

REGIONAL REPORTS FOR FALL MIGRATION IN NEW YORK STATE

REGION 1 – WESTERN NEW YORK

No report for this region was received to date. From recent issue of the *Prothonotary* (August and September) the following notes have been taken in lieu of more recent information. The editor of *The Kingbird* sincerely hopes that in the future all regions will cooperate fully, so that an accurate picture can be given of migration across the State.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Common Loon (1) July 11-21 at Findley Lake (Schaffner).

Brown Pelican (1) July 2 at Hanford Bay at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek (W. Allair rep. Eschelmann). American Egrets present, but not overly common as in past years. Wood Duck reported in Beaver Dam Area (18), Bunnship Creek (22) and at Bliss (10) on July 7, 9 and 23 respectively.

HAWKS – OWLS:

First Osprey reported August 19 at Onoville (Sundell et al). Black Tern (3500 max.) August 23 (Mitchell) Niagara River. Several July records from Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Barysburg and Wellsville of nesting Screech Owls.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

Pileated Woodpecker July 10 at Bliss (Rosche), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, August 18 at Delaware Park (Mitchell) and Olive-sided Flycatcher, August 19 at Fluvanna (Beal). Purple Martins (1000 max.) at Delaware Park, Forest Lawn (Mitchell) August 18.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

Blue-winged Warblers (5 max.) August 1-15 (R. H. Sundell and Nelson) at Dewittville. Tennessee, Blackpoll and Mourning Warblers observed at Delaware Park, August 25 (Mitchell, Kelly). Magnolia, Bay-breasted and Canada Warblers at Delaware Park, August 18 (Mitchell et al).

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS:

Pine Siskins seen at Bemus Point, June 16, 18 (late) (Beal).

Slate-colored Junco, Buffalo, August 25 (first fall date) (Mitchell et al).

REGION 2 – SOUTHERN TIER

(Including some records from Region 9)

Summers in our region are usually characterized by fairly long wet and dry "spells", which vary in sequence and duration from year to year. In 1951 wet weather generally prevailed through mid-July, followed by an extended dry period. There was nothing particularly abnormal about the summer, and no general marked trend was visible among the birds.

LOONS – DUCKS:

White Pelican – The bird mentioned in the June-July report remained at Montezuma all through the summer, and was seen by many observers. Mrs. Hoyt and Miss Thorpe saw it on September 17, and believed they observed it in the act of finally leaving the refuge. This is confirmed by the refuge manager, who stated on September 26 that he had not seen the

Pelican for over a week.

American Egret — As indicated in the June-July report, Egrets were seen unusually early in the summer this year. By late summer there were probably several dozen at Montezuma. A few were still there on September 26 (P. P. Kellogg et al).

Baldpate — In recent years spectacular flocks of Baldpates, numbering into the thousands, have gathered at the Montezuma refuge preparatory to the southward flight. Several observers reported a large flock accumulating during the last two weeks of September.

Green-winged Teal — Although this species has not been proved to nest at Montezuma, at least in modern times, there is evidence that it may do so. A pair and two additional males were seen on June 3 (K. C. Parkes et al) at Montezuma, a pair, also at Montezuma, on August 4 (A. A. Allen et al), and two pairs were seen at Ithaca on September 3 in company with a Shoveller and several pairs of Blue-winged Teal; both of the latter species are known to nest at Montezuma (K. C. Parkes).

HAWKS — OWLS:

Ruffed Grouse — Reports from all over the region indicate that this species is at or nearing its peak in numbers.

Ring-necked Pheasant — This species, too, is more abundant than it has been for several years. Pheasants are either less shy or more foolhardy than usual, as many are being found killed on the highway.

Coot — Coot production at Montezuma, chief breeding ground of the species in New York, was apparently quite low this year. Broods seen during the summer were very noticeably fewer than last year.

Shore birds — One of the few really favorable places in the Cayuga Lake basin to observe shore birds is a mud-flat at the southwestern corner of the lake, known locally as the "Hog Hole". Killdeer and Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers have, as usual, made up the bulk of the migrating flocks seen this year. Other interesting shore birds seen include Golden Plovers on September 2 (W. J. Hamilton III) and September 20 (A. A. Allen et al), Hudsonian Curlew on September 1 (Myers Point — W. J. H. III), Baird's Sandpiper on August 6 (W. J. H. III), Stilt Sandpiper on September 3 (W. J. H. III), Western Sandpiper on August 26 (K. C. Parkes et al), Hudsonian Godwit, a very rare bird in the interior of New York, on September 1 (W. J. H. III), and Northern Phalarope on September 3 and 4 (W. J. H. III). All of the above reports were of single birds. From one to three White-rumped Sandpipers were frequently seen among the smaller "peeps" during August and early September (K. C. Parkes), rather early for this species at Ithaca. Dowitchers have been conspicuous by their absence this year. The pair of Upland Plovers raised young at their usual site just west of Dryden, but were apparently very late in arriving at the nesting field (P. M. Kelsey).

Great Black-backed Gull — An individual of this species appeared at the south end of Cayuga Lake on the unprecedented date of July 31, and was seen continuously thereafter. The earliest previous fall record was during the last week of September, 1949. The 1951 bird was molting into its first black-winged plumage.

Caspian Tern — Three were seen at the head of Cayuga Lake at Ithaca

on several occasions during early September. The species is of irregular occurrence here.

Mourning Dove — Numbers reported as unusually high throughout Tompkins County this summer and fall (W. Sickles).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES:

Flicker — Reported as especially abundant this fall at Montezuma and elsewhere in the Cayuga Lake Basin (Mrs. Hoyt and Miss Thorpe).

Crow — Numbers reported as particularly high by Paul Kelsey, District Game Manager.

Tufted Titmouse — The bird which appeared at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on May 26 (see June-July report) remained all summer and was still present by the last week in September. Only this single bird was reported.

Carolina Wren — The individual which was mentioned in the March-April report resided continuously at Dr. Allen's home in Ithaca through the winter of 1950-51, and disappeared in late April or early May. A single Carolina Wren appeared here for a single day only, on September 10.

Mockingbird — Three Mockingbird records in a single year is unprecedented here. One at Ithaca on May 12 was mentioned in the June-July report. Another was seen at the northeastern outskirts of Ithaca on September 17 (Mrs. Kapp and A. H. Wright). Most unusual of all was a pair which remained at the Morris farm at Mecklenburg for the five weeks following June 19 (Mrs. Bartlett). The male regularly sang from an apple tree, a telegraph wire and other conspicuous song perches. No definite indication of nest was found. The Mockingbird is not known to breed in New York at the present time, although it did so on Long Island during the Nineteenth Century.

Bluebird — Reported as unusually low in the general area northeast of Ithaca; several people stated that their regularly nesting pairs failed to show up this year (Mrs. Hoyt).

Cedar Waxwing — Mrs. Hoyt reports that a number of people have commented to her on the large number of Waxwings this fall in the Ithaca-Etna area. A fledgling just out of the nest in downtown Ithaca on September 25 represents a rather late breeding date for this species here.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Red-eyed Vireo — Bent (U. S. N. M. Bull. 197, 1950: 338) reported full-grown young Red-eyed Vireos being fed by their parents on September 8 in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. A similar family group was observed at the Danby beaver pond on September 8, 1951 (K. C. Parkes).

Warblers — Numbers and variety of migrants during September seemed very low to a number of observers.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Goldfinch — An exceptionally good nesting year. At one regularly censused area in Ithaca, fully twice as many nests were located as were found last summer (A. A. Allen).

Chipping Sparrow — Reported in unprecedented numbers at Mrs. Hoyt's feeding station in Etna during September.

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REGION 2 – SOUTHERN TIER – (PART 2)

The summer has not been exactly what one could regard as normal, as there were few really warm days, and after the middle of July there was little rain. August 31st was the warmest day, with temperature reaching 90 degrees. Birds appear to have required a longer time to molt than usual – at least, the period during which our common species are absent from “circulation” has been much longer, and extends even to the present. Few birds have been about in the past three weeks, and perhaps longer. A group of about a dozen of us meet at the end of each month to pool our individual lists for the month, and make up the list of species seen by us all, which list is published each month in the Penn Yan Chronicle-Express.

LOONS – DUCKS:

Loons were rare on Keuka Lake this summer, although occasional individuals were seen. First fall Horned Grebe was recorded by the Keuka Park club on September 2; first Canada Geese, 27th; Baldpate, 21st; Green-winged Teal and Coot, 30th. Shore bird migration dates for the Keuka Park club included in September: Semipalmated Plover, 22nd; Black-bellied Plover, 16th; Lesser Yellowlegs, 22nd; Greater Yellowlegs, 27th; Pectoral Sandpiper, 22nd; Baird's Sandpiper, 2nd; Stilt Sandpiper, 30th; Sanderling, 3rd. First Semipalmated Sandpiper at Hammondsport July 31st, and Mrs. G. M. Welles of Elmira had Solitary Sandpiper on July 19th.

HAWKS – OWLS:

Few hawks have been noted this summer, the Sparrow Hawk being the most generally distributed. A few pairs of Red-tails, and an occasional Sharp-shinned and Cooper's; Marsh Hawks rare. The Great Horned Owl was more vociferous than usual through August and September, possibly because of the unusual cool and fall-like weather. Screech Owls are fairly well distributed over the lakes area.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

My last date on Chimney Swift is September 11, and on Hummingbirds the 17th. The writer discovered a small colony of Cliff Swallows, possibly 10 pairs, on a barn about a mile from Hammondsport; Mrs. Welles reports a new colony, half-dozen pairs, on a barn near Elmira airport at Big Flats. The farmer said this was their first season there. Last dates on Barn Swallows in this area, September 11; Cliff Swallow and Purple Martin, 6th. Keuka Park club had Least Flycatcher on September 11st, and my last date on Crested Flycatcher, Sept. 21st; Wood Pewee is still here at this writing – Oct. 4. A Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared in Branchport on Sept. 16, and first migrating Winter Wrens at Hammondsport on the 26th. I trapped and banded a Gray-cheeked Thrush on September 23; first Olive-backed Thrush on September 12. Wood Thrush was present throughout September, my last observation being the 30th. On August 6 I saw a Migrant Shrike at Italy Hill, 5 miles west of Branchport, at a point where Malcolm Lerch of Penn Yan had seen one a week previously; on the 26th of August a group of us starting for Montezuma Marsh saw one a mile north of Penn Yan. A. W. Fudge of Elmira, discovered Tufted Titmouse nesting in Chemung County, the first nesting record for that area.

VIREOS – WARBLERS:

Last dates on vireos reported: Yellow-throated, September 9th; Red-eyed,

20th; Warbling, 22nd. No Philadelphias reported. Blue-headed vireos, probably but one pair, were on the big gully leading off to the south from Hammondsport all summer. Last dates on warblers reported by the Keuka Park club: Black and White, September 7st; Tennessee, Orange-crowned and Cape May, 3rd; Nashville and Wilson's, 22nd; Parula, Black-poll and Chestnut-sided, 16th; Magnolia, October 2; Black-throated Blue, 30th; Oven-bird Canada and Redstart, 2nd. First date for Myrtle Warbler, Sept. 19.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Keuka Park club reported Rusty Blackbirds on September 30. Grackles dropped from sight the middle of September, although I believe it is for the period of the molt, after which they will reappear. Cowbirds were absent between the 18th of August and September 24th, but now, the first week in October, they are again about in some numbers. Last Baltimore Oriole, Sept. 3rd. Last date on Scarlet Tanager, September 18th. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Hammondsport throughout the month, last observation being the 29th. First migrating dates for Sparrows: Slate-colored Junco, Sept. 28; White-throats, 26th; and Lincoln's Sparrow, 20th. The writer trapped and banded a Henslow's Sparrow on September 30th.

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REGION 3 — LAKE ONTARIO

This report covers the fall migration up to September 31. As of that date the season has been very regular, marked by normal weather conditions and the absence of any great number of unusual observations. One factor resulting in the comparative scarcity of some species has been the continuing high water level of Lake Ontario and the resulting lack of extensive mud flats or beach areas. Small bird migration appears normal. Fairly intensive attempts to find extensive hawk migrations in fall in this area produced almost no results.

LOONS — DUCKS:

First Common Loons appeared on September 29, as did an early Holboell's Grebe. A Double-crested Cormorant was seen at Sodus Bay on August 18, and others have been reported since mid September. The northward movement of American Egrets was disappointing in this area, except at Montezuma, probably due to high water conditions.

Canada Geese, first reported on September 23. Flight of early ducks appears normal to date — has not yet reached its peak. First Redheads reported on September 29. Scaup (species?) same date. The Hooded Merganser and Green-winged Teal reported on August 7 and July 28, respectively, may have been non-breeding birds (Listman—Scottsville Road).

HAWKS — OWLS:

Scattered reports of hawks (they apparently drift south through this area without much pattern — in contrast to concentrated flights in Spring.) Broadwings appear in late August, others follow through September and later. Duck Hawk at Braddocks Bay on September 1. Bald Eagles and Ospreys scattered through September.

Shore bird migration unspectacular to say the least. Habitat conditions