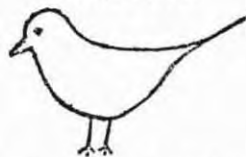


# The KINGBIRD

Property of -  
RALPH T. WATERMAN  
BIRD CLUB



DUTCHESS COUNTY



**NEW**

*From the  
Cornell Laboratory  
of Ornithology*

## Enjoying Birds in Upstate New York

By Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. and  
Sally F. Hoyt

Useful hints on finding, identifying, watching, and attracting birds in New York State exclusive of New York City and Long Island.

Eighty of the more familiar species described and illustrated.

Route directions to over 70 of the best places for birds.

A bird watcher's calendar, checklist, and calendar graph.

Front and back covers with photographs in full color. 95 pages, 132 line drawings.

*Each copy \$1.95*

Order directly from the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Make check or money order payable to Laboratory of Ornithology. Add 15c for postage.

## "SOUNDS OF NATURE"



recordings

Produced by  
Dr. W. W. H. Gunn  
for the

**Federation of  
Ontario Naturalists**

- Vol 1. Songs of Spring
- Vol 2. A Day in Algonquin Park
- Vol 3. Birds of the Forest
- Vol 4. Warblers
- Vol 5. A Day at Flores Morades
- Vol 6. Finches

**Each at \$5.95 post free.**

Shipped from Connecticut  
Write for brochure:

**FEDERATION OF  
ONTARIO NATURALISTS**  
EDWARDS GARDENS  
Don Mills, Ontario

**THE KINGBIRD** is published four times a year (January, May, July and October) by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. Publication office is 193 LaSalle Ave., Buffalo, N. Y. and Publication is sent free to all individual members of the Federation. Membership in the Federation is \$3.00 per year as of Jan. 1, 1962. Single copies: \$1.00.

APPLICATION for membership should be sent to the chairman of the membership committee, Mrs. Donald Radke, Box 138, R. D. #1, East Chatham.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS is handled by the Treasurer, Kenneth D. Niven, 61 Broadway, Monticello. EXCHANGES, BACK COPIES, and REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED COPIES by Allan S. Klonick, 901 Sibley Tower Building Rochester 4, N. Y.

Controlled circulation postage paid at BUFFALO, N. Y.



# The KINGBIRD

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

Vol. XIV No. 1

January 1964

Pages 1 - 64

## CONTENTS

The President's Page .....	Robert S. Arbib Jr.	2
The Wild Turkey in New York State .....	Stephen W. Eaton	4
The 17th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. ....	Otis T. Waterman	12
Nest Record Card Program .....	David P. Peakall	13
A Bibliography of New York State Ornithology .....	Sally F. Hoyt	15
Piggy-back Kingbirds .....	Arthur A. Allen	20
Arthur Augustus Allen .....	Stephen W. Eaton	22
Dr. Elon H. Eaton's Widow Dies .....	Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.	23
Conservation News .....	Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.	24
Field Notes:		
Bluebird Nestbox Project .....	David C. Krieg	26
Hybrid Warblers in Chatham area .....	Hortense Barten	27
Another Albino Robin .....	Florence M. Bodewes	27
Another Corn Crake Record for Long Island .....	Roy Latham	28
First Inland Record for New York State for Common Puffin .....	Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club	28
Highlights of Fall Season:		
August 16 — November 30 .....	David P. Peakall	28
Regional Reports for the Fall Season, 1963 .....		30

Editor — ALICE E. ULRICH

### Editorial Board

JOHN B. BELKNAP	SALLY HOYT
LESLIE E. BEMONT	DAVID B. PEAKALL
ALLEN H. BENTON	JAMES K. MERITT
STEPHEN W. EATON	HAROLD D. MITCHELL
EUGENE EISENMANN	EDWARD C. ULRICH

Business and Circulation Manager — to be announced

Cover Design — DOUGLAS L. HOWLAND

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It is perhaps fortunate that the winning of the Presidency of this esteemed Federation requires neither a competition nor a political campaign, for surely were either required, another President would be writing these, or similar, words today.

But having elected me to this position of responsibility (total) and authority (limited) with nary a campaign promise nor a platform to hang me on, it might be deemed the better part of valor for your President to keep his counsel, and voice no promises, no programs, no goals. But being rash, we will do just the opposite. We do have some goals and a plan for the year ahead.

At this moment in our history, the beginning of our 17th year, we find the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., in excellent fettle. From small beginnings we have grown to an association of 35 member clubs representing almost ever corner of our state; in total associated membership we muster more than 4500 strong. Our two most important objectives, the exchange and advancement of ornithological information, and the cause of conservation, have been well served — by The Kingbird itself, by bulletin exchanges, by cooperative field work projects such as our annual waterfowl count, by our annual meetings, and by the work of our many committees. The power of our combined voices has made itself felt in Albany and in Washington.

But we have far to go. In many ways (and in actual years) our Federation is a teen-ager still: learning, groping, still growing up, still having trouble getting organized, a little uncertain in some areas of activity, but with tremendous potential energy, creativeness, and power. Our greatest days and greatest deeds are all ahead of us! How far, and how fast, can we go in the year ahead? Here are the goals we set for ourselves:

1. We seek to continue the growth of the Federation, with the addition of at least two new clubs, hopefully in areas where we are presently unrepresented. Among these are eastern Suffolk County, the Rome area, the Plattsburgh area, and the northern tier. We will make special efforts in this direction this year. We would like many more individual members to join our Federation. The number is now over 500; we set our goal for 1964 at 750. If every club will enroll just five new members, we will be well on our way. Finally, we would like to see far more participation by clubs and individuals in our affairs. We seek 100% representation at the Poughkeepsie meeting, May 22-24, for which plans are well advanced for an exciting and rewarding program.

2. We seek to continue the effective role we have played in conservation matters, locally, statewide, and nationally. In Maxwell Wheat of Freeport we have an outstanding chairman of a fine committee; we will depend on them in the months ahead to keep us alerted to present and future dangers, and opportunities and advise us on how to take the strongest possible action when action is called for. Our response should be swift and forceful.

3. We hope to see our journal, *The Kingbird*, become ever more professional and valuable in its content and appearance, under the able editorship of Mrs. Alice E. Ulrich and her capable staff of editors. We urge each reader to search his notes and memory for subject matter for papers long and short, and then put his hand to them. We want to expand our rather select circle of authorship, and introduce new authors to the pride of publication.

4. After years of discussion and planning, we hope (and pray) that 1964 will finally see the selection and sponsorship of a full-time author for our *State Bird Book*, and the serious work of writing this book well started.

5. In brief, we hope to find this organization, at the end of the current year, sound of body and bank balance, strong of purpose, and filled with the pride of recent accomplishment. I ask every member club and every club member to help us attain these goals.

At this time it is traditional that the incoming President announce his appointments for chairmanship of our various committees. The list is at this writing incomplete. The following committee chairmen, however, have agreed to serve for the coming year:

Conservation: Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell Street, Freeport.

Membership: Alfred Starling, 75 Brooklawn Dr., Rochester 18.

Publications and Research: Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., State Museum, Albany 1.

Bibliography: Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt, Box 428, Etna, 13062.

Waterfowl Count: John L. Mitchell, 345 Conrad Drive, Rochester 16.

Chairmen for the following committees will be announced shortly: Bulletin Exchange, Finance, *Kingbird* Finance, *State Book*. Your President reminds you that every committee chairman welcomes interested, active volunteers. A purely voluntary organization such as ours only exists and functions to the extent that its members actively participate. An organization, or a committee, merely existing as names on paper signifies nothing, if the names do nothing. Let us all resolve to work to help make this organization go.

At the suggestion of a number of members, your President has appointed a John J. Elliott Memorial Committee, consisting of eleven members. This committee, under the Temporary Chairmanship of Cornelius Ward, of Freeport, has been directed to elect a permanent chairman, determine a suitable memorial, and establish the machinery by which funds may be collected and the memorial accomplished.

At this time the President wishes to pay tribute and thanks to all previous chairmen, in particular to the dedicated, devoted work of Eleanor Radke of Chatham, long a member and most recently chairman of the Membership Committee. Mrs. Radke is moving to California; we are sorry to see her go and we wish her well.

A year of progress to you all!

Robert S. Arbib, Jr.

## THE WILD TURKEY IN NEW YORK STATE

STEPHEN W. EATON

Since World War II exciting new developments in the reestablishment of certain breeding birds have been taking place in New York State. Several species of Herons, have reestablished nesting status with range extensions up the Atlantic Coast, several species of ducks and even the Canada Goose now breed again in New York, but the most interesting example to those of us living in the southern tier counties is the success of the Wild Turkey.

Of the 170 odd families of living birds of the world, only the Meleagridae is considered by students of zoogeography to be typically North American in origin (Mayr 1946). The Turkey has also had an intimate part in the colonization and development of the New World. Europe appears to have learned of 'our' bird in about the middle of the 16th century probably through the Spanish and Portuguese explorers of Mexico (Wright 1914-1915), but Benjamin Franklin seemed to have felt that Jesuits from Canada first took them to Europe, and Spencer Fullerton Baird postulated they first went to Europe from some extinct West Indian subspecies.

Often the Turkey has entered the vernacular. We have all sat down with someone to "talk turkey" and Wright (op. cit.) cited a Lieut. Abert who contributed this saying . . . "It is related that a white man and an Indian went hunting; and afterwards when they came to divide the spoils, the white man said, 'you may take the buzzard and I will take the Turkey or I will take the Turkey and you may take the buzzard.' The Indian replied, 'You never once said Turkey to me.'" The more modern version of "heads I win, tails you loose." may well have been derived from this.

Wright (op. cit.) goes on to cite Jared Sparks in *The Works of Benjamin Franklin*. Sparks tells of Franklin's objection to the Bald Eagle as the National emblem. Among various reasons Franklin said, . . . "The little Kingbird, not bigger than a sparrow, attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district . . . The Turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America."

Accounts of great numbers of Turkeys inhabiting New York State during the 17th century can be found in the writings of the Dutch, French and English. The Iroquois made a kind of cloak "a fathom square" of woven Turkey feathers. Feathers of the Turkey were used in many other ways by the Indians and early settlers — as feathers to guide arrows in flight, tied on the end of a stick to sweep the hearth, and during hot weather the wings were used as fans.

Accounts of Turkeys in New York during the 18th century come from the Niagara area, Painted Post, Unadilla River to the Chemung and the Genesee River valley.

In the 19th century, following the revolution and General Sullivans expedition much more traveling into the hinterlands of the State occurred and much colonization began particularly in the western parts of the State. This advance of civilization appears to have reduced Turkey populations

rapidly so that by 1844 when James E. DeKay wrote the bird part of a large series on the natural history of the State he said on page 200 . . . "I have not met with them (Turkey) in this State, where they were once exceedingly numerous but as I am well informed, are now only found in the counties of Sullivan, Rockland, Orange, Allegany and Cattaraugus." Shortly after this date they seem to have been completely extirpated from the State.

Wild populations continued to hold out in Central Pennsylvania into the 20th century. In 1929 (Cristy and Sutton 1929) said . . . "If any Turkeys of pure blood remain in Pennsylvania they are to be found in and near Huntingdon Co." This county is 100 miles due south of Bolivar (Allegany Co.), New York. Mosby and Handley (1943) said that by 1929 twenty-six states had attempted artificial propagation and release as a tool in restoring Wild Turkey populations. These efforts were all failures.

The wild-pen-mating system established principally in Pennsylvania during the 1930's started to show some favorable results. This technique involved holding game farm wild hens in large pens adjacent to wild populations where wild toms flew into the pens to fertilize the hens. It was found by Gerstell and Long (1939) that poults from these matings reacted more to changes in the environment and had more physiological resistance to fasting than tame poults. Leopold (1943) in a classic paper concluded that the wilderness syndrome was associated with the central and sympathetic nervous systems and the endocrine glands. Knoder (1959) carried out further more practical studies and concluded that the hybrid turkeys used for stocking in Ohio established a home range within  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 miles of the release site. Three types of Turkey flocks emerged after dispersal (1) *domestic* (flock stayed close to barnyards), (2) *semi-feral* (dispersed to vicinity of farms and returned to barns rather regularly) and (3) *feral*, remained  $\frac{1}{2}$  to several miles from nearest dwellings.

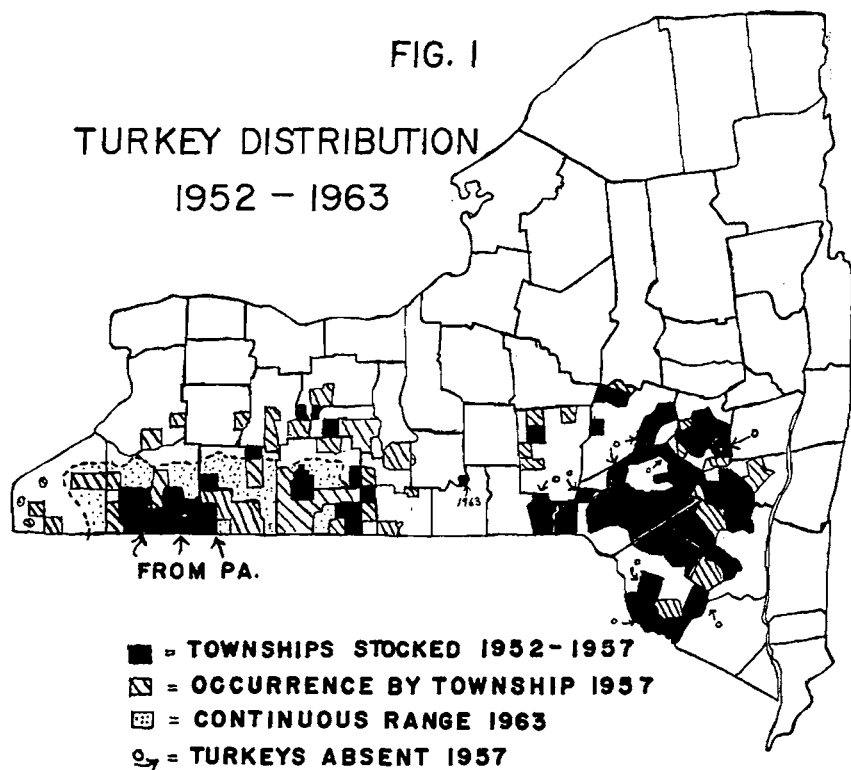
With a biological basis and greater practical experience developing in the stocking programs, more and more successful reestablishment programs developed. By 1959 thirty-seven States supported a stock of this bird (Mosby 1959) and they were legal game in 20 States. Since 1959 New York has had a limited open season in October. It has been estimated by the Conservation Department that the hunter take in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Steuben Counties (the only counties opened to hunting) has averaged about 300 birds a year.

#### Sources of Our Present Populations

During the mid-1940's the Wild Turkey populations of Pennsylvania started to invade the Beech-Birch-Maple-Hemlock forests of McKean and Potter Counties. This area is part of the High Plateau and is just north of the ridge and valley province of central Pennsylvania, which is predominantly forested by Oak and Hickory. The populations in McKean and Potter counties multiplied rapidly, perhaps partly as a consequence of gas rationing and lower hunting penetration of their haunts but most important, a wilder strain of bird, able to cope with the environment, had been established.

About 1949 reports of feral birds started to become rather frequent from the vicinity of Wellsville (Allegany Co.) N. Y. on the east to Allegany State Park (Cattaraugus Co.) on the west. By 1952 (before State stocking)

Eaton (1953) called them uncommon (found in restricted areas in small numbers) near Olean, N. Y. In November 1952, the Bureau of Game personnel of the New York State Conservation Department liberated 170 hand reared Wild Turkeys in Allegany State Park. These were liberated in the fall and many died before spring. Later stockings were carried out mainly in April and were more successful. During the next five years (1952-1957) 2,575 Turkeys, all banded, were released in 13 counties of the State (Fig. 1). These birds were reared at the Sherburne State Game Farm from eggs or poults supplied by the Pennsylvania State Game Commission (Brown 1957).



Since the winter of 1957-58 in western New York the Conservation Department has carried on a program of trapping feral birds and transferring these to potentially good areas not frequented by Turkeys. Most trapping in recent years has been in Allegany State Park. Mr. Fred Evans, Conservation Foreman, has perfected a technique for capturing these birds by cannon netting. I have watched him and his crew in operation and they are certainly to be congratulated on the way in which these operations are conducted. Very few birds have been injured and great patience and skill is needed for such exacting work. During the winter of 1962-1963 fifty-three birds were trapped, banded, and moved to other areas (Evans 1963).



The stocking of hand reared birds has been discontinued since 1957 so that all birds now have either lived in a feral or semi-feral state for 5 years or have been reared in the wild.



Photograph by P. E. O'Stricker Jan. 1959, France Brook Area, Allegany State Park. Cannon net visible on left ready to be fired over 9 young toms. These were banded and transferred to other areas. Project directed by Fred M. Evans, Conservation Foreman, New York State Conservation Dept.

For the past 7 years detailed census work by Region 2 of the Conservation Department has been carried out mostly under the immediate supervision of Mr. Evans (op. cit.). In the spring of 1963 the results of this census work showed Steuben Co. to be inhabited by about 644 birds; Allegany Co. 829; Cattaraugus by 1265, and Chautauqua by 628. This gave a total of about 3,366 Turkeys in the western New York populations. In these counties about a thousand more birds now exist (according to these censuses) than were originally released in the entire State.

#### Habits and General Behavior

What kind of a new resident do we have and how does he behave? The toms over a year old range between 16 and 22 pounds, the hens 8 to 10 pounds. They are relatively long legged and long necked with small heads. The tips of the tail feathers and tail coverts are a rich chestnut color. The toms are an iridescent, shiny black color and the hens somewhat more brownish. These birds are quite close to the untainted *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris* of the primeval northeastern United States.

The bird, is primarily a walker, only resorting to flight when suddenly disturbed and when flying up to roosting sites. In about 25 such sites located in Cattaraugus Co. beech trees about 10-18 inches in diameter at breast height were most commonly used. In very cold snowy weather the lower, large, dead limbs of hemlocks may be used. Once when I was observing three adult toms scratching on the forest floor for beechnuts about 50 yards away, they became suddenly alert and all put their long necks up and began uttering the alarm "turk, turk". For a few seconds I thought they had detected me but soon, above me on the ridge, a red fox appeared following their scent trail into the feeding area. The toms became more and more nervous as the fox approached to about 50 yards; then with a great thrashing of wings they flew into some large beech trees almost over my head. The fox ran through the area where they had been feeding and continued to my right until he caught my scent, whirled, and ran rapidly out of sight.

The birds leave their roosting trees about dawn and feed for three or four hours. Then they either fly up to roost or, if the weather is very unfavorable, they may just stand 'humped up' in the snow with necks pulled down and tail depressed. But this is not the normal roosting position. In roosting the birds breast bone rests on a limb. About 3 p.m. the birds return to the ground or to actively moving and start filling up their crops. This, in an adult tom during the fall will amount to as much as a pound and a half of beechnuts, acorns or wild black cherries. When the snow melts in the early spring they return to feeding on mast until it starts sprouting and also eat rootlets and tubers. In the summer they feed mainly on sedge seeds of the genus *Carex* and grass seeds. Perhaps they will resort to a field or forest opening and, if the grasshoppers there are abundant and easy to catch as on a cool, wet, summer morning they may catch a few hundred for breakfast. This fall one crop I examined contained over 1000 winged males and wingless female of *Alsophila pometaria*, the fall cankerworm.

I am not sure whether Turkeys eat snow but they seem to require some water in their daily rounds. Spring runs are usually present in their home ranges and furnish water, grit, and small animals, and plants.

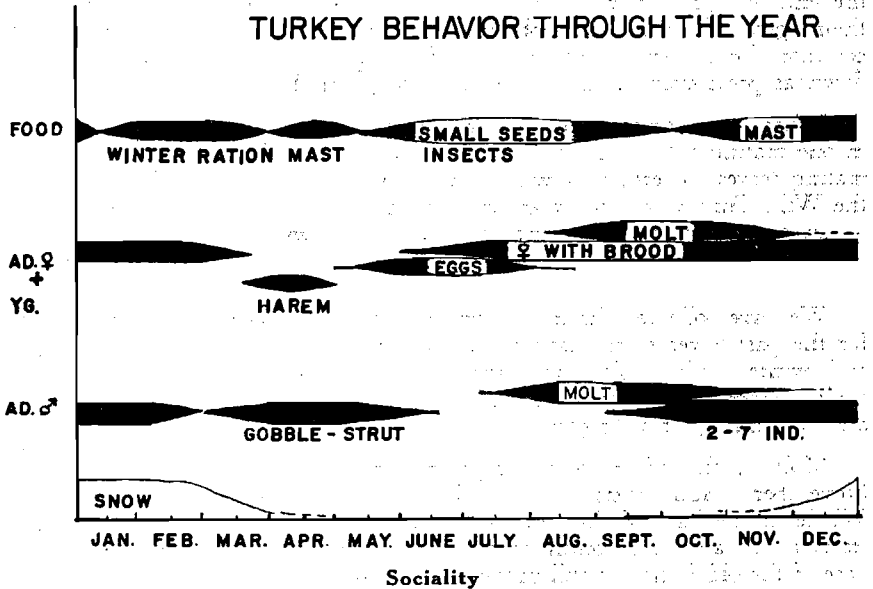
From the middle of January to the middle of March the western New York populations are essentially on what I have termed a winter ration. In 1957-1958 snow piled up in the woods to great depths without a thaw to produce walkable crusts. About 12 Turkeys were brought in to Conservation officials who turned most of these over to me. These had died for various reasons. Most commonly found were immature males which succumbed after dropping in weight to around 6 pounds. The females were found when their weights had dropped to about 4 pounds. At this time of year they may fast for a whole week, then, if the weather ameliorates, start feeding on the nearest available food. Three toms I tracked in the snow, following one of these subzero periods, ate mostly beech and hemlock buds as they moved slowly through the woods on the snow surface. When they break out into a clearing they will peck at the dock seeds protruding above the snow. They will go up to every large burdock in a clearing, often getting them stuck to their down feathers. The fertile fronds of

sensitive ferns are also eaten. Along the edges of conglomerate boulders they will eat polypody fern, and in glades where intermediate shield fern and Christmas fern abound they will eat these evergreens.

When the snow melts they become for a while specialists in spring flowers. The spring beauty, *Claytonia*, has a large tuber which is particularly cherished. This is often scratched up in the fall as well, particularly when beechnuts, cherries and acorns are scarce. Jack-in-the-pulpit bulbs, which develop in late summer, are also eaten.

From studies of food habits I can only conclude that these Turkeys are the most adaptable in food habits of any of our northeastern birds. Perhaps their lack of the migratory habit, their large size, and their cursorial feeding are mainly responsible for this varied diet. The Ruffed Grouse, a sedentary relative in the same area, eats a less varied diet. In the winter, for instance, the grouse with its short legs feeds mainly on birch catkins and becomes more of an arboreal feeder. It cannot cover as much ground as a Turkey but these short legs make it possible for him to feed at the terminal twigs of pendulous boughs — denied to the 10 to 20 pound Turkey.

FIG. 2



In figure 2 are shown important events in Turkey behavior through the year. Laying by hens may start as early as April 15. We flushed a hen from 14 eggs on April 30, 1959 about 9 miles south of the State line in Pennsylvania. Two eggs were taken, one was preserved in our egg collection to substantiate the record and another was incubated. The egg hatched on May 28 for an incubation length of 28 days. The hen had

evidently just started to incubate on April 30. The latest bird found incubating was flushed from 12 eggs by Mrs. George Charles about 8 miles north of Allegany, N. Y., on Aug. 27, 1959. All of these eggs were infertile. Probably the hen had been sitting for much more than the normal incubation period. Most nests have been found in May and June with an average hatching date of approximately June 15. The hen and her poults remain together as a social unit through the summer and in the fall may join other family units to form flocks of about 25 birds. Only rarely are flocks of 40 seen and these are usually semiferal birds at the edge of a corn field.

The old toms, birds in their second fall or older, form social units of 2-7 individuals. These old birds are practically indestructable. We have never found one in the woods which had died a natural death. One badly crippled from the hunting season was brought into our laboratory by Mr. Terry Moore, but never a winter killed bird. The old toms start associating with each other in September or earlier and travel in these groups until about the middle of March. They become antagonistic to one another at this time, develop enlarged wattles on the neck, and strutting and gobbling begins. Shortly after, the old gobblers are most often seen with a small group of hens, usually referred to as harems. These harems last until about the end of April by which time the hens have all sneaked off to incubate their eggs. During May gobbling by the males seems to become more common for a period and, instead of being restricted to a period before dawn as previously, it can be heard throughout the day.

It has been demonstrated in the domestic turkey that hens are fertilized in one mating and do not come back to the tom for further servicing. One mating serves to fertilize a whole clutch of eggs. This probably occurs in the Wild Turkey but to my knowledge has not been thoroughly established — an extremely difficult thing to prove in the wild.

### Molt

We have collected flight feathers dropped by Turkeys on the forest floor for the past 9 years and have saved the wings and tails from hunting kills and winter kills. Also we have kept notes on molt in wild trapped birds. From these data a fair idea of the molt has been gathered but we are continuing this project.

Molt in the adult toms begins in early July and continues on into November. Adult toms taken in November still show the base of the old follicle at the base of the new outermost primary. Molt in adult females starts a bit later and continues on into December. By early January the base of the old follicle is still present at the base of the new outer primary.

Leopold (1943) showed differences in molt between domestic turkeys, hybrids, and pure *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris* in a study done in Missouri. He showed that the domestic turkey has a more complete molt than the wild type in first fall birds. This molt in the western New York populations was compared with Leopold's figures and shows our birds close to the wild *M.g. silvestris* except in the tail where 3-5 pairs of central tail feathers are replaced in our birds as opposed to only 2 pairs in the pure wild type.

TABLE 1

Plumage characteristics of domestic, hybrid, and wild Turkeys (Leopold 1943) compared to western New York First Fall Birds.

Plumage of 1st Winter	Domestic	Hybrid	New York	M.g. <i>Silvestris</i>
Retention juv. primaries 9 and 10	0	15	9	5
Retention juv. prim. 10 only	19	17	0	0
Retention tail feathers In 1st winter molt				
Replace 2 central pairs	0	4	0	5
Replace 3-5 pairs	7	18	7	0
Replace 6-9 pairs	12	1	0	0

This appears to be the only plumage character still remaining which points to their hybrid origin. With more and more generations in which natural selection is allowed to operate we can expect these populations to become even closer to the original wild type, but, of course, wild populations of animals continually change to some degree.

In summary, we can say that most of the 3,500 Turkeys in the western New York populations are behaving as Knoder (op. cit.) would call feral birds. They stay back away from civilization and can withstand the severe winters of the area. Plumage and other morphological characteristics also point to their similarity to the original wild *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*.

We can conclude, then, that these birds should be treated as wild populations. Well meaning but unformed persons should be prevented from attempting to privately stock semi-feral or tame birds and, further, these flocks should not be maintained superficially by winter feeding. A hunting season should also be continued to further aid in the selection for wildness. Only wildness in these populations can insure their continued success as a noble member of our avifauna.

Department of Biology, St. Bonaventure Univ., St. Bonaventure, N. Y.

## REFERENCES CITED

- Brown, C. P. 1957. Status of the wild turkey in New York—1957. Special report to accompany job completion report, Project W-81-R-5, March 31, 1958. mimeographed.
- Christy, B. H. and G. M. Sutton. 1929. The turkey in Pennsylvania. *Cardinal* 2: 109-116.
- DeKay, J. E. 1844. The natural history of New York. Zoology part 2. Birds.
- Eaton, S. W. 1953. Birds of the Olean and Salamanca quadrangles. *Science Studies* (St. Bonaventure Univ.) 15:1-27.
- Evans, F. 1963. Wild turkey investigation in Region 2 (N. Y. State Conservation Dept.) 1962-1963. Unpublished manuscript, 21 pp.

- Gerstell, R. and W. H. Long. 1939. Physiological variations in wild turkeys and their significance in management. Research Bull. No. 2. Pennsylvania Game Comm., Harrisburg. 60 pp.
- Knoder, E. 1959. Morphological indicators of heritable wildness in turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and their relation to survival. 116-126 pp. In Proc. First National Wild Turkey Symposium. Feb. 12, 13, 1959. Memphis, Tenn.
- Leopold, A. S. 1943. The molts of young wild and domestic turkeys. Condor 45: 133-145.
- Mayr, E. 1946. History of the North American bird fauna. Wilson Bull. 58: 3-41.
- Mosby, H. S. 1959. General status of the wild turkey and its management in the United States, 1958. 11 pp. In Proc. First National Wild Turkey Symposium, Feb. 12, 13, 1959, Memphis, Tenn.
- Mosby, H. S. and C. O. Handley. 1943. The wild turkey in Virginia: its status, life history and management. Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. Richmond. xx/281 pp.
- Wright, A. H. 1914. Early records of the wild turkey. Auk 31: 334-358, 463-473.
- 1915. Early records of the wild turkey. Auk 32: 61-81, 207-224, 348-366.

---

## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

The 17th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., will convene in Poughkeepsie, May 22-24, 1964.  
Headquarters will be the Poughkeepsie Inn

### FRIDAY — May 22

Various committees meet in the evening, according to tradition.

### SATURDAY — May 23

Official meeting of Delegates — in the morning

Paper Sessions — in the afternoon

Annual Banquet — in the evening

### TRIPS

Saturday — morning for those in attendance who are not delegates.

Sunday — General field trips will be the main order of the day.

Some outstanding field trips are promised in the scenic Hudson valley. A few of the rare birds to be seen are: Blackburnian and Cerulean Warblers, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Bittern, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher not to mention many others.

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. Members will receive mailings about reservations etc., as the committees advance in their work.

Let's see YOU in '64 — at Poughkeepsie on May 22-24!

Otis T. Waterman, Chairman

Mary Key, Co-chairman.

## NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM — FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

David B. Peakall

This is the first report on the nest record card program started last spring by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University and the Onondaga Audubon Society. The total number of cards received during the first season's operation was 1092 of 128 species. This includes a number of records from previous years for which accurate data is available.

It should be emphasized that a card should be completed for each active nest found for which the contents can be accurately determined. This is so even if the nest is not visited again or is destroyed the same day. One of the assumptions on which analysis are based is that all active nests found by a given observer are reported.

The data from this program should be of considerable significance in writing the breeding biology section of the proposed state bird book. The weakness of our knowledge in this field is shown by examination of these sections in the new Handbook of North American Birds (Palmer, 1962). For information on the type and detail of the data that can be obtained by the collection and analysis of these otherwise lost fragments of information the reader is referred to a previous article in this journal (Peakall, 1963 Vol 13 pp 85-88).

A list of cards received is given by species in table 1.

**Table 1.**

**Number of cards received by species.  
Those species for which fewer than five cards are available are  
given in foot-note at the end of the table.**

Mallard	6	Kingbird	8	Bluebird	65
Black Duck	5	Phoebe	32	Cedar Waxwing	13
Wood Duck	11	Alder Flycatcher	12	Starling	9
Goshawk	9	'Tree Swallow	38	Yellow Warbler	26
Red-shld Hawk	19	Rough-wgd Swallow	5	Redwing	204
Golden Eagle	6	Barn Swallow	36	Baltimore Oriole	17
Caracara	5	Blue Jay	6	Grackle	8
Limpkin	5	Blk-cpd Chickadee	5	Cardinal	13
Killdeer	5	House Wren	20	Goldfinch	30
Woodcock	5	Catbird	46	Towhee	6
Mourning Dove	20	Brown Thrasher	9	Chipping Sparrow	22
Yellow-bld Cuckoo	7	Robin	90	Field Sparrow	20
Ruby-thr Hummer'bird	5	Wood Thrush	19	Song Sparrow	46
Flicker	7				

Pied-bld Grebe 1; Anhinga 2; Green Heron 3; Least Bittern 1; Blk-crowned Night-Heron 1; Glossy Ibis 3; Canada Goose 2; Blue-wgd Teal 1; Florida Duck 2; Turkey Vulture 3; Black Vulture 2; Swallow-tailed Kite 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Cooper's Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Broad-wgd Hawk 1; Ferruginous Rough-leg 1; Bald Eagle 3; Marsh Hawk 4; Osprey 2; Kestrel 4; Pheasant 1; Sandhill Crane 2; Common Gallinule 2; Oystercatcher 1; Piping Plover 1; Upland Sandpiper 2; Spotted Sandpiper 4; Willet 1; Gull-bld Tern 2; Skimmer 1; Blk-bld Cuckoo 3; Barn Owl 2; Screech Owl 3; Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Swift 1; Kingfisher 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 2; Red-headed Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Least Flycatcher 1; Bank Swallow 3; Cliff Swallow 1; Purple Martin 1; Scrub Jay 3; Raven 1; Crow 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 1; Mockingbird 1; Hermit Thrush 1; Olive-backed Thrush 1; Veery 4; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2; Loggerhead Shrike 2; Red-eyed Vireo 1; Philadelphia Vireo 1; Warbling Vireo 1; Magnolia Warbler 1; Blk-thr Blue Warbler 2;

Cerulean Warbler 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler 4; Pine Warbler 2; Ovenbird 2; Mourning Warbler 1; Yellowthroat 2; Yellow-breasted Chat 3; Hooded Warbler 2; Redstart 3; House Sparrow 3; Bobolink 1; Orchard Oriole 1; Scarlet Tanager 2; Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4; Indigo Bunting 3; Purple Finch 2; Savannah Sparrow 1; Henslow's Sparrow 1; Dusty Seaside Sparrow 3; Slate-colored Junco 1; White-thr Sparrow 2; Swamp Sparrow 1.

The Red-winged Blackbird clearly leads the field and in a short time it should be possible to make a profitable analysis of the cards of this species. It would be interesting to compare the data obtained with that presented by Case and Hewitt (Living Bird, Volume 2:pp7-20). As the list of species indicates some of the cards were received from outside the state. A batch from Florida accounts for such species as Limpkin, Caracara and Dusty Seaside Sparrow. At present we are interested in receiving cards from any area that does not have a program of its own. A list of other record card programs is to be published in Audubon Field Notes (Vol. 18 Part 1).

A full list of contributors is given in table 2.

**Table 2**

List of contributors with number of cards sent in.

Ackley, Mrs. Willard D.	4	Marsi, Mrs F. V.	36
Allen, A. A.	37	Mason, David	6
Anderson, Mrs Harry	1		
Austin, J. F.	1	Nero, B.	1
		Newman, Mrs Leslie	30
Barnette, Stella	3	Nicholson, D. J.	9
Belknap, John B.	4	Nichols, B.	1
Bell, Barbara	3		
Benedict, Mr & Mrs R. J.	14	Palmiter, Merle	79
Benning, W. E.	7	Pantle, R.	7
Benton, Dr. Allen H.	2	Paquette, Paul R.	2
Booth, Mrs. Robert	3	Patterson, James	14
Boyles, Mrs Hubert W.	7	Peakall, D. B.	17
Brosbeau, William	9	Phelps, S. B.	52
Burns, M. E.	1	Post, Peter W.	15
Burttt, Dr. B.	3	Proskine, Louise B.	1
Bush, J. H.	3		
		Quick, Fern K.	1
Carter, C.	57		
Corse, David	1	Ranson, Dr. & Mrs. F.	7
		Raftis, Dorthy	1
Davis, George	1	Rosche, Richard C.	53
Dunham, D.	1	Rose, R. H.	1
		Rusk, Miss M.	3
Erlenbach, G.	5		
Evelian, Anna	3	Scheider, Dr. F.	2
		Sheffield, Mr & Mrs R.	15
Feder, June F.	18	Smith, Vance	8
Flanigan, Annette B.	16	Spofford, Dr. W. R.	93
Franks, Mary	1	Standfast, Mrs E. C.	29
Fults, Olive	2	Starr, Mrs Betty	6
		Stephenson	1
Gerould, Clinton	5	Stevens, L. T.	7
Gokay, Aden L.	18	Stocek, R. F.	13
Graham, Allan	7	Stone, Ina	5
Grinnell, L. I.	1		
		Taylor, Thelma	11
Hall, J.	10	Thurber, Lona C.	2
Haller, Mrs Jean	143	Turk, Mrs Arle	8
Heath, Fred A.	66	Turner, Sada	4
Hoyt, Dr. Sally	13		



Kaine, Charles H.	1	Walker, Jayson A.	2
Ketcham, Mrs H. M.	11	Ward, Loren D.	3
Knight, Mrs John	2	Washburn, Dr & Mrs N. R.	2
Kuhn, Shelia	20	Waterman, Otis T.	7
		White, Mildred	3
Lundgren, J.	8	Williams, Evelyn	12
		Williams, Mrs Ruth	11

The top position goes to Mrs. Haller and her friends who completed cards on over 140 nests. While few persons could hope to equal this record it should be mentioned that two or three cards from each member of the Federation would net another thousand cards and thus double the in-take. The value of this program should increase from year to year and it is hoped that it will be widely supported.

## A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGY — 1962

- Agathon, Oshin. Observations on reverse courtship in the House Finch. *Linnaean News-letter* 15 (9):2-3.
- Allen, Arthur A. Sapsucker Woods, Cornell University's exciting new bird sanctuary. *National Geographic* 121:530-551.
- Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology. *The Living Bird* 1:7-36.
- Allen, Arthur W. Purple Martins vs. Tree Swallows. *Kingbird* 12:80-81.
- A Sparrow Hawk dines on suet. *Kingbird* 12:81.
- Allen, David G. Red-tailed Hawk takes mouse from cat. *Kingbird* 12:22.
- Anonymous. Winter waterfowl banding. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(3):35.
- Duck count. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(4):40.
- Mid-winter waterfowl survey. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(5):33.
- Waterfowl patriarchs. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(5):37.
- Banded waterfowl. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(5):38.
- Long haul (Blue-winged Teal banded in Wayne Co., recovered in Venezuela). *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(5):38.
- Strange catch (Gull entangled in fisherman's line near Massena). *N. Y. State Conservationist* 17(1):34.
- Backstrom, Jacqueline. Third Avenue titmouse. *Linnaean News-letter* 15(8):3-4.
- Barben, A. H. Unusual nesting failure in a Purple Martin colony. *Kingbird* 12:26.
- Beal, Clarence M. The Jamestown bird roost. *Kingbird* 12:128-130.
- Belknap, John B. Raptors at Point Peninsula (Jefferson County). *Kingbird* 12:22.
- Winter bird population study, mixed hardwood-hemlock forest. *Audubon Field Notes* 16:368.
- Bemont, Leslie E. Region 4—Susquehanna. *Kingbird* 12:40-42, 94-97, 150-152.
- Benson, Dirck. The chemistry of spring. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(4):23-26.

- The goose and the gander. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(5):9.
- and Donald D. Foley. Hatching dates of waterfowl in New York. *N. Y. Fish and Game J.* 9:73-92.
- Benton, Allen H. Evidence of nesting of the Tufted Titmouse in Rensselaer County. *Kingbird* 12:139-140.
- Bond, Gorman M. A new Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) from Newfoundland. *Proc. of the Biol. Soc. of Washington* 75:205-206.
- Bowes, Anne LaBastille. Birds of the Big Moose area. *Kingbird* 12:137-138.
- Brabec, Lee C. Letter to editor: freak coloration of pheasant. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 17(1):44.
- Bulger, Mrs. John D. An occurrence of the Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) in central New York. (With ed. note by Dr. Walter R. Spofford.) *Kingbird* 12:80.
- Bull, John. Further comments on field identification of the Long-billed Dowitcher with especial reference to voice. *Linnaean News-letter* 15(8):1-3.
- Burland, Lee J. Winter sighting of Scarlet Tanager. *Kingbird* 12:24.
- Cant, Gilbert. The House Finch in New York State. *Kingbird* 12:68-72.
- Carleton, Geoffrey. Hudson - St. Lawrence Region. *Audubon Field Notes* 16:12-15, 314-316, 391-394, 461-463.
- Chamberlain, Dwight R. Strangest American bird. (The Common Crow) *N. Y. State Conservationist* 17(2):18-19, 34.
- Clarke, Rosemary. The Blue Jay — buccaneer of the bird world. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(5):16.
- Clement, Roland C. An example of food-gathering versatility in birds. *Linnaean News-letter* 16(4):3.
- Clinch, Frank A. Bohemian Waxwings at Watertown. *Kingbird* 12:24.
- Region 6 — St. Lawrence. *Kingbird* 12:46-48, 102-103, 157-158.
- A hawk, a pigeon, and two panes of glass. *Kingbird* 12:24-25.
- Cohen, Richard. Clay-colored Sparrow near Tupper Lake Village in the Adirondacks. *Kingbird* 12:139.
- Conway, William G. The weights of 11 living eagles and vultures at the New York Zoological Park. *Auk* 79:274-275.
- Davis, Thomas H., Jr. Winter bird population study, city park. *Audubon Field Notes* 16:376.
- DeGraff, Lee W. and Robert Bauer. Breeding American Widgeon in New York. *Wilson Bull.* 74:101.
- Dilger, William C. Methods and objectives of ethology. *The Living Bird* 1:83-92.
- Drury, W. H. and J. A. Keith. Radar studies of songbird migration in coastal New England. *Ibis* 104:449-489.
- Eaton, Stephen W. Summary tree and shrub fruit crop in fall 1961. *Kingbird* 12:18.
- Turkey Vulture nesting in Cattaraugus County. *Kingbird* 12:141-142.

- Eisenmann, Eugene. The voices of dowitchers. *Linnaean News-letter* 15(9):1-2.
- Elkins, Frances T. Spring Broad-winged Hawk flight at Mexico, N. Y. *Kingbird* 12:79-80.
- Elliott, John J. Region 10 — Marine. *Kingbird* 12:54-56; 111-112, 164-166.
- Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows on Long Island, New York. *Kingbird* 12:115-123.
- Turnstones at Jones Beach. *Linnaean News-letter* 15(9):4.
- Highlights of the 1962 "Marine Region" waterfowl census. *Linnaean News-letter* 16(1):1-2.
- and John W. Taylor. John T. Nichols. *Kingbird* 12:3-6.
- Enders, Frank et. al. Breeding bird census, fresh-water marsh and woodland swamp. *Audubon Field Notes* 16:535-536.
- Erlenbach, Mrs. C. Paul. Observations of hummingbirds nesting at Erlen Acres. *Kingbird* 12:142.
- Fast, Arthur H. The Evening Grosbeaks in northern Virginia. *Bird-Banding* 33:181-191.
- Ficken, Millicent S. Maintenance activities of the American Redstart. *Wilson Bull.* 74:153-165.
- Agonistic behavior and territory in the American Redstart. *Auk* 79:607-632.
- and Robert W. Ficken. The comparative ethology of the Wood Warblers: a review. *The Living Bird* 1:103-122.
- Foley, Donald. Ducks — as the hunter sees them. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 17(2):22-25, 34.
- Freitag, Arthur F. Nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches at Letchworth State Park. *Kingbird* 12:23.
- Gordon, David C. Woodpeckers of New York State. *Kingbird* 12:7-14.
- Gustafson, John A. Mortality among returning Purple Martins. *Kingbird* 12:79.
- Hall, Albert G. The small game seasons in 1962. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 17(2):27.
- Hamilton, William J., III. Evidence concerning the function of nocturnal call notes of migratory birds. *Condor* 64:390-401.
- Harrison, Richard E. A note on the Roseate Tern. *Linnaean News-letter* 16(5):2.
- Hartshorne, James M. Behavior of the Eastern Bluebird at the nest. *The Living Bird* 1:131-149.
- Hastings, Watson B. Fifteenth annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. *Kingbird* 12:72-74.
- Hoyt, Sally F. Short-eared Owls in a suburban housing development. *Kingbird* 12:81.
- Region 3 — Finger Lakes. *Kingbird* 12:36-40, 92-94, 148-150.
- Jacob, Albert C. The Blue Heron — comedian of the bird world. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(6):17-20.
- Kahabka, Audrey. Letter to the editor: Pine Grosbeaks and Golden Eagle in Delaware County. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 17(1):47.

- Keith, J. A. Radar Studies of songbird migration in coastal New England. *Ibis* 104(4):449-489.
- Kellogg, Peter Paul. Vocalization of the Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) and the Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). *Auk*. 79:698-701.
- Bird-sound studies at Cornell. *The Living Bird* 1:37-48.
- Help needed on dowitcher study. *Linnaean News-letter* 16(5):3.
- Lanyon, Wesley E. Avian bio-acoustics, 1960-61. *Bio-acoustics Bull.* 2:13-20.
- A speed trap for birds. *Natural History* 71(7):38-43.
- Lesperance, Thomas A. Region 7 — Adirondack-Champlain. *Kingbird* 12:48-49, 103-105, 158-160.
- An albino Slate-colored Junco. *Kingbird* 12:140.
- Mackey, Mrs. Perry R. A wintering Brown Thrasher (Dutchess County). *Kingbird* 12:82-83.
- Maguire, H. F. Small game harvest, 1961-62. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 17(1):16-17.
- Meritt, James K. Highlights of the winter season — December 1, 1961-March 31, 1962. *Kingbird* 12:27-28.
- Messing, Pauline. Fall migrant — Central Park. *Linnaean News-letter* 16(5):3.
- Miller, Howard S. Region 2 — Genesee. *Kingbird* 12:34-36, 90-92, 147-148.
- Mitchell, Harold D. Then and now. (Breeding bird census of Oak Orchard GMA.) *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(3):37.
- Mitchell, John L. The January waterfowl count (1962). *Kingbird* 12:15-17.
- Mudge, Eugene T. A collection of chats. *Kingbird* 12:142-143.
- Neri, Ettore. Letter to the editor: remarks about the Blue Jay. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 17(2):42.
- Osterhaus, Sister M. Benitia. Adaptive modifications in the leg structure of some North American warblers. *American Midland Naturalist* 68:474-486.
- Palmer, Ralph S. (ed.) Handbook of North American birds, vol. 1. Yale Univ. Press, 1962: (x) + 567 pp.
- Parkes, Kenneth C. Grackles nesting on bridge girders. *Kingbird* 12:26.
- Payne, Roger S. How the Barn Owl locates prey by hearing. *The Living Bird* 1:151-159.
- Peakall, David B. Highlights of the season (April-May 1962). *Kingbird* 12:85-86.
- Highlights of the summer season June 1-August 15, 1962. *Kingbird* 12:144-145.
- Thirteenth International Ornithological Congress. *Kingbird* 12:75-76.
- and Margaret S. Rusk. Region 5 — Oneida Lake Basin. *Kingbird* 12:43-46, 98-102, 153-156.

Phillips, Allan R. Notas sistematicas sobre aves mexicanas. II. *Anales del Instituto de Biologia* (Univ. Mex.) 33:331-372.

Post, Peter. Glossy Ibis breeding in New York. *Auk* 79:120-121.

Propst, Jean and David B. Peakall. A slight record of a Greenshank in central New York. *Kingbird* 12:141.

Roesch, Helen. Letter to the editor: Pine Grosbeaks in Onondaga County. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 17(1):46-47.

Rosche, Richard C. Region 1 — Niagara Frontier. *Kingbird* 12:28-34, 86-90, 145-147.

Rusk, Margaret S. Upstate New York field trips of the Thirteenth International Ornithological Congress. *Kingbird* 12:131-133.

----- Boreal Owl in Oswego County. *Kingbird* 12:25-26.

Sabin, Walton M. Region 8 — Mohawk-Hudson. *Kingbird* 12:49-52, 105-108.

Scheider, Fritz. Cape May Warbler breeding in the Adirondacks. *Kingbird* 12:140.

Schorger, A. W. Audubon's original notes on the habits of the wild turkey written for Lucien Bonaparte. *Auk* 79:444-452.

Scotland, Minnie B. Nelle G. Van Vorst. *Kingbird* 12:2.

Seitz, Jerome J. Letter to the editor: birds and mammals feeding on apple pulp. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(5):42.

Short, Lester L., Jr. The Blue-winged Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler in central New York. *Kingbird* 12:59-67.

Smith, W. John. Drifting gulls. *Natural History* 71(1):54-59.

Stein, Robert C. A comparative study of songs recorded from five closely related warblers. *The Living Bird* 1:61-71.

Stickle, Mrs. Harold. Letter to the editor: Pine Grosbeaks in Allegany County. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(5):45.

Sutton, George Miksch. Is bird-art art? *The Living Bird* 1:73-78.

Swanson, Gustav A. Ornithology at Cornell today. *The Living Bird* 1:49-50.

Sweeny, Alice Vee. Adventures with an oriole. *Kingbird* 12:43.

Tinbergen, Niko. Behavioral research at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. *The Living Bird* 1:79-82.

Treacy, Edward D. Region 9 — Delaware-Hudson. *Kingbird* 12:52-54, 108-110, 162-164.

Waite, Beverly Stevens. Cattle Egrets. *Kingbird* 12:82.

Wheat, Maxwell C., Jr. Owles are for the beaches. *N. Y. State Conservationist* 16(5):12-13.

----- Conservation news. *Kingbird* 12:19-20, 76-78, 135-136.

Wickham, Peter P. Region 8 — Mohawk-Hudson. *Kingbird* 12:160-162.

Woodford, James and John Lunn. Ontario-Western New York Region. *Audubon Field Notes* 16:25-31, 325-328, 404-408, 473-475.

Zusi, Richard L. Structural adaptations of the head and neck in the Black Skimmer, *Rynchops nigra* Linnaeus. *Publ. of the Nuttall Ornithological Club*, no. 3, 1962: viii + 101 pp.

Corrections or omissions should be called to the attention of the Bibliography committee: Sally F. Hoyt, Chairman, John B. Belknap, Allen H. Benton and Kenneth C. Parkes.

## PIGGY-BACK KINGBIRDS

ARTHUR A. ALLEN

Fred Ransom, a retired surgeon from Jamaica was spending the summer of 1963 in Ithaca learning all he could about birds in and around Sapsucker Woods and this morning he was in for a real surprise. So were we all. "Is it customary" he inquired after a visit to our Kingbird blind, "for both Kingbirds to sit on the eggs together?" "They may take turns sitting on the eggs" I replied "but I never heard of Kingbirds or any other birds sitting side by side on their eggs" "Ah" — he said, "these birds were not side by side — they were definitely piggy-back". "That", I said "is impossible — I have to see that for myself". It was not long before I did. The blind was ready on its six foot tower, the birds had accepted it, and all I had to do was to climb in with my camera and wait for the impossible. I took no chances on setting speedlights lest it might upset the routine.



Within ten minutes the two birds were back at the nest — and moving in to incubate those beautiful chocolate spotted eggs. One made it ahead of the other and there was apparently a little dispute as to whose turn it was. Each one snapped its bill but the second bird was not intimidated and crowded into the nest alongside of the other which by this time had the eggs safely against its brood spot. Obviously dissatisfied with the position, the second bird crawled over the other, at first crosswise and finally full piggy-back and apparently satisfied. It even let its wings droop slightly over the under bird. In this position they stayed for some ten minutes, when both birds got uneasy at about the same time and left the nest together. In a minute one returned alone and took her place on the nest in a normal manner. She incubated for about 15 minutes, left, and in

a minute the other bird was on the nest doing its stint. This was repeated four or five times during the afternoon until they both returned together and then the whole procedure first described was repeated ending in the mild quarrel and the final piggy-back position.

Never in my experience had I encountered a wild bird that could be satisfied with incubating another of its kind or being incubated by one. I had known of birds laying eggs in another bird's nest when for some reason its own nest was not available — such as a Sora rail that laid its eggs in a nearby Redwing's nest when a flash flood covered its own eggs with water during the laying period. I had known of Pheasants laying in Mallards' nests; of Grouse and Pheasants laying in the same nest and fighting for the ownership — but never before had I heard of a bird submitting to be incubated or of trying to incubate an adult bird of its own kind.

I had been in the blind less than an hour, however, before part of the mystery was cleared by the appearance of a third Kingbird that was slightly larger and apparently a male, the sultan of this small harem. He was interested in everything that went on about the nest but never offered to incubate though he did occasionally dart out at a passing crow.

Of course it is quite irregular for a Kingbird to have two mates — even in separate nests — and females, during the nesting season, are normally just as intolerant of one another as are the males. My only explanation is that the second female showed up after the nest was built and the eggs laid, that she had just lost her own nest and was at the height of her incubation instinct and came to this nest when the rightful mother was off feeding. Her urge to incubate was so strong that she persisted even when attacked by the owner of the eggs and finally was accepted just as a nuisance. Of course there is the possibility that the late comer was a former mate of the male and he accepted her as he normally would not a strange female and when the owner of the eggs got no assistance from him in driving her away she just made the best of the situation.

However that may be, Dr. Ranson was correct in his observation of two Kingbirds sitting piggy-back on a nest, and we have pictures to prove it. The arrangement was not very successful, however, for in the irregular exchange that took place when both birds wanted to incubate at the same time, one egg got kicked out of the nest, one got crushed so it didn't hatch, and one small youngster got lost somewhere along the line so that only one reached maturity and left the nest successfully on July 28 when 15 days old. Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

---

## ARTHUR AUGUSTUS ALLEN

On January 17, 1964 Arthur A. Allen died at his home in Ithaca, New York at the age of 78. But to those who knew and loved him — his family, his students, his colleagues, his friends around the world — he is not gone. As Oliver H. Hewitt said at the memorial service in Sage Chapel, a little of him lives on in each of us.

Doc was a kindly man, patient, observant, hard working with a keen sense of humor. I have never known a more understanding person.

He knew each nook and cranny of the Cayuga Lake Basin, he traveled widely too — to Alaska where he and his son David located the nest of the Bristle-thighed Curlew; to Mexico and Labrador, to Churchill and Arizona. He shared these trips with us in his superb photographs and recordings.

His publications on New York State birds first appeared in 1910; one of his last in this issue of the Kingbird. In 1914 our oldest member club, the Linnaean Society of New York published his *The Red-winged Blackbird: A study in the ecology of a cattail marsh*. His life history of the Screech Owl is a favorite of mine with its fine portrayal of the bird and its environment near Glenside. Work on the Ruffed Grouse brought him worldwide recognition as a scientist.

Doc greatly enjoyed the A. O. U. meetings where he renewed old friendships and stimulated the members. As new techniques in photography became available he tried them out and kept a good pace ahead of the changing scene. His courage to tackle the new and the unknown made him an inspiring teacher. With Albert Brand and Paul Kellogg he was quick to open up the world of sound recording which adds so much more to our appreciation of birds. Last night I played *Dawn in a Duck Blind* and marveled again at his depth of understanding of duck, goose and swan talk.

He loved birds and helped others understand and appreciate them. Each May the people of Ithaca enjoyed his early morning bird walks in Stewart Park; at Monday night seminars he presided as the checklist was read and bird events of the week were discussed. During the coffee hour afterwards he took on all comers at Ping-Pong and so far as I can remember he was never beaten. At the close of summer school he and Mrs. Allen were at home at Glenside with their traditional Spencer-Marsh-Water punch. The spring census, a dawn to dark coverage of the Cayuga Lake Basin was inaugurated by Dr. Allen and through the twenties and early thirties the Cornell group competed with a Potter Swamp expedition led by Elon H. Eaton of Hobart College. Doc's team usually won, because he had the immensity of Montezuma as a generous handicap. Later the Buffalo Ornithological Society competed too, with their big Oak Orchard Swamp excursion.



What a legacy he has given to us! His son, Glenn suggested some selections to be read at the memorial service. One, from the Diary of John Woolman, seems particularly appropriate.

In the fall of the year died my father,  
In his lifetime he manifested much care for us his children,  
And often endeavored to imprint in our minds  
The true principles of virtue  
And particularly to cherish in us a spirit of tenderness  
Not only towards people  
But also towards all creatures of which we had the command.  
Stephen W. Eaton

---

### DR. ELON H. EATON'S WIDOW DIES

Mrs. Esther Woodman Eaton, 88, widow of Dr. Elon Howard Eaton, died April 5, 1963 in Geneva, N. Y. Dr. Eaton was well known for his two-volume publication, "Birds of New York."

Mrs. Eaton was one of those birding wives, themselves never caught up in the activity, but who, through their encouragement and support, make it possible for their husbands and children to enjoy birding. Her son, Dr. Stephen Woodman Eaton of St. Bonaventure University took his Ph. D. at the School of Ornithology at Cornell University. He is an officer in the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.

Mrs. Eaton further supported bird watching activities through her membership in the Federation and also through financial support for many years of the Eaton Bird Club of Geneva, named in honor of her husband.

Mrs. Eaton was born Nov. 28, 1874 in Hyde Park, Mass. She received a B. A. degree from Smith College, Northampton, Mass. in 1898 and took post graduate work at Radcliffe College.

She came to Geneva to live with her brother, the late Prof. Willis Patten Woodman, professor of Latin at Hobart. There she met Prof. Eaton who was to make Hobart College associated in the public mind with ornithology — an association that is still recalled whenever any teacher there offers a course in this subject. She married Prof. Eaton in 1910, the year that his famous work on New York birds was published.

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell St., Freeport, L. I.

---

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, Kenneth B. Niven, 61 Broadway, Monticello.

## CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

In the first wash of emotion following President Kennedy's death, there was a lot of renaming of places in his memory. It was a natural response, reflecting the terrible need of the American people to do something — Anything! — when all seemed so futile. There was also an understandable, although self-conscious kind of questioning of the idea of old and familiar sites being somewhat impetuously redesignated. This mixed feeling was true with the rededication of Tobay Wildlife Sanctuary on Long Island as the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary.

Yet, the finest sense of the phrase "there could be no more fitting tribute" did apply here — in the very fact that instead of something new arising, something old was being kept in as near a natural state as possible. Tobay — or Kennedy Sanctuary (the new name will take some getting used to) commemorates a distinctive effort of President Kennedy's "New Frontiers" program and that was to conserve our Old Frontiers.

The preserved tract or marsh, muck and some upland is small — 500 acres. But it encompasses great hope. Renaming it after the late President symbolizes our hope that his resparkling of the conservation movement will yet increase. It would be a living and growing memorial to see the acres of Kennedy Sanctuary added to so that the whole of Long Island's remaining south shore wetlands were preserved, including the natural barrier beach and seashore of a close by Fire Island National Seashore.

There is good foundation for hope, or a working optimism, for the wetlands and the proposed national seashore. "Nothing breeds success like success" and that was the purport last fall of the third annual meeting of the Hempstead Town Lands Resources Council which has been leading the wetlands fight in association with the Federation, National Audubon Society and other organizations. Three years ago golf courses were to be developed on these wetlands. The Council caused those plans to be reversed. On the foundation of that success, speakers urged more support to preserve 10,000 acres of wetlands in the Town of Hempstead.

That they will get that backing from birders was evident at the meeting. The predominance of birders there was inspiring. At first glance the gathering, in itself large, seemed like a special meeting of the Baldwin Bird Club, so many of its members being in the audience. Seeing so many of my fellow birders out to support this conservation effort made me experience an emotion of pride at being one of them.

The dilemma, if it can be called that, of the leaders for a Fire Island National Seashore was, that at this writing, their campaign was going so well — too well. What was happening with the forces that two years ago practically had the concrete laid for a highway across the length of the Fire Island barrier beach on Long Island?

As of the first of the year only the tokenest of opposition was being heard. An advisory board of the Department of the Interior (Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments) had singled this project out for "top priority" over seven other recommended proposals. Many key congressmen and senators were enthusiastic. Rep. Leo W. O'Brien of Albany felt there was "no doubt whatever" of Congress approving a Fire Island bill.

Fire Island leaders were trying to heap the crest of support higher with letters to Congress to push the legislation through in this session. There might never be as good an opportunity, especially in view of the legislators' growing restiveness to get something accomplished in a Congress that at this point had been able to achieve little.

Letters urging the establishment of a Fire Island National Seashore for the good of the residents of the state and the nation should be sent to the chairmen listed below with carbons or separate letters going to local congressmen.

The Honorable Alan Bible, Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

The Honorable Thomas G. Morris, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on National Parks  
House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Ironically, if you like to 'rough it' deep in the wilderness, you can probably get there the easy way — via airplane, motorboat, snowmobile, motorcycle, etc. The noise from these and other gadgetry vehicles crashing through the wild is beginning to resound in the protesting voices of conservationists commencing to fight this relatively new and mechanical threat to wilderness areas, particularly the Forest Preserve.

Last fall Conservation Commissioner H. C. Wilm issued regulations prohibiting the use of motorized land vehicles on certain roads and trails — a highly commendable step for controlling this threat. However, shortly afterwards the order was slackened to permit travel by vehicles designed exclusively for ice or snow. The original order did not cover airplanes and motorboats which the Department said presented more complex problems.

The Board of Directors of the Scarsdale Audubon Society issued a 1000 word statement praising Commissioner Wilm for the original regulations, but urged action for planes and motorboats. The Club directors also called for a public information program. Copies of this statement are available from Mrs. Robert L. Reed, North Mountain Drive, Ardsley-on-Hudson, New York.



Available at: A. & P., Wegmans, Quality Cash, Service Stores, Grand Union, Chicago Markets, Chanatry Markets, Bohacks, Daitch Shopwell, Gristede Bros., Waldbaum — no doubt there is one of these fine markets near your residence.

Recommended by Roger Tory Peterson

## FIELD NOTES

**Bluebird Nestbox Project:** This is a preliminary report on a bluebird population study carried out during 1962 and 1963 in the Olean, (Cattaraugus Co.) area.

In the fall of 1962 the Biology Students of Allegany Central School built 25 bluebird boxes under my direction which were erected in spring within a five mile radius of the school. In 1962 eight of the boxes were occupied by bluebirds. Other activities in the summer prevented acquiring more detailed information.

The success of this very limited project led, in the fall of 1963, to the making of 150 more bluebird boxes by the Biology students at Allegany Central School. With the help of Dr. S. W. Eaton, Biology Professor at St. Bonaventure University, the boxes were distributed within the area used by the annual Christmas bird count. (Audubon Field Notes, April, 1951 pg. 67)

Dr. Eaton and I erected 124 boxes between March 16-18, 1963 and observed nine bluebirds during the operation. Especially interesting were three bluebirds which were seen perched on a telephone wire that crossed a small stream. The birds were feeding on stonefly adults (probably *Taeniopteryx nivalis*) which had recently hatched and were crawling on top of the snow. This may well be an important source of food for bluebirds in the first month of return.

The break-down of the 1963 nesting season is as follows:

The total number of boxes erected was 124 and of these:

- 40 were used by bluebirds (first and second broods combined)
- 2 were used by bluebirds and then House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*)
- 4 were used by bluebirds and then Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) (in only one case did the bluebird nest after the tree swallow)
- 1 was used by a bluebird and then a House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)
- 34 were used by Tree Swallows
- 3 were used by House Wrens
- 3 were used by House Sparrows
- 3 were used by Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*)
- 1 was used by a Tree Swallow and then a House Wren
- 27 were empty
- 6 were destroyed by humans

The first nesting period (April 15-May 15) produced 31 clutches of 136 eggs, averaging 4.4 eggs per clutch. Of these, 52 hatched and 34 nestlings left the nest. Of these 23 were banded. Out of the 31 clutches 20 were totally unsuccessful. Twenty-five percent of the eggs laid produced fledged bluebirds.

The second nesting period (May 20-July 15) produced 28 clutches of 131 eggs, averaging 4.7 eggs per clutch. Of these, 106 hatched and 90 nestlings left the nest, of which 67 were banded. Out of the 28 clutches 4 were totally unsuccessful. Sixty-eight percent of the eggs laid produced fledged bluebirds.

Combining the first and second nesting together we see there were 59 clutches of 267 eggs, averaging 4.5 eggs per clutch, 158 hatched and 124 nestlings left the nest. Of these 90 were banded.

It is interesting to compare this with the success of W. L. Highhouse (Kingbird, 1963, 13:24) (Pennsylvania Game News, April 1963). It should be noted that none of the eggs were sprayed with a mild flea powder and that the floor space of all boxes used was at least 20 square inches.

Other points of interest were:

There was one clutch of 5 white eggs which was abandoned. These were later removed from the nest and examination showed they were fertilized. In two instances Tree Swallows usurped a bluebird nestbox after the bluebirds had begun laying. In one case one bluebird egg was found with the tree swallow eggs, in another two bluebird eggs. None of the bluebird eggs hatched. One box contained 7 eggs of which 5 hatched and 4 young left the nest. One box contained 8 eggs none of which hatched. (Two females were

observed in the area). The smallest clutch observed contained 3 eggs. Only one breeding pair of Tree Swallows was known prior to the erection of boxes in 1962, while, in 1963 thirty-four breeding pairs used the nest boxes. This population of Tree Swallows and Bluebirds will be followed for the next two years rather closely. It may well be the nestbox project in the Warren, Pennsylvania sixty-five miles west of Olean, area conducted by Mr. Highhouse (op. cit.) is partially responsible for this rapid invasion.

This study was aided by a Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

David C. Krieg, Department of Biology, State University College, Cortland

---

**Hybrid Warblers in Chatham Area:** On the morning of Sunday, July 21, 1963, a group of seven warblers identified as one Golden-winged, one Blue-winged, one Lawrence's, and four Brewster's appeared in a rural area between East Chatham and Old Chatham, Columbia County. They were observed from 7:00 to 7:15 a.m., at such close range that their markings were distinguishable even without the use of field glasses. It had rained during the night, but the atmosphere was now clear.

When I first noticed the birds, they were close together, on a barbed wire fence that separates a flower garden from a large field used frequently as pasture for cows. I was watching from a glass enclosed room. The birds flitted about but remained near one another, always returning to the fence. One flew toward me and alighted on a rhododendron bush; for a fleeting moment it was at rest only about six feet away and was readily identified as a Golden-winged. Of the others, all observed within 20 feet and both with and without field glasses, only one had the black throat patch and the black cheek of the Golden-winged but it had distinctly yellow underparts. This was unmistakably a Lawrence's. The other five birds all had yellow underparts, and all but one had yellow wing-bars as well. The one with the white wing-bars had the typical Blue-winged plumage. The others, I surmised, were Brewster's although the underparts seen were yellow, not white, in any of these birds. The birds continued to flit about to different parts of the fence and to a nearby lespediza clump. The Blue-winged perched on the lespediza long enough to give the characteristic buzz of the species. Then all flew across the field, which is bounded by a small stream to the west, by woods to the north, by another field to the east, and by my house and grounds to the south. I have not seen the birds again.

It seemed to me that I might have seen a family group, so to check on this probability I consulted the article by Kenneth C. Parkes on "The Genetics of the Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler Complex," which appeared in the *Wilson Bulletin* of March, 1951. According to this article, many Brewster's have yellow underparts, especially in the first winter plumage. As for the production of a Lawrence's although the parents usually appear typical of the two distinct species, they must both have recessive genes from both species, since the Lawrence's has double recessive characteristics. Several combinations are possible to produce from 12.5% to 50% Lawrence's among the offspring in accordance with the Mendelian Law. Different combinations account for the varying characteristics among the Brewster's Warblers.

Hortense Barten, Mariposa, Old Chatham

---

**Another Albino Robin:** On September 19, 1963, a partial-albino Robin appeared in my yard. The body was all white, with some grey feathers on wings, tail and head, and the eyes were brownish. The bird remained for 19 days, usually eating the fruit of the Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*) with other Robins, and being seen to bathe frequently. In general there was little conflict, although I did see a normal-plumage Robin chase the albino on one occasion. Attempts to photograph the bird by Mr. Harold Mitchell, who also observed it in the vicinity, were unsuccessful.

Florence M. Bodewes, 70 Sargent Drive, Snyder 26

**Another Corn Crake Record For Long Island:** On November 2, 1963, a Corn Crake, *Crex crex*, was shot in Orient, Long Island by a pheasant hunter. The bird was shot on the ground at close range with large shot and was badly mutilated but enough of the bird could be preserved for an identification record. The bird, a female, was in a field of young rye 200 yards from salt marshes.

25 Mallaphaga, all one species, were collected from the bird. These lice were determined as *Rallicola ertygometrae ertygometrae* by K. C. Emerson in the Department of Entomology, Washington, D. C.

This apparently is the fourth record of the Corn Crake on Long Island and the fifth for New York State. It is of interest to note that this bird was recorded on the same date, November 2, and that the first record was established for this species on Long Island in 1880, the year of the writer's birth.

Ed. note: Although the fifth record for the state, it is the first this century. This decrease of occurrence may be related to the decline of the species in Northern Europe due to the destruction of nests by modern agricultural methods.

Roy Latham, Orient, Long Island

---

**First Inland Record for New York State for COMMON PUFFIN:** A first year Common Puffin (*Fratercula artica*) was found in a weakened and starving condition in the back yard of Mrs. Conrad Giersch, just north of Rhinebeck, New York, on September 27, 1963. It was picked up and turned over to Mr. William Hollister of the New York State Conservation Department in Poughkeepsie, and then given to Dr. Heinz Meng at New Paltz. Dr. Meng succeeded in keeping it alive for a day, but it was in too weakened condition to survive longer. So far as can be determined, this is a **first inland record** for New York State, and there are few Long Island records.

Reported by Otis Waterman, of Poughkeepsie, from the records of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, 11 N. Jackson Rd., Poughkeepsie.

---

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON AUGUST 16 - NOVEMBER 30 DAVID B. PEAKALL

The effect of the unusual weather experienced during the period on the bird life of the state was considerable. In broad terms the weather was similar statewide. A cold September with frost, a hot, dry October, heavy rain during November but still warm until the last few days.

The first effect of the drought was a delay of about three weeks in the opening of the hunting season and the closing of the woods. This delay apparently considerably reduced the bag of ducks and the effects of this remains to be seen. The average annual bag of ducks in New York state is about 200,000. The total bag in the Atlantic flyway is about a million; this figure includes nearly a quarter of million crippled but not retrieved, surely a disgustingly high percentage. The overall picture of the duck population for the Atlantic flyway has been one of decrease since the mid-fifties. The relative importance of decrease of wetlands, conditions on the breeding grounds and hunting pressure are difficult to assess. Perhaps the figures for the population of the Atlantic flyway this winter will give some indication. The decrease of wetlands in this state in recent years has been considerable. On Long Island, between 1954 and 1959, 12.5% of the total high and moderate value wetlands were destroyed. For the state as a whole the figure was 2.1% for the same period. Even at the latter rate it will not be long before great, irreparable damage is done.

The effect on migration of the long warm spell was a general lack of noticeable waves of migrants since weather conditions were not favorable to the grounding of migrants. TV tower kills were much lower than last year at Buffalo. A moderately heavy kill occurred at Elmira, and it is interesting to note that ten Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded among the two hundred birds killed. An indication that this secretive bird passes in good numbers. The effect on last dates on which species were recorded was considerable, but the fine weather did not seem to delay the bulk of the migrants. As might be expected most, but by no means all, of the record late dates were for the later migrants.

In the middle of the last century the Dickcissel nested and was a common species in a wide range of the eastern United States extending from the Carolinas through New York to New England. But by the end of the century it had completely disappeared. Since 1928 it has occurred regularly in the fall, especially on the New England coast, although numbers fluctuate considerably (Gross, *Auk* 73:66). As far as this state is concerned the flight this fall was unprecedented. There were an estimated fifty individuals on Long Island with groups up to fourteen. Six were reported in the lower Hudson valley and there were also a few scattered upstate records.

A wide variety of winter finches was recorded early this fall. The flight of Evening Grosbeaks was moderate to good throughout the state. The numbers of Goldfinches were unusually high on Long Island and the lower Hudson valley. Pine Siskins were also reported as numerous in the Hudson valley and some central portions of the state. However the most exciting feature of the winter finch movement has been the crossbill invasion. On Long Island the movement was described as the largest of the century. Both species occurred although Red Crossbills were much more common than White-winged. Upstate, even as near as the lower Hudson valley, the position was reversed and the White-winged greatly outnumbered the Red, although in most areas both species were reported. It seems that two distinct movements were involved, perhaps information from New England which will doubtless appear in Audubon Field Notes will clarify the position.

The flight of many species of winter finches recorded in this state must have started early. Svardson (*British Birds* 50:314) in his studies on invasion migration in Northern Europe, has suggested that invasion migration starts as regularly and is caused by the same proximate factors — day length and hormonal control — as normal migration. The difference between normal and invasion migration lies in the fact that the latter is readily retarded by movement into areas of abundant food. Thus the movement starts early and regularly but the direction is variable and movement may quickly end. Returning to the same breeding area does not occur with the same regularity as it does with normal migration.

As usual there were a number of rarities, Wheatear in the Adirondacks, Corn Crake and Townsend's Warbler on Long Island, Puffin in the Hudson valley, to mention a few.

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse

## REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

The last half of August continued to be cold and wet. A 42 degree temperature reading on the 25th helped make it the coldest August on record. September, too, was colder than normal; an early light frost occurred on the 14th and a very early killing frost September 23-24 ended a growing season of only 123 days — the shortest on local record. Rainfall during September was 1.93 inches below normal at Buffalo. October owes its fame to the fact that it was the second driest in 93 years. Consistent high pressure causing 22% more sunshine and only .30 inch of rainfall helped make the woods and fields so dry that a ban on hunting was imposed and public parks were closed. Lake Erie water levels were about a foot below normal. November changed the picture, it being a rather wet month. Temperatures, however, were generally mild. Like the previous months there were no storms of any significance. Snow covered the higher areas of the southern tier at various times during November but it was not until the last day that the first general snow occurred.

In general, the fall season was somewhat of an ordinary one. There were a few variations from what one might consider typical, but these were even less conspicuous than they sometimes are. Outstanding among the unspectacular events was the generally poor landbird movement. Harold H. Axtell describes September well when he writes, "By pre-1958 standards the landbird migration was very poor all month and there were no good days. Even by post-1958 standards, average and below average days were the rule, with no days that were much above average. Numbers of vireos and warblers were especially low. This general condition is undoubtedly the result of the two factors that birds are in fact generally scarce and that no weather situation developed to produce a pile-up of migrants in our area".

Only two birds were known to have been picked up at the WKBW-TV tower in the Town of Colden, Erie County. This, too, reflects the fact that there was no inclement weather to 'ground' migrants in the region.

Although, the small landbird migration was generally poor, there were some small areas where it was much better than usual. "At Athol Springs where she has been banding for the past five years, Mrs. Wilma Csont banded 124 warblers in her backyard during September and October." "Her previous high, using the same trapping methods under the same conditions, was 19 in 1962." At Springbrook, Mrs. Fred Danner reported unusually high numbers of warblers during October.

Seventeen species of warblers were reported in October; there is also an impressive number of late records and half-hardy species through late November. Indications appear that the present winter season might be a noteworthy one for this group of birds.

Perhaps, one of the most interesting avian phenomenon of the period, was the southward movement of many of the cyclical northern birds. Most of the usual species that often come this far south, save the Boreal Chickadee and Pine Grosbeak, were reported. Some, like the Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Shrike were far less numerous than in most years. Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches were probably the most abundant numerically, while others like Snowy Owl, redpolls and crossbills were less common. Many of these species were observed unusually early in the fall which coincides with the obvious trend of recent years for these birds to move southward much more early than they did prior to the mid-1950's. In some cases, the arrival dates are becoming earlier each year that the species moves southward in numbers. It is also beginning to become more clear, that the factors in the north country causing these southward irruptions are happening at somewhat shorter intervals, thereby causing the time interval between southward movements to decrease.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: ad. — adult; Alleg. — Allegany; Bflo. — Buffalo; BOS — Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt. — Cattaraugus; Chaut. — Chautauqua; Co. — County; Imm. — immature; ISP — Island State Park; L. — Lake; max. — maximum; Niag. — Niagara; OOGMA



— Oak Orchard Game Management area; Ont. — Ontario; R. — River; Wyo. — Wyoming.

Contributors: RFA — Robert F. Andrie; HHA — Harold H. Axtell; HKA — Dr. and Mrs. Harold H. Axtell; CMB — Clarence M. Beal; WWB — Winston W. Brockner; GB — George Buckland; LLB — Lou L. Burton; WC — Mrs. Wilma Csont; FD — Mrs. Fred Danner; AD — Adrian Dorst; AR — Arthur Freitag; WRK — Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde; MM — Mr. and Mrs. Max Mason, Jr.; WM — Mr. and Mrs. Willard McKale; RM — Richard Miga; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; CM — Carl Mrozek; OLP — Mrs. Ory L. Pixley; FMR — Frances M. Kew; RWK — Mrs. R. William Rochester; RCR — Richard C. Koscne; GMS — George M. Smith; WAS — William A. Smith; KS — Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Swanson; EAU — Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich.

**Loons — Ducks:** Red-necked Grebe: eight, Oct 19, L. Ont. near Pt. Breeze (EAU et al) — only report. Eared Grebe: one, Nov. 24-25, Nia. R. opposite Bflo (EAU et al). Double-crested Cormorant: more records than in the average year; one Oct 13 and two, Nov 9, Dunkirk (RM et al); one, Oct 19 (RCR et al) and one Nov 2 (EAU et al), Nia. Falls; one, Nov 20, L. Erie at Hamburg Town Park (RFA); one, Nov 23, Cassadaga L. (FMR et al) — a noteworthy inland report. Herons: reports received as well as the lack of reports seems to indicate a continued downward trend in this group of birds. Common Egret: one, Aug 17, Wellsville (LLB); two, Sep 7, OOGMA (HDM et al) — only reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: a few reports for Aug and Sep; none in Oct or Nov; five, Sep 15, Beaver LSP (EAU et al) and eight, Sep 20, Lancaster (CM) — max. counts. Whistling Swan: nine, Nov 23, over Bflo. Harbor (HRA) — only report. Canada Goose: noticeable movement took place Oct 21 — 2000 over Springbrook (FD) and 250, over Jamestown (CMB). Green-winged Teal: unprecedented numbers continuing recent trend; 85, Beaver LSP and 10, Buckhorn LSP on Oct 8 (RCR); 96, Oct 13, BOS Bird Count; 65, Nov 1, North Cuba Marsh, Alleg. Co. (RCR) — max. counts. American Widgeon: 100 plus, Oct 19, OOGMA (EAU et al); 84, Nov 2, Chaut. L. (FMR et al) — max. counts. Wood Duck: 100, Oct 19, flying into night roosting area in Town of Ellery, Chaut. Co. (FMR et al); 10, Nov 3, Belmont (LLB) — noteworthy count for Nov in this locality; three-four, Nov 3-28, with Mallards and Black Ducks in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo. (AF). Redhead: 50, Nov 2, Chaut. L. (FMR et al) — max. count; very few reports elsewhere. Ring-necked Duck: 86, Nov 2, Chaut. L. (FMR et al) — max. count. Canvasback: 285, Nov 7, Chaut. L. (FMR et al); 2000, Nov 25, Nia. Falls (RCR et al) — max. counts. Bufflehead: 184, Nov 2, Chaut. L. (FMR et al) — max. count. White-winged Scoter: four, Nov 2, Chaut. L. (FMR et al) — there are few reports of scoters from this lake. Surf Scoter: one, Nov 28, Dunkirk (RM) — apparently rare here although to be expected. Common Scoter: five, Oct 19 and Nov 2, Chaut. L. (FMR et al). Ruddy Duck: generally scarce; five, Oct 13, Rushford L. (RCR et al) and five, Nov 2, Bear L. (FMR et al) — max. counts. Hooded Merganser: 48, Nov 2, Chaut. L. and 24, Nov 2, Bear L. (FMR et al) — max. counts.

**Hawks — Owls:** Single Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks were seen by various observers at the bird roost in Jamestown in late Aug. Rough-legged Hawk: two, Oct 13, Batavia area (OLP et al) earliest report; generally scarce thereafter with four, Nov 25, near Shadigee, Orleans Co. (WAS, GMS) being max. count. Bald Eagle: no reports. Osprey: generally scarce; four, Sep 22, 25, Genesee R. between Belfast and Wellsville (LLB) — max. concentration. Peregrine Falcon: one, Oct 20, Lancaster (CM) — only report. Pigeon Hawk: one, Sep 6, Lake View, Erie Co. (TLB); one, Sep 15, Town of Charlotte, Chaut. Co. (FMR) — only reports. Ruffed Grouse: one, Oct 13, Tonawanda Indian Reservation (EAU et al) — uncommon in L. Ont. plain area. Bobwhite: eight, Oct. 13, Town of Batavia (OLP et al) — first report in several years from this area, the only one in the region where we like to think they are at least holding their own. Turkey: continue to show marked signs of increase; 26, Aug 31, Town of Portville, Catt. Co. (RCR et al) and 28,

Sep 11-12, Wellsville (LLB) — max. counts. American Coot: 740, Nov 2, Chaut. L. (F'MK) — max. count. Killdeer: one, Nov 29, Jamestown (CMB) — rather late. American Golden Plover: fairly good flight throughout region; 34, Sep 29, Lancaster (CM et al); 34, Oct 17, 24 Oct 18 and eight, Oct 19, near Akron (EAU et al) — max. counts; one, Oct 23 (RCR) and Oct 26-27 (RM et al), Dunkirk Harbor — few reports from this area. Black-bellied Plover: one, Oct 13, North Cuba Marsh (RCR et al) — first known record for Alleg. Co. Upland Plover: one, Aug 31, Derby (WWB) — late. Pectoral Sandpiper: 12, Oct 13, North Cuba Marsh (RCR et al) — first known fall record for Alleg. Co. White-rumped Sandpiper: few of the unprecedented numbers found during Sep on the north shore of L. Erie occurred on the south shore (probably due to lack of habitat); single birds were noted, however, Sep 22 (RCR et al), Oct 20 and 26 (RM) at Dunkirk Harbor; one, Nov 6, Eden, Erie Co. (TLB) — late. Least Sandpiper: one, Oct 12, Beaver ISP (CM) — late. Dunlin: one, Sep 5, Eden (TLB) — early; ten, Nov. 9, Dunkirk Harbor (RM) — late for this area? **Long-billed Dowitcher**: three, Oct 1-8 (RCR et al), two, Oct 9 (HHA et al) and two, Oct 11-25 (RCR et al), Beaver ISP. These birds were studied carefully by many observers on many occasions. General size and proportions, uniformly colored upperparts, heavily barred axilars, flanks and undertail coverts, and the single "keek" call note were noted carefully by many observers. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one, Sep 15, Prendergast Point, Chaut. Co. (KS). This species seems to occur here with some regularity. Long neck, short bill, buffy-tan undersides with no streaks or spots, dark rump and tail, whitish underwing linings and light legs seen well in good light at 10-20 feet. Sand-erling: one, Nov 21-22, L. Erie shore at Bay View (HDM) — late. Red Phalarope: single birds on L. Erie shore Nov 1 at Athol Springs (TLB), Nov 19 and 21 at Hamburg Town Park (TLB), Nov 22 at Bay View (HDM), and Nov 23 at Hamburg Town Park (RFA) — collected; specimen now in collection at Bflo Museum of Science. Northern Phalarope: one, Oct 8, Eden (RWR et al) — only report. Parasitic Jaeger: one, Sep 26, L. Erie at Hamburg Town Park (TLB) — only report; more scarce this year on Great Lakes than in recent years. Iceland Gull (*L.g. glaucoides*): one, Nov 22, L. Erie at Hamburg Town Park (TLB) — only report. Great Black-backed Gull: largest concentrations reported in Dunkirk Harbor region — 50, Nov 9 and 75, Nov 19 (RM et al) — mostly adults. Herring Gull: a count of 7187 compared to 1090 Ring-billed Gulls Nov 24 on the Nia. R. indicates an unusually high proportion of Herring Gulls for this time of year; usually the ratio is in favor of the Ring-billed. Franklin's Gull: one imm., Sep 7, 10, 21, 29, Nia. R. opposite Bflo. (HDM, RCR et al); one, Oct 10 and 21 and two, Oct 19, Beaver ISP (RCR et al). Bonaparte's Gull: largest concentrations on Nia. R. occurred during Sep; relatively scarce during Oct and Nov compared with many years. Little Gull: during Sep and early Oct from one-four could be observed at most any time with the large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Nia. R. opposite Bflo; single birds Oct 10 and 12 (CM) and Oct 21 (RCR et al), Beaver ISP; one, Nov 8, south shore of L. Erie at Sturgeon Point (TLB); one, Nov 18, Nia. R. at Lewiston (AD et al) and one, Nov 24, Nia. Falls (EAU et al) — all adults. **Sabine's Gull**: one imm, Oct 27, Beaver ISP (RCR et al). The brownish upperparts, dark fore edge to wings and large white triangular wing patch as well as general size and proportions noted well. Forster's Tern: one, Sep 7, Nia. R. near Lewiston (HDM et al); one, Sep 16, Dunkirk Harbor (RCR) — only reports. Caspian Tern: three, Sep 20 and one, Sep 24, L. Erie at Athol Springs (TLB) — rather late. Mourning Dove: less common than in the average fall, especially in Nov. Black-billed Cuckoo: two, Oct 13, BOS Bird Count (no definite data) — late. Snowy Owl: unofficial reports indicate about six-seven individuals in the metropolitan Bflo area from late Oct through Nov; one, Nov 10, near Fillmore Chapel, Nia. Co. (RCR et al). Short-eared Owl: few reports; two, Oct 12, Audubon Refuge, Java (RCR et al) — second record for Wyo. Co.; one, Oct 13, Grand Island (HDM)

**Goatsuckers — Starling**: Common Nighthawk: a major migratory movement took place Sep 2 and 7 as follows: Sep 2-21, over Eggertsville (WM); 20, over Cuba, Alleg. Co. (RCR); two, over Belmont, Alleg. Co. (LLB); one,

over Friendship, Alleg. Co. (RCR et al); Sep 7-100, over Jamestown (CMB). There were no later reports. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one, Oct 12, Belmont (LLB) — late. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one, Nov 25, Town of Batavia (GB) — usual locality. Red-headed Woodpecker: five, Aug 16, Como L. Park, Lancaster (CM) — max. count. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: more uncommon than average during the peak of migration in Oct. Eastern Phoebe: one, Nov 26, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo. (A<sup>F</sup>) — very late. Horned Lark (*E.a. alpestris*): one, Oct 13 near Shadgee and one, Oct 19 near Knowlesville, Orleans Co. (EAU et al) — only reports. Purple Martin: 30,000, Aug 27, Jamestown roost (HDM et al) — max. count. Common Crow: 60, Nov 3, Belmont, Alleg. Co. (LLB); 300, Nov 5, Springbrook (FD) — these indicate possible near-by roosting areas. Tufted Titmouse: one, Sep 5, 7-8, Springbrook (FD); two, Oct 6, Derby (WWB); 10 Oct 13, BOS Bird Count — in usual locations on south shore of L. Erie at Angola and Dunkirk and in southern tier at Jamestown and Wellsville; one-three, Nov 3-30, Derby (WWB); one, Nov 9, Dunkirk (RM et al); two, Nov 14-27, Lewiston (WHK). Red-breasted Nuthatch: moderate flight during Sep and early Oct; flight seemed to taper off from mid Oct to late Oct before resuming during Nov; most all reports involve single birds. Carolina Wren: no reports. Mockingbird: no reports. Catbird: one, Oct 27, nr. Dunkirk (EAU et al) — late. Hermit Thrush: one observer whose field work is done primarily only a few miles from Buffalo in Ontario stated, "The Hermit Thrush showed the first noticeable increase during migration here since the disaster winter of 1957-58; it has still achieved only a fraction of its former abundance, however." (HHA) Golden-crowned Kinglet: several observers thought this species was generally more scarce than usual. Northern Shrike: one, Nov 1-29, Derby (WWB) — only report. Loggerhead Shrike: one, Aug 31, Town of Charlotte, Chaut. Co. (FMR); one, Sep 6, Derby (TLB); one, Sep 21, Lancaster (CM) — more reports of this uncommon bird than usual for late summer. Starling: 15,000, Aug 27 and 25,000, Sep 30, Jamestown roost (CMB).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary Vireo: one, Oct 26, Como L. Park, Lancaster (CM) — late. Golden-winged Warbler: one banded, Sep 5, Athol Springs (WC). Blue-winged Warbler: one, Sep 26, West Clarksville, Alleg. Co. (RCR) — late. Orange-crowned Warbler: one, Sep 25, North Cuba Marsh (RCR) — few records for Alleg. Co.; two banded, Sep 27-28, Athol Springs (WC). Black-throated Green Warbler: two, Oct 23, Springbrook (FD) — late. Blackpoll Warbler: eight, Oct 21, Springbrook (FD) — a noteworthy number for this late in the year. Pine Warbler: one, Sep 15, Hamburg (TLB) — rare especially in autumn. Prairie Warbler: one, Sep 10, Hamburg (TLB) — always a rarity in this section. Connecticut Warbler: two, Sep 25, Eden, Erie Co. (TLB) — only report.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** If one can use the numbers and distribution of icterids in late Nov as an indication of a relatively mild winter, then, this coming winter should be such. Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported in good numbers. Common Grackle: 5000, Aug 27, Jamestown roost (HDM et al). Evening Grosbeak: fair flight beginning Oct 13 when two were noted (BOS Bird Count) through end of period; 38, Oct 20, Town of Charlotte, Chaut. Co. (FMR et al); 21, Nov 5, over Lockport (RCR) — max. counts. Common Redpoll: seven, Oct 31, Eden (TLB); three, Nov 8, Derby (TLB) — only reports. Pine Siskin: small numbers widely distributed Oct 8 through end of period. Red Crossbill: one imm. male, Sep 19-Oct 2, visiting bird bath daily in Athol Springs (WC) — such early reports of crossbills are not unprecedented in this region when the following winter proves to be a crossbill year; there were no other reports. White-winged Crossbill: seven, Oct 13, Batavia (MM) — very early; five, Nov 10, Wilson (RCR et al) — only reports. The following species were reported more commonly and appeared to be more widely distributed during Nov than in the average year: Rufous-sided Towhee, Vesper, Chipping, Field, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows. Perhaps, like the presence of noteworthy numbers of icterids, this is further indication of a generally good winter for half-hardy species. Fox Sparrow: peak of migration Nov 2-9. Lincoln's Sparrow: one, Sep 5, Eden (TLB) — early.

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 14215

## REGION 2 — GENESEE HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures, except for the first two weeks, averaged consistently above normal, with average temperatures for October reaching an almost all time high. Precipitation for the first two and a half months of the period was below average with rainfall for October being only about an arid one quarter of an inch. November however brought over four inches of precipitation compared to the normal two and a half inches. In spite of November's heavy precipitation, the area still had a year's deficit of over seven inches of precipitation at the end of the period. Only "traces" of snow were recorded in the Rochester area until the last day of the period when about five inches fell. In spite of the warm weather during the fall the migration seemed to proceed about on schedule, leaving somewhat greater numbers of late stragglers than are usually to be found.

The flight of Canada Geese seemed average but Brant and ducks except for Common Goldeneyes and Red-breasted Mergansers seemed somewhat light. With the ducks, this may have been due to the uniformly mild weather. Some Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes appeared late in the period and a very light influx of Snowy Owls appeared in November. Good flights of Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills occurred with smaller numbers of Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills and a scattering of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls. Most outstanding birds recorded include Eared Grebe, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, and Bohemian Waxwing.

Names of regularly reporting observers: JF — John Foster; RG — Richard Garnham; JH — (Mrs.) Jeanne Haller; AEK — Allen E. Kemnitz; BK — (Mrs.) Beatrice Kemnitz; WCL — Walter C. Listman; WL — Warren Lloyd; RM — (Miss) Ruth MacRae; AM — Alfred Maley; RM — Robert McKinney; JM — Joseph McNett; TM — (Mrs.) Thelma McNett; (HSM) — Howard S. Miller; RTO — Richard T. O'Hara; AAS — Alfred A. Starling; MS — (Mrs.) Maryanne Sunderlin; FT — Frank Templeton; TET — Thomas E. Tetlow; EW — Mr. & Mrs. Elwood White.

Initials of places regularly used in the text: B — Braddock's; D-EPk — Durand-Eastman Park; L — Lighthouse; S — Salmon; Cr — Creek; Pk — Park; A — Acres; W Lake — West Lakeshore.

**Loons — Ducks:** A flight of 600 Red-throated Loons along the W Lake Nov 28 (AEK) is almost unprecedented during the fall, although large flights are regular during April. Three Red-necked Grebes at Sandy Creek Oct 26 (AEK) was the fall's high count for this species. An Eared Grebe in winter plumage was seen under very favorable conditions at L Beach Oct 19. (WCL, HSM, & AAS). The first two observers have had previous experience with the species. Three Whistling Swans at Mendon Ponds Nov 19 (EW) was the only report of this species this fall. This is a very uncommon species in our area in fall although it is irregularly fairly common in the spring. The flight of Brant reached its peak on Oct 21 when an estimated 500 went past Manitou in an easterly direction on a northeast wind (WCL). This is well below the peak counts during some previous falls. Six Gadwell at Manitou Oct 30-31 (WCL) and 14 Shovelers at SCr Nov 23 by the same observer were somewhat unusual, at least during the hunting season. 80 White-winged Scoters along the W Lake Sept 28 (AEK) seems early for this large number. 12 Surf Scoters at Rigney's Bluff Nov 17 (GOS hike) and 31 Common Scoters at Webster Pk on the same day (RG, WCL) were peak counts for these species.

**Hawks — Owls:** There were only two reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks during the period and the Cooper's Hawk was unreported. The only noticeable migration of Red-tailed Hawks occurred Aug 23 when 25 were seen at Shore A (RTO). Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Pigeon Hawks and Bald Eagles were unreported. An early Rough-legged Hawk was at Manitou Oct 6 (GOS hike). 19 were along the W Lake Nov 16 (AEK) and scattered

birds were reported from suitable areas during the latter part of the period. Single Peregrine Falcons were at Avon Sept 8 (TET), at Manitou Sept 28 (WCL), at Webster Sept 29 (AEK, WCL) and at B Bay Nov 1 (WCL).

American Coot seemed common with 150 at Round Pond Oct 26 (JF, TET) and 102 at Hamlin the same day (AEK). 50 were still present on B Bay Nov 2 when they were being pounded hard by numerous gunners (HSM, AAS).

The fall shorebird flight was routine, although water levels receded rapidly during the period. 20 Killdeer at SCr Nov 29 (WCL) and 30 Common Snipe at B Bay Nov 25 by the same observer reflect the mildness of the late fall. Peak numbers of American Golden Plover were 80 in Parma Sept 2 (WCL), 89 along the W Lake Sept 7 (AEK), and 108 near Point Breeze Oct 12 (AEK). Three were still present at Shore A Nov 9 (TET et al). Black-bellied Plovers were generally distributed. 250 Lesser Yellowlegs at Shore A Aug 29 (AM) is a very high count locally. A White-rumped Sandpiper lingered at SCr until at least Nov 17 (GOS hike). A Long-billed Dowitcher was identified at Shore A Oct 6 by extreme bill length and call notes (HSM). A rather high count of 100 Sanderlings were at Sodus Bay Sept 14 (WCL). A Red Phalarope was at Norway Road Oct 26 (AEK) and a Wilson's Phalarope was at Shore A Aug 20 (AM).

A Parasitic Jaeger was at the W Lake Sept 7 (WCL) and four were seen at Manitou Sept 13 by the same observer. Single Little Gulls were at Manitou Oct 19 (WCL), at Charlotte Oct 26 (HSM, AAS), at Summerville Oct 27 (HSM) and at Oklahoma Beach Nov 24 (WL). This species may now be considered a rare but regular visitor at any time of year except winter and early spring.

A small, light Snowy Owl was at B Bay Nov 3 (WCL) and a larger, darker bird frequented the same area until shot and wounded. It was captured and taken to the Humane Society shelter. Another or one of the same birds was reported from Irondequoit Bay Outlet (MS). Two Saw-whet Owls were netted and banded in Penfield in late October (RM).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Two very late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds frequented a hummingbird feeder in Webster Oct 1-29 (BK). A female Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was in Avon Oct 17 (JH). This was the only report for the fall although about three birds were present during the early part of the year.

A flock of 20 late Tree Swallows were at B Bay until Oct 26 (AAS et al) and a still later Cliff Swallow was at Manitou Nov 4 & 5. This seems to be our latest date for the species. Sixty Brown Creepers at Manitou Sept 28 (AEK) was the peak of the fall migration. A Carolina Wren a species that has about vanished from the area was at Sodus Sept 29 (WCL). Four Mockingbirds at Pultneyville on the same date (AEK, WCL) probably represent a successful nesting pair.

A very late Woodthrush was in Webster Nov 3 (JM & TM). There was a good flight of both Swainson's and Gray-checked Thrushes, with high counts of 60 of the former at D-EPk Sept 29 (HSM) and 12 of the latter along the lakeshore on the same day (WL). Water Pipits were not very common but four were along the W Lake on the rather late date of Nov 16 (AEK). Three Bohemian Waxwings were in D-EPk Nov 17 (WCL, FT) but were not seen again. Northern Shrikes appeared in fair numbers.

**Vireos — Warblers:** An Orange-crowned Warbler was on the East Spit Oct 5 (Brownstein, WCL, Schaffner), and the same observers saw another bird of the species at Hamlin Beach Park the next day. A very late Nashville Warbler was in D-EPk Nov 10 (JM, TM & MS) and a late American Redstart was in Webster Oct 20 (HSM).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** 14 Evening Grosbeaks were in D-EPk Oct 13 (WL, RM). Peak count was 47 along the lakeshore Nov 10 (JM, TM, MS). The birds were not frequenting the feeders at the end of the period. A Pine Grosbeak was at Manitou Nov 3 (WCL) and the same or another bird was at D-EPk the same day (Betty Starr, HSM). Only one additional bird was seen subsequently. The only report of the Common Redpoll was a flock of five birds in D-EPk Nov 2 (HSM, AAS). 21 Red Crossbills were at L Beach Oct 26 (JF, TET) and nine were in Highland Park Nov 20 (AM). Aside from these two reports, the species was scarce. 30 White-winged Crossbills were in D-EPk Oct 19 (HSM, AAS) and for the next three weeks they were generally distributed. Slate-colored Juncos appeared rather early, with the first record at Manitou Aug 24 (WCL). Single Chipping and Field Sparrows were still at Cobbs Hill Nov 24 (HSM). 12 Lapland Longspurs along the W Lake Sept 28 (AEK) is rather early. Peak count was 100 in the same place Nov 2 (AEK, WCL). Peak count on Snow Buntings was 1,200 along the W Lake (AEK).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

### REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES SALLY F. HOYT

September was cold with killing frost in many areas. October brought heat and the worst drought in many years, lasting until the first week in November. The closing of the woods, because of fire hazards, resulted in a lack of coverage of birding areas and therefore a shortage of reports. In general the heat and drought did not seem to influence migration as much as might be expected. Most migrants left more or less "on schedule" — if anything a little earlier. Fruits, nuts, and other seeds, while scarce, were more abundant than anticipated, following the strange weather of this whole year.

Two features of the season stand out: the spectacular shore-bird migration, and the variety and early arrival of winter finches. Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge, where often only a handful of shore-birds are to be found, had hundreds this year. Over one weekend 25 species were noted, including a new bird for the Region, the Ruff, and the exceedingly rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

Among the finches, both Crossbills, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks were reported widely.

A TV tower at Elmira was responsible for the death of over 200 small birds in the period of Sep 29-Oct 4. These were picked up by Wilfred Howard and others of the CVAS and brought to Cornell. The kill included Flycatchers, Vireos, Warblers, Thrushes, Finches, and one Sapsucker.

Abbreviations used: SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; CVAS — Chemung Valley Audubon Society; Cay L — Cayuga Lake; Sen L — Seneca Lake; av — average; max — maximum; yg — young.

Contributors: A. A. Allen (AAA); W. H. Allison (WHA); J. Bardeen (JB); Leslie Bemont (LB); W. E. Benning (WEB); Paul A. Buckley (PAB); Lewis Cartee (LC); David Dunham (DD); John Foster (JF); K. Fudge (KF); Mrs. K. Foster (Kfo); Benjamin Gebhart (BG); William Groesbeck (WG); Frank Guthrie (FG); O. H. Hewitt (OHH); Wilfred Howard (WH); Paul Kelsey (PK); Cameron Kepler (CK); Alfred Maley (AM); Dorothy McIlroy (DM); John Morse (JM); Eugene Morton (EM); David Peakall (DP); Richard Rosche (RR); Margaret Rusk (MR); Mark and Tom Stephenson (M&TS); Walter R. Spofford (WRS); Betty Starr (BSt); Betty Strath (BStr); Bruce Sorrie (BSO); L. Utter (LU); Jayson Walker (JWa); John Weske (JW); Mrs. J. Wilkins (JEW); Timothy Zorach (TZ).

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: migration last week October on Cay L. Horned Grebe: one, Aug 28, early, MFWR (DP). Great Blue Heron: av numbers at MFWR this year; pair summered at SWS, nest not found, left early (Oct); two (last date) Nov 20, MFWR (WEB); 12 imms. during fall,

Hornell (WG). Common Egret: 35 (peak) Sep 7, MFWR (MR); two (last) Oct 13 (WEB).

The goose flight started about Sep 20, was heavy Oct 3. Canada Goose peak at Montezuma was 3575, Nov 8, compared to 1,500 last year (JM); 2,500, still, Nov 16, MFWR (WEB). One Snow Goose, MFWR, 15 (max) Blue Geese, Nov 8. Brant went through area Oct 26-27 — several reports, Sen and Cay basins.

Ducks at Montezuma peaked at 16,950, compared with 34,280 last fall (JM). This included 6,200 Mallards, 1,800 Blacks, 660 Gadwalls, 420 Pintail, 915 Green-winged Teal, 1,500 Blue-winged Teal, 8,160 Widgeon, 450 Shovelers and 385 Wood Duck. Last year's count was considered unusually high — this year's more normal. Pintails dropped in numbers more than other species.

The first migrant Am. Widgeon were reported at the Refuge on Aug 25 (WEB). One European Widgeon, Oct 12 (JF), Oct 19 (AM) at MFWR. Green-winged Teal: 19 (high) Oct 6, settling basin of Rushville beet cannery (FG). White-winged Scoters: four, Nov 25, s. end Cay L (LC). Hooded Mergansers: 55 (max) Nov 20, MFWR (WEB).

At Sapsucker Woods, 400 Mallards, 100 Blacks, and max 30 Wood Ducks fed all fall.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vultures: below normal nos. at MFWR; one, Oct 6, Varna (JW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one, Oct 6, Mt. Pleasant, e. of Ithaca (PAB). Broad-winged Hawk: no migration noted in region. Rough-legged Hawk: one (early) Oct 25, SWS (AAA); one (early) Oct 30, MFWR (WEB). Few reports after that. Bald Eagle: adult, Aug 25, MFWR (WEB). Marsh Hawks: scarce; three, Oct 6, MFWR (RR); isolated single reports in Cay Basin during following month. Peregrine: one, Sep 8, MFWR (PK); one Sep 22, MFWR (WEB). Ruffed Grouse: approaching peak of cycle — good numbers. Wild Turkey: one, Oct 23, Harris Hill, Elmira (new location); one, unconfirmed, near Etna, late Oct. Virginia Rail: above normal numbers, MFWR (WEB). Florida Gallinule: normal nos. MFWR, 8 yg. raised at Corning Glassworks pond, Aug 21 (WH). Coots: 2,000 (max), Oct 13, MFWR (WEB).

Montezuma had superb conditions for shorebirds, for first time in record keeping. Mays Pt. Pool (main pond section west of Thruway) plus portion of main pond east of thruway, both north and south of dike, produced spectacular numbers and variety from late August into mid-October. (25 species over weekend of Sep 6-8). Following numbers are, in most cases, maximum counts and at MFWR unless otherwise noted. Semipalmated Plover: 40, Sep 7, (WRS). Golden Plover: (some years no fall records in this Region) one (first) Aug 25 (WEB); three, Aug 28 (DM); 100 (max) west of Geneva, Sep 26, on freshly disked soil (LU). Black-bellied Plover: one, Aug 25, Marina at s. end Cay L (DD); 25 (max) Oct 12, MFWR (WEB); 12 (still) Nov 3 (WEB). Ruddy Turnstones, present but not in unusual numbers. Common Snipe: estimates of 'hundreds'. "Never saw so many" said AAA. 12, still present, Nov 3 (WEB). Whimbrel: no reports. Yellowlegs: both: good numbers; 3-6 Greater still at SWS. first week Nov. Knot (rare in Region): one, Aug 28; four, Sep 18 (WEB). Pectoral Sandpiper: 54 (max) Oct 6 (WEB). White-rumped Sandpiper: 25 (max) Sep 15 (WEB); several, Oct 16, Sen L Inlet mudflats, unusual there, (JB). Baird's Sandpiper: several, several localities throughout the fall. Least Sandpiper: 100 (max) Sep 7 (MR). Dunlin: six (first) Sep 22, MFWR (WEB); five, Sep 27, Hog Hole, Ithaca (M&TS); 75, Oct 6, MFWR (RR); 210 (max) Oct 13, MFWR (WEB). Dowitcher: 15 (high) Sep 7, (WRS). Stilt Sandpiper: 20, Sep 7 (MR). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 300, Sep 7 (WRS). Western Sandpiper: many more than usual — reported high counts not verified. Also several present at Hog Hole, Cay L. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** one, Sep 2-9, Mays Pt. Pond (WEB and many others). Only second record for Cay Basin. Hudsonian Godwit: two, Sep 7 (MR); one, Nov 2 (WEB). Ruff: first record for Cay L Basin and for Region 3, first sighted at MFWR on Aug 24, identified positively on Sep 6. Possible second bird, as descriptions varied slightly, though no one person saw both. Sanderling: one (first) Aug 28 (DM). Many later.

Red Phalarope: one, Sep 18, Elmira, found dead; one, Sep 15-17, Hog Hole, Ithaca. Wilson's Phalarope: two "still present", Aug 26, MFWR (WEB). Northern Phalaropes: up to eight, MFWR, early Sep; one mid-Sep, Hog Hole, Ithaca.

Great Black-backed Gull: one (first) Sep 13, Stewart Park, Ithaca (DD); one, Sep 22, MFWR (WEB); 8-12 by late Nov on Cay L; two (first) Oct 25, Sen L (JB); two, Oct 21, Owasco Lake (WA). Ring-billed Gulls: numbers increased everywhere. Forster's Tern: (irregular) six, Sep 13, MFWR (PAB); one (rare), Sen L (BStr). Short-eared Owl: two reports. Ithaca area, November. Mourning Doves: 80 (high) Nov 28, Interlaken (LB).

**Caprimulgids — Shrikes:** Common Nighthawk: heavy migration (400+) at Hornell, Aug 28 (WG). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one, Oct 5, downtown Ithaca (CK); one, Oct 20, Penn Yan (JEW) — both late birds. Most left by mid-Sep. with early frost. Pileated Woodpecker: male of Stewart Park, Ithaca pair, shot in October. Red-bellied Woodpecker: new station, Moravia, in November (KFo). Other individual birds in King Ferry, and Brooktondale. Red-headed Woodpecker: one, imm. Nov 10-19, two miles s. of Ithaca on Rte. 96, at feeder at E. J. Miller, Jr. Farm; adults sighted, one, Aug 28, King Ferry; one, Marina, s. end Cay L, Aug 30 (LC); one Sep 4, MFWR (WEB). Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker: one, Nov 13, Cornell Campus, (BSO). Bank Swallow: 350-400, near Farleys, Cay L, Aug 28 (DM). Rough-winged Swallows, predominant Swallow at MFWR, Aug 25 (WEB).

Titmice: no longer present at Keuka but abundant elsewhere. Red-breasted Nuthatch: half a dozen or more reports in Region. Carolina Wren: new station, Nov 19, home of K. Fudge, Elmira. Mockingbird: one, Oct 16 and 23, north of Hector (BStr); one, back for 5th year, Shakelton feeder, Aurora. Catbird: one, Nov 17 (late), MFWR (WEB); one, Nov 30 (late). Burdett (JB). Robin: heavy migration Oct 6-9. Thrush migration seemed light otherwise. Bluebirds: encouraging reports: 10, Sep 25, near Branchport: 10, Oct 10, Bardeen farm, Burdett: 15, Oct 17, E. Lansing; "in numbers", Sep 28, Harris Hill, Elmira; 20, Oct 23, Hickory Hill Rd., Elmira; other scattered reports of under 10. Pipits: three, Sep 7, MFWR (WRS); 25, Oct 6, MFWR (RR). Cedar Waxwings: large flocks everywhere. Yg. still in nest at SWS Sep 19 (late). Loggerhead Shrike: only one report, Aug 17, Interlaken (LB).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Philadelphia Vireo: one, Sep 28, near TV tower, Elmira (WH). A Myrtle Warbler, Aug 22 at Interlaken (LB) was probably a wanderer or early migrant. Palm Warbler: Nov 12, Ithaca (OHH) late. Ovenbird: Nov 3 (late), MFWR (BST). Connecticut Warbler: often missed entirely: one, Sep 1, MFWR (WEB); one, Sep 15, Ithaca (DM); one, Sep 26, Ithaca (EM); one, Oct 3, e. of Ithaca (JW); three in early Oct in Elmira TV tower kill.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** While most Blackbirds had left the marshes at north end of Cay L, there were still an est. 10,000 Grackles at the Waterloo Cemetery on Nov 28 (JWa). Rusty Blackbirds noted in numbers first week in Oct. Cowbirds were noticeably scarcer this year than most. Cardinals, decrease in numbers at Waterloo (JWa). Dickcissel: one, Brosseau feeder in Ithaca, Nov 20 on. Probably same bird that had been at McGuire feeder a few days earlier. Evening Grosbeaks: began arriving in October, came to feeders mid-November. Most first records were Oct 20-23. Purple Finch: fewer records at end of period than at beginning. Pine Siskin: early reports, then few. American Goldfinch: increase noted by most reporters. Of interest: one pair still laying, Sep 11, SWS (AAA). Red Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills, reported from many localities from Nov 27 on. Largest flock: 150, near Peruville (BG). Sharp-tailed Sparrow: (unusual) Sep 6, MFWR (TZ). Tree Sparrow: arrived last week of Oct. Seem abundant. White-crowned Sparrows: good migration; one (late) Nov 11, Auburn (WHA). White-throated Sparrow: in numbers, Sep 30,



SWS: at north end Cay L, reported as coming late and leaving early, none after Oct 25. Lincoln's Sparrow: few reports, but undoubtedly many are missed. 10 were found dead at TV tower in Elmira, in period of Sep 29-Oct 4. Lapland Longspur: one, Nov 3, Keuka. Snow Buntings: two, Oct 30 (early), Marina at s. end Cay L (DM).

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The latter half of August and all of September averaged on the cool side, with about normal precipitation in August but only half the normal amount in September. We had the driest, sunniest and close to the warmest October on record, resulting in the closed woods and delayed hunting season we shared with the rest of this state and Pennsylvania. November continued on the warm side but within hours of the change in calendar pages cloud conditions and precipitation went to the other extreme, allaying fears that we were in for a winter with no moisture in the soil. The first frost came September 23, but there were only four more frost nights before November. The only snow of any importance fell the last day of the period, and it seemed to flush out a few stragglers.

There were many late last dates, some of them, such as a November Broad-winged Hawk, really quite startling. The weather was no doubt a factor in delaying the disappearance of many migrants but the fact that a number of swallows delayed their departure in spite of it being colder than normal at the time of their normal departure in late August demonstrates that "warm fall, late migrants" is a grossly over simplified statement of the relationship. In fact the cold August and September may have delayed the development of fledglings and thus been the real basis for delayed migrants.

A region wide survey of the seed crop indicates that in general it was only fair. The picture with regard to most individual species is more confused with wide variations from one area, and observer, to the next. Standing out is the paucity of the acorn and beechnut crops and the generally good crop of hemlock cones. At Oxford it was noted that gray squirrels were working on the hemlocks, suggesting they, too, have found acorns and beechnuts scarce.

Northern visitors of almost all probable species have been recorded already, but only Evening Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills have been represented in force so far. Red Crossbills were also quite numerous in some parts of Chenango County, but were less prevalent than the White-wings.

As usual, the few places in the region that would give any kind of a picture of the waterfowl migration were left pretty much to the hunters so few data were obtained. In conversation Messrs. Maxon and Bartlett of Greene described it as generally normal with only an undated White-winged Scoter report that would add an unusual species to those listed below.

Abbreviations of observers' names used below: WB — W. Bartlett, LB — L. Bemont, DB — D. Bendle, LC — L. Cole, GC — G. Corderman, C,JD — C. & J. Davis, M,AD — M. & A. Davis, AE — A. Evellen, CG — C. Gerould, JG — J. Gustafson, P,PK — P. & P. Kalka, SL — S. Lincoln, LL — L. Loomis, ML — M. Lynch, HM — H. Marsi, RM — R. Maxon, R,RP — R. & R. Pantle, FQ — F. Quick, MS — M. Sheffield, AS — A. Stratton, TBC — Tioga Birdwatchers' Club, E,NW — E. & N. Washburn, DW — D. Weber, MW — M. White, R,SW — R. & S. White, CW — C. Wilkins, RW — R. Williams, SW — S. Wilson, and HW — H. Wisner.

**Loons — Ducks:** Red-necked Grebe: 2, Sep 15, Susquehanna River between Vestal and Endwell (HM, GC). Horned Grebe: 4, Oct 28, Norwich (R,SW), first fall report; Nov 1 thru 16, Greene (C,JD). Great Blue Heron: 1, Nov 18, Norwich (R,SW). Green Heron: 1, Oct 6, Campville (LB), the

last reported; mostly gone after Sep 27. Common Egret: Sep 9, Vestal (SL), the only one during the period. American Bittern: Oct 2, Owego (CG).

Canada Goose: Sep 20, Chenango Forks (M,AD), the first flock of migrants; heaviest flights Sep 30 to Oct 9 and Oct 19 to 21; a report Nov 30 at Owego was the only one after Nov 14. Snow Goose: 1, Oct 8, Susquehanna River between Vestal and Endicott (G. Smith), a bird that did not seem quite healthy, although it could fly; it was there for several weeks and was seen by several observers. A flock of about 200 ducks, mostly Mallards and Blacks with a few Wood Ducks mixed in spent the month of October along the Tioghnoga River just south of Cortland (JG). Blue-winged Teal: 3, Sep 2, Willow Point (MS, R,RP), the last noted. American Widgeon: Sep 21, Owego (MW, RW). Wood Duck: Nov 27, Candor (DW), last so far. Bufflehead: Nov 24, Conklin Forks (P,PK). Common Scoter: 8, Oct 21, Norwich (R,SW), seen at close enough range to note bill markings. Ruddy Duck: "a few more than usual", small lakes in Chenango County (RM, WB). Hooded Merganser: 8, Nov 6 to 27, Norwich (R,SW). Common Merganser: 3, Nov 5, Norwich (R,SW), the first report; several other Nov records.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: 1, Aug 23, Masonville (SW), the only one. Goshawk: 1, Sep 1, Ingraham Hill south of Binghamton (CH), chased Crows there for three days. Red-shouldered Hawk: Oct 2, Owego (CG), last. Broad-winged Hawk: 84 in 45 min., Sep 13, Owego (RW); Nov 26, Hinman's Corners (R. & J. Saunders), very late, but identified on the basis of a clear view of two relatively broad, white tail bands. Rough-legged Hawk: 1, Nov 30, Deposit (SW), the only one so far. Eagle, presumably Bald: 1, Sep 15, Greene (CH). Marsh Hawk: Nov 6, Owego (CG); 1, Nov 17, Sherburne (R,SW). Osprey: Aug 28, Greene (C,JD), first; 1, Nov 12, Endwell (E,NW), last and very late; most reports in Sep with a couple in Oct. Ruffed Grouse: local hunters report many birds and estimate this year to be the peak of their cycle. Bobwhite: Nov 30, Candor (AE). Turkey: 2, Sep 1, Candor (AE); 2, Sep 30, Owego (M. Middaugh); 2, Nov 6, Owego (LC); the last two reports about five miles apart. American Coot: 1, Oct 8, Sherburne (R,SW), the only report.

Killdeer: Nov 30, Owego (CG); common until Nov 8. Golden Plover: 25, Sep 2 and 10, Sep 8, Broome County Airport (MS), still showed some black mottling on breast. Black-bellied Plover: Sep 27, Owego (MW, RW); 2, Oct 6 and 1, Oct 13 at the same place (LB). Woodcock: unusually plentiful in Oct and a few present in Nov. Common Snipe: 7, Aug 25, Sherburne (R,SW), there until Oct 28; Oct 18 to Nov 10, Norwich (R,SW). Stilt Sandpiper: 1, Aug 25, Sherburne (R,SW), watched for 15 min., greenish legs and not as nervous as Yellowlegs, observers have previous experience with the species. Spotted Sandpiper: not many after Sep 2; Sep 30, Owego (MW); 1, Oct 20, Norwich (R,SW), injured leg. Solitary Sandpiper: Oct 3, Owego (RW). Greater Yellowlegs: 1, Oct 20, Sherburne (R,SW). Least Sandpiper: 4, Sep 22, Sherburne (R,SW). Semi-palmated Sandpiper: 4, Sep 22, Sherburne (R,SW). Herring Gull: Sep 28, Chenango Forks (M,AD), first of season. Ring-billed Gull: 18, Nov 24, Endwell (LB). Bonaparte's Gull: 1, Sep 20, Whitney Point (JG). Mourning Dove: only scattered reports in Oct and Nov but 10, Nov 30, Conklin Forks (P,PK) and the same day, Owego (TBC). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Oct 2, Cortland (CW). Black-billed Cuckoo: Sep 29, Owego (RW).

Barn Owl: Oct 3, Owego (AE). Screech Owl: numbers apparently still improving. Barred Owl: 3, Aug 21, Ludlow (AS). Long-eared Owl: 1, Nov 16, Candor (R,RP), the only one so far.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawk: 160, Aug 30, Chenango Forks (M,AD), a partial count of a much bigger loose flock, all flying north just before a thunder storm; Sep 16, Chenango Forks (M,AD), the last. Chimney Swift: few after Aug 30; 1, Oct 19, Candor (R,RP). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Oct 4, Owego (AE), the only report after Sep 23. Yellow-shafted Flicker: few after Oct 12; still at Owego Nov 30 (AE). Pileated Wood-

pecker: some indication number of reports is improving but this writer is still convinced the birds are way ahead of the reports. Red-bellied woodpecker: 2, Sep 27, Ingraham Hill (CH) and for about a week thereafter, in an area that had been checked periodically during the summer without them being found. Red-headed woodpecker: Nov 30, Owego (AE). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2, Sep 26, Ingraham Hill (CH); Oct 3, Owego (RW); the first and last migrants, but there were several reports between. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1, Nov 26, Binghamton (CH), an adult male with yellow crown and solid black back; no call notes during 45 min. it was under observation, but plenty of noise from scaling bark. Eastern Kingbird: Oct 3, Owego (KW), very late, only one after Sep 9. Great Crested Flycatcher: 1, Sep 14, Ingraham Hill (CH), no others after Aug 31. Eastern Phoebe: Oct 13, Owego (MW, CG). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1, Sep 10, Ingraham Hill (CH). Last Empidonax Sp?: Sep 27, Owego (RW). Eastern Wood Pewee: 1, Oct 3, Ingraham Hill (CH), a week later than the latest of the last five years. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2, Sep 29 and Oct 6, Oxford (AS). Tree Swallow: Sep 22, Homer (JG) and Greene (C,JD). Bank Swallow: Aug 18, Vestal (SL). Barn Swallow: Sep 7, Greene (C,JD). Cliff Swallow: Sep 14, Greene (C,JD). Purple Martin: Aug 30, Vestal (SL) and Homer (JG) and regularly reported to then.

Gray Jay: 1, Nov 13 and 14, Endicott (LL), coming to feeders for 2 days then disappeared, black cap, gray back and large size all easily noted. Blue Jay: numbers not generally as high as last year but in some areas flocks estimated to consist of up to 85 birds are cleaning out feeders. Black-capped Chickadee: Nov 4, Deposit (SW), "woods full" of them. Boreal Chickadee: 1, Oct 22, Owego (RW), seen at 20 ft. for about 5 min. Tufted Titmouse: at Endwell (E,NW), infrequently but throughout the period; increasing at Owego (RW). Red-breasted Nuthatch: Aug 31, Owego (RW); 1, Oct 20, Ingraham Hill (CH); most migrants between Sep 11 and Oct 1. Brown Creeper: 3, Sep 24, Ingraham Hill (CH); regularly from then on. House Wren: 1, Oct 5, Oxford (AS); Sep 5 a late brood left nest at Oxford (AS). Winter Wren: 6 all at one spot, Sep 23, Ingraham Hill (CH); mostly gone after Oct 12 but 1, Nov 17, Unadilla (HW); Nov 20, Owego (MW). Carolina Wren: 1, Oct 22, Spencer (H. Meyer), the only report in the region since May. Mockingbird: a previously unreported bird was at Cannonsville from Apr thru Nov (SW); Nov 6, Owego (DB). Catbird: common thru Sep, regular thru Oct; Nov 25, Greene (C,JD), the last one. Brown Thrasher: scarce after Sep 30; Oct 21, Owego (TBC). Robin: irregular and scarce after Nov 10, but there were six different reports Nov 30, apparently flushed out by the snow. Wood Thrush: regular to Sep 29, then none. Hermit Thrush: Oct 5, Binghamton (HM); numerous reports to Nov 2; 1, Nov 18, Ingraham Hill (CH), the last. Swainson's Thrush: 2, Sep 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); Oct 19, Cortland (A. Morey), not many reported between. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1, Sep 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); Oct 3, Owego (RW). Veery: Sep 2, Willow Point (MS, R,RP). Eastern Bluebird: regular reports to Oct 27: last one heard flying over Nov 10, Choconut Center (LB). Golden-crowned Kinglet: Oct 3, Owego (MW, CG). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2, Sep 21, Ingraham Hill (CH); 1, Oct 27, Vestal (HM, GC); frequent reports between. Water Pipit: 20 or more, Oct 12, Broome County Airport (MS); 6, Oct 20, Sherburne (R,SW); 40 or more, Oct 27, Broome County Airport (MS); that's all. Cedar Waxwing: very plentiful most of the fall, only thinning out in Nov. Northern Shrike: 1, Nov 30, Deposit (SW).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Yellow-throated Vireo: Sep 9, Chenango Forks (M,AD). Solitary Vireo: 1, Oct 1, and 2, Oct 6, Ingraham Hill (CH) and only two reports between, much below normal. Red-eyed Vireo: Sep 30, Owego (MW). Warbling Vireo: Sep 2 Willow Point (MS, R,RP), singing; Sep 20, Owego (MW). Black and White Warbler: Oct 1, Sidney (FQ). Golden-winged Warbler: Sep 1, Owego (RW). Tennessee Warbler: 2, Sep 15, Johnson City (LB), banded; 1, Oct 19, Ingraham Hill (CH), "mostly olive-green with dark eye line". Nashville Warbler: Oct 14, Owego (RW).

Yellow Warbler: scarce after Aug 27; Sep 24, Owego (AE). Magnolia Warbler: Oct 20, Cortland (CW). Cape May Warbler: Aug 30, Endwell (F. Linaberry); Sep 29, Owego (RW); several between. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Sep 7, Berkshire (ML); Sep 29, Owego (RW). Myrtle Warbler: Aug 21, Chenango Forks (M,AD); common from Oct 4 to Nov 3; last report Nov 10, Sidney (FQ). Black-throated Green Warbler: Oct 7, Owego (TBC). Blackburnian Warbler: Sep 29, Owego (TBC). Chestnut-sided Warbler: Sep 1, Owego (TBC). Bay-breasted Warbler: Aug 31 and Sep 29, Owego (RW). Blackpoll Warbler: Sep 1, Owego (RW); 1, Oct 6, Candor, (R,RP). Pine Warbler: Sep 1 and 3, Owego (RW). Palm Warbler: Oct 12, Conklin Forks (P,PK); Oct 14, Cortland (CW). Ovenbird: 1, Oct 19, Ingraham Hill (CH); only one after Oct 1. Northern Water-thrush: Sep 29, Newark Valley (L. Dean). Connecticut Warbler: 1, Sep 21, Ingraham Hill (CH); 1, Sep 30, Owego (T. Taylor), caught by cat and later died; Oct 2, Owego (E. Williams). Mourning Warbler: Oct 3, Owego (RW). Yellowthroat: Oct 14, Owego (TBC). Wilson's Warbler: Sep 5, Owego (RW); 1, Sept 15, Ingraham Hill (CH) and several between; a very late one Oct 1, Owego (RW). Canada Warbler: Sep 6, Homer (JG); Sep 7, Owego (MW). American Redstart: 1, Oct 2, Ingraham Hill (CH) following several late Sep records.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: Sep 12, Owego (AE). Eastern Meadowlark: common until Oct 26; 1, Nov 23, Candor (R,RP). Redwinged Blackbird: large flocks until Nov 10 and scattered reports to the end of the month. Baltimore Oriole: Nov 27 to end of month, Owego (AE); the only one after Sep 22. Rusty Blackbird: Sep 23, Berkshire (ML); regular at Chenango Forks through Oct (M,AD) and a few scattered Oct reports; no more until Nov 30, Owego (AE), Owego (MW) and Endicott (LL). Common Grackle: common to the end of Nov. Brown-headed Cowbird: Nov 30, 1 male, Unadilla (HW) and 3, Candor (R,RP); the only ones after Nov 10. Scarlet Tanager: Sep 26, Owego (TBC).

Cardinal: for the first time in several years no notable increase and at Oneonta "fewer than last year" (R. Burland). Dickcissel: 1, Oct 29, Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield), bright yellow on breast, chestnut wing patch, yellowish facial markings and slimmer body build as compared to the House Sparrows with which it was associating all noted, photographed and confirmed by several other observers; stayed until Nov 6; Nov 14, Owego (MW). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1, Sep 30, Ingraham Hill (CH); quite a few Sep reports. Indigo Bunting: 2, Sep 15, Johnson City (LB), banded; Oct 3, Owego (MW, RW); the only reports after Aug 23. Evening Grosbeak: "late Sep", Greene (RM, WB); 3, Oct 4, Norwich (R,SW); many reports after Oct 19, mostly of flocks flying over; at Candor flock after flock went over, all travelling from east to west (R,RP); established at feeders at Oneonta (R. Burland) and Deposit (SW) in the last few days of Nov, but nowhere else. Purple Finch: quite a few scattered reports in Sep and Oct, thinning out in Nov, apparently remnants of the departing summer population with no indication of the large numbers of last spring. Pine Grosbeak: "reported at a feeder in Sidney from mid to late Oct" (HW); one report from the Greene area (Gilbert); 2, Nov 30, Owego (AE). Redpoll: at Oneonta, "hunting, I noted large numbers" (J. New). Pine Siskin: 15, Oct 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); a few scattered reports thereafter. Goldfinch: still common at the end of Nov. Red Crossbill: Oct 26, Greene (RM, WB), lots there but nowhere else. White-winged Crossbill: Oct 26, Greene (RM, WB), more plentiful than "Reds"; Nov 13, Candor (DW); 30, Nov 26, Ingraham Hill (CH); 6, Marathon (F. O'Leary); 100 or more, Gilbert Lake State Park (R. Burland). Rufous-sided Towhee: 1, Nov 11 to 13, Vestal (SL); the only one after Oct 27.

Savannah Sparrow: Oct 15, Choconut Center (MS). Grasshopper Sparrow: Sep 26, Berkshire (ML). Henslow's Sparrow: 1, Oct 5, Candor (R,RP), banded. Vesper Sparrow: Nov 5, Owego (MW, CG). Slate-colored Junco: reported regularly from Sep 14. Tree Sparrow: Oct 19, Chenango Forks (M,AD); regular from Oct 27. Chipping Sparrow: regular until Oct 23, 10,

Nov 9 and the last Nov 18, Ingraham Hill (CH). White-crowned Sparrow: Sep 29, Choconut Center (MS); never particularly numerous; 1, Nov 27, Cortland, (A. Morey). White-throated Sparrow: first noted Sep 14, peak numbers in late Sep, quite common thru Oct and stragglers still present at the end of Nov. Fox Sparrow: 1, Oct 11, Ingraham Hill (CH); 89, Nov 3, Chenango Forks (M,AD), coming into brush lot to roost as they had for several days previously; in numbers until Nov 18. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1, Sep 27, Ingraham Hill (CH); Sep 29, Choconut Center (MS). Swamp Sparrow: Oct 27, Vestal (HM). Song Sparrow: common to end of Nov. Snow Bunting: 3, Oct 27, Broome County Airport (MS); Nov 3, Homer (JG); only reports.

710 University Ave., Endwell 13763

---

## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL and MARGARET S. RUSK

Weather during the period was record-breaking and had a considerable effect on the bird life of the Region. September was cold (second-coldest on record), sunny, and dry. The first frost, on September 24th, was the earliest ever recorded. October was the driest ever, the total rainfall being only two-tenths of an inch compared to the normal of just over three inches. A new record high temperature and percentage of sunshine were also established. The hot dry conditions necessitated a statewide closing of the woods and a delay of three weeks in the opening of the hunting season. November was also exceptionally warm but, in contrast with October, the rainfall was considerably above average.

The long warm spell was responsible for a slow, unspectacular migration with few noticeable peaks or waves, and for a number of record-late departure dates. Such an abundance of late thrushes, vireos, and warblers has not been seen locally since 1954 when Hurricane Hazel on October 15 apparently **turned back** the migrants in their southward paths to bring Central New York a wealth of October and November late dates. In 1963 the heat seems to have held the various tropics-bound species here. (See below for particulars).

During the unseasonably hot October a good variety of winter finches began arriving; the flight of White-winged Crossbills is already the largest since the Regional **Kingbird** reports have been written.

Abbreviations: BBFS — Dr. Ben Burt's feeder survey, held the first week of Nov and of Dec; counts reduced to per 100 reports; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area; Oakwood — Cemetery, Syracuse; Onon — Onondaga; SP — Sandy Pond; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park; Skan — Skaneateles; Syr — Syracuse; TRGMA — Three Rivers Game Management Area; VBSP — Verona Beach State Park; arr — arrived; imm — immature; L — Lake; max — maximum; n — north; s — south.

Regular observers: DA — Dorothy Ackley; HA — Hazel Aspinwall; MB — Maude Bitz; EE — Emma Evans; HN — Harmon Nodecker; PP — Paul Paquette; DP — David Peakall; JP — Jean Propst; MR — Margaret Rusk; CS — Christian Spies; WS — Walter Spofford; BS — Betty Starr; IS — Ina Stone; RT — Ruth Thomas; R,SW — Ruth and Sally White.

**Loons — Ducks:** Red-throated Loon: no fall reports at all; in previous years a few have always been seen. Horned Grebe: arr Oct 6; fall max 50-75 on L Ontario, late Oct — early Nov. Green Heron: one Tully, Oct 23 (JP) is record late. Black-crowned Night Heron: an adult Onon L Aug 14 and an imm SP Sep 21 are the only records. Bittern: last, Scott Swamp, Oct 22.

Brant: one Nov 3, L Ontario is the only report; although an erratic species in this area, it is often seen in hundreds along L Ontario. and

Oneida L. Gadwall: one Beaver L Oct 27 (MR). Green-winged Teal: first migrants Onon L Aug 14, 150-200 present at HIGMA from early Sep to late Nov. Blue-winged Teal: 250 at VBSP Sep 1; main departure HIGMA Oct 15; last recorded TRGMA Nov 2. American Widgeon: first flocks Oct 7; at Beaver L the numbers built up to 500 by late Oct, then steadily declined in early Nov, with counts down to 50 by the 2nd week of the month. Wood Duck: best counts 500 Scott Swamp Oct 15 and 400 Clay Swamp Oct 17. Ring-necked Duck: at Beaver L first flocks observed Oct 7; number built up to 500 by the end of the month; max 600-700 mid-Nov, remained until freeze-up at end of period. Canvasback: 800 Oneida L Nov 25 and 2600 there Dec 3 are the first fall counts on this scale since 1959. Scaup: arr L Ontario Oct 13; max (to end of period) 200, Skan L Nov 16; no large flocks see on Oneida L where numbers up to 1-5000 have been reported previous Novembers. Goldeneye: arr Oct 19; 200-400 L Ontario during Nov. Bufflehead: arr Oct 28; fall max tens. Oldsquaw: a flock of 200, Derby Hill, L Ontario, is unusually large (WS). Eider: three imm or female, probably King, L Ontario Nov 16 (MR). White-winged Scoter: arr Oct 11; max 100 early Nov L Ontario. Surf Scoter: one-ten/day L Ontario Oct 11-Nov 23. Common Scoter: two-12 Oct 11-Nov 23, L Ontario. Ruddy Duck: 25 Oneida L Nov 25 is best fall count since 1959. Common Merganser: arr Sep 15 Delta L. Red-breasted: arr Sep 21; peak counts 1000/day late Oct-early Nov, L Ontario.

**Hawks — Owls** — Goshawk: one SSSP Oct 17 (EE) is the only definite record; a large accipiter seen over Syr Nov 20 (JP) may have been this species. Sharp-shinned: four reports of single individuals. Cooper's: three reports of single individuals. Broad-winged Hawk: two imm observed catching grasshoppers in the mowed grass of the shoulders of Rte 81 at Central Square Sep 14 (MR, WS) — this species is rarely reported in fall. Rough-legged: first date Oct 13; only a few reports since, indicating a poor flight. Marsh Hawk: nine sightings reported, compared to 25 last fall. Osprey: singles Delta L Sep 15, Otisco L Oct 12, and SP Oct 13 are the only records. Pigeon Hawk: one VBSP Sep 1 (PP, MR) is early.

The departure dates of five species of shorebirds set new records; no fewer than 13 species were observed in Nov, when seven would be normal. Ringed Plover: max 50 Onon L Aug 14 and Delta L Sep 15; last, VBSP Nov 2. Golden Plover: up to 25 present at Syr airport Aug 24-Oct 12, with 16 still there on the latter date, late for such a high number; one SP Nov 2 (MR) is nearly three weeks later than the previous latest date. Black-bellied Plover: max 20 Delta L Sep 15; last, VBSP Nov 9. Turnstone: max 12 VBSP Sep 9; last, Oct 12. Upland Plover: four-five with Golden Plover at Syr airport Aug 24-27 — this species is rarely recorded after the breeding season. Spotted Sandpiper: one Onon L Nov 11-12 (CS, DP) is nearly a month later than the previous latest. Solitary: 17 Otisco L Sep 8 is one of the best counts of recent years; last, Sep 27 Otisco L. Willet: one Onon L Aug 29 (JP, MR) is the third modern regional record. Greater Yellowlegs: scarce, with low max of six in late Sep VBSP, and no rise in late fall; last, Nov 11 Otisco L. Lesser Yellowlegs: rather low numbers, max 34 Onon L Aug 14; last, Nov 17 Onon L, a new record late departure date. Knot: one-four SP Aug 17-Sep 20; one-three VBSP Sep 3-29. Purple Sandpiper: one SP Nov 23 (MR) — usual date and place for this scarce but regular migrant. Pectoral: max 40 Otisco L Oct 2-16; last, Otisco L Oct 30. White-rumped: one-four Onon L Aug 14 — Oct 13; one-two VBSP Sep 1-Nov 23 (record late date, R,SW); one Otisco L Sep 24-Oct 9. Baird's: good flight, one-five Onon L Aug 14-Nov 2, one-two VBSP Aug 17-Sep 29, one-five SP Sep 12-Oct 13, one-two Otisco L Sep 18-Nov 11 (record late departure, JP). Least Sandpiper: last Otisco L Oct 12. Dunlin: arr Sep 2 SP; max 75 VBSP early Nov; last, SP Nov 23, rather late. Dowitcher: very scarce, only records are of single birds, SP Aug 17; VBSP Aug 27-Sep 7; Onon L Aug 31; Delta L Sep 1. Stilt Sandpiper: one-two Onon L Aug 20-23; two-three VBSP Aug 27-Sep 7; one Delta L Sep 1. Semipalmated: max 200 VBSP Sep 1; last, Otisco L Oct 23. Western: one Onon L Sep 9-10 (DP, JP). Buff-breasted: an imm Onon L Sep 9 (MR) first record since 1960. Hudsonian Godwit: six SP

Sep 14 and six Delta L Sep 15 (MR, WS) — these places are about 40 miles apart; one VBSP Oct 12 (R, SW); three have been four previous occurrences of this species. Sanderling: last, Nov 23 SP. Red Phalarope: one Onon L Oct 7 (DP, JP) is the first Oct record ever. All previous occurrences have been Nov or Dec. Wilson's: one Onon L Sep 4 (JP). Northern: one-two Onon L Aug 14-Oct 7; five Onon L Sep 4 (JP).

Great Black-backed Gull: arr Aug 17 SP; max (to end of period) 50, L Ontario late Nov. Bonaparte's Gull: 300 VBSP Sep 1 (MR) is record high count. Common Tern: max 300 VBSP Sep 1; last, SP Oct 6. Caspian Tern: last, Sep 9 Onon L. Black Tern: max 30 Oneida L Aug 17; last, SSSP Sep 2.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one found freshly killed in road Oct 25 (Farnhams) is five days later than previous latest. Snowy Owl: one freshly killed in road nr Mexico Nov 28 (fide P. Buckley); one, Onon L Nov 28 (M. Thomas). Barred Owl: one Oct 17 SSSP (EE) — a new locality.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: of interest is one seen on the SP dunes Sep 21 (J. Bart) as there are few local records of fall migrants. Despite the hot Oct, not quite so late as in 1962 was a final Nighthawk Oct 6 at the same Syr dump where they were found last year. Flicker: about six reports, more than usual, after the end of the period. Red-bellied Woodpecker: a new location is Fish Gulf, one Oct 6 (BS) — tho' they have been reported at feeders nearby in winter; up to three (Nov 30) again present L Ontario n of New Haven (IS, RT). Red-headed: two imm Sep 18 n of New Haven (IS, RT), probably from this summer's nearby nesting. Both Three-toed Woodpeckers have been reported from the northern-most corner of the Region: Black-backed, Big Moose Sep 21 (DP), and Northern, Little Five Pond Aug 24 (A. Maley); there is to date no indication of a winter migration out of their breeding area.

Phoebe: last reports Oct 12, about normal. Last two Empidonax (sp?) Oct 3 Syr, a bit late. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Oneida report, Sep (HN) of this uncommon and often unnoticed silent fall migrant. Horned Lark: extremely desultory migration, with no reports of over a dozen together. Tree, Bank, and Barn Swallows, and Martins were flocking for migration, along the s shore of Oneida L Aug 17; a light migration of 30 Tree, 100 Bank, and 20 Barn in an hour noted SP Aug 18. No Oct swallow reports — apparently they had left before the hot Oct weather might have held them here. Tufted Titmouse: again at Mexico (Nov BBFS and fide IS), for the first time since 1960; merely a stray individual, or will the species become established here as it has in Baldwinsville and Brewerton? Crow: an astonishing 12,000 counted at the Onondaga Hill roost by Dwight Chamberlain on Nov 16.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: widely noted from early Sep thru the end of the period, but the max was a moderate 12 in an hour Sep 20 (a flight day) Svr, and few other counts approached this. By far the max of Brown Creepers was 28 on the extremely warm Oct 26 at Bear Spring, Fulton. Winter Wren: arr SP Sep 14; a fair max of eight SP Oct 6; last migrant Nov 3 SSSP: a few attempting to winter. Carolina: singles, the end of Nov at Solvay (Hastings) and n of New Haven (IS, RT). Long-billed Marsh Wren: a fair max of eight Sep 20 SP: last one Nov 11 SSSP. Four Mockingbird reports: Onondaga Hill Oct 15 (H. Ives); Fayetteville mid-late Oct (D. Mesmer); Baldwinsville Nov 11 (Mrs. G. Barrows) and Mexico in Nov (fide IS) — all localities where Mockers have been previously seen. Catbird: late individuals Central Square (Nov BBFS) and New Haven Nov 4 — this or another individual still there Dec. 5.

Robin: several observers remarked on the high numbers: maxima of 200-250/day the last third of Sep and first third of Oct (DP, JP, BS), and there had been 80-100 in an hour from mid-Aug thru Sep in Oakwood: eight reports, from various localities, of singles or two in early Dec. is somewhat more than average — resulting from the warm weather or from more linger-

ing, out of the many which passed thru, or both? Hermit Thrush: last three Nov 17 Brookfield (R,SW), about normal. Swainson's: arr Aug 17 SP (A. Starling); a moderate max of 20 Sep 20 (wave day) SP. Tropics-wintering thrushes all set record-late last dates: Wood, several reported Nov BBFS; Swainson's, Oct 27 Bear Spring (MR) plus three others the last week of Oct; Gray-cheeked, Oct 9 Fish Gulf (JP, BS); and Veery, Nov 15 Syr (MB, D. Cummings). Bluebird: except for frequent migrants during Oct thru the Rome vicinity (HA) and — encouragingly — flocks of 15-20 in mid-Sep at Lafayette (M. Redman), only about five other reports, never of more than four birds at once.

Two reports of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (BBFS) still present in early Dec as well as the usual Golden-crowned, following a slow migration with max Golden-crowned 40 at SP Oct 20, and 20 Ruby-crowned with them (this number of the latter occurred several other days in Oct — there was no sharp peak). Pipit: a good flight SP Sep 14-Nov 2; max 100 Derby Hill Oct 11 (BS), and counts of 50 in a day at both L Ontario and Otisco L in mid-Oct (JP). Northern Shrike: in contrast with the finch situation, this may be a poor shrike winter, with no report in the period, and only two to date, first week of Dec BBFS. Loggerhead: one Sandy Creek Aug 23 (S. Hoyt and D. McIlroy).

**Vireos—Warblers:** Aug and Sep produced few waves; the only counts over 12 of any species except Myrtle occurred Sep 20-21 at SP, when 20 Nashville (each day), 30 Magnolia (20th), 35 Myrtle (21st), 15 Black-throated Green (20th), 12 Yellowthroat (20th), and 10 Wilson's (20th) plus lesser numbers of Black-and-white, Tennessee, Parula, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Ovenbird, Mourning, and Redstart were tallied. A light Aug 24 migration at SP included a Golden-winged Warbler, unusual so far north; four Palm Warblers were in a moderate Sep 14 SP flight.

In general, the late departures were extreme for a number of species, as follows, rather than moderately tardy for most: Solitary Vireo Oct 24, Syr (MB); Red-eyed Vireo Nov 23, SSSP (S. Morgan, CS); Black-throated Blue Warbler Oct 23, Syr (MR); Blackburnian Oct 20, SSSP (MR); two Palm Nov 9, Oneida (M. Felle); Ovenbird Oct 23, Syr (MR); Yellowthroat Nov 2, SP (DA); and Redstart (of which there was no count over five all fall!) Nov 3, a female or imm at Bear Spring (WS). Four reports of one to three Myrtles, in late Nov and early Dec, is more late records than usual.

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: the largest migrating flock noted was of 30 at Empeyville (in the Tug Hill country where they are common breeders) Aug 23. Meadowlark: scattered small groups still present in early Dec. A notable flocking of at least 500 Grackles (no other icterids with them) was observed in mixed woods along the Fish Gulf creek Oct 12. A drop-off from tens of thousands to only hundreds of black icterids in the Clay vicinity occurred quite sharply Oct 28, following the first cold snap (DP). Dozens of Redwings and Grackles, and hundreds of Cowbirds, remained beyond the end of the period (Dec BBFS).

Evening Grosbeaks first appeared over SP Oct 13 — not surprisingly early, since birds now summering in the Tug Hill and lower Adirondacks need fly only ten or so miles to appear as migrants along L Ontario; 114 on the Nov BBFS indicates, on the basis of previous years' experiences, that this will be a moderate but not record Evening Grosbeak flight year. Purple Finch: six migrants arr Syr Sep 25 (MB); never more than that reported during Oct, and a total of only five on Nov BBFS — very low in contrast with the spring of 1963. Pine Grosbeak: first fall report is of three males at Rome Nov 30 (HA). Pine Siskin: widespread in Oct with max 100 Derby Hill Oct 11 (JP); fewer in Nov. Crossbills: three or four scattered reports of Reds in late Oct and early Nov, the max being 15 at Highland Forest Nov 11 (JP, BS); but on Nov 26 came the first report (Syr) of what was already at the end of the period a record-breaking irruption of White-winged Cross-



bills, sometimes alone, sometimes accompanied by Reds. Before Dec 1 the max was 150 White-winged with 50 Red at Fish Gulf Nov 27 (E. Estoff, JP), but flocks of 30-50 White-winged were reported from literally every part of the Region, feeding in cedar and hemlock as well as the various spruces.

Towhee: one New Haven Nov 30 and one Fulton Dec BBFS attempting to winter. Junco: 100 or so commonly counted in a limited area from about Oct 11 to Nov 11. Tree Sparrow: first one Oct 21 Jamesville (BS), but most observers found none before the 2nd week of Nov. The hot calm weather seemed to preclude the usual high counts of migrant sparrows; 60 White-throated on Oct 5 at TRGMA was the highest day's tally for any species. White-crowned: arr Sep 20 along L Ontario; max only 20 Oct 11 SSSP; a few at feeders Nov and Dec, but last report in the field is an imm, Syr Nov 27. Fox: widely observed and in good numbers, in contrast with most sparrows; maxima 30+ n of New Haven Oct 27; 30 at Clark Reservation Nov 10; 16 on Nov 11 Highland Forest. Lapland Longspur: singles Nov 2 at Lakeview Army Base on L Ontario (D. Mellroy) and Nov 28 Cicero Bog (F. Scheider). Snow Bunting: arr along L Ontario Oct 13, most of the fall reports from there, with max 35 at the Lakeview Army Base Nov 23.

SUNY Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The weather was mild and pleasant most of the time. The rainfall in early August had been heavy and so it was some time before the dry weather became noticed. Rain during September and October was light. The woods and fields became very dry by October. November brought plenty of rain and the month ended with a hard rain which changed to snow as the temperature fell.

PRGMA is again used for the Perch River Game Management Area.

**Loons — Ducks:** Horned Grebe: over 20 at Black River Bay Oct 20. Great Blue Heron: one at Brookside Cemetery, Watertown, at least until Nov 23. Mute Swan: six seen at Perch Lake for several weeks had been placed there by the Conservation Dept. Canada Goose: seen at Perch Lake and along Lake Ontario to the end of Nov. Duck: 1917 ducks were banded at PRGMA this fall. This is more than usual. Most years the total has been between 1000 and 1500. Many of the ducks banded there were Blacks or Mallards. During the first part of the season there was a fairly good supply of ducks, but the late season flight was smaller than usual. Perhaps the weather was a factor. There were fewer scaup this fall. Hooded Merganser: appeared early in Nov. as usual. One seen near Evans Mills Nov 29.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: apparently roosted again near Gouverneur, however, not seen as often as in 1962; last noted early Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: first seen Oct 6 at PRGMA. Noted regularly in Nov. A few, 3-4, have been staying in the Evans Mills-Philadelphia area. Marsh Hawk: seen regularly to latter part of Nov.

The late summer and fall migration of shorebirds was about average, or perhaps a little below average. Most of the reports are about birds seen at El Dorado. Semipalmated Plover: to Oct 27. Killdeer: to end of Oct.

Black-bellied Plover: to Oct 27. Common Snipe: 3 at Sherwin Bay Nov 4. Ruddy Turnstone: Sept 26. Spotted Sandpiper: Sept 1. Upland Plover: 4 near Burrville Aug 16. Solitary Sandpiper: Sep 12. Greater Yellowlegs: Sep 26. Lesser Yellowlegs: Sep 12. Knot: Sep 12. Pectorial Sandpiper: Oct 26. Purple Sandpiper: none could be found in late Nov. Least Sandpiper: Sep 12. Dunlin: 30 Oct 27. Short-billed Dowitcher: Sep 12. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Sep 26. Sanderling: Oct 27. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 at Stony Point Aug 20. Snowy Owl: A local paper says a Snowy Owl was seen at East

Rodman Nov 15 and that this means a warm winter. A Snowy Owl spent several days at PRGMA. This was said to be a large one. I know what has happened to some owls at PRGMA, so no questions were asked. Another was seen near Dexter Nov 21.

**Goatsuckers — Sparrows:** Red-headed Woodpecker: 5, probably a family, at Belleville Aug 16. One was seen Aug 29 on Barnhard Island which is at the northern limit of this region. Bluebird: Art Allen saw about 40 at Stony Point Oct 27. Another was reported in northern Jefferson County the same day. Northern Shrike: Nov 24, only one reported. Nashville Warbler: Sep 29. Myrtle Warbler: numerous; last Oct 27. Evening Grosbeak: seen near Potsdam during all of period. A few reported in other places in Oct and Nov. They began to visit several feeders around Watertown about Nov 28. Pine Siskin: 30 near Gouverneur Nov 25. Red Crossbill: 7 near Theresa Nov 23. White-winged Crossbill: 20-30 at Watertown Nov 17, and 10 at Goose Bay Nov 20. Slate-colored Junco: first seen in Watertown Sep 26 and two still at feeder Nov 20. Tree Sparrow: first Oct 20. Chipping Sparrow: last Oct 18. Field Sparrow: last Oct 8. White-crowned Sparrow: first Sep 21 which is a week or ten days early, last Nov 1. White-throated Sparrow: Sep 25 to Oct 25. Fox Sparrow: a few seen in Nov. Song Sparrow: Nov 7. Cardinal: about the usual number. Lapland Longspur: 4 Nov 3 Sherwin Bay. Snow Bunting: Nov 28 at Camp Drum.

173 Haley St., Watertown

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

HARRIETT L. DELAFIELD

The fall period was characterized by above normal seasonal temperatures though there was a sharp cold snap around August 20 which froze the sweet corn and colored the foliage in the higher altitudes much earlier than usual.

A drought started in September and continued through October with much above normal temperatures and virtually no precipitation. There were some light to moderate frosts after mid-September but, most unusual, no killing frost in September. The forests were closed to hunters and birders alike from October 13 to November 1. The drought was broken during the first week of November with one inch of rain and from then on it drizzled, rained, fogged and misted in slightly above normal temperatures steadily until the end of the month. Not an ideal fall!

Some birds, such as Cedar Waxwings left early but others, such as Fox and White-crowned Sparrows, came through late. In spite of the fact that bare ground and forest offered food and perching place no very large flocks of blackbirds were reported. Swallows also seemed down in numbers. Many people remarked on the spectacular migration of Blue Jays on August 26. October 4 is memorable as the day skein after skein of Canada Geese came out of the mist over the mountains. The N. Y. State Conservation Department at Ray Brook tells us that this does not mean that the goose population is up but simply that these birds chose the Saranac River valley for migration this autumn.

In this, our first report, we would like to thank editors and observers for their prompt reports and kind assistance — also Mr. Robert Kampf of the Ray Brook weather station for his weather summary.

Observers and Initials: AA — Agnes Amstutz; GC — Geoffrey Carleton; HD — Harriet Delafield; JD — Mrs. John Delahanty; JH — Joseph Hart; JK — Joseph Keji; DMCI — Dorothy McIlroy; GM — Gordon Meade.

Abbreviations used: L — Lake; Co — County.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: one Aug 22 Middle Saranac L (JH); four Oct 26, Tupper L area (AA, JD). Pied-billed Grebe: two at Ross Park Aug 31 (GM); one or two seen in Tupper L area thru Oct 24 (AA, JD). Great Blue Heron: reported in small numbers from Saranac L, Ray Brook (JK) and Tupper L. Last one at Tupper L on Oct 3 (JD). American Bittern: one at Madawska Sept 2 (GM); one at Tupper L Sept 1 (AA) and Sept 15 (JD). Canada Goose: 1,000+ Oct 4, Saranac L (HD) and 50 Sept 29 (JD); 20 Nov 9 last, (HD). Mallard: one Ross Park Aug 31 (GM); two females at Lewis Aug 30, "good and wild" (GC); one at Tupper L Oct 19

(AA); two Oct 26 (JD). Black Duck: eight Sept 1, Saranac L; 12 Oct 26 Tupper L (JD). Pintail: Several north of Plattsburgh on Sept 4 (GC). Blue-winged Teal: five Aug 31 Jones Pond (GM); four Oct 19, one Oct 20 Tupper L (JD). Wood Duck: five at Madawaska Sept 2; six Oct 26 Tupper L (AA, JD). Ring-necked Duck: Dr. Gordon Meade reports them "more numerous than I have ever seen them" around Saranac L — four adults and 29 young on Aug 12; 500 at Lake Alice Oct 16, similar numbers for past three years (JH); 25 Oct 26 Tupper L (JD). Hooded Merganser: not as common as last year at Kay Brook (JK); two adults and eight young Saranac L Sept 1 (HD); nine Oct 24 Tupper L (JD). Common Merganser: less numerous than past few years during breeding season — only one brood on Lower Saranac L Sept 2 (GM); 30 Oct 26, Tupper L (HD).

**Hawks — Owls:** Goshawk: one Aug 31, Ross Park (GM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Aug 22, 23 Saranac L (GM). Cooper's Hawk: reported from Piseco L Sept 26 (DMcI) and Tupper L Aug 15 and 30 (AA) but no details given. Red-tailed Hawk: one Sept 5, Saranac L (HD); one Oct 20, Kay Brook (JK). Red-shouldered Hawk: one Aug 28 & 31 (GM); one Aug 27 (HD) all around Saranac L. Broad-winged Hawk: last reported, one Oct 10, Kay Brook (JK); Bald Eagle: one seen off and on from Aug 20 thru Oct 31 (W. Frenette, JD); two on Oct 14, Tupper L (JD). Marsh hawk: one to two late Aug, Saranac L and Ray Brook (GM, JK); last, Oct 29, Tupper L (JD). Osprey: only one at a time — Aug 26, Lower Saranac L (GM); Sept 25, Piseco L (DMcI); Sept 7, Ray Brook (JK); Oct 15, Tupper L (JD). Sparrow Hawk: four Sept 2, Saranac L (GM); one Sept 30, Tupper L (JD); one Saranac L Oct 10 (HD). Spruce Grouse: one Sept 2, Madawaska (GM). Ruffed Grouse: normal numbers from Saranac L & Tupper L. Semi-palmated Plover: one Sept 22, Tupper L (JD). Golden Plover: about 45 Sept 24 north of Plattsburgh (GC). Common Snipe: one Aug 24, Tupper L (JD). Spotted Sandpiper: two Aug 31, Ross Park (GM); one Tupper L Sept 15 (JD). Solitary Sandpiper: one near Saranac L, one in Ross Park on Aug 31 — both birds very carefully identified (GM). Greater Yellow-legs: two Sept 2, Madawaska (GM). Lesser Yellow-legs: two Aug 15 & 30, Lewis (GC). White-rumped Sandpiper: Sept 10, Lewis (no number given) — "first for Essex Co, I believe" (GC). Baird's Sandpiper: Sept 4, Lewis, "second county record I know of" (GC). Herring Gull: small numbers over the inland lakes and rivers; last, Nov 6, Tupper L (JD). Ring-billed Gull: one Nov 12, Ray Brook Pond (JK). Mourning Dove: one Clinton Co, Canada border Sept 20; one Saranac L Sept 30 (HD). Black-billed Cuckoo: one Aug 20, Piseco L (DMcI). Barred Owl: one Aug 16 & 23, Lower Saranac L (GM); one Sept 5, Saranac L (HD). Short-eared Owl: one Oct 26, Gabriels (David Young, HD).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Common Nighthawk: Keji says "Evening of Aug 19 was memorable in that the sky was full of Chimney Swifts, Barn Swallows, some Purple Martins and three or four Nighthawks . . . circling high and low after insects"; nine Aug 23, Saranac L (GM). Chimney Swift: See above, Ray Brook (JK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: good numbers in all areas until Sept 2; one Ray Brook Sept 14 (JK). Belted Kingfisher: one to three thru period Saranac L, Tupper L & Ray Brook. Yellow-shafted Flicker: 40-50 Saranac L late Aug (GM); reported down in numbers this year at Tupper L (JD). Pileated Woodpecker: one reported off and on Saranac L (GM, HD); one Nov 17, Ray Brook (JK). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one off and on through Sept in three regular areas. Hairy Woodpecker: normal in three areas. Downy Woodpecker: same as Hairy. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one female at Ray Brook, Sept 20 (JK). Eastern Kingbird: Aug 23, six at Saranac L (GM), but on the whole numbers seemed down (HD); one Aug 23, Tupper L (JD). Eastern Phoebe: last, one Saranac L Oct 9 (HD), Tupper L Oct 8 (JD), Ray Brook Oct 8 (JK). Traill's Flycatcher: one near Franklin Falls, Aug 23; one in Ross Park Aug 31 (GM). Least Flycatcher: Aug 19, one Saranac L (GM); one Ray Brook (JK). Wood Pewee: two Aug 23, Saranac L ((GM). Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Aug 23 Saranac L (GM); one Aug 20 Piseco L (DMcI). Horned Lark: flock at Gabriels, Sept 23 (David Young). Swal-

lows considered down in numbers over Lower Saranac L by Dr. Meade. Tree Swallow: 50 Sept 5, Tupper L (JD). Rough-winged Swallow: one Aug 20, Ray Brook (JK). Barn Swallow: six Sept 2, Ray Brook (JK). Cliff Swallow: one Aug 31, Saranac L (GM). Purple Martin: Aug 23 at Elizabethtown "latest county record I believe" (GC). Gray Jay: one Cold Brook Aug 23, eight Ross Park Aug 31 (GM); ten Sept 14, Sabbatis Rd. (AA); two same area, Oct 19 & 24 (JD). Blue Jay: conspicuously numerous during migration (GM, HD, JK), 100+ Aug 26. Common Crow: 400 Sept 4, 100 Sept 30, 20 Nov 15, Norman's Ridge (HD). Black-capped Chickadee and both Nuthatches were in usual numbers from all reporters. Boreal Chickadee: in varying numbers in Ross Park (eight-12) Aug 23 to Sept 2 (GM); one at feeder in Ray Brook Nov 28 (JK). Brown Creeper: one Ray Brook Nov 28 (JK); one Tupper L Oct 21 (JD). House Wren: feeding young Aug 16-18 at Tupper L (JD). Winter Wren: one Saranac L Aug 18 (GM). Catbird: one reported from all areas, last one, Ray Brook Sept 22 (JK). Brown Thrasher: one Sept 11, Saranac L (HD); one Sept 22, Tupper L (AA). Robin: good migratory numbers, 100 Aug 31, Saranac L (GM). Hermit Thrush: one Aug 31, Saranac L (GM); one Oct 29, Ray Brook (JK). Swainson's Thrush: one Sept 29, Ray Brook (JK). Veery: last one Aug 21, Ray Brook (JK). Eastern Bluebird: seems on the comeback around Saranac L, last two Oct 17 (HD). Wheatear: one Sept 25, Piseco L (DMcI). Mrs. McIlroy writes: "The bird was feeding, walking on the grass as I drove in. As it flew up to the top of a spruce tree there was no mistaking the tail pattern of the inverted black T formed by the black center and end of the tail with the white inverted U above it . . ." Mrs. McIlroy adds many more convincing details and ends "There is no possibility of mistaking this species especially when I had watched many wheatears last July in Scandinavia." Golden-crowned Kinglet: seems down in numbers though Dr. Meade saw three flocks of five and ten between Aug 23 & Sept 2 around Saranac L. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one singing at Ray Brook Oct 10 (JK); one Oct 23 Tupper L (JD). Water Pipit: one Sept 23, Gabriels (David Young); one Sept 30, Lone Wolf Pond (AA); eight Ray Brook Oct 10 (JK). Cedar Waxwing: left Ray Brook early, 33 Aug 20 (JK); three Sept 10, Saranac L (HD); two Nov 13, Tupper L (JD). Northern Shrike: one Nov 3, Saranac L, this bird was seen in perfect light a few yards from my window (HD). Loggerhead Shrike: one near Franklin Falls Aug 23, one Sept 2, Rocketeller Park (GM).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Solitary Vireo: one singing Sept 21, Ray Brook (JK). Red-eyed Vireo: Oct 4, one Tupper L "seemed fewer this year" (JD). Philadelphia Vireo: one Aug 19, Piseco L (DMcI). Black-and-White Warbler: one Oct. 3, L Placid (HD): Nashville Warbler: one Sept 24, Ray Brook (JK); three Oct 4 Tupper L (JD). Parula Warbler: one Sep 11, Ray Brook (JK). Yellow Warbler: after Aug 18 no exact date or no. given), Piseco L (DMcI). Magnolia Warbler: Aug 26 & Sept 2, Saranac L (GM); one Sept 20, Ray Brook (JK); one Sept 25, Tupper L (JD). Black-throated Blue Warbler: surprisingly few reports. One Aug 12, Saranac L (GM); one Sept 22, Ray Brook (JK). Myrtle Warbler: in all three areas; last, Oct 22, Ray Brook (JK). Black-throated Green Warbler: last one Ray Brook Sept 24 (JK). Blackburnian Warbler: one Aug 26, Saranac L (GM). Chestnut-sided Warbler: Aug 25, Tupper L (JD); Sept 2, Saranac L (GM); Sept 21, one Ray Brook (JK). Bay-breasted Warbler: one Sept 9, Ray Brook, "Ate full grown skipper larvae. Sat still for some minutes after that feast" (JK). Ovenbird: one Sept 26, Ray Brook (JK). Northern Waterthrush: one, Aug 23, Lower Saranac L (GM). Mourning Warbler: one near Union Falls Aug 23 in full breeding plumage (GM). Yellowthroat: at nesting site on Mt. Pisgah until Oct 1 (HD). Wilson's Warbler: one Sept 9, Ray Brook (JK). Canada Warbler: Aug 31, Saranac L (GM). American Redstart: Saranac L thru Sept 2 (GM); Ray Brook, Sept 10 (JK).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: one Aug 31, Ross Park (GM). Eastern Meadowlark: one Oct 26, Tupper L (AA); one Nov 18, Saranac L (HD). Red-winged Blackbird: HD saw few large flicks around Saranac L. but JD

reports "good numbers" at Tupper L; last three, Nov 21 (JD). Baltimore Oriole: one Saranac L Aug 31 (GM); one Tupper L Sept 3 (JD). Rusty Blackbird: last seen Oct 19, Ray Brook (JK); one Nov 15, Tupper L (JD). Common Grackle: 50 Sept 30, Saranac L (HD); no other large flocks reported. Brown-headed Cowbird: 100 on Oct 21, Tupper L (JD); did not arrive in large numbers at Saranac L until Dec 1 (HD). Scarlet Tanager: two Aug 31, Ross Park (GM); two Sept 7, Tupper L (AA); one Sept 30, (late) Ray Brook (JK). Cardinal: one at feeder Nov 20, Tupper L (JD). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last, Saranac L Sept 2 (GM); Ray Brook Sept 8 (JK); Tupper L Sept 14 (JD). Indigo Bunting: one Aug 31, Saranac L (GM); one Oct 1, Ray Brook (JK). Evening Grosbeak: 30 Nov 27, Saranac L (HD); 175 Nov 26, Tupper L (JD). Purple Finch: six Sept 2, Saranac L (GM); one singing off and on Sept 2-27, Ray Brook (JK). Pine Grosbeak: two Nov 20, Ray Brook, ten Nov 22 (JK). Pine Siskin: 25 Oct 11, Ray Brook (JK); very small numbers from other areas. American Goldfinch: ten Nov 26, Saranac L (HD); flocks after Nov 4, Ray Brook (JK). Red Crossbill: one at Lower Saranac L Aug 18 (GM). White-winged Crossbill: one Aug 18, Lower Saranac L, Aug 23-Sept 2, Madawaska (GM); 75 Oct 19, Chubb River (HD). Rufous-sided Towhee: four in area which had been burnt over some time ago, two miles south of Underwood (GM). Savannah Sparrow: two Aug 31, Ross Park (GM); one Oct 1, Ray Brook (JK). Vesper Sparrow: one Ross Park Aug 31 (GM); one Oct 26, Saranac L (HD). Slate-colored Junco: not many reported from any area: 20 Oct 19, Tupper L max (HD). Tree Sparrow, drifting back from the middle of Oct; no large numbers reported. Chipping Sparrow: Saranac L thru Oct 4 (HD); Tupper L Oct 11 (JD); Ray Brook Oct 23 (JK). Field Sparrow: one Aug 26, Saranac L (GM); many Aug 15-30, Tupper L (AA). White-crowned Sparrow: first Sept 27, Ray Brook (JK); Oct 14 & 15 numbers, one Saranac L Nov 24 (late) (HD); migration Sept 28, Tupper L (AA). White-throated Sparrow: no large numbers reported; eight Aug 26, Saranac L (HD); one Nov 22, Tupper L (AA). Fox Sparrow: Keji hit the jack pot with 25+ at Ray Brook Oct 30; last, Nov 24, Saranac L (HD). Swamp Sparrow: two Aug 28, Saranac L (GM); one Oct 1, Ray Brook (JK). Song Sparrow: reported from all areas through late Oct; last, Nov 17, Saranac L (HD).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

## REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

This autumn was a season of contrasts. Two unusually cold months, August and September, were followed by two unseasonably warm ones. Because of this, the growing season at Albany, and in most parts of the region, was the shortest on record — 113 days compared with the average 169. August was unusually cool, with an average temperature (at Albany) of 66.4°, 3.6° cooler than normal. September followed this pattern, with an average temperature of 56.8°, 4.8° less than normal. October was almost as warm, with an average temperature of 55.5°, 4.7° above normal. Precipitation was less than average in August and September, and in October totalled only 0.20 inches, producing severe drought conditions. November, in contrast, was rainy, with a total precipitation of 4.15 inches, 1.45 in. above normal. It was also a warm month, with an average temperature of 44.4°, 5.3° above normal.

The dry shores and mudflats of the lakes and reservoirs caused the prolonged lack of adequate precipitation attracted a considerable number of transient shorebirds in numbers even surpassing those of last summer and fall. The warbler migration was not spectacular, although most observers regarded it as near average. A number of transients, perhaps because of continued mild weather into the latter part of the season, lingered later than usually reported. Prominent among these were Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-and Black-billed Cuckoo, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh-Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Widespread reports of Evening Grosbeaks

in early fall were followed by reports of most other species of our winter finches. These may indicate a considerably larger movement of finches into the region this winter than occurred last year.

Perhaps the most unusual record during this period for the region was that of the Northern Phalarope at Saratoga Lake on the unlikely date of November 17. Other unusual species reported included Double-crested Cormorant, Brant, Blue Goose, Shoveller, Barrow's Goldeneye, Golden Eagle, Pigeon Hawk, Black Rail, Stilt Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Migrant Shrike, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole.

Abbreviations used: Alan Devoe Bird Club — ADBC; Schenectady Bird Club — SBC; Greene County Bird Club — GCBC; or — breasted; com — common; cr — crested; L — Lake; Nisk — Niskayuna; nr — near; R — River; Sar — Saratoga; SCR — Stony Creek Reservoir; VFG — Vischer Ferry Game Management Area; WRes — Watervliet Reservoir; Res — reservoir; Colu — Columbia; Co — County.

Observers: Guy Bartlett — GB; Dirk Benson — DB; James & Barbara Bush — JHB, BB; Philip Clark — PC; Juanita Cook — JC; Hazel Eddy — HE; Paul & Georgia Erlenbach — PE, GE; Mabel French — MWF; John Fuller — JF; Aden Gokay — AG; Vernon Haskins — VH; Esly Hallenbeck — EH; Ralph Kent — RK; Marcia Kent — MK; Eleanor Radke — ER; EMR — Dr. Edgar Reilly, Jr.; ERus — E. Rusack; WBS — Walton Sabin; Benton Seguin — BRS; Rudolph Stone — RS; Robert Wernick — RW; Peter Wickham — PPW; Robert Yunick — RY.

**Loons — Ducks:** Com Loon: first Oct 13, Sar L (PPW), remained in numbers through rest of period, max 10 Sar L Nov 10 (BRS). Red-thr Loon: several reports suggest this species to be a more regular late fall migrant in this area than previously thought: first Nov 9-10, Round L (EH, BRS); other reports Nov 16, 19, 25, 28, Sar L (EH, BRS), max three Sar L Nov 17 (SBC). Red-necked Grebe: reported twice, one Sar L Nov 2 (EH, GB) and three Sar L Nov 17 (SBC). Horned Grebe: first Oct 13, Lock 6, Mohawk R (BRS) and Sar L (PPW), remaining throughout period, max 70 Sar L Nov 16 (PC, BRS). Pied-billed Grebe: several fall records, first Sept 21, two, WRes (BRS), max 20 Sar L Oct 27 (BRS) (also last report). **Double-cr Cormorant:** a group of five was circling Sar L on the late date of Nov 5 (GB, BRS). Great Blue Heron: Common early, max 18 Sept 7, VFG (EH), last Nov 6, VFG (EH). Com Egret: early departure, last Aug 26, VEG (EH). Green Heron: widespread through Sept, max 10 Sept 4-7, VFG (EH), last Oct 20, WRes (RY, RS). Black-crowned Night-heron: lingered to Oct 4, VFG (BRS). Amer Bittern: unreported after Aug 26 (EH). Canada Goose: first flocks reported Sept 21, Ghent (PE, GE) and Sept 30, Vly (JHB); large numbers observed later in the period. **Brant:** five Sar L Oct 19 (BRS) and 28 were there Nov 10 (BRS). Snow Goose: an early flock of 60 flew over Nisk Oct 17 (HE), followed by a well-observed flight in mid-Nov, when 275 were observed in four flocks flying over Sar L Nov 17 (SBC); 60 over East Greenbush Nov 18 (MK); ten over Sar L Nov 28 (BRS). **Blue Goose:** four were observed in a flock of Snow Geese over Sar L Nov 17 (SBC). Gadwall: several reports — two, Nov 2, Alcove Res (SBC); two Nov 5-9, SCR (BRS et al); one Nov 17, Round L (SBC). American Widgeon: Sept 21, VFG (EH, PC); Nov 10, SCR (BRS). Pintail: Sept 30, Vly (JHB); Oct 29, SCR (EH). Green-winged Teal: seen throughout period to Nov 24 (BRS). Blue-winged Teal: lingered late, last Nov 10, SCR (BRS). **Shoveller:** two SCR Nov 5-6 (GB, BRS). Wood Duck: lingered late, last Nov 2 Sar (BRS) and Emboght (JHB). Redhead: five at Sar L Oct 26 (BRS) the lone record. Ring-necked Duck: after early report of two, Oct 4, SCR (BRS), good numbers appeared on Sar L in Nov, max 35 Nov 24 (GB, BRS). Canvasback: one SCR, Oct 5 (SBC), with later reports of six, Round L, Nov 23 (PPW) and one, Sar L, Nov 28 and 30 (BRS). Greater Scaup: one early, SCR, Oct 5 (SBC); many more towards end of period. Lesser Scaup: 1-2 early, Sept 21, SCR, (EH, BRS) through end of period. Goldeneye: first Oct 26, Sar L (BRS), through end of period, max over 500 Nov 28 at Sar L (BRS). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** one drake at Sar L Nov 28 exhibiting mating behavior with a female goldeneye (BRS).

Bufflehead: Nov 2, Sar L (BRS) to end of period, max 40 Sar L Nov 24 (GB, BRS). Oldsquaw: Nov 2, Sar L (BRS) through end of period, max 16 Nov 16 at Sar L (BRS, GB, EH). White-winged Scoter: Nov 9, Sar L (BRS) through end of period, max 36, Sar L, Nov 17 (SBC). Surf Scoter: four female or immature birds at Lock 7 Oct 6 (BRS et al) and one at Sar L Oct 26 (BRS). Com Scoter: a flock of 85 was in Hudson R off Albany Oct 4 (PPW) and a flock of 24 at Lock 6 in the Mohawk R Oct 9 (BRS). Two large flocks totalling about 200 birds passed over Sar L Nov 17, but only one was observed on the lake (SBC). Ruddy Duck: numerous reports from Oct 19 (BRS) to end of period from Sar L; Hudson R (nr Coxsackie); Greenville; Vly and Round L; max 16 Sar L Nov 28 (BRS). Hooded Merganser: three Old Chatham Sept 19 (EMR); later reports from Oct 5 (SBC) through end of period, max 20 Sar L Nov 20 (BRS). Com Merganser: first two, Oct 5, SCR (SBC), most migrants much later, with marked influx at end of period. Red-br Merganser: first Oct 4, SCR (BRS) through end of period.

**Hawks — Owls:** Turkey Vulture: seen in groups of as many as ten in the southern part of the region until Oct 12 (ADBC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported on Sept 7 and 14, VFG (EH), the only reports. Cooper's Hawk: four reports during period. Red-tailed Hawk: a fair migration reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: many records to Nov 14 (BRS). Broad-winged Hawk: no large groups observed, last Oct 5, VFG (BRS). Rough-legged Hawk: several reported during period, first Sept 25, Nisk (RW). **Golden Eagle:** an immature bird, chased by several small passerines, flew over Delmar Nov 4 (DB). Marsh Hawk: several reports concentrated in Sept and early Oct, last Oct 13, SCR (BRS). Osprey: reported occasionally to Oct 12, VFG (EH); an unusually late individual observed at White Birch L near Berne Nov 19 (RK). Peregrine Falcon: lone report, one Nov 2, Burnt Hills (BRS, PC). Pigeon Hawk: Sept 21, VFG (EH) and Oct 5, SCR (SBC). Bob-white: at Meadowdale, Selkirk and Athens during Aug and Sept. Virginia Rail: reported to Sept 19, Vly (JHB, BB). Sora: only record of year, one, Meadowdale, Sept 8 (R. Shedd). Black Rail: one observed Sept 19, Vly, and convincingly described (JHB, BB). Com Gallinule: no fall reports. American Coot: first Sept 26, Vly (JHB) and Sept 28, WRes (PPW) through end of period, max 50 Sar L Nov 2 (BRS, EH). Semipalmated Plover: several were present until Oct 19, VFG (EH, BRS), max 7 Sept 21-22 (EH). Black-bellied Plover: Oct 5, SCR (BRS) — Nov 10, Sar L (PPW); at least five were present in four different locations early in Oct. Woodcock: reported to Nov 9, Tamarack (RY) and Nov 11, Kiskatom (JHB). Common Snipe: good numbers reported, last Nov 10 (EH, BRS). Spotted Sandpiper: some individuals lingered late, last Oct 19, Round L (BRS). Solitary Sandpiper: last Oct 8, Emboght, late (JHB). Greater Yellow-legs: lingered into Nov, last Nov 9, Tomhannock (SBC) and Nov 10, SCR (BRS). Lesser Yellow-legs: last quite late, Nov 9, VFG (GB, PC). Pectoral Sandpiper: good numbers reported, max 15 Oct 5, WRes (BRS), last Nov 10, VFG (EH, BRS). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** one VFG Oct 4 (BRS). Least Sandpiper: most left in Sept, last Nov 2, Emboght (JHB). Dunlin: Sept 25, VFG (EH, PC) — Oct 29, VFG (EH). **Stilt Sandpiper:** one VFG Sept 29 (BRS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: good numbers observed, to Oct 19, VFG (EH), max 20 WRes Sept 20 (BRS). **Western Sandpiper:** one or two VFG to Sept 18 (EH) and one Round L Oct 13 (BRS). Sanderling: none reported. **Northern Phalarope:** an individual in rather light gray-brown fall plumage was seen at close range on Sar L on the remarkable date of Nov 17 (SBC). For a while, the bird was associated, strangely enough, with a small group of Oldsquaw. Great Black-backed Gull: no reports. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were commonly seen. No terns were reported. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: a few lingered late, last Oct 15, Castleton (JC). Black-billed Cuckoo: reported even later, last Oct 25. Ghent (PE, GE) and Nov 1, Athens (JHB). Barn Owl: one was found dead in Claverack Sept 16 (fide EMR). Long-eared Owl: one Old Chatham Oct 20 (PPW). Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls were reported occasionally.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Nighthawk: good numbers seen in migration, especially about Sept 1, last Sept 21, Schenectady (BRS). Chimney Swift: disappeared early, last Sept 4, Colu Co (ADBC). Ruby-thr. Hummingbird: reported to Sept 22, VFG (EH) in fair numbers. Flicker: reported until Oct 27 by several observers, after which time most migrants had presumably departed. Yellow-bell. Sapsucker: most passed through Sept 15-Oct 15, extremes Aug 19, Canaan (AG) and Nov 13, Catskill (Dr. W. Myers). **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker:** one appeared Oct 9, Catskill (JHB) and another Oct 16 at Schenectady (I. S. Jacobs) in the locality where the species was reported last year. Eastern Kingbird: last Sept 21 (ADBC). Crested Flycatcher: last reported Sept 10, Colu Co (ADBC) and Sept 11, Catskill (JHB, BB). Phoebe: reported to Oct 20, Catskill (JHB). Empidonax, species?: two individuals of this group were at VFG Oct 5 (BRS). Wood Pewee: last Sept 17, Catskill (JHB). Olive-sided Flycatcher: a late migrant reported at WRes Oct 5 (BRS). Tree Swallow: last Sept 25, VFG (EH). Bank Swallow: last Sept 8, Emboght (JHB). Rough-winged Swallow: late date Sept 1, Emboght (JHB, BB). Barn Swallow: last Sept 28, VFG (RW). Cliff Swallow: last Sept 4, Canaan (AG). Purple Martin: unreported during period. **Boreal Chickadee:** one nr Sar L Nov 17 (SBC). Tufted Titmouse: noticeable increase throughout area. Red-br Nuthatch: good migration, remaining in a few areas at end of period. House Wren: last Oct 27 (ADBC). Winter Wren: reported Sept 21 (ADBC) — Oct 24 (MWF). Carolina Wren: no reports. Long-billed Marsh-Wren: last reported Nov 2, Emboght (JHB). Mockingbird: Sep and Oct reports at Loudonville (MWF), Scotia (SBC), Castleton (JC) and Colonie (JF). These were apparently wandering individuals. Catbird: irregularly recorded through Oct, last Oct 29, VFG (EH). Brown Thrasher: last specific date Oct 4 (BRS). Wood Thrush: late, last Oct 27, Ghent (PE, GE). Hermit Thrush: few reported, last Oct 27, Meadowdale (RY, RS). Swainson's Thrush: good migration: Sept 9, Loudonville (MWF); Nov 5, Catskill (JHB) with a number of records in late Oct. Bluebird: most observers optimistic about numbers present, last Nov 20, Durham (VH). Golden-cr Kinglet: Sept 15, Black Mountain, where it may breed (WBS, PPW); first migrants Oct 3, Castleton (JC). Ruby-cr Kinglet: Sept 8, Colu Co (ADBC); Nov 6, Catskill (BB). Water Pipit: very common this year, reported from many areas, Sept 21, WRes (BRS); Nov 10, SCR (BRS). **Migrant Shrike:** one was seen on the rather late date of Nov 24 nr Round L (GB, BRS). No other shrikes were reported during the period.

**Vireos—Warblers:** A fairly good fall migration was reported by most observers, with the bulk of the birds passing through Sept 8-25. Early and late dates for each species are given when available. Yellow-thr Vireo: last Sept 23 (RW). Solitary Vireo: Aug 24 (SBC) — Sept 28 (ER). Red-eyed Vireo: few reports in Sept, last Sept 28 (ADBC). Warbling Vireo: last Sept 6 (ADBC). Black-and-White Warbler: last Sept 16 (MWF). Bluewinged Warbler: last Sept 9 (ADBC). Tennessee: last Oct 3 (ER). Nashville: Aug 24 (SBC)—Sept 15 (PPW, JF). Parula: Sept 12 (PPW)—Oct 1 (B. Waite. Yellow: last Sept 2 (EH). Magnolia: Sept 7 (MWF)—Oct 20 (JHB, BB). Cape May: Sept 17 (HE) — Oct 5 (GCBC). Black-thr Blue: Aug 30 (HE) — Sept 14 (MWF). Myrtle: good numbers, last Nov 10 (PPW). Black-thr Green: many reported, last Oct 4 (MWF) and 5 (PE, GE). Blackburnian: Aug 20 (ER) — Sept 14 (PPW). Chestnut-sided: last Sept 16 (MWF). Bay-breasted: good numbers, Sept 7-16 (MWF). Blackpoll: Sept 6 (MWF) — Oct 20 (JHB, BB). Pine: Sept 14 (PPW) — Sept 20 (BB). Palm: last Oct 5 (SBC). Ovenbird: last Sept 15 (MWF, PPW). Northern Water-thrush: Sept 4 (MWF) — Sept 16 (PE, GE). **Connecticut Warbler:** one female, Loudonville Sept 15 (MWF). Yellow-throat: last Oct 28 (PE, GE). **Yellow-br Chat:** one Caskill Sept 16 (ERus). Wilson's Warbler: three reports, Sept 6 (MWF), Sept 22 (WBS) and Oct 2 (JC). Canada Warbler: Sept 5 (MWF) — Oct 4 (BRS). Redstart: last Sept 16 (RW).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: good flocks in late Aug, early Sept, last Sept 15, Meadowdale (PPW). Redwing: no enormous flocks sighted, last Nov 21, Catskill (JHB). Orchard Oriole: three were at Castleton from



Aug 22 until Sept 19, a rather late date (JC), although none were known to breed this year. Baltimore Oriole: one was at Ghent on the late date of Oct 2; otherwise the late reports fell in the first half of Sept. Rusty Blackbird: good numbers reported, first Sept 10, Ghent (PE, GE) and Sept 22, Meadowdale (WBS), last Nov 24, Vischer Ferry (GB, BRS). Scarlet Tanager: good numbers of migrants reported, last Sept 30, Catskill (JHB, BB). Cardinal: this species has become a widespread, fairly common resident. Rose-br. Grosbeak: late birds were seen at Lock 7 Oct 4 (RW) and Ghent Oct 22 (PE, GE). Indigo Bunting: last Oct 10, Castleton (JC). Evening Grosbeak: appeared early in Oct in small flocks throughout region, first Sept 23, Lisha Kill (RW). By the end of the period, large numbers of the species were in the region, in contrast to last year. Purple Finch: a few were reported throughout the period. Pine Grosbeak: a report of five on West Mountain Nov 19 (RK) the only report. Redpoll: a flock of 30 nr Bryantville Nov 2 (RY). Pine Siskin: there was a large influx of this species in Nov, following first reports in Colu Co Oct 17 (ER, PE, GE). Flocks of 85 and 100-150 birds were among those reported. Red Crossbill: a small group of this species was seen at Bolton Landing Sept 6 (BRS). The birds had apparently been present there for at least two weeks. White-winged Crossbill: a small flock was at Ghent Oct 20 (PE, GE), and a dead individual was picked up in Rensselaerville Nov 27 after hitting a window (MK). Towhee: last Oct 12, Old Chatham (PPW). Savannah Sparrow: last report Oct 25 (ADBC). Vesper Sparrow: last Oct 21, Athens (JHB, BB). Tree Sparrow: reappeared early, first Oct 12, VFG (EH). Chipping Sparrow: last Oct 26, Catskill (JHB). Field Sparrow: last noted Oct 19, VFG (EH). White-cr Sparrow: good numbers noted during migration, Sept 22 (JC) — Oct 19 (EH, HE). White-thr Sparrow: fair numbers during migration, Aug 24 (SBC) — Nov 12 (RW). Fox Sparrow: unusually high numbers noted from Oct 5 (ADBC, SBC) — Nov 18 (JHB, BB) with as many as 35 being reported in a day. Lincoln's Sparrow: reported Oct 5-25 at Ghent (PE, GE) for the only record. Swamp Sparrow: reported to Nov 10 (RY) with a few wintering individuals remaining. Snow Bunting: first reported Oct 28 (fide MK) and widely recorded in Nov.

Box 465A, RFD#4, Troy

---

## REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

November provided only a few inches of rainfall and thereby continued the dry spell which has been with us so many months now. October did not produce any measurable rainfall. There was no snow in the region to the end of the period. Temperatures remained unusually mild till late November; well above the seasonal average.

Most reporters were rather unimpressed with the movements of birds through the region, and attributed it to the mild unchanging weather. Rockland Co however, which was fortunate enough to have a number of seasoned birders in the field almost daily through the month of Sept, reported excellent waves on Aug 29, Sept 6, 11, 16 and Oct 2. All were in mid-week.

The influx of northern visitors which was better than usual would indicate a possible seed failure to the north. This is certainly not the condition here. Most conifers are loaded, and the abundance of acorns, nuts, berries and other fruit may well be at its peak.

Contributors: Clubs — MBC, Mearns Bird Club; RAS — Rockland Audubon Society; SAS — Sullivan Audubon Society; WBC — Waterman Bird Club. Individuals: BA — Bob Augustine; EB — Enid Butler; PC — Pauline Chernick; SD — Scott Dearolf; RFD — Robert F. Deed; M, JD — Margaret and John Dye; PG — Pat Garthwaite; FG — Florence Germond; SOG — Stanley O. Grierson; JG — Joseph Grossman; THa — Thelma Haight; Dr. MH — Dr. Marjorie Hopper; FH — Fred Hough; MH — Marshall Howe; TH — T. Howe; MI — Mort Isler; J, MK — Jim and Mary Kay; HK — H. Killam; ML — Mabel Little; PM — Peg Moon; PJ — Paul Jeheber; AJ —

Alice Jones; RO — Ralph Odell; JCO — John C. Orth; BP — Barbara Peters; EP — Eleanor Pink; AP — Alma Polhemus; JS — James Soughward; FS — Frank Steffens; MV — Marian Van Wagner; OW — Otis Waterman; AW — Albert Weeks.

Abbreviations: imm — immature; Is — Island; L — Lake; max — maximum.

**Loons — Ducks:** Common Loon: Sparsely reported; one Oct 16 (early), in immature plumage at Mt. Kisco, West (SOG). Red-necked Grebe: Usually unreported on fall migration; one late bird on the Hudson at Croton Pt. Nov 11 (BA). Pied-billed Grebe: Described as a good year in Dutch. Present throughout region till the close of the period. Great Blue Heron: Usual numbers for most of the region. Good numbers in the vicinity of Basher Kill, Sull (MBC). Green Heron: Usually gone by mid-Nov, left Dutch by mid-Oct with the last report Oct 9. A late bird lingered at Hawthorne in West till Nov 17 (BA). Snowy Egret: Rock reported its fourth record on Aug 21 at Lake DeForest (MI); another bird reported at Elmsford West on Sept 1 (BA, MH). Common Egret: None reported. Black-crowned Night Heron: Only one reported from Dutch on Oct 1 at Hopewell Junction; several reports from West. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: one imm at Hawthorne, West Sept 1 (BA, MH). Least Bittern: two reports, one at Basher Kill, Sull Sept 7 (MBC) and one at Iona Is Rock Sept 13 (JCO). American Bittern: One Tri-Loba Hill Sanct. Katonah, West Oct 13 (SOG); observed again on the 14th. Waterfowl: Rock had about its best fall season for numbers, variety and early dates. Most other counties seem normal to below. This again might indicate the difference between daily birding and birding only on the weekends. Mute Swan: In very large numbers for Rock, nearly one hundred birds in the Congers area. Canada Goose: Migration normal, first flock Sept 30 in Dutch. Snow Goose: Better than usual reports; first in Rock Oct 4 with 130 at Blauvelt (RFD); fifteen over Shrub Oak Nov 3 (RO); 80 over Ft. Montgomery Nov 17 (JCO). From Nov 18 to 20, 650 birds were reported over West Point, Oran; forty Nov 30 over Chappaqua, West (TH). Mallard & Black Duck: Populations normal. Pintail: two at Todd Sanct., Katonah Sept 26 (SOG); nine on Swan L Sull Nov 3 (SAS). Teal: Both species made record early dates in Rock, five Green-winged on Congers L Sept 7, remained the rest of the month (MI), and six Blue-winged at Piermont Pier on Sept 2 (RFD); both species bettered this date by one day when they were reported on Pocantico Res Sept 1 (BA, MH). Populations and dates were normal elsewhere. American Widgeon: Three extremely early on Congers L Aug 29 (MI). Wood Duck: Many reports received. Possibly indicates a rise in population. Ring-necked Duck: New early date of Oct 5 for Rock (MI). Scaup: Only one report, that of three birds at Crugar's Is Dutch on Oct 26 (JS). Bufflehead: Appeared Oct 30 in West with a total of 26 birds reported over two localities (SD). Hooded Merganser: A high count of 26 on two Bear Mt. lakes Nov 17 (JCO). Common Merganser. Twelve Oct 27 at Cruger's Is. Previous early date Nov 15 for Dutch. Red-breasted Merganser: always rare, one on Swan L Sull Nov 10 (HK).

**Hawks — Owls:** Raptors were normal to below, with no reports of waves. The tremendous movement of 16,000+ Broad-wings reported at Hawk Mt., Pa. on Sept 14, either did not materialize here, or went unnoticed. Turkey Vulture: last observed in Bear Mt. Park in mid-Oct (JG); peak movement on Sept 21 and 22 Dutch, with the last on Nov 5 (EP). Goshawk: One Anthony's Nose Nov 5 (RO). Sharp-shinned Hawk: All reports from Dutch; six birds in all; dates normal. Cooper's Hawk: Only one bird reported from Neversink, Sull Oct 11 (PC). Red-tailed Hawk: Very scarce. Red-shouldered Hawk: Only three reported, all from Dutch. Broad-winged Hawk: New early date for migrant in Rock, Sept 7 (MI); no flights reported. Rough-legged Hawk: One Oct 29 at Stone Ridge, Ulst, quite early (FH). Golden Eagle: On Nov 29, John Howell rounded a sharp corner in a wooded section of South Salem, West, and was startled by the sight of a bird of this species not more than ten feet away feeding on a rabbit. Bald Eagle: Very few re-

ported so far; two sure records for West and three for Sull. Marsh Hawk: Only reports come from Dutch, where eight birds this fall are more than the past two years. Osprey: fewer than usual. Rock produced a July record for the species, the first for that county. Sparrow Hawk: Scarce throughout the region for the period. Ruffed Grouse: Appear to be a peak population throughout region. Pheasant: Good numbers; some reporters feel they may have been stocked. Clapper rail: one walking across the road under the Tappan Zee Bridge at Grand View, on Sept 4 (Dr. MH). Virginia rail: Only two reported, one at Basher Kill on Sept 7 (MBC); and one at Cruger's Is Oct 27 (JS). Sora: One Sept 11 at Grassy Pt. Rock (MI); another at Cruger's through the month of Sept. (THa); two birds were observed at the latter location on Oct 27 (JS). Common Gallinule: Four at Congers L Rock Sept 4 to Sept 18, three at Grassy Pt. Rock Sept 11 (MI), and one at Basher Kill, Sull on Sept 7 (MBC). Coot: Max of 60 at Cruger's Is Oct 27 (JS). Shorebirds: Once again with reservoirs and lakes at their lowest in years, shorelines and mudflats lured more than normal numbers to stop and stay a while. Killdeer: Numbers better than usual. Golden Plover: four birds, one with a great deal of summer plumage, at Brown's res., Newburgh Sept 16 (MBC); two birds at Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River on Sept 13 made the second record for Rock (FS). Woodcock: Numerous reports, peak in Dutch about Oct 11; numbers persisted through first half of Nov. Common Snipe: Max of seven birds on Oct 27 Dutch (EB). Upland Plover: One bird observed all summer at Middletown, Oran may very well have bred (PM). Solitary Sandpiper: Reported several times, one Oct 27 (very late) Dutch (JS). Pectoral Sandpiper: Good numbers this fall; eight Dutch in Sept; six Rock from Sept 6 to Oct 5. White-rumped Sandpiper: At least three and perhaps as many as ten in a flock of peeps at Piermont Pier Sept 2 (RFD). Least Sandpiper: New late date for Rock; six at L DeForest Oct 5 (MI). Short-billed Dowitcher: Rock's fourth record with one bird in bright plumage at L DeForest on Aug 11 (MI). Great Black-backed Gull: Uncommon in Dutch, two reported there this fall, one Oct 26 at Vanderburg's Cove, (AJ) and another Nov 6 at New Hamburg (OW). Black Tern: Second Rock record, one Sept 14 at Grassy Pt. (Dr. MH, AP). **Common Puffin:** one, Rhinebeck, Sept 27 (Mrs. Conrad Gierisch) (see field notes section — this issue). Mourning Dove: Numbers appear to be down throughout the region. Owls: Normal reports of resident species. Saw-whet Owl: Only one, Storm King Mt. Oran on Nov 17 (RAS).

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Common Nighthawk: Migration poor everywhere but West where 138 were observed over Hawthorne on Aug 26, and 185 on Sept 7 (BA). Chimney Swift: An Oct 18 record at Cornwall, Oran ties Rock's late date (M, JD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Twenty-five seen on Sept 8 at Cruger's Is must be some kind of a record, (J, MK). Kingfisher: Nothing unusual reported; appears to remain low in numbers. Pileated Woodpecker: Continues to increase, though slowly. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** One, again at the home of Robert Froman, Garnerville, Rock where it appeared last Jan and Feb. Seen and heard many times since Sept 20. Red-headed Woodpecker: Single birds reported from West and Sull, and two from Dutch. No change in resident status. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Most areas report a good migration. Hairy and Downy Woodpecker: No change. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: A female in Hawthorne on Nov 26 (BA). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: One observed regularly from Aug 27 to Sept 2 in Hawthorne (BA). Least Flycatcher: New late date of Oct 9 in Naurausaun, Rock (RFD). Dutch reports a heavy movement of Empidonax in general. Pewee: Heavy fall migration. Olive-sided Flycatcher: Excellent movement in West; three birds at Basher Kill on Sept 7 (MBC), and one Sept 4 near New City Rock (MI). Horned Lark: Summured well in Oran & Dutch, though numbers were low. Migrants were in good numbers in Oran, with hundreds traveling with hundreds of pipits at Washingtonville on Oct 19 (MBC). Swallows: Migration uneventful except for a count of 300 Cliff Swallows at Bangall, Dutch (no date) (EP). Purple Martins were moving by Aug 15 when one was found in Rock (MI). **Gray**

**Jay:** First confirmed record for Dutch, one bird at a feeder in Rhinebeck from Oct 15 until Nov 1 (AJ, WBC). Blue Jay: Flights modest. Fish Crow: Always rare, one Oct 19 at Pleasantville, West (BA). Boreal Chickadee: One at Hawthorne on the early date of Nov 2, increased to two by the end of the period (BA); one at Pleasantville Nov 9 (MH). Red-breasted Nuthatch: Very heavy migration, especially in Rock & Dutch. Too many reports to list. House Wren: Late dates in Oran, Oct 1; Dutch, Oct 12; and Ulst, Oct 19. Winter Wren: Only reports from Dutch, where five were found in Oct. Carolina Wren: Numbers very low, only two reports both from Cornwall Sept 13-14 and Nov 30. Mockingbird: We'll soon stop remarking about this species as it continues to become more common. Once again reports are too numerous to mention. Rock has as many as two or three birds in eight or nine locations, and Oran has about a half dozen established. Thrushes: Generally normal. Rock reported an early Swainson's one Sept 5 at West Nyack (RW), and a new late date for Veery on Oct 7 at Congers (Dr. MH). Bluebird: Numbers definitely up. Good movements in Ulst and Dutch. The latter reported 50-60 birds this fall. Kinglets: Both species reported more scarce than usual. Water Pipit: Good movement in Dutch, and exceptionally good in Oran. Peak Oct 19-26. **Bohemian Waxwing:** one (first record for Dutch) with a flock of Cedar Waxwings in the vicinity of Rochdale from Nov 26 to Dec 1 (PG, MK). Cedar Waxwing: Good numbers in Oran, but no change reported elsewhere. Northern Shrike: One Oct 21 Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MV). Loggerhead Shrike: One on Haverstraw marsh Sept 5 (MI); and two, one adult and one imm at Pine Plains Sept 11-12 (MK et al).

**Vireos — Warblers:** Yellow-throated Vireo: Several early Sept. reports; one Oct 2 (late) at Cornwall (MD). Solitary Vireo: None reported from most of the region; one Sept 7 (early) at Basher Kill (MBC). Red-eyed Vireo: Oct 14 (late) at Hawthorne (BA). Warblers: as mentioned previously, the rather even weather conditions allowed the warblers to move through in a continuous procession without any spectacular pushes reported; more than the usual number of rarities in Rock. Brewster's Warbler: This hybrid reported twice, Aug 18 on Low Tor, Rock (MI), and Sept 7 at Basher Kill (MBC). Lawrence's Warbler: Aug 17 at Hawthorne (BA). Tennessee Warbler: New early date for Rock of Sept 6 (MI). Orange-crowned Warbler: two reports; one bird at a bird bath daily from Sept 15-20 in Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MV); another at Hawthorne, West Sept 23 (BA). Nashville Warbler: Five reports from Oran from Sept 7 to Oct 2 (MBC). Cape May Warbler: One very early bird on Aug 29 at New City, Rock (MI); Peak of ten birds in Dutch on Sept 21. Myrtle Warbler: A fair movement late in the season through Putn (ML). Blackpoll Warbler: 75 (peak) on Sept 21 in Dutch. Rock tied its earliest date of Sept 6 with three birds on Haverstraw marsh (MI). Oran had a very late bird on Nov 9 at Cornwall (M, JD). Palm Warbler: New early date for Rock of Sept 18 at Grassy Pt. (MI). Northern Waterthrush: An early bird on Sept 6 in Rock (MI). Connecticut Warbler: Rare but constant fall migrant; at least four birds in West, three in Rock and one in Oran. Mourning Warbler: Very rare in fall. Three birds reported: one very early in West Aug 19 at Hawthorne (BA), one Sept 11 at Haverstraw (MI) and another Sept 29 at Pleasant Valley, Dutch (MV). Canada Warbler: One late bird on Oct 2 at Cornwall (MD).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: Twenty-six reports for Sept in Dutch. **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** One unconfirmed report of a bird of this unmistakable description seen by a student at St. Joseph's Normal Institute at Barrytown, Dutch on Sept 11 and 12; and reported by Brother Robert Damian to WBC. Baltimore Oriole: A very late bird on Nov 25 at Hawthorne (BA). Rusty Blackbird: Many reports; First Sept 23 in West, and Sept 24 in Oran. Common Grackle: Moved through in the usual large numbers. Cardinal: A male and female were feeding two young in Cornwall on the very late date of Oct 30 (MD). Indigo Bunting: Last date of Oct 8 at Pleasant Valley (FG). Dickcissel: Six birds in Dutch, and one in Ulst. Evening Grosbeak: Reported from every county; flocks are generally small; arrived Oct 8 in

West, and shortly thereafter throughout the rest of the region. Purple Finch: Low in numbers compared with last spring. House Finch: This is another species for the northern counties to be on the alert for. Four were at the feeder of Dr. MH in Upper Nyack on Nov 16, and the population in West has increased several times over last year. Pine Grosbeak: Only reports from West; first arrived on Nov 12 at Pleasantville (TH); a flock of 30 at South Salem Nov 25 (AW). Pine Siskin: Many, many reports; some flocks of very great size; first reported Oct 19 in Dutch. Goldfinch: Many everywhere. Red Crossbill: Several small flocks in Rock, West and Oran. White-winged Crossbill: reported from most areas; some flocks of considerable size. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Sept 18 at Hawthorne (BA) and one at Highland Mills on Oct 5 (MBC). Lark Sparrow: one at Basher Kill on Oct 14 (BP). Slate-colored Junco: arrived early in most areas, Sept 7 in Oran and mid-Sept elsewhere. Pink-sided Junco: Oct 5 at Upper Nyack (Dr. MH). Tree Sparrow: Rock had by far the earliest date of Oct 5 when two were observed at Grassy Pt. (Dr. MH). Numbers were high as usual by the end of the period. Chipping Sparrow: Late date of Nov 26 in Pleasantville, West (MH). White-crowned Sparrow: another unusually good year; many reports; birds arrived early in Oct and were pretty well through by the 21st. White-throated Sparrow: new early date for Rock of Sept 14 (MI). Fox Sparrow: arrived early and in good numbers, and were reported as staying late in Putn (ML). Lincoln's Sparrow: Three in West on Oct 5; six Dutch; one Ulst. In all a good season for this species. Snow Bunting: first arrived at Mohonk, Ulst on Nov 7; in Sull Nov 15, and in Rock, Nov 23.  
Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls

---

## REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST and GUY A. TUDOR

Two words describe the weather for Aug and Sep — cold and dry. It was the coldest Sep in 75 years. In contrast Oct was warmer than usual although the drought continued. The drought was so severe that the state's woodlands were closed from Oct 12 until early Nov. The mild and dry weather continued during Nov (there being no cold periods during the month and temperatures remaining above freezing throughout), except that several heavy rainfalls, at the beginning and end of the month, resulted in above average precipitation (over eight inches).

Observers throughout the region were unanimous about the passerine migration during Aug and Sep; "poor", "something of a disappointment", "less birds than last year", etc. During the period Aug 27 to Oct 31, Terry, banding at Tiana Beach, netted only 1953 birds (in 1708 net hours) as compared with 2883 last year (in 1515 net hours). Raynor reports that there were "few nights with winds suitable for bringing migrants to eastern Long Island". His sentiments were echoed again and again by observers in that part of our region. In the western part of the region, Post reports hearing large numbers of migrants practically every night throughout the period (and well into Dec) in northern Manhattan, suggesting that weather conditions here were not suitable for grounding migrants. On western L. I., the biggest flights from Aug to Oct occurred on Aug 25 and on Oct 1 and 5, with the passage of cold fronts, supplying high counts for several species. On Oct 1, 93 species of landbirds (22 warblers, 12 sparrows) were identified along the coastal strip.

With Nov the situation changed completely. If this month is any indication of what is in store, observers should be prepared for one of the most ornithologically noteworthy winters in many years. The highlight of the period was the crossbill (both species) invasion which may well be one of the most spectacular Nov migrations within historic times. Many species appeared in extraordinary numbers — Snow Goose, Water Pipit, Dickcissel

and Goldfinch, to name but a few. There was also a good flight of Blue Jays, Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Noteable rarities included Eared Grebe, Corn Crane, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, Boreal Chickadee, Prothonotary, Black-throated Gray, and Townsend's warblers, Yellow-headed Blackbird, western and Summer Tanagers, and Black-headed Grosbeak. In addition, there were the usual reports of such regular fall migrants as Western Kingbirds, Blue Grosbeaks, Clay-colored Sparrows, Lark Sparrows, etc.

Abbreviations used: Max — Maximum one day count during the period; mob — many observers; JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; Strip — Jones Beach and the Kockaway Peninsula (including Kiss Park); In the following locations only the first word is used — Ft. Tryon Park, Inwood Hill Park, Jones Beach, Moriches Inlet, Pelham Bay Park, Prospect Park, Kiss Park, Uiana Beach and Van Cortlandt Park; AMNH — American Museum of Natural history.

Contributors frequently cited: Irwin Alperin — IA; Ken Berlin — KB; Irving Cantor — IC; Matthew Cashman — MC; Richard Conen — KC; Thomas Davis — TD; Adrian Dignan — AD; Frank Enders — FE; Robert Fisher — RF; Benjamin Gilbert — BG; Michael Gocheid — MG; Earl Good — EG; Joseph Horowitz — JH; Klaus Kaufman — KK; Michel Kleinbaum — MK; Roy Latham — RL; Emanuel Levine — EL; Wesley Lanyon — WL; Edward Maguire — EM; Kevin Malone — KM; Pauline Messing — PM; Lee Morgan — LM; William Norse WN; Hugh Pemuelton — HP; Richard Runkert — RP; Peter Post — Dennis Puleston — DP; Daniel Riererty — DR; Susan Raices — SR; Gilbert Raynor — GR; Si Stepinoif — SS; Walter Terry — WT; Guy Tudor — GT; Cornelius Ward — CW; LeRoy Wilcox — LW; Alvin Wollin — AW; Charles Young — CY; John Yrizarry — JY.

Note: Unless a specific number is indicated, all records refer to single birds. Total reports include netted birds.

**Loons — Ducks:** Red-necked Grebe: Nov 2, JBWR (GR, DP). Eared Grebe: Oct 5 to present, JBWR (JY, et al) — one present here last year arrived Oct 14. Any statement on the pelagic migration would suffer from lack of data; no sea-trips were taken and observations from shore were infrequent. Movement of Cory's Shearwaters off Fire Is on Sep 13-14, including at least one Sooty, one Greater and one Wilson's Petrel (AD, RC). Up to 150 Cory's present off Montauk, Oct 12-Nov 5 (RF, et al). Gannet: max 800, Nov 3, Montauk (GT, MK); Great Cormorant (migrants): two, Oct 19, Montauk, (GT). Double-crested Cormorant (migrants): 20, Nov 5, Montauk (TD, FE). Common Egret: six, Nov 30, JBWR (JY). Snowy Egret: 32 Nov 30, JBWR (FE). Both species normally linger late, but not in such numbers. Little Blue Heron: Oct 26, JBWR (TD, GT) — late. Glossy Ibis: three present to Nov 9, one present to Nov 30, JBWR (FE, et al) — latest record for region.

Whistling Swan: two (FE) and six flying over (KB), Nov 23, JBWR — most reports are usually of single birds; Nov 30, Tobay (mob). Canada Goose flight started early and extended to end of period — earliest Aug 25, Kiss (RP, RF); max 1000+, Sep 12 Huntington (IA). Brant: 715, Nov 3, Ft. Tryon (PP, JH) — birds coming down the Hudson turning SE at this point. Apparently Bronx Park lies on this little-known flightline as flocks of brant have been seen here during third week in May. Many moderate-sized flocks of Snow Geese reported: max counts — 200, Nov 8-12, Tobay (IA); 100, Nov 16-17, Short Beach (CW); 75, Nov 18, Pelham (DR); Herb Johnson saw a total of 700 moving through JBWR during one week in Nov. Blue Goose: 14, Nov 10, Jones (AD) — only sizeable flock ever reported that was unaccompanied by Snow Geese; three, Nov 20, Patchogue (SS). Gadwell: max 151, Nov 28, Babylon (GR). Shoveler: max 200, Nov 17, JBWR (WN). European Widgeon: two, Nov 3, Hook Pond (HP, EG) — has greatly decreased since mid-1950's. American Widgeon: sample max counts — 4000, Oct 27, JBWR (WN, PP); 450, Nov

9, Hook Pond (GR); 150, Nov 28, Van Cortlandt (WN). Canvasback: max 420, Nov 30, JBWR (FE) — better than previous years here. White-winged Scoter: 175+, Aug 28, Orient Harbor (IA) — large number for this date. Ruddy Duck: max 520, Nov 15, Jerome Reservoir (FE). Hooded Merganser: max 100+, Nov 17, JBWR (WN).

**Hawks — Owls:** The coastal hawk movement was unimpressive (CW). Puleston's observation that "winter birds of prey are much scarcer than usual" at Brookhaven can be applied to the region as a whole. Turkey Vulture: Sep 23, Van Cortlandt (PP); Nov 19, Huntington (EL) — rare in Region 10 especially on L.I. Goshawk: adult, Nov 24, Gilgo (CW, T. Lomand). Ward remarked that accipiters were very scarce along the coast. Broad-winged Hawk: seven, Aug 18, Greenwood Cemetery (J. Nielsen) — early flight. Rough-legged Hawk: seven reports, earliest Nov 3, Montauk (HP, EG). Ospreys "scarce along the beaches this fall" (CW). Peregrine Falcon: max 12, Sep 28, Fire Is (CW). Pigeon Hawk: recorded from Aug 25, Jones (MG, GT, JH) to Nov 25, Speonk (GR); max 40, Sep 28, Fire Is (CW). Cohen reported heavy movement of small falcons on Sep 22 (250-300) and Sep 30 (150) at Fire Is. Ruffed Grouse: "Quite common this year at Manorville and Upton" (GR); "Population on L.I. appears to be up this year" (IA). Bobwhite: pair with nine newly-hatched chicks, Sep 13, Northport (E.T. Mudge) — a very late brood, but not unprecedented. King Rail: Aug 24-Sep 8, Moriches (DP); Oct 17, Brookhaven (DP). Corn Crane: see Field Note section for details, Nov 2, Orient (RL) — first N.Y. specimen since 1888.

Shorebirds were excellent this fall at JBWR; 20 species were seen on Aug 25 and 15 species on Oct 26. Oystercatcher: breeding pair last seen at Shinnecock on Sep 25 (LW). Golden Plover: one to five present at JBWR, Aug 18-Oct 12 (mob); eight reports from eastern L.I.: max 16, Oct 15, Orient (RL); latest Nov 9, Easthamton (GR). Ruddy Turnstone: max 200, Aug 17, Moriches (RP, RF). Woodcock: max 6, Sep 22, Jones (MG). Upland Plover: Sep 14, Riis (WN). Spotted Sandpiper: Nov 8, Central Park (PM) — very late. Willet: max 30, Aug 17, Moriches (RP, RF); Oct 26, JBWR (GT, LM) — late. Knot: max 300, Sep 8, Short Beach (MK). Purple Sandpiper: Sep 7-8, Short Beach (MK, CW) — one here on Jul 2, 1961 and a bird of the year on Jul 31, 1961 at Gull Is indicate that an occasional individual migrates early: they were consorting with other shorebirds on the flats. Pectoral Sandpiper: Oct 29, Moriches (SS) — late. Baird's Sandpiper: Oct 12, JBWR (WN, IC). Long-billed Dowitcher: Sep 7, JBWR (MK, JH); Sep 20, JBWR (WN); 12, Oct 26, JBWR (GT). Stilt Sandpiper: max 30, Aug 18, JBWR (MK); Oct 26, JBWR (GT, J.M. TD) — very late. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Sep 14, JBWR (MC, et al). Marbled Godwit: Sep 7, Moriches (GR); Sep 28-Oct 26, JBWR (mob) — rare this fall. Hudsonian Godwit: seven, Aug 17-23, Moriches (GR); one to two, Aug 25-Oct 26, JBWR (mob). Northern Phalarope: Aug 25-Sep 14, JBWR (mob); Aug 31, Hemstead Reservoir (EL, CW); Sep 7, Moriches (DP, GR). Wilson's Phalarope: one to two, Aug 25-Sep 14, JBWR (mob); two, Sep 7, Moriches (DP, GR).

Pomarine Jaeger: three, Aug 22, Fire Is (IA). Parasitic Jaeger: Sep 14, Riis (WN). Unidentified jaegers: two, Aug 31, Fire Is (RC); two, Oct 12, Montauk (RF). Glaucous Gull: Oct 27, JBWR (J. Price, et al) — only "white-wing" gull report! Black-headed Gull: the summering bird at JBWR was last seen on Oct 19. Forster's and Black Terns were scarce this fall. Caspian Tern: two, Sep 28, Fire Is (RC); seven, Oct 10, Tiana (LW). Black Skimmer: max 400 until Sep 29, 250 until Nov 10, JBWR (mob). Dovekie: Nov 30, Jones (KM) — only Alcid. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: seven reports on Strip from Oct 1-Oct 12; two, Oct 19, Montauk (GT); Oct 27, Little Neck (S. Yeaton) — a late coastal flight that included only one Black-billed: Oct 5, Riis (PP, GT). Barn Owl: Nov 17-18, Pelham (CY, DR). Snowy Owl: Nov 16 to present. Short Beach (mob); Nov 20, Smith Pt, Fire Is (IA). Barred Owl: Nov 17-18, Pelham (CY, DR). Long-eared Owl: early movement in city parks — Sep 30, Ft Tryon (SR, BG);

Oct 4-5, Central Park (H. Tetrault, et al); Oct 5, Bronx Park (EM) — very few reports subsequently. Saw-whet Owl: Oct 5, Jones (CW) — very early; 13 sightings in Bronx Park, Oct 26-Nov 7 — “lower than most years” (EM); only three reports elsewhere.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Whip-poor-will: Oct 5, Jones (CW) — late and rare here. Nighthawk: max 100+, Sep 10, Manorville (GR). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 15, Aug 31, Fire Is (RC). Belted Kingfisher: max 10, Oct 1, Jones (MG). Flicker: max 350, Oct 1, Strip (GT, MG). Red-headed Woodpecker: adult, Sept 23, Inwood (WN); four immatures on the coast: two, sep 20, Tiana (LW), Oct 10-14, Jones and Oct 13, Riis (mob). Yellow-bel. Sapsucker: max 37, Oct 5, Strip (PP, GT, MK). There was a good flight of Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers on the Strip — Downy: max 27, Oct 1 and 28, Oct 5; Hairy: max five, Oct 1 and seven, Oct 5 (PP, GT, MK, MG). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: Nov 14, Ft Tryon (PP, SR); Nov 16, Scarsdale (E. Hirshberg) — both females. Western Kingbird: scarce this year, especially in Sep; only seven reports: two in Sep (earliest Sep 8); two in Oct; three in Nov (latest Nov 10). Crested Flycatcher: Nov 11, Riis (PM) — extremely late. Phoebe: max 60, Oct 1 and 85, Oct 5, Strip (PP, GT, MK, MG) — exceptional numbers. For the first time, due to the efforts of Wesley E. Lanyon at the AMNH-field station at Huntington, we are able to give migration dates for the *Empidonax* Flycatchers based on banded birds and Lanyon's expert experience with this group. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 19 netted; Aug 17-Sep 14 (last day of active netting); peak Aug 25. Traill's Flycatcher: 32 netted; Aug 15-Sep 5; peak Aug 24-Sep 1 (up to four per days). Least Flycatcher: 31 netted; Jul 23-Sep 11; peak Aug 25. Note the proportions. Olive-sided Flycatcher: seven reports on Aug 24-25 (six of them coastal). Blue Jay: sample max counts — 600, Sep 28, Bronx (JH); 2000+, Oct 4, Inwood (WN); 300-500 per day, last two weeks in Sep, Central Park (PM); 75, Oct 1, Riis (GT); 300, Oct 13, Commack (MK).

There was a good movement of Black-capped Chickadees. First report of migrants was from northern Manhattan on Sep 23. Birds appeared in numbers virtually overnight in Central Park, practically to the day they first appeared during the flight of 1957-58. They were first recorded along the coast in early Nov. This present flight is lighter than the 1957-58 flight, but both appear to be much lighter than the 1954-55 flight, which, interestingly, commenced much later. Boreal Chickadee: Nov 4, Ft Tryon (BG, SR); two, Nov 10, Grassy Sprain (S. Friedan). White-breasted Nuthatch: 14, Oct 5, Strip (mob) — good count for coast. Red-breasted Nuthatch: flight year; earliest Aug 25, widespread arrival Sep 22; max 50, Oct 5, Strip (mob). Brown Creeper: excellent year; earliest Sep 7; max 40, Oct 1 and 60, Oct 5, Strip (PP, GT, MK, MG). Wrens were generally poor. Short-billed Marsh Wren: Oct 1, Riis (JY, GT). Mockingbird: max 15, Sep 19, Hewlett Harbor (KB). Veery: 130 netted — Jul 16-Sep 14; peak Aug 28-Sep 3 (up to 20 per day), Huntington (WL). September thrush flight poor. Gray-checked Thrush: Aug 25, Jones (GT) — very early. Bluebirds more numerous than in recent years; many observers reporting small flocks along the coast where they have been particularly scarce. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: an average of one bird daily reported in city parks during first week in Sep; two coastal reports on Aug 25. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Aug 25, Jones (CW) — early; max 140, Oct 5, Strip (PP, GT, MK, MG). Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 55, Oct 5, Strip (mob). Water Pipit: best flight in years; throughout the region flocks reported of up to 200 on days with favorable winds from early Oct on. Cedar Waxwing: good year, many flocks; max 220, Nov 3, Ft Tryon (PP, JH). Northern Shrike: adult, Nov 21, Sayville (IA). Loggerhead Shrike: four reports from Aug 24-28; five reports from Sep 10-Nov 16 — all from coastal areas.

**Vireos — Warblers:** In general, Vireos were low, especially Solitary and Red-eyed. Yellow-throated Vireo: Oct 5, Jones (EL) — late. Philadelphia Vireo: 11 reports; two, Aug 31, Jones (CW, EL) to Oct 1 (two), Jones



(MG). Warbling Vireo: Sep 2, Jones (EL, CW); Sep 25, Tiana (LW). Warblers were also down in numbers, but there were numerous reports of late individuals. Prothonotary: Sep 8, Central Park (J. Backstrom); Oct 13-15, Babylon (D. Eckelberry), extremely rare in fall. Worm-eating: seven netted up to Sep 9, Huntington (WL). Tennessee: five Oct reports, latest Oct 10, Riis (WN, RF), late movement. Orange-crowned good flight this year; 19 reports from Sep 19, Jones (KM) to Nov 10, Babylon (IA); eight of these netted from Oct 1-28, Tiana (LW, WT); max three, Oct 19, Montauk (GT). Parula: nine, Oct 5, Rockaway (PP, GT), late movement. Magnolia: 10, Oct 5, Strip (mob), late movement. Black-throated Blue: Nov 9, Riis (JY), late. Black-throated Gray: adult male. Sep 21, Central Park (John Huber), observed at eye-level for 15 minutes (in pines) and all field-marks carefully noted, including yellow lore-spot. At least five reports from Northeast in past three years; the second for region 10. Townsend's Warbler: adult male, Nov 10, Hewlett Harbor (R. Sloss, B. Berliner), third record for region 10 and state, second this year, it is hoped to publish a field note on both these occurrences shortly. Chestnut-sided: 20, Sep 5, Central Park (RP), unusual fall count. Bay-breasted: Oct 5, Rockaway (PP, GT), late. Blackpoll: max 200+, Sep 24, Central Park (MK); late reports, Nov 9, Riis (JY); Nov 16, Brookhaven (WT, DP); Nov 27, Riis (JH). Palm: 10, Nov 3, Montauk (GT, MK), late movement. Louisiana Waterthrush: Aug 31, Mecox (GR), very rare on L.I. in fall. Connecticut: 11 reports (five netted), Sep 1, Babylon (IA) to Oct 1 (two), Riis (JY, MK). Mourning: nine reports (six netted), Aug 17, Huntington (WL) to Sep 2, Tiana (WT) and Oct 19, Manorville (GR), very late. Chat: six Oct reports. Wilson's: Oct 19, Jones (KK); Nov 10, Jones (AW), both late. Canada: 74 netted, Aug 6-Sep 8, peak Aug 25 (24 birds), Huntington (WL).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** Bobolink: Oct 27, Riis (WN), late. Yellow-headed Blackbird: female, Aug 18-19, Westhampton Beach (R. Harrison), at feeder with other blackbirds. Baltimore Oriole: Nov 16, JBWR (TD, MC), late. Blackbirds: Nov 3, Ft Tryon, 100,000 in 2½ hours — 40% Red-wings, 60% Grackles (PP, JH); 2380 Red-wings (4 hours), Nov 9, Riis (TD); Baychester (at roost), 120,000 — ½ Starlings, ½ Grackles, Nov 10 (B. Augustine). Cowbird: max 600 (feeding in one flock), Oct 14, Jones (GT) — increasing steadily in recent years. Western Tanager: female plumage, Oct 2, Northport (Ellen McMullen) — “had good opportunity of seeing many during past summer while in the west”; fourth report this year. Summer Tanager: female, Sep 10, Central Park (PM), very rare in fall. Black-headed Grosbeak: female plumage, Oct 20, Oak Is (Heathcote Kimball), captured on 16mm film. Blue Grosbeak: Sep 19, JBWR (IC); Oct 1, Riis (GT); Oct 26-27, Riis (SS, WN). Indigo Bunting: many Oct reports, latest Oct 27, Riis (WN). This fall witnessed the greatest Dickcissel flight to date. Two small flocks: 14, Sep 28, Montauk (S. Yeaton, et al); six, Sep 29, Smith's Pt (AD), previous high for a flock was four! Seven individuals were seen on the Strip on Oct 1 (JY, GT, MG). Careful analysis of all records reveal that a total of 45 to 52 birds were recorded from coastal areas — Aug 31, Jones (CW, EL) to Nov 3, Montauk (HP, EG); only report away from L.I.: male, Oct 2-7, Riverdale (Mrs. A. Rosen).

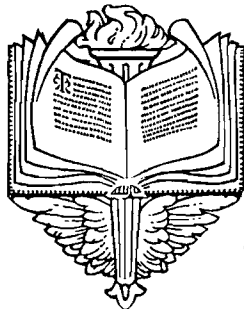
Many reports of Evening Grosbeaks; birds arriving on Nov 3. Not a big flight; widespread reports only of small flocks. Purple Finches were very low. House Finch: many reports of post-breeders from areas where this species is not known to nest. Redpoll: two, Nov 17, Riis (WN). Good flight of Pine Siskins along the coast but no numbers inland. The Goldfinch flight was spectacular. For example: “hundreds to thousands (including siskins) moving along the Fire Is strip throughout Oct and Nov when winds were favorable.” (IA); “Thousands feeding on high tide bushes, Wellington Farm, Brookhaven. Over 600 were banded on the three best days, Oct 13, 14 and 16. Several hundred birds came into the nets simultaneously on two occasions in mid-Nov. A very rough estimate indicates a total possibility in the magnitude of 10,000 goldfinches in the Brookhaven area in Nov. A significant fact was that very few birds repeated in the nets, indicating that they

were passing through the area quite rapidly." (WT, D. & P. Puleston); "several thousand", Nov 9, Riis (TD, RP). There was an invasion of Crossbills which can only be described as the earliest, largest, and most widespread in this century. Red Crossbills in particular occurred in phenomenal numbers; the last great flight was during the winter of 1899-1900. Large numbers were moving westward along the beaches throughout Nov; no observer recording the same numbers of birds in the same place from day to day or even hour to hour. First appearing at Upton on Oct 18-22 (GR, DP), they were not reported again until Nov 3. From then on recorded daily, flocks of up to 50 being common. Sample max counts: at Riis: 200, Nov 16 (mob); 150, Nov 17 (WN); 210, Nov 25 (JY, TD); at Jones: "almost 1000" passing over on Nov 24 (CW); 150, Nov 28 (AW). Such large numbers were restricted to SW L.I.; max count from eastern L.I. was a flock of 35, Nov 25, Westhampton (GR); max count inland was at Bronx Park; 30, Nov 27 (DR). White-winged Crossbills first appeared on Nov 3 at the extreme eastern and western ends of the region (Ft Tryon and Montauk). From then on, small flocks of 6-17 were noted moving almost daily at such favored inland lookouts at Ft Tryon. The only significant flight occurred on Nov 25 when "hundreds" were passing over Inwood (WN); 100 in Prospect (O. Raymond); and 110 at Riis (TD, JY). Aside from this date, only scattered reports of individuals and small flocks (up to 30) were received from L.I. Reports from outside our region indicate that the main movement of White-wings is passing to the west of us.

Ipswich Sparrow: netted at Tiana Oct 16, 23 and 25, "only three banded there in six years" (LW, WT), otherwise very few reports. Grasshopper Sparrow: good late flight; eight Oct reports; two, Nov 5, JBWR & Riis (WN, Gt); Nov 10, Prospect (JY). Henslow's Sparrow: Oct 9, Tiana (LW, WT), "first netted in six years". Lark Sparrow: seven different individuals from coastal areas, Aug 24, Riis (JH) to Oct 5, Fire Is (RC). Clay-colored Sparrow: Sep 7, Riis (IC); Sep 10, Tiana (LW, WT), netted and photographed; Oct 5, Jones (MK); Oct 7, Riis (SS). White-crowned Sparrow: Sep 21, Jones (MK), early; max 40, Oct 5, Strip (mob). White-throated Sparrow: max 1200, Oct 5, Strip (PP, GT, MK). Lincoln's Sparrow: excellent flight; dates from Sep 9-Oct 19 and Nov 8, Inwood (WN); Nov 23, Orchard Beach (SS, M. Russak), late; max 10, Oct 1, Strip (GT, CW); 11 netted at Tiana and Huntington (WT, LW, WL). Swamp Sparrow: max 65, Oct 5, Strip (mob). Song Sparrow: max 160, Oct 5, Strip (mob). Snow Bunting: early dates — Oct 1, Tiana (LW, WT); Oct 9, Fire Is (IA); Oct 12, Riis (WN, IC).

Addendum: Roseate Tern: belated report of 1000 pairs breeding on Great Gull Is. last summer. The colony is now completely covered with grass. This condition is more favorable for Roseates, and not one pair of Commons were found (G. Cant).

Note: Please have winter reports in by Apr 7. Post, 575 W. 183 St., N.Y.C. 33; Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, N.Y.C. 25.



— — — — —

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

*1964 Officers*

**President**

Mr. Robert S. Arbib, Jr. ----- 226 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck

**Vice-President**

Dr. Allen H. Benton ----- State University College at Fredonia

**Corresponding Secretary**

Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner ----- 399 State Street, Albany 10

**Recording Secretary**

Miss Margaret S. Rusk ----- 114 Standart St., Syracuse 10

**Treasurer**

Mr. Kenneth D. Niven ----- 61 Broadway, Monticello

---

**Editor of THE KINGBIRD**

ALICE E. ULRICH

193 LaSalle Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14214

*Appointed Committees*

Bulletin Exchanges: to be announced

Conservation: Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell Street, Freeport

Finance: to be announced

Kingbird Finance: to be announced

Membership: Alfred A. Starling, 75 Brooklawn Drive, Rochester 18

State Bird Book: Robert S. Arbib, Jr., 226 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck — Editor and  
Chairman of Editorial Board of State Bird Book

Publications and Research: Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., State Museum, Albany

Bibliography: Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt, Box 428, Etna 13062

Waterfowl Count: John L. Mitchell, 345 Conrad Drive, Rochester 16

John J. Elliott Memorial: Chairman, pro tem, Cornelius J. Ward, 804 South  
Ocean Avenue, Freeport

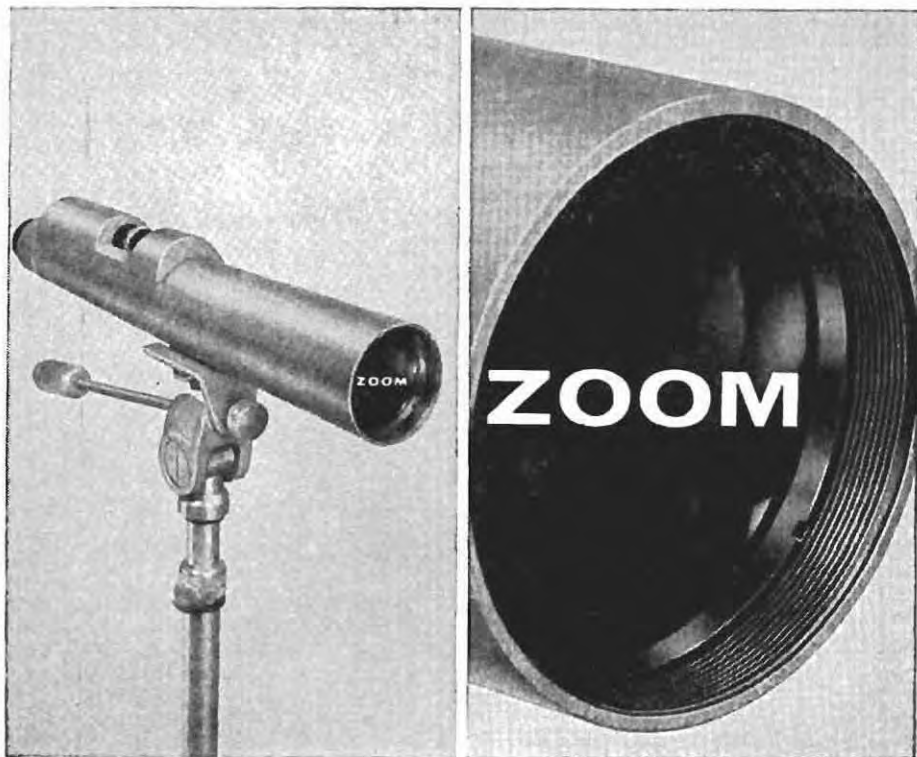
*Elected Committees*

Auditing: Mr. Edward R. McBride — address to be announced

Mr. Jerome Kerner — address to be announced

Nominating: Mr. Walton B. Sabin, Slingerlands, Ch.; Mr. Harold D. Mitchell,  
Buffalo; and Miss Elizabeth Feldhusen, Jamestown

— — — — —



**NEW BALSCOPE ZOOM 60** Telescope gives you instant power dialing to any power from 15x to 60x! First scan the landscape at a wide 15-power field of view. Spot your target. Then zoom in as close as you wish . . . 20x, 30x, 40x, 60x or anywhere in between. A roll of a finger across the control knob increases or decreases power **instantly**. Focus just once with the same easy one-finger dialing. Focus stays constant at all powers! You're sure of getting finest spotting performance because this variable power telescope is the result of over 100 years' skill and experience in the manufacture of fine optical products by Bausch & Lomb.

Balscope Zoom 60 is sealed against rain, moisture and dust for brilliant clarity always. Sage green finish is made to take hard use without chipping or scratching. Mounts directly on any standard camera tripod without special adaption. Screw-on caps protect objective and eyepiece lenses. Two models available: with straight eyepiece, \$149.50; with 45° inclined eyepiece, \$159.50. Write for free literature on Balscope Zoom 60. Bausch & Lomb Incorporated, Rochester 2, New York.

**BAUSCH & LOMB**

