

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (Part 1)

The latter half of October and all of November remained unusually warm and dry, with temperatures in the sixties the third week of November. One heavy snowfall occurred on the 7th of November, but melted rapidly. Migrants lingered late, but winter visitors seemed to put in their appearance in the area on time, although they were slow in coming to feeding stations.

LOONS — DUCKS: There was a good loon migration this fall. Last date for Great Blue Heron at Binghamton, (11/7) at Vestal Cemetery (Sheffields). 2 immature Blue Geese were observed feeding with 70 Canadas at Montezuma 11/1 (Ken Chambers). 150 American Brant flew over southern end of Cayuga Lake 10/29 (Eipper) and two were seen on the shore on 11/1 (K. Thorp).

First date for American Golden-eye on Cayuga, 11/2, near Aurora (Thorp), and for Bufflehead 10/20, near Aurora (Thorp). There seemed to be fewer Canvasbacks, Scaups, and Redheads through the fall again this year (AAA).

HAWKS — OWLS: The Sharp-shinned Hawk is reported as uncommon in Triple Cities Area. One seen 10/11 near Endicott.

First Rough-legged Hawk reported at Ithaca 11/7 (K. Thorp).

Among the shorebirds, Pectoral, Baird's and Red-backed Sandpipers were seen at the Hog Hole (Ithaca) on 10/25 (Rosche, et al), and Red-backs were still there on Nov. 1st (K. Thorp). A late date for a Sanderling is 11/16 at Hog Hole (Thorp).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Last date for Phoebe at Triple Cities, 10/4, at Boland's Marsh (TCNat. Club). The first Redbreasted Nuthatch report was from Sapsucker Woods (Ithaca) on 10/25, (Rosche). Caroline Wrens seen regularly at Binghamton (Bemont) and Etna (Hoyt). Long-billed Marsh Wren last seen at Boland's Marsh 10/4 (TCNC).

Robins were staying late in the area. Last Olive-backed Thrush seen 10/25 at Kattelville (TCNC). First Golden-crowned Kinglets seen 10/11, six of them at Chenango Valley State Park (TCNC). 3 small flocks of Pipits at widely separated points in Triple Cities area on 11/8 but none since. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet turned up at my feeder on Nov. 26 (Hoyt). First Northern Shrike reported near Danby 11/1 (K. Thorp).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Myrtle Warblers were seen throughout November. A Yellow Palm Warbler was seen 10/4 at Doubleday Glen by Fassenden.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: English Sparrows seem to be increasingly numerous everywhere, and a nuisance at feeding stations. Blackbirds were late in leaving the area — 2 Rusty Blackbirds at Etna 11/29 (Hoyt). 5 Meadowlarks at Conklin 11/21 (Sheffield & White). Single Bronzed Grackles were reported frequently at various points.

Tree Sparrows were in evidence the first week of Nov. A White-throated Sparrow was still at Lanes' feeder at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca 11/30. A Whitecrown was trapped 11/29 at Etna (Hoyt). A Fox Sparrow lingered at Lanes' until 11/15.

Allen reported more Lapland Longspurs than usual during November in the Cayuga Lake Basin. Snow Buntings were first reported by Dick Myers on 10/21, south of Ithaca.

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REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (Part 2)

On November 7 this area was blanketed by a fall of from 10 to 12 inches of snow, the heaviest deposit in several years. It warmed up directly after, however, and most of it was gone in three or four days. It continued mild with temperatures ranging from 50 to the middle sixties until about the 20th, when it turned much cooler, and the writer's diary records mostly "cloudy and cool" the rest of the month. The bird migration was about normal, the extreme in weather appearing to have little effect on it.

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons continue to be almost nil on the lake here at Branchport, although rather heavy migrations of them were reported on Cayuga Lake in one of Dr. Allen's Saturday broadcasts. I have not seen a Loon on Keuka Lake all fall. Ducks came in in about their usual numbers with Blacks predominating. Four Green-winged Teal were on the basin at Branchport throughout November, also a lone Ruddy Duck. Mrs. McMurtry reports Canada Geese at Wellsville as late as November 6. The Watkins-Montour Bird Club, Mrs. J. B. Darling reporting, had a pair of Whistling Swans on Seneca Lake near Lakeside Park for nearly a week late in November, also a single Great Black-backed Gull at the same time.

HAWKS — OWLS: The depletion of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks throughout the area has become increasingly serious, and the presence of either is worthy of record. The only Cooper's Hawk reported for the area in the period covered was one at Alfred on October 30. Broad-winged hawks were seen at Alfred on October 9, 16 and 23. An occasional Marsh Hawk was on my place here at Branchport off and on all through November. Sparrow Hawks were scarce through the fall, but were more numerous after November 1. Mrs. McMurtry reports Ruffed Grouse common in the Wellsville and Bolivar neighborhoods. Wild Turkeys appear to be taking root in Allegany county, a flock of five seen several times on Wildonian Dairy Farm near Wellsville between November 20th and 27th; one was seen at Whitesville on Thanksgiving Day, and Mrs. McMurtry has knowledge of another flock in the county. It would be interesting to know the origin of these turkeys, whether they stem from local introductions, or have perhaps come up across the border from Pennsylvania. There have been no reports of Short-eared or Long-eared Owls for the early fall.

WOODPECKERS — SHRIKES: Pileated Woodpeckers appear to be on the increase generally over the southern tier area. Tufted Titmice appeared near Wellsville the last of November. Mrs. Welles, for the Chemung Valley club reports a Carolina Wren at suet on a tree in her yard on October 24. Robins were present daily throughout October and until the 12th of November, since when occasional individuals are seen. The large flocks noted through the past two winters are absent in the Keuka Lake area. This is very definitely a Northern Shrike season. I noted several during November, and the Elmira group also reported them, although the notation is simply "Shrike", but a November date is doubtless that of the Northern.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Meadowlarks were present until November 10 in the Keuka Lake area, Red-wings throughout November, Bronzed Grackle till November 8, Rusty Blackbirds until the 20th in flocks, with stray individuals the rest of the month. The last Cowbirds were seen November 9. An immature Dickcissel was trapped and banded 11/3 by Malcolm Lerch at Penn Yan. The writer had a lone Evening Grosbeak on his premises November 30. Mrs. McMurtry reports Redpolls and Pine Siskins at Wellsville, the only reports I have had, as they were absent here in the fall. Mrs. Welles saw a Goldfinch feed three juveniles on October 2nd. Song Sparrows locally were observed almost daily through November, about the only migratory sparrows present aside from the incoming Tree Sparrows, which appeared first at Branchport on October 26.

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