

## HARRIS'S SPARROW IN NEW YORK STATE

WINSTON W. BROCKNER

The Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) is a large sparrow which breeds from Churchill, Manitoba northwest to Great Bear Lake, in an area of stunted spruce at the edge of the tundra (F. C. Lincoln, 1950 *Migration of Birds*, Circular 16, U. S. Dept. Interior, P. 43). This species winters from southeastern Nebraska and northwestern Missouri across eastern Kansas and Oklahoma and through a narrow section of central Texas. Its normal migration route is then almost due south. In the east, migrants are noted with fair regularity to the western shore of Lake Michigan. Further east they are accidental or sporadic in occurrence.

In a review of Audubon Field Notes from 1948 to 1954 six recent sporadic occurrences from the northeast are documented. (Vol. 3, No. 1, 14, Toronto, Ontario Oct. 1 and 3, 1948; Vol. 3, No. 4, 203, Burlington, Vt., Jan. 1948 to May 1949; Vol. 6, No. 1, 9, Glastonbury, Conn., immature, Oct. 10, 1951; Vol. 6, No. 4, 245, Kirkland Lake, Ont., May 23, 1952; Vol. 7, No. 4, 272, St. Thomas, Ontario, Jan. 1, 1953 and Pt. Pelee, Ontario, May 23, 1953.)

A seventh recent record from the northeast appears to constitute the first New York State record (Prothonotary, Vol. 17, No. 12, Dec. 1951). Mrs. Charles W. Avery of Hamburg, Erie Co., first discovered an immature bird at her feeding station on November 8, 1951. Several other observers, including myself, observed the bird there until its departure on Nov. 11.

These records show three birds first appeared in October, one in November, two in January and two in May. The bird at Burlington, Vt., wintered and left again in mid-May. Perhaps our winter feeders in the northeast may lure more birds away from their recently parched southern wintering areas.

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## SANCTUARIES ON INSTITUTION GROUNDS

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Setting up a sanctuary on the grounds of a private institution is so simple that I do not see why every town that boasts a Federation member could not have one on the grounds of a school, church or hospital.

All that is needed, actually, is a shrubby area—on land already owned—a birdbath or pool, a feeder and birdboxes, and the initial interest of one or two individuals. From there the project is almost self-maintaining. It may remain a small one, designed to bring peace, as in a church close or hospital garden. Or it may grow to almost any size with the varying interests and abilities of the participants in various years. The financial outlay is small, the educational values high. They are needed to complement the growth of our urban areas.

My institutional sanctuary is at the Park School in Buffalo. We are fortunately situated on an old farm which in the past few years has been surrounded by housing and industrial expansion. Its grounds offer an excellent informal outdoor laboratory for nature-minded members of the faculty,