallow in Region 2 and a Warbling Vireo and a Bobolink in Region 3, also in November.

Several regional editors commented also on the sub-par duck, hawk, and shorebird flights, although there was an interesting flight of shorebirds on Long Island as well as some notable single occurrences inland. There was an excellent statewide Canada Goose flight which commenced about October 12 and lasted about a week. The early November Whistling Swan flight was quite marked in western areas. The duck migration was apparently poor everywhere, with emphasis on the continued scarcity of Redheads and Canvasbacks. Peak numbers at Montezuma were comparable to those of a year ago. Inland shorebird records of especial note included Purple Sandpipers in Regions 1, 2, 5, and 6, Whimbrels in Regions 2 and 5, a Hudsonian Godwit in Region 2, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Region 1, and all three phalaropes in Region 5. An Avocet and a flock of 14 Godwits, representing both species, were outstanding on Long Island.

One of the most interesting ornithological events of the season was the tremendous southward movement of Black-capped Chickadees. Howard Miller's field note in this issue provides complete details on the heavy flight

near Rochester, but it was by no means limited to that area. Strong flights were observed also in Regions 1 and 5, and other regional editors commented upon the abundance of these birds. John Elliott cites a heavy influx of these birds in mid-August in the New York City area.

The story of the Tufted Titmouse continues apace. Its steady increase during the last several years has been well documented in these regional reports. The increase in numbers this fall accelerated to such a degree that more than one regional editor referred to the phenomenon as a veritable explosion. These birds appeared in many areas where hitherto unrecorded (including a first record for Region 6), and reports of Titmice at feeding stations were almost commonplace. Of note also is the fact that migrating Titmice were observed with the hordes of Black-caps along the Lake Ontario shore, and the obvious implication here, of course, is that these birds originated from points even further north.

The fall season provides a certain sense of anticipation that is lacking in the spring. During the spring migration we know the approximate date of arrival of each of the various species. During the fall, however, we do not know the make-up of the population of northern birds arriving for the winter until these flights actually take place. The fall flight of these northerners this year was quite different from those of the last several autumns, and these in turn had been different each from the other. In the forefront of this year's flight were two species that were almost totally absent last year, the Boreal Chickadee and the Pine Grosbeak, and the extensive flight of these birds reached considerably beyond the southern borders of New York State. The Evening Grosbeak flight, now also an annual affair, was heavier than last year but considerably below peak years. Snowy Owls put in an unexpectedly good showing after last year's fine flight, with the earliest reports coming from Regions 2, 6, and 8 in late October. Crossbills (the dominant birds last winter), Redpolls, and Pine Siskins were observed only sparingly, and early indications were that Northern Shrikes would not be as numerous as usual. Snow Buntings were only moderately common. There were no observations of Black-backed Woodpeckers except in the Adirondacks. Rough-legged Hawks arrived in good numbers, and there was a notable peak count of over twenty at Point Peninsula, in Region 6. Bohemian Waxwings created some excitement in western parts of the state, with reports coming from Regions 1, 2, and 5 — so check the Cedar Waxwing flocks closely this winter!

An immature Black-throated Gray Warbler was spotted on Long Island in late September, but the bird did not tarry long, much to the disappointment of many would-be observers who combed the Jones Beach area for it. A Harris' Sparrow in central New York was a bit more obliging (see field notes section). Of interest, too, was a reported sighting of a Brewer's Blackbird in Ulster County.

Bluebird reports overall were encouraging, indicative of a fairly good breeding season. Observations of Carolina Wrens, however, were few indeed, a confirmation of observations earlier in the year that this species had suffered quite drastically in last winter's severe weather. The Christmas counts will give us further information on the status of these two species.

The House Finch continued its expansion in the metropolitan New York area, and this was a new bird for many who attended the annual Federation meeting there in late September.

## REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

Continuing the recent trend of late seasons, autumn 1961 was no exception. Average temperatures throughout the period were above normal and, except for the last half of August, precipitation was below normal. In many ways September was more summerlike than either July or August. While no heat records were broken, local statistics show only one previous September that was warmer (1881). Side effects from the remnants of Hurricane Carla produced the most severe weather conditions of the month on the 13th and 14th — gale winds and 2.17 inches of rain. There was scattered light frost in rural areas on the 17th, 29th and 30th and sunshine was 10% above normal. October was warmer and more sunny than usual. The first wet snow fell in some areas on the 14th and 15th and heavy frost occurred on the 22nd and 23rd. November, likewise, was a pleasant month, particularly during the weekends. An 80 degree temperature reading on the 3rd set a new record for the day, for the month, and for so late in the season. The first appreciable amount of snow — some five to seven inches in parts of the Southern Tier — fell on the 8th and 9th. This was followed by minimum temperatures as cold as any reported in the nation on the 10th. The end of the month saw little snow cover anywhere in the region and all water areas were ice free.

Toward the end of the period water levels in Lake Erie and the Niagara River were at an all time low. Newspaper reports stated that the level of the river in gorge below Niagara Falls was from six to eight feet lower than usual for that time of the year. Whether or not this condition had an effect on the bird life of this area is, of course, problematical. However, local field men speculated that this condition or related ones contributed to: 1) one of the poorest shorebird seasons, both as to numbers and species, in several years at the western end of Lake Erie; 2) a poor November gull flight on the Niagara River with numbers much reduced over those of the past several years and reports of the usual autumn rarities such as Forster's Tern, Little Gull, Franklin's Gull and jaegers much fewer as compared with recent years; and 3) generally poor waterbirding.

The generally static weather conditions prevailing through most of the period produced fewer and less pronounced "waves" of passerines than in the average year. Comments by a number of field observers indicate that, in many cases, the "waves" that did occur were, more or less, local. Transient warblers and other small passerines first appeared in moderate numbers Aug 19-27. However, this movement was confined for the most part to areas near the south shore of Lake Erie. At Niagara Falls, Heilborn reported the first migration of a few warblers Sep 4. Minor cold fronts passing through on Sep 12 and 15 caused "extremely large warbler waves" on the south shore of Lake Erie. Able estimated about 500 warblers in this area Sep 12 and 800-1000 Sep 15. Eaton reported a fair warbler flight Sep 20 in the Olean area. An oscillating cold front Sep 24-25 brought in what many called the most pronounced "wave" of the season. While this movement was more widespread than most others, observers in some areas on Sep 24 found relatively few small landbirds. Sep 27-29, Oct 2-4, and Oct 14-15 were other periods during which typical seasonal transients were especially abundant.

Highlights of the season included: 1) an unusually early Evening Grosbeak flight; 2) a good November Pine Grosbeak flight; 3) an extensive October-early November chickadee movement; and 4) a number of species that lingered in the region much later than usual, probably as a result of the mild season. Rarities included: King Rail, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Northern Phalarope, Wilson's Phalarope, Boreal Chickadee, and Bohemian Waxwing.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: BISP—Buckhorn Island State Park; Bos—Buffalo Ornithological Society; JAS—Jamestown Audubon Society; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area.

**Loons — Ducks:** A single Red-throated Loon Nov 14 on Lake Erie near Hamburg was the only report (Bourne). The two Horned Grebes noted in the previous report remained in the gorge at Niagara Falls until at least Sep 30 (Able). At the same locality an Eared Grebe was reported Sep 30 (Able). Other reports of this species came from Lake Erie near Hamburg — single birds Oct 16 and 26 (Bourne). Single Double-crested Cormorants were observed Sep 28 off Woodlawn (Bourne), Oct 1 in the Niagara River at Buffalo (Able) and Oct 21 in the Lewiston-Youngstown area (Klabundes). The Common Egret was not reported during the period, making this

about the poorest flight year since 1958. Unlike a year ago when only one was reported during this report period in the entire region, a maximum of 12 Black-crowned Night Herons was counted Sep 3 in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo (Brockner). According to published records, this appears to be the highest count since 1956. Additional birds were observed Aug 25 over Hamburg (Able) and Aug 28 near Jamestown (Swanson et al). Again, of special interest was the Whistling Swan that remained on a small pond at Mayville through the summer (noted in previous report as "near north end of Chautauqua Lake"). This bird, an adult with conspicuous yellow lores, remained there until at least Oct 28 when it was seen by a number of JAS and BOS members. It showed no evidence of injury at any time (Pillsbury et al). November concentrations of Whistling Swans on Chautauqua Lake were especially noteworthy: 200 on Nov 4 (Swanson), 300 on Nov 6 (Hiller), 113 on Nov 7 (Pillsbury), 17 on Nov 25 (Rew et al). Three other observations — 50 on Lake Erie near Hamburg Nov 5 (Bourne), 26 flying south-southeast over Vandalia Nov 5 (Eaton), and 150 over Jamestown Nov 8 (Beal) — complete the story of a much better than average fall flight through the region. The Canada Goose flight, commencing somewhat earlier than usual in mid September, was slightly better than average. Results of the BOS October Bird Count on Oct 15 show the third highest count in 26 years. An interesting report of an irregular fall transient was the observation of 42 Snow Geese Nov 4 on Chautauqua Lake (Swanson). Although usually reported in some numbers from the south shore of Lake Ontario during autumn, a single Brant Nov 12 on Lake Erie at Barcelona (Swanson) was the only report this year. Dabbling ducks, especially Mallards, Blacks and American Widgeon continued their recent five year decline as shown by the BOS Bird Count results. Two Gadwall occurred Oct 12-22 at BISP (Coggshall et al) and two male Shovelers were noted Nov 7 at OOGMA (Schaffner et al). The Wood Duck continues to thrive well in this region as reflected by maximum counts of 125 Sep 3 in the North Java region (Rosche) and 60 Sep 23 at BISP (Heilborns). Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Ruddy Ducks showed little noticeable population change over last year during the peak of the fall flight. Maximum counts for these three species in the region all came from Chautauqua Lake as follows: Redhead — 60 on Nov 21 (Pillsbury) and 27 on Nov 25 (Red et al); Canvasback — 17 on Nov 11 (Rew et al); Ruddy Duck — 25 on Nov 9 (Pillsbury) and 26 on Nov 11 (Rew et al). A maximum count of 44 Ring-necked Ducks Nov 11 on Chautauqua Lake is interesting because this species has usually been thought to be uncommon here during autumn (Rew et al). A single Oldsquaw was reported from the gorge at Niagara Falls Aug 23 (Schaffner et al). Somewhat earlier than usual were two Surf Scoters Sep 28 on Lake Erie near Hamburg (Able).

**Hawks — Owls:** Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks continue to show definite evidences of a general decrease in populations. Even during the peak of migration in October there were far fewer reports this year than in past years. Single Goshawks were observed Oct 15 near the small hamlet of Oak Orchard (Seeber) and Nov 25 at Derby (Braunberns et al). A movement of Red-tailed Hawks was apparent Nov 11 on the Lake Ontario Plain when 17 were counted (Ulrich et al). The only Broad-winged Hawk reported was one Sep 17 at Derby (Brockner). Rough-legged Hawks appeared in some numbers earlier than usual. Seven were noted on the Oct 15 Bird Count. Early November saw a good movement on the Lake Ontario Plain with 18 counted on Nov 7 (Schaffner et al) and 36 Nov 11 (Ulrichs et al). Southern tier records of Rough-legs are always noteworthy because few individuals apparently penetrate the hilly sections of the region. One was noted Oct 28 over Cassadaga Lake (Rew et al) and another occurred Nov 9 over Jamestown (Beal). A single Bald Eagle, an immature, was observed Aug 27 near Barcelona (Swanson et al). Like last year, Ospreys were notably less numerous than in previous years. In fact, there were even fewer reports than last year. One was observed at Springbrook Oct 11 (Danner) and two were seen in the Jamestown region Oct 15 (JAS). A Pigeon Hawk was reported Sep 2 from Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo (Freitag et al) and another was observed Oct 15 at Grand Island (Ulrich). An unusually late Pigeon Hawk was observed Nov 13 near Hamburg (Bourne). The Peregrine Falcon, a rare bird here in recent years, was observed Oct 1 at Niagara Falls (Dorst), Oct 15 in the Lancaster area (Wendlings et al) and Oct 22 over Attica Center (Rosche). Thirteen Bobwhite were observed Oct 15 in the Batavia area where they have occurred regularly for the past two years (rep. Pixley). Steve Eaton reported that Turkeys seem to be still expanding their ranges and appear to have had a fair reproductive season. He observed three adult males feeding on white ash seeds Oct

24 near Vandalia. Less than 20 Turkeys were taken during the five day open season in Allegany State Park. A King Rail, rare at any season but especially in autumn was first noted Oct 15 in a small marsh bordering Johnson Creek Road, town of Hartland, Niagara County (Lehrer). It appeared to be injured and was last noted Nov 12 (Able). Small number of American Coot were reported from several localities during October but the flight was much less impressive than those of a few years ago. Maximum count of 250 occurred Nov 11 on Chautauqua Lake (Rew et al). Twelve Golden Plover were noted Aug 31 on mudflats bordering Tift Street in South Buffalo (Mitchell). 30 were observed on Oct 1 in the same locality (Able). A single bird was reported Sep 3 from Delaware Park Lake, Buffalo (Freitag). Like last year, reports from Grand Island, where they were so common on the extensive plowed fields only a few years ago, were lacking. Perhaps the outstanding shorebird rarity of the year was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper Aug 23-24 at Prendergast Point on the western shore of Chautauqua Lake (Pillsbury et al). It was observed under excellent conditions by a number of observers at distances as close as 15 feet. This appears to be the first record for the region since Sep 9-10, 1950 when one was observed at the same place (Lenna). Another rarity, a Purple Sandpiper, was noted Oct 26 on the south shore of Lake Erie at Athol Springs (Bourne). An unusually late Short-billed Dowitcher was studied under good conditions at the Tift Street flats Oct 1-2 (Able). With it on Oct 1 were two Long-billed Dowitchers, the details and comparisons as to relative bill lengths, differences in call notes and the conditions under which distinct vertical bars were noted on the sides of the breast, leave little doubt as to their identity (Able). A Wilson's Phalarope occurred Aug 28-Sep 2 at the Tift Street flats and was observed by many local observers under a variety of conditions (Able et al). And last, but by no means less significant than the foregoing rarities among the shorebirds of the region, were two Northern Phalaropes — one Aug 18-20 at Jamestown (Beal et al) and another Oct 6 and 8 at the Tift Street flats (Able et al). An excellent Kodachrome slide of the Jamestown bird was taken by Dr. Lewis Kibler and it is now in the permanent files of the BOS. Two late Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported Oct 28 from Chautauqua Lake at Dewittville (Pillsbury et al). Single Jaegers were observed on Lake Erie Sep 20 at Athol Springs (Bourne) and Nov 19 at Sturgeon Point (Ulrichs et al). Jaegers, mostly Parasitics, have become increasingly more regular at the western end of Lake Erie in recent years. Glaucous, Iceland or Franklin's Gulls were not reported. A Little Gull, the only reported, was noted Sep 26 on Lake Erie near Hamburg (Bourne). Forster's Terns were reported by only one observer this year — five Sep 28 on Lake Erie near Hamburg and three Oct 1 on the Niagara River at Buffalo (Able). For the second consecutive year, an immature Common Tern remained on the Niagara River opposite Buffalo through the end of the period (Schaffner et al). There are few autumn records of Caspian Terns for the New York shore of Lake Erie. Hence, two at the Tift Street flats Sep 16 were of interest (Able). Three Barn Owls were observed Oct 15 in a woodlot in the Town of Hamburg where they nested in 1960 (Hartloff). Single Snowy Owls were observed Nov 23 and 26 at Buffalo (Freitag) and another occurred Nov 25 at Bear Lake (Rew et al). Several others were known to be in the metropolitan Buffalo area during November, but their abundance did not approach that of last year. Four Short-eared Owls were noted Nov 7 at Grand Island (Schaffner et al). Two occurred Nov 19 at Derby (Brockner) — a section of the Lake Erie Plain from which there are seldom any reports. A dead Saw-whet Owl was found Nov 5 in North Buffalo by a Junior Audubon Club member (rep. Webster). Another was observed Nov 18 near Westfield (Bohall et al).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nesting Common Nighthawks were absent in Wells-ville this year (Madden). Maximum counts of migrating birds occurred Sep 1 when 21 were counted over North Buffalo (Brockner) and Oct 6 when 15 occurred at East Aura (Nelson). These counts are well below those reported in most years. Outside of the Batavia area where it occurs regularly, the Red-bellied Woodpecker is a rare bird in the region. On Nov 8 an adult appeared at a feeding station near Armour and remained in the vicinity through the end of the period (Bacon et al). Another was observed Nov 12 along the Johnson Creek Road, Town of Hartland, Niagara County (Able). Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported Oct 15 from the Southern Tier (BOS Count). An immature visited a feeding station Nov 24 at Hamburg (Avery). Unusually late stragglers were two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers



present through Nov 30 in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo (Freitag et al) and a single bird Nov 27-29 at Niagara Falls (Heilborn). Many observers commented on the large number of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers moving through some parts of the region at the same time the chickadee movement was in progress. A number of Hairy Woodpeckers studied carefully with what appeared to be local resident birds close at hand for comparison were thought to be members of a larger-sized, more northern population. The bird roost at Jamestown, one of the largest presently known in the region, created much excitement among bird students again this year. About 75,000 Purple Martins were estimated there Aug 29 (Beal). A smaller martin roost, containing about 500 birds, was located in suburban North Buffalo Sep 9 (Mitchell). A Crow roost containing about 400 birds Nov 26 was found near Chestnut Ridge Park in central Erie County (Ulrichs et al). We need more information on roosts of this species and others throughout the region, especially in winter. Even persons who possess only a passing interest in birds noticed and commented upon the large scale Black-capped Chickadee invasion of the area. Commencing in late September, the movement appeared to reach its height during late October and early November. Although numbers seemed much reduced later in November, there were more than the usual number of chickadees throughout the region by month's end. During the peak of the flight chickadees were common birds along the streets of Buffalo. The following comments might give the reader a general idea of the extent of the flight: 1) Nov 3 — "Chickadees all over the Kensington area of Buffalo" (Freitag); 2) "Chickadees have been unusually plentiful all through October and November in Niagara Falls" (Heilborn); 3) Nov 5 — 500 estimated along the south shore of Lake Ontario in an aerial distance of about 12 miles (Nathan et al); 4) Oct 8, 22 and Nov 5 — Small flocks (8-15 birds) observed flying shortly after dawn in a southwesterly direction low over the ridges of the northern Allegheny Plateau in Wyoming County (Rosche). Outstanding were two observations of Boreal Chickadee on Nov 25 — one at Hamburg (Bourne) and another at Derby (Braunberns et al). These are the first reports for the region since winter 1954-55. At the same time chickadees were so prominent, a noticeable influx of Tufted Titmice occurred. There were several reports of one-several individuals in various areas not usually considered as regular localities for this species. Two were known to be visiting several feeding stations in late Nov in suburban Buffalo (Mitchell) and one-two visited a feeder during mid Nov in the city of Niagara Falls (Heilborn). A mild movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches began Aug 24-26 and reports for the remainder of the period indicate a fair sprinkling throughout the region through the end of the period. There was a small flight in the High Plateau sector of the Southern Tier (Eaton). Maximum counts of 15 and 18 occurred Sep 12 and 15 in the Hamburg area, coinciding with the previously discussed "warbler waves" in that area (Able). Continuing a regular trend in recent years, Mockingbirds appeared in several localities in Oct and Nov. None were reported between Jun 1 and Oct 14. On the latter date, a single individual was studied carefully in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo (Nathan et al). Another frequented a suburban-type neighborhood in Lewiston Oct 18-20, 29-31 and Nov 1 (Klabundes et al). Still another was reported Nov 29 near Lockport (Broadbent rep. Mitchell). Late Catbirds occurred Oct 28 at Jamestown (JAS) and Nov 11 at Woodlawn (Able). About 600 Robins were estimated at the Jamestown roost Aug 29 (Beal). For the second consecutive year reports of unusually late Veery observations were received and accompanied by satisfactory details of observation. One was observed Sep 27 at Elma (Coggeshall). Another was found dead Sep 23 in Delaware Park, Buffalo (Mitchell et al). If the numbers of Eastern Bluebirds observed during October is any indication of a population increase, than it would seem that this species made a giant step toward recovery of its normal populations this year. Sixty-seven individuals were counted Oct 15 on the Bird Count — by far the highest total since 1957. For the first year since about 1957, at least one was noted in early November — Nov 8 at Hamburg (Able). Four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted Aug 23 at Hamburg (Able). There are usually few late summer reports on this side of Lake Erie. Water Pipits appeared to be scarce again — just as they were this past spring. Cedar Waxwings, on the other hand, were more common, especially during November, than in the average year. Flocks were frequently attracted to shrubs heavily laden with red fruits such as Flowering Crab and Winterberry. With two flocks of Cedars, came the real rarity of the year — two Bohemian Waxwings. One bird fed Nov 18 in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, with a flock of about 25 Cedars. Within several hours after it was found, it was studied by about eight active, local

observers (Thompson et al). A second bird was found Nov 28 at Lyndonville with a flock of about 150 Cedars (Smith). There will be more to say about the latter bird in the next report. These, in addition to a flock of 15 at Alfred on Feb 5, 1959 (Peakall), are the first, definite, well documented Bohemian Waxwings in the region since the 1880's. A fair flight of Northern Shrikes began in early November. Most reports, however, were confined to the Lake Plains. Single Loggerhead Shrikes occurred Aug 28 in South Buffalo (Schaffner) and Sep 1 near Hamburg (Bourne). With the large numbers of martins and blackbirds at the Jamestown roost Aug 29 were about 75,000 Starlings (Beal).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Late summer records of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers are generally few, hence five Golden-wings Aug 24 at Hamburg (Able) and a Blue-winged Sep 7 near North Java (Rosche) were of interest. Unusually late warbler reports were as follows: Parula — one Oct 17 at BISP (Coggeshall); Black-throated Blue — one Oct 23 and 27 at Hamburg (Able); Mourning — one Oct 1 at Dunkirk (Rew et al). The only Connecticut Warbler of the season occurred Oct 7 at Chestnut Ridge Park (Bourne).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Aug 29 estimates of icterids at the Jamestown roost were: Red-winged Blackbird — 7,500; Common Grackle — 3,500; Brown-headed Cowbird — 3,500 (Beal). Somewhat indicative of the major early flight of Evening Grosbeaks to occur in October, was a report of two birds visiting a feeding station Sep 21-24 in suburban Buffalo (rep. Mitchell). During the second week of October, a minimum of two weeks earlier than the previous earliest flight, grosbeaks "invaded" many parts of the region as the following reports indicate: Oct 8 — 40 near Salamanca (Ramsdells); Oct 9 — four at Jamestown (Hiller); Oct 10 — one at Springbrook (Danner); Oct 12 — 25 at East Aurora (Schweikhards); Oct 14 — nine at Belmont (Baker) and 10 at Wethersfield Springs (Rosche); Oct 15 — about 144 reported on BOS Bird Count; Oct 16 — two in suburban Buffalo (Rosche). During November numbers decreased but flocks continued to frequent feeding stations daily through the end of the period. In the Olean area small flocks were frequently seen feeding in wild wooded areas where an abundant crop of white ash seed were still clinging to the trees (Eaton). Many observers thought that Purple Finches were more common than in the average year. Pine Grosbeaks were first reported Nov 1 when two were seen near Youngstown (Klabundes). After that a good flight, the first since winter 1957-58, continued through the end of the period. One was found dead Nov 3 on a city street in North Buffalo (rep. Webster). The earliest record for the southern tier was at Ten Mile Hollow near Vandalia Nov 12 (Eaton). In this area, Dr. Eaton observed this species also feeding on white ash seeds — the one good mast source of the woodlands this year (practically no beechnuts, acorns, wild black cherries, hemlock seeds or birch seeds). He also noted this grosbeak feeding more often on the ground than the Evening. Largest flocks reported of 18 and 24 occurred Nov 20 near Mayville (Bohall) and near Vandalia (Eaton). A few Common Redpolls were observed: 26 Nov 11 on the Ontario Plain (Ulrichs et al); 10 on Nov 12 near Varysburg (Rosche); eight on Nov 19 and two on Nov 26 at Niagara Falls (Heilborns); one on Nov 30 near Armour (Bourne). Unlike a year ago, the siskin-crossbill flight was very light. One to six siskins were observed on three occasions Nov 1-12 on the Ontario Plain. The first for the Vandalia region were noted Nov 5 and small flocks were seen here to the end of the period (Eaton). No Red Crossbills were reported. Three White-winged Crossbills occurred Nov 19 near Youngstown (Rew) and two were observed Nov 26 in Forest Lawn Cemetery Buffalo (Freitag).

**Corrigenda:** (Vol. 11, No. 3) — 1) p. 153 — Omitted from the printed copy was the second Common Egret report (one Jul 12 at Wolcottsville Sinks (Rosche); 2) p. 154 — The locality mentioned in connection with several shorebird reports should be Prendergast Point **not** Predergast; 3) p. 155 — Insert "and" between the words "young" and "adult" in connection with the Tufted Titmice that were noted at Lakewood, Chautauqua County.

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## REGION 2 — GENESEE

### HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for the last half of August averaged about normal, but for the rest of the period the average was consistently above normal. The greatest deviation from normal was during September when the average mean temperature almost broke all existing records for warmth. The last two months of the period were warmer than average but not to the extent of September. The first killing frost (and freeze) occurred October 23 when the mercury dropped to 28°F in Rochester and to the low twenties inland. Precipitation for the first 2½ months was below normal, being lowest in September when less than a half inch of rain was recorded. November was somewhat above normal in precipitation and produced about 6½ inches of snow. Most of it fell during a storm November 8-9. Heavier local falls occurred at this time near the lake east of Rochester. The ground was bare at the end of the period.

The fall flight of Canada Geese and Brant was about average but the duck flight, probably due in part to the mild weather, seemed rather light, with Redheads scarce and Canvasbacks unreported. The fall hawk flight, which usually consists of only stragglers, produced an apparent movement late in August. The shorebird flight, plagued by high water in the lake and bays and the complete drying up of ponds inland, was dull and uninteresting except for one record each of the Whimbrel and Hudsonian Godwit. The fall migration of land birds was about two weeks late, with the peak being reached during the weekend of September 23-24. Probably the most interesting feature of the period was the heavy migration of Black-capped Chickadees which reached its peak October 8 (see field notes section). All the "winter" finches were reported, some in fairly good numbers, but none reached "tidal wave" degree. Outstanding birds seen during the period included Gannet, Hudsonian Godwit, Laughing Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Boreal Chickadee, and Western Meadowlark.

**Loon — Ducks:** Some 200 Common Loons Nov 9 at Manitou Beach (Listman) and 150 Red-breasted Loons Nov 25 along the west lakeshore (Listman, Tetlow) were peak counts for these two species. One of the latter species was seen Nov 25 on Silver Lake, where it is uncommon (Rosche). Four Red-necked Grebes were seen Oct 28 at Manitou (Miller, O'Hara), and 175 Horned Grebes were noted the same day along the west lakeshore (GOS hike). An immature Gannet was at Hamlin Beach Park Oct 29 (Lloyd). Three Double-crested Cormorants were seen Oct 26 at Manitou (Listman), and there was one at Hamlin Beach Park on Oct 28 (GOS hike). A late American Bittern was observed Nov 25 at Braddock's (Listman). Seven Whistling Swans, a very uncommon fall migrant in this area, were seen Nov 5 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer), and one was seen the same day on Lake LaGrange (Rosche). On October 22, there were about 2500 Brant at Manitou (Listman) and 2200 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer). Most of the birds seen at Webster Park were probably the same birds that had passed Manitou a little earlier in the day. A straggler was seen Nov 4 at Hamlin Beach Park (Starling et al). Listman saw Two Gadwall at Braddock's Bay, Oct 26 and three at Hamlin Beach Park Nov 25. A hundred Pintails were noted Sep 6 at Manitou (Listman). Some 100 Green-winged Teal seen Nov 4 at Hamlin Beach Park (Foster, Listman, Tetlow) is a good count, and two Blue-winged Teal seen Nov 5 at Perry (Rosche) is a rather late date. Some 150 American Widgeon were at Hamlin Beach Park on Nov 4 (Foster, Listman, Tetlow). Two hundred Wood Duck seen Sep 20 at Salmon Creek (Listman) is a very high count, although this probably represents the peak of the fall migration of this species. Small numbers of Redheads were seen from Aug 20 to Sep 30 near Perry (Rosche), probably recently released birds. A flock of 30 was seen Nov 25 at Hamlin Beach Park (Listman, Tetlow). Forty Ring-necked Ducks seen Nov 5 near Castile (Rosche) was the maximum count for this species. No Canvasbacks were reported. Peak count for Oldsquaw was 1500 Nov 25 at Sea Breeze (Kemnitzer) and for White-winged Scoters 600 Nov 19 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer). Four Surf Scoters Oct 26 at Manitou and six Common Scoters Oct 4 at Manitou were high counts for these two much less common species (Listman). From two to six Ruddy Ducks were seen Oct 7 to Nov 25 on Silver Lake (Rosche); otherwise this species went unreported. Twenty Hooded Mergansers near Castile Nov 5 and 18 at Silver Lake on Nov 25 (Rosche) were high fall counts for this species.

**Hawks — Owls:** A turkey Vulture was seen Oct 7 near Castile (Rosche). Goshawks were unreported. Occasional single Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported in scattered localities. The 150 Red-tailed and 13 Broad-winged Hawks seen Aug 19 at Manitou (Starling et al) is a better count than is usually made at any time during the late summer and fall hawk flights, which are always light in this area compared to the spring flights. The first Rough-legged Hawk of the season was reported Oct 14 at Lighthouse Road (Listman). Both this species and the Red-tailed Hawk were scarce along the lakeshore all fall, but both were better distributed in inland areas. A Peregrine Falcon was present in the Braddock's area from Oct 1-7 (Lloyd, Starling et al); another or possibly the same bird was noted just east of Irondequoit Bay Oct 8 (Listman). A Pigeon Hawk was seen Sep 19 at Groveland (Tetlow).

There was a Common Gallinule at Salmon Creek on Nov 20 (Listman), and another was seen Nov 25 at Sandy Creek (Listman, Tetlow).

Fifteen Killdeer were at Salmon Creek Nov 18 (Miller, Starling), a rather late date for this number. Eight Golden Plover seen Sep 4 west of Manitou (Schaefer et al) and nine Sep 9 near Perry (Rosche) were high fall counts for this species; sometimes in September it is present in hundreds. Eleven Common Snipe were seen Nov 26 at Salmon Creek (Listman). The only Whimbrel of the year was seen Sep 6 along Kuhn Road (Listman). Rather late was the Spotted Sandpiper noted at Hamlin Beach Park on Oct 14 (Foley et al). Forty Greater Yellowlegs were seen Oct 29 at Groveland, and six at Salmon Creek Nov 18 (Listman). This species appeared to be one of the few shorebirds that were present in normal numbers this fall. One to two Purple Sandpipers were present at Braddock's Bay from Nov 10 to 20 (Listman et al). There were two Baird's Sandpipers at Manitou Sep 2 to 4 (Starling et al). Single White-rumped Sandpipers were seen occasionally at Braddock's Bay with the latest date Nov 19 (GOS hike) of a somewhat oiled bird. A late Short-billed Dowitcher was seen Nov 18 (Miller, Starling) and a Long-billed Dowitcher was carefully identified Oct 26 at Braddock's Bay (Listman). The latter bird was carefully studied at leisure in direct comparison with a bird of the commoner species and the call notes of both birds were heard and compared. The only Stilt Sandpiper of the year, a crippled bird, was seen Sep 4 at Manitou (Listman). A Hudsonian Godwit was seen Sep 6 at Braddock's Bay (Listman). No Phalaropes of any species were reported.

A Parasitic Jaeger was observed Oct 15 harrying gulls at Oklahoma Beach (Lloyd, Sunderlin). This was the only area record for the year. No white-winged gulls were reported. An immature Laughing Gull was observed from Oct 8-12 at the Irondequoit Bay outlet (Listman, Lloyd); this is the first record for this area since the short-lived influx brought in by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. A Little Gull was seen in company of a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls Sep 30 at Charlotte Beach (Miller, O'Hara). Single Forster's Terns occasionally appeared around Braddock's Bay, with the latest date being Oct 31 (Listman). Two Common Terns were seen Nov 9, a late date, at Manitou Beach (Listman). A very late Caspian Tern appeared at Hamlin Beach Park Nov 4 (Foster).

A fair flight of Snowy Owls appeared, the first on Oct 26 at Braddock's Bay (Listman). A maximum count of four was made Nov 25 along the lakeshore (Meade, Starling, Starling, Taylor). Two Long-eared Owls were still in the Avon area at the end of the period (Haller). A Saw-whet Owl was seen Oct 15 in the Island Cottage Woods (Lloyd, Miller). This was the second bird of this species reported in the area this year.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Listman saw a late Whip-poor-will Oct 4 west of Manitou and a late Chimney Swift Oct 15 at Manitou Beach. Rosche saw a late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Castile Nov 5 and a rather late Eastern Phoebe at Silver Lake Oct 14. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded Sep 10 in Irondequoit (Leubner). Five Cliff Swallows seen Aug 19 at Manitou (Miller, Tetlow) was the high count for the fall migration. There was a very late Barn Swallow Nov 12 at Manitou (Listman). The very heavy flight of Black-capped Chickadees reached a peak Oct 7-8 (see field notes section). A Boreal Chickadee was noted Oct 9 at Oklahoma Beach (Shermer) and another in Durand-Eastman Park Nov 26 (Weld). After an almost complete absence since the middle of last winter Tufted Titmice appeared in numbers in the chickadee flights, with a maximum of nine at Oklahoma Beach Oct 8 (McNett, Sunderlin, et al). At the end of the period upwards of 25 birds of this species were free-loading at various feeders in the area. Twenty White-breasted Nuthatches Oct 7 at Oklahoma Beach (McNett, Sunderlin) and 28 there the fol-

lowing day (Lloyd, MacRae, Shermer) show a migratory movement of this generally regarded resident species. Red-breasted Nuthatches were generally distributed and were even present in the hardwoods in Rochester; the high counts were ten at Manitou Beach Oct 2 (Listman) and ten at Oklahoma Beach Oct 7 (McNett, Sunderlin). A count of 32 Brown Creepers was made Oct 7 at Oklahoma Beach in conjunction with the chickadee flight (McNett, Sunderlin). Twelve Winter Wrens noted Oct 15 in Durand-Eastman Park (Miller) probably marks the peak of the fall migration.

A Mockingbird seen Oct 7 near Lighthouse Beach (Miller, Tetlow) was the only report for the period. A rather late Wood Thrush was seen Oct 7 at Silver Lake (Rosche). Swainson's Thrushes seemed very common this fall, with an estimated 200 heard over Rochester in a pre-dawn flight Sep 24 (Miller). Dr. Leubner banded 19 of these birds in Irondequoit between Sep 9 and 30. He also banded five Gray-cheeked Thrushes between Sep 10 and 23. Five Eastern Bluebirds were seen Oct 17 in Powder Mill Park by Zeitler, who also saw a single bird Nov 1 near Pittsford. A single Bohemian Waxwing appeared Nov 19 in Durand-Eastman Park in the large flock of the common species and was still present at the end of the period, during which time it was seen by many observers. The large flock of Cedar Waxwings present in the park during the latter part of the period was estimated at 250 birds Nov 5 (McNetts). A Northern Shrike was seen at Perry Oct 26 (Rosche), another Nov 11 in Durand (Listman), and three along the lakeshore Nov 2 (Listman, Tetlow).

**Vireos — Warblers:** A singing Yellow-throated Vireo was seen Sep 24 in Durand (Miller), and two Solitary Vireos were observed Oct 8 in Webster Park (Lloyd et al). A Philadelphia Vireo was in Durand Sep 24 (Miller) and another Oct 8 at Webster Park (Lloyd et al).

A Blue-winged Warbler was noted Sep 17 near Portageville (Rosche). Accurate departure dates for this species are very few, as most of our observers do not bird the areas where this species is found after early summer. Single Orange-crowned Warblers were seen Oct 2 and 18 at Manitou (Listman) and Oct 7 at Silver Lake (Rosche). A late Black-throated Green Warbler was at Oklahoma Beach Oct 15 (Lloyd, Sunderlin). Three Hooded Warblers were seen Sep 23 in Letchworth Park (Rosche).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** A singing Western Meadowlark was seen Oct 9 in Brighton (Starling), and a late Baltimore Oriole was noted Oct 8 at Oklahoma Beach (Lloyd et al). After being almost completely absent last winter, an Evening Grosbeak was seen Sep 3 near Irondequoit Bay (McNetts). Another bird was noted Sep 23 in Durand (Foster, Miller); on Sep 30 a flock of 22 was in Webster Park (Lloyd, Sunderlin), and on Oct 7 flocks totaling 507 birds were seen at Webster Park, (Lloyd). However, the birds did not generally settle down, and at the end of the period a flock of about 25 birds (imms.) in Fishers and a smaller flock at the Sunderlin feeder appeared to be about the only ones present. Purple Finches have been rather scarce, with a flock of seven in Webster Park Oct 7 (Lloyd) being the high count.

After an absence of 3½ years five Pine Grosbeaks appeared Nov 4 at Manitou (Listman et al). A maximum of 20 birds was present Nov 19. Some birds were scattered around the area at the end of the period. A Hoary Redpoll was seen Nov 19 in company with the commoner species at Braddock's (GOS hike). A Common Redpoll was observed Oct 31 at Manitou (Listman). The maximum count was a flock of 75 at Manitou Nov 25 (Listman, Tetlow). Pine Siskins have been scarce, with a high count of five at Manitou Nov 11 (Listman). Eight Red Crossbills Nov 19 at Durand (GOS hike) and one White-winged Crossbill Nov 26 east of Irondequoit Bay (Sunderlin) were the only reports of these two species. Tree Sparrows seemed late in arriving and were somewhat less common than usual. The 250 White-throated Sparrows seen Oct 2 at Manitou (Listman) was the high fall count for this bird. Four Fox Sparrows were seen Nov 11 in Durand (Listman), which is a rather late date. A Lincoln's Sparrow was spotted Oct 14 in Island Cottage Woods (Listman) and another near Avon Oct 28 (Haller). Lapland Longspurs were unreported. Forty Snow Buntings seen Oct 26 at Braddock's Bay and 50 at Manitou Nov 11 (Listman) were the largest flocks reported.

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

The second half of August continued wet, with normal temperatures. The worst heat of the summer came in September, and October and November were somewhat above normal in temperature. After all the summer rain, October and November were dry. October had just 2½ inches of rain (normal is 3), but even so, the total for the year was considerably above normal (note: the wet summer was actually restricted to the Ithaca area; other parts of the Region had drought). The extreme heat of late August and early September (90° on 13 of 21 days) continued until we were brushed by the edge of the coastal hurricane, Sept. 12 and 13. The variation in moisture and temperature may account for the variety of reports on wild food crops. Around Ithaca most observers reported poor seed and nut crop, but farther west the situation was better. Around Montour Falls the crop was good (Bardeen); Groesbeck found lots of cones on hemlock and spruce at Hornell, and Margeson found plenty of nuts at Jasper. Leaves remained on the trees unusually late — into the first week of November.

The goose migration was unusually heavy, and more Snows, Blues, Brant, and Whistling Swans were seen than is usual in the fall. Among landbirds migration waves were noted on Aug. 27 (swallows and vireos notably), Sept. 8 (thrushes and warblers), and, with the cold temperature following the edge of the hurricane, Sept. 13-15, good numbers of warblers, tanagers, and pewees.

At this writing it looks like a good year for Rough-legged Hawks, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, and perhaps Snowy Owls.

Highlights of the season were a Wilson's Phalarope, a Harris' Sparrow, and a Dickcissel (see body of report).

With regret I report the loss, as a regular reporter, of Mrs. G. J. Carter, of Avoca whose careful analysis of conditions in her area have been a great help to me. She and Mr. Carter are moving to Florida. I welcome, as new contributors, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Allison, who have recently moved to Auburn, an area which had very little coverage.

**Loons — Ducks:** Pied-billed Grebes apparently had a good season; a count at Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge on Oct 12 showed 148, as against a peak last year of 71. Two Double-crested Cormorants were seen there on Nov 9 by Cummings. Great Blue Herons peaked at 123 on Sep 8, as opposed to only 57 last year. Common Egrets peaked at 50 on Sep 8, with the last two being seen there on Oct 12, perhaps the same two seen by P. P. Kellogg on the 13th at the south end of Cayuga.

Few in the area can remember a fall when there were so many reports of Whistling Swans. Up to 100 landed on Seneca Lake (Champion, Barber, et al) and 40 or more on Cayuga the end of the first week in November.

Although the count of Canada Geese at Montezuma, was approximately the same as last year (560, including 100 released and local birds), fall flights in the entire area seemed larger than has been the case for some years past. From Keuka Lake, Owasco and Seneca, as well as Cayuga, and the Chemung River at Elmira and Cohocton River at Avoca, reports indicated "best flight of Canadas ever seen." I question whether this represents any actual increase in population — it may be a change of route, or flight at lower altitudes. It was interesting that the flocks passed over Ithaca in unseasonably mild weather, just a few days ahead of the opening of the hunting season!

Brant were migrating through the area the second week in October, and into November, and one joined the Canadas at Stewart Park in Ithaca in mid-November. There were scattered reports of Snow Geese and Blue Geese from Mid-October on, including 40 Snows on Cayuga Nov 5-10, 30-35 Blues with Canadas in Mid-October (Buckley, Sutherland), and Snows going over Elmira on Nov 6. The two Blues and two Snows that were with Canadas at Montezuma in October and November were still there on Nov 25 (W. H. Allison).

Usage of Montezuma by ducks was similar to last year, with a peak in '61 of 10,990 (on Oct 26) compared with 10,380 in 1960. Mallards were up from 1545 to 1900; Blacks were the same last year. Pintails were down from 560 to 200. Gadwalls showed an encouraging increase, from 75 to 570. American Widgeon (first migrants appeared in early September) dropped from 8600 last year to 8000 this year. Few Redheads had come in to the Refuge during the period. An Oldsquaw was a decided rarity for Montezuma.

Elsewhere, Sapsucker Woods Pond had 80 to 100 ducks by the end of September, and this number built up to around 500 in early November, including about 100 Blacks. In October a peak of 75 Wood Ducks was reached. There were few reports of Ruddies all fall, except for four on Punchbowl Lake at Watkins Glen on Oct 23 and scattered ones at Montezuma. W. Groesbeck mentioned a heavy kill of Wood Ducks along the Canisteo River from Canisteo to Addison.

**Hawks — Owls:** The western portion of the Region reported a better hawk migration than we had in the eastern portion, but no real flights were noted. Gebhart saw 16 accipiters over the Cornell campus on Nov. 15. Keuka Park had two reports of Broad-winged Hawks, after several years of no sightings (Guthrie). Montezuma had fewer hawks. Rough-legs came in rather early — most areas reporting their first one in early October. There were two sightings of Bald Eagles near Ithaca in late August: on the 24th over Coddington Road (Mrs. John Patterson) and on the 28th over the Peruville Road (Stewart Howe). Refuge personnel had just three sightings of the Eagle at Montezuma during that period, and one was seen there on Oct 26 by W. H. Allison. An Osprey visited Sapsucker Woods Pond for several days from Oct 12 on. There were just two reports of Peregrine Falcons: one on Oct 5 at Elmira and one at Montezuma on Nov 2 (Cummings).

Ruffed Grouse were up in numbers at Keuka, and two were seen fairly frequently at Sapsucker Woods. Hunters think another year or two will see the peak of the cycle. Two coveys of Bobwhite found the Laboratory of Ornithology feeder, after the summer absence, and there were other reports of successful nestings around the country. Bobwhite were found also at a new location near Elmira Sep 19-23. Coots and Gallinules were apparently extremely successful this season: Montezuma had 212 Common Gallinules on Sep 8 as compared with 65 last year, and the amazing count of 2280 Coot, on Aug 27, as against 400 last year.

There were few shorebirds, as water levels were too high everywhere except at the south end of Cayuga where the newly-created mudflats were still too sterile. One small interesting spot is along Route 31, north of Montezuma, where David Peakall made observations over a 6-week period and noted 14 species, in small numbers. The first Elmira record of a Golden Plover was at the Welles farm on Sep 22. A few Turnstones were noted in late August and early September along Cayuga Lake (PPK). Lesser Yellowlegs were more common at Montezuma this year — 37 as opposed to only four last year.

There were three White-rumped Sandpipers, always a rare bird, at the Hog Hole (Ithaca) Oct 11-13, seen by several observers. There were few Dunlin in the Cayuga Basin, but ten were reported from the north end of Owasco Lake on Nov 7 (Allison). Nine Short-billed Dowitchers were along Route 31, at the wooden bridge north of Montezuma, on Aug 27, three on Sep 3 (Peakall), and this spot also produced the only Stilt Sandpipers. Western Sandpipers often are missing or escape unnoticed in our Region, but the species was spotted at the Hog Hole on Cayuga on Sep 27 (McIlroy) and at the Welles farm at Big Flats on Sep 24 and 25. Peakall and Rusk found a Wilson's Phalarope along Route 31 on Aug 27, and two Northernns were reported on Cayuga: one Sep 11 (P. P. Kellogg) and one Sep 25 by Douglas Payne, who photographed the bird. Arrival dates for Great Black-backed Gulls: Sep 13 on Cayuga (PPK), Sep 29 on Owasco (Allison), and Nov 7 on Seneca (Bardeen). Mrs. Carter noted more Ring-bills than normally at Avoca. On Sep 27 Winston Brockner noted hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls on Owasco.

Last record of Black-bellied Cuckoo: Oct 12, near Sapsucker Woods (C. Sutherland). A Barn Owl nest was found in a silo at Big Flats in late August. The young hatched about Sep 3. Our Region's only Snowy Owl reports in the period were one near Dresden on Nov 9 (Lerches, Guthries) and one at Montezuma Refuge on Nov 16 (Dewey, Morse). Two reports of Long-eared Owls: one south of Odessa in Mitchell Hollow (Strath) and one near West Groton on Nov 17 (Gebhart). Short-eared Owls were seen near Lodi and also at Reading Center. Two reports of Saw-whets: one on Oct 19 on Mrs. York's hill, southeast of Elmira, and one on Oct 20 near Reading (M. Darling).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Hummingbirds left several areas the first of September. Flickers were seen in good numbers during migration, and a few lingered at the end of November, including one at Sapsucker Woods. Pileated Woodpeckers attracted attention with appearances fairly regularly in Avoca (Carter), and one turned up in downtown Geneva on Nov 20 (fide L. Ward).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers were sighted again at King Ferry (Thatchers) and at Enfield (Truax) where they were last year. A bird at suet in Keuka Park was the first one there in some time. One was also seen Nov 24 at Montour Falls (L. Beardsley). The Enfield bird was reported to be extremely fond of warmed-over potatoes! Four reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers in August and September — two at Watkins Glen, one south of the Auburn Country Club, and one at Ithaca. Crows, scarce recently at Geneva, were making a comeback. Black-capped Chickadees were plentiful, but there were no reports of the large numbers of migrating ones seen farther north. The number of reports of Tufted Titmouse in new localities indicated a regular explosion this summer. Keuka, Geneva, Auburn, and Watkins Glen all remarked about their regular appearance during the fall. There were a number of reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches in September and October; there were not so many in November, but this simply means less coverage.

A Bewick's Wren was caught by hand when it flew into Annah Robinson's home at Watkins Glen on Sep 16. In view of the rarity of the species in the Region, one wishes it had been photographed. A Mockingbird was reported between Rathbone and Hedgesville the end of October by Mr. W. Hannah and verified by other observers.

No very striking thrush migration was reported, except Swainson's going over Ithaca on Sep 8 (W.W.H. Gunn). Robins seemed plentiful. Encouraging were the number of reports of small flocks of Bluebirds, called "best in several years" at Keuka and "in better numbers" at Watkins Glen. Such flocks were at Jasper, Groesbeck, and Ithaca, and a flock of 25 was near Penn Yan. Golden-crowned Kinglets were migrating in numbers Oct 20 and 21. Pipits were in the area in numbers (with Horned Larks) Nov 9 and 10. Flocks of Cedar Waxwings were being eyed hopefully for a Bohemian, but only apparently good report was of one near Elmira on Nov 10 (Esther Ruggles). All field marks were carefully noted. Misled by the heat of early September a Cedar Waxwing busily gathered nesting material Sep 5 and 6, near Branchport (V. Whitaker). The only Loggerhead Shrike for the year, at Elmira, was seen Aug 26. Northern Shrikes were not seen around Ithaca, but there were five reports at Keuka and one at Elmira.

**Vireos — Sparrows:** Migration of vireos was noted on Aug 27 (Sandberg) and Sep. 8. Warblers were moving on Sep 8 and 13-15. A Philadelphia Vireo was trapped and banded at Penn Yan by M. Lerch on Sep 24. An extremely late Warbling Vireo was spotted at Stewart Park, Ithaca, by Mrs. McIlroy on Nov. 7. It could not be found again. Several observers commented on warblers hanging around houses and eating the so-called "cluster flies." Dave Allen had Palms, Myrtles, and Wilson's working for him in this way on Sep 24 at his home next to Sapsucker Woods. There were more reports of late-lingering Myrtles this year than last.

A Bobolink was picked up in snow near Cortland on Nov 10 and brought to the Laboratory of Ornithology, probably having been delayed in migrating because of a wing injury. A male Baltimore Oriole was seen by a number of observers on the west hillside of Watkins Glen in mid-November (Bardeen). There was a sprinkling of Redwings, Rusties, Grackles, and Cowbirds at feeders around Ithaca at the end of the period. Scarlet Tanagers were seen into mid-October. The Cardinal was another species that either took advantage of good weather for late nestings or was forced into late nestings by the break-up of earlier ones when weather was unfavorable. Young were being fed at my feeders on Oct 14, and Mrs. A. Turk reported hers being fed from Oct 8-12. A late Indigo Bunting was carefully identified by C. Sutherland on Nov 5 near Ithaca. A male Dickcissel was trapped on the Hoyt property in Etna on Nov 29 by John Weske. Evening Grosbeaks came in flocks in early October, and by the end of October were on feeders. All parts of the Region had them, even the western areas which normally do not have them until later in the season. The big news was Pine Grosbeaks. In the few "invasion years" we have had before this, they have been abundant, but remained in the woods, or in abandoned farmland areas. This year they have been seen in villages, along main roads, in orchards. However, only a few were seen at a time. I have only one report of two at a feeder: the Baker residence near Mecklenberg, on Nov 26.

The only reports of Redpolls were of flocks along the road north and south of Auburn on Nov 9 (W. C. Dilger). A few Pine Siskin were around, but nothing like last year's numbers. Red Crossbills were seen near Ithaca's Community Corners on Sep 13 (D.G. Allen) and on Nov 16 on Connecticut Hill (L.I. Grinell).



Juncos seemed scarce, and Tree Sparrows were uncommon until mid-November, later than usual. A Kopp had a late Chipping Sparrow at his feeder at Reading Center on Nov 30. A new bird for the Cayuga Lake Basin (except for earlier unverified reports) was the Harris Sparrow, seen with White-throats, White-crowns, and Tree Sparrows near the Perry City Road northwest of Ithaca on Oct 15 and 16 by several groups of observers (Ed — see field notes section, this issue). White-throated Sparrows were considered scarce at Elmira and Ithaca, abundant at Jasper and Geneva. No reports this fall of Lincoln's Sparrows, and Fox Sparrows were scarce. Last date for the Fox Sparrow at Art Lane's feeder, Sapsucker Woods, was Nov 15. Snow Bunting reports were uncommon, but they were seen the last week in October at Keuka, which was early (Guthrie).

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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Starting from the warmest September on record the warm and dry weather changed in a leisurely, orderly and comfortable manner to the inevitable and normal cold and snow flurries of November. The first general sub-freezing temperatures came Oct 4 and 5. Whether by coincidence or because of the brief cold snap this was a period of marked change in bird populations and these dates recur frequently in the following report.

Outside of a general lateness, most marked in those species that normally leave first, there were few real surprises in the fall migration. Common Scoters and the number of Whistling Swans were perhaps the most unexpected records obtained.

The winter finch invasion which so often and in several ways seems unrelated to it, went against the fall migration of other species in that it was early rather than late. It is interesting to note how often the two disagree in this respect and to observe that they are stimulated by different conditions. Evening and Pine Grosbeaks are so far the only important species in the invasion, both being here in considerable force, but there have been a few reports of Pine Siskins and Snow Buntings, too.

**Loons — Ducks:** The usual small number of Common Loon reports was received — one at Norwich on each of the two dates, Nov 5 and Nov 12 (R. & S. White) and three at Endicott Nov 6 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry, G. Corderman). Horned Grebes were also reported in their usual small numbers from Oct 26 at Owego (R. Williams) to Nov 17 at Petonia Lake, a small lake several miles from Binghamton (Corderman, Marsi, Linaberry). Great Blue Herons were reported quite frequently, for them, thru the first half of November, but the last Green Heron was at Norwich Sep 24 (Whites). The only Common Egret report was an undated one from the Owego area (J. Shuler). Except for one at Norwich Sep 10 (Whites) American Bitterns escaped notice. A Double-crested Cormorant, an infrequently reported species in this region, was at Ludlow Lake in Chenango County Oct 20 (W. Bartlett).

During a period of only a few days in early November, Whistling Swans were reported from four different areas in the region. A flock, variously reported as comprising 31 to 37 swans, was at Owego Nov 5 and 6 and was seen by several members of both the Tioga Birdwatchers' Club and the Triple Cities Naturalists' Club and in fact made the Binghamton Press. Six were at Endicott Nov 6 (G. Smith) and on Nov 7 or 8 six were at Lordville, near the extreme southern tip of Delaware County (third hand report via S. Wilson). Also in "early November" four were on Buckhorn Lake near Unadilla (H. Wisner). Canada Geese seemed particularly numerous this fall in most parts of the region with the notable exception of Oneonta where they were "seen but not in large numbers" (J. New). They were first reported Sep 26 at Owego (M. Hills) and the last record was from Oxford Nov 4 (A. Stratton). Well over half of the reported birds passed thru between Oct 12 and Oct 16. A flock of about 75 Brant was at Ludlow Lake Oct 20 (Bartlett) and another group of 17 was reported at Owego Nov 7 (C. Gerould, M. White, E. Horne). Most areas report Mallards and Black Ducks to be relatively low in numbers. At Greene it was reported that a large proportion had gone by the opening of duck season Oct 13. There were no reports of American Widgeons or Pintails and there were comparatively few Green-winged Teal. As usual almost all the Blue-winged Teal left in September with the last report coming Oct 4 from Owego (TBC). The peak of the Wood Duck migration, at least in the Greene area, coin-

cided with the opening of the duck season and the bulk of them had left by the end of the month (Bartlett).

There were only a few reports of Ring-necked Ducks and Scaup Ducks and no Canvasbacks or Redheads at all. At Greene there were Common Goldeneyes and Buffleheads Oct 15 and Oldsquaws Oct 28 (Bartlett). Common Scoters, an unusual species this far inland, were near Greene Oct 15 and Oct 28 and 29 (Bartlett). A White-winged Scoter was found on a pond south of Binghamton Nov 8 (C. Howard). The only Hooded Merganser reported was at Owego Oct 28 (R. Williams, M. White). Three Common Mergansers were at Endicott Nov 6 (Marsi, Linaberry, Corderman).

**Hawks—Owls:** Turkey Vulture reports were received from Owego Aug 25 (Williams), Coventry, in eastern Broome County, Sep 24 (H. Nodcker) and Unadilla Sep 24 and Oct 1 and 5 (H. Wisner). Migrating hawks have seemed more common than usual this year, but the only evidence reported of a mass flight was a report of 25 or more hawks around a wooded ridge near Oxford Oct 16 (Stratton). Red-tails were by far the most commonly reported, as usual. The first definite record of Rough-legged Hawks was from Norwich Nov 5 (Whites). Ospreys were particularly numerous in comparison with other years, starting with two Aug 24 at Deposit (S. Wilson) and continuing until Nov 19 at Chenango Forks (M. & A. Davis).

At Greene during the hunting season Ruffed Grouse populations "were at a good level — neither too high nor too low, and the average daily movement of grouse would be 25 or 30 birds. Because the woods were dry and noisy but few birds 'laid well' to the dog and as of now (Dec 8) the grouse winter covers are going to start with a high population density" (Bartlett). Aug 20 about four Bobwhites were near Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield). There were also two reports of the species in the Owego area (G. Helmers, Linna).

Semi-palmated Plovers were last seen Sep 9 at Chenango Forks (M. & A. Davis). Killdeer were no longer a "daily bird" after Nov 1 but occasional small groups were seen to the end of the period. At Greene "Woodcock populations started to build up heavily in September and the great majority left the night of Oct 14. At least on the 15th day only a few scattered birds could be found. There was no 'flight' as such after that, but a few birds, mostly males, could be found until Nov 26" (Bartlett). They were also reported in some numbers near Cortland (C. Wilson). Common Snipe seemed more common than other falls. Spotted Sandpipers were last reported Oct 4 at Owego (C. Gerould, M. White) and there were no more Solitary Sandpipers after Aug 29. Greater Yellowlegs were present thru the first week of November but Lesser Yellowlegs were not reported after Sep 24. A few Pectoral Sandpipers remained thru October, the last being two at Norwich Oct 29 (Whites). One Dunlin was noted at Owego Nov 6 (Marsi, Corderman, Linaberry). Herring Gulls became a daily sight in the Triple Cities area Oct 13 but there were scattered reports from Aug 21 on. Ring-billed Gulls were noted in flocks of twenty or more during October and into November at Cortland (J. Gustafson). Elsewhere only scattered individuals were reported. A Black Tern Aug 25 at Owego (M. White, R. Williams) is just about the only fall record of the species in the last few years for the region.

Black-billed Cuckoos were noted as late as Sep 11 (Sheffields). Several observers were able to watch a pair of Barn Owls feeding their two young ones until Oct 1 in Owego (TBC). Their actual nesting site was never found. Screech Owls continue to increase in numbers. Long-eared Owls have been heard all fall around Norwich (Whites). A Short-eared Owl was brought to Dr. J. New at Oneonta State Teachers College Oct 18.

**Goatsuckers—Shrikes:** Two Nighthawks at Unadilla Sep 20 (Wisner) were our last. Chimney Swifts remained common to the end of August and were last recorded Sep 10. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported frequently until Sep 21, the latest report came Oct 1 from Owego (D. Bendle). Yellow-shafted Flickers thinned out gradually during October and by the end of the month were practically gone. On Oct 15 a very cold looking Kingbird was seen on a telephone wire a little below Oxford (Whites). It was examined carefully for five minutes and was the only one reported after Sep 4. A late Great Crested Flycatcher was at Owego Sep 28 (C. Gerould). The number of Phoebe records during the fall, until Oct 19, would seem to indicate that the breeding season was successful. A straggler was reported at Newark Valley Nov 19 (L. Dean). An Empidonax (Sp?) Flycatcher banded at Choconut Center Sep 17 (L. Bemont) was our last of the genus.

A Tree Swallow was still at Endicott Sep 26 (E & N. Washburn). Both Tree and Bank Swallows were reported at Owego Sep 11 (R. VanDuzer) and on the same day,

but at Greene, Barn Swallows were reported (C. & J. Davis). Purple Martins were last seen at Homer Aug 29 (Gustafson). Three more residents of Homer erected Martin Houses this year in what appears to be an attempt to make that area the martin capital of inland New York state. Two Boreal Chickadees appeared in Cortland Nov 14 (C. Wilkins) and have been seen often since. Tufted Titmice were reported at Homer (Mrs. D. Chapman) and Owego, as well as at two new places in the Triple Cities area. Perhaps the Titmouse population explosion, a la Cardinal, is coming soon, now. There were only a few Red-breasted Nuthatch reports from Cortland and the Triple Cities.

House Wrens were reported regularly all thru September but the last straggler was reported Oct 14. The only Winter Wren reported so far was at Choconut Center Oct 15 (Bemont). No Carolina Wrens were reported during the period. Catbirds were reported frequently to Oct 18, Brown Thrashers were gone after Oct 13. Robins were plentiful thru mid-October and still reported regularly for the rest of the month, but only scattered reports came in during November. Wood Thrushes were around until Oct 4. A Hermit Thrush was still at Cortland Nov 19 (Mrs. W. Thurber). The Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush fall migration was the best in several years. The Swainson's was first reported Aug 29 at Sidney (F. Quick) and seen until Oct 12 and Gray-cheeked from Sep 10 to Oct 8. H. Marsi netted and banded eight of the latter species. Veeries were gone after Aug 31. Bluebirds were reported frequently until Oct 22 in the fortunate areas but after that there was only one report, a flock of twenty at Newark Valley Nov 10 (Dean). The unevenness of their distribution is well illustrated by the following two reports; from Deposit Sep 16 "a male — our only record this year" (S. Wilson), and from Owego "had nine different successful nestings" (Williams). Both Kinglets arrived Oct 8 and were reported sparingly. The Ruby-crowns were gone after Oct 22. There were more Water Pipits reported than in the previous eight falls combined. They were first reported at Greene Nov 11 (C. & J. Davis) and last seen Nov 12 at Sherburne (Whites). Cedar Waxwings were particularly common during almost all of September, but were almost completely absent during Oct and Nov. A Northern Shrike was at Whitney Point Nov 1 (Marsi, Linaberry, Corderman) and three more were identified in November. A Loggerhead Shrike at Homer Oct 25 (Gustafson) was the only one reported.

**Vireos — Warblers:** A Yellow-throated Vireo was singing at Norwich Sep 25 (Whites). There were few reports of Solitary Vireos, all in the last week of September. Red-eyed Vireos were around until Oct 2. A Philadelphia Vireo banded at Binghamton (Marsi, Corderman) was the only one reported. A Warbling Vireo, singing at Norwich Sep 10 (Whites) was our last.

As is almost always the case in fall migration Myrtle Warbler reports outnumbered those of all other species of warblers put together. Being so numerous in relation to the other species they must serve as the background against which the rest of the warbler migration is viewed. The first ones arrived from the north in mid-September and for the rest of the month they were reported in small numbers. Then the weekend of Oct 7 and 8 the woods were literally flooded with them, in the Triple Cities area at least. They continued to be present in large but decreasing numbers until Oct 28 and only scattered reports were left for November.

Very few Black and White Warblers were reported, the last at Owego Oct 4 (TBC). Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers were both at Chenango Forks Aug 23 and at the same place the next day a Lawrence's Warbler, almost certainly the same bird that was reported in the last issue, was seen (M. & A. Davis). A Nashville Warbler was still at Owego Oct 5 (Williams). Yellow Warblers were not seen after Sep 5 but Magnolia Warblers were still at Oxford in some numbers Oct 17 (A. Stratton). Black-throated Blue Warblers were not reported after Sep 10, Black-throated Greens were around until at least Oct 5 and in fact on Sep 13 at Owego one was seen apparently feeding young ones. Blackburnian Warblers were last seen Sep 24 (N. & E. Washburn) and Chestnut-sided Warblers were last reported Sep 17 at Castle Creek (B. Burgher). Bay-Breasted and Blackpoll Warbler numbers were way below normal. Pine Warblers were at Owego Sep 4 to Oct 2. (Williams). After being missed entirely in the spring migration there were more than the usual number of fall Palm Warbler reports. They were first reported at Sidney Sep 13 (F. Quick) and were around until Oct 17 at Oxford (Stratton). A Mourning Warbler was reported at Owego Sep 9 (TBC). Yellowthroats continued quite common until Sep 27 and were last reported Oct 10 at Owego (M. White). Hooded Warblers were reported at Owego Sep 6 and Sep 20 and Wilson's Warblers at the same place Sep 1

and 20 (Williams). The latter species was also reported three miles south of Tully Sep 10 (Wisner). Redstarts were around until Sep 17 at Choconut Center (L. Bemont, M. Sheffield, et al.).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** "Lots" of Bobolinks were at Whitney Point Sep 3 (M. Sheffield). They were last reported Sep 9 at Owego (Gerould, Williams). Meadowlarks were seen regularly thru October with scattered reports continuing thru November. On Nov 8 Redwinged Blackbirds were "still here in large numbers" at Owego but have not been reported since. Baltimore Orioles were seen regularly, in the Triple Cities area, until Sep 11. Two at Choconut Center Sep 17 (L. Bemont, M. Sheffield, et al.) were the last. The only Rusty Blackbird reported was "on the lawn" at Norwich Oct 19 (Whites). Large flocks of Common Grackles were gone after the middle of Oct but a few individuals were seen regularly until Nov 20. The last Scarlet Tanager report, at Chenango Forks Oct 8 (M. & A. Davis), seemed rather late but there were three other reports within a week and a half before that.

A pair of Cardinals brought babies to the feeder in Deposit Aug 23 (Wilson), the first definite evidence of successful breeding in that area. 25 or so Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen south of Tully Sep 10 (Wisner) and there were quite a few other September records, but the last of the species was at Owego Oct 5 (M. White). Indigo Buntings were last reported Sep 24. An Evening Grosbeak was at Deposit as early as Sep 7 (Wilson) but it was Oct 2 before any number of them arrived. They were reported in increasing numbers during Oct and were downright common all during November when 136 were banded at Deposit (Wilson). At Unadilla they had already cleaned up about all the box elder seeds by the end of the period. At Deposit Purple Finches were numerous throughout the late summer until at least Oct 8, but after Nov 3 when Mr. Wilson returned from a trip there were none. Our first dated record of Pine Grosbeaks was from nearby Pennsylvania Nov 15 (Washburns) but they were soon reported from several other areas. At Greene they were "more abundant than any other movement of them that I have ever seen. Every wood lot and old orchard and especially the conifer stands had its quota of birds" (Bartlett). Only a few Pine Siskins have been reported so far, the first a banding record at Deposit Nov 24 (Wilson). A late Rufous-sided Towhee was still at Newark Valley Nov 11 (Durie), the last previous report being Oct 31.

Slate-colored Juncos started arriving in force about Oct 8 and were quite common to the end of the period. The first Tree Sparrow was at Homer Oct 12 (Gustafson) but it wasn't until Nov 3 that they arrived in any numbers. Small migrating flocks of Chipping Sparrows could be seen until Oct 16 with the last straggler being reported Oct 28 at Endwell (Washburns). White-crowned Sparrows were at Owego from Sep 17 to Oct 28 (M. White). They were quite numerous at the Triple Cities from Oct 1 to Oct 23. White-throated Sparrows were seen from Sep 16 to Nov 13. Fox Sparrows were at Owego Oct 15 (Williams). In the Triple Cities area, where they were more frequently reported than usual, they were around until Nov 12. Lincoln's Sparrows were at Owego Sep 1 (Williams), at Choconut Center Sep 17 (Bemont, Burgher) and at Binghamton Oct 6 (Marsi, Corderman). Snow Buntings were reported twice in late October, the 27th at Owego (Gerould) and the 30th at Greene (C. & J. Davis) and then again Nov 22 at Castle Creek (Burgher) and Nov 23 at Norwich (Whites).

710 University Ave., Endwell

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

Both August and September were dry and warm. October was also warm, with the first cold spell on the 14th-17th, which may have caused the heavy Canada Goose migration. November temperatures were normal; there was little snow.

On the positive side the fall migration included: the tremendous Canada goose flight Oct 14-15; outstanding numbers of White-winged Scoters; the occurrence of Whimbrel, Purple Sandpiper, and all three phalaropes; an immature Jaeger Sep 16-17; big flights of paridae and Red-breasted Nuthatches; occurrence of Bohemian Waxwings; the large October Myrtle Warbler migration; and the fine influx, for the first time in four years, of the Grosbeaks.

Negatives which must be noted were: continuing low numbers of most diving ducks, especially Redhead and Canvasback; a shorebird migration mediocre in com-

parison with the fine one of 1960; a September landbird migration which was uneventful, probably due to the unvarying hot and windless weather.

The following abbreviations are used in this report: HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron, SP—Sandy Pond, SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park and TRGMA—Three Rivers Game Management Area near Baldwinsville.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: no notable fall flight reported. Red-throated Loon: one-three/day late Oct and early Nov, SP, (E. Evans). Red-necked Grebe: one, SP, Oct 19 and 31 (Evans); one Fairhaven, Nov 12 (H. Miller), and one, Derby Hill, Nov 23 (M. Rusk). Horned Grege: largest concentrations were 50-70 Lake Ontario in late Oct and Nov; 50, Oneida Lake, Nov 26. Pied-billed Grebe: recorded to end of period.

Double-crested Cormorant: single birds were recorded at Onondaga Lake Oct 14 and Nov 4 (E. Estoff, J. Propst); SP, Oct 19 (Evans). Great Blue Heron: in general, reported in smaller numbers than last year, but 37 counted at HIGMA in late Oct (R. Bauer); present to end of period. Common Egret: seen irregularly with max of three at HIGMA; last seen end of Oct. Black-crowned Night Heron: Bauer reported a few during Oct at HIGMA; otherwise only records were one, Onondaga Lake, Aug 22, and one, SP, Oct 14.

Canada Goose: first Sep 4; huge flight Oct 14-15 when flocks were widely reported from the Syracuse area to the western edge of the Region. The flight was noticeable enough to draw comment from people not normally interested. The largest single count was 3,000 over Tully Lake (Propst), but the total number involved must have been vastly greater. Brant: no large numbers were reported on Lake Ontario; max 90, Derby Hill, Oct 21; 500/day mid-Oct Shackleton Point (P. Laible). Snow goose: Two, SP, Oct 17 (Evans).

Mallard: numbers reported as normal from HIGMA; max 2800. Black Duck: a fine late flight with a big increase in early Nov to a max of 7000 (Bauer). Gadwall: not reported away from HIGMA, max 25, Nov 22. Pintail: reported as scarcer than last year at HIGMA, max there 200, Oct 16. American Widgeon: numbers down at HIGMA (Bauer); max there 500 Oct 16 (D. Peakall); 500, Beaver Lake Nov 4 with 300 still there Nov 11 (Estoff, Propst). Green-winged Teal: Bauer reported good numbers at HIGMA, max count about 500 in mid-Oct; present until end of period. Blue-winged Teal: max 400 Oneida Lake Sep 3; 300 HIGMA Oct 24: last reported, HIGMA, mid-Nov.

Redhead: continued to be very scarce; arrival date Oct 26 (late); group of 50 at HIGMA Oct and Nov (Bauer) probably locally raised; otherwise, max 12 Beaver Lake Nov 4; none reported from Shackleton Point (Laible). Canvasback: also still scarce; arrival date Oct 26; maxima 250 Beaver Lake Nov 24 and Shackleton Point late Nov. Scaup: not recorded in large numbers except 1000 Shackleton Point late Nov; Laible's banding showed that 30% of the birds caught were adults in comparison with his normal figure of 3%, indicating a poor breeding season. Oldsquaw: 20 on Oct 5 SSSP (Evans) is a high, early count. Scoter: there was a fine flight of White-winged — 200 Oct 23, 700 Nov 19, Lake Ontario (Evans); only records of Common Scoter one Oct 28 Lake Ontario and one Oneida Lake Nov 26; Surf reported from Beaver Lake, max seven Oct 15-Nov 4, and SSSP one Nov 12 and 25.

Mergansers: max Hooded was 100 HIGMA (Bauer) and 50 Beaver Lake Oct 24; Common — arrival rate Oct 28, max 55 Lake Ontario Nov 11; fine flight of Red-breasted, 10,000 off Oswego Nov 22 (Peakall), the largest concentration observed since 1956, but the observation of these flights is largely a question of luck.

**Hawks.—Owls:** No flights of hawks reported along Lake Ontario. Sharp-shinned: one Conquest Oct 7 (Rusk). Cooper's: a few scattered throughout the period. The only Goshawk was one near Jordan Nov 26 (W. Spofford). First Roughleg was reported near Utica Oct 16 (E. Curtis), and at about the same time at HIGMA they were noted as numerous (Bauer). Only record of Bald Eagle is one near Mexico Oct 21 (Estoff, Propst). Peregrine: adult and immature seen perched and in flight, Onondaga Lake, Nov 25 (Evans), a late date for these scarce birds. At the same time an Osprey was seen, also late. Pigeon Hawk: only record is a probable, SP Sep 22 (D. McIlroy).

Bobwhite: birds released at Shackleton Point in late summer were still present at the end of the period (Laible). Semipalmated Plover: max first week of Sep when there were 30 SP, 60 Verona Beach, and 50 Onondaga Lake; there was a considerable reduction in numbers by mid-Sep; last, Oct 14 SP. Piping Plover: one Onondaga Lake Aug 25-30 — the species is rare away from SP; one SP Aug 26. Killdeer: max 100 Onondaga Lake Aug 25 and HIGMA Sep 23; rapid fall-off in

Oct but present until end of period. Ruddy Turnstone: numbers low — max 15, Aug 26 and Sep 2; last Sep 6, very early. Golden Plover: one Aug 17-26, four Sep 4, one Sep 8, two Oct 3, all at Onondaga Lake; one Sep 24 Verona Beach. Black-bellied Plover: scarce — max 15 Onondaga Lake Oct 3; last, Verona Beach Nov 5.

Snipe: last date Nov 12 Brewerton. Whimbrel: one SP Aug 26 is the only record. Spotted Sandpiper: max 50 Onondaga Lake Aug 22; rapid fall in numbers late Aug; last Sep 22. Solitary Sandpiper: late date HIGMA Sep 23. Greater Yellowlegs: max 12, low, late Sep-mid-Oct; last, Onondaga Lake Nov 11. Lesser Yellowlegs: max first week Sep when there were 40 Onondaga Lake, 40 HIGMA, and 20 Verona Beach; last Oct 21. Knot: one Verona Beach Sep 17 (P. Paquette) and Sep 21 (Rusk). Purple Sandpiper: one SP Nov 11 (Rusk, Spofford); this rare visitor now appears to be annual. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 25 late Aug-early Sep; last, HIGMA Oct 29. White-rumped: one SP Oct 14 is last record. Baird's: scarce this fall with three records involving five birds Aug 25-Oct 8. Least: max counts were 120 Onondaga Lake Aug 25 and 200 Oneida Lake Sep 3; last HIGMA Oct 13. Dunlin: arrival date Sep 15; max counts 50 Oct 3 and 75 Oct 29; last, Oneida Lake Nov 19. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 25, Aug 26; last Oct 21. Stilt Sandpiper: max three Sep 22; last, HIGMA, Oct 13 (fairly late). Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 300 Onondaga Lake Aug 25; Sharp fall-off last of Sep; last date Oct 29 HIGMA (Rusk) is late. Western Sandpiper: one SP Aug 19 (Rusk); two Onondaga Lake Aug 25 (F. Scheider et al); one HIGMA Sep 3 (Peakall); one Onondaga Lake Sep 15 (Estoff, Propst). Sanderling: very scarce at SP; 40 Verona Beach Sep 3 was max; last date Nov 12.

Wilson's Phalarope: one Onondaga Lake Aug 17 (Rusk); two HIGMA Sep 3 (Peakall). Northern Phalarope: one Pond's Pond Sep 16 (Rusk). Red Phalarope: two SP Nov 11 and one Nov 12 (Spofford).

Jaeger: immature, probably Pomarine, seen and photographed at close range SP Sep 16-17 (P. Peterson, Ruck, J. Taylor). Great Black-backed Gull: max 50 Fair Haven Nov 22. Herring Gull: low counts until early Nov; max 1200 Oswego Nov 22. Ring-billed Gull: counts of 500-700 throughout Sep and Oct with no sharp max; numbers decreased early Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: moderate numbers with max 30 Oneida Lake Sep-Nov. Forster's Tern: one SP Sep 8 (Evans) is the second of the fall and the only record within the period. Common Tern: max 300 Sep 3 Oneida Lake; last, SP and SSP, Nov 11. Black Tern: max 80 Sep 3; last date Sep 8.

Snowy Owl: one SP and another SSSP Nov 11 (Rusk, Spofford); one Onondaga Lake Nov 25 (Evans); one Pond's Pond Nov 25 (Estoff, Propst) may have been the SSSP bird. Long-eared Owl: one Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse Oct 3 (Rusk).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawk: a notable high of 50 milling about in the sky, migrating over the south side of Syracuse Aug 31 (Peakall); last date Sep 16 Syracuse is about normal. Chimney Swift: last date Sep 16 Syracuse. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: no migrating concentrations noted along Lake Ontario this year (i. e., high was three Aug 27 SSSP); last date Sep 24 one Syracuse (D. Hawley). Kingfisher: present at the end of the period in a few sheltered locations with open water, as usual. Flicker: a moderately high count of 28, Sep 15, HIGMA and vicinity (Estoff, Propst); last migrant Nov 6 Syracuse; one present at end of period in Syracuse (Dawley). Pileated Woodpecker has been regularly reported from HIGMA, a good woodpecker habitat but new location for this species; one also present at Tully, a usual site, in Aug, Sep, and Nov. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one was at HIGMA as usual; one at Tully Lakes Aug 19; two were observed at Plainville, where they are intermittently present, Nov 5 (M. Bitz); one was at a new location, New Haven, in Nov (I. Stone), especially noteworthy as it is near Lake Ontario, farther north, and farther from the usual Finger Lakes area sites. No Red-headed Woodpecker was reported during the period. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only a moderate flight, with high of eight Oct 5 Syracuse. No flight of Hairy or Downy detected.

Crested Flycatcher: one at Skaneateles Oct 8 (Peakall) is late. Last date for Phoebe is Oct 19, two Osceola (Aspinwall), rather late. Last Empidonaces three, Oct 5 TGMA (Evans) also late. No waves of Empidonaces nor Wood Pewee noted (Max Pewee ten, Sep 16, SSSP) in contrast with the usual experience — probably due to the lack of weather changes during Sep. Last Wood Pewee Oct 6 (late), two at Oakwood (Estoff, Propst).

Horned Lark: 70 the highest count for the season at SP Nov 12, not outstanding. Peak counts of migrating swallows for the period moving by at a rate of

1500/hour at SP Aug 26 (Peakall) include 3000 Tree, 5000 Bank, and 800 Barn (the last were present at one time on the beach). Last dates are: one Tree, Oct 13; one Bank, Sep 22; one Barn, Oct 9; one Purple Martin, Sep 4, all at HIGMA—all about normal. Cliff Swallow: 20-30 Stony Pond Conservation Area Sep 4 (N. Felle).

The Black-capped Chickadee migration was outstanding in various parts of the region, with high counts as follows: 190 at SP and SSSP combined Sep 22; 150 in ½ hour at Oakwood Sep 24; 200/hour there Oct 3; and 210 SP and SSP combined, Oct 8. By the second half of Oct this great migration had tapered off, but on the feeder survey for the first week of Nov Dr. Ben Burtt had reports totaling 395 Chickadees/100 feeders, twice as many as for the same period of the two previous years. Also on this feeder survey were reports of Tufted Titmice from DeWitt, Fayetteville, and Chittenango; Titmice have not occurred regularly in these locations heretofore. The small colony of Titmice at Baldwinsville which has raised young in 1960 and 1961 is still present. Nov 10 at SSSP a Titmouse was noted with Chickadees (Evans) the first record for the Lake Ontario shores in Region 5. Nov 12 three Titmice were at SP with Chickadees, apparently moving south down the dunes (Peakall et al). Nov 14 four Titmice again with Chickadees were at SSSP (Evans), and four were seen there (about ½ mile south of Mrs. Evans') Nov 23, also with Chickadees and again noticeably moving south along the dunes (Rusk). Nov 25 three Titmice were at still another new regional location, on the south shore of Oneida Lake just east of Bridgeport (Scheider). It is doubtful whether Titmice in any numbers migrating along Lake Ontario in previous years would have gone unnoticed, as the area has been regularly and intensively birded. This lakeshore-migration-with-Chickadees seems therefore a new phenomenon, and the question is, where are they coming from? (Cf. Eaton, S. W., "The Tufted Titmouse invades New York", **Kingbird**, Jul 1959, p. 59). Another unusual Parid record is of three Boreal Chickadees at Highland Forest (Southeastern corner of Onondaga County, 2000 ft. elev.) with Black-capped in larch plantations Nov 25 and 26 (Rusk, Prost), the first regional record elsewhere than on the fringes of the Adirondacks. At least one Boreal was still present there Dec 9; this seems to represent the start of a notable winter incursion.

Several observers noted good numbers of migrant Red-breasted Nuthatches 20 on Sep 22 SP-SSSP, ten Oct 3 at Oakwood; Brown Creepers 24 on Oct 8 SP-SSSP; and Winter Wrens 18 on Oct 8 SP. Last dates for migrant House, Winter, and Long-billed Marsh Wren are Oct 25, 28, and 14, respectively, the last quite early in view of the warm weather, but Winter Wrens were reported from several regional locations thru Nov.

Mockingbird: one report for the period, Nov 24 Syracuse (fide Burtt). Last migrant Catbird Oct 29 HIGMA (E. Farnham) and Brown Thrasher Nov 11, late, SP (Spofford). Robins seemed plentiful this fall with a high of 200 Oct 16 HIGMA; last migrant Nov 21 Syracuse (Dawley). Most regional observers thought the thrush migration good; in a big fog-grounded group of landbird migrants Oct 3, 12 Wood Thrushes, Three Swainson's, and two Gray-cheeked were observed at one time scolding a Long-eared Owl in Oakwood Cemetery (Rusk); the high count of Hermit Thrushes 25 SP, Oct 8. Only Bluebirds reported for the season: three at Canstantia Sep 29 (C. Leiger), two at Taberg Oct 25 (Aspinwall), and one at Oneida Oct 25 and 28 (Felle).

Arrival date for Ruby-crowned Kinglet Sep 8 three SP, Golden-crowned Sep 22 one SP; good migrant numbers with maxima 170 Golden-crowned and 65 Ruby-crowned both Oct 8 SP-SSSP. Last Ruby-crowned were singles Nov 11 SSSP and Nov 14 Oakwood. Small groups of about four Golden-crowned present in spruces in various parts of the Region at the end of the period as usual. The Pipit flight was fair with max 150 at SP Sep 22 and 150 near Otisco Lake Oct 15; last noted SP Nov 12.

Extremely noteworthy is two Bohemian Waxwings near Utica (near where they were recorded in Jan 1960) first seen Nov 11 with two Evening Grosbeaks (Curtis), present to the end of the period and viewed by numerous observers. Northern Shrike: one Nov 25 near Bridgeport (Rusk); the paucity of observations suggests that this will not be a flight year for this species.

**Vireos — Warblers:** No sizable vireo flight was noted. Last dates include one Yellow-throated Oct 6; one Solitary Oct 13; one Red-eyed Oct 9, all at Syracuse and one Warbling Sep 29 (late) Tully (Estoff, Prost).

The Sep warbler flight was enjoyable for variety of species at SSSP (Evans), but no species except Myrtle, Black-throated Green, and Bay-breasted were noted in

numbers higher than 12/day in that month: the warm windless weather seemed to preclude any big waves.

Most interesting is a Blue-winged Warbler at Centerville Sep 6 (Evans); the species has not previously been recorded from this part of the Tug Hill outskirts, but Centerville is the locality where Golden-winged are regularly seen in migration as well as summering. The rather rare Orange-crowned Warbler was noted only once, Oct 13, Syracuse (Rusk).

The better high counts include: 25 Yellow Aug 26 SP, six Cape May Sep 19 SSSP, 25 Black-throated Green Sep 20 SSSP, nine Blackburnian Aug 29 SSSP, 20 Bay-breasted Sep 3 Verona Beach, 20 Redstart Aug 27 SSSP. Early and mid-Oct brought a notable Myrtle Warbler flight, with "thousands" during the second week of Oct at Shackleton Point, Oneida Lake, even coming into the barns there to feed on Buckwheat flies (Laible); also high numbers at SSSP during the same period (Evans); an SP-SSSP count of 160 Oct 8 (Rusk).

Last dates (single birds unless otherwise noted) include: a Prothonotary Aug 24, Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake, the latest regional date for this species (Rusk); Tennessee Sep 23, early; Nashville Oct 13; Parula Oct 5, Yellow Sep 11; Magnolia Oct 22, late, Plainville (Bitz); Black-throated Blue Oct 9; Myrtle Nov 6, two; Black-throated Green Oct 12; Blackburnian Oct 6; Chestnut-sided Oct 14, late, TRGMA (Estoff, Propst); Bay-breasted Oct 3, seven; Blackpoll Oct 3, early, two; Pine Sep 27; Palm Oct 8; Ovenbird Oct 1; Yellow-throat Oct 16; Wilson's Oct 5; Canada Sep 17; Redstart Sep 24, early.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Late-lingering Icterids include two Bobolinks Oct 1 (R. Gould) and a female Baltimore Oriole at a feeder in Baldwinsville Nov 18 (Bisdee fide Burtt). 80 Rusty Blackbirds feeding with shorebirds at a recently drained pond at HIGMA Oct 29 is a good count.

Evening Grosbeaks arrived early: one in DeRuyter Sep 28, 12 near Fulton Oct 1, ten in Syracuse Oct 6. Oct 14-16 they came en masse with six separate reports on Oct 15 (fide Burtt). They are present in good numbers — 290/100 feeders on the survey for the first week of Nov, compared with almost none for the corresponding week last year — but though they are widespread, the numbers at the end of Nov weren't quite as high as in 1959 at that time. Purple Finch: only reported from Cazenovia, Plainville, HIGMA, TRGMA, Oneida, SP, near Pulaski, SSSP, and Syracuse, never in number higher than eight, and not at all in Nov, indicating a minor and early flight.

Probably the Pine Grosbeak flight will prove to be the outstanding passerine irruption of winter 1961-62: first reports from Utica Nov 9, eight (Curtis); Sherrill Nov 10, ten (H. Nodecker); Brookfield Nov 12, seven (R. & S. White); also SSSP Nov 11, one (Rusk et al). Later in the month they were reported from Jamesville, Syracuse, and Skaneateles also; the high to the end of the period is a count of at least 25 at Highland Forest Nov 25. Redpolls arrived Nov 8 SSSP, 25 (Evans) and were present pan-regionally thru Nov in flocks up to 60. At SSSP a mixed flock of 30 Redpolls and 30 Pine Siskins was observed Nov 12, and Siskins were reported from HIGMA, SP, Syracuse, and from TRGMA with a high of 50 Nov 11, but this constitutes nothing approaching last winter's flight.

Towhee: one present at a feeder in Syracuse thru the end of the period (Dawley); also unusual is one at Highland Forest Nov 26 (Propst).

Henslow's Sparrow: last date Oct 5 TRGMA (Evans) — this bears out recent years' experience regarding departure date of the species (see Region 5 reports, **Kingbird** Dec 1959 and Dec 1960). Sharp-tailed: of this regionally rare species one report again this year, Oct 5 TRGMA (Evans). Vesper Sparrow: last noted Oct 21, early, three (Propst). Junco: arrived Sep 15, slightly late; high count 130 Oct 9, only moderately good. Tree Sparrow: arrived rather late in most parts of the Region with first date Oct 22 at Plainville, and remained in very low numbers thru Nov — no count of over 15/day reported. Last dates for Chipping Sparrow Oct 29, early, and Field Nov 25, Bridgeport, rather late. The flight of White-crowned was, like this spring's migration, not spectacular, with a high of only 30, Oct 8, SP-SSSP; the last migrant noted Nov 12. White-throated: a moderately good flight with high of 220 Oct 8 SP-SSSP; one still present Nov 29 Skaneateles. There was a nice migration of Fox Sparrows with reports from Oneida, Plainville, and Syracuse; as many as seven/day at Syracuse Nov 6; one remained to Nov 21 Syracuse. The regular but uncommon Lincoln's Sparrow was reported only from TRGMA Oct 7 and 15, one each date (Rusk) and SP Oct 8, two (Spofford).



Lcpland Longspurs were noted at SP Nov 12 (Rochester group) and on the Solvay waste beds at Onondaga Lake Nov 26 (Burtt et al). Snow Buntings arrived Oct 28; late, 70 combined count Derby Hill and SP; high for the period was 400 at the Syracuse airport Nov 11 (D. Gibson), a good count for the fall.

**CORRIGENDUM: Kingbird**, Oct 1961 "Region V — Oneida Lake Basin", p. 167, Parula and ff should read:

Parula: again noted in THP (Scheider) — one on June 3 and two Jun 24. Yellow: ten noted Jun 3 in the lower part of the THP (Scheider) is unusual; high of 50 in the Otisco Lake vicinity Jun 10.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The weather from the middle of August to the end of November was ideal much of the time and there were many very pleasant days. September brought some real heat waves, and the average temperature for the first 25 days was above 70 degrees. Good weather continued in October. Temperatures in November were slightly above average, and Watertown had only a little snow.

There were early indications that we might expect Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Grosbeaks and Snowy Owls during the coming winter. The Cattle Egret, Tufted Titmouse and eight Turkey Vultures provided some surprises for us. El Dorado was visited several times, but warblers were forgotten.

**Loons — Ducks:** A Common Loon was reported near the Pillar Point Road Nov 18, and one at Pillar Point Nov 24. Horned Grebes appeared near Adams Cove Oct 21, and became common along Lake Ontario the rest of the period. A Cattle Egret remained at Baggs Corners, Jefferson County, Nov 13-19, and was seen by several persons. It may have stayed as late as Nov 25 at which time there was some snow. There were no other egrets. A Great Blue Heron was near Chaumont Nov 24. Gordon found an immature Black-crowned Night Heron at Sherwin's Bay Oct 21.

Canada Geese migrated thru the area quickly, most of them Oct 14-15 (Wilson). In describing the first day of the duck season the Watertown paper said, "Perch River Game Management Area hunters had reasonable luck with local ducks and, according to one hunter, managed to deplete a flock of geese from 28 to three birds in a matter of seconds after the season opening." No doubt these were the local Canada Geese which we saw several times (No comment). The results of banding at Perch Lake GMA showed an increase in numbers of Mallards with a decrease in Blacks. More Green-winged Teal were banded, 40 this year or twice as many as last year. At El Dorado ducks were reported as follows: Mallard 40, Black 50, Pintail 9, Green-winged Teal 10, all on Aug 25 and 200 Blue-winged Teal Sep 2. American Widgeon were seen at Perch Lake GMA Sep 16 and at El Dorado Sep 17. Large numbers of scaup were reported in the area. There were five Oldsquaws at El Dorado Nov 11. During Nov Buffleheads were seen several times in Lake Ontario. Hooded Mergansers were noted frequently in Nov.

**Hawks — Owls.** Two Turkey Vultures were seen near Somerville, St. Lawrence County, Sep 11, and 8 were there Oct 5 (Belknap). This is the first time more than one or two have been seen at any time in this region. The first date for Rough-legged Hawk was Oct 12 (Allen). On Oct 21 there were 16 at Point Peninsula, and they were numerous there in Nov, the number being estimated at 20-25. Marsh Hawks were present during the fall and two were seen Nov 28. A Pigeon Hawk was seen near the southern limit of this region. Unless otherwise stated the following were seen at El Dorado: Semipalmated Plover, 100 on Sep 2; Golden Plover, one Sep 30 (Gordon); Black-bellied Plover last seen Sep 17; Ruddy Turnstone, last Sep 30; Common Snipe, last Oct 21 at Sherwin's Bay; Greater Yellowlegs, last, one at Pt. Salubrious Nov 24; Lesser Yellowlegs, 140 Aug 25; Knot, Aug 31 and Sep 14; Purple Sandpiper, one with, two late Dunlins Nov 11 (Gordon); Pectoral Sandpiper, 25 on Aug 25; White-rumped Sandpiper, 3 on Aug 25; Least Sandpiper, 100 on Sep 2; Short-billed Dowitcher, 25 on Aug 25; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 200 Aug 19 and Sep 2; Western Sandpiper, Sep 14 (Allen); Sanderling, 130 Sep 2; Great Black-backed Gull, two Aug 25; Bonaparte's Gull, 5 Aug 25; Common Tern, Caspian Tern and Black Tern, Sep 2. The first reports of Snowy Owls came from

near Lake Ontario Oct 28 and 31. A few were seen in various parts of Jefferson County in Nov with 4 or 5 at Pt Peninsula and two at Pillar Point.

**Goatsuckers — Sparrows:** Two Nighthawks, probably in migration, were seen flying over Watertown Sep 3, and the last one was seen Sep 6. The last date for Hummingbird was Sep 17 in Watertown. There seemed to be good numbers of Black-capped Chickadees at feeding stations. A tufted Titmouse appeared at the home of the Porters in Theresa early in Nov, and later at the feeder of Marguerite Rappole and Vera Poth identified the bird. This is the first time this species has been listed in this region. Long-billed Marsh Wrens stayed at Perch Lake GMA as late as Sep 17. There were no Mockingbirds. Allen reported an immature Catbird Sep 21 that had just left the nest. A Catbird was banded Oct 28. The last date for Brown Thrasher was Nov 15 on Wellesley Island (Dake). The first Northern Shrike was seen Nov 4 near Beartown, Lewis County, and several others appeared later. No warblers were mentioned in the reports except a Myrtle Warbler Oct 13.

Cardinals have visited at least five or six feeders in Watertown. They were seen in several other places including Calcium, Canton, Hailesboro and Henderson. Two Evening Grosbeaks were found on Camp Drum about Aug 20 by a soldier stationed there (Adams). One appeared at a feeder in Watertown Sep 6 (Wilde). They were seen several times in Watertown during Oct, but most of the flocks were small. During Nov they came daily to several feeders in Watertown and near Potsdam. A few Pine Grosbeaks have been seen, six near Beartown Nov 4, six at Canton Nov 21, and a dozen Nov 21 in Northern Lewis County. There were no Redpolls except a flock of about 150 near Clayton Nov 29. One White-winged Crossbill was found in Adams Center late in Nov. A late date for Chipping Sparrow was one at a feeder in Watertown Nov 5. A White-throated Sparrow was still around a feeder near Potsdam at the end of Nov. The first record of Tree Sparrows was Oct 21 at Pt. Peninsula. There were Fox Sparrows on the Tug Hill Plateau Oct 28 and later near Adams. Eight Snow Buntings were found near Chaumont Oct 21 and several flocks appeared in Nov.

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THOMAS A. LESPERANCE

Average rainfall and slightly above normal temperatures did not tend to cause a mass exodus of migrants from the area. It was a rather slow infiltration, and it seemed as though the individuals were reluctant to leave. Waterfowl, especially geese, were the only birds in any great numbers at one given time. Defoliation was commensurate with this environment and took place slowly, so that those species which were of small size escaped detection in many instances. The level of Lake Champlain at this period was the highest in several years, a factor which held many of the "puddle" ducks because of food accessibility.

The Adirondack Bird Club (A.B.C.) now has 26 members and is very active in the Tupper Lake — Saranac Lake area. Planned activities for the year were carried out, and an "all-out" Christmas count is planned as a finale for 1961. We are anxious to have individuals from other areas, although they may belong to their local clubs, join our membership if they vacation in our area. It is a chance to "get together," learn where the best areas are, and exchange experiences.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loons were at Lake Colby Aug 16, Sep 30, and Oct 28 (Delafield). They were at Horseshoe Pond by Aug 20 (Amstutz), but none were noted at AuSable Point. Three Pied-billed Grebes were on a pond between Redford and Peru on Oct 5 (Delafield). Great Blue Herons seemed common in all areas, and in the Keesville area Greens, Black-crowned Nights, and Bitterns were also common (Lesperance).

There were good migratory numbers of Canada Geese, according to the NY State Conservation Dept. (Hart). They were noted at Tupper on Oct 12 by Delahanty, and a wedge of 44 passed over Old Military Estates on Oct 15, (Delafield). Wood Ducks were in good numbers in areas where reported. Two Blue-winged Teal, many Ring-necks, Common Mergansers, and Black Ducks were at Tupper Lake (Amstutz), while at Raybrook Keji reported Black Ducks, Gadwalls, Hooded and Common Mergansers. At the AuSable Marshes a mixed flock of Blacks, Woods, and Blue-winged Teal totaling approximately 200 was seen, while in deeper water Common Goldeneyes, Bufflehead, and Greater Scaup were in fair to good numbers.

Friends on the Vermont side report heavy concentrations of Common Goldeneyes arriving quite early. Four Ring-necks were on Jones Pond on Oct 29, and Hooded Mergansers were seen there and on the Saranac River in late September and October (Delafield). No redheads, Canvasbacks, or Oldsquaws were reported.

**Hawks — Owls:** Broad-winged Hawk and Osprey were at Raybrook Sep 5 and 9 (Keji). Red-tail, Red-shoulder, Broad-wing, Rough-leg, Sparrow Hawk, and Goshawk were seen at Keeseville during the reporting period. A Rough-legged Hawk was at Bulwagga Bay on Oct 22, and a Peregrine Falcon, seen along the Ochiota Road on Aug 20, was the observer's only record for the Adirondacks (Delafield). Ruffed Grouse were in good numbers at Saranac Lake (Delafield).

Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Golden Plover were at Little Tupper (Amstutz), while Least Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer, and Spotted Sandpiper were at Raybrook on Sep 14 (Keji). A probable Lesser Yellowlegs was at AuSable Point on Aug 24, and a Woodcock was identified at Little Tupper Lake on Sep 30 (Delafield). Herring Gulls were in good numbers at Lake Colby and Lower Saranac Lake, and 15 were at the Saranac Lake airport on Sep 27 (Delafield).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawks were seen in good numbers by several observers early in the period. There was a good migration of Yellow-shafted Flickers at Saranac Lake the last week in September, but this slacked off the first two weeks of October (Delafield). The Pileated Woodpecker was seen along Trudeau Road Oct 28 and Nov 27 (Delafield). Keji reported both species of three-toed Woodpecker in the Raybrook area.

Aug 31 appeared to mark the height of the Phoebe migration at Saranac Lake, although two were still there on Oct 5 (Delafield); one was at Raybrook on Oct 3 (Keji). Small groups of Horned Larks were reported on several occasions. Cliff Swallows were reported from several localities. A Gray Jay was noted by Amstutz near Little Tupper Lake, and Harriet Delafield, following a lead given her, saw three along Santa Clara Road on Sep 29. A Boreal Chickadee was heard at Madawaska on Oct 11 (Delafield, Carletons). Reports indicated more Red-breasted Nuthatches than in other years.

Hermit Thrushes were at Tupper Lake Sep 17 (Amstutz) and at Raybrook Oct 17 (Keji). Some late dates at Tupper Lake included Catbird Oct 24, Robin Nov 10, and Swainson's Thrush Oct 5 (Delahanty). At Saranac Lake the last large number of Robins was noted Oct 28, but one was at Ampersand Bay on Nov 26, and there was one Wood Thrush, quite tame, still on Old Military Road on Oct 9 (Delafield). Bluebird reports were encouraging in the Saranac Lake area. Two Water Pipits were seen at Little Tupper (Amstutz). A Shrike was at Tupper Lake on Nov 6 (Delahanty), and a Northern was identified at Vermontville on Oct 27 (Delafield).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Red-eyed Vireos were still feeding young at Saranac Lake on Aug 17, and two Solitary Vireos there on Oct 6 were the last of the season (Delafield). The Red-eyed Vireo was last seen at Tupper on Oct 5 (Delahanty). A Philadelphia was noted at Raybrook on Aug 18 (Keji).

Amstutz reported a large and varied movement of warblers through the areas she observed, with the peak dates being Sep 9 and 10. At Raybrook Keji identified: Black & White, Nashville, Parula, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Canada, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Redstart, Ovenbird, and Yellowthroat. The Palm Warbler was an additional species seen at Tupper Lake (Delahanty). All the above except the Nashville and Palm were seen at Keeseville during the reporting period (Lesperance). Delafield commented that Black-throated Green Warblers appeared to be less numerous than last year in her area.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Redwings were seen until Nov 23 at Raybrook (Keji). A Rusty was there on Nov 1, and this species was also reported at Tupper Lake (Delahanty). Good numbers of Scarlet Tanagers were seen in the Saranac Lake area, the last date there being Sep 29 (Delafield). Up at Chotoguy Lake Mrs. McGregor reported 50-75 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in fall plumage at Merrill Beach feeding on buds. The birds were very tame and allowed close observation. A few were still present the following day, Sep 2. She reported "huge" flocks of Evening Grosbeaks after Oct 15 and was actively banding them. There were other Evening Grosbeak reports by Delahanty, Delafield, and Keji. In the Saranac Lake area, however the Pine Grosbeak was described as **the** finch of the fall; there were many reports in that area commencing Oct 27. Pine Grosbeaks were also noted by Delahanty and Keji. Pine Siskins were noted at Saranac Lake, but they were

noticeably fewer than during the last two falls (Delafield). A Cardinal was a feeder visitor at Tupper (Delahanty), and this species was reported also by Delafield.

A note from Mrs. Delahanty reads: "On Oct 15 a Junco was observed feeding approximately 15 feet from kitchen window (feeding station). This bird had a charcoal head and cowl, rusty sides, and pink belly. The cowl was separate from the rusty sides, while the back was brownish with some charcoal. This individual was also observed by Miss Amstutz and two others. We hesitate to say "Oregon Junco"; yet feel definitely it was not a Slate-colored since it was smaller even than the Slate-colored feeding with it. The coloring was so different it might have been a mongrel of some sort, but we cannot pin a definite label on it. Do Slate-colored Juncos ever show that much brown or rust?"

I am not familiar with the Oregon Junco, but I am sure Mrs. Delahanty would welcome correspondence from someone familiar with this species (Mrs. J. E. Delahanty, 19 Stetson Road, Tupper Lake).

At Saranac Lake there were very high migratory numbers of Slate-colored Juncos until Oct 21, with an apparent peak on Oct 16 (Delafield). There were several reports of Fox and White-crowned Sparrows. There were exceptionally good numbers of Song Sparrows at Saranac Lake. There was a flock of Snow Buntings at the Saranac Inn golf course on Nov 25 (Hart), and others of this species were observed at Raybrook (Keji).

Keeseville

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

WALTON B. SABIN

Weatherwise this period started off with a bang. Over one-half of all the rainfall for this period fell in the two weeks from August 20 to September 2nd. Needless to say the remainder of this period was quite dry, to near normal for November. As far as temperatures were concerned, the period was warmer than the average. September was extremely warm, with the first 14 days being the warmest of record. November was near normal in almost every category.

As far as the birdlife was concerned there were no extreme rarities, in fact it was very normal in most respects. Although the warbler migration yielded practically all of the species expected, most observers felt that numbers were very low. Although the Carolina Wren has made no comeback since it was frozen out last winter, it is gratifying to see the number of reports of Tufted Titmice throughout throughout the Region. A mast and wild fruit crop failure throughout New York, New England and Eastern Canada has resulted in an invasion of finches and other species from the far north. Both Evening and Pine Grosbeaks were widespread, Boreal Chickadees, Pine Siskins, and Rough-legged Hawks less so, while Red Crossbills and Snowy Owls were reported only once or twice. With prospects of a high mouse population for the second consecutive year there should be an abundance of northern hawks and owls. This is partly borne out so far in the many reports of rough-legged hawks and to a lesser extent in the few reports of short-eared owls.

**Loons—Ducks:** Common Loons were first noted on Oct 28 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck) and were still present at the close of the period. The only Red-throated Loon was seen at Round Lake on Nov 19 (Korns, Madison and Sabin). Horned Grebes were seen beginning Oct 28 at Saratoga Lake (Hallenbeck) and were present into Dec. Pied-billed Grebes were recorded at least to Nov 19 at Saratoga Lake (SBC field trip). Great Blue Herons were present throughout the period, being most common in late Aug. Common Egrets were seen Aug 24, 30, Sept 16 and 19, all at Vischer Ferry, never more than two birds (Brettle, Clark, Hallenbeck). A lone Little Blue Heron was observed near Westerlo on Sep 6 (Kent) for the only record this fall. Green Herons were present at least to Oct 8 at Black Creek Marshes (Hallenbeck). The only Black-crowned Night Heron reported was observed flying over Loudonville on Aug 24 (French). It seems peculiar to this reporter that this common species, which breeds here, is so seldom reported. American Bitterns were seen as late as Oct 14 at Chatham (Mapes). The elusive Least Bittern was observed Aug 24 and 30 at Vischer Ferry (Clark, Hallenbeck), none later. The fall migration of Canadian Geese began on Oct 13 (many observers) and continued strong for the next two weeks before it thinned out. Some flocks were seen heading south as late as Nov 27 at Chatham (Powell). The only Brant reported was a single seen at Saratoga Lake on Nov. 11 (Clark, Hallenbeck). Mallards and Black Ducks were present throughout the period with numbers building up in late November particularly in the Green Island area on the Hudson River.

Gadwell were reported Oct 20, 29, and Nov 5, all from Stony Creek Reservoir (Hallenebeck, SBC field trip), maximum of three on the 29th. This is more Gadwall than are sometimes seen in a couple of years in this area. The only report of American Widgeon was when it was recorded at Stony Creek Reservoir on Sep 23 (Clark, Eddy, Hallenebeck). Pintails were observed from Oct 20 through Nov 18, Green-winged Teal through Nov 15 and Blue-winged Teal through Oct 8. Shovelers were reported only on the joint ADBC-SBC field trip to Tuttle's Marsh in Columbia County on Sep 24 when six were seen. Apparently no Wood Ducks were present after Oct 12 when they were seen at Stony Creek Reservoir (Hallenebeck, Clark). No Redheads or Ring-necked Ducks were reported this fall, and the only Canvasback was recorded Nov 5 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenebeck). Lesser Scaup were observed between Oct 15 and Nov 11, and Common Goldeneyes from Oct 28 on. Bufflehead arrived on Oct 20 at Stony Creek Reservoir (Hallenebeck). Oldsquaw were seen only on Nov 11 at Saratoga Lake (Clark, Hallenebeck). White-winged Scoter arrived on Oct 12 at Stony Creek Reservoir (Clark, Hallenebeck) and Common Scoter on Oct 15 on the Hudson River (?) north of Troy (SBC field trip). No Surf Scoters or Ruddy Ducks were reported. Hooded Mergansers were present into Dec while Common and Red-breasted Mergansers arrived on Nov 12 at Tomhannock Reservoir (SBC field trip) and Nov 11 at Saratoga Lake (Clark, Hallenebeck) respectively.

**Hawks — Owls:** A late Turkey Vulture was noted near the Selkirk Interchange of the New York State Thruway on Nov 25 (Wickham). No Gashawks have been reported. The usual Buteos were reported plus the numerous reports of Rough-legged Hawks beginning on Oct 8 at the Black Creek Marshes (Hallenebeck). An immature Bald Eagle was seen over East Chatham on Sep 4 (Reilly). Marsh Hawks were reported through the end of the period while the latest Osprey was noted on Sep 19 at Stony Creek Reservoir (Brettle, Hallenebeck). No Peregrine Falcons were reported; however, one Pigeon Hawk or Merlin was seen at Chatham on Sep 13 (Radke). The latest date for Sora and Virginia Rail is Sep 17 at Black Creek Marshes (Sabin). Coot were still present Nov 18 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenebeck), as were Killdeer on Nov 19 at Saratoga Lake (SBC field trip). Spotted Sandpipers departed on Oct 12 from Vischer Ferry (Clark, Hallenebeck), while Greater Yellowlegs were present as late as Nov 13 at Lake Taghkanic (Brown). The only Lesser Yellowlegs reported this fall was seen Sep 9 on the Hudson River between Albany and Catskill (SBC field trip). Pectoral Sandpipers were first noted Aug 20 (SBC field trip) and departed Oct 22 (Hallenebeck), both at Watervliet Reservoir. The only Least Sandpiper and Sanderling records were for Aug 30 and Aug 20 at Chatham (Radke) and Watervliet Reservoir (SBC field trip) respectively. Semipalmated Sandpipers, on the other hand, were seen from Sep 16 to Oct 18 at Vischer Ferry (Hallenebeck). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were reported in usual numbers. No other gulls or terns were reported. Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Black-billed Cuckoos were last seen on Oct 20 and 23 respectively in Columbia County (ADBC record). The resident Screech, Great Horned, and Barred Owls were regularly reported. No Barn, Long-eared or Saw-whet Owls were reported. The only Snowy Owl recorded had its picture in the local Amsterdam newspaper, Oct 24. Short-eared Owls have been reported only from the Delmar area where they were seen Nov 20, 26, and 30 (Fordham).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** No departure date for Whip-poor-will is available at this writing. Nighthawks, however, were last seen on Sep 22 at Albany (Sabin). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen Oct 3 at Nassau and another Nov 1 at Catskill (Greene County Bird Club record). Kingfishers, Flickers and Pileated, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers were present throughout the period. No Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were present at least to Oct 17 in Columbia County (ADBC record). Kingbirds left Sep 24 from Columbia County (SBC-ADBC joint field trip) and Crested Flycatcher Aug 27 from Black Creek Marshes (Hallenebeck). An extremely late report (unconfirmed) on this last species comes from the Catskill area where one was seen Nov 9 (!) (GCBC record). Phoebees were present as late as Oct 23 near Westerlo (Kent). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were observed Aug 30, Sep 6, 7, and 13, the last record occurring at Ghent (Erlenebach). Traill's Flycatchers were not reported after Sep 9 at Red Rock (Smilow) and Least Flycatchers were not reported at all. Wood Pewees departed Sep 9 along the Hudson River (SBC field trip) and Olive-sided Flycatcher on Sep 24 from Canaan (Gokay). Horned Larks continue in permanent residence. Cliff Swallows were not seen after Sep 9 along the Hudson River (SBC field trip). Departure dates on all other swallows went unreported. Apparently this will be known as the year of the Boreal Chickadee invasion, if current observations continue. This species was first

reported Oct 29 near Rensselaerville (Kent). It was subsequently reported Nov 21, 27, and 29 from Columbia County in the general area of Chatham (Reilly, Radke, and LaPointe respectively). Tufted Titmice were very widely reported, with a general influx in Nov. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers were reported within normal limits and continue to be present. The last House Wren was seen Oct 8 in Columbia County (ADBC record). Winter Wrens were reported from Sep 17 at Old Chatham (Burland) to Nov 21 at Castleton (Cook). The last Long-billed Marsh Wrens and Catbirds were seen Oct 7 at Vischer Ferry (Clark, Hallenbeck). Brown Thrashers stayed on until Oct 17 in Columbia County (ADBC record). The only Mockingbirds reported were Nov 4 at Ghent (Erlenbach) and Nov 22 in downtown Hudson (Reeve). Robins are still present, but in reduced numbers. A very late Wood Thrush was observed Nov 18 at Melrose (Yunick). Hermit Thrushes apparently went through the region from Oct 12-25 since no other dates were reported. Swainson's Thrushes were last seen on Oct 15 at New Concord (Radke), but Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen only on Sep 6 and 7 at Loudonville (French). Veeries were last reported Sep 18 in Columbia County (ADBC record). Bluebirds were present throughout the period, but mostly few in number. Golden-crowned Kinglets were noted from Sep 20 at Nassau (Shineman) to Nov 27 at Loudonville (French). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were seen first on Sep 21 at Ghent (Erlenbach) and last on Oct 31 in Columbia County (ADBC record) and Schenectady (Eddy). Water Pipits were recorded from Sep 26 to Oct 19 at Ghent (Erlenbach). Cedar Waxwings were reported throughout the period from many places. No Shrikes were reported up to Nov 30.

**Vireos — Sparrows:** Yellow-throated Vireos were present until Sep 16 at Vischer Ferry (Clark, Hallenbeck). Solitary Vireos and Red-eyed Vireos departed Oct 4 from Loudonville (French). The last Warbling Vireo was seen Sep 17 at the Black Creek Marshes (Hallenbeck). The only fall arrival dates for warblers were as follows: Bay-breasted and Connecticut—Aug 19—southern Rensselaer County (ADBC records); Prairie—Aug 27—Castleton (Cook); Northern Waterthrush—Aug 20—Canaan (Gokay); Black-capped—Aug 29—New Concord (Radke); and Canada—Aug 16—Loudonville (French). Fall departure dates were: Tennessee—Sep 24—Ghent (Erlenbach); Nashville, Parula, and Black-poll—Oct 8—Castleton (Cook); Magnolia and Cape May—Oct 29—Burnt Hills (Foote); Black-throated Green—Oct 11—Castleton (Cook); Myrtle—Oct 31—Schenectady (Eddy); Black-throated Blue—Oct 8—Loudonville (French); Blackburnian—Oct 9—Canaan (Gokay); Bay-breasted and Connecticut—Sep 28—Old Chatham (Reilly); Palm—Oct 3—Catskill area (GCBC record); Mourning—Sep 16—Vischer Ferry (Hallenbeck); Northern Yellowthroat—Oct 15—Schaghticoke (SBC field trip); Black-capped—Sep 6—Schenectady (Eddy); and Redstart—Sep 19—Loudonville (French). Bobolinks were last reported Aug 30 from Vischer Ferry (Hallenbeck). Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Cardinals, and Goldfinches were all present throughout the period. The last Baltimore Oriole reported was seen Sep 18 in Columbia County (ADBC record). Rusty Blackbirds arrived Sep 16 at Old Chatham (Reilly) and were present to at least Nov 6 at Scotia (Hallenbeck). Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and Rufous-sided Towhees were last seen Sep 30, Sep 24, Oct 6 and Oct 5 respectively, at Loudonville (French). A wandering Evening Grosbeak was observed Aug 19 at Slingerlands (Sabin). The main force of this species however did not arrive for another month when they were widely reported after Sep 21 at New Concord (Radke). Purple Finches were common after Sep 5 at Loudonville (French). Pine Grosbeaks invaded this region beginning Nov 11 near Westerlo (Kent). Only one report of Redpolls has been received. This was of a small flock Nov 18 at Melrose (Yunick). Pine Siskins were seen Oct 29 at Stony Creek Reservoir (SBC field trip), Nov 19 at New Concord (Radke) and Ghent (Erlenbach) and Nov 20 at Burnt Hills (Foote). Red Crossbills were reported only twice, Nov 10 and 19 at Hillsdale (French). Savannah and Vesper Sparrows were last seen Oct 19 in Columbia County (ADBC record). No departure dates were reported for either Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows. Southbound Slate-colored Juncos were first reported Sep 25 at Ghent (Erlenbach), Tree Sparrows Oct 16 at Rd Rock (Smilow), White-throated Sparrows Sep 16 in Columbia County (ADBC record), White-crowned Sparrows Sep 27 at Castleton (Cook), and Fox Sparrows Oct 10 in Columbia County (ADBC record). Chipping and Field Sparrows were last reported Oct 20 and Nov 12 respectively from Loudonville (French), White-crowned Sparrows Nov 10 at Ghent (Erlenbach), and Swamp Sparrows Oct 5 at Loudonville (French). Lincoln's Sparrows apparently migrated through unnoticed. Snow Buntings arrived Oct 23 at Melrose (Yunick) and were fairly widely distributed during November.

652 Kenwood Ave., Slingerlands

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

FRED N. HOUGH

During latter August we watched some birds as they slipped off one of the higher peaks in the Catskills and disappeared into the hazy south. Earlier, in the Hudson Valley to the east, we noticed Swallows winging their way through and during some of the evenings a skyward glance revealed many Nighthawks coursing hurriedly on down the valley. This was all natural but it did make us wonder just what kind of Fall migration was in store for us once the Season was in full swing. Time passed and so did most of the birds, in uneventful flights moving southward quite unhampered in their travels by the lack of disturbing weather fronts. The hurricane influence seemed virtually nil in this Region and much like last year the whole period was characterized by rather pleasant stable weather. There was some increase in rainfall during November but otherwise it was dry.

Among the visitors from the Northland — there was little of particular note in flight occurrences except for one species, the Pine Grosbeak, which showed up in another one of their periodic visits. They were reported in small numbers in every county in the Region, thus giving us at least one special treat. The last significant flight of this attractive bird occurred in the Fall & Winter of 1954-55. A consensus of opinion, unfortunately, indicates a generally poor seed-crop condition among most trees and shrubs. Will the Pines stay with us and perhaps take to our feeders like the Evening Grosbeaks? We hope so.

**Loons — Ducks:** The Common Loon dropped in early in Oct, the 6th at the Ashokan Res, Ulster Co (Al Feldman) and over the Nyack area in Rockland Co on the 9th (Bob & Mrs. Deed). A double-crested Cormorant was seen along the Hudson River on the Dutchess Co side on Oct 14 by Brother Michael. This erratic species is seldom reported around this area. Swans: one Mute on the Ashokan Res early in Nov (A. Feldman) and about the same time six Whistlers were found on Kiamesha Lake in Sullivan Co (N & K Niven, C. Schock). This is the first record for the species in Sullivan Co. Among the geese, the Canada and Brant were nearly normal. A small flock of Snow Geese was reported near Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co, Nov 24 (E. Fink et al). The duck movement through the Hudson Valley was hardly spectacular. Wood Ducks showed better numbers in Dutchess Co this fall (RTWBC). A nice group of 50-60 were seen at Lona Island near Bear Mt Nov 3 (The F. Steffens). Redheads were seen in Ulster Co (A. Feldman) on Oct 6. Oldsquaw: 13 in the Dutchess Co area Oct 28 (RTWBC) and a smaller number on the Ashokan Res, Ulster Co (A. Feldman). There were very few reports on any of the Mergansers.

**Hawks — Owls:** The treatment of Hawks followed the usual pattern given it by most observers—poor to normal. Rough-legged Hawks appeared over Orange Co, Oct 21 (Mearns Bird Club) and in Rockland Co during mid-Nov (RAS). Brother Michael of Barrytown, Dutchess Co studied an Eagle in that area Nov 1 as it soared above overhead for sometime and concluded it was a Golden Eagle but regrets not having another to verify it. On Sep 15 at Bedford Village, Westchester Co S. Grierson saw a Pigeon Hawk work over a group of Starlings. Although Hawk shooting has lessened in recent years it still prevails quite freely in some areas whereby thoughtless and unlearned gunners pick them for targets. Martha Earl, in traveling around Orange Co during the hunting season, noted the results of several cases of this infamous act. Most of these were Red-tails boldly hung along fences for all to see. We hope the offenders were apprehended by the law.

Three Wild Turkeys were seen in the Ashokan Res area, Ulster Co Oct 6 (A. Feldman). In Rockland Co, J. Price added the Black-bellied Plover to the county's fall list by the discovery of one at Lake DeForest Nov 3. At this same lake Ed Gamble observed a Yellow-legs (sp?) Nov 25 (late). Three Pectoral Sandpipers were still in Dutchess Co Oct 27 (T. Strauss). Dunlin appeared at the Ashokan Res, Ulster Co Oct 23 (A. Feldman) and a first record for Dutchess Co was made by Brother Michael about the same time. Miss E. Crawford found a nearly exhausted Short-billed Dowitcher in the most populated section of Nyack, Rockland Co Oct 11 and turned it over to Dr. M. Hopper for identification and release. This makes another first fall record for the Rockland Co area. The caterpillar-eating Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen to include the Woolly Bear in its diet — on Oct 10 near Katonah, Westchester Co by S & R Grierson.

There were two Fall records of the Barn Owl. One in Orange Co during the first half of Sep (M. Earl) and one near Barrytown, Dutchess Co Nov 1 by Brother Michael. The rest of the Owl population seemed normal.

**The Kingbird**

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** The Whip-poor-will was last heard in Ulster Co Sep 11 (F. Hough) and an injured one was picked up in Katonah, Westchester Co Oct 5 by G. Williams and turned over to S. Grierson. October records for this species are very scarce. Nighthawks were still migrating over Westchester Co. Sep 22 (Griersons). On Sep 16 a Red-bellied Woodpecker showed up in Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co and was seen several times by D. Orbison. Weeks later, still in the same county, Mrs. J. Coggeshall had one at her feeder in Pleasantville Nov 22 (still there). A late Kingbird was spotted by Mrs. C. Lynch Nov 9 at Balmville, Orange Co. Also, a rather late Phoebe was seen near Cornwall, Orange Co Nov 11 (The J. Dykes). Dr. R. Pyle shoved Ulster County's late date for the Wood Pewee ahead one day by the discovery of one near Lomontville on Oct 15. The Blue Jays exhibited a nice show down through the Hudson Valley during late Sep and early Oct.

The Crows, on the other hand, apparently influenced by fair weather failed to show in noticeable flights. The Fall migration brought a few Boreal Chickadees — Oct 21 at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co. (M. Van Wagner); Nov 10 at Hawthorne, Westchester Co. (B. Augustine); Nov 15 at West Nyack, Rockland Co. (Mrs. J. Kolars); Nov. 23 at Katonah, Westchester Co. (W. Russell). The Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly conspicuous in their flight this year. Mrs. J. Dye reports one flying into the open window of the town hall in Cornwall, Orange Co, thereby, interrupting a meeting of the local garden club. The Bluebird picture does not seem to change much and is far from being in the desirable proportion that we would like to see it. Both Kinglets seemed to be about in usual numbers during the period. No invasion of Northern Shrikes was indicated to date.

**Vireos — Warblers:** The Vireos and Warblers passed through under fair weather during late Sep and early Oct, consequently there was little retardment in any of their flights. There may have been some concentration in Rockland Co for B. Deed expressed the Warbler migration as "excellent". Elsewhere it was considered unimpressive. The Solitary Vireo was reported up in numbers in Dutchess and Rockland Counties. Any record on the Kentucky Warbler in this Region is interesting. The season produced one female at Naponach, Ulster Co on Oct 10 & 11 (C. Young).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Immense numbers of Blackbirds were noted in sections of Dutchess and Ulster Counties during latter Oct and early Nov. Some of these flocks ran close to a million birds but such is not unusual since this is a near regular occurrence. A late Baltimore Oriole was found at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co Nov 27 and stayed on until the 30th at least (M. Van Wagoner). H & I Dunbar added a new bird to the Ulster Co list, a Brewer's Blackbird in the Lomontville area Oct 25. A very late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at the West Point Military Reservation on Nov 20 (P. Jeheber). The species was also found near Haverstraw, Rockland Co Oct 11 (The B. Deeds). Even this date is a little later than usual.

The only Dickcissels mentioned were the two found Nov 23 at Pine Plains, Dutchess Co (B. Deuel). Evening Grosbeaks arrived early this year with one very early flock occurring in Dutchess Co Sep 24 (RTWBC). Around Oct 5 & 6 a major flight occurred with reports coming from all over the Region. Mrs. Ramensnyder of Saugerties, Ulster Co said that this was too early and she would have to increase her sunflower seed supply to meet the demand! Purple Finches did not linger in any great numbers. The Pine Grosbeaks moved in during early Nov. Some of the reports on this flight indicate the widespread occurrence: Barrytown, Dutchess Co Nov 1 (B. Michael); Brinton Brook, Westchester Co Nov 1 (J. Jutte); Naponach, Ulster Co Nov 6 (C. Young); Sullivan Co (K. Niven); Blooming Grove, Orange Co Nov 8 (M. Earl); Upper Nyack, Rockland Co Nov 10 (M. Hopper); Ammandale-on-Hudson Nov 20 (H. Kritzler); Cornwall, Orange Co Nov 11 (M & J Dye); Mt. Kisco & Katonah, Westchester Co Nov 15 (S. Bearolf, Mrs. Ed. Kurka). Pine Siskins were not very abundant. One record of White-winged Crossbills was received — an individual near Leptondale, Orange Co (Alsdorf). A late White-crowned Sparrow was seen near Suffern, Rockland Co Nov 5 (The J. LeMaires). One might closely pinpoint the downward arrival of Snow Buntings to the date of Oct 22. On that date they were seen for the first in Dutchess Co (O. Waterman et al) and on the same day atop Mt. Beacon, Putnam Co by Mr. & Mrs. J. Malone.

Accord 1

## REGION 10 — MARINE

JOHN J. ELLIOTT

Hot weather continued through latter August and into the third week of September with sufficient rainfall to continue the good seed crop among grasses predicted in the early summer. Cooler weather came in late September with occasional



days of northwest winds bringing in migrants through October. The best flight days along the Hudson flyway in upper New York City (Inwood) were Aug 16, 17, **30**; Sep 16, 17, 20, 24 and 30; Oct 5, 8, 29 and Nov 12 (W. Norse). The Gannet flight was good. Ibises were scarce. White herons lingered into the end of the period. There was a good flight of Canada Geese in October and large flocks of Brant in late November. Blue and Snow Geese were scarce. Both Godwits were fairly plentiful and among land birds Roy Wilcox and Walter Terry banded 4,038 birds of 89 species at Shinnecock Bay in Sep and Oct. High numbers were 155 Flickers, peak 16, Sep 30; Golden-crowned Kinglets 192, with a peak of 39 on Oct 10; 108 Ruby-crowns, peak 12 on Oct 10; 695 Myrtle Warblers, peak 126 on Oct 13; 164 Palm Warblers, peak 15 on Sep 27; 124 Goldfinches, peak 53 on Oct 31; 172 Savannah Sparrows, peak 22 on Oct 10; 819 Juncos, peak 158 on Oct 17; 128 White-throated Sparrows, peak 21 Oct 17; 446 Song Sparrows, peak 52 on Oct 28.

**Loons — Ducks:** There were five Common Loons at Cartwright Island, Aug 17 (Raynor); Cory's Shearwater: Shinnecock, Sep 10 three (Raynor); and an unidentified Shearwater was at Jones Beach, Oct 21 (Baldwin Bird Club). Large flocks of Cormorants flew over the south shore Oct 21 and 22 (BBC, H. Pembleton, E. Good). There was a good late-Oct flight of 30 Gannets along Fire Island at Smiths Point (I. Alperin). Little Blue Heron: Jamaica Bay, Sep 29, one; and a Louisiana Heron, Sep 9 (Norse, Post). There were 18 Common Egrets and one Snowy Egret in a pine tree roost at Jones Beach, Nov 5 (Elliott). Snowy Egret, Jamaica Bay, Nov 25 (BBC). Canada Goose: flock of 170 on Fire Island, Oct 19 (Alperin); big movement at night on Oct 18 at Babylon and Seaford; abundant **this** fall at Orient (Latham). European Widgeon, Babylon, Nov 15, one (R. Snyder); one, Jamaica Bay, Nov 20. Wood Ducks numbered eight at Dix Hills on Oct 2 (Pembleton, Good), and there were several other records. A flock of several thousand ducks, mostly scaup, occupied the west pond of Jamaica Bay Sanctuary Nov 25 with hundreds of Widgeons, numerous Canvasbacks, Buffleheads and a lesser number of Ruddy Ducks present. An early large Scoter count at Smiths Point, Fire Island, Oct 17 consisted of 300 Common, 500 Surf, and 1,000 white-winged, also 200 unidentified (Alperin).

**Hawks — Owls:** The Accipiters were rather scarce with a few reports of Cooper's Hawks; Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were present in the interior of the island at Dix Hills and eastward. Bald Eagle: South Haven, Oct 23 (Puleston). Over 300 small falcons were seen on Oct 9 at Fire Island (Alperin) and 200 Falcons, roughly 40 Pigeon Hawks and 160 Sparrow Hawks were counted at Jones Beach, also on Oct 9 (N. Ward). 100 Sparrow Hawks were counted also at Fire Island, Oct 16 (Alperin). Peregrine: Jones Beach, Oct 9, ten (Ward); only Rough-legged Hawk record; one at Brookhaven, Oct 29 (Puleston). One or two reports of Sora among Rails; a King Rail at Brookhaven, Sep 4 and a Common Gallinule with young at Jamaica Bay, Sep 11, comprised the records of this group. No Yellow or Black Rails reported this fall. Six Golden Plover appeared at Jamaica Bay, Oct 13 (Tudor); and there were several reports of singles at Moriches and westward (Raynor). Two Oystercatchers were seen on Cartwright Island, Aug 17 (Raynor). Woodcock were present again at Jones Beach in Oct. Both Upland Plover and Whimbrel were passing through in early Sep. There was a good Sandpiper flight in early summer and a good movement of Dunlins in Oct. Four Stilt Sandpipers were present at Mecox, Aug 17 (Raynor). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were principally on western Long Island with two at Spring Creek, Sep 9-19 (Norse, Post, Buckley). Purple Sandpipers arrived early in good numbers with 85 seen at Rockaway Point, Nov 15 (Alperin). Maximum Hudsonian Godwits: nine at Moriches, Sep 9, along with five Marbled (G. Raynor). Up to several of both species were seen throughout Oct at Jamaica Bay with three Marbled Godwits on Oct 27 (Mererricks).

Northern Phalarope: Baxter Creek (Bronx), Aug 20, one (Norse); also one or two records from Jones Beach. Wilson's Phalarope: Moriches, Aug 31, one (Puleston); two at Spring Creek, Aug 27-Sep 10 (Norse, Buckley, Post). There was an Avocet at Northville, (near Riverhead) Nov 2 to 10 (Puleston, Raynor, Terry, Wilcox).

Gulls: practically no white-winged gull records; Laughing Gull was numerous along the north shore, Bonaparte's Gull put in an appearance Nov 5, with two at Jones Beach (Dignan) which increased to 400 at Short Beach, Nov 22 (Dignan, Ward). There were four Kittiwakes at Montauk, Oct 22 (Pembleton, Good). A Gull-billed Tern was seen at Shinnecock, Sep 23 (Puleston). Several Common Terns were seen on Oct 21 at Jones Beach. Royal Tern: Moriches, Sep 9, two (Raynor);

Fire Island, Oct 9, four (Alperin) and three Oct 7 at Shinnecock (Puleston). The Black Tern flight was poor this fall and the Black Skimmers left early. No hurricane exotics were reported this fall. Cuckoos were rather scarce, with no lingering reports. Among Owls there were one or two records of Barn; Screech Owl at Orient, Sep to Oct 28, two (Latham) and one at Manorville, early Sep (Raynor). A Great Horned Owl was seen at Ridge, Nov 5 (Alperin) and one heard hooting at Mill Neck, Nov 26 (O. Heck); a Snowy Owl was found at Short Beach in late Nov (Dignan, Ward). There were several records of Long-eared and Short-eared Owls from the south shore, and one of the latter landed on a trawler 10 miles off Shinnecock inlet on Oct 13, banded (Wilcox). Three Saw-whets showed up at Jones Beach, Oct 22 (R. Arbib, Jr., Ward).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawk: Northport, 55 in one hour, moving south-west on Sep 1 (Mudge); six at Baiting Hollow, Aug 22 (Raynor). Red-bellied Woodpecker: singles, Riis Park, Oct 29 (Norse) and Hewlett, Nov 12 (R. Sloss). A late Kingbird was seen Oct 8 at Riis Park and there were singles of Western Kingbird at Jones Beach, Dix Hills, Riis Park and Quoque — Sep 23 to Oct 14. 15 Northern Horned Larks appeared at Orient Nov 7 (Latham). Purple Martins left early; a Magpie was seen at Orient, Sep 29 (Latham). An increase of Tufted Titmice was reported on Long Island and in Westchester, around Scarsdale (Mrs. W. Cornell). A huge flight of Chickadees arrived in the Metropolitan New York area in mid-Aug, but didn't reach Long Island's south shore (Norse). The Winter Wren does not come up to its old numbers of a decade ago. Short-billed Marsh Wren: one at Brookhaven, Sep 9 to end of period (Puleston). Mockingbird appeared regularly; both Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes appeared in mid-Aug and were fairly common in Sep. Bluebirds were still scarce with only two or three reports of small numbers seen. Maximum pipits: Riverhead, Nov 3, 50 (Raynor); Dix Hills, Oct 29, 40 (Pembleton, Good); Cedar Waxwing, Orient, nesting Sep 7 (Latham). There were four or five reports of Shrikes (with several unidentified) Sep 7 to Nov 5.

**Vireos — Warblers:** There were very few reports along the ocean strip of White-eyed Vireos this summer; Red-eyed not as abundant as usual; Solitary Vireo about normal in numbers. Several Philadelphia Vireos reported: Yaphank, Sep 16 one (Puleston); Jones Beach, Sep 21, one (BBC). Worm-eating Warbler, Orient, Oct 10 (Latham); Brookhaven, Aug 29, 30, one (Puleston). Lawrence's Warbler: Inwood, Aug 30, one (Norse). Golden-winged: Northport, Sep 28, one (Mudge). Tennessee and Nashville not over abundant; several Orange-crowned Warbler records. late Parula Warbler, Jones Beach, Oct 21, (BBC). Yellow Warbler: Shinnecock Bay, Sep 6, four (Wilcox, Terry); Alaskan Yellow Warbler: identified to the satisfaction of observer through examination in hand, after hitting window in Babylon, Sep 14 (Alperin); bird held overnight, made recovery and was released next morning. One record for Cerulean Warbler: Inwood, Sep 17 (Norse). Connecticut Warbler: Shinnecock Bay, Sep 27, one (Wilcox, Terry); two at Brookhaven, Sep 13 (Puleston) Kentucky Warbler, Northport, Sep 29, one (E. Mudge). Redstart: peak of 12 at Shinnecock Bay, Sep 23 (Wilcox, Terry). An immature Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen by several observers at Jones Beach during the third week of Sep.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: Upton, Aug 30, 35 (Raynor); Summer Tanager, Orient, Oct 6 (Latham). Blue Grosbeak: Jones Beach, Oct 22, one (Arbib, Ward). Over half-dozen records for Dickcissel, principally in Oct. Evening Grosbeak: Hastings-on-Hudson, first seen there Nov 5 (Mrs. J. Fuller); a flock at Dobbs Ferry, Nov 8 (Mrs. M. Carpenter); on Long Island, 20 Evening Grosbeaks, Dix Hills, Oct 17 (Pembleton, Good); three at East Marion, Nov 1 (Latham).

House Finch: extension of range eastward on Long Island to Manorville with two seen, Sep 16 (Raynor). Pine Grosbeak: two at Dobbs Ferry, Nov 7 (W. Hastings); Orient, three on Nov 10 (Latham); six at Lattington, Nov 12 (Mrs. J. Lamoureux); Pine Siskin: four at Jones Beach, Oct 21 (BBC). White-winged Crossbill: Riis Park, Nov 26, one (Norse). Ipswich Sparrow arrived in early Nov; the peak of Vesper Sparrows at Shinnecock was three on Oct 27; peak of White-crowns, five on Oct 17; four Lincoln Sparrows, Sep 24 to Oct 7, and peak of Swamp Sparrows, 14 on Oct 13 (Wilcox, Terry). White-crowned Sparrow first seen, Gilgo, Sep 28 (Elliott, Ward); first Fox Sparrow report, Manorville, Sep 30 (Raynor). Lark Sparrow: Quoque, Sep 18, one (Puleston); Northville, Oct 19, one (Mudge); Shinnecock, Sep 29, one (Wilcox, Terry). There were several Clay-colored Sparrow records ranging from Oct 8 to Oct 22. Early Snow Buntings: Shinnecock Bay, Oct 24, four (Wilcox); 35 at Smith Point, Fire Island Beach, Nov 7 and 60 at Cedar Beach, Nov 13 (Alperin).

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