

Flycatcher and Swallow departures were normal. A Red-bellied Woodpecker visited the Thompson feeder at Castile from 11/8 to 11/30. A Longbilled Marsh Wren was reported from the Fredonia area on the 10/16 census, and several Carolina Wrens were reported. An early Gray-cheeked thrush was seen on 9/12 (Grand Island, H.M.), and a very late Olive-back on 11/5 (Forest Lawn, B.N., A.S., M. Emerson). A flock of 150 Pipits was reported from Grand Island on 9/21 (A.S., D.B.) Another good shrike winter is in prospect, as Gray Shrikes were reported in six localities from 10/25 (when S. Eaton collected one immature) throughout November.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: An early Philadelphia Vireo record (9/3, Forest Lawn, H. M.) serves as a foil for three extremely late vireo records: A Solitary on 11/19 (Forest Lawn, H. M.), a Red-eye on 11/5 (Forest Lawn, B.N., A.S.), and a White-eye on 11/13 (Forest Lawn, collected by H. M.) Among the warblers also we find very early and very late dates. Imagine Tennessees here from 8/24 (2 Delaware Park, A.S.) until 11/13 (Forest Lawn, H.M., M.E., C.B.)! Heilborn reported an extremely early Cape May (8/11) and an even more amazing Myrtle (8/6) from the Falls. An extremely late Bay-breasted was found in Delaware Park (10/16, C.B.); an early Blackpoll in Forest Lawn (8/19, W. Brockner); a very late Common Yellowthroat in Buffalo (11/29, Chapman, Rep. H.M.); and a very late Redstart at Niagara Falls (11/5, Heilborn). We merely record these occurrences, — we do not presume to explain them.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: A Baltimore Oriole was seen in Buffalo on 11/20 (Swartzreigen, rep. H. M.). A very late Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited Hamburg on 10/26 (R. Avery). A very nice incursion of northern finches characterized the final month. Eaton reported them "flooding the wooded areas of southern Cattaraugus County", and in other areas also there were many records of Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Redpoll, Siskin, and Purple Finch. Possibly the most interesting record in the sparrow family is supplied by one of the totals from our 10/16 census, — 1205 White-crowned Sparrows.

132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore, N. Y.

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

August was unusually hot and dry. Hurricane "Connie" brought a few hoped-for accidentals. September and early October brought record-breaking rains throughout the Finger Lakes, which helped in restoring the water-table, and brought Shorebirds into wet fields when mudflats were covered.

November was relatively mild and wet. Killing freezes were late in coming.

LOONS — DUCKS: Red-throated Loons appeared on Cayuga Lake during migration in November. Horned Grebes seemed in good numbers, and one was seen on Beebe Lake on the Cornell campus on 11/22 (Fischer).

Hurricane "Connie" in August did not bring in the reports of accidentals that we hoped for. However, a Leach's Petrel was seen clearly by Loren Ward on 8/14 on Seneca, and he was able to get other observers there to confirm his identification before the bird disappeared.

Great Blue Herons and American Egrets were at Montezuma in good numbers in Aug. and Sept. Last date for Am. Egret 10/2 (Walker). Black-Crowned Herons were reported as somewhat scarcer this year. A Least Bittern, scarce this year, was seen by Thurber at Montezuma on 10/2.

4 Whistling Swans spent almost a month on a flooded field at Smithport; south of Elmira — first seen on 10/22. (York). All areas reported good flights of Canada Geese, and 15 have remained in Branchport basin since last week in November. L. Smith reports 8 Blue Geese with the Canadas at the Refuge in November.

40 Brant flew over Ithaca on 10/21 (Fischer et al), and L. Smith reports the following numbers of Brant at the Refuge 200 from 10/23-29; 500 from 11/6-12; 75 from 11/13-19. There are increasing numbers of these reported each year recently.

Black Ducks and American Mergansers were on Punch Bowl Lake in Watkins Glen State Park on 11/27 (Robinson).

400 Wood Ducks spent a week early in Sept. on Montezuma (Smith).

Scaups are scarce on Keuka (Guthrie). 2 Ruddy Ducks were on Seneca on 11/20 (Walker).

An American Merganser on Penn Yan marsh on 10/30 (Orcutt) was early. 3 Hooded Mergansers were at Montezuma on 11/5 (Thurber).

L. Smith, Refuge Manager at Montezuma, has kindly let me see a copy of his memorandum to the Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the great increase in the number of ducks of all species using the Refuge this fall in migration. For 4 weeks, beginning in late October, over 100,000 ducks used the refuge. Estimates include 40,000 Mallards, 25,000 Blacks, 15,000 Pintails, 2000 Ringnecks and 4000 Green-winged Teals. Rather than representing an increase in total duck population, Mr. Smith feels that several factors served to provide ideal food and cover conditions on the main pool. Carp control was undertaken this year in the main pool, and millet planted. While it was first thought that Bobolinks had done great damage, apparently much of the seed was shaken to the ground, rather than consumed. Skim ice held off later than usual also. It is hoped that the successful management practices of this year will be repeated next year.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vultures continued to seem scarce at Montezuma (Walker). Various observers reported a good hawk migration at the Refuge, with more Roughlegs than usual (Smith) including 2 black phase noted. Spiker noted a Roughleg near Keuka on 10/22. 32 Redtails were seen at Montezuma on 11/5 (Thurber). Few Marsh Hawks reported around Keuka this fall (Guthrie). A Peregrine was seen at Montezuma 10/1 (F. Scheider, et al).

Ring-necked Pheasants seem less abundant in Ithaca area this fall. Both Virginia and Sora Rails were scarce around Keuka (Guthrie), but Florida Gallinules were abundant at the Refuge (Walker). Coots continue to increase throughout the area: were "unusually plentiful" on Keuka (Guthrie), 250 counted on Seneca 11/20 (Ward), "very abundant" on Cayuga (AAA).

Shorebird migration was disappointing, chiefly because mud flats in several of the favorite spots were under water, following the heavy rains. However, the Refuge had good mudflats and all expected species were reported in good numbers. A late Greater Yellowlegs was at the Refuge 11/9 (Thurber). A Baird's Sandpiper, not always noted, was seen 8/31 at Sapsucker Woods pond. (AAA).

An Avocet was seen at Montezuma 9/25 by the Seamans, Ward, and Farrand, and has been well documented.

A Caspian Tern was reported on breakwater at south end of Cayuga 8/5 (Robinson) and several more were seen the following week by other observers. A Least Tern was seen and photographed by Al Fudge at Branchport, on Keuka, on 8/14.

Although just out of the Region, a Sooty Tern found dead on the James Pryne farm at Athens, Pa. on 8/17, and now in the Cornell collection, should be noted here, to add to the hurricane casualties.

A very late date for Barn Owls to have young in the nest was that reported by A. A. Allen on Dart farm the first week in Sept.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: 200 Chimney Swifts were seen entering the Baptist Church chimney in Waterloo, 9/2 (Walker). Red-headed Woodpeckers were missing from several usual stations (Walker), but there was at least one pair around Ithaca. Hairy Woodpeckers seem slightly more numerous (Hoyt). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, always scarce, was seen at Avoca 10/5 (Atwood). Swallows lingered into early October at Montezuma, 400 Tree Swallows being reported there on 10/2 (Thurber) and both Bank and Rough-winged on 10/1 by Scheider et al.

Blue Jays are again reported as becoming more common in northern Seneca Co. (Walker).

At Wellsburg, Titmice brought young to feeder 6/14 (Burnham. (Omitted from last report).

Brown Creepers in unusual numbers were seen in evergreens at Rifle Range near Ithaca 10/21 (Randy Little). All observers reported fewer House Wrens than usual. A Carolina Wren turned up in Avoca during Hurricane Connie. in Aug. (Carter). Increasing number of reports of Carolina Wrens around Ithaca.

Golden-crowned Kinglet migration was at its height in Elmira on 10/13 (K. Fudge).

Pipits were reported 10/15 at Spencer (AAA), at Montezuma last week in Oct. (Smith) and plentiful in Elmira October and early November (Welles).

Imm. Grey Shrike 11/6 at Avoca (Carter).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A Blue-headed Vireo was banded 9/22 at Penn Yan by Lerch.

In Watkins area, the Warblers migration was better from the end of Aug., through Oct., than it had been in spring. Warblers were also reported as migrating in good numbers at Geneva the first week in October (DeMayo.)

A late Parula Warbler was seen at Indian Pines, near Penn Yan 10/22 (Orcutt). Thurber found Myrtles in unusually large numbers all fall throughout this area. An interesting observation of one or more Palm Warblers was made by Welles, at Elmira on 9/13, 9/21 and again 10/6, as the bird fed on insects on a hay rake, for some time. A Connecticut Warbler was banded by Lerch 9/19 at Penn Yan. This species has been reported only 5 times in 10 years in that area.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Well over 5000 Bobolinks fed on millet at Montezuma Refuge from 8/20 to 9/18 (Smith, Walker). As reported elsewhere, they shook much to the ground where it was available later for ducks. Reports of Redwings destroying grain extensively were investigated by Walker, where it was found that the real culprit was the Starling, with a few Redwings. Redwings were reported as unusually abundant everywhere, and lingering late. (Est. 100,000 at Montezuma 11/9. Thurber). A male Baltimore Oriole was seen by several observers at a feeder in Forest Home, Ithaca in late November. Migrating Scarlet Tanagers were evident in Etna on 9/14 (Dickinson, Hoyt).

It is evidently going to be a good year for Evening Grosbeaks, first reported 10/24 at Ithaca (Fischer) with numerous scattered reports since, all areas except Watkins. A few Pine Grosbeaks have also been seen. 1 Red Crossbill, Snyder Hill, Ithaca 11/25 (Fischer). No Redpolls yet. 1 Pine Siskin, Ithaca 11/25 (Fisher). 15 Pine Siskins at Avoca, 10/26, feeding on arbor vitae seeds. (Carter.) Goldfinches abundant everywhere.

No Grasshopper Sparrows reported in 1955 by Eaton Bird Club, also scarce at Ithaca. White-throated Sparrows seemed scarce in migration at Ithaca, abundant at Avoca (Atwood). Lincoln Sparrows in unusual numbers at Keuka. Lerch banded 17, Spiker 3.

Lapland Longspurs at Montezuma early in November (York, et al), scattered reports elsewhere. Snow Buntings 10/22 near Penn Yan (Lerch), and in small numbers around Ithaca (AAA and others).

"Aviana", Etna, N. Y.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The weather during this period has been characterized by extremes. It was mainly very hot and dry during August, but towards the end of that month and during September we were subjected to several violent wind and rain storms, not all of which were associated with tropical hurricanes. October was the wettest month since weather records have been kept in the Triple Cities area in terms of total precipitation, although the last few days of the month and the first week or so of November produced the only appreciable stretch of fair weather of the fall season. From then on the weather became cold and raw but the only noticeable amount of snow fell during Thanksgiving week and even that didn't last very long on the ground.

LOONS — DUCKS: A Common Loon spent 3 days from 11/19 to 11/21 on White's Pond near Norwich (R. & S. White). Loon records are infrequent enough, in the Susquehanna Region, to make each one noteworthy. Our first Horned Grebe was at Norwich 10/12 (R. White).

A flock of 6 American Egrets was seen along the Delaware River near Deposit 8/9 (Wilson). No more were reported all fall. Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at Sherburne several times from 8/9 to 10/16 (R. & S. White). There were never more than 4 seen at one time and they were all adults.

The first Canada Geese were two at Norwich 10/1 (R. White). A migration peak seemed to be reached the week-end of 10/8 when several good sized flocks were noted in various places. A second less pronounced peak was apparent about 10/23.

A late Wood Duck was at Mead Pond near Norwich 11/27 (Nodecker). A male Old Squaw was at White's Pond 11/19 (R. & S. White). Two Ruddy Ducks were at the same place 11/20 and a single 11/27.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen near Deposit 10/2 (Wilson). That is the only part of the region from which Vultures are reported with anything approaching regularity.

A late Broad-winged Hawk was at Unadilla 10/12 (Wisner) and the first Rough-legged Hawk was at Norwich 10/2 (R. & S. White). A Bald Eagle was seen south of Deposit 9/6 (Wilson).