

REGION 9 — CENTRAL NEW YORK

The summer season was long, hot and dry for the most part. This fall the weather has been generally mild and only light rainfall occurred in the Finger Lakes area. Records given in this report cover the period following spring migration and including fall migration, up to November 25. Temporary drainage of large ponds at the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge provided excellent feeding areas for migrating shore birds during late August and September. The construction of, and seeding along, the shoulders of the New York State Thruway afforded foraging areas for a number of migrating birds, including Pipits, Golden Plover and Black-bellied Plover, White-Throat and White-crowned Sparrows in and adjacent to the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, September 27 (Gambrells, Hartzell).

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons were generally scarce this year. At Montezuma — 10-Least Bittern September 6 (Munfords); American Egret (9/27); Great Blue Heron still present in small numbers Oct. 25; also a few Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Mallards, Black Duck, Gadwall, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Ducks seen on above date at Montezuma Refuge and Seneca Lake (Gambrells and Hartzell). Relatively few White-winged Scoters, Old-squaws (Ward), Redheads, Canvas-backs, Buffle-heads, American Golden-eye, Mallards, Black Duck and Canada Geese (Gambrell, November 22) have been seen on Seneca Lake this fall.

HAWKS — OWLS: One Rough-Legged Hawk seen November 12 at Sampson Air Base (Gambrell). Upland Plover and young (2 groups of chicks) seen 6/20 and 6/27 (Wards and Gambrells) just east of Waterloo.

Some late summer and fall dates include: first Horned Grebe September 9; Semipalmated Plover August 8; Pectoral Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Sanderling, Northern Phalarope, Stilt Sandpiper August 16; Semipalmated Sandpiper August 8; Red-backed Sandpiper September 20; Black Tern last seen September 20 (Ward); Least Sandpiper August 30 (Mrs. F. W. May); Sora September 6 (Munfords); Pied-billed Grebe November 22.

No fall hawk migrations observed or reported. Bald Eagle still present at Montezuma September 9 (Munfords) and October 10 at Westernville (Mrs. May); also seen at Montezuma were Florida Gallinule and Sora September 9 (Munfords). An Avocet was reported at Montezuma September 20 (Fritz Scheider, Miss Rowley and the Elmira group); Wilson's Snipe, Lesser Yellow-legs September 27 (Gambrells and Hartzell). Herring and Ring-billed (but no Black-backed) Gulls present November 22; Osprey September 27 (Gambrells, Hartzell) as well as Marsh and Sparrow Hawks; Cooper's Hawk September 25 (Mrs. F. W. May); Greater Yellowlegs September 27 (Gambrell).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Logger-head Shrikes have been down in numbers for several years. Chimney Swifts last reported September 19 (Ward); Bank Swallows August 29; Barn Swallow September 2 (Mrs. May); Tree Swallows September 27; Purple Martin September 7 (Gambrell); Olive-backed Thrush September 24; Brown Thrasher September 29; Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets October 2 and 5; Winter Wren September 18; Crested and Least Flycatchers on August 29; Olive-sided August 30, Alder and Acadian Flycatchers on September 6; Baltimore Oriole Sept. 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker October 7; Catbird and Robin October 10; Wood Pewee October 1; Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoo September 1 (Mrs. F. W. May).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Warbling and White-eyed Vireos September 1; Red-eyed on September 19; Blue-headed September 15 and Yellow-throated Vireo September 16; Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers August 13; Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Nashville, Tennessee, Canada Warblers on August 30; Black and White Warbler August 29; Black-throated Blue September 23; Magnolia September 15 and Myrtle Warbler September 29; Redstart September 20. Rose-breasted Grosbeak September 19; Purple Finch September 15; Ruby-throated Hummingbird September 4; Cowbird September 8; Red-wing Blackbirds, and Bronzed Grackle and Pewee October 1; House Wren September 29; Kingbird August 28; Bobolink August 30; Veery September 1; Wood Thrush September 29; Scarlet Tanager September 21; Ovenbird September 1. All vireo, warbler and other records under this heading by Mrs. F. W. May, Westernville, N. Y. Cardinals nested in numerous areas.

SPARROWS: Following the first heavy snow on November 6, 20 Pipits, 25 Snow Buntings, 8 Mourning Doves, 1 Meadowlark and 5 Prairie Horned Larks were observed along the edge of the highway on November 8. Fifteen Pipits were seen on September 18 near Newark. The numbers increased to about 200 or more by October 29. Snow Buntings (25) observed October 23, and up to 500 on Novem-

ber 3 feeding in same field as Pipits. [Prairie Horned Lark, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs also present in same area October 10 (Gambrell).]

Field, Song, White-throated, White-crowned and Chipping Sparrows (Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, Killdeer, Flicker, Robin, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-wing, Chickadee, Turkey Vulture) observed October 10; Tree Sparrow seen November 22 (Gambrell).

An unusual record of 1 Mockingbird seen at residence of writer on morning of November 11 (Gambrells and Ward). Bird heard calling on November 22. A similar bird wintered about 5 miles west of Geneva in 1952-53 at the H. H. Utter residence.

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NOTICE

The new regions as first outlined in the October issue are now in effect. The April issue will include bird records from new regions for the period Dec. 1, 1953 to March 31, 1954. We are happy to announce regional editors for regions 4 and 6. Mr. Frank A. Clinch, 183 Park Ave., Watertown, N. Y., will be the editor of region 6 (St. Lawrence) and Mr. Leslie E. Bemont, R. F. D. No. 3, Binghamton, N. Y., will be the editor of region 4 (Susquehanna). For a complete description of the new regions please see THE KINGBIRD, Vol. 3, No. 3, 62-63.

The Editor.