

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.

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

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.

Hawks — Owls: A Turkey Vulture was at Sidney Center, near Unadilla, Oct 7 (H. Wisner). A Goshawk was reported at Oneonta Nov 21 (R. Burland). Red-tailed Hawks were reported surprisingly frequently during the period, but there were seldom more than one or two reported at a time. Red-shouldered Hawks were not reported after Sep 28 when one was at Cranberry Lake in nearby Pennsylvania (E. & N. Washburn). There was no indication of a Broad-winged Hawk flight. Two Rough-legged Hawks at Norwich Oct 22 (R. & S. White) seemed quite early. There were several others reported throughout November. A large dark bird with a dark band on the white tail, identified as a Golden Eagle by the observer, was at Bainbridge Aug 20 (J. Beaver). A Bald Eagle was at Downsview Reservoir Sep 25 and another was at Oneonta Nov 24 (R. Burland). A large white headed bird was found shot to death at Ouaquaga, in eastern Broome County, early in the period. It was thought by the finder, an inexperienced person, to be a Bald Eagle but may, of course, have been an Osprey. Game wardens were notified but the culprit was never found. Our first and last migrant Ospreys were both at Sidney, Sep 22 and Oct 16 (H. Wisner).

Ruffed Grouse were reported to be fairly numerous by hunters around Binghamton and Cortland but at Oneonta they were scarce. Around Binghamton three instances of their "autumn madness" were reported. Two killed themselves flying into picture windows within a week and a block of each other in a highly developed suburban area of Endwell (L. Bemont) and one was seen perched on a sign in downtown Binghamton (M. Sheffield). Two Coot, a scarce species in the region in recent years, were at Binghamton Nov 4 (J. Beaver). Six Black-bellied Plover were at Owego Sep 12 (R. Williams, M. White, C. Gerould) and on Sep 25 one Black-bellied and three Golden Plover were at the same place (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry). On Aug 16 and again Aug 21 seven or more Upland Plover were seen at the Broome County Airport (R. & M. Sheffield). Our last reported Spotted Sandpipers were two at Oneonta Sep 5 and a Solitary Sandpiper at the same place the same day was likewise our last (R. Burland). Greater Yellowlegs were last seen Oct 29 at Owego (S. Lincoln). Two Lesser Yellowlegs were at Goodyear Lake, near Oneonta, Aug 17 (R. Burland) and one was at Owego Sep 25 with five Pectoral Sandpipers (F. Linaberry, H. Marsi). The first Herring Gulls of the season in the Triple Cities were seen Sep 28 (F. Linaberry, Gerard, H. Marsi). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported as late as Sep 22 at Endwell (M. Fisher) and Black-billed Cuckoos as late as Sep 18 at Owego (R. Williams). Barred Owls were heard at Ludlow (A. Stratton), Unadilla (H. Wisner) and Oneonta (R. Burland).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A late Nighthawk was at Endwell Sep 16 (L. Bemont) and no more Ruby Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported after one at Binghamton Sep 28 (Vaclavic). Yellow-shafted Flickers were almost all gone after Oct 5, but one was still at Endwell Nov 13 (F. Linaberry). On Sep 1 an immature Red-headed Woodpecker killed itself bumping into a picture window in Endwell (Mrs. J. Caulfield). The late date makes it very poor evidence of breeding in the area, but the fact that adults were seen several times in the same locality during the breeding season is at least suggestive. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen from Sep 18 to Oct 1 but there were only a few reported.

Two Kingbirds Aug 24 and a Crested Flycatcher Sep 5, both at Oneonta (R. Burland) were the last of their species. Phoebees were still scarce at Oneonta but reports from the region as a whole indicate some improvement in numbers over last year. They were practically all gone after Oct 8 but one was at Norwich Oct 26 (R. & S. White). Four Wood Pewees at Oneonta Sep 20 (R. Burland) and an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Choconut Center Sep 18 (L. Bemont) were our last. Fifteen Barn Swallows were still at Oneonta Sep 15 (R. Burland).

Blue Jays seem especially common again this year. A Tufted Titmouse was seen at Homer Sep 19 and for a few days thereafter (Mrs. W. Webster), apparently a new locality for the species. The return to normal of Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers was somewhat disappointing after so many last year. Four were at Oneonta Sep 5 (R. Burland) but it wasn't until Oct 23 when one was heard near Endwell (M. Fisher) that they appeared in the Triple Cities area. They were reported several times in the following week and then no more. Brown Creepers seemed more common than normal. The last House Wren reported was at Choconut Center Oct 2 (M. Sheffield, L. Bemont). Winter Wrens at Oneonta (R. Burland) and Owego (R. Williams) Sep 26 were our first. They were reported much more frequently

than in other years. No Carolina Wrens were reported. Catbirds remained common until Oct 2 and our last Brown Thrasher was seen Oct 5 near Binghamton (H. Marsi). Robins were still being seen fairly frequently at the end of the period. Our last Wood and Hermit Thrushes were both at Owego Sep 26 (R. Williams, M. White). A small number of Swainson's Thrushes were seen in the Triple Cities area from Sep 18 to 23 and there was one Gray-cheeked Thrush report from Owego Sep 16 (R. Williams, M. White). Two Veeries at Oneonta Sep 5 (R. Burland) were our last. Bluebirds, as many as ten or more at a time, were at Choconut Center until Oct 30 (R. & M. Sheffield) and as many as 15 were near Oxford in late September (A. Stratton). In other areas they were very scarce or absent. Golden-crowned Kinglets were first reported Oct 2 and later became quite common. Approximately 100 were seen at Oneonta Nov 20 (R. Burland). Ruby-crowned Kinglets also seemed quite common after arriving Sep 21. No more were reported after Nov 6. Six water Pipits at Choconut Center Oct 6 (M. Sheffield) were the only ones reported. Cedar Waxwings were quite common most of the period. A Northern Shrike that appeared at Oxford Nov 10 and stayed in the vicinity the rest of the month (A. Stratton) is the only one to be reported so far.

Vireos — Warblers: A pure white Starling was seen at Owego during November (R. Williams, T. Taylor). Our last Yellow-throated Vireo was at Norwich Sep 19 (R. & S. White). A Solitary Vireo was found near Binghamton Oct 15 (H. Marsi) and Red-eyed Vireos were reported until Oct 7.

Reports indicate the warbler migration to have been the heaviest in years, but it is likely that the particularly good conditions for the observers were at least as responsible for the larger numbers recorded as any actual increase in the numbers passing through. Very few were noted before the middle of September but between the 15th and 18th a decided wave went through. They were present in some variety until about Oct 10 but from then on it was almost all Myrtles. A Connecticut Warbler at Choconut Center Oct 2 (R. & M. Sheffield, L. Bemont) was the only rarity. It was caught and banded.

By species: Black and White Warbler — last ones Sep 18 at Unadilla (H. Wisner). Nashville — from Sep 16 to Oct 2 at Binghamton (H. Marsi), good numbers. Parula — one record, Sep 21 at Owego (R. Williams). Yellow — not many, last one at Choconut Center Sep 18 (L. Bemont). Magnolia — Sep 18 to Oct 1 at Binghamton (H. Marsi), good numbers. Cape May — four at Oneonta Sep 16 (R. Burland) to Sep 28 at Owego (R. Williams) with several reports between. Black-throated Blue — Sep 16 to 22. Myrtle — Sep 18 to Oct 30 and a couple of November records, best numbers in years, an estimate of over 200 in one day at Choconut Center Oct 17 (M. Sheffield). Black-throated Green — Sep 14 to 30. Blackburnian — Sep 14 to 21. Chestnut-sided — last ones Sep 18. Bay-breasted — Sep 14 to Oct 5. Blackpoll — Sep 18 to Oct 9. Pine — one record, Owego Sep 16 (R. Williams). Palm — Sep 20 to 28, "a number" near Oxford (A. Stratton). Ovenbird — last ones Sep 23 at Binghamton (H. Marsi, V. Misner), not many. Northern Waterthrush — Sep 18 at Unadilla (H. Wisner) and Sep 21 at Owego (R. Williams), usually missed in the fall. Yellowthroat — last ones were ten at Oneonta Oct 18 (R. Burland). Yellow-breasted Chat — one record at Owego Sep 16 (R. Williams). Wilson's — three or more at Norwich Aug 28 (R. & S. White), two at Choconut Center Sep 18 (M. Sheffield, L. Bemont) and at Owego Sep 20 (R. Williams, M. White). Canada — last dated records Sep 18, but at Coventry, in eastern Broome County, 29 were counted on an unspecified day (H. Nodecker). Redstart — last ones Sep 21.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: No more Bobolinks were reported after Aug 28. Large migrating flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds numbering in the hundreds or even thousands were seen up until Oct 15, when the last large flocks were at Oxford (A. Stratton). After that only smaller flocks, from 10 to 30 birds, were reported but they were still being seen at the end of November. Baltimore Orioles continued to be quite common until the end of August, but very few were reported in September. The last one was at Owego Sep 28 (R. Williams). Oct 16, when "thousands" were at Oneonta (R. Burland), was the end of the flocks of Common Grackles but there were several reports of single individuals throughout the rest of the period. The flocks of Cowbirds disappeared at about the same time but in their case there were no reports of stragglers. There were several September reports of Scarlet Tanagers, the last on Sep 30 at Owego (R. Williams, M. White).

Cardinals continue to be common in those parts of the region where they

have gained a foothold. At Endwell a pair was still feeding young Oct 10 (E. & N. Washburn). There were several late September Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported, the last Sep 29 at Owego along with our last Indigo Bunting (R. Williams). There were six Evening Grosbeaks at Oneonta Nov 4 and eight at the same place Nov 20 (R. Burland). On the latter date a single male was at Endwell (F. Linaberry) but that's all that have been reported so far. A few Purple Finches, six Pine Grosbeaks, four at Gilbert Lake Nov 20 and two at Oneonta Nov 21 (R. Burland) and no Redpolls have been reported. The only winter finch to make a strong showing so far has been the Pine Siskin. Twenty five or more at Norwich Oct 21 (R. & S. White) were our first and there have been a number of flocks reported since, the largest approximately 150 at Cranberry Lake, in nearby Pennsylvania, Nov 19. Goldfinches were still being reported at the end of the period. Rufous-sided Towhees were especially common until almost the end of October. One was still at Choconut Center Nov 27 (R. & M. Sheffield).

Vesper Sparrows were reported fairly often in October and one was still at Oxford Nov 12 (A. Stratton). Slate-colored Juncos were seen quite regularly after Sep 29 but not very many at a time, except Oct 2 when an estimated 300 were seen at Oneonta (R. Burland). Tree Sparrows were reported at Choconut Center Oct 28 (M. Sheffield). White-crowned Sparrows were seen at Binghamton from Oct 7 (L. Bemont) to Oct 23 (R. & M. Sheffield). They did not appear to be very common anywhere in the region. Six White-throated Sparrows were at Arnold Lake, between Oneonta and Cooperstown, Sep 5 (R. Burland) but it was two weeks later, Sep 18, when the species was seen again at East Sidney (H. Wisner) and Oneonta. They were seen regularly, and sometimes in considerable numbers, until Oct 18. There were a few stragglers after that, the last one so far at Owego Nov 28 (R. Williams). Fox Sparrows arrived at Choconut Center Oct 30 (L. Bemont, M. Sheffield) and the last one reported, quite a late one, was in Prospect Valley, near Candor, Nov 24 (P. Kelsey). Nov 6 they were quite common at Chenango Valley State Park. Two Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at Choconut Center, one Sep 18 (M. Sheffield) and one Oct 2 (L. Bemont). The latter one was banded. A flock of thirty Snow Buntings was at Broome County Airport Oct 30 (H. Thomas) and a single one was at Unadilla Nov 21 (H. Wisner) but no more.

Addenda (received late): A Goshawk was seen in northern Chenango County Nov 21 six to eight miles from an area where they are known to breed (P. Kelsey). Mr. Bartlett of Greene reports seeing three of them in one day. A Bald Eagle was reported to have spent a lot of time on a farm near Harpursville in the late summer or early fall. Perhaps the casualty reported above? A Caspian Tern was at Meade Pond, north of Norwich, Sep 12 (P. Kelsey). Evening Grosbeaks were also seen in northern Chenango County Nov 4 and Red Crossbills were there Nov 21. Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were especially common there where the habitat is suitable (P. Kelsey).

710 University Ace., Endwell

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

August was dry, sunny, windless, and cool with only the 29th exceeding 90°. Migration concomitantly was desultory without waves. September, similarly cool and dry except for a 1.5 inch rainfall on the 9th, had few major weather disturbances, the outstanding one being para-hurricane rains and winds on the 11th and 12th. Following this disturbance, a marked drop in shorebirds and a tide, rather than a sharp wave, of warblers ensued. Mrs. Evans commented that on September 15 "the birches dripped with warblers" at Selkirk Shores State Park; on September 17 creekside woods at Manlius "were alive with warblers, mostly Black-throated Blues and Greens and Magnolias." Moderate waves of migrants were reported on September 19, 24, and 28-30. October was distinctly cooler than average (2.4° below normal) with normal rainfall and sunshine. A few chill nights in the early part of the month pushed most shorebirds and the few remnants of warblers south but engendered the expected rise in migrant dabbling ducks and sparrows. A two-inch snowfall on October 24-25 plus freezing