

found my feeders in Etna in midOctober and I'm feeding up to sixty daily, and had banded 100 by Dec 1. This early arrival at stations has made it possible to do some studies of first-year plumages, as bill color gave clues to age. Much remains to be learned. Purple Finches have been abundant at Elmira this fall.

Reports of Pine Grosbeaks have poured in, especially during the hunting season when flocks, small and large, were spotted in woodlots. Others have been feeding on frozen apples, but the sumac crop is so poor that search of sumac thickets has not produced these birds. The earliest report was from Harris Hill where four were seen on Oct 9 (K. Fudge). On Dec 4, a female Pine Grosbeak was seen at Montezuma, making a new species for the Refuge. There have been a few scattered reports of Siskins and Redpolls, but none of Crossbills in this Region.

Two **Lark Sparrows** were reported from a field just north of Ithaca on October 22 by Neil Case, who has just come to Ithaca from the mid-west, where he was familiar with the species. This may be a first record for the Cayuga Basin. Slate-colored Juncos are not very abundant. Tree Sparrows are certainly scarce so far and were late in arriving. Chipping Sparrows migrated in numbers the third week of September in Horseheads (Welles). Apparently White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were in local concentrations, since reports from part of my Region said "Never had so many," while others said they were extremely scarce. I banded more White-throats and fewer White-crowns than usual at Etna. Song Sparrows do not seem to be wintering here this year. Scattered reports of Lapland Longspurs, the first coming from Big Flats on Oct 2. Snow Buntings appeared at Geneva on Oct 3, two weeks early (Ward).

Correction: In the July, 1957 issue, page 58, 4th line from top, read "25 years" instead of "2 years".

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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The whole period, from August 16 to November 30, has been fairly dry. Precipitation averaged 75 to 80 per cent of normal for the period. In no month was the precipitation total as high as normal, although November, as dry as it was, was the wettest in three years. The heaviest rains were recorded Sep 22 and Oct 8 with other appreciable rains coming Aug 25-26, Oct 24 and Nov 18-19. The first appreciable snowfall came Oct 27, with the next Nov 27 and another Nov 30, but at no time was there a significant amount of snow on the ground for more than a few hours.

The latter part of August was cool, September was about normal, October the coldest in five years and November the warmest in four years. The first period with frost or near frost at night came during the last four days of September.

Loons — Ducks: Our latest Green Heron report was from Sherburne Sep 15 (Whites). A late Black-crowned Night Heron was at Sherburne Nov 10 where one or two have been seen several times during the period (Whites). An American Bittern was at Boland's Marsh north of Binghamton Aug 18 (Bemont) and another at Sherburne Sep 2 (Whites). This species is reported rather infrequently in the region. A number of flocks of Canada Geese have been reported, usually with rather indefinite dates. The earliest, a flock of 34 at Deposit, were seen Sep 6 (Wilson). The latest, so far, were in the Unadilla area about Nov 15 (Wisner). The pair of Egyptian Geese reported from the Whitney Point area in the last issue suddenly disappeared before the hunting season but no one has been found who admits knowing what happened to them. A farm where they are raised has been found near Deposit and it seems likely that this is where the two "wild" ones came from (Loomis). There are few reports of migrating ducks, perhaps because observers are reluctant to be around marshes and ponds where hunters are apt to be.

Another contributing factor may be the drying up of a number of the smaller and shallower ponds and marshes. A Bufflehead was on the Susquehanna River at the Binghamton-Vestal line Oct 24 (Hannan). 12 Hooded Mergansers were at Norwich Nov 10 and six American Mergansers were at Chenango Valley State Park north of Binghamton Nov 28 (Sheffields).

Hawks — Owls: There were a number of Red-tailed Hawks reported from various parts of the region, but no Red-shouldered or Broad-winged Hawks at all. At Oxford a Rough-legged Hawk was seen repeatedly during October, but no more until one appeared Nov 29 (Stratton). Another was at Unadilla Oct 28 (Wisner) and still another was at Kinney Gulf, in Cortland Co., Nov 16 (Mulholland). An Osprey was at Johnson City Sep 9 (Bemont, H. Marsi) and two were at Unadilla Sep 19 (Wisner). Ruffed Grouse have been plentiful in the Binghamton and Deposit areas, but there is cause to wonder what they will eat in late winter and early spring, because they were already eating food normally left until then in mid November (Van Kuren).

A Sora, another infrequently reported species, was found at Sherburne Aug 16 (Whites). Killdeer were seen frequently in the Binghamton area until near the end of October but the last one so far was at Unadilla Oct 31 (Wisner). A Common Snipe was at Sherburne Aug 22 and five were at the same place Sep 1 and Sep 2 (Whites). Our last Solitary Sandpiper was at Sherburne Sep 1 (Whites) and our last two Greater Yellowlegs at Campville, west of Endicott, Oct 27 (Bemont). A Lesser Yellowlegs was at Sherburne Aug 18 (Whites). Two Least Sandpipers at Norwich Aug 22 (Whites) were the last of the "peeps" reported. The first Herring Gull of the season was at Endicott Oct 3 (N. Washburn). The highest count so far is 17. No Ring-billed Gulls have been reported yet. A flock of over 50 Mourning Doves was seen lined up on the utility wires Sep 7 at Choconut Center, north of Johnson City (Sheffields). Screech Owls and Horned Owls have both been reported more than usual this fall. A Barred Owl was at Ludlow, in Chenango Co., Sep 1 (Stratton) and the usual reports were received from the Deposit area (Wilson).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The large flock of Nighthawks usually seen over Binghamton in late August was not reported this year. The last one reported was at Deposit Sep 11. Hummingbirds seemed more common during September than earlier in the summer. The last one was at Binghamton Oct 1 (Greene, H. Marsi). A Red-headed Woodpecker was near Willet, in Cortland Co., Aug 24 (Sheffields, Washburns) and a family of four, two adults and two young, were seen feeding on blackberries near Sherburne Sep 7 (Carter). No Kingbirds were reported after Aug 25 and the last Crested Flycatcher was near Binghamton Sep 1 (Bemont, H. Marsi). There were several late Phoebe reports, the last one coming Oct 27 near Binghamton (Bemont). Three Boreal Chickadees were found at Chenango Valley State Park Nov 3 (Whites). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Sherburne Aug 22 (Whites), another was at Binghamton Sep 1 (Bemont, H. Marsi) and another was at Choconut Center Sep 15 (Sheffields), but that's all. A Brown Creeper at Skylake, east of Windsor in Broome Co., on Sep 1 (H. Marsi, Sheerer) was quite early. There were several Winter Wren reports, the first one Sep 21 at Choconut Center (Sheffields). Carolina Wrens seem to be making a strong come back in the Binghamton area. There have been quite a number of reports, all from an area several miles long south of the Susquehanna River (Triple Cities Naturalists' Club). A Carolina Wren was also found at Oquaga Lake in eastern Broome Co. Aug 27 (Wilson) only the second in that area in a number of years.

A Mockingbird came to a feeder in Endwell Nov 26 (N. Washburn). The last time Robins were seen in numbers was Oct 28 in the Binghamton area (H. Marsi). At Oxford Robins found food so scarce they turned to eating "woolly bear" caterpillars and were seen handling them gingerly (Stratton). Golden-crowned Kinglets were first seen at Choconut Center Sep 27 (Sheffields) and at Deposit were reported to be much more plentiful than last year (Wilson). Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared Sep 28 and a few were still here Nov 24 and even singing a little on the latter date (Sheffields). There were several Water Pipit reports, the first Sep 15 of two at Norwich (Whites) and the last Nov 15 of a flock of 25 at Oxford (Stratton). There have been several reports of Northern Shrikes from the Binghamton area starting Oct 25 (Sheffields) and one was seen at Oxford Nov 27 (Stratton).

Vireos — Warblers: The last Blue-headed Vireo was at Skylake Oct 6 (H. Marsi, Saunders) and the last Red-eye was near Vestal Oct 5 (Marsi). The warbler

migration was very poor. Many species were not seen at all and those that were were in small numbers. The last Nashvilles were seen Sep 28 at Choconut Center (Sheffields) and the last Magnolias Sep 24 at Ely Park in Binghamton (Bemont). Cape Mays were reported twice, Sep 8 and Sep 21, both times at Choconut Center (Sheffields). Myrtles were the only species seen in any numbers and only until Oct 27 at Norwich (Whites) and Choconut Center (Sheffields). A Palm Warbler was at Choconut Center Oct 5 and 6 (Sheffields). A Yellow Palm was at Norwich Oct 5 (Whites) and another was at Choconut Center Oct 12 (Sheffields). A Mourning Warbler was found near Binghamton Sep 17 (H. Marsi).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: On Oct 24 a flight of Redwinged Blackbirds about a mile long and numbering "probably millions" was seen flying south against a strong headwind over Oxford (Stratton). Not many were seen after Oct 27 but a male came to a feeder at Unadilla Nov 11 and returned regularly to the end of the month (Wisner). A flock of six to ten Baltimore Orioles spent a week, starting Aug 20, at Oxford living on blackberries (Stratton). A Scarlet Tanager, in full color, was at Norwich Aug 22 (Whites).

After their absence last year Evening Grosbeaks appeared early this year. Two at Hillcrest, north of Binghamton, Sep 30 (Hubbard) were the first. There have been a number of scattered reports from all parts of the region since, but only at Homer (Gustafson) and Deposit (Wilson) do reports indicate they have settled down and been seen in the same area regularly. At Deposit they appeared Nov 8 and by Nov 30, 41 had been banded and two foreign retraps taken. On Oct 26 a banded female Evening Grosbeak killed itself bumping into a picture window. The Banding Office reports the bird was banded 18 months earlier at State College, Penna. On Nov 3 a single Pine Grosbeak was found near Binghamton (Saunders, E. Washburn). Since then there have been scattered reports from all over the region. Most reports of this normally flocking bird are of one, two or three individuals. Pine Siskins were at Choconut Center Nov 10 (Sheffields). A Red-eyed Towhee was still near Binghamton Nov 17 (Bemont). A flock of over 100 Vesper Sparrows was found in the Binghamton area Oct 27 (Bemont). Tree Sparrows arrived in the Triple Cities area Oct 27 and several times during November have been heard singing a song not usually heard until spring (Sheffields). White-crowned Sparrows were first seen at Oxford Oct 9 (Stratton) and most were gone after Oct 15, but an immature was still coming to a feeder in Choconut Center Nov 17 (Sheffields). White-throated Sparrows arrived Sep 16 (Carter, Marsi) and haven't been reported since Nov 11. Fox Sparrows were first seen Oct 8 at Oxford (Stratton).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

Late August and windy September produced a mediocre flight of warblers, thrushes, and vireos, but this was more than compensated for by a superb shorebird flight. The warbler-vireo migration terminated abruptly with the severe frosts of 26-29 Sep. However, shorebird numbers and variety held up well thru this frosty period. Late September and October saw a heavy waterfowl migration (literally *all over*), poor only in Canada Geese, Scaup, Buffleheads, and Red-breasted Mergansers. Most notable in October, however, were the many early-arriving "northerners", very marked in the winter finches; this despite the fact that Oct was not a harsh month weather-wise in central New York. November easily made up the cold and wet that October lacked, but this only intensified the southward movement of the "northerners" and the waterfowl. On 25-26 Nov a cold snap quickly sealed off many marshes and small lakes, and Sandy Pond was two-thirds frozen over in one night. Aside from this severe spell, the approaching winter has been open and relatively snowless.

Across the Region weed seeds are enormously abundant, but the tree