

REGION 9 — CENTRAL NEW YORK

Owing to circumstances beyond the writer's control, a report of spring migration activity was omitted in the previous number of *The Kingbird*. While a few of these records for Region 9 have already been included in part in reports from Region 2, parts 1 and 2, these data appear to be of sufficient importance to be reported again in this issue under Region 9. The general pattern of spring migration was sporadic and spotty. In late March it appeared that we would have an early spring. A number of early spring migrants were observed at about the usual time but by the time warbler migration began, bird movement was very light and irregular as evidenced by the light warbler migration. The annual Eaton Bird Club Spring Census is held each year on the Sunday nearest May 15. In 1951 the date was May 13 and the total number of species observed was 157, as compared with 172, 166, and 159 in 1948, 1949 and 1950, respectively. Except for the more common species, relatively small numbers of the earlier appearing warblers were noted on May 13. Some appeared later up to May 23 (Mourning) — Mourning and Tennessee more common than usual.

Records of unusual interest in this area include: One White Pelican at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge from May 12 to September 15 (this has been observed by many persons); Purple Sandpiper from February 4 to March 19 at Dresden; American Egret at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge from April 29 and May 18 to September 30 (4) (65 seen on August 31); good migration of Red Crossbills May 1 to 15; 8 White-winged Crossbills on April 25; multiple finds of Golden-winged Warblers in the Junius area on June 20 (some acted as though they might possibly be nesting there); a single male Prothonotary Warbler also seen in Junius area on June 20; a pair of Carolina Wrens wintering and nesting (April 1) with 5 eggs at Billsboro, four miles south of Geneva; Bald Eagle nesting at Montezuma Refuge; Red-headed Woodpecker nesting at Dresden.

Mr. R. Wayland-Smith reports one Arkansas Kingbird at Sherrill, N. Y., on September 3. According to Kenneth C. Parks, "This species is seen almost every fall along the coastal strip of Long Island but to my knowledge Mr. Wayland-Smith's record is the first from the interior of the state." This bird was observed sitting on a telephone wire September 3 at 11 a. m. one mile north of Sherrill. Flickers seems to be present in large numbers this fall.

No appreciable migration of Warblers has been observed in Geneva area this fall. Earlier migrating species such as Swallows, Swifts, Martins, Baltimore Orioles (last heard on August 23), Robins, Goldfinches and Mourning Doves pretty well gone by first week in September. A few stragglers of Meadowlarks, Bluebirds, Mourning Doves, Chipping Sparrows (flock of 20 on September 17), Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Flickers and Purple Finches still present at this writing (September 30). Six Cardinals (including 4 young) and one Purple Finch observed at writer's feeding station in Geneva on September 30.

LOONS — DUCKS:

Common Loon scarce during spring and fall. No fall migrants of Horned Grebe observed by September 23, but Pied-bill Grebes still present in numbers. Marsh Ducks — Mallard, Black, Wood, Baldpate and Blue and Green-

winged Teal present in moderate numbers (2000 Baldpates and 40 Wood Ducks September 9 and 10,000 Baldpates September 22 at Montezuma). No diving ducks present on Seneca Lake to date. First flock of 75 Canada Geese on September 27. American Egrets spent summer at Montezuma in large numbers for second year (75 or more). Great Blue Heron and Bittern seen September 23. Forty Blue Geese flying south over Fayetteville on September 1 (Dr. Spofford).

HAWKS – OWLS:

Two Broad-winged Hawks observed on September 16; several Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks observed on August 23, and 3 Red-tailed, 3 Red-shouldered, 7 Marsh and 1 Sparrow Hawk on September 15. Many Marsh Hawks going south from September 21 to October 3 (Dr. Spofford). Bald Eagle nested at Montezuma, still present on September 9. Few records on shore birds. Three Florida Gallinule chicks, recently hatched, observed on August 31 – “feathered out” by September 23 and still with parents. In a letter from Kenneth C. Parkes, I received information that Mr. R. Wayland-Smith saw about 50 Golden Plovers at 5:30 p. m. on September 2, one mile north of Sherrill, N. Y. The writer, together with his wife, Mrs. H. Glasgow and F. Z. Hartzell, observed 8 Golden Plovers at 300 feet on September 23 in Montezuma flats on plowed muck land – 5 others reported September 30 (Onondaga Audubon Society). Semipalmated Plovers (25) at Onondaga Lake flats October 1. Black-bellied Plover reported from very good shore bird area around Syracuse. Two Ruddy Turnstones at Sylvan Beach August 9 and 2 at Onondaga Lake flats August 26. One Woodcock (injured) September 22. One Hudsonian Curlew reported (calling) Montezuma September 30; 60 Lesser Yellow Legs Onondaga flats September 3; Pectoral Sandpipers in fair numbers; 15 White-rumped Sandpipers in mixed flocks Onondaga Lake flats; 2 Red-backed Sandpipers at Montezuma on September 30 and 2 at Onondaga Lake flats October 1. One Dowitcher at Onondaga Lake flats on August 26 and October 1 (still in spring plumage); also one at Montezuma September 30; one Stilt Sandpiper Onondaga Lake flats on September 3 (full plumage) and one at Montezuma September 30; Semipalmated Sandpipers very common but great fluctuation in numbers; Baird's Sandpiper, 2 reports from Sandy Pond (outside Region 9); one Western Sandpiper at Sylvan Beach on September 16 and one Northern Phalarope at same place on September 30; Black Tern shows terrific drop in numbers.

Fall record of one Common Tern September 9; one Great Black-backed Gull by Loren Ward at Geneva on September 30 (this latter is an early date for Geneva); 100 or more Bonaparte's Gulls on September 23. Owl records very scarce – only Barred, Screech, Barn and Great Horned being recorded for the year and in limited numbers.

SWIFTS – SHRIKES:

400 Swallows (Tree, Rough-winged and a few Barn) at Montezuma on September 15. A late record of 2 Chimney Swifts noted by the writer on October 2 in Geneva. One Red-breasted Nuthatch observed on September 20 and October 5; one pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers and 3 Long-billed Marsh Wrens noted at Montezuma Marsh on September 9; 2 Phoebe and

one Catbird seen September 30; some Horned Larks still present October 4, migrating over Syracuse on September 24; most Robins gone but flocks of 10 to 15 may still be seen (October 1); Bluebirds present in flocks of 3 to 5 October 1 to 4; few records of either species of Kinglet this fall. (Some moved through Syracuse and vicinity in late September and early October). One Kingbird September 15 at Montezuma. Brown Creeper singing September 15. Flight of Olive-backed and Gray-checked Thrushes moving through Syracuse September 25. Pipits on September 16; 3 Bobolinks (singing) September 30 (this is a late date); also Rusty Blackbirds singing on same date at Montezuma Refuge.

VIREOS — WARBLERS:

Fall migration very spotty and in small flocks except Myrtle Warbler on September 30 to October 1. Yellow-throated Vireo last seen on September 9, Red-eyed on September 9 and 23, Warbling on September 9 and 18; one report of a Philadelphia Vireo on September 23. Warblers — Nashville, Redstart, Yellow, Canada, Magnolia and Black-throated Green observed on September 23; Black-throated Blue on September 30. Tennessee (30) Parula (1) Magnolia (2) Cape May (1), Black-throated Blue (1) Bay-breasted (10), Pine (1), Redstart (2), Yellow-throat (3) on September 15 at Montezuma. Heavy flight of Yellow-throats through Syracuse on September 29. Warblers have been very scarce this fall. Mourning Warblers were more common than usual last spring.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:

Most Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles had migrated prior to September 9, although small flocks of Redwings still present on September 30. Cardinals appear to be definitely on the increase in central New York. The writer has had records from Geneva, Montezuma, Marion, Palmyra, Newark, Clifton Springs, Dansville and Branchport during 1951. In addition, they frequented his feeding station during fall, winter of 1950 and the spring and fall of 1951. These observations are most encouraging to one who has known the Cardinal as a common bird in the Piedmont Plateau region of South Carolina in his boyhood. The Carolina Wren nested (5 eggs) south of Geneva this spring, but through an unfortunate circumstance the back shed door was closed one cold night and the nest was abandoned. The eggs and nest were donated to the Geneva School Nature Museum. White-crowned, White-throated and Chipping Sparrows, and Slate-colored Juncos began appearing in Geneva September 26 and fairly large flocks of the former were seen on October 1.

The writer takes this opportunity of acknowledging participation of the recently formed Onondaga Audubon Society. This group has contributed many fine records which have been included in the current report. I was also very pleased to receive the excellent observations (via Kenneth Parkes) of Mr. R. Wayland-Smith, 137 Kenwood Avenue, Oneida, N. Y. Reports of other observers in Region 9 would be greatly appreciated for inclusion in future numbers.

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