

REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

The summer months were close enough to normal, in respect to both temperature and precipitation, so that there was little in the weather pattern to affect the nesting or (later) the migration of western New York birds. Observers spent many hundreds of man-hours in the field; however, at this season so many of our trips are taken to adjacent Ontario areas that over 60 per cent of our noteworthy records come from that excellent extra-territorial region. This makes it difficult for us to make any representative report on the shore birds particularly, since there are almost no exposed shorelines on our side of either Lake Erie or Lake Ontario, nor mud flats in the interior.

LOONS — DUCKS: Only a few American Egrets were reported this summer, the maximum being five at Oak Orchard. A few ducks had arrived in our waters before the end of September; a single American Scoter was present for a few days in late August off Squaw Island in the Niagara River, and two early Gadwalls were reported from Grand Island on September 27. Wood Ducks apparently had a good season at Burnt Ship Creek on Grand Island, 75 being counted there on September 24 by the Heilborns. Since the Buffalo Ornithological Society will be permitted to act in an advisory capacity to the state's park commission in respect to this area, it is hoped that the many new homes which will be provided for the Wood Ducks will produce a large population of this beautiful species.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkeys nested successfully in Allegany State Park. King Rails were found breeding north of Akron for the second year. Good flocks of Golden Plover were reported from Grand Island, beginning September 8. A most unusual record of three young Killdeer on the roof of an office building in downtown Buffalo on June 22 was reported by Mitchell. The upper Niagara River lived up to its reputation as a headquarters for gulls and terns. One or two Little Gulls were present throughout September; a Sabine's Gull was seen off Squaw Island on September 20 (Nathan, Schaffner, et al.) and on the 22nd (Axtell); and a Franklin's Gull was reported in October. From the 12th of September on, many records of Forster's Tern were received, with a maximum of ten individuals; and three Arctic Terns were observed on September 13 at Bird Island by Nathan, Schaffner, et al., constituting the first record of this species for many years. Among the other species, Common Terns reached their peak in mid-September (3000 individuals), and Black Terns a few days later (5000 on the 19th). A family of Barn Owls was reported from Buffalo by Axtell.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Purple Martins, in large numbers along with Robins and Grackles, again joined the starling roosts which still plague our cities. Carolina Wrens were reported from Lewiston for the first time by the Klabundes. A nest of ten Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found in the Tonawanda Indian Reservation on May 31 (Nathan, Schaffner, et al.). The first nesting record of the Mockingbird from western New York was given us by Mrs. Pixley. Actually there were two successful nests by a pair of these birds near East Bethany, Genesee Co. (near Batavia). Two young were raised in the first, and three in the second.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Warblers were late in getting their fall migration under way, but all through September they were present in good numbers. In fact, it was one of the best migrations in recent years, and lasted well into October for several species.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: There was little of the unusual about these families this summer and fall, numbers and dates being for the most part normal. White-throated Sparrows were late in arriving, but after they did come, they and the Juncos overflowed into the city residential areas in greater than usual numbers.

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REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER — PART 1

Except for a short rainy period in August, this has been one of the driest summers on record, following a wet spring, and heat records fell the end of August and first week in September. No particular effect has been noticed, however, on the bird life, except that more areas were exposed for shore birds, because of low

levels of lakes and streams. Early fall migration appears to be normal.

LOONS — DUCKS: A Common Loon was seen by K. Thorp opposite Long Point on Cayuga 8/25. Double-crested Cormorant, Ithaca 9/30 (K. Thorp). Great Blue Herons and American Egrets were common at Montezuma, approximately 50 Egrets being seen there on 9/5. After the first week in August up to 40 American Egrets were seen west of Endicott. No reports this year of Little Blue Herons or Snowy Egrets.

Late in July several broods of Ruddy Ducks, one of Gadwalls and one of Red-heads were conspicuous at Montezuma, and in general the breeding population of ducks had a better year than last (Hewitt). It was a good year for Wood Ducks in the Binghamton area.

HAWKS — OWLS: An immature Goshawk was reported near Logan (Schuyler Co.) 8/21 (R. Myers and Brumstead). Myers, who has been making a particular study of hawk migration, reports no sizable flocks of Accipiters except on 10/7 when 15 were seen at head of Cayuga. Red-tails filtered slowly through the Southern Tier with 17 seen on 10/13, and 4 Red-shouldered in central Tioga County on 9/8. One Rough-legged Hawk was reported 10/12 just north of Ithaca.

Immature Bald Eagle over Cornell campus 10/13 (Seeber and Myers); 1 adult and 2 imm. Golden Eagles 10/13 just south of Ithaca (Brumstead, Eipper, Hartman, Myers). A migrant Marsh Hawk in central Tioga Co. 10/8 (Myers). An Osprey was seen almost daily in Sept. and Oct. at head of Cayuga.

Falcons seemed to be moving the last two weeks in September, and a Peregrine was seen at Connecticut Hill on 9/22, one over Cornell Campus 9/29 (Myers), two at Howland's Island and two at Montezuma the middle of October (Hewitt).

A pair of Coots with young were seen near Triple Cities, Aug. 9 (Bemont).

Sora and Virginia Rails still at Spencer Marsh 10/17 (AAA). Coots are still low in numbers. Black-bellied Plover 8/20 at Montezuma (AAA); Golden Plover at Hog Hole, Ithaca 9/30 (PPK and class).

Probably the most unusual record for the period was an Avocet, in fall plumage, at Montezuma 9/20, reported by Seeber et al, and seen by other groups also. A Northern Phalarope was swimming in a farm pond at Arnot Forest the week of 8/17 (Hewitt et al).

An early date for Great Black-backed Gull was 9/17 (K. Thorp). First nesting of Common Tern at south end of Cayuga Lake reported by M. Sherwood on 7/18. Two nests, containing 2 and 3 eggs, were found on a rocky strip serving as a break-wall. Neither nest was successful. Last date for Common Tern 9/10, Caspian Tern 8/22 (K. Thorp).

More Barn Owls were reported in Ithaca area than for many years.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A late Nighthawk was seen on Jordani field trip 10/10, at McLean Bog.

Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers could be seen regularly at Montezuma. A dead immature Red-head was found on the highway just west of Freeville 10/10 (M. Guinan).

5 Tufted Titmice at Stewart Park, Ithaca 9/23 (Bock, Risebrough). Winter Wren at Palmer's Woods, Ithaca 9/28 (Gould). 2 Carolina Wrens at Etna, N. Y. on 8/23 (one banded) and again on 10/1 (Hoyt). Two Carolina Wrens were banded near Binghamton July 11 and August 12 (Bemont). Red-breasted Nuthatch 10/18, Ithaca, (A. C. Lane). Pipits at the Hog Hole, Ithaca, 10/11 (Hoyt). Early date for Cedar Waxwing out of nest 7/8 at Etna, (Hoyt). Large flocks of Waxwings in September and October.

Migrant Shrike near Ithaca (8/14 (EGA)).

Near Binghamton 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests were found on the ground on June 3.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Nothing unusual in this group this year. Philadelphia Vireos, always elusive, were reported on 9/21 at the Rifle Range, Ithaca, by Bock, and on 9/22 and 9/24 in Ithaca (K. Thorp).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbirds 9/23, Montezuma (Wolk et al), Ithaca 9/25 (K. Thorp), Spencer Marsh 10/17 (AAA).

3 Dickcissels, 10 miles south-east of Interlaken, 6/28 (R. Robbins).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Montezuma 9/10 (K. Thorp).

Good Field Sparrow and Song Sparrow migration the week of 10/4 (Hoyt). White-throated Sparrows arrived at A. C. Lane's feeding station 9/20, also an early date Sept. 9 at Vestal Cemetery (Broom Co.).

Snow Bunting, over Spencer Marsh 10/17 (AAA).

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REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER — PART 2

The chief thing that may be stated concerning the weather in this area the past quarter year is that it has been extremely dry and mostly cool, with an occasional few days of extreme heat. It has not had any very noticeable effect on the movements of birds, however, and the fall migration has been about as usual, except that the lowering of the lakes and drying up of ponds have brought in certain shore birds.

LOONS — DUCKS: No Loons have been reported by correspondents, and I saw my first since spring on Oct. 16. First Horned Grebes appear on Keuka Lake at Branchport on Oct. 5. A. W. Fudge of Elmira saw 6 American Egrets between Addison and Campbell on July 12. My last date on Green Heron was Oct. 6, and Great Blue Herons have been uncommon. The Chemung Valley club gives the first date on migrating Canada Geese, a flock of 25 flying over Horseheads, about the middle of October flocks of one and two hundred were reported from various quarters. Black Ducks nest in swampy woods over the area, and come to the lakes after the breeding season — first on Keuka came in on August 20. Mrs. Welles writes that they are scarcer on Lowe Pond near Big Flats this fall than normally. Baldpates came to the basin at Branchport early in October, while Prof. Guthrie found two Pintails at the Hollister marsh near Branchport late in September. Both species of Teal appeared at the Hollister marsh in late September and early October, and Wood Ducks were still there on October 17.

HAWKS — OWLS: Sharp-shinned Hawks were at Catlin, near Elmira, all summer, but have been seen only rarely here about Branchport. Red-shouldered Hawks nested some three miles north of Prattsburg, and in the City Hill area just south of Dresden. Mrs. York observed Bald Eagle over her place at Elmira on June 25 and 29. Bob-whites were found on Christian Hollow road south of Elmira on July 6, and in June and July several were seen and heard near Penn Yan and Keuka Park. It was learned that these last were some of 20 that were liberated this summer by a man near Penn Yan who raised them.

The outlet at Keuka Lake empties into Seneca Lake at Dresden, where it has built up a small delta of sandbars which attract shore birds in season. Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated and Pectoral Sandpipers and Sanderlings were there in late September and early October. Upland Plovers were discovered in two new areas near Prattsburg during the summer, and Mrs. McMurty of Wellsville found them near Alfred in July. Mourning Doves appear to have begun migrating earlier this fall, and I have seen none since October 5. While heard intermittently during the summer, Great Horned Owls began calling with fair regularity the second week in August.

SWIFTS — SWALLOWS: My last date on Chimney Swift is September 5, and on Hummingbirds Sept. 15. There was a greater number of Kingbirds scattered over the area this year than I have known in twenty years; my last date was Sept. 3. Last date on Crested Flycatcher, Sept. 2; Phoebe, Oct 15; and Wood Pewee, Sept. 21. Last Barn Swallow date reported, Sept. 12; Bank Swallow, August 15; and Purple Martin, Sept. 5.

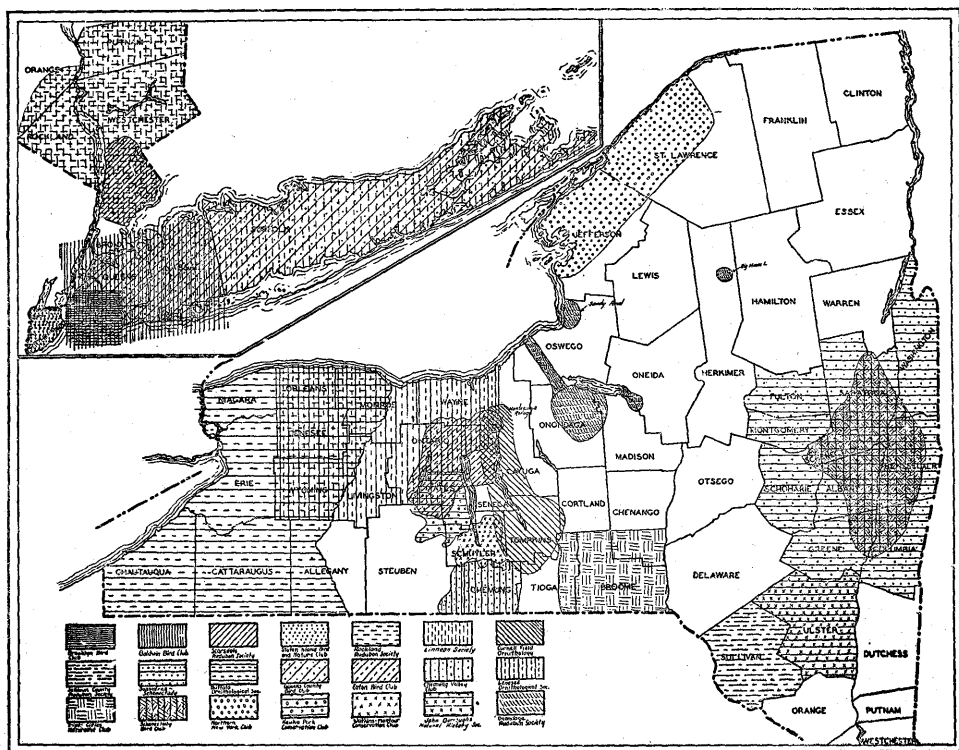
NUTHATCHES — GNATCATCHERS: The writer found Red-breasted Nuthatches near Branchport on Sept. 20, while Mrs. York had them at Elmira on October 9. Last date on House Wrens here, Sept. 21, and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Sept. 28. Catbirds stayed till Oct. 5, and my last date on Brown Thrasher, Sept. 24. Robins have been about in much smaller numbers than usual, almost no large flocks being observed since early in September. My last date reported on Wood Thrush is Sept. 23. Harold C. Wood of Hammondsport wrote me of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher being picked up dead on Long Point, three miles south of Dresden during July.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: My last date on Yellow-throated Vireo is Sept. 7; on Blue-headed, Oct. 6, (Mrs. York at Elmira); Red-eyed, Sept. 15, and Warbling, Sept. 18. Black and White Warbler was observed by the Watkins group on Oct. 11.

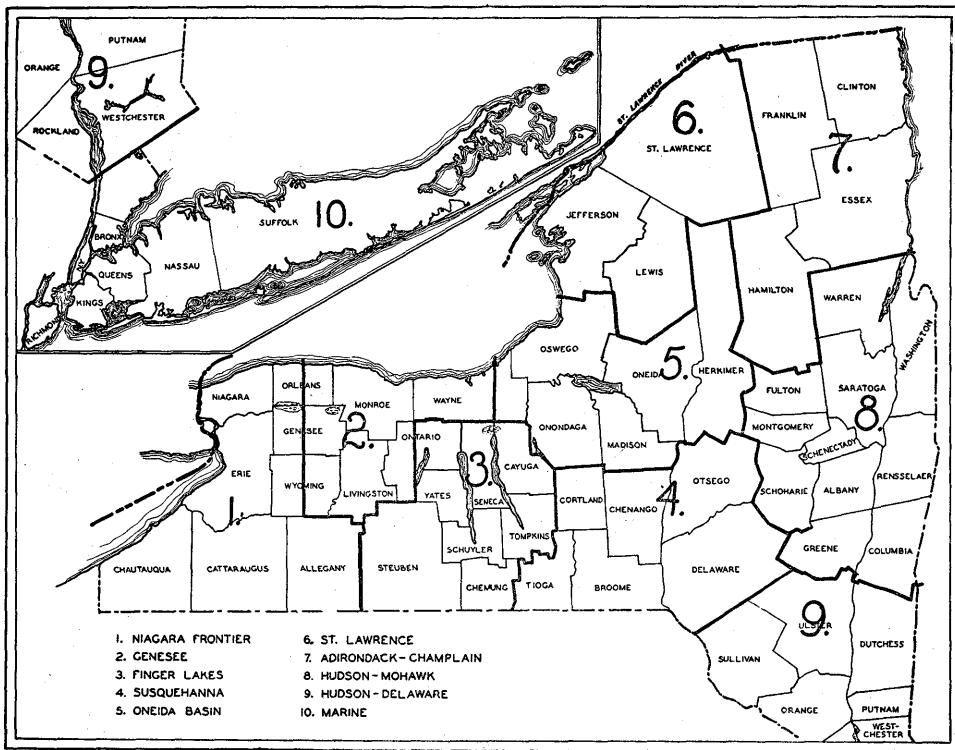
BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Bobolinks were on the hills back from Keuka Lake until Sept. 8, and my last Baltimore Oriole was August 31. Last Scarlet Tanager on Sept. 24, when I banded two. Indigo Bunting was here till Oct. 1, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Sept. 17. First Slate-colored Juncos came in here Sept. 24, and first White-crowned Sparrows on Oct. 1. First White-throated Sparrows on Sept. 15; last dates on Savannah Sparrows, Oct. 9, and on Chipping Sparrows, the same date.

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AREAS COVERED BY MEMBER CLUBS



NEW REGIONS EFFECTIVE APRIL 1954



REGION 3 — LAKE ONTARIO

LOONS — DUCKS: Many waterfowl which don't usually summer here lingered on through June and July but no direct evidence of nesting was found. Two Ruddy Ducks were seen on June 26 on Long Pond and a Lesser Scaup was reported June 27. Two Green-winged Teal, one Gadwall and one Canvasback were reported as late as July 4. Rose's Marsh yielded a lone Canada Goose on July 17, an American Baldpate on July 23, and an American Golden-eye on July 30. The American Egret made its first appearance July 20 at Tryon Park and several were observed there and along the lake shore during August. An early record and high count of 17 White-winged Scoters were reported on Braddock's Bay Sept. 5.

HAWKS — OWLS: A small flight of Broad-winged Hawks was noted at the Lakeshore as late as June 26. A White-rumped Sandpiper and a Wilson's Snipe were reported at Ling Road on June 6. Harry Van Beurden saw 17 Upland Plovers at Short Acres on July 25.

Bergen Swamp seems to be our favorite area for Turkey Vultures and on Sept. 12, twenty-six of these birds were seen in the air at one time. Osprey were seen along the Lakeshore on the same date and on Aug. 7 a Duck Hawk was seen. Sora were unusually common during September, with one group reporting as many as 20 birds. Golden Plover were also unusually common, with a Shore Acres high of 38. Of special interest is the report of a Hudsonian Curlew at Braddock's Bay (Monroe Co.) by Bieber and others. A Hudsonian Curlew was seen again on Sept. 12 at Shore Acres by Van Beurden, who also reported a Willet on that date. On Sept. 19-20 a Hudsonian Godwit was added to Shore Acres' list of specials. Both Red