

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).

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

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

already come to their attention and was being handled in the best possible manner. The Triple Cities Naturalists' Club was able to place a statement in the two largest newspapers in the area, one of which had published the picture, asking that hunters be careful not to shoot hawks and other large birds while hunting and warning them that most of the birds of prey are protected by law. This is the only record we have of a Turkey Vulture in the immediate vicinity of the Triple Cities. On Nov 29 a school boy brought the carcass of an immature RED-TAILED HAWK to a class conducted by a Naturalists' Club member and stated that it was a "chicken hawk" and had been shot by his father the day before (Carter). These two instances seem to be rather typical in this area and point up the need for a public education program such as that being carried out by the Naturalists' Club. The writer has recently had the opportunity to spend four week ends at Interlaken, in the Finger Lakes Region and the contrast between the hawk population of that area and Broome Co. was startling. In the four week ends about 12 hours were spent in the field and thirteen hawks were found. From Aug 15 to Nov 30 thirteen hawks, including the dead one, turned over to Miss Carter, were reported by all observers in the Triple Cities area. It would be of interest to know whether it is the Finger Lakes Region or Broome County that is normal in this respect.

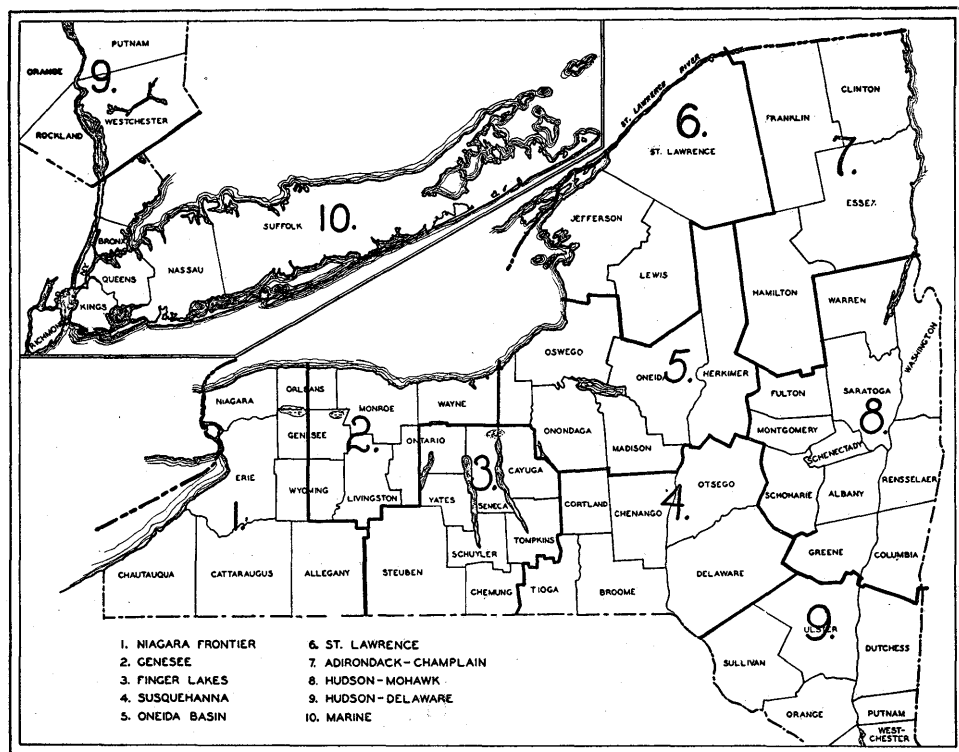
There have been four ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS reported so far this fall; one at Center Lisle in Broome County Oct 28 (Sheffields, Saunders, Mayville), one near Coventry in Chenango County Nov 4 (Nodecker), one at Oxford Nov 22 (Stratton) and one in the Cortland area sometime in Nov (Thurber). A rather late OSPREY was at Oxford Nov 17 (Stratton). SPARROW HAWKS seem to be abnormally low in numbers throughout the region.

The beaver dam that flooded a number of acres at Boland's Marsh north of Binghamton has been deteriorating for the last two years since the beavers were trapped. This has lowered the water level to the extent that a fairly large expanse of mudflat has been exposed. This has brought about the best "shore-birding" in several years. Among small numbers of SPOTTED and SOLITARY SANDPIPERS, GREATER YELLOWLEGS, LEAST, SEMI-PALMATED and PECTORAL SANDPIPERS and SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER two BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were found Aug 19 and again Aug 26 (TCNC). One or two WILSON'S SNIPE were seen at Sherburne Aug 19 to 28 and a late one was at Norwich Nov 16 (Whites). A couple of PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were at Norwich Sep 11 and Sept 12 (Whites).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: NIGHTHAWKS were seen in their usual numbers over Binghamton until Aug. 29 when flocks numbering more than 200 were seen, but none were reported after that (TCNC). CHIMNEY SWIFTS disappeared just as suddenly after Sep 2. The last HUMMINGBIRD was at Norwich Sep 18 (Whites). A SAPSUCKER Oct 3 at Endicott (Carter) and another at Norwich Oct 5 (Whites) were the only ones reported all fall. Two ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS, both males, were found at Chenango Valley State Park Oct 11 (Saunders, Whitson, Wiegiers). A detailed report was submitted and is on file. PHOEBES were being reported regularly until Oct 14 from several areas. An OLIVE-SIDED FLY-CATCHER was near Binghamton Aug 25 (Sheffields). BANK SWALLOWS were around until Aug 21 (Sheffields) and BARN SWALLOWS until Aug 26 (TCNC).

Mrs. Stratton noted the presence of five or six BLUE JAYS daily all during Nov except on Nov 23 when over 20 were in evidence perhaps indicating a wave of migrants. Not a single RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH was reported all fall, and no BROWN CREEPERS until Oct 7 at Endicott (Bemont). HOUSE WRENS were present in the Binghamton area until Oct 13 (Sheffields). The first WINTER WRENS of the season were at STATE PARK near Binghamton Oct 21 (TCNC) and there have been several reported since. ROBINS were seen in flocks of 20 or more until Nov 3 at Oxford (Stratton) and Nov 4 in the Binghamton area (TCNC). Small numbers were present at Oxford until Nov 20 (Stratton), two were at Norwich Nov 27 (Whites) and the last one so far was between Johnson City and Endicott Nov 29 (M. Washburn). A WOOD THRUSH was at Camp Evergreen near Binghamton Nov 4 (Hannans). A rather encouraging number of BLUEBIRDS have been heard migrating over until Oct 14 at Oxford (Stratton) and Nov 4 around Binghamton. On Oct 14 a total of 23 were counted by two widely separated groups around Binghamton. On several other days in October the total was almost as high with incomplete counting.

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2

A BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was at En-joie Golf Course Sep 2 (TCNC). GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS arrived Sep 30 around Binghamton but their numbers didn't reach a peak until the latter half of Oct. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS didn't arrive until Oct 7, reached their peak Oct 21 and were last seen Oct 28 (TCNC).

On Oct 28 two AMERICAN PIPITS were seen at Guilford and two more at Afton, both in Chenango County (Stratton). No more were reported. CEDAR WAXWINGS were noted in the Triple Cities area in small numbers all through the latter half of Aug and all of Sep but were not apparent during Oct. Then Nov 4 a flock of over 400 was found feeding on honeysuckle and other berries at the Vestal Cemetery (Bemont, R. Sheffield). At Oxford Oct 29 to Nov 3 was a period of increased abundance (Stratton). A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was at Cincinnatus in Cortland County Oct 14 (Whites).

Vireos — Warblers: Our last YELLOW-THROATED VIREO was at En-joie Golf Course Sep 2 and the last BLUE-HEADED VIREO was at State Park Oct 21 (TCNC). The last RED-EYED VIREOS were seen in the Binghamton area Sep 2 (TCNC). The last WARBLING VIREO was at South New Berlin in Chenango County Sep 15 (Whites). A late CAPE MAY WARBLER was at Oxford Oct 17 (Stratton). MYRTLES were the only warblers noted in any numbers. They first appeared at Roundtop in Endicott Oct 7 and were last seen at Norwich Oct 23 (Whites). A BAY-BREASTED WARBLER at Roundtop Oct 7 and another near Endwell Oct 14 were the only ones reported and a BLACK-POLL WARBLER at Boland's Marsh Sep 30 was likewise the only one reported (Bemont). A PALM WARBLER was at Choconut Center Oct 13 (Sheffields).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: BOBOLINKS were last reported Aug 26 from Boland's Marsh (TCNC). MEADOWLARKS were seen regularly but in small numbers, until Nov 4 in the Binghamton area (TCNC) but four were at Guilford Nov 25 (Whites). They were heard singing in two different places Oct 14. REDWINGS were still around at the end of Nov. Several large flocks of BRONZED GRACKLES were seen around Endwell during the last few days of Sep and after that there was a sharp drop in their numbers but a few were seen until Nov 4 (TCNC). A flock of 2500 COWBIRDS was seen on the IBM Country Club fairways Sep 2 and from Sep 22 to 30 flocks numbering in the hundreds were seen flying over Endwell, away from the Country Club in the morning and towards it in the evening (Bemont).

Twelve EVENING GROSBEAKS seen just north of Binghamton on Oct 10 or a day or so earlier are the only ones reported from the whole region so far (Kent). A flock of 30 or more REDPOLLS was found at Oxford Nov 22 (Stratton) but no others. A few TOWHEES stuck it out until Oct 14 when the last ones were seen in the Binghamton area (Marsi). SLATE-COLORED JUNCOS arrived Oct 13 in the Binghamton area (Sheffields) and TREE SWALLOWS Nov 14 (Marsi). The last CHIPPING SPARROWS and FIELD SPARROWS were at Vestal Cemetery Nov 4 (R. Sheffield, Bemont). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS arrived Oct 14 in the Binghamton area (Bemont) and were last seen there and at Norwich Oct 21 (Whites). They were not very numerous. WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS showed up Oct 7 and were gone after Nov 4 (TCNC). They seemed fairly common in the Binghamton area but were not reported from other areas. A few FOX SPARROWS were seen from Oct 28 to Nov 1 in the Binghamton area (TCNC).

710 University Ave., Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Fritz Scheider

The latter half of Aug and all of Sept continued the wet, cool weather experienced through the summer. Oct and Nov alternated long, soggy stretches with the haze and warmth of days of classical Indian Summer weather. The exceptions to this pattern were severe frosts and freezing spells in three distinct periods — Oct 9-11, Nov 8-12, and Nov 18-25; the first ended the warbler watching, as poor as it was, the second eliminated the late shortbirds, and the third terminated the excellent dabbling duck variety and counts.

The abundant wet weather of Aug and Sept created hundreds of pasture pools which attracted good numbers but produced widespread scattering of the "mud" sandpipers (both Yellow-legs, Solitary, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers, and Wilson's Snipe). Earlier high water plus later poor feeding conditions at Sandy Pond and Oneida Lake account for the low numbers seen at those places. The fall landbird flight was notable chiefly for its absence. All observers, particularly daily watchers, noted a great paucity of migrant landbirds, most marked in the warblers, vireos, thrushes and some of the sparrows. In contrast, the waterfowl flight with the exceptions of Canada Goose, Scaup, and Bufflehead was the finest noted in six years; and an equally good flight of some sparrows was reported. The numerous NYS Conservation Dep't. marshes and ponds have greatly enhanced the waterbird potential of northern Onondaga and Oswego Cos.

The latter Nov records show a remarkable collection of late-staying semi-hardies and a veritable flood of Rough-legged Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and Harriers. (Mice are present in great abundance thru northern Onondaga and southern Oswego Counties). Winter finches are to date unreported except for a few Pine Siskins.