

REGIONAL REPORTS

REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

The weather during the fall of 1952 was seldom such as might hasten the southward departure of any bird which found itself in the western end of the state at summer's end. Those species which had any hardiness at all seemed little disposed to hurry, and resultant late records were received for a larger number than usual.

Loons — Ducks:

Only 2 Common Loons were reported on the October 12 Fall Duck Census of the **Buffalo Ornithological Society**, and only 8 on their Christmas Census on December 21. No Red-throated Loons were reported. Pied-billed and Horned Grebes were numerous, and Squaw Island contributed a Western Grebe on October 25th (Nathan et al.) and an Eared Grebe December 19th (Mitchell et al.) A good Canada Goose flight contrasted with the poorest swan migration in years. No Blue or Snow Geese were recorded. We had an excellent duck count on October 12, with most of the dabbling species giving an especially good account of themselves. Two Harlequin Ducks were found in the gorge below the Falls on November 23 (B.O.S. trip), and have apparently decided to spend the winter with us. Comorants were both late in arriving and few in number.

Hawks — Owls:

More records have reached us of Eastern Turkeys in Allegany State Park and nearby New York State areas. The shore bird migration was below normal, probably due to high water in many favored haunts. However, the number of Golden Plover observed was encouraging,—maximum count of 200 on September 28, and 67 on the October 12 census. Late records included Black-bellied Plover (November 23), Killdeer (November 29), and Greater Yellow-legs (December 1). A Northern Phalarope, rare here, was found October 25 at Niagara Falls (K. and E. Praemassing, Baker, et al.). Ten species of gulls were reported, including Glaucous, Iceland, Kumlien's, and Kittiwake from the Falls, and Franklin's and Little Gulls from the upper river opposite Buffalo.

Swifts — Shrikes:

On October 12 Anderle observed a Raven flying along the lake shore near Irving. This is an extreme rarity in western New York. A very late Wood Thrush was reported the same day by Mrs. Norma Annabal from Batavia.

Vireos — Warblers:

On the October 12 B.O.S. census, most observers found warblers unusually numerous. Not only was the count of Myrtles an all-time high (888), but no less than 15 species were reported. There were even November records of Yellow (one at the Avery feeding station, Hamburg, on the 17th), Western Palm (one found at Tiffet St., Buffalo, on the 17th by Schaffner), and an almost incredible Kentucky (on the 2nd by the Klabundes and Vaughan at Lewiston).

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

A good many Red-wings, Rustys, and Grackles are still with us as this is written, and will doubtless winter. Northern fringillids, influenced by the same mild weather, were slow to appear. Snow Buntings, although present in good numbers later, did not appear until November 16, when the Axtells found one individual on Grand Island. A few Evening Grosbeaks were reported from November 15th on, and a single Redpoll on the 30th. No Crossbills have appeared as yet. A second record for our territory was that of an adult Clay-colored Sparrow found on September 27 on Squaw Island by Nathan.

Clark S. Beardslee
132 McKinley Ave.
Kenmore 17, N. Y.

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (PART 1)

(Including some records from Region 9)

In general, fall migration was poor in the Southern Tier. A hard freeze occurred in the second week of October, and snow fell the last week, but November and December were marked by little rain or snow, and above-average temperatures. 61 species were seen on the annual New Year's Day census of the Cayuga Lake Basin.

Loons — Ducks:

The first Horned Grebe was reported October 12 by Rosche, and 72 were seen on the January 1st census. Great blue Herons were still at Montezuma on Nov. 1 (Kaufmann, et al.) and American Bitterns and a Black-crowned Night Heron were seen Oct. 12 by Rosche. Green Herons left Binghamton Oct. 11 (Bemont).

Few diving ducks were reported with practically no Scoters or Old-Squaws. There were relatively few Redheads, Scaups, and Wood Ducks, but more Canvas-backs than usual. Baldpates, Pintails, and most Teal were gone by the end of October; however, A. A. Allen reported 10 Green-winged Teal on November 17. A late Wood Duck was seen at Montezuma on Nov. 2 (Rosche). Buffleheads were seen Nov. 17 (Allen).

Mallards and Black Ducks are on the increase and many are wintering in the area, attracted by the large amount of corn left by mechanical pickers in the larger cornfields. About 40 Canada Geese also are wintering, although the fall goose flight seemed poor.

K. Parkes saw a hybrid Shoveller-Blue-winged Teal at Montezuma on Oct. 11. A dead immature Lesser Snow Goose was found by Parkes at Stewart Park, Ithaca, Nov. 22.

Hawks — Owls:

Hawk migration was poor. The first Rough-legged Hawk was reported by Rosche on Oct. 12. Marsh Hawks were seen all fall and winter. One Pigeon Hawk was seen Oct. 13 (Allen).

Most of the shore birds were gone from the Hog Hole at southern end of Cayuga by the second week in October, except Yellowlegs which lingered into November, and Killdeer, which were reported on the January census. Few Woodcock or Snipe were seen all fall.

There were fewer Gulls than in other years, and counts in December and early January showed more Ring-billed than Herring Gulls, a reversal of the usual situation.

The last Common Tern was reported Oct. 6.

Mourning Doves were plentiful, and 13 were seen on the January 1st census. The albino Cuckoo reported in the last issue died on Dec. 6.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Woodpeckers occurred in normal numbers, with a slight increase in wintering Flickers. A Pileated made frequent calls in the residential district of Ithaca all fall.

Phoebes lingered until the middle of October. A pale cream-colored Phoebe was observed at the Knettles farm near Etna on Oct. 13 (Hoyt, Kellogg, et al.).

Tree Swallows in numbers were seen by the **Field Ornithology Club of Cornell** on Oct. 12, and five were seen (Allen) on Oct. 27 when there was snow on the ground. A few Rough-winged Swallows and one Cliff Swallow were reported at Montezuma on Oct. 5 (Rosche, Seeber).

The Tufted Titmouse which has been in Stewart Park, Ithaca, for some time, was seen there on the Jan. 1st census. The first Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared Oct. 20 (Fischer) and the first Winter Wren, Oct. 21.

One Mockingbird was seen all fall and in January near Ithaca (Patterson) and a Catbird on the census (Hewitt). The last date for Olive-backed Thrush was Oct. 5 (Seeber), Oct. 18 (Bemont) in Binghamton. Hermit Thrush, Oct. 27 (Allen). Robins were seen frequently through December. Bluebirds were scarce.

Pipits occurred in large flocks during the fall, and 500 were reported Oct. 20 (Allen).

Vireos — Warblers:

No Philadelphia Vireos were reported this fall. Blue-headed Vireos were present until Oct. 20. Binghamton Worm-eating Warbler seen until Oct. 18. No Orange-crowned Warblers reported. 4 Western Palm Warblers on Oct. 11 (Rosche), 3 Myrtles in Renwick on Nov. 30 (Long, et al.), and 1 Myrtle reported on Jan. 12 (Bock, et al.). Black-polls were fairly common until end of first week of October; Binghamton had some until Oct. 25. One Northern Yellowthroat was seen on January 1st census (Barbehenn).

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

One Bronzed Grackle was reported Nov. 18 at Etna (Hoyt) Redwings and Cowbirds were gone by third week of November and no Rusty Blackbirds were reported after Nov. 30. The last date for Rose-breasted Grosbeak was Oct. 20, and no Purple Finches were reported after Nov. 10.

The first Evening Grosbeaks (a small flock) were seen at Arnot Forest, south of Ithaca, on November 8 (W. J. Hamilton III), but December brought only a few reports of individual birds. A Grosbeak banded Feb. 26, '52 by Hoyt was captured Dec. 29, '52 in Berlin, N. H.

A flock of 125 Common Redpolls and at least 1 Hoary was seen on Connecticut Hill Nov. 23rd (Bock, et al.). Pine Siskins were reported Nov. 7 (Long, Bock) and unusually large flocks of Goldfinches were seen all fall, with many wintering. A small flock of Red Crossbills was seen Nov. 16th in Ithaca (Risebrough, Bock).

No Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported all fall. Last date for Savannah Sparrow: Nov. 16 (Seeber), for Vesper, Oct. 11 (Rosche), for Chipping Oct. 13 (Nutt, Fischer). Tree Sparrows were reported first on Oct. 11, but not seen in numbers until Oct. 25th. A Field Sparrow on Dec. 6 (Hoyt) and 6 (six) Swamp Sparrows on Jan. 1st indicate that these are wintering in the area. A White-throat was banded on Jan. 13 (Hoyt) and there have been other reports of them in early January.

Laplong Longspurs were seen near Interlaken on Dec. 6 (Seeber) and Snow Buntings near Myers Point, Nov. 26 (Allen).

Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt
Etna, New York.

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (PART 2)

The winter in the area has been mild and open for the most part, with little snow. There have been a number of instances when temperature ranges have been extreme, rising to the upper forties or lower fifties, and within ten or twelve hours taking a thirty degree drop. The lakes have not frozen over, and there has been almost a dearth of waterfowl. There have been unusual occurrences of both land and water species incidental to a mild season.

Loons — Gulls:

Loons have been almost absent so far as Keuka lake is concerned. Grebes, also, are far less numerous than usual, Horned Grebes and an occasional Pied-billed being the only ones reported. There was a Great blue Heron at the Keuka outlet at Dresden on December 20, and one reported from Avoca by Mrs. Carter on November 15. Mrs. Carter saw a lone Brant at Hammondsport on October 28, and Prof. Frank Guthrie of the Keuka Park club saw 8 Brant as they flew not far over his head, and cackling, as they headed for the lake. He obtained a good look at them, and their utterances were noticeably different from those of geese. Canada Geese began coming in the last week in September. As to ducks, there are rafts of Red-heads and Canvasbacks on Seneca Lake, a few Old-squaws there, and on both Seneca and Keuka lakes a scattering of the more common things—Blacks, Mallards, Scaups, Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, while Ring-necked Ducks have been almost absent, only a few being found here and there. Black Ducks have been feeding in old corn fields two and three miles back from Keuka lake, and I frequently see them flying out and back. Mergansers have been scarce: Mrs. Carter noted 7 Americans on the Cohocton river on January 20. Hooded Mergansers, 3 or 4, have been on the basin at Branchport. A few Mourning Doves have been in the Branchport vicinity all winter, one flock of 26 having been seen. The usual gulls have been present, Herring, Ring-billed and Great Black-backed, the latter on Seneca Lake. Two Killdeer at Dresden all winter.

Hawks — Owls:

Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks have wintered quite generally over the region. Great Horned Owls began hooting regularly the second week in November. Screech Owls are calling yet, but there are not many reported. A few Short-eared Owls are wintering along the Flat Street road a mile east of Benton Centre, but I have had no reports of Long-eared Owls.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Mrs. McMurtry reported a Red-breasted Nuthatch from Wellsville on November 28. They have been unusually scarce or absent from the region this winter. Winter Wren is wintering at Hammondsport, and there are the usual occurrences of Robins and Bluebirds here and there. Mrs. McMurtry had a flock of 5 Ruby-crowned Kinglets in her yard on November 30. My last note of Myrtle Warbler was on November 17 at my home here.

Blackbird — Sparrows:

Mrs. J. B. Darling reporting for the Watkins-Montour Falls club has 5 Red-wings for the Seneca area on February 12. My last record of Cowbird was on November 16. Mrs. McMurtry had 10 Evening Grosbeaks on November 24, and no more till 3 came to the feeder of Mr. James Randall at Riverside on February 4 and 5. A few fed a few days the first week in February at Andover. This has been a winter for Redpolls in the region, coming in November. They have mostly occurred in small flocks, but Mrs. John Whitaker of the Keuka Park club saw a flock of about 1000 the third week in February a few miles west of Penn Yan. A few Pine Siskins have been seen here and there. Mrs. F. A. Cole, at the edge of Penn Yan, has had a Towhee and a Fox Sparrow all winter, and the writer banded a Fox Sparrow on January 8. I also banded a Swamp Sparrow on January 26, which was retrapped a number of times until February 14. Lapland Longspurs have been reported from the uplands back from the lakes, usually mixed with Snow Buntings.

Chas. J. Spiker
Branchport, N. Y.

REGION 3 — LAKE ONTARIO

October was a rather dry month, with the precipitation only half of normal. However, Lake Ontario remained high enough to cover many of the shorebird feeding beaches and forced them to flooded mud flats such as we have at Ling Road.

November and December were mild with little snowfall which resulted in many unusual records of wintering migrants.

Loons — Ducks:

American Egret was abundant most of August with as many as thirty-four being seen at the Stutson Street marsh. The duck migration started on the ninth of August with a report of Pintail. Large flocks of dabbling ducks found food and protection in Rose's Marsh, west of Manitou. Large numbers of all three species of Scoter have been seen along the lake front all fall (Listman and Kemnitzers).

The first fall record of the European Widgeon in Monroe County was observed by Richard O'Hara. The bird, a female or immature, was seen in the lake off Durand-Eastman Park on November 28.

Double-crested Cormorants were numerous, being reported on nine days during October. These may be from the colony of 20 pair that nested on Gull Island in Henderson Harbor.

Hawks — Owls:

A good flight of Rough-legged Hawks (eleven birds on October 26) was observed, with most of these birds in the flight phase. One Parasitic Jaeger was observed flying along the lakeshore at Braddock's Bay on October 4 (Barry-Listman-VanBeurden).

Great Black-backed Gulls remained with us and several could always be seen in any large flock of gulls. In reverse of other years, the Ring-billed Gull outnumbered the Herrings.

Another first record for Monroe County was the October 4 observation of a Sabine's Gull at the lakeshore (Barry-Listman-VanBeurden). An immature Kittiwake on November 8 was also a first record for the county (Listman-VanBeurden). Forester's Terns were present through October with a report of six birds on the twenty-fifth.

We had a flight of Northern Phalarope between August 23rd to 30th with a report of twelve birds coming from Manitou. Manitou also reported a Purple Sandpiper on October 25 (O'Hara).

Swifts — Shrikes:

A Hermit Thrush wintered at Durand-Eastman Park and was heard singing as late as November 29 (Dolan). Tree Swallows reached maximum abundance September 13 when reports of 3,000 were turned in. Scattered reports of Cliff Swallows came in at the same time.

Vireos — Warblers:

The fall warbler migration seemed normal, but due to the mild weather a Northern Yellow-throat and seven Myrtle Warblers remained with us through to the Christmas Census in December. Also reported at that time was a Red-eyed Vireo