

The northern finches and other seed eating species of late fall and winter are greeted in New York by hundreds of tons of Sunflower Seeds and cracked corn at man-made feeders, but those which fend for themselves must harvest the tree, shrub and other plant seed crops. This chart gives a fair view of the menu available in New York this year. Notice that the western Allegheny Plateau region offers little but Box Elder. The seed crop from Albany south to New York City appears to be good in general, particularly Hemlock, Birch, Cherry and Sugar Maple. The seed crop in the Adirondacks appears to be poor to fair for most species, good for White and Black Spruce. We wish to thank all regional reporters helping in this compilation, and also Mr. W. B. Petty and Mr. F. E. Judwin of the State Conservation Department. The Conservation Department has always been very helpful to us in the past and we wish to take this opportunity to give them a special "thanks".

THE EDITOR.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

The 1954 fall migration was full of unusual records. The weather pattern supplied little reason for the good birding; the one outstanding weather phenomenon, Hurricane "Hazel", had relatively little effect on western New York. Looking back, the four months, Aug., Sept., Oct., and November, seem to have been disagreeably wet throughout. Actually, October was the only month which broke all (October) records for precipitation, yet it provided most of the rarities.

LOONS — DUCKS: A cormorant at Wellsville October 12 was unusual. Egret records were few, only three (from Olean, Wellsville, and Morton's Corners) being reported. Only two Whistling Swans (at Bird Island October 30) visited us this fall. Judging by the number of records received of flocks of geese going over at night, the height of their migration was around October 20. Gadwalls were noted in late September and late October at Cuba Lake, Grand Island, and Lake Chautauqua. About 1000 Canvasbacks were on the Niagara River throughout most of November. Four Surf Scoters in Buffalo's lower harbor made our Duck Count on October 10, and Rosche found no less than fifty Ruddy Ducks at Silver Lake on October 13. A Harlequin returned to Niagara Falls November 27.

HAWKS — OWLS: Fifty Turkey Vultures were reported from Fulmer Hill (Horns, *vide* McMurtry) on September 19; the last individual was seen at Oak Orchard October 18 (Beardslee). Earliest Roughlegged Hawk was seen October 23 at Alfred by Mrs. McMurtry; we have several records in mid-November. The McMurtry's report a hen turkey with 12-15 young near Wellsville in August. King Rails again made their home at Oak Orchard. High point of the Golden Plover migration was September 26 when no less than 360 were counted on Grand Island by Nathan, Filor, and Schaffner; the latest record for the species was October 23. Bonaparte's Gulls were much more numerous during October than usual; 2000 were observed by Schaffner off Bird Island on the 17th; normally that number is not present on the Niagara until November. A Little Gull was noted at Bird Island September 25 (Nathan, Schaffner). Last dates for the terns were: Forster's October 17, Common November 13, and Black October 17. During the first half of October an entirely unprecedented number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from every corner of our territory, one of the most interesting phenomena of the entire year. A Barn Owl was seen at Fillmore November 6 (McMurtry.)

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A late Whip-poor-will was observed at Vandalia October 4 by Eaton, and the last Hummingbird at Wellsville October 12 by McMurtry. Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from Wellsville and Angola, and Red-bellies from Castile

and Wilson. An August 25 record of Olive-sided Flycatcher from Vandalia by Eaton intrigues me; we have many dates comparable to it, but all of our earlier fall dates are from the mountains in that vicinity, and I suspect some day a nesting pair will be found there. Northern Horned Larks appeared November 6. The swallows remained later than usual, though no records were broken. Chickadees, and to a lesser extent White-breasted Nuthatches swarmed over western New York in October. Brown-capped Chickadees were reported from Wilson (November 14, Axtell et al) and Chestnut Ridge Park (November 26, Coggeshalls). A goodly number of Carolina Wren records were received during September, October, and November. The last House Wren record was October 27 and the last Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported from Tifft Street October 18 (P. Greene). Eaton collected an Olive-backed Thrush at Vandalia October 19, and Mrs. McMurtry reported a Veery at Wellsville September 15. Perhaps the most noticeable effect of Hurricane "Hazel" was the very large number of Golden-crowned Kinglets which flooded the territory immediately afterward. Earliest Pipit record was September 25 (Grand Island, Rosche); there was an excellent October migration of the species. Gray Shrikes appeared early (October 23) and more records of their presence were received than in any previous year in my memory, as many as nine individuals being reported on one field trip.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: In this group belongs one of the most unusual records ever to be reported in western New York, viz., the occurrence of a Dickcissel and a Harris's Sparrow in one day at one feeding station (October 4, Kenmore, Rathbun, Houck, et al). Both identifications were well authenticated. Actually, Nathan found a Harris's Sparrow in Forest Lawn Cemetery on September 28, and the Kenmore bird was seen from September 29 to October 4. The Dickcissel was present only one day. Also of great interest was the start of what promises to be one of our very best years for northern finches. Evening Grosbeaks first appeared October 21, and have been reported from many areas since. Pine Grosbeaks arrived November 14, and they too are present in good numbers. Only one Red Crossbill has been reported, but we have several records of White-wings, though the flocks are small. Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins are also here.

132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore 17, N. Y.

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HARRY VAN BEURDEN

The fall migration in our area was good in several respects but poor in some ways. The land bird flight was interesting with many warblers in September and many chickadees in October. The waterfowl migration was poor due to adverse weather and the shorebird flight was also disappointing. As of Nov. 30 little snow has fallen and the weather was averaging fair.

LOONS — DUCKS: The first Common Loon was seen on Sept. 12 with a high count of 100 on Oct. 30. The first Red-throated Loon was seen on Oct. 30 with very few later records. One Holboell's Grebe on Nov. 6 and five on Nov. 7 at Payne Beach (Monroe Co.). There were several Monroe Co. records of American Egrets. One Eastern Glossy Ibis was seen Sept. 25 and 26 at Braddock's Bay (Monroe Co.) by many observers. A few Brant were seen, first date Nov. 13; maximum in one day 4 individuals. The first Pintail was seen on Aug. 14 and the greatest number (1085) was seen migrating east along Lake Ontario, urged on by strong NW winds on Sept. 11. First dates for other ducks — Ring-necked Duck Oct. 9, Canvasback Oct. 17, Goldeneye Oct. 28, Bufflehead Oct. 23, Old Squaw Oct. 17, Surf Scoter Oct. 17, Amer. Scoter Oct. 17, White-winged Scoter Sept. 12 and Ruddy Duck Oct. 16. There were 300 Lesser Scaup still present on Nov. 30 at Durand Park. An unidentified female Eider was seen at Rigney's Bluff (Monroe Co.) on Nov. 28. The diving duck and scoter flight was very poor. (Northerly winds were scarce during October and November). Red-breasted Mergansers were recorded in the thousands during the first and second weeks of November. At Hamlin Park Baldpates, Pintails, Green-winged Teals and Gadwalls were still present the last week in Nov.

HAWKS — OWLS: Bald Eagle, scarce; Coopers Hawk, more than usual — there is perhaps a small flight of this species east along the lakeshore in the fall. Red-shouldered Hawk, one late bird on Oct. 23; one early Rough-legged Hawk on Oct. 9;