

appeared this fall. An immature KITTIWAKE was seen at the mouth of the Genesee River on Sept. 9 on a GOS hike. A LITTLE GULL changing from immature to adult plumage was seen at the Russell Station Outlet by Listman on Sept 19. Two FORSTER'S TERNS were reported at Braddock's Bay on Oct 22 by Listman and O'Hara. This is considerably less than numbers reported during recent years. The SCREECH and GREAT HORNED and SHORT-EARED OWLS have been reported regularly, and the SNOWY OWL once.

Swifts — Shrikes: The ARTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER made its appearance Nov 18 at 1105 Monroe Ave., Rochester, N. Y. A week later, Nov 25-26 two male birds were seen by Stutz, Rising, Taylor, Klonick, Listman, Moon and Davis. The fall migration of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS was light, and there were no other outstanding woodpecker records. The last TREE SWALLOWS were seen on Oct 27. A CAROLINA WREN was reported by Mrs. Haller at Avon on Nov 4, and a MOCKINGBIRD by Rising on Sept 1. First dates of migrants in this group were: WINTER WREN, Oct 12; HERMIT THRUSH, Oct 27; OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH, Sept 8; GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, Sept 15; GOLDEN and RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS, Oct 12; AMERICAN PIPIT, Sept 22, and NORTHERN SHRIKE, Oct 20.

Vireos — Warblers: The warbler migration was much poorer than a year ago, and insignificant compared to the wonderful migration last spring. A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER on Aug 18 (McKinney) and a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT on Aug 20 (White, Dakin) are unusually late dates for these species. The end of August and early September brought most of the warblers normally appearing at that time, but warblers whose normal migration dates normally extend into October were scarcely seen at all. There were only a few low counts of MYRTLE WARBLERS, only one BLACKPOLL and no Palm Warblers. A NORTHERN YELLOWTHROAT was seen on Nov 24 at Braddock's Bay by Listman.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: RUSTY BLACKBIRDS appeared on Oct 12. PURPLE FINCHES have been present regularly in small numbers and GOLDFINCHES were abundant. Other finches, grosbeaks and crossbills have not yet been reported this fall. JUNCO, TREE SPARROW and SNOW BUNTING appeared on Oct 20. Migrations of WHITE-CROWNED, WHITE-THROATED and FOX SPARROWS were light. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was reported at Albion by Lippert and Weeks on Sept. 16.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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Although there was some unseasonably warm weather in late October and early November, the fall in general has continued the cool, wet pattern of the summer. A few local cold spots had a freeze in early September (my thermometer in Etna was 27° on Sept 10) but in most places the freeze was delayed until the end of October. Migration was poor: no sizeable warbler waves reported, and flocks of migrating sparrows were absent. Winter finches had not appeared by the end of November, but Rough-legged Hawks were unusually abundant and Northern Shrikes were reported from various points.

Loons — Ducks: A COMMON LOON in emaciated condition was picked up on the Main Street of Freeville Nov 18 and died two days later. A HOLBOELL'S GREBE was seen on west side of Keuka Lake Oct 29 (A Robinson); HORNED GREBES were in good numbers at south end of Cayuga and north end of Seneca, where 60 were seen on Nov 4 (R. Rosche). There were fewer CANADA GEESE at the Montezuma Refuge than in some years (500 there Oct 14-27, Smith) but various observers called me concerning large flocks going over Ithaca throughout the season, including one "very large" flock early on Nov 23 (M. Kraft). 250 plus BRANT flew over the Montezuma storage pool on Nov 4 (R. Rosche) and there were scattered reports of them all fall. Two joined a small flock of Mallards at Stewart Park around Nov 17 and remained for ten days, able to be closely approached but anticipating all attempts to net them for banding and color-marking. A flock of

close to 100 SNOW GEESE flew low over a hilltop south of Dryden on Nov 26 (Sweetland), and 4 BLUE GEESE were at Montezuma Nov 4-10 (L. Smith).

On Oct 21, a count was made by Smith of waterfowl at Montezuma as follows: 10,000 MALLARDS; 4000 BLACK DUCKS; 150 GADWALLS; 15,000 BALDPATES; 5000 PINTAILS; 1200 GREEN-WINGED TEAL; 2000 BLUE-WINGED TEAL; 2000 SHOVELLERS; 200 WOOD DUCKS; 50 REDHEADS; 250 RING-NECKS; 20 CANVASBACKS; 20 SCAUP; 10 BUFFLEHEAD; 100 RUDDY DUCKS; 50 HOODED Mergansers; 400 AMERICAN Mergansers. Notes on ducks from elsewhere include a flock of 200 MALLARDS and BLACKS, with a few PINTAIL, feeding nightly on the pond at Sapsucker Woods; a female RING-NECKED DUCK on the Brick Pond at Elmira Nov 11 (K. Fudge) and a female GADWALL, very rare on Keuka Lake, was shot on the east branch near Hickory Pt. the end of November by H. Purdy. OLD SQUAWS were being reported the end of November on Seneca and Cayuga. AMERICAN SCOTERS appeared early near the south end of Cayuga (first report Sept. 17, Davis), and five SURF SCOTERS were first noted by R. Rosch at north end of Seneca Oct 19 and reported later also by Loren Ward.

Hawks — Owls: Only one TURKEY VULTURE report in the Region this fall — over Ithaca on Oct 20 (C. Tucker). One GOSHAWK at Avoca Nov 10 (Atwood). RED-TAILED HAWKS seemed plentiful throughout the Region, and RED-SHOULDERS also, although the latter were scarce at Avoca (Atwood). Reports of ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS began coming in during October and increased through November. Around Ithaca one or more could be seen almost daily. Seven, mostly dark phase, were seen at the Seneca Ordnance Depot on Dec 1. It remains to be seen if snow cover will drive them further south in search of rodents. The most western portion of the Region does not seem to have as many ROUGH-LEGS as the Ithaca area, I might add. No BALD EAGLES were seen around Montezuma during the fall, one reported over Chemung River on Sep 15 (K. Fudge) and one on Aug 26 and again on Sep 8 at Avoca (Atwood). MARSH HAWKS seem plentiful. An OSPREY stayed around the south end of Cayuga in late September, and was observed on Sep 29 circling for some time with a large goldfish in his talons (Hoyt). An OSPREY was over the Chemung River Oct 3 (Smith). A DUCK HAWK was seen by various observers on different days the last week of September at the storage pool at Montezuma. One was seen at Newfield on Nov 29 (Hellewell).

RUFFED GROUSE seemed to be in good numbers this year. Flocks of COOT appeared early in the fall at the south end of Cayuga, and Guthrie reported them numerous also on Keuka with 100 at Brandy Bay and 100 at Branchport. Shore-birds were reported scarce everywhere — even with mudflats on Keuka and good conditions at south end of Cayuga. Groesbeck reported the water too high along the Canisteo for shorebirds. Six WILSON'S SNIPES were seen by M. Wells near Elmira on Nov 12. A late SPOTTED SANDPIPER was reported by Walker along Cayuga on Nov 17. During a sudden storm, five GREATER YELLOWLEGS dropped into a pond behind the Welles farm near Elmira on Nov 8.

The only ICELAND GULL report so far is from Avoca, on Nov 30 (Atwood). Two points have reported large flocks of MOURNING DOVES the last of November: about 50 at the Darling farm at Watkins Glen and 40 or more at Arthur Lane's at Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca.

Several areas reported SCREECH OWLS as scarcer than usual. An adult SAW-WHET OWL, the seventh in 50 years for the Eaton Bird Club was captured, banded and released at Waterloo on November 6 (Walker).

Swifts — Shrikes: A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER was seen in the storage pool woods at Montezuma Nov 4 (Rosche). Few reports of RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS this year — one seen at Avoca on Sep 17 (Atwood). 200 NORTHERN HORNED LARKS reported by L. Bemont near Interlaken Nov 25. A migrating flock of 35 CHICKADEES observed at Montezuma Nov 4 (Rosche). CAROLINA WREN reports included two at Elmira, one at Montour Airport feeder during November, "only one" at Dresden this fall, and one at Freeville, a new station (Hoyt). A MOCKINGBIRD appeared at a feeder the last week in November at Ludlowville (Shepherd). ROBINS were reported everywhere in October in unusually large flocks, and lingered to the middle of November many places. Many observers indicated seeing more BLUEBIRDS this fall than in recent years, so some areas must have had a higher nesting population than we saw in the Finger Lakes this summer.

Vireos — Sparrows: Larger flocks of STARLINGS than any previous fall were observed everywhere. WARBLERS slipped through almost unnoticed, except for Myrtles, which were everywhere. MEADOWLARKS were seen in good numbers. and at Elmira there seemed to be an unusual amount of song this fall (Welles). More REDWINGS than ever around Watkins-Montour area, RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were scarce at Keuka (Guthrie), abundant around Ithaca, particularly at Sapsucker Woods. COWBIRDS very abundant at Elmira (Welles). Huge flocks of blackbirds, mostly REDWINGS and GRACKLES, flew over Ithaca on Nov 5 (T. Merrill). It would be interesting to tie this in with departure of the flocks from Montezuma, but I do not have this information.

CARDINALS are reported absent from feeders all around Ithaca, and the Etna birds are missing too (Hoyt). L. Ward reports Cardinals feeding young at a feeder the first week in October in Geneva. EVENING GROSBEAKS are not staging an early invasion: one pair was seen at Montour Falls on Dec 1 (Mrs. L. Beardsley). Few reports of PINE SISKINS — 3 were seen with goldfinches at Montezuma on Nov 4 (Rosche). SAVANNAH SPARROWS were absent all fall at Geneva (Walker); VESPER SPARROWS seemed abundant around Hornell (Groesbeck). Many areas reported a scarcity of WHITE-THROATS and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS all fall, but from Oct. 6-8 a large number of White-crowns fed in the fields at Sapsucker Woods; however, I trapped none of either species at my banding station this fall, and almost no Song Sparrows during migration. Scattered early reports of LAPLAND LONGSPURS and SNOW BUNTINGS in late October and early November (A. A. Allen). A flock of 30 Snow Buntings near Avoca on Nov 7 (Atwood).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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The weather has been predominantly cold and wet all during the period. The only appreciable stretch of pleasant weather lasted a little more than a week in the middle of October when we had a real Indian summer. The warbler migration was practically non-existent or else passed unobserved, but to blame the weather for that would be pure speculation. Several of our more active observers were unable to be out for three weekends in a row in the middle of September and in addition fewer reports were received from outside the Triple Cities area than usual so that reduced coverage would be as logical an explanation for the small number of warbler reports as the weather.

Loons — Ducks: 16 HORNED GREBES at Norwich Nov 18 (Whites) were the only ones reported. There were PIED-BILLED GREBES at Norwich as late as Oct 10 (Whites). GREAT BLUE HERONS have been quite common around Binghamton and Norwich this fall. GREEN HERONS were pretty well gone after Sep 25 but one was still at Norwich Oct 7. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were found at Sherburne until Oct 7 (Whites). A LEAST BITTERN was seen catching minnows close to one of the busiest bridges across the Susquehanna River in the heart of Binghamton Sep 14 at about 10 a. m. (Goodnough). Several flocks of CANADA GEESE were noted migrating over Oxford from Oct 9 to Oct 22 and one more flock of over 175 birds passed Nov 13 (Stratton). BALDPATES were less common than usual. Five GREEN-WINGED TEAL were found at Boland's Marsh Aug 19 (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club), a month earlier than usual. Our last two WOOD DUCKS were at Chenango Valley State Park Oct 21 (TCNC). Three AMERICAN MERGANSERS were at Norwich from Nov 14 to Nov 18 (Whites).

Hawks — Owls: During the last week of October a TURKEY VULTURE was shot just south of the Binghamton city limits by a young hunter. The event was duly recorded in one of the local papers with a picture of the victim, wings spread, and the victor. A call to the game protectors' office revealed that the matter had