

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The latter half of August was very normal, weatherwise, but September was decidedly wet with the temperature showing a great deal of day-to-day variation but averaging about normal. October brought the first widespread killing frost the morning of the 6th. During an eight day period, from the 22nd to the 29th, it rained or snowed every day. The first snow fell Oct 25 but it was only a trace. November was rather wet and slightly warm on the average, but during the last three days of the month we got our first good taste of winter with up to 5 inches of snow and sustained sub-freezing temperatures.

Fruit and seed crops were generally excellent throughout the region. Thornapple, especially, was spectacular in the Binghamton area. Mr. Wilson, of Deposit, writes that this year produced the most abundant overall wild fruit and seed crop that he has ever seen.

Loons — Ducks: A Common Loon was found on a small lake near Unadilla Nov 8 (Wisner). Only one Common Egret was reported during the period and that was seen wading in the Susquehanna River near Johnson City during the last week of Aug (Dr. Standfast). Two rather late Green Herons were at Sherburne Oct 12 (Whites). Black-crowned Night Herons appear to be rather scarce now. The only one reported during the period was at Sherburne Aug 21 (Whites). When their old nesting colony was disrupted by the beginning of construction of Harpur College Campus several years ago at least part of the colony moved into a small stand of trees about ½ mile away on the south bank of the Susquehanna River at Willow Point, across from Johnson City. They are now being deprived of that site by the start of construction of the Binghamton sewage processing plant.

An early flock of Canada Geese was heard flying over Binghamton Sep 11 (Aton). From then until Nov 18, when a flock of over 250 was seen over Binghamton (R. Sheffield), unusually large numbers of them were noted. A flock of at least 62 Mallards and 13 Black Ducks was seen regularly on a small marsh next to a heavily travelled road near Endwell during the first half of September and hunters reported seeing quite a few Wood Ducks but the dabblers went pretty much unobserved otherwise. The divers seemed to have the split duck hunting season pretty well diagnosed because a male Bufflehead at Chenango Valley State Park Nov 19 (Marsi, Linaberry), a Ruddy Duck at Norwich Nov 2 (Whites) and four Hooded Mergansers at Sherburne Oct 12 (Whites) were the only ones reported before the end of the period.

Hawks — Owls: As usual few hawks were reported. A Broad-winged Hawk Aug 16 between Johnson City and Endwell (Bemont) and four Ospreys, the first Oct 11 at Maine in Broome Co. (Beaver) and the last Oct 21 at Unadilla (Wisner), were the only certain migrants. The more reliable hunters report Ruffed Grouse to be quite plentiful. An immature Sora was seen at Norwich Oct 7 (Whites). Killdeer were last seen at Unadilla Nov 9 (Wisner). American Woodcock were in relatively good supply until the last one was seen Oct 29 at Union Center, nor of Endicott (Leslie). The earliest Common Snipe reported was at Sherburne Aug 31 and the last at Norwich Nov 15 (Whites). A Greater Yellowlegs at Sherburne Oct 12 (Whites) was our last and two Pectoral Sandpipers at the same place at the same

time were the only ones reported. Three Least Sandpipers at the South Otsele Fish Hatchery Aug 17 and one at Sherburne Sep 14 were our first and last respectively (Whites). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Willow Point Aug 24 (M. Sheffield, Ohrberg) was the only one reported. Shorebirds always put on a rather poor show in the region because available mud flats and beaches are in small patches so there is little chance for concentrations to form. Two Upland Plover were found at Broome Co. Airport Oct 12 (Sheffields), but when the spot was rechecked about a week later there was none there. A Common Tern, an infrequently reported species in the region, was at Norwich Sep 19 (Whites).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: No Nighthawks were reported after Sep 8 and no Chimney Swifts after Aug 24. Two Yellow-shafted Flickers were still at Chenango Valley State Park Nov 28 (Sheffields). During November, especially the latter part of the month, there was a mild flurry of Pileated Woodpecker reports from various parts of the region. Only two Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports: one on the south side of Binghamton Oct 2 (H. Marsi, H. Hack) and one at Choconut Center Oct 4 (Sheffields). No Kingbirds after Aug 24 but a Great Crested Flycatcher was still at Norwich Sep 12 (Whites). Oct 12 saw the last Phoebe: one at Maine (Beaver) and one at Choconut Center (Bemont). "Lots" of Empidonax Flycatchers were seen on the south side of Binghamton Sep 22 (H. Marsi). One at Whitney Point Oct 11 (Beaver) and another at Choconut Center Oct -2 (M. Sheffield, Bemont) were both late records. Our last Wood Pewee was at Choconut Center Sep 27. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Norwich Aug 17 (Whites) and another was at Choconut Center Aug 26 (Sheffields).

A Tufted Titmouse seen at Maine Sep 13 (Beaver) represents a new location. Another one was at Deposit Oct 1 (Wilson). There were only three Red-breasted Nuthatch reports: one at Sherburne Sep 14 (Whites), one near Cooperstown Nov 16 (Whites) and two at Chenango Valley State Park Nov 28 (Sheffields). The first Brown Creeper was at Choconut Center Oct 25 (Sheffields). They have been more common than usual in the Triple Cities area since then but have gone unreported in the rest of the region. No House Wrens were reported after Sep 29 and the first of several Winter Wren reports came Oct 11 north of Binghamton (M. Sheffield, Potts). Still no Carolina Wren reports. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was singing at Sherburne Aug 17 (Whites).

A Catbird at Choconut Center Oct 12 and a Brown Thrasher at the same place Oct 18 (Sheffields, Bemont) were both our last. Robins could still be seen in large flocks, especially in thornapple thickets, until Nov 9. Since then there have been only scattered reports, the latest one so far from Bainbridge Nov 27 (E. J. Smith). Two late Hermit Thrushes were at Chenango Valley State Park Nov 28 (Sheffields) and our last Veery was seen at Choconut Center Oct 5 (Sheffields). The number of migrating Bluebirds noted during October was appreciably lower than normal, but was pleasantly higher than one might expect with the number present during the breeding season in mind. The last one was at Unadilla Nov 9 (Wisner). Golden-crowned Kinglets were first noted at Roundtop in Endicott Oct 11 (Bemont) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Choconut Center Sep 28 (Sheffields). Both species were common in the Triple Cities area, especially the latter. A Ruby-crown was still at Chenango Valley State Park Nov 28 (Sheffields). A small flock of Water Pipits seen near St. John's Pond, north of Binghamton, Oct 11 (Sheffields) were the only ones reported. Cedar Waxwings seemed more common than usual in the Triple Cities area all during the period. Our first Northern Shrike was near Choconut Center Nov 22 (M. Sheffield).

Vireos — Warblers: Red-eyed Vireos were here until Oct 2 when one was seen on the south side of Binghamton (H. Marsi, H. Hack). A Tennessee Warbler Sep 28 and a few Nashvilles Sep 27, all at Choconut Center were our latest (Sheffields, Bemont). Magnolia, Myrtle and Black-throated Greens were the only warblers reported at all commonly during the migration period. Magnolias were first found Sep 20 near Endwell (Bemont) and were last seen Oct 13 north of Binghamton (Beaver). Myrtles — from Oct 2 at Norwich (Whites) to Oct 27 north of Binghamton (Beaver) and Black-throated Greens — from Aug 30 at Maine (Beaver) to Oct 12 near Choconut Center (Sheffields). A Bay-breasted Warbler was found near Choconut Center Sep 27 (M. Sheffield). Two Yellow Palm Warblers were reported, one at Binghamton Oct 1 (H. Marsi) and one at Norwich Oct 27 (Whites). A late Yellowthroat was at Choconut Center Oct 26 (Bemont). Three Wilson's

Warblers were found near Endwell Sep 10 (Linaberry) and our last Canada Warbler was near Binghamton Sep 27 (R. Hock). No more Redstarts were reported after a 'wave' was noted near Binghamton Sep 22 (H. Marsi).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A flock of over 150 Meadowlarks was seen between Binghamton and Whitney Point Oct 26 (Leonard). 30 or so Red-winged Blackbirds Nov 8 were the last noted in any numbers but there were later reports of scattered individuals. Three of them were coming to a feeder in Unadilla at the end of November (Wisner). Baltimore Orioles were gone after Aug 24.

Evening Grosbeaks were first seen at Unadilla Nov 13 (Wisner). They have also been seen at Deposit (Wilson), Johnson City (Austin), Sidney (E. J. Smith) and around Oneonta (New). Numbers have been small, and nowhere have they been seen regularly. None has been reported at feeders so far. Several small flocks of Pine Siskins have been reported from Oxford during the month of November (Stratton) and on Nov 16 a flock of 30 was seen near Cooperstown (Whites). Goldfinches have been quite abundant right through November around the Triple Cities, at Deposit (Wilson) and around Oneonta (New). Rufous-sided Towhees seemed plentiful at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith) and around the Triple Cities. They were last seen in the latter area Nov 6 (Sheffields). There were more than the usual number of Vesper Sparrows reported, the last ones a small flock near Choconut Center Nov 1 (Sheffields). Slate-colored Juncos started appearing in numbers about Oct 16, but no Tree Sparrows were reported until Nov 2. White-crowned Sparrows were seen first Oct 10 and last Nov 1, both times near Choconut Center (Sheffields). They were quite common there and at Norwich and Sherburne (Whites) and at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith). White-throated Sparrows were reported first near Binghamton Sep 27 (R. Hock) and were last seen at Bainbridge Nov 18 (E. J. Smith). On Oct 21 several were heard singing at Choconut Center (Sheffields, Bemont). There were several reports of Fox Sparrows: three Oct 18 at Choconut Center (Bemont), six Oct 25 at Maine (Beaver), one Oct 30 at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith), one Nov 2 near Binghamton (Marsis) and several at Unadilla Nov 8 (Wisner).

710 University Ave., Endwell