

Vireos — Warblers: Single Philadelphia Vireos were seen Sep 10 near Portageville (Rosche), Sep 15 on the Pinnacle Hill (Lank), and Oct 2 at Island Cottage (Lloyd). Two Blue-winged Warblers were at Portageville Aug 21 (Rosche), and one was there Aug 27. The Orange-crowned Warbler was not observed in the area this year. A very late Parula Warbler was seen Nov 25 in Webster (Kemnitzner). Strangely, there are two other late November records for this species. Seven Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen in Durand-Eastman Park Sep 28 (Schmanke), and a late Black-throated Green Warbler was noted Oct 16 at Island Cottage (Lloyd). Pine Warblers and Connecticut Warblers were unreported, but three Hooded Warblers were seen Sep 10 in Letchworth Park (Rosche).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Two hundred fifty Rusty Blackbirds and 400 Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen at Flynn Road Nov 20 (Listman). An Indigo Bunting was seen feeding with Pine Siskins and Goldfinches in a back yard in Irondequoit Nov 2 (Moon, Sunderlin). A Dickcissel was observed at a feeder in Penfield (Munson). Mrs. Munson had also had one of these birds at her feeder late last fall. Six Evening Grosbeaks seen at Hamlin Beach Park Nov 27 (Dobson) was the only report for the period; this scarcity is in marked contrast to last year. Forty Purple Finches were seen at Island Cottage Oct 31 (Schmanke), and 80 were seen at Webster Park Nov 13 (Kemnitzner, Listman). Six Common Redpolls were present in Perry Nov 12, ten were seen the following day in Letchworth Park, and 25 were seen in Perry on Nov 19 (Rosche). These constitute the only records for the period. Some 75 Pine Siskins were seen at Hamlin Beach Park Oct 22 (G.O.S. hike), and 750 were seen along the west lakeshore Nov 11 (Listman et al). Flocks of up to 100 were common throughout the area. A Red Crossbill was observed Oct 29 in Durand-Eastman Park (Foley). Thirty were seen along the west lakeshore Nov 11 (Kemnitzner et al), and small flocks were seen quite generally in the area the remainder of the month. A White-winged Crossbill was noted Oct 30 in Durand-Eastman Park (Foley, Foster, Tetlow), and two were seen there Nov 20 (Lloyd). Five Savannah Sparrows were noted Oct 13 in Perry (Rosche). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen Sep 29 on the east spit of Braddock's Bay (Listman); this was our only record for this elusive sparrow this year. Two Chipping Sparrows were seen at Silver Lake Oct 13 (Rosche). Twenty-five White-crowned and 100 White-throated Sparrows seen Oct 1 along the lakeshore (Miller, Starling) were the high counts for these two species. Five White-throats were seen in Durand-Eastman Park on Nov 26 (O'Hara et al), and five Fox Sparrows were there on Oct 30 (Foley et al). A Lincoln's Sparrow observed at Manitou Sep 26 (Listman) was the only record for the period. Three Lapland Longspurs were seen at Lake Ontario Oct 8 (G.O.S. boat trip), and a very few were seen subsequently along the lakeshore. Seventy-five Snow Buntings were noted Oct 23 at Braddock's Bay (Foster et al). Flocks of 100-300 were frequently seen along the lakeshore during November, and 300 were seen in Perry Nov 19 (Rosche).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The fall season was excessively dry. In the Ithaca area there was no precipitation to amount to anything except for a total of three inches in mid-September, the fringe of Donna. Farther west there was less. And sadly enough, this didn't bring the expected bonus; there were no shorebirds on the exposed mudflats. As of November 30 there were only two light snows. Temperatures remained moderate during the period, with winds predominately from the south. The fruit crop seemed better than was indicated earlier, and Cedar Waxwings were everywhere. The outstanding features of the period were the Broad-winged flight at Ithaca September 18-20, the drop in waterfowl numbers, and the early arrival, in numbers, of Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, Pine Siskins, and Snow Buntings. Indications also pointed to a Snowy Owl and Red Crossbill year. Other highlights included the Mockingbird at Horseheads and a Yellow-throated Warbler in November at Penn Yan.

Warbler flights were noted September 19 and 25 at Ithaca and September 19 and 20 at Elmira. Ten days of superb weather from October 5 to 15 grounded

migrating sparrows; the fields were full of Song Sparrows, White-throats, White-crowns, and individuals of other species.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons appeared in the region early — two on Cayuga Lake on Aug 30 (K. Fudge). They were reported regularly and in good numbers all fall (one flock of 200 seen in flight). There were no Red-throated Loons or Red-necked Grebes. Horned Grebes seemed unusually common this year, especially at the south end of Cayuga where 10-30 might be seen almost any day in November. The maximum count of Pied-billed Grebes at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge was 71 on Aug 20; this is in contrast with 137 a year ago. There was only one report of the Double-crested Cormorant, a single on Nov 30 (D. G. Allen). Great Blue Herons dropped from 73 in 1959 to 57 this year. The species seemed to pull out early — the four or five that were seen daily from August through October at Sapsucker Woods pond left in early November, while water was still open. Not more than ten Common Egrets were counted at Montezuma this year — a drop from 41 of last year and 100 a few years ago. We wonder why. The last date was Oct 5. The Black-crowned Night Heron had increased from five to nine this year at Montezuma. Two rather late individuals of this species were seen on Nov 13 at a pond near Sagetown, Chemung County, at dusk (W. Brown).

There were no Whistling Swan reports during the fall. At Montezuma Canada Geese were down to 500 from a count of 1280 last year. However, this year's number is probably more normal, and it was felt that Canada Geese went through the region slowly but steadily and over a longer period of time, with no unusual weather conditions to halt them, as was the case last year. Goose hunters found the season very frustrating, as no great rafts or large flocks in fields were spotted. The first date was Sep 30. Geese were abundant around Hornell the first two weeks of October (Groesback). A Brant that came in with a flock of 25 Canada Geese on Oct 23 remained a week at the south end of Seneca, and one that came in with a similar flock on Cayuga on Oct 24 was still present on Nov 30 with 28 Canadas at Stewart Park, Ithaca. There was one immature Brant on the Chemung River at Elmira on Nov 2 and 3 (K. Fudge). A flock of 19 remained at Montezuma the last week in October. A single Snow Goose spent a week at Montezuma in November, and a flock of 25-30 flew over South Hill, Ithaca, on Nov 28 (Gravelding). This year there were five Blue Geese (four adults and one immature) at Montezuma; there were no other reports.

The duck picture was dejecting. I quote the report from John Morse, re Montezuma, to give the picture: "Our peak number of ducks dropped from 26,450 in 1959 to 10,095 this year. All major species were affected. Peak numbers of Mallards dropped from 5,470 to 1,545, Blacks from 2,300 to 500, American Widgeon from 18,945 to 8,000, and Pintail from 6,630 to 510. I feel that the decline can only be attributed to a scarcity of birds. Food conditions were similar to a year ago, and water levels on the refuge were more favorable. The same observers conducted our weekly census both years." A few diving ducks were appearing the end of November, and Ward did report 500 Canvasbacks on Cayuga on Nov 5. Morse felt that the destruction of aquatic plants at Montezuma by carp may have reduced the Cannie and Redhead counts there. There was only one scoter report: White-wings on Cayuga on Oct 22 (Sandburg).

Sapsucker Woods Pond had its normal count of over 200 Mallards and Blacks all fall and a peak of 100 Wood Ducks.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture reports have had an amazing upsurge. Marge-son reported the species present all summer near Jasper (Steubon County), with a count of ten at once. An immature was shot at Hornell Oct 26 (fide Groesback). One was seen north of the Thruway along Preemption Road on Sep 25 (Walker), perhaps one of the Montezuma birds. Another was seen over Havana Glen, near Odessa (Strath). The reported increase in the eastern part of the state thus seems to be spreading westward. There was a Turkey Vulture near Caroline on Nov 28 (Paul Kelsey). A Goshawk was seen over Italy Hills (near Keuka) on Oct 23 by Al Fudge. Cooper's Hawks were uncommon — none were seen all fall near Keuka. One heckled the ducks at Sapsucker Woods quite regularly, and a Sharp-shinned was present there too for a short period.

After years of not having hawk flights, and reading with envy of those elsewhere in the state, Ithaca birders happily watched buteos pour across the sky this fall. This may explain why Hornell had none, where they usually do see some, and why Keuka had only one Broad-wing. We don't know where these Broad-

wings usually fly, or where they were coming from, but on Sep 18 to 20 almost 1500 were counted over Cayuga Lake and a few miles east of Ithaca. On the 18th the flight of 300-500 was from NE to SW, in about half an hour. On the 19th it was NW to SE, and on the 20th, south. Doug Futuyma counted 615 in a short period over Cayuga Lake on the 20th. Red-shouldered Hawks were migrating just north of Horseheads late on the afternoon of Sep 10 (H. Samson), 15 Redtails went over the Cornell campus on Oct 29 (Sandburg), and 15 Rough-legs were counted on Nov 7 (DGA). Roughlegs have been present throughout the area since Oct 19 — it should be a good year for them. The Bald Eagles were over Montezuma all fall and were observed sitting on the old nest in late November. An Osprey at Avoca on Sep 20 was a new fall record for that area (M. Carter). A Peregrine Falcon was seen by several observers along Hickory Grove Road (first found by Van Duzer), and one, possibly the same bird (was seen on Harris Hill on Nov 12 (M. Welles). There was one Pigeon Hawk report, Oct 15 near Ithaca (R. Ficken).

Bobwhite (third or fourth generation descendents of northern stock) have been released around Ithaca in some numbers and were being reported at feeders. Spiker saw a dozen near Branchport on Sep 26, but their history is not known. Pheasants were scarce everywhere. Turkeys were reported all fall near Jasper (Margeson).

Common Gallinules dropped from a peak of 219 in 1959 to 65 at Montezuma; they were last seen on Oct 12. Coot were abundant on Cayuga the end of October, and Ward saw 1000 at the north end on Nov 5. It was an extremely disappointing shorebird season, especially in view of the glowing accounts of these birds to the north of us. In spite of mud flats, a sandpiper or plover was a rare character. Indicative of this was the complete lack of reports of Dunlin at the south end of Cayuga or at Sapsucker Woods pond, where the water level had been purposely lowered this year. Only a few peeps, Pectorals, Yellowlegs, and Snipe used these flats. There were 12 Black-bellied Plover at Montezuma on Oct 26 and again on Nov 2 (Morse). A White-rumped was seen at Horseheads on Aug 24, and there was one at the Hog Hole, Ithaca, on Sep 3 (Gebhart). A Baird's was seen at Horseheads on Aug 24, and one was noted at the Hog Hole on Sep 9 (Thorp). These two species are not often recorded. Ten Dunlin stayed at the Penn Yan Marsh through Nov 24 (Guthrie). There were 30 Dowitchers at Montezuma on Oct 5 and four on Oct 19. Two reports of Stilt Sandpiper (also rarely recorded here): one on Aug 24 at Horseheads (C.V.A.S.) and one at Sapsucker Woods Pond on Aug 26. One phalarope report: a Northern swimming merrily in the middle of Cayuga Lake on Sep 2 (PPK).

One Jaeger (probably Parasitic) was spotted, on Sep 20 by D. Futuyma. Great Black-backed Gulls reached a rare high of 27 off Stewart Park (Cayuga Lake) by the end of November. The first one came in on Sep 14 (D. McIlroy). An unusually large flock of Mourning Doves was seen near Reynoldsville in October (Bardeen).

There were two reports of Snowy Owls in the Ithaca area by Nov 30. Other reports included one on Oct 25 near Dundee (fide Guthrie), one near Jasper (Margeson), one on Nov 23 on Hall Road, Geneva (Brown), and one Nov 25 near Phelps (Trail).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Thirty-four Nighthawks circled for 20 minutes on Aug 28 at the Groesbeck residence in Hornell. The last Hummingbird reports were Sep 22 at Ithaca (C. Turk) and Sep 26 at Watkins (L. Beardsley). There was no noticeable flight of Flickers this year, although more than usual were seen at Keuka. The pair of Pileated Woodpeckers which nested in Stewart Park, Ithaca, this year (a new location) continued to be seen regularly, and one of this species spent much of the two months in the village of Avoca (Carter). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers migrated through Ithaca the first week in October. There was one apparently good but unverified report of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker on Connecticut Hill, southwest of Ithaca, in early November (fide Cameron). The observer gave an accurate description of a male Three-toed, and picked it out in Peterson's plate.

A Western Kingbird, first seen by Mary Smith and later by many observers, was with a flock of Eastern Kingbirds just east of Horseheads on Rt. 17 from Aug 25-29. A possible earlier report at nearby Breesport a week earlier may have been of the same bird. There was a single report of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher,

Oct 4 in Sapsucker Woods (Hoyt). The Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen only near Elmira, one by Dillon on Aug 28 and one by Brimmer at Breesport on Sep 20. What appeared to be a chickadee migration was noted Nov 13 at Mt. Zoar (W. Howard), with large flocks moving. Tufted Titmice are increasing in the Geneva area. They are well established at Keuka and were at new locations at Ithaca. There were two reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches at Ithaca on Nov 27 (Hough).

Brown Creepers seemed common in migration, and some were present at the end of the period and will probably winter. Carolina Wrens picked up considerably this summer and fall after their "crash" of the last two years. Bemont banded one at Interlaken on Oct 16 and heard another. This was a new station for them.

The Branchport Mockingbird was not seen after mid-August. One was found on Hickory Grove Road, Horseheads, on Nov 21 (O. York, K. Fudge) and seen there by others later. There were two reports of late-lingering Catbirds, one on Nov 21 in Jacksonville (Leighton) and one at Interlaken on Nov 27 (Bemont) in a tangle of wild grapes and nightshade. Most Robins pulled out the last week of September (Walker), but one large flock was seen the end of October at Cayuta-ville (Strath). Bemont banded two Hermit Thrushes at Interlaken on Oct 15. Walker reported more Golden-crowned Kinglets than usual around Waterloo. There were only scattered reports of Pipits throughout October — and none after Nov 1. All observers commented on the abundance of Cedar Waxwings this fall. Groesbeck watched a flock of 150 from his window in Hornell, in Mt. Ash and Mulberry. He even noted them on the ground, feeding on Mt. Ash fruits. Northern Shrikes appeared by the end of October. They have been reported weekly around Ithaca. There has been one record at Montour Falls, one at Keuka.

Vireos — Warblers: Warblers were in good numbers around Ithaca on Sep 19, following a foggy night. On Sep 25 Sapsucker Woods teemed with warblers, chiefly Myrtles, Black-throated Greens, and Bay-breasteds. The vireo flight was not marked. One report of Philadelphia: D. Futuyma saw it near Cayuga Lake on Sep 24. A remarkably late and seemingly healthy Red-eyed Vireo spent Nov 1-5 in my yard at Etna.

There were no reports of Orange-crowned Warblers. There were more Magnolias than usual at Keuka, but fewer Bay-breasts and Blackpolls. A flight of Black-throated Greens was observed in Stewart Park on Sep 28 by Royce Hough, who counted 45-50. Myrtles remained through Nov 24 at Branchport, and there were still 15 or 20 of them at Stewart Park, Ithaca, on Nov 27. The Yellow-throated Warbler, reported in the last two summaries from Stewart Park, was seen again, in the same spot, on Sep 24 (D. Futuyma). This was the last report. Even stranger was the appearance of a Yellow-throated Warbler (Sycamore variety) at the Orcutt feeder in Penn Yan Nov 3 to 11, where one of the same species appeared in 1958, from Nov 6 to 11! Return visit?? M. Lerch banded a Connecticut Warbler near Penn Yan this fall.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Again the Geneva-Montezuma reported enormous flocks of blackbirds, and sizeable numbers of Cowbirds, Grackles, and Redwings were still seen at Canoga on Nov 27. A flock of 100 Meadowlarks was seen at Cayuta-ville the end of October by B. Strath. Rusty Blackbirds came in the first of October, and one bird was still present the end of November at the Sapsucker Woods feeder. A flock of 15-20 Cowbirds appeared to be preparing to winter in Jasper (Margeson), but elsewhere they were unreported at feeders.

Several observers commented to me on late Cardinal broods. Typical was the report of Cardinals feeding young on Oct 20 at Branchport (V. Whitaker). In contrast with last fall, Evening Grosbeaks have not arrived at this date, except for four seen in Etna in mid-November and one at a feeder in Jacksonville on Nov 30. There were few Purple Finch reports and only one Pine Grosbeak report, that from Ringwood Road in early November (R. Ficken). Pine Siskins reached the Finger Lakes area Nov 1 and were commonly seen thereafter.

A Goldfinch nest with five eggs was found on Sep 10 by W. Heasley at the Community Corners, Ithaca, when the bird was flushed. This is a late date. As predicted, Crossbills appeared early — Red ones. A flock has been seen off and on since early November at the east end of Beebe Lake and other small groups have been noted elsewhere. No White-winged Crossbills have been noted as yet.

A second report for the year of Sharp-tailed Sparrow — one was seen on the Sapsucker Woods dike on Oct 8 (D. Futuyma). There were no great numbers of White-crowned Sparrows or White-throated Sparrows anywhere this fall except at Jasper. The first White-crown appeared at the Sapsucker Woods feeder on Oct 2. A late one was seen at Interlaken on Nov 27 (Bemont). Fox Sparrows were scarce and late in coming. Gebhart saw eight on Nov 5 near Ithaca. There was one report of the Lincoln's Sparrow, at the Sapsucker Woods feeder on Oct 2. Snow Buntings came in early and in good numbers. The first ones were seen at Montezuma on Oct 23 (Morse), and flocks were seen on Nov 7 by Dave Allen.

Corrigendum: In the October, 1960, issue (p. 103), I stated that this year's record of Hooded Mergansers breeding at Montezuma was the first for the region. John Morse tells me that broods have been seen at Montezuma each summer since 1956, with the exception of 1959, and they may have bred that year too. This had not been reported to me previously.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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It was a very pleasant fall. The only period of excessive rain was September 11 and 12 and there was never much more than a trace of snow. Temperatures were mild, averaging above normal, particularly in November. The first widespread hard frost didn't come until the almost unbelievably late date of November 6.

In general the fruit and seed crop seemed quite good although there was considerable variation from locality to locality with regard to a few of the main food species such as white pine and thornapple. White ash and box elder were both heavily loaded with seeds wherever mentioned.

The mild weather and generally plentiful food supply did nothing to hurry the migrants along so there were a number of rather late dates recorded. Especially among warblers the more leisurely migration kept observers from being swamped with identification problems so they were able to report more species than usual. A somewhat facetious explanation, perhaps, but not wholly without truth. So far winter finches have been rather disappointing which hardly seems inconsistent with food and weather conditions. Shore birds were also generally disappointing, apparently because of high water at some of the key spots, but we did record our first Golden Plover in the eight years a regional list has been kept. A Brant was also new to the list.

Loons — Ducks: There were more than the usual number of Great Blue Herons reported, the last one Oct 21 at Norwich (R. & S. White). A Green Heron at Sherburne Oct 2 (R. & S. White) was a little later than normal. A little Blue Heron was reported at Masonville, in northeastern Delaware County, Sep 25 (R. Burland) but no details were provided. At Owego two Common Egrets were seen Sep 12 (R. Williams, M. White, C. Gerould) and one Sep 14 (W. Reeves). The only Black-crowned Night Heron reported was at Oneonta Sep 16 (R. Burland). Again, few American Bitterns were reported, the last one at Sherburne Sep 3 (R. & S. White).

The first migrating flock of Canada Geese reported was at Oneonta Sep 25 (R. Burland) and the last over Binghamton Nov 5 (H. Marsi, V. Misner, A. Topping). There were two peak periods in between, Oct 7-11 and Oct 21-24, when most of them were reported. On Oct 29 it was found that the injured Canada Goose that spent the summer at Owego had been joined by a perfectly healthy Brant (S. Lincoln). Seen by several observers until Nov 5, it was the first Brant reported in the region in at least eight years. As is usual in the fall there were few reports of migrating ducks but this year there were fewer than normal. There are few places in the region where ducks gather and one of the best of them, behind the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam, is drained in the fall. The usual small flock of Mallards and Black Ducks, 25 to 50 of each species, has been reported in the Triple Cities area and is apparently based on Chenango Valley State Park. If the pattern of other years is followed the Blacks will winter but most, if not all, of the Mallards will move on. Five Buffleheads were at Norwich Nov 4 (R. & S. White) and six Old Squaw were at Highland Lake, in nearby Pennsylvania, Oct 10 (Austins). Four Common Mergansers at Norwich Nov 1 are the only ones reported so far.