

on Sept. 4 and there were several reports of Lincoln's Sparrows from Sept. 4 to Oct. 16. The first dates for Tree Sparrow Oct. 23, Lapland Longspur Oct. 2, Snow Bunting Oct. 23.

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

MRS. SOUTHGATE Y. HOYT

August and September were warm, somewhat above normal in temperature and dry throughout the Finger Lakes region. October and November were a little wetter, with two heavy wet snows, one on November 2 and one on November 21st, which were localized. The part of the region from Elmira east was hard hit by hurricane Hazel on October 15, Ithaca itself suffering most damage. Surprisingly enough, very little effect was noticed on the bird life, with few Southern or coastal birds reported; some observers reported that Song Sparrows seemed to disappear immediately after the storm. Apparently we are more affected, bird-wise, by storms to the east of us than by those which move from the south directly into the area.

The most outstanding feature of the season has been the invasion of northern birds of several species, unusually early and in much greater numbers than usual.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Large flocks of migrating Loons were seen near King Ferry Nov. 30th A. M. (A. A. Allen). A Red-throated Loon was on Keuka Lake near Branchport 11/4 (Spiker). Horned Grebes appeared in normal number on all lakes.

A Great Blue Heron lingered late in November at Montezuma (Schaffner), one at Meyer's Point on Cayuga Lake (AAA) and one near Elmira (Smith, Welles). American Egrets were present at Montezuma until 10/3 (Walker) and one appeared in August at Hollister's Swamp near Branchport, second record for that area in 15 years (Guthrie). A Little Blue Heron was reported on Virgil Creek at Dryden 8/24 (Dunham). An American Bittern was rescued from a trap on Chemung River 11/22 by J. Arnesen. Least Bitterns and Black-crowned Night Herons up in numbers at Montezuma (Walker). The lone Whistling Swan was seen for the last time on 10/17 (Munfords) and was then in flight. On 11/20 there were 3 of this species at Montezuma (Walker) and 4 were on Keuka near Branchport 11/4-12 (Guthrie).

Good flights of Canada Geese all fall, an early flight seen at Avoca on 9/14 (Carter). 60 Brant at head of Cayuga Lake 11/5 (Rapalee). Several Blue Geese and 1 Snow Goose stayed at Montezuma awhile and were reported by various observers 10/23 to 11/18.

Ducks began returning to foot of Seneca Lake about 10/10 and soon there were good rafts of Scaups and Redheads there (Ward) — fewer on Cayuga this fall. Montezuma had 300 Baldpates, 150 Shovellers 10/10 (Munford). A Ring-necked Duck, irregularly here in winter, was seen at Montezuma 11/28 (Munford). A White-winged Scoter was reported killed on Cayuga 11/6 (Walker) and Mallards and Black Ducks were numerous at Brandy Bay on Keuka this fall, where they are being protected. An early Ruddy Duck at 7 Acre Pond near Elmira 9/1 (Welles), and on Cayuga 9/20 (Thorpe). Two early Red-breasted Mergansers were on Cayuga Lake, 10 miles south of the foot, on 8/29 (Van Beurden).

**HAWKS — OWLS:** Fewer reports of Turkey Vultures in northern part, but two were seen 9/12 on Ridge Road north of Horseheads (Samson) and Grossbeck reports 22 of them circling over a sheep carcass in town of Greenwood 9/19. A Goshawk again seen at Andrus place near Catlin 11/29 (Andrus). Several species of Hawks were present at Montezuma on 11/28 (Walker, Munfords) including the Peregrine which had been around there since 10/10. Rough-legged Hawk at Etna 11/9 (Hoyt) and at Montezuma 11/17 (Munford). Two Eagles were seen frequently all fall at Montezuma. A Pigeon Hawk appeared two miles south of Branchport 9/18 (Spiker). No other area reports of it.

Ruffed Grouse are scarce around Avoca (Carter). A late Florida Gallinule was reported to W. Thurber by another observer at Montezuma on 11/14. Coots have

increased at foot of Seneca from 2 in '48 to 150 in '54 (Ward) and seem abundant at head of Cayuga Lake also, and at Brandy Bay on Keuka.

Good Killdeer migration at Clifton Springs 9/26 (Munford) and 100 of them were seen near Ithaca East Hill airport 11/3 (AAA). Black-bellied Plover at Dresden on Seneca 9/24 (Spiker) and a Ruddy Turnstone there on 8/27 was first in 8 years (Orcutt). Turnstone also at Ithaca 8/29 (Thorp). A Woodcock "not seen every year at Branchport" was reported from Hollister's Swamp 8/3 and one was flushed from the snow near the Ithaca airport 11/3 (AAA). Snipe seen in small numbers along the Canisteo River in N. Hornell on 10/5 (Groesbeck). A Western Willet was seen in company with Yellowlegs at Montezuma the middle of September by Harold Mitchell.

A Purple Sandpiper, very rare in this Region, was seen at Meyer's Pt. on Cayuga by A. A. Allen on 11/22. 4 Pectorals were still present at Montezuma on 11/14 (Thurber). A flock of 8 White-rumped Sandpipers was closely observed at Montezuma on 8/29 by the Moons and Leubner. A Baird's Sandpiper, which is not often seen locally, was at the Hog Hole, Ithaca 9/3 (Thorp and others). Two Sanderlings and 5 Red-backed Sandpipers were at Meyer's Pt. 11/4 (Allen). Larch reported a Stilt Sandpiper at Dresden 8/29, and Sanderlings were early arrivals at the Montezuma Refuge 8/1 (Walker).

Northern Phalaropes were reported from three places: the Refuge 8/29 (Moons, Rising and Leubner), Penn Yan Marsh 9/26 (Orcutt) and (late) 11/10 at the head of Cayuga Lake (AAA).

Unusual numbers of Herring Gulls returned to Cohocton River in October (Carter); Bonaparte's Gulls on Cayuga 10/6 (Walker) and 10/18 (Thorp).

A Black-billed Cuckoo was seen feeding on the ground near Horseheads 10/17 (Welles).

Several Snowy Owls have been reported, including at Dryden 11/11 (Dunham) and n. of Auburn 11/21 (McIlroy). K. Thorp saw a Short-eared Owl near Ithaca 9/24 and a Saw-whet Owl was reported 9/25 on Cornell campus by Wingate.

**SWIFTS — SHRIKES:** A Night-hawk was observed still at Elmira 10/5 (Fudge & Ryan). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds left all stations the third week in September, except one which was seen the middle of October (AAA).

Several score observers on the Federation field trip 8/29 watched a Red-bellied Woodpecker feeding young in the nest-hold at Montezuma, unusual both for the late date and for the fact that it may represent a second nesting. Red-headed Woodpeckers raised three young a mile north of Berkshire (Kelsey, Dunham) and the species was seen by 4 observers near Avoca where it has been exceedingly scarce (Carter). A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers spent the summer in Jersey Hill section near Almond at 1800' elevation and were seen until 8/12, feeding mostly on poplars (Groesbeck). Sapsuckers were seen migrating at Burdett the last two weeks in September (Bardeen).

Olive-sided Flycatcher, rarely reported in the fall in the Region, was seen at Hollister's Swamp near Branchport 9/13 (Spiker). Horned Larks are abundant in the Region and large flocks were reported near Horseheads on November 8 (Fudge).

Large Tree Swallow migration observed the weekend of 10/3 at Montezuma (Rosche) and again the next weekend (Munford).

Blue Jays seem to have increased in number and were especially numerous in migrating flocks in October.

A Raven was observed one mile south of the N. Y. State line, on Route 14 below Elmira, on 11/9 (AAA, EGA, SFH).

Black-capped Chickadees are very abundant, and it is a big year for Red-breasted Nuthatches, the earliest reported seen on the Cornell campus 8/15 (Hewitt).

Winter Wren 9/16, Ridge Road, Horseheads (MacDougall); another Bewick's Wren 8/1 at Watkins Glen (Champion); Carolina Wrens on the increase around Ithaca and Watkins Glen; a pair at the Woodward Cottage on Seneca Lake raised two broods of 4 each (Bardeen). Mali reports two Carolinas at Geneva.

A Mockingbird was seen at Jacksonville 10/16 (Graham) and one at Branchport 11/20 (Lewis, et al).

Robins seemed to leave early (Carter, Hoyt).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were abundant, and invaded Elmira in numbers 10/18 and 19. Both Kinglets abundant at Watkins throughout migration.

**VIREOS — WARBLERS:** Philadelphia Vireos were reported at three places: near Branchport, Crescent Swamp 9/2 (Spiker); Etna 9/4 (Hoyt) and the Island 10/3 (Walker).

Warbler migration was normal, all species being reported that could be expected, but no unusual waves. A Connecticut Warbler was seen  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of Penn Yan 9/7 (Lerch). There were few reports of lingering Myrtles.

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS:** Enormous Grackle flights were seen November 5 by A. A. Allen and by Sundell, with some Redwings and Starlings also. Thurber reports missing the usual large Blackbird concentrations at Montezuma; 450 bobolinks at Montezuma 8/28 (Van Beurden).

Late Scarlet Tanager at Keuka Park 10/16 (Guthrie).

I am late in reporting a Dickcissel 7/10 of this year at Ithaca, on Culver Road (Phil Allen). Flocks of Dickcissels fed on Bird's-foot Trefoil on the shore of Keuka near Penn Yan in August (Mrs. Arthur Cowell).

The fall has been particularly marked by the invasion, early and in numbers of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. The Pines have come into villages and cities, feeding on maple buds and seeds, privet and sumac. Evening Grosbeaks came to feeders in Ithaca the end of November, when box elder had not yet been exhausted. The earliest Evening Grosbeak report was 10/14 (Fischer) at Ithaca; earliest Pine Grosbeak 10/19 near Branchport (Spiker). White-winged Crossbills have also been reported, 11/9, Etna (Hoyt, Dickinson). There are few reports of Siskins or Redpolls yet.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow, often missed in migration, 9/3 and 9/24 at Ithaca (K. Thorp). Juncos are very common this fall, large flocks near Cortland 10/17 (Thurber). Early Junco report from Branchport 8/27 (Spiker) although this may have nested nearby at a higher elevation.

Flocks of migrating Chipping Sparrows 9/28 at Avoca (Carter). White-throated Sparrows seemed scarce to several observers. A late Fox Sparrow sang at Etna 11/25 (Hoyt).

Lapland Longspurs are abundant, being seen from 10/22 on (AAA). Snow Buntings also came early and in numbers, the first being seen 10/24 at Branchport (Spiker).

Aviana, Etna, N. Y.

## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The first two or three weeks of August, in the Susquehanna Region, were a continuation of the drought experienced during the latter part of June and all of July. Towards the end of August the weather reversed itself completely to cool and wet. September and October were the usual mixture of beautiful sunny days and an overcast drizzly one, except for October 15 when Hazel passed through. Her only calling card was a Black Skimmer, found north of Norwich two days later. November 2 brought the first heavy snowfall of the year and the next one was at Thanksgiving.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** The earliest Horned Grebe reported was one at Norwich 10/20 (R. White), and the last Pied-bills were 3 at Unadilla 10/23 (Wisner).

10/28 saw the last Great Blue Heron at Norwich (R. White). The lone American Egret of the season was one at Campville 9/6 (Sheffields & Bemont). The last Green Heron was noted 10/3 near Binghamton (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club). An immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron showed up in Chenango Bridge 8/22 (Bemont) and was obliging enough to return to the same spot for four other observers (Fessenden, Washburn, Sheffields) to confirm the identification. It appeared once more on 8/28 before leaving for good.

An American Brant was seen on Oquaga Lake near Deposit 11/6 (Wilson).

Three Green-winged Teal, our first of the season, were seen on Boland's Marsh, north of Binghamton 9/19 (Washburn & Sheffields) and a flock of 26, the season high were in the same place 9/25 (North & Bemont). Six Blue-wings 8/29, our first, and 15 in a flock 9/23, the season high were on the same marsh (Bemont). Our only fall Teal report in the previous two years was a single Green-wing in Nov. 1952.