

This summary is perhaps more meaningful to persons living in forested areas such as the Southern Tier, Adirondacks and Catskills. It does not pretend to be an exact survey but may help in future analyses of fall and winter bird populations.

This year, for instance, Turkeys fed mainly on beechnuts from October through December. While watching these noble birds scratching the ground for beechnuts, one could also predict and soon see large Blue Jay and Chickadee flocks come by feeding on the nuts still on the trees. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers have been eating these too but the most interesting forager in the beech forests of southern Cattaraugus County has been the Tufted Titmouse — as many as six birds on a two mile hike.

In all regions where beech is plentiful the crop has been reported as good. This is also true of sugar maple and mountain ash. Yellow birch seeds are generally low in western New York, but in the east this crop and the white birch appears to be generally good.

Except for regions 4, 5 and 8 the hemlock seed crop is good. The spruce-fir-larch crop in the Adirondacks and Catskills appears to be generally from fair to good. From Long Island Mr. Elliott reports good black alder seed production at Montauk and at Jones Beach the firethorn was loaded. The pepperidge (*Nyssa*) crop was good and popular with thrushes in September. —S. W. Eaton.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

CLARK S. BEARDSLEE

The three-and-one-half month period under review exhibited a pattern of weather which had a very definite effect upon the birds of Region 1. The first six weeks were cold and wet, with frost and snow being recorded on September 20. A very large proportion of our migrants hurried through with hardly a pause, with the result that fewer swallows, vireos, warblers, and thrushes were reported in October than in the average year. October, on the other hand, must have broken all records for beautiful weather, being continuously mild and sunny. It would have been an ideal month for late records if it had followed a better September. The feature of the period was the start of an unprecedented invasion of Arctic Woodpeckers.

Loons — Ducks: First record of RED-THROATED LOON was of three at Wilson Oct 27 (Mitchell et al.). The Axtells supplied a splendid record, — an EARED GREBE in the gorge at Niagara Falls on Sep 20; the bird was seen there by others until the 27th. Mrs. McMurtry reported an AMERICAN EGRET near Wellsville during the period from Aug 25 to Sep 13; Mitchell found another on Grand Island Sep 5. First authentic records of CANADA GOOSE were a flock of 11 Oct 6 (Buffalo, Brockner et al.) and a flock of ten Oct 13 (E. Eden, Mitchell et al.). First GADWALL was reported Oct 21 (Perry Center, Rosche). GREATER SCAUPS were first seen off Wilson (20 on Oct 27 by Schaffner et al.). A better than average BUFFLEHEAD population has been a constant on the river throughout late fall, and all three SCOTERS have been on view in better numbers than usual.

Hawks — Owls: TURKEY VULTURES have not been reported since the B. O. S. fall count on Oct 14, when 22 were seen. Eaton noted a GOSHAWK near Vandalia Nov 15, while our first ROUGH-LEG record was provided by Brockner, who observed two at Medina Oct 22. McMurtry saw an OSPREY at Wellsville Aug 18 and Bourne another south of Buffalo Oct 14. The only PIGEON HAWK recorded during the period was one near Batavia on Oct 14 (Pixley et al.). TURKEY records were fewer

than last year, being reported only by McMurtry and Eaton, but the latter's observations would indicate, though not prove, that the birds had a successful breeding season. Eaton also reported GROUSE in good numbers in the Olean area. Last FLORIDA GALLINULE record was of one bird on Nov 4 (Grand Island, Beardslee). Two COOTS were in the Niagara Falls gorge Nov 25 (Schaffner, Braunberns). GOLDEN PLOVER were first seen Sep 1 and 2 (L. Chautauqua, Parker et al.); largest number reported was 84 on Oct 20 (Grand Island, Nathan, Schaffner). GOLDEN PLOVER were not seen after that date, but BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were reported as late as Nov 4 (three on Grand Island, Beardslee). SNIPE was last seen Nov 17, when Nathan and Schaffner found four at Wilson. Rosche had our latest records for both GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS, the former of two birds at Grand Island Oct 28, the latter of five individuals at L. LaGrange Oct 21. Beal found a single KNOT at Barcelona Aug 26, and Beardslee reported three PECTORAL SAND-PIPERS present at Grand Island as late as Nov 4. A NORTHERN PHALAROPE was reported from Mayville Sep 21 (Nelmses). These shorebird reports are culled from B. O. S. records which show a great preponderance of observations from Canada. ICELAND, KUMLIEN'S, and LITTLE GULLS were observed in the Niagara gorge Nov 25 (Beardslee, Scheider et al.). GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were unusually scarce up to the end of the period under review — more may come in later. One FRANKLIN'S GULL was noted by Mitchell and Wright off Bird Island, Buffalo, Sep 20, and from Oct 9 to 27 from one to five individuals could be found in the gorge. Normally October is an in-between month for BONAPARTE'S GULLS, with a very low total population throughout; this year they have been plentiful at all times, as many as 2500 having been seen in the lower river alone on Oct 14 (Beardslee). In addition to the above record of the LITTLE GULL, another is supplied by Mitchell and Greene, who saw one near the Peace Bridge Sep 14. COMMON TERNS had a poor breeding season, were present in greatly reduced numbers, and were not seen after Oct 14. FORSTER'S TERNS were not reported at all. OWL records were disappointing, but not enough so to support any definite conclusions.

Swifts — Shrikes: A dead WHIP-POOR-WILL was brought to Heather Thorpe at the museum Oct 15 (late, no pun intended). SWIFTS were last seen Sep 23 (two at Jamestown, Mealy) and HUMMINGBIRDS Sep 22 (two at Mayville, Parker). The Axtells found an ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER at Wilson Oct 20; it was seen there later by many observers, and on at least one occasion two individuals were seen there. On Nov 24 another was well seen and described by a hunter east of Olean (Summers, rep. Mitchell). Subsequent to the period under review other reports have come to us; it looks as though the present incursion of the species would prove to be the greatest on record. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS were reported Oct 14 at Batavia (Pixley) and Nov 25 at Castile (Thompson). Eaton thought YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS were more numerous this fall than usual. We have no late SWALLOW records whatever this year; apparently September's cold weather hurried them on their way. Schaffner did find 475 TREE SWALLOWS in Canada Oct 14, but in western New York we have no records of any swallows in October, not even Rough-wings. Beal estimated 50,000 PURPLE MARTINS in the Jamestown roost Aug 31; Eaton was much pleased with a fine invasion of TUFTED TITMICE from Oct 18 to the end of our period, with no less than six seen in one day. He also felt that goodly numbers of BROWN CREEPERS were staying in his area. On Sep 1 he collected a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER at Vandalia. Eaton also expressed the opinion (in which I concur) that there was an excellent flight of GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS. Three GRAY SHRIKES were reported, the first a very early one observed south of Buffalo by Rew on Oct 14.

Vireos — Warblers: No exceptionally late dates were reported for any of the vireos. Very few warblers, excepting of course the MYRTLES, tarried into October, and these were ones which normally do. I find not a single noteworthy date for a warbler. To draw a comparison, on Oct 14 the B. O. S. census (including a portion of Ontario) resulted in a count of 25 warblers of nine species exclusive of Myrtle, while on Oct 16 last year the count was 88 individuals of 13 species. Such a dearth of warblers in such a mild October points up the severity of September's weather.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Eaton reported a BOBOLINK near Olean Sep 18 (very late). Latest SCARLET TANAGER date was Oct 1, when Schaffner found one in Buffalo's Delaware Park and another on Grand Island. ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAKS left early, the latest record being Sep 22 (Mayville, Parker). The first EVENING GROSBEAK was found by Nathan near his home in Buffalo Oct 28. Nine

COMMON REDPOLLS were observed Nov 23 at Frewsburg by McIntire (rep. Parker). Eaton found GOLDFINCHES abundant this fall. He observed his first RED CROSS-BILLS at Vandalia Nov 15. Last reported CHIPPING SPARROW was seen at Chestnut Ridge Park Nov 4 by the Brockners, last FIELD SPARROW at Wilson, Nov 17 by Nathan. An early WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW was noted by Mrs. Bacon at Hamburg Sep 27. First SNOW BUNTING record was of a flock of 14 at Barcelona Oct 25 (Nelms).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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The cool weather of 1956 continued through the fall except during the last three weeks of October which was a delightful period of Indian Summer. Waterfowl migration was good, but the migration of flycatchers, thrushes, warblers and sparrows was very poor. Unusual records during this period were the Eared Grebe, Common Eider, Kittiwake and Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker.

Loons — Ducks: There was a heavy migration of COMMON LOONS, beginning on Oct 14 and reaching a peak towards the end of the month. Several counts of over 100 were reported. RED-THROATED LOONS were present in much smaller numbers; maximum count, 6. HORNED GREBS first appear on Oct 12 and from then on were present in good numbers. A single EARED GREBE was seen by the Kemnitzers Oct 27-30 at Webster Park. They had ample opportunity to study this bird at close range and compare it with the numerous HORNED GREBS. There was no definite record of HOLBOELL'S GREBE and only one of the DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. There was an exceptionally good migration of BRANT, beginning Oct 20, and reaching a peak of 1850 on Oct 24 (Listman). All observers were on the alert for birds with yellow neck-bands, but none was seen. A high count of 400 MALLARDS was reported at Mendon Ponds Park on Oct 27 by the Whites. What appears to have been an albino MALLARD was seen by Raetz at this same place on Nov 26. This completely snow-white duck with an orange bill was with a flock of about 60 MALLARDS and 15 BLACK DUCKS. Since it was slightly smaller than the regular mallards and maintained an even flight with them, it was probably an albino rather than a domestic white duck. Diving ducks, including all three SCOTERS appeared during the latter part of October. WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS are normally seen here during the fall and winter, but this season's counts were higher than usual (maximum of 175, by Listman, Oct. 24). Both SURF and AMERICAN SCOTERS were seen on several occasions during this season. The maximum counts were 90 American by Listman on Oct. 24, and 18 Surf Scoters by Kemnitzers on Oct 28. Two COMMON EIDERS were seen on Nov 10, the first at Lighthouse Point by O'Hara, Miller and Listman, and the second at the Russell Station Outlet by Listman alone.

Hawks — Owls: There were no outstanding hawk records during the fall. Only one OSPREY was seen, and there were no Goshawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Bald Eagles, Duck Hawks or Pigeon Hawks. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS appear on Oct 20. Hunters reported RING-NECKED PHEASANTS scarce except in stocked areas, and RUFFED GROUSE plentiful in the hill country south of Rochester. One RUFFED GROUSE was seen by Mrs. Davis at her home within the city limits of Rochester on Nov 14. Shorebird migration was normal except for low counts in a few species. There were only three records of GOLDEN PLOVERS, on Sept 19, Oct 14 and Nov 17, all by Listman. One bird was seen on each of these days. The KNOT was seen only twice during the fall. A PURPLE SAND-PIPER was seen at Braddock's Bay on Oct 27 by Listman and a WESTERN SAND-PIPER on Sept 9 on a GOS hike. RED-BACKED SANDPIPERS and BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS continued until late in November. BAIRD'S and WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS appeared in small numbers. None of the Phalaropes were reported. Two immature jaegers were seen; one was at such a distance that it could only be called a jaeger, and the other was seen under better conditions and from its flight pattern was judged to be a PARASITIC JAEGER (Listman, Oct 24). Two rare gulls