

Pheasant 24, 675; **Wild Turkey** 1, 20 (Deposit: probably a release); Virginia Rail 2, 7; American Coot 8, 209; Killdeer 4, 63; Black-bellied Plover 1, 12; Ruddy Turnstone 1, 2; Woodcock 1, 1; Wilson's Snipe 3, 6; Greater Yellow-legs 1, 1; Purple Sandpiper 4, 63; Sanderling 1, 5; Glaucous Gull 5, 16; Iceland Gull 3, 9; Great Black-backed Gull 12, 704; Herring Gull 23, 40654; Ring-billed Gull 13, 5826; **Franklin's Gull** 1, 1 (Buffalo); Laughing Gull 2, 8; Bonaparte's Gull 3, 1820; **Black-legged Kittiwake** 1, 1 (Buffalo).

Mourning Dove 14, 410; Barn Owl 1, 1; Screech Owl 10, 29; Horned Owl 13, 28; Barred Owl 5, 7; Long-eared Owl 2, 5; Short-eared Owl 3, 12; Saw-whet Owl 3, 4; Belted Kingfisher 14, 37; Yellow-shafted Flicker 12, 31; Pileated Woodpecker 11, 21; Red-bellied Woodpecker 4, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker 2, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2, 2; Hairy Woodpecker 23, 233; Downy Woodpecker 27, 682; Horned Lark 11, 206; Blue Jay 26, 1705; American Crow 26, 10095; Fish Crow 2, 5; Black-capped Chickadee 27, 3764; Tufted Titmouse 4, 56; White-breasted Nuthatch 28, 496; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11, 53; Brown Creeper 21, 92; Winter Wren 8, 14; Carolina Wren 5, 5; Long-billed Marsh Wren 1, 1; Catbird 3, 5; Brown Thrasher 2, 4; American Robin 19, 453; Hermit Thrush 4, 14; Eastern Bluebird 4, 92; Golden-crowned Kinglet 13, 77; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, 2; Cedar Waxwing 11, 618; Gray Shrike 14, 41; Loggerhead Shrike 1, 1; Common Starling 27, 131949; Myrtle Warbler 5, 11; **Yellow-breasted Chat** 1, 1 (Staten Island); House Sparrow 27, 9263; Eastern Meadowlark 5, 110; Red-winged Blackbird 12, 490; **Baltimore Oriole** 1, 1 (Bronx-Westchester); Rusty Blackbird 4, 36; Purple Grackle 7, 19; Brown-headed Cowbird 8, 562; Cardinal 20, 398; Evening Grosbeak 19, 710; Purple Finch 9, 128; House Finch 1, 64; Pine Grosbeak 6, 90; Common Redpoll 11, 580; Pine Siskin 10, 368; American Goldfinch 20, 586; Red Crossbill 1, 3; White-winged Crossbill 2, 7; Eastern Towhee 7, 23; Savannah Sparrow 2, 44; Vesper Sparrow 1, 3; Slate-colored Junco 24, 2036; Tree Sparrow 26, 5181; Chipping Sparrow 2, 4 (Port Chester-Greenwich-Stamford, Bronx-Westchester); Field Sparrow 3, 64; White-throated Sparrow 13, 760; Fox Sparrow 3, 27; Swamp Sparrow 7, 72; Song Sparrow 18, 649; Lapland Longspur 3, 5; Snow Bunting 10, 1506. (Also during count period: Clapper Rail, Yellow-throat, Snowy Owl, **Tufted Duck** (Manhattan), Red-necked Grebe, Oregon Junco.)

Totals for entire state: 161 species; 493709 individuals.

R. D. No. 1, Brown Road, Albion, New York.

NOTES

A Survey of Eagles. — The nesting success of the Bald Eagle in Florida has declined drastically in the last few years. Some ten years ago approximately 150 young were banded; in 1952 only 25. In a letter written in late February Charles Broley states that he banded only one this winter and probably would be able to band only two more: in a three county area formerly having some 65 nests, only three produced young.

With other reports also indicating a decline in numbers of Bald Eagles, the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia formed a committee to study the eagle's status in the Chesapeake Bay region, and they have suggested that a similar study be started in the Great Lakes Basin. Since I have been making a long term study of the Golden Eagle in the Appalachians and have in its course learned something of the Bald Eagle as well, it has been suggested that I undertake to broaden the scope of my survey to include the latter species. In order to do this for New York and adjacent areas, the help of observers in these areas will be needed. Federation of New York State Bird Clubs members can be of invaluable assistance in this project by collecting data. Perhaps an interested participant may be enlisted for each club area who will take it upon himself to find out the past, present and continuing status of the eagles and to help assemble this data. Interested Federation members are invited to contact the author.

In such a survey the help of fishermen and hunters can be of even more value because of the greater number and more extensive coverage. Since many sportsmen confuse the Osprey with the Bald Eagle and because of the intrinsic interest in the

Osprey also, it is suggested that information on both species be collected. All observations of these birds which may indicate nesting will be of value, particularly since nests cannot be located or even suspected in wilderness areas such as the Adirondacks except by the accumulation of many observations. I hope to receive reports on spring and summer eagles in the hope that these observations will lead to nests as yet undiscovered or unreported. At the present time my files contain records on only five current eagle nests along Lake Ontario, fewer from the interior of the state.

In my study of the Golden Eagle from Ungava to Georgia I am also collecting information on the Peregrine Falcon, partly because the aeries of these two cliff-nesting species can be confused, as they were by William Brewster 85 years ago and lesser observers since. It is interesting to note that two recently used New York State nests of the Bald Eagle, one dating back for more than 80 years, are also in cliffs.

In the present inquiry the focus of attention will be on the status of the Bald Eagle, but information of the Osprey, the Golden Eagle and the Peregrine Falcon will also be welcome. Specific information on the last two species especially will be held confidential because these birds are particularly subject to molestation.—Walter R. Spofford, Duguid Road, Fayetteville, N. Y.

Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers near Ithaca. — The Golden-winged Warbler has been a fairly common resident of the lower elevations in western New York for at least fifty years (E. H. Eaton, 1914, "Birds of New York," II, 387), but it has been locally distributed. Until recently the Blue-winged Warbler has been exceedingly rare in central and western New York. In the early 1940's, however, it was found that the Blue-wing had become a fairly common bird in many parts of Chautauqua and Erie counties. The spread of this species in western New York has been briefly reviewed by Parkes (1949, *Wilson Bulletin* 61: 48-49).

In the Ithaca area neither Blue-winged nor Golden-winged Warblers had been found in the breeding season until 1953. In mid-May 1953 an apparently mated pair was located in Michigan Hollow approximately eight miles south of Ithaca. The male of this pair was collected. In the spring of 1954, we found approximately seven male Blue-wings and three male Golden-wings which appeared to be defending territories in the same area. Although no one revisited the area to locate nests it is quite probable that both species nest in Michigan Hollow.

The habitat preferences of the Golden-winged Warbler seem to vary in different regions. Territories are found in the Lake Ontario plains at the edges of wooded swamps, areas that do not seem attractive to these birds in the hills of southwestern New York. There the habitat requirements of the Golden-wing seem to include: (1) a slight hillside covered with a few rather large second-growth deciduous trees, sugar maple the species I have most often noted; (2) some scrubby growth (sumac, blackberries, etc.) around the base of the hill, and especially although not invariably old apple trees; (3) a moist area at or near the base of this growth, usually with rather long grass; (4) a nearby creek; (5) altitudes below 800 feet. The places in Michigan Hollow where Golden-wings turned up possessed these same characteristics and looked like ideal areas for them.

Once having invaded south-western New York, the Blue-wing has shown no tendency to be so narrowly restricted in habitat requirements. They are likely to be found in almost any type of second growth scrub, from habitat like that of the Golden-wing to areas much dryer, much more exposed and much higher in altitude. Thus it is possible in and near Chautauqua county to find an unusual situation: Golden-winged Warblers in the low valleys and some Blue-winged Warblers well up above near the crests of the hills.

The Blue-wings in Michigan Hollow in 1954 were all noted in low, moist areas, but were found in much more varied habitat than the Golden-wings. Nevertheless at least two were in habitat which would probably be suitable to Golden-wings. Such situations as this might well give the opportunity for inter-specific mating, and the establishment of a colony of these two species may bring more hybrid forms to the Ithaca area.

Subsequent search of this area in 1955 did not turn up birds of these species, although Blue-winged Warblers were found in two other locations near Ithaca.