

Vireos — Warblers: There were three Solitary Vireos at Island Cottage woods on Sep 19 (Listman), and a Philadelphia Vireo was seen in Durand Sep 12 (O'Hara et al).

Among the more outstanding records of a very good fall warbler flight were three reports of single Orange-crowned Warblers: Oct 10 near Irondequoit Bay (Starling et al), Oct 24 at Irondequoit Bay (Kemnitzer), and Oct 29 at Island Cottage woods (Listman). A Pine Warbler was noted Aug 18 in Highland Park (Starling), and there was a Connecticut Warbler in Island Cottage woods on Sep 20 (Dobson). A Yellowthroat was seen at Manitou on Nov 24 (Listman). Among the commoner warblers (a count of 23 Black-throated Green Warblers Sep 22 in Genesee Valley Park (Schmanke) and ten Wilson's Warblers Sep 19 along the west lakeshore were somewhat exceptional.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: A Baltimore Oriole appeared at Gerry Leubner's feeding station in Irondequoit Nov 29. A full plumaged male Dickcissel was first observed Nov 9 at the Munsen feeding station in Penfield and was still present at the end of the period, during which time it was seen by many observers. Eleven Evening Grosbeaks appeared in Durand Nov 7 (Holland et al), and within a week or so flocks of 40 or more birds were seen at Fisher's (Holland et al) and along the east lakeshore (McNeth, Sunderlin). At the end of the period they were still present but in reduced numbers. The Pine Grosbeak was unreported. A very heavy flight of Common Redpolls occurred in late October, with 400 being recorded Oct 28 and 1000 on the 29th along the west lakeshore (Listman). During the last month of the period numbers had decreased, but small flocks could be found scattered throughout the area on most trips in the field. In these large migrating flocks were an undetermined number of Hoary Redpolls. Three of this species were positively identified Oct 29 and one on Nov 3 at Braddock's by Listman who felt that there was a fairly good representation of the rarer species in these flocks. In contrast to the large number of Redpolls present, Pine Siskins seemed rather uncommon, five on Oct 29 (Listman) being one of the few reports. A single Red Crossbill was seen Nov 23 near Spencerport (Listman). A Rufous-sided Towhee was present in Durand until Nov 22 (G. O. S. hike), and one appeared at Gerry Leubner's feeder in Irondequoit Nov 29 and 30.

A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was observed Oct 17 in a small marsh in Brighton (Starling); the observer believed that it was probably the subspecies *nelsoni* after a long and careful study under ideal conditions. A Field Sparrow was present at Manitou throughout October (Listman). Two White-crowned Sparrows were seen Nov 26 at the Kemnitzer feeder in Webster. White-throated Sparrows fairly swarmed during their normal migration period, but strangely enough, in contrast to last year, very few seemed to remain after the conclusion of the fall flight. Twenty Fox Sparrows at Island Cottage Oct 18 (Lloyd et al) and 12 Lincoln's Sparrows Sep 26 along the west lakeshore (Listman) were very good peak counts on these two species. A single Lapland Longspur Nov 21 (Listman) was the only record for this species. A flock of 20 Snow Buntings was observed Oct 24 at Manitou (O'Hara et al), and flocks of 500 were seen in the same area on Nov 3 and again on Nov 11 (Kemnitzer et al).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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September continued the warm and dry pattern. October was slightly cooler than normal, although killing frost held off until mid-month or, in some spots, until early November. October's precipitation almost made up for the prolonged drought. More than twice the normal amount of rain fell — half of it during the first week. November's temperatures and precipitation were near normal. There was no snow accumulation at Ithaca, but eight or ten inches were at Geneva on November 30.

In spite of the dry summer and early fall, water levels were high enough in some places (Keuka, Geneva, Montezuma — the latter controlled of course) to eliminate possibility of shorebirds. Ithaca's Big Hole had good conditions, however, and Sapsucker Woods Pond was the lowest ever, with resulting mud flats.

The goose population reached record numbers. Ducks, on the other hand, were scarce. John Morse comments on the increase in Canada Geese at Montezuma as

follows: "Whether this increase in use is due to an actual increase in the goose population or to freak weather which stopped large numbers of geese in this area that normally pass over is problematical." A Cackling Goose at Sapsucker Woods was our most outstanding bird for the period.

Evening Grosbeaks came early and in large numbers. A few Pine Siskins have appeared, but no sizeable flocks of Redpolls or Snow Buntings showed up. Wild fruits were neither scarce nor abundant this year.

Night migration was noted on September 26 at Watkins Glen and at Odessa on October 9. A big exodus of small birds occurred at Ithaca on September 10 and 11, with strong north to northwest winds.

Loons — Ducks: It was a good fall for Common Loons. Twenty-seven were seen off Sheldrake on Sep 22 (J. Wells), and Julian Shepherd estimated 1000 "dribbling" down Cayuga Lake the week of Nov 20. Red-throated Loons, however, were missing from Cayuga, but one appeared on Keuka Lake on Oct 13, the fourth record for that lake since 1946 (Orcutt). Single Horned Grebes were seen on Cayuga in early October, while Walker reported 27 of them on Nov 8 at the foot of Seneca. One report of Double-crested Cormorant: Nov 7, near Ithaca (Futuyma). Common Egrets remained in numbers at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge through September, with 41 being there on the 17th. The last date was Oct 2, when ten were seen (Morse). Two immature Black-crowned Night Herons were seen Aug 22 on the shore of Cayuga, and a rather late one appeared at the Horseheads Bridge on Oct 30 (Hood).

The period was noteworthy for reports of Whistling Swans. Twenty-five flew low over Paul Kelsey's house at Dryden on Oct 26. An adult and an immature were at Howland's Island on Nov 10 (Bauer) (Region 5) and may have been the same birds which were at Montezuma from Nov 12 on (Morse). One was seen off and on at Myers Point, east shore of Cayuga Lake, during November. An Australian Black Swan, undoubtedly an escape, was at Montezuma off and on from Aug 27 to Oct 14.

Reporters from the whole area commented on the magnificent migration of Canada Geese (in contrast with that of ducks). About 150 Canada Geese remained on the lake opposite Keuka College for some time in mid-November. These birds came through early and in unusual numbers at Avoca. Up to 50 dropped in at Sapsucker Woods Pond daily from Oct 1 on, and Morse reported that the geese reached a peak of 1280 at Montezuma on Oct 30, in contrast with a peak of 350 in 1958. Most left on Nov 28 when nine inches of snow fell. Most remarkable was the presence, with the group on Sapsucker Woods Pond, of a **Cackling Goose**, from Oct 2 through Oct 17 (Ed—see field notes section, this issue). On Oct 22-24 104 Brant were counted at the south end of Seneca. A flock of Brant flew over Montezuma on Oct 30, and 26 were at the south end of Cayuga, also on Oct 30. One to three of these remained with the Stewart Park Mallards throughout most of November. There were few reports of Snow Geese this fall. Four Blue Geese (two adults, two immatures) turned up at Montezuma on Oct 30 and remained most of November. Morse speculates as to the possibility of the adults being the same birds that were there last year with one immature. A Blue Goose was shot on Cayuga the week of Nov 10.

More Black Ducks than in other years fed daily at Sapsucker Woods with the Mallards. A female Mallard-American Widgeon hybrid turned up there on Oct 27 (the one last year was a male). Wood Ducks reached a high count of 95 there on Sep 30, and 29 were still present on Nov 5. Few were seen after that date. In general, numbers of dabblers were down (except at Montezuma), and divers were very slow in coming in, much to the disappointment of duck hunters. A few Red-heads, Ring-necks, Canvasback, and Scaup appeared on Cayuga the week of Oct 5-12, but there were almost no divers by the end of the reporting period on Seneca or on the Chemung River. There were five Buffleheads on Oct 20 at the south end of Cayuga (McIlroy), and the species was present on Seneca on Nov 5 (Ward). A female Oldsquaw was seen at the Hog Hole (s. w. corner of Cayuga) on Oct 25 (Sandburg). Some 200 White-winger Scoters were observed on Cayuga on Oct 2 (Sandburg), and five Surf Scoters were spotted at the south end of Cayuga on Oct 13 (Hoyt). This is the first report of Surfs on Cayuga in ten years, and the second report for the region in that period. Ward saw one Common Scoter on Seneca on Nov 5.

Again the waterfowl report from Montezuma was encouraging. Manager Morse reported that the fall duck migration started Aug 27 with an influx of American Widgeon and peaked at 26,450 on Oct 30 (of which 18,945 were Widgeon). This compares with a peak of 21,000 in 1958, of which 15,000 were Widgeon. Pintails also showed an increase this year, with 3,965 compared to 1,500 in 1958. Mallards and Blacks appeared in higher numbers at the start of the migration, but over-all use of the refuge showed a moderate reduction in the numbers of these two species. On the other hand, there was an increase in usage by diving ducks due to better feeding conditions in the main pool — an increase in aquatic plants in deeper sections. Some 500 Canvasback used this portion regularly in November — compared with the real scarcity on Cayuga and Seneca mentioned earlier.

Hawks — Owls: As usual, there was no marked hawk migration in this region, although Walker reported seeing more Red-tails and Sparrow Hawks than in other years. A Turkey Vulture appeared along Mills Road, northwest of Waterloo, on Sep 13. There were no Goshawk reports. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported in the Ithaca area on Sep 14, Sep 16, and Oct 25. One was chasing black-birds at Sapsucker Woods on Oct 31. Red-tailed Hawks were in usual numbers; one very black one was noted on Avery Road (southwest of Dublin) by Walker on Oct 25. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen south of Branchport on Oct 29 (Spiker); it is rare there in fall migration. A Broad-winged Hawk flew over Sapsucker Woods on Sep 29 (A.A.A.). There were very few period reports of Rough-legged Hawks; the first one was at Ithaca on Oct 31. One or two Bald Eagles were usually to be seen at Montezuma, and other hawks were scarce there. A Pigeon Hawk was seen Oct 25 near Branchport (Spiker), our only report for the fall. Noteworthy were three reports of Peregrines: one over Penn Yan Marsh on Oct 7 (Orcutt), possibly a first record for the Keuka area; one at Hog Hole, Ithaca, on Oct 2 observed chasing shorebirds (Sandburg), and one over Connecticut Hill south of Ithaca on Oct 13 (Kelsey).

Ruffed Grouse were noted only rarely at Sapsucker Woods during the fall, but they were reported to be in better numbers around Ithaca than were Pheasants (P. Kelsey). In spite of a good hatch, Grouse were not easy to locate at Elmira in hunting season. Walker feels they have increased in the Geneva area. A small covey of Bobwhite was present all fall along North Triphammer Road, north of Ithaca, where the adults came regularly to corn supplied for them. It seems worthy of mention now that released **Wild Turkeys** appear to have survived for several years near Newfield. Eight of them were seen during the fall (fide P. Kelsey). Coot have not been noted on every visit to the south end of Cayuga, but 40 were present there on Nov 15 (Futuyma).

In spite of the dry summer several areas reported water too high during the fall for shorebirds. The continuing dike problems at Sapsucker Woods, however, resulted in extensive mud flats there for the first time and the opportunity to study shorebirds at close range (until the heavy rains of early October raised the water level). Semipalmated Plovers appeared there on Sep 11. Fifty or more Killdeer fed daily. Killdeer migration was noted at Elmira on Sep 27, with a last date of Nov 1. There were no reports of Golden Plover at Montezuma during this period. Two Black-bellied Plovers were seen on Sep 13. The Ruddy Turnstone on Oct 2 at Hog Hole was our only period report for this species. Mary Welles reported a large concentration of Woodcock along a one-mile stretch of road near Elmira on the early morning of Sep 2; the birds were flying up as the car lights hit them.

Common Snipe were noted at Sapsucker Woods Pond off and on from Aug 26 to Oct 19. One was seen Oct 29 at the Rte. 17 bridge over Newtown Creek near Elmira (Smith). Last date for the Spotted Sandpiper was Oct 3, and late date for the Greater Yellowlegs was Oct 24. Thirty Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at Montezuma on Aug 16 (Walker). Last date at Sapsucker Woods was Oct 19, and at Elmira Oct 29 (Smith). There were no reports of White-rumped or Baird's Sandpipers. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers arrived at Sapsucker Woods on Aug 24, and the first Dunlin appeared on Oct 2. Six Short-billed Dowitchers at the Montezuma Refuge on Oct 15 and a Stilt Sandpiper seen by members of the Keuka Park Conservation Club at a marsh north of Canandaigua constituted the only period reports for these species. Sanderlings were first noted at Hog Hole, Ithaca, on Sep 21 (Gebhart). There were three reports of Northern Phalaropes: Sep 12 at Montezuma (Morse), one on Sep 21 at Hog Hole (Gebhart), and one on Sep 20 just north of Canandaigua (KPCC).

The first Great Black-backed Gull appeared on Cayuga on Sep 27 (D. McIlroy), and the highest number before the end of November was ten. This gull first appeared on Seneca on Nov 5 (Murden), and one was seen with Herring Gulls at the Horseheads dump on Nov 19. Of interest is the fact that the gulls were observed killing rats and eating them (Andrus). Our last date for Caspian Terns was Oct 2 when five were seen (McIlroy).

Both species of cuckoos were last seen Oct 13 at Stewart Park (Hoyt, McIlroy). A family of Barn Owls, first discovered on Jul 27 near Elmira, was seen off and on after that and photographed by Al Fudge. No other Barn Owls were reported. Screech Owls seemed scarce. Great Horned Owls were heard hooting regularly near Refuge headquarters at Montezuma. Barred Owls were present in Sapsucker Woods and were vocal at intervals. There was one report of the Long-eared Owl, along Baker Hill Road east of Ithaca in early November (L. Pearsall).

Goatsuckers — Starlings: Last date for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird was Sep 23 at the Sapsucker Woods Laboratory feeder. Kingfishers were unreported the last two weeks in November. Flickers were seen in remarkable numbers during the fall. They were abundant on Aug 26 on Mrs. York's hill at Elmira. There were large numbers around Ithaca on Sep 8 thru 10 and again during the third week of the month. Many were noted in the Rock Stream area all fall (M. Darling). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen at Montezuma on Sep 10 (G. Little) and at Romulus during November (E. P. Walker). The only report of the Red-headed Woodpecker was from Montezuma on Sep 10. There was no noticeable flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

There was a good migration of Eastern Kingbirds from Aug 15 on. Last date for the Phoebe was Oct 25. The Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported by Mrs. York from Elmira on Aug 26. Tree Swallows and Purple Martins both pulled out early from Sapsucker Woods, the Martins in mid-August and the Swallows by the end of that month. Five Tree Swallows were seen by Walker on Nov 14 near Waterloo. Blue Jays were still increasing at Geneva, where they were uncommon ten years ago (Ward). There were at least two pairs of Tufted Titmice in Geneva (Gambrell, Haubner) and at least one pair still on the campus of Keuka College; these are the two latest places in the region to have this species.

This year, in contrast to last, there is a Red-breasted Nuthatch flight, and at least four feeders in Ithaca have had one visiting regularly in November. House Wrens seemed even scarcer at the end of the summer than during the nesting season. A Winter Wren hung around Mrs. York's hill during part of October and several times was found in her "wine cellar." On Oct 23 I found a Carolina Wren on my sun-porch. I banded the bird, released it, and have not seen or heard it since (nor had I been aware of its presence before that date). Carolinas were absent at Keuka this fall, but one was seen in Waterloo on Oct 8 (Murden). They are now at two new stations in Elmira, and four pairs raised two broods each in the Watkins Glen area. This species appears now to be regaining the ground it lost several years ago, although it is not fully recovered at Ithaca.

Two Mockingbirds were still present at Esperanza, a mile north of Branchport, and one appeared at a feeder in Aurora on Oct 24 and was seen regularly the rest of the reporting period. Arthur Lane had a late Catbird, feeding on multiflora berries, until Nov 24. Other Catbirds seemed to be migrating in mid-September or perhaps just moving around conspicuously. A welcome report is of an abundance of Wood Thrushes noted on Mills Road near Geneva on Sep 20 by Walker, who stopped counting when he reached 100. Hermit Thrushes were noted in good numbers at Elmira on Sep 25 (Smith). Dilger reported Gray-cheeks migrating on Sep 30 and Oct 1 at Ithaca. Swainson's Thrushes and Veeries were seen at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on Oct 13 (Hoyt, McIlroy). An immature Swainson's was found on Nov 16 by John Genung near Dresserville. Walker kept it until Nov 22 when it died.

Most parts of the region had encouraging (but cautious) reports on Bluebirds. Mrs. Van Duzer of Horseheads had groups of 10-15 from Sep 15 on. This is the location of the flock of 100 reported two years ago. At Ithaca there was one report of 12 and another of 20 during September. On the other hand, Walker emphasized the scarcity in the Geneva-Waterloo area. Both Kinglets were scarce in the Geneva area but seemed fairly abundant at Ithaca, and Ruby-crowns were "unusually numerous" at Keuka (Guthrie). Water Pipits were first noted by A. A. Allen on Oct 17. The only Northern Shrike report was of one at Odessa on Nov 26 (Strath),

and the lone Loggerhead observed was on Baker Hill Road, Ithaca, on Aug 23 (Hoyt). A flock of 1,000 Starlings hung around Sapsucker Woods the first week in September, and Mrs. Welles noted great flocks of juveniles in August and September near Elmira.

Vireos — Warblers: There was no marked vireo migration. There was a report of the Philadelphia Vireo at Sapsucker Woods on Sep 22 (Hoyt et al), and a rather late last date for the Warbling Vireo was Oct 4 at Waterloo (Walker).

The warbler migration was fairly good at Ithaca between Sep 20 and 23. They continued to trickle through, but most had left between Oct 12 and 19. In the Geneva area they were scarce, although a good Myrtle wave was noted at the Waterloo cemetery on Oct 3 and 4. Myrtles were much in evidence at Ithaca on Sep 24 and at Elmira on Sep 25 (Smith). The Orange-crowned Warbler (often missed) was seen in Ithaca the week of Oct 12. A late and most unusual report was of two Prairie Warblers spending several days (Nov 9-12) at Paul Kelsey's home just east of Dryden. A late Northern Waterthrush was found freshly killed under a window in Etna on Oct 21. Last date for the Yellowthroat was Oct 25 (Futuyma).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Huge flocks of blackbirds (and Starlings) were noted at Elmira in early September, and Redwings "by the millions" were seen at Geneva, Montezuma, and vicinity. On the other hand, Guthrie noted few Redwings in the Keuka area, where there was also just one record of the Rusty Blackbird. Rusties arrived at the Sapsucker Woods feeder on Sep 29, built up to a flock of 50-75 daily, and were still present in small numbers on Nov 30. At times they were joined by a few Cowbirds, Redwings, and Grackles. Last date for the Scarlet Tanager was Oct 4 at Waterloo and Oct 12 at Ithaca. Cardinals continued to increase at Elmira and Watkins Glen. An Indigo Bunting near Ithaca on Oct 18 (Futuyma) seems late enough — but what does one think of one spending the week of Nov 10-17 at the residence of E. Bishop in Alpine, where it even sat on the windowsill for careful identification?

I have a great stack of Evening Grosbeak arrival dates — the earliest was a flock over Connecticut Hill on Oct 15 (Kelsey). From Oct 29-31 they poured into the region and strangely enough went right to feeders in spite of an abundance of box elder seeds everywhere. Elmira was the only place to report Purple Finches in good numbers — in late September and early October. There were scattered reports elsewhere. Redpolls had not moved into the region by the end of the period, except for a small flock at Paul Kelsey's (Dryden) on Nov 30. Pine Siskins were being regularly reported, and a flock of 50 was observed feeding on red cedar seeds at Avoca on Oct 21 and thereafter (Carter). A few spent November at Keuka, and they have been seen in Elmira, Ithaca, and E. Webster. Goldfinches had young in several nests at Sapsucker Woods the first week in September. Slate-colored Juncos appeared in numbers around Odessa on Oct 19 (Strath). Tree Sparrow first dates are Oct 9 at Elmira (Smith), Oct 30 at Ithaca, and Nov 5 at the Laboratory feeder. Chipping and Field Sparrows were migrating in numbers on Oct 13 at Burdett (Bardeen).

White-crowned Sparrows were scarce at Keuka and Penn Yan; far fewer were banded there than in other falls. Arrival dates were Oct 1 at Ithaca and Oct 3 at the Sapsucker Woods Laboratory feeder. Some 20-24 were seen at Odessa on Oct 19. White-throated Sparrows had a good migration at Waterloo, and they first appeared at the Ornithology Laboratory feeder at Ithaca on Sep 16. Fox Sparrows were also in better than usual numbers at Waterloo; the last dates were Nov 12 at Elmira and Nov 19 at Lane's feeder near Ithaca. There were more reports than usual of the Lincoln's Sparrow. The species was observed on Mills Road, Waterloo, on Oct 4 and at Etna on Sep 18 and Oct 4. Two Lincoln's spent a week at the Laboratory of Ornithology feeder after Sep 27, where many observers had a chance to get acquainted with this sometimes elusive sparrow. The Lapland Longspur was first seen on Oct 18 (Futuyma), and Snow Buntings appeared on Oct 25 at Ithaca (Sandburg). The latter species also appeared on Alpine Road, Odessa, on Nov 18, but there were no good flights as of the end of the period.

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