

during November. Seven White-winged Crossbills were in DEP Nov 12 (WCL) and were still present at the end of the month. An Oregon Junco was in Webster Nov 12 (AEK). A late Field Sparrow was in Parma Nov 24 (EWH), and two late White-cr. Sparrows were in Sweden Nov 9 (WCL). A few White-thr. Sparrows were still to be found at the end of the period. No Lapland Longspurs were reported, but fair numbers of Snow Buntings were present from late October on.

54. Luella Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

It was a period of extremes, weather-wise. The second half of August continued dry, until a 2-inch rain at the end of the month, and there were cool, windy days. September was rather dry but the drought ended with a splash the second week of October, when from 3-5½ inches of rain fell in a 12 hour period in Tompkins County. Killing frosts were late in coming (first week Oct. in the 'cold pockets, last week October elsewhere). Leaves remained late on trees and migration was slowed and spread out, hence little noticed. 8 inches of snow fell in the southern tier on Nov. 3-4 forcing the late migrants into the open. Temperatures were above normal at the end of November. Fruit and seed crops did not suffer as had been expected, following the prolonged drought. However, cone crop is not heavy.

Highlights include: 3 Common Scoters on Cayuga Lake, Oct. 27; the increase in ducks using Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; six sightings of Peregrines, it is not known how many individuals were concerned; first record of Western Kingbird for Cayuga Lake Basin (Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, Oct. 15); lack of winter visitors.

Abbreviations used: MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; Cay L — Cayuga Lake; SWS — Sapsucker Woods Canctuary.

Contributors: AAA — A. A. Allen; WA — W. H. Allison; WEB — W. E. Benning; KF — K. Fudge; WG — W. Groesbeck; FG — F. Guthrie; SH — S. Hoyt; RL — R. Little; JM — J. Morse; RS — R. Sandberg; BS — B. Strath; JW — J. Walker.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: 26, mid-Nov (high). Sheldrake on Cayuga Lake, (S. Cooper); none on Keuka L.; 2 (high) Owasco (W. H. Allison). Pied-billed Grebe: fewer in migration at Montezuma, though breeding number had been normal (J. Morse). No fall reports of Cormorants. Great Blue Heron: 150 (high) MFWR (JM) compared with peak of 123 in '61; a few still present at end of Nov. Fewer Green Herons. Common Egret: Peak of 91 during period, peak of 50 in '61; 2 Oct 7 (last) MFWR (W. E. Benning); 1, Aug 18, Fremont, (W. Groesbeck). Snowy Egret: one, Sep 11, mouth of Cayuga Inlet (M. and V. Hannan). This is the first regional report since summer of 1957 and probably the first at south end of Cay L. Black-crowned Night Heron: higher numbers than past years at MFWR, probably due to newly discovered breeding colony; One, Nov 9 (last) Elmira, (O. York). Whistling Swan: one, end of Nov, s. of Aurora on Cayuga Lake, seemed injured; 60, Nov 9, Seneca Lake at Watkins Glen (fide B. Strath). Canada Geese: migration seemed to be in narrower bands this year — some points reporting heavy flight, others none; 1500, Oct 25, MFWR, peak (JM) as opposed to peak of 560 last year. Still 1100 on Nov 30. Brant: 100 (high) Nov 3, s. end Cay L, (R. Sandberg). Snow Goose: one, Oct 7 throughout period, MFWR. Blue Geese: five on Oct 6, MFWR (WEB); three, from Nov 3 on, joined by fourth later. Mallards: 300-350 (peak) Oct 30 on, SWS (A. A. Allen). Black Ducks: 90 (peak) mid Nov, SWS (AAA); 14, Nov 9, Punch Bowl Lake, Watkins Glen (A. Robinson). European Widgeon: one, Oct 28, MFWR (WEB). Wood Ducks: 4 reports, Keuka Lake (scarce). (fide F. Guthrie); 75-100 in October (peak) SWS, 6 remaining Nov 30. (AAA). Bufflehead: Oct 27 (first) Cay Lake. Common Scoter: 3, Oct 27 (rare) Cayuga Lake (RS). Ruddy Duck: five, Nov 15, s. end Cay L, (S. Hoyt); one, Nov 9, Chemung River below Wellsburg. (K. Fudge).

At MFWR, all ducks: 34,280, (peak) Oct 25, (JM). Largest concentration since 1955, compares with 10,380 last year. Following are peaks of major species, with last year's peaks in parentheses: Mallards: 10,500 (1,900); Black Ducks: 3,800

(895); Gadwall: 700 (570); Pintail: 2,500 (200); Green-winged Teal: 5,020 (450); American Widgeon: 16,000 (8,000); Blue-winged Teal: 3,130 (600); and Shoveler: 800 (300). Morse reports: "Contributing factors to this increase were the drought, which had dried up the surrounding marshes plus extensive beds of aquatics in the Main Pool resulting from the elimination of carp". **Rarities** at the Refuge, in addition to the European Widgeon already mentioned, were Common Scoter, Oct 12 and Oldsquaw, Nov 9.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: One, Oct 13 (late), MFWR. (Waterman Bird Club). No marked Broad-wing flight in Region. Rough-legged Hawk: One, Oct 7 (first), Waterloo, (J. Walker). Fewer than last year to date. Bald Eagle: one only, seen fairly regularly, MFWR. Marsh Hawks: scarce everywhere. Peregrine: sightings at MFWR, Sept 23, Oct 6, 7, 12 and 19. (Benning, Walker, et al); one, Nov 4, Snyder Hill, Ithaca, (C. Kepler). Pigeon Hawk: one (uncommon) Oct 12, Waterloo Cemetery (JW). Sparrow Hawks: good numbers everywhere through fall. Ruffed Grouse: plentiful, Keuka (FG). Bobwhite: few coveys noted around Ithaca in release area of 2 years ago. Coots: 4,500 (peak) Oct 25, MFWR, as against 1000 peak in '61. Killdeer: 75 (peak), Nov 4, Hanshaw Road, n. e. Ithaca (SH) along road following 8 inch snow. Golden Plover: one, Aug 26 (uncommon) MFWR, (F. Scheider); one Sep 29, MFWR (WEB). Willet: one, Oct 27 & 28. Very rare, first in many years in Cayuga Lake Basin, MFWR (Onon. Aud. Soc.). Greater Yellowlegs: 40 (peak) MFWR (JM); up to 15 at SWS in Oct. Lesser Yellowlegs: 500 (peak) MFWR (JM). Baird's Sandpiper: (uncommon) one Sep 1, SWS (AAA). Dunlin: unusual numbers at MFWR, 600 (peak) Oct 27. Stilt Sandpiper: 12 (peak) Oct 14 MFWR (JW). Hudsonian Godwit: (rare) two, Oct 29 MFWR (WEB); five, Oct 14, (Eaton Bird Club & JM). Sanderling: two, Aug 30, Owasco Lake, (WA). Scattered reports on Cayuga. Wilson's Phalarope: (rare) three, Sep 15, MFWR (JM); one, Oct 10, MFWR (WEB); Northern Phalarope: one, Aug 26, MFWR (JW); five, S. E. Cayuga Lake, Sept 30 (RS).

Great Black-backed Gull: one Sept 10, (first), s. end Cay L (DM); 15-20 by end of Nov; one, MFWR Nov 9. Snowy Owl: one, Oct 14 (extremely early, only report of fall) King Ferry, (N. Smith, D. Futuyma). Saw-whet Owl: one, Dill Woods, n. e. Ithaca, last week Oct (RL).

Caprimulgids — Shrikes: Whip-poor-will: one, Oct 15 (late), Texas Hollow (BS). Nighthawk: over 100 in migration, Aug 26, Hornell (WG); two, Oct 6 (late) Elmira, (KF). Chimney Swift: last dates, Sep 30 (late) Ithaca (RL); Sep 14 Elmira (KF); Sep 19, Auburn (WA). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one, Oct 5 (late) Watkins Glen, (Beardsley). Flicker migration noted, Ithaca, Oct 4-6. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Several reports at Ithaca, also King Ferry; 3, Oct 5, Mills Road, Waterloo (EHSmith).

Western Kingbird: Oct 15, first record in Cay L. Basin, SWS, (AAA). Spent 3 hours around Sanctuary pond. Wood Pewee: Nov 13, (fantastically late — probably unable to migrate, feeding during snowstorm), Stewart Park, Ithaca, (SH et al). Tree Swallows: 200 Oct 29 (last date) Waterloo Cemetery, (JW). Blue Jay: more abundant everywhere than in any recent year. Carolina Chickadee: (see field note). Descriptions of two smaller Chickadees, and their behavior and song, at the feeder of Mrs. A. H. Wheeler, in Penn Yan, seem to substantiate this as first record of this species in the Region. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one, McDougall feeder, Waterloo all fall; one, Johnson feeder, White Park Rd. Ithaca, November. Brown Creepers: migrating in numbers, last week of September. Mockingbird: six individual birds at various locations in Region; One (Aurora) for fourth winter; one (Hampton Rd., Ithaca) for third winter. Catbird: Nov 10 (late) Etna (JSWeske). Hermit Thrushes: few reports early in fall, noted Nov 4-6 after snow (late). Bluebirds: At least six scattered reports of 15-30 in migration, between Oct 1 and November 5. Ruby-crowned Kinglet migration, 2nd and 3rd weeks October, Ithaca. Golden-crowned Kinglets: all observers reported unusual numbers in October and November. No Northern Shrikes in period.

VIREOS — SPARROWS: Warbler migration was noted Sep 25-27 at Elmira (KF), and mixed passerines went over in a fairly narrow band the night of Oct 5. Absence of Cape May and Blackburnian Warblers noted at Keuka (FG). Cape May: one, Oct 12, singing (late), Ithaca, (P. Buckley). Prairie Warbler: one, last week of Sep, (rare, esp. in fall), Dryden, (P. Kelsey).

Decided decrease in the numbers of Blackbirds at north end Cay Basin in fall. Observers stated "there were thousands fewer, streams of birds were thinner and passed in a short time". Reasons not clear as yet. Of the thousands that were there, most left in mid-November. Baltimore Oriole: one female, Nov. 29 (late) Odessa (fide J. Bardeen). Cardinals: three reports of young still being fed in mid-October, Ithaca. Evening Grosbeaks: three or four October reports, then none. Common Redpoll: 20, (only report) Nov 28, Cornell campus (N. Smith). Pine Siskins: reports of flocks of 6-25 from all areas in region, except Keuka L. Poor White-throat, White-crowned and Fox Sparrows migration throughout Region.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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The weather during the period went from record equalling highs in August to record breaking lows in November and the transition was quite orderly. Mild weather lasted until October 24 when we had our first widespread frost, but after the first two weeks of September it was never really hot. The summer drought was finally broken September 28 and in October we had twice our normal amount of precipitation. There was a light snow fall Oct 26 but the first important amount of snow fell November 3. There was a noticeable drop in numbers of several of the more common species within a few days after the latter date.

The waterfowl migration was only poorly reported and the absence of many species from the report below reflects this rather than a known deficiency of birds, although in this region we can't expect an impressive show. The number of Snow Goose reports was interesting and completely out of line with what we have been led to expect. The Red Phalarope at Oneonta was also of special interest. The mild weather of September and October seemed to prolong the small land bird migration more than usual and several species were recorded quite late. The warbler migration was rather heavy with Myrtles particularly conspicuous, even for them. The three Connecticut Warbler records would seem to indicate a heavier than normal movement of this inconspicuous species. The "winter finch" story is brief; very few of anything except Goldfinches with a hint of Snow Buntings to come later. One suspects the heavy natural food crop we have here extends to the north and is keeping the birds there.

Abbreviations: Co. — County; BCA — Broome County Airport; CVSP — Chenango Valley State Park; SOFH — South Otselic Fish Hatchery.

Observers: W. Bartlett — WB; L. Bemont — LB; DB — D. Bendle; BB — B. Burgher; RB — R. Burland; GC — G. Corderman; AD — A. Davis; CD — C. Davis; JD — J. Davis; MD — M. Davis; LD — L. Dean; AE — A. Evelien; CG — C. Gerould; JG — J. Gustafson; CH — C. Howard; MH — M. Hills; BH — B. Hewlitt; FL — F. Linaberry; SL — S. Lincoln; HM — H. Marsi; JN — J. New; R&RP — R. & R. Pantle; FQ — F. Quick; MS — M. Sheffield; RS — R. Sheffield; AS — A. Stratton; TT — T. Taylor; EW — E. Williams; MRW — (Mrs.) R. Williams; MW — M. White; RW — R. White; SW — S. White.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: Oct 19, Vestal (SL), the only report during the period of a species thought of as a common but reported only infrequently in this region. Great Blue Heron: reported quite frequently to Oct 13 and occasionally to the end of the period. Green Heron: Oct 9, Greene (CD, JD), the last report; common until then. Common Egret: Aug 23 and 29, Owego (CB, MRW); Sep 26, the same area (J. Shuler, AE). American Bittern: Sep 2, Tracy Swamp in Tioga Co. (CG, RW, MW); the only report during the period.

Canada Goose: 6, Sep 30, Ingraham Hill, s. of Binghamton (CH), the first fall migrants; fairly heavy flights continued to Nov 6, Castle Creek (BB); 4, Nov 26, Cortland (JG) were the only later stragglers. Snow Goose: 43, Nov 4, Castle Creek (BB), seen flying over at fairly low level; 3, also Nov 4, Newark Valley (P. Beihl); 4, Nov 25, flying over Little York Lakes in Cortland Co. (B. Hall); another medium sized flock was seen on Ludlow Lake in Chenango Co. one day during Nov (WB). Blue-winged Teal: Nov 2, Owego (CG), a very late one. Bufflehead: 1 male, Oct 27, Norwich (RW, SW), and a female, Oct 28, in nearby Pennsylvania (E. Whitson, C.