

REGION 1--WESTERN NEW YORK

The 1950 fall migration in the Western New York area to date has produced fewer outstandingly unusual records than has been the rule the past few years. The smaller land birds have occurred in sporadic waves, with smaller than usual numbers found in the interims; but good birding on a few days. Altogether, totals seem to have been about normal. Notable exceptions include a shortage of Connecticut Warblers, a species occurring regularly but in small numbers at this season. The only two reported were by Lenna in the Chautauqua region on Sept. 23 and 29. Orange-crowned Warblers, however, have been seen in increased numbers and localities over previous years. Of note was a Kentucky Warbler seen by B. Nathan on October 1 in Buffalo near the Niagara River.

Field birds have been scarce, but at this writing (October 23) numbers are becoming normal. Pipits have been uncommon until mid-October, but are now increasing to normal numbers. A good spread of Lapland Longspurs was found on October 15, following one of the best waves of the season on the 14th, which also brought in droves of Kinglets, White-throated Sparrows, House and Winter Wrens, and other species.

Notable also, though only doubtfully a part of the fall migration picture, were the reports of Prothonotary Warblers from Riverside Marsh south of Jamestown. One seen August 8 and two on August 18, all by Sundell and party, may have represented birds breeding in the locality, since one was seen there in May. However, summer searchers found none there. The date of August 18 is extremely late for this species.

We are greatly encouraged by the apparent recolonization of this region by the Wild Turkey. At least two flocks have been reported in Allegany Park or vicinity. We do not know for sure that they were not introduced, but presumably they have spread northward from Pennsylvania.

The northward flight of Herons this year was disappointing. A few American Egrets were found at many locations, but no other species wandered up as in the past two years.

Ducks are late, but are now appearing. It is difficult to get an accurate impression of the relative abundance of water fowl in this region until January. However, there seems to be an unusually large number of Geese, with Blues and Snows reported, as well as the more numerous Canadas.

Along with the several thousand Bonaparte's Gulls which frequent the Niagara River from late August to early October were at least three European Little Gulls. It is interesting to note that we have two distinct migrations of Bonaparte's each fall: the second occurs from late October or November until Lake Erie freezes, usually shortly after Christmas. During the past few years European Little Gulls have appeared with both the early and late Bonaparte's groups, a fact which lends support to the supposition that there is a North American breeding colony of this species of Old World bird, probably within or near the breeding range of our Bonaparte's.

Only one Franklin's Gull, observed by Woldman and Schaffner on September 23 at Buffalo Harbor, has been reported so far. These Gulls have been more numerous during the past few years. White-rumped Sandpipers, usually quite scarce here, have also made a better than usual show. Otherwise, shore birds occurred in normal numbers.

Perhaps this fall will be most noted for the extraordinary number of late records it has produced. A Nighthawk (perhaps not the Eastern sub-species) was seen on October 15 by Dr. and Mrs. Eschelman near Allegany State Park. A Whip-poor-will, freshly deceased was picked up by Dr. and Mrs. Axtell in Niagara County near Lake Ontario the same day. Orange-crowned Warblers are still here on October 22. A Black Tern seen by H. D. Mitchell and party on October 21, may also hang around still longer.

There are undoubtedly other records of note which have not come to my attention. If local readers will notify me of these omissions, I shall be able to be more inclusive hereafter.--Edward L. Seeber, 186 Wabash Avenue, Kenmore 17, New York.