

Juncos seemed scarce, and Tree Sparrows were uncommon until mid-November, later than usual. A Kopp had a late Chipping Sparrow at his feeder at Reading Center on Nov 30. A new bird for the Cayuga Lake Basin (except for earlier unverified reports) was the Harris Sparrow, seen with White-throats, White-crowns, and Tree Sparrows near the Perry City Road northwest of Ithaca on Oct 15 and 16 by several groups of observers (Ed — see field notes section, this issue). White-throated Sparrows were considered scarce at Elmira and Ithaca, abundant at Jasper and Geneva. No reports this fall of Lincoln's Sparrows, and Fox Sparrows were scarce. Last date for the Fox Sparrow at Art Lane's feeder, Sapsucker Woods, was Nov 15. Snow Bunting reports were uncommon, but they were seen the last week in October at Keuka, which was early (Guthrie).

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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Starting from the warmest September on record the warm and dry weather changed in a leisurely, orderly and comfortable manner to the inevitable and normal cold and snow flurries of November. The first general sub-freezing temperatures came Oct 4 and 5. Whether by coincidence or because of the brief cold snap this was a period of marked change in bird populations and these dates recur frequently in the following report.

Outside of a general lateness, most marked in those species that normally leave first, there were few real surprises in the fall migration. Common Scoters and the number of Whistling Swans were perhaps the most unexpected records obtained.

The winter finch invasion which so often and in several ways seems unrelated to it, went against the fall migration of other species in that it was early rather than late. It is interesting to note how often the two disagree in this respect and to observe that they are stimulated by different conditions. Evening and Pine Grosbeaks are so far the only important species in the invasion, both being here in considerable force, but there have been a few reports of Pine Siskins and Snow Buntings, too.

Loons — Ducks: The usual small number of Common Loon reports was received — one at Norwich on each of the two dates, Nov 5 and Nov 12 (R. & S. White) and three at Endicott Nov 6 (H. Marsi, F. Linaberry, G. Corderman). Horned Grebes were also reported in their usual small numbers from Oct 26 at Owego (R. Williams) to Nov 17 at Petonia Lake, a small lake several miles from Binghamton (Corderman, Marsi, Linaberry). Great Blue Herons were reported quite frequently, for them, thru the first half of November, but the last Green Heron was at Norwich Sep 24 (Whites). The only Common Egret report was an undated one from the Owego area (J. Shuler). Except for one at Norwich Sep 10 (Whites) American Bitterns escaped notice. A Double-crested Cormorant, an infrequently reported species in this region, was at Ludlow Lake in Chenango County Oct 20 (W. Bartlett).

During a period of only a few days in early November, Whistling Swans were reported from four different areas in the region. A flock, variously reported as comprising 31 to 37 swans, was at Owego Nov 5 and 6 and was seen by several members of both the Tioga Birdwatchers' Club and the Triple Cities Naturalists' Club and in fact made the Binghamton Press. Six were at Endicott Nov 6 (G. Smith) and on Nov 7 or 8 six were at Lordville, near the extreme southern tip of Delaware County (third hand report via S. Wilson). Also in "early November" four were on Buckhorn Lake near Unadilla (H. Wisner). Canada Geese seemed particularly numerous this fall in most parts of the region with the notable exception of Oneonta where they were "seen but not in large numbers" (J. New). They were first reported Sep 26 at Owego (M. Hills) and the last record was from Oxford Nov 4 (A. Stratton). Well over half of the reported birds passed thru between Oct 12 and Oct 16. A flock of about 75 Brant was at Ludlow Lake Oct 20 (Bartlett) and another group of 17 was reported at Owego Nov 7 (C. Gerould, M. White, E. Horne). Most areas report Mallards and Black Ducks to be relatively low in numbers. At Greene it was reported that a large proportion had gone by the opening of duck season Oct 13. There were no reports of American Widgeons or Pintails and there were comparatively few Green-winged Teal. As usual almost all the Blue-winged Teal left in September with the last report coming Oct 4 from Owego (TBC). The peak of the Wood Duck migration, at least in the Greene area, coin-

cided with the opening of the duck season and the bulk of them had left by the end of the month (Bartlett).

There were only a few reports of Ring-necked Ducks and Scaup Ducks and no Canvasbacks or Redheads at all. At Greene there were Common Goldeneyes and Buffleheads Oct 15 and Oldsquaws Oct 28 (Bartlett). Common Scoters, an unusual species this far inland, were near Greene Oct 15 and Oct 28 and 29 (Bartlett). A White-winged Scoter was found on a pond south of Binghamton Nov 8 (C. Howard). The only Hooded Merganser reported was at Owego Oct 28 (R. Williams, M. White). Three Common Mergansers were at Endicott Nov 6 (Marsi, Linaberry, Corderman).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture reports were received from Owego Aug 25 (Williams), Coventry, in eastern Broome County, Sep 24 (H. Nodecker) and Unadilla Sep 24 and Oct 1 and 5 (H. Wisner). Migrating hawks have seemed more common than usual this year, but the only evidence reported of a mass flight was a report of 25 or more hawks around a wooded ridge near Oxford Oct 16 (Stratton). Red-tails were by far the most commonly reported, as usual. The first definite record of Rough-legged Hawks was from Norwich Nov 5 (Whites). Ospreys were particularly numerous in comparison with other years, starting with two Aug 24 at Deposit (S. Wilson) and continuing until Nov 19 at Chenango Forks (M. & A. Davis).

At Greene during the hunting season Ruffed Grouse populations "were at a good level — neither too high nor too low, and the average daily movement of grouse would be 25 or 30 birds. Because the woods were dry and noisy but few birds 'laid well' to the dog and as of now (Dec 8) the grouse winter covers are going to start with a high population density" (Bartlett). Aug 20 about four Bobwhites were near Choconut Center (R. & M. Sheffield). There were also two reports of the species in the Owego area (G. Helmers, Linna).

Semi-palmated Plovers were last seen Sep 9 at Chenango Forks (M. & A. Davis). Killdeer were no longer a "daily bird" after Nov 1 but occasional small groups were seen to the end of the period. At Greene "Woodcock populations started to build up heavily in September and the great majority left the night of Oct 14. At least on the 15th day only a few scattered birds could be found. There was no 'flight' as such after that, but a few birds, mostly males, could be found until Nov 26" (Bartlett). They were also reported in some numbers near Cortland (C. Wilson). Common Snipe seemed more common than other falls. Spotted Sandpipers were last reported Oct 4 at Owego (C. Gerould, M. White) and there were no more Solitary Sandpipers after Aug 29. Greater Yellowlegs were present thru the first week of November but Lesser Yellowlegs were not reported after Sep 24. A few Pectoral Sandpipers remained thru October, the last being two at Norwich Oct 29 (Whites). One Dunlin was noted at Owego Nov 6 (Marsi, Corderman, Linaberry). Herring Gulls became a daily sight in the Triple Cities area Oct 13 but there were scattered reports from Aug 21 on. Ring-billed Gulls were noted in flocks of twenty or more during October and into November at Cortland (J. Gustafson). Elsewhere only scattered individuals were reported. A Black Tern Aug 25 at Owego (M. White, R. Williams) is just about the only fall record of the species in the last few years for the region.

Black-billed Cuckoos were noted as late as Sep 11 (Sheffields). Several observers were able to watch a pair of Barn Owls feeding their two young ones until Oct 1 in Owego (TBC). Their actual nesting site was never found. Screech Owls continue to increase in numbers. Long-eared Owls have been heard all fall around Norwich (Whites). A Short-eared Owl was brought to Dr. J. New at Oneonta State Teachers College Oct 18.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Two Nighthawks at Unadilla Sep 20 (Wisner) were our last. Chimney Swifts remained common to the end of August and were last recorded Sep 10. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported frequently until Sep 21, the latest report came Oct 1 from Owego (D. Bendle). Yellow-shafted Flickers thinned out gradually during October and by the end of the month were practically gone. On Oct 15 a very cold looking Kingbird was seen on a telephone wire a little below Oxford (Whites). It was examined carefully for five minutes and was the only one reported after Sep 4. A late Great Crested Flycatcher was at Owego Sep 28 (C. Gerould). The number of Phoebe records during the fall, until Oct 19, would seem to indicate that the breeding season was successful. A straggler was reported at Newark Valley Nov 19 (L. Dean). An Empidonax (Sp?) Flycatcher banded at Choconut Center Sep 17 (L. Bemont) was our last of the genus.

A Tree Swallow was still at Endicott Sep 26 (E & N. Washburn). Both Tree and Bank Swallows were reported at Owego Sep 11 (R. VanDuzer) and on the same day,

but at Greene, Barn Swallows were reported (C. & J. Davis). Purple Martins were last seen at Homer Aug 29 (Gustafson). Three more residents of Homer erected Martin Houses this year in what appears to be an attempt to make that area the martin capital of inland New York state. Two Boreal Chickadees appeared in Cortland Nov 14 (C. Wilkins) and have been seen often since. Tufted Titmice were reported at Homer (Mrs. D. Chapman) and Owego, as well as at two new places in the Triple Cities area. Perhaps the Titmouse population explosion, a la Cardinal, is coming soon, now. There were only a few Red-breasted Nuthatch reports from Cortland and the Triple Cities.

House Wrens were reported regularly all thru September but the last straggler was reported Oct 14. The only Winter Wren reported so far was at Choconut Center Oct 15 (Bemont). No Carolina Wrens were reported during the period. Catbirds were reported frequently to Oct 18. Brown Thrashers were gone after Oct 13. Robins were plentiful thru mid-October and still reported regularly for the rest of the month, but only scattered reports came in during November. Wood Thrushes were around until Oct 4. A Hermit Thrush was still at Cortland Nov 19 (Mrs. W. Thurber). The Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush fall migration was the best in several years. The Swainson's was first reported Aug 29 at Sidney (F. Quick) and seen until Oct 12 and Gray-cheeked from Sep 10 to Oct 8. H. Marsi netted and banded eight of the latter species. Veeries were gone after Aug 31. Bluebirds were reported frequently until Oct 22 in the fortunate areas but after that there was only one report, a flock of twenty at Newark Valley Nov 10 (Dean). The unevenness of their distribution is well illustrated by the following two reports; from Deposit Sep 16 "a male — our only record this year" (S. Wilson), and from Owego "had nine different successful nestings" (Williams). Both Kinglets arrived Oct 8 and were reported sparingly. The Ruby-crowns were gone after Oct 22. There were more Water Pipits reported than in the previous eight falls combined. They were first reported at Greene Nov 11 (C. & J. Davis) and last seen Nov 12 at Sherburne (Whites). Cedar Waxwings were particularly common during almost all of September, but were almost completely absent during Oct and Nov. A Northern Shrike was at Whitney Point Nov 1 (Marsi, Linaberry, Corderman) and three more were identified in November. A Loggerhead Shrike at Homer Oct 25 (Gustafson) was the only one reported.

Vireos — Warblers: A Yellow-throated Vireo was singing at Norwich Sep 25 (Whites). There were few reports of Solitary Vireos, all in the last week of September. Red-eyed Vireos were around until Oct 2. A Philadelphia Vireo banded at Binghamton (Marsi, Corderman) was the only one reported. A Warbling Vireo, singing at Norwich Sep 10 (Whites) was our last.

As is almost always the case in fall migration Myrtle Warbler reports outnumbered those of all other species of warblers put together. Being so numerous in relation to the other species they must serve as the background against which the rest of the warbler migration is viewed. The first ones arrived from the north in mid-September and for the rest of the month they were reported in small numbers. Then the weekend of Oct 7 and 8 the woods were literally flooded with them, in the Triple Cities area at least. They continued to be present in large but decreasing numbers until Oct 28 and only scattered reports were left for November.

Very few Black and White Warblers were reported, the last at Owego Oct 4 (TBC). Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers were both at Chenango Forks Aug 23 and at the same place the next day a Lawrence's Warbler, almost certainly the same bird that was reported in the last issue, was seen (M. & A. Davis). A Nashville Warbler was still at Owego Oct 5 (Williams). Yellow Warblers were not seen after Sep 5 but Magnolia Warblers were still at Oxford in some numbers Oct 17 (A. Stratton). Black-throated Blue Warblers were not reported after Sep 10, Black-throated Greens were around until at least Oct 5 and in fact on Sep 13 at Owego one was seen apparently feeding young ones. Blackburnian Warblers were last seen Sep 24 (N. & E. Washburn) and Chestnut-sided Warblers were last reported Sep 17 at Castle Creek (B. Burgher). Bay-Breasted and Blackpoll Warbler numbers were way below normal. Pine Warblers were at Owego Sep 4 to Oct 2. (Williams). After being missed entirely in the spring migration there were more than the usual number of fall Palm Warbler reports. They were first reported at Sidney Sep 13 (F. Quick) and were around until Oct 17 at Oxford (Stratton). A Mourning Warbler was reported at Owego Sep 9 (TBC). Yellowthroats continued quite common until Sep 27 and were last reported Oct 10 at Owego (M. White). Hooded Warblers were reported at Owego Sep 6 and Sep 20 and Wilson's Warblers at the same place Sep 1

and 20 (Williams). The latter species was also reported three miles south of Tully Sep 10 (Wisner). Redstarts were around until Sep 17 at Choconut Center (L. Bemont, M. Sheffield, et al.).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: "Lots" of Bobolinks were at Whitney Point Sep 3 (M. Sheffield). They were last reported Sep 9 at Owego (Gerould, Williams). Meadowlarks were seen regularly thru October with scattered reports continuing thru November. On Nov 8 Redwinged Blackbirds were "still here in large numbers" at Owego but have not been reported since. Baltimore Orioles were seen regularly, in the Triple Cities area, until Sep 11. Two at Choconut Center Sep 17 (L. Bemont, M. Sheffield, et al.) were the last. The only Rusty Blackbird reported was "on the lawn" at Norwich Oct 19 (Whites). Large flocks of Common Grackles were gone after the middle of Oct but a few individuals were seen regularly until Nov 20. The last Scarlet Tanager report, at Chenango Forks Oct 8 (M. & A. Davis), seemed rather late but there were three other reports within a week and a half before that.

A pair of Cardinals brought babies to the feeder in Deposit Aug 23 (Wilson), the first definite evidence of successful breeding in that area. 25 or so Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen south of Tully Sep 10 (Wisner) and there were quite a few other September records, but the last of the species was at Owego Oct 5 (M. White). Indigo Buntings were last reported Sep 24. An Evening Grosbeak was at Deposit as early as Sep 7 (Wilson) but it was Oct 2 before any number of them arrived. They were reported in increasing numbers during Oct and were downright common all during November when 136 were banded at Deposit (Wilson). At Unadilla they had already cleaned up about all the box elder seeds by the end of the period. At Deposit Purple Finches were numerous throughout the late summer until at least Oct 8, but after Nov 3 when Mr. Wilson returned from a trip there were none. Our first dated record of Pine Grosbeaks was from nearby Pennsylvania Nov 15 (Washburns) but they were soon reported from several other areas. At Greene they were "more abundant than any other movement of them that I have ever seen. Every wood lot and old orchard and especially the conifer stands had its quota of birds" (Bartlett). Only a few Pine Siskins have been reported so far, the first a banding record at Deposit Nov 24 (Wilson). A late Rufous-sided Towhee was still at Newark Valley Nov 11 (Durie), the last previous report being Oct 31.

Slate-colored Juncos started arriving in force about Oct 8 and were quite common to the end of the period. The first Tree Sparrow was at Homer Oct 12 (Gustafson) but it wasn't until Nov 3 that they arrived in any numbers. Small migrating flocks of Chipping Sparrows could be seen until Oct 16 with the last straggler being reported Oct 28 at Endwell (Washburns). White-crowned Sparrows were at Owego from Sep 17 to Oct 28 (M. White). They were quite numerous at the Triple Cities from Oct 1 to Oct 23. White-throated Sparrows were seen from Sep 16 to Nov 13. Fox Sparrows were at Owego Oct 15 (Williams). In the Triple Cities area, where they were more frequently reported than usual, they were around until Nov 12. Lincoln's Sparrows were at Owego Sep 1 (Williams), at Choconut Center Sep 17 (Bemont, Burgher) and at Binghamton Oct 6 (Marsi, Corderman). Snow Buntings were reported twice in late October, the 27th at Owego (Gerould) and the 30th at Greene (C. & J. Davis) and then again Nov 22 at Castle Creek (Burgher) and Nov 23 at Norwich (Whites).

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Both August and September were dry and warm. October was also warm, with the first cold spell on the 14th-17th, which may have caused the heavy Canada Goose migration. November temperatures were normal; there was little snow.

On the positive side the fall migration included: the tremendous Canada goose flight Oct 14-15; outstanding numbers of White-winged Scoters; the occurrence of Whimbrel, Purple Sandpiper, and all three phalaropes; an immature Jaeger Sep 16-17; big flights of paridae and Red-breasted Nuthatches; occurrence of Bohemian Waxwings; the large October Myrtle Warbler migration; and the fine influx, for the first time in four years, of the Grosbeaks.

Negatives which must be noted were: continuing low numbers of most diving ducks, especially Redhead and Canvasback; a shorebird migration mediocre in com-